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FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:17:14 - 00:00:17:29

Thank.

00:00:21:16 - 00:00:28:09

Thank you everyone. Welcome back to issue specific herring for.

00:00:29:25 - 00:00:38:24

Can I just check with the case team that I can be heard? And live streaming and recording has commenced.

00:00:42:01 - 00:00:43:28

That looks positive.

00:00:48:02 - 00:00:51:15

We are moving into item five.

00:00:53:05 - 00:00:59:06

Which is socio economic and health. There are three subheadings within.

00:01:01:18 - 00:01:10:17

First of all, A is consideration of the health impacts of the proposal, including the interrelationship with other projects and how these have been assessed.

00:01:12:13 - 00:01:31:16

To begin, I'd note that in engagement with. NCC, Public Health um has been undertaken and the county Council, in its response to first written questions, 1.6.6, confirms that there has been undertaken through general engagement with Lincolnshire County Council.

00:01:33:14 - 00:01:35:21

At open floor hearing one.

00:01:37:10 - 00:01:56:00

And subsequently, and also previously, various IP's have raised concerns about the health impacts of the proposal. In summary, from an IP or wider community perspective, the assessment of impacts of health appears to date to have been somewhat disparate.

00:01:58:18 - 00:02:06:26

I do note that Lc's Public Health Team department has engaged in the process to date and has provided comments on it.

00:02:09:25 - 00:02:42:01

The reason that the various aspects of health impact. And within individual environmental statement chapters. It is well known and it's understood. Why that arose and the advice provided. It perhaps states that this was how health impact considerations would be undertaken. We we can't undo that. However, it remains a concern to IPS. I'd like to hear directly here from the applicant about what consideration can be given to overcome this.

00:02:44:15 - 00:03:11:16

How? Or will will the applicant take steps to make the health impact assessments more cohesive, more readily, more readily understood? So, for example, a well-prepared health full health impact assessment involving consultation in various phases and stages would would take some time. And we're now three months into the examination, so that may not be possible. But what. From the applicant's point of view.

00:03:13:12 - 00:03:21:01

Does it have to say in response to the criticisms around the. Assessment of health impacts of the project.

00:03:22:21 - 00:03:52:22

Uh, the applicant. I will let Mr. Stephen Flynn introduce himself, and he can provide, um, a summary of how the applicant has assessed impacts on human health and well-being. The applicant's position is that it has carried out, uh, an appropriate assessment. Um, but as you have mentioned, um, as in accordance with the scoping opinion, it is contained throughout the environmental statement. But, um, Mr.

00:03:52:24 - 00:04:14:13

Flynn will provide just a brief overview, um, of the approach that's been taken. Um, and then, um, can set out, um, a possible, uh, proposal for how the applicant can bring that information together in perhaps a more user friendly version for interested parties who have raised these concerns. Thank you, thank you.

00:04:15:10 - 00:04:19:00

Mr. Flynn. Uh. Thanks, sir. Um, Mr..

00:04:19:02 - 00:04:58:18

Steven Flynn, uh, I'm a senior planner at Land Pro Services, but I'm here speaking on behalf of the applicant on socio economic health. Um, so, uh, the approach to health assessment in, in this, um, EIA has been done. So as discussed, it's disparate throughout the ES topics. Um, uh, I can give a full list of those that have been considered for their health impacts. Um, these have been though also set out at the beginning of the health section, uh 21.5, in chapter 21 of the ES, um, which is document app 059.

00:04:59:19 - 00:05:32:21

Um, so it's only where significant residual effects anticipated as a result of the scheme. Um, that have a clear pathway to, um, creating a health effect that have been brought forward into that summarized section. Um, this approach is consistent with EMA guidance. Um, in their sort of effective scoping of Human health by environmental Impact assessment document. Um, and as we've discussed previously, this was agreed by Pins and scoping opinion at the beginning of this process.

00:05:34:17 - 00:06:05:27

Um, the assessment of the human health impacts is based on looking at the effects identified throughout these technical topics, um, through human health and wellbeing lens to identify where those impacts, as previously assessed, have a pathway to impacting on the human health and well-being of the general population in the area, that the scheme may affect, and certain population groups within those.

00:06:06:26 - 00:06:41:28

Again, it's only where that pathway is identifiable that these have been considered as human health effects. Um, again, this is in keeping with EMA guidance, um, on human health in EIA, um, in determining the significance of those effects to human health and well-being, predominantly, it's been based on the significance of effect as reported in the ES technical topics. Um, but a level of professional judgement has been applied to that. Um, particularly where, um, there's a more subjective element to how those effects may be felt.

00:06:43:25 - 00:06:44:12

Um.

00:06:46:01 - 00:07:25:07

As part of that assessment, we have been cognizant to sort of wider determinants of health as have been sort of discussed by IPS through their written reports, including mental health and wellbeing. Um, this has include an assessment of wellbeing impacts such as um, glint and glare having an effect on residential amenity and the wellbeing sort of impacts associated with that. Similarly, the residential amenity impacts of construction and operational noise have been considered as health impacts, um, as have the desirability and use of recreational facilities, um, in and around where the scheme is.

00:07:25:09 - 00:08:05:00

So that includes um formal and informal facilities such as sports facilities, playgrounds, but then also public rights of way and other, um, recreational routes or navigable waterways. Um. All of these impacts, all of these have been assessed as human health and wellbeing considerations because there is a pathway between an original um impacts such as the noise impact, clinical impact or um, impact on sort of tourism recreation use for the ones that I've just um, for the ones I've just mentioned.

