

Steeple_OFH_11 NOV

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FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:04:26 - 00:00:39:29

Afternoon. It's now 3 p.m. and time for this hearing to begin. I would like to welcome you all to this open floor hearing for the Steeple Renewables project. Can I just confirm that everybody can hear me clearly. Thank you. Can I also confirm with Mr. Berryman that the live streaming and recording of this event has commenced? Thank you. My name is Max Welch. I'm a chartered civil engineer, and I've been appointed by the secretary of state with the lead member of the panel to examine this application.

00:00:40:23 - 00:00:44:16

I'm now going to ask the other panel member to introduce himself.

00:00:46:14 - 00:00:47:08

Good afternoon.

00:00:47:10 - 00:00:57:29

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

00:01:00:03 - 00:01:31:28

Thank you. Together, we constitute the examining authority for this application. For those of you who are present in the room, you may have already spoken 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. 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. I'll now deal with a few housekeeping matters for those attending in person.

00:01:33:09 - 00:02:07:10

Can everybody please set all devices and phones to silent to get to the toilets? Turn left. Outside this room there is a single toilet on the ground floor under the stairs. The ladies and gentleman's toilets are located on the first floor at the top of the stairs. Fire alarms 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 to my left. The meeting point is the car park in front of this building.

00:02:09:25 - 00:02:33:21

Moving on to agenda and logistics and agenda has not been prepared for this hearing, because its purpose is to hear the representations of interested parties who have registered to make all

representations, elaborating on their written representation to date. Shortly, I'll ask for a show of hands of who wishes to speak. We will then invite you to speak in turn.

00:02:35:21 - 00:03:12:25

Today's hearing is being undertaken in a hybrid way. I'm going to ignore this because there's nobody, um, online. Um, the recording of today's hearing will be made available on the Staple Renewable 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 stating your name and who you are representing. Each time before you speak particularly, are you speaking on behalf of yourself or for a wider group?

00:03:14:13 - 00:03:30:12

Um, we will ask you to come forward to one of the microphones at the table, and then there's a button on it that you press to speak, and it will be read, um, when it's set for you to, to speak through the microphone.

00:03:35:00 - 00:03:56:05

A link to the Planning Inspectorate Privacy Notice was provided in the notification for this hearing. 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.

00:03:59:09 - 00:04:21:24

The purpose of this hearing, open floor hearings are your opportunity to raise anything directly to the examining authority that is important and relevant, and that you think we should know about and consider. They are not about a particular location or topic. The topic of your representations about the proposals is therefore up to yourself.

00:04:23:24 - 00:04:32:24

Anybody who speaks is asked to provide a post hearing note post hearing written submission of their oral cases as heard at this hearing.

00:04:36:18 - 00:05:04:17

We do not intend setting a strict time limit today, but would ask that your submissions are concise and to the point, and to be concluded within about ten minutes. Once you've spoken the panel, that's, um. Mr. Robinson myself may wish to ask you questions. Finally, the applicant will be given an opportunity to respond to any matters raised. Once all speakers have been heard, either orally or in writing by deadline one.

00:05:08:06 - 00:05:16:22

I'll move on to introductions before we hear from any speakers. Can I ask who will be speaking for the applicant today, please?

00:05:28:00 - 00:05:53:15

Good afternoon. My name is Patrick Robinson of Burgess Salmon Solicitors. I'm the consultant with them and representing the applicant today. Um, we've noticed I'm usually sitting over there, um, and

not intending doing anything other than, as you said, maybe at the end, responding. Uh, we'll come over to the table here. But as the process is going on, I wouldn't expect we'd make any comments while Well, people are making their presentations.

00:05:54:03 - 00:05:55:12

Thank you, Mr. Robinson.

00:05:57:21 - 00:06:16:25

I will now invite representations from those interested parties who who gave the requested notice to us of their intention to speak. Please, could you raise your hand if you would like to speak? I'll ask you, um, as you speak into the microphone to give us your name, please.

00:06:20:00 - 00:06:22:24

James Barlow from North London. Windmill.

00:06:25:17 - 00:06:28:15

Julie Barlow, a resident of Stoneleigh Steeple.

00:06:32:23 - 00:06:35:19

Robert Fleming, a resident of Stepney Steeple.

00:06:39:03 - 00:06:49:01

Peter Warburton, also a resident of Stirton, retired farmer. Could I just ask how much of this is to be duplicated? Tomorrow's meeting.

00:06:51:20 - 00:07:00:05

Um, well, we've issued an agenda of the items we wish to, um, cover tomorrow. Um.

00:07:03:02 - 00:07:33:28

I suppose if you're asking about how much you need to include today, I would encourage you to include as much as you think today. But you'll get an opportunity to mo to speak on those particular topics and hear what the, um, the applicant and other parties have to say on them, um, in more detail. But, you know, basically because we have more time and, um, we will have other experts here who will speak on those particular topics. So, um, does that give you enough guidance?

00:07:37:29 - 00:07:48:06

I wanted to say something, but I haven't made provision for writing a report to give to you afterwards. But I shall come tomorrow. Uh, would that suffice?

00:07:48:20 - 00:07:50:00

Oh, Absolutely. Yes.

00:07:50:12 - 00:07:51:00

Thank you.

00:07:54:28 - 00:08:05:22

Ruth Edwards fields for farming, also a Stirton resident, also the Cpre planning volunteer for Bassetlaw.

00:08:06:18 - 00:08:18:16

Thank you. Um, Mrs. Edwards. Um, I just would say, when you do speak, um, make it clear who you're speaking on behalf. Um, of. Thank you.

00:08:26:15 - 00:08:29:29

Uh, Christine Warren, resident of steeple.

00:08:41:08 - 00:08:43:08

Thank you very much. Um.

00:08:46:22 - 00:08:56:08

So, without further ado, um, I would like to ask the first person to come forward and, um, address us, please. Um.

00:08:58:13 - 00:08:59:09

Thank you.

00:09:11:25 - 00:09:43:01

Good afternoon. Um, Julie Barlow, I live in Stoneleigh Steeple. I'm a local school gov'nor, volunteer at North Leverton Windmill. Farmer's wife and I have worked in the energy sector previously. Um, I'm speaking today on behalf of myself and my husband. Um, when I refer to the village, I'm talking of Stoneleigh Steeple. And when I talk about the community, I'm referring to Littleborough, Fenton, North Leverton and Wheatley. Um, it's a close knit community. We have shared morals and values, and we work together as a coherent group.

00:09:43:08 - 00:10:15:15

And I would say that this is my version two of my talk. My first version was 20 minutes long, so I've cut it down and I do apologize if there's any overlap left over from this morning. Um, we have to examine an authority to recognize the intrinsic value of our countryside, its diverse landscape, the heritage, the wildlife, and the social economic fabric the community has already given and continues to give to the national need for both energy and food security.

00:10:15:18 - 00:10:50:21

But enough is enough. We are not NIMBYs. We are not anti-social. But this project is just too big, all encompassing. If granted, Feels will become an industrial estate. The area is a melting pot of projects including mineral extraction, power generation and grid infrastructure on tenanted land not owned by the farmers who work it. We've tried to engage and we said this morning, we're not experts, and we've drowned in the thousands of pages, vague maps and intimidating CPO letters.

00:10:51:12 - 00:11:19:05

Words like indicative, typical, and outline dominate the documents. More definition is needed to assess real impacts. Maps are deliberately misleading and omit overlapping projects on the same land.

The CPO letters lack clarity on red line boundaries, yet earlier detailed maps were provided to us when surveys were required no negotiation or explanation in them.

00:11:21:06 - 00:11:51:25

The applicant claims to have listened. Changes to the plan have been forced not chosen. HGV accessing road in North Laverton and solar panels on elevated slopes. Some simply wouldn't have been permitted. The design is driven by Project Collision, not consultation. We are a village besieged. The AI repeatedly calls impacts minor and insignificant, but this is when looked at in isolation.

00:11:52:00 - 00:12:23:17

There is no single map, no joined up traffic plan, no honest cumulative assessment. The project list grows weekly. West Purton West Burton power station, demolition. Wood Lane Solar, Stirton quarry West Burton solar cabling, National grid maintenance as well as upgrade step fusion. This scheme sternly steeply will be encircled and more is to come.

00:12:23:19 - 00:12:48:16

Recently announced. We've already heard of the Cottam nuclear powered data Centre and the high meinem, a prototype hydrogen power station. No other village faces being subject to project saturation, and no other community has so many CIP projects. One concept at a time. Our community spirit is eroding.

