

TEXT_LittleCrow_ISH1_Session1_20042021

Tue, 4/20 4:25PM • 2:01:48

00:03

Good afternoon everybody. The time is now two o'clock and this issue specific hearing

00:12

in relation to the application by amgr, solar little crow for the boat it'll Crotona Park is now open.

00:23

Mishaal Can you please confirm live streaming for this event has commenced and that you can hear and see me.

00:31

Yes, I can hear and see and the live stream has started. Thank you and as the recording started of the recording is started in live Captions are on. Thank you.

00:46

I presume that everybody else present can clearly hear me.

00:54

For anyone that is watching via the live stream, I can advise you that should be at any point a journalist me this hearing.

01:04

We will be stopping the live stream and then re commencing after the German app resumption as a result of that.

01:15

At the resumption, you will need to refresh your browser page to view the restarted stream.

01:23

My name is Grant Gould. I'm a chartered town plier planner and I'm employed by the planning and strep Inspectorate. I've been appointed by the Secretary state to examine the submitted nationally significant infrastructure project.

01:36

application and I constitute the examining authority for this application.

01:46

In the arrangements conference, which proceeded the start of this hearing, you will already have spoken to Tamika Hall Hall, who is the case officer for this project. This afternoon she supported by Louise Evans, the case manager

02:01

for this application, who is another employee of the planning spectrum.

02:06

I would add the other colleagues from palings petrit have joined

02:11

this issue specific hearing,

02:15

but only as part of the inspectors commitment to internal continuing professional development. And in addition, a technician from production 78 isn't attendance for the purpose of managing and recording the live streaming of this meeting.

02:39

Before I consider the items on the agenda, I will need to deal with a few housekeeping type matters and general observations. I'll try and deal with those as quickly as possible because for those of you who were present

02:53

this morning at the preliminary meeting, I'm afraid there is a bit of duplication.

03:00

I initially must say a few words about the general data protection regulation, the GDPR.

03:06

You will note from the agenda for this hearing published on the 13th of a pro that this event is being recorded as well as being live streamed. The digital recordings are retained and published

03:20

to form a public record, and they can contain your personal information to which the general data protection regulations apply.

03:32

The Inspectorate practice is to retain and publish recordings for a period of five years from the secretary state's decision on this application subsequent sorry. Consequently, if you participate in today's hearing, it's important that you understand that you will be recorded and you will there for consent to the retention and publication of the digital recording.

03:59

I will only ever ask for information to be placed on the public record that is important and relevant to the determination of the application.

04:08

And it will only be in the rarest of circumstances that I might ask you to provide personal information of the type that most of us would prefer to keep private and or confidential. Therefore, to avoid the need to edit the digital recordings, I would ask that you try your best not to add information to the public record that you would wish to be kept private or that is confidential.

04:31

Please bear in mind that the only official recording

04:35

or sorry the only official record of the proceedings is this recording app which will be placed on the web page for this project via the planning inspectorates national infrastructure, website. tweets blogs and similar communications arising out of this hearing will not be accepted as evidence in the examination of this application.

05:03

For the purposes of identification and ease of reference, could I ask that at every point at which you speak, that you give you a name and who you represent?

05:16

Please ensure that before you speak, you have your microphone turned on.

05:25

Bright turning to agenda item two, I just quickly like to deal with

05:31

matters relating to the purpose of the issue specific hearing.

05:36

And I've decided to hold this hearing to ensure that any interested party has the opportunity to to make all representations should they wish to

05:46

and to address some general matters relating to the submitted environmental statement and the draft different consent order.

05:56

Throughout the course of this hearing certain issues may reoccur as I examine them from different angles or in relation to different elements of the scheme.

06:07

I therefore ask that you bear with me.

06:11

And that you bear that in mind when you give your evidence and I would ask you focus on answering the question that I have asked at a particular time and avoid trying to anticipate any questions that you think I might be about to ask.

06:29

I would remind everybody that the examination is a predominantly written process.

06:39

As you will have seen from the examination timetable that's been prepared in draft

06:44

and as will be

06:47

finalised when I issue the rule late better. Next week, there are scheduled rounds are written questions, and there are opportunities for

06:59

issue specific hearings to be held. Later in the examination if I if I consider they will be required.

07:09

I would therefore take this opportunity

07:14

to reassure you that whilst you may not consider that I've examined the subject as fully as you would wish at this hearing, this this is because I may well be intending to consider again from a different perspective. On another day.

07:30

I add another hearing or through the asking of written questions.

07:36

The purpose of the examination is for me to examine the information submitted both by the applicant and also by other interested parties.

07:45

As a result, I would like to reassure you that I am familiar with the documents that have been sent in so far. So when I'm answering a question you do not need to repeat at length something that has already been submitted.

07:58

If you want to refer to information already submitted, I will be grateful if you will give the appropriate pins examine sorry Inspectorate examination Library Reference.

08:10

Good I also asked the first time you use an abbreviation or an acronym, that you give the full title as there will be people here today or possibly listening to a recording that may not be as familiar with the application or the documents as you are.

08:38

The hearing will be a structured discussion which I will lead based on the agenda that has already been published.

08:51

I would therefore remind everyone that this is not an inquiry and therefore unless I agree to it, there will be no formal presentation of cases or cross examination. As such, any questions that you may have for other parties need to be asked via myself

09:10

while referring

09:14

to in fact, the conduct of the hearing.

09:18

This hearing will be undertaken in accordance with section 94 of the Planning Act 2008 and the infrastructure planning examination procedure rules 2010. Specifically rule 14 relating to Procedure Act hearings. I'd therefore remind that under Section 94 eight of the act

09:47

the examining authority can refuse to allow representations to be made at a hearing,

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including representation representations made it an exercise of entitlement under Section 91

10:00

Three, if the examining authority considers that the representations would be irrelevant, vexatious or frivolous, relate to the merits of policies set out in national

10:13

national policy statement, or repeat other representations already made.

10:29

Now turning to the agenda, and can I just check, does everybody have ready access, absolutely ready access to a copy of the agenda,

10:41

which is in the light examination library under reference ev 002.

10:48

So is there anybody that doesn't have really access to the agenda,

10:58

not hearing anything to the contrary, so I won't ask for it to be brought up on screen.

11:06

Under all 14 of the procedure rules, I need to start the hearing by running through

11:16

the matters to be considered at the hearing.

11:20

So that the matters that I wish to focus on in relation to the environment, sorry, the environmental statement are some background information concerning operating or solar parks.

11:37

And in terms of the proposed development, its intended generating capacity.

11:44

The consideration the applicant was given two alternatives to the proposed development, including location and scale,

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various matters relating to the landscape and visual effects of the proposed development.

11:58

The identification of any proposed nearby major developments and consideration of cumulative and in combination effects,

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effects on legally protected species, including those subject to European site designations.

12:19

The extent to which the proposed development would deliver a biodiversity net gain and how back is calculated.

12:27

The approach the assessment of climate change, the duration, the construction phase for the development

12:35

and the effects of decommissioning including the disposal of decommissioned equipment and the retention of visual visual mitigation measures.

12:48

That will have been

12:50

installed as part of the operational phase for the development.

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And then in terms of the draft developed consent order.

13:04

Consideration of the different definition of the generating capacity for growth development.

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The flexibility with respect to the location as opposed battery storage facility,

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the articles within the draft order requirements set out in the draft order

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and potentially other general drafting matters within the order.

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I would stress that the early discussion discussion of the draft dividend consent order should not be taken as an indication that I've already reached a view about how I'm going to make a recommendation to the Secretary of State.

13:50

This is something that is just standard procedure for an examination.

13:55

The agenda is for guidance is for guidance only. I may add other issues for consideration as we progress and I may vary the running order, if that would a discussion.

14:13

The matters on the agenda are those that I felt warranted and all discussion at an early stage in the examination.

14:21

Just because there is not an item on the agenda does not mean that it is in any way less important or that I have already come to a view on it. It may for example be that I consider those matters can be dealt with by the written process.

