



# MORGAN AND MORECAMBE OFFSHORE WIND FARMS: TRANSMISSION ASSETS

The Applicants' Hearing Summary of the Issue Specific Hearing 3: Day 3



Document status					
Version	Purpose of document	Approved by	Date	Approved by	Date
F01	Deadline 6	GL	October 2025	PM	October 2025

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### Glossary

Term	Meaning
Applicants	Morgan Offshore Wind Limited (Morgan OWL) and Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Ltd (Morecambe OWL).
Biodiversity benefit	An approach to development that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before. Where a development has an impact on biodiversity, developers are encouraged to provide an increase in appropriate natural habitat and ecological features over and above that being affected.
	For the Transmission Assets, biodiversity benefit will be delivered within identified biodiversity benefit areas within the Onshore Order Limits. Further qualitative benefits to biodiversity are proposed via potential collaboration with stakeholders and local groups, contributing to existing plans and programmes, both within and outside the Order Limits.
Development Consent Order	An order made under the Planning Act 2008, as amended, granting development consent.
Morecambe Offshore Windfarm: Generation Assets	The offshore generation assets and associated activities for the Morecambe Offshore Windfarm.
Morecambe Offshore Windfarm: Transmission Assets	The offshore export cables, landfall, and onshore infrastructure required to connect the Morecambe Offshore Windfarm to the National Grid.
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	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.
	Also referred to in this report as the Transmission Assets, for ease of reading.
Morgan Offshore Wind Project: Generation Assets	The offshore generation assets and associated activities for the Morgan Offshore Wind Project.
Morgan Offshore Wind Project: Transmission Assets	The offshore export cables, landfall and onshore infrastructure required to connect the Morgan Offshore Wind Project to the National Grid.
Morgan OWL	Morgan Offshore Wind Limited is a joint venture between JERA Nex bp (JNbp) and Energie Baden-Württemberg AG (EnBW).

#### **Acronyms**

Acronym	Meaning
CA	Compulsory Acquisition
DCO	Development Consent Order
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
HGV	Heavy goods vehicle
KC	King's Counsel
LLC	Lancashire County Council
NFU	National Farmers Union
PDE	Project Design Envelope
PA	Planning Act

#### **Units**

Unit	Description
%	Percentage
km	Kilometres

## The Applicants' Hearing Summary of the Issue Specific Hearing Day 3

#### 1.1 Introduction

1.1.1.1 This document presents a written summary of Morgan OWL and Morecambe OWL, (together, 'the Applicants') oral case at the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 3 (CAH3) Day 3 on Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms Transmission Assets Development Consent Order (DCO) application that took place on 09 October 2025 at Village Hotel, East Park Drive, Blackpool FY3 8LL.

#### 1.2 Hearing Summary CAH3 Day 3

**Table 1.1: Hearing Summary CAH3 Day 3** 

ID	Agenda Item	Notes
1	Item 3 – Change Request 1	The Applicants confirmed that the Change Request to the Application has resulted in a reduction to the draft Order Limits rather than an increase, and therefore a reduction in the area of land over which compulsory acquisition powers are sought.
2	Item 4 – Applicants' update on negotiations with affected persons (APs)	2) The Applicants provided an update on the Land Rights Tracker, noting that at the previous set of hearings (in July 2025) there were 12 sets of Heads of Terms (HOTs) signed with landowners. The Applicants explained that they have continued engaging with landowners and their agents, with two further engagement sessions held on 12 August and 24 September 2024. The Land Rights Tracker as submitted at Deadline 5 (S_D1_15/F05), confirmed that there were 20 signed HOTs at this time.
	a) Overview of Land Rights Tracker (Land Rights Tracker)	3) The Applicants confirmed that there are now 46 HOTs agreed out of 102, which is approximately 48% of the agreements.
		4) The Applicants explained a further 5 HOTs were with agents currently, and that 12 of the HOTs had only commercial terms outstanding and still to agree. The Applicants confirmed there are 7 landowners who are unwilling to sign HOTs on a voluntary basis and that the Applicants will continue to correspond with them and are open to negotiation if their position changes.
		Post hearing note: At Deadline 6 the Applicants confirm that a further 3 Heads of Terms have been agreed, bringing the total to 49. In response to Hearing Action Point [CAH3_2] Applicants have submitted an updated Land Rights Tracker to reflect this latest position (see S_D1_15/F06), as well as updating the Book of Reference to reflect the most up to date land referencing position (see D3/F05).
		6) The Applicants mentioned that the main outstanding points of difference in negotiations relate to operational access, contamination, future development, and commercial terms.
3	Item 4 – Applicants' update on negotiations with affected persons (APs) b) Positions on specific plots as requested by ExA	7) The ExA requested an updated specifically in relation to Row 23 of the Land Rights Tracker (REP5a-040) on the basis that the land has recently been sold. The Applicants explained they are engaging with the former owner of the relevant plots regarding the sale of the land and will continue to engage with the new land interest to secure rights sought on a voluntary basis. The Applicants confirmed the engagement would continue past the end of the examination period if required.
		Regarding Row 36 of the Land Rights Tracker, the Applicants confirmed that negotiations with Homes England are ongoing, but on the basis that the Applicants are trying to secure rights through a voluntary agreement with the neighbouring landowner, it may be that the agreement with Homes England is not required.

