

East Anglia_ISH2_2ndDec_Session 5

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00:05

Welcome back, everybody after that brief break, and I trust that that's been sufficient time for the applicant to readjust social distancing within their, within their offices. Mr. Lewis?

00:19

Yes. Clin Innis on behalf of the applicant. Thank you, sir. I'm just going to very briefly introduce you to who's going to be taking you through the presentation. Paolo pasola is going to lead the presentation. He's already been introduced today. I'm Brian McGregor's, may also be involved the armchair consensus manager on the phone, he may well be participating as well. And we've also got Fraser McDermott, environmental consultant, who you've heard from yesterday. So the new person in the team is Simon Martin from optimised environments open. And he's a charter member of the landscape Institute with nearly 19 years of experience, particularly with in the energy field as experience. So that's the team that are going to present I should have said, Sorry, Mr. McGrath is on his on his computer, but he will be separately appearing when, when relevant. So I'm going to hand it over to Mr. persona, and he will take you through the presentation.

01:18

Thank you Now Mr. Presented just in terms of starting and some ground rules, two things. Firstly, because it's going to be shared, but Mr. Williams will need to advance the slides at the right point, can you treat him to the full Chris wixey. Next slide. So that they were able to do that. Secondly, do bear in mind this was circulated in advance, his material has been read by the examining authority. And so you can take elements as read, and I would like you to have a target of attempting to pass through it in no more than about 15 minutes, which I know is a very tall order. But we are suffering here, under the gun of time. So do your best for me. And ask Mr. Williams, when you need the slides advanced.

02:11

Thank you very much palpate solid for the applicant, yet I bet like mine, if Emery if we could get the first slide up. That'd be great. The second slide, probably the first type page. Yep. Next slide, please. Thank you. So the the coin discussion that we've just had is the jumping off point from this, we are not going to sorry. Just go back a slide, please. We're not going to, we're not going to cover any of that we've dealt with that. This is a start at the site selection process, which starts from the point of having the grid connection. So this is really about the broad siting considerations that we had. We will obviously given the time where we may slide into some of the design and siting issues, we need to go back few slides. Sorry. We may we'll try and stay out of that. Because obviously, we've got a whole day tomorrow, hopefully to go through the finer detail of some of the citing issues. So thank you, we're back on the right slide notes. So thanks for that. And I'm just going to start with setting the scene in terms of a few basics about

03:36

the slider seems to be moving on by itself. So I'm having some technical issues on my end.

03:43

Okay.

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I'll try to post

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it over here.

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It's on the right one at the moment. Um, so they just to say that the site selection process was an iterative process. And it takes into consideration the technical constraints, many of which Gavin has gone through in terms of the physical infrastructure we've got to deal with how feasibly you build that which comes from civil engineering input. And then at the end of the chain, the environmental constraints and how we actually make that work. Each step of this process was consulted on and feedback was instrumental in making some of the key decisions that went along. In this process. I think it's really important because a lot of the feedback that we've got seems to assume that the site selection process took place in a vacuum and it really didn't. The site selection process was based upon consultation with both technical and public consultees. And I think that one of the key vehicles of that was the site selection expert topic group, which we established Firstly with the council's and then including natural England, historic England, the aim be an environment agency as a group of independent bodies that were able to feed into our process to sense check the process that we were undertaking and help us with the the key rules that we were putting in place and how it all worked. So that was a key part of that process. And it very much was not purely a desk based approach. It was very much a point where we were coming down to Suffolk and working with people there over several days workshop. I'll just pass over to Simon, if you could just describe the the ATG workshops that we had briefly.

05:47

Yeah, Simon Martin alveo, advisor for the applicant, thank you for the opportunity Paolo to speak initially. And just to stress again, that we we met with and presented and discussed the site selection, and Wragge assessments across a series of etg consultation events across Suffolk with the stakeholders. They were undertaking regularly over the period of summer 2017 to early 2019. They were attended by the applicants its team of environmental specialists, relevant experts from a range of stakeholders, including from the council's in natural England, historic England and the AONB partnership. And we reviewed all of the environmental considerations for the alternative zones, including the landscaping, visual aspects, the RAD criteria and scoring, as well as the later ao and B appraisals. As my colleague Tara mentioned, there, we undertook site visits with the team of specialists from the stakeholder groups visited all of the options and alternatives on the ground. These are organised by the applicants, and allowed all parties the opportunity to see the sights. I mean, overall, I feel that the alternatives were considered very robustly and challenged both within those etg

stakeholder meetings, but also think externally, through peer review amongst the amongst the team. And so thank you initially for allowing me to, to make that submission. And I'll come back later in the presentation to talk a bit more specifically about some of the landscape visual aspects of the site selection