14:38

I will seek to allocate sufficient time to cover each matter and allow proper consideration.

14:47

We will take comfort breaks at a convenient point. And I will aim that we don't sit for more than one and a half hours at any particular point during the course of the afternoon.

15:06

Should the

15:09

considerations of matters that I've identified and identified on the agenda take longer

15:16

than possibly first thought I may prioritise some matters and defer others to written questions.

15:25

Important, Lee,

15:30

I need to receive the right answers to the questions I'm going to ask.

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And as the examination is predominantly written process, if you can't answer a question

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or require

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more time in which to answer it,

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then rather than give a protection potentially restricted

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or incorrect answer

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to a the running an examination, it would be preferable that you indicate

16:05

that whatever the question might relate to is something that you think would be better done in writing.

16:13

And I can therefore hold that question back in effect, to be dealt with as a first written question.

16:26

Before I go on, are there any procedural type queries that anybody wishes to raise at this point? So from the applicants perspective, are there any quick procedural type queries at this point about that running in the hearing?

16:41

Good afternoon, Sir Paul, male on behalf of the applicant? No, sir. I don't have anything to raise at this point. Thank you. And for the council. That's Mr. Law.

16:51

Good afternoon, sir. Andrew law on behalf of No thanks, counsel. No, I have no questions on procedural matters. Thank you. Thank you. And for Heron Lodge. Miss Sedley? Do you have any procedural type queries to raise about the agenda? No, sir. Thank you. Thank you.

17:15

My colleagues have helpfully prepared an attendance list which I've got site on one screen.

17:24

Dealing with the council and

17:29

Heron Lodge is quite straightforward. Because Mr. Law is representing North Lincolnshire counsel, and Miss sedgley is

17:41

representing Heron Lodge.

17:45

For the applicant, you've got quite a number of potential participants. Mr. Man, I'm not going to suggest that we run through everybody.

17:56

But what I would suggest potentially is that as we get to a question,

18:02

you just indicate to me which of the various people in your team are going to

18:11

run with that question, at least in the first instance.

18:15

And all I would ask, as in the norm is, whoever that might be, they just introduced themselves by giving their name and saying what that role is in effect with the team. So it's clear.

18:28

Like this, I understand how they really relate to the team.

18:34

I think that's probably going to be the easiest way to proceed.

18:45

What I would say that Mr. Male is, is there anybody amongst your team that has restricted availability this afternoon, or potentially tomorrow?

18:56

Because if there is, I may need to think about rejigging things in the same way.

19:02

as Miss city indicated this morning. She's not available tomorrow. So we may need to reject some matters to cover points that she may wish to make comment on this afternoon.

19:17

Thank you. So I'm not aware that anybody has any as any restricted availability. What I'll do is I'll just ask my team, if they could let me know, separately in the in the chat that we've got up for that kind of purposes. And I'll confirm in a moment. Thank you. And on a general point, I hope that we wouldn't need to, well, I'm intending not to sit beyond five o'clock.

19:43

Unless it's looking like we might be very close to dealing with everything and therefore, it would be better just to complete today rather than adjourn and reconvene tomorrow, is there anybody and I'll turn to the applicant first and then ask Mr. Laurin.

20:00

Mr. G, is there anybody that's got a new specific time limitations today? In terms of potentially sitting on beyond five o'clock

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not getting an indicator indications from amongst Mr. Males to Mr. Law, are there any time constraints from your perspective?

20:23

No, there's no time

20:25

to rush off to or anything? No, no, fortunately not. Thank you. And Mr. Dudley, do you have any line at time restrictions today? No, sir. Thank you. So I'm not intending that we should sit particularly long after five. But if it would be a bit more efficient that we possibly around on a little bit longer, that might be something that we'll consider later on in the afternoon.

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Okay, well, that then takes us to agenda item three, which is

21:05

looking at some specific issues that I've indicated, I might have some questions about.

21:13

The first series of questions

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sort of relate to

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generating capacity and full of technological type questions specific to how the development might operate. So I'd like to kick off by just asking, hopefully, quite a straightforward question the documentation at a lot of places refers to the term mega watt peak, or n. m WP.

21:52

How does mega mega watt peak differ from Mega Watt in general?

22:01

Thank you. So pulmo, on behalf of the applicant, what I'm going to do here is to introduce you to Mr. Tom Harlow, who is from iron RG who can explain various questions that you may have on technical matters. So I forgot to ask Mr. Harlow to turn on his camera and his microphone. And I'm hoping he can assist you with that one. Thank you. And good afternoon, Mr. hollow. Good afternoon, sir.

22:30

Thank you. So, megawatt peak is kind of almost specific to solar, the main reason being is that solar produces electricity at direct current DC. So, mega watt peak relates to the actual rated capacity of that

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single panel, obviously, larger panels to produce megawatts. So, you know, 100 megawatt peak

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project would essentially be a 100 megawatts of solar DC,

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that then has to be converted to AC, which may or may not increase or decrease the eventual power output.

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And in the conversion to AC,

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as a general rule of thumb, not not

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is a much loss of energy.

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And, yes, so that's very much really driven by the location of the project. So you know, a project obviously, in southern Spain is going to produce a lot more power for the same megawatt peak compared to a project in the north of Scotland.

23:49

Typically, here, if you wanted to put some round fingers on us, if we installed 100 megawatt peak on this project, we would be looking to probably reduce, you know, maybe 95,000 megawatt hours per annum.

24:03

And that's, you know, will fluctuate a little bit depending on any one years, weather conditions, etc.

24:19

And through a calendar year, does that is there much flex, I presume there is some fluctuation so that in the winter months when there might be more cloud cover,

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the generating capacity will not be as high as in the height of summer.

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So what late June July, maybe three to August is

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yes, that's exactly it. It's driven actually as much by how far the sun has moved away from the earth. So to give you a kind of a good rule of thumb, in the six months between maybe April and October, you would expect to see probably close to

25:00

70% of your annual production, and then those other six months from November to March, you will see the remaining 30%.

25:21

And is that fairly typical across the UK? Or is that specific to what you expect in this location?

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It'd be it'd be pretty standard. It's a pretty standard bell curve, as they call it. So you know, you'll hit that peak, as you said in July, and it'll fall towards worst case, you know, lowest case, should I say, in probably January. And it's just the output may be higher down in Cornwall compared to the output in Scotland. Yeah. For for this project, in terms of that fluctuation in generation is that something that could quite easily be shown, perhaps on a graph?

26:01

from January through to December? Yeah, it's a very predictability bell curve. So as as a technology solar is very predictable.

26:12

I mean, you've explained it to me, that's fine, I'm going to need to explain it in writing. It sounds like though that if it can be done in a graph, that's something easily if I need to refer to it in the report, that's going to go to the Secretary state, whoever's reading it

26:31

into terms of other decisions stage

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won't have the benefit of your description. So I think I would like to ask some sort of graphical representation of that

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change in generating capacity or output throughout the year, is submitted.

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So I suspect that's an action that's going to arise from from the hearing,

27:04

for submission with deadline, one, potentially with some other matters that we're we're likely to come on to in a minute.

27:12

I suspect what I'm probably going to end up suggesting is that the applicant submit some sort of

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easy guide to the way

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a solar Park runs. And there'll be various things such as this, and maybe how the grid connection side of things and the battery storage works. That obviously just goes into some sort of

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lay persons technical explanation of how that how this works.

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But that's helpful.

27:46

I understand.

27:49

So does the reference to P, in effect suggest that the optimum

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that a site like this could run at, but the optimum is something that will only occur at certain times of the year?

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Yeah, so the reference to peak is actually an industry standard. And so that every, every, every module that's produced is, is designed to a certain set of standards, and that that is what creates that white peak for that single type of module. They're known as standard test conditions.

28:25

And that is essentially the peak of that module. It under adores conditions. And as I said earlier, if you were to put that same module in Spain, and the same module in Scotland, you would get a different overall output. Yeah, mainly because of the the difference in radiation levels between the two locations.

