

### **ISH3 Thurs 8 Dec\_Part1**

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FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:05:26 - 00:00:11:04

Okay. Good morning, everybody. But it can I just confirm that everybody could hear me, please?

00:00:12:19 - 00:00:17:17

Okay. Thank you. And can I also confirm, Mr. Stevens, that the live streaming has commenced?

00:00:19:28 - 00:00:50:01

Yeah. Thank you very much. For those people watching today and a live stream, can I just advise you that should we at any point adjourned proceedings this morning? We will have to stop the livestream in order to give us clear recording files. And as a result of the point at which we recommence the meeting and restart the livestream, you just need to refresh your browser page to view the restart to stream, and we will remind you of that again should we need to adjourn now 10:00 and time for this hearing to begin. I would like to welcome you all to this issue specific hearing.

00:00:50:18 - 00:01:29:05

Koroisau could yet matter. Panadol humor. This is issue specific hearing free dealing with a proposed onshore substation site and related matters in relation to the application made by our lot more offshore Wind Farm Ltd, who we will refer to as the applicant for an order granting development consent for. I will have more offshore wind farm project. Thank you all for attending this meeting. My name is John Hockley. I'm a chartered town planner. I'm a planning inspector employed by the Planning Inspectorate, and I've been appointed by the Secretary of State for levelling up housing and communities to be the lead member of the panel to examine this application.

00:01:29:23 - 00:01:36:24

I'll now ask my fellow panel, panel members who have also been appointed by the same Secretary of State to examine this application to introduce themselves.

00:01:38:03 - 00:01:42:16

Good morning. My name is Helen Casini. I'm a charter town planner and planning inspector.

00:01:45:02 - 00:01:46:07

Good morning. My name is.

00:01:46:09 - 00:01:46:24

Richard.

00:01:46:26 - 00:01:51:27

Morgan. I'm a chartered civil engineer for the Institution of Civil Engineers and a planning inspector.

00:01:53:17 - 00:02:02:12

Borrower. 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.

00:02:05:14 - 00:02:31:26

But. Good morning. My name is Jason Roland. I'm a chartered civil engineer and also a chartered environmentalist. And I'm a planning inspector. I'll now handle that. Back to Mr. Craig. Thank you. And together, we constitute the examining authority 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 a development consent order should be made.

00:02:35:06 - 00:03:09:28

The case manager for this project is Jake Stevens, and he's being supported here today by Spencer Bannerman. Simon Ringwood is providing support remotely for those attending virtually. Jake, Mr. Stevens is a case manager and obviously potentially the person you are most likely to come into contact to during the course of the examination. If you have any questions or queries about the examination process or the technology we are using for blended or virtual events, he should be your first point of contact and the case team contact details can be found at top of any letter you have received from us or on the project page of the National Infrastructure website.

00:03:10:05 - 00:03:14:26

And please don't hesitate to contact a member of the team if you need help at today's event or wave to technology.

00:03:16:12 - 00:03:48:18

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

00:03:48:20 - 00:04:07:26

Alternatively, you can just turn your camera on. We can also say that you wish to speak. I just remind people to chat. Functional Microsoft teams won't work, so please don't try to use this to ask any questions or post comments. If you don't manage to ask your question or raise your point at a relevant point in time, there'll be an opportunity at the end of the meeting for you to raise this matter under any other matters.

00:04:09:23 - 00:04:42:05

Because the digital recordings that we make are retained and published, they form a public record that can contain your personal information and to which the General Data Protection Regulation GDPR applies. The Planning Inspectorate practice is to retain and publish recordings for a period of five years from the Secretary of State's decision. Consequently, if you participate in today's meeting, it's important that you understand that you will be livestreamed and recorded and that the digital recording will be published. 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.

00:04:42:15 - 00:05:04:24

That is important, relevant to the planning decision and to avoid the need to edit the digital recordings. We would ask that 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, you can please provide that in a written document that we can redact before publication. So don't have any questions with regard to GDPR.

00:05:08:11 - 00:05:31:29

Okay. Thank you very much. Now, deal with just a few preliminary items for those attending in person. Could everyone please set will device and phones to sign in place? There are no fire tests or drills planned today, so in the event of a fire alarm, we exit the way you came in through the double doors, down the stairs and meet the refuge. Point is on the opposite side of the road, on the problem.

00:05:33:21 - 00:05:43:04

Toilets located just outside the room as well. We'll take a short break around 1130 and lunch around 1 p.m.. We'll also take a mid afternoon break if we're still sitting at that time.

00:05:45:21 - 00:05:57:27

An audio recording of today's meeting will be available on the Outer Bowl section of the National Infrastructure pages of the Planning Inspectorate website as soon as practicable after this meeting. With this in mind, please ensure that you speak clearly into a microphone.

00:05:59:29 - 00:06:09:28

And if you're not at a table with a microphone, there is a roving microphone. If you could wait for one of those before you wish to speak and if you could state your name and who you represent, if you do represent any other data, that would be helpful.

00:06:11:14 - 00:06:26:15

If any individual or group wishes to use social media, report film or record during today's meeting or at any subsequent hearing, they are free to do so. But please do so responsibly and with proper consideration and respect for other parties. This must not be disruptive and the material must not be misused.

00:06:28:17 - 00:07:03:11

Just like also to briefly address language, we to aim to make this meeting and examination as open and inclusive as possible. We have translation facilities available at this meeting and they will also be available for all subsequent hearings. Will have seen all documents issued by ourselves now being published in both Welsh and English, and this will continue for examination. Mr. Rowlands on a panel with a native Welsh speaker and Mr. Stevens, the case manager, can also speak Welsh. The rest of the panel, we endeavour to pronounce places and names correctly. And again I say it every time, but I'd like to apologize in advance for any mistakes we do make.

00:07:03:26 - 00:07:30:17

But please feel free to point out any and if and when we do make them. We welcome contributions in both English and Welsh. The meeting will follow the agenda published on the Outlook Moor Project page of the National Infrastructure website on the 25th of November 2022. I hope you have a copy of that agenda at hand and we are currently on item one. You can also find the agenda available on our website in the Examination Library at reference DV 18.

00:07:32:04 - 00:07:58:18

The agenda is for guidance only and we might add other considerations or issues as we progress or conclude the hearing as soon as all relevant contributions have been made and all questions asked and responded to. But after discussions can't be concluded that it may be necessary for us to prioritize matters and defer other matters to further written questions. Likewise, if you can't answer the questions being asked or require time to get the information requested, then that's fine. Just indicate that you need to respond in writing.

00:08:00:13 - 00:08:21:18

Throughout this hearing, we'll be referring to several key documents which you may wish to have access to. These are the design principles. Document three o 13 The Draft Development Consent Order Sideshow Rep Free six The Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan. Rep two zero ten

00:08:23:04 - 00:08:28:18

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. S zero 29 and associated annexes.

00:08:30:06 - 00:08:46:12

Outline Noise and Vibration Management plan to. Zero 20 Outline Artificial Light Emissions Plan. Two zero 45 Works Plans. Rep 1032 and Land Plans. REP 1022. Thank you.

00:08:49:11 - 00:09:04:10

I've been provided by a case team with a list of those who have expressed a wish to be heard today. They are people representing the following organisations. Denbighshire County Council, Natural Resources Wales, Davis Meade Property Consultants and potentially Mr. Hussey as well.

00:09:06:04 - 00:09:21:01

Welcome, Mr. Hussey. I'm now going to ask those of you who are participating in today's meeting to introduce yourselves. When I state your organisation name, could you just use yourselves stating your name and who you represent and also how you wish to be addressed? So if we could start with the applicant place and any of their advisers.

00:09:22:23 - 00:09:53:27

Good morning, Florida. My name is Liz Dunn. I am a partner at Burch Salmon and I will be representing the applicant Alamo Offshore Wind Farm Ltd at these hearings, and I'll introduce everyone from our side. So to my left, we have Giles Sims Williams, who is the hourly Moore engineering manager. To his left, Paul Carter, who is the hourly more senior consents manager. To my right is Linda Thompson, a landscape consultant from open to her right.

00:09:53:29 - 00:10:29:20

Jess Colebrook, who is principal ecologist from SLA to her, right. Matt Faulkner, who is the Onshore Environmental Impact Assessment lead for from SLA. And at the end of this section of the table, Antonia Peacock, a consultant from Goby Consultants, and as of yesterday she will be running the projections. And then just around the corner again we have Miller, James and James Flint, who are both from Virgin Salmon, who again are using the table to to be able to do the notes for us for this hearing.

00:10:30:10 - 00:10:30:25

Thank you, sir.

00:10:31:02 - 00:10:31:17

Thank you.

00:10:33:27 - 00:10:42:17

So I'm not going to ask the organization to suppress the wish, to speak, to introduce himself. So if you can start off, please. Online, I believe we have Denbighshire County Council.

00:10:45:19 - 00:10:48:12

Morning matinee show from Dempsey Accounts Council.

