



Hearing Transcript

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| Project: | EN010142 - Tillbridge Solar Project |
| Hearing: | Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) |
| Date: | 14 January 2025 |

Please note: This document is intended to assist Interested Parties.

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The video recording published on the Planning Inspectorate project page is the primary record of the hearing.

event.video transcript

1

00:00:00.545 --> 00:00:02.605

Um, just dealing with housekeeping locally at the moment

2

00:00:02.605 --> 00:00:04.165

for those that allow listening in online.

3

00:00:04.275 --> 00:00:05.125

I'll come back to you in a moment.

4

00:00:05.125 --> 00:00:06.525

Apologies for the delay with that.

5

00:00:07.355 --> 00:00:10.215

Um, toilets are located out that door.

6

00:00:10.215 --> 00:00:11.415

Ladies, toilets on the left, uh,

7

00:00:11.655 --> 00:00:12.855

disabled facilities in the middle and

8

00:00:12.985 --> 00:00:14.255

gents toilets at the far end.

9

00:00:15.235 --> 00:00:16.815

Uh, there's no planned fire alarm today,

10

00:00:16.815 --> 00:00:19.335

but if there is a fire alarm, fire exits are all along

11

00:00:19.415 --> 00:00:20.535

that wall there conveniently, and we

12

00:00:20.535 --> 00:00:21.695

just assemble in the carpark.

13

00:00:22.565 --> 00:00:23.615

Okay, I'll just move back.

14

00:00:23.615 --> 00:00:27.215

So we are clear online now, hopefully. Thank you. Excellent.

15

00:00:28.315 --> 00:00:29.375

Um, right,

16

00:00:30.705 --> 00:00:33.205

and can I confirm that you've begun live streaming

17

00:00:33.205 --> 00:00:34.885

and live recording of the event for those online?

18

00:00:35.365 --> 00:00:37.645

Excellent. Thank you. Thank you. Right.

19

00:00:37.665 --> 00:00:39.365

Uh, my name is Nicholas Eley, uh,

20

00:00:39.365 --> 00:00:41.165

and I've been appointed by the Secretary of State

21

00:00:41.305 --> 00:00:43.805

to be the lead member of the panel for this

22

00:00:44.745 --> 00:00:45.885

to examine this application.

23

00:00:46.105 --> 00:00:48.965

I'm now gonna pass to my colleague to introduce themselves.

24

00:00:50.005 --> 00:00:51.875

Thank you, Mr. Eley. Good afternoon.

25

00:00:52.215 --> 00:00:53.915

Uh, my name is Luke Simpson

26

00:00:54.215 --> 00:00:57.515

and I have also been appointed by the state

27

00:00:58.335 --> 00:01:01.395

as a panel member to examine this application.

28

00:01:02.765 --> 00:01:04.575

Okay. Um,

29

00:01:05.635 --> 00:01:08.425

and thank you.

30

00:01:08.745 --> 00:01:10.705

Together, you might hear us, uh, we constitute the examining

31

00:01:10.705 --> 00:01:13.105

authority, and you might hear us refer to that as the Xa,

32

00:01:13.445 --> 00:01:14.705

uh, points throughout this conversation.

33

00:01:14.705 --> 00:01:17.425

If we do, uh, equally, if we are, um,

34

00:01:18.095 --> 00:01:19.545

talking about issues in it's, uh,

35

00:01:19.555 --> 00:01:21.545

using acronyms you're not familiar with, please feel free

36

00:01:21.545 --> 00:01:22.745

to ask us to elaborate.

37

00:01:23.695 --> 00:01:25.625

This hearing will now follow the agenda

38

00:01:25.625 --> 00:01:27.785

that was published on the National Infrastructure Planning

39

00:01:27.785 --> 00:01:30.385

website on the 5th of December, 2024,

40

00:01:30.515 --> 00:01:35.505

which is examination library reference EV one hyphen 0 0 4.

41

00:01:35.885 --> 00:01:37.865

And it might be helpful if you have a hard copy of

42

00:01:37.865 --> 00:01:39.825

that in front of you as we work through this hearing

43

00:01:40.205 --> 00:01:42.425

or if you want it online, if you're using your laptops.

44

00:01:43.825 --> 00:01:45.925

Um, this agenda is active for guidance only,

45

00:01:46.025 --> 00:01:47.965

and we may add other considerations

46

00:01:48.185 --> 00:01:49.725

or issues as we progress through this hearing,

47

00:01:50.385 --> 00:01:52.125

and we will conclude the hearing as soon

48

00:01:52.125 --> 00:01:53.925

as all the relevant contributions have been made

49

00:01:54.085 --> 00:01:56.165

and all questions asked and responded to.

50

00:01:57.345 --> 00:01:59.925

But if the, uh, discussions aren't concluded today,

51

00:01:59.925 --> 00:02:01.765

then it may be necessary for us to prioritize some

52

00:02:01.765 --> 00:02:03.485

of those matters and go through those issues we've raised

53

00:02:03.865 --> 00:02:06.485

and defer over matters to either follow up written questions

54

00:02:06.485 --> 00:02:08.165

or perhaps potentially future hearings.

55

00:02:08.745 --> 00:02:10.405

And likewise, if you can't get the chance

56

00:02:10.405 --> 00:02:12.845

to answer the questions that you want to be asked today,

57

00:02:13.225 --> 00:02:15.845

please feel free to make reasonable representations to us,

58

00:02:15.845 --> 00:02:18.485

which will, um, bear equal weight in this examination.

59

00:02:19.535 --> 00:02:21.285

We'll aim to take a break this afternoon

60

00:02:21.285 --> 00:02:22.645

during the hearing at a convenient point

61

00:02:22.645 --> 00:02:24.965

to give you all a chance to get some comfort break, uh,

62

00:02:24.965 --> 00:02:26.165

and grab anything that you might need.

63

00:02:26.465 --> 00:02:28.125

And if anyone has any special needs in the room

64

00:02:28.125 --> 00:02:29.965

that aren't catered to, if you're nearly hearing loops

65

00:02:30.025 --> 00:02:33.085

or if you want to take more convenient breaks, please speak

66

00:02:33.085 --> 00:02:34.085

to our case team at the back of the room

67

00:02:34.085 --> 00:02:35.485

and we'll try and fit that in for you as well.

68

00:02:36.905 --> 00:02:38.565

Um, and as we are now aware,

69

00:02:38.745 --> 00:02:41.005

our hearing today is being undertaken in a hybrid way,

70

00:02:41.005 --> 00:02:42.525

which meaning some of you're present here in the room

71

00:02:42.525 --> 00:02:43.605

with us, thank you.

72

00:02:43.905 --> 00:02:45.965

But equally, we've got some people who are joining us online

73

00:02:45.965 --> 00:02:47.445

and we'll be making contributions online.

74

00:02:47.785 --> 00:02:50.645

And we just want to point out to those that are online that,

75

00:02:50.705 --> 00:02:52.245

um, you have a fair

76

00:02:52.245 --> 00:02:53.765

and equal chance to speak as everyone in the room.

77

00:02:55.965 --> 00:02:57.305

Um, a recording

78

00:02:57.305 --> 00:02:59.965

of today's hearing will be made available on the Till

79

00:02:59.965 --> 00:03:01.485

Bridge, uh, solar project section

80

00:03:01.485 --> 00:03:04.325

of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon

81

00:03:04.325 --> 00:03:06.525

as practical after the completion of this hearing.

82

00:03:07.225 --> 00:03:09.645

And with this in mind, please ensure that you speak clearly,

83

00:03:10.345 --> 00:03:12.245

uh, into the microphone stating name

84

00:03:12.245 --> 00:03:14.285

and who you are representing each time

85

00:03:14.285 --> 00:03:15.365

before you speak, please.

86

00:03:16.105 --> 00:03:19.325

Uh, I think each of the desk microns has got an on-off

87

00:03:19.325 --> 00:03:21.845

feature showing green when it's live and red when it's off.

88

00:03:21.845 --> 00:03:24.685

And I think we have a roving microphone if anyone wants it.

89

00:03:24.685 --> 00:03:26.965

Yeah, we do. Uh, back of the room if anyone

90

00:03:26.965 --> 00:03:28.245

who sat at the rear would like to speak,

91

00:03:29.905 --> 00:03:31.825

Uh, A link

92

00:03:32.045 --> 00:03:34.625

to the planning Inspectorates privacy notice was

93

00:03:34.905 --> 00:03:37.505

provided in our Rule 13 notification letter

94

00:03:37.505 --> 00:03:42.145

of the 6th of December, 2024, which is reference PD 0 1 0.

95

00:03:42.685 --> 00:03:44.265

And we assume that you've had a chance to have a look at

96

00:03:44.265 --> 00:03:46.185

that and familiarize yourself with the contents.

97

00:03:46.305 --> 00:03:49.465

'cause it sets out how your personal data at this hearing,

98

00:03:50.005 --> 00:03:52.265

uh, and the personal data of our customers is handled in

99

00:03:52.265 --> 00:03:53.825

accordance with the principle set out

100

00:03:53.825 --> 00:03:55.425

and the data protection laws of this country.

101

00:03:56.085 --> 00:03:57.305

But if you have any concerns

102

00:03:57.305 --> 00:03:59.145

or questions, please feel free to speak

103

00:03:59.145 --> 00:04:00.225

to our case team at the back of the room.

104

00:04:00.225 --> 00:04:01.745

And equally, if you don't, if you wanna speak

105

00:04:01.745 --> 00:04:04.385

but not be on camera or similarly, if you wanna speak online

106

00:04:04.385 --> 00:04:06.625

and not be on camera, please feel free and we'll try

107

00:04:06.625 --> 00:04:07.545

and find a section of the room where

108

00:04:07.545 --> 00:04:08.505

you're not gonna be recorded.

109

00:04:11.175 --> 00:04:12.235

I'm now going to go through

110

00:04:12.255 --> 00:04:15.715

and ask those of those participating in today's, uh, hearing

111

00:04:15.735 --> 00:04:16.795

to introduce yourselves.

112

00:04:17.215 --> 00:04:20.275

And when I state your organization's name, please, uh,

113

00:04:20.275 --> 00:04:22.995

if you can introduce yourself, stating, uh, your name

114

00:04:22.995 --> 00:04:24.915

and who you represent and which agenda items

115

00:04:24.975 --> 00:04:26.115

you may wish to speak on.

116

00:04:26.775 --> 00:04:28.875

Uh, and if you are not representing an organization,

117

00:04:28.875 --> 00:04:30.035

just please confirm your name

118

00:04:30.035 --> 00:04:32.435

and summarize the interest that you have in which issue.

119

00:04:33.155 --> 00:04:34.455

And we'll try and come to you at that point.

120

00:04:35.195 --> 00:04:38.135

So, uh, please could I also ask that you, uh, let us know

121

00:04:38.135 --> 00:04:39.615

how you'd like to be addressed, whether it's Mr.

122

00:04:39.645 --> 00:04:43.595

Miss or Mrs. So make it easier going forward. Okay.

123

00:04:43.595 --> 00:04:45.395

If I could start with the applicant, then please.

124

00:04:45.535 --> 00:04:48.075

And any of your advisors you may wish to, uh, refer to.

125

00:04:48.845 --> 00:04:51.195

Thank you, sir. My name is Alexis Coleman.

126

00:04:51.195 --> 00:04:53.195

I'm a legal director at Law Firm Pin Masons,

127

00:04:53.195 --> 00:04:54.915

and I act on behalf of the applicant

128

00:04:55.055 --> 00:04:56.075

to Bridge Solar Limited.

129

00:04:56.815 --> 00:04:59.795

Um, I'm joined by other colleagues in Vincent Masons, um,

130

00:04:59.935 --> 00:05:01.315

Tom Atkins and Taylor Power.

131

00:05:01.855 --> 00:05:02.355

Um, I have

132

00:05:12.795 --> 00:05:13.075

speak.

133

00:05:14.935 --> 00:05:19.755

Okay, thank you. And if I could

134

00:05:19.755 --> 00:05:21.955

now move on to the local authorities

135

00:05:21.955 --> 00:05:24.235

and, uh, Lincolnshire County Council first please.

136

00:05:25.505 --> 00:05:28.795

Good afternoon. I'm Ms. Stephanie Hall, HALL.

137

00:05:29.035 --> 00:05:31.515

I happen to be Ms. Hall Council, instructed

138

00:05:31.855 --> 00:05:32.995

by Linky County Council.

139

00:05:33.415 --> 00:05:36.075

I'm join joined by Neil McBride to my immediate left,

140

00:05:36.075 --> 00:05:37.715

who's head of planning at Linky County Council.

141

00:05:38.295 --> 00:05:40.395

And, uh, Mr. Moss, who is, uh,

142

00:05:40.395 --> 00:05:42.075

joining us from the Fry Rescue Set.

143

00:05:51.745 --> 00:05:53.725

Mr. Moss, uh, just just to clarify, I,

144

00:05:53.805 --> 00:05:55.085

I was aware you might not be

145

00:05:55.085 --> 00:05:56.325

with us tomorrow, is that correct or?

146

00:05:57.275 --> 00:05:58.765

Okay, so I'll try and come to you if I can,

147

00:05:58.765 --> 00:05:59.845

when it's convenient for the points

148

00:05:59.845 --> 00:06:01.565

that we were gonna discuss tomorrow.

149

00:06:03.865 --> 00:06:07.055

Sorry, just, uh, moving on.

150

00:06:08.685 --> 00:06:11.055

Sure. Um, do we have Nottinghamshire Counter

151

00:06:11.055 --> 00:06:12.495

Council online tour, please?

152

00:06:16.375 --> 00:06:18.345

Good afternoon, all. Uh, um, Mr.

153

00:06:18.415 --> 00:06:19.545

Will Lawrence, planning

154

00:06:19.545 --> 00:06:21.425

and Infrastructure Manager at County Council.

155

00:06:21.965 --> 00:06:25.425

Uh, I'll be speaking mainly only on, uh,

156

00:06:25.735 --> 00:06:27.305

item three C if appropriate.

157

00:06:29.365 --> 00:06:32.355

Thank you, Mr. Lawrence. Um,

158

00:06:34.715 --> 00:06:38.475

I could now move to, uh, district council if I can move to,

159

00:06:38.535 --> 00:06:40.275

uh, west Lindsay District Council. Next please.

160

00:06:41.075 --> 00:06:42.795

Afternoon, sir. My name is Mr. Samuel Shake.

161

00:06:43.215 --> 00:06:44.715

Uh, I'm of council instructed

162

00:06:44.735 --> 00:06:46.115

by West Lindsay District Council.

163

00:06:46.935 --> 00:06:48.955

To my right is Mr. Russell Clarkson,

164

00:06:48.955 --> 00:06:51.355

who's the development management, uh,

165

00:06:51.355 --> 00:06:53.505

team manager at West Lindsay.

166

00:06:53.805 --> 00:06:55.545

And to my left is Mr. Alex Blake,

167

00:06:55.545 --> 00:06:56.625

who's an associate director.

168

00:06:56.685 --> 00:06:57.985

Atkins. Thank

169

00:06:59.865 --> 00:07:00.865

You.

170

00:07:16.055 --> 00:07:17.785

I'll just check if that all

171

00:07:17.785 --> 00:07:19.545

of the district councils we've got present in the room.

172

00:07:19.565 --> 00:07:21.825

Oh, no, sorry. Bassett Law. I've got Bassett Law here.

173

00:07:22.205 --> 00:07:23.745

Uh, do we have Bassett Law District Council?

174

00:07:23.805 --> 00:07:24.825

No, we don't. Not in the room.

175

00:07:25.685 --> 00:07:28.225

No, I am Can you, can you not see apologies

176

00:07:28.225 --> 00:07:29.225

Online?

177

00:07:29.255 --> 00:07:32.225

Yeah, I'm online. It's, uh, Mrs. Amanda Broadhead.

178

00:07:32.725 --> 00:07:35.905

I'm the major projects manager at Base Law District Council.

179

00:07:37.315 --> 00:07:38.785

Thank you. This is Broadhead.

180

00:07:39.825 --> 00:07:42.775

Thank you. Do we have any other, um,

181

00:07:43.455 --> 00:07:45.015

district councils online who wish to join us?

182

00:07:49.095 --> 00:07:53.835

Um, and if I can move to, uh, parish Councils now, please.

183

00:07:54.135 --> 00:07:58.815

Um, see I've got in the room.

184

00:07:59.355 --> 00:08:03.375

Um, is there any parish council, parish counselors online

185

00:08:03.445 --> 00:08:06.175

that would wish to make themselves, uh, notified, please?

186

00:08:10.645 --> 00:08:11.955

Right. Okay, thank you.

187

00:08:15.515 --> 00:08:19.815

Um, I'm now gonna move

188

00:08:19.815 --> 00:08:20.935

on to statutory parties.

189

00:08:22.195 --> 00:08:24.095

Um, I have been advised

190

00:08:24.095 --> 00:08:26.455

that the Environment Agency are joining us virtually.

191

00:08:26.455 --> 00:08:27.455

Is that correct?

192

00:08:31.955 --> 00:08:33.695

Yes, it is. So my name's Wayne Catel,

193

00:08:33.755 --> 00:08:36.095

I'm a planning specialist at the Environment Agency.

194

00:08:36.275 --> 00:08:38.375

Uh, last be referred to as Mr. Wayne Catel.

195

00:08:38.515 --> 00:08:40.695

And I'm basically here to answer any questions you've got on

196

00:08:40.695 --> 00:08:42.615

flood risk or battery energy systems.

197

00:08:44.555 --> 00:08:45.025

Thank you.

198

00:08:49.915 --> 00:08:52.415

Are there any other statutory parties that are joining us?

199

00:08:52.635 --> 00:08:54.375

Uh, either in the room or online.

200

00:09:00.715 --> 00:09:02.045

Okay, thank you. I'm now gonna move

201

00:09:02.045 --> 00:09:03.565

to the interested parties and I'll start

202

00:09:03.565 --> 00:09:05.125

with 7,000 acres please.

203

00:09:08.295 --> 00:09:10.665

Good afternoon, sir. My name is Liz Gar,

204

00:09:11.315 --> 00:09:14.065

presenting 7,000 acres, but to be dressed as Ms.

205

00:09:14.165 --> 00:09:16.665

Gar please. Um, the items i

206

00:09:17.335 --> 00:09:20.175

I will be addressing will possibly be all the items.

207

00:09:20.355 --> 00:09:21.895

I'm not entirely sure as yet, but maybe.

208

00:09:22.635 --> 00:09:25.935

And, um, the gentleman to my left is Mr.

209

00:09:26.005 --> 00:09:28.335

Tony Court, who also represents 7,000 acres

210

00:09:28.915 --> 00:09:31.435

and he wishes to be dressed as Mr Court

211

00:09:31.455 --> 00:09:35.275

and he'll be discussing, um, items three B and three C

212

00:09:35.775 --> 00:09:37.955

and then Mr. Roger Jones, uh,

213

00:09:38.065 --> 00:09:40.555

also representing 7,000 acres to address as Mr.

214

00:09:41.695 --> 00:09:42.955

And he'll be discussing

215

00:09:43.015 --> 00:09:47.735

or raising issues with item three A. Thank you. Thank

216

00:09:47.735 --> 00:09:48.735

You.

217

00:09:56.075 --> 00:09:58.225

Right, thank you. And, uh, moving now

218

00:09:58.225 --> 00:10:00.865

to any other interested parties in the room who, uh,

219

00:10:01.045 --> 00:10:02.265

may wish to make themselves known

220

00:10:02.285 --> 00:10:03.305

or speak on any of the items.

221

00:10:03.305 --> 00:10:05.545

Are there any people in the room who would like to identify,

222

00:10:05.845 --> 00:10:08.305

uh, themselves and any items they'd like to speak on?

223

00:10:12.615 --> 00:10:14.385

Okay, thank you. Or any online at all.

224

00:10:20.005 --> 00:10:22.775

Okay. Thank you very much everybody.

225

00:10:23.035 --> 00:10:27.145

Um, alright.

226

00:10:27.365 --> 00:10:30.105

I'm gonna move on to agenda item, uh, 2.2

227

00:10:30.105 --> 00:10:30.945

and just give a brief

228

00:10:30.945 --> 00:10:32.305

summary of the purpose of this hearing.

229

00:10:33.005 --> 00:10:37.385

Um, this issue specific hearing is being held to, uh,

230

00:10:37.385 --> 00:10:39.545

address matters in questions that have been identified

231

00:10:39.545 --> 00:10:41.905

by the examining authority, including through its reading

232

00:10:41.905 --> 00:10:43.865

of the application documents, uh,

233

00:10:43.885 --> 00:10:45.945

the local impact reports we've kindly received from the

234

00:10:45.945 --> 00:10:48.505

local authorities, representations from all interested

235

00:10:48.505 --> 00:10:51.345

parties, uh, and responses to the written questions

236

00:10:51.445 --> 00:10:53.065

and our site inspections that we've undertaken

237

00:10:54.415 --> 00:10:55.835

during this examination.

238

00:10:56.195 --> 00:10:57.435

A number of issues have come

239

00:10:57.435 --> 00:10:58.875

to light in which it was considered

240

00:10:58.875 --> 00:11:00.555

that it would benefit from consideration

241

00:11:00.555 --> 00:11:03.515

of more oral representation in order to ensure

242

00:11:03.515 --> 00:11:05.875

that we adequately examine, uh, these matters.

243

00:11:06.815 --> 00:11:08.955

And this hearing now will allow those issues to be raised

244

00:11:09.015 --> 00:11:10.235
and discussed in more detail,

245

00:11:10.615 --> 00:11:12.955
but it does not preclude their, uh, addressing them

246

00:11:12.995 --> 00:11:14.955
by written correspondence either previously

247

00:11:14.955 --> 00:11:17.795
or later so that that's been collected prior

248

00:11:17.795 --> 00:11:19.715
to this hearing ring or that is submitted hereafter

249

00:11:21.255 --> 00:11:23.235
as we remind all parties the principle means

250

00:11:23.255 --> 00:11:26.115
of undertaking this examination is in writing.

251

00:11:26.455 --> 00:11:28.675
But, uh, that means that if you speak today,

252

00:11:28.675 --> 00:11:29.835
it carries equal weight,

253

00:11:29.835 --> 00:11:32.435
but we can always take written representation up

254

00:11:32.435 --> 00:11:33.515
to the close new examination.

255

00:11:34.735 --> 00:11:36.595
So moving on now to some of these issues.

256

00:11:36.775 --> 00:11:37.875
I'm gonna move on to the first

257

00:11:38.095 --> 00:11:39.715
before I make a start on the first issue.

258

00:11:39.715 --> 00:11:41.115
Is there any questions anyone has in the room

259

00:11:41.135 --> 00:11:43.115
or anything they would like, uh, clarified

260

00:11:43.115 --> 00:11:45.395
before we go on to the first of the issues to be discussed?

261

00:11:48.695 --> 00:11:53.165
Okay, thank you. Uh, I'm gonna start on agenda item three,

262

00:11:53.385 --> 00:11:54.605
uh, with the environmental matters.

263

00:11:54.605 --> 00:11:57.165
And I was gonna start off with, um, the first

264

00:11:57.165 --> 00:11:59.245
of these issues that I wanted to go into today was the, uh,

265

00:11:59.245 --> 00:12:02.365
water environment, including specifically flood risk, uh,

266

00:12:02.425 --> 00:12:04.445
and the flood risk of the site and its surrounding area

267

00:12:04.825 --> 00:12:06.845
and the management of the surface water at the site

268

00:12:06.865 --> 00:12:08.325
and also the cumulative impacts.

269

00:12:09.665 --> 00:12:12.325
So what I'd like to do to start with, uh, I'd like

270

00:12:12.325 --> 00:12:13.845

to revisit the issue of the behavior

271

00:12:13.945 --> 00:12:16.205
of the rainfall at the site before and

272

00:12:16.205 --> 00:12:20.205
after the proposed development, uh, as I raised in my, uh,

273

00:12:20.405 --> 00:12:23.565
previous written questions, number one, 14.2.

274

00:12:24.465 --> 00:12:27.585
Um, whilst I note it's the applicant's intention

275

00:12:27.605 --> 00:12:31.545
to limit runoff from the site to that of greenfield rates,

276

00:12:32.325 --> 00:12:35.265
so that effectively what leaves the site is no different to

277

00:12:35.265 --> 00:12:37.905
what would leave the site when it was a green field under

278

00:12:37.905 --> 00:12:39.025
normal rainfall conditions.

279

00:12:39.845 --> 00:12:41.985
And therefore I can understand the, uh,

280

00:12:42.245 --> 00:12:44.305
the relevant flood authority satisfaction

281

00:12:44.335 --> 00:12:46.505
with what's coming off the site is no different to

282

00:12:46.505 --> 00:12:47.825
what comes off the site today.

283

00:12:48.765 --> 00:12:52.305
Um, I just want to really get into the detail of

284

00:12:53.125 --> 00:12:56.465
how realistic that is to con, contain

285

00:12:56.485 --> 00:13:01.145
and constrain that rainfall, that pluma water on site.

286

00:13:01.605 --> 00:13:05.165
Um, I understand that you want

287

00:13:05.165 --> 00:13:07.445
to use a sustainable urban drainage system, uh,

288

00:13:07.585 --> 00:13:09.605
and it's proposed to, uh, achieve this

289

00:13:09.625 --> 00:13:11.405
by using things like perimeter swes.

290

00:13:11.785 --> 00:13:15.125
Uh, but can you assure us that the rain

291

00:13:15.125 --> 00:13:16.765
that falls on the solar panels,

292

00:13:16.765 --> 00:13:18.405
which are impermeable in themselves

293

00:13:19.065 --> 00:13:21.845
and then concentrates at the leading edge of the, the edge

294

00:13:21.845 --> 00:13:25.725
of the solar panel and drips into the, the field that that

295

00:13:27.695 --> 00:13:31.735
concentrated level of, of, uh, fluvial downpour is, um,

296

00:13:31.925 --> 00:13:34.935
falling on the grass and behaves in exactly the same manner

297

00:13:34.955 --> 00:13:36.895

as if the rain was falling over the hole of the site.

298

00:13:38.695 --> 00:13:42.285

Um, the reference that you refer us to looking at the piece

299

00:13:42.285 --> 00:13:44.125

of research it was undertaken, I was aware

300

00:13:44.125 --> 00:13:46.725

that was undertaken using tracking solar panels.

301

00:13:46.725 --> 00:13:48.725

So those panels have obviously presented a different profile

302

00:13:48.725 --> 00:13:50.405

to the sky at different parts of the day,

303

00:13:50.405 --> 00:13:52.165

and I just was curious if you'd managed

304

00:13:52.165 --> 00:13:56.445

to unearth any more information about how that rainfall,

305

00:13:56.445 --> 00:13:58.005

when it lands on the site behaves.

306

00:13:59.545 --> 00:14:01.885

Um, and also I wasn't quite clear if you were proposing

307

00:14:01.885 --> 00:14:05.285

to put panels in like that to try and control the rainfall.

308

00:14:06.385 --> 00:14:08.085

Now what I'd like to do is come to the applicant first

309

00:14:08.105 --> 00:14:09.565

for a bit more of an explanation about

310

00:14:09.585 --> 00:14:13.045

how they feel the rainfall will behave locally on the site,

311

00:14:13.115 --> 00:14:15.245

accepting that what comes off the site is no

312

00:14:15.245 --> 00:14:16.645

different to what comes off the site now.

313

00:14:17.265 --> 00:14:18.725

Uh, and then if I could possibly come

314

00:14:18.725 --> 00:14:20.365

to the lead local flood authority

315

00:14:20.425 --> 00:14:22.605

and the Environment Agency for their, their opinion on that.

316

00:14:24.755 --> 00:14:27.065

Thank you, sir. I'm going to hand you over to, um,

317

00:14:27.285 --> 00:14:30.615

my colleague Brandon, who's an associate director at acom,

318

00:14:30.635 --> 00:14:32.055

um, who's done the assessment and,

319

00:14:32.155 --> 00:14:33.655

and answered the questions on this point.

320

00:14:36.135 --> 00:14:37.185

Good afternoon, sir. Yeah,

321

00:14:37.185 --> 00:14:39.185

Chris Brandon from ACOM Replen, the applicant.

322

00:14:39.805 --> 00:14:42.985

Um, the research I believe you mentioned is the research

323

00:14:43.005 --> 00:14:44.825

by Cook and McEwen in 2013.

324

00:14:45.805 --> 00:14:47.505

Um, the research, um,

325

00:14:47.705 --> 00:14:51.025

although it did use panels, it researched various angles

326

00:14:51.045 --> 00:14:54.105

of the panels five degrees up to 30 degrees.

327

00:14:57.155 --> 00:14:58.375

Is the microphone not working? Oh,

328

00:14:58.375 --> 00:15:01.205

there go bit too sensitive.

329

00:15:02.105 --> 00:15:04.845

Yep. The K and McCune, um, research, um,

330

00:15:05.345 --> 00:15:08.685

tested various angles of panels, so not just a fixed

331

00:15:08.705 --> 00:15:11.365

or uh, um, even a tracking panel.

332

00:15:12.305 --> 00:15:17.095

Um, the, based on the angle of 45 degrees up to sort of 15

333

00:15:17.095 --> 00:15:21.495

to 20 degrees, the difference in volume of runoff

334

00:15:22.355 --> 00:15:26.835

was, um, less than po less than half a percent in,

335

00:15:26.835 --> 00:15:28.915

in difference, a variance of difference of runoff.

336

00:15:29.775 --> 00:15:32.555

Um, the kinetic energy from those panel ledges,

337

00:15:32.555 --> 00:15:34.635

which you refer to, um,

338

00:15:34.895 --> 00:15:39.555

the research did find it can increase up to 10 times the,

339

00:15:40.255 --> 00:15:42.205

um, kinetic energy

340

00:15:42.205 --> 00:15:43.925

of standard rainfall follow on the same point.

341

00:15:44.945 --> 00:15:47.485

Um, the research did, um,

342

00:15:48.355 --> 00:15:51.565

find it did also take into account various ground coverage,

343

00:15:51.625 --> 00:15:55.325

so gravel, hard standing, uh, and a grass field.

344

00:15:56.025 --> 00:15:59.745

Um, the grass field they modeled, um, is typical

345

00:15:59.765 --> 00:16:01.705

of a grazed agricultural field.

346

00:16:02.645 --> 00:16:05.725

So the, they applied a roughness coefficient

347

00:16:05.725 --> 00:16:10.485

to the runoff in the water of 0.15, which is typically used

348

00:16:10.485 --> 00:16:14.565

for a, a typical grass channel, so maintained channel.

349

00:16:14.585 --> 00:16:16.125

So it's not a rough, um,

350

00:16:16.195 --> 00:16:18.245

tall agricultural grassland or anything.

351

00:16:18.875 --> 00:16:23.405

It's similar to a normal, um, swayze field. The results.

352

00:16:23.585 --> 00:16:26.125

And they also modeled, I should say, the, um,

353

00:16:26.155 --> 00:16:27.445

several storm durations

354

00:16:27.565 --> 00:16:31.685

and return periods, um, to, to form their conclusions.

355

00:16:32.385 --> 00:16:36.285

Uh, the conclusions were that there were, um, you bear

356

00:16:36.285 --> 00:16:36.605

with me

357

00:16:41.415 --> 00:16:44.955

in terms of, in terms of peak volume runoff change from the

358

00:16:44.955 --> 00:16:46.475

panels compared to the existing scenario.

359

00:16:47.205 --> 00:16:51.285

There was, um, 0.35% change in volume of runoff

360

00:16:52.165 --> 00:16:56.165

compared to the existing scenario, um, over the,

361

00:16:56.165 --> 00:17:01.035

over the panels and increase in peak

362

00:17:01.035 --> 00:17:03.975

rainfall runoff at the same location.

363

00:17:08.065 --> 00:17:12.995

Following that, the, based on the land type grass,

364

00:17:13.815 --> 00:17:15.955

uh, gravel and tarmac areas were

365

00:17:15.955 --> 00:17:17.355
obviously a lot higher than that.

366

00:17:17.895 --> 00:17:22.355
But the grassland, a fairly well maintained field is,

367

00:17:23.015 --> 00:17:25.475
uh, within the results of the conclusion

368

00:17:25.495 --> 00:17:26.915
of Cook Koon's report,

369

00:17:27.095 --> 00:17:29.795
non-significant in overall runoff from P volume

370

00:17:29.975 --> 00:17:31.235
for the entire solar site.

371

00:17:32.565 --> 00:17:36.115
There is no, um, sorry, apologies.

372

00:17:36.175 --> 00:17:37.515
The, the angles were 30 degrees

373

00:17:37.515 --> 00:17:39.555
or 70 degrees they used in our assessment, um,

374

00:17:40.265 --> 00:17:41.955
with a base condition of 45 degrees.

375

00:17:43.385 --> 00:17:47.835
The, there was re a re research paper carried out

376

00:17:47.895 --> 00:17:51.005
by Pennsylvania State University last year in July,

377

00:17:51.615 --> 00:17:54.245
which not, not a hydraulic model system though,

378

00:17:54.245 --> 00:17:56.325

but it was a, based on evaporation

379

00:17:56.345 --> 00:17:59.365

and, um, infiltration of soils for solar panels.

380

00:17:59.745 --> 00:18:04.645

Um, their findings were, um, that grass, um, can exist

381

00:18:05.175 --> 00:18:06.965

quite freely underneath the panels.

382

00:18:07.825 --> 00:18:09.245

Um, and the building, a building

383

00:18:09.245 --> 00:18:11.485

of the search establishing paper, um,

384

00:18:11.605 --> 00:18:13.805

a guidance paper released in 2014.

385

00:18:14.825 --> 00:18:18.685

Um, it's noted approximately 5%

386

00:18:18.685 --> 00:18:19.845

of the ground is taken up

387

00:18:19.865 --> 00:18:21.125

by the structure of the solar panel.

388

00:18:21.145 --> 00:18:22.525

So not the panel itself, but the actual

389

00:18:22.765 --> 00:18:23.925

physical mounting points.

390

00:18:24.185 --> 00:18:27.365

So 95% of the field remains for grassland coverage.

391

00:18:28.325 --> 00:18:32.695

Um, and the, uh, the research

392

00:18:32.795 --> 00:18:36.655

by Pennsylvania State University, uh, concluded the same as,

393

00:18:36.835 --> 00:18:40.415

um, Kirk and McQuen, the, a vegetated, um, sway

394

00:18:40.415 --> 00:18:42.735

of land would, would mitigate, uh,

395

00:18:42.765 --> 00:18:46.055

peak rainfall runoff volume as it was an existing state.

396

00:18:47.155 --> 00:18:49.975

So, um, subjecting that, that sort of search we based

397

00:18:50.635 --> 00:18:51.935

the evidence on.

398

00:18:53.815 --> 00:18:58.095

Okay. Thank you for that. I think, um, coming back on some

399

00:18:58.095 --> 00:19:01.095

of those points, the, I I can understand that the, the, the,

400

00:19:01.115 --> 00:19:03.495

the total, the volumetric change of rainfall on the site is,

401

00:19:03.495 --> 00:19:04.575

is, is no different

402

00:19:04.575 --> 00:19:07.255

because you know, the area that the field's not changing,

403

00:19:07.315 --> 00:19:08.975

you know, the amount of rainfall that's coming on the site,

404

00:19:08.975 --> 00:19:09.975

the rainfall's coming on the site,

405

00:19:10.315 --> 00:19:12.815

but what, what I'm interested in is the point where you are,

406

00:19:12.815 --> 00:19:14.535

you're collecting it on an impermeable surface,

407

00:19:15.695 --> 00:19:17.455

discharging it at the drip edge of the solar panel,

408

00:19:17.675 --> 00:19:20.135

and then getting 10 times the kinetic energy.

409

00:19:20.435 --> 00:19:22.895

Now I can, I can visualize that if

410

00:19:22.895 --> 00:19:25.895

that water is then falling onto an, a grass field again,

411

00:19:26.435 --> 00:19:28.215

and it is potentially being dispersed

412

00:19:28.215 --> 00:19:32.695

that you get the smaller percentages of peak flow rates and,

413

00:19:32.755 --> 00:19:35.655

and how you can, um, prevent that runoff happening so fast.

414

00:19:35.675 --> 00:19:38.735

But my concern is the energy that's arriving at

415

00:19:38.735 --> 00:19:41.015

that front edge of that solar panel over the life

416

00:19:41.015 --> 00:19:44.565

of the project, I have concern

417

00:19:44.725 --> 00:19:46.165

that you'll get erosion

418

00:19:46.265 --> 00:19:47.885

and you will cha naturally change

419

00:19:48.925 --> 00:19:52.615
that without good maintenance or, um, looking

420

00:19:52.615 --> 00:19:54.815
after the front edge of that, you're gonna end up with a, a,

421

00:19:55.095 --> 00:19:57.055
a natural channel, a drip channel falling there,

422

00:19:57.055 --> 00:19:59.095
which is gonna cause that runoff to be more accelerated.

423

00:19:59.395 --> 00:20:00.655
And I just want to make sure that, you know,

424

00:20:00.655 --> 00:20:03.285
that's addressed in your assessment of

425

00:20:03.285 --> 00:20:04.725
how you are gonna collect that rainfall

426

00:20:05.065 --> 00:20:06.325
and contain it on site so

427

00:20:06.325 --> 00:20:07.565
that it's no worse than it was before.

428

00:20:09.495 --> 00:20:12.075
So it's, it's, it's very difficult to, uh, predict

429

00:20:13.215 --> 00:20:14.485
vegetation from the runoff.

430

00:20:14.505 --> 00:20:18.285
The, the vegetation planted that's secured within the, uh,

431

00:20:18.565 --> 00:20:20.565
construction environment management plan, um, for

432

00:20:21.735 --> 00:20:22.795

native grassland

433

00:20:22.795 --> 00:20:26.905

and wildflower mix, um, will be, um, such

434

00:20:26.905 --> 00:20:30.425

that it will, um, be unlikely to be eroded

435

00:20:30.425 --> 00:20:32.345

by the rainfall additional runoff from the panels.

436

00:20:33.405 --> 00:20:38.025

Uh, we also proposing, um, edge swales as part of the, uh,

437

00:20:38.025 --> 00:20:41.385

collection of surf water r to provide a additional support,

438

00:20:41.385 --> 00:20:45.705

which is, um, which is what the report also suggested

439

00:20:46.015 --> 00:20:49.845

that bed swells would also mitigate the additional, uh, the,

440

00:20:49.945 --> 00:20:51.445

the marginal increases in runoff.

441

00:20:51.745 --> 00:20:53.565

It, it's, it's more, it's the peak volume.

442

00:20:53.565 --> 00:20:54.805

So I understand the volume isn't changing,

443

00:20:54.805 --> 00:20:57.525

but it's the peak volume of runoff for a return period

444

00:20:57.525 --> 00:20:59.685

that they're assessing, which they didn't,

445

00:20:59.685 --> 00:21:00.685

which didn't change significantly.

446

00:21:01.505 --> 00:21:03.685

The, the edge swells that we're providing, um,

447

00:21:03.685 --> 00:21:07.325

proposing on the scheme will, um, contribute to any

448

00:21:08.205 --> 00:21:10.245

increase in runoff that is resulting from the,

449

00:21:10.625 --> 00:21:11.885

the runoff come from the drip lines,

450

00:21:12.225 --> 00:21:15.725

but the, the grass that will be planted, um, will,

451

00:21:16.155 --> 00:21:19.325

will mitigate the erosion and initial peak runoff.

452

00:21:21.195 --> 00:21:24.005

Okay, thank you. Um, could I come to, uh,

453

00:21:24.005 --> 00:21:26.525

Lincoln County Council as the lead local flood authority?

