

Steeple_PRELIM_11 NOV_PT1

Created on: 2025-11-11 11:07:07

Project Length: 00:50:40

File Name: Steeple_PRELIM_11 NOV_PT1

File Length: 00:50:40

FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:04:15 - 00:00:21:09

Good morning everyone. It's now 10 a.m. and time for this meeting to begin. I would like to welcome you all to this preliminary meeting for the Steeple Renewables project. Can I just confirm that everybody can hear me clearly.

00:00:23:26 - 00:00:29:27

Can I also confirm with Mr. Barrowman that the live streaming and recording of this event has commenced?

00:00:33:16 - 00:00:50:10

Live streaming. Good. Thank you very much. My name is Max Wiltshire. I'm a chartered civil engineer, and I've been appointed by the Secretary of State to be the lead member of the panel to examine this application. I'm now going to ask the other panel member to introduce himself.

00:00:51:29 - 00:01:02:14

Good morning. My name is Andrew Robinson. I am a chartered town planner and a planning inspector, and I have been appointed by the Secretary of State to the panel to examine this application.

00:01:03:21 - 00:01:37:27

Thank you. Together, we constitute the examining authority for this application. For those who are present in the room, you may have already spoken or to or heard from Spencer Berryman, who is the case manager for this project. Mr. Berryman is supported today by Harrison Coles, our case officer. For those who have joined us virtually, then you will have spoken to Jessica Dunlop. Together, they are the case team for this project. And if you have any questions or queries about today's event, they should be your first point of contact.

00:01:39:21 - 00:01:48:02

I'll now deal with a few housekeeping matters for those attending in person. Can everyone please set all devices and phones to silent

00:01:49:21 - 00:02:20:27

to get to the toilets? Turn left outside of this room. There is a single toilet on the ground floor under the stairs. Ladies and gentlemen, toilets are located on the first floor at the top of the stairs. Fire alarms. There are no planned tests for today. If the fire alarm does sound, the fire door is as marked in the wall near the Planning Inspectorate case teams table, which is on my to my left. The meeting point is the car park in front of the building.

00:02:22:08 - 00:02:32:02

Today's Remembrance Day and in recognition of the two minute's silence, we will adjourn for 15 minutes from 1050, commencing at 1110.

00:02:34:04 - 00:02:56:04

We aim to keep the proceedings focused and as efficient as possible. To assist this, we issued annex B to our letter which invited you to this meeting called the rule six letter that sets out an introduction to the preliminary meeting process. We trust that you've all read this in advance, as I will only be providing a summary now.

00:02:57:25 - 00:03:18:03

you will also find information about this application on the Planning Inspector, its National Infrastructure Planning website, and we strongly advise you to familiarize yourself with this website, because the examining authority will be using it to communicate with you and to provide access to documents throughout the examination.

00:03:19:25 - 00:03:51:00

Today's meeting is being undertaken in a hybrid way, meaning some of you are present with us at the hearing venue and some of you are joining us virtually using Microsoft Teams. We will make sure, however, that you have how you decided to attend today. You will be given a fair opportunity to participate in. A recording of today's meeting will be made available on the Staple Renewable Projects page of the National Infrastructure Planning website, as soon as practicable after the meeting has finished.

00:03:51:29 - 00:04:08:05

With this in mind, please ensure that you speak clearly into a microphone, stating your name and who you are representing each time before you speak. You turn the microphone on by a single button that you'll see at the base of the microphone.

00:04:11:26 - 00:04:19:29

If you're not able. Not at a table with a microphone, there is a roving microphone. So please wait for one of these to be brought to you before you speak.

00:04:21:27 - 00:04:45:07

A link to the Planning Inspectorate Privacy Notice was provided in our rule six letter. We 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 Mr. Barrowman if you have any questions about this.

00:04:46:27 - 00:05:00:04

This meeting will follow the agenda as set out in annex A of the rule six letter. It will be helpful if you have a copy of this in front of you and ask the case team to display the agenda on the screen, please.

00:05:08:08 - 00:05:13:05

That's something we can put up on the screen.

00:05:19:12 - 00:05:54:25

While they're doing that, I'll explain the purpose of this meeting. Um, the purpose of this today's meeting is to focus on the way in which this application is proposed to be examined. On that basis, we will only be inviting discussion about the procedural aspects of the examination. The purpose of this meeting is not to discuss either the merits or any concerns that you may have regarding this application. The merits or concerns can only be considered once the examination of the application begins, which happens following the close of this preliminary meeting.

00:05:56:23 - 00:06:27:00

Thank you. I'm now going to ask those who are participating in today's meeting to introduce yourselves. When I state your organization's name, could you introduce yourself stating your name and 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 upon which you wish to speak.

00:06:28:11 - 00:06:42:13

I'd also ask that you inform us how you wish to be addressed, i.e.. Mr.. Mrs.. Miss. Miss. Thank you. Can I start with the applicant, please? And their advisors.

