



Planning Inspectorate
Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

Hearing Transcript

Project:	East Pye Solar
Hearing:	Recording of Preliminary Meeting (PM) – Part 2
Date:	15 September 2026

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FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:13:14 - 00:00:15:11

Thank you, everyone. Please settle down. Thank you.

00:00:18:16 - 00:00:29:15

For this agenda item, it will be useful to have appendix D of our rule six letter in front of you, and we're dealing with the draft examination timetable under agenda item four.

00:00:31:19 - 00:00:34:08

Can the applicant please share this on the screen?

00:00:38:06 - 00:00:56:22

Thank you very much. This annex sets out the proposed examination timetable including deadlines for written submissions and dates for hearings. It also includes dates for the examining authority to issue documents such as our written questions.

00:00:59:20 - 00:01:11:18

And kind note for the avoidance of any doubt that when we publish a deadline, we mean for the documents to be present at submitted by eleven fifty nine pm on the date of the deadline.

00:01:26:09 - 00:01:59:21

In the interest of efficiency, I don't intend to go through the draft timetable in its entirety, but I will highlight some key parts of the draft timetable. We have decided to hold two open floor hearings at an early stage of the examination to allow parties who wish to do so and who have registered to orally set out their views on the proposed development. Following the start of the examination, we will therefore hold our first open floor hearing this afternoon at two pm at this venue.

00:02:00:17 - 00:02:06:27

We will hold our second open floor hearing tomorrow also at this venue at ten am.

00:02:08:24 - 00:02:24:05

We propose holding a third open floor hearing if required in the week commencing the sixteenth of November, the same week that we are proposing to hold a compulsory acquisition hearing and to carry out an accompanied site inspection.

00:02:26:18 - 00:02:45:12

This week, we will also be holding the first issue specific hearing at this venue starting on Wednesday afternoon and continuing Thursday morning, which will include discussion on the scope of the proposed development, site selection and alternatives and the applicant's case for compulsory acquisition.

00:02:47:14 - 00:03:00:04

As soon as possible after this week's events, we will be publishing our Rule eight letter, which will finalize the examination timetable and the examining authorities' initial written questions.

00:03:03:24 - 00:03:23:09

Moving on to deadline one, which is timetable for Tuesday, the sixth of October. This includes a deadline for responses to the examining authorities' initial risk and questions along with the submission of local impact reports by the local authorities and written representations from any interested party.

00:03:26:07 - 00:03:54:00

As explained earlier, an accompanied site inspection is scheduled for week commencing sixteenth of November. There will also be a compulsory acquisition hearing later in the examination. We propose that these take place in the week commencing sixteenth of November. As with the events taking place this week, we propose that these hearings will be held in person, but with a link for any person who wishes to appear virtually.

00:03:56:24 - 00:04:07:21

We propose to publish a further set of the examining authorities' written questions on the tenth of November with a deadline for responses to these on the twenty fourth of November this year.

00:04:10:03 - 00:04:20:06

Further days have also been allocated for hearings if required in the week commencing the fourteenth of December. These may be in person or entirely virtual.

00:04:21:29 - 00:04:38:16

We propose to close the examination on Tuesday, the twenty third of February twenty twenty seven. Once the examination closes, no further submissions can be accepted unless specifically requested by the Secretary of State.

00:04:40:23 - 00:05:10:26

I'm not going to run through the helpful submissions already provided in writing at procedural deadline A. You have made several comments and for the benefit of the room, I will summarize each comment and provide my comments at the end. I'm first going to speak on Block East Pai Solar. I'm aware that Doctor. Barry, you wish to speak on this particular matter. If I may, I'd like to summarize the points that we've received and allow you to speak afterwards. I hope that's okay. Thank you.

00:05:11:20 - 00:06:43:10

So the submission from Block East Pye Solar comes in four points. Block East Pye Solar asked that the issue specific hearing one be treated expressly as initial high level hearing consistent with the rule six letter. And the examining authority reserved a second hearing on-site selection, scheme scope and the draft development consent order after deadline one. Block East Pye Solar asked that the rule a timetable and or the final set of examination questions identify how the following will be examined: consultation adequacy and the consultation report the overall environmental impact assessment adequacy and interdisciplinary integration material changes to the scheme after consultation deferred surveys, licenses and management plans, the Rochdale envelope, severability and partial implementation, whole life replacement cessation and decommissioning, solar battery energy storage system, national grid energy transmission relationship and project specific grid deliverability, protected species and licensing issues and water framework directive compliance and other unresolved ecological and water environment legal gateways, cumulative and in combination effects and the necessity and proportionality of compulsory acquisition.

00:06:44:17 - 00:07:37:26

Block East Pye Solar asked the examining authority to identify whether each issue will be dealt with through written questions, written representations, an issue specific hearing, a compulsory acquisition hearing or a combination. Thirdly, Block E's pie asked that the timetable retained capacity for issue specific hearings on the following, where the written process does not resolve them: consultation EIA adequacy and deferred decision making EIA environmental impact assessment Ecology, habitats regulations assessment Water, ground conditions construction and physical deliverability, aviation, major access and BESS safety, BESS battery energy storage systems, heritage, landscape and good design.

00:07:38:20 - 00:07:55:00

Finally and fourthly, Block East Piesolar requests that material new evidence should always be followed by a deadline at which other parties can make a considered response. Doctor. Barry, that's my summary. If have anything further to add, please do.

00:07:58:13 - 00:08:19:24

Thank you. The only other thing I wanted to ask was about some reconciliation of documents so that we can more easily trace where changes are, what is agreed and where issues still lie because it's very difficult currently to see across the number of and length of the application. Thank you.

00:08:20:11 - 00:08:22:21

Doctor. Perry, thank you. Noted.

00:08:24:09 - 00:08:29:08

Moving next to a submission from Christopher Humphrey. Is Mr. Humphrey present today?

00:08:31:16 - 00:09:03:07

I don't see a hand raised virtually or in the room. I'll summarize Mr. Humphrey's submission. Mr. Humphrey asked that sufficient opportunity is provided for interested parties excuse me, who are unable to attend hearings to make written representations as the examination progresses. The next

submission I want to discuss is that from Alexei Pashenko. Is Alexei Pashenko present virtually or in the room? I don't see any hands raised.

00:09:03:16 - 00:09:07:26

I'll summarize Ms. Pashenko's submission. It relates

00:09:20:02 - 00:09:51:10

Mr. Perschenko, you can speak. Thank you. Mr. Pashenko, I'll summarize your submission and allow you to speak after doing so. Thank you. Mr. Pashenko, you raised concerns about timetable and process, and you asked that the timetable must allow sufficient time for full written representations, independent evidence on the costs and all alternatives, comprehensive site inspections and proper consideration of the cumulative impacts with other solar and battery schemes in Norfolk.

00:09:51:22 - 00:09:56:16

Mr. Pashank, I hope that summarizes your points. Please, if you have any further comments to make, please do so.

00:10:05:02 - 00:10:12:28

Shankar, you have no further comments to make. Thank you. Moving next to Emile Hildreth. Is Emile Hildreth present?

00:10:16:21 - 00:10:46:25

I don't see any hands raised in the room or virtually. I will summarize Ms. Heldrith's comments. Ms. Heldrith requests a hearing be held to discuss landscape, countryside and public rights of way impacts and to raise important questions about the unresolved matters after the first round of questions. Ms. Heldrich also asked that interested parties have fair opportunity to comment on significant new information where submitted later in the examination.

00:10:49:14 - 00:10:55:07

Next, I'll comment on a submission from Carina Paunay. Is Carina Paunay present?

00:10:57:18 - 00:11:17:19

Again, I don't see any hands raised in the room or virtually. I'll summarize Ms. Paunay's comments. Ms. Paunay raised concerns about the timing of hearings during working hours and stated that timings should be varied to include evenings and weekends so that everyone who wishes to do so can participate.

00:11:20:06 - 00:11:26:17

Next, I'll summarize the submission from Melanie Barrow. Is miss Barrow present today?

00:11:28:05 - 00:11:42:00

I don't see any hands raised. Miss Barrow requests that decision makers suspend these proposals and initiate a full transparent reassessment that includes meaningful engagement with all affected communities.

00:11:44:15 - 00:11:48:20

The next comments I intend to summarize are those from Mandy Ram.

