



Hearing Transcript

Project:	Tween Bridge Solar Farm
Hearing:	Recording of Issue Open Floor Hearing 2 (OFH2)
Date:	25 June 2026

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Tween Bridge Solar Farm, open floor hearing, RWE, planning inspectorate, land degradation, fuel pipeline, sheep grazing, visual impact, emergency response plan, biodiversity, community concerns, development consent order, environmental management, stakeholder engagement, project implementation.

SPEAKERS

Speaker 1, Speaker 5, Speaker 3, Speaker 6, Speaker 2, Speaker 4

Speaker 1 00:05

Okay, good morning. It is 10am and the hearing is now open. I'd like to welcome you all to this open floor hearing for the Tween Bridge Solar Farm Project. Can I just confirm that everybody can hear me clearly. Can I also confirm with the case team that the live streaming and recording of the event has commenced? Yes. Thank you. My name is Luke Simpson. I am a chartered town planner, and I've been appointed by the Secretary of State as single appointed person, otherwise known as the Examining Authority, or EXA, to examine this application. I'm also joined by my colleague Sarah Norris of the Planning Inspectorate Case Team. She sat at the back of the room and handling the virtual components of the meeting today online is Har Priya Kur. Again, it's very hot today, so please raise your hand if you're feeling uncomfortable, and we can take a break. There's water available at the back of the room and on the tables. I'll now deal with a few housekeeping matters for those attending in person. Could you all please set your devices, laptops, and phones to silent? Toilets are located in the middle of the room on the right hand side. I don't think there are any fire drills planned today, but if the alarm goes off, the fire exit is behind me. Exit through that exit and convene on the highest street in front of the tourist information center in the event of a fire alarm. So, this meeting will follow the agenda published on the National Infrastructure Planning website on fourth of June 2026 The agenda is Examination Library Reference EB seven double 01 It would be helpful if you had a copy of this in front of you. Today's hearing is being undertaken in a hybrid way, meaning some of you are present with me here at the hearing venue, and some of you are joining me virtually via Microsoft Teams. I'll make sure that, however you've decided to attend today, you'll be given a fair opportunity to participate. For those joining us via Microsoft Teams, the chat function on Microsoft Teams will not be enabled or in use, so please don't try to use that to make comments. Also, I'll only use the raise a hand function in Microsoft Teams at specific points in the agenda when I invite general comments. I'll also give people who are not able to use that feature and opportunity to comment at the relevant time. If you're watching the live stream, then please be aware that it will be stopped during any adjournments to the meeting. You'll need to refresh your browse page to view the resumed hearing. A recording of today's hearing will be made available on the Tween Bridge Solar Farm 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 the microphone, stating your name and who you are representing. Please also make sure that the microphone is on and turn it off when you finish speaking. A link to the planning inspectorates privacy notice was provided in the notification for this hearing. I assume that everybody here today has familiarized themselves with this document, which establishes how your personal data is handled in accordance with the principles set out in data protection laws, but please speak to the

case team if you have any questions about this. If you do participate in today's hearing, it's important to understand that you will be recorded and that you therefore consent to the retention and publication of the digital recording. It will only be in the rarest of circumstances that I might ask you to provide personal information of the type that most of us would prefer to keep private and confidential. Please, therefore, try your best not to say anything or reveal anything that you would wish to be kept private that is confidential or that is private information relating to somebody else. If you want to tell me about where you live, as this is relevant to what you want to say, then please try to just give a general location rather than a specific address. Please do speak to a member of the case team if you have any questions about this. The number of breaks will depend on how we progress.

Speaker 1 04:34

I'm now going to ask those of you who are participating in today's hearing to introduce yourselves, when I state your organisation's name, could you introduce yourself, stating your name, who you represent, and which agenda item you wish to speak on. If you're not representing an organization, please confirm your name, summarize your interest in the application, and confirm the agenda item you wish to. Speak on, please. Could everyone also let me know how they wish to be referred to, so mr. mrs. etc. So, who will be representing the applicant today? Please. Good morning, sir. Tom McNamara, on behalf of the applicant. mr. McNamara is fine, and I expect

Speaker 2 05:20

to speak under, I think, agenda item four. I can introduce the other people along some, so I'm in the normal ways. So, on my left is mr. Angus Duncan, Development Project Manager with RWE, the applicant. On my right, Miss Beth King, solicitor at TLT, and then to Miss King's rides, mr. Michael Baker, project development manager, with the applicant as well.