00:08:05:21 - 00:08:40:15

Um, and to ensure that the assessment of the, um, to ensure that the level of assessment made is proportionate, um, these impacts have been applied to the population generally as a whole in the area covered by the scheme rather than individuals, um, who may be particular sensitive, particularly sensitive to change. Again, this is consistent with making sure that the, uh assessment of health impacts is proportionate as set out by the guidance.

00:08:41:15 - 00:09:26:18

Um. The. Way in which cumulative health impacts have been assessed, uses the same methodology in terms of using the cumulative assessment in each of the technical topics, and then applying that health and wellbeing lens to those to see what significance effect to populations, health and well-being would be. Um, as mentioned by Miss Broderick earlier, whilst what we presented in the DCO application at the moment is a summary and really only covers the significant effects that have been identified, um, we have the availability to produce a more.

00:09:27:05 - 00:09:46:26

Comprehensive document that goes into the background of how each and every health and wellbeing consideration was made, and why those were why those that were deemed to be considered a book significant were then taken forward into section 2020 1.5 of the year.

00:09:51:07 - 00:09:55:21

Thank you for setting that out. Mr. Flynn. So I'm interested in.

00:09:58:16 - 00:10:12:15

That is coordinated. I think Broderick used the term more user friendly version of being able to see all those health impacts together. Uh, I'd like to.

00:10:14:28 - 00:10:37:19

Invite IPS and I can see some hands up. Having heard the applicant's approach, please may I please feel free to comment. I'll go first to Mr. Pryor. I can see Mrs. Warren would like to come in as well, Mr. Pryor. Uh, thank you sir. Um, Mark. Mark Pryor, 7000 acres. Um, once again, we've made.

00:10:37:24 - 00:11:13:26

Written reports on this topic which have not been addressed. Um, Doctor Park in our, um, um, medical professional spoke at the open floor hearing and outlined our concerns. And again, those have not been addressed. Um, I note that the applicant specialist does not have a medical, um, background. Therefore his evidence is not that of an expert. And we think they should employ an expert to actually take care of this issue.

00:11:14:08 - 00:11:36:16

And, and, um, several times we have requested an issue, uh, specific hearing on health, which I think would help to pull all of the issues into one because, uh, there is a lot to, um, consider the effects on, um, human health and especially mental health.

00:11:39:23 - 00:11:48:24

Thank you, Mr. Pryor. Yes, I do recall the issues raised at open floor. Hearing one.

00:11:54:25 - 00:11:58:22

I'll bring in Mrs. Warren. At this point, Mrs. Warren.

00:11:59:06 - 00:12:39:14

Uh, Christine Warren. Uh, underneath the cooling towers and power station. I think I've voiced my opinions on the research of the lack of research with everything that's going on around the power

station, and there's never been any research. I have, um, I have spoken to my GP. He was going to start. I'm going to start sending him, um, documents from the meetings. And he's going to and his practice manager are now going to start assessing, um, health if it if we have, if there's any impact in the next few years from, uh, projects at the West Burton power station, I have I have asked them to if they will, uh, get involved and they're quite happy to do so.

00:12:41:23 - 00:13:14:04

Thank you for that. I'll ask Mr. Flynn to respond on a number of those points. I suppose really the issue around a number of concerns from 7000 acres that have previously been raised. And maybe to comment on the the possibility of this, this further document and any progress on that and whether or not that might um.

00:13:15:02 - 00:13:24:29

Be used. As a reference point for IPS to see which aspects they remain to have concerns on.

00:13:27:13 - 00:14:02:16

Uh, Clare project the applicant. Um, just in relation to the document that we mentioned. Obviously, we've noted that you think that that would be useful for this examination. Um, a version of that document was similarly was requested on the Cottam um, solar project, and that was submitted at the last deadline. So that is the type of document we are proposing to prepare for this examination. Um, and that can be, um, provided for, for deadline for as I say, it's a way of bringing together and providing, um, a bit more detail in one document.

00:14:02:18 - 00:14:33:16

It also, um, summarizes some of the concerns that have been raised by interested parties and how, um, the assessment that's been undertaken, um, is adequate to address those comments. Um, just in relation to some of the points raised, um, by, um, 7000 acres. Um, as Mr. Flynn said, the um, health assessment has been carried out in accordance with my EMA guidance, and there is no requirement for that assessment to be carried out by a medical professional.

00:14:33:18 - 00:15:04:02

That's not, um, a requirement of the guidance. Um, I think the issue we have here is a misunderstanding of what the assessment is. The assessment here is looking at, um, the, uh, assessment and conclusion of the impacts on various other environmental topics and then bringing that together at the pathways that Mr. Flynn, um, mentioned. A number of interested parties don't agree with the conclusions on those topics.

00:15:04:04 - 00:15:12:11

So, for example, the impacts on, um, residential amenity or the impacts on, um, uh.

00:15:14:15 - 00:16:02:15

Visual receptors, for example. Um, so naturally it will mean that they don't agree with the conclusions of the, um in terms of health impacts on on health. Um, so I think we just wanted to recognize that this is a wider issue. It's not it, whilst it's being presented as um. The applicant not having carried out. Sufficient assessment. The applicant's position is that it has is just that there is a disagreement over the impacts of this scheme on a variety of different types of receptors that it has resulted in, um, interested

parties perhaps not agreeing with the conclusions of the assessment on health or um, suggesting that it's not sufficient, I think.

00:16:03:01 - 00:16:33:10

Okay. I think that's understood. But the point being, if a similar document than you say is being prepared for Csam can be prepared for West Burton Solar project that can be submitted into the examination for deadline for and comments on that can then, um, be taken at subsequent deadlines and or through subsequent request for information or hearings.

00:16:36:03 - 00:16:50:28

So now that the applicant has set out its approach. Is there anything? On that point that local authorities or other IPS. Would like to rathe. Just checking online.

00:16:55:14 - 00:16:57:08

As well. No. Okay.