00:11:50:08 - 00:12:15:27

Is Mandy Ram present today? Miss Ram, if I may, I'll summarize your comments briefly and then allow you to speak. Is that okay? Thank you. Miss Ram noted that the timing of the hearings would prevent her from attending in person. Miss Ram asked that extra hearings should be arranged to allow for direct participation. Miss Ram, if you wait for a microphone or wish to come forward, you may then speak. Thank you.

00:12:18:14 - 00:12:26:00

As miss Ram, I'm Alison Reid from Tivotsall. As miss Ram has made the point, she cannot be present, but that has covered the point. Thank you.

00:12:27:25 - 00:12:28:24

Miss Reid, thank you.

00:12:32:00 - 00:12:37:16

Next, I will speak on a submission from Steven Dannell. Steven Dannell present?

00:12:39:18 - 00:12:55:05

Again, I don't see a hand raised. I'll summarize mister Dannell's comment. Mr. Dannell states that the timing of the hearings prevents him from attending in person. Mr. Dannell has asked that extra hearings should be arranged to allow interested parties direct participation.

00:12:58:11 - 00:13:03:12

Next, I'll summarize comments from David George. Is Mr. George present?

00:13:05:12 - 00:13:35:27

I don't see a raised hand. And summarizing Mr. George's comments, the hearings are scheduled at times when he would be at work. This would deny him the right to attend in person. That concludes the summary of comments we have received. I thank you all for your submissions on this particular matter. I understand that two people wish to speak in the room on this matter. I'll address sorry, go to Chairperson David Hook from Hempnall Community Council.

00:13:36:14 - 00:13:37:10

Thank you, sir.

00:13:39:01 - 00:14:10:05

When we registered Hebrew Parish Council as an interested party, in our registration representation we stressed the landscape and visual impacts of the scheme. In order to expand upon this in our full written representation, we have carried out our own landscape and visual impact assessment independent of the ES. There's faced with the enormous quantity of documents in the environmental statement and elsewhere on landscape and visual.

00:14:10:10 - 00:14:45:02

We have found this a massive task. We've done all our research in the field, real people visiting real paid places, taking proper photographs. It's not a desktop study. I appreciate the constraints in the timetable that there's a six month period from after these these meetings to to when you have to come to your recommendation. And so it's probably not practical to move deadline one. But with ideally, we would like deadline one for written representations to be moved along a little bit.

00:14:45:19 - 00:15:23:18

But as if that's not practical, because we've got this original material, we've taken one thousand seven hundred photographs. We've walked every single public right of way on every single site that crosses the sites or is alongside the sites. We have put we're putting maps together of our walks. We're putting maps together of our view locations, and we are assessing each view location individually, giving the reasons why at operation phase one, operation phase fifteen, things will be different from the existing landscape.

00:15:23:20 - 00:15:54:14

This is a huge task, and it's largely being undertaken by two volunteers, myself and William Walker. We we cannot afford to buy in professional assistance. We've got some advice from a landscape architect, Bill Blackledge of landscape two b consultancy. In order for that all that work to be presented to you for assessment in a meaningful way rather than as notes on paper and scruffy diagrams in order to facilitate your work and make it easier to do.

00:15:55:11 - 00:16:39:11

If we get our written representation in by October the sixth with our conclusions, Would you allow us a few more weeks to make our maps or we've got our maps, but make them presentable, select from the well, I'm sure you don't want to look at one thousand seven hundred photographs, to to pull out the photographs, the most relevant ones, to attach them to the view locations, and to do individual assessments of each view location in in a meaningful way that you'll be able to read and understand. So the written representation can be embarked over the sixth, but the supporting evidence, is there a flexibility enough for us to present that in appendices or whatever form at a later date?

00:16:40:23 - 00:17:01:11

If I understand you correctly, you're asking for a phased submission of your overall submission. There will be deadlines following deadline one. Hopefully, quite soon, there'll be deadline two and three. So you will have an opportunity to make a submission by deadline one and then also by deadline two, which may represent part two and phase two of your overall submission.

00:17:02:05 - 00:17:08:26

So would we be able to put in the supporting evidence for our deadline one written representation by the deadline two date?

00:17:09:28 - 00:17:12:25

Yes, indeed. Yes? Yes.

00:17:13:07 - 00:17:15:21

All that, thank you very much. Thank you.

00:17:16:08 - 00:17:22:18

Mr. Hug, thank you indeed. I understand that Doctor. Perry, you wish to speak on this agenda item from Blockly's Pi Solar?

00:17:28:02 - 00:17:35:15

Yes. I just wanted to ask if it's possible to have a second issue specific hearing. Oh,

00:17:38:08 - 00:17:42:15

Sorry. Issue specific hearing one. That was the point that I had wanted to raise.

00:17:42:27 - 00:18:06:11

Doctor. Barry, can I clarify? We do intend to hold issue specific hearing one this week over two two, three hour periods, potentially, certainly Wednesday afternoon and on Thursday morning and perhaps running into Thursday afternoon. So we do have quite a lot to discuss. Was your request particular of the agenda item or the end agenda coverage on this Issue Specific Hearing one?

00:18:06:25 - 00:18:55:26

It was more that quite a lot of the statutory consultees in their written representation said that they had further evidence to submit in written representation. So because site selection obviously goes to issues like ecology or aviation, etcetera, it would seem premature to decide those factors on issue specific hearing one before deadline one. And so I would like to ask, if possible, if there could be a second issue specific hearing one, once the examining authority has all of the written representations and all of the impact statements from the local authorities, that you have the full evidence before you and further questions can be asked to resolve any outstanding matters.

00:18:56:15 - 00:18:57:05

Thank you.

00:18:57:07 - 00:19:10:21

Doctor Barry, thank you. There is a second set of issues, specific hearings scheduled for December as the draft timetable currently stands. But we note your request and we will take it into consideration. Thank you.

00:19:11:00 - 00:19:44:05

But I'm just sorry, MacBook. Can I just add on that point that in terms of the process for the second set of issues specific hearings, obviously, there'll be written representations at deadline one? There'll be then comments to those written representations at deadline two. Then we will have our own written questions as the next stage in the examination. We'll have responses to those, then we'll decide based upon what issues we think need discussing at the next issue specific hearings, which matters we need to discuss at a particular hearing.

00:19:44:07 - 00:20:16:21

It may well be that some of those might go back to site selection. I don't know. Or might go back to a particular issue about site selection and and oncology. We, at the moment, don't know. But do remember that written representations are your primary. That that's the most important part of the examination, and the issue specific hearing topics are in those things that we're examining authority at

will ask for for talk or conversation on one particular issue. just But because it doesn't appear on the agenda for any specific hearing, doesn't mean to say it's not important to us. It may be that we've got all the evidence in writing, and we can come to a view on that.

00:20:16:26 - 00:20:35:12

So we won't necessarily have issue specific hearings on every topic. It would be quite a select a select group of topics, but we will decide that in due course after the process is rolled out, if you like, and after we've read all your written materials. So hope hopefully, that will will help. The other thing to mention too, I think, is the new guidance on examination

00:20:36:28 - 00:21:06:08

examinations that government guidance on examinations that came out or was it was it July or August? It was third of July two thousand twenty six. It's quite a short document, but it's it's a very helpful document setting on out the government's expectations for how examinations should now take place. It's obviously quite a recent document, and that will provide a bit more detail for you and everybody on what the expectations will be for hearings and the written process, etcetera. So I do urge you to read that document if you've not already. Thank you.

00:21:07:05 - 00:21:10:13

Cliff, thank you. Mr. Hope, keep your hand raised.

00:21:11:26 - 00:21:41:27

Yes. Our concern was that because what we're saying at deadline one needs the evidence base to justify our reasoning, we didn't want that evidence base to be ignored because it was put in later. But you have reassured us that we can put that in for deadline two. And so because it's an integral part of reasoning and needs to be assessed with the judgments. And thank you for that again. Thank you.

00:21:41:29 - 00:21:44:19

Much appreciated. Okay.

00:21:44:21 - 00:21:50:09

Thank you. Are there any other hands raised on this agenda item, timetabling?

00:21:52:11 - 00:22:27:12

I don't see any hands raised in the hall or online. My comments really in response to what's been stated is that there are many competing issues when drafting an examination timetable, including several internal deadlines within the inspectorate, which need to be built in such as the publication of notifications. As such, it's not a straightforward task to draft a timetable which everyone will be completely happy with, But we will endeavor to take all those points into consideration and complete the final timetable accordingly.

