

Hynet_6 June_ISH1_PT1

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FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:05:26 - 00:00:34:16

So good morning, everybody, and welcome a. It is now 10:00 and the time for this meeting for the high net carbon dioxide pipeline national infrastructure project To begin, I would like to welcome you all to this issue specific hearing regarding the environmental matters which is now open before the examination, before the Examiner authority introduced itself, I would just like to deal with a few preliminary matters. This would be a good time to switch off mobile phones or at least put them onto silent, please.

00:00:36:13 - 00:00:44:09

That. Can the case team confirm that you can hear me? And the meeting recording and the live streaming of this event has started. Please. Thank you.

00:00:46:03 - 00:01:02:09

Can everybody in the room hear what I'm saying? Good. Everybody's nodding. Thank you. No requests have been made for any special measures or arrangements to enable participation in this hearing today. But can I just confirm that this is correct? Is there anybody needs special arrangements?

00:01:04:00 - 00:01:36:10

Thank you. No indication at all. Thank you very much. In the event of a fire alarm sounding today, the fire exits are through the doors here. You turn left and you proceed out into the car park. There is a green area on the car park. I'm advised that we gather on the green area and in the car park itself. But be careful if you're in the car park, obviously. Um, there aren't any pre-programmed fire alarms or drills today, so if you do hear the fire alarm, it is the real thing and we have to leave.

00:01:36:12 - 00:02:10:02

Okay. Toilets are located out of this door to the left, and they're immediately on your left if anybody needs them. So on to introductions. My name is Christopher Butler. I was appointed on the 17th of January 2023 under Section 65 of the Planning Act 2008. Under delegation from the Secretary of State to be lead panel member for this examination. I am a chartered member of the Royal Town Planning Institute and am have academic qualifications in town and country planning.

00:02:10:09 - 00:02:23:12

I've made a declaration of interest responding to the planning inspectorate's conflict of interest policy and I can confirm that I have no declared interest in relation to this appointment. I am now going to ask my fellow panel member to introduce himself. Please.

00:02:24:25 - 00:02:59:00

Baradar. Good morning. My name is Matthew Shrigley and I was also appointed on the 17th of January 2023 as a panel member to examine this application under Section 65 of the Planning Act 2008, as amended, and a delegation from the Secretary of State. I'm a town planner and a full chartered member of the Rural Town Planning Institute. I've made a declaration of interests

responding to the planning inspectorate's conflict of interest policy and can confirm I have no declared interests in relation to this appointment.

00:02:59:04 - 00:02:59:19

Thank you.

00:03:00:13 - 00:03:30:20

Together, we constitute the examining authority for this application and we will be reporting to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net-zero with a recommendation as to whether the development consent order should be made. Also present today are members of the Planning Inspectorate's case team working with Mr. Shrigley and Eye on this national infrastructure project. At this event, we are joined by Kevin Jones, the operations Manager for the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Energy Team, and he is leading the Inspectorate's case team here today for this national infrastructure application.

00:03:31:02 - 00:04:03:17

He is accompanied by Lily Robbins, a case manager. Additionally, we have Phoebe and or Challis Apologies and Caroline Hopewell, who are working in the Planning Inspectorate's Operations Group two and providing online support for the virtual aspects of this blended event. Technicians from CVS are in attendance today, but they are solely here for the purposes of managing the audio and visual services, including the recording and the live streaming of this meeting. In addition, we have a translator available from Simon's translations.

00:04:03:23 - 00:04:33:24

That's Catherine Gilkes and she is intended attending for the purposes of translation from Welsh to English. I would also add that other colleagues from the Planning Inspectorate may be joining the preliminary meeting as observers to as part of the planning Inspectorate's commitment to continuing professional development. If you have any questions or concerns about today's events, please speak to a member of the case team who are here today. They're back in the back corner over there. Um, on your left or my left.

00:04:34:19 - 00:04:35:04

Um.

00:04:36:25 - 00:05:10:20

Uh, or if you're dealing if you're joining us virtually, if you can speak to a member of the virtual case team, if you're attending online, that's the end of the team introductions from our end. I'm now turning to attendees today. Firstly, want to acknowledge that and welcome all those who are attending today, including those watching the live stream. Welcome and thank you for joining us. I would like to start with introductions from attendees. When I read out the name of the team, all members of that team present in person, please introduce yourselves one by one, followed by introductions from the virtual attendees.

00:05:10:22 - 00:05:51:00

From that team. I'm intending to use the following running order, which is the applicant. Chester Western Chester Council Flintshire County Council, the Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales. That's all of the notifications that we've had of people wishing to speak today and are in attendance, um, for people they have written withdrawing from attending today's hearing, but they've advised that they reserve their right to attend subsequent hearings and make subsequent representations in terms of other interested parties will invite invite those present who wish to speak, to identify themselves and to indicate which agenda items they intend to speak on.

00:05:51:02 - 00:05:57:03

After I've dealt with the main introductions. So can I start with the applicant's case team, please?

00:05:57:26 - 00:06:28:20

Good morning, sir. My name is Julian Boswell. Boswell at Burgess Salmon Solicitors. We are representing the applicant. I'm going to ask the other members of our team who will be speaking today who are sitting to my right to introduce themselves. You can see that there are various other team members sitting behind. It's there's a small possibility that 1 or 2 of them might come forward, but we think it's more sensible for them to introduce themselves at that time. And I can confirm that we don't believe that there are any members of our team logged in virtually.

00:06:29:01 - 00:06:36:27

Okay. Thank you. Mr. Boswell So if they can do that when if they need to speak, but your main case team, if they can introduce themselves. Thank you.

00:06:39:04 - 00:06:42:18

Good morning sir. Paul Simon, solicitors for the applicant.

00:06:43:27 - 00:06:47:15

Sorry. Can you say that again? Because you were very quiet and speaking to the mic, please.

00:06:47:17 - 00:06:52:09

Certainly apologies. Paula McGee from Burgess Simon Solicitors for the Applicant.

00:06:52:12 - 00:06:53:02

Thank you.

00:06:56:05 - 00:07:00:14

Come on in, sir. James Glass. And on behalf of the applicant. Thank you.

00:07:03:04 - 00:07:08:22

Good morning, sir. Mark Thomas, the environmental coordinator from. On behalf of the applicant.

00:07:10:28 - 00:07:15:12

Good morning, Sir. David Chatterton, Ecology lead from WSP. On behalf of the applicant.

00:07:17:21 - 00:07:22:09

Okay. Thank you for that. Then moving on to Chester West and Chester Council, please.

00:07:23:04 - 00:07:31:14

Michelle Spark, acting for Cheshire West, Am a partner at Brothers LLP, and I'll leave the team to introduce themselves.

00:07:33:12 - 00:07:37:09

Morning. I'm Laura Hughes, biodiversity officer for Cheshire West and Chester Council.

00:07:39:11 - 00:07:42:26

Good morning, sir. I'm Ben Greenwood. I'm a senior planning officer at Cheshire West and Chester.

00:07:44:21 - 00:07:45:13

Thank you.

00:07:48:19 - 00:07:51:19

Okay. Can I move on to Flintshire County Council, please?

00:07:53:19 - 00:08:24:08

That's it. My name is Hannah Parrish. I'm a planning manager at Flint on behalf of Flintshire County Council and a planning lead on the project. And I'll introduce my colleagues to my right. We have got two colleagues on on We'll be joining later for item five, Hilary Williams and Ian Manderson. And we also have Neil Parry that will be joining for item five, which believes after the lunch break and he's our drainage officer, but I'll get my team to introduce themselves now. Thank you. Thank you.

00:08:25:27 - 00:08:29:17

Susan Cordner. I'm a solicitor in the legal team at Flintshire County Council.

00:08:34:03 - 00:08:36:19

Good morning. I'm Stuart Boddy, Forestry Officer.

00:08:41:18 - 00:08:45:24

Good morning, sir. I'm Amanda Davis, the ecologist.

