

TRANSCRIPT_BRAMFORD_ISH1_SESSION 1_14092023

00:05

Well, good morning, everybody. Welcome to this first issue specific hearing in relation to the branch to instant reinforcement.

00:13

Today's hearing examining authority will be looking at the scope and details of the proposed development, including the construction activities and the principles of the applicants draft development consent order.

00:26

Before we begin, can I just confirm that everyone can hear me clearly?

00:30

nods from the bank to good sign. And can I confirm with the case team that the live streaming and recording the event has commenced? Again, a good nod. Thank you. My name is Andrew Mon. And I've been appointed by the Secretary of State to be the lead member of this examining authority. My background is in ecology and environmental impact assessment. I'm a chartered environmentalist, and a chartered landscape architect. And today I'll be going through the management of the event and taking notes of any actions. I'd like to ask my colleagues to introduce themselves.

01:06

Good morning all. I'm Julie de Courcey. And I'm a chartered time planner. I have a background in appellate work, and that includes major infrastructure projects and the examination of local development plans. Okay.

01:25

Hello, good morning. I'm Jason Rowland. I'm a chartered civil engineer and a chartered environmentalist. I have a background in major projects for energy and highways.

01:43

Morning, everyone, I'm John McAvoy, I have a background in major projects and I'm a chartered civil engineer.

01:51

Thank you for that. And then there are also several colleagues from the planning Inspectorate here today.

01:57

The back of the room Jake Stevens is the case manager for the project. And he's accompanied today by Sam Stevens and Robert Cook, and Jess Weatherby is assisting online participants.

02:08

If you have any general inquiries regarding the examination process, please email these to the case team and we'll be happy to help. Alternatively, you may be able to catch them here in person following this here and

02:21

first deal with a few housekeeping matters. First, can I ask audible notifications for electronic devices be switched off and could participants online as well as those around the table, please remember to switch your microphones to mute unless you are speaking, this helps to reduce the background noise.

02:40

I've had no requests for any special measures or arrangements to enable participation in this hearing. But can I just confirm that is correct.

02:50

I'm not seeing any requests. So let's move that one on.

02:55

Again, there are no fire alarm tests due today. So it's the real thing It sounds and for those of us in the room, the fire escapes are to my right, most of your left are ahead of here can't do that anymore. And also to my left behind me there's a second fire escape. And we should assemble in the car park outside.

03:13

And you will have seen the toilets on your way in which are in the corridor opposite. So as we go out.

03:21

If you're joining us on Microsoft Teams today, please note that the chat function is not in use. So please do not try to send us any messages via chat as it's not being monitored.

03:32

If at any point in the meeting, you can't hear us or you wish to speak. Can I ask you turn your camera on and use the raised hand function in teams. And there may sometimes be a delay before we acknowledge this.

03:44

We will adjourn at convenient points for short breaks, we usually try to aim for a short break every 90 minutes or so. But if anybody has an urgent need, please request that the case team know and we'll do our best to accommodate you.

04:00

For the purpose of identification, and for the benefit of those who may listen to the recording later. Could I ask that at every point at which you speak, please give your name and if you're representing an organisation or another individual who it is you represent.

04:15

And for those present in the room, please ensure when you speak you do speak into a microphone to ensure that your contribution is recorded.

04:24

Does anybody have any questions or concerns about the technology or the general management of today's event?

04:32

No hands virtually or in the rooms.

04:37

Thank you so about the digital recordings. Again, we have a digital recording being made of the hearing today. And this will be made available on the project page at the National Infrastructure website.

04:50

If you take part in this hearing, it's important you understand that your comments will be recorded and that the digital recording will be published and retained easily for a period of time.

05:00

Five years from the Secretary of State's decision,

05:03

the planning inspectorate is subject to General Data Protection Regulation. So the examining authority will not ask you to put sensitive personal information such as email addresses, economic, financial, cultural or health related matters into the public domain. Indeed, we will actively encourage you not to do so.

05:24

If for some reason you feel it is necessary for you to refer to sensitive personal information, please speak to the case team. In the first instance, we'll explore with you whether the information can be provided in a written format, and then redacted before being published.

05:41

Please bear in mind that the only official record of the proceedings today is the digital recording that will be placed on the project page, tweets, blogs and similar communications which may arise out of this meeting will not be accepted as evidence in the examiner's examination of this application.

05:59

Can I move on to take the names of those who are going to intending to speak at the hearing today? If you're a representative, please state who you represent and your role within the organisation. And if I can start with the applicant, Mr. Humphries.

06:14

Good morning, sir. Michael Humphries, Kings Council on behalf of National Grid. Just to explain on agenda items, I'm anticipating that on agenda items, three to six, that the discussion from our side will be led by our technical experts, I will obviously say things as necessary to try to assist and I'll allow them to introduce themselves as well as the three that you have sitting currently, to my left, there are others, either sitting behind or in a an adjoining room who may come forward to speak for appropriate agenda items.

07:05

I'm assuming that for those agenda items, they are as indicated on your agenda for issue specific hearing. One, and as very helpfully expanded in Annex B, where you sort of particularised some of the things you'd like us to look at the agenda items, three to six. And that's very helpful. And we've brought the right people to deal with that for agenda item seven, which is forming content at the DCO. And anticipating that I will be taking the lead on that Mr. James Parker, who's sitting behind me will also be with me my instructor thing solicit but I'm anticipating that I will take the lead for that agenda item, it's in effect not expanded in Annex B, the expansion is in the agenda itself. And, again, we've

08:04

we will deal with the items there. You're very helpfully at the end of

08:12

Annex B given A list of documents. We have those prepared so that they can be put on screen. And should I have been on who sitting behind me, to my left is controlling that if you want particular things put up my understanding, and I'm not desperately technical on these things that she's operating through the team's system. So that if you put something up everyone online, should be able to see that as as as well. So we have we have those documents ready. So barring that sort of a brief overview of who's, who's doing what I'll let the other people on the front bench at the moment introduce themselves. Thank you, sir. Thank you.

09:00

Good morning.

09:02

I'm John Bethan on behalf the applicants and I'll be mainly speaking in relation to Agenda Item three alongside colleagues.

09:12

Good morning. I'm Rob Taylor, National Grid, Lead Project Manager are predominantly the answering agenda items three and four on design and construction.

09:24

Good morning. I'm Carol White on behalf of the applicant. I'll mainly be covering environmental matters today, particularly in agenda items three and agenda item six. Thank you.

