



Hearing Transcript

Project:	The Droves Solar Farm
Hearing:	Recording of Issue Specific Hearing 1 Part 2
Date:	7 May 2026

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

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1

00:00:47.480 --> 00:01:23.140

Okay.

2

00:01:23.280 --> 00:01:24.380

Good afternoon, everyone.

3

00:01:31.920 --> 00:01:35.000

Issue Specific Hearing 1 is resumed.

4

00:01:35.100 --> 00:01:38.020

So we'll start with item 3.3,

5

00:01:39.020 --> 00:01:40.030

cumulative effects.

6

00:01:41.160 --> 00:01:43.220

So the question then is to the councils.

7

00:01:43.780 --> 00:01:47.560

So do the councils agree with the identified cumulative

8

00:01:47.700 --> 00:01:51.160

developments assessed within each topic chapter of the

9

00:01:51.180 --> 00:01:54.120

environmental statement, chapters six,

10

00:01:54.840 --> 00:01:58.800

reference APP-055

11

00:01:58.900 --> 00:02:00.880

to chapter 16,

12

00:02:01.980 --> 00:02:05.540

reference APP-065, and that the

13

00:02:05.580 --> 00:02:08.820

approach to the cumulative assessment is robust?

14

00:02:09.380 --> 00:02:11.740

So if we could start with Breckland Council, please.

15

00:02:24.350 --> 00:02:25.860

Rebecca Collins, Breckland Council.

16

00:02:26.180 --> 00:02:29.660

We can confirm that these are our scoping opinions.

17

00:02:33.600 --> 00:02:33.860

Okay.

18

00:02:36.140 --> 00:02:37.320

Norfolk County Council?

19

00:02:38.420 --> 00:02:40.000

Yes, sir. I'm just checking through my...

20

00:02:40.020 --> 00:02:41.920

Andrew Szurkowski for Norfolk County Council.

21

00:02:44.040 --> 00:02:47.670

I think we've made comments on the cumulative assessment, but I don't think we've

22

00:02:47.680 --> 00:02:49.680

got any disagreement in terms of the issues that are covered.

23

00:02:55.640 --> 00:02:56.000

And

24

00:02:57.300 --> 00:02:58.500

Mrs Julie Barrow.

25

00:03:00.380 --> 00:03:03.100

Thank you. Julie Barrow, Borough Council of Kings in the West Norfolk.

26

00:03:03.620 --> 00:03:07.400

Again, we're in agreement with the list of schemes that have been considered and

27

00:03:07.440 --> 00:03:11.320

the approach taken to the cumulative assessment in each environmental statement

28

00:03:11.360 --> 00:03:11.760

chapter.

29

00:03:17.040 --> 00:03:17.480

Thank you.

30

00:03:21.740 --> 00:03:25.040

Do the councils have any comments on the proposed content of

31

00:03:25.140 --> 00:03:29.000

the report on the interrelationships with other nationally

32

00:03:29.040 --> 00:03:32.180

significant infrastructure projects?

33

00:03:34.120 --> 00:03:35.100

Rebecca Collins.

34

00:03:45.740 --> 00:03:47.620

Not at this moment, no. Okay.

35

00:03:48.540 --> 00:03:48.609

Mr

36

00:03:49.520 --> 00:03:50.299

Szurkowski?

37

00:03:51.380 --> 00:03:53.460

Thank you, sir. Andrew Szurkowski for Norfolk County Council.

38

00:03:53.560 --> 00:03:56.960

No, sir, I've not had any issues brought to my attention as yet.

39

00:03:59.160 --> 00:04:00.800

And Rebecca Collins.

40

00:04:02.460 --> 00:04:05.980

Sorry, I've got that wrong. Mrs Julie Barrow. So I've gone the wrong way.

41

00:04:06.020 --> 00:04:06.400

Julie Barrow-

42

00:04:06.460 --> 00:04:06.470

Yeah

43

00:04:06.470 --> 00:04:08.000

... for Borough Council of Kings in the West Norfolk.

44

00:04:08.500 --> 00:04:10.160

Yeah, no particular concerns at this stage.

45

00:04:10.220 --> 00:04:14.100

Obviously, we are interested to read the report that's going to be

46

00:04:14.140 --> 00:04:17.541

submitted at deadline one, and we'll no doubt comment further on that in due

47

00:04:17.601 --> 00:04:17.940

course.

48

00:04:19.700 --> 00:04:21.450

Okay. Any comments from the applicant?

49

00:04:22.560 --> 00:04:25.900

No, sir. Alex Resnan on behalf of the applicant, just to say that we will submit

50

00:04:25.940 --> 00:04:26.540

that at deadline one.

51

00:04:27.980 --> 00:04:28.300

Okay.

52

00:04:29.240 --> 00:04:32.300

Any comments in the room on this agenda item?

53

00:04:38.320 --> 00:04:41.140

Mr Bennett, isn't it? In the green jacket.

54

00:04:41.480 --> 00:04:41.720

Yeah.

55

00:04:42.960 --> 00:04:43.560

Thank you, sir.

56

00:04:46.340 --> 00:04:50.130

The applicant's solicitor mentioned in his response yesterday,

57

00:04:50.130 --> 00:04:54.080

Appendix 2.4 of the DCO application document APP

58

00:04:54.220 --> 00:04:54.940

136.

59

00:04:55.840 --> 00:04:59.780

In its table 2.3, it gives a long list of

60

00:04:59.820 --> 00:05:03.490

infrastructure projects, both renewable energy projects and other

61

00:05:03.540 --> 00:05:06.860

types, such as the dueling of the A47 towards Norwich.

62

00:05:08.200 --> 00:05:08.710

However,

63

00:05:09.520 --> 00:05:13.500

for the purposes of DCO application, document AP068

64

00:05:13.560 --> 00:05:17.100

shows figure 2.1, a map of the cumulative schemes in

65

00:05:17.120 --> 00:05:20.640

accordance with the methodology set out in chapter two of the environmental

66

00:05:20.780 --> 00:05:21.220
statement.

67

00:05:22.300 --> 00:05:26.200
This map only looks at schemes to a 25-kilometer radius.

68

00:05:26.820 --> 00:05:30.760
It does not appear to include the existing renewable energy
infrastructure already

69

00:05:30.860 --> 00:05:34.800
built and in progress. The major one on the map is, of course, the
High

70

00:05:34.880 --> 00:05:38.580
Grove scheme. There is no inclusion, for example, the proposed

71

00:05:38.680 --> 00:05:40.800
battery and solar project at Shipton.

72

00:05:42.620 --> 00:05:46.360
I would put it to the applicants and to the examining authority that
although the

73

00:05:46.440 --> 00:05:50.420
assessment may have been done by the book, the cumulative impact

74

00:05:50.460 --> 00:05:53.770
on Norfolk as a county with all that is built and proposed,

75

00:05:54.560 --> 00:05:58.440
there should be a more strategic look at what the whole county is
being asked

76

00:05:58.480 --> 00:06:02.240
to take on and should be undertaken in this

77

00:06:02.460 --> 00:06:06.412
examinationThe extent that Norfolk is being asked to

78

00:06:06.452 --> 00:06:10.192
bear in terms of the total cumulative impacts have been made clear

79

00:06:10.252 --> 00:06:14.192

by Norfolk County Council, local district councils, and MPs.

80

00:06:15.552 --> 00:06:19.402

But just taking the relatively small area of Norfolk, which the Drovers and

81

00:06:19.512 --> 00:06:23.372

Spall with Polgrave Parish are part, there are considerable

82

00:06:23.432 --> 00:06:26.832

amounts of existing and proposed renewable development close to the

83

00:06:26.852 --> 00:06:30.412

Drovers. A list of which was included in our statutory

84

00:06:30.512 --> 00:06:33.872

consultation response. But to highlight the fact, I

85

00:06:33.952 --> 00:06:35.732

identify the two closest.

86

00:06:36.952 --> 00:06:40.392

Spall with Polgrave Parish will have at least 1,000

87

00:06:40.472 --> 00:06:44.332

acres of the High Grove development within its parish boundary, as well

88

00:06:44.372 --> 00:06:47.452

as Drovers development within the part of the parish west of the

89

00:06:47.492 --> 00:06:51.392

A1065. This will have significant landscape

90

00:06:51.412 --> 00:06:55.092

and visual impacts, as I will seek to explain in the landscape and

91

00:06:55.172 --> 00:06:59.162

visual section later. But within the scope of today's hearing, I

will

92

00:06:59.232 --> 00:07:03.032

just mention the potential impacts on the traffic on the

93

00:07:03.092 --> 00:07:06.732

A1065 during construction, a road which is

94

00:07:06.812 --> 00:07:10.332

clearly known locally as one of the most dangerous roads in the

95

00:07:10.392 --> 00:07:10.872

county.

96

00:07:11.792 --> 00:07:15.732

If High Grove is constructed either concurrently or consecutively

97

00:07:16.032 --> 00:07:19.492

with a total of three accesses onto the A1065,

98

00:07:19.912 --> 00:07:21.592

will cause considerable

99

00:07:22.892 --> 00:07:26.752

congestion and hassle for those trying to conduct their lawful

100

00:07:26.852 --> 00:07:30.512

business. It is not in the interest of the applicant, the

101

00:07:30.552 --> 00:07:34.272

landowners, and I dare say politicians, both local and national,

102

00:07:34.632 --> 00:07:38.392

if this is not adequately addressed in conjunction with those on the ground.

103

00:07:39.412 --> 00:07:43.172

Again, within the scope of today's hearing, I bring something I've

104

00:07:43.252 --> 00:07:46.912

asked repeatedly of both applicants for the Doves and High

105

00:07:46.992 --> 00:07:49.832

Grove, that there is a deer management program

106

00:07:50.512 --> 00:07:54.432

which I've yet to see. There's been

107

00:07:54.512 --> 00:07:58.432

no survey done of deer populations, but all of us who live in

108

00:07:58.472 --> 00:08:02.292

the area can attest to large numbers that if corralled into narrow

109

00:08:02.352 --> 00:08:05.632

corridors through these large schemes are going to have serious

110

00:08:05.712 --> 00:08:09.392

consequences if someone is killed on the A1065.

111

00:08:09.872 --> 00:08:13.772

Consequences that could involve negligence claims against those who have

112

00:08:13.832 --> 00:08:15.732

responsibility for these projects.

113

00:08:16.732 --> 00:08:20.632

These three probable impacts of these two neighboring projects either side of the

114

00:08:20.652 --> 00:08:24.212

A1065, again highlight the need for the

115

00:08:24.272 --> 00:08:27.872

examination to ensure that, as I requested yesterday at the

116

00:08:27.912 --> 00:08:31.412

preliminary meeting, there is a full examination of the cumulative

117

00:08:31.452 --> 00:08:34.852

impacts, even with the delays of the High Grove

118

00:08:34.972 --> 00:08:38.153

DCO application. We would suggest that local

119

00:08:38.252 --> 00:08:41.903

representatives be involved in these discussions at the detailed

120

00:08:41.972 --> 00:08:43.273

level and on the ground.

121

00:08:44.512 --> 00:08:48.472

But the second project I wish to remark on is the Jaffa solar development of

122

00:08:48.482 --> 00:08:52.312

a couple of hundred acres to the northeast of Spall and west of Little and Great

123

00:08:52.392 --> 00:08:56.312

Dunham. This has planning consent, and if this is constructed at the

124

00:08:56.392 --> 00:09:00.152

same time or consecutively to the Drovers and maybe High Grove,

125

00:09:00.792 --> 00:09:04.332

will cause even greater traffic problems along the

126

00:09:04.372 --> 00:09:08.292

A1065 and local byroads. As we envisage,

127

00:09:08.372 --> 00:09:12.212

their travel route will also be off the A47 onto the

128

00:09:12.252 --> 00:09:16.172

A1065, turning off by the George and Dragon Pub at

129

00:09:16.232 --> 00:09:17.592

Newton by Castle Acre.

130

00:09:19.172 --> 00:09:22.992

With all that is planned, the cumulative impact will completely

destroy the

131

00:09:23.052 --> 00:09:26.952

character of the area. It will change from a rural agricultural

132

00:09:27.012 --> 00:09:29.012

landscape to an industrialized one.

133

00:09:29.752 --> 00:09:32.252

This will have a number of consequences.

134

00:09:33.212 --> 00:09:37.172

Poorer mental health for those living in the area around these developments as

135

00:09:37.192 --> 00:09:40.472

the existing natural environment is changed into a built environment.

136

00:09:41.852 --> 00:09:45.572

It is likely that after the 60 years of the project's life,

137

00:09:45.822 --> 00:09:48.652

that all the land will be turned back to agricultural land.

138

00:09:49.312 --> 00:09:51.512

For a start, this is a huge experiment.

