

TRANSCRIPT_BRAMFORD_PRELIM_SESSION1_12092023

Tue, Sep 12, 2023 3:11PM • 1:41:26

00:05

Good morning and welcome everybody. I'm going to make a start. Work with what we've got. Welcome to today's preliminary meeting for the Branford twins dead reinforcement development consent order application. Before we introduce ourselves, can I deal with a few preliminary matters? Can I check with the case team you can hear me.

00:27

And I believe the livestream has started.

00:31

And for those of you in the room, we're not expecting any fire tests today. So it's the real thing if the alarm to sound, the fire escapes are behind you where you came in, and there's also a fire escape behind me.

00:44

And you should congregate outside in the carpark

00:48

for your information, the toilets you came past as you came into the room at the rear earlier today. If you could all set your phones to silent as usual, please, we'd be grateful.

00:58

For those of you joining us online, please keep your devices on mute unless you're asked to speak.

01:06

We do unfortunately, we were let down by the Royal Mail. So we've had to improvise our nameplates, and we've not been able to provide the rest but if anybody has any creative abilities, please do do your best and put a name in place of yourself it might assist us. But there's no prizes I'm afraid for the best one.

01:24

So to our introductions, I am Andrew Mon. I was appointed on the fifth of July under Section 65 of the Planning Act 2008. Under delegation from the Secretary of State for levelling up Housing and Communities. As the lead member of the panel to examine this application, you will generally refer to here has been referred to as the examining authority.

01:49

I have a background in ecology and environmental impact assessments. I'm a chartered environmentalist and a chartered landscape architect.

01:57

I've made a declaration of interests responding to the planning Inspectorate conflict of interest policy, and I can confirm that I have no declarable interests in relation to this appointment.

02:09

My fellow panel members were similarly appointed and also made declarations of interests in response to the planning Inspectorate conflict of interest policy. Each has confirmed that they have no declarable interests in relation to this appointment. So I'll ask them to introduce themselves starting with Mr. Corsi.

02:27

Good morning, all. I'm Julie de Courcey. And I'm a chartered town planner. I have a background predominantly in appellate work, and that includes major infrastructure and projects and examination of local development plans. I'll hand over to Mr. Mica boy.

02:48

want everyone I'm John McAvoy. I'm a chartered civil engineer with a background in major infrastructure projects. I hand over to my colleague, Mr. Rollins.

02:58

Hello, good morning. I'm Jason Rowland's. I'm a chartered surveyor engineer and a chartered environmentalist and I have a background in major projects for energy and highways. I will hand back to Mr. Milan

03:15

and K and K also introduce our planning Inspectorate colleagues are working with us on this examination, some of whom you will have spoken to already. Jake Stevens is the case manager leading the planning Inspectorate case team for this application. And today he's accompanied by Sam Stevens and Robert Cork, and Jess Weatherby is assisting online.

03:38

This preliminary meeting is taking place in a blended or hybrid format. With some participants in the room here today with us and some joining us virtually online.

03:48

We will invite those who have requested to speak to introduce themselves shortly following our opening remarks.

03:55

We intend to get the proceedings as focused and efficient as possible. And to assist this we issued detailed information about the preliminary meeting at Annex B to our rule six letter.

04:07

We will be making frequent references to this letter this morning. And for those of you who are unfamiliar with the process, this is our shorthand for the detail letter and its eight annexes that we sent out to all registered interested parties on the seventh of August 2023. I do hope you all manage to read and digest it, as it does include formal notifications, as well as some very useful guidance that you might find helpful for the meeting today for the remainder of the examination.

04:38

For example, Annex B of the rule six letter sets out an introduction to the preliminary meeting process and puts the flesh on the bones of the summary of the key points that we will cover this morning.

04:51

So let's talk about why we're all here today. We will be examining an application for an order for development consent for the brown for twinset reinforce

05:00

osmand and nationally significant infrastructure project.

05:04

The application was made to the planning Inspectorate on the 27th of April 2023. By national grid electricity transmission PLC. And for the record, the planning Inspectorate application number is en 020002.

05:22

You can read a full description of the proposed development in chapter four of the applicants environmental statement, which has the document reference EPP 072 in the examination library,

05:35

and just for anybody that hasn't found it yet, the examination library is available through the dedicated Project webpage for this case, on the planning Inspectorate national infrastructure website. And again, the address for this webpage is in our rule six letter.

05:51

If you have any difficulties locating it, please get in touch with the case team who will be glad to help you.

05:58

We'd encourage everybody to have a look at that webpage if you haven't already done so, because we will be using it to communicate with you and to provide access to documents throughout the examination.

06:11

In addition to the environmental statement, and the other documents produced for this examination, the web page carries more general information and updates about the application. There are for example,

pages that set out examination procedure, the timetable, the relevant representations that have been made, and examination documents.

06:32

But just in summary, though, the proposed development comprises the construction and operation of a 400 KV electricity transmission line between the Bramford substation and the twins to T with associated works and activities. And again briefly, it includes approximately 18 kilometers of new overhead transmission electric line with approximately 50 New pylons, approximately 11 kilometers of new underground transmission electricity cable system with associated joint bays and link pillars

07:05

or cables sealing and compounds to facilitate the transition between overhead line and underground cable. And each of these compounds would include electrical equipment support structures, a control building and a permanent access track.

07:22

Also includes the removal of approximately 27 kilometres of existing overhead line and the associated pylons, which comprise 25 kilometers of existing 132 KV overhead line between Burstall bridge and twins to t and two kilometers of an existing 400 KV overhead line to the south of Twin City.

07:44

includes a new grid supply points substation, including replacement pylons, a circuit sealing and compound and underground cables to tie the substation into the existing 400 kV and 132 KV networks

08:00

and other ancillary activities, including the modification and realignment of sections of existing overhead lines and pylons. The temporary use of land for construction access activities and facilities, temporary construction measures, such as amendments to the highway, overhead line diversions, erection of scaffolding to safeguard crossings and structures to bridge watercourses

08:26

diversion of third party assets and land drainage from the construction operational footprint and finally providing fair environmental mitigation, compensation and enhancement.

08:39

So in short, the business of this preliminary meeting is simply to make arrangements for the examination of this application.

08:46

So I'll speak very briefly about today's meeting.

08:50

I trust you all seen a copy of the agenda it is included in our all six letter if you have that to hand.

08:57

A note to this meeting will be produced and the recording is being made of the live stream.

09:03

Both will be made available on the project web page that I referred to earlier. And for anybody who is watching the live stream, please be aware there is no chat or question function in use today.

09:16

The recording we are making allows members of the public are interested in the application and the examination to find out what has happened whether they were able to attend the meeting or not. So to assist them, can I ask that anyone speaking to introduce themselves to anyone speaking could they please introduce themselves each time they speak and for those who are in the room please do speak into one of the microphones so it is properly recorded.

09:44

I'll now turn to the meeting method.

09:47

all interested parties received our rule six letter Annex D of that letter the examination timetable, provided an opportunity a procedural deadline a for you to request to be heard

10:00

Today, we asked you to let us know which agenda item or items you wish to speak on, on the matters you wish to address. And we will use that information to invite those of you who wish to speak, to do so at the appropriate time as we run through the items set out in that agenda.

10:19

If any virtual participants experienced technical issues, which prevent them from speaking at the time they've requested, the case manager will inform me and we'll do our best to ensure that they are heard before the close of the meeting.