454

00:21:26.625 --> 00:21:29.525

I'm conscious that, um, whilst the Environment Agency leads

455

00:21:29.525 --> 00:21:31.965

on Rivers and sea, but it's the surface water risks

456

00:21:33.015 --> 00:21:34.455

normally sits with the lead local flood authority.

457

00:21:34.625 --> 00:21:36.175

Could I just have your views on that and

458

00:21:36.235 --> 00:21:38.495

and your opinion on, on what's just been said?

459

00:21:40.255 --> 00:21:41.945

There's nothing more linker County council.

460

00:21:42.085 --> 00:21:44.985

So we've, um, included a paragraph on this in our LIR,

461

00:21:44.985 --> 00:21:47.945

which is, um, paragraph 11.5 of, uh,

462

00:21:48.245 --> 00:21:50.225

rep one A zero one.

463

00:21:50.525 --> 00:21:54.465

So I'm not assisted today by anybody from, uh, the LLFA

464

00:21:54.845 --> 00:21:57.705

and my instructions are just that what we've said that, uh,

465

00:21:57.705 --> 00:21:59.465

in our LIR, which is that we're satisfied with

466

00:21:59.465 --> 00:22:01.625

what we've received so far and we don't have anything

467

00:22:01.625 --> 00:22:02.745

to add today on

468

00:22:02.745 --> 00:22:04.425

that point, but thank you for the opportunity.

469

00:22:04.615 --> 00:22:08.215

Okay, thank you Mr.

470

00:22:08.315 --> 00:22:10.415

Cat at the Environment Agency with, um,

471

00:22:10.415 --> 00:22:11.855

your strategic overview, uh,

472

00:22:11.855 --> 00:22:14.455

and any, uh, anything that you want to add at all?

473

00:22:15.315 --> 00:22:17.215

Uh, no, not really. I mean, what was just said

474

00:22:17.635 --> 00:22:19.615

to be made sense, so I, it it's,

475

00:22:19.615 --> 00:22:20.855

it's just our view. Sorry, Mr. Cat,

476

00:22:20.875 --> 00:22:21.875

Can I just ask? Sorry,

477

00:22:21.875 --> 00:22:23.255

can I just, you are a little,

478

00:22:23.375 --> 00:22:24.815

I I think it, no, don't think it's just me.

479

00:22:24.815 --> 00:22:26.175

I think you're coming through a little bit quiet.

480

00:22:26.355 --> 00:22:28.215

Is it possible that you can increase your volume at all?

481

00:22:28.725 --> 00:22:30.095

Yeah. Okay. Is that better?

482

00:22:30.865 --> 00:22:32.165

Yes, that's better. Thank you. Yeah.

483

00:22:32.235 --> 00:22:33.925

Okay. Yeah, and all I was gonna say is

484

00:22:33.925 --> 00:22:35.685

what was just said to me makes sense.

485

00:22:35.945 --> 00:22:37.765

Um, so I'll just go back to our previous,

486

00:22:37.785 --> 00:22:38.965

um, response on this.

487

00:22:39.345 --> 00:22:42.365

Um, that we treat these sites the same as greenfield sites.

488

00:22:43.065 --> 00:22:45.965

We note the point that the, you know, 5% of the, you know,

489

00:22:46.075 --> 00:22:47.285

will be lost because of the legs

490

00:22:47.285 --> 00:22:48.485

that the panels are standing on.

491

00:22:48.635 --> 00:22:51.565

Generally, it's the greenfield sites before and after,

492

00:22:51.665 --> 00:22:54.365

and we, we think there's not an negligible difference.

493

00:22:55.755 --> 00:22:58.355

Okay. Thank you very much.

494

00:22:59.015 --> 00:23:02.595

Um, conscious that I think 7,000 acres asked us to come

495

00:23:02.595 --> 00:23:03.635

to Mr. Jones, is that correct?

496

00:23:04.895 --> 00:23:07.275

Yes. Uh, Roger Jones, 7,000 acres.

497

00:23:07.535 --> 00:23:10.795

Um, one thing that comes with me there is,

498

00:23:10.925 --> 00:23:15.595

we're talking here about 10 million square meters

499

00:23:15.935 --> 00:23:18.505

of glass, impervious glass.

500

00:23:19.325 --> 00:23:23.665

Now already we are suffering, um, inundation of the area.

501

00:23:24.305 --> 00:23:28.225

I mean, we, we, we, we took the trip from time.

502

00:23:28.325 --> 00:23:30.305

We, we we're suffering things like,

503

00:23:30.615 --> 00:23:31.985

like this on a regular basis.

504

00:23:33.155 --> 00:23:36.175

And, and in fact, only the events of of last week,

505

00:23:36.755 --> 00:23:40.365

we had villages cut off and considering,

506

00:23:40.365 --> 00:23:42.965

and not only, uh, on the, on the river, uh,

507

00:23:42.965 --> 00:23:44.725

till on the floodplain, the river till,

508

00:23:45.385 --> 00:23:50.285

but also the o as well at Scott, you know, so the thing is

509

00:23:50.285 --> 00:23:54.085

that, uh, it, it's going to, I think, exacerbate thing.

510

00:23:54.105 --> 00:23:55.965

Now, there's been a lot of things,

511

00:23:55.985 --> 00:24:00.165

and all you can do is, is conjecture from the, um, research

512

00:24:00.265 --> 00:24:01.445

and, and things you've been done,

513

00:24:02.105 --> 00:24:03.605

but you've gotta be very careful

514

00:24:04.155 --> 00:24:06.205

that opinion doesn't overtake fat.

515

00:24:07.485 --> 00:24:10.265

And the facts are that water runs downhill

516

00:24:11.345 --> 00:24:13.845

and it also will run to the bottom end of the drip line

517

00:24:14.625 --> 00:24:16.685

in volumes that far exceed

518

00:24:16.995 --> 00:24:19.045

that which are currently mitigated by the soil.

519

00:24:19.545 --> 00:24:23.405

And any, any sort of, uh, thought that it would do anything

520

00:24:23.405 --> 00:24:26.885

otherwise is quite frankly, in my opinion, ludicrous.

521

00:24:27.825 --> 00:24:29.685

So in practical terms,

522

00:24:30.125 --> 00:24:32.485

I think we are looking into the exacerbation.

523

00:24:32.915 --> 00:24:36.805

I've got here lots of photographs that we've taken by drone,

524

00:24:36.945 --> 00:24:39.445

and this, this is the incident which we, uh,

525

00:24:39.775 --> 00:24:42.805

first came across in, uh, 2019 in November.

526

00:24:43.185 --> 00:24:44.485

We could go back to last year.

527

00:24:44.825 --> 00:24:47.365

We could have done the same, um, this year.

528

00:24:47.905 --> 00:24:50.085

The problem is that, that we,

529

00:24:50.085 --> 00:24:52.285

everything discharges not just your scheme,

530

00:24:52.545 --> 00:24:55.205

but others into the floodplain of the hotel,

531

00:24:55.295 --> 00:24:56.525

which is a small river.

532

00:24:57.225 --> 00:25:01.175

Now, looking back, historically, we've got, uh,

533

00:25:01.205 --> 00:25:04.575

it's even in the place names of coral ingham, you know,

534

00:25:05.015 --> 00:25:09.455

ing means flooded area, you know, ingham, you know, it's,

535

00:25:09.525 --> 00:25:10.975

it's in the landscape, you know.

536

00:25:11.035 --> 00:25:14.335

So really what we are doing now in, in the, um,

537

00:25:14.335 --> 00:25:18.175

19th century, they've dug ditches to drain this area.

538

00:25:18.995 --> 00:25:22.615

Now we are going to go by all that go, um,

539

00:25:23.665 --> 00:25:26.055

don't rely on the soil mitigation, which, uh,

540

00:25:26.115 --> 00:25:27.215

our ancestors did,

541

00:25:27.595 --> 00:25:31.135

and putting that directly along the drip line of each panel,

542

00:25:31.315 --> 00:25:32.375

and it's gonna run off

543

00:25:32.515 --> 00:25:36.775

and to talk about swes for 10 million square meters.

544

00:25:37.405 --> 00:25:38.405

Come on.

545

00:25:42.335 --> 00:25:44.435

Couple things. One, if you are bringing information like

546

00:25:44.435 --> 00:25:46.875

that to this hearing, it's, uh, only fair that you,

547

00:25:46.875 --> 00:25:48.435

if you could give copies of that to the applicants,

548

00:25:48.435 --> 00:25:49.515

if you could submit that to ourselves.

549

00:25:49.625 --> 00:25:52.035

Similarly, we are undertaking the examination.

550

00:25:52.055 --> 00:25:55.355

So if it, rather than you cross-examining the applicant,

551

00:25:55.355 --> 00:25:57.315

if you could perhaps, uh, address us.

552

00:25:58.065 --> 00:26:00.075

Just one moment, sir. If you could address us and,

553

00:26:00.255 --> 00:26:01.355

and share the information with us,

554

00:26:01.375 --> 00:26:02.635

we can put that in the public domain.

555

00:26:02.815 --> 00:26:04.475

So all of the information that you are presenting

556

00:26:04.475 --> 00:26:06.635

as a representation can then be available for all.

557

00:26:06.635 --> 00:26:07.635

Thank you.

558

00:26:10.465 --> 00:26:12.315

Lisa. Gar at 7,000 acres. Sorry, sir.

559

00:26:12.335 --> 00:26:14.875

Yes, I, I believe the information has been already

560

00:26:14.875 --> 00:26:16.075

submitted to yourselves.

561

00:26:16.185 --> 00:26:18.355

Okay. Um, but certainly we can

562

00:26:18.355 --> 00:26:19.515

provide that again if need be.

563

00:26:19.525 --> 00:26:20.525

Thank you.

564

00:26:23.185 --> 00:26:24.215

Thank you very much. Mm.

565

00:26:24.795 --> 00:26:27.655

Um, I just wanna move on again a little bit to dealing with,

566

00:26:27.715 --> 00:26:30.815

uh, flood risk as, uh, uh, a more generic

567

00:26:30.815 --> 00:26:32.335

and overarching overview topic.

568

00:26:32.795 --> 00:26:35.995

Um, this piece of infrastructure

569

00:26:35.995 --> 00:26:37.235

that's being proposed is being proposed

570

00:26:37.235 --> 00:26:38.515

as critical national infrastructure.

571

00:26:39.215 --> 00:26:41.075

Uh, and I just wanted to come back again,

572

00:26:41.195 --> 00:26:44.285

I appreciate the comments from county council already is the

573

00:26:44.405 --> 00:26:48.645

LLFA and the, um, LIR that you've already your local impact,

574

00:26:48.645 --> 00:26:50.005

uh, the report that you've already submitted.

575

00:26:50.005 --> 00:26:51.605

So thank you for that. But just to come back to Mr.

576

00:26:51.665 --> 00:26:54.085

Cat, one of the things, uh, uh, come back to Mr.

577

00:26:54.145 --> 00:26:55.285

Cat at the Environment Agency.

578

00:26:55.285 --> 00:26:57.285

One of the things that I wanted, wanted to make sure of is,

579

00:26:57.705 --> 00:26:59.085

uh, thank you for the representations

580

00:26:59.085 --> 00:27:00.085

that we received from yourself,

581

00:27:00.105 --> 00:27:04.205

but I just wanted to seek some assurance that you are happy

582

00:27:04.435 --> 00:27:05.885

that the approach for

583

00:27:06.645 --> 00:27:08.245

critical national infrastructure has been taken,

584

00:27:08.245 --> 00:27:11.245

including things like the h plus plus scenario assessments.

585

00:27:13.295 --> 00:27:14.355

So, Mr. Cat, please.

586

00:27:15.775 --> 00:27:19.265

Uh, yes. Yes, we are, sir. Okay, thank you very much.

587

00:27:27.345 --> 00:27:30.405

Um, I was gonna move, uh,

588

00:27:30.455 --> 00:27:32.485

while stealing on the topic of water environment.

589

00:27:32.485 --> 00:27:33.925

I'm conscious that Mr. Moss from, uh,

590

00:27:34.105 --> 00:27:35.525

linker Fire Service is only here today,

591

00:27:35.525 --> 00:27:37.565

but I was going come on a little bit about water storage

592

00:27:37.625 --> 00:27:39.725

and, uh, water and enough, it's okay with everybody.

593

00:27:39.725 --> 00:27:40.765

I just want to pick up on a couple

594

00:27:40.765 --> 00:27:42.045

of questions from tomorrow's section

595

00:27:42.295 --> 00:27:44.645

where we were gonna specifically delve a little bit into the

596

00:27:44.645 --> 00:27:45.645

fire risk, if that's okay,

597

00:27:45.905 --> 00:27:47.685

and bring them a little bit advanced

598

00:27:47.685 --> 00:27:48.765

from to today, if that's okay.

599

00:27:49.205 --> 00:27:51.085

I appreciate that. Some people may wanna talk on

600

00:27:51.085 --> 00:27:52.805

that tomorrow as well, who may not be here today.

601

00:27:52.805 --> 00:27:54.845

So we'll revisit a again tomorrow.

602

00:27:55.225 --> 00:27:57.045

But I just wanna take the benefit of having, uh,

603

00:27:57.045 --> 00:27:59.165

the expertise of Mr. Moss in the, whilst he's here.

604

00:27:59.785 --> 00:28:01.685

So, uh, moving on a little bit with, with water

605

00:28:01.685 --> 00:28:04.245

and flood risk now to the firefighting element, um,

606

00:28:05.245 --> 00:28:09.285

I note your, the applicant's response to question one point

607

00:28:09.925 --> 00:28:12.885

14.3 that, um, should you decide to use

608

00:28:13.445 --> 00:28:15.765
integral sprinkler firefighting, uh,

609

00:28:16.115 --> 00:28:19.245
this would not eat into the separate water supply,

610

00:28:19.245 --> 00:28:20.325
the emergency water supply that would be

611

00:28:20.445 --> 00:28:22.845
provided for the firefighting services, uh,

612

00:28:22.985 --> 00:28:25.005
who would be attending the site, uh,

613

00:28:25.145 --> 00:28:27.685
and that whatever system of internal dry riser

614

00:28:27.685 --> 00:28:30.245
that you propose, uh, would be agreed with, uh,

615

00:28:30.445 --> 00:28:31.685
ship, fire and rescue services.

616

00:28:32.665 --> 00:28:37.565
Um, I'm, my concern stemmed

617

00:28:37.565 --> 00:28:40.165
from the fact that we may have an emergency water supply

618

00:28:40.165 --> 00:28:43.085
and then by the time the fire service arrive on site,

619

00:28:43.085 --> 00:28:44.925
it's been exhausted by the own, uh,

620

00:28:44.925 --> 00:28:47.045
sprinkler system in trying to douse the fire.

621

00:28:47.225 --> 00:28:49.085

So I just wanted to come to yourself, uh, Mr.

622

00:28:49.105 --> 00:28:50.725

Mosser or, or link your county council.

623

00:28:50.725 --> 00:28:53.445

Apologies, uh, if that's okay for your views on that

624

00:28:53.445 --> 00:28:55.925

and how you would, uh, feel about arriving at a site.

625

00:28:58.375 --> 00:28:59.845

Thank you. Dam Moss Rescue,

626

00:29:00.145 --> 00:29:02.085

and certainly it's, it's been part of the,

627

00:29:02.085 --> 00:29:03.165

the ongoing consultation,

628

00:29:03.225 --> 00:29:04.445

the information that's been provided.

629

00:29:05.285 --> 00:29:06.865

We are currently satisfied

630

00:29:07.175 --> 00:29:08.985

that the internal suppression system

631

00:29:09.005 --> 00:29:10.105

and the water supply for

632

00:29:10.105 --> 00:29:12.305

that would be separate ongoing discussions

633

00:29:12.305 --> 00:29:14.545

around the requirements as outlined in the National Fire

634

00:29:14.545 --> 00:29:16.705

Chief Council's guidance with regards to,

635

00:29:16.805 --> 00:29:17.945

um, water provision.

636

00:29:18.205 --> 00:29:19.425

But what we're quite comfortable,

637

00:29:19.425 --> 00:29:22.465

and we've been assured that the, um, water supply

638

00:29:22.465 --> 00:29:24.505

for the internal suppression system will be separate

639

00:29:24.605 --> 00:29:27.505

as per the outline in the guidance NFPA 8 55.

640

00:29:27.515 --> 00:29:28.515

Thank you.

641

00:29:31.685 --> 00:29:33.545

Moving on to the supply that would be there

642

00:29:33.545 --> 00:29:35.665

for firefighting and now the applicant, um,

643

00:29:37.055 --> 00:29:39.345

I've gotta be honest, I'm reading the submissions you've

644

00:29:39.345 --> 00:29:41.365

made and the further written representations,

645

00:29:42.435 --> 00:29:44.045

correct me if I'm incorrect here,

646

00:29:44.045 --> 00:29:46.205

but I was under the impression that you, you were perhaps

647

00:29:46.825 --> 00:29:49.775

going to import water for storage on site

648

00:29:50.235 --> 00:29:52.295

for firefighting purposes,

649

00:29:52.875 --> 00:29:54.575

but there was also some discussion in some

650

00:29:54.575 --> 00:29:56.575

of the flood risk documents about using sustainable urban

651

00:29:56.575 --> 00:29:59.735

drainage systems for potential firefighting sources.

652

00:30:00.515 --> 00:30:04.015

And my, uh, question there relates around the fact that,

653

00:30:04.035 --> 00:30:06.535

you know, the most likely time for an event like this

654

00:30:06.635 --> 00:30:08.175

for a fire to occur would be in the middle

655

00:30:08.175 --> 00:30:10.695

of the hot spill in the middle of the summer when the pa uh,

656

00:30:10.695 --> 00:30:11.935

panels are working at their optimum

657

00:30:12.195 --> 00:30:13.615

and the batteries are probably at their hottest.

658

00:30:13.915 --> 00:30:18.135

And how much water would be available on site to help, uh,

659

00:30:18.215 --> 00:30:19.375

extinguish a fire, if,

660

00:30:19.375 --> 00:30:22.735

particularly if you're relying a lot more on, um, the, uh,

661

00:30:22.805 --> 00:30:25.295

sustainable herbage drain system to supplement

662

00:30:25.295 --> 00:30:26.415
that or, or add to that.

663

00:30:27.635 --> 00:30:29.895
So if I could ask, um, the applicant that question, please,

664

00:30:32.145 --> 00:30:33.145
Uh, Chris, Ms. Brandon,

665

00:30:33.145 --> 00:30:35.765
uh, a common behalf of the applicant, uh,

666

00:30:36.385 --> 00:30:40.725
is it it's the sustainable drainage system designed to, um,

667

00:30:40.945 --> 00:30:44.805
in order to mimic the existing regimes not to store water.

668

00:30:45.545 --> 00:30:48.725
Um, if we store too much water on site to prevent runoff,

669

00:30:48.825 --> 00:30:51.045
we can damage ecological systems downstream.

670

00:30:51.945 --> 00:30:56.605
Um, and also it's, you'd want a level of guarantee

671

00:30:56.725 --> 00:30:58.005
that the water's there on site

672

00:30:58.705 --> 00:31:02.845
and the, the best, the swes out around the best sites

673

00:31:03.505 --> 00:31:07.005
are designed to accommodate the full amount

674

00:31:07.005 --> 00:31:10.125
of the full volume of fire water runoff under, under a, um,

675

00:31:10.285 --> 00:31:11.325

a rainfall event at the same time.

676

00:31:12.065 --> 00:31:16.165

Um, but we'd, you'd need to be on site

677

00:31:16.165 --> 00:31:19.575

to isolate them all than, um, and,

678

00:31:19.575 --> 00:31:22.735

and the water pumping it to the, uh, the, um, the fire

679

00:31:22.735 --> 00:31:25.335

where, where suppress the fire, the, the best units are.

680

00:31:25.675 --> 00:31:27.255

Um, but the proposal at the moment is not

681

00:31:27.255 --> 00:31:31.695

to store water in these sws to let discharge, um, in line

682

00:31:31.695 --> 00:31:32.815

with the existing regime.

683

00:31:34.645 --> 00:31:38.435

So you'll be not a storage. Correct? Yes.

684

00:31:48.255 --> 00:31:51.315

And then going back onto the water that you're proposing

685

00:31:51.655 --> 00:31:54.555

to use for, to supply to the fire service for firefighting

686

00:31:54.555 --> 00:31:59.205

that will be stored in separate imported systems,

687

00:32:01.985 --> 00:32:05.695

Which Brandon Acom for that, uh, oh, yes.

688

00:32:22.505 --> 00:32:24.375

Thank you. Uh, seven, yes, 7,000 acres.

689

00:32:25.635 --> 00:32:28.255

Uh, Roger Jones, again, uh, 7,000 Acres.

690

00:32:28.535 --> 00:32:30.695

I hear what the fire chief has have been saying.

691

00:32:30.755 --> 00:32:34.895

Now, the only thing that I've heard about, uh, suppression

692

00:32:34.955 --> 00:32:38.535

of, uh, or control of fire has been from West Yorkshire.

693

00:32:39.625 --> 00:32:42.685

And, uh, they estimated some time ago, um,

694

00:32:42.785 --> 00:32:44.365

and I don't know how valid this is,

695

00:32:44.875 --> 00:32:48.445

that they were requiring 5 million gallon,

696

00:32:48.595 --> 00:32:51.585

5 million liters per day, per day,

697

00:32:52.035 --> 00:32:55.145

which is tremendous amount of water, uh, to, to,

698

00:32:55.145 --> 00:32:57.625

because with a, with this kind of fire,

699

00:32:58.885 --> 00:33:00.745

all you can do is cool it, you can't,

700

00:33:00.765 --> 00:33:01.865

you're not gonna put it out.

701

00:33:02.205 --> 00:33:05.185

You can try and stop it spreading to adjacent, uh, pieces

702

00:33:05.185 --> 00:33:07.865

of equipment and therefore it's ongoing.

703

00:33:08.485 --> 00:33:11.745

Now, when you look at where the best systems are positioned,

704

00:33:12.055 --> 00:33:13.385

they're up farm tracks

705

00:33:14.165 --> 00:33:17.225

and they've been fed for years with adequate, uh,

706

00:33:17.225 --> 00:33:19.305

water supplies for that kind of purpose.

707

00:33:20.125 --> 00:33:22.585

Really, if you're talking about that sort of thing,

708

00:33:22.725 --> 00:33:24.745

you're talking about the kind of mains that used

709

00:33:24.745 --> 00:33:27.785

to be supplied well and still are to Cotton Power Station,

710

00:33:27.805 --> 00:33:30.065

the West Burton, where that's sort the kind

711

00:33:30.065 --> 00:33:32.905

of water usage we had every day.

712

00:33:33.765 --> 00:33:37.865

And, um, and so I'm just questioning if the infrastructure,

713

00:33:38.455 --> 00:33:41.225

it's sufficient to supply that quantity

714

00:33:41.245 --> 00:33:42.665

of water that you will need.

715

00:33:43.015 --> 00:33:45.985

That, that, that's, that's my, that's my point, yeah.

716

00:33:46.445 --> 00:33:47.665

And, um, yeah, so,

717

00:33:47.685 --> 00:33:50.865

and I think, uh, to, to actually to supply that quantity

718

00:33:50.925 --> 00:33:54.145

of water from Swes is really for the birds.

719

00:33:54.625 --> 00:33:56.825

I really do. Thank you very much. Yeah.

720

00:34:02.935 --> 00:34:04.995

Is there any right to reply for the reply

721

00:34:04.995 --> 00:34:06.835

for the applicant there and come back on that point at all?

722

00:34:07.615 --> 00:34:09.555

Um, Alexis Coleman for the applicant, um,

723

00:34:09.795 --> 00:34:11.795

I will firstly note that our battery, um,

724

00:34:11.795 --> 00:34:13.755

expert will be here tomorrow for that agenda item.

725

00:34:13.755 --> 00:34:15.275

And we have tried to contact him to see,

726

00:34:15.735 --> 00:34:18.155

but we haven't been able to contact him unfortunately.

727

00:34:18.215 --> 00:34:21.315

But he has been, um, Mr. Gregory has been working closely

728

00:34:21.385 --> 00:34:22.755

with the fire rescue service,

729

00:34:22.895 --> 00:34:24.475

as you can see from the documents.

730

00:34:24.495 --> 00:34:28.555

And, um, and, um, Mr. Gregory, I, I know his works closely

731

00:34:28.555 --> 00:34:30.355

with him on several matters, so, um,

732

00:34:30.615 --> 00:34:32.995

and they're making sure that the fact safety management

733

00:34:32.995 --> 00:34:34.995

plan, um, captures all the,

734

00:34:34.995 --> 00:34:36.715

all the necessary requirements in this respect.

735

00:34:36.715 --> 00:34:38.635

So I can't answer the question specifically,

736

00:34:38.635 --> 00:34:40.435

but I would just obviously acknowledge and,

737

00:34:40.455 --> 00:34:42.555

and point to the, um, agreement

738

00:34:42.695 --> 00:34:44.795

and the ongoing discussions with the fire rescue service

739

00:34:44.855 --> 00:34:49.445

and also there from the Environment Agency as well. Thank

740

00:34:49.445 --> 00:34:50.445

You very much. Thanks.

741

00:34:50.445 --> 00:34:50.925

Thank you.

742

00:34:50.945 --> 00:34:53.565

I'm going to, oh, apologies, come back to sub thousand Acres

743

00:34:55.075 --> 00:34:56.935
County court from 7,000 acres.

744

00:34:57.395 --> 00:35:00.255
Um, what I'd like to ask the question is,

745

00:35:01.705 --> 00:35:03.315
when we have this fire

746

00:35:05.515 --> 00:35:09.635
contaminated fire water, how is it going to be contained

747

00:35:09.695 --> 00:35:13.155
and separated from water runoff off the normal panels?

748

00:35:13.695 --> 00:35:16.835
Um, we are gonna come onto, uh, groundwater infiltration,

749

00:35:18.435 --> 00:35:20.405
but, um, yeah, if anyone wanted

750

00:35:20.405 --> 00:35:21.605
to address that now you're more than welcome.

751

00:35:21.705 --> 00:35:22.705
But,

752

00:35:26.385 --> 00:35:28.605
Uh, Chris Brandon ACOM for the applicant.

753

00:35:29.305 --> 00:35:32.685
Um, the, so there will be, um, firewater

754

00:35:32.745 --> 00:35:36.585
and off, um, uh, going into the, the swes

755

00:35:36.585 --> 00:35:38.625
that surround surround the, the battery energy storage

756

00:35:38.625 --> 00:35:42.945

systems will be lined so there's no infiltration allowed.

757

00:35:43.845 --> 00:35:45.385

Um, and they will be confined

758

00:35:45.385 --> 00:35:48.105

with a outlook control structure such as the penstock

759

00:35:48.135 --> 00:35:49.585

that can be operated by the fire

760

00:35:49.585 --> 00:35:50.905

and rescue service when they attend the fire

761

00:35:50.905 --> 00:35:52.745

that locks the water in within the swale.

762

00:35:53.365 --> 00:35:56.025

Um, it can then be tested once the fire vent's finished.

763

00:35:56.485 --> 00:35:58.265

Uh, the swale is designed to accommodate the

764

00:35:58.975 --> 00:36:01.545

full firewater tank runoff, um, inclusive

765

00:36:01.565 --> 00:36:03.385

of a small rainfall event at the same time.

766

00:36:03.685 --> 00:36:08.345

So, um, with, um, freeboard IE, um, additional storage,

767

00:36:08.525 --> 00:36:12.145

so, um, on top of the firewater runoff, so that that's

768

00:36:12.145 --> 00:36:13.665

how be contained and, and, and ator.

769

00:36:13.685 --> 00:36:15.585

And if it's con, if it's found to be contaminated,

770

00:36:15.585 --> 00:36:16.985
it'll be taken off site.

771

00:36:20.795 --> 00:36:22.545
Thank you. Yes, Mr. Judge?

772

00:36:24.505 --> 00:36:27.275
Well, I, I really think that that sort of the,

773

00:36:27.275 --> 00:36:29.595
the wa the status wale to be built that we'll be able

774

00:36:29.595 --> 00:36:32.355
to deal with the quantities of water, which I think, uh,

775

00:36:32.425 --> 00:36:35.865
will be, um, the only thing you could hope to do,

776

00:36:36.245 --> 00:36:39.665
and this is a helpful suggestion, is you could recycle it,

777

00:36:40.005 --> 00:36:42.225
but even then, you know, I, I don't know whether if

778

00:36:42.225 --> 00:36:43.585
that's practical to,

779

00:36:43.615 --> 00:36:46.185
because you'd be obviously putting on the fire,

780

00:36:46.185 --> 00:36:50.185
putting it back into the, uh, into the reservoir, but, um,

781

00:36:50.245 --> 00:36:52.865
but I just don't think there'd be sufficient volume, um,

782

00:36:53.335 --> 00:36:55.905
available or capacity available, uh,

783

00:36:55.965 --> 00:36:57.185

for that kind of activity.

784

00:36:57.415 --> 00:36:58.415

Yeah. Thank you.

785

00:37:04.845 --> 00:37:07.175

Okay, thank you. Uh, again, just apologies.

786

00:37:07.175 --> 00:37:08.455

What we're gonna do is just take a little bit

787

00:37:08.455 --> 00:37:11.575

of a section from tomorrow's, uh, health impacts.

788

00:37:11.675 --> 00:37:12.775

I'm gonna bring that forward today just

789

00:37:12.855 --> 00:37:14.455

'cause it specifically relates to fire safety.

790

00:37:14.605 --> 00:37:16.215

Just to reiterate, again, appreciate your,

791

00:37:16.365 --> 00:37:17.895

your experts not here today,

792

00:37:17.995 --> 00:37:20.175

so we can always pick it up again tomorrow, uh,

793

00:37:20.175 --> 00:37:21.615

for the response, if that's works easier.

794

00:37:21.615 --> 00:37:23.135

And equally, if there's pits that you don't want

795

00:37:23.135 --> 00:37:24.855

to address today, 'cause they're not here, please feel free.

796

00:37:25.475 --> 00:37:28.785

Um, so I, just moving on a little bit into a bit more

797

00:37:28.785 --> 00:37:30.065

of the technical detail of fire safety.

798

00:37:30.565 --> 00:37:32.665

The, the information you've supplied from the applicant

799

00:37:32.665 --> 00:37:35.185

to ourselves indicates that, um, currently worldwide

800

00:37:35.765 --> 00:37:37.345

is about naught 0.3, uh,

801

00:37:37.475 --> 00:37:41.465

percentage battery energy storage system failures per year

802

00:37:41.485 --> 00:37:43.425

per gigawatt of, uh, cumulative output.

803

00:37:44.285 --> 00:37:46.975

So looking at some til bridge, you know,

804

00:37:46.975 --> 00:37:48.215

it looks like we may have a chance

805

00:37:48.215 --> 00:37:50.335

of about potentially nine nine

806

00:37:50.335 --> 00:37:52.175

of these fires over the lifetime of development.

807

00:37:53.155 --> 00:37:56.535

Um, the report that you submitted from, uh,

808

00:37:56.575 --> 00:37:59.415

the Clean Energy Association found that 26%

809

00:37:59.415 --> 00:38:03.815

of installed battery energy storage systems, uh, had defects

810

00:38:03.815 --> 00:38:04.895

with their fire suppression systems

811

00:38:05.195 --> 00:38:08.575

and 18% of their thermal management systems had defects

812

00:38:08.705 --> 00:38:10.655

which caused or led to thermal runaway

813

00:38:10.995 --> 00:38:13.855

or stick seriously exacerbated the in instant consequences.

814

00:38:13.995 --> 00:38:17.175

So I'm really looking, uh, towards some sort of reassurance

815

00:38:17.175 --> 00:38:20.735

to how you are going to comply and improve the standard, uh,

816

00:38:20.735 --> 00:38:23.935

and, and provide us with, uh, potentially, um, some evidence

817

00:38:23.935 --> 00:38:24.935

to say that you would be able

818

00:38:24.935 --> 00:38:26.855

to meet higher quality standard or

819

00:38:26.855 --> 00:38:29.815

because the evidence at the moment points to the potential

820

00:38:29.815 --> 00:38:32.895

for a fire at over the life of this development

821

00:38:33.585 --> 00:38:36.045

being unlikely, but not entirely discounted.

822

00:38:36.665 --> 00:38:38.445

Uh, and whilst Lincoln Ship Fire

823

00:38:38.445 --> 00:38:40.405

and Rescue Services have stated their satisfaction

824

00:38:40.405 --> 00:38:43.125

with the provisions of the firefighting, uh, services

825

00:38:43.185 --> 00:38:46.805

and the procedures that will be implemented, um, the,

826

00:38:46.905 --> 00:38:49.765

my concern them moves on to possible firefighting scenarios

827

00:38:49.765 --> 00:38:50.925

and the risks of from pollution,

828

00:38:50.985 --> 00:38:53.765

not just into the groundwater regime,

829

00:38:53.805 --> 00:38:56.685

but also into the air for the, uh, local residents.

830

00:38:57.225 --> 00:38:58.885

So escape a pollutant from the site.

831

00:38:59.265 --> 00:39:00.565

So could you perhaps, uh,

832

00:39:00.795 --> 00:39:02.925

explain the hazards arising from these risks in

833

00:39:02.925 --> 00:39:04.085

particular to local residents?

834

00:39:04.545 --> 00:39:07.405

Uh, and if I could then perhaps move to linkage fire

835

00:39:07.405 --> 00:39:09.525

and rescue about their potential mitigation strategy for

836

00:39:09.525 --> 00:39:10.725

how they would address a fire of that.

837

00:39:10.995 --> 00:39:15.285

Because the Fire Battery Safety Management plan lists some

838

00:39:15.285 --> 00:39:17.045

of the key objectives to the site is to ensure

839

00:39:17.045 --> 00:39:18.045

that the fire, smoke

840

00:39:18.585 --> 00:39:21.805

and release of toxic gases do not affect site operations,

841

00:39:22.135 --> 00:39:24.445

first responders and the local community.

842

00:39:24.665 --> 00:39:27.965

And then Section H deals with, uh, as Mr. Jones alluded

843

00:39:27.965 --> 00:39:30.325

to earlier, to ensure that fire water run off is contained

844

00:39:30.905 --> 00:39:31.925

on site and treated.

845

00:39:34.465 --> 00:39:38.135

Thank you, sir. Um, it won't surprise you to know that,

846

00:39:38.155 --> 00:39:41.295

uh, most of those questions are best answered by, um, uh,

847

00:39:41.765 --> 00:39:44.615

battery safety expert Mr. Paul Gregor.

848

00:39:44.615 --> 00:39:46.375

He'll be here tomorrow and, um,

849

00:39:46.655 --> 00:39:48.535

I have discussed those issues with him

850

00:39:48.535 --> 00:39:49.775

before and, and heard him talk about them.

851

00:39:49.795 --> 00:39:52.655

So he will definitely be able to talk you through, um,

852

00:39:52.965 --> 00:39:55.055

that risk factor there and, and what that means.

853

00:39:55.515 --> 00:39:57.415

But, um, as I understand it,

854

00:39:57.415 --> 00:40:00.335

and he's quite involved in these processes of, um, ensuring

855

00:40:00.335 --> 00:40:01.975

that the standards then, um,

856

00:40:02.985 --> 00:40:06.195

take lessons learned from instance in, in the past

857

00:40:06.195 --> 00:40:10.355

to make sure that future standards, uh, are quite,

858

00:40:10.495 --> 00:40:12.355

um, tight and strict.

859

00:40:12.555 --> 00:40:14.915

I mean, even just looking at our battery safety management

860

00:40:14.915 --> 00:40:18.035

plan, there's at least four pages, I think maybe five

861

00:40:18.035 --> 00:40:19.075

of different standards

862

00:40:19.075 --> 00:40:21.675

and things that it would be obviously having to comply with.

863

00:40:21.845 --> 00:40:24.155

We've also made sure there's appropriate offsets from

864

00:40:24.155 --> 00:40:26.115

residential, um, receptors from a

865

00:40:26.115 --> 00:40:27.355
safety perspective as well.

866

00:40:27.815 --> 00:40:29.395
Um, as I've said, um, Mr.

867

00:40:29.425 --> 00:40:32.075
Greg, we will definitely be able to, to expand upon that

868

00:40:32.095 --> 00:40:35.275
and, and give you the comfort, um, that you need tomorrow.

869

00:40:35.535 --> 00:40:38.075
Um, I probably can't say a lot more than that, I'm afraid.

870

00:40:38.385 --> 00:40:40.435
Okay. Thank you very much. Uh, Mr. Moss,

871

00:40:40.435 --> 00:40:42.875
if I could just have a chat and move to you now about, uh,

872

00:40:43.265 --> 00:40:45.315
your appreciating, you know, we,

873

00:40:45.315 --> 00:40:47.315
we've been talking a little bit there about the, the quality

874

00:40:47.315 --> 00:40:48.635
of the construction, the standards

875

00:40:48.635 --> 00:40:49.675
and the performance of the systems.

876

00:40:50.055 --> 00:40:52.355
That's probably a little bit outside of your remit once the,

877

00:40:52.375 --> 00:40:55.155
the operation, I'm thinking more par post-operation

878

00:40:55.155 --> 00:40:56.195
and an incident occurs.

879

00:40:56.575 --> 00:40:58.035
Uh, how, how linkage to fire

880

00:40:58.035 --> 00:41:00.195
and rescue one, their experience in dealing with,

881

00:41:00.195 --> 00:41:03.075
with large battery storage system fires like this,

882

00:41:03.215 --> 00:41:05.315
and uniquely picking up on the fact

883

00:41:05.315 --> 00:41:08.115
that this is slightly different to some big battery sites,

884

00:41:08.115 --> 00:41:10.715
that these are, uh, lots of smaller discreet batteries

885

00:41:10.715 --> 00:41:12.115
that are more in line, uh,

886

00:41:12.115 --> 00:41:14.155
and DC couple battery systems rather than

887

00:41:14.155 --> 00:41:15.235
ac couple battery systems.

888

00:41:18.575 --> 00:41:20.835
Excuse me. Thanks quite rescue. Absolutely.

889

00:41:20.835 --> 00:41:24.315
So with, with regards to the, uh, information that's

890

00:41:24.595 --> 00:41:26.795
provided within the battery management plan, um,

891

00:41:26.895 --> 00:41:28.355

it is very much around prevention.

892

00:41:28.655 --> 00:41:31.715

So all of the control measures that are implemented, um,

893

00:41:31.745 --> 00:41:34.765

there's reference to the required standards, uh,

894

00:41:34.765 --> 00:41:36.005

and certainly from a, um,

895

00:41:37.205 --> 00:41:39.845

A Chemical and technological perspective,

896

00:41:40.545 --> 00:41:43.805

we are very much, uh, um, required to ensure

897

00:41:43.805 --> 00:41:46.485

that the applicant's, um, details align to those.

898

00:41:46.745 --> 00:41:48.845

And, and that is the, the, the kind of requirements

899

00:41:48.845 --> 00:41:50.485

that we'd be looking for in and around that.

900

00:41:50.945 --> 00:41:54.405

Um, with regards to experience from large scale battery,

901

00:41:54.555 --> 00:41:57.525

battery, energy storage systems limited, uh,

902

00:41:57.525 --> 00:41:59.805

but I think you'd find that across the sector, certainly

903

00:41:59.805 --> 00:42:01.685

with regards to, to details aligning

904

00:42:01.685 --> 00:42:03.605

to the National Fire Chiefs Council, um,

905

00:42:03.705 --> 00:42:06.485

and the ability to develop those firefighting, uh,

906

00:42:06.885 --> 00:42:08.885

tactics is something that's being looked at as a,

907

00:42:08.885 --> 00:42:10.445

from a sector wide perspective.