139

00:09:51.852 --> 00:09:55.432

In reality, we do not know what the final outcome will be for

140

00:09:55.452 --> 00:09:59.432

soils and wildlife. In any case, the substations

141

00:09:59.492 --> 00:10:00.692

will still be there, so is it

142

00:10:02.512 --> 00:10:03.772

not likely that we will

143

00:10:05.492 --> 00:10:09.032

still need the site to continue

144

00:10:09.112 --> 00:10:12.142
to generate electricity? In

145

00:10:12.172 --> 00:10:13.702
reality,

146

00:10:14.872 --> 00:10:18.132
we are changing the land use permanently.

147

00:10:19.612 --> 00:10:20.212
Tourism,

148

00:10:21.172 --> 00:10:22.952
has already been mentioned yesterday,

149

00:10:23.772 --> 00:10:27.552
is a large earner for Norfolk, with many accessing the area of
national

150

00:10:27.652 --> 00:10:30.912
beauty of North Norfolk and the coast via Swaffham

151

00:10:31.612 --> 00:10:35.592
and the A1065, passing a major attraction, Castle

152

00:10:35.732 --> 00:10:38.762
Acre. The growth of renewables development and

153

00:10:38.832 --> 00:10:42.492
industrialization of the landscape will only serve to reduce this

154

00:10:42.532 --> 00:10:46.472
vital part of Norfolk's economy. The impact on jobs

155

00:10:46.812 --> 00:10:50.412
and livelihoods will be minimal in all phases of these

156

00:10:50.432 --> 00:10:54.252
projects. Economically, Norfolk will get little out of

157

00:10:54.292 --> 00:10:57.172

this development as the power goes south and west.

158

00:10:58.702 --> 00:11:02.212

Oops. Sorry, Mr. Benham, to interrupt, but if we could just focus on the

159

00:11:02.272 --> 00:11:03.832

cumulative aspects.

160

00:11:04.212 --> 00:11:04.432

Okay.

161

00:11:04.972 --> 00:11:06.372

Because we're drifting into other-

162

00:11:06.392 --> 00:11:06.792

Okay

163

00:11:07.032 --> 00:11:07.702

... other areas-

164

00:11:07.812 --> 00:11:08.072

Okay

165

00:11:08.432 --> 00:11:12.272

... which are important, but for purposes of today, we need to

166

00:11:12.312 --> 00:11:13.732

focus on the cumulative aspects.

167

00:11:13.772 --> 00:11:15.352

Fair enough. Thank you. Okay.

168

00:11:20.212 --> 00:11:20.512

Yeah.

169

00:11:23.492 --> 00:11:27.432

You can continue, but just on the

170

00:11:27.832 --> 00:11:28.792
cumulative aspects.

171

00:11:30.792 --> 00:11:31.312
Thank you, sir.

172

00:11:36.352 --> 00:11:37.832
The cumulative aspects

173

00:11:41.432 --> 00:11:45.092
are wider, basically, than a 25-kilometer

174

00:11:45.212 --> 00:11:45.772
radius.

175

00:11:48.232 --> 00:11:48.532
And

176

00:11:50.792 --> 00:11:51.112
I would

177

00:11:52.112 --> 00:11:55.292
maintain that we need to look at this much more strategically,

178

00:11:56.892 --> 00:12:00.252
notwithstanding the need and the government's policy to reach net
zero by

179

00:12:00.312 --> 00:12:01.092
2050.

180

00:12:02.992 --> 00:12:03.412
I think

181

00:12:04.492 --> 00:12:05.372
I carry the

182

00:12:07.892 --> 00:12:10.411
feelings of, I think, our MPs

183

00:12:10.948 --> 00:12:14.448
Who's saying that Norfolk is being asked to carry a heavy burden

184
00:12:16.568 --> 00:12:19.368
of these extent of all that's going on in the county.

185
00:12:20.768 --> 00:12:22.408
And as it's been already said,

186
00:12:24.768 --> 00:12:28.308
the main reason for picking the area is because

187
00:12:28.728 --> 00:12:32.608
there happens to be a National Grid overhead line going through the

188
00:12:32.708 --> 00:12:33.048
area.

189
00:12:35.108 --> 00:12:35.348
So,

190
00:12:37.148 --> 00:12:37.868
in conclusion,

191
00:12:38.728 --> 00:12:41.588
it is vital that the scale of this project is looked at

192
00:12:42.548 --> 00:12:43.768
seriously and

193
00:12:43.808 --> 00:12:48.268
in

194
00:12:48.328 --> 00:12:52.188
the round with the other projects nearby, and means found to

195
00:12:52.208 --> 00:12:56.008
reduce the size and impact before irreparable damage

196
00:12:56.048 --> 00:12:57.088
is done. Thank you.

197

00:12:58.688 --> 00:13:00.388

Thank you. Mr. Tressiden?

198

00:13:01.208 --> 00:13:04.808

Thank you, sir. Alex Tressiden, on behalf of the applicant. We're grateful to Mr.

199

00:13:05.008 --> 00:13:08.688

Bennett for his submission, and note the various points

200

00:13:08.728 --> 00:13:09.928

raised, which include

201

00:13:11.148 --> 00:13:14.168

overlap with the contents of his relevant representation, which we'll be responding

202

00:13:14.178 --> 00:13:17.948

to in full at deadline one. On the cumulative

203

00:13:18.048 --> 00:13:21.648

point that's been raised, I will pass over to my colleague,

204

00:13:22.048 --> 00:13:25.888

Rob Pyle, in a moment for the assessment of the inclusion of

205

00:13:26.048 --> 00:13:29.668

schemes in the assessment. I will just note that the assessment of cumulative

206

00:13:29.708 --> 00:13:33.488

effects has been undertaken in line with the requirements of the

207

00:13:33.528 --> 00:13:37.508

EIA regulations and the planning inspectorate's advice note on

208

00:13:37.568 --> 00:13:38.888

cumulative effects assessment.

209

00:13:39.808 --> 00:13:43.708

That approach to cumulative assessment is detailed in full in ES

210

00:13:43.828 --> 00:13:46.628
chapter two, which is APP051,

211

00:13:47.608 --> 00:13:49.808
and ES appendix 2.4, which is

212

00:13:49.868 --> 00:13:53.468
APP136. Cumulative

213

00:13:53.528 --> 00:13:57.248
assessments within each of the technical topic chapters have been

214

00:13:57.308 --> 00:14:01.268
undertaken in accordance with the relevant topic-specific

215

00:14:01.308 --> 00:14:04.998
guidance and best practice approach, assessing a reasonable

216

00:14:05.188 --> 00:14:06.528
worst case scenario.

217

00:14:10.348 --> 00:14:14.248
Further, the scheme adopts a mitigation hierarchy to minimize

218

00:14:14.308 --> 00:14:17.368
cumulative impacts as far as reasonably practical.

219

00:14:18.038 --> 00:14:21.908
Through site evolution and iterative design, sensitive

220

00:14:21.948 --> 00:14:25.768
environmental receptors are avoided as much as possible, reducing
the

221

00:14:25.788 --> 00:14:29.288
potential for in-combination effects with other developments.

222

00:14:29.848 --> 00:14:32.908
And that approach is reinforced by embedding

223

00:14:32.948 --> 00:14:36.628

mitigation directly into the scheme, including the

224

00:14:36.668 --> 00:14:39.948

strategic positioning of infrastructure away from receptors,

225

00:14:40.728 --> 00:14:44.708

the layouts being informed to limit the use of grades one and two agricultural

226

00:14:44.718 --> 00:14:48.318

land, and the incorporation of buffers and green infrastructure.

227

00:14:48.868 --> 00:14:52.718

Just before I pass over to Mr. Pyle, I note as well that there were

228

00:14:52.768 --> 00:14:56.758

some comments made by Mr. Bennett in relation to the need for

229

00:14:56.788 --> 00:14:58.528

the scheme and the scale of the scheme.

230

00:14:59.228 --> 00:15:02.857

I consider that those points have been substantially addressed in the earlier

231

00:15:02.908 --> 00:15:06.888

agenda item on those matters this morning, and therefore don't propose

232

00:15:06.948 --> 00:15:10.508

to go into detail on those again, having set out our position,

233

00:15:10.908 --> 00:15:14.868

if that's acceptable to the examining authority, and therefore propose to pass

234

00:15:14.928 --> 00:15:17.888

to Mr. Pyle for a few more points on the assessment.

235

00:15:19.208 --> 00:15:19.848
Okay, thank you.

236
00:15:21.708 --> 00:15:25.128
Mr. Pyle, on behalf of the applicant. Thank you for your feedback.

237
00:15:25.588 --> 00:15:29.268
I think probably the key concern that's been raised is the High Grove scheme, which

238
00:15:29.328 --> 00:15:33.088
has been considered substantially by all the topic

239
00:15:33.098 --> 00:15:34.888
chapters within the environmental statement.

240
00:15:35.928 --> 00:15:38.908
A couple of responses into the key

241
00:15:39.708 --> 00:15:42.288
matters that were raised in relations to roads.

242
00:15:42.328 --> 00:15:46.068
The transport team, who are not here today, have been in dialogue with

243
00:15:46.488 --> 00:15:47.388
Norfolk Highways

244
00:15:48.508 --> 00:15:51.668
to agree the approach to the modeling on the 1065,

245
00:15:52.448 --> 00:15:56.228
and that approach has been agreed with them and will be confirmed within the

246
00:15:56.308 --> 00:16:00.108
statement of common ground, and that deals with how that modeling

247
00:16:00.668 --> 00:16:02.508
accounts for cumulative impacts.

248

00:16:03.698 --> 00:16:07.568

The deer management was also raised, and I think this has been a key consideration

249

00:16:07.608 --> 00:16:11.348

within the evolution of the design and the green infrastructure

250

00:16:11.508 --> 00:16:15.148

parameter plans, which are set out at the back of

251

00:16:15.208 --> 00:16:17.888

the outline landscape ecological management plan.

252

00:16:18.488 --> 00:16:21.368

And the crossing of the 1065 by deer

253

00:16:22.248 --> 00:16:24.968

was one of the key considerations in terms of the fencing strategy.

254

00:16:25.928 --> 00:16:29.908

That allows for breaks in the fence line along the

255

00:16:29.928 --> 00:16:33.868

1065 to allow that movement of deer across from one side to

256

00:16:33.908 --> 00:16:35.148

the other, so they're not running

257

00:16:36.028 --> 00:16:39.717

down or we're not preventing them from crossing into the site from the other side

258

00:16:39.748 --> 00:16:43.568

of the site. So we have considered that as part of our design evolution.

259

00:16:44.828 --> 00:16:47.748

The other project that has been mentioned by Mr.

260

00:16:47.948 --> 00:16:50.748

Bennett is the Jaffa Solar development.

261

00:16:51.708 --> 00:16:54.968

One of the reasons for that not being included within the long list

262

00:16:55.988 --> 00:16:59.848

is it didn't meet the threshold criteria that

263

00:16:59.888 --> 00:17:03.768

were set out in our methodology in appendix

264

00:17:03.928 --> 00:17:07.768

2.4 of the ES, which is APP136.

265

00:17:08.348 --> 00:17:11.618

But we're willing, given the concerns that are raised, we're willing to go away and

266

00:17:11.668 --> 00:17:15.608

consider that particular project as part of the cumulative assessment.

267

00:17:15.738 --> 00:17:19.568

And I think just to also note, as good practice, we'll be

268

00:17:19.608 --> 00:17:23.488

continuing to review the long list of developments to ensure

269

00:17:23.508 --> 00:17:26.988

that it is up to date during and throughout the duration of the

270

00:17:27.028 --> 00:17:30.668

examination period, because there is the potential for other

271

00:17:30.688 --> 00:17:31.948

developments to come forward

272

00:17:33.068 --> 00:17:37.028

while post-submission and while the examination is going forward, so that we need

273

00:17:37.048 --> 00:17:41.008

to consider as part of that process, and we'll update the long list at the

274

00:17:41.048 --> 00:17:43.928
relevant points during the examination process.

275

00:17:44.488 --> 00:17:45.868
Thank you.

276

00:17:48.688 --> 00:17:52.588
Thank you. So you mentioned about the fencing strategy

277

00:17:52.628 --> 00:17:53.168
for deer.

278

00:17:54.808 --> 00:17:55.688
Has the risk of

279

00:17:58.308 --> 00:18:02.148
deer collisions with vehicles been looked at in the road safety

280

00:18:02.208 --> 00:18:02.508
audit?

281

00:18:07.148 --> 00:18:08.588
Rob Pyle on behalf of the applicant.

282

00:18:08.768 --> 00:18:12.068
I will need to confer with the transport consultant, because I don't have that

283

00:18:12.128 --> 00:18:13.368
information to hand

284

00:18:16.056 --> 00:18:19.636
Okay. So could you respond in writing on that one for

285

00:18:19.676 --> 00:18:20.296
deadline one?

