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00:01

Good morning, everybody and welcome to excuse me.

00:15

apology.

00:17

apology.

00:23

Apologies. I've seen a dry, dry throat this morning. Hmm.

00:32

Would you like me to take over for

00:37

no problem. Okay. So good morning and welcome everybody to today's issue specific hearings for East Anglia, one North and East Anglia to offshore wind farms. Before we introduce ourselves, can I just check with the case team that you can hear me and the recordings, live streams and live captions have started?

00:53

Morning, john, I can confirm that the livestream is started and the capsules are working. So everything's going fine on this and

01:01

thank you very much, Mr. Williams. Okay, so two introductions.

01:06

Good morning, everybody. My name is john hopkins, a panel member and today I will be leading item free of the agenda.

01:13

Now head over to Mrs. Jones.

01:16

Good morning, everyone. My name is Caroline Jones, panel member and today I'm going to be leading on item four.

01:24

And good morning, everybody. And I trust them. My voice is now working a little better. Maybe it isn't.

01:34

My name is Richard Smith. I'm the lead member and I will be leading on agenda item two.

01:43

Thank you, Mr. Smith, you will know that a full panel is not here today. This is to allow the other members of our panel to work on preparation for the rest of our hearings this week. And next. Could I also introduce our planning inspector colleagues working with us on these examinations with whom I expect you will be becoming quite familiar. And Ray Williams is a case manager athlete in planning a spectrum of case team and you will have met him in the arrangements conference this morning. Emery is accompanied by today by two case officers Kj Johansen and Caroline Hopewell. The public agenda sets out on your reasons for being here this morning. And that is to hold an issue specific hearing on health and social well being. Shortly I'll be running through our list of participants and asking them to confirm who will be leading their contributions today. Before I do. Just a few things to note, today's hearing is being live streamed and recorded. The 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 your digital recordings are made?

02:47

I'm not seeing any raised hands or hearing anybody so we'll move forward on the basis that that's all understood. Thank you. Turning to today's meeting are now there are so participants to introduce themselves. If organisations attending today have a number of representatives attending could ask that you nominate a lead representative to introduce your team on behalf of your organisation. Because I know that for a number of the organization's here today, we have several different individuals that may wish to contribute during the course of proceedings. So firstly, Can I check the name of the main speaker that we have representing the applicants today please?

03:22

Good morning, sir. My name is Colin Innes. I'm an apartment the law firm of chapter Wedderburn and I appear on behalf of the applicants in respect of today's hearing. I'm instructed by Fiona Coyle, divisional solicitor from scottishpower renewables in terms of those parties who may also be presenting on behalf of the applicants today, we have for

03:44

pilot P. Zola will be leading the context for chapter 27. And he is the project director for EIA and consenting of the East Anglia, one north and two projects. And he's a technical technical director at RAF a scanning. The second party half is Brian McManus, who's the onshore consensus manager who has appeared regularly before examining authority. And he has an environmental engine and

engineering background and is involved in interface between engineering design and delivery the projects we also have at Daniel Smith, and he's an environmental professional with 10 years of international experience, focusing on the interaction between engineering projects, and human society. He holds an M Phil in engineering for sustainable development from University of Cambridge. We wrote his thesis on the social performance of large infrastructure projects in rural locations. He's worked internationally with a focus on public health through improved sanitation as written and develop the methodology for socio economic and health impact assessments of several UK offshore wind farms in our leads, raha scannings our work across the offshore wind farm to help us to improve how post consent compliance is understood more

05:00

Much of an evidence to the application of digital technology, which includes how developers can better interact, explain complex projects, to members of the public. And finally, we have Joanna young, who's the stakeholder manager with scottishpower renewables. JOHN is responsible for the stakeholder management and community base are for all SPR offshore wind farm projects in East Anglia. She's worked on these projects for the last 10 years, and has been instrumental in the coordination of every stage of consultation from pre application to construction. Her background was in corporate communications with a Viva. She then joined to work for an urban regeneration company for our SES before joining SPR in 2011.

05:43

And that represents the likely participants on behalf of the applicant during the day. Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Bennett. Good morning.

05:52

Okay, who do we have for us today from Suffolk County Council, please?

05:58

Thank you, sir. It's great Gumby Suffolk, county council development manager on the chart town planner. It's just me today, sir. We were hoping to have some members of staff on the public health authority but they're unable to join us today for obvious reasons. So all I can suggest is that we you've captured any action points that you wish to raise and we can answer those a deadline. No problem. Thank you very much. Mr. Gumby. Okay. And for East Suffolk Council, please.

06:28

Give an example. Namie gold and a soft Council on the senior energy projects officer. And I'm also joined by Mark camp who's the council's environmental protection officer. And should any questions arise? I'll also can also refer to him. Thank you. Morning. Thank you.

06:47

Okay. Opra. town council, please.

07:00

Yes, good morning. Morning.

07:04

Ladies and gentlemen examining authority. And those taking part Maryann fellows representing over town council, thank you. And you normally ask at this stage, what items we want to speak on.

07:17

I would like to speak what I hope to be able to share a brief insight on item two, policy, and then item four as interest parties. And then finally, I'm more than happy to if I can assist on item five on string any examining authority questions or points you may have. Thank you. Thank you, counsel fellows for useful. Can I just check something review? I can hear you fine, but I can't see you. Do you turn off that that's fine. If

07:48

I can see myself interestingly. Let me turn it off and on again. Okay. Now itself. Yep.

07:58

And now it's back on again.

08:01

I can see you now. Thank you counsellor. Good morning. Good morning. Thank you, sir.

08:08

And next we have Friston parochial church Council, please.

08:17

I can see. Mr. iirc. You have your hand up Mr. I've Good morning. Good morning, sir. Thank you.

08:25

Simon. I'm from representing Stacy's today and also first and parochial church Council, but also just in parish council because Stacy's works alongside them in this. So your spare just a presentation from one organisation not three. And I'm joined today by riesbeck was also a member of state CCS and is also a member of the system parochial church Council. Thank you. Thank you very much Mr. Ive Good morning.

08:56

Okay, so we can move on now to CS please.

09:03

Good morning, sir. Good morning ladies and gentlemen, Fiona Gilmore representing Suffolk energy action solution seed. And today we have three specialists. Please who would like to speak first of all jefra. Read more Jetro you have met before the panel session and he represents read more air quality specialists and he will be speaking on air quality and the impact on health.

09:33

Our second speaker today of specialists is Professor Kevin her pyun. He was unable to speak at the last session. And Professor her pyun is not only a local retired doctor, but is also a specialist, clinical specialist academic. They will give their own introductions when they speak Finally, we have doctors

10:00

McNeal, Dr. J. McNeil has not spoken here before. And not only does she have a home in the region, but she is an Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society, a psychologist with the health and care professional so specialising in anxiety disorders, post traumatic stress disorder, and other related disorders which fit under the umbrella of anxiety. Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Mr. Gilmore. Good morning.

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Okay, do we have to save our samplings here today, please?

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Yes, good morning, sir. Good morning panel. Paul Chandler save our sanderlings. I am on my own today. So you're you're fed up sort of

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comments from various people.

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Thank you very much. Good morning, Mr. Chandler. Good morning. And finally we have the wardens trust, please.

11:07

Good morning, members of the band. Mr. Hartwell, thank you for allowing us to speak. My name is Dr. Alexander jimson. I am a current consultant at Cambridge University Hospitals, Foundation Trust, but I am also here as the chair of wardens trust speaking on behalf of my trustees.

11:29

Good morning, Dr. Gibson. Thank you.

11:32

Okay, I think that's covered everybody. But is there anybody here who I haven't introduced yet?

11:40

No. Okay, so move on. As a general reminder, for all our speakers today, each time you speak, Please, could you say your name and who you represent. This will help anyone watching the hearing to follow proceedings. Anyone who is not participating directly in a session, but is observing it is welcome to set out any observations about what they hear today in writing by deadline eight, which is the 25th of March, the introduction now complete. And hopefully, I'll now hand back to my colleague Mr. Smith to lead the next part of this session.

12:07

Thank you very much, Mr. haughley. Good lord, this dry throat sailing this morning is problematic.

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I was hoping I had it under control, but

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it seems to be

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easing a little.

12:28

And so I think we'll struggle on and see how far we can get. And this morning, we're holding issue specific hearing 10 for both the East Anglia, one North and East Anglia two projects in parallel.

12:41

As you'll be conscious, as we have already always done in the past, there's a single agenda for both hearings that was issued on the second of March. And, as we have done in previous hearings to make the most efficient use of our time, we plan to deal with the two applications together as we work through the agenda. But we do have the discretion to discuss any matters that are unique or specific to just one of the applications as they arise. I do have to flag within this hearing. I don't think that's very likely as the strong focus of this is in relation to onshore effects.

13:17

In terms of running the hearings today, we planned have a short break at around 11:30am. And then we'll take a break at lunchtime if the hearing continues until that time. If it does, we will then have a short afternoon session, I wouldn't anticipate us needing to run until the 5pm endpoint today.

