



Planning Inspectorate
Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

Hearing Transcript

Project:	EN010140 - Helios Renewable Energy Project
Hearing:	Open Floor Hearing 2 (OFH2)
Date:	10 March 2025

Please note: This document is intended to assist Interested Parties.

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The video recording published on the Planning Inspectorate project page is the primary record of the hearing.

00:00:04:17 - 00:00:06:28

Morning, everyone.

00:00:10:02 - 00:00:12:27

I'll just wait for the gentleman to sit back down.

00:00:18:16 - 00:00:37:06

It is. It is now 5:15 p.m. and time for this hearing to begin. I would like to welcome you all to the this open floor hearing for the Helios renewable energy project. Can I just confirm that everybody can hear me clearly. Thank you.

00:00:39:01 - 00:00:47:21

Um, and can I also confirm with the case team that the live streaming and recording of this event has commenced? Thank you.

00:00:50:29 - 00:01:21:15

My name is Philip Brewer. I have been appointed by the Secretary of State as the single examining inspector to examine this application, you'll also hear me refer to as the Examining Authority or the Exa, and I think it would be a good time just to mention that I have taken over this role as a result of Mr. Ken Taylor unexpectedly becoming being being taken ill. And I'm sure you all like to join me in wishing him a full recovery as quickly as possible.

00:01:23:19 - 00:01:30:06

To begin with, I'll deal with a few a few housekeeping matters for those attending in person.

00:01:34:00 - 00:01:37:09

Can everyone please set all devices and phones to silent?

00:01:40:12 - 00:01:46:29

Um, toilets, as you probably noticed a to the left. And I'll just pointing out over there.

00:01:48:14 - 00:02:06:18

Um, fire. Fire drills. I understand the Thursdays. And the assembly point is, is the flagpole at the front of the building and the five exits. The other doors to my right and the back of the room. Should we need to escape.

00:02:09:00 - 00:02:11:25

Today's hearing is being undertaken in a hybrid way.

00:02:14:05 - 00:02:25:22

Um, meaning some of you are present with us at the hearing venue, and some of you are joining us virtually using Microsoft Teams. Um, although I don't think I can see anybody.

00:02:26:26 - 00:02:27:11

Um.

00:02:27:19 - 00:02:29:01

On, on, on the screen

00:02:30:18 - 00:02:32:18

for the time being anyway. Um.

00:02:34:21 - 00:03:02:15

I'll make sure that regardless of how you have decided to attend today, you will be given the opportunity to participate. The recording of today's hearing will be made available on the Helios Renewable Energy Project section of the National Infrastructure Planning website, as soon as practicable, practicable after the hearing has finished. With this in mind, please ensure that you speak clearly into a microphone, stating your name and who you are representing. Each time before you speak.

00:03:04:02 - 00:03:09:20

Um, and basically when you come to this, um, you can turn the microphone on and off.

00:03:11:09 - 00:03:12:13

On using.

00:03:12:15 - 00:03:24:06

The button and it will light up red. Okay. If you wish to stay in your chairs, you can have a roving microphone, but just please wait for it to be, um, passed to you if you wish to do that.

00:03:29:18 - 00:03:53:27

Moving on. A link to the planning Inspectorate's Privacy notice was provided in the notification for the hearing. I will assume that everybody here today has familiarize themselves with that document, which establishes how the personal data of our customers is handled in accordance with the principles set out in data protection laws. Please speak to a member of the case team if you have any questions about this.

00:03:56:29 - 00:04:18:27

So the purpose of the hearing. So the purpose of an open floor hearing to be more precise. Open floor hearings are your opportunity to raise anything directly with the EXR that is important and relevant, and that you think I should know about and consider the topic of your presentations about the proposals is therefore up to yourself.

00:04:25:01 - 00:04:58:14

I will be setting a time limit of five minutes per person if you are speaking for yourself, or ten minutes if you're speaking on behalf of others, for example, your household or a formal or informal group of people, I'll invite you to speak in the order that you registered to speak with possibly some flexibility. Come on to that. Um, should and should time permit. I will invite this still interested parties who did not register to speak by the deadline to speak, and other persons present who wish to speak.

