



Planning Inspectorate
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Event Transcript

Project:	Green Hill Solar Farm
Event:	Open Floor Hearing 2 (OFH2) – Part 2
Date:	10 December 2025

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

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created by event.video

1

00:00:00.080 --> 00:02:41.600

(silence)

2

00:02:42.680 --> 00:02:46.500

Thank you, everyone. It is now, uh, five minutes past 12, and so the hearing

3

00:02:46.520 --> 00:02:49.500

is resumed.

4

00:02:50.340 --> 00:02:52.920

So we're going to hear firstly from Seryan Partridge now,

5

00:02:52.960 --> 00:02:54.860

please.

6

00:02:54.900 --> 00:02:58.750

I actually might

7

00:02:58.750 --> 00:02:59.260

be back.

8

00:02:59.269 --> 00:03:01.090

Yeah. Okay. (laughs)

9

00:03:01.100 --> 00:03:01.400

Thank you.

10

00:03:01.440 --> 00:03:02.620

Yep.

11

00:03:10.120 --> 00:03:13.670

In that case, if we could hear from Gary Elliot please, and we will then hear...

12

00:03:13.700 --> 00:03:14.530

Oh, okay. (laughs)

13

00:03:14.530 --> 00:03:17.280

. (laughs) He's supposed to be coming.

14

00:03:17.360 --> 00:03:17.750

Just coming.

15

00:03:17.760 --> 00:03:18.650

Well...

16

00:03:18.940 --> 00:03:19.280

Okay.

17

00:03:19.320 --> 00:03:21.320

It's, it's all right.

18

00:03:21.360 --> 00:03:22.570

Well, yeah. That's fine.

19

00:03:22.570 --> 00:03:23.980

That's fine, yeah.

20

00:03:24.020 --> 00:03:26.290

Yeah.

21

00:03:29.700 --> 00:03:41.430

(silence)

22

00:03:42.520 --> 00:03:44.520

That's no problem.

23

00:03:47.450 --> 00:03:48.480

Good afternoon.

24

00:03:48.540 --> 00:03:51.320

Hello. Um, so my name's Sery- Seryan

25

00:03:51.400 --> 00:03:55.120

Partridge, um, and I'm speaking on behalf of my

26

00:03:55.160 --> 00:03:58.480

family. Um, I'm actually a landowner

27

00:03:59.560 --> 00:04:03.500

on the road between Mears Ashby and, um,

28

00:04:04.320 --> 00:04:06.400

Wilby village.

29

00:04:07.220 --> 00:04:10.800

Um, I did speak at the hearing on Wednesday

30

00:04:11.120 --> 00:04:14.200

that was the, um, compulsory acquisition

31

00:04:14.460 --> 00:04:18.019

meeting. However, after consultation with my family

32

00:04:18.940 --> 00:04:21.560

and colleagues, there are a couple of other issues I'd like to

33

00:04:21.600 --> 00:04:23.620

raise. Um,

34

00:04:26.120 --> 00:04:29.040

mostly concerning

35

00:04:29.120 --> 00:04:32.760

the, um, destruction which was

36

00:04:32.820 --> 00:04:36.340

mentioned of woodland. So our land

37

00:04:37.020 --> 00:04:40.810

partly has woodland and partly has arable

38

00:04:40.900 --> 00:04:44.300

farming on. Um, that's obviously both gonna be

39

00:04:44.340 --> 00:04:48.280

affected. Now, what's happened, I've had a bit of a

40

00:04:48.340 --> 00:04:50.720

curveball this morning, to be honest.

41

00:04:50.820 --> 00:04:53.580

Um, since all this was raised with

42

00:04:53.620 --> 00:04:57.060

Greenhill, we've always,

43

00:04:57.180 --> 00:05:01.100

um, been quite private as a family about

44

00:05:01.180 --> 00:05:04.120

what this would mean to us. So,

45

00:05:05.720 --> 00:05:09.200

the woodland was originally a quarry

46

00:05:10.580 --> 00:05:11.760

and, um,

47

00:05:12.820 --> 00:05:16.760

as the decades have, um, passed, it's become a

48

00:05:16.820 --> 00:05:19.760

nature reserve. Now, my

49

00:05:19.800 --> 00:05:23.780

husband, who sadly passed 10 years ago now, at a very

50

00:05:23.820 --> 00:05:26.680

young age, um,

51

00:05:28.220 --> 00:05:31.760

developed this woodland and he spent many years

52

00:05:31.820 --> 00:05:35.660

there, many hours. Um, and what

53

00:05:35.680 --> 00:05:38.860

has come to light today, as I said, we've always been a very private

54

00:05:38.920 --> 00:05:42.480

family, but the matter has been raised by several

55

00:05:42.600 --> 00:05:45.700

speakers about mental health.

56

00:05:45.800 --> 00:05:49.620

Now, he actually proposed to me on this

57

00:05:49.660 --> 00:05:53.480

woodland. My children, um,

58

00:05:53.800 --> 00:05:56.980

my son and daughter were brought up there playing

59

00:05:58.040 --> 00:05:58.940

with the wildlife,

60

00:05:59.840 --> 00:06:03.620

observing, appreciating the woodli- woodland.

61

00:06:03.720 --> 00:06:07.400

Um-So, I do appreciate and I am

62

00:06:07.440 --> 00:06:09.580

prepared to speak now about the

63

00:06:09.660 --> 00:06:13.620

actual stress, upset

64

00:06:13.880 --> 00:06:17.740

and mental health issues it's caused to myself

65

00:06:18.420 --> 00:06:22.340

and my family over the destruction that is

66

00:06:22.420 --> 00:06:26.360

gonna happen over this cabling that

67

00:06:26.380 --> 00:06:28.520

is gonna happen on our land.

68

00:06:29.800 --> 00:06:30.200

Um,

69

00:06:31.100 --> 00:06:35.040

so now that's out the way, um, what I would go back

70

00:06:35.160 --> 00:06:38.780

to, what I originally was gonna speak about,

71

00:06:39.600 --> 00:06:39.960

um,

72

00:06:40.860 --> 00:06:44.420

we've got the woodlands in one corner of the field.

73

00:06:44.460 --> 00:06:48.440

We've then got pylons running through the arable land.

74

00:06:49.180 --> 00:06:53.040

Now, the pylons that are owned by National Grid,

75

00:06:53.100 --> 00:06:56.880

they rent the, the, the land from us.

76

00:06:56.940 --> 00:07:00.720

That does not affect the arable, um,

77

00:07:02.540 --> 00:07:05.700

farming at all. The farmer works around it.

78

00:07:07.060 --> 00:07:10.800

What has come to light is that, that I did

79

00:07:10.840 --> 00:07:14.560

mention but I've looked into it further since Wednesday, now

80

00:07:15.060 --> 00:07:17.500

there's a barrier, we've measured it,

81

00:07:18.060 --> 00:07:21.540
between 15 meters from the

82

00:07:21.600 --> 00:07:25.460
final pylon to the edge of the woodland.

83

00:07:25.500 --> 00:07:29.140
That's the buffer zone. Now, I spoke to

84

00:07:29.200 --> 00:07:31.560
National Grid and they

85

00:07:31.620 --> 00:07:35.060
claimed that it is not

86

00:07:35.180 --> 00:07:37.560
safe for work to be carried out

87

00:07:39.660 --> 00:07:42.160
within five point eight meters

88

00:07:43.040 --> 00:07:47.000
of a National Grid pylon. So, if you take

89

00:07:47.160 --> 00:07:51.020
15 meters minus almost six,

90

00:07:52.040 --> 00:07:54.920
you've then got nine meters

91

00:07:56.240 --> 00:07:59.140
for this corridor of cabling to go

92

00:07:59.200 --> 00:08:02.480
through. Now, I was told by, um,

93

00:08:03.260 --> 00:08:03.830
Greenhill

94

00:08:04.920 --> 00:08:08.340

that you need a haulage road to get all t- all the equipment

95

00:08:08.420 --> 00:08:11.060

in. You've then obviously got the

96

00:08:11.820 --> 00:08:15.680

construction work, you've got the trench, you've then got all the

97

00:08:15.760 --> 00:08:19.520

equipment going in. I cannot see how that is

98

00:08:19.560 --> 00:08:20.280

feasible

99

00:08:21.440 --> 00:08:23.940

within nine meters width.

100

00:08:25.240 --> 00:08:28.000

There is no way that is gonna not

101

00:08:28.080 --> 00:08:31.980

impact on the wildlife. I don't, I believe

102

00:08:32.160 --> 00:08:34.900

I can't give specific,

103

00:08:35.000 --> 00:08:37.039

um,

104

00:08:38.780 --> 00:08:42.450

sit- the situation because it's a protected

105

00:08:43.799 --> 00:08:44.070

um,

106

00:08:45.140 --> 00:08:49.080

which I believe you're aware of. All I can say

107

00:08:49.380 --> 00:08:53.260

is, I can give you the reference of the pylon.

108

00:08:53.360 --> 00:08:57.320

Um, it's one of the big metal, the huge ones, um, that's

109

00:08:57.380 --> 00:09:01.240

closest to the woodland and that reference is

110

00:09:01.300 --> 00:09:04.960

ZA284. And we've

111

00:09:05.020 --> 00:09:08.600

measured and it is literally 15 meters from the pylon

112

00:09:09.020 --> 00:09:12.420

foundation to the edge

113

00:09:12.800 --> 00:09:16.740

of our woodland. Um, so that's

114

00:09:16.780 --> 00:09:18.780

my first point. Um,

115

00:09:20.780 --> 00:09:24.060

secondly, I would like to

116

00:09:24.160 --> 00:09:27.680

say, I think this is all my (inaudible) thing

117

00:09:28.300 --> 00:09:29.800

about the, the

118

00:09:31.160 --> 00:09:33.240

improvisation. Um,

119

00:09:34.880 --> 00:09:38.760

I did raise the issue of our,

120

00:09:38.860 --> 00:09:42.840

um, dealings with Greenhill's land agent,

121

00:09:42.980 --> 00:09:46.440

Barry's. Now, when

122

00:09:47.920 --> 00:09:51.740

again this came into the mental health, I

123

00:09:51.800 --> 00:09:55.640

was harassed, I was upset, I

124

00:09:55.680 --> 00:09:59.060

was constantly badgered by, um, their

125

00:09:59.140 --> 00:10:02.840

agent. Now, on one of the, um,

126

00:10:04.160 --> 00:10:07.760

meetings, well, we did have one meeting with him, he

127

00:10:07.860 --> 00:10:11.720

actually said to me, and I'd like Greenhill to

128

00:10:11.760 --> 00:10:15.640

confirm this, "Oh," I obviously raised

129

00:10:15.680 --> 00:10:19.040

the issue of the distance between the pylon and the

130

00:10:19.280 --> 00:10:22.999

woodland. He said, "Don't worry about that.

131

00:10:23.009 --> 00:10:26.340

The cabling trench will be six inches wide.

132

00:10:26.360 --> 00:10:29.920

That's absolutely fine. No worries." I'd like them to

133

00:10:29.980 --> 00:10:33.580

confirm that. "It'll be one meter deep, six

134

00:10:33.620 --> 00:10:37.490

inches wide. There'll be minimum disruption to your

135

00:10:37.580 --> 00:10:39.650
land." Um,

136

00:10:40.280 --> 00:10:43.480
secondly, he did say to me,

137

00:10:44.300 --> 00:10:47.340
um, "On our field, we have three access

138

00:10:47.440 --> 00:10:48.660
points."

139

00:10:49.720 --> 00:10:53.540
Now the, the, the main access point, which that Greenhill are
clearly gonna go

140

00:10:53.640 --> 00:10:57.600
through, which does correspond with the quarry and the

141

00:10:57.680 --> 00:10:59.860
pylons, the woodland and the pylons,

142

00:11:00.760 --> 00:11:03.200
he said, "Oh, no, don't worry about that at all.

143

00:11:03.780 --> 00:11:07.620
Um, it'll be your choice which access point they take.

144

00:11:08.220 --> 00:11:11.920
So, if you don't want them to go through the, the one near the, the
woodland, they

145

00:11:11.960 --> 00:11:15.040
won't. That's absolutely fine. It's your

146

00:11:15.080 --> 00:11:17.040
choice." Um,

147

00:11:18.120 --> 00:11:21.460
I'm not sure if that's true. I don't know. I'm not saying anything.

148

00:11:21.480 --> 00:11:24.660

But yeah, so that's, that's basically it.

149

00:11:24.760 --> 00:11:28.640

Um, but yeah, it, just to reiterate what other speakers

150

00:11:28.700 --> 00:11:32.180

have said, and as I said, we're a very private

151

00:11:32.240 --> 00:11:35.920

family but the impact mentally it's had on

152

00:11:36.040 --> 00:11:36.440

us,

153

00:11:37.380 --> 00:11:41.220

the upset, um, the heritage, and

154

00:11:41.300 --> 00:11:45.030

as I said on Wednesday, whatever happens, we will

155

00:11:45.100 --> 00:11:48.920

nurture and we will protect the woodland as best we

156

00:11:49.000 --> 00:11:52.780

can. Um, but there is absolutely no

157

00:11:52.920 --> 00:11:53.340

way

158

00:11:54.180 --> 00:11:57.740

they are gonna get the cabling route in, in that

159

00:11:57.820 --> 00:12:01.320

space. Absolutely not. Not.

160

00:12:02.120 --> 00:12:06.000

Whether, um, I haven't got written confirmation

161

00:12:06.060 --> 00:12:08.660

from National Grid but the- they

162

00:12:08.740 --> 00:12:12.720

did-... verbally tell me it's 5.8 meters

163

00:12:13.220 --> 00:12:17.120

they c- workmen cannot work, so you're taking it down now to

164

00:12:17.200 --> 00:12:20.080

nine meters of haulage road,

165

00:12:21.360 --> 00:12:24.900

um, bulldozers, mechanics,

166

00:12:26.860 --> 00:12:27.720

cabling,

167

00:12:28.780 --> 00:12:32.540

soil, whatever. It is not gonna happen in nine meters at

168

00:12:32.640 --> 00:12:36.220

all. So yeah, thank you for your time.

169

00:12:36.240 --> 00:12:37.620

Thank you.

170

00:12:37.660 --> 00:12:39.980

Thank you.

171

00:12:42.720 --> 00:12:46.520

Can hear from Gary Elliot now please.

172

00:12:53.500 --> 00:12:57.240

Morning. Um, Gary Elliot,

173

00:12:58.520 --> 00:13:01.200

semi-retired farmer.

