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FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:04:15 - 00:00:23:22

Good afternoon and welcome, everybody. It's now 2:00 and I'm starting this open floor hearing for the application made by Equinor New Energy Ltd for an order granting development consent for the sharing of shale and such an offshore wind farm extension project.

00:00:25:18 - 00:00:35:23

We'll introduce ourselves in a few minutes. But before we do that, please bear with me while I go through some housekeeping matters. Can I just check that everyone can hear me all the way to the back of the room?

00:00:38:01 - 00:00:38:16

Two.

00:00:40:07 - 00:00:47:07

Could you confirm if livestream and recordings have started supine and.

00:00:50:11 - 00:01:25:15

Ms.. Harvey, were there any request for reasonable adjustments today? No. Okay. And there are no fire alarm drills. If the fire alarm sounds, please exit the building and congregate in the car park outside the main entrance. Toilets are located to the right after you exit the building. The story on two introductions. My name is Mishi. I have been appointed by the Secretary of State for levelling up Housing and Communities as the lead member of the examining authority to carry out an examination of the above application.

00:01:26:18 - 00:01:41:16

The examining authorities appointment letter can be found in the Examination Library with reference number PD Dash 005. I will hand over to other members of the examining authority to introduce themselves. Mr. McCarthy, could we start with you, please?

00:01:42:14 - 00:01:50:08

Good afternoon. I'm Ms.. McArthur. I've been appointed by the Secretary of State to be a member of a panel of inspectors to examine this application.

00:01:52:13 - 00:01:54:16

Good afternoon. I'm Mr. Manning, and.

00:01:54:18 - 00:01:58:02

I've been appointed by the Secretary of State to be part of the panel as.

00:01:58:04 - 00:01:58:21

Well. Thank you.

00:02:02:02 - 00:02:06:12

Good afternoon. My name is Mr. Remy. Inspector, appointed by the sector State for this examination.

00:02:08:15 - 00:02:13:05

Finally, Mr. Wallace and I have been appointed by the Secretary of State to be a member of this panel.

00:02:16:24 - 00:02:43:10

Also present today are members of the case team. Our case manager is Ms.. Louise Haraway. Ms.. Haraway is supported by Ms.. Tracey Williams at the venue and by Ms.. Her Prerecord and Ms.. Phoebe Challis Online. If you have any questions or concerns about today's events, please contact a member of the case team. The audio visual and Internet service today is provided by a team led by Mr. Raindrops.

00:02:46:15 - 00:03:06:04

I would like to welcome attendees today here at the venue and those watching the livestream. Welcome and thank you very much for joining us. I was not intending to ask attendees to introduce themselves. We will go straight into representations and we will ask you to introduce yourselves. If you are speaking just before you make your representations.

00:03:07:17 - 00:03:30:09

If that's acceptable to everyone, I will just go through my running order and we will go straight into the agenda. Second agenda item. So my running order today is closed and parish council first. Norfolk Parishes movement for an offshore transmission network. Second Aughton Parish Council Third Ms.. Alison Shaw.

00:03:31:22 - 00:03:34:11

Corpus Tea and Sax Thought Parish Council.

00:03:36:06 - 00:03:52:12

Jeremy Mayhew MP, Jonah Seafood and Miss Derek. Mr. Derek Aldous. Is there anybody else who is not registered to speak today who would like to speak today?

00:03:54:16 - 00:03:57:13

Could you state your name, please? It's.

00:04:00:18 - 00:04:10:08

Is it best if you spoke soon after Norfolk Parishes movement? Yeah. Okay. So I've put you down as number three.

00:04:15:15 - 00:04:16:05

Okay.

00:04:18:14 - 00:04:20:21

Thank you very much. Okay.

00:04:23:07 - 00:04:38:00

All right. So not taking any introductions and I'll swiftly move on to agenda item two, which is the procedure for running the open field hearing. I have five brief points to make under this item, under this agenda item.

00:04:39:22 - 00:05:14:17

First, a few words to acknowledge the format of the event today. This is a blended event and it allows attendance both in person and virtually through Microsoft teams. It is expected that both blended and fully virtual events will form part of the planning Inspectorate's future operating model. With the examining authorities attending this meeting from Norwich, as are several of the attendees. For those attending virtually, please be rest assured that you have a full attention, even though at times you're not looking at the camera to avoid visual and noise distractions.

00:05:14:19 - 00:05:26:01

Please, can you keep your cameras and microphones off unless we invite you to speak and we will take a break around 3:45 p.m. if it seems that the meeting will go on much longer.

00:05:27:21 - 00:06:11:17

The second point here is about general data protection regulation, GDPR. This event is being both livestreamed and recorded. The digital recording that we make are retained and published and they form a public record that can contain your personal information and to which GDPR applies. The planning Inspectorate's practice is to retain and publish recordings for a period of five years after the Secretary of State has made that decision. Consequently, if you participate in today's open floor hearing, it's important that you understand that you will be recorded and that you therefore, and you therefore consent to the retention and publication of the digital recording.

00:06:12:12 - 00:06:38:03

It's very unlikely that the examining authority will ask you to put sensitive personal information into the public domain. Indeed, we encourage you not to do that. However, if for some reason you feel that it is necessary for you to refer to sensitive personal information, we would request you to speak to the case team in the first instance, and then we will explore whether the information could be provided in written format, which might then be redacted before being published.

00:06:40:12 - 00:06:52:11

The third point to make is to just acknowledge that the applicant is present today, but they are only observing. We have invited the applicant to respond to the representations today in writing at DEADLINE. One.

00:06:55:02 - 00:07:08:00

The fourth point is to speakers to ensure that we're able to finish the business of the day on time. Please keep your representations brief and to the point. We encourage you not to repeat matters that you've stated in writing,

00:07:10:08 - 00:07:24:00

which, when invited to speak, please introduce yourselves by name and if relevant by your organization. It's important for the transcripts, recording and livestream for the examining authority, but also for other parties.

00:07:26:15 - 00:07:47:07

Just a point to make that this is the first open, full hearing of this examination. The purpose of this hearing is to provide an opportunity for parties to put their views forward verbally to the examining authority in line with Section 93 of the Planning Act 2008 and in line with rules 14 and 15 of the Examination Procedure rules 2010.

00:07:48:24 - 00:08:07:24

In light of the number of speakers, I think we have a total of eight now. We're imposing a time limit of 10 minutes. You don't have to fill all 10 minutes. We encourage you to keep within in the interest of fairness, I will enforce this time limit and I will indicate when you have 2 minutes left.

00:08:10:16 - 00:08:16:21

The examining authority may subsequently ask you questions about matters arising from that oral submission.

00:08:18:19 - 00:08:32:21

And the fifth and final point is to please submit a summary of your order of representation today in writing at DEADLINE one. I would remind you of this point before we close. Before we close the meeting.

00:08:35:13 - 00:08:37:19

Okay. Unless there are any questions.

00:08:41:19 - 00:08:46:09

I don't see any hands raised. I would move on to agenda item three.

00:08:49:04 - 00:08:50:11

Okay. Thank you.

00:08:50:20 - 00:09:09:16

I have the pleasure of introducing the first few interested parties. And as already indicated, first on the list was Causton Parish Council, who I understand on virtually every day. Thank you. And if you could just introduce yourself before you speak. And your 10 minutes will start when? When you start. Thank you very much.

00:09:10:15 - 00:09:55:00

Thank you. Good afternoon. I'm Chris Monk of Coastal Parish Council. And first, I'd like to say that we were prepared this morning to make exactly the same points as I was raised by Olsen Parish Council regarding cumulative impacts, national grid, alternative routes and methods. So we sit firmly behind that. Of course, the parish council is not opposed to wind farms. We're strong supporters of renewable energy and the drive to net zero, but we are totally opposed to badly sort out construction projects that could and should have been done better and done in a way that once the interests and welfare of Norfolk residents was fairly surely the very least our residents should expect is equality with kittiwakes.

00:09:56:19 - 00:10:38:16

This week. It's difficult for Colson to attend in person as roadworks that are part of the controversial traffic management scheme for all seven Vattenfall projects have closed on High Street for two weeks. This has caused much disruption and buses have been cancelled. This might be the first physical example of the impacts of three consented windfarm developments which would affect and over the years to come. But please take into account the CPC has already been heavily engaged in dealing with these proposals. For the last six years, this is included attendance at meetings and hearings, communications with residents, and especially the need to familiarize ourselves with thousands of pages of complex documents.

00:10:39:04 - 00:11:08:01

Also researching various assertions and statements which sometimes proved to be misleading. In recent months we spent many often frustrating hours trying to work with all set to achieve the least bad outcomes for our residents and improve communications. All of this, of course, is unpaid. Often using councillors personal resources and was simply worn out with nothing left to engage with this latest detailed proposal in detail.

00:11:10:06 - 00:11:45:11

That quinoa was healthy, that they alone will not route HGV traffic through the Central Coast. So this little impact on the community. This argument ignores the effects of noise, dust, vibration and the need for residents to travel outside the village for work, schools, medical appointments, etc., and for businesses to deal with deliveries and get their staff into work. The other developments are at least amended by working out to recognize this. Ecuador refused. Equitable might also imply that the eastern route around the village was designed to remove impacts.

00:11:46:07 - 00:11:54:04

In fact, this was the only space left for them. If approved, their cable route will complete the encirclement of our village. So it was no choice.

00:11:56:01 - 00:12:12:19

As well as the inadequate. B 1145. They could also plans to send traffic around the many minor unclassified roads in the area. These are often used for recreation by cyclists, walkers and horse riders. And we do suggest there is a road safety issue to be considered here.

00:12:14:14 - 00:12:35:13

In assessing cumulative impacts. We argue that there can be two approaches which we might describe as horizontal and vertical. The horizontal approach would consider a situation where two or more schemes overlap at the same time frame and a vertical view would look at the impacts of successive schemes over time. In Cawston, we would experience both of these.

00:12:37:00 - 00:12:57:21

In this case, we ask you to consider the situation and call some of the vertical perspective while still recognizing the horizontal issues. Equitable schemes will have several more years of disruption, so the effects of the three previous ones and we argue that this is an unacceptable load on a small rural community. Thank you.

00:13:03:03 - 00:13:04:08

Okay. Thank you very much.

00:13:04:14 - 00:13:05:20

For those contributions.

00:13:06:10 - 00:13:10:24

I did just have one question for you in relation to traffic and transport matters around Causton.

00:13:11:11 - 00:13:29:06

As you mentioned, there was reference to the applicant seeking to restrict movements through coast and vintage. It was really a question in terms of any wider impacts around courts than it might have had if you could expand on those matters and if there's any particular locations that were a concern to the parish council.

00:13:29:16 - 00:14:01:00

Well, we're using the 1145 from the BLM for nine to bring their loads into their site, but their site is to the east of the village. So they're using the BLM 45 on the east of the village. I believe you're going to the site tomorrow and Thursday as part of the ASI. So certain sort of noise issues there. When you do that, you'll find that. But I would suggest to you that the BLM 45 itself is not a road that suitable for a lot of HGV traffic.

00:14:01:09 - 00:14:38:22

So HGV can't pass in places on that. And we have demonstrated that from previous examinations with photographic evidence and so on to show how difficult it is with an HGV coming along across the

white line. I myself was forced off the road last year into a pothole, and that's a claim for a new tyre. So I've got personal experience of that. But also the other worry is the minor roads that the because of the route that they're using, there's a lot of traffic bits and pieces of traffic going around a very, very narrow roads that are virtually single lane.

00:14:41:09 - 00:14:49:15

And they're the ones that I feel used for recreational purposes by people. And that's that's going to are some road safety issues.

00:14:51:17 - 00:14:52:07

Okay.

00:14:52:09 - 00:15:00:06

Thank you very much, Mr. Monk, for those contributions. Just check that there's no other questions from the panel. Yes, there's another question for you I would just hand over. Thank you.

00:15:00:13 - 00:15:01:03

Thank you.

00:15:02:01 - 00:15:27:24

Mr. Monk, thank you very much for your representation. Just two things I want to pick up on. You said that some of the other Republicans have amended working hours, which is a request that Ecuador has has refused. Can you just expand on that? Can you expand on what kind of amended hours you've been looking for, what's been accepted elsewhere and what was not entertained by Ecuador?