10:34

Please wait until you're invited before you start to speak. And as I say, each time you speak, please introduce yourself by name and, if appropriate, who you represent.

10:45

The examining authority also needs this information to verify that the correct person is speaking, and to locate any submissions that you have made. It also assists any party wishing to follow up with a written submission in response to your representation.

11:02

To assist the examining authority and help the smooth running of the meeting, speakers should ensure that their points are relevant to the agenda item at hand and be polite to other speakers, please do not interrupt others.

11:15

Importantly, an examination is issues based. And if someone speaks before you and puts a point that you agree with, there is no need to repeat it, it's quite sufficient to say you agree with the point that was made by the previous speaker.

11:29

speakers who repeat matters that are have already been put to us will be asked to move on to the next point.

11:37

And it's a general point and this relates to all of the meetings and hearings that we will hold during this examination. Please note that any participant who interrupts or is discourteous to others will be warned. And in such circumstances, it is important to be aware that no award of costs can be applied for a made against any person who behaves unreasonably and there's any repeated interruption or disruption is in principle deemed to be unreasonable behavior.

12:05

I will now hand you over to Mr. McAvoy will ask you to introduce yourselves in turn, and to give you some important information about the recording of the meeting and our use of personal information.

12:16

System. Thank you. Good morning, everyone. Excuse me. I'll be asking you shortly to introduce yourselves before I do just a few things to note. We have advised you already that the meeting is being recorded. Because it's a blended event, it will be listened to by attendees in many different locations both during and after the event. And their participation is just as important as ours in this room.

12:42

At this stage, I must make clear to you that the recordings that we make are retained and published. As such, they form a public record that can contain your information and to which the General Data Protection Regulation applies. The planning Inspectorate practice is to retain and publish the recordings for a period of up to five years from the Secretary of State's decision on the development consent order.

13:10

It's important therefore that you understand that meeting is being recorded and the session is being live streamed, and that recording will be retained and published. If you participate, you are consenting to the retention and publication of the recording.

13:28

For those of you joining online, if you prefer not to have your image recorded, you can keep your camera's switched off and only turn on the microphone to speak.

13:39

To avoid the need to edit the recordings, I would ask you to try your best not to add information to the public records that you wish to be kept private and confidential. Examples of information that is personal that we suggest you should not state your address your email, family circumstances and health conditions. If you are we considered that there is no alternative to the disclosure of such information. We will agree a process to enable it to be made available without it forming part of the public record. The normal way to do this will be to ask you to make general oral submissions, but to include any private and confidential information that you need to support it in a written document.

14:27

As the written document will also need to be published. It can be redacted before publication takes place.

14:35

It follows that if you begin to make all submissions that appear likely to include information that would normally be kept private and confidential. The inspector chairing the session is likely to interrupt to offer you the opportunity to submit the information in writing.

14:53

Before we go any further does anyone have any questions about the terms of which recordings are being made?

15:00

I'm looking across the hall no hands name raised. Okay, thank you. So in terms of the running order, we will start first with the applicant and then move to those who have requested to speak with a joining online or present in the room today.

15:16

Soon, I'll be asking you to introduce yourselves. When I do. Please give your name to persons or organizations that you're representing, and your role, if any, and then briefly confirm the items on the agenda that you intend to speak on. If you're not representing an organization, please confirm your name. Summarize your interest in the application and confirmed agenda items that you might wish to speak on.

15:45

So can we start pleased with the applicant and its advisors?

15:51

Good morning, says Madam, my name is Michael Humphries. Hu mph Ri d. S. I'm King's Council. I'm representing the national grid electricity transmissions PLC, which I'm sure we will the British abbreviate national grid or will end get I will be speaking on all items. And I'll let my colleagues to my left introduce themselves.

16:22

Good morning. I'm John Bevan. I'm Senior Project Manager at national grid electricity transmission. I'm not anticipating speaking today but I'm here to provide clarification if required.

16:38

Good morning, James Parker. I'm a solicitor from law firm Bryan cave Leighton Paisner on part of National Grid. And I'm not expecting to speak this morning and keep

16:49

going Good morning. My name is James Green wash the project director for the Branford twinset project. Work for national grid electricity transmission and not expecting to speak this morning unless provided for clarification.

17:06

Good morning. I'm Jackie Palmer and I miss Lester in the national grid legal team and I'm not expecting to speak this morning.

17:17

Thank you very much indeed. If we can now move to other organizations and individuals who have registered a procedural deadline a and express a desire to speak today. I have on my list Braintree District Council.

17:34

Branch

17:37

Braintree District Council. Matthew wild. I'm Senior planner and housing delivery and growth team. Thank you. I don't intend to actually there is something wrong to speak about.

17:47

Mr. Wilde, thank you next to Mr. Essex County Council.

17:52

I don't want any circle winning panel. Thank you for introductions this morning. My name is Mark Wood. I'll spell that flavors w w ODGRI. I'm a member of the royal Town Planning Institute. And my job title isn't I'm the principal planner on national strategic infrastructure projects. I'm also not intending to speak this morning but I'm available should any questions be asked? Thank you.

18:16

Mr. Bucha. Thank you. Next I have my list at Suffolk County Council.

18:23

Thank you, sir. My name is Michael Bedford kings Council. I'm representing Suffolk County Council. To my immediate right is Mr. Graham Gundy? Who is the national infrastructure planning manager for the

county council. And to his immediate right is Mr. Callum esident. Who is a planning officer with the county council but I'm expecting to do the speaking. Thank you sir.

18:54

Mr. Batra Thank you. Now moving to organizations and individuals who are joining us online and who've registered a procedural deadline a and expressed a desire to speak today. I have on my list Boberg and mid Suffolk district councils

19:16

Good morning. Thank you. My name is Brian Curtis. I'm a principal Planning Officer for Babel mid Suffolk lead on in zip development and not intending to speak but happy to answer your question sir. Thank you.

19:30

Miss Curtis, Thank you Next on my list East Anglia three.

19:41

Yes, good morning, sir. My name is Colin Ines and I'm a partner in the law firm of Shepherd and Wedderburn. I appear here on behalf of East Anglia three limited and also Scottish power renewables UK Limited. I'm instructed by Mr. David Ritchie of Scottish power renewables legal at

20:00

I'm so matras. We agree with your assessment on Item three of principle issues. And our sole reason for being here today, today is to speak in relation to Item four, which is the draft timetable. Thank you.

20:14

Mr. Ennis, thank you very much indeed. And finally, is there anybody who feels that they have been missed either online or in the whole?

20:24

I'm getting no feedback from either. So with that, thank you, indeed, very much. I'll hand you back to the panel lead, Mr. Man.

20:33

Thank you very much. So the introductions are now complete. And before I conclude agenda, Item one and move on to the second item? Does anybody have a burning question of a sort of an introductory or preliminary nature, then you'd resolved now, that will not arise under any other agenda items as we go forward? Or any outstanding questions about how to participate all the technology?

20:58

Everyone's happy. Excellent. So we will move on to agenda item two, we may not remarks about the examination process.

21:07

I'm going to provide a summary of the key points about the purpose of the preliminary meeting and the examination process that will follow it and how you can participate.

21:18

As I mentioned earlier, this is set out in greater detail in Annex B to our rule six letter. Please do read this carefully, if you haven't already.

