

AUDIO_GATEBURTON_OFH1_SESSION1_0 40723

00:05

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, two o'clock

00:16

move to our

00:18

open floor hearing

00:29

I would like to thank welcome everybody to the open floor hearing for the application for the good Burton energy Park limited for good Burton energy Park project.

00:40

Can I just confirm everybody can hear me still?

00:43

Thank you very much.

00:46

And can I also confirm with Mr. Stevens live streaming and recording of this event has commenced?

00:52

Thank you

00:54

go through a number of the

00:57

matters from this morning. Sorry, it's a bit repetitive, but this is for a different hearing. So we need to run through those. My name is Ken stone, I'm appointed by the Secretary of State a single examining authority examine this application. You'll also hear me referred to as the examining authority. My role is to examine the application and to report to the Secretary of State for energy security and net zero with a recommendation as to whether or not develop consent orders should be made.

01:27

We'll also introduce my planning Inspectorate colleagues again, who are here with me on this examination, some of you who work you will have spoken to earlier.

01:38

In terms of the virtual room, we have Paige Hanlon, who is the case manager for this case.

01:45

At the back of the room, we have Jake Stevens, who's a case manager, and he is accompanied by Spencer BARROWMAN, a case officer in

01:56

terms of the housekeeping matters, again, if you have any mobile phones or anything, please could you switch into silent

02:04

terms of toilets and other facilities as you saw on the way in there on the left hand side at the far end. And again, in terms of fire alarms, we're not expecting any fire alarms. But if one goes off, there's an exit on my left here and on the right just past the tea station, and you go down the stairs and then the assembly point is at the front of the building.

02:29

A detailed agenda has not been prepared for this hearing because its purpose is to hear the representations of interested parties who have registered to make oral representations, elaborating on their relevant reps to date. The order in which you will be invited to speak will follow the list provided to me by the case team and is based upon the order in which requests to speak were received.

02:54

Today's hearing is being undertaken in a hybrid way meaning some of you are present with me at the hearing venue and some of you are joining me virtually using Microsoft Teams

03:10

alright

03:17

have we got that?

03:20

Check checking something on the computer. A recording of today's hearing will be made available on the Get Burton energy Park section of the national infrastructure planning website as soon as practicable after the hearing has finished. With this in mind, please ensure that you speak clearly into the microphone, stating your name and who you're representing each time you speak.

03:44

terms of personal information, a link to the planning inspector to privacy notice was provided in the notification for this hearing. Now I assume that everybody here today has familiarized themselves with this document, which establishes highly personal data or customers are handled in accordance with the

principles set out in data protection laws. Please speak to Mr. Stevens or Mr. Berman. If you have any questions about this.

04:09

As I said previously, it's very unlikely that that I will ask you put any sensitive personal information into the public domain. And I would encourage you not to do that. However, if for some reason you feel it's necessary to refer to information that would otherwise wish to be kept private and confidential. It should be in a written format, which can then be redacted before publishing.

04:33

If anybody wishes to tell me this morning, or this afternoon about where you live, because it's relevant to what you have to say, please just give a general location without mentioning any specific address or anything of that nature.

04:53

There is any virtual

04:57

attendees using Microsoft

05:00

seems and you prefer not to have your image recorded, please switch your camera off. And that's okay, you can still speak to us. I will give each speaker up to 10 minutes to make their submissions. My intention not to intervene in your submissions, as long as you mean relevant, and within time,

05:21

I won't interrupt, and I will listen carefully to what you have to say. And if I have any questions, I'll raise those at the end of your speaking time.

05:32

Finally, the applicant will be given an opportunity to clarify any matters raised once all speakers have been heard.

05:40

And heard the hearing. And there is an opportunity to respond to anything at deadline one, which will be Tuesday the 10th of July.

05:51

Firstly, then, let me thank you all for attending this afternoon's meeting. Let you know I do want to hear your contributions.

06:02

Terms of agenda item two that was published, which is the purpose of the hearing.