Speaker 1 05:46

Okay. Thank you. Do we have any representatives from City of Doncaster Council?

Speaker 3 05:56

Good morning, second. I just check, you can hear me. Okay?

Speaker 4 05:59

Yes.

Speaker 3 06:00

Yeah. Good morning. Yeah, Andrew Shirikovsky for City of Doncaster Council. I'm attending virtually today, rather than in person. mr. Chirikovsky is fine. I don't think any of my other colleagues will be present today. I'm not.. I haven't wasn't particularly intending to speak on any particular item, but I may comment if there's any issues that I feel it's appropriate to do,

Speaker 1 06:23

so okay. Thank you. Are there any representatives from North Lincolnshire Council?

Speaker 5 06:32

Morning, sir. Can you hear me? Okay.

Speaker 1 06:33

Yes,

Speaker 5 06:37

it's Paul Skelton, mr. Paul Skelton, representing North Lincolnshire Council, I'm not intending to speak today, unless there's anything I can help you with, sir. Thank you.

Speaker 1 06:48

Okay, and statutory parties, I think we've got mr. Wood. Would you like to introduce yourself? Was it Dr. Wood, I Okay, let's just check. Okay, I don't think mr. or Dr. Wood has arrived, so we'll move on to interested parties. mr. Brooke,

Speaker 4 07:21

morning, Michael Brooke, representing local landowner and the main delegate on the Doncaster East Drainage Board that covers the whole of this area, and I'll speak on whatever things come up. Okay.

Speaker 1 07:36

Yes. Thank you very much. And mr. Carr,

Speaker 6 07:40

John Carr local residents? I would like to ask some questions. That's possible. Thank you.

Speaker 1 07:48

Okay. Right. Are there any other interested parties planning on participating today. Okay, so we'll move on to agenda item two, which is the purpose of the hearing. So today I'm holding the second open floor hearing. Open floor hearings are your opportunity to raise anything that you consider is important and relevant to my examination of this application. This open floor hearing is not confined to a discussion about any particular topic, and it's an important opportunity for you to put forward your views. That said, the purpose of this hearing is to assist my examination. It's not to be used as a political platform, and any attempts to do so won't be tolerated. I don't think we'll have any problems with that today. Please try to keep your statements to 10 minutes. Once you have spoken, I may wish to ask you questions, and the applicant will be given an opportunity to respond to any matters raised once all speakers have been heard. Does anything, does anyone have anything they want to add on the purpose of the hearing before we move on to item three? Okay, so item three, as I say, please keep your oral statement succinct and to the point, please could you direct all comments through me rather than directly to the applicant. I will give the applicant an opportunity to respond to submissions at item four in the agenda. I'll be taking notes, so please don't be put off. I'm not looking at you directly when you're speaking. When I invite you to speak, please could you state your name, and well, turn the microphone on. State your name if you're no one's joining via Microsoft Teams. Well, if you are participating via Microsoft Teams, although the councilors have said it's. Likely switch on your camera when I invite you to speak, and please switch it off again when I move on to the next speaker. Please, could you also briefly explain your interest in the application? Okay, so we'll start with mr. Brooke.

Speaker 4 10:21

First of all, can we carry on from where we finish off yesterday time and ask Tom if he's got me an answer on this. Who's going to do the maintenance on the strip with from the IDB dikes through to the fences.

Speaker 1 10:43

Okay, so this is the way this open floor hearing is structured. Is you have 10 minutes unwilling to be flexible to say what you want to say about the application.

Speaker 4 10:56

Yeah, and

Speaker 1 10:56

then we'll hear from mr. Carr,

Speaker 4 10:59

right?

Speaker 1 11:00

And then we'll move on to the next agenda item, which is the applicant's responses.

Speaker 4 11:04

All

Speaker 1 11:04

right, I'm sure they'll,

Speaker 4 11:05

you want to do set me to do several ones rather than dealing with one that wanted, yeah. Yes,

Speaker 1 11:09

please. I think the applicant will pick up

Speaker 4 11:11

right

Speaker 1 11:12

things that you have and respond to them.