00:06:44:10 - 00:07:17:27

So good morning. My name is Patrick Robinson. I'm a solicitor and consultant with the firm of Burgess Salmon LLP. I'm representing the applicant. Steeple Solar Farm limited. Although during the course of the proceedings you'll hear the name res renewable energy systems referred to frequently. And that's obviously the company that is behind that application. Uh, it'll be just me speaking for the preliminary meeting.

00:07:17:29 - 00:07:48:15

We anticipate and speaking on all the agenda items. Uh, but with me today on this table, I've, um. I'll introduce him for speed. Uh, next to me, I've got Mr. Will bridges. He's from the Rose Group. He's the DCO lead developer for this application. Uh, next to him is, uh, Douglas Haycock at Burgess Salmon, uh, part of our organization supporting on the legal side. And then next to him, Mr. Johnny Jonny Wilks.

00:07:48:18 - 00:07:52:22

Also rez, who's the DCO manager on this project?

00:07:55:11 - 00:07:56:22

Thank you very much.

00:08:03:26 - 00:08:05:00

Irish council.

00:08:05:18 - 00:08:06:10

Um.

00:08:07:03 - 00:08:13:21

Mr.. I'm not sure what, uh, I wish to comment on at this point in time.

00:08:14:12 - 00:08:19:02

Okay. Thank you very much, Mr. Appleyard. Moving round please.

00:08:19:04 - 00:08:29:14

Uh, Andrew Frankish, um, also representing Stoughton Parish Council. Um, and I would like to just make a brief comment on the actual process.

00:08:30:28 - 00:08:31:22

Thank you.

00:08:34:20 - 00:08:45:23

Robert Fleming, I'm a resident of Stoughton, the steeple. I'd like to make my comments about the, um, on a personal, personal basis and of cumulative effect.

00:08:48:25 - 00:08:49:20

Thank you.

00:08:51:01 - 00:09:04:11

Um, Karen Hodgson representing fields for farming, uh, local community group. And I would like to make a comment about the process and procedure. Thank you.

00:09:04:25 - 00:09:08:29

Thank you. Um, how would you like to be addressed?

00:09:09:03 - 00:09:11:27

Oh, sorry. Um, miss Karen Hodgson.

00:09:12:24 - 00:09:20:02

Can I just check? Miss Hobson, are you representing that group? Um, speaking for them. All the fields for farming.

00:09:20:09 - 00:09:24:07

Um. Well, along. Not alone, but okay. My colleagues.

00:09:24:17 - 00:09:26:14

Okay. Thank you.

00:09:30:14 - 00:09:38:18

Good morning. My name is Steve Smith from fields for farming. Uh, I don't intend to have.

00:09:38:20 - 00:09:39:05

Any.

00:09:39:07 - 00:09:51:04

Comment at this general preliminary phase here. Um, others will be speaking collectively for fields for farming and it can be addressed as Mr.. Thank you.

00:09:53:28 - 00:10:05:07

Good morning I'm Ruth Edwards. Appreciate being addressed as Ruth from fields for farming and objector to this whole process and a supporter of fields for farming.

00:10:06:24 - 00:10:07:26

Thank you very much.

00:10:08:16 - 00:10:42:01

Hello, I'm Julie Barlow. I'm happy to be referred to just as Julie. Um, I've got three different hats. I've personally, um, on behalf of North Leverton windmill, of which I'm a volunteer. My husband is hoping to join us later. Um, as far as North Leverton windmills concerned, we've put in a written representation for this particular meeting. Um, as we have as an individual and also part of the fields for farming community group. And again, we've put in a written, um, comment for this particular meeting.

00:10:42:03 - 00:10:42:22

Thank you.

00:10:43:12 - 00:10:44:18

Thank you very much.

00:10:47:11 - 00:10:54:00

Good morning sir. My name is Steven Poynter. I'm a team manager at planning policy at Nottinghamshire.

00:10:54:02 - 00:10:54:17

County.

00:10:54:19 - 00:11:24:22

Council, and my team coordinates the response of the county council as a host authority to the this proposal and other nationally significant infrastructure projects. Um, nothing specific to RTÉ is just to observe and answer any questions, uh, from yourselves. Maybe just a point of clarification around the um, subject to for discussion tomorrow, which I'd like to raise during this morning. Uh, just to aid our attendance.

00:11:24:29 - 00:11:37:22

Um, and I'm also accompanied, although virtually, by my colleague Nina Wilson. Um, I'll perhaps allow Nina to introduce herself, make sure she can be heard online, if that's alright.

00:11:37:28 - 00:11:52:15

Okay. I'll. I'll introduce her now. Can I just check something with you, please. I don't know if you can answer it. Um, we've noted that Bassetlaw District Council aren't present today. Do you in any way, um, SCL represent them?