06:09

Let me briefly explain the purpose of an open floor hearing. Open floor hearings are here. And there your opportunity to raise anything directly to the examining authorities important and relevant, and that you think I should know about and consider. They are not about a particular location or topic. The topic of your representations about the proposal is therefore up to yourself.

06:34

Up to this point, I've received requests to speak from three interested parties. And I shall hear them in the following manner. But I just want to confirm who is here. I have a representative from 7000 acres. Yes. Good. I have Mr. Clegg.

06:55

No, I don't do I have Mr. Dover?

07:03

No, I don't believe that we have them virtually either.

07:09

Doesn't appear to be. Okay.

07:12

So in that case, the only people that I have who have indicated a wish to speak are 7000 acres. So I'll hear them first. Is there anybody else in the room? Who would wish to be heard?

07:30

Yes, I'll do that could just take a note of your name.

07:36

Cheryl?

07:43

Can I just confirm if you're an interested party?

07:49

As it doesn't have you made a relevant representation on?

07:54

No so.

07:57

Right. Doesn't bother you. I will still hear you because there are not many people here. But I just need for our note to make sure that you're not as in terms of

08:10

our

08:12

matters, you know, an interested party, you don't have that status as such. But that doesn't preclude you from making a representation.

08:21

Thank you very much. So we'll hear you after 7000 acres.

08:31

Just before we hear from any interested parties, just to confirm who else is in the room and just to let everybody else know, can I just ask the applicant to reintroduce themselves?

08:44

Yes, no problem. My name is Amy Sterling and my Senior Associate Solicitor at Pinsent masons and we're legal advisors to Cape Breton energy Park limited are the applicant for the Cape Breton energy Park dcl. I'm joined in the right by James Hartley. Ubuntu is a product development director of outlaw carbon. And I'm also joined and to to my left by Allison leader who's the DCO planning and application lead at I oppose also supporting the applicant. Thank you very much.

09:13

I'm also aware that we still have some representatives from Western Lindy District Council. I don't anticipate asking you to speak as this is an open floor hearing.

09:24

But just in case, you may wish to contribute or respond to something that said, can I just ask you to, again, introduce yourselves as well?

09:35

Thank you, sir. My name is Samuel shake. I'm off Council and I represent West Lindsay District Council. I'll ask.

09:42

I'll ask those sitting around me to introduce themselves. Thank you. Just just one of the points that I believe the counties still aren't being represented and are here. Okay, sorry. Thank you for that. Apologies. I'll come back to you in a second.

10:00

Well, good afternoon sir. My name is Martha Reese and from Legal Services Lincolnshire. I actually am the solicitor for both West Lindsay District Council and Lincolnshire County Council. Thank you. Okay. Thank you.

10:12

Yes. Good afternoon, sir. My name is Russell Clarkson and I am the development management team manager at Western DC District Council.

10:22

Good afternoon, sir. Alex Blake from Atkins, still representing Western CDC counsel.

10:29

Do we still have your representatives on the virtual room?

10:35

Apologies. No, they're not with us this afternoon, sir. Right. Okay. Thank you for that confirmation.

10:42

If I go back to your Lincolnshire

10:45

Good afternoon, sir. I'm Eloise Sheba from a planning officer from Lincolnshire County Council.

10:52

Thank you. As I've said to Muslims, I don't expect you make any representations here. But just to hear what things are or if something arises that you might hopefully contribute to, then we'll call upon you for that.

11:08

So in that case, let's get on with him in business today. Can we hear from Mr. Garbutt misconduct? Thank you, sir. This garbage 7000 acres, first of all, is just a couple of questions that have arisen for the Mr. Stone. Before I go on to making our submission. The first question was, could you please advise if the 1500 word limit for summaries of relevant representations and written representations applies to all parties.