Speaker 4 11:15

Okay, we'll carry on.

Speaker 1 11:16

Okay. Thank you.

Speaker 4 11:18

One of my other concerns is the fuel pipeline, it goes across several fields, and you got across my land from Santos Road through to Claybank. We probably have two miles of it, the pipeline, and it's, it's getting on a bit, and it needs a lot of repairs every year on it, so I want to know, how you're going to deal with that. Are you leaving strips? You have a big chunk, I don't know where it actually goes, actually the north side of the railway, and such across Birdwhistell. So all those strips in the northern section, you'll have a big section there. Are you leaving six meters at either side of the pipeline, and are you going to maintain that, so it don't grow with trees and such like that. That's one of my other questions. Yeah, as one of the members, well, that suffered more stress from this scheme over the past 18 months, right? Mental health, or such like that, you call it nowadays, don't you? And you do when you're like me, when you're unattractive, I mean 10 or 12 hours a day, that's all you think about. But from day one, the applicant said about the grading of the land, and I've had no acknowledgement or apology back to say that they accept that it is of a lot better quality than what they stated 14 months ago at Hatfield House. The applicant's member is not here today, that tried to ram it down my throat that how bad the land was, that really affected me. It's out of the six sites just around Doncaster. Ours is the best land by miles, and we know from production yesterday we started harvesting yesterday for

ad for gas rye, and the crop on the A 18 was the highest the contractors of the weather had ice yield per hectare, or whatever you say, and that's gone into a D at Vulcan for producing gas, so that, and that's on somewhere the heavy land there, uh There, right. Moving on, I've said before about crime and such like that, and we've suffered very greatly with crime as having only the main - we're only the main sheep producer in the area around there, 30,000 quids worth of damage through dogs and such like that. These lads will just, you said you're sheep, or you're praising sheep and such like that. Sheep take a lot of looking after nowadays under panels. The health and safety of sheep is very important this time of the year. A sheep that gets fly maggots will be dead in two days if it's not looked at, and the management on sheep under the panels will be more difficult than these sheep men on Snowden or Ben Nevis or such like that. It's absolutely, they're gonna take it's, it's going to be very difficult and I've said before, we're going to get a great increase of people fly tipping and such like that. It's occurring now down the six minor roads, like from More Regist through to Medjoar Road, Clay Bank, Green Bank, and Crow. Trees. I just wonder how the applicants are going to deal with regrowth. Me and my son and our families took a land on a farm to the right hand end of the south plots off the Santos road towards Santos. That land was left to regenerate for many years, not growing crops, and it took us four years to bring it back round to something. We've removed hundreds of tons of trees and bushes that have regrown on open land, especially the land what's got a peat content, like a lot of it does, either on the top or underneath, so it's been a real problem. Finally, a lot of questions that I'm asked is everything, all the infrastructure, with exception of concrete, grass seed, and probably the hedgerows, is everything else have to go to be imported, ported from the Far East, and such like that. It seems that way on a lot of things, because we don't produce anything in this country nowadays, do we? Anyway, will that do for now? Thank you.

Speaker 1 16:22

Yeah, have you said everything you want to say?

Speaker 4 16:25

We'll see what John says first.

Speaker 1 16:28

Okay. All right, mr. Carr, would you like to your representation? Thank

Speaker 6 16:35

you. Yeah, first of all, I'd like to start with my experiences with RWE. Sorry, outstandingly poor and well below anybody's expectations. Despite my participation in all feedback inquiries, I've had absolutely zero interaction from RWE. They don't even acknowledge receipt of feedback, you have to chase them on the phone to verbally confirm receipts on the first page of their website, and I quote, adjusted site boundaries brackets order limits, some land parcels near homes and farms have been removed to reduce visual impact on residents, and after further assessment, the above would lead anyone to believe that they have interacted with residents who, when, where they simply, or are they simply the financial beneficiaries who wish to minimize the impact on themselves, and without doubt the most adversely affected resident, property number 44 with panels on all four sides to the west, only some 40 odd meters from my patio door, and repeat, I've had zero interaction from RWE. After that, I'd like to formally request the RWE remove the panels to the west of me, up to adjacent with the building, and to the south, in order to give me a safe fire escape in case of fire. I don't want to be overcome by toxic fumes in my bed at night. Given that yesterday we learned that their over planting scheme is 60% I've looked it up, 20 to 30% is the norm, so therefore they're well within their constraints to still maintain efficiency, removing those panels, which would be very helpful, or indeed more than helpful, it would be of, say, paramount safety. Yeah, I'd like to look at biodiversity in reverse, but no, 800 megawatts from 2000 hectares, that's only 40 kilowatts per hectare, that's 13.3 kettles on constant boil, 41 kilowatt fires