00:04:59:15 - 00:05:12:14

Once you have spoken, I may wish to ask you questions. Once that is done, you're asked to vacate the seat at the top table and return to the general seating for the remainder of the hearing should you wish.

00:05:15:26 - 00:05:26:26

If you wish to provide us with a copy of your presentation or supporting material, you are asked to do so by deadline five, which is 20th of March 2025.

00:05:29:02 - 00:05:55:21

I have been provided with a list of those who wish to speak, so if I could just just run through them now, um, just to make sure you're you're here with us, that will be helpful. So I have got, um, Louise Harrison. Thank you. And that's on behalf of halt. Thank you, Leslie Martin. and you'll be speaking on behalf of your family. Thank you. Great. Pam's.

00:05:57:26 - 00:06:05:18

Great. Thank you. Um, Sheila Radford. Right. And David Wilkinson. Right

00:06:07:14 - 00:06:12:08

now, I'm going to ask that difficult question. Is there anybody here wishes to speak whose name I've not mentioned?

00:06:15:06 - 00:06:33:21

No. Right. Good. Okay. Right. I think we're good to go, then. Um, just to point out, although I did say the order would be as per the order you registered. Um, Mr. Wilkinson, I understand this would prefer to speak last. Okay. That's fine. Um.

00:06:38:02 - 00:07:10:18

Right. So just briefly, before. Before we get on with that, um, just to make you aware, um, after you've all spoken on many of my questions, the applicant will have a chance to respond to anything I've heard tonight. So, uh, I will use my phone for timing purposes. Um, so that'll make a noise after the end of 5 or 10 minutes. So to begin with, if I could invite Louise Harrison, please, to come up to the top table and, um.

00:07:11:15 - 00:07:14:16

And when you're comfortable, when you're ready, um.

00:07:16:21 - 00:07:17:20

Make sure the.

00:07:24:07 - 00:07:25:00

Is that okay?

00:07:25:05 - 00:07:30:11

Just. Yeah, I'm just going to. I'm just going to get my my, um, timer up so I can so I can I can start it when you.

00:07:30:13 - 00:07:32:25

Start and you just tell me when you're ready.

00:07:33:00 - 00:07:34:07

Fantastic. Thank you.

00:07:38:16 - 00:07:45:21

So you have ten minutes. Um, from when I said you've got ten minutes. Thank you.

00:07:47:02 - 00:08:18:00

Thanks. I'm here representing Holt, which stands for Helius agricultural land threat. Um, we are a team of concerned residents that cover the parish councils of Campbells, Forsyth, Carlton, Hurst, Courtney and West Bank and Byrne. As very concerned citizens, there are nine areas I'd like to bring to your attention today that bring deep concerns to us all.

00:08:18:11 - 00:08:53:00

Firstly, is the loss of high quality BMV land. This. I've lived here for 21 years and over that 21 years it's been highly productive. What we also need to think of is balancing the green effect of importing food. We all know that if we lose all this land to solar. We will then have to import more food and that does need to be balanced off against the benefit of solar.

00:08:54:11 - 00:09:30:21

The next thing is the proximity to houses. These solar panels will put up to the gardens at West Bank, many of which have no screening, although Helios have put that they will plant screening. It does say it will take 15 years for that to be established. The size and scale of this um, current proposed development means that that will not only be unsightly to residents, but will change the whole look and feel of the area.

00:09:31:11 - 00:10:08:21

Next is noise. The noise from the battery storage of which there is no. They have not stated exactly how many battery storage containers. There will be. They've mentioned 100. They've mentioned other numbers, but this is not fixed. It has been said by several people that the noise will exceed the levels that are currently allowed. We do not want this to be changed or this noise level to be deemed acceptable.

00:10:08:27 - 00:10:46:04

Then there is the fire risk from the battery store. Um, there doesn't seem to be an acceptable plan in place to deal with such a fire if it was to take place, and that would report residents at risk. This is a deep concern. Under this land is a natural watercourse that could impact this solar farm, could impact the natural watercourse running on to the site and it is used by the agricultural productions in West Bank.

00:10:47:12 - 00:11:18:02

Also, there is several red list birds on the site, and they're seen regularly by residents and people who use the site, along with bats that also live in the woodland. This site is an highly used area by horse riders, walkers and residents from many villages around and about, plus visitors to local caravan parks.

