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00:10

Good morning, everyone. The time is now, just after 10am. And this preliminary meeting, the A 57 Linkwood. Project is open. Thank you all for joining us today. Please could a member of the case team confirm that I can be heard clearly and that the live streaming and recording have started? Paced? Yes. That's great. We can hear you and see you clearly and the livestream they saw as well. Okay, thank you. Just before I start, I understand that one of the parties were expecting to join Haley Simpson, and hasn't been able to yet but the case team are going to try to contact Haley so that she can join us is that correct? Case team? Yes, that's correct. Thank you very much. So to avoid disrupting the meeting today, please could everyone keep your microphone muted and your camera off until I invite you to speak some people have their cameras on at the moment. But if I could encourage you to switch those off, until then, I invite you to speak that'd be very helpful. Thank you. My name is Stuart capital eight and I'm the Lead member of the panel of examining inspectors appointed by the Secretary of State for the application made by highways England for an order granting development consent for the AK 47 link road project was the applicant. Whilst the application was submitted under the name of highways England, the applicants name has since changed to national highways. Rave introduction My professional background is as a chartered Civil and Structural Engineer, leading multidisciplinary consultancy teams on construction projects of all sizes. I previously led an urban regeneration company. This is the fifth nationally significant infrastructure project that I've been appointed to as an examining inspector. I was previously the lead member of the examining authority for the A 38 W junctions project. I was to be joined today by Ian Dyer, who was the other member of the panel. Unfortunately, though, Ian has recently caught COVID and is unable to join us today. And in fact, probably this week. Dean's background is in highways engineering, working mainly in the field of development management, is a fellow of the Chartered Institution of highways and transportation. While this is his first nationally significant infrastructure project, as an examining inspector, has previously worked for the planning Inspectorate as an appeals inspector. Both Ian and I are employed by the planning Inspectorate. As the examining authority, we will hold an examination into this application, and will then write a report to the Secretary of State with a recommendation on whether or not consent should be given. As you'll be aware of case team works alongside us throughout this process. With us today, I'm pleased to have that but Kodiak, who was covering for the case manager Edwin Maudsley. Edwin is also unable to join us today, James Bunton and Max Baldwin. Other case officers are now run through some housekeeping matters. And we'll repeat a couple of things that were covered in the arrangements conference, for those that are watching the live stream or the recording. As I've already mentioned, this event is being both live streamed and recorded. As explained in our letter of the 19th of October 2021. The recordings will be retained and published. These recordings will form the public record, and can contain personal information to which the general data protection regulations apply. The planning inspectorates 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. Therefore, if you participate in today's preliminary meeting, it is important you understand that you will be recorded and that you

therefore consent to the retention and publication of the digital recording. We will only ever ask for information to be placed on the public record that is important and relevant to the planning decision. It will only be in the rarest of circumstances that we might ask you to provide personal information that we're the type that most of us would prefer to keep private or confidential. With that in mind, please could you try your best not to say anything that you'd wish to be kept private or that is confidential? Please could anyone joining in teams minimise any background noise? This includes switching off or muting your mobile phone if you are not using it to join the meeting. We do have at least one person joining us by phone today. Please also remember that the chat function on teams will not be enabled or in use. So please don't try to use that for questions or comments.

05:09

Some of you will be aware of the raise a hand function in Microsoft Teams, I'll only use that specific point in the agenda where, when I invite general comments, I will also give people who did not have that feature or don't want to use it as an opportunity to comment at the relevant time. If you're watching the live stream, then please be aware that it will be stopped when I adjourn the meeting, you will need to refresh your browser page two review to view the restarted meeting. I'll remind you of that, again, when we agenda you find it useful to have our letter of the 19th of October 2021. And the agenda that was published on the ninth of November 2021 at hand, that we will be showing relevant parts of those on the screen during the meeting of those who are watching. I'll highlight which parts of those documents the time referring to during the meeting for anybody that is not watching. The purpose of this preliminary meeting is to consider procedural issues only relating to the way in which the application is to be examined and the timetable for the examination. The focus is on the examination process. And this meeting is not an opportunity to give your views on what is good or bad about the application. The open floor hearing later this week will provide an early opportunity for you to express your views. There'll be several opportunities over the following months of the examination for you to give us your views on the application, either through written submissions or at hearings are now ask certain parties to introduce themselves. Please unmute your microphone. And if you're comfortable to switch on your camera, We now invite you to speak please switch them off again when I move to the next speaker. If there are several people representing a party, then please all join the screen with cameras on together if you can, and then introduce yourself one by one and each give your role. Firstly, who is representing and will speak for the applicant please

