

ISH2 Weds 7 Dec_Part1

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FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:06:05 - 00:00:12:12

Okay. Good morning, everybody. But it. Could I just confirm that everybody here can hear me clearly, Please?

00:00:14:25 - 00:00:44:16

Thank you. Could also confirm Mr. Stephens live streaming of the event to started. Yes, sir. Thank you, Jack. For those people watching the live stream with us today, can I also advise that should we need to any point adjourn proceedings? We'll have to stop the livestream in order. Give us clear recording files. And as a result, at the point at which we recommence the meeting and restart the livestream, you'll need to refresh your browser page to view the restart to stream. I'll remind you of this again should we need to adjourn.

00:00:46:02 - 00:00:55:23

It's now 10:00 and time for this hearing to open. And I would like to welcome you all to this issue specific hearing. Chris So echo on that matter, Panadol. Omar

00:00:57:08 - 00:01:40:16

This is issue specific hearing to dealing with seascape landscape and visual effects of the proposed offshore works and related matters, including cultural heritage, socioeconomics and tourism effects in relation to the application made by our Lemoore Offshore Wind Farm Ltd, who we will now refer to as the applicant for an order granting development consent for our Lemoore Offshore Wind Farm Project. Thank you all for attending this meeting. My name is John Hockley. I'm a chartered town planner, planning inspector appointed employed by the Planning Inspectorate, and I've been approached by the Secretary of State for levelling up housing and communities to be the lead member of this panel to examine the application.

00:01:41:11 - 00:01:48:00

I'm just going to ask the other panel members who have also been appointed by the same Secretary of State to examine this application to introduce themselves.

00:01:50:12 - 00:01:52:09

Good morning. My name is Richard Morgan.

00:01:52:11 - 00:01:55:19

I'm a chartered civil engineer, a fellow of the Institution of Civil.

00:01:55:21 - 00:01:57:15

Engineers and the planning inspector

00:01:59:29 - 00:02:00:27

for day.

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

Good morning to you all.

00:02:02:23 - 00:02:11:08

My name is Jason Robins. I'm a chartered civil engineer and also a chartered environmentalist, and I'm a planning inspector.

00:02:13:01 - 00:02:16:24

Good morning. My name is Helen Cassini. I'm also chartered town planner and.

00:02:16:26 - 00:02:17:21

Planning Inspector.

00:02:19:06 - 00:02:27:05

Berdahl. Good morning. My name is Alex Hutson. I'm a chartered town planner, a chartered landscape planner and a professional member of the Alberta Cultural Association.

00:02:29:26 - 00:02:41:17

Thank you. Together, we constitute the examining pharmacy for this application, and we will be reporting to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy with a recommendation as to whether the development consent order should be made.

00:02:43:24 - 00:03:12:20

I'd like to remind you that this hearing is being recorded and that this hearing will be sorry that with me at this recording will be retained for five years from the Secretary of State's decision by the Planning Inspectorate. An audio recording of today's meeting will be available on a little more section of the National Infrastructure pages of the Planning Inspectorate website as soon as practicable after this hearing. So for the purpose of this recording, when you speak, please could you speak clearly and give your name every time you do so? Thank you very much.

00:03:14:11 - 00:03:47:21

The case manager for this project is Jake Stevens, and he's being supported here today by Spencer Vironment there on the table there at the back. Sarah Norris is providing support remotely. Mr. Stevens is a case manager, is potentially the person who you are most likely to come into contact during the call during the course of the examination. So if you have any questions or queries about the examination process or the technology we're using for blended or virtual events, he should be your first point of contact and the case team contact details can be found at the top of any letter you have received from us or on the project page of the website.

00:03:48:09 - 00:03:53:13

And please don't hesitate to contact members of team if you have any. If you need help at today's event or need help with the technology.

00:03:56:10 - 00:04:26:12

This is a blended event comprising an in-person meeting as well as being held on the Microsoft Eve platform. So it's being livestreamed and recorded for those people observing or participating through teams in order to minimize background noise. Could you please make sure that you stay muted unless you're speaking? And if you're participating virtually and you wish to speak at a relevant point in the proceedings. Just use the hands up function on the Microsoft teams. Although there might be a slight delay before we say it, and please wait to be invited to speak or ask to speak at the appropriate time.

00:04:27:11 - 00:04:31:05

Alternatively, you can turn on your camera so we can see that you wish to speak.

00:04:32:21 - 00:04:48:08

The chat function on Microsoft teams will not work, so please don't try to use up to ask any questions or post comments. And if you don't manage to ask your question or raise your point at a relevant point at a time, there will be an opportunity at the end of the meeting for you to raise this on the agenda on any other matters.

00:04:52:12 - 00:05:00:23

Because the digital recordings that we make, how retained and published a former public record that can contain your personal information and to which a general data protection regulation applies.

00:05:02:21 - 00:05:34:16

So consequently, if you participate in today's meeting, it's just important that you'll understand that you'll be livestreamed and recorded and that digital recording will be published for those online. If you don't want your image to be recorded, you can switch off. Your camera will only ever ask for information to be placed on the public record that is important and relevant for the planning decision. Therefore, to avoid, to avoid the need to edit any digital recordings. Or we should ask if if you try your best not to add information to the public record that you would wish to be kept private or that is confidential. If you feel that personal information is necessary, that's fine.

00:05:34:18 - 00:05:43:20

But if you could provide it in a written document, that's easier because we can redact that before publication. Does anyone have any questions with regard to the General Data Protection Regulation?

00:05:48:02 - 00:06:13:15

Okay. Thank you very much. Could everybody set all their devices and phones to Silent Place? There are no fire alarm tests or drills today. So if the fire alarm goes off, it's the real thing. It's a continuous sounding alarm and we leave for every day. Still sat down. The way you came in, essentially, and the refuge point is across the across the road on the promenade, out by the shelter.

00:06:15:11 - 00:06:49:03

Hopefully, you you'll see toilets located just outside the room. And we'll take a short break today, around 11:30 and lunch around 1 p.m. and also mid-afternoon break if we're still sitting around that time. If any individual or group wishes to use social media, report film or record today's meeting or any subsequent hearing. They're free to do so. But please do so responsibly and with proper consideration for other parties. This must not be disruptive and the material must not be misused. But also just like to address language. We aim to make this meeting and the examination as open and inclusive as possible.

00:06:49:24 - 00:07:08:22

We have translation facilities available at this meeting and they will be available for all subsequent hearings. You'll have seen all documents issued by ourselves are being published in both Welsh and English, and this will continue before the examination. Mr. Rowlands on the panel is a native Welsh speaker. Mr. Stevens, the case manager, can also speak Welsh.

00:07:10:09 - 00:07:40:09

The rest of us on the panel will endeavour to pronounce places and names correctly. But as I've said previously, I'd like to apologize in advance for any mistakes we do make. And please feel free to point out any if from what we do know about them. We welcome contributions in both English and Welsh. Thank you. The meeting will follow the agenda as published on a more project page of the National

Infrastructure website on the 25th of November 2022. If you have a copy of the agenda at hand, you'll see that we're currently on item one.

00:07:41:13 - 00:08:12:12

You can also find the agenda available on the website in the Examination Library. Reference Navy 78. The agenda is for guidance only and we may add other considerations or issues as we progress. Will conclude the hearing as soon as possible, as soon as all relevant contributions to be made and all questions asked and responded to. But if the discussions can't be concluded, then it may be necessary for us to prioritize matters and defer other matters to further great questions. Likewise, you've kind of answered the questions being asked or acquire time to get the information requested.

00:08:12:23 - 00:08:16:19

Then you can indicate that the time is filed and respond in writing subsequently.

00:08:18:09 - 00:08:43:03

Throughout this hearing, we'll be referring to several key documents which you may wish to have easy access to. These are the draft development consent order that's free. Six. Seascape Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment as zero 27 and Associated Annexes. The Environmental Statement Volume three Chapter eight. Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage App 69.

00:08:44:26 - 00:09:14:27

I think that's all we have to say. Thank you. I've been provided by the case team with a list of those who have expressed a wish to be heard today. They are people representing the following organisations, organisations, Natural Resources Wales and potentially Gwyneth Archaeological Planning Services. I'm going to ask those of you who participate in today's meeting to introduce yourselves now. And when I state your organization's name, could you state your name and who you represent and also how you wish to be addressed? Mr.. Mrs.. Ms.. Ms..

00:09:15:02 - 00:09:19:29

Doctor or whoever. Thank you. So if you could start with the applicant, please, and any of their advisors.

00:09:21:22 - 00:09:52:12

Thank you, sir. Good morning. My name is Liz Don. I am a partner at Virgin Salmon, and I will be representing the applicant, Ali Moore, Offshore Wind Farm Limited at these hearings. I'll introduce everybody at the table. Probably the quickest thing to do. So to my left, we have Charles James Williams, who is the hourly Moore engineering manager, and to his left, Paul Carter, who is the hourly most senior consents manager. To my right is Linda Thompson from Open. The landscape consultant who undertook the Sylvia.