21:28

So what is the purpose of this preliminary meeting? As I mentioned in my introduction, this preliminary meeting has been held to discuss the arrangements for the examination of an application for an order for development consent for the Bramford to instead reinforcement, which is a nationally significant infrastructure project.

21:47

And it's stressed that this preliminary meeting will focus on the examining authorities proposals for the process going forward only. We will not be looking at any substance of the proposed development today. Any questions concerns, discussions and representations about its merits or its disadvantages of the examination itself, and that will begin after the close of this preliminary meeting.

22:12

Our proposals for the examination are set out in our rule six letter. And this preliminary meeting is your opportunity to influence the process that we intend to follow during the course of the examination.

22:25

In summary terms, the preliminary meeting will establish the procedures and the timetable for the examination to propose development. It also set a framework for the examining examining authorities task, which is to enable the Secretary of State to consider and decide at the application in the context relevant planning policy.

22:45

And while touching on government policy and guidance, our preliminary view is that national policy statements NPS n one, and NPS en five together provide the primary basis for examining dcl applications received for electricity networks, infrastructure,

23:04

and the DEA for our recommendation and the Secretary of State's ultimate decision on this proposed development.

23:11

For those who are unfamiliar NPS n one is the overarching national policy statement for energy, and n. And five is the national policy statement for electricity networks infrastructure.

23:25

We are aware of these date back to 2011. And that there has been a recent consultation on updates to these policy statements, but they remain in force unless they are withdrawn or suspended in whole or in part by the Secretary of State. And neither of those steps has occurred.

23:43

Our expectation is that even if new national policy statements were to be designated during the course of this examination, we will be following transitional arrangements that would direct us to continue use the 2011 versions as the basis of our recommendation, whilst continuing to have regard to the new versions to the extent that we consider them to be important and relevant.

24:06

Importantly, it's not our role, nor indeed the role of this examination to deliberate the merits of those policies. Rather, we must consider the proposed development within the parameters of the National Policy Statement and any other policy that we consider important and relevant.

24:24

So that covers the purpose of today's preliminary meeting. So what will happen over the remainder of the examination process?

24:34

The examination of this nationally significant infrastructure project will commence once this preliminary meeting has been formally closed. Again, there is more detailed information about the examination in Annex B of our rule six letter.

24:49

There are two key features of the examination procedure I would highlight. It's a pretty it's primarily a written process. And it has an inquisitorial approach as opposed to

25:00

an adversarial approach. This means it will be for the examining authority to probe test and assess the evidence,

25:08

principally through written questions.

25:11

cross examination of witnesses by other parties will not generally be allowed.

25:18

The draft examination timetable includes numerous opportunities for parties to provide evidence in writing. You can find the deadlines for submission that apply to you in the draft timetable that forms Annex D two are all six letter.

25:34

Note that each deadline is taken to be at 2359 on the date given unless otherwise advised.

25:43

The examination timetable will be tight. And we can only work effectively if everyone resolves to give timely for Frank and clear answers to every question that is relevant to their interests, and to engage fully with any other related processes, such as the completion of written representations, and statements of common ground.

26:05

I say timely, and by this time referring to the formal deadlines in the draft timetable.

26:11

For each of these deadlines, the timetable sets out the types of submissions that are being invited by the examining authority. So please be aware of this and target your representations accordingly.

26:24

late submissions can lead to inefficiencies and possibly unfairness in the process. And if this is the case, they may not be accepted by the examining authority.

26:35

And I must stress to everybody that there is no merit in withholding or delaying the submission of information, or failing to cooperate with response with reasonable requests.

26:46

Should any such unreasonable behavior cause another party to incur wasted expenditure, and it could lead to an award of costs against the offending party.

26:58

following the close of this preliminary meeting, the examining authority has discretion to make changes to the draft examination timetable, if possible events will be arranged for times when all relevant parties are available. However, the examining authority is under a legislative duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of six months beginning after the close of this preliminary meeting. So we'll try to accommodate requests in practice, there is likely to be very limited scope to alter the dates set out in the draft examination timetable.

27:34

I'm now going to mention some of the events that may take place during the course of the examination

27:40

and examination typically include some hearings.

27:44

The draft examination timetable includes provision for these witnesses are invited to speak to us and the hearings are used by the examining authority to gather and test oral evidence. There are three types of hearing that we may hold.

28:00

Firstly, Any registered interested party may request an open floor hearing to make oral representations about the application if they believe this to be preferable to restricting their representation to the written form.

28:16

I would stress that both written and oral evidence Carol equal carry equal weight.

28:22

The draft examination timetable in our rule six letter, reserved time for these preserved time for an open for hearing, say afternoon, but we have since decided to cancel this hearing. Subject to the formal closure of this preliminary meeting today. We will nevertheless be going ahead with the open floor hearing at the Stoke by Nayland resort tomorrow evening, where any interested party is welcome to attend in person or online.

28:51

Secondly, as the applicants draft development consent order provides for the compulsory acquisition of land and rights. Registered affected persons whose land or rights are impacted, or entitled to be heard at a compulsory acquisition hearing.

29:07

Again, the draft examination timetable shows that requests from affected persons to participate in a compulsory acquisition hearing are due by deadline one, which is 25th of September 2023.

29:22

Finally, the examining authority has discretion to hold issue specific hearings if they would benefit the examination. And there is no reason this will be more helpful than relying on written evidence alone.

29:36

The examining authority will hold issues specific hearings on the draft development consent order, this is normal practice and they will be held on a without prejudice basis. Parties can thus suggest modifications and amendments to improve the draft order that has been provided by the applicant without prejudicing the overall position on the merits of the application.

29:59

Thanks

30:00

amination also includes site inspections.

30:03

Two types of site inspections may be undertaken by members of the examining authority as part of the examination process.

30:11

These are known as an accompanied site inspections and accompanied site inspections.

30:18

The purpose of inspections is for the examining authority to see features of the proposed development in the context of the evidence put forward.

30:26

We have already undertaken to on a company's site inspections and notes of these have been published on the project webpage. It is possible indeed likely that we will undertake further and accompanied site inspections in due course,

30:41

accompanied site inspections will only be necessary to view land to which there is no public right of access, or with no clear view from nearby locations with open public access.

30:53

The draft examination timetable includes a deadline for the submission of prospective locations by interested parties. This was a procedural deadline a in the draft examination timetable, which was the 22nd of August and we'd like to thank those who submitted suggestions.

31:11

The deadline for requesting to attend any accompany site inspection is deadline one, which as I say provisionally is the 25th of September 2023.

31:24

There's also an opportunity for you to comment on the itinerary for any company's site inspection deadline to which is provisionally the 11th of October 2023. You can find all of these dates on the examination timetable, which as I say is Annex D to our rule six letter

31:43

after stress that the purpose of any accompanies site inspection will be familiarization with the site and its surroundings, and there will be no discussion or opinion on the merits of the proposed development during the course of those inspections.

32:00

You will have seen from Alex II are all six letter that we gave notice of some early hearings that will be held over the next few days. Full details are in the annex, and they will now compose comprise the open floor hearing and the first issue specific hearing at the Stoke by Nayland resort on Wednesday and Thursday respectively.

32:23

As I mentioned earlier, the open floor hearing provisionally timetable for this afternoon has been cancelled.

32:31

At the conclusion at the examination, we will be providing a recommendation report to the Secretary of State for energy security net zero, who will consider the evidence and review our recommendation before making a final decision on the application.

