

Hearing Transcript

Project:	Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms Transmission Assets
Hearing:	Open floor hearing 1 - Part 1
Date:	29 April 2025

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

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M&M_29APR_OFH1_PT1_redacted

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File Length: 01:25:23

FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:05:27 - 00:00:33:04

Hey, can everyone take a seat, please? We're just about to start. So it's, uh, now 2:30 p.m.. And welcome to this first open floor hearing in relation to the application by Morgan Offshore Wind Limited and Walker Offshore Wind Farm Limited for an order granting development consent for the Morgan and Morgan Offshore Offshore Wind Farms transmission asset, which is now open. Everyone present in the room hear me?

00:00:34:20 - 00:00:44:24

Yes. Thank you. Can everyone online hear me on the desktop version now? Please put their hands up online to show they can hear.

00:00:48:28 - 00:01:06:05

Yeah. Thank you. Okay, so my name or can I just check that the live streaming has started as well? Thank you. My name is Richard Morgan. I've been appointed by the Secretary of State to be a member of the panel to examine this application. And I'm going to ask my colleagues to introduce themselves.

00:01:07:05 - 00:01:14:21

Thank you. My name is David Cliff. I've been appointed by the Secretary of State to be the lead member of the panel to examine this application.

00:01:16:12 - 00:01:23:10

My name is Maria Rocha. I have been appointed by the Secretary of State to be a member of the panel to examine this application.

00:01:26:21 - 00:02:03:01

My name is John Gorst, and I've also been appointed by the Secretary of State to be a member of the panel to examine this application. Thank you. Thank you. Together, we constitute the examining authority for this application. I'd also like to introduce the members of the Planning Inspector's case team with supporting us today. You may have already spoken with them. We have Sian Evans over on the left. She's the case manager for the project. Carolyn Hopewell and Rebecca Luxton, who are over by the middle door, Here in the venue, along with, uh, Ryan segment and Tim Hall, who are dealing with the virtual side.

00:02:03:17 - 00:02:18:18

The case team will be able to answer any questions you may have about today's event and event, and the process in general. Before we commence today, we need to deal with a few housekeeping, uh, matters and general observations, and I'll try to get through those as quickly as possible.

00:02:21:15 - 00:02:55:10

Firstly, can everyone either switch off their mobile phones and other devices or switch them to silent? Thank you. There are toilets located outside the doors to the right and then to the left of the of the lobby where you have just come in. The fire exits are marked around the room and no fire drills are scheduled. If you're attending online on Microsoft Teams, please keep your camera off and microphone muted unless you're speaking with us. If you wish to speak and want our attention, then please use the Raise Hand function on teams.

00:02:56:15 - 00:03:30:01

So just a bit about open floor hearings first. Normally, open floor hearings are held at the request of interested parties. This open floor hearing has been called by the examining authority because we wish to hear from interested parties who desire to be heard as early as possible in this examination. This is an opportunity for the examining authority to hear firsthand your thoughts about the application. We'll also allow us to discuss in more detail any of the points raised today at the issue specific hearing being held tomorrow and on Thursday.

00:03:31:00 - 00:04:08:04

I'd like to reassure you, reassure you that we are familiar with the documents that you have sent in. So when speaking, you're answering a question you do not need to repeat a length, something that has already been submitted. If you wish to refer to information already submitted, I'd be very grateful if you could provide the appropriate Planning Inspectorate examination library reference. Can I also ask please? That the first time you use an abbreviation or acronym that you give the full title as there will be people here today are listening on the audio that may not be as familiar with the application or the documents as you are.

00:04:10:09 - 00:04:36:29

It's the examining authority's intention to hear from interested parties in the first instance, from those who have pre-registered to speak. Interested parties are identified by person or by those persons set out under section 102 of the Planning Act 2008, specifically in relevance to this afternoon's hearing. It will mean persons who may represent a relevant representation alongside some local authorities and statutory parties,

00:04:38:28 - 00:05:18:02

after which any interest in party who has not pre-registered but who wishes to speak will be invited to do so after. Afterwards. The open floor hearing will run until all interested parties have made their oral Presentations have responded to the examining authority's exploration of the matters arising from them. Should time permit, the examining authority will then consider asking for any contributions from other persons who may be present for the Planning Act purposes. Other persons, or those persons who are not interested parties but have made representations after the close of the relevant representation period before the preliminary meeting.

00:05:19:05 - 00:05:25:26

Finally, again, should time permit the examining authority, then hear from any other non interested party who wishes to speak.

00:05:27:24 - 00:05:59:13

The examining authority reminds those persons present that non interested parties can only speak today, at the discretion of the examining authority, to make best use of the time. And while not wishing to prevent persons from speaking. It would be of great assistance if points were not repeated. You can rest assured that the examining authority will have understood a point made the first time round. The examiner thought he will offer the applicants a right of response following all discussions. Although we acknowledge that the applicants may not wish to respond at this meeting.

00:06:00:11 - 00:06:06:12

It may be necessary to impose the same time restrictions on the applicants as we have for all participants.

00:06:08:27 - 00:06:42:06

Following the response from applicants, should they choose to make one. The meeting will close. We are conducting this meeting in accordance with section 93 and 94, the Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning Examination Procedure Rules 2010, specifically rule 14 relating to procedure at hearings. I'd like to remind you that section 94 of the 2008 Planning Act gives the examiner authority the power to disallow representations to be made at the hearing if the examination.

00:06:42:13 - 00:07:07:21

If the examining authority considers that the representations are irrelevant, vexatious or frivolous relate to the merits of policy set out in a national policy statement. Repeat other representations already made in any form and by any person, or relate to compensation for compulsory acquisition of land or of an interest in or right over land.

00:07:09:13 - 00:07:50:08

The. That last point is particularly relevant. I must remind affected persons and others the examining authority cannot discuss or entertain discussions on matters of compensation, either directly as a cause of the land rights sought or indirectly from perceived blight, devaluation of property values, or other matters. The act specifically prohibits these from consideration, and the examining authority has no power to hear or report on them for the courts. As the hearing today has been recorded, the only official record of the proceedings is this recording, which will be uploaded on the Inspectorate's website as soon as possible after the meeting.

00:07:51:12 - 00:08:26:08

Social media comments or messages, blogs and similar forms of communications arising out of this meeting will not be accepted as evidence in the examination of this application for the purpose of the record of the recording or for reference. When you do speak, please can I ask that you state your name and your interest in the case to ensure everyone can have their say? Please can I ask that each individual speaker speak to a limit of three minutes, unless you're speaking on behalf of a community or larger group, in which case you have five minutes to speak.

00:08:26:19 - 00:08:40:19

I'll let you know when you're approaching your time limit. If you are content that a previous individual or group speaker has addressed the issues you wish to raise. Please do not feel that you have to raise these matters again. Just inform me when your time to speak comes.

00:08:43:07 - 00:09:04:06

A link to the planning Inspector's Inspectors privacy notice was provided in the notification for this hearing, and I assume that everyone here today has familiarize themselves with this document, which establishes how the personal data of our customers is handled in accordance to the principle set out in data protection laws. Please speak to the case manager, Sean Evans if you have any questions about this.

00:09:05:28 - 00:09:11:19

Can I ask if there are anyone, if there's anyone from the press here or anyone who intends to record this meeting today?

00:09:15:06 - 00:09:20:21

Well, if anyone did before doing that, um, you should speak to the case team.

00:09:22:18 - 00:09:37:22

I've got a list of of persons who have registered to speak today, and I'll go through this now just to confirm those who wish to speak and whether they're here in person or online. So the first person I've got is, um, I think Councilor Thomas Threlfall.

00:09:39:25 - 00:09:40:18

Is he here?

00:09:42:03 - 00:09:54:07

Okay. Thank you. Uh, the second person is Andrew Swarovski from Lancashire County Council. I believe he may be virtually online. Is Andrew there?

00:09:59:25 - 00:10:01:19

I can't see anything online.

00:10:09:09 - 00:10:11:20

Mr. Stokowski, are you online?

00:10:16:15 - 00:10:30:24

Okay. We can come back to to him. Um, Phil Morgan and Angus Walker, I've got down as talking on behalf of Newton with Clifton Parish Council. I think from this, yes, we are here.

00:10:30:26 - 00:10:40:01

Although, in fact Phil Morgan will be doing the talking. I'm sorry to add yet another Morgan to the list of people, people and projects called Morgan.

00:10:42:15 - 00:10:46:02

So do I take it, Mr. Walker, that you won't be speaking this afternoon?

00:10:46:12 - 00:10:47:04

That's right.

00:10:47:12 - 00:10:50:12

Okay, so it's just Mr.. Mr.. Morgan. Okay.

00:10:53:25 - 00:10:58:21

I've got a key. Okay. For a Freckleton parish council.