286

00:18:21.456 --> 00:18:22.416

Yes, we can do that.

287

00:18:31.036 --> 00:18:31.396

Thank you.

288

00:18:33.056 --> 00:18:34.936

Any other questions in the room?

289

00:18:36.456 --> 00:18:36.716

Sorry,

290

00:18:37.656 --> 00:18:39.856

I don't know your name, the lady with the blue scarf.

291

00:18:40.476 --> 00:18:43.916

Anne Mason from Castle Acre Parish Council.

292

00:18:44.566 --> 00:18:44.576

Yep.

293

00:18:45.396 --> 00:18:46.946

I would like to pose

294

00:18:48.816 --> 00:18:51.956

whether or not there has been a full

295

00:18:52.076 --> 00:18:55.956

assessment at a strategic level across the county

296

00:18:56.036 --> 00:18:59.736

of the impact of these solar farms on the

297

00:18:59.756 --> 00:19:02.916

countywide landscape character, its

298

00:19:02.956 --> 00:19:06.895

biodiversity, and its heritage, and in

299

00:19:06.976 --> 00:19:10.576

terms of the impact these solar farms will have

300

00:19:10.676 --> 00:19:14.336

on the county's agriculture, landscape, tourism,

301

00:19:14.576 --> 00:19:18.436

wildlife, and its communities. And I would argue that

302

00:19:18.496 --> 00:19:22.416

only when we look at that countywide can we make

303

00:19:22.436 --> 00:19:25.876

decisions about individual schemes in the whole

304

00:19:25.976 --> 00:19:29.516

context of our environment and where we live.

305

00:19:30.496 --> 00:19:30.876

Thank you.

306

00:19:32.956 --> 00:19:35.896

Thank you. Mr. Trestiden? Or...

307

00:19:37.696 --> 00:19:39.056

Mr. Powell on behalf of the applicant.

308

00:19:39.236 --> 00:19:42.956

The applicant has undertaken a cumulative assessment in accordance with the

309

00:19:42.996 --> 00:19:46.836

PIN's guidance, and we, as part of that,

310

00:19:46.976 --> 00:19:50.216

have identified the zone of influence for each of the environmental topics

311

00:19:50.236 --> 00:19:53.536

associated with our scheme. The maximum

312

00:19:54.636 --> 00:19:58.396

zone of influence for our particular scheme for cumulative effects to

313

00:19:58.436 --> 00:20:02.356

occur in our professional judgment is up to 25 kilometers,

314

00:20:02.836 --> 00:20:06.806

and that has been the search area that we've established for identifying

315

00:20:06.836 --> 00:20:10.096

the long list in accordance with our methodology, set out in Appendix

316

00:20:10.776 --> 00:20:11.496

2.4.

317

00:20:19.476 --> 00:20:21.836

Mr. Sherikovsky.

318

00:20:22.016 --> 00:20:24.296

Yeah. Thank you, sir. Andrew Sherikovsky for Norfolk County Council.

319

00:20:24.936 --> 00:20:27.976

So it's just an update on one particular project for you because we've made

320

00:20:28.016 --> 00:20:31.816

reference to it in our relevant representation and I'm well

321

00:20:31.856 --> 00:20:34.696

aware of the fact the applicant will be aware of this one, and that's the East Pye

322

00:20:35.216 --> 00:20:39.056

project, which has now been submitted and accepted, I believe,

323

00:20:39.156 --> 00:20:40.516

by the inspectorate.

324

00:20:45.116 --> 00:20:45.736

Mr. Powell.

325

00:20:46.436 --> 00:20:47.596
Mr. Powell on behalf of the applicant.

326
00:20:47.736 --> 00:20:51.596
Yes, we are aware of that project, and it does feature on our

327
00:20:51.696 --> 00:20:52.396
long list of

328
00:20:54.136 --> 00:20:56.296
developments that was included within

329
00:20:57.336 --> 00:20:58.376
table 2.3.

330
00:20:59.736 --> 00:20:59.976
And I'll

331
00:21:00.896 --> 00:21:04.716
confirm the APP number in writing, and I think that was included in
response

332
00:21:04.836 --> 00:21:08.716
to the statutory consultation responses that we received as

333
00:21:08.776 --> 00:21:11.936
part of the commentary on cumulative sites.

334
00:21:15.076 --> 00:21:15.536
Thank you.

335
00:21:16.936 --> 00:21:18.096
James Wild, MP.

336
00:21:20.176 --> 00:21:21.996
Thank you, sir. James Wild, MP.

337
00:21:23.816 --> 00:21:27.496
The applicant's case again talks about the 0.1% of UK

338
00:21:28.336 --> 00:21:32.176

agricultural land that will be used for solar, but this is about what's

339

00:21:32.216 --> 00:21:35.176
happening in Norfolk and our locality.

340

00:21:35.205 --> 00:21:39.136
And the National Planning Policy Framework paragraph nine requires

341

00:21:39.186 --> 00:21:42.656
decisions to reflect local circumstances, including the

342

00:21:42.716 --> 00:21:46.636
character, need, and opportunities of the area.

343

00:21:46.816 --> 00:21:50.116
And Norfolk is having a huge amount of energy

344

00:21:50.216 --> 00:21:53.596
infrastructure dumped on it, not just solar projects, but

345

00:21:54.016 --> 00:21:57.556
pylon stations and pylons and substations across

346

00:21:58.416 --> 00:22:01.276
the county. If we look at the local position, the Drones and the High Grove

347

00:22:01.336 --> 00:22:05.036
projects between them will take 6,700

348

00:22:05.096 --> 00:22:09.016
acres of Norfolk farmland out of production, the equivalent

349

00:22:09.056 --> 00:22:13.016
to over 4,000 football pitches. I think it's important that people visualize what

350

00:22:13.036 --> 00:22:16.936
is actually going to be happening to our countryside, and that's even before the

351

00:22:16.976 --> 00:22:20.656

additional schemes at East Pye and elsewhere that have been

352

00:22:20.716 --> 00:22:24.615

referred to. A point that my colleague George Freeman wanted

353

00:22:24.676 --> 00:22:28.276

me to make is that this is going to affect 25 villages

354

00:22:28.456 --> 00:22:32.416

in central Norfolk, and he also points out that land agents report that

355

00:22:32.455 --> 00:22:36.275

up to 20,000 acres of Norfolk farmland

356

00:22:36.696 --> 00:22:39.546

are in the pipeline. And that is a fundamental

357

00:22:39.636 --> 00:22:43.356

transformation of our rural landscape.

358

00:22:43.736 --> 00:22:47.716

The requirements for cumulative assessment are clear, and the

359

00:22:47.756 --> 00:22:51.576

Secretary of State needs to address any long-term and cumulative impacts in

360

00:22:51.616 --> 00:22:54.776

reaching his decision. And paragraph

361

00:22:55.796 --> 00:22:59.656

198 of the NPPF requires

362

00:22:59.876 --> 00:23:03.436

development to be appropriate to its location and to consider fully the likely

363

00:23:03.476 --> 00:23:07.266

effects, including cumulative impacts on the natural environment and

364

00:23:07.336 --> 00:23:08.936

living conditions.

365

00:23:09.796 --> 00:23:13.576

So I would expect to see a strategic assessment of what those projects

366

00:23:13.656 --> 00:23:17.316

across the county are going to do because we are seeing an

367

00:23:17.356 --> 00:23:21.116

industrialization of our landscape which does not enjoy

368

00:23:21.156 --> 00:23:24.306

public support to any degree, and it's

369

00:23:24.316 --> 00:23:27.936

particularly significant in this part of Norfolk where large-scale

370

00:23:28.356 --> 00:23:32.336

proposals are in place and there's already existing solar and

371

00:23:32.416 --> 00:23:36.276

battery storage projects. And so each scheme on its own shows

372

00:23:36.336 --> 00:23:40.296

only part of the picture, and we need to look at the fundamental change

373

00:23:40.336 --> 00:23:44.316

that would be happening to our countryside were this DC0

374

00:23:44.396 --> 00:23:46.356

to be granted. Thank you.

375

00:23:47.856 --> 00:23:48.956

Thank you. Mr. Trestiden.

376

00:23:53.036 --> 00:23:55.896

Thanks, sir. Alex Trestiden on behalf of the applicant.

377

00:23:56.176 --> 00:23:59.646

We don't have much more to add to our position, which has already been set out,

378

00:23:59.716 --> 00:24:03.676

which is that we are confident in the robustness of our community assessment, which

379

00:24:03.696 --> 00:24:07.466

has been undertaken in accordance with all relevant legislation, policy,

380

00:24:07.916 --> 00:24:08.666

and guidance.

381

00:24:26.046 --> 00:24:28.526

Thank you. Any further comments, James Wild, MP?

382

00:24:30.406 --> 00:24:33.806

Any further comments in the room?

383

00:24:34.666 --> 00:24:37.946

Sorry, I don't remember your name.

384

00:24:38.226 --> 00:24:41.105

Mark Kiddle Morris, elected member of Breckland Council, sir.

385

00:24:41.866 --> 00:24:43.266

Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

386

00:24:45.006 --> 00:24:48.966

I refer to our Breckland Council's related representation, which

387

00:24:49.086 --> 00:24:53.066

was approved by members. So I'm speaking on behalf of members here

388

00:24:53.146 --> 00:24:57.136

rather than as a planner. I draw your attention

389

00:24:57.226 --> 00:25:00.986

to the fact that Breckland Council recognizes the need to

390

00:25:01.026 --> 00:25:02.786
renewable energy infrastructure, and

391

00:25:03.666 --> 00:25:06.076
does not bind the council to unconditional support.

392

00:25:07.046 --> 00:25:11.036
In fact, in our local plan, dated Breckland Local

393

00:25:11.106 --> 00:25:12.315
Plan 2023,

394

00:25:13.246 --> 00:25:16.786
Policy ENV10 refers to or

395

00:25:16.886 --> 00:25:20.786
outlines support for new renewable energy and low carbon

396

00:25:20.826 --> 00:25:24.606
development, subject to consideration of the impact of the
development

397

00:25:24.966 --> 00:25:26.646
and whether this could be made acceptable.

398

00:25:27.486 --> 00:25:30.906
However, we are concerned that the proposed

399

00:25:30.986 --> 00:25:31.886
concentration

400

00:25:33.586 --> 00:25:37.286
of solar development within Breckland and Norfolk

401

00:25:37.386 --> 00:25:37.646
are

402

00:25:39.606 --> 00:25:40.006
con...

403

00:25:44.446 --> 00:25:46.506

I can't read my own writing here, so I'm sorry.

404

00:25:47.866 --> 00:25:48.026

Are

405

00:25:48.146 --> 00:25:52.706

contrary,

406

00:25:52.786 --> 00:25:54.496

I can read it now, to spatial

407

00:25:56.166 --> 00:25:57.366

planning principles.

408

00:25:58.406 --> 00:26:01.986

I also think there are a lot of figures bandied around a long time ago

409

00:26:02.046 --> 00:26:05.686

when the rush to solar was first initiated, and

410

00:26:06.986 --> 00:26:07.106

if

411

00:26:08.686 --> 00:26:12.486

everything was equitable in this country, then the figures for

412

00:26:12.526 --> 00:26:16.506

Norfolk would be 1,700 acres, and that is being far exceeded

413

00:26:16.546 --> 00:26:18.206

by this particular application.

414

00:26:20.466 --> 00:26:24.206

Breckland have actually approved, or I

415

00:26:24.246 --> 00:26:24.526

think

416

00:26:26.026 --> 00:26:29.746

the representative from Spall and Polgleich Parish Council mentioned it, the one

417

00:26:29.786 --> 00:26:33.326

in Little Dunham and Great Dunham, have approved that. It hasn't been built yet.

418

00:26:33.866 --> 00:26:37.766

So we are on side with it. But actually, the

419

00:26:37.806 --> 00:26:41.586

cumulative impact that we're looking at with the Drove, High

420

00:26:41.666 --> 00:26:42.006

Grove,

421

00:26:43.006 --> 00:26:46.946

some more, a little bit to the east

422

00:26:47.006 --> 00:26:47.506

of Breckland,

423

00:26:48.426 --> 00:26:50.906

are overwhelming, and I think

424

00:26:53.686 --> 00:26:57.546

we should be looking very seriously at the overall impact

425

00:26:57.606 --> 00:27:01.566

of what's happening in Norfolk and in Breckland in particular. Thank you, sir.

426

00:27:11.586 --> 00:27:13.226

Thank you, Councillor Morris.

427

00:27:15.346 --> 00:27:16.036

Mr. Treseden.