00:08:50:16 - 00:09:14:06

At what we do with your drainage colleagues will get them to introduce themselves when they when they attend after the lunchtime break, which I believe we're intending to break about 1:15, 1:00, 1:15 ish, and then resume an hour later whenever we break so we can get them to introduce themselves then. Thank you. Can I get the Environment Agency to introduce themselves, please?

00:09:16:22 - 00:09:18:29

Good morning, sir. I'm Emory McLaughlin.

00:09:19:01 - 00:09:32:03

I'm the planning lead at the Environment Agency and I'm joined virtually by my colleagues. I guess I will pass on to, in the first instance, Lee Beveridge to introduce himself and then follow on from there.

00:09:33:18 - 00:09:34:12

Good morning, sir.

00:09:34:14 - 00:09:35:15

My name is Lee Beverage.

00:09:35:17 - 00:09:38:10

I'm a groundwater contaminated land technical specialist.

00:09:44:27 - 00:09:49:14

Good morning, sir. I'm Joanne Barrett. I'm the solicitor for the Environment Agency.

00:09:55:15 - 00:09:59:06

Good morning, sir. I'm Steven Lee. I'm a technical officer in the groundwater contaminated lands.

00:10:01:16 - 00:10:02:08

Give me my mind.

00:10:05:26 - 00:10:06:13

Thank you.

00:10:08:14 - 00:10:12:15

Good morning, sir. Duncan Raval, biodiversity technical leader at the Environment Agency.

00:10:17:12 - 00:10:22:21

Okay. Is that everybody from the Environment Agency, please. Just to confirm.

00:10:22:28 - 00:10:23:28

Yes, it is.

00:10:24:04 - 00:10:33:14

Okay. Thank you very much. And then also joining us from Natural Resources Wales. I believe you are joining from virtually as well. So could you introduce yourselves, please?

00:10:36:24 - 00:11:00:18

Good morning, sir. Justin Amos, barrister joining from Natural Resources Wales also present virtually are. Officers who I'll pass over to in turn. But Stefan Leroy. Sophie Lucas. Chris Hughes and Helen Milbank.

00:11:05:12 - 00:11:09:11

If ask Mr. Leroy to introduce himself. Firstly. Thank you.

00:11:11:15 - 00:11:20:16

Good morning, sir. My name is Stephan Leroy. I'm the lead specialist advisor in Hydrogeology for Natural Resources Wales. Thank you.

00:11:24:22 - 00:11:30:05

Good morning. I'm Sophie Lucas. I'm a surface water hydrologist for Natural Resources Wales.

00:11:32:07 - 00:11:32:24

Thank you.

00:11:35:12 - 00:11:39:22

Morning. Chris Hughes, Senior Advisor, Development and Flood Risk for Natural Resources Wales.

00:11:46:17 - 00:11:52:23

Good morning. Helen Miliband, Senior Officer advising on Water Framework Directive Regulations for Natural Resources Wales.

00:11:54:24 - 00:12:04:13

Thank you very much for that. Um, is there anybody else from Natural Resources? Well, that's it. I believe so. Okay. So moving on in that case.

00:12:06:08 - 00:12:15:27

Sorry. So there is another officer. My mission. The case Officer Chris Jones. Forgive me. That was an error on my part.

00:12:16:01 - 00:12:19:17

No, that's okay. Mr. Jones, do you want to introduce yourself?

00:12:20:27 - 00:12:25:04

Good morning, sir. Chris Jones. Planning Adviser for Natural Resources Wales.

00:12:26:14 - 00:12:40:06

Welcome. Right. We'll move on then. In that case, to any other interested parties either in the room or joining us virtually who would wish to speak during this hearing? If there's anybody in the room, can you indicate with a hand, please?

00:12:42:01 - 00:12:50:11

I have no indications in virtually if you'd like to switch your camera on and I'll put your virtual hand up in teams.

00:12:54:17 - 00:12:58:19

I'm getting no indication, so I'm going to move on. Thank you very much.

00:13:03:04 - 00:13:04:01

Sorry. Bear with me.

00:13:13:10 - 00:13:48:13

Right. So I'm now moving on to agenda item two. Having done introductions. Sent out the procedure for the running of today's hearing. Firstly, I would like to address the matter of language. We do recognise that this is a national infrastructure submission that is cross-border development proposals for affecting both Wales and England. As such, we aim to make this meeting and any subsequent as open and inclusive as possible. We have translation facilities available at this meeting and they will also be available at subsequent hearings.

00:13:48:16 - 00:13:55:00

In terms of persons being present at this event, if you wish. The.

00:13:57:04 - 00:14:29:29

Sorry. It's nothing. Again, in terms of persons being at this event in person, if you wish to address the examining authority, a Welsh translator is available here with who will translate from Welsh to English. Those persons attending in person wishing to listen to the translation in English. All you need to do is to switch on the headphones which are provided and listen through them. You wear them with the band under your chin, not over the top of your head. I am instructed, and I don't know why, but that's what I'm told.

00:14:30:05 - 00:15:03:10

Um, with regard to listening translations for translations, virtually, there is a technical issue today with teams this morning, meaning those listening virtually will not be able to hear the translation from Welsh to English. However, the event is being recorded and anything said in Welsh will be caught by the live track track Live Captions as part of the recording, which will be available on the National Infrastructure Project page. We apologise for this and it will be hopefully resolved by tomorrow and the hearings for tomorrow and the following day as well.

00:15:04:17 - 00:15:40:00

You will see from the documents issued by ourselves are being published in both Welsh and English, and this will continue throughout the exam and examination. If somebody does want to speak Welsh in the room today, the operations manager as well as the translation here today. Mr. Mr. Jones also speaks Welsh. The rest of us on the panel will endeavour to pronounce names and places correctly, but I'd like to apologize in advance, especially for myself, with any mistakes we do make. And please feel free to point out any I do make or my colleague makes when we make them.

00:15:40:28 - 00:15:54:12

We welcome contributions in both English and Welsh and would like anyone participate in here today in the room virtually or physically in the room. I would like to ask them if anybody intends to speak in Welsh at all, please.

00:15:57:00 - 00:16:30:17

Again, I'm getting no indication in the room and I've got no indication virtually. Okay. So moving on. Thank you for that. Of course, if anybody changes their mind or if anybody else wishes to speak and address the meeting in Welsh, that's not an issue at all. I just wanted to check so that those of us on the panel who are unable to speak Welsh can be slightly more prepared and. And we won't have to keep you holding up too long. If you do wish to speak in Welsh. In terms of the format of today's hearing, this is a blended event.

00:16:30:22 - 00:16:53:27

It allows attendance in both the physical, in-person attendance and virtual attendance through Microsoft teams. It's expected that both blended and fully virtual events will form part of the planning Inspectorate's future operating model. And you'll see this occurring more and more often go through examinations and hearings and these sorts of events for national infrastructure projects.

00:16:55:21 - 00:17:27:28

We the examining authority that is are attending this meeting from UAL and there are several attendees also present here today. For those attending virtually, please be rest assured that you have our full attention at all times, even if we're not looking at the camera to avoid visual and noise distractions. Please keep your cameras and Microsoft's microphone microphones off unless you are invited to speak. Um, if you're attending virtually or in the room, keep your microphones off until you're invited to speak.

00:17:28:23 - 00:18:01:08

For all those taking part today, especially those watching on the live streaming or listening to the digital recording, you might find it of assistance to have a copy of the agenda open before you. Um, you can either provide get that digitally or you can print a copy off. And the document is available from our project page on the national infrastructure website using the document reference number EV slash or dash 005. If for medical or other reasons, anyone requires a break at a specific time, could you please let the case team know? Um.

00:18:01:10 - 00:18:32:14

We will hopefully be able to readjust the program to meet your needs in terms of timing is generally we will take a 15 minute break at approximately 11:30 a.m., a lunch break at around 1:00, 1:15 p.m., an afternoon break, around 3:45 p.m. and with we will aim to finish at around 5:30. Um, but we will keep this under review once the business as listed on the agenda is concluded. This hearing will close, so it may conclude earlier than 5:30 this afternoon.