00:11:18:04 - 00:11:51:20

We are extremely worried about access to the area both during and after the build. For horse riders who use the historic tracks and dog walkers safe day. Finally, there's been many reports done by other solar and on other solar farms showing the property devaluation which is showing. About anything up to 40%. That obviously is raising high concern with residents.

00:11:52:20 - 00:12:35:22

Um, although Drax may be close by, that isn't a reason to put it near us. There are there is lots of less productive land that could hold these sorts of solar, um, solar panels without destroying good, productive land. Plus, the subsidies used for these farms could be used to subsidize solar panels on houses. If every house council tax band ATC had solar put on it, that would produce as much electricity, although it wouldn't have the commercial benefits.

00:12:37:21 - 00:12:40:11

That is everything from me. Thank you.

00:12:42:11 - 00:12:43:11

No. Thank you. Um.

00:12:45:00 - 00:12:47:25

Uh, Miss Harrison, um.

00:12:49:10 - 00:12:55:16

Uh, that's. I haven't got any questions. That was very clear. Thank you for that. Um, and you're well under time, so thank you for that also. Thank you, thank you.

00:13:00:10 - 00:13:03:18

So next, I think, was, um,

00:13:05:03 - 00:13:06:07

Leslie Marson.

00:13:09:17 - 00:13:13:24

And this is on behalf of your and your family. Is that correct?

00:13:14:10 - 00:13:15:01

That's correct.

00:13:15:06 - 00:13:15:21

So again.

00:13:15:24 - 00:13:22:00

Have myself, my family, also my mother, who also lives in the village and my mother in law in the next village.

00:13:22:02 - 00:13:27:05

Okay, great. So, um, again, you can have, um, you've got up to ten minutes. Thank you, thank you.

00:13:27:25 - 00:14:07:06

Um, as I say, I am a resident living very close proximity to the proposed development. And I'm also a member of the Hult campaign group who Louise represented represented today. I would like to focus today on some of the questions that I raised previously that remain unanswered. Starting with the impermeable membrane liners that proposed for the base compound, which sits within a groundwater source protection zone three, the environmental agency report states that geo membranes are subject to physical stresses during transportation, site handling, installation and during their life.

00:14:07:17 - 00:14:39:17

Is there quantitative evidence to establish that the geo membranes will hold up to the stresses placed upon them? No infiltration testing was conducted within this area, as it was stated that there is no pollution risk due to the geo membrane use when this area is likely to house around possibly 76, possibly 100 batteries, we don't know for certain what the actual number is with potential for chemical leakage and associated with fire risk that could result in emission of pollutants.

00:14:39:19 - 00:15:14:14

Would it not make sense to conduct infiltration testing in terms of environmental protection and the health and safety of residents? The effects of chemical stress, it is stated, may take decades to appear. Will the membranes be replaced if any? Even small amounts of chemical leakage take place and are periodically to avoid such stresses? Biological attack has also been observed with membranes due to the susceptibility of bio degradation, attacks by rodents on liner systems cannot be ruled out, according to the Environment Agency.

00:15:14:24 - 00:15:46:23

Burrowing activities can also damage the subgrade or protective layers of the membranes. Has this been taken into account considering the vast rabbit, mole and rodent population in the area? Moving on to screening, there are concerns that the proposed screening is not fit for purpose. This is not a small parcel of land to be hidden from view. The area is huge, stretching for miles. The mapping of the screening shows that some properties have no screening at all, to block their view of the expanse of glass.

00:15:47:00 - 00:16:19:08

Rabbits are rampant in the area, burrowing and stripping trees and vegetation. It's all very well planting immature screening. But how will this be managed to ensure that it is not stripped in the early stages, preventing growth through to maturity? Will replanting take place if this happens, and how will this be monitored and managed? And why should residents have to wait 15 years for possibly sufficient screening? Mature plants could be used from the outset if the applicant has consideration of community concerns.

00:16:19:10 - 00:16:50:29

Would this not be actioned without question, instead of opting for the cheapest option? One aspect that I think is quite conspicuous by its absence in this round of issue specific hearings is the BMV

land use hold stands for Helios Agricultural Land Threat. The applicant themselves acknowledged that the vast, overwhelming majority of the search area within the five kilometre radius of the Drax grid connection is good agricultural land with BMV across the whole search area.

