

OFH 3 SESSION 2 Planning Inspectorate - East Anglia

Fri, 10/9 7:32AM • 1:49:57

00:05

Good, good. And welcome back to today's open floor hearings, three, for East Anglia One North and east Anglia TWO offshore wind farms in the second session. My name is Rynd Smith and whilst my colleague Mrs. Caroline Jones is chairing today's session, I'm leading chairing today's hearing. I'll be leading this particular session. Before we start to hear oral submissions in session two, I will deal with a few preliminary matters. Can I first check with the case team that you can hear me and the recordings and the live streams have now started

00:41

over and I can confirm the last year has started and I've started the recording as well and I can guarantee you perfectly fine.

00:49

Thank you very much.

01:05

Good afternoon, everybody. JOHN Hockley here, I can just see that Mr. Smith is frozen on our screen, so I should just be carrying on for a second. If I could just move on to the introductions, starting with Mrs. Caroline Jones, please.

01:21

Good afternoon everyone. My name is Caroline Jones, panel member.

01:27

Thank you Mrs. Jones. And as I just said, my name is John Hockley. panel member. Thank you.

01:33

Good morning, everybody. My name is Jessica Powis. I'm also a member of the panel and will be mainly observing and taking notes this morning. This afternoon.

01:43

Good morning, everybody. My name is Guy Rigby. I'm the fifth member of the panels for these applications. And I too will be observing and taking notes. Thank you.

01:55

Thank you, Mr. Rigby. I can see Mr. Smith back now see if I can hand back over to you Mr. Smith.

02:01

Thank you very much Mr. Hockley. And thank you for seamlessly stepping in when, as occasionally happens, the internet does do not favor us and we find ourselves locked out. And I will say that if that happens, everything is recorded. And so any member of the examining authority who loses connection for a brief time will be able to catch up now, and you were advised in the agenda that that we are being live streamed and recorded this afternoon the recordings are retained and published. And from a public record that can contain your personal information, and to which the general data protection regulation applies. Does anybody here have any questions about the terms on which our digital recordings are made? If I can just check to see if there are any hands being raised either in real terms or using a raise hand icon.

02:54

So having one little time just to check again, I will then move on. And on the basis that all of those matters are understood. Can I then turn to the applicants representative here today? Mr. Ennis, can I just check that you're with us?

03:13

Yes, sir. I'm here, column,

03:17

one representing both the applicants at this overflow hearing. And I'm accompanied by the same team, as I outlined earlier today as well. Thank you. Thank you very much. And again, so that everybody else in this virtual room is now aware. I will remind Mr. Ennis, that the main purpose of this hearing is to hear from interested parties. And so the applicants representatives are here to listen in the main. But before I close this session, I will give Mr. Ennis, a very brief opportunity to make responding remarks and matters that he considers must be drawn to their attention. But I will ask him to please confine these remarks to five minutes. And the applicants detailed responses if they need to draw our attention to anything more substantial than that can be provided in writing that deadline one to the other speakers here. If you disagree with anything that the applicant says in its response, then again, you will need to draw that to our attention in writing by deadline one, please. And that is the second of November 2020.

04:17

Now, open floor hearings are an opportunity for individuals and community groups to speak directly to the examining authority. They're not about a particular location or topic. And we do not set an agenda that defines the subject matter. All we ask you to do is to speak on matters that are important and relevant.

04:38

Now, we're conscious that not everybody who requested to be heard at these early open floor hearings in October has as yet been able to be accommodated in agendas from Wednesday or Thursday or indeed speaking today. And to assist in this situation. We confirmed that the preliminary meetings that we held the beginning of the week that we will hold firm

05:00

They're open floor hearings at the beginning of November. For all of those people who had already requested to be heard, and and had originally anticipated being heard in October. There will also be further open floor hearings held after Christmas in January. And it is still possible to request to be heard at those deadline one if you're a person who has not already requested to be heard.

05:27

So now, this afternoon session, I see in terms of the information that's been provided to me by the case team this afternoon that we do have everybody who was originally listed to speak on the agenda here with us so I have on the list Henrietta Parma, Anita Parkinson, Russell Ranger Dennis Robertson, Mary shipment, Andrea Smith, David Steen, piers and Sally storage, Alan Thomas, John Walker, and Chris will.

05:56

Now I will just flag that we have offered the possibility of a speaking slot at the end of the agenda items for a Mr. Alan cardi who had technical issues meanings he was unable to speak in an earlier hearing. If Mr. cardia is able to join us, I will add him to the end of this session his business, I intend to take the speakers in that order. And you'll have seen the speaking time guidance in the agenda. And so hopefully, you know, when you're going to speak and for how long

06:26

I would ask you not to leave this session until you've had your speaking term. As if you do leave without a good reason, then we won't be able to include you in a later session principally because there are no later sessions. This is the last open raw hearing to be held this week. And the reserve session that we have in the timetable is only there for an adjournment should this particular event fall over as a result of some unforeseen technical failure.

06:53

Once you've spoken, you can leave if you wish, but you're welcome to remain until the end of the session to hear any response from the applicants.

07:02

I will need to be strict in terms of timings this afternoon due to the number of speakers that we have to ensure that everybody has their full and fair opportunity to speak. So please don't be offended if I have to ask you to stop talking at the end of your allotted time. And if there is still material that you wish to cover at that point, then please make sure that that is submitted in writing in time for deadline one.

07:28

I will let you know briefly how the examining authority will manage this. And that is to say that, and we do not intend to interrupt anybody in their in their presentations to us today. And if you speak and you continue to speak on relevant matters, and you meet your time deadline, and we will not interrupt you at all. What we will do merely is to remind you of the expiry of your time at the end. And then if any of us have any questions that we wish to raise, we will raise those of you at the end of your piece. And that

holds good not just for the examining authority, but for all of the others here present. And just as you would not wish to be interrupted yourselves, we would ask you please do not interrupt the other speakers. If you agree or disagree with what they say, you can make that clear to us in your own speaking time. Or if you've already spoken, you can make that clear in writing a deadline one, and then we will take your views into account. Every speaker should be allowed the floor and then a lot of time to speak.

08:34

Finally, if anyone does interrupt, I will warn them and I will ask them to allow the hearing to continue. If the same person interrupts again, I will warn them again and be aware, repeated interruptions that lead to disruption can be viewed as unreasonable behavior for which awards of costs can be sought by other interested parties.

08:55

If anybody interrupts again, following to fall warnings, on the third occasion, I will ask the case manager to exclude the hearing.

09:05

Now, the introductions are complete. Before I move on to the main business of session two, does anybody here have a burning question that is of an introductory or preliminary nature that we need to sort out now because it's not going to arise under any of the later agenda items and I will just check the virtual room to see if I see any cameras coming on or hands being raised either physically or virtually.

09:32

And just checking again, I see none.

09:38

So on that basis now, and we're going to move to the main business of the session agenda item for speaker contributions.

09:47

And the first speaker I have in this session is Henrietta palmer Miss Palmer, you have five minutes in which to make your points and case manager Mr. Williams will let you know when you have one minute

10:00

Remaining by placing a slide onto everybody's screens. When you begin your contribution, could you also introduce yourself by name, please. And that ensures that all of the video recordings and the live stream and everybody is aware of who is speaking as every time. So was parmer whenever you're ready.

10:20

Good afternoon. Thank you for allowing me to speak with you. My name is Henrietta Palmer and I live in sighs Well, I'm glad the panel is able to consider the cumulative impact of all of the projects proposed for this area. I have lived in Sizewell since 2013. And of course, while I'm glad that scottishpower

substation development isn't coming sighs Well, first of all, is not a better place to put these substations and it will still impact on people living inside as well. And all the holiday makers and locals who use the area despite the presence of two nuclear power stations, so as well remains and unspoiled Suffolk fishing village with a thriving holiday industry. There's the impact on the roads for a start. I don't think scottishpower has put forward much of a traffic plan yet. And it hasn't addressed any of the issues around safety coming from them sharing the sizable gap road with the nuclear power station traffic or emergency services. So as well A and B have one exit on entrance instead of the two that it should have. So as well village only has one exit as well as called a sizable gap. General nerves are kept in check by the knowledge that we can take the unofficial escape route on the unadopted road from sizewell to salt ness, which is known as the sizeable haul road. scottishpower proposes blocking this off for some time, as it brings the cables in Via thorpeness across this road, and this adds to our feeling of unease.

11:46

sizable gap is the only road in and out of the village. Everybody uses it. So I saw a MB with their one entrance and if their planning application is past, for the first two years, this entrance at the bottom of my garden will also be the entrance for the new site. So as well see, this means that for two years sizeable gap will have to accommodate all of the HDTV traffic for the size we'll see traffic and the workers there.

12:13

All workers besides lamb, which is 700 daily, plus up to 2000, and outages and all of the local traffic which is considerable and then the summer includes many caravans, holidaymakers beach goers, walkers, fishermen, and about 90 Christians at the Christian Center. scottishpower want to add to this traffic on the road. They want to add a whole raid but it made no calculation as to how this will impact on other road users and have so far shown scant regard for our safety, or acknowledged how the increased traffic on sites will get an impact on all tourists visitors.