908

00:42:11.065 --> 00:42:14.365

Um, I think has already been alluded to, uh, this afternoon,

909

00:42:14.705 --> 00:42:17.485

uh, our, our tactics employed would be very much defensive.

910

00:42:17.745 --> 00:42:20.645

So certainly with regards to, uh, looking at the details

911

00:42:20.665 --> 00:42:23.805

and in the context of the battery energy storage plan, um,

912

00:42:24.615 --> 00:42:26.925

there are requirements in there around def legation

913

00:42:26.925 --> 00:42:29.605

and the limitation of that, certainly around gaseous, uh,

914

00:42:29.605 --> 00:42:30.605

release, et cetera.

915

00:42:30.985 --> 00:42:32.845

So with regards to the requirements

916

00:42:32.845 --> 00:42:35.965

and the suppression systems, uh, internally within the, uh,

917

00:42:35.965 --> 00:42:38.565

within the batteries, um, is very much based on trying

918

00:42:38.565 --> 00:42:39.725

to contain that within that,

919

00:42:39.725 --> 00:42:41.645

that one container and, and limit the spread.

920

00:42:41.985 --> 00:42:45.845

Um, at tactics then would be to, um, again, prevent, um,

921

00:42:45.845 --> 00:42:47.605

escalation of that would be looking to,

922

00:42:47.625 --> 00:42:48.925

to cool the surrounding areas

923

00:42:49.025 --> 00:42:51.405

and ultimately limit, uh, the size and,

924

00:42:51.405 --> 00:42:53.045

and escalation of that, that fire.

925

00:42:53.345 --> 00:42:55.285

But again, going back to, uh, the standards

926

00:42:55.285 --> 00:42:57.685

and requirements very much in line, uh,

927

00:42:57.685 --> 00:43:00.605

and certainly that our expectation is that evidence is

928

00:43:00.845 --> 00:43:02.885

provided that, uh, the technology

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00:43:02.905 --> 00:43:05.085

and the suppression systems and the control measures within

930

00:43:05.085 --> 00:43:07.205

that aligned to those required standards.

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00:43:07.575 --> 00:43:08.285

Thank you very much.

932

00:43:20.605 --> 00:43:23.665

Are there any, um, got one other question to come into, uh,

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00:43:23.945 --> 00:43:25.465

specifically to pick up on the, uh,

934

00:43:25.465 --> 00:43:26.705

linkage of fire and rescue here today.

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00:43:26.705 --> 00:43:29.145

But are there any questions about the potential

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00:43:29.145 --> 00:43:30.785

for battery fire, uh,

937

00:43:30.805 --> 00:43:33.585

or BESS fire, uh, suppression,

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00:43:33.825 --> 00:43:34.905

fighting mitigation or systems?

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00:43:37.635 --> 00:43:38.365

Okay, thank you

940

00:43:42.835 --> 00:43:43.375

Mr. Jones.

941

00:43:43.785 --> 00:43:47.575

Thank you. Uh, Roger Jones from, uh, 7,000 acres, uh,

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00:43:47.735 --> 00:43:51.985

o one area that, uh, they could have accommodated

943

00:43:52.135 --> 00:43:55.065

that sort of, um, volume of is required

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00:43:55.885 --> 00:43:59.225

and the distance away and the mitigation and,

945

00:43:59.245 --> 00:44:01.425

and everything, you know, because of the infrastructure

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00:44:02.205 --> 00:44:04.705

was the, um, well, the, the power station at Cotton,

947

00:44:05.435 --> 00:44:08.065

which is served from both the seven Trent

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00:44:09.085 --> 00:44:12.505

and angling water with adequate means

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00:44:12.655 --> 00:44:14.705

that could supply the quantities that,

950

00:44:14.765 --> 00:44:15.865

uh, I mentioned earlier.

951

00:44:16.765 --> 00:44:20.305

Um, and it begs the question, why are we thinking

952

00:44:20.365 --> 00:44:23.105

of putting these best systems out in the countryside

953

00:44:23.355 --> 00:44:25.225

where access is difficult

954

00:44:25.885 --> 00:44:30.625

and you know, the control of the water, whereas on site, um,

955

00:44:30.805 --> 00:44:34.605

you had that facility at, at Cotton Power Station, it, it,

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00:44:34.705 --> 00:44:39.005

it, it, historically it's dealt with huge, uh, fires, uh,

957

00:44:39.005 --> 00:44:41.405

involving generator transformers over the years.

958

00:44:42.065 --> 00:44:45.405

You know, why do we choose to put them out?

959

00:44:45.665 --> 00:44:48.885

Why not on the power stations that I just put that one in.

960

00:44:49.085 --> 00:44:52.045

But, um, anyway, for consideration. Thank you. Thank you,

961

00:44:52.295 --> 00:44:53.295

Thank you, Mr. Jones.

962

00:44:58.675 --> 00:45:00.015

Alexis Coleman, the applicant.

963

00:45:00.195 --> 00:45:02.215

Um, there are technical reasons and,

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00:45:02.275 --> 00:45:05.095

and engineering reasons why our battery is, um,

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00:45:05.205 --> 00:45:08.335

located close to the panels and that has to do with loss

966

00:45:08.395 --> 00:45:10.775

and maximizing, um, yield and,

967

00:45:11.035 --> 00:45:14.135

and export of the energy that's generated.

968

00:45:14.275 --> 00:45:17.055

Um, we're very aware of the access issues, which is part

969

00:45:17.055 --> 00:45:19.175

of the reason why we've been in close discussion

970

00:45:19.175 --> 00:45:20.935

with the fire rescue service in particular

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00:45:20.935 --> 00:45:23.055

because of the decoupled nature

972

00:45:23.055 --> 00:45:24.175

of the battery in this scheme.

973

00:45:24.235 --> 00:45:26.695

It means that there's, um, smaller areas of battery,

974

00:45:26.695 --> 00:45:30.135

which is helpful from a, um, fire perspective, um,

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00:45:30.315 --> 00:45:31.535

in some respects, and,

976

00:45:31.635 --> 00:45:33.015

but it does mean there's more locations.

977

00:45:33.015 --> 00:45:35.695

So that's been a key aspect of the discussions to make sure

978

00:45:35.695 --> 00:45:39.095

that, um, that the access is suitable, um, in all cases

979

00:45:39.155 --> 00:45:41.495

and that the infrastructure needed at each

980

00:45:41.735 --> 00:45:42.855

location, um, is available.

981

00:45:42.955 --> 00:45:45.175

So again, Mr. Gregory will talk to that, um,

982

00:45:45.315 --> 00:45:47.215

far more eloquently and convincingly tomorrow,

983

00:45:47.315 --> 00:45:49.255

but, um, that's, that's the general position.

984

00:45:50.115 --> 00:45:53.025

Thank you. Right.

985

00:45:54.005 --> 00:45:56.345

I'm gonna move on now to, um, other control

986

00:45:56.345 --> 00:45:58.545

of major accident and hazard sites, if that's okay.

987

00:45:58.645 --> 00:46:02.225

Uh, uh, firstly, looking at, um, cotton power station

988

00:46:02.765 --> 00:46:06.385

and, uh, the Juniper Gas pipeline to the site, uh,

989

00:46:06.545 --> 00:46:08.065

I understand that those works

990

00:46:08.205 --> 00:46:11.025

of the planned cable routing works would be undertaken under

991

00:46:11.025 --> 00:46:12.065

the CDM regulations,

992

00:46:12.645 --> 00:46:17.135

but, uh, I'm just, uh, looking first to the applicant

993

00:46:17.195 --> 00:46:19.615

to advise about how you would, um,

994

00:46:20.045 --> 00:46:22.135

your su suggested methodology

995

00:46:22.155 --> 00:46:23.975

and mitigation to ensure that your horizontal

996

00:46:23.975 --> 00:46:26.335

and directional drilling doesn't impact upon any of those,

997

00:46:26.475 --> 00:46:29.375

um, major hazards, uh, at that site.

998

00:46:29.875 --> 00:46:33.175

Uh, and how, you know, your, again, your horizontal

999

00:46:33.175 --> 00:46:35.095

and directional drilling wouldn't deviate, uh,

1000

00:46:35.115 --> 00:46:36.535

and be controlled so that you ensure

1001

00:46:36.535 --> 00:46:39.815

that you don't accidentally strike these, uh, hazard sites.

1002

00:46:41.235 --> 00:46:43.225

Thank you, sir. Alexis Coleman for the applicant.

1003

00:46:43.605 --> 00:46:46.545

Um, in both those cases, um, these dealt

1004

00:46:46.545 --> 00:46:47.825

with by protected provisions.

1005

00:46:48.045 --> 00:46:49.745

So we're negotiating protected provisions

1006

00:46:49.745 --> 00:46:51.665

with EDF in relation to the power station

1007

00:46:51.805 --> 00:46:53.505

and also with, um, Juniper.

1008

00:46:53.965 --> 00:46:58.305

And, um, those essentially provide that if we're doing works

1009

00:46:58.605 --> 00:47:02.105

or, or doing anything, um, within a certain radius of any

1010

00:47:02.105 --> 00:47:05.265

of their assets that they'll need to approve, um, the works.

1011

00:47:05.445 --> 00:47:06.825

And obviously they do that and,

1012

00:47:06.825 --> 00:47:08.745

and they're able to impose conditions on any approval.

1013

00:47:08.745 --> 00:47:10.265

Having regard to their safety

1014

00:47:10.325 --> 00:47:13.505

and operational requirements, um, they're,

1015

00:47:13.575 --> 00:47:15.985

they have the ability under general, sort

1016

00:47:15.985 --> 00:47:17.705

of protective provisions to be able to, um,

1017

00:47:17.775 --> 00:47:19.665

inspect the works and, and sign off on the works.

1018

00:47:19.665 --> 00:47:22.745

So we're not able to do works within certain areas

1019

00:47:23.045 --> 00:47:25.625

of their apparatus without their prior approval.

1020

00:47:25.925 --> 00:47:28.625

And, and there's, the protected provisions are much more,

1021

00:47:28.645 --> 00:47:29.965

um, detailed than that

1022

00:47:29.965 --> 00:47:31.925

and deal with, with all sorts of situations,

1023

00:47:31.925 --> 00:47:33.605

but that's the basic way they apply.

1024

00:47:33.985 --> 00:47:35.125

Um, they're, um,

1025

00:47:35.355 --> 00:47:37.085

they've been negotiated with both those parties.

1026

00:47:37.085 --> 00:47:38.245

They're not quite agreed yet,

1027

00:47:38.245 --> 00:47:40.565

but we anticipate both sets being agreed by the end

1028

00:47:40.565 --> 00:47:42.245

of the examination to make sure that that,

1029

00:47:42.465 --> 00:47:43.485

um, protection is in place.

1030

00:47:44.075 --> 00:47:45.075

Okay.

1031

00:47:47.525 --> 00:47:48.155

Thank you very much.

1032

00:47:55.425 --> 00:47:58.725

Uh, moving on to the site adjacent to the order limits,

1033

00:47:58.825 --> 00:48:01.285

the Glenworth oil extraction site, uh,

1034

00:48:01.505 --> 00:48:04.965

and also that, uh, that site has got, uh, uh, uh,

1035

00:48:04.965 --> 00:48:07.125

extent permission for, uh, ex extension.

1036

00:48:07.665 --> 00:48:12.385

Uh, I understand that you,

1037

00:48:12.445 --> 00:48:14.585

the applicant has not had any correspondence received back

1038

00:48:14.585 --> 00:48:17.705

from the site operator IGAs regarding their early attempts

1039

00:48:17.825 --> 00:48:18.745

to engage with 'em and offer

1040
00:48:18.745 --> 00:48:20.065
protective provisions to that site.

1041
00:48:20.645 --> 00:48:22.465
Uh, can the applicant comment on the risks

1042
00:48:22.465 --> 00:48:24.465
that might be likely to either party, either the,

1043
00:48:24.525 --> 00:48:27.065
the potential for a, for a solar installation

1044
00:48:27.125 --> 00:48:30.585
or the oil field site should no agreement be reached?

1045
00:48:32.725 --> 00:48:34.515
Thank you sir. Alexis's comment for the applicant,

1046
00:48:34.935 --> 00:48:36.355
um, yeah, so Mr.

1047
00:48:36.355 --> 00:48:38.315
Greg will be able to talk more specifically

1048
00:48:38.315 --> 00:48:39.355
about the risk there.

1049
00:48:39.415 --> 00:48:41.875
We have, um, included outlined design principles

1050
00:48:41.895 --> 00:48:45.355
to allow 30 meter, um, offset from that site in order

1051
00:48:45.375 --> 00:48:46.435
to ensure safety.

1052
00:48:46.975 --> 00:48:49.555
Um, I think I'm right in saying we have actually had a

1053
00:48:49.555 --> 00:48:51.275

little bit of success in starting to speak to, I guess,

1054

00:48:51.275 --> 00:48:52.835

but I'm going to just hand over to Mrs.

1055

00:48:53.475 --> 00:48:56.155

Caroline Reeve from ACOM who can expand upon that

1056

00:48:56.155 --> 00:48:57.955

and can expand upon the, um,

1057

00:48:58.375 --> 00:48:59.595

the measures we're taking there.

1058

00:49:01.095 --> 00:49:02.925

Thank you, sir. Um, Mrs.

1059

00:49:03.125 --> 00:49:05.805

Caroline Reeve, um, on behalf of the applicant, um, yes,

1060

00:49:05.805 --> 00:49:10.005

as just was described, we have been, um, engaging with IGAs

1061

00:49:10.005 --> 00:49:12.565

and we have received some correspondence today ahead

1062

00:49:12.565 --> 00:49:14.205

of the hearing in relation to

1063

00:49:14.985 --> 00:49:17.805

the measures outlined in the ODP, um,

1064

00:49:17.805 --> 00:49:20.925

which at the moment are presenting the 30 meter exclusion

1065

00:49:21.035 --> 00:49:25.565

from their existing use, which relates to, um,

1066

00:49:25.825 --> 00:49:28.645

the protection that that site has in relation to, um,

1067

00:49:28.645 --> 00:49:29.845

an existing mineral sites.

1068

00:49:29.845 --> 00:49:32.845

Obviously demonstrating that our scheme will enable

1069

00:49:32.995 --> 00:49:36.365

that existing site to remain in operation in accordance

1070

00:49:36.365 --> 00:49:40.325

with policy M 12 of the minerals and waste local plans.

1071

00:49:40.465 --> 00:49:43.245

So our sort of technical view, which Paul, Greg,

1072

00:49:43.245 --> 00:49:45.845

we will be able to expand upon tomorrow is that

1073

00:49:45.845 --> 00:49:48.645

that 30 meter exclusion is sufficient to ensure

1074

00:49:48.645 --> 00:49:52.565

that any sort of battery event wouldn't, um, conflict

1075

00:49:52.595 --> 00:49:54.885

with the existing operation of that site.

1076

00:49:55.725 --> 00:49:58.765

I understand that the existing oil well site is,

1077

00:49:58.785 --> 00:50:02.125

is unmanned, so in effect its infrastructure, um,

1078

00:50:02.125 --> 00:50:05.435

that's used, I suppose, into oil sort

1079

00:50:05.435 --> 00:50:06.995

of being extracted by tankers.

1080

00:50:07.455 --> 00:50:10.755

So in terms of sort of risk to to human health, you know

1081

00:50:10.755 --> 00:50:13.155

that that interaction generally isn't there on a sort

1082

00:50:13.155 --> 00:50:14.475

of day-to-day basis.

1083

00:50:14.735 --> 00:50:17.675

But as I say, those, those discussions are ongoing as well

1084

00:50:17.675 --> 00:50:19.635

as I believe sort of discussions in relation

1085

00:50:19.655 --> 00:50:21.595

to protected provisions as well.

1086

00:50:22.455 --> 00:50:25.595

Um, in relation to the extent planning permission

1087

00:50:25.735 --> 00:50:28.445

for the site to the, the west, um,

1088

00:50:29.875 --> 00:50:32.205

that doesn't have the same status of protection

1089

00:50:32.345 --> 00:50:34.965

as the existing mineral site in terms of M 12,

1090

00:50:35.545 --> 00:50:37.965

but nevertheless, we've given it the same status

1091

00:50:38.065 --> 00:50:40.605

of protection and I'm proposing the same 30

1092

00:50:40.605 --> 00:50:41.965

meter exclusion zone.

1093

00:50:42.625 --> 00:50:46.485

Um, and as part of the, um, sort of evolution

1094

00:50:46.485 --> 00:50:49.005

and iteration of our indicative site layout,

1095

00:50:49.015 --> 00:50:52.085

there were discussions at that time to ensure that

1096

00:50:52.085 --> 00:50:55.245

that scheme, if consented could go ahead in terms

1097

00:50:55.245 --> 00:50:56.445

of access, for example.

1098

00:50:58.555 --> 00:50:59.465

Thank you, Ms. Reid.

1099

00:51:05.015 --> 00:51:07.505

Does anybody have on the subject of, uh, control

1100

00:51:07.505 --> 00:51:08.505

of major accidents

1101

00:51:08.505 --> 00:51:10.745

and hazards have any other thing they would also wish

1102

00:51:10.745 --> 00:51:12.305

to add to the discussion?

1103

00:51:12.305 --> 00:51:13.305

Yes. Mr. McBride, sir.

1104

00:51:15.015 --> 00:51:18.045

Thank you, sir. Neil McBride can to council just, um,

1105

00:51:18.185 --> 00:51:20.945

in terms of the, uh, the points that Mr.

1106

00:51:21.105 --> 00:51:23.745

Reeve has just made, and, uh, the question is really

1107

00:51:24.565 --> 00:51:27.785

why the, the site with extent planning permission

1108

00:51:28.215 --> 00:51:30.345
that hasn't yet been developed, why

1109

00:51:30.345 --> 00:51:34.225
that wouldn't have the same amount of protection as, um,

1110

00:51:34.485 --> 00:51:36.905
the site that's already in existence, it's got plan mission,

1111

00:51:37.445 --> 00:51:39.545
um, they could start on site anytime.

1112

00:51:39.805 --> 00:51:42.665
And so I just wonder why the, the view is that

1113

00:51:42.665 --> 00:51:45.185
that doesn't carry the same amount of safeguarding

1114

00:51:45.725 --> 00:51:47.305
and relation to policy M 12.

1115

00:51:51.065 --> 00:51:53.405
Um, you'd like to come back to that Ms. Mr. Reeve?

1116

00:51:54.505 --> 00:51:56.775
Thank you Mrs. Reeve, on behalf of the applicant.

1117

00:51:56.935 --> 00:51:59.615
I think my, um, my view is

1118

00:51:59.615 --> 00:52:02.535
because it's not yet implemented, it does have weight

1119

00:52:03.085 --> 00:52:05.775
than permission, but it doesn't have the same weight

1120

00:52:05.795 --> 00:52:07.735
as an existing mineral site

1121
00:52:07.735 --> 00:52:10.575
that's already incorporated within the mineral plan,

1122
00:52:10.955 --> 00:52:12.815
but as I said, we haven't treated any,

1123
00:52:12.915 --> 00:52:15.135
we haven't treated it differently in terms

1124
00:52:15.155 --> 00:52:17.175
of proposed mitigation measures.

1125
00:52:17.515 --> 00:52:20.215
So, you know, it's a, it's a technical,

1126
00:52:20.215 --> 00:52:21.535
perhaps professional sort

1127
00:52:21.535 --> 00:52:23.135
of difference in professional opinion,

1128
00:52:23.155 --> 00:52:24.815
but the outcome is the same in the way

1129
00:52:24.815 --> 00:52:26.495
that we've treated both of those sites.

1130
00:52:29.435 --> 00:52:30.535
So if I can just add to

1131
00:52:30.535 --> 00:52:31.775
that Alexis comment of the applicant.

1132
00:52:31.795 --> 00:52:33.455
So in the outline design principles,

1133
00:52:33.455 --> 00:52:34.495
just reflecting what Mrs.

1134
00:52:34.575 --> 00:52:36.495

Reeve has said, that the principle is

1135

00:52:36.495 --> 00:52:39.295

to avoid safety concerns, numbers two, A

1136

00:52:39.295 --> 00:52:41.615

and B will, will not be located within 30 meters

1137

00:52:41.615 --> 00:52:43.615

of the existing Glenworth K oil site

1138

00:52:43.615 --> 00:52:45.295

and the area granted planning permission under

1139

00:52:45.315 --> 00:52:48.575

and has the reference to construct a hydrocarbon well site.

1140

00:52:48.715 --> 00:52:51.895

So as Mrs. Reeve said, the controls are in place for both.

1141

00:52:55.625 --> 00:52:57.215

Would you like to come back on that, Mr. McBride? Sorry.

1142

00:52:58.495 --> 00:53:00.245

Thank you, sir. Neil McBride, link County Council?

1143

00:53:00.505 --> 00:53:02.845

No, if, if the same, uh, measures are going

1144

00:53:02.845 --> 00:53:06.205

to be in place either way, it was just why, um,

1145

00:53:06.605 --> 00:53:09.205

a spike stamp plan permission didn't have the same sort of,

1146

00:53:09.345 --> 00:53:11.085

uh, um, credibility

1147

00:53:11.225 --> 00:53:14.805

or protection is one that's in, in, uh, in, in operation.

1148

00:53:14.865 --> 00:53:17.685

And if, if, if the measures are gonna be there, then yeah,

1149

00:53:17.685 --> 00:53:19.805

we're, we're, we're, we're comfortable with that. Okay.

1150

00:53:19.815 --> 00:53:20.245

Thank you.

1151

00:53:23.585 --> 00:53:24.815

7,000 acres, Ms.

1152

00:53:25.015 --> 00:53:26.015

Garbo.

1153

00:53:26.455 --> 00:53:28.365

Thank you Phil. Gar, 7,000 acres.

1154

00:53:28.465 --> 00:53:32.925

Um, my concern as a, as a resident is Glenworth is that,

1155

00:53:33.265 --> 00:53:37.405

say the worst case scenario occurs, um, with the IGAs

1156

00:53:37.945 --> 00:53:39.165

has been developed in Northland Road,

1157

00:53:39.165 --> 00:53:41.605

which is not far from the village of Glenworth

1158

00:53:42.545 --> 00:53:44.525

and a battery fire occurs

1159

00:53:44.545 --> 00:53:48.165

and the two elements somehow come together.

1160

00:53:49.495 --> 00:53:54.245

Um, what plans are in place in terms of evacuation plans

1161

00:53:55.105 --> 00:53:57.715

for residents, um, safety

1162

00:53:58.625 --> 00:54:00.455

plans at all in place?

1163

00:54:00.615 --> 00:54:03.295

I haven't seen anything regard to the worst case scenario

1164

00:54:03.315 --> 00:54:04.375

for this situation.

1165

00:54:04.715 --> 00:54:07.175

So if we could be, be pointed in that direction,

1166

00:54:07.175 --> 00:54:09.575

if they are there, or alternately they, they'd be written

1167

00:54:09.955 --> 00:54:12.255

and put in within the measures, that would be, uh,

1168

00:54:12.845 --> 00:54:15.055

certainly required, I would've thought.

1169

00:54:15.145 --> 00:54:16.145

Thank you

1170

00:54:20.815 --> 00:54:22.635

Alexis Coleman, the applicant, um,

1171

00:54:22.665 --> 00:54:25.515

certainly Mr. Gregory will be able to speak about that, um,

1172

00:54:25.585 --> 00:54:27.115

with much authority tomorrow

1173

00:54:27.115 --> 00:54:28.875

because I've heard him, um, speak about

1174

00:54:28.975 --> 00:54:32.115

and he has considered closely that the likelihood of

1175

00:54:32.115 --> 00:54:35.595

what would happen in that event be able to, um, deal with

1176

00:54:35.595 --> 00:54:37.555

that and hopefully give you the comfort you need.

1177

00:54:37.555 --> 00:54:39.195

Hopefully you're able to attend tomorrow.

1178

00:54:39.775 --> 00:54:42.515

Um, obviously we've also got the battery safety management

1179

00:54:42.515 --> 00:54:45.275

plan and also emergency response plans in, um,

1180

00:54:45.495 --> 00:54:47.075

the Kemp and oem.

1181

00:54:47.095 --> 00:54:49.355

So we can point you in the direction of those in terms of,

1182

00:54:49.535 --> 00:54:53.315

um, emergency response in, in any situation in terms of, um,

1183

00:54:53.335 --> 00:54:56.635

the site and I, um, imagine that the glenworth, I guess

1184

00:54:56.635 --> 00:54:59.355

that has its own, um, um, procedures as well,

1185

00:54:59.375 --> 00:55:02.115

but, um, I can definitely expand upon that in more detail.

1186

00:55:02.335 --> 00:55:03.335

You tomorrow

1187

00:55:07.135 --> 00:55:10.055

Concludes the on, uh, bringing the fire safety, uh,

1188

00:55:10.055 --> 00:55:12.175

discussion that we had planned for tomorrow today.

1189

00:55:12.555 --> 00:55:14.215

Um, just one before I close that off

1190

00:55:14.215 --> 00:55:15.895

and come back to where we were on water and environment.

1191

00:55:15.915 --> 00:55:17.335

Uh, is there anything that wants to be raised

1192

00:55:17.335 --> 00:55:20.175

around any fire safety issues while we have the benefit of,

1193

00:55:20.175 --> 00:55:21.655

uh, linkage of fire and rescue in the room today?

1194

00:55:22.245 --> 00:55:25.235

Okay, thank you.

1195

00:55:25.855 --> 00:55:27.155

I'm gonna move back now, like I say

1196

00:55:27.155 --> 00:55:28.355

to water now I'm going back.

1197

00:55:28.455 --> 00:55:31.995

Uh, sorry to jump back into agenda item three A again, um,

1198

00:55:33.305 --> 00:55:35.875

conscious in the response that the applicant

1199

00:55:36.155 --> 00:55:38.795

provided to question one point 14.7, uh,

1200

00:55:39.395 --> 00:55:41.915

I was raising the concern that the connection pits, um,

1201

00:55:42.945 --> 00:55:44.085

may come under, uh,

1202

00:55:45.115 --> 00:55:47.805

risk from potential movement at the River Trent, uh,

1203

00:55:47.805 --> 00:55:48.805

river Banks in the future,

1204

00:55:49.065 --> 00:55:50.765

and that the environment agency, uh, the,

1205

00:55:50.765 --> 00:55:53.125

the applicant made the, uh, advice

1206

00:55:53.125 --> 00:55:54.965

that the connection pits will be protected

1207

00:55:54.965 --> 00:55:56.925

by the environment agency's flood defenses

1208

00:55:57.075 --> 00:55:59.285

that are currently in place on the river Trent.

1209

00:55:59.665 --> 00:56:02.125

So I just wanted to firstly ask you can, can we confirm

1210

00:56:02.125 --> 00:56:03.965

that the environment agency's flood defenses

1211

00:56:03.965 --> 00:56:06.685

that their management intent from their catchment flood

1212

00:56:06.685 --> 00:56:09.165

management plan for that section of the river Trent, is

1213

00:56:09.165 --> 00:56:11.165

that those defenses will be maintained

1214

00:56:11.185 --> 00:56:12.725

and that there is adequate funding in place

1215

00:56:12.745 --> 00:56:14.925

to maintain those defenses throughout the

1216

00:56:15.125 --> 00:56:16.485
lifetime of this development?

1217

00:56:17.345 --> 00:56:20.915
Um, so if I go to the Environment agency for that, uh,

1218

00:56:20.975 --> 00:56:22.075
for first perhaps

1219

00:56:24.845 --> 00:56:25.845
Yes. Wayne Cattel from

1220

00:56:25.845 --> 00:56:27.385
the Environment Agency, yes.

1221

00:56:27.465 --> 00:56:28.505
I mean they're, they're very important

1222

00:56:28.505 --> 00:56:29.825
defenses from our point of view.

1223

00:56:29.825 --> 00:56:32.705
So we're, we're doing whatever we can necessary to, to sort

1224

00:56:32.705 --> 00:56:34.185
of maintain them there for the future.

1225

00:56:36.545 --> 00:56:37.535
Thank you, Mr. Ka.

1226

00:56:47.815 --> 00:56:50.145
Okay, moving on to the second of the issues

1227

00:56:50.145 --> 00:56:52.305
that we've raised in the agenda, which is, uh, item three B

1228

00:56:52.305 --> 00:56:54.265
around soils and agriculture.

1229

00:56:59.755 --> 00:57:00.755

One more. Sorry.

1230

00:57:02.055 --> 00:57:03.665

Yeah, sorry. Yeah, I'm, I'm sorry.

1231

00:57:03.845 --> 00:57:05.265

Uh, inspector, um, we,

1232

00:57:05.265 --> 00:57:06.905

we mo I I didn't realize we were moving

1233

00:57:06.905 --> 00:57:07.945

away from, from that.

1234

00:57:07.975 --> 00:57:10.505

I've got another couple of, uh, points to make. Okay.

1235

00:57:10.925 --> 00:57:15.145

Um, although we consider water in its liquid form

1236

00:57:16.485 --> 00:57:18.265

at this stage, we should consider

1237

00:57:19.065 --> 00:57:20.425

anything in its solid form.

1238

00:57:22.465 --> 00:57:23.965

Um, earlier this year,

1239

00:57:24.025 --> 00:57:28.325

or sorry, last year, we suffered a, um, catastrophic failure

1240

00:57:28.545 --> 00:57:32.085

of panels on, um, uh, uh, port when

1241

00:57:32.665 --> 00:57:36.455

in an in angle sea, uh, with that kind of damage,

1242

00:57:39.585 --> 00:57:42.685

you can see there absolutely, uh, de uh, destroyed.

1243

00:57:42.795 --> 00:57:47.005

They, uh, in fact that's, that's even worse. There we are.

1244

00:57:47.885 --> 00:57:52.635

That's the kind of damage that, um, well, uh,

1245

00:57:52.685 --> 00:57:56.795

hailstones of golf ball size would do, not just to that bit

1246

00:57:56.795 --> 00:58:01.715

of area, but it can do it on a massive scale, not only just

1247

00:58:01.715 --> 00:58:04.955

with the installation at Till Bridge, but on all of them.

1248

00:58:05.535 --> 00:58:09.075

Now, the chances of that happening in the 60 year plan

1249

00:58:09.345 --> 00:58:12.595

that you have to have these panels, uh, functioning,

1250

00:58:13.055 --> 00:58:14.155

uh, is very high.

1251

00:58:14.775 --> 00:58:18.435

Uh, it's gonna happen just as we are having increasing, um,

1252

00:58:18.895 --> 00:58:23.275

um, events, uh, involving, um, torrential rain,

1253

00:58:23.735 --> 00:58:25.995

uh, and prolonged periods of torrential rain

1254

00:58:26.455 --> 00:58:28.555

and the flooding that we, we experience.

1255

00:58:28.895 --> 00:58:31.875

Now, this is, um, an ongoing, an ongoing problem.

1256

00:58:32.615 --> 00:58:37.605

Um, already, um, we, we are losing,

1257

00:58:38.105 --> 00:58:40.805

we are going to be losing, irrespective as of the measures

1258

00:58:40.805 --> 00:58:43.965

that the UK has taken to reduce its CO2 emissions

1259

00:58:44.345 --> 00:58:46.525

by 50% since 1990.

1260

00:58:47.305 --> 00:58:49.845

Uh, instead of going around the world saying match that

1261

00:58:50.625 --> 00:58:52.045

we we're trying to get it even lower.

1262

00:58:52.235 --> 00:58:54.605

Yeah, and it's gonna cost us, but the,

1263

00:58:54.865 --> 00:58:59.125

but the thing is that, um, we we're not only losing land

1264

00:58:59.985 --> 00:59:02.845

for solar, um, solar farms,

1265

00:59:03.145 --> 00:59:06.085

but we're also losing land through inundation.

1266

00:59:06.825 --> 00:59:09.445

And, and if we, if we were to believe this study

1267

00:59:09.755 --> 00:59:13.085

that was carried out by, um, uh, climate Central

1268

00:59:14.035 --> 00:59:17.525

that in 25 years time, the map

1269

00:59:18.145 --> 00:59:22.965

of the UK would look like that, which means

1270

00:59:23.275 --> 00:59:25.125

that we'll be losing about a third

1271

00:59:25.865 --> 00:59:28.685

of the productive farmland in Lincolnshire.

1272

00:59:29.755 --> 00:59:33.375

So additional to that, so in other words, not only how we,

1273

00:59:33.675 --> 00:59:35.095

uh, are, we have we got

1274

00:59:35.095 --> 00:59:37.895

to consider the actual surface water runoff

1275

00:59:37.895 --> 00:59:41.495

and the inundation of the floodplains on, on which

1276

00:59:42.035 --> 00:59:43.775

the haal land is placed.

1277

00:59:44.075 --> 00:59:46.015

That's where the most fertile land is.

1278

00:59:47.395 --> 00:59:51.005

It's, it's not just that, but it is the, not only the crops

1279

00:59:51.345 --> 00:59:52.445

and the loss of land,

1280

00:59:52.995 --> 00:59:55.285

it's the e even if it's just an intermittent event.

1281

00:59:55.475 --> 00:59:58.965

It's the interruption of standard farming practices.

1282

00:59:59.545 --> 01:00:03.565

And, and that, uh, throws back now already we've got a,

1283

01:00:03.565 --> 01:00:04.845

an increase in population.

1284

01:00:05.535 --> 01:00:08.435

Uh, we are at 67 million now, goodness knows

1285

01:00:08.435 --> 01:00:10.715

what we'll be like in 25 years time.

1286

01:00:11.695 --> 01:00:14.475

So we're, we're relying very heavily on imported foods now.

1287

01:00:15.135 --> 01:00:17.375

So, you know, I'm just wondering if

1288

01:00:17.375 --> 01:00:20.975

that should be considered as part of the strategy.

1289

01:00:21.415 --> 01:00:24.495

I don't know where, where this infrastructure finishes

1290

01:00:24.915 --> 01:00:27.335

and the go, uh, government strategy starts,

1291

01:00:27.835 --> 01:00:29.295

or is that just for the politicians?

1292

01:00:29.495 --> 01:00:32.135

I don't know. Yeah. Thank you very much. Yeah, thank you

1293

01:00:32.135 --> 01:00:33.135

Mr. Jones. Yeah. Uh, we, we

1294

01:00:33.135 --> 01:00:34.535

are gonna move on to source and agriculture

1295

01:00:34.535 --> 01:00:37.035

and discuss about the, the its

1296

01:00:37.035 --> 01:00:38.195

future land use in the moment.

1297

01:00:38.655 --> 01:00:40.875

Uh, and I would just, you know, to answer your question,

1298

01:00:40.895 --> 01:00:42.755

and I think it was raised at the last open floor hearing

1299

01:00:42.775 --> 01:00:45.115

as well, um, policies

1300

01:00:45.115 --> 01:00:46.755

for politicians we're officers of government.

1301

01:00:46.755 --> 01:00:47.755

We, we deliver policy.

1302

01:00:47.895 --> 01:00:51.715

So, um, uh, yeah, uh, we, uh, if I think some

1303

01:00:51.715 --> 01:00:52.875

of your concerns would be probably

1304

01:00:52.875 --> 01:00:53.955

best addressed to the department.

1305

01:00:54.145 --> 01:00:58.275

Yeah. Uh, uh, and, and, and the, uh, ministers per that.

1306

01:00:58.275 --> 01:01:01.775

Thank you. Um, so, uh, sorry.

1307

01:01:01.775 --> 01:01:03.735

Does the applicant want to come back on that point at all?

1308

01:01:05.925 --> 01:01:07.225

Alexis, comment to the applicant.

1309

01:01:07.525 --> 01:01:09.785

Um, there's quite a few points in there.

1310

01:01:09.825 --> 01:01:13.425

I think we moved from water into, um, agriculture midway.

1311

01:01:13.425 --> 01:01:15.665

I think we'll probably pick up on the food production point.

1312

01:01:15.745 --> 01:01:20.145

I know that's in, um, obviously the reason

1313

01:01:20.245 --> 01:01:24.305

for the demonstrated urgent need for, um, the scheme is

1314

01:01:24.305 --> 01:01:25.865

to address the effects of climate change.

1315

01:01:25.965 --> 01:01:28.185

So I think that probably deals with a few of the points.

1316

01:01:28.725 --> 01:01:31.265

Um, we've obviously done assessments in terms of, um,

1317

01:01:31.365 --> 01:01:32.545

the resilience of the scheme

1318

01:01:32.545 --> 01:01:33.905

to climate change in the future.

1319

01:01:34.245 --> 01:01:36.555

And a large part of what the discussions

1320

01:01:36.555 --> 01:01:38.395

with the EA about flood risks are is,

1321

01:01:38.395 --> 01:01:39.835

is looking at future scenarios

1322

01:01:39.865 --> 01:01:41.475

with those exact examples in mind.

1323

01:01:42.015 --> 01:01:44.075

Um, I don't know if Mr.

1324

01:01:44.075 --> 01:01:45.755

Brandon, you wanna check on the flooding point,

1325

01:01:48.835 --> 01:01:53.255

Uh, Chris Brandon, uh, the applicant, um, as, um,

1326

01:01:53.715 --> 01:01:55.335

my colleague said, uh,

1327

01:01:55.955 --> 01:01:58.575

we dis the flood risk assessment undertaken has

1328

01:01:59.255 --> 01:02:01.055

assessed climate change, um,

1329

01:02:01.115 --> 01:02:03.535

and the training strategy outlined training strategy also

1330

01:02:03.695 --> 01:02:04.695

assessed climate change in line

1331

01:02:04.695 --> 01:02:05.895

with the government guidelines.

1332

01:02:06.675 --> 01:02:11.095

Um, to answer your point on the, um, the flood plains, the,

1333

01:02:11.115 --> 01:02:12.455

the majority of the principal sites,

1334

01:02:12.755 --> 01:02:14.695

and largely the, so the vol take panels,

1335

01:02:14.695 --> 01:02:15.895

they're all in flood zone one.

1336

01:02:16.525 --> 01:02:19.805

There's a, there are three areas in, um,

1337

01:02:20.425 --> 01:02:23.485
in flood zone three, um, approximately

1338

01:02:24.195 --> 01:02:26.005
less than a hectare in total both

1339

01:02:26.005 --> 01:02:27.125
the panels in flood zone three.

1340

01:02:27.125 --> 01:02:29.645
And they've been modeled, um, in the flood risk assessment,

1341

01:02:30.385 --> 01:02:32.325
um, for climate change to make, to,

1342

01:02:32.325 --> 01:02:33.565
to ensure they're safe in times of flood

1343

01:02:33.565 --> 01:02:34.925
and don't increase flood risk elsewhere.

1344

01:02:37.045 --> 01:02:40.745
Thank you. Yeah.

1345

01:02:40.885 --> 01:02:42.865
Uh, Roger Jones, uh, 7,000 acres.

1346

01:02:43.125 --> 01:02:44.785
Uh, this is the problem really.

1347

01:02:45.185 --> 01:02:48.505
I know the, the, the studies that have been done are really

1348

01:02:48.765 --> 01:02:51.505
to protect the, the, uh, the installation

1349

01:02:52.205 --> 01:02:55.505
rather than considering what the installation, uh, is,

1350

01:02:55.965 --> 01:02:57.945

is doing to the, uh, to the environment.

1351

01:02:57.965 --> 01:03:01.065

And, and, and that's, that's the way we see it anyway.

