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00:05

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to today's open floor hearing number seven for the East Anglia ONE North and East Anglia TWO offshore wind farms. This is the seventh open floor hearing in these examinations. Before we introduce ourselves, can I please deal with some preliminary matters? Can I check with the case team that I can be heard, and that the recordings and the live streams have now started?

00:31

I can hear you and see you. The recording has started. And we will just check. I can confirm that the live stream is up and running yet. Mr. End.

00:43

Thank you very much, Mr. Fenton. And Mr. Johnson. Okay. And I will start by reminding everybody that we have already held five open floor hearings in October, November, and one earlier last week in January.

00:58

Once this hearing is complete, then everybody who has requested to be heard as Open Floor hearing at the start of the examinations will have been heard. And we have also provided some opportunities for people who've joined the examinations on route to be heard to. So we trust that by the end of this hearing, The open floor hearings process will be complete.

01:22

We're holding this hearing in two sessions as set out in the agenda which can be found at annex D to allotrope, the eighth of December 2020. If you're here now, already, then you will be heard in this session in the order broadly as shown in annex D one to the agenda. And there are one or two minor changes, and I trust that everybody who is subject to those has been made aware of those in the arrangements conference. Once you've been heard, you don't have to stay. If you leave, you can watch the rest of this session on the live stream and the link is available on the national infrastructure planning website. And you don't need to join the second session. Again, please use the live stream to watch. This makes sure that there's plenty of space on our computer systems for those speakers who are due to follow on in session two. So, two slightly more formal introductions. My name is Richard Smith. I am the lead member of this panel, which is the examining authority for the East Anglia one North offshore wind farm application and have a panel which is the examining authority for the East Anglia to offshore wind farm application. I also in the chair today, and I will be leading the second session of this hearing starting in later on in the afternoon at 4pm.

02:35

I will draw your attention to annex B of our rules six letter dated the 16th of July 2020. Right at the very start of these processes, where you will find my brief biography and an explanation of the purposes of the examining authorities appointments. I made a declaration of interests at the preliminary meetings part one on the 16th of September. And again you can view that online if you wish. My fellow panel members here this afternoon. Mr. JOHN Hockley and Mr. Guy Rigby will introduce themselves now flag that they do have brief biographies in the rule six letter annex B and that they two made their declarations at the preliminary meetings part one. So if I can introduce now Mr. Hockley.

03:23

Thank you very much, Mr. Smith. Good afternoon everybody. My name is John Hockley. And I'll be leading on the main elements of this session. Once the introductions are complete, Mr. Smith will be observing taking notes and may ask questions as they arise after the break our roles reverse. Thank you.

03:39

Hello, good afternoon, everyone. My name is Guy Rigby. I'm also a member of the panels and I will be observing and taking notes so you won't necessarily see me all the time.

04:02

Mr. Smith appears to have frozen so I shall carry on so those of you who were involved with or watch any of the previous hearings will know that the full panel is not here today. And as you'll appreciate this is so they are free to work in the background on information that we have received during hearings last week and site inspections held this week. However, if need be for contingency purposes, our colleagues will join us I can see Mr. Smith is back with us now ready to take over. I am very intend to take over and thank you Mr. Hockley for stepping in. We do have occasional little dips with the internet. If that happens, everybody, I will just reassure you that the integrity of the recording process which is taken from our servers is not affected. And so if any one panel member misses an element of proceedings, we can go back and we can actually return to the recordings and find what we have missed. And so, I will also introduce our planning Inspectorate colleagues working with us on these examinations, some of them

05:00

You'll already have spoken to already. I know many of you previously Emre Williams, the case manager leading the planning and spectrum testing for these applications overall. However, it was Liam Fedden who led the arrangements conference today and he is managing the team for this event. He's accompanied today by two case officers, Kj Johansson, and Caroline hope well.

05:23

Hopefully the agenda papers for these hearings provided a clear explanation of annual reasons for being here this afternoon to hold open flow hearings, which are your opportunity to raise anything that is important and relevant and that you think we need to know about and consider before we make any findings or recommendations to the Secretary of State on either application for development consent,

05:46

you will find information about the applications and documents produced for these examinations on the planning Inspectorate national infrastructure website, which has a landing page for both projects and further tabs that set out examination procedure, the timetable relevant representations and examination documents for each project separately. And our rule six letters included the web addresses for those resources. Hopefully, everybody here is now reasonably familiar with these and is in the habit of looking at the websites regularly. And we continue to use them to communicate with everyone and to provide access to documents throughout both examinations up until the time when they conclude. So now you know who we are, and you know why we're here. So I'm going to hand back to Mr. Hockley, who will lead the remainder of this first session of today's hearing. Mr. Hockley.

06:39

Thank you very much, Mr. Smith, John Hopfully. Here. Shortly I'll be asking attendees for session one to speak in the ruffled I set out on our agenda. Before I do just a few things to note. Today's hearing is being live streamed and recorded recordings that we make are retained and published. And therefore they form a public record that can contain your personal information, and to which the general data protection regulation applies. Does anyone have any questions about the terms on which our digital recordings are made?

07:09

not seeing any hands raised or hearing anybody. So we'll move forward on a basis that that's all understood on now just raise free issues emerging from the current public health position.

07:21

Participants in these hearings who have been involved in examination since we started, we'll be aware that the examinations timetables were prepared, enabling flexibility, so that if by New Year, we were in a position to begin to plan for a return to physical hearings, we could do so. I think it's fair to say that the Coronavirus situation remains difficult, perhaps more so than many of us would have had anticipated. On that basis. Examining authorities considered it is important that all interested parties are clear that we now consider these most likely that all remaining hearing hearings in these examinations will be virtual.

07:54

Being called in for the same reason the examining authorities recently took steps to significantly limited limited attendance at the site inspections held earlier this week, with only people whose attendance was essential supported to attend them. It's important to place on record that the examining authority is considered at the site inspections had to be delivered in this limited manner to enable them to be safe and compliant with public health regulations and guidance.

08:18

Finally, if you consider that you cannot participate in these examinations in a manner or to the extent that you deem necessary due to the current public health controls, please write to us by deadline five setting out your concerns. The examining authorities will consider any such submissions in our planning

for events programme for February and March this year, and for the remainder of the examinations as a whole.

08:39

open floor hearings are an opportunity for individuals and community groups to speak directly to the examining authorities, and are not about a particular location or topic. The topic of your representations today is therefore up to you. However, we may disregard a representation if it is vexatious or frivolous.

08:56

Turning to this afternoon's meeting, you should now know the rough, rough order that I intend to take speakers in and the agenda sets out the speaking time guides apply. Please don't leave until you've had your turn to speak as if you do, we won't be able to include you in a later session. Once you have spoken, we do ask that you leave to ensure that there is enough capacity in the computer system for latest speakers to join, you can watch the remainder of the hearing on the live stream online. To ensure that everyone has their opportunity to speak we will need to be fairly strict today in managing the timings. So please don't be offended if I have to ask you to stop talking at the end of your allotted time. If you have more to say you are very welcome to submit it in writing for deadline five, which is the third of February as we have said before written and oral contributions carry equal weight in this process.

09:42

Could I check the name of the main speaker that we have representing the applicants today please?