07:22

come up. Good morning, sir. Mrs. Vicki Fowler on behalf of National Highways, the applicant.

07:31

Thank you and would you like to introduce any of your colleagues at this moment?

07:34

Yes, I will, sir. So I'm assisted by Richard furling. Which if you'd like to introduce yourself,

07:41

thank you, Mr. Smith. Good morning, sir. My name is Richard earning principal associate accounting WL G. And together with Mrs. Fowler. I'm a legal adviser to the applicant. Thank you, Ricky.

07:54

And then if I could next introduce please. Andrew Dawson of national highways.

08:00

I monitor. My name is Andre Dawson. I'm a Senior Project Manager on the 57 link road scheme for national highways.

08:09

And if I could then introduce Miss Emma Simpson also national highways.

08:14

At Good morning. I'm Emma Simpson, a project manager for the scheme from national highways.

08:20

And then if I could introduce John Barker of Balfour Beatty Atkins.

08:24

Good morning, sir. As we just said, I'm John Barker from Balfour Beatty Atkins on behalf of National Highways and I am the DCO lead for this project.

08:35

And finally, we have a belief is Matthew Robinson on the line. Yes morning. It's Matthew Robinson. I'm the project manager for Balfour Beatty Atkins working on behalf of national highways.

08:51

Thank you for joining us today. Could I then move on to Derbyshire county council please.

09:03

This morning sir. I've stated before my team leader in planning policy and monitoring Adarsha county council and I'm the county council the lead on the develop consent order and the examination process. I'd like to introduce to my colleagues, Jeff pluses and Jack Hicklin if I could so over to Jeff first.

09:24

Going so I'm Jeff Blissett. Transport planner for Derbyshire county council. My background is in transportation and economics. Thank you. Thank you.

09:40

Hi, I'm Jacqueline. I'm a transport planning apprentice and I work mainly in the transport strategist, the transport strategy team.

09:50

Okay, thank you gentlemen. Thank you for joining us and I do recognise Mr. Buffett and Mr. Blissett I think from the Darby junction scheme, so it's good to see you again. We haven't had any contact in

relation to this project however, but thank you for joining us. Thank you. Thank you. We could move on to Tim side Metropolitan Borough Council please.

10:16

Good morning sir. Michael lead head of major programmes with Tensai Metropolitan Council responsible for growth, strategic consultation infrastructure.

10:27

Thank you. Good morning, sir. My name is Esther Young. I'm a solicitor working in Tameside councils Legal Services Department.

10:37

Okay, thank you for joining us today. Big soy pit. Sorry. Apologies Peak District National Park Authority, please.

10:48

Good morning, sir. My name is Tim Nicholson, and I'm the transport policy planner for the Peak District National Park Authority. Thank you.

10:57

And thank you for joining us today. Are there any other local authorities present? I don't believe so. Let's move on to the parties please. CPRE Peak District and South Yorkshire please.

11:16

Good morning, sir. My name's Alan Robinson from CPRE and the transport campaigner with a background in transport campaigning. Andy tickle. Come to do you want to introduce yourself?

11:31

But don't think your microphone is on Mr. Tickle.

11:35

Sorry, sir. Good morning. My name is Dr. Andy tickle. And I'm the head of campaigns of CPRE P districts in South Yorkshire and I'm supporting our team through the examination.

