Planning Inspectorate
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Hearing Transcript

Project:	Meridian Solar Farm
Hearing:	Issue Specific Hearing 3 (ISH3) – Part 2
Date:	11 November 2026

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

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1
00:00:00,060 --> 00:00:03,940
Welcome back, everybody. It's 12:05, and we'll move on to

2
00:00:04,000 --> 00:00:07,080
agenda item five, which is cumulative effects.

3
00:00:08,700 --> 00:00:11,740
So I'm going to start by discussing bullet points.

4
00:00:13,920 --> 00:00:16,340
Before I start, actually, I see Emily, Ms.

5
00:00:16,440 --> 00:00:17,940
Tetley-Jones, has got her hand up.

6
00:00:17,980 --> 00:00:18,840
Can I just check

7
00:00:20,020 --> 00:00:21,180
what that's with regard to?

8
00:00:22,240 --> 00:00:22,800
Thank you, madam.

9
00:00:23,780 --> 00:00:26,040
Just a quick point.

10
00:00:26,900 --> 00:00:28,080
I've just been informed-

11
00:00:30,560 --> 00:00:32,479
Oh, you've gone on mute for some reason

12
00:00:33,200 --> 00:00:35,840
Apologies. Emily Tetley-Jones for InterGen.

13
00:00:36,660 --> 00:00:40,360
Apologies. I've just been informed that my client's engineer,

14
00:00:40,460 --> 00:00:43,000
Pat Lydon, who is hoping to speak today,

15
00:00:43,960 --> 00:00:44,740
is due

16
00:00:46,520 --> 00:00:48,900
on another call on another matter

17
00:00:50,180 --> 00:00:50,460
at

18
00:00:51,480 --> 00:00:51,640
1:00,

19
00:00:53,280 --> 00:00:56,040
and therefore I just wanted to draw that to the Inspectorate's

20
00:00:56,980 --> 00:00:58,600
attention and

21
00:00:59,620 --> 00:01:02,000
request that we might be able to

22
00:01:03,020 --> 00:01:06,380
move up the running order on that basis if

23
00:01:07,000 --> 00:01:09,260
time is getting tight. Thank you very much.

24
00:01:09,860 --> 00:01:09,980
Yeah.

25
00:01:12,180 --> 00:01:12,460
Sorry.

26
00:01:16,680 --> 00:01:16,880
Yes.

27
00:01:18,140 --> 00:01:21,540

Yeah, that would be fine. We can hear from Mr. Lydon now if that helps at all.

28
00:01:24,660 --> 00:01:26,260
And then we can come back to the

29
00:01:27,340 --> 00:01:28,400
run through the bullet points.

30
00:01:30,840 --> 00:01:32,540
Emily Tetley-Jones for InterGen.

31
00:01:32,960 --> 00:01:33,680
Might it be

32
00:01:34,520 --> 00:01:38,360
appropriate if I just set the scene and then pass

33
00:01:38,480 --> 00:01:40,140
on to Mr. Lydon-

34
00:01:41,160 --> 00:01:41,320
Yes

35
00:01:41,379 --> 00:01:41,700
... first?

36
00:01:41,960 --> 00:01:42,460
Yeah. Thank you.

37
00:01:43,380 --> 00:01:43,720
Thank you.

38
00:01:47,520 --> 00:01:51,140
So in terms of

39
00:01:51,620 --> 00:01:55,160
item five, and apologies, I will be harking back slightly to some of the

40
00:01:55,660 --> 00:01:59,260

earlier points. I didn't want to disrupt the flow of the examination

41
00:01:59,520 --> 00:02:00,040
earlier.

42
00:02:02,640 --> 00:02:03,260
So far,

43
00:02:04,180 --> 00:02:04,500
the

44
00:02:05,380 --> 00:02:08,940
tack being taken by the applicant is

45
00:02:09,620 --> 00:02:13,380
effectively there's nothing to see here in terms of the InterGen

46
00:02:13,500 --> 00:02:17,160
pipeline, that any risks can be adequately

47
00:02:17,500 --> 00:02:20,960
addressed in protective provisions

48
00:02:22,180 --> 00:02:24,200
at a later point in time,

49
00:02:25,740 --> 00:02:26,120
and

50
00:02:27,720 --> 00:02:30,600
that as set out in the

51
00:02:30,620 --> 00:02:33,460
environmental statement, chapter

52
00:02:33,900 --> 00:02:35,580
17, that

53
00:02:38,560 --> 00:02:40,640
there are no significant risks

54
00:02:41,460 --> 00:02:44,620
of damage either by the project or by the

55
00:02:45,280 --> 00:02:46,440
cumulative effect of the

56
00:02:47,340 --> 00:02:50,620
various different projects in the area.

57
00:02:52,920 --> 00:02:54,200
We would

58
00:02:55,300 --> 00:02:56,120
state that

59
00:02:57,000 --> 00:03:00,820
we have significant concerns with that

60
00:03:00,960 --> 00:03:01,580
approach.

61
00:03:02,540 --> 00:03:06,380
This is a major accident hazard pipeline.

62
00:03:07,520 --> 00:03:11,120
Third-party interference and

63
00:03:11,540 --> 00:03:15,500
AC interference in particular is one of

64
00:03:16,400 --> 00:03:19,880
the main, if not the main reason for

65
00:03:20,980 --> 00:03:23,680
steel pipelines of this kind failing.

66
00:03:26,160 --> 00:03:28,500
It is, as we've pointed out before,

67
00:03:30,180 --> 00:03:32,260

a pressurized pipeline,

68
00:03:33,220 --> 00:03:36,480
and if that pipeline were to fail,

69
00:03:39,080 --> 00:03:42,820
that is obviously a significant risk not only to the environment

70
00:03:43,280 --> 00:03:46,240
and the public, but also to energy

71
00:03:46,660 --> 00:03:48,560
security in general.

72
00:03:50,960 --> 00:03:52,780
Harking back to the point about

73
00:03:53,700 --> 00:03:57,600
whether protective provisions are sufficient or

74
00:03:57,640 --> 00:03:58,440
appropriate,

75
00:04:00,180 --> 00:04:03,580
unlike NGET, InterGen haven't

76
00:04:04,020 --> 00:04:04,460
been

77
00:04:06,220 --> 00:04:07,380
approached with

78
00:04:08,240 --> 00:04:12,180
detailed design or risk analysis to try

79
00:04:12,280 --> 00:04:15,860
and work out how this project

80
00:04:16,421 --> 00:04:20,320
could be delivered safely and to what extent

81
00:04:20,899 --> 00:04:24,820
mitigation might be required, and if

82
00:04:24,880 --> 00:04:26,600
so, in what areas,

83
00:04:27,460 --> 00:04:30,800
especially given the cumulative effect of the different

84
00:04:31,680 --> 00:04:34,240
AC levels posed by the different

85
00:04:35,000 --> 00:04:35,740
projects.

86
00:04:37,600 --> 00:04:38,540
And so

87
00:04:39,520 --> 00:04:42,980
they're in a very uncomfortable position of being

88
00:04:43,160 --> 00:04:47,100
expected to agree

89
00:04:47,220 --> 00:04:51,140
protective provisions whilst not having

90
00:04:51,180 --> 00:04:55,060
the certainty based on scientific data

91
00:04:55,100 --> 00:04:57,200
and specific site

92
00:04:58,600 --> 00:05:02,480
risk assessments to show that mitigation

93
00:05:02,640 --> 00:05:04,160
can be carried out

94
00:05:05,460 --> 00:05:09,200

so as to keep this pipeline safe.

95
00:05:09,640 --> 00:05:12,260
Now, Mr. Fowler mentioned earlier that

96
00:05:13,620 --> 00:05:17,560
effectively this is a non-issue because pipelines get

97
00:05:17,600 --> 00:05:21,280
crossed all the time, but as Mr. Pat

98
00:05:21,320 --> 00:05:22,300
Lydon will

99
00:05:23,780 --> 00:05:24,680
speak to,

100
00:05:26,400 --> 00:05:30,240
the issue of AC interference in particular, but also construction
risk,

101
00:05:30,360 --> 00:05:34,180
is an increasing and very serious risk

102
00:05:34,260 --> 00:05:37,480
to these kinds of pipelines

103
00:05:38,180 --> 00:05:38,620
and

104
00:05:40,140 --> 00:05:43,580
any mitigation needs to take into account

105
00:05:44,020 --> 00:05:47,900
not only the current assessed risk, but as the applicant

106
00:05:47,920 --> 00:05:50,060
themselves pointed out, the fact that

107
00:05:51,460 --> 00:05:51,760
the

108
00:05:53,700 --> 00:05:56,820
voltage running through these cables

109
00:05:57,480 --> 00:05:57,900
will

110
00:05:58,740 --> 00:06:02,720
exponentially increase over time due to upgrades, and

111
00:06:02,740 --> 00:06:05,120
therefore any mitigation needs to take that into account.

112
00:06:05,900 --> 00:06:09,452
Now, what that means in- Physical land rights

113
00:06:09,572 --> 00:06:13,192
terms is potentially a

114
00:06:13,252 --> 00:06:16,152
very large land take in order

115
00:06:16,252 --> 00:06:19,772
to

116
00:06:19,832 --> 00:06:23,312
guarantee that that pipeline can be kept safe.

117
00:06:24,152 --> 00:06:24,572
And

118
00:06:26,712 --> 00:06:30,512
whilst the order limits are wide at this location, we

119
00:06:30,572 --> 00:06:34,332
have no guarantee to know that the order limits are wide enough to

120
00:06:34,412 --> 00:06:34,912
produce-

121

00:06:35,312 --> 00:06:37,552
Ms. Tetley Jones, sorry for interrupting.

122
00:06:37,752 --> 00:06:39,152
We covered matters about

123
00:06:40,112 --> 00:06:44,072
land and CA yesterday. The agenda item today

124
00:06:44,112 --> 00:06:47,432
is cumulative effects, and whilst you've touched on

125
00:06:47,892 --> 00:06:51,572
AT interference and potential of cumulative AC

126
00:06:51,632 --> 00:06:53,792
levels and of different projects,

127
00:06:55,132 --> 00:06:57,412
would you be able to narrow down specifically

128
00:06:58,352 --> 00:07:00,612
the concern with regards to cumulative effects

129
00:07:02,412 --> 00:07:04,992
that you're concerned about with the pipeline, if possible?

130
00:07:06,672 --> 00:07:07,092
Yes, madam.

131
00:07:09,132 --> 00:07:11,912
Essentially, I was just finishing up there.

132
00:07:12,391 --> 00:07:16,292
That's why I wanted to just finish having set the

133
00:07:16,372 --> 00:07:18,752
scene by saying that

134
00:07:19,552 --> 00:07:22,892
essentially my client is looking for,

135
00:07:23,932 --> 00:07:26,592
given the uncertainties around

136
00:07:27,592 --> 00:07:31,272
what effects the cumulative nature of these various

137
00:07:31,332 --> 00:07:35,172
interacting projects will have on the pipeline protections,

138
00:07:35,812 --> 00:07:39,712
that we would want to build in effectively

139
00:07:39,752 --> 00:07:43,632
a veto right, that the project will not be energized

140
00:07:43,692 --> 00:07:44,532
until

141
00:07:45,732 --> 00:07:49,512
those safeguarding mechanisms have been agreed.

142
00:07:50,232 --> 00:07:53,012
And on that point, I'd like to hand over to Mr.

143
00:07:53,272 --> 00:07:57,152
Pat Lydon to explain the significant challenge that we

144
00:07:57,192 --> 00:08:00,732
have in respect to the cumulative effect of the projects

145
00:08:01,312 --> 00:08:04,432
in this area in respect to the pipeline. Thank you very much, madam.

146
00:08:09,392 --> 00:08:11,752
Yes. Good afternoon, madam, and everyone else.

147
00:08:13,472 --> 00:08:14,512
My name's Pat Lydon.

148

00:08:15,872 --> 00:08:19,432
I've worked on various renewable energy infrastructure

149
00:08:19,532 --> 00:08:22,072
projects since about 2015,

150
00:08:23,012 --> 00:08:26,272
and a perennial problem is the lack of early

151
00:08:26,312 --> 00:08:28,792
engagement with pipeline owners.