00:15:28:22 - 00:16:03:15

That's correct. Well, basically, both Orsted and Vattenfall saw Hornsea three and Boris and Van got schemes have accepted. They would not pull HGV through before 9:00 in the morning and they would have a gap between I think it's after the 3:00, 4:00 or five, three, four, three up or so to cover a school. Now, still the school transport and people delivering their children to school and so on and so forth. They also agreed not to have any traffic going through on Saturdays.

00:16:04:01 - 00:16:15:07

So they've come down for five day week and we've put that to the school in a meeting and they just weren't interested. So we're not coming through the village, therefore we don't need to do that.

00:16:20:07 - 00:16:22:24

Thank you. The

00:16:24:15 - 00:16:58:05

second point the second point was regarding the photographic evidence that you said that you provided about the effect or the unsuitability of certain minor roads for gives. You've provided that evidence to other examinations. I just want to remind you that if the evidence is not in this examination, it can't be considered. So if you if you'd like us to consider that photographic evidence that you we request you to submit it as part of your written summary.

00:16:59:18 - 00:17:14:01

Yeah, it's actually it was about the 1145, so I can pick that out from previous files and send that on to you with those. When I put in written confirmation.

00:17:14:23 - 00:17:28:11

Okay. And just for avoidance of doubt, the point that you mentioned about the noise receptor that would be off visiting for the assay on Thursday. Would you like to just highlight what number on the itinerary that is?

00:17:28:17 - 00:17:31:08

Oh, I'm sorry, I don't have it in front of me.

00:17:31:20 - 00:17:36:12

No, that's fine. I think I know which one you're talking about. We just want to.

00:17:36:14 - 00:17:40:20

Ask one variable on the eastern side of the village on the 1145.

00:17:41:14 - 00:17:42:04

I.

00:17:43:14 - 00:17:46:18

11:45 p.m.. Okay. Thank you, Mr. mayor.

00:17:46:20 - 00:17:48:20

I think it's the last one you go to before lunch.

00:17:50:00 - 00:17:50:23

Fine. You can.

00:17:51:05 - 00:17:51:20

Run.

00:17:52:10 - 00:17:53:00

All right.

00:17:54:16 - 00:17:55:23

That's all from me.

00:17:57:22 - 00:17:58:12

Okay.

00:17:58:14 - 00:18:00:22

I definitely have the questions for you. So thank you very much.

00:18:00:24 - 00:18:04:23

Mr. Monk, for those comments on behalf of of course. And parish council was much appreciated. Thank you.

00:18:05:08 - 00:18:05:23

Thank you.

00:18:07:21 - 00:18:13:15

Okay. We'll move on to two Norfolk Parishes Movement for an offshore transmission.

00:18:13:17 - 00:18:16:21

Network, please. If you'd like to come forward. Thank you.

00:18:20:12 - 00:18:24:22

It is introduced with your name and what ten is, We start once you begin. Thank you.

00:18:25:17 - 00:19:04:20

The Madam Chair Examining Panel. I represent the Norfolk Parishes Movement for an Offshore transmission network. This group represents 95 parish councils which object to the current proposals as set out in this DCO. The fact that we have 95 parish councils united in their opposition to this DCO application is unprecedented. On a planning application in Norfolk. I am not here today, however, to campaign for an offshore transmission network, though that is clearly the correct solution to this type of planning application.

00:19:05:17 - 00:19:37:09

However, I wish to draw your attention to the strength and depth of feeling there is among the people of Norfolk about the intolerable cumulative impacts arising from this DCO application. Some parishes in this group will be directly impacted for the first time, but for many this is the latest in a series of disruptions to their lives and livelihoods and assaults on the environment around their communities. If this DCO is approved

00:19:38:21 - 00:20:16:00

as a sequential projects, it could be for some parishes the sixth or seventh time that a cable path will be dug through or very close to that community. It seems to us that this is completely unreasonable, especially considering that use of an alternative grid connection point in this case would substantially remove these cumulative impacts. We find it difficult to understand with even the most cursory look at the map of these offshore wind farm extensions in relation to Norfolk.

00:20:16:15 - 00:20:47:16

Why Norwich Main was considered to be the most appropriate grid connection point if any regard at all was given to the cumulative impacts of these projects on communities in Norfolk, an alternative grid connection point would have been selected. We are pleased, therefore, that at least this examining authority will consider properly all aspects of this application, but especially the impact on local communities and the environment.

00:20:48:23 - 00:21:28:06

If this DCO application is approved, the 95 parishes in our group plus indeed all the parishes in Norfolk will feel the effects. The DCO application before you today, if approved by itself, would result in the removal and ultimate replacement of over 100,000 tonnes of soil. The importation and disposal of 250,000 tonnes of rock. The whole roads, an increase of over 400,000 vehicle movements, often through the narrowest of country lanes, with some roads suffering an extra 1000 vehicles, mostly HGV and LCP, per day.

00:21:29:02 - 00:22:00:13

The effects on Woodland's drainage of our cultural land and tourism will last for years. The disruption to communities will be immense, with impacts on real people's lives and livelihoods. In contrast to the largely discussed disk exercise conducted by the applicant for the socio economic impacts section of their environmental statement. Our group actually represents north of people. We talk and listen to these people daily.

00:22:01:07 - 00:22:49:02

We hear their concerns firsthand. We know the land which they speak about so passionately. The owner, the smallholder in one of our parishes has explained in tears to their parish council that the Orsted Cable pass comes down one side of their property, while the equitable cables, the second deck, are proposed to come down the other side, rendering the Greens land unusable and putting their

livelihoods at risk. A person with special needs who seeks out a particular quiet spot in another parish, which is set to be on the cable path, is fearful that there will be well, there will not be another local peaceful spot he can relocate to locally for many months during the construction phase.

00:22:50:03 - 00:23:20:15

We have many similar individual stories we could tell, but the key point is that this continuous disruption from one after another, after another range in connection with offshore wind farms is simply intolerable. The construction phases for these projects could, with a current DCO application, extend well over a decade and coincide with other known and possible future cabling and construction projects.

00:23:22:01 - 00:23:55:07

We respectfully request that the examining authority does not condemn Norfolk to yet another unnecessary ill considered radio connection to Norwich Main. A grid connection at Walpole for this project must be considered. We ask Madam Chair, your panel to consider the cumulative impacts with the currently proposed Norfolk, Vanguard and Boreas projects, as well as the Hornsea three project, which is planned to follow an almost identical onshore cable path to the second depth cable pass.

00:23:56:01 - 00:24:24:13

It will not have escaped notice to even the developer. The developers of the other already approved eco rated connections that Orsted and Vattenfall have numerous concerns as submitted in their representations about the interference of the onshore cable plans with their own projects. Please also consider the cumulative impacts of the associated developments that will arise from the approval of this dossier. In particular, the National Grid.

00:24:26:05 - 00:25:05:19

It projected East Anglia Green Energy Enablement Project, EIA Green, which specifically sites the EQUINOR'S Second DEP and Orsted Hornsea three projects connecting them to Norwich Main and the need for electricity to percent south from Norfolk. Furthermore, electric electricity battery storage facilities are now being planned alongside the development of the new substation facilities in order to make best use of the power coming from the offshore projects. It seems to us essential that proper consideration is given to the impacts and fees associated projects in combination with the current DCO proposal.

00:25:06:24 - 00:25:41:18

As a group, we support the development of offshore wind farms to provide clean energy. However, we believe this should be delivered onshore in a way that is efficient and that minimises impacts onshore for communities and the environment. In this case, the applicant has accepted the grid connection point outcome from the sale process, seemingly without question, and neither they nor National Grid has disclosed the rationale. Considerations or differential costs have led to this conclusion.

00:25:42:13 - 00:26:13:19

Our group has continuously engaged with the applicant and raised our concerns about cumulative impacts and the use of an alternative grid connection point since well before the Phase two statutory consultation. The fact that alternative grid connection points are not even acknowledged by the applicant. Well, I'm not a surprise to us is completely unacceptable. Finally, Madam Chair, to add to our concern, the applicant now proposes, in effect, seven different scenarios for construction.

00:26:14:15 - 00:26:57:06

In some scenarios, just one or two projects may be delivered. The construction of almost all states Hornsea three project and Vattenfall, Vanguard and Borealis projects can bring in to Norfolk 2.4 gigawatts and 3.6 gigawatts respectively. Therefore, we cannot see the justification for the African

wanting to take approximately the same length and width of cable path with all its incumbent disruption and destruction through Norfolk for a mere 0.38338 and from set or .448 from debt.

00:26:57:18 - 00:27:01:07

These two scenarios one A and one be from the applicant.

00:27:03:05 - 00:27:34:00

The application before you could result in a mere one eighth or 1/10 of the all the projects. At what point does it cease to make sense? And in the planning balance, the costs of two communities and the environment outweigh the benefits of this relatively small amount of energy? I submit that this DCO application as it stands is without sense and scenarios. One in that one A and one B should be removed from the DCO.

00:27:35:11 - 00:27:59:24

Scenarios one, C and three and four, digging up the cable path twice, thus adding to the cumulative impacts of this DCO application. The huge cost, the environment and disruption to peoples lives and livelihoods. These scenarios is simply not justified. If the examining authority does decide to recommend

00:28:01:13 - 00:28:12:05

consent for this DCO application? DC Our application, Madam Chair, we maintain that it should only permit scenarios one and two. Thank you.

00:28:15:09 - 00:28:18:10

Okay. Thank you very much for that contribution.

00:28:19:07 - 00:28:38:16

Just a quick question for me. You mentioned the wool pope potential alternative, Greg connection. Obviously, we don't expect you to know the ins and outs of the national grid sort of infrastructure there. Then you the substations that the authority, the Dominion Authority should know about in terms of potential alternatives.

00:28:40:21 - 00:28:42:07

The right. I don't know all the

00:28:43:24 - 00:28:56:08

other alternatives that there are. I think there are a limited number in Norfolk. It's a circular route around the county, basically, but Walpole is certainly the nearest. If you're coming into Norfolk, there are other

00:28:58:06 - 00:29:03:21

grid connection points in Lincolnshire and I'm. Which have been used for other

00:29:05:17 - 00:29:07:09

offshore wind farms in the vicinity.

00:29:09:00 - 00:29:15:21

Okay. Thank you very much. You check if there's any other questions for you before. So, yes, there is one. Yeah. Thank you.

00:29:17:02 - 00:29:19:00

Thank you very much for that representation.

00:29:20:18 - 00:29:51:10

I have a few questions and a few comments. Bear with me. I need some time to just collect my thoughts. First question. Actually, you said 9 to 5 parish councils. That indeed is quite a large number. And, you know, in your written summary, you know, don't hold back. Tell us who those 9 to 5 are and indeed how many of them are in Norfolk and directly affected by this project? It would help us greatly to know that

00:29:52:23 - 00:30:28:11

an alternative grid connection. Mr. Manning already asked you about that question. Yes. So you've said that you support offshore wind farms, but you considered this and some of the others to be ill considered projects in terms of construction, adverse construction effects and. And I know this really is a question for the applicant, but it would be helpful for us to know what you think in terms of mitigation of some of those adverse effects the applicant could consider and has not considered.

00:30:32:01 - 00:30:36:11

Thank you, Madam Chair. I think what I would say is that the

00:30:38:18 - 00:30:59:08

as we said, we don't object to the offshore wind farms. What we believe is that this should have actually been done through an offshore transmission network, a fully integrated offshore transmission network, which would in fact lead to a number of other benefits, including cost savings, faster delivery, because you wouldn't have these.

00:31:01:02 - 00:31:07:11

Inquiries and so on. You certainly wouldn't have the threat of judicial reviews, which there are with these onshore

00:31:09:07 - 00:31:37:05

planning applications. So there is a number of other options that the applicant could have taken. The main one that we do fill it with without, if they're not going to pursue an offshore transmission network is that they could go via Walpole and it is within your powers, I think to recommend to the Secretary of State that there is a perhaps a split decision here where you grant the Offshore Wind Farm

00:31:39:00 - 00:31:51:09

Authority project and insist that they look at a different onshore connection which would alleviate these dramatic cumulative impacts. So that's

00:31:52:24 - 00:31:55:16

our suggestion and that approach.

00:31:58:01 - 00:32:00:02

So just a couple of things.

00:32:01:19 - 00:32:22:16

Assessment of alternatives is definitely is a key part of environmental impact assessment. It's going to be a key part of this examination, as you've seen in the initial assessment of principal issues. So rest assured, those points are not lost on us. It is you know, our written questions will demonstrate that we are considering that. So so that's one thing.