00:18:33:21 - 00:19:08:11

The timings are approximate and if you were joining for a particular agenda item, we recommend that you keep in touch with the case team who can tell you if the sessions are running ahead or behind schedule for virtual attendees. If you are deciding if you decide to leave the meeting during the breaks, then rejoin us using the same link that you were provided in the invitation email. If you are watching the live stream then you please need to refresh your browser to resume each subsequent session. Please note that the chat function in teams is not being used today, so please do not send any messages via chat as it's not being monitored.

00:19:08:22 - 00:19:43:02

If at any point in the meeting you can't hear me or you wish wish to speak and ask that you put your hands up or ask for permission to speak at an appropriate time. If you're in the room or if you're attending virtually, can you can we ask you to put your camera on if it's turned off and use your raise

hand function in teams? If you do not have a raised hand function, then please ask the examining authority for permission to speak at an appropriate time. Whether you are here in person or joining virtually, there may sometimes be a delay before we can acknowledge your wish to speak.

00:19:44:03 - 00:20:01:15

The case team will explain to you what to do if you lose connection. If you're joining virtually and I'm able to adjourn for short periods, if interested parties experience more significant problems. If you do lose connection, use the same link that you use to log on this morning and the case team will endeavour to reconnect you as soon as they can.

00:20:04:14 - 00:20:41:18

Should you experience any problems with the live streaming or the digital recording of the event? Um, this will be published on the national infrastructure website as soon as practicable after the event has ended, so you can watch rewatch it from there. I need to talk briefly about data, general data protection regulations and live streaming. I would like to make you aware that this this event is being recorded and live streamed. The digital recordings that we make, our retained and published. They form part of the public record and contain and can contain personal information to which the data protection regulations apply.

00:20:42:12 - 00:21:25:23

The planning Inspectorate's practice is to retain and publish recordings for a period of five years from the Secretary of State's decision on the development consent order. Consequently, if you participate in today's issue specific hearing, it is important that you understand that you will be recorded and therefore are consenting to the retention and publication of the digital recording. It is very unlikely that the examination authority will ask you to put sensitive personal information into the public domain. Indeed, we would encourage you not to do that. However, if for some reason you feel it necessary to refer to any sensitive personal information, we would encourage you to speak to the case team in the first instance, and we will then explore with you whether or not the information can be provided in a written format which might be redacted before being published.

00:21:26:13 - 00:21:40:21

Please bear in mind that the only official recording of this proceeding is the digital recording that we placed on the project page of the national Infrastructure website. Tweets, blogs and similar communications arising out of the meeting will not be accepted as evidence into the examination.

00:21:42:21 - 00:22:12:29

The purpose of the hearing is basically to look at the substantive matters of issue specific hearings around environmental matters today. To be clear, we're not intending to discuss all environmental matters today. Some matters will be pursued through rounds of written questions or at future hearings. Today's issue specific hearing is being held at the request of the examining authority wishes to explore a number of issues orally in respect to environmental matters, and would like to remind you that the examination is predominantly a written process.

00:22:13:24 - 00:22:29:16

The examination has already asked a significant number of questions on environmental matters in our written questions. And further more, you will have seen from the examination timetable that the further rounds of written questions are to be produced with the second round of written questions due on the 15th of June.

00:22:31:14 - 00:23:15:10

The purpose of this examination is for the examination examining authority to review the information submitted both by the applicant and also by interested parties and other persons. As a result, we would we would reassure you that we are familiar with the documents that you have sent in. So when answering a question, you do not need to repeat at length something that you have already submitted.

If you want to refer to information already submitted, I would be very grateful if you could please use the appropriate planning inspectorate examination and reference number. Furthermore, could we please ask that for the first time you use an abbreviation or an acronym that you give the full title as they may be people here today or watching the live streaming or listening to the digital recording that may not be familiar with the application or the documents as you are.

00:23:16:04 - 00:23:50:27

Whilst we accept that the majority of discussions will be undertaken by those parties that have requested to speak, this is a public examination and therefore if there is a point where anybody feels they need to write to say something, please raise your hand if you are in the room or if you have joined virtually, please use the raise hand functions in teams or switch on your camera. If it's switched off at the relevant time you wish to contribute. The hearing today will be structured discussion which Mr. Shrigley, my colleague, will be leading based on the agenda that has already been published.

00:23:50:29 - 00:24:23:20

The purpose of this discussion is for us to ask questions and to seek clarification on certain environmental matters to ensure that we have all the information we need to make the report to the Secretary of State. The questions we are going to ask today will be focused on those areas where we need to further information and where we think the issues would benefit from examination orally. We would therefore like to take this opportunity to reassure you that whilst we may not be asking specific questions or covering a particular topic that you were expecting, it is not necessarily that we view this matter as satisfactory.

00:24:23:22 - 00:24:54:27

It merely indicates that we consider that at this time we have all the information that we need on that topic. Finally, we would like to remind everyone that this room is is not an inquiry. And therefore, unless the examination authority has specifically requested or agreed to it, there would be no formal presentation of case or cross-examination as such. Any questions that you may have for the parties present here today virtually or in the room will need to be asked through the examining authority. In terms of conduct of this meeting.

00:24:54:29 - 00:25:43:03

It's been undertaken in accordance with Section 91 and 94 of the Planning Act 2008 and the infrastructure planning examination Rules 2010 Specifically, Rule 14 relates to the procedures at hearings. I would remind you all that Section 94 eight of the Planning Act 2008 allows for the examining authority to refuse to allow representations to be made at this hearing, including representations made in exercise of any entitlement under sections 91 three. If the examining authority considers those representations to be irrelevant, vexatious or frivolous relate to merits of policy set out in a national policy statement, repeat other representations already made in any form or by any person and relate to the compensation for compulsory acquisition of land or an interest in or rights over land.

00:25:43:27 - 00:26:18:05

Turning to the agenda, Rule 14 two of the examination procedurals. These require that at the start of the hearing the examining authority shall identify the matters to be considered at the hearing. As I've already said, an agenda for this hearing was published on the National Infrastructure National Planning Specialist, National Infrastructure Project page on Tuesday 23rd of May 2023. And those are the only matters we are looking to discuss today. We consider the main items for discussion are biodiversity, including biodiversity, net gain and enhancement, habitat connectivity and surveys.

00:26:18:08 - 00:26:51:22

We also consider trees, including the overall ecology and tree mitigation and monitoring to be an issue. And we also consider water environment the Water Framework Directive, flood risk decommissioning, landscaping and design matters to be issues as well as responses to the examining authority's first round of written questions. These are primarily related to community benefits arising

from ecological mitigation that might be proposed. Please note that today's agenda is for guidance only.

00:26:51:24 - 00:27:52:05

We, as the examining authority, may decide to add other issues we consider necessary. As we progress, however, we will endeavour to stick to the agenda as focus and focus our discussions today on that. We will allocate sufficient time to discuss each issue to allow proper consideration of them. Should consideration of the issues take longer than anticipated, it may be necessary to prioritize matters and to defer others to further written questions. It is important that we get the right answers to the questions that we are going to ask. We would reiterate that this is predominantly a written process, and therefore, if you cannot answer the question that you are being asked or you require time to get the information requested, then rather than giving a restricted or potentially incorrect answer, can you please indicate that you will need to respond in writing? We can then defer the response either to an action point to be submitted at deadline for which is Tuesday the 20th of June 2023, or to the next round of written questions or a later point in time.

00:27:53:00 - 00:28:32:26

Um, it is a full and ambitious agenda that we have today, and we would highlight the examining authority may ask questions and or make comments as we go through the various parts of today's events. We will also be noting any actions arising from the hearings as they emerge at the close of the meeting. We may summarise the action points depending on the amount listed. However, if there are too many to list, then we will endeavour to publish any action points arising from today's meeting as soon as reasonably possible after the event is closed. The assumption is that post hearing actions will be expected to be submitted by the next deadline, which sort of mentioned is Tuesday the 20th of June deadline for.