12:48

As well as the issues of traffic there are many other issues. The unsuitability of this coastline to make landfall is another issue. The cliffs that thought necessary eroding a walker was killed by a landslide in 2018. And the seabed is constantly shifting gray to go about wind farm has trouble now with at least free for free spans that have developed, meaning the cable is no longer lying flat on the seabed, and is a danger to fishing and shipping, the core line crag line of thought nests and sizewell is what protects a sizable area and thus the nuclear power stations from coastal erosion. Not many of the energy projects that want to come to Preston would be able to make landfall and come in through the cliffs. Those which do will compromise the safety of the whole nation by fiddling with the crag so why bother with any of them?

13:36

I'm sorry that you cannot see the campaign banner that we made. It's not pretty, but we were hoping to bring it to the openflow hearings to fully acquaint you with the scale of what these SPR plans would mean for the area. we plotted on a large sheet all of the roads that scottishpower and EDF are going to use should both their planning applications be approved. Every single road and a five mile radius would

be used by HGV lorries all day and every day for years. And that doesn't take into account any of the other projects. Every week seems to bring news of another energy company prowling the area to find a cobalt cable route from the coast. While back gardens to Friston is this substation impressment wasn't a real possibility, then we could all have a lot of about it. But it's not funny. This consultation has caused a great deal of distress.

14:25

In campaigning against this development, I've been asked several times, where else would you put it? In fact, it was one of the most ridiculous questions scottishpower asked. So I hope they're not accusing people in this area of being NIMBY, because we said we're not willing to house everything thrown at us. I just want to remind them there's a couple of nuclear power stations at the end of my garden, as referred to in fact, we have suggested several alternative sites, Branson industrial site and Bradwell nuclear site being just to essentially these substations should be consigned to the peace and quiet or brownfield site somewhere. All the plans scrapped in favor of embracing the new technology.

15:00

This development has grown a pace with the absurdity of these proposals. I endorsed the position and proposals made by CSS and sass is that I agree with Michel Barney SPS proposal a Trojan horse from National Grid hoping to bulldoze away through for a dozen other projects. Thank you for your time.

15:21

Thank you very much for this parliament. Now,

15:25

towards the end of your oral submission, you did briefly refer to a piece of work that had been done that had we been able to meet physically and would have no doubt been brought into the hearing room and mapping where you would compiled

15:39

utilization of of routes by the various projects. And I guess this is a fairly large piece of paper.

15:48

It's the king size sheet, actually. Yeah. And can I ask you to speak to the case team after the event about whether there would be a mechanism for it to be physically sent in. Because, you know, you've got, you've gone through the effort of producing it. And it strikes me that it is what you would have wished to speak to. And one of the things that sadly, as we are in this virtual world we've got to try and do is replace

16:19

the opportunities that people would have had in a physical hall with other means. And and so we need to try and see that document. It may be somebody needs to climb up a stepladder and photograph, send the photo to us.

16:33

Okay, well try, oh, I 'll talk to Emre.

16:36

Wonderful, if you would much appreciated. Now I'll just check. Does my colleague Mr. Rigby have anything he wishes to follow up on?

16:44

Yes, if I could, Mr. Smith, thank you very much. Thank you very much. Indeed, Miss Palmer. That's very helpful.

16:52

Just a couple of things I was wanted to flag you didn't mention in your submission about it being not much of a traffic plan. And you hadn't really seen anything much yet. So not a question to you. But I just like to flag that for the applicants something they may need to get onto their radar. And the other thing really, that you mentioned was also the sequencing problem. Now that sizewell has been accepted and relating to the size while relief road and the program for the construction of that relief road. Again, thank you for making that point. And again to the applicant, please take this as a flag from us that you need to address that please. Thank you very much.

17:37

Thank you

17:40

very much. And now if we can move on, do we have a neater Parkinson present?

17:48

You should be able to see and hear me. Excellent. We can and we do. Okay, so the same ground rules apply five minutes and Mr. Williams, the case manager will place a slide on the screen reminds me when you are one minutes away from the end of your time. So the time is now yours. Thank you.

18:10

My name is Nina Parkinson. I've lived in Friston for 23 years. And prior to that, and a second time in ordering him. I passionately love the area for its peace, tranquility and wonderful landscape. I'd like to thank the panel for the opportunity to speak at this hearing. And to commend you on the professional manner in which this virtual hearing has been conducted. I'm sure we all recognize this an event where people could physically meet would of course, have been preferable. But these are unprecedented times. And it's of course Paramount that people stay safe and well. So So thank you. I think it's been put together extremely well.

18:51

Firstly, I'd like to say this I fully support the representations made by the local councils and the action groups and the issues that have been made so eloquently during the past few days. All the issues are extremely important and emphasize the potential wide ranging and devastating impacts this area should this application be approved.

19:15

I would like in the allocated five minutes and the opportunity to focus on some of the potential harmful socio economic

19:24

impacts to this area. It will be impossible in the time allowed to highlight all of them.

19:31

Currently, this part of East Suffolk attracts high numbers of older people who choose to live here and enjoy the excellent quality of life, which the area currently provides. These people are predominantly affluent and are often influenced in their decision making by previous in the royal family holidays or ownership of second homes as traffic levels during the construction phase become intolerable and sways

20:00

A peaceful coastline and countryside are destroyed. It's unlikely that people will choose either holiday here or buy second homes, both of which will cause severe damage to the local economy.

20:13

We're fortunate to have a number of grade two listed buildings in this area, providing a reminder of our heritage. Many of them have been bought by people at second homes, often for their future retirement. This part of a Suffolk has benefited from that inward investment, which has ensured that many of these beautiful buildings have been preserved and maintained.

20:39

The current inward investment provides work for local towns people, many of whom were born here and have no wish to leave. Why would you it's a very special place to live.

20:51

Without inward investment, there will be much reduced levels of work for these people. To trades people told me only this week, but they would lose approximately 60% of their work. If retirees and second homeowners abandoned this area.

21:09

They believe this figure to be consistent with other trades people who were extremely concerned by the potential financial impact of themselves. If this development does go ahead.

21:22

It's not necessary to travel far along the coast to see the effects of low levels of inward investment. Lowestoft is such an area. And although there have been recent efforts to attract inward investment, high levels of deprivation and resulting cost of statutory services persist.

21:45

In my opinion, there is the potential for this area to become a second boast of what's the impact of the inevitable reduction of people moving into this area hits.

21:58

Currently, coastal suffer coastal has a higher than average life expectancy, which is due in part to the lifestyle the area offers. People enjoy the outdoor lifestyle and opportunities to walk in most attractive countryside. This improves fitness, health and well being and therefore less reliance on medicines or input from statutory services. devastation of the immediate countryside and beautiful case with resulting loss of footpaths will deter people walking and will lead inevitably to an increase in the prevalence of age related disease.

22:37

Currently, roads are relatively quiet and older people often continue to drive into their 90s. This allows continuing independence and a resulting high quality of life. It allows opportunities for social contact, which are essential to all of us. The current public health crisis has highlighted the importance of that most basic of human needs during the construction period the rail use will be unreasonably visiting with heavy goods, there is something which we see on the route of the cable corridor bromford I believe many older people may lose the confidence to continue driving when the roads become overwhelmed here. This will result in new dependence on statutory services with the resulting cost that that brings.

23:27

First and particularly has a high proportion of older residents, many of whom moved here once retired, many actively contribute to their community through charitable works, becoming members of town and parish councils or active engagement in various projects. I'm sure the panel can see the energy and passion of people already engaged in this process. And now I am conscious of your time.

23:53

Why not? Please and if there's further material you need to put put to us then. Yes. Okay, that's fine. Thank you. And just I was asked that you strongly asked that you reject this application. Thank you. Thank you very much indeed for those submissions, which again, as is the case with all everything we're hearing over these days we will consider with great care.

24:19

Now, our next speaker is Russell Ranger. Can I just check that we have Mr. Ranger present?

24:27

Yes, good afternoon, Mr. Smith. I'm online and would just like to offer a point of clarification if I may, in that. I'm Russell Ranger. I'm also a Suffolk County Councillor and a slave parish Councillor. But I would just like to make it clear that this afternoon I'm speaking as a resident on the 1094 in Snape and not in either of those capacities if that's okay. That is absolutely fine. And of course the difference between those capacities has to be noted on the basis that you are not speaking as an elected representative and you're alive.

25:00

At speaking time remains at five minutes if that's okay, Mr. Ranger, I quite understand and I'm grateful to you for that. Thank you very much, which case the time is all yours. Well, thank you. I'm Russell Ranger as I stated a resident on the 1094 in Snape, and thank you for the opportunity to speak on this most important matter. Others will will and have spoken about the traffic issues, the damage to the Coraline cliff, and the implications for the wildlife etc. So I want to talk to you about the uncontrolled, widespread damage to the heritage coast. My understanding is that the NCA procedure only allows you as the examining authority to consider the proposals that are on the table at the time.