00:32:25:04 - 00:33:11:12

On the point of cumulative effects, this is not so much a question, but just just a comment that cumulative effects also is one of the areas that we are considering in a lot of depth of. We will explore

in a lot of depth the points that you've raised here. Is that is that cumulative effects not just with the other and six, but it's with some of these other what you call associated projects such as the East Anglia Green and the battery storage. And I do think that it's prudent for the examining authority to see if that approach to cumulative effects assessment is something what that's within the remit of this examination and indeed for the applicant applicant to consider.

00:33:11:14 - 00:33:20:01

So that's just, just a comment to make that and. I think. I think that's all, Mr. Manning. I think that's. That's all for me.

00:33:20:09 - 00:33:21:17

Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair.

00:33:22:10 - 00:33:24:17

Okay. Thank you once again for your presentation. Thank you.

00:33:26:16 - 00:33:32:14

Okay. Sandra Betts, if you would like to come up next, as previously discussed. Thank you.

00:33:35:10 - 00:33:37:08

And again, please begin when you're ready. Thank you.

00:33:40:17 - 00:34:01:13

Yes and yes. My name is Sandra Betts and I'm a member of the Norwich Parish Movement, which is an offshore transmission network. I'm a parish councillor for Offerton around Plymouth and a resident of this county. I cannot stress enough that whilst we are fully supportive of offshore wind farms, we do not see.

00:34:01:15 - 00:34:02:13

Any reason why.

00:34:02:15 - 00:34:16:06

The word green is attached to this type of energy. Bringing it onshore and across Norfolk only leads to the further ruin of our green and pleasant land, damaging the environment and causing disruption to people's lives

00:34:18:04 - 00:34:49:20

to minimise the impact. We strongly support the proposal that the Planning Inspectorate investigates ignores projects connecting through the Wash to Walpole substation or to the idle Sutton Bridge Power Station. Not only will this caused minimum impact to the community and the environment, it would lessen the cumulative impacts caused by Orsted's Hornsea three. But enfolds various bungoma Norfolk County Council's major road developments, particularly the A47 project and the Western bypass.

00:34:50:24 - 00:35:12:16

It feels that whichever way we turn, it will soon be made diversion signs for years to come. This is destructive for communities and businesses, including tourism. Nobody will want to visit Norfolk constantly stuck in traffic jams. National Grid must be asked to justify Equinor's plans to disrupt crucial.

00:35:12:18 - 00:35:13:17

Choke points.

00:35:14:01 - 00:35:18:20

And cross the county. Instead, the sensible solution of connecting at Walpole.

00:35:20:07 - 00:35:51:23

I know from my part of petitioners the impact this has, and whilst we would remain very angry if the connection point is not changed, we would be absolutely furious that North was allowed to carry out and death projects sequentially. Should the Planning Inspectorate not see fit to recommend an alternative connection point, then at least they can recommend that seconded projects are carried out as one project onshore. I trust the Planning Inspectorate in full consideration to the points least.

00:35:54:23 - 00:35:55:13

Okay.

00:35:55:17 - 00:35:58:09

Thank you very much again for your representation.

00:35:59:03 - 00:36:00:16

Are there any questions from.

00:36:00:20 - 00:36:04:15

Anyone on the panel? Mr. Wallace. I think as a question. Thank you.

00:36:05:13 - 00:36:34:23

Sorry. Can see behind the cameras there. And it's only just a quick question. Again, we're talking about the the Walpole substations now turn active and to avoid impacts on communities. If we take the cable back up, if you like, to where it makes land for Weybourne again, concerns specifically about Weybourne as a landfill site or could it be, for example, concerning Weybourne to Walpole? Or is there somewhere else you're thinking of?

00:36:35:02 - 00:36:42:11

No. The reason that we take Walpole is because the distance from Walpole to the wash. Obviously we've

00:36:44:11 - 00:36:55:11

got concerns obviously for the short drop beds, but of course after you get through, we've had enough of this already. You could then cross all county to Norwich mean.

00:36:57:13 - 00:36:58:03

Thank you.

00:36:59:13 - 00:37:02:24

Okay. Thank you. I think Mr. McArthur had a question as well.

00:37:04:00 - 00:37:06:24

I do think you both yourself and the previous.

00:37:09:09 - 00:37:10:12

Submission have.

00:37:11:15 - 00:37:12:14

Gone into some depth

00:37:14:08 - 00:37:41:22

on the subject of scenarios and I wonder, and I appreciate that you will only speak for yourself, but I wonder whether it's generally the view or certainly your view that the applicant's reasons for proposing the number of scenarios that they have is sufficiently robust and clear enough to be understood why they have submitted the number of scenarios that they have.

00:37:42:18 - 00:37:44:22

I do not think I'm qualified to answer that.

00:37:47:02 - 00:37:47:17

Okay.

00:37:50:00 - 00:37:58:23

Get 90 just under my share of scenarios. I think it is something that we're obviously going to explore in some depth

00:38:00:17 - 00:38:08:06

and some of the justification for the sequential development of Second and DEP

00:38:09:21 - 00:38:22:16

that the applicant has provided. It's obviously for the applicant to states, but is to ensure some flexibility into the DCO application because of processes that are outside of their control.

00:38:24:06 - 00:38:40:20

And is there any in that point, you know, I appreciate your qualification, but is there any mitigation if seven that were to be recommended for, you know, that that you feel would would alleviate some of the adverse effects?

00:38:41:00 - 00:38:43:01

I can't see anything yet.

00:38:50:14 - 00:39:01:08

Okay. These are were the questions for you. Thanks again for coming along this afternoon and for your representation. Thank you. I think now I'm going to hand over to Mr. Rennie, who will go through our next interested party.

00:39:01:10 - 00:39:02:00

Thank you.

00:39:04:02 - 00:39:09:00

Good afternoon. I'd like to call for the representative from Alton Parish Council.

00:39:16:09 - 00:39:21:08

Good afternoon. My name is Susan Mather. I'm chair of Autumn Parish Council.

00:39:23:05 - 00:39:53:15

Alton Parish Council have actively participated in three offshore wind farm projects. We have attended hearings and submitted written responses as and when information was requested. Parish counselors and volunteers. And we have had to become well informed over these past years. And we certainly do not take on these examinations lightly. We make sure we provide reasoned arguments and detailed and relevant information.

00:39:54:05 - 00:40:26:16

However, project by project, we are seeing more complex, cumulative issues. It is fair to say we are all a little battle weary. Damage limitation has been an eventual remit for our communities. There has to come a point where burdening the same areas with multiple infrastructure projects breaks communities and with its volunteers. Yet here we are again with a Sheringham and Dudgeon Extension project.

00:40:27:21 - 00:41:00:15

Economou were keen to point out that they were going to share a cable route and infrastructure. Therefore, they claim it fits in with a coordinated approach as part of the offshore transmission network. This project, however, will still in effect be another point to point construction. This goes against the conclusions from the Offshore Transmission Network review, which stated that a more coordinated offshore approach to the grid would lessen the impact from point to point projects on local communities onshore.

00:41:01:22 - 00:41:32:23

It should be noted that East Anglia was scoped out of the offshore transmission network review by. Alton is currently about the impact of this year by Hornsea three, whose main construction compound with its associated traffic for the entire duration of the cable route construction. This will be followed later in the year by Norfolk Warriors and Vanguard with their onshore cable route and cable logistics area. Alton has.

00:41:33:11 - 00:42:07:16

Alton also has a consented solar farm, which is about to be constructed on the same site. We're sharing them in Dutch and proposed to run their cable route. For one property. Cumulative impacts will be a daily occurrence over several years. They have yet to see weather mitigations carried out to lessen the impact of 214 daily HD vs from consented projects will be adequate, or whether additional traffic and construction from Sheringham and dudgeon will have further impacts.

00:42:08:14 - 00:42:17:18

For another property, the cable route proposed from for sharing them in Dutch and will run beside their property along with the impact of proposed.

00:42:17:20 - 00:42:19:00

Horizontal directional.

00:42:19:02 - 00:42:58:00

Drilling going under the solar farm next to their property at a depth yet to be agreed. Along with the only access to that property crossed by a cable route. These scenarios are replicated across Norfolk from this project and other already consented projects. Communities will experience localised delays on the road network from cumulative traffic over several years. I question then the implications of multiple projects on agricultural land, take and disruption from these projects on agri businesses and other commercial enterprises.

00:42:58:20 - 00:43:30:11

The supply chains ability to deliver to multiple projects and the environmental impact of supplying the materials needed, as well as the cumulative impact from large four lanes of traffic from this project. And consent and consented projects on local communities consented offshore wind farm projects will be generating power which will go into a grid which has not been upgraded and cannot use all of its generated capacity on very windy days.

00:43:30:13 - 00:44:08:00

Projects where we asked to stop generating because of overcapacity and will receive constraint payments. These payments are paid for by the UK energy consumer. This is the cart before the horse

scenario. National Grid are proposing to upgrade the grid with the East Anglia Green Project, but that project has yet to be examined or determined. With a proposed output from consented projects being greater than the current national grid capacity than it would appear to be convincing critics the final outcome for East Anglia agreed.

00:44:09:02 - 00:44:25:17

I would also question the reasoning behind bringing power 60 kilometres onshore and then moving that power out of Norfolk by 180 kilometres of pylons to London. Cumulative impact will need to feature heavily in this examination. Thank you.

00:44:29:07 - 00:44:53:05

Thank you. Just a couple of questions I've got. First of all, just to say that, as we mentioned, the cumulative impacts will be considered as part of the examination. Just to clarify, is it the cumulative impacts that you are primarily concerned about? For example, have you also set out any concerns about the impact of this proposed development only for your parish council area?

00:44:53:13 - 00:45:26:13

Well, as I said, we've got all of the offshore wind farm project are impacting Oulton. So although we've had mitigations in the form of traffic, mitigations in the way of a highway interventions scheme which Orsted and Vattenfall Orsted have put in place and Vattenfall will remove it at the end of their project. There is some query as to whether how economic fitness, if they will be using the same access route.

00:45:27:08 - 00:46:01:24

And we're also concerned that the be 1149, which has at least three access points along there. I I've noticed that there's a temporary compound along that road which I now seems to have included another access points I was aware of to the top of the seas to be a third. And given the amount of traffic already going along that road, I would have concerns about additional traffic turning off for these access points.

00:46:02:01 - 00:46:23:23

I realize that they're not all going to be used at the same time, but they will have implications. The two properties that I mentioned are already impacted with the other project, so I do have concerns that they might still be further impacted by additional traffic and construction.

00:46:25:16 - 00:46:38:00

Thank you. I also ask it in a sort of broad sense. Are you satisfied from the summit details so far with the Africans approach to human to impacts?

00:46:40:23 - 00:46:56:01

That's a hard question to answer. I think we always we have a lot of documents to read and sometimes we don't know the full impacts until we sort of move along and the examination. So.

00:46:58:19 - 00:47:26:14

I feel that they've set out there impacts. But at this stage, I'm not wholly happy that it's taken into consideration the other impacts of the other offshore wind farms. It seems to be that because we're in the middle of the 60 kilometres, that's why we're impacted basically in the same way that land forward and substation areas are.

00:47:28:03 - 00:47:37:08

And Stan, thank you. Just one last thing you mentioned about the the grid needing updating. Is that is that in particular relation to the Norwich main substation?

00:47:38:24 - 00:48:08:13

Yes. I understand that National Grid has got several projects of upgrades and specifically this area. So East Anglia Green. It seems to me that a lot of applications have been put forward to making net zero happen, but it didn't quite at this. It isn't quite joined up because the obviously the grid can't cope at the moment with everything that could possibly be generated.

00:48:09:04 - 00:48:18:13

Do you have evidence or submitted evidence at the moment to do with whether it needs to be upgraded as a consequence of this proposal?

00:48:18:20 - 00:48:38:14

All I'm aware of is that when we have a well, I suppose local authority planning, we've had the solar farm and if you look at the UK power networks, which is the local distribution network, that on their mapping it goes over.

00:48:40:21 - 00:48:53:16

There are constraints in the area, which means that what is generated can't be fully used. So I think that probably applies pretty much across all of these projects at the moment.

00:48:54:03 - 00:48:57:12

Hmm. Okay. So I understand. Thank you very much. So any other questions?

