

IPR: 20054040

PROPOSAL: MORGAN AND MORECAMBE OFFSHORE WIND FARMS

TRANSMISSION ASSETS NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

DEADLINE 3/4 - Response to Landscape Matters relating to the Inspector's request for Comments on Landscape Technical Note (07 July 2025) and General Submission.

Ref (1.2.6.5) the Applicant claims the substations placement minimizes landscape and visual impacts. However, the choice of Greenbelt location next to an Area of Separation significantly contradicts this statement. The development would permanently degrade open green space, distant views and impact surrounding areas. I do not believe mitigation can sufficiently preserve the Landscape Character. The Landscape Character here has grown from culture, history, and a lack of human intervention which has fostered a rich and varied ecosystem. This can not be 'reinstated' in a matter of days.

Layout examples

Hornsea Converter Station:

Google maps suggest the landscape here is completely flat which would shield the Station from view. The landscape is much larger and is in close proximity to other infrastructure e.g. a power station and oil refinery. This is in contrast to the Applicants proposed substations which would be in small scale open fields on the top of hills. Adjacent Areas of Separation Land and a scattering of farms and rural residencies surround it.

Rayleigh and Imatra Substations:

The two substations described as examples are in completely different landscape settings than the proposed substations. Rayleigh substation appears to be set in an urban development area and Imatra substation appears to be in a dense wooded area providing screening all year round and allowing the land to be used more flexibly. Again, they are not like for like examples of the Applicants proposed location, a site which is much loved by residents for its cultural and historic landscape and picturesque views.

Topographic Context

The Morecambe substation has a proposed siting on the higher area of the land. This would make it a dominant feature of the landscape and would be clearly visible all year round to residents and PRow users on the historic footpath.

The Morgan substation is also proposed on a higher area of the land. It would be very difficult to provide screening with vegetation as the land falls sharply to the east.

Two levels are noted for the Morgan substation, however, no scale or orientation details are provided and the cross-sections give no useful information as to whether the structure would possibly be any less of an eyesore that it appears to be.

Furthermore, attempts at mitigation planting will be challenging considering the entry/exit routes of cables. Soil depth above the trench will likely not be deep enough to provide enough root space for tree planting and therefore compromise the trees growth and stability.

Ref 1.2.5.2 notes that levels and profiles are finalized in Detailed Design. I believe fundamental plans should be set earlier due to the project's scale and greenbelt location. Because it is NSIP, is it not even more important to provide these details early on? Delaying details hinders "Good Design", sustainable solutions and transparency for the general public. Once the Detailed Design is provided, it is too late in the examination stage to challenge these Plans. I strongly believe this is unfairly allowing NSIP's to be inappropriate, foreboding structures in completely unsuitable areas, e.g. greenbelt, ancient woodland, such as the proposed Plan.

The Application lacks the evidence needed to assess its full impact. Without accurate visualisations how do we assess the Plans full impact? How do we know the full extent of how noise and vibration will affect the areas tranquility?

General Submission

The residents who are directly affected by the proposed Plan are generally not interested in compensation. They want the right to have a peaceful home life in their retirement. They want the right to bring up their children in clean air, free of drilling noise and vibration, heavy traffic, dust contamination and EMF radiation. They want the right to pursue their way of life as they wish to and not have their homes and businesses significantly devalued and livelihoods damaged. The anxiety, stress and upset within our community is unique for every one of us. Speak to any number of residents and they will tell you their own personal story of how this Plan will negatively impact their lives.

I strongly urge the Ex A to halt this proposal, in order to allow the Applicant to reconsider the cable route plan.