07:35

for the applicant. Thanks, Simon. So we've heard about the etg. The next part of the consultation was with EDF and the many projects of EDF at size Well, clearly, they are they are one of the major players in the area. And we also obviously, from understanding the history of previous projects, particularly Gallup and Gabbar projects, and Gallup in particular, going in at that location understood that they will be particularly sensitive to coastal process issues, how we would do offshore construction in the near shore, and those kind of things that they were very clearly someone we would need to engage with very early. And I think it was summer of 2017, we first engaged with them. And the two issues we covered at the time, obviously, it were the case of processes, and the use of the size war gap road, which was figuring right from the beginning that that would be a key issue for them. The third channel of consultation in this in the sweep. Last but no means least, was the public consultation. And you can see from the public from the consultation report, the number of public consultation events that were held not only the public information days, but dedicated parish council briefings on sessions with other groups as well as part of that. So there was a whole suite of consultations through the fourth floor, four and a half phases of consultation, which feedback was taken into the process. And it really was useful part of that iterative process and again, fed into the design as required. I wanted to say that, effectively what what we do in our job is that we are given Simon Mike and my team are given basically a series of boxes by SPR enter and told these are the boxes, you need to fit into the environment. This is what you've got to deal with. It's a substation it kind of is what it is, here's the outline sizes of these things. This is how high it is. These are the number of cables we need to get to the engineers fed in and then at that point in terms of these are the kind of offsets you need to exist, the infrastructure.

This is the kind of ground conditions you've got, et cetera, et cetera. And that feeds into the process of us then being able to go right where can we put this? There is then as you get through the process, a bit of iteration where we obviously with as you go through it, and you You start to narrow your options, you start to feed the environmental information back in to cut the envelope down from where it starts to the position that you get to by the time of the application. So, it really is an iterative process, but we start with these boxes and basically need to find where we can fit them in environment, do you want to go to slide two, please? Next slide. Um, again, so, one of the fundamental starting points for this is developing some ground rules. So again, we did was look at policy starting with MPC m one, the Energy Act 89, the whole ops role to develop a suite of principles around which we would develop these projects and do the site selection process. So, and those those principles are taken to the etg to agree the sensor and two cents check those of some of the key constraints are be coming directly from the NHS in terms of being closely aligned to the overhead lines and trying to not proliferate infrastructure across the across the piece to try and get a colocation so that we are delivering gain an economic and efficient system. So those are some of the the basic principles, we then get into the more environmental ones in terms of avoiding residential title, avoiding woodland, minimising impact, etc, along the road. And I think it's key also to remember that as part of this process, what we are trying to do all the way along is minimise impact. These are enset projects that we're talking about, and they

cannot be delivered without some impact that it is inevitable that there will be some. So our job as part of this process is to try to avoid, try to minimise and basically try to balance those impacts as best we can. And that is where also where the the role of the etg comes in, in really helping us to give a guide to what is what are the key most important elements of that that we need to take most account of where there are going to be trade offs. It's also important to say that the site selection process is not EIA, EIA happens at the end of it. So we're not doing Ei A's all the way along all the different sites that simply isn't the time. And the simply isn't the capacity to do that kind of study. It's an iterative process where we build up the information as we go along, ruling out options as we go along, getting better information and then ending up with a few options that we can then really drill down into the detail of, and again, using the the engagement of the technical stakeholders and the public stakeholders to feed into that process.

12:57

I'll just hand over to Fraser for slide three, to go through a couple of the early considerations that we rolled out.