00:11:00:08 - 00:11:04:09

Is he here? Ah, yes. Thank you, Mr. McKay.

00:11:09:06 - 00:11:20:04

Can I have a David Barlow? Is Mr. Barlow in attendance? Lewis Barlow. It's good. Thank you. Uh, then I have, uh, Sabiha. Musa.

00:11:23:16 - 00:11:24:27

She in attendance today?

00:11:28:25 - 00:11:32:06

No, no, I can't see her from the list. Then.

00:11:34:04 - 00:11:45:27

Then I have an Angela slinger. Yes. She's present. Good. Um. Then I have a hand. Mason. Yes. Thank you, miss Mason.

00:11:47:20 - 00:11:49:28

Uh, then have a Gary Latham.

00:11:51:28 - 00:11:56:29

Is Mr. Layton in attendance? No. Okay. I can take him off the list, then.

00:12:02:04 - 00:12:11:20

So I've. Mr. Morgan, I've got you down again. So do you intend speaking on behalf of the community and then on behalf of yourself? Yes. Okay.

00:12:13:12 - 00:12:23:12

Uh, then I have a mr. Dunlop from the Wildlife Trust. Mr. Dunlop here. Um, the next one I've got is Christine Abbott.

00:12:24:24 - 00:12:25:24

Hello? Yes.

00:12:27:08 - 00:12:29:27

All right. Online. Thank you, Miss Abbott.

00:12:31:18 - 00:12:40:12

And then I have, uh, Mr. Paul Dennis. Mr.. Paul. Dennis? Yeah. It? No. Mr.. Dennis? Yeah.

00:12:46:23 - 00:12:55:21

And I have, uh, Alister Paul and Alvin Cassidy and Steve Peters all down as representing Blackpool Airport.

00:12:56:09 - 00:13:08:08

Good afternoon, sir. Yes, this is Paul. Um, I'll actually be speaking on behalf of Blackpool Airport and Auburn and Steve, who are in attendance, um, in the room and online respectively. Um, won't be speaking, but, um, it'll just be me.

00:13:08:15 - 00:13:10:04

Okay. So sorry you were Mr. Paul.

00:13:10:08 - 00:13:11:04

Yeah. Alister. Paul.

00:13:11:06 - 00:13:12:06

Okay. Thank you.

00:13:14:27 - 00:13:36:15

Um, I've got Annette Sharkey, Miss Sharkey and, uh, Peter Sharkey, Mr. Sharkey, and then I've got Richard Ellis, Wendy Ellis, and Paul Ellis. But I believe from this morning's meeting that you may be representing the Ellis family. And thank you.

00:13:42:10 - 00:13:49:00

And I've got a John Kirkham Mr. Kirkham in the room. Mr. Kirkham thank you.

00:13:50:20 - 00:13:54:23

And then I have, I believe online a ray an ma.

00:13:57:29 - 00:14:02:27

No, miss Ma's not online. Okay. I can remove her from the the list.

00:14:04:12 - 00:14:04:27

And.

00:14:09:22 - 00:14:15:20

Next I've got Andrew, Tristan. Mr. Gian in the room or online?

00:14:18:04 - 00:14:18:21

No.

00:14:21:02 - 00:14:23:02

Okay, I'll take him off the list.

00:14:28:02 - 00:14:29:12

No, it's not Andrew, hon.

00:14:29:23 - 00:14:32:23

Yeah. I'm online. Sorry, I was on mute. I'm online.

00:14:32:25 - 00:14:36:12

All right. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Trojan. Excellent.

00:14:36:14 - 00:14:37:07

Thank you. Yes.

00:14:44:07 - 00:14:57:00

It has. Thank you. Uh, can I take your name, please? Yeah. All right. Thank you, Mr. Tajani. Uh, then I've got a mr. Ralph Cairns. Mr. Cairns.

00:14:58:06 - 00:14:58:27

I'm so.

00:15:19:10 - 00:15:19:25

Sorry.

00:15:21:03 - 00:15:38:13

And, um, we wondered if we might split my two rather than have two together. Uh, because, uh, Mr. Turner would rather not go last. And also, um. what Mr. Tajani has to say leads into what the facts Group want to represent. Would that be okay?

00:15:38:15 - 00:15:39:09

Okay, well.

00:15:39:16 - 00:15:48:12

Both of you are right at the end of the running order, as it were. So yeah, I think that would work. So, Mr. Cairns, are you going to talk first on on on.

00:15:48:14 - 00:15:55:12

That as a person? No. On behalf of my myself, on the personal issue and then on behalf of facts last.

00:15:55:16 - 00:15:58:07

Okay. And then Mr. Tajani.

00:15:58:09 - 00:15:58:27

Will speak.

00:15:59:01 - 00:15:59:24

In between those.

00:15:59:29 - 00:16:12:16

Between the two. Yeah. Okay. That's fine. Okay, so that's everyone I had on my list. Is there anyone in the room or online who would like to speak at this hearing?

00:16:16:04 - 00:16:16:19

No.

00:16:16:25 - 00:16:19:03

Yes, please. It's Sheila Hall.

00:16:19:24 - 00:16:20:18

All right.

00:16:21:07 - 00:16:22:00

So are.

00:16:22:02 - 00:16:23:21

You. I believe I was on the list.

00:16:24:24 - 00:16:29:12

Right. Sorry. I must have missed you. Are you an interesting person? Yes.

00:16:30:05 - 00:16:30:23

You all?

00:16:31:00 - 00:16:34:16

Yeah. Um. So if I put you put you on the on the list.

00:16:35:24 - 00:16:40:07

I was, um, just before, um, Anne Mason on my list.

00:16:42:07 - 00:16:47:18

Oh, sorry. As I was going through, you're actually on my list. You're after after Miss Slinger.

00:16:47:24 - 00:16:48:09

Yes.

00:16:48:11 - 00:16:56:01

Yeah. So if I call you in that order after Miss Aisling has actually talked. Okay. Um.

00:16:58:27 - 00:17:25:21

I think that's a list of people who are going to be talking. Uh, finally, before starting, I just wanted to say that noting that local elections are to be held in the area this Thursday, I must stress that speakers must confine their comments to the merits of the proposed development and not strain to any wider political or policy areas. Um, so what I'm going to do is, um, call the people whose names are on that list in order to get them.

00:17:28:07 - 00:17:58:29

In order. Um, and it's up to you whether you'd like to come up, um, and use the microphone here at the desk in front or whether you'd like to stay where you are. Um, and the microphone will be brought to you. Uh, for those of you who don't appear on camera. Um, there's some seats over in the left hand corner there, um, for you to use if you don't wish to appear on camera and on the recording. So the the first person I was going to call, um, is Mr.

00:17:59:01 - 00:18:07:07

Thomas Threlfall, and I believe, Mr. Allen, do you wish to appear on camera or not?

00:18:07:09 - 00:18:08:18

Yes. Fine, fine.

00:18:09:00 - 00:18:09:15

Okay.

00:18:09:20 - 00:18:14:21

And so. So you got because you're representing a council. So you got five minutes.

00:18:15:02 - 00:18:48:15

Yes. Thank you. Good afternoon. My name is Councillor Tommy Threlfall, lead member for the environment at Fylde Borough Council and longstanding member of Freckleton Parish Council. Thank you for this opportunity to let me speak on the planning application for Morgan and Morgan Wind Farms. You have already heard from File Council's planning officers this morning, so I will avoid duplicating the points they have previously raised. File residents are not against wind farms or green energy.

00:18:49:25 - 00:19:00:23

I want to make this known, but the proposed cable corridor through file countryside to the grid connection at PEM with them is of great, great concern.

00:19:02:20 - 00:19:08:00

We would not want to be accused of or be known as NIMBYs in Fylde.

00:19:09:17 - 00:19:37:14

I will demonstrate this by mentioning today a few business operators who practice in Fylde. We have Grange one, two and three landfill sites taking the dustbins and refuse from far and wide and failed,

which residents experienced much later unpleasant orders included in hydrogen sulfide from day to day. But we don't complain.

00:19:39:03 - 00:20:09:06

We have the Systems Aerodrome, a company we are proud to have within our borough, providing many high skilled technical jobs. But the low flying jets bring much noise to our living environment, which concerns many people. But we don't complain. We have Clifton Marsh Water Treatment works, which takes our sewerage from far and wide. Not a pleasant practice here in Fylde, but we don't complain.

00:20:10:26 - 00:20:40:14

We have Springfields works, where nuclear fuels are manufactured for nuclear reactors the world over again. We are proud that this technical expertise is his champion in our borough, but it is a high risk practice that some would fear. But we don't complain. We have an open prison at Kirkham, which over the years does cause concern for many residents in Fylde. But we don't complain.