29:08

So I think for the technical type note that I've suggested be submitted, that's again, something that we usefully

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explained that, in effect,

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megawatt peak is a standard against which all the panels are produced, but as you say, What do you actually get from a panel varies from location to location because of the receipt of the solar energy?

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scrapped? Yeah, thank you.

29:44

Um, what I should have said before embarking on these questions, I'm going to primarily be looking at the applicant to respond and

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there may be some questions as we go along the way.

29:58

Certainly for the council and

30:00

law to respond to.

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But hopefully as I asked that it's gonna be obvious

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which party

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I'm looking for an answer from. There will however be some questions where I'm going to ask both the applicant and the council to respond.

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Miss sedgley. However,

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if there's an issue or a matter that's arising and you feel

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you'd like to make a comment about it, I think certainly on the particularly technical questions, if you can just raise

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your hand in teams if that function is available to you, I will then look to to bring you in at that point.

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I now like to turn

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to my second question, which is really,

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again, it's an issue about how the generation capacity for development has been defined.

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With some documentation indicating

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that potentially there'll be a range between 150 and 200 megawatts peak.

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And that's what's been said in the application submission. However, when the pre application statutory consultation was being undertaken,

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in respects of the requirements in chapter two of the Planning Act 2008, there

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was reference to a maximum design capacity of up to 150 megawatt peak.

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I just really like to get some clarification for the from the applicant.

32:03

In terms of

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does, how the information and now present being presented in the application create any issues? These are the how the pre application consultation was conducted?

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Thank you, sir. I think I'll take I'll take that one in the first instance.

32:27

The short time start from the applicants point of view is No.

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Because effectively, the the installed capacity of the development in each view is not is not an environmental is not an environmental parameter.

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So, for example, the the approach to parameters has been set out largely by the physical characteristics of the panel's themselves.

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So were it possible to say construct a, a 250 megawatt peak within the physical parameters of

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the project as described in the environmental statement, and the conclusions of of the other technical chapters of the assessment, then that should be something that's perfectly possible. And that is generally approach and approach that's taken with a increasingly large number of renewable energy projects, in particular.

33:38

And I'd refer you sir to the Cleve Hill solar Park, which described that project as having a capacity of over 50 megawatt peak and also to the recently made Hornsey three offshore wind farm order, which again defined the project as having

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a capacity of over 100 megawatts 100 megawatts being the appropriate threshold for an end set for for offshore wind.

34:12

Those are two examples from

34:16

from previously made development consent orders. It is also a common way of approaching onshore wind in Scotland. So, where you may be aware that, under under the Scottish consenting system, those projects over 50 megawatts still require a consent under Section 36 of the of the electricity act. And the common convention now is to describe those projects as having an installed capacity in excess of 50 megawatts. And the reason the reason for doing this, for doing this is primarily because the renewable energy

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industry is one, which is advancing a pace.

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as technology advances, the results of which is essentially, you can deliver more power

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for the same characteristics as a as a development proposal as described in terms of its in terms of its physical parameters. So, what's the the the description of development proposed in the submitted application for this order does is preserve the ability for a project to come forward with a maximum genic generating capacity as is possible, while still remaining within

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the physical parameters assessed in the environmental statement.

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And that's a process which is secured through the development consent order itself, and through requirements six,

36:02

which

36:04

refers to the submission of details for the final scheme. And the the approval to those details requires that it's in accordance with in accordance with the environmental statement. So So that's all How will that? How will that links round?

36:23

Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

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Mr. Law on this point?

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Do you have any comments to make relating generating capacity in terms of what is now proposed, versus the capacity that was subject to the formal pre application consultation that the council would have been part of along with a number of other

37:00

statutory parties as well as the wider community?

37:06

I thank you. So yeah, Andrew law for Northland kinshi. Council. And I think, basically, I would agree with the position that you've just heard from Mr. Male in the

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local authority, when it engaged at the pre application stage was concerned with potential impacts of the proposed development, which relate directly to

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what are called the physical parameters of the scheme, the scale that the design,

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location, etc, and not necessarily don't necessarily relate to the actual generating capacity.

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I think we schemes that we've dealt with recently in the energy industry, it's, you know, it has been acknowledged that technologies is developing all the time.

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And that it may be potential to increase generating capacity without altering the physical parameters of a proposed development through assuming this instance, the the efficiency of the panels themselves

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without having to require additional panels, etc. So long story short, really say, Yeah, I agree with that position, that I don't think

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that that different position in terms of generating capacity really

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affects the consultation that was undertaken.

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And the position that Northamptonshire council put forward during the pre application

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element of this scheme wouldn't be affected by that. Thank you,

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as now like to just get a better understanding for a few issues, well, initially, something to do with the battery storage system.

38:56

So the question is,

39:01

how long do you think it takes in effect to charge the system from zero to get to 90 megawatt? And then the full reverse to that? How long does it take to completely discharge the system from full to zero?

39:19

I would say, you might think these questions are a bit random, but there is there is a story that will evolve.

39:30

Thank you, sir. I'm going to turn to Mr. Harlow. Again, see whether he's in a position to to answer that.

39:40

Yes, thank you, Paul. Thank you, sir. So the charging of the batteries, it's it's obviously depends on what is charging the battery. So if it's solar, it'll depend on what is being generated at that time.

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So you know, that could be a tricolour

40:00

effect, where it happens over a number of hours, in terms of discharge, you could discharge all of the 90 megawatts in one and a half, two hours depending on what setup you have, with regard to the

interaction with the grid. So it's, it's not exactly defined period. But the discharge would typically be for the 90 megawatts based on this project would be typically somewhere between one and a half and two hours.

40:46

Thank you, Mr. Hart. I think you probably will be answering the next question. So I would stay on camera please.

41:00

With a generating capacity of between 115 200 megawatts battery storage system with a capacity of up to 90 megawatt and a grid connection, if I understand correctly, with a maximum 99.9 megawatt, if we just say for simple turn 100.

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What's going to happen at times

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if the solar arrays are capable of generating 100 megawatts,

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and the battery store is completely charged or at capacity.

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Yes, so

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it's wood part of the facility not be on call to generate do in effect, shut down bits of it. No, that would never make sense, you would never charge the batteries and leave them charged. At a time when your solar is going into full production, it would make no sense. But what would happen is that the system is quite technical. So you could have days where you know, in the summer, where your forecasts

42:18

maximum production, where you will divert some of the power to the batteries, and send some to the grid, so the system can send some to the grid can send some to the batteries, that power in the batteries can be stored, and then released back to the grid later in the evening.

42:37

which technically isn't the time when demand is higher. So it's not a very simple scenario where, you know, you would end up overcharging the batteries by, you know, early morning and then deciding I forgot someone was getting up the system is very technical.

42:56

And those scenarios don't don't arise.

43:19

But am I right in thinking that the grid connection of saying in round terms, 100 megawatt, in effect is a limiting factor.

43:29

Once you're up 100, nothing can be exported from the site.

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So it's either got to go into the battery system, or you can't produce

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from the site.

43:46

In theory, yes, but you have to remember that reaching that maximum only occurs in a very short window of time, in any one day, or in even any one period of the year. Reaching reaching your output

44:01

tends to be just within those kind of few weeks, really within June, June, July, maybe August as well.

44:10

And that's where the batteries kick in, or

44:13

we can send any excess power to the batteries to be stored and to be released back to the grid. In terms of how the grid works, then 100 megawatts of export is, is there all day 24 hours, even though the sun doesn't produce obviously, or doesn't appear during no time, so the solar panels are not producing, but in terms of how the grid works, they assume that you're still operational.

44:40

So any excess power can be sent to the grid later that evening or whenever it's deemed more suitable.

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So how understanding correctly

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they will be

45:00

times when a development of this scale would generate an excess, would be capable of generating an excess over and above what could be exported from the site.

45:14

Yes, if you didn't have the batteries, then you would access you will generate more than what you could export. But the addition of the batteries allows you to store that are on site. And then to release this, once you go below your export capacity.

45:40

What happens if the technology in terms of the panel technology starts to improve? I mean, is it likely there's going to be a significant significant improvement?

