

# TEXT\_SizewellC\_Prelim1\_Session2\_2303202

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Tue, 3/23 1:49PM • 1:23:00

00:04

Right the meetings now resumed on agenda item three, the examination process. There is information on that topic set out in the rule six annex B. I don't propose to repeat what is said that if I were to ask my colleague, Mr. Maund and say a few words about the purpose of the meeting.

00:28

Hello again, everyone.

00:31

The purpose of this preliminary meeting is to assist the examining authority in determining the process that will be followed. in conducting the examination.

00:41

You will see from the agenda that we'll be considering such matters as to propose deadlines for written submissions, and dates of hearings. We will not however, be discussing the merits or disadvantages of the scheme. These will be dealt with during the examination itself, which won't begin until after this meeting has finally closed due to the event being held virtually This is likely to be Thursday the 15th of April 2021. My colleague Miss Mackay will say a little more on this later on.

01:14

The points made at this meeting both today. And at part two of this, of this meeting, If required, together with any written submissions will all be considered by the examining authority and taken into account in making our procedural decisions, including in respect of the examination timetable, which we'll send to you as soon as practicable after the event in a letter under examination procedure, rule eight the rule eight letter

01:45

if you wish to ask any questions about the examination outside the scope of this meeting, and the case team are the people to approach please direct any such inquiries or issues to Michele Gregory or other members of the planning inspectorate case team will now pass back to Ms Mackay.

02:08

Thank you, Mr. Maund, although there is information contained in the rule six letter Appendix B. For those of you who may not be familiar with the examination process, my colleague, Mr. Brock will now highlight a few aspects of the examination process that may be relevant.

02:28

Thank you, Miss McKay?

02:33

Well, we have three potential methods through which we can examine the application. There is written evidence. We hold site inspections both unaccompanied and those in the company of interested parties, and we have hearings.

02:52

But the system relies primarily upon written evidence, which is supported were required by hearings. Issues specific hearings are only held where the examining authority considers it is necessary to hear oral representations to ensure adequate examination of an issue, or so that a party has a fair chance to put that party's case and that is set down in the statute. These are the reasons for an issue specific hearing.

03:29

So the panel's position, initial examination proposals were sent out with our rule six letter the 23rd of March, which invited you to this meeting. In addition to various deadlines for submission of written information, there's a draft timetable annex D, which sets out a number of dates for hearing and for site visits, which are proposed by the examining authority.

03:55

But I would stress that it is very important for all parties to set out their cases set out your cases in the written representations made and please do not simply rely upon attendance at a later hearing.

04:09

In addition, our written questions will be of great importance and your replies to us will be a great importance, and the examining authority expects the questions to be answered directly and fully. It will be in everybody's interests to do so.

04:29

We will consider proposals for issues specific hearing on a particular topic on the grounds which I have just mentioned. However, if we do decide to hold an issue specific hearing on a particular topic, I want to reassure you, this does not mean in any way that this issue will not be fully considered by us in preparing our report and our recommendation.

04:55

Now a number of interested parties have indicated they wish to speak up

05:00

This item, and I have the list with me, all of you, I'm going to ask one or two people to speak, having read what they have said in their submissions

05:16

in response to our rule six letter.

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And if there are other people who would like to speak, and have points they want to raise which have not been raised, then the timestamp will be well, I've gone through the next few people. So first of all, may I ask Mr. Julian Cusack if you are still in the meeting? And if you are, Please, could you put your microphone and your camera on? And I would like it like you please. There. Just to make the point, though, which you made in writing, Mr. Cusack? Hello.

05:53

Good morning. Thank you for calling me to speak. Yeah, I would I local residents of Middleton, parish in the Suffolk about three miles from the proposed site. And I want to make sure that the examination process will fully and properly address issues to do with the wellbeing and mental health or people living in the area, which I believe will be adversely affected by the conversion of an area of outstanding natural beauty into a huge industrial building site. And so that is my key issue to make sure that that issue gets fully

06:34

discussed and taken into account in the examination process. Thank you. Very good. Thank you very much indeed, Mr. miscues I can there aren't you will realise there is an issues. Sorry, there is a there are open floor hearings, when you may want to elaborate on your point. Do make them in writing as well. And we will take into account certainly what you just said when we are considering what issue specific hearings that there should be so I hope that I feel reassured that we do want we want to hear from you. You personally and from our from others in this examination. Thank you.

07:15

May I if you can close down your camera and your microphone now please. Mr. Cusick. Can I go to Mr. Jones, please? Gregory Jones QC.

07:36

Good morning, Mr. Jones. Now, I have been down for a number of a number of points on this. Could you explain to me briefly the submissions that you'd like to make? Yes, thank you very much. In terms of we've set out in written representations, the topics that we're particularly concerned send off in respect to my clients. And obviously, we'll see how that that comes out from the examining panel. But one particular area we identified sir, and I suppose this is one reason why you're asking me is that we respectfully suggest there should be a separate topic hearing in relation to the need for and the various consequences of the of the link road the proposed link road. And that is something that we

08:30

have set out in reasons why we respectfully suggest that that is capable of forming a separate mini topic within the inquiry process. We also are obviously concerned on the environment, the particularly the lighter the proposed amendments, the there should be a separate session on a possible compliance with the requirements for environmental impact assessment. And that there should be a

focus session on any legal issues that may arise out of that. And then in terms of and I don't know, sir, this is the appropriate time to read to raise it. But

09:21

in so far as how the process proceeds, we would

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ask there isn't a hybrid nature. So if it is going to be entirely and I know Pete, you've invited and we're making representations on that if people are disadvantaged by being virtual, but our concern is that we had either consecutively or consecutively as

09:48

the COVID situation unfolds, or concurrently, a hybrid of those being in person and some not, or some objections being dealt with in a hybrid way. And then

10:00

Later in person and we we've made representations that we say that that's not desirable, the hybrid nature, that we should either be one thing or the other. And we'll make representations as you've invited, I think, in writing on whether or not virtual is appropriate. But it's a slightly discrete point, that whatever it is, it shouldn't be mixed.