00:11:53:03 - 00:12:20:25

Uh, no, sir, I'm afraid I can't. Can't do that. We've been I've been trying to make efforts to, um, um, have some dialogue with them over the last few weeks, but, uh, nothing's been forthcoming, unfortunately. So I'm afraid our, uh, I just will be able to reflect our own representations, our own matters of interest. So. Okay. Uh. Thank you. And I'll be accompanied by other colleagues during the, uh, issue specific hearings.

00:12:21:03 - 00:12:31:29

Thank you, Mr. Pointer. Um, on that subject, shall I turn to, um, your colleague who's online and ask her to introduce herself, please?

00:12:32:21 - 00:12:33:06

Yes, sir.

00:12:33:09 - 00:12:48:00

Good morning, everybody. I'm Nina Wilson, I'm principal planner at Nottinghamshire County Council. Um, and as Mr. point to point it out. I'll be here just representing council. Um, and I'd like to be addressed as Nina Wilson. Thank you.

00:12:48:27 - 00:12:49:21

Thank you.

00:12:58:09 - 00:13:21:20

Okay. We've been around the table. We've been. I'd just like to ask if there's anyone else in the room today who wishes to speak. Um, could you let me now know? And again, would you introduce yourself and let us know on which agenda item you wish to speak and the microphone will come to you if you put your hand up? Thank you.

00:13:23:16 - 00:13:48:06

Christine Warren. Uh, Christine Moreno and resident of the villages of Sturgeon North Levitan. And. Well, I live in all of them. Um, and it's the combined impact of all the projects that have are around, I've been around over the years and are accumulating. That's why I would like to talk about and Christine Warren is a good enough name to speak about.

00:13:48:15 - 00:14:22:12

Thanks. Thank you. Christine. Um, I'll just repeat, um, that this particular meeting this morning with talk. We we do need to focus on the process to make sure we've got that right. Um, if you want to make particular representations about, um, particular aspects of the project to, um, opportunities. One is this afternoon in the open floor hearing, and tomorrow we're covering a number of, um, topic items that are, um, particular to this project, um, in more detail.

00:14:22:14 - 00:14:49:23

So I will be keeping people to process this morning, but we will give you opportunities to speak about particular concerns this afternoon. I just hope that's clear. Anybody else in the room? No. Is anybody else virtually who wishes to speak at this hearing? Put your hand up if you do. I'm not seeing anything on the screens.

00:14:51:18 - 00:15:16:20

Thank you. If anybody else decides that they wish to speak during the course of this morning's proceedings, for example, to make comments in response to representations made by other parties, you may do so. Please raise your hand, either physically or using the function within Microsoft Teams if you wish to speak. Are there any other comments anyone wishes to make under agenda item one?

00:15:18:23 - 00:15:26:13

Um, there's a hand up. Thank you. Can you introduce yourself again for the record, please? Because we're.

00:15:26:25 - 00:15:29:25

Outstanding. Parish council. Have we got the agenda, please.

00:15:31:05 - 00:15:35:05

Could we ask the applicant to display the agenda, if that's possible, please? Thanks.

00:15:49:03 - 00:15:53:06

Thank you very much. So we're on item one.

00:15:55:14 - 00:16:00:02

Um, I'm going to move us on to item two.

00:16:02:08 - 00:16:07:02

This is the examining authority's remarks about the examination process.

00:16:09:21 - 00:16:43:19

In order to streamline the running of this event in annex B of our rule six letter. We provided an introduction to the preliminary meeting and the examination process, explaining how it will be conducted and how you can participate. For expediency, I'm assuming that everyone has read this, and therefore I don't propose to spend time reading it out. Now, it is important that you are clear in your understanding the process. Therefore, if there's anything you are unclear about or on which you need to clarify things, then this is your opportunity to ask.

00:16:44:13 - 00:17:01:13

So on the basis of the information set out in NXP, are there any questions about the way in which we propose to examine this application? If you have any specific points to make regarding the draft timetable, can I ask these arrays later in the in the agenda under item four?

00:17:05:01 - 00:17:12:06

I'll now hand over to Mr. Robinson to go to come cover agenda item three.

00:17:13:11 - 00:17:42:03

Thank you. And turning now to agenda item three which is the initial assessment of principal issues. So annex C of our rule six letter sets out our initial list of principal issues which we abbreviate to IAP. For those of you with copies of our rule six letter, it would be useful to have an NXT in front of you, but for the benefit of those of you that haven't. Could I ask the applicant if you could display annex C on the screen, please?

00:17:48:07 - 00:18:20:21

Thank you. So the subject matters listed have been arrived at following our reading of the application documents, the comments in the relevant representations and other submissions we have received. The principal issues have been listed alphabetically are not in order of importance. The purpose is to identify an initial framework of key issues for the examination of the application. The list is not intended to be exhaustive, and it does not stop us from removing or adding issues at later stages in the process.