00:28:33:12 - 00:29:13:25

However, I do acknowledge that resourcing constraints may be possible to any party involved and if you feel that you have difficulty in meeting the deadline that is likely to be suggested, then please let us know at the time and then we'll see if we can accommodate a alternative deadline in the hearings action list. Finally, for the purpose of identification, for the benefits of those who may be listening to the digital recording later, could we ask that at every point in which you speak, could you please give your name? And if you are representing an organization or an individual who it is that you are representing? Also, please ensure that you speak loudly and clearly when you make your submissions.

00:29:13:27 - 00:29:22:15

Before we move on to dealing with the items detailed on the agenda, are there any questions at this stage about the procedural side of today's hearings in the agenda?

00:29:26:05 - 00:29:49:22

I've got no indications in the room and I've got no hands up on the screens in front of me from the teams connection. So I'm going to move on to item three. I'm handing over to Mr. Shrigley for items three through to six inclusive. Um, and he's going to take you through the next, next items. Thank you very much, Mr. Strickland.

00:29:50:25 - 00:30:30:00

Thank you for those introductions, Mr. Butler. Um. I'm intending to hopefully address the majority of agenda items. Uh, 3 to 4 in session one and then address, um, items five onwards within session two after lunch. And that's scheduled for around 1 p.m. as a, as a general guide. Um, so the first topic in accordance with the agenda I'd like to look at is the assessment of alternatives and various cross topic issues stemming from that.

00:30:30:26 - 00:31:05:10

Um, to set the scene for the discussion today. I'd like the applicant to firstly give a, an introduction or an overview of the scheme credentials, particularly with respect to its overarching need case tackling climate change and some regard to some assessment of cumulative effects. That information is going to allow any interested party to have a useful summary of what is being considered today.

00:31:05:21 - 00:31:36:23

If they watch the recording. But it will also help with other elements of the discussion as we take those forward. Um, the case team has a couple of plans or images to assess parties just visualizing the pipeline route applied for that's plan drawing EP 007, which is a locational plan and EP 051 Image one, which is page three of the non-technical non-technical summary.

00:31:37:13 - 00:32:08:22

Um, if those could be displayed well, while the applicant is introducing the scheme, that would be helpful. Um. Following the applicants at scheme Overview. Overview comments would like then to move into some discussion of alternatives considered within the yes. So as per the agenda, if the applicant could firstly give a brief overview of the scheme and that that will be a basis to start from.

00:32:11:03 - 00:32:13:09

Thank you, sir. Julian Boswell for the applicant.

00:32:15:02 - 00:32:46:26

We prepared some remarks that are focused on the the agenda item that you've indicated focused on need, tackling climate change, and then touching on cumulative effects at the end. So I'm just going to read this out. The UK has been at the forefront of global moves to tackle climate change over recent decades. We were the first country in the world to introduce emissions reduction legislation through the 2008 Climate Change Act and were the first major economy in the world to legislate a net zero target in 2019.

00:32:47:09 - 00:33:21:27

Against this backdrop of statutory targets. The UK has significantly reduced its emissions. In 2022, emissions were down by 48.7% from 1990 levels, which is a remarkable achievement. The UK has been able to deliver this emissions reduction whilst significantly growing GDP. A breaking of the symbiotic link between wealth creation and emissions growth that has underpinned society since the Industrial Revolution. However, the majority of emissions reductions in the UK have arisen from two key sectors.

00:33:21:29 - 00:34:01:27

First, emissions reductions from power generation have significantly reduced through a comprehensive build out programme of renewables at ever increasing scale and in parallel, the closure of much of the UK's coal generation capacity. Secondly, the UK has continued to industrialise with the closure of many of our energy intensive foundation industries such as steel production. The industry remaining in the UK while having made some reductions in emissions through energy efficiency measures, continues to contribute significantly to the UK's overall emissions.

00:34:02:23 - 00:34:39:00

Reducing industrial emissions of greenhouse gases, primarily carbon dioxide, is now imperative if the UK is to meet carbon budgets. Five, which runs through to 2032 and carbon budget six which runs through to 2037 to meet net zero by 2050. Reducing carbon dioxide emissions from industry is challenging for both technical and commercial reasons. Emissions from industry come from two key sources, namely process emissions and combustion emissions.

00:34:39:15 - 00:35:10:12

Process emissions are those that arise from the basic chemistry of the manufacturing process. Cement is a very good example in cement manufacturing. Even if zero carbon fuel is used, then two thirds of the emissions will still remain, simply due to the chemical process of converting limestone to cement. The only viable method to abate emissions such as these is to deploy carbon capture and storage CCS.

00:35:10:21 - 00:35:15:01

Alternatively, society could move to completely different products.

00:35:17:22 - 00:35:55:05

There is a growth in the use of wood products to replace cement, for example, but this remains nascent and very small compared to the volumes of cement produced globally. The second source of emissions comes from combustion of fuels used in manufacturing processes. For these industries, emissions can be abated by switching to a low carbon fuel such as hydrogen, biomass or low carbon electricity. The commercial challenge is that many major process industries operate in a global market and need to remain internationally competitive.

00:35:55:18 - 00:36:28:19

It is challenging for UK industries to absorb the costs of implementing carbon capture and storage or switching to low carbon hydrogen when international competitors do not face the same costs. As such, implementation of such technologies needs to be underpinned by a robust policy regime. The high net scheme was originated in 2016 to deliver the infrastructure required to decarbonise industry across the north west of England and North Wales.

00:36:29:04 - 00:37:04:05

The region was chosen due to its extensive industrial base. Indeed, the region employs 345,000 people in manufacturing, more than any other region in the UK, and the geological benefits it presents for both carbon dioxide sequestration and hydrogen storage. High net is a large scheme being delivered by multiple parties. This is set out in volume two, Chapter two of the Environmental Statement Document 054.

00:37:04:13 - 00:37:49:04

It is, in essence, two operationally separate but conjoined systems, one for carbon capture and storage, which is the subject of the current application and one for hydrogen. The carbon capture and storage system underpins the wider high net scheme. Without it, the delivery of a regional hydrogen ecosystem will be severely delayed and impaired and impaired if it is possible at all. Since 2016, the project has been developed through various stages of engineering definition, consenting and permitting, in parallel with government developing a comprehensive policy framework.

00:37:50:08 - 00:38:28:27

Carbon capture and storage alongside low carbon storage is front and center of the government's net zero policy. The Net Zero strategy, published in October 2021, sets out clear targets for and hydrogen development, which were further strengthened in the Energy Security strategy issued in April 2022 alongside policy targets. The government has put significant effort into enabling deployment through actions such as the following first development and innovation funding.

00:38:29:18 - 00:39:02:18

Funds such as the Industrial Decarbonisation Challenge, Industrial Energy Transformation Fund, IETF and Net zero Hydrogen Fund Nzdf Government has invested hundreds of millions of pounds into technology and project development. Second, the cluster sequencing cluster sequencing process. Government has run a two year competitive selection process to identify which and hydrogen projects should be built first.

00:39:03:04 - 00:39:34:29

High Net has been successful in these competitions and is now denoted as a track one cluster deep into deployment planning with government. Thirdly, regulatory and legislative structure. Government has developed a comprehensive suite of commercial models which allow projects such as high Net to be investable. These are supported by a network code, which sets the industry framework for commercial arrangements and the energy security bill.

00:39:35:20 - 00:40:13:13

A piece of primary legislation which allows appropriate powers for deployment of and hydrogen. So in conclusion, it is therefore clearly evident that not only is CCS and hydrogen at the forefront of the UK's policy in achieving net zero in hard to abate sectors, but that high net as a project is one of the foremost projects to secure this policy objective. Whilst high Net is a broad and complex suite of interlinked projects, they are all underpinned by this.

