

## Hearing Transcript

<b>Project:</b>	North Falls Offshore Wind Farm
<b>Hearing:</b>	Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) - Part H
<b>Date:</b>	H <del>A</del> April 2025

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FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:03:15 - 00:00:38:02

It's now ten, 2:00. Um, and we are now resuming the issue specific hearing one. We are now taking the agenda from item 3.7, socio economic effects. Um, and if I can start off with reference to the outline Skills and Employment plan EP 253, which sets out the proposals for skills and employment opportunities. The Local Impact report has been provided by Suffolk County Council.

00:00:38:04 - 00:01:02:13

Rep one zero 74 refers to the workforce churn and displacement and indicates a negative impact. This could the applicant expand on what support will be given to the local population, to access the employment opportunities that are anticipated, and to ensure that the employment benefits are realised for the local area.

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Play a budget for the applicant. I will just let the two people who are going to be speaking to this particular topic introduce themselves. So I will let Mr. Gomes just introduce himself. Who's in the room?

00:01:17:28 - 00:01:28:19

Thank you. Ricardo Gomes from hatch, who led the socioeconomics work and worked with the applicant and stakeholders on the Osap.

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And we also have Mr. Payne, who is joining virtually. So I'll just let Mr. Payne introduce himself. Thank you.

00:01:38:24 - 00:01:55:28

Good afternoon. So my name is Andy Payne for the applicant. I'm the project director for North Force Offshore Wind Farm with responsibility for the project at this stage in its development. I'm a chartered engineer and fellow of the Institution Mechanical Engineers. I'm happy to be referred to as Mr. Payne.

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Thank you very much, Mr. Payne. I will hand over to Mr. Gomes to respond to your question. Thank you.

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Thank you. I will make some remarks. Uh, in answering the question about, um, the approach, um, set out in the, in the AU set and that includes the principles that are shaping it, um, as, as work progresses towards, um, what will eventually become the, the, the final employment and skills plan, subject to and DCO consent. I'll say something about the, um, the themes and some of the related, um, measures

potentially, that have been identified in the AU, CEP and that continue to be the subject of discussion with stakeholders.

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And and I will hand over then to, uh, to Andy Payne, who will talk about some of the, uh, specifics from the applicant's perspective, and indeed some of their experience of working with stakeholders and ensuring that there are local employment, skills development and indeed supply chain opportunities, uh, uh, for for businesses and residents in a local area. So the opportunity for um, local residents to secure employment in both the the construction and the operational phases, um, of North Falls is a focus of the the outline skills and employment plan.

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Um, engagement with stakeholders is an absolutely essential and ongoing part of um, work on on on the skills and employment plan. And that's continued following the completion of the the document, the outset that you have, uh, in front of you. So a key purpose of that final. What will eventually become the final Skills and Employment Plan is to enable. Employment and skills development opportunities arising from the project to be taken up by local people within Tendring and within the wider Essex and Suffolk areas.

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In that regard, and securing local employment and skills development opportunities is an essential part of the process of tackling some of those issues in terms of demand for construction workers and indeed construction businesses, and that are generated by the project. The principles of the approach in developing the plan have been, first of all, to ensure its its evidence led, its research driven, and that continues.

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And so through the research and engagement that shaped the CEP. Intention is to identify the scale and types of employment opportunities, the skills and qualifications that were required and target groups within the population, and specific target groups within the population. Which which which we we might target through, uh, measures ultimately to, um, to ensure that there's the reach of uh skills and employment development activity is is maximised in the area.

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Secondly, um, it is engagement driven. And so it's underpinned by engagement with stakeholders, including the and the county and district councils, Essex Chamber of Commerce, Department for Work and Pensions, uh Stem learning UK, the East of England Energy Group, University of Essex and Freeport East were consulted in developing the Osap.

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It has to be collaborative and we have to ensure that the plan measures complement and add value to existing initiatives and partnerships across Essex and Suffolk. And so the applicant is committed to working in collaboration. Um, Andy Payne will no doubt say more about this point, but it is about making the best use of the applicant's experience and resources and its people in terms of working with those partnerships, those organisations, to, um, to ensure that the reach in terms of local recruitment and skills development is, is maximised.

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And it's also important to the applicant and there is sustainability and indeed legacy. Um, they recognise the need to ensure that initiatives to recruit local residents and support skills development are continued from construction through to operation. Um, and then at the end of the process, an effective skills development process will leave local residents with the opportunity to apply those skills to a wider range of infrastructure projects that will be delivered in the area.

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And just a couple of remarks about the themes then that have been identified through the CEP. So they they frame the measures that will be developed to support local recruitment and which would be developed in detail in the final set. So the overall approach to local supply chain and recruitment is to maximise opportunities for the area to provide employment and indeed in doing that to address underemployment, unemployment and um, with reference to some of the the target groups, target communities and to address some of those issues facing and deprived communities in the area where there is an opportunity to do that.

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Um, education is an absolutely critical theme of the the steps. And this is on supporting the development of a long term pipeline of talent. So that is starting to work at an early stage with, with school children and ensuring that there is a, a sense of a career pathway. This is not simply about a job. It's about a career that may be in the construction sector. It may be in the, the, the, the operation and maintenance of the offshore wind farm.

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So there has been and will be engagement with education providers. And there are a series of potential initiatives flagged in the CEP. They include a sector based academy uh champions for wind, development of careers materials and touch points with universities. Um, it's been interesting in 2025 looking at the tendering future skills initiative. Uh, and I understand that, um, there being representatives of the Galloper Wind Farm who've been engaging with year six primary school children at some point through that initiative.

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To it will be about transition and enabling people who may be working in in other sectors. Um, the AU set mentions um armed forces, for example. Um, and that is that that will have to be underpinned by widening the reach of engagement and that early provision of information about the opportunity. Um, so that's information sharing will be attendance at recruitment events and the promotion of opportunities through, um, careers pages, for example.

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And finally, um, and briefly, a point about diversity. I think there's recognition given some of the skills challenges, um, facing the UK. Uh, currently, um, in terms of providing support for, uh, over 50, for example, into employment, those with those with disabilities. And the applicant is committed to working with stakeholders to identify, um, priorities. I'm going to hand to Andy Payne to give an update on the status of the the app.

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Thank you. Andy Payne for the applicant. So well I'll just walk you through where we are currently with the um the, the Sep, um, and some of the initiatives and opportunities that we would expect to include in that after going through our, our consultation. Um, however, it might be worth just reminding the panel of a couple of things. Um, one is the extent of the experience of the two developers behind this project.

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Are we in SEC, which are two of the largest, um, developers and operators of renewable energy projects in the UK, and between them I think they operate something like nine gig lots of, of of generation. So, um, and all that involves, uh, engagement on, on skills and supply chain. So you can be reassured that you have the experience of the partners behind the project? Uh, um, additionally, that the when we talk about the range of skills, it's a wide range of opportunities.

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Typically the, uh, um, you know, the contracting structure would be let in a series of packages of varying size. Um, so all the way from, you know, for example, um, uh, fencing contractors, accommodation providers, all the way up through to sort of tier one suppliers. So there's a range of skills that, um, we would expect to look at. Um, so as Mr. Gomez says, uh, our intention now is to consult on developing the final osap, which will be ready.

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Um, before we get to to fid. Um, we we final investment decision. Um, we we need our suppliers on board with that so we can, um, give them the direction we wish to go in and incorporate their, their initiatives as well on skill Scale.

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Um, in fact, I, you know, we're also doing this jointly with, with, with with five estuaries. And, um, we did indeed have a recent meeting, I believe, with Essex County Council in February to, uh, to sort of carry on, uh, that consultation. So, you know, we've got the draft, we've got the CEP, and now get to get to the final step that that consultation will will continue. Um, there are another some typical opportunities and initiatives that we have identified from other projects. And obviously the CEP itself is project specific, but we can draw on experiences and expertise from elsewhere.

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So typically focus groups to, uh, to look at particular issues, um, uh, unemployment, um, black sports, for example, um, potential appointment of skills liaison officers, um, looking hard at specific community needs. And this is where the project specific piece comes in. It's a really good example where I think we looked hard at women into manufacturing and engineering in Hull, so we for another project. So we'd be looking for similar, um, local initiatives, um, to get involved in um military veterans programme, particular interest in East Anglia and the Colchester area, um potential local recruitment, uh promotion and all the associated communications that go with this and, and of course, um schools and, and college, uh, initiatives.

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Um, so the next step, we now start to more in-depth consultation and, and, and put the detail into the to the set ready for for FID. Thank you.

00:13:25:03 - 00:13:33:26

Thank you both for your helpful summaries and update. Um, if I could turn first to the local authorities. Um, Suffolk.

00:13:35:13 - 00:13:40:17

Yeah. Can I bring in? Um, James Chandler is online grown. Gumby, Suffolk county council.

00:13:42:07 - 00:14:19:26

Thanks very much. Uh, so I'm James Chandler, Suffolk county council. Uh, I'm the skills for infrastructure strategic lead. Um, yeah, I think to to start with, just, uh, on on that response, uh, from the applicant, I think really supportive of, uh, the engagement research led approach and certainly agree that the collaborative commitments are absolutely vital on this. And, um, the suggested activity within those themes of the CEP. So the outreach activity. Um, supporting our hard to reach groups and the education inspiration content is fundamental and would certainly expect to see that in any CEP.

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Um, I think the the main point that we'd like to make, as the county is for consideration that there are some more binding provisions, uh, that should be considered through DCO to secure the delivery of a co-produced and code governed CEP, um, to ultimately improve the accountability and transparency of those socioeconomic matters. Uh, as good context through, uh, the Suffolk County Council, we've newly established a regional skills coordination function to to help resource and address some of these challenges and opportunities.