11:46

Thank you. Dr. Tickler. Pulitzers, thank you. Thank you for joining me. The person on our team is Keith Buchan. Good morning, sir. My name is Keith, transport planning consultant, and I'm advising CPR on this matter. Thank you very much. I believe we were to be joined by civils but I don't believe they're present. So can I then invite Makayla Bromley to introduce herself please? Cayla Bromley I'm not sure if you're if you're hearing me or if your phone is potentially muted. Can we can? Sorry, please go ahead.

12:42

Can you hear me?

12:43

I can. Thank you.

12:45

All right. Good morning, sir. And McKay or Bronwyn and speaking on behalf of my mom, Mrs. Valerie Bronwyn and for myself and my son my property very near to this scheme. Thank you.

12:59

Thank you for joining us. And thank you for your patience using the telephone as well. Are you aware, I believe that Haley Simpson is a relative of yours. Do you know if Harry Simpson will be joining us today?

13:19

All right here we Simpson is my daughter and she's working so she's unable to join.

13:24

Okay, thanks. Thank you for letting me know. That's fine. Thank you. And could I next move on to Daniel Wimberly, please

13:42

Mr. Wimberly I'm not sure if you can hear me or if you've unmuted your microphone Mr. Wimberly Hello. If you can hear me, could you introduce yourself and make sure that you unmute your microphone please?

14:14

Mr. Wimberly, are you able to join us please? Okay, let's move on, I believe Mr. Wimberly is on the call, and perhaps a member of the case team could try to contact him and to see whether he is intending to participate today, please. Thank you. Are there any other parties present who would like to introduce themselves at this stage? I believe we've been through everybody. Okay, thank you. Let's move on. Thank you all for attending today. And thank you for your patience with the virtual event. I realise it isn't ideal for many people. I'm just going to hold for a moment because I believe Mr. Wimberly may be trying to join us. Mr. Wimberly. Hello, can you hear me?

15:06

I can indeed, sir.

15:08

Thank you. Thank you for joining us. So we were just going through introductions. And you are, in fact, the final person to introduce themselves. So,

15:18

apologies for that my laptop decided to have no battery, but I can't get back in again. So, Harry, I'm Daniel Wimberly. I live in Bamford. Oh, just over the canines, and I'm a member of the public.

15:33

Okay. Mr. Wimberly. Thank you for joining us today. And I'm glad you've been able to connect, thank you. If you could please switch off your microphone and camera while we go through the main body proceedings until I invite you to speak, that will be very helpful. I've restricted the meeting today, so that you will have an opportunity to raise anything relevant to this meeting, when I invite you to speak at the relevant point on the agenda. As I've just said, please keep your microphones muted and cameras off until I invite you to speak. Each time that you speak, it'd be very helpful if you could please give your name. And if appropriate, the organisation that you're representing for the formal record. I will cover the points in the agenda that was published on the ninth of November 2021. Please get the case to now share a copy of the agenda on the screen.

16:40

Thank you, Casey, could we possibly zoom in a little bit to the agenda? Thank you, and possibly a little more. Thank you very much. We're just about to complete agenda item one, the welcome and introductions. Just one final final point into this first agenda item. For everyone's comfort, we'll be taking regular breaks. Normally these will be at intervals of roughly an hour to an hour and a half. They may be more frequent, as I'm actually running the event on my own today. So I hope you'll bear with me if we have more frequent breaks. The breaks will normally be relatively short. However, should the meeting extend into the afternoon, there'll be a longer break for lunch. Are there any questions about the agenda or the arrangements for this meeting? If so, please feel free to switch on your microphone. Hopefully all straightforward. Okay, can we stop sharing the agenda for now please, I'm about to move on to item two, to run through remarks on the examination process. Now I'll be going through in the order set out in the agenda. I'm going to carry on. Actually I did consider a second break at this stage. But I think I think we can carry on.

18:08

So moving on to agenda item two. As I said, I'm going to run through the examination process.