00:16:51:10 - 00:17:26:23

The BMV proportion land estimate shows that the percent of BMV land in England to be 41.3% in North Yorkshire council area to be 29.8%, and in the Selby area to be 76.7%. With this in mind, and the government policy to avoid BMV land in favour of lower grade agricultural land, should the applicant not look to other, more suited grid connection points. Areas that do not host such fertile, food producing soils or look at alternatives to ground mounted solar panels.

00:17:27:28 - 00:18:05:12

The applicant also acknowledges that they should seek to minimize the impacts on BMV agricultural land grades one, two and three A, and preferably use poorer quality grades three, B, four and five, and where possible they should utilize suitable previously developed land, brownfield land, contaminated land and industrial land. The applicant has reduced the overall initially proposed development area, but this was not done with a view to favoring lower grade land. In fact, it increased the BMV land to be used for the project from 94% to approximately 97%.

00:18:05:14 - 00:18:38:08

BMV and no low grade land of 4 or 5 was identified in the project area. Mike Alder, the Professor of Rural Environment for the University of Essex, in a report dated the 3rd of March 2025, stated that UK policy will lead to food insecurity, stating that land area is finite and the land use is changing at a rapid rate. He reported that Natural England suggests that food production could decline by 25% if measures to meet the most ambitious targets are enacted.

00:18:38:17 - 00:19:09:12

Solar farms account for around 30,000 hectares to meet to hit net zero targets will require at least 84,000 hectares if this is to be land based. This means that in the next few years, 8% of crop able area in the UK could be lost. In addition, housing targets could lead to a further losses of 48,000 hectares. The UK produces 60% of the food it consumes, with food exports included.

00:19:09:14 - 00:19:42:11

This falls to 54%. To maintain this level of sufficiency will require more production on less land, unlikely since crop yields have been reasonably consistent over the last 20 years. The UK population is 68 million and is set to increase to around 74 million by 2026. Less land in production and more mouths to feed means more food importation. If changes are not made in current policies, this will lead to food insecurity in the short term.

00:19:42:13 - 00:20:17:05

This could be seen in food price inflation and food poverty, and in the medium to long term by food shortages. In February of this year, the Energy Secretary, Ed Miliband, responded to a letter from the MP Richard Fuller, who had sought clarification on whether BMV agricultural land remains a criterion in solar project assessments and if its weighting in approval decisions has changed. Ed Miliband response, dated the 17th of February 2025, was that there has been no change to the policy on the weighting attached to the use of BMV land.

00:20:17:07 - 00:20:48:19

That planning, policy and guidance makes clear that wherever possible, developers should utilise brownfield, industrial, contaminated or previously developed land where the development of agricultural land is shown to be necessary. Lower quality land should be preferred to higher quality land, including BMV land. This, he said, was the policy of the last government and that there are no plans to change this policy. If this application were to be approved, this would surely be sending out the complete opposite message.

00:20:48:21 - 00:21:19:14

It would go against current policy, as stated by Mr. Miliband, and could open the floodgates to other proposals on our prime food producing land across the country, thereby potentially putting our food security as a nation at risk. I would therefore ask that due consideration be given to the Energy Secretary's very recent statement in considering this proposal. There are many other areas that I would like to speak on, but I appreciate the time is limited and that some areas are to be discussed at the issue specific earnings.

00:21:19:16 - 00:21:23:09

So I'll stop there. And thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak.

00:21:25:02 - 00:21:26:26

Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you.

00:21:31:06 - 00:21:35:05

So next, I have Pam Spicoli.

00:21:39:27 - 00:21:44:15

Can I borrow some of their minutes, please? Sorry. Can I borrow some of their minutes?

00:21:45:03 - 00:21:49:17

You've got five minutes. Um. Um, nice. Nice try. Um.

00:21:51:24 - 00:21:52:26

Are you ready? Are you okay?

00:21:52:29 - 00:21:53:18

I am ready.

00:21:53:25 - 00:21:55:25

Okay, thanks. Okay. Thank you. There we go.

