



Hearing Transcript

Project:	Green Hill Solar Farm
Hearing:	Issue Specific Hearing 5 (ISH5) - Part 2
Date:	11 March 2026

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1

00:00:00.080 --> 00:00:03.630

So the time is eleven forty-three, and,

2

00:00:04.020 --> 00:00:07.940

ISH five is resumed. And I will hand over

3

00:00:08.040 --> 00:00:11.600

to my colleague, Ms. Beebe, who is leading

4

00:00:11.820 --> 00:00:13.480

on this, ecology

5

00:00:13.760 --> 00:00:15.820

item.

6

00:00:18.060 --> 00:00:21.700

Thank you. So if we could firstly hear from the applicant, please, with an update

7

00:00:21.800 --> 00:00:24.360

with regard to ecology and biodiversity matters.

8

00:00:24.400 --> 00:00:26.520

Thank you.

9

00:00:27.040 --> 00:00:28.340

Claire Brodrick for the applicant.

10

00:00:28.440 --> 00:00:32.299

Um, I'm joined by, three, different members of the applicant's

11

00:00:32.381 --> 00:00:34.600

team, in respect of this agenda item.

12

00:00:34.620 --> 00:00:37.760

So I'll just let, Mr. Poole, Mr. Hockey, and Mr.

13

00:00:37.780 --> 00:00:41.540

Gledhill introduce themselves first, and then they will give, an

update

14

00:00:41.700 --> 00:00:44.960

on matters relating to ecology. Thank you.

15

00:00:46.840 --> 00:00:49.720

Good morning. I'm Chris Poole, on behalf of the applicant.

16

00:00:49.840 --> 00:00:53.170

Uh, I'm a senior ecologist at Clarkson & Woods Ecological

17

00:00:53.240 --> 00:00:56.900

Consultants. Um, I've been an ecologist for eight years, and I'm

18

00:00:57.020 --> 00:01:00.520

a, an associate member of the Chartered Institute of

19

00:01:00.560 --> 00:01:04.440

Ecology and Environmental Management. Thanks.

20

00:01:04.560 --> 00:01:08.460

And Mike Hockey, principal ecologist a-and ornithology lead

21

00:01:08.500 --> 00:01:12.280

with Clarkson & Woods. Um, been an ecologist for ten years and full member

22

00:01:12.340 --> 00:01:14.200

of CIEEM.

23

00:01:16.140 --> 00:01:19.700

Uh, Ryan Gledhill on behalf of the applicant, chartered arboriculturist and

24

00:01:19.780 --> 00:01:22.940

director of arboriculture at Landpro.

25

00:01:24.920 --> 00:01:28.460

Great. Thank you. And, and just quickly, Mr.

26

00:01:28.480 --> 00:01:31.980

Grants, is there anybody for North Northants Council that you wanted to

27

00:01:32.020 --> 00:01:32.900
introduce?

28

00:01:32.980 --> 00:01:35.320
Uh, Gary Grants, North Northants Council.

29

00:01:35.380 --> 00:01:38.940
Um, so yes, Sven Rufus is

30

00:01:39.000 --> 00:01:42.960
online. So Inspector Beebe, will be aware that Sven Rus-Rufus

31

00:01:43.000 --> 00:01:46.540
is online and, may make a short contribution in relation to this

32

00:01:46.620 --> 00:01:48.640
item.

33

00:01:49.120 --> 00:01:49.990
Thank you. That's fine.

34

00:01:50.000 --> 00:01:53.160
Perhaps if, if, if Mr. Rufus can introduce himself, that would be

35

00:01:53.180 --> 00:01:54.560
helpful.

36

00:01:55.460 --> 00:01:59.130
Thank you. Yes. Sven Rufus, I'm, planning ecologist for Northants

37

00:01:59.220 --> 00:02:01.030
Council. I will be here to

38

00:02:02.000 --> 00:02:05.060
answer questions and make any comments as required.

39

00:02:07.620 --> 00:02:11.489
Great. Thank you. Um, so yeah, if we could turn back to the

applicant, for the

40

00:02:11.660 --> 00:02:12.140
update.

41

00:02:15.420 --> 00:02:17.480
Yeah. Mike Hockey on behalf of the applicant.

42

00:02:17.580 --> 00:02:20.760
Um, I'll give a summary about, designated sites and protected

43

00:02:20.820 --> 00:02:24.780
species. So since the last,

44

00:02:25.460 --> 00:02:28.440
round of, updates, we've updated the habitat

45

00:02:28.500 --> 00:02:31.370
regulations assessment in response to the, uh...

46

00:02:31.380 --> 00:02:33.240
So that's Rep five zero seven nine.

47

00:02:34.000 --> 00:02:37.360
Uh, we've updated that in response to the report on the implications
for European

48

00:02:37.440 --> 00:02:39.860
sites, which is PD zero one four.

49

00:02:40.760 --> 00:02:44.660
These changes scope in the assessment of disturbance to bird species
outside of the

50

00:02:44.720 --> 00:02:48.460
SPA. Mitigation measures, including pre-construction

51

00:02:48.520 --> 00:02:51.740
inspections of newly accessed fields, are proposed during the winter

52

00:02:51.780 --> 00:02:55.660

months, with works postponed as needed if significant flocks of golden

53

00:02:55.720 --> 00:02:58.720

plover or lapwing are present in these fields.

54

00:02:58.760 --> 00:03:02.130

This is formalized in an updated version of the outline ecological protection and

55

00:03:02.160 --> 00:03:06.100

mitigation strategy, Rep five zero seven one, where a

56

00:03:06.140 --> 00:03:09.660

new method statement, Method Statement thirteen, has been prepared to

57

00:03:09.680 --> 00:03:12.460

consolidate measures in respect of mitigation for SPA

58

00:03:12.500 --> 00:03:16.480

species. With these measures, and acknowledging the

59

00:03:16.500 --> 00:03:19.060

pr-pr-the propensity for these birds to move widely through the landscape during

60

00:03:19.100 --> 00:03:23.060

the winter, potentially habituate to benign disturbance,

61

00:03:23.660 --> 00:03:27.600

no adverse effects on integrity are likely via this pathway.

62

00:03:28.320 --> 00:03:32.220

Other minor updates to the HRA were actioned in response to the REIS,

63

00:03:32.340 --> 00:03:36.160

the report on impact on Europ-Eu-European sites.

64

00:03:36.180 --> 00:03:39.540

And as an update, Natural England have confirmed their agreement

with all matters

65

00:03:39.720 --> 00:03:43.600

detailed in the Natural England Statement of Common Ground, Ref B, which is Rep

66

00:03:43.660 --> 00:03:45.380

five one zero six.

67

00:03:46.900 --> 00:03:48.120

With regard to bats,

68

00:03:49.460 --> 00:03:52.920

as per the Milton Keynes, City Council Statement of Common

69

00:03:53.000 --> 00:03:55.800

Ground, Ref B, which is Rep five one zero

70

00:03:55.980 --> 00:03:59.340

two, a meeting was held between the Milton Keynes ecology

71

00:03:59.400 --> 00:04:03.130

officer and the applicant's ecologists on the twentieth of January twenty

72

00:04:03.180 --> 00:04:06.580

twenty-six, where the need for further b-bat surveys was

73

00:04:06.620 --> 00:04:10.310

discussed. It was agreed that further surveys would not have

74

00:04:10.340 --> 00:04:14.160

materially affected the outcomes of the assessment or mitigation provided and were

75

00:04:14.200 --> 00:04:18.010

therefore not required. This matter is now taken as agreed in the statement of

76

00:04:18.019 --> 00:04:21.959

common ground. I'll pass over to my colleague, Chris Poole, to talk about

77

00:04:22.000 --> 00:04:24.320
ancient woodland.

78

00:04:26.340 --> 00:04:28.800
Chris Poole on behalf of the applicant.

79

00:04:29.620 --> 00:04:33.600
Um, so just as a, as a, an update, a summary, there's

80

00:04:33.620 --> 00:04:37.200
been some confusion over the application of protective buffer

81

00:04:37.280 --> 00:04:40.900
zones to ancient woodland habitats, principally from the information

82

00:04:41.000 --> 00:04:44.940
presented in appendix nine point one two, Schedule of Protective

83

00:04:45.080 --> 00:04:48.420
Ecological Buffers. Uh, that's App zero nine

84

00:04:48.480 --> 00:04:52.410
five. The Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation

85

00:04:52.520 --> 00:04:56.060
Strategy, Rep five zero seven two, and

86

00:04:56.120 --> 00:04:59.680
appendix nineteen point two, Arboricultural Impact Assessment

87

00:05:00.080 --> 00:05:04.040
and Outline Arboricultural Method Statement, App one seven

88

00:05:04.060 --> 00:05:07.550
one. The figures in the Schedule of Protective

89

00:05:07.660 --> 00:05:11.540
Ecological Buffers, App zero nine five, were produced at

90

00:05:11.550 --> 00:05:15.180
an early stage of design to highlight the standard buffers to be applied

91
00:05:15.320 --> 00:05:18.680
around different ecological features within the scheme.

92
00:05:18.720 --> 00:05:22.280
However, they are indicative only and do not count for specific

93
00:05:22.380 --> 00:05:26.220
works which will necessarily entail incursion into the buffer

94
00:05:26.280 --> 00:05:30.070
zones at discrete locations. Additionally, the

95
00:05:30.140 --> 00:05:33.900
SPEB does not show indicative buffers for the cable route

96
00:05:33.940 --> 00:05:37.400
corridor, only for the Green Hill sites.

97
00:05:37.420 --> 00:05:41.300
It's confirmed that a minimum fifteen-meter protective buffer will

98
00:05:41.340 --> 00:05:44.640
be applied and implemented for all ancient woodland parcels

99
00:05:45.140 --> 00:05:48.700
within the site and within the cable route corridor, as per

100
00:05:48.920 --> 00:05:52.720
the Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Outline Arboricultural Method

101
00:05:52.800 --> 00:05:56.500
Statement, App one seven one. No infrastructure

102
00:05:56.540 --> 00:05:59.630
works will take place within this fifteen-meter buffer.