11:38

And secondly, also, please confirm that written representations over 1500 words are read in full as well as the summary. And obviously that's in light of the fact that the applicants submitted 1000s of pages of evidence. And obviously, we in turn have obviously the right to have all our rebuttals read in full. That was the first two questions. Yeah, you're here to provide your submission to you provide your submission to quickly respond to those written representations are different from applicants. Submissions are no different from other representations like the layer from the console and other matters of that nature. But yes, written representations. And a summary the summary is 1500 words, but yes, all your documents are read as well. Thank you. But if you can make your submissions I as I said, you have 10 minutes to make that I make that 1412. So if you can start your submissions. Thank you very much. Thank you. So sorry about that. Yes, I'd like to convey the following points. On behalf of our members based on the group's relevant representations to explain our thinking, and representations so far, we would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to three key questions, which we feel must be answered to properly consider the needs for benefits and impacts of

the proposed development. So the first key question being what is a specific need for the large scale ground mounted solar development in the UK, especially when there is growing evidence that there is sufficient available rooftop solar capacity on suitable commercial and domestic buildings for the UK to meet its solar requirements without such extensive ground mounted solar development?

13:23

In terms of benefits, the developers constantly provided over simplistic and misleading information regarding the role of solar power can play in the future of electricity supply, which leads to our second key question in terms of benefit. To what extent can the proposed solar scheme truly contribute to the decarbonisation of the electricity system?

13:51

In doing so, we would like to ask the examining authority to thoroughly understand and assess the potential role of this solar development, what it truly can contribute and what problems it also causes for future decarbonize energy system. Specifically considering the issues of intimacy and

14:12

intimacy and curtailment is obviously switching generation capacity off at times when there is excess supply.

14:21

The final dimension is the harm the development will have, which significantly stems from the fact that solar has an extremely low power density, which means that a ground mounted solar scheme, or the proposed capacity uses a colossal amount of space.

14:41

Using so much land has a tremendous concentrated impact on the immediate area and his people, which you no doubt would have read from the many representations made so far ranging from visual impacts, agricultural, human health, sociological and economic effects, impacts on wildlife habitat, the landscape

15:00

so on.

15:02

However, agricultural land is also under significant pressure for many demands, including assisting with decarbonisation through accelerated tree planting programs and for energy crops.

15:14

Quite simply, over committing agricultural under such inefficient land use as large scale ground mounted solar could very quickly become a cause for regret.

15:27

Therefore, our third question is, what are the impacts of the development when considered both from the perspective of the immediate area, but also from a macro level that considers the wider sustainably impacts of consuming cropland at this scale.

15:47

In the UK, at present, there is a bandwagon for large scale ground mounted solar development, akin to the wild, less Wild West style Gold Rush, the developer must not be allowed to overstate and oversimplify benefits and understate harms for financial advantage.

16:05

I do not envy the examiner his task. This is the first four developments the determination of which has the potential to damage or even decimate communities for decades. And in the worst case, all for schemes that contribute very little to decarbonisation.

16:25

It is essential that these decisions are right.

16:30

Thank you.

16:45

Thank you very much.

17:01

applicant, short right of reply, after I've heard from all of the other parties, so if I can then turn bacteria

17:15

wireless speaker then so

17:19

you want to come up and find a microphone? If you just

17:24

use one of these ones here where the council where?

17:36

I say you have 10 minutes, I'm not sure if you've got to prepare? Very, very quickly. You're just going to make a few comments to me. I'll just take a note of that. So

17:45

it's just one question.

17:48

As I say, this is an opportunity for you to say things to me rather than necessarily a question, but it's your prerogative. So, Cheryl Felix, I live in Martin, this proposed battery store is going to be almost directly opposite our house. And I would just like to know, from my own point of interest, really, how many of the proposers of this development actually live in the areas that are going to be affected by it?

18:25

Thank you very much. I will take that as a rhetorical question, but I hear what you say. Thank you very much.

18:40

Anybody else like to make any contributions?

18:48

Your from 7000 acres, you've been given your opportunity to speak. But given that there are not that many people here, I'm happy to hear. Thank you. Thank you very much. My name is Jamie Allen, and I am from the 7000 acres group. And just an additional comment to the

19:07

very verbal information my my colleague give

19:12

given that the vast majority of solar panels manufactured in the world are manufactured in China. What is what was what has been done to offset the carbon footprint of the manufacture of all these products in China and transported here to the UK? And secondly, what policies and what ethical policies will be in place, particularly to do with modern slavery will be pushed through or followed through the entire supply chain back to the route manufacturing given what we know about some of the manufacturing processes in China? So those are the comments I'd like to make. Thank you.