00:10:49:12 - 00:10:50:15

Morning. Thank you. Welcome.

00:10:52:08 - 00:10:53:09  
Natural Resources Wales.

00:10:55:13 - 00:10:56:25  
Morning, sir. My name is. I met. When?

00:10:56:27 - 00:10:58:00  
When Mr. Ford.

00:10:58:02 - 00:10:58:17  
And

00:11:00:07 - 00:11:03:00  
Mr. Graham Lewis officials is instructed.

00:11:03:17 - 00:11:04:08  
To leave and.

00:11:04:10 - 00:11:04:25  
His arrival.

00:11:04:27 - 00:11:05:12  
Is.

00:11:05:14 - 00:11:09:21  
Expected imminently, and he will be leading in discussions. And notably.

00:11:09:23 - 00:11:13:06  
Officers are also present and may wish to speak and allow them.

00:11:13:08 - 00:11:14:09  
To introduce himself now.

00:11:19:08 - 00:11:46:02  
Good morning, Berta. My name is Nia Phillips. I'm a senior Marine advisor at A.W. and also the case lead for the project. Just. Just for easily introduce the other officers that are in the room with me today. So I'm joined by Bring Griffiths, Senior Advisor in our Development Planning and Advice Service team and Olwen Maidment lead landscape advisor. And as Emir said, we would also be joined shortly by we the. Thank you.

00:11:47:25 - 00:11:48:24  
Thank you. Good morning.

00:11:50:19 - 00:11:54:23  
Okay I'm back in the room now, please. Davis Mead Property Consultants Place.

00:11:56:28 - 00:12:15:14  
But good morning. My name is Avon Baby. I'm a boomer practice chartered surveyor and director of Davis Me Property Consultants based in Golden Bay and practice autonomy since 93. I'm here today as agents for the interested party. Mr. JP Mr. Evans final proposal. And what with that, Thank you. Thank you. Good morning.

00:12:17:06 - 00:12:20:00

And we also have Mr. Hussey with us today.

00:12:22:27 - 00:12:30:04

Okay, So that's fine. If you if you want to come up, we've got plenty of space. If you want to come up to the main table, then feel free.

00:12:31:27 - 00:12:44:27

And we also have Mr. Davis, I believe. Would you wish to speak to Davis tonight? Yes. Thank you. And then the same applies to yourself as well, if you wish to. Especially with a hearing or any event. If you if you want to come closer to us, that's. You're very welcome to both of you. Welcome. Thank you.

00:12:47:16 - 00:12:52:15

Okay. So anybody else with us today who wishes to speak either in the room or online?

00:12:57:15 - 00:13:04:05

Nope, not to anybody else. So thank you for that. Oh, there's one hand. I see

00:13:05:21 - 00:13:06:06

anybody.

00:13:08:03 - 00:13:19:11

All right. Good morning. AM Highlights from Welsh government this country. It not. It doesn't mean that I will need to speak, but I'll just introduce myself just in case.

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

Thank you very much.

00:13:20:29 - 00:13:22:11

Appreciate it. Thank you.

00:13:22:28 - 00:13:23:13

Thank you.

00:13:25:13 - 00:13:28:03

There are any other comments anyone wishes to make under item one?

00:13:31:03 - 00:14:10:22

Okay, Mr. Bibby, if I could just ask you to turn your microphone off for us. Thank you very much. Okay. I'd just like to also say that when speaking today, please bear in mind that we've read all submissions made so far and you don't need to read out any previous submissions that you may have submitted to us. But if you wish to refer to something you've submitted before, we'd be grateful if you could give us the appropriate examination library reference so we can all follow. Thank you. That concludes item one of the agenda. So we'll move on to item two on the agenda, which is good design. The majority of my questions here are directed at the applicant, but if anyone else wishes to come in at any time or make any comments and please feel free to just let me know.

00:14:15:03 - 00:15:00:17

Okay. So good design in this context is a name of here and suggests we're considering design at the substation site as opposed to, you know, the offshore turbines landfall or the cable route. The examiner go far to know and we welcome the submission of the amended Design Principles

document. DEADLINE three Thank you. We note the reference in that document to the process being similar to an outline planning consent that establishes a principle of a development and reserves detailed design for approval by Denbighshire for commitments in the DCO. However, I think it's fair to say this our concerns are essentially making sure that there's a commitment to good design demonstrated so that we can be confident in our recommendations if consent is granted, that there are guarantees that good design will continue in the process.

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We're also aware that interested parties including. Local residents are reasonably enough keen to know as many details as possible and have similar commitments. The proposed substation would be sensitive to place. So I'd like to start off please, by inviting the applicant to explain their design rationale for the submission. Substation sites are so as in draft and one which design principles were established from the outset. The project to guide the development from conception for each operation, please.

00:15:34:07 - 00:15:45:01

Thank you. Sell is done on behalf of the applicant. Before we go into this part of discussion and. And in respect to the substation, I just wanted to to make a point. And

00:15:46:24 - 00:16:11:23

Karen who is the onshore consents manager for our Lismore, unfortunately has COVID and is unable to be here. She is online, but she's not well. So we will the team that are here were involved in that process to varying degrees, but it was very much a process that she led. So we will do our best to answer questions, particularly in respect of site selection

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based on the materials that are there and the involvement of the people that are that are here today have had. But if there are some detailed questions or detailed points that we can't answer in detail today, we'll just ask that we can take those away and then hopefully when this will get better, she's able then to input to those. So I just I just wanted to make that clear. We will assist as far as we can, but if we start getting into some very detailed questions, then this team may not be able to answer those.

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Okay, that's noted. And thank you for letting us know.

00:16:44:09 - 00:17:37:07

Thank you. So just and it is a good place to start is around the site selection and by the site close to final proper was the site that actually was identified for the onshore substation. I think that if you have been through the documentation and particularly the environmental statement and the appendices to the site selection chapter, you'll see the very detailed process that was undertaken and it was a detailed process and it did involve significant consultation and engagement in respect of the options that were available and the choices that were then made and the communication of those choices prior to to the site that's being taken forward as this as the as the preferred site for the substation being being brought forward.

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So we have a range of people here and we're all going to kind of input in terms of the various elements. So Mr. Faulkner's going to give a high level overview, which I think will be helpful, and particularly for the people that are here to understand actually why how that site selection process worked and why it is that the proposed onshore substation site, which is site five, was the one that was considered to be the best option. And then we will feed in elements around engineering and landscape and ecology, particularly in terms of sort of understanding why that site has been taken forward and

then actually how that process will run from identification of the site and sort of maps and parameters which are which are in the application to then that detailed design process.

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I think the final point I want to make before I hand over to the people who really know what they're talking about, is that is that this is a very standard process for this type of development. It is because of the because of the the the next steps around procurement and understanding how the scheme will come forward. The level of detail that's being taken forward at this stage and completely recognising and acknowledging the importance of good design and how that sets in in the national policy statements is standard for this type of application.

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It is when the design isn't and Mr. Sims Williams and explain why the design isn't at this stage. It's a process where we can put out a detailed design for consultation, which is why we have the the protections and the requirements that are set out in the development consent order and that stage of the process where the detailed design will be will be finalised and then signed off with Denbighshire County Council. So if I now hand over to Mr. Faulkner, who's going to talk through at a high level on the, on the the sort of sites that were considered and then how Site five was chosen.

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Thank you.

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Thank you.

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Matt Faulkner On behalf of the applicant border,

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as as Liz alluded to, a critical part of good design is the selection of the right site. The selection of that site needs to balance a variety of factors to keep the development away from residential properties whilst remaining an appropriate distance from the connection into the national grid. The applicant has undertaken a comprehensive site selection exercise for the substation that's considered a wide range of environmental and engineering factors. The site selection process is also included consultation at various stages, which has included engagement with Denbighshire County Council, Natural Resources, Wales and Welsh Government, as well as other stakeholders, and its included public consultation.

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The siting of the substation has been confirmed as appropriate by Denbighshire County Council, as is recorded in the draft statement of common grounds. And a full description of this process is provided in Environmental Statement Volume one Chapter four Site Selection and Alternatives. Reference App 8044.

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The guiding principle for allocating the substation has been to achieve an economic and efficient connection, i.e. as close as possible to National Grid connection points whilst taking into account environmental constraints, including siting principle set out in the Horlock rules. Site selection started with the identification of a connection point to the national grids. The connection point was identified by National Grid as the existing national grid substation to the south of south of St Asaph Business Park. Initially, an area of search was defined using a three kilometre buffer that was drawn around the national grid substation, and then parts of that buffer were removed to avoid existing settlements and environmental designations where possible in line with the whole rules.



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The applicant took the resulting area of search consultation in February 2020, and this consultation also set out a site selection process and sought feedback from council since the area of search was also included in the EIA scoping report that was issued in May 2020. And scoping process gave the opportunity for Consultees to comment on the site selection process.

