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Created on: 2022-09-22 09:58:48

Project Length: 00:29:18

File Name: OFH1_Thurs_22nd

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00:00:05:04 - 00:00:46:15

Okay. Good morning, everybody. Can I just confirm that everybody can hear me? Thank you very much. That also confirming, Mr. Stevens, that the live streaming has come into place. Thank you, Mr. Stevens. For those people watching the live stream, if I'd just explain if the proceedings are adjourned, any point will have to stop the livestream in order to give us clear recording files. When that meeting is resumed, you'll just need to refresh your browser page to view the restarted live stream. It's now 10:00 and time for me to open this open floor hearing which has been held in connection with an application by our Law Limited for an order for development consent for the construction operation and maintenance of our global wind farm project.

00:00:47:17 - 00:01:01:24

We can just briefly introduce myself, my colleagues. My name is John Hockley. I've been appointed by the Secretary of State as lead member of the panel of examining inspectors that together comprise the examining authority for this application. The other members of the panel will now introduce themselves to you.

00:01:04:17 - 00:01:15:11

Both at I think it. My name is Jason Rawlins. I am a chartered civil engineer, a chartered environmentalist, and I am also a planning inspector.

00:01:18:05 - 00:01:23:15

Good morning, Florida. My name is Having Casini. I'm in charge. Town Planner and planning inspector.

00:01:25:24 - 00:01:30:24

Good morning, Florida. My name is Richard Morgan and I'm a chartered civil engineer and planning inspector.

00:01:32:13 - 00:01:41:07

Florida. Good morning. My name is Alex Hutson. I'm a chartered plant at the Charleston Landscape Architects, and I'm also a professional member of the Opera Cultural Association.

00:01:43:16 - 00:02:13:25

Thank you. Together, we will be reporting to the secretary of state for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. We have a recommendation as to whether the development consent order should be made. We assisted at this hearing today by the planning inspector case team. Today we have the case manager, Jake Stevens and Sarah Norris supporting us remotely. Lily Robins. If you have any questions or queries about the examination or the technology we're using for virtual events, they should be your first point of contact and their contact details can be found at the top of any letter you receive from us or on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

00:02:15:13 - 00:02:23:18

Before I get onto the main part of this meeting, if I just ask my colleague Dr. Morgan to highlight a few housekeeping background matters to note for today, please. Thank you.

00:02:24:03 - 00:03:04:00

Thank you, Mr. Hockley. So housekeeping. The open floor hearing will be live streamed and recorded. This recording will be retained for a period of five years from the Secretary of State's decision by the Planning Inspectorate. The recordings will be published on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as practicable after each hearing closes to assist viewers and listeners. Anyone speaking should introduce themselves when they speak. As the recordings are retained and published, they'll form a public record that can contain personal information to which the general data protection.

00:03:23:23 - 00:03:55:07

As wish to be kept private and confidential. It should be in written form, which can be redacted before being published. For those participating in the open floor hearing the five teams. If you prefer not to have your image recorded, you can switch your camera off. Also, I repeat the request made in the arrangements conference and in order to minimise background noise, please ensure your microphone or telephone is muted and that you stay muted unless you're speaking.

00:03:56:29 - 00:04:35:22

There's a hearing loop inside this room available if required, and we're not expecting any fire alarms today. If the alarm goes off, then the procedure is to go down the stairs outside this room and to congregate on the promenade opposite this building. We aim to make this make this meeting, and the examination is open, as inclusive as possible. We have translation facilities available at this meeting and they'll also be available for subsequent hearings. You'll also have seen that all documents issued by ourselves are being published in both in Welsh and English, and this will continue throughout the examination.

00:04:37:18 - 00:05:08:16

Mr. Rollins is a native well speaker, and Mr. Stephens, the case manager, can also speak Welsh. The rest of us on the panel will endeavour to pronounce places and names correctly, but like to apologize in advance. Shredding mistakes we do make and please feel free to point out any. And when we actually make any, we welcome contributions in both English and Welsh. I'll now hand over to Mr. Hudson, who will outline the purpose and conduct of this open floor hearing.