on for an hour, it seems very, very poor, considering that I'm not a farmer, but one hectare could produce seven and a half tons of wheat, which equates to 11,250 to 13,500 loaves of bread, when you put it in context and also from an engineering point of view, like to know the country of origin of the panels, inverters, and cabling, and I think that about covers it. Thank you.

Speaker 1 20:00

Okay. Thank you very much, Mr. Carr. Mr. Brooke, did you want to say anything else before we move on to the applicant's responses?

Speaker 4 20:07

Yeah, found another couple of points. Mr. Burt was all at the couple of meetings ago said that the majority of the nearly all the farmers are putting their worst land into the scheme. Right, well, I did a simple calculation, because I know the area pretty well. And south to the canal, definitely there's 11, probably landowners to the south, and there's only two of those putting their worst land, the other nine have got worse land, and even at the north side, all these narrow strips and such like that, a lot of those chaps have got worse land north of Morenz and such like that, and so I just, I couldn't accept that his figures were wrong, and also these 18 landowners, as such, hardly any of one of those will see panels south facing out of their properties, that's what I've come to the conclusion, is they're all away from the farms and such like that, and most of the farmsteads are south facing, so their views are not going to be interrupted at all, unlike mine and John's, and also on the wildlife issue, it didn't come up yesterday, but we've, we've probably across the area with 300 deer and such like that. I know before our WE those meetings, like at Woodhouse, said they couldn't care less about the deer and such like that. It didn't, but these deer migrate from areas across the area, Hatfield Moors and thorn was onto the land and onto high levels, the there's structures on the canal where if they get in they can get out, nowadays costly structures that were put in, but there must be 300 deer in various, various blocks, all these not red deer are such, so these muntjac, these smaller ones, like, but well, John says there's some row as well, but okay, that'll do from me for now.

Speaker 1 22:30

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Brooke.

Speaker 6 22:32

Just one final, if I may.

Speaker 1 22:34

Yes,

Speaker 6 22:34

would the applicant like to quote comments on the statement by EDF bonuses, energy bus a fortnight ago, the rain in the government's green energy programs, as they were had too much energy in the system, as it is already the crux of the biscuit seems that the estimated vast increase in demand, when in actual fact demand is diminishing. Thank you.

Speaker 1 23:11

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Carr. Right? Is there anyone else who wants to speak before we move on to agenda item three, which is the responses by the applicant. No. Okay, let's. Sorry. Agenda item four. Let's move on to agenda item four, which is the responses by the applicant, who will be speaking on behalf of the applicant today. Please.