00:09:53:06 - 00:10:27:21

Next to her is Antonia Peacock. She is a consultant from Goby Consultants and she will be running the document projections. So if people would like a document projected so it can be seen by the examination, just state that clearly and I'm Tony will bring it up next to her is Ryan McManus. He is a senior consultant from Goby. And then just around the corner, we have Mailer, James and James Flint, who are also from Burgess, and they will be taking a note for the purposes of the applicant. And they're just making use of the table, which is slightly better than doing it on their knees, if that's okay.

00:10:28:13 - 00:10:29:00

Thank you, sir.

00:10:29:21 - 00:10:35:26

Thank you very much. Is done. So if we can move on to the organizations, you've expressed a wish to speak. Natural Resources Wales, please.

00:10:36:29 - 00:11:01:01

So very good morning to you. But it. I think it will always consolidate. But I need to do. I'm going on notice of King's Council. I'm here to represent Natural Resources Wales. In the hearing today, I'm joined by three colleagues from Natural Resources Wales. I'll ask them each to introduce themselves in turn. If I may. I'll turn, first of all to Ms.. Allman, mate, and to my right

00:11:02:26 - 00:11:03:11

it down.

00:11:03:13 - 00:11:08:00

My name is Olwen Maidment. I'm the senior landscape advisor with A.W.

00:11:12:06 - 00:11:12:24

Griffiths.

00:11:13:10 - 00:11:17:04

Senior Development Planning Advisor Capacity Committee as Resources Wales.

00:11:19:16 - 00:11:25:09

Good morning. Neil Phillips Senior Marine Advisor at and ultimately I'm the case manager for our Lemoore Project.

00:11:26:27 - 00:11:27:24

Thank you very much, Dale

00:11:30:16 - 00:11:32:20

Gwyneth Archaeological Planning Service. Ms..

00:11:36:00 - 00:11:39:19

Morning, everybody. I'm Jenny Emmett's. I'm the senior climbing archaeologist.

00:11:39:21 - 00:11:41:21

At Gwyneth Archaeological Planning Service.

00:11:42:08 - 00:11:45:10

We're an autonomous section of the U. S archaeological trust.

00:11:46:07 - 00:11:47:20

We provide the regional.

00:11:47:22 - 00:12:00:12

Curatorial service on archaeology and other matters for Northwest Wales, covering our land Sea Conway, west of Snowdonia and Gwyneth. Let's talk about.

00:12:02:09 - 00:12:09:23

Making a welcome. Is there anyone else who I've not been notified of in house, but is there anyone else here who would wish to speak today?

00:12:14:04 - 00:12:19:25

But if I could. Morning. Carrie Thomas from Conway County Borough Council Principal Planning Officer.

00:12:24:04 - 00:12:25:03

Today, you and.

00:12:25:05 - 00:12:25:29

Jones will.

00:12:26:01 - 00:12:26:22

Look across the.

00:12:26:24 - 00:12:28:00

Rainbow, and Sydney.

00:12:28:13 - 00:12:29:16

Cannot see it in this moment.

00:12:33:28 - 00:12:38:16

Morning. Thank you both. It's hard to wish with us today who would wish to speak.

00:12:43:24 - 00:12:49:28

More than a medical device to you? Or can Maria talk? Di Di, no.

00:12:50:13 - 00:12:56:21

Just bear with me one second, please. Ms.. And I just need to up When I had sets for the translation, I apologize. Thank you.

00:13:00:04 - 00:13:01:21

Okay. Oh, yeah.

00:13:01:23 - 00:13:05:29

The Sugar Bowl. And then over the pond. Heather. Lloyd. David.

00:13:08:07 - 00:13:10:19

It seems like. He's black.

00:13:14:16 - 00:13:16:19

But my apologies, Mr. Davis.

00:13:18:09 - 00:13:18:24

We got.

00:13:20:19 - 00:13:21:04

All right.

00:13:23:28 - 00:13:24:21

Okay. Thank you.

00:13:25:08 - 00:13:39:09

REDACTED

00:13:45:20 - 00:13:49:18

Thank you, Mr. Davis. What was it that you wished to address us on today? Please?

00:13:52:11 - 00:14:10:19

Uh. NARRATOR. So the pretty grim removal from the earth where I would have failed to get any bill. My Canadians are Tavern on the Window, And then my arty inquirer said, In case you need authority to occupy all

00:14:12:09 - 00:14:20:00

of our tax base to save money, I'm going to move. And the park business In the middle of the day. We start our guy. We're little.

00:14:23:10 - 00:14:24:16

Thank you, Mr. Davis, as usual.

00:14:26:20 - 00:14:59:04

Today's meeting is obviously just to discuss, as you might have heard at the start, to discuss the seascape and landscape effects, the offshore effects, if you like. We have a separate meeting tomorrow to discuss the substation site. Obviously close to Glasgow Road rate, which you'd be very welcome to join with as well. I just wondered if, if you wish to make your representations now we do have any other matters at the end of the programme, but then you'd need to sit for the rest of the hearing So it may be more in your interest to to make your representation now if you wish.

00:15:00:14 - 00:15:02:00

I'll leave in your hands up to yourself.

00:15:03:01 - 00:15:23:14

Okay. The 81. I certainly don't carry islanders was my can. I can approve. No Man at the disco. The La la La Guardia 81 on a sky deck is the I've got out Never somebody shot up It must have been this and shattered on ASX200 if my body got injured Pronounced a claim board member.

00:15:23:19 - 00:15:24:04

Yes Well

00:15:26:18 - 00:15:27:07

okay thank you.

00:15:28:28 - 00:15:45:15

Would probably Denbighshire would be speaking tomorrow but they'll but they'll be speaking tomorrow on the substation site which might be of more interest to you then. So especially given your appointment this afternoon then it may be it may be best if that's okay with you, if you if you wish to make your representation now.

00:15:48:00 - 00:15:48:15

Okay.

00:15:52:09 - 00:16:22:29

Yeah. Come out another guard. I think I can do what I'm done. I did baklava at his home. I'm 43 as well. And the next 40 minutes in the tape, Genie. He said she had a concern, and they put on hold that puppet up to our son. It cannot live up to a present threat. I'm no second.

00:16:23:01 - 00:17:01:13

Nothing on the last, can I will? Well, even the dangles elephant generally phantom alone in our one that here that you listen with a lot of money. I do lot. Kyle said. Kyle, they know for certain. And to me I think we're so happy about here. Yeah Atlanta DeMar never into it. I'm nothing. I never thought I could do it unless I did a lot of business in a restaurant and they didn't endeavour to work, wax and run now.

00:17:02:03 - 00:17:34:04

America had to acquire a neighbor mother. Our business continued tonight in any activity on money. We rise tomorrow each day a little more, including, I thought, you know, we did not anytime I heard you. I guess I'm just going. We had my own selling that put up on a day to continue on to session to finish what? I kind of do this in committee.

00:17:34:06 - 00:17:45:23

Well, I'd have, you know, from ten. We're not going to be happy about that immediately. Palo Alto is technically similar then around Palo Alto that

00:17:47:26 - 00:17:55:25

had a complaint back and forth in to tell you that although I completely understand if he

00:17:57:13 - 00:18:09:24

ever had any problem. Some concern here that I was in in that area, I suppose it could be it in less fortunate that the previous device

00:18:12:00 - 00:18:24:03

could have been I think that one of the sure he was going to have this possible connection. I don't like your temperament.

00:18:25:18 - 00:18:27:05

I'm going to senior for a

00:18:29:14 - 00:19:02:03

moment. And there been a connection here. Mean nothing about whether I still have to go. I'm going to the bathroom my my leg and I would but I couldn't really set it up with a camera and dog because I'm not mad of nobody driving the amount of people. So some into a pen tray and I can look up some little retailer, the three of us. She thrown yell not to use but I think generally on the fair market don't tell yet.

00:19:05:21 - 00:19:38:05

Thank you very much, Mr. Davis. That was very useful. Just before I say, if the applicant wishes to say anything, there's a couple of questions in there that I wanted to clear up that you had of ourselves. We are here. We work for the Planning Inspectorate. So under the Planning Act, it's essentially it covers for a certain size of project, which, which this is, It covers England and Wales. So we work for a planning inspectorate. We're nominally based in Bristol, but we are home based and we're all over.

00:19:38:12 - 00:19:41:14

We're located all over both countries, Wales and England.

00:19:43:00 - 00:20:03:26

In terms of the plans, if there was any any specific plans that you would like a bigger scale that I'm sure we could get those to you if you, if you wanted to speak to Mr. Stephens with any references we might be, if not not right away, but we might be able to get those out to you if you need them. So with that, I would like to come back to any points. Mr. DAVIES. Right, sir.