1352

01:03:01.525 --> 01:03:05.225

Um, I mean, the thing is, it's, it's okay to, to cite, uh,

1353

01:03:05.225 --> 01:03:06.865

things not on the floodplain

1354

01:03:06.865 --> 01:03:09.705

and say, well, you know, we don't have any flood risk here,

1355

01:03:09.965 --> 01:03:13.985

but you're taking up land that additional land to that

1356

01:03:13.985 --> 01:03:15.265

that's already lost from flooding.

1357

01:03:16.175 --> 01:03:18.425

Yeah. Thank you very much. Thank

1358

01:03:18.425 --> 01:03:19.425

You.

1359

01:03:21.995 --> 01:03:24.205

That we specifically responded on climate change

1360

01:03:24.365 --> 01:03:26.685

resilience in, in response to the points that were made.

1361

01:03:26.685 --> 01:03:29.725

Obviously the whole environmental statement is looking at

1362

01:03:30.025 --> 01:03:32.445

the, the, the effects, the potential effects

1363

01:03:32.445 --> 01:03:35.285

of the scheme on the environment polluting if it has an

1364
01:03:35.285 --> 01:03:37.525
impact on flooding, which is what all the policy

1365
01:03:37.525 --> 01:03:40.125
around flood risk and the flood zones go to,

1366
01:03:40.125 --> 01:03:42.325
and why we, there's certain tests depending on,

1367
01:03:42.325 --> 01:03:43.445
on the zones and that sort of thing.

1368
01:03:43.465 --> 01:03:46.725
So it is very much aimed at the effect on the environment

1369
01:03:46.725 --> 01:03:49.165
as well as ensuring that we're not creating something that,

1370
01:03:49.715 --> 01:03:51.005
that creates an issue

1371
01:03:51.005 --> 01:03:52.005
because it's not resilient

1372
01:03:52.005 --> 01:03:53.125
to, to climate change in the future.

1373
01:03:56.465 --> 01:03:59.955
Okay. I'm going to move on to, uh, item three bean now,

1374
01:03:59.955 --> 01:04:01.555
which is soils and agriculture, if that's okay.

1375
01:04:01.555 --> 01:04:03.595
And we're gonna look at the proposed development

1376
01:04:03.595 --> 01:04:05.955
and the impact on, uh, the soil at the site

1377
01:04:05.955 --> 01:04:07.755

and the agricultural producer site.

1378

01:04:08.335 --> 01:04:11.835

Uh, impacts on assess on agricultural land classification,

1379

01:04:12.575 --> 01:04:15.475

uh, uh, particularly the written ministerial statement

1380

01:04:15.475 --> 01:04:17.475

and the use of best and most versatile land.

1381

01:04:18.175 --> 01:04:20.975

Uh, and, uh, the overall effect

1382

01:04:20.975 --> 01:04:23.015

of the proposed development on UK food security.

1383

01:04:23.955 --> 01:04:25.415

Uh, the effects on land determined

1384

01:04:25.415 --> 01:04:27.135

by the cable route corridor options as well,

1385

01:04:27.755 --> 01:04:30.615

and the proposed ongoing management of the land, uh,

1386

01:04:30.865 --> 01:04:32.055

after, during its operation.

1387

01:04:33.505 --> 01:04:37.635

Um, on question, uh, one, 12.2,

1388

01:04:37.695 --> 01:04:39.595

I'm following 'em up on the applicant's commitment

1389

01:04:39.595 --> 01:04:41.875

to grazing at the site where they suggested

1390

01:04:41.875 --> 01:04:45.435

that they will be, uh, uh, providing a strategy

1391

01:04:45.435 --> 01:04:46.915
for grazing the site once the

1392

01:04:46.915 --> 01:04:48.075
panels are potentially in place.

1393

01:04:48.335 --> 01:04:49.875
Whilst there's a lot of information

1394

01:04:50.115 --> 01:04:52.435
provided as to the suitability of the various sections

1395

01:04:52.435 --> 01:04:56.755
of the site for grazing post installation, it does not seem

1396

01:04:56.755 --> 01:04:58.755
to be any commitment to actually facilitating

1397

01:04:58.895 --> 01:05:00.275
and undertaking that grazing.

1398

01:05:00.685 --> 01:05:03.235
Could the applicant please advise if there is a willing

1399

01:05:03.235 --> 01:05:04.235
commitment on this,

1400

01:05:04.455 --> 01:05:06.795
or if this is something which is likely to be, uh,

1401

01:05:06.795 --> 01:05:08.075
potentially discounted going forward?

1402

01:05:09.985 --> 01:05:11.645
The applicant? Um, no,

1403

01:05:11.645 --> 01:05:13.085
there's no firm commitment on that point.

1404

01:05:13.345 --> 01:05:15.365

Um, we definitely have, as you've seen,

1405

01:05:15.365 --> 01:05:17.470

have measures in place to try and facilitate that.

1406

01:05:17.745 --> 01:05:20.725

Um, given it's reliant upon, um, agreements with,

1407

01:05:21.155 --> 01:05:24.445

with other parties, it's, it's difficult for us to, um,

1408

01:05:25.465 --> 01:05:26.565

to commit to it at this stage,

1409

01:05:26.625 --> 01:05:29.125

but it is definitely something we will, um, be looking

1410

01:05:29.145 --> 01:05:30.845

to facilitate as we've set out there.

1411

01:05:31.265 --> 01:05:33.085

Um, and I'll just pass over. I've got Mr.

1412

01:05:33.185 --> 01:05:37.605

Um, Daniel Baird here from Daniel Bed Soil Consultancy, um,

1413

01:05:37.935 --> 01:05:39.445

who's obviously done all the assessments and,

1414

01:05:39.445 --> 01:05:40.565

and the response to the questions

1415

01:05:40.585 --> 01:05:42.325

and he can, um, expand upon this.

1416

01:05:45.235 --> 01:05:47.015

Yes. Uh, Daniel b from Daniel bed.

1417

01:05:47.035 --> 01:05:49.255

So, uh, consultancy on behalf of the applicant.

1418

01:05:49.435 --> 01:05:53.345

Um, at present, none of the, uh,

1419

01:05:53.345 --> 01:05:56.705

farmers will be under any obligation, uh, as to

1420

01:05:56.705 --> 01:05:59.705

how they manage their land over a 60 year period.

1421

01:06:00.285 --> 01:06:05.105

Um, the, uh, grazing remains a viable

1422

01:06:05.405 --> 01:06:10.065

and cost effective means of managing the s sword below

1423

01:06:10.285 --> 01:06:11.585

and between the solar panels.

1424

01:06:12.005 --> 01:06:16.705

Um, but it, if a, um, willing G Grier, uh,

1425

01:06:16.925 --> 01:06:18.945

cannot be found in a timely manner,

1426

01:06:19.115 --> 01:06:20.865

there are other management techniques

1427

01:06:20.865 --> 01:06:21.985

that can be used as well.

1428

01:06:22.485 --> 01:06:27.155

Um, normally, uh, for any pasture, uh,

1429

01:06:27.215 --> 01:06:29.275

it has to be managed or it reversed to scrub.

1430

01:06:29.735 --> 01:06:32.155

And, uh, there'll be farmers who have pasture

1431

01:06:32.295 --> 01:06:34.955

but don't have their own livestock who need

1432

01:06:34.955 --> 01:06:37.955

to bring in grazers to manage that land.

1433

01:06:38.095 --> 01:06:41.475

And if they can't attract a G Grier, they will go in with a,

1434

01:06:41.775 --> 01:06:45.395

um, machinery to top, uh, any large weeds

1435

01:06:45.395 --> 01:06:47.155

and, uh, cut the vegetation back,

1436

01:06:54.105 --> 01:06:55.325

Uh, 7,000 eights.

1437

01:06:56.475 --> 01:07:00.335

Yeah, obviously there is a need for weak control,

1438

01:07:01.555 --> 01:07:05.535

but if you look at the, um, requirements of grass,

1439

01:07:06.155 --> 01:07:07.775

surely it requires sunlight.

1440

01:07:08.875 --> 01:07:12.575

Now, I would think that the grass growing underneath

1441

01:07:12.715 --> 01:07:15.615

and behind in the shadow are, um, both north,

1442

01:07:15.645 --> 01:07:18.655

both the sun shadow and the rain shadow of, um,

1443

01:07:18.755 --> 01:07:21.095

of the solar, um, arrays, uh,

1444

01:07:21.125 --> 01:07:22.615

will be very, very poor quality.

1445

01:07:23.475 --> 01:07:27.415

And, uh, and I would think that there is no sort of, um, if,

1446

01:07:27.415 --> 01:07:29.975

if, if you're a self-respecting shepherd, you know, to to,

1447

01:07:30.195 --> 01:07:34.415

to actually, um, uh, earn a living, to actually take your,

1448

01:07:34.555 --> 01:07:37.255

um, sheep to just graze on that thing for,

1449

01:07:37.355 --> 01:07:39.295

for their benefit only for the benefit

1450

01:07:39.475 --> 01:07:41.375

of keeping the weeds down, I would've thought,

1451

01:07:41.425 --> 01:07:44.055

which would be very, very, uh, uh, poor quality.

1452

01:07:44.915 --> 01:07:46.215

That's my view anyway.

1453

01:07:53.725 --> 01:07:54.755

Makes the applicant do. Do

1454

01:07:54.755 --> 01:07:55.755

You have evidence That that's,

1455

01:07:56.855 --> 01:07:58.355

Uh, yes, Daniel bad for the applicant?

1456

01:07:58.695 --> 01:08:02.755

Um, no. Razing on, uh, solar Farms is a, a routine,

1457

01:08:03.095 --> 01:08:04.355

um, activity.

1458

01:08:04.735 --> 01:08:08.275

Um, if we could bring up the, uh,

1459

01:08:08.555 --> 01:08:11.195

building research establishment document agricultural good

1460

01:08:11.435 --> 01:08:16.385

practice guidance for solar farms, um, you can, you can see

1461

01:08:17.485 --> 01:08:19.195

there under evidence-based

1462

01:08:19.195 --> 01:08:22.435

and suggested research needs, it states a number

1463

01:08:22.435 --> 01:08:23.995

of preliminary studies on the quality

1464

01:08:24.135 --> 01:08:27.595

and quality of forage available in solar farms.

1465

01:08:27.595 --> 01:08:30.195

Has suggested that overall production is very little

1466

01:08:30.195 --> 01:08:32.875

different from open grassland under similar conditions.

1467

01:08:33.735 --> 01:08:37.455

And then if we, there is some, uh, array of, uh,

1468

01:08:37.855 --> 01:08:39.775

interesting, uh, case studies from this document.

1469

01:08:39.795 --> 01:08:43.015

So if we roll down through those, you can see photographs

1470

01:08:43.155 --> 01:08:47.055

of sheep and other small livestock grazing below

1471

01:08:47.115 --> 01:08:48.335

and between solar panels.

1472

01:08:50.965 --> 01:08:53.065

It is not darkness below a solar panel.

1473

01:09:00.595 --> 01:09:01.125

Just please.

1474

01:09:01.815 --> 01:09:04.245

Thank you sir. Liz Gar, 7,000 acres, um,

1475

01:09:04.945 --> 01:09:06.445

in previous hearings.

1476

01:09:06.545 --> 01:09:09.725

Um, we've heard from an agricultural representative from

1477

01:09:09.725 --> 01:09:13.845

our, our group and who um's son was a shepherd,

1478

01:09:14.145 --> 01:09:15.845

and certainly, um,

1479

01:09:16.535 --> 01:09:19.445

their impractical terms.

1480

01:09:20.115 --> 01:09:23.645

This isn't manageable to, um, monitor,

1481

01:09:25.075 --> 01:09:28.765

herd manage livestock amongst

1482

01:09:29.665 --> 01:09:31.425

millions of solar panels.

1483

01:09:31.885 --> 01:09:35.305

Um, it was completely impractical from the shepherd's point

1484

01:09:35.305 --> 01:09:37.545

of view, um, in turn

1485

01:09:37.765 --> 01:09:40.705

and also in terms of, um, safety for the animals

1486

01:09:40.885 --> 01:09:43.345
as well in terms of nibbling cables

1487

01:09:43.365 --> 01:09:44.625
and all sorts of issues like that.

1488

01:09:44.765 --> 01:09:46.665
So certainly in practical terms,

1489

01:09:46.665 --> 01:09:49.065
we've heard from the horse's mouth that it were,

1490

01:09:49.065 --> 01:09:50.705
that this is not practical.

1491

01:09:50.795 --> 01:09:52.225
Thank you. And that's probably why,

1492

01:09:59.015 --> 01:10:00.915
Uh, yes, Daniel bad for the applicant.

1493

01:10:01.255 --> 01:10:05.275
Um, grazing under, uh, inside solar panels is routine.

1494

01:10:05.385 --> 01:10:06.835
It's, uh, frequently observed

1495

01:10:07.075 --> 01:10:10.475
whenever I've been past a, uh, solar, um,

1496

01:10:11.055 --> 01:10:13.275
the grazing would probably be pulse grazing.

1497

01:10:13.575 --> 01:10:17.395
Uh, so it would be taking advantage of where there is,

1498

01:10:17.695 --> 01:10:18.795
um, forage.

1499

01:10:18.905 --> 01:10:21.475

That one needs to be, uh, grazed.

1500

01:10:21.595 --> 01:10:25.315

But, uh, two provides, um, the, uh, feed

1501

01:10:25.315 --> 01:10:26.635

for flattening the lambs.

1502

01:10:27.135 --> 01:10:30.635

Um, so it was typical for farmers to, uh,

1503

01:10:31.655 --> 01:10:35.875

use moving, um, areas of temporary electric fencing

1504

01:10:35.975 --> 01:10:37.675

to place the sheep in, um,

1505

01:10:37.815 --> 01:10:40.875

and controller movement also with, uh, water vouchers

1506

01:10:40.875 --> 01:10:42.555

for their, uh, drinking water needs.

1507

01:10:43.015 --> 01:10:47.475

Um, and already, uh, a lot of farmers have moved on to using

1508

01:10:47.995 --> 01:10:52.675

a GPS collar, which, um, one gives them, uh, excellent, uh,

1509

01:10:52.675 --> 01:10:55.955

control of where the sheep is at any instance.

1510

01:10:56.175 --> 01:11:00.675

Um, they can use what's, uh, called a, a virtual fence, uh,

1511

01:11:00.675 --> 01:11:02.835

where the collar has a tens machine in

1512

01:11:03.055 --> 01:11:06.075

to discourage the livestock, uh, moving past barrier,

1513

01:11:06.125 --> 01:11:09.435

which is, um, a lot more friendly than the sheep having

1514

01:11:09.435 --> 01:11:11.155

to learn about what an electric fence is.

1515

01:11:11.415 --> 01:11:12.475

And it's also good for welfare

1516

01:11:12.475 --> 01:11:16.845

because, uh, it can alert the, uh, grazers to any, uh,

1517

01:11:17.465 --> 01:11:19.565

single animal which has stopped moving,

1518

01:11:19.565 --> 01:11:23.285

which needs attention a lot faster than a, uh, routine, uh,

1519

01:11:23.285 --> 01:11:24.645

daily inspection can provide.

1520

01:11:28.565 --> 01:11:30.385

So if I could also just add, let this comment,

1521

01:11:30.405 --> 01:11:34.095

the applicant grazers haven't taken up the,

1522

01:11:34.355 --> 01:11:36.175

we haven't taken up the offer

1523

01:11:36.595 --> 01:11:39.255

as 7,000 acres has said this is, this is something

1524

01:11:39.255 --> 01:11:43.055

that would be put in place in a minimum three years

1525

01:11:44.195 --> 01:11:45.805

late, possibly four, you know, and,

1526

01:11:45.805 --> 01:11:47.845

and over the space of the 60 year lifetime of the scheme.

1527

01:11:47.905 --> 01:11:49.405

So we're not going to mislead you

1528

01:11:49.405 --> 01:11:51.005

by committing to definitely being able to do it.

1529

01:11:51.265 --> 01:11:52.965

It it's dependent upon, you know,

1530

01:11:52.965 --> 01:11:54.845

we don't even have consent for the scheme.

1531

01:11:55.065 --> 01:11:58.485

So it's, it's dependent upon having consent constructing

1532

01:11:58.505 --> 01:12:01.325

and then having those, those, um, discussions at the time.

1533

01:12:02.065 --> 01:12:03.845

That's the reason, it's the uncertainty,

1534

01:12:04.135 --> 01:12:05.365

which is why we can't commit to it.

1535

01:12:05.365 --> 01:12:06.605

It's not because we've tried

1536

01:12:06.625 --> 01:12:08.525

to find people at this stage and haven't been able to.

1537

01:12:18.865 --> 01:12:20.325

Uh, yes, please submit Isaac.

1538

01:12:21.245 --> 01:12:23.275

Thank you, sir. Liz Gilbert, 7,000 acres.

1539

01:12:23.655 --> 01:12:28.235

Um, Lincoln Shere is known arable land and landscape

1540

01:12:28.655 --> 01:12:30.955

and farming history and knowledge.

1541

01:12:31.695 --> 01:12:34.075

Um, so the gentleman's obviously,

1542

01:12:34.515 --> 01:12:38.755

I would suggest not seeing those examples in Lincoln Shere.

1543

01:12:38.875 --> 01:12:40.995

I mean, correct me if I'm wrong, um,

1544

01:12:42.255 --> 01:12:44.715

but it's not really something that's

1545

01:12:45.315 --> 01:12:48.635

prevalent within this county, um, as much as others.

1546

01:12:48.935 --> 01:12:52.475

So therefore there is not the, um, small pockets, obviously,

1547

01:12:52.495 --> 01:12:55.395

but there isn't the, um, widespread, um,

1548

01:12:55.705 --> 01:12:58.075

livestock sheep grazing land within

1549

01:12:58.075 --> 01:12:59.795

Lakeshire as other areas.

1550

01:12:59.855 --> 01:13:01.115

So therefore there isn't the history

1551

01:13:01.295 --> 01:13:04.075

or, um, basis for that as such.

1552

01:13:04.575 --> 01:13:06.355

Um, I'm not cultural expert,

1553

01:13:06.415 --> 01:13:09.515

but, um, I have heard this from our, uh, farmers within, uh,

1554

01:13:09.535 --> 01:13:11.915

our group, um, previously, so I've

1555

01:13:12.695 --> 01:13:14.985

seen these examples elsewhere in the

1556

01:13:14.985 --> 01:13:16.265

country rather than Lincolnshire.

1557

01:13:16.265 --> 01:13:17.265

Thank you,

1558

01:13:19.485 --> 01:13:20.485

Daniel. Bad for the

1559

01:13:20.485 --> 01:13:22.785

applicant. Um, solar farms aside,

1560

01:13:22.785 --> 01:13:26.825

there's a growing need for, uh, griers in arable areas such

1561

01:13:26.825 --> 01:13:31.465

as this, um, with the, uh, growing, uh, use

1562

01:13:31.685 --> 01:13:33.225

of, um, cover crops

1563

01:13:33.225 --> 01:13:36.305

and catch crops to prevent, uh, periods of bear soil,

1564

01:13:36.305 --> 01:13:39.545

which are, um, particularly bad for causing erosion

1565

01:13:40.125 --> 01:13:43.705

and, uh, creating defeat pollution incidents for, uh,

1566

01:13:43.705 --> 01:13:46.545

water downstream where you've got not just the eroded

1567

01:13:46.745 --> 01:13:51.575

sediment, but the, um, nutrients, uh, pesticides

1568

01:13:51.875 --> 01:13:53.735

and, uh, fecal indicator organisms

1569

01:13:54.245 --> 01:13:55.415

harming the water quality.

1570

01:13:56.075 --> 01:14:00.455

Um, so farmers are being encouraged to unpaid to, uh,

1571

01:14:00.515 --> 01:14:05.095

put in, uh, cover like a herbal lay, um, between, uh,

1572

01:14:05.835 --> 01:14:09.255

the, uh, cropped, uh, cereal crops, uh,

1573

01:14:09.555 --> 01:14:13.165

and, uh, crops such such as that have to be grazed down

1574

01:14:13.345 --> 01:14:15.405

or have to be mechanically removed.

1575

01:14:15.745 --> 01:14:18.245

Um, obviously grazing down is, uh, preferred.

1576

01:14:18.665 --> 01:14:21.965

Um, so the, an increasing market need

1577

01:14:22.235 --> 01:14:26.685

amongst arable in purely arable areas for, uh, the,

1578

01:14:27.225 --> 01:14:30.485

um, for new enterprises of, uh,

1579

01:14:31.335 --> 01:14:32.845

sheep grazers in particular,

1580

01:14:33.355 --> 01:14:35.885

it's common practice in many parts of the country already

1581

01:14:35.985 --> 01:14:39.885

for some, uh, crops where the aftermath is grazed down, such

1582

01:14:39.885 --> 01:14:41.965

as, uh, some areas of, uh, sugar beet.

1583

01:14:42.275 --> 01:14:44.205

They, uh, bring in sheep grazers, uh,

1584

01:14:44.295 --> 01:14:48.125

after the harvest to, uh, eat away the, the excess.

1585

01:14:48.705 --> 01:14:51.205

Um, this, uh,

1586

01:14:52.055 --> 01:14:56.405

solar farm will be assisting the, uh, remaining arable land

1587

01:14:56.505 --> 01:15:01.365

by, uh, encouraging, um, the presence of a, a stable, uh,

1588

01:15:01.515 --> 01:15:03.205

grazier economy in the area.

1589

01:15:07.925 --> 01:15:12.685

Thank you. Okay, I'm going to move on

1590

01:15:12.705 --> 01:15:15.285

to, um, the next question, which is regarding the, uh,

1591

01:15:16.185 --> 01:15:18.595

apologies, sorry, west Lindsay District Council. Thanks

1592

01:15:18.595 --> 01:15:19.595

Sir. West Lindsay

1593

01:15:19.595 --> 01:15:20.755

District Council. Yes.

1594

01:15:20.755 --> 01:15:21.995

So if I could just direct you

1595

01:15:22.175 --> 01:15:24.155

to our written representation on this

1596

01:15:24.155 --> 01:15:25.275

point, because it does pick this up.

1597

01:15:25.545 --> 01:15:29.115

It's, um, rep two dash 0 6 1,

1598

01:15:29.115 --> 01:15:30.795

and it's paragraph five point 20.

1599

01:15:32.555 --> 01:15:36.335

And the key point from West Lindsay's perspective, uh, is

1600

01:15:36.335 --> 01:15:39.335

that without any sort of security, um,

1601

01:15:39.435 --> 01:15:42.695

or obligation that it would be secured for grazing,

1602

01:15:43.075 --> 01:15:46.095

that's obviously a relevant factor in terms of availability

1603

01:15:46.095 --> 01:15:48.255

for agricultural use more generally.

1604

01:15:48.315 --> 01:15:50.735

So we note there's reference to, it could be used

1605

01:15:50.755 --> 01:15:53.535

for grazing, but unless and until there's an obligation

1606

01:15:53.535 --> 01:15:56.375

or some sort of firm commitment, um, that,

1607

01:15:56.405 --> 01:15:59.015

that wouldn't meet policy requirements in terms

1608

01:15:59.015 --> 01:16:01.695

of availability for agricultural continued agricultural use.

1609

01:16:02.875 --> 01:16:05.285

Thank you, sir. Would you like to come back?

1610

01:16:05.285 --> 01:16:06.445

Would you want anything further to add to that?

1611

01:16:06.985 --> 01:16:09.325

Um, yes, Alexis Cole with the applicant. Thank you.

1612

01:16:09.545 --> 01:16:11.525

Um, just to be very clear, um,

1613

01:16:11.855 --> 01:16:15.765

given the very small percentage of best most al Land la most

1614

01:16:15.765 --> 01:16:19.765

of which would be, um, unavailable for agriculture use, um,

1615

01:16:20.025 --> 01:16:21.125

for the lifetime of the scheme

1616

01:16:21.125 --> 01:16:23.365

and then returned to be able to use agriculture,

1617

01:16:23.665 --> 01:16:25.525

we are policy compliant with MPS

1618

01:16:25.525 --> 01:16:26.925

and the written ministerial statements.

1619

01:16:27.065 --> 01:16:29.645

We don't, I agree. We don't commit to this.

1620

01:16:29.865 --> 01:16:31.125

Um, for the reasons I've set out,

1621

01:16:31.145 --> 01:16:34.645

we don't rely upon it in order to justify the inclusion

1622

01:16:34.645 --> 01:16:37.165

of the BMV, as part of the, as part of the scheme.

1623

01:16:37.465 --> 01:16:39.565

Um, we say that we comply with

1624

01:16:39.565 --> 01:16:40.925

that policy without having to do that.

1625

01:16:42.055 --> 01:16:43.395

So it's definitely an aspiration

1626

01:16:43.395 --> 01:16:44.595

and something we will be trying to do.

1627

01:16:45.055 --> 01:16:48.275

Um, but that's the reason we, we don't commit to it,

1628

01:16:48.275 --> 01:16:50.115

and definitely we're not trying to seek

1629

01:16:50.115 --> 01:16:52.355

that any positive weight is attached to it for something

1630

01:16:52.355 --> 01:16:53.875

that we can't commit to at this stage.

1631

01:16:54.785 --> 01:16:56.995

Okay, thank you. Um, I think

1632

01:16:56.995 --> 01:16:58.995

that's taking us into the next section,

1633

01:16:58.995 --> 01:17:00.835

which is looking at the written ministerial statement

1634

01:17:00.835 --> 01:17:04.235

and also, um, the ongoing security of the land.

1635

01:17:04.695 --> 01:17:07.035

Um, I want you to look at the impacts on the loss

1636

01:17:07.255 --> 01:17:08.715

of agricultural land as a whole,

1637

01:17:09.025 --> 01:17:12.365

and, uh, just reiterate that the, uh, the government in its,

1638

01:17:12.365 --> 01:17:14.645

uh, powering up Britain and energy security plan.

1639

01:17:14.825 --> 01:17:17.565

It did clarify that while solar

1640

01:17:17.865 --> 01:17:21.645

and farming can be complimentary, developers must have

1641

01:17:22.485 --> 01:17:24.005

consideration for ongoing food production.

1642

01:17:25.045 --> 01:17:27.305

Uh, and there is increasing concern within government

1643

01:17:27.305 --> 01:17:29.545

where it's seeing geographical clustering

1644

01:17:29.845 --> 01:17:32.065

of proposed solar developments in rural areas,

1645

01:17:32.265 --> 01:17:34.545

particularly such as here in Lincolnshire.

1646

01:17:35.165 --> 01:17:38.065

Uh, when considering whether plan consent should be granted

1647

01:17:38.125 --> 01:17:40.305

for solar development, it's important to consider

1648

01:17:40.305 --> 01:17:42.225

that not just the impacts of individual proposals,

1649

01:17:42.225 --> 01:17:45.305

but also whether there cumulative impacts where several

1650

01:17:45.865 --> 01:17:47.945

proposals come forward in the same locality.

1651

01:17:48.885 --> 01:17:51.665

Uh, we've received many written representations about the

1652

01:17:51.665 --> 01:17:52.945

perceived inaccuracy

1653

01:17:53.045 --> 01:17:54.905

and unfairness of the soil surveys

1654

01:17:54.905 --> 01:17:56.465

that have been undertaken as part of this process.

1655

01:17:57.445 --> 01:18:01.445

Uh, and, um, it's recommended that by the government

1656

01:18:01.445 --> 01:18:03.325

that this should be addressed by supporting, um,

1657

01:18:04.055 --> 01:18:05.765

we've independent certification

1658

01:18:06.225 --> 01:18:09.125

by an appropriate certifying body to ensure

1659

01:18:09.125 --> 01:18:11.165

that the agricultural land classification,

1660

01:18:11.195 --> 01:18:13.245

soil service were of a high standard.

1661

01:18:14.225 --> 01:18:18.585

Um, and the applicant first off advise on whether, um,

1662

01:18:19.075 --> 01:18:21.225

their agricultural land classification survey

1663

01:18:21.315 --> 01:18:22.585

meets the new government standard.

1664

01:18:23.165 --> 01:18:27.345

Uh, and any comments since the publication

1665

01:18:27.345 --> 01:18:28.825

of the written ministerial statement?

1666

01:18:31.985 --> 01:18:34.165

Alexis comment. The applicant. Sorry, sir.

1667

01:18:34.165 --> 01:18:35.485

And just in terms of, just to clarify,

1668

01:18:35.555 --> 01:18:37.845

when you say the new government standard, I know that

1669

01:18:37.875 --> 01:18:40.845

that written, written ministerial statement referred to, um,

1670

01:18:41.955 --> 01:18:43.975

the government was wanting to address, um,

1671

01:18:44.445 --> 01:18:46.535

with supporting independent certification

1672

01:18:47.005 --> 01:18:48.175

with a certifying body.

1673

01:18:48.475 --> 01:18:49.615

Um, I'm not aware that

1674

01:18:49.775 --> 01:18:50.935

anything's happened further on that point.

1675

01:18:50.995 --> 01:18:52.535

Is that what you're referring to? Yeah,

1676

01:18:52.535 --> 01:18:54.975

Just, just seeing if you, uh, um, are at least meeting,

1677

01:18:55.195 --> 01:18:56.775

uh, the aspiration of that.

1678

01:18:57.125 --> 01:18:58.575

Okay. I'll hand you over to, uh, Mr.

1679

01:18:58.635 --> 01:19:00.015

Bed to, to deal with that. Thank you.

1680

01:19:02.435 --> 01:19:03.695

Daniel bed for the applicant.

1681

01:19:03.915 --> 01:19:07.745

Um, the government, uh,

1682

01:19:08.285 --> 01:19:11.025

has at its disposal, natural England, uh,

1683

01:19:11.405 --> 01:19:13.025

and a number of soil scientists

1684

01:19:13.045 --> 01:19:15.345

who are specialists in agricultural land classification.

1685

01:19:15.925 --> 01:19:19.345

Um, I used to be one of them in its precursor organization,

1686

01:19:19.825 --> 01:19:23.745

ADA statutory, um, when, uh, they would carry out, uh, uh,

1687

01:19:24.105 --> 01:19:27.585

a LC surveys of proposed, uh, mineral sites

1688

01:19:27.605 --> 01:19:28.865
and to inform local plans.

1689

01:19:30.035 --> 01:19:31.095
Um, they have not,

1690

01:19:31.475 --> 01:19:34.775
and I'm not aware of them for any other, um,

1691

01:19:35.395 --> 01:19:39.855
nip solar sites, uh, raised any concerns over

1692

01:19:40.525 --> 01:19:45.175
unreliability or, um, a, uh, dishonest,

1693

01:19:45.475 --> 01:19:46.575
uh, assessment

1694

01:19:47.275 --> 01:19:51.175
of agricultural land classification grades on such sites.

1695

01:19:51.715 --> 01:19:54.735
Um, I noticed the ministerial statement does not

1696

01:19:55.135 --> 01:19:56.295
identify any itself.

1697

01:19:56.315 --> 01:19:59.055
It alludes to a concern over such.

1698

01:19:59.315 --> 01:20:01.735
Um, I've heard many such concerns myself,

1699

01:20:02.155 --> 01:20:03.895
but none have been substantiated.

1700

01:20:13.845 --> 01:20:15.625
Any party in the room wish to make any comment on that.

1701

01:20:16.525 --> 01:20:17.945

Uh, 7,000 acres, please.

1702

01:20:19.415 --> 01:20:21.025

Tony Court, 7,000 acres.

1703

01:20:21.405 --> 01:20:25.305

Um, yes, I'd, I'd like to ask the question

1704

01:20:26.285 --> 01:20:27.665

of whether Mr. Baird

1705

01:20:27.685 --> 01:20:31.625

and his colleagues, I've actually taken account of

1706

01:20:32.135 --> 01:20:34.065

what I've written and sent to them,

1707

01:20:34.925 --> 01:20:38.985

and are they actually satisfied that 23%

1708

01:20:39.805 --> 01:20:44.665

of your observation points have errors in your a LC survey?

1709

01:20:45.205 --> 01:20:48.625

And I think this is the typical subject matter

1710

01:20:48.625 --> 01:20:50.625

that the minister was talking about,

1711

01:20:51.335 --> 01:20:54.505

because I think there's a lot of other instances where

1712

01:20:55.395 --> 01:20:59.865

there are a lot of errors in your a OC surveys.

1713

01:21:00.565 --> 01:21:02.985

And I would actually like to refer this tomorrow

1714

01:21:03.165 --> 01:21:06.105

to Natural England, because I have to ask the question,

1715
01:21:06.645 --> 01:21:08.465
are they actually checking anything?

1716
01:21:09.635 --> 01:21:10.635
Thank you.

1717
01:21:15.105 --> 01:21:16.485
Daniel Bird for the applicant.

1718
01:21:16.705 --> 01:21:18.805
Um, I have seen 7,000 acres, uh,

1719
01:21:18.885 --> 01:21:21.605
concerns over the data recording

1720
01:21:22.025 --> 01:21:25.205
for the Soil Environmental Services, a LC survey

1721
01:21:25.625 --> 01:21:30.535
of this site, um, namely between, uh, the number

1722
01:21:30.835 --> 01:21:34.255
of soil inspection pits recorded on the plan

1723
01:21:34.755 --> 01:21:38.695
and the number of instances where a sample point location

1724
01:21:39.235 --> 01:21:42.655
had a p affixed to it in a data recording column.

1725
01:21:43.195 --> 01:21:47.535
Um, that is simply, uh, the subsoil inspection pit

1726
01:21:48.025 --> 01:21:52.175
where there recorded on the plan was a large pit down

1727
01:21:52.175 --> 01:21:56.015
to the, uh, lower subsoil dug by spade, which was, uh,

1728
01:21:56.025 --> 01:21:57.415

below half a meter depth.

1729

01:21:57.415 --> 01:22:00.175

So that's a substantial hole to dig in the ground.

1730

01:22:00.715 --> 01:22:03.055

And, uh, hole is digging by, digging

1731

01:22:03.235 --> 01:22:04.855

by spade when you're trying

1732

01:22:04.855 --> 01:22:07.375

to look at the subsoil structures in the soil,

1733

01:22:07.375 --> 01:22:10.095

rather than just look at the, um, soil texture,

1734

01:22:10.195 --> 01:22:14.375

the clay content, um, in other locations where

1735

01:22:14.915 --> 01:22:16.775

the soil surveyor just wanted

1736

01:22:16.795 --> 01:22:20.415

to quickly check the immediate subsoil below the plow layer,

1737

01:22:20.705 --> 01:22:24.135

which in many cases was the defining layer for the grade

1738

01:22:24.135 --> 01:22:28.655

where the clay present is limiting the drainage of water

1739

01:22:29.245 --> 01:22:32.855

down through the soil profile, keeping the clay topsoil wet

1740

01:22:32.855 --> 01:22:34.175

for a prolonged period,

1741

01:22:34.555 --> 01:22:37.655

and limiting the farmer's options to get, uh,

1742

01:22:37.695 --> 01:22:41.055

vehicles onto the land, um, carry out cultivation

1743

01:22:41.055 --> 01:22:43.055

or get any livestock onto the land without causing

1744

01:22:43.505 --> 01:22:45.135

persistent structural damage.

1745

01:22:46.345 --> 01:22:50.765

In those locations where there's a p in the soil data, um,

1746

01:22:51.465 --> 01:22:55.245

the, uh, the surveyor has not taken a pit,

1747

01:22:55.525 --> 01:22:57.045

a full inspection pit all the way

1748

01:22:57.045 --> 01:22:58.205

down into the lower subsoil.

1749

01:22:58.355 --> 01:23:00.565

They've simply dug back the upper subsoil

1750

01:23:00.745 --> 01:23:05.005

and dig, dug out a quick inspection of the upper subsoil

1751

01:23:05.085 --> 01:23:07.605

with the spade to look at soil structures there

1752

01:23:07.665 --> 01:23:08.805

and confirm the presence

1753

01:23:09.105 --> 01:23:12.405

or, um, uh, confirm the absence of what we'd call a,

1754

01:23:12.525 --> 01:23:13.765

a slowly permeable layer.

1755

01:23:17.845 --> 01:23:22.015

England retain a number of experts in a LC,

1756

01:23:22.435 --> 01:23:26.295

and they have looked at, um, the, uh, data,

1757

01:23:26.475 --> 01:23:27.695

and they've looked at the assessment

1758

01:23:28.195 --> 01:23:29.735

and they've, uh, raised questions

1759

01:23:29.735 --> 01:23:31.815

where they have any and they are content.

1760

01:23:32.965 --> 01:23:33.965

Thank you.

1761

01:23:50.575 --> 01:23:52.155

If I may respond to that, sir.

1762

01:23:53.015 --> 01:23:55.275

Um, two points that you've raised there.

1763

01:23:55.275 --> 01:23:59.925

First of all, you've identified that there was an element

1764

01:24:00.105 --> 01:24:02.725

of deep pit excavation,

1765

01:24:04.745 --> 01:24:08.895

which is not mentioned anywhere in the, the survey data.

1766

01:24:10.225 --> 01:24:13.365

So that's my first point, is that's an inconsistency

1767

01:24:13.385 --> 01:24:16.245

and an error in the data that's been recorded by

1768

01:24:17.025 --> 01:24:18.405

the land survey people.

1769

01:24:20.295 --> 01:24:24.195

The second point is that you've talked about shallow pits,

1770

01:24:25.095 --> 01:24:27.795

and I would like to ask Natural England tomorrow, is

1771

01:24:27.795 --> 01:24:29.675

that standard policy

1772

01:24:30.095 --> 01:24:33.195

and is that applying the a LC regulations

1773

01:24:33.905 --> 01:24:35.635

that they should be complied with

1774

01:24:44.765 --> 01:24:46.105

Donald bad for the applicant?

1775

01:24:46.125 --> 01:24:48.345

May I quickly respond on that? Um, yeah.

1776

01:24:48.365 --> 01:24:53.305

So I, um, if we refer to Natural England document, um,

1777

01:24:53.665 --> 01:24:58.265

TIN zero, uh, which is the, uh, document on, um,

1778

01:24:59.415 --> 01:25:01.945

I'll just bring up the proper title of it, which

1779

01:25:04.055 --> 01:25:06.895

is Agricultural Land Classification, protecting the Best

1780

01:25:06.895 --> 01:25:08.015

and Most Versatile Land.

1781

01:25:08.475 --> 01:25:12.775

Uh, a detailed a LC survey is sample points at approximately

1782

01:25:12.915 --> 01:25:14.455

one per hectare normally achieved

1783

01:25:14.515 --> 01:25:17.375

by placing a sample points on a hundred meter grid, uh,

1784

01:25:17.555 --> 01:25:20.295

and the soil is looked at on those sample points

1785

01:25:20.605 --> 01:25:24.295

with an aga, which can, uh, look at the soil profile down

1786

01:25:24.295 --> 01:25:26.735

to a meter down to a depth of one meter 20.

1787

01:25:27.315 --> 01:25:30.815

The soil logger is, uh, effectively a drill with a diameter

1788

01:25:30.815 --> 01:25:33.455

of about two centimeters to five centimeters, um,

1789

01:25:33.745 --> 01:25:37.835

which you supplement with soil inspection pits

1790

01:25:38.295 --> 01:25:43.195

to check and verify the structural condition of subsoils.

1791

01:25:43.975 --> 01:25:46.075

So the provision

1792

01:25:46.615 --> 01:25:50.755

of the additional shallow soil pits is over

1793

01:25:50.855 --> 01:25:54.235

and above the requirements of TIN 0 4 9.

1794

01:25:54.405 --> 01:25:55.555

There is no deficiency.

1795

01:25:56.095 --> 01:25:58.915

If there was a deficiency, natural England would've been

1796

01:25:58.915 --> 01:26:00.275

very keen to flag this up

1797

01:26:00.415 --> 01:26:02.275

as not complying with their own guidance.