00:12:50:07 - 00:13:21:28

I believe the mitigation hierarchy has been ignored. It skips to avoidance. It's sorry. It skips avoidance, jumping to offsetting and new habitats. Wildlife is wild. It does not naturally follow corridors. Baseline data is out of date. Pre quarry. Pre. Pre. Demolition. Deers. Badgers. Barn owls have already been displaced. Confidential Badger reports were published in error. A breach of trust already.

00:13:22:22 - 00:13:29:15

Cumulative displacement will sever habitat connectivity. When it's gone, it's gone.

00:13:31:00 - 00:14:02:23

Heritage. Our landscape includes designated and non designated assets. Ancient field patterns Roman crop marks, medieval ruins, buried artifacts, numerous listed buildings, and pivotal historical individuals. Trial trenching risks irreversible harm before it's been fully evaluated and consulted on. We urge further interrogation of heritage impacts with regards to flood.

00:14:02:25 - 00:14:34:10

We're not flood experts, but we live with the reality. North Levittown 68 homes flooded in 2007 and millions of pounds of damage. Stirton. Traffic chaos and road closures. Road closures on a regular basis. North Wheatley The primary school, closed four times since 2007. All surface water runoff boreholes show groundwater at just over one meter below ground level in parts of the site.

00:14:35:05 - 00:15:08:28

The quarry had to pump continuously during construction, and as a result, piling took much longer than planned. Sudden attenuation ponds are proposed, but can we be assured they will work on clay and sand? We are washing runoff and feel drainage. Damage are unaddressed and will compound this

problem. The flood risk assessment ignores cumulative schemes with regards to landscape. 118 fields will be taken up by this project.

00:15:09:05 - 00:15:41:22

Panels will industrialise a landscape returning to former glory after the cooling towers are demolished. Cotton towers have recently been demolished. And boy, what a big difference that has made. Every public right of way, bridleway and road from the village is affected. Hedgerow mitigation will feel like walking in a maze with no way out. And views of North Petherton. Sorry. Views from and off North Laverton Windmill will be lost.

00:15:42:08 - 00:16:16:05

Soil compaction may permanently damage agricultural potential. Animal failure has recently been seen at port when risks contamination. Environmental permitting regulations currently do not cover solar and Bess decommissioning. Recycling routes are as yet unknown. Brownfield reclassification is possible and who will pick up the costs? The future isn't clear with regard to the population.

00:16:17:12 - 00:16:52:03

Currently, community demographics show we're heading towards being an ageing population. The Stirton Ward plan seeks young families and first time buyers. This project will deter them, especially during the construction period, maybe beyond given what else is happening or planned. Unlike step, there is no training pipeline. Contractors and labor will be imported. Hotels in Retford may benefit, but tenant farmers lose livelihoods and homes with multiple generations affected.

00:16:52:15 - 00:17:02:27

Tourism, including North Laverton Windmill, will suffer. Community benefit funds cannot offset mental health harm and loss of our amenity.

00:17:04:20 - 00:17:39:10

Transport and safety 1970 HGV trips in the peak month that excludes cars and vans six days a week for this project alone. Gainsborough Road The national speed limit applies, but it has no footpaths. Is the only main road into the village. It's not an easy road, it's not even classified as a C road. Wheatley road is narrow and crumbling. Public right of way closures will force walkers riders onto roads, some without footpaths or lights.

00:17:40:00 - 00:18:16:24

The Gainsborough Station Road junction is beside the school and village bus stop already sees many regular near misses, with people failing to give way. In the event of an accident or road closure, there is no alternative route. Emergency access could be cut off the cumulative traffic of the power station. The national grid westbound solar and the quarry creates unmanaged risk in the village and wider community. In conclusion, the application is poorly defined, lacking detail, and disregards cumulative reality.

00:18:17:07 - 00:18:43:15

Mitigation is cursory, avoidance is ignored, and community voice has been sidelined. The issue is scheduled tomorrow and we'll look at cumulative impact, landscape, heritage, flood and land use. We

trust further issues. Specific hearings will scrutinise. Transport, biodiversity and ecology. They need further consideration to. Thank you.

00:18:44:17 - 00:18:50:03

Thank you that that was very clear. I haven't any further questions for you, Mr. Robinson.

00:18:50:29 - 00:18:59:06

No, I just echo Mr. Wiltshire. I was very clear and made quite a lot of notes there on the points that you've made. So thank you for your submission. Okay.

00:19:01:13 - 00:19:12:24

The next person I've got on my list is, um. I've got James Marlow. Are you speaking as well, or was that, um. Okay. Thank you.

00:19:16:12 - 00:19:24:24

You can remember to state your name and who you're speaking on behalf of for the, um, the recorded record. Thank you.

00:19:43:01 - 00:19:44:15

Okay. Thank you.

00:19:44:24 - 00:19:46:21

Can you hear me? Okay. Okay.

00:19:46:23 - 00:19:48:11

Thank you. Thank you. Okay.

00:19:48:13 - 00:20:20:06

My name is James Barlow, and I'm speaking here to represent North Lebanon Windmill, one of the heritage assets in the area. Okay. Firstly, please, will you bear with me as I'm not a paid consultant. I'm not a lawyer. And I'm very uncomfortable speaking in public. But I am a resident of certain. I'm a farmer, and I'm the chairman of the Board of Trustees of North Lebanon Windmill and feel it's very important to highlight the negative impacts this development will have on the community and on North Lipton Windmill.

00:20:21:07 - 00:20:55:00

I'm speaking on behalf of North Left Windmill Charitable Trust, who owns and operates North Left and Windmill. Personally, my family have lived in the area for many generations. I'm a descendant of one of the five people tasked with building the windmill in 1813. I undertook an apprenticeship at the windmill when I left school, and have been volunteer miller since 2008, when the charitable trust was formed. The windmill is unique. It's the only windmill in the UK that has been in continuous working order, grinding flour and animal feed since the day it was built.

00:20:56:07 - 00:21:28:11

I suggest this project conflicts with policy relating to heritage. The parish councils have already filed submissions to demonstrate the project material conflicts with the ward plan. The plan that aims to

protect the rural landscape and historic settings, but with specific reference to the windmill and policy. The scale and visual dominance of the solar farm will fail to respect local character in important views. This is policy five, the national planning policy framework.

00:21:28:13 - 00:22:07:16

Paragraph 154 requires large scale renewables to be assessed for their impact on landscape and character. The setting of this designated heritage asset is a material consideration in this regard. In addition, a designated heritage significance can be derived from its setting. Harm to the setting, even if less than substantial, must be given considerable importance and weight in planning decisions. I feel brown sites, brownfield sites or industrial zones could provide more appropriate locations for such a project where the environmental and community impact could be significantly reduced.

00:22:07:28 - 00:22:14:00

This project will cause harm to the windmill for over 40 years and is potentially irreversible.

00:22:15:17 - 00:22:51:04

The windmill today. Today, the trust is run entirely by volunteers and is reliance on donations from the community, visitors and tourists, as well as grant funding. Visitors to the windmill can see firsthand what the original purpose of the windmill was and still is, and how it fits with the rural and mainly agricultural landscape. The visitor experience is a hands by visitor center, guided tours and magnificent views. The windmill is also a focal point for the community, hosting events and open days which raise funds and keeps our community spirit and pride of place alive.

00:22:51:23 - 00:23:34:03

Our objectives are critical to the windmill sustainability and have direct relevance to the renewable project we currently benefit from. Many visitors ramblers, walkers, schools, tourists, families, groups. That list goes on. This development will threaten the sustainability of the windmill. The visual impact. The windmills visual setting is part of its heritage value and is a critical part of its appeal. A large scale modern solar farm in the surrounding fields creates a stark visual your contrast entirely industrialising the rural view and disregarding the historic content? Yes, we've had the power stations on the horizon since the 1960s.

00:23:34:05 - 00:23:47:24

However, cotton has all but vanished and Westbeth is now being demolished. The proximity of certain renewables project is to close, and isn't really comparable to the power stations, which have a much, much smaller footprint.

00:23:50:26 - 00:24:22:27

A large scale industrial installation of solar panels on greenfield land would fundamentally alter the rural character of the landscape surrounding the mill, and impacting 180 degrees of its views. Windmills by the nature are built on higher ground, so it's difficult to comprehend that screening would be effective both in terms of how long it would take for the trees to grow to the height of the third floor. Windows and trees close to the mill would also be counterproductive, as we're trying to maintain the views over the Trent Valley and from the tower trees and from the tower.