18:16

And I may pause to ask questions of certain parties. As I do that. However, I'm going to consider the majority of written submissions that have been made, and the questions that have been raised under Agenda Item three later. So if I didn't call you during agenda item two, please bear with me. And there'll be an opportunity for you to speak under Agenda Item three a little bit later. The Agenda Item three, as I say will be covered after ripping through the examination process. And that will be your main opportunity to speak about the examination process. I'll separately be looking at the examination timetable and deadlines later during the meeting under agenda items four and five. So, to start with, for the examination process, some of you may be familiar with the procedure set out in the Planning Act 2008. For those of you who are not on now outline some of the essential features of this examination process. The purpose of the examination is to enable us and biozone mean the examining authority to make a recommendation to the Secretary of State as to whether this project should receive consent in the form of a development consent order under the Planning Act 2008. The Planning Act 2008 has brought in a distinct regime for the consideration of nationally significant infrastructure projects and which is somewhat different to a number of other Planning, hearings and inquiries that some parties

may be familiar with. The examination is not a public inquiry, nor is it a planning appeal. It is something slightly different to the planning processes. One of the key differences is that this is an inquisitorial process, in which we as examining authority, take the lead in establishing what is important and relevant to the decision that the Secretary of State needs to take. We will therefore be looking for evidence of what is important and relevant, and testing the evidence put forward to see how robust it is in the context of relevant matters. Secondly, the primary method that we will use to examine the application is through written representations and other written submissions. Whilst there is provision for holding certain types of hearing. The central part of the examination is the written process which is used to gather further information about the application. However, when we consider that it will assist the examination process to Hill held an oral hearing into an issue, we will do so. For example, we've already decided that an open floor hearing will take place later this week. The Planning Act 2008 sets a statutory timescale for the examination and for the determination of the application, which we will follow. provided of course, that there aren't exceptional circumstances. This includes six months in which the examination must be completed a further three months in which we must complete our report with our findings, conclusions and recommendations to the secretary of state, and a further three months in which the Secretary stage is scheduled to reach a final decision on the application. That decision is therefore scheduled to be published within 212 months apologies from the start of the examination. The examination will not start until after the preliminary meeting has finished and in fact will start the day after the preliminary meeting is finished. I'm now going to make some general remarks about written submissions. Everyone has the opportunity to set out their case, and the evidence to support it in writing. Everyone will have the opportunity to comment on everyone else's written submissions. Many people have already provided us with written material in their relevant representations. And I thank you for taking the time to do that. Any document that any party wishes to consider must be formally lodged as part of the examination process and then be available to all parties. Documents can be introduced into the examination in a number of different ways, such as a relevant or written representation. written answers to the examining authorities questions, written submissions in response to material submitted by others, or otherwise requested by us as the examining authority.

23:15

written material that is accepted into the examination will be published on the national infrastructure website so that it is available for all parties. I'm now going to look at the different types of document in the audit set out in the agenda, starting with local impact reports before moving on to statements of common ground written representations and the examining authorities questions. After that I will look at hearings and virtual events and site inspections Before looking at the National Infrastructure website and making some comments about how to make an effective submission. A local impact report is a report written by a local authority giving details of the likely impact of the proposed development on the local authorities area or any part of the area. The planning Inspectorate guidance is for local authorities to start preparing their local impact report as soon as the application is accepted for examination. So local authorities really are encouraged to start that work as early as they can. It is we appreciate quite a lot of work to put those documents together. The Planning Act 2008 defines which local authorities are required to be invited to submit a local impact report. The formal invitation will be included in what is known as the rule eight letter which will be published as soon as practicable after this meeting. Let's move on to statements of common ground. Annex II have our letter of the 19th of October 2021 requested the preparation of statements of common ground between the applicant and various parties.