1798

01:26:05.055 --> 01:26:05.485

Thank you.

1799

01:26:10.935 --> 01:26:14.555

Thank you. Um, I just wanted

1800

01:26:14.555 --> 01:26:16.955

to talk a little bit now about the, the site

1801

01:26:17.095 --> 01:26:20.435

and the length of the development and the 60 year life

1802

01:26:20.655 --> 01:26:23.835

and statement by the applicant that that will be beneficial

1803

01:26:24.215 --> 01:26:26.995

for soil health as an alternative

1804

01:26:26.995 --> 01:26:29.675

to the continued agricultural working of the site.

1805

01:26:30.355 --> 01:26:32.075

I just wanted to ask again, the applicant,

1806

01:26:32.075 --> 01:26:34.475

if they had evidence to support this claim in particular,

1807

01:26:34.745 --> 01:26:38.195

that the lack of aeration or plowing of the soil, uh,

1808

01:26:38.375 --> 01:26:39.715

and tilling, would not lead

1809

01:26:39.715 --> 01:26:43.035

to a compacted landscape over the, uh, life

1810

01:26:43.095 --> 01:26:44.395
of the development and

1811

01:26:44.395 --> 01:26:47.675
with potentially different agricultural properties in future

1812

01:26:47.675 --> 01:26:49.155
years and potentially contribute

1813

01:26:49.155 --> 01:26:52.555
to different rainfall infiltration rates to the soil.

1814

01:26:55.075 --> 01:26:58.655
Daniel Bird for the applicant, uh, if we could bring up,

1815

01:26:58.875 --> 01:27:03.095
um, this, uh, uh, defra, uh, part of its, uh, evidence base,

1816

01:27:03.095 --> 01:27:04.655
which is best practice

1817

01:27:04.655 --> 01:27:07.215
for managing soil organic matter in agriculture.

1818

01:27:07.365 --> 01:27:09.575
I'll provide a link for this afterwards.

1819

01:27:10.155 --> 01:27:12.895
Um, if we can go onto the

1820

01:27:13.665 --> 01:27:15.815
table one on page two.

1821

01:27:17.105 --> 01:27:18.475
This is the summary report.

1822

01:27:19.335 --> 01:27:24.155
Um, this is a, a, um, a review document to look at, uh,

1823

01:27:24.545 --> 01:27:29.035

methods to, um, increase the soil organic matter content

1824

01:27:29.815 --> 01:27:32.355

of, uh, British agricultural soils.

1825

01:27:32.695 --> 01:27:37.125

Um, organic matter becomes depleted

1826

01:27:37.945 --> 01:27:40.045

by sustained arable production.

1827

01:27:40.145 --> 01:27:42.605

So regardless of the quantity of organic matter

1828

01:27:42.605 --> 01:27:46.405

that is returned through, uh, livestock manure or composts

1829

01:27:46.405 --> 01:27:50.605

and crop wastes, um, the regular aeration

1830

01:27:50.945 --> 01:27:53.365

of the soil through activities such as plowing

1831

01:27:53.875 --> 01:27:58.725

will always result in a rapid decline down towards a

1832

01:27:58.725 --> 01:28:00.805

low equilibrium of soil organic matter content.

1833

01:28:01.465 --> 01:28:04.925

As the, uh, amount of substrate for the soil life

1834

01:28:05.345 --> 01:28:09.525

to feed on increases the quantity of all life explodes,

1835

01:28:09.765 --> 01:28:11.885

consumes, it all reverts to cannibalism

1836

01:28:11.985 --> 01:28:14.245

and declines down to a very low equilibrium.

1837

01:28:15.025 --> 01:28:19.365

If we revert agricultural arable land to a, um,

1838

01:28:20.445 --> 01:28:24.405

agricultural management, which is not cultivated,

1839

01:28:24.855 --> 01:28:29.485

where the soil, uh, is not as, uh, excessively aerated

1840

01:28:29.545 --> 01:28:30.765

as it is by plowing,

1841

01:28:31.025 --> 01:28:34.605

and where there is year round living roots in the soil,

1842

01:28:35.115 --> 01:28:39.365

that gives the, um, soil organic matter regardless

1843

01:28:39.865 --> 01:28:43.205

of the rate of input, the ability to return

1844

01:28:43.305 --> 01:28:46.565

to a higher organic matter equilibrium.

1845

01:28:46.985 --> 01:28:49.965

So you can see from the first line of that table there,

1846

01:28:50.945 --> 01:28:55.365

it has, um, method one, a convert tillage land

1847

01:28:55.425 --> 01:28:56.645

to permanent grassland,

1848

01:28:56.945 --> 01:28:59.965

and that's shown as three stars, which is highly effective

1849

01:29:00.345 --> 01:29:03.205

for tillage light, land tillage, medium heavy land.

1850

01:29:03.635 --> 01:29:05.325

It's not applicable to grassland

1851

01:29:05.325 --> 01:29:08.925

because, uh, it was arable land beforehand referred

1852

01:29:08.945 --> 01:29:11.565

to grassland, and it's also highly effective

1853

01:29:11.565 --> 01:29:12.965

for organic and PT soils.

1854

01:29:13.595 --> 01:29:15.445

It's expensive because it's reverted.

1855

01:29:15.445 --> 01:29:17.445

It's taking, uh, it's paying the farmer

1856

01:29:17.465 --> 01:29:19.645

to take arable land outta production

1857

01:29:19.645 --> 01:29:21.605

and put it to grassland, but in this case,

1858

01:29:21.625 --> 01:29:23.565

the solar farm is bearing that cost.

1859

01:29:24.545 --> 01:29:29.325

Um, and then its environmental impact is highly positive

1860

01:29:29.475 --> 01:29:30.565

because, uh,

1861

01:29:30.785 --> 01:29:32.485

and if we go to the key below,

1862

01:29:32.625 --> 01:29:36.365

it says highly beneficial impact over a large area, um,

1863

01:29:37.665 --> 01:29:39.965

for instance, reduction in diffuse pollution

1864

01:29:40.025 --> 01:29:41.285

and increased biodiversity,

1865

01:29:41.425 --> 01:29:43.525

so it has wider environmental benefits.

1866

01:29:43.995 --> 01:29:47.765

This is a recovery of soil health that is attributable

1867

01:29:48.065 --> 01:29:49.885

to the change in management practice.

1868

01:29:50.465 --> 01:29:52.085

And it's also a management practice

1869

01:29:52.085 --> 01:29:54.285

where if you are not on a solar farm,

1870

01:29:54.795 --> 01:29:56.685

some farmers have been paid up

1871

01:29:56.765 --> 01:30:01.685

to 311 pounds per hectare per year to revert to arable land,

1872

01:30:01.985 --> 01:30:03.805

uh, to grassland

1873

01:30:04.225 --> 01:30:08.205

to deliver those environmental benefits such as reduced, um,

1874

01:30:08.355 --> 01:30:10.165

diffuse pollution from agriculture.

1875

01:30:11.085 --> 01:30:11.915

Thank you, Mr. Smith.

1876

01:30:19.225 --> 01:30:23.245

Uh, 7,000 acres, um, RO Roger Jones, 7,000 acres.

1877

01:30:23.465 --> 01:30:26.765

Um, although it's a very interesting point you've raised

1878

01:30:26.765 --> 01:30:28.325

there, um, one thing

1879

01:30:28.325 --> 01:30:31.245

that is missing from this is the effects of the

1880

01:30:31.805 --> 01:30:34.165

unequal distribution of water across

1881

01:30:34.165 --> 01:30:36.965

that thing when you have solar, solar panels present.

1882

01:30:37.385 --> 01:30:42.115

Uh, could the gentleman please tell us, what do you feel of,

1883

01:30:42.255 --> 01:30:43.635

of that would be, uh,

1884

01:30:43.775 --> 01:30:46.035

on the information he's, he's just given us?

1885

01:30:46.485 --> 01:30:47.485

Thank you very much.

1886

01:30:50.185 --> 01:30:53.765

Uh, yes, Daniel b um, lateral diffusion of water

1887

01:30:54.305 --> 01:30:58.725

in a moist soil is, uh, very rapid, uh, where,

1888

01:30:59.305 --> 01:31:03.355

uh, particularly where you've got a year-round, uh, growth

1889

01:31:03.615 --> 01:31:07.475

of, uh, roots maintaining soil structure and permeability.

1890

01:31:08.055 --> 01:31:12.905

Um, the soil surface is also protected

1891

01:31:12.905 --> 01:31:16.905

from sealing by, uh, the, uh, year-round green cover.

1892

01:31:17.365 --> 01:31:21.445

So where raindrop, uh, you, you're unlikely

1893

01:31:21.505 --> 01:31:24.325

to get soil erosion where you have a, um,

1894

01:31:24.805 --> 01:31:26.205

a a year-round green cover.

1895

01:31:26.635 --> 01:31:29.645

Most soil erosion occurs where you have a bare soil such

1896

01:31:29.645 --> 01:31:32.005

as a seed bed or recently plowed area

1897

01:31:32.095 --> 01:31:37.085

where the raindrop impact smashes apart the, uh, soil, um,

1898

01:31:37.495 --> 01:31:41.565

aggregates and, uh, causes, uh, an effect called capping,

1899

01:31:41.905 --> 01:31:45.125

and that allows, uh, runoff to then occur,

1900

01:31:45.125 --> 01:31:47.805

which then also carries sediment over the surface

1901

01:31:48.225 --> 01:31:49.485

and towards watercourses.

1902

01:31:49.505 --> 01:31:52.645

And that's water, which does not infiltrate into the soil

1903

01:31:52.905 --> 01:31:56.365

to be available for, um, the subsequent crop.

1904

01:31:56.365 --> 01:31:59.085

And it's also water, which is not, um,

1905

01:32:00.215 --> 01:32:03.085

attenuated in terms of the, uh, peak flow.

1906

01:32:03.305 --> 01:32:05.805

Uh, but I'm straying into my colleague's

1907

01:32:05.805 --> 01:32:07.405

hydrology topic here.

1908

01:32:07.865 --> 01:32:11.645

Um, so, uh, we can see from, uh, the photographs,

1909

01:32:11.645 --> 01:32:13.085

which were showed on the previous document

1910

01:32:13.085 --> 01:32:16.285

where you had established solar fund with bright green grass

1911

01:32:16.295 --> 01:32:18.285

below them, graced by livestock.

1912

01:32:18.665 --> 01:32:22.225

Um, it's, it's not a problem.

1913

01:32:23.795 --> 01:32:26.085

Thank you. Okay, thank you.

1914

01:32:32.455 --> 01:32:35.165

Okay. Yeah. Yep. Sorry.

1915

01:32:37.715 --> 01:32:39.745

Thank you. So, 7,000 acres.

1916

01:32:40.125 --> 01:32:42.985

Um, our, our concerns is, um, the damage

1917

01:32:43.065 --> 01:32:46.865

that's caused the soil structure during construction, um,

1918

01:32:47.165 --> 01:32:51.825

if this occurs during, um, white conditions

1919

01:32:52.085 --> 01:32:53.945

or wintry conditions, um,

1920

01:32:54.205 --> 01:32:56.705

and everyone's sustained period of time with heavy vehicles,

1921

01:32:56.765 --> 01:33:00.865

we know this will cause a great deal of structural damage

1922

01:33:01.365 --> 01:33:02.945

to the clay soils.

1923

01:33:03.165 --> 01:33:07.785

So, um, how is this mitigated in terms

1924

01:33:08.285 --> 01:33:12.145

of, um, is there then a cap for that period of time,

1925

01:33:12.265 --> 01:33:16.425

a soil cap over that, that area, um, of the soil,

1926

01:33:16.565 --> 01:33:17.585

the soil structure?

1927

01:33:17.585 --> 01:33:19.745

How does that improve during that period of time?

1928

01:33:20.085 --> 01:33:23.505

If it's damaged extensively by the construction period?

1929

01:33:23.595 --> 01:33:24.595

Thank you.

1930

01:33:26.855 --> 01:33:30.865

Applicant. The applicant as part of the application,

1931

01:33:30.965 --> 01:33:35.665

we have the framework soil management plan, which is a PP to

1932

01:33:36.125 --> 01:33:40.545

or, um, turning to 4.2 in

1933

01:33:40.545 --> 01:33:42.545

that document construction decommissioning.

1934

01:33:43.045 --> 01:33:45.905

Um, it includes, uh, a number of measures,

1935

01:33:46.045 --> 01:33:49.905

and one of those is, um, the monitoring

1936

01:33:50.365 --> 01:33:55.265

of the soil water consistence, um, uh, monitoring for, uh,

1937

01:33:55.665 --> 01:33:58.505

changing to a plastic consistence, uh, where the

1938

01:33:59.055 --> 01:34:01.745

soil deforms in a plastic way rather than a fryable

1939

01:34:01.745 --> 01:34:03.105

way and suspending work.

1940

01:34:03.105 --> 01:34:04.745

When that is achieved, um,

1941

01:34:05.695 --> 01:34:08.745

that essentially pushes work into the, uh,

1942

01:34:08.745 --> 01:34:10.745

for convenience into the dry months to avoid.

1943

01:34:11.005 --> 01:34:15.585

Um, so, uh, after rainfall, the soil dries more quickly

1944

01:34:15.765 --> 01:34:18.185

and there's, um, uh, than it does in the winter.

1945

01:34:19.005 --> 01:34:22.905

Um, that's not a luxury that farmers have when they need

1946

01:34:22.905 --> 01:34:24.745

to get on the land in the spring

1947

01:34:24.965 --> 01:34:27.025

and autumn to carry out work,

1948

01:34:27.025 --> 01:34:30.625

which if they don't achieve it, uh, results in no income

1949

01:34:30.625 --> 01:34:31.745

for that field for that year.

1950

01:34:32.625 --> 01:34:33.625

Hmm.

1951

01:34:45.675 --> 01:34:47.265

Thank you. Um, sorry.

1952

01:34:48.545 --> 01:34:51.695

Thank you, sir. The gentleman just said, um,

1953

01:34:51.795 --> 01:34:53.775

that's not a luxury farmers will have

1954

01:34:53.775 --> 01:34:56.895

or will the applicant have that luxury also,

1955

01:34:57.005 --> 01:34:59.925

because if there's time constraints

1956

01:35:00.945 --> 01:35:05.565

in the construction of development of this, these,

1957

01:35:05.985 --> 01:35:08.525

the solar farms, um,

1958

01:35:09.345 --> 01:35:11.005

it may be necessary

1959

01:35:11.945 --> 01:35:14.485

and not be permitted to, um,

1960

01:35:15.595 --> 01:35:19.005

from those on high within the, the, uh, structure

1961

01:35:19.065 --> 01:35:21.965

of the applicant's, uh, hierarchy to, uh, wait

1962

01:35:22.545 --> 01:35:23.885

for the appropriate conditions.

1963

01:35:23.945 --> 01:35:27.485

And, uh, soil construction structure is damaged due

1964

01:35:27.485 --> 01:35:29.165

to construction when it's convenient

1965

01:35:29.165 --> 01:35:30.245

for those that want it to go ahead.

1966

01:35:30.245 --> 01:35:31.245

Thank you.

1967

01:35:33.965 --> 01:35:35.345

Uh, Daniel, bad for the applicant.

1968

01:35:35.765 --> 01:35:39.555

Um, we have it as one of the, uh, construction

1969

01:35:39.615 --> 01:35:42.675

and decommissioning, uh, general principles, which will be,

1970

01:35:42.815 --> 01:35:47.255

um, uh, the, uh, local authority, um,

1971

01:35:47.555 --> 01:35:52.175

and, uh, would be, uh, keen to hold us to, to make sure,

1972

01:35:52.395 --> 01:35:57.055

um, that we are, uh, not causing any such damage, not least,

1973

01:35:57.165 --> 01:35:58.895

also the landowners as well,

1974

01:35:58.915 --> 01:36:02.095

who have a keen interest in their land, uh,

1975

01:36:02.315 --> 01:36:05.295

not being unnecessarily damaged by the construction work

1976

01:36:05.905 --> 01:36:07.455

being carried out under the lease.

1977

01:36:08.215 --> 01:36:10.775

I would also add, as well, that, um,

1978

01:36:10.925 --> 01:36:13.815

what we're looking at here is, um,

1979

01:36:14.405 --> 01:36:16.135

very small plant coming on

1980

01:36:16.355 --> 01:36:20.495

to insert vertically a narrow pile into the ground,

1981

01:36:21.065 --> 01:36:23.055

which is an awful lot different

1982

01:36:23.235 --> 01:36:26.855

to harvest using very large machinery like a combine

1983

01:36:26.855 --> 01:36:30.175

harvester or, um, the high, uh,

1984

01:36:30.735 --> 01:36:31.935

axle load of a grain trailer.

1985

01:36:32.475 --> 01:36:34.895

And then particularly for cultivation

1986

01:36:34.895 --> 01:36:36.055

and crop establishment,

1987

01:36:36.305 --> 01:36:39.135

where not only is heavy machinery used,

1988

01:36:39.525 --> 01:36:42.215

very high traction used to, uh,

1989

01:36:42.405 --> 01:36:44.255

draw implements through the ground.

1990

01:36:44.315 --> 01:36:46.575

So there's potential for compaction

1991

01:36:46.575 --> 01:36:48.775

and smearing from the agricultural implement.

1992

01:36:48.805 --> 01:36:53.455

There's also the potential for compaction, smearing by the,

1993

01:36:53.755 --> 01:36:56.535

uh, the driven wheels, which, uh, can slip

1994

01:36:56.755 --> 01:37:00.375

and, uh, cause a, a polishing, um, a smearing

1995

01:37:00.375 --> 01:37:03.895

of the soil surface, which again, makes it, uh, impermeable

1996

01:37:04.275 --> 01:37:08.495

and causes additional runoff that the, it's not

1997

01:37:09.815 --> 01:37:14.695

a comparable, um, set of operations between, uh,

1998

01:37:15.075 --> 01:37:17.095

arable, uh, land work

1999

01:37:17.635 --> 01:37:21.895

and, uh, the use of a, um, a small pile driver,

2000

01:37:21.945 --> 01:37:23.975

which the operator will walk alongside.

2001

01:37:24.945 --> 01:37:27.925

Thank you, Mr. Murlow. Thank you for that comment.

2002

01:37:27.945 --> 01:37:30.405

But I think also picking up on 7,000 acres point,

2003

01:37:30.405 --> 01:37:31.885

they're probably referring to things like the access

2004

01:37:31.885 --> 01:37:33.765

trackways, the battery storage sites,

2005

01:37:34.105 --> 01:37:36.325

and other pieces of equipment that would be required

2006

01:37:36.325 --> 01:37:37.325

and cable away on the site.

2007

01:37:37.425 --> 01:37:39.125

So thank you for that. Um,

2008

01:37:39.585 --> 01:37:41.245

I'm gonna move us on there, if that's okay.

2009

01:37:41.425 --> 01:37:43.605

Uh, complete the soil section of this. Sorry,

2010

01:37:44.105 --> 01:37:46.225

Before we do, Oh, sorry.

2011

01:37:47.075 --> 01:37:48.345

Thank you. So sorry. I'm finding

2012

01:37:48.665 --> 01:37:49.705

Stephanie Hall for Lincoln County Council.

2013

01:37:49.765 --> 01:37:52.145

I'm finding it very difficult to, to make myself known as

2014

01:37:52.145 --> 01:37:54.225

that the toones are slightly smaller than the

2015

01:37:54.395 --> 01:37:55.725

space requires, I think.

2016

01:37:56.045 --> 01:37:57.405

Yeah. Um, thank you. So just,

2017

01:37:57.405 --> 01:37:58.965

just two very quick points, if I may.

2018

01:37:58.985 --> 01:38:03.605

One, one about, um, soil structure doing, um,

2019

01:38:04.955 --> 01:38:07.635

construction and, uh, deconstruction.

2020

01:38:08.135 --> 01:38:11.275

Uh, and our consultants, I think has raised, uh, as an issue

2021

01:38:11.465 --> 01:38:15.275

with, um, the applicant's consultant

2022

01:38:15.565 --> 01:38:16.715

about drainage.

2023

01:38:17.255 --> 01:38:20.475

And one of the reasons why soil might be particularly good

2024

01:38:20.475 --> 01:38:22.835

quality is because it is particularly well drained.

2025

01:38:23.215 --> 01:38:25.715

And often that is because a farmer has taken considerable

2026

01:38:25.715 --> 01:38:27.395

care to make sure that that is the case.

2027

01:38:27.455 --> 01:38:31.555

By inserting, uh, inserting drainage apparatus, uh,

2028

01:38:31.845 --> 01:38:35.715

those drains, land drains can be damaged very easily

2029

01:38:35.735 --> 01:38:36.755

during construction,

2030

01:38:36.755 --> 01:38:39.155

particularly when one is driving stakes into the ground

2031

01:38:39.155 --> 01:38:41.595

through what might be a, uh, a, a tube

2032

01:38:41.595 --> 01:38:43.595

that was previously had some integrity

2033

01:38:43.655 --> 01:38:46.555

and then is, is damaged by the, the piling of, um,

2034

01:38:46.735 --> 01:38:49.235

the driving of stakes to, to support sailor panels

2035

01:38:49.235 --> 01:38:50.395

through those drains.

2036

01:38:50.975 --> 01:38:52.995

The issue is one doesn't know where those drains are

2037

01:38:52.995 --> 01:38:55.675

unless one surveys very carefully before,

2038

01:38:56.135 --> 01:38:57.915

and one reinstates very carefully

2039

01:38:58.045 --> 01:39:01.715
after reference to, um, land drains is,

2040

01:39:01.855 --> 01:39:05.435
is at present absent from the framework soil management

2041

01:39:05.545 --> 01:39:07.835
plan, and it's something we'd like to see included.

2042

01:39:07.975 --> 01:39:11.235
So that's, we don't say that it is necessarily

2043

01:39:11.625 --> 01:39:12.635
that construction

2044

01:39:12.895 --> 01:39:17.035
and demolition works would necessarily have a

2045

01:39:17.665 --> 01:39:19.955
deleterious effect on soil quality,

2046

01:39:20.655 --> 01:39:23.075
but that is only the case if it is carefully managed.

2047

01:39:23.075 --> 01:39:25.435
And one of the requirements of careful management is,

2048

01:39:25.535 --> 01:39:27.275
is drain is consideration for drainage.

2049

01:39:27.975 --> 01:39:30.275
So that's, that's my technical first technical point.

2050

01:39:30.535 --> 01:39:33.475
Uh, and so just to, to circle back, if I may to a point, um,

2051

01:39:33.705 --> 01:39:35.875
that was part of the discussion earlier about the sheep

2052

01:39:35.875 --> 01:39:39.035

grazing and loss of agricultural land use.

2053

01:39:39.615 --> 01:39:43.835

So the exhale, be well aware that our LIR um, you know,

2054

01:39:43.835 --> 01:39:46.835

we weigh heavily into the planning balance, the, the loss,

2055

01:39:47.095 --> 01:39:49.835

the loss, and we do say loss of agricultural use,

2056

01:39:50.255 --> 01:39:51.355

uh, across the side.

2057

01:39:51.415 --> 01:39:55.395

And I think, um, the, the applicant's probably, um, on board

2058

01:39:55.425 --> 01:39:58.035

with that description, given the absence of

2059

01:39:58.675 --> 01:40:01.355

securing sheep grazing, it does mean that in terms

2060

01:40:01.355 --> 01:40:05.515

of land use rather than soil quality, there is a loss of

2061

01:40:05.515 --> 01:40:09.795

that use and that obviously has cross-cutting both

2062

01:40:09.795 --> 01:40:10.915

for socioeconomics

2063

01:40:11.295 --> 01:40:13.995

and the impact on the loss of tenant farmer jobs

2064

01:40:14.255 --> 01:40:16.235

and, uh, impact of those, the loss

2065

01:40:16.235 --> 01:40:18.635

of those jobs on a wider agricultural economy.

2066

01:40:19.175 --> 01:40:20.835

So there's a, there's a socioeconomic use,

2067

01:40:20.835 --> 01:40:23.715

there's also a landscape impact that will no doubt return

2068

01:40:23.715 --> 01:40:25.195

to tomorrow in terms of change

2069

01:40:25.195 --> 01:40:27.515

of land use over a large area.

2070

01:40:27.935 --> 01:40:29.715

So I just wanted to highlight, sir,

2071

01:40:29.715 --> 01:40:31.435

because it's important for our case about

2072

01:40:31.435 --> 01:40:32.755

weight in the planning balance.

2073

01:40:33.105 --> 01:40:35.275

There's a big difference between LCC

2074

01:40:35.655 --> 01:40:36.915

and the applicant on this

2075

01:40:36.915 --> 01:40:40.555

because as you noted, so the applicant weighs this is a sort

2076

01:40:40.555 --> 01:40:41.595

of positive into the balance

2077

01:40:41.755 --> 01:40:45.915

because of, um, claims improvements in soil quality

2078

01:40:46.095 --> 01:40:48.555

by resting them over a period of time, essentially.

2079

01:40:49.015 --> 01:40:51.195

Uh, don't think we're saying that that's not possible,

2080

01:40:51.615 --> 01:40:53.445
but just that when one looks at soils

2081

01:40:53.445 --> 01:40:56.325
and agriculture in the round, our position is that it's,

2082

01:40:56.475 --> 01:40:57.645
it's a negative position

2083

01:40:57.665 --> 01:40:59.165
and it's a harm in the planning balance.

2084

01:41:00.865 --> 01:41:02.205
And finally, so just on, just on that,

2085

01:41:02.205 --> 01:41:05.445
the written ministerial statement 2024, that the,

2086

01:41:05.545 --> 01:41:08.045
you'll note the timeline of the issue of

2087

01:41:08.045 --> 01:41:10.165
that written ministerial statement, which is that at

2088

01:41:10.165 --> 01:41:14.845
that point there were three applications in this area, uh,

2089

01:41:14.985 --> 01:41:17.925
and that was the cluster as far as we're concerned

2090

01:41:17.925 --> 01:41:20.485
that the government was, was getting at with the reference

2091

01:41:20.485 --> 01:41:22.125
to clustering the geographical cluster

2092

01:41:22.885 --> 01:41:24.125
referenced is this cluster.

2093

01:41:24.745 --> 01:41:26.085
Uh, and so there were three at

2094

01:41:26.085 --> 01:41:27.365
that point, and this is the fourth one.

2095

01:41:27.825 --> 01:41:31.085
So, so obviously for, for obvious reasons, uh,

2096

01:41:31.185 --> 01:41:32.605
we obviously weigh that negatively

2097

01:41:32.605 --> 01:41:33.765
into the planning balance also.

2098

01:41:34.015 --> 01:41:35.245
Thank you. Thank you.

2099

01:41:36.095 --> 01:41:37.645
Would the Applicant like to come back on that?

2100

01:41:40.555 --> 01:41:41.865
Thank you. Thank you, sir.

2101

01:41:41.865 --> 01:41:46.185
Alexis Coleman for the applicant, um, I'm trying to remember

2102

01:41:46.185 --> 01:41:49.305
how far back that that went, actually, um,

2103

01:41:49.895 --> 01:41:51.225
I'll pass to, um, Mr.

2104

01:41:51.365 --> 01:41:52.545
Bed on a few of the points.

2105

01:41:52.925 --> 01:41:55.985
Um, in terms of the planning balance, balance, we,

2106

01:41:56.005 --> 01:41:57.705

um, disagree with that point.

2107

01:41:58.205 --> 01:42:02.105

Um, and we, I, I think in our planning statement we've said,

2108

01:42:02.245 --> 01:42:04.705

um, slight negative weight

2109

01:42:05.155 --> 01:42:06.745

reflecting the decision in cotton.

2110

01:42:06.855 --> 01:42:10.345

However, I think, um, the amendment to the MPPF since then,

2111

01:42:10.345 --> 01:42:12.545

which has removed the footnote that related

2112

01:42:12.605 --> 01:42:15.265

to giving consideration to food production, um, this means

2113

01:42:15.265 --> 01:42:17.985

that we would say neutral weight, um,

2114

01:42:17.995 --> 01:42:19.585

given our compliance with policy.

2115

01:42:19.765 --> 01:42:22.785

And I can draw you, um, I can point you to the parts of the,

2116

01:42:22.785 --> 01:42:24.585

um, sector state decision on, on cotton,

2117

01:42:24.585 --> 01:42:26.745

which supports our position on that.

2118

01:42:27.645 --> 01:42:32.575

Um, just trying to remember the other, I think that

2119

01:42:32.575 --> 01:42:34.335

that's probably the broad point about balance.

2120

01:42:34.435 --> 01:42:36.655

Um, I can pass over to MR Bed in terms of the,

2121

01:42:36.915 --> 01:42:37.935

um, tenant farmers.

2122

01:42:37.935 --> 01:42:40.135

Obviously we've, um, assessed that as part

2123

01:42:40.135 --> 01:42:41.215

of our, um, assessment.

2124

01:42:41.915 --> 01:42:44.095

Um, and, and there is some loss in that respect,

2125

01:42:44.375 --> 01:42:46.055

although, um, I think you'll have seen that,

2126

01:42:47.025 --> 01:42:48.555

that there was some of those tenant farmers

2127

01:42:48.655 --> 01:42:49.875

who have been involved in examination

2128

01:42:49.875 --> 01:42:51.315

who have now withdrawn their objection.

2129

01:42:51.335 --> 01:42:52.435

So we understand

2130

01:42:52.435 --> 01:42:54.675

that from an EIA perspective there's an impact,

2131

01:42:54.775 --> 01:42:58.075

but that in practice, the, the impact is acceptable and,

2132

01:42:58.095 --> 01:43:00.595

and there's been agreements reached I

2133

01:43:00.595 --> 01:43:01.635

gather with, with those people.

2134

01:43:02.175 --> 01:43:05.195

Um, and there's obviously also benefits for the, um,

2135

01:43:05.475 --> 01:43:07.755

freehold farmers in terms of, um,

2136

01:43:07.975 --> 01:43:09.795

the diversification of income that they have.

2137

01:43:09.815 --> 01:43:13.075

And I think there's been a relevant representation from, um,

2138

01:43:14.055 --> 01:43:15.795

one of those farmers as well, which I'll need

2139

01:43:15.795 --> 01:43:17.595

to draw out the reference for in terms of that.

2140

01:43:19.015 --> 01:43:23.815

Um, oh, do you wanna,

2141

01:43:26.825 --> 01:43:28.385

Caroline Reeve on behalf of the applicant,

2142

01:43:28.385 --> 01:43:30.785

just following on from some of those discussions

2143

01:43:30.905 --> 01:43:32.585

and to sort of bring it back, um,

2144

01:43:32.655 --> 01:43:35.345

sort some clarity perhaps on planning policy in terms of

2145

01:43:35.365 --> 01:43:38.065

how we consider the scheme following, um,

2146

01:43:38.065 --> 01:43:39.705

that written ministerial statement?

2147

01:43:39.785 --> 01:43:42.345

I think the, the key test now, um,

2148

01:43:42.485 --> 01:43:45.945

before the change to the MPPF in December, um,

2149

01:43:45.945 --> 01:43:50.105

there was a requirement in policy terms to consider food

2150

01:43:50.625 --> 01:43:55.005

consideration in, in the planning balance alongside, um,

2151

01:43:55.135 --> 01:43:58.165

justifying the use of agricultural land for the scheme,

2152

01:43:58.585 --> 01:44:01.925

as well as making sure that we minimize the loss of BMV.

2153

01:44:02.365 --> 01:44:04.325

I think, you know, our position now is

2154

01:44:04.325 --> 01:44:06.805

that given the MPPF was issued in December, that

2155

01:44:06.805 --> 01:44:11.325

that consideration of food in a planning land use terms,

2156

01:44:11.705 --> 01:44:12.925

um, has fallen away.

2157

01:44:13.545 --> 01:44:16.365

So the key test is to demonstrate that the use

2158

01:44:16.365 --> 01:44:18.125

of agricultural land is justified

2159

01:44:18.585 --> 01:44:23.485

and that BMV has been minimized, um, sort of drawing,

2160

01:44:23.515 --> 01:44:27.205

drawing the, um, the X a's attention to chapter four

2161

01:44:27.345 --> 01:44:28.765

of the, of the es.

2162

01:44:29.185 --> 01:44:33.005

Um, that's reference a PP 0 3 5.

2163

01:44:33.745 --> 01:44:35.845

Um, at the start of this project,

2164

01:44:36.105 --> 01:44:39.125

we very much did our site selection process using

2165

01:44:39.125 --> 01:44:40.525

exclusionary criteria.

2166

01:44:41.305 --> 01:44:44.285

So right at the start, we were looking at alternatives,

2167

01:44:44.285 --> 01:44:48.765

and the strategy was to make sure that we were reducing, um,

2168

01:44:48.905 --> 01:44:51.285

and minimizing planning conflicts as well

2169

01:44:51.285 --> 01:44:53.605

as minimizing environmental harm.

2170

01:44:54.225 --> 01:44:56.845

And one of those criteria was at the outset

2171

01:44:56.865 --> 01:44:59.445

to exclude grade one and two land,

2172

01:44:59.835 --> 01:45:04.765

therefore at an early stage minimizing BMV loss in

2173

01:45:04.845 --> 01:45:05.885

accordance with policy.

2174
01:45:06.555 --> 01:45:08.125
Obviously once we went through

2175
01:45:08.125 --> 01:45:12.605
that five stage site selection process, um, there was a need

2176
01:45:12.605 --> 01:45:13.765
to then refine that

2177
01:45:13.825 --> 01:45:17.045
and to actually undertake the a LC survey to,

2178
01:45:17.045 --> 01:45:19.565
to find out the split between three A and three B.

2179
01:45:20.185 --> 01:45:22.405
But the majority of the site following

2180
01:45:22.405 --> 01:45:24.485
that survey is three B.

2181
01:45:24.585 --> 01:45:26.525
So, you know, we've, we've strongly demonstrated

2182
01:45:26.555 --> 01:45:31.365
that we've minimized, um, in terms of the justification

2183
01:45:31.365 --> 01:45:33.605
of the use of agricultural land, again,

2184
01:45:33.605 --> 01:45:37.725
that site selection process considered brownfield land.

2185
01:45:38.065 --> 01:45:41.285
And we explain in chapter four, um, the outcome of

2186
01:45:41.285 --> 01:45:44.125
that process where we weren't unable to identify

2187
01:45:44.865 --> 01:45:46.725

any suitable or available land

2188

01:45:46.725 --> 01:45:48.125

that could accommodate the scheme.

2189

01:45:48.685 --> 01:45:50.925

I think the largest, um, most

2190

01:45:50.925 --> 01:45:53.445

of the previously developed land that was considered

2191

01:45:53.445 --> 01:45:56.365

through looking at brownfield land registers, um,

2192

01:45:56.365 --> 01:45:59.165

were sites I think, um, sort of less than a hectare in size.

2193

01:45:59.785 --> 01:46:02.605

And the biggest one that, that we, we considered

2194

01:46:02.745 --> 01:46:05.605

and assessed was the cotton substation site,

2195

01:46:05.605 --> 01:46:07.645

which is at 340 hectares.

2196

01:46:08.425 --> 01:46:11.645

That's an important strategic site in the, um,

2197

01:46:11.755 --> 01:46:14.925

adopted Bassett law local plan, um,

2198

01:46:15.305 --> 01:46:17.925

and is safeguarded for mixed use development

2199

01:46:17.925 --> 01:46:19.485

beyond this current plan period.

2200

01:46:20.345 --> 01:46:23.405

Um, so there would be a conflict with that.

2201

01:46:23.785 --> 01:46:26.925

Um, and the landowners of that site, EDF, um,

2202

01:46:26.925 --> 01:46:29.365

we've been engaged with them in relation to that.

2203

01:46:29.425 --> 01:46:32.445

You know, that's an important thing, um, to, to consider.

2204

01:46:32.585 --> 01:46:35.405

So just wanted to set the context of agricultural land

2205

01:46:35.405 --> 01:46:37.645

and BMV, um, with the scheme.

2206

01:46:37.815 --> 01:46:38.815

Thank you

2207

01:46:42.735 --> 01:46:44.805

Point, but do you want to go to, thank you,

2208

01:46:44.805 --> 01:46:45.965

Alexis, for the applicant?

2209

01:46:45.995 --> 01:46:48.925

Just picking up on the, um, cumulative point, um,

2210

01:46:49.065 --> 01:46:53.125

and the, that's obviously driven by the grid connection

2211

01:46:53.125 --> 01:46:55.765

and the capacity in, at the substation at cotton.

2212

01:46:56.285 --> 01:46:58.565

I mean, now we're starting to see a whole raft

2213

01:46:58.565 --> 01:47:01.685

of solar publications come forward with substations

2214

01:47:01.685 --> 01:47:03.325

that haven't been built yet, maximizing

2215

01:47:03.325 --> 01:47:04.645
an existing one, it has capacity.

2216

01:47:04.645 --> 01:47:06.525
That's what's led to the clustering

2217

01:47:06.525 --> 01:47:09.045
and we don't shy away from that 'cause there's very logical

2218

01:47:09.625 --> 01:47:12.125
and, you know, reasons for maximizing that.

2219

01:47:12.465 --> 01:47:15.565
Um, also I think we just need to be clear on

2220

01:47:15.565 --> 01:47:16.885
what this ministerial statement does.

2221

01:47:16.905 --> 01:47:20.445
It, it notes cumulative impacts, but it's,

2222

01:47:20.625 --> 01:47:21.765
and that they need to be assessed, which

2223

01:47:21.765 --> 01:47:22.885
obviously we have very clearly done.

2224

01:47:22.885 --> 01:47:24.405
We've got cumulative assessment

2225

01:47:24.465 --> 01:47:26.085
and we have the interrelationships report,

2226

01:47:26.385 --> 01:47:28.605
and those effects have been considered and been

2227

01:47:28.605 --> 01:47:29.605
before the sexual state

2228

01:47:29.605 --> 01:47:32.925

and examining authority for the three other schemes, two

2229

01:47:32.925 --> 01:47:34.565

of which have, have been given consent.

2230

01:47:35.305 --> 01:47:39.245

Um, but the mini written ministerial statement doesn't

2231

01:47:39.465 --> 01:47:40.885

change or, or add to policy.

2232

01:47:41.025 --> 01:47:42.685

And I think that's quite clear.

2233

01:47:42.785 --> 01:47:44.605

It, and it's described by the sector

2234

01:47:44.765 --> 01:47:47.085

of state in the quantum decision is emphasizing aspects

2235

01:47:47.105 --> 01:47:49.885

of the, um, 2024 NPS,

2236

01:47:49.885 --> 01:47:52.645

but it's not introducing, um, policy.

2237

01:47:52.745 --> 01:47:54.285

And that's quite clear in that there's quite a lot

2238

01:47:54.285 --> 01:47:56.525

of preamble in discussion about food security and things.

2239

01:47:56.525 --> 01:48:00.365

But then you get to, um, I'm not sure how to reference it,

2240

01:48:00.395 --> 01:48:02.245

it's sort of halfway through where it says this means that,

2241

01:48:02.745 --> 01:48:06.365

and then it sets out what is, what is the NPS test around b

2242

01:48:06.365 --> 01:48:08.285

and b, um, and,

2243

01:48:08.285 --> 01:48:12.245

and a LC policy, which all the precursor fed into.

2244

01:48:12.245 --> 01:48:14.885

So it's not reducing any additional, additional, um,

2245

01:48:14.885 --> 01:48:16.125

tests or anything in that respect.

2246

01:48:16.225 --> 01:48:18.585

Not, it's not changing policy. Thank you.