00:24:23:01 - 00:24:46:18

trees may also impede the wind flows, which are critical to the windmills operation. The position of the sails also had continued to have symbolic meanings, as they can be seen from afar. The sails of Northland have sent Saint George's Cross as a mark of respect, when somebody with importance of the community passes. The windmill was immediately set to the position on the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.

00:24:49:02 - 00:25:23:09

The proposed screening will interrupt these views from local villages, footpaths, bridleways, etc.. The windmill is a unique historic asset and should be protected from industrial developments in its immediate settings. The visual impacts of the development have been greatly underestimated and the photographs used are misleading. Examples being. Appendix 62 refers to the summer when the dates on some of the photographs, the 19th of October photographs taken from low level at the mill gate, which isn't relevant to climbing the mill tower.

00:25:23:24 - 00:25:58:24

Many photographs with the power station call the towers which dominate the layout that dominate the landscape. But no pictures. Looking towards the windmill that can be seen from many footpaths, roads and are included in the proposal. The proposed project would degrade the windmill sense of place and historic context, and destroy the windmills pride of place within the local community. The project will affect the visual experience for visitors, residents and those who appreciate its setting. A visit to the windmill and the views from Retford Road, Laverton Hill, Dog Hills Lane, Thornhill Lane will make this obvious.

00:25:59:08 - 00:26:08:14

I suggest you visit the windmill and see the impact of the views from the windmill tower itself. Go inside the windmill and look out, and I would be more than happy to arrange this for anybody.

00:26:10:19 - 00:26:39:23

Consultation and EIA. The applicant made no contact with the windmill trustees during the consultation process when they I attended a meeting as a resident of Stoneleigh Steeple, I asked what mitigation being considered for the windmill. The original response was there was no impact. When questioned about view, trees were suggested as mitigation. It was a trust that invited the applicant to see the impact. After reading the chapter nine environmental statement.

00:26:39:25 - 00:26:40:13

Heritage.

00:26:40:15 - 00:27:12:14

In early 2025. The applicant's documentation is inaccurate. It states the windmill cottages are unoccupied. This is not true. The current tenant has been living there since 2013. Windmill cottage is owned by the trust and is rented out to generate income. The windmill has not been correctly described and certain impacts are not addressed. The impact assessment states. While the height is an illustration of the function of the asset and make some small contribution to its significance.

00:27:12:16 - 00:27:48:00

Windmills were not designed personally, purposefully to be seen from great distances. The change would result in a negligible impact upon the significance of the asset and would result in a minor adverse effect, which is not significant. This is simply not true. The sales, as discussed earlier, were used as a method of communication with within the community. The setting of the heritage asset is not limited to its immediate surroundings, and can include important views towards and away from the site, which contribute to how their asset significance is understood and appreciated.

00:27:48:22 - 00:28:26:03

The asset. The assessment of significance of significance includes not only architectural and historic value, but also aesthetic and communal values, which often involve the visual experience and the appreciation of the asset from various viewpoints. The original design intent, whether it was intended to be seen from afar or not, is less relevant than how the asset is currently experienced and how its historic significance is currently understood, many historic structures, regardless of original intent, acquire wider visual and communal significance over time.

00:28:26:05 - 00:28:50:12

An example could be Clifton Suspension Bridge was designed to cross the river. It's now a visual landmark and is known as a feat of engineering. Wider heritage content. The area is rich in heritage assets. Historic England has over 60 listings for the parishes of Certainly steeple, North London with Abersoch and South Wheatley. The area is pivotal in our history both in depth and breadth.

00:28:52:05 - 00:29:22:11

The area around Stoneleigh Steeple is considered an important heritage landscape too, due to its deep and continuous history featuring Roman and Anglo-Saxon settlements, medieval open fields and especially it's a pivotal role in the Pilgrim Fathers and the Baptist movement. The landscape is rich in historical character, from its early use as a strategic river crossing to its later religious important. I'm not going into the wider heritage assets of the community, but there are many and others will speak about them.

00:29:24:12 - 00:29:32:23

It's difficult to comprehend. Our informed decisions regarding this project can be made when the applicant has given no respect or regard to the heritage and history of the area.

00:29:34:21 - 00:30:15:03

Okay, to conclude, the applicant may have followed the required procedures. However, the assessments, conclusions and proposed mitigation measures are cursory in disregard the area's numerous important heritage assets. We urge you and Historic England to ensure that the windmill and other heritage assets are protected. Simply proposing further mitigation during the project's development is not sufficient. In the opinion of the Board of Trustees, this project should be rejected on the grounds of disregard to the wider heritage assets in the immediate area, its effect on our landscape and the harm to our developing tourism industry, which all contribute significantly to the economic growth of the area.

00:30:16:02 - 00:30:24:06

We had the contact with the custodians of our heritage. We bear the responsibility of protecting it today so that its historic value and culture

00:30:25:23 - 00:30:31:16

endure for the benefits of future generations. You too are part of that.

00:30:31:27 - 00:30:54:29

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Marler. That was really clear. And, um, we do appreciate the detail that you've given us. That's, um, helped us with what we saw on the site visit both near the windmill and in the views that we observed to it. I haven't any further questions for you. Um, Mr. Robinson?

00:30:55:26 - 00:31:15:02

Yeah. Thanks for your, um, your submission there. There's just one thing that you said I'd quite like you to just explain a bit. You said the sails were used as a method of communication between the community and thinking about what its historical sort of purpose was. Could you just explain to us a little bit more about that, please?

00:31:15:13 - 00:31:45:14

Uh, yes, I can. Uh, so very much historically. So if somebody locally probably involved with the windmill or farming were to die, then the sales would be set at the Saint George's Cross as a mark of respect, but also so that the population of the village would recognize that somebody connected to a windmill had died as its first, the second the sales could be set at. Normally, when parked, they set it to Saint Andrew's Cross. If there then turned just a few degrees.

00:31:45:16 - 00:32:19:20

So there off of that cross that was to signify that the mill required work doing so in the day, traveling people would recognize the set. Sorry, the sales had been off that cross, and a traveling tradesman would call into the mill. So they. I see you need some work doing a third one would just be before the Saint Andrew's cross. The miller may leave that leave the sales in that position to signify that he's gone for lunch. And so the local farmers wouldn't call to the mill. So they're the historic reasons why it could be left in different positions, which people recognize today.

00:32:19:22 - 00:32:21:28

And it can be seen from afar.

00:32:23:22 - 00:32:27:00

Okay, Kenneth, thank you for that. That's really clear. Thanks.

00:32:27:13 - 00:32:28:16

Thank you very much.

00:32:32:13 - 00:32:35:26

The next person on my list is Mr. Fleming. Please.

00:32:58:09 - 00:33:02:24

If you could just introduce yourself again, Mr. Fleming. My name is Robert Fleming, and I'm.

00:33:02:26 - 00:33:04:20

A resident of Stirton, the stable.

00:33:06:26 - 00:33:07:20

Thank you.

00:33:09:09 - 00:33:11:21

My name is Robert Fleming. I'm aged 80.

00:33:11:23 - 00:33:42:07

And I've been a resident of Stirling, the stable, for almost 40 years. During that time, I've served my community in the capacity as parish councillor, including 2 or 3 year terms as chairman. A certain school governor and I serve as the resident's representative on the Stirton Quarry Liaison Committee. I organized and ran both the Neighbourhood Watch and the speed watch schemes in the village, and to ensure the right destination upon my demise. I attend the village churchyard on a regular basis.

00:33:43:15 - 00:33:59:06

The Romans founded Stirton, the staple in the Trent Valley, almost two millennia ago, when the agricultural products of the area were shipped by river to the North Sea and then onward to the Roman armies fighting on the fighting the Germanic tribes on the Roman Empire's northern frontier.

00:34:00:23 - 00:34:36:20

As a legacy of their occupation, they left us Britain's largest unexcavated Roman town of Oakham, in the fields at Littleborough. Roman brick and tiles were used in the building of Saint Nicholas Church in the same settlement around the second half of the 11th century. About 1089 1090. Over the following years, the village witnessed the passage of King Harald. In October 1066, on his ill fated journey to Hastings. King William the First travelled through the settlement in the opposite direction on his campaign that led to the harrying of the North.

00:34:36:27 - 00:34:54:24

Between 1069 and 1072, Oliver Cromwell stayed locally at Fenton Hall and a number of occasions during the Civil War, and many of the characters we know now as the Pilgrim Fathers were associated with the village prior to their departure to the Americas.