174

00:13:02.160 --> 00:13:02.780

Um,

175

00:13:04.440 --> 00:13:05.080

our land

176

00:13:07.100 --> 00:13:08.440

comes right up well the solar

177

00:13:09.640 --> 00:13:13.610

panel at, um, solar panel Site B comes right up to our

178

00:13:13.720 --> 00:13:16.090

boundary, so, um,

179

00:13:16.960 --> 00:13:20.440

I'm actually appalled by the thought of solar panels

180

00:13:21.640 --> 00:13:23.780

being in view of, of the farm.

181

00:13:24.520 --> 00:13:25.720

Um,

182

00:13:26.580 --> 00:13:30.270

I made lots of notes over the last few days, but, um,

183

00:13:31.280 --> 00:13:35.200

fr- from previous speakers I realize that I'm,

184

00:13:35.300 --> 00:13:39.190

um, suffering from deep depression, um,

185

00:13:39.260 --> 00:13:42.740

but I'm uplifted by Chris who's just been talking

186

00:13:43.820 --> 00:13:46.640

about the legality of all this, uh, Greenhill

187

00:13:46.720 --> 00:13:50.220

Solar, because all I don't think that the farmers that I know

188

00:13:50.980 --> 00:13:51.720

realize

189

00:13:53.060 --> 00:13:54.600

what liability they are

190

00:13:56.360 --> 00:14:00.300

putting in front of themselves by leasing this land to Greenhill

191

00:14:00.400 --> 00:14:03.130

Solar. (clears throat) Anyway, um,

192

00:14:06.260 --> 00:14:10.160

we've been at, um, our farm, I'm not allowed to say where we are,

193

00:14:10.220 --> 00:14:13.280

but, um, we're north of the A43,

194

00:14:14.500 --> 00:14:14.750

um,

195

00:14:16.580 --> 00:14:18.440

which varies in the land

196

00:14:20.100 --> 00:14:22.160

type, if you call it type, um,

197

00:14:23.720 --> 00:14:27.700

from light land and as you go towards east, towards Kettering, it's heavier

198

00:14:27.760 --> 00:14:29.560

land which is, um,

199

00:14:30.360 --> 00:14:34.340

stronger land. Uh, the light land is boy's land as they used

200

00:14:34.360 --> 00:14:37.620

to call it. Um,

201

00:14:39.020 --> 00:14:40.920

Site B, um,

202

00:14:42.160 --> 00:14:46.010

in my knowledge, um, 53 years of being at,

203

00:14:46.140 --> 00:14:49.380

um, the farm, um, has grown crops all those

204

00:14:49.400 --> 00:14:51.460

years. Um,

205

00:14:53.000 --> 00:14:56.990

Mr. Collier who's been long gone was, um, Tithe Farm, the

206

00:14:57.040 --> 00:14:58.680

farmer at Tithe Farm.

207

00:14:59.500 --> 00:15:03.420

He was a dairy farmer. And Tommy Brittain, who died a

208

00:15:03.480 --> 00:15:06.920

long, long time ago was also a dairy farmer.

209

00:15:06.960 --> 00:15:10.920

But we never had any, uh, livestock come up as far

210

00:15:10.980 --> 00:15:13.969

as our boundary. The, um,

211

00:15:16.160 --> 00:15:18.370

I walked up there yesterday actually and, um,

212

00:15:19.640 --> 00:15:22.640

the, uh, farmer who comes over from old to do the work

213

00:15:23.680 --> 00:15:25.180

for the landowners,

214

00:15:26.820 --> 00:15:30.520

because they're landowners not farmers, um, he's got beans

215

00:15:30.640 --> 00:15:30.960
in

216
00:15:32.980 --> 00:15:35.600
several of those fields. I'm not sure whether all of them.

217
00:15:35.620 --> 00:15:39.480
But, um, and that, that looks a reasonable take, although it's

218
00:15:39.520 --> 00:15:43.180
not the best, um, after such a dry summer.

219
00:15:43.200 --> 00:15:47.060
They mustn't have had a very good harvest, uh,

220
00:15:47.200 --> 00:15:50.860
this summer. However, they, they obviously run a rotation,

221
00:15:51.800 --> 00:15:55.680
so next year will probably be wheat again, 'cause you use

222
00:15:55.720 --> 00:15:59.700
beans as a break crop from arable rotation.

223
00:15:59.740 --> 00:16:02.110
That gentleman there is nodding, so he knows a bit about

224
00:16:03.420 --> 00:16:06.720
rotations. Um,

225
00:16:08.920 --> 00:16:12.760
I have... So ours was a dairy farm, sold the cows

226
00:16:12.820 --> 00:16:16.120
eight years ago. I'm 78,

227
00:16:17.820 --> 00:16:20.660
still milking cows at 70.

228
00:16:22.900 --> 00:16:26.719
We had a lot of cows and I used to grow maize on the light

229

00:16:26.760 --> 00:16:27.180
land

230

00:16:28.080 --> 00:16:29.279
which is all on the left

231

00:16:30.520 --> 00:16:34.340
of the lane down to the farm. And all on the right was

232

00:16:34.350 --> 00:16:35.140
all grass.

233

00:16:37.440 --> 00:16:39.040
The benefit of the light land

234

00:16:40.360 --> 00:16:44.160
is that you can get on it earlier in the spring, it's

235

00:16:44.240 --> 00:16:45.080
free-draining,

236

00:16:46.640 --> 00:16:49.200
it warms up earlier in the spring,

237

00:16:50.380 --> 00:16:53.750
so ideal for maize where you've got to get...

238

00:16:53.780 --> 00:16:56.160
soil temperature's got to be 10 degrees before you plant your

239

00:16:56.220 --> 00:16:59.040
maize. Um,

240

00:17:00.760 --> 00:17:04.160
we had a lot of cows. We had 200 head of stock in the end on 100

241

00:17:04.200 --> 00:17:08.020
acres. I used to rent some land down in

242

00:17:08.079 --> 00:17:11.480
Moulton. We used to silage all that, grass

243
00:17:11.500 --> 00:17:15.310
silage. I took 40 acres on at

244
00:17:15.340 --> 00:17:15.880
Pittsford

245
00:17:16.860 --> 00:17:17.760
to grow maize

246
00:17:19.140 --> 00:17:22.240
which is ironstone, reclaimed ironstone land.

247
00:17:24.460 --> 00:17:27.760
So going back to Site B, is it BMV

248
00:17:27.820 --> 00:17:30.920
land? Well, it must be.

249
00:17:32.860 --> 00:17:36.380
They've got 65% of BMV land

250
00:17:38.100 --> 00:17:39.280
on the whole site.

251
00:17:40.300 --> 00:17:44.200
But they've grown crops every year I've been there, and I, I have
actually

252
00:17:44.240 --> 00:17:44.840
been round

253
00:17:45.740 --> 00:17:49.680
and baled straw after the combine's been through,

254
00:17:49.740 --> 00:17:53.640
because I didn't grow any arable crops, and we used a lot, a lot of

255
00:17:53.740 --> 00:17:54.320

straw.

256

00:17:55.480 --> 00:17:59.040

In fact I've been to Holkett, Sarwell, Mears Ashby,

257

00:17:59.120 --> 00:18:02.400

Moulton, getting straw.

258

00:18:02.960 --> 00:18:03.240

So

259

00:18:04.180 --> 00:18:06.660

if it wasn't suitable for arable

260

00:18:06.760 --> 00:18:09.450

crops, there wouldn't be any straw.

261

00:18:09.480 --> 00:18:12.240

It wouldn't, wouldn't have been worth, uh, my while going round

262

00:18:13.440 --> 00:18:16.672

having the straw...Now, the

263

00:18:16.682 --> 00:18:19.812

landowners, because they're landowners, not farmers,

264

00:18:19.952 --> 00:18:23.672

also, they wouldn't have gone to the expense of putting a grain store up

265

00:18:24.532 --> 00:18:25.172

at Holkart,

266

00:18:26.072 --> 00:18:29.992

just off the Sywell Road, if the farm

267

00:18:30.032 --> 00:18:32.812

wasn't worth... if the, if the crops weren't worth

268

00:18:32.891 --> 00:18:35.692

growing. Um,

269

00:18:37.891 --> 00:18:41.411

what else can I say about the, um, Site B?

270

00:18:41.532 --> 00:18:43.692

Um,

271

00:18:45.391 --> 00:18:49.371

so Site B, to me, I don't know how you differentiate between

272

00:18:49.651 --> 00:18:50.871

3A and 3B.

273

00:18:51.732 --> 00:18:55.472

Um, it doesn't... It isn't, um, it isn't A, A Grade

274

00:18:55.631 --> 00:18:58.851

one. It isn't A Grade land. It isn't Grade 2 either, but it's

275

00:18:58.952 --> 00:19:02.822

3A. It'd got to be. I mean, you actually...

276

00:19:02.831 --> 00:19:05.672

You look at our... So looking at the figures, looking at, uh,

277

00:19:05.752 --> 00:19:09.672

yesterday, 3A and 3B, there can't be a lot of difference between the

278

00:19:09.732 --> 00:19:10.172

two.

279

00:19:11.052 --> 00:19:14.992

And probably, uh, as I've said, the light land as opposed

280

00:19:15.032 --> 00:19:18.631

to the heavier land, it has advantages either way, because

281

00:19:18.812 --> 00:19:21.952

in- in the s- in the summertime when there's a

282

00:19:22.012 --> 00:19:25.891

drought, the heavier land re- retains more moisture, and so

283

00:19:26.012 --> 00:19:29.732

it keeps growing the grass. So there's benefits to both

284

00:19:29.851 --> 00:19:32.792

light and heavier land.

285

00:19:33.911 --> 00:19:34.591

The farmer who

286

00:19:36.532 --> 00:19:38.672

farmed this land at Site B

287

00:19:39.792 --> 00:19:43.651

for the owners, um, i-

288

00:19:43.692 --> 00:19:45.762

i- I won't mention his name, but he's the best...

289

00:19:45.792 --> 00:19:48.052

He- he's the best farmer in the county.

290

00:19:48.062 --> 00:19:50.272

(laughs) Um,

291

00:19:52.232 --> 00:19:55.891

and he fa- he farms at Sywell, so, um, he

292

00:19:55.992 --> 00:19:59.851

knows how to farm properly. The,

293

00:19:59.911 --> 00:20:03.822

the land at Mears Ashby is, I'm told by

294

00:20:03.851 --> 00:20:07.391

this gentleman, is the best land in the county.

295

00:20:08.611 --> 00:20:09.792

So that would be up there with

296

00:20:10.992 --> 00:20:12.331

Grade 2.

297

00:20:13.432 --> 00:20:16.131

Range Farm, it was, it is. M- Mears Ashby.

298

00:20:16.141 --> 00:20:19.952

I used to know the, the previous farmer who's been dead a long

299

00:20:19.992 --> 00:20:23.972

time. 60 years ago, when I was at college, we went

300

00:20:24.012 --> 00:20:27.911

there for a farm walk, and that gentleman was looked at,

301

00:20:27.952 --> 00:20:31.911

looked at as one of the best dairy farmers in the country, not just the

302

00:20:31.952 --> 00:20:34.650

county. And he was a...

303

00:20:35.692 --> 00:20:36.982

He was somebody to look up to

304

00:20:37.851 --> 00:20:39.371

and emulate,

305

00:20:40.431 --> 00:20:43.212

which is what we tried to do.

306

00:20:43.331 --> 00:20:44.952

Um,

307

00:20:45.992 --> 00:20:49.042

I don't know much about East and Mordet land, but it...

308

00:20:49.172 --> 00:20:53.161

I suspect it's quite heavy land. But when we had

309

00:20:53.192 --> 00:20:54.591

the farm walk in June,

310

00:20:56.752 --> 00:20:58.131

walked around the site

311

00:20:58.972 --> 00:21:02.831

of this proposed, uh, solar farm, how anybody

312

00:21:03.431 --> 00:21:06.152

could contemplate putting solar panels

313

00:21:07.492 --> 00:21:09.752

around East and Mordet with a view like that

314

00:21:10.871 --> 00:21:11.911

is just criminal.

315

00:21:13.692 --> 00:21:15.712

This, this solar farm should not

316

00:21:17.692 --> 00:21:18.532

go ahead.

317

00:21:19.732 --> 00:21:23.631

All the previous speakers have all mentioned various aspects of

318

00:21:23.672 --> 00:21:26.172

why it shouldn't go ahead, but from my...

319

00:21:26.212 --> 00:21:28.232

from a farmer's point of view, it's food

320

00:21:28.292 --> 00:21:31.111

production.

321

00:21:33.371 --> 00:21:36.272

I sent you a letter when I registered back in August

322

00:21:37.111 --> 00:21:38.911

with all the figures.

323

00:21:40.131 --> 00:21:43.900

I won't bore you with all the f- If you read my letter, it...

324

00:21:43.911 --> 00:21:47.512

It's- it's really concerning that in 25 years

325

00:21:47.572 --> 00:21:51.032

time, this country will have to import

326

00:21:52.091 --> 00:21:55.972

25% more of, of its food,

327

00:21:56.111 --> 00:21:59.871

and we are only s- For the last 10 years, we've only been 60%

328

00:22:00.371 --> 00:22:03.611

self-sufficient. That takes us down to

329

00:22:03.911 --> 00:22:07.431

35% self-sufficiency. That's

330

00:22:07.452 --> 00:22:09.611

ridiculous. And what's the

331

00:22:09.652 --> 00:22:13.252

gain? You're going to have to import all the

332

00:22:13.292 --> 00:22:15.391

food from across the world

333

00:22:16.752 --> 00:22:19.831

on ships, planes.

334

00:22:21.792 --> 00:22:23.861

But there's no gain, is there? You might as well...

335

00:22:23.891 --> 00:22:27.851

Especially when there's an alternative. You put them on the roofs.

336

00:22:27.891 --> 00:22:31.212

We've got, we've got solar panels on one of our barns.

337

00:22:31.252 --> 00:22:35.091

I'm contemplating supplying the farmhouse with solar

338

00:22:35.172 --> 00:22:38.952

energy. We're a listed, we're a listed building, the

339

00:22:38.992 --> 00:22:42.851

farmhouse. It's an old 17- 1700s. We're not gonna be able to put

340

00:22:42.911 --> 00:22:43.861

solar panels on, but

341

00:22:45.192 --> 00:22:46.911

it- it... What... Why, why

342

00:22:47.911 --> 00:22:51.411

put solar panels on farmland? It's

343

00:22:51.452 --> 00:22:55.032

ridiculous. And 3,000 acres of this whole

344

00:22:55.232 --> 00:22:57.871

scheme...