00:20:42:02 - 00:21:19:14

However, this cable corridor and connection is a step too far for file residents because of the environmental impacts such as closure of Saint Anne's Beach and Saint Anne's Sand Dunes. Saint Anne's is a popular tourist resort, and this will have a significant impact on our local visitor economy. Disruption to Blackpool Road North Playing Fields, the home of Saint Anne's Football Club, where many children regularly play and exercise.

00:21:21:00 - 00:21:30:16

Damage to grade one agricultural land, risking local food security and farming practices, which has taken many years to develop.

00:21:32:04 - 00:21:42:10

Noise and pollution from heavy goods vehicles during the construction along residential roads and country lanes. Not suitable for heavy traffic.

00:21:44:08 - 00:22:06:10

Ultimately, this is about people and livelihoods. For instance, Red Green Equity Centre 43 years of riding school for disabled children, which Princess Royal has visited several times as patron of riding for the disabled. This careful corridor will decimate their business.

00:22:09:03 - 00:22:17:15

Sometimes junior football club, family farms and those living near to the proposed substations, to name a few.

00:22:19:09 - 00:22:35:07

I urge the panel to listen to all our concerns from the professional officers of the host authorities and to all our speakers this afternoon when making your recommendation to the Secretary of State. Thank you.

00:22:37:25 - 00:22:38:18

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

00:22:49:14 - 00:22:55:13

Okay. Thank you. Uh, we'll now move on to Mr. from Lancashire County Council.

00:22:57:06 - 00:22:58:08

I think he's online.

00:23:00:18 - 00:23:08:01

I don't take Valpo council. I did just confirm that, um, he isn't, uh, intending to join or speak this afternoon. Okay.

00:23:08:21 - 00:23:17:26

Thank you for that. Um, Mr. Morgan, then can I call on you, uh, with five minutes on behalf of the community.

00:23:18:27 - 00:23:19:12

Yes.

00:23:19:14 - 00:23:20:08

My name is Phil Morgan.

00:23:20:10 - 00:23:52:24

I'm vice chair of Newton with Clifton Parish Council. I'm also chair of something called the Transmission Assets Steering Committee, which is made up of eight town and parish councils and two community organizations. Um, I suppose I've got four questions or points I want to raise in this part of the session. Um, the first is in Newton with Clifton. Um, we already have a lot of nuclear and solar energy projects in our community. Um, our whole community covers about 180 acres.

00:23:53:08 - 00:24:24:02

Um, the existing projects already covered 225 acres. Um, that's larger than our two villages put together. In addition, there are two proposed solar farms, uh, covering another 249 acres. Um, one of these will require a major diversion of the cabling route under the A5 84. Twice in a short period of time. Short space. Face another one which has just been updated and resubmitted. Proposes an access route for construction which crosses the cabling route.

00:24:24:22 - 00:24:54:26

Um, this particular one is actually going to also rest next to the substations. And you're very welcome to come see the view from my house as it is now, because what you'll see in the future is a non-stop sea of solar panels, substations and cabling routes from my house in Newton scales across to our neighbours in Freckleton. Most of the assessments that took place in the the proposals took no account of the cumulative impact on our community.

00:24:55:22 - 00:25:29:16

The second point is around why we're having two substations and why is it so large. We've heard before from the applicant that they they're working very well together. They want to do lots of things

together. But why have two substations? Couldn't they just have one? Wouldn't one be smaller? And when we look at the size of the two substations as well. They're proposing to take over 22 hectares of greenbelt land for a headline output of two gigawatts. When we look at other ones of a similar size, the Dogger Bank 2.4 only requires 7.5 hectares.

00:25:29:21 - 00:26:01:09

Hornsea One and two, which generate 2.5GW, have a footprint of 7.1 hectares and more than, which is the other one that relates to this indirectly, which generates 1.4GW, has a maximum footprint of 6.6 hectares. So it just is too big. There's no need for two of them, and there's no need for them to be as big as they are. And if a smaller design had been chosen, there'd have been more opportunity to look at alternative locations which weren't as damaging to our communities and to the green belt.

00:26:01:26 - 00:26:33:23

Um, and all of this just simply magnifies the impact it has on our community, and it has on the green belt. Um, the next point that comes on from that is that how long will the disruption last? Because we've already heard some comments raised earlier today. Why does the need to be at maximum four year gap between the two sets of construction? Why can't it all be done at once? The four year gap will have the impact of magnifying the effect of the proposals on our communities, and all the other things that people will talk about today.

00:26:33:27 - 00:27:06:12

It doesn't need to be like that. It can all be done as one. The last thing I want to talk about is how our community benefits from this. Um, and although it's not a topic for today, we've been disappointed. I think it's fair to say, putting it mildly with the engagement of the Mork and Morgan proposals. Um, when the original pre consultation events took place, we weren't allowed one in Newton, our neighbors, one to live on in Freckleton or Kirkham. Instead we had to go to other places in Lisburn and in my case in Penwortham.

00:27:07:00 - 00:27:37:10

Um, so we feel very frustrated. There has not been engagement. And on the issue of community benefits particularly, I've had a conversation with the M&M people and they said very clearly that they're not going to talk to us about any community benefits whatsoever until the consultation has been approved, and it's their reason for that. The rationale for that was their outstanding guidance of waiting. The consultation took place in 2023. Um, the government has now said it's going to update that guidance.

00:27:37:15 - 00:28:06:18

It's also said that it will in the new planning and infrastructure bill, make sure that there will be provision for communities to get compensation for cabling routes and for substations. And of course, we as a parish council have heard nothing from M&M in line with their previous commitment to us that they were not going to engage with us on any level whatsoever about community benefits until they got this approved. And at that point, and at that point only, would they start to talk to us about what those community benefits were. Thank you.

00:28:09:04 - 00:28:16:03

Thank you, Mr. Morgan. Uh, just a point of clarification. You mentioned two solar farms. Do you have to know the names of those?

00:28:16:25 - 00:28:54:06

Um, once and for all. And that's at Clifton Fields. Uh, that's the one that necessitates a diversion of the cabling route. Uh, under the 85, 84, on two separate occasions, a very short space of time. Uh, that's currently with Fylde Council. Uh, and I think there are objections from Natural England to that as well, which they're currently dealing with. And the other one is I think called Barracks Lane one. Uh, and that's run by Blue Fields. Um, and that's been an application which has been received previously by filed, uh, as a result of objections from the county counsel highways team.

00:28:54:10 - 00:29:19:10

They're now looking at an alternative access through Freckleton, actually on Lower Lane, which is one of the lanes that would be used by this particular project for its traffic. Um, and they're proposing to cut in from lower lane and cut across the brook from Freckleton into the site that way around. And that's currently with Fylde and we as a parish council, and I suspect Freckleton Parish Council will be commenting on that to Fylde in the near future.

00:29:20:04 - 00:29:25:06

Okay. Thank you for that. Okay. Yeah. Moving on to the next speaker. We've got Mr. Mackay.

00:29:27:05 - 00:29:27:20

Are.

00:29:35:07 - 00:29:43:11

You you're talking on behalf of Freckleton Parish Council? Indeed, yes. Thank you very much. You've got five minutes on behalf of that community. Okay.

00:29:43:13 - 00:29:44:00

Thank you.

00:29:44:27 - 00:29:46:16

Um, I'm Keith Mackay.

00:29:46:18 - 00:30:21:18

I'm speaking on behalf of Freckleton Parish Council, as you said. I'm a chartered engineer. I'm a fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society, uh, for whom I act as the chair of their registration committee. I'm also I'm responsible for their engineering standards, the application and confirmation of Over registration of those applicants. I also sit on the Registration Standards Committee of the Engineering Council. So I look after the competencies and the registered engineers across the 39 UK professional engineering institutions.

00:30:21:20 - 00:30:25:19

That's myself. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

00:30:28:12 - 00:30:38:03

One of the things I would like to point out is there is already an established and existing transmission system that connects between Penman and the Irish Sea.

00:30:40:24 - 00:30:48:15

Okay. This has been in existence since 2011 and has been operating successfully all that time.

00:30:50:13 - 00:30:52:18

Uh, it's route.

00:30:54:12 - 00:31:14:06

It forms part of the, uh, Pan modern and Stana um, substation Group, which is the substation on the north side of the Fylde, not not very far from where we are at the moment. Um, on the edge of what is now called the Hill Hill House Technical Enterprise Zone.

00:31:15:24 - 00:31:27:17

It wasn't called that in those days. It was part of the original old Eisai plant, and that was possibly one of the reasons why stanno may or may not have been considered. We'll come back to it.

00:31:29:15 - 00:31:59:20

Uh, it's been reliably operating since since 2011. The infrastructure that surrounded it and caused problems with access has now been upgraded to the technical enterprise zone, and that has released 138 hectares of land, uh, brownfield land waiting to be redeveloped, which would be suitable and actually is designated um, for energy related projects.

