



Planning Inspectorate
Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

Hearing Transcript

Project:	EN010140 - Helios Renewable Energy
Hearing:	Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) - Part 1
Date:	11 March 2025

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FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

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

As it is now 1:30 p.m. and time for this issue specific hearing to begin.

00:00:16:08 - 00:00:23:04

I would like to welcome you all to this issue specific hearing for the Helios Renewable Energy Project.

00:00:25:06 - 00:00:40:15

Can I just check that everyone can hear me clearly. Just a few things. Yes. Thank you. And can I confirm with the case team that the live stream and recording of this event has commenced? Thank you very much.

00:00:42:13 - 00:01:05:24

So my name is Philip Brewer. I have been appointed by the Secretary of State as the single examining inspector to examine this application. You will also hear me referred to as the Examining Authority or just the EXR for short I'll now deal with a few housekeeping matters again for those attending in person.

00:01:07:13 - 00:01:12:25

Um, firstly, can everyone, everyone please set all devices and phones to silent?

00:01:14:27 - 00:01:22:05

Uh, as you probably know the location, the toilets are located over to the left through that passageway there.

00:01:24:01 - 00:01:41:09

Um, there are no fire drills planned for today. And the assembly point is the is the flagpole in front of the building and the fire exits, you can see marked over the doors to my right and at the back of the back of the room, should we need to, uh, evacuate.

00:01:47:13 - 00:02:09:14

Today's hearing is being undertaken in a hybrid way, meaning that some of some of you are present with us at the venue, and some of you are joining us virtually using Microsoft Teams. I will make sure that regardless of how you have decided to attend today, you will be given a fair opportunity to participate in.

00:02:12:19 - 00:02:29:01

A 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 after the hearing has finished. With this in mind, please ensure that you speak clearly into a microphone

00:02:30:16 - 00:02:35:13

stating your name and who you are representing each time before you speak.

00:02:38:00 - 00:02:44:16

And I think the people speaking today are at the table here, so hopefully that will work fine.

00:02:49:03 - 00:03:15:22

A link to the Planning Inspectorate Privacy Notice was provided in the notification of this hearing. And I assume that everybody here today has familiarized themselves with this 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 issues about this.

00:03:19:06 - 00:03:42:25

The agenda was published on the 3rd of March with the exam library reference EV 8-001 and was for guidance only. I may add other considerations or issues as we progress. I will conclude the hearing as soon as all relevant contributions have been made and all questions asked have been responded to.

00:03:45:04 - 00:04:04:04

But if the discussions can't be concluded, then it may be necessary for me to prioritize matters and defer other matters to further division questions. Likewise, if you cannot answer the questions being asked or require time to get the information requested, please indicate that you need to respond in writing.

00:04:07:01 - 00:04:07:26

So.

00:04:10:18 - 00:04:34:03

We who have we got in the room? Um, and I will just invite, um, if, like the lead member of each group to introduce himself, if you've got a team rather than everybody. And then you can introduce yourselves further as we go through the agenda. I think that's the best way of doing that in terms of just moving along. So if I turn to my left, um, the applicant please.

00:04:35:11 - 00:05:08:09

Good afternoon, sir, I'm Catherine Tracy, a director at Burgess Salmon, representing the applicant today. Um, got various members of the team with me, but, uh, based on the agenda for today, we're anticipating, uh, Martin Blunden of Green Fire Solutions. Um, speaking in respect of battery safety. And, uh, miss McNeil from PJ power in respect of burn gliding club. There may be others that need calling on at the time, but if that's necessary, I can introduce them then.

00:05:08:11 - 00:05:08:26

Sir.

00:05:10:09 - 00:05:10:24

Um.

00:05:13:21 - 00:05:14:07

Pardon me.

00:05:14:17 - 00:05:20:29

Thank you. Um, would the other interested parties like to introduce themselves? Briefly.

00:05:22:09 - 00:05:32:16

Um. Good afternoon, I'm Pam Brickley. Um, I'm a concerned resident, but also today, because of the members have got work commitments and issues. I should also be representing Holt.

00:05:33:29 - 00:05:34:17

Okay. Thank you.

00:05:37:27 - 00:05:49:29

Good afternoon. Sir, I'm Ann Bartleby. I'm representing the Burn Gliding Club, and my colleagues are David Latimer, David Bellamy and Neil Bale. Thank you.

00:05:51:04 - 00:05:52:08

Thank you very much. Um.

00:05:54:14 - 00:06:02:24

Good afternoon. Uh, David Wilkinson, uh, retired, lives in Carmel South. I also am a member of Holt.

00:06:03:24 - 00:06:12:25

Thank you, Mr. Wilkinson. I'm just. Just want to check. Have we got anybody online who's me? Who's, um.

00:06:14:26 - 00:06:18:01

Other than the members of the case team and so on, I don't think we have.

00:06:22:00 - 00:06:22:19

Uh.

00:06:24:13 - 00:06:28:12

Right. Okay. So if I move on to

00:06:30:01 - 00:06:31:25

item two. Really? Um.

00:06:34:27 - 00:06:37:03

Forgive me. I'll just check. I've covered off.

00:06:39:14 - 00:06:39:29

Yeah.

00:06:40:02 - 00:07:24:18

The purpose of an issue is so that the Xa Xa can probe, test and assess the evidence through direct questions of persons making oral representations at of having. So I will leave the questioning at the hearing. Um, normally, cross questioning of a person giving evidence by another person will only be permitted if I consider that is necessary to ensure representations are adequately tested, or that an IP has a fair chance to to put its case. Um, so just for example, if you have questions you'd like to ask the applicant, particular questions is like to ask the applicant, um, you can raise those as comments or questions, and I can consider whether the applicant is appropriate for them to answer that today.

00:07:24:20 - 00:08:00:06

So don't don't don't hold back in terms of questions, but be a B a b, be aware of the point that it's um, so-called inquisitorial rather than adversarial. So you can put your questions to me and I can refer them to that sort of ask applicant to respond if that is that, is that clear. Hopefully to everybody. Yeah. So I'm going to move on then to in effect, the the substantive first substantive item on the agenda, which is under item three, health and safety, including the battery energy storage system.

00:08:01:20 - 00:08:23:13

It may be helpful. Often it's helpful, perhaps, to put up a plan, perhaps a work plan if the applicant can put up a work plan just to show us the site in context, I think it's, um, it would be EP zero 15 would be perhaps useful.

00:08:26:27 - 00:08:36:04

Or people got a bit of time to find that in their on their devices, whatever works best. Ah, there we are. Like magic.

00:08:38:08 - 00:09:05:15

Um, I know the other plans in the documentation and I might want to refer to other plans, but I think this might just be a useful place to start. And, um, people can um, see where the proposed development is situated in relation to the surrounding area. And later on in the agenda, you can see where it's situated in relation to the gliding club. Yeah. Um, so

00:09:07:04 - 00:09:12:07

I think unless I, unless says anything urgent, we desperately want to interrupt me with, um,

00:09:14:02 - 00:09:19:11

I think I'd, I start with a quite a general question then to the applicant. Um.

00:09:21:22 - 00:09:30:18

So before we get specifically into the, um, battery energy storage system, can I ask the applicant, um.

00:09:33:27 - 00:09:42:05

Is there any guidance, um, with respect to the proximity of apparatus to dwellings and buildings?

00:09:45:02 - 00:09:50:04

So I'm going. This is a technical question we're going to ask, uh, Mr. Blunden to answer this.

00:09:50:10 - 00:09:51:14

That's fine. Yeah.

00:09:53:13 - 00:09:54:06

Good afternoon sir.

00:09:55:05 - 00:10:06:09

Yes, there is some guidance. There is some guidance from the National Fire Chiefs Council in the UK. And there is also American guidance, NFPA, the National Fire Protection Association guidance, which is.

00:10:06:11 - 00:10:43:24

Can I can I just interrupt slightly. Of course I might. My question might have been a bit too unclear. I'm talking in relation to the sighting of any apparatus on the solar farm. Not not just about the fire. I'll come on to the best specifically. And what you said may be relevant to everything, but I'm I'm always wanting to take a step back from that detail to sort of say, is there any more, uh, wider ranging guidance in the industry or nationally or internationally around sighting of apparatus, the whole range of apparatus, solar panels, cables and the like? Could you respond to that?