00:22:28:09 - 00:22:29:05

Thank you.

00:22:31:00 - 00:22:41:03

We can now move on to the agenda next item, which is on procedural decisions, and this will be taken by the lead of the examination authority, Mr. Cliff. Thank you.

00:22:46:09 - 00:23:16:21

You. Annex f of our rule six letter sets out several procedural decisions about the management of the examination that we made previously, and I just want to comment go through these and comment on any related matters in relation to them. I think some of them can go through in quite short form. Other ones, we might want to discuss in a little bit more detail. First of all, just a note on the use of artificial intelligence in submissions.

00:23:16:23 - 00:23:50:17

The planning inspector understands the benefits that artificial intelligence can bring to the planning system when it is used ethically and transparently. In accordance with the planning inspector's guidance on the use of artificial intelligence, if any party uses AI to create its submission, it is important to let us know. That does not include where you've used it for basic spell or grammar checks. And please refer to the inspector's guidance on this or speak to a member of the case team if you're unsure about any matter in relation to it.

00:23:51:13 - 00:24:08:23

I hope that's understood. Item two is statements of common ground. Part two of annex f of our rule six letter sets out the our request for statements of common ground between the applicants and several interested parties that listed. These are important documents

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in order to provide focus on matters where there is disagreement between parties as well as agreement.

00:24:19:14 - 00:24:53:20

So, obviously, they should help identify matters which are not in dispute or need not be subject to further evidence, but also should set out matters where there is disagreement along with a summary justifying the position of either party. And the latter should take the form of a principal areas of disagreement summary or sometimes referred in short form to PADS. So we expect a principal areas of disagreement summary to be incorporated within that statement of common ground as is so it'd be one single document with the principal areas of disagreement within it.

00:24:54:17 - 00:25:26:01

The deadline for submission of initial statements of common ground is deadline one, which is the sixth of October, and there'll be subsequent opportunities for updated versions to be submitted through the course of the examination where necessary. And final signed versions will have to be provided at the very latest by deadline six, which is the sixteenth of February. These are important documents, and they're very useful, for example, for framing what issues we need to discuss at specific issue hearings or framing what written questions that we need to ask.

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So I would urge all parties involved with these to take them seriously and spend time on them. Also, in addition to the statements of common ground, we will ask the applicants to submit an updated statement of commonality

00:25:41:10 - 00:25:46:28

throughout the examination, and this should provide an overview of the position of each statement of common ground at the relevant deadline.

00:25:52:15 - 00:26:20:26

One submission, I think, from the applicant's procedural deadline a in relation to this was we know the applicant's confirmation that separate statements of common ground will be submitted by the general aviation awareness council and Norfolk Gliding Club. Think we might have hinted that perhaps a joint one could be provided. Would you like to explain why that's not possible? I don't think it's a particular problem with the approach that you've identified. But if you can just explain why that's going to be two separate statements of common ground. Maybe it's on behalf of

00:26:20:28 - 00:26:36:20

the applicant. We're engaging with each entity in their own form, so we're having separate discussions with each. And each entity is entitled to take different perspectives, and therefore, it makes more sense to separate the house so it's more clear how each of the three parties' position sits.

00:26:36:22 - 00:26:48:03

Okay. No. That's understood, mister Yates. Thank you. Are there any other comments from anybody that would like to make on statements of common ground, including perhaps any suggestions for additional statements of common ground?

00:26:56:00 - 00:27:00:17

Okay. Yes. Sorry. There's a gentleman over to my left. If you could just wait for a microphone, please.

00:27:14:23 - 00:27:31:24

Yes, Steve Dell from Heddenham. Under Item C there, the General Aviation Council, are they representing Seething Airfield, which adjoins Block ten? I'm not don't see much reference to it. You've got the General Aviation Council and North Gliding Club, but

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there is another big airfield in the catchment area. Yes. We're we're aware of Steving Airfield. In fact, we we saw it when we did our own company site inspection earlier on this summer.

00:27:46:19 - 00:28:04:03

Obviously, they still cover general aviation matters. And if it's a matter that they wish to raise in terms of having any objection or having any agreement with the applicant, then that is something that I would actually urge them to include include within that. Perhaps the applicant could take that away in terms of matters that are expected to be included.

00:28:04:05 - 00:28:10:23

Yeah. I think just like Norfolk Lighting Club is mentioned, I think there needs to be a direct dialogue with the seething flying club.

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Yes. No. That is that is understood. And also, we got any particular questions for them, then obviously we can direct those directly to them as well.

00:28:20:25 - 00:28:26:05

Is there a link I think the question is, is there a current link to Seething Flying Club?

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Sorry, can you repeat that?

00:28:27:23 - 00:28:33:18

Is there a current connection to Seething Flying Club as there is to Norfolk Gliding Club?

00:28:33:21 - 00:28:47:00

I'm not sure of that, to be honest. I can only go on the representations that we've received so far, and I think we have received quite a detailed representation from Norfolk Gliding Club. I don't think we received a detailed representation from Seething at this point.

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I suggest we should seek one. Well, that is

00:28:50:06 - 00:28:51:29

something that we can we can consider. Thank you.

00:28:52:01 - 00:28:52:16

Thank you.

00:28:56:10 - 00:29:06:20

Mister Yates, if I could ask the applicant, don't need to just respond to that, but at that point can be addressed in terms of any outstanding issues that you're aware of with Seething Airfield. Toby, it's

00:29:06:22 - 00:29:23:15

on behalf of the applicant. It's for Seething to put in any position that they want to, and they haven't at this stage. But the applicant's been in touch with Seething Airfield pre application, and that's led to the design changes to the the project. So it's it's then up to Seething if they want to make further representations in this point, they haven't.

00:29:23:25 - 00:29:24:10

Okay.

00:29:26:03 - 00:29:30:15

Miss Bartby, I think it is who had a a hand up.

00:29:34:10 - 00:29:51:07

Yes, sir. Thank you. Anne Bartby from the General Aviation Awareness Council. We have not been asked by seething to engage. Clearly, we are aware of the changes that the applicant has made for seething. We're very happy to

00:29:53:07 - 00:30:17:07

assist seething if they request. And if I could also just comment in terms of the statements of agreement with the general aviation awareness council and the Norfolk Gliding Club. At the moment, they are separate, but I think the applicant will find that they become much much closer together than they might appear. Thank you.

00:30:18:08 - 00:30:32:28

Okay. That is helpful. Thank you. And if if they can be sort of, at some point, to be amalgamated so that they're in one document because there is agreement, then then then so be it. But I understand where there is disagreement. It might need two separate documents. But, yeah, thank you for that that contribution.

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Any any further comments on statements of common ground?

00:30:42:13 - 00:31:12:18

Okay. Just moving on. We've already mentioned local impact reports. The deadline for these is the sixth of October. These are from local planning authorities. They are important documents that set out what the effects of the proposed development are in the view of the local councils on the local area. I don't think I need to say any more about those. I suspect they're well understood by the local authorities in this case. They were obviously used to the national infrastructure process. Moving on to site inspections.

00:31:13:14 - 00:31:49:11

As has been said, we've already carried out a two day unaccompanied site inspection. A note of this was is available on the project page of the planning inspectorate website. We were able to view a good range of locations from public vantage points across all the order land. We managed go to to a lot of footpaths. We saw each of the individual sites. We didn't necessarily walk every single footpath in the local area, and we didn't necessarily see every single viewpoint. But we did a lot, and it was very helpful to our understanding of the proposed development, the sites concerned, and the surroundings of those sites.

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So that was very, very useful. In addition to this, the timetable has set out dates reserved for further site inspections. That's the week beginning the sixteenth

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of

00:32:00:08 - 00:32:29:05

November. And we want these to be first we will do further unaccompanied site inspections during the examination. We won't publicize those in advance, but we will go and do them to locations that have been suggested in other locations where we think they are necessary. We'll do a note to them afterwards that will be published. But the further site inspections in November, we want to be primarily focused on those locations that are not able to be viewed from public land or public vantage points.