13:09

First McDermott for the applicant, and this was touched on today and early in the process, the council's requested that the former size will a land be considered for the siting of the substations. And this land is owned by the NBA and listed Matt Magnox, which is tasked with the decommissioning and dies with a and so property rights are complicated here and no one party would be able to grant the necessary rights for a substation at this location. Also, there's the problem size with a decommissioning work will not be complete until 2125. So much of the land would not be available within the timeframes of the project. So ultimately, land at size eight was excluded from further consideration. So you can move on to slide five please. So the other slides will option is the lunch show in here. This is the Lund associated with the proposed size, we'll see pass station and it was confirmed by ADF that it wouldn't be available for voluntary acquisition. And a large proportion of the land has been allocated for ecological mitigation for impacts associated with the past station development. And this work was already already underway at the time and it's still ongoing. That thought at least that's what the loan is still being used for. So it was completed with no reliable source. But

14:28

briefly interject on that point and pick it up in writing. Please give him the time. However, we did hear an observation from sighs we'll see that potentially, some of that land might have been available if you depress the point. Now, you know, we're not an inquisition into matters past.

14:56

But

14:57

they they didn't say Seems firm about the unavailability of that land as I have maybe expected they would have been. So if you can address that in writing the next deadline that would that would be and maybe have a conversation with them before you do that would be most helpful.

15:15

Okay, thank you. We can move on to slide six now. And so once much of the ETF land was excluded, an initial search area for the on shore, substations began to take shape, and that's the brand dotted line on the picture here. And as you can see, to the west, the decision was made not to go beyond overrode this was to avoid interaction with an heir areas of mature woodland residential properties, if you can move on to slide seven. So there you can see that study area that was then further refined by excluding key high level environmental constraints such as flood zones and nature conservation designations including the somethimes, SBA and the listed owls, Brett Albright and triple si. And just to note that this does that these areas and didn't go out to consultation, we didn't consult them at the time. And I'm now going to hand you back to Portland to talk about add lungful locations identified.

16:24

And he had a piece of the next slide please. So a brief overview of the of the landfall considerations. It's worth stepping out a bit in geographic scale to look at the coastline that we've got to deal with in this part world. And it's heavily designated as a thing everybody recognises. So we've got the southern case and he's AONB going down the length of that coastline that you can see there. We've got numerous triple A size SPI RAM, SARS, and si C's. If you go offshore, the entire area falls within the southern North Sea SPI sec for our purpose. And the outcomes s3 s3 SPI for READ WRITE diver, which we talked about a lot. If you go beyond that the coast is pretty much designated all the way from the wash to the Thames, in one way or another. So it's a very challenging part of the world to make landfall in. Irrespective of, of actual physical challenges. You've got to deal with these, the designations that you've got. I mean, it's worth pointing it if you weren't if when we did a one, a three, we made landfall at the border cliffs, triple Si, we actually did under that geological feature. And we then had to go through 12 k of the Suffolk case in East eo and B to get across, over to Branford to do that. So that there was no it was by no means was that a simple route to achieve. If you look at the coastline, and what we're trying to do with the grid connection, in the in the location we've been given, we've got some immediate options. sizewell Beach, looking south you really don't have anything and I think it was council fellows actually made this point earlier, you really don't have many options going south, both because of the designations but also physically you're talking about wetlands and and very unstable coastal features that if you go north, you've probably got to get done it before you find a gap sufficient to make landfall. And if you were doing such thing, you'd need to come quite a way south again through quite a large part of the the AONB to get to where we need to be for the substations. So that's kind of the regional context, we move on to the next slide, Emery, please. This gives us the strip here between the sizewell projects and thought net that we're aiming for in this blue section on the on the beach there if we go to the next slide, please. And I won't dwell too much on the on the offshore elements of this. Not just suffice it to say that there's a key a few key things that we need to do to get our cables from the wind farms to the coast. And again, it's a case of avoiding constraints such as existing cables, avoiding aggregates areas that the oil transshipment area that's out there. And as you move close to the shore, you'll see there's a north south south bank feature, and it's particularly important to avoid that for two reasons. Number one, obviously, it's a supporting habitat at the SBA. It's shallow water likely to be feeding of the red sea diver in that location and on a practical basis. Going through sandbags involves a lot of work, we'd have to do some way levelling, and it would take a lot of work to get through that. So ideally, you want to avoid that. Also, you want to avoid sandbags because you'll end up with your cables being exposed over time needing cable protection, etc. And we need to minimise that. So that

was a key feature in driving us to the north there for our approach to the coast. When we came to narrow the case, then when we, as we avoided the sandbag, we then have the potential interactions with the sizewell B and propose sizewell c infrastructure. So we were looking at that and applied suitable buffers around the infrastructure information that we knew, looking at a part of that looking at the protected provisions that Gallup had had, in order to understand the kinds of buffers we want to achieve, stay away from that infrastructure. And then looking at the number of cables coming in, we've got Gallup and Gabbard, we've got the concerto cables coming in there. So we're looking at what we need to get over to get into that coastal strip. Next slide, please. If we zoom in to the coastal strip yet, again, this is obvious to me what this is, but it may not be obvious to everyone, it's kind of taken out context. We've got the coastal strip in yellow there. On the left hand side of the screen, we've got the kind of hand like blackish feature in the middle fat is the Coraline crag. That, that we've been talking about a lot we've heard a lot about the Coraline crag. Um, we've got out the red lines are our original scoping boundary that we were looking at.

