

TEXT_PRELIM1_Part2_SizeC_Session3_140 42021

Wed, 4/14 3:02PM • 38:38

00:04

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. It's now two o'clock, as I am resuming

00:11

the part two preliminary meeting.

00:16

I'm going to hand over to Mr. Moreland in just a few seconds.

00:22

The applicant. So Mr. Philips and Mr. Rhodes, I said I would

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just write down what my understanding is of what your offer is on the

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soft core, soft core, soft coastal defence feature and the hard coastal defence feature. My understanding of what you're proposing is that in April,

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we will, will you also be receiving and sharing with stakeholders, one dimensional modelling of the of the soft personal defence feature, and also engineering design and some notes in relation to that for the hard coastal defence feature. And you will propose to submit these to the examination if they're relevant if we're if we're in that scenario, at the next available deadline. And then in On June, the 20th, you're expecting to receive operational modelling for the soft coastal defence feature. And you would submit that also at the next available deadline. So it's pretty straightforward, and I correctly understood what you're proposing.

01:45

So, yes, I think the only

01:49

subtle subtlety is in terms of the submission to what have been described as the stakeholders, those who with whom were directly engaged on these matters. And then submission to the examination, I think that the idea is that we will seek to get agreement if we can, in relation to those and as I think Mr.

grades, put any topping and tailing and then put it into the examination. Hopefully, that will allow for it to be the next available deadline. But I think we just have to see exactly when that is. But your overall summary of that position is right. So that the small caveat.

02:29

Thank you, and then give me just ask you this in June the 20th, for your operational modelling of the soft defences, that is just three days after what is currently deadline three on the 17th of June. So you wouldn't be able to hit that.

02:54

The

02:56

next deadline is Friday, the 23rd July, which is quite a long way past that June date.

03:09

Just to float an idea which I haven't had the opportunity of discussing with my fellow examining inspectors, but just to float an idea, would it help if we set another deadline between those two dates,

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so that you can submit the operational modelling at that point.

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So I the indications are getting is yes, that would be would be helpful, clear clearly that there'll be a need, as I indicated in relation to the other matters, to build in a reasonable opportunity to have a bit of backwards and forwards with the interested parties with whom we're discussing those matters actively, but subject to allowing time for that. I think that would be helpful. Okay.

03:57

And you'll have heard them, I think it's just for me to draw your attention. You've heard what the Environment Agency have been saying about that sort of information which they feel is necessary. At the moment, that's something for the two of you to discuss and to work out work out. You also have heard Mr. Saunders, and the points for teammates, which is that as a, an interested party with some expertise, I don't know how young or old his expertise is, but assignments and I'm not.

04:27

I hope you don't mind me saying that. But, you know, other interested parties and say, Well, why can't we see it as well? And maybe that goes to your question of how long you take before it before it actually goes into the examination. And the other is how wide it is appropriate to throw the net but I just remind you that those things have been said by other people. there we've got a note of that, and we'll give consideration to how far it should be distributed before it goes to the examination. Very good. Thank you. I see too.

05:00

Hands up on this.

05:03

A little bit surprised, but it's we've talked quite a lot about it. But let me take Miss Downes, your hand I sink went up early.

05:12

Yes, thank you Mr. Brock. I just to reiterate, there are many interested parties who are really anxious to see this information, including people who spent many hundreds of hours scrutinising EDF's documentation provided, including under Freedom of Information requests on coastal processes. So not only would I urge the applicant to share this information, at the earliest opportunity, but also for the examining authority to ensure that there's sufficient time and be between that information being shared and any issue specific hearing on coastal processes for full scrutiny of that, because obviously, we're not going to have this information by deadline and to for written representations.

05:54

Thank you. Thank you. That's helpful. Mr. Scott, your hand has also been up for a short while.