00:32:31:05 - 00:33:02:00

So we intend to use accompanied site inspections only when it's necessary to make an inspection in the company of an interested party, for example, when access to a residential property or other piece of private land is required. It might be possible to make arrangements for access only to be provided to specific sites as such as where they could be so they can be expected on an access required basis. For example, there might be a field that we are invited to go and view, and, obviously, the field will be owned by the the farmer, etcetera.

00:33:02:07 - 00:33:16:25

And but where our permission to open a gate and go on to the site is given, then we can do that by ourselves provided that access has been agreed. That might be possible for some site visit locations. I think and we have received several

00:33:18:25 - 00:33:54:09

representations at procedural deadline a from parties who have invited us to view the residential property, for example. And we do want to go and view sites from residential properties. And where we do so, I think for those site inspections, we should be accompanied by, obviously, the owner of the residential property, the applicant, and then I'm suggesting perhaps a representative of the local planning authority or it could even be it could even be the the the BEP's action group. What I don't think is helpful is for us to do an site accompany inspection to people's properties where we are accompanied by lots and lots of people.

00:33:54:21 - 00:34:16:10

It's not helpful really to us. And in fact, I don't think it's a good idea for lots of people to be going on to people's residential properties. But I think we should keep so I think we should keep the the group of people doing a company site inspections to be small and focused on the applicants, as I said, the owner, and another representative. It might be the local council. It might be the action group, etcetera.

00:34:17:25 - 00:34:28:28

All of the site visits that we will do from public vantage points, we're not proposing that we're going to do that on an accompanied an an accompanied basis.

00:34:32:18 - 00:34:53:20

So the applicant is preparing or going to prepare, I think, for deadline a, a draft itinerary for our site inspections based upon, a, all the submissions that have been made by parties suggesting locations, and b, obviously, points that the applicant wishes us to particularly go and view.

00:34:56:05 - 00:35:26:03

And that is to be provided by deadline one. So that needs to include the locations suggested by interested parties and at any of the locations suggested by the applicants. But perhaps if some thought could be given, and by all means, liaise with our case case team, mister Cook, etcetera, this in terms of how those are presented, it it it would be, I think, advantageous if all the locations that we need to do are on the company site inspection basis. They are done as one batch, if you like.

00:35:28:20 - 00:35:36:04

And then there may be other locations where we were given permission by the landowner to go on to the site, but we don't need anybody else's

00:35:37:29 - 00:36:19:20

anybody else to be in attendance because we simply have permission to go through a gate and go on to a piece of land. As planning inspectors, we do that quite regularly now. And then there will probably be another list of site inspections where the site inspections for public places where we can do those by our selves based upon locations that have been suggested and the reasons for for those locations. And we it may well be we can fit some of those in the week beginning the sixteenth. I don't imagine we'll have time to work to walk, for example, all the further footpaths that we will want to walk so we can do we can decide on which we do that week and which we can do later in the in the examination.

00:36:22:09 - 00:36:55:26

And bear in mind, I think, realistically, that week, we'll be having a compulsory acquisition hearing that we probably need to set at outside of day four, and we we may be having a further open floor hearing, which will be half a day. So there will only be limited time available that week for site inspections. It won't be the whole week. Mister Eads, is that helpful just in terms of what our expectations are for the draft itinerary? The only other thing I'd say, I think it would be a very good idea for you to lay liaise with the local authorities and perhaps the blockies by action group as well.

00:36:55:28 - 00:37:17:02

I'm looking at doctor Barry to see if that would be something you'd be happy to sort of because, obviously, we want to view the places that we need to view. So rather than you send it into us and then comments come in, you could have discussions in advance from those relevant parties, then that might be helpful if the councils and doctor Barry are happy to help with that.

00:37:19:19 - 00:37:29:05

Can potentially help, and I can ask other people in the steering group to help. But I think the examining authority and the applicant has to be aware that we are

00:37:29:12 - 00:37:29:27

Yeah.

00:37:29:29 - 00:37:39:28

All volunteers. I have a full time job as do many other people, and we can't be spending inordinate amounts of our time doing work for the

00:37:40:00 - 00:37:42:10

applicant. That's completely understood.

00:37:42:12 - 00:37:44:03

We have our own responsibilities.

00:37:44:05 - 00:38:05:23

Yeah. That absolutely is completely understood. And I think we're in a good position too. We've already received lots of individual representations from lots of interested parties on suggested locations. So that is a very, very good starting point. But, yeah, it's it's it's not a requirement that you're involved in this. It may well be that the local authorities are in a a better position to do so, but it's just an invitation if if you wanted to, but there's absolutely no no obligation.

00:38:05:25 - 00:38:10:26

It would be helpful to be able to see what they propose. Yes. But I think the actual planning of it

00:38:11:03 - 00:38:11:18

is

00:38:11:20 - 00:38:12:16

probably not

00:38:12:18 - 00:38:15:24

necessary for us to get involved with that.

00:38:15:26 - 00:38:22:14

Absolutely. And the applicant will submit that for deadline one, so you'll have a chance to see that and comment on that for deadline two.

00:38:24:06 - 00:38:28:16

Blair Curtis, South Norfolk Council. We would be happy to try and facilitate that, sir.

00:38:28:18 - 00:38:31:05

Okay. No. Thank you. That's very helpful. Thank you.

00:38:35:00 - 00:38:40:29

Right. Mister, it's for the applicant. You happy with that or any further comments that you would like to add?

00:38:41:04 - 00:38:50:07

Maybe it's mark of the applicant. No further comments. We've seen the procedural deadline aid submissions, and here's your suggestions today. We'll take that into account and submit the draft itinerary at deadline one.

00:38:50:20 - 00:38:56:22

Okay. Thank you. And there's a hand up. Sorry. I can't quite see it. If we can have a microphone over for mister.

00:39:20:01 - 00:39:54:13

Yes. My name is Victoria Chandler. I'm a resident, but I'm also vice chair for for Mornington Britain Parish Council. I just wanted to check that the suggestions for site visits have actually come through correctly because on the planning inspector page, the sites I put through for Morinthrop and Fritton Parish Council are still under my name as an individual rather than under the parish councils despite two emails going to the case team, one being on the fourth of September, so he's put on.

00:39:56:04 - 00:40:07:10

Thank you. I'll ask that that is rectified. Sorry, that's not been done already, but I'll ask that that is rectified so that is clear. And yes, thank you for obviously making those suggestions as well.

00:40:07:12 - 00:40:07:27

Thank you.

00:40:11:22 - 00:40:15:22

Okay. Any further comments on-site inspections?

00:40:18:16 - 00:40:20:16

We're producing Sorry, can you

00:40:20:18 - 00:40:25:06

give your name again? Know it's the Board of Directors. I'm going to do a recording of people online so they know who it is.

00:40:25:08 - 00:41:13:02

David Hook, chairman of Hemsle Parish Council. Because we're doing an independent LVIA separate from the ESLVIA, where our view locations are the same as the ES view locations, and there's a difference of assessment of level of significance of effect. We are very happy we would be very happy, and we would make the time to to visit the location with the inspectors and a representative of the applicants so that we could all justify or re give our reasons why we came to the assessment at that point, and we could see and you could make a professional judgment on who's actually made the correct assessment at that location.

00:41:13:04 - 00:41:18:06

We're very willing to do that, and we offer that at this meeting now. Thank you.

00:41:18:09 - 00:41:51:23

Okay. Thank you. I think in terms of doing on stat on-site, it can be very difficult if it's windy, if it's raining, if there's lots of people in the huddle. I think the best way is when you provide your submission, which I'm which will be very helpful in terms of what you you said it will consist of, provide justification for your disagreement in your submission, and the applicant will be able to respond to that in writing. But I don't want to go as far as saying that we'll all be going on the site together. I think when we go on-site, there's really no discussion of the merits.

00:41:51:25 - 00:42:23:29

It's really just for us to go and see. I know how tempting it can be to want that discussion, but when it's windy, when it's raining, or just when we're just trying to concentrate on a view, it's far easier that we look at that view and we'll just read what has been said about it rather than having lots of people around. So just from experience, it's better that I think for us if we if we take that approach, if that is okay with you. But I would urge you, yes, provide justification for why you think your your, you know, consideration of significance from that view, etcetera, etcetera, is different because that is what we want to know and that's what we want to read in advance.