00:40:13:29 - 00:40:54:27

The high net CO2 pipeline, which is the cornerstone on which the rest of high net is built. So those are the introductory remarks on on setting the scene more generally for and and hydrogen and high net place and high net carbon dioxide pipeline place in that context in terms of cumulative. I guess all I wanted to, to to do was, was to reference the fact that from our perspective, we have followed what would normally be expected in relation to cumulative effects in, in the way that we have prepared the environmental statement.

00:40:55:06 - 00:41:44:04

Chapter 19 of Volume two is the combined and cumulative effects summary summary chapter. In doing that, we've obviously taken into account the different wider high net projects separate to the carbon dioxide pipeline, but also other projects that are coming forward at the same time in the usual way and following relevant planning inspectorate advice note and and wider EIA guidance, we're happy to assist you in any specific questions that you have got and we're obviously aware of the agenda item coming up shortly in relation to the points raised by PwC.

00:41:44:07 - 00:41:53:03

But in terms of responding to your invitation under item two, bullet one, those were the remarks that we wanted to make.

00:41:54:17 - 00:42:13:17

Thank you. That overview sets the scene in an excellent way. Thank you for that. Um. As per the agenda. I'd like to focus on alternatives and in developing the scheme applied for. Sorry, Mr..

00:42:13:19 - 00:42:32:29

Shrigley, before we go on, can I just ask, can you actually enter that note into the examination as part of the deadline for submissions, please? It would be helpful to have a typed note of that as opposed to just the read out note. I've made some notes, but if we've got the whole text, it would be really helpful. Thank you.

00:42:33:19 - 00:42:36:20

Julian Boswell for the applicant. Yes. Yes, sir. We will do.

00:42:38:26 - 00:43:11:18

Um. So bringing bringing it back to the agenda that sets the scene in a in an excellent way. Thank you for that. We've I'd like to move now to some discussion on alternatives. Um, the case team, uh, has got a plan. Uh, it's up 180 with the route options. In the ass is a is a visual aid. Um, it's quite a good a good visualization.

00:43:11:25 - 00:43:31:16

I'd like to ask the applicants team and perhaps this is you again, Mr. Boswell, who might handle this item? Um, can you take me through the end to end process in terms of an overview of how the preferred route has been chosen?

00:43:32:18 - 00:43:57:00

Julian Boswell for the applicant. Mr. Glass, to my right, has prepared some remarks to address this agenda item. He's on the project and engineering team and then I will leave it to him as to how he references what's on the screen. And then doubtless we can take any any questions that you have. Beyond that, I'll hand over to Mr. Glass.

00:43:58:24 - 00:44:02:03

Thank you and good morning, sir. James Glass. On behalf of the applicant,

00:44:03:23 - 00:44:07:21

let's read the prepared statement on assessment of alternatives with regards

00:44:09:11 - 00:44:23:14

in determining the start and end points for the proposed pipeline. Remember that our ultimate purpose is to enable the transport of carbon dioxide from regional industrial emitters to long term geological storage offshore in Liverpool Bay.

00:44:25:03 - 00:44:41:10

They didn't find. Emitters are located in the vicinity of Ince and Stanley refinery, which formed the start points of our pipeline. The possibility of capturing emissions from Hanson's pads would cement works in North Wales. It was also considered in early stage assessments.

00:44:43:05 - 00:45:00:17

The oil and gas operator any the applicant own and operate existing Liverpool Bay offshore infrastructure and associated onshore facilities, including the point of air terminal and the 52 pipeline that connects point of air to Connah's Quay Power Station in Flint.

00:45:02:07 - 00:45:25:03

In a concept development back in 2016 2017, the project recognized that maximizing the reuse of existing pipeline infrastructure was a significant opportunity to the project, reducing time cost and disruption during construction. The end point for the pipeline was therefore determined to be somewhere along the five two pipeline in the vicinity of Flint. So we have our start point and end point for the pipeline.

00:45:27:15 - 00:46:02:12

Um. Also at this point, we made a decision not to impinge on domestic properties with the powers granted under this process. Which is important when it comes to deciding some of the corridors and routes later on. I'll give you the route pricing then or the routing process. It happened in three stages. Stage one was an assessment of strategic corridors and a selection of a preferred option. Stage two was an assessment of potential routes within the strategic corridor and non-statutory consultation on a shortlist of alternative routes.

00:46:03:13 - 00:46:10:21

Stage three was a selection of a preferred route design development and then taking that forward through statutory consultation into the DCA.

00:46:12:21 - 00:46:27:01

I should note that stage one, the strategic corridors were not defined for the point line between Stanley and Ince, as the distance is insufficiently short to justify that approach. And we could essentially assess the routes at stage two directly.

00:46:29:16 - 00:46:45:13

But I'd like to talk about the findings of stage one, then a core corridor of approximately 13km in length, extending roughly one kilometre into Wales, was identified between Stanley and the A48 Sealand Road.

00:46:46:29 - 00:46:56:17

And on your screen there, you can see that's the the wide, slightly redder color from Stanley heading down to the the southwest.

00:46:58:02 - 00:47:50:16

This core corridor has no significant features that would justify differentiating into separate strategic corridors and so is common to all the corridor options, if you call them that. At stage one from Sealand Road, however, three distinct corridors are identified. That's the northern, central and southern corridors, blue, green and pink respectively, on the screen, avoiding as far as practicable, centers of population and environmental features. These three corridors were then qualitatively assessed with one corridor being considered to have an advantage over another if it was likely to be considered to be closer to emitters requiring less land take likely to avoid adverse environmental outcomes, likely to provide social and economic outcomes of greater benefits, and likely to have a stronger business case through fewer engineering constraints.

00:47:50:18 - 00:47:52:28

So they were the criteria we assess them against.

00:47:54:17 - 00:48:36:23

It was following that quality of assessment that the core so that the red line on that screen there and southern corridors were taken forward into stage two. To be more specific, and we'll talk about the differences between the three corridors. The northern corridor traversing the northern perimeter of the Deeside industrial estate requires a crossing of the river estuary, an ecologically significant area designated as a special special site of special scientific interest, special area of conservation, Ramsar and special protection area to substantially mitigate any impacts that building a pipeline through the estuary would have.

00:48:36:25 - 00:48:54:20

It's likely that a trench loss crossing of approximately two kilometres in length would have been required, which is at or beyond the standard trench less pipelining techniques that you would commonly see seeing. So it presented a a substantial engineering challenge to to mitigate those.

00:48:56:14 - 00:49:32:00

The central corridor avoided the need to cross the wide section of the River Dee by crossing sorry, a wide section of the river estuary by crossing the river Dee in a cannibalised section slightly further to the east. However, in routing along the western bank of the River Dee, the strategic corridor was obviously constrained by existing infrastructure, namely the high voltage overhead lines that connect Connah's Quay Power Station to the grid and that run parallel along the River Dee and what would have been large sections of the strategic corridor and the pipeline in it.

00:49:32:27 - 00:49:45:13

These high voltage overhead lines present both a significant construction hazard, but also a long term corrosion risk through interference. Reasonably technical point, but building in parallel with high voltage overhead lines is.

00:49:47:04 - 00:50:13:21

It imposes a significant risks. The southern corridor then offered the greatest opportunity to connect other CO2 emitters, thereby achieving greater carbon dioxide emission reductions from the region. And that's the page wood cement plant that I referred to earlier. It offered a greater likelihood of being the least complex and therefore the safest to construct on account of having fewer complex crossings and interactions with high voltage overhead lines.

00:50:15:19 - 00:50:31:13

Another offered less likelihood on me. Less likelihood of having a direct impact on sites of international and national environmental designations. And it was likely to present the most cost effective solution based on the fact that it be the least complex.