00:18:21:00 - 00:18:53:16

Fundamentally, we will examine the application in accordance with the policy requirements set out in the National Policy Statements which have which have Effects which we have included in the IRP. The requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and all issues raised that are important and relevant matters. I'm now going to ask parties present within the room and online whether you would like to raise any comments in respect to the principal issues listed, and whether you think any issues should be included.

00:18:53:24 - 00:19:23:11

Before I do, I would like to reiterate the point made earlier that we're not looking to discuss any merits or concerns that you may have on those issues at this stage. We'd be glad to hear those types of comments at the open floor hearing session this afternoon or during issue specific hearings, including the one that is taking place tomorrow morning. So does anyone in the room or online wish to make any comments on the issues listed? I'll start with the applicant.

00:19:23:17 - 00:19:29:14

So thank you for that. Um, Patrick Robinson representing the applicant.

00:19:31:07 - 00:20:06:02

the examining authority received. Which was published on the website, uh, from the applicant. The potential interview on the potential main issues for examination that that was back in on the 8th of July. And there's obviously quite a close correlation between that and and the the list that's come out. So, uh, applicants are quite happy with that. And, uh, no issues to raise on the, the list, which I think we were to scroll down on in annex C, is it's this list which the parties would have seen.

00:20:06:04 - 00:20:39:11

So, um, the applicant, uh, quite content with that list, the additional matter, uh, which the applicants raised and the examining authority has seen this in the response to the procedural deadline, a submission which I'm conscious that other parties in the room may not have seen. This is the interrelationship of the application steeply renewables project with the North Humber Hymenium overhead line.

00:20:39:14 - 00:21:12:21

That's a matter that we've set out in that response to, say, we consider that's of sufficient importance to find its way into the list of principal issues to be considered. I don't think I need to expand upon it further as to the reasons, but when we get to timetabling, we've also made submissions on that about it being a sufficiently important to, um, warrant an issue specific hearing of its own.

00:21:12:23 - 00:21:44:23

Obviously, it's not a matter you'll be ruling on today, but it's simply putting that, uh, matter before the examination by way of very brief update. Obviously, we don't we don't have national grid transmission in the room today. They have been invited to the issue specific hearing tomorrow where you've put on the as an agenda item those interrelationships. Um, just to update you. We we are in contact with National grid and the contact is two way.

00:21:45:06 - 00:22:11:23

Uh, the discussions are, um, opening up and will continue. Um, as to whether there'll be any representation tomorrow. We don't know from National Grid, but, um, certainly they're aware of the request for this to be a principal issue. Um, and they're also aware we have sent a copy of our deadline, a submission to them, which refers to a request for a hearing on the matter.

00:22:14:23 - 00:22:34:08

Okay. Thank you for that. Um, Mr. Robinson? Yeah, we did. We have cumulative effects listed, but I can appreciate that. That could also be viewed as within an environmental impact assessment. This is more about an interrelationship on a sort of a planning land use level. So yes, I understand. And here what you're saying. Is there anybody else. Yes.

00:22:34:27 - 00:22:50:08

Julie Barlow and this is a personal question really. Um, as a landowner, we are quite concerned about the compulsory purchase orders that we've received. And just clarification that that will be on the agenda at some point in time.

00:22:51:25 - 00:23:21:09

Thank you. Yes, I can answer that. So compulsory acquisition. We haven't included it on the list on the table, but it is referred to beforehand because it's an overriding issue. We have to consider that anyway and I'll come on to it in the timetable. But but we will be considering compulsory acquisition and there will be an opportunity for compulsory acquisition hearing. But I'll come on to that when we discuss the timetable in the next agenda item. Um, is there anybody else in the room who wishes to make a comment? Yes.

00:23:21:21 - 00:23:57:02

So, um, Andrew Frankish councillor from Stirling Paul Parish Council, with a parish that's most directly affected by those. And I'd just like to read out, I think it's the most appropriate time to read our short statement from the parish council. That's okay. Um, the growing cluster of national infrastructure projects in our area, um, on the scale will fundamentally change the life of local peoples. And yet the process in which these decisions are made feels to be almost impossible for our

ordinary residents to navigate. Um, the national, nationally significant infrastructure project process is long, technical, deeply complex.

00:23:57:04 - 00:24:28:11

But most locals this is completely unfamiliar territory. People want to have their say, but they are daunted by the paperwork, the procedures, the terminology, and probably most significantly, the time, um, that need is committed to is involved. As a parish council, we can see firsthand how this is affecting our community. Residents who will live with the consequences of these projects for decades often feel they simply don't know where to start. Many lack the confidence to engage, and some genuinely feel that their views won't make a difference anyway.