00:17:06:11 - 00:17:09:26

Whilst on the topic of health and health impact.

00:17:11:15 - 00:17:44:11

I note in relevant reps and in responses to first written questions, that Lincolnshire County Council's public health department had been undertaking some research, or a public health study on the impact of solar farms on local communities. Health. I understand that that may have paused from the response to first written questions, but there is an ongoing commitment to make it available should it progress it.

00:17:44:21 - 00:17:48:24

Is there an update on that from Lincolnshire County?

00:17:54:13 - 00:18:06:17

Stephanie Hall, Lincolnshire County Council. I'm afraid not. Um, it's still paused, as far as we're aware. Um, we don't have any indication to update the examining authority in terms of when that might resume and if so, when it would report.

00:18:07:08 - 00:18:08:16

Okay. Thank you.

00:18:16:28 - 00:18:19:21

Looking at the health study area.

00:18:22:04 - 00:18:31:19

Both Lincolnshire County Council and West Lindsey District Council made comments around the health study area not being agreed.

00:18:35:02 - 00:19:08:06

Though. I'd like to hear any comments from local authorities on that. In response to first written questions. 1.6.2 West Lindsey District Council commented on the absence of taking account of policy S 54 and its speed on health impacts of development. So I would like to West Lindsey District Council, if possible, to just elaborate somewhat on that, and then I will hear from the applicant on these points.

00:19:08:20 - 00:19:13:05

There was a point in their initiative around the 500 meter buffer.

00:19:14:26 - 00:19:28:06

Again. That relates, I think, to the health study area. So first of all, um, West Lindsey District Council, is there anything you'd like to update or state in relation to the health impacts?

00:19:32:21 - 00:20:02:23

Uh, yes. Thank you sir. Russell Claussen, Western district council, uh. Yeah, the 500 meter mark, I think. I think it's one of the things we're mindful of is particularly the cumulative aspects, both both in terms of this development and the fact that it is three individual sites and, um, cumulatively with overdevelopment. So the situation is we're going to have the potential for members of our population. This is a very rural community which defines our culture.

00:20:03:13 - 00:20:43:03

Uh, and the situation was people that are potentially outside 500m of West Burton, maybe outside 500m of Houghton, but very much within between the two. And therefore it's going to be very much how they perceive, uh, you know, how this affects them, uh, both, both mentally and physical health in terms of the enjoyment of the surrounding environment and the potential that there's those that will be tween those areas, really. So it's the situation where the 500 meter derived from and in this situation, which is, you know, fairly unique, where we have a number of these types of development throughout the district, those, you know, they're outside those, those buffers, really.

00:20:43:05 - 00:20:45:12

So that's really the point we were trying to get to. So.

00:20:47:25 - 00:21:03:06

Thank you. Uh Lincolnshire County Council made similar response to first written questions. I suppose. Summarising basically, the health study area had not been agreed with Lincolnshire County Council.

00:21:06:24 - 00:21:15:27

It, says Stephanie Hall, Lincoln County Council. Yes, I think our comments, as we we weren't aware that it had been agreed, but not that we're taking a substantive point on it.

00:21:18:03 - 00:21:18:20

Okay.

00:21:21:18 - 00:21:27:18

Mrs. Warren, is this on health study and area? Okay.

00:21:28:20 - 00:22:04:09

Christine Warren, underneath the cooling towers, West Burton power station. As the project goes between two counties between Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire. I do the, um, surveys. Do we have two different surveys or do we join Lincolnshire and Nottingham? Although we are two completely different counties and we're quite a few miles away. Um, do we, are we actually assessed as two two counties or do you keep combining everything into one? Um, as I said, we're two counties, not one.

00:22:06:08 - 00:22:36:10

Thank you. Okay, I'll. I'll ask the applicant to respond as suppose there's a conjoining of a number of points there. First of all, on the, the use of the 500 meter buffer and how and where that comes from, um, and whether or not there is. An option. As you've heard, West Lindsey District Council say the nature of the rural area may may differ from an arbitrary 500 meter buffer.

00:22:36:12 - 00:22:51:05

And then if you could just briefly set out the the data and the differences between administrative county boundaries and where the data sets come from, and that the survey indeed covers the entire scheme.

00:22:53:18 - 00:23:24:26

Thank you, Mr. Flynn, for the applicant. Um, I think this may be a point of, um, confirmation on my side that, um, as a result of the health, um, assessment being based on a number of isotopic chapters, um, the study area for each of those topics is individually derived by those topic authors. Um, so the 500 meter buffer specifically is in regard to noise and vibration impacts and air quality impacts.

00:23:25:18 - 00:24:08:25

Um, when it comes to other, um, sort of points that have been brought into the health assessment, they've been done on different study area. So, for example, anything to do with um, socioeconomics, um, deprivation. Um, that's been done at the local impact level as defined in the socioeconomics chapter. Um, and that is the combined area of West Lindsey District and Basketball District. Um, then for things like recreational facilities and impacts on desirability and use of those and the health impacts that result from those, um, they're done on a sort of a much more individual localized basis.

00:24:08:28 - 00:24:46:13

Um, so it's much more in terms of the health impact area is defined by the type of impact, rather than having a set, defined area under which all health and well-being aspects are covered. Um, which hopefully sort of addresses the, the points that have been made by, um, the local authorities. And we are also currently responding to those written reps. Um, and we'll do for deadline for um in response to the, the, the um, the point raised about which sort of study areas are used.

00:24:46:21 - 00:25:19:03

Um, for those larger impacts such as, um, employment deprivation. Um, Bassetlaw and West Lindsey have been sort of this has been sourced individually. Um, based on the information that is available to us. Um, so whether that be um, census data, um, that could be, um, the office for Health Improvements and Disparities data, which is what I understand is used for the county level joint strategic needs assessment.