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Following scoping a long list of 14 sites or zones were identified. These are shown in figure 21 of the site selection and alternatives for chapter apps, or for just picking up on a couple of points that Mr. Davis made yesterday around why a greenfield site have been chosen and why land allocated in the local development plan had not been used outside of St Asaph Business Park. There were no suitable brownfield or previously develop land within the three kilometre, an area of search areas.

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As such, the 14 sites that were long listed were all greenfield sites. Although there is previously developed land within the business park, this had adjacent residential properties and was not large enough to accommodate both the substation and the construction compounds, and so was excluded from further consideration and was not included in the long list. So as the business park is allocated as an employment area in the Denbighshire local development plan and use of this area for a substation would not be considered to be in accordance with local policy.

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Local development plans do not typically include suitable allocation for electrical infrastructure, which is why substations are typically located on greenfield sites.

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Going back to the list, a long list of 14 sites. These were appraised using a black, red, amber, green or frank methodology, which considered a wide range of topics, including ecological designations and protected species landscape, beneficial land use, land allocations, planning, context access, flood risk, archaeology and heritage, site topography, ground conditions and public rights of way. That long list was shared with Consultees at some dedicated expert topics group meetings.

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Following the BRAC analysis, that long list of 14 sites was reduced to an initial shortlist of six sites which were the subject of the Shortlisting Outcomes report, which is provided in Annex 1.2 of the Environmental Statement app. There are four six. The report was provided alongside an online GIS tool for use by stakeholders and discussed at further Consultee meetings.

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Following that consultation, the initial shortlist of six sites was further reduced to three sites which were sites five, ten and 11.

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Looking first site ten. This was located to the south of the existing National Grid substation and off the east of the site sites and was considered to have the least capacity to accept developments as it occupied elevated ground above the national grid substation, with residential properties in close proximity. And as such, there are concerns from a landscape and visual perspective. There was not much available space within the site, so any opportunity to mitigate those landscape and visual effects work were very, very limited. Stakeholders had also expressed concern about the impact on historic landscapes, and there were also concerns for traffic, archaeology and ecology.

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As such, it was considered that Site ten didn't perform as well as site five or site 11, so it was not taken forward.

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Slide 11. It's located to the east of the National Grid substation. It's about 500 meters to the south of St Asaph. St Levan benefited from some copses of trees that offered some visual containment in an overly, relatively flat setting. This site was considered to have more capacity to accept development. The site ten but less than site five said the zone of theoretical possibility analysis identified 18 residential properties within 4500 meters, which had the potential for high visual impacts.

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Although the site had existing screening, there was only limited space available within the site for additional mitigation planting to be accommodated. The site was also constrained by woodlands, overhead lines, underground utilities, and it had a tree lined watercourse running through the middle of the site. There was the possibility of visibility from St Asaph Cathedral, which had the potential for impacts on setting, and there was also a need for the creation of a new transport access route to the site. There was concern about the proximity of a caravan park and a country club to the east.

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Looking at Site five, which is the site that was selected and is presented within the application. This received some some pretty positive feedback from stakeholders. The same site TV analysis was undertaken and that concluded that the woodland landform would restrict visibility around large parts of the site. From a visual perspective, in comparison to site 11, site five at a lower number of nine properties within 350 metres of the views. But these were also partially screened by intervening vegetation.

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There is sufficient space within zone five, site five for landscape and visual mitigation as is evidenced within the outline, landscape and environment management plan.

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From a heritage perspective, K2 initially had some concerns around the setting of battle within Castle and Park, but on further analysis this was not considered to be a high risk because the potential for views to be screened by the existing woodland was available. The site was noted to be adjacent to Gascoyne Nature Reserve, but this was identified as medium risk and also other sites. Site 11 was also near to local wildlife sites and had records of great crested views of the area.

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In summary, Site five was selected as the woodlands of the North and the West. At the site was considered to afford good screening. Although both sites five and 11 experienced some visual containment from existing vegetation, site five provided greater availability of land for potential mitigation to be implemented, there were less visual receptors for site five in close proximity with with potential for impacts, and it was much less constrained by access and had multiple access options into the site.

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So that gives a summary of the sites is more detailed in the chapter that hopefully gives people an understanding of the process that was gone through to arrive at site five. Once site five had been selected, there were various considerations that fed into the layout and the position of the substation footprint as it presented in the application.

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It was located to the north of the wider site five zone to place it further away from residential properties and the crematorium on Truscott Road. And those were for visual noise considerations. The visual impact to users of Glass Road was also a consideration. Locating the substation footprint in the North. The site also makes use of lower ground so that mitigation planting in the south would be more effective and quicker for receptors at Glasgow Road

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and locating the substation at the northern part of the site also left more available space for mitigation in the southern part, whilst also making use of the existing woodland for screening purposes for bottle, possibly Castle and Parkland.

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In terms of why this the footprint is orientated the way it is, there is a water main running through the site which it seeks to avoid and that runs parallel to the long edge of the substation footprint. When citing the substation footprint, there was there was a consideration made to avoiding

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trees and particularly to the tree lined columns that are available that are present in the site. It was also orientated that way so as to present the narrow width to residents on Glasgow Road and also to avoid a contiguous edge with the nature reserve, which would allow ecology mitigation and the such substation site to connect with in the nature reserve, and so provides a sort of a

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more connectivity between the two.

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But that's to say a high level summary of the of the process that this was gone through.

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Thank you, Mr. Foote. I'm not going to hand over to Ms.. Thompson, who's going to just talk through some of the landscape and visual considerations that have been involved.

00:30:49:00 - 00:30:53:27

Good morning, Lori. To Linda Thompson for the applicant. And can everyone hear me?

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Thank you. I'm your I'm slightly going to backtrack a little bit on some of what Matt said. From a landscape and visual perspective. There are some other aspects that we looked at in terms of the value of the search area. So we did look at the visual and sensory land map areas within the three kilometer radius. And the site selected has avoided the areas that have been identified as high. There is a figure and the landscape and visual assessment, I'll give you that just for.

00:31:32:15 - 00:32:07:21

It's 175 if you rush to refer to that. So cite five four points. Voice that and we also we're looking at relative elevation across the different sites. So trying to avoid high points and sloping areas and areas that had overlooking by properties relative to the site. So that was also a consideration where those properties were in close range. So and that's another part of the rationale for the site selection as I was involved in that through the process.

00:32:08:23 - 00:32:14:21

But your question, sir, was in relation to design principles that have been followed, So I'll now turn to that.

00:32:16:26 - 00:32:41:12

So you'll be aware that the Landscape Institute, along with Key from the Design Council, have prepared some technical guidance on national infrastructure projects and the design principles that should be followed. And the Design Council guidance is from ten 2012. And as a landscape architect also, I'm interested in the Landscape Institute, which is 2020 guidance. So fairly recent.

00:32:43:00 - 00:33:28:04

This guidance sets out some design principles in relation to the following and responding to context and sense of place designing to enhance green infrastructure and ecosystem services and deliver a net gain as it's so it's written in an English sense and not a well sense where net gain is and not the terminology. And for biodiversity enhancement views and visual amenity, optimising resources, design elements, siting alignment and pattern thinking about earthworks, buildings, structures and water all within the site context, plant selection and handling and the importance of good implementation, maintenance and management.

00:33:29:15 - 00:34:02:01

While some of the principles will be developed further through the detailed design process and as a result, the landscape architects working on the project throughout the site selection and assessment process and coming up with the the all out, which is an outline demonstration of how all these landscape considerations might come together and trying to achieve some of the design principles that were set out. And we were trying to look at all those aspects as we have developed that land.

00:34:02:21 - 00:34:14:08

I don't know whether you want to go into that further now or for the record, and that more often we look at all AMP and more detail, but remember we pass on to some of the substation design principles. My colleague.

00:34:15:02 - 00:34:28:13

Thank you. So we're now just going to hand on to Mr. Sims Williams, who's going to talk through the, the sort of process and event consents granted through the sort of design of the substation and then how that will be taken forward.

00:34:30:27 - 00:34:33:18

Good morning. Giles Sims Williams On behalf of the applicant,

00:34:35:16 - 00:34:53:16

you will have noted design principles Document Ref 3014 and already and within that document is where we give the commitment to following good design and the design principles from the National Infrastructure Commission.

00:34:55:09 - 00:35:11:15

And good design is led within our organisation from the design champion who for us is PHILIPPA Slater, who is a Fellow of the Institute of Civil Engineers and and was herself involved in the

00:35:13:00 - 00:35:33:10

consultation on how design champions and design reviews should operate for national infrastructure projects and and is a firm believer in this process. She is also at board level within the company and therefore holds a level of authority that can sway over the Alamo Project team.

00:35:34:27 - 00:36:05:16

You've already heard from my colleagues how many different aspects of good design have been involved through the site selection process and particularly in the siting of the substation itself within

the fields, which which is one of the biggest opportunities to to enact good design through the process. And the same principles are continued through the life of the project as the design evolves.