152
00:08:29,892 --> 00:08:33,592
The greater crested newt tends to get more preference than

153
00:08:33,932 --> 00:08:37,653
pipeline operators. So, in relation to this

154
00:08:37,692 --> 00:08:38,232
particular

155
00:08:39,172 --> 00:08:43,112
project, the risks are damage by construction activity,

156
00:08:43,752 --> 00:08:47,732
damage to the pipeline through electrical interference from

157
00:08:47,772 --> 00:08:51,592
the overhead power lines that run parallel or across the pipeline,
and

158
00:08:51,652 --> 00:08:55,512
also electrical shock risks on the pipeline that

159
00:08:55,572 --> 00:08:57,612
can affect the safety of the general public,

160
00:08:59,252 --> 00:09:01,732
SECL personnel, and

161
00:09:02,712 --> 00:09:05,212

any contractors working on the pipeline.

162
00:09:06,472 --> 00:09:10,452
I've written a lot of the UKOPPA, which is the United Kingdom Onshore

163
00:09:10,572 --> 00:09:12,512
Pipeline Operators Association,

164
00:09:13,392 --> 00:09:17,092
codes of practice for electrical interference on

165
00:09:17,772 --> 00:09:18,572
pipelines.

166
00:09:20,112 --> 00:09:22,652
Early engagement is absolutely essential,

167
00:09:23,532 --> 00:09:23,992
because

168
00:09:24,812 --> 00:09:28,272
we have to design mitigation systems to reduce the

169
00:09:28,332 --> 00:09:29,852
level of risk.

170
00:09:31,192 --> 00:09:34,012
To do that, you'll need additional land uptakes.

171
00:09:34,412 --> 00:09:38,292
You'll need to have detailed engineering assessments

172
00:09:38,412 --> 00:09:39,092
conducted.

173
00:09:39,372 --> 00:09:42,372
Excuse me, Mr. Lydon. I'm sorry to interrupt again.

174
00:09:42,752 --> 00:09:46,632
I'm conscious we're on quite a tight timescale, and we had some of

this detail

175
00:09:46,692 --> 00:09:50,352
yesterday. The agenda item is specifically about cumulative

176
00:09:50,412 --> 00:09:54,232
effects, and so would you be able to focus your comments on

177
00:09:54,292 --> 00:09:57,652
your concerns with regards to cumulative effects or impacts

178
00:09:58,252 --> 00:10:00,112
with regards to the pipeline, please?

179
00:10:01,132 --> 00:10:05,052
Yep. The

180
00:10:05,112 --> 00:10:08,892
primary risk is electrical interference from the overhead

181
00:10:08,972 --> 00:10:12,592
power lines, and also I don't understand whether they're

182
00:10:12,952 --> 00:10:16,812
going to use buried pipelines or overhead pipelines.

183
00:10:17,812 --> 00:10:17,912
We

184
00:10:18,812 --> 00:10:22,572
haven't been involved in any engineering discussions with Meridians
Solar,

185
00:10:23,052 --> 00:10:26,632
or at least I haven't, and we need to make sure that those risks

186
00:10:26,872 --> 00:10:27,672
are addressed.

187
00:10:30,872 --> 00:10:32,372
Thank you very much, Mr. Lydon.

188
00:10:33,492 --> 00:10:37,372
Would the applicant like to respond at this point on the comments made,

189
00:10:37,572 --> 00:10:41,352
or we can go through the agenda item and come to it under

190
00:10:42,192 --> 00:10:43,372
work 14 specifically?

191
00:10:44,972 --> 00:10:47,992
Taylor Power for the applicant. I think it might be helpful if I briefly respond

192
00:10:48,032 --> 00:10:50,252
just while everything's fresh in mind, and then hopefully

193
00:10:51,352 --> 00:10:52,772
that resolves things in this respect.

194
00:10:52,792 --> 00:10:55,852
But if anything additional comes up, I'm happy to address it as too.

195
00:10:57,232 --> 00:11:01,132
In respect of the comments made today, completely understand the request for

196
00:11:01,172 --> 00:11:02,232
engagement. The applicant

197
00:11:03,952 --> 00:11:05,072
is progressing that with

198
00:11:06,112 --> 00:11:09,612
InterGen and will have those engineering end meetings on protective

199
00:11:09,632 --> 00:11:11,332
provisions, including

200
00:11:12,772 --> 00:11:16,552

to provide InterGen comfort that they will be able to sign off on the

201
00:11:16,592 --> 00:11:20,452
final design of the crossing and of the mitigation,

202
00:11:21,492 --> 00:11:25,272
that in effect would provide something of a veto right in the sense

203
00:11:25,312 --> 00:11:28,712
that they would have to sign off the design before we construct it, and therefore,

204
00:11:29,332 --> 00:11:32,952
clearly before we energize it. In respect of the cumulatives

205
00:11:33,052 --> 00:11:36,272
point that has been raised, because I know that's the focus of this hearing,

206
00:11:37,152 --> 00:11:41,092
to the extent that additional impacts are generated

207
00:11:41,132 --> 00:11:45,052
on this section of pipeline by the other grid infrastructure in

208
00:11:45,092 --> 00:11:48,792
this area, I would note that they will also be required to enter into

209
00:11:48,832 --> 00:11:52,432
protective provisions with InterGen in terms of any additional

210
00:11:53,752 --> 00:11:56,232
mitigation requirements that their projects might

211
00:11:57,632 --> 00:12:01,612
generate to the extent that in InterGen in reviewing and

212
00:12:01,652 --> 00:12:05,632
the final design is reviewing both the applicant's design

213
00:12:05,852 --> 00:12:09,528
and the design of other projects in this area at a similar

214
00:12:09,628 --> 00:12:13,608
time, it might be a matter that we could also cover within protective provisions

215
00:12:13,648 --> 00:12:17,568
to ensure alignment between mitigation that might be happening from

216
00:12:17,608 --> 00:12:21,208
multiple projects in this area. So I would be very happy to discuss that with Ms.

217
00:12:21,268 --> 00:12:23,448
Tetley-Jones and her client as well.

218
00:12:24,548 --> 00:12:28,168
Otherwise, I'll leave the engineering discussions to the

219
00:12:28,428 --> 00:12:31,948
meetings between our clients, and hopefully we can provide that

220
00:12:32,008 --> 00:12:35,068
comfort and then secure that comfort through the protective provisions.

221
00:12:36,408 --> 00:12:39,868
Thank you very much. I notice your hand is up, Ms. Tetley-Jones.

222
00:12:39,908 --> 00:12:40,948
Would you like to come back in?

223
00:12:43,048 --> 00:12:46,288
Emily Tetley-Jones for InterGen with a very quick point.

224
00:12:48,168 --> 00:12:48,788
Noting

225
00:12:49,668 --> 00:12:52,008
the points that Ms. Powers just made,

226
00:12:53,408 --> 00:12:55,808
which are gratefully received.

227
00:12:58,228 --> 00:12:58,668
The

228
00:12:59,788 --> 00:13:03,248
issue on the cumulative effects and the dovetailing of the

229
00:13:04,828 --> 00:13:08,668
basically working out what project is responsible for what

230
00:13:08,748 --> 00:13:09,728
interference.

231
00:13:11,408 --> 00:13:15,208
I just wanted to add to the list of items that we do

232
00:13:15,268 --> 00:13:19,168
need to agree is the level of

233
00:13:20,908 --> 00:13:24,248
establishing a baseline and then a monitoring to

234
00:13:24,868 --> 00:13:28,128
work out for each project effectively how much

235
00:13:29,048 --> 00:13:33,028
interference is being caused. So, just wanted

236
00:13:33,088 --> 00:13:36,548
to add that in, because that is something that Pat will need to feed into his

237
00:13:36,608 --> 00:13:38,448
calculations. Thank you. That was all I had to say.

238
00:13:39,348 --> 00:13:41,448
Thank you for confirming that. Mr.

239
00:13:41,668 --> 00:13:43,608
Lydon, would you like to add anything further?

240
00:13:45,428 --> 00:13:46,208
Yes, please, madam.

241
00:13:50,228 --> 00:13:53,968
InterGen are in discussions with National Grid Energy Transmission

242
00:13:54,308 --> 00:13:56,068
about the electrical interference

243
00:13:57,568 --> 00:14:01,308
created by its asset at West Marsh.

244
00:14:01,728 --> 00:14:04,168
Right? But the extra

245
00:14:05,188 --> 00:14:09,048
750 megawatt that may or may not go into the West Marsh

246
00:14:09,108 --> 00:14:12,868
substation hasn't, as far as I'm aware, been included in the

247
00:14:12,908 --> 00:14:14,508
assessment to date. So,

248
00:14:15,888 --> 00:14:17,767
the project affects what National Grid

249
00:14:18,668 --> 00:14:21,788
are going to be able to assess and also the

250
00:14:22,668 --> 00:14:25,228
effect on the SEL pipeline as well.

251
00:14:25,528 --> 00:14:27,028
So it is a cumulative effect,

252
00:14:29,428 --> 00:14:32,668

but it does take time to carry out the engineering

253
00:14:32,728 --> 00:14:36,428
assessments to make sure that the asset is protected and

254
00:14:36,768 --> 00:14:40,568
doesn't suffer corrosion. There've been two serious AC corrosion

255
00:14:40,628 --> 00:14:41,988
incidents in recent years.

256
00:14:44,228 --> 00:14:48,148
Thank you for that. What I would say is if you have anything you would wish

257
00:14:48,208 --> 00:14:51,948
to put in writing further following this hearing,

258
00:14:52,308 --> 00:14:55,688
we would welcome that, and you can submit that as part of your oral

259
00:14:55,748 --> 00:14:56,668
representations.

260
00:14:59,428 --> 00:14:59,808
So on that-

261
00:15:00,788 --> 00:15:04,028
Yeah, okay. I'll put together a presentation for

262
00:15:04,848 --> 00:15:08,348
SECL, and perhaps Emily may be able to submit that

263
00:15:08,888 --> 00:15:09,448
afterwards.

264
00:15:10,428 --> 00:15:14,328
Thank you. We did receive information the other day as well, so it may

265
00:15:14,368 --> 00:15:14,548

be that

266
00:15:15,448 --> 00:15:18,988
we have everything that you would like to submit, but please, yes,

267
00:15:19,608 --> 00:15:21,248
review and then you can revert back.

268
00:15:23,448 --> 00:15:23,988
Thank you, madam.

269
00:15:24,228 --> 00:15:28,008
That's okay. So on that basis, we'll move to the agenda

270
00:15:28,048 --> 00:15:28,768
bullet points.

271
00:15:29,868 --> 00:15:32,308
So I want to take bullet points one and two together,

272
00:15:34,028 --> 00:15:38,008
and explore parties' positions with respect of the list of projects
that are

273
00:15:38,048 --> 00:15:41,828
included in the cumulative assessment, appendix 4.1,

274
00:15:42,008 --> 00:15:45,268
list of cumulative schemes, APP170,

275
00:15:46,608 --> 00:15:50,468
and their suitability for informing the environmental statement on
cumulative

276
00:15:50,508 --> 00:15:54,148
assessments, and whether this list has captured all relevant other

277
00:15:54,188 --> 00:15:54,788
developments,

278
00:15:55,648 --> 00:15:59,448

obviously taking the point of what we've just discussed about the pipeline.

279
00:16:00,348 --> 00:16:04,308
So I'd like to first turn to Lincolnshire County Council and ask if

280
00:16:04,348 --> 00:16:07,648
you have any comments as to the approach that was taken in the environmental

281
00:16:07,708 --> 00:16:11,548
statement on cumulative effects, alongside

282
00:16:11,608 --> 00:16:12,208
the sites

283
00:16:13,128 --> 00:16:16,348
that are detailed in appendix 4.1 that have been carried

284
00:16:16,408 --> 00:16:18,208
forward into the shortlist,

285
00:16:19,808 --> 00:16:20,128
and

286
00:16:21,068 --> 00:16:23,528
also those that are then in table 1.6.

287
00:16:23,708 --> 00:16:26,108
So whether you have any comments on that.

288
00:16:28,548 --> 00:16:31,748
Joel Semakula, Lincolnshire County Council.

289
00:16:32,328 --> 00:16:32,488
So,

290
00:16:33,328 --> 00:16:37,228
on the list of cumulative schemes, we're content that the relevant NSIPs

291

00:16:37,248 --> 00:16:41,208
and planning applications, at least within the 30-kilometer zone

292
00:16:41,248 --> 00:16:42,948
of influence, have been captured.