Speaker 2 23:38

Thank you, sir. Tom, at the moment, on behalf of the applicant, I will provide a response to the extent that I can. I've taken a detailed note, and in the same way that we did for the first open floor hearing, we will provide a detailed written response, which will be submitted next Tuesday. So, hopefully that's helpful, but I'll try to go through each of the points that were raised and provide an answer now. So I'll start with mr. Response to mr. Brooke, and I think I've got about a dozen points in response. So first of all, mr. Brooke referred to the maintenance of the strip between the panels and ditches, and we obviously took an action away from the issue-specific hearing yesterday, and that response will be provided in writing next Tuesday. I don't, I don't have the answer now, something that will need to be discussed with our expert team, but it will be provided next, next Tuesday. Second of all, mr. Brooke referred to the fuel pipeline, and I think I'm right in saying that this is the pipeline operated by Excellum, and, and just to reassure mr. Brook that Excellum are engaged in in this application. Information, and we're in the process of negotiating some protective provisions for the benefit of ex olem, which would be included in the development consent order, and would ensure that any impact that could arise for that for that pipeline would be appropriately managed and subject to subject to control and exodom have obviously made representations as part of this process and I suspect that those representations will continue in their standing objection, if you like, will continue until those protected provisions are agreed, so hopefully that will provide some reassurance on on that particular point, mr. Brooke then referred to the degradation of land, and I think the contention that the applicant team had sought to degrade the value of the land, and our response to that is emphatically that we haven't sought to do that. We've carried out detailed assessments of the agricultural land quality, and those are set out in the submitted environmental statement, in particular chapter 12, which deals with agricultural considerations, and that sets out the proportion of land, for example, that is, that is categorized as best and most versatile land, and we accept and acknowledge that there is a large amount of BMV land, varying grades impacted by the scheme, and we've been open about that, but clearly the question is whether that impact is outweighed by the benefits of this scheme, and we again emphatically say that that is the case. The next point that I think mr. Brooke raised was in relation to crime and concerns about fly tipping, for example, and on that I think I should, I will just refer back to the response that we gave to the same issue, which arises in the context of open floor hearing one, and the applicant did provide a detailed response to that issue, and that can be found in rep one hyphen 045 we explained our position in so far as any can any contention as to increased potential for crime was concerned mr. Brook then referred to the what processes and what management procedures would be in place to deal with sheep grazing under the panels. I don't have a detailed response that I can give to that. It will be part of our written submissions, but obviously the site will be monitored and various measures will be put in place to ensure that it is monitored, such as CCTV, but as I say, we can provide a more detailed response on that point. The next issue that mr. Brooke raised, I think, was in relation to regrowth of habitats and I mean there's various ways in which the applicant is dealing with that issue and there will be measures put in place post construction through the landscaping and ecology ecological management plan to ensure that habitats are restored and that they can thrive and provide a suitable foraging habitat for birds, for example.

Speaker 2 28:51

And then, looking further into the future, post decommissioning, there will be a requirement for the applicant to put in place a decommissioning environmental management plan, and the processes that will be put in place to ensure that habitats are restored, will be set out within that document, and that will need to be approved, obviously, by the local planning authorities at that time. So we say that there are suitable measures in place to deal with that issue, I think. mr. Brooke then spoke about where habitat measures, for example, grass seed, I think, was mentioned, where these things will be brought in from I don't have a response to that. Obviously, that's something that I dare say the applicant hasn't worked out yet, and there will be the detailed procurement places processes in place, which will provide the answer to those things we will. See if there's any further information we can provide in writing, but I suspect, as I say, that it's those sorts of things are still to be bottomed out at this early stage. The next

point, point eight, I think it was Mr. Brooke referred to comments by another impacted landowner regarding the quality of land that had been put into the scheme, and obviously it's difficult for us to comment on what another landowner might have said. I don't think it'd be appropriate for me to try to do that, so I think I'll have to move on from that particular point. What we would say, obviously, is that there has been a detailed site selection process that's been undertaken, and we say that the land that is within the scheme is appropriate for this development and represents the right site for this project, point nine, I think, was around farmsteads, and the fact Mr. Brooke, I think, contends that no other farmsteads will experience views of the scheme in the same way as Mr. Brooke and Mr. Carr. That's a point we can, we can come back on in writing, because it relates to the conclusions of the landscape and visual impact assessment, but I don't think it is right that other properties won't experience views of the scheme, and I think our submitted documents prove that to be the case, but as I say, we can, we can confirm the position fully, and then I think the last point that Mr. Brooke raised, which was after Mr. Carr had made his submissions, which I'll come on to in a moment, was around here and the measures that will be in place to permit free passage of wildlife during operation of the scheme, and on that, Sarah, I would just refer to the outline operational environmental management plan, which is rep Um, rep to hyphen 064 and in particular, paragraph four point 2.3 of that document, which makes clear, for example, I wouldn't quote the full paragraph, but it says that clearance is above ground, or Mammal Gate will be included to permit the passage of wildlife, and so these things have been thought about, just to be assured, Mr. Brooke, and not only have they been thought about, but we've included legally binding measures as part of the control plans that are secured by the development consent order, so hopefully that that was helpful, Mr. Brooke. I appreciate it. I wasn't able to provide a response to everything on the hoof today, but I've done my best to answer as many as I could, and the full responses will be in writing in our post-hearing submissions. If I move then to Mr. Carr's submissions, and I think I've got seven seven points that I would like to go through. Mr. Carr referred to what he described as a very negative experience of dealing with RWE, and that there have been no interaction, and we, we categorically deny that, or refute that there have been limited engagement or poor consultation, or throughout the process, there has been an extensive pre-application consultation and engagement exercise, including two rounds of consultation, numerous consultation events, an extensive range of documents produced. The consultation report submitted with the application demonstrates the regard that the applicant has had to feedback, Mr.