2247

01:48:29.115 --> 01:48:32.055

Yes, please. Thanks sir. Uh, west Wind District Council.

2248

01:48:32.355 --> 01:48:36.035

So our, our position broadly aligns with links,

2249

01:48:36.035 --> 01:48:40.385

county council's position on land use, uh,

2250

01:48:40.445 --> 01:48:43.145

the socioeconomic impacts and the landscape impacts,

2251

01:48:43.165 --> 01:48:46.265

but importantly from our perspective, the cumulative context

2252

01:48:46.405 --> 01:48:48.825

of this scheme of the other three, uh, needs

2253

01:48:48.825 --> 01:48:51.465

to be born in mind when considering land use itself.

2254

01:48:51.525 --> 01:48:54.745

So although this may have a lesser proportion of BMV,

2255

01:48:54.915 --> 01:48:58.105

there is still a, a great loss of active agricultural,

2256

01:48:58.105 --> 01:49:00.065

or at least available agricultural land,

2257

01:49:00.275 --> 01:49:02.465

which in this instance, our view is the same

2258

01:49:02.465 --> 01:49:04.425

as re county councils, which will be lost

2259

01:49:04.425 --> 01:49:06.865

because there's no commitment to availability

2260

01:49:06.865 --> 01:49:09.145

of continued agricultural land even through,

2261

01:49:09.165 --> 01:49:10.185

for instance, grazing.

2262

01:49:10.725 --> 01:49:13.825

Um, the additional point is in relation

2263

01:49:13.825 --> 01:49:17.825

to socioeconomic impacts is that in terms of, um, loss

2264

01:49:17.885 --> 01:49:20.545

of farming enterprise generally is that

2265

01:49:20.785 --> 01:49:22.905

although this is temporary, it's temporary over a

2266

01:49:22.905 --> 01:49:25.025

significant period of time, so it's 60 year period.

2267

01:49:25.645 --> 01:49:29.185

And so the socioeconomic impact will be greater in the

2268

01:49:29.185 --> 01:49:31.825

context, uh, where there will be a loss in terms

2269

01:49:31.845 --> 01:49:34.865

of economic impacts of the local farming economy.

2270

01:49:35.365 --> 01:49:37.225

And the ability for that local farming economy

2271

01:49:37.365 --> 01:49:40.425

to bounce back at a 60 year period needs

2272

01:49:40.425 --> 01:49:42.665

to also be seen in the context that it's over a number

2273

01:49:42.665 --> 01:49:44.705

of generations in a significant period of time.

2274

01:49:45.365 --> 01:49:47.565

So we, we do say, especially in the context

2275

01:49:47.665 --> 01:49:52.485

of the cumulative, um, other schemes, uh, that that is a,

2276

01:49:52.585 --> 01:49:53.765

an important consideration

2277

01:49:53.825 --> 01:49:57.005

and a greater impact given the temporary albe,

2278

01:49:57.205 --> 01:49:58.765

albeit temporary but significant period

2279

01:49:58.765 --> 01:50:00.005

of time of this scheme.

2280

01:50:01.405 --> 01:50:06.085

Thank you. Uh,

2281

01:50:06.385 --> 01:50:08.605

the applicant, Daniel Bert for the applicant, um,

2282

01:50:09.195 --> 01:50:11.925

with regard to comments which are made in terms

2283

01:50:12.025 --> 01:50:13.685

of the agricultural land quality

2284

01:50:13.705 --> 01:50:16.965

and drainage, um, if I can take you to, um,

2285

01:50:17.225 --> 01:50:21.165

our environmental statement, um, chapter 15, which was, uh,

2286

01:50:21.405 --> 01:50:25.405

a PP 0 4 6, um, reference 15.

2287

01:50:25.405 --> 01:50:27.565

Two of that, uh,

2288

01:50:27.925 --> 01:50:30.685

document is the math agricultural Land

2289

01:50:30.925 --> 01:50:32.325

classification guidelines.

2290

01:50:32.905 --> 01:50:37.805

Um, now on, uh, page eight of that document, it gives,

2291

01:50:38.185 --> 01:50:42.045

um, the, uh, to ensure a consistent approach

2292

01:50:42.105 --> 01:50:44.965

and classifying land bring assumptions are made,

2293

01:50:45.435 --> 01:50:48.085

land is greater according to the degree which physical

2294

01:50:48.085 --> 01:50:50.485

or chemical properties impose long-term limitations

2295

01:50:50.505 --> 01:50:51.565

on agricultural use.

2296

01:50:51.955 --> 01:50:53.965

It's assessed on its capability at a good

2297

01:50:53.985 --> 01:50:56.165

but not outstanding standard of management

2298

01:50:56.455 --> 01:50:58.845

where limitations can be reduced, for instance,

2299

01:50:58.865 --> 01:51:01.045

by normal management operations or improvements.

2300

01:51:01.265 --> 01:51:03.245

For example, the installation

2301

01:51:03.245 --> 01:51:05.125

of an appropriate under drainage system,

2302

01:51:05.585 --> 01:51:07.925

the land is graded according to the severity

2303

01:51:07.985 --> 01:51:09.365

of the remaining limitation.

2304

01:51:09.705 --> 01:51:12.445

So if you were to find agricultural land,

2305

01:51:12.655 --> 01:51:14.365

which could benefit from drainage

2306

01:51:14.545 --> 01:51:18.405

but was not drained, you would assess the a LC grade

2307

01:51:18.505 --> 01:51:20.565

as if the drainage had been put in place.

2308

01:51:21.275 --> 01:51:24.845

That is because the a LC system was designed specifically

2309

01:51:24.905 --> 01:51:27.045
to inform planning decisions,

2310

01:51:27.625 --> 01:51:29.365
and it needs to avoid, uh,

2311

01:51:29.365 --> 01:51:32.885
presenting the per the perverse incentive to a landowner

2312

01:51:33.225 --> 01:51:35.365
to manage the land badly in order

2313

01:51:35.425 --> 01:51:37.405
to assist getting planning consent.

2314

01:51:37.825 --> 01:51:42.165
Um, so, uh, add to that,

2315

01:51:43.105 --> 01:51:44.925
the normal lifespan you can expect

2316

01:51:44.945 --> 01:51:49.525
for a agricultural under drain, um, uh, would be, uh,

2317

01:51:49.945 --> 01:51:51.685
you would expect it to last 40 years.

2318

01:51:52.025 --> 01:51:54.925
But with a 40 year, uh, consent period, uh,

2319

01:51:54.945 --> 01:51:58.285
for this development, we'd be expecting, um, drains

2320

01:51:58.535 --> 01:52:03.165
where there'd be no work above them to be, um, due for, uh,

2321

01:52:03.165 --> 01:52:05.725
replacement or renewal at that stage anyway,

2322

01:52:05.955 --> 01:52:08.005

it's a routine agricultural operation.

2323

01:52:08.905 --> 01:52:13.655

Um, let me see, in terms

2324

01:52:13.995 --> 01:52:17.655

of loss of agricultural land use, um,

2325

01:52:19.055 --> 01:52:22.255

Connor, could we quickly bring up the food security report

2326

01:52:22.715 --> 01:52:24.535

on, uh, page 1, 2 9.

2327

01:52:26.025 --> 01:52:30.155

This is the, uh, defra uk, uh, food security report that,

2328

01:52:30.215 --> 01:52:31.795

uh, 2024.

2329

01:52:34.195 --> 01:52:37.855

And on that it's figure 2.1 0.1 a shows

2330

01:52:38.715 --> 01:52:42.255

UK food production to supply ratio from 2003

2331

01:52:42.355 --> 01:52:43.815

to 2023.

2332

01:52:44.675 --> 01:52:49.395

Um, there you can see, uh, in the blue line,

2333

01:52:49.395 --> 01:52:54.035

the off quoted, uh, 60% self-sufficient in, uh, domestic,

2334

01:52:54.175 --> 01:52:55.195

uh, food production.

2335

01:52:55.535 --> 01:52:57.955

Um, there are a great number of caveats to that,

2336

01:52:57.975 --> 01:53:01.875

but the first one to, uh, point out is that this is, um,

2337

01:53:02.095 --> 01:53:05.475

in terms of farm gate economic value, uh,

2338

01:53:05.655 --> 01:53:09.395

we actually produce, uh, domestically, uh,

2339

01:53:09.525 --> 01:53:11.795

grain equivalent to our consumption.

2340

01:53:12.175 --> 01:53:13.835

The same goes with meat, milk, and eggs,

2341

01:53:14.095 --> 01:53:16.755

but we tend to export cheap feed wheat.

2342

01:53:16.975 --> 01:53:20.755

We tend to import expensive Canadian bread making wheat, um,

2343

01:53:20.905 --> 01:53:24.995

more expensive, uh, dur, um, Durham, oh, oh, uh,

2344

01:53:25.135 --> 01:53:26.915

Selina wheat for pasta.

2345

01:53:27.335 --> 01:53:28.795

Um, the same with meat.

2346

01:53:28.855 --> 01:53:32.515

We export, uh, cheaper meat from, uh, dairy livestock.

2347

01:53:32.515 --> 01:53:34.195

We import more expensive meat.

2348

01:53:34.775 --> 01:53:39.315

Um, you can see on that graph the two lines,

2349

01:53:39.375 --> 01:53:43.275

so sorry, the, the red upper line is, um, uh,

2350

01:53:43.595 --> 01:53:46.355

considering only food stuffs which we can economically

2351

01:53:46.385 --> 01:53:47.475

produce domestically.

2352

01:53:47.495 --> 01:53:50.715

So that excludes, uh, bananas and rice, for instance.

2353

01:53:51.745 --> 01:53:54.035

That graph goes back to 2003.

2354

01:53:54.415 --> 01:53:57.755

Uh, what I would point out is that in 2005, uh,

2355

01:53:57.815 --> 01:54:02.195

the UK started its, uh, uh, departure from

2356

01:54:02.935 --> 01:54:05.475

the previous agricultural support system,

2357

01:54:05.475 --> 01:54:08.955

which included 10% set aside of arable land

2358

01:54:09.285 --> 01:54:13.715

where no agricultural economic activity could be undertaken

2359

01:54:13.815 --> 01:54:15.795

on that land at all 10%

2360

01:54:15.895 --> 01:54:18.755

of all arable land across the, the uk.

2361

01:54:19.255 --> 01:54:20.435

Um, you couldn't, uh,

2362

01:54:20.835 --> 01:54:22.835

graze any livestock on it the way we can do,

2363

01:54:22.935 --> 01:54:24.075
uh, below a solar farm.

2364

01:54:24.495 --> 01:54:28.555
And you can see that has had absolutely no impact on the

2365

01:54:28.555 --> 01:54:29.915
trend of those lines.

2366

01:54:30.415 --> 01:54:31.715
It also had, um,

2367

01:54:32.055 --> 01:54:36.195
no discernible impact on agricultural employment, um,

2368

01:54:36.895 --> 01:54:40.115
or the, the loss of agricultural skills across the country.

2369

01:54:40.775 --> 01:54:45.635
Um, the trend still is for agricultural employment that,

2370

01:54:45.735 --> 01:54:46.755
um, uh,

2371

01:54:47.315 --> 01:54:51.075
agricultural employees are more difficult to get ahold of.

2372

01:54:51.695 --> 01:54:56.635
Um, and, uh, there is a declining need for them as, uh,

2373

01:54:56.635 --> 01:54:58.715
further mechanization takes place.

2374

01:55:00.135 --> 01:55:01.885
Thank you. I would just say that your, your

2375

01:55:02.405 --> 01:55:03.965
December, 2024 report there,

2376

01:55:03.965 --> 01:55:05.885

which is the Dara's current report,

2377

01:55:05.885 --> 01:55:08.525

but the written submissions that you've made refer

2378

01:55:08.525 --> 01:55:09.765

to the 2021 report.

2379

01:55:09.795 --> 01:55:11.245

Appreciates is obviously

2380

01:55:11.475 --> 01:55:13.205

This is December, it's general

2381

01:55:13.255 --> 01:55:15.765

Since, so it might be worth revisiting some

2382

01:55:15.765 --> 01:55:18.205

of the statements that you make in line with your Yeah.

2383

01:55:18.205 --> 01:55:20.485

Submission based on the new report Yeah.

2384

01:55:20.505 --> 01:55:23.765

And the new data within that. Thank you. Okay. So could

2385

01:55:23.765 --> 01:55:26.285

I just add to that briefly, um, Alexis Coleman on behalf

2386

01:55:26.285 --> 01:55:27.485

of the applicant, I referenced just

2387

01:55:27.485 --> 01:55:30.645

before that the benefits for those farmers

2388

01:55:30.665 --> 01:55:33.125

who are free holders and the support in that respect.

2389

01:55:33.205 --> 01:55:35.205

I have just pulled up a couple of relevant reps.

2390

01:55:35.545 --> 01:55:38.845

One is Simon Elis, um, relevant rep 3 0 7.

2391

01:55:39.345 --> 01:55:41.765

Um, and this actually goes to the, the point made by,

2392

01:55:41.865 --> 01:55:43.525

um, uh, west Lindsay.

2393

01:55:43.955 --> 01:55:46.565

They say, um, the solar scheme will benefit our farm

2394

01:55:46.565 --> 01:55:48.685

and allow us to employ another one

2395

01:55:48.685 --> 01:55:51.045

or two members of staff for our free range eggs business.

2396

01:55:51.065 --> 01:55:52.805

Our land will not need government subsidies

2397

01:55:52.805 --> 01:55:54.525

to survive the worsting situation

2398

01:55:54.525 --> 01:55:56.165

for agriculture and lower grade soils.

2399

01:55:56.585 --> 01:55:57.725

And then Victoria Elis,

2400

01:55:57.725 --> 01:56:00.165

which is relevant rep 3 2 2 says a similar thing in terms

2401

01:56:00.165 --> 01:56:02.885

of the development, having a positive impact on employment

2402

01:56:02.885 --> 01:56:05.805

for our farm, then guaranteed income from the solar project

2403

01:56:05.875 --> 01:56:08.885

will allow us to concentrate on developing our egg business,

2404

01:56:08.885 --> 01:56:10.525

securing current levels of employment

2405

01:56:10.525 --> 01:56:12.325

and hopefully providing for expansion in the future.

2406

01:56:13.065 --> 01:56:15.805

So whilst we do understand there are impacts on tenant

2407

01:56:15.805 --> 01:56:18.085

farmers, there are also some really positive impacts both

2408

01:56:18.085 --> 01:56:20.605

for those, um, farmers who remain,

2409

01:56:20.625 --> 01:56:22.885

but also that they have that diversified income,

2410

01:56:22.885 --> 01:56:26.645

which then has indirect benefits, um, to the sector and,

2411

01:56:26.645 --> 01:56:27.685

and to employment as well.

2412

01:56:28.995 --> 01:56:32.405

Thank you. 7,000 acres please.

2413

01:56:32.855 --> 01:56:34.725

Thank you, sir. Liz, go at 7,000 acres.

2414

01:56:34.725 --> 01:56:36.845

Um, just coming back to that, um, um,

2415

01:56:36.955 --> 01:56:38.365

what the lady said there.

2416

01:56:38.865 --> 01:56:43.645

Um, in relation to, um, supply chains of, um, farm,

2417

01:56:44.995 --> 01:56:49.205

farm businesses that potentially will be lost, um,

2418

01:56:50.355 --> 01:56:53.845

obviously there'll be various businesses around the county

2419

01:56:53.995 --> 01:56:57.885

that will see, um, their need for their supplies,

2420

01:56:58.315 --> 01:57:02.685

whether it be seed or machinery and maintaining machinery.

2421

01:57:03.105 --> 01:57:06.085

Um, those need, that need will no longer be there for

2422

01:57:06.085 --> 01:57:08.165

therefore their businesses will be impacted.

2423

01:57:08.225 --> 01:57:09.885

So it has a knock on effect in surrounding

2424

01:57:11.005 --> 01:57:12.765

businesses already established within the agricultural,

2425

01:57:13.225 --> 01:57:14.885

um, industry in the, in the region.

2426

01:57:15.385 --> 01:57:18.725

And going back to what both, um, Lishi County Council

2427

01:57:18.825 --> 01:57:22.285

and West Linzie District Council said in terms of, uh, loss

2428

01:57:22.285 --> 01:57:25.685

of land use, we entirely agreed with their, their comments,

2429

01:57:26.385 --> 01:57:27.485

um, on that.

2430

01:57:27.505 --> 01:57:30.685

And also the socioeconomic effects of just, um, described.

2431

01:57:30.945 --> 01:57:34.525

But furthermore, in terms of cumulative impact of BMV, um,

2432

01:57:34.785 --> 01:57:36.765

to which solar project, um,

2433

01:57:37.225 --> 01:57:40.845

as I understand it will be a 10%, um, loss of BMV land.

2434

01:57:41.305 --> 01:57:44.085

Um, but then we, I I thought that was correct,

2435

01:57:44.425 --> 01:57:47.325

or maybe that's what I understand the applicant said.

2436

01:57:47.785 --> 01:57:51.165

Um, then if you combine that with the West

2437

01:57:51.705 --> 01:57:53.325

Burton Solar Project, which obviously is yet,

2438

01:57:53.325 --> 01:57:55.045

we're still wind to hear what's happening with that.

2439

01:57:55.625 --> 01:57:59.765

Um, they will use, um, 22.8% of three a,

2440

01:58:00.585 --> 01:58:04.685

1.3% of grade two and 2.3% of grade one.

2441

01:58:05.225 --> 01:58:08.645

And then the Cotton Solar project will use um, 10%,

2442

01:58:09.185 --> 01:58:10.245

um, of BMV.

2443

01:58:10.385 --> 01:58:13.125

And the Gate Burton project is expected to use 20

2444

01:58:13.145 --> 01:58:14.525
to 60% of BMV.

2445

01:58:14.785 --> 01:58:18.085
So therefore cumulatively the BMV uh, use of that,

2446

01:58:18.155 --> 01:58:20.405
that land, uh, is, is quite

2447

01:58:20.955 --> 01:58:23.325
extensive across the landscape.

2448

01:58:23.535 --> 01:58:24.535
Thank you.

2449

01:58:26.515 --> 01:58:28.015
Object. Does the applicant wish to come,

2450

01:58:28.675 --> 01:58:30.015
Um, Alexis, come for the applicant?

2451

01:58:30.235 --> 01:58:32.855
Um, on the earlier point about impacts on business, um,

2452

01:58:33.295 --> 01:58:36.415
I mean that assumes that those, those farms would

2453

01:58:36.415 --> 01:58:37.535
otherwise be kept on being farmed,

2454

01:58:37.535 --> 01:58:40.895
which obviously there's no positive on in terms of land use,

2455

01:58:41.025 --> 01:58:45.285
um, requiring that, um, the amount of BMV is, um,

2456

01:58:45.435 --> 01:58:50.325
4.5%, um, we've avoided grade, um, one altogether.

2457

01:58:50.345 --> 01:58:54.565

And so it's made up of, um, three A and and grade two.

2458

01:58:54.985 --> 01:58:57.285

Um, and we've also obviously looked at the cumulative

2459

01:58:57.285 --> 01:58:59.685

impact, um, as have the other schemes.

2460

01:58:59.685 --> 01:59:01.645

And that has been considered by the executive state in the

2461

01:59:01.805 --> 01:59:04.405

decisions, um, consenting Cotton and Gate Burton.

2462

01:59:04.705 --> 01:59:07.685

And when you look at link like the region on, on the whole,

2463

01:59:07.825 --> 01:59:11.125

um, cumulatively that impact is, is actually quite small.

2464

01:59:11.465 --> 01:59:14.285

Um, I dunno if Mr. Bed wants to add anything on that point.

2465

01:59:18.185 --> 01:59:20.845

Yes, Daniel bed for the applicant, uh, just in terms of,

2466

01:59:21.105 --> 01:59:23.045

uh, loss of agricultural land

2467

01:59:23.045 --> 01:59:26.285

or loss of vested most versatile agricultural land, um,

2468

01:59:26.285 --> 01:59:29.285

natural England's, uh, response to, um,

2469

01:59:30.025 --> 01:59:33.605

xis first written questions, REP 3 0 7 1.

2470

01:59:34.065 --> 01:59:38.965

If we go to question one point 12.5, um,

2471

01:59:39.545 --> 01:59:42.005

it is considered that inherent soil site

2472

01:59:42.025 --> 01:59:43.605

and climatic properties required

2473

01:59:43.605 --> 01:59:46.765

to determine the A LC grade would remain unaffected

2474

01:59:46.825 --> 01:59:48.605

by the solar developments and

2475

01:59:48.605 --> 01:59:51.525

therefore not alter the a LC grade in the long term.

2476

01:59:51.825 --> 01:59:55.555

So the, the agricultural land is still there. It's not lost.

2477

01:59:55.855 --> 01:59:58.595

The, the, the purpose of retaining best

2478

01:59:58.595 --> 02:00:02.315

and most versatile land is not to, uh, there's no obligation

2479

02:00:02.375 --> 02:00:06.875

for farmers to manage land to any, um, particular, uh,

2480

02:00:06.875 --> 02:00:08.755

food production or to any particular intensity.

2481

02:00:09.345 --> 02:00:11.955

It's to keep it there as a strategic resource against

2482

02:00:12.065 --> 02:00:13.275

unknown future need.

2483

02:00:13.535 --> 02:00:15.155

And it remains that resource.

2484

02:00:17.365 --> 02:00:20.945

Thank you. Okay, thank you.

2485

02:00:21.005 --> 02:00:23.025

I'm going to, if that's okay, I'm gonna move us on now

2486

02:00:23.025 --> 02:00:25.025

because I think we've covered, um, uh,

2487

02:00:25.405 --> 02:00:28.025

the soils section quite extensively now.

2488

02:00:28.325 --> 02:00:31.145

Um, it doesn't prohibit anyone from submitting any written

2489

02:00:31.545 --> 02:00:33.785

representations that we can consider in the examination at

2490

02:00:33.785 --> 02:00:35.345

any point going on from here.

2491

02:00:36.225 --> 02:00:40.885

Um, so I was gonna hand over to, now I'm going to,

2492

02:00:40.885 --> 02:00:41.885

if it's okay, we, we've

2493

02:00:41.885 --> 02:00:42.925

gotta move on because of timing, sir.

2494

02:00:42.925 --> 02:00:44.925

But if you'd like to make a written representation, Mr.

2495

02:00:45.145 --> 02:00:46.765

You, Scott, you're more, yeah. More than welcome.

2496

02:00:47.305 --> 02:00:52.275

Um, if we're gonna move on now to section, uh,

2497

02:00:52.275 --> 02:00:53.875

item three C if that's okay, please.

2498

02:00:55.425 --> 02:00:57.715

Okay, thank you Mr. Eley.

2499

02:00:57.715 --> 02:01:01.715

Um, we're running short of time, uh, bearing in mind,

2500

02:01:02.815 --> 02:01:04.995

uh, the forthcoming open floor hearing.

2501

02:01:05.335 --> 02:01:07.715

Um, we need time to set this room up.

2502

02:01:08.575 --> 02:01:10.235

Um, and that means that this

2503

02:01:11.475 --> 02:01:16.105

issue specific hearing will need to be closed by 5:00 PM So

2504

02:01:16.295 --> 02:01:20.585

what we propose is to see how far we get with item three C

2505

02:01:21.205 --> 02:01:25.425

and it may be necessary to conclude item three C tomorrow

2506

02:01:25.965 --> 02:01:28.505

during issue specific hearing three.

2507

02:01:29.645 --> 02:01:31.985

And I wondered if anyone in the room

2508

02:01:32.285 --> 02:01:35.105

or participating virtually had any objection

2509

02:01:35.105 --> 02:01:36.425

to that approach.

2510

02:01:40.925 --> 02:01:43.545

If you've got an objection, um, to that approach virtually,

2511

02:01:43.545 --> 02:01:45.225

if you could raise your hand.

2512

02:01:49.265 --> 02:01:52.755

Okay. Good. So we'll see how far we get.

2513

02:01:53.135 --> 02:01:56.315

Um, is,

2514

02:01:56.505 --> 02:01:58.835

does anyone need a comfort break, um,

2515

02:02:00.515 --> 02:02:02.815

before we progress or should we just crack on?

2516

02:02:04.035 --> 02:02:06.615

No. Okay. We'll plow on.

2517

02:02:07.955 --> 02:02:10.655

So I'd like to start by asking the applicant some questions

2518

02:02:10.655 --> 02:02:15.095

in relation to the battery energy storage system, also known

2519

02:02:15.115 --> 02:02:16.215

as the best.

2520

02:02:17.715 --> 02:02:20.735

Um, I also have a question for 7,000 acres on this topic.

2521

02:02:22.945 --> 02:02:26.285

Uh, when we get to the end of my questions on, uh, the best,

2522

02:02:26.875 --> 02:02:28.165

I'll give interested parties

2523

02:02:28.265 --> 02:02:30.005

and statutory parties the opportunity

2524

02:02:30.185 --> 02:02:32.805

to ask any questions which they may have.

2525

02:02:34.625 --> 02:02:36.085

Um, the applicant has

2526

02:02:36.245 --> 02:02:37.565

provided answers to the queries,

2527

02:02:37.565 --> 02:02:40.125

which were included in our first written questions,

2528

02:02:40.125 --> 02:02:42.085

but I do have some follow up questions.

2529

02:02:42.185 --> 02:02:44.605

So I'll be referring to various documents,

2530

02:02:44.715 --> 02:02:46.965

including the applicant's responses

2531

02:02:46.985 --> 02:02:49.165

to our first written questions,

2532

02:02:49.855 --> 02:02:54.405

which is document reference rep 3 0 6 2.

2533

02:02:56.705 --> 02:03:00.405

Um, our first written questions are Examin Li examination

2534

02:03:00.405 --> 02:03:03.485

library reference PD oh zero nine.

2535

02:03:04.585 --> 02:03:07.285

And I'll also refer to various other documents including the

2536

02:03:07.285 --> 02:03:10.325

draft development consent order, which is

2537

02:03:11.125 --> 02:03:13.565

reference rep 3 0 0 4.

2538

02:03:15.445 --> 02:03:17.065

Uh, and if the applicant could try

2539

02:03:17.065 --> 02:03:20.585

and display the documents on screen as I refer to them,

2540

02:03:20.815 --> 02:03:22.025

then I would be grateful.

2541

02:03:22.045 --> 02:03:23.545

And I appreciate we haven't

2542

02:03:23.665 --> 02:03:25.345

provided you with a list in advance.

2543

02:03:26.445 --> 02:03:29.185

Um, so we'll start with a follow up

2544

02:03:29.185 --> 02:03:31.785

to the applicant's response to written question

2545

02:03:32.485 --> 02:03:37.465

1.1 0.2, which is that PDF pages 18

2546

02:03:37.525 --> 02:03:40.585

to 20 of their response to first written questions.

2547

02:03:41.875 --> 02:03:44.135

So the examining authority notes

2548

02:03:44.165 --> 02:03:48.335

that the applicant considers question 1.1, 0.22

2549

02:03:49.455 --> 02:03:53.575

B and C to require commercially sensitive information,

2550

02:03:54.525 --> 02:03:57.105

and that they assert that that's not relevant to,

2551

02:03:57.285 --> 02:03:58.745

to planning matters.

2552

02:04:00.095 --> 02:04:03.745

However, the examining authority has requested information

2553

02:04:03.745 --> 02:04:07.025

on typical unit prices for the export

2554

02:04:07.045 --> 02:04:10.065

of energy from co-located solar, as well

2555

02:04:10.065 --> 02:04:13.745

as from import export functions not associated

2556

02:04:14.695 --> 02:04:15.945

with the solar development.

2557

02:04:16.725 --> 02:04:21.305

So does the applicant consider typical unit prices to

2558

02:04:22.335 --> 02:04:24.975

comprise commercially sensitive information?

2559

02:04:26.035 --> 02:04:28.975

And if not, can a response be provided in writing?

2560

02:04:31.485 --> 02:04:33.075

Thank you, Alexis. The applicant?

2561

02:04:33.295 --> 02:04:35.115

Um, yes, I, I think that is the position

2562

02:04:35.115 --> 02:04:38.405

that we would consider them consent commercially sensitive.

2563

02:04:38.665 --> 02:04:42.245

Um, and I think the greater point is that in order to, um,

2564

02:04:42.245 --> 02:04:46.885

determine whether the best complies with the ad test, um,

2565

02:04:47.025 --> 02:04:50.245

we don't consider that further information is, is necessary

2566

02:04:50.245 --> 02:04:51.485

to be able to come to that conclusion.

2567

02:04:54.425 --> 02:04:59.355

It's helpful. Um, I can refer you to, um, the decision,

2568

02:05:00.375 --> 02:05:02.595

um, gate button, which is sector state.

2569

02:05:02.755 --> 02:05:04.955

'cause it does touch on this point about having, um,

2570

02:05:06.325 --> 02:05:07.535

financial details.

2571

02:05:08.115 --> 02:05:10.095

Um, so that's at paragraph 4.2

2572

02:05:10.095 --> 02:05:11.175

of the sector state's decision.

2573

02:05:11.955 --> 02:05:13.695

Um, it's, it's a little bit long,

2574

02:05:13.715 --> 02:05:16.455

but um, if you'll bear with me, the applicant further noted

2575

02:05:16.455 --> 02:05:18.015

that the purpose of the best is twofold.

2576

02:05:18.015 --> 02:05:19.695

Firstly, to provide storage facility

2577

02:05:19.715 --> 02:05:21.255

for the solar panels when there is high

2578

02:05:21.275 --> 02:05:22.575

output, but demand is low.

2579

02:05:22.795 --> 02:05:25.175

And secondly, to import electricity from the grid at times

2580

02:05:25.175 --> 02:05:26.375

when grid capacity is high,

2581

02:05:26.375 --> 02:05:29.115

but demand is low, the XA considered that,

2582

02:05:29.115 --> 02:05:31.795

notwithstanding the lack of a detailed financial back, uh,

2583

02:05:31.795 --> 02:05:34.515

breakdown, it was not unreasonable to conclude

2584

02:05:34.515 --> 02:05:36.395

that providing these grid balancing services

2585

02:05:36.395 --> 02:05:38.275

through the best would have a commercial benefit,

2586

02:05:38.695 --> 02:05:40.915

but acknowledge that the guidance advisors development

2587

02:05:40.915 --> 02:05:42.675

should not be treated as associate development.

2588

02:05:42.935 --> 02:05:45.795

If its only purpose is as a source of additional revenue,

2589

02:05:46.495 --> 02:05:47.515

the XA was satisfied.

2590

02:05:47.535 --> 02:05:48.555

The co-location of a best

2591

02:05:48.555 --> 02:05:50.675

with a solar generating station is a reasonable

2592

02:05:50.675 --> 02:05:51.795

and appropriate function.

2593

02:05:51.855 --> 02:05:56.635

And in line with the 2024 NPS, um, the XA concluded,

2594

02:05:56.635 --> 02:05:59.195

given the reasonable and legitimate benefit associated

2595

02:05:59.195 --> 02:06:02.155

with the provision of storage, government support

2596

02:06:02.155 --> 02:06:05.675

for colocation, and that the best has not been, sorry,

2597

02:06:05.675 --> 02:06:08.075

emails popping up in the way, um, best has not been

2598

02:06:08.875 --> 02:06:11.035

proposed only as a source of additional revenue

2599

02:06:11.155 --> 02:06:12.955

that the best is appropriately included

2600

02:06:12.975 --> 02:06:14.155

as associated development.

2601

02:06:14.495 --> 02:06:16.435

The sector of state agrees with the XA

2602

02:06:16.705 --> 02:06:19.355

that the best constitutes associated development, noting

2603

02:06:19.355 --> 02:06:20.955

that it'll enable grid balancing

2604

02:06:21.375 --> 02:06:23.395

and is ancillary to energy generation

2605

02:06:23.575 --> 02:06:25.755

as storage directly linked to operational generation

2606

02:06:25.755 --> 02:06:28.755

and efficiency the best will help deliver a secure

2607

02:06:28.755 --> 02:06:30.275

and reliable energy supply.

2608

02:06:31.175 --> 02:06:32.475

So I think the point here is,

2609

02:06:32.715 --> 02:06:34.995

I think just even from the design

2610

02:06:34.995 --> 02:06:36.915

of the scheme in particular in this case

2611

02:06:37.305 --> 02:06:38.755

with the DC coupled approach,

2612

02:06:38.755 --> 02:06:40.875

which is very much aimed at minimizing losses

2613

02:06:41.425 --> 02:06:44.435

from the energy generated from the solar pb when it goes

2614

02:06:44.465 --> 02:06:48.595

into storage, it's designed entirely

2615

02:06:48.865 --> 02:06:52.795

with the primary aim of maximizing the efficiency of,

2616

02:06:52.975 --> 02:06:54.315

of those solar pv.

2617

02:06:54.855 --> 02:06:58.635

Um, and that to the extent there, you know,

2618

02:06:58.655 --> 02:07:00.595

we will be providing those grid balancing services

2619

02:07:00.695 --> 02:07:02.075

and there'll be contracts for those.

2620

02:07:02.535 --> 02:07:06.675

Um, there's, there's, it's clear that there,

2621

02:07:06.675 --> 02:07:09.475

that's not the only reason the, the, that revenue

2622

02:07:09.545 --> 02:07:12.235

that comes from those insular services, that's not the sole

2623

02:07:12.805 --> 02:07:14.175

purpose of this best.

2624

02:07:14.205 --> 02:07:18.255

It's very clearly, um, integrated into the scheme as,

2625

02:07:18.795 --> 02:07:21.015

and it's there to support the efficiency of the solar pv.

2626

02:07:21.235 --> 02:07:24.935

And that's, that's been demonstrated on all the, um,

2627

02:07:26.275 --> 02:07:29.975

so the dcos to date where Bess has been, um, consented

2628

02:07:29.975 --> 02:07:33.415

as ad the distinguishing point here is the DC coupled

2629

02:07:33.575 --> 02:07:36.365

approach, which if anything strengthens the position,

2630

02:07:36.505 --> 02:07:40.605

but the, that base is included in order

2631

02:07:40.605 --> 02:07:42.045

to maximize the efficiency of the scheme

2632

02:07:42.045 --> 02:07:45.205

because of the way it sits on the DC side, so that,

2633

02:07:45.205 --> 02:07:48.925

that energy generated from solar in DC doesn't then have

2634

02:07:48.925 --> 02:07:52.125

to be transformed through inverters with, with, um,

2635

02:07:52.155 --> 02:07:55.485

consequential losses, um, each time it's stored.

2636

02:07:55.665 --> 02:08:00.645

So, um, this is why we say that further detail around

2637

02:08:01.065 --> 02:08:03.325

how those ancillary services, um,

2638

02:08:03.585 --> 02:08:05.605

may operate is not relevant.

2639

02:08:05.885 --> 02:08:07.645

I would just add that there's very clear support

2640

02:08:07.645 --> 02:08:08.805

for them in EN one

2641

02:08:08.985 --> 02:08:12.915

and any event, the best's role in delivering those services

2642

02:08:13.095 --> 02:08:16.075

is, is compliant with those ad tests in that it's addressing

2643

02:08:16.895 --> 02:08:21.235

an impact of having intermittent low carbon, um,

2644

02:08:21.965 --> 02:08:24.555

generation on the grid, which again, is a need

2645

02:08:24.785 --> 02:08:29.035

that is established in EN one in particular, um,

2646

02:08:30.735 --> 02:08:34.705

sits in paragraphs 3.3 0.25 to two eight.

2647

02:08:35.405 --> 02:08:39.705

Um, and also in 3.3

2648

02:08:39.705 --> 02:08:41.825

0.4 to three, uh, to six.

2649

02:08:42.045 --> 02:08:44.065

Anyway, I can put the paragraphs in writing for you,

2650

02:08:44.125 --> 02:08:46.465

but, um, that's, that's the basic position and,

2651

02:08:46.605 --> 02:08:49.945

and why I say possibly anticipating further questions

2652

02:08:49.945 --> 02:08:52.105

that we think that's sufficient information.

2653

02:08:52.445 --> 02:08:53.825

Um, before the examining authority.

2654

02:08:58.105 --> 02:09:00.235

Bear with me. I'm, I'm gonna come back at the end.

2655

02:09:01.665 --> 02:09:06.505

Okay, fine. So you mentioned the,

2656

02:09:07.085 --> 02:09:10.905

uh, guidance on associated development applications

2657

02:09:11.005 --> 02:09:13.425

for MA major infrastructure projects.

2658

02:09:14.365 --> 02:09:17.595

Um, and I think you referred to

2659

02:09:20.815 --> 02:09:23.835

one of the tests set out under paragraph

2660

02:09:23.905 --> 02:09:24.955
five of that guidance.

2661

02:09:27.515 --> 02:09:29.855
So being that, um,

2662

02:09:33.325 --> 02:09:36.635
associated development should not be the, um,

2663

02:09:38.795 --> 02:09:43.545
used to crop cost subsidize the cost of, hang on,

2664

02:09:43.565 --> 02:09:44.585
let me read it out.

2665

02:09:45.935 --> 02:09:48.265
Part three, which says, development should not be treated

2666

02:09:48.325 --> 02:09:51.145
as associated to associated development if it is

2667

02:09:51.815 --> 02:09:53.785
only necessary as a source

2668

02:09:53.785 --> 02:09:55.785
of additional revenue for the applicant.

2669

02:09:56.005 --> 02:09:58.865
So, but what I'm trying to get to grips with is part two,

2670

02:10:00.045 --> 02:10:02.385
um, which outlines

2671

02:10:02.385 --> 02:10:05.945
that associated development should not be an aim in itself,

2672

02:10:06.245 --> 02:10:09.745
but should be subordinate to the principal development.

2673

02:10:10.565 --> 02:10:14.425

Um, so do you not consider that?

2674

02:10:14.655 --> 02:10:19.295

Well, it, my question really is if it's more profitable

2675

02:10:19.315 --> 02:10:22.495

for the best to provide alternative functions, um,

2676

02:10:22.595 --> 02:10:26.095

to supporting nicolo catered solar, then doesn't it stand

2677

02:10:26.095 --> 02:10:29.255

to reason that that would be its primary function as opposed

2678

02:10:29.435 --> 02:10:31.175

to the former,

2679

02:10:32.595 --> 02:10:33.965

Um, Alexis comment for the applicant?

2680

02:10:33.995 --> 02:10:38.795

Well, that, that supposes that influenced by the amount

2681

02:10:38.795 --> 02:10:41.675

of revenue that either would generate, which is not part

2682

02:10:41.675 --> 02:10:43.115

of the, the ad tests.

2683

02:10:43.475 --> 02:10:45.715

I mean, it's very much subordinate.

2684

02:10:45.735 --> 02:10:48.435

You have about a 700 hectares here

2685

02:10:48.435 --> 02:10:49.995

that would be covered by solar pv.

2686

02:10:50.555 --> 02:10:52.395

I think it's less than 40 hectares of that,

2687

02:10:52.395 --> 02:10:53.835

which would be best.

2688

02:10:53.855 --> 02:10:57.835

So it's 3% of that developable developable area.

2689

02:10:57.895 --> 02:10:58.995

So that alone tells you

2690

02:10:58.995 --> 02:11:01.875

that this is not the main aim for this scheme.

2691

02:11:02.095 --> 02:11:04.035

If battery storage was the main aim,

2692

02:11:04.055 --> 02:11:06.995

you would probably just have an ac a huge AC coupled

2693

02:11:06.995 --> 02:11:10.115

battery, um, in order to make sure that aspect,

2694

02:11:10.115 --> 02:11:11.595

there's ancillary balancing services,

2695

02:11:11.595 --> 02:11:12.875

whereas a ton's possible,

2696

02:11:13.385 --> 02:11:15.955

I've explained the DC coupled process, which,

2697

02:11:16.645 --> 02:11:19.755

which is very much aimed at producing energy losses from

2698

02:11:19.855 --> 02:11:22.035

the, um, solar pv.