00:20:05:10 - 00:20:37:25

Thank you, sir. Liz Dunn, on behalf of the applicant. And so you'll be aware that this is something we're probably going to be discussing quite a lot of detail tomorrow. And I guess at this stage, I'd just like to point out to Mr. Davis that there has been an extensive site selection process that's been undertaken, which is set out in the application documentation in terms of the identification of suitable sites for the substation that it sets out.

00:20:38:14 - 00:21:19:28

And it's trying to try and find the document reference number for the purposes of somebody checking out for me the site selection chapter of the environmental statement a peaking service, app0 44, which sets out in detail the sites that were considered app044 and sets out in detail the approach that the applicant took to the site selection of four of the substation, the sites that were considered, why those were ruled out and why the decision was made that the site that's been identified is the most suitable one for for the substation.

00:21:22:14 - 00:22:00:10

I suggest it would be if you review that there is a lot of material there in terms of understanding the various different receptors and the the engineering and environmental constraints that were taken into account in identifying that as the most suitable location. And there has been consultation and engagement that was carried out in respect of that site. Clearly, it's something we will be considering and discussing, I think in more detail tomorrow with the with the local authorities and others in terms of of the availability of of hard copies of documents.

00:22:00:19 - 00:22:07:10

Appreciate that. As the world moves to a more virtual world, it can be quite challenging trying to find things.

00:22:09:06 - 00:22:35:15

As far as I'm aware, we have made hard copy documents available as well as hard copy documents at the moment. Not at the moment. Okay. Apologies. I thought there are there are there is the ability to to view those documents and and if it would be helpful to provide hard copies, we can look at that for you if you'd let us know.

00:22:38:26 - 00:22:39:11

Thank you, sir.

00:22:40:00 - 00:22:52:19

Thank you. Stump Yeah. Obviously, on the hard documents. Sure, I'm sure we can. As I mentioned before, if you would make any reference numbers to Mr. Stevens, and I'm sure we can resolve the issue between ourselves, so that's useful.

00:22:54:23 - 00:23:09:28

Thank you very much, Mr. Hughes. As we mentioned a few times, the meeting tomorrow is to discuss the substation site as well. So you'd be very welcome to join us tomorrow as well if you're able to, obviously, or if not, it will be livestreamed and you can watch the recordings lecture. All right. Thank you very much for your time.

00:23:11:21 - 00:23:14:00

Do have anybody else here who wishes to speak today?

00:23:20:06 - 00:23:48:22

Okay. I'd just like to say that when speaking today, please, could you? Well, bear in mind that we've read all the submissions that been submitted so far, so you don't need to read out any previous

submissions. But if you want to refer to anything that you've submitted before, then I'll be grateful if you give a see the Pens Examination library reference so we can all follow. Okay, So that concludes this item of the agenda. Thank you very much. And Doc and I shall now hand over to Mr. Newsome. Keep.

00:23:51:06 - 00:23:58:15

Thank you. With that, I'll turn to item two on the agenda, which relates to General Matters updates to examination documents.

00:24:00:04 - 00:24:20:03

Before we get into the main reasons for holding this hearing, we just wish to address a few points around the applicant submission of updated documents. Firstly, we notice a number of inconsistencies regarding the numerous update documents which have been submitted. So for example, some have changed versions and others do not.

00:24:22:18 - 00:24:31:09

The names of some of the documents appear to have been changed. Some of the document reference numbers have been changed from the submitted documents, as well

00:24:34:20 - 00:24:40:01

as some documents to new documents rather than updated documents, for example, the schedule of changes to the DCO.

00:24:42:07 - 00:24:50:26

So it's considered a standard practice when updating documents change, versions are submitted and document types, and the reference numbers remain the same.

00:24:53:00 - 00:24:58:12

Can the applicant please comment on these matters and indicates what it intends to do about going moving forward?

00:25:02:12 - 00:25:08:27

Thank you, sir. Is done on behalf of the applicant. This is obviously the first we've been made aware of this in terms of. Of.

00:25:12:02 - 00:25:47:13

So thinking through, if it would be helpful for us to provide will clearly review those documents that have have been provided at the various deadlines and ensure that it's clear which documents are being updated which were the original application documents. I suspect what has happened is that as we've updated documents for the various deadlines, we've given them a new number which has been the deadline number, as opposed to those referring back to the original application document number.

00:25:47:24 - 00:25:48:27

Is that is that the issue.

00:25:49:06 - 00:25:59:27

That some of the titles are changed? So the appendices for the c i, c P, for example, appendix has been taken out, so it's not clear that it's an appendix as such.

00:26:00:15 - 00:26:38:06

So so we'll review those and make sure that's clear. And certainly for the purposes of the c0cp, there are no new documents there. They are the same documents that have been updated in respect to providing track changed versions of documents. We have, I think as far as possible, limited those to

the ones that the examining authority has requested. So we've where we've made updates to the DCO, we've provided the development consent order, we've provided a clean version and a track change version, and we've provided a schedule of where those changes were made.

00:26:38:22 - 00:26:54:02

Similarly to the book of reference, if the examining authority thinks it would be helpful that effectively every document we update, we provide a track changed the new clean version, then we can certainly do that going forward.

00:26:54:18 - 00:27:10:00

Thank you. I think that would be useful. So just as an example, the schedule of changes to the DCO as each deadline, you're saying it's a revised version, but that only includes those changes about that line rather than going back to the previous deadlines.

00:27:10:09 - 00:27:29:09

And so you're looking for documents. So I list on behalf of the applicant. You're looking for those update documents to effectively be a rolling a rolling update, rather containing all the changes rather than each deadline providing a document which just sets out the changes that have been made at that deadline. Yes, Correct.

00:27:29:11 - 00:27:33:27

Yes, please. Otherwise, it's not clear that it's not. Data documents is effectively a new a new document.

00:27:35:00 - 00:27:48:03

Thank you. It certainly wasn't the intention for that to be for it to be confusing in that sense. And all we were seeking to do was make it clear what had been updated for the purposes of that deadline. But we can certainly draw those together.

00:27:48:09 - 00:28:05:23

Okay. Thank you. And just another example. For example, the Fish of Fisheries Liaison plan is now the fishing liaison plan. So there's also lots of inconsistencies between names and reference numbers and how they relate to the consent order reference numbers as well.

00:28:08:29 - 00:28:31:17

I'm so sorry, Guillermo. Of course, the Chilean government, natural resources. Well, I'm sure we're the only ones affected by this. Apologies. I think given the size of the room we're struggling to here on this side. Some of the contributions being made. So we'd be most grateful if the microphones could be pulled a little bit closer, if that's possible. Thank you. Everything at the moment is a little, little hard to hear on this side of the room. Thank you so much.

00:28:32:21 - 00:28:34:10

Okay. Thank you. I'll tell you better.

00:28:35:29 - 00:28:47:04

It's a little bit better. So. Yes, but not not significant, I have to say. And I think it's the size of the room I think that's causing the I think a lot of the sound is disappearing up to the ceiling, I think.

00:28:47:08 - 00:28:49:01

Can we turn the microphones up? That's all.

00:28:54:06 - 00:28:55:23

Just try to. Good luck.

00:28:55:25 - 00:28:59:10

Coach. Is this any better? Can you hear me? Clearer.

00:28:59:26 - 00:29:03:23

That is. That is better. I think. Let me just check with Miss Mason to microphone you.

00:29:04:14 - 00:29:05:02

In that case.

00:29:05:29 - 00:29:09:12

This moment is better for you. So it's a little better. Thank you.

00:29:09:14 - 00:29:19:21

Okay. Thank you. Okay. Secondly, we thought it would be useful to have discussion around the applicants documents. Iraq's list, which has reforms. There is a reform.

00:29:21:25 - 00:29:55:21

This document identifies numerous corrections across a variety of documents as well as corrections figures within documents. Given these corrections are, in many cases, not simply typos, we consider it preferable and simpler and fairer for all interested parties for revised versions of documents to be submitted into the examination to reflect the draft list. In addition, the draft list is not so it makes it easier than cross-referencing to a list when there's nothing in the document, which explains that there's been a change set out in a different document.

00:29:57:00 - 00:30:07:04

In addition, there are this is not specified as a certified document in the DCO. In any case, though, the matters identified will not necessarily be carried through should consent be granted.

00:30:10:02 - 00:30:12:04

Coming up can place comments on those matters as well,

00:30:14:06 - 00:30:17:03

which is similar to sort of what we were just discussing before.

00:30:17:28 - 00:31:00:20

Thank you, sir. Clearly, we have picked up corrections that have needed to be made to documents, and we've sought to bring those to the attention of the examination so that people are aware of where they have been, what errors have been picked up that have then been corrected. I think it's we will certainly look at updating those documents. And it's obviously important that for the purposes of the documents that are certified, they are an up to date documents because they effectively will be the control documents that are, if consent is granted, will will control the consent and the referenced in the DCO.

