TEXT_OFH6_Session2_22012021

Fri, 1/22 2:27PM • 1:13:36

00:03

Everybody, Caroline Jones

00:07

apologise.

00:10

Sorry. Good afternoon, everyone and welcome everybody to today's open floor here in six East Anglia, ONE North and East Anglia TWO offshore wind farms. My name is Caroline Jones, panel member of the examining authorities. This is our second and final session today. Before we start to hear from our speakers in session two, Can I check with the case team that you can hear me and that the recordings and the live stream have started again.

00:36

And I Miss Jones, I can confirm that we can send you the recordings and live stream have started.

00:42

Thank you very much, Mr. COVID. Well, I'm just gonna ask my fellow fellow panel members who are present to briefly introduce themselves starting with Mrs. Paris.

00:52

Good morning, everybody. My name is Jessica powers. And I will be taking submissions for this session shortly. Thank you.

01:02

Good morning, everybody rent Smith panel lead here and I will be sitting quietly in the background. I may have one or two questions, and I'm taking the action points.

01:13

Thank you, Mr. Smith. Hopefully the agenda papers for these hearings provided a clear explanation of our 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 any findings or recommendations to the Secretary of State on either application for development consent. We advised you in the agenda that we're being live streamed and recorded and the recordings that we make are retained and published. Therefore they form a public record that can contain your personal information, and to which the general data protection regulation applies. Does anybody have any questions about the terms on which our digital recordings are made?

I'm not seeing any hands raised. So we will move forward on the basis that that is all understood. open floor hearings are an opportunity for individuals and community groups to speak directly to the examining authorities, and not about a particular location or topic. The topic of your representations today is therefore up to you. However, we may disregard representation if it is vexatious or frivolous. The applicants are present here today. Mr. Ennis, I'm just going to remind you that the main purpose of this hearing is to hear from interested parties, and that you are here to listen in the main. Before we close the session, we will give you a brief opportunity to make responding remarks on matters that you consider must be drawn to our attention. Please do combine these two, five minutes. I'm now going to hand over to my colleague, Mrs. Paris who is leading on the main elements of this second session.

02:42

Thank you, Mrs. Jones. We have a few changes to our speaker's list for this session because a couple of people were flexible enough to bring some of their submissions forward into this morning session one. So at the moment I have the following. I've got Louise Fincham, who I understand will be represented by her husband, Anthony Fincham speaking first, followed by Patrick Fincham, and then have Alex Gilmore. I then have Dr. Alexander jimson, representing both himself and then the wardens trust. And we have two further speakers, Alex green and Patrick Steen, who understands have joint arrangements conference this morning, but perhaps haven't rejoined the meeting yet. But my case team colleagues will keep me up to speed on them. Hopefully, we'll see them pop up over the next few minutes. And then finally, Mr. JOHN Grover, is there anybody else here who's expecting to speak but I haven't just mentioned? Well, that's a good start, I think we'll crack straight on. And so we intend to take the speakers in that order. And you will have seen the speaking time guidance in the agenda. So you should be roughly sure when you'll be asked to come and speak. Please don't leave until you've had your turn to speak as if you leave without a good reason, we won't be able to include you in a later session. Once you've spoken, you can leave the meeting if you wish, but you're also welcome to remain until the end of the session. We'll need to be strict in managing our timings this morning this afternoon. So that's to be fair to all speakers. So please don't be offended, I have to ask you to stop talking at the end of your allocated time. If there is more you'd like to say then this can be submitted at line five in writing. So this is an opportunity for everyone here to have their say. So in fairness, please do not interrupt other speakers. If you agree with or disagree with what they have said then you can make that clear to us in your own speaking time or at deadline five and we will take these views into account. And if anyone does interrupt you I will warn them and ask them to allow the hearing to continue. And repeated interruptions that can lead to disruption can be viewed as unreasonable behaviour for which rewards of costs can be sought by other interested parties. So if anyone interrupts following two warnings on third occasion, we will have to ask the case manager to exclude them from the hearing. I'm sure we won't be needing any of that this morning this afternoon. As the introduction is now complete, and before we move on to the main business of session today Does anyone have any preliminary questions about how this hearing will be run? I'm not seeing any hands up or cameras coming on. So in that case, I'll just mention one final thing before we let our speakers start and that is to let you know that as long as contributions remain relevant and in their time, then it's it's our intention to help everyone without interruption. We will listen carefully. And if colleagues or myself have questions, we will raise those at the end of your speaking time. So, first on our list, then we have Luis Fincham, who as I said before, I understand it's being represented by her husband, Andy Fincham this morning this afternoon. Mr. Fincham, are you there?

Well, I am Can you can you hear me?

05:45

Good morning. Yes. And I can see Alex green is also just joining the meeting. Yeah, Mr. Fincham? I can see you and hear you clearly. Thank you for joining us this morning. This afternoon.

05:56

You have you have sorry.

06:02

Everybody. My wife and I live in the middle of fields to the north of Preston, just beyond the proposed size of this development. It wouldn't affect cut us off from our village and put it into our regular dorm walk. Unsurprisingly, we are opposed to it. And we support in particular, the submissions made by Michael Marnie on behalf of sa s s, and Fiona Gilmore on behalf of SGA s. And not attended all areas session, so please forgive me if I trespass on your patients and repeat points that have already been made or addressed. Any litigation or quiz identification or administrative process risks becoming mired in detail, which is why of course, spr with its resources has the advantage over all of us. If you take a step back, if anybody knew this was told that a 10 kilometre swathe will be cut through the countryside, not to get to or adjacent to a brownfield site, but in fact, to pristine unspoiled countryside. And that notwithstanding the available locations on the coast, already blighted by power stations, for example, Gradwell favoured by our MP, he or she, but amid a protest, You can't be serious. The simple fact which I asked the inspectors to keep in mind at all times, is that the proposed destruction is avoidable and wholly unnecessary. I'd like to make two specific points. The width of the corridor is supposed to be as much as 64 metres, save the pinch points by an extravagant 32 metres or 27.1 metres, is stipulated 64 metres is more than three cricket pitches and significantly more than an eight lane motorway. The very fact of the narrower pinch points shows that it is unnecessary to cut such a wide swathe of destruction. I would submit that this is symptomatic of sprs Cavalier approach to our precious natural environment as a matter of common sense, and in the absence of a compelling expert explanation from SPR, I would suggest a code that could be limited to say 10 metres or perhaps 20 metres. We know that it could be limited to 27.1 metres from SPR zone application and SPR should be called on to justify every metre of every section of the corridor. My second point concerns the offshore transmission network review ordered on 15 July 2020. I'm sure that members of this panel will well know that this was in response to a report by the parliamentary committee on climate change, calling for government to develop a strategy to coordinate interconnections and offshore networks for wind farms and connections to the onshore network. And that the terms of reference gives the object of finding the appropriate balance between environmental, social and economic costs. The B is off chain response to the initial consultation dated 18th December 2020. provides that the so called medium term work stream we'll look at projects that are already in an I quote relatively advanced stages of development Slides produced the BDI s webinar on 17th of December 2020, chaired by the Secretary of State include reference to early opportunities, and specifically identifying in flight projects. That's the quote as ones which could be a coordinated. Moreover, the energy white paper of December 2020 provides that to start living these benefits that say benefits of the review. We government will encourage projects

