



Hearing Transcript

Project:	Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm
Hearing:	Issue Specific Hearing 3 (ISH3) - Part 1
Date:	29 October 2024

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FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:12:14 - 00:00:23:04

Well good morning everybody. It is 10:00. So this hearing issue specific hearing three is now open. Can I confirm that everybody in the room can hear me? Yeah.

00:00:26:00 - 00:00:30:19

Can I also confirm with case Team that the live stream and recording are running?

00:00:34:21 - 00:00:35:07

Thank you.

00:00:37:25 - 00:00:44:08

And can I have an indication for those who are joining online whether they can hear and see us?

00:00:57:01 - 00:01:04:18

Um, for the, um, comms team. We can't actually see those parties who are online.

00:01:15:00 - 00:01:21:18

So my name's Sarah Marshall for National Highways. I can confirm we can see and hear you. Thank you sir.

00:01:22:01 - 00:01:23:15

We can now see you. Thank you.

00:01:29:18 - 00:02:01:16

I would like to welcome everybody to this hearing which relates to environmental matters for the application for development consent concerning the proposed five estuaries onshore wind farm. My name is Graham Gould. I'm a chartered town planner and an examining inspector with the Planning Inspectorate. I've been appointed by the Secretary of State as the lead member of the panel comprising examining authority. That will be examining this application. I'd now like to ask my colleagues to introduce themselves.

00:02:01:19 - 00:02:03:13

Starting first with Mrs. Norman.

00:02:04:12 - 00:02:14:19

Good morning. My name is Rebecca Norman. I'm a chartered town planner and an examining inspector. I've been appointed as a panel member of the Examining Authority, and will be leading on item 3.4.

00:02:16:27 - 00:02:31:29

Good morning. My name is Felicity Weber. I am a chartered town planner and an examining inspector. I have been appointed as a panel member of the Examining Authority, and will be leading on items 3.1 and 3.5.

00:02:34:04 - 00:02:50:29

Good morning. My name is Mark Harrison. I'm also a chartered town planner and an examining inspector. I have been appointed as a panel member of the Examining Authority and will be leading on agenda items 3.3 and 3.7 later.

00:02:53:08 - 00:03:03:02

Good morning. My name is Matthew Heron Herron. I'm a chartered town planner and an examining inspector. I have been appointed as a panel member and will be leading on item 3.6 later on.

00:03:04:20 - 00:03:31:15

So our role as the, uh, it is to examine the application and to report to the Secretary of State for the for Energy Security. Net zero and net zero, with a recommendation as to whether or not development consent order should be made. At this point, I'd also like to introduce the members of the planning inspector, its case team who are supporting us today. You may have already spoken with them. We have Kay Johansen, gentleman over there, and Deborah Allen, uh, another colleague from the Planning Inspectorate.

00:03:33:07 - 00:04:03:14

In addition, technicians from the audiovisual company CVS international, contracted by the applicant, are in attendance solely for the purpose of managing the recording and live streaming for this hearing. Um, I'll now cover some housekeeping matters. Can everybody please set all devices and phones to silence? Toilets are located outside of the room close to the registration desk in the event of a fire alarm. Uh, please leave the room and use the marked fire exits at either end of the building or the building's central staircase.

00:04:03:16 - 00:04:15:21

Then make your way to Assembly Point A in the main car park, which is on the left hand side of the parking area. You should then wait at the assembly point until stadium staff are advised that it is safe to re-enter the hearing room.

00:04:17:29 - 00:04:42:24

So today's hearing is being undertaken both in person and with some online participation via Microsoft teams. And we will make sure that if you are attending online today, you will be given a fair opportunity to participate. This hearing is being both live streamed and recorded for those people participating or observing via Microsoft teams, in order to minimize background noise and disturbance. Please can you ensure that you stay on mute unless you are speaking?

00:04:45:01 - 00:05:22:15

If you are participating online and you wish to speak at the relevant point in the proceedings, please use the raise hand function and please be patient as we may not get to you immediately, but we will invite you to speak at the appropriate time. I would also remind everyone that the chat function in

Microsoft Teams has been switched off for this event. A recording of today's hearing will be available on the five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm project page of the Planning Inspector, its national infrastructure website, as soon as practicable after the hearings. Conclusion. With this in mind, please ensure that you speak clearly into the microphone, stating your name and who you are representing and who you are representing each time before you begin speaking.

00:05:22:25 - 00:05:29:07

If you are not at a table with a microphone, there is a roving microphone. So please wait for one of these to be brought to you before you speak.

00:05:31:18 - 00:06:06:25

If anyone wishes to use social media, report, film, or record today's hearing or any subsequent hearing, then you are 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. We aim to keep the hearing focused so that it can be conducted efficiently. and you will find information about this application on the Planning Inspector, its National Infrastructure Planning Project page for this application. And we would strongly encourage you to familiarize yourself with this webpage. This is as the examining authority is using it to communicate with you and to provide access to the document throughout the examination.

00:06:09:01 - 00:06:44:14

So it's now necessary, necessary for me to say a few words on the General Data Protection Regulation. This hearing is being recorded as well as being live streamed. The digital recordings are retained and published for um, published as they form a public record that can contain your personal information and to which the General Data Protection Regulation applies. Consequently, if you participate in today's hearing, it is important that you understand that you will be recorded and that you therefore consent to the retention and publication of the digital recording. The examining authority will only ever ask for information to be placed on the public record.

00:06:44:16 - 00:07:06:19

That is important and relevant to the determination of this application. It will only be in the rarest of circumstances that we might ask you to provide personal information of the type that most of us will prepare to be kept private and confidential. So please also bear in mind that only the official record of the proceedings is this recording that will be placed on the on the planning Inspectorate's web page site.

00:07:09:24 - 00:07:44:16

So I'm now going to ask those of you who are planning to speak at today's hearing to introduce yourselves. Could you please introduce yourself, stating your name and who you represent along with the agenda item or items you wish to speak on? If you are not representing an organisation, please confirm your name, summarise your interest in the application and confirm the agenda items upon which you wish to speak. And please, could everybody also state how you wish to be addressed? So with that in mind, can we start with the applicant and its advisors? If we can hear first from whomever will lead the submission today and then from others who will take who will make regular contributions?

00:07:47:00 - 00:08:16:23

Good morning, sir. My name is Julian Boswell. Mr. Julian Boswell. I'm a solicitor and partner with Burgess Salmon. We represent the applicant. Um, the lead speakers will be myself and my colleague to my right, Paula McGeady, who will introduce herself in a moment. The people sitting up at the

table are those we anticipate to be needed for agenda item 3.1. And I'm going to ask, um, from the end on my left, and then we'll work right for each person at the table to introduce themselves.

00:08:20:05 - 00:08:22:06

Uh, James Eaton, on behalf of the applicant.

00:08:24:29 - 00:08:27:29

Alice Maynard, on behalf of the applicant to engineering manager.

00:08:30:17 - 00:08:33:12

Well, I'm a giddy solicitor at Burgess Salmon on behalf of the applicant.

00:08:36:07 - 00:08:38:22

Jason Gale, on behalf of the applicant.

00:08:38:24 - 00:08:46:00

I'm an agricultural consultant with SLR. Um, and I'll be covering Foreign soils and farming.

00:08:49:11 - 00:08:54:18

Best, Colebrook. On behalf of the applicant, I'm the lead ecologist for environmental assessment. Thank you.

00:08:57:05 - 00:08:58:16

Good morning, Harry Stubbs. On behalf of the.

00:08:58:18 - 00:09:01:02

Applicant, I'll be speaking to some of the points on farming.

00:09:04:07 - 00:09:10:28

Thank you. Is there someone amongst the applicant team that is able to keep a list of action points to, to be discussed at the end of the hearing?

00:09:12:04 - 00:09:15:03

Julian Boswell for the applicant. Yes, sir. Thank you.

00:09:17:02 - 00:09:25:28

Now, moving to interested parties in the room who intend to speak again. Please introduce yourself and tell us which agenda item you wish to speak on. Maybe we could start with Essex County Council.

00:09:27:28 - 00:09:53:05

Thank you, sir, and good morning. My name is Mark woods. I'm a principal planner and I work on national strategic infrastructure projects, and I'm a charter town planner. Um, it is a highly likely I'll be asking to speak on a number of items. So depending upon the topics of the discussion this morning and afternoon. And that may well be in terms of point two, particularly in relation to noise. Um, 3.4.

00:09:55:17 - 00:10:13:00

3.5 and 3.7. That happens today. And I'd just like to introduce to you one of my colleagues who've set to my left also. So there are a number of representatives message came to council online and I'd like

to introduce those to you as well. Following um, introducing to my colleague here on the left. Thank you.

00:10:13:02 - 00:10:18:01

Thank you. If you could just do the IP's in the room first and then we'll get to those online later on. Thank you.

00:10:18:15 - 00:10:26:10

Uh, I'm Catherine Bailey. I'm, uh, principal landscape consultant, um, for police services based at Essex County Council.

00:10:29:22 - 00:10:34:22

Thank you. Maybe we could continue around the the bench there to Suffolk. Mm.

00:10:36:20 - 00:11:00:25

Good morning sir. My name is Michael Bedford, King's counsel. I'm instructed by Suffolk County Council. Um, I expect I will be the person speaking today, although I am joined today by other colleagues from Suffolk County Council. But if I need to introduce them, I'll do so as and when they may speak, if that's acceptable. And we expect to make contributions on items 3.4, 3.6 and 3.7.

00:11:02:09 - 00:11:02:27

Thank you.

00:11:06:06 - 00:11:09:19

Harwich Harbour Fishermen's Association. They in the room today?

00:11:11:21 - 00:11:12:06

No.

00:11:13:24 - 00:11:14:14

Brook. Slaney.

00:11:19:26 - 00:11:30:22

Good morning. Quinn church of Brooklyn. Acting on behalf of various landowners affected by the route and predominantly speaking on farming and other related matters which may arise during the discussions.

00:11:32:15 - 00:11:36:16

Thank you. Does anybody else in the room that wishes to speak today?

00:11:42:02 - 00:11:52:12

Thomas Fairley, 40, Fairley and sons and ten our family farming partnership. I may want to comment on things relating to farming, however I might do so through Gwyn.

00:11:54:19 - 00:12:01:12

Thank you. Mr. Farley, I was wondering, would it be easier if you just sit next to Mr.. To go in. Thank you.

00:12:07:04 - 00:12:14:29

Thank you. Are there any moving, uh, interested parties online then? Sorry. Who wish to speak? If we could maybe go back to Essex County Council, please?

00:12:23:00 - 00:12:32:29

No. Thank you. Pardon, sir. Mark Wood, Essex county council. Um, I believe I've got a number of colleagues on line this morning. Um, one of which is miss Sue, Mr. Sue Hutton. So please.

00:12:34:17 - 00:12:45:21

Good morning sir. Good morning everybody. My name is Sue Houghton. Mrs.. Um, I'm a principal ecologist with Play Services representing Essex County Council and Tendring District Council today. Thank you.

00:12:48:00 - 00:12:51:13

And we also have Mr. Joe Huff. Uh, Joe, please.

00:12:53:08 - 00:12:59:05

Good morning all. Joseph Huff on behalf of Essex County Council. I'll be talking about traffic and transport. Item 3.7.