428

00:27:16.626 --> 00:27:20.026

Thank you, sir. Alex Treseden. On behalf of the applicant, we're

grateful for the

429

00:27:20.066 --> 00:27:22.146

representation, and as I've noted,

430

00:27:22.966 --> 00:27:26.906

well, I note that it aligned with the relevant representation

431

00:27:26.946 --> 00:27:30.746

received from Breckland Council on behalf of all the members, which, as I've

432

00:27:30.806 --> 00:27:34.736

stated, we will be responding to in full in writing, as is the case with

433

00:27:34.736 --> 00:27:38.726

all relevant representations at deadline one of the examination in

434

00:27:38.746 --> 00:27:42.726

accordance with the procedure. I note the point raised again, as

435

00:27:42.786 --> 00:27:46.066

has been repeated, about the cumulative assessment and the importance

436

00:27:46.166 --> 00:27:49.926

of recognizing those impacts in the assessment of the planning

437

00:27:49.946 --> 00:27:53.666

balance. Again, just to reiterate, we are confident in the

438

00:27:53.686 --> 00:27:57.506

robustness of our assessment and will be responding in full in

439

00:27:57.526 --> 00:27:58.986

writing at deadline one.

440

00:28:07.526 --> 00:28:09.886

Any other-- Mr. Turokovsky.

441

00:28:10.046 --> 00:28:13.786

Yeah. Thank you, sir. Andrew Turokovsky again. So it's just a very brief point.

442

00:28:13.946 --> 00:28:16.896

I don't need a response to this because I know you've seen this already, but it's

443

00:28:16.966 --> 00:28:17.766

just to

444

00:28:18.906 --> 00:28:21.986

point to, I think we've included in our representation

445

00:28:22.566 --> 00:28:25.466

commentary on this particular point, and we've just added up all the figures, I

446

00:28:25.526 --> 00:28:29.086

think, for the major solar projects that are in Norfolk, which

447

00:28:29.166 --> 00:28:32.886

includes the various different Enscape schemes, and you'll see we've made reference

448

00:28:32.896 --> 00:28:36.706

there that in total, those projects currently amount to over

449

00:28:36.866 --> 00:28:39.186

4,000 hectares of agricultural land across the county.

450

00:28:39.606 --> 00:28:42.185

But I don't need a response to that because I know the applicants are aware of it.

451

00:28:48.386 --> 00:28:48.666

Okay.

452

00:28:49.766 --> 00:28:53.426

Mr. Treseden, you're indicating you don't want to respond on that point.

453

00:28:53.486 --> 00:28:54.026
No, thank you.

454
00:28:56.406 --> 00:28:58.546
Are there any other comments in the room, please?

455
00:29:01.886 --> 00:29:05.486
No, I'm not seeing any hands up. Anybody online, any

456
00:29:05.526 --> 00:29:06.186
hands?

457
00:29:08.026 --> 00:29:10.566
I'm not seeing any hands online either.

458
00:29:12.026 --> 00:29:15.206
Okay, so we've finished on that agenda item.

459
00:29:15.286 --> 00:29:19.206
I'm now going to move on to agenda item 3.4, which is

460
00:29:19.326 --> 00:29:20.026
aviation.

461
00:29:23.646 --> 00:29:26.486
So we're just going to do some reshuffling of our team to get the expert

462
00:29:27.466 --> 00:29:27.866
closer.

463
00:29:28.746 --> 00:29:32.106
While you're doing that, I'm just looking for

464
00:29:32.926 --> 00:29:34.406
checking who's online.

465
00:29:36.146 --> 00:29:39.646
So we've got John Wilson from the Defense

466
00:29:39.766 --> 00:29:41.166

Infrastructure Organization,

467

00:29:42.446 --> 00:29:46.006

and you did have a colleague as well. Are they still on the call?

468

00:29:46.906 --> 00:29:47.526

Mr. Wilson?

469

00:29:51.326 --> 00:29:54.466

Yes, we're still here. We're ready to respond to any questions.

470

00:29:55.146 --> 00:29:56.346

Okay, that's great. Thank you.

471

00:30:05.646 --> 00:30:09.186

Okay, we'll continue then. Agenda item 3.4, aviation.

472

00:30:10.946 --> 00:30:14.226

First question, further to the Defense Infrastructure

473

00:30:14.626 --> 00:30:17.846

Organization's relevant representation, reference

474

00:30:18.446 --> 00:30:22.046

RR-051, could the applicant

475

00:30:22.146 --> 00:30:24.946

comment on the feasibility of overcoming the

476

00:30:25.366 --> 00:30:29.266

DIO's technical objection due to the impact it would

477

00:30:29.326 --> 00:30:31.366

have upon the effective

478

00:30:31.866 --> 00:30:35.660

operationThe precision approach radar and the

479

00:30:35.750 --> 00:30:37.890

need to maintain aviation safety.

480

00:30:39.170 --> 00:30:42.510

Specifically, the DIO noted that the areas of the

481

00:30:42.530 --> 00:30:46.210

photovoltaic arrays that may be deployed in

482

00:30:46.290 --> 00:30:50.010

field numbers two, three, four, five, 10,

483

00:30:50.190 --> 00:30:51.730

and 11 would be in

484

00:30:53.190 --> 00:30:57.170

radar line of sight to the precision approach radar when it surveys

485

00:30:57.190 --> 00:30:58.930

the approach to Runway 23.

486

00:31:00.170 --> 00:31:03.810

How does the applicant propose to avoid interference with the precision

487

00:31:03.880 --> 00:31:06.680

approach radar, and what are the available options?

488

00:31:07.690 --> 00:31:10.950

Thank you, sir. Alex Treseden, on behalf of the applicant.

489

00:31:11.610 --> 00:31:15.470

So just to start by saying that the applicant recognizes the

490

00:31:15.530 --> 00:31:19.290

importance of this matter and the need to address the concerns

491

00:31:19.370 --> 00:31:23.130

raised in the Defense Infrastructure Organization or Ministry of Defense's

492

00:31:23.650 --> 00:31:27.150

relevant representation, particularly in the current global climate.

493

00:31:27.160 --> 00:31:30.830

The applicant is therefore conducting further analysis of potential

494

00:31:30.870 --> 00:31:34.410

impacts upon the precision approach radar at RAF Marham,

495

00:31:34.990 --> 00:31:38.890

and the results of this analysis will be used to engage further

496

00:31:38.930 --> 00:31:41.130

with the MoD in order to resolve this matter.

497

00:31:41.590 --> 00:31:45.530

Most recently, the applicant has provided a list of assumptions to the

498

00:31:45.610 --> 00:31:49.390

MoD in relation to our modeling and analysis, and we understand that

499

00:31:49.410 --> 00:31:51.870

they are in the process of confirming those assumptions.

500

00:31:52.620 --> 00:31:56.610

The applicant has also sent a draft of the statement of common ground,

501

00:31:56.670 --> 00:31:59.970

which was requested by the examining authority in the Rule Six

502

00:32:00.010 --> 00:32:03.840

letter to the MoD, and as part of that communication,

503

00:32:03.950 --> 00:32:07.400

has requested a meeting with Mr. Waldron, who we have online,

504

00:32:08.230 --> 00:32:12.150

to discuss the MoD's concerns and reach a solution of appropriate

505

00:32:12.190 --> 00:32:15.070

mitigation, which the applicant is confident can be done.

506

00:32:16.570 --> 00:32:18.620

Paragraph 102

507

00:32:19.490 --> 00:32:22.590

of the National Planning Policy Framework 2024

508

00:32:23.410 --> 00:32:26.540

states that planning decisions must ensure that operational sites,

509

00:32:26.770 --> 00:32:30.280

including defense sites, as we have here, must not be adversely

510

00:32:30.310 --> 00:32:33.350

impacted by the impact of proposed development in the

511

00:32:33.390 --> 00:32:37.230

area. However, an effect can be present without

512

00:32:37.290 --> 00:32:40.700

adversely impacting on a defense site, and many types of

513

00:32:40.730 --> 00:32:44.410

development do involve factors which could alter the environment

514

00:32:44.490 --> 00:32:48.110

around a defense site without adversely affecting operations.

515

00:32:48.910 --> 00:32:52.550

The applicant's analysis at the moment indicates that whilst

516

00:32:52.610 --> 00:32:56.390

impacts are geometrically and technically possible from the

517

00:32:56.430 --> 00:33:00.350

scheme on the precision approach radar at RAF Marham, these

518

00:33:00.370 --> 00:33:04.340

would not be expected to adversely affect the operations at

519

00:33:04.370 --> 00:33:08.150

that site. As stated, though, and crucially, engagement with the

520

00:33:08.250 --> 00:33:11.610

MoD is ongoing, and the applicant is

521

00:33:11.670 --> 00:33:15.270

confident of reaching an agreed position with the MoD that leaves no

522

00:33:15.330 --> 00:33:17.840

adverse impact upon defense operations.

523

00:33:18.310 --> 00:33:20.390

I'll just hand over to my colleague, Mr.

524

00:33:20.500 --> 00:33:23.390

Plumb, for a bit more detail on the fields and options.

525

00:33:24.770 --> 00:33:25.070

Thank you.

526

00:33:26.270 --> 00:33:28.670

Thank you. James Plumb on behalf of the applicant.

527

00:33:29.130 --> 00:33:31.810

I've been working on the aviation elements of the proposal.

528

00:33:33.530 --> 00:33:36.330

When it comes to assessing the impact of

529

00:33:37.170 --> 00:33:41.050

the solar farm on the precision approach radar at RAF Marham, I think

530

00:33:41.090 --> 00:33:44.810

it's first important to clarify that thus far we've done

531

00:33:44.910 --> 00:33:48.510

initial studies based on the available information to us.

532

00:33:49.470 --> 00:33:50.710

As my colleague mentioned,

533

00:33:51.530 --> 00:33:55.270

we have requested further details from the

534

00:33:55.330 --> 00:33:59.270

DI0, and I've received recent communications which indicates that

535

00:33:59.290 --> 00:34:02.350

that should be with us shortly in order to allow us to refine

536

00:34:03.110 --> 00:34:05.610

that analysis and be

537

00:34:06.470 --> 00:34:09.430

more certain in our future engagement in terms of fixing the issues.

538

00:34:11.390 --> 00:34:13.301

Just on the initial

539

00:34:14.111 --> 00:34:15.390

investigations that we've done,

540

00:34:16.270 --> 00:34:19.650

we have identified that many of the issues raised by the

541

00:34:19.690 --> 00:34:23.130

DI0 are technically possible. This includes the radar

542

00:34:23.170 --> 00:34:26.290

reflections, which I think are a key part of their concern.

543

00:34:27.710 --> 00:34:31.571

So they are geometrically possible, but I think the question then comes as

544

00:34:31.630 --> 00:34:34.739

to whether there would be an operational impact from

545

00:34:34.770 --> 00:34:37.571

that. As mentioned, you can have

546

00:34:38.970 --> 00:34:42.670

reflections without them adversely affecting the radar operation.

547

00:34:44.390 --> 00:34:45.210

Further from this,

548

00:34:46.630 --> 00:34:49.071

looking at the analysis that we've done, any

549

00:34:49.130 --> 00:34:52.990

reflective returns would be

550

00:34:53.190 --> 00:34:57.140

significantly weaker than the direct returns due to partial absorption

551

00:34:57.150 --> 00:35:00.080

by the solar panels and filtering through vegetation

552

00:35:00.190 --> 00:35:03.670

screening. And in addition to this, they would occur significantly

553

00:35:03.690 --> 00:35:06.570

below where real returns would be expected.

554

00:35:07.230 --> 00:35:08.870

To give an idea of the scale of this,

555

00:35:09.950 --> 00:35:13.380

the precision approach radar is designed to work with precision approach

556

00:35:13.470 --> 00:35:17.160

procedures. That is, pilots approaching at angles via

557

00:35:17.250 --> 00:35:19.850

the 2.5 degrees or three degrees.

558

00:35:21.330 --> 00:35:25.270

When looking at the site from the precision approach radar, we're

559

00:35:25.310 --> 00:35:28.470

subtending a vertical angle of approximately 0.3 degrees.

560

00:35:29.350 --> 00:35:33.270

So there's a large degree of separation between the 2.5 degrees, where

561

00:35:33.310 --> 00:35:36.250

we would expect to see planes on the lower approach,

562

00:35:37.190 --> 00:35:40.270

versus the 0.3 degrees, where we're seeing views of the site.

563

00:35:41.590 --> 00:35:42.430

Adding on to this,

564

00:35:43.390 --> 00:35:44.470

the site is only

565

00:35:45.470 --> 00:35:47.990

increasing the height at that point by

566

00:35:48.810 --> 00:35:50.650

approximately four meters, the height of the panels.

567

00:35:51.570 --> 00:35:54.070

And so when you're considering this,

568

00:35:54.910 --> 00:35:58.790

yes, solar panels were reflected, but also you would get reflections from

569

00:35:58.910 --> 00:36:02.770

other sources in the area, whether that be the ground, whether

570

00:36:02.810 --> 00:36:06.550

it be passing motor vehicles on the roads that passes by the

571

00:36:06.610 --> 00:36:10.120

section of the site in question. And so it's

572

00:36:11.050 --> 00:36:14.210

clear that there is already an accommodation of some degree

573

00:36:14.350 --> 00:36:16.650

of radar reflections.