10:22

So, Mr. Jones, you are asking that we don't hold a mixed session, that will be a session where we have both people in person and people coming in, virtually. That's right.

10:39

That's right. And also, you need to make a decision earlier on. And it goes with our other submissions and those of council of fellows about the start time, which I'm not going to repeat, but

10:53

we don't think we think

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Another advantage of following Councillor Fellowes approach is also that it's less likely that we'll have an evolving and emerging procedure as,

11:10

as the circumstance external COVID circumstances unfold. And what we're, and what we're saying is there is not quote Hamilton, the musical but I will about being in the room.

11:25

You want to be in the room, and there is a difference between being in the room and not being in the room. Okay. Okay. I thank you. Thank you. Can I say your points of asking for an issue specific hearing in relation to the need and consequences of the link road? Those? I mean, the time when we will look

at issues due hearing requests, actually been item six of the agenda? I don't mind you raising it now it's useful to have

11:54

the advance notice as it were, but you may want to stay there till stay with us. And come back at that point. And if you're not here, if you can't be here, then I have I have noted the point which you aren't making. Thanks. Me here, if I may. Yes. I hope I covered the point you were expecting of me in our written submissions. If not, please indicate there is another matter that I've been asked to raise. And it may be it for any other business, you touched on it, sir, in your introduction as to the different ways in which examination precedes written rep site visits come in on a company, could I just put a marker down the woman come for

12:38

any other business, just the issue of the promoter coming onto land with that consent, which has been an issue with my clients? Can I just flag that up for any other business, I won't take time up now on it, but so that we can get the data.

12:54

I've got that if that relates to the accompanied site visits or unaccompanied site visits or any other form of site visit, which may be possible then, in today's age, then please make those when we get to item six, and it has stuff left over then by all means raise it in the end. Yeah, this thing typically,

13:14

it's more

13:17

the promoter of coming home to carry out their own work without having notified owners. I don't want to make a big point of it. But it's just it'd be convenient when we get to any other business that we can just have it flagged up because those are things you'll appreciate to the court can cause unnecessary misunderstandings between the parties. Yeah, thank you for the heads up on that. Thank you. Thank you. So

13:44

if you could just pop your

13:46

down and Yeah.

13:50

Thank you.

13:53

It's an Westover. I just saw you in the room Mrs. Westover? And if so,

14:00

could you

14:02

join us in vision and in sound? for a few moments, it's just five to 12 and we are going to stop it at 12. If you're still running then just will ask you just to pause I don't want to rush you.

14:18

But you're down for that. For this matter. Could you explain to me what the points are that you want to make? Yes, thank you very much. So I would like to speak on behalf of Wickham Market parish Council and our neighbouring parishes with whom we've been working. That's Pettistree, Hacheston, Marlesford and Campsea Ashe. Marlesford are also going to speak about wider traffic issues if you invite them later on. So if I could just touch briefly on the traffic issues for wicker market, we request that these are fully considered during the examination possibly under a specific topic, including any scheme which may have been

15:00

Developed by EDF for dealing with the increased volumes of traffic through the village, if received by the time of the start of the formal part of this examination, despite liaising with Suffolk County Council highways and EDF since December 2019. Over the matter of traffic through the village, we have not yet received a scheme which is ready for wider public consultation. We are concerned that we may not be able to effectively consult residents on such a scheme if it's forthcoming. Due to the pandemic making it very difficult to display path plans in a public place and hold events. We are as yet unsure whether we will have been able to work on him being put forward in a timely manner and to the examination timescale.

15:52

We have requested various things such as speed controls, traffic, calming, comprehensive tracking and monitoring of vehicles to the southern Park and Ride site and to the site or C site. But as yet we have received no firm commitment from EDF on any of these matters. We continue to price them through liaison meetings. But we are increasingly concerned about the timescale. In relation to this examination. We would like you to consider the cumulative impacts of traffic coming through our village from future housing developments in the area and other big associated business traffic. We request that the process of ensuring that traffic mitigation measures which might be supported locally with caveats are fully considered by the panel in respect to effective control through legal agreements and funding measures and mechanisms.

16:52

So we particularly want to make sure that the consultation takes place because we are concerned that many residents are still unaware of the impacts that are going to arise from possibly 1000 cars and vans coming through this village each day to access the site and the ancillary developments. Speeding and vehicle volumes are already problematical at some times of the day. And this combined with a proposed loss of on street residential parking, which EDF have currently put forward will cause insurmountable challenges for many residents.

17:30

If there's time, I could speak for two minutes on the southern Park and Ride site itself quickly before Oh, it's getting tight, isn't it? Thank you.

17:40

I think I'm going to pause it there. Mrs. Westover. Most of the points which you've made there are actually related to item four, I think, which is about the initial assessments for principal issues. And

17:57

let me just summarise what I understood you wants to say about the examination process, your concern is you feel the examination ought to be delayed until the examination can be heard, not virtually. And you feel that complex issues are more properly debated in that field with documentation available to study. Have I correctly understood what your concern is? You have I mean, the parish Council have expressed those points. I wasn't particularly expecting to reiterate that because I knew that lots of other people were saying the same thing. So when you asked me to speak, I just went straight into our substantive matter. That's

18:35

fine. Thank you very much indeed. Good. Timing is lovely. It's now 12 o'clock and we're going to take one minute to remember those who have died and everything else which has happened during the coronavirus pandemic.

20:14

Good Welcome back. Everybody

20:18

was one other person I particularly wanted to ask a question off. And then I see there are a couple of hands up, and I will go to those after this.

20:28

Mr. James Lawson for the East of England ambulance and HS trust. Are you in the room?

20:40

Yes, sir. Thank you very much. Fire is probably your camera as well. Thank you. Nice to see you this morning.

20:47

Or this afternoon as we are now. Just I think the note which I have or what you want to say against this item is about it says in the light of resource escalation, plan status, you want to talk about the implications arising for meeting examination deadlines, relevant rep summary statements of common ground and responses, then you ask for special dispensation for extended timelines. I think that

21:14

I think that is probably somebody who can better deal with an item six, if you don't mind. But if you if you do want to say something which relates to, to examination process, this agenda item, then then now's your opportunity.

