

This was my contribution to the Open floor Hearing 2 which I have now added to in respect of the Planning Inspectorate's site visits of 25th and 26th June 2025.

I'm commenting as a resident of Freckleton about the effects these proposals will have on my village, together with my involvement in the local opposition to the project's current onshore proposals.

I have lived in the Fylde all my life and spent the last 25 years living in Freckleton, married to a born and bred Freckletonian.

Freckleton is a special community. We are now a large village but still have a small village community spirit. We have a well known brass band, an annual Club Day and we stage the oldest half marathon in the UK, the route of which could be disrupted by these proposals during construction of the cable corridor and substations.

Surrounding the village we have many local footpaths, rights of way and bridleways which are enjoyed by locals for walking, cycling, horse riding etc. These activities will be majorly affected by the cable corridor, together with the two substations and their associated noise and lighting, and the visual disturbance across previously open views. To be denied access to parts of the countryside which have always been available will impact on local people's general health and wellbeing.

I attended the first public consultation by Morgan and Morecambe in Newton back in October 2023 and was shocked at the extent of the proposals but it wasn't until our local history group learnt about the proposals and realised the cable corridor could cut through the Quaker burial ground in Freckleton that I became more involved. We set up a small group, there were 8 of us at the first meeting, but this quickly grew as others joined and the group widened to become involved in the whole project across the Fylde. This group became what we now know as F.A.C.T.S. (Fylde Against Cable Transmission and Substations). I agreed to take up the position of secretary and since then this has become a huge part of my life. Together with the Facebook group, set up by [REDACTED], we have done our very best to try to gather information, raise awareness within the community and, together with others, push for an alternative route which would cause far less damage and disruption to the Fylde community as a whole. Being so involved has affected my life in ways I never envisaged, taking up much time and effort and always being somewhere in my thoughts.

Since speaking at the Open Floor Hearing I attended the site inspections of 25th and 26th June, particularly in the area of the proposed substations.

The two sites had been pegged out to give an idea of size. I think all members of the public who attended were shocked at the size, particularly as the pegging out was just showing the size of the substations themselves and not the whole compound areas. To see the area of land that is going to be taken for these proposals including the cable corridor itself, haul roads, temporary compounds etc was horrendous. This enabled me to see first hand the amount of farmers' land required and the effect it will have on their livelihoods, the proximity to three schools in the area (Strike Lane Primary School, Newton Bluecoats, Carr Hill Secondary School and also Timbertots Nursery) and nearby residential properties. The access points during construction from major A roads are also a serious concern together with the increase in traffic. The submissions at the Open Floor Hearing seemed to be well put together and valid but Morgan & Morecambe's representatives appeared to dismiss any concerns that were raised as if they were of no consequence.

As far as I am aware the applicant has yet to provide any renderings/plan views to enable members of the public to visualize the substations' appearance and how they will fit into the surrounding environment.

Given my above concerns, I remain strongly opposed to these elements of the project, particularly in relation to the fact that the applicant has failed to explore the alternative option at The Hillhouse Technology Local Enterprise Zone.