103

00:05:59.660 --> 00:06:02.760

No installation of built infrastructure, including cabling.

104

00:06:02.820 --> 00:06:06.600

No site personnel or plant machinery shall enter the buffer

105

00:06:06.620 --> 00:06:10.590

zones, and no equipment will be stored therein.The

106

00:06:10.630 --> 00:06:14.110

only works which may take place within the fifteen-meter buffer zone are

107

00:06:14.170 --> 00:06:18.020

limited to unavoidable non-intrusive works, such as

108

00:06:18.070 --> 00:06:21.990

upgrades to two existing tracks through the use of a no-dig solution

109

00:06:23.090 --> 00:06:26.170

and provision of permissive paths.

110

00:06:27.110 --> 00:06:30.950

Manual works associated with landscaping and biodiversity mitigation

111

00:06:30.970 --> 00:06:34.940

enhancement measures, including seeding, are also permitted within

112

00:06:34.990 --> 00:06:38.910

this buffer. Such works will be undertaken under supervision

113

00:06:38.930 --> 00:06:42.830

of the project Arboricultural Clerk of Works and Ecological Clerk

114

00:06:42.870 --> 00:06:44.470

of Works.

115

00:06:45.690 --> 00:06:49.479

The fifteen-meter buffer for ancient woodland is recommended by Natural England and

116

00:06:49.490 --> 00:06:52.310
the Forestry Commission to protect ancient woodland.

117
00:06:52.330 --> 00:06:55.750
Therefore, the provision of up to thirty meters for this scheme demonstrates that

118
00:06:55.810 --> 00:06:59.690
where practicable, the scheme delivers protection beyond established good practice

119
00:06:59.770 --> 00:07:03.610
for ancient woodland. As outlined in table two point one of the

120
00:07:03.670 --> 00:07:06.610
signposting document for matters raised at issue-specific

121
00:07:06.670 --> 00:07:10.590
hearings, Rep four zero two four, works may

122
00:07:10.610 --> 00:07:13.830
be required between fifteen meters and thirty meters from ancient

123
00:07:13.850 --> 00:07:17.790
woodland. Where environmental or engineering constraints necessitate works

124
00:07:17.810 --> 00:07:21.630
within the thirty-meter buffer, such works must be agreed in advance

125
00:07:21.670 --> 00:07:25.150
with and undertaken under the supervision of the Ecological Clerk of

126
00:07:25.210 --> 00:07:28.990
Works and/or the Arboricultural Clerk of Works

127
00:07:29.090 --> 00:07:32.030
as, as necessary. The

128
00:07:32.090 --> 00:07:35.940
OEPMS, Rep five zero seven two, and

129

00:07:36.110 --> 00:07:39.790

Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan, Rep five

130

00:07:39.890 --> 00:07:43.850

zero six three, will be amended for deadline six to

131

00:07:43.870 --> 00:07:47.170

secure and clarify where fifteen-meter buffers will be applied for the

132

00:07:47.310 --> 00:07:51.150

scheme, including the cable route corridor and extended

133

00:07:51.250 --> 00:07:54.570

thirty-meter buffers for the Green Hill sites.

134

00:07:54.610 --> 00:07:58.590

The schedule of protective ecological buffers may also be updated

135

00:07:58.610 --> 00:08:02.350

with a covering note, to highlight the indicative nature of the

136

00:08:02.370 --> 00:08:05.290

buffers therein. Thank

137

00:08:05.350 --> 00:08:07.590

you.

138

00:08:07.660 --> 00:08:12.830

Thank

139

00:08:17.390 --> 00:08:22.260

you

140

00:08:22.490 --> 00:08:23.990

very much for the update. Um,

141

00:08:25.610 --> 00:08:29.210

so turning now to, any interested

142

00:08:29.610 --> 00:08:32.750
party comments, please. Um, I think I've got Mr, Mr.

143
00:08:32.790 --> 00:08:35.730
Grant from North Northamptonshire, first of all, wish to speak on
this item,

144
00:08:35.750 --> 00:08:37.571
please.

145
00:08:37.670 --> 00:08:40.810
Uh, Gary Grant, North Northants, Council.

146
00:08:41.250 --> 00:08:41.350
Um,

147
00:08:42.170 --> 00:08:45.990
thank you, madam. Perhaps if I can hand over to Sven Rufus,

148
00:08:46.010 --> 00:08:49.970
who's also online, just to update, the position so

149
00:08:50.050 --> 00:08:53.619
far as, the statement of common ground and

150
00:08:53.730 --> 00:08:57.500
progress in relation to those items within,

151
00:08:57.899 --> 00:09:01.310
the relevant section of that, statement of common ground at three
point

152
00:09:01.410 --> 00:09:04.330
nine. So Mr. Rufus, please.

153
00:09:06.910 --> 00:09:10.750
Thank you. Yes. Um, so the... I, I

154
00:09:10.810 --> 00:09:14.050
know the comments now about, just now about the progress on the

155

00:09:14.250 --> 00:09:17.030
HRA. Um, and,

156
00:09:18.330 --> 00:09:20.830
we will be meeting with the

157
00:09:20.890 --> 00:09:24.720
applicant's team next week to discuss an update on the statement of

158
00:09:24.770 --> 00:09:28.470
common ground. Um, I anticipate

159
00:09:28.610 --> 00:09:32.320
that the results will show that,

160
00:09:33.390 --> 00:09:35.510
the concerns over the impact are,

161
00:09:35.990 --> 00:09:37.500
mitigated or, or, or

162
00:09:39.010 --> 00:09:41.390
reduced to a, a fairly small amount.

163
00:09:41.410 --> 00:09:45.090
However, we are still concerned about an aspect of

164
00:09:45.410 --> 00:09:47.510
the provision of the functionally linked land.

165
00:09:47.530 --> 00:09:51.370
An issue I've raised previously is that the applicant's

166
00:09:52.270 --> 00:09:53.670
proposition is to

167
00:09:54.730 --> 00:09:58.070
make sure the functionally linked land is available at the point at
which

168
00:09:58.110 --> 00:10:02.070

construction starts. And I've requested that actually it should be made

169

00:10:02.110 --> 00:10:05.730

available prior to construction, because you don't just switch on

170

00:10:05.810 --> 00:10:09.770

suitable habitat. It needs to be established preferably for at least a

171

00:10:09.830 --> 00:10:13.170

season in advance. That's something that we'll be discussing next

172

00:10:13.250 --> 00:10:17.170

week. The only other issue really I have on the

173

00:10:17.190 --> 00:10:21.030

statement of common ground, outside of the functionally linked land

174

00:10:21.890 --> 00:10:25.810

is related to the lack of clarity around some

175

00:10:25.890 --> 00:10:29.850

areas of the cable route and the surveys that have been

176

00:10:29.890 --> 00:10:33.710

undertaken, which has been acknowledged were done at suboptimal times of

177

00:10:33.810 --> 00:10:37.570

year. Um, I understand the rationale for this because of the

178

00:10:37.670 --> 00:10:41.610

area of search being so broad and the, I, I

179

00:10:41.650 --> 00:10:45.430

forgot the terminology, but the, the principle of being able to maintain the

180

00:10:45.470 --> 00:10:47.770

flexibility around that, I do understand that.

181

00:10:47.790 --> 00:10:51.290

But it does mean that I'm not able to make final definitive comments on the

182

00:10:51.310 --> 00:10:55.150

potential impact of the scheme as it unfolds.

183

00:10:55.170 --> 00:10:57.930

I think what we need to do there in looking at the statement of common ground is

184

00:10:57.990 --> 00:11:01.420

try to establish, an agreement in the working

185

00:11:01.490 --> 00:11:05.440

principles that will be applied to ensure that there are no impacts that

186

00:11:05.450 --> 00:11:08.319

would be of concern to us. I have nothing further to add at this

187

00:11:08.370 --> 00:11:10.150

moment.

188

00:11:13.430 --> 00:11:16.470

Thank you very much. Um, would the applicant like to respond to any of those

189

00:11:16.510 --> 00:11:19.530

points, please? Um, obviously bearing in mind that there will be further

190

00:11:19.570 --> 00:11:22.090

discussions next week by the sound of it on the statement of common ground.

191

00:11:22.110 --> 00:11:24.150

Thank you.

192

00:11:25.210 --> 00:11:27.530

Yes. Uh, Mike Cockie on behalf of the applicant.

193

00:11:27.630 --> 00:11:31.450

Uh, yeah, in direct response to the position about, provision of the

194

00:11:31.530 --> 00:11:35.170

functionally linked land, it's just to confirm that all

195

00:11:35.210 --> 00:11:38.870

mitigation fields, all FLL mitigation fields, will be maintained as

196

00:11:38.970 --> 00:11:42.650

suitable habitat from the outset of construction,

197

00:11:42.750 --> 00:11:46.690

even if the proposed habitat conversion works, so,

198

00:11:47.010 --> 00:11:50.819

a seeding of arable fields to grassland is proposed, even if those

199

00:11:50.870 --> 00:11:54.770

cannot be conducted pre-construction due to timing constraints.

200

00:11:54.870 --> 00:11:58.790

Uh, that's to clarify that seeding windows are limited, so spring
and

201

00:11:58.810 --> 00:12:01.590

autumn are required to get a successful, seeding

202

00:12:01.710 --> 00:12:05.410

operation. And so in those cases,

203

00:12:05.510 --> 00:12:08.930

seeding works will take place in the next seeding window.

204

00:12:09.010 --> 00:12:12.690

Um, the only exception to that is if there's an existing arable crop

205

00:12:12.710 --> 00:12:16.670

present, in which case seeding will follow the last harvest such
that that crop is

206

00:12:16.710 --> 00:12:17.730

not redundant.

207

00:12:18.998 --> 00:12:22.498

Uh, therefore, the maximum window, theoretical window, between

208

00:12:22.638 --> 00:12:26.428

construction commencement and the conversion of those habitats to their operational

209

00:12:26.738 --> 00:12:30.018

habitat type will be twelve months.

