



MORGAN AND MORECAMBE OFFSHORE WIND FARMS: TRANSMISSION ASSETS

Without Prejudice Removal of Lytham Moss - Outline Ecological Management Plan



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Glossary

Term	Meaning
400 kV grid connection cable corridor	The corridor within which the 400 kV grid connection cables will be located.
400 kV grid connection cables	Cables that will connect the proposed onshore substations to the existing National Grid Penwortham substation.
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.
Code of Construction Practice	A document detailing the overarching principles of construction, contractor protocols, construction-related environmental management measures, pollution prevention measures, the selection of appropriate construction techniques and monitoring processes.
Commitment	This term is used interchangeably with mitigation and enhancement measures. The purpose of commitments is to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset significant adverse environmental effects.
Development Consent Order	An order made under the Planning Act 2008, as amended, granting development consent.
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.
European sites	Designated nature conservation sites which include the National Site Network (designated within the UK) and Natura 2000 sites (designated in any European Union country). This includes Sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas.
Favourable Conservation Status	The situation in which a habitat or species is thriving throughout its natural range and is expected to continue to thrive into the future.
Intertidal area	The area between Mean High Water Springs and Mean Low Water Springs.
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 bays inclusive of all construction works, including the offshore and onshore cable routes, intertidal working area and landfall compound(s).
Mean High Water Springs	The height of mean high water during spring tides in a year.

Term	Meaning
Mean Low Water Springs	The height of mean low water during spring tides in a year.
Mitigation measures	This term is used interchangeably with Commitments. The purpose of such measures is to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset significant adverse environmental effects.
Morecambe OWL	Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Ltd (Morecambe OWL), owned by Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners' (CIP) fifth flagship fund, Copenhagen Infrastructure V (CI V).
Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets	The offshore and onshore infrastructure connecting the Morgan Offshore Wind Project and the Morecambe Offshore Windfarm to the national grid. 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 OWL	Morgan Offshore Wind Limited (Morgan OWL), is a joint venture between JERA Nex bp (JNbp) and Energie Baden-Württemberg AG (EnBW).
National Site Network	The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 have created a National Site Network on land and at sea, including both the inshore and offshore marine areas in the UK. The National Site Network includes existing Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas alongside new Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas designated under these Regulations.
Onshore export cable corridor	The corridor within which the onshore export cables will be located.
Onshore export cables	The cables which would bring electricity from landfall to the onshore substations.
Onshore Infrastructure Area	The area within the Transmission Assets Order Limits landward of Mean High Water Springs. Comprising the offshore export cables from Mean High Water Springs to the transition joint bays, onshore export cables, onshore substations and 400 kV grid connection cables, and associated temporary and permanent infrastructure including temporary and permanent compound areas and accesses. Those parts of the Transmission Assets Order Limits proposed only for ecological mitigation/biodiversity benefit and enhancement areas are excluded from this area.
Onshore substations	The onshore substations will include a substation for the Morgan Offshore Wind Project: Transmission Assets and a substation for the Morecambe Offshore Windfarm: Transmission Assets. These will each comprise a compound containing the electrical components for transforming the power supplied from the generation assets to 400 kV and to adjust the power quality and power factor, as required to meet the UK Grid Code for supply to the National Grid.
Protected species	A species of animal or plant which it is forbidden by law to harm or destroy.
Substation	Part of an electrical transmission and distribution system. Substations transform voltage from high to low, or the reverse by means of electrical transformers.

Term	Meaning
Survey area	The area within which each survey has been undertaken. This may differ from the Study Area as a Survey Area will be based on species or survey-specific guidance on the extent of survey required, which may be limited by, for example, habitat conditions, or be defined in terms of buffer areas around an area of potential impact.
Transmission Assets	See Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets (above).
Transmission Assets Order Limits	The area within which all components of the Transmission Assets will be located, including areas required on a temporary basis during construction and/or decommissioning
Transmission Assets Order Limits: Onshore	The area within which all components of the Transmission Assets landward of Mean High Water Springs will be located, including areas required on a temporary basis during construction and/or decommissioning (such as construction compounds). Also referred to in this report as the Onshore Order Limits, for ease of reading.

Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BHS	Biological Heritage Site
BMWP	Biological Monitoring Working Party
BPZ	Bird Protection Zone
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
CoCP	Code of Construction Practice
DCO	Development Consent Order
ECow	Ecological Clerk of Works
ES	Environmental Statement
EMP	Ecological Management Plan
GCN	Great Crested Newt
IEF	Important Ecological Features
INNS	Invasive Non-native Species
LMP	Landscape Management Plan
OEMP	Outline Ecological Management Plan
OLMP	Outline Landscape Management Plan
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
UK	United Kingdom

Units

Unit	Description
%	Percentage
ha	Hectare
kV	Kilovolt
m	Metre

1 Without Prejudice Outline Ecological Management Plan

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Introduction

1.1.1.1 This document forms the Outline Ecological Management Plan (OEMP) prepared for the Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets (referred to hereafter as 'the Transmission Assets').

1.1.1.2 This OEMP has been updated at Deadline 2 to include the following:

- The update of Appendix B to include indicative locations and details of management measures for the environmental mitigation areas.

1.1.1.3 Updates to the OEMP were also made at the following deadlines:

- Deadline 3
 - The inclusion of Appendix E: Outline Wildlife Hazard Management Plan
 - Refinement of the onshore site preparation works to remove onshore substation preparatory ground works.
- Deadline 4
 - Clarification of the roles and responsibilities for implementing this outline ecological management plan
 - Clarification that the measures within this outline management plan will be implemented during the onshore site preparation works.
 - The inclusion of Appendix E: Outline Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan
 - The inclusion of measures that will be implemented during the construction at landfall
 - The inclusion of measures that will be implemented at Mill Brook Valley Biological Heritage Site
 - Further detail added on the management measures at Newton-with-Scales and Lytham Moss.
- Deadline 5
 - The Outline Wildlife Hazard Management Plan is changed to a standalone document and Appendix E is the Outline Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan
 - Further detail added regarding tree and hedgerow removal methodology and retention has been added to Section 1.6.4
 - The commitment to establish a Construction Coordination Working Group post DCO award that will provide a forum for

post-consent engagement between the Applicants and local authorities

- Further detail added regarding the management measures for the mitigation areas at Lytham Moss, Newton-with-Scales and Fairhaven Saltmarsh
- Updates to the pre-construction surveys to include overwintering birds.

- Deadline 6

- The addition of the Terrestrial Waterbird Note as Appendix F
- The addition of the Supplementary Feeding Strategy as Appendix G
- The addition of the Strategy for Delivery of Onshore and Intertidal Ornithology Mitigation as Appendix H
- Updates to Appendix A (Indicative Timeframes) and Appendix B (Mitigation Areas) to include further detail on the management of the ornithology mitigation areas and clarification on the monitoring frequency and duration (i.e., for the lifetime of the Project for Newton-with-Scales)
- Details on the interlinked management plans and the update process
- Updates to the Construction Coordination Working Group
- Updates to Appendix E: Outline Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan in response to feedback from Fylde Borough Council
- Updates to the wording of CoT128 and CoT129
- The inclusion of peat within section 1.5.2

1.1.1.4 This OEMP was also updated in response to the Secretary of State's request for information (dated 12 March 2026) to include the following:

- Clarification on the proposed measures to be implemented as part of alternative mitigation of temporary impacts on ornithological receptors
- Addition of a without prejudice outline management plan (Appendix I) for alternative mitigation at Crossens Outer and Banks Marsh area of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Site, Ribble Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and National Nature Reserve (NNR) to address permanent impacts. This has also been updated to address comments received from Natural England (March 2026)
- Updates to Appendix E: Outline Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan to reflect changes to the draft European Protected Species (EPS) licence Method Statement as discussed in a meeting with Natural England (December 2025)

1.1.1.5 This OEMP was also updated at the Secretary of State's request for information (2) (dated 20 May 2026). The update was in response to

ongoing consultation with Natural England (the SNCB and Ribble Estuary NNR teams), which confirmed that the habitat improvement measures at Crossens Outer and Banks Marsh (as described in the OEMP J6/F07) will now be funded and delivered by Natural England. With this in mind, the Applicants have made the following modifications:

- removal of the without prejudice outline management plan (Appendix I) for alternative mitigation at the Crossens Outer and Banks Marsh area
- updates to the proposed management measures in Appendix B2 relating to land south of Newton-with-Scales. The mitigation focuses on the maintenance of existing habitats using grassland and rush management and reduced disturbance during the overwintering period.
- updates to CoT120 and Appendix F (Terrestrial Waterbirds Technical Note) to reflect the changes to the proposed measures at land south of Newton-with-Scales
- addition of an outline management plan (Appendix I) for the alternative permanent mitigation area at Lytham Moss
- clarification regarding the mechanism to agree the scope of the ground investigations and groundwater monitoring and the sharing of data. Update of CoT128 to reflect the clarification.

1.1.1.6 This OEMP was also updated on a without prejudice basis in response to the Secretary of State's request for information (dated 8 July 2026). The updates comprise the following:

- removal of the measures at Lytham Moss in relation to the mitigation of temporary impacts to onshore ornithology
- removal of the reference to Lytham Moss as an alternative permanent mitigation area
- updates to CoT107 to reflect the removal of the temporary mitigation area at Lytham Moss
- updates to CoT120 to clarify that land south of Newton-with-Scales provides permanent mitigation of EIA effects only
- removal of Appendix F (Terrestrial Waterbirds Note) - the purpose of this appendix was to set out the rationale for the temporary mitigation areas at Lytham Moss and south of Newton-with-Scales to support the conclusion of no AEoI. The appendix is not required in this without prejudice OEMP as the temporary mitigation areas at Lytham Moss and south of Newton-with-Scales are removed
- removal of Appendix G (Supplementary Feeding Calculations) as temporary feeding was only proposed at Lytham Moss
- updates to Appendix H (now Appendix F) to focus on the seasonal working practices and screening at Lytham Moss and land south of Newton-with-Scales
- removal of Appendix I (Alternative Mitigation at Lytham Moss).

1.1.2 Project overview

- 1.1.2.1 The Morgan Offshore Wind Project: Generation Assets and the Morecambe Offshore Windfarm: Generation Assets (referred to collectively as the ‘Generation Assets’) are two proposed wind farms located in the east Irish Sea. Morgan Offshore Wind Limited (Morgan OWL), a joint venture between JERA Nex bp (JNbp) and Energie Baden-Württemberg AG (EnBW), is developing the Morgan Offshore Wind Project. The Morgan Offshore Wind Project is a proposed wind farm in the east Irish Sea.
- 1.1.2.2 Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Ltd (Morecambe OWL), owned by Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners' (CIP) fifth flagship fund, Copenhagen Infrastructure V (CI V), is developing the Morecambe Offshore Windfarm, also located in the east Irish Sea.
- 1.1.2.3 The purpose of the Transmission Assets is to connect the Morgan Offshore Wind Project: Generation Assets and Morecambe Offshore Windfarm: Generation Assets (referred to collectively as the ‘Generation Assets’) to the National Grid.
- 1.1.2.4 Morgan OWL and Morecambe OWL (the Applicants) are jointly seeking a single consent for their electrically separate transmission assets comprising aligned offshore export cable corridors to landfall and aligned onshore export cable corridors to separate onshore substations and onward connection to the National Grid at Penwortham, Lancashire.
- 1.1.2.5 The key components of the Transmission Assets include offshore elements, landfall and onshore elements. Full details of the activities and infrastructure associated with the Transmission Assets are set out in Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project description of the Environmental Statement (ES) (document reference F1.3).
- 1.1.2.6 This OEMP has been developed for onshore elements of Transmission Assets, landwards of Mean Low Water Springs. The onshore and intertidal elements of the Transmission Assets relevant to this plan are:
- onshore export cables: these cables will link the landfall site and the proposed onshore substations
 - onshore substations: the proposed substations containing the components for transforming the power supplied via the onshore export cables up to 400 kV;
 - 400 kV grid connection cables: these 400 kV cables will connect the proposed onshore substations to the existing National Grid Penwortham substation. Circuit breaker infrastructure may also be required within the 400 kV grid connection cable corridor;
 - environmental mitigation areas – temporary and/or permanent areas, including accesses identified to provide environmental mitigation only.

1.1.3 Aim and purpose of the OEMP

- 1.1.3.1 The aim of this OEMP is to ensure the protection and appropriate management of ecological receptors within the area to be affected by the Transmission Assets. The final EMP (which shall be based on this OEMP, see CoT104 of Volume 1 Annex 5.3: Commitments Register (REP4-018))) will be followed alongside adherence to legislative requirements relating to ecology and nature conservation and onshore and intertidal ornithology. Information in relation to enhancement is provided in **section 1.10** of this OEMP.
- 1.1.3.2 This OEMP provides outline measures required to mitigate temporary and permanent impacts on identified ecological receptors via the avoidance, restoration, enhancement, and management of existing and created habitats during the onshore site preparation works, construction and operation and maintenance phases of the Transmission Assets. In addition, this OEMP also describes the requirements for future monitoring and reporting during the operation of the Transmission Assets to evaluate the efficacy of the proposed management measures.
- 1.1.3.3 This OEMP has been drafted based on the following:
- Volume 3, Chapter 3: Onshore ecology and nature conservation of the ES (document reference F3.3);
 - Volume 3, Chapter 4: Onshore and intertidal ornithology of the ES (document reference F3.4);
 - Habitats Regulations Assessment Stage 2 Information to Support an Appropriate Assessment Part 1 to Part 3 (document reference E2.1 to E2.3);
 - Site surveys undertaken in 2023 and 2024 and reported in Volume 3, Annexes 3.1 to 3.15 of the ES (document references F3.3.1 to F3.3.15); and
 - Site surveys undertaken in 2022 and 2023 and reported in Volume 3, Annexes 4.1 to 4.4 of the ES (document references F3.4.1 to F3.4.4).
- 1.1.3.4 Specific details and locations of some ecological receptors (e.g., in relation to badger setts and otter holts/resting sites) have been omitted from this OEMP and will only be provided to bona fide parties in response to an appropriate written request to the Applicants. This will also apply to the detailed EMP(s).
- 1.1.3.5 This OEMP references the following documents:
- Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) (document reference J1) including supporting appendices (document references J1.1 to J1.14); and,
 - Outline Landscape Management Plan (OLMP) (document reference J2).

1.1.4 Interlinked Management Plans and the Update Process

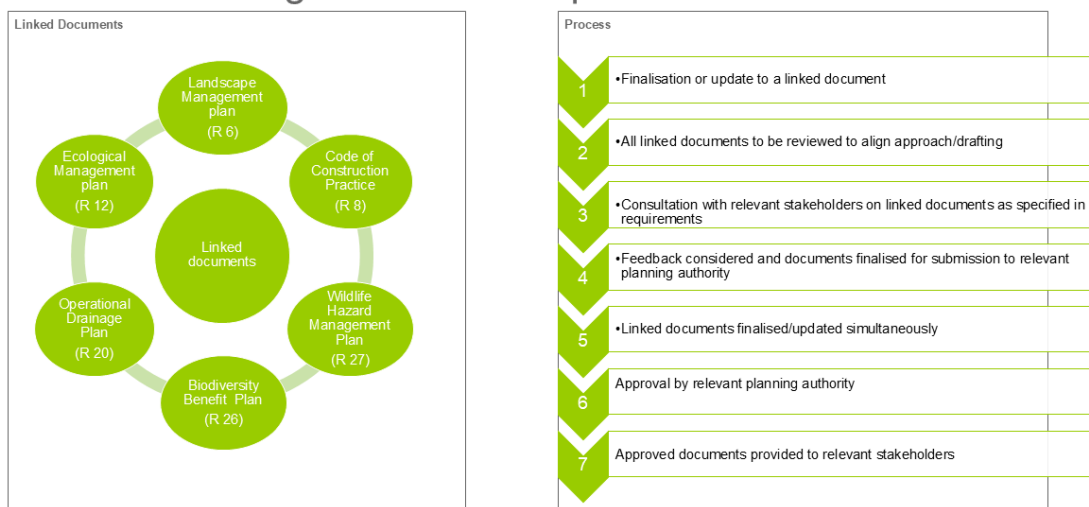
1.1.4.1 The OEMP forms part of a suite of interlinked outline management plans relating to the design, management and monitoring of environmental mitigation and biodiversity areas and management of construction impacts associated with the Transmission Assets Project. These interlinked plans are:

- Code of Construction Practice;
- Wildlife Hazard Management Plan;
- Landscape Management Plan;
- Ecological Management Plan;
- Biodiversity Benefit Plan; and
- Operational Drainage Management Plan

1.1.4.2 The outline management plans form part of the Transmission Asset DCO application. Each outline management plan is secured by a requirement of the draft DCO; detailed management plans will be prepared in accordance with the corresponding outline plan and approved by the relevant planning authority. The approved plans must be implemented as approved.

1.1.4.3 Each management plan has its own purpose and objectives specific to the subject of the plan, but there is cross-over in the objectives of the different plans. The outline plans have been prepared to ensure that the objectives of each management plan can be delivered and that the management measures are aligned between the interlinked plans. The Applicants will adopt a structured approach in the preparation of the detailed management plans to ensure continued alignment of management measures across the interlinked management plans. The interlinked management plans will remain as 'live' documents during the construction and operation stages to reflect the adaptive management approach. Where a review/update of a management plan is required (e.g. in response to monitoring results), the review/updates will be undertaken in the context of the other interlinked plans and will follow the staged approach set out below.

Linked Management Plans Update Process



1

1.1.5 Structure of this document

1.1.5.1 This Outline OEMP has been separated into the following sections:

- **section 1.1:** this provides an introduction, overview of the project, purpose and scope of this OEMP and sets out relevant guidance documents;
- **section 1.2:** this provides details on how this OEMP and final EMP will be implemented;
- **section 1.3:** this provides an overview of the environmental mitigation areas proposed;
- **section 1.4:** this describes the roles and responsibilities of the Applicants, Principal Contractors, site managers, environmental coordinators, and other technical roles;
- **section 1.5:** this describes the measures required prior to the commencement of construction;
- **section 1.6:** this describes the measures required during construction of the onshore and intertidal elements of the Transmission Assets;
- **section 1.7:** this describes the measures required upon completion of the construction phase of the onshore and intertidal elements of the Transmission Assets; and
- **section 1.8:** this describes the long term management measures required upon completion of the construction phase of the onshore and intertidal elements of the Transmission Assets.
- **section 1.9:** this describes the requirements for species monitoring and management during the operation of the Transmission Assets.

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- 1.1.5.2 In addition to the sections listed above, this Outline OEMP is also supported by the following appendices:
- **Appendix A** – this provides an indicative timetable and apportionment of works between the Morgan OWL and Morecambe OWL;
 - **Appendix B** – this provides further detail regarding the mitigation areas, including key parameters, management measures and apportionment between the Morgan OWL and Morecambe OWL;
 - **Appendix C** – this provides the Outline Bird Protection Plan, including the mitigation and monitoring requirements for breeding birds;
 - **Appendix D** – this provides a summary of the legislation relevant to protected or notable species discussed in this OEMP
 - **Appendix E** – this provides the Outline Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan including measures to mitigate construction impacts on sand lizards.
 - **Appendix F** – this provides the Strategy for Delivery of Onshore and Intertidal Ornithology Mitigation

1.2 Implementation

1.2.1 DCO Requirement

- 1.2.1.1 Following the granting of consent for the Transmission Assets, detailed OEMPs will be prepared on behalf of Morgan OWL and/or Morecambe OWL, prior to commencement of the relevant stage of works and will follow the principles established in this OEMP. The detailed Ecological Management Plans will require approval by the relevant planning authority following consultation with relevant stakeholders. The Applicants and all appointed contractors will be responsible for the implementation of the respective detailed Ecological Management Plans.
- 1.2.1.2 The Applicants have committed to implementation of detailed Ecological Management Plans via the following commitment, CoT76 (see Volume 1, Annex 5.3: Commitments Register, document reference F1.5.3), and is secured by inclusion of Requirement 12 of the draft Development Consent Order (DCO) (document reference C1) Schedules 2A & 2B.
- 1.2.1.3 Below sets out the requirement wording for Project A (Project B's requirement mirror those of Project A for this requirement and are, therefore, not repeated):
- 12)— (1) No stage of the Project A onshore works or Project A intertidal works may commence until for that stage a written ecological management plan in accordance with the OEMP as appropriate for the relevant stage, has, following consultation with –*
- (a) Natural England;*

(b) the Environment Agency where works have the potential to impact wetland habitats; and

(c) BAE and BAOL in respect of the outline wildlife hazard management plan, been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority.

(2) The ecological management plan submitted under subparagraph (1) must include an implementation timetable and must be implemented as approved.

(3) Onshore site preparation works must only take place in accordance with the relevant details set out in the OEMP.

1.2.1.4 The Transmission Assets may adopt a staged approach to the approval of DCO requirements. This will enable requirements to be approved in part or in whole, prior to the commencement of the relevant stage of works in accordance with whether staged approach is to be taken to the delivery of the each of the offshore wind farms.

1.2.1.5 For onshore and intertidal works (landward of Mean Low Water Springs), this approach will be governed by the inclusion of Requirement 3 within the draft DCO, which requires notification to be submitted to the relevant planning authority/authorities detailing whether Project A or Project B relevant works will be constructed in a single stage; or in two or more stages to be approved prior to the commencement of the authorised development.

1.2.2 Construction Coordination Working Group

1.2.2.1 Following DCO award and prior to the commencement of construction, the Applicants would establish a Construction Coordination Working Group (CCWG). The CCWG will provide a forum for post-consent engagement between the Applicants and the local planning authorities, to ensure consideration is given to the potential for coordination (where appropriate) between the projects. This will ensure that the planning authorities are engaged, and can provide input, throughout the Applicants' process of preparing information to discharge requirements of the made Order. In particular, the CCWG will facilitate discussion of detailed management plans and enable feedback on how comments have been addressed between each of the Applicants, specifically in the context of Requirement 25 (onshore collaboration) in Schedules 2A and 2B of the draft DCO.

1.2.2.2 Relevant planning authorities will be requested to nominate staff and invite relevant third parties i.e. stakeholders where discussions and feedback on detailed management plans may be relevant to those parties. The costs of attendance at meetings and engagement by the relevant planning authorities will be covered by post-consent Planning Performance Agreements. The membership of the CCWG will be kept under review throughout construction, with members added or removed as required, via the ongoing engagement within the CCWG meetings. The mechanism to add or remove members will be agreed with the relevant planning authorities at the time the CCWG is set up.

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- 1.2.2.3 It is proposed that CCWG meetings will be monthly, unless agreed otherwise between the members of the CCWG.
- 1.2.2.4 Topics for discussion will include the exploration of opportunities and measures for coordination between the projects in relation to:
- Indicative programming and staging of construction
 - Survey planning and findings
 - Requests for specific post consent information to inform the discharge of requirements
 - Progress on design (e.g. onshore substation design, design of environmental mitigation areas)
 - Update on engagement with statutory consultees
 - Other consents or licences
 - Construction implementation, including feedback on monitoring and complaints
 - Requests for specific post consent information to inform the discharge of requirements
 - Outputs of Requirement 25 (Onshore collaboration).
- 1.2.2.5 The process of how the Applicants will respond to matters raised by the CCWG, and the timescales for provision of responses, will be agreed with the relevant planning authorities at the setup of the CCWG.
- 1.2.3 Scope of this OEMP**
- 1.2.3.1 Onshore site preparation activities are defined in Article 2 of the draft DCO (document reference REP3-009). This OEMP applies to the onshore site preparation works and the construction and operation and maintenance phases of the Transmission Assets.
- 1.2.3.2 Onshore site preparation works will be undertaken prior to the commencement of construction. These works will be carried out in accordance with the following sections of the OEMP as certified through the DCO:
- **Section 1.5:** Onshore site preparation measures
 - **Appendix B:** Mitigation Areas
 - **Appendix C:** Outline Breeding bird protection plan – **section C.1.3:** Onshore site preparation measures.
 - **Appendix E:** Outline Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan
- 1.2.3.3 The measures within this outline management plan are in accordance with best practice and are appropriate to manage the impacts associated with onshore site preparation works.
- 1.2.3.4 Ecological surveys will be undertaken during the onshore site preparation works (see section 1.5) and the results will be used to

inform the preparation of the detailed EMPs for Morgan OWL and Morecambe OWL respectively.

1.3 Overview of environmental mitigations

1.3.1.1 The Transmission Assets have sought to avoid potential impacts on ecology and ornithology receptors as part of the iterative design process, where possible. The primary (embedded) mitigation measures which have been adopted as part of the project and are relevant to this OEMP are summarised in **Table 1-1** below. Further detail is provided within Volume 1, Annex 5.3 Commitment Register of the ES (document reference F1.5.3).

1.3.2 Mitigation areas

1.3.2.1 Several mitigation areas are proposed within the Transmission Assets Order Limits: Onshore, hereafter referred to as the Onshore Order Limits, to mitigate potential impacts on Important Ecological Features (IEFs) identified in Volume 3, Chapter 3: Onshore ecology and nature conservation of the ES (document reference F3.3), Volume 3, Chapter 4: Onshore and intertidal ornithology of the ES (document reference F3.4) and the Habitats Regulations Assessment Stage 2 Information to Support an Appropriate Assessment Part 1 to Part 3 (document reference E2.1 to E2.3). These proposed mitigation areas can be summarised as follows.

- **Permanent mitigation area at Fairhaven Saltmarsh:** to reduce impacts of disturbance on intertidal waders that may be disrupted during construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Transmission Assets. Measures are proposed to reduce disturbance to roosting waders within a nearby area of suitable habitat at Fairhaven Saltmarsh. Although this mitigation area would primarily be required during construction of the Transmission Assets, the measures will also need to be implemented during the operation and maintenance phase of the Transmission Assets. This is to account for cable repair and reburial events, should they be required, proposed within the Intertidal Infrastructure Area (see **Figure 1-2**).
- **Pond creation at Moss Side:** creation of ponds to compensate for the permanent loss of a pond and associated aquatic invertebrate habitat during construction of the onshore export cable corridor for the Morecambe OWL (see **Figure 1-3**).
- **Pond creation at the Morgan onshore substation:** creation of ponds to compensate for the permanent loss of ponds and suitable aquatic invertebrate habitat, including Freshfield Farm Pond, North Biological Heritage Site (BHS) and Freshfield Farm Pond, South BHS during construction of the Morgan onshore substation (see **Figure 1-4**).
- **Permanent mitigation area south of Newton-with-Scales:** implementation of measures to maintain existing habitats and

reduce disturbance during the overwintering period to mitigate the potential impacts of permanent habitat loss on identified EIA ornithological features during operation of the Transmission Assets (see **Figure 1-5**).

- **Temporary construction mitigation area at Lea Marsh:** implementation of habitat enhancement measures to mitigate potential impacts of temporary habitat loss and disturbance on otters at Lea Marsh BHS during construction of the Transmission Assets (see **Figure 1-6**).

1.3.2.2 Further information regarding each of the mitigation areas listed above is provided in **Appendix B** of this OEMP. The location and geographic extent of these mitigation areas is presented in **Figure 1-1** to **Figure 1-6** of this OEMP.

1.3.2.3 A further area within the Onshore Order Limits is proposed for biodiversity benefit at Lea Marsh Fields, which is considered separately within the Outline Biodiversity Benefit Management Plan (document reference J11).

1.3.2.4 The Applicants recognise that, in discussions with stakeholders post-consent, refined or alternative mitigation areas may be identified as preferred, and these would be proposed and approved in finalising the detailed EMPs for Morgan OWL and Morecambe OWL.

1.3.3 Other mitigation measures

1.3.3.1 Other mitigation measures include seasonal working practices and screening of construction works between October and March (inclusive) in the vicinity of Lytham Moss and land south of Newton-with-Scales (as shown on **Figure 1-7**) to remove the potential for impacts within sensitive ornithological locations of the Transmission Assets Order Limits.