00:13:01:21 - 00:13:11:27

And so it may be that I ask other attendees that are on line to, um, to respond to the questions as may be made, but I'll do that on an as needed basis. Thank you.

00:13:13:00 - 00:13:20:16

Thank you. Are there any, uh, individual from Suffolk County Council that wishes to introduce themselves now online?

00:13:23:06 - 00:13:25:29

No. Okay. Uh, National highways.

00:13:30:00 - 00:13:53:02

Good morning sir. My name is Sarah Marshall. Um, lead solicitor for National highways Advising um. Advising National Highways. And we will be speaking on agenda item 3.7. Uh, my colleague Jeremy Bloom will also will also be speaking as required on agenda item 3.7, as required by the the panel. Thank you sir.

00:13:56:22 - 00:14:04:06

Um, Jeremy Bloom, National highways, um, independent consultant representing National highways. Thank you sir.

00:14:07:05 - 00:14:07:20

Thank you.

00:14:09:14 - 00:14:10:10

London gateway.

00:14:13:22 - 00:14:14:21

Yeah. Good morning.

00:14:14:24 - 00:14:23:02

Sir Paul Brooks. Uh, DP World, London Gateway, speaking on matters that may arise with regards to marine side of things. Thank you.

00:14:25:28 - 00:14:28:02

Good morning, Sir Trevor Hutchinson.

00:14:28:04 - 00:14:46:28

I'm director of planning at London Gateway Port Limited. Um, will be, uh, speaking as required and if required on agenda item 3.3 uh, and may drawing uh, Mr. Brooks into the conversation as required. Um, uh, happy to be called Mr.. Or Trevor. Thank you. Thank you.

00:14:47:28 - 00:14:50:09

Is there anybody else online who wishes to speak today?

00:14:53:09 - 00:14:57:13

Yeah. Sorry. Your circles to us, unfortunately. Can we go with, uh, initials BC?

00:15:00:05 - 00:15:18:18

Good morning sir. My name is Brian Curtis, principal planning officer for Baber District Council. Miss, um, not intending to make a specific submission, but I'm available to respond to any queries for agenda item 3.4. And I'm supported today by Catherine Bailey, who is in the room with you today as well. Thank you.

00:15:20:12 - 00:15:20:28

Thank you.

00:15:23:18 - 00:15:27:10

Oh, I'll just move around the initials as I can see them here. Hello.

00:15:31:17 - 00:15:40:20

Good morning sir. Lucy Owen from the Port of London Authority. We'd be speaking on agenda item 3.3, and I have with me Laura Nation from cowlings.

00:15:44:25 - 00:15:48:13

Good morning sir. Laura Nation from Gowling is representing the Port of London Authority.

00:15:50:24 - 00:15:51:12

Thank you.

00:15:53:19 - 00:15:54:11

Lf.

00:15:57:01 - 00:16:12:22

Uh. Good morning. It's Louie Fel, acting on behalf of Lina Enterprises and Farms Limited. Uh, been mainly talking on item 3.1, but may get involved with some other ones if necessary. Thanks.

00:16:14:27 - 00:16:15:22

Thank you, Mr. Powell.

00:16:22:29 - 00:16:34:18

Good morning everybody. I'm Vaughn Jackson, Mr. Vaughn Jackson from the Maritime Coastguard agency. Um, if required. I'll be speaking on agenda item 3.3. Thank you.

00:16:37:09 - 00:16:37:27

Thank you.

00:16:40:21 - 00:16:41:13

JM.

00:16:44:20 - 00:16:53:00

Good morning. It's, uh, James Myers, on behalf of the applicant, I may be speaking on 3.6 on offshore ornithology HRA issues.

00:16:55:22 - 00:16:56:07

Thank you.

00:16:58:02 - 00:16:58:22

Essar.

00:17:01:27 - 00:17:29:18

Good morning, Sir Simon Amster. It's happy to be referred to as Simon Amstell. I'm representing the Suffolk and Essex coast and he's national landscape, the brand for Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Dedham Vale National Landscape for partnership. Um, the Danville Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and I have an interest in agenda items 3.4 specifically D and F. Thank you.

00:17:31:11 - 00:17:31:28

Thank you.

00:17:33:20 - 00:17:34:17

T.h.

00:17:36:02 - 00:17:36:21

What do we got?

00:17:38:05 - 00:17:48:05

Good morning sir. I'm Captain Trevor Harris, representing Trinity House. I'm here to answer any specific questions within our remit on item 3.3.

00:17:50:19 - 00:17:56:29

Thank you. And the last hand I have is an initial r d, please. Yes. Mr. Reeves.

00:17:57:01 - 00:18:03:24

You're acting on behalf of the applicant in relation to offshore ornithology matters as required.

00:18:05:13 - 00:18:06:02

Thank you.

00:18:08:04 - 00:18:10:17

Now, is there anybody else online who wishes to speak?

00:18:11:15 - 00:18:22:17

Yeah. Um, Trevor Armstrong, representing the Harwich Harbours Fishermen's Association, and it's on items three two and three three. Thank you. Thank you.

00:18:26:28 - 00:18:31:11

Thank you. I'll now hand over to Mr. Gold briefly for a matter of clarification.

00:18:34:28 - 00:18:35:13

Thank you.

00:18:36:29 - 00:19:12:29

We're seeking clarification from Brooks Lane. So, Mr. Church, um, the examining authority notes that Brooks Lane. Lane is relative representation RR 010. Uh, in in that you made reference to your practice representing a number of farmers and landowners without specifying exactly who your clients were. Um, when we got to the deadline to duplicate letters was submitted by you on behalf of 13 clients, uh, which relied on what you said in your relevant representation.

00:19:13:15 - 00:19:45:04

Uh, then a further letter was received on behalf of the Klassen family on the 24th of October, uh, which was after deadline two. And that came from your, uh, colleague, Mr. Howe, is good. It's very unclear to the examining authority precisely who your firm is representing, because of the vagueness of the originally submitted relevant representation. Uh, the examining authority therefore requires as an action point arising out of this hearing, that Brooks Lane submits a note identifying.

00:19:45:06 - 00:19:55:07

And there's a little list here. So I'll, I'll go slowly so you can get the points down who all of your clients are for the Five Estuaries application.

00:20:00:07 - 00:20:08:20

The date on which your firm was instructed to act on behalf of each of those clients for the Five Estuaries application.

00:20:15:23 - 00:20:27:25

And then, uh, for each Brooks Lane client for the five, uh, estuaries application, if you can indicate which land plots your instructions relate to,

00:20:29:11 - 00:20:43:00

and in identifying the relevant land plots, you should use the plot numbers as cited in the applicant's current version of the Book of reference, which is rep 1012

00:20:44:18 - 00:20:49:02

um and the land plans, which are Rep 1005.

00:20:56:08 - 00:21:05:10

And we'd like this note to be submitted no later than 1800 on Friday the 1st of November, ie Friday coming.

00:21:11:21 - 00:21:41:23

We'd also ask that in making any future submissions, um, on behalf of your various clients, that each submission clearly indicates which party you're making that submission on behalf of. Rather than relying as you have been up to this point on submitting, um, multiple copies of the same document. And the only differentiation has been, in effect, the electronic file name.

00:21:44:11 - 00:21:56:21

Because that's been making it quite difficult behind the scenes for colleagues who are compiling the examination library to actually know which letters relate to who and how many they should be adding to the library.

00:21:59:22 - 00:22:19:11

And we'd also, uh, wish to make clear that all of your submissions, and that goes for any other party, should be made by the relevant deadline, as stated in the um examination timetable, unless the examining authority specifies another date. Mr. church, is that clear?

00:22:20:16 - 00:22:21:25

Yeah, absolutely.

00:22:22:29 - 00:22:23:14

Thank you.

00:22:26:06 - 00:22:27:02

Thank you, Mr. Gold.

00:22:28:28 - 00:22:38:13

Is there anybody else present in person or online today who who may wish to speak at this hearing? Is that a legacy? Hand up online, Mr. Armstrong?

00:22:42:12 - 00:22:43:11

I'll take it as it is.

00:22:45:13 - 00:22:47:07

Yes it is. Apologies.

00:22:47:24 - 00:22:48:22

Okay. Thank you.

00:22:50:20 - 00:23:13:24

So, turning to the purpose of this hearing, uh, this will generally follow the agenda as issued on the project page on the 22nd of October. This is with the exception of Onshore Ecology Item 3.5, which at Essex County Council's request, will be covered as today's second item. It would be helpful if you had a copy of this in front of you, and could the applicant please arrange for the agenda to be displayed on the screen? Thank you.

00:23:15:29 - 00:23:50:27

You will see the hearing guidance noted in the in that agenda document. For expediency, I'm assuming that everyone has read this, and therefore I don't propose to spend time reading it out now, but I'll make some elaborating remarks. The examination of the sense of application is primarily being conducted in a written form, as explained in detail by us at the preliminary meeting. The purpose of today's hearing is for the examining authority to hear evidence concerning a range of onshore and

offshore environmental matters. And when you're answering the examination authority's questions, please ensure that you provide succinct dances.

00:23:51:26 - 00:24:09:13

It should also be noted that until such a time as it has been fully publicised and responses received, any elements of the change request pertinent to the items on this agenda will not be open for discussion. However, can the applicant provide an update on the timescale for publicising the accepted change request please?

00:24:20:25 - 00:24:43:07

Uh, polymer goody for the applicant. So, uh, you made a request when you accepted the change response for an update to the BAU? We prepared to respond to that, but I don't think it's coming to you. My understanding is we have to wait for you to see you're happy with that for us. Then to start the consultation process. The notices are all prepared and ready to go, but we would need to then agree the timing for reopening the representations online with your case officer as well.

00:24:46:24 - 00:24:52:27

Do you at this stage have any indication of when, um, that corrected document is going to be lodged?

00:24:54:17 - 00:24:57:14

Well, let me get it for the applicant. My understanding is it should arrive with you today.

00:24:59:07 - 00:25:15:25

It's just useful to know because we're we're starting to think slightly longer down the path as to what changes we might need to make to the examination timetable, and how that may play into any future rounds of written questions and or hearings if we are in that territory. Thank you.

00:25:18:23 - 00:25:19:09

Thank you.

00:25:20:26 - 00:25:24:19

Are there any comments or questions anyone wishes to make under agenda item two?

00:25:27:04 - 00:25:34:02

Thank you. Well that concludes this item of the agenda. I'm now going to pass over to Mrs. Weber to go item 3.1 on the agenda. Thank you.

00:25:37:02 - 00:26:10:18

Thank you. Um, the first item on the agenda is 3.1 effects on for farming. Um, reference has been made to documents that may be referred to during the discussion of this item. Is app 086. App 088. App 253 as 004 as 006. Relevant representations. Raising farming matters PD 3003 and PD 3004.

00:26:10:20 - 00:26:51:24

There may be other relevant Irrelevant submissions that were made at deadline two, which, um, will also be included at some point. Um, the questions that I have will be directed, uh, to in the main, um, the applicant. Um, if anybody else is going to be involved, then I will ensure to ask directly. Uh, first we'll go into, um, question A, which is temporal impacts on agricultural activity in our EP two hyphen 030 at 10.2 0.4 technical note on Shaw Civils and Electrical 2.1.