00:32:00:20 - 00:32:05:15

So that's the preferred use that the government has put on the Hillhouse site

00:32:07:11 - 00:32:35:17

that offers a direct access to the Irish Sea. There is a route that goes from the northern edge of the Hillhouse site, directly to the Russell to Russell, which is on the coast just north of Cleveleys. As primarily it's a green, a green strip of land, some of which is subject to a development consent order already, uh, to put a road in, which seems like an ideal combination for putting underground cables.

00:32:37:19 - 00:32:44:07

It removes the previous access constraints. It also has backing from its owner.

00:32:48:09 - 00:32:48:25

Um,

00:32:50:23 - 00:33:14:20

using the grids. National, uh, the National Grid's data from 2012. We did an assessment of the comparison of the costs from the current application is against what would happen if you had to rework a um, and the costing savings of the order of £450 million in total, which is a lot.

00:33:17:03 - 00:33:36:29

Furthermore, the more Merlin project, which has been mentioned recently, that's also been directed to connect to pen with them, but their scoped broader landfall area goes from Fleetwood, which includes Fleetwood and Russell Beach, down to the River Ribble and the old.

00:33:38:17 - 00:34:01:10

The attraction of the existing route is it removes most of the issues that are being raised today as objections. It doesn't cross greenbelt land, doesn't cross size. It's an existing route. It's already there. It has the planning permissions and the way leaves are already in place. Why wouldn't you use it?

00:34:03:14 - 00:34:04:02

Okay,

00:34:06:02 - 00:34:14:20

in the application data, the applicant has not demonstrated that their proposed route is more compliant.

00:34:16:09 - 00:34:16:24

Um.

00:34:17:27 - 00:34:22:03

Sorry, Mr. Kenton. Okay, could you start winding him a bit? You've got about 30.

00:34:22:08 - 00:34:24:06

Yes. Sorry. Um.

00:34:28:04 - 00:34:42:07

The data that they've used, um, the data that's reported, if you search through it, there is no mention at all of this, of this, uh, this existing route. It's just not assessed as a as a as an option in there at all.

00:34:44:24 - 00:34:56:25

And that's reflected in the ministerial statements that have been made in response to the questions asked in the House. There is no mention of consideration of stand. It's totally sound.

00:34:59:20 - 00:35:02:21

So the question is why?

00:35:04:07 - 00:35:04:27

Thank you.

00:35:07:09 - 00:35:08:09

Thank you for that.

00:35:10:26 - 00:35:11:16

I just.

00:35:11:25 - 00:35:18:24

Excuse me. I just ask that people don't clap. Yes. Um. It's unfair to all the participants.

00:35:19:18 - 00:35:20:18

Um, just.

00:35:21:01 - 00:35:28:18

Maintaining a sort of respectful silence. Uh, you know, there's, uh, an official sort of meeting. Thank you, Mr. McKay.

00:35:31:06 - 00:35:31:21

Yes.

00:35:33:09 - 00:35:51:01

Mr. McKay. Can I just ask you one question for clarification? I think you said about more than in that it's directed to connect to Penwortham. Is there a particular sort of document that is from. I must admit, I don't think I've seen that statement made before. Where is that?

00:35:51:08 - 00:36:22:10

Um, I think in the documentation that they've they've released. They've just put a scoped area for search. The scoped area, uh, runs from Blackpool north down to the river Olt, which is on the mouth of the Mersey. Yeah. Um, within there, there are only a couple of options for connection stations. You could go. You could go to the one that's close to Kirby. There's one at, uh, Penn Witham and there's one at Stanhope.

00:36:24:12 - 00:36:46:07

So those are the only three options you've got. If you connect to Stanhope, you're connecting to them anyway, because it's part of the. Stanhope is teed off. The main grid that runs north to south on the west side of the of the peninsula. The other leg of the same section runs down the east side and follows the M6.

00:36:46:19 - 00:36:49:04

Okay, I understand. Thank you. Thank you.

00:36:49:10 - 00:36:49:25

So.

00:36:52:06 - 00:36:59:21

Um, if I might, um, point out it's in the section 35 direction application.

00:36:59:23 - 00:37:00:26

Yeah, I've actually.

00:37:01:20 - 00:37:03:08

A diagram that has the Penwortham.

00:37:03:10 - 00:37:16:18

So for some reason I had a bit of a memory moment where I was thinking it was connected, connected to hillside off, and I was getting confused. So actually the question becomes irrelevant. Yes. I now know where that is. Yes. Thank you.

00:37:16:28 - 00:37:20:29

It's called the East Irish Sea Transmission Project. Yes. Please everyone.

00:37:23:26 - 00:37:27:06

Okay. Thank you for that. Uh, moving on then, to Mr. Barlow.

00:37:29:29 - 00:37:32:12

Mr. Barlow, you've got three minutes, uh.

00:37:33:16 - 00:37:35:14

To speak. Hello.

00:37:37:08 - 00:38:08:11

Uh, good afternoon, everyone. Um, my name is David Barlow. I live directly opposite the proposed Morecambe substation. I'm going to use my three minutes to talk about human health issues. Mental health issues? If you have read the Examination Library appendix 35, there are 109 pages regarding human health, which includes mental health issues that may be caused by this application. You will have noticed the words negligible and minor adverse used many, many times.

00:38:08:24 - 00:38:41:15

However, the caveat to these terms are always applied for the receptors. These are residents who live close by to the substations. Can you believe I found out from a local farmer on the village car park about the applicant's intention to put a substation opposite my home. How irresponsible is that? I got in touch with Malcolm McLaren for confirmation, and I did get a visit, but only from a junior assistant who had little knowledge of the project, and he apologised for his senior colleague not being available to answer my questions.

00:38:41:21 - 00:39:15:24

No future meeting with the person who could answer my questions was forthcoming, and no further contact was made to address my concerns. I paid a premium for this property with assurances from Borough council planning department that no development would ever be allowed on the greenbelt, including my land and my property. We have spent 15 years renovating the property to make this a forever home and our retirement zone. All done under strict planning laws with many restrictions that related to the greenbelt policies and the fragility of lower line.

00:39:16:08 - 00:39:50:23

It's funny how things can change to suit the narrative, is it not? Further up Lower Lane is the even bigger Morgan substation, where you will find other people in the same situation as me caused by this project. And all of them, like myself and my family, have had no contact, no empathy and no guidance with regards to what the future might look like for us. All we got from the consultation meeting was

some obscure photos taken from a great distance, with shaded areas in the background showing the substations, yet none of them taken from Lower Lake.

00:39:51:18 - 00:40:30:00

Surely a project of this size should have a scaled down model showing the people in the village exactly what it will look like. Even small projects produce scaled down models. So no prizes for guessing why that wasn't done. We also have grave concerns about the possibility of the EMF health issues. Then we have the flooding, the vibration, the dust, the concentration of machinery and wagons using lower lane, all described as negligible or adversely minor in appendix 35, apart from three locations and including every time, is the receptors for the Freckleton substations.

00:40:32:09 - 00:41:08:07

My house was deemed almost worthless the minute the applicant submitted its intentions into the public domain. So the receptors are facing the brunt of this project, yet still no contact from anyone concerned with the application. So my question to Mr. Cliff and the panel today is we are all human beings who live on lower line. So where is the duty of care for human health and mental health issues from the applicants or its investors, or the Secretary or Secretary of state? Regarding me and my family.

00:41:08:11 - 00:41:30:29

Where is the empathy? Where is the apology for making our homes worthless? Where is the concern for my family? And where is the mitigating offer of help to relocate us? I wouldn't treat you like this, Mr. Cliff. So is appendix 35 just a generic set of 109 pages of words and a copy and paste exercise. Thank you.

00:41:34:12 - 00:41:36:10

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Barlow.

00:41:38:11 - 00:41:41:06

Uh, can we move on now to Miss Slinger?

00:41:45:05 - 00:41:47:06

Hello, my name is Andrea Slinger.

00:41:48:19 - 00:41:58:22

I'm also impacted, like Dave in relation to the substations in specifically the Morgan substation, which my house overlooks.

00:42:00:10 - 00:42:34:11

I'm from the other side. I'm from Newton. I moved to Newton in the 1990s and I chose to bring up my two children there. My partner and I loved the peace and quiet and rural life on our doorstep. The field is really flat and wet. It's dotted with hundreds of small ponds, and it's an ideal home for amphibians, including great crested newts, which are on our property. I run the filed Toad Patrol in the spring, saving hundreds of amphibians from being flattened by cars.

00:42:35:12 - 00:43:14:24

We regularly see thousands of migratory, pink footed geese wheeling in the skies and calling to each other and feeding on the fields. Barn owls, kestrels and buzzards. Love the ample supplies of resident voles. Their favorite food papers. Straw bats love to feed on the rich menu of insect life, supplied by the ample number of ponds close by. Hedgehogs also love the menu of insects on offer on my property. I'd like to describe a visit last week with Andy Lee, who has over 50 years of conservation knowledge of the land between Kirkham, Freckleton, Clifton and Newton and who is here today.

