

East Anglia OFH 4 Morning Session 1

00:06

Good morning and welcome everybody to today's open floor hearing for East Anglia, one North and East Anglia TWO offshore wind farms. This is the fourth open floor hearing in these examinations. Now, before we introduce ourselves, I'll do with a few preliminary matters. Can I just check with the case team that you can hear me and that the recordings and live streams have started?

00:33

I can confirm that we can hear you and the recordings have started. Thank you very much, Miss Hopewell.

00:40

Now, I will also ask that if there are speakers who are due to speak later on in sessions, that they keep their cameras and microphone switched off, please, we will ask individual speakers to come forward in the order shown on the agenda. And it's it's helpful if those who are not yet speaking can switch their cameras off. Thank you very much.

01:03

This, as I said, is the fourth open floor hearing that we are going to be holding in this these examinations. Today's hearing and tomorrow's hearing were introduced due to the substantial amount of interest that we received in needing to be heard at earlier events that we held in October. There are however, more open floor hearings planned to be heard in the new year. And we have provided interested parties with an opportunity to be to request those deadline one which has just past.

01:32

We will hold this hearing in two sessions. If you're here now, then you will be heard in this session in the order shown in Annex A on the agenda. Once you've been heard, you don't have to stay. If you leave, you can watch the rest of the session on the live stream. And you don't need to join the second session. Again, please use the live stream to watch. This makes sure that there is plenty of space in our computer systems for speakers who are due to follow on in session two.

02:00

So two introductions. My name is Rin Smith. I'm the lead member of a panel, which is the examining authority for the East Anglia one North offshore wind farm application. And I've another panel which is the examining authority for the East Anglia to offshore wind farm application. I'm in the chair Today

02:21

I'll draw your attention to annex B of our most recent rule six letter dated the 16th of July 2020. And you can find there my brief biography and an explanation of the purpose of the examining authorities appointments.

02:36

I made a declaration of interests at the preliminary meetings Part One held on the 16th of September. And you can view that on line two if you wish.

02:45

My fellow panel members will introduce themselves and I will flag that they too have brief bio biographies in the rule six electronics B and they to make declarations of the preliminary meetings part one. So let me start there by introducing Mrs. Caroline Jones. Morning everyone. My name is Caroline Jones, and I'm going to be leading on the main elements of the first session of this hearing today once the introductions are over.

03:11

Good morning everybody. My name is John Hockley, a member of these panels are mainly be observing and taking notes in a session on may ask questions if they arise. And I'll be leaving on elements of the second session. Thank you Mr. Smith. Thank you very much Mr. Hawk Hockley. Now, those of you who have been involved with or watched the previous open floor, know that we don't have the full panel here today we have a bench of three. And we decided to organise ourselves so that two other members of the panel are free to work in the background on the very, very large quantities of information that we've received that deadline one on Monday. And However, if needs be for contingency purposes or because particular topics crop up, and our other two colleagues can join us.

03:58

I will also introduce our planning Inspectorate colleagues working with us on these examinations, some of whom you have spoken to already this morning. m Ray Williams and Kevin Jones are jointly the case managers leading the planning and spectral case team for these applications. Emery Williams led the arrangements conference this morning and is managing the team today. And he is accompanied today by two case officers, Kj Johansson and Caroline hope well.

04:26

Hopefully your agenda papers for these hearings provided a clear explanation of air and your reasons for being here this morning to hold open floor hearings, which are your opportunity to raise anything that is important and relevant, and that you think we should know about and consider before we make our findings or recommendations to the Secretary of State on either of the applications for development consent.

04:51

You'll find information about the applications and documents produced for these examinations on the planning Inspectorate national infrastructure website. This

05:00

has a landing page for both projects and further tabs that set out examination procedures, the timetable relevant representations and examination documents for each project separately, Melissa Baker, and I rule six months now exiting the web addresses.

05:19

Please look at the website regularly because we're using it to communicate with you and provide access to documents throughout both examinations.

05:27

So now, you've been introduced to the members of the panel, you know who we are, we're here. And so I'm going to hand over to Caroline Jones, who will lead the majority of this session.

05:41

Thank you, Mr. Smith. This is Carolyn Jones speaking shortly I'll be asking attendees for session one to speak in the order set out in Annex A of the agenda. But before I do, there's just a few things to remember, we revised, we advised you in the agenda that we're being live streamed and recorded. The recordings that we make are retained and published. Therefore, they form a public record that could contain your personal information into which the general data protection regulation applies. Before we move on, does anyone have any questions about the terms on which recordings are made? I'm

06:13

not seeing any response and forward on that basis. That's all understood. My colleague Mr. Williams has provided me with a list of speakers for session one and the running order as confirmed in the arrangements conference. open floor hearings are an opportunity for individuals and community groups to speak directly to the examining authority, and I'm not about to particular location or topic. The topic of your representations about the proposals is therefore up to yourself. However, we may disregard representation if it is vexatious or frivolous.

06:42

Turning to this morning's meeting, you should now know the order that I intend to take speakers in. And the agenda sets out the speaking time guides that apply. So you know when you are likely to speak, please don't leave until you've had your turn as if you do we will be able to include you in a later session. Once you've spoken, we do not, we do ask you to leave to ensure that there is enough capacity in the computer system for the latest speakers to join, you can watch the remainder of the hearing on the live stream online. I should also say that I will need to be strict but fair in managing the timings this morning due to the number of speakers that we have, so that everyone has their 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. If you have more to say you're very welcome to submit your additional material and writing for deadline two, which is the 17th of November. Please remember it written and oral contributions carry equal weight. Can I just check the name of the contact that we have for the applicants today, please?

07:44

Yes, thank you, Mr. Jones, Colin Ennis, of shepherd and Wedderburn on behalf of the applicants. I'm this morning instructed by Fiona coil of divisional sister from SPI legal. I'm also accompanied by Rich Morris, Senior Project Manager.