293
00:16:43,468 --> 00:16:45,668
And, we do also welcome the inclusion of

294
00:16:47,008 --> 00:16:50,628
the Winsock scheme for agricultural land and waste assessments,

295
00:16:51,168 --> 00:16:52,968
which we had requested.

296
00:16:53,848 --> 00:16:57,508
There is an outstanding point of principle which we raised in our

297
00:16:57,648 --> 00:17:01,468
LIR relating to the exclusion of consents more than

298
00:17:01,528 --> 00:17:05,248
five years old for NSIPs and more than three years old for other

299
00:17:05,508 --> 00:17:06,088
schemes.

300
00:17:07,209 --> 00:17:09,429
In our view, where the applicant itself is seeking

301
00:17:10,268 --> 00:17:12,068
seven years in which to commence,

302
00:17:13,288 --> 00:17:16,768
it's not consistent with that for other consented schemes,

303
00:17:17,868 --> 00:17:21,488
or to assume that other consented schemes of a similar age will not
come forward.

304
00:17:21,528 --> 00:17:25,168

So we'd invite the applicant to review those schemes individually

305
00:17:25,929 --> 00:17:28,888
and to exclude them only where there is evidence that they would not overlap with

306
00:17:29,188 --> 00:17:29,868
Meridian.

307
00:17:30,788 --> 00:17:32,048
And for us here, of course, the context

308
00:17:33,288 --> 00:17:37,048
is important. The point we raise in our LIR is that what we're

309
00:17:37,088 --> 00:17:40,828
dealing with is nine NSIP scale solar schemes which have already been

310
00:17:40,868 --> 00:17:41,448
consented

311
00:17:42,308 --> 00:17:46,148
within the council's area. Four more, including

312
00:17:46,188 --> 00:17:47,648
Meridian, are progressing.

313
00:17:48,508 --> 00:17:50,208
And we've got a further 11 NSIPs,

314
00:17:51,108 --> 00:17:52,868
including several under National Grid's grid

315
00:17:54,408 --> 00:17:55,048
upgrade.

316
00:17:56,168 --> 00:17:56,768
So we've got

317
00:17:57,908 --> 00:18:01,808

roughly 24 NSIPs at various stages, and so the

318
00:18:01,828 --> 00:18:05,588
potential for cumulative effects on the county is therefore considerable.

319
00:18:07,636 --> 00:18:10,256
What we say is that this list needs to, of course, be robust if it's going to

320
00:18:10,276 --> 00:18:13,956
inform that environmental statement properly.

321
00:18:14,896 --> 00:18:15,656
So that's the general

322
00:18:16,696 --> 00:18:18,956
response to the list provided there.

323
00:18:19,396 --> 00:18:23,076
As to the remaining matters relating to cumulative impacts,

324
00:18:23,676 --> 00:18:24,536
most of our comments

325
00:18:25,416 --> 00:18:28,476
relate to landscape and visual impacts, and those are going to be dealt with by Ms.

326
00:18:29,296 --> 00:18:33,216
Mayhew, and I'll deal subsequently with the strategic cumulative impacts

327
00:18:33,996 --> 00:18:35,856
after we've heard from her.

328
00:18:38,596 --> 00:18:41,296
Thank you. Sorry, did I capture that you were going to...

329
00:18:41,636 --> 00:18:45,116
When were you going to cover landscape and visual? Later in the agenda?

330
00:18:45,136 --> 00:18:45,656
We should cover it.

331
00:18:46,556 --> 00:18:48,856
We can indeed cover it now, Madam, if that's the appropriate time.

332
00:18:49,056 --> 00:18:52,836
We can deal with our concerns raised there, recognizing you're dealing with 5.1 and

333
00:18:53,056 --> 00:18:53,616
5.2 together.

334
00:19:10,476 --> 00:19:13,596
I think it might be appropriate to deal with it now, actually, if that's okay.

335
00:19:14,416 --> 00:19:17,556
Sorry. Yes, indeed. So Ms. Mayhew will deal with that now.

336
00:19:18,596 --> 00:19:19,236
She'll come in right now.

337
00:19:19,916 --> 00:19:20,976
Thank you. Ms. Mayhew?

338
00:19:22,056 --> 00:19:25,976
Thank you, Madam. Yes. Katie Mayhew on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council.

339
00:19:28,476 --> 00:19:32,436
The key thing I wanted to raise in terms of

340
00:19:32,976 --> 00:19:36,356
the landscape cumulative assessment, whilst

341
00:19:36,536 --> 00:19:37,696
the long list

342
00:19:38,636 --> 00:19:39,596

we were content with,

343
00:19:41,216 --> 00:19:45,116
there was no real clarification of why

344
00:19:45,156 --> 00:19:48,376
some of those schemes were excluded from

345
00:19:49,336 --> 00:19:50,836
the shortlist of landscape

346
00:19:52,236 --> 00:19:55,936
cumulative schemes to be considered when some of them

347
00:19:56,016 --> 00:19:57,796
seemed very relevant.

348
00:19:58,616 --> 00:19:59,576
Just one example is

349
00:19:59,796 --> 00:20:03,616
H09-0501-23,

350
00:20:04,236 --> 00:20:07,036
which included ground-mounted solar array

351
00:20:08,496 --> 00:20:09,696
and infrastructure,

352
00:20:10,636 --> 00:20:13,296
and that didn't appear to be included within the

353
00:20:14,356 --> 00:20:16,516
cumulative assessment of landscape.

354
00:20:17,295 --> 00:20:20,596
And one of the concerns with not including

355
00:20:21,876 --> 00:20:25,616
schemes that were originally identified as a yes in the long list

356
00:20:26,536 --> 00:20:29,856
is particularly at the national scale consideration

357
00:20:30,616 --> 00:20:34,216
relating to National Character Area 46, the Fens.

358
00:20:36,196 --> 00:20:39,936
And the concern in terms of the landscape cumulative is that

359
00:20:40,136 --> 00:20:40,336
if

360
00:20:41,696 --> 00:20:45,036
the majority of the long list are excluded, that the

361
00:20:45,876 --> 00:20:49,616
impact of the cumulative effect of all of those schemes

362
00:20:49,856 --> 00:20:53,456
on the national character area is potentially under-assessed.

363
00:20:53,896 --> 00:20:57,476
And indeed, in the LVIA, the impacts on the national

364
00:20:57,556 --> 00:20:59,416
character area are not considered,

365
00:21:01,056 --> 00:21:03,996
and we think that is a shortcoming.

366
00:21:05,796 --> 00:21:09,576
But the landscape cumulative assessment is approached in a

367
00:21:09,616 --> 00:21:11,196
different way to the visual

368
00:21:12,096 --> 00:21:13,816
cumulative impact assessment,

369
00:21:15,136 --> 00:21:18,916

and there is no justification or reasoning behind

370
00:21:19,156 --> 00:21:21,816
the difference in approach between the two.

371
00:21:22,896 --> 00:21:26,396
We have some concerns in terms of the visual

372
00:21:26,616 --> 00:21:28,436
cumulative impacts

373
00:21:29,716 --> 00:21:33,456
in that the visual receptors are grouped

374
00:21:33,656 --> 00:21:36,736
into very broad groupings, and

375
00:21:36,796 --> 00:21:38,856
there is no

376
00:21:39,716 --> 00:21:43,116
clarity on the actual impact on individual visual

377
00:21:43,176 --> 00:21:43,876
receptors.

378
00:21:45,556 --> 00:21:49,536
And that clarity is provided in the landscape assessments, but not
with

379
00:21:49,576 --> 00:21:52,936
the visual cumulative. So for example, all

380
00:21:52,996 --> 00:21:56,096
residential receptors and all recreational

381
00:21:56,456 --> 00:21:57,196
receptors

382
00:21:58,836 --> 00:22:02,556
within the whole study area are all assessed as having

383
00:22:03,336 --> 00:22:04,396
a minor adverse

384
00:22:06,296 --> 00:22:09,836
as a cumulative result of the contribution of the scheme

385
00:22:10,016 --> 00:22:13,856
cumulatively, and all of those are assessed as having a

386
00:22:13,916 --> 00:22:17,396
moderate adverse cumulative when considering all schemes together

387
00:22:17,836 --> 00:22:19,696
at both construction and operation.

388
00:22:20,516 --> 00:22:23,756
Such a broad-brush approach we do not feel

389
00:22:24,656 --> 00:22:27,115
is robust enough to be able to help

390
00:22:28,555 --> 00:22:29,396
understand

391
00:22:30,296 --> 00:22:33,716
the cumulative impact, particularly on visual

392
00:22:33,776 --> 00:22:36,576
receptors in relation to the scheme.

393
00:22:39,156 --> 00:22:41,456
I think that's it for the moment. Thank you, Madam.

394
00:22:45,856 --> 00:22:46,816
Thank you very much.

395
00:22:48,456 --> 00:22:51,976
Before I ask the applicant to respond, I just wanted to pose the
same question

396
00:22:52,036 --> 00:22:52,636
about the

397
00:22:53,676 --> 00:22:57,356
list in appendix 1.1, sorry, in appendix 1.4 to

398
00:22:57,496 --> 00:22:59,316
South Holland District Council,

399
00:23:00,696 --> 00:23:01,656
if they're online.

400
00:23:03,596 --> 00:23:07,036
Yes. Hi there. Good afternoon. Sam Dewar, planning

401
00:23:07,076 --> 00:23:09,156
consultant acting on behalf of South Holland.

402
00:23:10,576 --> 00:23:14,156
Yes, we do have a number of comments to make with regards to

403
00:23:14,216 --> 00:23:16,656
cumulative impact and about that point.

404
00:23:16,816 --> 00:23:19,176
So if I may, can I introduce

405
00:23:20,136 --> 00:23:24,096
Mr. Tom Rawlings, who is our appointed landscape consultant, to
discuss

406
00:23:24,116 --> 00:23:25,156
this matter? Thank you.

407
00:23:25,576 --> 00:23:26,416
Thank you. Yes.

408
00:23:31,736 --> 00:23:34,216
Hi, it's Tom Rawlings from South Holland District Council.

409

00:23:34,876 --> 00:23:38,776
Yeah, in terms of the cumulative list, actually broadly content

410
00:23:38,816 --> 00:23:40,676
with the schemes included.

411
00:23:41,856 --> 00:23:45,556
However, in terms of the approach, do find that

412
00:23:45,636 --> 00:23:49,536
the applicant states that

413
00:23:50,296 --> 00:23:54,156
overall cumulative effects will be significant, but the contribution of

414
00:23:54,216 --> 00:23:56,076
the scheme to them will not be.

415
00:23:57,516 --> 00:23:59,776
Do consider this isn't necessarily

416
00:24:01,308 --> 00:24:04,348
accurate and may be based on an under-reporting of

417
00:24:05,148 --> 00:24:08,868
the sequential effects on people traveling through the landscape,

418
00:24:09,047 --> 00:24:12,968
including on the A16, A17, and the nearby public right of way

419
00:24:13,068 --> 00:24:16,988
network. Which could mean that if these are properly considered and

420
00:24:17,028 --> 00:24:20,848
given more weight, the contribution of the scheme to overall cumulative

421
00:24:20,888 --> 00:24:23,648
effects could end up being significant.

422

00:24:24,908 --> 00:24:26,428
And just overall, the

423
00:24:28,428 --> 00:24:32,388
cumulative impacts on the landscape character as a

424
00:24:32,428 --> 00:24:32,728
whole

425
00:24:34,088 --> 00:24:34,308
are

426
00:24:35,648 --> 00:24:39,508
a danger of creating major adverse impacts and

427
00:24:39,548 --> 00:24:43,168
resulting in a significant industrialization of the

428
00:24:43,208 --> 00:24:46,208
landscape, which doesn't seem in keeping with

429
00:24:47,368 --> 00:24:50,988
the goals of the landscape character area.

430
00:24:54,648 --> 00:24:58,288
Thank you very much, Mr Rawlings. Would the applicant like to respond to those

431
00:24:58,348 --> 00:25:00,328
points, which I've captured

432
00:25:01,228 --> 00:25:01,908
as the

433
00:25:03,688 --> 00:25:06,188
list and the visual cumulative

434
00:25:07,108 --> 00:25:10,008
and the effects of traveling through the landscape?

