

Medworth ISH5_18 May_PT2

Created on: 2023-05-18 10:58:39

Project Length: 00:36:44

File Name: Medworth ISH5_18 May_PT2

File Length: 00:36:44

FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:05:02 - 00:00:08:20

Hello, everyone. Can I just check that everyone can see and hear me clearly?

00:00:10:15 - 00:00:11:21

I can. Yes.

00:00:11:27 - 00:00:43:25

Thank you. Okay. Thank you, everyone, for that break while we adjourn. Just for ten minutes. It was really useful for us to be able to have that that time. Um, I think in the light of the discussion that we've had this morning and the fact that we don't have any objections to adjourning on, particularly on the landscape and visual effects and agenda item, what we would suggest is that we do defer that item to a future hearing.

00:00:44:04 - 00:01:01:01

Um, in future, I think as we've deduced this morning as well, we're likely to be in a similar position with regards to cumulative effect. So I would like to hand over to Mr. Pinto just to cover that that issue particularly as well. Thank you.

00:01:02:04 - 00:01:38:11

Thank you. Thank you very much, Mrs. Magnusson. Um, so is Mrs. Mason has just highlighted. We are likely to be, as it was discussed earlier, we are likely to be in a similar position in relation to the last the last substantive item. Item six of today's agenda, which is cumulative effects. Um, before we come to a position on this specific item, can I just ask first of all, um, to the borough represent the representative of Borough Council of Kingsland in West Norfolk.

00:01:38:13 - 00:02:04:14

I'm mindful that you have mentioned that you would like to participate in on item six cumulative effects. Can I just very quickly ask you if you would object for us to take a similar approach, um, token relative effects as we have on landscape individual and a journeyed to a lighter hearing?

00:02:06:09 - 00:02:16:23

Thank you, sir. Hannah Wood. Handy for the Borough council? No, we have no objection. It would be a light touch approach anyway. We're relying mostly on, you know, a local impact report and written reps. Thank you.

00:02:17:12 - 00:02:28:09

All right. Thank you very much for that. And can also check with Mr. Fogarty that, um, if he has any objections to this approach as well.

00:02:29:26 - 00:02:30:28

Now. That's fine.

00:02:32:11 - 00:02:50:26

Thank you. Can I just check for the sake of completeness? Uh, this Is anyone else on the line today that would have an objection for us to, um, not deal with cumulative effects today and then deal with cumulative effects at a later date.

00:02:57:06 - 00:03:33:20

I don't see any hands raised and think that we have heard the applicant's position on this specific issue as well. Um, just for the record, I would like to also add that we have considered the availability of witnesses and also people that might join us later on in the hearing. But we have come to a position and a decision on this specific issue that it would be more important for the progress of the hearing and the examination of this proposal, that we make sure that we have the appropriate witnesses to really, um.

00:03:34:25 - 00:03:52:00

Analyze a specific issue. And considering that there will be a recording available of today's hearing, we then decide in that case to also not address item six today, which would be cumulative effects.

00:03:53:15 - 00:03:56:07

Does anyone have any objections to that?

00:04:04:22 - 00:04:18:09

I don't see any hands raised. So in that case, then I would propose that we move on to item four of the agenda, which will be noise and vibration.

00:04:18:27 - 00:04:55:23

Gary McGovern for the applicant. Sorry to interrupt you, sir. Just as you're moving on. But before we do move on, there was one final matter that I did want to raise, which relates to landscape and visual, and it was just to flag that per the applicant's comments on the relevant representations. That's REP 1-028 and there is a note and you'll find it on page 80 of that document that there was a meeting held between the applicant landscape witness and Cambridgeshire County Council landscape witness in October.

00:04:55:25 - 00:05:20:26

And one of the actions from that meeting that understand was taken was for the host authority's landscape witness to clarify which assessment conclusions they disagreed with. And I believe we're still waiting on that written clarification. And I just read that now and wondered if that could be an action, because I think that might provide some useful clarity if we are going into further oral hearing in June. Thank you, sir.

00:05:21:08 - 00:05:34:00

I'm mindful that obviously we don't have that witness here with us today. But I will hand I will hand over to Mrs. Makinson, who will address that specific issue. Mr. Magnusson.

00:05:35:10 - 00:05:51:27

Yes, thank you for that. Obviously, as Mr. Pinto says, we don't have the representative from Cambridgeshire County Council here to speak, particularly on landscape issues. I'm not sure if Mr. Fraser would like to respond in this regard at all before I make any further comments.