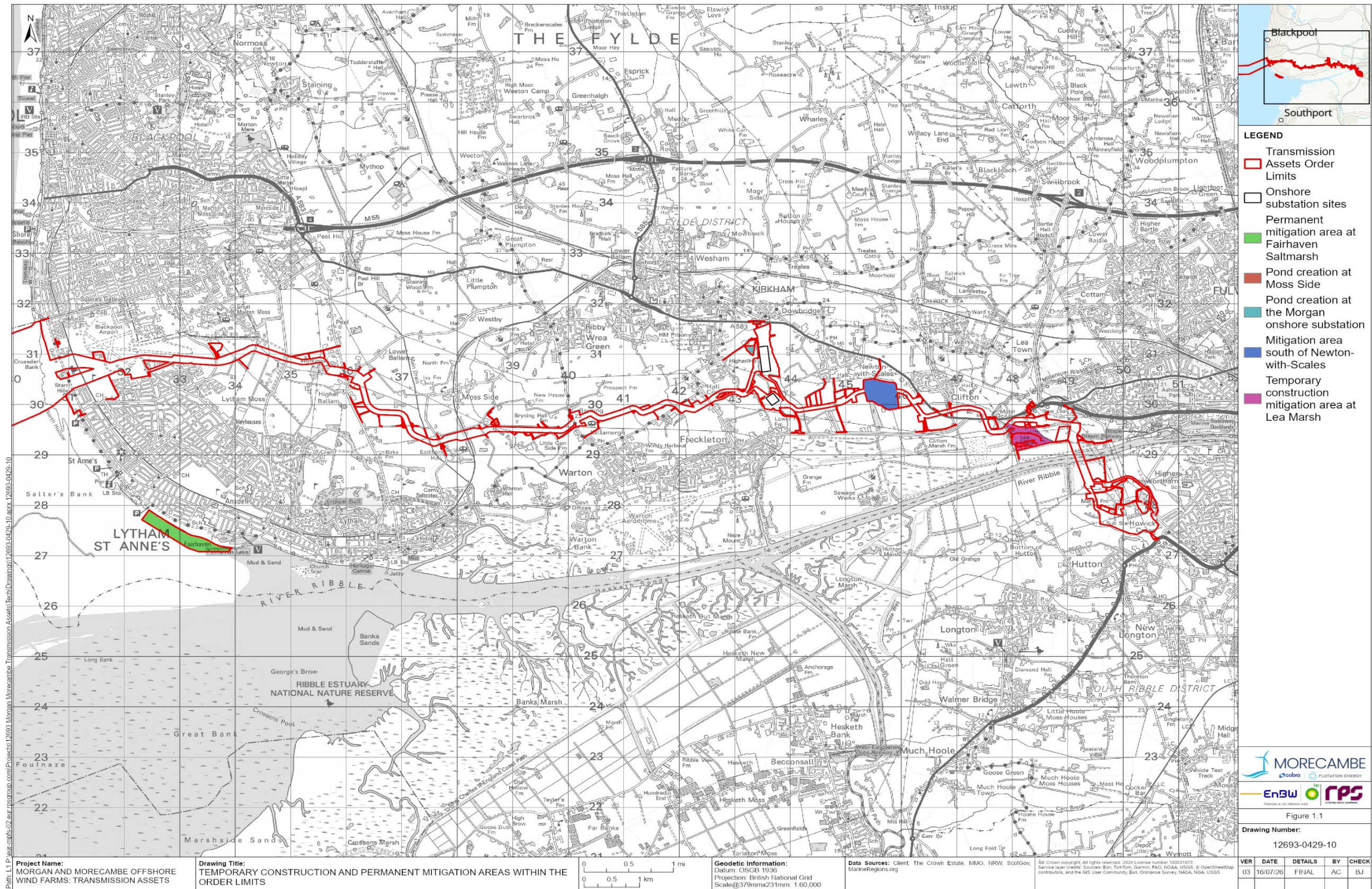


Figure 1-1: Temporary construction and permanent mitigation areas within the Onshore Order Limits

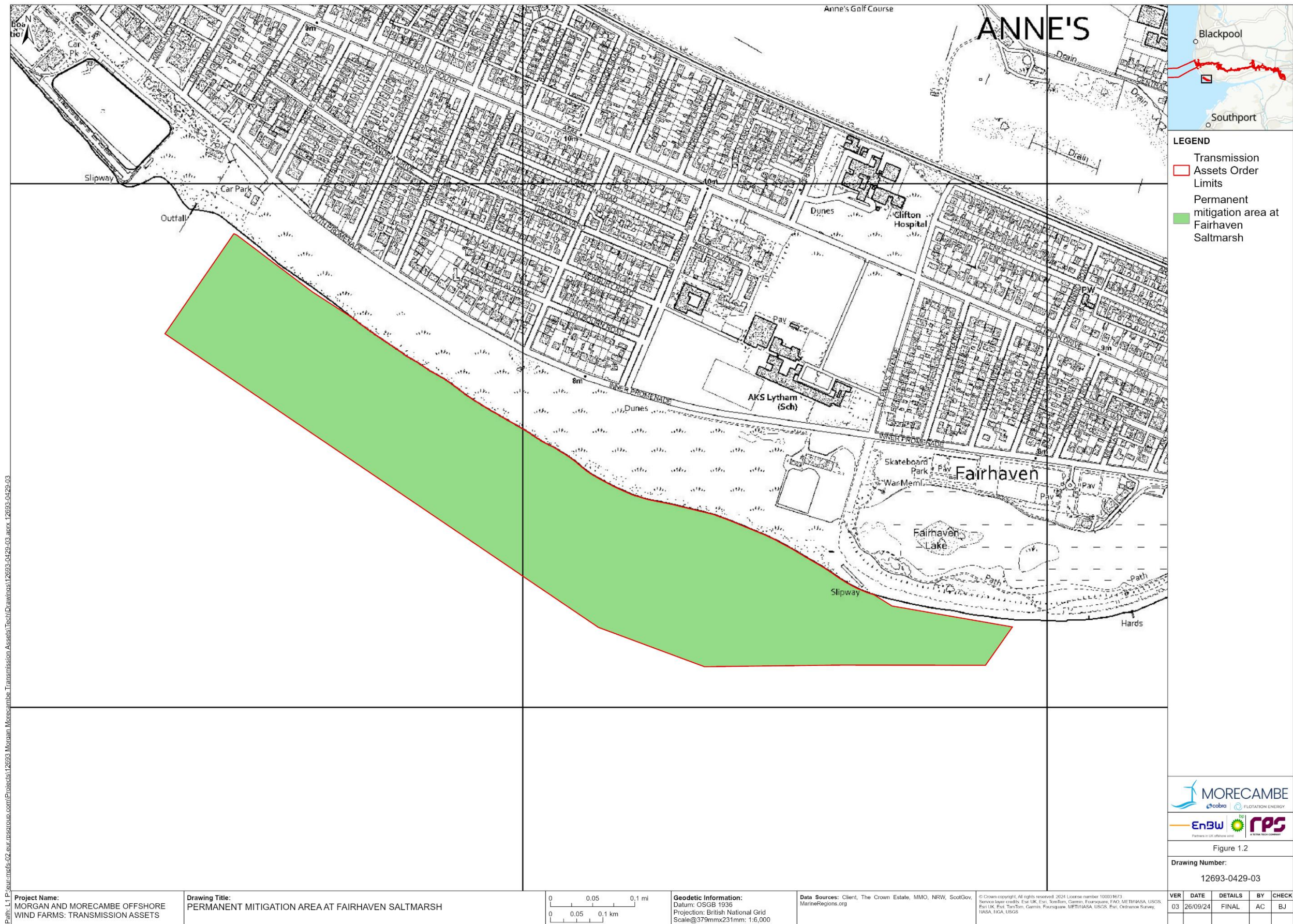


Figure 1-2: Permanent mitigation area at Fairhaven Saltmarsh

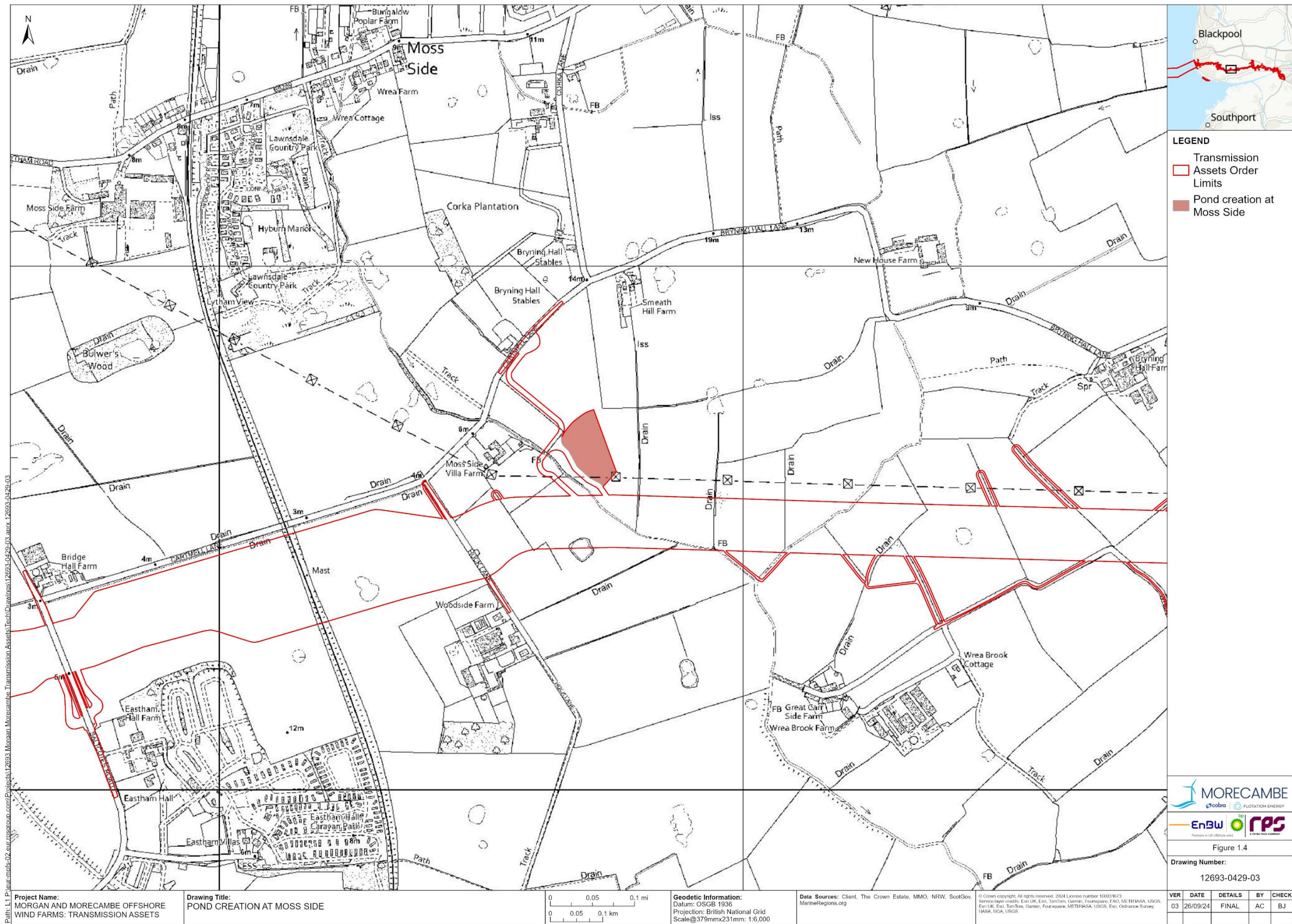


Figure 1-3: Pond creation at Moss Side

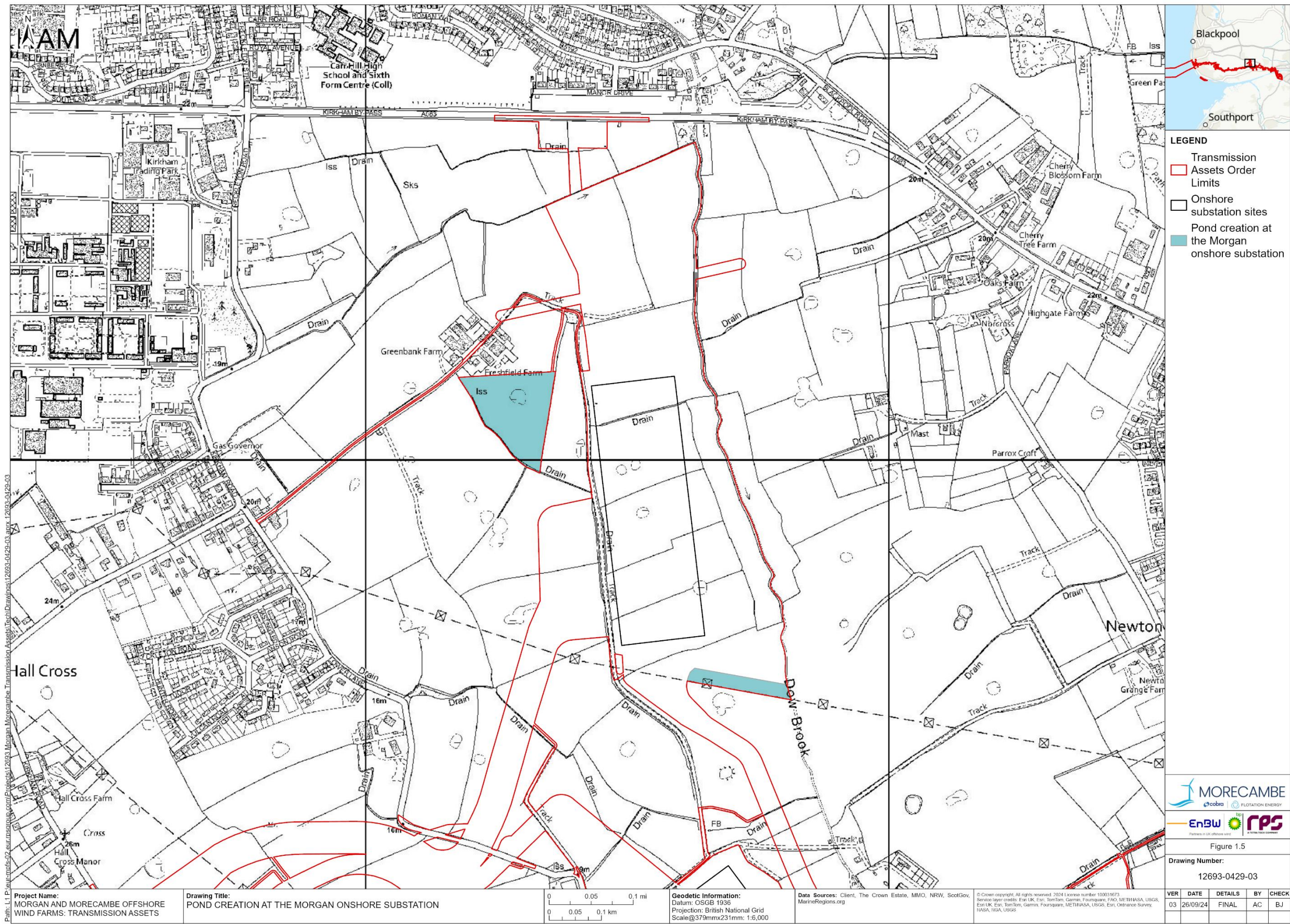


Figure 1-4: Pond creation at the Morgan onshore substation

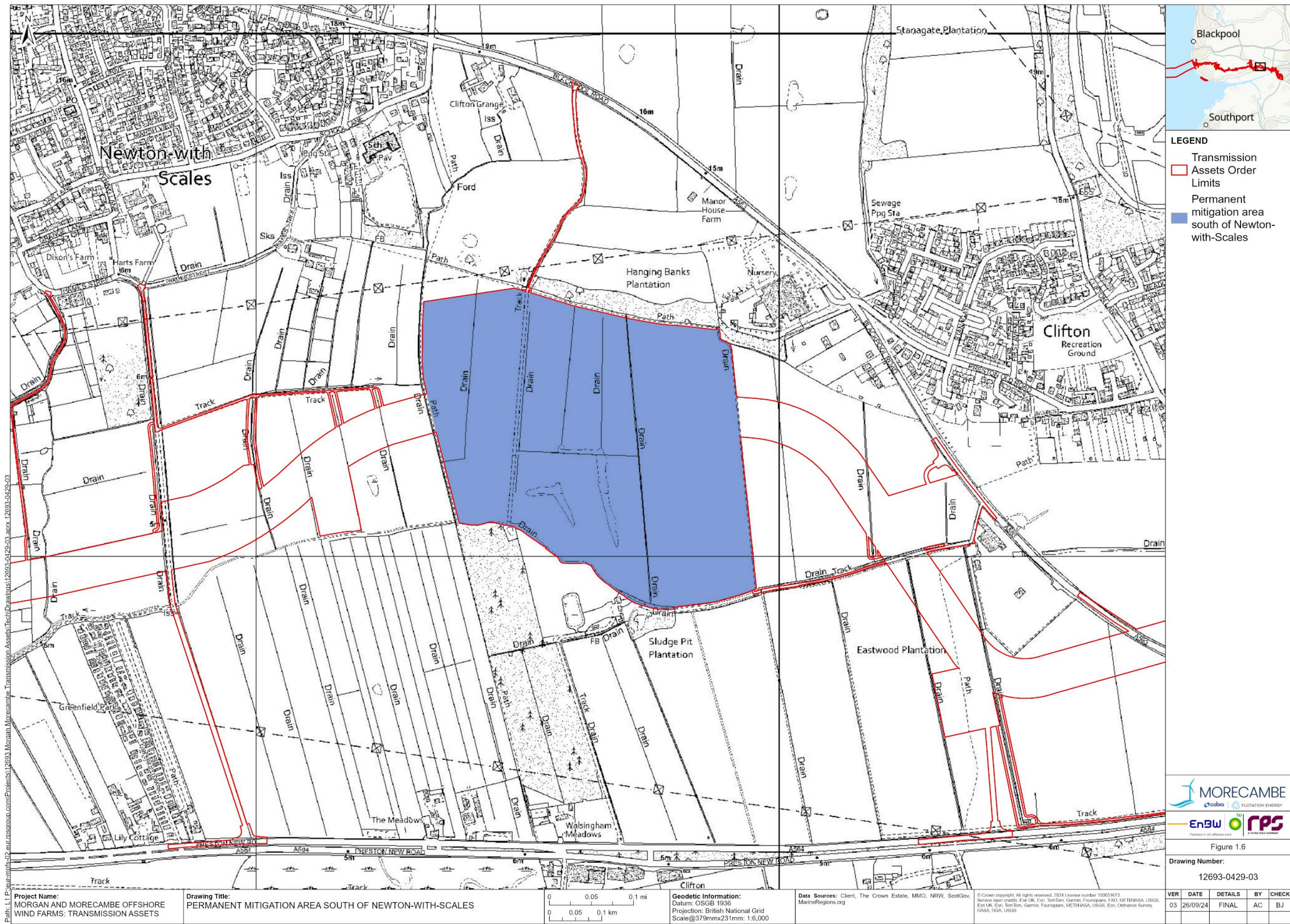


Figure 1-5: Permanent mitigation area south of Newton-with Scales

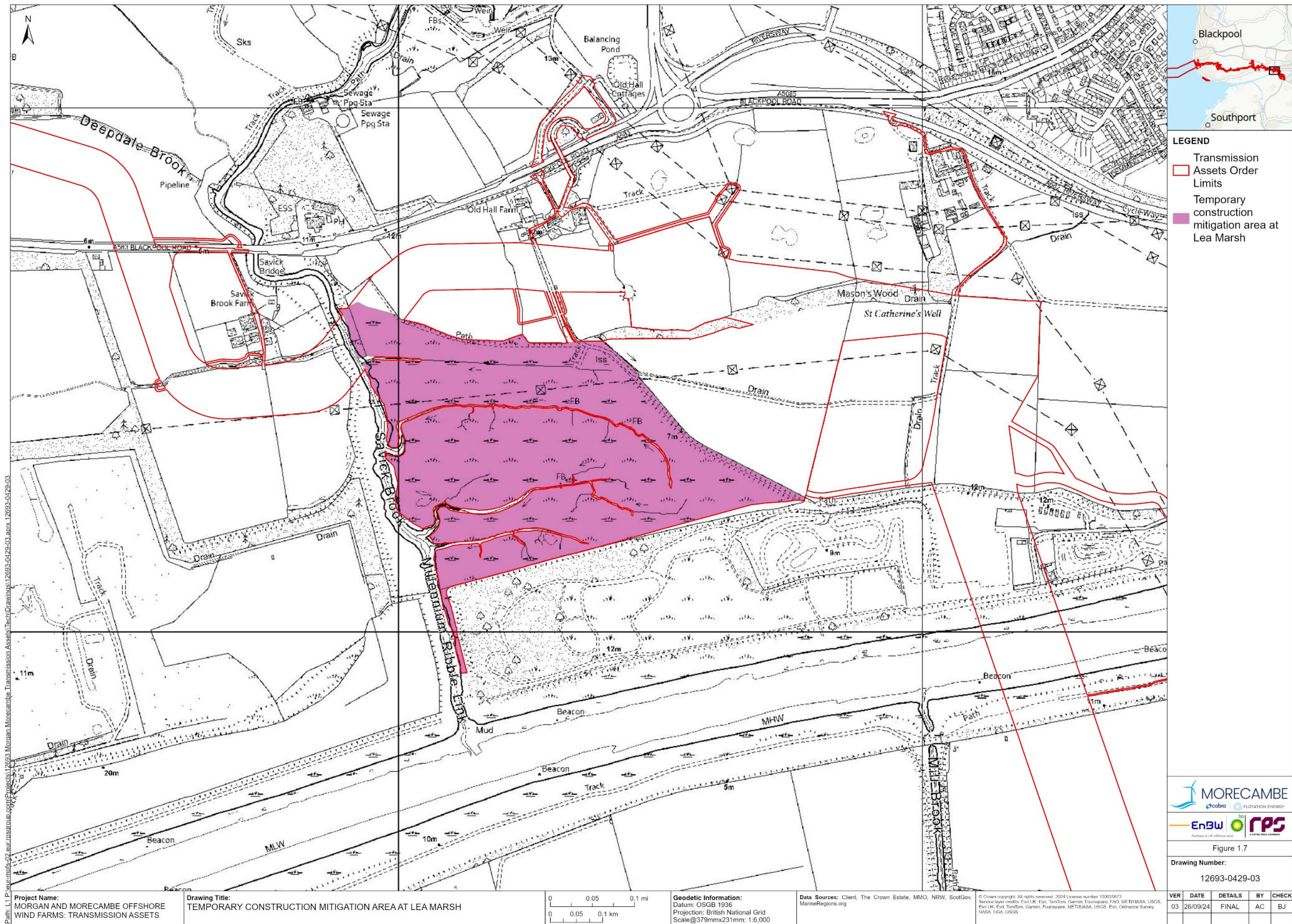


Figure 1-6: Temporary construction mitigation area at Lea Marsh

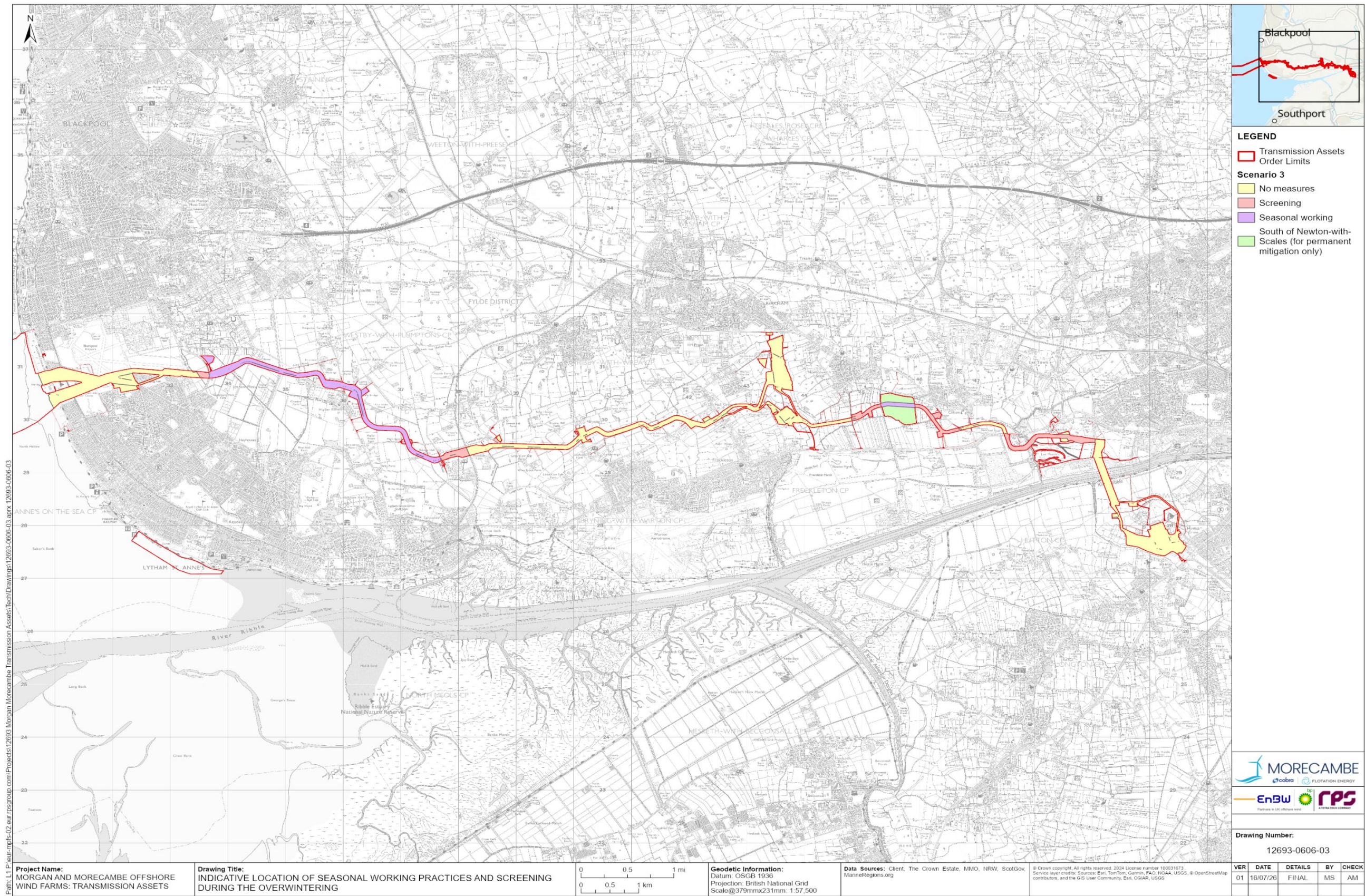


Figure 1-7: Indicative location of seasonal working practices and screening of construction activities during the overwintering period

1.3.4 Aims of this OEMP

- 1.3.4.1 The aim of this OEMP is to ensure the protection and appropriate management of ecological receptors within the area to be affected by the Transmission Assets. Alongside adherence to legislative requirements relating to ecology and nature conservation and onshore and intertidal ornithology. Information in relation to enhancement is provided in **section 1.10** of this OEMP.
- 1.3.4.2 This OEMP has been drafted based on the findings of site surveys undertaken in 2023 and 2024. Further information regarding ecology and ornithological surveys can be found within Volume 3, Annexes 3.1 to 3.15 of the ES (document reference F3.3.1 to F3.3.15) and Volume 3, Annex 4.1 to 4.4 of the ES (document reference F3.4.1 to F3.4.4) of the ES respectively.
- 1.3.4.3 Prior to the commencement of construction, this OEMP will be updated following pre-construction surveys, where required and all relevant plans and ecological receptor locations will be included within the final EMP for Morgan OWL and Morecambe OWL respectively.
- 1.3.4.4 All commitments identified for the Transmission Assets are detailed in the Volume 1, Annex 5.3 Commitment register of the ES (document reference F1.5.3) and summarised within each topic chapter of the ES. The commitments of relevance to this OEMP, are set out in **Table 1-1** below. These will be included within and developed further as part of detailed EMP(s).