210

00:12:30.078 --> 00:12:33.998

However, this delay is not consequential, as all fields

211

00:12:34.018 --> 00:12:37.618

will be usable and suitable for target species from the outset of

212

00:12:37.638 --> 00:12:41.218

construction. As such, no net loss in FLL extent will be

213

00:12:41.298 --> 00:12:44.678

realized at any stage. Um,

214

00:12:45.598 --> 00:12:48.058

that's all I've got to say on that.

215

00:12:49.398 --> 00:12:52.858

Chris Poole, on behalf of the applicant. Um, just to address Mr.

216

00:12:52.878 --> 00:12:56.398

Rufus' second point, regarding the,

217

00:12:57.338 --> 00:13:01.258

surveys of the cable route corridor being c-uh, completed at a,

218

00:13:01.738 --> 00:13:05.278

a suboptimal time of year. Um, I believe that that was the

219

00:13:05.318 --> 00:13:08.758
case at, at submission. Um, because of the submission

220
00:13:08.838 --> 00:13:12.418
timescales, we conducted an in-an initial visit of,

221
00:13:12.748 --> 00:13:16.328
all habitats within the cable route corridor, over winter

222
00:13:16.718 --> 00:13:20.618
to, essentially characterize the habitats at a higher level.

223
00:13:20.738 --> 00:13:24.418
Um, any, any grasslands, which were recorded

224
00:13:24.538 --> 00:13:27.738
during that visit were revisited the following,

225
00:13:28.298 --> 00:13:31.018
spring/summer within the optimal survey window.

226
00:13:31.038 --> 00:13:34.978
Um, those updates were provided in, Environmental Statement

227
00:13:35.118 --> 00:13:39.038
Chapter Nine: Ecology and Biodiversity, Revision A, which was

228
00:13:39.078 --> 00:13:42.938
submitted at Deadline One, and the reference for that is Rep one

229
00:13:43.498 --> 00:13:44.498
zero three three.

230
00:13:45.498 --> 00:13:49.378
Um, so e-essentially at the time that, that we are now,

231
00:13:49.938 --> 00:13:53.398
we consider that all cable route corridor surveys where, where

232
00:13:53.408 --> 00:13:57.298
access was obviously permitted, have been, have been completed

233

00:13:57.798 --> 00:14:01.398

at a, at a reasonable time of year to, to reasonably characterize

234

00:14:01.978 --> 00:14:04.678

the, the value of the habitats present.

235

00:14:04.798 --> 00:14:08.708

Um, but obviously happy to, to touch on that in the meeting next week and, and go

236

00:14:08.818 --> 00:14:12.018

over any clarifications needed.

237

00:14:13.598 --> 00:14:16.078

Mr. Rufus, would you like any final response at all?

238

00:14:16.138 --> 00:14:16.898

Or-

239

00:14:17.058 --> 00:14:18.518

Yeah. Um, obviously,

240

00:14:19.638 --> 00:14:23.538

the, the updates on the surveys is something I haven't, taken on

241

00:14:23.578 --> 00:14:26.978

board sufficiently. But, that, and that's good to know.

242

00:14:27.018 --> 00:14:30.478

The comments I made previously about the lack of clarity on the precise route

243

00:14:30.578 --> 00:14:34.467

remain, but I, you know, in the context of understanding the rationale and

244

00:14:34.558 --> 00:14:38.538

the, the, precedent for, for being able to do

245

00:14:38.598 --> 00:14:42.098

that. So we still want to discuss the process for making sure that

246

00:14:42.118 --> 00:14:45.858

final decisions on site are, gonna be acceptable to us.

247

00:14:45.978 --> 00:14:49.458

With regards to the functioning linked land, I'm just a little bit confused,

248

00:14:50.658 --> 00:14:50.858

that

249

00:14:52.118 --> 00:14:55.298

the applicant seems to be saying that the land will be available as functionally

250

00:14:55.338 --> 00:14:59.278

linked land from the moment that construction starts and will be maintained

251

00:14:59.338 --> 00:15:01.918

in its current condition to make sure it's available.

252

00:15:02.027 --> 00:15:05.978

But if it is in its current condition suitable as functionally linked land, then

253

00:15:06.018 --> 00:15:09.518

provision of that post-development would not count as

254

00:15:09.778 --> 00:15:13.598

mitigation. It would just be the continuation of existing functionally linked land.

255

00:15:13.618 --> 00:15:16.178

I'm not sure if I misunderstood the statement that was being made there.

256

00:15:17.058 --> 00:15:20.958

The request we're making is that any additional functionally linked land which is

257

00:15:20.978 --> 00:15:24.818
being provided as mitigation for the loss of functionally linked
land that would

258
00:15:24.878 --> 00:15:28.818
result from development should be available in advance in

259
00:15:28.858 --> 00:15:32.758
an improved condition to provide compensation for the loss of the
land that

260
00:15:32.798 --> 00:15:35.398
will be lost, to, to be placed under

261
00:15:35.418 --> 00:15:39.338
construction. But that may be something we need to go into more

262
00:15:39.378 --> 00:15:43.318
detail next week. Um, I don't necessarily want to thrash that out
here, but

263
00:15:43.378 --> 00:15:47.278
that remains an area of, concern and confusion

264
00:15:47.378 --> 00:15:51.198
for me about what the process will be.

265
00:15:52.418 --> 00:15:55.668
Thank you, Mr. Rufus. Um, hopefully but there will be some more
updates on that

266
00:15:55.698 --> 00:15:57.788
following next week's meeting. Thank you.

267
00:15:57.858 --> 00:16:01.558
Um, so I'd now like to move to, the remaining councils,

268
00:16:01.578 --> 00:16:05.208
please. Um, Ms. Scaife or Ms. Ms. Verdugon, please, do you...

269
00:16:05.218 --> 00:16:08.098
Firstly, Ms. Scaife, do you have any comments you wish to make on

this, this

270

00:16:08.158 --> 00:16:08.738
matter, please?

271

00:16:10.058 --> 00:16:13.018
Nothing to add at this stage, madam.

272

00:16:13.078 --> 00:16:17.068
Apologies our, our ecologist is unable to attend today, but if, if
there's any

273

00:16:17.118 --> 00:16:17.638
other matters-

274

00:16:17.658 --> 00:16:17.668
Okay

275

00:16:17.668 --> 00:16:20.678
... we'll, raise them in, in written representations.

276

00:16:20.687 --> 00:16:22.058
Thank you.

277

00:16:22.078 --> 00:16:25.198
Thank you. Ms. Verdugon, please.

278

00:16:25.298 --> 00:16:29.258
Um, we'll, we'll be updating our response in the XQ

279

00:16:29.298 --> 00:16:32.698
three, questions that we've got regarding the bats and the

280

00:16:32.738 --> 00:16:36.458
buffers. Um, so nothing to add today.

281

00:16:36.497 --> 00:16:40.377
Thank you very much. Um, I've now got-- I'm

282

00:16:40.437 --> 00:16:42.848
moving on to, Stock Greenhill Solar, please.

283

00:16:42.878 --> 00:16:46.238

And I've made a note that, Sheena Howe wishes to speak on this item, possibly,

284

00:16:46.278 --> 00:16:50.488

please.

285

00:16:51.858 --> 00:16:54.318

I also mentioned that I'd like to speak on this issue.

286

00:16:54.358 --> 00:16:56.958

I'm Linda Touhey, from Stock Greenhill Solar.

287

00:16:56.998 --> 00:17:00.178

I've got, three different items I want to consider under this

288

00:17:00.538 --> 00:17:04.338

heading. Um, firstly, the, the applicant says that

289

00:17:04.378 --> 00:17:08.278

Natural England, has agreed, in re-relevant--

290

00:17:08.318 --> 00:17:12.038

in relation to the implications of European sites, they say that

291

00:17:12.078 --> 00:17:15.998

Natural England has agreed no adverse effects on integrity.

292

00:17:16.018 --> 00:17:19.338

But actually, that's not how I read their response, which was

293

00:17:19.398 --> 00:17:22.459

uploaded very recent- in the last day or two.

294

00:17:22.578 --> 00:17:26.479

Um, their response to, question RQ seventeen,

295

00:17:26.518 --> 00:17:30.318

where Natural England have been asked to confirm whether it is satisfied there are

296

00:17:30.378 --> 00:17:34.188

no adverse effects on integrity from this i- from this impact pathway,

297

00:17:34.218 --> 00:17:38.138

being waterborne pollution. They have said they have no comments to make on the

298

00:17:38.178 --> 00:17:42.028

proposed mitigation measures for control of waterborne pollution.

299

00:17:42.038 --> 00:17:46.018

Perhaps they don't feel they have the necessary expertise to do that, but they

300

00:17:46.078 --> 00:17:49.958

haven't said they don't think there's any adverse effects on integrity.

301

00:17:49.998 --> 00:17:53.198

So I don't accept that they've agreed that.

302

00:17:53.208 --> 00:17:57.008

And I would like to make it very clear that Stock Greenhill Solar absolutely do not

303

00:17:57.058 --> 00:18:00.998

accept that there are no adverse effects on integrity of the

304

00:18:01.038 --> 00:18:04.878

European sites from them, from two m-methods, from waterborne

305

00:18:05.058 --> 00:18:08.848

pollution, particularly in the event of any, fire or

306

00:18:08.858 --> 00:18:12.418

any, issue in the BESS. But also from the,

307

00:18:13.358 --> 00:18:16.138

issue which I've raised separately, that airborne

308

00:18:16.238 --> 00:18:20.198

pollution from any potential fire has not been addressed in any

309

00:18:20.318 --> 00:18:23.578

sense. And given that the BESS siting at Greenhill

310

00:18:23.678 --> 00:18:27.658

BESS is immediately upstream, immediately upwind

311

00:18:27.698 --> 00:18:31.418

of the prevailing winds, which come from the southwest in this area,
and

312

00:18:31.438 --> 00:18:35.068

the Upper Nene Va-Valley Gravel Pits, RAMSAR and

313

00:18:35.158 --> 00:18:38.798

SPA lie to the northeast, then any

314

00:18:38.898 --> 00:18:42.838

plume from any fire would, would inevitably go directly

315

00:18:42.918 --> 00:18:46.910

overUh, this, valuable international site

316

00:18:46.990 --> 00:18:50.870

for overwintering birds. So we do not accept at all no

317

00:18:50.930 --> 00:18:54.870

adverse effects on integrity. We don't feel able to comment on the
topics

318

00:18:54.910 --> 00:18:58.610

of functioning linked land, and are happy that the local councils
are

319

00:18:58.670 --> 00:19:01.590

dealing with that. So that's my first point.