08:01

Thank you, Mr. Dennis, as my colleagues have done in the previous open floor hearings, I just want to remind you the main purpose this morning is to hear from interested parties and that you're here to listen in the main. But before we close the hearing, we will give you a brief opportunity in session to to make responding remarks on matters that you consider must be drawn to our attention. If you could please confine these to five minutes. Detailed responses can be provided in writing a deadline to anyone who is speaking in this session can watch the applicants response on the livestream. And if there is anything that you disagree with, again, you can set that out in writing a deadline to I'll finally remind everyone that this is an opportunity for everyone here to have their say in fairness, just as you would not want to be interrupted when you speak please do not interrupt the other speakers. If you agree or disagree with what they say then you can make that clear to us in your own speaking time. Or if you've already spoken or watching on the live stream, then you can do so in writing a deadline to every speaker should be allowed to make full use of their time to speak. If anyone does interrupt in a way that is unnecessary or disrupts the hearing, then I will warn them and ask them to allow the hearing to continue. If the same person interrupts again, I will warn them again. But please note that repeated interruptions that lead to disruption can be viewed as unreasonable behaviour which awards of costs can be sought by other interested parties. If anyone interrupts on a third occasion following two warnings, I will ask the case manager to exclude them from the hearing.

09:24

Now that the introductions are complete, and before I move on to the main business of session one, does anyone have any questions at this point?

09:34

I'll take that as a note and move on.

09:37

Before I introduce our first speaker this morning, I will let you know that we will not interrupt you during your submissions as long as you remain relevant and within time, we will listen to you carefully and if my colleagues or I have questions, then we'll raise them at the end of your speaking time.

09:51

So the first speaker that I have on my list is Melissa Baker

09:57

speaker here

10:02

Yes, I am I'm here. Hi, Miss Baker, thank you for five minutes in which to make your points. Miss Williams will let you know with a slide when you have one minute left in your contribution, but you also, please introduce yourself. We're ready whenever you are. Thank you. My name is Melissa Baker. And I have lived and worked in this area for 13 years. I'm in favour of wind energy, but oppose the choice of location for the grid connection, onshore substations, and cable corridor. I love living here and feel passionately about preserving the beautiful countryside and the wildlife they're in for future generations,

as well as wanting to do all that I can to ensure the people here lead as long and healthy life as possible, enjoying the landscape, the wildlife and the peace and tranquillity. I also want to make sure we preserve the environment for all of our amazing wildlife. I support the submission by Georgina King. He spoke in the open floor hearing session three on ninth of October, in which she highlighted some of the many reasons why this project should not proceed, including the fact that according to the Department for the environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the eastern region is among 38 of the UK 43 air quality things which are currently currently breaching EU limits and the highest recording for ozone pollution in 2020. So far, the readings taken at Simpson between January and mid September, and 15 to six miles from the a 109 for a 12 Junction, which says that the highest we had the highest recording of tropospheric ozone pollution in the whole of the UK right here. The World Health Organisation and the UK Government recognise that air pollution is the largest environmental health risk we face today. poor air quality is responsible for 36,000 deaths a year in the UK, and negatively impact the health of the 12 point 7 million people live with long standing respiratory condition, and 7.4 million people living with heart and circulatory diseases.

12:21

We all know that our planet is in trouble, and that we must nurture our environments and care for our wildlife. Otherwise, we are going to be in serious trouble.

12:31

spr's current proposal is most definitely not right for us. There is a smarter, environmentally friendly way to provide green energy. For instance, why aren't we making it mandatory for all new houses to have solar panels? This is what they're doing in Germany.

12:49

As David Attenborough has said, we have to know how and expertise to find better ways to provide power. Why are we not implementing them? Let's focus on finding out how we can provide energy and respect our environment at the same time, rather than trashing it, and creating long term health problems and shortening people's lives. This is an opportunity to lead the way and show the world how to provide green energy in a responsible way. I really hope SPR grabbed this chance to do the right thing. Thank you very much.

13:31

Thank you very much, Mr. Baker. Just check if any of my panel colleagues have any questions at this stage?

13:39

No. Okay. I'll move on to the second speaker on my list today with which is Bridget D'Angelo Miss D'Angelo.

13:52

Hello.

13:53

Hi, there, I can hear you and see you. Sandra, you have five minutes in which to make your points. Again, we will let you know with a slide when you have one minute left. When you begin your contribution if you could just introduce yourself, please.

14:09

Hi, I'm Bridget D'Angelo. I live in random which is six miles northwest of Houston. Thank you, Mr. Smith panel and all those listening for the opportunity to speak today. I endorsed the representations of Michael Mahoney of spaces and Fiona Gilmore of Cece. And I object to these hearings being held virtually. I am in favour of sustainable green energy. As I mentioned, I live in random it's a small village on the B 119. Between Saxmundham and family and my family and I moved here from London 10 years ago. We didn't know Suffolk we moved here for a different way of life. We have been amazed by suffix beauty, wildlife and community. I grew up in Devon but never have I experienced the depths of nature that we see here. Ours buzzards otters in the river old

15:00

that runs through our garden, King fishes dragonflies, incredible night skies unpolluted by light. My children have enjoyed the wonder of laying outside and watching shooting styles in our garden.