00:42:24:01 - 00:42:49:09

Well, you. Where there's a coincidence of view locations, we will endeavor to critically assess the in writing, critically assess the ES assessment of level of significance and compare it with ours. But I mean, we just have the resource of the amount of time to do that. But we will do our best to do that on where there's a coincidence. Lots of other view locations are different, so it wouldn't be

00:42:49:16 - 00:43:08:07

Yeah. No. That's that's that's understood. And again, as I said to doctor Barry, we understand that, you know, this is not your professional job. So we really appreciate the time that is being taken by yourself and everyone helping you in terms of providing these submissions. And we do we do understand the the burden that it does have on local people in terms of having to make those submissions.

00:43:08:09 - 00:43:09:29

We're Thank you very much. Thanks.

00:43:12:19 - 00:43:35:12

Sorry, if I may. Eisen Nunn from Norfolk County Council. Just want to say that Norfolk County Council is very happy to attend a company site inspections. In our view, because there's no discussion of merits there, we're also very comfortable not to attend if, for example, perhaps we'll coordinate with the district council about whether one of us goes Like you, because we're we're we don't want to crowd.

00:43:35:19 - 00:43:44:15

I think that would be helpful if you could agree between yourselves who wants to attend, and I think that would be would be helpful Okay. For us. So thank you.

00:43:48:11 - 00:44:00:04

Okay. If we can move on I don't think there are any further hands. If we can move on to the next item, which is item five, document updates during the examination.

00:44:04:20 - 00:44:39:23

I'll just briefly go it's already been mentioned, but the the applicant will be providing at each deadline where there have been updated any updated documents to update its guide to the application, showing the most up to date version of each document. This is an important document to ensure that the most up to date versions of a relevant document are being referred to. Because it is difficult during an

examination like this where, obviously, there are documents coming in during the examination to make sure that people are referring to the most recently submitted document.

00:44:40:27 - 00:45:24:21

So it's very important to have the most up to date examination library reference referred to in that document, and we will also update the examination library to make sure it's clear what is the most up to date version of each of each document. And, I know there's lots of documents. Completely understand. It appears very complex. There's lots and lots of material to get through, but that guide to the application is a very important signposting document to make sure that everybody's looking at the most up to date version. Similarly, the development consent order, where that is updated, there should be an accompanied track change version of the document along with a schedule of changes and, importantly, an updated explanatory memorandum where this is necessary to explain any change.

00:45:24:23 - 00:45:37:22

If it's a typo, don't need it. Obviously, if was anything of substance, the examine the explanatory memorandum should be updated to explain the change, which I'm hoping is standard procedure for for yourselves in any case, but just a reminder.

00:45:42:06 - 00:46:12:29

The land rights and negotiation tracker, this is in relation to the compulsory acquisition, temporary possession matters. And again, an updated version of this where we'll I expect will be provided during the examination with a final version submitted at deadline six. I think there's a few points we've got on your land rights and negotiations tracker that was submitted at procedural deadline a, I think it's best if we put those into our initial written questions, which will be next week.

00:46:13:01 - 00:46:16:00

So I think we can wait till then for for those.

00:46:20:23 - 00:46:22:15

Sorry. Doctor Barry, did you have something to say?

00:46:22:17 - 00:46:48:24

Doctor Barry, yes. I just wanted to say about documents and updating them. A lot of the maps and plans are on outdated maps, including the works plan. So it doesn't include the long strap and bypass. Please, could the applicant ensure that all of their mapping is actually on up to date maps and also reconcile any previous maps? Thank you.

00:46:49:25 - 00:46:51:17

Thank you. Mister Yates, would you like to come

00:46:51:19 - 00:46:56:07

back to them? That'd a sum of half of the applicant. Yes. That'll be done for deadline one.

00:46:56:23 - 00:47:03:24

So will that include updated work plans and land plans just for

00:47:06:11 - 00:47:11:24

Just work plans. Just work plans. Is there any reason why it can't be done for land plans

00:47:11:27 - 00:47:12:13

as well?

00:47:16:01 - 00:47:22:23

To be a sum of half of the applicant, I'm told that it's already on the land plan. Right. I said that that data has been used.

00:47:23:10 - 00:47:54:20

Okay. That will be helpful. Very helpful for deadline one. I was also going to raise a point on the works plans and some of the larger documents that if they I have when I were open the works plans, they can take quite a while to open more so than another examinations. Now I'm not sure if it's either I won't mention my broadband supplier, but I'm not sure it's if it's them or it's just something about these documents which is taking so long for them to to open.

00:47:54:22 - 00:48:03:00

And I have read this from other representations made into the examination as well. Some things do take quite a while to to to open.

00:48:05:05 - 00:48:16:18

Is there any particular is there anything that can be done to get a a PDF format, for example, where they are because they should be able to be opened with with a a decent Internet speed fairly fairly quickly. Is there any anything that can be done to

00:48:16:20 - 00:48:50:20

help that? So it's on behalf of the applicants beyond my technical expertise, but we'll take it away and and have a look. I know there was discussion pre application around trying to have software that would allow the filtering of the different works plans, but it's obviously where substation works and overhead line works are. For example, it's quite difficult to tell on a single PDF sheet what works are going on and and where. And I also understand the reason that they're generally slower plans is because of the nature of the software to ensure the accuracy and the scope of the development of this obviously, is is tied to the works plans.

00:48:50:22 - 00:49:01:08

It's important that the accuracy is there. It's not as simple as just creating a PDF because then that risk losing the accuracy. But I'll I'll speak with the technical team to see if we can make it more workable.

00:49:01:10 - 00:49:34:00

It could be that. And I understand the reasons for providing that, which can be quite helpful given the, obviously, the overlays and and the the the hatching, etcetera. If, yeah, if a way could be done to make something that is clear whilst quicker to open, I think it would be quite helpful as the examination goes on. And the the other point and I'll come to talk to Barry in a second. The other point about work plans is, please, when you number the each sheet has the number, and it refers to whatever it might be, substation or or or or or cables.

00:49:34:08 - 00:49:58:22

Rather than just say the number of the work number, could be in brackets. Just give an indication of what that is for. Because it just is rather than to refer back to the DCO schedule or other schedule with the information in, it'd be quite helpful on the work plans to have a a note what each work number is, even if it's a shorthand note. Because I I sort of have to think, well, what's that? What I have to go and look at it, and you're thinking, it's just taking too long. So could that be could that be done?

00:49:58:27 - 00:50:30:15

There'll be eights on behalf of the applicants conscious not to sound unhelpful, but also don't want to over commit because the way the draft DCO is drafted is by reference to the works plan. So even if we did it in shorthand, that risks the the works plans don't then secure the full scope of works that need to be secured for the development, which is why those works are set out in full in schedule one with the development consent order. But we can take it away and and consider whether perhaps we produce an indicative set of works plans that aren't a certified document, but serve a similar function that perhaps

00:50:30:22 - 00:50:38:05

That might be helpful and or on the first page of the works plans or the second page, having the information there, so at least it's contained in the same document.

00:50:40:05 - 00:50:42:15

Okay. Doctor. Berry?

00:50:42:20 - 00:51:19:19

Doctor. Berry, yes. But I also wanted to make that point about putting the legends for the maps on the same page. But equally, this is a project in a very rural location, and the applicant needs to be aware that the majority of us rely on rural broadband, which has very low download capabilities. So for many of our residents, they haven't actually been able to download the maps, demonstrate a scheme which is going to impact this community. So we do need mapping that we can both download and understand in order to for the community to properly understand the impacts of the scheme.

00:51:19:21 - 00:51:21:00

And currently, we are unable to do that.

00:51:22:27 - 00:51:50:09

You. I was going to raise that later on, but let's just briefly touch on that now. There have been, as Doctor. Barry said, quite a few representations, or Doctor. Barry indicated, on the difficulty of seeing documents, availability of documents. Has the applicant got any proposals to ensure that those who perhaps don't might not have the Internet or have the Internet, but there's a very slow speed, for example, to allow them to be able to clearly see documents?

00:51:52:03 - 00:52:15:19

So it'd it's on behalf of the applicant. As I mentioned, have to speak to the technical team to see how we can deal with the current application documents to make it more workable. Just point out, obviously, as part of the pre application consultation, etcetera, printed copies of documents were made

available upon request. So I'm I'm sure we can carry on with those conversations if individuals do need specific documents provided in printed form.