32:47

That concludes the key points that I wish to raise about the process today. Please do read our all six letter and its annexes for any further detail.

32:57

We will surely move on to the specifics of this case and provide an opportunity for you to contribute on those. But for the moment, does anybody need clarification on these very general matters around the examination process that will not be covered by later agenda items.

33:14

Again, Everyone seems happy. So I'll hand over to Mr. roelens. To deal with Agenda Item three, which was our initial assessment of principle issues for the examination

33:28

and coolness demand. Turning to Agenda Item three, would be useful to have Annex C of our rule six letter in front of you for this item.

33:41

The list will provide a framework with main issues for the examination going forward, though it does not preclude us from amending the list by the removal for addition of issues at a later stage in the process. Please rest assure that the examining authority will have regard to all important and relevant matters during the examination. We have had three requests to speak on this agenda item to proceed your deadline a

34:14

we will hear those in turn shortly. And we will reflect on any suggestions for amendments. If anybody wishes to comment on any submissions that is made. Please raise your hand. This truly if you are in the room, or virtually if you are online. We will invite your comments into examining authority may have questions and I will give the applicant a chance to speak at the end of the agenda item.

34:47

Those requests that we've had a from brain tree District Council, a six county council and Suffolk County Council on the applicants will have the opportunity

35:00

To comment on what's been said.

35:05

Can I just check to see if there is anybody else who would like to speak on this particular agenda item?

35:18

I'm not able to see any show of hands in the room and there doesn't appear to be any virtually either.

35:25

Okay. Please remember that we are only considering comments on the broad principle of issues identified. We are not at this stage looking at the merits of the project as this will take place. Once the examination begins, please could you introduce yourself and state your name and if applicable, the organization you are representing? So, can I first start with brain tree to seek counsel?

36:02

Thank you, sir. Matthew wild Braintree District Council.

36:07

Yes, we would like to speak on Item three of the agenda please.

36:15

Following our letter on dated the 18th of August,

36:19

where we ask that three additional matters be considered as part of the

36:27

hearing please or proud as part of the process.

36:30

Our summer summarize the letter but obviously happy to answer any questions.

36:36

The consideration should be given to the impact on businesses during construction and not just from the resultant land use.

36:45

The other point is with regard to

36:48

the legacy the Development provides and the removal of additional 132 kilovolts

36:57

overhead line which is being made redundant as part of the project but is not proposed to be removed. And lastly,

37:08

consideration should be given to the impact on climate change. And whether that is its own agenda item or whether that is embedded in the rest of the items on the agenda. Thank you.

37:22

Thank you very much. We will be examining impacts on businesses as part of the land use topic. And I would encourage parties to submit evidence to substantiate his position during the examination. Please note financial impacts on individual businesses are any compensation matters not matters for this examination with regard to the removal of the potential removal of a further 132 kV line

38:00

probably we can discuss this matter tissue specific hearing one on Thursday, when we will be examining those general scope of the proposed developments amongst other related matters in terms of climate change,

38:21

and adaption, I will draw your attention to the introduction section of Annex C to the rule six letter which notes while the effects of the proposed along and proposed adaption to climate change is not listed as a principle issue. Such matters will be subject to continuous testing in respect of all issues to which they apply throughout the examination.

38:53

Thank you. Okay. Can I just check to see if anybody else would like to comment on this particular point?

39:07

No, okay.

39:10

If I can maybe ask the applicant if they want to add any further comments to what you've just heard.

39:20

So Michael Humphries for National Grid.

39:25

No, sir.

39:27

With all of the items that have been raised by Braintree, Essex and

39:34

dumbbell AONB group.

39:39

All of those items are here to ask for ones that you had in contemplation already, perhaps not explicitly, but under some of your more general items. And so we have no

39:51

no issues on these things. You've indicated that in relation to the removal of the overhead, the existing overhead line that that will come up on Thursday. We

40:00

have made a note of that and we will make sure that we are prepared to answer your questions on that.

40:08

Thank you very much. If I can now then move on to Essex County Council.

40:15

Thank you, sir. Mark budget as he's came to council. I've got nothing else to add to what Mr. Wilde has just said. We put a placeholder so that we could discuss the same issue essentially together. And just for your information.

40:32

For the purposes of this particular DCO. The two authorities here are conjoined in terms of our approach, as you will see, from the publication of our local impact report, which we'll come up with other requested, both authorities can join together to nothing else to have this morning thinking.

40:50

Okay, thank you very much. Then if I could go on to Suffolk County Council, please.

40:58

Thank you, sir. Michael Bedford, Suffolk County Council. So we've got a very narrow point that we raised, obviously in our procedural deadline a submissions, it's not to suggest that you need to add a principal issue. It's simply to expand on the explanation of what falls within one of your already identified principal issues. That is to say item number 10. On landscaping views, which clearly is up principle issue. We have suggested that it would be helpful

41:36

to all parties to make it explicit, rather than merely implicit that that certainly includes the impact on the AONB as a statutory designation.

41:50

And we consider that because that carries with it not only policy implications, but also statutory implications because of the status of the AONB that he does merit as it were explicit recognition within the principal issue.

42:09

We have said slightly cryptically, I think if you look at paragraph 3.2, of our

42:17

procedural deadline, a submission that we defer to the AONB on this point, I'm afraid that's a piece of shorthand, which we understood what we meant by it, but I think on rereading it, it's not as clear to other people. What that is a reference to is to the dead and the veil and stir Valley Partnership, who are the AONB unit, as it were, and what we were saying is that we will defer to their views on this issue. Happily, their views are the same as ours, because you will assume there is a representation from them at deadline a, making the same point that they think that the AONB should be explicitly recognized as part of the principle issue. So sorry, it's a very narrow point. And that's the length and breadth of it. Thank you, sir.

43:13

Thank you, that said, we'll come across a lot of action in steering the piano then if we go into the examination, so AO and the area of outstanding natural beauty, just in case anybody's unsure what that stands for. We are examining authority grateful for your comments on the rail, AONB, and we've also received a submission from downtown Vale envy and stauer Valley Partnership on the matter, we can confirm that any effects on the AONB were considered to be implicit in the first two bullet points under Section 10 of the list of principal issues on scape and views. We are of course aware of the policy context in relation to a and B's and we have noted your representation, or we can assure you today that the matter will be fully properly examined. We look forward to any evidence that you wish to raise in response to the applicants environmental statements. alongside that of that unveil a 1d and Star Valley Partnership.

44:34

Can I check to see if how that any further comments from a piece

44:43

interested parties

44:46

falling into my own trap.

44:50

Now I can't see any raise of hands in the room now virtually. So if I can ask the applicants for any supplementary comments

45:00

Sir Michael Humphries for National Grid again, no, sir, I've made my points. We have no

45:06

comments on this, it's clear to us that you will consider all of these issues. Thank you.

45:15

I also would like to make a submission or procedural deadline a, from an interested party, Francis Prosser raised for this agenda item three, the routing of the proposed developments around infection, wood, and the effects of these works, human health and well being and litigation proposals, I can confirm that these matters are firmly on the examining authorities reader for this examination.

45:50

I have no more points or questions on this agenda item. Are there any other thoughts that anybody needs to raise now on the initial assessment principle issues?

46:04

Now, okay, I would like to move on to items four and five of the agenda. And I'd like to take these together, please. So these are the draft examination, timetable, and proposal for hearings, the company cites inspections. Again, it would be useful for you to have your draft examination timetable in front of you, you can find this as Annex D, two hour rule six letter.