00:34:56:15 - 00:35:33:06

A field surrounding our village are amongst the most productive in the county. This year's crop of wheat was harvested in the field alongside my home. Last year it was rapeseed and barley the year before. Make no mistake. This resolution proposes to obliterate our quiet and tranquil way of life with its wide open fields, byways and footpaths with a 1700 acre solar park. In a couple of years, it will destroy the area's principal economic activity, that of food production, at a time when the country's annual food production continues to fall dramatically.

00:35:33:17 - 00:35:46:04

This and numerous other projects in the pipeline, will turn the area from a quiet, rural location into a wasteland, a vast industrial park to meet the needs of the government's net zero energy policy.

00:35:48:09 - 00:36:20:12

Residents of Cleeve Hill in Kent, the first Ansip solar facility to be completed so far, have described their experience as living through a nightmare of noise and disruption. Mud, HGV convoys damaged infrastructure, loss of footpaths and broken promises. Says they claim there is still no sign of the landscape planting the developers required to fund and deliver as part of its development consent order. None of the agreed community benefits have been delivered and the promised biodiversity improvements have not materialised either.

00:36:21:12 - 00:36:57:06

Over the weekend, I visited the residents living at the Farm Sarah site, which is about a mile and a half from here. They complain of constant loud humming noise from the inverters, trespass by contractors and of HGVs of aggressive and arrogant and rude drivers, damage to roads and the grass verges and concrete hard standings. Not only that, they have a loss of phone and V and Hi-Fi Wi-Fi signal loss, plus loss of business income due to the intermittent electromagnetic interference with telephone signals.

00:36:58:09 - 00:37:34:29

This isn't our first video. I beg your pardon? This is not our first rodeo. We've lived through the years of wind farm applications, the constant stream of traffic during the buildings of the gas powered generating units on the West Burton site, and the and the broken section 106 conditions for the development of Stirton Quarry. We've experienced the development, we've experience of developers who ignore local concerns and seem to be concerned. They seem to be supported by County Hall and the fact that there's no one here from Bassetlaw District Council tends to reinforce the point.

00:37:37:15 - 00:38:08:14

Being a remote, quiet, rural village, there is little infrastructure or social activities for local residents to enjoy. However, our most popular activity, freely available, is that of walking our numerous footpaths and byways. If the walkers are lucky, they may catch a glimpse of our elusive deer population, be they muntjac or roe deer. They can enjoy the sightings of rabbits and our local foxes, who unfortunately are still subject to illegal activity by the local hunt. In spring, they're able to watch groups of.

00:38:08:21 - 00:38:45:19

They're able to catch groups of hers chasing each other across our wide open fields. They will see the latest additions to our resident birds species that now include buzzard, excuse me, red kite and egret. During the Covid lockdown, we all used these facilities to safeguard our mental health. Reduce our anxiety. Enjoy the fresh air which the abundant local wildlife and enjoy the passage of the seasons. During that time of restricted social activity, what does this application offer? In return, our green and pleasant valley will become a wasteland, and I mean wasteland by the fact that it wastes land.

00:38:46:08 - 00:38:50:24

Not that it's going to be unproductive, it just wasteland.

00:38:52:10 - 00:39:27:14

It will be turned into a wasteland covered with 800 800,000 solar panels, surrounded by nine foot high steel fencing CCTV cameras, noisy inverters, pile driving machinery, battery storage facilities and the loss of virtually all of our recreational facilities. Walking the path between these installations is a soul

destroying activity. Every installation is identical to the next and open views virtually non-existent. And for what the most inefficient and 100 technique of general generating electricity known to man.

00:39:28:02 - 00:39:59:13

We are not NIMBYs. Large scale electricity generation and distribution has been in our blood since the 1960s, as 40 plus pylons visible from my garden will confirm. We accepted the establishments of dirt and quarry, and the news of the groundbreaking Step project to be built at Westbury on the West Burton site. Remember this we have three gas fired power generating units operating 24 over seven. At the moment we have the West Burton Flash Recovery program currently underway, plus the ongoing demolition of West Burton A.

00:40:00:03 - 00:40:36:21

When I was chairman of the parish council, I had to deal with the complaints and residents about the disruption caused by the building of these gas powered units, with road traffic rolling through the village from 6 a.m. until 11:00, six days a week. Some years ago, we agreed to the establishment of a small, smaller a small solar array of Wood Lane. In the intervening years. The village has been overwhelmed with proposals for at least 35 new industrial projects that appear to be announced almost every couple of months. If approved, this could turn the village into being the centre of one of the biggest concentrations of electricity industry in the country.

00:40:37:03 - 00:40:57:01

And what of the mental and physical health of our village residents, many of them elderly? Their properties devalued, their quality of life threatened, and now anxiously increasingly anxious for the future. Since this solar facility was announced, that had been more houses put on the market in the past 12 months than in the past 20 years.

00:40:58:21 - 00:41:44:08

we have endured the nuisance, the dust, the traffic resulting from the building of gas powered units at West Burton. The opening of Stirton Quarry. But now we are asked to accept the destruction of our one remaining amenity, our precious countryside and wide fields. We will experience the loss of our byways and footpaths turned into bland, nine foot high, fenced off areas observed by CCTV cameras at every turn. Gone will be our views of our precious Trent Valley, with its wide open fields stretching down to the river. Our remaining small landowners are being threatened with compulsory purchase to provide access for the hundreds of cables that were required to transport the electricity generated by the huge solar arrays already approved in Lincolnshire to the battery storage farm proposed for the West Burton site.

00:41:44:23 - 00:42:30:00

We learned recently that the route of the National Grid New North Humber to high more than 400 kilovolt, kilovolt electricity and electricity transmission has been changed and that will now pass within 300m to the west of some of the residents. On September the 15th, just eight weeks ago, it was announced that Britain's first SMR nuclear reactor is to be built on the former Cottam Power Station site, less than six kilometres from the centre of our village. Give me a nuclear power station generator generating electricity from a relatively small footprint on the landscape, not a land hungry solar installation, generating just four hours per day and destroying valuable agricultural land in the process.

00:42:30:10 - 00:43:01:23

Our contribution to the energy security and the net zero future promises to turn our historic and precious countryside into an open air nightmare, a virtual prison and industrial venture park devoid of character and wildlife surrounding, surrounded by a vast sea of proven, inefficient electricity generation. While the country imports even more foodstuffs than it can ill afford. What does this application say about improving our quality of life, our human rights, our mental health and future anxiety? Absolutely nothing.

00:43:02:00 - 00:43:04:03

Need I say more? Thank you.

00:43:06:00 - 00:43:07:01

Thank you, Mr. Fleming.

00:43:07:03 - 00:43:07:25

That was very.

00:43:07:27 - 00:43:09:05

Clear. Um.

00:43:09:09 - 00:43:14:03

Mr.. No, we don't have any further questions. Thank you.

00:43:14:05 - 00:43:14:29

Thank you.

00:43:18:29 - 00:43:20:21

Next person on my list is Mr..

00:43:20:23 - 00:43:21:10

Warburton.

00:43:21:12 - 00:43:22:05

Please.

00:43:31:01 - 00:43:31:21

Good afternoon.

00:43:31:23 - 00:43:32:18

Gentlemen.

00:43:32:24 - 00:43:33:13

I'm Peter.

00:43:33:15 - 00:44:10:15

Warburton. I've lived in Stirton stable all my life and farmed there since I left school in the early 60s. I've been a parish councillor for 36 years and now retired. Apart from co-ownership of a small parcel of land, don't have any direct involvement in soil. But I'm appalled by the proposed desecration of good land. My main concern is purely personal and selfish. Everybody else has expressed an opinion on the general impact that this is going to have on everybody else, but this is purely personal.

00:44:11:12 - 00:44:43:03

And I co-own with my brother a small parcel of land, which is in the segment D, and it stands out like a little island. The powers that be have tried to buy this off as previously, which we've rejected, and I'm concerned that the family has owned this for several generations and it will be purchased by compulsory purchase if this project goes ahead.

00:44:43:24 - 00:45:21:20

Um, when we retired, we, under the auspices of Sherwood Forest Trust and the Woodland Trust, we filled it with trees. This was done in the winter 2021 2022. The trees are now between 4ft and 6ft high. And it's rather ironic that the project to create this solar farm is to try and do something environmentally friendly, but to knock down these trees purely to put more panels in doesn't really, doesn't really solve an equation for me.

00:45:21:26 - 00:45:44:24

I accept many of the arguments about global warming, but I've got serious reservations about the nation's rush towards net zero, particularly the very limited impact solar panels have producing electricity. I personally have quite a few solar panels at ground level, and I know that between September and March they don't produce anything. So.