574

00:36:17.490 --> 00:36:21.390

And the question is to what extent the MoD can, with the current

575

00:36:21.470 --> 00:36:25.370

system, absorb or deal with the

576

00:36:25.410 --> 00:36:29.400

reflections that would be present from the site, and whether

577

00:36:29.410 --> 00:36:32.650

there is any additional mitigation which would need to be considered in order to

578

00:36:32.710 --> 00:36:33.290

allow that.

579

00:36:35.090 --> 00:36:38.950

And that is what we intend to engage with the MoD on and discuss in

580

00:36:39.030 --> 00:36:40.390

our upcoming meetings.

581

00:36:44.060 --> 00:36:44.400

Thank you.

582

00:36:46.160 --> 00:36:48.960

John Wilson, would you like to comment on that?

583

00:36:53.320 --> 00:36:56.840

Yes. I think it's important to recognize that

584

00:36:57.700 --> 00:36:59.199

reference is made there to

585

00:37:00.300 --> 00:37:03.880

typical approach patterns that aircraft would be using when they're coming in to

586

00:37:03.980 --> 00:37:07.660

land on the runway. But the whole point of the precision approach radar

587

00:37:08.040 --> 00:37:10.780

is to give guidance to aircraft that may have deviated from that.

588

00:37:11.720 --> 00:37:15.099

And I also think it's important to recognize that

589

00:37:15.440 --> 00:37:19.400

although there may be sources of reflection of radar signal that can come

590

00:37:19.440 --> 00:37:23.230

back to the PIR coming from features in the

591

00:37:23.600 --> 00:37:27.440

landscape or, as was mentioned, motor vehicles or things like that,

592

00:37:28.480 --> 00:37:31.800

we're talking about a scheme here that's going to put

593

00:37:32.820 --> 00:37:35.220

solar array panels across whole fields.

594

00:37:35.540 --> 00:37:39.040

So it has the potential to cause large

595

00:37:39.200 --> 00:37:42.560

areas of reflection back towards the radar, which may

596

00:37:42.600 --> 00:37:46.200

affect its effective operation and its ability to

597

00:37:46.300 --> 00:37:48.540

accurately detect aircraft targets.

598

00:37:49.360 --> 00:37:52.700

Having said that, we are going to be engaging with the applicant.

599

00:37:53.440 --> 00:37:57.340

We will look at it in more detail with them, and we are willing to explore

600

00:37:57.400 --> 00:37:58.480

possible means of

601

00:37:59.340 --> 00:38:03.140

mitigating any adverse impacts that the MOD

602

00:38:03.520 --> 00:38:05.220

considers do need to be addressed.

603

00:38:08.760 --> 00:38:09.080

Thank you.

604

00:38:14.100 --> 00:38:18.430

I'll

605

00:38:18.460 --> 00:38:20.760

now move on to the next question then.

606

00:38:22.060 --> 00:38:24.840

Given the concern from the DIO's relevant rep,

607

00:38:25.760 --> 00:38:29.700

reference RR-051, that its air traffic control

608

00:38:29.820 --> 00:38:33.620

staff in their air traffic control tower could be subject to the effects

609

00:38:33.700 --> 00:38:37.420

of glare from the proposed development, and that glint

610

00:38:37.540 --> 00:38:41.180

or glare effects might impact on some aviation procedures,

611

00:38:41.780 --> 00:38:45.690

could the applicant explain its proposed approach to develop a glint and

612

00:38:45.720 --> 00:38:46.980

glare management plan?

613

00:38:48.700 --> 00:38:51.959

And could the applicant also cover how cumulative effects

614

00:38:53.620 --> 00:38:55.060

would be addressed?

615

00:38:56.500 --> 00:38:59.560

Thank you, sir. Alex Treseden on behalf of the applicant.

616

00:38:59.660 --> 00:39:03.320

So the MOD have been consulted regarding impacts towards

617

00:39:03.520 --> 00:39:07.400

RAF Marham and aviation receptors associated with RAF

618

00:39:07.440 --> 00:39:10.370

Marham are assessed within the solar

619

00:39:10.580 --> 00:39:13.430

photovoltaic glint and glare study, which is

620

00:39:13.500 --> 00:39:17.450

APP-176, and that study concludes

621

00:39:17.450 --> 00:39:21.440

a low impact is predicted towards the site's

622

00:39:21.480 --> 00:39:25.420

approach path for tracking panels, and the applicant considers

623

00:39:25.440 --> 00:39:29.000

that this glare scenario could be considered operationally

624

00:39:29.220 --> 00:39:29.780
accommodatable.

625

00:39:30.640 --> 00:39:34.420

However, consultation is ongoing to confirm the MOD's position, and that will be

626

00:39:34.430 --> 00:39:37.860

picked up in the discussions that have just been referenced.

627

00:39:41.820 --> 00:39:45.680

In addition, the MOD have been provided with an additional

628

00:39:45.780 --> 00:39:49.420

modeling addendum and further detail on predicted

629

00:39:49.520 --> 00:39:52.520

types, times, and durations of glare

630

00:39:52.580 --> 00:39:56.460

geometrically possible into the air traffic control tower

631

00:39:56.480 --> 00:40:00.360

that's been referenced. And that modeling addendum identifies that short

632

00:40:00.440 --> 00:40:04.420

durations of yellow glare are predicted towards sections of

633

00:40:04.460 --> 00:40:08.340

the visual circuits for both fixed and tracking panel

634

00:40:08.360 --> 00:40:12.270

options. Yellow glare is also possible towards vertical

635

00:40:12.320 --> 00:40:14.480

landing pads from fixed panels only.

636

00:40:15.300 --> 00:40:18.700

Again, though, this glare is considered by the applicant likely to be

637

00:40:18.780 --> 00:40:22.130

operationally accommodatable without the need for additional

638

00:40:22.180 --> 00:40:26.080

mitigation. And therefore, due to the short durations of

639

00:40:26.120 --> 00:40:30.050

glare predicted towards the visual circuits and vertical landing pads,

640

00:40:30.440 --> 00:40:34.360

the applicant doesn't at this stage consider that a glint and glare management

641

00:40:34.370 --> 00:40:37.340

plan as requested by the MOD is necessary.

642

00:40:37.420 --> 00:40:41.290

However, the applicant is of course willing to discuss this

643

00:40:41.360 --> 00:40:44.500

matter with the MOD as part of those discussions

644

00:40:44.920 --> 00:40:45.780

referenced earlier.

645

00:40:52.020 --> 00:40:52.760

Thank you. And

646

00:40:53.720 --> 00:40:56.540

John Wilson, if you could comment on that response, please.

647

00:40:58.960 --> 00:40:59.240

Yes.

648

00:41:00.600 --> 00:41:04.480

It's interesting that the applicant's identified that the potential effects

649

00:41:04.879 --> 00:41:08.280

of glint and glare that might be geometrically possible as being

650

00:41:09.280 --> 00:41:12.760

of low operational impact, whereas the actual assessment

651

00:41:12.840 --> 00:41:16.580

identifies the impacts as being yellow category, which is the middle

652

00:41:16.860 --> 00:41:20.660

field, which means that it could cause ocular after

653

00:41:20.780 --> 00:41:22.260

image put to the retina.

654

00:41:24.180 --> 00:41:28.030

What the MOD is most concerned about is the potential for

655

00:41:28.280 --> 00:41:31.940

any such effect, if it was to occur, to actually impact on

656

00:41:32.640 --> 00:41:36.080

personnel's ability to continue doing their duties, whether they're in the air

657

00:41:36.120 --> 00:41:40.060

traffic control tower or whether they're a pilot, because

658

00:41:40.340 --> 00:41:44.280

the report identifies that glare, as opposed to glint, might

659

00:41:44.320 --> 00:41:48.240

be possible to those receptors. So in this respect,

660

00:41:48.480 --> 00:41:51.880

the MOD does consider it necessary that there is some sort of

661

00:41:51.920 --> 00:41:55.660

management plan put in place, which if necessary, could be

662

00:41:55.980 --> 00:41:59.000

used to deal with any such effects should it be necessary.

663

00:41:59.440 --> 00:42:03.300

I hasten to say, the MOD doesn't consider it necessary for the applicant to

664

00:42:03.340 --> 00:42:06.720

be amending the proposed design of the

665

00:42:07.320 --> 00:42:09.940

development as it has been set out in the application.

666

00:42:10.600 --> 00:42:14.510

It's just to establish a provision that could deal

667

00:42:14.520 --> 00:42:16.600

with any effects should they occur.

668

00:42:16.900 --> 00:42:20.860

But we will be engaging with the applicant, and we will readily look at

669

00:42:20.920 --> 00:42:22.220

that with them. But

670

00:42:23.040 --> 00:42:26.640

the position of the MOD on this remains as stated in our submission.

671

00:42:28.680 --> 00:42:30.079

Thank you.

672

00:42:33.400 --> 00:42:37.280

Third question then on aviation. So with reference to

673

00:42:37.320 --> 00:42:38.960

policy compliance document

674

00:42:39.980 --> 00:42:44.736

APP-0440verarching

675

00:42:44.796 --> 00:42:48.276

national policy statement for energy, NPS EN-1,

676

00:42:48.896 --> 00:42:51.256
paragraph 5.5.41

677

00:42:52.196 --> 00:42:55.966
states that ES chapter seven, ecology and biodiversity,

678

00:42:57.016 --> 00:42:59.516
considers the impact of the scheme on birds.

679

00:43:00.736 --> 00:43:03.516
The XA notes that the DIO's relevant

680

00:43:03.556 --> 00:43:06.976
reference RR-051

681

00:43:07.676 --> 00:43:11.616
suggesting wording for a requirement to ensure that

682

00:43:11.636 --> 00:43:15.256
the proposed development would not introduce a bird

683

00:43:15.296 --> 00:43:18.576
strike hazard to aircraft operating at RAF Marham.

684

00:43:19.916 --> 00:43:23.796
Could the applicant provide further details to demonstrate how it
considers it

685

00:43:23.836 --> 00:43:26.936
complies with NPS EN-1, paragraph

686

00:43:27.236 --> 00:43:30.706
5.5.41 regarding the risk of bird strike near

687

00:43:30.776 --> 00:43:34.176
aerodromes? In its response, could the applicant consider

688

00:43:34.216 --> 00:43:38.076
the mitigation areas specifically for skylark and curlew

689

00:43:38.676 --> 00:43:42.096

and the siting design and management of any berms, swales,

690

00:43:42.236 --> 00:43:45.656

ponds, surface water drainage systems, storm water

691

00:43:45.676 --> 00:43:49.336

attenuation systems, including storage basins and

692

00:43:49.376 --> 00:43:51.276

channels or other wetland features?

693

00:43:53.176 --> 00:43:56.456

Thank you, sir. Certainly. Alex Tresadern on behalf of the applicant.

694

00:43:56.556 --> 00:44:00.436

So paragraph 5.5.41 of NPS

695

00:44:00.576 --> 00:44:04.286

EN-1 2023, which you've referenced, states that consideration of

696

00:44:04.336 --> 00:44:08.236

developments near aerodromes should take into account bird strike risk.

697

00:44:08.876 --> 00:44:12.256

I'll just quote from that paragraph, which states that, "Aircraft are vulnerable to

698

00:44:12.296 --> 00:44:14.856

wildlife strike, in particular bird strike.

699

00:44:15.216 --> 00:44:19.116

Birds and other wildlife may be attracted to the vicinity of an aerodrome by

700

00:44:19.176 --> 00:44:22.806

various types of development, for example, large buildings with perching or

701

00:44:22.876 --> 00:44:24.246

roosting opportunities for birds.

702

00:44:24.616 --> 00:44:28.176

It is therefore important that infrastructure, buildings, and other elements from

703

00:44:28.216 --> 00:44:32.136

energy installations, as well as environmental mitigation, are designed

704

00:44:32.176 --> 00:44:35.736

in such a way so as to not increase the bird strike risk to the

705

00:44:35.756 --> 00:44:39.406

airport for developments within 13 kilometers." So that's what the

706

00:44:40.236 --> 00:44:41.796

paragraph states. You asked

707

00:44:43.096 --> 00:44:44.956

for a response in relation to mitigation.

708

00:44:45.036 --> 00:44:48.656

So in response to that paragraph, the applicant notes that

709

00:44:48.696 --> 00:44:52.416

mitigation measures are proposed which will ensure existing bird

710

00:44:52.436 --> 00:44:54.235

populations are fully safeguarded.