already in development, where early opportunities for coordination exist to consider becoming Pathfinder projects. My question to SPR. And I'm sorry, this has already been answered is why are they not accepting the invitation to embrace this review and be part of the Pathfinder project that clearly within its embrace?

11:01

My final remark, and this has certainly been made before is that SPR cannot lay claim to green credentials. But it appears hell bent on the avoidable destruction of the natural environment. And we appeal to you, the planning inspectors to turn down this Florida application.

11:24

Thank you very much for those submissions. Mr. Fincham. On the point of the the energy white paper points the Department for business excetera recent announcements in December, you may or may not have seen that we've put out some questions to the applicants and a few other parties to following that, which was around that date of the 17th of December that you've mentioned. So we have asked them to comment and they did that a deadline for so that's part of our consideration as we go through. And of course, you're welcome to look at those submissions that should be now in our examination library from deadline for and you're very welcome to respond to those at deadline five.

11:58

Thank you for joining us.

12:00

Thank you. Okay, we also discuss some of these issues issue specific hearing for Yeah. Okay. Thank you very much for your time this morning, Mr. Fincham. And I understand I've got nothing. Mr. Fincham. Thank you very much.

12:15

Thanks very much.

12:17

Good morning, Patrick. inching

12:18

morning.

12:19

Is that working? Brilliant?

12:21

Yeah, that's all good. Thank you very much. So again, as an individual interested parties money, you have five minutes in which to make your points. And my colleague Mr. Williams will let you know when we have one minute remaining. And when you begin your contribution, because you also just introduce yourself for the benefit of the recording

costs. Thank you.

12:36

Thanks very much.

12:38

Good afternoon, and thank you for agreeing to hear my submissions today. My name is Patrick Fincham. I'm 25 years old, and I've grown up living with my parents just around a kilometre or so from the proposed site for the Scottish power substations, my siblings, my closest friends and I spend much of our childhoods playing in the field surrounding Friston, and walking, there's so many lovely parts in this area. And I today would like to present the arguments of the use of the area, for we're the generation who will have the most have to live with the outcome of these decisions for the vast majority of our lives, for whom these changes will impact most, and for whose future and the future of our children. These changes they're being designed to protect. My generation are acutely aware of the immense challenges the world in our country face with regards to climate change, and the destruction of the natural world which we live. And we welcome and support more than anyone that drastic change that is so desperately needed to preserve the environment to which we rely, however, in the support in this development into a new age of sustainable living, we strongly believe and are of the view that it is not enough to have big flagship flagship green credentials, the macro green economy, without looking at how this translates into the micro, the individual every day. What does this green future mean for each and every one of us, short starts have significant power generation facilities, such as offshore wind farms. However, these facilities, these points of generation, they are just the beginning. And we cannot stop the journey there. We must keep up the innovation, the drive and the rightly placed environment first motive that has brought us these technological feats from beyond the turbine in the sea right through to the kettle with which we make our tea. We discredit and tarnish the very motive for which these initiatives begin if we do not see that journey through from source to plug. And it is this holistic green approach that I firmly believe the proposal presented by scottishpower wholly failed to achieve. All too often the past has taught us that the plans are today for tomorrow. And I feel the same trap as being fallen into here. When I look at the plans for these substations. I consider these in the context of where we stand today, and ask myself in 10 years time, when this project is complete, we look proudly upon this monolith that has decimated this pristine countryside and view it as a beacon of sustainable Britain. I strongly believe that the answer is no. China times and consensus is changing faster than ever. And even with where we are now. The harm caused by this most significant project is totally incompatible. The very motive and cause behind which it has emerged. Beyond this timeframe, it fills me with genuine dread and sadness, the thought of showing this to my children years to come, bringing them up in the shadow of an 18 metre high facility the size of Wembley Stadium, and pointing to it say this is what your parents generation did for your future. This is what the protection of the precious and ever diminishing environment on our small island looks like. Now I appreciate that the criticism often made of the younger generations is that of blue sky idealistic thinking that holds no place in the real world. However, such criticisms are easy to rebuff in this instance, with just last year, a governmental review being initiated on the precise topic on which we are here today to discuss the very government paper on the offshore transmission network review notes that constructing individual Point

to Point connections for each offshore wind farm may not provide the most environmentally and energy efficient approach and could become themselves a major barrier to delivery given the considerable environmental and local impacts, particularly from the associated onshore infrastructures required to connect these national trends to the national transmission networks. That is exactly what we are talking about here with Scottish powers proposals.

16:11

I asked how can we sit by and proceed with such a project in the shadow of a school full scale government review, designed to bring an end to the very destruction that this will bring? I'm afraid that scottishpower can lay no claim to true sustainable planning or thinking if it does not embrace and encourage such review. Instead, they're hollow claim that this project is too far advanced to consider this does not hold much weight when they're yet to get planning approval. Instead, I'm afraid it reeks of the search for short term corporate profits and a race against the inevitable measures that may might cause their company some short inconvenience. However, such measures that will change the lives of 1000s of locals for generations to come. With viable alternatives such as offshoring means being strongly considered and progressed at an evergreen momentum behind a consolidated holistic approach to offshore wind power distribution. It is likely that if we allow this to proceed, Suffolk could hold the undesirable trophy of the last ever substation of this sort. Is there something we really want to stand behind? I think not, I think above all else that should be considered by those of you who have been tasked with taking this decision. Indeed, I would note that in an analogous situation in Norfolk, the judicial review has been brought against the decision to proceed with a similar project in the face of this impending review. If nothing else is not worth waiting the decision here to ensure that we do not make the same mistake. I believe my time is up. So thank you for taking the time to hear me speak today. And I ask that you gratefully consider the submissions made. Thank you.

