



MORGAN AND MORECAMBE OFFSHORE WIND FARMS: TRANSMISSION ASSETS

Great Crested Newt Letter of No Impediment



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18th September 2025

By email



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Copy:

Peter Moore, Morecambe

Dear Laura,

Morgan & Morecambe Transmission Assets

We are writing in relation to the Morgan & Morecambe Transmission Assets (MMTA) Project and its proposed use of District Level Licensing (DLL) for Great Crested Newts (GCN). As you are aware, the Order Limits fall within the operational area of the Natural England-led DLL scheme in Lancashire.

Due to the scale of the MMTA Project and current limitations in habitat delivery capacity, an Impact Assessment and Conservation Payment Certificate (IACPC) cannot yet be issued. However, this letter confirms that a strategic licensing route for GCN remains viable and available for the Project.

Please see below summaries on several aspects which are pertinent at this stage:

1. Scheme Availability

The MMTA Project's onshore Order Limits are fully encompassed by the active DLL scheme in Lancashire. Although there are currently insufficient ponds to enable Natural England to issue an IACPC, scheduled habitat delivery will allow the Project to join the scheme prior to the commencement of works.

The Examining Authority, Secretary of State and the Project team can be assured that a strategic licensing pathway will be available. Additionally, the Impact Assessment may be refined as further details emerge through the DCO process, potentially supporting a phased approach and reducing initial compensation requirements.

2. Indicative timescales

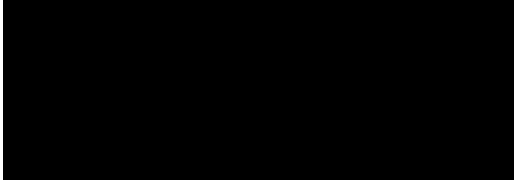
Scheme Milestones	Timescale	Progress	DLL steps
Developing route alignment options Pre-examination stage	2023-2025	Complete	Internal commitment to DLL. No GCN surveys required during the Scoping phase of the project. Morgan and Morecambe: Transmission Assets Project to liaise with NE to refine cost and habitat needs during Pre-examination phase.
Delivering Compensation Habitat Pre-examination & Examination stages	2024-2026	In Progress	Habitat delivered by Natural England via Habitat Delivery Bodies during.
Securing Development Consent Examination stage	2025-2026	In Progress	LONI to be submitted at Deadline 5 of the Examination phase to demonstrate compliance with GCN licensing obligations.
Refine Impact Assessment Decision stage	Spring 2026	Scheduled spring 2026	At the Decision stage Morgan and Morecambe: Transmission Assets Project should contact NE to update the Impact Assessment based on implementation phasing, and consented red line boundary, potentially reducing compensation pond requirements.
Construction Begins Post-DCO	2026-2027	Scheduled late 2026/early 2027	Post-DCO, a licence application must be submitted. The licence will only be issued once the full Conservation Payment has been made and suitable habitat has been secured.

3. Habitat Delivery

Under the DLL scheme, Natural England is responsible for delivering compensatory habitat for GCN, including long-term monitoring and maintenance. Based on current delivery experience, habitat can be commissioned and established within a single financial year.

Natural England is confident that the period between this letter (2025) and the anticipated licence requirement (2026/2027) provides sufficient time to ensure habitat delivery without impacting construction timelines.

Yours faithfully,



District Level Licensing Principal Manager

Natural England