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I would like to make a brief remark about the nature of this hearing, which indeed also informs you on the nature of the hearings that will be conducted later on this week. And next week to

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in relation specifically to this hearing. health and well being issues have been raised quite broadly in a number of our open floor hearings by a number of interested parties. And so the examining authorities deliberating on those representations considered that it was important to provide a place where they could be explored in an issue specific hearing before the end of these examinations.

14:14

Were very conscious in that respect that health is a cross topic matter. There are inputs into health as an issue arising from a broad range of other matters. And as such, there is a tendency for it to get lost or to find itself as a subject matter short of time in more generalised environmental hearings that focus on the drivers towards health rather than health as an overarching issue itself.

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So we've decided then to run this very much as a subject matter focused hearing, dealing with health matters. And all hearings this week are subject matter focused as well. Now this will mean that there will be some artificial boundaries and I'll give you an X

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sample of what I mean? If we're looking at, say, for example, noise impacting health, then that is a matter that absolutely can be dealt with here, as opposed to technical issues around the assessment of noise impact in terms of the generation of noise receptors and mitigation strategies. And those matters that will more properly be dealt with in the noise issue specific hearing later this week. So that I hope gives you a little sense of how we propose to subdivide this overarching, health related hearing, and the hearings that we'll be holding later this week.

15:38

Now, before we move on to the main business of today's agenda, does anybody have any questions of a preliminary nature that we must deal with now, because if we don't, we won't be able to use Felipe proceed with today's hearing.

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And I'm checking to see if I can see any hands.

15:56

And I'm seeing none.

15:59

So on that basis, we will now move on to item two, which I will also lead which is to consider the policy background relating to health and social well being.

16:11

Now in terms of looking at

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health and well being as issues that they're on our consideration of these applications and our recommendations to the Secretary of State in due course, we've obviously given very careful consideration to the environmental statements. And I will refer that to the human health chapter specifically under examination Library Reference a PP hyphen, 075.

16:42

And in the environmental statements, there are

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clear analyses of the impacts of the projects, both individually and in relation to each other, and also in relation to other projects. But that examination is essentially limited to the sidewalk project set out in chapter 20 773.

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And

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drawing to a conclusion there in summary terms, and title 27.53

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broadly identifies health impacts as not being significant in and of themselves, or as not being significant. Due to the effect of public engagement as a mitigation. Public Engagement is identified as being of specific importance in relation to managing all aspects of perception of risk as a health effect.

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Now, I think that's, that's an important starting point.

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Because what I would like to do now is just run briefly through the applicable policy framework. And what I would then ask is for the applicant, to

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respond on that to raise any issues that it feels that it needs to add in relation to the policy framework. And then I will seek

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interventions from the other participants here today, before returning to the applicant for a right of reply.

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Now, in terms of the policy framework, and the national policy statements, and MPs, n one

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has relatively limited references to health. I think I would start at em one paragraph 1.7 point three, where there is a reference to the energy MPs is set out mitigation for cumulative negative effects by requiring the Secretary of State to consider accumulation of effects as a whole in their decision making on individual applications for development consent. Now, that's in a health context. Moving then on to Section 4.13, which is the principal source of health policy in n one.

19:12

Again, I draw attention to the following words, the impact of more than one development may affect people simultaneously. So the applicant and the decision maker should consider the cumulative impact on health.

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And then, there are relevant topics with potentially health related implications 5.2 air quality 5.10 Land Use 5.11 noise and vibration 5.14 waste and 5.15 water quality where specific references are made to help and I think it's fair to remark that there isn't much of any particular direction said with

20:00

They're about well being, and about mental health and around perception of risk or anxiety as drivers of health consideration, but I think it's important to set that part of the framework out in relation to em three, and the MPs. on renewables. Again, the references to health are tangential,

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essentially, to avoidance of adverse effects on human health, but with no specific mentions of mental health strike perception of risk and anxiety related to it. And indeed, there are no technology specific references for offshore wind farms.

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Then finally, in relation to em five electricity networks.

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At two point 10, the, the clear concentration of health references are in relation to electric and magnetic fields emfs. So that that's the policy framework set out there. But again, there is there is no specific reference to essentially perceptions of risk anxiety, or mental health related implications emerging from perception of risk.

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Now, the reason I paint that picture is because what I would then like the applicant to do, is considering the approach that it has taken in the environmental statement, then to addresses on the degree to which

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relevant accumulations of effects as a whole have been taken into account. And that whether in relation to paragraph four, point 13.2 of the N one, and the impacts of multiple developments affecting people simultaneously, has been sufficiently addressed, so that the Secretary of State can consider cumulative impact on health. And in that respect, in terms of considering the scope of cumulative impact, it's worth making specific reference to the recent decision in the case of pierced and the Secretary of State,

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where, essentially, what is within remit and what is not within remit for the consideration of cumulative impact has been judicially considered. So what I'd like the applicant then to do is to set out its response to that policy framework.

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And particularly to cut to the point of whether

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the consideration of cumulative impacts on health

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is is policy compliant, and whether it's sufficiently addresses paragraph four,

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point 13.2 or vn one. So, over to the applicant, first, who will lead on this item.

23:03

Congress on behalf of the applicant was supposed to do in response to the service is is probably threefold.

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I've got some broader matters that I want to raise in relation to the white paper and health. And there are references to em one, yes, because it goes both ways. The next point is I'm going to bring Mr. presolar in to discuss the emergence of effectively how chapter 27 has emerged, because as you can see, it does not really emerge from the policy position. But primary derives from developments in environmental impact assessment, and also the engagement with public health bodies, who've helped to take forward the concept of this type of assessment. And that's where I think we'll get into that discussion. And then through that, we'll deal with that cumulative bit. And at the tail piece, we'll deal with that.

23:56

As I say, we've identified the importance of communication, and we'll deal with how we propose to deal with that if that's acceptable. And perhaps, and we try and deal with it in a concerted, structured way, as opposed to coming backwards and forwards if that's acceptable.

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think I've got a

24:15

Yes No. Okay. I think I might have visibly frozen on the screen there, but I remained in orderable contact with you, Mr. learners. So please continue your practice. In terms of the white paper, I've got three key broader themes, which in my submission, the government recognises that particularly in the context of energy policy, has a relevance to wider health and well being.

24:45

The first relates to climate change and effects of climate change. The white paper clearly aligns energy policy with the need for a rapid response to the challenges of climate change. It acknowledges that the failure to respond will have very serious consequences for

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human health, extreme weather events result in death and damage to property and business and will have long term adverse effects on health and well being. The response to climate change needs to be a transformation of our energy system over a short period of time, this sacred decade is critical. And that is representative government's policy drive to the deployment of offshore wind projects. There is also an incidence of riches effectively, as we move to effectively decarbonize matters such as transport and heat. There are those indirect benefits of the reduction in other emissions, which have the potential of through exposure to have effects on long term health as well. But this is also reflected or was reflected in the a one paragraph 2.2 point seven, which specifically acknowledges that the consequences of climate change will result in extreme weather, and is like to lead to instability and conflict, and have public health related issues including births and migration of people. So it raises that broader spectrum as well. So that's one element of that broader context of health and well being. The second is consumer interest. At the heart of energy regulation has been the importance of keeping energy prices as low as possible. fuel poverty is a critical issue and has implications for health and well being. This is expressly recognised and n one paragraph 1.7 point six, there have been concerns that the response to climate change could increase energy prices. The government at page seven of the white paper confirm that as we tackle climate change, we will have the interests of consumers at the front of our mind now and in future generations. Section two of the white paper is devoted to consumer interests. This looks to support positive measures to reduce energy need. At the same time, the white paper acknowledges the residual need to keep energy costs down as well. On page 45, the government highlight the massive strides that the offshore wind industry has made to lower costs through the CFD auction process. It goes on to say it's vital that CFDs offer value for money to consumers and continue to deliver low prices. It paragraph 45 or page 45 confirms the importance of new projects coming through the planning process to deliver the competitive pressure to deliver the future options. The projects have undertaken extensive engagement of supply chain to ensure that these projects will be competitive. This will contribute to policy objective, which has a material influence and wider health and well being. The final aspect of the wider context is economic benefits.

27:43

The socio economic benefits of the project also support the wider government objective of developing Eastern England and local supply change. The white paper outlines the policy ambition on page 56 of the white paper. It is recognised the key opportunity of building the offshore wind sector as a key industrial sector, which can lead to the regeneration of many coastal communities and East of England. This is part of the government's levelling up agenda. Many of these communities have faced economic challenges over many decades. And this has resulted in many of them, including areas which rank as being amongst the most deprived parts of England as survived and the index of multiple deprivation. Yeah, and one also recognises the importance of socio economic benefits at a national, regional and local level. At deadline sex Rep. 06 for the applicants provided socio economic benefits to the examining authority in respect of a number of local local coastal communities. This Evans demonstrates that deprivation has also led to material health inequalities as well. investment in the creation of long term employment opportunities is even more important in such areas that projects can play a part in providing new opportunity and confidence for these coastal communities. The applicants are working with local authorities, other agencies and the education sector to maximise the opportunities that can be created.