17:37

Thank you very much, Mr. Fincham for those very clear submissions. I don't think we have any questions for you bet. Thank you for your time. Thanks. Thanks. Okay. We're going to move on now. And the next speaker on the list is Alex Gilmore. please.

17:56

Good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

18:01

No worries, we can see you and we can hear you sounds good. So as I said to the other speakers, you have five minutes as an individual interested party. And Mr. Williams will let you know with a slider and you have one minute remaining.

18:14

Great, thank you.

18:15

Thanks very much.

So I've seen firsthand from my mother, Fiona Gilmore has been running the SGS campaign based on the huge time and effort she's put into it, just how important this topic is to the local community. And similar to Patrick, I want to speak today on behalf of my generation, and how critical this topic is of how we transition to renewable energy supply. But whilst not damaging the environment community that we're trying to protect in the first place, which is something I fear is at risk with the EA one n and EA two projects. So first, I just like to share my experiences of Suffolk heritage coast, where I spent many weekends and holidays growing up over the years between shingle Street and South world. And I've, you know, over in more recent years have a chance to see other areas of the country. And I think I've come to appreciate just how special and unique this particular corner of England is. There are so many aspects of the heritage coast that make it special to its local communities and that many tourists that flock there each year. And just to reel off a few of the things I think of when I think of this, this heritage coast. I think of shingle Street, which is the largest bit of its type in Europe. I think about the river and the great smell of Martin the salt of the sea. I think of offered nests and the many world war two defences you find lettered along the coast. I think of Snape Maltings, the unique concert hall there that brings world famous musicians and audiences alike. I think of eating fish and chips and arbour beach, Coastal Walk sailing, golf, the salt marshes river canoeing, the summer Carnival and waubra, birdwatching, cross country running, crabbing, cycling and even pig farming. If you spend time there you can never forget this one of the pigs. The two things I think All these things have in common is one nature and tranquillity. And two is family and community. And I think these two things are at the very core of this, of what's at risk with these projects.

20:15

One of my favourite activities in particular is going on family walks along the coast. And now more so than alongside while beach, staggering to me, actually. And I think probably all of those in my generation, that one would choose to build suction ugly and imposing an artificial facility in such an area of outstanding natural beauty. But I think, rather, I hope that we've come a long way, in the 50 years in size Huawei was built when it comes to our energy strategy, and how we implement that in an environmentally sustainable way. My fear is that energy companies such as scottishpower, are trying to justify damaging and I thought through energy projects, such as E one and E two, by claiming that there's already a nuclear power station in this unique area of the country, so the damage is already done. But two wrongs do not make a right. Which brings me on to the second topic I'd like to briefly talk about, which is corporate environmental responsibility. I wholeheartedly believe we should be pursuing 100% renewable energy strategy in this country and time is of the essence. However, it is totally wrong to pursue a strategy that damages the very environment we're trying to protect in the first place. Balancing investment, financial returns with environmental responsibility is something that is actually a part of my job. I work in finance, investing in private companies. In the consumer sector. One particular company we're invested in is a beer brand called brewdog. You may know that the beers wailing. Hopefully, you're all customers, you may not know but brewdog is the first carbon negative beer company in the world. They remove more carbon than they put into the atmosphere. And they've considered a range of projects to achieve that, that aim. And they've recently bought a piece of several 1000 acres in Scotland of grazing land, where they'll be planting several million trees in the coming years. And they considered a range of different carbon removal projects. But they selected that one based on its impact on the environment and local communities. I would encourage everyone here to

download Blue Dogs charter they published a manifesto called make the earth great again on their website, which talks about that negative carbon commitment. And then it in capitalised letters. There's this very interesting statement, they say they say all of our removal initiatives are beneficial to biodiversity and local communities, and are additional certified and verifiable. And I think these tests whether a carbon removal initiative is beneficial to biodiversity, and whether it's beneficial to local communities should also be applied to any renewable energy projects that we have in this country. And I feel on both these tests, and I feel strongly that e one and E two would fail and would encourage scottishpower to consider their corporate environmental responsibility as brewdog does and pursue an alternative implementation away from Preston in a brownfield site, as suggested by SCA s and others. I speak on behalf of my generation that we consider the long term impact of these substations and pursue a renewable energy strategy that protects our environment in the process and does not destroy it.

23:19

Thank you very

23:20

much.

23.23

Thank you very much. For more for those points. And just to follow up, he would like us to take into account the brewdog charter that you referred to there, then please put those things in writing at line five for us.

23:35

I would love to

23:36

thank you so

23:37

much for your time.

23:40

Okay,

23:41

so moving on then today we have Dr. Alexander jimson is next on my list. Dr. gyms and I either

23:57

get Hello. Hello, thank you to the examining authority for allowing me to speak. I'm speaking on this occasion on behalf of my mother, who aged 98 lives at Jeunesse house, which is the house news to the proposed landfall of the transmission cable. Thanks.

Can I just jump in before you get started, just to say I understand that she is an affected person, meaning she has a legal interest in land affected by the projects. Is that correct? That is correct. Yeah. So I just wanted to also make the observation that she has the right to also speak or you do on her behalf at compulsory acquisition hearing, too, which is in the week of the 17th of February. So you're very welcome to make your points today. But just to let you know that that is another opportunity to make oral submissions.

24:51

Thank you. Yes. Thank you very much.

24:55

You have five minutes before the submissions on behalf of your mother this morning.

24:59

Okay, so Thank you very much.