00:25:19:08 - 00:25:45:00

Um, so just to confirm basically that we're using the same data source, even if, um, it's not quite going through the same document processes might be, might be expected, but, um. All of the data across the local impact area for West Lindsey and Bassetlaw districts have been, um, included in the assessments where it is necessary to cover those areas.

00:25:46:20 - 00:25:52:09

Thank you. Was that Office of Health disparity, just for my record.

00:26:00:12 - 00:26:04:11

Apologies. The office for Health Improvement and Disparities rebounded.

00:26:04:20 - 00:26:05:25

Okay. Thank you.

00:26:11:03 - 00:26:13:06

Okay, I'll.

00:26:14:23 - 00:26:21:27

There was an issue around this Westland District Council SPD and policy S 54.

00:26:23:15 - 00:26:24:19

A mr..

00:26:28:07 - 00:26:37:20

Clarkson. Would you like to. Is there anything else you'd like to say on, um, that speedy point before other IPS are invited?

00:26:43:02 - 00:27:11:02

Russell Clarkson, West Lindsey district Council. Uh, really? We feel it's still outstanding. We we have a policy which addresses these points. It is for large sites, uh, and, and and the way the policy is written is, is an iterative basis really that, that that health impact assessment should feed into the design and development itself? Um, and to point we we don't to this point feel that that's yet to be addressed, sir.

00:27:14:02 - 00:27:14:19

Okay.

00:27:18:10 - 00:27:37:12

I'd like to hear how the applicant wants, uh, may respond to that point on the. The local policy context. But first, Mrs. Warren, I think you had your hand up a moment ago. Is it back down now? It's still up. Okay.

00:27:39:07 - 00:27:39:22

Okay.

00:27:41:04 - 00:27:48:27

Uh, Christine Warren underneath the cooling towers, West Point and power station, you said. Um, where are your data sourced? Where is your data sourced from?

00:27:51:15 - 00:28:27:22

Okay. Thank you. So two points there. One. I'd like to hear how the applicant considers that the local policy context may have been taken into account. And secondly, I think you gave a number of sources of data, Mrs. Barnett. I think it's just seeking clarification. Maybe expand a little on that and just give some reassurance. I think that you may have previously, given that that is similar data to that which is used by local authorities in joint strategic needs assessments.

00:28:27:27 - 00:28:34:02

Mr. Flynn, if you if you could take those two points and then I think we'll be moving on to item B.

00:28:37:14 - 00:29:09:27

Uh, thank you, Mr. Flynn, for the applicant. Um, with regard to policy, s 54 and the need for a health impact assessment separately from what has already been covered in the ES. Um, it's the applicant's position that we feel that the scope of a high. It would largely be the same as what is already covered in the s. Um, and we're not aware that there's any there's been any requirement for a standalone gateway in preparation for any other sovereign SIPs so far.

00:29:10:25 - 00:29:45:21

Um. Furthermore, the process for scoping HIPAA in respect of entities, we would expect to be done at the same time as the EIA scoping. Um, to make sure that they were conjoined. And it was our understanding, um, as the applicant, that the scope for covering the health assessment in the ES was agreed by local authorities and then also by Pins as well. And at that point and up to the point the DCO application was made.

00:29:45:23 - 00:30:39:28

There wasn't any specific request made for a standalone HRA. So. Whilst we understand that that may be slightly at odds with the specific wording of policy section 54 in respect to producing here separately, um, we don't think that we're in disagreement with, um, the sort of the policy aims, and we think that the scheme is able to beneficially contribute towards some of those with respect to employment and, um, improvements to deprivation, um, as has been sort of um, as has been assessed in, in the is um, moving on then to just clarifying some of the sources used for um, health impacts, um, across the US.

00:30:40:18 - 00:30:41:05

Um.

00:30:42:27 - 00:31:19:18

A lot of these have also been used for, um, the baseline health um assessment in the socio economics um chapter, which is, is chapter 18 or um document app 056. Um, so this has all been sourced online. Um, but it's taken from 2021 census data for self assessed health um and physical health attributes.

Um the indices of multiple deprivation 2019 is what's been used to, um, understand deprivation in the area.

00:31:19:20 - 00:31:51:21

The Office of Health Improvement and Disparities. Um, has been used to ensure that we've got the most up to date information that we can on prevalence of physical and health disabilities within the study area. Um, we've looked at, um, individual, um, GP, um, provision for health care based on, um, open source data from the NHS. Um, so that's how we've derived the level of access to primary health care within the study area.

00:31:52:04 - 00:32:11:15

Um, and then we've also used, um, the Department of Work and Pensions records for disability, um, allowance recipients. Um, just to sort of ensure that that baseline information, um, covers as many of the sort of health and wellbeing baseline, um, impacts as we can.

00:32:13:09 - 00:32:39:22

Thank you, Mr. Flynn. Okay, so we will be moving on to items B and C, not together, but separately from what Mr. Flynn has said. Is there any other comments having heard about the approach to. S, uh, policy s 54 and the speedy. Okay. Mrs. Warren.

00:32:41:17 - 00:32:58:20

Christine Warren underneath cooling towers. West Burton. Was this survey done pre or post Covid because health if it was post cut pre Covid there's been a lot of uh more illnesses post Covid. So therefore people will be more susceptible to illness post Covid.

00:32:59:16 - 00:33:29:10

Thank you I suppose from the source data. We can. Work out where the the source data comes from. Based on the date. Um, Mr. Flynn, would you just clarify when. The components of each chapter within the environmental state. Win. When App documents relating to the environmental statement were put together.