00:24:28:26 - 00:25:02:03

This creates a real imbalance because while the developers are well resourced, supported by teams of professionals, the local people most affected are left feeling powerless. The human impact and imbalance cannot be overstated. We are talking about real people, families, farmers, long standing residents who are being asked to make sense of a national level process in order to defend and defend their own homes, landscapes and communities. We believe that the process should discover more effective ways to support and empower local views.

00:25:02:05 - 00:25:31:08

This means not just consulting them, but genuinely including them in decision making. The principle of fairness dictates that those who are most impacted should not be the ones that are least able to participate. The parish council would ask the examining authority to keep this in mind as the process moves forward that meaningful participation requires not only access, but also understanding and confidence. Without that, the people at risk overlooking are the very people we meant to serve. Thank you.

00:25:32:00 - 00:26:04:27

Okay. Thank you for that. And we understand that loud and clear and hopefully the way that we will, we've set the timetable and the way that we will have open floor hearings and issue specific hearings will enable people to participate. All I can say to people is, is please participate if you wish to do so. We want to hear what you have to say. Um, so I hope that gives some reassurance to people that you can, um, attend these events and, and that we will be listening to you.

00:26:04:29 - 00:26:08:04

Um, I don't know whether you want to add anything Mr. Wheelchair on that?

00:26:08:15 - 00:26:45:23

No, I just, um, would back up what Mr. Robinson said. I, I do sympathize with what you've said in terms of the process. And, um, these events I suppose, to help remove some of the, um, I suppose the paperwork, the process give opportunity to to dialogue effectively. They're not just dialoguing with us. You've obviously got the applicant here who's listening, um, and I'm sure listening quite carefully. So please feel free to raise the appropriate moment exactly what you want to say.

00:26:45:25 - 00:26:50:17

This is the moment to do it. Um, I've got another hand up. Um, um.

00:26:52:05 - 00:27:25:07

Hi. Um, it's, uh, Karen Hodgson. Um, um, given what you've just said, I will speak up. I'm not entirely sure if this is the right moment to ask these two questions, but I'm going to go ahead anyway. So I represent fields for farming and also as an individual. Um, so obviously this process is going to be ongoing for many, many months. And after the hearings, the process will continue with filling in the detail. I have read that elsewhere with another CIP.

00:27:25:21 - 00:28:01:02

Steering groups were created as part of the planning process, where locals could, with particular interest, could sit on these steering groups and work together with the developers and other relevant interested parties. So I'm particularly interested in biodiversity. Um, so I'm wondering if it's going to be possible during this ongoing process to set that up so that there can be that real engagement with for local people to work in small groups with the developers and the interested parties, as I mentioned.

00:28:01:23 - 00:28:30:24

Um, that would be I'd like you to think about that. Um, my second query, which is related to this process and the ecology reports, I'm wondering if the developers can answer why there was no ecology survey or report on the abundant local hare population. So there was no ecology survey at all and obviously has a protected species. Thank you.

00:28:30:26 - 00:28:54:05

Thank you. Um, you've been heard. Um, some of that will fall within either this afternoon, which is the opportunity to go into specific items. And, um, I'm sure the applicant is listening. Um, and also the comment you made about the steering group. So

00:28:56:02 - 00:29:27:17

the link to process, I suppose, but, um, to this afternoon will be more appropriate to, to go into that in a bit more detail and also give the applicant an opportunity to respond to that. I would say that, um, as a planning inspector, we don't get involved in the, Um, the details of how this scheme is designed or, um, the, the engagement that goes on between parties. We are here to observe and then to make a recommendation to the Secretary of state.

00:29:27:19 - 00:29:44:00

So we don't actively get involved in that. But we see the process going on in front of us. Thank you. There's a hand a couple of hands at the back. Um, the microphone will come. And then please introduce yourselves again.

00:29:44:23 - 00:29:45:12

Hello.

00:29:46:07 - 00:30:08:15

Uh, my name is Alan Sykes. Uh, North Leverton parish council. I note from the gentleman on my left contact with the national grid. My straight question is, has any representation or meeting been made with nuclear diffusion that is heading our way?

00:30:11:18 - 00:30:41:18

Also, if I also may add that now I've attended, I'm in the parish council and a few other meetings. There is a startling to me total dis joint in the projects that are heading our way. Nobody seems to join up. National grid solar panels, nuclear fusion. That is my point. Has a straight question.

00:30:41:20 - 00:30:48:02

Has any representation been made to the nuclear development that is coming our way?

00:30:50:19 - 00:31:18:14

Thank you very much. That is on the agenda for tomorrow. And we did send an invite to nuclear fusion, and we will wait to see whether they will, um, participate in tomorrow's hearing. But that particular project is on the the agenda to discuss. So I think at this stage that's all I can say on that. But yes, they've made a relevant representation to this project, and they have been invited to to discuss that particular project. Tomorrow's hearing.

