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FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:08:01 - 00:00:08:20

Okay.

00:00:10:13 - 00:00:30:24

Good morning everyone. The time is 10 a.m. and the hearing is now open. Please get a member of the case and confirm that I can be heard clearly, and that live streaming and recording has started. Good. Can I confirm that everyone else in the room can hear me? Okay.

00:00:32:27 - 00:00:51:05

I'd like to welcome you all to this issue specific hearing, which is issue specific hearing fall relating to an application made by the West Burton Solar Project Limited made by West Burton Solar Project Limited for an order granting development consent for the proposed West Burton Solar project.

00:00:52:28 - 00:01:25:01

My name is Jonathan Medlin, and I am a member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors appointed by the Secretary of State to examine the application. You will hear myself and doctor McGinn, who is the lead member of the panel, being referred to as the Examining authority. Our role is to examine the application and on conclusion, to write a report to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net-zero, with a recommendation on whether the Development Consent Order should be made. The Secretary of State is responsible for the final decision.

00:01:25:20 - 00:01:53:23

Case team works alongside us throughout the process and they are managed by Louise Haraway. Simon Redwood is here with us today, and you may have met him. Others are online supporting, including Rebecca Evans and Harpreet Kore. I will now run through some of the housekeeping matters for those attending in person. First of all, can everyone set devices and phones to silent? The toilets are diagonally across the annex to this room. Um,

00:01:55:14 - 00:01:56:17

broadly over here.

00:01:58:09 - 00:02:05:29

There are no planned fire tests. But should the fire alarm sound the fire exits? Emergency exits are

00:02:07:16 - 00:02:15:07

out of the room. To the left there is one. There is also one to the rear of the room, which may be harder to get through.

00:02:17:19 - 00:02:51:27

Purpose of the hearing today is considered various environmental matters. It will generally follow the agenda published on the National Infrastructure website on 29th of January, but that is subject to some changes which the Xa decided on yesterday and that is namely that item three cultural heritage will be postponed to a later date. Subject to an overview. Summary of progress made today. Item six cumulative impacts will be postponed and dealt with at a later date.

00:02:53:00 - 00:03:07:27

On cumulative impacts, some of those cumulative impacts arise under specific items. But there is a section which was item six of today's agenda that was to deal with cumulative impacts specifically and that will be held over.

00:03:11:14 - 00:03:17:18

That announcement about the changes to the agenda was made yesterday, on Wednesday the 7th of February.

00:03:20:04 - 00:03:55:15

Due to the unavailability unexpected unavailability of one of the members of the panel. So those matters will be dealt with via another hearing that may either be blended, such as today's hearing or virtual only, or written submissions, or a rule 17 request for information. The X8 will confirm as soon as possible their decision on the format in which this will take. If another hearing is scheduled, formal notice will be issued within the required statutory time scales and another gender will be published no later than five working days before the first scheduled hearing date.

00:03:57:26 - 00:04:09:15

With regard to item three cultural heritage. Uh, the Historic England has been made aware of the changes to the agenda and has stood down the attendee.

00:04:15:11 - 00:04:49:17

At the point that we get to item three, Cultural Heritage, there'll be an opportunity to, as I said, to update on progress that will be given, but we won't be following the specific agenda items today. Rather, it will be an update similar to the update received on LV at issue three. The purpose of that is to assess the examining authority in making progress, and in targeting written questions and making its decision on how to proceed with future hearings.

00:04:51:27 - 00:05:02:12

In terms of timings. We will have a short mid-morning break around 1130 and on the break for lunch at 1 p.m. that will all be kept under review, subject to progress.

00:05:04:08 - 00:05:10:26

We will also have a mid-afternoon break, if applicable, and intend that the hearing should not go on past 5 p.m..

00:05:13:25 - 00:05:26:23

Just to note that we had reserved time to continue the hearing tomorrow morning if required. That does depend on progress made today, but given the shortening of the agenda, it seems increasingly unlikely.

00:05:29:08 - 00:05:37:11

This hearing is a blended event, which means that some of you are attending in the room and some are taking part via Microsoft teams. We'll make sure you're given.

00:05:39:01 - 00:06:11:21

Their opportunity to participate. Whichever way you've decided to attend today, if you're watching the live stream, then please be aware that it will be stopped during any adjournments to the hearing. You'll need to refresh your browser page. To view the restarted hearing. Recording of today's hearing will be made available on the West Bay and Cellar Project section of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as practicable after the hearing is finished. With this in mind, please ensure you speak clearly into microphone stating your name and who you're representing each time before you speak.

00:06:12:17 - 00:06:33:09

A microphone is available in the room for anyone who wishes to speak, but doesn't have a microphone in front of them. I would encourage anyone who. Does wish to speak to to join the table. Whether fixed microphones. For those of you joining us virtually who wish to speak, please use the raise hand function and we will ensure that you have the opportunity to contribute.

00:06:35:13 - 00:06:48:29

Finally on that, a link to the Planning Inspectorate Privacy Notice was provided in the notification of the hearing. And we assume that everyone here today has read that sets out how personal data that everyone hear today. Uh.

00:06:50:14 - 00:07:01:02

He said. How personal data of our customers is handled in accordance with the principles set out in data protection legislation. If you have any queries on that, please contact member of the case team.

00:07:04:24 - 00:07:29:01

Move onto item two. Purpose of the issue specific hearing is to address matters identified by us in our reading of the application documents and the submissions made to date. During the hearing today, we will be addressing a range of matters specifically. We will start with cultural heritage as discussed for. Summary update.

00:07:30:24 - 00:08:02:29

Then move on to transport noise quality and air quality. Socio economic and health impacts. Cumulative impacts will be. I can add a later date again noting that cumulative impacts often featured in individual items. During the hearing, the czar will invite parties to speak and will also ask questions as we go through. As a general principle, all comments and questions and answers are to be directed to the essay and not directly to any other party.

00:08:04:11 - 00:08:40:02

On issue specific hearings. The purpose isn't to open discussion of all matters under a particular topic, but it is to allow discussion on matters that we feel would benefit from oral representations. Though it's held in public, it's not a general question and answer public meeting, so discussion must focus on agenda items. And to be clear, this doesn't mean that written representations aren't equally as important in terms of the consideration that will be given to them in our recommendation. We're aware that isn't always possible for interested parties to attend a particular session in these circumstances.

00:08:40:04 - 00:09:13:03

It is possible for anyone to watch the recording of a live stream and make comments on discussion points in writing. We emphasize the fact that just because a particular matter isn't discussed, or a particular point made in a hearing, that it won't be given full consideration. We'd like to now introduce some of the other parties in the room. Please remember to unmute your microphone when you speak. If you are joining via Microsoft teams, please switch on your camera when we invite you to speak. If you're comfortable doing so, please switch them off again.

00:09:13:18 - 00:09:30:04

When we move to the next speaker, the roving mic is available for anybody in the room that we invite to speak, but who doesn't have a static microphone in front of them? It really is important that all contributions are made using the microphone so that they are captured properly for the formal record.

00:09:31:20 - 00:09:40:28

So when I state your organization's name, please introduce yourself stating the name and who you represent. There's no need to introduce all members of the team at this stage.

00:09:42:25 - 00:09:51:09

If you're representing an organization, please state the nature of your interest in the application. And could you also state how you wish to be addressed?

00:09:52:28 - 00:10:06:15

Uh, either Mr., Moz, miss. Mrs., Doctor, and so on. So can we start that introductions with the applicant and their advisors please? Who is leading for the applicant today?

00:10:09:03 - 00:10:32:25

Good morning sir. My name is Claire Broderick. I'm a legal director at Pinsent Masons LLP, solicitors for the applicant West Burton Solar Project Limited. I'm joined by a number of the applicants, um, professional advisors today. I will let those who will be, um, participating in agenda item three introduce themselves now and then. Um, at subsequent agenda items, I'll introduce themselves. Thank you.

00:10:36:23 - 00:10:49:02

Good morning, sir. Um, miss Alice James, I am a technical director for the historic environment. Cultural heritage? Um, at Alhambra. Um, acting on behalf of the applicant.

00:10:52:01 - 00:10:52:24

Good morning, sir.

00:10:53:12 - 00:11:03:04

Uh, my name is, uh, Miss Emily Mercer, um, from Land Pro Services. I'm director of historic environment. Acting on behalf of the applicant.

00:11:10:12 - 00:11:18:20

Okay. Thank you. Can we move on to organizations and individuals that have given notice of their intention to speak, starting with.