00:43:15:15 - 00:43:46:14

We explored the farmland affected by the plans for the trenches and the substations, despite it having been drier than normal for the last couple of years of months. The ground was still wet, hair seemed to be everywhere. Two shell ducks were swimming on a waterlogged area of the field. A couple of noisy oystercatchers flew overhead, calling to each other. The tame cows came over to me, curious as to our intentions.

00:43:47:09 - 00:44:24:19

The land is in. Intersected by deep dikes still full of water. A skylark filled the air with song hovering over what we presume was its mate and their nest. A local farm has eight dikes, each six foot deep. Disturbing the main brook will cause flooding in Kirkham and Newton as the water will back upstream. The dikes must be maintained, so cables would need to be buried really deep to avoid hitting them during the Essential Dyke maintenance programme.

00:44:25:15 - 00:44:48:03

Also, as the water as the land is waterlogged, buried objects tend to come to the surface in the softer areas that the trenches will cross. As this has already been noted in the gas pipeline in the area, which is reburied periodically. Has this been taken into account in the cable plans?

00:44:49:05 - 00:44:51:13

Can I ask you to start winding up now, please?

00:44:52:23 - 00:45:25:09

The water logged fields mean that the the land moves, and when the land moves, things rise to the surface. So buried objects rise to the surface. And I believe the gas pipeline. And Ralph will say more about the pipeline. We then visited another field with a buzzard nest in it, high in the trees. The buzzards have been living in the same location for over seven years now.

00:45:25:25 - 00:45:51:29

A barn owl family has lived there too. And if plans go ahead, that location will no longer be a peaceful place to rear their chicks. We then visited the beautiful, tranquil Quakers Wood, which will be destroyed by the building of the substations. The bluebells were a sea of blue under the shade of trees, which are living headstones to the memory of the dead who are buried there.

00:45:52:06 - 00:45:54:15

Sorry. Could you please bring it to a close then?

00:45:56:11 - 00:46:29:09

I note that the planning inspectors took a drive past Quakers would on their unaccompanied visit. But I would urge them to take a stop and look at this local piece of history. I also note that whilst the planning inspectors visited Newton, they did not note the close proximity of the school to the location of their compounds and the cable route, which is just beyond some trees at the bottom of the playing fields and beyond the marshes towards Clifton. There communities of black tailed Godric's hairy.

00:46:29:11 - 00:46:30:06

I'm going to have to.

00:46:31:11 - 00:46:35:06

Finish it there. Just to be fair to everyone else. You've gone substantially.

00:46:35:08 - 00:46:37:06

Over. So, uh.

00:46:37:14 - 00:46:38:20

Thank you for that. Uh.

00:46:38:22 - 00:46:42:24

Yeah. The fishes and eels as well, that are part of the delicate ecosystem.

00:46:42:26 - 00:47:16:10

Mr. Dellinger, you can well over your three minutes now to prepare to all parties. We need to sort of stick approximately to the times. But anything else you want to, uh, say because you add it to your written representation, please. But because of the time limits we've got, we've got to enforce those. Otherwise there won't be enough time for everyone else to speak. Sorry, but there will be. You can provide things in writing for deadline one. So is there anything else you wish to say? Then please do so at that. That time. Can I just say one more thing about prompted by Mr. Barlow's submission, just about our general data protection regulations.

00:47:16:14 - 00:47:45:12

And, Mr. Barlow, you touched a little bit on health for your of you and your family, uh, which I think we'll have to redact from when we publish information of this meeting, because everything is put into the public domain. And obviously, private health matters Is all there is attention there. But if there is, this is a general point for everybody. There is information about like sort of private health conditions that probably shouldn't be, uh, uh,

00:47:47:02 - 00:48:15:25

discussed at a public meeting. There is a way of submitting that in writing. And if you wish to do so, and if any other party wish to do so, then contact the case team about that. Oh no, I understand the point. I absolutely understand the point completely. It's just that because we're bound by the the, uh, data protection regulations, we have to be quite careful about when people talk about personal health, health issues. Uh, so I just wanted to make that point. But no, I completely understood the the representation. Thank you.

00:48:16:15 - 00:48:17:00

Okay.

00:48:17:22 - 00:48:25:28

Thank you for that. Um, I think we go online now to, uh, Sheila Hall. You, uh, make your representation, please.

00:48:26:27 - 00:48:57:02

Thank you. Sheila Hall, a local farmer. Thank you for the opportunity to speak this afternoon. If the Morgan and Morgan projects are approved, I would like to ask that there is a requirement placed on the projects to ensure that their teams include people with the relevant experience, and that they use appropriate processes to ensure that both the short term and long term damage to farmland and the wider environment is minimised.

00:48:58:06 - 00:49:29:04

It is essential that it isn't just that the project documents say that they will do what is necessary, but they actually do what is required and do it properly. This requires the project teams to include people with the appropriate experience and understanding of the work required, and the environments involved to both develop the plans and do the actual work, and have a suitable oversight process in place to check that the projects do deliver what they commit to do.

00:49:30:04 - 00:50:05:02

As an example, the project teams need to include people with the relevant experience and understanding of repairing and reinstating land drains to do the drainage work, and also for there to be a relevant process to check that it's done correctly. Sadly, the experience so far is the project doesn't always deliver on what their own documents say. I don't know whether this has been due to them not having people with the right knowledge and experience so far, or some attempt to save money.

00:50:05:11 - 00:50:22:17

I am concerned if the approach the project has adopted so far is allowed to continue in the future. There will be severe and long lasting damage to the land and the environment that could otherwise have been avoided. Thank you.

00:50:24:23 - 00:50:29:26

Thank you for that. We now move on to. And. Mason.

00:50:38:16 - 00:50:39:17

Can you hear me? Okay.

00:50:40:02 - 00:50:40:17

Yeah.

00:50:40:19 - 00:50:41:04

Yes.

00:50:41:06 - 00:50:41:21

Okay.

00:50:41:23 - 00:51:15:14

Thank you. I am a mason, a landowner and working livestock farmer. Our livestock farm has been work for some 73 years by three generations of the Mason family. This proposed cable route cuts across some of the best grassland in the country. And the effectively cuts our farm into crossing our land in three different locations. It's hard enough trying to make a living as a livestock farmer these days without the threat of this cable ruining farmer's most valuable asset, the land and disrupting livelihoods.

00:51:16:02 - 00:51:42:21

I understand that the two parties involved in the project will not commit the simultaneous installation of their cables. This would seem basic common sense to me. Potentially this could mean that our farmland will not be restored to us in any workable order in our lifetime. How are we to earn a living? How are we to produce a food for our nation?

00:51:44:16 - 00:52:27:11

How do we keep our local farm workers in jobs? Farmers are not motivated by money. It's about putting our heart and our soul into the land. And this cannot be distilled into monetary compensation. Nor can it be understood by large corporations who stand to profit from this project of so-called green energy. We have been threatened with cpos compulsory purchase orders and legal action. Meetings offered reassurance of respect and commitment to working with landowners have proved near worthless since we judge the project by the actions of the contractors on the ground?

00:52:27:13 - 00:52:31:18

Perhaps. Could you please direct your comments to the panel? Sorry.

00:52:32:01 - 00:53:04:22

Contractors are not farmers. They do not understand the importance of shutting gates to protect livestock from straying during the project survey work. Dangerous wires were left in the grazing fields and a wire can kill a cow when it's ingested. Road gates were left open. This cavalier attitude can easily cause a fatality to a member of the public driving on the highway. All this while the agricultural liaison officers were on site to monitor the contractors.

00:53:05:17 - 00:53:26:09

Talk of reinstatement is always a nonsense. A digger driver simply cannot replicate soil structure which has taken thousands of years to develop. The project is already causing us acute psychological stress. Please consider alternative cable routes. Thank you.

00:53:27:23 - 00:53:42:15

Hey. Thank you, miss Mason. Can I just have a point of clarification, actually, on what you just said, that you stated that, um, it's your understanding that the applicants wouldn't commit to a simultaneous installation of cables. What what makes you think.

00:53:42:17 - 00:53:54:09

That that was the meeting we went to in a local village hall. When they were asked directly if they would put the cables in together, and they said they would not prepare to promise they would do that.

00:53:54:24 - 00:53:55:09

Okay.

00:53:55:11 - 00:53:56:09

Thank you. Thank you for that.

00:53:56:23 - 00:53:59:17

I can find the date of the meeting, but I haven't got it to hand.

00:53:59:23 - 00:54:01:21

Okay. That's great. Thank you. Thank you.