Speaker 2 34:24

Carr referred to changes to the scheme that had been made, and those changes to the scheme were for the were made in direct response to feedback that was received from consultees, therefore demonstrating how committed the applicant has been to listening to feedback and acting upon it, so we just don't accept those allegations of or consultation or engagement and. And on a similar theme, Mr. Carr referred to the fact that he's had zero interaction with the applicant for the reasons I said I don't think that is the case, and what we will do as part of our written submission at following this hearing is set out interacting the engagement that has taken place because I think that I think I think that has taken I think it has taken place and I think there has been a high leveling of engagement around Mr. Carr, then moved on to talk about moving panels to the west and south to give safe fire escape safe room for fire escape in the event of a fire, so I think I mean at this stage in the process that there won't be any moving of panels, that's not something that the applicant is proposing to do, but to reassure, hopefully reassure Mr. Carr about the provision is that is made by the documents, or for plans to be made, continues to be made in the, in the event of a fire or other emergency. I would refer Mr. Carr to section 4.8 of the outline operational environmental management plan. Again, that's rep to hyphen 064 and that makes clear that the following plans will be prepared as part of the operational environmental management plan prior to the first operation of the scheme goes on to list three documents. The first of those is an emergency response plan that will be developed in consultation with the councils, the local fire service, as well as the environment agency to respond to flood warnings and events. For example, there'll be an emergency spillage action plan that will take set out actions taken in event of a spillage

event on fire on site, and in addition, a health and safety plan, so there will be appropriate management plans put in place to deal with the types of concern that mr. Carr has raised, and I should also make the point, sir, that though it's not before you at the moment, it will be at deadline three, the statement of common ground with the fire and rescue service, which will set out at deadline three, that all matters are now agreed with the fire and rescue service, so we have the relevant body or regulator comfortable with what's proposed as part of the application. The next point that mr. Carr raised was in relation to the topic of over planting, which we discussed yesterday, and clearly we took away an action from issue-specific hearing three to provide a detailed explanation of the level of over planting proposed and why it's justified in this case, and we say it is justified, and that and not excessive, and so we don't accept mr. Carr's position that the over planting is too high in this case. The next point that mr. Carr raised were was around biodiversity, and mr. Carr went on to give some quite detailed figures of the efficiency of the site in terms of energy output, and all I can say there is, it was, it was quite difficult to interpret the figures on the spot. We have got a detailed node, but we can come back on some of those figures. I hope to the extent we can, and it's possible to equate the figures that mr. Carr was providing in practice, but all I would say is that this scheme represents a very significant contribution to achievement of the government's legally binding net zero targets and to providing a renewable source of energy, it will provide capable of providing energy to hundreds of 1000s of homes each year. mr. Carr went on to talk about the country of origin of panels and inverters, and this was a my response. Here is similar to the response I gave to mr. Brooke, which is that I rather suspect these issues will be addressed at the detailed project implementation stage, and that procurement processes will need to be followed by the applicant, and that will.

Speaker 2 39:59

Term in matters such as where panels and inverters will be sourced from. I will see check with my team after this hearing to see if we can provide any further specifics, but I think it will be in that theme, sir. And then finally, mr. Carr asked the applicant's team to comment on the boss of EDFs comments to the effect that there was too much energy in the system. Now I'm not going to offer my personal view on those comments. The view that I will give you, sir, is that this application is required by the planning activity determined in accordance with the national policy statements. Those are the promulgated documents that represents government's policy in relation to this scheme and similar schemes, and that makes perfectly clear that there is a critical national priority for development of this nature, and um and that is the position, and we, we are putting forward this application in on the understanding that the right way for it to be dealt with is in accordance with the with the NPS. I think I've covered everything there. I hope I have, as I say, I've done my best to give a substantive response today on my feet, and we'll provide detailed responses in writing as well.