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The white paper also emphasises the importance of the encouragement of early investment in that this will support the green recovery in respect of COVID-19.

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Finally, in terms of those three, sort of broader aspects, I recognise that the projects will make meaningful contributions at today's policy objectives and the outcomes forward to taking steps to stimulate the supply chain and to deliver it to facilitate early delivery. This is, I think, an important part when considering those three broader policy objectives, which are recognised as engaging, wider context of well being and health. I'm now going to hand over to Mr. persona, who will take you through the context of the assessment as set out in chapter 27. Thank you.

29:58

Thank you, Colin. Good morning panel.

30:00

pizzaiolo for the applicant, I don't want to speak for very long on this point, because I think a lot of the questions Mr. Smith had are covered under item three were proposed to go through and and Daniel Smith, who did the assessment will talk through exactly how that was done. And why. I think I think just in terms of the policy element to this, it's worth pointing out that, you know,

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on a lot of our former projects that I've worked on, we haven't done a health impact assessment, it simply hasn't been part of the process. If you look at projects, as recent as Hornsey three, for instance, they didn't have a health assessment project.

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Chapter a very much what we've been doing and on a few of the projects that came just after Hornsey three have been doing is responding to the 2017 EIA regs that were obviously in response to the EIA directive that brought this in. So it is an area of developing practice. And, and it's one of those things where, traditionally, I think, and if you look at a lot of the guidance that's available from PHP, for instance, when they're talking about health impact assessment, it's very much tailored towards those projects, which are have very clear residual health effects long term. So if it's a housing development, and how you spatially plan that to incorporate green space, and access, and all of those types of things, if you're develop if you're doing a factory scheme, which will obviously have long term emissions, that kind of thing, roads scheme, any of those things. They they are more traditionally associated with doing these health impact assessments as a standalone piece, as opposed to part of the wider AIA where we're basically trying to do a synthesis of those chapters that we've always done and always had an element of human health in them, such as air and noise and traffic with with things like severance and pedestrian intimidation. So those elements have been brought into this chapter as well to try and make that a synthesis. And make it standalone to recognise that there are

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elements that were previously previously not addressed in other projects. But I think I think that we have to the key thing about a lot of the guidances is talking about proportion and proportionality. And the key thing here is that we aren't one of those projects, that is going to have a massive residual impact a lot of the impacts that we're going to be talking about, and people have legitimate concerns about our construction impacts that will be temporary, episodic, during those construction phase, and most, and for the majority of people, once the project is constructed, there will be no operational impact the cables are underground, basic mitigation to for the project, underground cables, no residual effects along the cable route. So

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you know, I think we say it's an area of new, new an emerging practice, we can provide some of the guidance documents as well, to you. And I think if you look at what we've done, where it's in line with best practice, and also if you look at what size we'll see is just done there chapter is remarkably similar in its approach, to do what we have done. So we think we're, you know, we're following best practice without regard to that, but we'll get on to a lot of the detail of that in item three, when Mr. Smith speaks.

33:30

Now, this is all in that respect to me. Can I just explore that there the policy position? I mean, as as I take it from from both Mr. Ennis and your submissions, and from from our own background reading here, we're in a state of essentially policy evolution.

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We're, we're moving from a model where health impacts tended to be addressed on a very specific individual and physically focused model to an approach where potentially it's it is being engaged with more holistically. And one of the things that we directed ourselves to in terms of our kind of broadening our thinking about the policy framework was the the World Health Organization's definition of health in its constitution, which it defines as a state of complete physical, mental and social well being, not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. And so that's, that's the kind of vision for health that is, is clearly

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bringing into play the sense of the well being of the individual and includes issues around for example, anxiety, mental health, etc. as well as specific physical conditions that might more traditionally have been studied. I mean, I I think, I think your position is is

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Broadly one of agreement that we are in a,

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we're in a transition in policy terms prospectively between circumstances where maybe three or four years ago, that sort of holistic view or vision of health would not have landed itself in in impact assessment for a project such as this, whereas now, it partially does. And the question is working out, what is a reasonable and proportionate extent of assessment?

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boundaries if I can come in there? Yes, I think I think that's correct. Say it's, if you look at some of the the guidance, it's very clear what projects should be doing stuff. Clearly, if you've got an airport development or something like that, you know, there are multitudinous

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questions to address there. When it comes to a project such as this, it's a lot less clear. And the guidance is a lot less clear. And I mean, I would point to the fact that, again, Dan will come on to this later. But during the preparation of this at the assessment, what we would we liaised with Public Health England, and they were content with the methodology and indeed, they're relevant representation suggests that they're happy with what we've done. So notwithstanding the recognition that there are, there are obvious concerns, because we're having this hearing today. And a lot of people have turned up when we've heard their concerns previously, you know, that that we've done what we can within the limits, and I think what we have done is, is proportionate to the types as I've said, I've just briefly outlined to the types of impacts we do have, whilst also I think, recognising that we need to be able to in that kind of synthesis, accept that wider position of the climate change and agenda, the the, the wider health issues that climate change is going to bring. And those other points of economics that Mr. renesis mentioned. So it's a very delicate balancing act. At this point, we are in an area where we don't have much guidance. And it's also going to be one of those areas where it's never going to be an exact science. And it's there's never going to be real numbers involved in a lot of this stuff. Because we are trying to synthesise a number of things that, to some degree, are apples and oranges in some cases, and entirely subjective.

37:33

Okay, and before I then let you go, Mr. Pitts on this issue of the scope of cumulative impact assessment, what is in and what is out, because one of the sets of representations that we received early in openflow hearings has been around the potential extent of works associated with connections at Preston. And

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the question then being raised about the degree to which at the cumulation of those effects with the construction effects of these two projects has been assessed. And I'd like to hear again,

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in in the light of the position in the recent past decisions, and your your view about where the ies and where the submitted application documentation sits in relation to that question. I mean, we heard you at the beginning on it, but at the beginning of the examinations on it, but But of course, at that point, we didn't we didn't have the peers decision in front of us. And we felt it was only fair to give you the opportunity to, to then consider the position in relation to the road that Pierce has travelled.

38:46

I think the sorry, pal episode of the African I think that the position is is is not particularly changed. Obviously, we have done this cumulative assessment with ourselves. And with sighs we'll see that the

critical thing I think that comes out of all of this is the the thing that drives anxiety really, is uncertainty and uncertainty about what is going on. Now. We have

39:11

we've discussed the certainty of other people's projects, and this is again, going back to this have to stress other people's projects, we're talking about NGV, we've got added a pretty strong indication, I think, from North falls that they are out of the picture now. So that adds some element of certainty. But you know, and so, I think, again, in terms of what we could do, at the time, when we did the chapter, which bear in mind was written 18 months ago now, it was a reasonable indication of what we could do then. If we bring that forward to the present day, then I don't think again, as we've said on multiple other topics, there is that much more information we could add to the picture that would

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change the

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assessment at the end of the day, one of the key things with cumulative assessment is, is that we can't assess other people's projects for them, they have to do that we cannot prejudge what mitigation measures they will have, we have to assume to some extent, as we have done across the board, that those projects will have to have reasonable mitigations and reasonable

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development, you know, at the end reasonable designs in order to make them acceptable, but we can't go a long way down the road of trying to assess what other people's designs and timescales and all the rest of it be. So I don't think materially the picture has changed since we, we did the assessment and indeed, you know, have submitted our application.

40:51

Okay, so in that respect, if we look at the specific and pointing neon one, paragraph four, point 13.2

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that the impact of more than one development may affect people simultaneously. So the applicant and the decision maker, I substitute decision maker for IPC, this is a very old reference should consider the cumulative impact on health, in your view that has been clearly discharged. I do see far, as far as possible. Yeah. And any certainty in order to drive this, which is about uncertainty. It's all about uncertainty. And we've done what we can with the information that is said. Thank you,

41:30

Mr. Ellis. Yes, colonists about the outcome. There was one month I wanted to raise. And I was going to raise to the end of the day, because I didn't want it to

41:39

essentially kicked off kick start the day with different information. But we as applicants have received a communication from five astris yesterday, which confirms that they have accepted a new connection

offer. And the confirm that this means that five astris project will no longer be pursuing a connection at Preston, at Suffolk. So we will make that available. I thought I was going to leave it to the end of the day. But I've given them a raise this matter specifically about this cumulative scenario is I suspect that quite a lot of what's been discussed at this examination is

42:19

essentially meaning that we're getting people coming off the fence earlier than we would otherwise do to say, we're not coming to Freston. And I think that probably is a measure to some of the issues that have arisen through through this examination. But we've now got, nor false, clearly stating and writing a representation to you that line seven, and I say we received a communication from five ESeries confirming their position yesterday, which we will obviously submit, but I thought it was important to give the examination given you specifically raised these matters of the cumulative scenario. And I just reinforce Mr. Sailors position in relation to cumulative assessment having to be based on information that is available, and that is the guidance as well. It's about what information is available. And if we are essentially the applicant is having to make it up, then that is not information that is available, we are making that information up. And that's not appropriate, because it's also prejudging other parties site selection. And insofar as the Pierce case was concerned, it was about how the decision maker treated information that was before them, and their duty to take these matters into account and not ignore material that have been put before them. In relation to matters. It doesn't really go much further in determining what needs to be put before a decision maker. It is largely it was put before the decision maker, it was ignored and that was unlawful.