00:52:15:29 - 00:52:24:12

Is there any way of having I don't know the location of libraries, but a set of the key documents in the local library people to see.

00:52:25:11 - 00:52:54:14

So it's on behalf of the applicant. Suppose the risk there is that because the examination process obviously moves quite quickly and documents become outdated fairly quickly as it were in response to feedback. You could end up with thousands of printed sheets of paper being provided at libraries that then are no longer accurate. So people rely on old information. So I don't think that's something that the applicant can commit to doing or is an efficient use of materials.

00:52:55:20 - 00:53:11:18

That's consideration being given to availability of laptop computers in libraries, which can be looked at then to look at documents for people who haven't got Internet connection or haven't don't not everybody has has a computer, you know, for example. So is there consideration given

00:53:11:20 - 00:53:29:24

to that? Yeah. Absolutely. Exactly. People are more than welcome to use their local facilities to access it if they're having difficulty at home. And let's say from the applicant's perspective, we'll see if we can make the documents being uploaded any more workable, but people can absolutely go and use their local libraries for better Internet access if that's required.

00:53:30:20 - 00:53:44:15

I mean, I've got no idea where the local libraries are and if they have Internet access and things like that, but that that that that can be a way of getting people to look at the documents via a laptop or a computer in a local library who otherwise wouldn't have access to it. I don't know.

00:53:44:24 - 00:54:18:07

It's Sir Eisenland for Norfolk County Council. We sorry. So so we run the library service. So we have used libraries as to kind of deposit locations for materials before. I think, yeah, the applicant raises reasonable points about how quickly that can be updated and the amount of space it takes up. We're happy to facilitate any kind of conversation with the library service, if that would be helpful. I think Longstratten library does have free computers and Wi Fi, they can access yeah.

00:54:18:17 - 00:54:27:01

Customers can access the examination documents just from the PINS web page in the same way as you could at a computer at home.

00:54:29:04 - 00:54:30:27

So that's at Longstratham?

00:54:31:13 - 00:54:34:15

Longstratham, I think, is the nearest library to the site.

00:54:36:27 - 00:54:49:08

I mean, that would be that would be helpful. Maybe that exists at the moment. I don't know. I'm not seeing any sort of publicity for that or any particular, obviously but would be helpful for a way of helping people going to look at documents who are struggling to see those at home.

00:54:54:07 - 00:54:57:29

Can you give your name, please? Sorry. Away from away from microphone and give your name. Sorry.

00:55:15:29 - 00:55:23:14

Not to wish to denigrate Sorry, your name first, please. Sorry. I did fine. Not to

00:55:23:16 - 00:55:24:01

wish to

00:55:24:03 - 00:55:36:18

denigrate Norwich County Norfolk County Council's libraries, which are excellent. But by and large, their Internet service is worse than at home. Right. Okay. Thank you.

00:55:47:08 - 00:56:24:13

Great Malton village. I'd just like to say when I've been looking at the plans and I've looked at one particular plot they all come under a different name, sometimes they come under PRW nineteen. Sometimes they come under CRC one. Sometimes they come under Land Parcel one. Sometimes they come under Site one, one b, one c, the BES. Nothing is consistent. So when you're searching, you actually have to know all of these different terminologies and the breakdowns that they've used to describe each plot, each PROW, and each cable corridor.

00:56:24:15 - 00:56:28:01

It is very difficult to keep all of that in your head all of the time.

00:56:28:29 - 00:56:40:05

Okay. So that's a point about sort of general labeling of documents. Misty, could the applicant take that away as well to see what could be done to make application documents as clear as possible for those people who are who are trying to find information, etcetera?

00:56:40:22 - 00:57:14:29

So, yeah, some half of the applicants absolutely hear all of submissions the being made today, suppose. Just have to raise that a lot of these documents serve different purposes as part of the application. So for example, as I explained earlier, the works plans, which are a certified document, secure specific work numbers, therefore, they're labeled by reference to a work number rather than a site. The land plans, relate to the compulsory acquisition powers that end the book of reference are dealt with by plots, therefore, they need to be labeled by reference to the corresponding plots. And you agree the host of maps that are used and plans that are used for environmental statement.

00:57:15:11 - 00:57:33:03

And then more easily, you'd hope recognized by reference to different sites or subsites as that's the language used throughout the environmental statement. So absolutely heard the concerns, and we'll consider that going forward. But just to raise, it's not always as simple as having a uniform system that can then apply equally to all

00:57:33:05 - 00:57:33:20
of

00:57:33:22 - 00:58:04:18
the plans. And just to mention as well, whilst I've got the mic conferred with the team and the application version of the documents are still available at local libraries, including Longstratten, Lodden, Pawningland, and Bunge community. As I say, they're the application versions of the documents forming part of the application. So some of those will have become updated, but they're available on USB sticks. They don't require any Internet access. And they were notified to persons part of the section fifty six process as well.

00:58:04:20 - 00:58:08:06
So they've been available for that process and still readily available.

00:58:11:19 - 00:58:18:11
Okay. Thank you. Any last comments on this before we move on? There's two hands. There's one towards the back.

00:58:20:13 - 00:58:28:29
Can we have the microphones, please? Then we can get a second Rovy microphone arranged, but maybe at some point so we can get the microphones out to people. Sorry. Victoria

00:58:33:08 - 00:59:20:28
Chandler, Moorning Thornton and Futon Panche Council. Can I just make the point that while Internet access is the issue, we also have digital skills issues? Quite a lot of residents are mature in years and are not possessing the digital sales needed to access the Internet even when they have got access to it at a maybe the long start and likely. The applicant did state that they could request the documents to be sent in a hard format but to do that you'd have to actually get access to the documents to decide which documents you needed a hard format of or you'd have to request all the documents at a cost of five thousand pounds which obviously puts some of the residents or residents through a spin.

00:59:21:06 - 00:59:29:20
So I would argue that this process is not truly equitable for those who are lacking digital skills.

00:59:32:23 - 00:59:39:27
Okay. Thank you. And there's just two more hands over here. You could make your points. Yes. Thank you.

00:59:43:01 - 01:00:07:08

Thank you. Margaret Thomas, county councilor for West Deptway. I would just like to say, reiterate reiterate the point that fifty two percent of our population are elderly and lack digital skills. If you add to that the fact that we have only a forty two percent connectivity rate across South Norfolk.

01:00:09:27 - 01:00:26:02

As well, in my division, we do not have a single library. We are only covered by a mobile service. The only access many older people have is within their village halls.

01:00:31:01 - 01:00:32:24

K. Thank you. That's understood.

01:00:34:12 - 01:00:39:09

And is there one more And oh, right at the back.

01:00:42:15 - 01:01:13:19

Good afternoon. My name is Robert Burt. I'm a resident of Brook. I hadn't intended speaking today, but I have a number of friends who are farmers. And when I speak to them, they all tell me how keen they were to consider having accepting the queen shilling for putting solar panels on their land because of the difficulty that they're having at the moment.

01:01:16:21 - 01:01:24:09

One of them put in an application, and although he wasn't sure what his commitment was going to be at the end of forty years

01:01:24:19 - 01:01:28:24

Is this in relation to what we're talking about in terms of access to documents, or is it a point?

01:01:29:07 - 01:02:00:09

No. This is this is in terms of and I'm sorry if it's in an in an inappropriate time. I'm going to ask you who it is, or would you expect to find something coming across your desk, a document, before you start your investigation from somebody looking at the appropriateness of of the whole project anyway? And if you are, who would you want to be preparing that document?

01:02:02:11 - 01:02:05:05

Okay. Thank you. If

01:02:05:07 - 01:02:18:28

I may just slight if I may just say one thing. Things seem to have moved on globally since the initial application was put in for this, and nobody seems to be talking about food security.

01:02:19:00 - 01:02:34:17

I think I'm gonna have to stop you there because I think that's going into sort of the merits of the application too much. So can you reserve that thought, please, for future hearings and written submissions? Because I think that it's about process this morning. So sorry to stop you there. That's a point. Yes. It's only not suited for this morning.

01:02:35:01 - 01:03:04:11

Sorry. I didn't mean to interrupt you, but the the point about the process is my question is, before you start your application, would you expect to have a general appraisal rather than the fine points about footpaths and views across views from residents? Would you expect to have somebody putting to you the appropriateness of the application? And if you were, who would you expect that to come from, please?