00:31:22:22 - 00:31:29:27

I just turned to the gentlemen, please, with your hand up. Oh, sorry. Yes. Oh, yes. Sorry. Yes, sorry. I can see you now.

00:31:30:15 - 00:32:04:26

Um, uh, Christine Warren, um, representing myself, um, this project, the paperwork is already 9000 pages long. Um, the project's proceeding probably will be 9000 pages long. How can you expect the normal person going about their own business and trying to protect what's theirs to read? 9000 pages, plus all the other projects that are following on, which are probably 9000 plus pages long. We probably have in excess of half a million pages to read.

00:32:04:28 - 00:32:48:15

If we want to look at all the projects from And 20. How do you expect us to actually read that amount of paperwork and actually have an opinion and be able to fight each project as it comes along and destroys our villages? This is just a continuation of what has happened since since 2000, um, when the actual project started with the quarry. Um, and I will probably have more to say this afternoon, but how do you expect the villagers to be able to count to read? We are now in 9000 pages with this project, and the previous projects probably are more because they've been passed.

00:32:48:17 - 00:33:32:22

How do you expect us on the community of impact of all these projects to read every word that is being said? I'm 69. I am enough life left in me to actually read this amount of projects my planning man has not got. I can't afford him, and he can't afford the time to read all the paperwork that these people are doling out. So how do you expect to do? Will you read the accumulative effects of all the projects that have preceded this? To actually look at the pure communicative impact of all the projects that are actually hitting our villages? If you stand between the Quarry Road and the power station gates and look forward, everything is going to be destroyed.

00:33:32:24 - 00:34:05:02

You go to Wheatley Road, you do exactly the same. Everything you see will be will be something. If you go on to Retford Road and look at the windmill exactly the same as what is happening. We are.

We are where we were. We're a farming community and the landowner, whatever he can't get in, in, in planning for all this lot is going to start building houses. So are you truly going to read all this, all the paperwork from the cumulative impact of all the projects that have preceded this project, which is now 9000 pages long.

00:34:07:29 - 00:34:44:03

Thank you for that. And I, as we said before, I completely sympathize with that and all. I can reassure you that we are reading all of the documents that come in, um, including all the comments and the relevant representations. And as part as our role is, we will be interrogating the evidence that is in front of us, and we will be asking the applicant in the hearings questions. We also will be relying on the comments that's really received from statutory parties such as the councils, such as the environment, ageing, Historic Environment and um, Historic England.

00:34:44:11 - 00:35:19:21

Um, in order to interrogate the evidence that has been put forward and on the, um, cumulative effects, we've we've heard that loud and clear in the submissions, which is why we asked for the interrelationships with, um, projects that we've asked the applicant a document for them to prepare so that all of this information can be put into one document so that it makes it easier, hopefully for for us as well as yourselves, so that all of this is in one place so that we can understand what the relationship is with all of these surrounding projects as well.

00:35:19:23 - 00:35:55:06

And Mr. Wiltshire and myself have done site inspections last month and will continue to do them. So we have got a good understanding of the different pressures that are facing this area, and we're hearing that loud and clear. I hope that provides you some reassurance. I completely understand your comment about the amount of, um, of pages that's, um, um, that you've got to digest. I completely understand that. It is part of the process. It's not there's not a lot I can change at the moment regarding that, but I completely hear what you're saying on that.

00:35:55:14 - 00:35:58:01

I'll go back to you. Yes. Would you like to? It's.

00:35:58:05 - 00:36:44:26

There's just one more thing I'd like to say. Um, we're not only being passed by the Planning Inspectorate, where the quarry was passed by. Nottingham County Council Bassetlaw had actually passed the gas station, who at this present time doesn't. Isn't even here to comment on on things that it's passing. It's actually overseeing. The demolition of the power station. It should be here defending us as people. But apparently the Bassetlaw wants to show everybody how to do it right. The other thing I have a comment on is that when they passed West Burton Solar, it couldn't be passed with Cottam and Burton at the same time because as soon as as Ed Miliband came in, he passed Cottam and West, West, Burton and Burton and Cottam.

00:36:44:28 - 00:37:29:24

The only reason that he could not pass West Burton Solar was that the both the West Burton Solar and the fusion at clashed. So we we not only are we fighting the the cumulative impact of the projects, the projects are actually fighting themselves. And I do believe that this project is having problems with

the grid and other projects. The projects are actually colliding against themselves, so how can the cumulative effect impacts be fully understood when when you've got West, Bert and saw that and the fusion are actually colliding as we speak and West Burt and Solar, although it was passed by the Planning Inspectorate, it has now gone to correction.

00:37:29:26 - 00:37:34:22

So which we which as the villagers are reporting, we cannot we cannot see them.