45:56

Because I think what you're seeing at the moment is the the design is based on 420 mega, sorry, performatively watts per panel, that might at the moment, go to five hundreds.

46:11

What sort of prospect is that, that

46:15

actually, by the time potentially, if the delegates consented in you start installing panels, that you might have something that is better than 500 megawatt or 500 watt.

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And well, that that is always possible, this panel technology will improve. However,

46:39

in certain improvements, those panels are either getting larger or longer, depending on the direction, so some of them would not be suitable, don't sit outside the parameters of what's being assessed in the US.

46:51

So first, as we've discussed, getting up to 200 megawatt feet, that would be utilising circa 500 watt peak modules, so we would actually be utilising technology. That is that is current

47:06

right now. And, you know, I should note that, you know, the idea of 400 watt modules are still being manufactured, it's not as if they're not

47:19

that it ceased. It's the efficiency and the force of smaller watt modules that has improved. So it may well be that you would still use the 420 watt module. But the efficiencies are higher now and better than they were when we first looked at the project.

47:35

Yeah, I mean, what I'm really using might be starting to get driving at is,

47:44

is it going to be possible, in effect, to generate 150 megawatt 200 megawatts

47:52

with a landscape that is less than that subject to the order limits? As the technology improves?

48:01

Is that conceivable?

48:04

It will be in time, but whether it's in it's not likely to see how that would be anytime, within the next five to 10 years, each side is different, as you can imagine. So you know, there were various parameters that drive how much space is needed for a solar array. So you know, if your land is slightly north facing, you might need approximately five acres by five and a half acres per megawatt, whereas a slightly south facing needs less area. So it's not a

48:41

very, it's not a very simple

48:45

rule of thumb that carries across every single project, geographical location and geographical kind of parameters will decide what kind of output a project can have more than actually modules alone themselves.

49:06

So I apologise for the phone, I have to leave phones on.

49:11

Because I have next to kin responsibilities for an elderly relative.

49:17

And that does potentially create some issues. I'm not sure what that called when we get to the gentleman, I'll have a look and see what it was, but we're going to crack on. Yeah, I think in conclusion, just to say, I think we have essentially we would be comfortable as developers that many projects that we have maximise the output based on the footprint that's available to us.

49:40

Allowing for all the various different

49:44

enhancements that are included in the project. I don't think over time, you would squeeze money more megawatt peak in there.

50:20

Gain I think from in terms of the technical note that I suggested should be submitted, I think it'd be helpful if you could include within that

50:30

an explanation of how panel technology

50:35

might advance and what sort of timescale

50:40

it might advance.

50:43

I think basically what what you're indicating, to me is, yes, it's coming, but not necessarily at a rate that would significantly alter what you've got proposed for this site.

50:57

Yeah, I think that's a very fair assessment. Yeah.

51:01

And in terms of the possible changes to the technology, is it that it's the guts of the panels, there's more got that music, it can absorb more of the irradiance? Or is it that the technology

51:22

might advance? So the lair is where the radiant is less intense?

51:29

Now, using your example, you've given a UK versus Spain, presumably, Spain, it's more intense. And therefore, the panels are more efficient, just because

51:39

the effect is more direct sunshine kicking around?

51:43

So it, is it something about the internal workings of the panels, that means they will just be become more efficient? Or is it that

51:54

the technology is changing such that they could be made to work?

51:59

in areas that are less conducive, let's put it that way to picking up some? Sure. So there are a couple of factors.

52:07

One is, for example, that solar panels now tend to be half cord cells. So so the panels are split into almost same size as they used to be. But one of the reasons for that is that the other row of panels in front of the row would start to cause shading on the bottom of the panel, that shading led to the creation in the outputs, we'll find a split the panel now it only affects the bottom half. So the top half continues to produce as expected, and there are various other efficiencies, panels have moved from, you know, 60 cell to 72 cell.

52:48

And, essentially, manufacturers have squeezed more and more efficiency out of modules through various r&d.

52:57

And it's the number of manufacturers that are in the industry that are constantly driving innovation,

53:06

and obviously, are trying to be at the top of that tree, then that is what's also adding to the efficiency and the on the ongoing improvements. You do, you know, of course, there's going to be a finite position, you can always get more water out of something, if you make it larger, but that would put it outside of, you know, parameters. And what I'm talking about is improvements. Now within the parameters that we have used in RDS,

53:56

you may have gathered that I'm certainly have limited intimate understanding of how panel technology and I have to say I didn't I was gonna say glean, that's probably not the right

54:11

term to use in this particular content. But actually, I didn't, in terms of the submitted application documentation. I wasn't getting much assistance in understanding the technology.

54:23

And that's why the series of questions comes about and I think that's why the note that I'm suggesting be submitted, I think would be assistance is almost I suppose, not is a guide to solar energy. Sure.

54:41

And if there are things that you think should go in the note that I haven't asked, by all means, put it in

55:02

This question may be for you or for somebody else within the team.

55:10

In terms of the coverage of the panel's the environment statement at paragraph 4.5, point one in chapter four

55:20

talks about 80,000, sorry, 800,000 square metres. So that's if I've got the math right 80 Hectors the order limits cover 225 hectares, which again, if I've got the maths right, is 2,250,000 square metres.

55:48

So, if that reference to 800,000 square metres is correct, given the land covered by the order limits, then the panel coverage would be something of the order of 1/3. About 35%. That doesn't seem to be what's reflected in the layout plan, the whole site plan, which is a double p 015. Which is, which is the drawing that shows the array across the whole of the site?

56:22

versus the versions where it's been split into seven parts? Is there an issue with that reference to 800,000 square metres?

56:34

In the in chapter four of the environmental statement, because it just doesn't look right. When I look at the drawing.

56:43

The array coverage seems to be a lot more.

56:47

Sure. I think,

56:51

flooring up is somebody from your team who's doing a document sharing that could actually put it up on screen?

57:05

Certainly, sir, let me suggest it. It may be possible. I'm going to ask if if Mr. Scanlon is able to access that document, and

57:16

it was a double p 015.

57:24

Yeah.

57:28

Because Because the concern I've got is either the panel layout on that drawing isn't correct. In effect, it's showing too much panel coverage, or all that the math is wrong in the bond statement.

57:48

I think in any event, so the suggestion from me will be that

57:52

we go away, and we check the maths,

57:56

obviously, and confirm and confirm that to you in writing. But if it's a point that we can more easily understand by, by by sharing the plan, then let's see if we can do that.

58:08

While the share can sharing is going on in the background, Mr. Ior, have you got any thoughts on what's being depicted on

58:16

that whole site plan, which I presume you've had a look at?

58:24

Yeah, thank you, sir. Andrew Lowe for now. Thanks, Council. And it just instinctively doesn't look like the panel coverage is about a third. No, no. I haven't seen the plan many times. And yeah, that. I mean, there are certain areas of the site that we're on developed to have panels due to archaeological significance, etc. but

58:45

but I wouldn't put it anywhere near two thirds of the site that was that was left undeveloped, so and that wouldn't seem correct to myself now.

58:59

Thank you. So Mr. Scanlon is trying to locate the plan so that it can be shared. So as we speak, thank you.

59:08

While he does that, this is a straightforward case of getting completely different matter but related to electricity.

59:15

Within the documentation at various points, there's reference to the district network operator,

59:21

Northern power grid, power grid being one word or northern power, and then grid power on grid being separate words, which is the correct title for that organisation?

59:37

Well, company, I suppose I should refer to

59:46

that i think if i remember rightly, when I've looked at the grid connection document, it's got one spelling when I look at the statement of common ground.

59:55

It's got a different spelling and I think elsewhere in the documentation

1:00:01

There'll be a either or have been used. So I'm a

1:00:05

little confused as to what the correct title is. I am I am. If I'm going off the northern power grid website, sir, it's one word.

1:00:20

I mean that.

1:00:22

I think for me, that's an I can leave as a written question and it can get picked up and be clarified.