00:45:46:27 - 00:45:56:28

And look at it from both sides. And I know that most of this project is nothing to do with the environment, is purely to do with finance. Thank you.

00:45:57:21 - 00:46:06:19

Thank you, Mr. Woolverton. I can assure you we'll take note of that. To do with the land issue. Thank you.

00:46:12:13 - 00:46:15:01

Next is my list with Edwards, please.

00:46:23:01 - 00:46:39:03

Good afternoon. My name is Ruth Edwards. I would like to present one point on behalf of the campaign for the Protection of Rural England. And three points as the resident of Stirling, the staple.

00:46:40:25 - 00:47:13:02

The first point on behalf of the campaign for the Protection of Rural England. The Cpre APRA believes that solar installations should, wherever possible, be on structures and on brownfield sites, not on agricultural food producing land. This will become ever more important because of the world situation increasing insecurity,

00:47:14:26 - 00:47:40:01

and it is possible with that installation of solar on built structures, etc., that we provide between 60 and 70% of the requirement of energy. And there is no need for the mass solar which is currently projected throughout this country.

00:47:47:11 - 00:48:17:29

In the case of starting the steeple. The project I understand, is due to be on something like 87%. Best and most versatile land, certainly high producing agricultural land making our food. And I do request that this project is abandoned before any more land is taken out of food production.

00:48:18:01 - 00:48:24:01

Our food production will be ever more important in this insecure world.

00:48:29:07 - 00:49:01:06

That's my first point. The remaining points I make as a concerned resident assistant in the staple. First, I'm the coordinator of a U3, a walking group, and I'm aware that the countryside around us. Is extensively used for the activity of people not just from the locality, but also from the towns, and also from visitors who come from literally all over the world.

00:49:01:08 - 00:49:27:02

Because we are part of the Pilgrims Fathers area, and the moment that countryside is destroyed, we are taken away from people. The opportunity for refreshment, for mental refreshment, for leisure activity. And that must be considered that the well-being of people with the increasing mental illness that is witnessed in this country.

00:49:28:20 - 00:49:31:17

That countryside is preserved wherever possible.

00:49:33:18 - 00:49:34:24

Secondly,

00:49:36:21 - 00:50:09:13

should the project go ahead, there is no guarantee that the land will ever be restored. And I was amazed in one of the public consultations when asking the project people when and where the land would be restored and restored, to learn that there is no requirement for any funds to be lodged securely and with interest for restoration until 15 years after the project starts work.

00:50:09:22 - 00:50:24:19

This is wrong. There should be ample funds for the future restoration of any project to be lodged at the beginning of the project, and those funds will be held securely until the project is complete.

00:50:26:05 - 00:50:44:05

And talking of that project, its over 40 years during which there will be vast technological developments and quite a bit of the technology which is installed currently will be obsolete if not obsolescent as this actually being installed.

00:50:45:23 - 00:50:46:27

Secondly.

00:50:49:15 - 00:51:26:25

The land which is going to be used and therefore will be redundant in 40 years, hopefully could quite possibly be reclassified because there is no guarantee that it will be restored. And thirdly, I would appeal to you in that the scale of this project is inhuman. It's surrounding our village, our houses and the hamlet of Fenton with glass panels, eight foot high fences, security cameras and noise.

00:51:27:10 - 00:51:50:26

And in addition to this, there are, as you know, many other projects applied for both locally and nationally. And as I've said, the planning volunteer. And I do know that there are applications immediately north of the village for other bests and solar sites which will not be coming through, and they'll be coming through the local planning authority.

00:51:53:04 - 00:52:23:12

And so this will turn our village area into one huge industrial area, and it will take local land out of food production. It will take local homes, it will take local employment whilst providing nothing, because once the panels are installed, there will be no future employment. There will be monitored remotely. I would ask you to consider those to consider the human effect that this will have upon us all.

00:52:24:00 - 00:52:24:29

Thank you.

00:52:25:27 - 00:52:29:21

Thank you very much. That was very clear. Thank you very much.

00:52:33:08 - 00:52:37:10

Last person on my list in the room is, um, Christine Warren.

00:52:49:14 - 00:52:51:06

Hello, my name is Christine Warren.

00:52:59:15 - 00:53:34:02

My life changed completely in March 2023 when somebody photographed me in my own home, um, of which nobody seemed to give a damn. Um, so I started I also at that time, um, the planning application for West Burton gas station was in was, um, submitted. Um, I tried to contact, uh, Bassetlaw Council to no effect. I think my the case worker was Clare Cooke, followed by John Cusack, followed by, um, uh, Martin Bennett.

00:53:34:04 - 00:54:07:04

And at the time, at the same time in came West Burton Solar, which was the cable in from across the waters. So we had two projects or two projects, and I went to everybody I possibly could to find some help, of which I got none. None whatsoever. Plus the quarry. Um, it really submitted its planning

application, uh, which was extended in 2020. Um, and it went from, uh, tarmac to, um, Aggregate Industries.

00:54:07:15 - 00:54:40:20

Um, Nottingham County Council, they passed the quarry and they, they are very approachable. If you go to them with anything, they they will help you out. The my problem is, is there's so many projects coming in Bassetlaw are not not here today. Um, they're not interested. And if you try to broach any subjects of any projects that are coming up in the area, you don't know actually who who is actually overseeing them. Whisper and soul is being passed. The battery packs for the gas station were passed.

00:54:41:01 - 00:55:11:18

Um, and if if the West Burton solar when the the the quarry road that is used was specifically set for the quarry. It now because it's actually included in the in the um Planning Inspectorate uh decision can now be used by anybody. The what what my problem is, is who's overseeing it from from the west. Burton solar. When they went to the Planning Inspectorate, they sort of said, well, we oversee ourselves. Nobody oversees us, nobody looks.

00:55:11:20 - 00:55:44:15

What's going on? Um, so who who actually oversees when, when all this has passed, who oversees all these projects that are descending on our on our fields because the the the quarry. I know that I can talk to Tim Turner and I can actually talk to, um, and he comes and just, you know, we'll sort things out. I talked to the Quarrymen, the rest of the projects. It's as if nobody cares. Plus Bassetlaw Council. By the fact that they're not here at this moment in time, they're not interested.

00:55:44:17 - 00:56:15:02

How can they read the paperwork to say that these projects are getting it right when they're not here at the beginning of the projects? You know who who oversees all these projects that are passed, you know. Are they past? Do you come back? Because the people that are it's like a it's like a school that's got no headmaster because nobody nobody's overseeing what is happening that's actually happening in the area. The quarry was working out of hours. My security cameras picked up that they were working out of hours. I went to Nottingham County Council and said, it's wrong.

00:56:15:04 - 00:56:47:24

And they went right. We'll sort that out. It was sorted out the rest of the problems that are going to be coming in in the areas, there's nobody directly overseeing them. They're blowing the power station up. We're absolutely covered in dust. I wrote a letter to the environmental health at Bassetlaw Law Council. And I said, you know, we've got the noise, we've got all these things coming in, you know. Can can, you know, can I kind of put a complaint? Oh, you know, you can only complain about one thing, just noise. You can't complain about everything because will only will only take one.

00:56:47:27 - 00:57:23:00

The power station was actually started to be built in 1954. It was commissioned in 66. You can't tell me that there didn't some asbestos in that dust, because there's got to be. But the environmental health at Bassetlaw Council says there's no mitigating circumstances, that there is asbestos. We dust for two days when anything is blown up at West Burton Power Station. And by the time you've passed and

you've destroyed all our land, who do we go to and say, can we have some help? I emailed 39 people, and I am yet to find that person that actually is interested.

00:57:23:02 - 00:58:03:01

West Burton Solar. Their consultant was Amber Rudd, who was Secretary of State for 15 to 16. The new landowners best mates. David Cameron We have, we have. You know, I emailed Mr. Jenrick who's more interested in in being down in London, stopping people getting on a train than actually fighting our, our cause. You know, we have nobody supporting us when, when the Planning Inspectorate and when Ed Miliband decides after being in power for nine days and he's going to pass two power stations, and the only reason that the that West Burton saw wasn't passed at the same time is that the Fusion and West Burton Solar were clashing on the same place.

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

So who do we go to when we have all these projects and they're all not doing what you're supposed to? Your challenges were doing, and and these people are just going to be the same as the rest of them. We're going to we're going to sort it out ourselves, and we're going to make sure we're doing it right. Who is going to look after us and who is going to defend us when we that's going to say, no, you can't do that because we're having we've got so many projects coming into our areas that nobody is overseeing that damage, that every project happens.