00:31:01:04 - 00:31:38:18

And I have to say so in terms of providing updated documents at this point, given there may be further changes that are needed. I think it's a it's a job we would need to review in terms of the size and scale of that task, because there are already significant number of documents in the examination and to provide updates that potentially need to be updated again before the end of the examination, I suggest might be less helpful rather than more helpful just in terms of the volume of documents that are that are produced.

00:31:39:17 - 00:32:18:07

As I say, we will we will review that. I would suggest if updated versions of documents, particularly those that have been secured under the DCO, need to be provided. It should really be at the end of the examination to bring all those changes together. Clearly with documents like the the kind of construction and the various annexes, those are being updated as we go through. And those will be and those will be provide a final clean version provided effectively at the end of the examination, which will be the version that is then referred to in the DIS in the development consent order.

00:32:19:24 - 00:32:20:23

Okay. Thank you for that.

00:32:23:13 - 00:32:23:28

That's good.

00:32:26:12 - 00:32:32:10

Okay. Thank you. So we'll move on to agenda item three, which relates to seascape, landscape and visual matters. So

00:32:35:12 - 00:33:08:12

taking the first three bullet points regarding the Anglesey area of outstanding natural beauty, the clergy and Range and the Valley area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Snowdonia National Park. Together the Applicant's Seascape Landscape. A visual impact assessment identifies varying degrees of harm to the landscape, character setting and special qualities of these designated areas. As a result of the proposed development, it's also identified varying degrees of harm from some of the viewpoints and footpaths within these areas.

00:33:10:04 - 00:33:43:10

There's some dispute between the parties around the elements of the application of elements to the applicant's assessment, including in respect of landscape character area overall, which is northern uplands and view points. 36 to 11 within Snowdonia National Park. Some viewpoints one, two and three and 44 within the Anglesey A and B, all of which will come onto we note the Snowdonia National Park Authority submitted the documents at that time, one which was ref 1091.

00:33:44:03 - 00:34:16:03

On behalf of the North Wales Planning Authorities, which was a review of the applicant's Seascape Landscape Visual Impact Assessment undertaken by land use consultants in that document, as well as in the risk of representations documents submitted by Snowdonia National Park Authority on behalf of the North Wales Planning authorities, there was a conclusion of land use consultants that the remaining areas of disagreement are points of detail and do not represent substantive differences in terms of the likely level of effects.

00:34:16:25 - 00:34:26:19

And that is considered that the seascape landscape and visual impact assessment and the landscape visual impact assessment make clear the overall extent of likely significant effects.

00:34:29:02 - 00:34:34:20

And just like Anglesey, Snowdonia National Park, if they were here,

00:34:36:13 - 00:34:43:20

Counts Council and Comrie County Borough Council. Just confirm that they agree with that statement.

00:34:52:16 - 00:35:00:24

Yes, we confirmed that company, County Borough Council is in agreement with the review by land use Consultants.

00:35:02:05 - 00:35:03:05

Okay. Thank you very much.

00:35:05:20 - 00:35:09:28

You want your own sentence, counsel? Yes. We are in agreement as well with. With the review. Thank you.

00:35:10:26 - 00:35:13:21

Okay. Thank you. Temperature.

00:35:15:09 - 00:35:17:05

County Council Virtual.

00:35:18:20 - 00:35:19:08

Has yet to make.

00:35:19:21 - 00:35:20:06

It.

00:35:20:09 - 00:35:24:06

To council. Yeah, we confirm. We agree with the idea. Same with you.

00:35:25:25 - 00:35:26:19

Okay. Thank you.

00:35:30:28 - 00:36:08:05

So moving on the perps this way and these assets out in the countryside, The Rights of Way Act 2000 is to conserve and enhance natural beauty of the area. The purposes of national parks set out within the national parks Access to the Countryside Act 1949 is to conserve and house natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage for the areas and to promote the opportunities for understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of those areas by the public. Both acts place a duty on us as examining authority and the Secretary of State to have regard to these purposes.

00:36:09:19 - 00:36:20:19

This is also requirements under paragraph 5.9. 12 of the national policy statement and one which relates to developments outside of own and national parks, but which may affect them.

00:36:22:19 - 00:36:39:21

Given that applicants have found a range of adverse effects in respect to the two enemies of the national Park, including some significant ones. Connecticut, please clarify its view on whether and to what extent the proposed development would conflict with the purposes of the A and B A national park designations.

00:36:53:20 - 00:37:41:09

Certainly is done on behalf of the applicant. I will just sort of introduce and then hand over to Linda Thompson. In respect to that, I think and clearly the test in the national policy statements is an important one. And it's important that that the the examination on the Secretary of State has regard to the impacts on the scale of this proposal in respect of those designated landscapes and the purposes of the designation. I think through the application documentation, we have clearly identified those

significant effects and I think explained why in the case of this project, the location of the scheme means that there will be significant effects on those on those designated landscapes.

00:37:42:11 - 00:37:59:15

And the the work that has been done by the applicant to minimise those as far as possible. In terms of the location of the turbines pulling the array back from the western edge and the more sensitive part of the Anglesea area when.

00:38:01:09 - 00:38:52:12

And I think it's also important to recognise that through the national policy statements that actually that test is something that needs to be considered in, in, in context in terms of not just the impacts of the scheme and the importance of of the designated landscapes, but also the need for the project, and that that is something that must be balanced. And recognising I think we make the point through the application as well that actually for any development or for any development of this scale or size, close to or within a designated landscape, it will be very, very difficult for those projects to, to conserve or enhance.

00:38:52:14 - 00:39:09:17

And it's certainly our position that whilst there are impacts of the scheme within those areas, they do not in any way undermine the purpose of designation or the reason that the sites were were designated in the first place. And I'll hand.

00:39:09:19 - 00:39:10:06

Over to.

00:39:11:19 - 00:39:15:22

Mr. Thomson, who will continue and give you a bit more detail on that.

00:39:16:04 - 00:39:31:12

Okay. Good morning, Border. Linda Thompson for that can certainly be not a consideration for us and looking at the harmful effects in relation to the development. Can you speak about.

00:39:37:00 - 00:40:35:06

I'll try again. Can you hear me better? No, thank you. It's thumbs up, and I think. And looking at the. The degree of harm on the integrity of the umpire, it's important to consider the measure of the degree to which the special qualities would continue to define the area, and that is the degree to which its overall integrity would be diminished. We have set out a number of reasons and our summing up of the effects on the the ENP and then in the national park with an assessment that if you would like, I can go through some of those reasons which provide the rationale as to why we came to the overall conclusion that whilst there would be a degree of harm and that the to and didn't affect the overall integrity of those designations.

00:40:39:05 - 00:40:51:10

So I think you might say that it will necessarily enhance the natural beauty, but with the, with, with all the harms we've identified with it. But it conserve the natural beauty of those designated areas.

00:40:51:12 - 00:41:18:08

I think it's recognised that it would be impossible for a development such as this that would be visible from a one be to be considered to conserve or enhance an area and B that is recognised in the national plan and in a one that is not possible in relation to a development such as this.

00:41:18:26 - 00:41:41:00

Okay. So if you're saying that. The development then sort of harm the overall integrity. That's a bit different to whether it conflicts with the purpose. Yeah, I'm not sure whether you're saying it would conflict with the purpose of say they were embedded in the national park, which is to conserve natural beauty too.

00:41:42:00 - 00:41:46:14

Strictly speaking, I can't see that it would conserve or enhance the natural beauty.

00:41:47:12 - 00:41:50:08

Okay. Are you are you saying those degree of

00:41:51:23 - 00:41:55:09

not conserving and enhancing it as a as a range of.

00:41:56:00 - 00:42:26:28

Yet then the development does not occur within the designated area? Of course, some way off. But if you consider the spatial qualities are some of them are to do with tranquility or other aspects of not seeing development, then it's very difficult to see that you would be enhancing that spatial quality. And so the I think and the it comes into the consideration of

00:42:28:29 - 00:42:35:13

that level of harm still has to be a consideration. And you look at the national planning framework.

00:42:36:27 - 00:42:56:17

Okay. Thank you. So just just so I'm clear, you know, you do accept that there would be some conflicts with. Yes. For purposes of the so in terms of the angles, the A and B, and is that also the national Park special purposes as well?

00:42:57:06 - 00:43:18:00

Yes, to some degree. We couldn't see that it would conserve. And that's the spatial code. Some of the spatial quality some of the spatial qualities it doesn't affect in any way. But there are some spatial qualities. The introducing development, any point where you can see it from those areas would not be said to be conserving or enhancing.

00:43:18:05 - 00:43:23:22

Okay, But that doesn't translate through to the purposes under the acts in terms of that designation.

00:43:24:20 - 00:43:28:24

It the act does say that it has to conserve or enhance.

00:43:28:26 - 00:43:40:26

Okay. And in terms of the field, that would be the ideal range and the valley, I can't see a conclusion of that in terms of the purposes for designation.

00:43:42:21 - 00:43:55:17

So you found some minor or non-significant facts, but does that also that translates conflicting with the purposes of that designation in terms of enhancing or conserving and enhancing natural beauty?