00:21:56:14 - 00:22:41:23

I asked at the last hearing how many solar panel and buses there will be used. And the response was technology may improve and change the requirement of unit numbers. One might suppose that better technology technology will be available in the near future. That doesn't require replacing prime agricultural land with thousands of three metre high solar panels and their associated problems. But as

has already been said, the resultant noise levels from this equipment and the risk of fire from buses, especially when in close proximity to homes, are matters of great concern to residents. And my questions are how can the impact of this equipment be fully assessed if we don't know what we're dealing with? How can the applicant ever be accountable for something they have not specified beforehand? And when will we know? I will say further input on noise and fire for tomorrow's hearing.

00:22:42:12 - 00:23:27:29

I also raised the question read the safety and welfare of the abundant wildlife in our area and the impact of security fencing around the site. We already are dealing with a very distressing situation on the NRA Power Limited solar farm on Camilla Lane, currently under construction, where the developers erected such a wire mesh fencing around the site and unwittingly and trapped four deer that have only just been released. I'm sure NRA power gave assurances that such a situation would not arise, as will Enzo. So how can we be assured that appropriate measures are taken when erecting the pre and post installation fencing to protect areas of retained habitat of these larger animals, and that they also have safe migration across this massive 47 field site and the surrounding woodland.

00:23:28:17 - 00:24:07:08

I do have comments on the BMV land and on some food security, but I'll save those. I don't want to repeat it. I'll put them in my written submissions. Also, the World Health Organization recommends that solar farms should not be used within a minimum of two miles from residential properties. And there's a good reason for that. Residents old and new understand and accept the important role of Drax Power Station, but none imagined the loss of surrounding acres of highly productive farmland, abundant wildlife, walkways, bridle pass, compensating for the unsightly Drax Vista would be replaced with volumes of energy construct, security fencing, spotlights and CCTV.

00:24:07:17 - 00:24:40:16

It's no exaggeration that these factors, plus the ensuing pollution, noise, the real threat of fires and possible flooding are affecting us and will have significant adverse effects on our physical, mental and emotional health. Even the thought of what is to befall us is causing major anxiety and sleepless nights. And amongst many. Surprisingly, these effects do not warrant serious consideration by Enzo. And either they give nebulous assurances or believe that no significant effects are anticipated and an assessment of potential effects is not required.

00:24:40:18 - 00:25:13:10

That's in their appendix APP033. So I ask, sir, on behalf of our communities, that these often forgotten or unforeseen human consequences are given serious consideration when deciding upon approval for this life changing project. The potential loss in property value has also been raised and subsequently refuted by Enzo has not been part of a normal planning consideration, and that no research exists to support such a claim. I restate my previous point that such a project of this magnitude has to be treated differently.

00:25:13:13 - 00:25:50:26

I agree that some studies have been claimed that the property value is not affected, but not surprisingly, these studies are industry funded by companies very pro renewable energy, such as Koen Reznik, who can then cherry pick the data, effectively skewing the results and failing to include

properties that fail to sell. There is no evidence to support our concern. A study in 2023, in England and Wales used whodunnit regression analysis to examine the impact of solar farms on residential property values, and found homes within half a mile of operational solar farms lost an average of 5.4% in value.

00:25:51:02 - 00:26:21:12

An institute in the Netherlands in 2021 also found that a decrease in house prices within one kilometre of about 2.6%. Additionally, questions relating to the proximity of solar panels and battery stores are now standard on conveyancing solicitors searches for the consideration of prospective Of purchasers. Buyers will pay more for an unspoiled landscape rather than an industrial landscape with solar panels and buses, and they'll also assess the likelihood of an increasingly industrial landscape.

00:26:21:17 - 00:26:56:01

Should common sense not prevail here, what account will be taken of this inevitable loss in property value and the subsequent inability to sell our homes? And finally, everything. Enzo is projecting 40 years on reusable fields, improved wildlife and biodiversity. The absence of fires or flooding may never be a reality. Such projections are Enzo funded, not independently funded, and are therefore unreliable and without guarantee. My question is if the land is so badly contaminated and or damaged, it cannot be returned to its previous use.