Table 1-1: Commitments relevant to this OEMP

Commitment number	Measure adopted	How the measure will be secured	Where is the commitment referenced within the document?
Embedded measures			
CoT13	Where hedgerows and/or trees require removal, this will be undertaken prior to topsoil removal. Sections of hedgerows and trees which are removed will be replaced using like for like hedgerow species.	DCO Schedules 2A & 2B, Requirement 8 (Code of Construction Practice); and Requirement 12 (Ecological Management Plan)	Section 1.7.2
CoT16	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.	DCO Schedules 2A & 2B, Requirement 12 (Ecological Management Plan); and Requirement 8 (Code of Construction Practice)	Section 1.6
CoT17	Where required, provision will be made for badger access in relevant construction areas, when work is not taking place in order to ensure normal movements as far as reasonably possible. Provision will be made to ensure avoiding the entrapment of any animals within relevant construction areas. Checks will be made prior to the start of any works to ensure no animals are trapped. Appropriate checks will be made as required by the ecological clerk of works.	DCO Schedules 2A & 2B, Requirement 12 (Ecological Management Plan); and Requirement 8 (Code of Construction Practice)	Section 1.6
CoT28	Construction site lighting will only operate when required and will be positioned and directed to avoid unnecessary illumination to residential properties, sensitive ecological receptors and footpath users, and minimise glare to users of adjoining public highways. Construction site lighting will be designed in accordance with latest relevant available guidance and legislation and the details of the location, height, design and luminance of lighting to be used will be detailed within the Outline Construction Artificial Light Emissions Management Plan, as part of the Outline CoCP. The design of construction site lighting will accord with the details provided	DCO Schedules 2A & 2B, Requirement 8 (Code of Construction Practice); DCO Schedules 2A & 2B, Requirement 12 (Ecological management plan)	Section 1.6

Commitment number	Measure adopted	How the measure will be secured	Where is the commitment referenced within the document?
	in the Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoT35) and Outline Ecological Management Plan (CoT76).		
CoT31	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.	DCO Schedules 2A & 2B, Requirement 12 (Ecological Management Plan)	Section 1.6.4
CoT92	The Applicants will join the Lancashire District Level Licensing scheme in relation to Great Crested Newts, as detailed within the Outline Ecological Management Plan.	DCO Schedules 2A & 2B, Requirement 12 (Ecological Management Plan)	Section 1.5.3
Secondary mitigation			
CoT76	Detailed Ecological Management Plan(s) (EMP) will be developed in accordance with the Outline Ecological Management Plan (OEMP). The Outline Ecological Management Plan has been prepared and submitted as part of the application for development consent and includes but is not limited to pre-construction, construction and post-construction mitigation measures relating to habitats and protected or notable species, species mitigation licences and the role of the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) where relevant. The Outline Ecological Management Plan also includes a Breeding Bird Protection Plan which will set out mitigation measures such as vegetation clearance in winter (e.g., hedgerows), pre-construction breeding bird survey, appropriate protection zones upon confirmation of nest building/breeding taking place of key protected or sensitive species. In addition to the Breeding Bird Protection Plan, the OEMP sets out species-specific mitigation plans for Important Ecological Features identified as part of the assessment. Detailed Ecological Management Plan(s) will include details of any long term mitigation and management measures relevant to onshore ecology and nature conservation and in relation to onshore and intertidal ornithology. This will include the management of ecological mitigation areas. The Detailed EMPs will be developed in consultation with the relevant statutory advisors and regulators.	DCO Schedules 2A & 2B, Requirement 12 (Ecological Management Plan)	Section 1.2
CoT104	Detailed Ecological Management Plan(s) (EMP) will be developed in accordance with the Outline Ecological Management Plan (OEMP). The OEMP includes pre-construction, construction and post-construction and any long-term mitigation and management (where	DCO Schedules 2A & 2B, Requirement 12	Section 1.3.5

Commitment number	Measure adopted	How the measure will be secured	Where is the commitment referenced within the document?
	applicable). The OEMP includes, but is not limited to: habitats, hedgerows, birds, bats, badgers, otters, water voles, reptiles, terrestrial invertebrates, and other protected or notable species where relevant. The EMP(s) which will include details of any long-term mitigation and management measures relevant to onshore ecology and sites of particular sensitivity. The EMP(s) will be developed in consultation with the relevant stakeholders.	(Ecological management plan)	
CoT107	Where construction activities are undertaken along the onshore export cable corridor within areas of Functionally Linked Land (Lytham Moss Biological Heritage Site) in proximity to Higher Ballam and Lower Ballam, seasonal working practices and screening will be implemented from October to March (inclusive) to avoid disturbance to non-breeding wildfowl and waders, in particular pink-footed goose and whooper swan. The indicative location of the seasonal working and screening is identified in the Outline Ecological Management Plan.	DCO Schedules 2A & 2B, Requirement 12 (Ecological Management Plan)	Appendix F
CoT113	Where construction activities are undertaken within the Intertidal Infrastructure Area, mitigation measures will be provided at Fairhaven saltmarsh to reduce disturbance upon roosting wader features of Ribble and Alt Estuary SPA. This may comprise a combination of the employment of a warden, educational signage, and soft fencing. This is detailed within the Outline Ecological Management Plan.	DCO Schedules 2A & 2B, Requirement 12 (Ecological Management Plan)	Appendix B.2.1
CoT120	To mitigate for potential permanent habitat loss associated with each of the Onshore Substations (EIA effects only), mitigation areas south of Newton-with-Scales will be provided for non-breeding waders. Measures within these areas to maintain existing habitats may include grassland and rush management. This is detailed within the Outline Ecological Management Plan. The final measures will be developed and agreed with the relevant stakeholders as a part of the detailed Ecological Management Plan(s) prior to construction.	DCO Schedules 2A & 2B, Requirement 12 (Ecological Management Plan)	Appendix B.2.2
CoT122	The Outline Ecological Management Plan will include details of proposed mitigation measures associated with the direct loss of any ponds within the Transmission Assets Order Limits. Replacement habitat will be provided for ponds considered to be of higher ecological value (e.g. of sufficient conservation interest to support communities of aquatic invertebrates, such as those ponds currently located within the permanent Morgan onshore substation area). Detailed Ecological Management Plan(s) will be developed in accordance with the Outline Ecological Management Plan.	DCO Schedules 2A & 2B, Requirement 12 (Ecological Management Plan)	Appendix B.2.3 and B.2.4

Commitment number	Measure adopted	How the measure will be secured	Where is the commitment referenced within the document?
CoT127	To mitigate for potential disturbance to otters associated with the installation of onshore export cable corridors, a mitigation area in the home range of otter populations will be provided east of Savick Brook. Measures within these areas may include artificial holts and improvement of reed bed habitats. This is detailed within the Outline Ecological Management Plan. The final measures will be developed and agreed with the relevant stakeholders as a part of the detailed Ecological Management Plan(s) prior to construction.	DCO Schedules 2A & 2B, Requirement 12 (Ecological Management Plan)	Appendix B.1
CoT128	An Outline Hydrogeological Risk Assessment will be prepared in relation to the crossing of Lytham St Annes Dunes SSSI and St Annes Old Links Golf Course to mitigate potential impacts to the hydrologically dependant surface water features of the sand dune system and St Annes Old Links Golf Course abstraction borehole (ref:GWA_01). This will form part of the Outline Code of Construction Practice. At detailed design stage, Hydrogeological Risk Assessment(s) will be developed in accordance with the Outline Hydrogeological Risk Assessment. The hydrogeological risk assessment(s) will be informed by additional ground investigation information. The scope of the ground investigation and groundwater monitoring will be agreed with the Environment Agency and Natural England and the results will be shared prior to commencement of construction. These assessment(s) (together with the data from the NVC survey) will be used to inform the detailed site-specific crossing design for the installation of the offshore export cables beneath Lytham St Annes Dunes SSSI and St Annes Old Links Golf Course. Post construction monitoring will also be undertaken at locations to be agreed with the Environment Agency and Natural England.	DCO Schedules 2A & 2B, Requirement 8 (Code of Construction Practice)	Section 1.6.4
CoT129	No construction activities at landfall on Lytham St Annes beach will be undertaken by the Morgan Offshore Wind Project and Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Limited between November and March (inclusive). This is to mitigate disturbance to foraging and roosting wader features of Ribble and Alt Estuary SPA and Ramsar site. This is detailed within the Outline Ecological Management Plan.	DCO Schedules 2A & 2B, Requirement 12 (Ecological Management Plan)	Section 1.6.4

1.3.5 Relevant guidance

- 1.3.5.1 This OEMP has been prepared in accordance with the following guidance documents, where relevant:
- BS 42020: 2013 Biodiversity: Code of practice for planning and development (British Standards Institution, 2013); and
 - Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) Good Practice Guidance for Habitats and Species (CIEEM, 2021).
- 1.3.5.2 The OEMP is also informed by ecological guidance including:
- Guidance Note 8 Bats and artificial lighting. Bat Conservation Trust (2018)
 - BS EN 12464-2: Light and lighting
 - Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition). The Bat Conservation Trust, London
 - UK Bat Mitigation Guidelines: a guide to impact assessment, mitigation and compensation for developments affecting bats. Version 1.1. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
 - Badger Protection: Best Practice for Developers, Ecologists and Planners (Wales) Badger Trust (2023).

1.4 Roles and responsibilities

1.4.1 Overview

- 1.4.1.1 The roles and responsibilities will be appointed by the Principal Contractor or the Applicants. All of the ecological work described in this OEMP will be undertaken under the guidance of the appointed Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoWs).
- 1.4.1.2 Site inductions and toolbox talks for all site workers will include reference to the requirements of the approved detailed EMP and CoCP.

1.4.2 Primary management

Applicants

- 1.4.2.1 The Applicants and their onshore project management teams will be responsible for coordinating the onshore and intertidal works, ensuring that the measures in the detailed EMP and CoCP are being implemented and giving necessary direction to Principal Contractor(s) (e.g., setting contractual obligations). The Principal Contractor(s) management team will be responsible for coordinating the works within each Principal Contractor(s) respective contracts.

1.4.3 Secondary management

Site manager

- 1.4.3.1 In relation to ecological and environmental management, the Site Manager will be responsible for:
- Maintaining the OEMP and detailed EMP(s) as working documents (such that any changes in the baseline conditions identified through pre-construction surveys can be captured and the mitigation/ EPS licence requirements updated as necessary);
 - Ensuring environmental standards (including biosecurity protocols as set out in the Outline Biosecurity Protocol (document reference: J1.12)) are adhered to;
 - Monitoring compliance with the detailed EMP(s) during construction;
 - Responsible for the regular monitoring and inspections of construction work activities;
 - Undertaking staff induction courses on environmental issues, with support from the dedicated Environmental Coordinator and environmental specialists; and,
 - Recording the content and attendance for all site inductions and toolbox talk activities.
- 1.4.3.2 Responsibilities will also include managing the coordination between the environmental specialists and the engineering teams.

Environmental co-ordinator

- 1.4.3.3 The Environmental Co-ordinator will be responsible for the interface between the environmental specialists and engineers during onshore site preparation works and construction. They will have the primary responsibility for managing environmental issues through the construction and post-construction monitoring and for obtaining the relevant licences and consents.

Environmental manager

- 1.4.3.4 The Environmental Manager will be responsible for ensuring the delivery of the long-term monitoring and management by employing suitability qualified and experienced staff to undertake the necessary works. The Environmental Manager will also be responsible for reporting back to stakeholders via the regular monitoring reports, and for ensuring that any remedial measures or changes to management/ monitoring are actioned. Incident reporting and response arrangements are also within the Environment Manager's remit.

1.4.4 Technical roles

Ecological clerk of works

- 1.4.4.1 Ecological Clerks of Works (ECoWs) will be appointed prior to the start of the onshore site preparation works to provide oversight and supervision where necessary, of any works potentially affecting ecological features to ensure all environmental commitments are met and compliance with the conditions of all licences and permits, including biosecurity protocols as set out in the Outline Biosecurity Protocol (document reference: J1.12).
- 1.4.4.2 It is likely that there will be a lead ECoW for each Project and several assistant ECoWs working under the direction of the lead ECoWs. The size of the ECoW teams will be appropriate to the construction activity taking place; the teams will receive regular briefings by the Site Manager to confirm their role.
- 1.4.4.3 The appointed ECoWs will be responsible for undertaking the following tasks:
- arranging all specialist environmental surveys;
 - undertake regular environmental site inspections during the onshore site preparation works and construction works;
 - supervise other works in sensitive areas as required e.g. including installation of the export cables at the landfall (see **paragraph 1.6.4.24**);
 - managing the interface with recreational users at Fairhaven Saltmarsh (see Appendix B);
 - assist (where deemed necessary the Principal Contractor or Transmission Assets Manager(s)) in delivering site inductions and toolbox talks (i.e. presentations and the dissemination of information to site personnel on ecological matters). All briefings will include reference to the requirements set out in the Ecological Management Plan and CoCP. The toolbox talks will include the general principles and area-specific environmental measures that must be implemented;
 - the site-wide ecological requirements will be explained within these briefings. Additional toolbox talks may also be provided for each new area of works to ensure that area-specific requirements are fully understood and implemented;
 - assist in reviewing Risk Assessments and Method Statements (RAMS); and
 - notifying the Principal Contractor of any issues/breaches in the EMP and/or CoCP.
- 1.4.4.4 The ECoW may also undertake licensable works under an EPS mitigation licence where they are qualified and licenced to do so. Where the ECoW does not hold the appropriate licence, they may work under the supervision of the ecologist named in the mitigation licence

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- 1.4.4.5 All site workers will be informed of the role of the ECoWs. Contact details for the ECoWs will be provided in the detailed EMP and will be made available to site workers and contractors as requested or required. A copy of the detailed EMP will be always kept on site and site workers will be made aware of its location and who to contact to obtain a copy.
- 1.4.4.6 Any known breaches of the requirements documented within the EMP will be reported to the ECoWs by the Principal Contractors, Site Managers or site workers (either directly or through the Site Managers) as soon as practicable.
- 1.4.4.7 Should it become evident to the ECoWs that a breach of the requirements of the EMP has occurred, the ECoWs will be responsible for reporting this breach to the responsible Environment Managers and Site Managers. Where necessary, the responsible Environmental Managers will report any breaches to the relevant authorities.
- 1.4.4.8 The ECoWs will be responsible for developing an appropriate ecology and nature conservation incident response plan for any breach of the EMP, should an ecology and nature conservation incident occur. These will not form part of the detailed EMPs but will be produced by the ECoW following an incident. The responsible Environmental Managers will ensure that any remedial measures proposed are communicated and where required, approved by relevant authorities. Where appropriate Natural England will be consulted with to obtain their agreement for any remedial measures that may be required, as will the Environment Agency specifically in relation to wetlands.
- 1.4.4.9 The EMP, which will be based on this OEMP, will be a live document and therefore regularly reviewed and updated by the ECoWs as appropriate. The ECoWs will be responsible for the reviewing and updating of the EMP, ensuring that all site personnel are aware of the current version as well as submitting amended versions to relevant Local Authorities for their re-approval. In instances where updates are made, and re-approved by relevant Local Authorities, the ECoWs will provide the Site Manager with details of any updates.

Named Ecologist

- 1.4.4.10 The Named Ecologist(s) is a professional ecological consultant who has satisfied Natural England that they have the relevant skills, knowledge and experience of the species concerned and is responsible for undertaking and/or overseeing the work undertaken in respect of the licensed species. The Named Ecologist will either provide references to prove they have sufficient experience working with the species in question or refer to previous mitigation licences held. They will support the ECoW(s) in implementing the EPS mitigation licences where required. The Named Ecologist will also be responsible for reporting back to Natural England on licensable works undertaken, within two weeks of the licence elapse date.

1.5 Onshore site preparation – pre-construction surveys

1.5.1 Introduction

- 1.5.1.1 This section of this OEMP describes the ecological and ornithological surveys that will be undertaken as part of the onshore site preparation works ahead of construction commencing in the vicinity of identified IEFs.
- 1.5.1.2 Due to the mobility of species and the period of time which will have lapsed between the pre-application surveys and the start of construction, all features surveyed during the pre-application survey effort, and any additional survey locations or features will be re-surveyed where necessary in accordance with the relevant industry guidance and methodology.
- 1.5.1.3 It is possible that additional IEFs may be recorded during pre-construction surveys that may be undertaken as onshore site preparation works. Where this occurs, the EMP and relevant mitigation strategy will be amended (where required) as soon as practicable. Where there is a significant update in terms of protected species and/or the need for updated/additional mitigation measures, further consultation with the relevant Local Authorities will be undertaken.
- 1.5.1.4 All pre-construction surveys described in this section will be undertaken by the ECoWs or otherwise appropriately experienced and, where necessary, licenced ecologist(s), who will be approved by the ECoWs and will work under the guidance of the ECoWs. All surveys will be carried out in accordance with biosecurity risk assessments and safe systems of works, which will be produced by the ECoWs prior to the commencement of the survey. **Table 1-2** provides further details of the indicative pre-construction surveys proposed, including timings and methodologies. All surveys will be undertaken by suitably experienced/licensed ecologists.
- 1.5.1.5 Due to the Applicants' commitment to apply to the Lancashire District Level Licensing scheme, in addition to the pre-application surveys already undertaken, no pre-construction surveys for Great Crested Newts are required for the Transmission Assets.

Table 1-2: Indicative pre-construction surveys

Survey	Survey requirements	Survey guidance
Aquatic Invertebrates	One survey visit, which can take place any time of year, excluding winter months (i.e. December to February).	Pre-construction surveys using the rapid assessment methodology based on the Biological Monitoring Working Party (BMWP) system (BMWP, 1997) to sample watercourses and water bodies for aquatic invertebrates to identify the presence or likely absence of protected and notable species. Surveys will also follow guidelines set out in BS EN ISO 10870:2012: Water quality. Guidelines for the selection of sampling methods and devices for benthic macroinvertebrates in fresh waters (British Standards Institution, 2012) and Surveying Terrestrial and Freshwater Invertebrates for Conservation Evaluation (Natural England, 2007).
Bat (preliminary bat roost inspection and tree climbing inspections)	Two survey visits, which can be undertaken from April to September, outside the bat hibernation season (i.e. October to March). Surveys must be completed at least 3 months prior to construction to allow for any EPS licensing if required	Preliminary bat roost inspection and tree climbing inspections undertaken in accordance with Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines 4th edition (Collins, 2023). Monthly monitoring in accordance with Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines 4th edition (Collins, 2023).
Bat (noctule roost at Penwortham)	Three emergence surveys to characterise roost usage in bat activity period spread across the period April to September (surveys must be completed at least 3 months prior to construction to allow for any EPS licensing (if required). Bat hibernation inspection in the winter preceding the commencement of construction (aerial inspection).	Bat surveys undertaken in accordance with Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines 4th edition (Collins, 2023).
Badger	One visit, which can be undertaken from February to April, when badgers are most active. Where required, sett closures can only occur between July and November and a licence is required from Natural England to close a badger sett. Survey must be at least 3 months prior to construction to allow for any Natural England licensing (if required).	Pre-construction surveys for badgers to be undertaken in accordance with Badger Protection: Best Practice Guidance for Developers, Ecologists and Planners (England) 2023 (Badger Trust, 2023).

Survey	Survey requirements	Survey guidance
Breeding birds	Providing that all vegetation has been removed prior to the breeding season, one visit will be made prior to construction starting.	The pre-construction surveys will encompass the area of proposed works, with an appropriate recommended disturbance buffer zone, as set out in Disturbance Distances Review: An updated literature review of disturbance distances of selected bird species (Goodship and Furness, 2022).
Breeding birds listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 198	In all areas where breeding Schedule 1 species were identified or are likely to occur, breeding bird surveys will be completed one year before construction starts. These surveys will be tailored for the species but will include surveys for barn owl, kingfisher and Cetti's warbler. Survey visits will vary from two for barn owl to six for Cetti's warbler.	The pre-construction surveys will encompass the area of proposed works, with an appropriate recommended disturbance buffer zone, as set out in Disturbance Distances Review: An updated literature review of disturbance distances of selected bird species (Goodship and Furness, 2022).
Wintering and migratory birds	Waterbird numbers and behaviours will be regularly recorded at the proposed mitigation area at Newton-with-Scales.	The pre-construction surveys will encompass the mitigation area, with an appropriate recommended disturbance buffer zone, as set out in Disturbance Distances Review: An updated literature review of disturbance distances of selected bird species (Goodship and Furness, 2022).
Intertidal birds	Waterbird numbers and behaviours will be regularly recorded at the proposed mitigation area at Fairhaven Saltmarsh.	The pre-construction surveys will encompass the mitigation area, with an appropriate recommended disturbance buffer zone, as set out in Disturbance Distances Review: An updated literature review of disturbance distances of selected bird species (Goodship and Furness, 2022).
Fish and eel electric fishing	One survey visit, which can be undertaken from June to October.	The pre-construction surveys will be undertaken in accordance with electric fishing operations: equipment and working practices (Environment Agency, 2019).
Otter	Minimum of two survey visits (must be at least 3 months prior to construction to allow for any EPS licensing if required).	The pre-construction surveys will be undertaken in accordance with Ecology of the European Otter (Chanin, 2003).
Reptile	Seven survey visits, which can be undertaken from April to May and September to October.	The pre-construction surveys will be undertaken in accordance with Reptile survey: an introduction to planning, conducting and interpreting surveys for snake and lizard conservation (Froglife, 1999) and Herpetofauna Workers' Manual. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough (Gent and Gibson, 2003).
Terrestrial Invertebrates	One survey visit, which can take place any time of year, excluding winter months (i.e. December to February).	The pre-construction surveys will be undertaken using site-specific field surveys utilised a variety of search techniques, including sweep-netting, hand searching, spot searching and netting of flying insects. The surveys will utilise timed samples

Survey	Survey requirements	Survey guidance
		that follow methodologies defined in Surveying Terrestrial and Freshwater Invertebrates for Conservation Evaluation (Drake <i>et al.</i> , 2007) and Measuring Biological Diversity (Magurran, 2004).
Mill Brook Valley BHS	One survey visit to record botanical species assemblage of BHS grassland in the survey season preceding the commencement of construction (in June, July or August).	The survey will be undertaken by a competent botanical surveyor (FISC level 4 or above) and all botanical species will be recorded using the DAFOR scale (Dominant, Abundant, Frequent, Occasional or Rare) to establish a detailed species list baseline record. An updated UK Habitat Classification (UK Habs) survey will also be undertaken to record any variation in the grassland vegetation assemblage within the portion of the BHS impacted by construction.
Water vole	Two survey visits, which can be undertaken from April to September (must be at least 3 months prior to construction to allow for any Natural England licensing (if required)).	The pre-construction surveys will be undertaken in accordance with The Water Vole Mitigation Handbook (Dean <i>et al</i> , 2016).

1.5.2 Habitats

Establishment of protective buffer zones

Overview

- 1.5.2.1 Where practicable, works-free protective buffer zones will be established around retained habitats of ecological or ornithological value, such as retained hedgerows, ditches and watercourses. Root Protection Areas around retained hedgerows and trees will be assessed by the ECoWs.
- 1.5.2.2 Where required, pre-construction surveys will be undertaken to confirm the location of the protective buffer zones. This may include trees within the Order Limits where surveys could not be undertaken in 2023 or 2024.
- 1.5.2.3 These buffer zones will be maintained throughout the construction works period and will prohibit the tracking of heavy vehicles, and the storage of vehicles, machinery, equipment and soils.
- 1.5.2.4 The establishment of buffer zones around retained trees and hedgerows will be undertaken in accordance with the measures set out in the Outline Arboriculture Method Statement (S_D5_10).

Hedgerows

- 1.5.2.5 The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (The Hedgerow Regulations 1997) protect hedgerows meeting the criteria specified in the regulations from removal without the prior permission of the local authority, with additional protections for those defined as "important". It should be noted that where works to hedgerows are permitted under the consented Transmission Assets DCO these are exempt from protection under The Hedgerow Regulations 1997, however, their removal will be limited as far as is practicable and protective buffer zones will be established.
- 1.5.2.6 Where practicable, buffer zones around hedgerows being retained will be at least 5 m in width. Additional buffer zones, where required, will be ascertained by a qualified arboriculturist and established around habitat features of value to protected species.
- 1.5.2.7 Further detail with respect to hedgerows located within the Onshore Order Limits is provided in Volume 3, Annex 3.3: Phase 1 habitat, national vegetation classification and hedgerow survey technical report of the ES (document reference F3.3.3) and the Tree Preservation Order and Hedgerow Plan (document reference B18).

Retained woodland, mature broadleaved trees and veteran trees

- 1.5.2.8 Wherever practicable, buffer zones surrounding retained mature broadleaved trees and the single veteran tree within the Onshore Order Limits will be 15 m in width or the width of the Root Protection Area

(depending on which is the greater) as advised by an appropriately qualified surveyor.

- 1.5.2.9 Further detail with respect to woodland and trees located within the Onshore Order Limits is provided in Volume 3, Annex 10.5: Tree Survey and arboricultural impact assessment of the ES (document reference F3.10.5) and the Tree Preservation Order and Hedgerow Plan (document reference B18).

Peat

- 1.5.2.10 No habitats were recorded within the Transmission Assets Order Limits (as documented within Volume 3 Annex 3.3: Phase 1 habitat, national vegetation classification and hedgerow survey technical report (APP-077)) that would be indicative of underlying deep peat deposits.
- 1.5.2.11 In the western end of the Transmission Assets Order Limits limited areas of peat resources may be present (as shown in Volume 3 Annex 6.1: Published agricultural land classification and soils data (APP-105) and Annex 6.2: Agricultural land classification survey results (APP-106)). Any peat resources will be managed in accordance with the hierarchy of mitigation measures as set out in section 1.9.6 of the Outline Soil Management Plan.

1.5.3 Protected or otherwise notable species

- 1.5.3.1 In order to minimise the likely impacts on ecological and ornithological IEFs, pre-construction studies will be carried out to update information on sensitive habitats to minimise potential impacts.

Aquatic invertebrates

- 1.5.3.2 Four ponds of value for aquatic invertebrates, including i.e. Freshfield Farm Pond, North BHS and Freshfield Farm Pond, South BHS, will be permanently lost during construction of the Morgan onshore substation.
- 1.5.3.3 As such, new ponds will be created to compensate for the loss of these ponds. The areas for the new pond creation are shown in **Figure 1-3** and **Figure 1-4** of this OEMP.
- 1.5.3.4 The new ponds will be created to maximise their value for aquatic invertebrate assemblages. This is likely to include a mix of open water habitat, submerged and marginal vegetation.

Badger

- 1.5.3.5 Badgers *Meles meles*, and their setts, are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. The protection is primarily for welfare rather than conservation, since badgers are not rare but are subject to cruelty. Actions prohibited under this legislation, include the intentional or reckless damage, obstruction or destruction of a badger sett and the wilful killing, injuring or taking of badgers, unless covered by licence.
- 1.5.3.6 The badger surveys undertaken to inform the DCO application identified one potential badger sett within the Onshore Order Limits.

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- 1.5.3.7 A suite of pre-construction surveys for badgers will be undertaken for suitable habitats located within the Onshore Order Limits. Due to the mobile nature of badgers, prior to the commencement of works in an area, a check of the Order Limits plus a 30 m buffer zone, will be undertaken by qualified ecologists in order to confirm whether there have been any changes to the site conditions recorded during the pre-application surveys as well as noting any new badger setts that have been excavated.
- 1.5.3.8 If the pre-construction surveys identify areas of key commuting value for badgers (such as well-worn paths connecting setts or foraging grounds) which would be bisected by the construction corridor, warning signs will be installed and reduced speed limits for construction vehicles will be implemented to address increased risk of road traffic accidents with badgers.
- 1.5.3.9 Where an active badger sett is identified within 30m of the works a Natural England development licence for badgers would be obtained. Where badger setts are identified but works can be maintained at least 30m away (i.e. where a Natural England licence is either not required as works are located out with the 30m buffer zone) or where the licence is being sought but yet to be received, the ECoWs will ensure that a 30m buffer is set up around those active setts. No works will be undertaken within this 30m buffer unless advised to be acceptable by the ECoWs. Once the licence has been obtained, the works will need to be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the licence and supervised by the ECoWs.
- 1.5.3.10 A Natural England licence return form and report of the works undertaken will be completed by the ECoWs. A copy of this form and report will be provided to Natural England as soon as reasonably practicable and as prescribed under the conditions of the licence.

Bats

- 1.5.3.11 All species of bats in the UK are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA, 1981) (as amended). All species are listed on Schedule 5 of the Act and are therefore subject to the provisions of Section 9. Section 9 makes it an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or take a bat; possess or control any live or dead specimen or anything derived from a bat; intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection by a bat; or intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for that purpose.
- 1.5.3.12 Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (Habitats Regulations), it is an offence to deliberately capture, kill or disturb a bat; damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of a bat; and keep, transport, sell or exchange, or offer for sale or exchange, a live or dead bat or any part of a bat.
- 1.5.3.13 No known bat roosts will need to be closed under an European Protected Species Mitigation Licence. A noctule summer and hibernation tree roost, near the National Grid Penwortham Substation,

was recorded in 2024. This roost is likely to be subject to disturbance impacts and may not be continued to be used by noctules (or other species of bats). As such a bat box suitable for breeding and hibernating noctule should be installed on retained trees further away which, will not be subject to continuous disturbance Impacts.