00:43:56:14 - 00:44:06:27

We have assessed that the effects would be not but adverse. So to a small degree we could again not see that you could consider that it would conserve, enhance.

00:44:07:15 - 00:44:09:12

So there'd be a small degree of conflicts with it.

00:44:09:25 - 00:44:10:10

Yes.

00:44:11:17 - 00:44:12:19

Okay. Thank you.

00:44:17:02 - 00:44:22:21

I was also going to ask Natural Resources Wales as well for the for that be wilderness.

00:44:23:28 - 00:45:06:27

Yes agree on is for both material company natural Resources Wales. We're grateful for that contribution by the applicant which we think is a realistic one in relation to the purposes of designation. One thing that we would add and highlight so this morning that might be helpful to your deliberations on this is that we are not persuaded that this concept of overall integrity, which is language of course, that we're familiar with from the habitats context, we're not persuaded that it's especially helpful when considering the landscape and visual impacts of development on areas of natural beauty and national parks.

00:45:07:06 - 00:45:13:19

We see, of course, sometimes experts expressing themselves in those terms,

00:45:15:07 - 00:45:48:25

but it's a rather curious concept when we're dealing with areas of this sort of scale as we see it. And it doesn't seem that there's any significant disagreement between ourselves on this question. The proposal will clearly result in a number of significant harmful adverse effects. Those effects, if it is accepted, would conflict with the purpose of designation, both in respect of the A, O and B and the natural park.

00:45:49:15 - 00:45:57:12

And that is of course something that therefore needs to be given serious consideration in accordance with the statutory duty.

00:45:58:27 - 00:46:04:13

We'd also pick up on a point in that discussion. It's important, of course, not to conflate the purpose

00:46:06:00 - 00:46:44:05

and the purposes. So far as the National Park is concerned, the purposes of designation with the special qualities, they are distinct although related considerations. But in terms of the statutory duty, it is clearly referenced by Express. By reference to those purposes or singular purpose alone so far as the EMV is concerned. So to confirm. So yes, conflict in relation to the Isle of Anglesey, A and B and also the Snowdonia National Park.

00:46:44:24 - 00:47:10:20

And in relation to the Canadian Range and RD Valley area of outstanding natural beauty, again, it seems that we are pretty much agreed on this. Non-Significant effects, yes, but adverse in relation to the special qualities of the air and b those non-significant effects can't be said to be consistent with the purpose of designation.

00:47:11:09 - 00:47:23:22

Okay. Thank you. In terms of the so there's two special qualities for the national park, is it that both of the sorry, two purposes, is it both those purposes you're finding conflict with or just enhancing?

00:47:24:14 - 00:47:25:18
It's fair to say that the.

00:47:25:20 - 00:47:26:09
Natural beauty.

00:47:26:11 - 00:47:35:00
It's fair to say that all evidence has been focused on the on the conservation and enhancement of beauty purposes. It's fair to say that. And that is our primary concern.

00:47:35:03 - 00:47:36:23
That's the primary concern. Okay.

00:47:40:03 - 00:47:41:21
Okay. If I could also ask

00:47:44:04 - 00:47:46:29
the Isle of Anglesey for their view on that, please.

00:47:49:08 - 00:47:49:23
Just like.

00:47:50:22 - 00:47:52:09
We would echo.

00:47:52:18 - 00:47:58:15
Natural Resources Wales this point and the proposal does not.

00:47:58:27 - 00:48:07:02
Conserve or house natural beauty and would detract from the purpose, designation and extent extensive area affected. Thank you.

00:48:07:23 - 00:48:08:16
Okay. Thank you.

00:48:10:15 - 00:48:17:28
And you do think there are degrees of conflict or is it just conflict or not conflict in terms of perhaps conflicting with purposes?

00:48:19:17 - 00:48:45:07
And so we're open to the concept of there being degrees of of of conflict. Once it has been determined that there is a conflict, then of course, it's open to you as a decision maker to assess how serious you regard that conflict to be, whether it's small, significant, substantial. Those are all planning judgments that are open to you, as a matter of fact, in degree.

00:48:46:26 - 00:49:06:15
Clearly, we would be in terms of our evidence and in terms of the degree of conflict, then clearly, as the the adverse effects become significant, then the degree of conflict will then accordingly be greater with that purpose. And we hope that that's fairly reflected in our evidence.

00:49:08:28 - 00:49:24:29

Okay. Thank you. So if so, what degree of conflict would you find? I mean, noting this, noting the overall extent of the national park and where the the facts would be located. Would like to comment on that, please.

00:49:25:02 - 00:49:53:25

So on that, I think we'd be content again to have to express ourselves by reference to significance. So where there are significant adverse effects and where we've expressed the effects or identified the effects in those terms, we would say that there is significant conflict with the purpose where there is a non significant adverse effects identified. We'd be content to say that there is conflict but a non-significant conflict in that regard. We'd, we'd be content with that assessment.

00:49:54:12 - 00:49:58:01

Okay. So it doesn't need to be only one significant effect on, say,

00:49:59:18 - 00:50:07:22

a landscape occurrence of area within the national park or one viewpoint for that to be a significant conflict with one of the purposes.

00:50:08:12 - 00:50:31:01

That wouldn't necessarily be sufficient, that wouldn't necessarily be sufficient if we're only talking about one significant defect. But what we're very clear about is that the number of significant effects identified in relation to the Isle of Anglesey, Aonb and the Snowdonia National Park are such in number and extent that we have no difficulty with advising you that in our judgment there is significant conflict with those purposes.

00:50:32:08 - 00:50:35:05

Okay. Thank you. With that can like to respond.

00:50:35:09 - 00:51:13:25

Thank you. Liz Dunn, on behalf of the applicant, I think it would be helpful. I think we're now starting to sort of drill down into into a bit more of the detail around where those differences that those differences are between, I think, the applicant and A.W., rather than obviously and you see who did the work on behalf of the North Wales authorities. So I think looking at that, Mr. Lewis makes a good point, which is you have to look at the degree of harm that is there. And I think it's important that we put that into context in terms of the extent of those impacts on the A1.

00:51:14:00 - 00:51:27:29

I think we've accepted that the clarity and Range and D Valley OMV doesn't need further consideration. Are we comfortable and to focus on the Isle of Anglesey and the Aurora National Park?

00:51:28:26 - 00:51:39:03

Yeah, although you do you do suggest that there would be some conflict, not the purposes, but the main concerns are the Isle of Anglesey over and beyond the Snowdonia National Park.

00:51:40:10 - 00:51:54:18

So I will hand over to Linda Thompson, who will go through the detail, I think, on those in terms of really identifying the scale of that harm in the context of those areas in in totality.

00:51:57:01 - 00:52:27:04

Thank you. Linda Thompson For the applicant. Can I just check? You can hear me. Thank you. So you've made comments about the terminology overall integrity. And I think it's important to come back to that, just to look at in the round the degree to which significant effects occur within the Isle of

Anglesey and in Stonier National Park and the degree geographically within which they occur and also the degree to which they affect spatial quality.

00:52:27:06 - 00:53:06:29

So for me, so I will go through some so some of the factors that we considered and coming to our conclusions. So within a look at Anglesey, there are 14 special qualities identified in the UNDE, and it is the combination of interaction of distinctive resources and activities that form the basis of the designation. The majority of these resources, including features and special qualities and activities, would be unaffected by only more due to its location at some distance from the EU and the EU, and therefore only be affected through visibility of only more at a substantial distance offshore and not any physical change to the bounds of features or activities therein.

00:53:07:16 - 00:53:17:11

It is the relationship and quality of the receptors and activities within the UNB that largely define its inherent character and integrity. And these are not affected only for

00:53:18:29 - 00:53:22:18

the zone to be included in figure 18. E

00:53:25:03 - 00:53:27:01

Do we want to look at that?

00:53:28:19 - 00:53:29:04

Yes.

00:53:29:06 - 00:53:53:08

So we could we can go on and see whether you want to or not. This shows the extent of the theoretical visibility of the maximum design scenario. E which has been calculated to effect equate to 39% of the UMD with the self study area. Parts of the unviable on the western coast and the Isla Vista Anglesey are on the very edge of the study area.

00:53:55:00 - 00:53:55:15

Thank you.

00:53:58:07 - 00:54:28:04

Figure 12 B is a hub height said t v for MDC. And by comparing these two figures, it can be seen that much of the more distant word targeted by invisibility would be A bleeds only and B from a locations of greater distance. This shows that the actual visibility of only more within the Western and the majority of the north and coastal areas of the UN. B would be extremely limited, particularly due to the incidence of intervening landscape and belt features.

00:54:29:25 - 00:54:56:13

Actual visibility of only more from within the eastern coastal areas is also largely restricted to coastal areas and open areas immediately inland or where there are elevated high points such as demonstrated by the the viewpoints which have been located within the E1 B to show the worst case views of only more from the EU and B and do not necessarily demonstrate the visibility from many parts of the EU and be.