09:52

Good afternoon, sir. My name is Colin and this summer from the law firm of Schaeffler Wedderburn appearing on behalf of the applicants

10:00

This afternoon and I'm instructed by Fiona Coyle, our professional solicitor of Scottish renewables. And I'm also accompanied by a Senior Project Manager, rich Morris. Thank you. Thank you. Good afternoon, Mr. Ellis, as my colleagues have done in the previous open floor hearings, hearings, and indeed, I have to remind you that the main purpose of today is to hear from interested parties, and you're primarily here to listen. Before he closes the hearing, Mr. Smith will give you a brief opportunity in session to to make responding remarks on matters that you consider must be drawn to our attention. And if you could find those two, five minutes with detailed responses provided in writing a deadline five if necessary.

10:39

Anyone who is speaking in a session but not here after the break and watch the applicants response on a live stream and if there is anything in it that you disagree with. Again, you can set that out in writing a deadline five, I finally remind everybody this opportunity for everyone here to have their say, in fairness justice, you would not want to be interrupted when you speak. Please do not interrupt other speakers, if you agree with or disagree with what they say. And you can make that clear to us in your own speaking time or in writing. Again, at deadline five. Every speaker should be allowed to make full use of their time to speak. If anyone does interrupt in a way that is unnecessary or disrupts the hearing, Mr. Smith or I

will warn them and ask them to allow the hearing to continue. If the same person interrupts again, they will be warned again. Repeated interruptions that lead to disruption can be viewed as unreasonable behaviour for which walls of cost can be sought by other interested parties.

11:29

If no one interrupts on a third occasion following two warnings, in the interest of fairness to all participants, Mr. Smith or I will ask the case manager to exclude them from the hearing. The introductions are now complete before we move on to the main business. Does anyone have any questions about how today's hearing will be run?

11:50

not seeing any hands or hearing anybody. So I'll assume we'll move on now to item two of our agenda.

11:58

So before I just introduce our first speaker, I'll just let you know that it's our intention not to intervene in your submissions. As long as you remain relevant and within time, we won't interrupt you will listen to you carefully. If my colleagues or I have questions. We'll raise those at the end of your speaking time. Okay, so for the first speaker, we have a slight change to the public publish agenda. The first speaker we have is Beverly stojo, who is joining us via telephone. And thank you to the other speakers for this first session for agreeing to move down one space as an individual interested parties. Mr. Raja, you have five minutes in which to make your points and as you're on the phone, I will let you know verbally when you have one minute left. When you begin your contribution, could you also please introduce yourself and we are ready whenever you are.

12:49

Hello, my name is Beverly Schroeder. I have grazing rights next to what is now called landfall where I have kept right rescue horses for more than 20 years. The location is ideal if these horses are vulnerable and sensitive with health issues. We are on a cliff surrounded by area of outstanding natural beauty and fields with access to Sandy off road hacking. The land is private so there was two passes by the works for the landfall and the cable route will now surround us for years. I've been writing to SPR and then the planning Inspectorate for since 2019 with my serious concerns about the welfare of these horses, spr have not answered any of my questions about how they are planning to make sure these horses suffer no stress from noise and vibration 24 hours a day with lighting on and dust pollution, about how the copses and trees provide wind cover at the edges of the grazing are to be chopped down and how the safe tracks and bridleways I'd be kept protected and kept fit for hacking and not ruined by heavy vehicles and replaced by unsuitable hardcore SPR had said that working for 24 hours a day here will have niche political significance. A horse here horses hearing is has hearing range is much greater than humans. their usual response to danger is flight. My horses are spoofing at night because they don't know how can they cope with this construction site all around them day and night. How are SPR going to make sure that these animals are safe to handle when frightened some of their handlers are children. This puts both their welfare and the risk someone could get hurt or even killed. Horses can be very dangerous when frightened. the ASPCA has been contacted over this and in an email they have said that the welfare of these animals must be taken into consideration before planning is past. The British horse society have also been made aware and have said that they know of

instances where horses have become stressed and anxious in these situations. The British horse society have also approached Suffolk County Council on a matter of the byways and bridleways around this area. Why RSP are going to make RSP are going to make sure those routes are safe during construction. So that rider does not get thrown off and the horse does not get hurt or charge off, causing injury to pedestrians. British horses

15:00

It wants us to, to let them know of any near misses. SPR RSP are going to erect adequate fencing for these animals so that they don't get hurt. owners will not be held responsible if their horses escaped due to SPR frightening them. What plan has SPR got to put in place if these horses do escape, are they going to catch them and repair any fences and pay any vet bills. One of my horses is coming back from New Market after operation on her leg which cost nearly 5000 pounds. New Market surgeons have spent a lot of time and effort putting this horse right and have stipulated she must not race around on her leg as a strength has to be built up gradually. I hope that all the surgeons work time as well as the insurance company's money and mine is not going to be a waste because SPR have caused this horse to charge around and frightened her. What are SPR going to do about the sand that blows into my field which causes my horses to get sang colic if digested or damages their eyes? What are they going to provide prevent rubbish or plastic sheeting blowing into my field? And so cause my horses to get colic? Through that I've had no answer to these questions. My horses water supply as a private from a supply Well, what are they doing to prevent that from getting contaminated? I was told that these works would not affect me. This is not true. SPR making my horses the horses next to me homeless, the drilling surveys as soon as next month. And they've put the onus on me to accommodate these animals. In my grazing these fields, there's an upgrade not enough grazing there for my own horses, let alone any more. SPR are they going to compensate me for all the extra hay that I have got to their buy in as a result, the front paddocks will need resting for the winter and spray to read work. This will be three weeks before they can go on them. And this can't be done. They've got to be rotated and bracing to do the braces and grow through SPR need to own up to their responsibilities for the for making these animals homeless. They need to provide them with stapling, raising and off road hacking nearby where the owners can look after him and get to work. Why must the soldiers be made homeless when there's a piece of land the other side of them that they could use? At the present time I have heard nothing from SPR. And they have offered me no compensation. I would like to point out that I have made you aware of all these ventures possible

17:22

things that could go wrong. the welfare of these horses must be taken into consideration. I don't want to have to say I told you so when something goes wrong. And finally these are much loved family pets, adored by children. How would the SPR feel if it if it was there happening to their pets? Probably what I'm doing now I expect. Thank you.

17:44

Thank you very much Miss Georgia. For those comments are very useful indeed. Thank you. Thank you.

17:53

Okay, if we could now move on to the second speaker, please. And that's Mr. Allen Hatfield again. Mr. Hatfield as an individual interested party. You have five minutes in which to make your point. Mr. Fenton will let you know when you have one minute remaining. And when you begin your contribution. Could you also introduce yourself, please. And we're ready whenever you are.

18:14

Thank you. My name is Alan Hatfield. I live a couple of kilometres away from the substation. Let me make it clear. First of all, I've got no issues at all with wind farms. All the issues are to do with the substation itself. I'm going to make five points. That Firstly, the MP PS is outdated.

18:37

It was

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published in 2008. And since then, there's been significant changes to the wind farm

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infrastructure and so on.

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Secondly, the substation is not of good design.

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Thirdly, the substation is not sustainable.

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Fourth, the substation does not comply with the coin lowest cost

19:03

requirement. And fifthly the EIA has not considered the cumulative impact of the nine other developments that are going to occur nearby.

19:15

pins advice note 17 defines cumulative impacts as future projects that are reasonably foreseeable.

19:25

First point then is that the MPs is outdated. The Planning Act 2008 says that the minister must reconsider the NPS if there has been significant change.

19:43

And yet

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the document which is the offshore coordination phase one final report published the 16th of December 2020 says

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with net zero by 2050

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DEA now legally required and a dramatic expansion of the UK offshore energy target. It is now widely accepted in the industry, that the way offshore wind capacity is configured needs to radically change.