ID	Agenda Item	Notes
		9) Regarding Row 47 of the Land Rights Tracker (land owned by Lancashire County Council (LCC)), the Applicants explained that the Council had requested individual HOTs for each plot of land, which would amount to a total of 244 HOTs. The Applicants confirmed that engagement is ongoing with LCC to identify a mutually agreeable solution.
		10) The ExA specifically raised Row 54 of the Land Rights Tracker, specifically in relation to the Blackpool Road Recreation Ground, and Fylde Borough Council confirmed that this was leased to them by Lytham Town Trust for 999 years. The Applicants confirmed that they were aware of this and explained that on the basis Lytham Town Trust are landowner, that their signature will be required for any Section 106 Agreement which is entered into. The Applicants noted that engagement on this is continuing to progress and that the Applicants have agreed to the majority of the points which Fylde Borough Council have requested are covered by the Section 106 Agreement.
		11) The Applicants confirmed that since the Change Request was accepted, the HOTs for Rows 59 and 60 of the Land Rights Tracker were with the relevant agent in their final form.
		12) The ExA requested an update on Row 74 of the Land Rights Tracker, which comprises a key area of permanent acquisition. The Applicants noted that the main outstanding point of negotiation is in relation to the access through the farm holding. The Applicants confirmed that they do not see any material issues and hope to continue and conclude negotiations in the coming weeks.
		13) The Applicants noted a further update would also be provided at Deadline 7. The Applicants confirmed they will continue to progress any outstanding negotiations after the close of examination and past Secretary of State's decision, in order that reliance on compulsory acquisition powers is solely a last resort if voluntary agreements cannot be reached in advance of works needed to begin.
		14) The Applicants confirmed that the land which comprises the Fairhaven Saltmarsh Mitigation Area (plots 19-001 and 19-002), is not owned by the Crown, and that this has been confirmed by the Crown to the Applicants. <b>Post hearing action</b> : The Book of Reference has been updated at Deadline 6 (D3/F05) to reflect this, along with the 'Consents and Licences Required under Other Legislation' submission (J27/F04). The Applicants confirm that the land is registered and owned by Fylde Borough Council and are in ongoing discussions with Fylde Borough Council on the rights sought.
		15) The Applicants noted that the land within Row 88 of the Land Rights Tracker is owned by a newly identified legal group, consisting of individuals and one business. Post hearing action: The Book of Reference has been updated at Deadline 6 (D3/F05) to reflect this, along with the Land Rights Tracker (S_D1_15/F06).
		16) The Applicants confirmed that negotiations are ongoing with National Grid in relation to land rights associated with the connection to Penwortham Substation. The Applicants explained that National Grid has a formal process through which the Applicants have to seek the relevant land rights, but that the protective provisions