00:05:10:02 - 00:05:40:21

Thank you. The Open Floor hearing provides an opportunity for interested parties to make their oral submissions about the application to the examining authority. It also gives us the opportunity to ask speakers about the evidence that they have presented. The agenda for this meeting is set out in our rules. This letter today will first hear from interested parties who have notified to advance of the hearing that they wish to speak and have completed the participation form. They'll be followed by any parties who will be heard at the discretion of the examining authority.

00:05:42:20 - 00:06:02:28

Given the low number of interested parties have requested to speak this morning, we do not intend to set a strict time limit. Nevertheless, they should be especially concise and to the point to be concluded within about 10 minutes. May remind you also that you are invited to include written or written some review or submission deadline one on Monday 24th October.

00:06:05:02 - 00:06:28:22

Once you've spoken, the panel may wish to ask you questions that will not, of course, intrude on your speaking time. Finally, the applicants will be given an opportunity to respond to any matters raised.

After all, speakers have been heard either orally or all before the close of the hearing, or to submit a written response by deadline. What can I please check? He'll be speaking for the applicant today. Sir.

00:06:29:13 - 00:06:30:06

My name is Mr..

00:06:36:03 - 00:06:41:24

Okay. Thank you very much. I'll go back to my colleague, Mr. Hopefully who will invite representations from the speakers.

00:06:43:09 - 00:07:03:05

Thank you, Mr. Hudson. With that we want to today's submissions. Obviously, we just have one speaker who's indicated that they wish to speak today, sir, but can invite Mr. Davis to his office in the room to come to the table at the front. If you could use a microphone, introduce yourself and be represented. We're ready whenever you are, Mr. Davis. Thank you.

00:07:07:03 - 00:07:13:07

I'm Carl Davis from the charter school. Commercial fisherman. But it's not common.

00:07:16:01 - 00:07:20:05

I'm so sorry, Mr. Davis. Could you put your microphone on, please? Oh, sorry.

00:07:23:08 - 00:07:32:27

I'm Carl Davis. I'm a charter skipper and commercial fisherman working the 11 metre catamaran from the port commonly.

00:07:35:02 - 00:07:43:17

I have a family history going back over 50 years in this industry and I've been working on the North Wales coast for about 20 years.

00:07:46:17 - 00:07:57:16

I don't represent any sort of body or association as such, but I think my views are felt by a lot of fishermen and charter skippers on the North Wales coast.

00:08:00:10 - 00:08:08:22

I'll try and sort of summarize what what there's just two or three points really I want to concentrate on.

00:08:11:06 - 00:08:42:09

The data that that was used for the fisheries surveys and I feel is, is, is wanting. We've had a lot of meetings with a very good fishery liaison officer that we have met is the communication between the wind farm operators and ourselves. So I quince role as well as I will know and we've had lots of meetings which know many of us have attended.

00:08:43:06 - 00:09:21:07

But the surveys on fish specifically, there are no specific surveys that have been conducted on, on fish. And a lot of the data that's used is historical data. And we put our views forward of what we think happens to the fish, a lot of different species in the construction of going to move on the up since the operation of getting some more and some of them have disappeared and they are all coming back now some of them but it's taken about five or six years for that.

00:09:21:12 - 00:09:25:16

So that's happened after some was finished in 2016.

00:09:28:22 - 00:09:35:03

But I've made many comments about the scoping report, the, the, the, the pier

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and in the final environmental impact assessment. I do not feel that the

00:09:44:28 - 00:09:46:18

views have been taken seriously.

00:09:48:26 - 00:10:22:04

We're out there every day here under 50 days a year fishing. We're working within all the wind farms around the great Gurnard. So it's good. It's one of the main species that disappeared. And the explanation for that in the Environmental Impact Statement doesn't even refer to surf. It refers to Grey generally. And that was a paper that was, I think concluded in 2016.

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And that was,

00:10:25:04 - 00:10:34:24

you know, about the time when Quince more finished. It might have even been earlier that Sorry, I've been pretty busy this week, I haven't had time to research this properly, but some.

00:10:38:06 - 00:10:40:05

So that was one of the points. The.