00:48:59:01 - 00:49:13:11

Thank you for that representation. This, me, that that was very, very helpful. And I just want to say both to yourselves and Mr. Monk, both of you talked about how many examinations you've been engaged with,

00:49:15:13 - 00:49:39:04

the effect that's having on you personally, on your time and your resources. And I just want to emphasize that that your time and contribution is hugely appreciated and actually valuable to these examinations. And the only reason I'm making that point is to encourage you to keep engaged, because it is very important for us to have

00:49:40:17 - 00:50:11:04

to have input from you and just to understand how it affects your communities. And in that regard, you don't have to answer this now. But I would encourage you just on the back of what Mr. Rennie has already asked you is to spell out we understand the cumulative effects, but it would be helpful for us to understand the effects of this proposed development on Olton Alton Street and the two specific properties that you've mentioned.

00:50:11:06 - 00:50:52:04

So if you could tease that out for us, that would be helpful. And I'll just highlight just just as a matter of comparison. And while cumulative effects was the main thing that caused in parish council, Mr. Monk was talking about, but he did talk about, for instance, and the effect it would have on deliveries, for instance, even if that cable corridor was not going through Causton or indeed the noise effects for people living nearby. So, you know, those sorts of things would be helpful for us to understand the specific effects of this proposed development and then indeed the cumulative effects with respect to all the other projects that you've mentioned.

00:50:52:15 - 00:50:55:08

So we look forward to hearing something that will.

00:50:55:10 - 00:51:05:07

Include that in our written submission. Yeah. We also have a suggestion for the company's site inspection areas as well, which will include.

00:51:07:11 - 00:51:14:00

So as you're aware, the one of these days, the afternoon is already final but deadline one for this I. Amazing. Okay.

00:51:14:07 - 00:51:15:00

Thank you very much.

00:51:15:03 - 00:51:16:18

That's all for me Mr. Any Thank you.

00:51:17:00 - 00:51:17:15

Thank you.

00:51:19:17 - 00:51:21:13

Mr. Manning's. Sorry. Just let before.

00:51:21:15 - 00:51:56:16

You run off. I did just have one other just one other comment strike request really. And it links to the question just now in terms of engaging and I think probably goes for the course and parish council as well. Obviously there was concerns raised about particular areas for traffic and transports and it's really just a request that when you provide your submissions that it's very clear where those concerns lie in terms of. There was reference to to actually be he's not been able to pass each other before and and not see the applicants produce links as as some maps attached to the environmental statement.

00:51:56:18 - 00:52:02:13

So if you could refer to the links as well. So it's very clear for us where your concerns lie. That would be much appreciated.

00:52:02:15 - 00:52:04:24

I probably will as a map. Maps.

00:52:05:19 - 00:52:06:18

Map maps. Again, thank you.

00:52:07:24 - 00:52:09:01

Okay. Thanks for. Thank you.

00:52:09:03 - 00:52:09:18

Very much.

00:52:11:16 - 00:52:14:19

Thank you. Can I just call up now? Miss Allison Shaw?

00:52:20:02 - 00:52:27:11

Mr. Coach, just just to clarify, are you speaking now as a representative of the parish council or are these wrong comments?

00:52:28:19 - 00:52:43:03

Good afternoon. And indeed, I'm speaking today principally as a resident voter and as an individual, but I am also a longstanding member of the parish council and a founding member of the parishes Movement for Newton.

00:52:45:06 - 00:53:05:03

I'd like to speak briefly on on three points. Firstly, on cumulative effects on the health of individuals and communities. Six years ago, [REDACTED], looking forward to cultivating my vegetable garden and reading the huge pile of books beside my bed. This was not to be.

00:53:06:19 - 00:53:37:07

This subject proposal is the fourth such and soup application to hit Norfolk. As has been said, she already several times today. During the whole of these past six years. My disposable time and energy has been consistently dominated and regularly overwhelmed by the need to research and respond to this successive wave of piecemeal and soup applications from offshore wind farms through organising meetings, attending hearings and writing detailed evidence based submissions to over 14 minutes deadlines.

00:53:38:20 - 00:53:45:05

My health has been affected. My wellbeing has been eroded and I have been robbed of my peace of mind.

00:53:46:24 - 00:53:48:16

And I am not alone in that.

00:53:50:05 - 00:54:07:00

For the sake of my own mental and physical health and that of my family, I cannot contemplate engaging again for another six months on this pitch. Other people will bravely step into the breach and already have. That the cost is enormous.

00:54:08:16 - 00:54:43:07

At a parish council level. I yearn for the days when we used to have time to look after our footpaths and contribute active support to community projects. Instead, our parishes are neglected and we now have difficulty even in recruiting new councillors as our current preoccupations are not enticing. In this respect without any one of these projects yet having got fully underway is construction. The cumulative negative effects on communities have already been devastating.

00:54:44:08 - 00:55:16:03

Up and down the cable routes for Hornsea three Vanguard boroughs and now septet. Like communities who are debilitated, demoralized and depleted of optimism about their future. Many will not now engage with this end step process, not for lack of interest or concern. With a lack of ability to muster the resources to do so. This is a seriously damaging situation and I hope the examining authority will examine it seriously.

00:55:17:06 - 00:55:22:18

Secondly, the cumulative erosion of confidence in the planning process.

00:55:24:06 - 00:56:05:19

I have been tempted to appear before you today dressed as a kittiwake, if only to draw attention to the fact that over the past four years and three other six month and six examinations, we have learned to our cost that seabirds are afforded better protection in international and environmental law than is afforded by a UK planning law to its own human communities. This has been a startling discovery.

Try as other panels have to seriously consider the weighting they should give in the planning balance to the damage caused by these projects to the onshore environment and communities.

00:56:06:09 - 00:56:40:23

Every panel has felt obliged in the end to set those impacts aside in favour of the benefit of the renewable energy produced. Only the fate of kittiwakes has prompted the recommendation to refuse. Which has, of course, in every case been overturned by successive secretaries of state. This result must have been painful for the panels concerned, but it is acutely painful for us to contemplate that this examining authority might simply tread this same unprofitable path.

00:56:42:09 - 00:57:10:03

The power imbalance in the energy process is stark. The applicants have deep pockets, salaried permanent staff and intimate knowledge of and privileged access to every part of the arcane process from the Crown estate leasing round through Scion and DCO and CFD to final construction. Individuals and communities have absolutely none of these resources.

00:57:11:19 - 00:57:42:18

Gravely. However, they have sought to participate in the process as Pence invites them to do. Only to be, in the end ignored. This experience over several years has been severely damaging to the faith communities and individuals now have in the fairness of the planning process. And that loss of faith can only do damage to a key element in the Democratic consensus of the. Society. However, this is not a cry for pity.

00:57:43:07 - 00:58:10:18

This is an urgent appeal for outbreak rationality. Despite all of the above, we have learned to have the utmost respect for the conscientious and forensic way in which successive panels have examined the issues generated by these applications. Their failure to have a positive effect on the final decision has not reflected badly on their work on the limitations of the process itself.

00:58:13:01 - 00:58:44:10

However, finally, this separate project is readily capable of a better solution. Which leads to my final point. The Septet project has one unique characteristic in terms of Norfolk, in that it is a near shore wind farm close to the wash and an alternative, much less damaging onshore grid connection could be made available. There is considerable evidence for the viability of a connection at Walpole or the adjacent currently mothballed.

00:58:45:12 - 00:58:48:00

Gas fired power station at Sutton Bridge.

00:58:49:16 - 00:59:21:18

Examination on this issue from several interested parties agreed a connection at Whirlpool would eliminate at a stroke the extensive damage to the onshore environment and communities of Norfolk represented by the use of Norwich Main. It would also avoid entirely the unfortunate suspicion of predetermination of consent for the East Anglia Green Project to guarantee sufficient capacity for the onward transmission of electricity generated by September when added to Hornsea three.

00:59:22:24 - 00:59:34:13

I will leave the details. Such a transphobic connection to another time. Suffice it to say, now that I urge the examining authority to thoroughly explore a change to the connection point.

00:59:36:20 - 00:59:54:19

In the pursuit of clarity on this issue, it will be essential for the examining authority to request the active participation in this examination of national bread, who has thus far resisted all efforts to involve them in explaining what is, in effect, their handiwork.

00:59:56:17 - 01:00:08:05

We all know that you can't make an omelet without breaking eggs. But far more eggs are being broken here than is necessary. Thank you for your time.

01:00:12:12 - 01:00:15:00

Thank you very much for any questions.

01:00:18:09 - 01:01:10:02

Yes. Thank you very much for that. You should that. And I really do appreciate you coming out again to speak to us on this. There's just one query that I've got from my mind and you mentioned about the parishes have been neglected because obviously attention has been focused elsewhere in terms of that that attention elsewhere. Has the parish engaged with the applicant of either this or the other proposals in terms of getting some benefit for the community there in terms of perhaps negotiating for improvements to its networks, the buildings, any sort of planning gain, if you like, for for the village? Is there anything that that's been agreed on previous schemes or that you're seeking on the current one?

01:01:12:18 - 01:01:17:13

It's a it's sorry, it's it is a contentious issue.

01:01:20:01 - 01:01:20:16

When.

01:01:23:07 - 01:01:30:16

But when the issues that we've experienced in the parish and residents have experienced because they have definitely come along with this onus,

01:01:33:06 - 01:01:44:14

once a full understanding was was was gained by many people of how this could have been strategically planned so much better by government and offshore and national grid.

01:01:46:16 - 01:01:57:22

They have fought many people have contributed to the many residents, individual residents have contributed to the to the previous applications, to the combinations of Orsted and Vattenfall.

01:01:59:10 - 01:02:40:10

There is a big falling off now. People are desperate to get back to their lives. And it's not over. It's not over here. It's still not over. But they they they are going back to their lives. And I don't think our parish of Alton is alone in that. And as has been mentioned already by previous speaker, we we have had to we have we are now having to my two horses having to write us as parishes and parish councils. We are having to ride the horse of continuing with another to engage with another and examination this one and to switch to damage limitation as the others get the way.

01:02:41:02 - 01:03:12:24

And that's big time in in all said sorry in ocean because all said we all the main construction we are forced to be the main construction compound for orsted and they have already started so they are on pre-construction but it's pretty major because it's the highway intervention schemes that ultimately already had theirs. And it's now in Causton High Street. But it's all coming. It starts off every morning

and then goes off to cross and comes back to ocean. And that will only grow and grow and grow and grow.

01:03:14:11 - 01:03:20:20

I think they start in the cable pass construction in March. Now, sorry to come back to your point about community benefit.

01:03:23:21 - 01:03:55:05

The back and forth has always been very interested in promoting the concept of community benefit, but they are not underway yet with their project that they're well ahead on their community benefit scheme and Orsted Has it been a bit the other way round? But they are starting their construction and are now hurriedly putting together that community benefit scheme or promote the promotion of it anyway. I don't know if this is understandable to to the panel, but there is something deeply insulting.

01:03:58:04 - 01:04:15:18

About being invited to put a lot more work into putting in bids. To a kind of lottery to win a ticket to compete against other communities who are also affected. For what is in fact, a rather small pot of money.

01:04:17:10 - 01:04:37:09

It is just another job for volunteer counselors who are now depleted. We used to be seven. We had been five. We came down to five counselors for a couple of years because nobody would join us because all we were doing was three and strip examinations. And who wants to join in that?

01:04:39:00 - 01:04:56:10

But to return to the community benefit, we are not going to sitting as a parish council. We are not going to cut off our parishes nose to spite our face by saying we are too tired to now get together bids for things that we may or may not win.

01:04:58:20 - 01:05:16:22

So you do it. But but we will encourage people and people are beginning to get together. The church is beginning to think about how to use my comment, which, to be honest, L.Z. will find forthcoming. It must be all says Community benefit Scheme. Statutory compensation would be more appropriate in my in my view,

01:05:18:18 - 01:05:51:19

clearly, obviously, and for obvious reasons, landowners are compensated for compulsory acquisition. And so they should be if these things go when these things go ahead. But communities and individuals and businesses are not, as I say, the community Benefit fund idea probably sounds like a very good idea some time up in Westminster, but it feels feels pretty rough down here. The community benefits schemes because it's just another job and it is a it is a continental.

01:05:51:21 - 01:06:01:15

And I mean, I will be perfectly frank with you here in case it's the last time I see you. And I have nothing to lose. Nothing more to lose, which is I.