21:25

Yes, say thank you very much. And good afternoon to the examination. Yes, simply to confirm that we're quite content to deal with all those matters under agenda item six, and

21:39

Geeta Broussard from the service will be addressing that. Thank you. Thank you very much indeed. That's what we look forward to seeing you later on.

21:49

Thank you.

21:51

Right. So we have a couple of hands up. Now. And if

21:58

you do want to speak, please just press the hands button, which is the Patricia doubting

22:05

your hand has been up patiently for some for some time. Is there anything which you wanted to say to us?

22:12

Yes, please. Thank you. I'm just representing myself, but many others who live very close to the site, you talk about one of the three potential methods as site inspections. I just like to know more? Well, I think many of us would, as to what does site inspection mean? Because I have no idea how any of the examiners are with this area, understand the kinds of issues that we have as residents or working here. And visiting the site is obviously essential that what you need is an event A visit to the area and have real familiarity with it to actually understand the issues that we have.

22:56

Thank you. Thank you, I think I can answer that. For you. First of all,

23:02

the site visits his opportunity for us to go and visit parts of the of the site,

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which we need to understand in order to understand and properly consider the application which is before us.

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Or in laws, you can understand without having a site visit. But actually there is for me, there is no substitute for going to see to see the site. It helps to cement things in one in our minds, it helps to make things more and more relevant and more understandable. The site visit is if you'd like it's time of we gather evidence is not a time for evidence at all submissions to be made to us. Because it's important that we observe all of what we lawyers call the rules of natural justice and people have a fair chance to, to say things enter us and to respond to what other people say. So the site is not a place for submissions to be made. That we have requested that

23:59

you that interested parties tell us what they think we should go to see. So we'd be grateful if you would make your submission in relation to that you just pause bear with me for good. my computer's telling me something which I just need to get rid of.

24:18

Thank you.

24:20

Yes, please tell us where you think that we should go on a company site inspection or indeed under whatever the arrangements are for site inspections. You appreciate that they are little bit fluid in the coronavirus pandemic.

24:37

Does that answer your question? Um, yes, I just Yes. Hope that that was heard widely so that many people can contribute to that, because I don't think you'll understand the issues until you really have seen quite a bit of the area and in the sense at least someone on the examining walls

25:00

Ortiz kind of immersed in the area, you should

25:05

let me reassure you shouldn't stand away. We made an unaccompanied site inspection back last August. I think we spent three days in the area obviously, we didn't would actually going to go into the into the site itself, but we looked at the site from various places and we went to other locations which seemed to us to be relevant.

25:29

Some members examine authority had been back again for second site visit on specific things that accompany site inspection. And yes are our letters which we have sent make it clear that we invite representations about where we should go to for any company site inspection. Thank you very much.

25:50

Thank you, you put your hand down as well when you when you and you will not go but when you switch your camera Thank you. That'd be great.

26:00

Mr. Ingram, massaging your hand has been I've actually for quite a long time. And I didn't go down I think after the last night and did you have something you want to say on this item? No, forgive me. I didn't realise my hand was still up.

26:17

straightaway apologise if you could pop it down. That would be lovely and

26:23

Mr. Etheridge Peter Etheridge, you do have your hand up.

26:29

Yes, thank you very much for listening to me. When you visited the site, I understand you visited Sizewell itself and close area Did you visit the surrounding villages, like Middleton, Eastbridge, Saboten, etc. and Minsmere, of course, so that you got a hold idea of it.

26:49

As a detailed note of the places which we which we went to, and what the visit covered, we walk through Minsmere in order to get what for one of the approaches to the site.

27:02

We drove through Wesselton, stop there to look at the Fenn Meadow recreation site, which is there, we didn't visit all of the villages that you list if you if there are ones that you want us to visit, and when you look at our report of the USI if you see we didn't go there, then by all means make the point.

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I feel that you should visit the

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bank, would you mind making the point in writing to us or when we get to item six later on, which is to deal with the company site inspections? Certainly. Thank you so much. I'm grateful to

27:49

Alison Downes, I see your hand is up.

27:54

Thank you, Alison down, stop sighs We'll see. And I won't read out the list of names of people I'm representing again, suffice it to say that Ian Galloway has asked me to add his name to the list of people that I'm speaking on behalf of. And so we're on agenda item three about the purpose of the preliminary meeting. In the rule six letter on page two, it says the purpose of preliminary meeting is to enable views to be put forward about the way in which the examination at the application is to be examined. And this strongly suggests to me that decisions about how the examination will be run will be made in the course of the preliminary meeting or in this case meetings. And I just wanted to bring that up once again, to reiterate the point that, you know, we have these outstanding questions on which

applicate part of which version of EDS application we are considering and to repeat my urging that you consider holding a third part to these preliminary meetings so that all those decisions can be taken within the course of the preliminary meetings and before the examination proper begins. Thank you.

29:04

Thank you. I understand I understand your point. Thank you very much.

29:10

Very good. Now, Mr. Etheridge, would you mind just popping your hand down please? Unless he wants to make another point. Thank you so much. I'm grateful to you.

29:21

Very good. I see no other hands. Oh, yes. as to which pop just popped up. Councillor fellows. I see you're there.

29:36

Good afternoon, Mr. Brock. Ladies and gentlemen. Thank you very much, counsellor Marion fellow speaking on behalf of Olga Town Council. With regard to item three, as you're aware, we've over the last five and a half months taking part quite intensively in the DCO for Scottish power renewables East Anglia, one north and you

30:00

East Anglia to in this area. And I wanted to share with you our lessons learned from that really to assist with the first one was the examination phase can concertina dramatically towards the end, if the level of detail and information is not provided, as it should it was DCs which is supposed to be front loaded. And I really am very nervous because this application seems to lack even more detail and information than the Scottish power renewables proposed some dead.

