



Planning Inspectorate

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The applicants

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN020028

By email only

Date: 5 August 2025

Dear Sir / Madam

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – section 89 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rule 17

Application by Morgan Offshore Wind Limited and Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms Transmission Assets

ExA's response to a notification by the applicants of their intention to submit a request for changes to the application

I refer to your letter dated 1 August 2025 [[AS-083](#)] giving notice of the intention of Morgan Offshore Wind Limited and Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Limited ("the applicants") to submit a request to make changes to the Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms Transmission Assets application. This supercedes the applicants' earlier letter of 23 July 2025 which was updated following discussion at issue specific hearing 2 (ISH2) on Tuesday 29 July 2025 [[EV7-002](#)]. The applicants seek advice from the Examining Authority (ExA) on proposed consultation and timetable implications in respect of the proposed changes.

The applicants explain that the proposed change request is being prepared in response to (i) a change in the B5410 road alignment affecting a proposed construction access and a proposed operational access and (ii) a reduction in the order limits as part of ongoing engagement with Blackpool Airport Operations Limited and Blackpool Airport Properties Limited (BAPL) (through Blackpool Borough Council as the main shareholder of BAPL) and with Lytham Town Trust, Fylde Borough Council and St Anne's Football Club in relation to the use of Blackpool Road Recreation Ground.

A more detailed description of and rationale for the proposed changes is provided in the applicants' letter [[AS-083](#)]. They are also summarised by the applicants as:

Change 1: Relocation of Access TAT_MGMC_9 for both Morgan OWL and Morecambe OWL and relocation of access OAR_MGMC_10 for Morgan OWL; and the provision of an

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additional construction access TAT_MGMC_9B for both Morgan OWL and Morecambe OWL.

Change 2: Identification of Blackpool Airport operational access alignment through Work Nos. 10A10B, 12A12B and 14A14B.

Change 3: Removal of operational access OAR_MGMC_3 from Squires Gate Lane into Blackpool Airport.

Change 4: Reduction to order limits within Blackpool Airport (Work No. 13A13B), Blackpool Road Recreation Ground (Work Nos. 15A15B, 53A53B and 54A54B) and to the east of the Queensway (Work Nos. 16A16B), and the relocation of Access TAT_MGMC_7 for both Morgan OWL and Morecambe OWL, and the removal of operational access OAR_MGMC_6.

In responding to this notification, the ExA has considered the Planning Inspectorate's advice [Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Changes to an application after it has been accepted for examination](#) (last updated 24 March 2025). The ExA makes the following comments.

In the applicants' view, the proposed change request would not engage the need for consultation under the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 ("the CA Regulations"), noting that changes that only involve temporary possession powers and no additional land, have been determined not to trigger the CA Regulations. The applicants also consider that the proposed changes are minor and indicate that they would not result in a materially different project to the one applied for. The ExA notes this, though will not be able to formally decide whether the project would be materially different until after consideration of all material including the applicants' report reviewing the Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Statement and the responses to the applicants' non-statutory consultation.

The formal request to change the application also needs to include the information, where relevant, listed in Step 4 of the aforementioned Planning Inspectorate's advice. As referred to by the ExA at ISH2, the formal request should also include relevant updates to the highways/junction assessments given that the changes involve alterations that may affect the highway.

Engagement with relevant parties on any outstanding matters in respect of the matters covered by the proposed change request should continue to take place over the coming weeks in order to seek to ensure that any issues can be expeditiously resolved.

A clear description of each change should also be provided, including cross reference to accompanying drawings/plans that can be readily viewed and clearly understood by all parties (in addition to the works plans and land plan).

Consultation

On the basis of the information provided, the ExA considers that a targeted, non-statutory consultation is appropriate for the proposed changes. As advised at ISH2 on 29 July 2025, the applicants should liaise with the relevant local authorities on the list of consultees and also the number/ location of proposed site notices. These need to be posted in locations

that can be clearly viewed by residents and others who may wish to comment on the proposed changes. It is important that the non-statutory consultation reaches those who may have wanted to be involved in the examination had the changes been included when the application was submitted.

Additionally, for the avoidance of doubt, the 'other statutory undertakers' who have interests in various plots affected by the proposed change request should also be consulted, even though they have not, so far, made any representations into examination.

Appendix 1 of the applicants' change notification includes 'Option A' and 'Option B' for the non-statutory consultation and seeks the ExA's feedback on its preferred approach. The ExA considers that Option A is appropriate (representations to be submitted to the applicants). This is because the changes would not yet have been accepted as being part of the examination and because Option B would be likely to lead to confusion between representations made on the application as currently submitted and those submitted in response to the non-statutory consultation. Therefore, all non-statutory consultation responses must be sent to the applicants.

Implications for examination timetable

The applicants' proposed change request timetable sets out several steps in connection with the change request. The ExA considers the proposed period of 32 days for non-statutory consultation to be appropriate in this instance. The applicants' proposed date for the submission of the non-statutory consultation report is 22 September 2025 (deadline 5) and their timetable indicates that the ExA's decision on the change request would be by Tuesday 14 October 2025 with the submission of all relevant updated application documents at deadline 6 (22 October 2025).

Notwithstanding the applicants' non-statutory consultation and the potential for further hearings in the week commencing 6 October 2025, the ExA notes that this proposed timetable does not provide a full opportunity within the examination process to examine the changed application. This includes an opportunity for all interested parties to submit representations about the changed application before the close of the examination, or an opportunity for the submission of responses to such representations.

In order to allow for the above, the applicants are requested to submit with their change request, additional timetabling information to establish how the applicants consider the change to the application (once accepted by the ExA) can be accommodated within the remaining examining period. This should include opportunities for interested parties to submit representations about the changed application and for comments on any such responses. This may potentially involve amendment to the examination timetable as appropriate. Consideration could be given, for example, the opportunity for an earlier time for the ExA's decision on a change request and the earlier submission of all relevant updated application documents, so these can be reviewed and commented on by any party.

Next steps

Following the receipt of the applicants' change request and the receipt of the applicants' non-statutory consultation report, the ExA will issue a formal procedural decision on

whether to accept the changes, along with any change required to the examination timetable to accommodate the changes.

Please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the head of this letter should further assistance be needed.

Yours faithfully

David Cliff

Lead Member of the Examining Authority

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