435
00:25:11,268 --> 00:25:12,088

Yes. Taylor Powell

436
00:25:13,508 --> 00:25:17,108
for the applicant. I've also captured a bit of a list, and then I might divide it

437
00:25:17,148 --> 00:25:17,648
between

438
00:25:18,568 --> 00:25:22,128
Ms Astrid Tischler, who is an associate director at AECOM and can speak to the

439
00:25:22,168 --> 00:25:25,748
cumulative effects assessment and list

440
00:25:25,888 --> 00:25:29,388
generally, and Jorg Schultz, who is an associate director

441
00:25:29,808 --> 00:25:33,768
in respect of landscape architecture and can speak to the landscape and visual

442
00:25:33,848 --> 00:25:34,328
points.

443
00:25:35,168 --> 00:25:36,808
The list that I had was

444
00:25:38,048 --> 00:25:41,608
the question around the exclusion of consents greater than five

445
00:25:41,668 --> 00:25:42,208
years

446
00:25:43,828 --> 00:25:44,068
from

447
00:25:45,268 --> 00:25:48,128
when they were consented in respect of NSIPs and reviewing that

448

00:25:49,648 --> 00:25:52,908
list of schemes individually against the commencement periods for

449
00:25:52,948 --> 00:25:54,448
those schemes.

450
00:25:55,488 --> 00:25:59,368
Second being the clarification on why some of the schemes have

451
00:25:59,408 --> 00:26:01,168
been excluded from the shortlist,

452
00:26:02,228 --> 00:26:06,068
and the point raised by Ms Mayhew in respect to the

453
00:26:06,088 --> 00:26:09,987
ground-mounted solar array. On that point, I think I would ask if the

454
00:26:10,267 --> 00:26:14,068
Lincolnshire County Council could confirm in writing which schemes it would like us

455
00:26:14,108 --> 00:26:18,008
to look back at, because I think then we can give a more detailed response

456
00:26:18,048 --> 00:26:18,948
to those matters.

457
00:26:20,228 --> 00:26:24,208
The third point, which I think was raised by both Lincolnshire County

458
00:26:24,288 --> 00:26:28,088
Council and South Holland District Council, was the consideration on the national

459
00:26:28,168 --> 00:26:32,008
character area and the landscape character areas of the scheme and

460
00:26:32,068 --> 00:26:34,628

whether this should be major adverse.

461
00:26:35,248 --> 00:26:38,948
And then I understood there was a question about the difference in

462
00:26:38,988 --> 00:26:42,848
landscape versus visual cumulative assessments, including regarding the

463
00:26:42,888 --> 00:26:46,728
grouping of receptors raised by Ms Mayhew, which I think Mr Schultz can

464
00:26:46,788 --> 00:26:48,908
take. And then finally, I

465
00:26:50,108 --> 00:26:51,888
think there was the question around

466
00:26:53,208 --> 00:26:57,028
why the applicant concludes the overall cumulative effect is

467
00:26:57,068 --> 00:26:59,928
significant, but the introduction of the scheme isn't.

468
00:27:00,628 --> 00:27:04,228
And that was where the question around the sequential effects on people traveling

469
00:27:04,268 --> 00:27:05,768
through the landscape was raised.

470
00:27:06,128 --> 00:27:10,068
So I might pass to Ms Tischler in respect of the approach

471
00:27:10,108 --> 00:27:11,328
to the exclusion of

472
00:27:12,148 --> 00:27:15,568
particular NSIP schemes and then pass to Mr Schultz in respect of those other

473
00:27:15,608 --> 00:27:17,448
questions, if that would assist.

474
00:27:22,948 --> 00:27:25,508
Astrid Tischler on behalf of the applicant.

475
00:27:26,528 --> 00:27:30,508
So firstly, with regards to the time periods used to collate the

476
00:27:30,548 --> 00:27:32,028
list of cumulative schemes.

477
00:27:33,448 --> 00:27:37,168
I think basically the practicality of doing a search for cumulative schemes is that

478
00:27:37,628 --> 00:27:41,248
you have to put in time frames within planning portals in order to collate the

479
00:27:41,308 --> 00:27:44,728
list. It's just the practicality of you have to put in some time periods.

480
00:27:46,588 --> 00:27:50,368
However, if a consent is active and there have been subsequent

481
00:27:50,988 --> 00:27:54,108
consents, for example, to discharge conditions or there are reserved matters

482
00:27:54,148 --> 00:27:57,708
applications, then even if the consent itself is older

483
00:27:58,068 --> 00:28:01,988
than the time period used within the search, it would still show

484
00:28:02,068 --> 00:28:02,708
up within the

485
00:28:04,948 --> 00:28:07,368

long list of cumulative schemes that is being collated.

486
00:28:10,768 --> 00:28:12,228
And the subsequent

487
00:28:13,468 --> 00:28:17,148
applications were considered as part of collating the long list of cumulative

488
00:28:17,228 --> 00:28:17,608
schemes.

489
00:28:18,907 --> 00:28:22,448
And I would also note that once the long list of cumulative schemes was

490
00:28:22,488 --> 00:28:24,768
collated on the basis of those parameters,

491
00:28:25,708 --> 00:28:29,588
it was then shared with the local authorities, both LCC and South

492
00:28:29,608 --> 00:28:30,668
Holland District Council,

493
00:28:31,548 --> 00:28:34,468
to consider whether there were any additional schemes that would need to be

494
00:28:34,508 --> 00:28:35,008
considered.

495
00:28:35,968 --> 00:28:39,888
And any comments were then taken into account before the long list

496
00:28:39,928 --> 00:28:41,748
of cumulative schemes was finalized.

497
00:28:43,028 --> 00:28:45,888
So if there was anything that was missed, it would've been picked up through the

498
00:28:45,928 --> 00:28:49,008
comments that was received through the comments from the local authorities.

499
00:28:51,168 --> 00:28:51,548
And then,

500
00:28:52,488 --> 00:28:56,108
subsequently, since the submission of the application, we have also refreshed the

501
00:28:56,668 --> 00:28:59,928
list of cumulative schemes for deadline three as well,

502
00:29:00,588 --> 00:29:04,128
and picked up any updates that have occurred since the

503
00:29:04,668 --> 00:29:05,788
submission of the application.

504
00:29:07,208 --> 00:29:10,208
And we've also considered the comments

505
00:29:10,828 --> 00:29:14,728
raised in the local impact reports and the additional schemes raised through

506
00:29:14,768 --> 00:29:15,088
those.

507
00:29:21,628 --> 00:29:25,008
Great. And then I'll pass to Mr Schultz in respect of the other questions

508
00:29:25,028 --> 00:29:27,968
that I raised. So there was the

509
00:29:30,868 --> 00:29:34,848
question around the

510
00:29:34,888 --> 00:29:38,248

national landscapes, the question around the difference in the landscape and visual

511
00:29:38,628 --> 00:29:42,508
cumulative assessment, and the question about the overall cumulative

512
00:29:42,568 --> 00:29:46,248
effect significance versus the introduction of the scheme being not

513
00:29:46,288 --> 00:29:47,268
significant.

514
00:29:49,208 --> 00:29:51,628
Yeah. It's Jorg Schultz here, on behalf of the applicant.

515
00:29:53,148 --> 00:29:53,408
So

516
00:29:54,708 --> 00:29:57,848
the aim of the cumulative assessment, and indeed the landscape and visual impact

517
00:29:57,888 --> 00:30:00,828
assessment, is to identify where there are significant effects.

518
00:30:02,108 --> 00:30:02,408
And

519
00:30:03,828 --> 00:30:04,028
the

520
00:30:04,968 --> 00:30:06,088
cumulative assessment

521
00:30:09,784 --> 00:30:13,684
is initially looking at the effect of what is

522
00:30:13,724 --> 00:30:17,384
the additional effect in line with the other cumulative effects, and

523
00:30:17,424 --> 00:30:18,324

assess that effect.

524
00:30:19,224 --> 00:30:21,364
And then it assesses the overall effect.

525
00:30:22,924 --> 00:30:23,304
The

526
00:30:25,803 --> 00:30:26,204
scheme,

527
00:30:30,364 --> 00:30:33,984
I think the landscape and visual impact assessment

528
00:30:34,524 --> 00:30:38,404
identifies significant effects for the overhead

529
00:30:38,444 --> 00:30:39,924
line and the overall development.

530
00:30:40,704 --> 00:30:40,964
And

531
00:30:41,863 --> 00:30:45,264
if you look at that at the scale of the national landscape character area,

532
00:30:47,984 --> 00:30:51,724
the percentage of what the development takes of the national

533
00:30:51,764 --> 00:30:53,584
landscape character area is very small.

534
00:30:54,124 --> 00:30:56,724
And we have stated that in the landscape

535
00:30:57,604 --> 00:31:00,664
baseline where we go through all the landscape character areas

536
00:31:01,864 --> 00:31:05,484
from a national level, to a county level, to district level, and to

a borough

537
00:31:05,524 --> 00:31:05,744
level.

538
00:31:07,284 --> 00:31:11,144
And in there we say that the national landscape character area is of

539
00:31:11,244 --> 00:31:15,044
a scale which is too large in order to make a

540
00:31:15,104 --> 00:31:18,284
tangible assessment whether that is significant or not.

541
00:31:19,604 --> 00:31:22,724
It is not significant because we have only a very small percentage

542
00:31:23,764 --> 00:31:24,164
of the

543
00:31:25,124 --> 00:31:26,824
national landscape character area covered.

544
00:31:27,704 --> 00:31:31,344
Excuse me, sorry, Mr. Schulz. Would you be able to just speak up

545
00:31:31,464 --> 00:31:31,924
slightly?

546
00:31:32,144 --> 00:31:32,564
Yeah, sure.

547
00:31:32,744 --> 00:31:33,505
Thank you very much. I

548
00:31:33,523 --> 00:31:34,544
can move the microphone a bit closer.

549
00:31:34,564 --> 00:31:34,824
Thank you.

550
00:31:34,823 --> 00:31:35,364
That might be better, yeah.

551
00:31:36,264 --> 00:31:36,484
So

552
00:31:37,924 --> 00:31:41,484
we have excluded the national landscape character area on that reason that

553
00:31:41,984 --> 00:31:45,784
the proposed scheme is a very small percentage of that

554
00:31:46,224 --> 00:31:47,584
national landscape character area.

555
00:31:48,364 --> 00:31:50,904
And we are focused on the historic landscape

556
00:31:52,444 --> 00:31:56,304
types and areas identified by Lincolnshire County Council in its

557
00:31:56,824 --> 00:32:00,624
historic landscape character assessment, which are a lot smaller in

558
00:32:00,744 --> 00:32:04,684
scale, and we can there look at what is a

559
00:32:04,744 --> 00:32:06,484
significant effect on those areas.

560
00:32:07,084 --> 00:32:10,704
So that provides a much more detailed assessment

561
00:32:11,244 --> 00:32:14,384
and a more tangible conclusion as to whether this

562
00:32:15,004 --> 00:32:17,364
development is significant or not.

563

00:32:18,584 --> 00:32:22,044
And hence we have excluded the national landscape character area.

564
00:32:27,204 --> 00:32:28,704
I think the next question was

565
00:32:30,344 --> 00:32:30,624
that

566
00:32:31,544 --> 00:32:34,144
in relation to visual cumulative effects and the

567
00:32:35,524 --> 00:32:39,444
receptor assessment, that it was stated that

568
00:32:40,224 --> 00:32:43,604
it's a broad assessment of grouping everything together,

569
00:32:43,924 --> 00:32:46,324
grouping residential receptors together, grouping

570
00:32:48,484 --> 00:32:49,904
recreational receptors together.

571
00:32:50,764 --> 00:32:50,964
So

572
00:32:51,784 --> 00:32:54,064
I think that simplifies it a little bit too much.

573
00:32:54,604 --> 00:32:58,384
The landscape and visual impact assessment is quite clear

574
00:32:59,104 --> 00:33:02,464
about individual areas of residences,

575
00:33:03,944 --> 00:33:06,424
road locations, locations to

576
00:33:07,344 --> 00:33:11,184
relevant representative viewpoints we have identified across the

577
00:33:11,284 --> 00:33:14,784
scheme. And we are measuring the

578
00:33:14,844 --> 00:33:15,864
effects on

579
00:33:17,204 --> 00:33:20,864
residential receptors, on recreational receptors, on farmers and

580
00:33:20,924 --> 00:33:24,644
workers and road users along those

581
00:33:24,944 --> 00:33:28,064
measurements, what we have identified on those representative viewpoints,

582
00:33:28,624 --> 00:33:32,504
and in terms of what they can see, what we can see from publicly

583
00:33:32,524 --> 00:33:33,484
accessible areas.