25:42

As a resident, this is a significant flaw in the system of national policy statements and CIP process as far as I see it, I have some sympathy for Scottish panel, which will shock some people because they have been trying to develop a grid connection for their project. And as wrong as the first in the collection site is this is what they've consulted with me about. However, it is evident that national grid are developing a grid connection hub by stealth. They are using the work of SPR to deliver a national grid project project without any planning, regulation or consultation. We know of many other energy projects planned for this area such as the Galaga, Gabbard, Nautilus, yearling, etc. all being offered grid connections at Friston and to really demonstrate what a shambles it all is national grid or even proposing to connections scdc one and se DC two, to relay this energy from here, then down to Kent.

26:37

If approved, the development of the freshman substation will begin a cascade of energy projects, all making landfall on the heritage coast and then excavating cable corridors that traverse their way across the AONB and triple si passing through converters, substations, substations, cables, caelian, in order to terminate in the tranquil surroundings of Friston or some other nearby village, or because National Grid are taking the lazy option of directing connections to the sizewell lines, put in the side the question around the grids security, from failure, or terrorism, or reactive power balance, and with such a large proportion of the national energy, and we keep hearing rumors of it being around a third of the national capacity being directed to this part of the East Coast. How do we get a full and fair review? If the answer process does not look at these in combination, and precedent setting implications? Ironically, given the National Grid proposal for network distribution cables, SC DC one and SD DC to to run offshore down to Ken, there will also be cable corridors going back out through the OMB. How will the state process challenge this assumption and push the real developer National Grid energy transition to make landfall in Kent where the power is clearly wanted, and not here in Suffolk.

27:57

Also, with all these connections being clustered around Friston, how were the pylons from size water bramford and bramford 22 instead Coke, this much energy will almost certainly require upgrades to the distribution network, even to the point of requiring additional lines of 400 kV pylons in a corridor across many miles of Suffolk.

28:17

Since 2013, your own website has held details of the brand for the twisted collection project that has been suspended. So our national grid clearly recognized the future capacity issues and yet have not developed a solution. We should not be looking at SPR, but at National Grid energy transmission,

getting them to submit a decio under national policy statement II and five for development of a grid network that will that will spoil and destroy many square kilometers of tranquil Suffolk countryside. This is borne out by the challenging issues SPR are facing and trying to deliver their project. The cable corridor will pass through the fragile Coraline crack to make landfall and then through the IRB triple si passing close to local properties within just meters of homes. So close in places like a regrowth corridor with will need to be reduced to squeeze through.

29:05

This is an additional concern around the lack of in combination consideration because if cable corridors are being shrunk, and there are requests from National Grid energy transmission to avoid sterilization or cable routes, this could force the developers to research and implement yet further new corridor routes across other countryside areas, as demonstrated by National Grid ventures and their consultation. Even SPR may not commission both EA one north and EA two in tandem, meaning the Cobra corridor environmental damage and disruption could run for many years, with other energy projects following in turn resulting in decades of impact. bizarrely with all this power being drawn to the fragile landscape. We found that during the lockdown, sizewell b was asked to reduce power production to help balance the grid. How does this demonstrate that national grid energy transmission proposals for cramming all this power in the locality is a sound one

30:00

With all these projects being taken in isolation, how can the answer process looking only SPR ensure the best possible environmental solution is being demonstrated, it may be acceptable to refer to these as low carbon energy sources. But it would be wrong for them to be called green energy projects. They do not consider the combined environmental damage they will cause I'm aware of the Bayes review. But I would ask you to read reject these SPR proposals as they cause unplanned, uncoordinated, unnecessary disruptions, and ask that you recommend to the Secretary of State or the broader entity decio Be Prepared by National Grid for public consultation, the consultation that I feel I have not been granted. I recognize there are specific hearings on the second or third December. But this floor is so great. It needs your action now, please. Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Ranger. Those were very, very clear submissions now. My colleague, Mrs. Powis, I believe has a question for you.

31:03

Thank you, Mr. Ranger. Thanks for your submissions. Just to follow up on the point about cumulative impacts. And I know we've had this raised this morning as well, just to try and reassure you that the NPS is under national policy statements. And indeed, the environmental impact assessment regulations and those relating to habitats regulations assessment do indeed,

31:23

mean that we have to consider the cumulative impacts and the in combination impacts of the proposals. And, as my colleague said earlier, this really comes back to the best available the best publicly available information. And we will, if that changes over the course of this examination, we have the ability to call that information into this examination or these examinations as well. So I think you have some reassurance that we will be that is within the scope of what we will be considering.

31:50

Yes, I understand that. And I'm grateful to you for that. My my problem is that, as I say, it's not what we've been consulted on scotch panels project is different to this whole hub generation. And I appreciate your having to sort of back work that part into your planning consideration.

32:06

Thank you. And yes, issue specific hearing, too, it's a good place for the further sort of in depth discussion about some of those issues, which which comes down to site selection and alternatives and the good design aspects of the scheme. And we've got two days allocated for that. So hopefully, we'll be able to get into some of the meat of those conversations.

32:29

Thank you.

32:31

Thank you very much. And on that basis, I'm moving on from Mr. Ranger. I'm now going to ask if Dennis robertson is with us. And yes,

32:45

excellent, wonderful. And now, are you able to join us with camera or do you prefer?

32:54

So don't know why it's not on? Ah, I know. I think it's coming. Excellent. Now, we now can see and hear you perfectly. So just as before, you have five minutes, and the case manager will

33:11

provide you with a warning slide when you are one minute away from the end of your allotted time. And I will just highlight before you start to the case team that Mr. Cardi has appeared in the lobby. So if somebody could have met Mr. Cardi , that would be wonderful. Apologies. I will now return witness Robinson to you and give you the floor. Your five minutes starts now. Thank you. Good afternoon. My name is Dennis Robertson and I have lived in over two years. On my first visit to the local library, I was curious to note there were 48 large white lever arch folders, spread and disarray over three trestle tables. They were consultation documents for this major energy proposal. Over 20 boxes from scottishpower renewables have been unceremoniously dumped on the library without any instructions on how to display, understand or use them. SPR obviously expected the librarians on top of their own daily duties to sort out this deluge of data.

34:15

On going through each folder, I realized that there were two almost identical sets containing reams and reams of documents. These were eight and one and a two. They were barely comprehensible to the train died and almost certainly incomprehensible to the layman. This was my introduction to wind farms.

34:37

The subsequent public consent consultations were a sham, a PR exercise, showing pretty pictures instead of the harsh reality scarred landscapes and massive concrete constructions. These PR exercises were mainly manned by admin or equipped and did not have the knowledge to answer questions from technical issues nor the data presented.

35:00

There is no doubt that this was a box ticking exercise the aim of which was purely to qualify for a DC level examination. sprs disingenuous behavior is I have come to realize they are knowing their modus operandi, rather than informing of your station is there a.

35:24

I would now like to move to the applicants involvement with national grid, as we all know, National Grid helping and visible in this process. And I'm interested to know how they got the applicant to do their bidding. Unfortunately incentivize the app to come to take on national grid responsibilities. We need absolute transparency on this. I'm also at a loss to understand why National Grid System substation has not been classified as a separate miscibility CEO. So I would like to ask the examining authorities to identify and highlight the relevant government policy, which allows a private developer such as the National Grid, to sidestep the nysut process and piggyback on the back of developers and other development.

36:12

GCL. Furthermore, I realized that the inspector will be inviting national group to the issue specific hearings, as they have not engaged in any constitution to date, and should they decline your invitation. Is there any recourse to this? many answers are required on the outstanding questions already asked during consultation? And many more that are being asked now at these hearings?

36:38

Regarding land home, it is common knowledge about the viability of darkness cliffs, could the applicant tell us whether they have conducted any drilling service at darkness to determine stability and seismic movement? If not, when will we be doing so? And will they be conducting tests before the end of the examination. I would also like to know how they're protecting the Coraline plan, which is only on the cost of suffered. Also what practical surveys have they been conducting into coastal erosion. Given the sea level is rising and storm surges are becoming more frequent due to climate change.

37:18

Moving on to business and tourism during the 10 to 15 years of construction overrun snake and darkness reaches fear that the high end tourism that the town depends on would melt away and go which is more attractive and easier to reach. Two comments illustrate the depths of feeling on the business community they caught. After only a few weeks of disruption, visitors with deep darkness spoiled and not true. Putting the dolphin in the golf club the country club in two copies of this, another retailer states in overall we are very dependent on locals and visitors footfall for our business. And we fear for ourselves and for the health of older High Street in general. any disruption on the age well and the 1094 has an

38:06

has an immediate impact on the number of visitors and therefore our turnover. Visitors value and the independent shops in the high street, a glorious cause for walking and bird watching. I could talk in many more issues, but there's not enough time so put them in writing. In conclusion, I profoundly object to this applications of industrialization of the countryside and probable demise of the 12th village and town, especially when there are obvious alternatives. I therefore ask the examining authority to recommend a refusal of this DC or to the Secretary of State. Thank you for your attention.