345

00:22:58.712 --> 00:23:02.552

Um, sorry, I made... I did make a few notes. Uh, sheep.

346

00:23:02.611 --> 00:23:06.431

So sheep, um, Greenhill Solar have painted a very

347

00:23:06.512 --> 00:23:09.752

happy... sheep happily grazing under these solar

348

00:23:09.812 --> 00:23:12.411

panels. Um,

349

00:23:14.772 --> 00:23:18.442

a friend of mine who farms at D- at Denton, he's, um...

350

00:23:18.442 --> 00:23:21.972

h- he has sheep all over the place. Um, he said it doesn't

351

00:23:22.052 --> 00:23:22.472

work.

352

00:23:23.831 --> 00:23:27.012

He has a friend in Devon who's, um...

353

00:23:27.052 --> 00:23:30.222

says it's a nightmare. But it all looks very, uh,

354

00:23:30.411 --> 00:23:34.091

quaint, uh, with these sheep. But when, when I look at

355

00:23:34.212 --> 00:23:37.532

Site B, are the

356

00:23:37.871 --> 00:23:38.272

owners

357

00:23:39.351 --> 00:23:40.552

gonna have sheep

358

00:23:41.572 --> 00:23:45.472

grazing under the solar panels if it goes ahead? No.

359

00:23:45.512 --> 00:23:47.532

Are they gonna employ a shepherd? No.

360

00:23:49.532 --> 00:23:53.452

They've turned all the tithe farm buildings into

361

00:23:53.492 --> 00:23:57.091

offices, so there's nowhere for a

362

00:23:57.172 --> 00:23:57.611

farmer

363

00:23:59.472 --> 00:24:02.232
to work from.

364

00:24:03.032 --> 00:24:06.371
Um, what else? And, and, and the thought that,

365

00:24:07.152 --> 00:24:11.012
uh, there's gonna be sheep grazing under 3,000 acres of solar

366

00:24:11.052 --> 00:24:14.361
panels on this whole scheme is just farcical,

367

00:24:14.391 --> 00:24:18.707
really. Um,

368

00:24:19.028 --> 00:24:22.727
what else can I say? Uh, I've mentioned food security.

369

00:24:22.768 --> 00:24:26.308
Food security is national security, according to this Labor

370

00:24:26.388 --> 00:24:28.707
Government, but I don't know what they mean by

371

00:24:28.768 --> 00:24:31.747
that. Um,

372

00:24:33.808 --> 00:24:36.467
I think that's about it. Do you want anything else? No?

373

00:24:36.487 --> 00:24:36.727
You got any

374

00:24:36.908 --> 00:24:40.558
questions?

375

00:24:40.558 --> 00:24:41.928
No questions. Thank you very much.

376

00:24:41.967 --> 00:24:45.687

Thank you.

377

00:24:47.668 --> 00:24:49.467

And if we could now hear from Sheila English,

378

00:24:49.508 --> 00:24:59.548

please.

379

00:25:06.408 --> 00:25:10.068

Hello. I'm Sheila English and I, I

380

00:25:10.148 --> 00:25:14.118

reside in Olney. (clears throat) Actually, I did come

381

00:25:14.168 --> 00:25:17.628

with a question 'cause I thought Claire would be here to

382

00:25:17.707 --> 00:25:20.378

answer like she was been at the other, um,

383

00:25:20.487 --> 00:25:23.727

meetings. So, I'll have to rearrange all my

384

00:25:24.048 --> 00:25:25.918

notes. Um, (clears throat) -

385

00:25:25.947 --> 00:25:27.668

Just, just a second, um, Ms. English. Ms.

386

00:25:27.707 --> 00:25:31.308

Broderick is here today, um, and I think the intention is for the applicant to have

387

00:25:31.348 --> 00:25:35.248

a chance to respond to any points they wish to today at the end, um, of

388

00:25:35.308 --> 00:25:35.998

all questions.

389

00:25:35.998 --> 00:25:35.998

390

00:25:35.998 --> 00:25:36.118

Oh. She can ask a question.

391

00:25:36.148 --> 00:25:38.227

So you may ask your question, yes.

392

00:25:38.248 --> 00:25:40.518

I might not be here then 'cause I have to go earlier.

393

00:25:40.548 --> 00:25:44.288

Okay. Um, it is recorded and there's also a transcript available so you can catch

394

00:25:44.368 --> 00:25:46.158

up on any answers if necessary.

395

00:25:46.158 --> 00:25:46.298

Right.

396

00:25:46.308 --> 00:25:47.828

So, if you'd like to start. Thank you.

397

00:25:47.848 --> 00:25:51.207

Thank you very much. Well, I have no

398

00:25:51.288 --> 00:25:54.748

objection to solar power, par- pa- um, solar

399

00:25:54.808 --> 00:25:57.888

power, but I do have a large

400

00:25:58.148 --> 00:26:01.808

objection to this solar farm because

401

00:26:02.428 --> 00:26:06.328

as I've heard this morning, and I knew before, it's in

402

00:26:06.348 --> 00:26:10.308

the wrong place. It should be on Brownfield

403

00:26:10.408 --> 00:26:13.788

land, not on beautiful countryside.

404

00:26:13.848 --> 00:26:17.348

I call it vandalism of the countryside.

405

00:26:17.408 --> 00:26:21.328

Um, my, my, um, side of things

406

00:26:21.447 --> 00:26:23.687

today is, um,

407

00:26:24.588 --> 00:26:28.187

I understand two million, and that's what I wanted to

408

00:26:28.308 --> 00:26:32.207

ask, how m- how m- how many of these

409

00:26:32.268 --> 00:26:36.088

two million panels will be coming through

410

00:26:36.128 --> 00:26:39.028

Olney, which is my town.

411

00:26:39.187 --> 00:26:40.368

Um,

412

00:26:41.388 --> 00:26:45.207

Olney is very congested right now.

413

00:26:45.227 --> 00:26:48.928

It has been for years. We have... There's been a

414

00:26:49.048 --> 00:26:52.908

bypass mentioned many times, but it's never

415

00:26:52.967 --> 00:26:56.507

happened. So, um, the thought

416

00:26:57.028 --> 00:27:00.507

of all this extra traffic coming through

417

00:27:00.588 --> 00:27:04.487

Olney fills me with absolute horror because

418

00:27:04.548 --> 00:27:07.818

it's mad, madness f- to think that...

419

00:27:07.848 --> 00:27:10.768

I understand that the solar panels will be coming

420

00:27:11.768 --> 00:27:13.768

from the M1 through

421

00:27:14.628 --> 00:27:18.148

to, through Olney 'cause it is the s- the s- the through

422

00:27:18.268 --> 00:27:20.928

rote, route up to the

423

00:27:21.007 --> 00:27:24.868

A14, A, A45.

424

00:27:24.947 --> 00:27:27.148

So, um,

425

00:27:29.207 --> 00:27:32.628

my... So really that is my, my

426

00:27:32.687 --> 00:27:36.648

horror, the fact that On-... If you try

427

00:27:36.788 --> 00:27:40.588

crossing the road, we have two crossings, one each end of

428

00:27:40.668 --> 00:27:44.648

Olney. You try crossing that road even at eight o'clock

429

00:27:44.687 --> 00:27:48.308

at night in the middle where there isn't a, a

430

00:27:48.428 --> 00:27:51.748
pedestrian crossing, it is impossible.

431

00:27:51.768 --> 00:27:55.148
Because I've tried it many times and I've had to go up the

432

00:27:55.207 --> 00:27:58.888
road to cross it. Olney

433

00:27:59.088 --> 00:28:03.007
is con- so congested, and the

434

00:28:03.068 --> 00:28:07.007
thought of the solar panels and the extra, what

435

00:28:07.028 --> 00:28:08.227
are they called, the large

436

00:28:09.088 --> 00:28:12.768
abnormal loads going through,

437

00:28:12.888 --> 00:28:16.878
um, it's just madness. Thank you

438

00:28:16.888 --> 00:28:19.308
very much.

439

00:28:19.328 --> 00:28:20.507
Thank you.

440

00:28:21.888 --> 00:28:25.588
I'm sure the applicant's picked up your question, um, regarding how
many panels

441

00:28:25.648 --> 00:28:29.207
through Olney, if, if any. Um, and will provide a response either in

442

00:28:29.248 --> 00:28:33.028
writing or today. Thank you. Um, so now we turn

443

00:28:33.088 --> 00:28:36.168
please to Sheena Howe.

444
00:28:36.237 --> 00:28:47.768
(coughs)

445
00:28:47.777 --> 00:28:51.588
Thank you. Um, I just have three points,

446
00:28:51.648 --> 00:28:55.007
quite brief points to raise today.

447
00:28:55.088 --> 00:28:58.947
Uh, the first point I'd like to address is the impact of a potential
fire at

448
00:28:58.987 --> 00:29:02.748
a BESS facility. Mrs. Bebe raised the

449
00:29:02.788 --> 00:29:06.668
question on Tuesday, what would be the result of a fire adjacent

450
00:29:07.348 --> 00:29:10.888
to the irreplaceable ancient woodland near Mears Ashby should the
BESS

451
00:29:10.947 --> 00:29:11.408
there

452
00:29:12.228 --> 00:29:15.967
cause a fire? I believe there, we are still

453
00:29:16.007 --> 00:29:18.918
awaiting a response to the, uh, question that was

454
00:29:18.967 --> 00:29:22.668
posed. I would like to raise the question about what would

455
00:29:22.768 --> 00:29:24.748
happen in the event of a BESS fire at

456

00:29:24.788 --> 00:29:28.608
Grendon. The substation is

457
00:29:28.648 --> 00:29:32.507
part of a major strategic electricity distribution station,

458
00:29:32.527 --> 00:29:35.668
believe it or not, for a large part of the Midlands and North

459
00:29:35.748 --> 00:29:39.447
London. Who knew? It also plays a

460
00:29:39.487 --> 00:29:43.428
major role in the future plans for the national grid WEMEL upgrade

461
00:29:43.467 --> 00:29:44.228
for the Midlands.

462
00:29:45.608 --> 00:29:47.368
The substation is also

463
00:29:47.668 --> 00:29:50.687
manned. In the event of a

464
00:29:50.748 --> 00:29:54.658
fire, there presumably would need to be an evacuation of the

465
00:29:54.707 --> 00:29:58.048
workers, and therefore a subsequent

466
00:29:58.168 --> 00:30:01.788
potential disruption to the distribution of electricity to

467
00:30:01.828 --> 00:30:05.588
thousands of homes and businesses in the Midlands and down

468
00:30:05.628 --> 00:30:09.308
towards North London, potentially resulting in

469
00:30:09.348 --> 00:30:12.707
costing millions and millions of pounds.

470

00:30:12.748 --> 00:30:16.588

Not to mention, of course, the clear health issues, but frankly,

471

00:30:16.648 --> 00:30:18.027

money seems to talk.

472

00:30:19.788 --> 00:30:23.207

Apparently, it talks louder than people's health,

473

00:30:23.248 --> 00:30:27.104

wellbeing. My

474

00:30:27.124 --> 00:30:30.824

second point is with regards to the location of some of the solar

475

00:30:30.904 --> 00:30:32.744

fields.

476

00:30:33.544 --> 00:30:37.424

I feel very blessed to live in some of the most beautiful rolling countryside in

477

00:30:37.464 --> 00:30:40.804

villages dating back to the Domesday, in the case of Grendon

478

00:30:41.884 --> 00:30:43.904

and Eastern Mordet.

479

00:30:45.524 --> 00:30:48.644

The area is literally littered with public rights of way

480

00:30:49.224 --> 00:30:52.924

bridleways. The vast majority of which will be badly

481

00:30:52.984 --> 00:30:56.504

impacted, and some closed for a considerable amount of time during the construction

482

00:30:56.604 --> 00:31:00.444

period. The residents of Eastern Morden,

483

00:31:01.144 --> 00:31:04.944

Mordet in general, feel unable to express their

484

00:31:04.984 --> 00:31:07.784

opinions or have a voice in this whole process

485

00:31:08.784 --> 00:31:11.564

as the village lies within the auspices of Compton

486

00:31:11.824 --> 00:31:13.664

Estates.

487

00:31:14.524 --> 00:31:18.484

Compton Estates owns thousands of

488

00:31:18.524 --> 00:31:22.344

acres of land in the vicinity, and I would suggest there are

489

00:31:22.444 --> 00:31:26.004

many more ideal sites within their portfolio that could be

490

00:31:26.084 --> 00:31:30.004

identified. Even, if I may suggest,

491

00:31:30.064 --> 00:31:33.384

just literally to the west of Eastern Mordet, or Site

492

00:31:33.544 --> 00:31:37.424

14.1... uh, 14-191, slightly

493

00:31:37.434 --> 00:31:38.454

hidden from view

494

00:31:39.544 --> 00:31:43.274

is what we call locally The Links. It used to be a

495

00:31:43.304 --> 00:31:46.024

golf course. It would even be

496

00:31:46.064 --> 00:31:49.084
accessible for the applicant.

497

00:31:49.864 --> 00:31:53.324
Incidentally, this golf course, as it was, during World War II

498

00:31:53.904 --> 00:31:54.564
was dug up

499

00:31:55.884 --> 00:31:59.184
and it was turned into a dig for victory site during the war

500

00:32:00.204 --> 00:32:03.984
due to the lack of food security that we had way

501

00:32:04.024 --> 00:32:05.784
back then.

502

00:32:07.944 --> 00:32:11.924
I request of the examining authority extreme

503

00:32:12.224 --> 00:32:13.104
consideration

504

00:32:14.044 --> 00:32:15.244
be given to the removal

505

00:32:16.524 --> 00:32:18.844
of... To the applicant, I beg your pardon, not the examining
authority.

506

00:32:18.884 --> 00:32:21.944
To the applicant, extreme consideration be given to the

507

00:32:21.984 --> 00:32:25.844
removal of FF10, FF11,

508

00:32:26.384 --> 00:32:28.414
and FF19 from the proposal

509

00:32:29.764 --> 00:32:33.364

in order that one of the most historic and beautiful ancient hamlets
in the

510

00:32:33.424 --> 00:32:37.353

county, or the country, will not be surrounded

511

00:32:37.364 --> 00:32:41.084

with an industrial installation of acres of steel and glass,

512

00:32:41.144 --> 00:32:44.924

especially when there is an alternative available.

513

00:32:46.084 --> 00:32:50.064

As the scheme stands, it is absolute madness that I would

514

00:32:50.104 --> 00:32:53.804

encourage the examining authority to challenge.