1:00:50

No doubt something that because there's a grid connection in existence is easy to find in that documentation, because you'd like to think the company will have used its correct name.

1:01:02

Otherwise, its lawyers may not have been doing what they should have been doing.

1:01:11

And frozen as well.

1:01:13

Do I gather Mr. Scan and maybe having issue up? Here we go. Uh, hi, Mr. scanner, behalf applicant? So uh, yeah, we are just having a little trouble trying to load it at the moment. Well, is it going to be easier than that? I just leave that as a query.

1:01:31

Okay, I've got it down as a possible written question that I just asked you to clarify.

1:01:38

that it does beg the question, though, if,

1:01:42

if the 800,000 square metres is correct, then the block plan is wrong, when that would need to be changed? Or vice versa? If the block brand is correct, then

1:01:57

chapter four, the ESM problem some other document may not be correct.

1:02:07

I think I think the easiest thing to do is for us to take that away, sir, and and do a consistency check on that figure and also the associated elements of the application that you refer to.

1:02:24

I mean, I'm happy to have thought about sort of summary of discussion at deadline one.

1:02:30

stones to a direct question. So.

1:02:45

Okay, well, I think that then takes us on to agenda item three, B, which is consideration

1:02:53

of alternatives, including location and scale.

1:03:04

And here, I'm thinking particularly what the

1:03:09

environmental impact assessment regulations say.

1:03:16

So Can somebody from the applicants team indicate what reasonable alternatives, including locations,

1:03:25

whether they be Greenfield or previously developed land and or technologies have been considered prior to the application submission?

1:03:38

Certainly, so now, in the context of the requirement to consider alternatives, the EIA regulation, that's of course in relation to considerations that were actually considered by the by the applicant, rather than a positive requirement to consider

1:03:58

a sort of a broad set of alternatives. So just to set that as the context within which we're operating here.

1:04:06

And then what I'm now going to do is introduce Mr. Gareth Roberts from pegasys

1:04:12

will explain the process that was gone through there in practice that Mr. Roberts can turn his camera on and his microphone.

1:04:23

Hello, thank you, Paul. Good afternoon, sir.

1:04:28

Since this is my first time speaking, I'll just kind of give a brief introduction. So

1:04:33

you're a little bit faint.

1:04:38

Okay.

1:04:41

Is that any better for yourself, sir? significantly? Well, it's not just nice, everybody

1:04:48

is significantly better. Okay, so in terms of qualifications, just to confirm, I'm a charter town planner and hold a master's degree in environmental planning and a BSc also

1:05:00

I've been involved with a little close solar Park from its outset in 2017 and act as the lead planning consultant. This will include overseeing the community consultation and the management and the coordination of the environmental statement.

1:05:18

Thank you

1:05:20

in terms of the alternatives,

1:05:23

first kind of signposts, really to the scoping opinion,

1:05:30

examination Library Reference a pp. 070 and within the scoping opinion, paragraph 2.3 point 12. The internal team at the planning Inspectorate agree that a discrete section should be presented in the ies statements to consider alternatives. So, the issue of alternatives was discussed as part of the pre application or the scoping stage. And obviously, we've kind of followed on from there.

1:06:06

The district's section on alternatives is provided in chapter four, or the environmental statements.

1:06:15

That's our reference, applicant reference 6.4 LCS chapter four, I think a pp. Reference Number is 061

1:06:26

section 4.22 of chapter four consensus alternatives, and this section four main strands are presented her with the concerns the consideration of alternatives within the yes, these do nothing alternative technology, alternative design, and site selection, and site selection expanded on in Section 4.23 of the ies. So, going back to the first point do nothing,

1:06:59

obviously best practice

1:07:03

kind of is to consider doing nothing, and this would entail leaving the development site or the old limits in its current condition.

1:07:12

And obviously, the site which remain as, as it is

1:07:16

available for good cultural, and estate use, it's an obvious statements that any impacts associated with the proposed developments would therefore not occur. And that's impacts in terms of the positive and negative impacts in terms of alternative technologies. I will throw you to paragraph 4.2 2.4 to 4.2 2.5 of the environmental statement, chapter four, whereby we've kind of just to summarise there.

1:07:48

We've identified how ground mounted solar scheme represents a prudence and efficiency use of agricultural land in comparison to kind of energy output, for example, from biofuels kind of used to feed at schemes anaerobic digesters, then references made to paragraph 4.2 2.4 and table 4.1 or the S which I won't repeat though, but that kind of provides a lantic in terms of comparison of which crop you would need to kind of generate the same equivalence around to energy as proposed by this scheme before you.

1:08:31

Therefore, in terms of utilisation of the current natural resources of land energy prediction of energy from solar panels, is far more efficient than other forms of energy production from cropping the land use for energy.

1:08:47

Turning to the third point alternative design. This is covered again in paragraph 4.2 2.6 of chapter four the environmental statements.

1:09:00

Over the course of the design process, the project team have continuously refined the scheme to encompass the council's and other stakeholders feedback at numerous junctures together with specialists advice, I draw you to really to the consultation report, which kind of details the applicant responses from consultees and also each individual. Topic specific chapter of the asset kind of expands on how the scheme has evolved, and design alter to go respond to consulte comments and that includes comments from North Lincolnshire counsel

1:09:38

at the parish stage of the development of the applicants considered the suitability of a wider parcel of land in between the steelworks and the B 1207. That extended to the north up to a Sandton.

1:09:53

Following, I will, preliminary assessments of the kind of the wider northern area

1:10:00

The northern area was dismissed for reasons that include its proximity to human receptors from high sanston. Her terms of

1:10:11

visual

1:10:13

views from the dwellings located from that village

1:10:20

and also

1:10:22

predicted agriculture agricultural land because he was higher, the northern part so that was dismissed for that for a reason.

1:10:33

key changes to the design introduced during the nonstatutory consultation period included the introduction of developments exclusion zone extended around the former gaco priori

1:10:46

a temporary diversion to the public right away during the construction and decommissioning and the refinements to the approach towards biodiversity mitigation and enhancement measures.

1:11:02

In terms of the perfect rightaway, you pointed out in the preliminary meeting this morning, this was something that you'd like more information off. So just to kind of follow up on that, for the MPs. Can we leave the public right of way side of things? until I've got the questions because there are a number so I think it might be easier.

1:11:30

To my guesses as they arise doesn't bring us the law and as well on that. Yes, yes, yes. So so there is there isn't kind of an alternative design that was included in the kind of the temporary diversion. So just to I won't expand on it, but as part of the pre application, the temporary diversion for the pre AP went along the northern edge of the order limits and for this the actual application as has been altered now and it goes along the southern edge of the order limits.

1:12:06

I said just the bed was meshes very fine doing this stuttery consultation period and other alterations for this data to particular to the provision of concrete issues for the solar panels lucky to do in areas for archaeological interest. So that's kind of

1:12:22

the alternative designs as temporary there. Move on to the third point the site selection, this is considered at paragraphs 2.31 to 2.37 or chapter four the statements.

1:12:38

To summarise those paragraphs, one of the biggest constraints which has to be considered when developing renewable energy schemes is securing available points of connection to the electricity network. Securing grid connection is a very difficult and problematic task for energy proposals. The applicants has accepted the grid offer from Northern power grid had secured the 99.9 100 megawatts for short extra capacity required for a project of this size. The grid of accepted can only be used for the little crow solar farm and cannot be transferred to any of the sites so you can pick up the connection and move it along without having to reapply for

1:13:25

the 100 megawatts capacity which is secured by the applicants has taken the DNA electrical network to its maximum fault levels as we understand at this moment in time. Therefore, no further generation connections can be connected to the existing electrical network grid within the locality without further significant reinforcements works to the electrical networks.

1:13:51

The detailed grid network constraint report is presented as appendix 4.3 or the arrival statement and that is examination Library Reference a pp 079.

1:14:08

Having established the points of connection the job site itself was selected through an extensive sites having exercise which I kind of discuss really earlier with regards to we dismiss the northern paths or the wider landholding due to visual and potential soil grading issues.