00:26:51:26 - 00:27:37:22

An estimate on the typical duration for the temporary position required to undertake trenching, etc. addresses timescales related to each type of engineering operation, and indicates that all hall roads will be restored following the testing and commissioning of cable for the applicant, where whole roads are retained in situ to facilitate cable pulling. How long after trenching and ducting would cable pulling commence? Given the response to .4.4 Rep 2030 that uh five estuaries will not be reliant on North Falls in respect of cable pulling.

00:28:07:21 - 00:28:38:10

Unless main road for the applicant so that the at the current time, we're not able to give an exact answer for that. We can give an indicative answer if that would help. Okay. We would expect um, 6 to 9 months that sort of timescale. It may be longer. It may be, you know, shorter, but it's in relation to the time, um, of well, in the various sections it will be different.

00:28:38:17 - 00:28:55:06

So, you know, if we've completed one set of like trenching ducting and then backfilling and then we have to come, then we do the next section, it will be longer for the first section, obviously, because we're going to come and pull the cable separately. So it depends on the section of the cables.

00:28:55:25 - 00:29:14:01

I do have a follow on to that, which is in respect to the joint pits, assuming that these will also be wholly for five estuaries, how long will these be left exposed and associated. Backfill soils stockpiled between trenching, ducting and cable pulling.

00:29:22:01 - 00:29:43:18

Yeah, so others may not for the applicant. It's approximately the same but the cable pit. So we sort of in we make the pits and then they're going to be permanent. So they're going to be sort of boxes and then they're not it's not going to be sort of exposed, you know, an exposed big hole in the ground because it'll be a pit. And then we install the cables and then pull them and then commission.

00:29:45:27 - 00:29:51:01

Yeah. So it's sort of the, the back end of the construction that we when we do the pulling and then the commissioning.

00:29:52:00 - 00:29:55:21

But so effectively there'll be exposed boxes

00:29:57:06 - 00:29:59:16

handling the cables being brought in.

00:29:59:18 - 00:30:02:13

We'll likely cover them. But so you know water will.

00:30:02:16 - 00:30:04:00

Be temporarily covered. Yeah.

00:30:04:02 - 00:30:08:08

Yeah. So we don't want them flooding. You know, we need to protect them, right?

00:30:08:15 - 00:30:09:00

Okay.

00:30:29:04 - 00:30:38:11

But is there anybody in the room present who may have comments to make regarding the responses from the applicant on this particular point?

00:30:41:19 - 00:30:42:11

Brooks Lane.

00:30:42:18 - 00:30:54:08

Gwen Church, on behalf of Brooks. Leni, just to clarify that, Alice, um, what you're saying is that the trenches and associated pits will be open for 6 to 9 months, approximately before reinstated.

00:30:54:28 - 00:31:07:13

Uh, just just one thing. You're actually coming through the the, um, examining authority. So, yeah, I mean, that's okay on this occasion, but, um. But if you could respond.

00:31:08:11 - 00:31:31:22

I mean, not for the applicant. No. So the process is that you you cut the trench, then we'll put the ducks in, and then we back. We backfill it. The cable pulling comes after the backfilling. So we've got the ducks in the ground. And then we can pull the cable through them. But the topsoil will be left. And that, that just comes in like after the, after we've done the cable pulling in commissioning.

00:31:32:18 - 00:31:44:15

Right. So my understanding is that the only soils that would be re handled were any over the joint boxes that may have been temporarily put back again in the meantime, is that correct?

00:31:46:10 - 00:32:01:04

Not for the applicant. No. That's the sort of the same process. So we're going to build our joint boxes then. Yeah. They will go back in after the commissioning. The topsoil will go back in after the commissioning. Same as the um same as above the cable trenches. This is just the top soils.

00:32:01:06 - 00:32:16:16

So the top soils will in the areas of the joint boxes, will definitely be stockpiled for a prolonged period of time to allow the the cable pulling to come in after the joint boxes have been. Yes.

00:32:20:17 - 00:32:21:28

Answer your question. Mr..

00:32:22:07 - 00:32:22:25

Yes. Thank you.

00:32:23:06 - 00:32:23:21

Thank you.

00:32:39:12 - 00:32:40:26

Right. Oh,

00:32:42:16 - 00:32:49:16

screen has died on me. Right. We will move on now to drainage again to the applicant. Excuse me.

00:32:49:18 - 00:32:53:12

I had my hand up. Oh, I wasn't given the opportunity to speak.

00:32:53:27 - 00:32:56:25

Is that Mr. Powell? So. Yeah. Yes. Okay. Mr. Powell.

00:32:58:13 - 00:33:36:10

Um, I'd just like to say that I was. I don't think the answer from Maynard was was overly helpful, a bit wishy washy. The important thing for farmers is to have that topsoil reinstated as soon as possible, and there should be no reason. The idea of laying the cable ducks is that they can pull through from the joint base. There's no need for. And I think last time we heard that the cable runs are about 500m in length. So the idea on most of these is you lay the ducks, you you backfill with the subsoil.

00:33:36:17 - 00:34:09:04

Once the ducks are in place, the only access required is to the um joint base. Unless the ducks have been badly installed. You know, it does happen. I've seen it before. Not by Olivier, but s have done a bad job on installation of ducks and had to pull them back out again and relay them. But I don't see why the topsoil should be have to wait until commissioning of the cable. I don't believe that will also be within nine months. There's no need for doing that. All the access is only required as the joint base to pull through.

00:34:09:28 - 00:34:18:00

Um, if I've done the job properly. Otherwise, what's the point in laying the ducks? You just laid a cable straight away to each joint bay.

00:34:19:22 - 00:34:40:16

Right. Thank you, Mr. Phil. Um, my understanding was that you were actually saying you were the actual ducks and the cable and the root, um, trenching would actually be totally reinstated. Top soils back on. Is that why did I miss understand that? And it's only the joint pits that would be left exposed.

00:34:42:10 - 00:35:19:26

Alice Maynard for the applicant. Yes. We backfill the plant. What's being assessed in the environmental statement is the backfilling of the trenches with the sort of everything up to the topsoil as a worst case, because we have to include the worst case in the environmental statements and assessments. Then we stockpile the topsoil until after the commissioning of the cable. The reason being in, as Mr. Phil has indicated, is that in some instances, if there's something wrong with either the docks or the manufacturing of the cable and there's nothing, um, there's an issue which hopefully there isn't.

00:35:19:28 - 00:35:35:09

But in case there is, then we would need to if we'd put it back in, we would need to double handle it and then strip it again, which could be worse. So in the environmental statement, we're saying this is what is being assessed because we'd want to avoid double handling of these top soils.

00:35:36:08 - 00:35:50:00

Right. So effectively the the entire um corridor for each section will be um subsoil or some exposure for prolonged period of time.

00:35:51:15 - 00:36:01:13

The the length of times in the environmental statement. Ah yeah, that is correct. But yeah, it's the length of times that's being assessed in the environmental statement as the worst case.

00:36:03:08 - 00:36:14:13

Right. Okay. Thank you for that. I think it's probably we'll have to think on about if there's any follow up questions to that. But thank you. Um, is there anybody else online or in the room that would like to make a comment?

00:36:17:02 - 00:36:18:23

Mr. Fowler, if you've got your hand up.

00:36:20:04 - 00:36:51:07

Yes, I have, thanks. I think that begs the question, um, as to whether they're doing this process right. Because what what Mrs. Manos just said then is that they're going to strip the topsoil, um, open up the whole cable corridor and not do any reinstatement until they're satisfied that the cable is in operation. So that is the last bit effectively, they're going to be doing on this cable route is the topsoil reinstatement.

00:36:51:13 - 00:37:31:09

Now, You asked a very pertinent question at the time, scales of which Mr. Maynard was not committing to it, although previously she mentioned 6 to 9 months, so are they, as the applicant, suggesting here that they're going to have the whole cable corridor stripped, um, duct laid, cable laid, connected up within nine months? Because I just don't believe that it's going to happen. And I think I'm, um, I'm very nervous that what happens is that the applicant here is applying for such wide ranging rights, it gives them the ability to basically have complete flexibility as to when they put the topsoil back.

00:37:31:11 - 00:37:53:28

And from the farming point of view, you know, they'll say, oh, compensate you for crop loss. That's not the point. We want our land back. We don't want to be, um, beholden of having that topsoil open for all longer than what it should be. And if if you're not going to if the whole idea of laying the ducks is that you can pull through the cables later on, otherwise, just lay the cables. You don't need to have the ducks if you've got the cable straight in the ground.

00:37:55:28 - 00:38:16:16

Thank you, Mr. Phil. Um, I think that maybe we'll be looking for some sort of technical note from you, um, to lay out the precisely each section by section, if that's possible, of an indicative for each section of cable lay and how long the exposures would be.

00:38:19:11 - 00:38:20:07

Is that possible?

00:38:36:08 - 00:39:24:12

Julian Boswell for the applicant, we've already put in a technical note. We're not. We'll reflect if that is a specific request you make of us, then we will reflect on whether there is anything that we can meaningfully add to it. But it may be the case that there isn't. I think Miss Maynard is giving you a, you know, a straightforward technical response to direct questions that you're putting to her in terms of what's needed to ensure that the cables are laid where there's clearly a balance to be struck, as she's explained in the different considerations of the possibility of if you put all the topsoil back over, um, prematurely, that you then have to take it, take it up again.

00:39:24:14 - 00:39:41:09

And so there's clearly, um, a tension there that she's explained. And I guess I'm, I'm concerned that there's only so far that one can take a debate like this. We've assessed it in the way that we have. And as Maynard has explained, that being the the worst case approach.

00:39:42:05 - 00:39:49:26

I'll thank you for that. I think what we'll probably be doing is reviewing all the information that we've received, plus some additional just.

00:39:51:08 - 00:39:51:24

Ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah.

00:39:57:25 - 00:40:18:13

Yeah. Um, just discuss with my colleague. I think probably what we'll probably do is review all that we've seen so far and see if we will have additional written questions based on the information that we've just discussed and moving forward, any written representations we've received subsequently. Thank you.

00:40:21:17 - 00:40:25:03

Is that okay, Mr. Powell, we're moving on to the next section. Drainage.

00:40:26:27 - 00:40:27:26

Perfect. Thank you.

00:40:32:07 - 00:41:01:04

Right now we've got a couple of questions on drainage. Um, I00 for onshore project description. Table 1.3. Um, onshore export. Cable construction. Maximum design scenario states that the haul road would be up to six meters wide. Ten meters includes cluding verges and drainage. To the applicant, what proportion of the ten meters would be reserved for drainage?

00:41:08:09 - 00:41:38:11

And this may not for the applicant. So the. We've stated that the width of the road is going to be six meters. So the additional drainage on the side. It's a question for detailed design. It depends the width of the drainage. And it could be swales drainage swales along the side. Um is a function of the surface. So there's different ways you can build a temporary haul road. So you'd strip the topsoil.

00:41:38:13 - 00:42:00:13

You then put some sort of surface down, then some gravel down. It depends a bit on the base of that and how permeable that is. So I anticipate the drainage swales on either side to be somewhere in the region of a metre to two metres wide. And it'd be probably either side. But it is, you know, that's an indicative number because it does depend on the permeability of the ground.