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Um, so we are absolutely able and would expect that code development, uh, to be pursued. And for those governance governance arrangements to be made to oversee the delivery and adaptation of the CEP, to be able to respond to new information and changes in those socioeconomic conditions. Uh, I've got a couple that of examples that I can just draw upon, if I may. Um, and then I'll pause there. So, um, I think first and foremost, the main would be around, uh, the phasing and or sorry, the sort of clarity needed around role types, uh, their quantity over the duration of the project, its life cycle split by phase.

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Ultimately, to be able to provide us with more information to understand how the spectrum of roles will be accessed by local people in a strategic manner to workforce planning that goes beyond recruitment drives. Um, that that's absolutely fundamental. But actually, I think that there's more of a socio economic issue here that we're looking to address, which is around the, uh, significant competition created by multiple end CIPs, uh, operating and competing for the same labour market.

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So it creates an additional challenge there. Uh, and just to draw on, uh, one more, if I may, I think the, uh, sort of there's a the applicant, uh, acknowledges those tightening labor market conditions, but I think actually what we need to see is an indication of those potential mitigation strategies based on

those labor market conditions that will be affected by those recruitment drives in the competition that I referred to, which is something that can absolutely be embedded in the CEP and with the appropriate governance arrangements, could be overseen as well by the applicant and the local authorities that are affected by that socio economic matter.

00:16:58:20 - 00:17:25:06

And you paid for the applicant. Maybe I can just, um, respond and I you know, all I can say is that we sort of welcome the, the, the engagement and the consultation with you and others as we go forward to develop the final step and, and can, can sort of, you know, deal, deal with the, the points that you raise. And, you know, it's exactly the what the consultation process is designed to do. So thank you.

00:17:27:00 - 00:18:01:11

Sorry, Claire, I was just going to say if there's obviously, as has been explained by Mr. Gimson and Mr. Payne, the work is ongoing to develop the final, uh, final, uh, plan. Um, and that requires more information to be known about both the program and the method of construction for the project. So I suppose from in respect of the comments that have been made by, um, the council today, if there is specific drafting that they would like to see in the outline plan, um, they'd be grateful if they could provide that.

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And then we can obviously consider that, whereas we'll see the detailed points that they were mentioning are matters for the final version of this plan, which will be um approved, um post consent by um, by the authority, uh, which, which in this case is Essex. Obviously the project is located in Essex.

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So perhaps if there is any update on the, uh, discussions and, uh, Progress working with the local authorities. Those can be provided at deadline for, um. Turning to Essex.

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Wireless on behalf of Essex County Council and Tendring District Council. And in terms of the current submission of the outline Skills and Employment Plan, um, we are aware the applicant has looked into the incentive and various different projects. Ideally we would like to um, at the moment the the strategy itself is very overarching, but there's nothing very concrete or solid about the commitment from the applicants on different aspects.

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So we are aware that currently requirement 18 will require, um, the final version to be discharged. Um, the council would like to see a stronger commitment from the applicants in terms of um, especially investment into research and development. One of the things especially is related to. Harwich and Harwich has been identified by the University of Essex being the prime location to be an innovation hub, and this should be referred within the outline strategy itself as well.

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So, um, Tendring District Council also last year has agreed, um, an energy hub and a green energy hub in Harwich as well. So this should be something that the applicant should look into and see how,

together with the innovation hub, how it could have achieved a synergy effect. We welcome the applicants approach to start, um, early engagement in the skills and employment sector and working with relevant parties. And we will continue to work together with the applicant and Suffolk County Council as well to discharge the requirement at the end.

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Thank you.

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The applicant want to respond.

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For the applicant just to say that we've made a note of those particular, uh, points that were, uh, raised on behalf of Essex County Council, and we'll take that away. Um, as I mentioned before, there is a balance to be struck between the sort of the process and the overarching principles that go in the outline plan and then the more detailed, specific, um, initiatives that will be invested in as part of the detailed plan. And it may be that we're not able to make specific reference at this stage for the reasons mentioned, uh, in the hearings yesterday about, uh, you know, it's still being determined which port might be used for the project, etc.,

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but we'll definitely take those points away and see whether there is anything that could be added to the outline plan. Whilst, as Mr. Payne said, the conversations are ongoing about the detailed plan that is to follow post consent.

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Are there any other parties in the room? Mrs. Mason?

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Carolyn Mason, Ardley Parish council.

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Um, I think from our perspective, from the community's perspective, we would want them. We want consideration for half the applicants, all of the applicants of all of the substations and National Grid, um, project to look at the impact of unemployment in our area because businesses are going to be affected. Some businesses deeply affected by the changes that are being proposed. So we would want all of the applicants we would like to ask, will they work together to consider the over? Well, the cumulative effect of all of the projects on our community in terms of unemployment and loss of business?

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I'm Mr. Blythe.

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Yeah, I'm along the same lines. And I had a very large elephant in the room, which is the Sunshine Coast of Tendring district is well known for its holidaymakers coming to the area, and we're going to



rip up 2 or 3000 acres of land and put electricity cables through it and right from the beach all the way inland. And I think that somebody ought to engage with the tourist, um, business to see what effects can be mitigated, uh, as a result of their action or the applicant's actions.

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Yeah.

00:23:11:09 - 00:23:18:19

So, Carolyn Mason, can I just add Dedham Vale to that list because of the tourism terrorism that that attracts.

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Go ahead.

00:23:24:00 - 00:23:48:11

Collaborate with the applicant. Obviously we were specifically talking about the, um, skills and supply chain. But in terms of skills and employment plan, but obviously in terms of the assessment that's been undertaken, the socio economic that does consider impacts on on tourism and. Mr. Kim is happy to provide a very brief summary of of the assessment that was undertaken, if that's required. But I appreciate that's not one of the agenda topics.

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Can I suggest that that's something that is followed up in writing, rather than.

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We can provide cross-references to where that information can be found in the in the application if that would be.

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Okay. Thank you.

00:24:01:20 - 00:24:02:17

Any other.

00:24:04:05 - 00:24:04:20

Mr..

00:24:05:00 - 00:24:38:11

Jacob, you are attending district council. So just for the record, um, tendering support, uh, what's just been said by by Audley Parish Council and also for the record, the the impact on tourism insofar as the district of Tendring and the national landscape is concerned. It remains a big area of disagreement between Tendring and the applicants. The applicants are saying there won't be a significant impact on tourism. We are saying there will be a very significant impact on tourism, especially if the cumulative impacts are taken into account and all the unknowns.

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So that is an area that we are talking to the applicant on that. But I just wanted the panel to know that this is an area of disagreement. Thank you.

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Again, I suggest that as this wasn't something that was particularly highlighted in the agenda, that perhaps we deal with that by way of a written response for the next deadline. Um, which would be helpful.

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Thank you. Clare, for the applicant. And yes, also, it will be a matter that will be recorded in the statement of Common ground in terms of, um, the area of any areas of disagreement on on that particular point.

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Okay.

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Um, moving on to the next, uh, bullet point, uh, which is in connection with the local supply chain. Um, and the question really for the applicant is if you could very, uh, succinctly, uh, update us as to proposals to be taken forward to ensure that local supply chains are able to benefit from the proposed development.

00:25:47:19 - 00:26:25:08

Requirements for the applicant. Um, I'll start by very briefly summarizing, uh, how the, uh, the CEP, um, has dealt with, uh, supply chain, uh, opportunities. And again, I'll hand over to Andy Payne, who can talk about some of the specific measures that are already, uh, being undertaken and will be and measures that will be developed, uh, further as we progress with the Skills and Employment plan. So, um, the, the Osap, um, recognizes that there are significant existing supply chain capabilities across Essex and Suffolk.

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Um, I think at the latest count, they were circa, uh, 15,000. Um, construction, uh, construction businesses in, in Essex, 4500 circa in in Suffolk recognised that many of those businesses are our, our micro and small businesses. But there is a a substantial base in the construction sector, um alone and, and the, the CEP recognises that um, those strengths are reflected in sections 2.1 and also in the appendix in the CEP.

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Um, the applicant will consider businesses located in Essex and Suffolk as part of the procurement process in due course. And Andy. Andy Payne, um, might, might say a little bit more about, um, about engagement with businesses. Um, in advance of, um, in advance of um, of the construction contracts being let ultimately. Um, measures, um, that will be undertaken for the supply chain will be, um, will be developed further, um, in the same way as we've described for the, uh, the skills and skills development and recruitment, um, uh, elements of the of the plan.

00:27:49:10 - 00:28:31:07

Early engagement is already being undertaken through, for example, the North Walls website. So suppliers have the opportunity through that website to register interest in the in the project. Um, there are um, there are case studies dealt with in the CEP um A into how supply chains can be developed and some of the experience that Andy can mention shortly. The strategic approach that underpins the supply chain element of the OCP is to recognise, again, the need to maximise local opportunities and its role in assisting in tackling some of the economic challenges, particularly within tendering, that are highlighted in the in the OSA.

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Um, it's important also that the um the measures um, and the plan is about engaging with local initiatives and we reference, for example, the Essex Green Skills Strategy tendering future skills programme essential also that the applicant draws on experience from the delivery of wind farm projects. And it works with relevant stakeholders, including the authorities but also DWP, Stem learning and so on. Um, I'll let Andy say a little more about, um, some of the specific Measures that might be undertaken to promote the opportunity to, um, to local suppliers.

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Uh, in due course. Um, I'm going to hand over to, to Andy now to say something more about the development of a supply chain engagement strategy and some of those examples.