00:36:06:23 - 00:36:31:13

We we have a well established process for the substation design work, but also for the design review aspect of that which we've demonstrated now on a number of substations delivered, including of course, the grid to more substation delivered in demolition.

00:36:34:23 - 00:36:39:23

I think I'll leave that topic there and then we can take further questions as we go.

00:36:42:27 - 00:37:17:23

Are you able to talk through a bit more about the the sort of process of designing the substation and the engineering considerations that will feed into that? And then how could design? Well, effectively, the stage is what what it is that that frames the substation design initially and then how good design will be fed into that through that process. We've talked about the design review and the champions, but it's it's those are the factors that are then taken into consideration as you take as you take the design forward.

00:37:19:10 - 00:37:51:10

Yeah, certainly as you're undoubtedly aware, substation design is a is a multidisciplinary approach. It is exceptionally complex and it occurs over a moderately long time scale. The the design is finding balance between some kind of core design drivers which are imposed upon us. So in no particular order.

00:37:53:03 - 00:38:13:12

The design has to be an economic and efficient design to conform with. Section nine of the Electricity Act and Ofgem are appointed to assess whether we have designed the substation in an economic and efficient manner at the point of after transfer.

00:38:15:18 - 00:38:36:12

The design has to be safe and designed. Safety is inherently built into our organizational culture. Under the CDM regulations, construction site management regulations, which I'm sure you weren't aware of. And safety is an aspect which clearly can't be compromised.

00:38:39:09 - 00:38:48:24

National Grid then have a set of relatively prescriptive standards for substation designs, which again, we need to conform to.

00:38:51:06 - 00:39:05:25

And of course, good design itself. Through the National Infrastructure Commission's recommendations is the fourth of these pillars that is being balanced through the design process.

00:39:08:26 - 00:39:40:00

Thank you. Just for those that aren't aware, Mr. Sims Williams mentioned they often process so they just don't people understand that. So as part of the the way that the electricity system works in England and Wales for this type of infrastructure project, the transmission works are developed and built by the generator. So here that will be RWA.

00:39:40:16 - 00:40:13:20

But once they have been constructed and are operational, there is a requirement under law that they are sold on to something called an offshore transmission operator. Of time. And as part of that process, the cost of those works and effectively the cost of the works is recovered from the

transmission operator the ofto and given back to the the generator. And there is a very high degree of scrutiny of the costs of that transmission infrastructure.

00:40:14:14 - 00:40:36:02

And in terms of when it's then handed over to the offtake. So when we talk about the offtake transfer, it is the it is the sale, the forced sale effectively of the transmission, the transmission assets to the the offto who will then continue to operate them going forward. So just so people are well aware of that.

00:40:38:10 - 00:40:59:15

Thank you for your contributions, as usual. I want to ask a question about an idea you raised and PHILIPPa Slater as a design champion. Obviously, in your latest version of the Design Principles document is in there. Can we presume that Mislattel will lead the design review panel that you say will occur?

00:41:04:07 - 00:41:35:23

I'm so. PHILIPPa Slater sets the tone and the structure of all design review panels throughout the organisation. We obviously have a number of different schemes substations, wind farms in development in this country and worldwide, and therefore she will play a key role in setting up the framework of how the design review should occur, who should be involved in it and how it should output.

00:41:37:27 - 00:41:58:09

Okay. Thank you. So you may have kind of answered my next question, which is in your answer to HQ, 1.5.4, which is about design champions. And you you stated that you explored options at that time to spread the responsibility around various key roles. Engineering Manager I think a chief engineer and a named director on the board.

00:42:00:00 - 00:42:12:26

So the day the appointment or the appointment is probably wrong word, but the inclusion of Ms.. Slater as a design champion for this is a changed approach in that you in your answer to the question.

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So that through the site.

00:42:18:23 - 00:42:19:16

Selection.

00:42:19:18 - 00:42:50:00

Process, we've already been reviewing the work that the project has done and PHILIPPa Slater has already been involved in that process. I suppose the only the only change is being very clear that she is the design champion and we are enacting a process that she puts in place rather than the design champion being directly within the Our level project board or within the Alamo project.

00:42:50:15 - 00:43:04:07

And I think that's a slightly nuanced point, but we thought in conclusion it was important to have somebody with sufficient gravitas within the company that she can clearly influence that process.

00:43:07:02 - 00:43:37:27

Okay. Thank you. One of our other questions from HQ, one related to an independent design review, which obviously can act as a critical friend to the project, can be proportionate, multi-disciplinary, objective and accountable. I know in your office, in your answer to that, you said that that can be dealt with internally and that your own design review would be independent. Your own design review

panel. Sorry. So my question really was how can that be the case when they're part of the same company?

00:43:56:18 - 00:43:59:28

John Sims Williams on behalf of the applicant, I'm so.

00:44:02:02 - 00:44:37:13

I think to stress in response to that question, we welcome and will use external consultants and parties as part of that design review process. However. Under our Design Champions guidance. We are following a consistent approach throughout all of our substation developments and we feel that that process, that approach is best led through a party that is external to the project.

00:44:38:06 - 00:44:41:26

But you are correct, internal to the RWA organization.

00:44:45:12 - 00:44:46:13

Okay. Thank you. So it's not

00:44:47:29 - 00:44:50:16

they wouldn't they're not. They're not independent and.

00:44:52:03 - 00:44:53:07

In so many words.

00:45:00:09 - 00:45:02:00

The judge seemed to label some of the applicant.

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So.

00:45:05:23 - 00:45:09:11

But without wanting to repeat myself.

00:45:13:24 - 00:45:14:09

The.

00:45:16:04 - 00:45:45:13

To the role of the design review panel is balancing the four pillars that I discussed earlier. And we feel that the the the design review structure that we have proposed is the best way that we can balance those aspects. Whilst bringing in external independent expertise to guide the process.

00:45:47:05 - 00:46:01:12

It would be a panel where the panel lead is, as I say, external to the project, but within the company. And that just reinforces it is a is an approach that has worked.

00:46:02:29 - 00:46:22:27

It has. It has worked on substations, including ones within Denbighshire, and we haven't had any of the feedback against that approach to date. Okay, Thank you for that. The design review panels and you might not know these details yet, but.

00:46:25:19 - 00:46:37:07

Kind of issues, I suppose, with how often would they meet? How would their thoughts be fed back and acted upon? Is there a mechanism to achieve it? Could such a mechanism be incorporated into a desire?

00:46:40:02 - 00:47:11:06

So I will stand on behalf of the applicant and their clearly important details in terms of how that panel would operate. We haven't sought to put those details in at this stage. If and I think it's important, this is probably quite an important part. The point to to make the point. We've obviously put the design principles document out. It's been it was part of the application and we haven't had any feedback apart from the comments that have been made by the examining authority.

00:47:13:04 - 00:47:46:08

Clearly, that is a document which, you know, it's an important document. It's an important document that will that that sets that very important frame for how the substation will come forward. The principles that that Denbighshire will be adhering to in terms of of when they discharge the details of that through the requirements of the DCO. But we've had no feedback from anybody else on that on this document. So so with the applicant put out. What it would expect to see.

00:47:48:00 - 00:48:23:24

We will you know, we all know from other projects and have been in other projects where sometimes you get a lot of input in terms of discussion on how those things need to be taken forward. And sometimes you don't and we haven't had that. So I think we're very you know, the applicant is very, very keen to take on board comments from people on it if there are comments. But as I say, apart from the questions that the examining authorities raised, we haven't had those comments to date. So if I might go back to answering your question in terms of that kind of how the design panel review will work, clearly it's important how that will happen.

00:48:24:05 - 00:48:57:18

At the moment, we don't have that detail in the design principles document, and I would suggest that there isn't something to go on the face of the DCO. This is something that would set in that design principles document, which then gives some flexibility if actually when it comes to it, it needs to work in a slightly different way. You won't then having having the issue of having to deal with a requirement. So as I say, if there are comments around that, if there are suggestions as to how the design review panel should work, we're very happy to consider those if if people wish to make representations around it.

00:48:59:03 - 00:49:06:28

Okay. Thank you. I think that sort of those sort of issues might be useful in looking at and in a possibly in a further iteration of the design principles document.

00:49:07:17 - 00:49:14:04

So so setting out a bit more about the framework of how the design review panel might work and timings those sorts of things.

00:49:14:14 - 00:49:26:20

Yeah, exactly. The kind of mechanism of how I suppose how the design review panel would have teeth if you like, you know, how their thoughts would be fed back and acted upon that kind of principle of the process. Ready.

00:49:27:24 - 00:49:28:13

Thank you. So no.

00:49:28:21 - 00:49:29:06



Thank you.

00:49:32:13 - 00:49:43:17

Okay. If we could move on then to gas insulated or our insulated substation, that the choice which actually we asked a few questions about HQ one as well

00:49:45:15 - 00:50:00:23

and I noted in your answer to xq1 .5.8 that there was flexibility in the choice of an ice or GISS air insulated or a gas insulated substation, and that this approach was followed in try to know and go into more.