43:50

And that's the position. So it's it's probably a rejoinder to decision makers that effectively you have to take account of material that is submitted to you. And I think it is important also to recognise that EIA is a process that is not just about the African putting material in it is all the material that comes forward. And that is that is part of a process. I think sometimes we can get a bit focused on a chapter in the environmental statement, a chapter in the biomedical statement is then an opportunity for both consultees members of the public organisations to comment on and their information all comes to bear to be the totality of the environment, environmental information that's available to you as a decision maker. And that is part of the process is to put that forward and stimulate that debate effectively to ensure that the best information is put before you as a decision maker. I think that's an important part of this process as well.

44:48

Those last remarks are very, very useful indeed Mr. Nice because I think they really describe in a nutshell what we're trying to achieve today. And we're in a world where we're very conscious that

45:00

What might be within a reasonably definable scope, in terms of cumulative effects is dynamic is changing. And we're in a world where certain projects, there is a limited pool of information available. And we're also in a world where as you have just illustrated, and individual projects are making decisions completely

45:25

outside of this process, that could mean that they are no longer sensibly within scope for any consideration of cumulative effect whatsoever. What we need to convince ourselves in relation to the approach that we take in response to peers is that we have the information that a reasonable examining authority making recommendations to the decision maker ought to have in front of us at the point at which we close these examinations, and that we need to provide everybody with the fullest and fairest opportunity in the examination process to surface those, and to the extent that they then bear on the positions of the applicant, we have a natural justice duty to the applicant, to allow the applicant to respond to those. So that's, that's the nature of the exercise. And, and, and I, I trust that it kind of chimes with that explanation that you have given of what you think we ought to be seeking as well. I think we're, we're in very close agreement on that point.

46:27

Okay, moving on, where

46:33

are we introducing? We have we have a hand from council fellows, I just need to to return briefly to Mr. Ennis, is there anybody else who he wishes to introduce on these overarching policy points before I see contributions from those in attendance? comments from an applicant? No, I think we'll deal with the detail. And number three, I was

46:57

thinking that makes eminent sense. Okay. In which case, I'm now going to ask for the normal yellow hands from those who wish to speak on this item. And I have seen counsellor fellows but before I go to counsellor fellows, I just would like to see the full assembly of hands. And so I I see.

47:22

Isa council Naomi gold, I see counsellor photos, and I also see Mrs. Gilmore for sees.

47:30

Okay, well, I'm going to go to the local authority. And first I'm going to go to Naomi gold free Suffolk Council.

47:41

Hello, thank you, Naomi go the Suffolk Council. And obviously, we've made

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representations throughout the examination on the cumulative issue.

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And whilst we accept that there are elements of unknown in relation to future projects, we still often view that there's a degree of certainty in relation to where the natural good ventures projects particularly Nautilus neural link would connect in should this application be consented then the natural connection point would be at the National Grid substation at Friston and we obviously maintain our view

that there is a degree of certainty in relation to that element and therefore that should be part of the accumulative assessment.

48:32

Okay, so the very uncertainty in and of itself is a material contribution to health effects and that is a matter that should have been addressed or should be addressed. Okay, thank you very much. Moving on, then. Can I ask Councillor fellows for obrah Town Council to put put her position?

48:57

Yes. Good morning, Mr. Smith. I hope you can see and hear me. I Kennedy. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for the opportunity to address you today on this very important matter. And I do sympathise with a dry throat it just all of a sudden it comes doesn't it and nothing you can do can stop it. So I just said I, I trust it's under control. And thank you for your forbearance if it if it if it strikes me again would be much appreciated. Okay, thank you, sir. Ladies and gentlemen, Marion fellows, representing over town council. I'd firstly like to address and to mention, as you've done, Mr. Smith, lan one 413. Two in terms of the scope of what we're looking at.

49:44

And I don't agree with the applicant. We don't agree with the applicant, that this has been discharged fully. Because although you mentioned size of C and that should be the only thing that's considered as that's the only thing that's certain

50:00

Um, we know, we know the design and we know the timescale for a Nautilus and euro link. We had a presentation only last week from natural national grid, interconnectors. And the Nautilus and euro link projects is assumed to connect at first and, and in fact, they said that if this the result of these applications were not recommendation and approval, they would be applying themselves for a national grid substation at Preston.

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The projects are due to be completed in 2028, and 2029, respectively. And the decio, we've been told is going to be put in, in 2022.

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So you can see there is a lot of knowledge, it's there is a lot of certainty that these projects actually will impact the mental health and well being of people in the area of the very same area for a very same period of time, without any particularly large gap for them to be able to recover.

51:16

We know it's the same choice of land falls within the same area, the same cable routes and the same physical connection of Friston. The only thing we don't know is additional substations will be needed for each project. But we're told there'll be within five kilometres of Reston so you can see still in the same area.

51:39

The second point I'd like to bring to your attention is the applicant doesn't have a medical professional on their team addressing you today on this matter. And I listened very carefully to introduction. And the gentleman who had of health background on their side was purely from the benefit, and the importance of how building can help health in terms of sanitation provision of warm water supply, and perhaps good design.

52:11

But as you have recognised and Mr. persona mentioned, there's limited reference to health negation, how we can actually make sure that health isn't impacted. I've been trying for weeks and weeks, there's loads of research on proving safety and building, improving social impacts, like say sanitation, but not on improving the health of people that are impacted by industrialization or building projects.

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There's also very little assistance on to how to effectively measure or assess the impact or the effect of proximity to building conditions. And it's not linear, or exclusive.

52:59

And I disagree that if something is just temporary, or episodic, that it is not impactful there is no acceptable level of negative impact, which could not affect a human being. If you say to someone, don't worry about something is not logic, you can't say you'll only have two nights of no sleep. In fact, if I was to say to you the examining authority, you might not be able to sleep for a year. But I've told you about it. So I've communicated. So therefore that removes that worry from you.

53:38

Or if I say to you, you won't be able to sleep for a week, definitely, because we'll be digging up the road. Just me telling you doesn't stop you worrying about it, or doesn't stop you having that negative impact. So I disagree that communicating and having a stakeholder, you know, manager telling everybody about the project to remove the uncertainty that they're going to have harm and actually say yes, we're being honest, you're going to be harmed. TAs not gonna help is not going to help at all.

54:15

I agree with you that the who description is the nearest we should get, we can get to on what we should use, that it's about measuring the total well being the positive, not just to get to an avoidance of being unwell.

54:33

And the only real comparison is a warzone. And I've looked up and there's lots of policy about war, and how that impacts on people. And I think this is the same as being in a war zone will be. There'll be fear, uncertainty, loss of home and shelter, noise, loss of tranquillity, dark skies, destruction of community and relationships.

55:01

Mr. pasola said the biggest uncertainty biggest problem was uncertainty. And as I mentioned a moment ago, just knowing you're going to be harmed is not going to help. Because it is also perception and the fearing of anxiety. And I can tell you already, that people have been harmed by the consultation period and this application. And regardless of the outcome, that can't be taken away, that has happened.

55:35

I'm quite upset by what Mr. Ennis said, because it felt like his explanation was virtually a pain versus gain balancing exercise.

55:49

He mentioned the response to climate change, consumer interest, the economic benefit to lower staff to jobs.

56:00

And yes, we might feel great about I've contributed to climate change. I agree. I've made sure there's not fuel poverty across the whole of the UK. I've made a contribution meaningfully to policy. But remember, Maslow's theory of hierarchy, which I first spoke to you about back six months ago, almost, you can't balance that you can't be worried about climate change. If you can't sleep at night, if you think your landlord is going to have to sell their house, or be subject to compulsory acquisition, when you're the tenant,

56:39

I would urge the planning authority to realise that this argument about contributing to climate change and reducing fuel poverty are both actually red herrings by the applicant. Because we will achieve both of those will achieve the climate change the actions that we need by 2030. We will make sure there's not fuel poverty by an array out of see potentially, but connecting to a different place, or delaying it for a year for the base review. Or for technologies around MPI to catch up. We'll still though do those things, those things are not going to be not achieved just by Friston going ahead. And it's a complete red herring. And I would urge you please not to pay attention to that as being a really impacted factor.

57:42

Just a couple more things about policy.

57:45

There is a lot of policy about green space, being good for mental health, about mindfulness, the need for fresh air,

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the need for restful sleep, the need for relaxation, and distraction from our worries.

58:03

The unfortunate thing about these projects is all those things that help you when you've got mental health, stress and anxiety are going to be removed. It's not having those things that are going to cause the stress and anxiety.

58:21

The problem is the solution to mental health and anxiety and stress are the very things that are going to be eroded here.

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And we know in a rural setting, it's more impacted than in a city or an urban setting. This project developed and delivered at Branford in Ipswich wouldn't have the impact as it is being developed and delivered in a rural Hamlet.