06:01

Yes, thank you. Just to ask you. I've got another timetable question, which hangs over from the previous session about Reese timetabling. And I just want to know whether you go to take that we've got your submission in relation to that. Mr. Mr. Scott, and it will be taken into account in the decision, the rule eight letter which comes out in what very shortly. Right. And could I just add the comment that part of the reason I'm interested or other people be interested is that there is any rupee issue, which is already on the agenda. And it strikes me that that is so strategic, that there is a question about, you know, when that would be timetabled and obviously that would be a major component of the of the research report.

06:56

Which is open to consultation. So yes, I'm, I'm curious about the timetabling interconnection of those two issues. Thank you. Thank you very much to Scott and Councillor fellows. I see your hand is up.

07:15

Good afternoon, Mr. Brock. Ladies and gentlemen, counsellor Marion fellows on behalf of Oba Town Council.

07:23

I would I would endorse what Miss Downes has said that this should be in the public domain, not just between certain interested parties, it should be completely in the public domain on the pins website to allow independent review, but also to build trust and confidence of all parties in the process. Secondly, I'd like to remind us all that there's also a consequence, that should the modelling prove not viable, or without adverse effect on coastal processes, then it means it changes the transport mix. So the applicant has said the whole reason they're doing the beach landing facility for example, is to change the transport mix to 60% land and 40% rail and see now if rail and sea are not viable through the

modelling that occurs once the examination process has started, then we have to go back and change again, all the transport issues that are related to volume of traffic and a number of HGVs to bring certain materials that might otherwise come by sea. So that was my point, really. And thank you very much for your careful consideration. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you for your kind words.

08:48

Very good. I am not going to hand over to Mr. Moreland, who is going to deal with other aspects of the timetable.

09:02

Good afternoon, everyone. But I have noticed that Mr. Wilson has his hand up. Can I just clarify this to us? And is it a point that you wish to make on the elements that have just been discussed? Yes, it was just a quick point. If that's okay, it's just on the timetabling because obviously if the modelling sorry the modelling will come in way after the written reps have to go in. So how much how much time would be allowed once that modelling is come in, and all the further information comes in? So as far as a timetable goes, how long will we have to actually respond to that? Because obviously we're getting way into the possible examination period. And, and it was just a question of timetabling really.

09:50

Okay, thank you. We'll have to consider that to make sure it fits together. Mr. Brock, are you wanting to say something further? Yes, sir.

10:00

He said, Well, I was gonna say, Okay. All right, well, I'll move on to the next topic, Mr. Wilson, you can switch your camera off and cue.

10:15

Okay, I'm just now going on to the topic of hearings. Currently, as drafted, the timetable has dates for open floor hearings, from the 19th. To the 21st of May, on further dates, If required, provisionally for the 24th to the 27th of August, and the 14th to the 17th of September.

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We've also made suggestion that we would consider holding evening sessions if that would be helpful. I know to date that no one has requested that, but

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that's obviously still a possibility. And also aware that a number of interested parties have expressed concern that there does not appear to be sufficient time to allow all parties the opportunity to speak. And we are mindful of the importance of this.

11:08

Issue specific hearings currently scheduled for the sixth to the ninth of July, the 13th to the 16th of July, with draft reserve date for the 24th to the 27th of August and the 14th to the 17th of September.

11:23

The applicant has requested that the issue specific hearing on coastal processes not take place before on the date the 24th to the 27th of August, I think because of the consultants availability, and environmental agency natural England and a Suffolk Council have asked for a delay for this topic to be covered later in the examination. Now just ask whether the environmental agency and marine management organisation have any comments to make at this stage on those points.

12:01

That comes to the Environment Agency first.

12:05

Good afternoon again. So it's sort of borrow from the Environment Agency side we'll see project manager

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No, not really. I mean, the obvious target probably for issue specific hearing on coastal processes would be that latter date period between the 14th and 17th. September because that is probably the earliest we will have had any opportunity to have concluded review of this this information that is to be submitted in June. And the totality of that which has been presented in in combination through these next few steps. So yeah, I mean, we asked for it to be pushed towards the end of the examination that would appear to be a timescale that would support it.