ID	Agenda Item	Notes
		and confidential commercial side agreements were well progressed. Once these are finalised, the Applicants hope that the land agreement can be finalised.
		17) The Applicants confirmed that Section 5 of the Land Rights Tracker was understood to be accurate regarding the Category 1 and Category 2 interests The Applicants agreed to check and confirm this as a hearing action point.
4	Item 5 – Representations by affected persons	18) The Applicants emphasised that the National Farmers Union (NFU) did not have an interest in the land nor had they been formally appointed by and landowners as part of this DCO examination, and that negotiations were being undertaken with the landowners and the agents directly.
	a) Comments on APs without an interest in land	19) The Applicants noted that the points which were raised by the NFU as outstanding points of concern, in particular in relation to placement of link boxes, were not points which the landowners and agents were raising through the HOTs negotiations.
5	Item 5 – Representations by affected persons b) Blackpool Borough Council – Starr Gate	20) In relation to concerns raised by Blackpool Borough Council over the Starr Gate access, the Applicants confirmed that there is nothing in the DCO which would allow exclusive possession over Starr Gate – this land is currently used as an access, and the Applicants are only seeking rights of access over these plots. The Applicants' use of the land would not be inconsistent with the current use, and therefore access by other parties could continue without any exclusion throughout use of the access by the Applicants.
		21) The Applicants clarified that Article 29 of the DCO granted the Applicants 'temporary use' of the land, and that with the various restrictions on these powers which are in place regarding these plots, that the Applicants would have no ability to take exclusionary possession of this land. The Applicants noted that it was vital to retain the temporary powers sought over plots 02-008 and 02-008 as a last-resort where a voluntary agreement could not be reached, as these are private plots of land which do not fall within the public highway – this approach is in line with broader guidance on compulsory purchase, and compulsory acquisition within Development Consent Orders.
		22) The Applicants emphasised that a voluntary licence or agreement in relation to this land would be the preference, however the Applicants cannot exclude these plots from the Development Consent Order on the basis that the necessary agreement is not yet secured. The Applicants are seeking to negotiate voluntary rights in relation to Starr Gate separately to other plots of land owned by Blackpool Borough Council, in order to expedite agreement in relation to these plots of particular concern.
		23) The Applicants further explained that they have offered to remove the temporary possession powers over highway land. Post hearing note: This has been secured by the revised wording for article 29 within the dDCO submitted at Deadline 6.

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		24) <b>Post hearing note</b> : In response to Hearing Action Point CAH3_3, the Applicants have submitted a note setting out their detailed response to the most recent opinion from Douglas Edwards KC and their position in relation to the powers sought at Starr Gate (see S_D6_6 Annex 2.2 Applicant's response to CAH3_3)
		25) The Applicants confirmed that they believe there has been a misunderstanding in terms of the powers being sought over the land, and that the powers sought are wholly reasonable and proportionate, with restrictions appropriately secured in the draft DCO and the use further controlled by the measures included in the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (J5/F05).
6	Item 5 – Representations by affected persons c) Blackpool Borough Council – Beach Cable Easements	26) In response to concerns raised by Blackpool Borough Council in relation to the cable easements at the beach, and particularly the sand dunes area. The Applicants emphasised that discussions are ongoing regarding this area of land, for which HOTs are in circulation and there are some key commercial points which need to be progressed. The Applicants explained that further engineering studies would be required to provide Blackpool Borough Council with the information they had requested in relation to the precise number and depth of cables/circuits within the plots and the interaction with the surface of the sand dunes.
		27) The Applicants explained that although the underlying principle of including compulsory acquisition powers within a development consent order is to ensure that the project has a 'last resort' option of securing the necessary land rights if a voluntary agreement with any particular landowner cannot be reached. It is not necessary for voluntary agreements to be in place by the close of examination, and this is recognised by compulsory acquisition guidance on the basis that these powers are needed as a 'last resort' option, in order to ensure that no 'ransom' situation could arise with any landowners where a voluntary agreement is outstanding.
7	Item 5 – Representations by affected persons	28) In response to concerns raised by Blackpool Borough Council and Blackpool Airport regarding co-existence between the solar farm proposed as part of the wider Silicon Sands development and the Transmission Assets, the Applicants reiterated their position that the solar farm can coexist with the Applicants' transmission assets subject to parameters being agreed between the parties.
	d) Blackpool Borough Council – Airport Land	29) The Applicants explained that the HOTs have been in circulation for almost a year, and that productive meetings have been held on this matter. There are various technical parameters that need to be addressed on both sides and these are being considered.
		30) The Applicants are undertaking a review of the potential site interactions and construction methodologies in order to provide further information in relation to the engineering considerations which require some additional engagement in order to facilitate co-existence of the developments and minimise potential sterilisation of land within the Blackpool Airport boundary.
		31) The Applicants reiterated that the inclusion of compulsory acquisition powers remains necessary as a last resort measure to ensure delivery of the Transmission Assets, as a nationally significant infrastructure project.