00:29:26:01 - 00:30:00:03

Thank you, Andy Payne, for the applicant. So as Mr. Gomez says, um, we are in the process developing a supply chain engagement strategy, which is entirely usual for a project at this stage of, of development. Um, this is um, a strategy that or a concept that we've and our shareholders employed on previous, um, projects. So we're sort of bringing in, uh, lessons learned from, from that. And that will kind of set out in more detail, um, exactly how that engagement will work and how we will work with, um,

00:30:01:20 - 00:30:37:01

also our tier one suppliers as we point them through, through the process. But, um, it will sort of feature a number of sort of key elements, um, and mechanisms to sort of enable that engagement, and in particular for the, for the local, um, supply chain. Um, I would emphasize again, and that the sort of range of opportunities covers the complete spectrum, um, through, uh, through local trades through to, um, you know, highly specialized, um, uh, um, type roles.

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Um, some of the sort of specifics of how we would engage in include a, a supplier registration portal, which, uh, was opened some weeks ago now on our website, where we encourage all local suppliers to engage and, and now be contacted by our supply chain managers to make sure they're kept informed on, on how the project is, is progressing. And we promote that portal at every opportunity we have. Um, we have a community newsletter. Another, uh, update on that has recently just been issued.

00:31:11:24 - 00:31:50:22

And that that contains again promotes the portal. So every opportunity we we encourage local suppliers to come. Um, we will also be putting in place meet the buyer events. Um, uh, these are

opportunities where, um, the suppliers can come along and meet, um, project, uh, staff and members of the team, um, to, to learn more and understand more about what our, our, our requirements. Um, are um, in particular, they're also members of the East of England Energy Group, and we're subscribed to their events and ensuring our profile is maintained now, which is an access opportunity for local suppliers.

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Um, we've just recently agreed to sponsor some, uh, activity from the, the, uh, the east wind offshore wind cluster. Um, to effectively help promote um and bring them closer to to Essex. So, um, hopefully you'll see some more of that locally soon. Um, and, you know, there will be other opportunities as we put in place the, uh, um, the supply chain engagement strategy, but that gives you a sense of, um, of the levels of activity and type of things we would expect to be doing.

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Thank you.

00:32:31:24 - 00:32:37:00

Thank you. Um, if I could ask Suffolk, have any comments?

00:32:39:00 - 00:32:44:05

Um, growing on me, Suffolk County Council, I don't know if Mr. Chandler wants to, uh, make any comment.

00:32:44:12 - 00:33:39:07

Yeah, I can. So, James Chandler, Suffolk County Council, um, I think just in response to applicants point, um, we're supportive of of the activity that has been undertaken and will be such as the portal newsletter, meet the bar events and that local engagement with stakeholders. I think our expectation on local supply chain benefit is really set out in clear expectations that the applicant must be supporting the delivery of the inclusive growth agenda that we have here, and that can only be achieved, in our view, through to key elements that perhaps go a step further than than the suggested that activity one is around, um, the sharing of information in terms of contract capability contracts to be one in, in as far advanced as we can, um, therefore allowing local supply chain companies to make the necessary adjustments, uh, to, to their own organisations to be able to win work.

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Uh, linked to that is more coordinated efforts with other entities that we'll be looking to procure similar, uh, contracts. And therefore, again, it creates a pipeline of activity for local companies to understand and therefore that coordination with a then CIPs, um, that might be leading on their own Meet the bar events and engagement and portals is important to to reduce duplication and provide more clarity to local companies. And finally, the assessment. The other point is around, at the assessment of local supply chain capabilities, it's useful that there has been sectors that have been identified in terms of their the number of businesses.

00:34:20:29 - 00:34:51:01

But actually, I think what we would like to do and will work with the applicant on, on if we may, is accurately assessing the capabilities of those local companies to to actually win work and identify

where there may be issues and therefore allow us to, to develop, um, either ourselves or with, with Essex and other partners programs that then will support those local companies to address those challenges and put themselves in a better position to, to win work.

00:34:51:03 - 00:34:58:08

So a fundamental point, um, that I think should be included as part of the supply chain element of this app. Thank you.

00:34:59:00 - 00:34:59:21

Thank you.

00:35:01:27 - 00:35:05:05

Do you want to come back on any of those comments made?

00:35:05:27 - 00:35:12:25

Uh, the applicant, I think we've noted them, and they'll obviously form part of the ongoing discussions between the applicant and council.

00:35:13:17 - 00:35:17:26

The Essex or Tendring. Any further comments on on this item?

00:35:18:15 - 00:35:55:06

Um, Carol Wallace, Essex County Council and Tendring District Council. And the main thing we want the applicant is not just to engage with local supplier, but actually actively going to them. So like the other day when we have the accompanying site inspection, the transportation is actually not even powered by local supplier. So that is one of the things we we don't want just everything just put on paper. It is actually the mindset that the applicant have to make the priority to use local supplier as the first instance.

00:35:56:06 - 00:35:56:26

Thank you.

00:36:00:26 - 00:36:02:02

Mr. Blythe, quickly.

00:36:02:10 - 00:36:17:27

That was exactly the point I was going to make. Not only that, um, it was also a diesel bus that came all the way from Cambridge. And, you know, there are electric buses and there are. We saw lots of buses on our trip around.

00:36:24:24 - 00:36:26:15

The applicant want to make any comment.

00:36:41:04 - 00:37:21:16

Of the applicant. Just in terms of the points made by Essex County Council, um, in in respect of commitments to use local suppliers, I think what, um, what we've demonstrated and what we've sort

of said in our outline plan is the measures that are being taken to try and to engage, but ultimately, and the proposals that are being worked through. Um, but this is a nationally significant infrastructure project has to be completed within a certain time programme. Um, and so sort of firm commitments, um, there is a limitation to sort of firm commitments because we're obviously looking for suppliers that can deliver within the timeframe for construction progress.

00:37:21:18 - 00:37:43:10

So I think just to flag that there is a limitation to the to including commitments, firm commitments on numbers of um, local suppliers at this stage in the process. But obviously those conversations are ongoing. Um, and the measures that Mr. Reid set out about the ways in which we will try and maximise the opportunities for local suppliers are quite clear.

00:37:44:16 - 00:37:45:01

Hello.

00:37:45:24 - 00:38:08:16

Uh, my further question would be when are they going to start doing going in. You know, they're already, uh, applying. What are they going to start up engaging with the local? I mean, the 25 times the word local was used. And, you know, my my observation is they haven't, you know, at one time they could have engaged a local business. They didn't.

00:38:14:21 - 00:38:17:27

Do you want to make any comment or or is that good?

00:38:18:12 - 00:38:45:18

Is it clear. What if the applicant it's noted obviously Mr.. Mr.. Mr.. Payne mentioned a number of things, the activities that were going on at the moment. Um, and in terms of engagement, and that those will obviously be summarized in the written summary in case, um, anybody wants to go back and have a look at what was said. And as we agreed, we provide an update of future deadlines to reflect, um, further conversations that have taken place.

00:38:48:11 - 00:39:26:23

Unless anybody else has any further comments at this stage, I'll move on to the final point in this agenda item. Um, it's noted that the intention to deal with community benefits will be host consent. Um, and this has been set out in the applicants response to questions. One rep 2020. Um, however, it's a recurrent theme in representations made by the community. Uh, and the applicant is asked to provide an update on what community benefits will be proposed and how these will be secured.

00:39:28:28 - 00:39:59:01

Project applicant. Um, in the context of this particular question, um, we're assuming you're referring to community benefits being a financial community benefit. So the community benefit fund, as opposed to wider community benefits such as, um, jobs and supply chains, which has been mentioned and sort of ecological benefits in times of diversity. And again, I just wanted to be clear. We're talking about financial contributions rather than the wider benefits that have been. Yes that's right.

00:40:00:06 - 00:40:16:24

Um, so as was mentioned, this is something that um, will be dealt with post DCO consent conversations are taking place, and I will just hand over to Mr. Payne, who can provide an update on the discussions he's having with Essex County Council on this point.

00:40:18:19 - 00:40:54:15

Andy Payne for the applicant. Yes. So it's our intention to provide a community benefit fund. And um, as we've said in other places, it's our intention to consult at post DCO ward on that. And um, on the structure, the quantum, uh, the governance, the type of projects, all these things. Um, and, um, Uh. And then, you know, with the intention of implementing the the fund ready, uh, for when the project is delivered.

00:40:55:04 - 00:41:27:00

Um, there has been, um, a recent development in the, um, issuing by Disney's developing energy security, uh, net zero on the 10th of March of some, uh, community benefit fund guidelines insofar as they relate to transmission projects. Um, and we're happy to confirm that we, um, uh, are prepared to use those guidelines as the sort of basis for, uh, discussion on, on on the structure of the community benefit fund for, for North Falls.

00:41:27:04 - 00:41:57:25

Um, obviously they're not completely replicable because they are, um, they relate to transmission projects and we're an offshore wind farm. But, um, in terms of the sort of quantum's involved and other features that, um, we're happy to, to sort of start there as, Us, as it were, for want of a better, uh, expression. Um, I would just draw the authority's attention to our sister project Greater Gabbard, which has a community benefit fund in place at the moment.

00:41:57:27 - 00:42:34:09

And, uh, I think has discharged something like over 300,000 worth of, of, of grants. Um, so, um, we'll be sort of taking some lessons learned from, from, from that fund. But, um, as I said, the priority is to consult and post ACL award on on how this fund will be set up. Um, and, uh, I hope to be meeting Essex County Council next week to, uh, sort of move the discussion on even though we're producing award at this phase, this stage.

00:42:35:26 - 00:42:39:24

Thank you, thank you. Does Essex County Council wish to come in there.

00:42:41:16 - 00:43:18:23

Ma'am. Good afternoon, I'm Mark Woodyard. I'm the planning. I'm the technical and operational lead of the CIP team to six County council. Um. Good afternoon. Um, Mr. Payne's comments are actually correct. Uh, we have approached the developer with with our with our with an initial discussion on community benefits. And as Mr. Payne's indicated, that discussion is due to take place next week. Your reference again, the Community Benefit Fund is something that we consider would work to improving, for example, the use of green space and other green features.