15:13

I became a parish Councillor a year ago. Although I speak today as an individual and not at the parish councils collective views. I mentioned this because I had not joined the parish Council. I've know very little of the major infrastructure plans that planned for this area. I was horrified to learn of 10 energy product projects planned to date with without a coordinated approach. Many local people are totally unaware of the extent of these plans. It is not one or even two planning issues we're dealing with. If scottishpower given permission to build substation and Kristen, it opens the floodgates to another six projects to interconnect to this site, extending I understand to some hundred acres, and the floodgate is an apt word given the local history of flooding. What amazes me is a lack of overall planning. There's much talk in government of carbon neutrality and protecting biodiversity. But it seems to be just a box ticking exercise, this project cannot possibly be environmentally viable. Overall, several young speakers in earlier in these hearings have spoken of this project and called it dirty green energy. I wholeheartedly agree. I'm concerned that the floodlit building site and then the continuous harm of the substation will have a huge impact on the population of owls, bats and migrating birds to name just a few. I'm sure other parties with much more expertise will put a strong case together to protest the substation based on these effects. marine wildlife has also been mentioned. And just because the wind farms are at sea does not mean that their environmental impact is any less because we can't see it. The public are undergoing a very anxious time facing the crises of public health and global climate and suffered locals are now also confronted with these substations and the prospect of two new nuclear reactors at sizewell C. So what will it mean for our daily lives if this project is given permission? For the people of Kristen, it's obviously devastating. But we've also heard from residents further afield is Suffolk would change beyond recognition, traffic levels along the a 12 would drastically increase. And there are very many dangerous junctions along this road in particular Friday street junction where most of the hgvs and associated traffic would turn off for Friston. Many people don't know how to manoeuvre this junction at present, let alone with the increase in traffic. Clearly, the pollution from this traffic is a major concern. The statistics quoted by Georgina king in a previous representation are horrifying. You may

also not be aware that villages such as random have no access to public transport, and so we have no option but to drive. The future of our local tourist industry looks bleak. East Africa is a destination because of its area of outstanding natural beauty is breathtaking coastline. My partner and I even have taken a couple of holidays within the area, as we don't have to travel far to find somewhere truly special. I've learnt so much from these meetings and presentations, I understand it's possible to build a remain at sea connecting wind farms to brownfield sites, we must ensure that all these avenues are assessed fully before giving permission to this project. If the government wanted the UK to lead in wind power technology, then we have better start withholding world class planning. Thank you.

18:52

Thank you very much St. Andrew. I believe my colleague Mr. Smith has a question for you. Okay, indeed. And thank you very much for those submissions. And this is a question that has been put in common to a number of the other submitters, because we are, I guess very clear that to the degree that it is being suggested that there are multiple energy projects potentially connecting at the Friston transmission connection location, we want to make sure that we have as clear an understanding as possible, of what specifically those projects are know you made a reference to their beam 10 there have been a number of different references to different projects. And we're asking everybody who speaks on these points, to draw to our attention to specific projects that they are aware of. And we'd like you to do that at deadline to please in writing.

19:44

And essentially, this is about a check and audit process making sure that the applicant is aware of all of these projects and that we as an examining authority and in due course the secretary of state are aware of and as far as possible. there is agreement about this

20:00

These are the projects that need to be brought into our deliberations. So if you could do that for us, that would be memorable. Thank you.

20:10

Okay, thank you very much. We move on to our third speakers this morning who are Mike and Karen flower.

20:21

I'm Mr. Flower. Hi, can you hear me? I can hear you yet

20:26

as that members of a household making a shared contribution, you've got seven minutes this morning in which to make your points Mr. Williams will let you know when you have one minute remaining. When you begin your contribution if I could just ask you to introduce yourself please.

20:41

I am Mike flower and beside me is cam flower. We have spent a few years holidaying in this area and fell in love with the beautiful countryside the peacefulness, abundant wildlife and idyllic lifestyle. We moved to phase two five years ago after chance to fulfil a dream and live on the Suffolk coast.

21:00

My first encounter with scottishpower first and village hall was high fine. There was plans to rip up everything around the village was scary. The beautiful landscape around our village to be desecrated by scottishpower renewables. It came with artists impressions, how it would look, it made me feel like this was all over. I was going to head no matter what even a senior representative at the meeting told me and others that they have never lost an application. This was an attempt to put many of the locals off from the beginning. The application process has been difficult. And even I have struggled with the countless forms and emails I've had to complete in order to make my views and concerns known. How must it feel for many of the villages who are not computer internet savvy. They don't have a direct outlet to speak, speak to many villages. Most feel they can't deal with the stress is too complicated to keep up to date with everything. They tell me what is the point?

21:58

What is the point the deal is done anyway? I know it's not done yet. But I have to agree How can a tiny village with less than 400 residents fight against the Scottish power and National Grid?

22:10

Excuse me. So many things SPL have said have been far from the truth. We were told these substations would occupy 33 acres. Now I'm hearing this three substations and four additional interconnectors, which are pretty much the same size as the substations occupying over 100 acres in total. No glossy booklets large plans displayed at the village hall outline the artist's impressions of how this will look now, with these new additions. I wonder why. Pretty sure you can draw your own conclusion on this one. We were told that they would build banks around the substation, and plant trees to help hide the ugliness I'm hearing it will just be long grass move over Alan Titchmarsh. It told us that they had they told us that a spade would not be put in the ground until the application is approved. Sp I want to test the ground and have now prevented farmers working some of their fields. These fields are now barren fields like SPR just bulldoze in with their corporate might before the application is even decided.

23:17

They stated they would widen the street and some of the roads to help with their access to the point that this was a bonus for us. Part of the charm of this area is the little country lanes. If I wanted to create a road out of move to Milton Keynes

23:32

please don't let scottishpower renewables and National Grid ruin forevermore this beautiful spot in software. Now where thousands of visitors come residents communities enjoy. Keep this place a place where people will want to return each year just like my wife and I did 11 years ago and fulfil the dream. Don't turn this dream into a nightmare.

24:00

Hello.

24:01

We went on Google Maps last week and enjoyed conversations with friends as we gained a satellite view of our homes gardens in the village in general, surrounded by fields and footpaths that we walk we often spot buzzards has in skylarks, fast forward five years and what will be the view of Friston on Google Maps. If granted the view will be of a large scale construction and the destruction of agricultural land, the removal of woods and the widening and straightening of local roads. Fast forward another five years and what's of the village, perhaps a shadow of its former self and known only as Friston. The place where the substations are

24:40

as my husband said, we moved to the area to live and work

24:44

since the coronavirus pandemic we now both work full time from home. As many residents we cannot believe that this onshore project will be allowed to be located so close to a small village community and the effects of the proposals

25:00

are already having an impact on the quality of life of many. We are in our 50s and the uncertainty of what is ahead is not without anxiety. We drive to the the short distance to obrah. And in the summer met a couple was walking and the conversation turned to where we lived. Upon saying Kristen, they remarked, the houses in Bristol will surely be going cheap because nobody will want to live there.