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Okay, thank you, and the marine management organisation.

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Mr. Williamson for the marine management organisation here, we too would endorse having the coastal geomorphology meetings or hearings later on in the examination timetable,

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endorsing what Simon Barlow said

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Okay, thank you. And if I now can come to Mr. Tate,

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East Suffolk Council

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like at Suffolk cancel your so the Council also suggested that coastal processes should be dealt with at the towards the end of the examination period. And However, if it is only dealt with at that point, it may be too late to deal with any outstanding issues. So one match we would ask you to consider is whether there would be benefit in having a

13:47

hearing on this matter. At the earlier session, understand the applicants expert can't be available in August, so in July, so that some of the main issues can be ventilated at that point, before coming to deal with it finally, in September.

14:08

So that's our concern as to whether or not by leaving it to the very end. There won't be time to pick up any problems or issues that that arise.

14:19

Okay, thank you.

14:21

Mr. Barlow, you've raised your hand if you've got something to come back on. Only that I would endorse that is a very sensible and precautionary approach. There will probably be some, some initial viewpoints that we can share on the initial

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one day modelling that has been provided and are emerging positions. And that could very helpfully potentially shaped the further work that might be necessary to support a final issue specific hearing further down the road. So actually, that there is some logic to that as long as we've had adequate time to prepare useful

15:00

contributions to that period.

15:02

Right. Thank you.

15:09

Note, Alison Downes' hand is raised.

15:15

Good afternoon. Mr. Maund. I'm just referring back to my previous comment if we don't receive this information until after the 20th of June deadline and as an issue specific hearing in July, it will seriously disadvantage any participation by unimportant interested parties. In such a such a discussion. I with the greatest respect to other organisations who I understand, obviously hold the expertise in this, but it should not prevent other interested parties from full and active participation in these discussions. And I think it will,

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you know, it will prejudice our ability to take part in any subsequent discussion later on in the examination. So I do understand the logic, I'm deeply concerned that we will be disadvantaged from

participating in a meaningful way. And I would urge you to consider perhaps extending the examination or delaying the start of the examination, or indeed making it possible to hold subsequent discussions far enough down the line so that everybody is able to take part on a level playing field as far as that is possible.

16:27

Thank you.

16:30

Just before I move on to see if there's anyone else with a raised hand.

16:37

Mr. Bedford,

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on behalf of Suffolk County.

16:45

Thank you. So Michael Bedford, Suffolk County Council. So as you know, we defer to East Suffolk Council on coastal process matters, because they are the relevant authority with the expertise. But just to draw to your attention, I know you won't have overlooked it. But we have at item six, then little Roman six and little Roman seven of our procedural deadline be submission

17:14

made the same point about the benefits of having as it were an early rehearsal of the coastal process matters at the July issue specific hearings, even noting that there is clearly going to be a need for those topics to be revisited. And the reason why I simply stress those points is because it echoes the point, I think raised by Councillor fallows a moment ago, that there is obviously a knock on consequences for the wider transportation issues, which we will be expecting to deal with those earlier issues specific hearings, if it became the case, the beach Landing Facility, and therefore the amount of freight that could be delivered by sea were to be materially different to the position that depending obviously, again on the permutations as to what you decide about the changes, etc., etc. But so just to echo that point, that there is a benefit in having an early canter, as it were the issue as well as a more detailed scrutiny in due course. Yeah, thank you.

18:29

Rosie Sutherland.

18:37

Thank you, sir. It was just a short point to flag your concern. I'm afraid at the moment, I haven't necessarily thought of a suitable solution to put forward.

18:49

Again, just going back to the information that is going to be provided by the applicant in in April and I think June or July, to do with the coastal defences, there, there could be implications depending on what the information says to do with some of the ecological concerns. So it's particularly important in relation to the SEC, but also the site of special sites and scientific interest.