20:17

That is a significant change as far as I'm concerned. And secondly, the Prime Minister himself said in July 2013, wind farms couldn't pull the skin off the rice pudding. And yet, in October 2020, he said that we will have enough wind farms to deliver 40 gigawatts of energy by 2030. That again is a significant change and is not being reflected in the NPS.

20:50

My second point is the substation is not good design. Again in the Planning Act 2008, it says that this sort of development must achieve good design and yet in the holistic approach to offshore transmission planning in Great Britain national grid, so report number 20 1256, date the 16th of the 11th 2020 it says all integrated offshore designs, irrespective of their detailed design could drastically reduce offshore cabling that is required to be landed on shore

21:34

which is again a better design than has been proposed. It also says integrated solutions can by sharing infrastructure with ngb reduce the volume of onshore substations and associated connections and consequential onshore reinforcement that requirement.

21:55

Again, that shows that the design could be better and therefore, it cannot be good design. A third point is, again in the Planning Act 2008. It says that the development must be sustainable.

22:13

And it costs the way this is measured, what we buy, the environmental and social impact and the economic impact.

22:26

Again, in the offshore coordination phase one final report. It says there are also significant environmental and social benefits with an integrated approach as the number of new electricity infrastructure assets, including cables and onshore unemployment could be reduced by about 50%.

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So, to be sustainable, we need to do

22:53

a coordinated development. On the economic front, it says adopting an integrated approach for all offshore projects to do to be delivered from 2025 has the potential to save consumers approximately 6 billion pounds.

23:11

So again, it's saying that there is a better much more sustainable economic

23:18

way of doing this.

23:20

My fourth point is that there is a legal requirement for the substation

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to to be the most cost effective implementation. It says that in SP RS or bonds.

23:39

And yet, again, in the offshore coordination phase one final report. It says adopting an integrated approach for all offshore projects to be delivered from 2025 has the potential to save consumers approximately 6 billion pounds. Mr. Hatfield I'd have to let you know Your time's up now. I'm afraid. So if you if you could bring it to a close place. Okay. Well, I've actually sent you these five points in by written submission anyway. So excellent. You can you can read what I had to say in the subsequent.

24:14

Yep.

24:16

Excellent. Thank you Mr. Hatfield. And I was I was going to ask you, actually, if you could submit those in writing, so that's fantastic that you're already. Perfect. Thank you very much for your time here. Okay. Okay, if we can now move on to the next speaker, please. And this is Susan Jackson.

24:34

I can see.

24:36

Mr. Rich if you could just turn your camera off for me, please.

24:43

Thank you. Yes, Miss Jackson. I can see and hear you. Thank you, sir. As before, obviously, you'll I'm sure you know to draw your five minutes in which to make your points and Mr. Fenton will let you know when you have one minute remaining. And if you could also introduce yourself when you begin please.

24:59

Thank you

25:00

My name is Susan Jackson. I'm a first and resident and vice chair of this press Friston parish Council. I fully support and endorse the work of spaces and my concerns refer to the onshore substation in forest and for base e one and E two and all future developments. My intention is to focus on the effects of the substation on the heritage village of Friston and to its residents. Most of the residents were either born here or locally, or moved here to enjoy the wonderful peace and tranquillity of this small, rural community.

25:34

The Dark Skies at night and the almost complete silence, both of which will be lost if this substation is built. None of us expected that our lives would be so disrupted and blighted by the prospect of a large industrial development on a Greenfield site. So close to our beautiful heritage village, which will be destroyed by the industrial buildings dwarfing our houses and views and detracting from the historic buildings like our church and their rural surroundings.

26:05

We are shocked and understanding that our village has been chosen to erect such an enormous out of place monstrosity, which now amount of tree planting will disguise

26:17

and which will not protect us from the noise, light or disruption during most of our lifetimes, and will cause irreparable damage to our local wildlife and our own mental health. Our village has to use facilities. And unfortunately we all need to have our own transport. During construction on narrow single track roads are destined to become rat races for everything but hgvs. We who live here are reliant on these roads to enable us to shop access medical services and to walk around the village. Lies will be put at risk by the increased volume of traffic and lack of pavement.

26:55

We will lose precious and ancient footpaths of which we already have few. And we'll find it almost impossible to walk anywhere from our homes. This will mean that we have to get in our cars to take our dogs out for a walk. Important agricultural land will be lost to this and future developments which is currently used to grow vegetables for the benefit of everyone. Our pup will be put in danger as a holiday and weekend cottages remain empty as who would want to come here on holiday. The traffic the disruption in the area and the difficulty moving around will have a huge impact on local businesses and the tourist industry, especially in all

27:35

it is a tourist industry on which many of our lives depend.

27:40

This project will set a precedent and open up the area to further similar developments as already proposed. The cumulative effect will destroy our lives and the environment. It will condemn us to spend

the rest of our lives objecting to them and will continue to cause us all extreme anxiety and stress which will already be witnessing in our residence. Preston is a totally unsuitable location for a substation, it is far too close to houses and heritage buildings. The area chosen by SPR is already a major cause of flooding in the village and building on these fields will exacerbate it. The current flood relief scheme is inadequate and climate change is also contributing with much wetter weather than we were used to. It is a Greenfield site and SPR have not even considered any brownfield sites which would be far more suitable for this and future development. The damage that will be done to the environment in this village and to the AONB by the cable runs, and to the fragile cliffs in Thorpeness, surely cannot be justified. There must be a better solution and surely one should be explored. Thank you. Thank you very much, Miss Jackson.

28:57

So useful contributions. Thank you. Thank you. Okay, if we can now move on to our next speaker, please. And this is David Mackey replacing Katherine Mackey from the Publish agenda.

29:10

Mr. Mackey. Are you with us?

29:14

Yes, sir. Excellent.

29:18

Just to reiterate that I can see you on here. Welcome. As an individual interested party, you have five minutes in which to make your point and Mr. Fenn will let you know when you have one minute remaining. And once you begin, if you could also just introduce yourself, please wait ready, wherever you are. Thank you.

29:34

Thank you. I live in Brooklyn. I know the wider area because I advise weekly in Citizens Advice. I chair a couple of local bodies, including the old Brijuni Hall, but I'm speaking in my personal capacity to support the submissions of the Orah Society. I'm not a campaigner, and they're just a boring retired judge. But I do have a very open mind about the size and sleep of the applicants.

30:00

proposal is quite different. It's a different world. And with your leave, I will make three points of that.

30:07

First, the odd proposal that a substation should be considered in isolation from eight other potential energy projects is misconceived for two reasons. First, the lawyers or law firms will know that context is all and the implications and they also know the implications of not having regard to that. More importantly, it makes no sense anywhere in life to ignore the full picture.

30:34

I was one sided the sample of the man who falling off the top of a tall skyscraper, and being asked regularly on his way down how he was replied so far so.

30:46

Second, the road, the applicants amended proposals still involved traffic through obrah. And as much as ever only a nine foot, it's difficult to see that they understand the crucial dependence of the time on a clear flow of traffic from the a 12. From the station at Saks Monday.