00:05:56:22 - 00:06:32:17

Well, to be fair, we had intended to respond to that point, which we'd rather anticipated being made against us today. So I've no difficulty in accepting an action. It may take a little time because I don't know how long our witness is going to be, as it were, unavailable for. Um, but yes, we will, we will take that forward. Um, but I would prefer not to be subjected now to an immediate time limit. We will do it as soon as we can, obviously in a reasonable time in advance of the rescheduled hearing.

00:06:35:00 - 00:06:50:00

That's excellent. Yes. If that could be done in advance, obviously we will be given notice of any future hearings. And we do have further written questions and other opportunities for these issues to be debated. So thank you very much for that. Is there any final comments from the applicant on this matter?

00:06:51:12 - 00:07:04:11

Gary McGovern For the applicant, No, ma'am. I'm grateful to Mr. Fraser for confirming that and understanding the circumstances, why he wouldn't want to be tied to date. So we'll look forward to a further update on that in due course. Thank you.

00:07:05:01 - 00:07:08:16

Thank you. Can I hand back to Mr. Pinter, please?

00:07:11:18 - 00:07:24:09

Thank you very much, Mr. Higginson. So as mentioned then, I propose that we move on to item four noise and vibration if that is in agreement with everybody.

00:07:25:26 - 00:07:28:00

If anyone disagrees, please raise your hand.

00:07:31:16 - 00:08:15:04

I don't see any hands raised. Therefore, I propose that we move then to address item four of the original agenda. Noise and vibration. So in this item we want to discuss the proposed development in relation to noise and vibration, mainly baseline assessment and methodology, construction and operational effects mitigation and monitoring. And obviously I have as you have seen before and as we have mentioned, we have issued alongside our agenda a list of the key documents that will be referring to throughout this agenda item, which might be beneficial that participants may have excess access to.

00:08:15:07 - 00:08:26:29

I don't propose that I go through this list in detail now, but can I just ask if anyone has any substantive comments or objections to that would like to raise in relation to that list?

00:08:32:11 - 00:08:53:03

No hands raised. Therefore, I will then press on with my first question, which will be to the applicant. And can I just ask the applicant then to set out in broad terms their approach to noise and vibration is detailed in chapter seven of the noise and vibration that would be reference app 034.

00:08:57:07 - 00:09:24:02

Good morning. Giles Hine for the applicant. The noise assessment was carried out using generic EIA methodology. So we we look at the the study area. The the policy that we need to to build in to the assessment, the technical guidance that we need to refer to

00:09:25:21 - 00:09:55:24

the sensitivity of receptors and the significance that comes from the both magnitude of effect and the significance of the receptor. And then move to the mitigation. The policies that we referred to were national policies, the sorry, national policy plan, planning policy framework.

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The noise policy Statement for England, National Policy Statement for Energy one and

00:10:06:06 - 00:10:28:18

the planning Policy planning, practice guidance noise along with the relevant local planning policies. Um, the scoping was undertaken and significant stakeholder engagement was undertaken with that. And our

00:10:31:05 - 00:11:04:24

our initial monitoring exercise was consulted with both Fenland and Kingston and West Norfolk who made comments. We address those comments in the monitoring management plan. They had further issued a comment. We addressed the second round of comments and reached a consensus on the agreed monitoring locations for undertaking a baseline exercise.

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Um, such that we were able to characterize the local area very well in noise terms.

00:11:13:19 - 00:11:48:22

Following on from the the baseline when deriving the study area, we have used technical guidance to frame the the relevant study area along with professional experience and the construction noise study area was set at 300m distant and that was based on design manual for roads and bridges.

00:11:48:24 - 00:12:19:21

Guidance on construction noise. The construction vibration study area was 100m and the operational noise study area was one kilometre from the the noise making parts of the operational site construction, construction and operational traffic. The study area was set at 50m from the road, again from design manual for roads and bridges.

00:12:20:29 - 00:12:49:27

Thank you very much for that. Um, I actually wanted to delve a little bit more in detail in terms of getting the data gathering methodology, particularly in terms of the establishment of the study area. So I am going to now share, um, figure 7.1 of your documents. So that would be reference 051.

00:12:58:09 - 00:13:07:29

Can you can everyone confirm that they can actually see the figure that I am now sharing, please? Yes. Thank you.