00:43:19:04 - 00:43:55:19

Uh, both urban and rural, in in in connection with the scheme, which can deliver quality of life and environmental benefits to the communities. Um, matters such as implementing initiatives and

measures to meet net zero standards in buildings and the urban landscape, increasing active and sustainable travel provision within the county, reducing reliance on the car on creating new cycling and walking opportunities. Um, so these are the kind of initiatives that we're looking for, that community benefits package to cover. Um, I note that, um, the question has been raised here about, um, implementing such a fund.

00:43:56:00 - 00:44:25:24

Post DCO. Um, fine. I, I, I don't work for Essex Legal Services, so I can't comment as to whether which avenue we would take down. But what I would say to you is that for other DCS, what we've done is within the time frame allowed by the development consent order, we have actually put in place section 106 agreement to limit those as well. Um, but I'll have a conversation with Mr. Payne next week and we'll, um, look at you at the next deadline as to where those discussions are moving towards.

00:44:26:04 - 00:44:42:26

Thank you. I was going to ask if, uh, between you and, uh, the applicants, uh, an update could be provided at deadline for. But that's good news to to hear that any of the other local authorities want to comment on that or any other piece. Mrs. Mason.

00:44:43:09 - 00:45:13:15

Thank you. Carolyn Mason Parish Council. Um, please consider our community when you're thinking about these benefits because we're taking all of the pain or it will be it feels like we're getting all the pain. None of the gain. The effect that it's having on our local community in terms of mental health. Um, the fact that, you know, where we can walk will be limited, where we can cycle will be limited. It'll affect activities like a horse riding.

00:45:14:03 - 00:45:33:17

Um, and just generally, we're going to lose a lot of our open space and footpath opportunities, maybe temporarily. But please, please work with our local community. That's what we ask. Don't ignore us. And don't think you can do it without us.

00:45:38:20 - 00:45:41:05

Applicant want to make any comment or is that.

00:45:43:17 - 00:45:56:23

Of the applicant? Um, yes. Mr. Panis explained the conversations that are taking place on that basis. Obviously this all sits outside of, um, the DCO process because the that that's that, that's right footed in that. So that was.

00:45:56:25 - 00:45:59:15

The question I was going to ask. He there has.

00:45:59:17 - 00:46:01:23

Been, uh, comment on the.

00:46:01:25 - 00:46:02:24



Potential for.

00:46:02:26 - 00:46:03:19

Completing.

00:46:03:21 - 00:46:05:15

A section 106 within.

00:46:05:17 - 00:46:06:12

The examination.

00:46:06:14 - 00:46:07:00

Period.

00:46:07:06 - 00:46:08:09

But at the moment.

00:46:08:11 - 00:46:30:13

As I understand it in the panel, understand it, that's not before us. So given that it would not be secured by the DCO as it stands, the community benefits are not something that you would invite us to weigh in the planning balance project.

00:46:30:15 - 00:47:08:27

The applicant. Yes, that's correct. They fall outside of the planning balance and that's the typical approach taken for offshore wind farm projects that provide these sorts of financial contributions. And because of they are not typically the way the funds are set up. They're not typically they don't typically satisfy the criteria for a section 106 contribution because of the flexibility required for them. Obviously, as part of the discussions between Essex County Council and the applicant, if there are elements that Essex County Council feel satisfy the criteria for section 106 agreement, then that would be different and that could be taken into account.

00:47:08:29 - 00:47:15:00

But that's not my understanding of the position at the moment. This is an additional benefit that sits outside of the DCO process.

00:47:15:15 - 00:47:17:08

No, thank you for clarifying that.

00:47:18:26 - 00:47:19:11

Mr. Wood.

00:47:21:01 - 00:47:52:04

Thank you ma'am, I just came to council. I'd just like to respond to Ardley Parish Council through you, chairman, chairman, if I may. Yes. Um. Uh. Such a charity for such a charity fund has been put at would be represented by members of the county council. Not necessarily one of the three of us, but a

member of that Tendring District Council. Obviously, any charity foundation which holds that funding and makes that funding available, and also local residents.

00:47:52:18 - 00:48:13:11

The only added thing I'd say to that is that the cable route is 23km long. So when we look at the look at apportioning local residents to that role, we've got to be thinking about potentially others as well. But I'm just putting that there because I know you're going to come back to me and you're going to say, well, we're, we're, we're we're the consumers of the substation. I get that, but.

00:48:13:28 - 00:48:26:09

Can I say that oddly, and Little Bromley are being uniquely affected by all of these projects. We've got something like 250 or, sorry, 102 hectares of

00:48:27:29 - 00:48:36:13

industrialisation taking place on Some farmland. So proportionately, we're taking the. The bulk of the damage.

00:48:37:10 - 00:48:39:19

Apologies again. Mark, we're just going to cancel.

00:48:39:27 - 00:48:43:15

Um, no, I think I think there's going to be a longer conversation that I would say.

00:48:44:00 - 00:49:04:00

But the point I was going to make is that we do have a number of ideas about what that community fund could contribute to, but we don't have the local knowledge that you have in terms of the impact on Ardleigh and its environment. So the role of anybody appointed to this panel from Ardleigh would be of huge benefit to everybody. Thank you.

00:49:06:29 - 00:49:22:16

Thank you. Unless anybody wants to comment any further. Um, I'll pass on from this agenda item. Um, and we'll move now to agenda item 3.8. And my colleague, Mr. Johnson will, uh, lead on that. Thank you.

00:49:24:11 - 00:49:45:04

For that. If you could just give us a moment last week. Um, certainly. Bring back in. We understand that from the specific questions that you're looking at, sort of traffic and, and, and noise, particularly in relation to the the first agenda item. Um, so we'll bring those, the people dealing with traffic and noise to the table first.

00:49:45:13 - 00:49:46:12

Okay. Thank you.

00:51:03:17 - 00:51:19:08

Agenda item 3.8 Cumulative Effects. So the first bullet point is whether the proposed development should include provision for additional mitigation for cumulative noise effects from construction traffic. And if so, how that would be secured.

00:51:20:25 - 00:52:02:26

So the first question, um, Essex County Council and Tendring District Council's joint response to SSC rep 2036. Question 7.1.4 states given these enhancements. Tendering District Council is satisfied that the proposed mitigation measures are sufficient to ensure noise levels remain non-significant in cumulative impact scenarios. Could Essex County Council or Tendring District Council advise if they have any additional concerns since their response at deadline to, or require any further mitigation measures needed over and above those already identified for the construction stage?

00:52:07:14 - 00:52:10:28

Hal Wallace, Essex County Council No, sir. Thank you.

00:52:14:16 - 00:52:18:14

Any other comments? Um. Mr.. Yas.

00:52:19:02 - 00:52:55:11

So when we responded to or when we provided input to that question. Um, that that was based on the, um, the response that was provided to us at the time from the applicant. So I've just got one question. Sorry. Jacob Jackson, on behalf of Tendring District Council. Apologies. When under this, um, .3. topic 3.8, when we talk about cumulative effects, does that include North Falls and five estuaries only or is it North Falls, five estuaries and um the ECN.

00:52:59:08 - 00:53:01:24

And potentially talking as well. Well what are.

00:53:01:26 - 00:53:02:11

We.

00:53:02:13 - 00:53:06:04

What's what's the what what's the definition of of cumulative effects.

00:53:08:29 - 00:53:13:02

For this agenda item we're considering the effects from from other projects. Yes.

00:53:13:16 - 00:53:19:18

So that includes um, um, Norwich City, Tilbury and Dawson. Right.

00:53:20:05 - 00:53:29:29

No, I think I think on this particular item we are just considering the cumulative effects for the project. But for the North Falls application.

00:53:33:04 - 00:53:35:21

Okay. Thank you. No further comments.

00:53:36:10 - 00:53:38:27

Okay. Any other stabilisers?

00:53:40:12 - 00:54:10:05

Thank you. Um, I was wondering about this work. Cumulative effect. And, um. Ah, is does the applicant, uh, envisage any vehicular movements at all coming to their site or the, the line of the, um, cable or anything coming to them from the main road that goes through hardly

00:54:12:00 - 00:54:16:28

either from the north or the south on that main road. A one, three, four.

00:54:19:05 - 00:54:21:28

Could the applicant respond? Mr. Taylor, is it.

00:54:23:19 - 00:54:54:00

Good afternoon, Sam Taylor for the applicant. Um, in response to your question. Um, in terms of HGV traffic, the answer is no. And that's outlined within the, um, traffic, traffic and transport chapter in terms of employee traffic. At this stage, it's it's not possible to say where employees will be based because that will be based upon, um, where they're coming from. But within the traffic and transport chapter, there are um, numbers in terms of forecasts, in terms of vehicles that would go through.

00:54:54:02 - 00:55:14:28

Hardly. So I can't say for certain that there wouldn't be employee numbers. But what I can provide is sort of numbers in terms of um, or reassurance in terms of HGV traffic and that that is controlled through the outline construction, traffic management or will be controlled through the outline through the construction traffic management plan. Um,

00:55:16:21 - 00:55:17:18

answers your question or

00:55:21:02 - 00:55:21:23

Thank you.

00:55:21:25 - 00:55:34:11

Mostly. Um, it would be better if it was possible to, uh, tell your contractors to approach from the,

00:55:36:02 - 00:55:58:19

uh, eastern end of your construction. Uh, because as far as I'm aware, they're they're otherwise going to end up on unclassified roads, getting to work and crossing over, uh, going across fields and gateways, uh, to get to the line. So surely it would be possible to instruct them to go down there. 120.

00:56:02:09 - 00:56:03:02

Mr. Taylor.

00:56:05:00 - 00:56:16:06

Sam Taylor for the applicant. What? I, um, what I can say is from the, um, modeling we've done, based upon, um, census data, the vast majority will be approaching from the A1 20..