00:10:46:01 - 00:10:46:16

Do you want.

00:10:47:12 - 00:11:17:24

Uh, Sir Catherine Treacy for the applicant? Um, there is a range of of guidance or best practice rules that you would follow when designing. Um, a solar farm more generally, uh, with set off distances from residential properties, from watercourses, from trees, protected um nature conservation designations. Um, so you start with a blank sheet and then start overlaying constraints. Um, on top of that.

00:11:17:29 - 00:11:54:29

Uh, and that can also range to through this site we have um a gas main running. So there's a set off distance from that as well. Um telecoms overhead power lines. So, so there are a number of constraints. Um, whether those are um, and there is a mix in between whether they're legal constraints, uh, as in you cannot go nearer than X to Y, um, or best practice. And then you work on assessments of what's the impact if you are at this distance versus another distance, um, from anything.

00:11:55:01 - 00:12:12:02

So I don't think there isn't a set of guidance that says when you're designing a solar farm, this is how you in terms of tick these boxes and off you go in one consolidated place. It's um, it's a much broader brush than that.

00:12:12:14 - 00:12:37:14

Okay. Thank you for that. Like that. Um, I'll let your colleague now talk a bit. I think I think, I think I was just I was on my mind, really. So I just wanted to, um, to clear that up a little bit. We can come back to it if we need to. Um, so. Yes, if, if you'd like to talk now more specifically about where there is some guidance in relation to the battery energy storage system, that's that that will be a good time now.

00:12:37:16 - 00:12:38:01

Yeah.

00:12:38:29 - 00:13:10:18

Martin Blunden for the applicant. Yes. That's my colleague has just said there's no one piece of guidance in one place that says when you construct a battery energy storage system, it has to be designed this way. There is some American guidance, the NFPA guides, there's Universal Laboratories guidance. There is some guidance in Europe. And there is then some guidance in the UK from the National Fire Chiefs Council. And then you overlay that with the the Health and Safety of Work Act and the construction design and management construction regulations.

00:13:14:25 - 00:13:15:15

Okay. Thank you.

00:13:15:17 - 00:13:16:02

Thank.

00:13:16:04 - 00:13:16:19

You. Um,

00:13:18:13 - 00:13:28:10

so the next question is um, kind of these are fairly, fairly nicely from that. Um, you mentioned the National Fire Chiefs Council. So

00:13:30:08 - 00:13:34:03

answer the obvious question. I mean, how close can it be to where people live?

00:13:39:00 - 00:14:01:24

Martin Blunden for the applicant. So the National Fire Chiefs Council says we're not within 25m of a building. That's just one very clear element within the current extant guidance. That was guidance issued in November 22nd, and there was some draft guidance that was put out for consultation in July last year, and the industry is waiting for that guidance to be reissued.

00:14:04:06 - 00:14:04:21

Okay.

00:14:05:03 - 00:14:05:18

Thank you.

00:14:08:10 - 00:14:09:27

I see that, um,

00:14:11:21 - 00:14:28:07

that's there is, there is in the, um, um, the draft DCO certified document under schedule 11 4-005 called, um, the um, the draft outline battery. Yes. Safety plan.

00:14:28:09 - 00:14:29:14

Battery safety management.

00:14:29:16 - 00:14:54:03

Plan that you all know. Well, um, and as I understand it, any departure from that has to be approved by the local planning authority in consultation with the um, the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service. And Health and Safety, Health and Safety Executive. And that they have to agree to the changes. Is that is that your understanding of of the process?

00:15:03:05 - 00:15:04:17

Yes, sir. That's correct.

00:15:06:02 - 00:15:06:19

Okay.

00:15:09:24 - 00:15:10:09

Is it.

00:15:10:14 - 00:15:16:02

Also true? Um, now return to the plan. There was, um.

00:15:18:01 - 00:15:29:04

Can I ask you a question? Which may be a trickier one to answer? Um, but I'm just just sort of, um, going through the layers, if you'd like. Here. Um, why 25m?

00:15:35:04 - 00:15:40:22

Martin Blunden for the applicant. I can't answer that question for you. I don't know the I don't know the answer to 25m.

00:15:43:08 - 00:16:03:18

Okay. Could you comment though? Okay. Now we've got okay. Now that's the that's the guidance. That's fine. Um, so can you if you want to with reference to the plan, give me a commentary on, you know, where is the nearest dwelling compared with, you know, compared with the the nearest part of the base. Can you just talk us through then?

00:16:06:27 - 00:16:07:12

Uh.

00:16:07:24 - 00:16:38:24

So we're just looking at exactly where the nearest property is, but it is some distance outside of 25m. Um, I suspect it is, if you look so the the orange on that plan is a is the battery energy storage system and the substation. Yes. Um, I'll wait for a colleague to correct me, but I think the nearest property is diagonally north west. There is an agricultural farm building and a residential property in that direction.

00:16:39:26 - 00:16:45:22

Um, but we're just having a look. We might have to come back to you with exactly where that property, how far away that property is. So.

00:16:48:17 - 00:16:49:02

What?

00:16:49:27 - 00:17:05:03

What are your. Why are you looking at that? Can I ask a sort of more general question about, um. Why why is it where it is? I mean, what's the what's the for me, from your perspective, the applicant's perspective, where does it have to be in relation to everything else?

00:17:05:16 - 00:17:38:22

Yeah. Um, the substation. So the battery storage is located next to the substation. Um, because it needs to connect into the national grid. So it's, it's logical to put them both adjacent to each other on a solid, concrete footing with all the necessary, um, safety measures that are required. It's, um, you'll see from the plan there are three almost distinct solar panel areas. Um, and then we've got the cable connection corridor in the T connecting them all.

00:17:39:08 - 00:18:13:03

Um, so it's a it's a convenient place to locate it from an electrical infrastructure perspective, but also when you're in the landscape. So it is, um, fairly central to the development site, which means it is located away from, um, the majority of properties. And it is in a, it's in a good location for screening as well. Um, so that it can be sufficiently screened. So, um, you could we could have put it, um, right at the other end by like Drax, there isn't any.

00:18:13:05 - 00:18:26:17

There's nothing. Um, as I was saying earlier about the levels of constraints that you just keep mapping on, it's it's the natural place in this case for it to be, uh, but it's not, um, a requirement that it's located there.

00:18:27:11 - 00:18:43:17

Okay. Okay. I mean, I mean, the impression I got was it would seem very central, given that you've got go a number of areas of of arrays, it just seemed a very central location and sort of embedded within the, within, well, within the site.

00:18:43:22 - 00:19:01:27

That's right. So it's then within the middle of the site, which is, um, allows it to be screened and can not contains not the right word, but um, it's not, um, an intrusive, uh, construction on the edge of the development. It's surrounded by the panels.

00:19:02:14 - 00:19:16:23

Yeah, I suppose I was I think you probably gave the answer I expected. I, I was getting too technical thinking. Is there sort of an optimum location in terms of cable runs and and and the like? And I realize that could get very complicated. Um, but.

00:19:17:23 - 00:19:42:28

In broad terms, yes. I mean, it's a convenient place to connect the three panel areas into before you then take one cable from the substation to the national grid. Um, because otherwise you have to run all those cables to get to your on site substation. And it's, um, nearly always the case that battery storage solutions are located next to on site substations in this sort of scenario.

00:19:43:06 - 00:19:43:21

Um.

00:19:44:01 - 00:19:48:09

Have you had a chance to find the answer to my question about actually how far away is.

00:19:49:28 - 00:19:50:13

Good.

00:19:51:26 - 00:19:55:16

At the moment, the best we can offer is it's over 160m.

00:19:55:21 - 00:19:56:23

Okay, okay.

00:20:04:23 - 00:20:13:16

Can I, um, just play me this a little bit more in terms of, of the whole, the overall all the various regulatory regimes that may come into play on this. Um.