00:13:13:18 - 00:13:27:25

And so it is. Would the applicant to be able to then talk us through this specific fear, which obviously is construction noise and vibration study area, please?

00:13:28:22 - 00:13:53:09

Yes. So the, um, the figure takes a 300 meter buffer from the red line boundary to to determine those receptors within that study area for, for construction noise. And that relates to the, the main site and the the roadworks for the site access.

00:13:55:06 - 00:14:14:09

And thank you very much. And this. Would you actually be able to just reiterate the point in terms of the different areas in what they correspond to is, as you have mentioned, so the 300 meter area and then the 100 meter area, please.

00:14:15:14 - 00:14:50:21

Um, yes. So the, um, the 100 meter area is the vibration study area, and that relates to, um, vibratory rollers used on the site access along with um, the piling for the, the site itself. But given that the piling is assumed to be rotary board piling, that would tend to to no vibration off off site.

00:14:51:03 - 00:15:18:25

Um, and then the 300 meter buffer follows essentially the, the road junction from Cromwell Road at Newbridge Lane up to the the site access and then from the site access we've got the the grid connection works that progressed to the corner of the A47.

00:15:19:27 - 00:15:35:14

And obviously on this specific figure you have different areas that correspond to the the temporary construction compound as well as the facility. Could you also explain to us the reason for those and why those are important, please?

00:15:35:26 - 00:16:02:14

Okay. The temporary construction compound will be in operation throughout the the construction period. And so noise generated in the temporary construction compound are considered as construction noise. And we have undertaken prediction of the noise levels within that compound and assessed that within the Construction Noise Assessment.

00:16:03:13 - 00:16:15:00

Act and also in terms of data two. So that would be excess improvement in water connections. So I believe those are the black lines that we can see and blue lines that we can see.

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Yes.

00:16:18:09 - 00:16:25:06

So would you be able to explain a little bit further why that is important and why the boundaries are different to police?

00:16:25:22 - 00:17:06:17

Okay. Well, the, um, the boundary is 300m for the access, and that goes from Cromwell Road to the side entrance. And the the water is from the site access to the a47. And again, that's still 300 meter buffer. And it is important because those are the the items of construction that generally have the the highest levels of of noise and vibration closest to receptors.

00:17:07:15 - 00:17:34:19

Thank you very much. Now, obviously, in this figure, we can see a lot a lot of noise sensitive receptors as well. And I would like us would like the applicant to ask the applicant to confirm that figure 7.1 should the figure that I think that I'm showing now. Um, and then figure 7.5, which is in terms of operational noise and I'm going to go down to that figure now.

00:17:36:22 - 00:17:38:05

Which is this one?

00:17:39:06 - 00:17:39:21

Um.

00:17:40:26 - 00:18:04:04

And shows the identified study areas and it links with potential receptors that fall within those areas. Uh, could I please ask the applicant to talk us through the process and work carried out in order to identify potential noise sensitive receptors as set out in table 7.14 of app 051?

00:18:05:06 - 00:18:55:25

Yeah, sure. So taking the, um, the study area of, of the one kilometer distance from the red line boundary, we've identified the closest receptors to the works. So to the operational site rather. And

those incorporate residential primarily but, but also a number of more proximal commercial and industrial receptors and some educational receptors as well, such that we're getting the, the impacts from the operational site and except us.

00:18:56:19 - 00:19:08:08

And in terms of how we've identified them, it's through a combination of using Google Maps and also my own personal knowledge of the town.

00:19:10:17 - 00:19:24:16

And can I ask you how your personal knowledge, because you have just introduced that into the examination. So sorry. I'm just wondering, you know, some additional data that it's not a desktop base. Yeah. Information.

00:19:24:27 - 00:19:27:03

I grew up three miles from the site.

00:19:28:12 - 00:19:59:13

But okay, So can you mentioned the table 7.14, which I believe that I am showing now, does list the potential noise sensitive receptors that you have defined and divide them into different categories. One of them are the dwellings that are nearest to the facility, the connection and and associated construction activities. Then we go on to non-residential receptors which are listed there as well.

00:20:00:00 - 00:20:39:14

And then we go on to educational receptors, receptors on vehicle access receptors nearest to the connection and receptors nearest to the grid, connection routes and receptors near to the grid connection. It was the concept station and can just confirm, um, in terms of, um, in terms of going back to the image that I was showing before that just, just to make it clear for, for everyone that actually the numbers of the receptors that we could see in the previous image actually correspond to the numbers of the identified receptors on this table.