01:06:03:22 - 01:06:34:24

I can't bring myself to go cap in hand. Not. Not that I have anything personal against any of these developers at all. And as has been said already by previous speakers, we are all, all of us, deeply in favour of renewable energy and offshore wind. But when somebody like Vattenfall, an excellent developer at issue here is an example of the type, which is an example of the position we are in and the kind of stresses we are under.

01:06:35:01 - 01:07:09:03

When somebody like Vattenfall comes along to a village hall near us and we go along to be taught about that community, you have to explain to us about their community benefit fund, and they tell us that they're going to teach us how US communities are going to teach us resilience and they're going to teach us how to live smarter and greener. I find myself wanting to scream and I find myself going to scream things like, I've been living green for the last 67. You know, that's not true. This certainly for the last 45 years, and maybe I've forgotten more than you'll ever know about living green.

01:07:09:05 - 01:07:40:02

I'm an organic smallholder in my so-called spare time that I haven't got anymore. And so it is hard it's a very hard thing to do. But I have to say, we are not discouraging people in the community from approaching the community benefit funds, but that's statutory compensation for communities. And when they when they you put that to developers and say, well, how would we distribute that? It's easy. There are parish councils and we have, you know, signed cases to conduct and we would not mismanage such funds.

01:07:40:09 - 01:07:46:14

However, I know that's beyond the remit of this of this panel, but I hope some answer to your question.

01:07:47:19 - 01:08:21:12

That is indeed. And thank you very much for that. Thank you. And I have no further questions, but I understand my colleague, Mr. McArthur may have for you and thank you somewhat link to to the previous question, but I suppose perhaps a little more existential and. I think particularly prompted by some of the comments that you made in relation to the struggles that parish councils generally find themselves in, in terms of recruiting members.

01:08:22:08 - 01:08:28:17

Is is Norfolk still an attractive place to live? Pardon. Is not it still an attractive place to live?

01:08:29:04 - 01:08:30:07

Is is Oulton.

01:08:30:16 - 01:08:31:06

Norfolk?

01:08:31:08 - 01:08:37:15

A Norfolk is is Norfolk still an attractive place to live? At this moment.

01:08:38:17 - 01:08:40:01

Yes. I'm looking forward.

01:08:41:07 - 01:08:42:18

And I'm looking forward.

01:08:46:18 - 01:08:47:19

It's very.

01:08:49:18 - 01:09:22:19

That also won't be an attractive place to live for the next five, six, eight. It's hard to tell. Depends whether step in depth sequentially, etc., etc. or concurrent and how long everybody takes. I have to say that the and I won't dwell on this, but I will drop it in very our very first experience of a road

closure was just before Christmas well November and it was or said closing our raging wish to turn it from a country lane into an industrial slip road for their purposes.

01:09:24:07 - 01:09:55:01

And it was supposed to be for weeks, which is quite a long time for the sudden access of your village to be closed entirely. And it was six weeks. Why? Because there was a bit of weather and this and that. So Norfolk as a whole, we absolutely we have researched this for Orsted and for Vattenfall. We had to for those days examinations to really try and think what will actually happen to this traffic coming in.

01:09:55:04 - 01:10:29:04

It depends which ports they come in, they come in at Grimsby. How how many? 1121 cable cable though loaders just for all study, etc., etc.. I know this has changed. Everything changes all the time that this is the numbers that we in this numbers we started with, we were given with it come in at Great Yarmouth. If so, what route north that will be as a county. Completely transformed by it. If these if these three cable paths are up, two of them already consented.

01:10:30:02 - 01:10:58:21

Authors and materials. And if this is this third one, which has already been mentioned, yes, it will be slightly narrower because it's only 720 megawatts instead of, you know, 3.6 gigawatts, etc., etc.. But but actually, we're talking the odd meter here. In fact, they are digging up another wide path, having to dig up to do it and another wide path from north to south Weybourne down to Norwich, Maine.

01:11:00:19 - 01:11:22:14

Alongside but but not alongside Orsted's. And and the construction of these things is is for all the the the beauty and the magnificence and the power of the offshore wind turbines and how and the engineering of them I mean which are spectacular. Which is spectacular.

01:11:24:03 - 01:11:34:05

The digging of the Khyber Pass is is Stone Age technology by comparison. And what we in in recommending

01:11:35:20 - 01:12:05:24

Walpole on Sutton and or Sutton Bridge to Akron all which we have done for oh at least two years I would say to the project team and also higher up within Ecuador. We have been in correspondence with them. We've never received any sort of detailed answer as to why this is not possible to renegotiate with that national grid. Any contract, any commercial contract can be renegotiated with the agreement of both sides. I mean, it happens all the time.

01:12:06:12 - 01:12:44:02

So all it needs is National Grid an echo to want to do it. And they could do it, but we're not, by the way, recommending as a group of people that that the north coast, onshore north coast of of Norfolk should be dug up instead. That's not what we're recommending. We're recommending recommending the consideration of a subsidy cable, a subsidy ex export cable, taking into account the Saxon and the seas as assets and so on and offshore rounding to the wash and short way up.

01:12:44:04 - 01:13:17:21

The mean to either Sutton Bridge or to will come and I'm so so I can't remember the question what was it like what would you be like living No if it. Well yes it also will be I don't know if it's a technical term, but it will be trash for the next living in. It will not be comfortable or particularly pleasant or easy for the next four, six or eight years, depending. And that's a ha. I mean, I hope I live long enough. I hope so. I'm not I'm not asking for pity. But, you know, I am at the end of my life ish and I would have liked it to be different.

01:13:17:23 - 01:13:51:23

I would have liked my my, my, my last few years in Ocean to have been different from that. But the whole of Norfolk will be diversions and and and and road closures a some some predictable some not predictable because of a we've we've had to extend that one for a fortnight and I think will go on like that for years and years now Orsted and Vattenfall have already been consented of course. But why, how can we justify, how can anybody justify adding another major project like that to the already toxic mix we are facing?

01:13:54:02 - 01:14:06:02

Thank you. I do appreciate the enormity of asking you to speak for the whole of Norfolk. You did admirably, but your points are very well noted. Thank you.

01:14:06:16 - 01:14:07:06

Thank you.

01:14:07:19 - 01:14:10:24

I don't have any further questions. Thank you very much.

01:14:18:18 - 01:14:29:03

So we will move on now to the representation from Corpus and Sex or Parish Council, which I believe is coming to us virtually online at least.

01:14:37:22 - 01:14:40:00

Do we have Professor Barnett on the line?

01:14:43:23 - 01:14:48:15

We did. And we might have literally just lost him at the last minute.

01:14:49:09 - 01:14:50:23

Come on, you. Oh.

01:14:51:11 - 01:14:53:00

Yes. Yeah.

01:14:53:24 - 01:14:59:18

Maybe. Should we move on to the next the next one while we wait for this opponent, hopefully to come back to us?

01:14:59:24 - 01:15:00:14

Yeah.

01:15:01:22 - 01:15:03:08

Mr. Parry, could you.

01:15:06:02 - 01:15:13:12

No. So this is the next speaker. Mary, could you in the meantime, speak to Professor Smith and say, oh, there he is. Okay.

01:15:15:09 - 01:15:16:20

I apologize. Sorry, Jeremy.

01:15:20:15 - 01:15:55:20

Do you want me to do that? Yes. Please do. Please tell us who you are, and I will. And. Okay. So my name is Tony Barnett. I'm a parish councillor representing Corp Estate and Stack Stoke Parish Council. At capacity is about five kilometres or so north of Alton Orton Street. But I also speak in my professional capacity as variously a former professor or a research fellow at the London School of Economics and at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and currently visiting Professor LSC and a professor at the Royal Veterinary College.

01:15:56:16 - 01:16:26:21

In all these capacities, I research the social and economic impact of large scale events on the health and welfare populations usually associated with zoo, not diseases internationally. Nowhere, I found authorities less concerned about local communities than in the case of these wind farm projects. I endorse all the comments made by the previous speakers, particularly the heartfelt, personal and parochial, as well as regional aspects described by Mrs. Mathur and Mr. Shaw.

01:16:28:19 - 01:16:38:24

My remarks today will be followed by a detailed written representation for the examining authority's consideration. And I will submit this by the truck, by the deadline.

01:16:40:23 - 01:17:20:24

By way of introduction, I note that Corpus Dean Sexual Parish Council welcomes the development of sustainable power generation through wind power. My comments today on the behalf of the corpus is that so? Parish Council falls under Annex C Initial assessment of planning issues, socioeconomic aspects. Particularly interrelated effects on human health and community well-being. And I note that the expressed inclusion of these specific matters is welcomed and stands in marked contrast to their exclusion from public consideration and examination of other submissions to deal with wind powered developments in this region.

01:17:22:05 - 01:17:42:10

And we hope they will be accorded proper consideration by this examining authority. In particular, we wish to note our appreciation that the concept of well-being is included here, and that consideration is not restricted to the often narrowly interpreted concept of health. That's a very important distinction.

01:17:45:05 - 01:17:51:09

The content of the detailed report, which we shall be submitting to the examining authority, will cover the following points.

01:17:53:08 - 01:18:28:04

The key economic issue of what economists often refer to as externalities, which, simply put can concerns the complex ways in which action in one place or in relation to a specific project generates effects or impacts which constitute costs in another place. The fact that such externalities may be thought of as generating costs means that it's proper to consider the following three aspects. First, the chain of reasoning linking the origin of such externalities.

01:18:29:02 - 01:19:09:13

Secondly, the specification of such effects or costs. And thirdly, estimation of quanta of such costs and their balancing by properly calculating calculated methods of prompt compensation, which raises and engages with the points made by Mr. Mathur and Ms.. Alice Alison Shaw concerning community gains and planning gains. The way that these are presented by the project proposes are absurd because they do not really take any account of the way that you really need to calculate the costs of the externalities.

01:19:09:21 - 01:19:46:03

And that means that when they offer improvements to a village hall or to a church or some local site of beauty, they're getting away scot free by offering very little for huge gains on their part. Any community gains over planning gains are vastly outweighed by the ways in which profit accrues to these large companies. So it's against the background of those remarks that I note that our full evidence will consider the following specific matters and respectfully suggest the examining authority inquire in relation to this proposal.

01:19:46:12 - 01:19:47:06

The following.

01:19:49:15 - 01:20:04:24

First of all, how far has the costing of this national infrastructure project taken proper account of direct and indirect health, welfare and road safety costs to the local communities over the medium and long term?

01:20:06:20 - 01:20:17:06

Secondly, and these are very specific issues surrounding the area associated with capacity and sexual, but of course, they have wider implications.

01:20:18:20 - 01:20:48:00

The effects of additional project traffic movements along the 1149 and 1145 on the 100 meter particulate emission plumes along both sides of those roads and also on the minor rural roads during the project's life and over the following 1330 or so years, taking account of the following factors the particular susceptibility of the aging population characteristic of the area.

01:20:49:13 - 01:21:02:00

The child population in the area. The effects of this additional traffic on ambulance response times currently are rather major concern, but always a concern in these parts.

01:21:04:07 - 01:21:27:02

The response, the effects on ambulance response times in North Norfolk during the construction period. Once again, taking into consideration the ageing population in this area and their special demands and recognising that, for example, the coastal community has two along North Norfolk around Cromer and Waveney has to respond.

01:21:29:01 - 01:21:32:03

Through ambulance travel times to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

01:21:34:01 - 01:21:58:19

Fourthly, the impact of additional traffic generated by the extensive housing development planned over the next several years at capacity and sexual on project related and other traffic movements, including that generated from the many additional homes recently constructed and hoped some of that is constructive for people who commute to Norwich Day and whose movements have already increased the burden of traffic on what is actually a narrow country road.

01:22:00:07 - 01:22:23:22

And lastly, and this is very current two proposed, very large poultry farming developments currently under consideration by the local planning authority. And the traffic that these will generate, which will affect the Bill 1149 and thus become associated with the increased traffic associated as we know, but also, of course, with the other wind farm construction projects.

01:22:28:01 - 01:22:59:01

We hope that the examining authority will note that the project submission includes or will include in relation to population, health and welfare. Many assumptions or pieces of so-called evidence derived directly or indirectly from models. And therefore, we encourage the examining authority to obtain and consider complete lists of all models used in planning this project, as well as the others lists of all variables. Consider that considered in these models.