19:15

And forgive me for not remembering which council it was, but I think one of the council's has recommended that the natural environment and ecological concerns is dealt with in that July issue specific hearing to for now please Could I just flag that more may need to be considered once that that coastal defences information has come in and any further implications identified? Thank you, sir.

19:43

Thank you.

19:46

Now there's no further hands raised at this point. So I'll just move on. And

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do you want to hear from me, but I shall do. I was going to move on to some other points but I'm quite happy.

20:00

Good to hear from you now. That's fine. All I would say, sir, if it's if it's helpful and timely is that we can see the sense in having an early consideration of the issues in relation to coastal defences, as well, as an issue specific hearing later in the examination. We think that there is indeed a logic to that. And we think that that would be helpful. So if it if it assists you to know that we endorse that suggestion, then I wish to make that clear. Thank you. That's helpful.

20:37

Okay, I'll move on then. Suffolk Constabulary have also indicated that they would not wish the issue specific hearings on social economics and community safety to be held during August because of constraints on their available time. I hadn't intended to ask a question about that off them. But just to make everyone aware that that was a request that they've made. Equally, the marine management organisation have asked us to consider putting marine matters to be dealt with together to assist them.

21:15

Now, at this point, would just like to hear from any other parties as to whether they have any additional points or questions regards to the timing and arrangements for the issues specific hearings. So I'll open that to the floor.

21:32

I'll start with the council's if I may, if I come to

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the Suffolk council first.

21:42

Like I said, No, Andrew tepui Suffolk, so nothing additional from us. You will see in that the back of our deadline be submission, we have made a number of suggestions as to issues specific hearings, and they are identical to those made by Suffolk County Council yet twice. But I think that should be self explanatory. It's nothing to add.

22:07

It is may ask at this point. I think that you and I hope I haven't I'm not confusing the council's but the suggested potentially additional further reserved dates for issue specific hearings. If I understood that correctly,

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we guess if it's felt that our list is

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of a length that doesn't necessarily fit into time scope you allotted then that would flow from that. So yes, that's correct. And did you have in mind any particular dates for those and how they might be fitted within to the timetable? No, sir. I think the only suggestion was that they would potentially appear earlier in the timetable rather than later in the timetable. But beyond that, we haven't got any specific dates to mention. Okay. And I take it that well, I'll ask the county them as well.

23:14

So if I can go to this so that county councillors, I assume that your view is similar as you're working together. And

23:22

so Michael Bedford Suffolk County Council, yes, indeed. And as you've seen, we've got the same effectually appendix to our procedural deadline be submission with the same points being made. And you will also see that in terms of timetabling that we've given indications there as to where certain things could be dealt with earlier or later, in the light of various matters as they're set out. We have also, as you will have seen, there's been a dialogue between the two councils about the AONB issue. And obviously, it's clearly subject to your overall decision. But we have essentially jointly suggested to you a way of incense satisfying both counsels concerns about that topic, which is again, a bit of a as it were, deal with it

24:20

at one stage, but then also deal with it at a later stage to ensure that all elements are picked up. So just sort of remind you of that aspect. And then the only other point, I say, we haven't descended to the detail of offering us specific dates. But it is a point that was raised at the part one preliminary meeting both orally and indeed in some of the representations made to deadline a where we certainly stressed that there may be a need for further issue specific hearings. But we also put forward the plea that for practical

25:00

logistic goal, personnel management reasons we were quite keen to ensure that there are at least some periods in your timetable, when parties can be free to know that they could be as it were taking annual leave, which is even more perhaps important this year than in other years. And we wouldn't want as it were to see between the devil and the deep blue sea, as it was the desire for extra issues, Pacific hearings, to adversely impact on that that separate plea for as a what we think is understandable, personnel management reasons. So that's the only additional points that we would make. Obviously, it's a difficult exercise for you to juggle those competing considerations. And we empathise with that. No, no, it's understood. Thank you for that.

25:52

Are there any other interested parties who would wish to make any additional comments that haven't already been made? Mr. Barlow, again, from the Environment Agency?