- 1.5.3.14 A Daubenton's (*Myotis daubentonii*) maternity roost was identified just outside the Onshore Order Limits south of the Dow Brook where the access track to Morecambe Substation will cross the Dow brook. For the Morecambe substation mitigation, the installation of a suitably sized culvert in Dow Brook (in accordance with Bat Conservation Trust guidance) will ensure Daubenton's bat will be able to continue to use the brook as a flightline and foraging habitat. The final design of the mitigation will be refined and agreed with stakeholders post consent as part of the final EMP.
- 1.5.3.15 All suitable trees and/or features suitable for supporting roosting bats located within 50 m of the Onshore Infrastructure Area that have been identified will be subject to further pre-construction surveys effort. These surveys will be undertaken within the appropriate survey window (April to September) and in accordance with relevant guidance (see Table 1-2) to ascertain the presence or likely absence of roosting bats.
- 1.5.3.16 Furthermore, as bats use tree roosts intermittently, prior to the commencement of works, mature trees that require felling or pruning will be inspected by a suitably qualified and bat licenced ecologist (this may be the ECoWs if they hold the required qualifications) from ground-level. The suitability qualified and bat licenced ecologist will use a high-powered torch to locate potential roost sites and signs that could indicate the presence of roosting bats. These daytime surveys can be undertaken any time of year. However, where reasonably practicable, the surveys will be undertaken during the winter months, when leaves and foliage are less likely to obscure features of potential value to bats.
- 1.5.3.17 Should the ground-level, daytime inspection be inconclusive, then a climbing tree inspection will be undertaken, and an endoscope used to ascertain whether a bat roost is present. This type of survey will be undertaken by a licensed bat surveyor.
- 1.5.3.18 Should the tree climbing daytime inspection surveys also prove inconclusive, trees that are assessed as having moderate or high potential to support roosting bats by a suitably qualified ecologist, will be subject to dusk emergence and/or dawn swarming surveys between May and September in order to confirm the presence of roosting bats, identify the species of bat present and determine the size of any roost. This is in accordance with guidelines produced by the Bat Conservation Trust (2016).
- 1.5.3.19 A report of the survey findings and recommendations (including any licensing requirements) for construction will be produced by the suitability qualified and bat licenced ecologist and provided to the Environmental Managers and Site Managers. The report will be made available by the Environmental Managers to local authority and/or

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- Natural England as requested or required, for example, if licenses are required.
- 1.5.3.20 The felling or pruning of a tree containing a bat roost, or significant disturbance or obstruction to bats or their roost will require a Natural England development licence. The suitably qualified ecologist will be responsible for obtaining this licence if it is identified as being required.
- 1.5.3.21 Any additional roosts identified by the pre-construction surveys will be assessed for potential impacts during construction and operation of the Transmission Assets. For example, tree pruning or management resulting in loss or disturbance of a roost, noise and light disturbance, and loss of foraging areas or flight lines, that could affect the roost.
- 1.5.3.22 If the pre-construction surveys identify the presence of a bat roost, the suitably qualified and bat licenced ecologist will notify the Environmental Managers and Site Managers of the requirement to obtain a Natural England licence prior to the commencement of any works on the tree or feature in question, or within 15 m of the tree or feature. If construction is being undertaken within 15 m of a tree or feature that has been identified as potentially supporting roosting bats, construction lighting will be designed in accordance with the best Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night (BCT and ILP, 2023) and light fixtures will be directed away from the roost. For further details on construction lighting measures and mitigations refer to the Outline CoCP (document reference: J1).
- 1.5.3.23 The suitably qualified and bat licenced ecologist will be responsible for ensuring that a Natural England development licence for bats is applied for, prior to the commencement of any works to a tree or feature that has been confirmed as supporting roosting bats. The licence application will be informed by findings of the pre-construction surveys and will include a detailed method statement and mitigation strategy.
- 1.5.3.24 Works on or within 15 m of a tree or feature containing a bat roost will commence only once a Natural England development licence has been obtained and will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the licence. Licenced works will be carried out under the watching brief of a Natural England bat licenced ecologist.
- 1.5.3.25 A Natural England licence return form and report of the works undertaken will then be completed by the suitably qualified and bat licenced ecologist (i.e. the bat licence holder). A copy of this form and report will be provided to the Environmental Managers, Natural England and the local authority as soon as reasonably practicable, and as prescribed by the conditions of the Natural England development licence.
- 1.5.3.26 The following pre-construction mitigation measures will be advised to the Site Manager by the ECoWs regarding commuting and/or foraging bats within the Onshore Order Limits.
- Where possible, hedgerow removal will be undertaken during the winter, to allow time for bat species to adjust. Furthermore, the length and width of hedgerow requiring removal will be minimised wherever possible.

- Where sections of hedgerow have been removed, moveable features will be employed on a nightly basis to ensure continuation of current commuting routes for commuting and/or foraging bats. These will be in line with standard guidance and requirements and will be of similar shape and size to the existing hedgerow. These will be moved into place at least one hour before dusk each day and removed no earlier than 30 minutes after dawn.
- Where existing habitats are located immediately outside any construction works areas, these areas will be retained and protected from damage where possible, using fencing.

Breeding Birds

- 1.5.3.27 Birds are protected at a European level under the EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 1979 (79/409/EEC). This provides protection for wild birds against being deliberately killed, being taken from the wild, from their eggs being collected, from nest destruction and from being kept in captivity. Allowances are made for game birds. Specially protected birds are listed in Annex 1 of the Directive.
- 1.5.3.28 All species of wild bird in the UK (other than a few pest species) are protected under Part 1 section 1(1) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA 1981) (as amended) against intentional or reckless killing, injuring or taking. Taking, damaging or destroying nests in use or being built, and taking or destroying eggs are also prohibited.
- 1.5.3.29 In addition to general protection for birds, certain species are also afforded special protection and are listed in Schedule 1 of the WCA 1981 (as amended). These birds are either rare, endangered, declining or vulnerable.
- 1.5.3.30 As breeding bird distribution may vary over time, targeted pre-construction survey updates for breeding birds will be required to establish the presence/absence of protected or notable breeding bird species.
- 1.5.3.31 These surveys should take place a year prior to the commencement of construction and if protected or notable species are found to be present then appropriate working buffers will need to be instated and/or relevant mitigate licences put in place.
- 1.5.3.32 The radius of these buffers would be determined on a species-by-species basis based on known disturbance distances from industry recognised literature, such as Disturbance Distances Review: An updated literature review of disturbance distances of selected bird species (Goodship and Furness, 2022).
- 1.5.3.33 If species designated under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 are identified during the pre-construction surveys, then there may be the requirement to apply to Natural England for a disturbance or destruction of nest licence. However, this will be decided on a case-by-case basis by Natural England.
- 1.5.3.34 If an active bird's nest is identified within the works area, a 5 m buffer zone (as advised by the ECoWs) will be implemented during the

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- construction works within this area. The ECoWs will inform the Site Manager as soon as practicable.
- 1.5.3.35 If necessary, the ECoWs will attend the area of work to assess the most appropriate mitigation measures required to protect the nest. Protective measures may include the creation of a 5 m wide works-free buffer zone around the nest, which will be maintained until a suitably qualified ecologist confirms the young have fully fledged and left the nest.
- 1.5.3.36 A record of findings and measures undertaken will be maintained by the Site Manager and provided to the Environmental Managers.
- 1.5.3.37 Furthermore, should a Schedule 1 bird nest be encountered during works, then works will cease in that area and the ECoWs will be consulted prior to works resuming. If the nest is active (as determined by the ECoWs), Natural England will be consulted regarding appropriate mitigation. This is likely to consist of a species-specific buffer zone that will be subject to agreement with Natural England and the ECoWs. Works will not resume until after the young have fledged, and under the authorisation of a suitably qualified ecologist.
- 1.5.3.38 Where vegetation and habitat needs to be cleared, this will be carried out outside of the breeding bird season and the areas where construction is planned will be made unattractive for returning breeding birds. During the breeding season, and for all areas where construction is to take place, even where vegetation has been cleared, it will be the role of the ECoWs to carry out a pre-commencement nest check before construction can proceed.
- 1.5.3.39 Further details with regard to the measures that will be adopted for onshore site preparation works for breeding birds can be found in the Breeding Bird Protection Plan, which is provided in **Appendix C** of this OEMP.

Wintering and Migratory Birds

- 1.5.3.40 During the construction phase, the Applicants have committed to avoiding impacts on the sensitive wintering features of the Ribble and Alt Estuary SPA through the implementation of seasonal working and screening practices (CoT107). Therefore, pre-construction surveys are not required for construction impacts.
- 1.5.3.41 However, a permanent mitigation area south of Newton-with-Scales has been identified and is associated with reducing impacts on wintering and migratory birds during the operations and maintenance phase. Full details of the species that this area aims to mitigate for and details of the proposed measures can be found in **Sections B.1 and B.2.2**.
- 1.5.3.42 Targeted pre-construction survey updates for wintering and migratory birds will be required to establish the baseline prior to finalising the mitigation plans in the detailed Ecological Management Plan(s).
- 1.5.3.43 Surveys at land south of Newton-with-Scales will follow a WeBS count methodology and will be undertaken to provide a baseline for the proposed habitat improvements at this site and inform any targets that need to be set. The frequency of these surveys is to be agreed with

Natural England as part of the detailed Ecological Management Plan(s). Blackpool Airport and BAE Systems/DIO will be consulted as part of the detailed Wildlife Hazard Management Plan process.

- 1.5.3.44 Further information regarding these mitigation areas is provided in **Appendix B** of this OEMP.

Intertidal Birds

- 1.5.3.45 As explained in **section 1.1.2** above, several mitigation areas are proposed within the Onshore Order Limits. Those of relevance to intertidal birds include the Permanent mitigation area at Fairhaven Saltmarsh.
- 1.5.3.46 Mitigation measures within the Permanent mitigation area at Fairhaven Saltmarsh will need to be enacted at least two months prior to the commencement of construction work. Possible pre-construction mitigation measures proposed within the mitigation area at Fairhaven Saltmarsh comprise.
- Soft fencing
 - Signage:
 - Wardens:
- 1.5.3.47 In order to inform the final plans and targets, ongoing monitoring of this site will be undertaken at a frequency agreed with Natural England, as part of the detailed Ecological Management Plan(s). Blackpool Airport and BAE Systems/DIO will be consulted as part of detailed Wildlife Hazard Management Plan process. These surveys will be undertaken using a standard WeBS methodology.
- 1.5.3.48 Further information regarding these mitigation measures and the species they are targeted at is provided in **Sections B.1** and **B.2.1** of this OEMP.

Great Crested Newts

- 1.5.3.49 Pre-application surveys confirmed Great Crested Newts (GCN) (*Triturus cristatus*) to be present within and surrounding the Onshore Order Limits. The construction of Transmission Assets will result in the permanent loss of ponds which form part of the areas of GCN habitat, which are assumed to represent indicative metapopulations.
- 1.5.3.50 However, as stated in CoT92 of the ES Volume 1, Annex 5.3: Commitments Register (document reference F1.5.3), the Applicants intends to apply for GCN District Level Licensing. As such, all ponds identified as suitable for supporting GCN to be lost during construction of the Transmission Assets would be suitably compensated via the creation of additional ponds.
- 1.5.3.51 GCN habitat clearance to be undertaken pre-construction will include the following mitigation measures.
- In advance of any works, vegetation management must be undertaken to reduce the suitability for GCN, to discourage GCN

from areas which will be soon stripped. Cut scrub and tall grass no lower than 150 mm; carefully remove arisings and leave habitat undisturbed for 48 hours.

- To be followed by directional vegetation clearance (avoiding wet weather during the active period) and soil stripping. The direction of working to be determined by the location of good newt habitat to be retained (starting furthest away from the favourable habitat and working towards it, to encourage GCN to disperse towards safe areas).
- This vegetation clearance can be undertaken during winter but no features offering potential places of shelter or refuge will be disturbed during the winter hibernation period, when amphibians are likely to be overwintering and are most vulnerable to disturbance.
- Vegetation management must be undertaken at the appropriate time of the year and in appropriate weather conditions, to avoid killing/injuring GCN.
- A licensed ecologist (or their accredited agent) must be present during all vegetation clearance works, which are considered to require advice and supervision.

1.5.3.52 For the ponds located within the Order Limits, which will need to be drained or infilled during construction of the Transmission Assets, measures will be taken to reduce impacts to GCN.

1.5.3.53 Draining or infilling of existing ponds suitable for GCN within the Onshore Order Limits (to be permanently or temporarily lost during construction) may only be undertaken between mid-September to early February (i.e. autumn/winter), to avoid sensitive breeding and hibernation periods for GCN. However, a pond which has ceased to hold water outside this period (i.e. spring/summer) would not be included under these restrictions. If there is a risk that GCN could use the substrate of the pond for hibernation, then a temperature restriction will apply during this period (i.e. temperatures not lower than 5 °C).

1.5.3.54 Ponds that support (or are likely to support) GCN to be permanently or temporarily lost during construction, will be drained down during the autumn/winter period (where practicable), using a fine mesh filter, followed by hand and destructive searches of the pond bed and immediate surroundings to capture any animals present.

1.5.3.55 If a GCN is located during construction, works in the area will be halted immediately and the ECoWs will be informed. To maintain the welfare of the GCN, a Natural England GCN licensed ecologist will attend the site to handle and where necessary, relocate any GCN to outside the exclusion fence line and provide further ecological advice as to the way forward and assess whether a Natural England licence is required or not. On-going clearance of habitat of potential value to GCN (i.e. hedgerows and scrub) within the surrounding 250 m area will be monitored. If any more GCN are located during construction in the area, site works will be halted immediately, and the GCN licensed ecologist

and/or ECoWs will be informed. The ECoWs will inform the Site Managers and Environmental Managers as soon as practicable of the need to obtain a Natural England licence for GCN before works can recommence in the area

- 1.5.3.56 The ECoWs will be responsible for applying for a Natural England development licence for GCN.

Fish and eel

- 1.5.3.57 Infrequent records for protected and notable fish species were identified as documented in Volume 3, Annex 3.1: Onshore ecology desk study technical report (document reference F3.3.1) of the ES. Those identified related to Atlantic salmon, brown/sea trout, European eel, river lamprey and smelt between 2004 and 2016.
- 1.5.3.58 As described in ES Volume 3, Annex 3.7: Fish and eel survey technical report of the ES (document reference F3.3.7), field surveys identified the presence of European eel within Dow Brook, Wrea Brook and Mill Brook which intersect the Onshore Order Limits. Fish species, including three-spined stickleback, flounder, roach, dace and chub have also been found during fish and eel surveys. As such, there is potential for eel and fish to be present within other watercourses and ditches.
- 1.5.3.59 The Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 allow the Environment Agency to implement measures for the recovery of eel stocks. Part 4 of the Regulations includes reference to construction and/or alteration of any obstruction to the passage of eels. As such, eel passes may be required where an obstruction to the passage of eels is created.
- 1.5.3.60 Pre-construction surveys will be undertaken within the optimal survey period (June to October), for any watercourses and ditches likely to be affected during construction to determine the presence of protected fish species. These surveys would also be used to determine requirements for eel passes.

Otter

- 1.5.3.61 As described in Volume 3, Annex 3.12: Otter survey technical report of the ES (document reference F3.3.12), pre-application surveys indicate that the home range of the breeding population of otter extends from Savick Brook, through Lea Marsh, across the River Ribble into Mill Brook and south to Penwortham.
- 1.5.3.62 This area represents core habitat for the otter population, based on the density of field signs, but evidence of otter was also found throughout the Onshore Order Limits and surrounding area.
- 1.5.3.63 Trenchless technologies will be used to install the 400 kV grid connection cable corridor beneath Lea Marsh BHS, Savick Brook and Mill Brook. These areas provide suitable habitat for otter. The trenchless construction would extend to approximately 80 m at the closest point from the boundary of the BHS, which is sufficient to avoid suitable direct habitat for loss for otter.

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- 1.5.3.64 Disturbance impacts within the core of the otter breeding range will be mitigated for through the provision of alternative habitat improved and enhanced for Otter at Lea Marsh, which will be of a sufficient distance from construction activities.
- 1.5.3.65 The anticipated measures that are likely to be taken at Lea Marsh to mitigate for disturbance effects upon otters due to cable installation include:
- provision of artificial holts;
 - improvement of reed beds; and
 - INNS (Invasive Non-native Species) control
- 1.5.3.66 Due to the mobility of otters and the period of time which will have lapsed between the preapplication surveys and the start of construction, a suite of pre-construction surveys for otters will be undertaken prior to the start of construction to determine the requirement for any Natural England licences.
- 1.5.3.67 These surveys will be undertaken of all watercourses that have been assessed as providing optimal habitat to support otters. A Natural England licence is required for any works that would result in the loss or disturbance of an otter holt or resting place, or if any works are likely to cause significant disturbance or displacement of otters. In order to inform the EPS licence survey methods will include consideration of camera traps, for the otter holts and couches identified at Savick Brook to ascertain the level of use.
- 1.5.3.68 If pre-construction surveys confirm the presence of a previously unidentified otter holt or resting place within the survey area, and if it is not practicable to micro-site working areas to include a 100 m works-free buffer zones, a Natural England development licence for otters will be obtained by the ECoWs prior to the commencement of works at the location for which the licence has been sought for. A licence application is likely to include the provision of a pre-construction artificial otter holt in a suitable location and at an appropriate distance from working areas. Where this is stipulated in the license, this will be adhered to, and all licensed works will be overseen by the ECoWs.
- 1.5.3.69 A Natural England licence return form and report of the works undertaken will be completed by the licensed ecologist following the completion of works and approved by the ECoWs.
- 1.5.3.70 A copy of this form and report will be provided to Transmission Assets Environmental Manager, Natural England and the local authority as soon as reasonably practicable and as prescribed under the conditions of the licence.

Reptiles

- 1.5.3.71 Pre-application phase 1 habitat surveys identified areas of suitable reptile habitat (e.g. hedgerow bases and areas of scattered scrub/tall ruderals) within Onshore Order Limits. However, as described in Volume 3, Annex 3.8: Great crested newt and reptile survey technical

report of the ES (document reference F3.3.8) no evidence of reptiles has been recorded.

- 1.5.3.72 Areas of potential reptile habitat that require clearance, particularly areas associated with the onshore substations and temporary construction compounds, will be managed prior to the commencement of construction to deter or displace any reptiles which might be present from the working areas.
- 1.5.3.73 Habitat management will involve the clearance of ground cover to create unfavourable conditions for reptiles. Scrub and tall grasses will be cut, to between 5 cm and 10 cm in height, and arisings will be removed from site.
- 1.5.3.74 If habitat is required to be cleared during the reptile hibernation period (i.e. typically November to February inclusive, but dependent on local weather conditions), trees and scrub will be cut using brushcutters or chainsaws, to a height of approximately 30 cm above ground level, to minimise the potential for disturbance to root balls where hibernating reptiles may be located. Remaining rough grass cover will be mowed short (approximately 5 cm above ground level).
- 1.5.3.75 Arisings will not be stacked on site as this could later provide a habitat feature of potential value to nesting birds, reptiles or other species. Instead, arisings will be removed from site.
- 1.5.3.76 Areas subject to habitat clearance will be maintained in a condition not favoured by reptiles (i.e. with minimal ground cover) until the commencement of construction of works (e.g. through regular mowing of ground vegetation).
- 1.5.3.77 All habitat clearance and management would be undertaken under the supervision and guidance of the ECoWs on site. In addition, a record of works will be maintained by the ECoWs and will be provided to Principal Contractors and the Site Managers. A copy of this record will be made available to the relevant Local Authorities on request.

Terrestrial invertebrates

- 1.5.3.78 Pre-application phase 1 habitat surveys identified areas of suitable terrestrial invertebrate habitat (e.g. river margin and pond margin habitats and saltmarsh) within the Onshore Order Limits. In the surveys, widespread and generally common species were identified (see Volume 3, Annex 3.6: Terrestrial invertebrate survey technical report of the ES (document reference F3.3.6)).
- 1.5.3.79 If terrestrial invertebrates are encountered during the works, then the works will cease, and a suitably qualified ecologist contacted. They will assess the need for further mitigation measures including the requirement for a Natural England licence prior to works re-commencing. Construction works will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the licence and under the guidance of the suitably qualified ecologist and, where necessary, an ecological watching brief.

Water vole

- 1.5.3.80 During the 2023 and 2024 pre-application surveys, limited water vole field signs were recorded. Full survey results are provided in Volume 3 Annex 3.9: Water vole survey technical report of the ES (document reference F3.3.9). However, as described in Volume 3, Annex 3.1: Onshore ecology desk study technical report of the ES (document reference F3.3.1) several records of water voles were reported within the Onshore Order Limits.
- 1.5.3.81 For the purposes of this OEMP, a precautionary approach has been adopted, and mitigation requirements have been determined assuming that water voles could be present within the Order Limits. However, if water voles are found to be absent from the development area at the time of construction, no translocation of water voles would be necessary.
- 1.5.3.82 Pre-construction surveys will be undertaken to confirm the presence/absence of water voles along all ditches of potential value to water voles that would be affected during construction of the Transmission Assets.
- 1.5.3.83 If water voles are encountered during the works, then the works will cease, and a suitably qualified ecologist contacted. They will assess the need for further mitigation measures including the requirement for a Natural England licence prior to works re-commencing. Construction works will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the licence and under the guidance of the suitably qualified ecologist and, where necessary, an ecological watching brief.

1.6 Construction mitigation measures

1.6.1 Introduction

- 1.6.1.1 This section of this OEMP describes the ecological and ornithological mitigation measures adopted as part of the Transmission Assets that will be undertaken during construction to ensure the protection of notable habitats and species.

1.6.2 Construction mitigation measures

- 1.6.2.1 Construction of the Transmission Assets will be undertaken in accordance with the CoCP and supporting documentation. An Outline CoCP (document reference J1) has been submitted with the DCO application for the Transmission Assets.

1.6.3 Habitat avoidance measures

- 1.6.3.1 Seasonal working practices and screening of construction activities will be established during the overwintering period in the locations identified on **Figure 1-7**. Further information on these avoidance measures is provided in **Appendix F**.

1.6.4 Habitat mitigation measures

Protective buffer zones

- 1.6.4.1 All the protective buffer zones and Root Protection Areas described in **section 1.5.2** and **paragraphs 1.6.4.12** to **1.6.4.14**, will be maintained throughout the construction phase of the Transmission Assets. The tracking of heavy vehicles, and the storage and refuelling of vehicles, machinery, equipment, and soils would be prohibited from buffer zones during construction of the Transmission Assets.
- 1.6.4.2 In addition, as described in **section 1.9** of this OEMP, the ECoWs will monitor adherence to the requirements of the buffer zones and will maintain a record of all findings and site checks undertaken.
- 1.6.4.3 Should any breach of the requirements become evident, the ECoWs will inform the Environmental Manager. The ECoWs will inform the Site Manager of remedial measures required to be undertaken as soon as practicable to resolve the situation and minimise effects on ecology.

Trees and hedgerow removal methodology

- 1.6.4.4 Any tree felling works and hedgerow clearance will be carried out in accordance with protected species requirements described in the sections below. Any soil storage areas will be located outside of tree protection zones as identified by the arboricultural survey and at least 5 m from retained hedgerows.
- 1.6.4.5 All hedgerow removal works will comply with 'BS 5837: 2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition, and construction – Recommendations'.
- 1.6.4.6 Removal of existing hedgerows within the construction works area will comprise cutting the hedgerows to ground level (or as close as possible), followed by excavation of root systems by a mechanical excavator during soil stripping. All woody arisings will be removed for offsite disposal with soft vegetation (e.g., field margins and hedgerow understory vegetation) flailed and left in-situ.
- 1.6.4.7 Where hedgerow removal is proposed, works will be undertaken under ecological supervision by a suitably qualified ECoW.
- 1.6.4.8 Hedgerow removal will be undertaken outside of the bird breeding season wherever possible (which is typically from March to August inclusive). If hedgerows cannot be removed outside of the bird breeding season, a pre-construction check for nesting birds would be undertaken at most 48 hours in advance of vegetation removal, and any nests identified will be protected and left undisturbed until the young have fledged as outlined below in Appendix C
- 1.6.4.9 Hedgerow removal will also be programmed for winter (November to February) where possible, to allow bats time to adjust to the change in their commuting habitat, prior to their maternity period. Hedgerows will be removed as close to the onset of works as possible and construction works will not commence after nights of poor weather (in case of bad weather roosts being used).

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- 1.6.4.10 The length of individual hedgerow sections to be removed will be reduced as far as reasonably practicable according to construction methods.
- 1.6.4.11 Where it is necessary to remove sections of hedgerow for cable installation, all sections of hedgerow temporarily removed to enable construction will be replanted as soon as practicable, with regard to appropriate planting months.

Tree and Hedgerow retention and protection

- 1.6.4.12 All hedgerows and trees retained within, or on the boundary of, the construction works area will be appropriately protected from damage during the construction works. A root protection area (RPA) is to be calculated, to ensure hedgerows and associated trees are not harmed by development activities. The British Standard (BS5837) defines the root protection area as 'the minimum area around a tree deemed to contain sufficient roots and rooting volume to maintain the tree's viability'. All trees will be surveyed prior to any works taking place. An Arboricultural Consultant will be responsible for ensuring that all retained trees and Root Protection Areas (RPAs) are satisfactorily protected during construction. RPAs and tree protection measures will be implemented in accordance with the Arboriculture Method Statement (S_D5_10).
- 1.6.4.13 This is to be calculated for single stem trees as a circle with a radius 12 times the stem diameter.
- 1.6.4.14 Subject to landowner permissions, hedgerows that are important for foraging and commuting bats would be left to become overgrown either side of the section to be removed prior to the construction works being undertaken and where possible scrub / rough grassland margins will be left to develop. These retained hedgerows would be allowed to become overgrown, creating a taller and wider area of hedgerow which will provide a more obvious corridor for commuting bats to travel along using echolocation. This would be undertaken to improve the quality of the surrounding hedgerow as a resource for commuting and foraging bats.

Ditches and watercourses

- 1.6.4.15 Where ditches are crossed by permanent infrastructure or where open cut trenching or temporary vehicular access across ditches is required, culverts with mammal ledges will be installed to provide a dry path for animals to use.
- 1.6.4.16 Ponds As noted in CoT31 (see Volume 1 Annex 5.3: Commitments Register (REP4-018)), 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.

Mill Brook Valley Biological Heritage Site

- 1.6.4.17 During the onshore site preparation works, an appropriately experienced ECoW will undertake a site walkover to identify sensitive grassland habitats within Mill Brook Valley Biological Heritage Site (BHS). The results of the walkover will inform the micro-siting of the construction compounds to minimise impacts potential impacts to the BHS.
- 1.6.4.18 A pre-construction survey of the grassland (including areas within the temporary construction compound, and adjacent to it for comparison) will be undertaken to record a detailed species-list for the grassland.
- 1.6.4.19 Appropriate fencing and signage will be installed to ensure there is no accidental damage to the unaffected sections of the BHS adjacent to the construction compound, including an appropriate buffer to the retained trees (minimum 10 m to accommodate root protection areas).
- 1.6.4.20 Topsoil and subsoil from the BHS grassland will be stored separately within the construction compound (in accordance with the Soil Management Plan (J1.7) and clearly marked with appropriate signage), to ensure that the seedbank is retained and to increase the likelihood of successful reinstatement of the grassland post-construction.
- 1.6.4.21 Post-construction monitoring will be undertaken to monitor re-establishment of the grassland, a detailed programme of which will be included in the revised EMP along with measures for remedial action where it was determined that the grassland was not successfully re-establishing.
- 1.6.4.22 Weed wiping will be undertaken where necessary to control undesirable weed species such as docks and thistles.

Landfall

- 1.6.4.23 No construction activities at landfall on Lytham St Annes beach will be undertaken by the Morgan Offshore Wind Project and Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Limited between November and March (inclusive). This is to mitigate disturbance to foraging and roosting wader features of Ribble and Alt Estuary SPA and Ramsar site (CoT129).
- 1.6.4.24 Other mitigation measures to be implemented at the landfall are:
- An ECoW will be strategically stationed at critical 'pinch points' where the public crosses the working corridor, advising visitors to avoid certain areas of the foreshore to ensure that birds have adequate space to feed during the construction work (October and April).
 - Furthermore, ECoWs and wardens will play a vital role in educating the public at landfall and Fairhaven Saltmarsh about the potential risks recreational disturbance poses to sand lizards and birds, and the measures that can be implemented to mitigate these impacts.

- Visual screening will be provided at the temporary construction compound situated on Lytham St Annes beach during the months of October and April.
- Exclusion zones of 25 m will be established either side of cable pull in (year round).

Lytham St Annes Dunes SSSI

- 1.6.4.25 An Outline Hydrogeological Risk Assessment has been prepared (S_D3_6_F03) in relation to the crossing of Lytham St Annes Dunes SSSI to mitigate potential impacts to the hydrologically dependant surface water features of the sand dune system. This forms part of the Outline Code of Construction Practice. At detailed design stage, Hydrogeological Risk Assessment (will be developed in accordance with the Outline Hydrogeological Risk Assessment). The hydrogeological risk assessment(s) will be informed by additional ground investigation information. The scope of the ground investigation and groundwater monitoring will be agreed with the Environment Agency and Natural England. These assessment(s) will be used to inform the detailed site-specific crossing design for the installation of the offshore export cables beneath Lytham St Annes SSSI (CoT128).