01:22:59:08 - 01:23:40:19

Lists of all proxy indicators. The detailed formulae deployed in the models and to encourage them to appraise critically these models and comment on them in their adjudication. Further, we encourage the examining authority to share this information with the potentially affected communities so that they may in turn provide suggestions for variables which are of concern to them, but which may have been omitted by modelers in planning this project. Thank you for your attention. And on behalf of Corpus Sex Parish Council, I look forward to submitting our full intervention and to your attention and giving due consideration to all the points we have raised today and we will raise in detail in our report.

01:23:44:16 - 01:24:15:11

Thank you, Professor Barnett. You you introduced your representation with with a comment on the importance of distinguishing between wellbeing and health impacts. For the sake of clarity, and I apologize if I missed this. Within this point, within your submission, was the remainder of your submission aimed at highlighting the well-being effects two to the examining authority, as opposed to the health impacts which are to some extent covered in the submissions which accompany the application.

01:24:15:24 - 01:25:01:22

Well, it's a continuum. These things, they're not distinguishable into two distinct categories. There is a very complex relationship between health and wellbeing, which is why these days they are usually taken together and which I welcomed in relation to the way that this has been framed. So I don't want to see a distinction made between these things. Some of these are health impacts, some of them our wellbeing impacts, but they are all health and wellbeing impacts. I see. Thank you. And do you do you believe that those wellbeing taking taking your client on board that they are linked? But the wellbeing balance of that seesaw, if you like, are sufficiently covered by the applicant submissions? No.

01:25:03:02 - 01:25:25:08

And how how would you suggest that a panel of members examining an application such as this might might go further in identifying those opposing us? I think that's a very important question, and I have in a sense answered it by pointing to the models which have been used in talking about impacts.

01:25:27:05 - 01:26:06:05

Because quite often when I read, when I read these, when I have read these proposals, I have found that they take data which is ignorant of current discussions in the literature and research literature. And also they tend to bias the data they feed into the model in ways which often improve the outcomes from their perspective. And rarely do they. Rarely, if ever, have I seen any evidence that they have consulted with local communities to ascertain the kinds of variables that local communities which would wish to have taken into account.

01:26:06:18 - 01:26:43:19

Indeed, this is the first time on any of these proposals where wellbeing has even entered into these things. And in previous applications it has usually been health narrowly defined. So I really appreciate I really appreciate the fact that this examining authority is prepared to engage with health and wellbeing as a variable rather than health and ignore well-being. Okay. And are you proposing to to set out in some more detail within your written representation how how these matters might be?

01:26:46:17 - 01:26:58:02

Better drawn out. Yes, I've already done so in brief today by pointing to the questions that you need to ask of the models which are contained within the project documents.

01:26:59:17 - 01:27:05:12

That's not it. Thank you. Thank you very much. I don't have any other questions. I'll pass you over to Mr..

01:27:08:12 - 01:27:28:18

Thank you, Professor Barnett. That was that was a very informative representation. It was something that you said which I picked up, which is that the offshore wind farm developers are offering very little to communities as opposed to the very massive profits to themselves.

01:27:30:09 - 01:27:37:20

Just help me understand what would be a proportionate offer for a community in your view.

01:27:38:08 - 01:27:51:18

But there's a very large welfare economics literature which I couldn't even begin to discuss this afternoon, which deals with the question of how you calculate impacts of the welfare costs of projects.

01:27:54:12 - 01:28:01:05

I'd be very happy. I'd be very happy to engage with you on this. But this afternoon would be hardly the moment to do that.

01:28:02:14 - 01:28:38:16

Now, I tend to agree with that. It's not the moment to do that, but I think it would help us understand the gap in what to you and actually what Ms.. Shaw also mentioned about the inadequacy of the community welfare benefits that is offered. And it would just help us understand what is the gap in the community's mind and what might help fill it. And I fully appreciate that that I am asking a very narrow question to some very broad issues that were outlined both by yourself in the premises.

01:28:39:00 - 01:28:58:03

But just and as you may well know, and I appreciate your your pursuit of this question. I wish I could answer it in more detail. There is a very distinguished economist called a Mar, a son whose work has as engaged with this in great detail. But let me try and put it into some kind of context.

01:29:00:00 - 01:29:45:14

And I use a very personal a very personal example. And judging by the number of traffic movements which are to pass through a road very close to where I live at parts of Corpus tea and sacks thought we might have as many as 147 separate movements a day between the hours of seven in the morning and seven in the evening. Now that has potential health effects through the particulate emissions, but welfare effects would be measured in terms of, I suppose, things like numbers of hours where a once silent home is affected by large scale traffic noise, where

01:29:47:06 - 01:30:22:17

popping out to the local shop in those crossing are heavily used, but once not heavily used. Road where a walk along a rural road is affected by particulates, emissions and by traffic noise. And where one has to look very carefully across the road before crossing because of the number of movements. Now those things can be they can be costed. And those costs will come to very much larger costs than those which the the project proposes will have to pay in terms of there.

01:30:22:23 - 01:30:28:03

As Alison Shaw remarked, people bidding against each other for compensation.

01:30:29:19 - 01:31:05:04

So one of the questions, if I may prevail upon your tolerance. One of the one of the questions which you might want to ask is how do the those seeking the development consent order, how do they calculate the size of the fund which they allocate for division on a bit basis between local communities? How do they come to that conclusion as to how what is what is costing them? They haven't asked us. Then they are defining the cost of of a commodity and then they're asking us to bid for it.

01:31:06:16 - 01:31:08:08

Let's see that. Calculations.

01:31:09:18 - 01:31:40:03

And that's enormously helpful. Mr. Rowland. Professor Garland. Thank you. I'm just going to make comment that I've made before is just it will help us in our examination. If you can draw out alongside wider effects, cumulative effects, if you can draw out specific effects on your parish and it will it will help the examining authority, particularly in understanding some of that. So, for instance, I'm just giving you an example. You don't have to respond to that.

01:31:40:05 - 01:31:43:06

You talked about some 700 movements in a day.

01:31:43:10 - 01:31:44:12

Now 174.

01:31:45:18 - 01:32:02:14

I'm sorry. Yeah. You know, is that because of this project or cumulatively or a separate proposed development? I'm just giving you an example that that's perhaps if you can draw that out for us, then that would be that would help the examining authority.

01:32:02:21 - 01:32:33:10

I will indeed try to do that. Can I just draw your attention to what I said about ambulance movements? There's a very ageing population in North Norfolk. It's a retirement area and getting someone to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital with a serious condition is very, very difficult given existing road conditions. And there have been complaints about ambulance response times for the last several years. They will be even more extensive than they are at present.

01:32:35:01 - 01:32:41:13

Thank you. Yeah, that's the, you know, the sort of evidence that we're looking for. I have no further questions, other.

01:32:45:14 - 01:32:51:24

And if we have no other questions in the panel, I will then pursue you to Mr. Holt.

01:32:53:12 - 01:33:12:13

Thank you very much. I was just before we move on to the next representation, I'm just mindful of the time. It's 3:33 p.m.. We've got three further representations. I'm not intending to take a break unless anyone revolts.

01:33:14:13 - 01:33:19:17

Okay, good. So we will continue. And if I could request

01:33:21:20 - 01:33:26:22

to ring you MP for their representation. Thank you and welcome.

01:33:28:10 - 01:34:01:01

Thank you very much. Panel, my name is Jared Mayhew. I'm the member of Parliament for the and which is a constituency that is crossed by this and a number of other projects. I'm going to start off by what I welcome and then move into the area which are of more contention. Like all of the speakers today. I absolutely welcome the the growth of offshore wind and both of these two projects. There's no doubt about that. The question comes to how we most frequently connect that offshore wind power into the national transmission dome.

01:34:01:24 - 01:34:35:13

The second thing I welcome is that if we are stuck with the Pathfinder approach rather than an offshore transmission network, I do welcome the joining of these two projects so that we have a single a single corridor route rather than twin corridor routes. So there has been movement within the offshore transmission network review Pathfinder subcommittee to to bring these two projects together. But that's very much welcoming the alternative as opposed to what I think we should properly be, which is to challenge this route in its foundation.

01:34:36:04 - 01:35:09:09

And there are multiple challenges which I want to raise with the committee today, both on where this project lands at the at Weybourne and also where it chooses to connect to the transmission network, because you have to be satisfied that the applicant, for whatever reason, has got the right connection linked to the transmission network, irrespective of whether or not that mistake is proven to be a mistake is their fault or that of the national grid in study.

01:35:10:09 - 01:35:43:20

And my submission to you is that it's it's not clear to you. It will not be clear to you. The north south reached by Weybourne Cross 40 miles of my constituency in my neighbouring constituencies is the most effective form of of connection. A number of participants have raised the alternative, a potential connected Walpole and some of the questioning of the conflict. There is these people giving evidence raise the possibility of the misunderstanding.

01:35:44:01 - 01:36:16:20

I do not think that their submissions were that the cable should come ashore at the evening and then be diverted to do so because that would be a connection link on shore. I think that as long as going down to Norwich, Maine. It would come ashore at the closest point available to Walpole, and that's a distance of some seven miles as opposed to a connection distance of approaching 40 miles, going across a much more populated area of Norfolk.

01:36:17:01 - 01:36:49:17

So I hear you ask. Well, of course, of course. This would have been considered at the time when the contract was being negotiated with National Grid, but circumstances have changed very substantially in the intervening years. At that time it was assessed that a proposal from Docking Shoal would be taking up 500 megawatts of of connection ability at will pole and that Hornsea three, which is, as you know, 2.8 gigawatts that was scheduled to be connected at Woolgoolga as well.

01:36:49:20 - 01:37:43:13

It has now since changed to Norwich, Maine. And then in addition to those two, which is was that 3.3 gigawatts of capacity being used up Sutton Bridge, which is a and Rome built coal gas fired power station with an output of just over 800 megawatts was in that stage. It's since been been decommissioned, but it's been mothballed, long term mothballed. And that's very close to to Walpole. So given that at the time there was very substantial capacity being either spoken for or actually used at will, it may have made theoretical sense to write a contract for attachment at Norwich Main, but those circumstances have changed and it's your responsibility to be satisfied that the.

01:37:43:19 - 01:38:22:01

Action now and then at the time of this application is the the right one. And I don't think you can say that was or certainly in the course of your application, you need to be satisfied that the conditions around Walpole are not such as to be more favorable than this current proposal, bearing in mind that she. The cumulative impacts both environmentally and. Communities that you've heard so much about this afternoon and I speak on behalf of the 78,000 electorate in Broadland and their dependents.

01:38:23:10 - 01:38:59:18

And I can attest to how strongly the communities of the northern half of Norfolk feel against the repeated use of connections, independent, independent radio connections for offshore wind farms, when we all know because the government has told us, say that an offshore transmission network is the more suitable mechanism of attachment, particularly when we're told that it will save the industry money both in operating costs and CapEx costs to the tune of some £6 billion if it's adopted as soon as possible.

01:39:00:17 - 01:39:25:19

So I'm not going to I'm not going to repeat the evidence that you've heard very forcefully given by others already about the cumulative impact. But I do invite you to pay close attention to the level, the level of impact cumulatively expressed that has already been offered by many communities, in particular Cawston and Olsen Street.

01:39:27:09 - 01:39:49:14

Now, in the questions that you've asked. Other people have given evidence. You you raise the question as to whether or not the need for an upgrade of Norwich, South Norwich Main down into the rest of the transmission network, the need for East Anglia Green, whether that is directly caused as a result of this application.

01:39:51:08 - 01:40:22:16

Well, I've spoken to the chief executive of National Grid East on this very point. The this is, in my submission, the very definition of cumulative impact, because the offshore wind that is being connected cumulatively at Norwich South amounts to some six gigawatts of of offshore wind. And the East Anglia Green enforcement amounts to some six gigawatts of additional capacity.

01:40:23:07 - 01:40:56:02

Now, if you're not aware of what East Anglia Green is, that's a 180 kilometre pylon route going from Norwich all the way down through Suffolk into Essex of 50 meter high pylons. There is huge public concern represented by a group in which I set called offset number over 20 regional MPAs, very concerned and reflecting the concerns of their communities about the environmental and community impact that for the 180 kilometres of of pipelines.