00:42:02:26 - 00:42:09:23

Well, thank you for that. Uh, are there any comments from, uh, Mr. Church? Uh, for Mr.. File.

00:42:15:14 - 00:42:16:05

Mr.. File?

00:42:18:23 - 00:42:50:00

Uh, hi. Yeah, sorry about that. Um, I, I mean, I don't normally see swales on either side of Paul Roads, and that's, that's a new one. I mean, first of all, the whole road, it's six meters. I mean, the standard carriageway is two point whatever it is, four meters wide. So, you know, six meter wide haul road is like a, like a dual lane motorway type of thing. Um, so I think that's excessive. And the swales. Then on the other side. What are you going to do is create erosion. Remember, there's no topsoil here. This is going to be straight onto subsoil. It's just going to run away.

00:42:50:10 - 00:43:20:19

I mean, normally what you find is that there's pre-construction drainage put in that picks up this water that's running over the subsoil. I mean, depending on the nature of the subsoil. But this thick, heavy clay, it's got to be impenetrable anyway for the most water. So, you know, I, I think from a point of view of making sure that the land doesn't flood. I mean, where does where does this swale water end up going? You know, they digging drainage lagoons to capture it all or is it going to flood neighbouring adjoining land? You know, I think it's a bit of a wishy washy answer, if you ask me.

00:43:21:01 - 00:43:23:27

From my experience on other sites, I don't think is acceptable.

00:43:24:10 - 00:43:34:08

Thank. Thank you, Mr. Powell. Um, when you said that you were worst case scenario will be Swales. Um, what are the alternatives that you'd be looking at?

00:43:39:06 - 00:44:09:23

Ultimately, not for the applicant. So the. How we design the drainage on temporary haul roads. Best case can be there's no needed worst case we can have swales which we asked for the width which is. That was the specific question. Um, otherwise uh, you could have like channels, almost like just drains that go down like wick drains that would go down the side. Um, these will be designed to interact with the pre and post pre-construction and post-construction drainage like this is part of the normal design process.

00:44:10:05 - 00:44:34:13

Um, we've also for the width of the whole road. The width of that is worst case in the scenario one where we're constructing, uh, the docks and the north walls is to allow to keep, try and keep traffic off any of the sort of associated roads, farm roads, anything in the area so that we can have two vehicles passing. So that's why it can't be two meters wide in the worst case.

00:44:34:26 - 00:44:39:18

So you're not considering just having passing bays along the, along the routes.

00:44:39:28 - 00:44:49:27

That is being considered. But as I say, we have to have a worst case, so we can't define every case. So yes, we can have passing bays, but that would be Nora along, you know, a lot of the route.

00:44:49:29 - 00:44:59:07

So I think again, this is probably a subject that we'll probably look at and come back to. And if we got any additional questions, we will start. Okay. Mr.. Phil?

00:45:02:04 - 00:45:22:29

Yes. Perfect. Thank you. I mean, can I just suggest you put French drains in either side of the thing? It's quite simple for the French training with gravel pit gravel at the top, and it'll capture the water just

to be taken away. I just don't I don't want my clients land adjacent flooding, and I've seen that on a construction site from RWA where that's happened and it's flooded acres on the side of it.

00:45:23:16 - 00:45:32:18

Oh, thank you, Mr. Powell. I think that we'll probably, um, look at any possible possibilities for alternatives as well. Thank you for

00:45:34:18 - 00:46:06:12

moving on. Um. infiltration. Soak testing. Table 6.2. Um. Uh, app 088 states. The detailed post consent design of the surface water drainage scheme would be based on a series of infiltration soak tests carried out on site, and the required attenuation volumes would be outlined in the supporting on SS, fra uh flood risk assessment.

00:46:06:14 - 00:46:34:15

The tests will be undertaken prior to construction and in accordance with the Bri digest 365 guidelines, in order to determine the suitability of ground for accepting a drainage discharge. Now, actually, this question I'm addressing to Essex County Council, um, as the lead local flood authority, and I don't know if you've got anybody here representing.

00:46:36:26 - 00:46:40:22

Um. Good morning. I just came to cancel. No, we don't have anybody from the. Well, it.

00:46:40:24 - 00:46:49:17

May be a question that we also we we will put. But it may be that you need to send us a some written response in future.

00:46:49:19 - 00:46:50:19

Thank you. We'll do that.

00:46:51:16 - 00:47:11:15

Um, our b r e digest 365 guidelines and most appropriate for a project of this scale, both individually and cumulatively, with other proposed projects in and around the o n ss. So you're not able to answer that question at the moment or.

00:47:13:03 - 00:47:22:21

Are we just going to council? I am not, because I don't have the technical experts with me. However, no doubt you'd be following this up in the series of questions that will actually not at that particular time.

00:47:22:23 - 00:47:31:17

Okay. Um, so I think probably we put that as in the next round of questions sent directly to Essex County Council to respond.

00:47:31:23 - 00:47:36:02

Just for that reference, you're asking me to comment on the BR guidelines, are you? That.

00:47:36:04 - 00:47:36:24

Is that what you.

00:47:36:26 - 00:47:38:28

Thank you. Ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah.

00:47:39:00 - 00:48:11:04

Ah ah ah ah ah. I mean as a general point where we've got technical questions and it's not just for this topic, it may be others. Um, I think what we're doing because we're not far off second round written questions, um, what we may thought we would ask orally, we will put down as a second round written questions. So there's no need to make any copious notes for some questions that may get parked. I suspect some of the noise questions that I've got later on will similarly get part for written uh, excuse to.

00:48:13:16 - 00:48:24:29

Write I'm finally to the applicant have any infiltration so Covid tests being carried out since the submission of the application and if so, will these be submitted during the period of the examination?

00:48:26:15 - 00:48:28:19

Alice Maynard for the applicant? No.

00:48:31:23 - 00:48:32:08

Thank you.

00:48:35:05 - 00:48:41:16

Uh, does anybody in the room have any comments to make? Um, does anybody online have any comments to make?

00:48:47:29 - 00:49:21:05

Then I will move on. Um, the Environment Agency's response. Um RR 026 and um R20 makes reference to the implied possibility of hydraulic continuity between the two, that is groundwater saline. Um, is in is not mentioned for the joint base or the HDD. Um, horizontal directional drilling. And the applicant states that further discussion with the EPA is scheduled.

00:49:21:07 - 00:49:36:09

So my question to the applicant is can the applicant confirm that further discussion with the Environment Agency has or will be commenced In the near future, and that the outcome of these discussions will be submitted for examination by agreed by an agreed deadline.

00:49:44:28 - 00:49:55:24

Paul McAdoo for the applicant. We are still seeking a meeting with the Environment Agency. We have not been able to hold one year. We're having some trouble arranging that. So I can't commit to a deadline at this time because that discussion has needs to be held.

00:49:57:02 - 00:50:06:09

Well, in that case, could I ask that we be updated as soon as a meeting has been scheduled so that we we anticipate some sort of response in due course?

00:50:08:12 - 00:50:11:14

Yes, madam. We will do that once we get a date.

00:50:13:06 - 00:50:14:09

Thank you very much.

00:50:16:21 - 00:50:28:23

All right. Moving on to again for the applicant. Um, in your submission for deadline two RFP 2095. Um.

00:50:36:19 - 00:51:07:12

Submitted by, uh, the Family Farming Partnerships. Um, responding to exc 1WE102. The applicant has stated that the applicants had sight um, of drainage maps and information on land drainage and irrigation infrastructure. Um, do you have this information available in a digitized form, and can it be submitted in support of documentation for the hydrogeology, hydrogeology and flood risk?

00:51:24:02 - 00:51:39:27

Ambiguity for the applicant. We don't have it in a digitized form. We have it in PDF. We could do some work to try and digitize it, but that will likely reduce any accuracy because it would be. Interpreting a PDF onto our maps is a task we could look at doing, but at the moment they are just PDFs.

00:51:40:18 - 00:51:48:19

Um, well, possibly then as PDFs will probably be sufficient as a as a first line.

00:51:50:02 - 00:51:58:13

It could be for the applicant. Um, yes. Provided that there's nothing on those that documentation that requires us to seek consent to submit it, we can do that.

00:51:58:28 - 00:52:09:16

Um, I think as far as that put forward the, the, um, information in the first instance with the forest, we be willing to give that consent.

00:52:10:16 - 00:52:13:18

So I'm fairly for ten or fairly farms. Yeah. That's absolutely fine.

00:52:15:16 - 00:52:18:03

Is that sufficient or do you actually want that in writing.

00:52:20:27 - 00:52:26:27

Well we think that's we think that's sufficient. We just want to check there's not copyright notices or anything actually on the documents.

00:52:27:07 - 00:52:28:20

Okay. Thank you very much.

00:52:30:16 - 00:53:09:23

Well, moving on to the next session, which is on on the effects on soil quality, um, associated with the providing a whole road and whole roads use by abnormal, indivisible loads of up to 400 tonnes between Bentley Road and the site for the proposed onshore substation. The Code of Construction Practice Rep 1041 provides little information on the design of internal haul roads, with the focus largely on the day to day management by contractors to reduce adverse impacts such as dust, mud and noise.

00:53:09:27 - 00:53:43:08

Reference has been made in As 004 onshore. Project description. Table 1.3 Onshore Export cable construction. MDS DDS states that Hall Road would be up to six meters wide, ten meters including verges and drainage, and 1.4.33 states where the ground is sufficiently firm, it may be acceptable to use significantly less granular subbase material or trackway.

00:53:43:28 - 00:54:33:12

At 1.4.134 provided provides some information on methodology for whole road construction and factors requiring its in its retention. Although 1.40.35 suggests that specialist trackway may be considered for the applicant in light of As 004 onshore project description 1.96 stating as the whole road will not be in place during the operational phase, we will seek to agree appropriate access routes with relevant landowner? Has the applicant have as the applicant fully considered? Has the applicant fully considered routing internal hall roads to field margins? Headlands.

00:54:33:14 - 00:54:52:23

Headlands in fields where the EAC crosses productive land or to access the ENS. So basically I'm asking, are you going to be in discussion with farmers and trying to avoid crossing farmland with haul routes?

00:55:40:17 - 00:55:51:05

Uh, sorry. Excuse me. Madam. It would possibly help us if we could just clarify. Are we talking about all whole road usage or A-hole road usage at the moment? Because it's different answers.

00:55:51:22 - 00:55:52:07

I think.

00:55:54:27 - 00:56:14:22

It would, it would cover both to be to a certain extent, but the, but the, um, a.l ones are probably the ones that aren't going to be most impactful on a single hit, whereas the X would be maybe more frequent use, but lighter loads and.

00:56:18:00 - 00:56:19:20

Unless may not. For the applicant

00:56:21:18 - 00:56:27:16

to answer the question, I'd first like to break it. Break it down a little bit because there's many different components if that's acceptable.

00:56:29:20 - 00:57:02:24

So during operation, which I think was the first point during operation of the uh, onshore substation, the, the any access for ales is planned to come down a, a whole road. Which grid would be building. So grid grid have indicated and we have agreement that we would be able to use that. It's very unlikely that during operation of the onshore substation we would need ales. You know, we're not intending to replace large bits of equipment.