38:47

Thank you very much for

38:50

that again as we all take those into account and look forward to receiving your additional recent material at deadline one. And can I then move to ask if Mary Shipman is with us and ready to speak? We have Mary Shipman.

39:10

Mike, can you hear me? I can hear my camera on as well. That would if Yes, excellent. We can see you and we can hear you. Okay, so the rules are exactly the same. You have five minutes and the case team will give you a flag one minute before the expiration of that time so the floor is yours. My name is nourish Shipman and I've been a resident of Friston for 27 years. I'm confining my comments mainly to flooding and footpaths. Although I'm concerned about many other issues, land and properties adjacent to the Friston watercourse, were in flood zone three for surface water. And over the past five years, the number of flooding events has increased significantly. This is included polluted water entering our own house

40:00

The watercourse is no more than a ditch, which extends through the center of the village, entering a culvert at Grove road and emerging into low road, where it continues south to an effective dam at its junction with the a 1094. The dam was constructed to alleviate flooding to properties south of 10 nights for at first farm. The result is that the field north of the 1094 functions as a floodplain.

40:28

any increase in the total amount of water discharged into this ditch, irrespective of its flow rate will cause additional flooding in this field, and also to low road where the ditch is known to over top. The proposed substation site is at the head of this water course. And parts of the site itself are at high risk of surface water flooding. This agricultural land contains a land drainage system, and also several ponds and pits, which provides some containment of the current runoff

40:59

to the dismay of residence, which is proposed to use this ditch for the disposal of the additional surface water arising from the lane of hard surfacing across the site. This concern has been made known to scottishpower consistently throughout the consultation phases, and indeed at a public meeting in July of 2019. I asked David Walker's scottishpower whether his team would inspect the flooding issues in

Friston with me and Suffolk County Council's flood engineer at the times talker agreed, or some Two weeks later, scottishpower issued notes in the meeting stated that this will be dealt not be dealt with until after decio consent. No survey or assessment of the capacity of this watercourse to cope with the runoff in the substation site has been submitted. This is a serious admission we would ask for this be full explore during the examination.

41:54

The village lies in a bowl and there's been flat severe flooding arising fields east of Grove road from where mud light and water flows towards down the road to the ditch living substantial amounts of Daybreak in its wake. Bringing the whole road across this elevated land is very likely to increase flooding and sediment dispersal in the village and in the ditches so it should also be addressed in examination.

42:21

A further concern is the permanent loss of footpath six heading north from the church. This path is well used by residents as it forms a pleasant circular walk from the village. An alternative route is proposed by SPR along the side of Grove road close to the substations. However, footpath six cannot be extinguished until the new route is completed, which will not be until post construction. This will result in the northern side of the village ceasing to exist as an amenity for residents during the construction period, which could be 10 years or longer.

42:56

In any event, the new route is not an acceptable alternative to the extinguish footpath due to substantial loss of tranquility, landscape quality and increase noise levels. footfall six was both have perished in 100 boundary. The loss of this historic feature going back centuries should have been avoided the site selection process a further 26 rights away along the cable route be diverted or temporarily closed. There's no timetable for these closures. However, if the two projects are constructed consecutively, then it will be for a very long period, especially as the whole road is to be used for SGP HTTPS accessing the substation site to enlarge and Friston.

43:38

VISTAs have drawn to this area for the openness and accessibility of the landscape, which makes it ideal walking walking country. The cable corridors service this beautiful area in half will deter visitors as well as being a substantial loss of amenity to local people. The wooded pet in the substation site is a haven for large wildlife, including badgers and bats and will be lost scottishpower recorded for budget sets on this site which will be destroyed while only one other set was found along the entire cable route. skylarks, which are on the endangered read lists are also heard and seen over the fields. This very tranquil area scottishpower have made a fundamentally flawed decision and choosing Friston as a site for these substations

44:28

finished. Okay, no, thank you very much. Um, in which case, let us then just check whether there are any matters that anybody wishes to raise and Mrs. Jones will look. Yes, thank you, Mr. Smith. Yes, just

really a matter to flag to the applicants really. Obviously flooding in Kristen has been raised by many, many residents and is just really to give them a heads up that we will be

45:00

Asking questions are on that matter and to demonstrate that all runoff can be can be handled within the site and infiltration storage can be managed within the site. It was just really to flag that matter for the applicants.

45:15

Thank you very much Mrs. Jones. Okay, if we then move on in order the next speaker that I have on my list is Andrea Smith. is Andrea Smith with us.

45:29

Hello, yes.

45:32

I think , two, two seconds tops. I can hear you and I can see. Okay, thank you catch up across the internet. Okay. Okay. Thank you, exactly the same way as everybody else. And you'll be given a one minute flag by the case team and one minute before the end of your piece. So away you go. Thanks. Hello, my name is Andrea Smith, and I'm a resident of Friston. Like many of the speakers here. I first heard about these proposals about two years ago, I immediately engaged with a consultation did an enormous amount of background research, and sent a number of representations to the various parties. It's hard to know where to begin after so many excellent representations have already been made, particularly on the significantly negative impacts of our area, such as on the local economy, tourism, natural and historic environment, transportation, peace and tranquility, air light, noise pollution and so on.

46:36

I think that's been very well covered. So I'll therefore try to summarize some of the key issues as I see them.

46:43

This is a nationally significant infrastructure project for renewable energy, which the majority of us are willing to support in principle, where we take issue is with regard to the method of connecting into the national electricity system, and the absence of national grid in the planning application.

47:01

From the outset, it's been difficult to understand why such a key player as National Grid has not been visible in the application process, and virtually impossible to contact. Thankfully, this does appear to be now changing. I'm glad to see that the planning Inspectorate has invited national grid to participate in the process and answer the very many questions. In this regard, I suggest there should be an investigation into the abandoned proposals for an integrated offshore transmission project. There is a report dated August 2015. If you can see this report, I've got a copy of it. And if it's okay, I'd like to quote very briefly from the executive summary of this report.

47:49

In 2011, the crown estate and National Grid published a report entitled offshore transmission network feasibility study. This report detailed the initial consideration of using a coordinated design approach to provide connections around three offshore wind farms. This report concluded that savings for the GB consumer of between 2.4 billion and 5.6 billion pounds could potentially be possible. In 2012, the project team was formed made up of national grid and the developers of these offshore wind zones for wind, smart wind, and scottishpower renewables and Vattenfall in East Anglia.

48:35

However, finish quote,

48:38

however, the report basically concluded that the offshore wind generation was unlikely to be about 10 gigawatts and therefore neither economic or efficient. So as we know now, things have dramatically changed since then, and I suggest this report should be urgently reverse revisited, if not already done. So.

49:01

My next point, insufficient consideration has been given to alternative sites. Why have brownfield sites not being considered at all? How can national grid and Scottish power justify the selection of the landfall site on crumbling cliffs in a protected area of outstanding natural beauty with a 10 kilometer cable trenching through the fragile sanderlings area, and citing the final industrial infrastructure on pristine agricultural lands on the edge of a lovely Hamlet in the margins of the AONB?

49:37

If you look at a map of the AONB area, you can see that the proposed development is in fact a stone's throw away from the boundary along the Aubrey road. As far as I can tell, scottishpower fails to show the AO MB designation in any of their maps of the Preston area.

49:55

And what happened to the boards the connection I know a lot of people embrace this

50:00

From what I understand planning permission to build the body to grant the cable route was granted.

50:07

on the condition that future projects would use the same route, I won't go into this anymore. I just wanted to flag it up. Um, cumulative effects. This is quite important. In my representation, two pins, I raised this issue, and was referred to advice note 17. I found this note very concerning and helpful, as it only addresses the cumulative impacts in the case of existing and or approved development, and not any imminent development, which is in the pipeline, but has not yet submitted a DC. We all know about the huge projects being developed. So how can these be included? There's one item that I think worth raising paragraph 4.2 point six states that the Secretary of State should consider how the accumulation

of an interrelationship between the effects might affect the environment, economy or community as a whole, even though they may be acceptable when considered on an individual basis with mitigation measures in place. So I'll conclude that I do not agree that permission should be granted to the applicant. In its current state, the applicant should be invited to resubmit an amended application to reflect the current situation

51:25

which makes an offshore ring main or harbor whatever anybody wants to call it, which was first mooted, as I've shown in 2011.

51:34

And is economically viable and clearly the only sensible way forward, the B's review, Bayes review indicates that the government indeed recognizes this. And I'm shocked that the current applications are not being postponed to include to be included in the review, in fact,

51:53

asked you to draw yourself.

51:56

Okay, surely it would be in the applicants interest, in fact to wait as this will likely impact their future plans and possibly save them a lot of money. I won't do the last paragraph then I guess about how the small rural area of Suffolk is being asked to shoulder an unfair burden.