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Secondly, regarding accompanied and unaccompanied visits, as you state, it's not the opportunity for us to direct you or to provide information other than to foreshadow where you might want to go and where you might want to stand and look at and try to achieve. But should you go ahead with your proposed timeline, many of these accompanied and unaccompanied visits will be during the COVID-19 restrictions, when many people have not returned to their normal activities. So to observe the level of people walking footpaths, for example. It will not be accurate. So where families may come and walk certain paths to the park counselling Can I I'm sorry, man interrupt you there, we have got an agenda item six when we are going to deal with the size. And I was happy to hear from the earlier participants about it. But really what the you know what the journey please make comments later on. All right, then, I thought we were talking about the methods in which you gain your information and do and so my I'm sorry, if I expressed it in inaccurately, what I was trying to say was if you're relying on unaccompanied visits as a method to gain information, and your timeline is to do this during COVID-19 restrictions, then that may be a false method because you won't be gaining the information you need to make your determination. Okay, another method, another method of obtaining information is of course, third party, and he and one in 4.5. point five page 50 of the guidance says that the examining authority could

consider taking independent professional advice on design aspects. I'd like to hear from you if you're considering as a method, the use of third party information from independent sources, as especially the design currently is lacking information from the applicant.

32:49

And then also 4.5. point four says the applicant should just should demonstrate in the application, how they've arrived at the design process and how it's evolved. And I wondered if one method of view examining would be to actually question that independent nuclear experts in terms of those aspects. And the last point I wanted to make Thank you, sir, on item three, is that many of the statutory consultees in their submissions to already have said that they only want statements of Common Ground made a deadline one and eight. And I know statements of Common Ground provide a lot of information and our greater systems to the examining authority in terms of understanding whether shared agreement on certain matters.

33:40

We overtime counsellor will contend that if you only have these that deadline one and deadline eight, it doesn't allow town and parish councils or other organisations or the public to understand and comment. And unfortunately, the other lesson learned from the Scottish power renewables DCO was that the East Suffolk Council which is our district level council

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did not consult with town or parish councils before they agreed statements of common grounds are agreed to Section 111. So in fact, it may be that we need to in this examination, have statements of common ground with parish and town councils as well.

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Thank you

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to

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Mrs. Council for those that all over town council that would like to participate in stating the common ground.

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I think if the model that he Suffolk has used in Scottish power renewables DCO is replicated here. And they do you not consult with town and parish councils before making a statement of common ground and they only rely on information from their offices or their own determinations. Then I think over town council

35:00

And in fact, other local parish and town councils may need to do so. And also may need to go as far as having protective

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protect. I can't be in the second word

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protective provisions outlined because we do not feel represented by those agreed at the next tier of authority. Thank you.

35:24

Thank you that I just have one other one other question for heading might catch us you asked us to consult nuclear experts on some issues, you referring to four or five, four of em one. Could you remind me what those issues were? I didn't get a note?

35:43

Well, the general guidance in the Aeon one is that you may your discretion seek

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to understand the general guidance. What was what was the point? What was the particular point which you asked me to consult on? design, design of the nuclear installations and infrastructure? So design across the board? Thank you. Yeah, I've got that. Thank you very much. I thought it was some other more specialised part of it been grateful to you.

36:16

Thank you,

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Mr. Beach, and then Mr. Call it

36:27

sir. Tim beach. And my parish Council, the chair of the parish Council in Snape. I just wanted to endorse the comments from Marion fellows about the issue about common ground I had similar experience to Council of fellows in terms of sitting in on SPR, and trying to engage with the District Council. And if there is a mechanism for ensuring that we use parishes and towns, do you get the opportunity to contribute to those section one, one ones, and that common grounds, then it would be a really important principle for us.

37:04

Thank you very much. Thank you,

37:07

Mr. Khalid, I think you've been waiting there patiently for some time.

37:12

That's right, thank you very much. Indeed, Allen college, a resident of Albright, I just wanted to, if I may just pick up on one point that Marianne fellows has made. And this is in reference to the site inspections, I was involved slightly in doing some of the preparation work for the site inspections on the wind farms missions. And I think one point I would request is that not only is it relevant as to whether you carry out your inspections during a COVID lockdown or outside, it is also relevant as to whether you undertake them during peak holiday periods during weekends as opposed to weekdays, where visitor numbers are significantly different. And indeed, at the time of day, where mornings with people going to work and coming home in the evening, school times where there are school children walking or cycling to work at some of the surrounding villages. So it's important that I request that you do take a number of visits to on board to appreciate the various changing dynamics of the villages, not just around the site itself. Thank you. Thank you don't go away. ask you something. Well, first of all, goes to emphasise what I said earlier that

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we do ask for your written submissions as to where we should go. deadline. If you look at the draft, it's the opposite of draft mode, the drafted timetable, deadline one is the point for suggestions on visits to be made.

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And can I just ask you just to help me as well, you said that passage of time of year wasn't his holiday period or not is also relevant, explained to be what you felt was the particular relevance of holiday periods.

39:03

the relevance of the holiday period is that there's a significantly non larger number of people coming to this area. A lot of second homes a lot of holiday accommodation.

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Therefore, there is a lot of recreation by way of walking, the footpath surrounding the sanderlings sized world and Minsmere. So the timing from that point of view, I think is important. And then there is a difference between a weekday and weekend whether within a holiday period or outside it because the area does attract a large number of weekend visitors as well. So changing dynamics, as I say, of the number of people use coming to the area and using the facilities in the widest sense.

39:52

Thank you. Thank you. That's very helpful.

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Just we just bear with me a moment.

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Mr. Guy, I didn't mean to say do you have to have the room in general, which just bear with me for a day. Thank you very much indeed. That's pretty helpful.

40:12

Very good. Okay.

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So highly, your hand is up.

40:19

And then we had Josie, Josie B. And I think that will bring us to the end. For those interested on this matter. Mr. Hiley. Hello again. Hello again. Thank you, sir. And I would just like to concur with Councillor fellows. remarks, I'm speaking on behalf of Saxmundham town council, I would like to request her if she could send an email round

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to ourselves and to all other town and parish councils in the area that would be interested. And we can then discuss getting together and

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doing this as one body. Thank you. Thank you very much, indeed. And GCP.