00:33:32:10 - 00:34:06:15

Mr. Flynn for the applicant. Um, yeah. So all of the baseline data was collected between, um, May 2022 and February 2023. Um, sort of in the lead up or in the lead up to pier, um, section 52, um, statutory consultation. And then it was revised thereafter in the time up to the DCO application. Um, if it would be helpful, I can give some of the, the dates of the data themselves if that would provide any sort of level of clarity.

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

Um, so the 2021 census was March 2021, which was in the middle of Covid. Um, the. Information on indices of multiple deprivation is from 2019, which is prior to Covid. Um. The office for Health Improvement and Disparities data was taken depending on the um receptor or the the the measurement that was taken was between 2020 and 2022. So that was during and then after Covid, um, uh, primary healthcare data was from December 2022.

00:34:45:10 - 00:35:06:07

Um, so that's the level of sort of GP's, um, nurses and sort of, um, healthcare in the, in, in the area and then Department for Work and Pensions data that's taken from October, I believe 2022. Um, I may have to double check which month it was, but it was definitely the year of 2022 for that data.

00:35:07:21 - 00:35:17:14

Thank you, Mr. Flynn. Uh, before we've gone to item B, so still on item A, Mr. price, 7000 acres.

00:35:17:22 - 00:35:53:02

Uh, thank you to Mark Pryor for 7000 acres. We still have have concerns that, um, the issues we've raised have not been addressed. And, um, I've been advised by our, um, medical specialist that conducting a desktop assessment by a non, um, specialist does not really address the issues. So we will, uh, comment again in, um, writing because because this is, this is, is a major issue.

00:35:53:04 - 00:36:14:08

And you may have fulfilled, um, what the, um, requirements say, but it does not address the impact in terms of, of health and especially mental health on the people that will be affected by the five schemes now planned.

00:36:17:04 - 00:36:29:22

Thank you, Mr. Pryor. So those. Comments. Will be submitted into the examination at the next deadline. Thank you. Okay.

00:36:33:02 - 00:36:34:29

In that case, item B.

00:36:36:23 - 00:36:45:22

Continuation really to do with health. This is health equality and the variable impact on different communities.

00:36:47:25 - 00:37:13:00

Links to item A above in the agenda. The concern is summarized that various parts, areas, or communities within or adjoining the project or limits are more deprived areas where negative health impacts may be disproportionately harmful, IPS have suggested. But the way health is covered desperately, which we have discussed, does not allow for full impact on these communities.

00:37:15:13 - 00:37:30:17

Number of. Areas have been referenced to such. Examples include on Gainsborough itself, which IP's point out it is an area of deprivation. Additionally, reference has been made to Gypsy and Traveller site on the.

00:37:32:14 - 00:37:35:12

Although outside the order limits per se.

00:37:39:26 - 00:38:08:24

And I asked the applicant to respond to the critique and whether or not steps should have been taken to include or address these communities and the differential impact health impacts on them. So, first

of all, Mr. Flynn, you'll be aware of these representations. I'd like to just hear from you on. How or how they have been addressed.

00:38:10:23 - 00:38:47:05

Thank you, Mr. Flynn, for the applicant. Um, the as as we as I sort of said in my response to party where the baseline data has been, um, collected from, um, this has been used to identify where geographically, um, and in which demographics, um, health inequalities exist within the population of the local impact area. Um, given that much of um, this crosses over with the socioeconomics um section of the is that is the the area that is being assessed.

00:38:47:07 - 00:39:26:04

So for um, things like deprivation. Um, this has been um, this data has been used to identify vulnerable groups and determine the sensitivity of these groups to changes in the environment as a result of the scheme. Um, and that therefore contributes to the determination of the sensitivity of the population as a whole to those changes, um, with specific regard to deprivation. Um. Whilst we have in the is given a single level of sensitivity towards deprivation across the local impact area.

00:39:26:18 - 00:39:53:06

Um, that is fully cognizant of um specific deprivation in places like Gainsborough with regard to access to employment and um, access to education, hence why those have been taken forward as the most sort of prominent aspects in, um, the assessment of deprivation, both in regards to socioeconomics and the resultant health impacts thereof. Um.

00:39:55:16 - 00:40:34:13

The reason for bringing this together into determining a sensitivity of the population as a whole, um, is to make sure that the assessment of those human health and wellbeing impacts is proportionate to the likely significance of the scheme's effects. Um, again, we've been very careful to make sure that that's done in, um, respect of EMA guidance. Um, by assessing, as we said, health impacts on the population or, if needed, targeted population groups within that rather than looking at very sort of specific, um, individuals or groups.

00:40:35:21 - 00:41:09:15

Um, moving on then to um, the particular point raised by some of the IPS. I think what's 7000 acres about? Um, the, um, Gypsy and Traveller site at Oda. The concern raised is primarily around flooding. Um, downstream of scheme. Um. Given that the residual um, effects from flooding as identified in the hydrology chapter, um, don't assess that there is any significant effect.

00:41:09:28 - 00:41:29:05

It wasn't taken forward as a sort of it wasn't taken forward as a point of note, because it wasn't then deemed to be any sort of disproportionate level of impact on any or any vulnerable group. Um, in that respect.

00:41:32:20 - 00:41:34:08

Thank you, Mr. Flynn.

00:41:37:18 - 00:41:38:15

So on.

00:41:40:12 - 00:41:46:15

On. First written questions 1.6.8 I think there was some.

00:41:48:23 - 00:42:25:19

Acknowledgement that there are differences in how urban and rural settings assess should be different differences in how urban and rural settings should be assessed, but the applicant set out that it considers that. Those differences have been taken into account in the assessment. And the Atkins set out. I think it was 2 or 3 bullet points about how the difference between urban and rural settings and health impacts have been accommodated.