46:38

In the interest of brevity, I don't intend to go through the draft timetable in its entirety here, but I will highlight some key points.

46:53

It includes the dates for the examining authority to issue documents such as our written questions, and the reports on implications for European sites.

47:05

Following the closure of this preliminary meeting, which we hope will be today, we intend to start the examination tomorrow at an open floor hearing at the Stoke by Nayland resort. This will be an opportunity for parties to speak directly to the examining authority. The agenda has been published on the examination library, the reference is EV Hush 003.

47:38

On Thursday this week, our first issue specific hearing will be held also at the Stoke by Nayland resorts. This will really relate to the scope and details of the proposed development, including construction activities, and the principles of the applicants draft development consent order, the agenda has been published, and that is the reference e v. Dash 00 To

48:11

further hearings are set aside for week commencing the sixth of November and week commencing the length of December. I can tell you at this stage that the examining authority considers it very likely that a compulsory acquisition hearing and issue specific hearings will be held during the week commencing the sixth of November.

48:38

Should the parts of the draft timetable be confirmed. The topics for the issue specific hearings are most likely to include the draft DCO traffic and transport issues including public rights of way

48:59

environmental issues, including biodiversity trees, and hedgerows and landscape and visual impacts.

49:14

The examination timetable, our rule eight letter will be issued next week. And then accompanied sites inspection may be held during week commencing the sixth of November.

49:30

We have anticipated and indicated 10 deadlines with deadline one on Monday the 25th of September. At this deadline. We expect another among other things, comments on relevant representations. applicants suggested draft itinerary foreign companies sites inspection and requests by people to attend request by

50:00

affected persons to participate in a compulsory acquisition hearing. And also the local impact report from local authorities.

50:12

deadline to is anticipated to be on Tuesday, the 10th of October, and we would expect to receive and then other things, comments on the local impact reports. Comments on applicants Draft Day temporary, foreign accompanied sites inspection, responses to comments on relevant representation, written representations and updated documents from the applicant.

50:43

It is anticipated that we will be issuing our first written questions on Tuesday the 12th of October.

50:53

I don't intend to go through the rest of the draft timetable now. But I asked all parties to review the deadlines. And you will be able to make submissions to this meeting shortly. Please note files. Whilst we do have the ability to accept late submissions after deadlines into the examination, this is at our discretion. late submissions can restrict the ability of other parties involved to respond to the information which can jeopardize the examination timetable. It is therefore important for you to note that if you do submit something late, there is always the possibility that it may not be accepted into the examination.

51:48

Please note the time for submission on each stated deadline is 2359 which is one minutes to midnight.

51:58

Although the draft timetable shows closure of the examination on Tuesday, the 12th of March. Please note we may close the examination earlier before the end of the six month period. If we are satisfied that all relevant matters have been addressed and discussed. I am going to invite submissions in

relation to the general structure and form of the examination timetable. And then he more specific points about deadlines and the program for hearings and accompanied sites inspections. At procedural deadline a we had six requests to speak on this agenda item and the two items. Those requests from the applicant, bar Berg and knit Suffolk District Council's

52:53

rain tree District Council has six county council Suffolk County Council and East Anglia three. Can I just check to see if there's anybody else who would like to speak on this agenda item?

53:12

I'm not seeing any hands raised in the room nor either virtually

53:19

okay. So please could you introduce yourself and state your name and if applicable, the organization you are representing? So for the first matter, we've had a request from the shepherd and Wedderburn on behalf of East Anglia three. Could you please summarize your submission about the compulsory acquisition hearings please? Yes, thank you Sir Colin Innes on behalf of East Anglia three limited and also Scottish power renewables UK Limited, which are referred to under the acronym SPR. From now on shotguns matter

54:03

suffice to say Bromford is a very important location for the companies that I represent. In that it is the onshore grid connection for to insert offshore wind farms. The first is East Anglia, one that has been constructed and the East Anglia one substation has now been transferred as required. Turn transmission on offshore transmission owner that's TC East Anglia one off too limited

54:35

in terms of the way that it was structured, SPR have leased the substation location to the office and have retained wider ownership in and around the substation to cover off aspects of discharge of requirements in relation to landscaping, other matters, and that's because it also relates to a second product

55:00

Direct, which is East Anglia three, which is has consented and is currently under construction at the moment at Bramford, it is likely to go through a very similar process in due course, the constructor converter station won't be have to be transferred to an off to

55:25

one of the aspects that the current structure provides us there is a degree of complexity around those relationships that aren't as straightforward as they might first seem. But we are working effectively with the applicant to first saw the identify all the potential interfaces that could occur between the respective projects. And we are making progress in relation to something out of structure as to how they might be resolved. And I think that is partially reflected in the material that's already before the examination. So I'm not here as many parties that come here to criticize the applicants in any way, I say that we are

working effectively and identifying the issues. And the real method of resolving those, given the complexities is probably a sign agreement between various interests and the applicant. And all I would recognize is that, given where we are and the number of issues, if you have to ask me to confirm by the 25th of September, makes me want to appear to compulsory acquisition hearing. Yes, we might. But I don't think we'd be much further forward in terms of being able to actually identify resolution for a period of time. And what we've set out is that we feel a realistic timescale for us to have worked out exactly where we have got to with the applicants will be by some time in deadline for which is the 16th of November. And at that point, if necessary, we could ask for further procedure, but from from the way things are being conducted currently, we would hope that substantive progress will be made and we would not need to have a hearing. As I say, my, my client interests did not object to the principle of this project. And anyway, they're very supportive of it. The sole issue is managing the interfaces between the proposed project, the project that exists and the one under construction. And that really best manifests itself, probably in a signed agreement that deals with all those issues. But it will take time to resolve those. I don't think it would be helpful to you if we spent time in front of you explaining what those issues were, when in fact, the solution is actually us to get on and try and get that agreement resolved as soon as we can. And then this matter can hopefully be one that is resolved before the examination, as opposed to having to be ventilated. It's pretty much a private interests issue at the current time. And that's really our suggestion at this time that we should be given to mid November, to seek to resolve matters and to update you more effectively, then, then that having a continuous appearance before you sing. We're making progress, etc. So it's a realistic assumption based on the number of issues that we face and the various agreements that need to be put in place to protect the interests. And that's the basis on why we say November is a more realistic timescale.

58:36

Thank you, sir. That concludes my

58:40

thank you very much. Mr. Jonas, can I just double check on the parties that you're representing?

58:47

Do you also represent the offshore transmission owner or is that due to being undertaken by another party? Well,

58:57

they've said no. Colonists on behalf of East Anglia three and SPR? No, I don't represent the off tape. But clearly they have potential interests and clearly may have to involve them in resolution matters.

59:14

Okay, thank you very much for clarifying that particular points. If I can ask any artists, liberty, Scott, any observations to make before I come to the applicant afterwards?

59:29

No, I think from the council's district or that county, okay. Yes, the applicant. So please.

59:39

Thank you, Sir Michael Humphries for national grid. So I can confirm that we're working with East Anglia three and Scottish power renewables to resolve these issues and, and obviously both parties anticipate and hope for resolution. In that context, Mr. Ian

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says suggestions seem to us to be wholly sensible and we have clearly therefore no objection to them.