25:01

So

25:03

as I was saying, my mother and her family have lived and farmed in this area, for approximately 200 years, she has been associated with nest house where her parents lived and where she now lives for all her 98 years. So she possibly does have a rather unique perspective on the coastline. And on the environment, the area of outstanding natural beauty through which this cable trench is proposed to go. This house has a property which is about 400 yards from landfall is about 200 yards from the direct drilling site. The cable corridor then seems to travel directly towards ness house, passing about 50 yards from the edge and passing straight through the paddocks. And then curving round to the north, before it moves to the north west away from the property. We our first concern is we do not understand why a cable corridor has to come specifically closer to where children people live, rather than a course that tries to avoid going to the so close. There are a number of other concerns that people at the property may also have. And I'll just list those through now. Firstly, we have grave concerns about the impact on the ground source water aguifers, which supply all the properties around this house. The potential damage to this very fragile water supply at those four properties and also wardens trust, which I'll speak about shortly, is because there is there a well, which has been there for over 100 years. It's a beautiful Victorian well it is regularly tested by environmental health. Under the private water supplies regulations of 2016. It was last tested by Michelle Humphreys from the Council on the sixth of October 2020. It is not as erroneously described in the submitted documents by SPR an unlicensed borehole. It's been there for over 100 years and is regularly tested their documents that describe that there are standard mitigations were required and there would be the preparation of contingencies supply arrange. Nobody has contacted the property to explain or describe what those contingency arrangements may be children live on these sites, vulnerable adults on whom I'm representing live on this site, what are the contingency arrangements? If the water supply is soiled by boreholes or any of the workings or the direct drilling 200 yards away? contingencies contingency supplies through abaza through bottled

water, it is over a mile to the nearest water mains. What are those mitigations and what are those contingencies? We have had no information I cannot conceive how consent can continue for such a proposal as SPR for put forward without people affected such as this knowing what might be the risk and the second major concern is the current lack of any cumulative impact assessment from the multiple potential developments and leading into this proposed Friston substation.

28:46

My mother has already been contacted by national grids agents to come to do an environmental survey on exactly the same land that SPR wished across for their cable national grids East Suffolk interconnector project we would support if it could minimise environmental degradation. But we can see no good evidence that SPR have considered other landfill sites such as trees or coffee may have has been proposing. Finally, I should just point out that for a company that does have green credentials, they have described a route that cuts straight across trees planted by major Mrs. jimson. After the October 17 1987 great storm that passed out over the house. Those trees were planted in 1990. And currently, the trench cable will pass straight through the trees are an enormously valuable environmental resource on such a fragile coastline as ours and a company that does not take full credit Those does not give me any encouragement that they have an idea as to the difficulties and the concerns that local residents may have. I'll finish with that. Thank you.

30:13

Thank you very much for those very clear submissions, Mr. jimson. Some of the matters, you raise that we are picking up, and we plan to pick up further through our written questions. So I hope that gives you some assurance that they are on our radar. And I understand now that we're going to hear from you on behalf of the wardens trust. Is that correct?

30:33

That is correct. Yes.

30:34

Okay. So as an organisation there, you have 10 minutes to speak today. And Mr. Williams will put a slide up when you're halfway through at five minutes and also again at one minute. So, again, if you could introduce yourself, and you can begin whenever you're ready. Thank you.

30:49

Thank you.

30:51

So I'm doing introduce myself. Again, I'm Alexander Johnson. I am the chairman of the wardens trust, which is based at a large building, wardens Hall on the cliffs next to this house, just north of the proposed land for on the NES. Our mission statement is to help people who have mental or physical disabilities to lead fulfilled and creative lives within their families and wider communities, improving their quality of life. Our trustees have proposed have discussed these proposals on a number of occasions. They are a very sober group of individuals who are not prone to hyperbole, but their view is unanimous. This proposal in its current form is an existential threat to this charity. We think we shall go out of

business, as our users will not in all conscience be able to bring clients to this site. If the proposal in its current form goes ahead. In 2018, we had 2406 individuals, fears and in 2019 2634 children and adults came to our centre for our services and facilities. Let me explain why we came to those conclusions. Firstly, children's groups such as the big kid foundation from London, the Paddington Children's Trust to bring children from London at risk of school exclusion and gang culture for development sessions and personal development. kids go wild and movie can bring children with neurodevelopmental issues for a week of camping and filmmaking and music making. All have health, mental health, physical health and behavioural issues. They require enormously careful risk assessment of the environment into which they are coming and the amount of support and supervision they require. having discussed these proposals with our clients, they are of the opinion that this will devastating the impact their risk assessment, they would not be able to come or groups have supported our comments here and will not return if the current proposals Go ahead. So our first conclusion is that the proposal severely damages the amenity value of our site, and the safety for children with mental and physical disabilities. Secondly, the cost has a new holiday flat, which we have furnished over a number of years this is a flat specifically for various severely disabled individuals the avocet there's an enormous shortage of holiday accommodation for the most severely disabled individuals, electric beds, hoists, special baths, wetrooms hoists to place people in bars, individuals and their families come to you relax in the beautiful clifftop surroundings and because of the peace and tranquillity of the countryside looking out west from the flat towards the Margaret word. The ryegrass walks and thought went they do not come in order to look at an industrial fence 100 yards away. They pollution, noise and dust. Again, it is our view that this proposal would dramatically reduce the viability and attractiveness of this holiday location, this rare holiday location for severely disabled people. Thirdly, Walters Trust delivers a range of services for frail, and disabled elders, many with dementia. We serve an air local area with a surprisingly high level of rural deprivation. You may be aware that the recent hidden needs survey from Suffolk Community Foundation undertaken by Professor Knoll Smith last year, revealed worryingly, that deprivation across our area has increased in the 12 years since 2007.

35:41

Our charity attempts to address that rural deprivation and social isolation by allowing frail elders to come to a rather remarkable and unique birthday where people in our local community a surprising number who are unable to access a bath in their own home come to us where our carers offer them a bar for hair wash, a lunch, and a chance to socialise with others in similar wheelchair bound circumstances as themselves. We think this proposal would again dramatically impact the amenity value of our trust bands for the duration of the works, resulting a major interruption of services for this vulnerable group of individuals. So on those three levels, these developments would dramatically reduce the enjoyment that our disabled clients derive from our site.