515

00:32:55.764 --> 00:32:59.664

My final point. My final

516

00:32:59.744 --> 00:33:03.204

point is with regards to an a- accompanied site visit planned
yesterday

517

00:33:04.104 --> 00:33:07.084

to a farmer, a local farmer, our local farmer in

518

00:33:07.124 --> 00:33:10.544

Grendon, whose land is to be impacted by a compulsory

519

00:33:10.624 --> 00:33:12.923

acquisition order, as we heard

520

00:33:13.784 --> 00:33:17.324

on Wednesday. This visit was planned well in advance.

521

00:33:17.344 --> 00:33:20.424

The farmer has horses in the field. He runs a livery.

522

00:33:20.464 --> 00:33:23.324

There was a meeting the previous day to v- to the, to the visit

523

00:33:24.384 --> 00:33:28.244

with the applicant to discuss whether the horses would be in the field, and would

524

00:33:28.254 --> 00:33:31.304

they be tame enough to vis- for the visit to proceed?

525

00:33:31.364 --> 00:33:33.084

It was confirmed that this was indeed the case.

526

00:33:33.144 --> 00:33:37.104

Many of them are retired horses. There was no request

527

00:33:37.304 --> 00:33:40.144

to remove said horses.

528

00:33:40.204 --> 00:33:43.984

However, it appears, to

529

00:33:44.024 --> 00:33:44.704

my chagrin,

530

00:33:46.624 --> 00:33:50.264

the visit did not take place, despite the farmer and his

531

00:33:50.344 --> 00:33:54.184

companion waiting for some considerable time for this to happen.

532

00:33:55.584 --> 00:33:59.154

When I enquired this morning about the reason the farmer was not visited, I was

533

00:33:59.184 --> 00:34:02.904

told there was a health and safety concern, brackets,

534

00:34:02.924 --> 00:34:06.764

despite the previous day's meeting, close brackets, due to the

535

00:34:06.804 --> 00:34:10.004

fact that there would be persons wearing high-vis jackets, and it was felt that

536

00:34:10.063 --> 00:34:12.583
that may spook the horses.

537

00:34:13.424 --> 00:34:17.384
May I therefore ask the examining authority to consider

538

00:34:18.304 --> 00:34:19.804
very carefully

539

00:34:20.764 --> 00:34:24.604
if they and the applicant had a concern about a few people in

540

00:34:24.684 --> 00:34:27.604
high-vis jackets spooking the horses,

541

00:34:28.484 --> 00:34:32.194
what do they think might be the impact when there are

542

00:34:32.424 --> 00:34:35.804
hundreds of workers in high-vis jackets

543

00:34:36.583 --> 00:34:40.384
pile-driving stout metal plates into ancient

544

00:34:40.724 --> 00:34:44.184
farmland? Would that possibly spook

545

00:34:44.363 --> 00:34:47.944
every single horse in the vicinity?

546

00:34:48.803 --> 00:34:52.784
Please, please, inspectorate, let common sense prevail

547

00:34:53.543 --> 00:34:56.424
and see this proposal for what it is:

548

00:34:56.504 --> 00:35:00.344
ill-conceived, inconsiderate, an inappropriate

549

00:35:00.584 --> 00:35:04.254

permanent vandalism of our countryside and threat to our health.

550

00:35:05.044 --> 00:35:08.704

Please listen carefully to the arguments presented to you, some, s-
much more

551

00:35:08.784 --> 00:35:12.064

eloquently than this, and use your powers and

552

00:35:12.124 --> 00:35:15.764

expertise to refuse the application for this DC0.

553

00:35:15.824 --> 00:35:18.084

Thank you very much.

554

00:35:24.094 --> 00:35:27.924

Thank you. And now if we could turn please to Councillor Carr.

555

00:35:27.984 --> 00:35:31.704

Mention they... (?) .

556

00:35:35.584 --> 00:35:39.424

Yeah. We have Councillor Carr attending who, um, hadn't registered

557

00:35:39.464 --> 00:35:43.224

previously, um, but wishes to speak this morning, and, and they're
online.

558

00:35:43.264 --> 00:35:44.444

Thank you.

559

00:35:45.584 --> 00:35:48.894

Uh, good morning, inspectors. Thank you for indulging me.

560

00:35:48.964 --> 00:35:52.344

Um, (clears throat) with any of these, uh, uh, type of

561

00:35:52.384 --> 00:35:56.064

applications, the information which comes out is, is terribly

562

00:35:56.084 --> 00:35:59.524

confusing and, and rather difficult to sometimes comprehend.

563

00:35:59.544 --> 00:36:02.884

Would you like me to turn my video on for you as well? Sorry, I just realized.

564

00:36:02.904 --> 00:36:05.024

Would that help as well? One moment.

565

00:36:05.084 --> 00:36:07.484

Yes, please. If you're comfortable to do so, then yes, please.

566

00:36:07.494 --> 00:36:11.004

Yeah, of course, I am. Uh,

567

00:36:11.304 --> 00:36:15.144

oh. (...) Is that on now? 'Cause I

568

00:36:15.184 --> 00:36:18.844

can't see myself. Can you see me? Ah, there we go. All right.

569

00:36:18.864 --> 00:36:20.324

Oh, we can see you now. Thank you. Yes.

570

00:36:20.364 --> 00:36:23.694

Super. It's all right. I, I suddenly realized I'd, I'd s- slipped the

571

00:36:23.764 --> 00:36:26.924

slipover. Thank you for indulging me and allowing me to speak.

572

00:36:26.984 --> 00:36:30.924

Um...I've had the, the pleasure, I suppose you

573

00:36:30.944 --> 00:36:33.924

could say, to be a local councillor for the last 14

574

00:36:34.004 --> 00:36:37.384

years, covering, uh, under the Borough Council of

575

00:36:37.424 --> 00:36:41.244

Wellingborough, uh, for 10 years, and then for the last four

576

00:36:41.324 --> 00:36:45.064

years as a ward councillor for the Irchester Ward, uh, which

577

00:36:45.144 --> 00:36:48.804

covers now, uh, Wilby, uh, Great Doddington,

578

00:36:48.844 --> 00:36:52.784

Grendon, Wollaston, Irchester, Eastern Mordant, uh, and

579

00:36:52.904 --> 00:36:56.704

Strixton, um, as well. Um, and obviously

580

00:36:56.944 --> 00:37:00.864

in my role, I've had the opportunity to attend parish council

581

00:37:00.944 --> 00:37:04.704

meetings, listen to discussions taking place there, and obviously

582

00:37:04.824 --> 00:37:08.444

talk to local residents as well. And I've had the opportunity to

583

00:37:08.504 --> 00:37:12.344

listen, uh, on Tuesday night when I came along, and likewise,

584

00:37:12.444 --> 00:37:15.224

uh, to some of your other, uh, hearings as well.

585

00:37:15.264 --> 00:37:18.244

And, um, it's been very interesting, to say the

586

00:37:18.344 --> 00:37:22.144

least. Um, I've just got a few observations that I'd like to

587

00:37:22.204 --> 00:37:25.804

make. Um, I'm a long-term resident of the local

588

00:37:25.904 --> 00:37:29.484

area, having been born, uh, and lived here for most of my

589

00:37:29.544 --> 00:37:32.904

life, um, apart from escaping at various times to go to

590

00:37:32.962 --> 00:37:36.524

university. My family goes back at least 500

591

00:37:36.584 --> 00:37:40.514

years in the local area, and I'm always very proud of where I

592

00:37:40.584 --> 00:37:44.534

live. I've had opportunities to live elsewhere in the UK and abroad,

593

00:37:44.544 --> 00:37:47.804

and I've always declined them because I love where I live.

594

00:37:48.284 --> 00:37:50.904

I love the rural environments that we live in.

595

00:37:52.144 --> 00:37:55.404

My working background is in history and

596

00:37:55.524 --> 00:37:59.404

heritage, and for 12 years of my life, I was the Northamptonshire

597

00:37:59.504 --> 00:38:03.424

studies manager for the County Council, working across

598

00:38:03.444 --> 00:38:07.124

the whole of Northamptonshire and gained a great appreciation

599

00:38:07.224 --> 00:38:11.084

for our rural and industrial landscape

600

00:38:11.144 --> 00:38:15.024

that exists, and the differences that appear within it.

601

00:38:15.064 --> 00:38:18.304

So I've just got a few things that I would really like to

602

00:38:18.364 --> 00:38:21.854
highlight. The- this

603

00:38:22.364 --> 00:38:26.344
proposal is absolutely devastating to the

604

00:38:26.384 --> 00:38:29.024
landscape around us.

605

00:38:29.104 --> 00:38:33.004
Um, it totally changes our sense

606

00:38:33.064 --> 00:38:36.923
of place and belonging. It totally changes the

607

00:38:36.983 --> 00:38:40.703
history and heritage of our area, which has de- developed

608

00:38:40.804 --> 00:38:43.684
over time. We are ending up with an

609

00:38:43.724 --> 00:38:47.703
industrialization of the landscape, which will see

610

00:38:47.784 --> 00:38:51.384
great changes in vistas and views, um,

611

00:38:51.644 --> 00:38:55.464
footpath routes that people use, car routes that

612

00:38:55.564 --> 00:38:59.184
people use for their leisure, pleasure, and going to

613

00:38:59.244 --> 00:39:03.203
work, um, as well. This can obviously have

614

00:39:03.504 --> 00:39:07.244
a detrimental impact, as has been highlighted, on people's health

615

00:39:07.564 --> 00:39:11.504

and wellbeing. Not just their mental health,

616

00:39:11.604 --> 00:39:15.453

but also their sort of visual health, um, as

617

00:39:15.544 --> 00:39:19.384

well. We've heard about how hedges

618

00:39:19.544 --> 00:39:23.364

will be grown to four meters high. Well, I'm sorry to

619

00:39:23.424 --> 00:39:26.953

say, in this local area, I can't think of any hedges which are gonna be f- uh,

620

00:39:26.984 --> 00:39:29.324

which currently are four meters high.

621

00:39:29.404 --> 00:39:33.044

It totally changes that historic look of the

622

00:39:33.104 --> 00:39:36.824

landscape. Um,

623

00:39:37.244 --> 00:39:39.184

this proposal has long-term

624

00:39:40.244 --> 00:39:44.203

impacts, um, and lifetime, I mean, we're talking

625

00:39:44.264 --> 00:39:48.203

about 60 years. In 60 years' time, I'll be well over 100

626

00:39:48.284 --> 00:39:51.464

years of age. Um, people won't

627

00:39:51.544 --> 00:39:55.244

realize what, uh, that, uh, what the areas

628

00:39:55.344 --> 00:39:57.584

originally, uh, looked like.

629

00:39:58.773 --> 00:40:02.764

There's that view of impa- im- environmental impact

630

00:40:02.864 --> 00:40:06.203

which has been highlighted. Um, we've talked about the fire

631

00:40:06.284 --> 00:40:09.834

risk, um, and the impacts on that, not just

632

00:40:09.884 --> 00:40:13.212

from how things can catch fire, but how things can get

633

00:40:13.264 --> 00:40:17.124

polluted. Our river courses, we're very lucky that we live

634

00:40:17.203 --> 00:40:20.644

in the Nene Valley. The River Nene, I believe, is the 10th longest

635

00:40:20.784 --> 00:40:24.524

river, uh, in the country. We talk about flood

636

00:40:24.604 --> 00:40:27.344

risk. Now, I've experienced floods in my own house.

637

00:40:27.364 --> 00:40:31.094

I live in, in Irchester, as it happens, um, where the

638

00:40:31.264 --> 00:40:35.203

soil, uh, around this local area, in dry weather, gets so

639

00:40:35.324 --> 00:40:39.203

hard I've had three foot of water through my house, and I live on the top of

640

00:40:39.224 --> 00:40:42.854

a hill. Um, and places like Grendon and

641

00:40:42.924 --> 00:40:46.804

Eastern Mordant, um, have suffered from floods in recent years,

642

00:40:47.284 --> 00:40:50.284

and I do worry about, um, as I said, the

643

00:40:50.304 --> 00:40:53.484

industrialization with, uh, large blocks of

644

00:40:53.564 --> 00:40:56.953

concrete, with, uh, solar panels being put on

645

00:40:57.084 --> 00:41:01.044

top, uh, impacting the soil, um, and in regards to

646

00:41:01.084 --> 00:41:04.534

runoff from those solar panels, uh, where does the water go?

647

00:41:04.584 --> 00:41:08.544

Because, um, we had a downpour in Irchester, and I believe in

648

00:41:08.584 --> 00:41:12.244

15 minutes, we had nearly two months of rain, uh,

649

00:41:12.344 --> 00:41:16.064

land, uh, on the village, and the main street turned into a

650

00:41:16.084 --> 00:41:20.064

river. And this has happened in Boshiot as well in the last vis-

651

00:41:20.224 --> 00:41:23.724

50 years, um, as well, and Boshiot is even higher.

652

00:41:23.804 --> 00:41:27.104

Um, the villages around this particular

653

00:41:27.244 --> 00:41:30.594

area, um, are on a flood, uh,

654

00:41:31.244 --> 00:41:33.504

I- I can't think of the correct name for it now, and I've been trying to think of

655

00:41:33.544 --> 00:41:37.284

it all morning. Um, they were highlighted for, you know, flood

656

00:41:37.524 --> 00:41:41.163

risks, even though we are on high ground.

657

00:41:43.244 --> 00:41:47.194

We talk about community cohesion, um, which builds into

658

00:41:47.244 --> 00:41:50.674

that idea of sense of place, which builds into that sense of health and

659

00:41:50.764 --> 00:41:54.744

wellbeing. Many of these tenant

660

00:41:54.784 --> 00:41:58.764

farmers who are having to have land taken

661

00:41:58.824 --> 00:42:02.084

away from them, um, having talked to some of

662

00:42:02.124 --> 00:42:05.574

them, it, in the long run, will make their farms

663

00:42:06.004 --> 00:42:08.104

unsustainable going forward.

664

00:42:09.264 --> 00:42:13.084

Um, it could be a point that their farms are given up and

665

00:42:13.104 --> 00:42:15.654

perhaps taken into one large farm.

