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Date: 1st May 2026

Written Summary of Oral Submission by Babergh District Council & Mid Suffolk District Council

Issue Specific Hearing 2, Tuesday 28 April Day 1, Part 1

00:27:05:27

Good morning, sir. Thank you. Bron Curtis for Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council. I am joined by colleagues online, so I'll introduce them as and when they're needed if that's okay.

Issue Specific Hearing 2, Tuesday 28 April Day 1, Part 2

00:13:22:26

Thank you. Thank you for the introduction. Yes, Bron Curtis for Babergh District Council, Mid Suffolk District Council, Sir. Thank you, we are currently reviewing issue C of the Outline Code of Construction Practice submitted at deadline three will make comments in writing at deadline four. But just to reiterate the comments raised by my other local authority colleagues there. We will come back on proportionality. Thank you.

Issue Specific Hearing 2, Tuesday 28 April Day 1, Part 4

00:40:35:05

Thank you Sir. Bron Curtis for Mid Suffolk District Council and Babergh District Council. Just to endorse the comments of other colleagues from the local authorities and not to go over those again, but just to point out that the experience of delivering the Bramford to Twinstead project has not been without concern on our side about the quality of submissions from National Grid. Sir, it is within your gift, recognising the scope for lessons learned from that project, the fact that you are making decision based on the Rochdale principle with limits of deviation and the potential for impacts on the communities without due consideration, with appropriate time given to the matters that are reserved by requirement could be critical and could be very impactful for those communities. So it's a really important part of the process and that's why the authorities are asking for the time to consider that. But we are also asking that the applicant and the ExA consider the imposition of requiring a certain standard of submission at discharge of requirement. We have the provision in the DCO to request additional information; those are quite short windows. But if we know that there is a certain amount of information including the transparency of the documents that are being relied on, management plans, documents that are in the submission at this stage as well, that makes it



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a lot quicker and easier for us to do, it also makes compliance monitoring and enforcement, hopefully we don't have to deal with, but it makes that much easier. Thank you.

01:56:16:07

Bron Curtis, Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council. Just to let you know that we also have concerns in relation to article 48, but we'll make those in writing a deadline for. Thank you.

Issue Specific Hearing 2, Wednesday 29 April Day 2, Part 1

00:28:50:12

Thank you, sir. Bron Curtis for Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council. Just to reiterate the comments of my colleagues have just spoken. The local authorities have seen the first draft of this document from National Grid very recently, and we have shared initial thoughts, but we haven't yet had a chance to have a look at the detail, and we certainly haven't had a chance yet to speak to the Hinckley authorities about their experience. So, it's very early stages and I would be cautious of relying too much on that as a solution. Thank you.

Issue Specific Hearing 2, on Wednesday 29 April Day 2, Part 4

00:20:42:14

Thank you, sir. Thank you. Yes, Bron Curtis and just for this part representing Babergh District Council. As the national landscape is just in that district. Just to reiterate some of the points that we've made already in previous submissions, but just to build on that, that we have made a suggestion in response to the draft accompanied site inspection itinerary regarding viewpoints that we believe the ExA may want to visit for their consideration of the impacts on the setting of the national landscape.

We're just very alive to the fact that we have an extensive right of way network across the districts, and that the potential for kinetic views traveling towards the national landscape. There's no hard limit, obviously, as to where your appreciation or enjoyment of the natural beauty of the national landscape starts and finishes. So, particularly with the cable sealing end compound, which is around Wenham Grove we've also made reference to asking the ExA to be satisfied that the assessment of all the cumulative infrastructure associated with the EACN, including pylons and overhead lines, in terms of the impacts on the setting of the national landscape, are considered. And we did make reference to the recent application by Thorington Street for Dark Skies status, and that has been awarded. Thank you.

00:36:49:12

Thank you, sir. Bron Curtis for Babergh District Council. Just to clarify the point that I was making on behalf of Babergh a moment ago, a colleague from National Grid referred to APP 247. That actually clearly demonstrates my point that we are concerned about the kinetic views from the extensive right of way network, not just views from the national landscape towards the cable sealing end compound, but the experience of the cable sealing end compound as part of the development within the landscape that is enjoyed as part of approaching to and from the respective parts of [setting of] the national landscape. Thank you.



00:43:41:05

Thank you, sir. Bron Curtis for Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council in this instance. Just to refer you to our REP3-089 our response to ExQ1 and previous submissions. We note the applicant refers to their commitment to working with the Bramford to Twinstead team to deliver appropriate mitigation for the impacts of cumulative effect development around Bramford substation. We don't believe that's been submitted in the application pack, and we've yet to see that despite requesting that information.

We are engaged in dialogue with the applicant and with colleagues at Suffolk County Council to try to achieve the appropriate strategic mitigation that we have referred to in our ExQ1 response. But just to just to make it clear, and I know that you have seen this site because I've seen the route of the unaccompanied site inspections, but there is a significant amount of development that has been enabled by the substation, and there will be more customers of the applicant that will be enabled by Bramford to Twinstead and the project that we're considering here, Norwich to Tilbury, within a landscape that has a lot of other development being as it is close to the edge of Ipswich.

So, there are significant impacts from those cumulative effects on the local communities, environment, heritage, etc. that need a strategic approach. The substation is based on the need case from the applicant of the outmoded design of the network, etc. the substation is of that era. It was designed many years ago and ate into ancient woodland and was not designed with the amount of infrastructure that it supports. So, we would like to see that mitigation delivered appropriately. It goes beyond the 3 to 1 planting we believe, in order for that to be satisfactory but we are in dialogue with the applicant and hope to see the detail of that soon. Thank you.

Issue Specific Hearing 2, Wednesday 29 April Day 2, Part 5

00:02:45:26

Thank you sir. Bron Curtis, Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council I think we're generally happy to respond to the points that we'd like to make in writing, but are aware that there are members of the community, Interested parties that represent assets in the room with you, so would like them to have the opportunity to speak. Thank you.

00:38:15:15

Thank you sir. Bron Curtis for Babergh District Council. Apologies if I've missed this, but could I just ask the applicant to confirm where we can find confirmation that the viewpoints for cumulative effects of the EACN, together with North Falls and Five Estuaries infrastructure, is consistent with those submitted by North Falls and Five Estuaries because we did have additional viewpoints added at the examination for Five Estuaries. Thank you.

Issue Specific Hearing 2, Friday 1 May - Day 3, Part 1

01:34:36:19

Thank you sir, Bron Curtis for Mid Suffolk District council and Babergh District Council. I feel as though we're getting to the point that our districts are interested in with the conversation



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that I've just heard, but just to make the point that the cumulative traffic impact not just from NSIPs, but from other large scale, particularly energy, projects which do require AIL deliveries on a relatively constrained network across Suffolk, it must be said has a significant impact on our residents and communities and businesses.

The road closures can result in very large diversion routes and I think I've heard it a little bit from the applicant just now, but we feel that there needs to be more responsiveness to development that starts to emerge as a result of other projects such as Bramford to Twinstead and Norwich to Tilbury, with the capacity on the network increasing and how the connections queue progresses. So, if that can be picked up as part of the management plan documents for delivery, that would be helpful. Thank you.

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