00:42:26:15 - 00:42:46:08

Could you just elaborate a little on that and give the examination the benefit of some of the experience about the differential impact between community, a rural community and elsewhere in the country that may be more predominantly urban?

00:42:51:06 - 00:43:04:11

Uh, Mr. Flynn for the applicant. Um, yes. There has been a level of acknowledgement that the rural setting plays a different role to health and wellbeing compared to an urban setting, but, um.

00:43:05:29 - 00:43:12:13

The points that being raised in direct response to, um, the examiner's questions. Um.

00:43:14:05 - 00:43:45:23

Um, I had hoped I had sort of set those out, but, um, I can, yeah, provide a bit more detail on those points. Um, so the level of sensitivity towards access to primary healthcare is the main determinant for where I've said about understanding the need for traveling to access healthcare or for healthcare providers to be able to access the areas. So that has been given a greater level of sensitivity in terms of the assessment of that, um, just understanding that, um.

00:43:46:16 - 00:44:18:00

Yeah. There was there was obviously a greater need to travel longer distances to access healthcare, um, in rural settings. Um, going on to the second point, um, the importance of recreational facilities, um, within the countryside. Um, again, we've. Done our best to sort of acknowledge that these play a greater role in how people sort of, um, exercise and the impact on their mental wellbeing.

00:44:18:08 - 00:44:52:10

And the relevant level of importance of those is different compared to people who have sort of access to more formalized facilities in urban settings. Um, and then the same is true then for why we've specifically talked about recreational facilities that do exist in some of the sort of the small villages, um, particularly for sports and for youth, um, groups as well. So it's it's been considered in how sensitive those are then to impacts from the scheme.

00:44:55:29 - 00:45:03:21

Thank you. I'll just invite comments. So I think Mrs. Warren had her hand raised first, Mrs. Warren.

00:45:05:11 - 00:45:40:12

Christine Warren underneath the cooling towers, West Boat and power station. In one part of that, you said flooding. Um, did you mean water flooding or flooding of people? Because it. The impact of the flooding is enormous around here. Um, if you look at the, uh, uh, Gainsborough at the minute, the, uh, trench just burst its banks and we couldn't get over the over the, um, bridge, uh, into Gainsborough. Um, and I just heard you said flooding, and I didn't catch where you thought flooding from the.

00:45:40:14 - 00:45:48:03

The reference to flooding was in relation to a specific site elsewhere in, in the area.

00:45:50:22 - 00:45:51:10

Okay.

00:45:54:24 - 00:45:57:15

Thank you. Mr. Pryor.

00:45:58:13 - 00:46:33:12

Uh, thank you, sir. Mark Pryor, 70,000 acres. At the risk of sounding a bit like a static record. Um, I would just like to make the point again, that a desktop assessment is not enough to assess the impact on health, and especially mental health. You need a health professional, and you need to look at the profile of the area, including the age and the profile of of the people concerned.

00:46:33:14 - 00:46:46:00

So I think using a planner to do a health assessment, it is extremely weak and you do need a specialist for this role. Thank you.

00:46:46:22 - 00:46:49:27

Thank you for that point. Okay. I'm.

00:46:52:22 - 00:47:04:18

Going to move on to. Item three. Now. Is there a need for any rearranging of your personnel? Broderick.

00:47:06:27 - 00:47:07:25

Okay. Uh.

00:47:08:24 - 00:47:13:26

Um, no, Mr. Flynn is, uh, is dealing with item C as well. I did just want to.

00:47:15:15 - 00:47:23:10

Briefly respond to the point, backed by 7000 acres in relation to, um, desktop assessment, I think. Okay. Yeah.

00:47:23:21 - 00:47:24:16

Moving on to item.

00:47:24:22 - 00:47:58:05

Before we move on to item C, um, I think there is a misunderstanding of the actual process of undertaking, um, an environmental impact assessment in accordance with the regulations. Um, environmental impact assessment consists of a combination of different items, including um. Reviewing material that is publicly available and obtaining information from carrying out specific site surveys on the ground. All of that information is then taken together, and the environmental impact assessment process is carried out and an environmental statement is produced.

00:47:58:07 - 00:48:14:10

It is completely incorrect to say that desktop analysis is not compliant with the Environmental Impact Assessment regulations. So I just wanted to make that point, and we've already said that the assessment that's been carried out is in accordance with AMA guidance. Okay.

00:48:14:12 - 00:48:23:21

I think Mr. Bryan's point was that. Specifically related to health. And he's nodding. Okay.

00:48:25:19 - 00:48:41:25

Both points are noted, and I'm with us on, um. So item C is the impact of the proposal on the local industrial strategy. And. Other economic objectives.

00:48:46:11 - 00:49:17:05

IPS, including 7000 acres, have raised. But the certainty of delivery of local employment and other benefits is an issue of concern. They've also referred to various parts of the order limits being within close proximity to areas of deprivation. Given this, how can communities have confidence in the ability to deliver employment benefits and other benefit? Other economic benefits outlined? Some first going to put this to the applicant.

00:49:17:11 - 00:49:25:25

Uh, Mr. Flynn. What confidence or certainty can local communities have that employment benefits will be seen locally? Um.

00:49:30:14 - 00:49:46:12

Without necessarily going into relative or absolute areas of deprivation. If you could just outline the measures that the applicant is putting forward to enable local communities to access those benefits.

00:49:49:27 - 00:50:21:03

Uh, Mr. Flynn for the applicant. Um, so as part of the DCO application, we've, um, provided an outline, skills supply chain and employment plan. That's document app uh, 3.9, um, which sets out how. How the, um, how the applicant, um, seeks to ensure that, um, the the economic benefits, the employment benefits, uh, from the scheme can be, um, directed towards the local area, as in as great a way as possible.