36:45

Additionally,

36:46

we are funded by personal philanthropy, grants specific for various projects, but also income from our clients. That income is obviously enormously subsidised by the person philanthropy and the fundraising we do, but without income from our clients, clearly, we are not a viable concern. So I am here

unashamedly to speak. Firstly, for the importance as I mentioned yesterday, of social resilience and social capital, something that is very commonly forgotten by large corporate organisations,

37:29

but also,

37:30

most importantly, to speak on behalf of those with physical and or mental disabilities who cannot at such planning processes this speak for themselves and whose views are all too easily passed. I'm going to finish with one final thought. As I say, I spoke yesterday about the importance of social capital. Local authorities and I believe planning authorities are required to consider social capital when making their deliberations. We have heard incredibly powerful testimony today from many local residents and the pain and anguish that they feel is to the diminution of the social capital in local areas. In this Coronavirus, pandemic year, wardens obviously had to change and adapt to meet these new circumstances. We became a Meals on Wheels service, where we delivered meals to lonely and socially isolated, local, disabled and elders in our community. We have delivered just short of 800 meals and then delivered 200 Christmas lunches on Christmas Day and Christmas Eve. Theresa coffee. Our local MP actually joined us in Saxmundham for that purpose to deliver those 200 meals to those people. This charity is a fundamental part of their communities local resilience and social capital. It is for that which my trustees feel there is now an existential threat. Thank you for allowing me to speak.

39:35

Mr. jimson, thank you very much for these very articulate submissions. And you refer to a no Smith study on rural deprivation. Now I'm not aware that we have that in our examination library at the moment. So it would you mind submitting a deadline five that and in particular, if you could just signpost us to the bits that you think are particularly relevant to our considerations that would be Appreciate it. Yep.

40:02

I can certainly do that. That was that was commissioned by the Suffolk Community Foundation, presented by Noel Smith. And it is available on the website, I can send you the link, it describes the considerable deprivation in the least and and in the rural areas around least and and perhaps surprisingly, that there is increasing a rural deprivation there, which has increased over the last few years, I can certainly send you the link.

40:32

Thank you very much. And on your earlier point, when you're making your individual submissions about the water supply, I think my colleague, Mr. Smith would like to come in with a question please. Yes.

40:44

Indeed, yes. And actually, this is a matter more directed to the applicants than directly to yourself, but it does arise from the points that you made on behalf of your mother. You referred there to the water supply to nice house being derived from a Victorian well in active use. And you expressed concerns

about not having been provided with a specification for mitigation measures to ensure that water supply is not lost or degraded, due to the effects of trenchless techniques proposed to be used nearby for cable installation, or indeed to contingency measures. And that would apply if there was harm or lost water supply. So what I would like to ask the applicants to do is to provide a document by deadline five, describing or else referring to relevant sources within the existing documents set the mitigations and contingency measures that would apply, and specifically then going on to identify how those would be formally secured. And so in other words, making them in some way enforceable. I would like the applicants to do that by deadline five. Now Mr. Ennis is listening for the applicants and he will have his opportunity to speak at the end of this session. If he disagrees for some reason with that request, then he will, he can raise his concerns at that point, and I will discuss those with him. So it would also probably be worth yourself, if you can indulge us with a little more time remaining to the end of the session, in case that becomes an issue that the applicants wish to put submissions back to the song, but that the initial point was I'm going to put to the applicants at the end of this session. Okay.

42:35

thank thank you for doing that. Yes. But if I could also emphasise water supplies, things that need particularly when dealing with children and vulnerable adults to be instantaneous. So we didn't need to be reassured that there is not that if there is going to be renewed water supply because it happens to have been soiled. How instantaneous will that supply be?

43:00

Indeed. Okay, well, let's hear what Mr. minnis the applicant says at the end of this session that we have, we have in mind declare action and probed around and great some people do that. Okay, thank you very much.

43:15

Thank you, Mr. Smith. And thank you very much, Mr. jimson for your time this morning. Okay, I'm going to move on now to our next speaker, who on my list is Alex green, Alex green. You there please.

43:29

Good afternoon.

43:30

Good afternoon, Mr. Green. I just asked Mr. jimson. Would you be able to turn your camera off now, please. Thank you very much. Hi. Hi, welcome. You have five minutes in which to make your points this afternoon. And my colleague Mr. Williams will let you know when there's one minute remaining. Brilliant.

43:48

Thank you very much,

43:49

Jesus, how can you begin your contribution? Thank you.

My name is Alex green. My family home is on the edge of the substation site on Friston more. So in my five minutes, I would like to address one point only. This concerns the base offshore transmission network review. In particular, I would like to focus upon the tables on page 16 of the presentation given the Bayes webinar on December 17 2020, which I believe was referenced earlier in this session. This is headed how the network could look in 2050 and the information is provided by n g. so so I'm sure that many of you will have already seen this presentation. As we are not able to share our screens, I will have to describe it and will provide a copy of the next deadline. The presentation indicates that if an indicated strategy is adopted as from 2025, and capex costs are reduced by 18% compared with only 8%. If integration starts in 2030. This is a 10% improvement on the position if the policy is delayed until 2030 and would represent a saving of 6 billion In pounds, same goes for total assets. There's a 70% reduction relative to the present position, if the policy begins in 2025 and this is 30%, better than delaying the start until 2030. So, the position is even more stark for a UK coastline. If the policy begins in 2025, relative to the present status quo, the number of landing points will be reduced from 105 to 30. This is a staggering 75 fewer landing points, if the strategy is delayed until 2030, then in the next five years, 30 new and unnecessary landing points will be required simply because of the delay. So, n g e s o and Bayes make the very obvious point that there is a real advantage in starting the strategy as early as possible.

It is also obvious that if the strategy is not started early, then the huge additional costs will be passed on to consumers. And that is, of course, including my generation in particular. In his concluding remarks, Chris Fox, head of Europe and offshore for bass said, quite a more coordinated approach could deliver strong consumer benefits and considerably reduce the impact on coastal communities and environment close quotes. So I don't want to spend my limited time talking about cumulative impacts. But the evidence is compelling the SPR National Grid intend to use this site as a hub and plug for multiple projects in the future. In the context of the base review, and the recent energy white paper, SPI is intending to sacrifice Preston and the locality in pursuit of a strategy that even as we speak is outdated and represents poor working practice. So you might ask why I am making these points. My family home in the proposed SPR site runs right up to our garden fence, we will be quite literally within metres of the development. And we will be blighted by years and years worth of heavy machinery rumbling around the house and garden sites of the timescales for this project to come to fruition. The good part of the remainder of the lives of many local Friston residents, and my family will be blighted.

I'd like to now echo the comments made by both Patrick Fincham and Alex Gilmore, and voice my support for both of their submissions. I am 25 years old, I would hope that would remain my family home in the future. And I look with utter dismay and despair at the prospect of years and years of disruption, followed by a view of a vast substation dominating the view from the garden and cutting off all of the paths that crisscross the land, and form the basis of our local lines of communication. Once again, I echo the two previous statements, I am a strong supporter of green energy, including wind energy, I strongly believe the vast majority of my generation believe the same, but my generation cannot understand how SPR can be allowed to get away with this gross act of vandalism in the light of these changing circumstances. Thank you very much for this time. It's much appreciated.