00:50:32:29 - 00:51:04:12

So. Having looked at those. Then we took forward the core and southern corridor into stage two and the routing assessments from there. So having selected the core and southern strategic corridors, multiple route options were then assessed within them based on similar environmental, social and economic criteria. These are all assessed against one another, but at a much more granular level. The two favoured routes, which are routes I and G shown on the drawing you have in front of.

00:51:04:14 - 00:51:23:14

You, were then presented to the public during a non-statutory consultation period between June and July 2021. Following feedback from the consultation period and further consideration of engineering complexities. Root was taken forward to stage three and a statutory consultation and into the DCA.

00:51:25:18 - 00:51:42:24

Again, being specific route provides a less complex crossing the river due to increased availability of space, and it avoided conflicts with water treatment works at Queensferry and the reduced potential for interaction with the then proposed a49 for Aston Expressway expansion.

00:51:44:17 - 00:52:18:20

For the insta standalone pipeline. There are three routes presented to northern route. Southern Route A and southern Route B and we took forward Southern Route A into southern Route B had a number of additional motorway crossings that would have increased the complexity of that route. And southern route had similar, albeit at a smaller scale, interactions with high voltage overhead lines sort of adjacent to the Stanley refinery site. It also took us a lot closer to some of the ecologically designated sites as you get towards the Ship canal the north of there.

00:52:18:22 - 00:52:22:09

So southern route was selected as a preferred option from those.

00:52:26:10 - 00:52:46:02

Phase three, Then having selected a preferred route option, we took forward a nominal 100 meter limit of deviation along the route into statutory consultation and the submission. This limit of deviation recognises the level of design maturity and allows us to microsite the pipeline during detailed design stage with the contractor at a later date.

00:52:47:24 - 00:53:06:00

That said, further engineering design development, along with engagement with landowners, affected parties, utility companies and statutory bodies, has been ongoing and it's resulted in a number of small localised routing changes since statutory consultation, and these are reflected in the change requests that are filtered into the process.

00:53:07:20 - 00:53:24:02

We do on a slightly more personal date. We do take some comfort, however, and there's been little to no macro scale challenge of the routing or the routing process so far, and we're confident that our process has given rise to a suitably robust pipeline route, having given due consideration to the alternatives. Thank you.

00:53:25:00 - 00:53:54:10

Thank you, Mr. Glass. Um, for the for the benefit of any unrepresented party, um, it is normal in any yes to include a do nothing option. And I realize the the applicant has made submissions on that. Um. For the avoidance of any doubt could the applicant can clarify why they do nothing. Option is not a real realistic option.

00:53:56:07 - 00:54:01:23

In its view, it has done it in the past, but a short summary would be fine. It's.

00:54:02:24 - 00:54:36:16

Yes. Thank you, sir. James Arthur Applicant. Um. When moving large volumes of a compressible fluid over a long distance carbon dioxide, the most efficient way to do that at scale is in a pipeline. Pipelines are the standard way of moving everything from natural gas to to water and oil, etcetera, and the sort of scale of CO2 emissions that we're looking to capture from these sites and the volumes that we are talking about to make a significant reduction to regional industrial emissions. Basically requiring a pipeline is the only practical solution to to do it.

00:54:36:18 - 00:54:38:21

So without the pipeline, there's no project.

00:54:39:05 - 00:55:14:11

And picking up on the pace of innovation, which is sometimes an unknown quantity. Carbon capture and storage is obviously subject to advancements in technology and accepting that there is going to be technological advancement and novel ideas coming through presently in industry. Um, would nature based carbon capture storage solutions in any regard, in your view, be enough to address the need case elements you've you've already outlined?

00:55:30:08 - 00:55:31:13

I can take a.

00:55:32:13 - 00:55:35:25

Julian Boswell for the applicant. Mean the short answer is is that.

00:55:37:18 - 00:56:13:02

On on the question of scale, it would it simply couldn't deliver anything on the scale that's required here. And this is only part of a wider set of clusters that you may be aware of and a wider set of industrial carbon capture proposals. So think in terms of if you're sort of ticking off a list of things that you have to rule out, as it were, or be seen to have ruled out, then I think you can very comfortably rule out the kind of approach that you've indicated there. And in terms of do nothing, obviously we've said what we've said in our submissions, but again.

00:56:14:24 - 00:56:41:14

The whole purpose of government policy, as outlined before, is very much to do not only something, but a lot of something in a hurry. And therefore, we would argue that this project is, as each year goes by, the need for this project is becoming clearer and clearer, but also the shape of this project, the clarity of that design and the success embed embedded in that is becoming clearer and clearer.

00:56:43:03 - 00:56:44:06
Understood.

00:56:46:18 - 00:57:29:01

I'm moving to, um. Well, to the topic of alternatives now. And there has been the alternatives you've described. Considered in the. Yes. With those in minds. There has been a representation from a mr. Stephen Gibbons. It's think it's document 064. Is this relevant to mention that because the representation has made submissions regarding the possibility of a short and a much shorter, albeit discounted route, which I think is roughly north of the Deeside Industrial Park?

00:57:30:15 - 00:57:31:01
Um.

00:57:32:04 - 00:57:42:07

I think the case team may have a, um, a visual of the, the route, the old, the discounted route I'm referring to, um.

00:57:46:23 - 00:57:59:03

I think. Yes, you can see it on the screen there. Um, good. Could the applicant take me through, uh, some of the reasons it's discounted the route referred to by Mr. Gibbons?

00:58:01:10 - 00:58:32:17

James Glass on behalf of the applicant. Yes, I can say referring to my previous statements, the yellow line is the route that was discounted broadly follows the northern corridor that I described in the strategic corridors at stage one and the crossing of the River Dee Estuary is a significant ecological and environmental barrier to pipeline development. Our northern corridor assessed a slightly different landing point for that for the pipeline that's shown here.

00:58:32:19 - 00:59:05:11

One of the comments made by the gentleman that made that submission referred to things like taking the pipeline across an existing bridge that's there. And where it's fair to say that there are a number of pipelines around the UK that are attached to bridges. These normally predate the privatisation of, say, the gas industry. And so at that time the bridge and the gas pipeline were both owned by government and it was practical and reasonable and achievable to co-locate those sort of assets.

00:59:05:18 - 00:59:19:14

These days, essentially it's not our bridge. We wouldn't be able to hang our pipeline off the side of it. And so. So then it goes back to those considerations of the northern corridor and the treacherous crossing of the river, the estuary that referred to earlier.

00:59:20:07 - 00:59:50:09

And I understand those technical points you've just raised, but I would like to just stick with this a little bit longer for now. Was any assessment ever made as to, um, say, would there be a greater or lesser impact on going through either an English administrative area or Welsh administrative area, or is it largely the technical issues you're citing that that form part of the applicant's rationale?

00:59:52:21 - 01:00:24:18

Yeah. James last on behalf of the applicant. So the the bigger spaces is the technical and environmental side to that we haven't. Either way you would have ended up with pipeline and a that that entered the Welsh administration area. So so we'd be in Wales we'd be dealing with Welsh parties regardless. So that wasn't really a factor in deciding the route. And you know, the gentleman that's made the submission is right in saying it's a shorter route. It's one of the reasons why we assessed it in our strategic corridors is because it's a more direct route to where we need to get to.

01:00:25:05 - 01:00:31:03

But the technical challenges of actually doing it were sort of insurmountable at that stage. Thanks.

01:00:32:09 - 01:00:41:27

Understood. In terms of the high level project evaluation you've taken me through just now, um.

01:00:43:25 - 01:01:02:15

Are there specific surveys undertaken or to inform these viewpoints, or is it just judgments, assessments, decision making actually being reflected in the in the US? Or do you have other assessments or surveys underpinning those?

01:01:04:04 - 01:01:36:00

James Last, on behalf of the applicant. It depends on at what stage we've done selected various strategic corridors or routes. The earlier stages we go more off sort of aerial imagery. It's a largely desktop based exercise and publicly available information, such as some information that's out there about utility routing, etcetera, as well as designated sites. You can find those quite easily and. In terms of surveys on sites, things like ground investigation or otherwise.