09:40

Thank you very much for that.

09:42

Can we then complete your roundup for the time being it's temporary, it's that that completes the people who are on the front row you'll have many seen we didn't mention item five and that's because it's other people who will come forward and they will introduce themselves at the appropriate time if that's fine. Thank you.

10:01

Can we move to the local authorities please? Mr. Bedford, do you have specific county council?

10:09

Thank you, sir. My name is Michael Bedford Kings Council I'm instructed on behalf of Suffolk County Council appearing with me in the room this morning. To my immediate right is Mr. Graham Gunby, who is the national infrastructure planning manager, he may contribute to some of the agenda items.

10:29

We also have virtually a number of county council officers who I won't introduce at this stage but will do if they need to speak on particular items. And then also virtually, with us, and particularly may be relevant to Agenda Item seven on the DCO is Mr. Ma Thomas, a partner of Sharp Pritchard. Again, I may introduce on drafting DCA matters. And he'll be appearing virtually he'll be appearing virtually.

11:00

Thank you.

11:04

Could we move on to vapour and mid Suffolk District Council please? Miss Curtis was this morning. Yes. Good morning.

11:12

Good morning. Thank you, sir. Yeah, Brian Curtis Baber District Council and mid Suffolk District Council, principal Planning Officer for leading predominately on exits and sips and energy work. And I will be excuse my ignorance, but I'm just going to listen and speak when you need me to participate if that's okay, I'm not entirely sure which bits you'll need my contribution on.

11:38

Thank you. That's fine. If at any stage you feel you'd like to make a contribution, as I say, just switch your camera on put your virtual hand up. We'll come to you. Thank you.

11:48

Can I move on to Braintree District Council please? Mr. Welter this morning.

11:53

Good morning, sir.

11:55

Matthew Wilde from Ranger District Council charter town planner in the town management team.

12:05

And in terms of speaking, I have no specific comments to make. I'm happy to assist the seminar authority as and when needed.

12:15

Thank you

12:17

completes my list, but I see other places around the table. So could we hear? Could you introduce yourselves please? Thank you, sir. Good morning. My name is Mark ward. You are a principal planner in the growth and development team Essex County Council and also a charter town planner. I just like to run introduce us to the lady sitting to my right please. Thank you.

12:41

Hi there. Catherine hibbott Holmes, unhealth solicitors instructed by both Essex County Council and Braintree District Council, and

12:52

we're happy to assist on Item seven as required.

12:58

Thank you very much.

13:00

And you were on my list?

13:07

Does that complete? Everybody who intends to anticipate speaking today and there's any anybody else wishes to put their name forward? I see no hands. So hope not sir, or Completer is that of speakers for today.

13:22

So I'm going to move on to Agenda Item two in that case and say that today's hearing is being held by the examining authority to explore a number of matters or really in respect of the scope and the details

of the proposed development, including construction activities and the principles of the applicants draft development consent order.

13:43

A summary of these matters was included in Appendix B of the agenda that we issued, as Mr. Humphries mentioned,

13:51

this examination is predominantly a written process.

13:55

And the examining authority will be asking questions on this and other topics in the written questions that will issue in due course.

14:04

You'll see from the draft examination timetable that we currently propose to issue two rounds of written questions, and that we have provided opportunities to hold further hearings in the coming months if they're necessary.

14:18

During the examination, we will be scrutinising the information submitted by the applicant, the local authorities, statutory parties, affected persons, and all other interested parties. And I can reassure you that the examining authority is already familiar with the documents that you've sent in. And so when answering a question, you do not need to repeat at length, something that has already been submitted.

14:40

If you do wish to refer to information already submitted, we would be grateful if you could use the appropriate examination Library Reference wherever possible.

14:50

Furthermore, could I ask that the first time use an abbreviation or an acronym that you set out its meaning in full as there may be people here today or listening to the

15:00

Digital recording all to the live stream that may not be as familiar with the application or the documents as you are.

15:08

This is a public examination and if there is an urgent point that you want to make, please raise your hand virtually or the real one at the time you wish to contribute, contribute. But whether you're online or in the room, please do wait to be invited before speaking.

15:26

The hearing today will be a structured discussion based on the agenda that has already been published. And the purpose of the discussion is for us to ask questions and to seek clarifications on the matters that we've listed on our agenda. To ensure that we have all the information that we need to make our report to the Secretary of State.

15:44

The questions that we're going to ask today will be focused on those areas that we think would benefit from examination orally.

15:52

There may be other questions or other topics that you're expecting us to cover. Please be reassured be reassured that this simply indicates that we consider we already have the information we need on that topic, or that we're proposing to examine it in writing or later hearing.

16:10

Finally, I'd like to remind everybody that this is an examination and not an inquiry. Therefore, unless the examining authority has specifically requested or agreed to it, there'll be no formal presentation of cases or cross examination. As such, any questions that you may have for the parties must be asked through the examining authority.

16:32

Rule 14 Two of the examination procedure rules requires that at the start of a hearing, the examining authority shall identify matters to be considered at that hearing.

16:44

The agenda for this hearing was placed on the website on Wednesday the 13th of August 2023. And the main purpose of this issue specific hearing is to examine evidence relating to the scope and details the proposed development, including construction activities and the principles of the applicants draft term and consent order.

17:03

Please note that we've issued that today's agenda for guidance only, and we may add other issues for consideration as we progress. We will seek to allocate sufficient time to each issue to allow proper consideration. Should issues take longer than anticipated, it may be necessary for us to prioritise matters, and defer others to further it in questions.

17:27

We will take as I say short breaks convenient points to short breaks, those of you online on teams can stay logged on. But please keep your camera switched off and mute your microphones, we are likely almost certainly to run into the afternoon, then those online will have to refresh their browsers to rejoin the hearing after our longer lunch break.

17:50

If those online lose connection, please try to use the same link that you used to log on this morning. And the case team will endeavour to reconnect you as soon as possible.

18:00

Finally, like to say it's important that we get the right answers to the questions that we're going to ask and I reiterate that this is predominantly a written process. Therefore, if you cannot answer the questions that are being asked today, or you do require further time to get the information requested, then rather than giving a restricted or potentially incorrect answer, can you please indicate that you will respond in writing as a follow up, we can then defer the response to an action point, which will accept a deadline one the draft examination timetable, or to a future round of written questions or related hearing.