00:11:20:07 - 00:11:27:17

Local authorities, first of all, Lancashire County Council. Again, please give name and roll. Thank you.

00:11:28:18 - 00:11:56:01

Morning, sir. My name is Miss Stephanie Hall, hail and counsel instructed by Legal Services Lincolnshire, and Martha Reeves in particular. To my immediate left, to my immediate right is Mr. Neil McBride, who is head of planning at Lancashire County Council. We are also joined online, uh, by, uh, Miss Jan Allen Lane, who's the historic environment officer for Lincolnshire County Council. Thank you.

00:11:58:18 - 00:12:03:17

Thank you. Thank you, Miss Allen. I notice you're there. Okay.

00:12:04:08 - 00:12:05:00

Thank you sir.

00:12:07:29 - 00:12:11:22

And West Lindsey District Council again. Name and roll. Thank you.

00:12:13:01 - 00:12:33:24

Good morning, Sir Russell Clarkson. Mr. Russell Clarkson, develop management team manager at West Lindsey District Council. And to my immediate left is Mr. Alex Blake. So director at Atkins Wireless. And to my right is Miss Martha Reeves of Legal Services Lincolnshire. Thank you sir.

00:12:36:06 - 00:12:43:02

Thank you. And Nottinghamshire County Council, who I believe are joining via teams Mr. Poynter.

00:12:44:23 - 00:13:02:00

Yes. Good morning, sir. Uh, my name is Stephen Pointer, um, team manager planning policy at Nottinghamshire County Council. And I'm also accompanied today by, um, Mrs. Ursula Spence, who's county archaeologist for Nottinghamshire Online.

00:13:03:21 - 00:13:15:24

Thank you. Mr. Pointer, is Miss Spence. Okay. Yeah, I can see the team's, uh, reference to to Ursula there. Okay. Thank you.

00:13:21:12 - 00:13:39:07

Are there any other local authorities or statutory parties present? I don't think so. In that case, other interested parties who have requested to speak. Um. Mr. Allen from Historic England has been. Stood down and um

00:13:40:25 - 00:13:46:15

will not be attending today, so apologies are received. 7000 acres.

00:13:48:02 - 00:13:52:00

Good morning, sir. Mr. Mark Pryor, 7000 acres.

00:13:55:21 - 00:14:00:11

Thank you, Mr. Pryor. Uh, Mr. Simon Skelton.

00:14:02:08 - 00:14:07:08

Good morning, sir. Yes. Mr. Simon Skelton, local resident. Thank you.

00:14:07:16 - 00:14:08:01

Thank you.

00:14:09:29 - 00:14:12:10

And Christine Warren.

00:14:14:02 - 00:14:22:10

Doesn't appear to be here yet. Okay. Is there anyone else in the room who wishes to speak today?

00:14:26:25 - 00:14:32:18

And is there anyone else? Online virtual attendees who wish to speak.

00:14:38:21 - 00:14:43:13

Doesn't appear so. So that's introductions complete.

00:14:45:00 - 00:15:07:27

If anybody else decides that they do wish to speak during the course of the morning's proceedings, uh, for example, to make comments in response to representations made by other parties, you may do so. Please let us know by raising your hand, either physically or using the function within Microsoft Teams. Each time you speak, please give your name and any organization that you're representing so that it's picked up for the formal record.

00:15:12:14 - 00:15:23:00

We will. Mention this at the close of the meeting, but. Do you request that those businesses provide a written summary of their comments by deadline, for which is 28th of February?

00:15:24:27 - 00:15:30:18

So before moving on to item three, are there any questions about the agenda or the arrangements?

00:15:33:12 - 00:16:08:11

No. Okay. So moving on to. Item three as discussed. The examining authority has taken the decision to put cultural heritage items of the cultural heritage item of this hearing to a later date, when minister arrangements for that as soon as possible. We've also decided that would be beneficial to hear a brief update specifically from the applicant and LC, Lincolnshire County Council and or others on any agreement, areas of agreement and in principle, areas of disagreement with the attention that there won't be comments taken or questions, although there may be some need for clarity.

00:16:09:08 - 00:16:30:20

This is an opportunity. That will be provided at a later date. So for the purposes of the agenda, the sub points below will not be followed. Can we start with the applicant and their advisors providing an update? On progress matters with regards to cultural heritage, please.

00:16:32:00 - 00:17:07:05

And collaborate with the applicant. Yes. I will hand over, um, to Alice James and Emily Mercer just to give an update. Um, they'll give an update on discussions that are being had in relation to the scheme itself, but a number of the issues are, um, similar with, um, issues that have arisen on the Cottam solar project as well. Um, so we thought it would be helpful, um, to provide you with an update on actions that are taking place in relation to the Cottam solar project, in particular, some actions that were requested by the examining authority in relation to that project as well.

00:17:07:07 - 00:17:09:01

So I'll hand over to Miss James. Thank you.

00:17:13:03 - 00:17:52:08

Um, Alice James on behalf of the applicant. Um, so in terms of archaeology to begin with. Um, the archaeological assessment is in line with local and national guidance and has provided sufficient information to inform the DCO application and a robust mitigation strategy. Details of the assessment works undertaken have been provided at the first assignment of questions and issue specific hearing. Um. We've requested a feedback from both Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire county councils with the aim of progressing statements of common ground and identifying areas where we're able to find agreement, as well as defining those which we are currently at disagreement.

00:17:53:04 - 00:18:25:03

Likewise, feedback has also been requested on the WSI, with the aim of identifying those elements of the document that we can agree. For example, where a typical archaeological mitigation strategy has been proposed, we're hopeful that we'll be able to agree their wording. We're yet to receive any feedback on these documents, but would very much welcome, um, this being provided, uh, based on discussions undertaken to date, the local impact report and answers to the examiner's first questions. Um, we understand that there are two main areas of issue.

00:18:25:23 - 00:18:58:15

Um, the first is the extent of evaluation trenching that's been undertaken within the scheme's order limits, to which we understand Lincolnshire Historic Places team, who act as the archaeological

advisers to both West Lindsey and Lincolnshire and Bassetlaw in Nottinghamshire, consider a 2% sample plus 2% contingency should be undertaken. Predetermine of the application within all areas where there's potential for impact and I believe, although this may need to be confirmed, that the senior archaeological practitioner for Nottinghamshire County Council believes a sample of 3 to 5% trenching should be undertaken.

00:18:59:24 - 00:19:37:24

The second main issue is the use of concrete feet as a mitigation measure. Um, and this is due to concerns being raised by Lincolnshire Historic Places team um about potential impact buried archaeological remains. During the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. Um and in particular the potential for compaction. So for the Cottam scheme, um, which has followed the same approach regarding the archaeological evaluation as the West Burton scheme, the examining authority asked the applicant and Lancashire County Council to discuss and prepare a written, um, sorry, prepare a without prejudice version of the WSI.

00:19:38:11 - 00:20:10:21

Um, for the applicant, this meant preparing a version of the WSI that included a requirement to undertake further, um, trenching prior to the commencement of construction. This version of WSI has been produced and we're currently waiting for a response from Lincolnshire County Council. Similarly, Lincolnshire County Council were asked to comment on the version of the WSI submitted um into the DCO application examination. Um, without prejudice to the position on the extent of trial trenching. Um comments are awaited from Lincolnshire County Council on the WSI.

00:20:11:18 - 00:20:37:17

Um, as the issues on the Cottam solar project are the same as for the scheme, the applicant's position is that it would assist the examining authority and the Secretary of State the same approach to be taken for the scheme, and proposes that a without prejudice version of the WSI be prepared and for um, the Lincolnshire County Council, um and others to provide comments on the current WSI on a without prejudice basis.

00:20:43:00 - 00:21:27:23

Emily Mercer on behalf of the applicant. Um, with regards to heritage, the Statement of Common Ground with Historic England has detailed the comprehensive consultation that we continue to undertake with Historic England, um, as well as providing the positions of both ourselves and Historic England with consideration to the heritage based considerations. Um, the assessment of designated heritage assets within the heritage statement, which is document app 1172 app 119 was uh used to inform the is chapter 13, which is documented app 51 and is considered by Historic England to be proportionate.

00:21:28:11 - 00:21:51:11

One issue remains under discussion with Historic England, and relates to the placement of panels within the medieval Bishop's Palace and Deer Park, Stowe Park Scheduled Monument, otherwise all setting issues are considered appropriately mitigated, including any cumulative impacts, for example at the Scampton Roman Villa scheduled Monument.