320

00:19:01.630 --> 00:19:04.670

Secondly, I want to talk about water voles.

321

00:19:05.150 --> 00:19:08.650

Um, I note from the, the applicant's documentation,

322

00:19:08.690 --> 00:19:12.550

APP oh nine oh, I believe, that water vole surveys were

323

00:19:12.590 --> 00:19:15.410

done at the best site in autumn twenty

324

00:19:15.510 --> 00:19:19.130

twenty-three and spring twenty twenty-four.

325

00:19:19.190 --> 00:19:22.870

And, although no water voles were found, they

326

00:19:22.910 --> 00:19:26.810

did, live ones. They did find optimum and good suitability for

327

00:19:26.850 --> 00:19:27.430

water voles

328

00:19:28.450 --> 00:19:32.350

in water courses around there, and they found some food remains.

329

00:19:32.390 --> 00:19:35.830

I wondered if the applicant was aware that in September twenty

330

00:19:35.930 --> 00:19:39.630

twenty-four under, the auspices of Natural England

331

00:19:39.710 --> 00:19:43.070

license, a hundred and sixteen water voles were

332

00:19:43.110 --> 00:19:46.730

reintroduced into the Upper Nene Valley, gravel

333

00:19:46.790 --> 00:19:50.230

pits, sub- which is after they had done their

334

00:19:50.350 --> 00:19:53.930
surveys. These were released, at the Nene

335
00:19:53.990 --> 00:19:57.610
Wetlands site, which is further downstream.

336
00:19:57.650 --> 00:20:00.970
It's probably about five miles as the crow flies,

337
00:20:01.650 --> 00:20:04.370
from the best site. So I have

338
00:20:04.390 --> 00:20:08.300
communicated, well-- And then very

339
00:20:08.370 --> 00:20:11.790
recently, in the last couple of the weeks, we have reports from a
resident of

340
00:20:11.850 --> 00:20:15.590
Grendon who has, been very

341
00:20:15.670 --> 00:20:19.090
clear that they have seen water voles on a couple of occasions

342
00:20:19.470 --> 00:20:23.350
clearly, at sites. Um, and we have the,

343
00:20:23.710 --> 00:20:26.610
what three words, indi-

344
00:20:27.110 --> 00:20:30.850
placements for those within that area that the best is

345
00:20:30.910 --> 00:20:34.880
intended. And she has attempted to take photographs, which,

346
00:20:35.210 --> 00:20:38.620
are not, it's not easy to see, but, are

347
00:20:38.630 --> 00:20:42.590

potentially-- She's very clear that she saw water voles, but wasn't able to

348

00:20:42.670 --> 00:20:46.610

get very clear pictures. Um, I've communicated with Katharine

349

00:20:46.630 --> 00:20:50.590

Banham, who's Conservation Officer for the Wildlife

350

00:20:50.710 --> 00:20:54.630

Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire, to say

351

00:20:54.890 --> 00:20:58.590

i- did she think there was any possibility that the newly released

352

00:20:58.650 --> 00:21:00.340

water voles could have

353

00:21:01.190 --> 00:21:04.370

m- traveled that distance in the year and a half.

354

00:21:04.410 --> 00:21:08.330

She felt it was, unlikely, but said that f- that the females tend

355

00:21:08.390 --> 00:21:12.180

to stay, more local, but the males will

356

00:21:12.210 --> 00:21:15.610

spread out over time. Um, she said perhaps it's more

357

00:21:15.670 --> 00:21:19.070

likely that, they were aware that there was probably a

358

00:21:19.110 --> 00:21:22.080

population around Wilby, and I gather that,

359

00:21:23.780 --> 00:21:26.150

the, the dead, water vole that was found by

360

00:21:26.210 --> 00:21:29.439

one of the ecologists near Green Hill E might have been part of that

361

00:21:29.450 --> 00:21:33.410

population. And Katharine Banham thought it was perhaps it was more likely that

362

00:21:33.430 --> 00:21:36.820

the water voles had spread from that population.

363

00:21:36.870 --> 00:21:40.650

However, the point is that in general, I understand, as I'm not an

364

00:21:40.690 --> 00:21:41.350

expert in this,

365

00:21:42.450 --> 00:21:43.879

that usually, a, a,

366

00:21:44.730 --> 00:21:48.090

a sort of date of about two years is considered, for these

367

00:21:48.170 --> 00:21:52.150

ecological surveys to be valid. But if there is a significant change in

368

00:21:52.210 --> 00:21:55.350

circumstances, that they should be repeated.

369

00:21:55.390 --> 00:21:58.910

So I would, request

370

00:21:59.430 --> 00:22:02.910

that, u-uh, it is-- there's a resurvey done

371

00:22:03.310 --> 00:22:07.190

of water voles in that best site, as

372

00:22:07.250 --> 00:22:10.110

they have been clearly seen by residents.

373

00:22:10.130 --> 00:22:13.890

And this is a change from the conditions at the

374

00:22:13.950 --> 00:22:15.070
time that the surveys were

375

00:22:15.090 --> 00:22:18.390
done.

376

00:22:20.230 --> 00:22:20.780
Uh, and, and third-

377

00:22:20.780 --> 00:22:22.010
Thank you very much. Sorry.

378

00:22:22.020 --> 00:22:25.710
Yeah, sorry. And thirdly, my third topic I want to talk about was

379

00:22:25.770 --> 00:22:29.740
ancient woodlands buffers. As I'm, you know,

380

00:22:29.770 --> 00:22:32.880
as I say, I'm not an expert, but it has been brought to my

381

00:22:32.910 --> 00:22:36.390
attention, and I'm sure it's clearly known by the

382

00:22:36.430 --> 00:22:40.230
applicant's representatives, that the Woodland Trust in two thousand
and

383

00:22:40.350 --> 00:22:44.270
nineteen published guidance for ancient woodlands, which states

384

00:22:44.310 --> 00:22:48.250
that a minimum fifty-meter buffer should be m-maintained

385

00:22:48.270 --> 00:22:50.690
between a development, an ancient woodland

386

00:22:51.510 --> 00:22:54.110
and veteran, and ancient trees.

387

00:22:54.170 --> 00:22:57.430

Um, now I understand the applicant

388

00:22:58.030 --> 00:23:01.750

h-has, been very generous to offer, in general, a

389

00:23:01.810 --> 00:23:05.570

thirty-meter buffer, more specifically a fifteen-meter

390

00:23:05.670 --> 00:23:09.470

buffer. Um, but given that this, the whole

391

00:23:09.590 --> 00:23:13.310

point of the, the sort of big picture of this development is

392

00:23:13.370 --> 00:23:13.650

that

393

00:23:14.590 --> 00:23:18.450

th- any solar power generated is supposed to help us,

394

00:23:19.550 --> 00:23:22.150

ecologically and environmentally,

395

00:23:23.790 --> 00:23:25.990

f-from we have to take the local,

396

00:23:27.150 --> 00:23:30.050

situation into, account as well

397

00:23:30.130 --> 00:23:33.510

as the global situation. Surely any

398

00:23:33.570 --> 00:23:37.520

responsible developer would want to b- give the most generous and

399

00:23:37.550 --> 00:23:41.090

the most-- And the-- Although this is not, I understand it's not,

400

00:23:42.870 --> 00:23:45.630

in law, in, in, in guidance, it, it is

401

00:23:45.750 --> 00:23:48.070

just guidance. But surely

402

00:23:48.930 --> 00:23:52.590

we all need to maintain what very small areas of

403

00:23:52.600 --> 00:23:56.210

ancient woodland we've got. We need to apply the

404

00:23:56.230 --> 00:24:00.170

precautionary principle, which is to give maximum,

405

00:24:00.550 --> 00:24:03.350

opportunity for there to be no harm.

406

00:24:03.390 --> 00:24:03.830

And so

407

00:24:05.370 --> 00:24:09.010

I would ask why the ancient woodl- the, the Woodland Trust

408

00:24:09.130 --> 00:24:12.570

recommendations of a fifty-meter buffer should not be

409

00:24:12.610 --> 00:24:16.090

applied, in the situations where the development

410

00:24:16.110 --> 00:24:19.870

abuts, ancient woodland as at, Sywell Wood,

411

00:24:19.930 --> 00:24:21.950

Horne Wood, and Three Shires Wood.

412

00:24:22.730 --> 00:24:24.610

Thank you.

413

00:24:27.010 --> 00:24:30.060

Thank you, Dr. Tuley. Um, if anyone for the applicant would like to respond to

414

00:24:30.110 --> 00:24:32.110
those points, please.

415

00:24:38.670 --> 00:24:40.630
So Mike Hockey on behalf of the applicant.

416

00:24:40.690 --> 00:24:43.990
Um, just to clarify the point about Natural England's agreement.

417

00:24:44.070 --> 00:24:47.430
Um, all the matters in the statement of common ground with Natural England are

418

00:24:47.510 --> 00:24:48.010
agreed.

419

00:24:48.910 --> 00:24:51.910
Um, so that was the point I was making there.

420

00:24:52.050 --> 00:24:52.690
Um-

421

00:24:54.080 --> 00:24:55.680
Was there anyth-- sorry, forgive me.