31:09

I can give two personal examples. First, every day in normal conditions, I see the business, the traffic even now, the roundabout, patients crossing for the hospital, residents dashing to Tesco and the co op, children doing the same, but also head to the school, the playing fields, the river, and all the pleasures that the town has to offer. Almost all these children and patients and residents are from the less privileged part of Oldham. Secondly, about 18 months ago, I was puzzled, because what should have been a setup, the Jubilee Hall was quite empty. A few days later, I went to a business association breakfast. And it turned out that most businesses had a bad day to why it was that it turned out that someone had decided to write a penny farthing done from the 12th. And visitors had given up trying to get time, we're not dealing with a pennyfarthing here. Thirdly, I suggest from experience, that a feature of important unnecessarily lengthy increments, is that they develop a rhythm of their own, which is often helpful and cooperative. But as part of that position, which at the outset, seemed obviously unacceptable or outrageous, can come to be taken as part of the fabric, and perhaps not seem so bad after all. In this case, that position is the presence of sizewell C, and the discussion. Few citizens of the United Kingdom ever have to make the sacrifice of having a nuclear power station built in their midst. In this unique case, these fragile communities like Kristen are not only having to put up with that the project, if it happens may be piled on top of that, too. At the same time, I suggest that at the end of every paragraph of the Polish bar applications, one has to place a great big red reminder of this sizewell point, because a lot of the paper for reasons tactical reasons, which is a lawyer I used to invoke all the time, it's and it's understated

33:22

as the QC and inquiries like Bloody Sunday, BSE and arms for Iraq. I greatly admire the way the panel's saw this potential for imbalance ever addressed it. And I'm sure that you will all do the same. Gentlemen, thank you very much for your time.

33:43

Thank you very much, Mr. Mackey. You're very useful submissions. Thank you.

33:48

Okay, if we can now move on to our next speaker, which is Michael Marnie.

33:57

Good afternoon. Good afternoon. I can see you here you Mr. Marty.

34:02

The usual drill I'm sure I'm sure you know, but as an individual choose to party your five minutes in which to make your point. And Mr. Fenton will let you know when you have one minute remaining. And also, if you could introduce yourself, please, when you begin, thank you. My name is Michael Marnie. Although I'm involved in se C's, I'm speaking in a personal capacity today. I was debating whether I would say to you five minutes because I thought you may have heard and seen enough of me over the past two weeks. But comments were made last week by the applicant, which a number of people have referred to me so I thought I would just take the five minutes of your time, if you don't mind just to quickly run run through them.

34:39

The comments involved were really the comparison which the applicants made between the one project at Branford and somehow this serves as a model for these projects. And it also is an exemplar of scottishpower his credentials as a developer. There are there are three things wrong wrong with that. First, there are clear different

35:00

Between each one of these projects, and fundamentally, it's the failure to understand these differences which has led these applications being so flawed.

35:09

Second, the impression that the one went wonderfully well is not the case, given what happened with the cable route and the downsizing a generation capacity. And third, the controls and the decio were not effective because they did not prevent the downsizing or the reduction in capacity of the cable route. And just sort of going into those three things a little bit more detail. And the first one in terms of differences is unlike Friston. Branford is an existing substation site. It was a brownfield development with an existing national grid connection hub, not a Greenfield development in a rural area, which requires a new national grid development hub.

35:49

Unlike Friston, the nearest residents receptors are 600 metres away in Preston, they're 250 metres away. And furthermore, Branford is not right next to a rural village. Branford does not have a flood risk. Branford is not close to ringed by listed buildings relative to Friston Branford is easily accessible by road. And furthermore, Branford is not an area where tourism is a key part the local economy

36:14

in terms of second point in terms of VA to being a well executed project, that's manifestly not the case. First, you know, the the massive reduction in the in the cable route capacity. And then instead of being a 1.2 gigawatt project, it turned out to be a 714 megawatt project. And yet there was no material reduction in the environmental impacts. And there's no ability to assess the planning balance in that context.

36:41

And also, as I believe you're aware, excess amounts of land were acquired by both national grid and Scottish power, which is not being utilised. And the third point is what the DCA did about this. And

effectively the DCA did not absent effective control, because of the non material change, which was made followed by a subsequent relaxation of the DCA requirements. And that result in the in the downgrade in the in the cable route. And the consequences of those decisions is why we're all sitting around this virtual table today.

37:14

It is very curious that when those changes were made in the decio, that none of the local stakeholders seem to be aware of the very serious consequences. And I feel that had they been aware of the various serious consequences, they would have objected whether or not they technically could do so or not, because clearly what has happened is not satisfactory. So just quickly In conclusion, as a supporter of sustainable offshore wind, two points really stand out to me more than any others. First, the fact that less than 60% of the planned capacity of this wind farm was delivered, despite there being no material reduction, environmental impacts. And second, a cable route which could have carried in excess of seven gigawatts is only carrying just under two gigawatts. And this has created the need for a new flat form of fragile location, further development in an AONB and severe environmental damage in Preston. I do not think that is a record of success by anybody's standards. And I think that is the context in which a comparison between these projects and bramford needs to be considered. Thank you very much. That's all I've got to say on that subject today. Thank you very much, Mr. Mani, for your very useful contribution. Thank you. Okay, our next speaker today is Richard Reeves.

38:34

Do we have Mr. Rivas? Ah, yes.

38:38

Hello mysteries. I can see you and hear you. You have five minutes in which to make your point, Mr. Reeves, and Mr. Feder will let you know we have one minute remaining. And also could you introduce yourself when you commence please. Thank you.

38:51

Thank you. My name is Richard Reeves. I am part of the SLS group. Today I'm speaking for myself as a resident of nest house near the Wharton centre.

39:01

To begin with Today, I'd like to expand on the topic of the applicants failure to undertake sufficient research, surveying and feasibility studies but in particular with regard to the Suffolk chalk aquifer. Now, the applicant has sought to present an impression of this region wide feature as a series of unconnected wells or boreholes used by a very small percentage of the population of East Anglia. And the applicant has also suggested in written submissions that by maintaining a distance from private water supply points of 250 metres any damage or piercing of the aquifer by doing trenching and associated highly polluted processes would be avoided. Now, as the maps and associated cited articles research that I presented a deadline for clearly illustrate nothing could be further from the truth. The aquifer underlies not merely the county of Suffolk but the entire East Andean region as a whole extending under the bed of the North Sea itself along the

40:00

whole of the East Anglia coastline. To give a more concrete example of how this functions here at the warden centre where I have knowledge of and access to the licenced private Well, the surface of the aquifer lies at 50 metres below ground level and itself is at an elevation of 13 metres above sea level. At the landfill side cliff, and throughout all of the proposed cable corridor area southwards, the ground is at an almost uniform 12 metres above sea level. So, what does this really mean in the end what it means is that the aquifer lies at no more than three metres below the beach at landfill site and as the seabed shelves. So, the chocolate containing the aquifer occupies a correspondingly more shallow position under the seabed itself. So, it's clear from these facts that any process of HDD either onshore or offshore and E trenching, onshore boreholes associated with waste pollution industrial contamination, erosion of onshore ground conditions or offshore seabed destruction will severely if not catastrophically damage and compromise this unique and vital natural resource. And may I emphasise please that this direct domestic and agricultural use by means of wells, pumping stations and boreholes while vital for individuals, businesses and farms does in fact represent the least utilisation of this resource. Even Anglian water itself on its water management site quote the fact that 50% of the region's water supply comes from an underground natural source, namely the Suffolk aquifer. Now, that landfill site and let's be fair, let's look at something that the applicant has done some research on

41:53

in terms of the choice of the specific proposed landfill site and cablecard or the applicant claims at great length. That there is a compelling case that the beach and clifftop site at Tautness are the only viable choice of location which to bring cabling a short

42:09

it was gratifying to them. First surprising that in the preamble to explain which was planned for site, the applicant identified multiple alternative sites that they'd be considering at Bawdsey, Bromford, Thames Estuary, Lozoff area and inland from their all extensive areas of land and seaboard comprising multiple viable brownfield sites. Given the existence of fees, what could be this compelling case for the choice of an AONB for massive scale industrialization? Well, in every example, the applicant's answer was that all of the viable sites apart from Tautness along the cable route will be required which will be more costly and less convenient for the applicant. No other reason is presented quite bluntly, the reason given by the applicant itself the compelling reason for industrialization of the AONB was that it would be cheaper and easier, cheaper and easier only for the applicants, compelling therefore, only to the applicant.