00:56:22:08 - 00:56:23:09

Mr. Brown, thank you.

00:56:23:11 - 00:56:30:02

My comment to that is, uh, vast majority doesn't quantify it at all. Thank you.

00:56:31:25 - 00:57:10:03

Clare project for the applicant. Um, I think the point, um, Mr. Taylor was making is that obviously depends on where where the worker is staying. And obviously, if a worker is staying within Ardley, then they would obviously have to travel from hardly to reach, um, their place of work. So it's not possible to necessarily restrict how an individual construction worker would travel to site, because that would depend on where they're where they may be staying. However, the assessment work has looked at, uh, areas where it's anticipated that local workers would travel and then those that would be that would be coming to the area where they are likely to be staying.

00:57:10:05 - 00:57:45:24

And that's informed the assessment process. So I don't think we can add much more in terms of detail at the moment. Um, just to be clear, in terms of point that came up before about cumulative, obviously the applicant's cumulative assessment has considered, um, noise, um, of it's the North fourth projects cumulatively with all of the other projects. That's the assessment that's been been carried out. So the cumulative assessment has taken into account has been based on information that was available at the point in time that the assessment was carried out.

00:57:45:26 - 00:58:20:00

Obviously, there was a lot of information available in respect of the Five Estuaries project at that point in time. The information in respect of the Norwich to Tilbury uh project was at the pier stage. So we had a certain amount of information available, but not, um, the detailed information that will be part of their DCO application. And then the Tarzan project is at very much an earlier stage in the process. So there was limited information available, but the information that was available has informed the cumulative um, effects and assessment that was carried out.

00:58:20:06 - 00:58:56:23

And, um, we produced trying to find it a summary, uh, for for those who are looking to see the cumulative effects, a summary was prepared for deadline three, which is rep 3042. And that brings together all of the cumulative assessment work that was done in the various environmental topic chapters into into one document. So that information is perhaps more usefully, uh, easier to to navigate, um, by interested parties if they're wishing to see, um, the cumulative effects and which projects were considered as part of that cumulative effects assessment.

00:58:56:26 - 00:58:57:12

Thank you.

00:58:58:06 - 00:58:58:26

Thank you.

00:59:01:14 - 00:59:02:20

Um, yes, Mr. Taylor.

00:59:04:00 - 00:59:34:23

Apologies. Just, um, miss Broderick was speaking. I've been looking up a few numbers that hopefully provide a bit more context to my, initial point as well. So in terms of vehicle movements, um, that are forecast travel from the north um via Bromley Road. So south of the A1 37. Um, just in terms of context, there's currently a background of approximately 1600 vehicles a day, and we'd be adding um, or forecasting to add a peak of 64 with an average of 37.

00:59:34:25 - 00:59:41:21

So that's a peak increase of about 4% over. That provides an element of context. My numbers,

00:59:43:10 - 00:59:44:15

my words, I should say.

00:59:47:19 - 00:59:49:19

Thank you, Mr. Taylor. Thank you.

00:59:52:05 - 00:59:59:21

So the next session section then is, um, sorry. There's a. Yeah, we'll just wait to get a microphone to you.

01:00:08:06 - 01:00:10:11

Sorry if you wouldn't mind introducing yourself.

01:00:10:21 - 01:00:37:15

Good afternoon. Jane Marshall Ardley, Parish council landowner and local resident. I'd like to ask the applicant, please, what measures you have regarding noise and construction traffic. Um, during, um, certain hours of, um, working. Are we looking at five days a week? Um, seven days a week. And if so, what hours? Um, could residents, um, be expecting noise from that, please?

01:00:53:25 - 01:01:04:03

Uh, temperature of the applicant, I appreciate. Um, as Marshall wasn't here yesterday when we talked about construction hours and what was included on that, we can we.

01:01:04:15 - 01:01:13:05

Can just direct where she's able to find that because this point was covered in detail yesterday. We did discuss working hours. Indeed.

01:01:13:07 - 01:01:13:27

Thank you

01:01:15:18 - 01:01:46:29

for the applicant. Yes. So in the outline code of construction practice, which is rep 3-017, there is a section on working hours and the timing of works. And that section 1.3.1. There'll also be a written summary of all of the submissions that we've made over the course of yesterday and today. So you'll be able to see a summary of the discussion that took place on construction working hours. And obviously the recording will be available of the session yesterday, should you wish to go and have a look at what was actually said.

01:01:47:03 - 01:01:47:20

Thank you.

01:01:48:24 - 01:01:50:17

Thank you, Mrs. Mason.

01:01:50:19 - 01:02:02:02

Thank you. Carolyn Mason Parish council. Um, I'm just wondering why we're not considering light as well. Light pollution as well. But we're quite concerned about.

01:02:04:15 - 01:02:10:26

You'll appreciate from having looked at the site. There's probably quite a dark. Tis a dark area and it's going to.

01:02:10:28 - 01:02:30:00

I think our feeling was that we that was a matter that could be dealt with in writing. Um, because not all points that have been raised in everybody's submissions are we do feel necessary to explore it and issue specific hearing so that that's the reasoning behind that.

01:02:34:28 - 01:03:01:26

Move on to the next question for the substation operation, whether sufficient good design measures have been incorporated to reduce and mitigate noise effects. Could the applicant explain how sufficient good design has been incorporated and coordinated to reduce and mitigate noise effects across all three of the proposed onshore substations for the North Falls I've estuaries, offshore wind farms and the East Anglian Connection node.

01:03:10:00 - 01:03:44:18

Tim Burton for the applicants. Um, I did address this point in quite a lot of detail yesterday in relation to how good design has been implemented for North Falls substation. Um, so I don't suggest I don't anticipate you're expecting me to repeat that information. It's more about how we're controlling those overall. Correct. Um, so one of the key things obviously is the, um, the complaints management plan that has already been, um, discussed and is a tripartite agreement.

01:03:45:04 - 01:03:45:19

Um.

01:03:50:09 - 01:04:21:15

I thought you had a rep. 043 is the reference for that document. Um, in terms of how overall, um, substation noise affects our control from all three substations. We've had ongoing dialogue, um, extensive dialogue with both National Grid and five estuaries. Um, agreeing what a suitable cumulative noise level limit would be for um combined noise from all three substations.

01:04:21:22 - 01:04:57:28

And, um, we agreed that the lowest observed adverse effect level, which is referenced in um noise policy for England, um, would be 35dB. It was a rating level. And that limit has been effectively distributed between the three substations. Um, so where a one substation is closer to a particular sector, it has been assigned a limit in order that, um, the cumulative noise from all three substations does not exceed um, 35 at any receptor.

01:04:59:27 - 01:05:13:09

Um. I'm not sure I can comment, particularly on how, uh, five Estuaries and National Grid have incorporated good design in order to meet those limits. That would be for them to

01:05:15:03 - 01:05:15:25

answer.

01:05:17:16 - 01:05:20:05

But we can be confident that they that they will.

01:05:21:16 - 01:06:02:29

Include project the applicant just to add that then the those um apportioned uh, noise limits, um, that were mentioned are secured in each of the individual CEOs. So they're in page page six or section five of the um onshore substations, um, Operational Noise and Outline Noise Complaints Protocol document that was submitted at deadline three. It lists out, um, the limits and then those limits have been, um, put into the um, uh, noise requirement for North Falls, which is requirement 17, and then the equivalent noise requirement in the five estuaries.

01:06:03:14 - 01:06:35:03

And then when National Grid submits its DCO application, um, it will have an equivalent noise requirement there. And the parties have ah have agreed at that basis, um, and have in the process of documenting it. So there's a contractual obligation on all of the parties to comply with the noise limits that are set out in that document. So that's how the, uh, the coordination, um, has been arrived at, but then also how it's secured in each of the three DCS.

01:06:35:08 - 01:06:35:25

Thank you.

01:06:36:23 - 01:06:41:21

Thank you. Um, any comments from Essex County Council or Tendring District Council?

01:06:45:05 - 01:07:20:12

Jacob, you're running for Tendring District Council, so apologies. I'm just really confused because the topic discussion 3.8 is cumulative effects. Um, the panel's question was for for the substations. And



the panel specifically mentioned North Falls, five estuaries and the connection road, and whether sufficient good design measures have been incorporated to reduce and mitigate noise effects. Now I've listened, we've listened to the response from the applicant and they clearly said, you know, they they it's basically a repetition of yesterday's of what we've heard yesterday.

01:07:20:14 - 01:07:53:28

They focused squarely on their substation, um, and very briefly repeated what he said yesterday. And he specifically said he cannot comment on the North full on the five estuaries and um, nor Tilbury works so that I don't think. Well, I certainly didn't get any, any meaningful, um, response or information out of this discussion. If you take into account the, the topic that we're trying to discuss here, or am I missing something?

01:07:56:12 - 01:07:57:01

Thank you.

01:07:57:08 - 01:08:28:21

Claire Blodgett, the applicant. Um, the point that, um, Mr. Burton, we're trying to make there is that the. In order to control cumulative noise impacts, the three projects have worked together to agree a noise limit that is acceptable cumulatively. And those noise limits are set out in, um, the, uh, in the plan. I was just the protocol that I was just mentioning, um, each project because they're consented individually.

01:08:29:00 - 01:09:00:29

Each project will include a restriction or noise limit in order to achieve that cumulative cumulatively agreed noise limit. The point that Mr. Britton was making is that we we can't comment on the exact measures that National Grid will put in place in their design to achieve that cumulatively agreed noise limit. However, to a certain extent, that does it. How they go about achieving that is a matter for them. But cumulatively, the noise has been agreed to not exceed a certain limit.

01:09:01:05 - 01:09:08:29

And therefore, uh, there is comfort, um, for receptors that cumulatively noise will be controlled. Thank you.