26:06

So yes, on bolo, environmental agency, yeah, just to draw your attention, excuse me to our contribution we made to pursue a deadline, a squeeze interesting screen was broken.

26:18

whereby we set out in our view, those areas where there were some principle issues that could potentially benefit by an issue specific hearing, to more properly draw out the issues that we need to do contribute evidence to you on and we particularly mentioned those areas on which there were still significant work to go which in their own right would potentially bring them to a material level for issue specific hearing purposes. And those words, we've already rehearsed, great, great job de coastal processes. But we've also obviously relate referred to previously towards supply. There are some steps substantial issues on marine ecology still to be discussed, and there are some latent issues on flood risk, we would, we would, then we think we would benefit from there being an opportunity to contribute to this issue specific hearing terms, but also, that we should try and pull together all the relevant issues that are appropriate to those discussions into the one issue specific hearing so as to focus our time and attention on those.

27:22

Okay, thank you very much.

27:26

Mr. Bauer's hand was the last one to raise. So no, Alison Downes.

27:36

Thank you, Mr. mourned. And I've heard a number of interested parties, you know, say that the August dates are giving them some difficulties. And I mean, an organisation like mine, as you will have heard this morning is representing significant numbers of people. And, you know, I'm just wondering, in terms of the sort of level playing field, to what extent

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our own, or the commitments of individuals taking part in this process, and are able to influence your decision about whether or not to hold issue specific hearings during August. And so, you know, again, it sort of speaks to the timetable of the examination as a whole, the difficulties of holding it over the summer, as counsel for the council has said, you know, holidays are going to be more important this year than ever before. So I would again, just reiterate that this is further argument for delaying the start of the examination, and potentially extending the period of the examination to allow people the opportunity to participate fully throughout.

28:40

Thank you. Okay.

28:43

Okay, well, if there's no further parties are just fine to come back to the applicant to see if there's any further comments you'd wish to raise or make that Thank you. So we're very much alive to the fact that this is an issue for you and your colleagues as to how many issues specifically hearings you want, and the topics they should cover and don't seek to influence you on that happy for you to take a view. The only point we've identified about when they should be held and the subject matter is the one dealt with in in writing, which you've alluded to. So there's nothing arising from what's been said I need to respond to so thank you very much.

29:25

Okay, so

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now come to

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hand over to my colleague, Mrs. Cassini to deal with the

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Sorry, I'm jumping ahead. I just thought to make one further point regarding the potential for compulsory acquisition hearings. They're scheduled for the 17th to the 28th of August at the moment.

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We haven't received any direct comment with regard to those. So assuming that that's still

30:00

case, just see if anyone has any specific points that would wish to make about the compulsory acquisition hearings.

30:11

counsellor Fellowes

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Thank You, Lord. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, Councillor Moran fellows on behalf of over town council.

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I'm often asked to include a bit of a wider picture response to because many other parish and town councils have been able to engage at this point.

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I would say that if we're talking about compulsory acquisition hearings and agreeing those days, that's quite strange, again, when there may be more interested parties and more people subject to compulsory acquisition if the changes are included.

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So again, not knowing when precisely you'll make your decision on that.

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It may be that they need additional dates. And also, this also applies to open floor hearings. And again, as I've said, issue specific hearings, because we haven't agreed the changes. We don't know if these may need to be altered. Thank you.

31:11

That's understood. Thank you.

31:19

Okay, so I think I can now move on to my colleague, Mrs. Cassini, who's going to deal with the subject of site visits, site inspections. Thank you.

31:39

Thank you.

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As we discussed in preliminary meeting, part one, where access to private land is required or the examining authority require interested parties to be present to guide them, or to point out certain features and accompany to site visit will be arranged.

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for practical reasons, including the current COVID-19 restrictions, number of attendees may be limited and ultimately, numbers in attendance are at the discretion of the examining authority. With this in mind, because I asked if interested parties could give thought to the nomination of a possible representative, or representatives who will be best served to attend. If you could provide these details by deadline once which is the 12th of May, in a draft timetable as it currently stands, we would be grateful. It's also important stress at this point that attendance on site is also dependent on landowners granting access.