52:16

I'm afraid time really is up if we're going to thank you very much speakers. So do put in writing. And now just before you move on, though,

52:31

Mrs. Jones, I believe had a matter that that arose from your submission. And yes, just a couple of things. And if we could ask you just to submit the report that you referred to

52:44

written submissions, please. Yeah, yeah. And secondly, you're not the only person that has raised the matter of national grid attending our issues Pacific hearings this week. I know we have said that we would be inviting them. I thought it might provide a level of reassurance to let you know that we have received correspondence from National Grid indicating that they do wish to attend issue specific hearings. Okay. That's great. I'll be interested. Thank you very much. Thank you very much. So let us move on now. My next speaker is David Steen. Do we have David steen with us? Hello.

53:26

I can certainly hear Mr. Steen. And picture. I have a picture. Excellent. Excellent. There you go. Thank you very much. Five minutes and the floor is yours. Thank you. Good afternoon, everybody. My name is David Steen. And my wife and I have been residents of Friston for 35 years. Before that. We lived in

Aldershot. And before that I lived in Thorpeness. Prior to that, my parents had a house in Oregon, near where the cable trenches are planned. So I could say that I am a child of the cable trench.

54:04

I have found the past three days of this open hearing

54:09

to be interesting, frustrating, as I've had to rethink what I was going to say numerous times, in fact, nearly every five minutes. And as some of the points I'm going to raise are identical to those of Glynnis Robertson, who spoke about 10 minutes ago, I would like to just state that we have never met.

54:35

Apart from being frustrating. I've found the three days very informative. Also very depressing. But also very uplifting.

54:46

The speakers have a well informed, excuse me.

54:56

Be more informed and dignified.

55:03

And I'm in all those who have represented various bodies, such as societies, the CS project and also protect our sanderslings. People like Michael Marnie, and Marian fellows, etc. And all those unnamed people behind them, who have given up hours, days, weeks of their time, trawling through mountains of ever changing documents in order to put forward the overwhelming reasons why this lazy and ill conceived application should be rejected. My deepest thanks, and I'm sure that thousands of others goes out to these people.

55:53

With regards to the applicant, it is clear that they are not fit for purpose. The ever changing public confrontations that they held were bought sticking exercises, badly advertised and promoted. And in the main, the SPR representatives who attended were either ill informed or hid behind questions with a stock answer. I don't know the answer to that.

56:22

This after they've just built a huge trench from boards to to narrow it search.

56:30

Then we come to national grid.

56:33

There is something rather sinister and Kaffir esque about a private company that hides behind another organization in order to wreak havoc and permanent destruction of our British countryside. All in the

name of green energy. They remind me somewhat of Gollum, hiding in the dark, waiting to steal the ring.

56:57

This is all the more distressing.

57:00

This is all the more distressing when I'm reading national grid's glossy brochure titled unlocking offshore wind, I came across the following passage.

57:13

A new generation of multipurpose interconnectors mpis already provide a way to channel electricity between countries safely and reliably.

57:26

But what if they could do much more than that? What interconnectors could become an offshore offshore connection hub for green energy. Instead of dozens of individual wind farms connecting one by one to the shore mpis would allow clusters of wind farms to connect all in one go plugging in offshore, bringing offshore wind and then connect two assets together make sense, as well as speeding up connections using interconnectors in a smarter way would vastly reduce the amount of grid reinforcement needed and mean much less destruction for coastal communities. In terms of construction work? the technology itself is already proven.

58:19

So what are they doing? Why are they even trying to

58:24

do this project? So the quickest way to make the change happen is to reject this application and send a message to SPR national grid and all the other energy companies that think that they can steamroller over small communities that they must think, again, to move forward into the 21st century.

58:49

And that's really all I want to say. But I do have a question for you, the inspectors, who I think have handled this whole process brilliantly. And the question is, I'm just a lay person.

59:02

And I went, once we were told by Scottish power that they were holding

59:07

public consultations. I my family and many people in this area went to these consultations. And now we find that they were a sham. We will be showing things. And behind all this, there were other projects that appear to just be able if this consent is given to happen. And I would like you You are the experts, and I'm a layperson. Please. Could you put up somewhere on your website in layman's terms? Why this this is allowed to happen? What what is it that we are actually talking about today? Is it what we

were showing two substations and an interconnector or is it all the other things that seem to be coming out of the woodwork? Mr. Steen I've got I'm gonna have to obviously

1:00:00

He asked you to to wrap up there because that time is now over. But in respect to that question, there are two answers. And that is, firstly, we have to examine in broad principle that which is before us. And those are the applications that we have. But equally as you've heard my colleagues say, we do. and we are required to have regard to in combination and cumulative impacts, with regard to the best public information about other projects that is available to us. And at the end of the day, the purpose of a public examination in these sorts of circumstances is to drill down to the baseline here to find out what the project is, and therefore, to be in a position to make findings about it and a recommendation or recommendations to the Secretary of State to enable the Secretary of State to make a decision. So absolutely, we have nailing the jelly, if that's a relevant way of describing things.

1:01:02

We are under an obligation to try and nail the jelly and we will attempt to do that. So I will now then, just briefly, also flag that the National Grid publication unlocking offshore wind, and you made reference to that and if you could put that in, in your deadline, one submission, that would be much appreciated. I'm now going to move to piers and Sally storage. And whilst they're getting themselves ready to speak, I will remind everybody that as members of a common household there, they have been allocated seven minutes to speak. And they will receive a warning at one minute before the expiration of that time. So do we have peers and Sally storage? Yes, I'm Sally storage. Can you hear me? certainly can. Can you see me? I can see you. Okay, okay, can I start?

1:02:01

Yeah. And so I'm Sally storage and I live at Northshore green.

1:02:06

People in East suffered mostly support renewable energy and wind farms that are increasingly horrified by the prospect of their looming impact on shore, with needless industrialization of our countryside and coastline. Despite the fact that there now appears to be far better offshore solutions. We have been drip fed information or ever larger scale projects without proper consultation. When I went to a Scottish power consultation at Friston a couple of years ago, there were large boards stating that there will be zero effect to local tourism, and that there were only five hotels in the entire area. orebro alone accounts for these Not to mention bnbs pubs, etc, all over the extended area, which would be badly affected by heavy congestion on the 12th. The original plan to build two verse substations Friston EA one and an EA two with an in connector for the National Grid was bad enough. But now there are at least nine other projects SCT one and 212 acres each substation equipment Nautilus ewelink and other scottishpower projects, an expansion of greater Gabbard and galloper wind farms, these will overwhelm the whole area, and there may be will be more to come as Corona state sells more leases at sea. Surely it is madness to destroy the most popular and thriving parts of the county with Southwold and obrah down to Woodbridge, simply with for the convenience of national grid and Scottish power.

1:03:46

The sheer size and growing scale of the project deserves a complete rethink by government, which has simply ignored the issue and allowed the power companies to consolidate their grip on his Suffolk this amounts to a lazy dereliction of duty and government will be held responsible.

1:04:05

These projects will be in up to 15 years construction red building cabling and heavy duty traffic on the a 12 and surrounding small parently peaceful country reds, which are completely unsuitable for industrialized sites. It will also impact an area far larger than Friston encompassing minsmere down to obrah and west to the 12. Friston obrah thorpness. Ordering in less than a nautical will become virtual islands cut off by construction sites, lorry parks work stamps and substations. It includes heritage case, a Adobe a special protection area site a special scientific interest, and important wildlife sites with ancient forests and rare animals, reptiles birds, and should be protected. Of course, I could tag indicated

1:05:00

In a letter that he considered the cost of changing course, from an enormous all encompassing energy habit Friston to a more environmentally friendly offshore solution to be prohibitive, and seems to be unwilling to include Kristen in the upcoming review. There are now entirely possible preferable cheaper and quicker options to bringing energy onshore. And by keeping equipment at sea and taking it directly to where it's needed, as partly referenced in the government's previous reviews, 2012 and 16 and supported by off German national grid, but seemingly ignored by previous energy ministers. At the same time, a request for public information on costs incurred by Scottish power in planning for Friston indicate they seem to have spent in the region of 40 million pounds. While we do not know whether the government has underwritten these costs or made any other promises to Scottish power or national grid 40 million is a fraction of what it is in terms of our culture and tourism. In the light of the government's new pledge to nature, it's a small price to pay for protection of our fragile countryside

1:06:12

is peer storage,

1:06:14

and peer storage. We are one of London's lungs just 100 miles and attract visitors from all over the UK, who appreciate our ancient towns our unspoiled rural countryside. Our supposedly protected a no BS, architecture and heritage are Suffolk light, huge skies and rolling seas, and all made welcomed by hotels B and Bs and holiday lights. They're attracted to our restaurants and cafes or pubs and bars, farm artists and retail shops. Were a center of culture with internationally acclaimed music at Snape, and your documentary music, food and literary festivals. Our writers are filmmakers are painters, artists and craftsmen and are musicians. All this would be endangered by the lack of fire lack of tourists, who are drawn to the peace, quiet and beauty of East Suffolk and its coastline. If the a 12 is slow to a snail place by hgvs and vans, and the landscape is reduced to a battlefield. The impact on tourism report based on only two substations Friston and size we'll see indicated a lost tourist industry of up to 14 million per annum. If you consider this over 15 years and at the cumulative impact of all the other projects. We are threatened with the figures look frightening. Scottish power and national grid's relationship with Suffolk is not a sharing one. They have demonstrated no understanding of Suffolk or

what makes you work. No care for the fragile fragile infrastructure or the interests of its people. It's an aggressive parasitic one, a cheapskate profiteering one, tear up the countryside grab what we want, avoid investing in infrastructure and make minimal effort to reduce our impact, then walk away leaving a vast buzzing, outdated industrial wasteland.