00:50:02:08 - 00:50:14:02

But both of those contents were quite considerable time ago really. And there was a more recent example of Hornsea four, which I think was related to h h h v d c

00:50:15:18 - 00:50:42:17

which I presume is due to the length of the cable connection to 24 offshore and onshore. And obviously Hornsea four is still in the process. Consent hasn't been granted more recent assets such as day two for East Anglia and Projects Norfolk, Vanguard, Norfolk borrowers have, I think, all stipulated to design choice of substation during the examination process and those parameters were then confirmed in the DCO.

00:50:44:04 - 00:50:49:28

Did you have any more comments on this matter or did you intend to further clarify your choice of substation design.

00:50:51:21 - 00:51:28:25

That is done on behalf of the applicant? Our intention is, is to maintain the option for A's and ages through the examination, as has been done on other projects. I note that on some of those projects or quite a number of the projects on the East Coast, there's been a decision, as you've noted, made through the examination as to which that would be. There has not been the request for that so far from stakeholders or others through this process.

00:51:28:27 - 00:51:33:02

I'd also suggest that in the East Coast the

00:51:34:18 - 00:51:48:08

large number of of projects coming forward and connections has perhaps created a different situation in respect of needing to confirm either way, as we said in the application,

00:51:49:27 - 00:52:23:15

it is. It has been and and I suggest remains accepted practice to include both AFC and GIS unless there is a specific reason to be to be going for one or the other. And as we set out in the in the environmental statement and indeed in the development consent order, there are some key parameters for both air, air and GIS. And you will be aware and others will be aware that there are pros and cons of each.

00:52:24:04 - 00:53:00:15

And in very broadly, and a further detail on this is if you want to talk about it further. Mr. Thompson can talk to it, but effectively air as more of the equipment is is outside. So it's not within a building, it's not contained, it has a larger footprint. But generally buildings are low, there are buildings and they lower GIS things all contained. More is contained within a building, but you necessarily have a

larger building. I think it's important to note that the design principles will apply whether or not this is ASIO GIS.

00:53:00:17 - 00:53:46:23

So it isn't just if anybody has thought that design principles only apply to buildings, it isn't you know, it applies to to either. And as I say, there hasn't been I've certainly worked on projects where there have been concerns or preferences expressed in terms of and particularly by local authorities. You know, we just think this needs to be in a building. So there's been there's been and but that hasn't happened on this project. And therefore and and we don't see that that there is a need for that at this stage and would be looking to maintain the optionality of air or G.I.s through to through the examination so that decision can be made post consent.

00:53:48:00 - 00:53:54:21

Okay. Thank you. Well, it might just come back in a second. But I do know there's a hand from Mr. Cressy, from the Welsh government.

00:53:58:25 - 00:54:05:21

But at that quick warning letter from Fortis Company, Welsh Government. I just wanted to, um,

00:54:07:15 - 00:54:19:08

to inform the applicant of the Design Commission for Wales. It may. It could be a useful link for the applicant when considering the design review panel they were referring to.

00:54:20:25 - 00:54:31:05

This is a service that the Design Commission for Wales can help you with. Possibly. So I'm just sharing that information, you know.

00:54:33:04 - 00:54:33:26

Thank you. Thank you.

00:54:34:08 - 00:54:41:09

Noted. Thank you. And there has been a meeting with Design Commission for Wales previously. I think on this project. So thank you for that.

00:54:43:21 - 00:54:44:13

Thank you, Ms.. Cressy.

00:54:46:06 - 00:54:49:29

So come back to the air. So that point, I guess

00:54:51:27 - 00:54:57:11

I understand your your reason. I'm saying that's the same in your answers to your written questions. Our written questions are.

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My point would be that a selection of a design choice at this stage could well give interested parties more assurance in their scheme design, how it may look,

00:55:14:00 - 00:55:16:00

the land type and height and so on.

00:55:21:03 - 00:55:56:10

John Sims Williams On behalf of the applicant, I think it's worth just expanding on, on the points that my colleague has made. So as she described, an air substation has a larger footprint, but lower heights that use substation has smaller footprints, but a building with a higher height. What's important is that the technology of onshore substations, whilst it has been relatively slowly evolving over the last few years, is currently going through more rapid evolution.

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What I mean by this is that the the voltage of

00:56:04:00 - 00:56:14:15

offshore transmission networks coming in to substations is increasing, which has various benefits with it, but also. This is

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about also the there is a big

00:56:20:19 - 00:56:50:03

push within the industry and within our company to move away from the use of F6 gases within substations. For those that are not aware. F6 is an incredibly good insulator, so it's used within switchgear. It enables electrical switchgear to be much more compact. However, it is also an incredibly potent greenhouse gas. If it is accidentally emitted.

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And so.

00:56:55:20 - 00:57:15:23

Our company, National Grid. And and in fact, the industry is trying to move away from the use of assets X The only certain way of moving away from sf6 right now is an air substation where we can. Comprehensively say there will be no asset six gas in it.

00:57:17:12 - 00:57:21:08

However, an air substation has a larger footprint and land type.

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I mean, national grid as a policy now would always develop an air substation unless land or other environmental matters would restricted to s.

00:57:34:12 - 00:58:02:13

However, technology is now being developed for the use of safe sex free gas substations. So this would offer the opportunity to have the reduced line take and also not use Essex Gas. Currently, that technology is not ready and whether it will be ready or not for the timelines available or more is not clear.

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So it's a it's a strong belief on behalf of the applicant that that optionality maintained at this stage

00:58:13:22 - 00:58:20:03

can ensure that we can have an optimal design based on the technology that is ready at the time of procurement.

00:58:23:07 - 00:58:24:01

Thank you. That's useful.

00:58:25:24 - 00:58:47:06

The design principles document and your answer to aq1 .5.8 seem to infer that a gas insulated subsection would have design and landscaping benefit insofar as visual clutter would be cut down over that air insulated option. Is that a fair inference?

00:58:51:04 - 00:59:22:26

Linda Thompson for the applicant. I think it's fair to say that we we indicated some pros and cons between the two options and the reduced one tick of risk could potentially mean that some of the features on the site could be retained. But equally, a jigsaw building at 15 metres is quite substantially higher than anything that's an asset building and business park. They tend to be more in the sort of 2 to 3 storey range, which is 7 to 10 metres.

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

So we are talking but the tallest building is being quite substantially taller than the buildings and the media environment and looking also at some of the farm buildings, they tend to be of the same ranges of some assets, buildings and in addition to the gas main building at 15 metres, there would be other buildings on the site as well as other electrical infrastructure. So there are, as I say, pros and cons to each that we we did highlight.

00:59:51:02 - 01:00:27:11

I think it's also worth saying with the air, because you have got smaller buildings, you have more and more of the equipment is outside. Potentially screening would be more effective of that. But clearly you've then got the electrical infrastructure rather than buildings. And as I say, we have a you know, the optionality has been included through through consultation and through the application, and that hasn't been a strong preference expressed certainly by by the local authority or A.W.

01:00:27:13 - 01:00:34:13

or the CONSULTEES in terms of of which would be which they feel would be most suitable.

01:00:36:20 - 01:00:56:13

Okay. Thank you. They you might be able to answer this question, but I was just wondering about Guantanamo and the decision before Jose on Guantanamo was post consent and why that decision was made in effect for for that game.

01:01:00:07 - 01:01:01:28

John Sims Williams On behalf of the applicant,

01:01:03:19 - 01:01:39:21

I can partially answer the question and give it the best shot. And so whilst Quinte to Moore is relatively close to the proposed Avonmore substation, it is different from a more. It has a different set of constraints that it is working within, and obviously it was procured over ten years ago and the technology in the market has has moved since then. However, I did my best to go back through the various design review notes where those decisions were being made.

01:01:42:01 - 01:02:02:03

As you say, Gwent more consented both air and gas options and post consent through the design review process. Guys have been selected that the designs of the substation and the possible gas substation have both evolved post consent.

01:02:04:19 - 01:02:28:01

For the key factors that seemed to go into that decision was first, the cost of the gas was higher than that of the NHS at the time of procurement ten years ago. That's the capital cost. The operating cost of it was expected to be slightly lower than the, I guess

01:02:29:22 - 01:02:42:17

the the constraints. But that site included woodland to the south, a gas main running directly right through the middle of the site and a water main across the top of the site.

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The A landscape assessment concluded at the time that the GIA substation would fit better in the environment than an air substation and the engineering work to evolve. The the footprint of that substation meant that it could be developed without impacting the water main which ran through that area. So a combination of those factors being the constraints, the costs, the landscape appeared to be what drove that decision making.

01:03:19:21 - 01:03:24:19

But noting my caveat, I wasn't there at the time, and this is from the available notes that I've read.