00:54:02:13 - 00:54:07:11

Um, okay. We move now back to Mr. Morgan, your own personal presentation.

00:54:08:12 - 00:54:39:01

Thank you very much, Phil Morgan. Um, I want to raise four issues if I can. Now. Uh, the first thing touched on a couple of times, which is the issue of flooding. Um, South Fylde was historically an area of swamps until about 1750s, and that's when work started to drain it. You can still see some of that history and some of the names. Clifton is named literally after Cliff on the sea. Um, and the two, uh, tollgate, Highgate Hotel, as it was called, and the late Gate Hotel.

00:54:39:03 - 00:55:12:10

Still there is also for those built across the swamp at that time. One of the consequences from that is the older villages are all suffering from aging culverts and problems with sewerage and rainwater systems. Uh, certainly in Newton, I've reported over 100 block drains in the last three years. Uh, and I won't have been the only one reporting the miser. This has been exacerbated by some of the new build around the old villages, and certainly in places in Newton and Kirkham and Ray green.

00:55:12:13 - 00:55:45:19

We now have more flooding than we used to have as a result of those new developments taking place. Um, there was a major piece of work carried out by my colleague here, Tommy Southwell, and File Council a few years ago, which captures some of the things. But the situation has not got any better since then. I also want to touch a bit on traffic, where the existing situation on traffic is far from ideal. We have continual problems, particularly on the A5 84 and on Freckleton Road, and some of the proposed routes, as I touched on earlier, are effectively single lane already.

00:55:46:01 - 00:56:37:24

This can congestion acts as a brake on our local economy. It impacts on local employers and impacts on people wishing to get to work to earn a living. In addition, we have not enough footpaths and bridleways and the additional traffic will cut across many of those that do exist now. And so we're going to have a situation where there'll be increasingly severe hazards to pedestrians, cyclists and horses, and this all impacts on the local economy, particularly major employees like these systems, who will, I'm sure, comment in their own right, but also the tourism industry from the big summer like really holds the small Norcross camping site and on the coast at Saint Anne's, which which

Tommy's already mentioned, where the work on the sand dunes has an impact on the local economy there.

00:56:38:14 - 00:57:13:09

And the last thing I want to talk about is the issue around bird strike and defense. Uh, of course, in Freckleton, I think it's the worst ever air disaster in this country took place. So there is knowledge of what can happen when things go wrong there. Um, there's a real challenge for Bay systems in terms of them being regulatory compliant, being able to fulfill their contracts with Mod. And they touched on this earlier as well. And that touches on their ability to operate as a defense industry, adding to the economy directly and indirectly to people who work for it.

00:57:13:17 - 00:57:54:03

And our ability as a country to defend ourselves. There's also the potential impacts on the HMS dreadnought contract. And finally, there's this wonderful balancing act that the applicants are proposing, where they know that there are issues around air strikes for birds. They know those issues about trying to make sure they can meet. Their answer appears to be that they'll be exactly the same number of birds in the future as there is now. And of course, birds don't operate like that. So they're trying to balance this tension between trying to pretend there won't be any more air strikes, and trying to pretend they're going to make sure the economies, at least the ecology, is at least as good as it was in the past.

00:57:54:05 - 00:57:57:21

I think that's an impossible tension for them to resolve. Thank you.

00:57:58:25 - 00:58:05:15

Thank you, Mr. Morgan. Next, we move to Mr. David Dunlop from the Wildlife Trust.

00:58:10:02 - 00:58:11:13

Yes. Please do.

00:58:17:13 - 00:58:18:24

Yes, it should be working.

00:58:21:21 - 00:58:25:19

Yes. As well. Uh, I'm not.

00:58:25:21 - 00:58:26:08

Intending to.

00:58:26:10 - 00:58:28:02

Repeat a lot of what we've.

00:58:28:04 - 00:58:28:29

Already put in in.

00:58:29:01 - 00:58:30:17

A submission, but I'll.

00:58:30:19 - 00:58:31:04

Just.

00:58:31:06 - 00:58:32:07

Quickly raise a few points.

00:58:32:09 - 00:58:32:24

Which.

00:58:32:26 - 00:58:33:11

Will probably.

00:58:33:13 - 00:58:33:28

Come.

00:58:34:00 - 00:58:34:15

To you tomorrow anyway.

00:58:35:07 - 00:58:35:26

Um.

00:58:36:21 - 00:59:11:21

We have a national interest in this, um, inquiry, uh, just because of the expansion in, uh, transmission infrastructure, because of the increasing, uh, amount of structure that will be required for, uh, increasing renewable energy, uh, in the local context. Uh, offshore, we have, uh, concern about the impact on the marine conservation zone. What is offshore? It often gets overlooked just because it's a blue bit on the Ordnance Survey map, but it's, uh, a wild ecosystem in its own right.

00:59:12:04 - 00:59:59:18

Fylde dunes live in Saint Anne's. We have particular skin in that game because we are actually a partner with Fylde Borough Council and Blackpool Council, and indeed the Environment Agency in accreting the dunes there, partly as a coastal defence and partly to restore the ecology which has enabled us to reintroduce the sand lizard, nationally scarce species. We are concerned that the impact of the access tract, which used to be an old stand running track and vibration there, may actually disturb the overwintering or hybridizing, I should say, uh, um, some lizards in the dunes at that point, which I don't think has been picked up by the applicant.

01:00:00:18 - 01:00:37:10

Uh, partly that's because of data deficiency. We have a lot of data, as you might expect, on the habitats and species of the dune system, but we have not been approached for it. And we think the data which the applicant consultant has got is deficient in that regard. I won't expand on that now. Uh, and, uh, in the case of the rest of the route from Saint John's to Penwortham, there's a kind of chicken and egg situation that we are promised mitigation for impact on local wildlife sites, but we don't know the detail of what that will be.

01:00:37:12 - 01:01:12:07

So we're not in a position to say what we think of it, other than we have to assume the worst possible scenario until we know otherwise. Uh, and in a particular instance, uh, there is also biodiversity benefit area, uh, proposed next to the Marsh Biological Heritage site, which doesn't seem to take any account of what that would be designated for. And some of the measures proposed actually have the potential to make that worse in terms of its designation

01:01:13:24 - 01:01:18:15

in other habitats. That's the summary. I'll speed things up here.

01:01:19:14 - 01:01:29:00

Okay. Thank you. Just before you you leave there, um, you mentioned you have data sets that you think would be beneficial to the project. Yes. You just elaborate a bit more.

01:01:29:03 - 01:01:56:08

Uh, we have been undertaking habitat surveys and botanical and invertebrate surveys on that. Sometimes dunes, for very many years since the project started, which I think was in 2019. Uh, our actual conservation officer for North Lancashire can't be here today. Uh, so you're getting the southern side of the, um, the,

01:01:57:26 - 01:02:12:10

um, sand dune introduction project also required, I think, three natural living conditions as much as anything else. Uh, Constant monitoring of where they are and where they have it, and where they are assumed to breed and how they move around the site. And we have that data.

01:02:14:03 - 01:02:14:18

That's great.

01:02:14:20 - 01:02:15:16

Thank you. Right.

01:02:18:12 - 01:02:18:27

Okay.

01:02:18:29 - 01:02:22:14

We move online now to Christine Abbott.

01:02:24:21 - 01:02:25:20

It's Abbott there.

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

Hello.

01:02:29:03 - 01:02:31:18

Okay. Can you give us a representation?

01:02:32:11 - 01:02:33:08

Christine Abbott.

01:02:33:10 - 01:02:34:12

Live in residence.

01:02:34:20 - 01:03:06:08

Um, my family will be affected by the works. Um, I will try not to duplicate any information already provided. Um, an overwhelming majority of over 2000 businesses and individuals have responded to state their concerns about this plan. A lack of clear information by the applicants has resulted in widespread concern and uncertainty. Uh, paper copies of the registration form were not provided on request, meaning people who did not have online access did not have a say.

01:03:06:17 - 01:03:44:06

This includes a large population of the failed. One of the meetings was only advertised the evening before. I was not aware of any taking place. Questions to the applicant seemingly went unanswered as the presenters did not know the answer, or different answers were provided at different events. The timing of the written consultations, before many important details were finalised, meant residents were not able to give informed feedback. This lack of detailed information contravenes the Planning Act 2008 requirements for robust community engagement for this type of project.

01:03:45:09 - 01:04:01:09

The material was incomprehensible in its vague vagueness, language and complexity. Councillor Threlfall said the information was wholly inadequate, lacking clarity and leaving residents unable to fully understand the project's implications.

01:04:03:00 - 01:04:33:24

The loss of grade-A agricultural land is a significant Cerné and contravenes the Fylde Local Plan, prioritizing the protection of greenbelt land and high value agricultural land to maintain rural character separation, land and food security. Vale Council Natural England, Lancashire Wildlife Trust Trust all state the proposed mitigation measures are insufficient. Being nearby sensitive ecological areas such as Liverpool Bay spa.