48:19

Thank you very much for those submissions, Mr. Green. And I although we weren't able to look at the slide through screen sharing today, I can assure you we do have that slide pack from the base session on the 17th of December in our examination, so we can go back and refer you've given us specific refer points to refer back to you. So we can we can do that. No problems. You also referenced your address just for GDPR reasons. Can I just ask whether you're comfortable that that's put into the public domain as part of your submissions today? I'd

48:46

like that redacted, please.

48:48

Okay, I can make sure that happens. Thank you very much. Thank you very much for your time today.

48:55

Thank you. Bye. Bye.

48:58

Okay.

49:01

So now I've got two people left on our list of speakers today. And the first of those is Mr. Patrick Steen. Mr. Steen.

49:13

Hello.

49:15

I can hear you but I'll just see if it's taken a moment to be able to see up there we are. Oh, I saw you briefly.

49:24

switched off again. Yeah.

49:28

Does that could you try switching off and on again? One more time?

49:30

Yeah, the internet connection isn't particularly good. I must admit. Yeah, I

49:37

don't know whether it's just not good enough for video, but we can hear you loud and clear. So

49:44

I'll have to leave it off. I'm afraid that's fine. That's

absolutely fine. You're welcome to

49:48

to carry on. You got a brief glimpse. And

49:51

we didn't even get that I could just see that you were trying it was trying to connect but we'll we'll progress on. Just by being able to hear you on the audio. It's very good. So again, you have five minutes at this afternoon to make your point and we will put a slide up. So if you can see us, then you'll see the slide at one minute to let you know there's that one minute remaining. Could you introduce yourself before you start, please? Okay, good

50:14

afternoon. I'm Patrick Steen. And I'd like to thank the examination or sorority for allowing me to speak. Like many who have spoken before me, I'd like to note that I'm not opposed to the need for wind, energy and green energy to be more widely used as a sustainable and cleaner source of power for our country. In fact, it is a truly exciting time for this sector for live innovation, new discovery and a genuine opportunity, constructive and sustainable collaboration. However, what I am strongly opposed to is delivery of such energy by one dimensional, non collaborative and hypocritical means, which seeks to attempt to give with one hand was destroyed with the other. This is absolutely not the ethos and principles and what the delivery of clean energy should be built upon. Over many weeks and months now, and in fact, we have heard from a large number of people describing in great detail their strong and passionate reasons for their opposition to the proposals as set forth by SPR. I'm in total agreement with this opposition, and the reasons why universally in line with those who have submitted before me and included for the record the wide ranging reasons covering the length of the construction programme. The illogical location proposed for construction, the long term threat to residence and wildlife, and the lack of any direct long term economic benefit to the immediate area affected. A little bit about me, I'm a Londoner who used to call the Suffolk coast my home to my childhood, it was and still is currently a magical place to grow up as a young boy and then as a more angsty teenager, I recognise how lucky I was to be able to spend my youth in place where children were encouraged to get outside and explore the myriad of paths, woodlands and trails, against the backdrop of quiet roads and peaceful friendly villages. It is absolutely correct that it is a designated area of outstanding natural beauty. And I always look forward to a time when I could bring my own family here, either permanently or for holidays. Nowadays, I work in the corporate world and have direct history and working on delivery of major infrastructure projects as well as preparing financial proposals to government scrutiny. I mentioned this for good reason, which I will return to later. My primary focus However, in requesting six days in relation to the impacts of this proposed project in question, let alone the swarm of subsequent energy projects that will likely follow into the immediate area, if given approval, will have on my decision making now as a tourist and guests to one of the most beautiful areas of the UK. What has always struck me when I speak to people today and introducing myself, whether in the world of business or socially is how many of them react when I say I'm from a small place in Suffolk called rubra Oh, how amazing Oh how I love it there. Oh, we can't wait to go. It is rarer than not that people do not know

where this small town is, or more mindblowingly to me how many have travelled long distances across the UK to visit the area. Even as a non resident now I'm filled with a sense of pride. As a tourist. However, I am now filled with a sense of concern. Tourism has always been absolutely vital to the local economy. The area to the east of the 12th from Woodbridge all the way up to Southwold especially so overthought ness, Snape and minsmere in particular, regularly feature within the medium of some of the UK must be the destinations for UK holidays. And rightly so, day trips to the area are over 10 million 10 million annually evaluated the local economy is over 600 million. And more importantly, it provides a long term and sustainable source of over 40,000 jobs and income to the local population. The unfortunate events surrounding COVID-19 and provide some unintended long term benefits to this market. uk staycations are more desirable than ever before in my lifetime. And this stretch of the Suffolk coast is likely to benefit greatly from ever increasing numbers of both day and overnight with the opportunity to continue the sustainable growth the local economy is real all year round, not just across the summer months. Additionally the impacts of COVID-19 are changing the way in which we work now. I speak from personal experience when I say the large number of people who previously have had to brace themselves in major urban conurbations London due to the proximity of office space and now able to work more remotely on a day to day basis. As such, we are witnessing high levels of migration away from the cities and back to the countryside. I myself am in the process of such a move, along with 1000s of others and the Suffolk coast and surrounding areas likely to benefit greatly from this sprs plans act as a direct threat to this opportunity. And my family and I have decided to relocate elsewhere partly for this reason. In particular, I'd like to focus on three things. Firstly, the local transport infrastructure network in and around first and overhead thought less and less no overly woefully inadequate. Roads are narrow in poor condition and totally unsuitable to the total volume of vehicles that will be required to undertake the work described over such a long period, currently being in temporary accommodation in the outskirts of lacing for the past two months, I've been shocked by the impact that a relatively small amount of rain and surface water has had on the local road network with connecting roads between the market towns and villages quickly becoming impossible, and numerous potholes opening up once the water is temporarily receded. sprs proposed plans for road improvements do not come anywhere close to remediating or solving these issues. And the volume and size of the vehicles which will be required will undoubtedly lead to a sharp increase the number of road traffic accidents and likely number of very serious injuries and deaths on the local roads. Perhaps the greatest risk to all is to cyclists and pedestrians who are a common sight at all times of the year due to the beautiful area, and who already needs to be navigated with caution by local drivers and who are already hampered by the poor condition of the road and lack of payments respectively.