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We know prolonged stress leads to physical disease and problems. And you'll hear about that more in the next couple of items. But I think the last thing I want to say is without the natural remedies, the social prescribing remedies of fresh air, light, you know, dark skies, rest, sleep walking in the natural environment, the norm for the residents of Reston and the surrounding area. People will have to actually turn to medication or alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, they're very limited solutions and negative solutions available. Or the last one, they have to move. And I guess that's what happens in war zones, isn't it? People have to migrate away from it. They can't escape it.

59:43

Thank you.

59:47

Thank you very much. Now if I can go to Mrs. Gilmore facies please.

59:55

Yeah, to go more for Catholic energy action solution. See

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Thank you, sir. And thank you for the opportunity to speak at this point.

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Council of fellows had eloquently made many of the arguments that I would have liked to have made. And I endorse and support everything that Councillor Phelan said. I would just like to add a few points that I feel has to be made.

1:00:33

Paulo pit solo Mr. Pit solo, he talks about here we are talking about the temporary episodic construction, not massive residual impact.

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The cumulative impact in prison, Mr. Pitts solo, have you gone and have a chat with some of the local people at Preston, and ask them if this is temporary episodic construction, or massive residual impact? Have you been to ordering them? As I did at the weekend, walking along the cable trench route? Not

just for EA one n and EA two but also for Nautilus because they have been with papers with plans for Nautilus predates the local residents there since May 2020. Not this year last year. Have you asked Have you truly consulted the local people? what it would be like in terms of noise pollution, and light pollution and air pollution? The destruction of well being the tranquillity that they have enjoyed over many years. I have missed the pic furlough to look more deeply and in more detail at what he means between temporary episodic construction and massive residual impact. We already know

1:02:09

that the onslaught and I use that word because that is the word that we all feel it be the onslaught of fight substations and interconnectors. That is EA one and EA two. It is Nautilus euro link and the National Grid as well as five wells fee of natural England's have stated. This is the perception of major construction. And I'm afraid to say that whilst the policy is being evolved, there are people suffering, the harm has already taken place for many, I interviewed one gentleman who will live in 30 metres of the cable trench 30 metres. And he said to me that Nautilus said to them, that it would be 150 metres wide for the building area just for the Nautilus cable trench and that is a different cable trench to the EA one and an EA two cable trench, in total 270 metres of his garden will be taken over for these cable trench digging. And he at this moment is a man suffering from ill health, we can't point a finger. We can't say this is because of the anxiety brought on. by two years of worry, we can't point a finger but what we can share with you is that this is 5000 people in the villages of Nadia Shaw ordering them briston thorpeness, snake and and obrah who will be impacted directly or indirectly. This is to greater number

1:04:05

for Mr. pezzulo to talk about temporary episodic construction, we are still talking about a period of 10 to 12 years. So at this point, I would just like to say we seize indoor, who definition of health. And we believe that we have to look at the complete state of well being as a benchmark for this discussion. Thank you very much.

1:04:34

Thank you very much. Now can I just check and make sure that we don't have anybody else who is due to speak on this item I don't have notice of anybody else and there are the only yellow hand remaining is Mrs. Gilmore. I trust that to residual hand, Mrs. Gilmore.

1:04:51

In which case I'll return to the applicant for response and in doing so I'm very conscious that in looking at this

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through the lens provided by the policy framework. We are taking some overarching Overview The subsequent agenda items do provide a place where more specific detail can be drawn out. And it may well be that it's appropriate to provide more detailed responses in the following items. So to the applicant for any final response on this item,

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comments and by the applicant, we're happy to deal with matters in the agenda. We agree. Thank you. Thank you very much.

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In which case, then I will hand over for agenda item three to Mr. Hockley.

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Thank you, Mr. Smith. We'll move on to agenda item three. And you'll note that this section of the agenda is to provide an opportunity for the applicants to present on health and social wellbeing matters,

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given the nature of the agenda, and the item four is specifically for interested parties to make their own presentations I've visited in this agenda item will primarily hear from the applicant. I'll ask them questions at the end, before we move on to interested parties turn in agenda item four. So moving on to the applicants, the agenda notes that the examining authority particularly interested to hear considerations on mental health, including anxiety and stress. However, you're obviously Welcome to raise any matters relating to health and social well being considered relevant.

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So you're welcome to commence your presentation when you're ready. Just for housekeeping purposes, how long? Do you anticipate it taking a

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pile of pizza for the applicant? Um, I would have thought, depending on the questions, 45 minutes or so

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just as a matter of housekeeping, Daniel Smith is available until 12. So he's first in this as in terms of the methodology of how we actually did the chapter itself. So if you've got questions on that, it's probably best that we pause at that stage. And you can ask Mr. Smith questions at that stage, and then he'll be able to leave, but we can deal with that. So the way I want to break it down is down, we'll talk about the assessment itself, how we undertook that and the engagement we did with PHP in particular, and their advisors to develop methodology. We'll then talk about the the next stage of the process. And I think Mr. Ellis made this point earlier, it is a process, it isn't a fixed point in time and the holy AIA and this part and this examination is part of a process of developing the project and our approach to this matter. Um, so I want to talk about the steps in terms of mitigation and how we actually mitigate the issues that we do have an any residual issues. And then finally, I want to hand over to Joe young, who's the stakeholder manager and could talk about how we actually have communicated through the construction of the EA one project and how that was dealt with in terms of the community engagement to ensure that people understood what was happening when it was happening. And all the ins and outs of that. So that's the that's the structure. I don't propose. And I think Mr. Smith mentioned this at the beginning, I don't really propose that we go into any technical elements of those feeder assessments such as the air and noise, etc.

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so that it's going to be taken as read if you wish, we've already had the air quality chat. Several weeks ago, we've got noise, traffic, etc, coming up in the following day. So I don't think there's much, we don't really want to get into the technical elements of that. That's that sounds ideal, Mr. persona. I'll just say then.

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I think it's probably a bit you mentioned 45 minutes. So it's probably best if you run your presentation first with the three of you, if you like,

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and then we can, I've got a few questions afterwards. But that should still be in the time that Mr. Smith has available to you. So that should work out fine. Okay, so we're not planning to talk for ages about this.

1:09:04

We'll try and get through it as quick as possible. So, Dan, if you want to come in, please. I'll go meet. Okay. Thank you.

1:09:13

Good morning, Daniel Smith here on behalf of the applicant. Just last checked, everybody can hear me okay.

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Yes, we can. Thank you.

1:09:23

Okay, so thank you very much for inviting me to speak. I'd like to point out that I'm actually very happy that human health is being considered because as has been stated a number of ways number of times, the assessment of human health is it's not a fixed point in time. It's, it's the purpose is to draw in everything else from the environmental impact assessment and determine whether there are areas of concern where there are potential for significance, which then needs further assessment. The purpose is, is not to to fixate on one particular aspect is to look at the entire thing over a problem.

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at scale of the project, it's taken from the who guidance. And the way in which it does that is to look at determinants as health of health. So there are things that you can control yourself. So things like how much exercise you take, how much food you eat, and that sort of thing. There are things that you can't control yourself, such as your genetics and, and the mandatory, and then other things that the project can affect. And what the health assessment does is it looked at the things that the project can affect to understand whether there is anything that needs to continuously be discussed and included in management and monitoring strategies go forwards.

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So I will talk about the assessment as written in 2019. As has been stated, the level of guidance at the time was less than it is at the moment. So what we did was we went to the leading guidance at the time, which was aim as guidance. And then we consulted with the authors of that, to develop a proportionate approach to health assessment for offshore wind farms.

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We then consulted with Public Health England, and invited comment from other authorities upon the methodology that we had. And we got very little response in that what we did have was included in the consultation and then adapted into the methodology undertaken.

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We looked at, we scoped out certain areas. So we scoped out things like

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a lot of the offshore work because a lot of this direct impact from that you would expect from health such as emissions and something don't exist from an offshore wind farm because they don't emit anything. And we focus largely on the onshore elements, or in fact, specifically on the orange are elements of

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noise during construction, dust exhaust emissions, what spill it is to water, obstructions to roads and footpaths, including the obstructions to people getting to

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to health institutions,

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the benefits of employment increasing in the area and drawing from the socio economic assessment, the counter of

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the net employment based on tourism, and other employment types. The perception of risk which was being covered quite a lot, so far.

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And we looked at things from an operational point of view, such as the noise of the operation substation, and the electromagnetic fields. And we did this by

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looking at

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populations around the spatial scope. So we looked at site specific populations, local populations, regional populations, national populations, we use available statistics at the time, probably from ins and public health, England.

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And we used to work with lower super output areas, which are the smallest Statistical Area of statistics that are available. And we follow the guidance from the Equality Act 2010, to define different types of vulnerable groups. So we not only looked at geographic areas, we also looked at vulnerable populations, primarily, the vulnerable populations were identified, were to do with age. So the elderly and and the young, and people with disabilities and existing health effects.