01:09:11:28 - 01:09:12:17

Thank you.

01:09:14:12 - 01:09:18:20

Thank you. Well, it's to a large extent it's a it's a pointless bullet point, then.

01:09:23:00 - 01:09:24:05

Uh, Mrs. Mason.

01:09:24:23 - 01:09:31:09

Could I ask for clarification? I thought yesterday there was a motion of 68dB.

01:09:31:27 - 01:09:32:17

It was.

01:09:38:22 - 01:09:40:29

Um. The applicant. Answer that.

01:09:41:01 - 01:09:56:29

Please clap for the applicant. Uh, that was in the context of Mr. Britten explaining, um, the methodology used to undertake the noise assessment. I mean, we can reiterate. Point but that. Yeah that's right.

01:09:57:01 - 01:10:28:28

In the in the context of this bullet point you were pointing, they were pointing to the requirements both in North Falls and five estuaries in terms of noise limits not to be exceeded. And that's where the coordination aspect of it comes. Obviously we don't have the national grid one, but we have heard from them that they have discussed that. And it's anticipated that that would be the same limits.

01:10:34:09 - 01:10:36:23

Thank you for that. But the clarification but

01:10:38:09 - 01:10:59:27

I'm still confused because surely if you have I mean, just talking from a farmer's point of view, if you've got one tractor running and that is within acceptable limits, That's one thing. Then you start another one alongside it. It's going to be twice as noisy and I can't see how it doesn't get any louder.

01:11:02:10 - 01:11:16:18

Well, perhaps the applicant can explain how the cumulative impact of the different projects has been incorporated in providing those noise limits.

01:11:19:27 - 01:12:01:20

Tim Burton for the applicant. Um, I would just first answer the point that was raised earlier about the acceptable value of 68. So that, um, relates to construction noise specifically. So for construction noise, because it's of a shorter duration and is only going to occur during certain times of the day. Um, that limit of 68 applies to construction. Um, the limit of 35 that I mentioned in my previous responses in relation to operational noise from a substation, which is a constant sound source, resulting in a, um, you know, an impact for the life of the substation and, and will be present during the evening and night as well.

01:12:01:22 - 01:12:08:21

So that is why we apply a lower limit to the noise from the substations operation.

01:12:09:18 - 01:12:18:00

Yeah. Um, mister, before I come to you, could I just, um. Councillor, he's got a question as well, and perhaps we can bring them together.

01:12:18:07 - 01:12:29:25

Thank you sir. Yes, and it is possible. It's clarification, really. When you're talking about 35dB, you're talking about the three substations together, um,

01:12:31:24 - 01:13:00:06

together with the substations and the actual levels of decibels there are without the substations. Can you advise what that comes to altogether. So the existing decibel levels now Plus, you're 35. Between the three of you. Um, and so what percentage increase, I guess, in terms of the levels of decibels should the community expect to see?

01:13:05:09 - 01:13:08:04

Yes. Sorry if you could respond to that.

01:13:10:03 - 01:13:10:18

Um.

01:13:11:01 - 01:13:23:21

Tim Burton for the applicant. Um, so our operational noise assessment covers these aspects in detail. Um, I'm just going to find the document reference for that. Apologies.

01:13:25:16 - 01:13:26:14

Do you have the.

01:13:30:04 - 01:14:17:23

Uh, well, at 40 is the chapter, um, that I'm referring specifically to the operational noise appendix. I can I can find that later, but, um, the assessment methodology that's used, um, is based on a measurement of the background sound level in the vicinity of the residential dwellings, um, which was um, undertaken uh, a couple of years ago now. And um, it is based on a British standard called S4 and 42, um, which does a comparison between what we've measured and essentially what we predict as the noise from the substation and, and determines an impact, um, based on the difference between those two values.

01:14:18:15 - 01:14:52:22

Um, however, it also incorporates um, the requirements. Consider context essentially where you observe low background sound levels. Um, you would apply a criterion for a, a minimum, um, substation noise level in the scenario where you have a very low background sound level. So we do. We have recognized the role nature of the, um, locality, and we have observed very low background sound levels, particularly during the night.

01:14:53:10 - 01:15:14:22

Um, and for that reason we have applied a very low limit below which there's really no evidence at all that people could be disturbed. So it's highly unlikely that the sound would be audible outside of a person's dwelling at night, and it certainly wouldn't be audible indoors. So that's the criteria that we've used.

01:15:15:20 - 01:15:16:10

Thank you.

01:15:17:15 - 01:15:25:27

Um, so I'm not sure if that's answered your question or explained it to you as you'd wish it to be explained,

01:15:27:16 - 01:15:28:02

I think.

01:15:29:24 - 01:15:52:22

Thank you. Yes. No, it doesn't quite answer what I've asked, but I, I understand, yeah, that you're saying that you've taken into account the difference between, let's say, an urban setting compared to a rural setting. But in terms of the increase that residents can expect to suffer, it doesn't answer that question, but but yes. Thank you.

01:15:54:06 - 01:15:54:22

Thank you.

01:15:55:01 - 01:16:15:11

And I think in terms of the noise limits that have been referred to, you might want to look at requirement 17 of the draft DCO, which does provide some limits in the locality of substation that must not be exceeded.

01:16:18:10 - 01:16:20:00

Answer my question. Thank you.

01:16:22:00 - 01:16:24:00

Okay. Uh, missus Wallace.

01:16:25:01 - 01:16:46:09

Karen Wallace, Essex county Council, um, can the applicant explain? Because in the noise complaint protocol, it refers to the 35 decibel. But then requirement 17 actually refers to 31 to 33. That's a bell. Is that a typo or something? Can you clarify? Thank you.

01:16:47:08 - 01:16:47:25

Thank you.

01:16:49:17 - 01:17:31:05

In Brighton for the applicant. So apologies. I obviously didn't explain this very well earlier because that was the point I was I was essentially trying to make and it has been brought up as well by somebody else. So I will I will try again. So 35 is the limit for all of the substations. So, um, when we add all of the noise from each of the three substations together at any residential dwelling, we don't expect it to exceed 35. But because of the fact that each substation is only constrained by its own, its own limits within the development consent order, those limits have to be apportioned between the, uh, between the substations.

01:17:31:14 - 01:17:47:07

So if for anyone dwelling, you, um, each substation has a certain noise level. That noise level will be below 35, in order that cumulatively they sum up to not exceeding 35.

01:17:49:16 - 01:18:10:07

Um, so our limits are therefore intentionally below 35 as our East Anglia's um, and as our five estuaries. And for each of us, we know that those limits constrain us, such that the combined noise from all three substations cannot exceed 35 at a dwelling.

01:18:14:13 - 01:18:18:28

Um, so several hands going up. Um, Tamsin, was your hand up?

01:18:19:13 - 01:18:49:25

Tamsin Thames Valley tea and our family farms. We've just googled and it says that the average fridge noise is 40dB, so I don't quite understand how it's going to stay. I mean, I'm not a noise expert, but 35 seems quite low. If a fridge. Apparently the background noise of a fridge is 40dB and then 68 for construction. Is that construction combined from all three projects, or is that just 68 for your project?

01:18:53:24 - 01:18:56:09

And you respond to that?

01:19:05:04 - 01:19:37:04

Project the applicant I mean, I think I appreciate that. Um, noise levels is quite technically complicated topic. Um, but I think the point there has just been illustrated is that it's 35dB is a very low limit indeed. And so therefore we by the project's all committing to that low level during operation. We are confident, therefore, that there won't be a noise impact either alone or cumulatively, because the limit that is imposed in the DCO on all of the projects is so low.

01:19:37:06 - 01:20:00:11

And as Mr. Britton mentioned, that is reflective of the rural, very quiet nature of this area. If it was obviously located in a much noisier area than you would expect, the limits probably to be to be higher to reflect that. But I think that demonstrates the point that we, all of the projects have committed to a very low noise limit as part of it, and we can we can go back to construction noise if.

01:20:00:13 - 01:20:10:05

Yeah, but those are the limits that are in the development consent order. And if they are breached, then obviously that could be the subject of enforcement action.

01:20:10:27 - 01:20:53:24

So what's the who would in that scenario then. How how is somebody who says, first of all, are you going to have um, receptors left in place for any period of time initially to ensure that those levels are below, and where are they going to be placed? Is that something you're going to do so that that shouldn't be placed on a resident To, to go out of their way to have to source that information from themselves. Um, and secondly, if if that then isn't, you know, if those if residents feel those noise levels are being breached, who would they complain to? Because I feel like we're going to get a situation where each person's going to say, but we've done our bit and we've done our bit, and then how are we going to what recourse are we going to have in that scenario?

01:20:55:24 - 01:20:56:11

Okay.

01:20:56:23 - 01:21:21:23

Well, I think that, um, we're straying a little bit off topic now. I appreciate it's really, really important to you, but I am going to ask the applicant to make a full explanation of that in writing and ask them to submit that at deadline for so you do understand a what the limits are, where you can find them, and b how they might be enforced going forward.

01:21:24:07 - 01:21:39:27

The applicant. Yes. We'll take that as an action. And just to note, we did cover this in detail in some detail, yesterday's hearing. So the written summary of the explanation of how the protocol and the noise monitoring will work will also be there for people to review as well. Thank you.

01:21:42:03 - 01:22:12:00

Um, my next question was regarding the, um, the outlined noise complaints protocol. Rep 3043 but we did, um, spend some time on this yesterday. Um, and I think Essex County Council said you'd respond at deadline for with your, uh, feedback. Um, so my question was whether you'd got any further mitigation measures needed over and above those already identified. But if you can, uh, respond to that as part of your response for deadline for. Thank you.

01:22:17:03 - 01:22:21:28

Uh, I'll now hand over to Mr. Medlin for further questions on cumulative effects.

