

# **MORGAN AND MORECAMBE OFFSHORE WIND FARMS: TRANSMISSION ASSETS**

**Applicants' Response to Deadline 3 submissions from Statutory Consultees and other organisations**

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## Glossary

Term	Meaning
Applicants	Morgan Offshore Wind Limited (Morgan OWL) and Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Ltd (Morecambe OWL).
Candidate Special Areas of Conservation	Areas that were submitted to the European Commission as candidates for designation as a Special Area of Conservation before the end of the Transition Period following the UK's exit from the EU, but not yet formally designated. See also Special Areas of Conservation.
Development Consent Order	An order made under the Planning Act 2008, as amended, granting development consent.
Environmental Impact Assessment	The process of identifying and assessing the significant effects likely to arise from a project. This requires consideration of the likely changes to the environment, where these arise as a consequence of a project, through comparison with the existing and projected future baseline conditions.
Environmental Statement	The document presenting the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment process.
European Protected Species	Species (such as bats, great crested newts, otters and dormice) which receive full protection under The Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations 2017 and Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.
Generation Assets	The generation assets associated with the Morgan Offshore Wind Project and the Morecambe Offshore Windfarm include the offshore wind turbines, inter-array cables, offshore substation platforms and platform link (interconnector) cables to connect offshore substations.
Greenhouse gas	A gas that absorbs and emits radiant energy within the thermal infrared range, causing the greenhouse effect. Examples include carbon dioxide and methane.
Habitats Regulations	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).
Kyoto Protocol	The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which commits its parties to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by setting internationally binding emission reduction targets, implemented primarily through national measures but also via wider market-based mechanism.
Landfall	The area in which the offshore export cables make landfall (come on shore) and the transitional area between the offshore cabling and the onshore cabling. This term applies to the entire landfall area at Lytham St. Annes between Mean Low Water Springs and the transition joint bay inclusive of all construction works, including the offshore and onshore cable routes, intertidal working area and landfall compound(s).
Local Planning Authority	The local government body (e.g., Borough Council, District Council, etc.) responsible for determining planning applications within a specific area.

Term	Meaning
Marine licence	The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 requires a marine licence to be obtained for licensable marine activities. Section 149A of the Planning Act 2008 allows an applicant for to apply for 'deemed marine licences' in English waters as part of the development consent process.
Morecambe OWL	Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Limited is owned by Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners' (CIP) fifth flagship fund, Copenhagen Infrastructure V (CI V).
Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets	<p>The offshore export cables, landfall and onshore infrastructure for the Morgan Offshore Wind Project and the Morecambe Offshore Windfarm. This includes the offshore export cables, landfall site, onshore export cables, onshore substations, 400 kV grid connection cables and associated grid connection infrastructure such as circuit breaker compounds.</p> <p>Also referred to in this report as the Transmission Assets, for ease of reading.</p>
Morgan OWL	Morgan Offshore Wind Limited is a joint venture between JERA Nex bp (JNbp) and Energie Baden-Württemberg AG (EnBW).
National Policy Statement(s)	The current national policy statements published by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero in 2023.
Planning Inspectorate	The agency responsible for operating the planning process for applications for development consent under the Planning Act 2008.
Protected species	A species of animal or plant which it is forbidden by law to harm or destroy.
Ramsar sites	Wetlands of international importance that have been designated under the criteria of the Ramsar Convention. In combination with Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation, these sites contribute to the national site network.
Renewable energy	Energy from a source that is not depleted when used, such as wind or solar power.
Special Areas of Conservation	A site designation specified in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Each site is designated for one or more of the habitats and species listed in the Regulations. The legislation requires a management plan to be prepared and implemented for each SAC to ensure the favourable conservation status of the habitats or species for which it was designated. In combination with Special Protection Areas and Ramsar sites, these sites contribute to the national site network.
Special Protection Areas	A site designation specified in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, classified for rare and vulnerable birds, and for regularly occurring migratory species. Special Protection Areas contribute to the national site network.
The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero	The decision maker with regards to the application for development consent for the Transmission Assets.
Transmission Assets	See Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets (above).



# 1 Applicants' response to Written Representations

## 1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1.1 Following Deadline 3, Morgan Offshore Wind Limited and Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Limited (hereafter, 'the Applicants') have taken the opportunity to review each of the submissions from Statutory Consultees and other organisations. This includes Written Representation, post hearing submissions as well as responses to ExQ1
- 1.1.1.2 Details of the Applicants' response to each of the submissions from Statutory Consultees and other organisations are set out in this document.
- 1.1.1.3 The Applicants have numbered the submissions in line with the Planning Inspectorate's document library, with subsequent paragraph number, e.g. REP4-001.1, REP4-001.2, etc.
- 1.1.1.4 This document is accompanied by the following annexes:
- Annex 2.1 to Applicants' Response to Deadline 3 submissions from Statutory Consultees and other organisation: BAE Systems (REP3-073, REP3-074)
  - Annex 2.2 to Applicants' Response to Deadline 3 submissions from Statutory Consultees and other organisation: Environment Agency (REP3-079, REP3-080, REP3-081)
  - Annex 2.3 to Applicants' Response to Deadline 3 submissions from Statutory Consultees and other organisation: Fylde Borough Council (REP3-082)
  - Annex 2.4 to Applicants' Response to Deadline 3 submissions from Statutory Consultees and other organisation: Lancashire County Council (REP3-084)
  - Annex 2.5 to Applicants' Response to Deadline 3 submissions from Statutory Consultees and other organisation: Marine Management Organisation (REP3-085)
  - Annex 2.6 to Applicants' Response to Deadline 3 submissions from Statutory Consultees and other organisation: Natural England (REP3-90 - REP3-95)

## 2 Responses to Written Representations

### 2.1 Angus Walker on behalf of Newton with Clifton Parish Council and Freckleton Parish Council

**Table 2.1: REP3-072 –Angus Walker’s Comments on Submissions received by Deadline 3**

Reference	IP submission	Applicants’ response
REP3-072 072.1	<p>Dear Examining Authority,</p> <p>We note that in submission R2-041, the Applicants have not included in their document S_D2_8 Applicants’ Draft Itinerary and Plan for ASI - Rev F01 and the ExA formal Accompanied site inspection schedule, issued on 19th June 2025, any proposal to inspect the public and private sites relevant to the enabling infrastructure associated with “the Northern”</p> <p>Material Alternative route. This route would utilise existing energy infrastructure to connect electricity generated by the Morgan and Morecambe offshore arrays to Penwortham and, ultimately, to national consumers, despite our suggesting it. In REP1-187, NPL Group, the principal landowner of the Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone (HTEZ), has already offered to facilitate a site visit for the Examining Authority to its 138-hectare site.</p> <p>This offer remains open, should the ExA wish to take this up.</p> <p>Such a visit would enable direct appraisal of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feasible access route options from the HTEZ to the Irish Sea shore;</li> <li>• Extensive, designated development land already provisioned with highways and utilities infrastructure suitable for</li> </ul>	<p>Noted. The Applicants recognise the need for the Examining Authority to focus on the Application and not hypothetical alternatives - “vague or immature” in the language of NPS EN-1 (see paragraph 4.3.28) and proposed a draft Itinerary on that basis.</p>

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hosting both Applicant and Transmission Operator substations;</li> <li>• Immediate access to the existing 400kV National Grid infrastructure, forming part of the R4 Penwortham-Stanah Group, which connects directly to Penwortham and the wider grid.</li> </ul> <p>These factors demonstrate how the environmental, community, and business impacts of the Applicants' preferred route could be entirely avoided.</p> <p>The use of this already provisioned site and infrastructure would also eliminate the need for approximately 60km of underground cabling and associated Green Belt encroachment—representing a significant reduction in environmental impact, delivery time, risk, and cost. It is estimated that avoiding this unnecessary infrastructure could prevent up to £900 million in costs being passed to consumers. This aligns directly with the obligations under the Electricity Act 1989 and the Energy Act 2023 for delivery of efficiency and economy by licensed undertakers and the Secretary of State.</p> <p>In light of the above, we respectfully request that your schedule for Accompanied Site Inspections (ASIs) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rossall Beach, as the potential landfall site; and</li> <li>• Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone, as a potential site for hosting transmission infrastructure with existing access to Penwortham and the national grid.</li> </ul>	



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## 2.2 BAE Systems

The Applicants' response to BAE Systems submissions at Deadline 3 is provided in Annex 2.1 to Applicants' Response to Deadline 3 submissions from Statutory Consultees and other organisation: BAE Systems (REP3-073, REP3-074) (Document reference S\_D4\_2.1).

## 2.3 Blackpool Airport Operations Limited & Blackpool Airport Properties Limited

**Table 2.2: REP3-075 – BAO Ltd & BAP Ltd**

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
1.1.1	<p>It is noted (with the exception of Q1.1.13) that none of the questions within ExQ1 have been directed to Blackpool Airport, although there are several which pertain to Airport operational matters. The Airport anticipates that the ExA has not raised further written questions for the Airport at this stage on the basis of the Airport's written representations and oral submissions made at OFH1 and ISH1, within which it was explained that the Airport's key concerns are for the most part likely to be addressed through a Cooperation Agreement being negotiated with the Applicants. The Airport confirms that whilst the Cooperation Agreement continues to be progressed by the parties, and is at an advanced stage, it has not yet been concluded. In the above context, and in the hope that they are of assistance to the ExA, the Airport has prepared responses to those written questions it considers pertinent to the Airport as set out below.</p>	<p>The Applicants acknowledge the response from BAO Ltd and BAP Ltd and welcome the comments in relation to negotiations to satisfy Blackpool Airport via the Cooperation Agreement and the update on its progress.</p>

## 2.4 Blackpool Borough Council

**Table 2.3: REP3-076 – Blackpool Borough Council’s Responses to ExQ1**

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants’ response
Q1.1.5	<p><b>Construction working hours</b></p> <p>Proposed construction hours are set out in Requirement 14 of Schedule 2A and 2B of the dDCO [REP2-004].</p> <p>a) Requirement 14(2) for both projects provides for circumstances where works may take place outside the core working hours specified in 14(1). These include a range of works (a) to (g) including generalised elements such as “where continuous periods of construction are required” and “any other time-critical element”. Whilst noting that provision in 14(3) for such works to be subject to 48 hours’ advance notice to the relevant planning authority, can the applicants provide a more detailed justification for the flexibility sought for the certain works identified in (a) to (g)?</p> <p>b) Noting that core working hours from 7:00am until 7:00pm (Monday to Saturday) are proposed, with an hour before/ after for set-up and close down works, are there any particular locations where the proposed hours including mobilisation activities might be more likely to lead to issues of unreasonable noise and disturbance for local residents and/or other receptors? If so, what reduced working hours would be reasonable in such locations?</p>	<p>Wind project (EN010137) requested that the applicant provide, without prejudice, updated documents to refer to more restrictive working hours of 7:00am to 1:00pm on Saturdays. Please comment on this request in relation to the proposed development, including whether the construction working hours should be similarly amended.</p> <p>The proposed development is within close proximity to a number of classes of sensitive receivers (residential properties, and businesses such as the care home in the dunes area) which will be sensitive to the intrusive activities at early and late hours, and weekends. BBC is opposed to the extended working hours. The proposed core working hours (07:00–19:00, Monday to Saturday, with a 1-hour mobilisation period before and after) are excessive in and close to residential areas. Harmful impacts would arise from noise, vibration, and light nuisance, especially during the early morning, late evening and weekend periods.</p> <p>BBC suggest that restrict construction hours to 08:00–18:00 (Monday– Friday)</p>	<p>The Applicants note BBC’s position concerning construction working hours. As noted during the hearings w/c 28 July, the Applicants will be updating the draft DCO (C1/F06) at Deadline 4 to remove Saturday afternoon working.</p>

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
	c) The recent 'Request for Information' letter from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero regarding the Mona Offshore Wind project (EN010137) requested that the applicant provide, without prejudice, updated documents to refer to more restrictive working hours of 7:00am to 1:00pm on Saturdays. Please comment on this request in relation to the proposed development, including whether the construction working hours should be similarly amended.	and 08:00–13:00 (Saturday), with no works on Sundays or Bank Holidays, and site is secured and tidy which may be undertaken during the last hour. BBC standard template planning condition in relation to construction management plan is set out below for assistance to the ExA.	
Q1.1.13	<p><b>Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)</b></p> <p>Deadline 3 (7 July 2025) includes the submission of updated SoCG, including summaries of the principal areas of disagreement and statement of commonality.</p> <p>Relevant parties where a SoCG has been requested should fully engage with the SoCG process. The ExA requests fully considered SoCGs including summaries of the principal areas of disagreement.</p> <p>For statutory undertakers, where there is documented evidence that matters, including protective provisions, are agreed and no other matters of disagreement remain, then a statement from parties to this effect would suffice. In the absence of such a statement, where protective provisions are being negotiated and even if agreement is expected to be reached, then a brief and focused SoCG or position paper should be progressed, focusing on the matters where differences remain between the respective parties, rather than an unnecessarily long SoCG. It is not sufficient for these to be just recorded in</p>	BBC is continuing to engage with the Applicants in progressing a Statement of Common Ground. Topic specific meetings for Transport have been held which have successfully narrowed the scope of outstanding issues. Further topic specific meetings are being diarised.	The Applicants welcome the ongoing engagement with BBC via the SoCG process. The Applicants provided a Statutory Undertaker Negotiations Progress Tracker (REP3-067) at Deadline 3 providing the detail requested by the Examining Authority in relation to protective provisions. The Applicants are providing an updated version of this at Deadline 4 (REF).

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
	the applicants' Land Rights Tracker as this is not a document that is necessarily agreed with the relevant statutory undertaker.		
Q1.3.1	<p><b>New / recently consented developments</b></p> <p>The applicants' response [REP2-031] to paragraphs 4.6.1 to 4.6.4 of Preston City Council's written representation [REP1-095] appears to take account of the consented developments at Pheonix Park and Land off Riversway in terms of overall cumulative effects but it is not clear that these consented developments have been assessed in terms of the specific effects of the proposed development upon their users and occupiers.</p> <p>a) Noting that the Land off Riversway residential development has commenced, can the applicants provide details of their assessment of the impacts of the proposed development upon these receptors, on the basis that they could be in use/occupied prior to the commencement of either Project A or Project B?</p> <p><b>b) Are there any other recent developments, where updates are required to assess the impacts of the proposed development upon their current/future occupiers?</b></p>	<p>Two recent decisions at Blackpool Airport are considered to be relevant to the assessment of effects of the proposed development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Approval of a scheme of hangars and a commercial unit (and associated infrastructure)( ref: 23/0589 Fylde &amp; ref: 23/0634 Blackpool); and</li> <li>- Decision confirming no EIA is required for the proposed solar farm at Blackpool Airport (ref: 24/0478).</li> </ul>	The Applicants note this response.
Q3.1.1	<p><b>Commitments</b></p> <p>Project Commitment (CoT) 33 [REP2-011] states "An Outline Dust Management Plan (DMP) has been prepared as part of the Outline CoCP and submitted as part of the application for development consent. Detailed CoCP(s) will be developed in accordance with the Outline CoCP. The measures in the detailed DMP(s) will accord with guidance set out by the Institute of Air</p>	<p>The effects of dust from the proposed development will be more acutely felt in other LPA administrative areas, rather than Blackpool. BBC supports Fylde Borough Council's position that the oDMP that LPAs must have recourse to require action where effects are considered to be unacceptable.</p>	The Applicants welcome engagement with FBC on the specifics of the outline Dust Management Plan (APP-195) via the SoCG process, noting that no comments have been raised to date.

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
	<p>Quality guidance Management (IAQM, 2024) where appropriate and practicable, and will include measures for monitoring and reporting dust levels, and dust suppression and mitigation measures during construction and operation."</p> <p>(a) Define the process of identification of what is considered "where appropriate and practicable"?</p> <p>(b) Do you consider this approach to be adequate?</p>	<p>Further, departure from the IAQM, 2024 should not be permitted simply when it is 'practicable'. Justification for such departure should be submitted to the relevant responsible authority for approval.</p>	
Q3.1.3	<p><b>Air quality assessment baseline</b></p> <p>Air quality assessment baseline in the Environmental Statement (ES) Air quality (9.6.1.6) [APP-121] states that "Concentrations measured during 2020 and 2021 may have been affected by the COVID19 lockdowns and are not therefore necessarily representative of current concentrations as outlined in the IAQM Position Statement on 'Use of 2020 and 2021 Monitoring Datasets' (IAQM, 2021). Nevertheless, measured concentrations have been considered to ensure the assessment is conservative."</p> <p>Is this information representative of the current air quality baseline, given it was predominantly gathered during the COVID19 pandemic when air quality data could have been disproportionately affected?</p>	<p>As noted in response to Q3.1.1, whilst the effects of the proposed development on air quality may affect the Enterprise Zone, and as a result of an increase in traffic, impacts will be more acutely felt in other LPA administrative areas, rather than Blackpool. BBC supports and defers to Fylde Borough Council's position on the wider concerns within this topic. BBC support the statement that the use of 2020–2021 data as an air quality baseline is inappropriate due to pandemic-related anomalies (e.g., significantly reduced traffic and NOx levels). Although air quality in BBC's administrative area is generally good, data from those years do not reflect typical conditions and may underestimate the project's potential impact.</p> <p>The construction and decommissioning phases have the potential to generate dust and there are concerns in respect of the potential impact of foreign object debris (FOD) resulting from the Scheme which currently proposes to route construction traffic down the main taxiway. FOD refers</p>	<p>The Applicants have provided a response to the FBC position in its Response to Fylde BC – ExQ1 and D3 Responses (S_D4_2.3).</p> <p>The Applicants note BBC's request to consider potential safety hazards in relation to airport operations. The Applicants note that BAOL are included as consultee in relation to the discharge of Requirement 8 of Schedules 2A and 2B of the draft DCO (REP3-009) (Code of Construction Practice), which provides that BAOL is consulted on the discharge of the Dust Management Plan in so far as it relates to activities at Blackpool Airport.</p>



Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
		to any object in an airport environment which could injure personnel or damage aircraft. Any such object would create potential safety hazards and impact operations at the airport. The mitigation proposed will need to be wholly effective with constant supervision during the works to prevent this taking place. This should be set out fully within the Dust Management Plan.	
Q3.1.4	<p>Meteorological data used for dispersion modelling Air quality assessment baseline in the ES Air quality chapter [APP-121] Table 9.29 states that "Uncertainties arise from any differences between the conditions at the met station and the development site, and between the historical met years and the future years. These have been minimised by using meteorological data collated at a representative measuring site. The model has been run for a full year of meteorological conditions. This means that the conditions in 8,760 hours have been considered in the assessment."</p> <p>( ) Explain why one year of meteorological data is considered sufficient?</p> <p>(a) How have seasonal and annual variations in weather patterns been considered?</p> <p>(b) Are the local authorities satisfied with the approach in relation to meteorological data used in the dispersion modelling?</p>	As noted in response to Q3.1.1, The effects of the proposed development on air quality will be more acutely felt in other LPA administrative areas, rather than Blackpool. BBC does not have in house expertise to assess the meteorological dispersion modelling, and therefore supports and defers to Fylde Borough Council's position on this topic.	The Applicants have provided a response to the FBC position in its Response to Fylde BC – ExQ1 and D3 Responses (S_D4_2.3).
Q3.1.7	<p><b>Air quality effects during construction</b></p> <p>NPS EN-1 paragraph 5.7.9 states that construction should be undertaken in a way that</p>	BBC is of the opinion that yes, the use of low emission mobile plant equipment should be a mandatory requirement	The Applicants note this response and welcome engagement with BBC via the SoCG process regarding the specifics of controls to be included

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
	<p>reduces emissions, such as the use of low emission mobile plant during construction as appropriate, and that consideration should be given to making this mandatory in DCO requirements.</p> <p>(a) Explain how are you going to comply with this policy? Has consideration been given to a commitment to the use of low emission vehicles or plant?</p> <p>(b) Should this be a mandatory requirement, and if not, why not?</p>	<p>pursuant to NPS EN-1 Acknowledging that the availability of such equipment can be a constraint, BBC would accept that non-compliance with this requirement could be acceptable with written approval of the relevant responsible authority.</p>	<p>within the outline Dust Management Plan (APP-195).</p>
Q4.1.1	<p><b>Blackpool Airport</b></p> <p>BBC state at paragraph 2.5 of their post hearing submissions [REP1- 071] that, during discussions, the phrase used by the applicants that they would "ensure as far as possible the safe and efficient operation of the airport" is insufficient reassurance and requests that it is changed to read "no partial or full closure or adverse effect on the airport operations and reputation".</p> <p>Please comment on this request?</p>	<p>BBC considers that it important the safe aviation activities and commercial operations of the Airport with access to its facilities be retained at all times. The Airport has a regulatory obligation to ensure that its aviation infrastructure remains active and operational at all times. It is not economically viable for the Airport to be subject to closure. Disruption to services would result in air traffic having to be diverted elsewhere and in instances such as this, in the experience of BBC, users do not return to using the original facility once it is operational again and the knock-on effect to the reliability and reputation of the airport would be prohibitive to its future.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that the Airport is seeking to enter into a commercial agreement with the Applicants which would secure amongst other things specified working areas and construction methodologies. BBC is liaising with the</p>	<p>The Applicants note the response from BBC and refer to Blackpool Airport's submission at Deadline 3 (REP3-075) that provides a positive update on the Cooperation Agreement.</p>

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
		Airport in this regard and understands that negotiations are substantially progressed. However, in the event that the commercial agreement is not entered into, as the ultimate owner of the Airport, BBC would require the Applicants to provide confirmation of the construction methodologies, depth of cables and other relevant matters, and the extent of the Order limits within the Airport boundary would need to be revised so as to avoid any impact on the operational runway.	
Q5.1.1	<p><b>Starr Gate accessway</b></p> <p>It is noted that there have been further meetings between BBC and the applicants. The Council has questioned [REP1-069] whether the proposed works in the area of the Starr Gate accessway meet the statutory tests for compulsory acquisition as set out in the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). Is this still the Council's position? Please can the applicants provide an assessment as to how the tests have either been met or not met in this specific area?</p>	<p>BBC's position regarding the rights sought over the Starr Gate accessway remains unchanged. Starr Gate has been the subject of ongoing discussions between BBC and the Applicants.</p> <p>The oCMP at page 31 has been amended to include a description of the access requirements at Starr Gate, which is welcomed by BBC. "The Applicants have identified a potential need for low-tide vessels to be launched during construction activities to facilitate installation of the landfall. Access to the beach in the event of emergencies would also be required." It is noted that mitigation would be discussed with BBC as part of finalising the CTMP.</p> <p>Consequently, the rights sought over Starr Gate are overly extensive and unnecessary. Therefore, in this respect of the rights sought over Starr Gate the dDCO does not meet the relevant statutory tests. BBC request that these rights</p>	<p>The Applicants have updated the draft DCO (C1/F06) at Deadline 4 to remove Starr Gate (as detailed in the Schedule of Changes to the draft DCO) from Schedules 3A, 3B, 4A and 4B and have removed the first two rows of Schedules 5A and 5B (public rights of way to be temporarily closed or restricted) to reflect the progress of discussions between the Applicants and BBC. The Applicants do not require any street work powers in relation to the Starr Gate access. Similarly, Schedules 7A and 7B have been updated in relation to Starr Gate to confirm that the temporary possession powers would be exercised solely for access purposes with no element of street works.</p>

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
		<p>currently sought are removed from the dDCO.</p> <p>For completeness, BBC holds a similar view with respect to the egress to the northern access to the airport off Squires Gate Lane, and would seek that any powers not required for the proposed access via the northern access be removed from the DCO. BBC would be content with suitable traffic management arrangements, subject to details being agreed with the applicants. These matters are the subject of ongoing discussions with the applicants as part of the SoCG discussions.</p>	
Q5.1.2	<p><b>Blackpool Airport</b></p> <p>Where the proposed cable route crosses Blackpool Airport, the land is subject to rights in favour of the Secretary of State for Defence by virtue of the provisions contained in a conveyance dated 2 April 1962. What do these rights relate to and has the Secretary of State been consulted?</p>	<p>A conveyance dated 2nd April 1962 reserved rights in favour of the Vendor (the Minister of Aviation and so benefitting any Crown Entity). The conveyance is noted on the Land Registry title. It is for the Applicant to show that the proposed Development does not interfere with these rights.</p>	<p>The Applicants responded to this point in REP3-056. This response is copied here for convenience.</p> <p>Following a further review of the conveyance dated 2 April 1962, the Applicants confirm that rights of entry to repair and maintain conducting media were granted to the Minister of Aviation and their successors. The Secretary of State for Defence was incorrectly identified as the successor; the correct successor is the Secretary of State for Transport. The Applicants confirm that the Secretary of State for Defence will be removed from plots 02-024, 02-026, 02-029, 02-030, 03-003, 03-004, 03-005, 03-006, 03-007, 03-008, 03-009, 03- 012, and 04-024, all of which are associated with the aforementioned conveyance. The Secretary of State for Transport will be added to these plots, and these updates will be reflected in the next version of the Book of Reference. A meeting took place with the Secretary of State for Transport on 23rd June 2025 where the S135</p>

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
			consent required was discussed. The Applicants are in ongoing dialogue and expect negotiations on the S135 consent to progress over the coming weeks.
Q6.1.10	<b>Commitments</b> CoT16 [REP2-010] states "All vegetation requiring removal will be undertaken outside of the bird breeding season. If this is not reasonably practicable, the vegetation requiring removal will be subject to a nesting bird check by a suitably qualified ecological clerk of works. If nesting birds are present, the vegetation will not be removed until the young have fledged or the nest failed." ( ) Define under what circumstances it wouldn't be "reasonably practicable"? (a) Do you consider the proposed wording to be adequate?	BBC considers the proposed wording to be broadly adequate, but would suggest that the point at which birds have fledged (or the nest failed) will also need to be determined by a suitably qualified ecological clerk of works. It would also be useful for the 'bird breeding season' to be defined.	The Applicants note this response and welcome engagement with BBC via the SoCG process regarding the specifics of the outline Ecological Management Plan (REP3-022).
Q6.1.11	<b>Commitments</b> CoT31 [REP2-010] states "Ponds identified during the route planning and site selection process have been avoided where possible. During construction any newly identified ponds will be avoided through micro-siting of the onshore export cable corridor and 400 kV grid connection cable corridor where reasonably practicable." ( ) Define "reasonably practicable". How is the decision made and on what basis. What if it's not deemed "reasonably practicable". (a) Do you consider the proposed wording to be adequate?	Ponds are highly unlikely to be encountered within the Blackpool Borough Council administrative area due to its limited scope within the DCO redline boundary. BBC will therefore defer to Fylde Borough Council in this matter.	The Applicants note this response.
Q6.1.13	<b>Commitments</b> CoT101 [REP2-010] states "Where high concentrations of peat are identified these, will be	Peat is unlikely to be encountered within the Blackpool Borough Council administrative area due to its limited scope	The Applicants note this response.