01:04:34:21 - 01:05:07:24

If this plan is approved as it is, it will highly likely be contravening the HRA protection of designated sites from adverse impacts. The NPF makes clear that most new building is inappropriate in the greenbelt and should be refused permission, unless in very special circumstances. The scale of the proposed infrastructure does not demonstrate any such justification As you will have seen on your site inspection, the beaches are beautiful in the files and benefit the local economy through tourism.

01:05:08:06 - 01:05:41:24

I meet friends and family on the beach for dog walks and beach activities, and enjoy the peace and fresh air. Even in the middle of winter, it makes me feel calm and it alleviates any stress. Who would want to come to the files when faced with drilling noise? Air pollution closed. Businesses and beaches

closed with no water sports. Country roads dominated by HGVs and tankers. Wildlife and habitats displaced. New roads. Car for access built into beautiful countryside and ancient woodland. More than 80% of Lancashire beaches have been lost.

01:05:43:13 - 01:05:45:16

But could you start wrapping up a bit now?

01:05:48:05 - 01:06:22:00

Yeah, I support other speakers. The applicant has failed to demonstrate consideration of other points of connection, the significant land take and long term loss of agricultural productivity appear a prioritisation of national targets over local policy objectives. Reaching the balance required by the policy framework. The precautionary principle should prevail. Unintended consequences can lead to irreversible changes in ecosystems. M&M in their contractors will be held to account for their actions.

01:06:22:05 - 01:06:25:11

Overwhelmingly, the community say no to this plan.

01:06:27:01 - 01:06:34:16

Okay. Thank you, Miss Abbott. Thank you for that. Uh, we now move on also online, uh, to Mr. Paul Dennis.

01:06:37:03 - 01:06:42:23

Are you online there? Yep. Can you explain who you represent, please? Uh, yes.

01:06:42:25 - 01:06:56:23

I represent, uh, Paul Dennis. I'm a chartered surveyor and land agent, and I represent several landowners, uh, in the area, some of whom I believe are present today. Uh, and, uh, they have various specific issues.

01:06:56:25 - 01:06:57:10

Which.

01:06:57:12 - 01:07:10:18

We will raise separately for the May 20th deadline rather than going through them today. I don't intend to be very long today, simply because if I tried to go through everything, I would be exceptionally long.

01:07:11:05 - 01:07:11:20

Um.

01:07:12:01 - 01:07:17:06

Two main points from today. One is the public consultation, which we believe.

01:07:17:08 - 01:07:17:24

Was.

01:07:17:26 - 01:07:18:29

Simply paying.

01:07:19:03 - 01:07:20:04

Lip service.

01:07:20:13 - 01:07:20:28

To.

01:07:21:00 - 01:07:27:13

The requirements of a public consultation. In that, I received a phone call before the consultation closed to say.

01:07:27:15 - 01:07:28:09

That decisions.

01:07:28:11 - 01:07:28:27

Have been made.

01:07:28:29 - 01:07:29:14

On.

01:07:29:16 - 01:07:30:01

The route.

01:07:30:05 - 01:07:31:10

And we believe that.

01:07:31:19 - 01:07:32:19

Uh, as such.

01:07:33:07 - 01:07:41:27

Uh, those well, in the consultation should have finished and the, uh, submissions should have been taken into consideration.

01:07:41:29 - 01:07:42:17

Before.

01:07:42:25 - 01:07:57:23

Decisions like that were made. So we're just questioning the validity there of the public consultation. The second one is, uh, specifically regarding the temporary mitigation area, which we have been trying to find out details on.

01:07:57:28 - 01:07:58:13

And.

01:07:58:29 - 01:08:02:00

To try and find out what is being mitigated.

01:08:02:06 - 01:08:03:11

And uh.

01:08:03:18 - 01:08:05:06

Clearly it's to.

01:08:05:23 - 01:08:07:11

Uh, move.

01:08:08:07 - 01:08:09:03

Uh, wildlife.

01:08:09:05 - 01:08:09:20

Flora.

01:08:09:22 - 01:08:26:00

Fauna, uh, to an area which won't be disturbed. It is next to an existing mitigation area which is closely monitored. Uh, and we believe may be affected and affects some of my clients. So we are just wanting to know in terms of the mitigation area.

01:08:26:02 - 01:08:26:17

What is.

01:08:26:19 - 01:08:27:15

Being mitigated.

01:08:28:15 - 01:08:29:25

You know, is it wildlife?

01:08:29:27 - 01:08:30:12

Is it.

01:08:30:14 - 01:08:30:29

Birds.

01:08:31:03 - 01:08:32:01

Pink footed geese?

01:08:32:03 - 01:08:32:22

Whatever.

01:08:33:24 - 01:08:34:09

That's it.

01:08:34:11 - 01:08:34:28

Thank you.

01:08:35:15 - 01:08:37:09

Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

01:08:38:19 - 01:08:46:06

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Dennis. Uh, we now move on to Blackpool Airport. And, uh, Mr. Paul.

01:08:47:12 - 01:09:22:13

Sir. Thank you. Um, I'd just like to cover three main points. today in my five minute slot. The first is just to quickly summarize the, um, the, uh, corporate structure of Blackpool Airport and the separate legal representation of Blackpool Airport and um, Blackpool Borough Council. And then to, um, provide a brief update on, um, a commercial agreement that the airport is seeking to enter into with the applicants. Um, the third point is the, um, the 791 CAA process, which will form part of the cooperation agreement.

01:09:24:08 - 01:09:39:06

Blackpool Airport and Blackpool Borough Council will have, um, separate legal representation during the DCO examination. Blackpool Airport comprises Blackpool Airport Operations Limited and Blackpool Airport Properties Limited BA. Oh and BA.

01:09:40:21 - 01:09:54:01

BA is the airport operator and BA PL is the entity that owns the majority of land interests within the airport boundary. The balance of land within the airport boundaries owned by Blackpool Borough Council or Blackpool Council.

01:09:55:20 - 01:10:29:12

Ball and APL are wholly owned by Blackpool Airport Limited, which is in turn wholly owned by Blackpool Borough Council. Blackpool Airport, comprising the three airport entities that I've just described, is legally represented by myself. Alastair Paul, the DWF Blackpool Council, in its capacity as ultimate owner of Blackpool Airport and landowner within the proposed order limits, is represented by my DWF colleague to my right. Catherine Knight. I just thought it'd be helpful to explain that at the outset, given that there will be involvement from both both parties throughout the examination process.

01:10:29:18 - 01:10:30:25

That's very helpful. Thank you.

01:10:32:17 - 01:11:11:24

So just to update on the commercial agreement that I mentioned earlier, the applicants and Blackpool Airport have been in detailed discussions and negotiations regarding the works on Blackpool airports

and the proposed works, I should say, on Blackpool Airport's operational land for many months now. I'm instructed that engagement with my clients commenced with the applicant's EIA scoping stage in 2022, and then heads of terms for a cooperation agreement were received. Um, but in early 2020, for a first draft, the cooperation agreement was received by the airport in Q3 2024, and it was shortly thereafter that I was instructed by the airport.

01:11:13:00 - 01:11:50:21

The key principle that the airport requires to underpin the cooperation agreement is to ensure the continued safe, efficient and uninterrupted operation of the airport. The cooperation agreement negotiations are well progressed. The current draft is with my client for review, and we are working on preparing an updated draft and comments on the technical aspects contained within the documentation in the coming days. Given the detailed and commercially sensitive nature of these discussions, the airport and the applicants will not be in a position to provide any substantive detail on the terms of the agreement at this stage, but the parties do intend to update the examining authority at relevant examination deadlines as required.

01:11:53:06 - 01:12:20:25

I would just like to take this opportunity to point out that at this moment in time, whilst the airport's key concerns, as outlined in its relevant reps, which you've already received, are, for the most part likely to be addressed through the commercial agreements, there are certain issues on which the airport may require further information, and or which may not be able to be addressed through the agreement. And so it reserves its position in relation to such matters. We would like to ensure the panel that any such matters will be raised at the earliest opportunity.

01:12:22:10 - 01:12:58:08

So just briefly, just in terms of the Cap 791 process. So to confirm, the civil aviation authorities cap seven nine, one process which relates to changes to aerodrome infrastructure, will be engaged in relation to this project and must be completed by the airport before any works take place within the licensed aerodrome. The Cap 791 process will necessarily require a high degree of collaboration between the airport and the applicants. It's the intention that the steps needed to complete the 791 process will be committed to, under, and reflected in the cooperation agreement.