00:21:59:01 - 00:22:01:19

Thank you. Okay, so there are.

00:22:03:15 - 00:22:10:00

Updates and progress going between the parties, including. The WC.

00:22:13:02 - 00:22:31:08

And progress is being made. I'm going to turn first of all to. Lincolnshire County Council to hear any comments on that or an update from Lincolnshire County Council. Ms.. Allen, I think that's you, if that's okay.

00:22:31:27 - 00:22:37:03

Thank you sir. Um, yes, I will. Um.

00:22:38:25 - 00:23:10:18

But listening to Alice's um. Presentation, it does imply that there's a lot that we haven't responded to, and that is not the case. Um, we are for cottom just to put that to one side. Um, they've produced or they've sent us. I understand that they've done both. One of the proposed without prejudice. Um, CIS has come to us. We're waiting for the second one, and we will review them both and then respond, uh, in terms of, uh, West Burton, which is why we're here, of course.

00:23:11:09 - 00:23:46:15

Uh, we have obviously been working through the statement of common ground and finding agreement where we can, but we remain, um, not agreed on the amount of evaluation that's undertaken. And, um, and the fact that this is not sufficient to inform effective mitigation and that's, uh, very, uh, briefly what our issue is. Um, so as it stands, uh, our, our opinion is that there is insufficient baseline evidence to identify significant surviving remains across the red line boundary, the impact zone.

00:23:47:03 - 00:24:26:11

Um, there has been 2% trenching undertaken on, uh, I believe it's 21% for West Burton, um, of the site. So that leaves almost 80% of the site Unevaluated in terms of the the ground truthing that comes from trenching evaluation results, those results are needed to inform, um, the baseline evidence to, uh, move forward in any sort of effective, appropriate, uh, fit for purpose mitigation. So in those areas where that hasn't been done, we have, uh, no understanding of the archaeological potential, the significance, uh, its nature.

00:24:26:13 - 00:25:02:09

So without this information, we can only agree mitigation in those areas where enough evaluation has been undertaken. So we will proceed to engage, um, and, and move forward where we can, but we will need to have the evidence base, uh, in order to move forward for the entire stream. Um, and this is you can appreciate, um, this is a fairly substantial issue. Um, okay. Uh, so as it stands, in our opinion, this the submission doesn't meet the evidentiary requirements as set out in relevant policy and guidance.

00:25:02:11 - 00:25:03:06

Thank you. Sir.

00:25:04:17 - 00:25:23:22

Thank you for that, Miss Allen. Very helpful. Okay. I will now ask Nottinghamshire County Council. Is it, Miss Spence, to comment on progress from Ncc's point of view?

00:25:24:19 - 00:26:07:23

Good morning, sir. Um, I have to say that I agree with everything that Ms.. Allen has said. Um, I would add that I only received the, uh, without prejudice WSI through the good offices of Miss Allen, because I wasn't sent it directly. I'm taking some time to work through that. Um, I am at the moment. Authoring a draft um guidance document for East Midlands Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers, which is basically being driven by a regionally felt need amongst US curators that we are seeing consistently two limited levels of archaeological evaluation.

00:26:08:11 - 00:26:41:06

I am going to be recommending in that that there is between 3 and 5% evaluation sampling of a red line area. Um, this is based on works undertaken in early 2001 by Hay and Lacey, um, followed up by a PhD dissertation by curatorial archaeologists from the Isle of Wight called Ruth Waller. Um, and then quite recently, Historic England have funded a project called evals one. I will I will provide the bibliography of this in my written responses.

00:26:41:27 - 00:27:12:14

Um, but basically, we are being encouraged as curators to move away from percentage based trenching while recognising that even at 5% trenching, you are still going to lose. You're still not going to find probably most Neolithic, most Bronze Age. You stand no chance of finding Palaeolithic or Mesolithic um evaluation. Trenching, as it is without a suite of other wider evaluation techniques, will really basically find you medieval, Roman and Iron Age.

00:27:12:16 - 00:27:43:19

So we are losing. We stand the potential for losing unknown sites of most of human history, which is why there has to be decent evaluation, a range of evaluation techniques, and trial trenching. So I'm afraid I stay with with Miss Allen. But until we have had enough evaluation trenching on this site or any other site that's coming forward under the onset process, it will be impossible to meet the requirements of NPF. Paragraph 2200.

00:27:44:21 - 00:27:45:06

Thank you sir.

00:27:47:24 - 00:27:52:00

Thank you, Mr. Spence. That's again very helpful. And.

00:27:53:27 - 00:28:03:09

The issue around cultural heritage heritage will be returned to. Through further hearings. So thank you for making yourselves available today.

00:28:05:01 - 00:28:14:26

Having with any other IP. Like to comment on, update and progress on cultural heritage.

00:28:18:12 - 00:28:27:05

No, and that's fine for now. I'll just ask the applicant for any comments on what they have heard from local authorities.

00:28:28:03 - 00:28:43:03

A player project for the applicant. I'm conscious, obviously, that the purpose of this was just to provide an update, rather than to go into the particular issues that are in dispute. So we won't take this opportunity to respond, um, to the comments that have been made by um.

00:28:45:02 - 00:29:21:19

Miss Allen or Miss Spence. I think the purpose and what was discussed, um, during the Cottom examination is obviously there is the potential that the Secretary of State is minded to either agree with the applicant's position on whether the trenching is sufficient, or they may well be minded to agree, um, with Lancashire County Council and Nottinghamshire County Council's um position or a middle ground, and therefore it was felt in order to make sure that there was sufficient information available for the Secretary of State, um, that comments on without prejudice documents would be helpful in terms of the written scheme of investigation.

00:29:21:29 - 00:29:57:10

Um, and therefore we would request that it is made in action of this hearing, um, for without prejudice, um, comments to be provided on the written scheme of investigation for this scheme. I'm conscious that although we're due to have further hearings, the dates for those haven't been finalised yet, and I don't want those to be too late in the examination for that work to be done. So I think it would be of assistance for there to be an action on both the applicant and Lincolnshire County Council and Nottinghamshire County Council to progress without prejudice.

00:29:57:12 - 00:30:13:03

Comments on the size two versions similar to cotton one um, with no further trial trenching required. Um and another version that does require trial trenching to be undertaken prior to the commencement of construction.

00:30:14:10 - 00:30:14:27

Thank.

00:30:20:03 - 00:30:21:12

Thank you. Um,

00:30:22:27 - 00:30:29:00

so given that. Deadline for is the 28th of February.

00:30:30:19 - 00:30:48:03

I will just invite local authorities, Miss Allen and Miss Spence, to respond to that proposal, which on the face of it, appears. To be making progress for the examination, Miss Allan.

00:30:49:05 - 00:31:20:10

Thank you, sir. Uh, yes, we would welcome that. Um, if it would be possible for us to get the SES as soon as we can. Um, obviously with Cottam, we have one, but not the second. Uh, and it would be useful to have them both so that we can sit down and go through them both at once, and then we can arrange to have a meeting. Um, we'd be very happy, I'm sure, if any, um, senior advisors from the Planning Inspectorate would, um, occur to attend. We'd be happy to engage in whatever way we can.

00:31:20:16 - 00:31:28:15

But, um, if we could have both as soon as possible, that would be really helpful so that we can make our response before the deadline. Thank you. Sir.

00:31:31:08 - 00:31:45:26

Um, Miss Spence. I'm. Any views on the without prejudice WC by 28th of February deadline.

00:31:46:15 - 00:32:17:28

I would be happy to, um, assist in any way, in any way possible. Um, there is a slight concern, something that was said that suggests that might be a further trial trenching to be undertaken prior to construction. That is too late to properly mitigate and cost for such mitigation. So we I think I along the lines of of of Jan will do whatever we can to help, but we really need to get things moving in a hurry.

00:32:18:00 - 00:32:20:06

It's already been quite a long time on this one.

00:32:21:05 - 00:32:24:20

Thank you, sir. Okay. Thank you. So I think there is.

00:32:26:18 - 00:32:39:06

Without straying into. Going beyond what we said we would cover in item three, which is an update. There is an undertaking there to move on with the Without prejudice see as project. Yes.