01:40:56:15 - 01:41:27:24

And I say to this that if it is your remit to take account of the cumulative impacts of this planning application and to do that job properly, you have to account for the community and environmental impact of the route of the East Anglia Grid Energy Reinforcement Scheme, because to do otherwise is only part of the job and I suspect would lay this process open to judicial review as others have been successfully challenged in the past.

01:41:29:16 - 01:42:14:00

So in conclusion. We need a wide solution. And this we need. We know that the government's experts in their holistic network design and have concluded that an offshore transmission network is the right approach for East Anglia. It's just a timing issue that we're talking about. We know that it will save money both in operating costs and CapEx costs for the industry. So why are we still progressing with

this out of date linear approach to connections? Well, the answer is, I think because of the contracts which were agreed between National Grid and the developers some years ago and the government in their response yesterday, the Energy Minister rates that.

01:42:14:05 - 01:42:44:20

The government is unable to re reconsider these connection contracts because it would leave them open to commercial challenge by the operators. But I think the Government would heartily like the opportunity to reconsider how best to attach the offshore wind from the southern North Sea to the National Transmission network. They need to be given the opportunity to readdress these contracts, which at the moment they don't have the the commercial, the legal ability to do.

01:42:45:19 - 01:43:15:22

But this process could provide them with exactly, exactly that opportunity where you say, hang on, we recognise times have moved in the three or four or five years since this contract was first sign, I think it was in 2018. And the landscape has changed there. You need an opportunity to reconnect in a more sensible way, and that means renegotiating for an offshore transmission network at the very least. And then my final point is addressing the point of community benefit.

01:43:17:07 - 01:43:20:10

Mr. Mayhew, can I request you to wrap up in about a minute?

01:43:20:16 - 01:43:54:18

Yep. Thank you. So, Community Benefit. The current approach, which is that communities can apply to the largest of these developers, is 100% the wrong way round. This is absolutely if it goes ahead. This is a compensation we run into for communities that are directly affected. It is absolutely not the decision of the are the bodies imposing this inconvenience and worse on communities to say we will teach you. As Alison Shaw mentioned, we will teach you what you want to do with this money and you can apply in competition with others.

01:43:55:04 - 01:44:12:07

Now, there is a again, the government rates yesterday at the Energy Minister saying that they are intending to undertake a government consultation on benefit funds in Q1 of 2023. I invite you, it may be premature for you to progress this further until that consultation is finished.

01:44:17:03 - 01:44:20:22

Thank you very much. That was a very informative representation.

01:44:22:14 - 01:44:37:10

You've talked about the wider solution and you have talked about, you know, you you you think that perhaps this project is premature until the quite a solution such as an offshore transmission network is is thought about.

01:44:40:08 - 01:45:08:04

Do you do you feel that offshore wind, and particularly given the need for electricity generation, has been established as a priority by the government? Do you think that it is feasible to actually put some of these projects on hold until this wider, more strategic solution for connection is put off? And I'm just you know, I'm just flipping the question and.

01:45:09:11 - 01:45:42:10

I understand the question. The answer is yes, There are all sorts of offshore wind projects ongoing which would not be affected by this. We're only talking about the southern North Sea feeding into East Anglia. The question of timing, I think, is contested. There is a lot of work already going on on this on the second part of the offshore transmission network review. There are providers such as

Hitachi. I've spoken to the managing director of GE says that this this technology is now off the shelf because they've already built it in the north of Scotland.

01:45:42:22 - 01:46:31:13

And what it needs is a commitment to progress at the moment been stymied because of the existing contracts for attachment to the transmission that just like this one where where project manager are saying, I've got a project, I need to deliver it, when actually we need to raise this argument up to the chief executive, which is saying the timeline for this investment isn't 5 to 8 years, it's 30 to 50 years. And if you look at the investment horizon of 50, those organisations themselves will be up £6 billion because it's cheaper and easier to connect multiple offshore wind farms to a multi modal, for heaven's sake, or even a ring name offshore transmission.

01:46:31:19 - 01:46:43:06

Now, I'm not the expert on this. We'll talk to you. Absolutely. You and they say this is this is up and running. This is off the shelf. Whereas my very painful conversations with National Grid say

01:46:45:04 - 01:47:15:20

the starting point is I want this is this is a novel. It's new. It isn't We've been putting them, I would say, kicking and screaming into admitting this is viable technology. The government has we've won the argument. The government, they accept a multi-year transmission network is the right way to go. The reason why we're a bit back in the southern North Sea as part of the holistic network design is because of these existing contracts. And the government made it clear in this letter from Greg Stewart, Energy Minister yesterday that that is the reason.

01:47:16:06 - 01:47:30:07

So you have the opportunity, in my submission to help the Government unblock this problem and fast track the development of an offshore transmission network to the benefit of the generations in Norfolk.

01:47:31:10 - 01:47:32:07

And so that's.

01:47:33:07 - 01:47:35:01

Can I make one final point? I know

01:47:37:00 - 01:48:07:09

that in mitigation. We've talked about community benefits. The community that does not benefit at all from this city is Norfolk. We are electricity scarce in Norfolk. We have commercial operations developing because there's a lack of electricity in the distribution network. And yet this all these wind farms where we've got gigawatts of wind coming ashore through our county bypasses the county entirely and it goes down towards London.

01:48:07:17 - 01:48:14:09

There is no way for the county of Norfolk in access to abundant electricity which we are creating.

01:48:15:23 - 01:48:36:08

Okay. So we've got a scrum of questions from my colleagues. So I'm going to I have a couple of clarifications before I hand over to them and I really appreciate brief responses. One. I'll go backwards. I'll go backwards. So start with something you've just said. What do you mean? Electricity scarce in Norfolk. What does that mean?

01:48:37:02 - 01:49:09:05

So if you're if you're trying to build a factory in Norfolk and you need connection to the distribution network, which is more than domestic, we are able to grant that because there is a scarcity of capacity to distribute electricity in the county of Norfolk into it. It's the case. So we're we're transmitting this electricity across Norfolk, but in a sense, for the benefit of the residents or businesses in Norfolk.

01:49:10:06 - 01:49:40:14

Okay. So this I think, is a question for National Grid to just understand what their method of distribution is and you know how this comes about. But that's that's interesting. That is an interesting perspective. Second, you talked about a letter from the energy minister that's not before us. An examination. Could I request that when you submit your summary of the oral representation today, if you could give us that, if you could submit that a deadline? One,

01:49:42:23 - 01:49:47:12

a lot of people have talked about connections to Walpole

01:49:49:14 - 01:50:02:15

and those projects that were mothballed. I think you talked about Sutton Bridge. Sutton Bridge that was mothballed. Do you know why these have been you know, why they were diverted, why they were mothballed?

01:50:04:05 - 01:50:14:07

I think Sutton at the site confusion that Sutton Bridge Bridge was a gas station which was in operation. And it has been and the decision.

01:50:14:09 - 01:50:14:24

To.

01:50:15:18 - 01:50:45:00

To attach form three hornsea three. I don't know why you'd have to take that up. National grid again as to Norwich Main and Docking Shoal. So that was a 2012. Again, forgive me, but it is from memory. That was a 2012 project in the wash. That was a couple of things, about 500 megawatts. And it was it didn't it didn't get planning permission. Okay, let's go.

01:50:45:23 - 01:50:52:01

Didn't get any. Okay, fine. That's all from me. I know my colleagues have questions, so I'll let them take two.

01:50:56:06 - 01:50:58:21

Yes. Thank you. It was just a request to.

01:50:58:23 - 01:50:59:13

See whether you were.

01:50:59:15 - 01:51:32:12

In a position to provide an update in terms of the progress of the East Anglia Green Project, in terms of the stage that it's at, and ultimately whether there's a realistic prospect that it will actually be delivered and that will be taken into account cumulatively with with this project. Well, we need to unpack a little bit because without East Anglia Green, this project cannot go ahead because there is no mechanism cumulatively for the transmission network to transport the electricity generated from this and the other linked projects to where it's needed.

01:51:32:21 - 01:52:10:22

So and yet East Anglia Green is subject to the non-statutory consultation was earlier on last year that the basis of that non-statutory consultation has been challenged very forcefully because it wasn't considered to be a true consultation. There is an alternative provision offshore called Sea Link one, two and three that was not did not form part of the non-statutory consultation. So the consultation was we're going to give you pylons. Do you want it to go left or right of it? Three consultation that's open when the the offshore alternative was not included within the consultation.

01:52:11:07 - 01:52:40:07

So they run into trouble. Even at the statutory consultation point. I noticed that there was energy questions today. Questions today. And Priti Patel asked a question on this point herself, if she's one of the affected members of Parliament. So it's got an awfully long way to go. I suspect there's lots of pressure for that to be a rerun of the non-statutory consultation.

01:52:41:20 - 01:53:25:03

And so at the very get go, it's raise the very interesting point with this examination because you have to be satisfied. In fact, I think it's illegal to the applicant to ensure that it's on the NPS. Ian 14.9.1. It's for the it's for the applicant to ensure that there will be necessary capacity to accommodate the electricity generated. Now that can only be satisfied if IAG goes ahead and you cannot be satisfied that you will go ahead because it's subject to the democratic process, it's subject to planning, and you cannot predetermine the outcome of a legal planning process.

01:53:26:02 - 01:53:35:05

And without that planning process having been completed, you're not in a position to be satisfied that the applicant can has the capacity to accommodate the electricity generated.

01:53:37:14 - 01:53:42:17

Okay. Thank you. Thank you very much for those points. I'll pass over to my colleague if there's any questions left.

01:53:43:03 - 01:53:43:18

Thank you.

01:53:45:13 - 01:53:51:20

Yeah. No, I don't think we have anything further from the panel. Thank you very much for that representation, and we look forward to your written summary.

01:53:53:18 - 01:53:54:08

Okay.

01:53:56:18 - 01:53:57:08

Mr.

01:53:58:18 - 01:54:07:19

Sneed. Thank you. We move on now to the next representative, and I'd like to call for the representative from Jonas Seafood. Please.

01:54:12:03 - 01:54:32:02

Thank you very much. You make yourself comfortable, and then when you're ready, let us know your your name and your representation, please. Okay. Right. Thanks very much. My name is Kevin Jonas. I am the owner and manager of Jonas Seafoods, based in Cromer, Norfolk.

01:54:35:19 - 01:54:50:24

I've spoken to Aquanaut directly in a Zoom meeting arranged by my local MP, Duncan Baker. And the reason for my attendance today is to try and highlight publicly a position in which we find ourselves.

01:54:53:03 - 01:55:06:13

Whilst offshore wind farm development companies are legally obliged to negotiate and compensate affected fishermen. There is no support for a company like mine that depends entirely on this supply.

01:55:08:21 - 01:55:36:08

We supply. We are by far the biggest processor in along this part of the coast. We are BRC accredited. We supply supermarkets nationwide with locally caught crab and lobster products. And employing between 60 to 70 staff all year round with a £1.5 million payroll and over £1 million paid into local fishermen.

01:55:38:03 - 01:55:45:21

Small numbers in relation to wind farm developments, but big numbers in relation to the local fishing industry.

01:55:47:09 - 01:55:50:14

Now, during the last construction phase of

01:55:52:01 - 01:56:09:05

the Dudgeon Challenge and Rice Bank, we suffered terribly due to a lack of supply. Now I have the details of this. I have a timeline of supply that we had on time. I won't go into all that and I can provide that after this, after this meeting,

01:56:11:06 - 01:56:15:19

and I can verify these. Obviously, local councils will incorporate to come to me. We have

01:56:17:18 - 01:56:21:11

figures that can be verified and catch returns that can be verified by the MMO.

01:56:22:24 - 01:56:26:15

Our supply fell to around 350 tonnes per year.

01:56:29:03 - 01:56:39:21

My record now will say, of course, that they cannot compensate every affected party down the supply chain. And of course that is entirely correct. I know the agree with them.

01:56:43:04 - 01:57:13:16

My point is that we are a special case. We are a factory that is designed to process crab and lobster. Only that that's all we do. All we sell is crab and lobster and fish products. But back to fishermen now. In the 27 years since I started the business. We've developed a workforce that has developed the hand skills to process these particular crab, the crab and the crab in particular that we catch on. This part of the coast is much smaller than elsewhere.

01:57:13:24 - 01:57:40:22

It takes in particular particular set of skills. That's why these crab based court in this case is not marketable nationwide, but more only to solve specific processes like ourselves. And is also the reason that we cannot buy crab from elsewhere. The country is too big and it's it commands a greater price in the in the export market.