00:57:03:20 - 00:57:08:00

Um, so that answers a question about operational ales.

00:57:10:22 - 00:57:44:01

The second part was ales during construction. is that correct? Yes. So aerals during construction. Um, for the onshore substation would be going down the Hall Road. So there will be two. Um, within the

allowance, there's the from Bentley Road to the onshore substation. There's firstly uh, haul road that would be used for the cable drums. So this is for the essentially the continuation of the installation of the cable up to the substation.

00:57:44:03 - 00:58:30:11

But then we also need room for a separate haul road, which is going to be basically providing, um, access for trucks and ales to the substation. So in this one section from Bentley Road to the that bit going across those fields, there's essentially two allowance for two there to haul roads. They may have different construction as the uh because of the mass, the mass of equipment. But the The design of these roads and the sub bases and the design of aisles themselves, are always intended to reduce the actual pressure that you're putting on, um, the subbase and any in-situ soils.

00:58:30:13 - 00:58:49:00

So, for example, you know, you have bigger tires, you can have two tires next to each other on TVs because then it doubles the surface area of the tires, reducing the pressure. So that's how that's part of the design process of roads and roads and, uh, vehicles for this type of, um,

00:58:50:15 - 00:58:51:14

operation.

00:58:54:12 - 00:59:02:03

Thank you. Um, as I see, Mister Chair just got his hand off. I was about to ask, isn't there any comment Mr. Church would like to make?

00:59:02:29 - 00:59:38:17

Yeah. Thank you. Uh, Gwen. Church, on behalf of broccolini, we are seriously concerned about the whole road between Benton Road and the substation site. We've to date have been given no information on what the. What the whole road is going to be constructed of. There's been talks of a metal surface, but there's been no mention of that just now. We were told that track matting couldn't be used because of what nature of a for, um, trucks and vehicles been using the whole road. But then there's been mention of track matting in the last few minutes. Uh, the structure to the sort of a damage to the soil structure could be quite significant.

00:59:39:03 - 01:00:16:01

We are talking about 4 or 5 600 tonne vehicles coming through, uh, and at the moment, not knowing what the whole road surface is going to comprise of, we're naturally assuming the worst, that actually the damage will be so significant that we may not be able to farm it going forward. The location of a haul road, uh, does dissect fields. It doesn't follow the headlands. Um, as you alluded to earlier, we've got a situation at, uh, on land owned by T fairly where the whole road splits and I appreciate this is a five series examination, but there's a different, different approach between five estuaries and North Falls where the whole road splits.

01:00:16:03 - 01:00:46:02

So we're going to be subject to two hall roads on uh, well within close, very close proximity to each other. And this is the first time we've heard of, despite negotiating with Malcolm McLaren, being the applicant's agent for three years, it's the first we've heard of that. It's going to be two hall roads, one for the cable drums and one for the, um, substation kit. So, as you can appreciate, we are totally in the dark at this moment in time, and we're very close to the end of, um, getting close because an end of examination period.

01:00:46:04 - 01:01:00:09

Yet we're no further forward as to how our client's lands can be protected. It's grade one land. It's the best quality land you can. You can farm. Um, and as I say, grave concern about the future of the farm, ability and profitability of that land.

01:01:01:12 - 01:01:36:16

Thank you. Um, to come back to the applicant, um, it seems that no discussion has been actually hardened as to the roots with the with the landowners on, um, the whole roads themselves. Is it intended that that will be. Some information will be coming through before the end of the examination as to what the construction will be, the the actual defined route or routes as suggested now.

01:02:56:11 - 01:02:58:03

Alice Maynard for the applicant.

01:03:00:28 - 01:03:12:23

We, the the whole roads will be in the red line boundary. So it's clear that the red line boundary, where it goes in the, you know, within the scheme and within relation to the fields,

01:03:14:22 - 01:03:24:19

the design, the specific design of the whole road is part of detailed design. It's ongoing. Again, it's the Watson test in the environmental statement. Um,

01:03:26:15 - 01:03:37:17

we're happy to provide a technical note on the on the haul road in this section, um, outlining, outlining where it's likely to be.

01:03:39:06 - 01:04:01:28

Because you say you you will provide us a technical note on that. We can do that. Yes. If you could do that and also provide make sure that it's supported by a plan. So it could be illustrated clearly as well. Um, I'm also wondering if there's potential scenarios for actual construction of those, those whole roads. Would that be possible in your technical note by.

01:04:02:00 - 01:04:17:23

Potential scenarios of construction may. We can't clarify. Are we talking the materials and the design of the road? Where are we talking? Uh, is that the the specific question that is being asked, like, well.

01:04:17:25 - 01:04:31:28

I think I think we want some idea of as to the, the worst case scenario of what sort of construction you reckon would need be to need to to support the difference between the, the and the, the.

01:04:32:00 - 01:04:36:00

Surfaces, the surfaces and, and the surfaces and the subbase.

01:04:36:02 - 01:05:16:14

And I think we need clarification. Um, because what might be need for an eight wheeled tipper truck, 20 tonnes or whatever, it's quite different to something that's 400 tonnes, uh, as and when a transformer is being brought in, um, there now seems to be quite a lot of confusion about what happens between Bentley Road and the substation sites. Um, given that potentially this whole road will serve up to three projects. So, yeah, we'd like to know, um, the various routes are and how you envisage accepting that because you can't give a precise design.

01:05:17:03 - 01:05:32:20

Um, but what measures will we be putting in place, particularly noting that part of this route is going to be crossing grade one agricultural land and ultimately restoration back to agricultural land, um, of a high order will be expected.

01:05:34:12 - 01:05:41:01

I just mean that for the applicant, we can provide such a note that. That's fine. I just wanted to clarify what exactly what's in it.

01:05:41:03 - 01:05:47:27

That's fine. Is, um, Mr.. Josh, you have to wait for that information to come through and then comment on in a future date.

01:05:49:03 - 01:06:02:20

Uh, yeah, that'd be helpful. The only outstanding question I have, um, is how Five Trees are intending to split the whole road from North Falls, um, at Little Bromley and take it to have its own distinct route.

01:06:02:22 - 01:06:06:08

I think I think that's what we're asking them to provide that information.

01:06:06:14 - 01:06:17:28

So there's a bit of clarity on that. And why on that matter is that the applicant believes that that route should be provided free of charge to the applicant, a subject to no payment. I'd appreciate we're not here to talk about compensation.

01:06:18:00 - 01:06:28:00

I don't think we're dealing with the the compensation you side of it at the moment. We're just the technical side of it. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Principal. Um, now

01:06:29:16 - 01:06:45:07

also also inquiring about the the the, um, PayPal corridor where you got heavy loads going over the cable corridors and discussions with landowners on taking routes to headlands and field margins.

01:06:46:09 - 01:07:02:24

Julian Boswell for the applicant, um, we're not able to address why North Falls is doing things. So any request that Mr. Church has just made in that respect, we won't be addressing it's the North Falls to explain their their decision making. Not for us to seek to do it on.

01:07:02:26 - 01:07:04:07

I wasn't seeking.

01:07:05:04 - 01:07:06:22

Um, I just wanted to make sure that the.

01:07:06:24 - 01:07:09:19

Information that I'm looking for is in relation to five estuaries.

01:07:09:21 - 01:07:13:17

Thank you. But I'd also like to pick up a point. Um, Mr.

01:07:15:02 - 01:07:36:21

Graham made, um, a moment ago, which was that, um, that the position is confusing. It isn't confusing. It is, it is. Sorry. It may appear confusing. The the position has been resolved as to how this is going to operate. So it's more a case of clarifying, I hope, rather than confusing.

01:07:36:23 - 01:07:54:05

Well, certainly is reading the application documentation up to this point and what we've seen, I don't think any member of the panel was aware that potentially there are two whole routes through this section. It's not abundantly clear from what's in the documentation that's been submitted up to this date.

01:08:09:19 - 01:08:15:27

If we are wrong in that, and you'd like to signpost us to a document or documents now, by all means do so.

01:08:18:00 - 01:08:19:15

Alas, may not for the applicant.

01:08:21:20 - 01:08:42:09

Know well, we may signpost in the technical note. I cannot do that right now, but I would would like to clarify the contents of the technical note. It's covering all roads from Bentley Road to the onshore substation across the fields. The surface options?

01:08:45:04 - 01:08:45:19

Yes.

01:08:46:26 - 01:08:53:16

The intended use of the roads. That. So what? What's going on? What? Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

01:09:02:02 - 01:09:10:04

How will the technical note need to cover the operational access to the onshore substation?

01:09:10:23 - 01:09:19:08

Uh, I, I think we will probably park that until we understand what the temporary uses are going to be. Okay. Uh.

01:09:19:21 - 01:09:40:21

And I'm going to take a slightly contrary due to that. Um, because it it sounds like that the temporary route, in effect will be pared back. Um, once construction works have been completed, and you will then be left with a route, uh, that would serve the substations.

01:09:52:11 - 01:10:03:28

The applicant would like will clarify that position about how the operation and what's exactly included and what is not included, and how the operational access is correct and what's left behind and what's reinstated.

01:10:04:10 - 01:10:17:19

Uh, there was one other parts of that. And is that that is why you're not actually going around the field margins as well. So it's it's because it's a direct route from the road straight to the substations.

01:10:23:15 - 01:10:24:00

Okay.

01:10:34:10 - 01:10:47:18

And part of this discussion, also the topic of why we have the the flexibility for the loop was raised. Um, would that need to be covered in the technical notes.

01:10:47:26 - 01:10:53:07

Are we talking about the loop that affects the land that Mr. Fell was bought?

01:10:53:12 - 01:10:54:24

No. The land that Mr..

01:10:54:27 - 01:10:56:23

Yeah. Yes. If you could.

01:11:04:07 - 01:11:04:22

Convince.

01:11:05:19 - 01:11:12:28

Uh, the applicant also assumes that reinstatement should be covered in this such a technical note. Reinstatement options.

01:11:13:00 - 01:11:20:24

Reinstatement options. Um, back to the the the permanent routes are eventually chosen. Yeah.

01:11:23:08 - 01:11:23:23

Thank you.

01:11:25:10 - 01:11:44:19

And and also in relation to the, um, cable corridor. Um, what will discussions be ongoing with, uh, with landowners about using margins of fields and headlands rather than, than taking direct routes through agricultural land?

01:11:50:12 - 01:12:05:21

Would it be acceptable if if the applicant, um, considers it more appropriate to separate the technical topics from lands agreement options, or is the preference to keep them in the same document?

01:12:07:18 - 01:12:25:01

If if we can have sort of like a general comment on on how you intend going forward to discuss these things with, with, um, landowners so that we know that, that they're fully engaged when it comes to, to the technical decisions on

01:12:26:18 - 01:12:27:03

it.

01:12:27:05 - 01:12:36:18

Yeah. I think we would like to keep those the technical and the, those discussions, those topics independent, um, to be considered together, which is understandable.

01:12:36:25 - 01:12:39:03

Um, I see that Mr. Fallows got his hand up.