41:07

Yes. Hi. Thank you very much. I just wanted to add

41:12

to the question, you just raised to the other speaker about the need to take account of what happens in this part of the world during different times of the year. And to say that you will have heard from some others suggesting the very major hit to employment in tourism, related to the figures that EDF has put in in terms of job creation. But indeed, in terms of road usage, in terms of walkers, bicyclists, it's extraordinary, the different it's like a different world for four or five months in the summer, at Christmas time, and it's school breaks, and that the mitigation measures, if indeed this thing is allowed to go through, will have to be adjusted around those times. And we saw in the past summer, and we'd be all happy to share data with you and surrounding villages. I am with the parish Council of Walberswick. The change in numbers that we have collected between what used to be normal time and summers is by a factor of about 10. In terms of traffic flows and things and we can we've collected this kind of data, and we would be extremely happy to share it with you to show that if EDF has collected data in March or February it will be it will be useless for you to use during the rest of the year. Thank you for bringing that up for us. Thank you. Thank you very much. I don't have your surname. Oh, sorry, it's Josie Bassinet, and I'm down to speak later with. I am the chairman of the Walberswick parish Council. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you.

43:04

Very good. If you put your hand down as well please, Ms Bassinet that'd be lovely.

43:11

Very good. I think that's deals with all the questions as I get to return now to Ms McKay, who is going to

43:22

move on in the agenda.

43:29

Thank you, Mr. Brock. Now, we now move on to agenda item for the initial assessment of principal issues. We've provided further information in relation to this agenda item in the detailed agenda. And my colleague, Mr. Humphrey will now introduce this item.

43:49

Thank you, Miss McKay. And good afternoon, everyone. The initial assessment of principle issues set out in annex C of the rule six letter are broadly defined following our assessment of the application documents and their relevant representations. This list was not intended to be exhaustive or set in stone for the duration of the examination. It does not preclude us from amending the list by removing or adding to the principal issues for consideration. At a later stage in the process. We will take account all issues and evidence brought before us and the initial assessment of principal issues will not constrain the examination of other important and relevant matters.

44:34

This meeting provides an opportunity for interested parties to raise with us additional issues relating to the proposal, which they think should or might affect the structure of the examination. This list is not routinely updated as it is only the initial assessment. It is not a comprehensive or exclusive list of all relevant matters. There is no requirement to update this list because

45:00

Examining authority. We'll examine all issues raised throughout the examination. And we'll have regard to all important and relevant matters during the examination. And when we write our recommendation report to the Secretary of State. In terms of timing, the list was compiled in accordance with paragraph 39. of the guidance for examination of applications for development consent 2015. That recommends the examining authority completed initial assessment of the application within a period of 21 days after the final deadline for receipt of relevant representations. This deadline was the 30th of September 2020. I hope I've clarified the status and timing of the preparation of this list and the purpose of including this item on the agenda today.

45:50

We are aware that a large number of people have indicated they wish to speak on this item however, we can perhaps short circuit a couple of topic areas.

45:59

We note that a number of parties including Suffolk County Council, East Suffolk council Environment Agency under marine management organisation suggested a development impact on coastal geomorphology should be considered the key issue in its own right. This is because it could

46:18



cover potential impacts on coastal processes for proposed Hard and Soft coastal sea defences. Together with the permanent beach Landing Facility, the coastal monitoring and mitigation plan and potentially the temporary beach London facility. As explained in the detailed agenda, the examining authority is minded to consider that whether or not the proposed changes to the application are accepted. This topic should be given focus as a principal issue in examination. Likewise, the examining authority understands there is a significant degree of overlap between topic areas where there is potential for community impacts. A number of interested parties have expressed concern that the initial assessment of principle issues has not fully covered all these areas of concern.

47:08

Whether they are a direct or indirect consequence of the proposed development, the examining authority is also minded to consider that the effect on the local community from the proposed development should be considered a principal issue. For that reason, we do not need to hear further from participants today on those matters. But instead, any further written submission shall be made by procedural deadline B, which will allow us to revisit the topic at part two of this meeting, should we consider that to be necessary.

47:40

I would also say at this point, we do not need to hear further today about the ordering of the agenda item with respect to agenda item five. Concerning the change request. This has already been addressed on the item agenda item two. We have a large number of requests from interested parties to speak on this agenda item, and I will invite them to participate. Before I do, I would like to reiterate that all the comments made on a participation form for today's meeting have been published in examination library. Additionally, we are aware of number of interested parties have expressed similar points on this agenda item. Therefore, in the interest of reducing possible unnecessary repetition further, please refrain from repeating the same points already made by others. One final point before hearing submissions we note from the public comments provided on the participation forms, that a number of respondents make points about the merit of the proposals. This meeting is for us to hear views on examination, how the examination is to be conducted, and not for expressing views on the merits of the submission. We will consider all sorts of views once the examination starts examining authority may have questions on your points, and the applicant will have a chance to respond at the end of his item to any of the points. Now I have a say a long list of people that want to talk on this item. I'm going to start running through the organization's and when I ask Could you please turn on your microphone and speak then please?

49:12

So to start with, I'll start with Suffolk County Council please.

49:23

Good afternoon, sir. My name is Michael Bedford Queen's counsel representing Suffolk County Council.

49:30

Thank you, sir. So just some short points because I know you've seen our written representation. Firstly, obviously we welcome your mind to decision that was just announced in relation to the coastal geomorphology and community impacts being separate points

49:46

in relation to the other matters that we've raised in that representation. So we do hope that the panel before it makes a decision on those other matters will particularly take note of the following

50:00

Firstly in relation to the area of outstanding natural beauty.