25:26

My elderly parents are in their 80s and are planning to move to the local area from the northwest of England. The choices of a nearby village and town locations has already got a cloud hanging over them. You housing developments in older nim are close to the podge to the large scale construction of the cable route. Least on will form part of the HDB route nada sure to is part of the cable corridor construction and the background from Saxmundham to Friston via the be 119. What will that be like once construction traffic both large and small, make their way in their hundreds down the narrow country lanes.

26:05

When meeting a local estate agent the other week after viewing a house my parents when I said didn't ask when I said I lived in forest and his immediate response was, oh, that's where the substation is being built, isn't it. He was under the impression It was a smallish construction and not the 30 acres or hundred acres as planned. Please, people do still not know the truth of what is about to happen. The scale of the development has been underplayed by Scottish power, whose own representative at a public consultation impressed and village hall admitted to not even knowing where the substations would be sited. So I actually took him off the road and pointed them out to him.

26:45

I would like to add my thanks and wholehearted support of the committee members of the SE C's and other groups for that for the tireless hours of research and efforts into uncovering the truth behind what these proposals will mean. And the catastrophic of failure of scottishpower renewables and national grid to be held to account or show any responsibility for the damage and destruction that they plan to cause to the local economy, communities, countryside and wildlife. There has to be a better way to connect to the national grid and we hope that the examining authorities support the interests of local communities and not allow this project in Bristol to go ahead. Thank you.

27:24

Thank you very much Mr. stuff. today that was really helpful.

27:30

And the next person that I have on my list is William Halford.

27:41

Good morning. Good morning, Mr. Halford. I can see you and hear you now as to how fast you've got five minutes and again we'll put a slide up when you've got one minute remaining. Okay.

27:54

Whenever you are ready whenever you are.

27:58

Good. Good morning again, my name is Bill Halford. I live in Oldham in [REDACTED] next to the river hundreds. The submission of two separate DCs has caused great confusion several speakers that previous openflow hearings, including our local MP, referred to a 32 metre motorway wide cable corridor. Actually the combined with the two cable corridors including the four rows would be 64 metres. That's the width of nearly three dual carriageway motorways my calculation this has not been highlighted by the by an applicant. These projects were planning to make landfall further south and 14 and to use the consented East Anglia one cable route from there to the grid Branford. scottishpower was later granted upfront funding for only 60% of the gigawatt generating power that it had planned for East Anglia one third capacity downgrade led project manager to request a non material change from high voltage DC to high voltage AC.

28:57

An unfortunate consequence being that it would no longer be sufficient cabled up there for East Anglia, one North and East Anglia two national grid offered an alternative grid connection in the latest scenario, I found no evidence in the heavily Redacted Redacted silent assessments to indicate any account of the impact onshore that decision.

29:18

At some point during 2017 scottishpower renewables appears to have decided or be 1122 East West crossing point slaps in the middle of ordering them between the grounds of ordinary court and fiches laying there being 100 or so metres of woodland either side of the road and the gap in the B 1122.

ribbon development. One of the functional requirements on the correct cable corridor specification at that time, was a 50 metres width.

29:47

Responding to local authority concerns that flooding so many trees on the west side would destroy the visual aspect of grade two listed as ordering him court discussions scottishpower offered to reduce cable corridor with

30:00

50 metres to 16 metres, or 27 metres for both projects. There is no evidence that any other crossing points were evaluated and scottishpower continues to say that is the only feasible crossing place despite having reduced the overall width requirement for nearly 50%.

30:18

There is a second just under one vector of woodland on the east side between 1122 and the river scottishpower has not offered a reduced with the Far from it. Its plan showed that it would take out 93 metres 100 metres were intense to run cabling haul roads across the river. The applicant also offers proposals for way over 40 metres wide sweat path, HGV turning geometry where whole road would need to be 1122 on both sides of the road. The justification for that is a complete mystery. Since the applications indicate that HTV traffic is reduced there to the minimum necessary to serve that section the poor road

30:59

wouldn't on the east side is part of a long stretch on managed mature woodland extending much further south along the west bank of the river. It has been central to the ecological and visual setting of the Oregon river hundred special landscape area and floodplain has become an ideal home to many birds, wild birds and other animals such as bats, owls, woodpeckers, and deer even glow worms. Nowadays, it would be described as a unique area, unique area of weed rewilding well ahead of its time, no mention of that in the applicants ecological assessment focused instead on the a&p and triple Si, nor any commitment to replan and project completion.

31:38

The back gardens in Gypsy lane include a continuation of that long stretch of riverbank woodland, where we enjoy an amazing variety of wildlife including nightingales. My own Riverside back garden in Gypsy lane is situated only 20 metres or closest from the order limits at the river hundred crossing point. And the house itself is 75 metres away from the cable corridor. The impact on our lives and construction noise level 22 the river crossing works and pumps from the haul road dust and light pollution close with via level two during open trenching, etc, etc, etc. may continue for about nine or 10 years. Unless the projects are built concurrently. The prospect is quite horrific scottishpower who was not seem to accept this and has been unprepared so far to include mitigation measures in this design. There are more projects to come the most advanced being Nautilus national adventures have been consulting with local councils written to residents informing them about their plans to conduct surveys on the land, etc. etc. No time here to say more about Nautilus and other projects come safe to say I fully support counter counts, county councillors, Ross ranges words on cumulative impact, but open

floor hearing three, you may be interested to hear National Grid most often in its March 2018 electricity transmission annual statement with the title delivering our environmental future. It was actually national grid's application for an oxygen environmental reward. It stays. But if I could just ask you to finish this sentence, please. Okay, it's out. It's outrageous. That National Grid put these projects forward as a case study in support of its environmental credentials, considering what is now due to happen in our own environment here. Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Mr. Halford. If I could just give people a quick reminder not to release personal information during their submissions. And this is recorded and it will be published on our website. Mr. Halford? Are you content for your submission to be published? It's quite content. Thank you. Thank you. Just before we move on, Mr. Smith, would like to come in at this point. Yes, indeed. And this is to pick up on the points that Mr. Halford raised but again, as a general flag for everybody involved and for those listening on the live streams to essentially to remind us all that there are substantial questions around the selection of the landfall location, and the onshore cable routes and connection point. And, and also questions raised about the design approach to the management of the onshore connection approach. And these are matters that we're going to look into in significantly more depth than we can today in issue specific hearing to in early December. And a broad range of entities will be invited to that including the community representatives from CS and se C's, so there will be an opportunity to have considerably more conversation about those issues and their effects. Thank you very much. Mr. Halford.