422

00:24:55.700 --> 00:24:59.240
Was there anything more specific other than that particular point about the,

423

00:24:59.800 --> 00:25:00.600
there was the pollution

424

00:25:01.580 --> 00:25:02.380
matters as well?

425

00:25:02.420 --> 00:25:05.940
Yeah, I don't believe that the pollution, aspects have been properly addressed,

426

00:25:05.960 --> 00:25:08.860

particularly airborne pollution in the event of a, of a

427

00:25:08.940 --> 00:25:11.280

fire.

428

00:25:13.160 --> 00:25:14.480

Uh, Claire Brodrick, the applicant.

429

00:25:14.540 --> 00:25:18.140

Um, we don't have our, battery

430

00:25:18.380 --> 00:25:22.310

fire safety, expert available for today's hearing as it

431

00:25:22.580 --> 00:25:26.460

wasn't on the, agenda. But, we have

432

00:25:26.480 --> 00:25:29.720

previously given responses which set out clearly how we've

433

00:25:29.760 --> 00:25:33.710

assessed the impacts of a potential fire at the BES site across a range

434

00:25:33.720 --> 00:25:37.060

of different environmental topics, including,

435

00:25:38.200 --> 00:25:42.060

air quality. Um, and we will provide in the, written

436

00:25:42.180 --> 00:25:46.140

summary, of this, hearing,

437

00:25:47.100 --> 00:25:50.120

the cross-references to where all of that information can be found.

438

00:25:50.140 --> 00:25:53.920

But the applicant's position is that it has been, properly

439

00:25:53.980 --> 00:25:57.960

assessed. Um, in terms of, hydrology

440

00:25:58.020 --> 00:26:01.620

matters, again, that has similarly been assessed

441

00:26:01.720 --> 00:26:02.140

and,

442

00:26:03.420 --> 00:26:06.760

agreement reached with both, Natural England and the Environment

443

00:26:06.900 --> 00:26:10.360

Agency. So in terms of mitigation measures, it's,

444

00:26:11.080 --> 00:26:14.380

falls partly within the remit of the Environment Agency.

445

00:26:14.400 --> 00:26:18.360

And there are further, matters ongoing in respect of, the

446

00:26:18.420 --> 00:26:21.500

final statement of common ground with the Environment Agency, but we are close to

447

00:26:21.560 --> 00:26:25.020

agreement on that. Thank you. Um, I will pass

448

00:26:25.040 --> 00:26:28.980

over, now just to answer the second point in relation

449

00:26:29.080 --> 00:26:31.100

to water voles.

450

00:26:33.060 --> 00:26:35.420

Chris Poole on behalf of the applicant.

451

00:26:35.480 --> 00:26:39.110

Um, so, the presence of water voles within the

452

00:26:39.200 --> 00:26:42.180

site, wasn't confirmed, during the baseline

453

00:26:42.280 --> 00:26:46.230

surveys. Uh, although several potential field signs were noted, as you,

454

00:26:46.260 --> 00:26:50.120

as you rightly pointed out, including burrows, feeding remains and latrines

455

00:26:50.680 --> 00:26:53.460

at sites Green Hill C, D and BES.

456

00:26:54.420 --> 00:26:57.920

Uh, a dead water vole was also noted, just outside of the old

457

00:26:57.960 --> 00:27:01.939

limits, close to Green Hill E, with connectivity to on-site

458

00:27:01.980 --> 00:27:04.499

water courses via Swanspool Brook.

459

00:27:04.680 --> 00:27:08.240

Um, so for the purposes of, of our assessment, and in line with the

460

00:27:08.260 --> 00:27:12.220

precautionary principle, water vole presence has been assumed at these

461

00:27:12.300 --> 00:27:15.800

sites and, and assessed, on that basis,

462

00:27:16.360 --> 00:27:18.620

where, where the potential field signs were recorded.

463

00:27:18.700 --> 00:27:22.460

Uh, so Green Hill C, D and BES, as well as Green Hill

464

00:27:22.580 --> 00:27:25.120

E on account of the, the dead water vole which was found

465

00:27:25.140 --> 00:27:28.930

off-site. Um, also to point out that,

466

00:27:29.740 --> 00:27:32.940

pre-commencement surveys, update surveys will be

467

00:27:32.980 --> 00:27:36.960

undertaken, to identify any new evidence of, of water

468

00:27:37.000 --> 00:27:40.940

voles, as well as otters. Um, that

469

00:27:41.040 --> 00:27:44.890

is set out in the outline Ecological Protection and

470

00:27:44.920 --> 00:27:48.500

Mitigation Strategy, under method statement

471

00:27:48.800 --> 00:27:52.760

number, five, which relates

472

00:27:52.820 --> 00:27:56.740

to, particular protected species

473

00:27:56.880 --> 00:27:59.440

and, and the relevant mitigation measures.

474

00:27:59.540 --> 00:28:03.460

Um, there's a section in there, section six point six, relating to otters and water

475

00:28:03.500 --> 00:28:07.320

voles, which essentially states that all applicable

476

00:28:07.380 --> 00:28:11.200

habitat removal works will be preceded by an inspection of habitat

477

00:28:11.300 --> 00:28:15.210

at least fifty meters upstream and fifty meters downstream of the clearance

478

00:28:15.260 --> 00:28:17.540

extent to look for signs of these species.

479

00:28:17.580 --> 00:28:20.700

Obviously acknowledging the fact that water voles will disperse through the

480

00:28:20.740 --> 00:28:24.500

landscape as well, you know, s--since we've completed the surveys, but also

481

00:28:24.560 --> 00:28:28.520

from this point in time up until when construction commences in, in any particular

482

00:28:28.620 --> 00:28:32.520

area. Um, that's also the case, as a side point for

483

00:28:32.620 --> 00:28:36.440

badgers. Um, obviously badgers will dig new setts, and the

484

00:28:36.480 --> 00:28:39.370

status of existing setts will change between now and construction.

485

00:28:39.420 --> 00:28:43.200

So we've proposed to carry out pre-commencement, survey

486

00:28:43.280 --> 00:28:45.960

work for that species as well, where, where

487

00:28:46.000 --> 00:28:48.300

required. Um,

488

00:28:49.520 --> 00:28:51.180

hopefully that's, that's helpful.

489

00:28:51.220 --> 00:28:53.540

Thank you.

490

00:28:55.940 --> 00:28:57.720

Hi. Ryan Gladwell on behalf of the applicant.

491

00:28:57.800 --> 00:29:00.780

Um, just in regards to the ancient woodland buffers,

492

00:29:02.020 --> 00:29:04.600

yeah, the fifty meters is in accordance with the standing guidance of Natural

493

00:29:04.660 --> 00:29:08.620

England and Forestry Commission, as referenced in NPPF.

494

00:29:08.740 --> 00:29:12.360

Um, obviously notwithstanding this, where appropriate, thirty

495

00:29:12.420 --> 00:29:14.259

meters is to be granted.

496

00:29:14.580 --> 00:29:18.120

Um, again, these surveys

497

00:29:18.180 --> 00:29:22.040

did take into account the possibility of ancient trees and veteran

498

00:29:22.060 --> 00:29:25.930

trees along these woodland edges that would have, like,

499

00:29:26.040 --> 00:29:29.000

in accordance with the guidance, increased the buffers.

500

00:29:29.100 --> 00:29:33.040

Um, again, from what was found in the baseline surveys, this is more than

501

00:29:33.120 --> 00:29:36.900

sufficient to adequately protect, the ancient wood-woodlands,

502

00:29:37.900 --> 00:29:40.780

by in establishing those buffers, as I say, in

503

00:29:40.800 --> 00:29:44.180

accordance with Natural England and Forestry Commission. Thank you.

504

00:29:48.640 --> 00:29:52.180

Thank you. Dr. Touhey, do you have any response to any of those points, please?

505

00:29:52.240 --> 00:29:56.020

Um, yes, a couple. Um, in the point

506

00:29:56.100 --> 00:29:59.360

just made about the ancient woodland buffers, I thought it was not only just to do

507

00:29:59.380 --> 00:30:02.970

with root protection, but I thought it was actually to do with the species that,

508

00:30:03.000 --> 00:30:05.620

that live within the ancient woodland, within,

509

00:30:07.120 --> 00:30:09.080

in that environment also

510

00:30:09.120 --> 00:30:12.520

depend on the environment outside the ancient woodland.

511

00:30:12.540 --> 00:30:16.340

And it's about protecting that and not interfering

512

00:30:16.400 --> 00:30:20.220

with, with pathways of movement and, and feeding outside the

513

00:30:20.240 --> 00:30:23.360

area. They don't just stay-- all the species don't just stay within the ancient

514

00:30:23.420 --> 00:30:27.380

woodland, and that's what I thought that buffer was partly about, not just

515

00:30:27.520 --> 00:30:31.430

root protection for the trees. Um, so there was

516

00:30:31.480 --> 00:30:34.020

that. And then if I could also come back to what Ms.

517

00:30:34.040 --> 00:30:37.330

Brodrick said about, referring to the

518

00:30:37.420 --> 00:30:40.760

pollution from a BES fire.

519

00:30:40.840 --> 00:30:44.660

Um, we, Green Hill Solar have responded

520

00:30:44.800 --> 00:30:48.340

in our response to the examiner's questions about the report's

521

00:30:48.400 --> 00:30:50.640

implications on European sites. Um,

522

00:30:51.780 --> 00:30:52.890

I've put in that that,

523

00:30:54.100 --> 00:30:57.692

your, um-Uh, outline battery safety,

524

00:30:57.732 --> 00:31:00.032

whatever. Sorry, I can't remember what all the S's are for.

525

00:31:00.072 --> 00:31:03.561

And management plan rep one-one four three.

526

00:31:03.652 --> 00:31:06.632

Um, y-y-you talk about,

527

00:31:07.372 --> 00:31:11.292

the s- the smoke and release of toxic s-substances and,

528

00:31:11.312 --> 00:31:14.492

and their effects potentially on site operatives, responders, and local

529

00:31:14.572 --> 00:31:18.512

community, but nowhere have I found in that

530

00:31:18.612 --> 00:31:22.472

or in the, plume, in looking at the plume analysis, does any

531

00:31:22.512 --> 00:31:24.892

mention come of wild- the effects on wildlife.