01:22:27:05 - 01:22:27:27

Thank you.

01:22:28:03 - 01:22:36:26

I will now turn to the two final bullet points within Agenda item 3.8 and just allow some rearranging

01:22:38:24 - 01:22:41:17

the penultimate bullet point.

01:22:43:24 - 01:23:14:13

Firstly, we're going to cover archaeology archaeological cumulative impacts. Again, this was in part discussed yesterday under item 3.2. But here we will be examining and hearing from the applicant about the conjoined approach where there are where there is a cable corridor and the the adequate assessment of archaeology within the cable corridor associated with five estuaries.

01:23:15:00 - 01:23:45:16

Offshore wind farm, that is the cable corridor that is a known cable corridor. I did mention yesterday that Historic England had submitted an additional submission and that is now in the exam library. As as 052. Without expecting anybody to have necessarily read and digested that. I will first ask of the applicant similar question to yesterday.

01:23:46:06 - 01:24:02:13

But taking into account and if you could explain how, um, how you are confident that the archaeological assessment of the combined projects has been adequately assessed? Is it Mrs. Mount? Thank you.

01:24:04:02 - 01:24:53:17

Fair amounts for the applicant? Um, yes. In terms of, um, our cumulative, um, effect of assessment, um, on archaeology that's, um, dealt with within section 25.8 of our ES chapter, um, 039. Um, in terms of cumulative effects on archaeology. And the approach is to understand, in terms of the construction phase, um, where two or more projects, um, where they overlap or where archaeological um remains extend, uh, into the areas of uh, two or more projects, that's where cumulative effects, um, may occur, um, as set out within the, um, that section, within the chapter.

01:24:54:02 - 01:25:43:00

Um, and as I think it's been previously mentioned, we had, you know, more information regarding, um, five estuaries. Um, so we looked at various scenarios, um, in terms of, um, construction, um, and obviously they're detailed within the chapter, but in terms of, um, the worst case, um, assessed for archaeology, that was scenario three, whereby, um, the temporary works, um, areas would, um, uh, not be reused by the second project? Um, and obviously this would have, um, sort of a cumulative effect on archaeology, where archaeology, where the two projects overlap or where the archaeological resource extends within those two areas.

01:25:43:17 - 01:26:21:06

Um, and to perform mitigation that would result in a major adverse, uh, cumulative effect. Um, but as I explained yesterday, obviously both both projects, um, would have an archaeological mitigation strategy, um, as would be secured through the WSI via the DCO, uh agreement. Um, and so in effect, the cumulative effect, um, in consideration of mitigation, um, would um, obviously offset those effects, um, through either preservation in situ or your preservation buy record.

01:26:21:24 - 01:26:42:18

Um, so there would be, uh, no, no cumulative effects on on buried archaeology. Um, and obviously, as I mentioned yesterday, both projects are, um, looking to, um, evaluate and mitigate for the archaeology jointly. So the archaeology will be dealt with as if it is one project going forward.

01:26:44:04 - 01:27:08:22

Thank you. And on again. Um, for the benefit of those, I suppose, who weren't here yesterday, the updated written scheme of investigation, which was shared on the 31st of March with parties that will be submitted now within to the examination deadline for, I think we said.

01:27:11:03 - 01:27:22:08

Amounts for the applicant. Um, but we've said deadline five but if if um yeah. Essex Place Services and Historic England are able to come back with comments, then yes, we will submit a deadline though.

01:27:22:10 - 01:27:43:21

Some update of progress by deadline for and then expected revised written scheme of investigation and deadline five. Thank you. I will ask any IPS here to comment on that cumulative approach to archaeological archaeology within the Cable route corridor.

01:27:48:13 - 01:28:23:15

Wallace, Essex County Council. Um, I haven't got my, um, technical consultee here, but I just want to raise that. Um, five, three and three. Adopting the same approach in terms of archaeology. And Essex County Council has raised objections for both projects in terms of, um, as I mentioned yesterday. Um, we don't agree with the level of intrusive investigations to have done to date. So, the potential of archaeological impact is still unclear.

01:28:23:20 - 01:28:50:20

And we maintain the point that when considering cumulatively, cumulatively, it is still unclear. Pond and I don't think it will be a matter that would be agreed at the end of examination. But yeah, um, we will be looking into the draft, um, AMS and the outline written scheme of investigation, and we will try to come back before deadline forward to the applicant as well. Thank you.

01:28:50:25 - 01:28:54:01

Thank you. That's noted. Thank you.

01:28:58:20 - 01:29:09:01

No further comments from IPS. I'll ask the applicant if they have noted those comments and if they have anything further to add on this item.

01:29:10:01 - 01:29:27:04

Uh, for the applicant. Um, yep. We've noted that. And we note that, um, comments that are made by Essex County Council will be sort of effectively without prejudice to their, uh, principal point about, um, the level of trial trenching that has been done to date. Thank you.

01:29:27:22 - 01:29:58:15

Thank you. Okay. We did say we would take a break at 3:30, but with one final bullet point under this agenda item, I'm going to propose to take that. The final point is the adequacy of the cumulative effects assessment, the CEA in relation to the consideration of proposed development, together with five estuaries Offshore Wind Farm, Norwich to Tilbury and other development projects. So here

01:30:00:06 - 01:30:24:22

I don't expect a full detailed run through of the assessment. It really is as per the final bullet point and there will be further questioning on it at x two and possibly touched on next week during issue two. I will first ask the applicant to summarize the methodology within the C,

01:30:26:16 - 01:30:40:28

the latest version being rep three dash April 2nd, deadline three, and to set out how and why it considers this to be an adequate cumulative

01:30:42:21 - 01:30:47:28

effects assessment. And I will then seek any comments from any IP's.



01:30:50:27 - 01:31:23:10

The applicant I will hand over to Mr. Campbell just to provide a very brief noted, um, summary of the assessment approach. Um, as we'd already mentioned, um, as and when further information becomes available in the public domain, such as, for example, the submission of the Norwich to Tilbury DCO application, then there will be an opportunity depending on when that happens, for the cumulative effects assessment to be updated. Obviously if that happens within the examination.

01:31:23:15 - 01:31:56:18

Um, for North Falls then those documents will be updated and reviewed and updated as necessary during the examination. Should the application be submitted post the close of the examination, then that would be something that the Secretary of State could ask for during the determination period. Um, to the extent that there was an update for that. So that just I suppose summarises, um, how cumulative is and is an ongoing, um, assessment area during, um, during the examination and then prior to the Secretary of State's decision.

01:31:56:20 - 01:32:01:24

But I'll hand over to Mr. Campbell, just to explain very briefly the methodology. Thank you, thank you.

01:32:02:27 - 01:32:03:12

Thank you.

01:32:03:14 - 01:32:05:00

Gordon Campbell, the applicant.

01:32:05:04 - 01:32:05:27

Um, so in terms.

01:32:05:29 - 01:32:06:14

Of.

01:32:06:16 - 01:32:07:01

A.

01:32:07:03 - 01:32:07:18

Brief summary.

01:32:07:20 - 01:32:08:05

Of the.

01:32:08:07 - 01:32:08:22

Process.

01:32:08:24 - 01:32:09:09

Um, that we.

01:32:09:11 - 01:32:09:26

Followed within the environmental.

01:32:09:28 - 01:32:10:13

Statement.

01:32:10:15 - 01:32:11:07

There is a detailed.

01:32:11:09 - 01:32:42:05

Cumulative effects assessment carried out reported within each technical chapter. So that's app 033 through to app 047. And that assessment is detailed within each technical chapter itself. Um within um the further detail in terms of the overall approach in section 6.7.3 of ES, chapter six EIA methodology, which is app uh 020, which sets out the methodology for determining both the approach and which projects are to be included within the cumulative effects assessment.

01:32:42:20 - 01:33:29:14

Um, and in terms of what underpins our overall approach. Um, within paragraph 57 of these, chapter six, um, uh, it's uh, that reference is made to, uh, planning advice. Note nine um, uh, and uh, the complimentary guidance and advice note 17 um, which um, was the relevant, um, advice note at the time of submission, uh, which has now been superseded by, uh, the National Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project Advice on Cumulative Effects assessment, published in September of last year. Um, in terms of then the the steps that were followed for each technical chapter, a broad set of steps was followed, um, um, in each in each chapter, um um, which broadly involved the identification of potential cumulative effects within that chapter.

01:33:29:24 - 01:34:00:17

So initially, all the effects that were, um, greater than negligible effects, so effects that were identified within that chapter as minor adverse or greater. So the potential were considered to be the potential to have cumulative effects with other projects. Um, with some minor exceptions to that rule. For example, where in some cases, um, uh, some negligible effects were achieved, uh, through extensive packages of mitigation. Uh, they were they were still scoped in where it was considered they might have the potential to, um, have cumulative effects without that mitigation.

01:34:01:03 - 01:34:37:00

Um, and then there was a second phase of identifying the relevant plans or projects that would be considered, and for that for each technical chapter. A zone of influence was identified. Um, um, for the chapter itself. Um, and then um, it was looked to see to what degree, um, a relative zone of influence for other plans of projects might interact with the zone of influence for that particular topic. Um, and where, um, there was potential for overlap. Those projects were initially screened in um, um, and, um, uh, for each of those projects that were screened in, there was an assessment made about the level of information available.

01:34:37:03 - 01:35:10:23

Um, which now draws on the points that, uh, this project was making. Um, and, um, a degree of assessment was done based on the amount of information that's available through the public domain to the applicant, um, at the time of assessment, um, and then final phase is then, um, taking those effects, um, that have been screened in, um, and reviewing those against the available detailed information. Um, and the public domain, uh, for each project, um, considered within the assessment, and so the actual projects considered within each technical chapter vary depending on the chapter, the projects that are relevant to that chapter.