18:39

So before we move on to deal with the main items of the agenda, are there any questions at this stage about the procedural side of today's hearing all the agenda

18:50

nothing heard that. So I'm now going to hand over to Mr. rowland's to lead on agenda items three and four.

19:02

Okay, agenda item three, the proposed development. So the purpose of this agenda item, this for the applicant to introduce us to the proposed development and give a brief summary on the scope of the works. So

19:22

please, could you explain the reasons for the scope of the proposed development, the flexibility in design and layout that is sought and to indicate where representative visualisation of elements of the proposed development can be seen? Thank you. So Michael Humphries for National Grid and as we indicated, Mr. Bevin is going to take the lead on this. Are you happy that we put up slides as as called for on the team's link? We don't need your individual consent to do that.

19:58

If you think it would be useful and help

20:00

While we will do that, but possibly once you've covered the main aspects if we can maybe take that appropriate FedEx link down, and so the hearing setup can be see. Thank you. That's that's absolutely clear.

20:18

So I think I'll start off the answer this and we'll keep it relatively high level because of course, I'm sure the last part of the questions throughout the agenda, so we'll try and avoid repeating things that we consider will be covered elsewhere.

20:32

So

20:34

to begin with, it's important to note how essential this reinforcement is.

20:40

It's absolutely required to connect new offshore wind, nuclear particularly Sizewell C and a range of interconnectors as well.

20:53

That's completely in line with government targets around 2050 for net zero, and the more immediate

21:02

2030 targets in terms of connecting offshore wind.

21:07

As I'm sure you've seen, the Nikkei's document sets out in a lot more detail and the reasons for the reinforcement. And that's a PP A pp 161.

21:23

Main elements the project described within the project description, which is a PP 072 with an environmental statement, and that sets out that the project is comprised of a reinforcement between the existing Bromford substation in Suffolk and twisted T shirts existing point on the transmission network in Essex.

21:49

It will be achieved through the construction of 29 kilometres of reinforcement made up of 18 kilometres of overhead line, and approximately 11 kilometres of underground cables. Also includes force cables, ceiling and compounds, which are the transition points between the overhead line and the underground cables,

22:10

grid supply points substation, which provides an alternative supply to local communities and businesses through the distribution network operator, United Kingdom power networks and that also allows us to remove the existing overhead line, approximately between Bradford and twins

22:31

that's owned and operated by United Kingdom power network. That's the 132 KV.

22:40

The evolution of the project is described in the application document, a pp 166, which describes quite a long process of development, consultation, options, appraisal, various amendments to the scheme over

many years and changes to the generation background and the need for the scheme. So hopefully, that's described there, so I won't repeat any of that.

23:07

So that's all I was gonna say in terms of scope of development.

23:12

In terms of the flexibility in the design and layout, sort of note, we've got separate agenda item on limits of deviation, so I probably won't go into much detail here. But clearly a level of flexibility is required. And we we would argue, proportionate to allow us to live with the project firstly, but also to deliver that in a economic and efficient way. In, in, in, you know, to align with our statutory duties as the transmission operator.

23:46

And then, I think third point was regarding representative visualisations elements of the scheme. And so I'll pass over to my colleague, Miss Miss White, describe that.

24:00

Charl White on behalf of the applicants,

24:03

there are three main places within the application documents where you can find visualisations of what the project may look like. The first is in environmental statement Chapter Four project description which is a PP o seven two. In the project description we have photos taken from other projects that show how a project of this nature would be constructed, for example, construction pylons,

24:27

and the second location where you can find visualisations is in the viewpoint assessment which is in suites documents, a PP 1012 a PP 107 And these show the wire lines for the project both in the absence of the project so the baseline environment as it is now, and then also the wireline with the projects as a comparison. The third location where we have visualisations is in the photo montage documents, which is PDA zero

25:00

01 and a PP o 632. A PP o six five. The photo montages are prepared to provide a visual summary of what the project may look like during construction

25:14

from various viewpoints. Thank you.

25:24

Thank you very much. If I could maybe ask us a question regarding the proposed new infrastructure,

25:34

the type of modification required to the existing infrastructure. And whereas has shown the type of infrastructure to be removed, could you just maybe give a quick overview on that, please. So rebuilding National Grid, and in accordance with the project description application 072. We're looking to construct 18 kilometres new of new 400 KV overhead line.

26:08

That would mean

26:10

the underground cable sections and we're looking to instal approximately 11 kilometres of underground cable at 400,000 volts as well.

26:19

We would then

26:21

at those transition points, they would be cable sealing and compounds referred to as CFCs. That's obviously where we go from overhead to underground. Those would include permanent access routes to those compounds.

26:34

And

26:36

further to the west of the project, we will also be constructing a grid supply point. The grid supply point, as my colleague mentioned, is to allow for

26:47

us to power the UK Power Networks 132 network to the west of the grid supply point allow us to remove their 132 KV overhead line between Burstall bridge and Twin City diamond crossing.

27:04

So I think the next point is, you'd like me to explain the infrastructure that's to be removed. Yes, please. So I think I just touched on that with the 132 KV that's going to be removed.

27:15

And that's about 25 kilometres long. There's two kilometres of 400 KV overhead line that's going to be removed from twins to T going south.

27:27

And

27:28

Branford, we're looking to realign the approach with the existing overhead lines. So there's a kilometre of 400 KV overhead line to be removed there as well.

27:43

infrastruc infrastructure that's to be modified.

27:46

If, if I could

27:50

show application

27:53

ating to 10, the GA plans on the screen that might be helpful to show because we have as as per the project description, we've got different colours, some for modification, which are orange, and some for grey, which is realignment. So if I can show you an example on page 28.

28:18

Sorry, sheet 28.

28:35

Chanel, can you just bring the screen up slightly,

28:39

so we can see the bottom. So at the bottom of the screen, you can see for ya la 007, that tower is orange. So that's how he's going to be modified. What we do is we look to modify the arms to increase the angle on that tower, allowing for the grey line which comes off that tower to the right, and goes towards the cable ceiling compound. The Grey is obviously identified as realignment.

29:11

I think that really covers the modification, an example of a modification and realignment.

29:18

So

29:20

the types of temporary infrastructure

29:24

and

29:27

temporary infrastructure. If

29:31

you such a vast amount of temporary infrastructure for the project, everything that we'll be doing, apart from those permanent items of infrastructure that we've just gone through will be classed as temporary infrastructure. So it's quite an exhaustive list.