56:05

Mr. Steam just sorry to jump in, but I just say Your time is up. So if you'd sure point that'd be appreciated. Thank you.

56:11

I'll just make one further point then. I'd like to focus on dotnet in particular, and the proposed routing of the cabling from lamb fall at Salt nest twisted even as the visited City area is absolutely beyond comprehension to me how such a proposal has been put forward. Of all the places I've mentioned Domino's is to me anyway, the jewel in the crown both locally, but also on a national level with a history and ethos that couldn't sit further away from these proposals if it tried. specifically built as a model

holiday village. I know very few if any other places in the UK where families can come. Kids can be sent out the front door in the morning and not seen until the evening. Parents contend in the knowledge the environment in which their most prized assets being released. that are being released is safe, friendly, exciting and beautiful. The house in the clouds the boating Lake, golf course tennis, beachside cafes and woodland walks is a nationally recognised places. It is the place both solely built and existing for the purpose of fun relaxation and happiness for both local people and holiday makers and tourists alike.

57:16

Mr. Steen, I'm going to have to stop you there. Thank you for your submissions this morning, this afternoon. And no not still. Now I know there's a lot to say. And I can either see if there are things you really want to get across to us that you haven't managed to get across this morning, then I would encourage you to put those in for deadline five in writing as well. Just a copy of your speaking notes. If if that's all you wanted to just put in, you're welcome to do. So. Thank you very much for your time. Thank you. I'm going to move us on then to our final speaker today before we come to the applicants, and that is Mr. JOHN Grover. Mr. Grover.

57:49

Good afternoon.

57:52

Can you hear me?

57:53

I can I can hear you and I can see you. Okay, that's great. So

57:56

I'm actually speaking on behalf of my husband who is about to disappear. Quite Suddenly, I heard that's okay.

58:02

That's fine. And thank you for sticking with us to the very end today. So again, you have five minutes, and you'll see a slider where there's one minute remaining.

58:11

Right, thank you. My name is Linda clover. I live here with my husband, john Grover, we live in Preston. I know that what I'm going to say is not unique. And you've heard from more eloquent speakers than me, but I'm not technical person. And therefore I can only share with you what impact the SPR proposals are having on the ordinary residents of Friston. I understand that impact of health and quality of life are essential elements when planning decisions are made. And in honestly, if this were the only criteria, then SPR would not be able to build here because the quality of our lives have already changed for the worst. Like a lot of Western residents, my husband and I moved here for the peace and quiet after long and demanding careers. People who are concerned for their neighbours care about the environment and uphold that very British tradition of wanting to protect their home and surroundings for themselves. ecologically and future generations. The extra traffic around the freestylin roads will be

dangerous, as most roads are singletrack. With no pavements, residents have no option but to walk in and lift the road. Out mean this is these roads are already universally used by large farm vehicles. holidaymakers and locals preferred a Malay are used as cut through from waste and I'm not sure to be a 1094 having extra traffic will overburden an already difficult road system can be very dangerous for the locals walking in the roads. Kristen has a high percentage of second homes. This benefits the village we have a vibrant village pub County. Besides walking areas and an active church traits people make an income from maintenance and building work rely on the income from the second homes in the Torres Strait. But no one wants to rent here and Kristen, when the whole area will be a building site. noise and light pollution is a concern as equal walking past a small substation, there is a constant low frequency harm that harm can only increase with a bigger substation, and that harm will carry to the clinic as it is a particularly quiet area. Any light will be seen for miles of the flat countryside. Friston floats almost every time there is heavy rain, what would happen when a site nearly 400 metres by 400 metres is covered in concrete has enough thought being put into control. It must be asked for wspr why pick Friston there are plenty of brownfield sites you know those stuff and the Frankfort SPR already have plans and building their life they changed from using the original brownfield site as originally planned. SPR talk about the benefits which will revert into the community. It was this will not help our village. I'm not sure there are many of the residents looking for a job or an apprenticeship. In fact, folio visitors could measure the loss of our existing facilities and therefore the loss of jobs. Planning Inspectorate we feel must investigate the overall community communities effect of all the projects that are in the pipeline. There used to be a connected approach to how wings power is brought to shore, not just an ad hoc scheme by many wind power providers. There are alternative options, the one being suggested.

1:01:49

You've heard much about the technical problems from experts. Please now consider the actual impact on real people affected by this proposal. Living in Friston is now very stressful, constantly worrying how our lives will be impacted. Should we stay? Should we go and cut in fact, we afford to move we tumbling house crisis caused by the fear of substations. I didn't watch the specialist hearings. It's guite obvious that SPR have done their minimum to fill planning requirements. Constantly. The experts hired by assessors and other organisations are questioning why they saw that has not been taken into account. SPR on reactive, not proactive. And this worries me more than anything else. Because if our experts do not pick them up on things, then who will and what will SPR get away with SPR is complete lack of concern for the residents of Kristen. And that obvious lack of care for the wider environment is clear for all to see, as they constantly provide a minimum of information that the hearings to the planning Inspectorate. I beg, please don't let the residents of Kristen be the sacrificial lambs to SPR, and all the other power supplies who would like to make this part of Suffolk one group panel hub, the human cost is huge and cannot be ignored. As the impact of this will be here for generations to come. Not after the builders have left. I would like to endorse all the things that have previously been said by assesses safe outside links and Suffolk energy action solutions. They have all spoken very eloquently on our behalf. And I bet Thank you too, for listening.

1:03:35

Thank you very much Mrs. graver for those submissions and which were very clear. And could I ask you just to confirm your first name, please so that we could have record of who's spoken today?

1:03:45

Yes, it's Linda.

1:03:46

Linda. Thank you. Thank you very much for those points, we will take them all into careful consideration as we move into our next set of hearings and written questions. So thank you for your time today.

1:03:58

Thank you.

1:03:59

Thank you.

1:04:01

Okay.

1:04:10

Mr. Smith, would you like to come in on a point, I'm just seeing that you're, there's something you'd like to raise it is now a good time. Would you like to wait until the next item?

1:04:18

No, this this specifically relates to the Africans contribution. So move to agenda item three, and then I'll come in if that's okay.