43:14

In conclusion, may I just say, feel I might be speaking for several of us here. It is a cause of continuing and increasing worry and disappointment that the applicant appearing to have done no accurate study or research into the effects of its proposed project on either geological or societal infrastructure seeks constantly to deny and trivialise major concerns, and I respectfully request the Inspectorate to intervene to prevent another in a growing series of serious threats to the welfare of both suffered residents. And in fact, the wider population of our country.

43:53

concludes my submission today, and thank you very much indeed for listening to me. Thank you.

43:59

Thank you, Mr. Reeves, and I believe, Mr. Smith, you had just a point you want to raise? Yes, indeed. And this is to flag that the water supply for dwellings and the wardens trust is a matter that has already been brought in front of us Dr. Alexander jimson, referred to as the last open floor hearing. And as a consequence, an action was made action seven in the action list for open floor hearings, six placed on the applicant by deadlines six

44:33

to provide a document describing or referring to the mitigations and contingency measures that would apply were HDD or an equivalent technique to be used in that location and to essentially manage and maintain access to and the quality of the private water supply in that location. And also, essentially what contingencies

45:00

measures would be put in place if it were harmed or lost for any reason. That is an action that the applicants are required to deal with by deadlines six, what I think would be very useful would be by deadline five. And if this could also be recorded as an action, if there is anybody with specific additional information about the aquifer, and its height, relative to

45:30

sea level, etc. If anybody has that information was able to put it in by by deadline five. So that's the response that is sort of deadlines six can be as

45:45

strongly evidence based as it's possible to be. So if Mr. Reeves there's information that you hold there that that will be much appreciated. That I do thank you very much. I, I didn't cite it today for reasons of time. But it's it's all taken from

46:03

extensive research papers, which I can, I can quote and include in the submission to,

46:08

to deadline five, specifically about the sea level and ground heights and situation of the aquifer as it makes its way south east Woods under the ground and then under the sea through the county. That will be very, very helpful, indeed. Thank you very much, Mr. e. Thank you very much. Indeed. I really appreciate it. Thank you.

46:26

Okay, thank you, Miss Smith. And thank you very much, Mr. Reeves. Okay, if we can now move on to our next speaker. And this is Angie. And Andrea Smith on behalf of Christopher Smith.

46:44

Hello, can you hear me? I can hear you, Sue Smith.

46:49

See me okay. Not yet. I can hear you. So where can I get started? That's fine. Thank you.

47:04

For is that obviously you have five minutes, we'll let you know when there's one minute remaining. When you begin, if you could just introduce yourself. Thank you very much. Yes, yes. Hi, this time. I'm Andrea Smith, and I'm speaking on behalf of my husband, this time.

47:19

We We own a home in Preston, which we plan to move into when we retire. And we're deeply committed to the area. My mother in law was born and raised on a farm on autonomy and common. And my husband has been coming here all his life to visit his grandparents. We've continued to family tradition and brought our own children and our grandchildren here. My husband's three sisters and their families do the same. And I know that this is a story of family continuity, that's very common in the area.

47:52

We're sure you must have been really impressed by the sheer number of powerful, thoughtful and heartfelt integer interventions from so many individuals and community groups. And we'd like to pay tribute to every single one. Many, many important points have been raised, as well as detailed and knowledgeable and articulate descriptions about why this is such a special area. So after listening to most of these hearings, we'd like to add our views as follows.

48:20

It appears that the applicant regards this process is rather a box ticking exercise. They argued that the project is much too far advanced to make any meaningful changes. We refer For example, to the suggestion for it to be a Pathfinder project, this would have been a really exciting opportunity. And it's a last opportunity for the African to lead the way in a truly green Industrial Revolution. So our question then is what are these hearings designed to achieve not to make meaningful improvements? Our next point, it's clear that deals and promises have long been going on behind the scenes. So we were very interested to hear the so called energy codes delivery board, chaired by Teres coffee, finally mentioned recently by the applicant,

49:10

because we've tried unsuccessfully to find out more about this committee who it is and what it's been given that one of the great criticisms of this and all the other energy proposals in the area has been the apparent lack of strategy and coordinated approach. We would like to know what has been the role of this committee? Is there indeed a grand plan after all, to sacrifice this area to the energy giants?

49:39

Next point National Grid being talked about a lot it appears to have no accountability whatsoever. Many people have raised there's a new India technology.

49:50

I wish we were reading some of the responses of national grid to your questions. And their main argument is none of their connections.

50:00

offers ever made to separate applications. And indeed that the DCR encourages joint applications with the developer. So who does oversee their role in these projects? Our question is Where is the accountability for National Grid? And can we see some evidence for

50:19

this leads on to the next point? It's very clear, we hope, especially after your site visit, that this is quiet, unspoiled, beautiful rural area is not an ideal place to build industrial scale infrastructure. We still cannot see any meaningful evidence that an appropriate brownfield site has been given any serious consideration. It appears to us as a very lazy approach has been taken simply going for the cheapest and easiest options. I think there's even a requirement to show in a planning application but alternative sites have been properly scoped. So where is it? Perhaps we've missed it somewhere. So perhaps, we can be pointed to it if we have.

51:07

there appear to be next point, there appear to be two extremely important new government strategies, the beach review and the energy white paper. And these have been dealt with brilliantly by many other participants. So given the official recognition now that our

51:26

environment and natural world and the associated local communities need active protection, it surely not appropriate for the applicant to try and wriggle out of their responsibility on technical or procedural grounds, or even client and shareholder financial considerations. They must take on board the spirit of what is trying to be achieved. point being that there is an environmental cost of financial costs that should be factored in now, it's no longer enough to argue that the cheapest and easiest option, applicants should be prepared to pay within reason for the most sustainable and environmentally appropriate options for the long term, and future generations. Given the applicant is marketing themselves with green credentials, it's surprising and disappointing to see such a failure in this regard the data regarding the planet as a free resource to us our long past. Finally, we view with incredulity, the advocates approach to questions of cumulative impacts. Anyone who believes that there is not a big plan first and is being more than made, it seems that these and other projects are being carefully timed to avoid having to address in any depth, the requirement to consider the cumulative impacts. to plan the so called feasibility studies for Nautilus and euro link later this year, after the current hearings is more than cynical. So please don't approve the onshore infrastructure, demand that the applicant rethink the grid connection. And please make sure that this application does not open the floodgates for the total destruction and sacrifice of this area of outstanding natural beauty in the name.

53:11

Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Mr. Smith. Useful contributions. Thank you.

53:18

Okay, we can now move on to next speaker. And that's Briony. So

53:26

I can I can see you and he signs. Thank you.

53:31

Just to reiterate, I'm sure you've already heard but as an individual interested party or five minutes in which to make your point. And Mr. fan will let you know when you have one minute remaining. And when you commence if you could just introduce yourself, please. And we're ready whenever you are. Thank you.

53:46

Thank you.

53:48

Good afternoon. My name is Brian Jones and I'm a resident of Boston.