29:46

Do you want me to go into some examples of that or

29:50

maybe if you can just give one example. So, so

29:55

site compounds, temporary access routes, and

30:00

Um, we will have some temp a temporary tear on the project as well for a diversion.

30:06

sufficient. And

30:13

so I think on your list we get on to propose community engagement. Yes.

30:20

I've purposely taken that away from the main topics that we've just discussed currently. Mr. Humphries, if I can maybe just ask one supplementary question, and then we can perhaps go on to that particular topic that you'd like to get closer? Suppose Thank you. Thank you. So with with regards to the infrastructure that you've mentioned, I'd just like to really understand a little bit more about the status of the design. So how are we at a stage where you might call it detailed design? Or is it the stage before, like preliminary design as an example, so revealed in National Grid? At the moment, we haven't appointed a main works contractor. So in our internal process, we are at a pretty limited design period. Once the main works contract has been appointed, they will do a detailed design. Okay. Can I just double check what's in the environmental statement is based on a design that's esteemed to some degree preliminary design,

31:27

Cal lights on behalf of the applicant? And yes, the environmental statement is based on the proposed alignment, which is the design as it currently stands. Okay. Thank you. Okay.

31:41

So yeah, Stan, free. So if we can then move on to.

31:46

If you could summarise your proposed community engagements approach, I think this will be miswired to just take you through some of these aspects.

31:57

Chow light on behalf of the applicant, National Grid is committed to community engagement on the project, and as evidenced by other projects such as Hinkley Point C connection project, where there's a community liaison details on their website. In terms of this specific project, we have got section 3.4 in the construction Environmental Management Plan, which is application document a pp 177. This sets out the approach to community engagement on the project. It provides information about how we would consult with local residents during construction, for example, giving them details about the proposed works, the extent and any durations.

32:39

The construction Environmental Management Plan also sets out the complaints process. And also details about contact details that will be provided at the main compound, if people should wish to contact national grid or the contractor during works.

32:56

And the construction environmental management plan is secured through requirement for the draft DCO. And thank you.

33:06

Thank you very much. I'd like to maybe ask if anybody has got any observations to make on the current status of that approach? That's reference to the cat. So if I ask any other councils first.

33:26

Sir, Michael Bedford, Suffolk County Council. So we do have some concerns about

33:37

the control documents, given the preliminary nature of the design, but they're perhaps better articulated when we get on to those matters. And then we understand the general approach. It's more a question of whether there are adequate controls, given that there is actually still quite a lot, which is at large, in terms of the detail. And that also plays out when we get onto the the terms of the draft development, consent order, and its precision, but I said, I don't think really, it's helpful to

34:14

explore those overarching points. It's better to look at the detail when we get on to the detail if that's acceptable to you. Yeah, that's fine. Thank you. So there is in the environmental

34:27

statement, I think it's in chapter four a table,

34:33

which I think we'll come on to a bit later. So I won't take you to it now, but a table that sets out the limits of deviation and what has been assumed in the environmental statement to give you some understanding of, of what the environmental statement and the environmental impact assessment actually assumed in relation to

34:57

limits of deviation and flexibility. So that is actually said

35:00

doubt and tabulated that we can come to that later. We will. Yeah.

35:04

Can I just double check if there's any other comments on the community

35:10

engagement approach from any of his district councils? If not, we'll we'll move on. Not seeing any show of hands in the room now virtually

35:21

Okay.

35:22

In terms of the design, if I can just check with the applicant, can you confirm what the maximums span of cables between the new overhead 400 KV pylons with with P. So in maximum Brumfield in National Grid

35:43

conductors between

35:47

sorry pylons and ilesa, towers,

35:50

conductors between pylons, the maximum span is quite difficult, because

35:57

an average span is around 350 metres, but it depends on the terrain. And it depends on

36:05

items in those spans, we have what's called a sum of adjacent spans. So effectively, if you said 800 metres would be

36:17

sort of a limit between three towers, and you can you can move between that. Hopefully that helps.

36:26

That's extremely helpful. Thank you.

36:30

Still, staying on the points of pylons, can I just clarify something whereby planning statements, which is AP dash 160 gives a maximum height of 62 metres. And that's in paragraph four point 14 point to

36:53

the draft DCO. And I this is only a light touch, I do not want to go into great detail on the DCO because that's later on in the agenda. But the draft DCO Article Five and the limits of deviation

37:10

states to any extent, not exceeding four metres. So that gives a maximum height of 66 metres.

37:22

However,

37:24

if you look, there's three new 400 KV pylons shown in work plans app zero 10. That notes about the pylon height 62.23. So if you apply the four metres to that, that then gives a maximum height of 66.23. So that then implies that the maximum height is is is 66.23, rather than 66. So there's a difference of points to three metres. If you could possibly check on that particular matter, it would be appreciated. So yes, I would take that one away, maybe that we can come back to you with an answer. Later. It may be that we can't and we just need to wrap that up into a deadline one summary or or other submission, if that's acceptable to you. Yes, thank you, Mr. Humphries.

38:29

So

38:31

another check to do as well please. It's to do with the length of existing apparatus to be removed and that between the Stockbridge and twins that see So, yes, Chapter Four project description, which is up dash O 72. refers to two kilometres being removed. However, if you look at the explanatory memorandum, which is up dash O 35. That refers to not two kilometres but two and a half kilometres. And that's in paragraph 2.1. Point to this obviously, then effects that total of apparatus being removed. Is it 27 and a half kilometres or is it 27 kilometres? So, yeah, I would appreciate that if you could do that check and also check all the relevant documents, such as the planning statement to ensure this consistency. Thank you very much. So again, if you be contended with the same approach, if we can instantly give you an answer later today, I'll try and do so just so that you know but if if, if it needs to be checked somewhere else, then we'll come back to

39:53

and finally it will be glad to hear this. The

39:59

remaining chat

40:00

COVID Appreciate it undertake.

40:03

And it's to do with the amount of agricultural land within the auto limits. So the non technical Sunbury, which is Apple Dasho 68, paragraph 11 point 2.2. States there is approximately 720 hectares of agricultural land within the auto limits. However, yes, chapter 10 agriculture on soils, which is AP dash zero 79, paragraph 11 point 5.7 states that there is 644 hectares of agricultural land. But then you're the minutes.