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
	<p>avoided where practicably possible for the placement of the plant and infrastructure to avoid the possibility of ground gas build up. Where this is not possible, further investigation and appropriate monitoring will be identified undertaken, if necessary".</p> <p>( ) Explain how you will determine if it's "practicably possible" to avoid high concentrations of peat that are identified.</p> <p>(a) Explain the decision-making process in relation to determining if further investigation and appropriate monitoring is necessary.</p> <p>(b) Do you consider the proposed wording to be adequate?</p>	<p>within the DCO redline boundary. BBC-owned land affected by the proposed development is also not known to contain high concentrations of peat. BBC is therefore content to defer to FBC and LCC in this matter. LCC is, by mutual agreement, the Minerals and Waste Authority for the Blackpool administrative area.</p>	
Q6.1.14	<p><b>Commitments</b></p> <p>CoT126 [REP2-010] "To mitigate for potential temporary habitat loss associated with Mill Brook Valley Biological Heritage Site, temporary construction compounds will be micro-sited to avoid the site wherever reasonably practicable."</p> <p>( ) Define "wherever reasonably practicable".</p> <p>(a) Explain how you will mitigate for potential temporary habitat loss if it's not deemed "reasonably practicable".</p> <p>(b) Do you consider the proposed wording to be adequate?</p>	<p>The Mill Brook Valley Biological Heritage Site not within the BBC administrative authority. BBC therefore defers to the relevant responsible authority, and consider that the LPA approval should be required where mitigation measures are to be put in place for temporary habitat loss.</p>	<p>The Applicants note this response.</p>
Q6.2.1	<p><b>Biodiversity calculations:</b></p> <p>(a) Provide reasoning for the proposed percentage (%) in the biodiversity benefit strategy - 59.62% increase for the habitat, 20% for watercourse, 41.37% for hedgerow.</p> <p>(b) Explain in detail the methodology used and why the scheme won't fully comply with future</p>	<p>No agreement has been reached with BBC at this stage, as BNG has not been discussed with the applicants. BBC will review the BNG metric spreadsheet used for the calculations when it is submitted to the ExA, and provide comment if it considers it necessary to do so.</p>	<p>Following the update in February 2024 of the statutory metric spreadsheet the Applicants have utilised this and updated the biodiversity benefit statement (J11/F03) at Deadline 4. Furthermore, as communicated in Issue Specific Hearing 2 in July (S_D4_5 and S_D4_6), the Applicants have updated the draft Development Consent Order at</p>



Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
	<p>biodiversity net gain requirements i.e. why the whole length of the corridor has not been assessed?</p> <p>(c) The ExA requests the BNG metric spreadsheet used for the calculations is submitted into the examination.</p> <p>(d) Confirm whether clarity exists on how the calculations have been done and is there agreement on the methodology and the spatial areas for which the calculations have been presented?</p>	<p>BBC does have concerns that the areas presented for habitat creation and enhancement should be certain but are entitled 'indicative'. Calculations must be undertaken by the Applicants when/if the areas set aside for habitat creation and enhancement are confirmed. It is stated that where access could not be obtained habitat calculations were based on existing datasets – the applicants should confirm the extent of area that could not be accessed, where existing datasets were taken from (are they appropriate) and then what implications this may have on the assessment and any appropriate mitigation. The scope of the assessment of onshore biodiversity benefit is limited to areas of permanent habitat loss and should be extended to meet statutory criteria.</p>	<p>Deadline 4 to include an in principle without prejudice biodiversity benefit requirement (C1/F06).</p> <p>The Applicants can confirm that all areas of land within the boundaries of the Morgan onshore substation and Morecambe onshore substation footprints (Works No. 20A/20B, 21A/21B), for which UKHabs mapping and habitat condition assessments were undertaken, were accessible for the purposes of the survey. Further detail on the proportion of habitats that were mapped from aerial photographs/from adjacent land within the Transmission Assets Onshore Order Limits and survey buffer has been submitted at Deadline 4 as part of Annex 3.3: Applicants' response to ExQ1 6.1.1: Phase 1 Habitat Survey Coverage (S_D4_12).</p> <p>As the scope of the BNG assessment is limited to the areas of permanent land take, no calculation has been undertaken to quantify the BNG requirement for the entirety of the onshore transmission assets order limits. In December 2023, the Applicants presented this approach to BNG to stakeholders as part of the expert working group process and no alternative approach was suggested. In addition, it was noted that early calculations for the delivery of 10% BNG for the entirety of the onshore transmission assets order limits would require c.100 ha of land to deliver the mitigation for this area which, as communicated during the Issue Specific Hearing 2 (S_D4_5 and S_D4_6 ) is neither feasible, nor required. In addition, the Applicants refer Blackpool Borough Council to REP1-085 – 10.29 of the Applicants' Response to Lancashire County Council's LIR (REP2-039)</p>

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
			<p>where it is noted that there is currently no legal requirement to provide for biodiversity net gain with applications for development consent under the Planning Act 2008 and that the Transmission Assets are exempt from any future legal requirement as the requirement will not apply retrospectively to applications made before the provisions come into force.</p> <p>The Applicants have submitted an updated Biodiversity Benefit Statement (J11/F03) with the inclusion of the results of the updated statutory biodiversity metric version 1.0.4 alongside the metric spreadsheet (Appendix K of the Onshore Biodiversity Benefit Statement (J11/F04)). The updates to the Biodiversity Benefit Statement are to correct some minor mapping errors and to transpose the assessment into the statutory DEFRA metric spreadsheet. Noting that version 4.1 of the spreadsheet that was used at Application has been superceded by the adoption of the statutory metric spreadsheet (version 1.0.4) in February 2024. Furthermore, the Applicants will update the Biodiversity Benefit calculations post-consent to reflect any changes in the design/ layout and habitat retention, enhancement and creation once the detailed design work had been completed, as is common practice for this type of assessment. However, while the total net percentage change has altered for habitats, hedgerows and watercourses, it is still positive and does not change any conclusions in the ES.</p> <p>Habitat condition assessments have been undertaken and have been added as Appendix J of the biodiversity benefit statement (J11/F03) at Deadline 4.</p>

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
			<p>Temporary habitat loss is defined within section 3.10.3 of Volume 3, Chapter 3: Onshore ecology and nature conservation (APP-075) as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• short term: a period of months, up to one year;</li> <li>• medium term: a period of more than one year, up to three years; or</li> <li>• long term: a period of greater than three years.</li> </ul> <p>It is noted in section 3.11 of Volume 3, Chapter 3: Onshore ecology and nature conservation (APP-075) that the impacts of temporary habitat loss will be reversible. Although the total construction period for sequential construction of 66 months represents the MDS, most habitat loss would occur over a shorter term period and would be transient in any one location as construction progresses.</p> <p>As the scope of the biodiversity benefit statement is limited to the areas of permanent land take (Works No. 20A/20B, 21A/21B, 22A/22B, 23A/23B, 24A/24B), no calculation has been undertaken to quantify the habitat impacts within the onshore cable corridor, temporary construction compounds or other temporary impacts. However, the Applicants have identified opportunities for delivering off-site biodiversity enhancements such as habitat improvements, habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity as set out in Section 1.10 of the Outline Ecological Management Plan (OEMP) (REP3-022). These measures would be agreed with stakeholders through further ongoing consultation and the agreed measures included within a detailed version(s) of the EMP.</p>

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
Q6.2.2	<b>Mitigation Hierarchy</b> Confirm that the applicants have adequately followed the mitigation hierarchy in respect to no biodiversity net loss and biodiversity net gain.	BBC do not have in house expertise and would be required to send the Onshore Biodiversity Benefit statement and Ecology statement to consultants to review. BBC do not have the funding for this analysis. The BBC recommends that the ExA in making their decision should understand the intended length of time 'temporary' habitat losses and are anticipated and likely effects, together with the timeframes around habitat reinstatement within these locations and consider whether the provision of additional off-site habitat creation and enhancement is appropriate.	The Applicants note this response.
Q6.2.3	<b>Site selection</b> Selection guiding principles are set out in paragraphs 1.2.1.2 and 1.2.1.3 of Site Selection of the Environmental Mitigation and Biodiversity Benefit Areas [REP2-046] submitted at D2. ( ) Explain why the selection guiding principles set out do not include specific safety considerations and policy requirements including potential for increased risk to defence activities? (a) Explain if any alternatives for BNG strategy have been considered, including off-site delivery. (b) If BNG requirements and the avoidance and/or mitigation of defence aviation risks cannot be met, please explain how excluding BNG areas from the order limits might affect your comments on the application.	BBC is yet to engage with the Applicants substantively on BNG, however would be open to offsite BNG being secured through s.106 obligations, provided there is demonstrable compliance with the mitigation hierarchy.	The Applicants note that there is currently no legal requirement to provide for biodiversity net gain with applications for development consent under the Planning Act 2008 and that the Transmission Assets are exempt from any future legal requirement as the requirement will not apply retrospectively to applications made before the provisions come into force. However, the Applicants have put forward an Onshore Biodiversity Benefit Statement (REP2-020) with the Application and are seeking to provide biodiversity benefit measures on a voluntary basis. As these measures are not legally required and are not required in order to mitigate any environmental impacts identified through the EIA, the Applicants have not to date included a Requirement to deliver those biodiversity benefit measures, nor is it appropriate to secure such measures through s.106 obligations. The Applicants are however committed to delivering those measures where they are able to acquire the land and rights to do so. Following discussions at ISH2, the Applicants

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
			<p>have offered a 'without prejudice' requirement at Deadline 4 that, if the Secretary of State considers it necessary, would secure the Applicants' adherence to the Biodiversity Benefit Statement.</p> <p>The Applicants note that Natural England recently acknowledged this is the correct position in their representation at deadline 3 (REP3-094).</p>
Q14.1.10	<p><b>Commitments</b></p> <p>CoT18 [REP2-010] states "Core working hours for the construction of the intertidal and onshore works will be as follows: • Monday to Saturday: 07:00 - 19:00 hours; and • up to one hour before and after core working hours for mobilisation ("mobilisation period") i.e. 06:00 to 20:00. Activities carried out during the mobilisation period will not generate significant noise levels (such as piling, or other such noisy activities). In circumstances outside of core working practices, specific works may have to be undertaken outside the core working hours. This will include, but is not limited to, works being undertaken within and/or adjacent to Blackpool Airport and cable installation at landfall and at the River Ribble. Advance notice of such works will be given to the relevant planning authority." In relation to the statement "Advance notice of such works will be given to the relevant planning authority."</p> <p>( ) Is it sufficient for the local authorities that advance notice will be given or should this be changed so that works, outside of the core hours secured by Requirement 14 (Schedules 2A and 2B) in the dDCO, are to be agreed with the</p>	<p>BBC acknowledges that there may be a legitimate need to work outside designated core hours. However, in these circumstances the core hours are already extended above normal planning permissions and must be balanced with the heightened sensitivity of receivers at night, and other heightened risks which requires active management (for example, traffic management).</p> <p>In light of the extended core hours above normal constructions works BBC does not consider it sufficient for advanced notice to be issued by the Developer in consideration of works outside of the core hours. The DCO should require the Applicants to agree in advance, in writing with the relevant local authority and the local highways authority when works are proposed to take place outside of the core working hours with formal sign off procedures, to ensure that mitigation measures are put into place. Additionally, local residents who are potentially affected by late night works should be notified in advance following Council approval.</p>	<p>The Applicants refer BBC to the updated draft DCO (REP3-009) from Deadline 3, which was updated in response to the Examining Authority's questions, as noted in the Applicants' response to this question in REP3-056. The Applicants note that communications would be managed via the detailed communications plan, which is secured via Requirement 8 of Schedules 2A and 2B to the draft DCO (REP3-009), with the outline communications plan (REP3-020) being an appendix to the outline code of construction practice (REP3-018).</p>

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
	<p>relevant planning authority in writing in advance and must be carried out within the agreed times?</p> <p>(a) What would be the expected frequency and duration of such works and over what period might they be expected to continue in any specific location?</p>		
Q14.1.13	<p><b>Construction noise</b></p> <p>Paragraph 1.2.2 of the Outline construction noise and vibration management plan [APP-196] covers the erection of physical barriers:</p> <p>( ) Are you satisfied with the proposed process?</p> <p>(a) Should timings be specified in relation to advance notification where consultation is required?</p>	<p>The Applicants propose physical barriers in the Outline Construction Management Plan to mitigate noise and vibration which includes bunds and other such physical barriers. Information should be able to be provided to the ExA in particular if wooden noise barriers are to be installed as to where the physical barriers may be required and the form it is anticipated such barriers will take. Additionally, the timing should be ascertained from the outline construction programme and be agreed in advance with BBC as to enable effects to be properly understood.</p> <p>Council approval for any mitigations and not simply notification should be included as a requirement.</p> <p>Scenario assessments should be undertaken and BBC consider that a range of scenarios are appropriate as the impacts created through maximum noise levels over one period and lower noise levels over a greater period of time, may create different impacts which require different mitigation.</p>	<p>The Applicants will continue to engage with BBC in regards to the Outline Noise and Vibration Management Plan (APP-196) via the SoCG process. However, the Applicants would like to highlight that Paragraph 1.2.2 states <i>Appropriate barrier locations will be identified by the Applicants in consultation with the relevant authority considering the methods of construction to be used</i>. The locations will be included as part of the detailed Noise and Vibration Management Plan(s) which BBC will be a consultee on where appropriate.</p>



Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
Q14.1.15	<p><b>Construction noise</b></p> <p>Outline construction noise and vibration management plan [APP196], paragraph 1.2.1.1 states that "In certain circumstances, specific works may have to be undertaken outside the core working hours to maintain time critical activities. Where applicable, these activities will be notified to the relevant planning authority at least 48- hours' notice in advance of the works."</p> <p>( ) Is a minimum of 48-hours' notice of advance of the works sufficient?</p> <p>(a) Are affected residents going to be notified in advance of the works?</p>	<p>Works outside of the core hours secured by should be agreed with the relevant planning authority in writing in advance and must be carried out within the agreed times. Notification as to the start of these works should depend upon the extent of the period of time the work outside core hours is undertaken and if residents and business do not need to be notified and the extent is one or two nights then 48 hours is acceptable. However, if the works are prolonged then the timeframe should ensure that residents are properly informed and if necessary, arrangements made for traffic to be diverted.</p> <p>Agreement with the LPA and/ or Local Highways Authority as to the expected frequency and duration of such works and over what period might they be expected to continue in any specific location should form part of the approval process.</p>	<p>Please refer to the response at Q14.1.10 above.</p>
Q15.1.1	<p>Outline Employment and Skills Plan The provisions in the Outline Employment and Skills Plan (oESP) [APP-239] are noted together with the consultation with Lancashire County Council as contained in Requirement 19.</p> <p>( ) Please update the Examining Authority (ExA) on progress with their discussions following issue specific hearing 1 (ISH1) relating to the oESP and the possibility of negotiating a section 106 planning agreement.</p>	<p>Discussions are yet to progress. The Council and the Applicant will likely be in a position to update the Council in the next iteration of the SoCG after D3.</p> <p>BBC express concern at the lack of firm commitments which bind the Applicants to deliver set provisions within the Outline Employment and Skills Plan. As an example, an employment and skills plan must include co-operation with the Blackpool &amp; the Fylde College Lancashire</p>	<p>The Applicants note that Requirement 19 of Schedules 2A and 2B to the draft DCO (REP3-009) was updated at deadline 3 to provide for BBC to be a consultee on the preparation of the detailed employment and skills plan. The Applicants would note that as this is secured under a requirement, it is not necessary to duplicate securitisation via a section 106 agreement. Following discussions at ISH3, the Applicants are waiting for BBC to confirm on behalf of the other authorities which body they have agreed should be the discharging authority. In addition, an update to the OESP is also submitted at deadline 4 to include Lancashire</p>

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
	(a) Blackpool Borough Council have requested that the plan should be subject to their approval – can this be agreed?	<p>Energy HQ to support the local community skills agenda.</p> <p>The Employment and Skills document should be subject to the Council's approval rather than notification to ensure all relevant considerations have been addressed. BBC consider that the requirements of the Plan be secured by a S106 agreement to ensure that they remain readily enforceable by the Councils throughout the lifetime of the Scheme.</p> <p>Amendment is sought to the current drafting in the dDCO of requirement 19 to ensure greater certainty of delivery of apprenticeships and the use of local labour and businesses during the construction and operational periods.</p>	<p>Energy HQ as a named consultee on the detailed employment and skills plan, with further updates to address previous comments on the OESP in the BBC Local Impact Report (J31/F02).</p>
Q15.1.4	<p><b>Tourism</b></p> <p>The applicants have sought to justify their approach to tourism in their response at deadline 1 [REP1-046] and in particular refer to a number of recent Development Consent Order (DCO) decisions where a similar approach has been taken. At paragraph 1.3.1.14 the applicants refer to the earlier representation from FBC [RR-0705] which indicated that 1 in 10 jobs were involved in tourism which is apparently a lower percentage than in most coastal communities.</p> <p>Are the Councils satisfied with the applicants' response on this matter?</p>	<p>The current assessment on tourism underestimates the importance of Blackpool and the wider Fylde coast as a popular seaside destination with tourism and the service sector underpinning the local economy. Based upon the provisional figures for 2023 for employees by industry sector, published by LCC, 13% of all employees in Blackpool work within the 'accommodation and food services' sector and 5.7% within the 'arts, entertainment and leisure' sector, which suggests a higher percentage of jobs involved in tourism related jobs than those the applicant has referred to.</p>	<p>The Applicants have recently communicated to BBC that a localised tourism study will be submitted at Deadline 4 to address concerns raised regarding the tourism and service sector within BBC and all local authorities associated with the Transmission Assets.</p> <p>Unfortunately it has not been possible in the time available to submit the local tourism assessment for Deadline 4. It has been concluded that it would be better to submit a completed assessment at Deadline 5 and take the opportunity to consult with the relevant local authorities on the scope of the assessment. It may be possible to submit the</p>

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
		<p>Responses are considered to be vague and high level with document [REP1-046] making no reference to major events which occur in Blackpool or the wider Fylde Coast throughout the year. This document refers to recreation based impacts and impacts upon visual amenity but does not appear to consider the potential economic or traffic related impacts raised by BBC within their LIR.</p> <p>Traffic and access are likely to be disrupted during the works and if the rights which remain over Starr Gate and Squires Gate Lane are enabled by the Applicant disruption would result in limited access for tourists at a detriment to businesses within the area. This could have a detrimental impact upon visitor perception during the works, with concerns over potential congestion potentially deterring visits and thus reducing visitor numbers and ultimately having a knock-on effect to the local economy.</p> <p>The proposals should support the maintenance of safe and convenient access for all, particularly given the importance of tourism-based events and activities for the Fylde Coast's economy. Currently, a lack of information regarding the proposed scheme's programme prevents a full assessment of the possible impacts.</p>	<p>assessment before Deadline 5, however this will be at the discretion of the Examining Authority.</p>

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
		<p>A further concern for BBC is 'perception': visitors, in particular potential return visitors, may be put off by the development works and the delays they may cause in accessing the key tourism areas of Blackpool. This is of particular concern with a drawn out, consecutive construction scenario.</p> <p>BBC are aware that event management measures are being proposed by the applicants as part of the oCTMP, and look forward to further detail as to what this will entail.</p>	

## 2.5 Bourne Ward – Wyre Borough Council

**Table 2.4: REP3-077 – Bourne Ward – Wyre Borough Council**

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
1.1.1	<p>At the Open Floor Hearing (2) held on 25 June 2025 at the Village Hotel, I presented evidence (Appendix 1), outlining a materially beneficial and technically feasible alternative routing option for the Morgan &amp; Morecambe transmission assets via the Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone (HTEZ). A member of the Panel requested that I submit further information in support of a potential site visit. Please find attached a detailed overview of the specific locations and public viewing points relevant to this alternative route. Appendix 2 contains an annotated map identifying public viewing points and proposed landfall observation zones, with additional detail on route alignment. This includes sightlines from Rossall Beach across the 2km clear corridor eastward to the western boundary of the HTEZ, as requested by the Panel. This visual corridor demonstrates how the proposed alternative avoids many of the unacceptable adverse impacts associated with the Applicant's current route between the offshore wind farms and the Penwortham National Grid Substation—while also offering a faster, less risky, and more cost-effective solution. I also refer to submission Rep1-187, in which the principal landowner of HTEZ, NPL Group, extended an open invitation to the Examining Authority to visit the private site. They confirmed their willingness to facilitate such a visit, which would allow the Panel to directly assess the suitability of HTEZ for hosting substation infrastructure and associated transmission works. The site already benefits from significant utilities and highways infrastructure that could support cable routing, access, and construction activities.</p>	<p>The Applicants thank Bourne Ward- Wyre Borough Council for their comments. The Applicants would defer to the responses which National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) submitted to the Examining Authority's written questions (REP3-088) which confirm that a connection to the Stanah substation or within the Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone would not be possible for the Transmission Assets.</p>

## 2.6 Canal & River Trust

**Table 2.5: REP3-078 – Canal & River Trust**

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
1.1.1	We write further to the publication of the Deadline Two (DL2) submissions and Examiner Questions. We wish to provide the ExA with an update on the Trust's latest position in relation to the examination, with headings to identify the various elements in relation to Deadline Three (DL3), including update on the proposed Protective Provisions for the benefit of the Trust, and on progress made on negotiating an agreement in terms of the rights over Trust leased land. We also provide comments on Deadline 2 matters relevant to the Trust.	The Applicants thank the Trust for their comments and can now confirm that the protective provisions are agreed between the parties. The Applicants are progressing the heads of terms negotiations of which updates on the status are set out in the Land Rights Tracker (S_D1_15/F03)

## 2.7 Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Table 2.6: REP3-141 – DAERA’s Response to ExQ1

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants’ response
Q9.1.1	<p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <p>Do you agree with the applicants’ Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) conclusions with respect to likely significant effects (LSE) [APP-018] and adverse effects on site integrity [APP-016 and APP-017]? Please specify the relevant sites, pathways and qualifying features in your response.</p>	<p>Yes, after reviewing the question and information provided, DAERA Marine Conservation are content with the conclusions against the conservation objectives for North Channel SAC.</p>	<p>The Applicants thank DAERA Marine Conservation for their response, and consider this matter now closed.</p>



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## 2.8 Environment Agency

The Applicants' response to the Environment Agency submissions at Deadline 3 is provided in Annex 2.2 to Applicants' Response to Deadline 3 submissions from Statutory Consultees and other organisation: Environment Agency (REP3-079, REP3-080, REP3-081) (Document reference S\_D4\_2.2).

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## 2.9 Fylde Borough Council

The Applicants' response to the Fylde Borough Council submissions at Deadline 3 is provided in Annex 2.3 to Applicants' Response to Deadline 3 submissions from Statutory Consultees and other organisation: Fylde Borough Council (REP3-082) (Document reference S\_D4\_2.3).

## 2.10 Historic England

**Table 2.7: REP3-083 – Historic England’s Responses to ExQ1**

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants’ response
Q11.1.6(d)	To what extent does the shortfall in the evaluation of trial trenching ahead of the assessment, weaken the overall findings in the ES in relation to onshore archaeology? Please explain your reasoning.	<p>Historic England acknowledge the limitations of trial trenching programmes undertaken prior to consent, where it may not be possible to gain access to land etc. The purpose of the trial trenching is to identify and characterise any currently unknown archaeological remains within the cable corridor and other construction areas in order to inform the assessment within the ES and to determine appropriate mitigation strategies.</p> <p>The degree to which the overall findings in the ES are weakened is dependent on the actual shortfall. There is a risk that significant archaeological remains that would have been identified in areas where trial trenching has not taken place prior to consent are identified in post consent trial trenching. Flexibility should be included within the post consent archaeological mitigation programme to allow for the appropriate treatment of significant archaeological remains that may be identified.</p>	<p>The Applicants consider that the information presented in the ES provides an adequate understanding of the archaeological baseline for the assessment to be robust. This information includes material presented in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ES Volume 3, Annex 5.1: Historic environment desk - based assessment (APP-097),</li> <li>ES Volume 3, Annex 5.2: Onshore archaeological geophysical survey report (APP-098 and APP-099),</li> <li>ES Volume 3, Annex 5.4: Geoarchaeological desk -based assessment (APP -101) and ES Volume 3, Annex 5.4: Geoarchaeological desk -based assessment report (APP - 101) and</li> <li>ES Volume 3, Annex 5.6: Interim trial trenching report (APP - 103).</li> </ul> <p>The assessment of likely impacts and effects on buried archaeological remains is set out in section 5.11 of ES Volume 3, Chapter 5: Historic environment (APP -096). The assessment takes a precautionary approach in which the sensitivity of the resource is considered to be ‘up to high’ (paragraph 5.11.2.16).</p> <p>The assessment goes on to say that a programme of further archaeological work as set out in the Outline Onshore and Intertidal Written Scheme of Investigation (APP-214) will be undertaken to inform detailed design which is secured through Requirement 11 within Schedules 2A and 2B of the Draft Development Consent Order (REP3-009). A revised version of the Outline Onshore and Intertidal Written Scheme of Investigation was submitted at Deadline 3 (REP3-026); this responds to comments made by Historic England in their Relevant Representation (RR-0839). Lancashire County Council, who provide advice on archaeological issues to the local authorities, have</p>

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
			agreed in the Statement of Common Ground (REP1-048) that the programme of work set out in the Outline Onshore and Intertidal Written Scheme of Investigation is appropriate.
Q11.1.8	<p>The ExA notes the applicants' response [2.6 of REP2-031] to Historic England's written representation [REP1-082] on matters relating to marine/offshore archaeology.</p> <p>Can both parties ensure that the Statement of Common Ground submitted at deadline 3 clearly includes any remaining differences between the parties and the reasons for any disagreement on outstanding matters.</p>	Historic England will liaise with the applicant to ensure that the Statement of Common Ground submitted at deadline 3 clearly includes any remaining differences between the parties and the reasons for any disagreement on outstanding matters.	<p>The Applicants confirm that the Statement of Common Ground submitted at Deadline 3 (REP3-048) included points that were still under discussion between the parties. On 16 July 2025, the Applicants have received an advice letter from Historic England requesting an update to their email address in Table 1.2 of the Outline Offshore Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries (PAD) (REP3-030). The Applicants have submitted the revised Outline Offshore WSI and PAD (J17/F03) at Deadline 4.</p> <p>Historic England has also confirmed that the other amendments made to the Outline Offshore WSI and PAD (REP3-030) at Deadline 3, as well as to the draft DCO (REP3-009), provide sufficient clarity, and the Applicants have addressed all their comments accordingly. An updated Statement of Common Ground (S_D1_6.7/F03) is submitted at Deadline 4 confirms that all matters are now agreed between the parties.</p>

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## 2.11 Lancashire County Council

The Applicants' response to Lancashire County Council submissions at Deadline 3 is provided in Annex 2.4 to Applicants' Response to Deadline 3 submissions from Statutory Consultees and other organisation: Lancashire County Council (REP3-084) (Document reference S\_D4\_2.4).

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## 2.12 Marine Management Organisation

The Applicants' response to the submissions of the Marine Management Organisation at Deadline 3 is provided Annex 2.5 to Applicants' Response to Deadline 3 submissions from Statutory Consultees and other organisation: Marine Management Organisation (REP3-085) (Document reference S\_D4\_2.5).

## 2.13 Marine and Coastguard Agency

**Table 2.8: REP3-086 – Marine and Coastguard Agency’s Responses to ExQ1**

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants’ response
Q17.3.1	<b>Cable laying burial surveys</b> Confirm that the post cable laying burial surveys proposed by the applicants in [REP2-031] are acceptable. If not, what further amendments would you suggest to the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) [REP2-004]?	MCA is satisfied with the applicant’s response in REP2-031 that the requirements for post-construction bathymetry surveys and monitoring are secured in the DCO conditions.	The Applicants thank Marine and Coastguard Agency for their response, and consider this matter now closed.
Q17.3.2	<b>Amendments to dDCO</b> Confirm that the amendments made by the applicants to the dDCO [REP2-004] in response to your comments in [REP1-086] are acceptable. If not, what further amendments would you suggest?	MCA is satisfied that the amendments to the dDCO are acceptable.	The Applicants thank Marine and Coastguard Agency for their response.



## 2.14 National Grid Electricity Transmission

**Table 2.9: REP3-088 – National Grid Electricity Transmission**

Reference	Applicants' comment on IP submission
REP3-088 088.1	The Applicants note the responses from National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) and thank NGET for their comments. The Applicants note that the responses from NGET are aligned to the Applicants' previous submissions in relation to the point of connection at the Penwortham substation and the potential for an alternative connection for the Transmission Assets at the Stanah substation. On that basis, the Applicants consider that the ExA should have sufficient information to close out these points.