21:45

And then the other lines coming in there from this the C word are the cables that make landfall in that part of the world. So that's giving you the constraint environment that we got to look at. We then pick looked at between a combination of looking at onshore and offshore constraints of where we could physically have a landfall on the onshore which gave us sizewell Beach, a midpoint between some of the properties along that stretch, and then the fields north of Fort ness. And at the same time, we were looking at how we would get cables onshore. So having enough room, there are a couple of key things to note is that what type of things we are trying to avoid is cable crossings in shallow waters. Because we're doing that we need to have cable protection, the cable protection, if we manage if we reduce the navigable depth by 5%, we're in breach of MTN 573. So we're looking to not do that. We're all we're also looking to avoid creating any linear structures or barriers in those shallow waters that may interact with the coastal processes in that part of the world. And an answer the water movement and the sediment transport, which is obviously critical in a coastline that we understand to be you know, obviously eroding and have a great and greatly changeable in terms of the shape of features like awkwardness around place. So that's that's the kind of environment we're working in. We then looked to see what we could achieve with a combination of trenchless and trench techniques to get out to a decent water depth and, and hopefully getting away from the other constraints. The northern roots were kind of constrained on the onshore and I don't I think we weren't going to be able to get to projects side by side at the northern location. Again, that was we were aiming for Colocation in order to maximise efficiencies, the construction at that point. Sorry,

23:53

can I just can I just interject briefly because I think Yeah, I'm consulting with my colleagues. And we're, we're clearly familiar with the kind of back we you know, we've seen this paper in advance, we're familiar with the background rationale as to how you ended up on the beach where you ended up. I think it's probably going to assist those who are with us who want to contribute after you've spoken to. So land and then to, to actually move on the onshore a little more swiftly, if that's achievable.

24:28

Okay, if you want to go to the next slide, please Emery just to finish up. I think effectively, we ended up with this blue area at the bottom gives us our sort of our punch out location or additive punch out location. It gives us a lot of flexibility from what we can achieve at the landfall location, a lot certainty that we can achieve that not only in terms of the arc of an area that we were aiming for with cables, from the from the The day but also that that depth of site we could get to, and also obviously the depth of water that we could achieve. Just say there's been a lot of commentary on the landfall and whether or not we're certain of it, whether or not we're capable of achieving this. And the key point here is just say that the location we chosen both from an offshore and onshore point gives us a lot of flexibility a lot of certainty, and also the ability to avoid the Coraline, crag and physical interaction with that any effects on the sizewell C and size will be infrastructure and also being able to make cable crossings in as far away from the shore as we possibly can. So I just want to get that point across and we can move on then to the onshore so we go on to the next slide, please add me. I think Fraser pick it up.