1:08:07

Perhaps we should not be surprised of his power as a Spanish company.

1:08:15

And it is a mistake to think national grid is a British company. It's interested focus more in the USA than the UK sprs promise of jobs to somehow evaporated over the consultation periods. The proposed substations are unmanned and contribute nothing job wise or financially to the local economy.

1:08:35

SPI National Grid argue that they have a responsibility to energy users to minimize their costs. But they do not want to do this by sorry, but they want to do this by pushing the real costs on us, the environment, the local economy, the local infrastructure and state, resulting inflated costs being placed back on the taxpayer. What is the real cost of lost trees, hedgerows habitats, jobs and businesses and for how long? It may be good for their shareholders. But for the rest of us, it's no pride just profit.

1:09:12

It has also become apparent that national grid wants to develop a mega substation complex in the obrah area connecting feature North stiff wind farms and sharing power with Europe and beyond frightening me this could imagine one of the world's largest power hubs it would be farcical for the government to hold its long overdue review of offshore power without including all the plans for is Suffolk

1:09:37

storage I'm very sorry you are over the end of your time. So can I ask you just to draw that last point to conclusion and anything else that needs to be put it in writing can come in a deadline one fine, okay. Just simply say fishing is simply the wrong place for this large scale industrialization.

1:09:55

Thank you very much Mr. storage and now I'm

1:10:02

My colleague, Mrs. Powis, I believe may have had a question. Can I just

1:10:08

leave? Thank you. Yes, it was just to follow up on the reference to a quasi letter that was made by Mrs. Storage there. I'm not sure if that's something that we've already got or something that you may also want to submit to us. I wanted to flag that because it may well be that we've gone and got it on our on our books, but in the avoidance of doubt, we need it for us. So could I ask you to submit that to us at

deadline? One, please? Yes, of course, it was a lesser two phases and sees, okay. I'm saying? Yeah, okay. Well, that we've seen a bit for the avoidance of doubt it would be helpful to have it.

1:10:44

Thank you.

1:10:48

Okay, well, on that basis. Thank you very much to Mr. And Mrs. Storage. I'm now going to ask if Alan Thomas is with us. Do we have Alan Thomas?

1:11:01

Can you see me as we can. Right. Good afternoon, and thank you for allowing me a slot to speak. My name is Alan Thomas, and I've lived in Friston for the past 10 years. Most of my working life is involved the design, development and safe interface between complex electrical equipment and energetic materials. I'll speak no further on that. previous speakers have expressed concerns about the safety risks arising from construction traffic. But I wish to address the panel on a much more specific subject that is largely absent from the applicants decio submission. That is the safety of the onshore elements of the project during the operational phase, which may last 14 years.

1:11:54

of the 584 paragraphs in the project description, that's chapter six of the A just two paragraphs addressed directly risks associated with onshore cables and substations.

1:12:09

This seems wholly inadequate response Given the importance of these parts of the infrastructure

1:12:18

at 1.7 gigawatts, the combined output of a one north and a two will be some 40% greater than that a size will be.

1:12:30

All this power is brought to CES Friston by a series of underground cables, junction boxes, switchgear, reactors, harmonic filters, and high voltage transformers.

1:12:44

All electrical transmission systems generate heat, particularly where junctions and switches are concerned.

1:12:54

Paragraph 7576 informs the reader that the cable runs include a system to detect insulation failure, but gives no indication of the response time, whether it's days weeks months seconds.

1:13:11

High Power items like the super grid Transformers rely on circulation of cooling liquids.

1:13:18

These are flammable oils stored in an overhead reservoir.

1:13:25

across the world, fire and explosion at substations is not unknown, and the leading supplier substation components estimates the risk of transformer fire can be slightly less than 1%. over the lifetime of the equipment.

1:13:43

This is small, but it's not negligible.

1:13:48

A failure in an hv AC transformer winding would normally lead to short circuit perhaps late last year, maybe one 10th of a second and would result in an arc blast.

1:14:02

Theoretically dumping about the same amount of energy as detonating 10 kilograms of TMT

1:14:11

the substations would be cited relatively close to property and adjacent woodland.

1:14:16

The risk of fire smoke toxic fumes, however small is still a matter of concern to nearby residents.

1:14:26

In paragraph 577, the applicant acknowledges that substation fires can create a local hazard

1:14:35

but then fails totally to outline what measures would be needed in the event of such fire.

1:14:43

The applicant also envisages the use of gas insulated switchgear, or both substations

1:14:50

current practice relies on sulfur hexafluoride, a heavy suffocating, but non toxic gas it is manmade

1:15:00

Just also potent greenhouse gas,

1:15:03

its use is being actively discouraged at international levels.

1:15:09

The decio makes no mention of how the management of accidental risks will be managed.

1:15:20

I conclude by reading the final paragraph of the project description with the applicant states. And I quote verbatim

1:15:29

the risk of major accidents and or disasters occurring associated with any aspect of the project. During construction operation, decommissioning phases is negligible.

1:15:44

No numerical or anecdotal evidence is supplied to substantiate that claim. And I believe that the examination panel should require of the developer

1:15:55

peer review.

1:15:58

And by properly proper safety experts, expert, particularly in the area of electrical transmission, all I wish to say thank you.

1:16:12

Thank you very much, Mr. Thomas, for that submission. Now, obviously, there were some individual citations of applicant report material there. And obviously, we're dealing with both the standard one North application and two, I'd be very grateful if at deadline one, you could specifically highlight the source document from which those quotes came.

1:16:36

And And again, if whether you're referring specifically to the one or two, the both, that'll be very, very helpful. Indeed. I will do that. Okay, thank you very much. Now, can I ask if John Walker is present?

1:16:52

Yeah. Excellent. Now, if you care to switch your camera on Mr. Walker should be on. I think he I think it sometimes takes two or three seconds for you to come through to the restaurant a bit concerned about bandwidth out here, actually, but Well, I just switch it off. I will personally look, and it is a known way of controlling bandwidth issues to leave a camera off. So if if you've got a concern, then yes, now we know you're with us, by all means switch it off to complete your contribution, which is five minutes, and you'll receive the customary warning at one minute prior to the end from the case t. So Mr. Walker, the floor is yours. Yeah, thanks. What's happening? Okay, good afternoon. I'm John Walker, I live at snipe few miles from Princeton.

1:17:46

And

1:17:48

I'd like to make an observation about a major infrastructure project that commenced about five years ago 50 miles south of the sites of the current SPR playing applications.

1:18:01

I'm obviously referring to the 22 mile trenched cable from bordie to bramford, with a landfall on the coast of bootsy.

1:18:11

Now, according to my research that I drive past that a bit, and it's been going on for years, and according to my research, when the application was made for this infrastructure, it was said that the disruption would last at most 44 weeks. And it was still going on six months ago when I was last around bought it. And it started a long, long time ago. So I just like to make that observation. And

1:18:41

now six years after that application was made,

1:18:45

spr made another application for another trench, another landing point. And this time going through an area of outstanding natural beauty.

1:18:56

Now aside from the environment, environmental implications, it really can't be cost effective to repeat the process of landing cables and trenching them.

1:19:08

And frankly, I wonder how long it's going to be before presented with another planning application for more of the same, that's my anxiety, really, this? Clearly we need the energy and I think people around here, we should be prepared, be prepared to put up with a bit of disruption for the greater good, but I'm just not convinced about

1:19:31

that the sound is really really the viability of it the cost effectiveness. And so hence for so I'm really calling for the rejection of SP RS application. I think we're in a difficult situation, probably with

1:19:46

national with a distribution company

1:19:50

holding, you know, holding all the power, but I think it should be rejected. So to allow time to create a coordinated

1:20:00

energy infrastructure infrastructure plan, which we might have had in the past, actually, those pylons have done very well for 50 years or so. I'll stop going on. That's all we had a good weekend. Thanks.

1:20:13

Thank you very much, Mr. Walker. And if I can then now move on to Chris Wheeler. Do we have Chris Wheeler with us?

1:20:30

Can I ask if Chris Wheeler can

1:20:34

switch on his microphone or camera? Yes, I see a light. Excellent.

1:20:41

Good.

1:20:43

Um,

1:20:45

so you have five minutes

1:20:48

in a normal way, right. Good morning, everyone.

1:20:53

My name is Chris Wheeler. I'm a Friston resident, a member of the size of our stakeholder group,

1:21:00

a contributor to the National Grid offshore coordination project, and a supporter of sizes. My background is as a chartered engineer,

1:21:09

I want to raise a planning issue. Concerning National Grid ASR is compliance with NPS m five 2.2 point six, which relates to certain environmental obligations. I have a letter from Duncan Burt, Director of Operations, which states this is the letter

1:21:28

National Grid has published a document on its website called National Grid commitments when undertaking works in the UK.