00:58:34:24 - 00:59:05:16

We started in 2020 with the quarry. 2022 I think was the fusion, 23 was the gas station. Then we got 2024. We got, um, a spurt and solar and the cabling coming in. There was two more power stations and solar panels, um, areas that were passed about ten years ago by Bassetlaw. But who is overseeing that all these these projects are done properly? We can't even stop past the quarry.

00:59:05:18 - 00:59:43:10

You shouldn't bring a vehicle over 18 tonnes shouldn't pass that that that that's the quarry. Nobody stops it because nobody polices it. We haven't got a police service, you know. They're not interested in all the wagons that are actually starting to come through our village. So who is going to protect us when you've passed it and you've said, this is how it's got to be and this is how it's going to be because Bassetlaw, by the fact that they aren't here, are not going to protect us. And we're not they're not going to look at all the paperwork that's already 9000 pages, because Arias have got 9000 pages, and every other project will be well over 9000 pages.

00:59:43:12 - 01:00:13:29

But nobody. Who do we go to for protection? You won't be here. You'll just pass it, and then we'll. It'll be everybody else's job to look after us, won't it? And I just. You want to live in my house for. For a week when you, when you start watching what is going on. And as a dog walker, it is horrific. And majority of the things that I have found out over the time are not us living in that house as walking the land and seeing what is going on.

01:00:14:01 - 01:00:44:06

And I have asked every person that I, inspectorate or whatever, just walked the land with me and look at it through my eyes and not what you see on a Google Earth map, or what you're looking at in your little facts and figures and what they're telling you. Look at it from my eyes and what I see on a daily

basis. And that's all I've got to say. I'm very emotional. But I am fed up of watching that land around and be destroyed and not having a clue who who I can talk to to stop it happening.

01:00:44:25 - 01:00:48:02

So consider it and please walk the land with me.

01:00:50:08 - 01:00:52:25

Thank you very much. You've you've been very clear.

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

Um. Thank you that there's nobody else in the room on my, um, list here is if I've missed anybody. Put your hand up now.

01:01:13:13 - 01:01:31:15

I'm also conscious that I said there was nobody online. I know, um, Hermione Smith has not elected this talk. I just wanted to check that, um, give her the opportunity. Um, put your hand up now or switch your camera on if you. If you need to say anything, Miss Smith.

01:01:35:28 - 01:01:40:18

I'm not seeing any response. Um, so.

01:01:44:18 - 01:01:49:28

I now move to the opportunity for the applicant to respond to any of the matters raised.

01:01:51:14 - 01:01:55:15

I'm sorry I've overlooked you, Mr. Warburton, I think.

01:01:59:10 - 01:02:01:09

Can you put your microphone on, please?

01:02:03:08 - 01:02:07:02

Could you put your microphone on? Because I just need to record it. Thank you.

01:02:08:21 - 01:02:11:27

I don't think it's on. I don't think it's on you. Thank you.

01:02:12:16 - 01:02:22:24

Could you give us any advice as to how we could involve our local authority in something that we regard as being important, but they clearly don't.

01:02:26:23 - 01:02:59:11

We've noted their absence. Um, we obviously can't force them to attend or engage, but we, um, we will do our best to make them aware that we've noted their absence and endeavour to do our best to, um, engage them. I'll ask the applicant when they respond to, to maybe shed some light on on how they've got on with engaging with Bassetlaw.

01:02:59:13 - 01:03:03:27

So we have noted it. So thank you very much for that, Mr. Warburton. Thank you.

01:03:07:06 - 01:03:09:06

I think there's another hand up. Um.

01:03:14:08 - 01:04:03:25

I was talking to Mr. Poinar, um, from Nottingham County Council. They've tried to engage with Bassetlaw to actually no success whatsoever. I have communicated with him about the right to walk this morning and he's Nottingham. Really, really do, um, cover uh, some of the points that I actually raise, but Bassetlaw never have. Um, and the other thing is, until we find somebody who is protecting us from these projects, should we not suspend, um, all the projects going forward until we can find somebody who we can liaise with that protects us as residents and, um, and, and the, um, victims of all these projects, should we not suspend it until we find somebody who is prepared to protect us, um, as residents and victims of these projects?

01:04:04:01 - 01:04:05:21

Thank you, Miss Warren.

01:04:11:00 - 01:04:19:14

There's one more hand up. Um, if you could come forward, please. Um, turn the microphone on and introduce yourself again, please.

01:04:19:21 - 01:04:50:27

Mr. Fleming. Um. Stirton, a stable resident. And just to give you an example of what's happened in the past when the quarry was being developed, the section 106 conditions were broken by the developers. I contacted a we contacted the county council and the county council planning office, and the planning officer did absolutely nothing to help us. Just to give you an example of why people feel so frustrated that they make complaints. Nothing seems to get done.

01:04:50:29 - 01:04:52:00

Thank you very much.

01:04:52:04 - 01:04:53:13

Thank you, Mr. Fleming.

01:04:56:18 - 01:05:02:23

Mr. Robinson, it's your opportunity to respond to any of those points you wish to. Thank you.

01:05:11:09 - 01:05:42:29

Thank you, sir. Patrick Robinson speaking for the applicant. Um, As I said before the presentations began. We were not intending it wouldn't be appropriate for us to try a point by point response on. Obviously, we got a lot of content here, um, of opinions, um, very strongly held and knowledge local area, which of course we are listening to as we know you are.

01:05:43:15 - 01:06:31:00

And I would say at first point that, um, suddenly we've been making notes, should be making notes, follow up statements. Very, very useful to us because obviously we'll be looking at those closely to make sure that in addition to the relevant representations that we've seen and obviously, um, many of those, I think probably everyone speaking today has made a relevant representation. Those have been being looked at very carefully as well. Um, and we know that, um, The nature of the examining authority's um, process of considering here involves listening to issues like this, and they find their way into your written questions to us.

01:06:31:02 - 01:06:41:09

So we know there are layers upon layers of inquiry that go on where concerns and issues we've been hearing today will be raised again and put to us to respond,

01:06:43:05 - 01:07:13:16

um, when we hear concerns over the assessments made, the accuracy, accuracy and completeness of assessments made. Of course, we're listening to that and going back and checking so that we can come back and either point people to where assessments have been made, or if there is a situation where further assessment is required. Of course, that's that's something that we will, uh, come back with more detail on if that is what's required.

01:07:14:05 - 01:07:50:28

And similarly on conclusions reached, we We recognized that there can be differences of opinion. You may be faced with difference of opinions on the, um, the levels of impact that are going to be considered. And of course, there won't always be agreement on that, but we want to make sure that you have clearly reasoned responses when, uh, differences of opinion remain. If there are points we're listening to where we think we can offer clarifications, where people have raised concerns about impact upon them and are not intended to go into detail here.

01:07:51:00 - 01:08:12:17

But if you had points raised that we know that we can speak directly to people and, uh, resolve a concern in their mind, which we're obviously recount them to do. So, um, and then I think finally with with perhaps two more points. Firstly, the.

01:08:15:04 - 01:08:45:13

The nature of a development control order particularly has a very large number of control documents attached to it. And, um, perhaps the strongest point I can say to the, um, concerns about, well, what happens in the future, who holds people to account. We know that, um, come back to the personal district council in a second, but, you know, there is no situation here that if if,

01:08:47:00 - 01:09:29:21

um, issues haven't been raised, then the opportunity to control the development and make sure it's properly regulated has been missed. I generally think that that cannot happen in the kind of process we're talking about here because, um, yes, the development consent order, uh, regulate gives powers to allow the development to take place, but it also imposes an awful lot of control and a lot of that control. The detail of it is developed after consent is granted and allows both consultation on that, but also all of the regulators to engage with that and to make sure that those controls are in place.

01:09:31:08 - 01:10:09:07

Um, you've asked us what the if we can add any more, um, depth to dealing with that at all. District council. Um, the answer is, um, discussions, uh, began well over 18 months ago with both, uh, Bassetlaw and Nottinghamshire. We, um, they have run on a regular, um, like monthly to six weekly cycle of meetings. We did notice, um, that there was a drop off in this from Bassetlaw, um, probably six or so months ago.

01:10:09:09 - 01:10:40:23

We have continued to try and engage, and we'll will continue to try and engage. I stress again, this is not a situation that then the missed the opportunity and then can no longer input. But this is a very time limited process where people do have to make their their contributions when you're in a position able to consider those. So yes, of course there is an imperative on Bachelor at this stage in the process to to contribute.