The aim of these is to agree factual information. And to identify where there is agreement, and particularly where there are points which remain in dispute between the parties. We need to know and understand your positions and whether they're shared or otherwise, that the identification of positions that aren't shared is important to us. The list, the list of statements of common ground that are just referred to is not exclusive. And I would encourage you to find opportunities for identifying areas of common ground, either by joining forces with as with others or individually. Where there is a statement of common ground, it does not mean that we shall not examine those matters further, so parties may agree matters. But they may still be matters that we want to examine in more detail, and I suggest that actually will will happen. A reasonable number of times, written representations. These will provide a further opportunity for interested parties to make a submission to the examination. As we'll see when we come to look at the timetable, Friday, the 14th of January 2021 has been set for the receipt of written representations. There's no obligation or requirement to submit a representation if a party has nothing to add to what has been said in their relevant representation. There will be opportunities for comments to be made on relevant and written representations and for responses to be made to those comments. And those should be apparent from the examination timetable, which I'll go through later. Next, the examining authorities written questions. First written questions will be based on our initial assessment of principal issues, a consideration of application documents, relevant representations, any completed site inspections, and any other material that has been accepted into the examination at that time. We have to ensure that the examination is even handed and rigorous. There will be a significant number of first round questions. These will be directed at the applicant, local authorities or the public bodies, and some interesting parts of the questions will be wide ranging. Some of them will address quite fundamental issues, some will focus on detail points. When you see the questions, you may think that some of the answers are already contained in the documents that have been introduced into the examination so far. But even so, this can you answer the questions directed to you and provide any cross references. We need to be sure that all the issues that might be relevant are identified in shared so that we can test them properly. The examination, timetable will set a deadline for the receipt of responses to our questions. All comments and responses will be published on our website. So they are available for all to see.

28:14

There will be a second round of questions and answers later in the examination. The second round will probe further into any unanswered points, or address any new points that have emerged, for example, through the written representations. In addition to these iterations of questions, answers and comments, who may at any time during the examination, seek further information or written comments, provisions made for this under Rule 17 of the infrastructure planning examination procedure rules. So we can answer additional questions at any point and it's quite common for later in the examination. If there are some critical points that haven't been closed out, then we're very likely to issue a real 17 request for further information on those specific points, hearings and virtual events, turning them to the hearings. As I said before, the primary method of examining the application is in writing, but there are provisions for hearings during the examination. The hearings will build on the foundations of the various documents and comments that we have just considered. Please, could you seek to engage fully through the written process? Rather than assume that you can wait for a hearing is your opportunity to influence the proceedings? It may be that a hearing on an issue is not held or it might not address the questions that you want to ask or that you want to answer. You find it useful to follow the production of

evidence as peers on the website so that you can see how the examination is progressing. There are three different types of hearing under the Planning Act 2008. The first type of hearing is an Open floor hearing, which must be held if requested by an interested party. In our letter of the 19th of October 2021, we took a procedural decision to held an open floor hearing this Thursday, and if required this right this Friday. The second type of hearing is a compulsory acquisition hearing, which must be held if requested by an affected person. As we will see when we come when we come to look at the draft timetable, a deadline of Wednesday, the first of December of 2021 has been set for relevant parties to form as they wish to speak at another open floor hearing or at a compulsory acquisition hearing. The third type of hearing is an issue specific hearing, which is held if we decide that it is necessary to ensure adequate examination of an issue or to ensure that an interested party has a fair chance to put their case. One or more issues specific hearings may be held on the development consent order or DC o as we will often refer to it. The DC O is critical document. If consent is given the DCO will govern how the development takes place and how it will be controlled. all matters relating to the draft DCO are integral to this examination. The draft timetable identifies the provisional dates that have been reserved for hearings. The draft timetable also sets out the dates on which notification will be provided. Whether these hearings will go ahead. And the dates when we will issue any agendas are now like I now like I'd now like to excuse me make some general points and how the hearings will be run. We encourage anyone who wishes to be heard or to hearing and who has a common view or common point to make with others to group together and appoint one spokesperson. This will help to make the best use of the time rather than have the same point repeated. Repetition of the point does not mean that it will carry more weight in the in the examination, and we will intervene if submissions become repetitious. We would much prefer to hear one point clearly from one person if possible. Anyone who speaks at hearings should expect us to ask them questions. At a hearing anyone who is an interested party can give oral evidence based on their relevant or written representation. Should there be a lot of requests to speak at a hearing, then will we we will announce a time limit on speaking. We did not expect someone to read out their previous records representation that expects speakers to elaborate on evidence already submitted.