01:03:04:21 - 01:03:18:02

Okay. Thank you. I'm not gonna answer that question now, but your point is understood and taken. Thank you. I'll ask the applicant if they could take a note of that as well, please. Was there any more before we move on to the next

01:03:20:03 - 01:03:21:09

point on the agenda?

01:03:23:02 - 01:04:00:27

Sorry. That was a little bit of a sidetrack because we were talking about land rights and negotiations tracker, but I think it was useful just to sort of explain sort of and get views availability on of documents and how information is portrayed. And I think it is very important. I reiterate this that that, obviously, it's important that everybody is able to understand documents. Obviously, there are legal requirements that have to be met in the documents, etcetera, etcetera. But it's very important to make documents as accessible and clear as possible whichever ways can be done to provide for that even if they go beyond normal application requirements, and that could be could be helpful and something worth worth worth thinking about.

01:04:01:07 - 01:04:39:06

Okay. Going back to my list just briefly, and these documents that will be updated during the examination, the book of reference and statements of reasons is one of those. I'm not going to go into further detail on that now. Updates to management plans and control documents. These are things like outline environments of management plans, traffic management plans, etcetera, etcetera. Just a a brief point on this. The AXA expects that the applicant should be having ongoing engagement with relevant parties on the content of these documents so that any revised drafting can be agreed as far as reasonably possible at an early stage of the examination.

01:04:39:08 - 01:05:00:12

So I'd urge the local authorities, all staff parties, any interested party that wants to have make comments on these documents to make their comments early in the examination so that they can be not necessarily agreed, but points can be taken on board and responded to the applicant. They can be updated early in the process rather than right at the end of the examination.

01:05:02:26 - 01:05:22:24

And, again, when those documents are updated, if they are updated, clean copies and track change documents should be provided. And I think also a schedule of key changes as well should be provided where there are updates. Again, typos, don't worry about those. Just make the typos, but but key changes of substance.

01:05:30:02 - 01:05:38:17

At this point, just in terms of additional documents, I think in Lockheed's pie solar's representation section seven,

01:05:40:12 - 01:05:42:02

We've read concerns

01:05:45:18 - 01:06:19:29

section five, rather, it is. It's of the procedural deadline a submission from Block East pie, seeking further schedules, documents that would, in best view, assist the examination. And I presume that the applicant has read this submission. And what I would ask for is if you could just, mister Yates, provide just a a brief overview now. But but for the next deadline, deadline one, there is a detailed response to these requests for further documentation and that those matters are addressed.

01:06:20:01 - 01:06:59:15

Some of the matters raised is, for example, scheme scheme to powers and severability schedules, grid connection status and responsibilities matrix, consolidated maximum design and construction parameter schedule. Some of these things that it might already be incorporated or be possible to be incorporated in some existing documents, I'd but like the applicant's response on those requests for further documentation from block East Pine. Doctor Barry, do want to have to say anything else on those now, or are you happy to no. The point but the point is understood. And, obviously, I want we want a response from the applicant on those as to can they be incorporated in existing documents, are further documents required, or or otherwise with full justification?

01:07:00:28 - 01:07:12:23

Obvious on behalf of the applicants, but they don't have a response for you. Now they are being digested, and we will submit a full response at deadline one in accordance with our draft timetable. Okay.

01:07:13:00 - 01:07:13:24

Thank you.

01:07:15:19 - 01:07:32:25

The next one briefly, the applicant has provided comments on the relevant representations received at deadline one. Those are available on the website. Any further responses to relevant representations anybody wishes to make should be submitted by deadline one.

01:07:39:25 - 01:08:03:02

Just going through what else I need to refer to now. I think that's all I particularly need to raise in terms of at this meeting, in terms of those matters relating to additional documents. So moving on, is there anything else anybody wishes to raise on item five, which is examining authority procedural decisions made so far?

01:08:07:01 - 01:08:15:23

No. Okay. Thank you. So item six is for any other matters.

01:08:19:19 - 01:08:30:29

One or two of the ones I had on my list, we've already cons we've already discussed. Let me just briefly go through my list. We discussed that.

01:08:51:13 - 01:09:38:14

One other point I wanted to raise, again, reading the relevant representations and Block East PySola's response at procedural deadline a, I think it's section seven, this talks about consultation adequacy and project specific engagement. I don't want to go back to discussions about the consultation whilst we've read concerns about that. I'm not going back to the acceptance stage of the application. But I think the point that this representation from BEPS was making that if requests for information or engagement hasn't been addressed by the applicant as perhaps is being said, then I would invite interested parties.

01:09:38:16 - 01:10:11:10

You know, if you believe that further information remains to be required, which may have been asked at the pre up to date, I I don't know. I don't want to go into the detail of that, Then please clearly justify clearly set out reasons for that and justify that at deadline one in order that the applicant can respond. So if, for example, as a result of the pre application discussions, there's still a matter that the applicant hasn't addressed, then and you wish to raise that with us, then please do so at deadline one as part of your written representation. And I know that the applicant submissions are very, very lengthy.

01:10:11:12 - 01:10:35:21

I think in response to relevant representations, I think it goes into certainly hundreds, probably thousands of pages in terms of the various responses. Obviously, do try and check if that point you've made has been responded to. But if there's anything outstanding, then I think deadline one is the time to raise that as part of your recent representation. Is that understood, Aaron? Anything further? No? Okay. Yes. Thank you.

01:10:37:16 - 01:10:49:28

Do you mean that you rely on us making relevant representations and then the applicant responding to them? And if we don't then say, but they've just repeated what was already in the document in the first place,

01:10:52:05 - 01:11:04:21

there's nobody advising you that would notice that? Because that puts a a rather large burden on ordinary members of the public to even understand what they're reading, let alone that the point has been actually addressed.

01:11:05:07 - 01:11:36:08

Well, there will be matters which we will raise and some matters we'll, I'm sure, raise at the issue of specific hearing next week and in our written questions, well, we'll be asking for further information. It's just a chat. This is in response to concerns about the applicant's pre application consultation, and I've read that the concerns that that has resulted in the applicant not responding to particular matters that people think should be responded to or particular inform particular information requests. So it's just a chance. If anybody wants to make submissions on that, then I would invite those at deadline one.

01:11:36:10 - 01:12:08:05

But, yes, we are the examining authority. We have an inquisitorial burden, which we have to discharge. That is our job, and we'll be doing that as well. But also acknowledging that local residents, the local authorities, statutory consultees are experts in their own fields, have local knowledge. So, obviously, this process is about our inquisitorial approach as well as people's submissions to us. So any submissions that people wish to make on this matter are helpful. But we are we will be making our request for information as well.

01:12:08:07 - 01:12:12:00

Don't don't worry. That will be done as a matter, of course, through our written questions, etcetera.

01:12:12:14 - 01:12:47:13

Yes. And with great respect, I still am worried because people might make, for myself, example, make some quite technical points. I don't expect that English nature, for example, sorry, natural England, for example, would have the time to read all of the relevant representations and say something like, we agree this is a point we haven't seen and we want it taken up. And so who would advise you if there's something you that don't or do you simply rely on the statutory consultees?

01:12:47:15 - 01:13:26:17

Statutory consultees are obviously important to their representations because they're statutory consultees but we don't take the view that they're necessarily right what in they say. We can examine their view as much as anybody else's view, as much as the applicant's view. So we have that we have that role to be inquisitorial, you know, about the submissions made by any any party. And, also, mentioned I before the local impact reports, which are produced by the two local authorities. Those are obviously very important documents as well because they will set out to us the local planning authority or local authorities' views on the effects or the impacts of the development to us in their role as local planning authorities.

01:13:26:19 - 01:13:44:15

So those are two very important submissions as well for us. Obviously, again, they have very, you know, in-depth local knowledge as well. So those are very helpful to us as well. But we are we are inquisitorial, so we have to we have to discharge, if you like, our inquisitorial burden throughout the examination, and that could be being inquisitorial in any

01:13:44:17 - 01:14:10:26

any party's views. Understood. But for somebody making a point, they won't know what's happened to it. And I think that my concern was that if you've been given an answer by the applicant, that's somehow good enough. You're not given an answer by anybody else, and I appreciate the fact that you couldn't possibly do that. So I've still got that concern that you make a point that's lost in the noise, shall we say. But I'm sure that that's can be dealt

01:14:10:28 - 01:14:16:23

with I I understand what no. I completely understand what you're saying. I mean, this why this is why things like statements are common ground. They're quite helpful for this.