01:10:40:25 - 01:11:19:06

If you were to take account of that in your report. And I suspect that is well known, I suspect that will be reported to them and will certainly carry on making that contact with them to, um, ensure that critically, on the evolution of the control documents and the content of them which will be secured in the requirements. And that's obviously a place that anyone would be suggesting. If you're concerned about the future where you're looking at particular the requirements in the DCO, because they set out where future protections for the community will be.

01:11:19:08 - 01:11:29:06

That's the place to look. And that's the place to be ensuring that a body like Bassetlaw are contributing to that. And there is certainly time for them to continue doing that.

01:11:32:17 - 01:11:38:01

So I think that's all I can, um, wanted to make. But if there's any other which we can help you with, please let me know.

01:11:39:27 - 01:11:40:25

Thank you.

01:11:43:01 - 01:11:53:19

Just to clarify, if you said that you haven't had any contact with Bassetlaw District Council for the last six months, did I hear that correctly?

01:12:01:19 - 01:12:44:22

So I wouldn't go as far as say, we have any contact, but we because we have been continuing with them to, to to try and get more detail and their feedback. We obviously so well can put um, uh, specific detail into, into a follow up note to this, but the, uh, we have not so far had a relevant representation. I think the Hodge, which is correct, um, the meetings that began over the last 18 months, the period at which, if you're happy to, I'll just take a note as to about when we start to see the drop off from personal.

01:12:46:09 - 01:12:49:15

Yeah. Don't be top three months ago rather than six. But it's.

01:12:52:15 - 01:13:20:03

But particularly, I think the relevant representation was a point where we would expect to have seen that from, uh, the local planning authority. We know we've got local impact reports coming up that you've requested. That's obviously a significant report we'd expect to be seeing. So I would expect the next milestone would be looking for real contact from Bassetlaw would be the local impact report.

01:13:23:09 - 01:13:46:06

Thank you. Um, I've just got one question. Um, I just wanted to ask you spoke about, um, dealing with clarifications with the the members of the public, um, who who need that and speaking to you directly. Can I just wonder if you want to just elaborate on on the process for how that happens, maybe how they do that if it's not already clear.

01:13:50:16 - 01:14:14:05

Thank you. Sir. Um, the, uh, anyone directed to information at websites would probably groan a little bit and say, can I have something a little bit more personal than. Although that obviously is one way to go through the, um, project manager, Mr. Bridges here. I think his email is there at the bottom of most of the consultation letters. That would be the usual place to go to start that content.

01:14:15:24 - 01:14:31:28

And obviously we are here. Um, now. So certainly if there's anybody who would just like to make contact now, if only to register. Can you speak to me about something? You know, we're not we're not racing away from the room. So, I mean, the contact can be made now.

01:14:32:23 - 01:14:50:28

Thank you. That's appreciated. Um, I've noticed some hands up around the room. I'm not going to ask you to come forward again. Um, I'm going to ask Mr. Berryman to bring the microphone. And again, just for the record, can you just confirm your name, please?

01:14:51:00 - 01:15:23:18

I, um, I'm Christine Warren again. Um, can I ask who did the consult with at Bassetlaw when the project actually started? Because Mr. Crosby, who was the head of Bassetlaw Council, has since left and I think that the planning department is in a little bit of a disarray and they haven't replaced the people that have left. And the other thing is this project is 9000 pages. And as again, as I said before, each project is probably 9000 pages.

01:15:23:20 - 01:15:58:09

You're expecting a council or a council to read over 50,000 pages of the projects that are either past or in the process of passing. How can you expect the councils to actually read every document of every project? We need somebody who is specifically allocated, um, to to protect us from all these projects. But there, as I said, this is 9000 pages. And John Cusack, who was originally the head of the parish council, has now left.

01:15:58:11 - 01:16:07:14

So who's in his place? And are we, as I say, I think that the planning department is in a bit of disarray from the amount of people that have left.

01:16:08:18 - 01:16:16:18

Thank you very much for that. I'll give the applicant an opportunity if they do want to come back on that question about Bassetlaw.

01:16:18:15 - 01:16:30:14

Thank you sir. Patrick Robinson, uh, for the applicant. Um, the major project manager we've been dealing with, um, over the course of correspondence that we're talking about is Amanda Broadhead.

01:16:33:04 - 01:16:37:15

But understand is, um, took over from the original name.

01:16:37:26 - 01:16:46:20

We can thank you very much for that. Um, next person in the room who has got their hand up, please.

01:16:49:19 - 01:17:24:00

Um, Julie Barlow. Um, just building on what? Um, Mrs. Warren's just said. Um, we understand that, uh, we've obviously had four major projects permitted that aren't actually within Barcelona's jurisdiction, but the cabling connects to the power stations that are in their jurisdiction. So they're actually working on those four projects as well as this one. And there has been a loss of staff. So and it was a matter that was raised that our council is under-resourced and cannot cope with the volume of transactions.

01:17:24:06 - 01:17:52:06

The other one is, um, as part of the fields for farming, there is a group of people within our community that are very hesitant to actually engage now because their experience of what happened with the the projects as over the river that we were part of the consultation was any concerns we raised were, um, amendments were made to the consent order and no matter what, it still got passed.

01:17:53:12 - 01:17:53:27

Okay.

01:17:56:09 - 01:18:04:02

Thank you very much for that. Um, was there anybody else in the room who had their hand up? Um, this gentleman at the front. Thank you.

01:18:04:04 - 01:18:37:26

Uh, Philip Stanley's people, parish council, and I was disappointed, to say the least, when Bassetlaw weren't present this morning. And when the meeting this morning closed, I rang Bassetlaw. Um, the first lady I spoke to didn't know anything about it. It was outside her knowledge. She put me through to somebody else. That phone went to answer the phone when I got back home. I rang again and I spoke to a gentleman and he said, well, the lady, the Amanda Broadhead, who might have been the person who might have come, um, rang in this morning.

01:18:38:09 - 01:19:09:25

Um, and he said, thank you for telling me he didn't know anything about it. And if there is a guy on the end of the phone. Um, and I said, well, the meeting starts at 3:00 this afternoon. And he said, I doubt we'll be able to get anybody there for that. And I said, well, there's another meeting tomorrow. And he didn't know where the meeting was. He knew nothing about it. And in all fairness, it may not be in his remit. Um, but whenever I've tried as a parish councillor speak to Bassetlaw. They never returned the phone calls.

01:19:09:28 - 01:19:19:06

And when I followed up about something rather disgusted, they said the, uh, they only have to apply within a month. They've got 28 days to respond.

01:19:20:25 - 01:19:24:25

Catch 22 brings a bell here. Thank you.

01:19:25:11 - 01:19:32:06

Thank you, Mr. Appleyard. Anybody further? There's another hand up.

01:19:33:23 - 01:20:12:07

Good afternoon. Um, my name is Steve Smith from Fields of Farming. Um, I'm delighted to say I'm happily retired, having experienced corporate life for some time. And, um, I recognise the approach of shareholder value, etcetera and and the approach by race. But I really haven't listened to everyone. One. Today, I do question the overall need for this project and the impact it has. So I've been looking at the target set for 2030 being the 45 gigawatt base.

01:20:12:24 - 01:20:52:18

And this afternoon the latest report and I've looked at um, Solar Energy UK who've reported that um their target expects to be easily exceeded. And I quote and Nimbus Maps 25 report, which is actually saying they would expect easily to reach the target and hit 70GW by 2035. So why on earth is this project getting support to go ahead when it is not needed? When we've heard today of the impact on the history on the people of this area.

01:20:52:21 - 01:21:25:23

I just really cause, uh, Bring into question the need for this to proceed. Two minor issues are I would like to hear from. I spoke to Cleve Hill urgently, and they impressed upon us the need for this steering that one of my colleagues mentioned. So I'd like to hear from, um, rez whether they would set up the ongoing steering committee so we can have some voice within that environment going forward.

01:21:25:28 - 01:21:50:14

Should it go ahead? And also, this may be a cause for tomorrow in we really feel when we're talking about the inadequacy of some of the reports, why there was no report on hairs mentioned when we've got so much evidence of hairs running around our area, so relatively minor points, but still important in the overall scheme of things. Thank you.

01:21:51:23 - 01:21:53:05

Thank you, Mr. Smith.

01:21:53:07 - 01:21:53:22

Is.