53:55

Firstly, I would like to thank Stacy C's and orebro Town Council for the commitment diligence and sheer hard work that they have put into this process and fully stand by everything that they have said. I would also like to make a point which I think is relevant for this examination. That is the merger in 2019 of Waverly and socket coastal district councils into one East Coast District Council. I believe this has resulted in a low staff centric District Council cabinet who seem to have an appalling lack of understanding or care for our local community and its concerns. It is my opinion that he suffered Council have not just been short sighted, but negligent in their failure to represent the people in this area and have sacrificed the heritage coast for a handful of jobs in Lowestoft and quite frankly contemptible financial incentive from the applicant. Unfortunately, this lack of support serves to compound local people's fears, lack of trust and adds to our anxiety.

54:56

I moved to Princeton with my partner nearly four years ago from

55:00

Busy commuter town in Hartford shear boss holidaying, we fell in love with the area, its unspoiled countryside and quiet, gentle way of life. I like to think of the area surrounding obrah as a human ecosystem, a carefully balanced way of life, which allows farming, tourism, culture, Wildlife, independent businesses and local communities to live and thrive together in a mutually beneficial way. Like most ecosystems, each part is dependent on the other. Being healthy, considerate, and supportive. the applicant's projects are a serious threat to this unique and thriving ecosystem.

55:41

I'm moving to Friston we learned quickly that it may be a quiet rural village, but it is certainly not a dormant community. The energy and enthusiasm for keeping village ally was immediately apparent.

With a long history of fundraising events for local charities and the church. We were welcomed warmly and quickly coerced into getting involved and helping out. This is a vibrant and vital community with a thriving social network, which has come together even more through the COVID pandemic to offer comfort and support for everyone in the village.

56:16

allistic cottage situated next to the middle mediaeval church, is an exceptionally quiet spot. In the summer we can hear sky locks in the fields around us the same fields, which if this substation goes ahead, we will no longer be able to access. In the spring there are wild flowers on the banks and Hydros along the lane, the same hedgerows, which will be removed and replaced by industrial fencing. My cottage and the church are 50 metres from the perimeter of the SPR site and 250 metres from the receptors.

56:52

If you allow this project to go ahead, farmland, woodland and unspoiled views will be desecrated by concrete and steel. birdsong replaced by electromagnetically induced acoustic noise and vibration. I have personally visited the EA one site at Branford and I'm sorry, but there is a hum

57:12

Had we known about the substation before we moved, we would never have considered buying our property. Now having invested all our hard earned money into our modest home, we do not know whether to stay or sell. Indeed if we wanted to sell could we it is a distressing distressing position

57:31

and one shared by other people in the village and along the cable route.

57:37

So to the impact project is having on people's physical and mental health and well being a matter which in my opinion, has been very poorly addressed by the applicant and the issue specific hearings. As an environmental education leader for a Suffolk charity, I work with people with mental health issues. I have years of experience working with vulnerable vulnerable groups and have a real understanding of things that can cause or exacerbate poor mental health. counsellor fellows mentioned Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Safety is a basic need without physical, emotional, and psychological security. Other needs which shape the quality of life cannot be attained. The threat of these projects is impacting on the physical and mental well being of the villagers and priston.

58:27

Today we have suffered three years of pre pre construction blight. poor communication by the applicant, failure to engage and reassure locals, misinformation at consultation events, orchestration in the planning, documentation and marketing, disingenuous attitude of representatives, lack of rigour in research and planning and surveying. Lazy desktop studies are very questionable drag assessment, delayed submission of important information. And then finally, equivocation worthy of the witches in Macbeth, where is National Grid ventures? What is their plan? Why isn't their openness and honesty about the energy projects coming into the area and their cumulative impact on this area? We face even

more years of stress during the construction phase as others have spoken about. So if these projects go ahead, what happens to presto, presto, Kristen, when the dust invades our properties and lungs when the roads get jammed. When we can't sit in our gardens on a summer's day because of the noise when people's homes get flooded with Kristen is blighted by an industrial landscape and the endless hum of a badly placed energy hub.

59:42

Because the truth is that once the applicant has the consent they seek, they won't need to bother about the local community and East Suffolk County. East Suffolk council will be too busy building the new community centre in Lowestoft, who will care what is happening in the village of Kristen and the surrounding area.

1:00:01

What's

1:00:03

missing? Sorry? Okay, no, that's fine. I can stop there. So, obviously, as we said before, if there's anything else that you'd like to say then please submit it into us by deadline five.

1:00:15

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you for your time. Thank you.

1:00:20

Okay, our next speaker is piers storage.

1:00:26

Mr. Storage. Are you with us today?

1:00:32

Yeah. Hello. Hello. My computer just crashed.

1:00:40

Can you hear me? Ah, yes, Mr. So, this is just before we commence I just want to check one thing that I know that you refer to sees in the arrangement to conference. And I just want to check that you were speaking for yourself today because obviously, C's have already spoken a lot today. You are that's that's fine. Okay. Thank you. So you have five minutes in which to make your points Mr. Storage. And again, Mr. Fenn will let you know when you have one minute remaining. And also could you introduce yourself when you begin and we are ready whenever you are.

1:01:13

My name is Pierce storage, and I'm a hospitality consultant and a resident of North Shore green.

1:01:20

We now have a better understanding of what SPR and ngb are planning.

1:01:26

It is still very muddy though. Looking through SPR Simon clear is tourism evidence. It seems he has never visited the sites he talks about, and he's ignored whilst obfuscating and showing them have some similarities. The onshore schemes are totally different in size, position, density, infrastructure, all aspects of scale and not forgetting ease or not have access. He expresses no understanding of the actual tourism in East Anglia. you highlight showing him show which produces 314 megawatts. Minimal visible infrastructure landfall is a five acre substation 21 miles inland adjacent to the existing National Grid substation. It had a construction team of 160 and had three main roads for access rampion in Sussex is this 340 megawatts, minimal visibility at landfall, a 14 acre substation 16 miles of cable track to existing and the National Grid substation, a construction team of 150 and three main trunk roads

1:02:40

to site the first thing he suffered energy hub is up to six is up to 10 gigawatts has landfall substation at thorpness sizewell up to eight substations at Friston. sizewell construction nearby, an area in excess of 130 acres, seven miles miles of cable track construction teams in excess of 4200. A single a road access terminating at all bruh also designated as the main construction route. It's a bit like comparing a quick shower to a monsoon season. We have all watched a tonne now there's SPR ninjas he tried to deny the elephant in the room. But their reluctance to come clean about their plans for Friston and his suffering is already frustrating future of investment in tourism in the area.

1:03:35

SPR have built 34 on shore substations, and NGV have more than 340 substations. It is ludicrous that these two giant companies to suggest that they cannot put together a robust cumulative impact assessment.

1:03:55

Am I blood count for what is planned in just one square mile of Suffolk. It would take to senior project managers a few days to collect the evidence from the past projects and industry standards and present it to the planning Inspectorate as requested, but maybe it scares them as much as it scares us.

1:04:14

their refusal to admit to building a 27 billion pound energy hub has frightened businesses in the area. A new hotel project in order is struggling to be agreed other hotels which would have been using their COVID downtime to refurbish a holding back for clarity. smaller businesses are wondering whether to expand or run. local companies big and small have expressed their concerns to the Inspectorate.

1:04:40

There are also major concerns that SPR is being economical with the truth. Take for instance, the height of a substation shed, which was set originally at 18 metres, then grew to 24 metres and has now dropped to 15 metres. Were they wrong in the first instant and the second incident is the level

1:05:00

Correct or is it an attempt to appease in the short term whilst the DCR is obtained, and then cajoles officials to agree to revert, because when unforeseen problem without rigorous scrutiny.