584
00:33:34,464 --> 00:33:36,964
So that is then summarized in the

585
00:33:38,044 --> 00:33:41,584
landscape and visual impact assessment, including the cumulative assessment

586
00:33:42,064 --> 00:33:45,464
where those areas are mentioned. They're named, actually, the

587
00:33:45,824 --> 00:33:49,584
individual area is named and properties named or property groups.

588
00:33:50,304 --> 00:33:51,704
And so

589
00:33:52,684 --> 00:33:53,544
we have

590
00:33:54,904 --> 00:33:57,524
felt that this is sufficient to

591
00:33:58,304 --> 00:34:01,464
identify relevant visual effects in that case.

592
00:34:02,084 --> 00:34:03,264
And for

593
00:34:04,304 --> 00:34:08,144
assessing the line on its own, and the solar farm, we have

594
00:34:08,205 --> 00:34:10,284
identified significant visual effects.

595
00:34:11,324 --> 00:34:14,165
For the cumulative assessment, we have identified

596
00:34:15,304 --> 00:34:19,104
that the addition of the scheme when seen with the other cumulative

597
00:34:19,384 --> 00:34:22,004
developments is minor, not significant.

598
00:34:23,644 --> 00:34:23,924
And

599
00:34:25,484 --> 00:34:27,924
assessing cumulatively all developments together,

600
00:34:29,083 --> 00:34:32,644
we have identified that the effects will be

601
00:34:33,644 --> 00:34:34,765
moderate to significant.

602
00:34:41,284 --> 00:34:43,524
Thank you. There was also a point raised by Mr.

603

00:34:43,705 --> 00:34:45,644
Rawlings, who I note has his hand up.

604
00:34:45,685 --> 00:34:49,344
But the point raised about traveling through the landscape and that that

605
00:34:49,424 --> 00:34:51,904
impact has been under-reported.

606
00:34:54,464 --> 00:34:57,964
So the cumulative assessment does talk about combined

607
00:34:58,004 --> 00:34:59,664
effects and sequential effects.

608
00:35:01,324 --> 00:35:04,344
I think it's important to understand what are sequential effects.

609
00:35:04,824 --> 00:35:08,444
And it's, yes, one travels through the landscape and one maybe

610
00:35:08,564 --> 00:35:11,824
sees the Meridian development, then you see

611
00:35:11,884 --> 00:35:15,744
the Western Marsh Leicestershire

612
00:35:15,784 --> 00:35:18,804
development, you see the Grimsby to Walpole development, and not the Meridian

613
00:35:18,844 --> 00:35:22,684
development. And you have locations where you see both together, which is then

614
00:35:22,724 --> 00:35:23,304
combined.

615
00:35:24,264 --> 00:35:26,764
Sequential depends on how you travel.

616
00:35:26,944 --> 00:35:29,384
There is a difference whether one walks along the

617
00:35:31,504 --> 00:35:33,804
public rights of way or if one drives,

618
00:35:34,664 --> 00:35:37,324
and whereas you focus when traveling through the landscape.

619
00:35:37,344 --> 00:35:41,264
And also, most importantly is the time when you travel to

620
00:35:41,284 --> 00:35:44,164
the landscape. So if you walk through the landscape, it will

621
00:35:45,524 --> 00:35:46,424
unfold on a

622
00:35:47,284 --> 00:35:47,944
much smaller

623
00:35:49,024 --> 00:35:49,284
rate,

624
00:35:50,544 --> 00:35:51,744
the effect of cumulative

625
00:35:53,344 --> 00:35:56,304
perceptions. And if you drive,

626
00:35:57,444 --> 00:36:00,264
you might just take a couple of minutes until you see the other
development.

627
00:36:01,044 --> 00:36:01,284
And

628
00:36:02,284 --> 00:36:05,924
so we have not specifically mentioned in the

629

00:36:05,984 --> 00:36:09,584
assessment those time differences in the sequential effect,

630
00:36:09,964 --> 00:36:11,164
but we have accounted for

631
00:36:12,764 --> 00:36:15,484
general sequential effects and their impact.

632
00:36:15,624 --> 00:36:17,884
And that has fed into the overall

633
00:36:19,654 --> 00:36:20,914
Cumulative impact ratings.

634
00:36:27,554 --> 00:36:31,254
I think there was also another point raised by South Holland
District Council about

635
00:36:31,314 --> 00:36:33,234
the industrialization of the landscape.

636
00:36:34,534 --> 00:36:38,134
It was. I have actually got that down as a question for item seven

637
00:36:38,194 --> 00:36:38,634
later.

638
00:36:39,054 --> 00:36:39,194
Okay.

639
00:36:39,234 --> 00:36:42,874
So I'm happy to take it now, but equally...

640
00:36:44,874 --> 00:36:48,134
Yes. As it's been raised, I think we'll take it now, but I did have
it for later.

641
00:36:48,814 --> 00:36:49,014
Sure.

642

00:36:51,134 --> 00:36:55,074
So is there anything you want to ask in relation to that, in addition to what has

643
00:36:55,114 --> 00:36:55,974
been asked, or...?

644
00:37:00,274 --> 00:37:02,454
No. Actually, I'll leave it then.

645
00:37:02,974 --> 00:37:03,094
Okay.

646
00:37:03,214 --> 00:37:07,134
And I'll come to Mr. Rawlings, who has his hand up, and see if he has anything

647
00:37:07,394 --> 00:37:11,114
further to add. And then it might be that I can capture my point still later then.

648
00:37:11,714 --> 00:37:11,934
Okay.

649
00:37:12,654 --> 00:37:13,674
Mr. Rawlings?

650
00:37:18,354 --> 00:37:22,174
Hi. Tom Rawlings, landscape representative for South Holland District

651
00:37:22,234 --> 00:37:22,774
Council.

652
00:37:23,594 --> 00:37:27,154
Regarding the sequential cumulative effects, yes,

653
00:37:27,274 --> 00:37:31,234
appreciate that they have been carried out within the assessment.

654
00:37:31,814 --> 00:37:35,694
However, my point wasn't whether they've been assessed or not, it

was

655
00:37:35,734 --> 00:37:39,694
that insufficient weight has been given to the contribution of the scheme

656
00:37:39,774 --> 00:37:40,294
to them.

657
00:37:41,354 --> 00:37:45,054
And regarding the national character area clarification that the applicant has

658
00:37:45,094 --> 00:37:45,374
given,

659
00:37:47,134 --> 00:37:50,894
my point wasn't relating to the national character areas, to the local character

660
00:37:50,954 --> 00:37:54,754
area, where the scheme is anticipated to result

661
00:37:54,834 --> 00:37:58,674
in significant adverse impacts on its own on four

662
00:37:58,754 --> 00:38:00,974
separate landscape character areas.

663
00:38:01,214 --> 00:38:04,914
However, the applicant has stated that its contribution to cumulative

664
00:38:05,014 --> 00:38:05,614
effects

665
00:38:06,474 --> 00:38:10,114
will not be significant. And I'd like to get a bit more

666
00:38:10,154 --> 00:38:14,054
information about how that decision has been arrived at, because it seems

667
00:38:14,114 --> 00:38:17,414
as though the applicant's own information is at odds with itself there.

668
00:38:20,174 --> 00:38:23,954
Sorry, I just want to check that you captured all that because there was a funny

669
00:38:24,034 --> 00:38:27,054
echo halfway through. Or would you like Mr. Rawlings to repeat?

670
00:38:27,594 --> 00:38:29,074
I capture some of it-

671
00:38:29,314 --> 00:38:29,475
Yes. So-

672
00:38:29,773 --> 00:38:31,254
... so maybe you could repeat, please. Yeah.

673
00:38:31,454 --> 00:38:33,154
Yeah. Sorry, Mr. Rawlings, could you repeat that?

674
00:38:33,214 --> 00:38:37,114
Because there was an echo that appeared halfway through you talking.

675
00:38:37,354 --> 00:38:39,274
Oh. Of course. Yeah, very sorry.

676
00:38:40,094 --> 00:38:43,774
Yeah. So essentially two points. One being that, yes, I

677
00:38:43,794 --> 00:38:44,414
appreciate the

678
00:38:45,294 --> 00:38:48,914
sequential cumulative effects have been assessed, but my issue is

679
00:38:49,254 --> 00:38:53,214
not that they have or haven't been considered or fed

680
00:38:53,274 --> 00:38:57,254
into the overall cumulative assessment, but that insufficient weight has been

681
00:38:57,314 --> 00:39:01,034
given to the scheme in its contribution to cumulative impact.

682
00:39:01,854 --> 00:39:02,734
And the second

683
00:39:04,354 --> 00:39:07,874
point is that, yeah, the applicant has responded

684
00:39:07,914 --> 00:39:08,494
regarding

685
00:39:09,854 --> 00:39:13,494
the cumulative impacts on national character areas, but not on the local character

686
00:39:13,554 --> 00:39:16,254
areas, which was what my question was actually about.

687
00:39:17,214 --> 00:39:20,494
And essentially, there are anticipated to be

688
00:39:20,574 --> 00:39:24,374
significant adverse impacts arising from the scheme in

689
00:39:24,474 --> 00:39:28,434
isolation, so why are the contributions to

690
00:39:28,494 --> 00:39:29,094
overall

691
00:39:30,694 --> 00:39:33,634
cumulative impacts not considered to be significant in this case?

692
00:39:36,694 --> 00:39:40,214
Thank you. And I'll also take Ms. Mayhew as well.

693
00:39:40,374 --> 00:39:41,154
I see your hand is up.

694
00:39:45,974 --> 00:39:49,914
Yes. Thank you, Madam. Katie Mayhew on behalf of Lincolnshire County

695
00:39:49,994 --> 00:39:53,414
Council. Yes, I also just wanted to pick up two points.

696
00:39:53,514 --> 00:39:57,254
The first one relating to the national character area and the response.

697
00:39:57,454 --> 00:39:59,154
And I can understand

698
00:40:00,014 --> 00:40:03,994
the applicant's response in terms of the contribution of

699
00:40:04,034 --> 00:40:07,314
the scheme being very small to the national character area.

700
00:40:08,574 --> 00:40:09,734
But equally,

701
00:40:12,174 --> 00:40:15,974
every development within the national character area would have a

702
00:40:16,034 --> 00:40:19,954
similar response. And there is then no accountability

703
00:40:20,014 --> 00:40:23,194
for the impact on the national character area as a whole.

704
00:40:24,454 --> 00:40:27,994
And I did a very quick mapping exercise of the

705
00:40:28,054 --> 00:40:30,734
large-scale solar within the national character area,

706
00:40:31,554 --> 00:40:33,974
which spans about four different

707
00:40:35,654 --> 00:40:36,154
counties,

708
00:40:37,394 --> 00:40:41,054
and the contribution of solar cumulatively is very

709
00:40:41,114 --> 00:40:44,574
significant within the NCA, of which

710
00:40:45,054 --> 00:40:48,354
Meridian Solar development would contribute.

711
00:40:48,954 --> 00:40:52,314
And it's that overall significance that is not being considered

712
00:40:53,154 --> 00:40:53,574
anywhere,

713
00:40:54,554 --> 00:40:57,434
and is something that I think is being missed.

714
00:40:58,214 --> 00:41:01,374
And the second point was relating to

715
00:41:02,314 --> 00:41:03,154
the residential

716
00:41:04,034 --> 00:41:06,814
contribution in terms of the visual assessment

717
00:41:08,074 --> 00:41:11,074
and the applicant's response just then was

718
00:41:11,694 --> 00:41:15,554
suggesting that the contribution of the scheme would

719
00:41:15,614 --> 00:41:16,654

not be significant,

720
00:41:17,474 --> 00:41:21,074
but cumulative there would be significant adverse

721
00:41:21,154 --> 00:41:25,134
effects. However, there are significant

722
00:41:25,254 --> 00:41:28,834
adverse visual effects identified as a result of the

723
00:41:30,034 --> 00:41:33,574
scheme on its own. Therefore, I am not clear,

724
00:41:33,874 --> 00:41:37,314
particularly if you have, for example, a residential receptor in close

725
00:41:37,374 --> 00:41:38,114
proximity

726
00:41:39,314 --> 00:41:40,274
to the scheme,

727
00:41:41,574 --> 00:41:42,034
how

728
00:41:43,234 --> 00:41:43,974
the response

729
00:41:45,514 --> 00:41:49,374
that the scheme is not significant cumulatively

730
00:41:49,454 --> 00:41:52,994
when it is significant on its own does not seem to

731
00:41:55,134 --> 00:41:58,894
equate, and I don't fully understand that argument.