40:52

Could you also check grade two and grade three totals, as they differ in these two particular documents?

41:06

Michael Humphries for national grid, so yes, it absolutely will then again, come back to you when we're able to with the correct figures. I'm very grateful for you picking these things up, obviously, in what are literally 1000s of pages of documentation sometimes

41:23

where things are revised, they don't always catch up, but we'll make sure that we can confirm the correct figures because that's important I understand. And in the context of the agricultural and if you can, as well just check other documents as well. So just the planting statement. So we will certainly do that.

41:43

Okay.

41:46

So if I can move on to the next point. We heard briefly yesterday, an open floor hearing about a section of 132 KV overhead line that was not to be removed, was in between the proposed grid supply points. And see, and that came through as well in paying treat District Council and your submission, which is GTA dash 005. So I was wondering if the applicant is able to explain the reason for leaving this one section?

42:30

Yes, so that's one that we

42:34

can can certainly deal with.

42:38

Now, I think it's going to be Mr. Fielden, who will take the lead on that and explain explain the position on that.

42:48

So Rob, build a national grid 132 KV between the southern section of Twin City and Salford, a grid supply point is obviously owned and operated by UK Power Networks.

43:03

And

43:05

previous discussions in 2013, their apparatus was to remain.

43:11

We had

43:13

responses through consultation feedback, asking whether we could remove that we've asked you KPN. Whether that is a possibility. And at the moment, they they stick to the fact that they would like it to remain.

43:33

Part of the background this and again, Mr. Field and can

43:39

explain is that of course, that is not our, it's not our asset, you may say, well, the existing 132 line is not our asset, but the existing 132 line needs to go because in many places, is on the same alignment as our proposed 400 kV line. So we need to take it down. Because we do not need to take down that

44:05

small element that you've identified.

44:09

That's obviously a matter where UK power network is that is their asset.

44:17

Have an interest in that and Mr. buildin has explained their position on that. We've respected that.

44:27

Okay.

44:30

If I can maybe just ask if Green Tree District Council, have you got any observations to make ones following what you've heard from the applicant?

44:41

Thank you, sir. Yes, noted and understood. The point?

44:46

Yeah, I think our position which, of course, sets out another compact report underpinned by some landscape advice we've received.

44:56

Is that the this section I think it's

45:00

2.4 kilometres of line between 20 to t. And the grid supply point

45:09

becomes effectively becomes redundant if this project was to go ahead. So,

45:15

yeah, appreciate that. It's not necessarily even national route grids are the outcomes really meant to, to remove that. But we, nonetheless would still believe that if they have a section is removed, then surely this section, which is also becoming redundant, you know, that there should be October discussion, we feel,

45:43

obviously, there will be a landscape benefit from the removal of that of that line. And obviously, I've set out in detail in my local impact report.

45:51

So, yeah, happy to answer any other questions. Thank you. Thank you,

45:57

Mr. Fielding, we hear what you're saying. Thank you very much for that it's a UK power network. Will it retain a function? Or will it be redundant? As we've been told?

46:06

I can't comment on that. That's for you. KPN to,

46:11

to answer I'm sorry.

46:13

I think I think so.

46:20

At the point that the grid supply point is there and the rest of the 132 kV line, is there at that point, it is not, it is not operating. I think, Mr. Fields.

46:32

Point is and and UK Power Networks obviously can answer this not us. They, of course, could at some future date have a future purpose for it. So that's why Mr. fieldon can't comment on whether it is redundant, that is a matter for what they may or may not want to do with it. I'm sorry. So not to be more helpful that you will understand.

46:57

You know, this is not this is a matter, ultimately, for them understanding this temporary Sangkat so that we can proceed with them if we wish.

47:13

Yes, Matthew, our brains wish to counsel sorry, I didn't introduce myself last time. I just wanted to quickly just to clarify that. So we Braintree actually wrote to you KPN. And we had a response back from them, which didn't explicitly say it was going to be redundant, but essentially said as much about saying that explicitly. So what we're just part of our local impact report will include that letter response as a as an appendix and obviously, you can see that for yourselves and make your own judgement on that, thank you. Thank you, that would be really helpful.

47:50

So on the scene of UK Power Networks, they will be undertaking potentially similar works. So,

48:03

could you possibly summarise the works that they may be undertaking and so in sorry, in what contexts will they be on sell the proposed developments, removal of the 132 is that element of work that the applicant would undertake or does that fall into the remit of UK power? Let Mr. Field in answer on the sort of practicalities of this. We may come to this later in the order, but you'll see in the order the authorised development is all elements of the development including those work numbers that are the removing will be UK p n

48:51

pylons. But there is a subset of works then which are called the UK power network works and those works

49:03

are also development consent is granted for the benefit of UK Power Networks. So they wouldn't be able legally to undertake those works of removal. But there is in effect,

49:19

a sort of default or a fallback position if that if that is not done, we are able to undertake those works and we could touch on that later if that was helpful to you, but there's the overall authorised development and then there's this subset called a UK PN works. And they are granted certain powers as to the practicalities of who would It's anticipated would do what that's very much Mr. Field NS field,

49:51

field and National Grid. At the moment, we don't have a main works contractor appointed but it's envisaged that the interaction of UK pa

50:00

On the removal of the 132 is likely to be just those isolating the intersections and then handing over the one through two to our maintenance contractor to complete the works. Okay.

50:12

Thank you.

50:14

In terms of the the assumptions undertaken under the environmental statement,

50:23

we're looking at, say accesses and compounds, is it likely that UK Power Networks, how will that work with they had their own compounds? Or has the s not assumptions are the yes being done for their type of works that's required terawatts on behalf of the applicant. In terms of the environmental statement, we've assessed the construction compounds that are identified on the general arrangement plans and also on the figures within the environmental statement, but we have also assessed the order limits of the whole has been a working area. So we recognise that the could be construction works within the order limits, whether that is smaller compound areas or

51:10

sort of access routes and things. So a general construction impact has been assessed within the environmental statement.

51:17

Okay.

51:19

In terms of control measures, and how would you implement something whereby they're within the a plus a road of construction compounds in an unsuitable areas, perhaps, for UK Power Networks, the if UK Power Networks were implemented any part of the construction project, they would be as bound by the same management plans and the code construction practice, which sets out the measures of how you would position construction compounds away from sensitive receptors, and would be considerate of all the different measures that are set out within those documents. Okay, so, if I can just maybe pursue this

52:09

to the little further degree of what the environmental statement considers,

52:16

in terms of scope of works, for say, diversion of third party assets from construction and operational footprint, has this information been identified anywhere? And how were the scale of works identified and how have the impacts being assessed, so this is specifically for third party assets, whereby they need to be pellucid.