00:50:21:18 - 00:50:58:09



Um, including what measures can be used to include um, for those who are sort of or those who have sort of at the moment, greater difficulties in accessing that level of employment. Um, same is true for education and skills and qualifications, qualified qualification attainment, um, in that there are a number of measures set out within the outlined skills supply chain employment plan um, which seek to um, help to develop the sort of skill level of um, the local area.

00:50:58:18 - 00:51:25:25

Um, generally it's been measured at the level of the local impact area. So it's across West Lindsey and Bassetlaw district. Um, based on the socio economic assessment set out, um, in the. Yes. Um, I appreciate this is quite an overview at the moment. That's just because I haven't, um, prepared too much on that subject specifically. But if you have any sort of follow up questions with more than happy to take those away and answer them in writing.

00:51:27:15 - 00:52:11:15

Project is to add on the, um, outline skills and supply chain employment plan. Um, in response to, um, some comments that were made by West Lindsey District Council during the Cottam examination, um, the outlined skills and supply chain uh employment plan was updated at the last deadline on Cottam to make some of the commitments, um, more certain um, in that document, whilst also retaining sufficient flexibility for the, um, initiatives that are in place within both, um, West Lindsey and Bassetlaw at that particular point of construction, you know, so the plan can can accommodate different proposals that might be, um, available at that point in time.

00:52:11:23 - 00:52:47:25

Um, we would be proposing to make the same amendments, um, to this, to the version of the outline skills of Supply Chain and employment plan, um, for West Burton and submit that at deadline for we don't believe that West Burton and that West Lindsey District Council had any other specific comments, um, in relation to the cotton version other than to make the commitments more certain. But obviously, if there are specific additional provisions that they would like in respect of this particular scheme as distinct from the cotton scheme, um, then we'd be more than happy to consider those and update the plan accordingly.

00:52:47:27 - 00:53:02:07

But I just thought I'd give that update just in terms of I appreciate obviously, we're repeating a lot of the discussions we've had in other hearings. Um, and it just thought might be helpful to say that we were posing to address what I imagine will be the same comments actively.

00:53:02:11 - 00:53:29:01

Thank you. I'll just throw that over to the district council. Yes. Appreciate that discussions going on on other schemes. But it is helpful that we hear them. Here, and it can't be taken for granted that. Any of that will necessarily be communicated to or understood by the examining authority for this scheme. So would you just be able to respond to what you've heard there?

00:53:29:13 - 00:53:29:28

Yes, sir.

00:53:30:00 - 00:54:02:22

Alex Blake, uh, West Lindsey District Council, um, well, the agenda item is about the impact of this proposal, um, upon, uh, a policy point, really, on the local industrial strategy, um, having, you know, spoken with the council's economic growth team. This project in itself doesn't compromise that strategy. If that's where the question was going. There's not an issue here that the, um, you know, that there is a, uh, this project would present an impediment to the delivery of that, uh, strategy.

00:54:02:24 - 00:54:39:06

As it stands, it's still, um, in evolution. Um, so I think that's point number one, just to be clear on that from West Lindsay's perspective, um, the point the applicants just made around the jobs and skills, uh, strategy, I mean, that relates specifically to the project and our point on, uh, for previous projects, and this one is just to provide some certainty around that delivery commitment. So really, that point is I see them as separate actually wins a policy point. And, you know, the impact of this on the local industrial strategy ones about how do we, uh, ensure the commitments made within this project are delivered so they are slightly separate.

00:54:39:08 - 00:54:43:00

But I take I'm, you know, grateful for the clarification and wholly agree with what has been said.

00:54:45:06 - 00:55:01:25

Thank you for that. Yes. We hadn't moved on to the local industrial strategy yet. But you've preempted. No. That's fine. It's preempted at a later point, but it may obviate the need. To go down that route.

00:55:11:13 - 00:55:18:25

Any comments from interested parties. The issue has been raised. Frequently. Um.

00:55:24:23 - 00:55:33:15

About what certainty and how local communities can. Have some certainty of accessing the employment benefits.

00:55:35:20 - 00:55:41:08

The issue about differential impacts on areas of high level deprivation has also made a number of times.

00:55:43:09 - 00:55:50:26

Having heard the discussion. That's been set out to do any IPS have any comments to make there?

00:55:53:10 - 00:55:54:06

No. Okay.

00:55:56:03 - 00:56:02:03

On the link to the. Industrial strategy and other economic objectives.

00:56:08:11 - 00:56:28:07

7000 acres, among others, had referred to the Local Industrial Strategy 2021. Pointed out that. Local Industrial Strategy had not been considered. In their view, extensive large scale solar would undermine regional objectives for the agrifood and visitor sectors.

00:56:30:01 - 00:56:38:09

You state that with regard to renewable energy, the key area of focus for the region stated as being development offshore wind as well as carbon capture.

00:56:40:16 - 00:57:00:15

And reference back to written representations of 7000 acres. I'll just ask the applicant to respond. I think we have heard slightly already from West Lindsey District Council on the point, but I will just. Write that to the applicant in the first case.

00:57:02:08 - 00:57:41:02

Mr. Flynn for the applicant. Um, so, yes, even though it's not been explicitly referenced, um, in the socioeconomics, uh, chapter, um, the greater Lincolnshire, um, local industrial strategy has been, um, considered. Um. As well as its um, as as well as its supporting document, which is the economic plan for growth also in 2021. Um, both of these are evidence or have been used as evidence based documents for the production of the local plan, um, in Central Lincolnshire.