2699

02:11:22.455 --> 02:11:26.915

And again, that means that it's a smaller best spread out

2700

02:11:26.915 --> 02:11:28.885

around the site, which could,

2701

02:11:28.885 --> 02:11:31.925
couldn't be a standalone scheme in itself.

2702

02:11:32.945 --> 02:11:36.635
Um, it's, it's there as an integral part

2703

02:11:36.635 --> 02:11:37.675
of the development in order

2704

02:11:37.675 --> 02:11:40.155
to maximize the efficiencies of the generation.

2705

02:11:40.655 --> 02:11:41.755
Um, and,

2706

02:11:41.975 --> 02:11:44.315
and it can also offer those ancillary grid balancing

2707

02:11:44.515 --> 02:11:46.955
services, which in any event are still supporting

2708

02:11:47.055 --> 02:11:50.275
and are still subordinate to, um, the,

2709

02:11:51.135 --> 02:11:52.555
the intermittent nature of the scheme

2710

02:11:52.555 --> 02:11:56.755
because as Ian one, um, acknowledges

2711

02:11:57.055 --> 02:11:59.715
and actually we put, I would say strongly acknowledges it,

2712

02:11:59.855 --> 02:12:02.315
that's why there's a need for electricity storage is that

2713

02:12:03.175 --> 02:12:05.975
as more schemes like this one, um,

2714

02:12:05.975 --> 02:12:09.135

which are intermittent renewable generation stations come

2715

02:12:09.135 --> 02:12:11.415

onto the grid in order to address those impacts

2716

02:12:11.415 --> 02:12:13.775

and support that and support that transition to,

2717

02:12:13.915 --> 02:12:16.695

to net zero, there is a need for electricity stor storage,

2718

02:12:17.195 --> 02:12:19.255

um, such as this best in order to support that.

2719

02:12:19.315 --> 02:12:21.455

So it's very much subordinate to that.

2720

02:12:24.105 --> 02:12:25.675

Okay, thank you. I, I think you,

2721

02:12:26.775 --> 02:12:28.875

the applicant is placing quite a lot

2722

02:12:28.875 --> 02:12:30.955

of reliance on the DC coupled approach.

2723

02:12:31.275 --> 02:12:34.555

I just wondered if you could explain, um,

2724

02:12:34.585 --> 02:12:37.075

whether the DC0 precludes

2725

02:12:38.505 --> 02:12:41.265

a different approach being taken to the DC coupled approach.

2726

02:12:49.255 --> 02:12:51.115

Um, Alexis Coleman on behalf of the applicant,

2727

02:12:51.135 --> 02:12:53.115

I'm just checking the exact wording in, in schedule one

2728

02:12:53.115 --> 02:12:55.315

and the, um, outline design rules.

2729

02:12:55.955 --> 02:12:58.955

I do place weight or not. I don't, I do also think

2730

02:12:58.955 --> 02:13:00.195

that if it's AC coupled,

2731

02:13:00.195 --> 02:13:02.795

that is still associated development that's demonstrated by,

2732

02:13:03.095 --> 02:13:06.395

um, the consents for AC coupled in, um, longfield

2733

02:13:06.965 --> 02:13:10.115

solid DIO sonica, uh, cotton and GA burden.

2734

02:13:10.375 --> 02:13:13.875

So it's even in that event, it is a, um,

2735

02:13:14.495 --> 02:13:15.515

it is a subordinate

2736

02:13:15.675 --> 02:13:16.875

'cause it still has the same function

2737

02:13:17.095 --> 02:13:20.115

of maximizing the efficiency of the solar PV

2738

02:13:20.535 --> 02:13:23.235

and supporting the, the grid.

2739

02:13:23.655 --> 02:13:27.455

But, um, my point for bringing that out is

2740

02:13:27.455 --> 02:13:30.415

because our, where we are different from those schemes is in

2741

02:13:30.685 --> 02:13:33.285

respect of the AC c DC coupled approach for battery.

2742

02:13:33.785 --> 02:13:37.605

And my point to you is simply that if anything that um,

2743

02:13:37.715 --> 02:13:42.245

only serves to demonstrate more, so why, um, why

2744

02:13:42.245 --> 02:13:44.485

that best is there to support the solar pb,

2745

02:13:44.485 --> 02:13:47.605

but certainly, um, a hundred percent if it's a c coupled

2746

02:13:47.605 --> 02:13:50.885

that's equally, um, best and that's been, um, my experience

2747

02:13:50.885 --> 02:13:52.325

and that's reflected by the decisions

2748

02:13:52.345 --> 02:13:53.805

of the safety of state to date.

2749

02:13:54.505 --> 02:13:58.375

Um, just I'll just confirming the other points.

2750

02:14:01.025 --> 02:14:04.645

Um, so I, I gather that schedule one where we describe, so

2751

02:14:04.645 --> 02:14:06.845

where we set out the authorized development refers to, uh,

2752

02:14:07.225 --> 02:14:08.605

DC DC converter

2753

02:14:14.395 --> 02:14:15.775

and, um, we'll also be,

2754

02:14:15.995 --> 02:14:19.255

and there's also, um, outline design principles around this

2755

02:14:19.255 --> 02:14:22.765

that would, because of the size of the, um,

2756

02:14:22.785 --> 02:14:24.325

the maximum compounds probably

2757

02:14:24.405 --> 02:14:25.885

preclude it being ac I imagine.

2758

02:14:25.945 --> 02:14:28.125

But I'll, I'll get some, a better answer on that

2759

02:14:28.125 --> 02:14:29.165

for you and we can confirm that.

2760

02:14:30.245 --> 02:14:32.825

But as I've said, I don't think it ultimately matters

2761

02:14:32.825 --> 02:14:35.945

because of, of what I've said about AC coupled as well.

2762

02:14:40.505 --> 02:14:42.875

Okay. Um, you mentioned

2763

02:14:43.745 --> 02:14:45.755

several other projects.

2764

02:14:46.935 --> 02:14:51.635

I'm just wondering whether the capacity of, of the best, uh,

2765

02:14:51.735 --> 02:14:53.475

is comparable for those projects.

2766

02:14:54.895 --> 02:14:58.115

Um, I think the export capacity

2767

02:14:58.115 --> 02:14:59.915

of this project is 500 megawatts.

2768

02:15:00.975 --> 02:15:02.195

Um, so yeah,

2769

02:15:03.695 --> 02:15:05.595

Um, yes, they are comparable.

2770

02:15:05.615 --> 02:15:08.075

Um, in each case they've been designed, um,

2771

02:15:08.735 --> 02:15:12.315

to reflect the generation capacity of the, um, solar pv.

2772

02:15:12.315 --> 02:15:15.475

So they're, um, proportionate in terms of scale and,

2773

02:15:15.535 --> 02:15:17.635

and they will have had to have been proportionate in scale,

2774

02:15:18.055 --> 02:15:21.435

um, in order to be consented as ad, um, the, um,

2775

02:15:21.625 --> 02:15:24.555

grid connection agreements across those solar

2776

02:15:25.145 --> 02:15:26.315

dcos vary a little bit.

2777

02:15:26.635 --> 02:15:28.755

I think longfield might be about three 50

2778

02:15:28.815 --> 02:15:31.475

and I think maybe one of the cotton or gate,

2779

02:15:31.475 --> 02:15:33.995

but might be close to 600, but in the realm of,

2780

02:15:34.455 --> 02:15:36.115

but, um, usually,

2781

02:15:36.295 --> 02:15:38.315

and I don't know good connection statements for all

2782

02:15:38.315 --> 02:15:39.395
of those, but generally the import

2783

02:15:39.395 --> 02:15:41.515
and export will be the same and the best will have been

2784

02:15:41.755 --> 02:15:46.355
designed to take the maximum, um, to, in order

2785

02:15:46.375 --> 02:15:49.355
to support the, it will have been designed to respond to

2786

02:15:49.355 --> 02:15:51.755
and to be able to take the, the maximum, um,

2787

02:15:52.025 --> 02:15:54.155
generated power from the solar pv.

2788

02:15:54.455 --> 02:15:56.035
So it'll be proportionate in that respect.

2789

02:16:02.675 --> 02:16:07.125
Okay. Um, I've got a question for 7,000 acres, um,

2790

02:16:09.905 --> 02:16:13.965
you provided a response to question 1.1, 0.22, um,

2791

02:16:15.095 --> 02:16:18.725
which is contained in document reference rep 3 0 9 2,

2792

02:16:18.725 --> 02:16:20.085
that's PDF page 10.

2793

02:16:20.945 --> 02:16:22.925
Um, and that response refers to

2794

02:16:23.675 --> 02:16:26.085
that government guidance on associated development,

2795
02:16:26.085 --> 02:16:27.365
which we've just been talking about.

2796
02:16:28.585 --> 02:16:31.085
Um, and 7,000 acres highlight

2797
02:16:31.085 --> 02:16:33.845
that the guidance states in part that, uh,

2798
02:16:34.075 --> 02:16:35.725
development should not be treated

2799
02:16:36.025 --> 02:16:39.445
as associated development if it is only necessary

2800
02:16:39.625 --> 02:16:43.565
as a source of additional revenue for the applicant in order

2801
02:16:43.565 --> 02:16:46.805
to cross subsidize the cost of the principal development.

2802
02:16:48.185 --> 02:16:52.245
Um, what is 7,000 acres view on the use of the word only,

2803
02:16:52.825 --> 02:16:54.285
uh, in that sentence?

2804
02:16:54.625 --> 02:16:56.885
Um, for example, does

2805
02:16:56.885 --> 02:16:59.765
that preclude any operations which are a source

2806
02:16:59.785 --> 02:17:04.265
of additional revenue or does the guidance allow associated

2807
02:17:04.555 --> 02:17:07.345
associated development to generate additional revenue?

2808
02:17:07.605 --> 02:17:10.785

So long as it is not the only reason for it,

2809

02:17:14.585 --> 02:17:17.115

This gar at 7,000 acres, um, I apologize,

2810

02:17:17.375 --> 02:17:21.635

I'm not the author of that, um, um, uh, written response.

2811

02:17:21.735 --> 02:17:25.755

So, um, I can't say unfortunately, can we respond

2812

02:17:25.755 --> 02:17:28.195

to you in writing on that one? Yeah,

2813

02:17:28.195 --> 02:17:29.195

That's fine. Would, would

2814

02:17:29.195 --> 02:17:31.555

the applicant like to offer their view on

2815

02:17:31.865 --> 02:17:32.955

that point?

2816

02:17:33.645 --> 02:17:35.275

Sorry, I didn't hear the entire response.

2817

02:17:35.335 --> 02:17:36.595

Um, Alexis, common to the applicant,

2818

02:17:36.615 --> 02:17:39.395

but, um, I think only means, means only.

2819

02:17:39.415 --> 02:17:41.635

So development treated as associate development,

2820

02:17:41.695 --> 02:17:43.795

if it is only necessary as a source

2821

02:17:43.795 --> 02:17:45.155

of additional revenue for the applicant.

2822

02:17:45.655 --> 02:17:50.635

Um, so if there is another reason for it, then that

2823

02:17:51.145 --> 02:17:52.355

test is satisfied.

2824

02:17:52.425 --> 02:17:53.955

It's, it's okay. Basically,

2825

02:17:54.335 --> 02:17:57.235

and this is again confirmed in the, in the decisions to date

2826

02:17:57.375 --> 02:17:59.195

for the it to be a source of additional revenue.

2827

02:17:59.195 --> 02:18:01.235

There's no issue with that. The issue is if that's,

2828

02:18:01.235 --> 02:18:05.315

its only, um, if it's only necessary for that reason.

2829

02:18:05.615 --> 02:18:08.235

And as I've, I've explained that's not the case here.

2830

02:18:10.255 --> 02:18:11.595

Yes. Would you like to come?

2831

02:18:11.775 --> 02:18:16.755

Yes. Um, RO Roger Jones again, um, 7,000 acres, I was let

2832

02:18:16.755 --> 02:18:20.355

to believe that the, um, the reason that you have, uh, uh,

2833

02:18:20.355 --> 02:18:23.395

the best system there, it, the whole thing, um,

2834

02:18:23.965 --> 02:18:26.155

would not be viable without that.

2835

02:18:26.355 --> 02:18:29.635

I understand. Um, you know, there's what you are expecting

2836

02:18:29.635 --> 02:18:32.555

to, uh, is the revenue from the national grid

2837

02:18:32.815 --> 02:18:35.195

to use your battery system as storage.

2838

02:18:35.815 --> 02:18:38.675

Um, unfortunately, um, our electrical engineer,

2839

02:18:39.545 --> 02:18:42.595

certain electrical engineer is not able to come, uh, this,

2840

02:18:42.625 --> 02:18:44.995

this afternoon, but, uh, it's on the edge

2841

02:18:44.995 --> 02:18:46.075

of what I fully understand.

2842

02:18:46.075 --> 02:18:48.995

The other thing is that, um, I understand that, um,

2843

02:18:49.285 --> 02:18:52.195

there are less transmission losses if, um,

2844

02:18:52.495 --> 02:18:54.475

the power was transmitted in dc.

2845

02:18:55.055 --> 02:18:57.155

So in other words, if it was cited at, um,

2846

02:18:57.415 --> 02:19:00.155

at Cotton Power Station, for instance, under the control

2847

02:19:00.155 --> 02:19:01.955

of the 400 KV network

2848

02:19:02.095 --> 02:19:05.475

and the grid control engineer there, uh, then you would able

2849

02:19:05.475 --> 02:19:06.555

to, uh, export it,

2850

02:19:06.815 --> 02:19:09.275

but that would perhaps take away the financial

2851

02:19:09.275 --> 02:19:10.515

viability of your project.

2852

02:19:11.035 --> 02:19:12.715

I I, I don't know if you,

2853

02:19:12.735 --> 02:19:14.395

you could comment on that, please. Yeah.

2854

02:19:14.695 --> 02:19:16.195

Uh, with the applicant, like to re

2855

02:19:17.025 --> 02:19:18.485

Um, Alexis comment for the applicant,

2856

02:19:18.545 --> 02:19:20.405

I'm not gonna respond in detail to those points.

2857

02:19:20.415 --> 02:19:23.325

We've got a very, um, detailed, um, technical note

2858

02:19:23.325 --> 02:19:26.485

that we've attached to our, um, written submissions

2859

02:19:26.675 --> 02:19:28.885

that we made at issue specific hearing one,

2860

02:19:29.095 --> 02:19:31.725

which goes into detail as to the, um, benefits

2861

02:19:31.725 --> 02:19:33.045

and the approach of decoupled

2862

02:19:33.045 --> 02:19:35.405

and what that means in terms of, um, losses

2863

02:19:35.665 --> 02:19:37.925

and why that's an efficient system in terms of,

2864

02:19:37.925 --> 02:19:40.565

and what we've adopted in terms of supporting the solar pv.

2865

02:19:40.985 --> 02:19:45.485

Um, I would just, um, note the, um, policies in EN N one on,

2866

02:19:45.585 --> 02:19:47.605

um, financial viability to the extent

2867

02:19:47.625 --> 02:19:49.205

that's being questioned.

2868

02:19:49.585 --> 02:19:52.285

Um, which it,

2869

02:19:52.285 --> 02:19:57.005

it basically they sent which basically say 4.1 2, 1 4 0.122,

2870

02:19:57.005 --> 02:19:59.805

that that's a matter of judgment for the applicant and,

2871

02:19:59.805 --> 02:20:00.925

and not a matter of consideration.

2872

02:20:01.545 --> 02:20:05.365

If it helps for us to direct you to that,

2873

02:20:05.665 --> 02:20:07.445

if you need help finding that technical note, then

2874

02:20:07.445 --> 02:20:09.165

of course we can assist with that. Thank you.

2875

02:20:09.755 --> 02:20:13.205

Okay. Um, I'll, I'll move on.

2876

02:20:13.385 --> 02:20:18.225

So during issue specific, uh, hearing one,

2877

02:20:18.405 --> 02:20:20.105

we created the consistency

2878

02:20:20.105 --> 02:20:21.905

between the wording contained within

2879

02:20:22.505 --> 02:20:25.345

DCO schedule one description of work number two,

2880

02:20:26.205 --> 02:20:30.265

and the outline design principle statement, namely the use

2881

02:20:30.265 --> 02:20:31.505

of the term best stations

2882

02:20:31.505 --> 02:20:34.145

or best compounds in the design principle statement

2883

02:20:35.205 --> 02:20:38.665

and the absence of those terms in the DCO or draft DCO.

2884

02:20:39.515 --> 02:20:41.815

And I think the applicant's covering letter in, in respect

2885

02:20:41.815 --> 02:20:45.655

of deadline three implies that the applicant intends

2886

02:20:45.655 --> 02:20:48.655

to update the wording of the DCO at deadline four.

2887

02:20:49.795 --> 02:20:53.295

Um, could the applicant provide an update bearing in mind

2888

02:20:53.805 --> 02:20:57.295

that the ambiguity identified here is crucial

2889

02:20:57.435 --> 02:20:58.535

to the assessment of the scheme,

2890

02:20:58.535 --> 02:21:01.895

given the inconsistency in the wording may effectively

2891

02:21:01.905 --> 02:21:04.375

allow, allow for a greater number

2892

02:21:04.475 --> 02:21:06.175

or footprint of best containers

2893

02:21:06.175 --> 02:21:09.495

and compounds than accounted for in the assessment.

2894

02:21:10.565 --> 02:21:12.425

Alexis common, the applicant. Thank you, sir.

2895

02:21:12.685 --> 02:21:15.825

Um, yes, we were waiting for the um, NFCC guidelines

2896

02:21:15.825 --> 02:21:16.985

to be able to, to update that,

2897

02:21:16.985 --> 02:21:19.785

but we are going to update it in without those being

2898

02:21:19.785 --> 02:21:24.265

available at deadline for, um, to pick up on the, um,

2899

02:21:25.475 --> 02:21:26.615

the points that you picked up and,

2900

02:21:26.615 --> 02:21:27.655

and you raised with us at the

2901

02:21:27.855 --> 02:21:29.255

previous issue specific hearing.

2902

02:21:29.315 --> 02:21:31.695

So will, will result in some amendments to schedule one

2903

02:21:31.835 --> 02:21:33.575

and also the outline design principles.

2904

02:21:33.995 --> 02:21:37.495

It doesn't change, um, what we've assessed in the es.

2905

02:21:37.805 --> 02:21:40.815

What it does do though is actually, um, make it clearer

2906

02:21:40.815 --> 02:21:42.815

and I think probably more transparent in terms

2907

02:21:42.835 --> 02:21:46.695

of we will have maximum parameters for, um, the areas

2908

02:21:46.695 --> 02:21:48.695

where the best can be rather than limited to,

2909

02:21:48.835 --> 02:21:50.615

um, buildings, for example.

2910

02:21:50.795 --> 02:21:55.015

It will actually be more closely linked to what, uh, to

2911

02:21:55.015 --> 02:21:56.135

what the impacts could result from.

2912

02:21:56.135 --> 02:21:58.095

So IE dimensions rather than number

2913

02:21:58.095 --> 02:21:59.375

of buildings, that sort of thing.

2914

02:21:59.755 --> 02:22:03.455

So we, um, we will be amending it both those documents

2915

02:22:03.515 --> 02:22:04.975

to pick up that clarification.

2916

02:22:05.255 --> 02:22:07.375

I think there might be some consequential amendments to the,

2917

02:22:07.375 --> 02:22:08.975

um, battery safety management plan as well,

2918

02:22:08.975 --> 02:22:10.375

which we will also be picking up.

2919

02:22:10.835 --> 02:22:13.735

Um, but there's no change in what's proposed.

2920

02:22:14.115 --> 02:22:17.975

Um, and it's within what we've assessed in the es it's just,

2921

02:22:18.515 --> 02:22:20.695

uh, the intention is very much to make it clearer,

2922

02:22:20.695 --> 02:22:23.335

especially from a, um, and transparent really

2923

02:22:23.335 --> 02:22:25.605

because I think it was probably confusing as it was.

2924

02:22:25.665 --> 02:22:28.125

So, um, we're grateful to be directed to it

2925

02:22:28.225 --> 02:22:29.645

and um, we've um,

2926

02:22:29.645 --> 02:22:31.485

hopefully rectified that and addressed your comments.

2927

02:22:33.065 --> 02:22:34.375

Thank you. And so those,

2928

02:22:34.875 --> 02:22:36.415

you just referred some guidelines,

2929

02:22:37.005 --> 02:22:39.055

what could you elaborate on those? Well,

2930

02:22:39.055 --> 02:22:40.695

Sorry, I was mentioning the, um,

2931

02:22:41.525 --> 02:22:43.055

I'll get quickly outta my depth here,

2932

02:22:43.055 --> 02:22:46.135

but I think it's the NFCC guidelines to do with, um,

2933

02:22:46.135 --> 02:22:47.655

fire safety and so,

2934

02:22:48.115 --> 02:22:50.535

and the updates we were going to make to the, um,

2935

02:22:50.535 --> 02:22:53.255

battery safety management plan when those are published,

2936

02:22:53.255 --> 02:22:55.815

which is, um, expected in the next few months,

2937

02:22:55.815 --> 02:22:57.095

but we are not absolutely sure when,

2938

02:22:57.115 --> 02:22:59.375

so the intention had been, we had expected them

2939

02:22:59.375 --> 02:23:02.135

to be published in January and we were going wrap up, um,

2940

02:23:02.665 --> 02:23:04.455

those cha any changes resulting from that

2941

02:23:04.455 --> 02:23:07.655

to the batch safety management plan and the ODP

2942

02:23:07.655 --> 02:23:08.855

and Schedule one at the same time.

2943

02:23:09.035 --> 02:23:13.315

But, um, in lieu of that, we will just,

2944

02:23:13.855 --> 02:23:15.475
um, update the other documents.

2945

02:23:15.495 --> 02:23:17.355
So apologies that might have been a bit of a red herring.

2946

02:23:18.545 --> 02:23:21.435
Okay. I mean it's, yeah, it's pretty much, it's crucial

2947

02:23:21.665 --> 02:23:25.555
that those changes are made as soon at deadline for, um,

2948

02:23:26.255 --> 02:23:28.075
Yes, we've, we've been drafting them last week.

2949

02:23:28.075 --> 02:23:30.275
Alright. Um, it may even be something

2950

02:23:30.275 --> 02:23:32.715
that in tomorrow's session on battery

2951

02:23:32.775 --> 02:23:33.875
we could share on the screen.

2952

02:23:33.945 --> 02:23:35.035
I'll need to, if

2953

02:23:35.035 --> 02:23:36.875
unless people are giving me daggers, um,

2954

02:23:37.095 --> 02:23:38.915
we can hopefully do that, which might assist.

2955

02:23:39.545 --> 02:23:41.195
I'll confirm that though.

2956

02:23:41.665 --> 02:23:45.915
Okay. Um, does anyone have anything else

2957
02:23:45.935 --> 02:23:49.155
to raise in relation to battery storage?

2958
02:23:49.335 --> 02:23:50.635
Yes, Ms. Garba.

2959
02:23:51.515 --> 02:23:54.265
Thank you. So Liz Gar, 7,000 acres just in relation

2960
02:23:54.265 --> 02:23:57.145
to the National Fire Chiefs guidance, we're just alluding

2961
02:23:57.145 --> 02:23:59.305
to, I understand that the scattered layout

2962
02:23:59.605 --> 02:24:03.265
of this best across the site, um, will make it difficult

2963
02:24:03.485 --> 02:24:04.785
to meet these guidelines

2964
02:24:05.685 --> 02:24:10.385
and, um, especially how the fire water, um, will be

2965
02:24:10.985 --> 02:24:13.145
provided to each individual site

2966
02:24:13.405 --> 02:24:18.385
and any runoff bundle, um, stored and therefore removed.

2967
02:24:18.525 --> 02:24:21.425
So, um, obviously this needs updating

2968
02:24:21.685 --> 02:24:24.705
and, um, cited by the applicant in full for us

2969
02:24:24.705 --> 02:24:26.585
to get any understanding how they're going

2970
02:24:26.585 --> 02:24:27.665

to meet these guidelines.

2971

02:24:27.835 --> 02:24:28.835

Thank you.

2972

02:24:29.375 --> 02:24:32.185

Okay. I think we're gonna cover fire safety tomorrow.

2973

02:24:32.615 --> 02:24:34.065

Obviously we discussed it earlier,

2974

02:24:34.165 --> 02:24:37.665

but that was based on the avail availability of the links,

2975

02:24:37.725 --> 02:24:40.705

um, fire service representative,

2976

02:24:41.285 --> 02:24:42.905

but we'll be discussing it again tomorrow

2977

02:24:42.925 --> 02:24:44.145

and I think we could pick that up then.

2978

02:24:44.805 --> 02:24:47.825

Um, does anyone have any questions on

2979

02:24:48.605 --> 02:24:50.375

battery storage before we move on?

2980

02:24:51.285 --> 02:24:55.505

No. Okay. So if we move on to need

2981

02:24:56.045 --> 02:25:00.105

and energy, um, I know

2982

02:25:00.105 --> 02:25:03.265

that interested parties including 7,000 acres have have

2983

02:25:03.265 --> 02:25:06.945

submitted quite a lot of representations in relation to need

2984

02:25:07.725 --> 02:25:11.425

and I believe 7,000 acres requested an issue specific

2985

02:25:11.425 --> 02:25:12.865

hearing on energy.

2986

02:25:14.325 --> 02:25:17.625

Um, I only have a few questions on this subject

2987

02:25:17.805 --> 02:25:21.065

and that includes, uh, questions for 7,000 acres.

2988

02:25:21.405 --> 02:25:25.905

Um, I think we set out our position on need

2989

02:25:26.445 --> 02:25:28.905

as an issue during the last open floor hearing,

2990

02:25:29.165 --> 02:25:33.665

but perhaps, um, if 7,000 acres have any more questions, uh,

2991

02:25:33.765 --> 02:25:36.865

for the applicant, which can be directed through us

2992

02:25:37.645 --> 02:25:39.025

as the examining authority,

2993

02:25:39.135 --> 02:25:40.505

then they can raise those shortly.

2994

02:25:41.965 --> 02:25:45.785

Um, so the first question is for the applicant in terms of

2995

02:25:46.675 --> 02:25:51.145

generating capacity, the EXA notes the applicant's response

2996

02:25:51.325 --> 02:25:55.105

to question 1.1 0.17,

2997

02:25:55.355 --> 02:25:59.545

which is PDF pages 15 to 16 of their responses

2998

02:26:00.445 --> 02:26:03.745

in that response, the applicant states that, um, the terms

2999

02:26:03.885 --> 02:26:06.865

of the grid connection agreement are not relevant, uh,

3000

02:26:07.205 --> 02:26:10.585

to the determination of the scheme's compliance with

3001

02:26:11.105 --> 02:26:14.105

relevant policy nor the scheme's benefits and impacts.

3002

02:26:15.775 --> 02:26:19.485

However, uh, we consider that the,

3003

02:26:19.485 --> 02:26:21.485

the agreement is relevant, um,

3004

02:26:21.485 --> 02:26:23.045

because it's our understanding

3005

02:26:23.045 --> 02:26:25.845

that the agreement directly limits the export capacity

3006

02:26:25.845 --> 02:26:28.245

of the scheme as such, whatever that limit is,

3007

02:26:28.705 --> 02:26:31.325

is directly relevant to the benefit associated

3008

02:26:31.355 --> 02:26:33.125

with the production of energy.

3009

02:26:34.025 --> 02:26:37.285

Um, for example, were the agreement to limit, uh,

3010

02:26:37.905 --> 02:26:40.605

the export capacity to 250 megawatts, then

3011

02:26:40.675 --> 02:26:44.365

that scheme would have a, uh, a lower benefit than a scheme,

3012

02:26:44.945 --> 02:26:46.925

uh, limited to 500 megawatts.

3013

02:26:46.925 --> 02:26:49.045

Does the applicant accept that the agreement is

3014

02:26:49.045 --> 02:26:51.885

therefore directly relevant to the scheme benefits?

3015

02:26:53.105 --> 02:26:56.525

Um, and if yes, can it be provided in a redacted form

3016

02:26:58.735 --> 02:26:59.905

Comment, the applicant?

3017

02:27:00.365 --> 02:27:01.465

Um, thank you. I think

3018

02:27:01.465 --> 02:27:02.625

there's a few points to pick up on that.

3019

02:27:02.625 --> 02:27:04.785

Firstly, we have provided a, um, screenshot

3020

02:27:04.785 --> 02:27:08.305

of the tech register, which, which records the, um,

3021

02:27:09.245 --> 02:27:12.865

export the, the grid agreement for exported 500 megawatts.

3022

02:27:13.285 --> 02:27:15.865

Um, there is an issue with commercial sensitivity

3023

02:27:15.935 --> 02:27:17.185

that is both our position,

3024

02:27:17.185 --> 02:27:19.185

but also I've seen, I understand

3025

02:27:19.185 --> 02:27:20.425

that's the position from National Grid

3026

02:27:20.425 --> 02:27:23.585

where I've seen they've been asked under FOI regulations

3027

02:27:23.645 --> 02:27:27.225

to disclose other reconnection statements that they, um,

3028

02:27:27.225 --> 02:27:29.665

good connection agreements, sorry, that, um,

3029

02:27:29.665 --> 02:27:31.265

that's something they don't agree with.

3030

02:27:31.585 --> 02:27:34.745

I think, I mean, obviously the need is established, um,

3031

02:27:35.085 --> 02:27:39.465

and in particular in paragraphs 3.2 0.6 to 3.2 0.8

3032

02:27:39.465 --> 02:27:42.345

of EN one, which I know you are, um, very familiar with.

3033

02:27:42.845 --> 02:27:46.385

Um, and that, that assumes, that will requires that, um,

3034

02:27:47.615 --> 02:27:49.465

that substantial weight is given to

3035

02:27:49.465 --> 02:27:50.665

that demonstrated urgent need.

3036

02:27:50.845 --> 02:27:52.185

And the second state is not required

3037

02:27:52.185 --> 02:27:54.305

to consider separately the specific contribution

3038

02:27:54.305 --> 02:27:55.425
of any individual project

3039

02:27:55.525 --> 02:27:58.025
as satisfying the need established in this NPS.

3040

02:27:58.525 --> 02:28:03.065
Um, it's, yeah, the grid agreement is for 500 megawatts,

3041

02:28:03.065 --> 02:28:04.905
as we've said, as we've shown with the tech register.

3042

02:28:05.245 --> 02:28:07.065
I'm not aware of any of the other schemes to date having

3043

02:28:07.065 --> 02:28:09.425
to disclose this, this information.

3044

02:28:09.925 --> 02:28:13.705
Um, and for the reasons I've said, I think, um,

3045

02:28:13.925 --> 02:28:15.425
the more the need is established.

3046

02:28:15.525 --> 02:28:19.065
So I, at, at this stage, we don't anticipate doing that

3047

02:28:19.065 --> 02:28:20.945
and I don't think we're able to do that in terms of,

3048

02:28:21.010 --> 02:28:22.325
of national grid's position either.

3049

02:28:24.095 --> 02:28:26.665
Okay. Is is National Grid's position on that?

3050

02:28:26.665 --> 02:28:30.785
It's surely, um, based on the confidentiality of the,

3051

02:28:31.445 --> 02:28:32.745

the people they have the agreement,

3052

02:28:33.165 --> 02:28:34.705

the companies they have the agreements with,

3053

02:28:35.005 --> 02:28:38.695

and in this case you are, um, you are representing

3054

02:28:39.205 --> 02:28:41.895

that company, correct?

3055

02:28:42.035 --> 02:28:44.655

Um, I, I understand it's to do with probably the, um,

3056

02:28:44.705 --> 02:28:47.255

terms that they agree with the different applicants,

3057

02:28:47.255 --> 02:28:50.735

and so disclosing those, um, in terms of sort of, um,

3058

02:28:50.795 --> 02:28:53.175

competitiveness and commercial sensitivities as to

3059

02:28:53.175 --> 02:28:56.895

what the different terms are with different, um, generation,

3060

02:28:57.235 --> 02:29:00.575

um, generators, um, I think that's the issue for them.

3061

02:29:01.165 --> 02:29:03.415

Okay. But couldn't those elements

3062

02:29:03.415 --> 02:29:04.975

of the agreement be redacted?

3063

02:29:06.155 --> 02:29:07.175

I'd need to put it one way.

3064

02:29:07.295 --> 02:29:08.815

I would still maintain the position that we,

3065

02:29:08.815 --> 02:29:10.135
that it's not necessary.

3066

02:29:10.515 --> 02:29:12.775
Um, and again, I would point you to the tech register

3067

02:29:12.775 --> 02:29:14.495
and what I've said about the established need

3068

02:29:14.495 --> 02:29:16.255
and the substantial weight to be given to that.

3069

02:29:16.635 --> 02:29:18.855
Um, we can see, we can follow up with National Grid

3070

02:29:18.855 --> 02:29:20.255
to see if there's anything further we can do,

3071

02:29:20.315 --> 02:29:23.295
but, um, even in the absence of that, um,

3072

02:29:23.695 --> 02:29:26.255
I I do think we have provided sufficient information.

3073

02:29:26.255 --> 02:29:29.415
There's enough before you and the NPS is very clear in terms

3074

02:29:29.515 --> 02:29:32.655
of the established need and the weight to be given to it.

3075

02:29:38.425 --> 02:29:43.415
Okay. But in terms of benefits, um, I,

3076

02:29:43.575 --> 02:29:45.055
I don't understand what the NPS says,

3077

02:29:45.155 --> 02:29:48.215
but take for example, heritage, um,

3078

02:29:48.225 --> 02:29:51.335

where there is less than substantial harm, you need to weigh

3079

02:29:51.335 --> 02:29:53.695

that harm against the public benefits

3080

02:29:53.695 --> 02:29:54.775

of, of the development.

3081

02:29:55.395 --> 02:29:58.255

And in, in this instance, one of the, the main benefit

3082

02:29:58.875 --> 02:30:02.735

really is a generation of energy from renewable sources.

3083

02:30:04.115 --> 02:30:08.335

So there is a little bit of a disparity there between

3084

02:30:09.045 --> 02:30:11.735

what the, uh, NPS says

3085

02:30:11.955 --> 02:30:16.735

and balance to be struck in relation to, um, heritage.

3086

02:30:18.755 --> 02:30:20.135

Yep. I, I understand what you say,

3087

02:30:20.135 --> 02:30:21.855

but I do think we need to be quite careful

3088

02:30:21.855 --> 02:30:24.295

because the MPF is quite clear and,

3089

02:30:24.315 --> 02:30:27.055

and actually that wording has been adopted following, um,

3090

02:30:27.705 --> 02:30:29.775

cases in the high court on this point where

3091

02:30:30.375 --> 02:30:32.215

examining authorities have, um, started

3092

02:30:32.215 --> 02:30:35.455

to investigate the specific, um, contribution

3093

02:30:35.635 --> 02:30:37.615

of specific projects to need.

3094

02:30:38.195 --> 02:30:41.815

Um, and I understand what you say, um, I can take it away

3095

02:30:41.815 --> 02:30:42.935

to see what further we can, what

3096

02:30:42.935 --> 02:30:44.015

further comfort we can give you.

3097

02:30:44.315 --> 02:30:47.335

But I would just, and I know that you're aware of this,

3098

02:30:47.335 --> 02:30:48.735

but I would just refer you back to the,

3099

02:30:48.865 --> 02:30:52.095

those paragraphs in particular which are in bold in EN one

3100

02:30:52.195 --> 02:30:54.415

for the purposes of emphasis, I assume for

3101

02:30:55.395 --> 02:30:58.055

and about the specific contribution.

3102

02:30:58.135 --> 02:30:59.375

I think the point basically is

3103

02:30:59.375 --> 02:31:02.135

that there's a demonstrated urgent need for all types of,

3104

02:31:02.435 --> 02:31:05.235

um, of renewable and,

3105

02:31:05.235 --> 02:31:07.115

and low carbon generation that fall within

3106

02:31:07.185 --> 02:31:08.675
that critical national priority.

3107

02:31:10.235 --> 02:31:12.075
I suppose part of what I would say in terms of

3108

02:31:12.075 --> 02:31:14.555
what you've said about residual adverse effects comes down

3109

02:31:14.555 --> 02:31:16.875
to things like the critical national priority presumption

3110

02:31:16.935 --> 02:31:18.995
as well, which again, isn't specific to,

3111

02:31:20.765 --> 02:31:23.955
which isn't informed by an amount of, of generation.

3112

02:31:24.005 --> 02:31:25.555
Again, I think because that comes back to

3113

02:31:25.555 --> 02:31:27.835
that substantial weight that should be given to the benefit.

3114

02:31:27.975 --> 02:31:29.755
But, um, I don't think we necessarily

3115

02:31:29.755 --> 02:31:30.915
need to get into that at this moment.

3116

02:31:31.095 --> 02:31:33.195
But I understand your point and I can take it away,

3117

02:31:33.195 --> 02:31:35.035
but again, I'll just emphasize what I've said.

3118

02:31:35.825 --> 02:31:40.355
Okay. But I think you're referring to paragraph 3.2, 0.8,

3119
02:31:40.405 --> 02:31:42.835
which states the Secretary State is not required

3120
02:31:42.835 --> 02:31:46.275
to consider separately the specific contribution

3121
02:31:46.275 --> 02:31:47.555
of any individual project

3122
02:31:47.895 --> 02:31:50.995
to satisfying the need established in this NPS.

3123
02:31:51.655 --> 02:31:55.355
Um, but isn't that a separate concept to the benefit,

3124
02:31:55.815 --> 02:31:57.715
um, of the proposal?

3125
02:31:57.975 --> 02:32:02.075
So isn't that talking about, um,

3126
02:32:02.345 --> 02:32:06.515
looking at the proportion of, of the, um,

3127
02:32:06.665 --> 02:32:09.675
need established in the MPPS, which is addressed

3128
02:32:09.675 --> 02:32:13.155
by any particular scheme as opposed to the benefits?

3129
02:32:16.865 --> 02:32:18.905
Although I think, I mean, that is, that is the benefit

3130
02:32:19.095 --> 02:32:21.465
that it, that the scheme satisfies, that

3131
02:32:22.225 --> 02:32:23.305
demonstrated urgent need and

3132
02:32:23.305 --> 02:32:24.945

that substantial weight is given to that.

3133

02:32:24.985 --> 02:32:28.065

I mean, that's the key, the key benefit of the scheme.

3134

02:32:30.195 --> 02:32:32.715

Okay. Okay.

3135

02:32:33.995 --> 02:32:36.855

So we'll move on 7,000 acres, um,

3136

02:32:36.955 --> 02:32:39.335

and I am gonna be referring to those paragraphs,

3137

02:32:39.835 --> 02:32:41.615

um, which is convenient.

3138

02:32:41.795 --> 02:32:46.055

So paragraphs 3.2 0.6 to 3.2 0.8

3139

02:32:46.195 --> 02:32:49.135

of N-P-S-E-N one, um,

3140

02:32:49.585 --> 02:32:51.815

which is PDF page 23.

3141

02:32:51.955 --> 02:32:53.335

Do you have that in front of you?

3142

02:32:56.065 --> 02:32:59.645

Uh, gobert 7,000 acres. Um, I apologize here, sir.

3143

02:32:59.825 --> 02:33:03.165

Our expert on this subject is not here today.