732
00:41:59,114 --> 00:42:02,054
So some further clarification on that would be helpful.

733
00:42:02,674 --> 00:42:03,274
Thank you, madam.

734
00:42:04,474 --> 00:42:05,074
Thank you.

735
00:42:05,934 --> 00:42:09,774
The point you raised, actually, about looking at the national

736
00:42:10,394 --> 00:42:12,174
character landscape and amount of solar,

737
00:42:13,414 --> 00:42:16,034
as I say, that was going to be one of my questions later, and so I might actually

738
00:42:16,074 --> 00:42:18,434
just pose it now. Whether you have

739
00:42:19,734 --> 00:42:23,254
figures, not necessarily to hand and you can take this away as an action point, but

740
00:42:23,314 --> 00:42:25,254
figures of the percentage

741
00:42:26,934 --> 00:42:27,694
that this scheme will

742
00:42:28,602 --> 00:42:32,362
make to the national landscape character, but also in

743
00:42:32,422 --> 00:42:35,122
combination with the other solar farms, as Ms.

744
00:42:35,162 --> 00:42:38,802
Mayhew has just referred to within the national character area, to

745
00:42:38,842 --> 00:42:41,102
understand that degree of

746
00:42:41,942 --> 00:42:43,182
effect upon it.

747
00:42:46,562 --> 00:42:47,042
Okay. A

748
00:42:48,002 --> 00:42:48,702
lot of questions.

749
00:42:49,762 --> 00:42:52,222
So I start with your question right now.

750
00:42:53,342 --> 00:42:54,582
In terms of the percentage,

751
00:42:55,422 --> 00:42:59,102
we have not stated what percentage it is, but we can provide that.

752
00:43:00,462 --> 00:43:00,722
And

753
00:43:01,542 --> 00:43:04,362
I think I understand the concern here that

754
00:43:05,442 --> 00:43:07,242
there are a lot of developments in Lincolnshire,

755
00:43:08,722 --> 00:43:10,902
solar, overhead lines, et cetera,

756
00:43:11,982 --> 00:43:15,582
and I have myself worked on other solar developments north of

757
00:43:15,642 --> 00:43:15,982
Lincoln,

758
00:43:18,102 --> 00:43:21,102
but they're 80 kilometers away. And so

759

00:43:22,922 --> 00:43:23,382
it's not

760
00:43:24,662 --> 00:43:28,102
the task of this assessment to assess all

761
00:43:28,142 --> 00:43:30,322
developments in the national landscape character area.

762
00:43:31,142 --> 00:43:34,782
We are assessing what the individual impact is of

763
00:43:35,582 --> 00:43:39,522
the Meridian development, and we assess what is the

764
00:43:39,582 --> 00:43:42,842
additional impact cumulatively to the other

765
00:43:42,962 --> 00:43:46,882
developments. But we're not commenting whether that pushes

766
00:43:47,742 --> 00:43:48,462
the overall

767
00:43:49,582 --> 00:43:50,722
landscape character

768
00:43:52,122 --> 00:43:55,102
area into a solar farm landscape or into an overhead

769
00:43:56,022 --> 00:43:59,862
line landscape with wirescape. That's not our job for this

770
00:43:59,882 --> 00:44:03,302
particular assessment. We assess what is the additional impact

771
00:44:03,942 --> 00:44:07,362
to the other development, and that's what we have identified, and
that is not

772
00:44:07,402 --> 00:44:07,982

significant.

773
00:44:09,882 --> 00:44:10,562
If you look at

774
00:44:12,062 --> 00:44:15,962
all developments located within the cumulative study area we have given, and

775
00:44:16,002 --> 00:44:16,502
that is

776
00:44:17,762 --> 00:44:18,682
for the national

777
00:44:20,022 --> 00:44:23,622
significant infrastructure projects 10 kilometers radius,

778
00:44:24,282 --> 00:44:26,562
we have identified that it is significant.

779
00:44:30,502 --> 00:44:31,022
And I think

780
00:44:33,422 --> 00:44:37,282
it leads to the next question from

781
00:44:38,202 --> 00:44:40,922
Lincolnshire County Council in relation to

782
00:44:42,222 --> 00:44:44,922
residential effects, whether they are significant or not.

783
00:44:45,602 --> 00:44:47,982
And I think there is maybe a little misunderstanding.

784
00:44:51,142 --> 00:44:51,362
When the

785
00:44:52,602 --> 00:44:56,282
development is assessed on its own, we have identified a range of

effects

786
00:44:56,822 --> 00:45:00,342
and there are, at year 15, at residual effects,

787
00:45:00,562 --> 00:45:02,502
significant effects remaining for

788
00:45:03,542 --> 00:45:07,442
residences, for recreational users, for road users, and they

789
00:45:07,502 --> 00:45:11,162
have been identified in chapter 12 and its appendices.

790
00:45:12,282 --> 00:45:15,922
When it comes to cumulative effects, we have identified that the

791
00:45:15,982 --> 00:45:19,722
addition of the development, and that is in

792
00:45:19,802 --> 00:45:22,222
views for residents, for recreational

793
00:45:23,622 --> 00:45:27,482
users, and other receptor groups, is not significant.

794
00:45:28,102 --> 00:45:28,382
And

795
00:45:29,642 --> 00:45:31,082
when you have combined

796
00:45:31,882 --> 00:45:35,602
views of all developments within the

797
00:45:35,642 --> 00:45:39,342
study area or sections of cumulative effects, you can't see all

798
00:45:39,382 --> 00:45:42,842
developments in one go, and that's where it leads to the sequential effects again.

799
00:45:43,622 --> 00:45:47,582
But when you see the Meridian development in combination with the Grimsby

800
00:45:47,622 --> 00:45:51,562
to Warter, for example, where they are proposed to run parallel

801
00:45:51,962 --> 00:45:53,042
towards Weston Marsh.

802
00:45:56,042 --> 00:45:56,922
In combination,

803
00:45:58,382 --> 00:45:58,862
together,

804
00:45:59,722 --> 00:46:01,242
they are significant effects.

805
00:46:02,222 --> 00:46:05,302
And so we are very clear on that actually, in the landscape and visual impact

806
00:46:05,362 --> 00:46:07,682
assessment, that on its own

807
00:46:08,522 --> 00:46:12,122
it is significant. In addition to cumulative

808
00:46:13,142 --> 00:46:17,002
developments, it is not, because we're just one component of many other

809
00:46:17,022 --> 00:46:18,722
developments in the study area.

810
00:46:20,062 --> 00:46:21,422
But if you look at all of them

811
00:46:22,342 --> 00:46:24,562

in the study area, then it is significant.

812
00:46:25,302 --> 00:46:28,982
And I know that can be a little bit confusing, but that's just the way it is.

813
00:46:29,622 --> 00:46:33,362
We are following guidelines from the Landscape Institute on this, where

814
00:46:34,322 --> 00:46:38,082
we are required to assess it individually in addition to the other

815
00:46:38,122 --> 00:46:39,322
developments and also

816
00:46:41,762 --> 00:46:43,722
in its entirety, and that's what we have provided.

817
00:46:46,601 --> 00:46:47,781
There was another question

818
00:46:50,142 --> 00:46:50,622
from,

819
00:46:52,642 --> 00:46:55,562
I'm not sure if it was South Holland District Council, but it was about the

820
00:46:56,802 --> 00:47:00,442
missing assessment on local landscape character areas.

821
00:47:02,182 --> 00:47:02,402
So

822
00:47:03,362 --> 00:47:04,882
I think we have to understand. So there is

823
00:47:05,822 --> 00:47:07,482
the national landscape character area.

824

00:47:08,282 --> 00:47:09,042
Then we have

825
00:47:10,562 --> 00:47:13,702
county, like the historic landscape character assessment from Lincolnshire.

826
00:47:14,702 --> 00:47:15,282
Then we have

827
00:47:16,602 --> 00:47:20,182
landscape character assessments from South Holland District Council, from

828
00:47:20,582 --> 00:47:22,042
Boston Borough Council, from

829
00:47:22,982 --> 00:47:24,222
various bodies,

830
00:47:25,442 --> 00:47:28,482
which were produced at various ages or at times.

831
00:47:29,162 --> 00:47:32,722
So South Holland was done in 2003. The Lincolnshire

832
00:47:33,682 --> 00:47:36,642
historic landscape character assessment was done in 2011.

833
00:47:37,342 --> 00:47:38,362
And we had to make a decision,

834
00:47:39,962 --> 00:47:42,082
what is the latest one? What is the most

835
00:47:43,222 --> 00:47:46,962
up-to-date version according to modern recent

836
00:47:47,002 --> 00:47:49,282
guidelines on landscape character assessments?

837

00:47:49,322 --> 00:47:49,862
And we have

838
00:47:50,682 --> 00:47:51,742
decided to

839
00:47:52,802 --> 00:47:56,302
go with the historic landscape character

840
00:47:56,322 --> 00:47:59,522
assessment from Lincolnshire County Council, which identifies

841
00:48:00,002 --> 00:48:03,062
historic landscape character areas, which are broader areas.

842
00:48:03,462 --> 00:48:07,262
And then they are then subdivided into historic landscape character zones.

843
00:48:09,882 --> 00:48:10,402
And we have

844
00:48:11,262 --> 00:48:14,462
felt that this is sufficient because the

845
00:48:14,982 --> 00:48:18,702
development of those historic landscape character areas was done in

846
00:48:18,742 --> 00:48:21,862
conjunction with all the other planning authorities.

847
00:48:23,002 --> 00:48:23,262
So

848
00:48:24,522 --> 00:48:27,822
we have not ignored local landscape character areas.

849
00:48:28,162 --> 00:48:31,442
Quite the contrary. We have quite clearly outlined in the

850
00:48:32,142 --> 00:48:35,362

landscape baseline and in the landscape character assessment

851
00:48:36,394 --> 00:48:40,154
What our approach is, just what I have said now, is written out there

852
00:48:40,674 --> 00:48:43,454
and described why we have assessed

853
00:48:44,694 --> 00:48:48,294
the historic landscape character areas and types only, and not the other ones.

854
00:48:52,294 --> 00:48:54,394
I think that was the core I have written down.

855
00:48:54,434 --> 00:48:58,234
There might be other questions, if there's anything else you would like me to

856
00:48:58,294 --> 00:48:58,634
answer.

857
00:49:00,074 --> 00:49:01,594
No. I had picked up

858
00:49:02,754 --> 00:49:04,974
from South Holland District Council in response to

859
00:49:05,054 --> 00:49:08,694
EXQ-15028, the reference to the strategic landscape

860
00:49:08,754 --> 00:49:11,474
capacity study 2003

861
00:49:12,394 --> 00:49:16,294
not being included, but I think that's what you've just addressed in saying how

862
00:49:16,354 --> 00:49:17,774
you've weighed up which document-

863
00:49:18,374 --> 00:49:18,434
Yeah

864
00:49:18,473 --> 00:49:20,454
... was taken into account. So, yes.

865
00:49:22,094 --> 00:49:23,234
Mr Rains.

866
00:49:25,234 --> 00:49:28,614
David Rains, local resident. Actually, resident of

867
00:49:28,894 --> 00:49:29,354
Moulton.

868
00:49:30,574 --> 00:49:33,554
A lot of words have been spoken here, but I don't think we've got to the crux of

869
00:49:33,574 --> 00:49:36,134
the problem, really, in terms of visual impact.

870
00:49:38,134 --> 00:49:41,994
As a resident of Moulton, there is already an existing 400

871
00:49:42,054 --> 00:49:45,934
kV pylon route to the west of the village, I think Bicker to

872
00:49:46,574 --> 00:49:47,114
Walpole.

873
00:49:48,994 --> 00:49:52,934
And these projects will add another three lines in the location as

874
00:49:52,994 --> 00:49:55,494
well, as I drive north to Spaldings.