## 2.15 National Highways

**Table 2.10: REP3-089 – National Highways’ Responses to ExQ1**

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants’ response
Q16.1.17	<p><b>Statement of Common Ground</b></p> <p>The Initial Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) between the applicants and NH [REP1-054] suggests that all issues raised by NH in [RR-1599 and PDA-042] are close to being resolved. Provide comments, highlighting areas where significant disagreement between the parties remains.</p>	<p>NH and the Applicant are working collaboratively to resolve any outstanding areas of disagreement and have agreed on a number of points which have been provided in an agreed updated SoCG between both parties to be submitted by the Applicant end of deadline 3 Monday 7 July. A number of issues have been resolved and NH are confident that any other outstanding points can be resolved as the examination progresses. Updated information was provided on 1 July and this is being considered by NH and are confident this can be resolved and agreed as the examination progresses and by the next SoCG deadline response date.</p>	<p>The Applicants note this response and thank National Highways for their comments. The Applicants met with National Highways on 22 July 2025 to discuss the clarification shared. National Highways have agreed all matters raised within the SoCG but wish to keep the ‘outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP)’ and ‘Consultation’ items as ongoing points of discussion noting there may be further changes to the oCTMP initiated by others (that National Highways may wish to comment upon). The latest status will be reflected in the SoCG submitted at Deadline 4.</p> <p>It should be noted that DCO articles did not form part of these discussions as they are being discussed by the Parties legal teams as set out below.</p>
Q16.1.18	<p><b>Articles 13 and 14 of the dDCO</b></p> <p>In [RR-1599] NH requested amendments to articles 13 and 14 of the dDCO [AS-004]. The applicants maintained that a change to article 13 was not necessary but agreed to amend article 14. The initial SoCG [REP1-054] suggests that NH is now content with the wording of the</p>	<p>National Highways Legal representative and M and M Legal representative have a meeting arranged to discuss the final agreement of wording currently outstanding for article 15 and 17 a further update can be provided on the outcomes of this meeting by the next deadline 4.</p>	<p>The Applicants note this response and remain committed to discussing this matter with National Highways. The Applicants made direct contact with National Highways legal team on 10 July to provide comments and offer a meeting to discuss National Highways’ points further. National Highways confirmed on 6 August that they are happy with the proposed updates to the draft DCO at Deadline 4 (C1/F06).</p>

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
	dDCO apart from having one outstanding comment on a single article. Confirm that this is correct. If so, highlight which article NH still has issues with, and provide suggested amendments.		
Q16.1.19	<b>Protective provisions</b> Does NH require the inclusion of protective provisions in the dDCO? If so, please provide a copy and outline any discussions on them with the applicants to date.	National Highways does not require any protective provisions in the dDCO other than the minor amendments to the articles which are ongoing with Legal and these NH are confident these will be resolved by the next deadline	The Applicants note this response.

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## 2.16 Natural England

The Applicants' response to the submissions of Natural England at Deadline 3 is provided Annex 2.6 to Applicants' Response to Deadline 3 submissions from Statutory Consultees and other organisation: Natural England (Document reference S\_D4\_2.6).

## 2.17 Natural Resource Wales

**Table 2.11: REP3-096 – Natural Resource Wales’s Responses to ExQ1**

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants’ response
Q9.1.1	<b>Conclusions</b> Do you agree with the applicants’ Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) conclusions with respect to likely significant effects (LSE) [APP-018] and adverse effects on site integrity [APP-016 and APP-017]? Please specify the relevant sites, pathways and qualifying features in your response.	As previously communicated we note the project is located entirely in English Waters and has relatively low risk to Welsh protected sites. For that reason we did not register as an interested party for this application. We defer advice on any outstanding potential risks to bird and mammal receptors to Natural England.	The Applicants note this response.
Q9.4.3	<b>Marine Mammal SACs</b> The ExA notes that the assessment of impacts to marine mammal features has been undertaken in a ‘two tier’ approach (outlined in paragraphs 1.8.1.2 to 1.8.2.4 of ISAA Part 2 [APP-016]). Some sites are assessed ‘in full’, against the conservation objectives, and for the remaining sites an iterative approach was taken. This applied the conclusion from the site closest to the Offshore Order Limits to assess the remaining sites located at a greater distance from the Offshore Order Limits. Whilst conclusions are provided for these sites, the relevant conservation objectives are not provided or assessed against. Can you confirm if you have any concerns with the applicants’ methodology for the HRA assessment of marine mammals?		

## 2.18 Network Rail

**Table 2.12: REP3-097 – Network Rail’s Responses to ExQ1**

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants’ response
Q5.1.21	<p><b>Network Rail</b></p> <p>In their representation [REP1-094], NR say that “negotiations are at a very early stage” and are at this stage objecting to the compulsory acquisition rights sought by the applicants. NR set out at paragraph 4 a number of requirements before it can withdraw its objection. Please provide an update on these discussions and how matters of disagreement are expected to be resolved? The latest reply at section REP1-094.4 from the applicants [REP2-031] is less than specific. Are these requirements likely to be met during the examination?</p>	<p>Network Rail does not object to the Project in principle and discussions with the Applicant on both elements of the Project (Morgan Offshore Wind and Morecambe Offshore Wind) are constructive.</p> <p>Network Rail acknowledge the Protective Provisions in the Order but note that this version has omitted provision for the protection of operation Network Rail assets from electromagnetic interference arising from the authorised works, as well as an obligation on the Applicant to enter into an Asset Protection Agreements with Network Rail for the protection of Network Rail assets in the construction and operation of the authorised works. The inclusion of these provisions in the Protective Provisions is paramount to protect Network Rail’s role as statutory undertaker and to fulfil its statutory obligations. Network Rail has provided the Applicant with a copy of the Standard Protective Provisions on 2 June 2025, and has been clear that its concerns to a significant degree will be addressed by this standard form being included on the face of the DCO. Comments to this effect were made to the Applicant on 27 June.</p> <p>Network Rail requires that in addition to the Protective Provisions, the Applicant enters into a Framework Agreement to manage the direct interface that the Project has with the operational railway. Network Rail will also require an Asset Protection Agreement to ensure the appropriate and necessary technical, engineering and safety requirements for working on, over or near Network Rail’s operational railway are applied to the Project. Due to</p>	<p>The Applicants acknowledge that the Protective Provisions in the draft DCO (REP3-009) do not reflect the version shared by Network Rail on 2 June 2025. As is usual practice in DCO examinations, the Applicants will maintain the protective provisions as submitted at application stage on the face of the DCO until they have been agreed between the parties with no other issues outstanding, at which point, the draft DCO will be updated at the next appropriate deadline. As noted in the SU Negotiations Progress Tracker (REP3-067) the agreement of protective provisions for Network Rail is progressing, but is not yet agreed. Network Rail should therefore not interpret a lack of updates to their protective provisions at Schedule 10 as any indication of the level of agreement between the parties.</p> <p>The Applicants acknowledge that Network Rail requires them to enter into various other agreements and the Applicants are in discussion with Network Rail on the details of these. The Applicants would highlight as noted in their response to Q5.1.21 in the Applicants’ response to the Examining Authority’s Written Questions (REP3-056) that negotiation of Network Rail’s Protective</p> <p>Provisions and the Framework Agreement(s) run in tandem as the terms of one can affect the position taken on the other. The Applicants have updated the SU Negotiations Progress Tracker for Deadline 4 (S_D3_10/F02) with an updated joint statement between Network Rail and the Applicants.</p>

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
		<p>the location of the Applicant's proposed works, Network Rail requires an Asset Protection Agreement in order to carry out its statutory duty. Network's position is that any acquisition of permanent rights should only be granted with Network Rail's consent and would require a Deed of Easement agreed with Network Rail. Network Rail and the Applicant are in very early discussions in relation to such a Framework Agreement and related agreements. Given that the Application relates two separate windfarms, Network Rail seeks to agree an appropriate Framework Agreement in respect of each and has sent drafts to the Applicant in order to further progress on 18 June 2025 (in respect of the Morgan Offshore Wind element) and 26 June 2025 (in respect of the Morecambe Offshore Wind element) respectively.</p> <p>The Applicant will also be aware that any acquisition of permanent rights</p>	
		<p>The Applicant will also be aware that any acquisition of permanent rights should only be granted with Network Rail's consent and will require going through Network Rail's land clearance process as required by Network Rail's Network Licence and any regulatory consents, again discussions on this point are at a very early stage.</p>	<p>The Applicants are in discussion with Network Rail regarding the acquisition of rights sought. Heads of Terms for the rights sought were issued to Network Rail on the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025 and the Applicants welcome engagement to progress the terms.</p>
		<p>Network Rail continues to engage with the Applicant in order to address Network Rail's concerns and ensure that agreement can be reached, Network Rail is hopeful that both parties reach an agreement before Close of Examination</p>	<p>The Applicants thank Network Rail for their continued engagement and do not consider there to be any significant impediment to reaching agreement with Network Rail during Examination.</p>



## 2.19 Newton Residents Association

**Table 2.13: REP3-098 – Newton Residents Association’s Deadline 3 submission**

Reference	IP submission	Applicants’ response
REP3-098 098.1	<p>Please find attached the formal response submitted on behalf of the Newton Residents Association (NRA), representing the village of Newton-with-Scales, Lancashire, following our in person representation on Tuesday 24th June 2025.</p> <p>The NRA objects to the siting of the Morgan and Morecambe onshore substations so close to the village and considers the process that arrived at the shortlist of one site for Morgan and two for Morecambe and the consultation generally to have been seriously flawed.</p> <p>The submission documents our concerns, especially the cumulative impact of numerous energy projects which would encircle the village and while the substations remain in their proposed locations, the NRA opposes this element of the project and will continue to do so throughout the process until their impacts have been reduced to acceptable levels, most easily achieved by moving to a more satisfactory location away from residential receptors</p>	Noted
REP3-098 098.2	<p>RELEVANT REPRESENTATION ON THE PROPOSED MORGAN AND MORECAMBE OFFSHORE WIND FARMS TRANSMISSION ASSETS DCO PLANNING INSPECTORATE REFERENCE NUMBER: EN020028</p> <p>INTRODUCTION</p> <p>This is a Relevant Representation (RR) regarding the Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Transmission Assets</p>	The Applicants note the comments.

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
	<p>Project (the Project), promoted by Morgan Offshore Wind Limited and Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Limited (the Applicant) made by the Newton Residents Association (NRA)</p> <p>The NRA objects to the Project on the grounds set forth in this RR. These grounds raise questions about the Applicant's reasoning for the proposed site locations for the Morgan and Morecambe onshore transmission assets, as well as the cumulative detrimental environmental consequences of this decision.</p> <p>We express our serious and heartfelt concerns about the irreversible onshore elements of the Morecambe and Morgan offshore windfarm projects.</p> <p>While these projects are promoted as clean energy solutions, for us in the Fylde, especially in Newton with Scales, Freckleton, and Kirkham the cost is devastating.</p> <p>This isn't just about cables and substations. It is about what we stand to lose <b>forever</b>.</p>	
<p>REP3-098 098.3</p>	<p>The plan includes 35 kilometres of underground cables stretching from Blackpool Airport to Penwortham via Newton where it is proposed to construct two vast substations. Originally each about 34 acres in size, with buildings up to 25 metres high. That is the equivalent of <b>17 football pitches per site</b>.</p> <p>We acknowledge and welcome the Applicant's efforts to reduce and streamline certain aspects of its Project design since its consultation on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). Nevertheless, certain crucial aspects are yet to be addressed or justified. For example, the maximum height of the Morecambe substation has decreased from 20 meters to 13 meters, but the equivalent metric for the Morgan substation has decreased from 20m to only 15m.</p> <p>There is no explanation provided for this distinction. These heights exclude the significantly taller lightning protection masts that will be positioned across both substation locations. These</p>	<p>The Applicants welcome the acknowledgement that they have reduced and streamlined elements of the Project design. With regard to the difference in the maximum building heights of the onshore the substations, the Applicants refer Newton Residents Association (NRA) to RR1261.22 to their response to Lancashire Association of Local Councils Fylde Area Committee Energy Working Group (PDA –011). The Applicants would note they have never proposed buildings up to 25m in height.</p>

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
	heights are higher than any building within the Green Belt or any of the surrounding residential centres. In addition, the temporary access track width for both substations has been increased from 15 meters to 20 meters.	
REP3-098 098.4	In terms of size, the dimensions of the substations are equally disproportionately large and intrusive, and the reason for this remains unclear. The Applicant proposes to take <b>22.35</b> hectares of Green Belt land with a <b>16.6 hectare</b> footprint for the Morgan substation and <b>5.95 hectare</b> footprint for the Morecambe substation for a system with a headline output of 2GW. By contrast, the two converter substations for the 2.4GW Dogger Bank A&B Offshore wind farms occupy a footprint of a total of 7.5 hectares. Additionally, the substations for the Hornsea One and Two wind farms, which generate 2.5GW, have a footprint of 7.1 hectares, and the substation for the Mooir Vannin wind farm which is expected to generate 1.4GW, has a maximum footprint of 6.6 hectares. Considering this, Insufficient explanation or justification has been provided by the Applicant. Had the Applicant chosen a smaller design, this would have increased their pool of possible locations, potentially eliminating the need to take Green Belt land.	With regard to the onshore substations dimensions and their proportionate size, the Applicants refer NRA to their response to Hearing Action Points: ISH1 20 Comparable Onshore Substation Platform Footprints (REP1-042), which explains by reference to the substation footprints for similar sized consented offshore wind farms why the Morgan and Morecambe substation are proportionate to the scale of the projects, and the reasons why substation footprints can vary in size.
REP3-098 098.5	These industrial installations are proposed on greenbelt land some of the best and most productive farmland in our region. This land feeds our communities, supports our rural economy, and defines the identity of our countryside.	The quality of the agricultural land within the proposed areas of the onshore substations has been assessed in detail in ES Volume 3, Chapter 6: Land Use and Recreation (APP- 104) to comprise predominantly the lowest quality Subgrade 3a land within the definition of best and most versatile land, together with a strip of lower quality Subgrade 3b land alongside the stream at the eastern edge of the Morgan substation site. Therefore, whilst there is Subgrade 3a best and most versatile land within these areas which has been fully assessed, the district does comprise areas of higher quality Grade 2 land. Fylde Council, within the Fylde Local Plan, identify approximately 70% of the borough to comprise higher quality Grade 2 land.
REP3-098 098.6	Once in place, these substations will run 24/7. They will hum, they will buzz, they will light up the night sky. What is now	With regard to substation noise the Applicants confirm that the substations will be designed so that any tonal, impulsive or low frequency sounds are suitably

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
	<p>peaceful and green will be permanently transformed into an industrial corridor.</p>	<p>controlled. This is further set out in Table 6.2 of the 'Post-consent Design Code' of Outline Design Principles (APP-209).</p> <p>The Applicants have updated the draft DCO at Deadline 4 to provide specific operational noise limits in requirement 18 of Schedules 2A and 2B for the Morgan and Morecambe substations based upon the agreed proposed limits. The relevant details are set out below:</p> <p>Morgan:</p> <p>18.—(1) The noise rating level for the operational lifetime of Work No. 21A must not exceed 34db at Freshfield Farm (343215, 431180) at a position representative of the façade, in free-field conditions, of any building authorised or lawfully occupied for residential or accommodation purposes at the date of the granting of this Order.</p> <p>(2) The noise levels set out in sub-paragraph (1) are to be measured—</p> <p>(a) in accordance with British Standard BS4142:2014+A1:2019, methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound; and</p> <p>(b) with a microphone placed 1.5 metres above the ground in free-field conditions (being at least 3.5 metres from the nearest vertical reflecting surface).</p> <p>Morecambe:</p> <p>18.—(1) The noise rating level for the operational lifetime of Work No. 21B must not exceed 36db at Marybank Farm (343592, 429757) at a position representative of the façade, in free-field conditions, of any building authorised or lawfully occupied for residential or accommodation purposes at the date of the granting of this Order.</p> <p>(2) The noise levels set out in sub-paragraph (1) are to be measured—</p>

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
		<p>(a) in accordance with British Standard BS4142:2014+A1:2019, methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound; and</p> <p>(b) with a microphone placed 1.5 metres above the ground in free-field conditions (being at least 3.5 metres from the nearest vertical reflecting surface).</p> <p>Lighting at the onshore substations would be limited to low level lighting, security lighting, car park lighting and task related repair/maintenance lighting which will be set out and managed through the Operational Light Emissions Plan that must be approved by the relevant planning authority and is secured by requirement 17 in Schedules 2A and 2B of the draft DCO.</p>
REP3-098 098.7	The cable trench passes close to Newton Bluecoat Primary School and crosses key local roads. These impacts were never made clear to the public. We are not just worried, we are frightened. These installations bring constant noise, light pollution, and electromagnetic emissions next to homes, schools, and children.	<p>The Applicants confirm that the assessment of construction noise impacts, which are reported in ES Chapter 8 Noise and Vibration APP-117, has focussed on impacts within the following study areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• noise sensitive receptors located within 1 km of the landfall and onshore substation, and</li> <li>• noise sensitive receptors located within 300 m of the onshore export cable corridor and the 400 kV grid connection cable corridor.</li> </ul> <p>In the assessment, schools are considered to have the same sensitivity to noise and vibration as residential receptors, as noted in Table 8.15 of APP-117. However, the Applicants note that Newton Bluecoat Primary School is located outside of these study areas and is further away than residential receptors included in the assessment. As a consequence, the construction noise impacts likely to be experienced at Newton Bluecoat Primary School will be lower than those reported at the closest residential properties.</p> <p>However, the Applicants are committed to controlling noise throughout the construction period at all noise sensitive receptors, including schools and residential properties. Measures to control noise will be set out in Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan(s). This will be developed from the Outline Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan (APP-196) which forms part of the Outline Code of Construction Practice (OCoCP). The detailed CoCP(s) are secured by Requirement 8 of Schedules 2A and 2B of the draft DCO (REP3-009).</p>

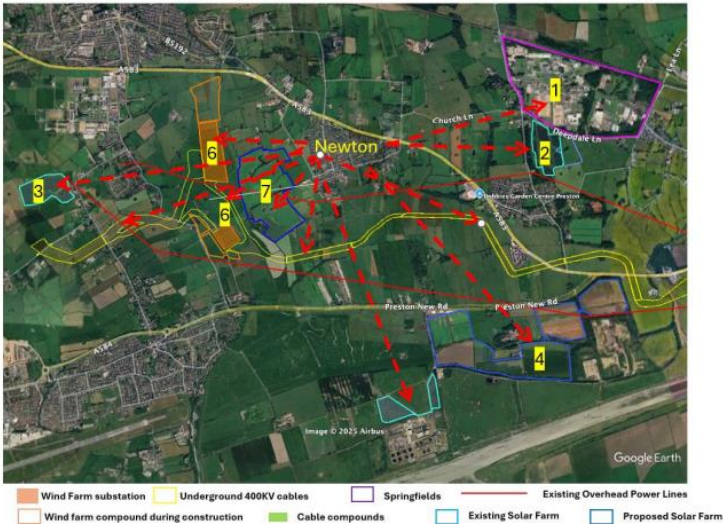
Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
		<p>Detailed Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan(s) will be implemented by the Applicants as approved by the relevant local planning authority in consultation with the relevant statutory stakeholders, as appropriate.</p> <p>With regard to loss of roads, the Applicants have made a commitment (CoT02 of Volume 1, Annex 5.3: Commitments Register (REP3-013)) to utilise trenchless crossing techniques to cross A, B and Classified unnumbered roads (known as C roads) (including the Preston Western Distributor Road, A582 South Ribble Western Distributor Upgrade and M55 Heyhouses Link Road; excluding Leech Lane). This is secured through Requirement 8, Schedules 2A&amp;2B and Requirement 12, Schedules 2A&amp;2B. Therefore, there would be no disruption to local roads with regards to cable crossings.</p> <p>With regard to light emissions, the Applicants have made a commitment (CoT28 of Volume 1, Annex 5.3: Commitments Register (REP3-013)) that construction lighting will only operate when required and directed to avoid any unnecessary illumination to residential properties, sensitive ecological receptors and footpath users, and minimise glare to users of adjoining public highways. This is secured through Requirement 8, Schedules 2A&amp;2B and Requirement 12, Schedules 2A&amp;2B of the draft DCO (REP3-009). Owing to the distance of Newton Bluecoat Primary School and residential properties within Newton-with-Scales to both the onshore substations and the 400 kV export cable corridor, it is not anticipated that there would be any impact from construction lighting. As noted in Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project description (REP2-008), operational lighting at the onshore substations would be limited to low level lighting, security lighting, car park lighting and task related repair/maintenance lighting. Due to the distance of Newton Bluecoat Primary School and residential properties within Newton-with-Scales from the onshore substations, it is not anticipated that there would be any impact from operational lighting.</p> <p>Volume 1, Annex 3.4: Electro-Magnetic Fields (EMF) Compliance Statement (APP-029) notes that the strength of the magnetic field decreases rapidly horizontally and vertically with distance from source. EMF effects diminish rapidly with distance, often requiring only a few metres, or less, to reach background levels. Objects such as trees, buildings and earth will reduce the strength further</p>

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
		still. Owing to the distance of residential properties within Newton-with-Scales and Newton Bluecoat Primary School, it is not considered that EMF presents a risk.
REP3-098 098.8	We risk losing access to cherished footpaths, bridleways, and green spaces. Local farms and small holdings are under threat. And the historical fabric of our villages. Newton, Clifton and Salwick are all mentioned in the <b>Domesday Book</b> and face irreversible damage.	As noted in Volume 3, Chapter 6: Land use and recreation (APP-104), no PRoW will be lost as a result of the Transmission Assets. In addition, as noted in the outline open space management plan (Appendix 1 of the outline public rights of way management plan (AS-048)), there are anticipated closures of open space during construction, but these would not be permanently lost. In addition, the open space listed to be temporarily affected (Blackpool Road Recreation Ground and the public beach at Lytham St Annes) are not located in proximity to Newton-with-Scales. The impacts upon farm holdings is assessed from both a temporary and permanent perspective within 6.11.3 of Volume 3, Chapter 6: Land use and recreation (APP-104) and it is concluded that there would be a moderate adverse impact (which is significant) with regard to temporary impacts and a minor adverse effects (not significant) with regard to permanent impacts. All relevant heritage assets in proximity to Newton-with-Scales, Clifton and Salwick have been assessment in section 5.11 of Volume 3, Chapter 5: Historic environment (APP-096) and it was concluded that there would not significant effects.
REP3-098 098.9	HGV traffic is forecast to rise by up to 700%. Our narrow rural roads simply cannot cope. And despite repeated requests, we still have <b>no visual renderings</b> of the substations. <b>No clear noise limits. No clear drainage plans. No clear mitigation strategies. No enforcement guarantees, in short “No answers”.</b>	<p><b>HGV Traffic:</b></p> <p>The Applicants do not recognise the quoted 700% figure and direct NRA to Table 7.21 of Volume 3, Chapter 7: Traffic and Transport of the Environmental Statement (APP-108). It can be noted from this table that for links within the vicinity of the villages of Clifton and Newton with Scales that the <u>peak</u> changes in total traffic flows on surrounding links (Links 53 61b and 63) would be between 2 and 3%, with changes in HGVs of up to 76%. Notably, no HGV traffic is forecast to travel via either village.</p> <p>The Applicants would note that within the wider traffic and transport study area higher changes in HGV traffic can be noted, however these are typically a function of the low background HGV flows and these figures should be viewed with caution as a percentage increase becomes an increasingly 'crude' indicator of magnitude of impact when baseline flows are very low. Notably the relevant guidance published for the Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movements (published by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment,</p>



Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
		<p>2023) notes that: <i>“Thresholds are expressed as a starting point for any assessment and typically have been derived from studies of major changes in traffic flows and therefore should be used cautiously in any assessment”.</i></p> <p><b>Visual Renderings</b></p> <p>The Applicants have provided photomontages of the onshore substations within Volume 3, Annex 10.4: Landscape and visual impact assessment methodology (APP – 127). In addition, the Applicants have provided indicative substation layout images within Appendix 1.1 of the Technical Note: Landscape and Design Matters (REP3-064). The note also includes images of other onshore substations which have been built. These can be found on page 12 of the note.</p> <p><b>Noise limits</b></p> <p>The Applicants confirm that that operational noise limits will be secured in the draft DCO (Requirement 18, Schedules 2A&amp;2B of the draft development consent order (C1/F06) see response to REP3-098.6 above). Through setting operational noise limits, adverse impacts at the noise sensitive receptors are likely to be avoided</p> <p><b>Drainage</b></p> <p>Through Commitment 84 the Applicants have stated the following: “An Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) has been prepared and submitted with the application for development consent. Detailed CoCP(s) will be developed in accordance with the outline CoCP. In order to manage impacts to field drainage, the outline CoCP stipulates field drainage plans will be developed in consultation with the relevant landowners. If required, additional field drainage will be installed to ensure the existing drainage of the land is maintained during and after construction”.</p> <p><b>Mitigation</b></p> <p>The Applicants have set out a range of mitigation measures, these are set out within each chapter of the Environmental Statement which forms part of the DCO</p>

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
		<p>application. In addition, the Applicants have submitted a Commitments Register (REP3-013) which states how mitigation is secured.</p> <p><b>Enforcement</b></p> <p>The Applicants refer NRA to Sections 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6 of the Outline Code of Construction Practice (REP3-018). These sections set out the Roles and Responsibilities, General Principles of Environmental Management and commitments pertaining to general site operations including how these are legally secured.</p> <p>In addition section 1.13.6 of the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (REP2-016) sets out how enforcement and any corrective measures would be implemented with regard to construction traffic.</p>
REP3-098 098.10	<p>We are told this is about sustainability and yet it destroys greenbelt protections and vital <b>Areas of Separation</b> that prevent our villages from being swallowed by urban sprawl.</p> <p>We are told it's about clean energy and yet valuable farmland will be compulsorily purchased and built over.</p> <p><b>Where is the balance</b> between energy security and food security?</p>	<p>The Green Belt Technical Note submitted at D3 (REP3-069) sets out the Applicants' analysis of the anticipated impacts and potential harms to the Green Belt with regard to the relevant purposes of the designation and sets out how identified harm will be minimised and mitigated where it cannot be avoided.</p> <p>The Applicants would note that no part of the Transmission Assets enters into the Area of Separation designation. The Applicants have prepared a response to the Hearing Actions Point ISH2-18 which provides an overview of the Applicant's position concerning any effects on the areas of separation. This is further described in the Green Belt Technical Note (S_D3_12/F02).</p>
REP3-098 098.11	<p>And this is not happening in isolation.</p> <p>We already live near two operational solar farms, <b>25 acres</b> to the north of Clifton (1) and <b>25 acres</b> to the west of the parish at Hall cross (2). Now, two more are proposed: <b>170 acres</b> at Clifton Marsh (4) and another <b>79-acre site</b> west of Newton (7).</p>	<p>The listed operational solar farms (1 and 2) are not a cumulative assessment consideration, however, they are considered within topic specific baselines where appropriate and are therefore taken account for within relevant assessments.</p> <p>With regard to the two proposed solar farms (4 and 7), an update to the CEA longlists has been undertaken and included in Volume 1, Annex 5.5: Cumulative effects screening matrix and location plan (REP1-020) to take account of applications submitted since submission and where status' have changed. The two schemes highlighted are 24/0414 and 24/0541 and have been included as part of these updates and screened into assessments for onshore and intertidal ornithology and onshore ecology and nature conservation. An update to the</p>

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
	<p><b>Renewable Energy in Newton with Clifton Parish – (Construction Phase)</b></p>  <p>We recently drew attention to this second site, indicated as “7” in the above diagram (ref 24/0541) as the applicant has changed their construction access to use “Lower Lane” rather than “Parrox Lane” in Newton. We would contest this is also not suitable and dangerous and yet it is also a preference for the M&amp;M project. This would lead to a more protracted and harmful impact on the residents of Lower Lane.</p>	<p>assessment of cumulative effects was submitted at Deadline 2 which identified that there is no change to the conclusions of the Environmental Statement (REP2-043). It is noted that Volume 1, Annex 5.5: Cumulative effects screening matrix and location plan (REP1-020) is subject to ongoing updates and will take account of any change in status of schemes as well as any updated project information. If updates to the CEA matrix require assessment updates, these will be undertaken and submitted as appropriate.</p>
REP3-098 098.12	<p>Bit by bit, we are being encircled by <b>300 acres</b> of energy infrastructure on top of the proposed <b>45 acres</b> for the 2 substations, identified as (6) in the above diagram.</p> <p><b>Our green and pleasant land</b> is becoming an energy corridor.</p>	N/A
REP3-098 098.13	<p>And all the while, brownfield alternatives at Hill House and industrial sites are dismissed without proper assessment despite potential significant project savings, estimated at over £900m.</p>	<p>With regard to the consideration of alternatives at Hillhouse the Applicants have set out their position on this matter within section 2 of the Applicants response to Hearing Action Points: ISH1 6, 8, 9, 19, 26 &amp; 28 (REP1-039)</p>