00:32:39:10 - 00:33:10:24

Project. Just just to clarify in relation to cotton, the um. The. The two versions are already available. There is the original version, which is in the DCO application that we're inviting, um, Lancashire County Council and Nottinghamshire County Council to comment on on a without prejudice basis, so that that document is already available and has been part of the examination for a while. We have sent without prejudice version that includes new text, um, committing to additional trial trenching prior to construction.

00:33:10:26 - 00:33:31:08

And that was sent, I believe, earlier this week. Um, so they do have both of those documents for Cottam, for West Burton, they have the original CI, and the applicant will commit to sending the without prejudice version with the additional trial trenching next week. So hopefully we can make progress prior to deadline for. Thank you.

00:33:31:27 - 00:33:33:11

Thank you, Miss Allen.

00:33:35:20 - 00:34:06:11

Thank you, sir. Um. Yes. Uh, we're waiting on a link from Alice as far as I knew for Clayton. But we will deal with it as soon as it. As soon as both versions are available. But, uh, something that Miss Spence was missing. Spence was saying, uh, that reminded me where the two versions are, with or without trenching. Uh, we actually have, um, an issue with when that trenching actually happens specifically.

00:34:06:13 - 00:34:33:10

So if the trenching is post consent, that's something that is different to it being predetermination. Um, and um, so we will, I'm sure, have some sort of view depending on once we've had a look at the WSI. But it will be necessary that when the trenching occurs, as well as the other aspects of that need to be included in the WSI, otherwise it's not tied down to anything. Thank you very much, sir.

00:34:33:29 - 00:35:06:14

Okay. Thank you for those comments. I think we're not going to make much further progress other than for those documents to be shared and to be progressed by deadline for and then to. Uh, to make the decision about how this element or this item of the agenda will be, um, examined, either through further hearings or further written questions, which, um, the examining authority will make as soon as we reasonably can.

00:35:09:05 - 00:35:09:21

Thank you sir.

00:35:11:01 - 00:35:16:08

Okay. I can see Lincolnshire County Council Hall, Miss Hall.

00:35:17:03 - 00:35:53:17

Thank you, sir, says Stephanie Hall, Lancashire County Council. So just, um, I note the commitment from the applicant. This is purely an admin point. I note the commitment from the applicant to share the the revised WSI on West Burton next week. It'd be very helpful if that could be as early as possible next week. Noting that Miss Allen and Miss Spence thought that it would take some time to go through the document. And the 28th of February is creeping up on us quite quickly. So just if we could have as much time as possible. I'm just keen that we we're not bound by a deadline that we can't meet. We obviously want to give helpful and productive comments on the 28th of February, which will only be possible if we get the documents in good time.

00:35:53:19 - 00:35:54:07

Thank you.

00:35:55:13 - 00:36:09:26

That's noted. Yes. Yeah. So the request to the applicant is to provide those documents as early next week as you possibly can, to give Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire as much time before the 28th. It'd be very welcome.

00:36:16:11 - 00:36:49:16

Okay. Thank you. All of you who have attended either virtually or in the room on cultural heritage. More information will follow on how those items eight E to E will be dealt with. In due course. I'll now move on to item four, which is transport noise and air quality and give a moment for reshuffling of.

00:36:50:13 - 00:36:51:14

That's now thinking.

00:37:44:12 - 00:37:52:16

Okay. Item four is transport noise and air quality. A couple of points and a number of specific questions.

00:37:54:13 - 00:38:05:15

Item A is consideration of alternative routes, including any routes within other schemes, combined construction traffic Management plan and parking standards for employment.

00:38:10:03 - 00:38:17:00

The Cty MP addresses the direct impact of construction traffic on West Burton solar project.

00:38:18:22 - 00:38:51:23

There is reference to the possible production of a joint or combined TMP across this number of other schemes, and that does appear to be especially useful if or where there may be an overlap of construction timeline. Just referring to the joint report, which sets out in section 5.4 that there is uncertainty about timings. Around obtaining and implementing consents, and the. The process of coordinating the management of construction schedules is therefore uncertain.

00:38:52:00 - 00:39:20:28

It's not, I think, the joint report. So that something is not possible or appropriate to commit to a joint cGMP. But the A cooperation agreement sets out the intention to develop a joint approach. To extent of cooperation possible so far appears to relate in the main to access points set out in paragraph 3.6.9 of the Joint Report on Interrelationships in paragraph 5.4.5 also refers to ongoing discussions to minimize the impact on communities.

00:39:23:11 - 00:39:53:08

The fact that where construction activities are taking place simultaneously, where construction activities are taking place simultaneously, there would be a greater impact locally as a point raised by host authorities in their local impact report, with Lindsey District Council specifically raised this. Is there anything? But the applicant would like to report on possible joint working at this stage.

00:39:57:03 - 00:40:23:15

Uh, Claire, the applicant. Um, uh, let, uh, Robert Ruffin introduce himself, and he can provide just a brief summary of where there are potentials for overlap in terms of the routes used. Um, and then, um, just an update that we've made to the outline RTmp in relation to a requirement for a joint TMP should that that overlap occur. Thank you.

00:40:23:17 - 00:40:24:03

Thank you.

00:40:26:06 - 00:41:10:06

Uh, good morning, sir. My name is Robert Rowan. I'm an associate director at Transport Planning Associates on behalf of the applicant. Um, so just taking the point on, um, cumulative impacts of, um, uh, I'll refer to the four eco schemes. Um, Cottam, West Burton Gate, Burton and Tilbrook schemes. Um, in terms of the routes, um, there's not necessarily a massive overlap between the four different schemes in terms of the solar array element. Um, so with West Burton, the main routes were along the A1 500 for West Burton one and three and then the A57 and B1 two for one for West Burton, two for Cottam.

00:41:10:08 - 00:41:49:14

There is a slight overlap with um West Burton one and three in that the southern section of cotton one um vehicles will be used in the A1 51 500, but um routes to the other elements of Cottam um are on roads to the north of West Burton, so there won't be no overlap in that respect. Um, likewise, Burton uses accesses located on the A1 56 and Kexp lane, neither of which are proposed for the West Burton scheme, and there's no overlap in routes except for on the wider sort of more strategic road network of the A15 and the motorway network, and the two bridge scheme is located to the north.

00:41:49:17 - 00:42:21:12

Um, and their accesses are predominately based on the A6 31 to the north of the West Burton scheme. Again, there'll be no overlap for the solar array elements, um, because except for on the A15 and the M1 80, um, in terms of the cable route corridor, there will be um, a shared element. Um, notably accesses one one 0 to 1 one two of the West Burton scheme, uh, shared with the cotton scheme and the and the gate Burton scheme in terms of the cable route.

00:42:21:14 - 00:42:58:05

Um, so there will be overlap in this section with the cable routes for a short period of time for the cable accesses. The construction phase for each access is about 90 days. And during this period there'll be approximately eight deliveries per day, uh, approximately half by HGV. So for HGV trips and for by LGV, um LGV, some smaller goods vehicles. And then there'll be approximately ten construction workers on site per day. So the effect of that sort of low level of trips, um, across the daily period, um, will not be significant.

00:42:59:06 - 00:43:37:27

Um, and then in terms of a joint construction traffic management plan, um, you've referenced the joint report on interrelationships between the nationally significant infrastructure projects, um, paragraphs 5.4.2 and 5.4.4 set that out. Um, in addition, measure 15 of the outline construction traffic management plan, um, which is now rep 3-012, sets out more details, stating in the event that the construction schedules associated with the scheme and other schemes in the area overlap, being the Cottam Solar Project, Tilbrook scheme and the Great Burton Solar Project, a joint construction traffic management plan could be produced.

00:43:37:29 - 00:43:58:00

This was set out construction, traffic management and control measures relevant to those areas where the construction vehicle routes for the schemes would overlap to reduce and manage any potential

cumulative effects. This is particularly relevant to the shared cable route corridor with the Cottam and Gate Burton projects. The joint camp would be agreed with the relevant authorities prior to commencement of construction.

00:44:05:11 - 00:44:05:28

Thank you.

00:44:09:20 - 00:44:29:24

Is there. Anything. Lincolnshire County Council or highways authorities. And all West Lindsey District Council wish to comment on in relation to the routes and the TMP and.

00:44:32:06 - 00:44:38:01

How useful is TMP for an individual project is against something that brings together the the wider picture.

00:44:42:15 - 00:45:00:17

Stephanie Hall, Lancashire County Council, so I don't think we have any. There's nothing between us and the applicant in terms of the substance of the highways and traffic impacts of this scheme, but there's obviously a point that we raised at the draft DCO hearing about consenting. But that's the only point of difference between ourselves and the applicant in relation to highways.