00:26:56:03 - 00:27:20:25

If fire causes leakage into the soil in our waterways, if the wildlife is devastated, and if our health is compromised. Who do we hold accountable? Especially after the 40 year period. So I implore you against a year to look past the loss of industry funded data and research and reject or significantly reduce this project size. Thank you. Thank you for the overview.

00:27:21:00 - 00:27:21:27

I'm fine. Thank you.

00:27:22:05 - 00:27:23:03

I'm just within.

00:27:23:12 - 00:27:26:04

Now. Just over. But I'll let you carry on because I could see you finishing. Oh.

00:27:26:28 - 00:27:28:03

Thank you very much.

00:27:28:10 - 00:27:28:25

Thank you.

00:27:41:29 - 00:27:44:07

The Radford. Yes, please. Thank you.

00:27:47:04 - 00:27:48:25

Let me know when you're ready and I'll. Yeah.

00:27:55:15 - 00:27:56:19

Okay. Thank you.

00:27:57:15 - 00:28:44:22

Um, I'm also a concerned local resident. Um, I've been in the village. Surrounding village? Two years after a stressful job, hoping to retire to this rural idyll as I thought it would be. Um. However, I am concerned. Let me deal first with the sourcing of raw materials and equipment. If this whole drive to net zero is to reduce carbon emissions. Shouldn't the applicant be required to carry out a global assessment of the carbon footprint created in the sourcing of the raw materials, the production, transportation, construction and ultimate disposal of the panels and battery storage compared and that compared against the carbon emissions saved by energy production.

00:28:45:09 - 00:29:34:21

Um, surely this could be part of the considerations, uh, in deciding upon approval? Um, otherwise, what pride can our country have in the possible net zero achievement if we've simply displaced our carbon footprint to countries such as China and India. Um, on that subject of, uh, China. The GB energy bill currently in its report stage, um, is has had the amendments um ratified um that will ensure and I quote, financial assistance cannot be provided if there is credible evidence of modern slavery in the energy supply chain, uh, of any company designated Great British Energy.

00:29:35:10 - 00:30:06:14

That being said, uh, if Enzo is to use supplies from China, where 35 to 40% of polysilicon is produced in Xinjiang, the where the Muslim population are, they're subjected to forced labor, uh, and uh, are in arbitrary detention. That is worrying, uh, however, uh, it's likely that the new slavery bill, with its amendments, will become law before this project reaches approval stage.

00:30:06:16 - 00:30:22:18

So how will this amendment affect the company's decision regarding, uh, sourcing a supplier for equipment, as the government has made it clear that the race to net zero must not leave the government's modern slavery commitments in tatters.

00:30:25:01 - 00:31:00:21

The next items are talking about the waste and recycling of solar panels. Um, and in this regard, uh Enzo have stated all equipment will be removed and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. But how can this bland, generalised statement give any real assurance, uh, and be acceptable? Surely a clear exit strategy detailing how such large amounts of hazardous waste is to be disposed of should be a critical part of the approval process.

00:31:00:24 - 00:31:25:26

Solar panels can be recycled through processes that involve shredding, crushing, and milling to recover glass, aluminium, copper. However, it's difficult and expensive to recycle solar panels in the UK. So can I ask the applicant how they intend to dispose of damaged and obsolete panels? Or are they just going to end up in landfills or shipped overseas for their disposal?

00:31:27:26 - 00:32:04:13

What are the benefits to the community? We know that the government subjective in providing clean, renewable energy for greater good of the country, um, and to improve diversity and land during the 40 year site presence. It is assumes that there is going to be no fires, storm damage or vandalism. But from day one of construction, we face destruction, disruption to our daily activities in innumerable aspects. We worried, we are anxious and we are concerned, um, how will our communities have benefited for their silent acquiescence? I suggest net zero.

00:32:04:24 - 00:33:00:06

However, clarification I would be appreciative of is what happens when there is no sun, as is often the case in North Yorkshire, sadly. How long do the batteries hold the energy in storage? What happens if the energy can't be sent to the grid through the summer months if there's insufficient, uh, capacity to receive it at Drax, especially with the plethora of farms already planned for this area. Are we in a similar situation as with wind turbines, where the companies are being paid to turn them off because there's insufficient capacity to hold the excess energy at the grid? So I will wind up there, although we could go on, um, and perhaps in thanking you for the opportunity to speak, leave you with and leave us all with a thought for the day that I thought well worth sharing.