711

00:44:54.696 --> 00:44:58.356

These include the ground nesting bird mitigation measures, which

712

00:44:58.856 --> 00:45:02.776

are predominantly for the provision of plots for skylark, along with the

713

00:45:02.816 --> 00:45:05.356

grassland managed specifically for curlew,

714

00:45:06.176 --> 00:45:09.896
and that's all secured in the ground nesting bird mitigation

715
00:45:10.036 --> 00:45:10.416
strategy.

716
00:45:11.816 --> 00:45:15.256
Other measures largely focus on the planting strategy,

717
00:45:15.516 --> 00:45:19.396
including the strengthening and enhancement of existing hedgerow
corridors,

718
00:45:19.856 --> 00:45:23.096
grassland creation, and ongoing management of habitats

719
00:45:23.656 --> 00:45:27.596
alongside bird box provision, all as secured in the outline

720
00:45:27.756 --> 00:45:30.256
landscape and ecological management plan.

721
00:45:32.916 --> 00:45:36.736
Furthermore, those habitat enhancements will increase foraging

722
00:45:36.776 --> 00:45:40.596
opportunities for small songbirds such as corn bunting,

723
00:45:40.756 --> 00:45:44.676
yellowhammer, and linnet, which are not of concern in regard to bird

724
00:45:44.696 --> 00:45:48.296
strike, but worth mentioning, and none of the measures would be
anticipated to

725
00:45:48.356 --> 00:45:52.296
increase numbers of large and/or flocking bird species such as

726
00:45:52.316 --> 00:45:56.296
ducks, geese, and corvids, which are potentially hazardous to

727

00:45:56.356 --> 00:45:57.016
air traffic.

728

00:45:58.076 --> 00:46:01.996
Given that populations of large birds are not predicted

729

00:46:02.006 --> 00:46:05.906
to increase, the scheme does not increase the bird strike risk as a
result and

730

00:46:05.916 --> 00:46:08.936
is therefore in compliance with the relevant paragraph of

731

00:46:08.976 --> 00:46:12.036
EN-1. Notwithstanding all of that, the

732

00:46:12.076 --> 00:46:15.716
applicant agrees with the MOD's request to

733

00:46:15.756 --> 00:46:19.216
consult them regarding bird strike hazard, and the applicant

734

00:46:19.256 --> 00:46:22.836
will update the outline operational environment

735

00:46:22.936 --> 00:46:26.616
management plan at deadline one to specify this commitment.

736

00:46:27.076 --> 00:46:30.996
The applicant understands that this addresses the MOD's concern in

737

00:46:31.036 --> 00:46:32.956
relation to bird strike hazard,

738

00:46:33.936 --> 00:46:37.706
but welcomes further comment and engagement from the MOD on this

739

00:46:37.736 --> 00:46:37.976
matter.

740

00:46:44.916 --> 00:46:46.896

John Wilson, do you have any comments, please?

741

00:46:50.176 --> 00:46:53.976

Just briefly. I think it would perhaps be premature for the

742

00:46:54.036 --> 00:46:57.386

applicant to conclude that the development won't cause any bird

743

00:46:57.436 --> 00:47:01.256

strike hazard because we don't have the details yet of the

744

00:47:01.276 --> 00:47:05.076

wetland features and storage ponds and so forth that

745

00:47:05.495 --> 00:47:08.356

may be introduced as part of the drainage measures.

746

00:47:08.836 --> 00:47:11.296

Not that we're anticipating that they will, but

747

00:47:12.116 --> 00:47:15.936

provided the MOD has the opportunity to review those design

748

00:47:15.996 --> 00:47:19.796

features with the requirement that's been suggested, the MOD is

749

00:47:19.856 --> 00:47:23.716

content that that is an appropriate mechanism to address any impacts that

750

00:47:23.896 --> 00:47:27.756

might be caused and to ensure that bird strike hazard isn't

751

00:47:27.776 --> 00:47:28.436

increased to

752

00:47:29.876 --> 00:47:33.516

the operation of RAF Marham. And we will continue to engage with the applicant in

753

00:47:33.556 --> 00:47:34.276

that respect.

754

00:47:36.136 --> 00:47:36.576

Thank you.

755

00:47:44.696 --> 00:47:47.016

Are there any further comments in the room? Okay.

756

00:47:47.796 --> 00:47:51.656

I'll go around from the person nearest

757

00:47:51.696 --> 00:47:53.536

me. Mr. Szurkowski first, please.

758

00:47:53.596 --> 00:47:55.116

Thank you, sir. Andrew Szurkowski.

759

00:47:55.796 --> 00:47:59.576

So just, it's possibly a question both for DOI and the

760

00:47:59.616 --> 00:48:02.896

applicant here, and I'm possibly saying this on behalf of most people sitting in

761

00:48:02.936 --> 00:48:06.416

the room. But in relation to the first two issues there,

762

00:48:06.496 --> 00:48:08.306

the potential

763

00:48:09.116 --> 00:48:10.796

matters relating to the approach radar,

764

00:48:11.916 --> 00:48:13.856

and also in relation to glint and glare.

765

00:48:16.296 --> 00:48:18.856

I suppose the question that arises, and I say this particularly from a local

766

00:48:18.896 --> 00:48:22.796

authority perspective, as to whether or not if both of those issues can be

767

00:48:22.806 --> 00:48:26.716

mitigated, and you did touch on this in relation to the final issue,

768

00:48:26.776 --> 00:48:30.686

which was the bird strike matter, is to whether or

769

00:48:30.816 --> 00:48:34.436

not the mitigation there is something that's technical

770

00:48:35.176 --> 00:48:38.636

or whether it's something that actually has an impact on the design of the site.

771

00:48:38.656 --> 00:48:42.624

And I appreciate here thePossibly one of the options is,

772

00:48:42.744 --> 00:48:45.284

well, you do look at the design of the site and where there are panels and where

773

00:48:45.324 --> 00:48:49.004

they're located. But are there other forms of

774

00:48:49.044 --> 00:48:50.484

mitigation, for example,

775

00:48:51.744 --> 00:48:52.984

landscape planting, that kind of thing?

776

00:48:53.144 --> 00:48:57.044

I ask from a local authority perspective, because clearly we're interested as to

777

00:48:57.084 --> 00:49:00.204

whether or not we're going to end up with a form of mitigation here that then has a

778

00:49:00.224 --> 00:49:03.144

knock-on consequence in terms of other issues like landscape

779

00:49:03.184 --> 00:49:04.744
impact.

780

00:49:05.524 --> 00:49:06.004
Thank you.

781

00:49:06.924 --> 00:49:09.004
Thank you, Sir Alex. Treflan on behalf of the applicant.

782

00:49:09.064 --> 00:49:11.664
That's a completely fair point, and one that Mr. Plum will respond to.

783

00:49:12.964 --> 00:49:14.743
Thank you. James Plum on behalf of the applicant.

784

00:49:16.764 --> 00:49:20.304
I think this is a slightly complex issue, so I'll take it piece by piece, if that's

785

00:49:20.324 --> 00:49:23.524
all right. So firstly, on glint and glare, the

786

00:49:24.164 --> 00:49:27.524
suitable mitigation, if mitigation is required on that front,

787

00:49:28.164 --> 00:49:31.984
depends on the panel technology. So as you'll know, in

788

00:49:32.024 --> 00:49:35.844
this application thus far, we've got options for either a fixed

789

00:49:35.904 --> 00:49:39.864
layout or a tracking layout. Depending on which is chosen, the

790

00:49:39.904 --> 00:49:43.724
tracking layout can be fixed with a purely technical solution, looking

791

00:49:43.804 --> 00:49:47.544

at fixing the tracking axes and making sure that at the

792

00:49:47.604 --> 00:49:49.134

times of day that we're predicting glare,

793

00:49:49.964 --> 00:49:52.774

the panels are not oriented such that that's geometrically possible.

794

00:49:53.804 --> 00:49:57.204

For fixed panels, the solution could also be reorienting

795

00:49:57.244 --> 00:49:59.274

panels. It could also involve

796

00:50:00.384 --> 00:50:03.884

a number of other measures, but those are the most common.

797

00:50:05.184 --> 00:50:09.064

Hedgerow planting or items like that

798

00:50:09.104 --> 00:50:12.964

would typically not be relevant for aviation considerations, simply

799

00:50:12.984 --> 00:50:15.994

because of the elevated view of any receptors.

800

00:50:16.624 --> 00:50:19.404

So those would be less suitable in that circumstance.

801

00:50:19.424 --> 00:50:22.404

So it's most likely to be a technical or design change.

802

00:50:24.024 --> 00:50:26.124

On the precision approach radar side,

803

00:50:26.944 --> 00:50:30.424

I think, again, it's unlikely that any sort of

804

00:50:30.664 --> 00:50:32.474

planting would be particularly beneficial.

805

00:50:32.604 --> 00:50:36.464

As much as planting can reduce the strength of reflective arrays,

806

00:50:37.344 --> 00:50:41.104

we do already have some planting on that boundary, and clearly if

807

00:50:41.224 --> 00:50:44.814

the concerns are still there, then we might need to look at other matters as

808

00:50:44.864 --> 00:50:45.824

well.

809

00:50:46.704 --> 00:50:48.904

On that front, it's likely, again, to be a technical

810

00:50:50.044 --> 00:50:53.564

change, whether that's something that we work with the MOD to implement

811

00:50:54.484 --> 00:50:58.464

on radar side, whether it's something that we can implement on

812

00:50:58.504 --> 00:50:58.924

the site.

813

00:50:59.864 --> 00:51:02.084

That's yet to be determined through discussions.

814

00:51:02.204 --> 00:51:04.784

But I think it would be unlikely to have knock-on effects.

815

00:51:09.304 --> 00:51:09.664

Thank you.

816

00:51:10.684 --> 00:51:14.544

Sir Andrew Sherratt once again. Can I just ask whether the DIO have any sort of

817

00:51:15.864 --> 00:51:18.624

comment on that? I just mean typically at the moment, rather than

necessarily in

818

00:51:18.664 --> 00:51:22.124

response to the specific issues. It'd just be interesting to hear their perspective

819

00:51:22.184 --> 00:51:25.644

in terms of how typically you might actually mitigate these issues from their

820

00:51:25.664 --> 00:51:26.104

perspective.

821

00:51:26.144 --> 00:51:27.664

Yeah. Thank you. John Wilson.

822

00:51:29.504 --> 00:51:33.284

So with respect to the glint and glare issue, as I stated, we've not

823

00:51:33.364 --> 00:51:37.204

identified there's a need for the proposed design to be altered.

824

00:51:37.964 --> 00:51:41.624

I would agree with what Mr. Plum has said, that it would

825

00:51:41.664 --> 00:51:45.644

primarily be measures that could be applied later on if an impact

826

00:51:45.664 --> 00:51:48.144

were to occur. It might be, for example,

827

00:51:48.964 --> 00:51:49.484

covering up

828

00:51:50.424 --> 00:51:54.064

particular panels at a particular time of day, or it could be a technical

829

00:51:54.104 --> 00:51:56.204

adjustment to the alignment of panels.

830

00:51:56.364 --> 00:51:57.184
So,

831
00:51:58.104 --> 00:52:01.984
that's what we would expect a management plan to perhaps provide

832
00:52:02.024 --> 00:52:04.904
provision for if an impact were to occur.

833
00:52:06.664 --> 00:52:07.784
With respect to

834
00:52:09.544 --> 00:52:13.264
addressing the impacts of multipath reflections to the precision
approach

835
00:52:13.344 --> 00:52:17.064
radar, the applicant hasn't actually put forward any

836
00:52:17.124 --> 00:52:19.024
specific mitigation measures yet.

837
00:52:19.084 --> 00:52:21.084
That's something we would need to explore with them.

838
00:52:21.164 --> 00:52:25.024
In terms of what we've seen used to address this in other

839
00:52:25.044 --> 00:52:29.004
cases, it's normally taken the form of some sort of shielding

840
00:52:29.144 --> 00:52:33.084
structure, something like perhaps an earthen bund, or

841
00:52:33.144 --> 00:52:33.764
it could be

842
00:52:34.864 --> 00:52:36.184
some sort of wall

843
00:52:37.084 --> 00:52:38.864

that is put in front of the

844

00:52:40.024 --> 00:52:43.344

sections of the arrays that you identify as

845

00:52:43.964 --> 00:52:47.904

being in a line of sight to the PR that could cause reflections

846

00:52:47.944 --> 00:52:51.504

back to it. That would absorb those

847

00:52:52.684 --> 00:52:54.984

transmissions and prevent them being reflected back.

848

00:52:55.864 --> 00:52:59.664

Depending on the size that they would need to be, it's possible

849

00:52:59.723 --> 00:53:02.864

that could be of relevance in considering other aspects of the

850

00:53:03.564 --> 00:53:07.404

development, such as visual amenity and so forth.

851

00:53:07.524 --> 00:53:11.184

But really, we don't know yet what that might entail, and we would have to

852

00:53:11.204 --> 00:53:13.284

discuss that with the applicant.