34:49

Thank you. The next speaker on the list is Jenny Kennedy.

34:58

Hello

35:00

Good morning, Miss Kennedy. Hello. Can Do you have five minutes this morning and again, we will let you know when you have one minute remaining.

35:10

Thank you. My name is Jamie Kennedy from my home and Kristen. I was staggered when I heard Kristen was one of the several sites SP earmarked to build a substation there. Surely when we're near the bottom of the list, and the substation is something small, something tucked away not obvious. When the information is required to understand the proposal, the monstrous nature of it, I was incredulous. When Kristen was chosen, I felt sick to the stomach. Because I know how these things go. Sp can hire great law firms expensive Planning Council, the best experts, they could no doubt have spent several million pounds on this process. Whilst our community resources are very limited. I went to all the consultation sessions and frankly, they were pointless for anything other than SP saying they had consulted with us. I was greeted by smiling speakers giving standard answers. If I press the difficult question. At best, they were embarrassed. And it was I could see they were making up stories. But at least they could say that went through the process. Following the meeting as I started to suspect that SP were being disingenuous overly intentions for the site is bad enough they want to build one substation, but I don't believe they do. I believe they have big plans for a big site. I believe that SP and the National Grid envisage the proposed site at Frisco as a hub for future projects. No doubt they're

already planning to sell space off the site as they choose using their huge economic power to drive the conditions they needed to do so. If they build it, others will come in and use it. Other projects will catch on to it. We are told this is all good for the area. But I don't believe this project will create many long term jobs. In fact, I think the area will lose jobs in tourism as a result of what is planned. I believe that the impact of the project will cause extra flooding into the village I'm sure it will remove our rights of way I lovely offered walks and at the impact of the building project would you stabilise are listed in vulnerable buildings. In lorries unnecessary equipment will curb upon narrow roads cause noise and other pollution for ongoing years of building a project that we will end up living with a visual atrocity and a constant environmental harm. I feel very angry that this project is trampling over mine and the lives of others to make profit along the way. And to boost diglossia dream to the rest of the country of how kind SPR how environmentally friendly they are. However, the person turns on attack in Belgium, wherever they want to sell their power to, they can be reassured and SP is saving the world for them. To me, it's a catastrophe. My life is somewhere and overnight I'm faced with what for me is an environmental nightmare. I have no trust in SP conduct. I believe they want to do exactly what they want to do that they will leave the site exactly as openly as they are allowed to do to damage our community exactly as they wish. It must be possible to site this project away from our local community. As people build their 16 concrete football pitches in any number of places where they won't do so much personal and environmental damage. How could I object to renewable power I do it. This is not about my objectives. We're joined up to heaven policy for the provision of and use of the world's resources, they need to move offshore power onshore does not should not mean it has to be can do what it wants and drive itself as a juggernaut where it wishes. However, I look at this project, whatever I think or say, I'm drawn back to a central question. How could it be proposed to site a huge industrial complex and noisy concrete jungle within sight and sound of a small village within sight of a grade to this big church? Our church is the heart of our community. And if this complex is built in a hurry, to stand its ground and

39:10

almost touch, hear and smell this substation. How can that be conceived? Let alone built such a huge project so close to a small rural community. And of course, a name Kristen will become synonymous, not with a green and peaceful place but an industrial wasteland. Green Energy should not come at the cost of the destruction of rural environment and rural community. My community should not be disposed off. So thank you for listening.

39:39

Thank you very much. Thank you. That was really helpful.

39:43

Our next speaker today is king.

39:51

Morning. Good morning, Mr. King. I can see you and hear you as to can you have five minutes this morning. Again, we'll get

40:00

A reminder when you've got one minute remaining Oh, sorry, Mr. King, just before we start, Mr. Smith, indeed, apologies for the interruption, but I was just conscious that we did have a person in the lobby just before Mr. King began to speak and I thought it'd be quite useful just to confirm who that was and whether they are one of the latest speakers in the session.

40:24

room. I think there's someone in the lobby now, so you might just want to let them in that now. Excellent.

40:32

Nina Horrocks, her pion

40:34

is now exiting. Ah,

40:38

thank you for letting me excellent.

40:43

Can I just check that you are due to speak after Mr. Edward King?

40:50

Yes, that's right. Excellent.

40:53

I'll hand back to the chair. Mrs. Jones, and Mr. Keels will continue to speak in order. Apologies, Mr. King.

41:01

Mr. King, you can you can start your five minutes now.

41:05

Good morning. My name is Edward King. I was born in Ipswich went to school just outside Ipswich and have lived in Snape since 1983.

41:13

I'm a strong believer in renewable energy. So much so that I own and manage one of the few caravan parks in the Suffolk coast and he's a OMB which relies almost exclusively for it on renewables. Nearly all the caravans on my path derive their power either from solar panels or from wind. I am constantly looking for ways to remove carbon fuel for my Park and my tenants are all keen to embrace the parks green credentials. The park has been awarded a Bellamy gold medal for 10 consecutive years in recognition of its ongoing commitment to environmental awareness.

41:51

The principle of harnessing wind energy in the North Sea is therefore one with which I wholeheartedly agree and the applicant's proposal should be music to my ears. However, the location of massive extent of the proposed development undermines the very foundation of environmental sensitivity, which should be the cornerstone of any such project.