1.6.5 Protected or otherwise notable species

- 1.6.5.1 Construction measures in respect of protected and notable species will be implemented in accordance with the EMP.

Badgers

- 1.6.5.2 Even where no direct impacts to badger setts are likely, best practice measures will be implemented to ensure that no badgers are harmed during the construction of the Transmission Assets.
- 1.6.5.3 Species protection measures, including maintaining stand-offs from retained badger setts will be specified in the final EMPs, which will be developed in general accordance with the Outline EMP (document reference J6) submitted with the DCO application. In addition, in line with CoT17 (see Volume 1 Annex 5.3: Commitments Register (REP4-018)), where required provision will be made for badger access in relevant construction areas when work is not taking place in order to ensure normal movements as far as reasonably possible.
- 1.6.5.4 Heras fencing will be erected around all construction sites to deter badgers from the construction work areas.
- 1.6.5.5 In addition to Heras fencing surrounding the construction works, if badgers do manage to gain entry to where works are being carried out, the following further measures should be implemented daily.
- Any excavated holes to have a wooden board placed in them overnight to provide a means of escape should any badger accidentally enter the excavation.

- Any chemicals to be securely stored at night in a suitable locked container.
- To avoid attracting badgers into the works area, any food waste must be disposed of in appropriate bins or removed from site at the end of each day.

1.6.5.6 Site induction and toolbox talks will include emergency procedures in case of a badger or sett being located during construction works. Procedures will include the immediate halting of work, whilst Site workers will notify the ECoWs and Site Manager of findings as soon as practicable.

Bats

1.6.5.7 All works affecting confirmed bat roosts (to include both roosts confirmed during pre-construction surveys and those confirmed during earlier surveys) would be undertaken in accordance with the Natural England Bat Mitigation Licence and EMP.

1.6.5.8 Should a bat roost be located during the construction period, works within 30 m of the roost will be halted immediately and site workers will inform the ECoWs as soon as practicable, either directly or through the Site Manager.

1.6.5.9 In line with CoT28 (see Volume 1 Annex 5.3: Commitments Register (REP4-018)) any potential construction lighting in nearby areas will be directed away from sensitive ecological receptors such as the roost site. Where possible the licensed ecologist will direct the installation of a woodcrete bat box in a suitable location on a mature tree located at least 30 m from the works area, so that any disturbed bat(s) can relocate to this area.

1.6.5.10 If the tree requires felling, a Natural England licence will be obtained prior to felling. Licences typically require felling to take place in/around October/November or March/April, to minimise the impact on any bats that might be present.

1.6.5.11 In the unlikely event of a 'missed' tree roost being accidentally felled or disturbed, the ECoWs will ensure that a Natural England bat licensed ecologist attends the site as soon as practicable. The bat licensed ecologist will ensure the section containing the roost is moved to a suitable safe and sheltered location, at least 30 m from the works area and away from any potential obstructions that could prevent the exit of bats which may still be present. If required, the bat licensed ecologist will capture and relocate any disturbed bat(s) to a suitable alternative roost site, such as the pre-installed bat roost box. Alternatively, if considered necessary, the bat(s) will be taken to a Natural England licensed handler who can monitor its recovery prior to release.

1.6.5.12 A record of findings and measures undertaken to protect any disturbed roosting bats will be maintained by the ECoWs and provided to the Transmission Assets Environmental Manager. The ECoWs will inform Natural England of the event and measures undertaken as soon as practicable. If a Natural England licence is required to continue the

works, the ECoWs will complete and submit an application, and works will not recommence until the licence has been granted. Works would then be carried out in accordance with the licence and as necessary, under the supervision of a Natural England bat licensed ecologist.

- 1.6.5.13 Within active construction areas, i.e., where removal of sections of hedgerows is required, moveable features will be employed on a nightly basis to ensure continuation of current commuting routes for commuting and/or foraging bats. This approach will only be applied to those hedgerows that have been recorded to provide high and moderate foraging/commuting habitat. These will be in line with standard guidance and requirements and will be a consistent shape and size to the existing hedgerow. These will be moved into place at least one hour before dusk each day and removed no earlier than 30 minutes after dawn.
- 1.6.5.14 Construction site lighting will only operate when required and will be positioned and directed to avoid unnecessary illumination to residential properties, sensitive ecological receptors and footpath users, and minimise glare to users of adjoining public highways. Construction site lighting will be designed in accordance with latest relevant available guidance and legislation and the details of the location, height, design and luminance of lighting to be used will be detailed within the Outline Construction Artificial Light Emissions Management Plan, as part of the Outline CoCP (CoT28).
- 1.6.5.15 All necessary lighting shall be designed to minimise light scatter (kept near or below the horizontal) and in line with Guidance Note 8 – Bats and Artificial Lighting (ILP, 2023).

Fish and eel

- 1.6.5.16 As described in Volume 3, Annex 3.7: Fish and eel survey technical report of the ES (document reference F3.3.7), field surveys identified the presence of European eel within Dow Brook, Mill Brook and Wrea Brook, which intersect the Onshore Order Limits.
- 1.6.5.17 The Onshore Crossing Schedule of the ES Volume 1, Annex 3.2 (document reference F1.3.2) illustrates the areas where trenchless techniques will be utilised for the installation of the onshore export cable and 400 kV grid connection cable corridor.
- 1.6.5.18 Trenching work at smaller watercourses and ditches would not be undertaken at night and would include measures to avoid eels from becoming trapped (e.g. ramped ends of trenches).

GCN

- 1.6.5.19 As stated in CoT92, (see Volume 1, Annex 5.3: Commitments register of the ES (document reference F1.5.3)), GCN mitigation will be in line with the GCN District Level Licensing.
- 1.6.5.20 If any GCN exclusion fencing is installed prior to the commencement of construction works, this will be monitored throughout the construction phase to ensure that necessary repairs can be undertaken as soon as

practicable. The Site Manager will be responsible for ensuring this is undertaken regularly.

- 1.6.5.21 If a GCN is located during construction, works in the area will be halted immediately and the ECoWs will be informed. To maintain the welfare of the GCN, a Natural England GCN licensed ecologist will attend the site to handle and where necessary, relocate any GCN to outside the exclusion fence line and provide further ecological advice as to the way forward and assess whether a Natural England licence is required or not. On-going clearance of habitat of potential value to GCN (i.e. hedgerows and scrub) within the surrounding 250 m area will be monitored. If any more GCN are located during construction in the area, site works will be halted immediately, and the GCN licensed ecologist and/or ECoWs will be informed. The ECoWs will inform the Site Managers and Environmental Managers as soon as practicable of the need to obtain a Natural England licence for GCN before works can recommence in the area.
- 1.6.5.22 The ECoWs will be responsible for applying for a Natural England development licence for GCN.

Otter

- 1.6.5.23 Based on the current survey information, the construction phase will not directly impact any otter holts or resting places given the implementation of trenchless techniques. However, given the close proximity of the works to the core otter breeding population, habitat works to Lea Marsh will be provided as an alternative undisturbed resting site for the otter population.
- 1.6.5.24 If working at night is undertaken within or adjacent to watercourses, any lighting will be focussed on working areas and directed away from the watercourse and other watercourses of potential value to otters. Lighting will be kept to a minimum, up to approximately 100 m from otter holts or other identified resting places.

Reptiles

- 1.6.5.25 Measures to reduce the impacts to reptiles during construction will involve the management of vegetation (e.g. strimming long grass) to discourage occupation by reptiles and the identification and removal of potential refugia and hibernacula (if present) prior to construction works taking place in the relevant areas. These works will be undertaken under the supervision of the ECoWs. The exact measures will be secured via the final EMP post consent, with agreement from relevant stakeholders.
- 1.6.5.26 The management of vegetation (by strimming or flailing) and removal of potential refugia should only be undertaken during the reptile active period of March to October and therefore may need to be carried out well in advance of construction in areas where work is scheduled to commence during the winter months. At least 24 hours will be left between vegetation management and construction works commencing in affected areas.

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- 1.6.5.27 Due to the potential disturbance of sand lizard habitat at Lytham St. Annes Dunes caused by piling for the cofferdams, which are necessary for the construction of exit pits for the offshore export cables, the following measures are proposed:
- vibration generating equipment to be situated as far from the sand lizard habitat as is practicable to reduce energy transfer to the sand dunes;
 - the minimum hammer energy necessary to perform the task to be used;
 - cut-off trenches to be installed between the source of vibration and the habitat. These act in the same way as a noise barrier and interrupt the direct path of vibrations to a receiver; and
 - adoption of a minimum distance between the sand dune habitat that cofferdam installation can occur will aid in minimising impacts at the dunes.
- 1.6.5.28 However, these measures remain indicative and will be further refined as part of the detailed EMPs and developed in consultation with the relevant Local Authorities.

Water vole

- 1.6.5.29 Checks for the presence of water vole will be carried out by the ECoWs prior to vegetation clearance. If the pre-construction surveys or ECoWs pre-clearance checks conclude the water vole is present and there is potential to affect watercourses and ditches, then the following mitigation measure would be implemented, where required:
- timing of works to avoid sensitive periods of the water vole life cycle;
 - discouraging or, if necessary, removal of water vole from areas where there is risk of injury or death in advance; and
 - minimising disturbance from light and human presence via temporary screening and potentially amending working hours.

Other mammals

- 1.6.5.30 Checks for the presence of hedgehogs, polecats, hares or other protected or notable species of mammals will be carried out by the ECoWs prior to vegetation clearance. If checks identify other mammals, additional mitigation measures will be implemented, and mitigation licences applied for as necessary.

Breeding birds

- 1.6.5.31 The ECoWs will be present to carry out final breeding bird checks prior to the commencement of construction works. In addition, the ECoWs will be responsible for ensuring that any established buffer zones around sensitive and/or protected species are maintained during construction works. In addition, as noted in CoT16 where reasonably

practicable all vegetation requiring removal will be undertaken outside of the bird breeding season (the season is defined as March to July/August) (see Volume 1 Annex 5.3: Commitments Register (REP4-018)). Further detailed regarding construction mitigation measures for breeding birds are provided in **Appendix C** of this OEMP.

Intertidal birds

- 1.6.5.32 With regard to the Permanent mitigation area at Fairhaven Saltmarsh, the pre-construction measures set out in **Section 1.5.3** of this OEMP would continue throughout the construction phase until all disturbance has ceased and relevant habitats have been restored. These measures are required to reduce impacts upon passage birds as well as wintering birds, and therefore should be in place at all times of the year, whilst construction activities are taking place within the Intertidal Infrastructure Area and the supratidal area of the Onshore Order Limits. In addition, at landfall, in order to mitigate disturbance to roosting wader features of the Ribble and Alt Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, no construction activities at landfall on Lytham St Annes beach will be undertaken by the Morgan Offshore Wind Project and Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Limited between November and March (inclusive) (See CoT129 in Volume 1 Annex 5.3: Commitments Register (REP4-018)). Full details of the species that this area aims to mitigate for and details of the proposed measures can be found in **Sections B.1** and **B.2.1**.
- 1.6.5.33 Regular monitoring of bird numbers and behaviour will be undertaken as agreed by Natural England (and Blackpool Airport and BAE Systems/DIO as part of the detailed Wildlife Hazard Management Plan process) (for survey details see **Section 1.5.3.47**).

1.7 Post-construction mitigation measures

1.7.1 Introduction

- 1.7.1.1 This section of this OEMP describes the ecological and ornithological mitigation measures adopted as part of the Transmission Assets that will be undertaken as soon as practicable following the completion of construction works.
- 1.7.1.2 All post-construction works will be carried out under the guidance of the ECoWs. All post-construction monitoring surveys described in this section will be undertaken by the ECoWs or an otherwise appropriately experienced and where necessary, licensed ecologist(s), who will be pre-approved by the ECoWs and will work under the guidance of the ECoWs.

1.7.2 Habitats

- 1.7.2.1 Reinstatement of temporarily damaged or cleared terrestrial habitat will be carried out as soon as practicable following completion of construction works.

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- 1.7.2.2 Habitat reinstatement will comprise the replacement of stripped soils and the planting of native hedgerows, shrubs and trees, typical of the local area and of local provenance where possible (as stated in CoT13, see Volume 1 Annex 5.3: Commitments Register (REP4-018)).
 - 1.7.2.3 Habitat reinstatement and new planting will be undertaken in accordance with the outline measures described in the OLMP (document reference J2). Details of the planting methodologies and plant species lists will be provided in the final LMP.
 - 1.7.2.4 The ECoWs will be responsible for producing a report to confirm habitat reinstatement or enhancement requirements have been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the EMP and Landscape Management Plan.
 - 1.7.2.5 Operational access for monitoring and maintenance will only be permitted on designated routes that have been identified to minimise impacts on onshore biodiversity. This is particularly the case in non-statutory sites of importance for nature conservation, where access is, as far as possible on existing routes. As such impacts on habitats and the assemblages of plants and invertebrates that form the reasons for designation for these sites will be negligible.

1.7.3 Protected or otherwise notable species

- 1.7.3.1 Should any Natural England licences for protected species be required for construction works to be undertaken, the licence applications will include the necessary habitat restoration and measures required for the protection of the protected species to which the licence applies. These measures will consider requirements of the final LMP. However, should measures be required under a licence that are not included in the LMP, these will be carried out by landscape contractors working under the guidance of a suitably qualified ecologist and/or licence holder.
- 1.7.3.2 The suitably qualified ecologist and/or Natural England licence holder will be responsible for producing any required Natural England licence return forms and report of the works undertaken. A copy of the forms and reports will be provided to the Environmental Manager and relevant Local Authorities, including Natural England as soon as reasonably practicable and as prescribed under the conditions of the Natural England licence.
- 1.7.3.3 Regarding the permanent mitigation area south of Newton-with-Scales, any habitat creation or enhancement works would be undertaken outside of the breeding bird season (i.e. March to August inclusive), where possible, as to avoid impacts of disturbance on birds in the area.

Breeding and non-breeding birds south of Newton-with-Scales

- 1.7.3.4 Regular monitoring of bird numbers and behaviour will be undertaken as agreed by Natural England (for survey details see **Section 1.5.3.44**). Blackpool Airport and BAE Systems/DIO will be consulted as part of the detailed Wildlife Hazard Management Plan process. Full details of the

species this area aims to mitigate for and details of the proposed measures can be found in **Sections B.1** and **B.2.2**.

1.8 Long term management

1.8.1 Introduction

- 1.8.1.1 This section of this OEMP describes the mitigation measures for birds and onshore ecology adopted as part of the Transmission Assets that will be undertaken upon completion of the post-construction mitigation described above and shall be maintained during the operational phase.

1.8.2 Habitats

- 1.8.2.1 During the establishment phase (up to five years following the planting or spreading of seed) any failed plants will be replaced like-for-like as required to prevent any significant gaps in planting and as agreed with landowners. Once established, new planting will be managed in accordance with the measures set out in the LMP.
- 1.8.2.2 Reinstated or enhanced hedgerows will remain under the management control of the landowner.
- 1.8.2.3 Reinstated and enhanced watercourses and ditches will remain under the management control of the landowner and/or relevant Local Authorities.

1.8.3 Protected or otherwise notable species

- 1.8.3.1 Should any additional Natural England licences for protected species be required, the licence holders (e.g. ECoWs) will notify the Applicants and Principal Contractor of any additional survey and habitat requirements.
- 1.8.3.2 The Applicants will maintain a record of all ecology works completed, which will be provided to the relevant Local Authorities, including Natural England as soon as practicable and as prescribed under the conditions of any Natural England licence.
- 1.8.3.3 With regard to the Permanent mitigation area at Fairhaven Saltmarsh, although this mitigation area would primarily be temporary (i.e. during construction of the Transmission Assets), the measures may also need to be implemented during the operation and maintenance phase of the Transmission Assets. This is to account for cable repair and reburial events proposed within the Intertidal Infrastructure Area.
- 1.8.3.4 With regard to the permanent mitigation areas south of Newton-with-Scales and the pond creation areas at the Morgan onshore substation and Moss side, the areas would be subject to maintenance activities
- 1.8.3.5 The detailed maintenance activities required within the permanent mitigation areas during operation of the Transmission Assets would be agreed with the relevant Local Authorities as part of the detailed EMP.

1.9 **Monitoring and reporting**

1.9.1 **Overview**

- 1.9.1.1 This section of this OEMP provides details of the requirements for monitoring and reporting during pre-construction, construction and post construction of the Transmission Assets.

1.9.2 **Monitoring**

- 1.9.2.1 The ECoWs will be responsible for monitoring adherence to the requirements of the detailed EMP during pre-construction and construction of the Transmission Assets. Adherence to EMP will be monitored via weekly site inspections, where construction works remain underway; and/or weekly meetings with the Site Managers.
- 1.9.2.2 The ECoWs will maintain a record of these site inspections and meetings, which will be provided to the Site Manager and will be made available to the relevant Local Authorities, including Natural England as required (or if requested).
- 1.9.2.3 The ECoWs will regularly (at least once every two weeks) monitor adherence to the requirements of the protective buffer zones. Should any breach of these requirements become evident, the ECoWs will inform the Site Manager as soon as practicable. The ECoWs will inform the Site Manager of measures required to be undertaken as soon as practicable to rectify any potential impacts. If the breach is material, the ECoWs, Site Manager or Undertaker will then be responsible for notifying Natural England of any breaches to the buffer zones.
- 1.9.2.4 With respect to the mitigation area at Fairhaven saltmarsh, further surveys would be undertaken to monitor the efficacy of this mitigation area. Monitoring of the permanent mitigation area at Fairhaven Saltmarsh would continue until all relevant habitats within the Onshore Order Limits have been restored post-construction.
- 1.9.2.5 With regard to the permanent mitigation area south of Newton-with-Scales, following completion of the baseline surveys, monitoring will take place up to five years after construction has finished to monitor the efficacy of this mitigation area.

1.9.3 **Reporting**

Onshore site preparation

- 1.9.3.1 The ECoWs will maintain a record of all onshore site preparation works undertaken as they relate to the protection of IEFs. In addition, The ECoWs will produce pre-construction survey reports, for the species below, although this list is not exhaustive and additional surveys may be required:
- Aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates;
 - Badger;

- Bats;
- Breeding, wintering and migratory birds;
- Fish;
- Otter; and
- Water vole.

1.9.3.2 Pre-construction survey reports, including advice regarding implications for construction, will be provided to the appointed Site Manager and Undertaker. A copy will be made available to the relevant Local Authorities on request.

1.9.3.3 Should any Natural England development licences be required, the ECoWs will produce protected species licence applications which will be submitted to Natural England. Reports will support licence applications where required. The Undertaker reserves the right to review any application prior to submission but must not unreasonably delay its submission to the appropriate authority.

Construction

1.9.3.4 The ECoWs will maintain a record of all ecology works undertaken during the construction period, including any ecological watching briefs or protected species surveys and findings of any site visits. Reports will be provided to the Undertaker and the Site Manager and, where appropriate, the relevant Local Authorities, including Natural England.

1.9.3.5 The ECoWs will maintain a record of any breaches of the requirements of the EMP, and any measures undertaken to mitigate potential impacts of a breach. Records will be provided to the Undertaker, Site Manager and if necessary, the relevant Local Authorities and Natural England.

1.9.3.6 If any reasonable changes to the measures described in the EMP are considered necessary by the ECoWs to achieve the objectives and adhere to the timetable of suitable work periods requirements of the Plan (see **Appendix A**) and any relevant legislation, the ECoWs will produce a report of these proposed changes, detailing the reasons for them, and this report will be provided to the relevant Local Authorities, including Natural England for approval prior to the measures being carried out on site.

1.9.3.7 Should a protected species licence be required during the construction period, the ECoWs will be responsible for applying for a such a licence.

1.9.3.8 The ECoWs and/or licence holder will be responsible for producing any required Natural England licence return forms and report of the works undertaken. A copy of the forms and reports will be provided to the Undertaker and the relevant Local Authorities, including Natural as soon as practicable and as required under the conditions of the licence.

Post-construction

1.9.3.9 Should any licences be required, the ECoWs and/or Natural England licence holder will be responsible for producing and distributing any

required licence return forms and report of the works undertaken as described above.

- 1.9.3.10 The ECoWs will be responsible for producing a report to confirm habitat reinstatement or enhancement requirements have been carried out in accordance with the EMP and the OLMP (document reference J2).

1.10 Further opportunities for enhancement

- 1.10.1.1 The Applicants intend to explore the opportunities for enhancement listed below, and these opportunities will be discussed with Natural England and other stakeholders, where appropriate, as the Transmission Assets progresses into the post consent phase. These early opportunities are currently being considered using the following criteria:

- ecological connectivity;
- spatial scale;
- deliverability / feasibility; and
- ecological efficacy.

- 1.10.1.2 The Applicants have identified a number of potential opportunities for enhancement, which include but are not limited to:

- supporting protected habitat improvements, restoration, connectivity and monitoring (e.g. ecological monitoring of habitats and physical interventions);
- safeguarding protected species (e.g. reducing predator predation); and
- green infrastructure measures such as community engagement and Public Rights of Way enhancements (e.g. interpretation materials; trails, walkways and cycleways).

- 1.10.1.3 Details regarding marine enhancement can be found in the Marine Enhancement Statement (document reference J12).

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Appendix A: Indicative timetable

Sub-Optimal	Optimal

Indicative optimal timetable of required measures

Description	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Onshore site preparation												
Pre-construction breeding bird surveys												
Pre-construction non-breeding bird surveys												
Pre-construction disturbance survey of Fairhaven Saltmarsh												
Pre-construction vegetation clearance												
Surveys for roosting bats												
Surveys for hibernating bats												
Surveys for bat activity on hedgerows												
Installation of bat boxes												
Pre-construction Water Vole surveys												
Pre-construction Badger surveys												
Pre-construction Otter surveys												

Description	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Botanical survey at Mill Brook Valley BHS												
Pre-construction survey of existing habitats at land south of Newton-with-Scales. Survey of existing grassland management and grazing regime.												
Habitat management to deter reptiles and amphibians (including GCN)												
Uprooting habitat with potential for hibernating reptiles and amphibians (including GCN)												
Pond draining and infilling												
Pond Creation												
Natural England Licence Applications (should they be required)												
Installation of the measures at Fairhaven Saltmarsh												
Construction												
ECoWs breeding bird checks												
Measures to reduce disturbance at Fairhaven saltmarsh												
Monitoring as a requirement of the air safety birdstrike safeguarding responsibilities												
Installation of temporary flightlines for bats												
Post-construction												
Landscape planting at onshore substations												
Maintenance of existing habitats at land south of Newton-with-Scales (see Appendix B2)												

Description	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Long term												
Maintenance of existing habitats at land south of Newton-with-Scales (see Appendix B2)												
Bat Boxes												
Replacement of failed plant during establishment period												

Appendix B: Mitigation areas

B.1 Summary of mitigation areas and apportionment

Mitigation area	Mitigation summary	Relevant commitments	Apportionment
Onshore ecology and nature conservation			
Temporary construction mitigation area at Lea Marsh	Purpose: the purpose of this area is to mitigate impacts of disturbance and habitat loss on otters during construction of the Transmission Assets. Due to the level of overlap of impact (i.e. temporary habitat loss and displacement), the same area will be required to offset the impact from the Morgan and Morecambe onshore cable installation. Size: this Temporary construction mitigation area would occupy approximately 25 ha of land at Lea Marsh. The mitigation area is large enough to account for all impacts from the Transmission Assets on otter habitats and distribution, noting this is a wide ranging species. The specific detail of the measures and habitat management practices put in place would be refined with stakeholders post consent taking into account the findings of any pre-construction surveys and detailed design. The Temporary construction mitigation area at Lea Marsh area was selected based on the following factors. • Within the home range for of otter populations as identified in site specific surveys; • Close proximity to confirmed otter habitats which would be impacted, particularly around Savick Brook and surrounding areas; • Habitats present in the mitigation area are similar habitat to those used by otters in the wider area, so enhancement likely to be more straightforward. • Mitigation area is large enough to accommodate a wide ranging species and is proportionate to the impact (i.e. disturbance to local otter populations along Savick Brook and other waterbodies connected to the Ribble Estuary). Duration: this mitigation area would be required during construction of the Transmission Assets Measures: see Section B.2.5.	CoT127	Morgan: 25 ha Morecambe: 25 ha

Mitigation area	Mitigation summary	Relevant commitments	Apportionment
Pond creation at the Morgan onshore substation	Purpose: the purpose of this pond creation area is to compensate for the permanent loss of ponds and suitable aquatic invertebrate habitat, including Freshfield Farm Pond, North BHS and Freshfield Farm Pond, South BHS during construction the Morgan onshore substation. Size: the area proposed for pond creation would permanently occupy approximately 2.5 ha of land at the Morgan onshore substation. Duration: this mitigation area would be required during construction and operation of the Transmission Assets. Measures: see Section B.2.4.	CoT122	Morgan: 2.5 ha Morecambe: 0 ha
Pond creation at Moss Side at the Morecambe onshore substation	Purpose: the purpose of this pond creation area is to compensate for the permanent loss of ponds and suitable aquatic invertebrate habitat during construction of the onshore export cable corridor for Morecambe. Size: the area proposed for pond creation would permanently occupy approximately 0.8 ha of land at Moss side. Duration: this mitigation area would be required during construction and operation of the Transmission Assets. Measures: see Section B.2.3.	CoT122	Morgan: 0 ha Morecambe: 0.8 ha
Onshore and intertidal ornithology			
Permanent mitigation area at Fairhaven Saltmarsh	Purpose: the purpose of this area is to alleviate the impacts of disturbance and temporary habitat loss on passage intertidal waders during construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Transmission Assets by reducing disturbance impacts at Fairhaven Saltmarsh. Species this mitigation area is specifically designed for are: • Ringed plover • Dunlin • Sanderling Other intertidal waders such as grey plover, redshank, oystercatcher, bar-tailed godwit, would also benefit.	CoT113	Morgan: 36 ha Morecambe: 36 ha

Mitigation area	Mitigation summary	Relevant commitments	Apportionment
	Size: this mitigation area would permanently occupy approximately 36 ha of land at Fairhaven Saltmarsh. Duration: this mitigation area would be required during construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Transmission Assets. Measures: see Section B.2.1.		
Permanent mitigation area south of Newton-with-Scales	Purpose: the purpose of this area is to mitigate potential EIA impacts of permanent habitat loss on non-breeding waders during the lifespan of the Transmission Assets. It would also be used to retain the area for breeding waders, and breeding and non-breeding wildfowl and farmland birds. Species this mitigation area is specifically designed for are: • Golden plover (permanent loss) • Teal (temporary loss) • Black-tailed godwit (temporary loss) Size: this mitigation area would permanently occupy approximately 30 ha of land south of Newton-with-Scales. Duration: this mitigation area would be required during operation of the Transmission Assets. Measures: see Section B.2.2.	CoT120	Morgan: 19.5 ha Morecambe: 10.5ha

B.2 Management Measures for Mitigation Areas

B.2.1 Fairhaven Saltmarsh

B.2.1.1 Objectives

- 1.11.1.1 Fairhaven Saltmarsh is an existing high tide wader roost, and the area is also used for informal recreational activities. The area is exposed to disturbance from walkers and dogs frequently causing roosting birds to take flight leading to a potential loss of energy and time spent resting. The objective is to mitigate impacts of disturbance and temporary habitat loss on waders during construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Transmission Assets by reducing disturbance impacts at Fairhaven Saltmarsh. This is to mitigate for potential impacts at the landfall on **ringed plover, dunlin and sanderling**, however this mitigation has the potential to benefit a far greater suite of intertidal waders including, but not limited to, oystercatcher, grey plover, knot, bar-tailed godwit, and redshank. As all these species currently use the site, any reduction in disturbance would be beneficial for all of these species. These measures aim to mitigate impacts on intertidal waders that currently use the area and that may be subject to residual impacts due to construction, and operation and maintenance works at the Landfall as part of the Transmission Assets.