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		However, the preference is to conclude a voluntary agreement with the Council as landowner as soon as possible.
		32) In relation to concerns raised around Leach Lane and changes to access arrangements coming into Blackpool Airport, the Applicants confirmed that there has been no change to the access strategy associated with any access to Blackpool Airport land as a result of the change application.
		33) The construction access strategy, and links identified within the application, identify that majority of traffic will go via Blackpool Road North and then immediately turn on to Leach Lane, so the majority of the lane will remain unaffected by HGV movements. The Applicants noted that they have been in detailed discussions with Lancashire County Council, as acting highways authority, about how access will be managed. Post hearing note: The Applicants confirm that this information is included within the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan submitted at Deadline 6 (J5/F05).
8	Item 5 – Representations by affected persons e) St Anne's Old Links Golf Club	34) In response to concerns raised by the Golf Club regarding the cable depths over this area, the Applicants confirmed that the engineering team are considering cable installation in this area, in order that further detail on this point could be included within the HOTs where possible.
9	Item 5 – Representations by affected persons f) Stephen Dagg – SABIC UK	35) The Applicants welcomed comments from SABIC, who confirmed that the protective provisions are in substantial agreement with the Applicants, and they anticipate that they will withdraw their objection following the Applicants submitting a set of revised protective provisions.
10	Item 5 – Representations by affected persons g) Gordon Ashworth	36) In response to concerns raised by Mr Ashworth, the Applicants referred to REP4-111 in the Examination Library. This discusses the accommodation measures and mitigation measures proposed to be applied for the various land parcels, where the Applicants are working with landowners to ensure minimum disruption to businesses.
11	Item 5 – Representations by affected persons h) Louise Staples – National Farmers' Union	37) In relation to comments raised by the NFU in regarding HOTs for agricultural tenants, the Applicants confirmed that agricultural tenants would not receive HOTs until the freeholder/landlord agreements were in place, and emphasised that this is standard practice as such agreements need to mirror the higher ranking freehold agreements. The projects preference was to offer tripartite agreements encompassing the Owner and occupier but the Land Agents Group) confirmed this approach was not acceptable and wanted separate agreements.

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		The Applicants confirmed that the process for this is ongoing and will continue beyond the close of examination.
12	Item 5 – Representations by affected persons	38) Tallentine raised a concern with returning the land to its agricultural use following the construction period. The Applicants confirmed that the land in question is an area used only temporarily for minor works during the construction phase, with the land being reinstated to the landowner's satisfaction following the construction period.
	i) Tallentine Limited	39) The Applicants noted that the most recent HOTs have been sent to the interested party this week and that engagement was ongoing.
		40) <b>Post-hearing note</b> : a further meeting with the land agent for Tallentine Limited was undertaken on the 10th October 2025 and negotiations are progressing
13	Item 6 – Consideration of the Statutory Tests for Compulsory Acquisition (CA) Section 122 Planning Act 2008	41) The Applicants explained that they have considered Douglas Edwards KC's opinion and have sought to suggest some amendments that are considered to be proportionate and fair in response, including the commitment to not exercise temporary possession powers in relation to plots that are adopted public highway, which would be secured on the face of the draft DCO. <b>Post-hearing note</b> : The Applicants have updated the draft DCO at Deadline 6 (C1/F09) to account for this.
	a) Starr Gate Access	42) The Applicants explained that they disagree with Blackpool Borough Council and the opinion from Douglas Edwards KC, specifically the point around whether the powers sought over the two plots of private land at Starr Gate are exclusionary – this was set out in detail within the Applicants' submission at Deadline 5 within REP5-127. The Applicants confirmed that the nature of the temporary powers which the Applicants are seeking over these plots are restricted only to access, and that pursuant to Article 24 of the draft DCO this is not inconsistent with the existing use of the land as an access way – this means that the powers sought cannot be exclusionary in any way.
		43) The Applicants highlighted that Article 29 is called "Temporary use of land for carrying out the authorised project" and reiterated that it is entirely normal that these powers would be sought for access. Schedules 7A and 7B clearly refer to these powers, and their restrictions. Article 24 notes that powers sought pursuant to Article 29 are only exclusionary where the powers sought would be inconsistent with the existing use, which is not the case here.
		44) <b>Post hearing note</b> : In response to Hearing Action Point CAH3_3, the Applicants have submitted a note setting out their detailed response to the most recent opinion from Douglas Edwards KC and their position in relation to the powers sought at Starr Gate (see S_D6_6 Annex 2.2 Applicant's response to CAH3_3)
14	Item 6 –	45) The Applicants acknowledged the relationship between the delivery of the biodiversity benefit area at Lea Marsh Fields, and the compulsory acquisition tests that apply. The Applicants also noted that there will be

