

APPLICATION BY MORGAN AND MORECAMBE OFFSHORE WIND FARMS TRANSMISSION ASSETS SCHEME

PLANNING INSPECTORATE REFERENCE NUMBER: EN020028

REGISTRATION IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 20053776

Responses of National Grid Electricity Transmission plc to ExQ2

1.2 Site selection and alternatives			
ExQ2	Question to	Question	NGET response
Q2:1.2.1	The applicants and National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)	<p>Alternative route NCFPC have made further submission at D4 about a possible alternative route utilising the existing Stanah substation and the Hill House Technology Enterprise Zone [REP4-166] including comments on the previous representation from NGET in response to ExQ1.2.1 on this matter [REP3-088]. A further representation has also been received from Lancashire Association of Local Councils Fylde Area Committee Energy Working Group [REP4-160].</p> <p>The applicants and NGET are asked to provide comment on these submissions</p>	<p>The National Energy System Operator (NESO) took over the electricity network planning responsibility from National Grid Electricity System Operator Limited (NGESO) on the 1st October 2024. The National Energy System Operator (NESO) operates the electricity transmission system throughout Great Britain and is an independent government-owned body separate from National Grid. National Grid Electricity Transmission owns and manages the high voltage electricity transmission network in England and Wales.</p> <p>This is a response from NGET only. Please consult with NESO separately from NGET.</p> <p>It is understood that NESO has previously provided the following information: “NESO alongside the Transmission Owners are responsible for recommending and agreeing appropriate interface points for connections to National Energy Transmission System (NETS) as required by our licence Condition E12 and in accordance with the Connection and Use of System Code (CUSC)”.</p> <p>To connect customers to the National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) network, NGET must adhere to certain technical specifications and standards including the Security and Quality of Supply Standards (SQSS). Having reviewed the SQSS requirements to connect Morgan and Morecambe at Stanah, NGET has determined that Stanah is not currently a quality safe standard (SQSS) compliant substation. It is a supergrid transformer (SGT) compound that was built to supply a local Distribution Network Operator (DNO) network.</p>

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			<p>It is not possible to upgrade the existing Stanah substation to a 400 kilovolt (kV) SQSS compliant substation due to the neighbouring homes surrounding the site, which prevents NGET from extending the substation.</p> <p>Due to these constraints, to connect Morgan and Morecambe in Stanah, a new 400 kV SQSS substation would need to be built, in addition to a new overhead line from Stanah to Penwortham. The cumulative impact for building this new infrastructure, in addition to Morgan and Morecambe's cable route would therefore be significantly greater than the current proposed connection at Penwortham.</p> <p>Under our license obligations and ensuring value to consumers, before building anything new, NGET considers the capacity, as well as a number of other factors such as power and load requirements, of its existing infrastructure to facilitate new connections. If it is not possible to connect a customer at an existing substation and there is further demand in the area, this may trigger the needs case for building a new substation.</p> <p>We are not able to assume Hill House Technology Park would be a suitable location for hosting high voltage electricity infrastructure. When deciding where to position a new substation, NGET undertakes a site selection study to determine the best possible location, according to cost and efficiency.</p> <p>As part of this process, NGET engages with landowners near the site and assesses any potential environmental impacts to the land, whilst ensuring that all the technical requirements for a safe build and operation of a substation can take place. This process can take a number of years and also requires NGET to be granted planning consent, as</p>
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			<p>well as securing any land rights that may be needed ahead of constructing the new substation.</p> <p>For Morgan and Morecambe's connection, Penwortham has been identified as having the capacity and flexibility on site to facilitate these connections, removing the need for NGET to build a new substation.</p>
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