00:20:16:10 - 00:20:33:02

If you, um, try to operate your facility, um, without having got your, um, I'll call it your battery safety plan approved of I use this. What sort of, um, sanctions could be applied to you?

00:20:34:27 - 00:20:35:12

Uh.

00:20:35:19 - 00:20:49:01

Catherine Tracy for the applicant. Uh, sir, it's a criminal offence to implement a DCO. Not in compliance with the terms of the development consent order. This is a requirement. Um, so the applicant would be committing a criminal offence.

00:20:49:03 - 00:20:50:10

Okay, that's very clear.

00:20:50:12 - 00:20:50:27

Thank you.

00:20:52:26 - 00:20:53:11

Um.

00:20:57:01 - 00:21:05:12

Coming back to the safety plan, outline safety plan in that you do provide an example of where I think a fire took place.

00:21:05:22 - 00:21:06:07

In.

00:21:06:09 - 00:21:16:18

Liverpool, a Liverpool site, a site near Liverpool. Um, to what extent is that a, I'm going to say, a fair comparator with the proposed development?

00:21:17:13 - 00:21:18:00

Yes. Yeah.

00:21:19:23 - 00:22:08:17

Martin Blunden for the applicant, the fire that happened in September 2020, in Carnegie Road in Liverpool, was one of the wake up calls for the UK Fire and Rescue Service. Prior to that particular event. Best had been in the UK since about 2015 and had gone largely unnoticed by the Fire and Rescue Service, who under statutory consultees for best planning applications. As a result of that fire, the first National Fire Chiefs Council guidance came out and then the second one that I referred to in my earlier answer to you, sir, in terms of the difference in technology, it's moved on significantly in the last four years in that the containers that were used in the Carnegie Road fire were standard ISO containers that had been retrofitted with battery energy storage system with a different thermal runaway temperature of 60 degrees, as opposed to 200 degrees.

00:22:08:19 - 00:22:36:06

Now, in modern units and the modern containers are bespoke containers built specifically for the purpose for which they are designed. So there is a difference now in the technology, the detection, the approach that we take in the UK in terms of liaising with the UK Fire and Rescue Service Um, the way that most planners, but not all planners are now liaising with the local fire rescue service, even in an informal way. So there's a much more of a structure in place now than there was back in 2020.

00:22:38:10 - 00:22:39:22

Okay. Thank you. Um,

00:22:41:08 - 00:23:13:23

I think that's given the applicant a fair chance to, um, uh, explain their position, explain the design, explain the issues, um, and how they're, um, managing the risk of describe it. So if I'm now really open it up a little bit to, um, interested parties who'd like to, uh, make representations on this are specific questions about it. Um, and we'll and we'll we'll just see how it unfolds.

00:23:13:25 - 00:23:20:04

Really. Um, I don't know if any body would choose to go first or second or I don't mind.

00:23:23:07 - 00:23:23:22

Thank you.

00:23:24:23 - 00:23:42:06

Um, thank you sir. I just wanted to ask you, and why are we able to make some comments about what we feel about the this. Or have we just got to ask questions? The reason being is my questions relate to some of the issues and also some of the things that the applicant is also stated.

00:23:43:11 - 00:23:45:06

Just just carry on and we'll see how.

00:23:45:14 - 00:23:45:29

May.

00:23:46:01 - 00:23:46:16

I. Yes.

00:23:46:18 - 00:23:47:03

Thank you.

00:23:47:05 - 00:24:23:26

Because from from the perspective of the, the whole group, very much so. Our two concerns with regard to the battery energy storage, um, is facility is, is is noise and fire. And obviously distance as you've been talking about is is of prime importance. Um, I mean, in terms of the noise from solar farms just for solar farms is already evidence in place, um, that actually people that have undergone the noise from living close to solar farms has created long term health problems like tinnitus, nausea, headaches, etc.

00:24:24:15 - 00:24:58:00

that have lived with this continuous buzz. And. What I'm suggesting is that the noise levels from buses are even worse. Um, especially from the compression and the fans and the cooling system. So when you're talking about distance from the nearest house, isn't it also important to bear in mind, no matter what other things, about this 25m and for example, the World Health Organization recommend two miles from solar farms? Um, surely the noise issue must be given a lot of, um, consideration.

00:24:58:04 - 00:25:31:05

Um, the noise monitoring services. The other thing to just mention here, I think, is that when relation to fires that you you talked about, they mentioned that there was the fire in London, but that actually

is just a very microcosmic view of buses because worldwide there's been 89 fires Up until July last year, so there may have only been one in this country, albeit there's been two recently, one in, um, Tilbury and also one in Aberdeenshire.

00:25:31:27 - 00:25:36:00

Um, but as I say that it is, it is does a give a slightly

00:25:37:27 - 00:26:22:24

misleading view about the safety of buses? Should I put it that way? But going back to the noise, um, in the noise monitoring services that have done a lot of work on vessels, they've actually looked at studies of 13 best facilities from 2022 to 2024, um, in Southern California and also Arizona. And they're now considered one of the leading experts in the specific area of noise control. And they state that best is often require implementation of substantial noise control measures to comply with the city ordinance, which they would do in order to comply with our noise requirements environmentally here and primarily from the cooling systems that range between 70 to 90dB.

00:26:23:21 - 00:26:55:02

And as I say, the measures that you can put in place to remedy that, such as, um, noise barriers. These don't always work for the for the primary sound from the because the primary sound from the inverters and transformers are low frequency which results in longer wavelengths. Therefore, noise barriers are less effective for longer wavelengths and therefore require a larger wall, for example, than normally. And you'll know this because of your background in acoustics, I believe.

00:26:55:10 - 00:27:34:20

So that's the second option. The third option would be the most aggressive sound control method of putting putting it in a contained building, which obviously would require mechanisms to cool it, which again provide noise problems. So I think from just looking at the noise issue, there is one particular concern that I also need to share, if I may, and that is that buried in the documents? A senior consultant employed by the applicant stated that although they aim not to exceed background sound levels, quote, we may need to push for more lenient criteria where background sound levels become prohibitively low.

00:27:34:23 - 00:28:04:27

Now, obviously, that raises our fear that the corners may be cut and goalposts change. So in relation to just noise, if I may, before I go on to fire, surely it will be the case that the cumulative impact of 76 units, which we've given this worst case scenario figure of, will lead to a noise nuisance, especially when it's expected that all the fans over the entire facility could operate simultaneously.

00:28:04:29 - 00:28:38:04

Now that the applicant has actually said that this wouldn't happen. But I've looked at other documents and certainly the noise monitoring service who, as have said, is the leading light in this. Have said that during hot weather, it can be expected that all fans over the entire best facility could operate simultaneously as the batteries charge and discharge, and this may occur at any time of the day or night, and subsequently cause several hours of sustained noise at a constant level.

00:28:38:18 - 00:29:20:09

Because that noise is tonal and consequently so. Therefore the facility noise levels are held to more restrictive noise level because of it being tonal. So I think my question is how therefore can it be acceptable to allow buses and solar panels because we mustn't forget the solar panels to be co-located so close to residential properties where noise, nuisances and subsequent health problems will be inevitable? And, and I think the the obviously the the the applicant will give assurances that remedial measures will be put in place, but they can only really be assessed when the buses and panels are in place.

00:29:20:11 - 00:29:26:00

And what happens if they're not satisfactory, and how will we deal with the inevitable health issues?

00:29:28:01 - 00:29:48:07

Can I suggest, um, so you've done you provide some very good, um, uh, representations on the noise issue there. Um, can I. Is that is that enough on do you want to talk about fire? In addition to which I'm fine with that, but. But what? Are you happy? I'd like to give the applicant a chance to respond on the noise.

00:29:49:04 - 00:29:51:04

Can I can I come back on the fire?

00:29:51:06 - 00:29:57:19

Yeah. Of course you can. Yeah. I just rather rather than sort of rather than go through everything and then potentially have a very long response.

00:29:57:21 - 00:29:59:09

I don't want to miss anything, sir. Sorry.