42:12

The very fact that the applicant has chosen designed what will be a substantial concrete construction. In the middle of an unspoiled Greenfield location suggests that the thought process behind the decision was more a case of sticking a pin in a map than a considered search for the best location. At best it smacks of lazy thinking. At worst, it can be seen as cynical and bullying a huge corporation scottishpower renewables using its sheer size and hiding behind the veil of the public interest to literally bulldoze its way through legitimate local concerns, or for lack of proper research and the coordination of approach.

42:54

There is nothing about the Friston site which makes it either ideal logical OR necessary, and there is much that makes it unsuitable, illogical and undesirable.

43:04

This part of the Suffolk relies heavily on the tourist industry, worth an estimated 600 million pounds to the area. visitors come to enjoy the coast and the unspoiled nature of the countryside. Indeed, there are no large scale attractions by way of theme parks. And it is specifically this lack of development which brings so many people here. at current levels, the traffic is already high during peak seasonal periods. And the massive increase in HDTV traffic will be which will be generated during the construction phase will inevitably clog up roads and increase pollution along with a 1094 and its surrounding area.

43:45

I am aware that the issue of traffic has been raised in a number of other submissions, so I will not dwell on it here. safe to say that there is no scenario in which the increase in HTTP traffic only a 194 can ever be mitigated to an acceptable level. As someone who lives on the a 1094. I have justifiable fears that increase in traffic will have immediate and long term effects on my health as well as that in my family. To come back to the effect of this project on tourism, and my caravan park in particular, I'm concerned about the levels of air pollution, which will be created by the construction of the plant. the applicant's own assessment confirms that the level of dust pollution generated during all phases of this project are predominantly high. My caravan park lies to the northeast of the proposed site and therefore in the path of any fine particulate matter, which will be carried on the prevailing southwesterly wind. My tenants cover a broad section of ages, but a large number of retired and spent months at a time on the path.

44:50

These people will be at particular risk from the particulate matter which will be carried by the wind and it is likely that some will develop respiratory problems as a result.

45:00

It is important to bear in mind we're not talking about a quick in quick out operation here. The build time for this project has been stated as 12 to 15 years. And given the propensity of such projects to overrun, it is probable that this will extend to 17 or 18 years. That means 18 years of exposure to construction site dust. To recap he suffered is not an industrialised region. its economy is based on tourism, which in turn depends on the unspoiled nature of its countryside. The SPR proposal will blind to the countryside and lead to at least 15 years of economic damage in the area. The number of visitors lost will vastly outweigh the relatively small number of outside workers brought to the area by constructions.

45:46

It is evident to all those with vested interests that the Friston site is unsuitable as a base for this development. What is needed is a coordinated approach to energy infrastructure needs suffered, not the piecemeal plans which are currently being proposed. At the very least, this proposal should be put on hold until a formal and thorough inquiry can draw together all the various projects into one and coherent strategy.

46:12

Thank you. Thank you very much for sticking

46:16

on. My colleague, Mr. Hockley would like to ask you a question.

46:22

Thank you, Mr. Mrs. Jones. Thank you, Mr. King for that. It's just a query really, Mr. King, I wonder if I've seen your submission. Now you detailed lots of interesting details about your caravan park. If you had any more information about your caravan park and your any views on effects on tourism in the area that would be most useful for deadline to place. I will endeavour to do so. Thank you. Yes, thank you very much.

46:46

Thank you very much, Mr. King. And our next speaker this morning is Nina Horrocks hoppin

46:57

Hello. Hello there. Good morning.

47:02

It's her it's hoppy. And you have five minutes this morning. And again, we'll give you a reminder when you have one minute remaining. If I could just remind you to introduce yourself before you speak please.

47:13

My name is Nina Horrocks, am I speaking on behalf of my sisters around her ExoPlayer our first school was called fair green and not assure our playground surrounded by black thorn bushes where we'd love to play and when Nightingale sang every spring, the school has now expanded to include ages four to 11 and the black thorn bushes have since been uprooted for the health and safety of the children. But

Nightingale still nest along fixtures laying behind the school in one of the last areas of the UK that can provide a habitat for these iconic birds facing extinction

47:48

is Scottish powers plans Go ahead, the children are caught by Green School will never hear and Nightingale their habitat will be destroyed and their song replaced with the cacophony of construction just metres from the school. large vehicles will Thunder along the haul road. On the other side of the hatch. The one safe and quiet playground will be flooded with toxic gases filling growing lungs every day, as well as the well recorded harm to respiration caused by ozone. Recent research has found that even a slight increase in nitrogen dioxide, largely produced by diesel vehicles heighten the risk of common mental disorders by 39%. For tiny particle pollution which comes from burning fuels and breaking tire dust. The risk grows by 18%. But there will be no slight increase here. Scottish power has proposed an increase of 109% traffic. Further research has discovered high incidences of suicides and huge reduction in intelligence in children growing up in polluted areas. A global review in 2019 concluded that evolution may be damaging every organ in the human body. It has also just been announced that 15% of all COVID-19 deaths worldwide are attributable to dirty air. Supposedly, the movement towards green energy is to preserve the future of our children to provide them with a sustainable nourishing planet for generations to come. Will they thank us who purchase purchasing renewable energy at the cost of their physical and mental health.

49:23

It's not only our children who will suffer another study has found that exposure to air pollution, specifically fine particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide, even at relatively low levels was the cause of an estimated 6.1% of dementia cases at the other end of fitches laneways ordering and caught the residential home. When I was at school, we would walk there to entertain the elderly residents, which was an enriching experience for young and old alike. scottishpower intends to cut through the grounds of ordering and court the new road coming within close sight that the building was assuming view for our graduates.