532

00:31:24.912 --> 00:31:28.772

It's all about humans. Uh, there's no mention of wildlife

533

00:31:28.792 --> 00:31:31.042

in, in relation to airborne pollution.

534

00:31:31.252 --> 00:31:34.722

I do not think that the applicant has actually considered this issue.

535

00:31:34.752 --> 00:31:38.512

Thank you.

536

00:31:39.212 --> 00:31:41.672

Thank you. Any final response from the applicant at all,

537

00:31:41.692 --> 00:31:43.692

please?

538

00:31:56.432 --> 00:31:57.532

Uh, Claire Project for the applicant.

539

00:31:57.592 --> 00:32:01.022

Um, I believe we've responded to that specific point before 'cause it was raised at

540

00:32:01.022 --> 00:32:04.922

previous hearings. We're just trying to see if we can, locate that, and

541

00:32:04.952 --> 00:32:08.452

if we can, we'll provide, a cross-reference or the response,

542

00:32:09.192 --> 00:32:13.132

to it. But yeah, the point has been made before, and I do remember

543

00:32:13.212 --> 00:32:16.562

it being discussed at the previous hearings when we did have our, Mr.

544

00:32:16.572 --> 00:32:19.392

Gregory available to, answer the question.

545

00:32:19.412 --> 00:32:21.412

So we're just trying to find the response to that.

546

00:32:21.452 --> 00:32:25.132

I just don't have it to hand at the moment. Thank you.

547

00:32:25.192 --> 00:32:25.892

That's fine. Thank

548

00:32:25.932 --> 00:32:36.392

you.

549

00:32:38.692 --> 00:32:38.832

I

550

00:32:47.352 --> 00:32:50.692

think perhaps if it's okay with you, it's now efficient to move on to to any

551

00:32:50.732 --> 00:32:54.212

further int-intra-interested parties who'd like to speak.

552

00:32:54.292 --> 00:32:56.252

Um, so I believe, um-

553

00:32:56.292 --> 00:32:57.402

Um, so sorry to, uh-

554

00:32:57.852 --> 00:32:57.862

Sorry, carry on

555

00:32:57.862 --> 00:32:59.352

... interrupt. Um, so-

556

00:32:59.372 --> 00:32:59.552

Yeah

557

00:32:59.652 --> 00:33:02.312

... I think Sheena Howells got a, a hand up.

558

00:33:02.372 --> 00:33:02.412

Okay.

559

00:33:02.422 --> 00:33:05.371

And I think also Kay, Kay Brown.

560

00:33:05.432 --> 00:33:05.652

Yes.

561

00:33:05.712 --> 00:33:08.472

Sorry, it's very difficult for you to see, I realize that.

562

00:33:08.532 --> 00:33:09.012

It's okay.

563

00:33:09.072 --> 00:33:09.532

Um-

564

00:33:09.712 --> 00:33:11.532

Um, if we could hear from Sheena Howells, please.

565

00:33:11.552 --> 00:33:15.432

Thank you. Um, I'd just like to refer to the, recently republished,

566

00:33:15.692 --> 00:33:19.072

Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategic

567

00:33:19.132 --> 00:33:23.032

Review Level C, tracked version, which is

568

00:33:23.132 --> 00:33:26.852

EX5/GH7.5, as I said,

569

00:33:27.272 --> 00:33:31.052

C, please. Um, couple of, points I'd like to

570

00:33:31.092 --> 00:33:34.042

raise and perhaps seek some clarification upon.

571

00:33:34.072 --> 00:33:37.712

The first one is, point fourteen point one point

572

00:33:37.952 --> 00:33:41.562

one, which is, an addendum from the

573

00:33:41.632 --> 00:33:45.412

previous, version. Uh, if I may just read

574

00:33:45.592 --> 00:33:49.532

that paragraph. It says, "To avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of

575

00:33:49.632 --> 00:33:53.052

the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA Ramsar site,

576

00:33:53.692 --> 00:33:57.432

measures will be implemented to ensure that mobile species associated with this

577

00:33:57.492 --> 00:34:00.932

site, brackets, i.e., golden plover and

578

00:34:00.992 --> 00:34:04.612

lapwing, close brackets, have alternative foraging areas

579

00:34:04.632 --> 00:34:07.992

available throughout the construction and are not subject to undue disturbance

580

00:34:08.372 --> 00:34:12.072

which could impact their survival over winter." Um,

581

00:34:12.152 --> 00:34:15.852

this... A similar point has been raised several times, I think by you actually, Mr.

582

00:34:15.912 --> 00:34:19.672

Beebe, as well. Um, in the... I would suggest there's a, a slight

583

00:34:19.712 --> 00:34:23.612

amendment to be made there, in that the mobile species

584

00:34:23.632 --> 00:34:26.763

associated with this site should be, e.g.,

585

00:34:27.352 --> 00:34:31.212

golden plover and lapwing. It sounds like a very minor point,

586

00:34:31.252 --> 00:34:33.812

but actually it has a very big ramification.

587

00:34:33.852 --> 00:34:37.533

It's not just those two species that we believe are mobile species

588

00:34:37.572 --> 00:34:41.453

associated with these sites, and I would like that covered, please,
in that

589

00:34:41.513 --> 00:34:45.412

point. Um, moving on, if I may,

590

00:34:45.533 --> 00:34:49.232

to a clarification of a statement made in seven point

591

00:34:49.453 --> 00:34:53.432

six point one. Again, a slight

592

00:34:53.473 --> 00:34:56.852

addendum from previously. Bear with while I scooch through it and
find it.

593

00:34:56.912 --> 00:34:58.192

Seven point six point one. Here we go.

594

00:34:58.952 --> 00:34:59.161

Um,

595

00:34:59.992 --> 00:35:02.402

which sort of made me spit my coffee out a bit this morning.

596

00:35:02.452 --> 00:35:06.342

I'm sure I'm not interpret... er, misinter- interpreting it correctly,

597

00:35:07.362 --> 00:35:10.472

as I hope the applicant will confirm in a moment.

598

00:35:10.552 --> 00:35:14.152

Um, under the section seven point six point one,

599

00:35:15.052 --> 00:35:18.752

there is the statement that, "Arable fields occupy the vast majority of

600

00:35:18.812 --> 00:35:21.732

land within the sites and the cable route

601

00:35:21.852 --> 00:35:25.752

corridor." This is the coffee-spitting moment.

602

00:35:25.762 --> 00:35:29.192

"And are of little ecological value,"

603

00:35:29.252 --> 00:35:32.872

comma, "therefore, no specific reinstatement

604

00:35:32.992 --> 00:35:36.902

protocol is required." May I seek some clarification that I'm not

605

00:35:36.932 --> 00:35:40.832

imagining that that says that no reinstatement is

606

00:35:40.852 --> 00:35:44.582

required on any of the arable land because there's absolutely no ecological

607

00:35:44.612 --> 00:35:47.932

value there?

608

00:35:52.801 --> 00:35:56.352

Thank you, Ms. Howells. Could the applicant respond to those points, please?

609

00:35:59.172 --> 00:36:14.722

Yeah.

610

00:36:14.732 --> 00:36:17.152

So Mike Hockey on behalf of the applicant.

611

00:36:17.192 --> 00:36:21.072

With regard to the mobile species outside the SPA, golden

612

00:36:21.132 --> 00:36:24.772

plover and lapwing are known to use arable fields outside the SPA for

613

00:36:24.832 --> 00:36:28.612

foraging, and therefore potentially could be using functionally linked

614

00:36:28.632 --> 00:36:32.532

land. So functionally linked land is, land outside of the bounds of

615

00:36:32.572 --> 00:36:36.312

the designated site that is, critical to their survival.

616

00:36:36.352 --> 00:36:39.752

So that's why those species have been specifically identified in this

617

00:36:39.792 --> 00:36:43.512

context. Uh, all the other species are waterbirds associated

618

00:36:43.832 --> 00:36:47.752

more specifically with the gravel pits and with water habitats and not the land

619

00:36:47.792 --> 00:36:51.352

within the Green Hill site. So that's why that's in there.

620

00:36:53.552 --> 00:36:55.072

Chris Poole on behalf of the applicant.

621

00:36:55.112 --> 00:36:58.812

Um, just to address the seven-- second point regarding seven point six point

622

00:36:58.952 --> 00:37:02.752

one. Um-It's, essentially this

623

00:37:02.792 --> 00:37:06.572

relates to a, a method statement regarding

624

00:37:06.632 --> 00:37:10.292

the temporary habitat, habitat removal,

625

00:37:10.332 --> 00:37:14.292

for the, cable installation. Um, there

626

00:37:14.312 --> 00:37:18.232

are specific measures within method statement number six,

627

00:37:18.792 --> 00:37:21.711

relating to the reinstatement or replanting

628

00:37:21.792 --> 00:37:24.772

of, habitats such as hedgerows.