00:29:59:21 - 00:30:11:23

That's fine. It's fine. Um, I think because that's now I just, um, give the applicant a chance to respond on that point, and then. And then you can go on to your, your five points, and then we can go on to other interested parties.

00:30:12:03 - 00:30:30:06

May I just add one question to that for the applicant is what do they understand? Or what does the National Fire Chief Committee understand as being occupied buildings as well? Because, um, does that mean a residential property where somebody lives in it 24 over seven?

00:30:32:01 - 00:30:35:10

That was just another question I had in relation to that.

00:30:35:28 - 00:30:59:13

Okay. Well, let me just let me just sort of give the applicant a chance if they, if they wish to, to respond to some of those points and you can still come back on that. Things we haven't covered yet on the, on the five points. Um, maybe take them in reverse order, because I think you did ask a specific question about occupied buildings. I think if I heard you were occupied. Yeah. Um, what? The applicant.

00:31:02:22 - 00:31:33:03

Uh, yes, sir. Catherine Tracy for the applicant, um, in terms of occupied buildings for for noise that there are, um. It is usually a residential dwelling being a noise sensitive receptor, because that's where you live 24 over seven. Um, but it's a building that is a house, not necessarily one that is lived in. So it would catch holiday homes or the like. Um, there are different standards of noise thresholds for commercial buildings and employment buildings.

00:31:33:06 - 00:32:12:08

Um, because of the nature of what they are. Um, and there's a, there's a great swathe of them, um, in terms of, uh, the noise generated by the development in its widest sense. So both the solar elements, the inverters, transformers and the best there has been a noise assessment carried out in the environmental statement, uh, which has been um, reviewed by the local planning authority, sorry, by North Yorkshire Council's environmental health officer, who is a noise specialist, and that that is agreed that the assessment is acceptable and there are no significant impacts.

00:32:12:10 - 00:32:39:00

So, um, I think that's that's where we land on noise. There was a mention, um, to various statements that we might have made, but no reference is given to those, sir. So if if you'd like a response to those, I would like to have the reference of where they might have been stated so that I can just check them. Um, so I think on on noise, sir, I think that's it is considered acceptable by the environmental health position.

00:32:39:02 - 00:32:48:05

Yeah. That's really, that's really the main thing. Um, you can okay. So I'll come back to you and then you carry on with other things you want to raise comments, questions.

00:32:48:14 - 00:33:02:06

All I would say is that environmental health may say that those are satisfactory, but how can they assess that when we don't know how many panels they're going to be, and how many best is there going to be? That would be just a question I'd put back to the applicant.

00:33:02:08 - 00:33:05:20

I'll ask the applicant to respond to that. I think they probably got a response to that one.

00:33:05:22 - 00:33:42:00

Yeah. Yes, sir. Catherine Tracy for the applicant. Um, there are parameters set out in the environmental statement. Uh, usually I think these are in chapter three, where we make assumptions about the number of equipment, and then we assess against that. And the control mechanism is in by the development consent order. And we're not actually able to, uh, install significantly more um, panels or battery units than we've assessed because that would, um, generate a potentially it generate a materially different impact.

00:33:42:02 - 00:33:54:22

So we are limited by what we've assessed. We've assessed in this case, uh, 76 Bess units. Um, and I apologize, I don't know, off the top of my head for Transformers and things, but it will be in chapter three.

00:33:55:12 - 00:34:01:15

Let me ask the question to you that maybe we'll just help try and summarize this aspect. Um, is it

00:34:03:11 - 00:34:15:19

is it true to say, is it true to say that in all matters on terms of impacts, not just noise, but other areas as well. Other topics that you have undertaken a reasonable worst case assessment.

00:34:16:22 - 00:34:17:12

Yes, sir.

00:34:20:24 - 00:34:24:08

If you'd like to carry on with other points or other questions. Yeah.

00:34:24:19 - 00:35:09:01

Thank you. I'm strictly on behalf of Holt. I think with regard to the. I think there's great concern, um, amongst residents about the risk of fire and explosion. And the reason why I say that, I mean, the the first reason, because there's evidence that already exists of the damage that when this happens, what what does happen that toxic chemicals such as cobalt, nickel, lithium, hydrogen, hydrogen fluoride, etc. are produced and they have been shown, um, to cause lung and breathing problems, skin damage, bone loss, very serious illnesses that can cause long term damage or scarring, and also that wildlife can be impacted by such fires.

00:35:09:03 - 00:35:41:17

I mean, the moss landing fire in America. Um, they actually have carried out some surveys recently. Um, because the heart these heavy metals are lightweight, they can travel far. And they've actually found that within a two mile radius that they've they found evidence of these heavy metals in a concentration of thousands time greater, um, following the fire. And the comment there was consequently the implications to wildlife hang in the balance.

00:35:41:19 - 00:36:17:23

So that's obviously we are aware of the damage that can be done by fires. And looking at some of the research, are you you may be familiar with, um, the recent paper grids, grid scale batteries and fire risks that John Fannon produced. And he is eminent in this in this particular field and has also a doctorate in nuclear physics. He refers to a battery storage system as unexploded bombs and refers to them as large, large, and unstable concentrations of energy, and thus their presence near human habitation brings major risks, particularly from fire.

00:36:18:25 - 00:36:50:09

He also states that it is agreed that all battery storage systems are likely to have at least one fire during their lifetime, and as such, fire, and as such the fires can happen spontaneously and without warning. And I think that the other thing that's worrying is that currently there is no test to assess the response

to an internal short circuit, which has been the cause of many of the fires. And the thing that also is worrying to me and to the whole group is there.

00:36:50:21 - 00:37:35:24

There is currently no standards or regulations governing the development, installation and maintenance of best facilities in the UK. The House of Commons did a briefing paper last year, 2024, in April, where they said that they were. They highlighted the risks of buses in terms of fire, explosion, buildup of gases, the release of toxic plumes, etc.. Um, and they are only recently now looking at its recently come under scrutiny that there's a strong indication that buses may be shortly included under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016, where a permit will be required in order to for the to operate a bus.

00:37:35:26 - 00:37:54:16

But that's not in place at the moment. So cumulatively, all of these things are really worrying, especially as the applicant is intending to house 76 units so close to to and it is, we believe, 575m away from the nearest household.

00:37:55:13 - 00:37:56:03

Is what.

00:37:56:12 - 00:38:33:18

We may be. If John Fannon is right, we may and only time will tell. That we may be facing at least 676 fires over the next 10 to 15 years. And it does beg the question. That one thing that John Fannon has said is that strict until strict regulations relating to the development and installation and maintenance of vessels, should there not be a moratorium on all best projects, including Helius, because the rush to carbon reduce carbon emissions and decarbonize the electricity grid must surely not override public safety.

00:38:33:20 - 00:39:12:18

But I do want to just go on to, if I may, the the the response from the applicant, because the Abbot Risk Consultancy Limited in its recent report, concludes that all foreseeable hazards associated with best equipment have been identified and actively managed. But I just ask, how can this be true? We are still awaiting the number of buses and the associated details with that. The applicant is currently unable to provide details of key elements such as suppression, detection and monitoring systems, and have yet to have yet to receive any feedback.

00:39:12:20 - 00:39:59:10

As far as I know from North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue. I'm assuming they're probably waiting for information the same as we are. So questions that I have is surely the housing of such a large quantity of buses. Based on that research I mentioned, so close to human habitation is far too dangerous and at the very least shouldn't be should be recited and or significantly reduced. And it's just a shame that the the applicant has chosen to self-imposed this five kilometre radius, because if it had been wider than five kilometre radius, then perhaps this best site could have been housed, you know, perhaps a bit further away than 575m metres from from the nearest household.

00:40:00:08 - 00:40:35:13

And I want to ask if the if it does go ahead. Will the applicant be required to provide a formal safety code structured set of safety documentation providing evidence that hazards have been fully addressed, etc., as in the alarm system, or which is recommended by John one and two, or will they be required to meet the emerging standards from this, these new permit requirements that are happening? Um, they also I'd also like to know what the health group would like to know and which body, locally and independently, we would be equipped

00:40:37:06 - 00:41:10:00

to to look at these best sites and to monitor it whilst it's being installed and whatever, with without them being any UK regulations. And also finally the disposal. The the applicant has said that the batteries will be renewed multiple times in the 40 year cycle. Exactly how will they be disposed of? This was something that was raised again last night, that the statement in their recent document says that all equipment will be removed and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time.