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
REP3-098 098.14	<p>Let me be clear: we are not against renewable energy, We support it, We want a greener future. But we also want <b>fairness, transparency</b>, and a <b>voice</b> in the process.</p> <p>The way this project has been ill-managed, through unclear consultation, missing information, and a disregard for residents' concerns, has shattered public trust noting many residents only realised the potential impact and scale of the project plan recently when it was nearly too late.</p> <p>We are calling for better. We are asking for a full reassessment of site selection, a revised and full review of environmental impacts, and given the deeply flawed consultation process we are calling for a revised and improved consultation which actually consults with all impacted parties.</p> <p>We are asking you, the Examining Authority, <b>to listen</b> not just to data, but <b>to people</b>. To see the human cost, the rural cost <b>the permanent cost</b> of getting this wrong.</p> <p>Let's work toward smarter, fairer, and truly sustainable solutions. Let's protect the Fylde not just for today, but for the generations to come.</p> <p>Let's protect our farmers. Let's protect our homes. Let's protect our children and let's protect our <b>Green and Pleasant Land</b>.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Newton Residents Association</p>	<p>The Applicants welcome NRAs support for renewable energy.</p> <p>The Applicants have undertaken a fair and transparent consultation process as set out within the Consultation Report (APP-170). This process was deemed to have been acceptable and appropriate by the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>The Applicants have provided a full and robust assessment of potential environmental impacts as set out within the Environmental Statement and its supporting appendices which form part of the DCO application. The Applicants therefore do not consider there is a need for full reassessment.</p>

## 2.20 Newton with Clifton Parish Council and Freckleton Parish Council

**Table 2.14: REP3-099 – Newton with Clifton Parish Council and Freckleton Parish Council’s Deadline 3 Written Submissions**

Reference	IP submission	Applicants’ response
REP3-099 099.1	<p>Moor Vannin landfall Bev Duckworth, Janette McCormick and Phil Morgan met representatives of Moor Vannin at Newton with Clifton Village Hall on 27th May about a consultation in September. They are currently exploring two routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One with landfall north of Blackpool, then crossing the Wyre (not using Stanah/Hillhouse) and then coming east of Kirkham towards a crossing of the Ribble to Penwortham.</li> <li>• The other route has landfall north of Crosby beach, zigzagging through West Lancashire to get to Penwortham.</li> </ul> <p>They did say that their third option, following the M&amp;M route had been rejected due to complications. Their substation would be within 5km of Penwortham, not 7km as with the applicants. This is consistent with this map <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/671101b1b40d67191077b2a7/east-irish-sea-transmission-project-section-35-direction-figure-1-indicative-location-plan.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/671101b1b40d67191077b2a7/east-irish-sea-transmission-project-section-35-direction-figure-1-indicative-location-plan.pdf</a> and this map <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/671101d9386bf0964853d726/east-irish-sea-transmission-project-section-35-direction-figure-1-indicative-location-plan-onshore.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/671101d9386bf0964853d726/east-irish-sea-transmission-project-section-35-direction-figure-1-indicative-location-plan-onshore.pdf</a> on the Government website for the Moor Vannin scheme showing a search area for landfall from Crosby to Fleetwood.</p> <p>This shows that there are alternatives to the landfall which M&amp;M are insisting was the only place they could use.</p>	<p>The Applicants are liaising with Moor Vannin with regard to the project including the transmission assets associated with it, which are being developed by Orsted East Irish Sea Transmission Limited.</p> <p>The Applicants have previously set out their position with regard to the selection of landfall within Volume 1, Annex 4.1: Selection and refinement of cable landfall (APP –031).</p>
REP3-099 099.2	<p><b>Further industrialisation of farmland and Project Overlap:</b></p> <p>Another completely separate planning application ref 24/0541 has been submitted to Fylde Council for approval on the farmland between the two planned substations. <a href="http://pa.fylde.gov.uk/Planning/Display/24/0541">pa.fylde.gov.uk/Planning/Display/24/0541</a> The developer (Bluefield) is aiming to finish their solar panel installation—covering 79 acres between two substations—before M&amp;M begins their own project Changes have been made to the original application to take HGV’s down Lower Lane and onto a public right of way. Timing hasn’t been clearly communicated, but it’s an important issue. If both projects happen at the same time, it would could cause major disruption in the</p>	<p>In the ‘Applicants’ response to the Fylde Local Impact Report’ (REP2-038). REP1-078 16.3.1, an update to the CEA longlists has been undertaken and included in Volume 1, Annex 5.5: Cumulative effects screening matrix and location plan (REP1-020) to take account of applications submitted since submission and where status’ have changed. The solar farm 24/0541 has been included as part of these updates and screened into assessments for onshore and intertidal ornithology and onshore ecology and nature conservation. An update to the assessment of cumulative effects was submitted</p>

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
	area. These are separate plans, but from our point of view, they might clash—especially since planning approvals with Fylde Council don't always go smoothly.	at Deadline 2 which identified that there is no change to the conclusions of the Environmental Statement (REP2-043). It is noted that Volume 1, Annex 5.5: Cumulative effects screening matrix and location plan (REP1-020) is subject to ongoing updates and will take account of any change in status of schemes as well as any updated project information such as the highlighted CTMPs. An update to Volume 1, Annex 5.5: Cumulative effects screening matrix and location plan (REP1-020) will be submitted at Deadline 5. If updates to the CEA matrix require assessment updates, these will be undertaken and submitted as appropriate.
REP3-099 099.3	<b>Access and Traffic Issues:</b> <p>The second issue involves road access using Clifton Drive and Queensway, which run west to east near the airport. The airport sits in the middle, and those two roads are the only access routes between Blackpool and St. Annes. There's no information about how emergency services (like ambulances, from the Blackpool Victoria hospital, police, and fire engines) would manage if traffic builds up due to the works. Any disruption like roadworks or accidents already causes traffic chaos. If restrictions or works happen to both roads at the same time, it could be disastrous. Even restrictions to one road would cause a serious problem. The coastguard also operates in this area and relies on these roads as access routes for their own vehicles as well as their volunteers who need to get to the lifeboat stations in short periods of time. So overall, there's a real risk to public safety unless these issues are addressed.</p>	The Applicants refer to Section 2.32 of The Applicants' Response to Relevant Representations Part 1- Introduction and thematic responses (PDA-005) which provides a detailed response on this matter. In summary, section 2.32 outlines that the use of trenchless installation techniques, such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) would ensure that Clifton Drive and Queensway remain open for traffic (including emergency services) during construction works.
REP3-099 099.4	<b>Impact on local children's education</b> <p>Janette McCormick - a resident of Newton with Scales and retired primary school deputy headteacher.</p> <p>A phrase commonly used in the project documentation is public interest versus private loss. Has the applicant considered the impact of the construction, and operation of the transmission assets on the educational community and the educational opportunities children may lose?</p> <p>I understand this is the first project of this size to be built so close to existing residential communities. Newton Bluecoat School, Strike Lane Primary School,</p>	<p>The Applicants note the concerns raised regarding impacts from noise at the schools during the construction phase.</p> <p>The Applicants confirm that the assessment of construction noise impacts, which are reported in ES Chapter 8 Noise and Vibration (APP-117), has focussed on impacts within the following study areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• noise sensitive receptors located within 1 km of the landfall and onshore substation, and</li> </ul>



Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
	<p>and Carr Hill High School are schools close to the proposed substation sites and cable corridors. These schools alone have a total capacity of over 1300 children.</p> <p>With the 11-year construction window for Morecambe and Morgan, the possibility of two solar farms being built before, then maybe Mooir Vannin in the mix, a 4-year-old starting at one of these primary schools who then goes to Carr Hill, could experience their entire school life from 4-16 in the shadow of energy project construction and on-going operational works, with potential continuous noise and disruptions to their learning.</p> <p>Noise during the school day, will make it more difficult for children and teachers to focus and concentrate, to learn and to teach. Instructions, including safety instructions and learning activities will need to be regularly revisited and repeated. This will affect the children's and teachers' workload, their achievements, their stress levels and well-being.</p> <p>In addition, sudden loud noises caused by construction work, vehicles, and equipment will potentially have a greater impact on some individuals and groups of children, such as those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).</p> <p>In periods of assessments and national examinations, when pupils should be working in quiet conditions, they will be further disadvantaged compared to other children across the country. Carr Hill was rated 'requires improvement' by Ofsted in March 2024. Government data shows the children there have below-average progress in the end of KS4 assessments compared to similar pupils across the country. This is not going to help.</p> <p>On going home some children will not have respite as the transmission assets are being built close to their houses with building work from 7 am to 7 pm, 6 days a week, and an hour before and after for setup and close-down. This will further impact educational homestudy. The arrival time of children and staff may be affected by road works and diversions necessitated by the project. Arriving late at school by just 10 minutes a day adds up to around 6 1/2 days' worth of lost learning over a school year, further impacting attainment and achievement.</p> <p>Finally, has the applicant has consulted with The Local Education Authorities, the Governing and Trust Boards, the Headteachers and Principals? How will the needs and views of the children, teachers, parents, and carers be taken into account? After all children only get one chance at an education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>noise sensitive receptors located within 300 m of the onshore export cable corridor and the 400 kV grid connection cable corridor.</li> </ul> <p>In the assessment, schools are considered to have the same sensitivity to noise and vibration as residential receptors, as noted in Table 8.15 of APP-117. The Applicants note that the schools listed are located either outside of these study areas, or further away than closest residential receptors included in the assessment. As a consequence, the Applicants consider that the construction noise impacts likely to be experienced at these schools will be lower than those reported at the closest residential properties.</p> <p>However, the Applicants are committed to controlling noise throughout the construction period at all noise sensitive receptors, including schools. Measures to control noise will be set out in Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan(s). This will be developed from the APP-196 which forms part of the Outline Code of Construction Practice (OCoCP). The detailed CoCP(s) are secured by Requirement 8 of Schedules 2A and 2B of the draft DCO (REP3-009). Detailed Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan(s) will be implemented by the Applicants as approved by the relevant local planning authority in consultation with the relevant statutory stakeholders, as appropriate.</p> <p>The Applicants also confirm that information on notification of construction works will be provided in the Communications Plan, an outline of which is provided in the Outline Communications Plan (APP-194). The plan sets out a framework for engaging stakeholders (i.e., sets out methods of contacting and engaging with affected groups); methods of providing advance notifications); roles and responsibilities for implementing the communication plan; and complaints procedure. Specifically, it includes a commitment in paragraph 1.3.1.1.1 that all necessary parties will be informed when construction works will take place,</p>



Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
		<p>including those to be undertaken out of hours. Information provided will include general location of the activities, and their expected duration.</p> <p>Detailed Communication Plan(s) will be developed from the Outline Communication Plan (APP-194) which forms part of the CoCP(s). The detailed CoCP(s) are secured by Requirement 8 of Schedules 2A and 2B of the draft DCO (REP3-009). Detailed Communication Plan(s) will be implemented by the Applicants as approved by the relevant local planning authorities in consultation with the relevant statutory stakeholders, as appropriate.</p>
REP3-099 099.5	<p><b>List of impacted businesses on Ballam Road</b></p> <p>These business need unimpeded transport access for their business to continue to thrive. They feel that the engagement by the applicants is insufficient and have concerns about what the impact on their business will be.</p> <p><u>Businesses on Ballam Road/Peel Road</u></p> <p><b>Ballam Road</b></p> <p>Pemberton's Farm, shop, dairy and milk deliveries Lawn's Farm. [the family rely on the sale of Christmas Trees, a lot of sales from passing traffic] Westby Hall [caravan storage] Realtime [Willows Farm] staff travelling to/from site</p> <p><b>West Moss Lane</b></p> <p>Coppice Business Park: Tony's [Body work and valeting] Wag Nanny [Dogs' day-nursery and animal feeds] Silent Mill Brew Co. [beer/lager brewing, sales through Pemberton's and customers from local area.] WMG Gifts [mainly toys, sold on-line] The Park [gym]</p> <p><b>Peel Road</b></p> <p>Peel Hall Business Park [ many companies use the site, all small family run] Lowlands Farm [Alpaca Farm open to public] Ridgeway Farm [open to public, family visits] Clifton Estate [family run caravan park] Green Future Recycling [ based on Anna's Road, off Peel Road]</p>	<p>The Applicants confirm that there are no proposals to close Ballam Road, West Moss Lane and Peel Road. Notably, the Applicants would further clarify that significant commitments have been made to the use of trenchless installation techniques, such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) to minimise disruption to all public highway roads and ensuring these roads remain open during construction (with the exception of Leach Lane) proposed to be crossed by the Transmission Assets (see CoT02, Volume 1, Annex 5.3: Commitments Register (REP3-013)). This commitment to the use of trenchless techniques is secured via Requirement 8 (Code of Construction Practice) of Schedules 2A and 2B of the draft DCO (REP3-009). At Leach Lane, a full road closure will not be required; instead, traffic will be managed using single lane closure, with signal-controlled shuttle working to minimise disruption to road users.</p>

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
	All these companies have voiced great concern at the effect cutting off Ballam Road will have on their business.	

**Table 2.15: RPE3-100 – Newton with Clifton Parish Council and Freckleton Parish Council's Further Comments Regarding the Applicant Responses contained in REP1-039 and REP2-035**

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
REP3-100 100.1	<p><b><u>Further Comments Regarding the Applicant Responses contained in REP1-039 and REP2-035</u></b></p> <p><b>Overview</b></p> <p>This paper responds to key matters that the Applicants continue to avoid addressing in their lack of evidencing of a consistent economic and efficient assessment of the choice they made to connect 30km inland to Penwortham substation, in preference to utilising existing infrastructure via Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone (HTEZ) or the nearby Stanah substation, notably in REP1-039.</p> <p>Any proposal that fails to examine the potential for use of existing National Grid Hardware, which should be compliant with the current NESO Security and Quality of Supply Standards (SQSS) requirements, must fall short of the objective and must be questioned as to whether it can meet the test of an efficient and economic system from generator to consumer required by the Electricity Act 1989 and regulated by Ofgem as required to be the lowest cost to the consumer.</p> <p>The least harmful option must be that which adopts the shortest, most cost-effective possible route to achieving a land connection to the National Grid, avoiding unacceptable, unsustainable, adverse impacts on the environment, communities and economies.</p> <p>The Applicant has failed to show the most basic assessment of alternatives.</p> <p>The proposal raises the question of how implementing two entirely new sets of infrastructure— requiring 30km of independent cabling trenches to an inland National Grid PLC substation— constitutes an efficient and cost-effective system from generator to consumer, especially when compared to leveraging and upgrading the existing transmission infrastructure located less than 5km from the Irish Sea. This accessible site benefits from an adjacent 138 hectares of</p>	<p>The Applicants defer to National Grid and their response at Deadline 3 (REP3-088) but would also reiterate, for the benefit of Newton and Clifton Parish Council and Freckleton Parish Council, that the Examination of the Transmission Assets Development Consent Order application under the Planning Act 2008 is not the appropriate forum to determine whether or not NESO and National Grid are compliant with their obligations under the Electricity Act 1989.</p>

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
	<p>designated development land that already accommodates offshore wind transmission infrastructure.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Applicant intends to establish multiple independent transmission substation sites on protected Greenbelt land, which conflicts with the Nationally Approved Local Development Plan, citing "Very Special Circumstances" as a justification.</p> <p>This application fails to achieve that most basic required goal. It is not sufficient to claim that NESO required the connection to be made to Penwortham, and simply allow taxpayers and electricity bill payers to pay an additional sum of hundreds of millions of pounds, environmental effects to be multiplied tenfold and two enormous substations to be built on agricultural land close to communities unnecessarily.</p>	
REP3-100 100.2	<p><b>Legal Considerations for Alternatives Assessment</b></p> <p>Our contention is that the Applicant has failed to demonstrate that their proposal is the least harmful option that they have considered, as laid out in our previous representations (references RR-703, RR-704, RR-1261, RR-1615 and RR-1616).</p> <p>The option proposed might have been the cheapest from a National Grid/NESO viewpoint when the project commenced, but it certainly does not represent the most cost-efficient solution overall under the current requirements placed upon the Applicants, National Grid, NESO and Ofgem in the Electricity Act 1989 Section 9 (General duties of licence holders - "to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission" ).</p> <p>Using the best available information and, recognising the caveat applied to that source, the indicative saving is of the order of £900 million.</p> <p>The Applicants impinge protected areas (Ribble RAMSAR in two places, Protected Habitats and Green Belt land) quite extensively, creating a range of issues as a consequence, including that of the increased bird strike risk. Indeed, the Applicant appears to have adopted a conflicting stance on environmental protection, simultaneously seeking to play up the environmental benefits for biodiversity purposes and play them down for bird strike risk issues.</p> <p>Consequently, we would suggest that there is urgent need for consideration of an alternative that avoids these issues, one of which, at least, being intractable, i.e. bird strike.</p>	<p>In relation to the legal consideration for alternatives assessment the Applicants have also fully set out their position in previous submissions culminating in their Response to Interested Parties submissions received at Deadline 2 (REP3-052) at Section 2.8.</p> <p>In relation to Birdstrike the Applicants can confirm that Agreement with Blackpool Airport has been reached with sets out a way forward to appropriately manage the matter.</p>

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
REP3-100 100.3	<p><b>Holistic Network Design (HND)</b></p> <p>Process &amp; Point of Interconnection The descriptions by the Applicants, captured in the HNDR of the processes adopted in seeking to comply with the Electricity Act 1989 (section 9) “to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission”, would suggest that there was a failure to update the initial assumptions relating to the Northwest area of England for the Holistic Network Design Review (HNDR) process. They failed to use local knowledge available to National Grid and the wider offshore wind energy sector in the selection process and recognise the proximity of a new Nationally approved Technology Enterprise Zone, which was established with an energy infrastructure bias, with all that this implies for development activities.</p> <p>A word search of the HNDR using AI reveals that Stanah is never mentioned in this report. Much earlier project searches (2014) did conclude that Stanah was the closest Grid point to the Irish Sea Coast, but investigation still showed that the possibility of access via Rossall Beach was missed and that these searches predated the designation of Hillhouse, the old ICI plant at Thornton, as a Technical Enterprise Zone in March 2016. This freed access to the North of Stanah.</p> <p>In REP1-039 the Applicants allege (at 4.1.1.3 and footnote 11) that it is their responsibility to “accept a grid connection offer” and that they now claim at REP1-039 3.4.1.10 “Although the HND process was led by NESO, the Applicants were engaged in the process (as was NGET). The Applicants expressly raised Stanah, Middleton, Kirkby and Penwortham as possible connections for consideration”. Yet they still fail to produce the assessment that yielded those grid connection point questions in addition to or maybe even in preference to Penwortham. Nor does the Applicant present what consistent, complete and compliant process and results led them to choose to connect to Penwortham, by creating some multiple lengths of 30km of new undergrounded cabling route to an inland substation, rather than utilising the existing transmission and development land infrastructure.</p> <p>It would appear from the Applicants’ response that NESO offered a connection point, but that the Applicant was engaged in the process and accepted the offered solution, apparently without securing the evidence as to why their questions of the suitability of connecting via Stanah, Kirby or Middleton were seemingly unresolved by a compliant, consistent and transparent assessment. The result is the current plan for a buried route requiring parallel 30km length cable trenches/tunnels.</p>	<p>The Applicants consider that these points in relation to HND have been comprehensively addressed and refer to their previous submissions [REP1-039, REP3-052] as well as that of National Grid and their response at Deadline 3 (REP3-088).</p>

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
	<p>The Applicants' response (in REP1-039 paragraphs 4.1.1.3 and 3.4.1.10) states that they were a party to the decision process and had responsibility for accepting the decision but were not responsible for the decision itself. This is the generation of a Customer-Supplier agreement between the parties in which both parties share responsibility by one making a proposal and the other then accepting and if this is not so, there is a further round of discussion until agreement is reached.</p> <p>Whilst the current National Grid held land at Stanah itself might be limited to cover all role expansion options, the adjacent 138 hectare TEZ at Hillhouse offers enormous development space for hosting substations for Irish Sea Wind Farms and for National Grid. The closest point of connection to the main grid system is at Stanah, which is where the existing 400kV Tee junction taken off the grid at Hambleton arrives.</p> <p>Finding a solution that allows connection to the Grid at the nearest possible 400kV point to the coast has to be the most cost-effective overall solution, especially when combined with the simplest engineering and use of as much existing National Grid infrastructure as possible. This is supported by the comparative costings of the latest 2025 IET publication on Transmission Technologies.</p> <p>The implication that the proposed route cannot cope with their power is overstated (REP1-039 paragraphs 3.5.1.7 and 3.5.1.8). The Transmission line from Hambleton to Penwortham is part of the existing main grid and if that cannot cope, then neither can the lines to the south or east from Penwortham. Care was taken to confirm the capability of the line by having expert power engineer advisors look at the alternative proposal before submitting the idea.</p> <p>The material alternative route of connecting to Penwortham and beyond to consumers, via HTEZ and Stanah recognises the need for either a rebuild or, more likely new substations at Hillhouse. This HTEZ site has the space for new infrastructure and the principal site landowner (NPL Group) who would welcome the development, as stated in their representation (reference REP1-187). It is noted that National Grid in their representations of concerns relating to the Applicants' proposals detail multiple upgrades and even new land acquisitions to respond to expanding transmission demands in REP1- 089 section 2. It is of note that even this list of projects did NOT include provision for the NSIP status East Irish Sea Transmission Project associated with the Mooir Vannin Offshore Wind Energy project. It is logical that if requirements change, the existing system will be required to be modified. The cost differential that was provided in REP2-064 took all of this into account.</p>	

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
The REP3-100 100.4	<p><b>Legal Framework for Considering Alternatives</b></p> <p>The described legal framework (see REP1-039 1.3.1.3) agreed between NESO and the Applicant may even be a potential source of the current issue. The agreement clearly defines what facility belongs to which party. This implies that Applicants' onshore transmission system terminates with each windfarm having a substation to convert the power to the correct voltage and quality to allow for connection. This output then travels by cable to a NESO substation for that connection to be made.</p> <p>Logically the simplest interface would be to have the Applicants' power arrive at the substation, being processed to the correct power quality and voltage, before becoming the output of the substation fed directly to the Grid, with appropriate switching protections included. The interface then lies within a single substation unit where the output is owned by NESO.</p> <p>Does the current design imply a duplication of effort? If the power is at the right condition, surely all that is needed is a "big switch" and that should be as close to the grid as possible, or should the interface be within the substation itself, between the input at one condition and the output leaving at the required condition, with the interface defined by an Interface Control Document which defines both project and engineering design splits and the agreed interfaces in detail?</p>	<p>Irrespective of whether the Applicants would connect at 275kV or 400kV at Penwortham a substation would be required for both Applicants to install and operate the required equipment to enable Morgan and Morecambe Wind Farms to be grid code compliant. It is not policy for National Grid to install and operate generators compliance equipment for them.</p> <p>The stepping up of the voltage from 275kV to 400kV at the Applicant substation allows for greater efficiency with reduced losses and reduced cables connecting to National Grid.</p> <p>The Connection Agreements are both for 400kV so the stepping up of voltage is required.</p>
REP3-100 100.5	<p><b>Cable Routing and Substation Siting</b></p> <p>The Applicants' response refers to the fact that "viable alternatives for routing and siting could be material considerations" (REP1-039 2.1.1.5). Despite the protestations otherwise, no hard evidence has yet been presented to show that their proposal fully meets their design requirement and the proposed alternative does not.</p> <p>They infringe upon protected areas (Ribble RAMSAR in two places, Protected Habitats and Green Belt land) extensively, creating a range of issues resulting from this, including that of increased bird strike risk. How is that supposed to be compliant?</p> <p>It seems they simply have not looked.</p> <p>Even in Para 3.5.1.7 of their submission Ref REP1-039, there is an acceptance that alternative designs were possible but which have just been dismissed, without evidence being presented. This appears to be driven solely by the chosen and accepted Point of Interconnection, yet they have presented no evidence as to the</p>	<p>The views of the Parish Councils are noted</p>



Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
	<p>assessment of why their three choices of Stanah, Kirby and Middleton were rejected. No work is reported which indicates that this is indeed the most cost-effective overall solution.</p> <p>It feels as if the concepts and possible alternatives have not received adequate assessment in the hurry to get the project moving forward. There has instead been reliance on old and out of date information for the initial desk top analysis and a failure to examine the potential offered by the change in status of the Hillhouse facility and its revised and redesignated TEZ status.</p> <p>It is understood that developers are required to sell on their investment in Transmission Assets to third party Offshore Transmission Operators (OFTOs). It may be that as a result the Applicants have prioritised other matters than their legal obligations "to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission". As such they expose the Secretary of State and themselves to legal challenge, with the resultant prospect of delays, additional costs and potentially having to redesign and reapply for the project.</p>	
REP3-100 100.6	<p><b>Benefits of Coordinated Approach</b></p> <p>So far, it has been difficult to establish what benefits accrue from the vaunted "Coordinated Approach". It might be beneficial to the planning submission process, but the evidence suggests that there is no benefit to the local economy or people affected by the proposed route. Indeed, they have articulated a need for physical separation of the deliverables and spend profiles of each project so the timescale differences become substantial when related to the impact on the locality through which the projects pass. There is no benefit to those most impacted.</p> <p>The claim that this is a special project and a first is frankly both laughable and somewhat insulting, given the experience that exists locally, both in the Fylde and Lancashire, of dealing with complex products resulting from multi-national enterprises, represented by competitor companies and Nations with differing objectives and requirements, who have learned how to manage such projects and deliver their products to their relevant Customers.</p> <p>Had they needed instruction on how to do this, they could perhaps have asked some of the local expertise and advice.</p>	<p>The Applicants have set out their position with regard to the benefits of a coordinated approach within section 7 of the Applicants response to Hearing Action Points: ISH1 6, 8, 9, 19, 26 &amp; 28 (REP1-039)</p> <p>The Planning Statement (REP1-032) describes the need for delivery of the Transmission Assets and associated benefits at a national level. The key benefits of the Transmission Assets are contained in Section 1.5 of the Statement of Reasons (REP1-012), with updates made at Deadline 1 (REP1-013) to include those benefits that would be experienced at the local level. The Applicants' response to FBC's local impact report contained a list of wider community benefits, noting this list is not exhaustive. The Applicants therefore do not consider these to be limited.</p>
REP3-100	<p><b>Conclusions</b></p>	<p>The Applicants note that Newton with Freckleton Parish Councils maintain their conclusions, however the Applicants</p>

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
100.7	<p>Overall, we maintain the following conclusions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the original HNDR process failed to update the base assumptions adequately and did not account for local knowledge and geography.</li> <li>2. The Applicants are now proposing an approach that is at significant variance to that which led to NESO's recommendation of HNDR, yet the Applicants have not evidenced that they have reappraised the assessment. They now propose two projects will adopt independent timeframes, cable routes and two substation sites, rather than a single site. As a result, this will materially intensify and increase the scale of adverse impacts on environment, communities and economies.</li> <li>3. The Applicant's proposal has been shown to be non-compliant as it unnecessarily infringes on Protected Areas, vulnerable biological sites and Green Belt land, without demonstrating that there is no alternative</li> <li>4. There is a material viable alternative which should be assessed properly before casual dismissal, as it offers significant savings.</li> <li>5. The engineering changes required are assessed as all within existing engineering capabilities and are relatively simple.</li> <li>6. The coordinated approach now adopted offers no benefit to anyone but the applicant team engaged in the initial DCO activity</li> </ol>	<p>have previously set out their response on these matters in the submissions included for reference in the responses to REP3-100.1 to 100.6 above.</p> <p>The Applicants have no further comment to make on these matters.</p>

**Table 2.16: RPE3-101 – Newton with Clifton Parish Council and Freckleton Parish Council's Submission on Impact of Construction Noise on Wildlife, Livestock (Cattle and Sheep), and Equines (Horses)**

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
REP3-101 101.1	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>Construction noise is a significant and well-documented environmental stressor that affects wildlife behaviour and reproduction, disrupts livestock welfare and productivity, and causes serious problems for equine safety and training. These effects are not merely theoretical; they are observable, quantifiable, and in many cases have legal and welfare implications under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), especially Paragraphs 180–185;</li> <li>• Animal Welfare Act 2006;</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicants acknowledge these concerns and refer the Parish Council to the responses provided for Reference 101.8 and 101.9 below.</p>



Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEFRA Codes of Practice for the welfare of cattle, sheep, and horses.</li> </ul> <p>The impact of the construction of the cable corridor and the substations for the Morecambe and Morgan scheme will have severe and long lasting adverse impacts on the wildlife and livestock in the area around Newton and Freckleton.</p>	
REP3-101 101.2	<p><b>Impact on Wildlife</b></p> <p><b>2.1 Habitat Abandonment and Displacement</b></p> <p>Many wildlife species, especially ground-nesting birds, bats and amphibians, (whose habitats are close to the Morecambe &amp; Morgan Transmission Assets) will avoid or abandon areas affected by regular or sudden construction noise. Noise triggers a stress response (fight-or-flight), and chronic disturbance causes birds and mammals to perceive an area as unsafe. This can result in abandonment of territories; reduced breeding success and impaired parental care. During road construction near woodland edges, Song Thrushes and Wood Warblers have been observed abandoning nests due to persistent machinery noise (Francis et al., 2009).</p>	<p>The Applicants note the concern from Newton with Clifton Parish Council and Freckleton Parish Council however note that two years of detailed surveys were carried out over the Transmission Assets plus a 500m buffer to account for disturbance. The results can be found here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• F3.4.1 Volume 3, Annex 4.1: Breeding birds technical report (APP-091)</li> <li>• F3.4.2 Volume 3, Annex 4.2: Wintering and migratory birds technical report – Part 1 of 2 (APP-092)</li> <li>• F3.4.2 Volume 3, Annex 4.2: Wintering and migratory birds technical report – Part 2 of 2 (APP-093)</li> <li>• F3.4.3 Volume 3, Annex 4.3: Intertidal birds technical report (APP-094)</li> </ul> <p>The species that were recorded during survey were then fully assessed in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• F3.4 Volume 3, Chapter 4: Onshore and intertidal ornithology (APP-090)</li> <li>• E2.3 Habitats Regulations Assessment Stage 2 Information to Support an Appropriate Assessment Part Three – Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Ramsar Site assessments (APP-017)</li> </ul> <p>The Applicants note that the impacts of disturbance and displacement were fully accounted for at both survey and assessment stages.</p>
REP3-101 101.3	<p><b>2.2 Communication Interference</b></p>	<p>The scope of the ecological impact assessment was agreed with stakeholders including Natural England at an early stage</p>

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
	Many species rely on sound for mating calls, territory defense, or group cohesion. Construction noise—especially from pile-driving, excavation, or vehicle engines—masks these signals. Frogs in wetland areas adjacent to development sites have been documented calling less frequently or at altered frequencies, reducing breeding opportunities (Slabbekoorn & Ripmeester, 2008). This can lead to mating failure, territorial disputes, and increased predation if animals cannot communicate alarms effectively.	in the consultation process, and the potential for noise disturbance to amphibians was not scoped in, with the exception of sand lizards at Lytham St Anne's Dunes SSSI.  Common species of amphibians such as common frog, common toad and smooth newt were not identified as Important Ecological Features (IEFs) for the purposes of the ecological impact assessment, the scope of which was agreed with statutory consultees prior to submission through extensive consultation.
REP3-101 101.4	<b>2.3 Elevated Stress and Reproductive Suppression</b>  Prolonged noise exposure increases stress hormones like corticosterone in birds and mammals, impairing reproduction and immune function. Bats have shown reduced foraging efficiency and reproductive rates in disturbed areas, even where roosts were not directly affected (Kight & Swaddle, 2011).	The potential for noise/ visual disturbance to foraging, roosting and commuting bats has been assessed in Section 3.11.11 of Volume 3 Chapter 3: Onshore ecology and nature conservation (APP-075). The assessment concluded that with mitigation there would be no significant residual effects on bats.
REP3-101 101.5	<b>2.4 Species of Concern</b> <b>2.4.1 Barn Owls (<i>Tyto alba</i>)</b>  Barn Owls are regularly seen hunting over the fields impacted by the proposed substations and cable corridor. Barn Owls are highly sensitive to both auditory disturbance and disruption of foraging habitat. They rely almost exclusively on sound to detect small prey such as voles and shrews, particularly in low-light conditions. Their ability to forage is severely impaired by anthropogenic noise.  Impacts: - Reduced hunting success due to noise masking prey sounds. - Roost and nest site abandonment under prolonged disturbance. - Population fragmentation due to strong site fidelity.  Example: A study by Mason et al. (2016) in the UK showed that breeding productivity dropped significantly at nest sites within 200m of a wind turbine installation during construction.	The Applicants note the concern from Newton with Clifton Parish Council and Freckleton Parish Council and note that nesting barn owls have been located and that pre-construction surveys will be undertaken to update this baseline and inform potential licencing requirements. The Applicants are well aware of the law and guidance surrounding disturbance at nest sites and will take measures to ensure that no disturbance takes place within a suitable buffer  Mason et al. (2016) as relates to owls in the UK could not be located. Mason, J.T., McClure, C.J. and Barber, J.R., 2016. Anthropogenic noise impairs owl hunting behaviour. <i>Biological Conservation</i> , 199, pp.29-32. Is about owls and anthropogenic noise but is based upon responses of Northern saw-whet owls in the US to compressor stations. Please provide a full

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
	<p>Legal context: Barn Owls are listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.</p>	<p>reference so we can comment on whether or not the findings from that study are relevant to this case.</p> <p>The Applicants are aware that more recent studies have noted the impacts of noise on the hunting ability of owls. However, the Applicants would like to note that only limited works will be taking place before 07:00 and after 19:00 , where the construction team arrive and depart site, which is the period when barn owls will be more active, and that barn owl nests will not be disturbed. All barn owls will be free to forage over areas that will be unaffected by noise disturbance and it is well established that beyond the immediate vicinity of a nest site barn owls are not territorial and freely share foraging resources with conspecifics (Barn Owl home range - The Barn Owl Trust).</p> <p>Whilst population fragmentation may impact species with limited mobility or rare species with specific habitat requirements, for mobile species that can exploit a range of commonly found habitats such as barn owl, the impacts of fragmentation will be limited.</p> <p>Although barn owls do show strong site fidelity they usually have more than one nest site within a territory (Jackson and Cresswell, 2007) and will also readily use artificial nest boxes if provided (Shawyer, 2006).</p>
REP3-101 101.6	<p><b>2.4.2 Brown Hares (<i>Lepus europaeus</i>)</b></p> <p>Brown Hares are crepuscular and rely on open fields of the Fylde for feeding and long sightlines for predator detection. As prey animals, they are highly reactive to novel or erratic stimuli—especially noise.</p> <p>Impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Elevated stress and flight risk.</li> <li>- Disruption of breeding and nursing behaviour.</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicants can clarify that brown hare was scoped out of the ecological impact assessment at an early stage in the consultation process, and this approach was agreed with stakeholders at various Expert Working Group (EWG) meetings prior to the submission of the application (see Table 3.1 in Volume 3 Chapter 3: Onshore ecology and nature conservation (APP-075).</p>

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
	<p>- Habitat displacement and population decline.</p> <p>Vaughan et al. (2003) found that hare abundance dropped by over 50% in fields adjacent to construction zones.</p> <p>Conservation status: Brown Hare is a UK BAP Priority Species.</p>	
REP3-101 101.7	<p><b>2.4.3 Bats (Chiroptera spp.)</b></p> <p>Bats are highly reliant on echolocation and are especially vulnerable to noise pollution. At least 4 different species of bats are to be found in the area around the Morgan substations. Most UK bat species use high-frequency calls to navigate and detect prey. Construction noise, especially during dusk and night works, can interfere with foraging, roosting, and commuting behaviour.</p> <p>Impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Masking of echolocation calls, reducing foraging efficiency.</li> <li>- Roost disturbance leading to displacement, especially of maternity colonies.</li> <li>- Disruption of commuting routes, leading to fragmentation of habitat.</li> </ul> <p>Research by Schaub et al. (2008) demonstrated that Myotis bats avoided areas with persistent low-frequency noise, even if prey availability was high.</p> <p>Legal context: All bat species and their roosts are fully protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.</p>	<p>The potential for disturbance to foraging, roosting and commuting bats, including habitat fragmentation and isolation, has been assessed in Section 3.11.11 of Volume 3 Chapter 3: Onshore ecology and nature conservation (APP-075). The assessment concluded that with mitigation there would be no significant residual effects on bats.</p>
REP3-101 101.8	<p><b>3. Impact on Livestock – Cattle and Sheep</b></p> <p><b>3.1 Fear and Stress Responses</b></p> <p>Livestock perceive unfamiliar, loud noise as a threat, which leads to increased heart rate, agitation, and cortisol secretion. During the Accompanied Site Visits in June, one of the farmers described the impact of sudden noises on his cattle. Cows may become restless, stop ruminating, or vocalize more frequently when exposed to nearby construction (Boissy et al., 2005). When stressed during milking, oxytocin release is blocked, reducing milk letdown. Sheep are more reactive to sudden noise than even mild electric shocks (Beausoleil et al., 2005). Sudden bangs or drilling sounds can cause them to flee, potentially injuring themselves or lambs.</p> <p><b>3.2 Lambing and Calving Vulnerability</b></p>	<p>The Applicants note the concerns raised regarding impacts from noise on cattle and sheep during the construction phase.</p> <p>In regard to the commentary on fear and stress responses on livestock, the Applicants are unable to access the cited references.</p> <p>However, the Applicants are aware of various studies relating to noise effects on livestock, which are summarised in the publicly available 'High Speed 2 Limited Phase One Noise effects on Livestock' (Arup, 2017) study. The study was focussed on the effects resulting from transportation noise effects during the operational phase of High Speed 2 (HS2).</p>

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
	<p>Noise during sensitive periods such as lambing or calving increases the risk of maternal rejection or mismothering. A ewe startled by an excavator while lambing may run, leaving the lamb cold or unclaimed, leading to death unless intervention occurs.</p> <p><b>3.3 Avoidance Behaviour and Grazing Disruption</b></p> <p>Animals may avoid grazing near the source of the noise, leading to uneven pasture use and reduced nutrition intake. In fields near highways under construction, sheep were observed bunching at the far side of paddocks, leading to overgrazing in those areas and undergrazing elsewhere (anecdotal observation supported by DEFRA field trials).</p>	<p>However, the study noted that in regard to construction noise <i>'best practicable means (BPM) will be applied during construction works to minimise noise (including vibration) at neighbouring residential properties and other sensitive receptors'</i>.</p> <p>The literature review reported that no links were identified between reproduction and milk production rates in connection with maximum noise levels as a result of aircraft noise. This source is arguably more intrusive and impulsive than construction noise. It was also found maximum sound exposures of between 90 – 120 dB may result in an effect and therefore concluded a screening criterion of 70 dB <math>L_{Aeq,16hour}</math> during the daytime and 60 dB <math>L_{Aeq,8hour}</math> during the night—time was appropriate to identify when an impact was likely. The Applicants note that these criteria do not exceed the SOAEL construction noise limits proposed for the Projects in the rural areas in which livestock are present.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Applicants seek to minimise noise as far as practicably possible, through the implementation of mitigation, as set out in Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan(s). This will be developed from APP-196 which forms part of the Outline Code of Construction Practice (OCOCP). The detailed CoCP(s) are secured by Requirement 8 of Schedules 2A and 2B of the draft DCO (REP3-009). Detailed Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan(s) will be implemented by the Applicants as approved by the relevant local planning authority in consultation with the relevant statutory stakeholders, as appropriate.</p> <p>Such mitigation measures that will be considered to reduce impacts on livestock will include siting noise generating activities as far as practicably possible away from noise sensitive areas, which may include milking sheds, barns and</p>

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
		<p>areas of grazing. Where this is not possible, other measures such as soil bunds and barriers will be considered.</p> <p>The Applicants also confirm that information on notification of construction works will be provided in the Communications Plan, an outline of which is provided in the Outline Communications Plan (REP3-020). The plan sets out a framework for engaging stakeholders (i.e., sets out methods of contacting and engaging with affected groups); methods of providing advance notifications; roles and responsibilities for implementing the communication plan; and complaints procedure. Information provided will include general location of the activities, and their expected duration.</p> <p>Detailed Communication Plan(s) will be developed from the Outline Communication Plan (REP3-020) which forms part of the CoCP(s). The detailed CoCP(s) are secured by Requirement 8 of Schedules 2A and 2B of the draft DCO (REP3-009). Detailed Communication Plan(s) will be implemented by the Applicants as approved by the relevant local planning authorities in consultation with the relevant statutory stakeholders, as appropriate.</p>
REP3-101 101.9	<p><b>4. Impact on Equines (Horses)</b></p> <p><b>4.1 Acute Flight Responses</b></p> <p>There are a number of equine small holdings and businesses along the cable corridor. Horses are highly sensitive to auditory stimuli and respond instinctively to sudden noise by fleeing. A horse startled by pneumatic drilling near a bridleway may bolt into a road, endangering itself and its rider. Incidents involving horse fright are well-documented causes of injuries in both animals and humans (Young et al., 2012).</p> <p><b>4.2 Chronic Stress and Health Problems</b></p> <p>Continuous exposure to low-frequency or irregular noise increases the risk of gastric ulcers, weakened immune systems and stereotypic behaviours like cribbing, weaving, or box-walking. Horses stabled near a long-term housing development</p>	<p>The Applicants note the concerns raised regarding impacts from noise on equines (horses) during the construction phase.</p> <p>In regard to the cited references, the Applicants have been unable to access these. However, the Applicants are aware of guidance published by the British Horse Society 'Advice on Construction sites and horses' (The British Horse Society).</p> <p>The guidance states that '<i>quiet rustlings and sudden bangs are often more of a trigger than a continuous mechanical noise such as a digger working</i>'. However, the guidance also</p>



Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
	<p>displayed increased box-walking and refusal to eat (McBride &amp; Cuddeford, 2001). Page 4 of 7 4.3 Disruption to Equine Businesses Noise interferes with training and riding, reduces focus and performance, and affects the viability of riding schools, livery yards, and breeding operations. Visser et al. (2008) confirmed that horses exposed to environmental stress are harder to train and more injuryprone.</p> <p>Noise can seriously undermine commercial equine enterprises such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Riding schools may suffer reduced attendance resulting from concern amongst customers about the safety of the school and any potential for ensuing litigation;</li> <li>• Competition yards may suffer interrupted training due to stress induced behaviours in horses;</li> <li>• Livery businesses may lose clients seeking quieter locations.</li> </ul>	<p>acknowledges that horses may react to different triggers, and this can change on a daily basis.</p> <p>The Applicants confirm they will seek to minimise noise as far as practicably possible, through the implementation of mitigation, as set out in Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan(s) (CNVMPs). This will be developed from APP-196 which forms part of the Outline Code of Construction Practice (OCoCP). The detailed CoCP(s) are secured by Requirement 8 of Schedules 2A and 2B of the draft DCO (REP3-009). Detailed CNVMPs will be implemented by the Applicants as approved by the relevant local planning authority in consultation with the relevant statutory stakeholders, as appropriate.</p> <p>Mitigation measures detailed within the CNVMPs will include those referred to within The British Horse Society document, where relevant. Such measures will include avoiding/reducing impulsive sounds in locations with horses, controlling start up and shut down of machinery when in close proximity to horses, including a 20m setback from horses where practicable, having awareness of the surrounding area and undertaking regular observations of the working area to ensure all noise controls are implemented. Noise limits will be enforced with an aim to reduce construction noise levels as far as possible.</p>
<p>REP3-101 101.10</p>	<p><b>5. Conclusion</b></p> <p>Construction noise causes genuine, preventable harm to wildlife, livestock, and horses. These effects are wellevidenced in scientific literature and in field observations from across the UK. The development of the Morecambe &amp; Morgan Transmission Assets is likely to result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat loss for protected species;</li> <li>• Animal welfare breaches under the <b>Animal Welfare Act</b>;</li> <li>• Economic losses for farmers and rural businesses;</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicants are committed to constructing the project in a responsible manner. This will include implementing all mitigation measures which have been set out within the suite of outline management plans included with the DCO application. Furthermore these management are legally secured within schedules 2A and 2B of the draft DCO (REP3-009). Furthermore, the Applicants will liaise with landowners and the local community to communicate updates on the</p>

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased risk of accidents involving animals and the public.</li> </ul> <p>How will the Examining Authority and the Applicants ensure that wildlife and livestock, businesses and their clients and the general public are protected from these harms?</p>	construction programme and understand key concerns throughout the duration of construction.
REP3-101 101.11	<p><b>6. References</b> Each study below is peer-reviewed, relevant, and selected for its direct application to construction-related noise impacts: <b>SEE REP3-101</b></p>	Noted



## 2.21 Orsted East Irish Sea Transmission Limited (OEIST)

**Table 2.17: REP3-102 – OEIST’s Deadline 3 Submission**

Reference	IP submission	Applicants’ response
REP3-102 102.1	<p><b>1. Introduction</b></p> <p>1.1 This submission is provided in accordance with Deadline 3 of the examination timetable for the application made by Morgan Offshore Wind Limited and Morecambe Offshore Wind Limited (the “Applicants”) for an order granting development consent for the Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms Transmission Assets (“Project”).</p> <p>1.2 We represent Orsted East Irish Sea Transmission Limited (“OEIST”), which filed a relevant representation (accepted as an additional submission) [AS-064] in respect of the Project. OEIST is the developer of the East Irish Sea Transmission Project (the transmission assets required to connect the Mooir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm (“MVOWF”) to the National Grid substation at Penwortham).</p> <p>1.3 At deadline 2, the Applicants commented [REP2-031] on OEIST’s written representation [REP1- 225]. OEIST maintains the concerns set out in its written representation and responds to the Applicants’ key comments below.</p>	<p>The Applicants note this response and thank OEIST for their submission.</p>
REP3-102 102.2	<p><b>2. Connection date</b></p> <p>2.1 In response to the Applicants’ comments, OEIST acknowledges there is uncertainty regarding the grid connection date for MVOWF. However, OEIST does not agree that the prospect that the date will be brought forward nor the potential interactions of the developments to be “entirely speculative”.</p> <p>2.2 The Applicants have recently participated in the same process in respect of obtaining a grid connection. As a result, of that process, the connection dates for Morgan Offshore Wind Farm and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farm were brought forward several years to 2029.</p>	<p>The Applicants acknowledge that the Order Limits could encapsulate some of the land on which OEIST may be proposed to be built. However, the Applicants would emphasise that no information about OEIST’s proposals are yet in the public domain, and therefore the potential scope of interaction between the projects is still uncertain. Once final plans are provided to the Applicants, the Applicants are open to engaging with OEIST in considering how best to manage interactions between the developments.</p> <p>In relation to OEIST’s progress in the grid connection process, the Applicants acknowledge that the connection dates for the Morgan and Morecambe Transmission Assets were brought forward. In the event that OEIST’s grid connection date is brought forward to such a date which indicates greater potential for overlap, the Applicants would seek to engage with OEIST if necessary;</p>

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
	<p>2.3 It is disingenuous for the Applicants to suggest that a similar outcome is unlikely for MVOWF. Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms (including transmission assets) have benefited from connecting their wind farms to the National Grid as part of the UK's "Pathways to 2030" initiative, which is managed under the Offshore Transmission Network Review. It is anticipated that MVOWF will benefit equally from the Queue Management process managed by National Grid ESO (now National Energy System Operator (NESO)). Therefore, the Applicants cannot rule out that one realistic scenario is that MVOWF's grid connection will be brought forward. In the probable event that occurs, there will be overlap between the East Irish Sea Transmission Project and the Project such that a crossing agreement or protective provisions would be required. As flagged in OEIST's written representation, proceeding on the basis that there will be no crossover in the construction of the developments would be unsafe and unreasonable.</p>	<p>however, the Applicants would emphasise that there is currently no indication if or when this may occur.</p> <p>In relation to the potential need for any crossing agreement or protective provisions, if OEIST's final cable design was such that it did result in any crossing of or interaction with the Transmission Assets so that protective provisions are required as part of the OEIST Development Consent Order, the Applicants would engage with OEIST to ensure adequate protection of the Morgan and Morecambe Transmission Assets.</p> <p>The Applicants consider that the appropriate timing and mechanism for securing protective provisions would be as part of the OEIST Development Consent Order in due course.</p>
REP3-102 102.3	<p><b>3. Access to Penwortham substation</b></p> <p>3.1 In response to OEIST's concerns, the Applicants have indicated that the extent of land rights sought at Penwortham substation does not go beyond what is necessary. The Applicants have also stated that management of access to the Penwortham substation is a matter for National Grid Electricity Transmission ("NGET") to manage and have referred to protective provisions which are in development with NGET.</p> <p>3.2 The fact that protective provisions are in development for NGET does not provide adequate assurances for OEIST that necessary access to Penwortham substation will remain feasible. This is a process OEIST has no control or input over.</p> <p>3.3 OEIST reiterates that the rights currently sought surrounding the Penwortham substation as displayed on the land plans [AS-018] are very extensive. The Applicants have suggested no mechanism for reducing the extent of these rights or otherwise ensuring that access is maintained for other</p>	<p>With regards to the comments made about the connection at Penwortham, the Applicants would refer OEIST to the submissions made by the Applicants in the SU Negotiations Tracker (REP3-067) which highlights that the Applicants are in conversation with NGET directly as to the management of this connection as this is not completely within the Applicants' control.</p> <p>The Applicants would emphasise that as Transmission Owner of the electricity network, it is NGET's responsibility to manage the connections being offered and the feasibility of each customer to connect into and access the substation. This is not the responsibility of, or within the control of, the Applicants.</p> <p>The Applicants will not have permanent rights over the whole area at Penwortham substation on the land plans (REP1-004) as the Applicants only require permanent acquisition of rights over the area that the cable is laid. The Applicants explained during the Issue Specific Hearings the reason for the temporary working areas being larger in this area - please see paragraph 119 of The Applicants' Hearing Summary of the Issue Specific Hearing 1: Day 1 (REP1-034).</p>

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
	<p>parties. As such, the Project has the potential to impede access for other developers.</p> <p>3.4 OEIST considers it is reasonable and necessary for a mechanism to be developed whereby the extent of rights sought for the grid connection is reduced as quickly as possible. Additionally, the works required for the connection at Penwortham should be required to be developed in accordance with design principles which ensure access for other developers is enabled. This could be achieved through provisions in the development consent order.</p>	

**Table 2.18: REP3-103 – OEIST's Responses to ExQ1**

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
	<p><b>1. Introduction</b></p> <p>1.1 This submission is provided in accordance with Deadline 3 of the examination timetable for the application made by Morgan Offshore Wind Limited and Morecambe Offshore Wind Limited (the "Applicants") for an order granting development consent for the Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms Transmission Assets ("Project").</p> <p>1.2 We represent Orsted East Irish Sea Transmission Limited ("OEIST"), which filed a relevant representation (accepted as an additional submission) [AS-064] in respect of the Project. This submission contains the OEIST's response to the Examining Authority's first set of written questions ("ExQ1") [PD-008] (provided overleaf).</p>		<p>The Applicants note this response and thank OEIST for their submission.</p>
Q1.4.1	<p>The ExA notes OEIST's comments [REP1-225] that it is highly probable that the grid connection date for the Mooir Vannin proposals will be brought forward and therefore it is possible the construction of the respective developments will overlap.</p>	<p>In respect of the Mooir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm generation assets ("MVOWF"), the application for Marine Infrastructure Consent was submitted to the Isle of Man Government in March 2025.</p> <p>However, it became apparent that the existing Marine Infrastructure (Consenting Process) Regulations 2024 are worded in a way that any proposed controlled marine activity would</p>	<p>The Applicants note OEIST's comments in relation to their consenting programme to date. In relation to OEIST's comment around providing the Applicants with their documentation in advance of the information being made public, in order to inform the cumulative effects assessment, the Applicants would maintain that it would not be appropriate to publish any information about OEIST's proposals as part of the cumulative effects assessment, until this information is published independently by OEIST. In</p>

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
	<p>a) Can OEIST provide an up-to-date indicative timetable for both the Moir Vannin generation assets and the transmission proposals, including likely application submission dates, subsequent potential reserved matter submissions (if consented) and potential construction commencement dates?</p> <p>b) When is it expected that further details will be publicly available?</p>	<p>struggle to be accepted for examination. Moir Vannin Offshore Windfarm Limited ("Moor Vannin") has been informed that amendments are being made to the Marine Infrastructure (Consenting Process) Regulations 2024 which will bring the requirements in line with the latest approaches that other jurisdictions take to marine infrastructure planning. It was therefore agreed that Moor Vannin could withdraw its application, which it formally did on 10 June 2025. Moor Vannin intends to resubmit its application in late July 2025 once the amendments to the Regulations are in force. No substantive changes to the version of the application submitted in March are anticipated.</p> <p>Moor Vannin does not have control over when the application materials will become publicly available, however, the documentation associated with MVOWF could be shared with the Applicants upon request, in order to inform their cumulative effects assessment.</p> <p>Figure 1.4 from the MVOWF scoping report sets out the expected timeframes for the development and is provided as Appendix 1 to this response. As set out in Appendix 1, construction for MVOWF is expected to commence in Spring 2030. The slight delay in the acceptance of the application is not anticipated to result in any delays to the construction timeframes. In respect of the East Irish Sea Transmission Project, OEIST intends to lodge the scoping report mid-August 2025 with community consultation commencing in September 2025. It is anticipated that the application for development consent will be submitted in September 2027 and, if development consent is granted, construction is currently due to commence in 2029. The</p>	<p>relation to the information which has been provided by OEIST at Appendix 3, the Applicants note that this still contains optionality for two routes with uncertainty as to final routing, potential effects and what any interaction with the Transmission Assets may be. If the OEIST Scoping Report is submitted in August as currently anticipated, the Applicants will review this information and provide an update to the cumulative effects assessment at Deadline 5.</p>

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
		<p>anticipated project timeline is provided as <b>Appendix 2</b>. It is anticipated that the Scoping Report will become publicly available following its submission to the Planning Inspectorate. To assist the Examining Authority and the Applicants a map which illustrates the draft scoping boundary and the two transmission route options being taken forward to Scoping is provided as <b>Appendix 3</b>.</p>	
Q1.4.2	<p>From the information currently available, there appears to be potential for the locations of the OEIST proposals and the proposed development to be located near to each other and to be constructed either at similar times or relatively shortly after one another.</p> <p>a) Notwithstanding the limited public information currently available for the OEIST proposals, what effects could this potentially have in terms of the cumulative impacts of the developments, including upon landowners/occupiers, the environment, transport and local communities?</p> <p>b) Whilst acknowledging that the details of the OEIST proposals are currently very limited, what measures are both parties taking to ensure that each development (if consented) would be able to be brought forward without unreasonable impediment for each and to</p>	<p>In response to question (a), OEIST acknowledges the potential for the East Irish Sea Transmission Project to have cumulative effects with the Project. The proposals will include an assessment of cumulative effects which will account for the Project (and any other relevant developments/assets). The detail of the assessment cannot be provided at this stage.</p> <p>However, as flagged above, in the interest of assisting the Examining Authority and the Applicants in their understanding of the potential for cumulative effects, OEIST has provided a map of the draft Scoping Boundary for the East Irish Sea Transmission Project as Appendix 3. The extent of cumulative effects will vary depending on which route is ultimately selected.</p> <p>In response to question (b), a series of meetings commencing in October 2022 have taken place with the Applicants to discuss the potential interactions between MVOWF, the East Irish Sea Transmission Project and the Project. These meetings included introductory meetings in October 2022 to discuss engagement and programme and to request to be included in baseline assessments and Hazard Workshops in relation to the MoMoMo Projects, attendance at Marine Navigation Engagement Forum meetings,</p>	<p>The Applicants would refer to the response above at Q1.4.1.</p> <p>The Applicants welcome comments from OEIST that engagement has been ongoing.</p> <p>In relation to OEIST's request that measures are secured within this Development Consent Order, the Applicants maintain that this is not feasible or appropriate on the basis that the OEIST refined cable route is not yet known. It would be pre-emptive to provide any such measures at this stage, as the OEIST design may progress in such a way that any such measures were no longer adequate, were superseded or were not necessary. This is a key reason why the Applicants consider it more appropriate for any protections to be secured in the OEIST Development Consent Order as and when it comes forward.</p> <p>The Applicants would refer to REP3-102 1.1.2 above. The Applicants will continue to engage with OEIST as their Development Consent Order process commences and progresses to ensure that OEIST can include protective provisions for the benefit of the Morgan and Morecambe Transmission Assets as consented. These discussions will include securing any necessary crossing agreement(s), where required, depending on OEIST's design as their pre-application and consultation refinements progress.</p> <p>In relation to reducing the extent of rights sought for the grid connection, the Applicants would refer to the response provided at REP3-102 1.1.3 above.</p>