19:57

Thank you very much.

20:00

Okay, if I've got no further representations in terms of the open floor hearing in terms of people who wish to speak, I'll give the applicant an opportunity to make some general comments if they wish to do so.

20:13

In your selling on behalf of the applicant, yes, I would just like to firstly thank everyone again for attending and then taking the time out today. I do appreciate these can be long and fairly repetitive days. We do hear their concerns. I think it would be useful just in this response to just saying post some of the documents which already deal with the points which have been raised cognizant, Nedra, a lot of documents admitted into examination, the first document that I would direct people to is the statement of need that's been prepared in support of the application that examination Library Reference EPP dash 00 form. That statement of need has been prepared by a third party consultant to independently

look at the need for the capacity which can be generated by this scheme in the context of the GB electricity market, and the role that this project can have in supporting that market. And that those grid services and that's from this or an energy storage pack as a whole sort of in the PV panels and from the battery storage. In terms of looking at the look capacity in general, I think it's important to note that the UK Government is committed to ground mounted solar PV, and that has been repeated in a number of consultations and policy documents to date. For example, that draft National Energy National Policy Statement for energy end last night your designated provides a strong signal of support from the UK Government and supportive solar technology. And that technology which is to be consented via DC or regime. Particularly I do draw people's attention to paragraph three point 10.1 of that statement, which says that the government has committed to sustained growth and solar capacity to ensure we are on a pathway that allows us to meet our net zero emissions. And that solar is a key part of the government's strategy for low cost, decarbonisation of the energy sector. And the applicant has proposed this application to continue to support those strategies and those ambitions of the UK government.

22:21

In relation to intermittency supply, the Applicant has proposed as part of this design application, battery energy storage system, which can help support the intermittency of the renewable power from the PV panels, and provide important grid balancing services not just from the scheme but also due to the import and export capacity of the grid connection which the applicant holds for the GB system as a whole. So again, preventing further resilience to the GB energy system on which we all rely. I suspect that something that we'll touch on in more detail tomorrow, whether this is specific headings or words anything further on that

22:56

in relation to agricultural land, I would identify so I would direct people to the socio economics and Langes chapter, which considers the so that's examination reference EPP zero to one which considers the low levels of BMV land which are associated with this gate bottom project, and which would be temporarily impacted by this scheme during operation. And I would recommend people review that chapter and the tables provided and the factual information that's being provided on the percentages of BMV land which are expected to be on site and also direct people to a couple of documents, which would hopefully provide some further comfort as to how the applicant proposes to manage

23:47

important topics such as land use, but also such as waste management. These are the framework construction, environmental management plan, document, ABP two four framework Operational Environmental Management Plan, a PP to survive, and the field right decommissioning environmental management plan, if up to six of which the applicant did before these are secured by a requirement and the DCO breach of wages a criminal offence, so the applicant has provided strong commitments to responsibly construct operate and Decommission this scheme and it is happy to be held by those

24:27

nothing further from me.

24:42

I decided to hold this hearing to provide an opportunity early in the examination period for any local people, businesses or consultation to come along and make any points they wished to raise about the application.

24:55

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for speaking and for your contribution

25:00

And, and for the applicant for your contribution and attendance.

25:06

I would be assisted if speakers would submit a written version of your submissions today at deadline one, which is Tuesday, the 10th of July and the applicant will be providing a response, written response also at deadline one.

25:22

You will know that I have reserved time in the timetable for further open floor hearings if required, if it was requested in August and potentially October. I will observe at this point that unless I receive requests from interested parties who have not spoken today to be heard as an open floor hearing by deadline one, then I may decide not to hold any further open floor hearings

25:46

in this examination, so that's down to people to make those requests

25:53

for I close, is there anybody? Anything else that they wish to raise?

26:01

No. Okay. Well, thank you very much then and it is 1426 and the open floor hearing is now closed. Thank you very much.