50:00

Parents in their final days as they sit on the reduced lawn, watching the hgvs roaring by wild fumes rob them of their mental function and memories. Besides air pollution, contamination of our rivers under the land and a major farming area, we will all suffer from the introduction of noise and light pollution. Here the whole village knows if a neighbour has left a light on. My friends visiting from London couldn't understand our warnings about navigating country roads in the dark because they have never known darkness. When they stepped out and looked up, I couldn't believe their eyes. They didn't know that it was possible to see the Milky Way from us. Light pollution is now considered comparable to climate change in its effects on the future well being of the planet, recently dubbed by scientists bringer of the insect Apocalypse, as the noise pollution it will harm our population of rare bats and birds. Not only will we be unable to enjoy the nightingale song or the woodbox will call it the bitten or the cuckoo, but they will not be able to hear each other which is essential for them to breed. It will become as unlikely to hear a nightingale sing and Aldrin as in Berkeley square.

51:13

There are other areas in East Anglia which would not be so drastically transformed by a project of this magnitude. There are other means of constructing wind energy that are not so destructive. scottishpower are not without alternatives. Suffolk is already under dangerous levels of pollution. The UK is already one of the most nature depleted places in the world. Our little corner here is a haven for humans, flora and fauna like don't destroy the little we have left.

51:44

Thank you for listening.

51:47

Thank you very much for your contribution this morning.

51:53

Our next speaker this morning is Anthony Wooley.

52:04

Mr. Molly. Good morning. Yes, I want

52:09

to speak to them. Unfortunately, my camera link isn't working. That's absolutely fine. I can hear you well. Okay.

52:16

Five minutes this morning. And again, I'll let you know when we let you know when you have one minute remaining. Okay, thank you. Right. My name is Tony Morley. I've lived in Friston for 17 years.

52:31

This planning inquiry should never really have taken place. It was national grid and scottishpower renewables should have kept to the agreed cable route from bawdsey to Branford. We now know that this proposal is a Trojan horse, which will open the floodgates for eight or more substations adjacent to the site, with cable routes and construction being spread over the next 15 years. And I have a map I've sent on writing which shows Kristen being completely encircled by different cable waves with different projections, all taken from national grids publications.

53:13

This inquiry should be looking at national grids plans to develop a massive industrial site in unspoiled Suffolk countryside. Using the SPR application as the Trojan horse

53:27

even is own the SPR proposal should never have been proposed for the following reasons. Proposed landfall at thorpness is quite unsuitable, constant erosion, which will increase as EDF has stated that their plan jetty aside as well could increase erosion ran thought next, their proposed cable route runs through areas of a o n and b and badly affects communities that size well ordering him and not issue as

well as the first and the huge numbers of HDPE trips up to 360 per 12 hours a day for up to seven years. More even more during construction would cause traffic chaos, pollution and accidents.

54:16

The proposed site would cover around 85 acres and sits in a natural basin with all drainage running through the centre of Reston The village is already suffers from regular flooding. My buddy had a good picture of Grove road on the water.

54:33

We have no confidence that SP RS plan receptors to catch flood water will be able to cope with increasingly very heavy rainstorms, which cause serious flooding and forest and

54:47

many footpaths will be lost area of beautiful countryside. If built, the residents will be subject to a constant unpleasant invasive humming noise which would affect him

55:01

The size of the proposed substation This means that they would tower over the mediaeval church, this houses and much of the village, they will also be clearly visible from our buddies green. Again I've had a photograph of a rather an architect's drawing showing these units how it can be seen right across the village green the other half of the village.

55:24

This application must be refused. national power should work with B E i s and off gem to do level strategy to place these and other plans substations offshore or on suitable brownfield sites. Off gems decarbonisation paper states that offshore connections should minimise the impact on consumers and coastal communities. They also state that there should be offshore substations, with cable loops connecting a number of wind farms.

56:00

The big offshore transmission review of the wind power industry should include the future strategy for the siting of substations. We look forward to this inquiry, taking into account any recommendations made in that report.

56:19

All this is after 10 years, over 10 years after countries such as Denmark, Germany, Holland and Belgium developed a strategy for placing many of their substations and other buildings offshore. I have a nice picture of a Dutch substation which was actually

56:37

partaken over 10 years ago.

56:40

There is an opportunity here for SPR a national grid to develop the first UK offshore substations for East Anglia one and angular two. They could be situated offshore from size will be capable of taking power for a number of fields and interconnectors. AC current can be taken straight to site as well, where there are spare busbar connections to the grid.

57:06

We dealt with energy, no new pylons, no long underground cables, no roads blocked, no farmland lost no harm to communities, no damage the tourist industry. Assembly of substations on industrial land and transport by seeing

57:24

other alternatives are to consider or to reasons more if I could just ask you to finish this point now afraid your five minutes is up. Oh, okay. Right. So

57:35

they should reconsider boards either bramford because Chris Wheelers explained how we have more efficient

57:42

cables. And also, we should look at the breadboard site as recommended by trays coffee, where there's plenty of space, and they will have to be new overhead lines anyway to cope with a new power station. Thank you very much. Thank you very much. Mr. Molly. Can I just check the the maps and images that you refer to? Did you submit them at deadline one? I'm sorry. You said again. The maps and images that you referred to? Did you submit them at deadline one for us? Yes. That's That's great. And also, you refer to some external reports.

58:17

For example, the off gem Have you have you have you referred to them and your deadline wants submissions? Yes or no? Yes. That's brilliant. Thank you very much. Okay, thank you.

58:28

Okay, our final speakers in session one are Tony and Christine munden.

58:35

Good morning.

58:37

I start in London and I'm speaking on behalf of myself and my wife today.

58:43

We live in [REDACTED].

58:46

I agree with and support or representations being made by Friston parish Council, se C's and SES groups. I've moved to [REDACTED] approximately half a mile north of the proposed substation site in 2016. Moving from a busy developing town in Essex, where houses were being built close by, with all the associated noise and dust that came with it, intended to spend the rest of my retirement in the peaceful, tougher countryside

59:16

and now face the prospect of years of noise, dust etc. From building the substations six days a week from 7am to 7pm. Along with heavy good vehicles, rock jamming the roads with the loss of the valuable countryside, farmland and animal habitats, including animals [REDACTED], one of which is in a little more farm, which is very close to the actual site.