50:05

We would emphasise that it's not simply a question of considering a protected landscape, which is how it presently features in your list of principal issues. Because as we've made the point, it's a statutory designation, which is a wider concept than merely the issue of landscape. As noted in our procedural submission, we also will invite you to note that both of the host or authorities that's to say Suffolk County Council, and East Suffolk Council, who've made the same point about the AONB, they have statutory responsibilities for the AONB under Section 85. of the rights of way, countryside right way act 2000. And I say they both asked for it to be dealt with as a separate principal issue. So to his natural England, in its representation, which it also, although they're not present today, they've they've also indicated to in writing, and they also have their own statutory responsibilities. So that's in a sense, the, as it were, the framework position. But then so secondly, and this is another reason why we think it deserves to be dealt with as its own principal issue is the practicality terms of the breadth of the issue that you've so far identified as a principal issue, which is landscape effects, visual effects and design? That is a very large composite topic with lots of facets within it. And we think it will be unwieldy to try to, as it were, shoehorn all of the issues that are relevant to AONB into that as it were one topic, we think that is particularly so in the context of managing any issue specific hearings, but it will also be so in terms of dealing with written submissions. So So that's our main point. So in terms of our other points, obviously, you've got the detail of those set out in our written representation, which I'm not going to repeat, the only point perhaps I would like just to emphasise in terms of the issues on the

52:20

transport strategy is to bring particular emphasis to the importance of looking at deliverability as well as looking at accept durability or suitability of the proposed transport strategy, particularly with reference to freight matters. So deliverability is we think, an important matters that needs its own careful consideration within the issues of transport. Thank you. So those are our points. Thank you, Mr. Bedford.

52:53

So now can I move on to East Suffolk council please?

53:01

Thank you. So my name is Andrew Tait QC for Suffolk council as local planning authority and cost case Protection Authority.

53:09

As with Suffolk, we welcome the identification of community impacts coastal geomorphology, as principal issues in the read write.

53:21

The additional points we'd like to make are as follows First, in respect of the lamb,

53:29

we think it should have higher prominence than it has currently as subheading, four under landscape impact visual effects and design, which is present only including the settings of protected landscapes.

53:44

So we think that should,

53:47

as it were come up into the heading.

53:50

But we think it is important that it remains

53:55

to be considered in the context clearly of landscape impact and visual effects. So that's that first point. Secondly, in so far as recreational displacement is concerned, we don't suggest that should be a principal issue, but it should fall under one of the sub headings I appreciate. It's dynamic and very inclusive and not exhaustive.

54:22

But we do think that recreational displacement should come under one of the headings whether it's simulated recreation or HRA issues.

54:33

Thirdly,

54:36

we think under waste conventional and material resource, the issue of borrow pits should be

54:44

identified

54:47

doesn't appear it present in their visual and noise impacts in relation to that that will we think are important water supply potable and non potable water.

55:00

During construction, does the moment come under the heading of waste conventional material resource? And it's a question of emphasis. But we think that that should be given greater prominence than merely under that heading. And men indeed deserve identification as a principal issue. And we endorse what Mr. Bedford said for Suffolk about the deliverability issue under traffic and transport. And finally, under the socio economic heading, we think it will be useful to identify that that will include the important issue of skills enhance enhancement.

55:38

So those are the points we'd like to make stage.

55:43

Thank you, Mr. Tate.

55:45

We will take We'll consider those points.

55:48

So moving on to the marine management organisation.

55:55

Good afternoon, Mr. Williamson here talking on behalf of the marine management organisation. We just wanted to raise that we are contend that our comments on that agenda item have been adequately addressed in our written response. We reserve the right to speak here in case the panel had any questions for us at this stage. Thank you. Okay, thank you for that Miss Grimson.

56:16

Okay, well, moving on to the RSPB, please.

56:24

Thank you. Good afternoon, sir Rosie Sutherland on behalf of the RSPB

56:36

nothing frozen for me.

56:55

Perhaps Miss Southern would like to leave the meeting and rejoin okay.

57:02

And I will move on for the time being to the East of England ambulance NHS Trust.

57:27

Hello, hello.

57:29

Hello,

57:31

procedures. Yes, absolutely.

57:34

Thank you.

57:36

Good afternoon to the examining authority, applicant and interested parties. Thank you for the opportunity to address today's preliminary examination meeting. My name is Geeta Prasad and I'm the Deputy Director of Business and partnerships for East of England ambulance, NHS Trust, vied accident and emergency services and non emergency patient transport services across the East of England, including the geographical catchment associated with the proposed Sizewell C project. Known as East we submitted a section 56 relevant representation and responded to the applicant's proposed changes consultation in September and December 2020, respectively. Before I continue, I just wanted to double check that this address is not more relevant for

58:24

agenda item six as we were advised earlier, I just wanted to check that. That's okay. Mr. Humphrey, what was the topic he wanted to address? Just know.

58:34

We wanted to be able to talk about the deadlines and our requests for extensions for when we will submit our model and our impairments. Okay, well, it would be relevant later on, rather than this is about the principal issues before the examination.

58:53

Okay, well, I'm happy to continue it. Agenda item six, if that's what we realised earlier today. Okay, that would be fine.

59:05

Thank you.

59:06

I just pray I could just device that Rosie sutherlands rejoined. Okay. Thank you, Miss. Could I go back then to Rosie Sutherland of RSPB.

59:18

So I am so sorry. I think teams have been working perfectly for a year. But it has to happen, doesn't it? I just all I wanted to say thank you for inviting me back in was that I'm also here on behalf of Suffolk Wildlife Trust. But you'll be pleased to hear that I don't want to take up any time and we're very happy. Both organisations are happy to rely on our will sixth response and the points that we've made in that.

But as the lady from the MMO said, if there's any clarification questions, we'd be delighted to assist. Okay, thank you very much. Thank you so much. Okay, well, moving on. We now go to the Environment Agency, please.

1:00:00

Good afternoon. My name is Cameron Sked, and I'm representing the Environment Agency.

1:00:06

We've provided a written response. However, if I could just briefly summarise some of the issues we've identified, I think we recognise the interrelationship and an overlap of the issues that have been identified so far. However, we felt a number could benefit from further prominence in as identification. So, that includes flood risk modelling, which for some elements as the dominant have yet to be provided by the applicant.

1:00:45

Additionally, the WFD water Framework Directive impacts of the SSSI crossing

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would be another matter that, that we think is particularly important, potentially as there is the potential for the requirement of Article 4.7 derogation.

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In addition, we feel that the cooling water system as a whole would benefit from further prominence given the overlapping issues relating to marine ecology fisheries and again, water Framework Directive compliance. We will note that coastal processes have been accepted as a principal issue and, and welcome mat. And I suppose Finally, we would endorse the comments previously around sustainable water supply for both portable and non portable forces to be given further prominence within the issues being considered.