00:55:01:00 - 00:55:31:03

Thus, the restricted visibility within the eastern coastal areas is due to the prevalence of vegetation as part of much of the intervening landscape. This is a screening effect on the views obtained by people, particularly the large numbers travelling along roads where roadside vegetation is prevalent. The viewpoints have been selected to show the views from where Oli Moor was the most visible coastal or

elevated views. To assist in providing a clearer understanding of the proposals and as such, these viewpoints are likely to give rise to significant effect.

00:55:31:25 - 00:55:40:26

Therefore not representative of views obtained from within large parts of the eastern section of the EU, and the for similar visibility does not arise.

00:55:43:05 - 00:56:08:09

The Isle of Anglesey, EU and B is predominantly coastal, but also includes inland areas that form the backdrop to the coast. Some of its characteristics and spatial qualities include expansive views that may be over the seascape as well as relative tranquillity, relative openness and exposure. The seascape can evoke and on the perception of the EU and be a no late to have a look at a viewpoint. 42.

00:56:13:22 - 00:56:35:09

There's been some discussion about the effect on landscape character with the E1 B and the the definition of the geographical extent of the significant effect in relation to the landscape character in land. And then I would just like to use those few point to to illustrate. You can.

00:56:37:08 - 00:57:04:25

And the degree to which other characterizing features and land are are major contributors to the characteristics of the EU. And the as soon as you travel inland away from the the immediate coastal areas and a short distance than land from the coast itself and commuters those on an equal.

00:57:12:04 - 00:57:46:00

So I'm not really talking about here the degree to which the elements of screening would necessarily just screen views. Obviously, there are areas of open landscape within those areas where it's possible that there would be views out to sea. But in terms of character change, I think it's important to understand that the seascape within those areas becomes a less defining characteristic unless you're very close to the coast, and that is something that happens along much of the coastal area and character.

00:57:46:09 - 00:58:02:26

So this viewpoint is taken from an inland location within one of the character areas where the said TV does extend inland. But just making the point, although there might be a visual impact effects and character, I don't believe, or extend as far inland as suggested.

00:58:06:08 - 00:58:37:29

So I think I think what you're saying is, you know, you maybe you'll be able to see this development. There are some significant effects from and harm the special qualities. But you're saying overall the conflicts with the purpose of the designation is is what what degree is that conflict? Because then ultimately you're saying it's significant. And are you saying it's not significant if they were to be if there were a scale?

00:58:38:04 - 00:59:20:27

I think there is a difference between finding significant effects in certain locations with an area when they don't occur. What they're not widespread, they're occurring well beyond the boundary of the audio visual effects, even though they are transcribed into character effects. They are occurring as a result of visibility and many of the characteristics and components and spatial qualities within the and the are not affected. So it's very I think it's occurs in a very specific geographical area where we can't see that that would be enhancing or conserving those within that the designation.

00:59:21:10 - 00:59:41:02

But I think in balancing that harm, we need to consider the locations within which that would occur in the round, which is why we tend to think of the overall integrity taking account of each of the different factors that together create the characteristics of the one.

00:59:41:15 - 00:59:48:07

Okay. Okay. So I understand your where you're coming from. What natural resource smells like. So you respond to that?

00:59:48:21 - 01:00:25:25

Yes, certainly. And our response to that is in relation to the Isle of Anglesey and being particular is that this area and B is predominantly coastal in character. And that means that sea views and the coastline, as we've just seen in some of the images that have been put up, they are the key focus of the scenic views within the A and B, the scenic views are in the main sea views. The receptors within that area are of a high sensitivity given that A and B designation.

01:00:26:15 - 01:01:06:12

And as we see it and indeed it doesn't appear to be contested by the applicant, the proposal would unquestionably interfere with the appreciation of the open sea and the coastline, including some of those coastal landforms. And so that's why I'm afraid we don't regard it as a sufficient answer to point to the macro argument, if you like, of saying, well, look, if you look at the whole layout and B as a whole, then we're not really dealing with a significant conflict.

01:01:06:24 - 01:01:30:12

It's important to focus on why this aonb has been designated. It's been designated predominantly, we say, because of the quality of its outward coastal views. And the proposal, unfortunately, would be in clear conflict with an H and B designated in light of those qualities.

01:01:31:29 - 01:01:36:26

Okay. Thank you. And in terms of national power, you say you have the same view.

01:01:37:01 - 01:01:54:08

Indeed, it would be a a similar a similar analysis. There's clearly a a wider set of considerations that goes to the national park consideration, because we're clearly not only dealing with matters of coastal appreciation and so forth.

01:01:55:23 - 01:02:14:09

But again, when one looks at the purpose and I'll focus on the purpose of the conservation enhancement of beauty, I refer back to my earlier comments and the sheer number and extent of significant effects. Therefore, we say amounting to clear and significant conflict with that purpose.

01:02:14:19 - 01:02:22:27

Okay, Thank you. On the Isle of Anglesey, you like to respond to anything on that as well. You on Jones I'm on council.

01:02:23:19 - 01:02:24:14

I believe there.

01:02:24:16 - 01:02:25:01

Is.

01:02:25:26 - 01:02:26:24

An officer from one.

01:02:26:26 - 01:02:28:02
Of these consultants online.

01:02:28:04 - 01:02:32:27
So perhaps you would like to respond on of the Vygotsky.

01:02:33:23 - 01:02:34:12
Yes, of course.

01:02:45:09 - 01:02:45:29
Or to

01:02:47:22 - 01:02:54:12
all McCrea of land use consultants on behalf of the North Wales planning authorities.

01:02:58:19 - 01:03:06:25
I'm not quite sure how to respond. I we obviously undertook a technical review of the SL via we haven't

01:03:08:23 - 01:03:12:03
undertaken an assessment of the.

01:03:13:24 - 01:03:38:00
The overall effects on on the integrity of the and be on national park or the purposes of it. So I would yeah I would defer to and are WS views on in relation to that. I mean from our point of view we we looked at the. Assessment, which the applicant has undertaken.

01:03:38:09 - 01:03:39:09
In terms of.

01:03:40:22 - 01:03:49:13
The findings in relation to impacts on character and views at the. In terms of the assessment.

01:03:49:15 - 01:03:51:15
Made in our.

01:03:53:00 - 01:04:01:09
Our comments on that are clearly set out in our review, which which is before you am. So I, I can't really.

01:04:03:24 - 01:04:09:04
Go into the the detail of the the special qualities or the.

01:04:10:24 - 01:04:15:06
For the purposes of designation, because that's not something that's been within our scope.

01:04:17:28 - 01:04:22:11
Okay. Thank you, Mr. McCrea. If I could just ask. That's a resource, Wales.

01:04:25:14 - 01:04:44:15

In terms of this national policy statement and one paragraph 5.9. 13 states that the fact that the proposed project will be visible from within the designated area should not in itself be reason for refusing consent. Process supports your interpretation of that policy statement.

01:04:45:15 - 01:05:31:18

So that is a policy which we respectfully endorse and accept. The answer to it is that it's not simply, I'm afraid here, a matter of visibility. It's the extent of visibility that unfortunately tips into significant harm as we've identified. So. And I hope that we've been fair in our assessment of the proposal in that we've not assessed it on the basis of equating visibility with harm, but have in every instance, sought to assess the degree of harm caused by the degree and extent of visibility and how that visibility presents itself in context.

01:05:32:06 - 01:05:41:20

And so that's why we have gone further and beyond that guidance in saying that we are beyond visibility and in a position of significant harm.

01:05:42:15 - 01:05:43:09

Okay. Thank you.

01:05:43:27 - 01:05:44:24

So are we able.

01:05:44:26 - 01:05:45:11

To.

01:05:45:13 - 01:05:46:00

De-escalate.

01:05:46:02 - 01:05:48:05

Some of those? So I listen on behalf of the applicant.

01:05:49:21 - 01:05:50:06

Do you want.

01:05:51:10 - 01:06:32:09

Linda Thompson on behalf that. Good. So can you hear me? You notice there that you noted there that you considered the open views out to sea were the key characteristic. I just wanted to make the point that a great deal of the character of the Anglesey coast is in connection with the interrelationship of the coastal area, the land with the sea, and many of its characteristics are drawn from the changing relationship at close range within the sea, and not necessarily to do with the wide open seascape that the many of the the components are related to.

01:06:33:02 - 01:06:36:03

That interrelationship comes with a

01:06:37:20 - 01:07:12:16

really strong coastal connection when the sea meets the coast and the the different ways in which it does that along the coast. And also that open views out to sea will will continue to occur that and largely the the wind farm will only take up a very small part of that open view out to sea. And many instances there are remaining wide open views of open sea from those coastal areas, as demonstrated with many of the viewpoints.

