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Dear Secretary of State

**Morgan and Morecambe Onshore Transmission Assets DCO application
Second response to third (8 July 2026) request for information**

Introduction

1. This is a second response to the Secretary of State's third (8 July 2026) request for information on behalf of Newton-with-Clifton and Freckleton Parish Councils, for whom TLT acts.
2. This response covers the request in paragraph 13 of the letter, namely to comment on submissions made in response to the second request for information. It also contains comments on the responses to the first part of the third request for information, which were published on 29 July 2026.
3. The general points about the application and a decision on it made in the first response still stand.

Second request for information responses

Marine Management Organisation (C2-008)

4. The Parish Councils comment that although commitments CoT45 and CoT115 have been updated and CoT142 added, there are still issues to resolve to satisfy the MMO:
 - a. updating of the DCO to reflect the new versions of the above and any other added or amended post-application commitments in the register (Environmental Statement Annex 5.3) referred to in Schedule 18, which is still dated October 2024,
 - b. inclusion of a potential commitment to detonate UXO outside the MCZ, and



- c. agreement on the without prejudice benthic compensation schedule, which has been included on a without prejudice basis in the Applicants' request 3 part 1 response.

Fylde Borough Council (C2-021)

5. The Parish Councils support FBC's concerns about funding, lack of progress on land agreements and health and economic impacts and note that FBC disagree with the Applicants' characterisation of their remaining issues in their first response. The Parish Councils also support their concerns about the Applicants' failure to engage with FBC or the Lancashire Wildlife Trust on the OEMP.

The Environment Agency (C2-024)

6. The Environment Agency accept the Applicants' use of flood data so that issue is no longer pursued. However they do refer to further work and both the timing and outcome of this should be made available.

Natural England (C2-025)

7. The Parish Councils note that Natural England do not agree with the proposals for Crossens Outer / Banks Marsh but the Applicants are no longer pursuing these (see e.g. paragraph 1.3.2.45 in their main response [C2-029.2](#)).
8. The Parish Councils further note that Natural England do not wish to be responsible for an adaptive management approach. However, the Parish Councils would wish to hear Natural England's views on how realistic it is to deliver satisfactory environmental mitigation for the natural habitats that will be lost to the development without increasing bird strike risk at Warton Aerodrome and Blackpool Airport.
9. This is because the Parish Councils do not consider it feasible to design ecological mitigation that (a) adequately mitigates for environmental impacts while (b) not increasing bird strike risk. The narrow window of acceptability, above which it would unacceptably increase bird strike risk and below which it would not be adequate mitigation, if it even exists, would be virtually impossible to achieve at all, never mind for the lifetime of this project.
10. Any mitigation would need to be active and continuous rather than passive and long-term, e.g. BAE currently scare birds away immediately before flights took place. Also, when construction works turned over quantities of earth this would be likely to attract flocks of seagulls and other birds that could arrive unpredictably and would need to be dispersed quickly to avoid bird strike. These risks and methods do not seem to have been considered. It would provide confidence if examples of successful projects in similar circumstances could be provided as evidence that what is proposed is capable of working rather than trusting to novel solutions.

The Crown Estate (C2-026)

11. The Crown Estate unsurprisingly does not wish to take on land rights negotiations or financial security for blight claims but has brought its estimate of a new developer being found forward from Q1 2027 to Q4 2026. That was in the context of commencing re-letting the site in early July 2026 but a press release¹ to this effect was only issued on 24 July 2026. The Crown Estate is to use a 'transparent rising clock auction' that may mean the level of interest is known soon.

¹ [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



12. The Crown Estate considers that the Morgan project would remain viable without compulsory acquisition powers, which seems to be an optimistic claim. It seems unlikely that a bidder would bid for a project whose original developer had already given up to which is added the prospect of being ransomed for land along the cable route or pursuing compulsory powers subsequently.
13. The Parish Councils would strongly advise against delaying a decision on this application until a new developer was found and had fully inherited all of the previous joint venture's assets and liabilities, as this would prejudice those adversely affected by the DCO unfairly and disproportionately.

BAE Systems (C2-027)

14. BAE Systems claim in answer to Q20 that the Outline Wildlife Hazard Management Plan will 'ensure that the Applicants cannot implement the mitigation measures without BAE's agreement'. That may be so, although is not clear from the current DCO drafting, but is not particularly helpful as if the only trigger is implementing the mitigation measures rather than the development itself, the Applicants could implement the development without implementing the mitigation measures at all, which would clearly not be acceptable. Any requirement should say that the project cannot be constructed until the mitigation measures were agreed with BAE Systems and implemented as agreed.
15. The response also contemplates developing solutions post-consent such as monitoring bird movements using radar. It is clearly unacceptable grant consent for a project without knowing what mitigation would be to offset serious impacts such as bird strike.

The Applicants (C2-029.1-23)

16. The Applicants state in response to the Parish Councils' first response ([C2-029.3](#), section 2.6) that the issues raised by the Parish Councils have been thoroughly considered and are capable of being addressed. That may be, but they have not been satisfactorily resolved. The Parish Councils accept that the application can be granted if the adverse impacts of the project do not outweigh its benefits, but that is far from true at the present time.
17. The Applicants dispute the Parish Councils' claim that 75% of the benefits of the project would be lost if Morgan does not go ahead but do not say what reduction there would be. Morgan is stated to have 1500MW capacity and Morecambe 480MW, which is 24.2% of the total of 1980MW.
18. The Parish Councils disagree that the site selection process for the substations would have been the same result had it only been for the much smaller Morecambe substation; there would clearly have been more options for something a quarter of the total size. The site selection process clearly did not factor in bird strike risk relating to Blackpool Airport and Warton Aerodrome which would also have led to a different result had it been done properly. This process was clearly not carried out compatibly with the Holistic Network Design Review process.
19. The northern route remains an obviously material alternative, confirmed by its selection by the Moor Vannin project in December 2025.
20. The Applicants ignore the Parish Councils' and the Sharkeys' concerns about visual renderings and only address those raised by Fylde BC and Lancashire CC. Interested parties have only ever been shown photographs showing the width of the substations and not their height. Despite claims to have addressed Fylde BC's concerns, Fylde BC continue to oppose the siting of the substations.