1:05:13

Research shows that recent substations have all been built at 23 metres and a new document for Nautilus yearlings suggests a similar,

1:05:22

there are still too many decisions being avoided in the possible attempt to negotiate

1:05:29

them quietly once the DCI

1:05:32

scottishpower asserts there'll be a major beneficial impact on tourism because of construction workers will seek to book holiday accommodation. But many of these holiday let's have mission which control the length of stay, or controlled numbers of weeks that they can be used. And sure the remaining holiday lets

1:05:51

the applicants have still failed to present a credible tourism impact study, they have just attacked those who have attempted. They have just attacked those who have an attempt to brush over their situation with false comparisons, and manipulated data which at best is unhelpful to the African to pretend these massive project projects with their towering structures over ambitious transport schemes, lack of investment in infrastructure, armies of workers and disruption of beaches and countryside will go unnoticed by millions of visitors who come here to enjoy the tranquillity fresh air the local amenities long walks and cycling will not destroy their perception of this area is simply ludicrous. Thank you.

1:06:32

Thank you very much storage. If you do have any further information, Mr. storage on tourism effects then if you could submit by deadline five that'd be most useful. Thank you. Yes, certainly. So our next speaker is Sally and storage and I'm guessing the laptop camera will be moved over. Thank you Missy storage.

1:06:52

Obviously, you have five minutes

1:06:55

remaining, if you could just introduce yourself when you commence Thank you.

1:07:00

Hello, I'm Sally storage, I will concentrate on the 12th the city will not cope with the increased transport in traffic and E one and E two and the National good internet interconnect let alone eight others. The main connection between Great Yarmouth and last often Ipswich it was de trunked in 2100 to Suffolk

County Council and deemed a lesser important road. It is single lane carriageway most of the way from wicker market to Lowestoft, then mainly dual carriageway to Ipswich, highways East of England route strategy 2017 states the reason is the region is highly dependent on the 12th as the only major access north south for communities and freight companies to last often Great Yarmouth. congestion on the 12th is a potential barrier for economic prosperity. The stretch Ipswich to Great Yarmouth received no extra funding since 2017. Major roadworks typically taking many years are needed just to cope with scottishpower renewables u one and e 210. Concurrent energy projects would halt traffic on the a 12 and impede wind farm linked to the National Grid plan projects are EA one and National Grid substation eh eh three Nautilus yearling, greater Gabbard and galloper wind farm extensions, national grids SCD one and two. sizewell c nuclear power station decommissioning of sizewell A and relocation of SOS will be added to these traffic on the a 12 from planned expansions to Felix down harridge the third bridge crossing overlake low thing in list of two years to construct AI LEDs to Friston from Felix still list of ports sprc may lead to delays on the highway work network with considerable delays if multiplied by 10 EDS plans to bypass tracks and danjou fan and and farnum Suffolk council estimate two years construction, SPS proposed traffic lights at Friday street a 12 Junction slowing traffic and causing tailbacks on the 12th Suffolk coastal plan to build 11,000 new homes by 2036 at Branford Clayton Barra martlesham his Felixstowe Saks Mountain querque, waterfront 3500 homes north of Ipswich, a school and Country Park at Ipswich Garden Suburb and digitex Science Park at martlesham. Construction traffic travelling through Central Ipswich when they all well bridges regularly closed due to high winds.

1:09:45

npps states a presumption in favour of sustainable development, but that development should only be prevented or refused on highway grounds. If the residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe. The

1:10:00

The impact of three substations at Friston on the 12th would be severe but 10 energy projects combined with the county Council's infrastructure plans would be catastrophic. Penn State's proposed developments with the potential to generate significant traffic will be included in the cumulative impact assessment and expect it to include all relevant developments. SPR estimates 300 daily HGV journeys to Friston EDF also 300 and lorry add lorries, vans and cars and combined cars conservative estimate is about 1000 vehicles, more than 30% increase in traffic to the site's 10 energy projects and the number skyrocket. SPS clarification of its transport and traffic assessment for E one and E two and sizewell c rarely calls the cumulative effect negligible. SPR and ndv have been misleading about the scope of their intentions ignoring implications for the a 12 and likely to turn Friston into a major energy hub. Government's national policy statement to energy traffic and transport stipulates ensuring satisfactory arrangements for reasonably foreseeable abnormal disruption. Construction traffic contain huge energy projects mostly running concurrently will make access to Kristen ada 12 and then a 109. For all but impossible, be detrimental to government's energy plan and as such a national problem sprs applications hide the two picture. They should be required to provide a feasibility study for transport and traffic on the 12th from Ipswich Felixstowe and Lowestoft and include the cumulative effect of all 10 foreseeable energy and other infrastructure projects. The two it should reject EA, one n and EA two applications until such a study has been produced and assessed. Thank you very much. Thank you very much Mr. Storage. And if you could refer to various project references, they're in your submissions

if you could put all those in the references for deadline five though, that'd be really useful. Thank you. Well, thank you. Thank you very much.

1:12:15

Okay, we can move on to our next speaker, please. And that's Nicola winter.

1:12:26

Hello, Mrs. Winter. Hello. I can see you I can't hear you. I think you're on mute.

1:12:33

Sorry, Is that better? That's That's excellent. Thank you very much.

1:12:38

Thank you, missy. But you have five minutes in which to make your point we'll let you know when you have a minute remaining. And if you when you begin if you could introduce yourself place really whenever. Thank you.

1:12:48

My name is Nicola winter. My husband Nick and I have lived in forest Anna for over 30 years. And I thank you for this opportunity to speak again.

1:12:58

walks around Kristin continue to be a lifeline particularly during the current lockdown. Even on a bleak January day, there's always something to cheer the heart, the wide open skies for a start, much beloved of painters, and inspirational for all artists, that headroom twittering with Birdsong, regular residents as well as winter visitors such as fieldfares and mistle thrushes. As spring draws on many summer visitors will fill the area, but for how much longer.

1:13:32

In common with many spoken and written submissions containing a wealth of expert advice, careful scrutiny, and personal observation, I can only add my voice to those who firmly oppose the plans of SPR to East Anglia, one and two offshore wind farms.

1:13:50

There's been nothing in the responses of SPR that has given me confidence that this company has truly thought through this mammoth scheme.

1:14:00

None of us denies the need for wind power and the contribution it can make in these energy hungry times. But what we all yearn for is an objective approach. things move on a pace and

1:14:15

parents

1:14:18

deliver so much if plans and projects are coordinated in a sensible, logical way.

1:14:26

My early training as an economist taught me that life as well as economics is about the allocation of scarce resources. This applies to all aspects of life, not just financial and material.

1:14:39

We are all stewards of the gifts, talents and resources that come into our care. And it is up to each of us to use them wisely and well.

1:14:48

Virtually all of those who have spoken with the openflow hearings have expressed their support for green power and wind energy.

1:14:57

But in our development of wind energy, the powers that

1:15:00

Do have a duty to find a careful path that enables this while safeguarding the environment.

1:15:07

I can only agree with the many speakers who have pointed out the pitfalls, danger and vast expense that will accrue if sprs plans are put into action in their current form.