25:57

President dammit for that to come. So as it says there following merit and selection of landfall, the council requested that the onshore study area be extended Westwood's the key driver being to see a suitable substation sites could be found that would avoid adverse impacts on the AONB and study area wasn't extended any further west due to the continuation of a similar dispersion of settlements and land uses along along the overhead line as it travels Southwest, and meaning essentially, the potential environmental impacts of the project were unlikely to change. And further extension to the West was also deemed to be unnecessary given that a number of alternative sites within the extended study area were identified as being available already. So slide 14, please. That's fairly obvious. It's a 250 metre buffer applied to settlements to help us identify substation zones. And this was determined by the topic group in July 2017 is an appropriate buffer for the minimization of potential noise and visual impact on residential properties. It was recognised that the substations might still encroach on the buffer once the final arrangements were were determined, but applying the buffer at this stage, and enabled the identification of substations zones for further investigation. Next slide, please. So, there's simply hopefully you can see there how the 707 substation zones were eventually identified. Within the study area, zone, one near the coast there, zone seven to the wet West, which is grovewood fish Preston. And the seven zones were then subject to red and the green or rag assessment. Slide 16, please. So the reg assessment was one of the tools used to inform site selection. It's a standard appraisal tool in the pre a process to enable a clear and direct comparison of stage based on common criteria. And to assess the potential impacts posed to develop options. It was undertaken by a team of specialists comprising engineers, land agents, and environmental consultants, and did include site visits as well as desk based work. And a number of development considerations were captured within the assessment. So including environmental so they have this heritage, ecology, landscape hydrology and hydrology, geology, engineering, community property planning applications. And a key point to note here, though, is that there's no weightings applied to these development considerations, ensuring that no particular environmental parameters were prioritised and that they were all treated equally. So ultimately, the assessment didn't identify chosen on the steel shop station locations, but was used as a tool to allow a number of locations to be compared and the most acceptable to progress to more detailed consideration. And just to note that zone eight was added to the reg assessment later on, but we'll discuss that shortly if we move on to slide 17. So following initial completment of the reg assessment,

this slide just shows what was taken to the second phase of consultation. And I'm going to hand you over to Simon Martin now.

29:42

Yep, Simon Martin LBI advisor for the applicants. So just to pick up on the discussion in terms of landscaping, the visual effects of the seven zones that were considered open, looked at the landscape visual aspects of the alternative substations loans as part of the rag but we also went through some more detailed appraisal work, looking at the OMB specifically in the a&b appraisal and a high level site selection LBA which was which is undertaken later down the process. So, going back just in terms of the rag, and you can see here on the slide that the seven zones for winds are two broad areas. So it's 124 in the east, so those are the zones closest to the coast and largely within the AONB, or within its immediate setting, and then zones five to seven. Further further west, outside the AONB, the Onondaga road and adjacent to the existing obey power line. Within these zones, we looked at two substation site options, and a single end jet substation option were identified as alternatives Wragge, and a scoring was applied to each. The rank criteria or the landscaping visual considerations were adopted in line with national grid's horlock rules. They included the potential to affect a&p qualities, the proximity to local landscape designations, landscape character considerations, visual amenity and opportunities to utilise existing screening features such as Woodlands in landscape for screening purposes. And the proximity to residences and rights of way was also considered. And each criteria was scored with a red amber green, indicating a waiting really infer of potential risks or constraints or an opportunities of substation sites in the alternative zones. As a general summary of the findings, I can I can outline I can outline those as a general summary just know the zones one and two, which are those those closest to the coast. I'm clearly you can see there on the map that they were entirely within the AONB, resulting in a red score for the potential effects special qualities of the OMB but they're also read scores for landscape character visual sensitivity, being close to the Suffolk coastal path, the public right of way network through the AONB in those areas also have in common and around flock nets, for example, zone three which is likely located on the edge of the OMB and in its immediate setting, and to the to the east of leisten. And scored amber in terms of special qualities of the amb we recognise its potential to affect the special qualities, but also part of the zone was was actually outside the AONB there and also slightly more subject to some urban fringe influences on the edge of lace and, and and within sight of the infrastructure influences at sizewell So further, further north north and east. And zone four was the zone on either side of thoughtless road we that that zone was in particular in the immediate setting of the a&b scoring amber in that regard, but also having proximity to the SLA covering hundred river and having a higher visual sensitivity, excuse me higher higher visual sensitivity and duty to its position close to ordering GM and its position alongside the thoughtless road, which is a is a key arrival point into the OMB towards stop nets. Zone five and six are located further west outside the AONB. So this called Green in that regard, but scorch more towards amber for landscape character and visual immunity.

34:21

Due to their smaller scale, open rural character, and proximity to settlements such as nada shul and laced in an additional hole. Looking at zone seven and further west, the potential there was identified as green in terms of the AONB scoring, due to it completely avoiding effects on the OMB but also green in terms of local landscape designations. It was considered to have a lower relative landscape and visual

sensitivity than The other zones outside the AONB, the scale of the agricultural landscape we felt was larger in that location, the influence of the existing overhead transmission lines was also greater in that that landscape context. And the notable screening from Grove wort and Laurel covert was was noted and was a considerable factor really in the some of the findings that came through the RAC assessment. And really, because of the level of screening by by Woodlands of that size just wasn't apparent really, in any of the other options along the along the overhead line. Back Back to your MD,