21. The Applicants claim that it is not necessary to provide biodiversity net gain (BNG) for the route of the cable because the impacts would be temporary, but this is incorrect. Land temporarily affected can only be counted as 'retained' if it will be fully restored to its original condition within five years of impact, which will not be the case for much of the cable route and the exercise of what would be retained has not been carried out. Even if counted as retained, 10% gain would need to be provided on top and hasn't been.
22. Although BNG is not mandatory for this project it is well out of kilter with what other projects are providing – and are expected to provide – voluntarily, and this failure must be considered a serious adverse impact.
23. The Parish Councils maintain their disagreement that an hour's mobilisation/demobilisation is needed each day outside the 7am-7pm working time, which the Parish Councils continue to maintain is excessive, as it will cause undue disruption at to communities at unsociable hours.
24. Finally, the Applicants accept that the issues with the Morgan wind farm mean that a longer separation time between the two projects is more likely. That serves to increase the case for shortening the maximum separation time that is permissible as the adverse impact of a lengthy separation has more chance of occurring.
25. This could be achieved by reducing the latest time that each project could be implemented via requirement 1 in Schedules 2A and 2B from seven years to a shorter period. As the Applicants have changed the requirement to tie it to the windfarm DCOs coming into force rather than this DCO, the period is already shrinking, which is helpful. The Morgan elements must commence by 22 September 2032 and the Morecambe elements by 23 December 2032. It would still be preferable if the projects were constructed simultaneously to reduce impacts on the local environment and communities, and this should be mandated.

Fylde Area Committee Energy Working Group (C2-030)

26. The Parish Councils support the Working Group's call for further assessment of the route via Rossall and Stanah.

Local residents (C2-002-6, C2-009-20, C2-022-23, C2-028, C2-031)

27. No comments.

Third requests for information – part 1 - responses

The Crown Estate

28. The Crown Estate says that it will transfer the relevant DCOs and grid connection agreement to the winning bidder from the process it has initiated and there will be no gap. The Parish Councils note that it is not within the power of the Crown Estate to transfer a DCO from one party to another. Unless the company Morgan Offshore Wind Limited remains the undertaker for the purposes of the Morgan DCO and this DCO, then this would require the consent of the Secretary of State under article 7 of the Morgan DCO and article 6 of this draft DCO, having consulted the Marine Management Organisation in the case of the deemed marine licences in each DCO.
29. Indeed the approach advocated by the Crown Estate would allow a decision on a new promoter without any public scrutiny, transparency or ability to challenge or even comment by impacted local stakeholders and communities.
30. The Crown Estate says that the fact that a transfer would occur if a new owner was found is sufficient for compulsory acquisition and temporary possession powers to be granted; the Parish Councils disagree. There cannot be a compelling case in the public interest to



grant such significant powers to persons unknown. The Applicants have not progressed any land negotiations for Morgan since the end of the examination ten months ago, as stated at paragraph 2.1.2.5 of their main third response document ([C3-008.11](#)) putting any new promoter at a great disadvantage.

Natural England

31. Natural England have concluded that there will be no permanent adverse effects on integrity (AEoI) from the loss of habitat at the substation sites.
32. They say that mitigation is required to avoid AEoI for temporary impacts; this must be secured by the DCO.
33. Given the Applicants' strong resistance to Scenario 3, if the decision was to approve than Scenario 3 would need to be secured by the DCO to ensure it was progressed by the Applicants.

The Applicants (C3-008.1-47)

34. The presentation of four scenarios (while retaining the fifth original scenario of keeping Morgan land powers, Lea Marsh and Lytham Moss – perhaps there should really be eight scenarios) is making it increasingly difficult to determine what this application now consists of and which documents would be relied upon and secured in any decision. This is symptomatic of the increasing complexity of the project brought about by the large number of unresolved and undecided issues that remain.
35. As mentioned above, the Applicants have only progressed land agreements in relation to Morecambe since the end of the examination. The Parish Councils are unsure what the difference is between the 'voluntary agreements' mentioned in paragraph 2.1.2.1 of the response and the 'legal agreements', of which there appear to be fewer, and none appear to have been agreed, mentioned in paragraph 2.1.2.3.
36. The Parish Councils note that the Applicants have inserted protective provisions for Blackpool Airport (Part 10 of Schedule 11) such that their consent is required for any exercise of order powers that would compromise the safe and efficient operation of Blackpool Airport. Similar provisions should be added for the protection of Warton Aerodrome, who presently only require consultation on the Wildlife Hazard Management Plan.

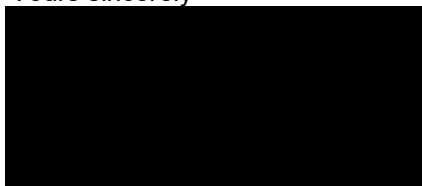
David MacGregor (C3-002)

37. The Parish Councils note the unresolved and unnecessary issues faced by Dr MacGregor and his neighbours. The arrogant and high-handed approach adopted has allowed no ability for challenge and no possibility that the approach taken might be wrong.

Other local residents (C3-003, C3-007, C3-009, C3-010)

38. No comments.

Yours sincerely



Partner
for TLT LLP