32:57

The applicant will be provided with an opportunity to respond orally or clarifying factual matters through us after interested parties spoken. No direct dialogue will generally be permitted between any parties in hearings. Apart from in certain special circumstances when we feel it will be beneficial to allow cross examination it is quite likely that cross examination will not be permitted. In the light of the continuing COVID situation, we are carrying out this meeting and the first open floor hearing using virtual methods following the planning Inspectorate guidance. This guidance is updated periodically to align with the most up to date government guidance. As the COVID situation develops. We will remain flexible and may hold later events in person or through a combination of in person and virtual methods if it is safe to do so. And we're actively exploring the potential to hold in person events, or what are known as hybrid events where we combine in person with virtual methods and for the hearings in February. site inspections were carried out an unaccompanied site inspection of two days in September 2021. These are based on viewpoints featured in the environmental statement and on public land in the vicinity of the development. A record of these inspections has been published to the website been intend intend to undertake inspections of all viewpoints listed in the environmental statement. believe that these can be carried out in the company and we intend to make time for further and accompany in site inspections

over the next few months. The list of further sites and viewpoints visited will be posted on the website and updated we currently see no need for further a completed visits to these locations. We would welcome any suggestions for further unaccompanied site inspections on public land. We do wish to ensure that we have been to all the places that interested parties are most concerned for us to visit. You're also able to suggest accompanied site inspections, if this will help us to better understand representations or where there is no public access. Please note that an accompanied site visit is not an opportunity to express any views on the merits of the case. It is an opportunity for us to view the application site and its surroundings. If an accompanied site inspection is held, then we would need to be accompanied by a representative representative of the local authorities, any relevant statutory consultees and the applicant. Although there may be an opportunity for a small number of interested parties to attend an accompanied site inspection, it is likely that attendance would need to be limited for logistical and safety reasons. And to allow appropriate COVID separation. Deadlines for representations relating to site inspections are included in the draft time to. Finally for gender item two, I'm now going to look at the National Infrastructure website, and finally making effective submissions. So I will now share the national infrastructure website on the screen, please bear with me while I do that.

36:44

So hopefully, you can now see a browser window that I've opened. We've sent a sorry, we send links to the website, in most communications to you. So you should be able to find the web address quite easily from there. But if you can't, it can be searched for quite simply. So if I search for a 57 natural infrastructure.

37:28

Just bear with me a minute. Then actually, the first, the top of the search list is in fact a website.

37:39

If you're not able to see what I'm showing now on the screen, then please feel free to contact the case team after the meeting to ask them to run through this with you if that will be helpful. So let's quickly have a look at some of the main features of websites. Some of you will be familiar with it already, I'm sure. The main information on the website is is organised through various tabs, which which I'm just highlighting there, there are currently four tabs. And the left tab gives an overview of the main events and an overview of the project. So just scrolling down through that there is a timeline, which takes you through all of the events that have happened to date and provides a link to documents that have been issued events that have been held such as the live stream for this meeting. So that's the timeline those are things that have already happened. There is a what happens next box, as you can see, which which highlights the next deadline, the next significant event that there's going to be and you can see, you can see more by clicking on the Show More button. There's quite a bit more information there for many of those items. On the right hand side, there is a link to the developers website, which I won't click on. But that would give you that that is not a planning Inspectorate website, that is the national highways website. So it's the the website that the applicant uses. A useful feature for a number of parties will be the email updates button, anybody can sign up to email updates, you don't have to be an interested party to receive an email update. You can ask a relative to sign up to this if it's helpful to you. So by signing up to an email update, whenever we post new documents to the site, whenever there's a