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Then we looked at temporal scope. So we said Are things going to be short term, hours, days up to a week. So very short term that is short term up to, you know, months, medium term, years, or long term in decades. And we went through systematically

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looking at the, the baseline of the populations that exist at the moment, we identified that there were

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predominantly a population with a higher proportion of older people. There were certain areas where you had

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elements like

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people's homes and schools and that sort of thing, which we looked at in particular. And then we drew through from the other assessments, whether the residual impact taking in the mitigation described in those assessments and discussed in other hearings, was going to be sufficient to protect the health of the populations and vulnerable people in the area. Predominantly, we found that there was there was no significant impacts at the time of writing.

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We then

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covered the cumulative impacts based on the information that we had. So at the time of writing,

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sizewell hadn't published their environmental statement. I don't believe Nautilus or ewelink have done that yet, either. So we could include what we had at the time. So we included it, we considered it qualitatively

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And then we put the entire thing out for consultation.

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My understanding is that there's been certain points that have been raised since gone since publication. And that then has led on to further inclusion in mitigation and construction codes of practice and that sort of thing, which, and of course, it has led to the development of this hearing, which is demonstrates that the process is working. First, you assess what could potentially happen. And then you look at where there are potential areas of significance, you make your own judgement, you ask other people, if they believe that that adjustment is correct. And if they disagree, then you listen to them. And you include them in the the ongoing management and response to it.

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That is, I think that about as much detail as we, as I'd like to go through into the moment, if you have specific questions on specific points, I'd be happy to hear them.

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Thank you, Mr. Smith. I think given the time, I think if we if we can move on to your colleagues, and then I'll come back with some I have a few questions. But um, you know, at the moment, I'm not quite sure who don't be best addressed do. So that's probably the best way to go through job. Thank you.

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Thank you, pal pizza applicant. So I think leading on from

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the assessment that has done the critical part of the UN part of the underpinning, really of the way that we've done the assessment and we can draw the conclusions where we've drawn is by looking at the effectively the the mitigation measures that and the management measures that will, that we would implement across the board on the different topics, in order to get to a point where the impacts are any terms not significant or acceptable to

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for a planning decision, excuse me, I think

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cough as well now. So I mean, the prime, I don't want to belabour the point, but just to highlight the fact that this is a standard process. And this is how it is done on all of these types of projects, we assess something. And we have outlined mitigation measures at the time. And it's particularly key in projects like this, where the Rochdale envelope is a big feature where we don't have the certainty of a development like you would with a housing scheme where you know exactly what you're going to build. So there is an element of outline. And there's an element of progression throughout the project. So

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at the time of the application, we have a long list of potential mitigations that we could potentially employ in order to reduce the effects of whatever it is if it's air quality, construction, noise, operational noise.

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And that's all put forward with the decio conditions or requirements and certified documents. So the coder construction practice, the landscape of management strategy, all of these things, all of the traffic plans that go with that. So all of this is controlled. And all of this is set out in outline. And all of this is then subject to a great deal of debate. As we've seen a lot of the discussion over the last five months in this examination has been about working through the conditions making sure that the security is there understanding what the measures are that we're proposing, and in what in some cases, how far we further we can take that at this stage. Now, normally, again, with with these types of projects that are at the end of the examination, there's still quite a lot of

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uncertainty around a lot of these things. But one of the issues that we've had, that's an advantage to where we started now, because of the COVID delay is that we're actually six months ahead on where we would be really and so some of the decisions we've been able to take in regard to the project design are things that we may not have been able to undertake had we started in March last year as we originally tried to so a lot of the refinements around the substation, for instance, that were only confirmed around the Christmas period, that would have been too late. So they they're stuffed with the footprints and the height of kit, etc. A lot of that's come late in the day. But there are other refinements that have also come through the process.

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For instance, the commitment to installing the ducts for the two projects at the same time, which are major commitments and major gains, I think in terms of reduction of impact, because clearly, if we're not coming in and doing all of that trenching and all of that digging multiple times that reduces the overall disruptive effect, and the overall impact as much as we possibly can. So it's an overall benefit and improvement for how we're actually delivering these projects. And that's a usual process and that goes on, generally, that though, ends up being a post consent thing. As I say, because of the timeline of this. A lot of this has been able to be more front loaded there.

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we'd normally be our manager and those commitments have been brought in. So I think that has been beneficial. I think there's there are other elements that we've considered in the round. That would have benefits such as the the SBA crossing, which I've raised before in this in terms of, we've put forward to potential methodologies of crossing the SPI, both in terms of the Habs regs are actually acceptable ways forward. And we can mitigate the impacts in terms of the habitats issues. But notably, obviously, the open trenching method would work, which is our preferred method would clearly have benefits in terms of the amount of plant on site, the duration of work, cetera, et cetera. So, you know, there are things we're putting forward that need to be considered in a balanced way. And we're, you know, and to allow

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different elements and different considerations of this process, not just the HRA, aspects or, but also the community aspects to be taken into account. So I think really, that, that, that's just a set out, where we start with the assessment, we have a load of outline, commitments we have, some of them are more worked up than others. As we refine the design, we're able to make that make more commitments and refine that further, as you'll see in the latest iteration of the cicp. We've added in specific measures for properties within close proximity of the of the cable route, so that we can, we can have enhanced noise mitigation measures on those.

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So that's, that's a brief rattled through the process. But I think it's it's basically, you know, trying to cover off that those stages. as Dan said, this is a process. It isn't a fixed point in time. And it's an it is an evolution. And this process, and the feedback that we've got from this process is a valuable part of shaping what this project will actually look like and making sure that we're delivering it in the best way that we can.

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That said, then I think I'll just pass over to Joe now. And Joe can talk you through

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what she has done on East Anglia, one in terms of the engagement, because I think that the key point to go back to some of the comments that were made in response to the first part, is, we're not saying that there will be no impacts of this project. And we're not saying there's no such thing as a zero impact project. We don't say that. And I think sometimes in the dry terminology of the EIA, it comes across in terms of being dismissive or exclusive or rejecting the fact that there will be impacts there obviously, will be

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residual effects on on on some locations and some people and and that is the nature of the beast, the but

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the key point that comes forward in the assessment is, and this is the reason for having Joe talk about this is the one tool in our armoury, we can we can make sure that the emissions from the noise are low and below the threshold or at thresholds that are acceptable and legally complied with, we can do the same for air quality. The one thing that's more intangible is this point of anxiety. So the one tool in the armoury that we can deploy is that community consultation piece, trying to reduce uncertainty as much as possible. And it doesn't solve everything. And that is the point. It is not a panacea. But it's the it's the tool that we can have to try and mitigate as much as possible, the residual impacts on those stresses that we've heard a lot about and a very real, and it's that tool. We've got to reduce those. So I'll pass over to Joe now. Thank you. Okay.

1:23:53

Hello, Johnny, four, the applicant. I hope you can see me. Thank you. Good. Okay. All right, then.

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Bright, I think, taking those last comments made by Paolo about dispelling anxiety, and uncertainty, we've been very, very mindful of that,

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for the consultation, to date through the pre application consultation, and in order to reach as many people as possible, we've held a total of 59 events

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throughout the whole of that period, so that's 20 parish council meetings and other organisational meetings with individual bodies, and 39 consultation, public information events. These were attended by nearly two and a half 1000 people. We've also been careful to extend the consultation period. So we covered holidays because we're aware that this isn't this isn't a location where lots of people

1:25:00

come to visit. And also people have second homes. So we wanted to make sure we were able to speak to them, and to address any uncertainties that they might have had. We publicise these projects throughout all the consultations and events, through a variety of means through online and offline media, and acknowledging that this is a rural area. So we need to make sure that we keep everybody informed as much as possible in every way we can. And our stakeholder team and project team have always made themselves available to attend meetings to provide further insights, and to answer any questions because that is, is one of the things we have to be available to make sure that we can answer people's questions and help to allay fears. Questions are responded to. And there's also direct access to myself and the community liaison officer who works with me as also to, to specialist email boxes that people can can put their queries to.

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In addition to this, we also held a planning workshop just before submission. So this was to give people an idea of how they could get involved in this whole process. You know, we're aware that lots of people might be a bit mystified, as power said it is a process, it's a narrowing down of all the detail, and you get to the front end points. And we're very keen that people do have their say, and that they're able to participate. So we held an event out for members of the local population to come along and find out how the whole process works.

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Throughout the whole pre application process, we we listened, and we made changes to our proposals. So we in order to let people know what we've done, we set up a page on our website called the developing our plans section. So it highlighted things like a reduction in Saturday working hours, for example. So you know, there was obviously concern about that. So we have reduced that, so that we finish in a reasonable time. And also the construction programme at darkness that's been reduced. From 2012 months, we talked about enhanced planting schemes, and spring proposals are areas designated for early planting, because that was something that came up and we are addressing it changes in our traffic routes. Of course, there's been a lot of conversation about that, and people being

worried about HGTV movements Sunday. So we we are addressing that and we've already made changes.

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We're adjusting the land take for our construction compounds. And also mindful of the fact that this is an area where people come to enjoy the lovely seascapes, then we are also we're taking steps to create a gap between Estonia to OneNote. And as as paulose just alluded to, we're also ensuring that these projects would be built at the same time taking a measure to do that.