3144

02:33:04.165 --> 02:33:05.805

I, sorry about that,

3145

02:33:05.905 --> 02:33:09.965

but we couldn't manage for him to be, it's, um,

3146

02:33:10.415 --> 02:33:11.565

Which expert is that

3147

02:33:12.065 --> 02:33:16.565

In terms of, um, decarbonization, I believe

3148

02:33:17.145 --> 02:33:18.405

if this is one you're referring to.

3149

02:33:19.695 --> 02:33:21.705

Okay. It's more of a, it's more of a policy

3150

02:33:22.125 --> 02:33:25.725

or, um, point than a sort of technical

3151

02:33:26.335 --> 02:33:27.335

Point.

3152

02:33:27.635 --> 02:33:30.205

I've not been the author of these. Um,

3153

02:33:30.955 --> 02:33:33.085

Perhaps I'll ask the question and if, if Yeah,

3154

02:33:33.085 --> 02:33:35.445

Yeah, we may have to respond in invite.

3155

02:33:35.465 --> 02:33:36.965

So I just wanted to let you know in advance.

3156

02:33:37.355 --> 02:33:38.405

Okay, thank you.

3157

02:33:38.745 --> 02:33:42.605

So paragraph 3.26, uh, sorry,

3158

02:33:42.605 --> 02:33:46.285

3.2 0.6 to 3.2 0.8 of em.

3159

02:33:46.385 --> 02:33:50.045

One state that the S state should assess all applications

3160

02:33:50.045 --> 02:33:52.765
for development consent for the types

3161

02:33:52.785 --> 02:33:55.805
of infrastructure covered by this NPS on the basis

3162

02:33:55.875 --> 02:33:58.205
that the government has, has demonstrated

3163

02:33:58.205 --> 02:34:00.725
that there is a need for those types

3164

02:34:00.785 --> 02:34:05.685
of infrastructure which is urgent, um, as described for

3165

02:34:06.535 --> 02:34:07.705
each of them in this part.

3166

02:34:08.085 --> 02:34:09.905
In addition, the Secretary of State has determined

3167

02:34:09.905 --> 02:34:12.185
that substantial weight should be given

3168

02:34:12.285 --> 02:34:14.745
to this need when considering applications

3169

02:34:14.885 --> 02:34:17.605
for development consent under the planning Act 2008.

3170

02:34:18.105 --> 02:34:19.685
The social state is not required

3171

02:34:19.685 --> 02:34:22.205
to consider separately the specific contribution of any

3172

02:34:22.735 --> 02:34:25.565
individual project satisfying the need established

3173

02:34:25.585 --> 02:34:26.685
in this MPS.

3174

02:34:27.705 --> 02:34:29.645
And my question was, with this in mind,

3175

02:34:29.655 --> 02:34:32.365
could 7,000 acres please confirm what their position

3176

02:34:33.065 --> 02:34:37.245
is on whether need is established in em?

3177

02:34:37.305 --> 02:34:40.935
One, because I think a lot of the representations made,

3178

02:34:40.935 --> 02:34:45.805
correct me if I'm wrong, um, relate to need

3179

02:34:51.265 --> 02:34:52.645
Liz Bert, 7,000 acres.

3180

02:34:52.785 --> 02:34:53.925
Um, you're correct.

3181

02:34:54.045 --> 02:34:56.285
A lot of our representative representations have been in

3182

02:34:56.565 --> 02:34:58.685
relation to need,

3183

02:34:59.145 --> 02:35:02.765
and as I understand it in terms of, um,

3184

02:35:04.355 --> 02:35:07.445
obviously the nature of renewables, um,

3185

02:35:09.945 --> 02:35:12.925
if there is obviously this demonstratable need,

3186

02:35:13.345 --> 02:35:16.925

the renewables don't necessarily meet it by the nature

3187

02:35:17.025 --> 02:35:22.005
of their makeup in terms of not, um,

3188

02:35:22.115 --> 02:35:25.365
meeting demand when, when it is needed in the winter months.

3189

02:35:26.265 --> 02:35:29.925
Um, I'm not sure if that's answering the question per se,

3190

02:35:29.925 --> 02:35:34.365
but that is I think, the crux of our many representations

3191

02:35:34.555 --> 02:35:35.605
that, uh,

3192

02:35:35.605 --> 02:35:38.445
renewables do not meet demand at times when

3193

02:35:38.445 --> 02:35:39.605
it's needed at peak times.

3194

02:35:39.635 --> 02:35:43.725
They supply a peak energy at times when it's not needed.

3195

02:35:45.805 --> 02:35:47.955
Right. Okay. Would the applicant like

3196

02:35:47.955 --> 02:35:49.355
to come back on that point at all?

3197

02:35:50.455 --> 02:35:53.235
Um, Alexis, the applicant, um, only that, that goes

3198

02:35:53.375 --> 02:35:55.755
to the, to the merits of the NPS.

3199

02:35:55.975 --> 02:35:58.715
Um, there's obviously sections on the planning act that deal

3200

02:35:58.715 --> 02:36:01.115
with not necessarily not needing

3201

02:36:01.115 --> 02:36:02.595
to accept submissions in that respect.

3202

02:36:02.615 --> 02:36:06.955
But, um, I think unfortunately this for 7,000 acres,

3203

02:36:06.955 --> 02:36:09.075
this isn't the correct forum for those considerations.

3204

02:36:09.165 --> 02:36:11.635
Those are challenges to policy into the merits of policy.

3205

02:36:12.135 --> 02:36:14.555
And it's very clear and Ian one and,

3206

02:36:14.555 --> 02:36:16.475
and the suite of energy emphasis is very clear

3207

02:36:16.475 --> 02:36:17.915
that the starting point is that

3208

02:36:18.185 --> 02:36:20.035
that need has been established.

3209

02:36:20.035 --> 02:36:22.755
Whether you think that the net zero

3210

02:36:22.895 --> 02:36:24.715
or climate, you know, finding climate change should be

3211

02:36:24.875 --> 02:36:27.395
achieved by other means, um, is not something

3212

02:36:27.395 --> 02:36:28.955
that is relevant for this examination.

3213

02:36:29.035 --> 02:36:30.515

'cause it goes to the merits of the policy.

3214

02:36:33.225 --> 02:36:36.365

Do you wanna respond at all to that, Ms Garba,

3215

02:36:41.065 --> 02:36:42.165

Ms Garba, 7,000 acres?

3216

02:36:42.245 --> 02:36:44.845

I suppose that's a fundamental difference between ourselves

3217

02:36:44.905 --> 02:36:46.165

and the applicant, and obviously

3218

02:36:46.165 --> 02:36:49.165

therefore, um, we won't be agreeing on

3219

02:36:49.165 --> 02:36:51.235

that point at all. Thank you.

3220

02:36:51.915 --> 02:36:54.795

I think, I think the, the point that the applicant made is

3221

02:36:54.795 --> 02:36:58.665

that, um, the planning act

3222

02:36:59.955 --> 02:37:03.935

in particular section 1 0 6 1 B, um, states

3223

02:37:03.935 --> 02:37:05.415

that in deciding an application

3224

02:37:05.475 --> 02:37:07.735

for an order granting development consent,

3225

02:37:07.735 --> 02:37:09.575

the sexual state may disregard

3226

02:37:10.415 --> 02:37:11.615

representations if they consider

3227

02:37:11.615 --> 02:37:13.855

that those representations relate to the merits

3228

02:37:14.395 --> 02:37:17.845

of policy set out in a national policy statement.

3229

02:37:18.905 --> 02:37:23.475

Um, you've heard what the

3230

02:37:23.995 --> 02:37:25.275

EM one says about need.

3231

02:37:26.655 --> 02:37:31.645

My question is, are challenges to need,

3232

02:37:32.025 --> 02:37:36.015

um, should they be taken into account within that context

3233

02:37:41.175 --> 02:37:42.175

At 7,000 x? All I

3234

02:37:42.175 --> 02:37:44.715

can say is obviously we would agree there is a

3235

02:37:44.715 --> 02:37:46.755

challenge to need, um, within that context,

3236

02:37:46.935 --> 02:37:50.075

but, um, we obviously need to get back

3237

02:37:50.075 --> 02:37:51.795

to you on the further detail of that one. Thank you.

3238

02:37:52.645 --> 02:37:53.855

Okay, thank you.

3239

02:37:55.995 --> 02:37:59.015

Um, do any other parties present have anything

3240

02:37:59.175 --> 02:38:02.375

to raise on need, um, before we move on?

3241

02:38:03.625 --> 02:38:04.885

No. Okay.

3242

02:38:06.685 --> 02:38:10.395

We're going to discuss over planting, uh, now, so

3243

02:38:12.175 --> 02:38:14.125

these are really follow up questions to

3244

02:38:14.965 --> 02:38:16.045

responses which the applicant

3245

02:38:16.285 --> 02:38:18.085

provided to the first written questions.

3246

02:38:19.865 --> 02:38:24.285

So in, in written question, 1.1, 0.18,

3247

02:38:25.765 --> 02:38:27.705

we asked the applicant to provide a comparison

3248

02:38:27.845 --> 02:38:31.345

of over planting ratios between the albridge scheme

3249

02:38:31.345 --> 02:38:32.345

and other schemes

3250

02:38:33.365 --> 02:38:36.425

and to provide a justification for any differences

3251

02:38:38.285 --> 02:38:42.625

and the applicant's response, um, to question 1.1,

3252

02:38:42.835 --> 02:38:45.625

0.18, which is a PDF page 16

3253

02:38:46.005 --> 02:38:49.345

of their responses suggests that it's not meaningful

3254

02:38:49.525 --> 02:38:53.785

to draw comparisons given that this scheme is DC coupled.

3255

02:38:55.005 --> 02:38:59.105

Um, therefore, as as alluded to earlier,

3256

02:38:59.175 --> 02:39:00.585

this is why I wanted

3257

02:39:00.585 --> 02:39:03.145

to establish whether there's anything in the DC0 which

3258

02:39:03.425 --> 02:39:05.545

actually prevents, um, a

3259

02:39:06.455 --> 02:39:11.135

or requires that a DC coupled approach is utilized.

3260

02:39:12.435 --> 02:39:13.495

So what's to stop?

3261

02:39:13.685 --> 02:39:15.295

What is to stop the, um,

3262

02:39:17.005 --> 02:39:19.785

the applicant from deviating from a DC coupled approach?

3263

02:39:20.005 --> 02:39:22.505

So this is an example of where that that is relevant.

3264

02:39:25.255 --> 02:39:26.915

Alex's comment, the applicant, I think.

3265

02:39:26.935 --> 02:39:30.035

But the overall point is that in both cases, in terms

3266

02:39:30.035 --> 02:39:31.115

of both the solar

3267

02:39:31.255 --> 02:39:33.475

and the bests, they're controlled

3268

02:39:33.475 --> 02:39:38.415

by outline design principles that, uh, and,

3269

02:39:38.555 --> 02:39:40.895

and works plans and management plans and,

3270

02:39:40.895 --> 02:39:43.135

and mitigation measures, which are directly aimed at

3271

02:39:43.345 --> 02:39:45.175

mitigating and controlling their impacts

3272

02:39:46.275 --> 02:39:48.735

in neither does the generation capacity

3273

02:39:49.755 --> 02:39:51.895

or the installed amount of generation capacity.

3274

02:39:51.955 --> 02:39:55.295

That's, that's not the direct impact on the impact.

3275

02:39:55.295 --> 02:39:57.895

So it's the outline design, it's the parameters

3276

02:39:57.895 --> 02:40:00.615

that are controlling, um, the environmental impacts.

3277

02:40:01.275 --> 02:40:02.695

Um, sorry, I haven't been able

3278

02:40:02.695 --> 02:40:04.055

to confirm in that amount of time.

3279

02:40:04.475 --> 02:40:07.895

The actual, um, schedule one point and the, um, okay.

3280

02:40:08.255 --> 02:40:10.015

ODP, the ODP point.

3281

02:40:10.195 --> 02:40:14.085

Um, so I may be able to actually, actually, um,

3282

02:40:14.085 --> 02:40:15.685

answer your question a bit more.

3283

02:40:15.985 --> 02:40:18.325

So, um, to look Forwardly by just simply confirming

3284

02:40:18.325 --> 02:40:22.045

that, um, I'm fairly confident that we do, um, commit to

3285

02:40:22.045 --> 02:40:23.045

that and because as I said

3286

02:40:23.045 --> 02:40:25.405

before, I think the parameters in any event around each

3287

02:40:25.405 --> 02:40:28.445

of those, um, multiple areas wouldn't actually lend

3288

02:40:28.445 --> 02:40:30.085

themselves to AC coupled in any event.

3289

02:40:30.145 --> 02:40:31.925

So I'm, I'm fairly confident on that,

3290

02:40:31.925 --> 02:40:34.885

but I would like to actually just be able to look up, um,

3291

02:40:35.245 --> 02:40:37.245

schedule one of the DCO and the outline design principles

3292

02:40:37.245 --> 02:40:38.685

just to confirm completely.

3293

02:40:38.745 --> 02:40:42.685

But that definitely, um, the, the, the intention,

3294

02:40:42.685 --> 02:40:43.845

that's the design of the scheme

3295

02:40:43.845 --> 02:40:45.525

and that's what's informed all our assessments.

3296

02:40:45.865 --> 02:40:48.885

Um, so I will confirm the exact controls though.

3297

02:40:51.035 --> 02:40:53.365

Okay. So we, we can't be certain at this

3298

02:40:53.365 --> 02:40:55.085

stage, is that correct?

3299

02:40:56.555 --> 02:40:58.855

If you can, if I, it can just give me one minute,

3300

02:40:58.855 --> 02:41:00.015

then I'll try to confirm that.

3301

02:41:00.365 --> 02:41:00.655

Okay.

3302

02:41:06.535 --> 02:41:10.605

So, so is the assertion that

3303

02:41:11.755 --> 02:41:15.605

the outline design principles, uh,

3304

02:41:15.625 --> 02:41:17.045

or principle statement,

3305

02:41:20.015 --> 02:41:23.685

those parameters necessitate a DC couple approach?

3306

02:41:23.905 --> 02:41:25.725

Is that what you, are, you are implying

3307

02:41:25.825 --> 02:41:27.845

or you're saying that that might be the case?

3308

02:41:35.355 --> 02:41:38.425

Sorry, sir. Um, I think that is the case, um,

3309

02:41:38.425 --> 02:41:41.665

because of the, um, smaller parameters that will be

3310

02:41:41.665 --> 02:41:43.305

around the multiple locations,

3311

02:41:43.385 --> 02:41:46.585

whereas AC couple would be in one larger location.

3312

02:41:47.125 --> 02:41:49.425

I'm just looking at schedule one of the DC0 now, so that's

3313

02:41:49.425 --> 02:41:52.265

what number two, that refers to the, um, battery,

3314

02:41:52.595 --> 02:41:55.585

which includes the, um, DC DC converter.

3315

02:41:58.445 --> 02:42:00.525

I just now need to find the outline design principles

3316

02:42:00.525 --> 02:42:02.085

to confirm any controls in that respect.

3317

02:42:25.125 --> 02:42:26.905

Um, thank you for that time, sir.

3318

02:42:26.965 --> 02:42:29.385

So the design outline design principle, so again,

3319

02:42:29.385 --> 02:42:31.345

for work number, um, two,

3320

02:42:31.695 --> 02:42:33.385

it's the penultimate design principle,

3321

02:42:33.385 --> 02:42:36.865

which says a best station will comprise battery containers

3322

02:42:36.865 --> 02:42:38.425

and a DC DC converter.

3323

02:42:39.095 --> 02:42:41.075

So that confirms, um, that point,

3324

02:42:50.905 --> 02:42:54.005

But they say, but there's nothing in the DC0

3325

02:42:55.975 --> 02:42:58.255

which controls that.

3326

02:42:58.845 --> 02:43:01.935

Well, the schedule, one of the DC0 is operates

3327

02:43:01.935 --> 02:43:03.935

to authorize what we are able to build.

3328

02:43:04.075 --> 02:43:06.295

And then in terms of controlling that,

3329

02:43:06.295 --> 02:43:08.135

that's then subject to the design principles.

3330

02:43:08.235 --> 02:43:11.725

So we are authorized to provide the, to

3331

02:43:12.485 --> 02:43:14.245

construct the DC DC converter,

3332

02:43:14.625 --> 02:43:17.605

and then the outline design principle requires that,

3333

02:43:18.305 --> 02:43:22.165

at which the design detailed design has to comply with that.

3334

02:43:22.225 --> 02:43:24.005

Any best station that we're submitting

3335

02:43:24.005 --> 02:43:26.085

for detailed design would have to be, would have to comply

3336

02:43:26.085 --> 02:43:28.285

with that design principle, which said

3337

02:43:28.285 --> 02:43:30.645

that it would include a DC DC converter.

3338

02:43:33.855 --> 02:43:35.835

So the, the source of that is requirement five,

3339

02:43:35.835 --> 02:43:37.955

which is the detailed design requirement,

3340

02:43:37.955 --> 02:43:40.155

which secures the outline design principles.

3341

02:43:43.445 --> 02:43:46.695

Okay. And you think that's, you, you are suggesting that

3342

02:43:46.695 --> 02:43:49.845

that's strong enough that that reference to DC

3343

02:43:50.425 --> 02:43:54.005

DC converter is strong enough to ensure that

3344

02:43:54.955 --> 02:43:57.555

a DC couple approach is undertaken?

3345

02:43:57.795 --> 02:43:59.715

I am, yes. I can, we can take it away

3346

02:43:59.715 --> 02:44:01.635

and look at it further given that we're updating those

3347

02:44:01.635 --> 02:44:03.555

outline design principles deadline for if,

3348

02:44:03.615 --> 02:44:05.555

if further comfort would assist in that respect.

3349

02:44:05.555 --> 02:44:06.795

But yes, I am saying that.

3350

02:44:07.025 --> 02:44:07.315

Okay.

3351

02:44:18.655 --> 02:44:22.755

Um, could the applicant please elaborate on the reasons why

3352

02:44:22.895 --> 02:44:25.915

the DC couple system, uh, requires a higher degree

3353

02:44:25.915 --> 02:44:29.595

of over planting, uh, than an AC couple system?

3354

02:44:30.855 --> 02:44:35.755

Um, is it to do with the clipped energy generated

3355

02:44:40.225 --> 02:44:42.615

Karen and IRE on, on behalf of the applicant?

3356

02:44:42.775 --> 02:44:44.775

I don't, I don't think we're saying that.

3357

02:44:44.955 --> 02:44:46.935

I'm not the technical expert, but I think, and,

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02:44:46.955 --> 02:44:49.415

and if we need a technical expert, I've got one sort

3359

02:44:49.415 --> 02:44:51.175

of sitting next to me, but I think from a planning

3360

02:44:51.175 --> 02:44:54.895

perspective, there isn't a difference in terms of

3361

02:44:54.915 --> 02:44:56.535

how you perceive over planting,

3362
02:44:56.535 --> 02:44:58.135
whether it's reasonable or not reasonable.

3363
02:44:58.155 --> 02:44:59.815
We, we accord with policy

3364
02:44:59.915 --> 02:45:03.015
and we've tried to give you those examples that you,

3365
02:45:03.155 --> 02:45:07.895
you were after for, um, in terms of that 1.5699999999999998%

3366
02:45:07.995 --> 02:45:10.895
as an over planting sort of ratio,

3367
02:45:11.415 --> 02:45:13.375
I think if we relate it back to land use,

3368
02:45:13.385 --> 02:45:16.495
we're at the lower end of the acres per megawatt.

3369
02:45:16.495 --> 02:45:21.175
That's in EN three, and that's a scheme that includes bess.

3370
02:45:21.515 --> 02:45:24.095
And um, I think you asked about mallard passer

3371
02:45:24.475 --> 02:45:27.215
and if you look at mallard pass, their ratio

3372
02:45:27.395 --> 02:45:32.055
of over planting is 1.3 to 1.5 without bess.

3373
02:45:32.355 --> 02:45:35.815
So I think by default, in terms of justifying, you know,

3374
02:45:36.115 --> 02:45:38.615
the, the acceptability of the land use

3375
02:45:38.795 --> 02:45:40.335

and the efficient use of land

3376

02:45:40.335 --> 02:45:43.215

and the over planting to comply with Ian three, I think

3377

02:45:43.215 --> 02:45:45.415

that's a good way of, of looking at it

3378

02:45:45.415 --> 02:45:47.095

where we have extra infrastructure,

3379

02:45:47.515 --> 02:45:50.375

but with, we are within a similar range to mallard pass

3380

02:45:50.405 --> 02:45:51.935

that doesn't include bes.

3381

02:45:53.185 --> 02:45:56.895

Right. So noting that you've got the technical expert

3382

02:45:56.895 --> 02:45:58.935

with you, is it, are you suggesting

3383

02:45:58.935 --> 02:46:01.935

that a DC coupled approach doesn't require a higher

3384

02:46:01.935 --> 02:46:03.215

degree of over planting?

3385

02:46:04.685 --> 02:46:08.845

Is that the assertion? Good afternoon, sir. Uh,

3386

02:46:08.845 --> 02:46:11.525

Mr Speaking on behalf of the applicant, um,

3387

02:46:11.865 --> 02:46:15.165

it is not necessarily a war plant if you're using the DCTC

3388

02:46:15.165 --> 02:46:17.085

coupled, um, solution,

3389

02:46:17.505 --> 02:46:21.165

but inherently the aim of the scheme is, um,

3390

02:46:21.465 --> 02:46:23.645

to maximize the reconnection itself, uh,

3391

02:46:23.645 --> 02:46:24.645

and the land use itself.

3392

02:46:24.985 --> 02:46:26.205

So it is, um,

3393

02:46:28.975 --> 02:46:31.555

it is a bene it is a benefit if you're over planting.

3394

02:46:32.215 --> 02:46:35.215

Why To maximize the reconnection agreement itself.

3395

02:46:36.115 --> 02:46:38.615

Can you elaborate on how it does that though?

3396

02:46:39.075 --> 02:46:43.455

Um, we have elaborated, I think in the written summary

3397

02:46:43.515 --> 02:46:46.855

of applicant's or submission, uh, ISH one

3398

02:46:48.035 --> 02:46:52.995

in the over planting, um, subsection is 5.2, um,

3399

02:46:53.185 --> 02:46:54.835

further explanation required.

3400

02:46:55.575 --> 02:46:58.195

Um, I would be happy to provide an, an answer you

3401

02:46:58.195 --> 02:46:59.355

Just summarize now briefly.

3402

02:47:02.305 --> 02:47:06.855

Um, because we essentially, um,

3403

02:47:06.875 --> 02:47:08.575

if there's a good connection, um,

3404

02:47:09.895 --> 02:47:13.785

because these are intermittent, um, technologies, um,

3405

02:47:14.085 --> 02:47:17.625

it is the aim to maximize the grid connection, um,

3406

02:47:19.565 --> 02:47:20.985

for a longer period of time.

3407

02:47:21.325 --> 02:47:24.425

If we are over planting, then we can export electricity

3408

02:47:24.445 --> 02:47:28.585

for a longer period because essentially generating more

3409

02:47:28.685 --> 02:47:33.415

energy and then the best is supporting that itself is,

3410

02:47:33.435 --> 02:47:38.215

that's why it's located, um, close to the pv, um,

3411

02:47:39.235 --> 02:47:40.335

as these coupled.

3412

02:47:40.675 --> 02:47:42.935

So it minimizes the losses

3413

02:47:43.325 --> 02:47:46.175

that are coming from the over planted, um,

3414

02:47:48.235 --> 02:47:49.975

PV panels, stores it,

3415

02:47:50.055 --> 02:47:52.975

and then exports it at later hours, um,

3416
02:47:53.155 --> 02:47:54.375
during higher demand.

3417
02:47:56.255 --> 02:47:58.475
Okay, thank you.

3418
02:47:59.215 --> 02:48:00.515
Um, would,

3419
02:48:00.945 --> 02:48:03.635
does 7,000 acres have any representations in relation

3420
02:48:03.635 --> 02:48:05.755
to the degree of over planting?

3421
02:48:08.345 --> 02:48:10.415
Thank you, sir. Let's go at 7,000 acres.

3422
02:48:10.475 --> 02:48:13.535
Um, yes, our, our question is if they,

3423
02:48:14.115 --> 02:48:18.135
it seems obviously a very high degree of over planting, um,

3424
02:48:20.015 --> 02:48:23.645
but if they adopted an AC coupled system like

3425
02:48:23.645 --> 02:48:26.125
with Gate Burton, west Burton Cotton, would they have

3426
02:48:26.125 --> 02:48:28.325
to over pump by 50%?

3427
02:48:28.825 --> 02:48:29.845
That's our, our question.

3428
02:48:31.505 --> 02:48:33.345
I think that was my question as well,

3429
02:48:33.525 --> 02:48:38.505

but, um, the assertion seemed to be that they don't have to,

3430

02:48:39.165 --> 02:48:41.985

but is it the case that it's beneficial to do it?

3431

02:48:46.915 --> 02:48:49.005

Uh, yes.

3432

02:48:49.465 --> 02:48:52.285

Um, it is beneficial, but not purely for a projects

3433

02:48:52.285 --> 02:48:54.205

or the schemes perspective, but as the,

3434

02:48:54.305 --> 02:48:55.645

as from the needs perspective.

3435

02:48:56.865 --> 02:48:59.485

Um, and also if you're comparing it

3436

02:48:59.485 --> 02:49:03.085

to the other schemes themselves, um, the project itself

3437

02:49:03.945 --> 02:49:05.925

is not an outlier in terms of over planting.

3438

02:49:08.935 --> 02:49:10.395

So even though it's, it's decoupled

3439

02:49:10.395 --> 02:49:12.995

and over planted, it doesn't mean that it's over planted.

3440

02:49:13.065 --> 02:49:14.115

It's a much higher degree

3441

02:49:17.275 --> 02:49:19.075

Caroline Reeve on, on behalf of the applicant.

3442

02:49:19.195 --> 02:49:22.595

I think, um, referring our sort of memories back to IH one

3443
02:49:22.595 --> 02:49:24.795
as well, I think is, is relevant in terms

3444
02:49:24.795 --> 02:49:26.635
of if we didn't over plant,

3445
02:49:26.645 --> 02:49:28.515
we're not creating an efficient scheme

3446
02:49:28.515 --> 02:49:31.515
because you are capping the scheme, um,

3447
02:49:32.015 --> 02:49:34.515
to the export grid connection agreement

3448
02:49:34.655 --> 02:49:37.395
and we shouldn't be capping the generation of electricity

3449
02:49:37.905 --> 02:49:41.235
when we've all agreed that there is established critical

3450
02:49:41.235 --> 02:49:43.435
and urgent need to generate that electricity.

3451
02:49:43.815 --> 02:49:45.755
So from a technical point of view, we need

3452
02:49:45.755 --> 02:49:48.675
to create an efficient scheme that

3453
02:49:49.065 --> 02:49:51.515
that makes an efficient use of land, which we've sort

3454
02:49:51.515 --> 02:49:53.995
of just described, that the scheme does that, um,

3455
02:49:53.995 --> 02:49:55.635
and tried to give you some comparisons

3456
02:49:55.635 --> 02:49:57.755

that we are within the lower end of the range

3457

02:49:58.175 --> 02:50:00.715

and are over planting ratio complies

3458

02:50:00.715 --> 02:50:02.115

with other consented schemes.

3459

02:50:02.115 --> 02:50:03.555

And obviously we just try to outline

3460

02:50:03.555 --> 02:50:07.355

and explain that technical difference between AC and DC too.

3461

02:50:09.305 --> 02:50:13.315

Okay. That leads on to a question I have for 7,000 acres.

3462

02:50:14.295 --> 02:50:18.075

Um, so I note that 7,000 acres are questioning the de degree

3463

02:50:18.075 --> 02:50:19.795

of over planting and the need for it.

3464

02:50:20.295 --> 02:50:22.475

Um, but I also note that you've raised concerns

3465

02:50:22.785 --> 02:50:26.155

that the scheme doesn't fully utilize the grid connection.

3466

02:50:27.015 --> 02:50:31.675

Um, so our question is, if excess gen energy generated

3467

02:50:31.675 --> 02:50:33.555

through over planting is stored

3468

02:50:34.455 --> 02:50:36.475

and for example, exported at nighttime,

3469

02:50:36.625 --> 02:50:38.355

then is this a benefit of the scheme

3470

02:50:38.975 --> 02:50:40.995

and what effect does this have on the,

3471

02:50:41.135 --> 02:50:42.835

the utilization of the grid connection?

3472

02:50:43.895 --> 02:50:47.155

So do you agree, um, that, that it helps

3473

02:50:47.255 --> 02:50:49.435

to utilize the grid connection more fully

3474

02:50:49.495 --> 02:50:51.315

as just asserted by the applicant?

3475

02:50:53.765 --> 02:50:57.675

Thank you. Thousand seven, this, this carpet, 7,000 acres.

3476

02:50:57.675 --> 02:51:01.795

Sorry. Um, not necessarily, no.

3477

02:51:02.095 --> 02:51:04.715

Um, I suppose you expect us to say that,

3478

02:51:04.815 --> 02:51:09.635

but in terms of, um, a degree of over planting

3479

02:51:10.535 --> 02:51:13.355

the applicant's saying it's beneficial, so

3480

02:51:13.355 --> 02:51:14.755

therefore that implies

3481

02:51:14.865 --> 02:51:18.995

that the scheme in the first place is not as efficient

3482

02:51:18.995 --> 02:51:20.435

as it needs to be.

3483

02:51:20.565 --> 02:51:22.995

There has to be a degree of a high degree of over planning

3484

02:51:23.055 --> 02:51:26.355
to make it efficient as it were.

3485

02:51:27.455 --> 02:51:31.575
And, um, in terms of storage, obviously you

3486

02:51:32.605 --> 02:51:35.975
overnight there'll be a one to two hours I understand

3487

02:51:36.035 --> 02:51:40.935
of storage capacity, um, if I'm correct in saying that.

3488

02:51:41.635 --> 02:51:44.845
Um, so sorry, your, your second question was,

3489

02:51:46.455 --> 02:51:50.035
Um, well, it all centered on whether you, I mean it's

3490

02:51:51.795 --> 02:51:54.015
on the one hand your question, well, not you personally,

3491

02:51:54.015 --> 02:51:56.655
but 7,000 acres of questioning the degree of over planting.

3492

02:51:57.315 --> 02:52:01.575
And then I've also read, uh, criticisms of the utilization

3493

02:52:01.575 --> 02:52:02.655
of the grid connection.

3494

02:52:03.355 --> 02:52:07.365
Um, so there's a sort of, um, potential conflict

3495

02:52:07.365 --> 02:52:09.365
between those two positions. Yeah, that's one. Yeah.

3496

02:52:09.725 --> 02:52:10.885
Although it's outside my discipline,

3497

02:52:10.885 --> 02:52:11.925

uh, I'll try to answer that.

3498

02:52:11.925 --> 02:52:14.565

Yeah, and uh, I mean obviously, um, from,

3499

02:52:14.565 --> 02:52:17.405

from my perspective, what the, what the applicants,

3500

02:52:17.405 --> 02:52:20.525

in fact not all the solid companies have done is to, um,

3501

02:52:21.175 --> 02:52:25.405

monopolize the 500 megawatt grid connections,

3502

02:52:25.975 --> 02:52:28.765

which, uh, you know, if you look at the average, um,

3503

02:52:28.965 --> 02:52:33.085

availability or average load factor, it's, uh, anything up

3504

02:52:33.085 --> 02:52:34.645

between 10 and 12%.

3505

02:52:35.315 --> 02:52:40.245

Okay. We try to, uh, store a lot of that energy, um, at, at,

3506

02:52:40.385 --> 02:52:42.845

at peak times, uh, on, on battery,

3507

02:52:43.025 --> 02:52:46.245

but even then, it's not gonna come anywhere near at

3508

02:52:46.245 --> 02:52:48.845

that sort of level a load factor for the whole year.

3509

02:52:48.945 --> 02:52:53.365

The average annual log factor is going to not use the 500,

3510

02:52:53.625 --> 02:52:55.285

um, megawatt quick connection.

3511

02:52:55.545 --> 02:52:59.085

And therefore, um, in fact, I know this is perhaps

3512

02:52:59.085 --> 02:53:01.405

outside the, uh, this, this debate here,

3513

02:53:01.465 --> 02:53:04.605

but, um, if, if they hadn't monopolized

3514

02:53:04.605 --> 02:53:06.605

and bought up the grid connections,

3515

02:53:07.195 --> 02:53:11.205

then perhaps we'll be looking at, uh, cotton having, uh,

3516

02:53:11.535 --> 02:53:15.685

small modular reactors providing continuous power, uh, at

3517

02:53:15.685 --> 02:53:19.005

that, uh, location where now we've gone down this route

3518

02:53:19.425 --> 02:53:20.805

that's not an availability

3519

02:53:20.805 --> 02:53:23.365

because of the lack of GR connections, um,

3520

02:53:23.505 --> 02:53:25.125

say at Cotton and, and West Burton.

3521

02:53:27.205 --> 02:53:28.625

Now, it, it does that. Um,

3522

02:53:29.415 --> 02:53:30.415

Yeah, no, that helps. Um,

3523

02:53:30.415 --> 02:53:33.825

okay, but the, you, you mentioned continuous power,

3524
02:53:33.895 --> 02:53:37.935
does the, um, the degree of over planting

3525
02:53:38.945 --> 02:53:41.085
allow for, um,

3526
02:53:42.665 --> 02:53:45.025
a more continuous power, if you like, than

3527
02:53:45.025 --> 02:53:46.185
where not over planted?

3528
02:53:47.615 --> 02:53:49.775
Yeah. Yeah. Okay.

3529
02:53:50.515 --> 02:53:52.695
Um, we're gonna have to, uh, I'll come back

3530
02:53:52.695 --> 02:53:53.855
to the applicant's respond, but

3531
02:53:53.855 --> 02:53:55.815
after that we're gonna have to close, uh, the hearing.

3532
02:53:55.955 --> 02:53:58.175
So do you wanna come back on that point at all,

3533
02:53:58.435 --> 02:53:59.775
Alexis, for the applicant?

3534
02:53:59.775 --> 02:54:01.775
Just, just briefly, sir. Thank you.

3535
02:54:02.115 --> 02:54:03.135
Um, as I said,

3536
02:54:03.135 --> 02:54:05.095
we've set it out quite clearly in our technical

3537
02:54:05.095 --> 02:54:06.615

note and as, um, Mr.

3538

02:54:06.895 --> 02:54:10.295

Tudor has said, um, the benefit of the planting

3539

02:54:10.315 --> 02:54:12.575

and the best combined is that we can, um,

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02:54:12.875 --> 02:54:15.455

export energy at meeting the grid connection

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02:54:15.455 --> 02:54:16.495

for a longer period of time.

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02:54:16.795 --> 02:54:20.775

And I would suggest that if the impacts of the schema,

3543

02:54:20.775 --> 02:54:22.255

the impacts, then that has to be a benefit.

3544

02:54:22.835 --> 02:54:25.655

Um, I think other points made there just strained into

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02:54:25.655 --> 02:54:29.215

points of need and also, um, fairly vague alternatives, um,

3546

02:54:29.215 --> 02:54:31.775

which, which we don't need to get into, um,

3547

02:54:32.075 --> 02:54:33.135

in line with the MPS.

3548

02:54:36.835 --> 02:54:38.165

Okay. Thank you.

3549

02:54:38.345 --> 02:54:41.365

Um, before obviously we're going to pretend well,

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02:54:41.515 --> 02:54:43.205

does anyone have anything else they'd like

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02:54:43.205 --> 02:54:46.855

to say on this point, um, before we close the hearing?

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02:54:51.515 --> 02:54:53.495

Um, so Stephanie Hall linkage county council, just,

3553

02:54:53.495 --> 02:54:55.255

just very briefly, I think having listened

3554

02:54:55.255 --> 02:54:58.815

to the discussion, we consider that we've had an answer

3555

02:54:58.875 --> 02:55:02.015

to why you planting might be a benefit in principle,

3556

02:55:02.235 --> 02:55:04.285

but perhaps have not heard explanations

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02:55:04.285 --> 02:55:08.685

to why 1.5699999999999998% is the, um, chosen figure

3558

02:55:09.105 --> 02:55:11.645

and to why that particular figure represents an efficient

3559

02:55:11.645 --> 02:55:12.765

and effective use of land.

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02:55:14.715 --> 02:55:19.605

Okay. Um, I think we'll pick that up tomorrow morning.

3561

02:55:20.145 --> 02:55:21.325

Um, okay.

3562

02:55:25.105 --> 02:55:26.265

I thank you. Um, we,

3563

02:55:26.315 --> 02:55:28.025

we've got some other issues we're gonna cover off today,

3564

02:55:28.025 --> 02:55:29.585

but if, okay, we'll roll them onto tomorrow

3565

02:55:29.585 --> 02:55:32.305

because they are slightly, it's a good break point to take

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02:55:32.305 --> 02:55:33.585

that on for tomorrow's hearing.

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02:55:34.445 --> 02:55:36.385

Um, thank you all for engaging.

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02:55:36.385 --> 02:55:39.505

Again, just want to remind everybody that, um, for this,

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02:55:40.045 --> 02:55:42.245

you know, we can follow up with written representations

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02:55:42.305 --> 02:55:43.685

to this particular items.

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02:55:44.265 --> 02:55:47.005

Uh, and our next deadline for submission is deadline four.

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02:55:47.665 --> 02:55:50.285

Uh, so that's the 28th of January, 2025.

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02:55:50.775 --> 02:55:52.645

Thank you all for coming here today

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02:55:52.705 --> 02:55:53.805

and talking about these issues

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02:55:53.815 --> 02:55:55.085

we've discussed this afternoon.

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02:55:55.505 --> 02:55:57.445

It really is valuable to us as the examining authority

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02:55:57.445 --> 02:55:59.645

to hear that, and apologies for having to cut some

3578

02:55:59.645 --> 02:56:01.045
of you short to keep to the timings,

3579

02:56:01.045 --> 02:56:02.605
but we have to get the room reorganized

3580

02:56:03.145 --> 02:56:05.285
for this evening's open floor hearing.

3581

02:56:05.705 --> 02:56:08.005
Um, the room does need a little bit of reorganization

3582

02:56:08.025 --> 02:56:09.685
for the amount of people we've got coming this evening,

3583

02:56:10.185 --> 02:56:12.245
so if it'd be the team that are gonna do that,

3584

02:56:12.245 --> 02:56:13.965
it'd be grateful if you could grab your refreshments

3585

02:56:13.965 --> 02:56:15.125
and actually move away from the tables.

3586

02:56:15.165 --> 02:56:16.165
'cause they're gonna have to shift the tables

3587

02:56:16.165 --> 02:56:17.085
around and shift some chairs around.

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02:56:17.085 --> 02:56:18.845
So if you could grab what you need

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02:56:19.305 --> 02:56:21.285
and perhaps if you wanna, if there's a room free

3590

02:56:21.305 --> 02:56:23.325
or the, um, atrium, if that's more convenient

3591

02:56:23.325 --> 02:56:26.005

to sit just while they're sort of sorting some of the

3592

02:56:26.515 --> 02:56:27.885

hard work and moving around.

3593

02:56:28.585 --> 02:56:31.905

Um, other than that, I'm making time just gone,

3594

02:56:32.005 --> 02:56:33.425

uh, 1700 hours.

3595

02:56:33.525 --> 02:56:34.905

So just, uh, and declare

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02:56:34.905 --> 02:56:37.825

that this issue specific hearing number two, is now closed.

3597

02:56:37.875 --> 02:56:38.585

Thank you very much.