01:07:15:11 - 01:07:45:15

So just to add, placed on on behalf of the applicant, I think obviously everyone is aware, but the Anglesey beyond Bay is not just limited to the part where where there is visibility or there would be visibility of hourly Lismore. It covers a very large part of the coast of Anglesey and therefore there are significant parts of that alone bay that will be entirely unaffected, including those those sea views by the project. I would also just like with we've made some reference to national policy statements.

01:07:46:03 - 01:07:48:17

I think it's also important to recognise the

01:07:50:08 - 01:08:28:23

national policy statement and three and paragraph 2.6.2. Clearly that's around decision making, but it also says where a proposed offshore wind farm is within sight of the coast, there may be adverse effects. So a recognition that that could be or they may well be adverse effects. And the Secretary of State should not refuse to grant consent for a development solely on the ground of an adverse effect unless and there are two categories there. It considers that an alternative layout could be proposed which would minimise harm, taking account of other constraints, and then taking account of the sensitivity of the receptor.

01:08:28:25 - 01:08:37:06

The harmful effects are considered to outweigh the benefits of the scheme and clearly that's that, that's the balancing test that needs to be undertaken here.

01:08:39:01 - 01:08:55:28

Okay. Thank you very much. I think I understand. The parties concerns, but I would like to ask them before actually about the pledging range and devalue a billion, just our views on that because I didn't ask you earlier, but it's partly hidden temperature.

01:08:58:04 - 01:09:01:05

In terms of the effects on the purposes of the you.

01:09:03:05 - 01:09:13:26

Yeah. With respect to that, I think I wouldn't want to expound any further than than what's in our written submission, to be honest. And we would defer to these vendors as the statutory undertaker.

01:09:17:14 - 01:09:18:07

Okay. Thank you.

01:09:20:03 - 01:09:20:18

I'm.

01:09:22:27 - 01:09:51:11

So we requested copies of policies, the documents referred to in the evidence, but do not appear to provide you with all of these. So for example, the I, C, U and B management plan, the clergy and range in the Valley A and B management plan. This noted Snowdonia National Park published plan and our WS seascape a visual sensitivity to offshore wind farms in Wales. Documents. Are you able to provide these into the examination.

01:09:53:06 - 01:10:07:00

So I done on behalf of the applicant. Yes, with We will liaise with the parties to make sure that the up to date versions are identified and. Is not providing a link to those documents. All hard copies of the documents.

01:10:11:11 - 01:10:14:28

I think Centrelink's records like that. Government documents.

01:10:15:08 - 01:10:21:24

Thank you. Will liaise with the other parties to make sure we have the up to date versions of those and can provide those for deadlines for you.

01:10:22:06 - 01:10:43:02

Okay. Thank you very much. Also in answer to our written questions regarding the status of the Snowdonia National Park Partnership plan that suggested it had been adopted, a lot of new suggests that it was not adopted, so the only National Park Authority did not respond. So can you please clarify the position with regard to that document?

01:10:45:20 - 01:10:47:03

So listing on that

01:10:48:28 - 01:10:56:18

list on on behalf of the applicant, I think Snowdonia National Park Authority, a representative may be on the live stream.

01:10:58:09 - 01:11:00:01

I believe are watching the live stream video.

01:11:00:03 - 01:11:11:27

Watching the those that are not. It's it's certainly our understanding so that that that document has not been designated and that would appreciate confirmation from National Park authority.

01:11:12:19 - 01:11:16:15

Okay Natural Resources Wales do you have any update on that?

01:11:16:18 - 01:11:29:06

So we haven't an update beyond the position that we stated, reflecting our understanding, of course, we can make further inquiries ourselves directly, the National Park to seek an update on that if they're not able to assist immediately.

01:11:29:15 - 01:11:36:16

Okay. Thank you. I, I can see it hand raised on the virtual screen as well, if we could go to that person.

01:11:37:06 - 01:11:37:21

Yeah.

01:11:37:27 - 01:11:40:10

John Roberts Snowdonia National Park.

01:11:40:16 - 01:12:11:14

Yeah. Just to confirm that the consent decree has been adopted and I just in terms I did raise my hand at the start of the meeting, so maybe it doesn't show up on the screen. But just to those that we do agree with all the findings and the elusive reports that you mentioned at the beginning as well. And also just to echo all the points raised by and at the blue angles here as well, I haven't got much further to add to the really and I would just agree with the concerns, especially on the on the purposes as well.

01:12:12:09 - 01:12:14:21

And I think that's it for now. Thank you.

01:12:19:09 - 01:12:19:29

Thank you very much,

01:12:22:07 - 01:12:29:20

Mr. Roberts. Could I just ask you, you know, you agree with me, and I w said you don't sweat anything, Walter, to that.

01:12:32:22 - 01:13:05:14

Yes. Yes, we we agree. Haven't got much time, really, both in terms of what's been said today or what's been said over the last month, few months and years, probably. I think our viewpoint hasn't changed that much in terms of concerns with the project and its impact on northern parts of the national park and other purposes as well. I think it's still a matter of the number of turbines, the size of turbines and the cumulative impact there.

01:13:05:26 - 01:13:14:10

And I don't yeah, I don't think our opinion has changed in that regard over the course of the last few months.

01:13:14:27 - 01:13:23:18

Okay. Thank you. Can you tell me if the National Park Partnership Plan 2020 is an adopted document or is it approved document?

01:13:27:12 - 01:13:29:25

So doing something through contemporary.

01:13:33:09 - 01:13:33:24

Yes.

01:13:34:25 - 01:13:36:14

Yeah, we could do that. No problem. Yeah.

01:13:36:27 - 01:13:43:02

No, no. Sorry. How's it been? I've got different information. Thus, whether it's been adopted, formally adopted or not.

01:13:43:18 - 01:13:52:01

All right. I had a query from Paula's RWA a few weeks ago, maybe a month or so ago. I confirm then that it had been adopted.

01:13:55:06 - 01:13:56:06

Okay. Thank you very much.

01:13:58:10 - 01:14:03:13

Is there anything anybody else would want to say with regard to designated landscapes at this point?

01:14:09:08 - 01:14:43:03

Linda Thompson For the applicant, mostly the discussion has been around the geographical extent of the effects on the Anglesey E1 Bee, but I would just like to touch on the extent of the geographical significant effects within Snowdonia National Park, and we have found there to be some significant effects on viewpoints, mostly in the far north and part of the national park. So largely the national park is unaffected by the views of Elite Moor.

01:14:43:21 - 01:14:55:20

That is very clearly demonstrated by the said TV. And we have set out further rationale for why we don't think that overall the integrity of the national park is harmed to

01:14:57:12 - 01:15:31:15

a great extent, that it is very confined. And I think that what you see has agreed with that in terms of the geographical extent that it would be confined to that, those very northern edges and some further high points further back in terms of visual effects, in terms of the landscape character effects, there is some and there is some disagreement as to whether or not those visual effects translate into a landscape character effect on the northern uplands landscape character area.

01:15:32:11 - 01:16:09:18

But again, I would suggest that the inherent characteristics within that northern landscape are sufficiently strong that something that occurs within one part of a view, quite a distance from the national park is not sufficient to change the characteristics within the national park itself, which are to do with the elements and patterns within the national park so that any change to the character would be in terms of the characteristics of the national park, which in some instances have some sense of remoteness and tranquillity.

01:16:09:28 - 01:16:43:16

But I would suggest that in the northern part of the national park, the evidence of that is limited because it is already affected by development. So it's not that it's a visibility of a wind farm that would change it. And in seeing that there is already visibility of wind farms. So it's an incremental change and I don't think that that is sufficient to therefore affect and significantly affect the character. Although it does, I agree, significantly affect some viewpoints from that northern area.

01:16:44:01 - 01:16:52:24

So just thinking again about that overall, overall change, when you come to consider the level of harm and the degree to which it does or does not

01:16:54:17 - 01:16:57:18

fit with the purpose of the national park.

01:16:58:03 - 01:17:05:13

Okay. So when you talk about overall integrity, are you effectively talking about effect on the purpose purpose of the national park?

01:17:06:07 - 01:17:33:14

It it does relate to it, but the purpose of the national park is clear that it's to conserve and enhance. And as I said, we can't say that something that introduces development could be said to conserve or enhance. But there is other parts to thinking about the change that would occur to to the national park. When you come to consider that balance, because it doesn't

01:17:35:23 - 01:17:43:15

the national planning framework doesn't suggest that that's all of the consideration, that there are other considerations do that not balancing.

01:17:44:12 - 01:17:45:16

Okay. Thank you very much.

01:17:47:03 - 01:17:52:09

In that case, I'll move on to the greats on Heritage Coast. I'm sorry, this.

01:17:55:00 - 01:17:55:15

Yes.

01:17:56:27 - 01:17:59:02

Kelly Thomas, Conway County Borough Council.

01:18:01:01 - 01:18:06:23

We understand that the Heritage Coast designation is not a statutory designation, and therefore it doesn't

01:18:09:00 - 01:18:17:06

carry as much weight in planning policy as national parks and even beaches. But it is very important. It is nevertheless very.