1:01:56

Great is that everything from that's everything from the information. Thank you. Thank you very much. Okay. At this point, we'll move on to I've got a list of parish councils and town councils I'd like to run through those start with and Westover Wickham Market parish council please.

1:02:22

Thank you again for letting me speak. I'll Sorry, I spoke slightly the wrong order before but I was a bit thrown. So just to carry on I talked about the concern we have that traffic through the village is properly examined at the inquiry. And I'm sure it will be I have confidence so it really leads into my next point about the location of the Southern Park and Ride site. This is why we're going to have a lot of additional traffic coming through Wickham Market and the surrounding villages so I speak on behalf of the parish Council and also Pettistree, Hacheston, Marlesford and Campsie Ashe, we request the southern Park and Ride site, including the suite of plans that are titled not for approval are fully considered at the examination in terms of the proposals and the likely impacts that they will have and how you will consider the details that are contained there in and assess those impacts. So such as the TIMA zone,

traffic Incident Management Area, lighting, buildings, structures, ancillary features security, fences, CCTV and buildings, small buildings, and how these will be continually controlled through the planning process. The drawings that have been submitted for approval are fairly limited in their content. We request that our own recommendations for the provision of a more effective and comprehensive scheme of landscape mitigation, and one which can be retained after the site use is removed, is fully considered at the examination, especially in the zone around the site access to the carpark and the beaten 78 b treble one six roundabout, we request Finally, that there is ample time given and I've taken note of the deadlines for the submission for

1:04:28

site visits which we would like you to carry out. So we request that time is given at the examination for looking at viewpoints which were not assessed by EDF, from public roads and rights away within the parish of Wickham market and our neighbouring parishes were views of the site will be significant. Most of these were not assessed.

1:04:52

So I think that concludes the points I want to make to elaborate on the topics at the examination. Thank you very much.

1:05:00

Thank you Ms Westover. Thank you very much.

1:05:03

So now we'll move to Richard Cooper please of Marlesford parish Council.

1:05:12

Thank you. So, Richard Cooper on behalf of Marlesford parish Council, but we have also, as Miss Westover referred to been working with neighbouring parishes, including Hacheston, Wickham Market., Pettistree, Campsie Ashe and Little Glemham.

1:05:32

In terms of cumulative impact, I know it's referred to as an API. I'm particularly concerned that whilst it may be thoroughly examined, in relation to major roads, I'm particularly concerned about cumulative impacts on minor roads,

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in terms of congestion running.

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And in this area, the potential use of bentwaters as a storage and distribution center for Sizewell C. And as with Westover referred to, we can market, the surrounding villages are going to be impacted by traffic,

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our use of the village by traffic, travelling to the southern park and ride and I consider that to be a cumulative impact issue. Also under cumulative impact, I'd want to make sure that air quality, noise and vibration are considered under this heading, as well as being picked up under their specific headings as you've laid out in the IAPIs.

1:06:55

I think the other issue that I want to just turn to is the issue of the two village bypass. Now I know that others in their written representations have requested a full day to be devoted to the two village bypass. It's an important issue for Marlesford and Little Glemham because as the proposals currently stand for EDF, they are likely to preclude future improvements to the A12. That would benefit Marlesford and Little Glemham and for that reason, we think significant attention needs to be given to the proposals as they've been put forward by the applicant.

1:07:41

Thank you, sir. Thank you very much, Mr. Cooper. Okay, so we'll move on now to Toby Taylor and Farnham with Stratford St. Andrew, parish Council.

1:07:55

Thank you very much. I'm the parish clerk for Farnham with Stratford, St. Andrew are parishes made up of two villages. And it's sort of adding to what Richard Cooper just said, the parish council feels very strongly that the proposed village bypass of Farnham and Stratford Andrew should be considered as an issue specific

1:08:19

item because of the importance of the proposition not just for our two villages, but for other surrounding villages. We don't feel that our suggestions or evidence for a change to the proposed route has been adequately considered or indeed evidenced or addressed by EDF and their proposed route is going to affect

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a lot of houses and residents in the village of Farnham, particularly the grade two listed buildings around Fireman Hall. And as I say, this is an important issue which is going to affect a lot of surrounding villages, so we feel it should be properly considered.

1:09:10

Thank you, Miss Taylor.

1:09:13

Okay, moving on now to Councillor Bill Parker. Sanborn parish Council.

1:09:22

Good afternoon. Thank you.

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We welcome the community impact has been identified as a overarching

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area to be looked at. Certainly there are multiple issues that the parish will be concerned about. And so I think that that's very helpful and we'll want to pick up on that. And we will actively input as a parish, although we're not principally in the front line as many others are. We do feel that the individuals and people from the parish web, they will be impacted by this proposal. Just on one small note, is that our submission on

1:10:00

Rule six

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we can't see on the website. It doesn't seem to appear under procedural deadlines. A

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I'm sure that there's a perfectly adequate explanation for that, but I'm not sure where it is and therefore, there are others I know who are in the same position. So in fact could be locked out or not be useful, but we welcome looking at this by community impact overarching rather than being on an individual Pacific. Thank you, Councillor Parker, and I'm sure the case team will have a look at where that submissions gone. Thank you very much. Okay, can we now move to Stephen Brett, please? Saboten Eastbridge parish Council.

1:10:50

Thank you sir. I'm having trouble with my camera but I hope you can hear me. I can't hear you. There is no specific mention of the impact of the hard and soft coastal defence temporary and permanent and beach Landing Facility we need to we need to discuss the zone of impact of those facilities.

1:11:09

Okay.

1:11:12

Not only wanted to say Mr. Bro.

1:11:21

That's okay. Thank you very much.

1:11:26

Okay, can we move on to Josie bassinet to Walberswick parish council brought my pregnancy I had very you got it all correct. Thank you very much.

1:11:39

Just to say first of all, thank you for the initial comments, because those were raised by our parish council along with others. So thank you for acknowledging those already. I would just like to align

myself with the other speakers who mentioned that cumulative impacts, including roads and communities, which are not highlighted by EDF, but will be impacted. And these were many of the things that had been raised over the years and years of consultation but did not get picked up by EDF in their dcl. And I'm not sure whether this is a correct statement to be making.