1:04:28

Okay, in that case, we've reached the end of our list of speakers for session two. And that therefore concludes our business under agenda item two today and I would like to thank all of today's speakers on behalf of the panel for your contributions. We appreciate the time that goes into preparing for and making your submissions and I'd like to assure you that we have been listening carefully. We will take all of your points into consideration as we go forward with our deliberations. We will then turn to agenda item three, which is the applicants contributions and and if I could please ask Mr. Ennis to come on to the screen. We've had some wide ranging matters raised today. And so I anticipate you'll be responding in writing at deadline five. But this is your opportunity to respond to any of the specific matters that have been put to us today.

1:05:13

Yes, thank you, madam cornice on behalf of the applicants, I'm just on behalf of Africans, I would like to thank all those who've taken the time to make representations at today's open floor period. We also fully appreciate the time that people also put in to the preparation of the presentations that they've made. It's not just a time commitment to come and speak today, we have listened carefully. And there are a number of issues which have been raised, which will obviously go away and consider. And if we shouldn't necessarily we'll provide further written response at that time, fine, but I don't pay to take time up now, in responding to specific matters. However, there was one matter raised by Mr. Smith, arising

from Dr. Gibson's representations this morning, and that related to the issue of the water supply, and the mitigations, etc, that were being considered. And as a suggestion about a response being made. At deadline five, I took the view in listening to Dr. Gibson, that he had actually read the environmental statement, and he had read some of the material that would submit it as regard to future potential mitigation in relation to matters. And I think he was looking for something more than us just responding with references to that material. At that respect, I don't think the applicants would be able to respond to deadline five, on relation to the specific matters. And I would propose that our submission on the matters of deferred to deadline six, when I think we will provide a more than just the response of the references that we've already submitted. And if that works at all,

1:06:53

on the basis that, yeah, that what you're saying is that you need to do additional work above and beyond what was in the submitted environmental statement. I think that would be valuable, because my understanding also was the Mr. jimson was asking for something a little more than has already been presented, then I would say that that would that would seem sensible approach. Mr. Smith?

1:07:10

Yes. I mean, if I can come in on that. I my take there is exactly the same as yours. I didn't in setting out that draft action. It was not my intention that you just stop having given a roadmap to all of the proposals and that you have already documented what I was essentially seeking you might do is to go a little beyond that, to identifying specific means of security, how can it be assured that the mitigations and indeed the contingencies that have been proposed, are specifically tied down? and therefore the length of the piece of string needs to be taken a little further? And absolutely, it strikes me that if it needs until deadline six to do that, then absolutely, that would be reasonable request

1:08:05

of the applicant? Yes, that's exactly what the intention of the applicant is in that respect.

1:08:11

Thank you very much, Mr. And so does that. I presume that concludes your submissions down to our agenda item three.

1:08:17

Yes, comments above that? Yes. And just to wish everyone, a good weekend. Thank you.

1:08:23

Thank you very much for all of your time this this week. Okay. In that case, we will move on to Agenda Items four and five, which is to review our actions and next steps. My colleague, Mr. Smith has been keeping a note of any actions arising today. And I think I will pass you briefly Mr. Smith, if you'd like to run through the way we're going to approach this today. Thank you, indeed. And I

1:08:47

have a list of nine actions arising from today. Those names of specific individuals from whom they merged or to whom they relate. And in large part, they just relate to specific promises to provide

particular documents by deadline by the individuals to whom those requests have been made. I'm sure already know who they are. But we will publish the action list as shortly as we can do after today to enable that to be clarified. And given that we have also spoken to the applicants about that particular action around rural water supplies for dwellings without mains water. That's a matter that's being taken for the deadline six. Finally, am I will refer to the fact that there have been general actions placed out of all previous open floor hearings in relation to references made to additional energy project connections and Friston and Alexander jimson did make such a reference. And so again, what we're asking folks to do make such references there to do is to To write to us by deadline five and clarify the specific additional energy project connections that their referral sought to engage. The reason why we do that is we do not want to finish examination, without there being absolute clarity from all parties about the specific additional energy project connections that people have referred to in their individual submissions. I don't think I need to say anything more, the action list will be published as soon as we can reasonably achieve after today's event is closed.

1:10:33

Thank you very much, Mr. Smith. So this has been open floor here in number six. And we had time reserved for open floor hearing six a later this afternoon, which was a place to adjourn business from here had this hearing not proceeded or being disrupted. But having reached this point, we are clear now that that that six a OFH, six a will not be needed. And so I can confirm now it will be cancelled. And on our website. We'll be reflecting that shortly. I'll also add, and we've held time in reserve as a place to adjourn business from issue specific hearings three, four and five held this week in the event of it failures. Since those issues specific hearings have proceeded this week. Without those failures, I can confirm that the time that we have reserved for those three will also not be needed. As this is also the final hearing this week, I'll make it clear that the examination timetables which are the same both projects are published on our project web pages, and they set out the hearing arrangements for future hearing time reserved. Our next open floor hearings then will be on the 28th of January. That's next Thursday starting at 2pm. And we have we've published a list of speakers on our website on the eighth of January, the avoidance of doubt. And meanwhile next week, we have site inspections taking place on Tuesday, the 26th and Wednesday the 27th of January and as a consequence of the Coronavirus regulations currently in force. The arrangements for these inspections have been amended as we have discussed already in this hearing today to ensure that only those who are essentially required to attend them do so. And again, the detailed itineraries are on the project web pages now. And the individuals who had requested to participate in those have also been contacted individually. So I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who's spoken today, we really appreciate that some people would prefer us to be there in person to hear your submissions. But we are trying to do the best we can with these examinations as safely as possible in the current circumstances. And we will ensure that everyone who wants to be engaged will be engaged. And just wanted to add we're extremely grateful for the effort and professionalism that's been shown by all of our speakers, we will be carefully considering everything that you've put before us. And we will pursue matters here in further hearings or in written questions as necessary. I'd also like to thank our case team led by Mr. Williams for supporting all of the hearings this week, which has been guite a big task. So unless there's anything else that anyone would like to raise, and I've can't see any indications from parties, and then I will now ask my colleagues to say their goodbyes.

1:13:11

Thank you very much, everybody, for all your contributions today.

1:13:17

Indeed, from Rynd Smith panel lead, thank you very much for your contributions. They are greatly valued.

1:13:24

Thank you again, the time is now 1:13pm and I will now close these open floor hearings number six. Thank you