00:33:00:08 - 00:33:07:03

No intelligent species would ever destroy their own environment. Thank you.

00:33:08:22 - 00:33:09:07

Thank you.

00:33:14:09 - 00:33:26:26

So, um, I think then, if I'm correct, uh, the last speaker is Mr. Wilkinson. Um, if you'd like to make your way to the table.

00:33:46:06 - 00:33:48:13

If you're comfortable.

00:33:50:01 - 00:33:50:18

Okay.

00:33:50:28 - 00:34:01:18

Hello. Well, my name is David Wilkinson. I am a retired electrical fitter. I live in Campbell Firth near the Black Dog pub and I'm also a member of Holt.

00:34:04:26 - 00:34:34:26

Reading from my published submission on the 4th of March 2025. It says please see the accompanying attachments under if you would like to make comments on the draft itinerary. Please do so by deck. I would like to add the following on Tuesday day length of March 2025. There is a meeting at the club Gliding club at 9:30 a.m.. One of the items on the agenda is the proposed battery energy storage system.

00:34:35:20 - 00:35:12:29

Issues. Specific hearing to on socio economic and environmental matters. Landscape and visual effect safety matters, including those related to burn cladding and the proposed battery energy storage system as appropriate. It says the accumulative effects of the proposed development and matters relating to the Draft Development Consent Order and the associated control documents will be explored. Looking at Ordnance Survey map OS explorer 290 York, Selby and Tadcaster wanted 25,000 scale.

00:35:13:01 - 00:35:58:16

You will see that Burn Gliding Club is about as far away upwind from the base as is possible from the approx. Centre of Berne airfield to the approx centre of the base. It is 3.5km from the Wheatsheaf public housing burn to the approximate centre of the base. It is 4.325km. Furthermore, the prevailing westerly winds will carry the noise from any contributing devices away from burn In the unfortunate event of a fire, the prevailing westerly winds will carry any toxic smoke away from burn.

00:36:00:27 - 00:36:36:09

Please. I understand the safety concerns of the Burn Gliding Club, especially performing an emergency landing in a field full of solar panels, etc. and the location for the accompanying site inspection for them is ideal, but the only place to assess the immediate detrimental impact of the bees is from the area of Chester Cottages, the Black Dog public house and the substantial number of dwellings in the surrounding area.

00:36:37:02 - 00:37:11:22

Please look at the information, complete with maps etc. I sent on the 18th of February 2025. Please note that Chester Cottages is approx. A mere 575m from the base, the Black Dock public house, 625m, and the village of Campbell's Forth is only 1425m away. Now this is the problem. The prevailing westerly winds put the aforesaid directly in line with the base.

00:37:12:10 - 00:37:43:28

Unlike burn, we will be subject to guaranteed noise 24 hours 365 days a year for the next 40 years. This is, of course, excluding the building phase. Unlike burn, we will, in the unlikely event of a fire and in brackets fact, these batteries can and do set on fire close brackets. Be the first to receive whatever toxic, myriad of life threatening, slash life changing influence it chooses to bestow upon us.

00:37:44:17 - 00:38:09:04

Please, in the name of common sense, having accompanied site expert inspection from the area I have previously suggested, i.e. from the area of Chester Cottages, the Blacklock public house and the substantial number of dwellings in the surrounding area. So I'd just like to move on to this. And it worked that long.

00:38:10:20 - 00:38:17:24

And this was a reading from my published submission 28th of February, 2025.

00:38:18:01 - 00:38:19:22

You've got about 30s.

00:38:19:24 - 00:38:20:24

So God.

00:38:21:02 - 00:38:25:16

But I will let you run over a bit because. Because you're the last person to speak.

00:38:25:18 - 00:38:26:04

Nice. Well.

00:38:26:13 - 00:38:26:28

Yeah.