1:12:23

But what I think we're all particularly concerned about and this is sort of related to the cumulative impacts, is actually the timing of the proposed mitigation measures by EDF and I don't know how the planning Inspectorate looks at those and then how they would be implemented. But it's of specific notice that EDF is saying they will do no mitigation prior to beginning operations and prior to beginning construction. And that's obviously extremely worrying. And I would hope that the planning Inspectorate would look at that, because once it begins, if they then decide that, well, they're just not going to do the mitigation, it would seem highly unlikely that a project of the size would be stopped.

1:13:18

And we're all looking at these cumulative impacts. We're looking at these park and rides and things. And yet, EDF is saying itself in its DC O it's going to do none of these before it starts work. And I want to really highlight that up for the planning Inspectorate and to understand how that fits in and how that would be viewed by the planning Inspectorate and looking at the dcl thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. Thank you very much Miss Bassinet. Okay, can we now move to counsellor Marion Fellowes please of Aldeburgh Town Council.

1:14:05

Good afternoon Mr. Humphrey. Ladies and gentlemen.

1:14:09

Thank you very much, counsellor, Marion fellows representing over town council.

1:14:15

There are many others are going to go into other details, but I'll just highlight the ones I think have been picked up by other people. But we'll reserve right to return at the end if there's something else missed. Thank you. So we would like the following to be included as separate principle issues.

1:14:34

The first is operational issues. And secondly, decommissioning issues. It so this examining authority should not just examine the consequences of construction. And in fact, even one 4.2 point three says that it should include pre construction, construction, operational and decommissioning. And this precedent from the examination with her

1:15:00

Rise and sack Gloucestershire Council, that the decommissioning timeframe should be at least 160 years. Bearing in mind to that size we'll see spent fuel is probably the last that will be destined to a deep geological facility should one be approved and constructed in the UK.

1:15:24

I think also, we would need a separate time and a separate issue completely for mitigation and compensation discussions to ensure that there is local benefits and local mitigation and how this might be managed, for example, who will be the holder of those funds, how those funds be applied for and delivered, and the timelines as Councillor bass net mentioned, there's a lot of examples already with Hinkley Point C, where some of the mitigation did not get delivered before an impact. So mitigation shouldn't just be following an impact it should be in place prior to that particular piece of construction starting that causes the impact.

1:16:13

Another topic should be interaction with size or a and size will be

1:16:19

issues particularly around emergency planning, and use of shared infrastructure such as sewerage size or a potential land use.

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Under

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Marine,

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I think you've got it under marine ecology. I'd like we'd like our town council as a fishing industry town would like the impact on the fishing industry, and recreational use of the beach and the sea. And the impact on marine life to be firmed up, it needs to be slightly more robust, we think under the title of marine ecology.

1:17:00

Another area that we think is not sufficiently identified, and landscaping is land use in its own right. And as a benefit, the benefit of green space to mental health and well being and our lives today. So you look at the impact visually of the landscape. But what about the impact to artists to musicians to everyday life and to people's health and well being. So I think especially recently, and the government has targets around the maintain maintenance of green space, and specifically buffer zones around the site.

1:17:39

We've had recent experience of a wood being removed, which was previous mitigation for the size will be spent fuel store. And that's been reviewed, remove now post construction, post consent post construction. Now we've lost it, but it was there originally. So it's about how we mitigate and ensure that there is green buffer for the environments and communities around it.

1:18:05

Under policy and need. I think there should be adequate time to discuss the changing political environment, the base review and emerging nuclear debate and no one is terribly out of date. Now as you know, the government is planning to review policy going forward.

1:18:28

And one 4.42 applicants are obliged to include in their environmental statement, information about main alternatives they've studied and the main reasons for the applicants choice taking account of environment social economic effects, and where relevant technical and commercial feasibility. So, we think under policy and need, there should be a much wider discussion around citing since in one where there may be new alternative sites emerging in the UK.

1:19:05

Another particular topic needs to be hydrogen production, because we understand that there may be plans to include as part of size will see the hydrogen production plant. So both the principal and the practicalities of how that will be delivered, constructed, maintained and safety would be insured.

1:19:29

Under Radiological Protection, you do mention IO W and spent fuel but we believe it should be all waste streams. And it should also include all admissions including steam venting and total residue oxidant and hydrazine.

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And also the impact communitive impact of radiation from what will be an existing generating station size will be and then size. We'll see

1:20:00

To the local area

1:20:03

you had mentioned from Suffolk Constabulary around the impact on Community Safety earlier, it is about the changes to the local population both during construction and then during operation, the impact on anti social behaviour. But also specifically we would like included the phenomenon which is boom and bust. So during periods of construction or following initial periods of construction, there may be boom or benefit for a local area. But then how do we actually compensate for and plan for the bust that occurred following the building size we're seeing and is currently being experienced by neighbouring areas.

1:20:48

I think you've heard already about soft and hard defences coastal defences and coastal demography. But over town council would like a specific principal issue, hearing around the beach Landing Facility. Because this is one of our main concerns in how that may impact the coastal processes for over.

1:21:12

I'll be guided by you. But I think also there may be something around international and EU since we left the EU now in terms of the legal framework, the financing model, the fact that EDF energy is a French company, and there's potential co working with Chinese government and how that all interacts together.

1:21:36

And then our final point is around community of impact. It should also include displacement that's caused by both the size of the project and other projects occurring if they do so overlapping timeline, for example, n one, North n two and other projects that have already been offered connection agreements at the 400 kV lines in the same area size and say thank you. So thank you very much, fellows for all those points.

1:22:08

And now would be a suitable time, I think, for us to take lunch. So

1:22:15

people should leave that link, meeting link open. And the case team will be around for five minutes if anyone has any questions. But what I would say after lunch, what we will cover I've got a few more organisations to go through then I'll do a hands up of people want to make additional points, including a period where

1:22:36

there'll be a chance for people who don't have the hands up facility to join the meeting and say what they want to say. So with that, at the time is now

1:22:47

just after one o'clock. So a personal is we adjourn for lunch till two o'clock. Thank you very much