1:21:37

Front Page.

1:21:39

This document explains how we will meet our obligations under Section 38 and shedule nine of the electricity act 1989. It defines stakeholders as organizations and individuals who can affect or are affected by our works. We also refer to communities which include those stakeholders, organizations and individuals, including residents who have a particular interest in the local area affected by the works, and provide opportunities for engagement from the earliest stages of the process, where options and alternatives are being considered. And there is the greatest scope to influence the design of the works. These words must clearly refer to the times in which grid connection options are being considered using the coin process. But so far as I'm aware, no one interesting has had any meaningful contact whatsoever with National Grid regarding a grid connection in our locality or the construction of a new substation. How therefore, can this application be valid when it is the inappropriate choice of grid connection, which is fundamental to current misconceived projects?

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And moving on,

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I would like to suggest an alternative approach to the applicant's projects, which uses existing technology, which can be more efficient, more economic and more coordinated and substantially reduce environmental impact.

1:23:07

For East Anglia, one, the applicants used to cable trenches with a total of six conductors, and about 10 acres of substation land of bramford and 700 megawatts of power using high voltage alternating current.

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This after gaining non material change approval to downsize that original 1.2 gigawatt high voltage DC project.

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With East Anglia three project, the applicants are showing that by using high voltage DC technology, they can land 1.4 gigawatts of power at ground put double that of East Anglia, one using just one cable trench with three conductors in the same substation area. That's an efficiency improvement of four times the cabling, and trenching and two times per substation footprint.

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So why are we now discussing the need for for cable trenches with 12 conductors and two wind farms, substations, plus a brand new national grid substation together covering 30 acres of land at Princeton. And this is a site where by my estimation, some 100 acres of land will be rendered unfit for human habitation because of the potential noise levels and all this to deliver just 20% more power than East Anglia three.

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My proposal is that by linking the outputs of the proposed East Anglia one North and East Anglia two projects, the combined panel could reasonably be delivered with high voltage DC technology using just one cable trench with three conductors and one converter station. And given the long distance capability of high voltage DC, that converter station which might be 24 meters high, could be sited on Brownfield land, for example, Bradwell, or perhaps Bramford where a suitable site is almost certainly available, and the applicant may even have residual consent under that East Anglia.

1:25:00

One TCL cable decision for a cable route to Bramford. And further the common analysis which found the grid connection at Bramford to not be the most economic for these new projects must have been made on the basis of high voltage AC using port trenches with 12 conductors as previously explained. But if the two projects have been linked, as I have proposed and high voltage DC used, then only a quarter of the cable trenches and conductors would have been required. In that case, an alternative financial conclusion could well be reached, showing a grid connection at Bramford to be the most economic, which was in any case what the applicants had originally expected, and scored most highly by national grid on the non financial basis. And in addition, the common analysis clearly states that the major project risk to national grid and Lang a collection of Bramford would be new.

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I request that this alternative approach receive serious consideration the reasons that I have given and the current proposals we've decisively rejected. I just have one other point that I would like to raise with regard to cumulative impact. There is some lack of clarity as to precisely which projects which are known about would be considered under the terms of cumulative impact. We have this concern, because many of these projects have relatively little public profile. And we strongly believe that

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various organizations, including our local authority of Gem and in particular base will have much fuller information about these projects. And I think it would be very unfair to the local communities, if all of these projects were not to be included in the cumulative impact these organizations I've talked about, what were these projects I've talked about when not to be included? Thank you. So I'm going to ask you to draw to the close of that book, you've obviously covered a lot of quite detailed technical material that includes references development planning policy, so we would very much look forward to seeing your full written submission with your background services. And your arguments such as headline one,

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again, was the act the respect,

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and hvdc as against the application solution is something that we will be asking them about in subsequent hearings. So thank you very much, Mr. Wheeler. Now, that brings us to the end of the published agenda list.

1:27:38

But we do have in the room, Mr. Alan cardi or I gather we do, who requested to be accommodated today as a consequence of, I believe, a technical issue, and then he was unable to attend an earlier hearing this week. So do we have Mr. karti with us? Because if we do I propose to hear him now.

1:28:05

Do we have Mr. Alan Cardey with me now? I certainly can. I can see a light around your name, sir. So if you wish to switch on your camera, if it is switched on, it'll probably take about three or four seconds to come through so that everybody can see you.

1:28:21

And waiting Can I preface before the vision comes on that my text was written for the Wednesday night session, but I've obviously had to tailor it a bit since then. And I've known for the last hour or so that I was going to be on this afternoon. Don't Don't worry, it was to cardi. And you know, we recognize that this has been a relatively rapidly moving situation. And we're very grateful that you managed to move rapidly to

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amend the time of your appearance. So thank you. I'd also preface it by

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Mr. Cardy, and we will of course, you know, take that into account and

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you now have your full five minutes and you'll receive a warning flag from the case team one minute before the end. So Mr. Cardy The floor is yours. Right? Well, this will be a slightly disjointed presentation.

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I'm going to cut it down to about three or four points because many other points have been covered by other contributors over the last three days. My first major point is that the flawed consultation process being carried out by scottishpower prior to the planning inquiry.

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I actually live within four meters of the designated site and along with Friston parish Council, when the consultation

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actually started the public consultation started. Neither neither the council nor ourselves have actually been advised of any plans for the

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the substations. Anyway, that's part of the flawed process all there. So the

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the lack of any meaningful dialogue. Most of the consultation has just been very bland and telling us what they were going to give us rather than or what they were going to do to us, rather than a listening to or a dialogue.

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Right, I'll go on to something that I have written now.

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The consultation process from scottishpower perspective seemed to be more about them,

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telling us what they were going to do for us and giving a hazy impression of their

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plans are in favor of wind power generation, but the infrastructure doesn't need to be handled sensitively. And what really drives me up my ire in this instance, is the decision making behind the onshore project prospect aspects of these proposals decision making, not just by Scott who passionately said, but also by national grid, a private monopolies subject only to a weak government and governmental oversight. It would appear that Scottish power were directed to locate in this general area, a choice driven, it would say more by the pursuit of absolute minimal cost and national grid, rather than any consideration for the local environment, and certainly with scant regard to the community of whom they are seeking to impose this monstrous win.

1:31:48

Although scottishpower has slightly reduced the height of two of their buildings at 18 meters high and 200 meters long, they are still such a scale as to be totally alien with a rural landscape, which is supposedly be protected protected by the Official Plan. Whilst the current proposal includes substantial and new national grid assets, they have remained detached from the whole process. I'm not aware of any specific undertakings by national grid, but there will be arrays of ugly insulators we connections to up to the grid pylons, in the sum of the connections will be in excess of 40 meters higher. I also find it extremely disturbing in regard to national grid intention that an article in the trade journal tower transmission distribution, and titled National Grid project knows and available in August 2020 seems to confirm a much bigger project than so far revealed. The article relates to a project for the offshore interconnectors from Ken as from sizewell to Canterbury and selling and states and I quote, these interconnectors will have converter stations. Are you there still?

1:33:08

Oh, are you there still? Is it? Oh, sorry. Oh, can I read the statement from the Did you hear the article I was taking that statement from?

1:33:22

Yes, forget. Thank you, Mr. Cady. All right. Well, these interconnectors will have converter stations up to 24 meters high and occupying 12 acres each in the same general area as substation equipment for

the Nautilus euro link, and the Scottish power projects, as well as the expansion of the greater Gabbard and Gallup wind farms. Now that's news from National Grid

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24 meters, this is well above the height suggesting the current submission and only three meters lower than I understand size relay building. It's been a national Grinch intention all along to use Friston as the connection hub for a whole host of additional links. And the consequence citing structure that will dwarf even those in the current proposals. It will also entail the carving of even more damaging cable routes through to Friston. I'm not gonna mention about size we'll see but taken into consideration with size or seen the disruption will be one years and not just

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waiting decades, not just years. And finally on a personal note, I have discovered or May the the economic impact on myself and my wife because we have a UNESCO

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request. We were hearing you loud and clear Mr. Cardy. Right.

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However, in spite of dropping the price by over 25%, we still haven't managed to get

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sale.

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And subsequently My wife is also.