666

00:42:15.663 --> 00:42:18.744

Well, by doing that, you are changing the ethos

667

00:42:19.264 --> 00:42:23.094

and the community that makes up our

668

00:42:23.424 --> 00:42:27.304
local, uh, area. I have great

669
00:42:27.404 --> 00:42:31.163
concerns about, um, this lack of

670
00:42:31.224 --> 00:42:34.874
commitment, and I mean commitment, to a community

671
00:42:34.984 --> 00:42:38.264
benefit fund. I heard comments from, uh, Miss

672
00:42:38.344 --> 00:42:41.844
Broderick, uh, on Tuesday. Um, it doesn't

673
00:42:42.084 --> 00:42:46.024
give any positivity to the local community

674
00:42:46.184 --> 00:42:49.642
about that lack..... of community benefit funds

675
00:42:50.012 --> 00:42:53.872
whatsoever. We also talk

676
00:42:54.012 --> 00:42:57.932
about how the rural economy, when we talk about farming,

677
00:42:57.952 --> 00:43:01.312
yes, it's, it- it- it provides farming, but- but the rural

678
00:43:01.392 --> 00:43:04.912
atmosphere that we have in this area also contributes

679
00:43:05.032 --> 00:43:06.092
to tourism

680
00:43:06.992 --> 00:43:10.892
and the journey to that tourism. Um, as one

681
00:43:10.932 --> 00:43:14.072
of your previous speakers mentioned, um, the Marquess of

682

00:43:14.112 --> 00:43:18.072

Northampton, uh, who is a substantial landowner in the local area, and some of his

683

00:43:18.092 --> 00:43:21.002

land is obviously coming forward for this solar farm, um,

684

00:43:21.852 --> 00:43:24.992

his site offers a tourism attraction in the local

685

00:43:25.132 --> 00:43:29.052

area. How do you get to it? You drive through this landscape.

686

00:43:29.112 --> 00:43:32.802

It's not, you know, you're not teleported into this,

687

00:43:32.892 --> 00:43:36.812

uh, tourism aspect. It's also about the

688

00:43:36.872 --> 00:43:40.772

journey that you make to- to it. And from a North

689

00:43:40.832 --> 00:43:44.752

Northamptonshire perspective, for whom I represent, there is a cultural

690

00:43:44.832 --> 00:43:48.592

master plan for tourism for the local area as

691

00:43:48.732 --> 00:43:52.251

well. Um, the

692

00:43:55.452 --> 00:43:59.292

other aspect that I wanted to make, and I'm just looking at my final points on

693

00:43:59.332 --> 00:44:02.532

my notes, is this is a

694

00:44:02.672 --> 00:44:06.582

life-changing, for many people, um,

695

00:44:07.552 --> 00:44:11.422

change to their local community. It is life-changing,

696

00:44:11.432 --> 00:44:15.192

to say the least. The fact that you won't be able to go

697

00:44:15.272 --> 00:44:19.232

out of your house or walk, and walk through the landscape that

698

00:44:19.292 --> 00:44:22.452

you are used to, or getting in your car.

699

00:44:22.472 --> 00:44:26.252

And even for my mental health and well-being, if I've had a- a stressful

700

00:44:26.272 --> 00:44:29.792

day working at home like I am today listening to you, I

701

00:44:29.892 --> 00:44:33.692

sometimes just get in the car and I go for a drive.

702

00:44:33.712 --> 00:44:37.532

And I go for a drive through Grendon, through Easton Mordecht,

703

00:44:37.572 --> 00:44:41.352

through Beaujolais, all the surrounding area, and I come back and it

704

00:44:41.532 --> 00:44:45.492

makes me feel so much better if I've not been out of the house all day because I've

705

00:44:45.512 --> 00:44:49.462

been stuck in front of a computer like many of us are, uh,

706

00:44:49.492 --> 00:44:52.552

with home working today. Mr.

707

00:44:52.692 --> 00:44:56.411

Mason from, uh, Grendon, who is also a parish councilor

708

00:44:56.512 --> 00:45:00.302

there, highlighted about, um, a f- a fund

709

00:45:00.392 --> 00:45:02.552

which was offered to Irchester Parish Council.

710

00:45:02.592 --> 00:45:06.542

Now, I'm also on Irchester Parish Council in regards to this solar farm,

711

00:45:06.572 --> 00:45:10.432

which was built, um, at the junction of the London Road and the

712

00:45:10.472 --> 00:45:14.432

Gipsy Lane. It is 49, I wanna say hectares, but it might be 49

713

00:45:14.532 --> 00:45:18.492

acres. It's just below that 50, uh, limit of having to go in

714

00:45:18.552 --> 00:45:22.352

front of you as inspectors. The parish council

715

00:45:22.432 --> 00:45:26.272

was promised 52,000 pounds from

716

00:45:26.292 --> 00:45:28.862

this development. It was

717

00:45:28.892 --> 00:45:32.312

built. It hasn't been forthcoming at all.

718

00:45:32.332 --> 00:45:35.952

In actual fact, they have flatly denied handing it over to

719

00:45:36.012 --> 00:45:36.932

us.

720

00:45:37.912 --> 00:45:41.672

In addition to that, the landscaping that has taken place

721

00:45:41.752 --> 00:45:45.442

around that particular solar farm has failed

722

00:45:45.892 --> 00:45:46.542

so far.

723

00:45:48.132 --> 00:45:51.952

So I have great concerns about projected landscaping, um,

724

00:45:52.032 --> 00:45:55.641

options, uh, for this whole, um,

725

00:45:55.652 --> 00:45:59.452

site. Uh, not that- that the site, but the whole of the Greenhill

726

00:45:59.532 --> 00:46:03.322

Solar Farm. There is another solar farm which lies within the Parish of

727

00:46:03.392 --> 00:46:06.772

Irchester behind Little Irchester.

728

00:46:06.832 --> 00:46:09.592

Um, it is not visually seen from the road.

729

00:46:09.632 --> 00:46:12.772

You don't really know it's there, to be perfectly honest.

730

00:46:12.852 --> 00:46:16.512

Um, it used poor-quality farmland, um, which had

731

00:46:16.572 --> 00:46:19.292

previously been a quarry and it has been infilled.

732

00:46:19.372 --> 00:46:23.352

Again, that solar farm, um, the parish council was

733

00:46:23.392 --> 00:46:26.892

promised 1,000 pounds for... 1,000 pounds per year for

734

00:46:27.032 --> 00:46:30.842

25 years. We had it for a few years, it's been continually sold on and

735

00:46:30.872 --> 00:46:33.412

they- they deny all knowledge from it.

736

00:46:33.452 --> 00:46:36.332

So the community has lost out,

737

00:46:36.412 --> 00:46:40.032

continually, from the impacts of these- these solar farms within

738

00:46:40.092 --> 00:46:44.012

our- our community. The other thing that

739

00:46:44.112 --> 00:46:47.572

I cannot get my head round at the moment, at

740

00:46:47.652 --> 00:46:51.432

all, is this supply chain. The whole purpose

741

00:46:51.672 --> 00:46:55.172

of building solar panels is to help

742

00:46:55.272 --> 00:46:58.992

us with the environment, it's help, it's meant to help us

743

00:46:59.032 --> 00:47:01.972

with going towards carbon neutral.

744

00:47:02.032 --> 00:47:05.952

However, having had a presentation by Greenhill Solar

745

00:47:05.972 --> 00:47:09.782

Farm when I did ask the question, you know, where are these solar panels being

746

00:47:09.832 --> 00:47:13.752

made? How are they being transported?

747

00:47:13.832 --> 00:47:17.172

Um, uh, you know, are they coming from overseas, for example?

748

00:47:17.192 --> 00:47:20.552

You know, then they're coming on heavy lorry- lorries, which is damaging to our

749

00:47:20.612 --> 00:47:24.492

road systems. Then you have all the workers coming in their cars,

750

00:47:24.572 --> 00:47:27.472

um, uh, or vans and so on. And also with the

751

00:47:27.572 --> 00:47:30.912

repair, what- what

752

00:47:32.252 --> 00:47:36.242

paper, what document, um, has worked

753

00:47:36.252 --> 00:47:39.612

that, uh, s- you know, that supply chain

754

00:47:39.712 --> 00:47:42.592

neutrality out in regards to the environmental

755

00:47:42.932 --> 00:47:46.812

impact? You know, if it's gonna take us 100

756

00:47:47.072 --> 00:47:50.342

years to, uh, build back on the

757

00:47:50.752 --> 00:47:54.652

damage that has been done, you know, or 200 years,

758

00:47:54.712 --> 00:47:57.372

then- then it doesn't... The- the benefits

759

00:47:57.392 --> 00:48:00.832

outweigh the destruction of

760

00:48:00.932 --> 00:48:04.452
our landscape that many of you, I know, have spoken

761
00:48:04.552 --> 00:48:07.932
about, uh, to you or have sent in, in

762
00:48:08.072 --> 00:48:11.752
comments. Um, I feel very

763
00:48:11.932 --> 00:48:15.092
sad if this goes forwards for the local community.

764
00:48:15.172 --> 00:48:19.012
Um, you know, I- I might be around for another 30 years, but it's
going

765
00:48:19.132 --> 00:48:22.452
to dramatically change people's

766
00:48:22.852 --> 00:48:26.612
lives, um, and people who love the area that

767
00:48:26.672 --> 00:48:30.572
they live in. They have chosen, in many cases, to live here,

768
00:48:30.652 --> 00:48:34.612
move here or remain here, you know, for many generations

769
00:48:34.692 --> 00:48:37.692
as well. Thank you for listening to me.

770
00:48:40.672 --> 00:48:43.632
Thank you, Councilor Carr. Um, before we lose you, just quickly, a
point of

771
00:48:43.652 --> 00:48:45.482
clarification, just quickly if I may.

772
00:48:45.552 --> 00:48:49.212
Um, you mentioned a tourism site, which the

773

00:48:49.272 --> 00:48:52.022

Marquess of Northampton, I believe, owns and-

774

00:48:52.052 --> 00:48:52.242

Yes.

775

00:48:52.242 --> 00:48:54.172

... um, I wonder which one that is, please?

776

00:48:54.252 --> 00:48:57.752

Okay. So you've got Castle Ashby House itself, but also Castle Ashby

777

00:48:57.832 --> 00:49:01.702

Gardens. But, but if I may, sorry, I don't mean to interrupt you, there are

778

00:49:01.772 --> 00:49:04.402

other tourist attractions in the local area.

779

00:49:04.412 --> 00:49:08.332

I mean, you've heard today, for example, from, um, various

780

00:49:08.352 --> 00:49:12.312

people who have got, um, liveries, you know, they offer riding

781

00:49:12.332 --> 00:49:15.832

in the landscape. You know, you've got country, um,

782

00:49:15.852 --> 00:49:19.832

parks, um, things like Summer Leys, um, which

783

00:49:19.852 --> 00:49:21.992

is located in the parish of Grendon.

784

00:49:22.032 --> 00:49:25.952

You've got, um, for example, I recently took the local

785

00:49:26.052 --> 00:49:29.672

MP, Sarah Bull, um, up, uh, what they

786

00:49:29.852 --> 00:49:33.752

call, um, Beacon Hill in Wollaston, uh, which

787

00:49:33.792 --> 00:49:37.252

is an ancient scheduled monument located behind the museum

788

00:49:37.852 --> 00:49:41.552

and it looks right across the landscape, um,

789

00:49:41.892 --> 00:49:45.792

where this solar farm, uh, is proposed, uh, in sort of Grendon Eastern

790

00:49:45.852 --> 00:49:49.552

Mordant. Likewise, as somebody mentioned as well, I think it was Mr.

791

00:49:49.572 --> 00:49:53.392

Robinson, um, I took the chief executive of North Northants

792

00:49:53.512 --> 00:49:56.772

Council behind, um, Eastern Mordant

793

00:49:56.892 --> 00:50:00.652

Church, and the landscape behind Eastern Mordant Church is

794

00:50:00.752 --> 00:50:04.482

absolutely stunning. It, you know, it- it...

795

00:50:04.482 --> 00:50:08.152

The tourism aspect in the county, which is what the county is

796

00:50:08.232 --> 00:50:11.772

trying to build on, um, you know, it's not

797

00:50:11.912 --> 00:50:15.262

England's Kansas where people just drive through.

798

00:50:15.312 --> 00:50:19.002

It is a pla- you know, it's a hidden gem within

799

00:50:19.072 --> 00:50:21.152

our country.

800

00:50:22.452 --> 00:50:26.232

There are lots of other places, um, um, as well, inspectors, um, that people do

801

00:50:26.292 --> 00:50:29.042

visit, and I, I could be here all day listing them, but I'm not gonna waste your

802

00:50:29.072 --> 00:50:31.632

time any further.

803

00:50:31.672 --> 00:50:33.292

Thank you very much, Councilor Carr.

804

00:50:33.352 --> 00:50:36.792

Um, next please, we, we're hearing from, um, Keith Burrell,

805

00:50:36.872 --> 00:50:40.762

who, who had also, um, not registered prior to attending, um, but wishes

806

00:50:40.792 --> 00:50:43.862

to speak today. So Mr. Burrell, if you'd like to come up to the table

807

00:50:43.932 --> 00:50:46.212

please?

808

00:51:05.172 --> 00:51:08.172

My name is Keith Burrell. Uh,

809

00:51:08.332 --> 00:51:11.812

I, ex-RAF,

810

00:51:11.972 --> 00:51:15.332

uh, work for the CAA, Civil Aviation Authority, and

811

00:51:15.412 --> 00:51:18.112

also for NATS, National Air Traffic

812

00:51:18.192 --> 00:51:22.092
Services. I live within about, say, just

813
00:51:22.212 --> 00:51:25.952
over 800 yards of Site B, as proposed.

814
00:51:26.992 --> 00:51:30.672
Um, as w- line of sight from Site B to

815
00:51:30.812 --> 00:51:34.692
Pittsford Reservoir, I'm along that line.

816
00:51:37.302 --> 00:51:40.452
I have a prepared briefing note here.

817
00:51:41.532 --> 00:51:44.912
I'm very concerned about the lack of any regard to the impact on

818
00:51:44.972 --> 00:51:48.341
surrounding airspace users. This

819
00:51:48.372 --> 00:51:51.872
doesn't mean that all

820
00:51:51.972 --> 00:51:55.812
airspace, airspace users are expected to land or

821
00:51:55.852 --> 00:51:59.152
take off from the airfields and aerodromes in the

822
00:51:59.252 --> 00:52:02.472
area. The principal one being Syble

823
00:52:02.552 --> 00:52:03.692
Aerodrome.

824
00:52:06.612 --> 00:52:10.072
With regard to the impact on surrounding airspace users due to the

825
00:52:10.112 --> 00:52:12.572
absence of glint and glare modeling

826

00:52:13.612 --> 00:52:16.252
outside of the Safeguarding Aerodrome

827

00:52:17.152 --> 00:52:20.612
Guidance to 2023, addition to the

828

00:52:21.132 --> 00:52:24.532
CAA's CAP738

829

00:52:24.892 --> 00:52:28.602
document. Point A, not every

830

00:52:28.712 --> 00:52:31.352
flight will be departing/arriving at the named

831

00:52:31.432 --> 00:52:35.362
airfields/aerodromes mentioned in the PIR Volume 3:

832

00:52:35.412 --> 00:52:36.452
Chapter 15.