01:35:11:08 - 01:35:39:21

Um, but um, uh, detailed consideration was, was um undertaken within our assessment for uh five estuaries projects. First and foremost in particular, uh, due to the coordination collaboration between the projects and the information that was shared and also the maturity of that project, um, but also information that was available either shared uh, by um and get in terms of the Norwich Tilbury project, um, and um available information available in the public domain for other projects that were screened in for each technical channel.

01:35:42:06 - 01:35:55:16

Thank you. Thank you for that update. I will just check on those points. Uh, first, turning to local authorities and I see a couple of hands up in the room. Essex County Council.

01:35:56:17 - 01:36:31:02

Carroll Wallace, Essex county council. Um, we know that the CEA at the moment mentioned about to come, but it's only on the offshore elements. So, um, I'm sure the applicant team will be aware. Um, Tarquin is currently having a non-statutory consultation, and the consultation booklet actually is identifying the area directly to the use of the ECN substation from the grid. And they're looking to have a interconnector substation which is about ten hectare in size.

01:36:31:09 - 01:36:36:11

So this should be assessed within the CGA itself. Thank you.

01:36:37:05 - 01:36:41:00

Thank you. And Mr. Jasmine Kelvin. Jacob.

01:36:41:16 - 01:37:26:07

Sorry Jacob for tendering district council. So yeah, just just to, um, to, to further develop that point made by my colleague just now. So, um, we've we have repeatedly heard from, from the applicant that the cumulative impact assessment that they've done is limited because of the limited, information available to them in respect of Norwich City Tilbury. And that's not even mentioning torsion. Um, so. So tendering with question the, the the completeness and the adequacy of of that, given that, you know, they only have information available, frankly, that's available to us because not as we all know, Norwich Tilbury is way behind in the process.

01:37:27:00 - 01:38:13:14

Um, they are talking about the DCI submission in August. So I mean, we can only we can only allow the, the facts on the table to guide us. And what we know is that, um, North Wilson and five estuaries are ahead in the process. Um, Norwich City, Tilbury still needs to submit it. I know it's common

knowledge to everybody in the room, but it is it's really important to to dispel this out. So so I would suggest that you can you can give very limited way to the cumulative impact assessment and and the way the whole upside down way of doing this basically just reinforces repeat repeat position that that this application is premature.

01:38:13:17 - 01:38:58:12

And to just to bring that down to a if we can just bring it down to scale if you if you would allow me please. So at least just for my, for my brain to understand. So if, if you have a normal planning application. Right. Um, let's say you have a, an ambitious landowner who wants to, wants to build a house in a countryside location. It's got the land. So, um, I would suggest that it would be very irrational and, um, almost perverse for that landowner to apply for planning permission for, uh, for an annex extension, for example, and a residential extension to a dwelling that doesn't yet exist, let alone have planning permission.

01:38:58:14 - 01:39:38:06

Right? So that is basically what we're dealing with here. And it will only be where it will be irrational. Unless. Unless that landowner has got more than me. More than, um, 50%, let's say more than 50% certainty that they will he or she will obtain planning permission for that dwelling. Right? So otherwise it will be irrational, especially for, for like just somebody who, um, whose is on a modest income, you know, they just won't take that risk in terms of spending all that money on architect's fees, reports, etc.,

01:39:38:08 - 01:40:06:10

etc. unless they know there's a more than reasonable chance of actually obtaining planning permission for that dwelling. Now, it's so illogical to do that actually, because like, I mean, the system allows you to do something like that, but you'll be lucky if the council accepts except such a planning application is valid. But your luck will soon run out because the council is very likely to refuse such a planning application on the basis of prematurity. Right. So I,

01:40:08:04 - 01:40:46:06

I just I think it's just fair on our residents for and and tendering for somebody to, to enlighten us on why why this approach is followed here. I mean we've, we've heard from the applicant that they have um, that they've been told as far back as 2021 to look at this area. The applicant site selection information is dated 2023. I mean, we can come back to that, but Norwich Tilbury's site selection information is dated 2023 and 20 or 2022 2023.

01:40:47:18 - 01:40:59:00

Again, if you take those facts into account, we've heard that today, then it costs serious question marks over the the validity of the site selection process.

01:41:00:16 - 01:41:32:08

Um, so and that just brings me to my final point is, um, I really, you know, we really want the examination panel to take these things into account. Um, I know some of the, some of the things I've mentioned is, uh, falls under 3.9, but incidentally, I need to go now to meet some, um, really concerned residents at Wesley Cross to do with torsion. Uh, with the director of planning. So I'm going to have to leave now, but I just wanted to get those points across before I go.

01:41:32:17 - 01:41:50:29

Thank you. Thank you for making those points. Mister Yassuo and it's noted that you will. We have moved into items under 3.9. But you've um illustrated that point very well. I will turn back to the applicant now for a response to those comments from Essex County Council and Tendring.

01:41:54:07 - 01:42:03:13

I will, I think I checked, but I will just check if there's any other IP's who wish to comment. Okay, Suffolk County Council.

01:42:04:06 - 01:42:12:10

And give me Suffolk County Council think my colleague Mrs. is older. Cutting has got some comments you'd like to make. Thank you. Which is virtual. Sorry.

01:42:13:29 - 01:42:50:07

Good afternoon sir. It's already cutting for Suffolk County Council. Um, obviously we're sort of onlookers from from afar, from Suffolk. Um, not really within Essex. Um, but there are a couple of points that relate to the to the Dedham Vale national landscape. And so, um, we think like Essex County Council as well, that, uh, Tarquin should be, should have been considered as a, um, as a cumulative effect. Um, and, you know, with the converter station being ten meter taller than both those of, um, five estuaries in North Wales.

01:42:50:12 - 01:43:29:09

I could arguably arguably have, you know, a greater, um, effect on the on the views from the, the, the male national landscape. And then, uh, with regards to landscape and visual impact assessment. So in those original chapters, the original CEA, um, didn't really address Parklawn at all. Neither did it address the pylons of Norwich to Tilbury, which we considered, you know, do have to have a cumulative effect because as I mentioned yesterday, they sort of deleted the AI, potentially to the converter stations rather than sort of providing distraction.

01:43:29:13 - 01:44:01:13

Um, and then so, so Suffolk County Council considers that these should be taken into, into consideration in a cumulative assessment. Um, and then the other point that I just wanted to make is that having assessed these, um, the applicant seems to not see the need for any further mitigation or any need to cooperate with the with the other projects. And as asked, for example, as suggested by the Design Council.

01:44:02:05 - 01:44:39:06

Um, you know, for wider landscape restoration where we have three really big projects in the area. And apparently what is considered is that a little bit of dressing up around the edges is enough. And I do understand the point of the applicant, which you made very eloquently yesterday about having to, you know, balance the landscape mitigation against other receptors which might be adversely affected by, you know, it would be positive for landscape and visual screening. But I just think that can't be used as an excuse to, you know, not look at wider landscape restoration proposals for the wider area.

01:44:39:08 - 01:45:02:26

And, um, I just think, you know, I think the term holistic was, um, used by the applicant. I think I would I would ask the applicant to look holistically with the other cumulative project of the area and into landscape restoration. I think that's, um, that's the point I want to make with regards to the strength of duty as well. That relates to the AUM. Thank you.

01:45:03:26 - 01:45:12:13

Thank you. Mrs.. Cutting stuff at county council. So are there any other IP's who wish to speak to this point?

01:45:14:26 - 01:45:24:13

Now, I will then invite the applicant to respond to the points made by Essex County Council and Tendring District Council, and then lastly from Suffolk County Council.

01:45:26:18 - 01:46:03:21

For the applicant, just in terms of consideration of the cumulative assessment, um, various points have been raised, um, in terms of what the applicant did and didn't consider at the point of the DCO submission. And I think, as was explained And yesterday the um the substation for um for National grid is down. A connection node has been taken into account in the cumulative assessment. At the point of writing, um, the cumulative assessment, um, a proposed location for the um torsion interconnector wasn't available.

01:46:03:23 - 01:46:34:06

I believe their their consultation booklet was only very recently published in March. So that information has only just come into the public domain. As I mentioned before, cumulative assessment is an ongoing, uh, point. And um, to the extent that that information, we have any information to update or revalidate the cumulative assessment, then we can have a look at that. I would also say that it cumulative is for each of those the projects to um assess.

01:46:34:08 - 01:47:07:06

So whilst we are obviously doing our assessment on cumulative effects national grid, when they submit their DCO application, uh, the examining authority will need to be satisfied on that project, that cumulative effects have been adequately assessed based on the very detailed information that is available for the five Estuaries and North Falls projects at that point in time, and the Secretary of State will need to be satisfied, um, that the cumulative effects are either accessible, acceptable or that the need for the project outweighs any cumulative effects.

01:47:07:08 - 01:47:48:01

And then similarly, when Tashan eventually submits its DCO application, it will also have to undertake a cumulative effects assessment and Secretary of State will need to be satisfied. Um, the need for that particular project outweighs any cumulative effects that have been identified. So I think it's incorrect to make a suggestion that the cumulative effects are not being considered or would be somehow missed in the process, even though, um, the projects are being staggered in the way that they're being submitted for the reasons I mentioned earlier, the staggering of the project doesn't remove the need for the assessment of cumulative effects, and it is accounted for in the process.

01:47:48:13 - 01:47:59:16

But in terms of the task on point, we will take that away and see whether there is any further information that necessitates an update to the cumulative assessment that we have done. Thank you.

01:48:00:25 - 01:48:34:04

Thank you. I think that covered the points that some of those other points will be, um, returned to at issue two as well. And we will have fuller written responses of what you've just said submitted into the examination that deadline for. So I'm going to move on to agenda item 3.9 and suggest immediately before that, we adjourn until just 4:00 or thereabouts.

01:48:34:17 - 01:48:35:09

Thank you.