1:15:19

Last week in issue specific hearing number four, we had some thought provoking presentations in relation to the energy white paper and the bees review. These referred to Pathfinder projects where this approach to be adopted, we might then see a coordinated and integrated plan for the whole project, which would demonstrate good and wise use of resources in terms of technology and environment that wouldn't ruin the local area in the interests of steamrolling on with sprs plans, which they claim are too far advance to allow for any reconsideration. I would argue that in these environmentally conscious days, we are all bound to consider very carefully how our actions and those of huge organisations impact on our fragile surroundings. In order to safeguard them for future generations. We need an ongoing system of checks and balances, that enables a holistic approach to protecting the beautiful countryside and environment that is given to us on trust.

1:16:26

As speakers at the open floor hearings, we've been warned that we must not be frivolous or vexatious and rightly so.

1:16:35

But I would point out that virtually everybody who lives works, or holidays in this attractive part of Suffolk would view sprs proposals.

1:16:46

As incredibly vexatious proposals that treat us all with contempt verging on frivolous. I'm reminded of the TV series Star Trek, in which one of the evil enemy artificial life forms the Borg. mow down any and everything that comes in their way, assimilating what they can use, and discarding what remains.

1:17:09

That is how it feels living in Friston at the moment. We are under threat, and SPR demonstrates only callous and ruthless indifference to us. Please reject this proposal in its current form. And let us see a more coordinated, better conceived plan. Thank you.

1:17:33

Thank you very much. This has been very useful contributions and

1:17:39

unexpected, Mr. Mr. Winter.

1:17:43

Thank you. Thank you. I'll just go to the hot seat. Okay, thank you.

1:17:49

Okay, Mr. Winter, just just to repeat my previous spiel, which I'm sure you've heard that you have five minutes in which about your point, will let you know when you have a minute remaining. And also, if you could just introduce yourself when you commence and we're ready whenever you are. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. And I am Nick winter, and I to Emma, Kristen resident.

1:18:11

One of the very many concerns that we interest and have relating to this deeply flawed substation proposal by SPR is the increased likelihood of flooding. But one related aspect I haven't heard discussed much is the effect of the plans on the Friston ditch itself or the Friston river, as SPR has been set up to be. So I'd like to talk about the ditch. My wife and I have lived in Princeton for 30 years and have monitored the data with interest. As an avid ditch watcher, I've seen how fragile our data actually is. SPR appears to view it as if it were durable and stable, like a concrete pipe. But our little ditch is not a concrete pipe. It's an ecosystem. It is only stable within a narrow range of conditions

1:18:57

are ditches and upin important and attractive aspects of the village especially in summer, but I believe sprs proposals will lead to its destruction in its present form.

1:19:08

The diction is roughly a metre wide and immediately a little wider or deeper in places and less so in others. The soil is actually mostly sound.

1:19:16

Water in the ditch comes from the proposed substation site and also from other fields. The ditch is lined with grass and in cases brambles and nettles grow in the base and on the banks. Some places are very overgrown.

1:19:30

The ditch is gradually becoming shallower due to sorting from sediment in runoff from the fields and to decaying vegetation. The capacity of the ditch to move water is therefore slowly diminishing. It could be dug out but the vegetation will then need months afterwards in which to reestablish the grass and other vegetation slows the flow of water, limiting the drainage capability of the ditch but crucially, the roots stabilise the bottom and size of the ditch.

1:20:00

is not an aquatic plant. It likes for drainage as long as you don't keep telling us. The grass in the ditch can cope with being submerged for short periods of a few days or a week, it gets flattened in a direction of water flow. But once the water is gone, the grass eventually recovers. Although it may take some time, especially if the water has left a layer of silt. The important point about the water is that the ditch the ditch in the water, the watering, the data is only present intermittently and in summer, there may not be any water for several months, I present the grass gets the time it needs to recover from being submerged before the next heavy rain.

1:20:34

If the grass were to be submerged for too long, it will die. I'm not talking here about flooding, but the effects of water in the ditch for long periods even if the ditches and full. If the grass and other vegetation was to die, the banks would become unstable and the ditch would need major restoration sprc last week, they would not put more water into the ditch because now I see that as an empty promise. We heard last week that they haven't done any tests on the proposed site to determine the rate

1:21:02

of water. They don't know how to water will infiltrate after construction. And they don't know what future rainfall will be especially given the uncertainties of climate change and their assumed infiltration rates have been challenged by expert

1:21:17

just PR compensated with any credibility they won't increase the water carry by the ditch they simply don't know. However, logic tells us that large areas of concrete combined with increasingly severe weather events will add up to more runoff than we get at the moment. Yes, runoff will be mediated by reservoirs but what when they fill up and what what happened in severe weather events during construction.

1:21:39

And eventually address as well as by releasing water into the ditch even at a slow rate. The constant water flow will kill this amount of grass. The ditch is not a concrete pipe to be used, it will heat these long periods of no flow.

1:21:51

How could any reasonable person think you'd a good idea to use our little grassy ditch as an integral part of the drainage system this huge development that in itself seems daft enough. But the ditches health ditch passes through a village that is already liable to flooding and the scientists tell us we can expect climate change to bring increasingly severe and frequent weather event.

1:22:15

planners were disappointed.

1:22:17

And I think the replacement is likely to be a concrete shovel. It seems so obvious that this is likely to happen, that it should have been included in planning application. A concrete channel would be ugly, and also a danger to life where contained flowing water SPR don't seem to have asked themselves what's the best design we can come up with. But rather, what's the cheapest design, we can try to get away with sprs lack of consideration of the predictable physical damage to the system ditch. And the detrimental consequences to grillage are yet another reason why this application should be rejected. Thank you.

1:22:55

Thank you very much, Mr. Winter. Mr. Smith, I believe you wanted to come in. Yes, very briefly and more an observation and a question. But given that Mr. Winter has extensively submitted on the rural the ditch, and just to flag that you won't have seen it yet, because we have not yet published our site inspection note from the preceding two days before today. But we have carried out now a reasonably extensive viewing of the river or ditch from the centre of the proposed application sites, right the way down through Friston itself and down essentially to

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the halfway through a fairly well occupied pig field and just above the a 1094. So So we've we've spent a certain amount of time absorbing the ditch, and its appearance and performance and will will obviously take what we observe there carefully into account.

1:24:00

Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Winter.

1:24:04

Thank you, Mr. Winter. Thank you, Mr. Smith.

1:24:07

Okay, so we've now reached the end of the speakers for this session under agenda item two, and we've reached the end of session one. Therefore, I'd like to thank you all for your contributions that we just heard, we will we will consider very carefully kind of remind those of you that have already spoken that we need to make space in a computer system for next round of speakers. So if you could now leave the hearing. If you would like to carry on watching then please switch over to the live stream

available for national infrastructure planning website where you can watch without affecting the network capacity available for the speakers in the following session.

1:24:41

While we're on the subject of the live stream for people already watching it and like to continue after the break, just let you know that if you're having any problems seeing session two, you may need to refresh the stream at the start of next session by reloading the web page on your browser. Okay, the joining process for session two starts at 3:40pm and the session itself starts

1:25:00

At 4pm are now adjourn this hearing to session two. Thank you very, very briefly was talking I think it's been amended to commence at 3:50pm. Can we just check that with the costume? I'd hate to have people sitting in an empty room wondering what was going on.

1:25:19

That means me just

1:25:26

Hi, Mr. Smith, we've gone through the joining instructions with everyone for the second session. So if they can join, make sure that they're back at their seats by I would say 350. That gives them plenty of time for the four o'clock starts. Excellent. That's good news. In which case 350 is his apologies, Mr. Hockley. Thank you very much, Mr. Smith. So yes, joining process starts at 350 and the session starts at 4pm. will now adjourn to session two. Thank you