833

00:52:37.512 --> 00:52:41.212
Point B, no understanding of the visual

834

00:52:41.372 --> 00:52:42.492
flight rules,

835

00:52:43.412 --> 00:52:46.652
the abbreviation is VFR, and can I just

836

00:52:46.692 --> 00:52:50.572
emphasize the importance and significance

837

00:52:50.652 --> 00:52:53.672
of visual flight rules for

838

00:52:54.232 --> 00:52:57.781
low-flying aircraft, light aircraft, including

839

00:52:57.832 --> 00:53:00.432
military jets, military movements,

840
00:53:00.492 --> 00:53:04.432
helicopters, and also commercial flights

841
00:53:04.492 --> 00:53:08.082
that actually fly over this area at about, say, 10 or

842
00:53:08.152 --> 00:53:11.812
11,000 feet when they're on the approach runs

843
00:53:11.872 --> 00:53:14.772
to Leicester Airport, et cetera.

844
00:53:16.192 --> 00:53:18.612
No understanding of the visual flight rules

845
00:53:19.472 --> 00:53:22.812
and degregation of cockpit visual sight

846
00:53:22.872 --> 00:53:23.532
lines

847
00:53:24.392 --> 00:53:28.012
because of the large, geographical acreage area

848
00:53:29.052 --> 00:53:31.972
due to the multi-site installations of solar

849
00:53:32.412 --> 00:53:34.212
photovoltaic panels

850
00:53:35.032 --> 00:53:38.852
and subsequent glint and glare.

851
00:53:38.872 --> 00:53:42.752
Point C, effort made to model glint and glare

852
00:53:42.812 --> 00:53:46.472
impact on local airfield and aerodrome environments

853

00:53:47.092 --> 00:53:50.792

and the attempt to address the need for mitigation

854

00:53:52.152 --> 00:53:55.212

amplifies the point that glint and glare is a

855

00:53:55.222 --> 00:53:58.812

serious, significant distraction to

856

00:53:58.852 --> 00:54:02.312

pilots on flight and approach paths

857

00:54:02.392 --> 00:54:05.352

using VFR.

858

00:54:07.352 --> 00:54:09.932

I might add a rider to this.

859

00:54:11.092 --> 00:54:14.332

The aerodromes and airfields will quite, will usually

860

00:54:14.412 --> 00:54:16.792

have, um,

861

00:54:16.872 --> 00:54:20.372

a, uh, a

862

00:54:21.232 --> 00:54:23.652

flight pattern to go round the aerodromes.

863

00:54:23.672 --> 00:54:26.692

For instance, Syble, I think it's counterclockwise.

864

00:54:26.712 --> 00:54:30.452

That takes those aircraft over a wider

865

00:54:30.612 --> 00:54:34.512

area than just these specific aerodrome or

866

00:54:34.612 --> 00:54:36.332
airfield, um,

867
00:54:36.492 --> 00:54:39.152
limits.

868
00:54:40.032 --> 00:54:44.012
The airspace in the vicinity of the development includes

869
00:54:44.472 --> 00:54:48.056
navigational waypoint--- uh, of

870
00:54:48.096 --> 00:54:52.056
Pitsford Reservoir, which is obviously a major feature

871
00:54:52.116 --> 00:54:53.676
from the air.

872
00:54:54.856 --> 00:54:58.336
It's an aiming point, it's a leaving point for whatever

873
00:54:58.346 --> 00:55:00.435
heading that you're going to be using.

874
00:55:00.455 --> 00:55:03.236
The nav aids, navigational aids, of Daventry

875
00:55:03.495 --> 00:55:06.975
VOR-DME west of Brixworth

876
00:55:07.816 --> 00:55:11.015
and the Pitsford Reservoir, which are significant

877
00:55:11.955 --> 00:55:15.915
airspace for visual flight rules and instrument flying

878
00:55:15.955 --> 00:55:19.435
rules. Air traffic,

879
00:55:19.495 --> 00:55:23.475
therefore... And this one, ri- flying rule, sorry, uh,

880

00:55:23.616 --> 00:55:27.455

IFR air traffic, therefore used a lot by

881

00:55:27.596 --> 00:55:30.276

pilots. I reiterate,

882

00:55:30.356 --> 00:55:34.154

again, this is air traffic

883

00:55:34.296 --> 00:55:37.796

using the airspace in this geographical

884

00:55:37.935 --> 00:55:41.556

area of which the applicant has made no

885

00:55:41.616 --> 00:55:44.245

mention of with regards to their submissions.

886

00:55:46.475 --> 00:55:50.216

How much glint and glare affecting the local airspace has been

887

00:55:50.256 --> 00:55:52.346

considered and

888

00:55:53.375 --> 00:55:54.076

require

889

00:55:55.236 --> 00:55:59.036

a NOTAM to be issued due to the potential

890

00:55:59.046 --> 00:56:02.946

hazard for pilots using VFR? NOTAM is

891

00:56:03.015 --> 00:56:06.475

a shorthand version of Notice to Airmen about dangers, significant

892

00:56:06.796 --> 00:56:10.696

features, et cetera. If you've got glint and glare coming

893

00:56:10.736 --> 00:56:14.656
from a wide geographical area, that is obviously going

894
00:56:14.676 --> 00:56:18.556
to impact you as a pilot f- on a heading flying

895
00:56:18.676 --> 00:56:22.656
towards that area. Certain times of day, certain times of

896
00:56:22.716 --> 00:56:26.256
year, depending what flight level you're at, altitude,

897
00:56:27.056 --> 00:56:30.216
it's extremely difficult to word NOTAMS

898
00:56:31.596 --> 00:56:35.096
because things change from day to day, hour to hour.

899
00:56:35.136 --> 00:56:39.116
However, I mentioned the word NOTAMS, it may be a

900
00:56:39.156 --> 00:56:42.776
requirement if the planning approvals do not

901
00:56:42.836 --> 00:56:44.395
strictly control

902
00:56:45.455 --> 00:56:49.156
the technology and specification of the panels and their

903
00:56:49.176 --> 00:56:52.495
siting to prevent such glint and glare

904
00:56:53.015 --> 00:56:56.314
from an airspace user, not a ground

905
00:56:56.576 --> 00:57:00.256
visual receptor. An airspace

906
00:57:00.515 --> 00:57:04.336
receptor, visually. Military low-flying,

907

00:57:04.435 --> 00:57:07.995

e.g. the Nene Valley Low-Flying Corridor,

908

00:57:09.015 --> 00:57:12.935

although changes have been made to include all of the UK rather than

909

00:57:13.036 --> 00:57:16.475

specific named and designated low-flying

910

00:57:16.556 --> 00:57:20.286

corridors, except for specific exclusion

911

00:57:20.455 --> 00:57:24.356

areas, is a significant area of flying activity where

912

00:57:24.415 --> 00:57:28.395

fast jets, military pilots also have to

913

00:57:28.415 --> 00:57:32.116

comply with VFR. How much

914

00:57:32.216 --> 00:57:35.935

reacted- reaction time will the pilot have on arriving

915

00:57:36.136 --> 00:57:36.796

low level

916

00:57:37.856 --> 00:57:41.596

to a wide area multi-site glint and glare solar

917

00:57:41.676 --> 00:57:44.395

farm?

918

00:57:45.576 --> 00:57:49.556

How is pre-flight planning practical when glint

919

00:57:49.596 --> 00:57:53.276

and glare is variable due to time of day,

920

00:57:53.336 --> 00:57:57.066
time of year, and the outcome is modified by

921
00:57:57.276 --> 00:58:01.176
fixed and/or tracking solar photopic

922
00:58:01.995 --> 00:58:05.836
PV panel installations? I might add, of

923
00:58:05.955 --> 00:58:09.556
course, that in that particular paragraph, there is

924
00:58:09.596 --> 00:58:12.756
obviously- it's very relevant to what headings,

925
00:58:13.495 --> 00:58:16.696
flight routes, flight paths these aircraft are going to be

926
00:58:16.716 --> 00:58:20.645
taking. Because time of day, time of year, and

927
00:58:20.676 --> 00:58:24.256
the direction you are heading in, and where the sun is relative to

928
00:58:24.276 --> 00:58:27.205
all the solar in- panel installations,

929
00:58:28.076 --> 00:58:31.415
it all adds up to, um, an

930
00:58:31.475 --> 00:58:35.395
assessment that may be quite difficult to carry

931
00:58:35.495 --> 00:58:37.856
out if you're a pilot without backup

932
00:58:37.875 --> 00:58:41.756
resources.

933
00:58:44.196 --> 00:58:47.895
With VFR obligations, are you now stating that the

934

00:58:47.955 --> 00:58:51.536

avoidance of your multi-sites will be required

935

00:58:52.056 --> 00:58:55.036

because the action a pilot might need to take to

936

00:58:55.156 --> 00:58:56.725

safely,

937

00:58:57.636 --> 00:59:01.336

safely avoid an in-flight hazard, e.g.

938

00:59:01.356 --> 00:59:05.055

another aircraft that could be coming from the direction where

939

00:59:05.116 --> 00:59:09.096

these, um, sites are located?

940

00:59:09.156 --> 00:59:12.926

They can see you heading towards them, but

941

00:59:13.015 --> 00:59:15.145

are you likely to be able to see them

942

00:59:16.356 --> 00:59:20.096

with the appropriate, uh, decisions that pilots make,

943

00:59:20.196 --> 00:59:22.336

um, during their normal, uh, flying

944

00:59:22.375 --> 01:00:48.610

responsibilities?...

945

01:00:48.620 --> 01:00:51.080

of surrounding airfields and aerodromes.

946

01:00:51.100 --> 01:00:54.240

Well, it, it comes under general terms of safeguarding

947

01:00:55.020 --> 01:00:57.720
aerodrome, as, uh, the actual function of the

948
01:00:57.780 --> 01:01:01.380
airfields. However, that is limited

949
01:01:02.140 --> 01:01:05.630
in distance away from the specific aerodrome.

950
01:01:06.940 --> 01:01:10.920
Air displays, like the Red Arrows and the actual,

951
01:01:11.020 --> 01:01:11.740
um,

952
01:01:12.900 --> 01:01:13.940
air display

953
01:01:14.820 --> 01:01:18.340
routes that they take when they come in in formation or come in

954
01:01:18.500 --> 01:01:21.800
singletons, et cetera, they cover a much broader

955
01:01:21.920 --> 01:01:25.880
area. And therefore, their sight lines coming back

956
01:01:25.920 --> 01:01:29.580
to, say, Sywell Aerodrome, is quite different

957
01:01:30.400 --> 01:01:33.920
to what you might guess they might be on a

958
01:01:33.980 --> 01:01:35.840
landing approach to the

959
01:01:35.900 --> 01:01:39.740
aerodrome. Accidents do

960
01:01:39.820 --> 01:01:43.480
occur. Visual flight rules is there to

961

01:01:43.560 --> 01:01:47.540

reduce risk, but its intention is significantly

962

01:01:47.620 --> 01:01:48.540

undermined

963

01:01:49.400 --> 01:01:53.319

if the pilot's visibility of the airspace around his or her

964

01:01:53.420 --> 01:01:56.760

aircraft is obscured due to glint and glare levels

965

01:01:57.280 --> 01:01:59.500

not historically experienced

966

01:02:00.560 --> 01:02:04.540

in the UK, and specifically, in this geographical area,

967

01:02:04.620 --> 01:02:08.520

except if the aircraft heading is towards the sun's position

968

01:02:08.560 --> 01:02:09.320

in the sky.

969

01:02:10.580 --> 01:02:13.460

I am disturbed by the lack of official guidance for

970

01:02:13.520 --> 01:02:17.090

developers, et cetera, to address glint and

971

01:02:17.140 --> 01:02:20.380

glare away or outside the

972

01:02:20.460 --> 01:02:23.960

airfields, aerodromes, airports, the immediate

973

01:02:24.100 --> 01:02:27.800

safeguard area. It's as though it doesn't

974

01:02:27.820 --> 01:02:30.640
exist, there is no one using the airspace,

975
01:02:31.740 --> 01:02:32.960
which is not true.

976
01:02:34.840 --> 01:02:38.660
Light aircraft make use of certain flight levels.

977
01:02:38.760 --> 01:02:42.320
Commercial aircraft drop down to

978
01:02:42.420 --> 01:02:45.400
certain, um, flight levels as they're on approach.

979
01:02:45.460 --> 01:02:48.610
Aircraft coming up from Heathrow and Gatwick, they

980
01:02:48.660 --> 01:02:52.000
climb slowly and they're at quite low

981
01:02:52.060 --> 01:02:56.000
levels as they pass over Northampton because it's part

982
01:02:56.080 --> 01:02:56.220
of

983
01:02:57.020 --> 01:03:00.940
a, um, way of conserving fuel. But their

984
01:03:00.980 --> 01:03:03.900
flight levels crossing over this area, it's quite

985
01:03:03.960 --> 01:03:06.180
low. Now,

986
01:03:07.680 --> 01:03:11.400
we are not talking about the odd PV panel or a

987
01:03:11.460 --> 01:03:15.020
small number on some residential roofs.

988

01:03:15.060 --> 01:03:19.030

The schemes now being submitted by developers to the planning inspectorate

989

01:03:19.360 --> 01:03:23.340

involve multi-sites with large acreages

990

01:03:23.400 --> 01:03:27.160

with hundreds of thousands of PV panels.

991

01:03:27.200 --> 01:03:30.780

The Greenhill Solar Farm, nominally nine

992

01:03:30.920 --> 01:03:34.800

sites, 500 megawatts, will involve up

993

01:03:34.880 --> 01:03:35.100

to

994

01:03:36.460 --> 01:03:40.420

approximately or maybe a million PV panels, part of which

995

01:03:40.500 --> 01:03:43.440

is, is close to Sywell Aerodrome, which is

996

01:03:43.480 --> 01:03:47.000

hosted the Rest Arrows air display in June

997

01:03:47.120 --> 01:03:50.920

2024, where they fly low over my house.

998

01:03:50.929 --> 01:03:53.000

And I put in brackets, "Wonderful

999

01:03:54.060 --> 01:03:56.200

that I've got this free air display,"

1000

01:03:57.120 --> 01:04:00.180

but I know how low they are.

1001

01:04:01.700 --> 01:04:05.540

They are not a ground visual receptor.