00:45:02:14 - 00:45:02:29

Thank you.

00:45:06:14 - 00:45:17:00

So. West Lindsey District Council had raised this point in the Local Impact report. Is there anything that you wish to add?

00:45:19:09 - 00:45:49:04

Alex Blake, Western District Council. Um. No, I mean, welcome. Some of the comments that just been made across the room around potential joint approach. We acknowledge this is a what if kind of point, you know, what if two or more up to four occur at the same time. Um, so it would be a commitment number one and then a, then a draft framework that could be an appendix to that TMP that could um, yeah. I mean, both parties meet on that matter. So we look forward to continuing that discussion and seeing what's proposed. All right.

00:45:50:02 - 00:45:50:22

Thank you.

00:46:00:24 - 00:46:01:20

Okay.

00:46:03:10 - 00:46:17:15

I can see a hand up at the back of the room. Mrs. Warren, would you. Would you like to join the table for a fixed microphone today to save? It would save Mr. Wood, then.

00:46:21:00 - 00:46:21:15

Thank you.

00:46:41:05 - 00:46:50:04

Mrs. Warren, if you remember to introduce yourself each time you speak. We're on item four A and.

00:46:54:20 - 00:47:28:08

Christine Warren underneath the cooling towers at West Point and Power Station. Um, I'm late because they were blowing a tower up at, uh, West Burton this morning. Um, and I didn't want my dogs to be upset. Um, the, uh, cable routes, apparently, the cable routes, uh, when they come into West Burton, are coming down the quarry at the side of my house at this moment in time. We have, uh, the battery packs, uh, which have got 340 vehicles a day that have just been passed by Bassetlaw County Council.

00:47:28:10 - 00:47:59:07

We have the demolition of the cooling towers, which at this present moment in time. Well, it'll take till 2078 to demolish them. We've got, uh, the traffic that's going on for them, which is, um, one, uh, HGV a day for this time and which will progress to ten a day. We also have, um, the coal that was bought because of the Ukraine Russian war. Um, and I've got seven, 9.3 million.

00:47:59:09 - 00:48:30:09

I don't I don't know where I've got it. I won't win a quiz on on the amounts that's now being shipped out of West Burton at between 10 and 30 wagons a day, which is I don't know what it's going to. I think it's going somewhere. It's on and it goes every day, 10 to 30. And that's going to be till June this year. You've also got the people that work at the gas power station. You've also got EDF. You've also got the fusion. And and I was listening to the news which was talking about, um, pollution.

00:48:30:21 - 00:49:06:19

I can't remember what they called it was it was rain pollution. And it's where the, the, um, the rain hits the bottom of the cars and and washes all the, uh, oil out, and then it runs down the lens in front of West Burton, in front of the lane in which I live. There's no culverts. Hence the reason that all the muck from the, um, we saw that in the Yorkshire muck, um, off the bottom of the cars washes down my lane. I have in my bag here oil, uh, at the top of my lane. The council have put a bond at the top of my lane to try and stop the, uh, the water running down.

00:49:06:24 - 00:49:38:04

The water runs then in to Beck or into a protected field at the bottom, which then enters the water system. And that was a government, uh, project on the on the news the other day. The bypassing all these roads. I'm a geographers crap, and I can't get anywhere unless I've got a satnav. But the impact on the actual grid, because the grid is the prize that everybody's wanting is colossal, because you've got so many different people.

00:49:38:06 - 00:49:50:01

We've also got rigs that's going to be coming in. We've also got the quarry that's going to start producing at some point. How much more traffic can we have in one little village going into West Burton Power Station?

00:49:50:12 - 00:50:05:24

Thank you, Mrs. Warren. Okay, so some of those points there do relate to. Transport and the impact of cumulative. Developments and other things going on in the local area.

00:50:10:01 - 00:50:17:06

And it needs to be specific to the issue that we're talking on. It can't just be a comp.

00:50:19:03 - 00:50:38:10

Christine Warren underneath the cooling towers. And they're also there. They're starting to construct on westbound power stations. So you're also bringing vehicles in. And because they're constructing, they're also removing, um, the spoils that they dig up, which are also being transported offsite. Thank you.

00:50:38:12 - 00:50:44:20

The point points are made. There is a question in there around.

00:50:47:19 - 00:51:01:11

Around cumulative impacts of other projects in how that they may have been assessed by the applicant. And that is the question that will now ask, um, is it Mr. Rowan to address? Thank you.

00:51:02:08 - 00:51:43:21

Uh, Robert Rowan for the applicant. Um, so this access, um, next to cooling towers is access 101 in the CMP and transports assessments. Um, so the impact of the cable route corridor in terms of vehicle movements, um, for each access construction period will be approximately 90 days. And during this period, there will be approximately four HGVs per day and for lower goods vehicles per day. Um, in addition to approximately ten construction workers. So, um, appreciating the comments with regards to the level of traffic associated with other schemes, the addition of four additional HGVs will not have a material effect on the highway network in this location.

00:51:46:16 - 00:51:47:21

Okay. Thank you.

00:51:52:19 - 00:52:02:16

Also on construction. So West Lindsey District Council noted in response to written question 1.1.9 that Stowe Park.

00:52:04:17 - 00:52:20:27

Solar project would be close to West Burton three, and therefore construction traffic is likely to use the same hall roof. Is this something that can be, or has been, or is being taken into consideration? I'll ask the applicant for.

00:52:22:02 - 00:52:53:03

The curvature of the applicant. Um. The detail or further detail in relation to the um Stowe Park um solar project, which is close to West Burton three um, they um, submitted a um request for scoping, I

believe, just, um, towards the end of last year. Um, so there was some information put into the public domain about that project. Um, we are in the process of reviewing that.

00:52:53:05 - 00:53:06:25

Um, and the intention is to submit, um, an addendum that will um, include any, you know, as a result of any further information that we now have. Um, I will just double check the timing of that. Bear with me on.

00:53:08:26 - 00:53:18:08

Thank you. Would Westlands District Council like to? Comment. Is there anything you need to add to what you set out in written questions?

00:53:20:03 - 00:53:45:27

Uh, Russell Clarkson, West Lindsey District Council, only that we welcome that information. I mean, there's this other exploded. We had a, uh, formal scoping request for EIA from the, uh, from the developer, which we've recently given the opinion last month. So there is some information out there, and we would certainly welcome another then and addendum based information they have so far as to how that may be addressed and managed. Thank you sir.

00:53:50:10 - 00:53:59:20

Thank you. Okay. Any other IP's on that point? Mrs. Warren, again, relevant to that point.

00:54:02:26 - 00:54:41:21

All right, Christine Warren, underneath the cooling towers at West Point and Power station. If the find an alternative route to the grid which comes, which will go down the restricted byways to actually get to the restricted byways, you are actually passing through, um, villages, um, and inappropriate roads. So the only way into the grid is potentially via West Burton and Gainsborough Road. I also had a meeting with a young man from Declan McLaren, who was said that HGVs from the construction will be placed down my lane as well.

00:54:41:23 - 00:54:51:20

I've got nothing else apart from, uh, this young man who worked for Declan McLaren, who puts up the notices for the planning applications. But there's also a potentially that.

00:54:53:21 - 00:54:56:06

Okay. Thank you for the point.

00:55:01:27 - 00:55:39:12

I will move on to a question about employment parking standards in the. To say in Lincolnshire County Council's response to first written questions. It's noted that onsite parking appears to be acceptable. By this. Do I take it? There is compliance with L with LQ standards. Is there anything else you see needs to elaborate on here with concerns for any move, citizen movements or anything that you'd be seeking or reassurance to be provided.

00:55:39:17 - 00:55:46:18

I can also see Mr. Pointer has his hand up, so I will bring him in. After hearing from El-Sisi.

00:55:48:03 - 00:55:52:06

Stephanie Hall, Lancashire County Council. Anyway, we're happy with the proposals as they are. Thank you.

00:55:54:00 - 00:56:01:16

Excellent. Thank you. Uh, Mr. Pointer. You have your hand up. Did I miss you on the previous point?

00:56:01:18 - 00:56:43:00

Yes. Sorry. I just wanted to come in, um, just to speak. Following, uh, um, uh, the previous points regarding grid connections, we, uh, just point out, uh, a local impact report did point out the narrow, um, and the, uh, sort of inadequacy of, uh, of local road network. It is obviously a very rural road network adjoining around Stirton. Um, and we obviously pointed out they are the routes are very likely trafficked, but, uh, there are still people who require access and, and, uh, sort of take, uh, take on board the point made by, uh, by Mrs.