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
	<p>ensure that any necessary management, coordination and mitigation measures would be in place to protect the environment and local interests?</p>	<p>attendance at a Hazard Workshop, meetings with the respective consenting teams and discussions regarding the SoCG in respect of the Morgan application in early 2025. In particular, engagement has been sought with the Applicants regarding landfall and Penwortham since October 2022.</p> <p>However, OEIST considers specific measures require to be secured within the Development Consent Order for the Project, to ensure any interactions are adequately addressed. As outlined in OEIST's written representation [REP1-225], it considers that a crossing agreement is required to manage any potential interaction of transmission cables for the developments. In the absence of a crossing agreement, protective provisions are required in the Development Consent Order for the Project to protect the East Irish Sea Transmission Project.</p> <p>Additionally, if the details regarding the Project's connection at the Penwortham substation are not able to be clarified, it will be necessary to develop a mechanism which allows for reducing the extent of rights sought for the grid connection as quickly as possible.</p> <p>OEIST also considers that the works required for the connection at Penwortham Substation should be subject to requirements in the Development Consent Order to comply with certain design principles, including that access to the substation for other developers must be preserved.</p>	<p>It would not be appropriate for any requirement to be added to the Development Consent Order which provides that the Applicants are responsible for preserving access to the substation for other future developments at an early stage of development. The Applicants refer to the response provided at REP3-102 1.1.3. National Grid Electricity Transmission plc. are the Transmission Owner, and it is their responsibility to ensure the substation site is adequate for their customers – this is not the responsibility of the Applicants. The Applicants would note that there are several other connecting projects at Penwortham who have not requested such protections and are comfortable following due process in terms of coordination of connections via National Grid Electricity Transmission plc.</p>



## 2.22 Orsted IPs representing six owners of operational offshore windfarms in the East Irish Sea (Orsted IPs)

**Table 2.19: REP3-104 – Orsted IPs’ Responses to ExQ1**

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants’ response
	<p><b>1. Introduction</b></p> <p>1.1 This submission is provided in accordance with Deadline 3 of the examination timetable for the application Morgan Offshore Wind Limited and Morecambe Offshore Wind Limited (the “Applicants”) for an order granting development consent for the Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms Transmission Assets (“Project”).</p> <p>1.2 We represent six owners of operational offshore windfarms in the East Irish Sea (as set out relevant representations RR-0218, RR-0276, RR-1558, RR2303, RR-2266, RR-2267), who we refer to together as the “Ørsted IPs”. This submission contains the Ørsted IPs’ response to the examining authority’s first set of written questions (“ExQ1”) [PD-008] (provided overleaf).</p>		<p>The Applicants note this response and thank the Orsted IPs for their submission.</p>
Q9.5.5	<p><b>Offshore Ornithology</b></p> <p>The ExA notes that the Orsted interested parties (IPs) have raised general concerns over the applicants’ assessment of effects and the absence of a compensation and derogations case for the Liverpool Bay SPA, however no specific concerns have been raised. Can the Orsted IPs detail any specific concerns over the HRA screening and ISAA conclusions</p>	<p>The Ørsted IPs’ concerns relate to the uncertainty of mitigation-compensation measures which could be implemented in respect of Liverpool Bay SPA. While the Applicants have maintained that such measures will not be required, Ørsted IPs understand that Natural England does not agree with their position. As such, it is uncertain whether a derogation case will be required, and what the outcomes of such a process would be.</p> <p>It is possible that any compensation measures which could be required through the derogation process could materially impact on the Ørsted IPs’ assets. As such, the Ørsted IPs are required to maintain an interest in this matter until such time as any potential mitigation and compensation measures are identified.</p> <p>The Ørsted IPs acknowledge that it appears that Natural England and the Applicants have been</p>	<p>The Applicants are continuing to engage with Natural England, and would refer to Natural England’s response to the Examining Authority’s written question 7.4.3 (REP3-095) where they have confirmed that as a result of the Applicants committing to a restriction on all construction activity and UXO clearance from November to March (inclusive) within the original Liverpool Bay SPA boundary plus a 2km buffer, they are comfortable that <i>“this adequately addresses Natural England’s concerns and request for a full restriction on construction. AEoI can now be ruled out for the red-throated diver and common scoter features of Liverpool Bay SPA”</i>.</p> <p>The Applicants therefore confirm that this matter is closed.</p>

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
		engaging in respect of seasonal restrictions to construction activities, which may resolve Natural England's concerns [REP2-034]. The Ørsted IPs do not have any concerns regarding that course of action.	



## 2.23 Preston City Council

**Table 2.20: REP3-105 – Preston City Council’s Responses to ExQ1**

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants’ response
Q1.1.5	<b>Construction working hours</b> Proposed construction hours are set out in Requirement 14 of Schedule 2A and 2B of the dDCO [REP2-004].	PCC would raise no objection to the proposed amended hours.	The Applicants note PCC’s position concerning construction working hours. As noted during the hearings w/c 28 July, the Applicants will be updating the draft DCO (C1/F06) at Deadline 4 to remove Saturday afternoon working .
Q1.3.1	<b>New/recently consented developments</b> The applicants’ response [REP2-031] to paragraphs 4.6.1 to 4.6.4 of Preston City Council’s written representation [REP1-095] appears to take account of the consented developments at Pheonix Park and Land off Riversway in terms of overall cumulative effects but it is not clear that these consented developments have been assessed in terms of the specific effects of the proposed development upon their users and occupiers. b) Are there any other recent developments, where updates are required to assess the impacts of the proposed development upon their current/future occupiers	No further developments have been granted planning permission since PCC’s submitted statement in January 2025, which would be required to be take into consideration as part of the assessment of the proposed development.	The Applicants note PCC’s confirmation that no further developments have been granted planning permission since those outlined in their Relevant Representation (RR-1775). Phoenix Park was screened into the onshore cumulative assessments (ID820 in Volume 1, Annex 5.5: Cumulative screening matrix and location plan) (APP-039) and assessed within the onshore technical assessments (Volume 3 and Volume 4 of the ES). Land off Riversway was also screened into the onshore cumulative assessments (ID1 in Volume 1, Annex 5.5: Cumulative screening matrix and location plan) (APP-039) and assessed within the onshore technical assessments (Volume 3 and Volume 4 of the ES).

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
Q2.1.6	<p>Article 2 (Development consent etc. granted by the Order)</p> <p>a) This article would grant development consent for both projects, subject to development consent being granted for the associated generation assets. Notwithstanding that paragraphs (2) and (3) may be removed as appropriate if the generation assets are granted prior to the making of the Order, is the current drafting of these paragraphs suitably robust and enforceable for its intended purpose</p>	PCC recommend that the reference is made to the Development Consent Orders, which have been applied for in Article 2.	The Applicants note PCC's agreement with the Applicants that Article 3 is suitably robust and enforceable for its intended purpose.
Q2.1.17	<p>Article 36 (Trees subject to tree preservation orders (TPO))</p> <p>Paragraph 1.10.1.2 of the Tree survey and arboricultural impact assessment – Part 1 of 2 [APP-128] says that at the time of submission, there is currently no impact on TPO trees. Bearing in mind paragraph 22.3 of Advice Note Fifteen: drafting Development Consent Orders, does this remain to be the position? If there are not TPO trees likely to be affected, is this article necessary and, if it is, should there be provision for consent to be required prior to any works to, currently unknown, trees subject to a TPO?</p>	PCC can confirm that there are no tree preservation orders within its district area that would be affected by the proposed development.	The Applicants note this response.

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
Q2.3.3		The matters raised in this question will be addressed within the Statement of Common Ground.	The Applicants are seeking to arrange a meeting with Preston City Council. However, they note the response and look forward to receiving comments regarding the requirements on Schedule 2A & 2B of the dDCO.
Q2.4.1		The matters raised in this question will be addressed within the Statement of Common Ground.	The Applicants note the response and look forward to receiving comments regarding the procedure for the approval of reserved matters under the requirements and any related appeals under Schedule 12 of the dDCO. The Applicants are seeking to arrange a meeting with Preston City Council.
Q3.1.1	<b>Commitments</b> Project Commitment (CoT) 33 [REP2-011] states "An Outline Dust Management Plan (DMP) has been prepared as part of the Outline CoCP and submitted as part of the application for development consent. Detailed CoCP(s) will be developed in accordance with the Outline CoCP. The measures in the detailed DMP(s) will accord with guidance set out by the Institute of Air Quality guidance Management (IAQM, 2024) where appropriate and practicable, and will include measures for monitoring and reporting dust levels, and dust suppression and mitigation measures during construction and operation."	PCC consider this to be adequate with regards to dust suppression and monitoring, but request that dust monitoring and management information is provided or made available upon request.	The Applicants welcome this response and will share dust monitoring and management information if requested during the construction phase.

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
	b) Do you consider this approach to be adequate?		
Q3.1.3	<p>Air quality assessment baseline Air quality assessment baseline in the Environmental Statement (ES) Air quality (9.6.1.6) [APP-121] states that "Concentrations measured during 2020 and 2021 may have been affected by the COVID-19 lockdowns and are not therefore necessarily representative of current concentrations as outlined in the IAQM Position Statement on 'Use of 2020 and 2021 Monitoring Datasets' (IAQM, 2021). Nevertheless, measured concentrations have been considered to ensure the assessment is conservative. Is this information representative of the current air quality baseline, given it was predominantly gathered during the COVID19 pandemic when air quality data could have been disproportionately affected?</p>	<p>PCC's Environmental Health Officer confirmed that a best practice approach has been taken in Environmental Statement in relation to air quality. On this basis, the Local Planning Authority considers that the information submitted is satisfactory for the PCC district area.</p>	<p>The Applicants note PCC's confirmation that a best practice approach has been taken in regards to air quality data and the associated assessment.</p>
Q3.1.7	<p><b>Air quality effects during construction</b></p> <p>NPS EN-1 paragraph 5.7.9 states that construction should be undertaken in a way that reduces emissions, such as the use of low emission mobile plant during construction as appropriate, and that consideration should be given to making this mandatory in DCO</p>	<p>PCC considers that this should be a mandatory requirement.</p>	<p>It is the Applicants' view that a commitment to low emission vehicles or plant should not be mandatory as the detailed measures would be contractor specific. Defra's LAQM.TG (2022) provides example measures which would be developed further, where appropriate and practicable, within the detailed CoCP(s) as secured by Requirement 8 of Schedules 2A and 2B of the draft DCO (REP3-009). The Applicants would refer PCC to REP3-056 for their full responses to questions 3.1.7.</p>

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
	requirements. a) Should this be a mandatory requirement, and if not, why not		
Q6.1.10	<p>Commitments CoT16 [REP2-010] states "All vegetation requiring removal will be undertaken outside of the bird breeding season. If this is not reasonably practicable, the vegetation requiring removal will be subject to a nesting bird check by a suitably qualified ecological clerk of works. If nesting birds are present, the vegetation will not be removed until the young have fledged or the nest failed."</p> <p>b) Do you consider the proposed wording to be adequate</p>	<p>PCC consider the above wording to be satisfactory. However, we would advise the following requirement is added: If bird nesting habitats are discovered, detailed bird nest surveys by a suitably experienced ecologist shall be carried out immediately prior to works and written confirmation provided that no active bird nests are present, which has been agree in writing by the Local Planning Authority.</p>	<p>The Applicants note this response. However, the CoT16 as it is currently drafted is considered to be sufficiently robust to protect birds during the breeding season and it is therefore proposed that the commitment is not updated at this stage.</p>
Q6.1.11	<p>Commitments CoT31 [REP2-010] states "Ponds identified during the route planning and site selection process have been avoided where possible. During construction any newly identified ponds will be avoided through micro-siting of the onshore export cable corridor and 400 kV grid connection cable corridor where reasonably practicable."</p> <p>b) Do you consider the proposed wording to be adequate?</p>	<p>PCC consider the word to be satisfactory, but should also include the requirement for replacement ponds where ponds are to be lost.</p>	<p>The Applicants note PCC's comment.</p> <p>Where it is not reasonably practicable or possible to micro-site around a newly identified pond within the Order Limits, the ECoW will determine the nature conservation value of the pond to agree on an appropriate course of action. For example, if it is a newly dug pond with limited aquatic life and marginal vegetation, a commitment to post-construction re-instatement may be sufficient to mitigate any harm. Where higher ecological value ponds are identified (in the professional judgement of the ECoW) that cannot be avoided, further compensatory pond(s) may be incorporated within the existing mitigation land within the Order Limits. Further pre-construction surveys of the pond(s) may be undertaken as necessary to inform the evaluation of nature conservation value.</p>

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
			The Applicants would also like to highlight that they have made a commitment (CoT92 of Volume 1, Annex 5.3: Commitments Register of the ES (REP3-013) to join the Lancashire District Level Licensing (DLL) Scheme in relation to Great Crested Newts. As part of the DLL scheme compensation ponds will be created by Natural England. This is secured by Requirement 12 of Schedules 2A & 2B of the draft development consent order (REP3-009).
Q6.1.13	<p>Commitments CoT101 [REP2-010] states "Where high concentrations of peat are identified these, will be avoided where practicably possible for the placement of the plant and infrastructure to avoid the possibility of ground gas build up. Where this is not possible, further investigation and appropriate monitoring will be identified undertaken, if necessary".</p> <p>c) Do you consider the proposed wording to be adequate?</p>	PCC consider that specific reference to the Outline Soil Management Plan should be included.	<p>The Applicants note this response. However, it is considered that the soil management plan would not be an appropriate location for information related to ground gas to be considered as the soil management plan is focussed on the handling of peat and not ground gas build up. Ground gas build up might be considered a risk where permanent buildings or other enclosed spaces were to be placed above areas with significant peat deposits. For the Transmission Assets, this would only relate to the onshore substations. The Applicants note that soil surveys undertaken (as reported in Volume 3, Annex 6.2: Agricultural land classification survey results (APP-106)) have not identified any high concentrations of peat in the onshore substation sites. Therefore, ground gas is not considered to be a risk. The Applicants have amended its commitment CoT101 such that where gas monitoring is undertaken, the results will be used to inform the detailed design of the permanent infrastructure as appropriate.</p>
Q6.1.14	<p><b>Commitments</b></p> <p>CoT126 [REP2-010] "To mitigate for potential temporary habitat loss associated with Mill Brook Valley Biological Heritage Site, temporary construction compounds will be</p>	PCC concur with the comments made by FBC that the wording should be amended to read: To mitigate and compensate for potential temporary habitat loss associated with Mill Brook Valley	The Applicants note PCC's comment and will actively engage with them through the SoCG process in regards to this. The Applicants would like to confirm that mitigation measures specific to Mill Brook Valley BHS have been

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
	micro-sited to avoid the site wherever reasonably practicable.” a) Define “wherever reasonably practicable”. b) Explain how you will mitigate for potential temporary habitat loss if it’s not deemed “reasonably practicable”. c) Do you consider the proposed wording to be adequate	Biological Heritage Site, temporary construction compounds will be micro-sited to avoid the site wherever reasonably practicable, and mitigation and compensation measures will be proposed if avoidance is not reasonably practicable.	added in Section 1.6 to the Outline Ecological Management Plan (J6/F04).
Q11.1.6	<b>Interim trial trenching report</b> Paragraph 1.1.2.1 of the Interim trial trenching report [APP-103] explains that, in total, 222 trenches have been proposed across the onshore infrastructure area and that, as of August 2024, 139 trenches have been investigated. It goes on to say that further trial trenching and geoarchaeological investigation will be undertaken post consent and prior to construction. Paragraph 1.2.2.1 states that, to date, the evaluation has comprised the excavation of 73 of the 222 trenches proposed. d) To what extent does the shortfall in the evaluation of trial trenching ahead of the assessment, weaken the overall findings in the ES in relation to onshore archaeology? Please explain your reasoning	PCC would refer consideration of issues relating to archaeology to Lancashire County Council who are the authority for the Historic Environment in Lancashire.	The Applicants note this comment.
Q14.1.10	<b>Commitments</b> CoT18 [REP2-010] states “Core working hours for the construction of the intertidal and onshore works	PCC would agree with the ExA’s suggestion that works, outside of the core hours secured by Requirement 14 (Schedules 2A and	The Applicants note PCC’s position concerning construction outside of core hours and can confirm that Requirement 14 of Schedules 2A and 2B of the draft DCO (REP3-009) was updated to reflect this at deadline 3, as noted in the



Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
	<p>will be as follows: • Monday to Saturday: 07:00 - 19:00 hours; and • up to one hour before and after core working hours for mobilisation ("mobilisation period") i.e. 06:00 to 20:00. Activities carried out during the mobilisation period will not generate significant noise levels (such as piling, or other such noisy activities). In circumstances outside of core working practices, specific works may have to be undertaken outside the core working hours. This will include, but is not limited to, works being undertaken within and/or adjacent to Blackpool Airport and cable installation at landfall and at the River Ribble. Advance notice of such works will be given to the relevant planning authority." In relation to the statement "Advance notice of such works will be given to the relevant planning authority."</p> <p>a) Is it sufficient for the local authorities that advance notice will be given or should this be changed so that works, outside of the core hours secured by Requirement 14 (Schedules 2A and 2B) in the dDCO, are to be agreed with the relevant planning authority in writing in advance and must be carried out within the agreed times?</p>	<p>2B) in the dDCO, are to be agreed with the relevant planning authority in writing in advance and must be carried out within the agreed times.</p>	<p>Applicants' response to the Examining Authority's written questions (REP3-056).</p>

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
Q14.1.13	<b>Construction noise</b> Paragraph 1.2.2 of the Outline construction noise and vibration management plan [APP-196] covers the erection of physical barriers: a) Are you satisfied with the proposed process? b) Should timings be specified in relation to advance notification where consultation is required?	PCC consider the proposed process is satisfactory and that the timings should be specified within any advance notification.	The Applicants welcome PCC's confirmation that the proposed process is satisfactory. The Applicants will continue to engage with PCC in regards to the Outline Noise and Vibration Management Plan (APP-196). However, the Applicants would like to highlight that Paragraph 1.2.2 states <i>Appropriate barrier locations will be identified by the Applicants in consultation with the relevant authority considering the methods of construction to be used.</i> The locations will be included as part of the detailed Noise and Vibration Management Plan(s) which PCC will be a consultee on where appropriate.
Q14.1.15	<b>Construction noise</b> Outline construction noise and vibration management plan [APP-196], paragraph 1.2.1.1 states that "In certain circumstances, specific works may have to be undertaken outside the core working hours to maintain time critical activities. Where applicable, these activities will be notified to the relevant planning authority at least 48-hours' notice in advance of the works." a) Is a minimum of 48-hours' notice of advance of the works sufficient?	PCC would consider this to be satisfactory.	The Applicants welcome PCC's confirmation at the proposed timing for the notification of works occurring outside of the core working hours is satisfactory.

## 2.24 Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)

**Table 2.21: REP3-106 – RNLI’s Notes of meeting between Morgan & Morecambe Transmission Assets Project and the RNLI**

Reference	IP submission	Applicants’ response
REP3-106 106.1	Following a meeting with the applicants on the 27th June the RNLI are content in principle with the measures proposed by the applicant in responding to the concerns previously outlined. A copy of the meeting notes is attached as an agreed summary of that meeting.	The Applicants note this comment and can confirm that the meeting notes attached to the RNLI Deadline 3 submission (REP3-106) are agreed.
REP3-106 106.2	The RNLI has provided further technical information so that the applicant can assess the likely weight impact of the lifeboat and its launch equipment on the buried cables.	The Applicants thank the RNLI for the provision of the requested technical information.
REP3-106 106.3	In order to ensure operational safety and efficiency the RNLI should be embodied as a contact within the proposed Communications Plan, particularly during cable laying and installation works.	The Applicants note this comment. The Outline Communications Plan (REP3-020) was updated at Deadline 3 to include the RNLI under section 1.3 ‘Communications Plan Framework’.
REP3-106 106.4	The applicant is to provide further information in due course concerning the exact positions of the cable coffer dams, to ensure that adequate spacing has been provided to enable recovery of the lifeboat between the sets of coffer dam inlets, and that sufficient space is retained to enable recovery east of the coffer dams and between them and the dunes. Adequate and unimpeded access space for lifeboat recovery should be provided at all times during and after the construction works.	<p>The Applicants have agreed that the final positions of the cofferdams can be provided to the RNLI once the project design has been finalised post-consent. This will be undertaken as part of the commitment to engagement with the RNLI secured in the Outline Communications Plan (REP3-020), as discussed above. Additionally, CoT44 in the Commitments Register (REP3-013) secures that <i>“The exit pits associated with the direct pipe installation will be at least 100m seaward of the western boundary of the Lytham St Annes SSSI”</i> which will ensure that there is sufficient space for the RNLI to transit along the beach between the cofferdams and the sand dunes.</p> <p>The Applicants will engage further with the RNLI to determine whether the above closes out this matter.</p>

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
REP3-106 106.5	The RNLI has also raised an issue concerning potential damage liability about which the applicant is seeking further guidance.	<p>The Applicants note this comment. During the meeting between the Applicants and the RNLI on 27 June 2025, and as set out in the agreed meeting notes attached to REP3-106, the Applicants were informed that the RNLI recover the Lytham St. Annes lifeboat on the shore directly in front of the Thursby/ Century care home. The Applicants explained that as the export cables will be routed around the care home (with the care home not being within the Order Limits), there is a natural gap on the beach in front of the care home where cables would not be routed, which corresponds with the location where the lifeboat is recovered. The RNLI agreed that this addressed the matter of recovering their lifeboat but raised a concern regarding liability if they were to damage one of the export cables during the recovery process.</p> <p>The Applicants acknowledge the RNLI's concerns but consider that provisions against damage liability are not required for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Applicants have committed to bury cables wherever possible (and where not possible, to protect them with cable protection) in order to mitigate the potential risk to safety of navigation This is set out in Commitment CoT54 of the Commitments Register which states that <i>"An Outline Offshore Cable Specification and Installation Plan (CSIP) includes for cable burial to be the preferred option for cable protection, where practicable. Detailed CSIP(s) will be developed in accordance with the Outline CSIP"</i>.</li> <li>• Regarding the intertidal zone, CoT114 states that <i>"All permanent infrastructure located between Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) and Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) will be buried to a target depth of 3 metres, subject to further pre-construction surveys to be reported within Detailed Cable Burial Risk Assessments (CBRAs). An Outline CBRA has been prepared and submitted with the application for development consent"</i>.</li> <li>• To ensure that the export cables remain buried / protected, the Applicants have committed to monitoring of cable burial status throughout the life of the development. CoT45 states that (our emphasis added) <i>"The Outline Offshore Cable Specification and Installation Plan (CSIP) for the Fylde MCZ includes details of cable burial depths, cable protection, and cable monitoring. The Outline CSIP also includes an Outline Cable Burial Risk Assessment (CBRA). Detailed CSIP(s) and CBRA(s) will be prepared by the Applicants covering the full extent of their respective offshore export cable corridors. Detailed CSIPs will be developed in accordance with the Outline CSIP and will <b>ensure safe</b></i></li> </ul>

Reference	IP submission	Applicants' response
		<p><b>navigation is not compromised</b> including consideration of under keel clearance. No more than 5% reduction in water depth (referenced to Chart Datum) will occur at any point on the offshore export cable corridor route without prior written approval from the licencing authority in consultation with the MCA and Trinity House". The submission for approval by the MMO in consultation with the MCA of the CSIP (in accordance with the Outline CSIP) and proposals for monitoring cables are secured in the draft DCO under Schedule 14, Condition 18(e) and Schedule 15 Condition 18 (e).</p> <p>It is therefore the Applicants' position that they have secured the commitments to bury cables (or protect there where burial is not possible) and monitor their burial status to ensure that safe navigation is not compromised. The Applicants are aware that the RNLI launch and recover their lifeboat in and around the proposed location of export cable landfall, <b>which is the Applicants' risk to address</b>, and will take this into consideration when undertaking the detailed CBRA and CSIP post-consent (should consent be granted). On this basis, it is the Applicants' position that indemnity for the RNLI against any damage to the Applicants export cables are not required.</p> <p>The Applicants will engage further with the RNLI to determine whether the above closes out this matter.</p>
REP3-106 106.6	The RNLI appreciates the Applicants positive involvement in reconciling these various issues and is content to remain in discussion with the applicant over outstanding matters.	The Applicants welcome this comment and will continue to engage with the RNLI with the aim of resolving outstanding matters, as set out above.

## 2.25 SABIC UK Petrochemicals Limited and SABIC Petrochemicals BV (SABIC)

**Table 2.22: REP3-107 – SABIC’s Deadline 3 Submission**

Reference	IP submission	Applicants’ response
REP3-107 107.1	Since submitting its Detailed Written Representation at Deadline 1, SABIC has announced the decision to permanently close its ethylene manufacturing plant (the Cracker) on Teesside. As a result of the publicity surrounding this announcement, it is anticipated that the Examining Authority may have some questions around how the closure will affect SABIC’s operations and its concerns as set out in its Detailed Written Representation: 1. SABIC’s announcement does not affect the LDPE Plant or SABIC’s pipelines. 2. Specifically, SABIC remains and will remain the operator of the TPEP and, notwithstanding the closure of the Cracker, SABIC’s case in respect of the need to protect the TPEP (and the broader UK ethylene production and supply industry) remains unchanged.	The Applicants thank SABIC for the listed confirmations and have no further comment in respect of its response.