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Thank you. So, yes,

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we are content for you to raise matters

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about compulsory acquisition, temporary possession and related protected provisions in writing, and if necessary, at the compulsory acquisition hearing, that is likely to be held week commencing the sixth of November, on the draft timetable, and after subsequent compulsory acquisition hearing, if one is held, may be on the week commencing the 11th of December, which is outlined on their draft timetable.

1:00:56

The second matter that I would

1:01:00

like to discuss is about timescales. We have noted the representation of procedural deadline a in relation to the time available to respond to our two sets of writs and questions, and the potential for further hearings in 2020. For these came from the applicant, barber can lead Suffolk District Council

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Braintree District Council, Essex County Council, Suffolk County Council and Francis Prosser. So we are considering these to see if we can expand

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the response time.

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Slightly, though, we must do so in the context to avoid duplication of matters between written questions and hearings on the survey to date for responses to first written questions from the examining authority would mean holding hearings on potentially the same topics that might lead to repetition.

1:02:10

We know that at least 10 working days are available for responses to each sets of written questions in the draft timetable. This is also the case if you exclude the working days, between Christmas and New Year, which we recognized were taken as leave by a significant number of people, we are happy to

take these matters, as read in your submissions, and to provide a response in the final timetable in the rule eight letter, unless anybody wishes to make any further comments now. So

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I'll hand over to the applicant first.

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Michael Humphreys served for national grid. So I'm very grateful for

1:03:07

that indication. And, clearly, you know, as you will appreciate, it's important that we have sufficient time to respond. And also without

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putting, if I can put it like this undue pressure on the people that are actually having to

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produce the responses we we did for our own

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purposes, look at I think it was seven recent examinations to sort of try and get an idea. And for responses to first written questions, the range of the seven most recent was 21 to 35 days with an average of 26. against 14 for us. For

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secondary questions, the range was slightly tighter 21 to 28, with an average of 23. With with 24. But there are three public holidays. And obviously, you will appreciate that an awful lot of people do take time off between Christmas and New Year to be with family and things like that. And we we do think that's important.

1:04:21

We've set out our proposal, you've seen that I don't need to repeat that. But

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we do think this is important and and important, actually, as I say to be able to help you most fully with our responses. So that's that's all I'll say on the

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first and second written question. timetable. You raised another issue, but I'll let people respond on that point. First. You raise the issue about hearings later in the program, I think but yes, I'll come to that. Okay. Okay.

1:04:52

So,

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yes, Mr. Bedford. Thank you, sir. So I don't think I need to sorry, Michael Bedford, Suffolk.

1:05:00

county council. So I don't think I need to say anything further about the timetable that written questions point, because I think that's been fully laid out before you and we would support what Mr. Humphreys has said, I think we come up with a slightly different solution to it to the precise dates that Mr. Humphreys representations refer to. But I think we're very happy to leave that to you to consider the point about potential further hearings in early 2024, which was a point that we raised, he's being raised on a precautionary basis.

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Because clearly, we don't know how the examination will unfold. But what we do know,

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essentially, is that the logistics of finding dates or hearings,

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as it were, at short notice, is much more complicated than if something has been pre programmed, not only in terms of availability of venues, but also in terms of availability of personnel, because of diary commitments, and so on. And we simply note from our experience of other examinations, that issues can develop during the course of an examination, which are best grappled with in terms of deficiency, by a hearing as opposed to written exchanges. And sometimes those issues can work come out of the woodwork at a relatively late stage, I'm thinking in particular at size, well, there was a water issue, which, as it were exploded if I put it that way, rather late in the day, and it was then enormously difficult to find how the examination was going to be able to deal with that issue. Now, this is obviously a different DCO or a different issues, and so on and so forth. And I'd say I'm not in any way saying that we think at the moment, there is going to definitely be a need for further hearings. But when it comes to the issue of particularly of the development consent order, and its drafting. So as you will know, from the draft timetable

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at

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the

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18th. Sorry, the 19th of January of next year, is your expected publication of your commentary on or proposed sheduled changes to the Rome consent order.

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Then deadline nine, sorry, deadline eight on the ninth of February, our responses to that. And then at deadline nine on the 23rd of February is the applicants Final Draft, develop consent order.

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And it just seemed to us that there was at least a possibility that before we get to Deadline nine, you might be helped by a further hearing, which dealt with the developed consent order, because of issues that have arisen from those two preceding events. And if so, it would be helpful to have had something as it were already in the program that allowed for that, because obviously, you can always cancel

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a hearing if it proves to be unnecessary. But it's obviously far harder, I say at a relatively late stage in terms of logistics to find time to accommodate a hearing. So that was simply our concern that we didn't see where there was any harm in it worth putting down a place marker for potential dates in that early part of February.

1:08:58

And it might prove to be beneficial. If I say things unfold in a way which you would benefit from having a hearing to explore, nobody would obviously force you to have hearings, which are unnecessary. But it just seemed to us that it might be helpful to have that essay already logged in, rather than trying to do it at the 11th hour. So so that's the point. And obviously, you can reflect on whether you think that's helpful or not, as the case may be. Thank you. So

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thank you very much. If I can maybe ask the applicant if they've got any supplementary comments to make on the particular thread of hearings, especially ones in 2024.

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And so yes, obviously suffer grazer. You know, a legitimate point about applying to identify

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dates, dates for hearings, it actually relates to point that we

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Raise which I might as well just touch upon now, which is arrangements for those hearings that you've identified, you know, towards the end of the year December, but even in the November

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are

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clear understanding at the moment is that venues are becoming extremely difficult to book in the run up to Christmas, and it is quite possible that you will identify hearings, and we will simply not be able to provide locations, and that may force you to have virtual only hearings, which of course, can be done. I haven't seen one all yesterday, but

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But you know, there are advantages with the blended format, and therefore, for those hearings as well. I'm talking about the November, December one's

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plea that the earliest you as a panel can give us an indication of what you want, the greater chance there is that we will be able to book something. Thank you, sir.

1:11:08

Can I check to see if anybody else from the council's wish to make any observations regarding this particular point?

1:11:20

No. Okay. So we've heard what you've been able to share with us. In terms of the written questions, obviously, the timescale is noted. But it is dependent, obviously, on the number of questions the examining authority asks, and the complexity as well, the point is taken

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in with regard to the assessments that you've made with an N sips, and it is something that we will consider further.

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So Michael humpers, for National Grid, I'm, I'm grateful and you understand the point and we understand where you're coming from, and I'm sure we can find a happy medium.

1:12:03

So in our response to your rule six letter we we did raise, as you will have noted some other points on local impact reports and the timing of responses to those protective provisions, publication of documents and so on. Is it is it your thinking that you take those in effect as read and take them away and consider them? Or would you like us to say anything further about those?

1:12:34

We have, obviously, right to submission, it is a matter that you may wish to just summarize to give maybe other parties the opportunity, if they so wish to comment on. So if we can start maybe with the local impact reports. And then following that, we'll go on to the protective provisions. So yeah, if you could just maybe elaborate on the local impact report.

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Eat guesser. And the

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point on this is that

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sorry, Michael, hampers for national grid.

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The local impact reports and written representations

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from

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the local authorities. Obviously, it's the local authorities that produce local impact reports with people that are listening that may not be familiar with that those two documents are usually very closely allied, the authorities identify the impacts and then usually in their written representations. They identify what they want, done by the examining authority in order to take those points on board and take on board other related points.