00:41:10:02 - 00:41:40:15

Well, that hardly gives me any reassurance or halt any reassurance. Surely we do need greater clarity now as to how this hazardous equipment is going to be disposed of, rather than promises that it may be fulfilled, especially if the applicant is no longer around when it happens. I mean, there's already been a fire at a local recycling disposal site in Perth of small electric batteries. How on earth are we going to deal with these huge vessels?

00:41:41:00 - 00:41:50:21

Thank you. I'm I'm going to try. And there's still some of what you said into a question I'll put to the applicant, um, along the lines of um,

00:41:52:11 - 00:41:53:06

is it.

00:41:56:02 - 00:42:04:14

Okay. What what are the regimes in place or that we have in place as a country to regulate highly hazardous installations?

00:42:07:06 - 00:42:11:25

Martin Blunden for the applicant, if I could, sir, could I reword that question ever so slightly?

00:42:12:02 - 00:42:13:06

You do try.

00:42:14:01 - 00:42:51:07

It would be because, having listened to the question which was covered a lot of ground, I'll try and cover that in my answer. And then I'd be I'd appreciate it. Just respond. Okay. So green fire solution. I'm the managing director. We run. We are former chief fire officers across the UK Fire and Rescue Service. Um, I've had 30 years as a fire officer, retiring in September 22nd as the chief of the largest service in the UK. I was a strategic lead for the National Fire Chiefs Council and whilst I was chief

officer, I'm a member of the Fire Engineers, International Fire Engineers and I was given the Queen's Fire Service Medal by Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the second in the news honours list.

00:42:51:09 - 00:43:24:05

So my I come with a significant amount of expertise around fire and the impact that fire has on people and places. In terms of the question that was asked around the safety of battery energy storage systems, I think there's a very interesting and a very worthwhile line demonstrating the fire that happened in Carnegie Road and the fire that the, the the two fires that the lady referred to while in Aberdeenshire last month and one in East Tilbury, the Carnegie Road fire happened, as I previously answered.

00:43:24:15 - 00:44:02:06

Uh, there's a company called Bureau Veritas that produced a report on the Carnegie Road fire there and an independent scientific agency, and it was very interesting at the time to read their report, to find out what the impact was on human receptors or any public receptor at the time of the fire, including heavy metals being found in the ground. And the report says that there were none found in the ground and there was no danger to health. Um, I take that as a positive. On the way that Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service dealt with the fire in terms of their attendance of 11 appliances, putting in in an appropriate in accordance and dealing with it and people shutting their windows and doors.

00:44:02:26 - 00:44:34:12

If you then roll forward into the two fires that happened, one in East Tilbury and one in Aberdeenshire, both sites were under construction at the time. The Aberdeenshire one. The container was damaged in transit and it was acknowledged it was damaged in transit and they left it on one part of the site to observe what would happen. And that's very important. There were three reasons that a lithium battery will go into thermal runaway. One is a chemical construction fault, one is overcharging, and one is where it's being compressed.

00:44:34:14 - 00:45:21:04

And the lady referred to. And I apologize for calling you the lady, but the lady referred to the the battery in Perthshire. That's where a lithium battery had been compressed. And if they compressed, they will go into thermal runaway. So the one in Aberdeenshire was handled very well and was appropriate by the people who were constructing the site. The fire that happened in East Tilbury, that was again under construction. It wasn't energized. And if you look at the the statement put out by Essex Fire and Rescue Service on their website as a result of that particular incident, they said that the site was laid out in line with the National Fire Chiefs Council guidance and there were adequate water supplies and spacing on site, and the site performed exactly as they expected it to, and therefore they were able to bring the incident to a conclusion rapidly.

00:45:21:06 - 00:45:42:12

So the evolution in the UK, I think, is quite good across the world, and I'm as shocked as anyone else with the number of best unit fires that we have across the world. But with 3 in 10 years in the UK with a different legislative framework in place around health and safety and the way sites are built, we stand very differently to America in particular.

00:45:43:29 - 00:45:47:18

If I pause there so and then I can, I'll ask anything else that you wish me to answer.

00:45:48:17 - 00:46:22:10

I suppose I was, um, I was I was trying to sort of weave into this the role or the non role of the Health and Safety Executive and, and um, what regimes um, or what, how, how, how, how is the classified or the regime that would, that could come into play or does come into play on certain types of installation? And I know that the mention was made of environmental. My interpretation of the client was, um, perhaps in the future there will be other regimes that may come into play, environmental permitting regimes.

00:46:22:12 - 00:46:26:29

And if you could comment on those areas that that would be helpful. I think.

00:46:28:12 - 00:46:55:29

Catherine Tracy for the applicant. Um, yes, sir. I mean, we we have the CDM regulations, which which do actually in this country govern how you build and install um, and health and Safety Regulations at Work Act and those regulations that again do govern how you install, um, best installations in this country. Um, we that you did, um, acknowledge that government is thinking.

00:46:56:22 - 00:47:13:02

Something that's quite interesting. It's interesting response. So when you say the benefit of those less familiar. So um, in CDM, in CDA, in terms what the what aspect of that would give people some comfort, if I can use that word that a proper process is being followed.

00:47:15:20 - 00:47:49:27

If I, Martin Bland of the applicant, if I can, I'll give you a, a very quick overview. And then if we could respond in writing with the full details. Yeah. I mean, so it requires from a very early stage, not only the interaction with the local fire and rescue service in in best specific applications, but making sure that the risk is managed all the way through the process. And it's very clear how the risk is identified and managed prior to a site going under construction and then all the way through the process of construction to the point at which a site becomes operational.

00:47:49:29 - 00:48:19:29

How then the site is managed operationally through its life cycle in terms of the regular inspection of equipment, and that then sits under the Fire and Rescue Services Act and also the fire safety reform order as well. There's some specifics that sit within there. That would be the the operator of the site, the responsible person would be required to do on an annual basis, as well as interim inspections of the equipment. And then as part of that, there is an element for decommissioning of the site.

00:48:20:01 - 00:48:36:05

And actually the decommissioning plan has to be written before the site is operational so that there is a 40 year lifecycle of very clear interactions, who the responsible people are and the response and the actions that they have to take during that period of time to satisfy any planning requirements.

00:48:37:18 - 00:48:59:18

Okay. Um, I'll just kind of keep pursuing the same area just to say just to sort of, test it a little bit. Um, the outline plan that you have, which is published and will be effective through the DCO. Um, have you had comments back on that from the, um, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service?

00:49:01:22 - 00:49:21:29

Uh, so Catherine Tracey for the applicant. No we haven't. Um, I understand. Well, Mr. Blunden is a better person to speak about it, but, um, the fire service are of the view that. Please talk to us when you're ready to, for us to begin to be aware of it, um, rather than to comment on it at this stage.

00:49:23:05 - 00:49:39:08

Okay. I'll, I'll ask the again, the follow up question, which you've probably may not be an answer. I mean, you sort of have answered already, which is have they given any indication that they would not be in a position to approve the final plan through going through the local authority as, as the process be in terms of a consultee?

00:49:41:10 - 00:50:09:24

Uh, so we've had no engagement at all. Um, from the fire service. Um, they haven't commented in any in any way, as far as I'm aware. Um, but the, uh, the Bess, uh, has been designed in accordance with the FCC guidance, so we would see no reason why they would have a problem. There are two accesses. There is water on site. Um, so it complies in all the ways it needs to.

00:50:10:15 - 00:50:15:24

So my follow up to that one, I think, is this is not the first of its kind.

00:50:17:11 - 00:50:45:15

Uh, other examples where they have been through that process fully and that you can, you can say, oh, for site X, there is in place an actual plan and that's been signed off. And if you compare the two, essentially yours is I'll say the same, but it's bespoke. But in terms of the principles and the control mechanisms, the, the the fire detection, the control systems, the technology, if you like. Um, can you comment on that?