00:20:39:27 - 00:20:41:02

That's correct, yes.

00:20:41:16 - 00:20:42:04

Okay.

00:21:04:23 - 00:21:05:08

Uh.

00:21:06:28 - 00:21:48:24

Now, can I ask the, um. Can I ask the applicant to address likely significant effects? And I'm looking particularly at paragraph 7.6. 42 that lists the effects scope into the assessment by construction phase and operational phase that. Could you please talk us through the process that you went through in order to make the decision in terms of what are the effects that would be scoped in and if any, which effects were scoped out?

00:21:56:04 - 00:21:57:03

I'm sorry table.

00:21:57:10 - 00:22:05:06

Which it's it's actually, I'm referring to actually paragraph 7.6 0.42.

00:22:06:03 - 00:22:11:13

Yes, sure. Thank you very much. If I may just refer to my notes.

00:22:12:14 - 00:22:13:00

So that's.

00:22:33:24 - 00:22:35:00

Yes, certainly.

00:22:37:01 - 00:22:55:29

Most items of noise and vibration were originally scoped into the assessment. The only things that were scoped out were operational plant on the CHP.

00:23:01:03 - 00:23:01:18

Sorry.

00:23:03:15 - 00:23:35:05

Look, it's the connection. Sorry. And the grid connection. We scoped out operational vibration effects. And on the actual site facility itself, there are no operational vibration that would emit off site to be determined as significant at a nearby receptor. So essentially most things were scoped in apart from the operational vibration.

00:23:36:06 - 00:23:43:02

Um, and could you please talk us through why the operational vibration was scoped out in more detail, please?

00:23:43:04 - 00:24:16:04

Yes, certainly. Notwithstanding the operational vibration from traffic accessing the site, the process itself does not constitute it. A doesn't have any very heavy moving parts that give rise to significant jerk that would allow for site vibration generation that would be experienced off site.

00:24:16:06 - 00:24:20:23

So it would tend to be negligible off the site perimeter.

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And and in terms of the steam moving down the pipe and there's no vibration from that and the connection there's electricity again no vibration.

00:24:43:02 - 00:25:21:19

Um. Okay. That is very useful. Thank you very much for that explanation. Now, could I move us on to the assessment methodology, please? Um, that I'm going to ask some questions in relation to chapter 7.8 assessment methodology. And I'm going to be focusing as well on some of the tables included in this chapter. But first of all, can I ask the applicant to just set out in broad terms if they possibly can, the assessment methodology that has been carried out in is set out in that specific part of your assessment.

00:25:24:04 - 00:25:26:23

The methodology? Um.

00:25:29:04 - 00:26:16:07

Is this split between construction noise, construction, vibration, operational noise and operational vibration of traffic and traffic noise for vehicles accessing the site. There's a special clause where because the Newbridge Lane access between Salters Way and Newbridge Lane entrance is not

currently trafficked, all of the traffic that goes between salters way and the site is therefore attributed to being operational traffic.

00:26:16:09 - 00:26:55:02

And so although it is outside the the red line boundary of the site, we have still assessed that as being operational noise wholly related to the site. So the construction noise we have used RBS 5228, which is the approved code of practice for construction noise and has a methodology for assessing both the magnitude of construction noise and the determination of significance from such construction noise.

00:26:55:04 - 00:27:04:15

And that was undertaken using the ABC method one of Annex 5228.

00:27:07:03 - 00:27:58:05

The construction vibration was primarily qualitatively assessed and at the outset when impact piling may have been an option. We also did quantitative assessment at the hospital on Cromwell Road, but following the decision to move to Rotary board piles, that was no longer necessary and the discussions with the eye clinic were such that we were confident that with their vibration and vibration slab that they have built in the facility, that it would mitigate against any project construction vibration.

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So that wasn't needed as a quantitative assessment. And so we looked at everything qualitatively and we found.

00:28:08:15 - 00:28:21:28

Sorry, sorry. But just just to to clarify the situation, is it because you have identified that specific receptor is particularly vulnerable to noise and vibration?