52:51

Brookfield and National Grid, we've, we've identified a number of third party assets, and

52:58

predominantly the main interaction is with UK Power Networks on their 11 and 33 KV system.

53:06

We've had designed from UK Power Networks for the potential underground in our diver and of those assets. Those works are short duration works, you KPN our local bass company, so they wouldn't require construction compounds.

53:25

As a construction compound is described in in the project, they would effectively utilise the area on site for a number of days and then D mobilise.

53:38

Is it possible to have maybe an indication on on a drawing where say the scale or the type of dilution works

53:48

with a week we can open a general arrangement plan and show you one of those sections? Think that would be useful if you could give us a moment to get on there I plan Yeah.

54:32

failed a national grid

54:40

so as you can see on the screen,

54:43

in the bottom sort of right hand corner of the screen, there's a sort of rectangle in the middle there. Just just That's it. So, the northern section of that rectangle,

54:56

the line that goes towards the 400 KV is existing

55:00

And 11 KV overhead line.

55:03

So what we'd look for them to do is remove that. And they would underground, within the order limits effectively West and then north along the edge of the road, then they come back east, again to the pole to the north

55:21

found this, what you've just described, identified anywhere in the application documents.

55:32

It's really helpful that this description that you've got, we have a plan that shows

55:38

green as

55:40

the overhead there and red as the Able to be installed underground.

55:46

I'd be honest, I don't know whether that was submitted as part of the application.

55:50

But we could provide some along those lines for you. That would be helpful. I think just so that we can get a clearer understanding of where these works are. Obviously, you've highlighted works associated with UK Power Networks and how they handle the other works. So for example, maybe gas associated or water? Yes, I will. I don't know whether there are examples of this, as you will appreciate, of course, lots of saturated utilities have general statutory powers to do work to their networks, they're they're very frequently moving them undergrounding them, moving them away.

56:37

And perfectly entitled, they're perfectly entitled to do that.

56:44

I don't know whether there are any other examples, Mr. Field, and you want to draw attention to at this point to build a national grid.

56:53

I won't display an example. But the overhead line is predominantly designed using the utility maps so that we avoid services. The only sort of interaction that we do have is in the cable sections. When we're installing cables, the we tend to go under the utilities anyway and avoid them. So we have contacted

57:17

a large array of utilities across the project made them aware of our project, and we've

57:25

broken progress statements are common grounds with the utilities. Okay, you're about to say thank you very much. Just again, just to check in terms of the management plans, would those be the control measures or any of these diversions works within the order limits is that's the applicants intention.

57:52

So the management plans control, construction works forming part of the authorised development. So if things were undertaken pursuant to the development consent order, then those management plans would apply. If utility companies

58:14

use their own powers as they'd be perfectly entitled to do on minor things, then they would obviously have to observe the requirements of their own legislation.

58:24

Okay, thank you, Mr. Humphreys.

58:28

On this particular agenda item, is anybody any other comments observations to make before we move on to the TCPA? The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the grid supply point substation?

58:45

Nope. See any show of hands? Okay, so we'll we'll move on to the grid supply points, substation and associated developments.

59:00

Would it be possible please, for the applicant to explain the scope of the TC pa consent, its intention in terms of implementation and the effect of the proposed development on the scope of works. You may want to utilise the sheets 23 of figure 4.1 PDA dash 002. Thank you, sir. Michael Humphries for National Grid and Mr. Bevin, now maybe with others, but we'll give the overview again on what I will call the sort of practical aspects of this part of the agenda item. I appreciate that you've also asked questions in Agenda Item seven on the DCO and the way that would work and I will deal with that. I'll deal with that aspect later, but Mr. Bevin will deal with the, you know, people, the design and the intention and all that

1:00:04

Thank you. So, as we've already mentioned, this morning, the grid supply point substation or GSP, is really essential element of the scheme, it allows us to, obviously adopt the alignment of the existing 132 overhead line. And that's obviously an essential part of the mitigation for the new overhead line.

1:00:30

So we took a decision quite early on,

1:00:35

to

1:00:37

adopt a dual consenting route for the grid supply point substation, this, this was mainly because before you do any other works, you've got to provide this alternative power to you KPN. So obviously, they can keep keep the lights on locally. And therefore, the GSP is the first element of the proposals, which then allows you to remove the existing 132 kV line, that then in turn allows you to build the 400. So the sequencing of the construction, essentially men, the first piece of the puzzle was to build the GSP.

1:01:13

And that essentially was 18 months of construction that we we needed to do, given the urgent need for the development and the urgent, you know, government targets around that zero and everything else, you know, we had to look at everything that's available to us to to meet those targets. And obviously, the Country Planning Act is there as a consenting route. And it's not unusual to consent substations via that route. In fact, that's the usual usual way of these things if it wasn't linked to a wider inset.

1:01:48

So we decided to do that.

1:01:51

Scope of the GSP. As we've said, it's to provide you KPN with the power, essentially, and it steps down from the transmission network 400 KV 2132 into the distribution network. So it can

1:02:07

go to homes or communities in the in the local area. And the GSP itself, in terms of the scope is essentially those SuperGrid transformers, various electrical equipment to obviously facilitate the connection into the existing 400 kV line, and the existing 132. Essentially, connecting those two things up via a transformer also includes access routes, fence line, various other equipment, control buildings,

1:02:37

those kinds of those kinds of elements that are obviously described in the project description

1:02:43

that we've already referred to.

1:02:49

If I go on now to the consent that we've secured by Braintree District Council, it's probably worth just mentioning that that is actually a series of consents. So I've just outlined those. So just for complete clarity. So there's the Town and Country Planning,

1:03:07

act, planning permission that you've referred to, which is the 2022 01147. Bowl.

1:03:17

And that's the consent for the grid supply point substation itself.

1:03:22

There's also then a TCPA, section 73 variation to that consent. So that was minor changes to the layout and the trigger point for one of the conditions. That was actually granted. Last week, I ran to the District Council's committee, I think, resolution to ground so sorry, resolution to grant Yes, indeed.

1:03:50

And the reference for that is to three forward slash 01488 forward slash V A R.