01:12:41:29 - 01:12:54:18

Uh. Thank you. I think you would have seen my representations on Um, the, uh, I think you alluded to it to the two extra loops that have been put across our land. Which which, um,

01:12:56:05 - 01:13:21:19

hear what Mr. May not say, but we've tried to engage with the applicant's agents, who had considerable period of time over those loops, and we just keep getting stonewalled by them saying there's ecological, ecological reasons why they can't do that. So I sheer I think we're past that point of being able to leave that to a discussion outside this room, actually, that needed a decision by the DCO, uh, panel, in my opinion.

01:13:22:06 - 01:13:52:29

Um, if I could just interject there a moment, Mr. Fowler, I, I believe that there were some, um, responses to e-excuse that have only recently come in that maybe we've not yet fully had time to evaluate and review, and I think possibly that would be further questioning coming up on that matter of those hedgerows. In future discussions. Um, is that okay, Mr. Fowler? I know that you you you are concerned.

01:13:53:01 - 01:13:57:12

Do you mean future discussions today or later on? No. I mean, you know, I have.

01:13:57:14 - 01:14:13:27

It'll be future discussions, probably as a result of digesting the information that has recently come in, comments that we've received from yourself and other other landowners. Um, and then moving forward on to the next round of excuse.

01:14:16:01 - 01:14:25:09

Okay. So we don't you don't intend to discuss what I consider to be ridiculous additional hall roads. Um.

01:14:25:18 - 01:14:26:25

I think I think.

01:14:26:27 - 01:14:27:18

Public hearing.

01:14:27:29 - 01:14:30:03

At the moment, um.

01:14:31:25 - 01:14:35:09

Just fine, as long as you've got my comments. As long as you know what I'm talking about. Yeah.

01:14:39:12 - 01:15:02:20

I will be bringing up the subject of hall roads going forward. Um, in their design. Um, I've got another question to ask about that. Um, it might be to give you another opportunity to come back about about the routing, etc., and it might have impacts on that. So if you just bear with us a moment, Mr. Powell. Yeah. Okay. Thank you.

01:15:06:04 - 01:15:08:18

Moving forward. Um.

01:15:13:01 - 01:15:13:16

Ah.

01:15:14:27 - 01:15:37:23

Mr. Fairlie, that's okay. Thomas Fairlie for tnr fairly farms with t fairly and sans. Um, I'm going to hopefully try and clear up some some of the confusion on this whole road. We've been asked by the national grid, uh, for a permanent haul road across some of our land and our neighbours land that this hill road is supposed to go across as well, which is completely separate to the route.

01:15:38:18 - 01:15:49:11

Like, I think I think that's probably going to be covered in in those submissions for North Walls and for, for um, the. Yeah.

01:15:49:13 - 01:16:06:18

What I was going to say with that is this whole road, the permanent one is going to be put in after construction for servicing the site. Why not put it in before and get rid of the whole road that's going across the rest of the fields? We're losing a lot more land like this, you see. But that was.

01:16:06:20 - 01:16:23:07

It. Really? Okay. Um, taken on board by Minister Farley. And we will probably look be looking at that in the round with all the other comments about whole roads generally. Um, in that on s o s and s.

01:16:37:22 - 01:16:40:15

For the applicant again. Um.

01:16:42:25 - 01:17:03:03

You've already made some comments about the ten meter width of the of the the the whole roads. Um, as set out in table 1.3 of as 004. Um, I was interested, and I can't quite get my head around the idea of why would verges form part of the design.

01:17:36:18 - 01:18:00:01

Unless managed for the applicant. So I think we're trying to include a worst or worst worst case in this. And so there might be some space between the drainage, you know, and it depends how the drainage is done. Swales. You know, if there's a little gap between the edge of the road. So it's just sort of it's not huge verges. Um.

01:18:01:16 - 01:18:23:00

Well, it's, it's a six metre wide road up to two metres of drainage either side. So then you're already up to ten metres and then you're saying that you're including verges as well. It just seems an odd comment saying that you're going across agricultural land. It's not like it's in the road, um, or in the public highway.

01:18:25:18 - 01:18:31:05

Or is it that just because that's like a design methodology that ultimately that's where it is?

01:18:31:07 - 01:18:32:14

Basically it's. Yes.

01:18:32:16 - 01:18:33:01

Correct.

01:18:35:28 - 01:18:38:02

They're not serving a function.

01:18:38:29 - 01:18:40:24

That I didn't think they were.

01:18:44:02 - 01:18:52:17

Right. Um, again, for the applicant. Um, what is the appropriate maximum weight that specialist trackway can accommodate?

01:19:04:08 - 01:19:29:03

And this may not for the applicant. Um, I don't know. Off the top of my head, the very maximum of all there's different different types of trackway have different limits. Um, we we can find the very largest trackway, but it will also depend on the sub base. So. And how it interacts with any base that's put down. So yeah, I can't give an answer right now, but we can give an answer in a written form.

01:19:29:27 - 01:19:44:27

Uh, that would be good if you could by the, um, next deadline. That would be terrific. Um, and finally, uh, there was a comment in, in the 1.9.6, um.

01:19:47:15 - 01:20:05:19

What is the contractors preferred construction strategy consideration in this matter? And if it is a consideration in this matter, will it be considered, um, the the construction strategy be captured adequately by the DCO?

01:20:08:06 - 01:20:09:00

So do you want to.

01:20:31:23 - 01:20:57:13

Uh, A polymer group of the applicant, and the construction strategy would be defined by the preferred contractor at detailed design stage within the limits of the DC or not the other way around. We're struggling a little bit with the question because the construction strategy, when the contractor actually the detail, every little detail of how everything will be built will not be done until detailed design. But that's what their construction strategy will be feeding into and it will be within the limit, I think.

01:20:57:15 - 01:21:30:04

I think what I'm looking for is that there should be some comfort to the people who, the landowners affected by it, that you know, that the construction companies, the specialists, etc. will actually be working in their best interest to, to make sure to protect their land. So I think that that, you know, there there would need to be some comfort that there's adequate mechanism for capturing a robust strategy going forward.

01:21:32:22 - 01:21:39:04

Paul McKinney for the applicant. Matters like this are set out in the cockpit with which every contractor would have to comply.

01:21:40:02 - 01:21:44:17

But okay, so the cockpit would be technically,

01:21:46:10 - 01:21:51:01

um, constraining on on the specialist contractors, the.

01:21:51:03 - 01:21:58:16

CAC people be constraining on every activity consented under the DCO because it applies to every construction activity.

01:22:00:11 - 01:22:09:23

Right. Uh, do any of the interested parties have any comments to make on you? Okay, Mr. Church?

01:22:10:13 - 01:22:29:28

It's only I sorry. Quinn church on behalf of broccolini, the only additional point in that technical note on the whole road, which would be helpful, is intended timeframe. But that whole road will be in situ for, um, throughout the project because, again, we've been receiving mixed messages during meetings of clients and the applicant's agent as to how long that.

01:22:30:00 - 01:22:34:28

Would that be possible to put that sort of thing on the on the the technical note.

01:22:35:23 - 01:22:42:24

Uh, for the applicant that we consider that's already covered by the technical note that went in at deadline two. We would we'd ask. Right. I mean, that first.

01:22:42:26 - 01:22:53:06

It may be that those you may not have had an opportunity yet to fully review all those documentation. There was a lot of documentation that came in at that at that stage.

01:22:53:08 - 01:22:55:26

If it's if it's there, then we'll find it. If not, then.

01:22:56:08 - 01:22:59:06

Perhaps if you could signpost us to it. Uh.

01:22:59:22 - 01:23:02:10

For the applicant, it's rep 2030.

01:23:06:04 - 01:23:09:01

22030.

01:23:16:03 - 01:23:17:27

I see, Mr. File. You've got your hand up.

01:23:21:24 - 01:23:23:24

Uh, yes. Sorry. Can you hear me? Right.

01:23:26:26 - 01:23:27:11

Hello.

01:23:27:24 - 01:23:29:16

Hello. Hello?

01:23:29:18 - 01:23:30:04

Can you hear me?

01:23:30:21 - 01:23:32:12

Yes, we can hear you. Yeah.

01:23:32:14 - 01:24:00:27

Sorry, I can't see. For some reason, um, the. I was just going to say I haven't seen the reps either. Um, but, um, I'm all for all roads. As long as they're stone. All roads, all roads on subsoil and oakwood. But I think, correct me if I'm wrong, miss McGeady, but I'm pretty certain these are Stone Hill roads. Um, and they're really important because it avoids, uh, over necessary compaction on, on ground. So I'm all for them as long as they're stone ones.

01:24:02:11 - 01:24:03:16

But thank you, Mr. Phil.

01:24:20:18 - 01:24:23:18

And the next question.

01:24:29:15 - 01:25:01:08

Yeah. Um, and going back to a bit to what Mr. Phil had said earlier about hedgerows, um, I actually see that I, I've, I had had a question, but I am actually holding off on asking the question, um, because of the submission on the new outline. Ali MP rep 2022, which um, has substantially revised, uh, being being revised.

01:25:01:10 - 01:25:13:07

So it's likely that there will be specific questions coming up at the next round of excuse on that. Um, so I'm actually now going to be moving on to, um.

01:25:16:26 - 01:25:48:07

Uh, the use of grade one BMV and, and the onshore substation layout, uh, the habitats impacts. East SEC. Section seven v biodiversity net gain assessment AP hyphen 149, drawing number one, sheet 19 of 19, illustrated the final layout of the O and SS for both V and North Falls.

01:25:48:09 - 01:26:05:08

Now, whilst we aren't going to be discussing North Falls, this is still relevant to V to the applicant. Why has the applicant not orientated the O and SS compound in such a way as to minimise the sterilisation of grade one BMV?

01:26:38:17 - 01:26:55:02

Alice Maynard for the applicant. The applicant has answered a written question on the orientation of the onshore substation footprint. The applicant also notes that the orientation um within the site is um.

01:26:57:09 - 01:27:00:24

Not impacting on the sterilization of land.

01:27:02:12 - 01:27:08:04

May. Can we clarify exactly what the question is?

01:27:08:06 - 01:27:20:22

Well, I'm thinking that to the north of the the the substation, um, you've got quite a large area of land that's been put down for orchards. Um,

01:27:22:07 - 01:27:33:02

had the orientation be different, okay. You would have lost that area for orchards, but it would have meant that the grade one agricultural land would be more available.

01:28:13:03 - 01:28:43:11

And this may not for the applicant. So we'd like to split the question into the bag. Um, no. Not bag. Landscaping component. Um, and the technical orientation of the substation within the site. So within the wider site, then, um, the orientation being on an angle is the question.

01:28:47:23 - 01:29:10:08

Is it possible to put the drawing up for the restoration proposals for, for this, um, which is sheet number 19, AP one for nine. It's, it's a biodiversity net gain drawing. And I, I take on board the comment that

01:29:12:02 - 01:29:21:21

for landscape screening and Benji Angie is slightly different, but, um. Is it possible to get that up on the screen at all?

01:29:26:22 - 01:29:27:17

Yes. Mr. Roger.

01:29:27:24 - 01:29:35:29

Um, thank you ma'am. Which is the county council? Apologies, not my machines. Taking a while to update. Could you give me the reference number again, please, for this document? Thank you.

01:29:37:14 - 01:29:45:21

A p p hyphen 149. Thank you. Drawing number one, sheet 19.