00:28:22:16 - 00:28:33:24

Yes, because they are carrying out eye surgery. They need to be protected against vibration. And the the only significant source of vibration that could have

00:28:35:19 - 00:28:58:13

affected that particular unit would have been impact piling on the site. We we looked at that and determine that that would be a significant effect if if piling was impact piling. And as it turned out, the the site the applicant was using board piling anyway. So it just wasn't an issue.

00:28:59:16 - 00:29:00:01

Right.

00:29:00:14 - 00:29:26:09

And in terms of the other effects relating with noise and vibration that you have identified. Could you please explain to us how confident you are that there will be no, uh, effects or no significant effects or will be negligible, uh, to towards that specific sensitive receptor that you have identified?

00:29:26:19 - 00:29:27:04

Yes.

00:29:27:06 - 00:30:01:16

So we've looked at the traffic assessment. And because Cromwell Road already experiences high levels of HGVs, the the extra traffic that is accessing Cromwell Road near to the the eye hospital was not an not a significant increase in noise or vibration terms as as assessed under

00:30:03:16 - 00:30:29:08

and so design manual for roads and bridges and because of that negligible increase in in traffic. I'm not saying that it's a negligible increase in traffic, but in noise and vibration terms it is. Um, so we, we are confident that that particular unit is protected against both noise and vibration impacts from the site.

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And this is in accordance with information that you have in table 7.21 establishing the sensitivity of receptors. Can I just. And ask you to please confirm that.

00:30:48:06 - 00:31:33:11

Yes. So you will see that the eye clinic is deemed a higher sensitivity receptor. There are no hospital operating theatres or recording studios that we could see within the study area. The North Cams Hospital is is very far out of the study area and everything residential and educational was deemed medium sensitivity with the the schools being only medium sensitivity during the daytime and not at nighttime.

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And the industrial and commercial premises were negligible

00:31:43:06 - 00:32:25:22

for sensitivity. But where there are offices that need to benefit from people being able to to speak on the phone and and converse with each other. We have deemed them a low sensitivity receptor, but in a combination with using different methodologies, we we came up with with a bespoke, um, assessment technique to address their particular sensitivity, which was agreed with Fenland District Council's consultant who at the time.

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Thank you very much for that.

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I'm sorry, but I'm going.

00:32:30:07 - 00:33:19:20

To have to pressure you on a little bit on that point. I'm I would like us to delve a little bit more in terms of establishing sensitivity of receptors and how these different levels of sensibility of apologies, sensitivity have been actually established and what they mean. And I'm particularly I would like to press you for a little bit more information in terms of particularly the low office buildings in public amenity areas, because obviously I'm very mindful that in addition to some residential uses being in very close proximity of the works that we have identified and we have seen in Figure one in Figure five previously, there is a significant amount of office buildings as well.

00:33:19:22 - 00:33:20:07

And.

00:33:22:04 - 00:33:51:06

Buildings that have an office component. Therefore, I would like I would like us to. I would like to ask you for a little bit more information in terms of how the needs of those businesses have been taken into consideration. And in addition to the desktop data survey that you have done, if you have actually carried out any further surveys that would be able to provide you with more granular data in terms of what those needs are.

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Sure. So in terms of the the sensitivity and and what it actually means,

00:34:01:25 - 00:34:38:25

you'll be aware that there is a project wide significance matrix. And as with every other discipline, we have to try and distill our various conflicting situations to to match that significance table. However, we are more guided by the the actual outcomes of the assessment rather than sort of putting it into a pigeonhole.

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And and so we've looked at the

00:34:44:02 - 00:35:29:17

the various effect thresholds under the noise policy statement for England and the policy practice guidance, planning practice, guidance noise, which looks at significant health effects for residential and and public amenity space, along with the World Health Organization community guidelines for noise in Europe. And along with that in British standard 8233, there are guidance levels for ambient noise within a various various types of establishment, including offices and and industry.

00:35:29:19 - 00:35:44:03

And our methodology was designed so that a significant effect would be found if the levels at the facade were enough. That.

00:35:46:04 - 00:35:48:22

Considering existing noise.

00:35:50:09 - 00:36:29:21

Up to that that point where it became significant if if our project noise created a situation where we were contributing to an exceedance of of that guideline level, then it was a significant effect. So it's it's trying to fit our assessment techniques into the various sensitivities and and language, but it's driven by the actual assessment rather than the sensitivity per se.

00:36:30:27 - 00:36:37:04

Thank you for that response. Mr. Human I'm mindful that you have raised your hand, but before I bring you into the.