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	Consideration of the Statutory Tests for Compulsory Acquisition (CA) Section 122 Planning Act 2008 b) Lea Marsh Biodiversity Area	amendments proposed to Articles 20 and 22 of the draft DCO, to ensure linkage between the extent of the land required and approval of the final biodiversity benefit scheme by Fylde Borough Council which will dictate the extent of land required at Lea Marsh Fields. The mechanism will ensure that the level of biodiversity benefit considered necessary to meet the Council's policies and EN1 has a direct link to the acquisition of land a. <b>Post hearing note</b> : The Applicants have reflected these amendments in the updated draft DCO, as submitted at Deadline 6 (C1/F09)
		46) The Applicants confirmed that discussions relating to voluntary land agreements are ongoing with all interested parties. The agreements with occupiers need to follow the freeholder agreement, as their interest is subservient to freeholder's interest.
15	Item 6 – Consideration of the Statutory Tests for Compulsory Acquisition (CA) Section 122 Planning Act	47) The Applicants set out that they are reviewing the outputs of a report to understand the potential impact of acquisition of the Occupier's land. There was a phase 1 draft Business Impact Mitigation Assessment Report prepared in April 2025 which is currently subject to a non-disclosure agreement, however the Applicants confirmed they are continuing discussions with the Occupier.
	2008 c) Land where permanent	48) The Applicants clarified that there does not appear to be a business extinguishment risk and that discussions about the mitigation measures are ongoing.
	acquisition is sought – Land Rights Tracker Reference 26	49) In response to the request that the Business Examination and Mitigation Report be disclosed to the ExA, the Applicants explained that the report contains sensitive information regarding the operation of the business which the business owners may not want it in the public domain, however the Applicants committed to discussing with the Occupier information that could be provided to the examination.
		50) <b>Post hearing note</b> : In response to Hearing Action Point CAH3_5 the Applicants have submitted further detail in relation to the farm business assessments (S_D6_8)
16	Item 6 – Consideration of the Statutory Tests for Compulsory Acquisition	51) The Applicants confirmed that there are two separate accesses being sought over the land – one of which is purely for access during the operation phase. The Applicants are engaging with the landowner regarding their concerns relating to this operational access, and is exploring the potential for an alternative access route.
	(CA) Section 122 Planning Act 2008 – Land Holdings Detail [Rep5-137] d) Land where permanent	52) In relation to the construction accesses, the Applicants are discussing with the landowner around potential mitigation measures and reducing to one construction access, however would note that there are some engineering, commercial and land matters to explore before this can be finalised. The Applicants maintained that the design of the project is safe and appropriate for what is necessary for concurrent construction.
	acquisition is sought – Land	53) The Applicants noted they are in discussions with the affected parties.
	Rights Tracker Reference 34	54) <b>Post-hearing note</b> : The Applicants have communicated the removal of plot 07-006 to the landowners and are hopeful this will progress negotiations for the land rights sought.