00:50:47:16 - 00:51:19:14

Martin Brundle for the applicant. In our experience of working with fire and rescue services up and down the UK and in the Republic of Ireland, it is a fairly mixed bag of consultation. Responses are received because the fire service aren't a statutory consultee, and that's a significant issue for a public sector that is smaller than it was ten years ago and has other pressing issues, particularly things around Grenfell and the responses to other disasters that have happened in the UK. In terms of the the comparison of this outline safety management plan with others at a similar stage.

00:51:19:23 - 00:52:01:19

Um, the site in the strategic site in East Tilbury took a very similar approach with the outline battery safety management plan and then the detailed battery safety management plan. In that particular case was a condition document, and the details within that then provided the reassurance. But the technology that was chosen at the time, bearing in mind that the technology is moving at a rapid rate of knots at the moment, met the current standards, and the detailed safety management plan has to be able to demonstrate that in terms of not only the NFPA standards and the UL standards that go

alongside that, but also how that sits within UK law in terms of the Health and Safety of Work Act, the CDM regs and the various fire safety legislation and the other guidance that sits around that.

00:52:03:12 - 00:52:05:16

Okay. Thank you. Um, so, Jeff.

00:52:06:03 - 00:52:20:05

Yeah. So could I just, um, correct my statement that we hadn't had any engagement? We have actually been in contact and they've referred us to the FCC guidance, um, and the grid scale, best practice guidance, and asked us to follow that which we have duly done.

00:52:20:07 - 00:52:21:16

Okay, I appreciate that. I appreciate that.

00:52:27:10 - 00:52:27:25

Go on.

00:52:28:12 - 00:52:32:04

And so, did you just want me to pick up on the environmental permitting point.

00:52:32:10 - 00:52:39:00

If you wish to comment on on that, I mean, by all means, I yeah, I think it was news to me. So I think I appreciate the comment.

00:52:39:05 - 00:53:17:25

Um, it is it is an emerging point and actually I, I do think it is something that will probably come forward. Uh, but specifically in relation to this scheme, we have already had discussions with the Environment Agency who have taken a keen interest in what happens to the water in the event of a fire, and have asked us to make sure. And we have and it is agreed with the Environment Agency, um, that there will be penny stocks for any water to drain into and be held and filtration then to either happen after measurements for it to be released or for it to be taken off site.

00:53:17:27 - 00:53:33:25

So, um, and that is partly as a result of the fact that this site is, um, very close to an aquifer. So it is something that has been looked at and we are already engaging with and have engaged with the Environment Agency on.

00:53:34:12 - 00:53:51:00

So I think it's fair to say their interest is, is the potential contamination of watercourses in the event of a fire, in the event of that being extinguished and the water running off. And, and uh, obviously have measures in place to avoid all those things happening, but they all want to be assured that they are effective, sufficient.

00:53:51:02 - 00:53:58:05

Yes, that's right, sir. And that's the context in which the environmental permitting angle is being discussed as an industry wide matter.

00:53:58:18 - 00:53:59:03

Okay.

00:54:00:19 - 00:54:19:12

I'm going to move on then to Mr. Wilkinson, I think because I think Mr. Wilkinson also wanted to talk to this about this agenda item. I'm conscious we might cover some of the same ground, but I want to give you a chance to to describe from your perspective, if you like. Yeah. And, um, and we'll and we'll see how we go.

00:54:19:14 - 00:54:33:10

Yeah, sure. So if I may, please, could I talk it through from start to finish, including the questions. And then if the can answer the questions at the end, then by all means do it that way. It just keeps it flowing for me.

00:54:33:14 - 00:54:38:10

Yeah. You just carry on for a bit. If. If I think we're just. Yeah, yeah. That's fine.

00:54:38:12 - 00:55:13:19

So expanding me so expanding from my published submission 28th of February 2025. The battery energy storage system b s plus the 132 GeV substation. Let's be serious. This behemoth is certainly not why the two massive transformers will be 6.480m tall. The battery slash inverter containers, measuring once in place and on mount length 12.2m, height 3.5m, width 2.4m.

00:55:13:21 - 00:55:52:27

All of which will be all of which there will be, we believe, 76 perhaps westerly winds. Question for Google does wind carries out further? Answer yes. Wind can carry us 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 of a greater distance. However, if the wind is blowing against the sound wave, it can actually cause the sound to disperse more quickly, making it harder to hear at a distance.

00:55:55:02 - 00:56:29:08

The b, e s will be approximately 575m from Jessica Cottages. 625m from the Black Dock 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. Campbell Village is approximately 1425m directly in the firing line, wind wise.

00:56:29:10 - 00:57:01:23

Should any problems occur. Noise. Guaranteed noise 24 over seven 365 days a year. And please remember, some companies forces use noise as a form of torture. Please see the attachments. Figure 7.191 and two plus map eight. Supplied. And then if we know that it end up be better fire risk lithium ion batteries. Whilst it is easy for some to say that the probability of fire is low.

00:57:01:25 - 00:57:33:27

It is. In fact, it is a fact that these fires do occur. As firefighters have discovered in recent years. Lithium ion fires battery fires are prone to reigniting. That's because the lithium salts in the battery

ourselves oxidising, which means that they cannot be starved out like a traditional fire. The batteries can give off hydrogen fluoride. How hydrogen fluoride works. Hydrogen fluoride goes easily and quickly through the skin and into the tissues of the body.

00:57:34:04 - 00:58:04:08

There it damages the cells and causes them to not work properly. The seriousness of poisoning caused by hydrogen fluoride depends on the amount, route, and length of time of exposure, as well as the age and the pre-existing medical conditions of the person exposed. Breathing. Hydrogen fluoride can damage lung tissue and cause swelling and fluid accumulation in the lungs, known as pulmonary pulmonary edema.

00:58:05:09 - 00:58:12:22

Skin contact with hydrogen fluoride may cause severe burns that develop after several hours

00:58:14:13 - 00:58:56:09

and form skin ulcers. Also, leakage of chemicals acids into the ground. Aquifer. Toxic windblown fumes. My house is approximately 575m, together with others in close proximity from the battery energy storage system and approximately, again 1425m from brig Lane. Campbells, with the prevailing westerly winds put us directly in line with the best, which will be a ticking time bomb affecting mental health questions which are likely to be answered at the end if that's okay.

00:58:56:28 - 00:59:27:16

With reference to environmental statement figure 11 four. The map I have supplied, number seven has a symbol Z, which I have added whatever it struck there and I counted 28. They have the capability of emitting 45 to 50dB of noise. The Z in question is almost at the bottom of my garden due to the poorly detailed map, and when I say poorly, I could not get a fixed position to measure approx.

00:59:27:18 - 00:59:39:06

How close it is. So question one will be, uh, what are they? Right. 3.417 the field stations

00:59:40:21 - 01:00:09:20

are these what are field stations? Are these the inverter stations? They're the same size as the battery containers. And it says there's up to 100 of those. Now, when you look at the battery container, the base, there's 71, 70, 60, 73 anyway. So I'm assuming that they're purely battery containers, these 100 up to 100 field stations.

01:00:11:18 - 01:00:24:17

What I'm asking is are these the inverter stations and how many will there be? Also, where are the two scale location drawings for these?

01:00:26:21 - 01:01:02:13

3.422 battery containers. I've told you the length. It does not say how many. We're looking at the best and such station. And look at it. I'm looking at a preliminary drainage drawing to see how many, uh, battery storage systems are there. Uh, the 76 large containers are actually the battery containers. Bear in mind, we've got up to a hundred of something the same size somewhere else that's going to cause noise.

01:01:04:04 - 01:01:36:07

What are the 38 smaller brown containers on the same drain? So what we have now is high quality agricultural food producing land, some with underground aquifers, panoramic everchanging, open fields with views as far as the eye can see, lovely lands and footpaths which people use to mentally, mentally refresh themselves as well as providing physical, physical refreshment.