B.2.1.2 Principles of Management Measures

- 1.11.1.2 The measures will focus on managing the interaction of the bird roost and the recreational users of Fairhaven Saltmarsh in conjunction with the Public Rights of Way Management Plan (AS0-48) and Communications Plan(s) (APP-194), secured under Requirement 8 of the draft DCO (REP1-008) Schedules 2A & 2B. The indicative timetable of when this area will be established and managed can be found in Appendix A. The design of these measures will be cognisant of case studies and guidance from experts in recreational disturbance and birds (e.g., Footprint Ecology). Measures that will be included at Fairhaven Saltmarsh will be informed by the findings of a site specific recreational disturbance survey of Fairhaven Saltmarsh and the surrounding area. This survey will identify the site-specific conditions and recreational pressures (e.g. type and frequency of recreational activities). The findings of the study will be used to inform the measures for managing recreational pressures on Fairhaven Saltmarsh and the following details included within the detailed Ecological Management Plan(s):

- Local education:
 - Details of which local groups the Applicants will work with, and how.
 - Information of what education material will be used, and what activities will be arranged including measures that will be put in place to ensure any educational material is correct and kept up to date.
- Wardening
 - How many wardens will be employed

-
- When the wardens are on site at Fairhaven Saltmarsh (including lead in times prior to the commencement of landfall construction)

- 1.11.1.3 The measures will be developed further in consultation with Natural England and set out in the detailed EMP(s).
- 1.11.1.4 Management measures will be in place at least three months before construction activities taking place at the landfall to allow parties to effectively habituate and allow a soft start.

Soft fencing:

- 1.11.1.5 The installation of 'soft' fencing will be designed to discourage (rather than formally exclude) the public from accessing the mitigation area at Fairhaven Saltmarsh and would be designed so that views for the public would not be obstructed. An example of soft fencing would be short posts with rope strung between. The final extent and design of the soft fencing will be determined as part of the detailed EMP(s), but as a minimum it would be expected to run along the coast path at the top edge of the saltmarsh (see **Figure 1-8**). The soft fencing will be installed at least three months before the commencement of construction activities at the landfall. This means that preparations could begin as early as December for the spring migration and in June for the autumn migration. The soft fencing will remain in place until the construction work at the landfall is completed.

Signage:

- 1.11.1.6 Educational signage would be installed at suitable locations (see **Figure 1-8**) along the periphery of the mitigation area at Fairhaven Saltmarsh to inform the public of the value of the area for internationally and nationally important populations of waterbirds, whilst also advising people of simple ways that they can modify their recreational activities and behaviours to reduce disturbance on birds in the area. These educational signs will be supplemented by low level signage asking the public to modify their use of the area by keeping to paths e.g. 'Please keep off the Saltmarsh', keeping dogs on leads and to refrain from littering.

Local education

- 1.11.1.7 Education activities will be organised with local groups (e.g. dog walking groups) to help raise awareness of disturbance to the roosting birds and the negative impacts it will have. Visits to local primary schools can be beneficial and encourage support for the actions being taken.

Wardens:

- 1.11.1.8 Wardens will also be employed on site to further educate and advise the public with regard to requirements for the mitigation area at Fairhaven Saltmarsh. The wardens will be appropriately trained and experienced ECoWs. Given the increased likelihood of visitor interactions with roosting birds around high tide, wardens will be strategically positioned approximately three hours before and after high tide. Warden interventions will be scheduled to coincide with the high-water period between 09:00 and 17:00 during the critical months for waders .

Monitoring

- 1.11.1.9 A monitoring strategy will be implemented to gather evidence on the effectiveness of the measures in reducing disturbance to birds and an adaptive management approach will be employed. Additionally, and in order to inform the final plans and targets, ongoing monitoring of the bird numbers and behaviours will be undertaken at a frequency agreed with Natural England of the detailed Ecological Management Plan(s). Blackpool Airport and BAE Systems/DIO will be consulted as part of the detailed Wildlife Hazard Management Plan process. These surveys will be undertaken using a standard WeBS methodology with a suggested initial frequency of monthly counts, monitoring of the efficacy of the mitigation will also take place on a suggested monthly basis.



Figure 1-8: Indicative location of the mitigation measures at Fairhaven Saltmarsh

B.2.2 Land to the south of Newton-with-Scales

B.2.2.1 Objectives

- 1.11.1.10 The objective of the mitigation area is to provide permanent alternative habitat for non-breeding waders due to the potential permanent habitat loss at the onshore substations.
- 1.11.1.11 Multiple underground utilities (including a Trans-Pennine Ethylene Pipeline) as well as several drains/ditches and a private access track are located within the south of Newton-with-Scales mitigation area. The construction of the onshore export cable in this area will use trenchless techniques to cross these obstacles. The indicative location of the trenchless crossing zone (as shown in Environmental Statement Volume 1, Annex 3.2: Onshore Crossing Schedule (REP6-030)) extends over 50% of the mitigation area's width. The use of trenchless techniques will therefore limit temporary habitat loss.
- 1.11.1.12 This mitigation has been designed to address potential EIA impacts to non-breeding waders such as golden plover, lapwing, curlew and snipe. This mitigation also has the potential to benefit a far greater suite of terrestrial waders and wildfowl including, but not limited to wigeon, black-tailed godwit, ruff, redshank, etc.
- 1.11.1.13 Whilst there is little detail in the literature on species specific conservation measures that suit these species individually during the non-breeding season, it is recognised that many of these species have similar non-breeding habitat requirements and are all found in similar wet grassland and shallow scrape habitats during the non-breeding period. Short grassland and ponds also provide an open habitat which encourages many species of waterbirds to feel safe and provides roosting opportunities for birds and foraging opportunities for grass-eating species such as wigeon.
- 1.11.1.14 The objective for the land south of Newton-with-Scales mitigation area is to provide a 'safe haven' during the overwintering period for non-breeding waders and wildfowl that currently use this area, and that may be subject to the permanent loss of land at the onshore substations as part of the Transmission Assets Project.

B.2.2.2 Principles of Mitigation

Existing habitat

- 1.11.1.15 The land south of Newton-with-Scales comprises wet pasture and is currently used for grazing. The western and central fields comprise grassland; the eastern field is also used for grazing and was recently re-seeded. The fields are dissected by a number of ditches; the fields are often waterlogged and there are seasonal ponds in the central and eastern fields (**Figure 1-5**).
- 1.11.1.16 The high water table softens the soil and forces soil invertebrates close to the surface, which the golden plover, lapwing and curlew take advantage of. Areas of rush surrounding the existing seasonal ponds favour snipe, as well as other non-breeding and breeding waders.

Principles

- 1.11.1.17 The principles of the mitigation are to maintain the existing habitat features at south of Newton-with-Scales and to reduce disturbance to the birds using the land in the winter months (October to March (inclusive)) during the operational phase of the Project.
- 1.11.1.18 As the land south of Newton-with-Scales is currently used by non-breeding waders, there is no requirement to implement any measures before the completion of construction. However, the following steps will be taken to confirm the baseline position.
- 1.11.1.19 A pre-construction survey will be undertaken on the land south of Newton-with-Scales to confirm the main habitats present on the site, their location and spatial coverage (e.g. rushes). This survey will be undertaken within timeframes similar to the pre-construction bird surveys (as described in section 1.5) to inform agreement of target levels for the key bird species. A survey will also be carried out (with the landowner or its agent) to confirm the existing management activities undertaken at land south of Newton-with-Scales including grazing regimes, timings of the activities and any rotational variations.
- 1.11.1.20 The Applicants will prepare a management plan in consultation with the landowner setting out the management activities (including timings) that will be undertaken at land south of Newton-with-Scales during the operations and maintenance phase. The activities within the management plan will be based on the existing management activities undertaken at Newton-with-Scales. The purpose of the management plan is to secure how the existing habitats at land south of Newton-with-Scales will be retained and managed (i.e. in line with existing practices). The plan will also set out the monitoring and reporting strategies and the mechanism for identifying and agreeing any modifications to habitat management activities.
- 1.11.1.21 The management plan will focus on the following activities:
- Grassland management
 - grassland habitats at land south of Newton-with-Scales will continue to be managed through grazing. The existing grazing regime will continue throughout the majority of the year. Prior to the overwintering period, grazing practices will be managed to achieve a shorter sward length (< 10 cm) to ensure the sward height is suitable for the range of waders and wildfowl that currently use the site. Some areas of grass and rush around the existing seasonal ponds will be allowed to set seed to provide winter food for species such as **teal**. In addition, the grazing regime will also be used to control localised poaching of the ground in suitable areas (i.e., where vegetation diversity is low). Repeated trampling of the ground by hooved animals will also create muddy, wet areas that provide enhanced feeding and roosting resources.
 - Rush management

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- The areas of rush will be managed to maintain the existing coverage (as defined by the pre-construction surveys) to avoid encroaching on grassland that is suitable for the other field feeding waders. The areas of rush will be intermittently mowed with grazing to keep rush regrowth to a minimum. Mowing will be undertaken outside the overwintering period.
 - Reduction in disturbance
 - In addition to the grassland management measures, grazing will be reduced between October and March (inclusive). The purpose of limiting stocking levels (and any other activities) is to reduce disturbance to the non-breeding waders during the overwintering period.



Figure 1-9: Indicative permanent mitigation at land south of Newton-with-Scales

B.2.2.3 Monitoring

- 1.11.1.22 A detailed baseline will be collected prior to any construction taking place to inform of the final measures, and regular monitoring will take place after the completion of construction has taken place. This will inform if targets are being met or if the management needs to be updated. The methodologies for these pre-construction (baseline) surveys and ongoing monitoring will follow standard waterbird survey methodologies (e.g., WeBS) with the frequency of surveys to be agreed in consultation with Natural England as part of the detailed Ecological Management Plan(s). Blackpool Airport and BAE Systems/DIO will be consulted as part of the detailed Wildlife Hazard Management Plan process.
- 1.11.1.23 Regular monitoring of this area will be a requirement to inform the final design in the detailed Ecological Management Plan(s), and ongoing monitoring will record the success of the mitigation area. The purpose of this area is to mitigate for impacted birds, however large increases of additional birds (beyond those that are being mitigated for) may pose an unacceptable rise in risk to air safety at both Warton Aerodrome and Blackpool Airport. Therefore, whilst monitoring may inform the adjustment of management in the case that the mitigation area is failing, it may also inform any adjustments that are needed in the case that the mitigation area is too successful and is drawing in large numbers of birds from the wider area. Targets on the success of this area (both lower and upper limits) are to be agreed in consultation with Natural England as part of the detailed Ecological Management Plan(s). Blackpool Airport and BAE Systems/DIO will be consulted as part of the detailed Wildlife Hazard Management Plan process.
- 1.11.1.24 These surveys will be undertaken using a standard WeBS methodology with a suggested initial frequency of monthly counts. Habitats will be monitored simultaneously and the efficacy of the mitigation and any adaptive management measures required will be informed by these data. There is a commitment to monitor this area for the lifetime of the project (30 years) to inform the long-term success. In addition, the detailed EMP(s) will confirm information regarding the organisation/group who will carry out the management and monitoring of implemented measures where necessary.

B.2.3 Moss Side Pond

B.2.3.1 Objectives

- 1.11.1.25 The objective of the mitigation area is to create permanent replacement habitat for aquatic invertebrates at Woodside Pond.

B.2.3.2 Principles of Management Measures

- 1.11.1.26 The measures will focus on the creation of the replacement pond and marginal habitat for aquatic invertebrates. The measures will be developed in consultation with Natural England and set out in the detailed EMPs.

Creation of pond

- 1.11.1.27 Several small ponds are proposed in the indicative locations as shown in **Figure 1-10**. The design of the replacement ponds, including depth and coverage, will be set out in the detailed EMP(s). The pond will be designed, as far as possible, to have the characteristics of the pond (i.e., Woodside Pond) that will be lost. The ponds will be designed to discourage large flocking bird species, by being small and having marginal fringing vegetation to mirror the habitat attributes of existing farmland ponds within the landscape that do not attract flocks of large wading species.

Creation of marginal habitat

- 1.11.1.28 Areas of marginal habitat will be created around and within the replacement ponds. Where possible, marginal and aquatic plants will be translocated from Woodside Pond to 'seed' the replacement pond with aquatic vegetation. Care will be taken to ensure that no non-native invasive aquatic plant species are accidentally introduced (see **Figure 1-10**).



Figure 1-10: Indicative location of mitigation measures at Moss Side

B.2.4 Pond creation at Morgan Onshore Substation

B.2.4.1 Objectives

- 1.11.1.29 The objective of the mitigation area is to create permanent replacement habitat for aquatic invertebrates.

B.2.4.2 Principles of Management Measures

- 1.11.1.30 The measures will focus on the creation of replacement ponds and marginal habitat for aquatic invertebrates. The ponds will primarily replace the Freshfield Pond South BHS and Freshfield Pond North BHS and also take into account the other ponds in the locality that will be lost to the construction of Morgan Onshore Substation. The measures will be developed in consultation with Natural England and set out in the detailed EMPs.

Creation of ponds

- 1.11.1.31 Several small ponds are proposed in the indicative locations as shown on **Figure 1-11**. The design of the replacement ponds, including depth and coverage, will be set out in the detailed EMP(s). The ponds will be designed, as far as possible, to have the characteristics of those that will be lost. The ponds will be designed to discourage large flocking bird species.
- 1.11.1.32 Plant materials and substrates will be translocated from the Freshfield Pond South Biological Heritage Site (BHS) and Freshfield Pond North BHS.

Creation of marginal habitat

- 1.11.1.33 Where possible, marginal and aquatic plants will be translocated from the existing ponds 'seed' the pond with aquatic vegetation. Care will be taken to ensure that no non-native invasive aquatic plant species are accidentally introduced (see **Figure 1-11**).



Figure 1-11: Indicative location of mitigation measures at Morgan Onshore Substation

B.2.5 **Lea Marsh BHS**

B.2.5.1 **Objectives**

- 1.11.1.34 The objective of the mitigation area is to provide temporary habitat for otter during the construction period.

B.2.5.2 **Management Measures**

- 1.11.1.35 The measures will focus on the creation of temporary habitat for otters within its home range but located away from the construction works. The measures will be developed in consultation with Natural England and set out in the detailed EMPs.

Meadow grassland regime

- 1.11.1.36 The grazing regime of the existing grassland areas will be modified to allow grassland to reach a longer sward height by reducing the annual livestock grazing density. Longer sward height will attract otters by providing a greater degree of cover; however, it will dissuade larger bird species from using the grassland (the field is currently noted to encourage loafing geese, lapwings and curlew). The reduction in grazing density and corresponding increase in sward height will also encourage the development of a more diverse sward by allowing grasses and forbs to flower and set seed. This grassland will be managed by ongoing grazing and/or a hay cut with the arisings removed, thereby ensuring that thatch does not build up.

Provision of otter holts and couches

- 1.11.1.37 The artificial otter holt will be located on a tributary of Savick Brook away from existing flood defences of the River Ribble (see **Figure 1-12**). The number and location of holts will be confirmed following pre construction surveys as detailed in **Table 1-2**.

Reed bed habitats

- 1.11.1.38 Existing reed bed habitats and ditches will be enhanced with the planting of marginal vegetation along the spurs of the tributaries as shown on **Figure 1-12**. Care will be taken to ensure that no non-native invasive marginal plant species are accidentally introduced. Reed beds will be monitored to ensure that they do not grow in area beyond baseline levels and will be managed accordingly.



Figure 1-12: Indicative location of mitigation measures at Lea Marsh BHS

Appendix C: Outline Breeding Bird Protection Plan

C.1 Background

- 1.11.1.39 The purpose of this Outline Breeding Bird Protection Plan is to present the mitigation measures proposed to avoid or reduce potential impacts to breeding birds, including their nests, eggs and dependent young during construction, operations and maintenance and decommissioning of the Transmission Assets. Therefore, the measures set out within this Breeding Bird Protection Plan ensure compliance with existing legislation protecting breeding birds.
- 1.11.1.40 All mitigation measures relating to breeding birds within the Onshore Order Limits, must be undertaken in accordance with the outline measures presented in this OEMP, including the Breeding Bird Protection Plan.
- 1.11.1.41 This Outline Breeding Bird Protection Plan has been prepared in accordance with relevant best practice and guidance, including: Disturbance Distances Review: An updated literature review of disturbance distances of selected bird species (Goodship and Furness, 2022) and A Field Guide to Monitoring Nests (Ferguson-Lees et al, 2011).
- 1.11.1.42 This Outline Breeding Bird Protection Plan has also been informed by the following documentation, where appropriate: Volume 3, Chapter 4: Onshore and intertidal ornithology of the ES (document reference F3.4); and Volume 3, Annex 4.1: Breeding birds technical report of the ES (document reference F3.4.1).
- 1.11.1.43 The terrestrial habitats identified within the Onshore Order Limits primarily consist of improved pasture used for grazing, and arable farming, with small patches of woodland and stretches of hedgerow. The land is low lying and frequently flooded during the winter months with seasonal ponds and scrapes in some areas. There are also numerous ditches bounding the fields some of which are fringed with reedbeds and a small amount of supratidal and sand dune habitats at the coast. Where the Onshore Order Limits crosses the River Ribble, and on some of the tributaries, the river is still tidal and there are limited patches of saltmarsh habitat.

C.1.1 Baseline characterisation

- 1.11.1.44 Information with respect to breeding birds within and surrounding the Onshore Order Limits was collected through a detailed desktop review of existing studies and data sets. Further information regarding the baseline data sources used are provided in Volume 3, Annex 4.1: Breeding birds technical report of the ES (document reference F3.4.1).
- 1.11.1.45 In addition to a desktop study, site-specific surveys were also undertaken in 2022 and 2023. These surveys aimed to characterise the distribution and abundance of breeding birds within the Onshore Order Limits. Further details

of the 2022 and 2023 breeding bird surveys are presented in Volume 3, Annex 4.1: Breeding birds technical report of the ES (document reference F3.4.1).

- 1.11.1.46 The 2022 site specific surveys identified a total of 40 species with a high or very high conservation status (Annex 1 species of the Birds Directive; Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and BOCC5 UK red or amber listed species, or any named breeding feature of a nearby nationally or internationally designated site) which were found to be holding territory or displaying territorial behaviour within the onshore ornithology survey area (the Onshore Order Limits plus a 500m buffer).
- 1.11.1.47 During the breeding bird surveys completed in 2023, 49 species with a high or very high conservation status were found to be holding territory or displaying territorial behaviour within the onshore ornithology survey area.
- 1.11.1.48 The breeding bird assemblage was characterised as composing of mostly common and widespread birds of farmland and gardens. Lytham Moss and Howick Cross had breeding farmland birds such as tree sparrow, yellowhammer, corn bunting and grey partridge. Breeding lapwing and oystercatcher were found throughout the route in isolated patches. No rare breeding raptors were found however breeding barn owl are frequent throughout the area, other Schedule 1 breeding species included kingfisher and Cetti's warbler.
- 1.11.1.49 The nearby Newton Marsh Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) holds a diverse breeding wader assemblage including black-tailed godwit, avocet, lapwing, redshank and little ringed plover. Teal and shoveler also known to breed there.

C.1.2 Predicted impacts

- 1.11.1.50 Breeding birds may be directly or indirectly disturbed and displaced during the construction, operations and maintenance and decommissioning phases of the Transmission Assets. There is the potential for birds at various stages of the breeding cycle (i.e. pairing, nest building, egg laying and chick rearing) to be disturbed either by the physical presence and/or noise disturbance associated with the construction works and the presence of machinery.
- 1.11.1.51 As explained in Volume 3, Chapter 4: Onshore and intertidal ornithology of the ES (document reference F3.4), construction and decommissioning of the Transmission Assets is likely to have the greatest potential for adverse effects with respect to breeding birds. Therefore, the measures detailed below will be implemented during the construction phase. In addition, as decommissioning works are likely to be similar in nature as construction activities, the mitigation described below will also be implemented during the decommissioning phase of the Transmission Assets.
- 1.11.1.52 Should significant operational maintenance works be required during the nesting bird season, or if any Schedule 1 species are suspected or confirmed to be breeding within recommended disturbance buffers, the mitigation measures detailed below will also be followed to protect breeding birds and ensure compliance with relevant legislation.

C.1.3 Onshore site preparation measures

C.1.3.1 Vegetation clearance

- 1.11.1.53 Any vegetation clearance required in advance of construction works will be carried out outside the breeding bird season (the breeding bird season runs from March to August inclusive) and in consultation with the ECoWs as other species may be also affected by vegetation clearance. Prior to vegetation clearance, the works area would be inspected by a suitably qualified ornithologist or the ECoWs on site. Cleared vegetation will be removed from the site or stored appropriately to ensure that it do not become occupied by nesting birds. It is recognised that some species may nest in built environments or on bare ground, therefore, in these areas an ECoW will carry out a pre-construction check for nesting birds within 48 hours of the commencement of works (see C.1.3.3). If it is not possible to clear vegetation outside of the breeding bird season (e.g., due to weather or protected species constraints) then the ECoW will carry out a pre-clearance check within 48 hours of the commencement of clearance, all nests will be subject to protection if discovered (see C.1.3.3 and C.1.4).

C.1.3.2 Pre-construction surveys of Schedule 1 species

- 1.11.1.54 Where Schedule 1 species are known or suspected to breed within the Onshore Order Limits (as identified during pre-application site surveys), pre-construction surveys will be carried out by a suitably qualified ornithologist during the bird breeding season (i.e. March to August inclusive) prior to the commencement of works to confirm if nesting Schedule 1 bird species are present. The pre-construction surveys will encompass the Onshore Order Limits plus an appropriate recommended disturbance buffer zone
- Disturbance Distances Review: An updated literature review of disturbance distances of selected bird species (Goodship and Furness, 2022).

C.1.3.3 Pre-construction checks for nesting birds

- 1.11.1.55 For all previously cleared areas, and areas where vegetation still persists, pre-construction checks for nesting birds within the Onshore Order Limits will be carried out within 48 hours of the commencement of works. Checks for nesting birds will be carried out within the construction works area to establish the likely presence/absence of nesting birds.
- 1.11.1.56 Pre-construction checks will be undertaken by a suitably experienced ornithologist and comprise a combination of site walkovers, vantage point surveys and vegetation searches. Pre-construction checks will be undertaken within the construction area, and the survey method will follow current best practices, such as A Field Guide to Monitoring Nests (Ferguson-Lees et al, 2011).
- 1.11.1.57 Prior to the commencement of construction, all relevant personnel will have a toolbox talk delivered to them by the ECoWs, fully briefing them about the potential impacts of the works on nesting birds. The toolbox talk will also include the relevant conservation status, legal protection, relevant method

statements and what actions should be taken if nesting birds are encountered or suspected to be present during the works.

- 1.11.1.58 If a bird nest is found or suspected to be present at any time, works will cease, and an emergency Bird Protection Zone (BPZ) will be installed. No construction works or vegetation clearance would be permitted in the BPZ until the ECoWs has confirmed that the breeding attempt has concluded. If a Schedule 1 species is found to be nesting and there is potential for disturbance, then an appropriate licence will be applied for from Natural England.

C.1.4 Bird Protection Zones (BPZs)

- 1.11.1.59 BPZs for Schedule 1 species will be based on the disturbance buffers recommended in Distances Review: An updated literature review of disturbance distances of selected bird species (Goodship and Furness, 2022). The exact distance to be used will depend on the Schedule 1 species concerned. Non-schedule 1 species for which disturbance buffers are not available from the literature will be given a minimum BPZ of 10 m.
- 1.11.1.60 The BPZs will be established once nest building or breeding has been confirmed, either during pre-construction checks or during construction of the Transmission Assets. The BPZ must be adhered to by all contractors on site until the ECoWs has confirmed that the breeding attempt has concluded. No works will be permitted within the BPZ, including construction personnel or vehicles until the ECoWs has confirmed that the breeding attempt has concluded.
- 1.11.1.61 Critical works, which are unavoidable within BPZs, will be undertaken under supervision of the ECoWs and upon completion of a Protected Species Risk Assessment and carried out under an appropriate Schedule 1 licence obtained from Natural England, if appropriate. The Protected Species Risk Assessment will consider the bird species protected status, types of works to be undertaken and local topography/natural screening.
- 1.11.1.62 The BPZs may be reduced under special circumstances (e.g. existing baseline disturbance) and following consultation with Natural England. This will only be undertaken once the relevant mitigation requirements have been identified and agreed, and the ECoWs has carried out the Protected Species Risk Assessment.
- 1.11.1.63 If the ECoWs is not present and an active nest is identified by site personnel, an emergency BPZ (of a minimum of 10 m depending on the species identified) will be established by on site personnel. All works within the BPZ must cease as soon as it is safe to do so and the ECoWs will be contacted. No works will be carried out within that area until a nesting bird check has been undertaken, and appropriate mitigation has been identified by the ECoWs.

Appendix D: Summary of legislation

Summary of legislation relevant to protected or notable species

Species	Relevant legislation	Legislative requirements
Badgers	Protection of Badgers Act (1992).	Badgers <i>Meles meles</i> , and their setts, are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. The protection is primarily for welfare rather than conservation, since badgers are not rare but are subject to cruelty. Actions prohibited under this legislation, include the intentional or reckless damage, obstruction or destruction of a badger sett and the wilful killing, injuring, or taking of badgers, unless covered by licence.
Bats	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	All species of bats in the UK are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (1981). All species are listed on Schedule 5 of the Act and are therefore protected by the provisions of Section 9. Section 9 establishes it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or take a bat; possess or control any live or dead specimen or anything derived from a bat; intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection by a bat; or intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for that purpose.
	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017	Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (Habitats Regulations), it is an offence to deliberately capture, kill or disturb a bat; damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of a bat; and keep, transport, sell or exchange, or offer for sale or exchange, alive or dead bat or any part of a bat.
	UK Biodiversity Action Plan	Soprano pipistrelles Soprano pipistrelles, noctules <i>Nyctalus noctula</i> , Bechstein's bats <i>Myotis bechsteinii</i> , brown long-eared bats <i>Plecotus auritus</i> and greater <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i> and lesser horseshoe bats <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> are also listed as Priority Species under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP).
Birds	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	All wild birds, their nests and their eggs are protected under Part 1, Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Subject to the provisions of Part 1, Section 1, the legislation makes it an offence to intentionally: kill, injure or take any wild bird (excluding certain specific game and other licence-controlled species); take, damage, destroy or otherwise interfere with the nest of any wild bird whilst it is in use or being built; obstruct or prevent any wild bird from using its nest; and take or destroy the egg of any wild bird. In addition, for birds listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is also an offence to intentionally or recklessly: disturb any species listed under Schedule 1 whilst it is building a nest; disturb any Schedule 1 species while it is on or near a nest containing eggs or young; and disturb the dependent young of any Schedule 1 species.

Species	Relevant legislation	Legislative requirements
	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 provides protection against deliberate disturbance of birds, particularly during the period of breeding and rearing. This refers specifically to disturbance levels that would affect delivery of the objectives of the Birds Directive.
GCN	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Great crested newts, <i>Triturus cristatus</i> are protected under Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which make it an offence to capture, kill, or disturb GCN; deliberately take or destroy GCN eggs, and damage or destroy GCN breeding sites intentionally or recklessly.
	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017	This legislation, which retains the EU Habitats Directive in UK law, makes it an offence to deliberately capture, injure, kill, or disturb great crested newts. It also protects their breeding sites and resting places.
	Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006	Great crested newts are listed Species of Principal Importance (SPI) in accordance with Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, giving public bodies and local planning authorities a legal duty to have regard for conserving a SPI when exercising their duties.
Fish	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	This Act provides protection for certain fish species, such as the allis shad, twaite shad, vendace, whitefish, and Atlantic sturgeon. It is an offence to intentionally kill, injure, or take these fish. The Act also protects their habitats by making it illegal to damage or destroy structures or places used for shelter or protection.
	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017	These regulations provide protection for certain fish species, such as the allis shad, twaite shad, houting and Atlantic sturgeon. It is an offence to intentionally kill, injure, or take these fish. The regulations also protects their habitats by making it illegal to damage or destroy structures or places used for shelter or protection.
	Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975	This Act is a comprehensive piece of legislation aimed at protecting and managing salmon and freshwater fish populations in the UK. For example, prohibiting certain methods of taking fish, prohibiting the taking of fish during close seasons and close times to protect spawning and construction and maintenance of fish passes at barriers (e.g. weirs and dams) to ensure free movement of fish.

Species	Relevant legislation	Legislative requirements
	Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006	Thirty-five marine and freshwater fish species are listed Species of Principal Importance (SPI) in accordance with Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, giving public bodies and local planning authorities a legal duty to have regard for conserving a SPI when exercising their duties.
Eel	The eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009	These regulations implement measures for the recovery of European eel stocks. They require the installation of eel passes and screens at barriers and water intakes to facilitate safe migration. The Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales have the authority to enforce these measures.
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Eels are not specifically listed in the schedules of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. However, the Act provides general protections for wildlife and their habitats, which can indirectly benefit eel populations. For example, it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy any structure or place that wild animals use for shelter or protection, which can include habitats used by eels.
Otter	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Otter are listed in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. As such, under Section 9 of this Act it is an offence to: intentionally or recklessly disturb an otter while it is occupying a structure or place, which it uses for that purpose; or obstruct access to a place of shelter or protection.
	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017	Otter are listed under Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. This makes it an offence to: deliberately capture, injure or kill an otter; deliberately disturb an otter; or damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of an otter.
	Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006	Otter are listed as a species of principal importance under Section 41 of this Act, which means their conservation must be taken into account by public bodies when performing their duties.
Water vole	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Water vole are listed in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. As such, under Section 9 of this Act it is an offence to: intentionally or recklessly disturb an otter while it is occupying a structure or place, which it uses for that purpose; or obstruct access to a place of shelter or protection.