35:52

can I ask? And I know this is very difficult, but I'm very conscious again, that this is material that is in in the libraries, now it's available on the websites. So can I can I ask the applicant to to press forward in time terms, because again, was this is a very useful synthesis of an enormous amount of information, and therefore, the examining authority had wished it to proceed. I'm also conscious that we have others wishing to make oral submissions on it. And we must hear them before the end of the day. So I think we really need to draw this together in no more than five more minutes now, please. Now I see. I see a hand rising from

37:00

Yeah, okay. Um, I'm Simon Larsen, you're going to the applicant. So apologies. It's quite a lot of information to try and condense into into a few few minutes here, as soon as you recognise that will afford to try and press on and get to the some of the conclusions really fast. Yes,

37:20

draw us to the conclusions. And of course, you can put material to us in writing a deadline three. But I think I think it's important that Yeah, we get to the synthesis of this as quickly as we may now.

37:37

So and if we move to slide 19, are the columns becomes the next one. And if you just flick on to the next one there, it's like 19. So the the combination really of the various work streams that were carried out as part of the site selection work was altered in the selection of the substation zone at Grove word, Freston as a selected zone to take forward in terms of land conversion effects, all of the other alternatives considered really within within the OMB, we're in sensitive locations. None of the Eastern zones could really be considered favourably in terms of constraints from a landscape and protection perspective, having having give them all in detail. Despite the potential for significant effects enzyme seven, it was considered to be the only option really outside the RMB with the potential to accommodate development potentially in the existing and proposed landscape framework. Ultimately, that zone represented the best opportunity to minimise and localise significant effects insofar as possible and avoid the nationally designated landscape of the AONB and harm to its integrity and special qualities. If you were to if you're able to flick on to slide 29 covering bruun covert. So at this point, just wanted to touch on the the site at Rouen covert which did come into our our considerations and the feasibility of that site was explored alongside broom coverts. and face the phase 3.5 consultation was carried out to gather views on both sites. The AONB appraisal work which I touched on earlier was extended to cover the broom covert site. It's It's located close to the size or power station in an area where there may be some rationale in terms of consider consolidating infrastructure development, but it's in an area where the landscape character has already been influenced and

adversely affected by development of large scale and the effects of combining development in that area on the AONB. We're considered to have a greater overall of in combination impact. It's bruco, but it's also located in an area where the the the width of the AONB is very narrow. And, and new substations we felt in that in that particular location, and had the potential to populate that narrow strip of a&b with energy transmission development across a corridor of land really from the coast, extending inland towards towards laced and, and that that potential severance of the AONB was really, in terms of our considerations on landscape considered to be to be so fundamental and of material harm, really, to the landscape in terms of this potential to split the designation into a into a northern and southern area, either side of this, that potential infrastructure corridor that ultimately, we think would have been very difficult to mitigate. So ultimately, in terms of policies, we've we felt that our analysis was in terms of the MPC and one and based on all the sensitive advice and the stakeholder engagement, during the consultations, grovewood Friston was was selected on balances the the option to take forward for the substation development. If we

42:01

just scroll to the very last slide, if we could, Emery five slide just shows the entire process from going from the the area of search, we started to with to a narrowing as we went across the process to get to the final redline that we got there. And you can really see the process of of iteration and condensation of that they have the work there to to get to the final site that we chose. So I think well, we'll have to wrap it up there. So thank you for your time. It is all obviously in chapter four, we hope to make that more accessible and more understandable through that process. So thank you for your

42:53

I'm grateful for that. Because, you know, it was important, I think to synthesise a lot of very detailed material. But it is equally very important now to hear oral submissions. So what I'm going to seek now are oral submissions from Firstly, Suffolk County Council, then East Suffolk Council, and then se C's. And what I'm actually going to do is I'm going to ask others who may wish to respond on this material to mull it over. And then to respond in writing. Now, there is no penalty here. In terms of a written submission, written submissions will be accorded equal weight to oral ones, but I am also very conscious of the time and I would like to hear particularly from the parties that I have flagged because we are they're assisted by counsel in all cases. And essentially, if there are policy considerations, legal considerations that they wish to draw to our attention, and they will, I believe, do so. So I can see a hand from Graham keen as counsel for se C's I can see a hand also from Isabella for In fact, Isabella tuffnells hand came first. So it was tough for Can I just check with you.