01:01:37:00 - 01:02:11:08

To some people this may seem like little things, but in the wider picture, keeping both mental and physical health can prevent other unforeseen knock on situations. Example. More load on the already struggling National Health Service. After all, the Victorians created public parks to offer healthy recreation for all and in particular the working classes. The Victorians saw recreation as offering.

01:02:13:03 - 01:02:13:22

Just bear with me

01:02:15:15 - 01:02:49:00

as offering mental and physical wellbeing and social, better and social benefits, literally a recreation. They realized that the parks could serve as the lungs for the cities. Such a diverse variety of wildlife, including deer badges and next to no physical barriers, barriers to corral them, or anything else for that matter. The variety of birdlife is amazing, a list of which I have mentioned in previous submissions and manner that on my label.

01:02:49:13 - 01:03:05:13

So what is being proposed? Police are proposing to take 476 hectares of high quality food producing land out of service and impose upon us

01:03:07:07 - 01:03:40:18

fields full of mind numbing roars of three metre high monotone glass solar panels. They say after 15 years you won't be able to see them due to the very high screening fences that they're going to put in for his blessing. But these screening fences will also screen the views that I have just described earlier, the people used for mental and physical, Jessica wrote, for example, and I'd like this put up at the end if it's possible.

01:03:41:00 - 01:04:07:23

Uh, environmental statement appendix 7.7 visualization, part one of two. Please look online to see photos of the landscape. Now looking at the photographs on the following viewpoints three A, three B, three C and three D look at existing, then look at year one and then look at year 15 on year 15. You might as well just be walking into man.

01:04:07:25 - 01:04:21:28

I'm just going to interrupt, Mr. Wilkins, because I think we're sort of straying into, uh, tomorrow's agenda item in terms of landscape visual impact. Um, is it going to be quite a short section on this?

01:04:24:11 - 01:04:31:16

He'll completely spoil my train of thought because please bear with me. I'm not used to doing anything like this.

01:04:31:18 - 01:04:34:04

Which is why I understand you and your flow. So just. Just carry on.

01:04:34:17 - 01:05:05:18

If you please. If I can go through my floor otherwise. And it will get complicated. Yeah. In this increasingly unstable world of which things are changing on a daily basis, who in their right mind would squander emphasis on squander this precious land that enables us to independently produce food for ourselves and not be at the mercy of somebody else? And at what cost? I believe that most of the solar panels are made and supplied by China.

01:05:06:05 - 01:05:22:23

Once we become reliant on China, what do we do if they decide not to supply us with spares, etc.? We can see farmers being inundated with these solar companies offering up to £1,200 per acre index linked for the next 40 years.

01:05:25:19 - 01:06:00:19

My opinion is to risk our independence by potentially having this being imposed upon us is not only morally wrong, unethical and an irresponsible thing to do, but is totally against our wishes. Question what is a democracy? Oxford Dictionary explanation. A political system that allows the citizens to participate in political decision making, or to elect representatives to a government body.

01:06:01:10 - 01:06:33:16

Which leads me on to cumulative impact. We have Drax power station. There are two additional solar farms which have been passed and are starting to be constructed around Campbell of Camilla Lane, close to the northern village boundary of Campbell South on 113 hectares and Warehouse Lane to the southeast of Campbell's Forth, together with the holiest site, Campbell's. Both will be totally and surrounded and placed inside an industrial complex.

01:06:34:03 - 01:07:19:16

Boom power is open to build a solar farm near Howdon, which is just to the east of Drax. This will negate 1200 hectares of full producing land. We also already have Russian Wind Farm, which is a 12 turbine wind farm located near Drax. Drax power is going to start recovering a lifetime deposit of fuel pulverised fuel, which for some by rail, but the rest by road. Drax power is to receive power from up north to come from Bridlington with all the hope we will and that that will entail Drax power is looking to put a carbon capture pipeline to the North Sea.

01:07:19:24 - 01:07:47:19

All of these will put extra vehicular strain on the air 141, which is already struggling at the present time. And the air 645 irrespective of the new homes that are being built and going to be built in the area, the combination of all these schemes that will be miserable, that we will miserably have to endure, endure, will take years to build.

01:07:54:27 - 01:07:56:16

Well, right

01:07:58:02 - 01:07:58:24
now there

01:08:00:14 - 01:08:34:00

is this concentrated area not doing more than enough for the energy needs of our country. Please do not suffocate us with this industrial complex and leave us some of the quality of life that we have at the moment together with this project. The village of Camillus will be totally surrounded. Please remember, these fields provide more than just food, but also provide the lungs of our lovely village and give us sustenance and well-being in many other ways.

01:08:34:16 - 01:09:08:03

My philosophy, my philosophy is leave it as good as you got it, if not better. Please leave something of worth not only for our children, but our children's children. Incidentally, we get the occasional hot air balloons landing in these very same fields. To sum up. Priority SAT meeting to evaluate the safety and wrongly siting of the best and substation. Taking the westerly can't overemphasize that prevailing winds.

01:09:08:05 - 01:09:44:19

I think that more scrutiny stroke Facts need to be carefully looked at with regards to the best. Being so close to substantial housing, providing 24/7 365 days a year guaranteed noise, plus the potential of fire associated with lithium ion batteries and the complications trying to put them out, as well as the extremely toxic fuel fumes. This large, imposing, structure threatening complex is a is a potential ticking time bomb, being approximately a mere 570m.

01:09:44:21 - 01:09:46:18

Five. Well, I've told you anyway.

01:09:49:08 - 01:10:18:19

I believe there is a place for solar panels to play their part in our energy needs and future strategy, but not at the expense of negating our top quality food producing land. According to the internet, we are currently importing about 40% of our food. So you are merely trying to solve one problem by making a worse problem. And to put things simply, you cannot eat a solar panel.

01:10:20:11 - 01:10:49:24

How do you go through the planning process? Please continue to refresh yourself by reading the local residents objections and what their thoughts are. And if there is any doubt in your mind, please consider what if it were me? P.S. you, sir, have the power to prevent this potential catastrophe from ever getting off the ground. And I thank you so much for your patience and for listening to me.

01:10:52:26 - 01:10:55:24

Thank you, Mr. Wilkinson. Um. Um.

01:10:57:25 - 01:11:02:27

Thank you for a very wide ranging, very interesting, um, submission. Um.

01:11:05:10 - 01:11:35:26

I'll ask the applicant Applications, if you like. Just to sort of context this, we've got. We've got a session on any visual impact landscape tomorrow. So I assume the people you would you'd like to be here for that will be here tomorrow. Um, I think some of the safety points we've already covered, um, I would ask you, I would invite a response on the general health and wellbeing aspects of what Mr. Wilkinson said. If you wish to make that now, um, that's fine.

01:11:35:28 - 01:11:49:12

If you wish to respond in writing, that's fine, because I intend to break basically after the end of whatever you say. And we'll. And we'll come back after a break to item four. So if you'd like to respond briefly as you think appropriate. Really.

01:12:04:28 - 01:12:13:22

Uh, so I think we will provide a brief response, um, in terms of best and most versatile. And we dealt with that at the last set of hearings. And we've made.

01:12:13:24 - 01:12:14:09

So.

01:12:14:11 - 01:12:15:11

Detailed that we have been.

01:12:15:16 - 01:12:16:01

Already.

01:12:16:03 - 01:12:21:00

So yeah, detailed written submissions on that. Um, I,

01:12:22:18 - 01:12:53:26

I will address, um, very briefly, the, um, the wider public health point. Um, we'll probably do that in two halves. Uh, um, a piece from my colleague Martin, in terms of the gases that were mentioned, um, and then a more general wellbeing piece, I think probably for myself, I just think in terms of the the points and the questions Mr. Wilkinson raised in respect of noise.

01:12:54:06 - 01:13:34:18

Uh, we did respond in our post hearing summary note to ish one on a lot of questions about the battery containers, the number of batteries, the layout, so I'd refer him to that. Um, and the noise generating equipment is set out in the Environmental Assessment Noise and Vibration chapter at table 11.12, which is app 6.1. 11. Um, so on the gases and then just while I think of it now, um, when you break after break, we'll, we'll be doing Burn Gliding Club because we need to do a rejig of seats.

