

Misleading Substation Information

Thank you for the opportunity to speak at Issue Specific Hearing 2(ISH2). I attach my speaking notes but I believe they will also be submitted via the Transmission Asset Steering Committee (TASC).

In my speech I wanted to focus on the alarming absence of proper visual renderings of the proposed onshore substations—and the consequences this has for assessing impact.

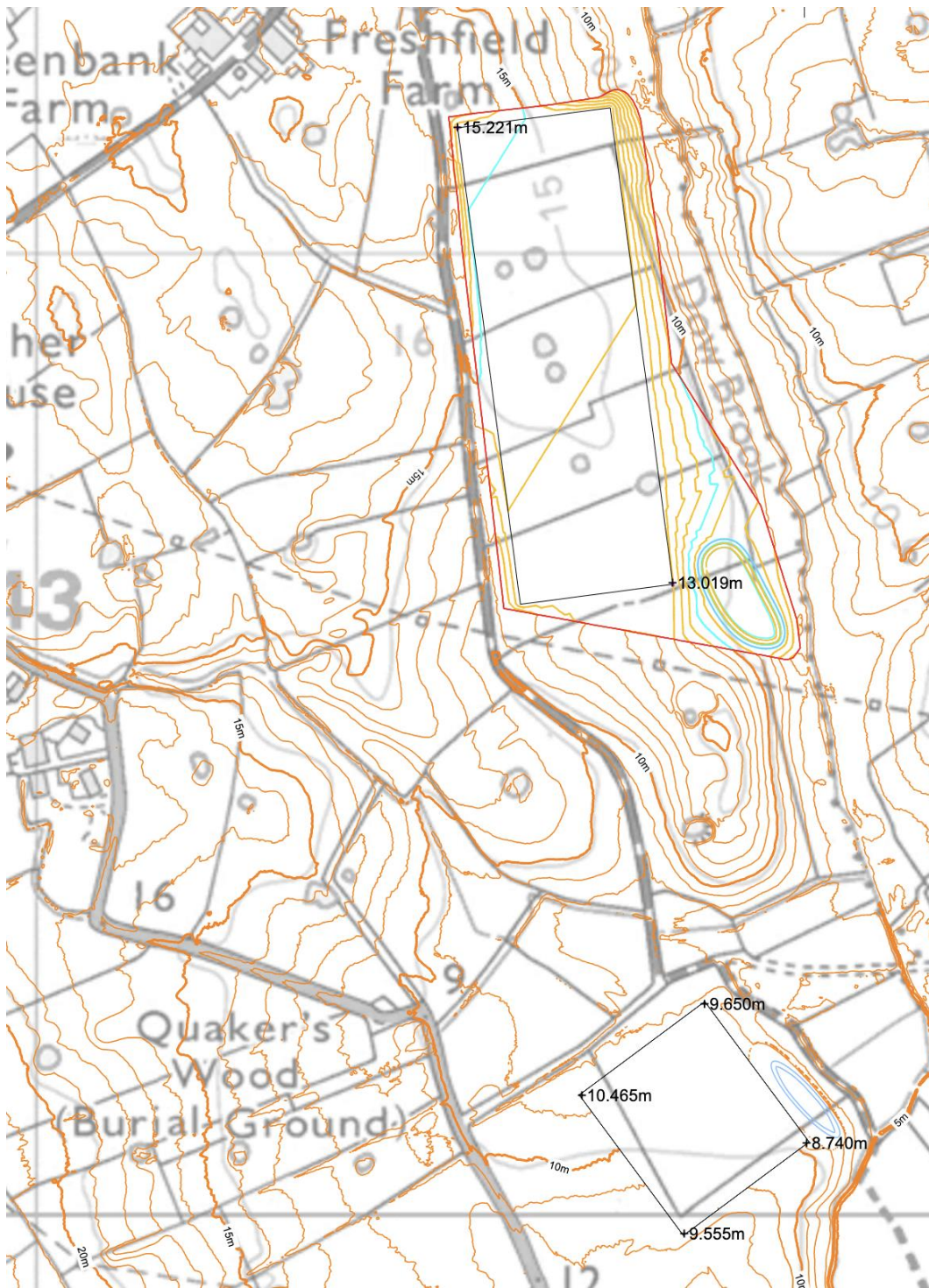
I mentioned the Outline Design Principles from September 2024 which included just two images, which appear misleading. In Figure 10, for instance, trees are shown taller than the 30-metre lightning masts—an unrealistic portrayal that risks misinforming both public and planning officials.

This is figure 10.



Figure 10: View from BW0505016 towards Morgan substation, showing an indicative layout

At ISH2 the inspectors also placed an action on the applicants, as the cross section figures in Doc ref S_D3_7 (PINS ref EN020028) provided at deadline 3 (July 25) appeared misleading. Having visited the sites and noting the slopes appeared to be a lot steeper in reality. On looking at this document the Figure 1 Topographic Context figure also causes concern. See a cut & paste from figure 1 below.



There appears to be quite a bit of cut & fill activity around the Morgan substation, but none around Morecambe. To the untrained eye this appears wrong. If the Rochdale envelope advice note nine is being used then surely there must be cut and fill activity required around Morecambe as well.

Could I respectfully urge the Examining Authority to require the applicant specifically to address this issue. Without accurate visual renderings it has not been possible for the general public and community to properly assess the full impact of the substations. This DCO should not proceed on the basis of inadequate and misleading information.

Thank you.

Speech: DCO Planning Hearing – Substation Renderings

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

I want to focus on the alarming absence of proper visual renderings of the proposed onshore substations—and the consequences this has for assessing impact.

Architectural renderings are essential. They help communities and decision-makers understand how proposed infrastructure will sit within real-world surroundings. Yet in this case, we've had virtually nothing.

In the October 2023 Prelim Environmental Info Report, the non-technical summary dedicated just one page to the substations—with no visuals. The supporting volume offered little more than abstract lines levitating over landscapes. Neither use nor ornament! This is not meaningful consultation.

The Outline Design Principles from September 2024 included just two images, which appear misleading. In Figure 10, for instance, trees are shown taller than the 30-metre lightning masts—an unrealistic portrayal that risks misinforming both public and planning officials.

At the June site visit, pegs marked the substation footprint but were placed just before and removed soon after. There were no connecting tapes to show scale, no indication of height, and no sense of how the sloping terrain might be altered—whether parts of the site would be dug in or built up. All of this matters when evaluating visual and landscape impact.

This development is on greenbelt land, visible from public rights of way and historic footpaths. These are not just open fields—they are part of a cultural and historical landscape.

Consider, for example, the traditional farm buildings along Grange Lane. These structures represent regional heritage. In a previous case (APP/M2325/E/10/212314/NWF), the Planning Inspectorate acknowledged their importance. There will be more heritage assets covered under item 11b.

Yet without accurate visualisations, we cannot assess how the substations would affect these settings. We can't see how they might dominate rural views, or how noise and light could disrupt the area's tranquillity.

This isn't a minor issue. It's a failure to assess heritage impact properly, as required by national planning policy. Setting isn't just about distance—it's about context, scale, and visual harmony.

If the applicant says designs aren't finalised, then worst-case scenario renderings should be provided from key viewpoints—homes, **schools**, businesses & heritage assets,

This is about due process, transparency, and respect for the community. Without visual renderings, this application lacks the evidence needed to assess its full impact.

I respectfully urge the Examining Authority to require the applicant to provide full, scaled renderings from critical viewpoints. This DCO should not proceed on the basis of inadequate and misleading information.

Thank you.