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So the next thing that we would do, and this is something that we have done for East Anglia one, and it's worked very well is to hold some pre construction

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information events. So these are to ensure that people are fully informed and to allay any anxiety, they might have.

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These events, similar events were held throughout East Anglia one and we we held these along the whole of the cable route now. I think there's it must be stressed that we have already built a project off the coast here. The cable route for this project for East Anglia, one is 37 kilometres. There were 22 parishes involved. There were further parishes around the periphery of the substation site, all of whom participated. And there were there were concerns I you know, people were worried about what what might be on their doorstep. So we took steps to address that.

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These events that we will propose to hold and based on what we do every single one of them will include details on how the trenching will be dug. Whether it be open trenching methods versus HDD.

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What's involved in an HDD activity, traffic movements, traffic management and tracking measures, mitigation. So what the construction team

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would do with regard to dust, water, noise, etc, landscape and ecology and copyrights away. So that's just some of the examples of some of the things we address because basically what we did recently, one is we went to visuals along the cable route.

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And we basically held these events so that people do what was happening in their backyard. And it meant that they could voiced their concerns to the people on the ground, and be provided with answers of how things would be managed. So attendees at these events would include the league construction manager. So that's an opportunity for local people to meet person who's actually going to be managing the construction construction on the ground, site managers, logistics manager, so people who will be

looking at monitoring all the traffic on the ground, and ensuring that if there are any issues, those are managed, the environmental manager, nelscott managers and ourselves the stakeholder team.

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So the same thing would be the same process will be undertaken for these projects as well.

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And also, for example, one, when invited,

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I asked the construction team to attend parish council meetings, and we did that if there was a request for that. And we've even I even asked the team to go to people's homes if necessary. And we would we would go somewhere if they weren't able to come to a particular meeting for whatever reason that might be we went to a person's home, and we gave them a talk in their in their environment.

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And it helped to allay a lot of people's concerns, because they felt that they were dealing with

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a team that they could speak to them. And that they weren't dealing with something that big, and they didn't have any any input into.

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Throughout all whole process. The stakeholder teams details will be readily available, as I said, and they'll be dedicated emails for project and we will send updates and we will also produce a newsletter so people are kept informed. Now I realise that that might sound like we're just doing a newsletter and a bit of PR, but that's it's a basically so that people know what's happening. And they know who to speak to. And if they have concerns they can address them.

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The other thing that we will do, and we did this recently, or one is we held workshops recently while on the design of the substations.

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And we sought independent advice from the design Council

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was also a site visit and a master planning exercise. and members of the local community and the local planning authorities were all invited to participate in this exercise. So again,

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it is a process again, as we've as been alluded to before, we're all aware of that. And it's it's it's a case of

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participating, getting involved and having input into the design and having a say in what is actually built at the end of the day.

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In during construction, there will be a community liaison officer appointed, they will be based locally, locally.

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And there's likely to be a mentor liaison officer of the Sangha three projects and also for Estonia to model that they'll likely be based alongside the construction team and will therefore work closely with them and their subcontractors. any concerns will be managed by the proteasome officer in the first instance to ensure that they brought the construction teams attention. This worked very well for East Anglia one.

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There will also be a written community liaison procedure and in the code of construction practice, which will set out how SPR will manage interactions with the local community. This will be published on the SPR website links will be sent and emailed to the parish councils.

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I just alluded to this before but it should be noted that East Anglia one has a 37 kilometre cable route through rules that work and it does directly affects 22 parishes.

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And so I don't think that should be underestimated that we are we have done this before. And we have been

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We are aware of the landscape and the road network. In rural Salford.

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These parishes did have a concerns and they've been managed as far as possible. And on many occasions, the community liaison officers have received Thanks for the help they have provided.

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The other thing that the communication officers did throughout the construction of the Stanger one is they organised information events. So special construction activities. So we held horizontal directional drilling roadshows, for example, these were held near the river demon, out of the landfill size and Mr. patient, for example, and they were attended by the HDD contractor that we had. So today's pertain directly how the HDD process works.

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This helps to dispel many of the fears, really around the HDD process. And in many cases, we found that people actually were quite interested in how it worked. Especially a lot of people are retired engineers, they find it quite fascinating. So now, you can tell more deep and watch the wildlife enjoy the sights, the rays rustling in salt marshes, and you wouldn't know that there were electric cables several metres under the riverbed.

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Again, we will propose to do the same activities for these projects.

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Our outreach projects, activities that we undertook them that we would look to do for assigning to our north again, to keep people involved and to make sure they were

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any concerns they had were dispelled. As far as we could, I'm not saying we can, we can change or dispel all myths. But we held things like loud for HDD site visits for residence, the local planning authorities and other interested parties to present how the site is laid out and managed, what the works look like the distance from the cliffs. This helped to demonstrate how the words organised how noise and dust is managed, and how traffic is managed in and out of sight. So you know, things like wheel washing and stuff like that, to to minimise the dust and the modern rose, any pollution.

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We have three of these visits, and they're all very, very positive. We also around archaeology road shows. So

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this was in agreement with Suffolk County Council. And these were again very, very popular, we held a number of these road shows and they were very well attended. And we had the archaeology, subcontractor on site talking about the fines that have been found. So that that was something that I think people found interesting. And it was a sort of interesting side of these projects that this these archaeology

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investigations would not happen if we weren't doing the work that we do.

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And we have construction public information days, these were held in four different locations over four months during the construction to talk to people about the project, the specific works, taking place on site and focusing on the trenching all the substation build ladder wherever it might be. So these are sort of events that we would propose to do.

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The other thing we will do, we will continue with educational initiatives.

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And we're mindful as lots of young people as well in the whole of the area, so the whole of East Anglia who might be looking for possible jobs in the renewables

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industry. So we had an entry skills foundation student, this construction compound. This was the site the main site where we had our construction team and the subcontractors so they were able to meet them and talk about the project and find out about how you know how the project was being built. We also got involved and will be involved in eager skills for energy events, sponsorships and stance. This is the East of England energy group.

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They hold an event at East Coast College, which is an airport college, in Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft. Again, it's designed to encourage people to perhaps consider a career in renewable industry, but we've also undertake

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events with schools. So came Science Centre soft schools tour where they went around to schools, talking to schools about renewable energy. And we have a standard software show where people are invited to come along and meet the team talk about the projects. And there's also educational events for children a person suppose those events.

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In addition, because people were you know, people want to be kept informed. And

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to make sure that there is information,

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whenever it's necessary, there'll be regular project updates. These were these are undertaken for East Anglia, one, and we also do refer externally to my north.

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And they'll be localised updates to residential and business properties around specific activity taking place on the cable route,

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email updates to people living in the area, if they should they subscribe and want to receive this information, updates the parish Council, website, upstate updates, and we will attend parish council meetings as and when required.

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And also give talks and presentations to other organisations, again, as and when required.

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And

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there will be a stakeholder communication plan, which will

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provide include a mechanism for queries, complaints, and general feedback. Should should have been raised by the local community. So that will be put in place.

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And that's that's it from me. Thank you. Thank you very much. Very useful. Just before we

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get feedback there, just before we continue, Can I check with the applicants how long Mr. Smith is available for

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before we decide whether to whether we break now or break afterwards? Sorry, palpi. So it was it was still 12? Still tobacco? So

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we'll crack on with some questions now then. I know we're normally have a break now. But we'll just have to push the break back a little bit. So. Okay, thank you for that.

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I think my first question is for Mr. Smith. It's

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considering paragraph 119 of the environmental statement. And you you mentioned this in your presentation as well, Mr. Smith about noting that all the areas affected by the proposals in this case, landfall cable route and substation sites themselves have a higher proportion of retirement age people in relation to their working age populations, when compared with the National UK averages. I think table 27. Point 14 is figures of well over double the national average. is the question, do you consider that these levels are likely to create more issues relating to a perception of risk or mental health that potentially they might do in other geographical areas?

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Um, it's a very good question.

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I think that

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older populations will be resident at home more than a working age population well, under normal circumstances, and under the conditions of which I wrote the assessment 2019. That case at the moment is different.

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They tend to have moved on in many cases, people have moved to an area for tranquillity and the purpose of you know, they've retired there basically. So it's understandable that people will be concerned about things that are occurring there.

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Whether people are more affected by anxiety or not. It is an individual concern, really.

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But it is if it's something that which is being brought up, something needs to be addressed. I wouldn't want to make a sweeping generalisation about older people being more

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more anxious than younger people, because it really depends on the on the individual, but certainly if they are there more often than

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than a working age population, then the impacts need to be considered in that way. And my we have done that in the assessment, we have stated the age of people of predominance of people and the likelihood that there will be home at certain times and thus the sort of pathway receptive between certain things like noise, vibration, dust, that sort of thing. And then we have looked at the way in which that has been dealt with elsewhere and how the how the applicant has managed that on previous projects as well.

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So,

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thank you now that that's useful. You alluded to it there in your in your answer really about the times we live in in a minute, you know and things are different at the moment obviously, this kind of strange times this whole examination is taking place under various different national and local lockdown restrictions on normal life if you like.