59:41

from our garden and some of the footpaths in the area first in church and the bill can be seen. The field views will be lost forever. If this substation is built. I regularly walk my dogs on foot past 17 they go from high house farm Kristen to Friston

1:00:00

I'm returning from Princeton to do a little more farm but for past seven and six, creating a circular walk, with about 100 yards of walking on the road,

1:00:10

these footpaths will be permanently lost

1:00:13

as a footpath connect and the footpath connection from anywhere north of Reston village to the village itself. The alternative that Scottish parents suggesting is to walk alongside Grove road, which is very narrow twisting in places dangerous to walk along, and will also pass a substation with its associated noise and visual impact. There are no pedestrian pavements nor grass verges to walk on, and it's regularly used as a cut through the various villages by and towns and use by large farm vehicles.

1:00:46

Whilst I'm in favour of renewable energy and completely understand the need for it, I feel that the ad hoc method of construction is totally unacceptable. With developments, companies building massive substations rich connection to the onshore grid on national grid. I believe these projects should be nationally coordinated and must be included in the D s review of onshore transmission and national grid. So yeah, so got onshore offshore coordination project, and therefore, these applications should be rejected.

1:01:21

I object to the scottishpower development of both substations on the grounds of the close proximity to the rural village of Liston, which includes several grade two listed buildings, one of which isn't mentioned before clicking more farm, that's the closest one to the site, the severe visual impact on the

surrounding countryside. Even with the 15 year view of mitigation planting done by scottishpower still leaves the site highly visible.

1:01:49

In some of the visualisations that charters are provided are misleading as they should do not show the close proximity to the village. And some deeper points are being shown at different scales, distorting the effect.

1:02:04

They also have acres of valuable grade two and three listed farmland, trees wildlife habitats plus the temporary disruption on the cable roads.

1:02:16

Noise pollution during construction, just the type of noise we moved here to get away from

1:02:23

and during operation, the noise from the Transformers particularly the harmonic fuel cars, which have been identified as the noisiest, lating metre high structures are not screened, which would serve both residents and wildlife.

1:02:39

At one of the SPR meetings I recall, asking about the noise from the substations and was told it's like rustling leaves. Yet the residents of Preston House have been advised to fit double glazing to lessen the noise, which I cannot do it's listed cooling.

1:02:57

Likely ocean in the area with extremely dark at night here because of the agricultural use of the land. That light pollution from both construction phase and operation phase and for the car parts maintenance etc will have a detrimental effect on the effect on wildlife and residents of the area.

1:03:18

During construction scottishpower made assurances about heavy goods vehicle using prescribed routes. The walk workforce will be free to use any roads they they wish which will include Grove road,

1:03:34

which is extremely narrow regular news by foreign traffic.

1:03:39

And even this morning I was walking nearby and you could see a lorry coming one way event coming other and the river and having to reverse back to let the lorry through

1:03:51

the deer curation in property values and people not being able to sell this massive project in the area reluctant to project their people to move to the area because of the side impact of the site had none of

this proposal in 2016 I would not move to the area. That means the tourism through sport countryside views noise etc potential loss of jobs lost revenue for local owners and town shops who rely on the tourists trade

1:04:19

damage to local trades people who rely on both tourism associated properties and second home owners for work. As mentioned before the increase from person to prison village

1:04:33

cable landfall of thought as with the crumbling cliffs, and there was a person killed there and about two years ago because of the fragility of those cliffs and the permanent loss of woodland and the temporary closure to a grievous chain of footpaths during the cable routes.

1:04:53

As many others have stated on top of this SPR development. There are several other substation projects that have been identified.

1:05:00

Proposed connections in the area. These proposals must be taken into account when reviewing their application and roof must be recommended as reaction to a check for Secretary of State.

1:05:13

In interest in the National Grid grid, issued a document called unlocking offshore wind recently in September 20, where they propose a using Multi Purpose interconnectors as one of the most efficient effective tools to unlock potential of wind, short wind, offshore wind, and that national grid ventures have in the pipeline.

1:05:38

Many projects that produce this opportunity, combined that combined assets would make economic and environmental sense. I've included a link to that document in my submission.

1:05:52

Just imagine if I could just ask you to finish this.

1:05:57

Thank you very much. Thank you.

1:06:00

And, Mr. Smith, did you want to come in at this point? Yeah. Briefly, thank you very much, Mrs. Jones. Um, and thank you very much, Mr. munden.

1:06:12

And one, one of the sets of issues that you raise there related to the impact of the proposed substation locations in landscape terms and also in relation to effects on listed buildings, and the character of the

receiving environment, including matters such as lighting at night and dark skies. These are all matters that we will be reviewing as part of our second issue specific hearings in early December. And I would also flag that in relation to cross checking and the applicant's impact assessments. We have also been carrying out extensive site inspections in the local area. And we publish notes when we carry out on on a company site inspection so that people can actually see the locations that we've been to. And so a number of the issues that you've raised, although it may have felt as though that only briefly touched today, we will be returning to in considerably greater detail as we move through the examination. So thank you very much for your contribution today. Okay. All right. I did actually see Mrs. Jones.

1:07:25

Yeah. It's not just virtual. This is this is happening in real time.

1:07:33

Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. munden.

1:07:36

we've now reached the end of the list of speakers under agenda and agenda items to and have reached the end of session one. Can I just take this opportunity to thank everybody very much for their contributions this morning, and we will consider them all very carefully. Can I just remind you that as you've already spoken, and we need to make space in the computer system for the next round of speakers, you should now leave the hearing. If you want to carry on watching the hearing, then please switch over to the live stream available from the national infrastructure planning website, you can watch there without affecting the network capacity available for the speakers in our next session. Just to note for those watching the live stream if you are having any problems seeing session two, you may need to refresh the stream at the start of the next session by reloading the webpage on your browser. The joining process for session two starts at 1140 and the session itself starts at midday. I will now adjourn this hearing to session two. Thank you