00:56:43:02 - 00:57:25:18

Warren. Um, we did point out that the, uh, construction management plan should provide for some assessment of, uh, uh, impacts regarding other, um, sources of traffic generation as well. Uh, obviously the timings of each of these proposals and there are major proposals affecting, uh, West Burton Power Station, uh, obviously will need to be looked at at the time of, of construction, um, that wasn't included, but, uh, in the, uh, scope of the construction management plan, but we think the overall vehicle, uh, should be a, uh, able to take account of that at the appropriate time.

00:57:25:20 - 00:57:39:25

So it is something we will be, um, uh, keeping a watching, watching brief on and, uh, able to, uh, uh, update the construction management plan as, as, uh, as appropriate. So, um, just to come in on that point. So.

00:57:41:09 - 00:58:14:15

Thank you, Mr. Pointer. Very helpful. Yes. And obviously the the local impact report from NCC. It forms part of the evidence submitted to the examination forms part of the examination library. Having heard what Mr. Poynter said, Mrs. Warren. Hopefully that gives you some reassurance to the points that you made previously about the road capacity within certain and within your area, that there are documents submitted pointing that out to the examining authority.

00:58:14:17 - 00:58:19:00

So if what you're about to say, try not to repeat what's already said.

00:58:20:20 - 00:58:48:18

Uh, Christine Warren underneath the cooling towers of Westport and Power station. Um, the parking, um, at West Burton, because they won't like the people on West Burton until the actual time. That's the specific to the appointments that actually starting to park on the lane in which I live there, actually, people are actually sleeping on the lane in which I live because they are entering the power station at strange times at night. So the parking is not adequate.

00:58:50:03 - 00:58:51:29

Sorry. On West Burton power station.

00:58:52:03 - 00:59:10:12

Thank you. Okay. Some of those issues that are outside of the scope of the examination, but I can see that Mr. Pointer is listening to the comments that you've made there, and they may be more readily addressed through the local authority.

00:59:15:29 - 00:59:20:29

Okay. Um, is there any other comments?

00:59:22:19 - 00:59:23:09

Mr. Broderick.

00:59:38:22 - 01:00:14:07

A clipboard of the applicant. Um, yes. We were just double checking the outline CMP just in relation to the last concern that was raised by, um, uh, Missus Warren about, um, uh, the potential for, um, construction workers who arrive early to be parking on surrounding roads. Just to be clear, obviously, uh, the actual lane Ms.. Warren's referring to, we're not proposing to use, but we take on board the concern that construction workers could park on that whilst they're waiting for the construction site to, um.

01:00:15:26 - 01:00:57:02

Uh, open. Um, and so point seven in um, section seven, um, point two of the TMP does include a provision about um, parking, um, and a specific reference to contractors and visitors. Um, only parking on site and not parking on the street. So, um, I think the management plan, um, will address those. Um, and it obviously also includes, um, mechanisms for, um, complaints in the event that, um, that was not being complied with and there is a mechanism for local residents to raise um res complaints.

01:00:57:04 - 01:01:08:00

Um, and the process for doing so. So, uh, our position is that there is, um, suitable protections in the management plan to avoid that situation. Um, arising.

01:01:08:02 - 01:01:08:18

Thank you.

01:01:09:15 - 01:01:16:00

Thank you for that. Uh, clarification. Okay. On the.

01:01:18:04 - 01:01:20:09

A 1500. So.

01:01:24:02 - 01:01:37:28

The. The Tsar has visited the locations within the recent change application which and change one within the change application. It's seeking to amend the order limits at the south of a 1500.

01:01:41:12 - 01:01:50:03

That's the public highway between West Bert and One and the A15 hundred, which is principally for enabling construction access.

01:01:52:05 - 01:01:54:07

Can I ask the applicant? First of all.

01:01:56:14 - 01:01:58:07

To confirm.

01:02:00:03 - 01:02:24:04

The reasoning behind that, presumably discussions ongoing with Lincolnshire County Council. What are the implications of that? Um, and I'll bring in Lincolnshire County Council as well, following their specific points in first written questions in a moment. So first of all, to the applicant to explain some of the reasoning or the reasoning behind the change request and how that's arisen.

01:02:26:17 - 01:03:03:21

A robot. Run for the applicants. Um, so in Lincolnshire County Council's initial response to the DCO, um, they raised a single comment on highways grounds in relation to the provision of pass by bays, um, between the 1500 and West Burton one access points. Um, they wanted, um, sort of clarification and an evidence based that these pass by bays can be provided. Um, we responded with um plans and swept path analysis showing the locations of potential pass by bays, how these can be delivered, and also the abnormal load tracking, um, down along along that road.

01:03:03:23 - 01:03:14:02

And in order to provide reassurances that these can be delivered. The red line was extended along the whole road to the A15 hundred to include these areas for potential pass by bays.

01:03:21:08 - 01:03:39:05

Thank you. So in first written questions. Uh, question one point 14.6. Lincolnshire County councillor had queried this point specifically, including concerns with regards to the mechanisms for permitting works within the highways proposed within DCO.

01:03:42:05 - 01:03:43:25

And I ask.

01:03:45:21 - 01:03:54:20

al-Sisi, Lincolnshire County Council. Is there any comment on this aspect of the change request? As regards highways and transport or.

01:03:56:15 - 01:03:58:02

You consider it to be progress.

01:04:03:21 - 01:04:36:08

So thank you. Stephanie Hall, Lincolnshire County Council. So in relation to the change request, um, I need further instructions from that. We haven't reviewed that in substantive detail as yet, so I'm not able to give the exact update on where we are on the change request, but we're not anticipating it to raise a particular issue. So as previously outlined at the draft DCO issue specific hearing, ah, main, um, disagreement with the applicant relates to the drafting of the DCO and the consenting around, um, the passing bays.

01:04:36:10 - 01:04:53:26

In terms of the principle, I don't think we've got a problem and I understand why they've they've extended the red lines to address some of that. Um, but I don't have formal instructions as to whether that causes some other issues somewhere else. But we're looking at it and obviously we'll update you at ten deadline for.

01:04:57:15 - 01:04:58:12

Okay. Thank you.

01:05:04:11 - 01:05:31:21

Turning to abnormal loads. Uh, Lincolnshire County Council notes in response to written questions. This is question one point 14.3 that in principle that a I I assessment that's a normal, indivisible load assessment is acceptable at this stage. But the approval from LSE's Abnormal Load Officer and other parties will be required prior to implementation.

01:05:33:11 - 01:05:48:15

Could I ask Lincolnshire County Council to? Talk me through the practicalities and what? That. Process of um approval from LLCs. Abnormal loan officer entails.

01:05:49:07 - 01:06:13:14

Stephanie Hall, Lincolnshire County councillor I'm very sorry. So I don't think we can. It's my my ways. Officer isn't here. Having looked at the agenda, we thought so those none of those points really go to anything we've got a problem with. So we didn't ask him to come. And so obviously we'll take a note of the question and we can add it to our, to our written summary so we can get something to you at deadline for and and explain that. Make sure we explain that process to the Excel okay.

01:06:13:16 - 01:06:29:20

Thank you. Yes. So it was the response to written question one point 14.3. And that's absolutely fine to respond by deadline for failing that. It may return in written questions.

01:06:33:09 - 01:06:42:11

Okay. Just looking around the room. For any interested parties who wish to comment on any of the discussion.

01:06:44:13 - 01:06:49:11

Mrs. Warren, we're on a number of points.

01:06:50:16 - 01:07:34:20

Christine Warren underneath the cooling towers at West Burton Power Station. I don't know whether we're having abnormal loads, but when we when the gas powered power station was built, we had abnormal loads coming through the village, um, every couple of weeks. And because of it, um, we had to disconnect telephone lines. We had to move cars. The whole of the village was disrupted by, uh, the impact of the, uh, gas powered power station have. Um, if we're going to get abnormal loads, why not talk to the people who built the power station, the gas power station and transported, um, the the, uh, abnormal loads? Uh, because the impact on the villages were absolutely colossal.