01:57:43:20 - 01:58:15:18

Is it simply not possible for us to function year round on a much reduced reduce catch? And so fishermen are being compensated not to fish and catch in certain areas during this construction phase. And what I'm actually asking is, you know, what are we to do? We simply can't go on like we did during the last construction phase. We, of course, support windfarm development like most parties here today. And. And what to say, really.

01:58:15:20 - 01:58:50:03

The crab and lobster fishermen, the boats on the beach and in the harbors are a large part of North Norfolk culture and history. Jonah's seafood is very part of the fabric of this industry, and it needs to be considered if we are to have a future fishing industry going forward. I just think that with the in dealing with these fish, fishermen and developers need to think of the fishing industry as a whole and in particular where we are and what we should do in say supply gets turned off again as it was before.

01:58:51:05 - 01:58:52:12

That's it. Thank you very much.

01:58:54:02 - 01:59:30:22

Thank you very much for that. Just a couple of quick questions, if I may. And you said that when the previous wind farms were constructed, your supply fell to 350 tons. Yes. What would your normal expected supply in tonnage be? And did that once the construction phase was over? Did it bounce back during the operational phase of that wind farm? Absolutely. After the operation, after the construction phase had finished in 2019, we were back up to 505 hundred, 550 tonne.

01:59:31:04 - 01:59:48:09

And since that year we have consistently been able to purchase between 500 and 550 tonne with the result that we've turned around the fortunes of the we'll be made losses in the years that we had 350 tonne. We back into profit in the last two years.

01:59:50:06 - 02:00:23:03

Thank you for that. And in terms of where the the existing wind farms are and the proposed extensions to them, is that part of your key catchment area or what went across the whole span of the Norfolk coast? Is your main activity centred? Yeah, but my point is I've been asked this when I spoke to before about the actual areas where how much crab comes from the areas and so forth. But my point is if fishermen are being paid not to go to sea and catch, then they don't go to sea catch.

02:00:23:13 - 02:00:36:18

So because they already have any income. So they just what we see last time is a complete cut off of fishing effort. So the catching sector was receiving money and boats were being purchased and gear was being bought

02:00:38:18 - 02:01:13:19

and that we that they just weren't being used. We had boats that pay on various different beaches that never even went anywhere in some respects. But so so the whole industry is being distorted in some somewhat times. And okay, unfortunately, crab catching is peaks and troughs. So times of high peaks, this fishing industry needs to be able to sell that crab live and shift shift. And we are route to major multiple markets across the UK.

02:01:14:04 - 02:01:15:15

Now if

02:01:17:09 - 02:01:31:23

we if we if we're not there when this is after this last this next construction phase that that that opportunity for the fishing industry to continue, which we all hope it will do, we're we're a large part of that.

02:01:33:14 - 02:02:05:02

Okay. Understand? Yeah. I understand where you're coming from there. And on a related sort of point, you mentioned about Ecuador not being able to compensate every party down the supply chain. Do you agree with that approach? I mean, obviously, probably not. But if you do agree with that approach, what mitigation would you expect? Obviously, they can't compensate every Tom, Dick and Harry and the supply line, a restaurant that might have some dressed crab, the hotel and everything else that be completely ridiculous.

02:02:05:11 - 02:02:37:18

We have a factory that a cooker and machinery that that only processes, mainly crab and a small proportion of lobster. And as I said in my presentation, we have a have staff that have been many, many years that hand-pick all the crab meat. So that's that that's why I believe we have a special case. I mean, we can't go and buy crab elsewhere. It's too big. It commands a high price. We, we just suffered terribly. And so, yeah, So that's it, really.

02:02:37:20 - 02:02:41:23

We we are I believe we are a special case because of because of those points.

02:02:44:19 - 02:02:54:23

Thank you. Thank you very much for that. Just because my colleagues, if they have any further questions. No. But thank you very much for your time and much appreciated. Thank you very much.

02:02:59:20 - 02:03:37:19

That then brings us to the last of the registered speakers for today. Thank you for sticking with us, Mr. Otis. If you'd like to come forward and make yourself comfortable and in your own time, we'd like to hear your. Your representation, please. Thank you. Thank you, sir. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. And. And you have the time. I'll be brief. Many of the points I was wishing to make have already been very well covered and very eloquently by other speakers. There are just a couple of points remaining I'd like to touch on. One relates to cumulative impact methodology and the baseline from which these impacts are assessed.

02:03:38:10 - 02:04:10:24

It sounds like rather an academic question and indeed there are academic references on this point that are mentioned in some of the representations, but from a practical point of view. During the Hornsey Vanguard aureus examinations, there was a general understanding that cumulative impacts would all be deferred until this examination all rolled up in one year. Now, and it is ironic to see Orsted and Vattenfall protesting those issues were not dealt with during their examinations.

02:04:11:14 - 02:04:41:16

We were also protesting to them that these interactions and cumulative impacts were not being dealt with in those examinations. So the the baseline from which cumulative impacts are assessed may be in fact the common baseline where no projects have been proceeded with at this point rather than the stacking of building blocks approach where you take it as given that so or so consented and therefore you only consider the increment. So it's a question of considering the totality and the sequencing of those impacts.

02:04:42:04 - 02:05:21:17

So that was 11. on cumulative impacts. The other point I'd like to finish on, on a cheerful note is the benefits side of the equation. And as everyone says, we're all in favor of renewable energy, just not

here. But the the real expression of that is the aim of these projects is to reduce emissions. And the climate change legislation requires us to consider whether they do or do not reduce emissions. And that only happens when the renewable energy reaches the main central demand and is used by consumer so that fossil fuel supplies are replaced.

02:05:22:06 - 02:05:56:03

And that requires the onward transmission capacity. And this then calls into question how the planning balance is determined without a rigorous about the ocean, not only of the cumulative impacts, but also of the benefits in terms of climate change mitigation. And I would just sort of close by drawing the panel's attention to the technical details of circuit capacities and demand forecasts, which came to light during the East Anglia Green discussions of Want to Go. The Electricity tenure statement provides in the appendices the forecast of demand.

02:05:56:05 - 02:06:49:22

Norwich, Maine, which is in the region of 300 megawatts limited by the installed cables from Norwich, Maine to the city of Norwich, and also limited by the distribution network capacity to pass that on across the fields to farms and businesses and the speaking from memory, the circuit capacities cells from Norwich given in the electricity tenure statement as two circuits of 1500 megawatts each from Norwich down towards London, with an allowance for one of those circuits being out of action. So we have the conundrum here that the onward grid capacity, considering only the pathway due south from Norwich, it's 1500 megawatts redundant and we as we heard earlier from other speakers, we now have six gigawatts of capacity stacked up against that transmission pathway and the proposed development would add another 720 megawatts to that stack.

02:06:50:14 - 02:07:23:01

So those figures are available and no doubt the applicant can provide the appendix from the electricity tenure statement that contains the demand forecasts and the circuit capacities as they are at the moment without predetermine or prejudging whether East Anglia Green does or does not. Go ahead, then we only have the basic 1500 megawatts of capacity. So that's those are all the points I wanted to make. I think everything else has been very well covered by others, and as I make that, I speak only as a resident of Norfolk. So thank you very much for your time and thank you.

02:07:23:03 - 02:07:53:13

Thank you for that. Just a comment really at this stage. You mentioned that the documents that were available in the appendices of the capacity and whatnot, obviously, that's not before us yet in the examination, if if you could arrange for that to come before us as part of your summary, that would be really useful. Yeah, it is published information, so I'm sure we can find that and send it in. Yeah, thank you very much. Or just look down to my colleagues if there's any further questions. Yes.

02:07:53:15 - 02:07:54:05

Mr. HYDE.

02:07:55:04 - 02:08:01:11

Thank you, Mr. Aldous. That was a brief, but very. Very important representation.

02:08:04:08 - 02:08:24:06

GROSS My question is, I think you raised a very interesting made a very interesting point about cumulative effects assessment methodology, which is that all the effects, adverse effects, cumulative adverse effects for the previous three projects have been brought forward and said they will be considered in Sheringham and Dutch extension project.

02:08:25:06 - 02:08:25:21

And.

02:08:25:23 - 02:08:45:05

That you actually feel that the baseline should be everything without the project rather than the baseline in rolling and increasing. And I suppose my question is that if just those three projects were to go ahead or to or. Yes and and and hornsea three

02:08:47:22 - 02:09:01:08

what, what do you think the cumulative effect be compared to those projects alongside this one in terms of, you know, the adverse effects on communities, particularly the ones the matters that have been raised today?

02:09:03:08 - 02:09:33:21

Thank you, madam. A difficult question to answer. The the cumulative impacts methodology clearly applies across all the different categories of cumulative impact, whether traffic, noise, wellbeing, whatever it is. And in one of the academic analysis that is available, there is a trade off as to how do you go for the project with the biggest benefit, but the biggest negative impacts in front of the small benefit, the smaller negative impacts and which of those crosses the threshold of acceptability.

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So if you're thinking in terms of, for example, driver delay on traffic groups, on traffic links, is there a threshold of acceptability? And have you in fact approved a project which has crossed that threshold and hasn't delivered the benefits, or is it the other way around? You could have approved the smaller project and stayed under the threshold and got the greater benefits. And this is really highlighted by the question of the onward grid transmission capacity, because we seem to have got into a situation where only three vanguard imports have been approved without consideration of the onward grid capacity, which then calls into question, does it not do those projects or does this project, the proposed development, in fact satisfy the need for renewable energies? So have the national policy statements or does it not? It is impossible to get to a quantitative assessment.

02:10:24:23 - 02:10:31:09

To what degree does it satisfy that aim in the evidence? So I haven't really answered your question.

02:10:31:13 - 02:10:54:23

No, no, it's very helpful. It is very helpful. And I suppose the the thing that is so emerging as a potential area for exploration is if the negative at the address, in fact, in the communities makes it imperative for this project to consider.

02:10:59:20 - 02:11:14:13

Almost a delayed timescale in order to see the outcomes of some of the other projects before it. Before it can be. Before it can be. You know, you can consider the cumulative effects

02:11:16:16 - 02:11:19:07

in in any meaningful way.

02:11:20:15 - 02:11:54:08

Yes. And this may seem a little bit perverse, but if you take the this proposed development kind of matches on with the available on the grid transmission capacity. So if you did not have policy bank operations, you would have only grid transmission capacity for this project and it would reduce emissions. However, if the other projects have intervened and East Anglia Grid is not in place, then all of these projects are curtailed or strained off. And the end result is constraint payments and no reduction in emissions.

02:11:56:01 - 02:12:04:08

How you deal with that? I don't know. But that is these are the questions which the average resident of Norfolk asks themselves as they go about their business.

02:12:06:17 - 02:12:07:07

Thank you.

02:12:10:09 - 02:12:15:22

That's that's all for me, Mr. Wallace. Thank you. Thank you very much.

02:12:16:07 - 02:12:16:24

Thank you very much.

02:12:18:12 - 02:12:25:06

I believe that now brings us to the end of agenda item three. Unless there's anyone else,

02:12:27:06 - 02:12:29:22

in which case I come back to Mr. Hunt for agenda item for.

02:12:35:05 - 02:12:52:12

Thank you very much. This brings us nearly to the end of this open floor hearing. Thank you very much for all of you who've taken part and I've said, as I've said before, it is very valuable to hear from you. I can see from written representations and from some very,

02:12:55:20 - 02:13:18:08

very good representations today that, you know, people are getting tired. But I heard the panel urge you to stay engaged with us through this examination because it will benefit our consideration to be full and before we make a recommendation to the Secretary of State.

02:13:23:00 - 02:13:24:07

Just a couple of reminders.

02:13:26:12 - 02:13:31:18

The applicant is invited to respond to these representations in writing at DEADLINE one.

02:13:34:07 - 02:14:04:16

We request you to put in a written summary of what you've said today alongside some of the evidence that we've requested. Also, at DEADLINE one, the panel decided that we are not going to issue a hearing action list because obviously the applicant's responses to some of the comments made today is not before us yet. However, what we will do is based on some of the representations seeking further clarification on them, we will

02:14:06:10 - 02:14:11:01

make sure that our written questions reflect some of the representations made here today.

02:14:12:23 - 02:14:29:01

Um, unless there's anything else, I'm ready to close this meeting. The time is 4:14, and I am ready to close this open floor hearing. Thank you very much and good evening.