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And clearly the Coronavirus kinara excuse me Coronavirus pandemic brings its own worry and anxiety to everyday life, particularly for those in more at risk age and health groups do you consider that could have added keen 50 to existing issues around perception of risk for these projects?

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I imagine at the moment that people have a number of different concerns.

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Whether that adds to the cumulative impact of of a

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of a particular infrastructure project is difficult to say.

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Certainly,

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if you have an older age, then it's likely that you'd be potentially be screening for shielding sorry for longer and be at home with with limited access to interaction with other people, which then has an effect on on on one's mental health. I think everybody is understood that it's not something that I could have perceived and received into an assessment in 2019.

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But it's certainly something which needs to be considered in how

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how we communicate with people and how we consider their their responses to things, people, possibly more tense than otherwise. And it'll be little

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little comfort that, you know, their most significant impact connections between climate change and the actual pandemic that led to it and the bigger picture of what the project was doing. Because what people are worried about is, well, I'm at home, I need to be at home. And it's going to be noisy, which is why again, the community engagement and actually talking to people about how things are going to happen and giving people prior warning and explaining about what could potentially happen and how that's being managed and, and listening is the most important thing, and and also why these types of events are important so people can add their, their their concerns.

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Thank you That's useful. And in terms of curative effects, as well. I know that environmental statement, consider size We'll see.

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Do feelings around the promotion of the whole area as a and what we've heard in previous events, as the energy coast feed into wider notions and perceptions of risk as well.

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Clearly, for some people it does.

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I don't think we have any representation from people who would otherwise be more interested in the development of renewable energy in an area. We did. We have done assessments on things like tourism, and other types of people and their perceptions of energy developments. And that's been generally found to be non significant. people. People are pretty supportive of renewable energy.

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I think that's somewhat different to what the concerns are at the moment around the increasing development of substations.

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But from the information that I've seen of

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that's been published of the other things, there isn't enough to include that certainly was nothing to be included in the

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statement at the time.

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And it needs to be considered as the information comes forward. And those people are able to put more definition on what's what's happening. So it would vary.

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Okay, thank you very much, Mr. Chair for that. That was all the questions I had for yourself. I think. I have a couple of questions for Miss young.

1:49:04

And the first question I have for Miss young is I how would How would you characterise levels of anxiety in the community community affected by East Anglia free in circumstances where the measures proposed by East Anglia one worth were delivered?

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Sorry. How would I characterise levels of uncertainty for Estonia? Three? Yeah, once a one was already delivered.

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I'm so freestyling. So recently and one

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people were very concerned

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around the substation site

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was a particular village where people had major concerns because they were worried about the visual aspects, the noise, the light, etc, everything that we're addressing here. They were very concerned about that.

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We had special workshops with them and talked to them about these issues. We took the electrical engineer along as well as the landscape

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of manager. So they weren't concerned, they weren't concerned. And there were other issues were

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in the middle of the cable route, where there is an area where we narrowed the cable corridor down, because we had to get through a specific area.

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And again, there were major concerns there because they were worried it was a bit of a rat run, it was a place for getting into Woodbridge quickly, was also school run. So people are worried about those sort of things like schools, how are we going to get the children to school? how we're going to get to work? What happens if there's a road closure? You know, what about the noise? What about the working everything,

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and then landfill as well, there were concerns there because of the you know, just the nature of the work that we were doing. So people worried about that as well. So they weren't so much different, really, from what we're facing for these projects.

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I think the thing is, it was just longer. So we had a longer area.

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So less concentrated, I suppose is the thing to say.

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And I've been very surprised that we have managed to produce, we've gone through three years, we've of developing East Anglia, one constructing it, and it's now operational. And in the grand scheme of things we have not had so many people

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talking to us about their mental health issues or anything like that many of them have just

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understood that this is a construction project, they have welcomed the explanations that we have provided. And they have been very pleased to have a community liaison officer there who can address the issues and concerns that they had. And they also welcomed the fact that they been able to meet the construction team because I think that dispels a lot of the fears that people have if they can actually speak to people and say, I am worried about this, this and this. What are you going to do about it? And they receive an answer. I think that goes a long way to helping the whole process. So be honest, I think, how would I, I think

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that it's been a project where when you think about the number of people, the number of villages, we've actually most people have been accepting of it and understood that it is a construction project. And we've had very few people with actually saying they've they've had issues.

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So

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thank you death for us. I do think that the work that you undertook for East Anglia, one

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helped in terms of the later works for East Anglia free.

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Yes, I do. Yes, I do. Definitely. I think it's helped

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a great deal. Because I think,

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obviously first Angular three, it's the same thing route.

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Is dagger three is still to be built, obviously. But

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it certainly helped I think with the whole consultation process recently three, which, you know, was consented in in 2017. So definitely, I think it's definitely helped. I think the fact that we took we took very early decisions. This is thanks to the project manager at the time. And the work that was done by the project team, I think they, they took very early decisions to construct these projects, or put the ducks in pre Stanley or three at a very early stage. And as you know, we're now we're committed to doing that for these projects, too. So we were very aware that this is a rural community, that there's wide open spaces, that infrastructure can be seen and we are we're conscious of that. So we did take a decision to underground these cables for 37 kilometres. And at the time, that was quite groundbreaking. So part of the part because it was it was a new,

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a new approach to developing these projects. And so

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the the I think we were aware of

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the places like the deep end, for example, which is, you know, stunningly beautiful river and Marshall Creek and curtain Creek, etc. So again in the plans, that was all put under grant and I think that helped people enormously because they understood

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what we were trying to do and helping and when they met

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The HDD contractors, so we arranged a special meeting so they could they could talk to the contractors. And they, they put videos on to show how the process works. And it was it was actually quite surprising the number of people who we had quite a few retired engineers who were absolutely fascinated by hot process. So I think in terms of mental health, I think, if you you cannot, you cannot say that you can dispel everybody's fears. That's not what we're trying to do, I can't claim that I, you know, that the work that I do, lays everybody's fears, but what we can do is be accessible and tell everybody about the processes they see outside the front door. So if you live in a particular village, in the middle of a cane route for your family, or one

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you will know or didn't know, before we actually started the process, what would happen there in that in your, in your particular village, and that's what I would aim to do for these projects to I think it helps people

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to to be informed, and to have some certainty, and also know that they can speak to people. So I think I think that did pave the way and help with the Sangha three. Yeah.

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Just leading on from that, really, and I think you've kind of half onto this anyway. But do you think, obviously, you'd have seen that there are high levels of anxiety about these proposals,

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being repressed, written representations, and through our hearings before? Do you think there's anything additionally that the applicants could do to help decline levels of anxiety?

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I think what we're proposing to do will certainly help the the the events when the construction team, etc, I think they will certainly help.

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And I think it will also perhaps something that we could perhaps consider his visits to what happened on East Anglia, one where we've got the,

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the cable route, so you can see how you know, what it looks like now, and the fact that actually it has been buried. And when we talk about wide stretches of cable width, of sorry, of the of the actual working area, but eventually that is all buried, and it is not, it's already,

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it's already growing over in certain areas. So one thing that we might be able to show perhaps it would be a sort of a drone survey or something from apparently, from Google Earth, someone was reliably informing me that parts of it, you can't actually see anymore, because it's already disappearing, because nature

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is already reclaiming the area. So I think that's the thing that perhaps might help a lot of people living on the cable route, the team is doing a lot, too. They know they're working in a sensitive environment. We know there's an air of outstanding natural beauty. And there's an SBA.

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And they will do everything they can to minimise the impact. I mean, the other thing that I think it's worth saying is one of the things that Scottish proud to do very early on is to appoint people locally. So I'm locally based just across the border into Norfolk, but I'm still local. And my community liaison officer who's working on these projects is is a Suffolk personal individual. So we know the landscape. We know why people come to the area.

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And the fact that people love the wide open skies, the wildlife, etc. Once, I think with East Anglia, one example is that once the cables are in the ground, you won't have pilots, there's not going to be parlance as a scar across the landscape, it's going to be they will be buried. So I think if there's anything perhaps showing videos of that, or something like that, at some point might be might be helpful.

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And certainly, we will talk to as many people as required and if they will just come along, and I think, you know, meeting meeting the various contractors will help people. Thank you. Yes. Very useful. Thank you for that. I think that was all my questions. So thank you for that. Is there anything that the applicant wants to

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wants to say on this agenda item before we before we break?

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You select the app and I've got nothing further I don't know if Mr. Ennis has anything to add?

1:59:55

Go on the centre. Console backup No. Got nothing further. Thank you, sir.

2:00:00

Thank you, Mr. Ennis. I can't see the hand up from counsel fellows. But we'll say counsel for those who said, obviously, agenda item four, offers opportunities for you to present your own submissions, and as well as comment on on any matters that you've heard, raised by the applicants there in that agenda item. So I just took that can I just check the Miss young will still be present, though?

2:00:24

To answer specific questions I may have

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missed Yeah. Will you be still with us after the break? Yes, I can be with you. Yeah. Okay. Thank you for that. Okay. So, apologies for the late break, but if we break now, it's 12 o'clock. So if you break now till 1215 when we will start with agenda item four. Thank you.