00:38:28:21 - 00:39:04:26

May I respectfully ask for a site wide meeting from the Black Dog Public house, which is surrounded by a substantial amount of housing, to discuss the following. The battery energy storage system b e s plus 132KV substation. Let's be serious. This behemoth is certainly no toy. The two massive Transformers will be 6.480m tall. The battery slash inverter containers measuring once less amounts. Uh, the length is 12.2m, the height is 3.3m and the width is 2.4m, of which there will be.

00:39:05:06 - 00:39:55:26

It says perhaps 76 westerly winds. Question for Google. Does wind carry sound further? Answer yes. We can carry it out further when it is blowing in the same direction as the sound wave, essentially acting like a tailwind that helps propel the sound waves over a greater distance. However, if the wind is blowing against a sound wave, it can actually cause the sound to disperse more quickly, making it harder to hear from a distance. The beats will be approximately 575m from Manchester Cottages, 625m from the Black Dog public house, which is surrounded by a substantial amount of housing, so much so that in 2006, Yorkshire Water deemed there to be enough buildings to put in a public sewer for all.

00:39:56:25 - 00:40:23:08

Campbell's village, again 1.425 directly to the firing line should any problems occur. Noise guaranteed. Noise 24 seven 365 days a year. And please remember, some countries forces use noise as a form of torture. Please see in the attachments. Figure 7.191 and two map eight supplied on the detailed map. Figure 11.4.

00:40:23:10 - 00:40:43:09

Mr. Wilkinson, I'm only going to interrupt you just to say that, um, the safety issues is the best on the agenda for tomorrow afternoon, which I hope you can attend. And then we'll go into we can discuss those things a lot more detail there with the support of some visual aids and maps and plans. Um. Um.

00:40:44:26 - 00:41:08:06

And with regard to the location, you mentioned Black Dog Pub and the cottages, I did visit you, probably. You may not have seen it yet, but I did visit that on minor company and site inspection last week, so it's quite recent. So I do appreciate where where you're talking about in the context of the, of the site, but I'd like to leave it there because you've had more than your, your five minutes. Um, and I think you've got your, you've got your points across.

00:41:08:10 - 00:41:09:29

There's just some questions I need to ask.

00:41:10:12 - 00:41:14:25

Um, you can ask them tomorrow if that's. That's perfectly reasonable to ask me tomorrow.

00:41:15:01 - 00:41:15:27

Is that tomorrow after that?

00:41:16:04 - 00:41:37:19

Yes. On the, on the. That's right. Yeah. Yeah. Because this is just to clarify, this is an open floor hearing. Um, and there's time limited really. And I think it'll be more, I think more, more helpful to you if you answer, if you ask those things tomorrow, where the applicant is there with the people there, the specialist there who can then respond to those questions. Yeah.

00:41:38:03 - 00:41:43:04

Thank you very much for letting me say those things. Thank you very much.

00:41:43:06 - 00:41:43:21

Thank you.

00:41:51:12 - 00:41:55:02

So thank you all for your, um, contributions. Um,

00:41:56:29 - 00:42:08:28

they're all very well done, well presented. And that's a, um, quite a formal environment to do that. Um, I'd ask that. Who is here? From the applicant just to, uh.

00:42:15:21 - 00:42:19:29

So good evening, sir Catherine Tracy, director at Burgess Salmon, on behalf of the applicant.

00:42:20:16 - 00:42:26:21

Would you like to respond to some of these points now, or would you like to respond in writing or subsequently?

00:42:26:24 - 00:42:43:11

So, so far as we need to will respond in writing, we have already addressed a lot of these points, either in the first set of hearings or in various written representations to date in respect of the best. We're obviously going to talk about that tomorrow so we can pick up any points there.

00:42:45:12 - 00:42:45:27

Thank you.

00:42:45:29 - 00:42:46:14

Thank you.

00:42:50:03 - 00:43:02:09

So I'd really like to just move to the closure. Really. I'd like to again, thank you, um, for taking the time to attend and to thank all the speakers for your contributions

00:43:03:27 - 00:43:08:25

and to to really to reassure you that everything that has been said will be carefully considered.

00:43:10:22 - 00:43:17:29

Um, if necessary, I may need to pursue matters identified here in written questions or in other hearings.

00:43:19:22 - 00:43:30:29

I'd also like to thank the case team for supporting these hearings. The time now is 1758 and this open floor hearing is closed. Thank you.