**Table 2.23: REP3-108 – SABIC’S Reply to Applicants’ Response to its Written Representation**

Reference	Issue Ref REP1-195	Applicants’ Response to WR	IP submission	Applicants’ response
REP3-108 108.1	195.1	The Applicants thank SABIC UK Petrochemicals Limited and SABIC Petrochemicals BV (SABIC) for its written representation and its continued engagement and hope that this will lead to agreement on protective provisions and a Statement of Common Ground.	N/A	<p>The Applicants note that engagement on protective provisions continues and is progressing towards agreement.</p> <p>SABIC and the Applicants met to discuss the protective provisions , and SABIC’s residual concern with their drafting, on 28 July 2025. Following this, the Applicants</p>

Reference	Issue Ref REP1-195	Applicants' Response to WR	IP submission	Applicants' response
				<p>provided updated drafting to SABIC on 5 August 2025.</p> <p>The Applicants note that the outstanding points in the drafting of the protective provisions are limited and centre on negotiating the approval zone distances , and insurance cap figures.</p> <p>The Applicants echo SABIC's sentiment and remain confident that agreement on the protective provisions can be accomplished during examination.</p>
REP3-108 108.2	195.2	<p>The Applicants note the overview provided by SABIC of its operations, including the Cracker at Wilton, the North Tees Site, the Trans Pennine Ethylene Pipeline (TPEP), and the Wilton to Grangemouth Ethylene Pipeline (WGEP), as well as the broader national ethylene network. The Applicants acknowledge SABIC's concerns regarding the national importance of the ethylene production and distribution system and its position that robust protections are required for the TPEP. The Applicants confirm that they have been engaging with SABIC to understand the nature of its assets and operations and to develop bespoke protective provisions, which reflect the interactions between the Transmission Assets and SABIC's assets. As set out in the Land Rights Tracker (REP1-065), the Applicants updated Part 3 of Schedule 10 of the draft Development</p>	N/A	N/A



Reference	Issue Ref REP1-195	Applicants' Response to WR	IP submission	Applicants' response
		<p>Consent Order (DCO) (REP1-008) at Deadline 1 to reflect the fact that these protective provisions are for the protection of SABIC.</p> <p>The Applicants will continue to work with SABIC to develop and agree suitable protective provisions for inclusion in the draft DCO (C1/F04), with a view to ensuring appropriate safeguards for SABIC's infrastructure while enabling delivery of the Transmission Assets.</p>		
REP3-108 108.3	195.3	<p>The Applicants note the detailed information provided by SABIC regarding its regulatory obligations under the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015 and Pipelines Safety Regulations 1996, the designation of the TPEP as a Major Accident Hazard Pipeline and the operational and safety context of SABIC's business. The Applicants acknowledge the importance of ensuring that the TPEP and associated assets are protected during the construction and operation of the Transmission Assets.</p> <p>C as pipeline operator to prepare a major accident prevention document (MAPD). In respect of any health and safety arrangements or procedures described in the MAPD, SABIC must "ensure that those arrangements or procedures are followed". Protective provisions are required for SABIC to ensure that it is able to continue</p>	N/A	N/A

Reference	Issue Ref REP1-195	Applicants' Response to WR	IP submission	Applicants' response
		<p>to comply with this duty. 4.2.3 Regulation 25 PSR also places a duty on the local authority to prepare an emergency plan in respect of MAHPs. 4.2.4 Regulation 15 of PSR provides that no person should cause damage to a pipeline and is aimed at third parties carrying out work around pipelines. 4.2.5 Because it is an underground pipeline the TPEP is protected by a coating as well as cathodic protection which can be affected by electrical interference. 4.2.6 When planning any new works in close proximity to the pipelines, SABIC requires as much advance notice as possible, so that they can agree safe working conditions and ensure that they comply with their duties. SABIC requires that it is notified of any works within 50 metres either side of the pipeline. Cases where it is not notified are pipeline infringements and are considered to be a "near miss". 4.2.7 It follows that protective provisions are needed so that SABIC can approve works details and also to ensure that the Applicant monitors for damage during the works and that both parties are able to discharge their duties under the PSR. 4.3 Diversion 4.3.1 It is important to understand the technical and engineering difficulties of carrying out any works which might require the diversion of even a short section of the TPEP. 4.3.2 The TPEP is designed to transmit ethylene directly and swiftly over a long distance. Although it is periodically joined to other links and spurs to Holford and</p>		

Reference	Issue Ref REP1-195	Applicants' Response to WR	IP submission	Applicants' response
		Carrington, those links are infrequent. The Applicants confirm that the protective provisions at Part 3 of Schedule 10 of the draft DCO (C1/F04) include provisions for working methods, appropriate notice periods and ongoing engagement with SABIC as operator of the TPEP, as well as clear restrictions and safeguards in relation to the exercise of such powers in respect of protected land and pipelines. The Applicants will continue to engage with SABIC with regards to bespoke amendments to address SABIC's specific concerns.		
REP3-108 108.4	195.4	The Applicants note SABIC's position regarding the split ownership of its assets and inventory, and its request that indemnity and insurance provisions reflect this arrangement. The Applicants are engaging with SABIC on these matters as part of the discussions on the protective provisions.	N/A	N/A
REP3-108 108.5	195.5	The Applicants are committed to continued engagement with SABIC to ensure its concerns are addressed and that the Transmission Assets can proceed in a way that minimises impacts on existing businesses and infrastructure	The Applicants' comments are welcome.	<p>Please see the Applicant's comments in respect of Reference 195.1 above.</p> <p>The Applicants are liaising with SABIC to secure agreed protective provisions which will adequately protect SABIC's interests and infrastructure where they interact with the DCO.</p> <p>These provisions include clauses relating to approval of works, construction methodology and restrictions, clearance</p>

Reference	Issue Ref REP1-195	Applicants' Response to WR	IP submission	Applicants' response
				requirements and monitoring for damage. The Applicants note, for the sake of clarity, there is alignment between the parties related to the need for all such necessary provisions.
REP3-108 108.6	195.6	<p>The Applicants note the detailed safety and engineering requirements outlined by SABIC in relation to works near the TPEP. The Applicants confirm that protective provisions for the protection of pipelines, including the TPEP, are already included at Part 3 of Schedule 10 of the draft DCO (C1/F04).</p> <p>These provisions require the Applicant to adopt appropriate working methods, provide advance notice of works, engage with SABIC and implement safeguards for pipeline infrastructure during construction. The Applicants are reviewing the additional draft protective provisions submitted by SABIC and will continue to engage with SABIC with regards to bespoke amendments to address SABIC's specific concerns.</p>	N/A	N/A
REP3-108 108.7	195.7	<p>The Applicants note SABIC's concerns regarding the proposed permanent environmental mitigation works in the vicinity of the TPEP. As noted in the Applicants' response to SABIC's relevant representation (Table 2.103 of PDA-007), the detailed design of the measures at the permanent mitigation area south of Newton-with Scales will take into account</p>	<p>The Applicants' response indicates that they will take into account SABIC's TPEP Infrastructure in the detailed design of the permanent mitigation area south of Newton-with Scales. SABIC's concern is that there is no formal mechanism in place to ensure that this takes place. Given the nature of its apparatus, and the reduction in soil cover which would result from a wader scrape,</p>	<p>The Applicants acknowledge SABIC's points in respect of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SABIC's TPEP infrastructure and its clearance requirements;</li> </ul>

Reference	Issue Ref REP1-195	Applicants' Response to WR	IP submission			Applicants' response																													
		<p>SABICs TPEP infrastructure. Further, the Applicants refer to row 1917.5 in Table 2.103 of PDA-007, which sets out how the draft DCO (C1/F04).</p> <p>controls the Applicants' compulsory acquisition and other powers in relation to apparatus or land owned by SABIC. As outlined above, the Applicants confirm that the protective provisions for the protection of pipelines, including the TPEP, are already included at Part 3 of Schedule 10 of the draft DCO (C1/F04). These provisions ensure the safety and integrity of pipeline infrastructure during the delivery of all Transmission Assets works, including environmental mitigation measures. The Applicants are reviewing the additional draft protective provisions submitted by SABIC and will continue to engage with SABIC to address its specific concerns, while ensuring the delivery of the Transmission Assets, including the environmental mitigation works, in accordance with detailed Ecological Management Plan(s), which will be informed by the Outline Ecological Management Plan (APP-212).</p>	<p>SABIC does not consider that it would be appropriate to install any part of the wader scrapes within 6 metres of any part of the TPEP to avoid the potential for erosion or land slip from that point to ingress towards the pipeline. It also considers that there should be an enforceable mechanism to ensure that the hedgerow planting accords with the restrictions set out in the below table:</p> <table><tr><th>Distance from Pipeline</th><th>Species</th><th>Mature Height</th></tr><tr><td rowspan="4">No restriction</td><td>Heather</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>Grass</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>Pasture Crops</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>Bracken</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="8">1.5 metres min (sched 'A')</td><td>Blackthorn</td><td>4m</td></tr><tr><td>Broom</td><td>2m</td></tr><tr><td>Hazel</td><td>9m</td></tr><tr><td>Laurel</td><td>6m</td></tr><tr><td>Privet</td><td>3m</td></tr><tr><td>Rhododendron</td><td>6m</td></tr><tr><td>Snowberry</td><td>2m</td></tr><tr><td>Other ornamental shrubs</td><td>-</td></tr></table>			Distance from Pipeline	Species	Mature Height	No restriction	Heather	-	Grass	-	Pasture Crops	-	Bracken	-	1.5 metres min (sched 'A')	Blackthorn	4m	Broom	2m	Hazel	9m	Laurel	6m	Privet	3m	Rhododendron	6m	Snowberry	2m	Other ornamental shrubs	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The appropriateness of the Applicants detailed design environmental mitigations accounting for this;</li><li>- Appropriate hedgerow planting; and</li><li>- Enforceability.</li></ul> <p>As confirmed at Issue Specific Hearing 3 (S_D4_7) and Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 2 (S_D4_8), the Applicants have discussed these points with SABIC on 28 July 2025. The Parties are addressing these points through the protective provisions, and the latest drafting has incorporated SABIC's feedback.</p> <p>The Applicants will continue to work with SABIC with the intention of arriving at a workable position for the Parties. As noted above, the Applicants are confident the protective provisions can be agreed in the course of the examination.</p>
Distance from Pipeline	Species	Mature Height																																	
No restriction	Heather	-																																	
	Grass	-																																	
	Pasture Crops	-																																	
	Bracken	-																																	
1.5 metres min (sched 'A')	Blackthorn	4m																																	
	Broom	2m																																	
	Hazel	9m																																	
	Laurel	6m																																	
	Privet	3m																																	
	Rhododendron	6m																																	
	Snowberry	2m																																	
	Other ornamental shrubs	-																																	

Reference	Issue Ref REP1-195	Applicants' Response to WR	IP submission			Applicants' response
			3 Metres min. (Schedule 'B')	Birch Crab Apple Elder Hawthorn Holly Pear Rowan Whitebeam Cherry Other Ornamental and Amenity Trees	30m 9m 9m 14m 20m 15m 20m 24m 12m -	
			6 Metres min. (Schedule 'C')	Alder Ash Beech Cedar Chestnut Elm Fir Larch Lime London Plane Oak Pine Spruce Sycamore	22m 40m 36m 25m 35m 36m 55m 38m 40m 30m 35m 36m 40m 35m	

Reference	Issue Ref REP1-195	Applicants' Response to WR	IP submission			Applicants' response
			10 Metres min.	Poplar Willow	33m 24m	
REP3-108 108.8	195.8	The Applicants acknowledge SABIC's position regarding the scope of powers sought. The Applicants are not seeking to extinguish or divert the TPEP. Any rights sought in relation to SABIC's land or apparatus would be governed by protective provisions in SABIC's favour, as set out in the protective provisions in Part 3 of Schedule 10 to the draft DCO (C1/F04). The Applicants continue to engage with SABIC to finalise the drafting.	SABIC welcomes the Applicants' confirmation that it is not seeking to extinguish or divert the TPEP, however the Order and protective provisions in their current form would allow this to occur.  SABIC will explore with the Applicant whether it is their intention to completely remove powers (or to agree not to exercise them).			The Applicants believe that the protective provisions s, which are currently in active negotiation between the parties, address the concerns raised by SABIC. When the Applicants and SABIC reach agreement on the protective provisions, the agreed draft will be incorporated into the draft DCO (REP3-009).
REP3-108 108.9	195.9	The Applicants note SABIC's support for the principle of guarantees and securities in Article 33 of the draft DCO (C1/F04) and its concerns regarding the process for assessing the adequacy of security and compensation liabilities. The Applicants confirm that Article 33 provides protection for affected parties by ensuring that Morgan OWL and Morecambe OWL cannot exercise key powers of compulsory acquisition, including those under Article 22 (compulsory acquisition of rights) and Article 29 (temporary use of land for carrying out the authorised project), unless and until the Secretary of State has approved the amount of any guarantee or alternative form of security, or confirmed that no such security is required. This	The Applicant has confirmed that the approval process in Article 33 is designed to allow the Secretary of State to assess the adequacy of the security, based on financial information provided by the Applicants.  Article 33 does not make provision for this information to be supplied to the Secretary of State. Nor does it require the Applicant to make enquiries of landowners as to the knock-on effect of the acquisition of rights.  SABIC is concerned about two main issues: 1. A situation where the Applicant undervalues the likely compensation due to SABIC's because it fails to understand the compensation consequences of extinguishing its rights; or			The Applicants consider that the drafting of Article 33 is well precedented. It is implicit in the drafting of Article 33 that the requisite information must be provided to the Secretary of State. Without the requisite information being provided, the Secretary of State would not be able to approve the form or amount of the guarantee or security that must be put in place by Morgan and Morecambe before they exercise compulsory acquisition and temporary possession powers (amongst others).  Should the Secretary of State decide that the information provided by either Morgan or Morecambe is not sufficient, then they



Reference	Issue Ref REP1-195	Applicants' Response to WR	IP submission	Applicants' response
		approval process enables the Secretary of State to make an informed and objective assessment of the adequacy of the security, based on financial information provided by the Applicants. As confirmed in the Property Cost Estimates (PCE) at Annexes 1 and 2 of the Funding Statement (APP-009 and APP-010) costs for utility apparatus such as pipelines (which would include the TPEP) are not included in the figures referred to by SABIC. Compensation for impacts on SABIC's assets, including any extinguishment or suspension of rights, would therefore be determined under the Protective Provisions at Part 3 of Schedule 10 of the draft DCO (C1/F04). These provisions prevent the Applicants from exercising powers under Articles 22 or 29 in relation to the SABIC's assets (including the TPEP) without SABIC's consent, agreement via arbitration, or deemed consent mechanisms.	2. A situation arising whereby the Applicant does not anticipate taking SABIC's rights when it gets authorisation, but then requires them due to engineering difficulties. It is also concerned about a situation where	<p>would be prevented from exercising the powers listed under article 33(3) until the SoS is satisfied. This could include a request for further information to be provided, however, this would be for the Secretary of State to determine. Notwithstanding this, the Applicants remain confident that they would be able to provide the appropriate compensation to SABIC, should the need arise. The Applicants direct SABIC to the updated funding statements and annexes (D1/F02).</p> <p>The Applicants also discussed this concern with SABIC on 28 July 2025 and the Applicants consider that amendments to the protective provisions can be made to address SABIC's concerns. As noted above, the Applicants are confident the protective provisions can be agreed in the course of the examination and are continuing to engage with them on this matter.</p>
REP3-108 108.10	195.10	The Applicants acknowledge SABIC's concerns regarding the scope of Article 13. While Article 13 provides a general power to temporarily restrict or manage streets, its exercise over any street not listed in Schedules 4A and 4B of the draft DCO (C1/F04) is subject to the consent of the relevant street authority (which may impose reasonable conditions) under	SABIC thanks the Applicant for its helpful explanation.	N/A

Reference	Issue Ref REP1-195	Applicants' Response to WR	IP submission	Applicants' response
		Article 13(6)(b) of the draft DCO (C1/F04). This safeguard ensures that the power to restrict or manage streets is controlled and appropriately limited. In addition, the protective provisions at Part 3 of Schedule 10 of the draft DCO (C1/F04) provide strong safeguards for access to pipelines and protected land, including specific requirements to consult with SABIC and others on construction access plans, manage construction to minimise impacts on access, and ensure continued access to protected assets. The Applicants consider these provisions ensure that access to SABIC's assets is properly protected.		
REP3-108 108.11	195.11	As set out above, the Applicants confirm that Part 3 of Schedule 10 of the draft DCO (C1/F04) contains protective provisions for the benefit of SABIC's assets, including the TPEP. These provisions address matters such as working methods, access, safety measures and restrictions on the exercise of powers including compulsory acquisition, temporary possession and extinguishment of rights. The Applicants note that SABIC has provided its standard protective provisions for pipelines and confirm that these are being reviewed. The Applicants will continue to engage with SABIC with a view to agreeing bespoke protective provisions that are suitable and adequate to address SABIC's concerns prior to the close of examination.	Engagement between the parties continues on the terms of protective provisions.	Please see the Applicant's response in Reference 195.1 above. The Applicants have no further comment.



## 2.26 South Ribble Borough Council

**Table 2.24: REP3-109 – South Ribble Borough Council’s Responses to ExQ1**

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants’ response
Q1.1.2	<p><b>Cable Corridor</b></p> <p>The Examining Authority (ExA) notes that the construction of the two separate 400kV grid connection corridors [AS-017] leading towards Penwortham substation would involve construction across, in places, steeply sloping land. Are any specific construction work methods necessary in these locations to deal with the gradients and are any particular mitigation and management measures proposed, including in respect of existing trees, hedges and general landscape maintenance?</p>	<p>When dealing with the alteration of gradient levels in proximity to trees identified for retention, it is important that levels remain unchanged within the root protection area of the trees. Any development works within the root protection area of trees should be undertaken in accordance with BS5837 2012 and addressed within the Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Arboriculture Method Statement which should include any specialist temporary installation criteria for temporary tree protection measures/any permanent installation of tree protection/foundations within the root protection area of trees identified for retention.</p>	<p>The Applicants confirm that the Tree survey and arboricultural impact assessment (APP-128 and APP-129) have been undertaken in accordance with BS5837.</p> <p>It is noted within Section 1.8.2 of Volume 3, Annex 10.5: Tree survey and arboricultural impact assessment (APP-128 and APP-129) that “no activities that result in excavations, changes in level or soil compaction should take place within the root protection area (RPA) of any retained trees, especially older mature trees. This would include the storage of materials, any construction work, trafficking by vehicles or even excessive trafficking by pedestrians”. In addition, the arboricultural impact assessment (APP-128 and APP-129), along with section 1.7.9 of the outline code of construction practice (REP3-018), sets out the tree protection measures for retained trees such as the establishment of construction exclusion zones through the erection of tree protection fencing to minimise the potential for harm to occur to retained trees and avoidance (where possible) of unprotected areas of woodland, mature and protected trees (i.e., veteran trees). These measures are considered to provide appropriate protection for existing trees.</p> <p>An arboricultural method statement will be submitted at Deadline 5 and confirms that all arboricultural works carried out along the transmission route are only undertaken by suitably qualified arboricultural professional and to the standards set out in BS3998:2010.</p>

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
Q1.1.5	<p>Construction Working Hours</p> <p>Proposed construction hours are set out in Requirement 14 of Schedule 2A and 2B of the dDCO [REP2-004]. a) Requirement 14(2) for both projects provides for circumstances where works may take place outside the core working hours specified in 14(1). These include a range of works (a) to (g) including generalised elements such as “where continuous periods of construction are required” and “any other time-critical element”. Whilst noting that provision in 14(3) for such works to be subject to 48 hours’ advance notice to the relevant planning authority, can the applicants provide a more detailed justification for the flexibility sought for the certain works identified in (a) to (g)? b) Noting that core working hours from 7:00am until 7:00pm (Monday to Saturday) are proposed, with an hour before/ after for set-up and close down works, are there any particular locations where the proposed hours including mobilisation activities might be more likely to lead to issues of unreasonable noise and disturbance for local residents and/or other receptors? If so, what reduced working hours would be reasonable in such locations? c) The recent ‘Request for Information’ letter from the</p>	<p>Point B: The applicant proposes working hours of 0700-1900 Monday to Saturday, plus an hour before and after for set-up and close down works (mobilisation); effectively 0600- 2000 hours. When considering noise sensitive receptors (NSR’s) located around the Howick Cross Lane, Penwortham area, these extended hours are more likely to lead to issues of unreasonable noise, disturbance and loss of amenity in a neighbourhood which is primarily extremely tranquil. In such a locale, noise impacts will be more keenly experienced. Restriction of construction/site work start and finish times, and days of operation will allow NSR’s restorative periods of relative peace and quiet, minimise any health impacts from exposure to environmental noise, restrict annoyance, reduce exposure and conserve as much as possible a ‘quiet’ area in line with World Health Organisation guidelines. As per all other construction developments in the South Ribble area, the conditioned hours of construction/site work are requested as between 0800 and 1800 Monday to Friday, and 0900 to 1300 Saturday, with no operation on Sundays/Bank Holidays. This should include ‘mobilisation’ as described above unless such works</p>	<p>The Applicants note South Ribble Borough Council’s (SRBC) position concerning construction working hours. As noted during the hearings w/c 28 July, the Applicants have updated the draft DCO (C1/F06) at Deadline 4 to remove Saturday afternoon working.</p>

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
	Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero regarding the Mona Offshore Wind project (EN010137) requested that the applicant provide, without prejudice, updated documents to refer to more restrictive working hours of 7:00am to 1:00pm on Saturdays. Please comment on this request in relation to the proposed development, including whether the construction working hours should be similarly amended.	would not impact NSR's due to noise.  Point C: Proposed Saturday construction/working hours of between 0900 and 1300 including mobilisation) are considered reasonable and proportionate considering the close proximity of NSR's. Saturdays are part of the weekend period, and as such these times allow use of homes, gardens and outdoor spaces with minimal intrusion or loss of amenity from the proposed works.  Point A for applicants' response only.	
Q1.1.12	<b>Outline Code of Construction Practice</b>  The applicants Outline Code of Construction Practice (oCoCP) [APP-193] presents the framework and outline of measures to manage the environmental impacts during the construction phase of the proposed development. The detailed oCoCP will be supported via a series of management plans (listed in Table 1.1. of the oCoCP), outline versions of which have also been provided with the application. It is therefore an important document for the construction process. Please confirm whether you are satisfied that the oCoCP is sufficiently robust, precise and	The Council considers that this document refers to unreasonable times and days of construction works/operation and should be replaced with those as outlined above in the response to Q1.1.5 Construction Working Hours	Please see the response at Q1.1.5 above.

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
	enforceable to provide effective management and mitigation of potential environmental impacts during the construction phase		
Q1.1.13	<p><b>Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)</b></p> <p>Deadline 3 (7 July 2025) includes the submission of updated SoCG, including summaries of the principal areas of disagreement and statement of commonality. Relevant parties where a SoCG has been requested should fully engage with the SoCG process. The ExA requests fully considered SoCGs including summaries of the principal areas of disagreement. For statutory undertakers, where there is documented evidence that matters, including protective provisions, are agreed and no other matters of disagreement remain, then a statement from parties to this effect would suffice. In the absence of such a statement, where protective provisions are being negotiated and even if agreement is expected to be reached, then a brief and focused SoCG or position paper should be progressed, focusing on the matters where differences remain between the respective parties, rather than an unnecessarily long SoCG. It is not sufficient for these to be just</p>	<p>The applicant has engaged with the Council with regards to the SoCG and has approached its statutory consultees to allow for similar discussion. The date of these meetings would be after closure of Deadline 3, but to date matters identified on the SoCG have been agreed between the applicant and Council as being ongoing points of discussion. This approach is acceptable so far to the Council.</p>	<p>The Applicants can confirm that topic specific SoCG meetings have been held between the Applicants and South Ribble Borough Council. An updated SoCG has been submitted (S_D1_6.5/F02) to reflect the progress to date.</p>



Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
	recorded in the applicants' Land Rights Tracker as this is not a document that is necessarily agreed with the relevant statutory undertaker.		
Q1.3.1	<p><b>New/Recently Consented Developments</b></p> <p>The applicants' response [REP2-031] to paragraphs 4.6.1 to 4.6.4 of Preston City Council's written representation [REP1-095] appears to take account of the consented developments at Pheonix Park and Land off Riversway in terms of overall cumulative effects but it is not clear that these consented developments have been assessed in terms of the specific effects of the proposed development upon their users and occupiers. a) Noting that the Land off Riversway residential development has commenced, can the applicants provide details of their assessment of the impacts of the proposed development upon these receptors, on the basis that they could be in use/occupied prior to the commencement of either Project A or Project B? b) Are there any other recent developments, where updates are required to assess the impacts of the proposed development upon their current/future occupiers</p>	See response to Question Q5.1.28 below	Please see the response at Q5.1.28 below.

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
Q2.1.6	<p><b>Article 2 (Development Consent etc Granted By the Order)</b></p> <p>a) This article would grant development consent for both projects, subject to development consent being granted for the associated generation assets. Notwithstanding that paragraphs (2) and (3) may be removed as appropriate if the generation assets are granted prior to the making of the Order, is the current drafting of these paragraphs suitably robust and enforceable for its intended purpose? b) What would the implications be for this article if the decisions on either the Morgan or Morecambe generation assets were subject to legal challenge? c) The applicants are asked to explain in further detail what happens to each relevant article, if consent is refused for one of the generation assets but granted for the other, to ensure that this DCO would only grant powers to give effect to the one project. d) Further to (c) if one of the generation asset projects not be granted, or not implemented, what would the implications of this be for the works and land plans? Would amended plans need to be submitted to reflect the reduced order limits and order land?</p>	<p>The Council feels that paragraphs 2 and 3 if retained would be suitably robust for their intended purpose, and enforceable (point a). Points B-D for applicants' response only.</p>	<p>The Applicants note SRBC's agreement with the Applicants that Article 3 is suitably robust and enforceable for its intended purpose.</p>

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
Q2.1.17	Article 36 (Trees Subject to Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) Paragraph 1.10.1.2 of the Tree survey and arboricultural impact assessment – Part 1 of 2 [APP-128] says that at the time of submission, there is currently no impact on TPO trees. Bearing in mind paragraph 22.3 of Advice Note Fifteen: drafting Development Consent Orders, does this remain to be the position? If there are not TPO trees likely to be affected, is this article necessary and, if it is, should there be provision for consent to be required prior to any works to, currently unknown, trees subject to a TPO?	It is noted that construction access 19A19B and cable corridor 34A34B are shown on BPGBR-MORG-REG-0185 (APP-167) by ref MGMC141 as running through a protected woodland, but otherwise there do not appear to be any other trees that would warrant protection aside from the existing within South Ribble.	<u>The Applicants note this response however can confirm that this access has runs west of the woodland and it is therefore avoided. MGMC_141 relates to a hedgerow at the field boundary.</u>
Q2.3.3	<b>Hearing Timetable</b> Remaining issues relating to the requirements will be considered at a subsequent issue specific hearing on the dDCO and further written questions if required. In order to provide for the efficient use of hearing time, the local authorities and any other relevant party are requested to consider the drafting of the draft requirements in Schedule 2 (A and B) and provide details of any disagreed matters, along with alternative drafting where applicable and any suggested additional requirements. Where applicable this may be done within the Statement of Common	Notwithstanding Section 4 (Substation works) which lie outside of the South Ribble Planning Authority boundary and as such wording relating to Section 4 has not been checked, the drafting of Schedule 2 (A&B) appears acceptable apart from Section 14 which includes construction hours beyond what is deemed acceptable in inhabited locations. This objection to construction hours has been highlighted in Relevant and Written representation, and also by questions Q1.1.5, Q1.1.12 (above) and Q14.1.10 below.	Please refer to the Applicants' response to Q1.1.5 above.

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
	Ground between the applicants and the relevant interested party		
Q2.4.1	<p><b>Approval of Reserved Matters</b></p> <p>This Schedule sets out a procedure for the approval of reserved matters under the requirements and any related appeals. Set out any relevant comments on the content of Schedule 12. For any elements that are not agreed, provide suggested alternative drafting and the justification for it</p>	<p>Of concern to the Council when assessing Section 12 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 4(3) – 'Where the consultee requires further information, they must notify the discharging authority in writing specifying the further information required within 10 days of receipt of the consultation'. It is extremely unlikely that statutory consultees will respond within 10 days. The standard consultation period is 21 days which due to staffing and resource issues is currently a timescale that many consultees already struggle to adhere to.</li> <li>• Sections 5(1) and 5(2) —'(1) Any consultee who receives a consultation under paragraph 4(3) must respond to that request within 10 days from receipt unless subparagraph (2) of this paragraph applies, or a longer period is agreed with both the undertaker and the discharging authority. (2) Where any consultee requests further information in accordance with the timescales set out in paragraph 4(3) then they must respond to the consultation within 10 working days from the receipt of the further</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicants note SRBC's request to increase the discharge of requirements from 8 weeks to 10 weeks. It was confirmed during the Issue Specific Hearing 3 (ISH3) that the Applicants will be increasing this timescale to 10 weeks and this will be reflected in the draft DCO at Deadline 4 (C1/F06).</p> <p>With regards to the timeframe for consultation, the Applicants confirm that the draft DCO will be updated at Deadline 4 (C1/F06) to increase the timeframe at paragraph 4(3) to 15 business days (noting paragraph 5(1) was increased to 15 business days at Deadline 3).</p>

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
		information requested, or a longer period is agreed with both the undertaker and the discharging authority' – expectation of such a fast turnaround is unacceptable. The Council requests a 21-day consultation period as standard.	
Q3.1.1	Commitments Project Commitment (CoT) 33 [REP2-011] states "An Outline Dust Management Plan (DMP) has been prepared as part of the Outline CoCP and submitted as part of the application for development consent. Detailed CoCP(s) will be developed in accordance with the Outline CoCP. The measures in the detailed DMP(s) will accord with guidance set out by the Institute of Air Quality guidance Management (IAQM, 2024) where appropriate and practicable, and will include measures for monitoring and reporting dust levels, and dust suppression and mitigation measures during construction and operation." a) Define the process of identification of what is considered "where appropriate and practicable"? b) Do you consider this approach to be adequate	Point B: The approach is adequate. Point A is for the applicants' response only.	The Applicants welcome SRBC's confirmation that the approach is adequate.
Q3.1.3	<b>Air Quality Assessment Baseline</b> Air quality assessment baseline in the Environmental Statement (ES) Air quality (9.6.1.6) [APP-121]	Considering the area in South Ribble subjected to possible Air Quality effects arising from the development, use of 2020/2021	The Applicants welcome SRBC's confirmation that the utilisation of the 2020/2021 dataset is representative and fit for purpose.