00:37:34:24 - 00:38:08:02

I think we're just straying into into discussing some of the merits. But please hold some of those thoughts to for this afternoon's hearing and even tomorrow. Um, we just need to focus on the process in today's hearing. But all I can say is we hear loud and clear the, um, the concerns about the interrelationship with the number of projects and the cumulative. And hopefully we will have further discussion on the item agenda for in tomorrow's hearing. But please also as well. If you are coming to the open floor hearing this afternoon, do come and raise some more of those comments to us.

00:38:08:04 - 00:38:29:18

I think that's the most appropriate time for you to do that. But we hear what you're saying. Thank you. Is there is there anybody else in the room who wants to make any comments on the initial of the I happy? I don't see any hands up in the room. And but I'll turn to the to the council. Nottinghamshire County Council, please.

00:38:30:03 - 00:39:07:23

Thank you, sir Stephen Poynter Nottinghamshire county Council. Um, we're generally satisfied with the, um, uh, issues that are listed here. Uh, we notice, uh, and has been mentioned already the impacts on biodiversity and ecology. Um, my question is just when is that plan to be picked up in the issue specific hearings? It isn't listed explicitly for tomorrow. Uh, Which is covering environmental issues. So, uh, given our representations do cover ecology and I do have officers available to speak.

00:39:07:25 - 00:39:12:03

Um, I'd just like to know when that might be covered, please.

00:39:13:22 - 00:39:45:10

Yes. So it wasn't it wasn't explicitly stated in tomorrow's agenda. I think we were focusing more on the best and most versatile land for tomorrow for discussion. But we have heard the comments about, um, some of the information that's been submitted. So there is an opportunity for us to raise those as written questions. Um, if it turns up that it needs to be discussed in tomorrow's agenda and it's time for us to do that, then by, of course, we will seek to try and accommodate that if we can.

00:39:45:20 - 00:40:17:02

Um, but at the moment, I think the ecology and particularly the ecology reports are things that we've got in our mind for written questions. But we also have further hearings, which I'll come on to when we discuss the timetable where other topics may be. Tomorrow's agenda is really just to try and look at those issues, which have really stood out to us, that we want to try and get some initial, um, discussion on some initial questions verbally. Um, we'll see how tomorrow goes and if there's an opportunity, particularly in agenda item eight.

00:40:17:05 - 00:40:23:26

Um, then we will we will try and accommodate that. Thank you. Yes.

00:40:24:06 - 00:40:35:05

Sorry. Julie Barlow for fields for farming. Um, we had a similar question that included biodiversity, ecology, but also traffic. So assuming the same will apply.

00:40:35:29 - 00:41:05:06

Absolutely. The, um, if if something's not on the agenda for tomorrow, that doesn't mean to say that we're not going to be looking at it is just what we fitted. We could fit into the one day tomorrow, but we're well aware of the comments that have been raised on, on traffic in, in the relevant representations we've heard. So we can be asking written questions on that and if need be, and we need to, um, ask questions verbally, then we have an opportunity to do that at further hearings.

00:41:07:10 - 00:41:17:00

Okay. I think that's that's everybody in the room who's who's participated. Is there anybody online who wants to raise any comments on the IRP?

00:41:19:07 - 00:41:52:16

No, I don't see any hands. So that concludes this item of the agenda. Thank you. Um, I'll now turn to agenda item four, which is the draft examination timetable. Um, so the draft timetable is set out in detail in annex D of our rule six letter. And it would be useful to have it in front of you for this item for the benefit of those that haven't. Um, I think the applicant is displaying on the screen. Thank you very much. Yes. Um, so the timetable covers the whole period of the examination.

00:41:52:20 - 00:42:26:04

Um, And please note that the examining authority is under a statutory duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of six months, beginning with the day after the close of today's meeting. Um, so in other words, there is a maximum six month period to examine nationally infrastructure projects, and that applies to all projects irrespective of their size and complexity. At this stage, we have proposed a maximum five month period. Um, we're aware of comments by parties in the procedural deadline.

00:42:26:06 - 00:43:06:07

A submissions which consider the proposed time period is very short. Um, however, it has been set in line with the examinations for similar nationally significant solar farm proposals is at this stage, we consider this period is sufficient to enable the application to be thoroughly assessed. It also aligns with government expectations on reducing the length of examinations from the statutory maximum six month period where possible. However, should it be necessary to extend the completion beyond this date, for example, because further information is necessary, we would inform parties of this under a procedural decision.

00:43:06:29 - 00:43:40:02

The draft timetable includes dates for future hearings, site inspections and deadlines for submission of written documents. It also includes the dates on which we propose to issue documents, such as our

written questions, and the proposed schedule of changes to the draft Development Consent Order, to name but a few. So the timetable is just provisional at the moment. We'll be listening to any comments that we hear from you today, and will take account of all submissions that are made both already today and previously in writing, before finalising the timetable.