1002

01:04:08.020 --> 01:04:11.980

The specification design of the photovoltaic panel to

1003

01:04:12.040 --> 01:04:14.900

be purchased has not been stated.

1004

01:04:16.160 --> 01:04:20.080

So, how can anyone, like myself, who has an interest in the

1005

01:04:20.140 --> 01:04:20.800

technology,

1006

01:04:21.700 --> 01:04:25.240

actually understand what is going to be the

1007

01:04:25.280 --> 01:04:27.160

resultant glint and glare

1008

01:04:28.240 --> 01:04:32.200

coming from these panels? And although I'm gonna refer to it later, I'll,

1009

01:04:32.280 --> 01:04:33.260

I'll mention it now.

1010

01:04:34.340 --> 01:04:37.940

These panels that are proposed, they are composite

1011

01:04:38.300 --> 01:04:41.900

of many smaller panels that are linked together to

1012

01:04:41.980 --> 01:04:45.700

form one much larger install- installed

1013

01:04:45.800 --> 01:04:46.900

panel.

1014

01:04:48.580 --> 01:04:52.520

That means that whatever specifications are stated

1015

01:04:52.600 --> 01:04:56.320

for the anti-reflectance,

1016

01:04:56.880 --> 01:04:59.060

reflectivity of these

1017

01:04:59.200 --> 01:05:02.920

panels, the actual figures will

1018

01:05:02.960 --> 01:05:06.700

refer to one of these small panels, 'cause I don't

1019

01:05:06.740 --> 01:05:10.500

believe it will equate to the whole panel, the whole combined

1020

01:05:10.600 --> 01:05:14.040

panel. And the reflectance

1021

01:05:14.720 --> 01:05:17.660

figure, whatever percentage is going to be

1022

01:05:17.740 --> 01:05:21.220

quoted, is only valid if the

1023

01:05:21.280 --> 01:05:24.900

sun is perpendicular to the horizontal plane of

1024

01:05:24.960 --> 01:05:28.740

the panel. So, wherever the sun

1025

01:05:28.860 --> 01:05:32.800

is above the horizon, wherever the time of

1026

01:05:32.880 --> 01:05:36.360

day it is, in relation to the panel,

1027

01:05:36.800 --> 01:05:39.820

for it to achieve this so-called

1028

01:05:39.960 --> 01:05:42.560
salesman's, um, stated

1029

01:05:43.260 --> 01:05:46.730
anti-reflectivity property of the

1030

01:05:46.840 --> 01:05:50.460
panel, it's only at that very narrow window

1031

01:05:51.240 --> 01:05:55.170
of the orientation of the sun to the panel that

1032

01:05:55.220 --> 01:05:56.610
that figure applies.

1033

01:05:58.480 --> 01:06:01.380
If the sun is outside of that specific

1034

01:06:01.580 --> 01:06:04.520
orientation, then the

1035

01:06:04.580 --> 01:06:08.230
reflection is higher, so therefore, the glint and

1036

01:06:08.320 --> 01:06:12.040
glare is higher. Go

1037

01:06:12.100 --> 01:06:15.700
back to wording here, "The technology of the PV panel

1038

01:06:15.760 --> 01:06:18.820
allows for its design to incorporate anti-reflection

1039

01:06:18.940 --> 01:06:22.040
features, including anti-reflectance glare

1040

01:06:22.100 --> 01:06:25.840
coating, which may often be quoted as a reflection of

1041

01:06:26.180 --> 01:06:26.800
5%

1042
01:06:27.680 --> 01:06:31.600
or less." However, if a PV panel is tracking the

1043
01:06:31.620 --> 01:06:35.560
sun across the sky, you might assume 5% is not

1044
01:06:35.620 --> 01:06:37.600
too much of a problem for a pilot,

1045
01:06:39.180 --> 01:06:42.800
visual- who is a visual receptor, aerial.

1046
01:06:42.820 --> 01:06:46.400
But multiply the 5% from a single large

1047
01:06:46.820 --> 01:06:50.700
p- panel by 10,000 or 100,000

1048
01:06:50.820 --> 01:06:54.736
PV panels..... I, I suggest that

1049
01:06:54.796 --> 01:06:58.416
it's not unreasonable to actually add

1050
01:06:58.876 --> 01:07:00.416
all these five percents

1051
01:07:01.676 --> 01:07:05.616
to give you an idea of how much is being reflected

1052
01:07:05.696 --> 01:07:08.056
back up into the sky.

1053
01:07:08.096 --> 01:07:11.906
Mis- thank you, um, Mr. Burrell, I'm very sorry to jump in, but I
believe you've,

1054
01:07:11.956 --> 01:07:15.836

um, submitted a written submission of, of the points that you're making, and

1055

01:07:15.876 --> 01:07:19.536

as we're now at roughly, sort of 15 minutes, um, and that- that's over our, sort

1056

01:07:19.556 --> 01:07:22.196

of, approximate 10-minute estimation-

1057

01:07:22.536 --> 01:07:23.846

Ask

1058

01:07:23.846 --> 01:07:23.856

them to (laughs)

1059

01:07:23.896 --> 01:07:26.656

... are there any final general points you'd like to make, please?

1060

01:07:26.676 --> 01:07:30.006

Well, I wasn't anticipating having to be, um,

1061

01:07:30.056 --> 01:07:33.796

that. That is, there are, there's more detail about, and

1062

01:07:33.836 --> 01:07:37.116

examples of choosing different types of reflectant,

1063

01:07:37.176 --> 01:07:40.316

anti-reflectant properties on the panels.

1064

01:07:40.456 --> 01:07:41.496

Going on to

1065

01:07:42.696 --> 01:07:46.496

a particular point, PV panel technology deteriorates with

1066

01:07:46.716 --> 01:07:50.576

age. There is nothing stated by the applicant

1067

01:07:50.876 --> 01:07:54.386

to say how they will monitor the deterioration and I would

1068

01:07:54.416 --> 01:07:58.396

suggest, deterioration with age means more glint

1069

01:07:58.416 --> 01:07:58.956

and glare

1070

01:08:00.296 --> 01:08:02.906

over and above the specification.

1071

01:08:02.956 --> 01:08:06.666

Now, I mentioned about,

1072

01:08:06.776 --> 01:08:10.756

uh, previous submission regards nav aids, navigational wave- way points

1073

01:08:10.816 --> 01:08:14.746

and the amount of aircraft that won't be using the aerodromes but crossing the

1074

01:08:14.816 --> 01:08:18.276

geographical area, uh, in accordance with the way

1075

01:08:18.316 --> 01:08:22.196

points, the visual way points as well as the navigational

1076

01:08:22.256 --> 01:08:25.776

aids. Lastly, I come to the subject of

1077

01:08:26.116 --> 01:08:28.076

engine failure after takeoff, known as

1078

01:08:28.296 --> 01:08:31.756

E-F-A-T-0. The

1079

01:08:31.796 --> 01:08:35.656

historical location of airfields and aerodromes is normally buried

1080

01:08:35.696 --> 01:08:39.516

within farmland, countryside. If an aircraft

1081

01:08:39.916 --> 01:08:43.296

has an engine failure after takeoff or it's while it's doing a

1082

01:08:43.395 --> 01:08:47.336

circuit and has a failure, it has

1083

01:08:47.395 --> 01:08:51.196

an opportunity and chance and option of the pilot

1084

01:08:51.296 --> 01:08:52.736

of putting down the aircraft

1085

01:08:54.336 --> 01:08:55.416

in farmland.

1086

01:08:57.056 --> 01:09:00.836

The proposals for, by the applicant is to

1087

01:09:00.895 --> 01:09:04.316

take away a large portion of the surrounding

1088

01:09:04.395 --> 01:09:05.416

countryside

1089

01:09:06.716 --> 01:09:10.696

which previously could be relied upon for an aircraft to

1090

01:09:10.756 --> 01:09:14.376

come down with survivability for pilots and

1091

01:09:14.496 --> 01:09:18.475

passengers. However, once

1092

01:09:18.536 --> 01:09:22.136

you install all this infrastructure in those fields,

1093

01:09:23.116 --> 01:09:26.685

what is the chances of someone being able to walk away

1094

01:09:27.256 --> 01:09:30.916
without injury or death? Now, part

1095

01:09:30.996 --> 01:09:33.596
of the aspect of, um,

1096

01:09:35.616 --> 01:09:36.216
this is

1097

01:09:38.376 --> 01:09:42.116
the PV panels themselves, they are a energy

1098

01:09:42.316 --> 01:09:42.816
source

1099

01:09:44.056 --> 01:09:46.636
themselves, they generate voltages.

1100

01:09:46.656 --> 01:09:50.296
You add a few together and you get to very high voltage

1101

01:09:50.376 --> 01:09:54.356
sources. If an aircraft comes down, you've got the

1102

01:09:54.456 --> 01:09:58.056
problems of the passengers or pilot being able to move

1103

01:09:58.676 --> 01:10:01.796
and get away from damaged insulation where you'll have large

1104

01:10:01.876 --> 01:10:04.656
voltages present. Any rescue

1105

01:10:04.756 --> 01:10:08.676
vehicles, and I might add that, for instance, Syll is likely to

1106

01:10:08.716 --> 01:10:12.696
be their fire t- tender, may well be the first one

1107

01:10:12.716 --> 01:10:16.356

that's able to, to get to the scene in the locality of the

1108

01:10:16.416 --> 01:10:19.516

sites round by the a- the aerodrome.

1109

01:10:19.576 --> 01:10:20.936

How do they safely

1110

01:10:22.256 --> 01:10:26.236

gain access when you t- do not have an outside switch like you

1111

01:10:26.276 --> 01:10:28.806

do have on factories where you can just shut the power

1112

01:10:28.916 --> 01:10:32.676

off? S- solar panels by their very

1113

01:10:32.716 --> 01:10:34.856

design, they generate

1114

01:10:35.496 --> 01:10:39.466

power. In nighttime you might say, "Well, it's not

1115

01:10:39.536 --> 01:10:42.456

a problem." But most flying activity is during the

1116

01:10:42.496 --> 01:10:43.986

day.

1117

01:10:44.016 --> 01:10:45.696

Yeah. Well, thank, thank key things-

1118

01:10:46.196 --> 01:10:46.466

One of the key things

1119

01:10:46.466 --> 01:10:47.236

associated- Thank you, Mr. Burrell.

1120

01:10:47.356 --> 01:10:47.486

... um-

1121
01:10:47.486 --> 01:10:49.896
Um, that, that was, um, very helpful.

1122
01:10:50.096 --> 01:10:53.716
I, I think y- um, because you, you weren't here at the start, um, you

1123
01:10:53.996 --> 01:10:57.536
probably didn't hear the introduction that we were allowing t- uh, sort of ten

1124
01:10:57.596 --> 01:11:01.416
minutes for people and everybody has kept to, to ten

1125
01:11:01.496 --> 01:11:02.105
minutes, so-

1126
01:11:02.116 --> 01:11:03.316
Have you gone within ten minutes?

1127
01:11:03.336 --> 01:11:07.156
Uh, yes. Yeah, you have. But, um, uh, you, you did say you've, you've

1128
01:11:07.196 --> 01:11:10.336
got it in writing and I understand from the case team that you're

1129
01:11:10.916 --> 01:11:14.606
submitting that, so we've, we've heard everything that you've said there and, um,

1130
01:11:14.636 --> 01:11:15.176
we will-

1131
01:11:15.256 --> 01:11:15.446
I have got-

1132
01:11:15.446 --> 01:11:17.706
... we will take your written submissions. So, thank you

1133
01:11:17.706 --> 01:11:21.036

for that. ... CA's, uh, pollution avoidance and other documentation-

1134

01:11:21.056 --> 01:11:21.066

Great.

1135

01:11:21.066 --> 01:11:22.156

... that I've supplied.

1136

01:11:22.176 --> 01:11:24.376

Thank you. Thank you very much for that.

1137

01:11:32.896 --> 01:11:34.666

Thank you. Um...

1138

01:11:34.696 --> 01:11:35.336

No, no. That's that.

1139

01:11:36.456 --> 01:11:36.686

Yeah.

1140

01:11:36.686 --> 01:11:37.396

Oh, no one else?

1141

01:11:37.436 --> 01:11:37.756

No.

1142

01:11:38.056 --> 01:11:39.836

Okay.

1143

01:11:39.856 --> 01:11:40.465

So just

1144

01:11:40.465 --> 01:11:41.006

(laughs)

1145

01:11:41.116 --> 01:11:44.916

Okay, thank you. Um, if the applicant would like to respond to any points

1146

01:11:44.976 --> 01:11:47.856

made, now's the opportunity to, to come forward please.

1147
01:11:47.896 --> 01:11:48.036
Thank

1148
01:11:48.116 --> 01:11:52.116
you.

1149
01:12:01.356 --> 01:12:05.216
Uh, good afternoon. Uh, Clare Broderick, I'm a partner at Pinsent

1150
01:12:05.236 --> 01:12:08.376
Masons LLP who are solicitors, uh, for the

1151
01:12:08.416 --> 01:12:12.156
applicant. Um, on behalf of the applicant, um, I'd just like to

1152
01:12:12.196 --> 01:12:15.986
thank everybody for attending today's open floor hearing.

1153
01:12:16.096 --> 01:12:19.986
Um, we have been taking, uh, very detailed notes of the, uh, points
that have

1154
01:12:20.016 --> 01:12:23.676
been raised. Um, we very much appreciate the effort,

1155
01:12:23.776 --> 01:12:27.516
um, that people have gone to, to provide such detailed submissions

1156
01:12:27.556 --> 01:12:31.256
today, um, and also, um, the time that they have clearly

1157
01:12:31.316 --> 01:12:35.256
taken going through, um, the documentation and the applicant does
appreciate

1158
01:12:35.296 --> 01:12:39.176
that there is a vast amount of documentation for projects

1159
01:12:39.236 --> 01:12:43.016
of this scale, um, and that people have given up their time t- to

look through

1160

01:12:43.036 --> 01:12:46.956

them. Um, we'll be responding in writing to a number of the points that have

1161

01:12:46.976 --> 01:12:50.056

been made, some of which were quite technical in detail.

1162

01:12:50.136 --> 01:12:54.076

Um, we will endeavor to do so by the next deadline, which is next Wednesday.

1163

01:12:54.096 --> 01:12:58.056

There may be a few, uh, points that we take away, um, and consider

1164

01:12:58.116 --> 01:13:01.556

further, um, for deadline four.