01:07:34:22 - 01:08:03:00

We couldn't move for a day. They came that slowly, that men walked in front of them. It was the they we lost you trees. We lost hedgerows. We lost. Um, uh, we lost, uh, people had the walls put down. Um, the impact on the villages, um, from abnormal loss was horrendous. And I think if you talk to the gas people and they brought when they brought the turbines in, you couldn't see how bad it was.

01:08:04:12 - 01:08:19:16

Okay. Thank you for that comment. It I think it's more of a comment than a question, but I'll invite. Mr. Rowenta. Comment back if needed. Mr. Rowan.

01:08:24:21 - 01:08:56:03

Hi, Robert Ryan for the applicant. Um, so there will be a limited number of, um, cable route drums, um, delivered to the cable route corridor on technically abnormal load vehicles. There will be approximately 25 to 26m in length. So they're not the larger transformer vehicles, which can be up to 50, 60, 70m. They're on the smaller side of the abnormal load. Um, a specialist company called winds, um, has been instructed by the applicant to review, um, all abnormal movements.

01:08:56:05 - 01:09:06:27

Their report is included at appendix F of the transport assessments. Um, and they're comfortable that the routes are suitable for, for the movements of these cable drums.

01:09:09:23 - 01:09:13:15

Thank you, Mr. Rowan. Okay.

01:09:15:21 - 01:09:22:24

I'm just taking a time check. I'm going to move on now to four B.

01:09:24:16 - 01:09:28:20

Which is titled Noise and Air Quality.

01:09:31:20 - 01:09:43:15

Just looking through my list. It's going to be. Mainly noise, but there will be an opportunity for interested parties to raise anything under air quality.

01:09:49:06 - 01:10:01:15

On noise, first of all. The Ex-aide. Notes. West Lindsey District Council's local impact report concerns over the noise survey method. Methodology.

01:10:03:17 - 01:10:37:20

So there are methodological concerns that Westlands District Council raised in its Local Impact report and through first written questions to question one point 10.2, stated West Lindsey District Council's concerns on the noise assessment methodology are set out in section 14 of its law, and the concerns remain, live and are yet to be resolved at ten .2.6. Well. DC maintains his objections on noise grounds, including the lack of coordinated approach to managing and mitigating cumulative impacts.

01:10:37:22 - 01:10:49:13

I set out in it our unwritten representations. I'm going to ask Beth Lindsey District Council to provide an update on that. Has any progress been made?

01:10:51:07 - 01:10:54:24

Have things moved on or have you seen anything now?

01:10:56:11 - 01:11:02:12

Uh, then I'll ask the applicant to respond and see what progress where progress is at.

01:11:04:14 - 01:11:40:22

Yeah. Alex Blake, West Lindsey district council. Um, yeah. There were a list of or list of, uh, clarifications that West Lindsey would, uh, appreciate regarding the approach to the, uh, the noise assessment. Um. Conscious that these conversations are overlapping. But for our responses to questions on the Cotton Project recently, we expanded on those, gave a little bit more clarity about what what we meant, you know? Um, and we had a follow up call with, um, uh, with the West Person Project Team Land Pro last week, a week before.

01:11:41:10 - 01:12:30:15

Um, so I think we've worked through that list. There's a list of sort of 12 points that I think rather than exhaust them through here, I think we'll work offline and work through them. So if that's acceptable and then we'll, um, report that at the appropriate deadline. Um, as to where we're at on the methodology point, um, so I'll leave that with you to, to revise, uh, as you see fit. Um, just to finish, to cover that point off again, it links into the previous discussion we had around the TMP. So that's the methodology around noise. Our concern is, you know, that scenario where we get a genuine cumulative issue, um, do we have the mechanisms in the control docs, the management plans to, to minimize those effects, you know, as far as possible to make sure that even though, um, an assessment may say that an impact is not significant in the terms, it's still an impact for communities.

01:12:30:17 - 01:12:37:27

And, you know, we want to make sure for those communities that we we minimize them in practice as far as possible. So, um, uh, that's a current position. So.

01:12:39:09 - 01:12:44:21

Thank you for that. So the the list of items that you have, 12 or so items are they.

01:12:46:11 - 01:12:54:26

I think they. There was also a list in the Local Impact report. Am I to take it that they are broadly similar? And your.

01:12:55:16 - 01:13:13:27

District council? Yes. And being, um, self-aware, perhaps we could have been clearer on what we were driving at on those points. So we sort of expanded, you know, the more precise, you know, points that we're trying to say we'll try to make. So, um, so hopefully that's clearer for the applicant and we can, um, you know, close the gap on those points.

01:13:13:29 - 01:13:42:05

Thank you. Okay. I will ask the applicant to respond. Mrs. Warren, I can see your hand, but we are turning to the applicant at this point. But don't let me forget to bring you in following that. Uh, so, having heard Westlands District Council's concerns and noting progress at and through other schemes. I'll just ask the applicant to respond and give me its view on where things are with noise.

01:13:42:27 - 01:14:38:28

Uh, collaborate with the applicant. I will let, uh, uh, Mr. Neil Fletcher introduce himself in just a moment. Um, in respect of the, um, queries that were raised for Cottom, obviously those were received, um, I think last week. So we are looking at those in respect of Cottom. I don't think they've been formally submitted in relation to West Burton because of the differences in the deadlines. But assuming they are the same, then we will obviously approach, um, take the same approach across, um, both projects. The only point I would just say, um, which I've, which I've said before, but um, in relation to wanting additional provisions in the management plans, if Westlands District Council would like additional wording to be included, um, then we would be very grateful if they could actually provide details of the wording that they would like to go in those plans for us, um, to consider, because they very much are the controlled documents, um, where we want any additional obligations to be contained.

01:14:39:00 - 01:14:47:15

So any comments on the management plans, the actual wording of them, um, would be gratefully received, but I will hand over to Mr. Fletcher to just provide an update. Thank you.

01:14:50:10 - 01:15:22:07

Good morning. Neil Fletcher, um, senior environmental consultant, on behalf of the applicant. Um. Yeah. We have received, um, various responses from West Allis, West Lindsey District Council, uh, and appreciate that a further response has come through which has clarified their concerns regarding, um, noise issues for West Burton. And we are currently working through those, um, issues at the moment and helping to provide a response to satisfy them.

01:15:25:22 - 01:15:44:12

Okay. Thank you. So in terms of progressing that then I think West Lindsey District Council. Mr. Blake, you've set out that the process had been followed through a cotton examination, and they have been provided.

01:15:45:29 - 01:15:55:16

Yeah. If you basically give the undertaking to continue to work that through with the applicant and provide an update, the deadline for that would be welcome. Yeah.

01:15:55:18 - 01:16:21:28

Alex Blake, West Lindsey District Council. Absolutely, sir. Yeah. And um, and yeah, it was in response to an examiner's question point on Cottam. So it's just um, yes. Just making sure that flows through into this process. But it's a methodology point that's consistent across the respective. Yes. So there's no I don't think there's any prejudice between the projects on this point. It's it's the approach to assessment. So I think we can, uh, create a, um, a unified position across both projects.

01:16:22:06 - 01:16:23:10

Thank you. Okay.

01:16:25:03 - 01:16:34:13

I'm just going to invite Mrs. Warren to comment on methodological considerations of the noise assessment.

01:16:35:07 - 01:17:08:23

Christine Warren, underneath the cooling towers, West power station. Um, one project noise is fine. There's about ten projects going on at West Burton Power Station. And as I say, I was late this morning because they blew a tower up. Eventually, they're going to move me out of my own home because they're going to blow the cooling towers up. How can one project's noise? Um, methodology. Um, just be submitted when there's so many things going on.

01:17:08:26 - 01:17:40:29

Uh, at West Berlin power station. I've walked the quarry this morning. They're already using excavators down there. The traffic starts because they're going to to the, uh, gas powered place. The noise starts at 7:00 in the morning, and that is before the impact of the cables are put in to West Burton, which is your little bit, but the whole noise of the area. And because West Burton is not surrounded by anything, it's just open grassland.

01:17:41:01 - 01:18:10:11

The noise carries all over the fields. I'm quite lucky because I have hearing aids. I can switch them off, but a lot of people can't and my dogs can't. Um, my dogs are very sensitive to it, as is all the wildlife, um, around. And I know I've got a very skitty dog that's very, very, very frightened and all the deer and all the other animals in the, in the fields are bothered by it as well. So one, your noise is not the only noise. It's a combination of everybody's.