875
00:49:58,074 --> 00:50:01,954
There will be the Grimsby to Walpole if it goes ahead, there will be the

876
00:50:02,014 --> 00:50:05,594
Western Marsh to East Leicester if it goes ahead, and there will be the

877
00:50:05,634 --> 00:50:09,074
Meridian if it goes ahead. That's three

878
00:50:09,134 --> 00:50:12,394
lines of 400 kV that's readily

879
00:50:12,994 --> 00:50:16,694
visible in a very flat landscape. For instance, I can see

880
00:50:18,514 --> 00:50:21,554
the wind farm at Long Sutton if I just walk down the road.

881
00:50:23,314 --> 00:50:26,814
There seems a lot of academic points made here, but at the end of the day,

882
00:50:27,374 --> 00:50:30,514
this village will be surrounded by 400 kV

883
00:50:31,094 --> 00:50:34,894
lines, which will be readily visible in the landscape

884
00:50:34,994 --> 00:50:38,874
as people move around that landscape, whether walking, by bicycle or

885
00:50:38,934 --> 00:50:41,954
by car or by bus or whatever. They're there.

886
00:50:42,314 --> 00:50:45,933
And the fact that one of them was built 60 years ago in the

887
00:50:45,954 --> 00:50:46,494
'60s,

888
00:50:48,654 --> 00:50:50,654
timescale of things don't matter. It is there.

889
00:50:50,854 --> 00:50:54,774
It's another line which we can see on the other side of the village, and I'd

890
00:50:54,834 --> 00:50:56,974
make those points. Thank you.

891
00:50:58,034 --> 00:51:01,894
Thank you, Mr Rains. Mr Rawlings, you've got your hand up again.

892
00:51:01,974 --> 00:51:02,874
Would you like to come in?

893
00:51:07,834 --> 00:51:11,754
Hi. Tom Rawlings again on behalf of South Holland District Council as the

894
00:51:11,794 --> 00:51:12,654
landscape advisor.

895
00:51:13,754 --> 00:51:15,154
Yeah, I appreciate

896
00:51:16,014 --> 00:51:19,954
what the applicant have clarified there, but I think the

897
00:51:20,014 --> 00:51:22,174
original point was regarding...

898
00:51:24,774 --> 00:51:28,714
My clarification question was that the applicant had answered regarding

899
00:51:28,774 --> 00:51:30,954
national character areas and not the finer grain

900
00:51:31,974 --> 00:51:33,094
character assessments.

901
00:51:34,134 --> 00:51:37,714
Not that they weren't included in the assessment, but that their

original

902
00:51:37,794 --> 00:51:41,674
answer today didn't answer my question, because

903
00:51:41,714 --> 00:51:45,674
that was regarding the finer grain assessments, which I believe actually

904
00:51:45,714 --> 00:51:47,834
do include some of the local character assessments,

905
00:51:48,814 --> 00:51:51,514
as well as the historical landscape character assessments.

906
00:51:52,454 --> 00:51:56,334
And essentially, there are appearing to be some inconsistencies there.

907
00:51:57,294 --> 00:52:00,454
For instance, when the applicant's assessment

908
00:52:01,474 --> 00:52:05,194
finds a significant effect on the Eastern Fens from Meridian

909
00:52:05,254 --> 00:52:09,154
alone, however, the cumulative appendix then concludes that there is

910
00:52:09,234 --> 00:52:12,794
not significant effects. Which doesn't seem to add up.

911
00:52:12,874 --> 00:52:14,594
If one of the schemes on its own

912
00:52:16,674 --> 00:52:20,534
will produce significant effects, then the overall cumulative effects

913
00:52:22,234 --> 00:52:23,634
must also be significant.

914

00:52:24,654 --> 00:52:26,874
And I think these need reconciling

915
00:52:27,674 --> 00:52:31,214
at the same time as perhaps considering what the

916
00:52:31,254 --> 00:52:35,054
contribution of the scheme is to wider cumulative effects

917
00:52:36,014 --> 00:52:38,394
in a more consistent way with the

918
00:52:39,974 --> 00:52:42,114
individual effects of the scheme on its own.

919
00:52:46,174 --> 00:52:47,194
Thank you, Mr Rawlings.

920
00:52:51,334 --> 00:52:55,094
I think I would agree with what's just been said in terms of

921
00:52:55,294 --> 00:52:58,414
there does seem to be a tension and an inconsistency between

922
00:52:59,474 --> 00:53:03,274
there being an individual significant effect being found, but the cumulative

923
00:53:03,314 --> 00:53:06,134
not. And I understand the point, I think, you've made where you've looked in the

924
00:53:06,734 --> 00:53:09,134
wider area and then you said this individual element,

925
00:53:10,154 --> 00:53:11,914
its own individual contribution

926
00:53:12,834 --> 00:53:14,374
doesn't make a significant

927

00:53:15,234 --> 00:53:18,834
effect in itself. I think what's been raised by

928
00:53:18,894 --> 00:53:19,554
parties today

929
00:53:20,434 --> 00:53:24,374
is the lack of clarity then about how the combined,

930
00:53:24,774 --> 00:53:27,334
it being added and the in combination.

931
00:53:27,574 --> 00:53:32,674
I'm

932
00:53:32,714 --> 00:53:35,694
probably using the incorrect terminology here, but the dilution of having other

933
00:53:35,754 --> 00:53:39,674
projects. It's the adding and this continual adding

934
00:53:39,714 --> 00:53:41,774
of projects together in the landscape causing a

935
00:53:43,774 --> 00:53:45,954
significant visual impact.

936
00:53:49,854 --> 00:53:50,194
I think,

937
00:53:51,814 --> 00:53:52,794
I didn't catch your name.

938
00:53:53,534 --> 00:53:53,814
My name?

939
00:53:54,894 --> 00:53:56,834
Sorry, my name is David Rains. I apologize-

940
00:53:56,873 --> 00:53:57,034

David Rains

941
00:53:57,093 --> 00:53:58,414
... for not stating that at the beginning.

942
00:53:58,694 --> 00:54:01,274
I think you made a very good example, actually.

943
00:54:02,854 --> 00:54:06,434
When you get to Moulton and you look at the existing

944
00:54:06,494 --> 00:54:10,234
landscape, you can see already 400 kV overhead line

945
00:54:10,294 --> 00:54:14,154
infrastructure. And if you'll take it from a

946
00:54:14,214 --> 00:54:15,234
cumulative point of view,

947
00:54:16,454 --> 00:54:17,014
so we add

948
00:54:18,334 --> 00:54:18,554
the

949
00:54:20,114 --> 00:54:22,194
Grimsby to Walpole to it, we add

950
00:54:23,374 --> 00:54:24,074
Bemul to it,

951
00:54:26,254 --> 00:54:27,614
and consider them built,

952
00:54:28,874 --> 00:54:31,534
you would see that from certain areas in Moulton.

953
00:54:34,034 --> 00:54:34,914
Then the Meridian

954
00:54:35,914 --> 00:54:38,414
development is built, and you would see that, too.

955
00:54:40,814 --> 00:54:41,294
But if-

956
00:54:45,530 --> 00:54:46,310
If you consider

957
00:54:48,210 --> 00:54:52,010
everything built except for the Meridian, you have a new

958
00:54:52,090 --> 00:54:55,550
view, you have new components in your view, and then the

959
00:54:55,610 --> 00:54:57,210
addition of the Meridian

960
00:54:58,770 --> 00:55:00,350
development is

961
00:55:01,730 --> 00:55:03,530
being assessed in the cumulative assessment.

962
00:55:03,670 --> 00:55:05,750
What is that effect of that addition?

963
00:55:06,230 --> 00:55:10,010
You already see the existing line, you already see the cumulative
lines, and

964
00:55:10,070 --> 00:55:10,630
we add

965
00:55:12,370 --> 00:55:13,410
the Meridian line. And

966
00:55:14,510 --> 00:55:18,370
when I look at Moulton in particular, it's east

967

00:55:18,450 --> 00:55:18,810
of the

968
00:55:19,970 --> 00:55:23,070
Meridian overhead line. So we add a line

969
00:55:23,890 --> 00:55:27,370
west of the view, west of Grimsby to Walpole, so it's

970
00:55:27,410 --> 00:55:28,090
behind

971
00:55:29,470 --> 00:55:33,390
the Grimsby to Walpole line. So you notice it, but that

972
00:55:33,470 --> 00:55:34,010
addition

973
00:55:35,110 --> 00:55:38,750
is identified as not significant because we have already all the
other

974
00:55:38,810 --> 00:55:42,730
lines we see, and we add this in the background or in the middle

975
00:55:42,770 --> 00:55:43,250
distance.

976
00:55:44,590 --> 00:55:45,450
But if you look at that

977
00:55:46,810 --> 00:55:46,970
in

978
00:55:48,270 --> 00:55:49,129
its totality,

979
00:55:50,070 --> 00:55:53,710
when you see all the lines together, then it's significant, and
that's what we have

980

00:55:53,790 --> 00:55:55,190
stated in the cumulative assessment.

981
00:55:57,870 --> 00:56:01,390
Mr. Raines, just before you come in, I wanted to just ask then, so at what point

982
00:56:01,430 --> 00:56:05,350
does it, when you've got the lines you described, at what point then does it become

983
00:56:05,390 --> 00:56:06,110
significant?

984
00:56:07,650 --> 00:56:08,650
So that is the

985
00:56:09,770 --> 00:56:11,030
totality of...

986
00:56:12,130 --> 00:56:12,950
It depends on

987
00:56:14,330 --> 00:56:18,010
the individual viewpoint area of where you're looking at.

988
00:56:18,190 --> 00:56:19,930
What do you see in the existing view?

989
00:56:20,610 --> 00:56:20,850
So

990
00:56:22,010 --> 00:56:22,790
taking an example,

991
00:56:24,890 --> 00:56:28,810
a house who looks west right now, and it sees the existing

992
00:56:28,990 --> 00:56:31,830
400 kV overhead lines in the background.

993

00:56:32,550 --> 00:56:36,430
It sees, across a flat landscape with

994
00:56:36,470 --> 00:56:40,010
very little vertical vegetation, there will be some

995
00:56:40,650 --> 00:56:44,230
planting in the long field boundaries or clusters of shrubs and trees,

996
00:56:44,610 --> 00:56:48,210
which kind of layer up the long-distance view.

997
00:56:48,510 --> 00:56:49,710
And in the background, you see

998
00:56:50,630 --> 00:56:54,210
the existing 400 kV lines. So the Grimsby to Walpole line

999
00:56:54,830 --> 00:56:55,410
would be built,

1000
00:56:56,370 --> 00:56:59,210
which might move into the middle distance of that view.

1001
00:57:00,310 --> 00:57:00,990
So we add

1002
00:57:02,270 --> 00:57:05,690
wire lines, we add lattice structure pylons,

1003
00:57:07,030 --> 00:57:08,250
which are visible,

1004
00:57:09,130 --> 00:57:12,650
and depending on how far you are, but if it's in the middle distance, it's going to

1005
00:57:12,690 --> 00:57:16,250
be prominent, but it's not going to be dominant because you can still look through

1006
00:57:16,270 --> 00:57:18,830
the towers. You still keep the openness of the view.

1007
00:57:18,870 --> 00:57:22,550
You still keep the open skies. You can still understand the

1008
00:57:22,610 --> 00:57:26,550
view, but you have additional vertical infrastructure items

1009
00:57:26,590 --> 00:57:28,970
to see, so they create new points of focus.

1010
00:57:30,170 --> 00:57:34,050
If we add to that view the Meridian overhead

1011
00:57:34,110 --> 00:57:37,970
line, we intensify that. Particularly when it runs in

1012
00:57:38,230 --> 00:57:41,050
parallel, we concentrate

1013
00:57:41,570 --> 00:57:43,790
infrastructure lines in one place.

1014
00:57:44,590 --> 00:57:44,870
And

1015
00:57:46,110 --> 00:57:49,190
when you look from Moulton, we would be on the far side of that

1016
00:57:50,150 --> 00:57:53,990
view. We would be also in the middle distance, but beyond the
Grimsby to

1017
00:57:54,050 --> 00:57:57,850
Walpole line. And so you still see

1018
00:57:57,910 --> 00:58:01,450
this, you see additional towers, and that's where the

1019

00:58:01,510 --> 00:58:03,650
design of both lines come into

1020
00:58:04,490 --> 00:58:06,710
game, that towers should be aligned to each other.

1021
00:58:06,750 --> 00:58:10,370
They shouldn't be staggered, so that you increase the actual visibility of

1022
00:58:10,430 --> 00:58:14,150
towers. But you will see the line, you will see more wire escape, you will

1023
00:58:14,230 --> 00:58:17,430
see more pylons, and that's creating the additional effect.