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The conduct and timings of site inspections are also at the discretion of the examining authority. Unlike hearings, verbal communication between the examining authority, and the interested parties at the site inspection is strictly limited to matters of fact that she's interfering, we're in the right location on a site. We may also ask parties to point out features of the site. For purposes of factual clarification only. search site visits are not an opportunity for anyone to approach the examining authority and discuss the proposed development or its merits. The applicants direct itinerary for the company's site inspections was submitted a procedural deadline B and is available on the project website to view. several additional suggested locations for the company site visit have also been submitted at procedural deadline bait, which we have noted and these are also on the project website.

33:34

Comments on the applicants draft itinerary in the submission of any further suggested locations for site inspections with justification as required by deadline one. If interested parties wish to submit suggested locations. Please include information such as a plan or a photograph if you think this will be useful.

33:54

in respect of the request to visit Hinkley Point C we would like the applicant to arrange this if possible. We do acknowledge that due to current COVID restrictions such a visit may not take place until later in the examination. As with other companies site inspections if it is possible to arrange a visit to Hinkley, this will not be an opportunity to discuss the proposed development or its merits.

34:20

Please can I ask that the applicant give thought to the logistics of such a visit specifically the need to ensure that representatives as interested parties are also able to attend. Could I therefore request that the applicant liaises with the host authorities, parish and town councils and together against Sizewell C, and stop size I'll say in respect of any representatives that such a visit and provide an update by deadline one.

34:47

At this point, I'd like to hear from parties as to whether they have any additional points regarding arrangements for site inspections. I'll start with the council's and other interested parties before

35:00

Asking the applicant to respond please

35:06

leave either the cancels have anything they wish to add

35:12

or take for a subject. No, we've got nothing to add at this stage. Thank you very much.

35:17

Thank you.

35:19

I can say the same madam Michael Bedford, Suffolk County Council, nothing too bad. Thank you very much. I don't see any other hands up, out. Sorry. I do. Alison downs.

35:32

Sorry, I was waiting for the council's to say their piece. And just to say that, it's good to hear that you want to go to Hinkley Point and in a deadline, one will make suggestions for local people who could show you other aspects of the impact of the development down there. And if it's appropriate, you know, a representative from this area, I'm sure would be available to accompany you as well. Thank you very much.

36:01

Mr. Collins, your hand is up as well.

36:05

Yeah, just a piece of clarification, if you can, and I did note that the applicant has put in a draft itinerary and schedule of places that you should visit, is it down to us to suggest people who should accompany those visits? I wasn't clear on the fact that whether accompaniment was possible, where it was public land, as opposed to private land. So if you can just clarify that I'd appreciate it. I will clarify. It will clarify that for you, Mr. Collins.

36:38

Thank you.

36:40

Is that anybody else? With their hand up? I don't see anything. Is the does the applicants have anything they wish to add at this point?

36:50

No, but I'm just to say that we've taken a note of what you'd like in relation to Hinkley Point C will seek to liaise with those parties. And come back to line one as requested. Thank you, Mr. Bell.

37:05

I will know my hands are up. So I will now hand back to miss MCI.

37:17

Already outstanding points that have not yet been covered that anyone wishes to raise and return to right and 10 that is the examining authorities consideration of the procedural deadline be submissions. If there are if you could put your hand up now.

37:43

I've got no response to that. So in that case, we'll move on to the next agenda item which is agenda item 11 any procedure or decisions taken by the examining authority. So before we do so, we will take

a break to enable us to deliberate on our procedural decision in relation to the written and oral submissions that have been made at the preliminary meeting, seeking the deferral of the start of the examination will also provide updates in relation to the initial assessment of principal issues and statements of common ground. So we'll adjourn now for half an hour. And that will be until 10 past three