01:03:29:28 - 01:04:09:23

And a further comment on a project on the East Coast that we have recently constructed, the Triton Now project, where again, both technologies were taken through at the point of consent. And on that project, an air substation was selected as the optimal solution. So again, a different environment, a different set of constraints and a different outcome. Okay. Thank you. And you touched upon it there, but what are the economic differences in general terms, in terms of constructing ice and gas?

01:04:18:09 - 01:04:22:01

So that might be something we need to come back to you on. We don't have those figures too.

01:04:22:28 - 01:04:37:10

No problem. Thank you. It was just when you got Is not that obviously precise figures. It's just a general When when you when you do come back to it. The general. Yeah. Economic differences between the two subsection designs. I mean, just, just to be clear, so.

01:04:39:22 - 01:05:03:18

There's a lot of uncertainty about that. And the market changes very rapidly in terms of what is available and what the relative costs of the two different substations would be. I don't anticipate we would be able to tell you right now today the difference in the cost for inevitable more substation weather this year. So I guess,

01:05:05:03 - 01:05:17:17

of course. Yeah I don't I don't expect you to be. If you come back later, I'd like to take the next deadline or deadline for in general terms, I understand what you mean about the market changes and things change.

01:05:19:21 - 01:05:41:04

Just, just concerning some half outlook. I mean just to manage your expectations at deadline for I don't think we will be able to give you something really concrete in terms of the relative prices of those substations in today's market for our technology. Okay. I think what I what I was looking for, say, for example, that.

01:05:43:19 - 01:05:57:13

And this is just a hypothetical example. So if I don't know, it might be cheaper to construct than Joe's. Joe's maybe cheaper to maintain. I don't know that that that sort of information, I guess.

01:06:05:28 - 01:06:39:27

Charles Sims Williams on behalf of the applicant. So exactly the words that you have said I think are already in some of our answers and and that has historically been the case. However, because of the changes, the evolution in the market that I talked about with both higher voltages and the potential of SSX pre switchgear, I mean that the technology hasn't been created yet and hence trying to hypothesise about the price of it is, is difficult at this stage.

01:06:41:04 - 01:06:49:03

That's understood. Thank you. On that point I think that that's we we don't need that as an action point to give us the question. Thank you. Thanks.

01:06:50:23 - 01:06:59:18

Okay. So if I can move on then to design principles, document and climate six of the draft of a consent order.

01:07:03:28 - 01:07:35:03

So I know your answer to our written question. 1.5. ten where you stated that the Design principles document have been prepared in accordance with the various relevant policy statements as well as the draft ones. But there appears to be a couple of areas which are not covered in the document at present, which are have been in more recent offshore wind farm schemes, and one such areas had proposed details of future consultation, engagement with the local authority and local stakeholders, including local residents and landowners. Is there any proposal to update the statement in this way?

01:07:36:25 - 01:08:15:02

Thank you. Certainly has done on behalf of the applicant. As I mentioned previously, we have had no feedback on this document previously and and no such requests. So we are clearly there will be consultation with Denbighshire as the details of the substation on board and denbighshire are the approving authority. And you'll note that the requirement six of the draft DCO also mentions Natural Resources Wales being a named Consultee

01:08:17:10 - 01:08:51:11

in terms of having to consult with them before the details of the substation are submitted to Denbighshire. And again, if there are requests for involvement in that process, then I mean the applicant will want to undertake a consultation. I think it's also worth noting, I'm not sure what the ambitious process will be around the discharge of this requirement, but assuming it is done as a planning application, which most of these end up being, it will be available as a planning application.

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The details will be on the local authority's website and, you know, excepting consultation beforehand. But there'll also be an opportunity through that planning and decision making process for people to be involved. So again, if there are requests for that kind of involvement, there are certainly things we can consider and I think there's mentioned actually in the design scheme and the documents and the design principles document already at, I find it.

01:09:28:19 - 01:10:00:07

I think there is there is mention of engagement with others. There certainly is in the lamp and I think so in the outline landscape management plan. And I think again, looking at how the design principles document and the final landscape and ecological management plan work together is also going to be important. So again, if following this hearing, there are request made for for that engagement, we're certainly happy to to consider those.

01:10:01:24 - 01:10:03:09

Okay. Thank you. I think

01:10:05:19 - 01:10:29:09

I understand completely your point about you've had limited feedback so far, if you like. Sometimes these things as a projects progress and if consent is granted, then projects might become more real, if you like, to local people. So I, I was wondering if within the design principles document, there might be some kind of a framework of potential engagement.

01:10:31:25 - 01:10:35:20

Thank you, sir. Is done on behalf of the applicant. It's certainly something we can we can have a look at.

01:10:36:10 - 01:10:36:25

Thank you.

01:10:42:24 - 01:11:00:10

Another area in which of offshore wind farm design details have differed. More recent ones have been that some of them have incorporated preliminary design reports, so they include proposed materials, color palettes, zoning plans. I know design principles, document, go, go some way towards that.

01:11:01:28 - 01:11:13:19

So, for instance, you know, it mentions some colors, but it says the light is limited to shades of gray. And so are there any plans to update the document or add further details and document in those kind of respects?

01:11:15:24 - 01:12:11:10

So I list on on behalf of the applicant. Again, my experience is that detail tends to tends to get included where you've had requests or engagement in terms of that information. Again, that that those requests haven't been made at this stage. And I think it it tends to be where there are some very specific local and local context. So for example, if you're in a particular rural location or you know, within certainly there are some substations within designated landscapes or owned bees, then the criteria that would set around those in terms of sort of vernacular building, that type of stuff, think those types of elements become much more important because they are key elements of mitigation that effectively are important to to build in at those early stages of the project.

01:12:12:15 - 01:12:19:08

This site isn't within any designated landscape or close to designated landscape, and I'm

01:12:21:07 - 01:12:54:16

sorry it is in proximity to the climate in range and D Valley. I wouldn't be, but it's agreed, as we understand it, that there are no significant impacts there. So so you're not looking in a context where those kind of key elements of how would you make the substation a key parameters that ensure that it would would be would fit within the landscape have to be secured at that stage? Clearly, there are the buildings in the area. You've got St Asaph Business Park close by, the A55, etc.,

01:12:54:18 - 01:13:11:19

etc. So I think I'd just make the point again that we haven't had that request or that suggestion that there are key elements of the design that need to be secured at this point such that they're guaranteed to be taken forward into the into the final design of the substation.

01:13:12:29 - 01:13:35:24

Of course. Thank you. It was more not necessarily a need to be secure at this point to color and more looking at the options. Say for instance, I know Hornsea four had proposals of multi electric colours, you know, that kind of green to brown that the things that you often see in terms of logistics buildings now

01:13:37:12 - 01:13:53:05

the east and is had proposals for different options, different shades of grey, green all of those kind of colours and how they might work in a landscape. It was more whether those not a commitment at this stage, but whether those kind of things could be looked at within the design principles document.

01:13:58:18 - 01:14:07:29

So it is done on behalf of the applicant, happy to look at those sorts of elements and whether there's further detail that we could put in in respect to those in the design principles.

01:14:08:29 - 01:14:12:02

Thank you for. Thank you. Yes, Mr. Davis.

01:14:13:08 - 01:14:14:22

You. Mark Colvin And.

01:14:15:19 - 01:14:17:05

That would be on second place. Thank you.

01:14:19:04 - 01:14:30:08

Mark Colvin Already pretty upset corridors of my own introverted stuff. There we go. And I'm braver than we share haltingly about our Sky grove.

01:14:33:03 - 01:14:34:01

Of course. Mr. Davis

01:14:35:24 - 01:14:44:24

Essentially, I suppose it depends on on what matters you wish to speak about. We're very, very happy to hear your representation. Now, if you'd like to make it now.

01:14:48:26 - 01:14:50:01

Our politics, go to

01:14:51:21 - 01:15:05:24

our company editor at the Magic Bill. And my copy, however, question there questionnaire a planet Gold medal. This is a very I don't know, the threat of death. Always on the head. You do not.

01:15:07:16 - 01:15:26:23

Well, grouchy. Yes, I hold continue. Well, the nearest other current that we had can report them and report articles reappear legitimate wealth and a descriptive diet amount. However, more than seven of your is anglers yet the case.

01:15:28:12 - 01:16:01:18

Michael Louis. Nothing was this or a clear dead border. So they are shocked with the idea that all of a sudden they come back with them and done what they did not ask. Three of them lied. Why not know if it won't be a problem. You How can they know? They're just so screwed. They are required to declare a region or appendix where they might take a jump out, commit a hole.

01:16:02:20 - 01:16:15:00

You can see it as. They can't. Three. Obama did throw a number through the Senate, showing the Matildas another frustrated arsenal



01:16:17:05 - 01:16:56:01

while Kuwait bought their Target server and it got another push that night. I'm looking here to my mind. We met throughout a staff initiative in our country, Senior Safe Homes with metal Patrick Reeve and Priya sublet that meditative angel. Thanks for ever. You come there to take on the roof. Never so negative. Turn a mathematic on there with significant appropriateness at any other kind of cinema on the campus bar.