new event, you will automatically receive an email to inform you of that. So it's quite a useful way of keeping in touch with what's happening on the project. At the top very top there you will see what we call a banner. At the very top it says read the letter. So this this again sets out the most critical things that are happening currently at any one time on the on the examination. I'll miss the section 51 advice that's that's quite technical. won't apply to a lot of people, the Documents area is a particularly helpful one. And this is where every document that is submitted accepted into the examination is published. It's organised on the left hand side by the different states the different stages of the process. So we're currently in the pre examination process. So you can click on one of those processes, and it'll just show the documents. So in that case, 25, pre examination documents, it will show you those documents. Or you can scroll through all of the documents submitted. So so this, this is where you'll find most of the information. And certainly all the written submissions. The filter term is perhaps slightly misleading, you can use that to search for documents that will search the content of documents, you can search for a name of a party, there are various different ways you can find the information. So you can either find by the stage of the project, or do a do a search. An important document is the examination library, which I won't open. But that's a planning Inspectorate document that references and provides a reference number for every document that's held on the website. And you'll see, and through the examination process, that in our correspondence, and particularly the written questions, for example, we'll often use the examination Library Reference number to highlight which document which submission we're referring to. So all of that's held within the examination library over the next few weeks, and that the relevant representations, which have already submitted and are there and can be searched, I'll come back to that later because there was a question about the searching the ability to search for relevant representations or conduct that over the next few days, another tab will be added here, which would be the examination look, examination timeline tab, which will show you the examination timetable. So whereas on the overview, you can see the timeline of what's happened. The examination timetable tab will show you the full examination, timetable, all the things that are going to happen in the future. So you'll be able to see that easily on the website without referring back to the rule late lesson without having to keep a track of any adjustments to the timetable.

42:33

So I hope that's helpful. I'm going to stop sharing that document now and move on to making effective submissions. During the examination, we will seek information that will take account of in our recommendation to the Secretary of State. I just like to emphasise that our recommendation to the Secretary of State will be based on facts and sound evidence rather than speculation or opinion, or recommendation, we'll consider whether the application complies with legislation, policy and guidance. And that is our focus whether the application complies with legislation policy and guidance. What we won't be considering, except in the rarest of circumstances is whether there is a vote for or against the application, we just want to hear the substantive issues once. This isn't this isn't a first voting exercise if you'd like. Our recommendation will also require the consideration of a large volume of information. And so a number of the requests that I'm making now, and I'll make later is to help you to help us manage a large volume of information. And any way that your helpers you're able to help us do that will be gratefully received. We do want to hear from you though, and we want to encourage parties to participate that is very important to us. Particularly if you have local specialist knowledge that may be important and relevant to our recommendation. That knowledge is really important to us. As you've seen, there'll be several opportunities for you to make submissions to the examination. As you make

those submissions. They will help us if you could please where possible. Submit Information once and if you can provide evidence that that information is factual, for example, that might involve you providing any data, setting out the methodology and any assumptions that you've used, and to let us have those to support your submission. So we need to understand whether evidence is factor, the more you can provide to us to show that these user will be otherwise we will, if necessary, raise questions to try and establish how robust the information that we receive is. Please also where possible recognise the process is principally a written one by making your submissions in writing where possible. But, as I've mentioned before, please work with any other people you're in contact with, and you have the same views to put together a single coordinated submission. Please avoid making the same submissions that others will be making as will give the same way to information that is provided once or many times, it can be tempting to ask a number of other parties to make the same points that will very rarely be helpful to us. Please also, where possible, provide references to any documents that you refer to and where in that document you are referring to. So that will be helpful to that completes agenda item two. I'm now going to move on to agenda item three. In fact, let me just consider whether it'd be appropriate to take a break at this time we've we've had 47 minutes now, some parties had 30 minutes actually in the arrangements conference. So actually, I think it's probably wise for us to take a break. So let's adjourn for a short break now. I suggest that we recommence at 11 o'clock. If you're watching the live stream then please be aware that it will now stop. To view view the restarted meeting you'll need to refresh your browser page when we we start. So we're recommence at 11 o'clock. And will we commence with agenda item three. Thank you