853

00:53:14.564 --> 00:53:18.504

The suggestion of a technical mitigation to the precision approach

854

00:53:18.564 --> 00:53:22.524

radar, that's not something we've ever had any experience of,

855

00:53:22.564 --> 00:53:26.384

and I'm not aware what that would entail or whether it would be possible.

856

00:53:27.044 --> 00:53:30.744

If that was proposed, we would have to explore what that is and whether we

857

00:53:30.764 --> 00:53:34.044

consider that it would be feasible and effective.

858

00:53:35.824 --> 00:53:38.904

Sir, forgive me. Would it be all right if I came in on this point?

859

00:53:39.084 --> 00:53:39.504

Yeah. Sorry.

860

00:53:39.584 --> 00:53:40.504

Sorry. No, no.

861

00:53:40.824 --> 00:53:43.364

I was hearing the speaker again and looking at the wrong person.

862

00:53:43.854 --> 00:53:46.024

Sorry. Yeah. I'm sorry, I'm conscious there are a couple of points-

863

00:53:46.184 --> 00:53:46.254

Yeah

864

00:53:46.804 --> 00:53:48.764

... still to be raised in this matter, and I don't want to cut across them.

865

00:53:48.844 --> 00:53:52.754

But I'm conscious we're slightly in danger of getting into the

866

00:53:52.804 --> 00:53:56.304

weeds of the technicalities of the discussions that haven't really taken place yet.

867

00:53:56.584 --> 00:53:58.844

And that's our overall point, is that

868

00:53:59.964 --> 00:54:03.624

all of the points raised are completely fair and valid, and points that the

869

00:54:03.664 --> 00:54:07.164

applicant will consider. But those discussions need to take place.

870

00:54:07.204 --> 00:54:08.304

So we'd be grateful if

871

00:54:09.124 --> 00:54:13.104

it could be set as an action for that discussion to take place in advance

872

00:54:13.124 --> 00:54:16.474

of deadline one between ourselves and the Defense Infrastructure Organization,

873

00:54:16.764 --> 00:54:19.424

because I think that will really help to flesh out the issues.

874

00:54:19.704 --> 00:54:22.534

And as I've said, we are confident that

875

00:54:23.424 --> 00:54:26.904

the MOD's concerns can be fully mitigated such that adverse

876

00:54:26.964 --> 00:54:29.864

impacts no longer remain and their objection can be withdrawn.

877

00:54:30.104 --> 00:54:33.644

But I completely appreciate that until those discussions take place, we haven't

878

00:54:33.684 --> 00:54:35.444

been able to get into the detail of the matter.

879

00:54:37.124 --> 00:54:40.404

Yeah. Thank you. Okay. Working my way around.

880

00:54:41.644 --> 00:54:42.244

Mr. Burnett

881

00:54:45.324 --> 00:54:47.364

The other day, I noticed... Sorry.

882

00:54:48.604 --> 00:54:51.404

Michael Bennett Spall with Palgrave Parish Council.

883

00:54:52.664 --> 00:54:56.444

I noticed it appeared on the project website, the planning

884

00:54:56.524 --> 00:54:59.604

inspectorate the other day, a letter from Paul Bird

885

00:54:59.664 --> 00:55:03.064

regarding vertical panels,

886

00:55:03.784 --> 00:55:04.903

which was interesting.

887

00:55:06.744 --> 00:55:09.884

Interesting in light of other discussions about

888

00:55:11.004 --> 00:55:13.884

value of farmland and taking up farm.

889

00:55:14.304 --> 00:55:15.624

These apparently

890

00:55:16.464 --> 00:55:20.344

allege that it's possible to do agrivoltaics with it.

891

00:55:20.544 --> 00:55:23.644

Now, I don't propose to get into a discussion about that,

892

00:55:24.664 --> 00:55:25.304

but

893

00:55:27.684 --> 00:55:31.224

I would just appreciate any comment from the applicant and from the

894

00:55:31.264 --> 00:55:35.124

DI0 as to whether they've looked at this or whether this

895

00:55:35.204 --> 00:55:36.584
is a valid

896
00:55:37.544 --> 00:55:38.504
technology.

897
00:55:39.844 --> 00:55:43.284
It came out of the blue as far as I was concerned. Thank you.

898
00:55:43.464 --> 00:55:44.324
Mr. Tressiden.

899
00:55:44.784 --> 00:55:47.614
Thank you. Alex Tressiden, on behalf of the applicant.

900
00:55:48.384 --> 00:55:51.304
Similar for us, we note that the

901
00:55:51.364 --> 00:55:54.804
VBPF, the vertical panels, is an unprecedented approach

902
00:55:54.904 --> 00:55:58.224
for ground-mounted solar farms in respect of dealing with

903
00:55:58.234 --> 00:56:02.104
aviation impacts. Noting that that submission

904
00:56:02.164 --> 00:56:06.074
only came on Friday, we have undertaken an initial consideration

905
00:56:06.124 --> 00:56:09.804
and consider that there is a possibility that the alternative

906
00:56:09.884 --> 00:56:13.244
panel produced would adversely affect generation capacity.

907
00:56:13.304 --> 00:56:16.064
But we do need to look into that further, and we will do so

908
00:56:17.024 --> 00:56:20.084
in writing as part of our further consideration for deadline one.

909

00:56:21.524 --> 00:56:21.944

Thank you.

910

00:56:23.484 --> 00:56:24.504

Dr. Mark Holmes.

911

00:56:25.764 --> 00:56:28.024

Thank you. Dr. Mark Holmes, local resident.

912

00:56:28.604 --> 00:56:31.524

This is really largely a point of clarification and

913

00:56:32.244 --> 00:56:35.104

correction, please, for the applicants.

914

00:56:36.064 --> 00:56:39.244

Could all future references to curlew be

915

00:56:40.004 --> 00:56:43.774

clearly made as Eurasian curlew, as this is a totally

916

00:56:43.804 --> 00:56:47.504

different bird to the Schedule 1 fully protected stone curlew,

917

00:56:48.744 --> 00:56:52.724

whose protection has not been fully addressed yet by the applicant.

918

00:56:54.044 --> 00:56:58.004

So I think going forward, it must be that any reference to curlew mitigation

919

00:56:58.384 --> 00:57:01.824

actually states Eurasian curlew mitigation, with all

920

00:57:01.864 --> 00:57:05.724

respect. And at the same time, that does throw into play

921

00:57:06.164 --> 00:57:09.184

the point that stone curlews, which have been

922

00:57:10.584 --> 00:57:14.404

found to be present on the site in 2025 and appear to be breeding on the

923

00:57:14.444 --> 00:57:18.224

site, they have good evidence to support that, as I put my

924

00:57:18.274 --> 00:57:22.144

case out yesterday. This has not been covered by the ecological survey,

925

00:57:22.564 --> 00:57:26.384

which is why Natural England may have given you the go-ahead, but

926

00:57:27.044 --> 00:57:29.584

unfortunately, Natural England haven't got that information.

927

00:57:30.344 --> 00:57:33.924

So they need to have that information, and the whole situation about stone

928

00:57:33.984 --> 00:57:36.943

curlews needs to be looked at because it hasn't been covered properly in your

929

00:57:37.004 --> 00:57:38.404

ecological survey thus far.

930

00:57:39.384 --> 00:57:39.764

Thank you.

931

00:57:41.444 --> 00:57:42.774

Thank you. Mr. Tressiden.

932

00:57:42.814 --> 00:57:44.584

Thank you. Alex Tressiden on behalf of the applicant.

933

00:57:44.924 --> 00:57:48.464

Noted and point taken, and thank you for the clarification regarding the reference

934

00:57:48.473 --> 00:57:52.324
to curlews. I'm conscious of keeping us to the agenda item we're on
in

935
00:57:52.344 --> 00:57:56.044
relation to aviation and therefore propose to address points in

936
00:57:56.064 --> 00:57:59.904
relation to assessment of curlew and ecology and biodiversity

937
00:57:59.924 --> 00:58:00.634
as part of our-

938
00:58:00.704 --> 00:58:01.603
Sorry. Eurasian curlew

939
00:58:01.624 --> 00:58:02.354
... Eurasian curlew. Fair.

940
00:58:02.364 --> 00:58:03.104
And stone curlew.

941
00:58:03.324 --> 00:58:04.144
Fair enough. Both of them,

942
00:58:04.944 --> 00:58:08.784
in writing as part of our full response to relevant representations
at deadline

943
00:58:08.824 --> 00:58:08.984
one.

944
00:58:10.864 --> 00:58:11.184
Thank you.

945
00:58:11.684 --> 00:58:11.964
Thank you.

946
00:58:12.804 --> 00:58:13.144
Thank you.

947

00:58:14.264 --> 00:58:16.084
Yeah. James Wild, MP.

948
00:58:17.604 --> 00:58:21.244
Thank you very much, sir. I think it's important we recognize the strategic

949
00:58:21.364 --> 00:58:25.344
national security importance of the base at RAF Marham, home of the

950
00:58:25.764 --> 00:58:29.664
UK Lightning Force F-35 fast jets, and I declare an interest

951
00:58:29.684 --> 00:58:32.944
as a former special advisor to the Secretary of State for

952
00:58:33.624 --> 00:58:37.064
Defence. So in my view, the MOD are the subject matter

953
00:58:37.384 --> 00:58:40.364
experts here on the impact that this could have on those

954
00:58:40.504 --> 00:58:43.884
F-35 jets and the radar in particular.

955
00:58:44.244 --> 00:58:47.904
I had a question, sir, which I hope might be able to put to the Defence

956
00:58:47.964 --> 00:58:51.784
Infrastructure Organization, of how common is it for the DIO to

957
00:58:51.824 --> 00:58:55.644
oppose a solar project on the basis of the impact

958
00:58:55.684 --> 00:58:59.544
on radar? Have they done that before, or is this unprecedented?
Thank you.

959
00:59:00.504 --> 00:59:00.864
Thank you.

960

00:59:02.124 --> 00:59:03.964

Mr. Jonathan Wilson.

961

00:59:06.864 --> 00:59:10.244

Yes, we have objected to solar farms before because they've

962

00:59:10.424 --> 00:59:13.784

impacted on radar. We had to deal with a

963

00:59:14.024 --> 00:59:17.744

scheme in the vicinity of RNAS Culdrose in Somerset,

964

00:59:18.224 --> 00:59:22.184

where a fixed solar array was going to be in full line of sight

965

00:59:22.224 --> 00:59:25.964

of the precision approach radar there, and it was necessary for that to be

966

00:59:26.004 --> 00:59:29.924

mitigated to ensure it wouldn't cause multipath reflections

967

00:59:30.024 --> 00:59:32.104

and affect the performance of the radar.

968

00:59:33.524 --> 00:59:36.634

Other than that, I don't think we've had to deal with a planning

969

00:59:36.704 --> 00:59:40.514

application where a solar farm has affected a precision

970

00:59:40.544 --> 00:59:41.324

approach radar.

971

00:59:44.524 --> 00:59:47.924

Could I just ask what the mitigations were that were put in place in that instance,

972

00:59:48.044 --> 00:59:48.324

please?

973

00:59:48.964 --> 00:59:50.604

Thank you. Mr. Wilson.

974

00:59:53.424 --> 00:59:56.844

The mitigation was an earthen bund, which was

975

00:59:57.904 --> 01:00:01.814

constructed along the boundary of the solar farm between it and

976

01:00:01.884 --> 01:00:05.704

the air base, and it was designed to have sufficient height so it

977

01:00:05.724 --> 01:00:09.704

would screen the arrays from the line

978

01:00:09.724 --> 01:00:11.744

of sight of the precision approach radar.

979

01:00:14.484 --> 01:00:15.704

Thank you. Mr. Tressiden.

980

01:00:16.724 --> 01:00:19.294

Thank you, sir. Alex Tressiden on behalf of the applicant.

981

01:00:19.744 --> 01:00:23.724

I'm at risk of repeating myself here, but all of these mitigation points we

982

01:00:23.784 --> 01:00:27.684

are happy to discuss with the MOD as part of those discussions that I've referenced

983

01:00:27.724 --> 01:00:29.644

that will take place before deadline one.

984

01:00:30.044 --> 01:00:33.674

It is our position that after those discussions take place and as further

985

01:00:34.044 --> 01:00:37.464

analysis is undertaken, we will be able to reach a solution of

appropriate

986

01:00:37.524 --> 01:00:41.474

mitigation, which the applicant is confident can be done during the course of the

987

01:00:41.524 --> 01:00:42.064

examination.

988

01:00:43.424 --> 01:00:44.064

Okay. Thank you.

989

01:00:45.564 --> 01:00:47.756

Doc-Dr. Mark Holmes.

990

01:00:48.756 --> 01:00:51.516

Thank you, sir. Dr. Mark Holmes, local resident.