44:30

Thank you very much, sir. I just wanted to let you know that we are in the council offices and we have a constraint and that we're going to be thrown out so that the building can be locked at 615. I hope that will be okay. But I didn't just want to allow things to go on and then I suddenly have to disappear without telling you. I would just I would just also say So on behalf of the council that we understand that this agenda item is a matter of some significant concern to a number of the local community groups. And obviously they can they can speak for themselves. But, you know, given given the time and and i agree it was useful that the time has been afforded to the applicant and, and are off on this agenda

item. I would just like to register, the council's concerned that members of the public should be given the opportunity to address this topic. Fully. Thank you.

45:25

I hear what you say. Can I then just ask for grant Keens submission.

45:32

So thank you, I apologise for raising a real hand as well as a virtual one. But I wanted to say I do have some comments on some of the slides that have been presented, though, I'm sure you'll be relieved to hear by no means most of them. But that I was proposing to take you up on what I understood to be your suggestion earlier that the party is responding to items, three A to C would be able to do so as a package, because we touched upon SP RS position on a and then went straight into their slide presentation. And so from my perspective, it would be I would certainly prefer, and I would much rather do make any points I have in relation to these slides in the context of the submissions that I want to make on the package A to C. And with that in mind, I would certainly be keen to do it in the morning, because it's not something that I can respond to. But, you know, obviously there's a brief and succinct as as I can, but it is going to take a little while because as Mr. First, as we've heard an awful lot just now from from the applicant. So my own plea would be to wrap up any slide points tomorrow, when I deal with agency in in detail. Because otherwise, it's good to be just breaking up random small points on slides rather than dealing with them in context.

46:54

Yes, no, I again, I hear that now. I see one more hand from Marianne fellowes because we're going to have to make a decision about handling the remainder of this business. Council fellowes

47:10

Thank you, Mr. Smith, sir, and and everyone else. I just want to say I've been taking notes during the hour and a half. And I probably have I I do have some important facts I need to clarify with you and correct, especially with regard to the consultation. And the fact that it was mentioned that counsellors were involved in the etg. So, I probably need about 10 minutes to cover that I would appreciate doing that this evening, if possible. Thank you.

47:44

Okay. Right. I am briefly then going to check with my panel colleagues, because I think here now we have a practical limit of about 6pm beyond which we cannot continue to hear tonight. I gather the form council fellowes you are willing to proceed in that time, but we are going to have to adjourn off the end of this item through till tomorrow morning. So if I can just check with my panel colleagues, whether they have any other comments that they wish to make to me on timing.

48:42

Okay, well, on that basis, I'm looking at the time we have left and looking at the estimate. And what I'm going to do is I'm going to ask Council of fellowes who seems to be an opponent of readiness to make submissions. Others have asked to defer or have time constraints. So I'll ask counsellor fellowes to

respond on these items. We will then adjourn and we will return at the beginning of tomorrow morning session with the reprise of responses to these items. Okay, so I'll go to Council of fellows first.

49:22

Um, thank you, Mr. Smith. So counsellor, Marianne Fellowes are over town council. I could probably take it down to two or three minutes. So I'll be as brief as I can. Thank you so much. So um, first of all, I need to say only as recent as last week or the last two or three weeks. The NDA and Magnox, who are the owner and operator of size or lay have confirmed that land is now available and being considered for sale and is no longer required for decommissioning, which was previously not available. Now decommissioning at size delay as part of the NDA strategy For is just got had a period of consultation is being reviewed. And it is subject to business case to government for funding, but also based on risk assessment and in the past, which past station got decommissioned first and how much of it got decommissioned was primarily determined by risk, you know, the cost of maintaining something or if something was being where the damage versus another side, but there is an opportunity for a business case to be put forward so that more land could be made available for projects in in the future. And I think probably that hasn't been pushed forward at pace or thrust as a phrase has been used earlier, because of the fact that the energy industry tries to protect its own. And I don't think that's appropriate, I think we should view all land as being potential for development for renewables, which we strongly support. And one could say, in fact, in fact that the EDF land, designated for size or C could be utilised instead and be subject to compulsory purchase. Because as we note today, and forgive me for this, but sighs we'll see is only speculation, it can't be included as a community of impact. So we can't say that land can't be used. Because for that, we don't know the size of the project is going to go ahead, do we? So it shouldn't be on one hand, this is the cake and eat it syndrome. Again, you can't protect it. And so you can't use this land because we need it besides to see and say, well, we're not going to talk about sighs seeing community of impact. I do have a couple of specific questions. So we're rather connection points offered by national grid that might be more expensive for the applicant. Because unfortunately, OFGEM and it's a shame they're not here still here tonight said that. It is about commercial competing. And the coin we were told by the applicant is about benefit to the consumer. Mr. N is cited that that was one of the biggest drivers of coin. But in fact, consumers might be willing to pay more if it meant to brownfield sites developed. And as you know, scottishpower is a profit making company. July 23 of July this year, we were told that they had an increase in profits from from 200 and 13 million to 320 9 million. And the reason for that they said was the largely due to the starter production from the giant, EAA one wind farm. So they're making money. They're told to cut costs, yet the cost of the environment. And then another question in terms of would the applicant remind us why the board see bramford connection was reduced? Because part of the one northern EA two was supposed to come in at ground, but they made a non material change, which is why we're faced with the situation we have today. Mr. Ennis, for the African said yesterday, that they there's a need for substantive landscaping, due to the significant adverse impact of this project of Reston. So another question is, so where in the coin process is that significant adverse impact addressed, because actually, it was written down as not being significant, and that's why Friston was chosen.