00:10:41:24 - 00:10:44:24

The other point is the cumulative effect of multiple

00:10:46:24 - 00:11:13:24

construction and operation of wind farms has been that it's mentioned in the environmental impact assessment and all through impact, but it's almost sidelined because with the excuse of well, we don't really know what's going to happen with the other wind farms. So of here I mean if people don't know that there's going to be I will read more more Ramona morgan about a

00:11:15:16 - 00:11:37:18

I think the size of Greater London, an area that they're all going to be constructed, it looks like at the moment before 2030, which will mean they're either going to be constructed consecutively or possibly at the same time, which means that the the piling, you know, that they used to pile in the

00:11:39:11 - 00:11:51:11

the piles of the wind farm may be going on for, you know, two or three years. And that was what initially either stopped the fish feeding or made them flee.

00:11:54:08 - 00:12:12:26

This cumulative effect is not addressed, in my opinion at all, not just of North Wales but all of the UK with wind farm construction. And it's only going to be getting worse and worse as more and more wind farms are constructed.

00:12:18:22 - 00:12:49:13

I don't think that the well charter vessel industry off the North Wales coast will immediately have severely restricted trade. And it's no exaggeration to maybe say that trade would be zero because we lost many bookings because of the pilot when it started on winter. Moore And once anglers know that that is happening, they won't book on the North Wales coast. They know what's going to happen now.

00:12:50:06 - 00:12:53:19

I fear when they start pilot again and

00:12:55:18 - 00:13:07:10

I would think that the charter industry, the charter only tourist industry will be running on a very, very restrictive capacity for those basically who don't know what's going on out here. They may book.

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As a.

00:13:17:11 - 00:13:22:19

Just another point with the with the with the pilot. And we have.

00:13:25:10 - 00:13:30:06

Try to suggest mitigation measures for the

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for the pilot noise, you know, not to affect fish and marine mammals as well.

00:13:42:27 - 00:13:54:09

That comes in the form of a bubble curtain, which I know in Germany. They I'm pretty sure they have to mitigate because they do have a rule about

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the number of decibels that's permitted within a certain range of the of the pilot. And they as far as I'm where they have to use bubble curtains to try and mitigate that.

00:14:12:19 - 00:14:18:18

There are other ways of of of constructing these turbines rather than having this heavy piling

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combs, suction combs, concrete bases, smaller piles, an array of piles

00:14:29:23 - 00:15:00:26

to mitigate this noise. Obviously, we know that affects certainly fish and probably marine mammals, anything that's in the water. I would think one chance of skipper of the Isle of Man was work in when he had a he was working on on on a rack that was 42 miles away from the from the pilot going on and getting some more. But he could still hear the pilings through the hull of the boat.

00:15:07:02 - 00:15:07:17

And.

00:15:12:03 - 00:15:25:22

I'll just finish on a positive note. There's lots of other things that but I don't take up too much inside those particular posts, even though we're doing work with Aberystwyth University at the moment

00:15:27:24 - 00:15:43:05

in Gwent. More on how lobsters use the reef structure. The scalp. It's action radio tagging lobsters. It's been going on for a couple of years just to prove that the

00:15:44:20 - 00:16:02:03

species didn't use the scalp. It's action. And it can be beneficial to, you know, to to the local sort of ecosystem and maybe increase, you know, biodiversity. But so this work is going on in the lab and out there.

00:16:06:09 - 00:16:12:05

But what generally what we found is that the the scour protection needs to be tailored.

00:16:14:01 - 00:16:34:27

You know, the the the animals, whether it be fish or lobsters, needed an array of sizes of holes to make it as biodiverse as possible. And this is something that we have neutered on numerous occasions to, to,

00:16:36:13 - 00:16:43:08

to RWA in yeah well many meetings through Quince more unavoidable

00:16:46:27 - 00:16:54:01

try to sort of mitigate the effects of the wind farm with maybe build in reefs know artificial reefs.

00:16:56:10 - 00:17:13:04

I know that old stat of have done some bold of removal in Denmark and they built reefs over there to try and mitigate the effect, you know, to the ecosystem, to the fishermen, to the charters, get those

00:17:16:23 - 00:17:19:24

mitigate the effects of the wind farm on the home of fish.

00:17:22:06 - 00:17:50:16

So there's there's there's scope for tailored tailoring, the crop protection, if you've got there's turbines out there, you know, that that may be on the ground and they may have cables that have to have rock arm on them which which there are some. Now if this rock armour could be tailored to make it, you know, as biodiverse an environment as possible that would help mitigate all our losses.