Speaker 1 41:31

Okay. Thank you. So, I've got just a couple of questions. So, in relation to the sheep grazing, I think the app can previously indicate that that wasn't secured anywhere. It's not. I don't think it's secured in the DCO. In any case, is that correct?

Speaker 2 41:55

I'm at the Montbank applicant, sir. That is correct. There's no legally binding obligation to make provision for sheet grazing, I think we refer to it as something that could be possible, but those arrangements would be agreed at the post DCO stage, effectively. There's not a legally binding commitment for that to happen,

Speaker 1 42:18

sir. Yeah, I think the applicant said they weren't relying on on that as a component of the scheme previously. Wait a minute, mr. Brooke, do So the previously the applicant said they,

Speaker 2 42:48

sorry,

Speaker 1 42:49

but you, it wasn't relying on sheep grazing as a

Speaker 2 42:54

Tom Tom at the moment

Speaker 1 42:55

benefit.

Speaker 2 42:55

Apologies, sir, I hadn't realized that was a question there for me. No, I think that is right, sir. And I think our.. I don't think we rely on it in the context of the planning statement. I don't think we've made a statement to the effect that this is a benefit of this, the scheme that we, we seek to attach weight

Speaker 1 43:09

to. Okay, and the other thing is, you mentioned there's, there are no plans to revise the panel layout in proximity to these properties, but the applicants residential visual amenity assessment, which I'm not sure what the reference is I think it's, yeah, a exam examination library reference a PP 062 so includes table two two on page nine and in relation to both property number 44 and 32 it identifies that both will experience moderate significant effects in year one, only reducing by year 15. I'm just wondering why. See, well, I think serious consideration should be given to measures to reduce those effects to not significant, be that through revisions to layout or controls in the DCO or through other measures, so. And I think that I think the applicant should pay careful attention to the representations that have been made and give that careful consideration. What is the applicant's response?

Speaker 2 45:15

Tom, at the moment, on behalf of the applicant, we hear what you say, sir. We will take that away as an action and and we'll provide a response as part of these written submissions following the hearing.

Speaker 1 45:32

Okay. Thank you. Normally we would move on now, because it's quite a structured discussion. Interested parties typically have the opportunity to speak at agenda item three, and then we hear from the applicant, and there's no right of reply, but given that there's only, there are only two of you in attendance, I'm happy to hear from you both once more, and then we'll hear one more time from the applicant in response, okay, and then we'll move on to close. So let's keep it. I know there's, there's strong feelings, so let's just keep it civil. But would you like to, mr. Brooke, respond?

Speaker 4 46:18

Yeah, like I've said previously, it was, it was rammed down our throats about the degrading of the land. The officials at Hatfield Woodhouse from RWE, the constant read it for an hour and a half, sir, and also the thing about the sheep joke that was really publicly, it was at the forefront of the pre meetings when they had them at the Thorn Rugby Club three years ago, that was the main highlight, biggest sheep farm in the country, that was that was what they were promoting, and that came up again at Woodhouse 14 months ago, when probably I don't think many of the RWE team that are here present today attended those meetings 14 months ago. There was a different crowd going on to the go back to the pipeline. Are you going to leave six meters at the either side of the field pipeline? Just so, so, so

people know. And also, I've got a very important meeting, like I said in the morning. The EA is giving us at the drainage board a presentation on the refurbishment of the dirtiness pump and the rationalization projects that are likely to come, so we'll see what they've got to say. I'll go on about local properties, the rural properties, they're going to depreciate again by up to three between three and 5 million pounds, just these few properties, and this figure is actually much smaller than your annual payment that the 18 landowners are going to get, because some of them has been bragging about it. Also, my family's very close to the MP. He was at my property last Friday night for his daughter to leave for a prom, because she's like twins with my granddaughter. Mr. Pitcher had to leave from my property for security reasons, because he doesn't leave his property, and some of his family said the view from the farm here is bloody marvelous in it, and we had to respond in our way, but it certainly won't be, so I wonder if I can get Mr. Miliband, if he's still in his job under Andy's new gang to come out and have a look and see that we are the lowest sea level of all the solar panel projects in the UK, and the water has to be pumped, and okay, at the moment a minority of houses might not be affected, but certainly in the future they could be. That'll do for me. Thank you very much, sir.