1:04:02

And then the third consent that applies to that development is

1:04:06

section 3637 consent under the Electricity Act. So that is a consent from what was base at the Department of Business, energy and industrial strips strategy as it was.

1:04:23

And the reference for that is one 2.0 4.0 9.0 fi slash 1591 u

1:04:36

and that is for works to existing 400 kV and 132 KV overhead lines. So that's for the overhead line works rather than the GSP itself. It's to facilitate the connection into that

1:04:51

this web and could I just gave you a high level to give the inspectors an indication of the types of other countries

1:05:00

And that we may need to

1:05:04

seek

1:05:07

outside the outside the DCO. In other words in order to

1:05:13

progress this before any

1:05:18

development consent order isn't is made, you know at the earliest whatever it would be sometime in about a year's time.

1:05:28

John Bethan on behalf of the applicant.

1:05:32

So, as Mr. Humphries said, there's there's a whole suite of further consents required likely to be required. We would deem secondary consents. They include things like highways, consent for the accesses, flood risk activity permits drainage consents, public right of way, diversions, says there's a whole range of those Secretary consents protected species licences.

1:06:01

And then also, in terms of

1:06:04

access to land, there's obviously voluntary land agreements that need to be secured to allow us to deliver that as well. So a whole kind of host of other secondary consents, and then agreements that are required.

1:06:17

Thank you, sorry for interrupting, but I wanted to make sure the inspectors had the full picture of the suite of things that we will need to do.

1:06:28

Okay, okay. John Burton, on behalf of the applicant, says worth noting that design within the those various consents that I've mentioned, is essentially the same as that within the DCO.

1:06:43

It could be delivered, including the variation, it could be delivered within the parameters of the DCO. It's obviously included as such in the DCO and covered by the environmental statement and the various management plans in the same way.

1:06:58

Associated embedded measures, good practice measures, and the management plans, again, are equally compatible across the to consent.

1:07:11

Would it be useful to go

1:07:14

into our intentions in terms of implementation? Yes, please.

1:07:19

Okay, so in terms of implementation, as, as I've mentioned, or pre commencement planning conditions related to those permissions are referred to have now been discharged.

1:07:34

Early enabling construction works have begun on site.

1:07:39

Construction is expected to continue over the next 18 months, it's currently planned.

1:07:45

The current position is that the GSP should be retained in the DCO to ensure at delivery and as previously said, it's so important to the overall scheme and obviously needs to be considered in the wider context and provides that really necessary mitigation for the new proposals. So that's that's the item in effect that will come to under agenda item seven, so we can talk about that okay.

1:08:14

Okay.

1:08:18

You mentioned that works has begun for this particular infrastructure.

1:08:29

Can you maybe please elaborate on say,

1:08:33

new installation, that they be coming to the forefront as you undertake these works for this particular substation?

1:08:44

For example, have you undertaken any surveys have you had to provide supplementary documentation to the local planning authority

1:08:56

to meet certain conditions? So, condition could be related to construction traffic,

1:09:06

what would be the type of this installation?

1:09:11

What impact would it have on this proposed development

1:09:19

John Bevin on behalf of the applicant. So, as you say we've we've undertaken a suite of pre construction surveys both engineering and environmental there in accordance with those consents I've

referred to. And also, obviously, the requirements in terms of what we need to construct the GSP. In terms of the information that's been submitted to Braintree District Council, and those conditions, the pre commencement conditions, should I say, have now been discharged? That information is in the public domain. And of course, we can provide that if it's useful, but it's worth saying point.

1:10:00

I guess made earlier as they are entirely those management plans are essentially the same as the management plans that we're proposing underneath the CEO. So it's, it's completely consistent with what we would do if we were doing or constructing that project pursuant to the DCO rather than pursuant to the TCPA application, understand,

1:10:21

you just need to be mindful if this particular information passing wrong place for the public today, it probably makes sense for it to be also in the examination vibrato, so that we can consider

1:10:39

so we can certainly make all of that the permission and the application and any information available as Mr. Bevin has made

1:10:51

clear, it's obviously

1:10:54

consistent with with the information now, but I can completely see that you will want to satisfy himself on that and, and okay, thank you understand that.

1:11:05

So,

1:11:07

works started on site for this particular substation, which implies that the contractor has been appointed, and that the contractor has probably provided you with a contractor schedule for this element and work this Yeah, what again, what impact would that have on the environmental statement? And is there a need to update the

1:11:34

construction show you.

1:11:38

John Berlin, on behalf the applicant, um, I'll probably pass over to Miss White to discuss the AIA point in a moment.

1:11:50

Then in terms of starting works on

1:11:54

site, yes, we have appointed two main works contractor, those are obviously the ones that are undertaking those early enabling works.

1:12:04

They the the the schedule, the programme that they've provided is in accordance with these your application or and our expectations around that. Clearly, you know, the detailed programme Beneath that is, is moving and obviously has to reflect conditions on site. But as we understand it is consistent with what our expectations were as we prepared the obligation.

1:12:28

Yeah, that's I'll pass over to Miss White discuss the EIA point if that's okay. Carol White on behalf of the applicants, that the environmental statement has assessed two different construction schedules. And these are presented within appendix 4.2 construction schedule a PP. 091. There is the baseline construction schedule, which was the applicants preferred construction schedule, which had the grid supply points substation being constructed in advance of the DCO. And that's shown as a route that would be undertaken as part of the Town and Country Planning Act route. There is the alternative scenario, which is if it was done pursuant to the development consent order. So both scenarios have been assessed within the environmental statement.

1:13:17

Thank you for that overview. We have it this particular matter in further detail later on in the agenda. So for the time being, I suggest we just pack it and leave my colleague here

1:13:32

as a question to that. Yeah, just my clarification really I met Mr. To recon along. Mr. Burns helpfully outlined the other consensus unnecessary, and the scope of works which can now be implemented under the Town and Country Planning Act consent.

1:13:49

Can you give us an indication, given the consent you already have we are currently seeking outside of the development centre, does that give you a fully functional grid supply point? substation.