01:21:55:26 - 01:21:58:00

Anyone else in the.

01:21:58:17 - 01:21:59:03

Room.

01:21:59:05 - 01:22:01:20

Who still wants to speak?

01:22:04:08 - 01:22:04:28

No.

01:22:05:03 - 01:22:05:21

Um.

01:22:05:26 - 01:22:13:14

I will give the applicant a final chance if they want to respond to anything they've heard in those last, um, points.

01:22:15:05 - 01:22:15:27

Thanks to Patrick.

01:22:15:29 - 01:22:16:22

Robinson.

01:22:16:24 - 01:22:22:08

Uh, for the applicant. Um, the, uh, it probably is quite helpful.

01:22:22:10 - 01:22:26:10

To, um, comment on the question about liaison. And again.

01:22:26:12 - 01:22:27:22

To, to.

01:22:27:29 - 01:22:28:23

Make sure we're.

01:22:28:25 - 01:22:29:10

Talking.

01:22:29:12 - 01:22:29:27

About the same.

01:22:29:29 - 01:22:40:02

Thing in the post, consent in the construction of project This, we would very much expect to have.

01:22:40:04 - 01:22:40:19

A liaison.

01:22:40:21 - 01:23:17:00

Group because that's, uh, allows us to focus the development, um, accurately around local concerns and local knowledge. Um, it On that basis? Yes we would. We would fully expect that that to happen. Um, when we get to the subject of head, I'd say on heads, rather than trying to give you pages now. I mean, certainly at the lunchtime break, you're checking back through documents and finding the references to hares, and that's where we'd expect to report to you properly with structured where material can be found within assessments.

01:23:17:07 - 01:23:28:20

And certainly if anyone believes we miss things, we'd like to know where. And we'll do the checks and either refer people to the information or if we have missed something. Um, you'll want to know what we're going to do about it.

01:23:31:07 - 01:23:32:10

Thank you very much.

01:23:35:13 - 01:23:37:13

I'm going to move to closing now.

01:23:37:15 - 01:23:38:16

I, um.

01:23:38:25 - 01:23:43:10

I'm going to give you one last chance. Are there any other relevant items that anyone wishes to raise?

01:23:49:04 - 01:23:50:28

A microphone will come to you.

01:23:55:26 - 01:24:28:27

Thank you. Sorry. Once I've got going, I can't stop. I'm from Yorkshire, so I don't care. Um. One thing that does, um, uh, worry me is the amount of attenuation ponds that we will have, uh, when all these projects kick in the quarry, um, has had, um, because certainly steeple is unclear based, and the quarry has had one hell of a job actually trying to build its roads, build the quarry, the piling excessively.

01:24:29:02 - 01:25:04:26

Um, there's fields down by the quarry that are now lakes because, um, the the water table is so high. There's also five attenuation ponds already down by the quarry road areas are going to put more attenuation ponds in the main attenuation pond, I think as I see it. And it's only my opinion is in the

middle of our village and it's it's called the pond in front of the reindeer, which was put there by Mr. Fulghum many years ago, which was a, um, which was a back, um, and now it's a lake.

01:25:04:28 - 01:25:45:17

But the majority of the water that is in that, that lake, that that pond comes from the land and it runs down and it floods the village. How many attenuation ponds are we going to have in the village to actually stop it flooding? Or in the fact that they aren't big enough will actually help flood it faster, because once it's got, it's in a little pond and it's got a little trickle, it could flood our villages faster because our villages in 2007 flooded, went straight through North Leverton and all in front of the pub was was flooded, uh, where this pond is.

01:25:45:19 - 01:26:22:19

So we're having a lot of attenuation ponds. The quality of the land around Stoughton and the villages is clear. Based by the fact that you start moving stuff, you're going to be starting moving water. So how many attenuation ponds and what guarantee is are we going to have that we're not going to flood. And if it does flood, who's insurance is going to cover all the all the villages and the houses that are caused? And how do we prove that the cost of the attenuation ponds and, and all the, the, um, solar panels, that it's not running into our houses faster.

01:26:22:21 - 01:26:24:21

So who's going to guarantee us that?

01:26:26:25 - 01:26:40:05

Thank you, Miss Warren. Um, we have an item on flood risk tomorrow, and we can explore that in in some more detail. Um, the applicant's nodding, so hopefully we'll get some answers to your questions.

01:26:48:25 - 01:26:49:16

Thank you.

01:26:51:29 - 01:27:27:06

Thank you. We will explore that in a lot more detail tomorrow when we've got, um, the experts here for that. I, uh, Steve Smith, uh, feels forming. Uh, it's a question on process, really, from this morning. Um, I'm thinking about expansion. And once the, uh, if the project is approved and, uh, it may be that there's a different owner of this site, in any event, is it seems to be the way to sell on the, um, the sites once they're built.

01:27:27:17 - 01:27:48:04

Um, expansion. And what controls are there about the expansion of the site if land becomes available and if it does? Would that be classed as an CIP project or would it go to the local authority to approve that.

01:27:54:23 - 01:27:56:04

Thank you, Mr. Smith.

01:27:56:25 - 01:28:06:16

Um, I there's another hand up in the room. I will give the applicant an opportunity if they wish to comment on that. Um, there's a microphone.

01:28:06:18 - 01:28:07:05

Going to come.

01:28:07:07 - 01:28:07:24

To you.

01:28:07:26 - 01:28:08:13

Um.

01:28:09:22 - 01:28:12:23

If you could state your name again, please add Ruth Edwards.

01:28:12:25 - 01:28:13:10

And.

01:28:13:12 - 01:28:38:25

This time fields for forming. And throughout the report which Arias prepared for us all, there is constant reference to mitigation, but no details which presumably are going to come at a later stage. But what opportunity do we have to comment on any mitigation that is proposed?

01:28:42:22 - 01:28:44:00

Thank you, Miss Edwards.

01:28:46:15 - 01:28:56:15

Okay, I think that's the end of the questions from the room. Um, Mr. Robinson, I think is going to respond to those. Thank you.

01:29:00:20 - 01:29:34:11

Thank you, Sir Patrick Robinson for the applicant. Uh, very quickly on this point, um, expansion. Um, and, and, um, you can't really expand it. If you want to change it, you have to apply for another one. So I think there's any credible situation at which you can come back for an amendment of the solar scheme to make it bigger. You certainly can't amend it by just getting a town and country planning application to tack on the end of it. Um, so the answer is that it is pretty much this is it.

01:29:34:13 - 01:29:47:15

It's um, you don't amend them, you apply for a new one, which is, um, a long process to do that. Um, and, um, I think the mitigation point is, uh, I probably say.

01:29:49:17 - 01:29:54:12

Appropriately dealt with as we deal with issue specific hearings and

01:29:56:06 - 01:30:12:28

subject by subject, if there are particular points about mitigation and more detail about mitigation, be it planting, be it, um, ecology, whichever, then then it's probably easier to deal with questions like that as we deal with them. Subject matters.

01:30:14:15 - 01:30:16:09

Thank you very much for that.

01:30:20:03 - 01:30:22:15

It's one more hand up at the front. Um.

01:30:33:18 - 01:30:45:16

Parish council. Um, it's just a bit of clarity, really. It rides on the back of the previous question, the woodland solar farm, which is a globally um.

01:30:48:07 - 01:31:11:12

And project 9.5MW. It's going nowhere at the moment. Uh, I appreciate that. It's not the property or the project of Res, but it is for the same landowner. Is there any way that it is included in this end set, or is a totally separate thing outside? Is there any thoughts to joining the two together?

01:31:13:00 - 01:31:13:25

Thank you.

01:31:14:22 - 01:31:38:04

Um, thank you, Mr. Appleyard. I think unless the applicant wants to deal with that, I would rather we, um, arc that for tomorrow when we're dealing with relationship with other proposed projects. And that can be dealt with in the room. So we we've taken note of that Wood Lane solar farm and, um, it will get he'll get spoken about tomorrow.

01:31:43:15 - 01:32:14:18

I'd like to say thank you to everyone for contributing so usefully to the meeting this afternoon. May I remind you that a digital recording of the proceedings today will be made available as soon as practicable on the project page of the National Infrastructure website. Can I also remind you to submit your post hearing submissions, including written submissions of all cases by deadline one which is the 25th of November. We find those very helpful to have them in writing from you.

01:32:15:18 - 01:32:31:21

As a reminder, we'll be holding an issue specific hearing on environmental matters here tomorrow starting at 10:00. The time is now 433, and this open floor hearing for the staple renewables project is now closed. Thank you very much.