1:14:31

Also the extensive issues to consider based on technical, environmental and economic factors, whereas each issue is important on its own merits. For national significance infrastructure projects, each factor must be weighed and measured against the sustainability considerations.

1:14:53

These technical matters include soil aeration, topography, proximity to the grid.

1:15:00

prohibited to sensitive receptors, site access, flood risk, landscape considerations, agricultural land quality, heritage, biodiversity, and of course, the commercial agreements with landowners

1:15:19

until terms of the consultation process in though with the site were put forward for selection, so no other sites were considered as part of the alternatives.

1:15:29

Thank Thank you, sir.

1:15:37

Thank you, Mr. Roberts.

1:15:48

I suppose somewhat predictably, in giving your response, you've managed to

1:15:53

anticipate a question or two, which is fine.

1:16:01

Mr. law

1:16:04

for the council, do you have any views as to the way the applicant has approached the consideration of alternatives?

1:16:15

Thank you, sir. Andrew Laufer for Northamptonshire Council. And

1:16:20

I think looking at applications, it's it's often easier if there's a list of sites and and somebody saying why one's been discounted or not. But I think, you know, in this instance,

1:16:30

there was a deal of sort of discussion, pre application stage around site selection, as far as I was concerned that one of the principal reasons was sort of availability of the grid connection.

1:16:44

In this location, within North Lincolnshire, we've dealt with a number of solo schemes and had discussions with a number of parties not generally as it's been sort of one of the driving factors on on site selection,

1:17:00

in terms of looking at alternative designs,

1:17:05

etc, I think that, you know, the the applicant is taken up

1:17:10

a good approach to that and follow through from sort of discussions, as discussed there in terms of

1:17:17

constraints on the site, archaeological sort of sensitivity, etc. and lots of that, in terms of the design. I suppose the the key sort of question is

1:17:28

regarding whether or the site should have been looked at or not, but I think in terms of the what they've set out in the environmental statement, there is quite a comprehensive sort of explanation as to why this site is appropriate

1:17:43

for solar development.

1:17:45

I am aware that the further away site is from a

1:17:51

grid connection that affects the viability of a scheme and the efficiency of a scheme. And there's been a number of schemes that we've had discussions with previously that have fallen away purely due to, to that geographical factor.

1:18:06

I think, you know, from Northland Council, where we're happy that the the applicants have provided a comprehensive set of assessment as part of the environmental statement.

1:18:17

I suppose the only thing lacking there, as I say, is a sort of a

1:18:21

list of other sites that had been considered, but I think Mr.

1:18:24

ragosa, just confirmed that this this was the the the only site that was sort of considered in data.

1:18:32

Thank you.

1:18:34

Thank you, Miss.

1:18:36

Miss, actually, I can see you've got your hand raised.

1:18:45

Yet, again, essentially, on behalf of the interested party, what they were, I think, three points I want to make on this, if I may, sir. The first is that the the impression the parties is that the consideration was of this particular location or nowhere, rather than a consideration of here versus somewhere else. And so if one accepts that solar energy is desirable, it's still nevertheless important, we would say that to consider whether it is desirable in this particular location.

1:19:21

And the the second point I wish to make is in relation to any consideration of previously developed sites. It's unclear to us what if any consideration was given to that. And we would say that it should be given a consideration in light of the mentioned specifically in en one, which I think was that five point 10.3 if anybody wants the reference to the fact that the use of previously developed sites makes a major contribution to sustainable development,

1:19:52

and of course,

1:19:54

to the preservation of farming, land and greenery, as we can

1:20:00

We have

1:20:05

the third point, I would make an relation to the point about grid connections, when it's unclear to us what if any other grid connection locations were considered, and why they were not considered viable? If I understand correctly, it is considered desirable to have a grid connection very close, but not impossible to have one less close. And therefore, it would be useful to know what other locations were considered when coming to the conclusion that the development should take place in this particular location. And as a general point in confusion for those three points, it seems to be interested parties.

1:20:48

difficult to imagine that there aren't other sites that would take some of these boxes.

1:21:18

Thank you, essentially.

1:21:23

Mr. Roberts, are you able to respond to any of the points raised by essentially,

1:21:29

particularly the point about use of previously developed land?

1:21:41

cattle, real property? applicants?

1:21:45

Yes.

1:21:47

In terms of use of permission to land

1:21:53

in terms of the size selection process, there wasn't any available within the proximity of the site. But can I request that we provide you with a full detailed response?

1:22:07

On the three matches that have been raised by the third party? I think that might be of assistance.

1:22:22

Thank you. Wait, I think I think, for my on behalf of the applicant, what I will come in to say is obviously Yes, we will

1:22:29

submit a full response there. But I think it's it's clear from the explanation that Mr. Roberts gave, that the fact that a grid connection could be secured in this pre in this particular location, meant that

1:22:45

the applicants attention was focused on delivering a scheme on this particular site and the forms in which that might take as opposed as part of its approach to alternatives rather than the, shall we say, a comprehensive area wide site selection seven process.

1:24:07

Thank you. I as indicated in the note, in response to the points raised by

1:24:14

we certainly will be of assistance.

1:24:18

Mr. Law on this point, though, about previously developed land within the council's area.

1:24:28

Are there significant areas of PDL, potentially up to 230 542 125 Hectors that might be capable of accommodating a solar park of this scale? Thank you, sir. Andrew often often can counsel and not thinking she does have large areas of previously developed land. However, I very much doubt that there will be a site of this size that would be available for the

1:25:00

sighting of a of a solar Park,

1:25:04

I'd have to stop short of confirming that it's an entirety without, without, you know, performing a full search myself, but in my knowledge, and I do have 15 years experience working in the area in planning, I'm not aware of any of any site of previously developed land that would would be a sufficient size to accommodate a solar park of this scale.

1:25:35

Thank you.

1:25:47

I've seen and this is for the applicant. I've seen reference,

1:25:54

particularly in Section seven nine of the environmental statement to a proposed solar farm or park for 50 megawatts conisbee.

1:26:08

Are you worried this might equally be for Mr. Law? Are you able to give an indication as to whether or not that scheme is likely to proceed?

1:26:20

And in that context, whether or not it should be considered as alternative, either in whole or part to the proposed development?

1:26:34

Probably turning to the applicant first. And then if you haven't got any information about Congress be Mr. Law might be able to assist.

1:26:50

Sir Paul Meyer, on behalf the applicant. If anyone will have that information within our team, it will be

1:26:57

having to hand it will be Mr. Roberts. If he could perhaps indicate whether whether he does. And if not, then I'll defer to what Mr. Lowe knows and follow up from my side in writing.

1:27:11

Mr. acquits Are you able to assist?

1:27:14

Yes, I haven't got that to hand at the moment. But I could respond if a given time. So we're gonna have a look at the files. Yes. Well, it is something I suppose it will be no surprise to anybody attending this hearing. I have a draft list of written questions in preparation at the moment, given that I need to issue them next week. This one has been plucked out of that list.

1:27:42

So if it's going to take time to find it on so I'm happy that we leave it as a written question.

1:27:49

And, and the app couldn't respond unless Mr. Law has a speedy answer.

1:27:55

He's on the ground, so to speak in the council's area. Thank you, sir. yondu often often can show counsel. I mean, one one thing that I could add is there were there were very few pre commencement conditions. In fact, I think there may have only been the one I am on that that planning permission. As long as I was the officer responsible for dealing with that application.

1:28:19

As far as I'm aware, we have received and dealt with an application for discharge

1:28:26

of conditions in respective of the application. And that is the last contact as far as I'm aware that we've had with regards to that scheme, but

1:28:37

would give an indication of, of intent to

1:28:42

to bring the scheme forwards, but I'm not really able to offer any concrete answers. Other than provide that that minor update really, sir.

1:28:54

Thank you, Mr. Robot, I think, to assess my understanding of conisbee.

1:29:02

At least in part in terms of what it is and where it is. I'm going to ask and it doesn't really matter whether it comes from the council, or the app, and I suspect it might be for the council. If you could submit a copy of the permission.