00:43:40:25 - 00:44:14:08

We intend to issue a final timetable in our rule eight letter as soon as possible after this meeting. I do not intend to run through each deadline in the draft timetable in detail, but for the benefit of those unfamiliar with this process, I will briefly run through the key points in the deadlines and the dates before inviting comments from parties. So there's a total of six deadlines, and the deadline for submission on those days is always 23, 59, or one minute to midnight.

00:44:15:00 - 00:44:49:19

So following the start of the examination, which will which will occur after the close of this meeting, we will hold an open floor hearing, which is scheduled for 3:00 this afternoon. This provides an opportunity for individual parties and community groups to speak directly to us. Voicing your views on the proposed development. There will then be an issue specific hearing taking place throughout tomorrow, where the examining authority will ask questions and lead a discussion on the topics set out in the detailed agenda, which was issued on the 21st of October.

00:44:50:03 - 00:45:21:05

All interested parties are welcome to attend and participate in this hearing. And just to elaborate further on what I said before, we would encourage anybody who wants to participate. Please do so. We want to listen to what you have to say. Deadline one is currently timetable for the 25th of November, and at this deadline we want to receive full written representation from interested parties. We have requested local impact reports from the host, from the host local authorities.

00:45:21:10 - 00:45:45:00

We have also requested comments on relevant representations. Whilst this is likely to primarily be the applicant responding to comments. All parties are welcome to submit comments on any of the relevant representations. So if anybody has seen any comments that they've seen in relevant representations raised by other individuals, and you want to make a comment on that, you can do at that deadline.

00:45:47:06 - 00:46:22:02

We will publish our first written questions on Thursday the 11th of December. Deadline two is currently timetabled for Tuesday, the 6th of January 2026, where responses to our first written questions will be due. We have scheduled just under four weeks to provide sufficient time for parties to respond to questions. Accounting for the three public holidays over the Christmas period. Parties are also invited to submit any comments they wish on any of the deadline one submissions.

00:46:23:04 - 00:46:59:27

We have provisionally scheduled hearings during the week commencing the 9th of February. This will likely include further issue specific hearings that focus on particular topics, for example, noise or flood risk or traffic. Going back to the comment that was that was raised before. We will also hold a compulsory acquisition hearing in any further open floor and hearing should we receive any requests.

So if anybody is, um, wants to request a compulsory acquisition hearing, um, then you can do that through the examination process.

00:46:59:29 - 00:47:43:10

And we'd encourage people to do that by deadline. One, if they wish to wish to do that, we will aim to publish agendas for these hearings as soon as possible to provide sufficient notice, notice to parties of the topics that we intend to cover. At this stage, we do not envisage that we will require an additional week for hearings, although this can be revisited if necessary. We conducted unaccompanied site inspection on the 14th and 15th of October, and a note of this can be found at reference EV 001 on the examination library, which is a summary of the locations that we visited during our site inspections.

00:47:43:12 - 00:48:14:05

But there's also the potential for a accompanied site inspection during this week if necessary. This is usually reserved for where we are required to access private land, or if someone wants to draw our attention to something in particular that is not possible from the public domain. We will publish our second written questions on Tuesday the 3rd of March. There will be a three week period until deadline five, where responses to those questions will be due.

00:48:14:29 - 00:48:56:10

Our schedule of changes to the Draft Development Consent Order is scheduled for Monday, the 30th of March. The final deadline is scheduled for Wednesday, the 8th of April, where all final documents and submissions will be due and we intend to close the examination on Friday the 10th of April. I hope that provides a useful summary of the timetable for people. I am going to invite comments on the floor. Um, but before I do, I'm conscious that the time is getting close to to 10 to 10, and I don't want us to be running close to to when we are going to observe the two minute silence.

00:48:56:12 - 00:49:13:13

So I'm now going to adjourn the hearing at this particular sorry, this meeting at this particular point. But when we return, I will go through, um, I will go around the people's comments on before we adjourn. I will take the question at the back of the room from Christine Warren.

00:49:13:24 - 00:49:43:25

Hi. Um, Christine Warren again. Um, in 2022, the landowner who acquired the land in 2021, applied for the right to walk to stop us, walk in the land, which was submitted to Gary Woods at Nottingham County Council. Um, although I rang the council, I never got any answer as to whether the landowner actually has stopped us walking the land. So would you have to ask permission to walk on his land because he is trying to stop us walking the land.

00:49:44:25 - 00:50:20:15

I think a comment like that probably needs to be submitted directly to the council, or you can raise it in one of your deadline one submissions, and it may be if it's relevant to this particular project. We can ask the council that particular question, but I'm not going to to ask for a response from that today. But there's two options there for you can either directly respond to council or by all means make that submit a submission in writing to the examination, and if need be, then we can ask a question to the council for them to confirm that.

00:50:21:04 - 00:50:33:25

Okay, so the time is now 10 to 10. We will adjourn for 20 minutes and we will resume at 11:10. So this preliminary meeting is now adjourned till 11:10. Thank you.