1:14:05

Jonathan, on behalf of the applicant,

1:14:08

and so those consents are all the consents we currently require. Obviously, at the moment, we've got those that were required to commence the construction of that. It's probably worth just slightly taking a step back to the point, obviously, that we were preparing the application and submitted the DCO. It was a lot earlier in the development of that back and there were a lot more uncertainties and perhaps there are not saying all those uncertainties are resolved at this stage. But certainly, in terms of we we've acquired the main land, for example, we've got a voluntary agreement and we now own that land. So

clearly, that gives us certainty of delivery to certain extent. We've secured the consents, which again gives certainty and we've obviously commenced development so again, the the level of confidence in delivering it

1:15:00

It has increased quite substantially since the point we were we're drafting the application. So it's probably important to note that and obviously will reflect you in the examination, I'm sure on how much confidence we do have in that the ability to deliver that really essential element of the DCO. So I think it's quite important to kind of note where we were when we made the application and where we are today. And I'm sure we will reflect on the position we're at.

1:15:30

So it's, in a sense,

1:15:35

the point that comes up under agenda item seven, where in effect, you say, Well, if you've got the planning permission, why have you got this in the order?

1:15:45

And the short answer to that, in a sense is certainty at this stage. This is absolutely critical, absolutely critical to the timeline, we must be able to deliver this GSP otherwise, a, there is no scheme, and B, we can't proceed. And therefore, at the moment until we have

1:16:11

certainty that we have got everything that we will need.

1:16:15

My clear advice to the client is you don't take it out. But would that change? Could that change in the future as we move forward? And we're absolutely certain we've got all existing consensus? Yes, at that point, we would reflect on whether it was still necessary to retain these works or whether some other mechanism could be introduced.

1:16:43

But we have not got to that stage yet.

1:16:47

You could ask this will come up much later, when we come to compulsory acquisition, I'm sure we'll have a hearing as such, but will you still be relying on the development consent order as drafted to deliver any of the language required?

1:17:00

We currently have as Mr. Bevin has

1:17:06

described,

1:17:10

purchase the main site there, I think, small elements of land as Mr. Bevin explained where we would then be hoping to reach voluntary agreements, I think things like

1:17:24

access, as you will be familiar in this order, as in many, many other orders.

1:17:32

DCO is often include land which is in the applicant or the promoters, ownership in order to what we lawyers sort of cleaning title. In other words, you've bought the land, you think this is your land, and suddenly someone appears who says, Oh, actually, I've got a right of way right across the middle of it, you can't build this anymore.

1:17:56

Therefore, in terms of the specific question, so that you ask,

1:18:03

again,

1:18:05

being cautious, it is quite possible that we would want to retain the ability to clear title in case there was any risk of someone coming up

1:18:16

claiming Title I mean, they might not even have title but claiming title that we would have absolute certainty which multimillion pound project is in in important I hope that kind of gives you a

1:18:29

an answer to your question. Yes, thank you Miss tempers and just one final thing

1:18:35

there is a potential scenario you go ahead complete these works construction under the Town and Country planning consent, but the sector state decides not to issue the develop consent order what would be the function of the substation would it be functional and would it still have a role?

1:18:53

So I I

1:18:56

clearly it could

1:19:00

have a role and National Grid obviously accepts that there is that risk that the development consent order is not made.

1:19:11

So the technical side of the hat and the function and what punch can then do that to the Mr. Bevin or Mr. field and to explain to you

1:19:24

John Bevan on behalf of the applicant.

1:19:29

So,

1:19:31

as Mr. Humphries has said, have a say we're aware of that possibility and

1:19:37

that this is clearly commercial considerations for national grid around around that, but in terms of our kind of position on it, I think given

1:19:47

given the need for it, and overwhelming policy support for transmission reinforcement and the need to connect those sources, I think we envisage that even should this this application

1:20:00

For us be refused that some element of reinforcement of the network is going to be required, possibly in a different form. But I think our position is that there will be a requirement for reinforcement in this part of the network. In terms of the GSP itself, I don't think we currently, this is a scenario where it would be removed because it would have wider system benefits of given the transition to net zero in an increasing use of electricity and increasing demand that I can't see a scenario where you wouldn't want additional connections into the transmission network, given what we're seeing across the network, and more generally, but clearly, we would have to review the reasons for any refusal and consider our next steps if that was

1:20:50

the outcome. And finally, finally, is there any condition or on the Town and Country Planning Act consent, which would consider is that scenario?

1:21:01

So far as I'm aware, no. Okay.

1:21:06

But as Mr. Bourbon has said,

1:21:09
if this DCO

1:21:11
was not made,

1:21:13
that doesn't change or remove the need to undertake a reinforcement between ground and foot and to instant tea that remains and under our duties, we would have to continue to resolve that particular issue.

1:21:30
Thank you. Unfreeze. Can I check to see if the Braintree District Council have got any further comments to make on this particular point?

1:21:40
I've Matthew Ward, Braintree Student Council.

1:21:45
I think not particularly on the grid supply point itself.

1:21:50
I didn't I wasn't the case, obviously, the application but I was heavily involved with the assessment of the application. Given my obviously involvement with this project, the DCO. I think what I would say is, is that there was a lot of

1:22:08
commitment made by the applicant

1:22:11
at the time to mitigate the impacts of the substation as far as possible, predominantly from a sort of landscape point of view. So

1:22:21
yeah, it went through the Braintree District Council planning committee and variations Well, recently, which I believe the changes were for operational efficiencies from the main contractor.

1:22:33
So yeah, I don't really have anything further to add on that. One thing I would just bring to your attention, which I've never noticed, we are brought to PDA 002 earlier, which is the as big as figure 3.4, specifically sheet four, which is page 18. of that document, just a general point, but it shows that

1:23:01
bigger shows a 400 kilovolt line below the

1:23:07

the 400 kilovolt line which goes through bottlers road and road Greatwood, where the GSP would be the grid supply point. But actually would actually side I understand it'd be a 132 kilovolt line. And that is shown in the general arrangement plan, which is a PP dash 018

1:23:26

sheet 23 which is page 26 as one free T line. And the reason I mentioned it is because that's that is the section going back towards the towards the T which is what we were talking about earlier about the removal or not. So just to flag that as an inconsistency to be resolved unless I'm mistaken.

1:23:48

Thank you, that's very helpful. What I suggest we do on that is that we just take it off line and just check that and we can probably resolve that I I don't believe there's an error there but clearly we need to just resolve that belay you know

1:24:12

in doing Sam's temporary temperatures, can we if there is any area which is identified, can we identify any impact on the assessment as part of that? Also cancer again

1:24:27

I think we'll take this opportunity before we go on to the next agenda item which is when it's a deviation for us to have a 10 minute comfort break