1:13:51

At the moment, the timetable has our comments on the local impact reports by deadline to which is quite a short period, because these can be very long documents. But our comments on the written representations by deadline three, our proposal was simply and this is again, not uncommon in in other examinations, to have our comments on the local impact reports and the written representations at deadline three so that we can more easily align the two and it also gives us that little bit more time to be able to consider the local impact reports and you'll be obviously familiar so that this is also within exactly the same time scale where we're also be working on responses to the first written questions and although some of those may be directed at other parties, it's it's typical that most will be directed

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to us and

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so that we don't breach modern slavery laws, it's quite important that, again, we give the teams working on this an opportunity to,

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you know, to do that in an appropriate way. So that was our proposal on that.

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Protective provisions, again, there's a request for final protective provisions by deadline,

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five,

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clearly, you know, we will endeavor to, to work to that, as I'm sure other parties

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will, but we can't absolutely guarantee that because, you know, very often those are the result of negotiations with other parties. And,

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and therefore, you know, I think our view is, we, you know, we would use our best efforts to try and agree things by then we would certainly want to keep you updated. But, you know, in the real world, it is possible that, that we won't, and we hope people would be understanding of that.

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So the next thing I would raise is just a slightly different point that perhaps isn't explored in in our response to your old six letter, but it's a short point.

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In

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the middle of January 19, of January, you have the item, it's not a deadline, because it's, it's something that you will be doing the the deadline, where we're sorry, the date, when you will set out your

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comments on the draft DCO, some examining authorities actually set out a version of the draft DCO. And that's always an extremely important and helpful document, and you have

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the deadline for us responding to that by the eighth by deadline, eight, which is the ninth of February, and I think we can comply with that. I think our point that

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we would like to make to you though is that if following our response, there are

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other things where you would like to see more or something different or whatever, we would value your feedback, if I can put it like that. So that we can try to accommodate points, if you feel that our response to you is not quite what you want. It may be that there isn't a

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complete meeting of minds, but we would really find that very valuable to have further feedback. So you may or may not want to put that in as a formal deadline. But you may want to kind of have as as an as an action note, and we will be grateful for that.

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So in our letter is something on publication of documents. I know this is a perennial issue. And of course, your case team worked very hard to upload very often very large numbers of documents, obviously, the sooner documents are uploaded, the better, but perhaps also

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a, an indication from you. And we would welcome this that if parties want to bilaterally exchange documents with us, so that they can see our documents before they're uploaded, you know, probably, you know, on the on the deadline day and we see there's we would very much welcome that. Clearly the the the time periods allowed shouldn't be for short, and just because of the inhibit the technical effort needed to upload large numbers of documents. And so we we do think that would be appropriate, we made a point. So on

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hearing agendas, being at least 10 working days in advance, we realized this is not always possible, but but

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some examining authorities

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you know, have found it possible to do that we would certainly welcome that, sir is an indication and again, it helps us to, to help to help you.

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And so I think on these agenda items four and five, those are the those are the only

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additional points I find I need to make at this point.

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Thank you very much summarizing.

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I'll maybe give the parties the opportunity to comment so then come back to you and then I'll try and maybe address some of the points that you've raised. So if I could start with the council's

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method.

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Thank you sir. Michael Bedford, Suffolk County Council. So in relation

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Due to the issue about whether the deadline for responding to the local impact reports and written representation should be combined. I don't think we have a particularly strong view about that. The only point that we would say, would obviously follow as a matter of consequence would be that if the applicant is responding to those both of those documents, deadline three, clearly any comments that the local authorities wanted to make on those responses would then themselves be deferred to deadline for so that's

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as it were just a logical consequence of that, sir, in relation to the issue that Mr. Humphries, for the applicants raised about the commentary on the development consent order. And as it were, a further opportunity for feedback from the examining authority.

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After

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the applicant has responded, at deadline, eight, again, we can see the sense of that, but in a sense, that chimes, with our point that there might be

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a potential for having an issue specific hearing on the DCO in that early part of February, which could certainly provide an opportunity for that feedback to be given. So there's just as it were another

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aspect or asset to the point I was making earlier.

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So

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again, I'll leave that point with you,

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then, I wasn't quite sure whether from the way that you were dealing with this agenda, Item four, together with five,

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whether you wanted to touch on the site visit point at this stage, or you're going to deal with that as a later item, possibly Mr. Bedford, if we can maybe just put that aside for a minute, we'll deal with these three particular elements of the local impact report that protects provision, the draft TCO, and then we'll move on to that particular site entry. So, yeah, that's absolutely fine. We didn't have anything we want to say about the protective provisions issue. So on these agenda item formatters. That's all we wanted to say. Thank you. Thank you very much. Can I just chat with the other councils? District Councils? If anybody's got any?

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No. Okay. So

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I say any other party got anything to comment to make? I'm just looking at can't see any raised hands in the room. Now, virtually either. So just in terms of, it's something that we will need to discuss as an examining authority regarding the bilateral sharing of documents. But in terms of version control, and how would the examining

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examination library be ensured that the version controls were in place to ensure whatever is shared by email to another party is the same document.

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So Michael Humphries, for National Grid, clearly, that's, you know, important. And and the ones that are uploaded, are the official ones, I think, I think our thinking on this is that, you know, as we

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send the documents to you, they would go to you first to be uploaded, but that we could then say, for example, with Suffolk County Council or sex or or indeed any of the other

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authorities, look, if you've got documents, and we've got documents, we can share them with you, because there is sometimes for for

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I'm sure, perfectly understandable reasons a dad delay, and it can be sometimes a few days. And if you've got a tight deadline to comment on documents, a few days of the team sitting just with nothing to look at,

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you know, make make makes it difficult. And I think what I'm suggesting is something pragmatic and sensible between, I hope, pragmatic and sensible parties. But But I entirely accept that there has to be tight version controlling wouldn't be drafts going or early versions, you would you would get the document. And then we would perhaps be able to agree with parties. And if, if I'm thinking really, in particular of the local authorities here as, as they're likely to be the

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The principal parties with longer documents,

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you know, if they can speak to us about that, if they're interested,

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then then it seems to us that that would be sensible.

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Regarding the protective provisions, obviously, we've asked quite early in comparison to maybe other

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timetables, to have them in place. And the reason behind that, if you can think about it, is that they are critical as a protected provisions and inherent elements of the recommended order. However, we have heard the point that has been made, how we will take into consideration

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again, I'm, I'm, I'm very grateful. And we we generally support the sort of can do attitude, it's just that we're the ones doing the doing. And

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we,

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you know, we will aim for those things, we will work with other parties, I just wanted to undertake expectation management, if I can put it like that. Okay. And

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just, if we can maybe revert quickly back to the bilateral sharing of documents?

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How could we ensure that whatever documents were shared, and

1:26:42

possibly, short, slow before their posts on the examination library, how could we ensure that they are not in the interim period uploaded on the on the web?

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So how would we make sure that doesn't happen? I I don't know.

1:27:03

So off the top of my head, how one could do that I'm also not sure why it would matter. I mean, they are documents that have been submitted to an examination lawfully on the date.

1:27:14

Just just because, as I said, we no criticism on for perfectly proper reasons that they can't always be immediately uploaded, doesn't mean they haven't been lawfully submitted on the date of your deadline.

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Maybe this is something that could, you know, take away and maybe also, you know, discuss with the case officers and managers and something and it may be that,

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you know, the system is such that they're confident that these things can be done very quickly.