01:01:36:12 - 01:02:02:28

And it is not practicable to go into the level of detail that we have gone into for the environmental statement for every route and every corridor. Essentially, the time and cost associated with that is prohibitive and it would prevent the development of a project. So the high level assessments were done at a high level. And then as we got closer and closer to a defined route, we've done more and more surveys down and more granular and site specific level. Thank you.

01:02:03:16 - 01:02:31:20

Thank you. That clarifies. And in terms of the engineering and geological issues that you've referred to and those relate to desktop assessments, I gather, based on what you're telling me, um. All the engineering and geological issues for a shorter route. Insurmountable problems, in your view? And if so, how and why are they insurmountable issues?

01:02:33:04 - 01:03:05:03

Yeah. So James Glass and a half the applicants. Um, in terms of insurmountable everything, I'd be cavalier. Everything's relative. It is entirely possible to to tunnel underneath, you know, a very long distance and do that. You know, we've, we've built the Channel tunnel, we've built cross sort of London pipelines etcetera. And what changes is the scale of complexity in the scale of sort of projects, requirements that you end up looking at and they've become prohibitively essentially expensive.

01:03:05:10 - 01:03:42:10

We're we're treating the pipeline as business as usual. There are, um, there's a long history of pipeline development within the UK. It's been going for a couple of hundred years and there are norms and practices and techniques that are available and well known to two industry, and it's pretty common across the globe as to what they are and within the we're quite cautious around ecological sites. So, so we don't um, for example, open across these sort of ecologically sensitive estuaries that we might have done 30 or 40 years ago because environmental legislation has moved on.

01:03:42:12 - 01:04:15:17

So with those techniques in mind, there are limits. We go on to how we believe would have had to cross the estuary, which is with a trench less installation, essentially a form of tunneling. There are a number available to pipelining contractors. You can go, um, horizontal directional drilling, which is essentially drill a hollow tube from one side of the crossing to the other, and then you pull a fully

formed pipeline through that hollow tube. And they're well known for long distances, but with a wider diameter pipeline.

01:04:15:19 - 01:04:51:02

And our pipeline is 36in in diameter, it is quite large scale for the context. And the larger you go, the more risk you have of those FDs collapsing and with a sort of riverine geology that maybe mix of sands and silts and clays that you're going to get changing sort of conditions across that crossing. And by inspection, you can tell that a trench was crossing using across there would be complex and hold a lot of risk that we couldn't quantify until a much later stage.

01:04:51:04 - 01:05:14:15

So it would be a risk we could carry forward through development. Other techniques are available. Micro tunnelling would be the most common after sort of long ecologically sensitive routes. And again, they're limited by size and length. And when you start getting up to the kilometers that they're not practical. So you end up moving non facetiously into full sized tunnels, which are just outside the scale of the project.

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Understood.

01:05:15:21 - 01:05:16:16

That clarifies.

01:05:19:13 - 01:05:23:20

The tunnelling that you're describing, and it is in the applicant submissions.

01:05:25:26 - 01:05:43:21

It's cited as it would be quite a deep level of tunnelling needed if the discounted route was undertaken. Is there a rough estimate of what that would be in reality? What kind of depth you would need.

01:05:44:08 - 01:05:58:14

James on behalf of the applicant. We didn't develop the northern corridor to the level where we'd have defined a depth. But again, by inspection it would have been deep because it's a long crossing and there there is a profile. And to that I can tell you the top of my head.

01:05:58:16 - 01:06:12:18

So and what in all of the information you've alluded to, would time and cost and delivery also be a dynamic in the decision making and the judgments forming on route selection?

01:06:13:24 - 01:06:25:12

James Glass and a half. Yes, absolutely. A sense that this has to be an economically viable project to go ahead. And if it's not economically viable, then it won't go ahead and the carbon dioxide won't get stored in the long term. Thank you.

01:06:25:21 - 01:06:39:15

Thank you. And in terms of the there is a power station mentioned as well as an operation operational barrier to the discounted route. I'm not I'm not clear where the power station is.

01:06:40:02 - 01:07:07:15

Okay. So on the screen at the if you look to the left of the yellow pipeline, that is essentially the western edge of Connah's Quay power Station. So where the yellow line stops is the far western extent of Connah's Quay power station. And that extends sort of towards the east and down the river.

It's quite a long facility. It's a peaking gas power plant. It has an awful lot of high voltage overhead infrastructure associated with it. As you expected, the power plant.

01:07:08:02 - 01:07:16:21

And the applicant's submissions are saying that that power station would temporarily need to close. Is that right?

01:07:17:28 - 01:07:38:09

At James Glasper, half the applicant. Not sure on what basis they've made that assessment, but if if so, um, you know, it's not our power plant. We don't have the power to close it down. So again, it's, it's sort of a factor that's outside our control and outside of our ability to overcome with, um. But then what we're doing as project. Thank you.

01:07:40:15 - 01:07:56:21

And. In terms of the decisions made to reduce environmental harm, which the system supports. What has been done to reduce environmental harms in the route selection choices you've referred to?

01:08:00:13 - 01:08:30:14

James last summer, half the applicants. So in terms of the the corridor reasoning selection that we talk about and it's making sure that we are able to build a pipeline through that corridor without undue disturbance to ecological or environmentally sensitive areas. So the northern corridor, I think, mentioned in my opening statements was more or less discounted because we thought it was going to be too difficult to mitigate the impacts on that assessment. So we assessed it as being too problematic from an ecological point of view.

01:08:32:05 - 01:08:32:20

And.

01:08:34:03 - 01:08:59:29

We have undertaken comparative desk based assessments for biodiversity and that's presented within the year to highlight sort of sensitive receptors along the routes and when deciding routine. So sort of stage two routing options, we're able to see those as an account for. Ecological and biodiversity sensitive areas within our routing choices and then down select based on the comparative outcomes of that. Thank you.

01:09:02:15 - 01:09:17:16

And what, for example, the alternatives you've discounted. Um, would there be a way of accurately knowing whether or not they would be more environmentally harmful or not? From the desktop level studies that you've referred to.

01:09:19:04 - 01:09:32:26

Uh, James Glassman? Yep. Yes, we did. Quantitative assessment at stage two of the various route options, and that took into account all of the different environmental factors, cultural heritage, ecology, etcetera, etcetera. Thank you.

01:09:33:27 - 01:09:34:23

Okay. Thank you.

01:09:35:13 - 01:09:44:01

And looking at land ownerships now in mind, as well as a factor in some of the route choices you've made.

01:09:46:04 - 01:10:10:17

Does the applicant agree or disagree? The current scheme has a greater interference on land ownership rights than perhaps alternatives which have been discounted. I mean, there are several alternatives, but I am sticking with the submission by Mr. Gibbons at the moment. If it's an assessment you're not able to give. Then I can defer to written correspondence on that.

01:10:12:00 - 01:10:43:27

Julian Boswell for the applicant. Yes. Mean. It's always the case that a longer route is likely to affect more landowners because they would tend to be more landowners on a longer route. And yes, that is taken into account and was taken into account in a general sense. Um, but. I guess. Logically, as it were, the impact. The same impact is happening on each particular landowner, if you know what I mean.

01:10:43:29 - 01:11:16:26

The fact that a given landowner is either affected or not affected in practice a longer route is yes, it's going to affect more landowners, but it's not going to affect them any more because it is a longer route. Um, we have it may make sense for me to make a broader point, if I may, about the sort of the sort of legal context of making this type of decision because. On a project like this. There isn't a generalized legal obligation to choose the best route

01:11:18:12 - 01:11:31:22

if we don't have the national policy statements applying to us. But the national policy statements, one have a general statement to that effect. As you may know and think that is a general statement that's good for this project as well.