1:29:23

An officer put report whether that be delegated report or a committee report and a I suppose properly the red line area

1:29:35

for that site so that I know how big it is and possibly where it is. We slowly Is that something that you could facilitate in terms of providing

1:29:47

details of that site in terms of its permission? So that planning the planning permission, the author report, and I just say a redline title something Yes, it certainly sir. That's that's

1:30:00

is not a problem at all we can we can provide that for you.

1:30:03

Okay, but while we're talking about con has been, it's probably something for the technical note that we were talking about earlier. So that's for the applicant.

1:30:14

I think it might assist my understanding that for potentially the sacristy, if I'm in the territory of needing to refer to this in the report

1:30:25

what the applicant knows of the grid connection position for conisbee, I

1:30:32

would utilise the same part of the grid, the appeal, the application would,

1:30:41

or does it gain access to the grid via another route?

1:30:49

Hopefully, that wasn't too convoluted requests for something else to go into the technical note.

1:31:01

This domain is a male, is that something that the applicant will be able to explore? Certainly, we can provide an answer to that one.

1:31:24

This is probably a question for Mr. Roberts.

1:31:29

Paragraph 4.2 3.6

1:31:34

of chapter four of the environmental statement, there's a statement that says accordingly, which is a part quote from that that paragraph. All energy schemes start with a grid proximity and capacity available. Availability within

1:31:55

signs read that again, according to all energy SC searches, start with a grid proximity, and capacity, capacity availability.

1:32:09

With the income, I'm wondering whether I've mistyped something when I wrote my note, as this determines whether a development can connect to the grid or to the electricity. Really, my question, is that proposition correct? Or, in fact, is the starting point not consideration of local need for electricity and scheme viability?

1:32:34

So a promoter looks up? Yep, there's something there's a need in that area

1:32:40

that need yield to scheme of a certain size.

1:32:45

And then that feeds into what can we find a site that we can generate some electricity on? That would meet the gap in the market? in want of another phrase?

1:33:00

I suspect that that might actually be one for Mr. Harlow. But

1:33:04

I'll, I'll see who pops up

1:33:08

response.

1:33:13

Thanks for the Africans.

1:33:16

Yeah, so there's obviously a number of processes in site selection. Yeah, you know, obviously, certain designations such as Greenbelt, etc, would be you know, from a planning side, but from a grid connection side, you have the use of heat maps, which are documents and online facilities that the district network operators have available for developers. And typically, you know, you would be scouring them regularly looking to see whether there are any changes in the network to see what locations and you know, it would make sense to make an application for a grid connection on

1:33:59

in some areas, obviously, those maps can be pretty detailed and tell you that you know, the the network is at capacity. And at that point, obviously, proceeding with a project is highly unlikely.

1:34:28

I think really, what I take from that is there are a few steps. I you look at in effect the local market.

1:34:38

You'll see what that market information or demand information is.

1:34:45

And then you'll start to look at Well,

1:34:50

I suppose some of the viability type concern, you know, is there enough of a demand or shortage in that area to make it worthwhile bringing scale

1:35:00

Forward, then you start to look at,

1:35:04

well, where might we locate

1:35:08

a generating facility?

1:35:11

Yes, in part, actually the way things are developing now

1:35:16

you have corporates looking to purchase green electricity. So the corporate may not be local. It may be somewhere else in the UK. So, you know, the connection to the local grid network is based on capacity within the network itself. It's not so much based on the demand within that network. You may have more capacity and lower demand.

1:35:40

Or you could have a scenario where there's just, you know, capacity, and it's a busy network, but there's still sufficient capacity for us to connect a project as to, you know, to find a home for that electricity. That varies. It depends, as I said, the market is developing now, and it's becoming more of a almost UK wide market.

1:36:17

Thank you.

1:36:22

Sir. Good job is for the applicants if I can also add as well, your reference to need

1:36:29

there is no cap to the general

1:36:35

level need wasn't was not a good term. It's more Yeah. Whereas I suppose,

1:36:44

as Mr. Harlow indicated, and I suppose the proper terminology is this capacity within the grid to enable something to connect to the grid to start generating to, as Mr. Harlow has highlighted, potentially send that not necessarily within the local area, but further afield. Because once it gets into the National Grid, I presuming it can literally go anywhere.

1:37:12

National Grid will take whatever, and then they'll they'll export it around the country. And it's then

1:37:21

in effect put into the local network wherever there's demand in the local network to meet a shortage.

1:37:32

Okay,

1:37:56

paragraph 4.4 point 23.7 of the environmental statement that's in chapter four, again,

1:38:08

comments, having established the point of connection, the development site itself was selected through an extensive site saving exercise based on a range of technical, environmental and economic factors. I'm taking on board what's previously been said

1:38:30

by Mr. Roberts, particularly in response to an earlier question, I just want to check the accuracy of that proposition.

1:38:39

Because in effect, is it not the point of connection establishes?

1:38:49

Sorry, is it the,

1:38:54

in this case, a point connection has been established I it's going to be

1:39:00

within the order limits.

1:39:04

So does that not actually mean that there isn't an extensive or can't be much of an extensive sightseeing exercise?

1:39:14

Because

1:39:17

the search for actual location for the generation, the generating station

1:39:23

will be somewhere within the vicinity of where that connection can be made. So it's really the phrase extensive, extensive sieving

1:39:36

that I'm querying, whether that

1:39:40

in this instance, can be said to be extensive, or, yeah, it's taken place.

1:39:47

But actually, is it extensive, just maybe a bit of an exaggeration? He Yes, yes. I'm gonna propose for the applicant. So in terms of the word extensive,

1:40:00

refers to the

1:40:03

the list of issues that were taken into consideration. For example, agricultural land, landscape, and impacts.

1:40:15

ecology, so So in terms of the extensive, it means all the issues that were considered

1:40:22

to kind of deem this site appropriate to bring forward for the ttt CEO, vacation.

1:40:32

And as I said, as I mentioned earlier,

1:40:36

there was alternative land considered and dismissed, that was to to the north of the order limits, and that was due to kind of the predicted higher grade, I go through land, which is a specific

1:40:50

issue in North Lincoln Lincoln country, given the high proportion of the area that is BMV. And in terms of the application of the or the sites

1:41:01

77.5% or the order limit is non BMV. Not best the movers that are crucial. And so those are key concepts, its key consideration in the site selection process.

1:41:18

lameness was had previously with the kinds of visual impacts, if we were to consider the site to to the north of the order limits. So in terms of extensive, it's not a case of extensive site sight, but an extensive list of issues to consider to see if the site of our site is appropriate for the developments.

1:41:51

externalise. Thank you for that clarification.

1:41:55

I wouldn't go away though.

1:41:59

This might be for you, or it might be for Mr. Harlow.

1:42:04

I suppose asking the question in a back to front. If there wasn't a connection available to the grid,

1:42:14

within the order limits, would this be a suitable location for a solar park? of the intended generating capacity?

1:42:24

Yes, yes. Yes. Yes. So in terms of the kind of in terms of a size selection process, as we've said that the next stage is to kind of assess the site against a range, an extensive range of technical

considerations, and that is deemed the site to be appropriate for solar development, solar and battery development. Yes.

1:42:54

Sorry. I think

1:42:57

what I've been hearing is quick connection is really important.

1:43:04

Not my question, whether you misheard it what I was saying is, if there was no grid connection

1:43:11

with this site be promoted.

1:43:15

Well, hypothetically speaking, sir, we would say yes, this site is still remains favourable for renewable energy scheme.

1:43:27

But you will not be able to connect this given there's no grid connection.

1:43:41

Hope I understand the question. So what? Yes, but then, so Okay. It's suitable in all other required regards. But if a key

1:43:52

factor in deciding where solar Park goes is the ability to connect to the grid, and there were no connection

1:44:03

with the applicant bringing this site forward? I think the answer probably would be no.

1:44:12

Yes, sir. You are correct. So in terms, so any kind of commercial development scheme that is the kind of financial implications and obviously any developer, whether it be little energy, house builder, warehouse, construction, anything new roads, any type of infrastructure, they wouldn't progress towards the application, if there was no real outcome in developing that scheme?