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And this likelihood of being out of move at the moment is we're both pretty well track, we would like to stay in Preston. And even with all the problems that are happening, although obviously they're not keen on what's going to happen to the area. But

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how are we going to finish just by saying that if you let this if you approve this

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submission and national grid, get a toehold in Friston, who you won't be able to resist the other project following on. Okay, thanks, everybody. And I'm going to just raise two matters there, firstly,

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an evidence matter, which is that you did refer to a trade journal in which they have been referenced to the broader ambitions for projects connecting it Friston. And clearly, if that has been published, it will be useful if that is put in formally as a document, we would like to see it. So if you could arrange for that to come in at line one, we'd be very, very grateful indeed. And secondly, and you did obviously make

reference on two separate occasions in that submission to your own personal circumstances and your wife's personal circumstances and both of your health. Now we do, I think, need to look back at the recording of this event, because it would not be normal to place that sort of personal information into the public domain. So what I will flag is that, and we will be asking the production company who run the recording process for us to just briefly trim out the references to your your health, obviously, as an as a pair of examining authorities. And we will take your circumstances very carefully into account but I trust, you will understand our position, which is that there is information there that the public more broadly doesn't need to know. And and in the interest of protecting your privacy, we would we add the redactions, that very small piece of information from your submissions, thank you for that. I didn't use it read for the sake of getting people sympathy, I really wanted it to be there just as an example of the economic impact that's

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obviously already in happening, and that is likely to follow on, you're entirely at liberty to bring information of that nature before us. Or if you find yourself in front of an examining authority, again, either in this examination or these examinations, or later, any later examination, I guess what we do advise people is that if they need to refer to such material, then it's probably best that they alert the examining authority to the possibility that they might wish to introduce us and then we can provide a mechanism for coming in, including in a written document that that is then redacted before its publication, rather than it being kind of placed onto the recording, so to speak, and having to be chopped out. But no, I mean, it's important that we know, and you have every right to tell us anything you you wish that is relevant. But equally, we need to have regard to the need to protect your privacy and also comply with relevant legal provisions in relation to personal data. No, I understand. Okay. On that basis, then Ladies and gentlemen, when we reached the end of Mr. wheelers submission, we reached the end of agenda item four, we have now also heard Mr. karti. So I would like to thank all of today's and indeed, previous day's speakers on behalf of the panel for their contributions. I'm going to move then on to Agenda Item Number five, and I'm going to call on the applicant if they need to, to respond orally to matters that have been raised. And I will remind the applicants representative that I will allow five minutes maximum for this time, and that if there's anything additional that needs to be said that it needs to be put in in writing by deadline one. And again, if anybody is listening on the live stream, or indeed in the virtual room who disagrees with anything that the applicant has said, again, it needs to be responded to in writing. So can I call on Mr. Ennis, for the applicant, please?

1:39:29

Thank you. Sir Colin Ennis on behalf of both applicants. And again, I would like to start out by endorsing your comments about thanking those parties. From coming along today and making representations. It's certainly clear that this session is raised new issues that haven't been raised in terms of the other floor hearings, and again, recognizes the importance of that wider engagement and ensuring everyone has an opportunity to make that point before you

1:40:00

You in terms of matters, in terms of Mr. Mike Lewis was a matter raised about whether we had an engagement with them. I can confirm that, as far as I'm advised that we have, but we will re engage with Mr. Lewis over the ownership matters in relation to the rights and the road. And we'll certainly go

back and offer that again. In terms of other topic matters, we picked up the matter of finches laying and note, topics raised including air quality and flooding, which obviously will be subject to further examination. And we would anticipate questions, what matter appears to be a repeated issue. And concern is the nature of the National Grid infrastructure which is sought. And in that context, so you raised matters yesterday around our CPO justification. And insofar as we respond to that matter, we will deal with the lawyer context of that, because it's clearly relevant to that response as well. We certainly note the comments have been made. And we'll come back fully on that particular aspect.

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Another very common theme is that wider regulatory context issues, both legal and regulatory are being raised on a regular basis. These matters are likely to form and be discussed at issue specific hearing, too. And I just posed that the applicant would be willing to produce a regulatory context note at deadline to having seen the various written representations, and then trying to pull that together into a sort of context node, which will deal with both the legal and regulatory framework. And we haven't considered them I think that might be quite helpful, prior some time in advance of issue specific hearing to because these issues are going to be raised. And we already in some of our submissions allude to some of these matters. But we felt it might be better if it were brought together in a proper context. Now, for these matters, were pulled together with references to relevant legislation, and also regulatory context. And that also relates to the various guises of which National Grid appear in the context of papers, and also how they fit in the regulatory context. And if effect such paper were brought forward, it would seem to be better than it being piecemeal rotate in responses to a number of different questions. So I offer that up as a constructive way of perhaps giving a better context, before we go into issue specific hearing, too. Unless there are any other further managers, which can assist with you. I have nothing further for today.

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Thank you very much. And I am just going to pick up on that regulatory context, paper offer. And I will just check with my panel colleagues. And just to see if there is any burning view that anybody wishes to put to me on that.

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Nothing that I'm immediately hearing, because essentially, my observation in general terms was that'd be a highly productive suggestion, because it will hopefully enable us then, to see your systematized come across the piece response to all of the broad range of different submissions that have been made. And that might be boiled down into such a paper. And yes, if we can deal with that in one place, rather than in multiple individual questions, it'll be considerably more efficient. Obviously, we reserve a right, we may need to question it in detail once we've seen it. But the production of it and the timing of it, I think are both appropriate. Thank you.

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which case, I am going to flag that there are no other matters that I need to deal with. And I will hand this event back to Mrs. Jones.

1:43:56

Apologies. I have my microphone switched off. Thank you, Mr. Smith. I'm going to move on to review issues and actions arising from this hearing. The purpose of this item of the agenda is to provide the examining authorities with a check point on any actions that have arisen from this hearing. And some hearings, there are actions placed on the applicants or interested parties, for example, that certain documents should be provided, or other work done by a particular deadline. Mrs. Powers has been keeping a note of these during this open floor hearing, Mrs. Paris. Are there any action points you'd like to raise? Thank you, Mrs. Jones. I've got four actions. I'll just quickly summarize I know the applicants have just mentioned a couple of them too. And the first one was in relation to Georgina King's evidence on air quality. And I think we've got in there a commitment from Miss King to submit her evidence in full at deadline one and then for the applicants to come back at deadline two responding to that evidence. The second thing I have on my list is MLA

1:45:00

To the evidence, we heard from Reverend Mark, and his agreement to submit evidence about the historical and architectural significance of the summary church in the first and the third thing on my list is about Sizewell highways in effect. And these are the points raised by Henrietta Parma this morning about mitigation of Highway Safety and congestion effects that Sizewell, and that's an action on the applicants again for deadline one. And then that fourth point is what we've just had the applicants about the regulatory context note, which I think it's fair to say we should be coming in at deadline two and therefore can respond to submissions we have from all of the interested parties at deadline one, and it will also help to inform our discussions that is the two that's issue specific here going to at the beginning of December. The only other thing I wanted to mention that has come up a number of times this morning raised by Mr. Mrs. Fincham, Mrs. Manoj Kitezh, and probably others was the point about the order question of downgrading of the body to Bramford transition route for East Anglia one, three projects. We've already recorded an action on this at our floor here in one on Wednesday. And therefore I won't mention it again. But just to note that that is already an action on the applicants to respond to those points.

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Thank you.

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Thank you very much Mrs. Powers and Action List arising from today's hearing will be published on the national infrastructure planning website by the end of week commencing the 12th of October.

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Finally, before we close today, I would just like to run through the next steps. This has been open floor hearing three reference to the notice for hearings and identify that we did have time reserved for open floor hearing three a later this afternoon and this evening, as a place to adjourn business from here have this hearing not proceeded or being disrupted. Having reached this point today, we can be clear that open floor hearing three eight will not be needed. And so I will announce that it will be canceled, and the cancellation notice will be posted on the website shortly.

1:47:04

You will not have seen that the amended examination time you will not have seen the amended examination timetables yet. But a reminder that our next open for hearings in these examinations, open floor hearing four and five will proceed on the fifth and sixth of November. You don't need to request to be heard to be invited to those hearings, because they've been reserved for those who requested to be heard this week, but for whom they were insufficient spaces. And reminder also that if you want to be heard as an open floor hearing, but have not yet made your request, please do so at deadline one on the second of November is that will be the last occasion on which we asked for requests to speak that open for hearings.

1:47:43

The amended examination timetables include these under the hearing arrangements and will be published on both websites early next week. So please do take a look. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank all the speakers for their contributions, we do appreciate that you would have all preferred for us to be there to hear you in person, we are trying our best to conduct the examination as safely as possible in the circumstances in which we find ourselves in. And we will ensure that everyone who wants to be engaged will be engaged in this process. We are extremely grateful for the effort and professionalism that has been shown by all of our speakers, not just today. But in all our open floor hearing sessions this week, we assure you that everything that has been said today and on the previous days will be carefully considered. If necessary, the examining authorities may need to pursue matters identified here in written questions, or in other hearings. Those who like to take this opportunity to thank the case team for supporting these hearings.

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So unless there's anything else that anyone wishes to raise today,

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take a look around, no hands raised.

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I will ask all of my colleagues to come back in now and to say their goodbyes.

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Thank you very much echo all Mrs. Jones's comments. Thank you very much to everyone who's contributed today. And indeed, all this week. goodbye from me and look forward to working with you in these examinations. Thank you.

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Thank you for me as well and have good weekends, everybody.

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Thank you very much. And just to reiterate that your contributions this week have been very useful. So thank you for that goodbye.

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And then finally from myself or in Smith as lead member of these pair of examining authorities. Thank you very much. My colleagues word subside at all. And I will just wish you a good weekend.

1:49:36

Thank

1:49:40

you events in these examinations to an end and I now close open floor hearing three