Species	Relevant legislation	Legislative requirements
	Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006	Water vole are listed as a species of principal importance under Section 41 of this Act, which means their conservation must be taken into account by public bodies when performing their duties.
Reptiles	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	All reptile species native to United Kingdom are protected under Section 9(1) and (5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which makes it an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill or injure, or to sell, barter, exchange, or transport reptiles or any part of them.
	Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006	Native species of reptile are listed as a species of principal importance under Section 41 of this Act, which means their conservation must be taken into account by public bodies when performing their duties.
Terrestrial invertebrates	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Provides protection for many invertebrate species listed in Schedule 5. It is an offence to intentionally kill, injure, or take these invertebrates from the wild. Additionally, it is illegal to possess or control them (alive or dead), damage or destroy their habitats, or disturb them while they are in a place of shelter or protection ¹ .
	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017	This legislation, which incorporates the EU Habitats Directive into UK law, protects certain invertebrates as European Protected Species.
	Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006	Some species of terrestrial invertebrates are listed under Section 41 of this Act as species of principal importance for biodiversity conservation in England. Public bodies must consider these species when performing their functions, ensuring that their conservation is taken into account.
Aquatic invertebrates	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Provides protection for many invertebrate species listed in Schedule 5. It is an offence to intentionally kill, injure, or take these invertebrates from the wild. Additionally, it is illegal to possess or control them (alive or dead), damage or destroy their habitats, or disturb them while they are in a place of shelter or protection ¹ .

Species	Relevant legislation	Legislative requirements
	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017	This legislation, which incorporates the EU Habitats Directive into UK law, protects certain invertebrates as European Protected Species.
	Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006	Some species of aquatic invertebrates are listed under Section 41 of this Act as species of principal importance for biodiversity conservation in England. Public bodies must consider these species when performing their functions, ensuring that their conservation is taken into account.

Appendix E: Outline Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan



MORGAN AND MORECAMBE OFFSHORE WIND FARMS: TRANSMISSION ASSETS

Outline Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan



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Prepared by:

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Prepared for:

**Morgan Offshore Wind Limited,
Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Ltd**

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Glossary

Term	Meaning
400 kV grid connection cables	Cables that will connect the proposed onshore substations to the existing National Grid Penwortham substation.
400 kV grid connection cable corridor	The corridor within which the 400 kV grid connection cables will be located.
Onshore Order Limits	Onshore Order Limits See Transmission Assets Order Limits: Onshore (below).
Onshore substations	The onshore substations will include a substation for the Morgan Offshore Wind Project: Transmission Assets and a substation for the Morecambe Offshore Windfarm: Transmission Assets. These will each comprise a compound containing the electrical components for transforming the power supplied from the generation assets to 400 kV and to adjust the power quality and power factor, as required to meet the UK Grid Code for supply to the National Grid.
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.
Transmission Assets	The area within which all components of the Transmission Assets will be located, including areas required on a temporary basis during construction and/or decommissioning.
Transmission Assets Order Limits	The area within which all components of the Transmission Assets landward of Mean High Water Springs will be located, including areas required on a temporary basis during construction and/or decommissioning (such as construction compounds). Also referred to in this report as the Onshore Order Limits, for ease of reading.

Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
BHS	Biological Heritage Site
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
CoCP	Code of Construction Practice
DCO	Development Consent Order
ECoW	Ecological Clerk of Works
EPS	European Protected Species
EPSM	European Protected Species Mitigation
ES	Environmental Statement
EMP	Ecological Management Plan

Acronym	Meaning
HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicle
LONI	Letter of No Impediment
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs
OEMP	Outline Ecological Management Plan
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
UK	United Kingdom

Units

Unit	Description
%	Percentage
ha	Hectare
kV	Kilovolt
m	Metre

1 Outline Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1.1 This document forms the Outline Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan for the Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets (referred to hereafter as ‘the Transmission Assets’).
- 1.1.1.2 Stakeholders including Natural England, Lancashire Wildlife Trust and the local authorities have indicated that they believe the potential impacts to sand lizard (*Lacerta agilis*) during construction of the Transmission Assets may trigger the requirement for European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSM) licensing.
- 1.1.1.3 This Outline Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan sets out appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures by the Applicants to manage potential impacts to sand lizards during construction that will support an EPSM licence application to Natural England.
- 1.1.1.4 This Outline Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan covers works associated with the landfall site during the construction phase, which is anticipated to occur for a maximum of 48 weeks within 66 months under the worst-case sequential construction scenario. As detailed within the outline Ecological Management Plan (Document reference J6), no construction activities on Lytham St Annes beach will be undertaken by the Transmission Assets annually between November and March (inclusive) (CoT129, Document reference F1.5.3). This is secured in requirement 12 within Schedules 2A and 2B of the draft DCO (Document reference C1).
- 1.1.1.5 The Outline Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan was updated at Deadline 6 to reflect further comments received from Natural England and Fylde Borough Council, as follows:
- Further clarification on predicted vehicle movements along the temporary construction access track off Clifton Drive North, and the type of vehicles (see Table 1);
 - Clarification that there will be no direct damage to sand lizard burrows during the offshore cable installation works due to the depth of the trenchless crossing (see Table 1)
 - Clarification that the existing beach access track will not be widened, and that any clearance of windblown sand will be to maintain the existing track width (see Table 1).
 - Commitment to the installation (and maintenance) of temporary reptile exclusion fencing around temporary compound 3 (see Table 1)
 - Clarification on the ECoW responsibilities (see Section 3.3)
 - Further information on the use of temporary amphibian exclusion fencing (see Section 3.2)

-
- Corrections to name of Lytham St Annes Dunes SSSI in Table 2 where necessary (previous iteration occasionally referred to the SSSI as ‘Lytham St Annes SSSI’ rather than ‘Lytham St Annes Dunes SSSI’).

1.1.1.6 This Outline Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan has been updated post-examination to reflect amendments made to the draft EPSM licence method statement following further consultation with Natural England. A Letter of No Impediment (LONI) was subsequently issued to the Applicants by Natural England in February 2026. All matters within this Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan have therefore been agreed in principle with Natural England, noting that up-to-date information will be required to be submitted as part of the full EPSM licence application in due course including a detailed timetable of the works.

1.1.2 Implementation

1.1.2.1 This Outline Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan forms an appendix to the Outline Ecological Management Plan (OEMP) (Document reference J6). Following the granting of consent for the Transmission Assets, detailed Sand Lizard Management Plan(s) will be prepared as a part of the detailed Ecological Management Plan(s) on behalf of Morgan OWL and/or Morecambe OWL, prior to commencement of the relevant stage of works and will follow the principles established in this Outline Sand Lizard Management Plan. An EPSM licence would also be obtained from Natural England prior to the commencement of the relevant stage of works. The detailed Sand Lizard Management Plan(s) will require approval by the relevant planning authority following consultation with relevant stakeholders. The Applicants and all appointed contractors will be responsible for the implementation of the detailed Ecological Management Plan(s) and EPSM licence requirements.

1.2 Scope of this Outline Sand Lizard Management Plan

1.2.1.1 The purpose of this Outline Sand Lizard Management Plan is to provide further evaluation of the potential impacts during construction at landfall to the population of sand lizard at Lytham St Anne’s Dunes, including within the Lytham St Anne’s Dunes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)¹, and details on the avoidance and mitigation measures that will be implemented by the Applicants under an EPSM licence from Natural England to protect the population. These measures will be adopted during onshore site preparation works and construction of the Transmission Assets.

1.2.1.2 Onshore site preparation works are defined in article 2 of the draft DCO (document reference C1). This Outline Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan applies to the onshore site preparation works and construction activities for the Transmission Assets located landward of MHWS.

¹ There has been seaward accretion of the sand dunes following favourable management interventions and therefore the mapped SSSI boundary does not now reflect the true extent of the sand dunes at Lytham St Anne’s.

- 1.2.1.3 Onshore site preparation works will be undertaken prior to the commencement of construction. These works will be undertaken in accordance with this Outline Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan as certified through the DCO.
- 1.2.1.4 The scope of this Outline Sand Lizard Management Plan applies to the construction activities of the Transmission Assets located landward of Mean High Water Springs (MHWS). The Outline Sand Lizard Management Plan does not consider construction impacts seaward of MHWS on the basis that the species is highly unlikely to be encountered in habitats beyond the footprint of the dunes.
- 1.2.1.5 The measures set out in this Outline Sand Lizard Management Plan apply to all areas of suitable habitat for sand lizard at Lytham St Anne's Dunes, taking into account that the true extent of the sand dunes extends beyond the mapped SSSI boundary due to seaward dune accretion in recent years.
- 1.2.1.6 The proposed works that are covered by the Outline Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan (implemented under EPSM licence) are associated with the following construction areas, and include associated vehicle and personnel movements (see extracted from the Environmental Statement below):
- Works Nos. 5A5B – temporary construction compound(s) at landfall on the beach for exit pits for trenchless techniques for onshore cable construction beneath the dunes (temporary compound 2).
 - Works Nos. 6A6B – Offshore export cable trenchless technique installation beneath Lytham St Anne's Dunes SSSI
 - Works Nos. 7A7B – Temporary construction access to St Annes beach
 - Works Nos. 18A18B – Temporary construction compound 3 (former sand winning compound).
 - Works Nos. 42A42B – Pedestrian only access between Lytham St Annes beach and the Welfare Compound situated in North Beach Car Park
 - Works Nos. 47A47B – Permanent access to St Annes beach during the operation and maintenance phase of the project for cable repair and reburial
- 1.2.1.7 Further details on the works to be covered under this EPSM licence are provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1

Works Nos.		Location	Activities to be covered under Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan and EPSM Licence
5A5B	Temporary Compound 2	Lytham St Annes beach	Excavation of exit pits for onshore cable installation beneath the dunes. Erection of temporary safety fencing around the compound to prevent pedestrian access.

			Use of machinery (including excavators) and non-road mobile machinery.
6A6B	Onshore cable installation	Lytham St Annes Dunes SSSI	Installation of onshore cable beneath the dunes using trenchless technique.
7A7B	Temporary vehicle access	Existing vehicle access track onto beach off Clifton Drive North	Movement of vehicles and plant during construction period. Sweeping of wind-blown sand accumulation from road surface (if needed). Use of temporary track-matting (if appropriate). Installation of temporary demarcation fencing along track. N.B: Fencing layout to be confirmed as part of full EPSM licence application.
18A18B	Temporary Compound 3	Off existing vehicle access track onto beach off Clifton Drive North (former sand winning compound)	Clearance of wind-blown sand/ vegetation from area of hardstanding within the existing fenced compound area. Installation of appropriate security fencing. Installation and maintenance of temporary reptile exclusion fencing during construction period. Temporary short-term storage of plant, materials and non-road mobile machinery (NRMM). N.B: Compound layout and fencing locations to be confirmed as part of full EPSM licence application.
42A42B	Temporary pedestrian access	Lytham St Annes Dunes SSSI	Access by foot for construction staff moving between Temporary Compound 2 on the beach and welfare/ car parking facilities at North Beach Car Park.
47A47B	Permanent access	Existing vehicle access track onto beach off Clifton Drive North	Movement of vehicles and plant during operation and maintenance period for cable repair and burial (if needed).

1.3 Roles and responsibilities

- 1.3.1.1 The key roles and associated responsibilities with regard to this Outline Sand Lizard Management Plan are set out within the outline Ecological Management Plan(s). The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 also identify the legal duties, responsibilities and obligations of all the major roles within the construction team.

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- 1.3.1.2 An ecologist with the appropriate level of experience in working with sand lizards will be responsible for preparing and submitting the EPSM licence application and will be appointed as the licence holder for the duration of the licensed period.

1.4 Structure of this document

- 1.4.1.1 The structure of this document is as follows:
- **Section 2** sets out the baseline information including a description of sand lizard population and data sources
 - **Section 3** outlines the potential impacts considered in relation to sand lizard from construction activities and the avoidance and/ or mitigation measures that will be adopted.
 - **Section 4** outlines the approach to EPS licensing.

2 Baseline information

2.1 Sand Lizard Population

- 2.1.1.1 The sand lizard population at Lytham St Anne's dunes disappeared in the 1960s due to predation and habitat loss along the coastline. A captive-bred release programme resulted in the re-introduction of sand lizard to the dunes between 2017 and 2021, alongside habitat enhancement works (such as the burying of Christmas trees to encourage dune accretion) by the Fylde Sand Dunes Project. A total of 412 captive-bred sand lizard hatchlings have been re-introduced over this period, and monitoring is undertaken annually².

2.2 Survey Data

- 2.2.1.1 Natural England in its response to Examining Authority's Written Questions Q6.1.5 (REP3-095) states that "*Natural England is unable to advise further on the sufficiency/ robustness of the evidence until further metadata is provided to inform the impacts of development on the species.*" Natural England state that this is due to the reliance on data used to interpret sand lizard distribution from a heat map collected from focal observations by the Fylde Sand Dunes Project, and that these data were not included in Annex 3.8: Great crested newt and reptile survey technical report (Document reference F3.3.8).
- 2.2.1.2 The Applicants did not undertake sand lizard surveys to inform the environmental impact assessment. This was on the basis that the dune habitat and the sensitive species they support including sand lizards, would not be significantly affected by the Transmission Assets.
- 2.2.1.3 Data confirming the presence of the species was provided through the desk study (see below).

² Fylde Sand Dunes Project webpage: <https://www.lancswt.org.uk/our-work/projects/fylde-sand-dunes>

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- 2.2.1.4 The data kindly supplied to the Applicants by the Fylde Sand Dunes Project as part of the desk study for the onshore ecology chapter (APP-067) was gathered as part of its annual sand lizard monitoring programme. This confirmed the presence of sand lizards in the dunes, as expected given that the local population is well known because of the re-introduction scheme. The Fylde Sand Dunes Project surveyors have a survey licence from Natural England to undertake annual visual walkover presence/absence surveys for sand lizard between April and September.
- 2.2.1.5 Further surveys would only serve to continue to confirm the presence of sand lizards in the dunes, which has already been assumed for the purposes of impact assessment and the development of appropriate mitigation. In addition, this could cause there to be further disturbance to the sand lizard community. Collecting further metadata to predict the population size and distribution of sand lizard within the dunes would not change the approach to, or outcome of, the ecological impact assessment, or the approach to mitigation. It has been assumed that all areas of the dunes are equally suitable for and therefore likely to support this species and are equally (highly) sensitive to potential impacts from construction.
- 2.2.1.6 Further details on the annual sand lizard monitoring surveys were provided to the Applicants by Fylde Borough Council after Deadline 4; these data have been summarised and a technical note provided and submitted into the examination at Deadline 5 (REP5-148). The technical note was revised and an updated version submitted at Deadline 6 (REP6-156).

3 Avoidance and Mitigation Measures for Sand Lizard

3.1 Identification of Impacts

- 3.1.1.1 The Applicants have considered the following potential impacts in relation sand lizards in Section 3.13.10 of Volume 3, Chapter 3: Ecology and Nature Conservation (APP-076)
- Damage to dune habitats supporting sand lizards due to construction activities
 - Damage and/ or disturbance to dune habitats due to vibration from construction
 - Disturbance to sand lizards due to noise and vibration from construction
 - Damage and/ or disturbance to dune habitats due to increased footfall from construction workers
 - Damage and/ or disturbance to dune habitats from increased vehicle movements on the beach and beach access road
 - Risk of killing/ injury to sand lizards due to increased vehicle movements on the beach and beach road.
- 3.1.1.2 **Table** sets out the potential impacts and the relevant avoidance measure to be implemented, and where mitigation will be adopted, further details of which are provided in **Section 3.2**.

3.1.1.3 The avoidance and mitigation measures committed to by the Applicants includes all of the sand dune habitats, including that which has accreted beyond the mapped SSSI boundary due to the favourable management interventions. This means that the proposed measures will apply to all sand dune habitats suitable for sand lizard, not just those within the mapped SSSI boundary (which does not accurately reflect the current true extent of the dunes and thus the potential presence of sand lizards). The area subject to the measures set out in this mitigation plan is shown in **Figure 3-1**.

3.1.2 Embedded Mitigation

3.1.2.1 The following measures embedded within the Commitments Register (REP6-042) are relevant to construction activities at the landfall construction area (as defined by the Work No's set out in **Table 1**) and have been referred to in this document:

- CoT28: *“Construction site lighting will only operate when required and will be positioned and directed to avoid unnecessary illumination to residential properties, sensitive ecological receptors and footpath users, and minimise glare to users of adjoining public highways. Construction site lighting will be designed in accordance with latest relevant available guidance and legislation and the details of the location, height, design and luminance of lighting to be used will be detailed within the Outline Construction Artificial Light Emissions Management Plan, as part of the Outline CoCP. The design of construction site lighting will accord with the details provided in the Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoT35) and Outline Ecological Management Plan (CoT76).”*
- CoT35: *“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. The Outline CoCP includes measures to maintain and address: - flood protection and control measures; - water environment and drainage; - pollution prevention; - geology and ground conditions; - ecology and nature conservation (including protected species and invasive species); - historic environment; - soil management; - traffic and transport; - noise management measures; - air quality and dust management; - landscape and visual; - recreation; - bentonite breakout; and - construction methods.”*
- CoT44: *“The Project Description (Volume 1, Chapter 3 of the Environmental Statement) sets out that the installation of the offshore export cables under Lytham St Annes SSSI and the St Annes Old Links Golf Course will be undertaken by direct pipe trenchless installation technique. The exit pits associated with the direct pipe installation will be at least 100 m seaward of the western boundary of the Lytham St Annes Dunes SSSI.”*
- CoT76: *“Detailed Ecological Management Plan(s) (EMP) will be developed in accordance with the Outline Ecological Management Plan (OEMP). The Outline Ecological Management Plan has been prepared and submitted as part of the application for development consent and*

includes but is not limited to pre-construction, construction and post-construction mitigation measures relating to habitats and protected or notable species, species mitigation licences and the role of the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) where relevant. The Outline Ecological Management Plan also includes a Breeding Bird Protection Plan which will set out mitigation measures such as vegetation clearance in winter (e.g., hedgerows), pre-construction breeding bird survey, appropriate protection zones upon confirmation of nest building/breeding taking place of key protected or sensitive species. In addition to the Breeding Bird Protection Plan, the OEMP sets out species-specific mitigation plans for Important Ecological Features identified as part of the assessment. Detailed Ecological Management Plan(s) will include details of any long term mitigation and management measures relevant to onshore ecology and nature conservation and in relation to onshore and intertidal ornithology. This will include the management of ecological mitigation areas. The Detailed EMPs will be developed in consultation with the relevant statutory advisors and regulators.”

- *CoT110: “Construction activities associated with the offshore cable pull in for the Morgan Offshore Wind Project and Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Limited will be undertaken in accordance with the Outline Offshore Cable Specification and Installation Plan (CSIP). This will include a timing restriction on all cable pull activities at landfall on Lytham St Annes beach between November and March (inclusive) unless otherwise agreed with the MMO, in consultation with Natural England. Detailed CSIP(s) will be developed in accordance with the Outline CSIP.”*
- *CoT141: “The Applicants will ensure that ongoing habitat management works (Skelcher, 2024) within Lytham St. Aness Dunes SSSI and Lytham Foreshore Dunes & saltmarsh will be able to continue unhindered during cable installation.”*

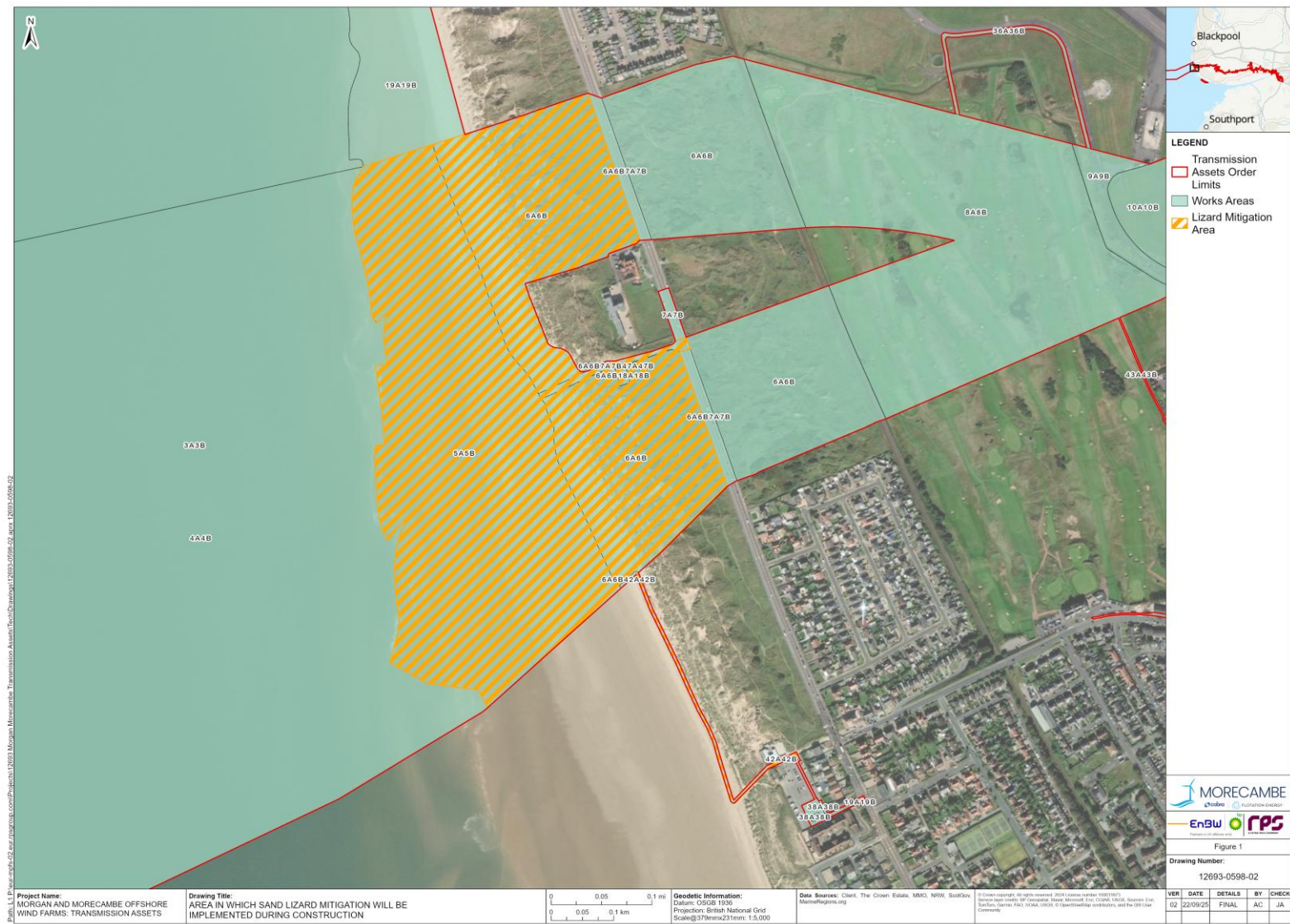


Figure 3-1: Area in which sand lizard mitigation will be implemented during construction

Table 2 Potential impacts considered and relevant avoidance and/or mitigation measures

Construction activity	Potential impacts	Consideration of potential effect on sand lizards and their habitats	Avoidance and/or mitigation measures	Mitigation proposed?
Offshore export cable installation between the landfall site at Lytham St Annes and Transition Joint Bays (TJBs)	Damage to dune habitats supporting sand lizards due to construction activities	There will be no direct impacts to the dunes during the construction phase because the Lytham St Annes Dunes SSSI will be crossed utilising trenchless techniques of which the exit pit will be situated 100 m seaward of the western boundary of Lytham St Annes Dunes SSSI³. The Applicants have made a commitment (CoT44 of Volume 1, Annex 5.3: Commitments Register of the ES (Document reference F1.5.3)) to set out that the installation of the offshore export cables under Lytham St Annes Dunes SSSI and the St Annes Old Links Golf Course Biological Heritage Site (BHS) will be undertaken by direct pipe trenchless installation technique. This is secured by [Requirement 8 within Schedules 2A & 2B] of the draft Development Consent Order (AS-004). Detailed CoCP Plan(s) will be implemented by the Applicants as approved by the Relevant Planning Authority in consultation with relevant stakeholders, as appropriate. The trenchless technique installation drill depth will range from a minimum of 10m to a maximum of 30m below ground level beneath Lytham St Annes Dunes SSSI.	- The Applicants have made a commitment (CoT44 of Volume 1, Annex 5.3: Commitments Register of the ES (AS-030)) to set out that the installation of the offshore export cables under Lytham St Annes Dunes SSSI and the St Annes Old Links Golf Course will be undertaken by direct pipe trenchless installation technique of which the exit pit will be situated 100 m seaward of the western boundary of Lytham St Annes Dunes SSSI. This is secured by [Requirement 8 within Schedules 2A & 2B] of the draft Development Consent Order (AS-004). Detailed CoCP Plan(s) will be implemented by the Applicants as approved by the Relevant Planning Authority in consultation with relevant stakeholders, as appropriate. - Transition Joint Bays will be located within Blackpool Airport which is at minimum 600 m from the SSSI boundary - Minimum trenchless installation drill depth of 10m beneath the SSSI.	No – potential adverse effects to sand lizard are avoided

³ The 100 m buffer has been designed to ensure sufficient offset to the works on the beach taking into account the current dune accretion area seaward of the SSSI boundary, and future dune accretion prior to the commencement of construction activities.