1:44:48

On behalf of the applicant, I think I'd add to that so by saying the whole of his tenet of renewable energy generation related policy is to be able to take that power and connected to the grid. So

1:45:00

Obviously, the availability of an appropriate

1:45:03

grid connection with the required capacity is a key element in choosing where you might like you might locate any particular project, what I then understand the sort of Mr. Roberts is saying that

1:45:18

even taking, that, that availability doesn't

1:45:24

doesn't skew the judgement as to whether this soon in his his opinion and for the factors that he set out in the environmental statement is a good site.

1:45:34

There are a number of other considerations which needs to be taken into account.

1:45:39

And I think his position is that those have been taken into account in in the in the site selection exercise, and some parts of of or some areas of land that were originally considered

1:45:54

as being potentially available, were discounted as part of that process, because in terms of the criteria that he set out in, in that overall section of the environmental statement,

1:46:09

certain certain elements didn't meet the required standard.

1:46:49

Thank you.

1:46:52

Okay, if we can just quickly look at a donor nothing scenario. So, the order limit stay as is

1:47:02

where might

1:47:08

150 to 200 megawatts of electricity be generated as alternative to the pros development?

1:47:26

Good afternoon, sir. Can I propose for the applicants?

1:47:31

But we have no answer to that, because we have no other scheme in reference yourself.

1:47:51

I think I would refer back to the

1:47:54

the

1:47:56

current

1:47:58

network report

1:48:03

which kind of

1:48:05

the grid network constraints report

1:48:08

documents appendix 4.3 of the variable statements, a pp 079

1:48:16

kind of details really the process in identifying the grid selection process and like affirmed

1:48:26

the points of connection within your limits is the only available site at this moment in time.

1:48:48

There without also that in terms of a zip schema, the size it does require

1:48:54

132 kV point O connection

1:48:57

and obviously, those points of connections are limited.

1:49:04

within North link, the lingering ligature area, guided by the overhead power lines that we have going through the site here

1:49:52

wouldn't necessarily

1:49:55

necessarily exclude some other generating technologies.

1:50:00

Even you wouldn't necessarily be in this location,

1:50:05

presumably, up to 200 megawatts could

1:50:10

come from another source another, say another technology elsewhere completely different?

1:50:21

I haven't got the answer to that. So because the actual point of connection has been secured for the little cross, so the pack scheme, and any other application for any other type of energy to opens, would they would have to make their own application to the DNO to see what critical capacity is available for them.

1:50:51

To hear on behalf of the applicant as well, I mean, nothing in in as a general concept.

1:50:59

Will there be other large energy generating potential potential projects out there somewhere? Absolutely, absolutely. There will be.

1:51:12

And, and we can see that formulated through various examples set out in government policy.

1:51:29

But a nice amount of planning argument, what I would say is that that shouldn't count against this scheme in any way, simply by virtue of that fact.

1:51:43

No, I mean, all I'm seeking to do is sort of get a handle that if

1:51:51

a decision is made, not to grant a development consent order in this instance, what effect

1:51:59

might there be of up to 100 megawatts

1:52:05

being unavailable.

1:52:10

And I think the answer that question is, well, it might be found somewhere else.

1:52:18

But it, it wouldn't help the overall position

1:52:23

in terms of

1:52:26

providing electricity generating capacity to meet

1:52:33

the demand in

1:52:37

England and Wales.

1:52:40

Given that the clock, again, that was a wrong phrase, the climate in terms of what

1:52:47

types of generating facility should now be used to meet

1:52:53

the changing agenda?

1:52:56

Yes, I mean,

1:52:58

I think what I might say, just to place that in overall context is that I'm not aware of any limitation, for example, being placed upon the required generating capacity of renewable energy projects such as this within UK

1:53:18

planning or energy policy.

1:53:23

Okay, I think that takes that line of questions as far as it, it can usefully go.

1:53:37

I suppose just for Mr. Harlow. I think was Mr. Hart referred to the heat map. Are those in the public domain?

1:53:45

Or are they commercially sensitive? Thank you, sir. Tom Harlow on behalf of the applicant? Yes, they are there they were available. So I think most if not all.

1:53:56

District network operators have a link to heat maps on their site.

1:54:03

It's relatively user friendly. Although sometimes it's

1:54:10

it can be a little bit outdated, where you think it's green, it's red. But red obviously means an inability to connect, or major constraints or reinforcements required. So I think if you look in the

1:54:27

grid connection, restraints, network restraints report, I think it's a PDP or seven, nine.

1:54:36

There's actually a screenshot of what a

1:54:41

heat map report looks like for this location.

1:55:12

And is that heat map likely to be for Northern power grid? Or does it show a a wider? The other other network?

1:55:22

No, it would be specifically northern power grid and because obviously that that Who's that is this? This is their region.

1:55:29

So where does that region sort of go from? What does it cover? It's quite extensive, actually.

1:55:37

I know to well up into close into Yorkshire, it goes quite a distance across maybe halfway across in Leeds.

1:55:47

I'd be not sure exactly how far south it goes before it meets Western power on UK APN. But it's it's quite extensive.

1:56:13

I've just pulled up the grid connection report, I think the only map

1:56:24

is showing

1:56:31

the actual grid connection.

1:56:42

No, this, this is the

1:56:45

Oh, this is document 7.10 Lt. tF 4.3. Which I'm pretty certain is

1:56:57

reference aipp dash 079 on the examination library, which is the grid network constraints report. Yep. Yeah. So on page four of that,

1:57:08

was there is a figure one.

1:57:19

Yep. So that is essentially a screenshot of a heat map.

1:57:25

Right.

1:57:26

To me, got what I expected is a heat map. But

1:57:30

yeah, there are there are other layers that you can kind of play around with it would it would,

1:57:35

it would make it difficult to actually kind of read us on a PDF, you know, on a website, you can zoom in and zoom out, etc. As you can see the location of the size. And obviously, the various substations are the dots that are all in red.

1:57:54

Yep.

1:58:19

That's helpful. Thank you. Right.

1:58:23

unless anybody else wants to raise a point about alternatives and

1:58:38

location and scale, I think I'd like to now move

1:58:45

on I was gonna say I think we'll move on to landscaping envisioning effects. But I think as we've been sitting for just a minute short of two hours, which is longer than the recommended one and a half hours that

1:59:00

the inspector thinks that we should sit for this might be an appropriate time for an adjournment.

1:59:12

Oh,

1:59:14

people content that we take, again, another 15 minute adjournment

1:59:20

which would bring us back up to quarter past four.

1:59:26

Certainly, sir, from my perspective.

1:59:30

Just just to point on on general availability, Mr. Denny who deals with landscape and visual issues is only available tomorrow morning. So I mean, I anticipate with where we are in the agenda that will will easily get through

1:59:45

matters for him, seeing as he's effectively next up.

1:59:50

I then but just to draw that to your attention, and people will be pleased to hear although there are a number of questions that are probably a lot more straightforward

1:59:58

than the last

2:00:00

two sections worth of questions

2:00:04

because I suppose landscaping visual effects are more the territory of planners day in day out than electricity grid connection type matters and generation capacity and what not.

2:00:18

Yet will serve certainly

2:00:23

have

2:00:25

dealt with everything I think that Mr. Denny might be able to assist with this afternoon.

2:00:31

I think what I would propose to do is as they will take in the gentleman tools quote past

2:00:39

when we resume I'll just check in with

2:00:49

me sexually whether there are only matters in particular, she feels we might need to be thinking about this afternoon before she's not available tomorrow.

2:00:59

So that after we done landscape and visual effects, I might do a bit of rejigging to take that on board.

2:01:11

What I can say is that once we get past landscape and visual effects,

2:01:19

the following sections under part three of the agenda, the number of questions are significantly less for each part.

2:01:31

Before we get to the DCA bit, okay, so, the hearing is therefore now adjourned until quarter past four. Thank you.