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
	states that "Concentrations measured during 2020 and 2021 may have been affected by the COVID-19 lockdowns and are not therefore necessarily representative of current concentrations as outlined in the ExQ1 Question to: Question: IAQM Position Statement on 'Use of 2020 and 2021 Monitoring Datasets' (IAQM, 2021). Nevertheless, measured concentrations have been considered to ensure the assessment is conservative." Is this information representative of the current air quality baseline, given it was predominantly gathered during the COVID19 pandemic when air quality data could have been disproportionately affected?	Datasets can be considered representative and fit for purpose.	
Q3.1.4	<b>Meteorological Data Used for Dispersion Modelling</b> Air quality assessment baseline in the ES Air quality chapter [APP-121] Table 9.29 states that "Uncertainties arise from any differences between the conditions at the met station and the development site, and between the historical met years and the future years. These have been minimised by using meteorological data collated at a representative measuring site. The model has been run for a full year of	Point C: The Council is satisfied with the approach in relation to meteorological data used in dispersion modelling. Points A-B for the applicants' response only.	The Applicants welcome SRBC's confirmation that the approach in relation to meteorological data used in dispersion modelling is satisfactory.

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
	meteorological conditions. This means that the conditions in 8,760 hours have been considered in the assessment.“ a) Explain why one year of meteorological data is considered sufficient? b) How have seasonal and annual variations in weather patterns been considered? c) Are the local authorities satisfied with the approach in relation to meteorological data used in the dispersion modelling?		
Q3.1.7	<b>Air Quality Effects During Construction</b> NPS EN-1 paragraph 5.7.9 states that construction should be undertaken in a way that reduces emissions, such as the use of low emission mobile plant during construction as appropriate, and that consideration should be given to making this mandatory in DCO requirements. a) Explain how are you going to comply with this policy? Has consideration been given to a commitment to the use of low emission vehicles or plant? b) Should this be a mandatory requirement, and if not, why not	Point B: Low emission and/or quiet running plant is readily available, and the Council is concerned that this is not a mandatory requirement, rather than ‘as appropriate’. The Council requests that low emission equipment is mandated to accord with the South Ribble Climate Emergency Action Plan July 2021 which seeks to reduce the Boroughs’ carbon emissions including that of the Built Environment. Point A for the applicant’s response.	It is the Applicants view that a commitment to low emission vehicles or plant should not be mandatory as the detailed measures would be contractor specific. Defra’s LAQM.TG (2022) provides example measures which would be developed further, where appropriate and practicable, within the detailed CoCP(s) as secured by Requirement 8 of Schedules 2A and 2B of the draft DCO (REP3-009).The Applicants would refer PCC to REP3-056 for their full responses to questions 3.1.7.
Q5.1.28	<b>Crown Land</b> In paragraph 19 of their representation [REP1-097] South Ribble Borough Council query that one parcel of Crown Land has already been developed and will	Response REP2-031 states that ‘the Applicants note the response and the recent development of the 49.99MW Battery storage facility which interacts with plot 18-005 (REP1-004). The Applicants are in	The Applicants note SBRC’s response and will continue to engage with the landowner in respects to this.



Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
	therefore not be available for the intended use by the applicants as a route for construction access. The applicants have addressed this in their response [REP2- 031]. Please clarify whether this response resolves the position?	<p>on-going discussions with the landowner regarding the proposed access in this location and the ability for the projects to co-exist so the access route can be used. In addition, the Applicants highlight that Article 47 of the draft DCO submitted at Deadline 2 (C1/F04) has been updated to clarify that any other development, or part thereof, which benefits from an existing planning permission and overlaps with the Order Limits, will be able to proceed. This amendment ensures that the DCO does not prevent the implementation of separately consented developments within the same geographical area'</p> <p>The Council welcomes this approach to working with the third-party developer, and to the amendments of Article 47 of the Draft DCO.</p>	
Q6.1.10	<p><b>Commitments</b></p> <p>CoT16 [REP2-010] states "All vegetation requiring removal will be undertaken outside of the bird breeding season. If this is not reasonably practicable, the vegetation requiring removal will be subject to a nesting bird check by a suitably qualified ecological clerk of works. If nesting birds are present, the vegetation will not be removed until the young have fledged or the nest failed." a) Define under what</p>	<p>Point a) is for applicants' response. Point b): The Council considers the proposed wording to be adequate.</p>	The Applicants welcome SRBC's confirmation that the proposed wording of CoT16 is adequate.

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
	circumstances it wouldn't be "reasonably practicable"? b) Do you consider the proposed wording to be adequate?		
Q6.1.11	<b>Commitments</b> CoT31 [REP2-010] states "Ponds identified during the route planning and site selection process have been avoided where possible. During construction any newly identified ponds will be avoided through micro-siting of the onshore export cable corridor and 400 kV grid connection cable corridor where reasonably practicable." a) Define "reasonably practicable". How is the decision made and on what basis. What if it's not deemed "reasonably practicable". b) Do you consider the proposed wording to be adequate?	Part (a) of the question is for the applicant to answer. As regards part (b), the wording should include a commitment to provide replacement ponds if ponds are to be lost.	<p>Where it is not reasonably practicable or possible to micro-site around a newly identified pond within the Order Limits, the ECoW will determine the nature conservation value of the pond to agree on an appropriate course of action. For example, if it is a newly dug pond with limited aquatic life and marginal vegetation, a commitment to post-construction re-instatement may be sufficient to mitigate any harm. Where higher ecological value ponds are identified (in the professional judgement of the ECoW) that cannot be avoided, further compensatory pond(s) may be incorporated within the existing mitigation land within the Order Limits. Further pre-construction surveys of the pond(s) may be undertaken as necessary to inform the evaluation of nature conservation value.</p> <p>The Applicants would also like to highlight that they have made a commitment (CoT92 of Volume 1, Annex 5.3: Commitments Register of the ES (REP3-013) to join the Lancashire District Level Licensing (DLL) Scheme in relation to Great Crested Newts. As part of the DLL scheme compensation ponds will be created by Natural England. This is secured by Requirement 12 of Schedules 2A &amp; 2B of the draft development consent order (REP3-009)</p>
Q6.1.13	<b>Commitments</b> CoT101 [REP2-010] states "Where high concentrations of peat are identified these, will be avoided where practicably possible for the placement of the plant and infrastructure to avoid the	Parts (a) and (b) of the question are for the applicant to answer. As regards part (c), the current wording is inadequate because it does not refer to the need for a peat management protocol to be followed if impacts on peat cannot be	The Applicants note this response. However, it is considered that the soil management plan would not be an appropriate location for information related to ground gas to be considered as the soil management plan is focussed on the handling of peat and not ground gas build up. Ground gas build up might be considered a risk where permanent buildings or other enclosed spaces were to be placed above areas with significant peat deposits. For the Transmission

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
	possibility of ground gas build up. Where this is not possible, further investigation and appropriate monitoring will be identified undertaken, if necessary". a) Explain how you will determine if it's "practicably possible" to avoid high concentrations of peat that are identified. b) Explain the decision-making process in relation to determining if further investigation and appropriate monitoring is necessary. c) Do you consider the proposed wording to be adequate	avoided. The Outline Soil Management Plan should be referred to (APP-200), since this document describes acceptable peat management measures.	Assets, this would only relate to the onshore substations. The Applicants note that soil surveys undertaken (as reported in Volume 3, Annex 6.2: Agricultural land classification survey results (APP-106)) have not identified any high concentrations of peat in the onshore substation sites. Therefore, ground gas is not considered to be a risk. The Applicants have amended its commitment CoT101 such that where gas monitoring is undertaken, the results will be used to inform the detailed design of the permanent infrastructure as appropriate.
Q6.1.14	<b>Commitments</b> CoT126 [REP2-010] "To mitigate for potential temporary habitat loss associated with Mill Brook Valley Biological Heritage Site, temporary construction compounds will be micro-sited to avoid the site wherever reasonably practicable." a) Define "wherever reasonably practicable". b) Explain how you will mitigate for potential temporary habitat loss if it's not deemed "reasonably practicable". c) Do you consider the proposed wording to be adequate	Parts (a) and (b) are for the applicant to answer. As regards point (c), we would advise that the wording is amended to read "To mitigate and compensate for potential temporary habitat loss associated with Mill Brook Valley Biological Heritage Site, temporary construction compounds will be micro-sited to avoid the site wherever reasonably practicable, and mitigation and compensation measures will be proposed if avoidance is not reasonably practicable"	The Applicants note SRBC's comment and will actively engage with them through the SoCG process in regards to this. The Applicants would like to confirm that mitigation measures specific to Mill Brook Valley BHS have been added in Section 1.6 to the Outline Ecological Management Plan (J6/F04 ).
Q6.2.1	<b>Biodiversity Calculations</b> a) Provide reasoning for the proposed percentage (%) in the biodiversity benefit strategy - 59.62% increase for the habitat, 20% for watercourse, 41.37% for	Parts (a) to (c) are for the applicants to answer.  As regards part (d) an explanation has been provided concerning the methodology and how the	Following the adoption in February 2024 of the statutory metric spreadsheet the Applicants have utilised this and subsequently updated the biodiversity benefit statement (J11/F03). Furthermore, as communicated in Issue Specific Hearing 2 in July (S_D4_5 and S_D4_6), the Applicants have updated the draft Development at Deadline 4 to

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
	<p>hedgerow. b) Explain in detail the methodology used and why the scheme won't fully comply with future biodiversity net gain requirements i.e why the whole length of the corridor has not been assessed? c) The ExA requests the BNG metric spreadsheet used for the calculations is submitted into the examination. d) Confirm whether clarity exists on how the calculations have been done and is there agreement on the methodology and the spatial areas for which the calculations have been presented?</p>	<p>calculations have been done, although –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The areas presented for habitat creation and enhancement are described as 'indicative' throughout. Calculations will need to be re-visited when these areas are confirmed.</li> <li>• It is stated that where access could not be obtained habitat calculations were based on existing datasets. It would be useful to understand the proportion of land where access was not available and where there was reliance on existing datasets.</li> <li>• In addition to the BNG metric spreadsheet, it would be useful to have sight of the details of the habitat condition assessments undertaken to complete the biodiversity metrics</li> <li>• The scope of the assessment of onshore biodiversity benefit is limited to areas of permanent habitat loss; it would be useful to understand how long the 'temporary' habitat losses will be, and how long habitat reinstatement in these areas is likely to take. If the time periods involved are several years, consideration should be given to providing further off-site habitat creation and enhancement.</li> </ul>	<p>include an in principle without prejudice biodiversity benefit requirement (C1/F06).</p> <p>The Applicants can confirm that all areas of land within the boundaries of the Morgan onshore substation and Morecambe onshore substation footprints (Works No. 20A/20B, 21A/21B, 22A/22B, 23A/23B, 24A/24B), for which UKHabs mapping and habitat condition assessments were undertaken, were accessible for the purposes of the survey. Further detail on the proportion of habitats that were mapped from aerial photographs/from adjacent land within the Transmission Assets Onshore Order Limits and survey buffer has been submitted at Deadline 4 as part of Annex 3.3: Applicants' response to ExQ1 6.1.1: Phase 1 Habitat Survey Coverage (S_D4_12).</p> <p>As the scope of the Biodiversity Benefit assessment is limited to the areas of permanent landtake, no calculation has been undertaken to quantify the BNG requirement of the entirety of the onshore transmission assets order limits. In December 2023, the applicants presented this approach to BNG to stakeholders as part of the expert working group process. In addition, it was noted that early calculations for the delivery of 10% BNG for the entirety of the onshore transmission assets order limits would require c.100 ha of land to deliver the mitigation for this area which, as communicated during the Issue Specific Hearing 2 (S_D4_5 and S_D4_6 ) is not feasible, nor required. In addition, the Applicants refer SRBC to REP1-085 – 10.29 of the Applicants' Response to Lancashire (REP2-039) where it is noted by Lancashire County Council Local within the Impact Report there is currently no legal requirement to provide for biodiversity net gain with applications for development consent under the Planning Act 2008 and that the Transmission Assets are exempt from any future legal</p>

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
			<p>requirement as the requirement will not apply retrospectively to applications made before the provisions come into force.</p> <p>The Applicants have submitted an updated Biodiversity Benefit Statement (J11/F03) with the inclusion of the results statutory biodiversity metric version 1.0.4 alongside the metric spreadsheet. The updates to the Biodiversity Benefit Statement are to correct some minor mapping errors and to transpose the assessment into the statutory DEFRA metric spreadsheet. Noting that version 4.1 of the spreadsheet that was used at Application has been superseded by the adoption of the statutory metric spreadsheet (version 1.0.4) in February 2024. Furthermore, the Applicants will update the Biodiversity Benefit calculations post-consent to reflect any changes in the design/ layout and habitat retention, enhancement and creation once the detailed design work had been completed, as is common practice for this type of assessment. However, while the total net percentage change has altered for habitats, hedgerows and watercourses, it is still positive.</p> <p>Habitat condition assessments have been undertaken and have been added as Appendix J of the biodiversity benefit statement (J11/F03) at Deadline 4.</p> <p>Temporary habitat loss is defined within section 3.10.3 of Volume 3, Chapter 3: Onshore ecology and nature conservation (APP-075) as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• short term: a period of months, up to one year;</li> <li>• medium term: a period of more than one year, up to three years; or</li> <li>• long term: a period of greater than three years.</li> </ul> <p>It is noted in section 3.11 of Volume 3, Chapter 3: Onshore ecology and nature conservation (APP-075) that the impacts</p>

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
			<p>of temporary habitat loss will be reversible, work could take up to take up to 66 months in a worst case sequential installation scenario. Although the total construction period for sequential construction represents the MDS, most habitat loss would occur over a shorter term period and would be transient in any one location as construction progresses.</p> <p>As the scope of the biodiversity benefit assessment is limited to the areas of permanent land take (Works No. 20A/20B, 21A/21B, 22A/22B, 23A/23B, 24A/24B), no calculation has been undertaken to quantify the habitat impacts within the onshore cable corridor, temporary construction compounds or other temporary impacts. However, the Applicants have identified opportunities for delivering off-site biodiversity enhancements such as habitat improvements, habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity as set out in Section 1.10 of the Outline Ecological Management Plan (OEMP) (REP3-022). These measures would be agreed with stakeholders through further ongoing consultation and the agreed measures included within a detailed version(s) of the EMP.</p>
Q6.2.2	<b>Mitigation Hierarchy</b> Confirm that the applicants have adequately followed the mitigation hierarchy in respect to no biodiversity net loss and biodiversity net gain	Commitments made by the applicants as part of the Transmission Assets relevant to ecology are set out in the ES: This includes measures to conserve biodiversity in terms of ecological interests and generally complies with the mitigation hierarchy, with measures to avoid and minimise impacts as far as is possible, although it is stated that offsetting [gain] will only be required for the	<p>Please see comments above in respect of Q6.2.1 relating to the BNG assessment, other off-site biodiversity enhancements proposed and the definition of short term, medium term and long term with regard to temporary habitat loss.</p> <p>With regard to site selection, at Deadline 2 the Applicants submitted S_D2_13 Site Selection of the Environmental Mitigation and Biodiversity Benefit Areas - Rev F01 (REP2-046). This provides an overview of how the environmental mitigation and biodiversity benefit areas were identified as part of the overall site selection process (as described in</p>



Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
		<p>permanent habitat loss areas, where biodiversity benefit is being delivered. it would be useful to understand how long the 'temporary' habitat losses will be, and how long habitat reinstatement in these areas is likely to take. If the time periods involved are several years, consideration should be given to providing further off-site habitat creation and enhancement. Further explanation should be provided concerning efforts to avoid and minimise ecological impacts.</p>	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site selection and consideration of alternatives AS-026). The note also explains the site-specific factors considered in the refinement of these areas as part of the overall iterative design process for the Transmission Assets.</p> <p>It is noted in section 3.11 of Volume 3, Chapter 3: Onshore ecology and nature conservation (APP-075) that the impacts of temporary habitat loss will be reversible, work could take up to take up to 66 months in a worst case sequential installation scenario. Although the total construction period for sequential construction represents the MDS, most habitat loss would occur over a shorter term period and would be transient in any one location as construction progresses.</p> <p>The Applicants would like to reiterate that the approach to the voluntary BNG assessment was discussed with stakeholders as part of the EWG process prior to submission of the application.</p>
Q11.1.3	<p><b>Hesketh Farm</b></p> <p>Paragraph 5.15 of SRBC's local impact report (LIR) sets out concerns regarding the effects on the grade II listed Hesketh Farm near Penwortham substation. SRBC disagrees with the applicants that Hesketh Farm has limited heritage significance. Could SRBC set out what it considers to the heritage significance of this listed building and explain in further detail the effect that might result</p>	<p>The Grade II listed Hesketh Farmhouse holds historic, evidential and aesthetic values which are primarily evidenced in its vernacular form/appearance as a late C17 semi-rural farmhouse. Although characteristic of a farmhouse of this era and location in terms of form, build and materials, its large scale is unusual and contributes to its strong presence in the semi-rural setting. Overall, as a Grade II listed building it is attributed as having a high significance.</p>	<p>The Applicants agree that the identified heritage values attributed to the Grade II listed Hesketh Farmhouse are largely evidenced in its vernacular form and appearance. This concurs with the Applicants' own assessment which is set out in Table 1.2 of ES Annex 5.5: Settings Assessment (APP-102).</p> <p>The Applicant also agrees that the setting of the farmhouse makes a positive contribution to its significance, but that the setting is eroded by the presence of the National Grid substation and the pylons carrying the cables which link to the substation.</p>



Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
	upon its setting and significance from the proposed development?	In terms of the setting, Hesketh Farmhouse is part of a small historic settlement on the banks of the former Howick Marsh on the fluvial Ribble estuary. The settlement is largely evident in its historic form although with evidence of incremental development over time commensurate with agricultural uses. However, the large C20 modern industrial development of the Penwortham Electricity Substation nearby to the SE erodes the significance of the setting somewhat. Nonetheless, notwithstanding the substation, the setting overall makes a positive contribution to the significance of the setting of the Grade II listed farmhouse.	As set out in paragraphs 1.9.2.21 - 1.9.2.23 of ES Annex 5.5: Settings Assessment (APP-102), the change in the setting of the Grade II listed farmhouse during the construction of the 400 kV grid connection cable corridor would not result in any harm to its heritage significance.
Q14.1.10	<b>Commitments</b> CoT18 [REP2-010] states "Core working hours for the construction of the intertidal and onshore works will be as follows: • Monday to Saturday: 07:00 - 19:00 hours; and • up to one hour before and after core working hours for mobilisation ("mobilisation period") i.e. 06:00 to 20:00. Activities carried out during the mobilisation period will not generate significant noise levels (such as piling, or other such noisy activities). In circumstances outside of core working practices,	Point A: The Council agrees that that works should be agreed with the Local Planning Authority in writing and with a reasonable period of advance warning. Agreement should not be subject to a short period of notice (other than works in the event of an emergency) and must be carried out within the agreed times to minimise loss of amenity to adjacent noise sensitive receptors. Engagement with those NSR's is also recommended. Point B for the applicant's response only.	The Applicants note SRBC's position concerning construction outside of core hours and can confirm that Requirement 14 of Schedules 2A and 2B of the draft DCO (REP3-009) was updated to reflect this at deadline 3, as noted in the Applicants' response to the Examining Authority's written questions (REP3-056).

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
	<p>specific works may have to be undertaken outside the core working hours. This will include, but is not limited to, works being undertaken within and/or adjacent to Blackpool Airport and cable installation at landfall and at the River Ribble. Advance notice of such works will be given to the relevant planning authority." In relation to the statement "Advance notice of such works will be given to the relevant planning authority."</p> <p>a) Is it sufficient for the local authorities that advance notice will be given or should this be changed so that works, outside of the core hours secured by Requirement 14 (Schedules 2A and 2B) in the dDCO, are to be agreed with the relevant planning authority in writing in advance and must be carried out within the agreed times? b) What would be the expected frequency and duration of such works and over what period might they be expected to continue in any specific location?</p>		
Q14.1.13	<p><b>Construction Noise</b></p> <p>Paragraph 1.2.2 of the Outline construction noise and vibration management plan [APP-196] covers the erection of physical barriers: a) Are you satisfied with the proposed process? b) Should timings be specified in relation to</p>	<p>Point A: The Council is satisfied with the proposed process.</p> <p>Point B: Timings should be specified in relation to advance notification where consultation is required – again to aid Local Authority and resident engagement or involvement.</p>	<p>Please refer to the response at Q14.1.10 above.</p>

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants' response
	advance notification where consultation is required?		
Q14.1.15	<b>Construction Noise</b> Outline construction noise and vibration management plan [APP-196], paragraph 1.2.1.1 states that "In certain circumstances, specific works may have to be undertaken outside the core working hours to maintain time critical activities. Where applicable, these activities will be notified to the relevant planning authority at least 48-hours' notice in advance of the works." a) Is a minimum of 48-hours' notice of advance of the works sufficient? b) Are affected residents going to be notified in advance of the works	Point A: The Council considers that a minimum 48-hours' Notice in advance of works outside core working hours is sufficient.	Please refer to the response at Q14.1.10 above.

## 2.27 SP Energy Networks

**Table 2.25: REP3-110 – SP Energy Networks’ Deadline 3 Submission**

Reference	IP submission	Applicants’ response
REP3-110 110.1	SP Energy Networks agrees to the amended draft DCO Schedule 9 Part 11 as submitted at Deadline 2 on 5th June 202	The Applicants thank SP Energy Networks for their submission and agree that the PPs in Part 11 of Schedule 10 to the draft DCO (REP3-009) are agreed.

## 2.28 The Corporation of Trinity House of Deptford Strond

**Table 2.26: REP3-111 – The Corporation of Trinity House of Deptford Strond’s Responses to ExQ1**

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants’ response
Q17.3.5	Amendments to dDCO “Confirm that the amendments made by the applicants to the dDCO [REP2-004] in response to your comments in [REP1-209] are acceptable. If not, what further amendments would you suggest?”	We confirm that we are content with the amendments made by the applicants to the dDCO, and that the amendments made accurately reflect our written representation. We further confirm that we are now content with the drafting of the dDCO.	The Applicants thank The Corporation of Trinity House of Deptford Strond for their response, and consider this matter now closed.

## 2.29 The Crown Estate

**Table 2.27: REP3-112 – The Crown Estate’s Responses to ExQ1**

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants’ response
Q5.1.18	In response to action point 11 from CAH1, it is stated that “the Crown Estate is working closely with CI V on the final arrangements to ensure it is satisfied with CI V’s capability to take over the obligations of the agreement for lease. CI V is confident it will reach a position whereby it can assume all funding obligations to the Crown Estate under the wind farm agreement for lease.” What is the timescale for this and, in particular, is it likely to be during the examination? Please confirm the progress that is being made between CI V and the CE on this matter and the timetable for resolution.	Further to the Applicant triggering the Change of Control process under its Agreement for Lease, The Crown Estate (“TCE”) is finishing the due diligence checks. TCE is continuing to work closely with the Applicant to ensure it is satisfied with the financial standing and technical capabilities of CI V. This is an ongoing and commercially sensitive process, with a further update currently expected by the next deadline.	The Applicants thank The Crown Estate (TCE) for their response, and will continue to engage with TCE in order to ensure they are completely satisfied with the financial standing and technical capabilities of CI V. The Applicants will provide a further update as required at Deadline 4.

## 2.30 United Utilities Water Limited

**Table 2.28: REP3-113 – United Utilities Water Limited’s Deadline 3 Submission**

Reference	IP submission	Applicants’ response
REP3-113 113.1	<p>Subsequent to our submission dated 27 January 2025 where United Utilities Water Limited (U UW) registered a formal objection to the proposed DCO, we wish to confirm that dialogue has commenced regarding the negotiation of Protective Provisions. The Applicant provided U UW with their comments on the draft Protective Provisions on 24 June 2025 and U UW has returned comments on 7 July 2025. Current points of negotiation include various drafting points such as notification requirements and approval mechanisms. The basis for the Protective Provisions for United Utilities Water Limited is those which have been agreed on other National Significant Infrastructure Projects notably the Hynet Co2 pipeline. Whilst U UW is prepared to consider minor drafting amendments to these Protective Provisions, we do not consider it necessary to deviate from established Protective Provisions which have been agreed on similar linear projects. Aside from agreement on Protective Provisions, U UW has received no response regarding the matters outlined in our previous submissions and summarised in our submission dated 27 January 2025. As such, we retain a position of Objection.</p>	<p>The Applicants thank U UW for their submission and agree that negotiations are well commenced in respect of protective provisions, and confirm the timeline provided in U UW’s response is accurate.</p> <p>The Applicants are presently considering U UW’s comments on the PPs and its appropriateness to the specific context of the Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets DCO.</p> <p>The Applicants agree that the outstanding points of contention in the drafting of the protective provisions are limited and centre on notification and approvals mechanisms.</p> <p>The Applicants remain confident agreement can be reached during examination.</p> <p>The Applicants facilitated a meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025 between its technical teams and U UW to discuss the technical points in its initial objection raised on 27 January 2025. A dialogue has therefore opened in respect of resolving U UW’s technical concerns, and the Applicants will work with U UW to address these.</p> <p>The Applicant accepts U UW’s position that its objection will be maintained until its concerns are resolved.</p>



## 2.31 Renesola Hercules Energy 2 Limited

**Table 2.29: REP3-127 – Renesola Hercules Energy 2 Limited’s Responses to ExQ1**

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants’ response
Q5.1.27	<p><b>Rensola Hercules Energy 2 Limited</b></p> <p>Following from the representation submitted [REP1-192], this interest is now mentioned in the updated Book of Reference [REP1-014] although it is noted that the applicants state that Rensola did not have an interest in land until September 2024. When is the application for planning permission likely to be submitted to FBC? Do Rensola have any further comment in response to the applicants’ reply to their representation which is at section REP1-192.4 [REP2-030].</p>	<p>Please see the below answers to the Examining Authority’s questions (Q5.1.27) which are answered by, and are being sent on behalf of, Renesola Hercules Energy 2 Limited. Renesola’s interest in the land was acquired in September 2024. However, this followed around 3 years of work put into the project, as well as the expenditure of significant sums of capital into the development of the same (which started in 2021). Renesola cannot, and could not reasonably be expected to, abandon its project because of a speculative application from the Applicants. The planning application is likely to be submitted mid-2026. Renesola has provided detailed information about its project to the Applicants and how it is impacted by the Applicants’ proposal. Despite their reply to the representations, there has been no meaningful engagement from the Applicant to find a solution that works for both projects</p>	<p>The Applicants note Renesola’s comments. The Applicants were not aware of Renesola’s interest in the land prior to the acquisition of such interest in September 2024. The Applicants further note that Renesola did not submit any feedback to the Applicants in either of the two public non-statutory consultations which were held between (i) 2<sup>nd</sup> November - 13<sup>th</sup> December; and (ii) 19 April - 4 June 2023. Renesola also did not provide any feedback to the Applicants as part of the formal statutory consultation process pursuant to Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, held between 12<sup>th</sup> October – 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023.</p> <p>It is therefore not reasonable to expect that the Applicants would have had any way of knowing about Renesola’s planned proposals, prior to their formal acquisition of an interest in land in September 2024. Therefore, the Applicants maintain their position as set out in PDA-007 that, given the early stage of Renesola’s proposals, it is possible for Renesola to avoid any Hillside issues through refinement of their planning application. Notwithstanding this, the Applicants have updated article 47 of the draft DCO (REP3-009) and specifically included reference to Renesola in their updated Explanatory Memorandum from Deadline 2 (REP2-006) which acknowledges their existence and their commitment to ensuring that both projects can coexist where at all possible (see section 1.6.7.28). The Applicants confirm that they are committed to engaging with Renesola in order to address their concerns.</p>

## 2.32 Spirit Energy

**Table 2.30: REP3-131 – Spirit Energy’s Responses to ExQ1**

Reference	ExA Question	IP submission	Applicants’ response
Q4.1.10	<b>Spirit Energy</b> Spirit Energy reiterated their concern [PDA-045] that any restriction on their ability to access its leased facilities and the wider airport will impact on their safe and economic use of the airport. What progress has been made with these discussions?	Examining Authority’s Written Questions 1 In response to question ref. 4.1.10, Spirit Energy confirms that it has not received any communication (whether verbal or written) from the Applicants in relation to this matter.	The Applicants met with Spirit Energy on 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2025 to discuss coexistence. It has been agreed that a SOCG will be produced detailing that the most appropriate route to deal with the matters raised by Spirit Energy will be through the negotiation and execution of crossing and proximity agreements post consent. The SOCG will be submitted at Deadline 5.