01:14:19:01 - 01:14:52:21

Our recent questions and responses to these things are helpful, and they can all be tracked through the examination library. I know we've talked about lack of internet access, but the one benefit of the Internet undoubtedly is that all the information that comes in to this examination is available on the website. Project's Responses to questions, everything is made publicly available for people to look at and comment on the day if they so wish. But I understand your point. Hope I hope I've tried to alleviate your concerns as much as possible, but I think, you know, we've got our jobs doing it. At the end of the day, we have to make our report to the secretary of state.

01:14:52:23 - 01:15:07:20

So our recommendation will be setting out people's objections and what responses are and what our view is on that. So at the end of the day, our job is really to this disagreement, we've got to give our view on do we think that complies with relevant policy or not. That will come out in our final report.

01:15:07:22 - 01:15:10:21

Thanks very much. I forgot to say my name is Ross Jarvis.

01:15:11:12 - 01:15:11:27

Thank you.

01:15:17:20 - 01:15:22:29

Okay. Anything further, Mr. Yates, you want to add or anything? Anybody? It's on behalf of

01:15:23:01 - 01:15:53:00

the applicant. Just one brief point following up on some of the discussion this morning. We've had a conversation with the University of East Anglia as a potential venue, and, it's not available due to clashing with term time. So I think where that leaves us, again, it's obviously the discretionary examining authority. But if we are to run with hearings in that week of November, I think the options are to go for a smaller room at Dunstan Hall. That's the only one that's available at the moment or to run some of those hearings at least virtually rather than in person.

01:15:53:12 - 01:15:56:15

Albeit, I appreciate the concerns of why I die.

01:15:56:17 - 01:16:09:24

I don't think there's much appetite from locals or ourselves or in person sorry. Virtual virtual hearings. I thought that the space in Norwich was an option that was available from my what I've heard or what's been fed back to me.

01:16:09:26 - 01:16:30:16

I don't know if that's Norwich football club. With So the Norwich Football Club we're following up with, but that may not be suitable in terms of the technology and the requirements there for the AV equipment. The University of East Anglia was the one we haven't had a conversation with. That conversation has now been held in the breakout, but it's not available due to the clash return time.

01:16:31:14 - 01:16:43:23

Is there a venue called the space that I thought was the one that was being proposed previously, which we did have concerns about in terms of its location? It's been said that, otherwise, it might actually be appropriate. Is that not still available? I can check.

01:16:43:25 - 01:16:46:10

It should be. Yes. We understood that you had concerns at that point. Definitely.

01:16:46:12 - 01:17:17:04

We have concerns also being comments made by others that perhaps it is more suitable than we had thought, and it is a large venue. So can you take that as I've said before, discuss with the relevant parties, obviously, our case team up to date. But ideally, would like a venue that has been agreed by the relevant parties as being suitable and available. My instinct is Dunstun Hall. If you said it's ninety people, I'd have concerns about is that going to be big enough, to be honest. I suspect it might not. I don't know. But I suspect it might not be. And

01:17:18:27 - 01:17:21:04

there's one more hand at the back, please. Two more hands.

01:17:23:19 - 01:17:37:07

K. If you can make your points quite quickly, please, because we are moving towards one o'clock when I do want to close the meeting because everybody needs a break for lunch before the open floor hearing. Wait for you although, wait for the microphone, I I say in a Hello.

01:17:37:09 - 01:18:00:29

I'm Carl Catchable. I represent the long track and division for North County Council. The space at Norwich City Football Club, there's two large rooms there. The football ground, I've used it myself in the past with my own company. I don't see there's an issue. I think you're guessing about the acoustics and stuff. Okay. Secondly, more than happy to work with the BEPS team. I know most of them with regard to going around to the land masses. And thirdly

01:18:02:24 - 01:18:04:16

well, that's actually it for now. So

01:18:04:18 - 01:18:19:01

thank you. Okay. That's that's very helpful. If for your position, you can sort of also give us points to the county council representatives' offices as well, that might be quite helpful in terms of that discussion about what is going to be a suitable venue, but that's that's appreciated. Thank you.

01:18:21:03 - 01:18:34:03

Hello? Can you hear me? Deborah Adams, resident of Hempnoll. Just to say, there is a good conference center at John Innes Centre. I have been to conferences there, and there's plenty of parking as well.

01:18:34:20 - 01:18:36:10

K. Okay. Thank you.

01:18:40:24 - 01:18:48:22

Okay. And I think there's one more hand over on the left hand side, and then there's a virtual hand as well. And then thank you.

01:18:48:24 - 01:19:19:21

Thank you. Allison Thomas, former county councilor for Longstraten. With respect, I think the applicant is airing towards having an online hearing, which is just not acceptable. And I think we need more effort on their behalf to work with interested parties and the local councils to find a venue to to discount Norfolk football club because there's a perceived problem, with connectivity, in my view, is inadequate.

01:19:19:23 - 01:19:28:17

K. They need to check that properly so that the community can be have the opportunity to attend these hearings and sit here and and hear it and see it in

01:19:28:19 - 01:19:41:16

person. Understood. And I think our and I've already said this. Our preference is for in person hearings, particularly at this first few months of the examination. So, you know, I am not suggesting it should be a virtual hearing.

01:19:43:06 - 01:20:08:18

Maybe it's on behalf of the applicant. Just to clarify, hopefully, give some confirmed, the space is still available. So if that's suitable, it sounds like we have at least one solution, but we'll continue conversations. And there's there's others, obviously, the requirements that we're having to to hit with a venue obviously come from the examining authority. We do the best we can to find suitable venues. We can't just create them if they're not available, but it sounds like the space is there, and we'll look to get that booked in if that's all agreed.

01:20:08:20 - 01:20:35:18

Yeah. I think that is agreed. Have this I think we've discussed this enough today now. I think this needs to be an offline discussion between relevant parties in terms of what is appropriate involving our case team, and it needs to be booked early on because from our perspective, the hearings have been in the timetable as a potential for some time now. So I think it's time that this matter was wraps up with a suitable venue. So thank you. Anything else? Is that there's one line there's one online hand. Would you like to introduce yourself, please?

01:20:37:19 - 01:20:48:17

Oh, hello. Yes. Peter Robertson. I just want to check that the open floor here in this afternoon later are accessible through the same link.

01:20:51:18 - 01:21:16:16

They will be accessible whether or it's through the same link. I'm looking for some nods from the back of the room, or is it a different link? The link should have been sent out previously. So you should have been but the links are available on the planning inspectorate website that you will have

can you will have access to get into this meeting. So there will be a link for the open floor hearing this afternoon. Yes.

01:21:17:20 - 01:21:19:20

I will look out for that. Thank you.

01:21:21:08 - 01:21:41:08

Yeah. Look on the website. It should be on the first project page for the East Pie website. And if you and other online participants could come maybe up ten, fifteen minutes earlier to to register online before that meeting starts. So maybe if you sort of log in, it's about quarter to two, then you'll be able to be registered.

01:21:42:02 - 01:21:43:27

Okay. Got it. Thank you.

01:21:43:29 - 01:21:44:29

K. Thank you.

01:21:48:26 - 01:22:32:16

Okay. I think we can now come to the close of the meeting unless there's any more points that want or need to be made. Thank you for everyone contributing so fully and helpfully to this meeting, both those in person and those people online. I think there's been a good airing of some procedural discussions today, so that is very helpful to us. We will reflect on what has been said this morning and our rule eight letter, which to be published probably around about the middle of next week, will include confirmation of the examination timetable and any other procedural decisions that we feel necessary to to make as a result of today's discussions.

01:22:32:21 - 01:22:50:02

There'll be a written note and recording of the proceedings today available on the project page of the website. And for any other administrative queries that you may have, I'm sure a member of the case team in attendance today will be able to help you with those.

01:22:55:21 - 01:23:17:10

Open floor hearing one will continue at or start at two PM this afternoon, and there's, of course, another open floor hearing taking place in this venue tomorrow morning, staying starting at ten AM. Thank you, everybody, and we look forward to working with everyone during the examination. The preliminary meeting is now closed. Thank you.