01:16:56:04 - 01:17:04:19

Well, now we own. And Come on, I look the fish on a manner through with a path. My motion and on the

01:17:06:04 - 01:17:31:18

man also on all the rhythmic the idiot. Give you have a doctor check beyond. Well more but the she have been addictive food porn then an income policy is actually the important issue for anything. I don't know that it's of great faith in line. You're only him, man on your resume. Markovitch admired. Yeah. No, of course. That I know quite.

01:17:33:21 - 01:17:43:24

My loyalty to it won by saying fuck it up is a lot. Top pressure luxury offer based on the mouth that your proposal failed in the face of company logo.

01:17:45:21 - 01:18:36:15

Clear headed the show and I'm a company chameleon. You have it all screwed up in a different couple with you after a mindset upgraded well-treated detail. Not bad you I think truth under the sun but romantic have it coast. I'm gonna ask any clear and otherwise kiss your let's just greedy and even kiss your carbuncle on a ghastly aikido a motto is quite weak expression on that game be correct I may so though that the both at the money and a concerto is easier to pay inclusion closer quite a colleague easier will be well or a new this markup folk immediately definition.

01:18:36:17 - 01:18:43:01

I'm a yes and no request will both technical revoke. I'm senior official and I'm Daniel

01:18:44:16 - 01:19:07:22

Case senior for us more and more and Shawn I'm glad you can area dog and now tell you that we can recommend it to the mentor for it to know them. And so I'm righteous within my own Melchizedek we're immutable I don't know chicken you're dead. Okay, Maria dog here sublet.

01:19:09:17 - 01:19:15:18

Well, I think I'll on the south your day or partition they'll go into.

01:19:17:16 - 01:19:49:19

And it grows more potent if they're not caught. Hey. Hey, Anthony, then. But report to work. I know. And the father. And the mother. Then you gotta work in L.A.. Louis. I'm not adequately working with you. I'm sorry. That's all right. That's all on the. We moved permanently from Vietnam. Under certain honor. I don't know if they're in the middle of my denial or. Sure. But maybe we can be Chi square.

01:19:50:21 - 01:19:52:24

After I go out and party later. Never

01:19:55:17 - 01:20:16:09

have it ever considered a mob sanctioned party. Meanwhile, for ever. Never. My thanks to the amount my time was. Certainly when I moved out, my portal with peppercorns came out. Well, it's a done deal. Move up. I'm Pam Butler with the demand pottery that many of us could invent.

01:20:18:01 - 01:20:41:01

I've really got even more neck in with on the home front of him are at the back of it. There's no better contenders for this stadium. This is my home but you to let your kids little. So if you show Koichi in you Beth and they're not in the manifest there well.

01:20:43:02 - 01:21:15:07

Does not affect the amenity of local residents. Women devoted to a whole range of line and roles she pronoun. Other London property users have coveted characteristics of the locality, just a bit typical of online. And here we have to interpret the chewing activity. Disturbance, noise, dust, fumes. Okay, Mahorn let you call that. I'm good. I'm 30. McKown 80.

01:21:15:09 - 01:21:29:29

Miranda Angela A parrot sitting up in your remained a cat got me home chat with him and ask for shelter. Channel three The poor. There been a fashion bear.

01:21:33:23 - 01:21:34:21

We just told them that.

01:21:40:29 - 01:22:14:24

Chat with him. And after you talked to knowingly in that. Right. You didn't call your party, right? Is that right? My vote is McEvoy. Are any second And what is your number If there if you prevail on my quest, you go back or I come from the center of your economic agenda. Is there? No. I'm your son medically yet? No. My short term unworthy day on the right of line A for the newcomer sitting a 40 of a Negro for a month or so on of about

01:22:16:16 - 01:22:21:12

to be method documentary candidates are know if I assume that you have a vote.

01:22:25:23 - 01:22:27:12

Thank you very much, Mr. Davis. Deal?

01:22:29:21 - 01:23:00:15

We would. There was obviously a number of issues that you raised there, so thank you for those we. In our next agenda item where we talk about landscaping, we will have an image on the screen from the visualization from glass covered road so that that should assist. And I wondered if the applicant could help Mr. Davis out in terms of the the details that he referred to there. There's obviously a few issues. The water pipe, the difference, guess on jobs and so on.

01:23:02:03 - 01:23:07:08

Okay. So I done on behalf of the applicant, we're very happy to sit with

01:23:10:04 - 01:23:35:27

with Mr. Sorry Davis through lunch time and explain this with with the plan, show you the documents on the computer, talk you through Mr. Foreclose, obviously been through the selection process, but we can talk you through that and explain those various constraints and show you the various documents. So we're very happy to do that over lunchtime.

01:23:37:14 - 01:23:43:10

Differ from our on the assessment to be sure panel good weather that'll have it

01:23:45:02 - 01:23:52:13

year 50 days a year on the certificate and Michael go Bob they did accept appear. But we also need.

01:23:55:21 - 01:23:57:05

Thank you, Mr. Davis. I think

01:23:59:23 - 01:24:22:22

I suppose there's a number of issues that it might be useful just to have a brief summary now. Again, I realise you did utter about five the some of the technical details. Obviously we've, we've heard about in previous comments and we've asked various written questions about them and we've had them and back in documents and so on. So, so I'm understanding

01:24:25:13 - 01:24:35:03

our understanding of the issues you've raised we have covered previously. So I think that's okay. But if I may, perhaps a brief summary now and perhaps at lunchtime would be.

01:24:35:19 - 01:24:38:07

One that is done on behalf of the applicant. I wonder if

01:24:40:11 - 01:25:05:27

there was a request, I think, for written summaries of representations made at hearings, and that's for next Friday, which is deadline three. So if Mr. Davis was able to put in summary form the representations he's made now, we would be able to to respond to those in writing, which would mean that they are obviously then in front of the examination and before the examining authority.

01:25:07:19 - 01:25:12:00

That may well be that rather than repeating material we've gone through this morning.

01:25:12:16 - 01:25:15:15

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Secretary. South Mr. Davis.

01:25:16:03 - 01:25:38:22

Well, Jim, as it happened here herewith document top your voting record, your vote being included, that there were some aware that in the city calendar it may allow work and nothing to. I think there was a concern for an imperative that penalty into the theatre due to Fionnuala the claim appropriately enough embarrassed.

01:25:41:14 - 01:25:56:06

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Davis. We obviously everything they submitted to the to the to the examination, it goes in the examination library. We read all those documents, as we said, and you said, I think Miss Dunn was suggesting that.

01:25:58:28 - 01:26:13:25

If you put your comments in writing, then the applicant could respond to them and then they would all be in writing as well. Equally, you've made those comments today. They have been recorded and so on. And I think they could be responded to. And then in any event.

01:26:14:17 - 01:26:15:02

Yes, sir.

01:26:15:22 - 01:26:19:03

Okay. Thank you. Okay. Thank you. Mr. Davis.

01:26:20:20 - 01:26:27:19

Mr. Hussey? Yes. Okay. Hello. My name's Martin Hussey. I'm a cafe medical resident.

01:26:28:16 - 01:26:29:18

I just want to ask a basic.

01:26:29:20 - 01:26:32:05

Question really about your environmental.

01:26:32:07 - 01:26:32:22

Statement.

01:26:33:09 - 01:26:36:24

And site selection. You quote the whole rules.

01:26:37:02 - 01:26:37:19

And that.

01:26:37:21 - 01:26:47:12

The association needs to be as close as possible to the national grid substation. You've mentioned again the Hobbit rooms this morning and appropriate distance.

01:26:47:14 - 01:26:51:15

And being three kilometres away for economic and efficient connection.

01:26:52:22 - 01:26:54:24

I cannot find in the whole the rules that it.

01:26:54:26 - 01:26:55:27

Says it needs to be as.

01:26:55:29 - 01:26:56:20

Close as possible.

01:26:57:06 - 01:26:59:13

So if you could point that out to me, that would be appreciated.

01:27:00:06 - 01:27:05:10

And also, how is it economic and efficient? The connection needs to be come within.

01:27:05:12 - 01:27:06:06

Three kilometres.

01:27:06:20 - 01:27:13:14

Because as far as I can see, it's the same infrastructure and on the ground cabling, whether it's five kilometres or ten kilometres away.

01:27:14:01 - 01:27:16:18

And as you know, BP motor.

01:27:16:27 - 01:27:18:08

Which is fast on your heels.

01:27:18:20 - 01:27:19:13

They are looking at a.

01:27:19:15 - 01:27:24:06

Wider search area. So can you explain to me how the three kilometre search.

01:27:24:22 - 01:27:26:15

Buffer area you come up with.

01:27:26:17 - 01:27:27:11

In the first place.

01:27:27:26 - 01:27:29:17

And when the whole it moves.

01:27:29:19 - 01:27:30:05

To say.