00:17:54:18 - 00:18:01:29

And maybe that could be something that could be incorporated as community funding. To me, that it's certainly an idea that

00:18:03:16 - 00:18:26:22

lobster's up habits are limited. And if you can build habitat for, for example, lobsters and then have hatchery on shore, which does happen on the East Coast, and you could almost have a like an aqua aquaculture, you know, you you see it in the lobsters, on the on the Rock Harbor. You've got a hatchery offshore that's provided

00:18:28:20 - 00:18:42:13

employment for people. And then you do any better for the environment, the lobsters that, that, that don't find the homes in the actual rock armour itself spill over into the into the wider fishery.

00:18:45:23 - 00:18:51:15

So there is that could be a positive out of it, but I think that's made the one key.

00:18:52:09 - 00:18:58:12

Thank you very much, Mr. Davis. That was very useful. Thank you. I don't have any questions myself. Do any of my colleagues have questions

00:19:00:04 - 00:19:00:19

like that?

00:19:00:24 - 00:19:02:20

Thank you very much. Could you just.

00:19:02:27 - 00:19:38:27

Possibly explain what a focal person is? So it's I think it is a radius is a pipe, a big pipe, but I suspect is about a foot in diameter on the I think it's about a 900 meter diameter, you know, round the turbine, maybe even the K. So it's a it's it's a it's a big unit and they just pump they pump that and then it's got very small holes around the,

00:19:40:20 - 00:20:13:20

you know, in the pipe said intervals and it just create the bubbles, you know, come out of the pipe, say is it ten metres is small and obviously as the pressure decreases they like in size and they it's yeah well it's a bubble, it's a bubble curtain and it will reduce the noise. I'm not sure. Excuse me by how much it reduces noise by. But any reduction in that pilot noise for all the by officer outlet is a plus but they do have to do it I'm pretty sure.

00:20:13:22 - 00:20:19:19

And in Germany anyway, there's no legislation about it in the UK, which is pretty scary.

00:20:21:18 - 00:20:25:09

Thank you, Mr. DAVIES, for taking the time to explain that. Thank you.

00:20:27:07 - 00:20:41:04

So that's what I was going to say. You said you didn't want to take up too much of our time if you if you did have anything else to say. There's nobody else who speaking this morning. So if you don't. So I think that, you know, you're more than welcome. We're not we're not rushing you at all.

00:20:47:28 - 00:20:57:08

There's lots of things that could be affected out there. Sedimentation, turbidity in the you know, in the water, the you put in

00:20:59:28 - 00:21:17:25

the well out there, you can see that there's 160 wooden spoons. Stir it up to stir it up. The sea has never been there before. Well, that's just 160. There's another 30 over there. Beyond that, though, there's another 30 or 40 there. You know,

00:21:19:15 - 00:21:48:06

North Oil was another 30 there. But you're going to pull out here from virtually that. You know, that that horizon is going to be covered in and turbines. But it's not just that rise. It's beyond the horizon towards the Isle of Man boat. Ramona are going to stretch 50 miles north of this. So you're going to be put all these mixing spoons into the into the water column where there's never been that mixed in before.

00:21:49:21 - 00:21:50:06

And

00:21:51:21 - 00:22:09:14

I think that's the point I'm trying to get across there is we're not just talking about our all we're talking about an array of farms in our shallow coastal seas. And it's basically it's the industrialization of our little shallow coastal seas. And I'm they're pretty sensitive,

00:22:11:09 - 00:22:12:06
sensitive bits.

00:22:14:19 - 00:22:15:04
Yeah.

00:22:17:08 - 00:22:18:05
You've got friends

00:22:20:17 - 00:22:26:24
from the Isle of Man that extends down from the Isle of Man down into the middle of the Irish Sea down south. You've got

00:22:30:08 - 00:23:01:21
you've got no mixed water, stratified water on the on the west side. The front you've got mixed water, which is what we've got here on the eastern side of the front. If you're putting turbines there ten, 20 miles away from that front, and they do have plumes, we've all seen photographs, aerial photographs of plumes that of the sediment plumes really stood up and come out of the the lee side of all these turbines. If that happens, that front's out there and you start getting mixing.

00:23:02:12 - 00:23:36:04
You know, that's never been there before. The whole ecology of the Irish Sea could change. I don't think that's too dramatic a statement, but this stuff all has to be looked into and it's not being looked into. The reason there is some funding now from the an organization eco the eco wind and they seem to be doing more started more work to try and look at the whole ecology of the sea and how that affected by wind farms.