01:18:11:15 - 01:18:34:24

Thank you, Mrs. Warren. Mr. Pryor, I'll come to you in a moment, if I may. I'll invite Mr. Fletcher. Would you? Explain to the examination how the cumulative assessment of noise or other projects within an area has been assessed very, very briefly in noise assessments.

01:18:36:00 - 01:18:40:02

Yep. Neil Fletcher. Um, for the applicant. Um.

01:18:41:25 - 01:19:23:11

Similarly for the transport assessment, Um Noyes um undertakes cumulative assessments of nearby um applications which have either been consented, exist or are coming forward. Um. In terms of the

cable routes, um, worst case noise assessment has been undertaken whereby um. Where excavation, for example, may be taking place, it is as being located as close as possible within the red line for the cable route to the nearest sensitive receptors.

01:19:24:07 - 01:19:45:00

Therefore. Should. More than one cable route be constructed at the same time, but the noise impact on the nearest sensitive receptor would not increase. It would be as low as would be assessed in the West Burton noise assessment.

01:19:47:03 - 01:20:02:02

If the cable, for example, the cable routes were to be um. Consecutively. Um, constructed. Then there is the scope that the the period would lengthen slightly.

01:20:05:02 - 01:20:05:17

Thank you.

01:20:10:00 - 01:20:16:22

Mrs. Vaughn, I need to bring in other apps as well. Is this related to what Mr. Fletcher has just said? Okay.

01:20:17:06 - 01:20:34:08

Christine Warren, underneath the cooling towers of West Burton Power Station. Will the applicant ask other, uh, people on site to stop work so that the noise is less while they do their construction and their cables, um, with their construction diggers and things?

01:20:38:24 - 01:20:47:00

I'm not sure if the applicant wishes to respond to that, but I'll invite them to do so. And then I do need to move on to Mr. Pryor.

01:20:48:13 - 01:21:20:15

Uh, approach of the applicant. Just as I mentioned before, we are providing, um, an addendum which will cover all, um, all yes, topics, including noise in respect of, um, further projects that have come forward since, um, the DCO application was submitted. So the original cumulative assessment assessed a number of different projects that were, um, as Mr. Fletcher said, either consented or going through the process. At that point in time. Since then, there have been some further projects, um, come forward.

01:21:20:17 - 01:21:58:07

And so we are updating, um, that, um, the conclusions on cumulative to see if there are any changes as a result of those additional schemes and further information. Um, at the moment, our assessment is even cumulatively that the that the within the acceptable um levels. So we wouldn't there wouldn't be a need for that sort of staggering of, um, noise. And there are various measures that are set out in the outline construction environmental management plan to try and reduce noise as much as possible.

01:21:58:14 - 01:22:15:11

Um, we will obviously confirm in that addendum that that position remains the same, and there is no need for any form of additional mitigation in in line with what Mr. Warren was suggesting. That's not um, we don't consider that to be necessary, but we'll obviously confirm that in the addendum.

01:22:15:16 - 01:22:19:16

And is that addendum the status of that is under.

01:22:19:26 - 01:22:21:21

Preparation will be submitted at deadline for.

01:22:21:23 - 01:22:25:23

Thank you. Okay. Um, Mr. Pryor.

01:22:27:06 - 01:22:50:22

Uh, thank you, sir. Mark Pryor, seven, um, thousand acres. Um, just a comment, really, to say we have have submitted, um, or made and written submissions on the noise survey methodology, which we do not think have been addressed. So we will make make comments again for deadline for.

01:22:51:25 - 01:23:04:15

Thank you, Mr. Pryor. Was this methodological concern about reference of use? British standards for 140 2014. Um, the concerns there.

01:23:04:17 - 01:23:19:22

Were a mix of of comments. They were made by our GP and some of the, um comments link into health. So I'll, I'll just make this comment now and we'll comment again in health.

01:23:19:24 - 01:23:21:01

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Pryor.

01:23:44:07 - 01:24:27:00

Okay. Have a question on noise impact from equipment, please. Mr. Fletcher, there was a written question about the expected level of noise from panels, any hum and any associated equipment. The written question was one point 10.10. Just to clarify on that point. It is assumed that as the noise survey and surveys have been based on reasonable worst case scenarios, that has taken noise from equipment into account, and that that would be moving panels and any associated switching and tracking and motors have also been assessed.

01:24:27:02 - 01:24:46:26

Could you provide that confirmation? Explain briefly how they are quantified and. Is there any? Comparable noise that you're aware of that this hum and switching motors from panels might be equivalent to.

01:24:50:13 - 01:24:58:19

Uh, Neil Fletcher for the applicant. Yeah. In terms of the, um, electrical equipment, um, proposed to be installed. Um.

01:25:00:08 - 01:25:38:22

There will be mortars, but, um, will operate the tracking panels or which, which basically move the tracking panels, which are relatively low level in, in terms of noise emissions. Um. There will be inverters which, um, service the, uh, the solar panels as well, um, which are probably the most noise in noise intensive, uh, equipment that will be installed. And then there are the, the transformers, which, um, can emit some low level frequencies.

01:25:39:10 - 01:26:10:21

Um, so in terms of the assessment, uh. We don't anticipate there to be any impulsive noise, uh, or any on off sort of switching noise at all. Uh, we have accounted for tonal characteristics by, um, including a tonal characteristic penalty into the calculations, which is, um, to cover uncertainty for tonal aspects of the equipment.

01:26:18:16 - 01:26:19:05

Thank you.

01:26:26:01 - 01:26:31:05

Any Ipsrs wish to comment on noise of equipment.

01:26:33:06 - 01:26:35:04

Mrs. Warren.

01:26:37:12 - 01:27:08:14

Christine Warren underneath the cooling towers, West Burton power station. Um, you talk about the, um, the noise from the panels, inverters and transformers. Um, if you've got a lot of them together, you've got a lot, lot of noise because you've not just got one thing, you've got a lot of noise. I've just had a septic tank or a sewerage system connected to my property, and which has got a thing that goes all the time since I've had my hearing aids in. I can hear it all the time, but that's just one thing. One little box.

01:27:08:16 - 01:27:24:29

What's the, uh, um, effect of the amount of solar panels that you're going to put in? Because it's not just one little marinades pick things up and it's a lot of buzzing. Um, so the noise gets worse. Um, what is the impact of the amount you're going to put in?

01:27:25:28 - 01:27:41:02

Okay, so the combined effect of all panels. Uh, Mr. Fletcher, could you just explain briefly how. The assessment works in terms of the multiple numbers of panels in any given location.

01:27:42:00 - 01:27:44:17

Yep. Neil Fletcher for the applicant. Um,

01:27:46:03 - 01:28:18:07

what we do generally, um, in terms of the noise assessment, is we construct a noise model, uh, using standard, um, noise modeling software, and we, um, basically set it towards British standards, which is best for an FA two and then subsequently, if needed, BSR 233 for noise intrusion at minus

receptors. So the model incorporates every single piece of noise emitting equipment that we propose to install on site.

01:28:21:18 - 01:28:38:15

Thank you. Okay. Just, uh, we will be moving on to item five shortly. Does any other IPI wish to raise anything under. Transport noise and air quality.

01:28:40:03 - 01:28:44:04

Mrs. Warren, a final point before we will then, I think. Take a break.

01:28:44:06 - 01:29:17:24

So just just ask Christine Warren. The cooling towers, West Burton power station. Is your model done inside or outside? Um, is it done on site? Do you do it? You know, have you done it with other projects where there's a lot of solar panels, or do you just do it in, in a, in a, um, a inside in, um, in a. You know, it's the it's the noise, the, you know, is it done on site or is it done in model in a classroom? That's what I'm asking.

01:29:17:27 - 01:29:28:17

Mr. Fletcher, a quick response to that. And if you just maybe explain to Mrs. Warren your role and your expertise in in noise assessment.

01:29:30:02 - 01:30:01:21

Yeah. Um, in terms of whether it's done inside or outside, the noise source information that we use in the model is, is taken from, uh, measurements of actual equipment. So I personally didn't go and measure the equipment, but the equipment has been measured. Um, to certain standards and that noise level and information is and input into our model and then. The model calculates the noise impact.

01:30:03:23 - 01:30:07:03

The actual model is is based on computers. Yeah. Yeah.

01:30:08:00 - 01:30:23:05

Okay. Well. Thank you. Everyone moving off from item four. But before we. But before we do move on to item five, I'm going to take a short. Ten minute break.

01:30:24:20 - 01:30:29:12

And resume at 1141.

01:30:31:12 - 01:30:31:28

Thank you.