Construction activity	Potential impacts	Consideration of potential effect on sand lizards and their habitats	Avoidance and/or mitigation measures	Mitigation proposed?
		The sand lizard burrows within the dunes would be expected to at depths no greater than 1 m below ground. Therefore, there is no risk of direct damage to burrows and no risk of disturbance to burrows during drilling activities, as there is a significant depth of substrate that would absorb vibration from the drill head.		
Piling associated with the installation of the cofferdam required for the exit pits for the trenchless installation of the export cable beneath Lytham St Annes Dunes SSSI	Damage and/ or disturbance to dune habitats supporting sand lizard burrows due to vibration from construction activities	There is potential for disturbance to sand lizard habitats due to piling associated with the installation of the cofferdam required for the exit pits for the trenchless installation of the export cable beneath Lytham St Annes Dunes SSSI The Applicants have made a commitment (CoT44 of Volume 1, Annex 5.3: Commitments Register of the ES (AS-030)) to set out that the installation of the offshore export cables under Lytham St Annes Dunes SSSI and the St Annes Old Links Golf Course BHS will be undertaken by direct pipe trenchless installation technique. This technique reduces risks associated with frack out of drilling fluids or the collapse of the drill hole if unsuitable ground conditions are encountered along the drill profile. The sand lizard burrows within the dunes would be expected to at depths no greater than 1 m below ground and therefore would be very unlikely to be at a depth beneath the level of the dunes that would be adversely affected by vibration piling	- The Applicants have made a commitment (CoT44 of Volume 1, Annex 5.3: Commitments Register of the ES (APP-037)) to set out that the installation of the offshore export cables under Lytham St Annes Dunes SSSI and the St Annes Old Links Golf Course BHS will be undertaken by direct pipe trenchless installation technique of which the exit pit will be situated 100 m seaward of the western boundary of Lytham St Annes Dunes SSSI. This is secured by [Requirement 8 within Schedules 2A & 2B] of the draft Development Consent Order (AS-004). Detailed CoCP Plan(s) will be implemented by the Applicants as approved by the Relevant Planning Authority in consultation with relevant stakeholders, as appropriate. - Transition Joint Bays will be located within Blackpool Airport which is at minimum 600 m from the SSSI boundary - The Applicants have made a commitment (CoT110 of Volume 1,	No – potential adverse effects to sand lizard are avoided

Construction activity	Potential impacts	Consideration of potential effect on sand lizards and their habitats	Avoidance and/or mitigation measures	Mitigation proposed?
		activities of exit pits situated 100 m seaward of the SSSI boundary.	Annex 5.3: Commitments Register of the ES (APP-037)) that there will be no works on the beach between November and March inclusive. This will also avoid works being undertaken in the hibernation period for sand lizard.	
	Disturbance to sand lizards due to noise and vibration from construction activities	The assessment identified the potential for disturbance to sand lizards occupying the dunes due to piling for cofferdams and cable installation using trenchless techniques. All lizard species have a similar hearing frequency range of approximately 0.1 – 5 kHz (Wever, 1978; Manley 2000; 2004). Research indicates that in all species, the auditory nerve fibres have V-shaped tuning curves with lowest thresholds at 5 dB Sound Pressure Level (SPL) and show phase locking (i.e. informing the direction and pitch of the sound to initiate a response in the auditory system) to low-frequency stimuli below approximately 1 kHz. The potential effects of construction noise and vibration are assessed in Volume 3 Chapter 8: Noise and vibration (APP-117), although this is relating to human health receptors and not to important ecological features. However, predicted noise levels during construction activities at the landfall site do not exceed 59dB at the nearest sensitive residential receptors (Dune Point, Century Care Home and Almond Close, of which both Dune Point and	- The Applicants have made a commitment (CoT44 of Volume 1, Annex 5.3: Commitments Register of the ES (APP-037)) to set out that the installation of the offshore export cables under Lytham St Annes Dunes SSSI and the St Annes Old Links Golf Course BHS will be undertaken by direct pipe trenchless installation technique of which the exit pit will be situated 100 m seaward of the western boundary of Lytham St Annes Dunes SSSI. This is secured by [Requirement 8 within Schedules 2A & 2B] of the draft Development Consent Order (AS-004). Detailed CoCP Plan(s) will be implemented by the Applicants as approved by the Relevant Planning Authority in consultation with relevant stakeholders, as appropriate. - Transition Joint Bays will be located within Blackpool Airport which is at minimum 600 m from the SSSI boundary - The Applicants have made a commitment (CoT110 of Volume 1, Annex 5.3: Commitments Register of the ES (APP-037)) that there will be no	No – potential adverse effects to sand lizard are avoided

Construction activity	Potential impacts	Consideration of potential effect on sand lizards and their habitats	Avoidance and/or mitigation measures	Mitigation proposed?
		Century Care Home are located immediately adjacent to the dunes where sand lizards have been recorded off Clifton Drive North). This is comparative to noise levels during normal spoken conversation and would therefore not reasonably be expected to disturb sand lizards given that the dunes are already publicly accessible. The Outline Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan (APP-196) states that it is anticipated that the Peak Particle Velocities (PPVs) from construction operations would be below 1.0 mms-1 at the nearest vibration sensitive receptors and no significant disturbance effects are predicted (Section 1.3). As the sand lizard burrows within the dunes would be expected to at depths no greater than 1 m below ground, they would be very unlikely to be at a depth beneath the level of the dunes that would be adversely affected by vibration piling activities.	works on the beach between November and March inclusive. This will also avoid works being undertaken in the hibernation period for sand lizard.	
Construction workers moving on foot between construction activities on the beach and temporary Compounds 1, 2 and 3 (As shown	Damage and/ or disturbance to dune habitats due to increased footfall from construction workers	The beach and sand dunes are publicly accessible, and therefore subject to existing potential damage/ disturbance pressure from users. Construction workers will only be on the beach/ beach access road commuting between the temporary site compounds and working areas on the beach, and will not be walking across or through the dunes.	None	Yes – see Section 3.2

Construction activity	Potential impacts	Consideration of potential effect on sand lizards and their habitats	Avoidance and/or mitigation measures	Mitigation proposed?
on Figure 4 and 5 of REP1-040)		Similarly, construction workers will only be present within the beach working areas and in the temporary construction compound on the beach (compound 2). Construction workers will not need access to the dunes or the dune edge habitats during construction. The seaward boundary of the accreting dunes is already fenced with chestnut paling fencing at this location, which although not its primary purpose, serves to discourage pedestrian access from the most sensitive areas of dunes. The additional footfall from construction workers would not result in any significant increase in pedestrian activity along either the beach road or the beach itself, given the current baseline usage of this part of the coastline by recreational users.		
Use of temporary compound 3 and access track from Clifton Drive North to Lytham St Annes beach during the construction period	Damage and/ or disturbance to dune habitats	Temporary compound 3 already exists as a 'works compound', having been previously used for operations associated with the sand winning operations on the beach. The area is hard surfaced (although becomes covered in wind-blown sand) and is periodically used for storage of materials and vehicles including the tractor and trailer used for beach maintenance. The compound (and beach road) is outside the boundary of the SSSI; however, habitats used by sand lizards occur along the edges of the access track where there are bare areas of sand, and	The Applicants have made a commitment (CoT110 of Volume 1, Annex 5.3: Commitments Register of the ES (REP6-042)) that there will be no works on the beach between November and March inclusive. This will also avoid the use of the access track and temporary compound in the hibernation period for sand lizard.	Yes – see Section 3.2

Construction activity	Potential impacts	Consideration of potential effect on sand lizards and their habitats	Avoidance and/or mitigation measures	Mitigation proposed?
		in particular on the south-facing dune slope that forms the northern boundary of the access track. Predicted vehicle movements along the track when it is in use would be approximately eight two-way movements on average per day (i.e. four arrivals and four departures). The predicted vehicle movements would be the full length of the track i.e. from Clifton Drive North onto the beach and temporary compound 2, and then the return journey. The types of construction vehicles are listed in the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan and those that would be using the access track will include low loader HGVs to deliver plant and materials to temporary compound 2.		
	Damage and/ or disturbance to habitats used by sand lizards within temporary compound 3	The accumulation of sand within the compound area, and the presence of disused materials such as tyres etc. provides potentially suitable sand lizard habitat. The clearance of the disused materials and the accumulated sand/ vegetation within the compound and around the existing perimeter fence may therefore disturb/ displace sand lizards. It is difficult to quantify how many sand lizards would be disturbed/ displaced by this activity, although it is estimated that the small area occupied by the temporary	The Applicants have made a commitment (CoT110 of Volume 1, Annex 5.3: Commitments Register of the ES (REP6-042)) that there will be no works on the beach between November and March inclusive. This will also avoid works to the compound being undertaken in the hibernation period for sand lizard.	Yes – see Section 3.2

Construction activity	Potential impacts	Consideration of potential effect on sand lizards and their habitats	Avoidance and/or mitigation measures	Mitigation proposed?
		compound (c. 500m ²), not all of which is suitable for the species, could potentially support single or low numbers of sand lizards.		

3.2 Mitigation Measures

3.2.1 Introduction

- 3.2.1.1 The mitigation strategy presented in this Outline Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan has been agreed in principle as sufficient to address licensing requirements for a future EPSM licence by Natural England. However, the final avoidance and/or mitigation measures to be implemented will be agreed with Natural England, Lancashire Wildlife Trust and the local authorities through discharge of the final sand lizard mitigation plan(s) as part of the ecological management plan(s), and to secure the EPSM licence.
- 3.2.1.2 Temporary disturbance to sand lizards during construction activities in close proximity to the dune habitats will be primarily managed through the use of a suitably experienced and licensed Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) to undertake visual checks and walkovers prior to works commencing.
- 3.2.1.3 The ECoW would be the licensed ecologist named on the EPSM licence (or an accredited agent) and would therefore need to demonstrate sufficient experience and knowledge of sand lizard ecology and EPSM licensing to fulfil the role of licensed ecologist as part of an EPSM licence application to Natural England. It is not possible for the Applicants to provide a commitment to a named ecologist at this stage because of the timescales between the DCO determination and the commencement of construction on the project(s).
- 3.2.1.4 Any sand lizards encountered in areas affected by construction activities when they are observed by the ECoW will be captured by hand, where possible, and relocated immediately to a place of safety away from the construction activities.
- 3.2.1.5 The mitigation measures summarised in Table 3 and detailed in this Outline Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan will be applicable to all construction activities taking place in the Work Nos. set out in **Table 1** of this method statement.

Table 3: Summary of Mitigation Measures

Construction activity	Potential impacts	Mitigation measures
Construction workers moving on foot between construction activities on the beach and temporary Compounds 1, 2 and 3	Damage and/ or disturbance to dune habitats due to increased footfall from construction workers	• A toolbox talk will be provided by the ECoW to highlight the sensitive nature of the dunes and the flora and fauna species they support. • The toolbox talk will include an identification guide for sand lizards at all life stages, their eggs and burrows and will clearly identify high-risk habitats based on the 'hotspots' of sand lizard observations from the baseline data. • Construction workers will be briefed as part of the toolbox talk not to walk on any part of the dunes, and foot access from the temporary site compound to the beach during construction will be restricted to the existing beach road to minimise the risk of disturbance to sand lizard.

		• Appropriate waste disposal in the temporary site compound to ensure that there is no littering of the beach or dunes by construction workers. • Any sightings of sand lizard will be reported to the ECoW.
Use of access track from Clifton Drive North to Lytham St Annes beach during the construction period	Damage and/ or disturbance to dune habitats along the edge of the access track.	• A toolbox talk will be provided by the ECoW to highlight the sensitive nature of the adjacent dunes and the flora and fauna species they support. • The toolbox talk will include an identification guide for sand lizards at all life stages, their eggs and burrows and will clearly identify high-risk habitats based on the 'hotspots' of sand lizard observations from the baseline data. • An ECoW will be present on site for any activities undertaken during set up and demobilisation of the construction compound. • An ECoW will be present on site for any activities requiring the removal of wind-blown sand e.g. from along the beach access road. Sand removal will be undertaken in stages to encourage any sand lizards present to disperse. • An ECoW will be present on site for any activities undertaken on the beach access road e.g. clearance of wind-blown sand. • The ECoW supervising the works will hold a Natural England survey licence for sand lizards so that they have the necessary experience with the species to provide advice and guidance. • Any lizards encountered will be recorded and re-located to a place of safety away from the road by the ECoW. • Consideration will be given to use temporary track matting (or similar) for vehicle movements along the access track and onto and off the beach to minimise the risk of vibrations transmitting to the sand dunes from HGVs using the track. • A speed limit of 10 mph for construction vehicles using the access track will be enforced. • Temporary demarcation fencing will be installed along the road edges to minimise the risk of accidental damage to the edges of the dunes during vehicle movements. • Construction lighting will only operate when required and will be positioned to avoid sensitive receptors and designed in accordance with latest relevant guidance and legislation (CoT28). The design and use of the construction lighting will be set out in the detailed Construction Artificial Light Emissions Management Plan that will be agreed with the relevant planning authority. • Fuel storage will be in appropriate containers with bunds to contain any spillages. Measures will be set out in the detailed Pollution Prevention Plan that will be agreed with the relevant planning authority. The

		detailed Pollution Prevention Plans will be in accordance with the Outline Pollution Prevention Plan (REP6-086). • Plant will be stored using plant nappies to prevent leakage of fuel into the dunes. Measures will be set out in the detailed Pollution Prevention Plan (see above). • No vehicle refuelling will take place in temporary compound 3 or on the beach access road. Measures will be set out in the detailed Pollution Prevention Plan (see above).
Establishment of temporary compound 3	Disturbance/ damage to habitats suitable for sand lizard within the temporary compound area.	• An ECoW will be present on site for the removal of wind-blown sand, vegetation and other debris from within the compound. • Sand and vegetation removal will be undertaken in stages by hand tools only to encourage any sand lizards present to disperse. • Activities would be undertaken on sunny days (avoiding heavily overcast or rainy days) between mid-April and mid-May to avoid the sensitive egg laying, incubation and juvenile emergence periods (eggs are typically laid in late May and June, and hatchlings typically emerge from burrows in August/ September). • Activities would not be undertaken between November and March inclusive to avoid the sensitive hibernation season. • Temporary reptile exclusion fencing would be installed around temporary compound 3 and maintained for the duration of the construction period.
Use of temporary compound 3 during the construction phase	Temporary disturbance to sand lizards in surrounding habitats.	• Construction lighting will only operate when required and will be positioned to avoid sensitive receptors and designed in accordance with latest relevant guidance and legislation (CoT28 in the Commitments Register (REP6-042)). The design and use of the construction lighting will be set out in the detailed Construction Artificial Light Emissions Management Plan that will be agreed with the relevant planning authority for Requirement 8 (Code of Construction Practice (REP6-068)). • Fuel storage will be in appropriate containers with bunds to contain any spillages. Measures will be set out in the detailed Pollution Prevention Plan that will be agreed with the relevant planning authority. The detailed Pollution Prevention Plans will be in accordance with the Outline Pollution Prevention Plan (REP6-085). • Plant will be stored within temporary compound 3 on hardstanding only and plant nappies will be used to prevent leakage of spilled fuel into the dunes. Measures will be set out in the detailed Pollution Prevention Plan (see above). • No vehicle refuelling will take place in temporary compound 3 or on the beach access road. Measures

		will be set out in the detailed Pollution Prevention Plan (see above). No activities would take place at the compound between November and March to avoid the sensitive hibernation season.
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3.2.2 Toolbox Talk

- 3.2.2.1 As part of the site induction process, a toolbox talk will be provided by the ECoW to all construction personnel working on the landfall construction area (covering the Work No's listed in **Table 1**) to highlight the sensitive nature of the dunes and the flora and fauna species they support.
- 3.2.2.2 The toolbox talk will include an identification guide for sand lizards at all life stages, their eggs and burrows and will clearly identify high-risk habitats based on the 'hotspots' of sand lizard observations from the baseline data.
- 3.2.2.3 Contractors will be briefed to report any sightings (or suspected sightings) of sand lizards to the ECoW.

3.2.3 Protection of Dune Edges along Beach Access Road

- 3.2.3.1 A temporary demarcation fence will be established along both sides of the beach access road to reduce the risk of accidental vehicle encroachment into the dune edges that are the most sensitive areas for sand lizard basking/burrows. This will be designed to not restrict the passage of sand lizards (or any other animals) to minimise disturbance to dune habitats and the natural movement of sand lizards (and other animals) across the road.
- 3.2.3.2 The specification of the demarcation fence would be confirmed as part of a full EPSM licence application but could be of simple wooden stake and chain/ rope construction to minimise ground intrusion/ disturbance during installation and removal.

3.2.4 Removal of Wind-blown Sand from Beach Access Road

- 3.2.4.1 Where necessary, wind-blown sand would be swept from the beach access road for safety reasons, although this is realistically anticipated to be mainly around the entrance gate to minimise the tracking out of sand onto Clifton Drive North.
- 3.2.4.2 Any sweeping would be confined to the road area within the demarcation fence line to avoid any encroachment into the dune edges that have been identified as being of high risk for sand lizard presence.
- 3.2.4.3 Swept sand would be removed from the site and not stockpiled within the compound or SSSI.
- 3.2.4.4 The ECoW would be present for any sand sweeping activities and would undertake a walkover check immediately prior to the commencement of sweeping.
- 3.2.4.5 Any sand lizards that require moving out of way of road sweeping activities that do not disperse of their own accord will be noose-captured by hand by the ECoW to reduce the risk of autotomy. Captured sand lizards will kept within a

suitable ventilated container and will be immediately relocated a short distance from the temporary compound within the frontal dune area by the ECoW. The age class and sex of any individuals captured will be recorded by the ECoW.

3.2.5 Vehicle Movements on Beach Access Road

- 3.2.5.1 Consideration will be given to use temporary track matting (or similar) for vehicle movements along the beach access track and onto and off the beach to minimise the risk of vibrations transmitting to the sand dunes from HGVs using the track; the feasibility (and if feasible, the specification) would be set out in a full EPS licence application. Further design work is necessary to establish whether the use of track matting is appropriate at the location, and if so, what an appropriate specification would be.
- 3.2.5.2 A speed limit of 10mph will be enforced for vehicles using the beach access track.
- 3.2.5.3 Vehicle movements will be one-way at all times so that there is no passing of vehicles on the track.

3.2.6 Establishment of Temporary Compound 3

- 3.2.6.1 The removal of wind-blown sand, accumulated vegetation and materials within the existing temporary compound and from around the existing palisade fence will only be undertaken in the period mid-April to mid-May to avoid the egg-laying and hibernation periods (when sand lizards occupying burrows are more vulnerable to disturbance).
- 3.2.6.2 These works will be undertaken by contractors using hand tools only, under the supervision of the licensed ECoW. Any potential refuges that could harbour sand lizards will be carefully dismantled by hand under the supervision of the ECoW. Disused materials will be removed from the temporary compound area off-site and will not be stored elsewhere within the compound where they could attract sand lizards seeking basking areas or refuge.
- 3.2.6.3 These works will not take place on heavily overcast or rainy days within this period and/ or when daytime temperatures are below 10C so that the works are undertaken when lizards are more likely to be visible above-ground and thus captured and moved to safety where necessary or able to disperse naturally in response to disturbance.
- 3.2.6.4 Any sand lizards that require moving from within the temporary compound area that do not disperse of their own accord will be noose-captured by hand by the ECoW to reduce the risk of autotomy. Captured sand lizards will kept within a suitable ventilated container and will be immediately relocated a short distance from the temporary compound within the frontal dune area by the ECoW. The age class and sex of any individuals captured will be recorded by the ECoW.
- 3.2.6.5 Cleared sand and vegetation will be moved to the existing sand storage area adjacent to the compound area and will not be moved into the SSSI area or onto the existing dunes, to avoid damaging any sand lizard burrows.

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- 3.2.6.6 Temporary reptile exclusion fencing will be installed around Temporary Compound 3 to discourage sand lizards from ranging back into the working area.

3.2.7 Temporary Reptile Exclusion Fencing

- 3.2.7.1 Temporary reptile exclusion fencing will be installed around temporary compound 3 under the supervision of the licensed ECoW.
- 3.2.7.2 To minimise disturbance and potential damage to the surrounding dune habitats, the fencing will be installed using hand tools only.
- 3.2.7.3 The fencing will be a 'permanent' or 'semi-permanent' rigid panel specification (e.g. 'Herpetosure' or similar) to maximise longevity and minimise maintenance given the coastal nature of the site (and thus the potential risk of damage to the less robust temporary plastic/ geotextile specification fencing). The exact specification of the temporary reptile exclusion fence would be included as part of a full EPSM licence application.
- 3.2.7.4 The fencing would be buried to a minimum depth of 300 mm below ground and be a minimum height of 600 mm above ground with a small top return facing outwards from the temporary compound.
- 3.2.7.5 Fencing installation would not be undertaken in the hibernation season (i.e. fencing would not be installed in the period November to March), and the timing of fencing installation works would be managed to avoid the peak basking periods of early to mid-morning and late afternoon to minimise the risk of disturbance to sand lizards.
- 3.2.7.6 Temporary reptile exclusion fencing will not be installed along the edges of the beach access road. This is because installation would require direct impacts to highly sensitive areas of the dunes for sand lizards (hotspots for sightings occur along the south-facing dune bank on the north side of the beach access road). Furthermore, the installation of such fencing would create a barrier to the free and unimpeded movement of sand lizards between the dune habitats on either side of the road. There would also be significant risks of damage to the fencing due to the accumulation of windblown debris and sand, which would likely require regular maintenance (and thus further disturbance to the most sensitive dune habitats).
- 3.2.7.7 The fence will be maintained as a suitable exclusion barrier for the duration of the construction period. Daily checks of the fence will be undertaken by the contractor when the compound is in use and a record of such checks and any maintenance kept.
- 3.2.7.8 Upon completion of the landfall construction period the fencing will be removed under the supervision of the ECoW.

3.2.8 Contingency Plan for Torpid or Injured Sand Lizards

- 3.2.8.1 It is not envisaged that any hibernating sand lizards would be encountered during the works because there will be no construction activities at the landfall site (and thus no use of Temporary Compound 3 or the beach access track) between November and March inclusive.

3.2.8.2 If any torpid or injured sand lizards are encountered, veterinary advice would be sought by the ECoW in the first instance.

3.2.8.3 Captured torpid or injured sand lizards will be kept within a suitable ventilated container for transport to a veterinarian/ wildlife hospital. The age class and sex of any individuals captured will be recorded by the ECoW.

3.2.9 Avoidance of Hibernation Season

3.2.9.1 There will be no works at the landfall construction area between November and March inclusive, and therefore this will avoid any activities taking place within temporary compound 3 or vehicle movements on the beach access road during the sand lizard hibernation season.

3.3 ECoW Roles and Responsibilities

3.3.1.1 The ECoW appointed to oversee the below works at the landfall site would be the licensed ecologist named on the sand lizard EPS licence, and/ or any appointed ecologist named on the EPSM licence as specified by the licensed ecologist that has sufficient experience with the species to take on the role.

3.3.1.2 In relation to sand lizards, the ECoW would be responsible for the following during the construction phase:

- Preparing and delivering a toolbox talk to construction personnel working at the landfall site to highlight the sensitive nature of the adjacent dunes and the flora and fauna species they support.
- Supervising any activities undertaken during set up and demobilisation of temporary construction compound 3.
- Supervising any activities requiring the removal of wind-blown sand e.g. from within temporary compound 3 or along the beach access road.
- Supervising the installation of temporary reptile exclusion fencing around temporary compound 3 and supervising any maintenance to the fence e.g. removal of windblown sand.
- Supervising the removal of temporary reptile exclusion fencing upon completion of the construction works.
- Recording any sand lizards encountered during the works (including a GPS record of the sighting, and the sex and life stage of the individual if possible).
- If necessary, capturing and re-locating any sand lizards to a place of safety away from the compound (captured lizards to be held in a suitable ventilated container for no more than a few minutes, to facilitate relocation away from the working area).
- Sharing information on sand lizard records made incidentally during the construction phase with Fylde Borough Council.

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- Completing the EPSM licence return form to Natural England upon completion of the licensable activities.

4 Review of EPS Licensing Requirements

- 4.1.1.1 It is considered that any potential risks to sand lizard can be adequately managed through the adoption of the Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan(s), on the basis that there are no direct impacts from the Transmission Assets to the dunes themselves. Therefore, the risk of killing/ injury and/ or disturbance to sand lizards, and damage to the dunes is negligible with appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures.
- 4.1.1.2 However, an EPS mitigation licence will be obtained from Natural England to enable any sand lizards captured by the ECoW to be safely relocated away from the working area, and to enable temporary reptile exclusion fencing to be installed around temporary compound 3 as a precaution.
- 4.1.1.3 A draft EPS mitigation licence for sand lizard has been prepared and submitted into the examination at Deadline 5, and updated at Deadline 6, which includes all of the measures set out in this Outline Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan. It is not proposed to install extensive temporary exclusion fencing other than a short section around temporary compound 3, or undertake a capture and translocation exercise for sand lizards, because this would be considered to result in a level of disturbance to the species and its sensitive habitats that would be disproportionate to the risks posed by the works.
- 4.1.1.4 Natural England has agreed in principle to the draft EPSM licence application documents submitted post-examination (including a reasoned statement and method statement) and issued a LONI in February 2026.

5 References

Manley, G. A. (2000) *“The hearing organs of lizards”, in Comparative Hearing: Birds and Reptiles*. Edited by Dooling, R. J., Fay, R. R., and Popper, A. (Springer-Verlag, New York), pp. 139 – 196.

Manley, G. A. (2004) *“The lizard basilar papilla and its evolution”, in Evolution of the Vertebrate Auditory System*. Edited by Manley, G. A., Popper, A., and Fay, R. R. (Springer-Verlag, New York), pp. 200 – 223.

Wever, E. G. (1978) *The reptile ear: its structure and function*. Princeton University Press.

Appendix F Strategy for delivery of onshore and intertidal ornithology mitigation

F.1 Alternative mitigation for temporary impacts

- 1.11.1.64 As described in section 1.3.1.1, the Transmission Assets have sought to avoid potential impacts on ecology and ornithology receptors as part of the iterative design process, where possible. Alternative mitigation measures in the form of seasonal working practices and screening of construction works will be implemented within the areas shown on **Figure 1-7** in the vicinity of Lytham Moss and south of Newton-with-Scales.
- 1.11.1.65 The alternative measures include:
- Screening of construction works during sensitive periods (e.g. October to March) in areas of high bird usage (e.g. south of Newton-with-Scales) to reduce noise and visual disturbance; and
 - Seasonal working practices (restrictions between October and March (inclusive)) in sensitive areas with high numbers of birds to avoid any impact. These sensitive areas were identified using surveys reported in the Environmental Statement as Lytham Moss and Newton-with-Scales (see density maps in section 2.2 of the Terrestrial Waterbirds Note S_D4_17/F02). This will give the non-breeding SPA features with safe disturbance-free refuges throughout the construction phase.

F.1.1 Screening

- 1.11.1.66 Screening of construction works/activities reduces disturbance from acoustic or visual impacts by introducing a barrier to the line of sight or that blocks the pathway of sound. This follows the same principle as natural features (e.g. hedgerows) to which birds are accustomed.
- 1.11.1.67 During the sensitive period between October and March (inclusive), screening will be provided around activities associated with the installation of the onshore export cable in defined sections of the onshore cable corridor. Screening will also be required around temporary access tracks from the public highway leading to the onshore cable corridor. These sections of the onshore export cable corridor are identified on **Figure 1-7**.
- 1.11.1.68 Some of the construction activities where screening will be provided are:
- Surrounding trenchless technique compounds and entry or exit pits.
 - Excavation and construction of joint bays.
 - Trench excavation works.
 - Movement of construction vehicles/equipment along temporary access tracks leading from the highway network to the onshore cable corridor.
 - Screening of temporary construction compounds (see the Outline Onshore Construction Method Statement (REP7-036) for indicative locations).

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- 1.11.1.69 Although visual screening can effectively reduce disturbance impacts on birds, loud noises, especially percussive noises, can also disturb birds at distance. The loudest equipment to be used during construction is likely to be up to 117dB(A) for a crusher used in the construction of the onshore substations, whereas within the onshore cable corridor maximum noise levels will be up to 109dB(A) for a vibratory piling rig which may be used at trenchless installation locations. These noise assumptions have been modelled within Volume 3, Annex 8.2: Construction noise and vibration (REP6-065).
- 1.11.1.70 Cutts et al. (2013) developed a tool based upon a standard sound decay rate overview table and using an acceptable noise level of 70dB (A) at which disturbance responses are considered to be acceptable. This highlights that for the majority of construction activities (e.g., up to 109dB(A)), the noise would have decayed to acceptable levels by approximately 70 m. Even the loudest noise impacts at the onshore substations are likely to have little impact after 200 m from the source.
- 1.11.1.71 Design of the screening, if required, will be confirmed during detailed design and will be informed by the specific site conditions at that location (e.g. topography), the type and duration of the construction activity and the proximity of other receptors. Acoustic screens will also be appropriate to the level of attenuation required to reduce noise levels to acceptable levels. Examples of screening measures include solid panel hedges fencing and the placement of soil bunds along the onshore cable corridor from the construction of the haul road and installation of the onshore export cable. The design of the acoustic screening will be documented within the detailed Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan (which forms part of the CoCP and is secured as a requirement of the DCO) and summarised in the detailed Ecological Management Plan.

F.1.2 Seasonal working

- 1.11.1.72 This measure involves the restriction of construction activities during periods where the SPA features occur in their highest densities in areas of the onshore export cable corridor. Restricting the timing of construction activities in areas with high densities of birds effectively removes the impact. This measure is regularly used to avoid disturbance impacts to both breeding and non-breeding birds, including elsewhere on the Transmission Assets project.
- 1.11.1.73 For the installation of the onshore export cable, the Applicants propose that seasonal working patterns will be implemented during the period of October to March (inclusive) within the areas highlighted in **Figure 1-7**. This timeframe corresponds to when terrestrial habitats are sufficiently wet to provide suitable conditions for the features of concern.
- 1.11.1.74 Prior to the restricted months of working, the construction areas within the vicinity of Lytham Moss and other sensitive areas will be temporarily reinstated to a condition which will allow the target species to use the construction areas for loafing and preening. The specific reinstatement measures will be confirmed during detailed design; however, the measures will include:

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- the backfilling of the onshore export cables up to subsoil level
 - removal of construction plant and equipment
 - removal of material storage.

- 1.11.1.75 Full reinstatement of the construction areas (as set out in the Outline Code of Construction Practice and the Outline Soil Management Plan) will be implemented on completion of construction.
- 1.11.1.76 These are standard, recognised measures which will avoid and minimise the impacts and therefore no potential for an adverse effect on integrity.

F.2 Alternative mitigation for permanent impacts

- 1.11.1.77 In terms of permanent habitat loss associated with the onshore substations, the land south of Newton-with-Scales is proposed for the purpose of mitigating EIA impacts on non-breeding waders, including golden plover. Further information is provided in Appendix B.
- 1.11.1.78 As noted in **paragraph 1.3.2.4**, should discussions with stakeholders post-consent, identify refined or alternative mitigation areas that may be preferred, these would be proposed and approved in finalising the detailed EMPs for Morgan OWL and Morecambe OWL.