629

00:37:24.812 --> 00:37:28.512

Where these are removed, they will be, either translocated

630

00:37:28.632 --> 00:37:32.492

and replaced back in situ, or they will be replaced

631

00:37:32.552 --> 00:37:36.532

with, with additional planting to essentially gap up

632

00:37:36.632 --> 00:37:40.622

the, the removed habitat. Um, likewise where there,

633

00:37:40.712 --> 00:37:44.672

is a, valuable area of grassland habitat, for example,

634

00:37:45.512 --> 00:37:47.972

seeding may be carried out post-cable

635

00:37:48.032 --> 00:37:51.772

installation, to essentially reinstate that habitat back

636

00:37:51.832 --> 00:37:54.572

to, where it was prior to cable

637

00:37:54.612 --> 00:37:58.052

installation. With regards to, arable

638

00:37:58.112 --> 00:38:01.772

land, obviously, it's, you know, arable fields

639

00:38:01.832 --> 00:38:05.651

are, are plowed routinely, and so, this isn't relating

640

00:38:05.692 --> 00:38:09.032

necessarily to the fact that there's, no ecological

641

00:38:09.112 --> 00:38:13.052

value, within arable fields, although that is a, a habitat of, of

642

00:38:13.112 --> 00:38:16.642

lower ecological value than, grassland habitats, hedgerow

643

00:38:16.692 --> 00:38:20.232

habitats generally. Um, it's obviously valuable for certain species like

644

00:38:20.252 --> 00:38:23.672

ground-nesting birds which we've, covered in our, impact

645

00:38:23.732 --> 00:38:27.652

assessments. Um, but essentially it's just saying that specific

646

00:38:27.732 --> 00:38:31.272
reinstatement of that habitat is not required following cable route

647

00:38:31.312 --> 00:38:35.232
installation due to the nature of the habitat being routinely
plowed,

648

00:38:35.732 --> 00:38:39.032
and, and yeah. I don't know if, Ms.

649

00:38:39.052 --> 00:38:41.372
Brodrick has got anything to add on that point.

650

00:38:41.472 --> 00:38:42.832
Uh, Claire Brodrick for the applicant.

651

00:38:42.872 --> 00:38:46.732
And I think, and we've mentioned the point before, but it's
important to

652

00:38:46.792 --> 00:38:49.402
read the suite of management plans together.

653

00:38:49.432 --> 00:38:52.842
So whilst there isn't a specific, method statement or

654

00:38:52.892 --> 00:38:56.052
requirement in the ecological,

655

00:38:56.862 --> 00:39:00.832
management plan in terms of reinstatement of arable land,

656

00:39:01.112 --> 00:39:04.692
and farmland, the outlined soil management plan, which is

657

00:39:04.752 --> 00:39:08.652
APP-five five zero, sets out all of the measures that are

658

00:39:08.692 --> 00:39:12.232
required to, preserve, the soil,

659

00:39:13.272 --> 00:39:16.282

when works are being taken, when, when works are taking

660

00:39:16.352 --> 00:39:19.852

place, and the very specific measures that need to be put in place when

661

00:39:19.992 --> 00:39:23.852

reinstating that soil such that its, usability for agricultural

662

00:39:23.932 --> 00:39:27.752

purposes is, is preserved. So it's, the point being

663

00:39:27.792 --> 00:39:31.492

made is there weren't any specific ecological mitigation measures, but there are a

664

00:39:31.532 --> 00:39:35.072

range of other mitigation measures contained both in the,

665

00:39:35.372 --> 00:39:38.712

specifically in the soil management plan, but also just generally in the

666

00:39:38.732 --> 00:39:41.812

outline, construction environmental management plan.

667

00:39:41.852 --> 00:39:45.082

So they do need to be read as, a whole suite, but I

668

00:39:45.112 --> 00:39:48.912

appreciate, it is difficult to,

669

00:39:48.972 --> 00:39:51.312

manage the, the various different documents.

670

00:39:51.332 --> 00:39:54.282

But there is a range of mitigation measures, and they're secured across those

671

00:39:54.312 --> 00:39:57.302

management plans. Thank you.

672

00:39:58.432 --> 00:40:01.872

Thank you. Um, Ms. Brown from Stockgreen Solar, I'm aware that you had your hand up

673

00:40:01.912 --> 00:40:05.552

just now. We'll come on to you in a second, but just... Sorry, Mr. Harrison?

674

00:40:05.562 --> 00:40:05.562

So-

675

00:40:05.562 --> 00:40:05.562

Mr. Harrison.

676

00:40:05.632 --> 00:40:09.392

Yeah, so Ms. Howell's got her, hand back up perhaps

677

00:40:09.452 --> 00:40:11.912

to respond to that point before we move on.

678

00:40:11.972 --> 00:40:13.352

Yes. Thank you.

679

00:40:13.392 --> 00:40:13.652

Thank you.

680

00:40:13.672 --> 00:40:14.452

Ms. Howell, please.

681

00:40:14.492 --> 00:40:18.321

Thank you. Um, on the overwintering birds, I take the point, that you're trying

682

00:40:18.372 --> 00:40:22.192

to make. My point was merely to say that because of the depth of

683

00:40:22.292 --> 00:40:25.832

surveys that perhaps you have undertaken or not undertaken, it would be

684

00:40:25.932 --> 00:40:29.892
wiser, using the Rochdale envelope, if we didn't just limit it

685
00:40:30.012 --> 00:40:33.972
to those particular two that you had identified in case there were
further ones

686
00:40:34.012 --> 00:40:37.912
that you had not identified. The second point,

687
00:40:38.252 --> 00:40:41.932
on the paragraph that frankly I think is, yes, of course,

688
00:40:42.172 --> 00:40:45.712
it has to be taken in situ, but nevertheless it's absolute

689
00:40:45.792 --> 00:40:49.692
nonsense, and is also particularly reinforced by

690
00:40:49.752 --> 00:40:53.732
fourteen point two point four in the same document, table two,

691
00:40:54.041 --> 00:40:57.342
which outlines a series of fields which all have the,

692
00:40:57.632 --> 00:41:01.512
proposed land management conservation grassland associated with

693
00:41:01.552 --> 00:41:05.532
them. So it's contradictory and therefore not

694
00:41:05.572 --> 00:41:09.012
necessary, and it could be read in isolation

695
00:41:10.312 --> 00:41:10.992
in the wrong way

696
00:41:12.192 --> 00:41:15.892
and therefore shouldn't be in the DCO. Thank you.

697
00:41:17.712 --> 00:41:19.112

Thank you. Quickly before we turn to Ms.

698

00:41:19.122 --> 00:41:22.932

Brown, any final response from the applicant, please?

699

00:41:24.872 --> 00:41:26.012

Uh, Claire Brodrick for the applicant.

700

00:41:26.072 --> 00:41:28.822

Um, n-nothing further to say on that particular point.

701

00:41:28.892 --> 00:41:32.752

Um, it was just to come back in relation to the specific query

702

00:41:32.812 --> 00:41:36.332

that, was mentioned earlier by, Dr.

703

00:41:36.372 --> 00:41:39.862

Tui in respect of the assessment, on

704

00:41:39.912 --> 00:41:43.852

ecological receptors, and it was just to say that the response to that can

705

00:41:43.892 --> 00:41:47.792

be found in appendix A of document Rep three dash

706

00:41:47.952 --> 00:41:51.452

zero seven five. So there's a specific appendix,

707

00:41:51.832 --> 00:41:55.552

dealing with, those particular concerns, raised.

708

00:41:55.572 --> 00:41:57.092

Thank you.

709

00:41:58.272 --> 00:42:01.062

Thanks very much. Um, Kaye Brown, pl- please.

710

00:42:01.132 --> 00:42:04.422

I believe you, you had your hand up just now.

711

00:42:04.452 --> 00:42:08.102

Thank you. Kaye Brown, Stockgreen Hill Solar. It was just one very small question.

712

00:42:08.112 --> 00:42:11.552

When you were giving the update on the buffers earlier, you mentioned

713

00:42:11.592 --> 00:42:15.352

unavoidable exceptions. Is there a definitive list of those

714

00:42:15.392 --> 00:42:17.692

unavoidable exceptions anywhere?

715

00:42:22.412 --> 00:42:25.992

Someone from the applicant would like to respond, please.

716

00:42:27.572 --> 00:42:29.442

Uh, Claire Brodrick for the applicant. Um, yes.

717

00:42:29.492 --> 00:42:32.712

As we said, we are going to, make some updates to,

718

00:42:33.072 --> 00:42:36.642

the outline management plans for deadline six, which will give greater

719

00:42:36.712 --> 00:42:40.252

clarity on, where there are,

720

00:42:40.832 --> 00:42:44.552

exceptions to those, to those buffers, in terms of,

721

00:42:44.832 --> 00:42:48.092

works. But they are largely what had just been said, which is those,

722

00:42:48.572 --> 00:42:52.432

two, the, the existing access tracks, that

723

00:42:52.492 --> 00:42:56.092

already exist within those buffer zones and the works being taken,

724

00:42:56.552 --> 00:43:00.212

to, upgrade the surface of those, by

725

00:43:00.272 --> 00:43:03.440

specific, um-Uh, construction

726

00:43:03.460 --> 00:43:06.979

methodology, and then we'd also mentioned the fact that there may be

727

00:43:07.040 --> 00:43:10.940

some, landscaping or ecological enhancement work such

728

00:43:11.000 --> 00:43:13.610

as the seeding, which would need to...

729

00:43:13.620 --> 00:43:17.380

somebody would need to physically go within that area to seed, to

730

00:43:17.440 --> 00:43:21.320

seed the buffer area. So those works are the types of exceptions, but some further

731

00:43:21.360 --> 00:43:25.180

clarity will be given in the updated documents at deadline six.

732

00:43:25.200 --> 00:43:28.990

Thank you.

733

00:43:28.990 --> 00:43:32.940

Thank you. So is there anyo-anyone else in the room at all who would

734

00:43:32.960 --> 00:43:35.360

like to make any questions or comments, please?

735

00:43:42.080 --> 00:43:45.880

And anyone online?

736

00:43:49.780 --> 00:43:53.040

Thank you. I'm, I'm getting that there's no hands up anywhere at

all, so

737

00:43:56.950 --> 00:43:59.260

we'll move on now to my own questions, please.

738

00:44:00.280 --> 00:44:03.700

Um, so firstly, thank you very much to the applicant for your clarification on the

739

00:44:03.760 --> 00:44:07.399

ancient woodland, buffers, questions.

740

00:44:07.410 --> 00:44:10.690

Um, that's been very helpful. Um, I just had, a,

741

00:44:11.080 --> 00:44:13.020

a further question please, to check.