00:23:36:19 - 00:23:48:03
And it's not just the fishermen and Charles Ramsey that's going to be affected by this. It's the whole ecosystem. And that's what we need to be honest about and find out.

00:24:08:18 - 00:24:14:27
Thank you very much. Okay. Is there anyone else who wishes to speak today in the room?

00:24:18:28 - 00:24:23:22
No. Is anyone who wishes to speak today who is with us virtually.

00:24:26:15 - 00:24:29:14
If you could raise a virtual hand or is anyone

00:24:31:16 - 00:24:33:17
okay? I'm not seeing anyone. Okay.

00:24:35:14 - 00:24:40:00
Thank you. So, Mr. Tom, was there anything you'd like to say about the app?

00:24:40:08 - 00:25:21:11
Thank you, sir. It's loud. Thank you, sir. It's done on behalf of the applicant. I'm going to keep it very brief. You'll be pleased to hear. I just. On behalf of the applicant, I think there were just a few things we wanted we wanted to raise. Firstly, to really welcome the direct engagement with Mr. DAVIES and the fishermen that's taken place through the Pre-application stage. We are very aware of how busy he is and the other fishermen are, but it really has been incredibly useful in terms of that engagement

and I think it really has built on the positive relationships that have been developed through Quentin Moore and the applicant is aware of the concerns about from Mr.

00:25:21:13 - 00:25:52:19

DAVIES about the impact of more on fishing and especially those with gear within the array area. There is mitigation proposed through the Fisheries Liaison Officer who I think you're already speaking to is in place, and the Fisheries Cooperation Strategy, which is one of the application documents. 306 And just following on from our discussions yesterday, those are documents that are within both of the DCO applications. So within the context we're talking today, but also with.

00:25:53:14 - 00:26:17:25

Within the Marine licence application that's been made to Natural Resources Wales because that's where they would be secured in terms of the the. Just a few points just to raise. Mr. DAVIES raised a question about top gurnard. They are assessed in the final environmental statement. So there is a figure seven. I'm sorry, I don't have the chart to reference. I think it's the.

00:26:21:05 - 00:26:27:01

Other Marine uses chapter of the environmental statement and on page 64.

00:26:28:20 - 00:27:09:28

Turning to cumulative impacts, again, I appreciate that there are concerns around cumulative cumulative impacts of hourly more with other projects, but you'll appreciate that at this stage, Hourly More is the first project that's coming forward. There is no information at this stage on which a cumulative assessment could be undertaken with those other projects, those round four projects coming forward. And you will be aware that that in line with EIA practice, it will be for those projects to consider hourly more as it undertakes its environmental impact assessment and applications.

00:27:10:07 - 00:27:18:13

And it will be important that those impacts are considered in a cumulative sense and there will be the information about hourly more available to do that.

00:27:20:13 - 00:27:55:09

Mr. DAVIES raised a couple of points around piling. I think it's just worth pointing out that the options that he mentioned are proposed for hourly more and are assessed within the environmental statement. It isn't that a single piling option has been proposed. Those those are there and have been considered. And then I think finally, just on the point around the creation of new reefs and and use of scour protection, I very much welcome the work that's going on with Aberystwyth University and do really understand the potential positives that there are from that.

00:27:55:16 - 00:28:31:09

And we're happy to continue to discuss those with Mr. DAVIES and others. I think there is just a note of caution there in that there is a need with that to have regard to the existing marine environment and baseline and to have care around the potential changes to those ecosystems that result from that. So in terms of the the assessment that Ali Moore has been able to and is required to undertake, it is against an existing baseline which includes that existing environment rather than having changed it in terms of bringing in or introducing new species.

00:28:32:03 - 00:28:32:18

Thank you, sir.

00:28:34:05 - 00:28:43:18

Thank you very much, Mr. OCH. I should just just check one final time. There's no one else who wishes to speak in the room on virtually.

00:28:45:12 - 00:29:09:13

Okay. Thank you. So we'll move to close here. And just for we close just a reminder of the day, it's Monday, 24th of October. Freddy Britton summaries and if you might already this here in all four written representations and matters annual wishes to rise time is now 1028 and I'll close ahead. Thank you for your attendance and your participation in this hearing. The Oak.