01:27:30:07 - 01:27:31:04

As close as possible?

01:27:33:07 - 01:27:35:06

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. AC.

01:27:37:21 - 01:28:03:21

Paul Carter on behalf of the applicant. And I think we've exchanged correspondence with Mr. Hosty on this point. And as we said in our correspondence, the the whole lot rules don't explicitly state a distance from which a project substation should be sited from a national grid to substation, or indeed specify that it should be as close as possible or words to that effect. But what the Hulot rules do include.

01:28:03:25 - 01:28:04:10

As.

01:28:04:12 - 01:28:40:17

As part of the the long list of considerations that developers need to take in siting electrical infrastructure includes the minimisation of environmental impacts as well as making projects technically and cost efficient. So it's a balance, as was outlined by Mr. Faulkner earlier in that site. Selection is a balance of all of those things that come forward, clearly making the overall table length from your. If you just talk about the onshore infrastructure, but equally you could talk about the offshore cabling as well and you have to consider the system as a whole from your array to your national grid substation.

01:28:40:19 - 01:28:42:21

And all those considerations come in together

01:28:44:19 - 01:29:18:14

when you consider the length of the cable. We're obviously at a high level trying to minimise the length of the overall cable route because that is likely to reduce environmental impact. So obviously you'd caveat that to say that there are hard constraints or designations or other things that may mean that it needs to be longer than that, than a straight line from A to B. And it's important to note that in the design of a project substation, there are two critical factors that influence a project to try and put it as close as possible to a national grid substation.

01:29:18:26 - 01:29:54:02

One is the the increased cost of the connection from the project substation to the national grid substation. So and the 400 kilovolt cabling is disproportionately more expensive than the lower voltage cables that would be used to transfer power from the wind farm to the project substation, where it's then stepped up to 400 kilovolts to join the national grid. And the distance between the project substation and the national grid substation plays a critical role in the amount of reactive compensation.

01:29:54:17 - 01:29:55:09

And that's a very.

01:29:55:11 - 01:29:57:04

Sort of technical electrical infrastructure.

01:29:57:06 - 01:30:17:12

Term. But the amount of electric reactive compensation that's required in the project substation. And clearly that has implications not only for the amount of equipment that's required in the project substation, but also therefore the cost. And for those two reasons, as well as the others I outlined about trying to minimise the overall project cable length,

01:30:18:29 - 01:30:49:24

siting the project substation as close as possible to the national grid. One is considered normal and good practice and different projects have used different search areas. And I can't I can't talk for another project such as Metronet that you've mentioned, that they will have their own understanding of the amounts of compensation needed, the relative costs of these things. But every project needs to make its own decision on where they draw that line in order to make that such. And three kilometres was where we've drawn it for this project and where we sought to find sites.

01:30:50:09 - 01:31:19:02

And to note from the information that Mr. Faulkner talked about at the start about site selection, we found a number of sites within that and three come to search area that we were able to interrogate further and we have been able to find a suitable site within it. Had that not be impossible for whatever reason, we may have had to revisit those parameters and go wider. But clearly we were able to find a long list, a shortlist and a suitable site within those that radius and therefore there wasn't a need to to revisit that.

01:31:20:29 - 01:31:24:15

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Carter. Mr. C was that and if you wish to come back on that.

01:31:26:21 - 01:31:27:06

Martin.

01:31:27:08 - 01:31:27:23

I see. Again.

01:31:28:08 - 01:31:30:10

No, I appreciate the comments.

01:31:30:14 - 01:31:31:01

And.

01:31:31:14 - 01:31:33:05

Still not necessarily agree with them, but I.

01:31:33:07 - 01:31:33:26  
Appreciate them.

01:31:34:20 - 01:31:35:10  
Talking about.

01:31:35:15 - 01:31:36:26  
BP. I know that's.

01:31:36:28 - 01:31:38:10  
Not necessarily part of this.

01:31:40:16 - 01:31:42:16  
Debate today. But nevertheless.

01:31:42:18 - 01:31:44:01  
It is fast on the heels of.

01:31:44:03 - 01:31:44:18  
Well, even more.

01:31:45:06 - 01:31:45:24  
In fact, its.

01:31:45:26 - 01:31:46:17  
Plans become.

01:31:46:19 - 01:31:48:15  
Operational two years ahead of this House.

01:31:49:21 - 01:31:50:24  
In the environmental.

01:31:50:26 - 01:31:52:03  
Statement, again, you say.

01:31:52:05 - 01:31:54:10  
That there was no viable offshore network.

01:31:54:12 - 01:31:55:15  
Existing or planned.

01:31:55:25 - 01:31:59:03  
Which you could you could coordinate with. But I would argue.

01:31:59:05 - 01:32:04:15  
That BP is one you could coordinate with because they are already looking at the same.

01:32:04:17 - 01:32:05:10  
Area, using.

01:32:05:12 - 01:32:10:02

The same land agents again and looking at a monster substation that were 30 acres.

01:32:10:25 - 01:32:12:09

And behind that you got mass.

01:32:12:11 - 01:32:16:18

Interconnect, which again, is looking at another substation within the same.

01:32:16:20 - 01:32:17:05

Area.

01:32:17:13 - 01:32:25:21

So why isn't any coordination going on between yourselves and other developments, specifically since they are in similar timescales?

01:32:28:22 - 01:32:36:02

Thank you, Mr. AC. So even more that the applicant wish to come back on now regarding Boehner.

01:32:38:00 - 01:33:05:17

Paul Carter on behalf of the applicant, I think it's worth saying we've set out our position in our application documents and then in further examining authority questions to our position with respect to the offshore transmission network review, which is which is what Mr. Hussey is referring to in terms of coordination as a project, we were very cognizant of the potential process. It's a process that other projects that we're developing are involved in.

01:33:07:18 - 01:33:37:27

We took a review of the entire process for this project and have had an ongoing position of review with respect to it. At the time that we were developing this project, doing our scoping, setting out our design, doing our site selection, and there were no other projects on the horizon. Round four, which is where the BP mine project has come through, was it was still at the tendering stage. There's no details of who would be willing that there was nobody to discuss that with.

01:33:38:22 - 01:34:14:27

And we had conversations with the business department Bays and who are running the 18 hour process. And there were also the relevant Secretary of State for this project and discussed with them how this project might form part of the 18 hour process. If we were to be part of it, we would be an early opportunities project and it's clear from the information phase of fit out that early opportunities projects, in-flight projects should only be involved in 18 hours if there are obvious projects with which to coordinate, which there wasn't for this at the time that we were developing it.

01:34:16:06 - 01:34:47:05

And that also it's worth noting that the other project that you mentioned, the BP mining project, is part of Oceana. It's clearly defined in the Offshore Transmission Network Review and is being through its own process to identify who and how it might coordinate with. It has come out with a draft recommendation of a radio connection, but equally, other projects in that area have come out with coordinated connection options. That's the Morgan Project, which is connecting with, I think, the Morecambe Project and so National Grid.

01:34:47:11 - 01:34:56:24

And often we've been through this process and identified solutions and the solution that happens to be here is that there's a radio connection before the National Grid project.



01:34:57:06 - 01:34:59:18

Is we're saying there's been a real.

01:34:59:20 - 01:35:05:12

Focus from Baz on accelerating generation projects.

01:35:05:14 - 01:35:06:05

Such as ours.

01:35:06:12 - 01:35:29:06

There was a long list produced by Pape Baz as part of the Energy Security Strategy Review and the extension projects, which includes Alan Moore and was listed on. There is a project that Baz would like to consider accelerating essentially in order to provide earlier generation for energy security and for renewable generation purposes and coordination. Ali Moore

01:35:30:21 - 01:36:04:01

would or could do with other projects would necessarily mean a delay to this project. The DCO application in front of us now would have to be stopped. We would have to go through a long coordination and design process with other projects. We'd have to revisit our environmental impact assessment. We would be starting again, essentially. And that really isn't in the spirit of either the early opportunities round of the offshore transmission network review or indeed the overall principle that Baz are trying to follow about accelerating projects and bringing renewable generation forward as quickly as possible.

01:36:05:18 - 01:36:19:04

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Carter. As usual, it's about the time we would normally break, but I am conscious that we have had a hand up a while from now w somethings and any factor that we go to them before we break. So and I'll w thank you for your patience.

01:36:21:05 - 01:36:45:01

Thank you, sir. Owen Megan from Natural Resources Wales. It was just a quick comment going back to your discussion earlier about colours and materials and that the applicant might consider carrying out an environmental colour assessment on the substation. So we have a paper that we can share with the applicants if they would like that.

01:36:47:04 - 01:36:48:14

Thank you. That's useful.

01:36:49:25 - 01:36:51:13

Yes, Thank you. That would be useful.

01:36:52:12 - 01:37:05:05

Okay. Thank you very much for that. So if we now add up in 36. So I think if we adjourn now to 1155. So until 5 to 12. Thank you.