53:30

The site, I do need to mention that etg very briefly, the applicant said that consultation included public stakeholders, and councils by need to make you aware, there's only two councils, it was East Suffolk and Suffolk County Council that wasn't parish or town councils. And there was no common sense person like myself involved in the tg. And unfortunately at that stage when he Suffolk and Suffolk County Council were involved, and I have this in in written format. Unfortunately, they took the position that Friston was the quote, least worst option. So they weren't robust enough in the early stages to say that this shouldn't happen here at all. And although zones one through four have been discounted for the substation, as you saw on the map, because of the AONB, they're actually impacted by cable runs. So unfortunately, the rag is just on the substation, it's not really taking into account the cable runs that go through the OMB, which they say they can't use for the substation itself. So in conclusion, I hope what this presentation this afternoon does show you the examining authority is that Friston is not to be recommended. Not that this is why Friston has been chosen. It's a myth to say that It's possible to deliver this project without impact to the environment. Preston is not the most appropriate option to be selected on balanced by stakeholders. We should not have started this process. And so I come back to the topic that really is this is a sequence of decisions sort of trickle down in appropriately. And the first decision not where should we land, but thorpeness not where should the substation be at Friston? Not where should the cables come in under the sea from a one and a one Nores? But why the substation act briston? Why the connection to the 400 kV volt line by National Grid? Because if National Grid offered it further north, further south in Kent, we wouldn't be in this position. So that's the bit that still needs to be unpicked on the right. Thank you.

56:01

We've heard your position on that. Now counsel fellows now what I'm going to suggest given the time it is now 10 to six, we have a very clear need to wrap today, because we have key stakeholders. I mean, critically, the Suffolk council whose offices are not remaining open past six. So on that basis, ladies and gentlemen, I'm not going to call on the applicant to put any concluding points because this particular agenda item is unfinished. As we return tomorrow morning, we will still be on elements of agenda item three, where we will be seeking responses, including from the county and district councils. And then I'll be providing also an opportunity for the other represented parties to come in on that item before we ask for the applicant's conclusions. And we will then proceed on to agenda item four. So is everybody clear about the steps that we're taking, and we do resume tomorrow with an arrangements conference at 9:20am and the commencement ends at 10am. And I see Mr. Kaplan's hand, Mr. Kaplan. Other matters that we need to to resolve before we close bearing in mind that your submissions will hear tomorrow. I just wanted to

57:25

thank you for your time. Today, Mr. Smith and your continual searching for me. I'm sorry to be the late Mike Kaplan. But it was it wasn't in my hands. But I look forward to seeing you tomorrow. From 9:20am onwards. I've been watching you since 10 or so this morning. So I have been around, but just not verbal. I'll try not to double up.

57:51

Mr. Caplin, I trust We will see you tomorrow and we'll be able to speak to you as well. So, ladies and gentlemen, let us draw today to a close. Give everybody a break time to mull over what they've heard.

And we can return refreshed and conclude this item first thing tomorrow morning. Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen. We will now adjourn until 920 for the arrangements conference with the commencement at 10 a m tomorrow. Good evening.