01:29:46:12 - 01:29:55:21

But, madam, could we just clarify why you want taken to the BNG in rather than the all length plan, which is the plan that was the landscaping mainly.

01:29:56:24 - 01:30:11:09

Mainly because when we go on to ecology I need the same map. So it's, it's, it's, it's the same areas. It's the same areas that are, that are covered. The orientation is doesn't change in either map. Um.

01:30:11:19 - 01:30:25:27

If the applicant first of all the PNG is very indicative. Um. The oil lamp is indicative as well, but the bag is serving a completely different function, and we are very uncomfortable using bag plants to offer orientation and landscaping. We would rather use the landscaping plan.

01:30:26:22 - 01:30:30:22

Okay, use the landscaping plan if you've got the reference number there for it.

01:30:54:15 - 01:30:59:08

The current OSM is rep two. Hyphen 022.

01:31:36:29 - 01:32:18:01

But regardless of which drawing that you put up, the orientation doesn't change and the margins around the fields don't change. So the areas that I'm talking about is to the north and slightly west. You've got two areas, you've got perimeter landscape planting, and then there's an area, two areas above that which are um, I think okay, identified as orchards. I was wondering why the orientation isn't more North-South, so you actually are freeing up more of the agricultural land.

01:32:18:25 - 01:32:34:12

But Alice Bernard, for the applicant, thank you for getting the plans up. It's easier to discuss the orientation in the house to account for the temporary compounds as well. So only south west the triangle

01:32:36:05 - 01:33:11:03

on the triangle. Um, to the sort of southwest. That's the temporary compound site that we'll need for the construction. Yes. So that will be used. So we couldn't put the substation there because we still need the temporary compound site in the northern site. We also have pylons going there. And we need stand off different distances for the pylons. So we need to we can't put um we need to HDD under the road and we need to have our HDD equipment. This is for the cable between our substation and the Um, and the grid substation.

01:33:11:05 - 01:33:14:12

We have to have stand off distances from the pylons,

01:33:16:05 - 01:33:38:08

pre-existing pylons. So they're there for Lawford substation, so we can't put it there. The additional considerations are noise, visual impacts. There's a whole slew of, um, considerations that we, uh, that we had when we were considering the orientation. Um, so it wasn't just for, um,

01:33:40:07 - 01:33:52:29

ecological reasons. Um, and it's also so that we can share as much infrastructure as possible with the Northfield substation. We need to be able to share the access roads.

01:33:56:18 - 01:34:11:17

Okay. Um, I'm not sure that that fully explains, um, given that the Connection node is going to be further to the north, is it not at some point?

01:34:12:00 - 01:34:36:09

The ECN, uh, connection substation will be in the field to the west of, uh, west of our substation. So the one that's. Yeah. So we need to be able to HDD under that road, and there's pylons that are running sort of along where the road is. And we need stand off distances from that.

01:34:39:07 - 01:34:41:09

And they need to go and then go in.

01:34:41:11 - 01:34:54:15

Strikes me that the orientation could have been further north south rather than rather than, as you created effectively, two areas of land. But the.

01:34:54:17 - 01:35:08:21

Other consideration, I think we noise and noise in in visual from because the the other a note to our visualization colleague is not here because it does touch on many factors. But our um,

01:35:10:18 - 01:35:16:08

so the substations were also orientated so that they could be seen less from any viewpoints.

01:35:17:16 - 01:35:38:11

Okay. I think that may come up in the in, in our landscape section later on. Um, so we'll move on from there. Uh, is there anything anybody in the room has a comment to make about the land? Take Mr. Furley. No, Mr. Church. Oh, okay.

01:35:42:24 - 01:35:45:23

Moving on to two. Um.

01:35:54:07 - 01:36:05:01

Is, to some extent we've already discussed this, and I probably. Yeah, I think I will park that because, um, we will have to take on board your technical note going forward.

01:36:14:13 - 01:36:45:04

Um, although I didn't specifically have any questions on hedgerows, I know that, um, Mr. Powell probably has more to say with regard to the hedgerow that, um, is causing or on his the land of his, uh, clients. So, Mr. Fell, they're unable to make any comments regarding the specific hedgerow in that area that's being retained. I can't see Mr. Fells lit up.

01:36:46:10 - 01:37:26:03

Yeah, sorry. I'm here. Just. My camera is not working, I'm afraid. Um, yeah, I think my I put these into our representations accordingly, and, um. there are on on my clients land. Uh, there are two stretches of the temporary possession land for the whole road, which deviates significantly away from the cable corridor area. And it's been, uh, on the, uh, we heard about last time that that was as a result of the location of dormice.

01:37:26:05 - 01:37:50:07

And I've been onto the surveys and I made representations as to why I think that hasn't all been considered properly in that there is alternatives that should be considered that would massively reduce the significant impact on the land. Take temporary land take for, um, my clients. So do we want to go into the detail of actually going to need some maps to show you?

01:37:58:27 - 01:38:04:06

But Mr. Powell, do you want the plan of that area put up on the screen?

01:38:05:25 - 01:38:36:11

Uh, I think so. And also, it might help I don't know whether you've got the my written reps, but the that had a copy of the relevant plans from Ecology Resources relating to the dormouse surveys. And I marked on some alternative routes that could have been considered uh, for those two routes as well, if you want the references, it's temporary land area 08024 and then the other 12070082010.

01:38:38:07 - 01:38:41:27

So is that the drawing number or is that the the land hold.

01:38:42:02 - 01:38:43:28

Oh that's the land reference number.

01:38:44:00 - 01:38:45:09

Land platinum. Right.

01:38:45:13 - 01:38:46:18

Land plot number.

01:38:46:20 - 01:38:48:24

The. Do you have the document.

01:38:48:26 - 01:38:50:28

Do you have the document reference number there.

01:38:51:07 - 01:38:51:22

Okay.

01:38:51:29 - 01:38:53:18

All right, all right. Cool. Thank you. Have.

01:38:56:17 - 01:38:57:17

Uh.

01:39:00:24 - 01:39:01:16

Um.

01:39:09:15 - 01:39:10:29

Uh, that.

01:39:13:17 - 01:39:15:25

Uh, I wouldn't I wouldn't have a I don't know.

01:39:15:27 - 01:39:20:29

It's just the land maps parade. There's so many documents and reference numbers. You're going to confuse me. I can.

01:39:22:14 - 01:39:22:29

It's the,

01:39:24:15 - 01:39:31:21

um, the land plans on show, the most recent ones that were submitted on the fourth of the 10th.

01:39:51:27 - 01:39:56:03

Um. And as to where the dormouse survey They want.

01:39:58:27 - 01:39:59:24

Uh, if you.

01:39:59:26 - 01:40:03:18

Got my rep reps, you'll see a copy of the, um,

01:40:05:15 - 01:40:07:15

survey pictures on there.

01:40:11:02 - 01:40:13:01

I'm on the right labels.

01:40:15:08 - 01:40:17:12

And I can't remember exactly what it was.

01:40:21:10 - 01:40:28:06

Uh, madam, if we can assist, we think that representation Mr. Vail is looking for is rep 206, which are extract plans.

01:40:28:08 - 01:40:29:18

And you could be a bit closer.

01:40:29:20 - 01:40:38:24

Sorry, sorry. We think the representation Mr. Phil is looking for is rep 208602862086.

01:40:42:21 - 01:40:45:18

Rep 2-086. Right.

01:40:52:02 - 01:40:52:17

Ah.

01:41:03:05 - 01:41:13:28

But is that possible to get the. Oh, I see somebody. You put the plans up. Okay. Looks like they the team are finding the rep.

01:41:15:17 - 01:41:30:24

It would be helpful to understand, madam, whether you would like to go to the lands first or the dormice extracts. Mr. Phil was referring to both the dormice extracts are in the rep 2086 document. The land plans are clearly a separate document, so if you would advise which ones you would like for us, we can put those up.

01:41:32:28 - 01:41:40:24

I think we need to see the land plan. We need to see the proposed routes.

01:41:43:14 - 01:41:47:11

If I can, I suggest we have a look at the land plan first of all, and then have a look at the wrap up.

01:41:47:14 - 01:41:56:10

That's why I said we look at the land plan first and then we'll look at the rep, the land plan. was reference zero.

01:42:14:16 - 01:42:16:03

One. Next one. Work.

01:42:18:07 - 01:42:19:29

That's one of them. Yeah.

01:42:23:12 - 01:42:25:19

That's plot. Um, zero.

01:42:29:23 - 01:42:36:23

0700 8 to 0 one zero. Yeah. In the. Yeah, you can say that.

01:42:39:01 - 01:42:41:13

Right. We we have the right plan up now, Mr. File.

01:42:41:18 - 01:42:45:03

Yeah. That's right. So that's the right land plan. So you can see.

01:42:45:05 - 01:42:50:17

If you would like, like to give a description of what it is, the, the, the problem for you.

01:42:50:19 - 01:43:25:21

So you, um, the temporary possession land for the whole road is 07008. And you can see how it deviates and comes around and heads back up to the, um, plot number 07011. Um, and that is, uh, purely because there is a hedge line marked heading north, um, east, slightly, um, which is what they're trying to avoid, uh, doing any works too.

01:43:25:23 - 01:43:48:03

And I think the proposals or the proposals, all we've been told is that at the moment they're considering they're actually drilling under that hedgerow, although I don't know whether that's been confirmed or not, but so so that's and my point is, is that the whole road, although we've heard today that they may want to make it six meters wide, there's no reason why going through a hedgerow, you could make that three.

01:43:48:05 - 01:43:48:20

Metres his.

01:43:48:22 - 01:44:06:24

Lot. Uh, and my point is that if you look at the dormouse survey, when you come to it, they haven't found having trapped all along there, they found a dormouse, actually, ironically, where the whole road is to go through the hedgerow on the south and the south part of the.

01:44:07:24 - 01:44:08:09

Um, where.

01:44:08:11 - 01:44:47:13

It then before it heads back up north again. That's where they've found the dormouse. They're saying the habitat for the rest of that hedgerow suitable for dormice. But, um, you know, as a lot of hedgerows would be. But actually where the dormouse was found is where the whole road is now. There's no reason. And if you look at the dormouse advisory note from English Nature as it was now Natural England, it's all about mitigation and doing the works in the appropriate time. And I see no reason why you couldn't just take a small three metre section out in the north side of the um payable corridor to to put a hall road through, rather than deviating significantly through that bottom block of land.

01:44:48:07 - 01:44:53:11

That's one. And then the same applies to the next plan. Downs. Sheet number eight.

01:44:54:09 - 01:44:57:05

If you could roll it down to that. Thank you. Please.

01:45:05:01 - 01:45:44:04

Yeah. So here you've got a large deviation. Uh 08024 which takes out. You can sort of see heading up from Valley Farm heading north, the main farm tracts of land. Uh, we've been told we won't be able to use that farm tract, so they're going to have to build another farm track on the outside of that yellow corridor just for us to access our fields. Um, and it creates a massive diversion of traffic, all to access because they can't get through or the there are now admittedly, there are in the dormouse activity in parcels.