01:13:34:21 - 01:13:38:00

That was my intention. So we used the break sort of the musical chairs.

01:13:38:02 - 01:13:38:28

That's fine. Thank you.

01:13:41:00 - 01:14:11:15

Martin Blunden for the applicant. The question has been asked twice, and I apologize. I missed it the first time round. It was only when I was reviewing the question that was asked that I realized I hadn't picked up on the, um, the issue of a best fire and the impact of the best fire. The National Fire Chiefs Council guidance suggests that preparation should be made for one best contained, only to be affected by fire. That's based on a number of of evidence across the world where containerised lithium ion Bess don't run as cascade failure.

01:14:11:26 - 01:14:17:24

So one, because of the separation distances that are in place and the fire resistance of the containers.

01:14:19:18 - 01:14:52:15

Both the questions are quite right that the most dangerous gas produced by lithium ion burning is hydrogen fluoride. Um, and that is dangerous to human health at a very short distance. We have a hazmat hazardous material specialist who works with our clients and does plume modeling, and he takes a particular best container and everything that it contains and puts it into his computer and runs a simulation, taking the weather from the previous 365 days of the year. Um, so that's in multiple locations, some very windy locations in the UK.

01:14:52:22 - 01:15:23:00

And then looking at the impact of that weather on a best fire and how far the smoke plume would be carried, i.e. how far hydrogen fluoride would be carried in the wind. And at the still driest day of the year, when you got smoke vertical or the wettest, windier day of the year when you've got smoke at a low level and it's being driven down the furthest distance I've seen in my experience of, of the modelling of all the modelling we've done is 90m, because it's not just hydrogen fluoride in the wind, it's in the smoke plume.

01:15:23:02 - 01:15:57:13

And as it gets further away from the fire, the smoke plume cools and it rises. So it actually disperses into the atmosphere, but we don't actually model it on just one. We model it on ten because we're firefighters at heart. And actually we look at the worst case scenario. So we look at a cascade failure and it hasn't changed the 90 metre limit. We also do a comparison against a car with an air conditioning unit that's well ventilated. So the doors and windows are open and it's on fire. And the same with a small workshop with an air conditioning unit. And both of those give off a very similar amount of hydrogen, fluorine, the unburnt products.

01:15:57:15 - 01:16:41:07

The combustion profile is very similar to a best and ionize best cabinet on fire. In terms of the danger to human health. I have never in my 30 year career seen any one apart from firefighters standing next to a car on fire, or standing next to a workshop on fire. Fire service when we when we turn up, would put in inside, we'd put an inner cordon in place. No one would go in the inner cordon unless they're appropriately equipped. So whilst I agree with the, the, um, the health issues that is based predominantly around scooter fires because a lot of scooter fires are happening in, in habitable, um, accommodation in people's between people's front door and their bedroom doors.

01:16:41:09 - 01:16:57:25

And there's significant issues with that. We haven't seen the same with a best containerised, best fire, um, in the world. Aside from one Endura, I'll correct myself slightly one in Germany, where two firefighters went in to a container despite the advice and not wearing the appropriate PPE.

01:17:00:13 - 01:17:04:13

Thank you for that. Is there anything else the applicant would like to add in general terms? Um.

01:17:05:14 - 01:17:29:02

I think it was just to add, sir, in terms of human health impacts, generally those worse, they have been scoped out of the environmental impact assessment on the basis that it was highly unlikely that there would be any significant effects and that, um, it was picked up then within noise transport, um, lack of land contamination and socioeconomics such that it was relevant.

01:17:29:08 - 01:17:30:00

To the specific.

01:17:30:02 - 01:17:30:17

Topic.

01:17:32:21 - 01:17:35:25

Right. I've got one more comment. Question. Go on.

01:17:38:07 - 01:18:09:15

Pam. Strictly Representative Holt, just going back to. And I'm sorry, sir, I don't know your name. Um, you tend to give the impression that we've got it all sorted in the UK. You know that there's only been three fires in ten years, and that they were all contained thanks to the fire and rescue response. But that could have been down to what actually caused them in the first place. And also how many buses are there in the UK? As 3rd May sound like a very small number, but there may also be a very small number of buses.

01:18:09:17 - 01:18:49:26

So I would like to know the answer to that question. And the other thing to say is that John Fannon, who I referred to before he did the research on all fires in Australia and America, not just three that happened in in the UK. And because he was doing that in response to a best facility that was going to be placed near his home in Weymouth, and he found that the majority of the main reason for the fires was the internal short circuiting. And he also was the person who said that no test exists at the moment to assess the response to an internal short circuit, and that therefore it can happen and will happen without warning spontaneously.

01:18:50:13 - 01:19:21:25

And that's why he came to the conclusion, having assessed 89 fires, that they were large and unstable, and they were a serious risk to be located near human habitation. So I just want to make that point. And the final point is, is how are the how is the client, the applicant, I should say, going to assess what

happens and monitor what happens on the site, because I'm assuming it's going to be remote, remotely monitored.

01:19:22:16 - 01:19:58:23

And I'd like to ask by what means that will be achieved. But also a learning point from the fire in London was that the site that was remotely operated by a Danish company, because it was remotely operated, there were delays in investigating switch off and electrical safety measures. And of course, the fire in Liverpool. I think it burnt for what, 59 hours. So that could have been alleviated. So we've not got it right in the UK. And I think I think it's we should look broader at the research that John Fannon has done in order to to make some more informed judgment on this, if I may say.

01:19:59:07 - 01:20:00:02

Thank you.

01:20:00:22 - 01:20:11:13

Thank you. Um, I'll take one more point for Mr. Wilkinson. I'll give the applicant a brief chance to response. So respond to the points we've heard, and then we'll adjourn.

01:20:12:04 - 01:20:45:13

Uh, sorry, I don't know the lady's name there, but, uh, David Wilkinson. Um, the first, uh, answer you give, uh, when responding that something had been covered and referred to or whatever. Could you please let me know what those are in writing so that I can then, uh, research them and, uh, and see, you know, I've probably missed them, but, uh, I can certainly research them.

01:20:45:17 - 01:20:46:20

Thank you very much for that.

01:20:47:27 - 01:21:00:20

So, as is customary, I'll let the applicant respond to the points If to the extent we're not repeating it a little bit, if you think it will be helpful. And at that point, Mr. Wilkerson, I think it should be quite straightforward to take take off line, if you like.

01:21:00:24 - 01:21:02:28

Take that as read. So we'll we'll do that.

01:21:05:00 - 01:21:39:06

Martin Bland for the applicant. Thank you for asking your question. Because you did you did. Mentioned at the beginning John Fanon's research didn't look at any of the fires in the UK. It did. You're quite right. America, Australia and Asia. If I remember correctly, when I read the report about a year ago, in terms of the getting it all sorted, I'm sorry if I gave that impression. I think it's as good as it gets at the moment, and it's an improving landscape that the fire and rescue service under statutory Consulting needs to be sorted. In my professional opinion, as a, as a firefighter, um, that we're having this conversation is encouraging.

01:21:39:14 - 01:21:45:19

Um, that other fire rescue services are engaging is also encouraging. Um, in terms of the

01:21:47:07 - 01:22:16:00

the monitoring that's within the will be within the detailed battery management plan. It's outlined in the Outline Battery Safety Management plan. It's it's so the the applicant has actually been quite clear in what they're going to do at this stage. And then the detail of that will be in the detailed battery safety management plan, which we would expect to be a condition document. So therefore would have to the the applicant would have to demonstrate compliance to move any further forward. I think I covered the thank you question.

01:22:16:05 - 01:22:42:21

That was sufficient. I'm I'm the time now is 1452. I propose we adjourn now for 20 minutes and I can't work that out. That's probably going to be um, uh, let's say let's say 3:10. Thank you for that suggestion. Uh, 3:10. And then we'll, um, cover the Burn Gliding Club. Um, and thank you for patiently waiting there. Um, so this this hearing is adjourned. Thank you.