01:11:33:16 - 01:12:05:20

We think for the reasons Mr. Glass has been explaining and we've set out obviously in in in the application and in some of the responses that we've made that we have actually made a good a good choice here. And you're testing us quite rightly on or probing us on different aspects of that on the landowner side of things. Yes. I mean, remember that we. In headline terms, a longer route would typically be a more expensive route. But obviously some of the indications, some of the points Mr.

01:12:05:22 - 01:12:38:04

Glass is making, if you've got a shorter route with with a very expensive element to it, namely trying to get under the tree at a very difficult stage, that might who knows what how that might play out economically. I think with any linear project, the project promoter has an inherent incentive to to find a shorter route. And that would that that was one of our criteria. But then in the end it's always being weighed in the balance against against other factors.

01:12:40:29 - 01:12:56:29

Thank you. That clarifies. And I do have a couple more questions on this. I understand all the points you're making and those are reflected very much in the and the application material. Um.

01:12:58:17 - 01:13:10:25

Is there any other professional advice? Um, that isn't mentioned in the. Yes. Supporting any of these statements and judgments? Or is it all part of the

01:13:12:16 - 01:13:13:14

material?

01:13:38:08 - 01:14:09:03

Julian Boswell for the applicant. We think that the the and the application documentation generally is providing a summary. We're not saying that every supporting bit of, you know, documentation material has been submitted formally into the process because as I'm sure you realize, it's an iterative

process. There would be different things that would be informing some of the things that end up in the documentation. We're not sure if there's something that's specific in your in your mind. But the the.

01:14:09:05 - 01:14:21:23

Yes, I mean, the the documentation. We think we have provided a fair explanation of what we've relied on and that there's nothing other. There's nothing sort of significant that is omitted from that.

01:14:23:13 - 01:14:24:09

At. Thank you.

01:14:28:15 - 01:14:49:10

That completes my questions on alternatives. Will just open it up to other parties. I think it's not necessarily a bone of contention with the two councils being represented, but is there anything else anybody else wants to raise with respect to alternatives for press press on.

01:14:52:21 - 01:15:31:15

Take that as a no. There are people online but can't. No indication. So I've just got a few questions about cumulative impacts. Not that many. We are about, uh, well, just approaching 11:15. Um, so moving on now to cumulative impacts. Um, there's only a small element here from me on this and it might be a good time for a mid-morning break shortly after our complete. Um, there were some comments made by at deadline one concerning the impacts of other developments in the US.

01:15:32:08 - 01:16:06:22

Um, I'd like to acknowledge those. Um, I can see there's a range of developments listed in Rep 160 which is submitted as an appendix by. It's quite an extensive list and there may be more added since the list was compiled. I'm not sure if it is. Um, of that list, there is an application by I think it's pronounced insert glass. Um, and it's one of those noted as yet to be determined.

01:16:07:10 - 01:16:07:25

Um.

01:16:09:15 - 01:16:21:19

I'd just like the council to just explain what the implications in their view are on the route that application has.

01:16:27:05 - 01:16:32:02

Michelle Spark on behalf of Cheshire West, I'll just pass to my colleague Ben Greenwood. Thank you.

01:16:34:12 - 01:17:05:08

At Greenwood, Cheshire West. The application is currently live and currently being determined by the council. It's for an expansion and the boundary or the access or the for the Ince cuts across the site for the expansion of insert and so has the potential to impact upon. And I think it's the storage area or parking area and potentially access routes.

01:17:05:26 - 01:17:13:23

So the council was just raising that as a potential issue needs to be considered as part of the project.

01:17:14:09 - 01:17:20:19

And you're saying it's not yet determined at the moment, or is it as it has it now, been approved or.

01:17:22:01 - 01:17:40:03

Agreeing with Cheshire West is currently being determined and obviously can't give a date when it's actually going to be determined. And I think it's earmarked. It'll be by by planning committee. I would say I would estimate probably within the next couple of months and presumably.

01:17:40:23 - 01:17:53:28

Well, I'd invite the council to make that known when it is actually determined. And just just turning back to you, you would be committed to doing that and informing the examination of such.

01:17:54:20 - 01:17:56:18

Yes, that's correct. Yeah. Yeah, we will do.

01:17:59:18 - 01:18:21:20

And I'd like to quickly pose a similar question to Flintshire County Council, picking up on other developments going on in the area. Is there anything of significance that perhaps requires the applicant to calibrate and its submissions in your view?

01:18:24:15 - 01:18:59:18

Kind of parish lunch County Council. The applicants are aware of the current situation with various developments, which has been. We've been continually engaging with them. Anything that needs to be drawn to attention has been done through our representation, so can't think of anything particular. Um, but we have been making them aware of things that have been arising and understand that the change request one involves one of those particular um, unauthorised development which which you'll be aware of in terms of change request.

01:18:59:20 - 01:19:04:01

But obviously we aren't discussing that yet because that's currently under consultation.

01:19:04:03 - 01:19:04:22

Yes, that's correct.

01:19:04:24 - 01:19:23:22

So but yeah, certainly we are in constant dialogue with the, the, the applicant should anything arise. And similarly, we can we can inform the examining authority should there be anything that causes us concern that could give rise to a conflict with the the development under the development consent order application.

01:19:26:00 - 01:19:26:27

Just grateful.

01:19:26:29 - 01:19:27:14

For that.

01:19:27:16 - 01:20:07:26

Just on a point of clarification for those watching virtually and those in the room present that aren't familiar with the process. Two change requests have been made by the applicant. Both have been accepted by the examining authority, but they are both subject to further consultation at the present time. So it is inappropriate to discuss those change requests in this meeting in any detail. We can briefly mention them. We can briefly sort of say they're likely to do this or whatever, but we can't discuss them any details because obviously we are still collating responses on those specific changes.

01:20:08:08 - 01:20:40:15

They will be subject to a second set of hearings which are currently programmed for the beginning of August. I believe it's week commencing the 7th of August, and further notifications will will go out

notifying all parties of those likely dates. It is a very tight timetable and it's important that the applicant keeps to specific dates so that we can still meet those hearings. So and they are fully aware of what those dates are. Um, but we will be discussing them at a future date.

01:20:40:17 - 01:20:43:24

We're just not discussing them in this meeting because it's inappropriate to do so.

01:20:46:23 - 01:20:49:24

Thank you, Mr. Bartlett. We've got, uh.

01:20:51:28 - 01:21:10:08

A couple of action points there from the councils to update any information that comes forward related to planning applications. That completes all my questions for the first agenda item. Unless there's anything else anybody else would like to raise. Before I move on the applicants team.

01:21:11:29 - 01:21:42:27

But for the applicant, we just wanted to come back quickly on the insert point. We are engaged with them. We are speaking to them and you should have a first draft before you on to 033. That will be updated throughout examination. We are actively working together so that if they do get planning permission, we can align these proposals, particularly as regards with timing. Our DCO would allow us if, for example, they had not started to use the existing access routes that are currently there.

01:21:42:29 - 01:21:50:20

If they come forward first, we are talking to them about how we could make that work practically on the ground and we will update you on that and as well as and when we reach agreement.

01:21:51:20 - 01:21:52:06

Understood.

01:21:52:08 - 01:21:58:09

Thank you. Sorry, can I ask a question of clarification? Are those likely to be subject to any forms of protective provisions at all?

01:22:00:26 - 01:22:10:09

A permit for the applicant at the moment. Our discussion is centering on the land agreement between the parties. That is something that is not yet finally closed out either way, sir.

01:22:10:27 - 01:22:11:12

Okay. Thank you.

01:22:11:14 - 01:22:12:01

Very much.

01:22:13:28 - 01:22:45:24

Um, so all of those elements are going to be captured as an action point. Um. It's 11:22. It's a very good time for a quick refreshment break. So I'm suggesting that we perhaps close for 15 minutes. Um, the substantial amounts of information to get through when we get back on the biodiversity interest side of things. So I'm just looking to make a short adjournment now for 15 minutes.

01:22:45:26 - 01:22:50:29

Time is 1122 and the hearing is adjourned. Thank you.