1024
00:58:18,610 --> 00:58:20,790
But we add to this effect. So that

1025
00:58:21,630 --> 00:58:23,650
has been considered as not significant.

1026
00:58:24,770 --> 00:58:28,210
But if you look at the situation now and you add in one go

1027
00:58:29,130 --> 00:58:32,670
the Grimsby to Walpole and the Meridian line to it,

1028
00:58:33,790 --> 00:58:37,190
then that effect would be significant because you in one go see both

1029
00:58:37,250 --> 00:58:40,470
lines together as one concentrated

1030
00:58:40,890 --> 00:58:42,570
element. And I think that's,

1031
00:58:43,590 --> 00:58:47,390
unfortunately, the differentiation in cumulative assessments is

1032

00:58:48,250 --> 00:58:51,350
the addition and the totality. They're two different assessments.

1033
00:58:52,010 --> 00:58:53,230
And it might be

1034
00:58:54,710 --> 00:58:58,510
difficult to understand or to comprehend, "Okay, well, how could
that line be minor

1035
00:58:59,050 --> 00:59:02,250
when it's added to all the other developments?"

1036
00:59:02,850 --> 00:59:05,530
And so that's what we have explained and

1037
00:59:06,370 --> 00:59:07,810
assessed in the

1038
00:59:09,570 --> 00:59:10,590
cumulative assessment.

1039
00:59:13,270 --> 00:59:14,790
And that's all I can really explain.

1040
00:59:14,870 --> 00:59:18,850
It's really that separation between having all

1041
00:59:18,890 --> 00:59:20,770
developments visible in one go,

1042
00:59:22,070 --> 00:59:25,390
theoretically now, of course, or the addition of the

1043
00:59:25,430 --> 00:59:27,810
line to the other developments. And that's the

1044
00:59:28,910 --> 00:59:29,210
key

1045
00:59:30,810 --> 00:59:32,670

differentiation between

1046
00:59:33,950 --> 00:59:36,850
a non-significant effect and a significant effect.

1047
00:59:38,630 --> 00:59:41,010
Thank you. Mr. Raines, do you want to come back in?

1048
00:59:41,790 --> 00:59:43,590
Yes. David Raines, local resident.

1049
00:59:44,650 --> 00:59:48,590
Yeah, you seem to be arguing that the more lines that are added, the less

1050
00:59:48,630 --> 00:59:51,130
effect they have. You're diluting it.

1051
00:59:51,650 --> 00:59:55,390
I would take the opposite view that the more lines you add, actually, each one has

1052
00:59:55,430 --> 00:59:56,270
an increasing

1053
00:59:57,130 --> 00:59:59,330
impact because it increases the density.

1054
00:59:59,470 --> 01:00:01,750
So I don't agree with this assessment.

1055
01:00:01,830 --> 01:00:05,710
It may be the way it should be done, but from a visual point of view, as a local

1056
01:00:05,790 --> 01:00:08,690
resident, that's not the effect. And

1057
01:00:09,990 --> 01:00:11,770
which straw breaks the camel's back?

1058

01:00:13,150 --> 01:00:14,230
That's all I would say. Thank you.

1059
01:00:15,530 --> 01:00:16,450
Thank you, Mr. Raines.

1060
01:00:16,830 --> 01:00:18,150
Can I say something in addition to that?

1061
01:00:18,310 --> 01:00:18,550
Of course.

1062
01:00:18,590 --> 01:00:22,290
Please. I think you made a very valid point just there. It's the increase.

1063
01:00:22,930 --> 01:00:26,570
That's the additional effect. That increase to what you

1064
01:00:26,650 --> 01:00:28,890
see in addition to what you see already.

1065
01:00:29,450 --> 01:00:31,450
And there's a difference when you have,

1066
01:00:32,550 --> 01:00:36,210
in a very simple term, you look across an empty

1067
01:00:36,270 --> 01:00:36,750
landscape,

1068
01:00:37,610 --> 01:00:40,210
and you have suddenly a power line going through it.

1069
01:00:41,030 --> 01:00:44,290
That is a significant effect because you introduce vertical structures.

1070
01:00:45,150 --> 01:00:48,310
And if you add a second line to it, yes, there is an increase,

1071

01:00:49,110 --> 01:00:51,950
but it isn't as significant as the initial

1072
01:00:53,314 --> 01:00:54,834
effect from the first line.

1073
01:00:56,034 --> 01:00:59,334
But if you look at that combined, they both are significant

1074
01:01:00,234 --> 01:01:01,274
effects. So

1075
01:01:02,354 --> 01:01:05,534
you could argue, okay, well, how many lines can you add before it
becomes

1076
01:01:05,574 --> 01:01:06,154
significant?

1077
01:01:07,954 --> 01:01:10,954
Right here, we look at one line in addition to other lines.

1078
01:01:11,494 --> 01:01:11,674
So

1079
01:01:13,074 --> 01:01:16,934
there is no hard and fast rule to say when does it become

1080
01:01:17,034 --> 01:01:19,254
significant, the addition of our line.

1081
01:01:19,314 --> 01:01:20,054
That depends on

1082
01:01:20,874 --> 01:01:24,454
topography, on what the existing view contains, and

1083
01:01:24,974 --> 01:01:28,374
what the overall setting is.

1084
01:01:29,674 --> 01:01:31,374

But it's the increase,

1085
01:01:32,214 --> 01:01:34,274
what is the additional effect of what we have assessed.

1086
01:01:35,854 --> 01:01:35,934
So

1087
01:01:36,754 --> 01:01:38,694
that's as clear as I can make it for now.

1088
01:01:39,174 --> 01:01:39,654
Thank you.

1089
01:01:41,414 --> 01:01:43,654
Does anybody else in the room? Mr. Malkin?

1090
01:01:45,914 --> 01:01:48,274
Just to add to what David was saying,

1091
01:01:49,694 --> 01:01:52,074
this area of Lincolnshire is unique.

1092
01:01:53,594 --> 01:01:57,174
I doubt that there's anywhere in the country that's as flat as we've got.

1093
01:01:57,214 --> 01:01:59,634
Where I live, I can see four different communities,

1094
01:02:00,894 --> 01:02:04,754
and at nighttime I can see the glow in the sky from this

1095
01:02:04,814 --> 01:02:05,974
city of Peterborough.

1096
01:02:07,414 --> 01:02:07,694
So

1097
01:02:08,914 --> 01:02:12,214
it seems a slightly crazy assessment to say

1098
01:02:12,894 --> 01:02:16,654
adding a single line doesn't add to the impact of what's

1099
01:02:16,714 --> 01:02:18,074
already there. Of course, it does.

1100
01:02:19,034 --> 01:02:22,614
You can't possibly argue that adding another line to the line that's already there

1101
01:02:22,634 --> 01:02:24,694
won't have another impact. Of course, it will do.

1102
01:02:25,294 --> 01:02:29,014
And thousands of acres of glass and all the

1103
01:02:29,074 --> 01:02:32,514
other associated infrastructure, of course, that's significant

1104
01:02:32,614 --> 01:02:36,154
locally. And I think 24 NSIPs throughout

1105
01:02:36,214 --> 01:02:36,854
Lincolnshire,

1106
01:02:37,734 --> 01:02:41,474
power stations, multiple pylon lines, some of it underground,

1107
01:02:43,094 --> 01:02:44,614
solar farms,

1108
01:02:45,734 --> 01:02:48,674
as a total, of course, they're significant as well.

1109
01:02:48,974 --> 01:02:52,734
Lincolnshire's absolutely under siege now in some of the

1110
01:02:52,814 --> 01:02:54,294
craziest ways possible.

1111
01:02:55,494 --> 01:02:59,394
Undersea cables coming all the way from offshore of

1112
01:02:59,494 --> 01:03:01,853
Aberdeen, making landfall in Lincolnshire.

1113
01:03:02,174 --> 01:03:05,054
Lincolnshire's just become a massive target for all of this.

1114
01:03:05,454 --> 01:03:07,394
And of course, all of that is significant.

1115
01:03:07,754 --> 01:03:10,894
Locally, it's significant, and countywide, it's significant.

1116
01:03:11,294 --> 01:03:13,374
And I don't think anyone can argue otherwise.

1117
01:03:15,414 --> 01:03:18,474
Thank you, Mr. Malkin. I'm sorry, I didn't catch your name earlier.

1118
01:03:19,454 --> 01:03:21,414
Hello. Simon Smith here. I'm a resident.

1119
01:03:21,474 --> 01:03:23,874
I'm also part of MAG, but I'm speaking on behalf of myself.

1120
01:03:24,394 --> 01:03:26,734
You talk about cumulative impact. I understand what you're saying.

1121
01:03:26,813 --> 01:03:28,074
In fact, I agree with an awful lot of it.

1122
01:03:29,194 --> 01:03:32,494
But the real effects of the cumulative impact for me are when this
whole thing

1123
01:03:32,554 --> 01:03:36,434
started two or three years ago, and the concern,

1124

01:03:36,574 --> 01:03:37,614
the worry, the mental

1125
01:03:39,134 --> 01:03:42,374
issues you might say are happening around our villages because of this have already

1126
01:03:42,394 --> 01:03:43,874
happened. That's part of the impact.

1127
01:03:44,974 --> 01:03:48,534
I generally want to know how depressing the area is going to be, frankly, in a few

1128
01:03:48,594 --> 01:03:50,954
years' time that this hasn't been resolved today.

1129
01:03:51,494 --> 01:03:55,394
And that's really my point. How bad does it have to get till somebody actually

1130
01:03:55,434 --> 01:03:58,094
says no, and we keep our countryside to ourselves again?

1131
01:04:00,594 --> 01:04:02,094
I'm afraid I can't answer that

1132
01:04:03,314 --> 01:04:04,194
point. I'm afraid.

1133
01:04:05,194 --> 01:04:08,854
Apologies. It's a rhetorical question if you like, but it's worth mentioning now.

1134
01:04:09,014 --> 01:04:09,194
Okay.

1135
01:04:09,594 --> 01:04:13,534
Thank you. And I do take your point, and we assess the projects on

1136
01:04:13,934 --> 01:04:17,354
an individual basis, but we do take into account the cumulative

effects.

1137
01:04:18,074 --> 01:04:21,274
I'm going to ask the applicant if they wish to respond on the matters that have

1138
01:04:21,334 --> 01:04:25,134
just been raised, given the explanation you've already provided as

1139
01:04:25,194 --> 01:04:25,434
well.

1140
01:04:26,954 --> 01:04:29,874
If you wish to respond to what Mr. Malkin has just raised?

1141
01:04:31,574 --> 01:04:33,054
If you just could repeat the question, please.

1142
01:04:33,354 --> 01:04:36,054
Sorry. Do you have anything that you would like to respond to Mr.

1143
01:04:36,274 --> 01:04:39,434
Malkin's comments before? Given that you have given

1144
01:04:40,294 --> 01:04:42,794
quite a detailed response on cumulative.

1145
01:04:42,933 --> 01:04:45,314
I don't think I have anything else to add other than that

1146
01:04:47,074 --> 01:04:50,034
if something is not significant, doesn't mean there is no impact.

1147
01:04:50,154 --> 01:04:51,834
There is an impact. And

1148
01:04:52,634 --> 01:04:56,314
that is then clarified in our methodology what that impact is.

1149
01:04:57,374 --> 01:04:58,354
That's all. Thank you.

1150
01:04:58,394 --> 01:04:58,554
Thank you.

1151
01:04:59,534 --> 01:05:01,974
Does anybody else in the room wish to speak on this item?

1152
01:05:03,834 --> 01:05:07,594
Does anybody else online wish to speak or come in?

1153
01:05:09,514 --> 01:05:10,714
I'm not seeing any hands.

1154
01:05:21,014 --> 01:05:24,954
So on that basis, we will move to break for lunch now.

1155
01:05:25,214 --> 01:05:28,274
We'll break for 45 minutes, so we'll return at five

1156
01:05:29,794 --> 01:05:33,734
to 2:00? Yeah. We'll return at 1:55, so five

1157
01:05:33,774 --> 01:05:36,274
to 2:00. So the meeting is currently

1158
01:05:36,334 --> 01:06:17,434
adjourned.

1159
01:06:17,734 --> 01:06:18,194
Thank you.