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But we're flagging an issue and trying to come up with a solution. So thank you very much. So if you can consider how those documents are not put online, obviously, until they've in the examination waiver.

1:28:05

So could I just add something on this point, Michael Bedford, Suffolk County Council?

1:28:11

So

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we certainly would share the applicants concern

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that for entirely understandable and non blameworthy reasons, there does sometimes tend to be a delay between your deadline submission date, and the actual uploading of all of the information. And that that can sometimes cause parties a problem. Obviously,

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it very much depends on the volume of documents that are submitted at each deadline. And that's something that I suspect that at the moment, none of us really knows or has a handle on. But certainly we don't see any difficulty in direct exchange between the County Council and the applicant of the same documents that were we submitted into the examination. So it happening at the same time. And if that will, I'm sure assist the parties.

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It does seem to be that there aren't any downsides. From that. It's not all practice. I think, normally, to publish the documents that the applicant has provided to us, because we know that they will be available through the examination library.

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And I do slightly wonder whether this is necessarily something that the examining authority needs to make, as it were, or take a position on because if the applicant and the

1:30:00

relevant, interested parties agree to do something outside of the examination effect? Is that something that we can agree to do, in a sense, irrespective? So So we're certainly happy to work with the applicant on that basis, our documents and their documents?

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And I say, I'm not sure necessarily the examining authority needs to have a position on it. Michael Humphries from National Grid. So I think that's, that's right. And I suppose what we can do is make sure that the, if there is an offline exchange, it is the morning after the deadline, and therefore, no one can have seen our documents and quickly put in a response to them by the deadline, because

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they will only be sent the following the following morning.

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Anyway, maybe I should not have

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set this particular hair running. It's trying to be helpful, and it's ended up with being the most detailed agenda. Right. And we've actually discussed so far.

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Mia culpa, as they say, so sorry. So I was trying to be helpful. I won't try that, again.

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Your comments have been useful and the discussion as well, just to final thoughts. If you were by laterally sharing documents, produce documents, and how would you ensure in trusted parties would have the same

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period of time to look at those documents? So in the interest of fairness, how do you how how would you ensure that it's maybe not because the discussion now but maybe, for something for you to consider?

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Thank you, sir.

1:32:04

We, I'll probably look across the room, we have got the, the potential of Gurkha company to site inspections next. And then following on from that, we'll go to proceed your decisions. So do we maybe have a quick 10 minute break now? Or do we finish this particular agenda item? Has anybody got any preference?

1:32:36

So I think this is going to be quite a short point, let's just deal with it, and then we can move on to the next overall item on your agenda. Okay.

1:32:45

So if we can move on to accompanied sites inspections. We, the examining authority recognizes that Suffolk County Council has helpfully suggested locations in this response. So that's reference PDA dash 007. The applicant has confirmed draft a ternary. For this will be submitted by deadline one, which is the 25th of September, and it is acknowledged that the applicant will have regard to all other submissions that have been made at procedural deadline a please note that it is unlikely that the examining authority would wish to revisit a location that it has already been included in its accompanied sites inspection references,

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and the references are Evie dash 001, which we undertook on the 11th and 12th of July. Please also note that the examining authority may decide to undertake further and accompanied sites inspections from relevant vantage points with public access, including, for example, all or some of the highway locations mentioned by Suffolk County Council in this procedural deadline a submission.

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So

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if I can ask if anybody has any observations, further observations to make on this particular matter.

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Michael Humphries for National Grid. Thank you. So obviously, it pulls on us to produce the draft itinerary.

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For the accompanied site inspections, we will certainly obviously have regard to both the topic and indeed be verbs.

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Comments it? It did occur to us if I'm Frank that some of those locations were public viewpoints that you either would have or could have

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Visit,

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en accompanied. And I think we're also conscious that you know, in a in a daze accompany type visit over a long line, there's only so much you can fit in you do have to actually travel between

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locations and that if necessary if the if there are things you can't fit in and the then occurs to you that you ought to, we can have another accompanied site location. So we will, we will obviously take those points

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on board and then come up with a draft itinerary that we don't we think is appropriate for you. Thank you, Mr. Humphries.

1:35:42

Can I check if Suffolk have got any?

1:35:46

Sir, not any substantive comments at this stage, because what we will obviously be able to do at deadline to is to comment on that draft itinerary of the accompanied site visits. And obviously, we will do so clearly both the applicant and the examining authority already knows the locations that we've identified as set out in our deadline a submissions, it may be helpful

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if the applicants proposed itinerary does not include particular locations that we have identified.

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If, as it were the applicant could give a reason for the non inclusion of particular locations. And if the reason is that

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the applicant considers that is perfectly capable of being viewed

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on an unaccompanied basis, because it's a publicly accessible location, and so on. I say if there's a reason given why, as it were places that we've identified and not included, then we can look at that. And it may well be that we would agree, or it may be that there's some particular facet, which all those a location is publicly accessible. We think that there's some particular facet which would benefit from being a company. I don't know, because clearly, I don't know what the applicants view is going to be on the locations. But I say it would be helpful if the applicants itinerary not only lists the places that are included, but also provides as it were a brief reason as to why particular locations have not been included. And obviously, the examining authority, when it considers the overall itinerary will also be able to take that into account in deciding which places it does want to visit? And if so, which basis is going to visit on a company as opposed to on a company basis? Thank you. So Michael Humphries, again, for National Grid, I am able to confirm actually I've just been told I didn't know this that that is already proposed a table is proposed with

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all locations that a suggested that are not in the draft itinerary and and why it was felt not not appropriate. So I think actually, there's a meeting of minds there. And as Mr. Bedford very rightly and

fairly, says, you know, the council can then take a view on that as as indeed you can. Okay. Thank you very much. That's that's good news to hear. Before I go to the virtual side 100 Can I just check to see if there's any other comments to be made in the room from the district councils? Essex?

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No. Okay. If we can go virtually then. Is it Mr. Curtis is it

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this

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is Brian Bertie's on behalf of Baber District Council and mid Suffolk District Council. Just to expand if I may, please, on our deadline a submission at 6.1. I think it is in which we we've offered this suggestions as colleagues from Suffolk County Council. But just to make it a little clearer as regards to the position for Bramford substation, that site itself is visible from the public Vantage from either the right way or the end of the highway. But the concern of the local authorities and this is on behalf of both local authorities is the landscape setting of the substation and the development in context with that and other cumulative impact in the area. So, again, we will reserve comments until we see the proposed itinerary but just like to offer that up in case it helps with planning an itinerary that would be looking for viewpoints that enable the inspectors to appreciate

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the landscape setting. Thank you

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Thank you very much.

1:40:02

Can I just check with the applicant if you have any further comments to make following what we've heard from his Kosis? No, thank you. So that's, that's, I'm grateful to her. Thank you. Okay.

1:40:15

So, as

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I'm sure you're all aware, there are many competitive aspects when drafting the timetable, including internal deadlines for the inspectorate, which also needs to be built into the timetable. As such, it is a difficult task to draft the timetable that everybody is pleased with. Please rest assured. We will take all of the comments that have been made today into consideration when finalizing the timetable which will be issued next week.

1:40:54

I suggest we take a short break 10 minutes.

1:41:00

Yeah, so that would make one mistake that we recommend. So 12 noon, we will recommend with a preliminary meeting and it will be on agenda item six.

1:41:18

Thank you