00:57:41:04 - 00:58:01:02

And as such, um have helped to form the policy on sort of economic growth. And um, as, as I suppose that is where the policy is. That is where we've then directly referenced from, um, rather than the strategic document. Um,

00:58:02:18 - 00:58:33:24

that being said, the outline, skills, supply chain and employment plan, um, does make explicit reference to the local industrial strategy and how the scheme can contribute towards that. Um, it doesn't just do so for the greater Lincolnshire area. We've also considered the, um, Derby, Derbyshire and Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnerships documents which basically mirror those that have been done by the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

00:58:34:12 - 00:59:05:16

Um, and so both sets have been considered in how, how the scheme sort of contributes towards those. Um, um. But if we want to use the sort of the specific term impacts, the applicant is confident that we don't adversely impact upon any of the strategies set out within the local industrial strategy. And, um, it sounds so from discussions today that that isn't in question.

00:59:08:01 - 00:59:10:23

Thank you, Mr. Flynn. Yes. Uh.

00:59:12:14 - 00:59:32:14

I think the point has been answered. But, Mr. Blake, you were you had liaised with the relevant team within West Lindsey District Council on the local industrial strategy and couldn't see a conflict between. The project and the objectives and the wider objectives of the Industrial Strategy.

00:59:33:03 - 01:00:05:02

I'll explain. West Lindsey District Council. Yes. I mean the stage of development of the strategy. Um, it's such that there isn't any the there isn't a precision or a point at which this project would, you know, directly, um, you know, prevent the delivery of that strategy at all. Um, there are components in there around the energy sector as a whole, unsurprisingly for this, this district and the existing infrastructure around. Um, so, no, um, that there isn't you know, I concur with what the applicant has just said in terms of the context and how it's been dealt with.

01:00:06:10 - 01:00:07:27

Thank you. Okay.

01:00:10:15 - 01:00:15:22

Would any IPS like to comment on this point? Okay. Okay.

01:00:19:23 - 01:00:29:03

Before moving on, then would any IP's wish to comment on any other items under item five?

01:00:32:26 - 01:00:39:01

No. In that case, moving on not to item six.

01:00:40:18 - 01:00:43:08

But to item seven.

01:00:50:09 - 01:01:02:00

Other matters, as it looks like we are nearing the end of the issue specific hearing and likely to close, it is unlikely that tomorrow morning's reserved session will be needed.

01:01:04:08 - 01:01:40:20

A reminder that those items not covered in issue specific hearing three and issues specific hearing for these matters may be dealt with via another hearing, either blended or virtual, only by written submissions or rule 17 request for information or mixture of the of those. The examining authority will confirm as soon as possible their decision on the format in which this will take. If another hearing is scheduled for notice will be issued within the required statutory timescales, and other agenda will be published no later than five working days before the scheduled hearing.

01:01:43:11 - 01:01:51:17

To any other attendees have other matters to raise at this point. Mr. McBride.

01:01:54:10 - 01:02:07:24

Extending what I think is the kind of council just really what I sort of put a marker down yesterday in relation to waste and whether we're going to discuss that at all today or whether that's going to be left to another hearing.

01:02:11:07 - 01:02:17:04

You did. And. Waste does feature under the.

01:02:19:14 - 01:02:22:20

Item. Six of the agenda.

01:02:24:15 - 01:02:37:24

As item six is being held over the answers that will be held over for another day. But the point is noted that Lincolnshire County Council wish for those, um, for those comments to be made.

01:02:44:06 - 01:02:44:29

Okay.

01:02:48:02 - 01:02:54:08

Item eight is review of actions and I have a number for deadline for.

01:02:57:01 - 01:03:13:05

The first of which relates to noise survey and continuation of dialogue between Muslims, the District Council and the applicant on. I've noted that there are around 12 points that are being worked through and to update by deadline for.

01:03:17:09 - 01:03:31:26

A general point, for it was made to West Lindsey District Council, but could be applicable to other local authorities to provide wording on any aspects of any management plan which they consider may be needed.

01:03:34:15 - 01:03:47:20

Earlier, we took a curtailed item three. Where the. Discussion is around Nottinghamshire County Council, Lincolnshire County Council and the applicant

01:03:49:05 - 01:03:59:24

so providing written scheme investigations and without prejudice version of that early next week, so that a response can be provided to the examination by deadline for.

01:04:03:27 - 01:04:15:25

There is a revised or renewed a new document relating to health and tying together some of the strands on health, which will be submitted to the examination by deadline for.

01:04:21:14 - 01:04:37:00

And I've noted that there is a new revised outline skills plan also to be submitted at deadline, for which will include various provisions of. Economic benefit and.

01:04:39:20 - 01:04:44:18

Possibly dealing with the certainty arising about local employment benefits.

01:04:49:18 - 01:04:55:17

So note of the agreed action points be published on the West Burns page of the National Infrastructure website.

01:04:57:29 - 01:05:04:10

Would be helpful if any documents identified in the action points are provided by deadline for.

01:05:06:02 - 01:05:07:18

With regards to the.

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

Where the WC. Um, obviously it's accepted that needs to arrive with the local authorities in sufficient time to allow them to respond. Similarly, it would be helpful if a summary of any oral submissions today are made by deadline for the recording of the hearing will be published on the project web page as soon as practicable.

01:05:34:23 - 01:05:37:19

Item nine to close. Thank you everybody.

01:05:37:28 - 01:05:59:24

Sorry about that. I just wanted to note for your actions that we also committed to providing the, um, addendum on cumulative in relation to new information that's come in the public domain. So I did we it was just to note that, that we'd committed to that action for deadline for, for the thank you of, of um of your note um making brilliant.

01:05:59:26 - 01:06:06:25

Thank you Patrick. That's very helpful. Thank you. I mean, thank you, everyone, for your participation contributions today.

01:06:08:26 - 01:06:13:00

Is she specific? Hearing four is now closed.