1165

01:13:01.636 --> 01:13:04.244

Um-In particular, um,

1166

01:13:05.324 --> 01:13:09.034

Ms. Partridge mentioned a number of points relating to the,

1167

01:13:09.124 --> 01:13:13.004

um, width of the cable corridor, um, through her

1168

01:13:13.064 --> 01:13:16.864

land, which were touched on at the compulsory acquisition hearing, um, on

1169

01:13:16.924 --> 01:13:20.864

Wednesday. Um, and the applicant is going to provide some more detail,

1170

01:13:20.904 --> 01:13:24.864

um, we think including a diagram just to explain, um, how construction is

1171

01:13:24.924 --> 01:13:27.154

anticipated to take place in that area.

1172

01:13:27.184 --> 01:13:30.714

I'm not sure if that can be created in time for Wednesday, so if it's not

1173

01:13:30.764 --> 01:13:34.624

included, that will follow, um, at deadline four.

1174

01:13:34.704 --> 01:13:38.344

Um, there are a couple of points that were, uh, mentioned by a number

1175

01:13:38.444 --> 01:13:41.984

of, uh, people who've spoken today that I thought it might be very helpful

1176

01:13:42.064 --> 01:13:45.754

to, um, succinctly, um, touch on. Um,

1177

01:13:45.924 --> 01:13:49.724

one was in relation to, um, how the DCO itself

1178

01:13:49.764 --> 01:13:53.584

secures the various commitments that have been made by the applicant in its

1179

01:13:53.624 --> 01:13:57.244

DCO application material, um, and some

1180

01:13:57.984 --> 01:14:01.364

about how those commitments, um, are enforced and who those

1181

01:14:01.384 --> 01:14:05.044

commitments, um, uh, apply to. Um, so

1182

01:14:05.304 --> 01:14:08.904

this DCO, as is, um, typical for energy generation

1183

01:14:09.004 --> 01:14:12.974

DCOs and, and DCOs more widely, is, um, a

1184

01:14:13.044 --> 01:14:16.824
piece of legislation if it were to be granted, um, and therefore
there

1185
01:14:16.964 --> 01:14:20.584
will be a statutory obligation to comply with the terms of

1186
01:14:20.644 --> 01:14:24.344
it. That includes both the powers set out and obligations set out in
the

1187
01:14:24.364 --> 01:14:28.024
DCO itself, but also all of the management plans that are

1188
01:14:28.084 --> 01:14:31.084
secured by the requirements set out in schedule

1189
01:14:31.184 --> 01:14:35.124
two. Um, as part of the DCO application, the applicant has

1190
01:14:35.184 --> 01:14:39.064
provided outline management plans, but before they can either

1191
01:14:39.104 --> 01:14:43.084
commence construction or commence operation, final management plans

1192
01:14:43.164 --> 01:14:47.014
will need to be submitted for approval by the local planning
authority.

1193
01:14:47.064 --> 01:14:50.744
Um, and then those plans will need to be complied with, and there's
a statutory

1194
01:14:50.784 --> 01:14:54.264
obligation to comply with those. Um, failure to comply with the

1195
01:14:54.304 --> 01:14:58.244
plans, um, is automatically a criminal offense.

1196
01:14:58.284 --> 01:15:01.764
Those obligations, um, fall on the, um,

1197

01:15:01.864 --> 01:15:04.884

applicant known as the undertaker in the DCO.

1198

01:15:04.924 --> 01:15:08.164

The DCO itself, unlike normal planning permission, is

1199

01:15:08.224 --> 01:15:11.833

personal to the undertaker, so it's the undertaker that has both the

1200

01:15:11.923 --> 01:15:15.744

powers but also has the obligations, um, under the

1201

01:15:15.764 --> 01:15:18.784

DCO and needs to comply with them. There are fairly,

1202

01:15:19.764 --> 01:15:23.664

um, strict provisions on transferring the benefit of the

1203

01:15:23.704 --> 01:15:27.604

DCO to other parties, including the requirement to get Secretary

1204

01:15:27.644 --> 01:15:31.124

of State, um, consent if it, if it applies.

1205

01:15:31.204 --> 01:15:34.964

Um, the applicant itself, the sort of the SPV entity that has been

1206

01:15:35.064 --> 01:15:39.014

set up for this particular project, is the entity that

1207

01:15:39.014 --> 01:15:42.684

has, um, a generation license and has the grid connection offer.

1208

01:15:42.704 --> 01:15:46.174

So as is typical for generating, uh, projects of this

1209

01:15:46.244 --> 01:15:49.864

scale, whilst the, um, applicant, um, is

1210

01:15:49.984 --> 01:15:53.764

a, is a special purpose vehicle and belongs part, part of a

1211

01:15:53.784 --> 01:15:57.144

wider, uh, company, Island Green Power in this case,

1212

01:15:57.924 --> 01:16:01.254

um, that, that is not, uh, that's designed so that the, um,

1213

01:16:01.484 --> 01:16:04.704

generation license and the grid connection offers a- a- are within that, that

1214

01:16:04.744 --> 01:16:08.304

entity rather than the company more widely.

1215

01:16:10.144 --> 01:16:14.044

In terms of, um, the various, uh, management plans,

1216

01:16:14.104 --> 01:16:17.474

those are designed to deal with a number of the issues that were raised today.

1217

01:16:17.524 --> 01:16:20.844

In particular, matters relating to, um, the implementation of

1218

01:16:20.904 --> 01:16:24.864

landscaping, biodiversity net gain, uh, the, uh,

1219

01:16:25.984 --> 01:16:29.974

inclusion of permissive paths, um, some new, some to formalize

1220

01:16:30.044 --> 01:16:33.784

existing, um, usages of, uh, walkways,

1221

01:16:33.904 --> 01:16:34.153

um,

1222

01:16:35.144 --> 01:16:38.444

bears safety, um, and also decommissioning.

1223

01:16:38.514 --> 01:16:42.204

Um, there has been a number of points raised about decommissioning.

1224

01:16:42.284 --> 01:16:45.684

Uh, the DCO itself contains a specific obligation to

1225

01:16:45.784 --> 01:16:49.724

decommission, uh, the project, um, at the end of its

1226

01:16:49.944 --> 01:16:53.713

60-year life, if not, uh, if it ceases operating

1227

01:16:53.724 --> 01:16:57.204

earlier than that, then that obligation to decommission would apply at that point

1228

01:16:57.244 --> 01:17:00.984

in time. So it's triggered, um, by the cessation

1229

01:17:01.084 --> 01:17:04.974

of operation, but the maximum, um, operational period is,

1230

01:17:05.024 --> 01:17:08.284

is 60 years. Um, the Secretary of State has

1231

01:17:08.324 --> 01:17:12.264

previously decided that, um, the, the requirement in the

1232

01:17:12.284 --> 01:17:16.164

DCO is sufficient. Um, however, um, as has been

1233

01:17:16.204 --> 01:17:19.834

noted during this hearing, the applicant has, um,

1234

01:17:19.944 --> 01:17:23.384

entered into, uh, voluntary agreements with the landowners where these

1235

01:17:23.783 --> 01:17:27.174

PV panels are to be located. Um,

1236

01:17:27.384 --> 01:17:31.344
that, uh, enables the applicant to lease that

1237
01:17:31.404 --> 01:17:35.284
land from, uh, the landowner as part of those leasehold

1238
01:17:35.844 --> 01:17:39.604
arrangements. There are measures, um, requiring the

1239
01:17:39.644 --> 01:17:43.524
applicant to put in place, um, some form of, uh, decommissioning

1240
01:17:43.604 --> 01:17:47.144
security for the benefit of that, um, landowner.

1241
01:17:47.184 --> 01:17:50.804
So there is, um, a mechanism whereby, um, the

1242
01:17:50.864 --> 01:17:54.194
landowner is protected, um, should decommissioning

1243
01:17:54.704 --> 01:17:58.304
not take place in accordance, um, with the DCO for any particular

1244
01:17:58.384 --> 01:17:59.944
reason.

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01:18:00.884 --> 01:18:04.764
The other point that came up, um, that, um, is perhaps worth touching

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01:18:04.844 --> 01:18:07.944
on was a reference to community benefits.

1247
01:18:08.004 --> 01:18:08.154
Um,

1248
01:18:09.444 --> 01:18:13.094
elements of the project that could, um, result in a community

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01:18:13.184 --> 01:18:16.484

benefit take different, um, shapes, some of which

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01:18:16.604 --> 01:18:20.564

are, uh, physical measures, um, such as, um, the

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01:18:20.584 --> 01:18:24.554

provision of permissive paths or, um, landscaping or,

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01:18:24.684 --> 01:18:28.644

uh, BNG units. Those are all secured in the DC0, so they're not

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01:18:28.724 --> 01:18:32.404

part of a wider Section 106 agreement because they are

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01:18:32.444 --> 01:18:35.904

secured in the DC0 itself. Uh, similarly, there's a

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01:18:35.964 --> 01:18:39.764

skills and supply chain and employment plan, um, and that is

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01:18:39.804 --> 01:18:43.744

secured in the DC0. So again, there isn't, um, a planning

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01:18:43.764 --> 01:18:47.524

requirement for there to be a Section 106 agreement for this

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01:18:47.544 --> 01:18:51.424

particular project. A community benefit fund, which

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01:18:51.464 --> 01:18:54.884

was mentioned by a number of the people giving, um,

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01:18:54.964 --> 01:18:58.444

submissions today, is something that the applicant has committed to

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01:18:58.504 --> 01:19:02.164

do. Um, for various

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01:19:02.224 --> 01:19:06.164

reasons, that is not something that can be included at the moment in the

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01:19:06.184 --> 01:19:10.124

DCO itself. It is, there is not a planning reason for

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01:19:10.224 --> 01:19:13.984

that, and therefore, um, the DCO cannot include, um,

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01:19:14.204 --> 01:19:17.704

obligations on the applicant to provide a community,

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01:19:17.774 --> 01:19:21.680

uh-... Benefit Fund, that's the current system within which we're

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01:19:21.740 --> 01:19:25.340

working. Similarly, that type of Community Benefit Fund wouldn't

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01:19:25.400 --> 01:19:28.580

satisfy the tests for a Section 106 agreement.

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01:19:28.590 --> 01:19:31.840

So it can't be secured by our Section 106 agreement

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01:19:32.280 --> 01:19:36.250

either, um, under the current, um, legislative regime that

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01:19:36.300 --> 01:19:39.910

we have. As was mentioned, um, the government are looking at

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01:19:39.980 --> 01:19:43.640

bringing into force a more statutory regime for community

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01:19:43.720 --> 01:19:47.070

benefits, um, but that doesn't look like it's going to come into

1274

01:19:47.080 --> 01:19:51.020

force, um, before the, um, DCO

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01:19:51.040 --> 01:19:54.320

application is determined for this particular scheme.

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01:19:54.329 --> 01:19:58.100

Um, however, I will just reiterate that that is a commitment that the applicant

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01:19:58.200 --> 01:20:02.120

has made to put in place. The actual mechanics of that, um, will be

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01:20:02.140 --> 01:20:05.230

determined once DCO consent has been granted.

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01:20:05.240 --> 01:20:08.740

But we, applicant has made a note of all of the different

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01:20:08.820 --> 01:20:12.720

suggestions that have been made today about how, um, that fund could be

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01:20:12.860 --> 01:20:16.500

used to, um, support various initiatives

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01:20:16.680 --> 01:20:20.550

in, in the locality. (smacks lips) I think

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01:20:20.640 --> 01:20:24.150

those are the main points, um, that I wanted to just,

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01:20:24.260 --> 01:20:27.960

uh, flag, except for this very specific question that was

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01:20:28.080 --> 01:20:32.060

asked, um, (clicks tongue) in relation to, um,

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01:20:32.800 --> 01:20:34.850

traffic routes, um, by, um,

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01:20:35.760 --> 01:20:39.200

Ms. English. Um, she had a specific question about traffic

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01:20:39.210 --> 01:20:43.010

through, uh, the village of Olney, and it was just to confirm, 'cause

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01:20:43.040 --> 01:20:46.880

w- we do appreciate from the previous issue-specific hearing that there was some

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01:20:46.900 --> 01:20:50.680

confusion, um, in relation to, um, the different types of

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01:20:50.820 --> 01:20:53.820

vehicles that could be using the local roads.

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01:20:53.900 --> 01:20:57.770

Um, and it was just to confirm that there will be no HGV construction

1293

01:20:57.840 --> 01:21:01.640

traffic through Olney. It is designated as an abnormal

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01:21:01.700 --> 01:21:05.600

indivisible load route of which there are anticipated to be

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01:21:05.680 --> 01:21:09.380

only four of those that would go through the, uh, village of

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01:21:09.420 --> 01:21:12.340

Olney. So I hope that provides, um, some clarity.

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01:21:12.380 --> 01:21:15.390

We will, in the written summary, um, provide the links to the

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01:21:15.420 --> 01:21:18.080

plans that show that, um, traffic

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01:21:18.100 --> 01:21:21.510

routing. Um, but those were the points I wanted

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01:21:21.560 --> 01:21:25.420

to specifically respond to orally, and then we'll be providing

1301

01:21:25.490 --> 01:21:29.230

a written summary in relation to all of the other points that have been made.

1302

01:21:29.280 --> 01:21:32.360

Did you have any further questions? Happy to answer them.

1303

01:21:34.320 --> 01:21:36.480

Thank you, Ms. Prodig. That's very helpful, thank you.

1304

01:21:36.540 --> 01:21:40.100

Um, so thank you all for your contributions today.

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01:21:40.160 --> 01:21:43.300

Um, um, I'm afraid we have come to the end of the hearing now.

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01:21:43.340 --> 01:21:45.720

Any further submissions may be submitted in writing.

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01:21:45.740 --> 01:21:47.770

However, I believe Mr...

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01:21:48.920 --> 01:21:52.160

(pause) Well, I, I think this needs to be in writing now. Mr.

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01:21:52.180 --> 01:21:55.440

Sedgeman's going to give you further information about that. My apologies.

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01:21:55.520 --> 01:21:58.260

Um, so thank you everyone for your contributions today.

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01:21:58.280 --> 01:21:58.560

We have

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01:21:58.620 --> 01:22:02.389

heard...

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01:22:02.420 --> 01:22:05.880

Um, that does need to be in writing. I'm sorry, Mr. Robinson. Sorry.

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01:22:05.889 --> 01:22:07.130

Thank you.

1315

01:22:07.180 --> 01:22:10.720

Uh, we have heard everyone registered to speak in this hearing and from additional

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01:22:10.880 --> 01:22:14.060

speakers who had not registered. The time is now

1317

01:22:14.120 --> 01:22:16.109

1:25 PM and this hearing is

1318

01:22:16.200 --> 01:22:25.420

closed.