01:45:44:18 - 01:46:21:24

8022 and 08020. There is a lot more dormouse activity, but on my representations I believe that the root could come back to where it says continued on sheet nine. It could come round there where it says sheet and join up where there isn't any dormouse without. And to have this much bigger deviation and impact on the rest of the farming land. So perhaps if we were able to turn to my representations, and you'll see that the screenshot of the, um, of the dormouse surveys as well, just to expect to explain that point.

01:46:23:01 - 01:46:28:08

Is it possible to put Mr. Fell's Britain rep up now, please?

01:46:35:17 - 01:46:42:08

Number 86 are RR to reply to.

01:46:44:10 - 01:46:45:26

086.

01:46:48:25 - 01:46:50:11

I think it's the final page.

01:46:57:00 - 01:47:02:24

Yeah. So that that's, uh, map to there. Yes. If you just hold five there. So you'll see.

01:47:04:25 - 01:47:35:24

Um, yeah. So map one so you can see this is sheet eight of the land plans. And uh, you can see, uh, the, the green. As you see in the legend, the green is where they, when they've trapped dormouse and

found both adults and or juveniles. Prison. The blue is where they found nests and and the white is where they didn't find there was nothing in those um, whereas. And my point is, if you scroll down to map two.

01:47:38:29 - 01:47:40:26

So that yellow line is my.

01:47:41:08 - 01:47:41:23

Draw.

01:47:41:25 - 01:48:23:08

Over drawing where you could go round where the doormats were, rather than heading up much further north. It's difficult because the one is looking at it. It was just obviously an aerial photo shoot on here, but I believe that you could take the whole road round there rather than going much further north and back into the cable corridor. And then if you were to scroll up, please, to the map on the second to last page. Yep. There again, if you look on the legend there, you'll see at the very bottom corner where they're proposing to put the temporary hall road is where the nest has been found, but there's no other nests on the rest of that route all the way up to Land Farm.

01:48:23:29 - 01:48:55:06

Um, and therefore, I think you could if you look at the advisory note from English Nature, there'd be no reason why you couldn't put a small three metre gap in the hedgerow. And then it's all about the mitigation. And if you look at it as some really useful information about how you mitigate that and how you can create habitats that still, you know, a lot, um, you know, obviously takes a while, a few years to hatch to reinstate itself, but you could put brush matting back in or other stuff like that to recreate that habitat, to connect that corridor back in if they weren't present.

01:48:55:08 - 01:49:18:03

But as you'll notice from the dormouse survey, they didn't actually find any present. They found a nest. But ironically, the nest is where they wanted to put the whole road or very, very close to it. So, um, anyway, that was my summary on those points. I just don't think that's been looked enough closely. And I think there'll be other ways to mitigate the land loss to my clients as a result of this. I appreciate it's temporary land use, but it's still land loss.

01:49:19:02 - 01:49:29:07

But if, um, I think the first question I'm going to have to direct is to miss Miss Colebrook.

01:49:30:23 - 01:49:41:19

Um, the nature of the dormouse, do they go back to their same nests again and again, or are they transient? Do they move around?

01:49:43:00 - 01:49:44:22

Jess Colebrook, on behalf of the applicant.

01:49:45:00 - 01:49:46:27

Happy to clarify. So dormouse.

01:49:46:29 - 01:49:48:01

Survey the presence.

01:49:48:03 - 01:49:54:23

Absence survey. So the results shouldn't be interpreted in relation to dormouse numbers. And yes.

01:49:54:25 - 01:49:55:24

Dormice do.

01:49:55:26 - 01:49:57:05

Move. So they make different.

01:49:57:16 - 01:49:59:14

Different times of the year in different.

01:49:59:16 - 01:50:01:07

Purposes. So the.

01:50:01:09 - 01:50:01:29

Survey.

01:50:02:01 - 01:50:07:29

Determined the presence of dormouse in that hedgerow at that one location then.

01:50:08:01 - 01:50:09:01

Yes, but it could.

01:50:09:03 - 01:50:10:06

Change in future.

01:50:11:21 - 01:50:30:04

So effectively, where you have chosen to take the route around the dormouse as they were found to protect that hedgerow? Um, they could quite as easily not be in that hedgerow that you're trying to protect in future.

01:50:31:00 - 01:51:05:24

Absolutely. That's the case. And that's why we're proposing pre-construction surveys for dormice as well as other species. And, uh, any actions that would be required or not required would be based upon those pre-construction surveys. For the purpose of environmental impact assessment, we use the existing survey data to date, and we have to base the recommendations we make on our existing survey data to date. So what the project has done is retain the option of being able to avoid the hedgerow in the event that dormice are present in.

01:51:05:26 - 01:51:06:16

That hedgerow.

01:51:06:18 - 01:51:46:17

In future. And the reason we've done that is because Natural England would need to issue a licence for works that would affect dormouse habitat, and one of the first test the Natural England would apply to licence applications would be whether there was a satisfactory alternative to the design, which would minimise the impact. And in this case we've demonstrated that there is an alternative design which would minimise the impact to dormice in that hedge if they're there in future. If they're not there in

future, then we wouldn't necessarily need that same route and we would absolutely be seeking some of those, um, options or ideas that, um, have been been put forward.

01:51:47:27 - 01:52:15:18

Uh, so effectively, what you're saying is, is that when you do your presence and absence survey, uh, pre-construction, um, if you find no dormice, mice in that hedgerow or in the vicinity of where the cable is going underneath the, the, the hedge, effectively, you could clear that hedge temporarily, um, and reinstate it. So therefore you could your whole rope would be actually a more direct route.

01:52:17:14 - 01:52:24:20

And that that applies for both both scenarios, for both of the plans that Mr. Fowler has asked us to look at.

01:52:28:08 - 01:53:00:26

Uh, so it's a qualified. Yes. There's an awful lot of engineering that would also come into play, but absolutely, at the point that pre-construction surveys are completed, there would be knock on effects to design decisions and restoration decisions at that point, because there's obviously potentially quite a gap between if a decision is made in in favour of the project, it could be quite a gap between the data we have now on what's used in the land now and what's using the land in the future. So it's right that those pre-construction surveys are what governs what happens, right?

01:53:00:28 - 01:53:08:10

Thank thank you. I think I'm going to have to redirect now to Mr. Maynard. On the technical side of

01:53:10:02 - 01:53:19:10

changing the whole road route. Is, is that potentially what could happen that actually you won't need to do that land take if no dormice are found.

01:53:19:22 - 01:53:35:18

Alice Maynard for the applicant. Uh, yes. At this stage we need to maintain flexibility for these eventualities for those future surveys. So yes, if if there's no dormice, the route can change. You know, this is. Yes. Is is the short answer.

01:53:37:01 - 01:53:39:05

Okay. Can I go back to Mr. Fell? No.

01:53:41:21 - 01:53:42:06

Oh.

01:53:44:29 - 01:53:45:27

Mr. fell.

01:53:46:07 - 01:54:05:25

Well, that's that's great news. I'm very happy with the responses because clearly my clients wouldn't want to see an active dormouse, um, impacted as a result of the scheme and will work to try and mitigate it. So I think what my understanding of what we've just heard is that.

01:54:06:08 - 01:54:06:28

That.

01:54:07:00 - 01:54:32:04

Pre-construction a survey will be done if there is not if there's not the presence of dormouse in that location, then we can confine the whole road, hopefully to an area within the cable corridor as opposed to working outside it on a temporary basis. And, um, yeah, I appreciate nobody at this moment in time can tell you whether the dormouse, because they've got such a long period of time for this.

01:54:33:12 - 01:54:33:28

Uh.

01:54:34:15 - 01:54:53:27

Essentially to come forward. The dormouse might move, of course, so we're quite happy to be flexible. I just didn't like the inflexible nature of what we've been asked to enter into, uh, discussions with the developer. Um, so as long as we've got that agreement that there's this flexibility, then we can work around that. No problems.

01:54:54:26 - 01:55:02:12

Uh, just before we we wrap this one up, there is one further question that I'm probably going to ask. Um.

01:55:05:14 - 01:55:07:15

I'm just trying to formulate it at the moment.

01:55:11:12 - 01:55:51:09

How far in advance of actual commencement of works are you hoping to have the final designs in place for any stretch? I know that sounds. It's a bit vague. I mean, is there going to be, like a 12 month period? I mean, the, the, the point of pre-construction surveys are that once you've got the, the go ahead to go, you kind of have to go, you know, there isn't a, there isn't a, there isn't a um.

01:55:52:29 - 01:56:08:29

Oh well two years hence we won't actually do, do the, the actual work. So what is the period of time before construction starts that a pre commencement survey or pre-construction survey would be carried out.

01:56:38:20 - 01:56:39:10

Thank you madam.

01:56:39:13 - 01:56:52:29

So within the outline landscape and ecological management plan, there's a commitment to pre-construction surveys and the scope of those surveys. And in their it's dates, how far in advance of work starting on site surveys should occur.

01:56:53:13 - 01:57:03:23

So that's already in the old ENP. I mean, as I said, it's been substantially reviewed. So I think I'll hold up my hand. Not got through it all yet.

01:57:04:10 - 01:57:11:21

I appreciate there's a lot of documents. It is within there and again the Olympics subject to the DCO, but it's also subject to discussion and refinement with this.

01:57:11:23 - 01:57:18:03

Right. I think, Mr. Powell, um, I've had an opportunity to look at the the revised LME EP.

01:57:20:07 - 01:57:20:22

No.

01:57:21:07 - 01:57:35:05

No, no, I think possibly reviewing that um, would be of use to you going forward. But, um, again, there's obviously a commitment within that to discuss with farmers as well.

01:57:36:00 - 01:57:37:05

Um, is that the.

01:57:37:16 - 01:57:46:19

Are we saying that that that is a commitment from the developer that they will do do that because that's not what their agents are telling us basically.

01:57:46:21 - 01:57:48:06

Well, I think I think what.

01:57:48:18 - 01:57:49:03

You.

01:57:49:05 - 01:58:06:14

I think what the agents are telling you, um, is not what we're discussing today. Um, today we're discussing what actually what's in documentation that's been submitted. And that would form part of the DCO going forward, which would be an enforceable document.

01:58:09:29 - 01:58:11:08

Okay. Thank you.

01:58:11:25 - 01:58:16:23

So is there any other questions anybody has to ask about hedgerows.

01:58:19:18 - 01:58:22:21

Okay. And then moving on.

01:58:24:28 - 01:58:32:04

We want to thank you. I think at this stage we probably 20 minutes. 15 minutes. 20 minutes. And.

01:58:34:12 - 01:58:42:13

Uh, we're thinking that we now we've been sitting for two hours, so we should take an adjournment. Uh, views, 15 or 20 minutes.

01:58:45:21 - 01:58:49:22

Any any particular view on the applicant side on terms of duration?

01:58:50:00 - 01:58:51:03

No strong views.

01:58:51:11 - 01:58:52:23

Anything from anybody else?

01:58:56:00 - 01:59:01:05

And just to say that when we do reconvene, it will be 3.5 on the agenda that we will be looking at.

01:59:03:22 - 01:59:05:17

Which is the onshore ecology.

01:59:05:23 - 01:59:06:08

Uh.

01:59:06:10 - 01:59:13:24

I'm going to suggest we take 20 minutes and therefore we reconvene at 12:20. And.