742

00:44:13.090 --> 00:44:17.020

I think you mentioned that buffers would apply within the sites

743

00:44:17.200 --> 00:44:20.600

and the cable route corridor. Um, but I just wanted to

744

00:44:20.640 --> 00:44:23.920

double-check whether that's includes an ancient woodland buffer

745

00:44:24.420 --> 00:44:27.840

within construction com-compound one, adjacent to

746

00:44:27.940 --> 00:44:31.279

Sywell Wood ancient woodland, please.

747

00:44:38.140 --> 00:44:39.620

Chris Poole on behalf of the applicant.

748

00:44:39.680 --> 00:44:43.560

Um, yes, I believe it's a flat fifteen-meter buffer that will apply to all ancient

749

00:44:43.580 --> 00:44:46.020

woodlands within the cable route corridor.

750

00:44:46.140 --> 00:44:49.980

Um, and, that will be, confirmed,

751

00:44:50.290 --> 00:44:54.140

in revised versions of the outline ecological protection and mitigation

752

00:44:54.200 --> 00:44:58.160

strategy, and the, I believe

753

00:44:58.200 --> 00:45:01.700

it's the outline construction and environmental management plan,

754

00:45:02.160 --> 00:45:06.120

submitted at deadline six.

755

00:45:08.560 --> 00:45:09.060

Thank you.

756

00:45:10.680 --> 00:45:14.420

Um, so turning now to a further question regarding trees, which will probably,

757

00:45:14.429 --> 00:45:16.260

probably still be with you please, Mr. Poole.

758

00:45:16.340 --> 00:45:20.040

Um, a Forestry Commission representation set out in

759

00:45:20.340 --> 00:45:23.900

your chapter nine states that some effects on ancient and

760

00:45:23.940 --> 00:45:27.660

veteran trees may not be immediately obvious, and that after any

761

00:45:27.700 --> 00:45:31.560

incursion into the root protection zone, the tree should be monitored for

762

00:45:31.580 --> 00:45:35.480
some time to ensure there are no effects, with remediation plans in place

763
00:45:35.600 --> 00:45:39.360
if deterioration is found. Are there any provisions made for

764
00:45:39.400 --> 00:45:42.000
these matters anywhere, please?

765
00:45:46.300 --> 00:45:49.760
Hi. Ryan Gleadow, on behalf of the applicant.

766
00:45:49.800 --> 00:45:53.480
Yeah, details regarding, sequences of works, including

767
00:45:53.489 --> 00:45:57.290
arboricultural supervision and, the requirements of follow-up

768
00:45:57.340 --> 00:46:01.239
inspections on trees will be captured in the detailed AMS, following

769
00:46:01.280 --> 00:46:02.019
detailed design.

770
00:46:10.820 --> 00:46:11.220
Thank you.

771
00:46:14.040 --> 00:46:18.920
Um,

772
00:46:18.980 --> 00:46:22.820
so a further question, please. Um, this may be one which you think

773
00:46:22.880 --> 00:46:26.080
may be answered more appropriately in writing possibly, which would be fine if

774
00:46:26.140 --> 00:46:29.900
you'd prefer to do that. Um, but for the applicant, please, could details

775

00:46:30.060 --> 00:46:33.560

of the source of the evidence supporting the following three

776

00:46:33.620 --> 00:46:37.460

assertions in chapter nine, which is ecology and biodiversity version

777

00:46:37.540 --> 00:46:41.400

A, be provided, please? Um, including how

778

00:46:41.440 --> 00:46:44.780

comparable each item of evidence is to the circumstances at

779

00:46:44.820 --> 00:46:48.720

Greenhill. So firstly, at paragraph

780

00:46:48.880 --> 00:46:52.580

nine point nine point two four nine of chapter nine, the

781

00:46:52.640 --> 00:46:56.060

statement that set aside has been found to support significantly higher

782

00:46:56.100 --> 00:46:57.840

densities of skylarks.

783

00:46:58.900 --> 00:47:02.880

Secondly, at paragraph nine point nine point two five six of chapter nine,

784

00:47:03.110 --> 00:47:06.800

the statement that both yellow wagtail and skylark have been recorded

785

00:47:06.840 --> 00:47:10.630

foraging on active solar arrays. And finally,

786

00:47:10.660 --> 00:47:14.620

please, details of the statement at paragraph nine point

787

00:47:14.700 --> 00:47:18.020

nine point two five six again of chapter nine, that

788

00:47:18.120 --> 00:47:22.080

displacement effects on skylark and yellow wagtail will be counteracted

789

00:47:22.140 --> 00:47:25.700

to an extent by the increased foraging potential of the operational

790

00:47:26.260 --> 00:47:30.180

array sites. Um, so if someone from the, from the applicant could

791

00:47:30.200 --> 00:47:33.840

confirm whether you wish to speak now or whether you wish to reply in writing, that

792

00:47:33.860 --> 00:47:34.730

would be great. Thank you.

793

00:47:40.600 --> 00:47:41.880

Uh, Claire Bridget for the applicant.

794

00:47:41.900 --> 00:47:45.700

Um, we will confirm in our written summary of today's hearing

795

00:47:45.800 --> 00:47:47.880

the, source of those statements.

796

00:47:47.920 --> 00:47:50.240

Thank you.

797

00:47:52.800 --> 00:47:54.060

Thank you.

798

00:47:56.060 --> 00:47:59.940

So, the outline landscape and ecological management plan

799

00:48:00.060 --> 00:48:03.890

allows for longer term maintenance of ecological features, but

800

00:48:03.980 --> 00:48:07.660

should this set out that this would be for the lifetime of the scheme, please, in

801

00:48:07.700 --> 00:48:11.480

accordance with EM one? It's paragraph five point four point

802

00:48:11.600 --> 00:48:13.260

forty-four. Thank you.

803

00:48:18.360 --> 00:48:26.080

Uh,

804

00:48:26.100 --> 00:48:27.760

Claire Bridget for the applicant. Um, we're just checking.

805

00:48:27.780 --> 00:48:31.180

We believe that it is in there that it, the measures are for the lifetime of the

806

00:48:31.260 --> 00:48:32.080

scheme, but we'll just

807

00:48:32.880 --> 00:48:36.480

see if we can find the reference quickly for you.

808

00:48:36.520 --> 00:48:40.160

Thank you.

809

00:48:41.360 --> 00:48:45.300

Um, so I do have a couple more questions on ecology and biodiversity, which I'll

810

00:48:45.340 --> 00:48:47.560

move on to while you're looking for that reference.

811

00:48:47.580 --> 00:48:47.860

But,

812

00:48:48.880 --> 00:48:51.980

if it can't be found, then it's fine again to, to submit it in writing.

813

00:48:52.020 --> 00:48:56.000

So, so pages a hundred and seventy-one and two hundred and

814

00:48:56.140 --> 00:48:59.880

sixty to two hundred and twenty-three of chapter nine are in photograph or

815

00:48:59.960 --> 00:49:03.420

similar format, so they're not, they're not searchable for particular words or

816

00:49:03.440 --> 00:49:07.400

phrases. Um, I wondered if this and any other similar pages

817

00:49:07.440 --> 00:49:11.320

in the chapter could be updated so that they can be searchable by, by word,

818

00:49:11.340 --> 00:49:11.920

please.

819

00:49:16.170 --> 00:49:17.330

Uh, Claire Bodger of the applicant.

820

00:49:17.410 --> 00:49:20.390

Um, we'll take that point away and see if we can amend the PDF.

821

00:49:20.430 --> 00:49:21.890

Thank you.

822

00:49:21.930 --> 00:49:25.870

Thank you. And my final question on, on

823

00:49:25.930 --> 00:49:29.850

the ecology and bi-biodiversity issue, please, just directed to

824

00:49:29.910 --> 00:49:33.360

any of the councils finally. Um, do you wish to comment on any ecology and

825

00:49:33.390 --> 00:49:37.210

biodiversity aspects of the change request at all, please?

826

00:49:40.170 --> 00:49:43.950

Uh, Gary Grant at North- Northants Council.

827

00:49:44.010 --> 00:49:45.050

Uh, no, thank you, madam.

828

00:49:48.490 --> 00:49:50.770

Nikki Scaife of West Northants Council.

829

00:49:50.890 --> 00:49:54.550

Um, I'll, I'll discuss those changes further with our ecologist,

830

00:49:54.560 --> 00:49:58.010

and we'll, make, make further comments as necessary.

831

00:49:58.070 --> 00:50:00.370

Thank you.

832

00:50:01.370 --> 00:50:03.450

Elizabeth Verdin from Milton Keynes City Council.

833

00:50:03.530 --> 00:50:05.670

Um, we don't have any comments on the change request.

834

00:50:11.350 --> 00:50:15.230

Thank you. Um, so just to check whether the, the applicant, wished to

835

00:50:15.290 --> 00:50:18.870

have any further comments in response to any of my questions at all, and I think

836

00:50:18.930 --> 00:50:20.800

after that we'll have a, a lunch break.

837

00:50:20.850 --> 00:50:22.970

So in that case, thank you.

838

00:50:26.150 --> 00:50:36.010

Uh,

839

00:50:36.030 --> 00:50:38.510

Claire Bodger of the applicant. Um, apologies, we haven't been able to find the

840

00:50:38.550 --> 00:50:42.490

specific reference, but, we will, locate

841

00:50:42.550 --> 00:50:46.210

it, and in the event that it's not clear, then that will be added for a

842

00:50:46.270 --> 00:50:48.310

further iteration of that document.

843

00:50:48.330 --> 00:50:50.750

Thank you.

844

00:50:50.790 --> 00:50:51.470

Thank you very much.

845

00:50:54.510 --> 00:50:58.250

So, the time is now twelve, almost twelve thirty-five, and we will

846

00:50:58.350 --> 00:51:02.150

have a, a short lunch break of forty-five minutes.

847

00:51:02.250 --> 00:51:05.990

Um, so that will then bring us to twenty past one, I

848

00:51:06.030 --> 00:51:09.910

believe. And, the hearing is now adjourned, so we

849

00:51:09.930 --> 00:51:12.890

will see everyone back here at twenty past one. Thank you.