01:18:17:08 - 01:18:19:06

Important in terms of.

01:18:19:08 - 01:18:22:10

The local landscape.

01:18:22:12 - 01:18:23:19

Character and.

01:18:23:27 - 01:18:42:22

Possibly regional landscape character being a very prominent feature on the North Wales coast, which is that which is recognised in the land map evaluation. And therefore we feel that the impact on the Heritage Coast should be afforded

01:18:44:22 - 01:18:46:12

a considerable degree of weight.

01:18:48:15 - 01:18:52:17

We note that the applicant survey

01:18:55:10 - 01:19:19:19

shows that the impact on the of the Heritage Coast on two of the viewpoints, two of the viewpoints are assessed as being moderate stroke major, and also it assesses the impact on Section L, which is the north northern part of the Wales coast pathway, where it's round the great storm and comes

01:19:21:12 - 01:19:27:11

towards and it no, that is also assessed as being moderate stroke major.

01:19:29:03 - 01:20:13:07

The applicant says LBA assesses the impact on the Heritage Coast as a whole as being moderate, and we feel that that assessment is open to challenge on the basis that large areas of the summit around the summit and indeed other areas of the Great Hall are open to public access. Anybody experiencing views of the from the great or from extensive areas with great or would experience similar views as from the two selected viewpoints and from this section l of the Wales coastal path.

01:20:13:26 - 01:20:23:27

So we believe that is a case for arguing that the impact on the Great Home as a whole on the Heritage Coast designation as a whole could be assessed as being moderate stroke Major.

01:20:25:27 - 01:20:44:24

Okay, thank you. I was going to ask, well, I know you've raised concern the effects on the great Storm Heritage Coast have been underreported and should be moderate, major adverse rather than moderate, primarily given some visual effects from along the Heritage Coast have been reported as moderate, major adverse. I think that's what you're saying.

01:20:46:18 - 01:20:54:09

I was going to say is is because there are significant factors been found. By the applicants

01:20:56:14 - 01:21:05:03

is a difference of opinion. And how material is that to our consideration? You know, whether it's moderate or moderate major, the effect is significant.

01:21:06:08 - 01:21:32:28

Carried some has come to county borough council. We have we appreciate it. It doesn't need to be assessed on the basis of the same tests as the statutory designations. But I would our point is that because we feel that the impacts on the grades should be assessed as being moderate stroke major. Then that adds weight to our concerns that it would affect the harm on the setting of the great greater.

01:21:34:02 - 01:21:43:08

Okay, so you think because it's a you find the higher adverse effects then that we should be given that more weight to that harm in the in the planning balance.

01:21:43:29 - 01:21:46:25

Carry term economy county better council. Yes I think that's correct.

01:21:47:22 - 01:21:57:18

Okay. Thank you. And could you just comment on so in the applicant's deadline to response which was rep to there is a two.

01:22:00:04 - 01:22:01:23

Can you please comment on.

01:22:03:14 - 01:22:21:11

Now you have you'll go to the applicant's suggestion. The views are just one of the characteristics of the Heritage Coast so that there's an impact on the views. But views are one one characteristic of the Heritage Coast. Does that reduce the overall effect if only one of those characteristics is affected?

01:22:21:29 - 01:22:42:19

I understand that. I understand the point that the applicant is making. I think we would refer you to the description, the land map evaluation, which appears in paragraph 4.13 of the Council's written representations.

01:22:44:06 - 01:22:58:01

And that does describe the the character of the crater itself. It's the great scientists have inherited landscape character being an area of geological and archaeological significance. And there's remains of old

01:22:59:26 - 01:23:30:10

prehistoric mining, for example, that that that's add to the significance up to its significance as a as a as a heritage coast. However, the land map evaluation does refer in particular to the fact that the Great Hall offers views of the extensive, quite extensive views of a coastal areas, and we feel that considerable weight should be given to those views as a feature of the

01:23:32:28 - 01:23:34:00
Heritage Coast.

01:23:36:04 - 01:23:39:18
Okay. Thank you, Mr. Thomas, for the applicant. Like to respond?

01:23:42:13 - 01:24:27:07
Yes, sir. In responding to and called me counsel's representation. We did enlarge on why we didn't concur that a significant effect on a visual viewpoint as represented by the the few points on the wheels caused path, then translated into a landscape character effect on its spatial qualities. As as mentioned there, there are many other aspects that contribute to the qualities of the great form, as some of them are geographical to do with the the coastal features, the wheel back form of the land form, some of its cultural heritage aspects and of of the historic areas.

01:24:27:17 - 01:25:00:00
And some of those will be unaffected. And it's all those contributing factors that create the inherent character within the great or. And that is not necessarily affected to the same degree as a visual impact, which is a view in one direction, which is a different kind of an impact. Already the character of the Great or is affected by visibility of what, offshore wind farms. And again, that's a significant effect would arise potentially if that was not the case.

01:25:00:02 - 01:25:30:24
But in this case, it is an incremental change in terms of the the character effect on the great Orme itself and which isn't and of the whole of the great Orme isn't within this entry. And again, we have expansive views of open sea from large parts of the the the great Orme that would not be affected. So it would still be possible to have those open sea relationships where only more wind farm to be built.

01:25:31:12 - 01:25:48:10
And that is why I suggest that there was two different levels of significance. As you rightly point out, we have assessed the effect on character and quality of the Great Orme as being a significant effect. That is why there is a difference in terms of that level of effect.

01:25:51:17 - 01:25:52:18
Okay. Thank you very much.

01:25:52:20 - 01:25:53:05
Thank you.

01:25:54:10 - 01:25:57:24
Of course, the time should be.

01:26:00:28 - 01:26:13:06
I think before we move on to the next bullet point, which is assessments of viewpoints, including one, two, three, 23, 36 and 44. I think it's probably a good time to take a 15 minute recess.

01:26:13:14 - 01:26:48:02
You might recall I just wanted to come back briefly, if I may, before we close off this discussion. I just wanted to sorry, I'm loose. Come back material. Come re come back on one of the observations

made by the applicants and landscape expert about the impact on views out from the northern uplands of the Arity National Park Landscape character Area one. It was suggested if I if I made a correct note, it was suggested that inherent characteristics in that northern landscape are such that the proposal wouldn't be sufficient to change elements and patterns within the national park.

01:26:48:18 - 01:27:19:13

We would respectfully disagree with that. One of the difficulties that we are having with the applicant's approach to this issue, although there is, as I say, extensive agreement on the assessment of effects overall. But one of the difficulties that perhaps we have is that there is a focus sometimes on or an attempted focus on what is not affected, when the focus should be on what is affected and what the extent of those effects are.

01:27:20:00 - 01:27:55:16

The reality is that from those northern uplands, scenic views of the coast and the sea are particularly important to the visual experience of being in that part of the national park. And the scale of this proposal would make it a prominent development, as we've said in our written representations. It would unquestionably, we say, interfere with how the views of the Great Orme are experienced and that whole relationship between the sea, Conway Bay and the headland.

01:27:56:09 - 01:28:15:27

So the notion, as it was put earlier, that the proposal wouldn't be sufficient to change valued elements as it was part of the national park experience, that would not, in our judgment, be correct when having regard to the importance of those scenic views out.

01:28:18:17 - 01:28:19:17

Okay. Thank you very much.

01:28:21:09 - 01:28:21:28

So an update.

01:28:22:09 - 01:28:24:11

Before we finish. Oh, yes. Yes.

01:28:24:25 - 01:28:34:28

Thank you. I think here is the difference between effects and visibility and effects and character. That is the professional difference here.

01:28:36:19 - 01:29:18:13

If I can just go back to the early days of landscape character assessment before we started assessing large scale development like onshore wind in our practice and the early days of landscape character assessment, you only assess the effect of a development on landscape character within an area of landscape character that the development was within. And it was only once we started to have effects of wind farms on the edge or over landscape character areas that we started to realize that, in fact, you could start to change some of the characteristics within that landscape character itself, because you were having an extreme effect on the inherent characteristics of landscape.

01:29:19:05 - 01:29:46:29

And I think often there is a high degree of crossover between visual effects and landscape character effects. And I think that that's where we are ending up with a different difference of opinion, because the characteristics are very strong within that northern part of the the national park and indeed around the coast of Anglesey. And I do not agree that having some

01:29:49:00 - 01:30:11:24

a further change of development characteristic does significantly affect the characteristics within that national park area through visibility. I agree that it's a scenic view, but we are talking about views and we have identified that there will be significant effects on views, but I do not agree that they translate into effects in landscape character to a significant effect.

01:30:13:02 - 01:30:31:15

Okay. Thank you. When we come on to talk about 3.36 may touch on landscape coverage area. Well, again, thank you. Okay. Thank you. So I will adjourn for 15 minutes if you come back at 1145. So time is now 1130. And this hearing was adjourned.