991

01:00:52.016 --> 01:00:55.916

Just for the benefit of the whole room, in lay terms, could you actually

992

01:00:56.316 --> 01:00:59.596

explain to us what you feel would be the likely mitigation required,

993

01:01:00.016 --> 01:01:03.976

especially considering they've talked about six fields, almost the best part of

994

01:01:04.056 --> 01:01:07.296

half of your solar farm needs to be mitigated.

995

01:01:07.416 --> 01:01:10.296

Could you please try and explain what you feel will need to be done?

996

01:01:12.036 --> 01:01:12.356

Thank you.

997

01:01:12.416 --> 01:01:15.056

Mr. Plumb, you intending to answer that?

998

01:01:15.096 --> 01:01:16.796

Thank you. James Plumb on behalf of the applicant.

999

01:01:17.696 --> 01:01:21.476

I think I would be wary of straying too much into the technical details at this

1000

01:01:21.556 --> 01:01:25.056

point, bearing in mind that we do still need to discuss the matter with the MOD,

1001

01:01:25.196 --> 01:01:28.156

and any solution would have to be agreed with them.

1002

01:01:28.936 --> 01:01:32.636

So I think there are a range of solutions that we could look at.

1003

01:01:33.696 --> 01:01:37.356

I went over some of those earlier. And I think we can leave it there until

1004

01:01:37.416 --> 01:01:39.976

we speak with the MOD, and we can come back in writing.

1005

01:01:40.536 --> 01:01:41.096

Okay, thank you.

1006

01:01:42.616 --> 01:01:45.316

Any further questions in the room?

1007

01:01:49.456 --> 01:01:52.276

Julie Barrow. For the Borough Council of Kings Lynn West Norfolk.

1008

01:01:52.636 --> 01:01:54.416

I'm stating the blindingly obvious here.

1009

01:01:54.776 --> 01:01:57.156

Obviously, bunds have just been mentioned, and so on.

1010

01:01:57.416 --> 01:02:01.316

The knock-on impact of those on landscape heritage, et cetera, will

1011

01:02:01.396 --> 01:02:05.216

obviously have to be assessed. So it's not simply a matter of satisfying the

1012

01:02:05.256 --> 01:02:08.916

DIA, and we'd welcome those conversations once you've got that information.

1013

01:02:09.316 --> 01:02:09.696

Thank you.

1014

01:02:18.996 --> 01:02:20.556

Mr. Morgan at the back there.

1015

01:02:27.256 --> 01:02:29.646

So, regarding your mitigation,

1016

01:02:30.656 --> 01:02:34.586

if you do have to cover up half of the solar panels for certain parts of

1017

01:02:34.636 --> 01:02:35.126

the day,

1018

01:02:36.166 --> 01:02:40.016

does that mean then it would still clarify as an NSIP project?

1019

01:02:40.676 --> 01:02:43.086

Because obviously, it's done on the capacity,

1020

01:02:44.736 --> 01:02:48.716

which would now fall below the guidelines

1021

01:02:48.776 --> 01:02:50.936

of what becomes an NSIP.

1022

01:02:53.476 --> 01:02:54.196

Mr. Tresteden.

1023

01:02:54.736 --> 01:02:57.516

Thank you, sir. Alex Tresteden on behalf of the applicant.

1024

01:02:57.816 --> 01:03:01.616

The definition of an NSIP refers to the installed capacity of a solar

1025

01:03:01.676 --> 01:03:05.176

farm, and therefore, this would still be compliant even if panels were covered up

1026

01:03:05.196 --> 01:03:08.566

at certain times. But just to note that that has not yet been agreed as part of the

1027

01:03:08.596 --> 01:03:12.216

mitigation. This is what will be discussed with the MOD, and

1028

01:03:12.536 --> 01:03:14.796

that's where we'll be able to speak more

1029

01:03:15.676 --> 01:03:19.545

certainly about the mitigation proposed once we have the discussions, and

1030

01:03:19.596 --> 01:03:23.066

completely agreeing with the point made by Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough

1031

01:03:23.096 --> 01:03:26.916

Council about the need to assess based on what that mitigation ends up

1032

01:03:26.956 --> 01:03:27.176

being.

1033

01:03:28.256 --> 01:03:28.816

Okay, thank you.

1034

01:03:30.236 --> 01:03:31.156

Dr. Mark Holmes.

1035

01:03:32.216 --> 01:03:35.516

Sorry to sort of repeat my point, but could we please have some lay

1036

01:03:35.736 --> 01:03:39.716

clarification for the room exactly what a bund would look like, how big a

1037

01:03:39.756 --> 01:03:43.716

structure, so we can start to work out the impact on

1038

01:03:44.496 --> 01:03:47.276

landscape, the impact on environment, on wildlife?

1039

01:03:48.256 --> 01:03:49.816

Could you please give us some ideas?

1040

01:03:50.336 --> 01:03:52.696

I think that's appropriate to ask that question.

1041

01:03:52.736 --> 01:03:53.896

Thank you. Mr. Tresteden.

1042

01:03:55.056 --> 01:03:56.966

Thank you. Alex Tresteden on behalf of the applicant.

1043

01:03:57.276 --> 01:03:59.016

I appreciate this isn't going to be a popular answer.

1044

01:03:59.096 --> 01:04:02.996

I do think that conversation is premature until the discussions happen and until

1045

01:04:03.156 --> 01:04:06.856

design takes place because we don't know yet of what mitigation will

1046

01:04:06.896 --> 01:04:10.866

comprise, and therefore, it's slightly futile to get into the detail and weeds

1047

01:04:10.896 --> 01:04:13.736

of what the bunds might be when we don't even know that they will be in place yet.

1048

01:04:15.896 --> 01:04:19.636

Thank you for your answer, but could you let us all know as soon as you have the

1049

01:04:19.676 --> 01:04:21.336

information at the earliest opportunity?

1050

01:04:21.596 --> 01:04:22.456

Absolutely, we will do.

1051

01:04:22.476 --> 01:04:23.636

Thank you.

1052

01:04:26.265 --> 01:04:27.895

Okay. I'm not seeing any other ...

1053

01:04:29.896 --> 01:04:31.196

I am seeing another hand in the room.

1054

01:04:32.136 --> 01:04:32.736

Mr. Bennett.

1055

01:04:33.996 --> 01:04:34.336

Yes.

1056

01:04:35.396 --> 01:04:38.636

Michael Bennett, Spall with Palgrove Parish Council.

1057

01:04:40.856 --> 01:04:44.376

I've been retired three years, but before that,

1058

01:04:45.636 --> 01:04:47.796

I built quite a lot of earth bunds

1059

01:04:48.876 --> 01:04:49.416

around

1060

01:04:50.336 --> 01:04:51.176

farm buildings

1061

01:04:52.256 --> 01:04:55.436

to prevent noise and obviously for

1062

01:04:56.276 --> 01:04:58.096
mitigating landscape effects.

1063

01:04:58.996 --> 01:05:02.376
So you could say today I'm a bit of a poacher turned gamekeeper.

1064

01:05:03.056 --> 01:05:03.636
But anyway,

1065

01:05:04.976 --> 01:05:06.986
what I would say is that

1066

01:05:08.376 --> 01:05:12.226
I've just looked at a map and you're talking a

1067

01:05:12.256 --> 01:05:16.066
very long earth bund, if we're talking what I think we're talking
about,

1068

01:05:16.416 --> 01:05:20.016
along River Road that goes along the whole of the

1069

01:05:20.056 --> 01:05:20.536
eastern

1070

01:05:21.576 --> 01:05:22.816
length of the

1071

01:05:24.536 --> 01:05:25.216
proposal.

1072

01:05:26.156 --> 01:05:30.066
And that bund would probably need to be, by the looks of things,

1073

01:05:30.196 --> 01:05:32.376
four to four and a half meters high,

1074

01:05:33.456 --> 01:05:36.796
which would have probably something like a 10 to

1075

01:05:37.396 --> 01:05:41.076

20-meter base to create the bund, depending on the

1076

01:05:41.176 --> 01:05:41.556

earth.

1077

01:05:43.156 --> 01:05:47.056

I'm just saying this, sir,

1078

01:05:47.136 --> 01:05:50.596

for the purposes of people who are not familiar with this sort of

1079

01:05:50.636 --> 01:05:54.596

construction in the room. We are talking about a massive

1080

01:05:54.716 --> 01:05:57.616

amount of earth shifting to do that.

1081

01:05:58.356 --> 01:06:00.956

So what we're talking about here is

1082

01:06:01.056 --> 01:06:04.576

major impact on landscape,

1083

01:06:05.156 --> 01:06:06.316

on biodiversity,

1084

01:06:07.156 --> 01:06:08.236

on the function of the

1085

01:06:09.136 --> 01:06:12.936

whole project, as I would say. And I would say that

1086

01:06:13.136 --> 01:06:16.316

in many ways, sir, you need to go away and actually

1087

01:06:17.276 --> 01:06:17.676

consider

1088

01:06:18.756 --> 01:06:20.776
whether in fact this application

1089
01:06:21.576 --> 01:06:23.576
is worth continuing. Thank you.

1090
01:06:24.636 --> 01:06:25.316
Mr. Tresteden.

1091
01:06:25.836 --> 01:06:28.396
Thank you, sir. Alex Tresteden on behalf of the applicant.

1092
01:06:28.696 --> 01:06:32.656
We are into the realms of pure speculation about the mitigation
measures

1093
01:06:32.716 --> 01:06:36.576
yet. As I will reiterate, we have not yet discussed these in full
with the

1094
01:06:36.636 --> 01:06:40.516
MOD, which we will do, and it is at that point, once the mitigation
is agreed, that

1095
01:06:40.556 --> 01:06:44.306
we will know the parameters and the assessments required to ensure
compliance with

1096
01:06:44.356 --> 01:06:48.276
them. Any talk of such large bunds is completely premature at this
stage.

1097
01:06:49.436 --> 01:06:49.896
Thank you

1098
01:06:53.451 --> 01:06:56.451
No more hands in the room. Any hands online?

1099
01:07:01.052 --> 01:07:02.111
No, in that case-

1100
01:07:03.051 --> 01:07:03.351

Sorry.

1101

01:07:04.811 --> 01:07:05.952

Mr. Morgan at the back.

1102

01:07:07.811 --> 01:07:09.531

Yeah, sorry. Can I just respond to the

1103

01:07:10.691 --> 01:07:13.811

capacity? You're saying it's the capacity of the solar

1104

01:07:13.891 --> 01:07:14.771

farm

1105

01:07:15.591 --> 01:07:16.511

for the NSIP?

1106

01:07:18.531 --> 01:07:21.072

Yes, the director, the solicitor, sorry, I've forgotten your name.

1107

01:07:21.572 --> 01:07:23.011

Yeah, the installed capacity. Yeah.

1108

01:07:23.412 --> 01:07:24.351

No, it's not actually.

1109

01:07:25.612 --> 01:07:26.912

According to the government,

1110

01:07:28.171 --> 01:07:30.912

it's saying that NSIP projects, infrastructure projects,

1111

01:07:31.811 --> 01:07:32.331

it is

1112

01:07:33.991 --> 01:07:35.412

the generating capacity,

1113

01:07:36.272 --> 01:07:37.391

not the capacity.

1114
01:07:38.711 --> 01:07:40.211
So it's what you actually generate.

1115
01:07:43.351 --> 01:07:47.252
So if you're covering half the solar panels at certain times of the

1116
01:07:47.331 --> 01:07:47.671
day,

1117
01:07:48.731 --> 01:07:52.191
you will not be generating that capacity in any sense.

1118
01:07:55.611 --> 01:07:57.531
Thank you. Alex Tregoning on behalf of the applicant.

1119
01:07:57.832 --> 01:08:00.911
It is the generating capacity of what has been installed.

1120
01:08:00.972 --> 01:08:02.851
That's what I refer to by installed capacity.

1121
01:08:02.891 --> 01:08:06.711
So it absolutely will still constitute a nationally significant
infrastructure

1122
01:08:06.752 --> 01:08:09.811
project, even in the scenario that these panels are removed.

1123
01:08:10.191 --> 01:08:13.231
I'm happy to set out that position in full in writing with reference
to the policy,

1124
01:08:13.572 --> 01:08:16.391
but it is the installed capacity.

1125
01:08:17.972 --> 01:08:18.552
Okay, thanks.

1126
01:08:20.411 --> 01:08:24.293
Thank you. So I'm going to adjourn for lunch then.

1127

01:08:24.851 --> 01:08:28.592

I propose that we have 53 minutes for

1128

01:08:28.651 --> 01:08:32.491

lunch, and we return at 2:00.

1129

01:08:32.531 --> 01:08:36.471

So let's see everybody then, and we'll be on agenda item 3.5,

1130

01:08:36.552 --> 01:08:40.212

landscape and visual, at 2:00.