Speaker 1 49:29

Thank you, Mr. Brooke, Mr. Carr.

Speaker 6 49:33

Thank you. Yeah, I did ask who, when, and where, as I did attend both Thorn Rugby Club and Crowell, pass my comments on nothing. Okay, so I've put the record straight there, and also I did request removal, not moving of the panels, as I see it as a fire risk, and you cannot possibly comment on that without visiting the site. I'm afraid, sir. And I'll leave it at that. Thank you.

Speaker 1 50:11

Okay, bear in mind there won't be - we're not going to come back again. So, is that everything you both wish to say? Okay. Thank you. Would the applicant like to respond?

Speaker 2 50:25

Thank you, sir. Tom, at the moment, off the applicant. Yes, I'll come back on some of those points again. Same caveat, that will provide a full written response. Just to take some of Mr. Brooks' points first, around the degrading of the land again. I mean, all I can do is re-emphasize what I said in response to that point. As part of Mr. Brooks' first submissions, we don't accept that there has been any attempt to degrade or devalue the land, and the documents we submit with the application made clear that the interaction with best and most versatile land and detailed surveys have been undertaken to understand the profile of the soils in relation to the pipeline. Mr. Brooke asked if we are going to leave six meters either side, I think there's two separate points here. I think there is the question of whether anything we are doing could interfere or interact with the pipeline on its current alignment. Now, if anything of that nature was proposed, that's where the protective provisions would apply, appropriate measures would be put in place, and that could, for example, include a diversion to the pipeline in extremis, and the protected provisions provide for that scenario, and it would be controlled and submit to measures that Exalum, as the operator of the pipeline, would have control and oversight over. Then I think there's a separate question of what clearance would be left post scheme if, for example, we had to divert the pipeline, and I think I have it on authority now from those around me that the minimum six meters that Mr. Brooke referred to would be observed, so hopefully that provides some clarity on that issue. Mr. Brooke then referenced the pump rationalization projects, and I think we've discussed and addressed that in previous responses, and I think it was touched upon in the context of flood risk yesterday, where I confirmed that this scheme is separate to the pump rationalization project, and that our scheme does not have any impact on that, and I think we've provided submissions, some further background on what this pump rationalization project means, and

what its objective is, and those can be found in our written submissions following issue-specific hearing one, which is rep one hyphen 046 I think that's everything I wanted to say now, in response to mr. Brooke's further comments, we'll deal with the other submissions that mr. Brooke made in our written response. mr. Carr raised two further points. I think again they were related to the issues that he raised previously on the who, when, and and where point we will go in and find and check our records to see what, if any, response was provided, and I hope I will be able to provide some clarity on that, and we understand, we understand what you're saying about the moving of the panels. Apologies if I misinterpreted what you'd said as part of your first submissions, and obviously we've heard from you, sir, as to as to what you're expecting to see from us in terms of further work to understand what, if anything, can be done in respect of specific receptors through the RBAA, and I said, and committed to providing a response to you on that for deadline three.

Speaker 1 54:32

Okay. Thank you very much. So we will move on now to agenda item five, please. But before we do, please give all participants today bear in mind that the examination offers the opportunity to submit written representations as well. There are plenty more opportunities to submit written representations. Okay, so we'll move on to agenda item five, which is the close of the hearing. Firstly, can I thank everyone who has spoken today, particularly the interested parties who have participated all week in the incredibly uncomfortable conditions, and I'm sorry we couldn't get a venue closer to the site and your homes, but I very much appreciate your representations, and I will take them into consideration in making my recommendation to the Secretary of State. The recording, the hearing, will be published on the project web page. Please contact the case team. You can speak to them at the back of the room if you don't know how to find the project web web page. Okay, so thank you all very much. It is now 10:55am and this open floor hearing is now closed. Thank you.