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17	Item 6 – Consideration of the Statutory Tests for Compulsory Acquisition (CA) Section 122 Planning Act 2008 e) Implementation Timescales	<ul> <li>55) In response to the ExA's queries in relation to the implementation period for the Transmission Assets and how this linked to the Generation Assets, the Applicants noted that each consent should not be dependent on the other's timeline.</li> <li>56) Post hearing note: In response to Hearing Action Point CAH3_6, the Applicants have further considered the implementation period and have updated the draft DCO (C1/F09) at Deadline 6 such that the Morgan Transmission Assets will need to be implemented by the same date as the Morgan Generation Assets, and that the Morecambe Transmission Assets will need to be implemented by the same date as the Morecambe Generation Assets. This will reduce the seven year period, however will ensure that the respective generation and transmission assets for each project are aligned.</li> </ul>
18	Item 7 – Statutory Undertakers – s172 Planning Act 2008 a) GTC Pipelines	57) The Applicants noted that GTC Pipelines are protected by the Part 1 Standard Protection Provisions for Electricity, Sewage Water and Gas Undertakers. Further to this, a side agreement is being entered into, and the Applicants are confident that a positive position can be reached which will allow GTC Pipelines to withdraw their objection.
19	Item 8 – Open Space – s132 PA 23008	58) The Applicants and the Council are continuing to engage in relation to a Section 106 Agreement in order to provide mitigation for the temporary disruption at the Blackpool Road Recreation Ground, and all parties are now agreed that the scope of the rights and restrictive covenants sought over the Blackpool Road Recreation Ground are compatible with the continued use of the recreation ground.
20	Item 9 – Crown Land – s135 Planning Act 2008	<ul> <li>59) The Applicants noted that due to the nature of some of the interests and the amount of time it has taken to obtain evidence of title over various plots of land, Section 135 consent from all relevant parties may not be provided by the close of examination. The Applicants recognised the importance of ensuring that the necessary Section 135 consents were in place to allow the SoS to include the relevant provisions in the DCO.</li> <li>60) The Applicants explained ongoing dialogue with the Duchy of Lancaster has been taking place in relation to the extent of their interest, and in particular it has become apparent that the Duchy of Lancaster do not have any interest in the foreshore. The Applicants also confirmed that discussions would continue with Fylde Borough Council in relation to their purported ownership over this land.</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>61) Post hearing note: The Applicants have updated the Book of Reference (D3/F05) and Crown Land Plans (B19/F04) at Deadline 6.</li> <li>62) Post hearing note: Pursuant to Hearing Action Point CAH3_10, the Applicants have provided an update on the progress of the offshore Agreements for Lease with the Crown Estate, please see the Applicants' response to Hearing Action Points from ISH4 and CAH3 (S_D6_6)</li> </ul>

ID	Agenda Item	Notes
21	Item 10 – Human Rights and Public Sector Equality Duty  a) Wrea Green Equestrian Centre	<ul> <li>63) The Applicants confirmed that an updated Public Sector Equality Duty Statement would be provided with more detailed consideration of the impacts on Wrea Green. The Applicants noted that in addition to this, they are continuing to engage with Wrea Green directly in order to ensure suitable mitigation measures are secured in the relevant management plans</li> <li>64) Post hearing note: The Applicants have updated the Public Sector Equality Duty Statement (S_D1_8/F03) Deadline 6.</li> </ul>
22	Item 11 – Corporate Structure of the Applicants  a) Blight Claims	<ul> <li>65) The Applicants noted concerns raised by the ExA in relation to Morecambe Offshore Wind Limited's ability to cover the cost of any blight claims which may arise. The Applicants assured the ExA that appropriate contingency and funding was in place for the Transmission Assets, including for any blight claims, and that this is supported by the information provided in the Funding Statement (D1/F02).</li> <li>66) Post hearing note: In response to Hearing Action Point CAH3_11, the Applicants have provided an updated note on this point (see S_D6_6.)</li> </ul>
23	Item 12 – Any other matters relating to the relevant articles within the draft DCO	67) No points were raised by any parties.