01:12:58:22 - 01:13:24:22

To this end, the airport has received assurances from the applicants that they are committed to supporting with this activity at no cost to the airport, including providing the airport with any resourcing, support and project design information. That's it and or the CAA requires to complete the process. So in summary, therefore, good progress has been made. There is further work to do, and the airport will endeavour to update the panel on any residual or unresolvable issues as soon as reasonably practicable.

01:13:28:03 - 01:13:29:13

Great. Thank you, Mr. Paul.

01:13:33:04 - 01:13:38:16

Colleagues, got a question? Mr.. Paul, are you going to be here for the issue specific.

01:13:38:18 - 01:13:39:03

Hearing.

01:13:39:05 - 01:13:39:25

Tomorrow?

01:13:40:08 - 01:13:41:02

I will be here.

01:13:41:26 - 01:14:03:01

Um, because there is a reference when you talk about the CAA. Uh, there is a reference in the response from the applicant that if they got the consent from the CAA, then that would be sufficient. And I think we'd be wanting you to comment as to whether or not, um, the airport.

01:14:03:03 - 01:14:03:18

Wants.

01:14:03:20 - 01:14:05:19

Wants, wants to, um, be a party.

01:14:05:21 - 01:14:06:06

To.

01:14:06:08 - 01:14:07:02

That discussion. Really?

01:14:08:03 - 01:14:11:03

Can I just clarify what you mean by consent from the CAA?

01:14:12:20 - 01:14:17:06

Uh, I think I mean, the, um, the license from the CAA.

01:14:20:02 - 01:14:25:13

As in the. I just need to understand what content of license you're referring to.

01:14:25:15 - 01:14:29:06

I'm afraid it's the point you were making earlier.

01:14:29:12 - 01:14:56:24

The cap 791. Okay. Sorry. Okay. Yeah. Well, that's an that would be a process that is led by the airport, um, with collaboration from the applicants. So, um, the the consent or if you want to put it that way. Um, would be, um, issues to the airport because it is the airport that is licensed by the CAA. Um, so I can answer that point now. Uh, but if you need anything further, I'm more than happy to speak to that point tomorrow.

01:14:57:09 - 01:15:00:20

Uh. That's helpful. That's given me the reassurance I wanted. Thank you.

01:15:06:29 - 01:15:11:17

Thank you, Mr. Paul. Uh, we move now to Annette Sharkey.

01:15:27:16 - 01:16:01:10

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I've been asked as part of a coordinated effort not to be repetitive, to focus on heritage and archaeology in the applicant's environmental statement report volume three, annex 5.1 or 243 pages of it. You can find references, maps, and labels to a huge amount of heritage and archaeological assets. It really does give you an idea of the magnitude of potential harms from the creation of the transmission assets.

01:16:01:28 - 01:16:32:05

You can find 32 pages full of prints from the Lancashire Historic Environment. Record data in there, the printer for things such as Bronze Age cairns, Roman forts, settlements and Quaker burial grounds to give you a few examples. The report states this area of Lancashire is considered to be one of the richest areas of Neolithic to Bronze Age activity within the North West.

01:16:32:20 - 01:17:03:16

In appendix A and D, you find the tables of listed buildings that could be affected. It comes to 105. I had to talk a lot about myself. I can't speak to all of those assets mentioned in the report, but I guess the reason I was asked is because I live in one of the listed buildings. I was pleased to see that on the 19th of March, the Tsar viewed the listed buildings in the village of Newton with scales, which I presume included my property in the aforementioned environmental statement report.

01:17:03:27 - 01:17:44:00

Summary of assessment. Archaeological potential. It states there is potential for impacts arising from change within the setting of designated heritage assets, although with regard to most of these proposed elements, this change will be short term. We don't know how long that is because that's during construction and fully reversible. The exception would be in respect of the onshore substations where there would be a significant change. Sorry, a change would be long term for those designated heritage assets whose heritage significance may be harmed as a result of the change in their setting.

01:17:44:27 - 01:18:21:15

To a point already raised. There were no renderings of the substations that show the impact on the setting of heritage assets. Maybe the renderings would have made the impact all too apparent. The cluster of Dagga Cottage, Dixon's Farmhouse and the White Barn, which is curtilage listed, are significantly impacted along with two other listed buildings on Grange Line, Grange Lane. Sorry, in my eyes, I prevent. I provided a layman's attempt to try and show how the Southern Substation, The Morecambe One, would have a significant impact on the setting of the heritage assets.

01:18:21:29 - 01:18:55:16

The photo was taken from the corner of the southwest, looking down from Grange Lane, which is on the top of a slope down to a floodplain which is on Thames Street. The topology of the land makes it difficult to see how the heritage setting assets could be protected, even with skyscraping screening.

The Planning Inspectorate themselves has stated the following with regard to Dixons farmhouse, the special interests of the property lies in its character as part of a group of traditional former farm buildings.

01:18:55:29 - 01:19:30:09

Its historic significance, in conjunction with neighbouring buildings, lies in its illustration of the evolution of life and work in the village over time. It is highly desirable that the building special interest should not be eroded. And I've been here my three minutes. I've got two bits left. I apologize for just spotlighting one small corner of a huge proposal, but I hope that I've been able to demonstrate the sheer scale of heritage and archaeology assets that will or could be impacted.

01:19:30:27 - 01:19:48:29

I hope that with the addition of the other points point being raised and already raised in the relevant representations. This big business juggernaut is going to be asked to start again, to properly evaluate alternative options and to perform a genuine consultation. Thank you.

01:19:49:01 - 01:19:49:16

Okay.

01:19:49:18 - 01:19:53:07

Thank you, Mr. Sharkey. You can stay there a second. I think my colleague has a question for you.

01:19:54:27 - 01:20:16:01

Yeah. Just one very quick question. Uh, you refer to the Planning Inspectorate quotation, which I assume is from a planning inspector decision notice on an application to that building. It's probably worth saying that before. Yes. I'm sorry to give that context. Is there a reference that you can provide as a deadline? One if you want. But is there a reference to that?

01:20:16:17 - 01:20:25:16

I have an application number and it is written in my relevant representation, which I haven't got the number for. Is that the 205, that 2005 reference.

01:20:25:18 - 01:20:27:09

Is probably the local authority reference.

01:20:27:11 - 01:20:27:26

Sorry.

01:20:27:28 - 01:20:28:13

There'll be.

01:20:28:15 - 01:20:30:16

A I can send that in um, as.

01:20:30:18 - 01:20:31:06

Soon as your.

01:20:33:06 - 01:20:34:06

written submissions.

01:20:34:17 - 01:20:46:10

App slash. That's it. M2 325. Slash e slash ten slash 2123141.

01:20:47:23 - 01:20:48:08

Sorry.

01:20:48:10 - 01:20:52:21

Thank you. That does make it. I don't know quite where the numbers come from, but that does make sense for me.

01:20:53:15 - 01:20:54:11

So I wasn't.

01:20:54:13 - 01:20:55:11

Sure if that's the number we were.

01:20:55:13 - 01:20:56:11

Looking at. So it was an.

01:20:56:13 - 01:21:04:12

Appeal against me for something that I'd done. Um, so it is a learning process, but that's where I found out exactly how valuable my property is.

01:21:04:25 - 01:21:13:28

Okay. Thank you. It's just so everyone knows what that reference was, was from. And I don't remember necessarily a copy of that can be obtained, but you probably can, can't it?

01:21:14:00 - 01:21:23:03

Apologies to interrupt this down. On behalf of the applicant. We got the first three numbers and then slightly lost. So if you could do it again slowly I can just write it. Certainly. Thank you.

01:21:23:27 - 01:21:41:05

You got the first app slash M2325 25. Slash ee ee for eg. Slash ten. Slash two. One. Two three. One four. One.

01:21:43:25 - 01:21:51:18

Thank you. I could tell you what each of those numbers actually refers to. But I won't because that will take too long. But there is a reason behind it. But thank you that that will allow us to see that. Thank you.

01:21:52:07 - 01:21:55:25

Okay. Thank you, Miss Sharkey. Uh, no, it's, uh, Mr. Sharkey.

01:22:04:26 - 01:22:13:01

Thank you. I'm talking mainly about landscape and visual amenity. I want to start with a quote from.

01:22:13:03 - 01:22:13:18

Reference.

01:22:13:20 - 01:22:22:01

To historic maps. It appears that the landscape pattern largely remains intact. South and west of the village of Newton. The ancient.

01:22:22:03 - 01:22:22:18

Field.

01:22:22:20 - 01:22:23:08

Enclosures which.

01:22:23:10 - 01:22:26:07

Surround the settlement result in small, irregular shaped.

01:22:26:09 - 01:22:26:29

Fields.

01:22:27:01 - 01:22:29:17

With field ponds and well-maintained high hawthorn.

01:22:29:19 - 01:22:31:06

Hedgerows. Some of.

01:22:31:08 - 01:22:31:23

These.

01:22:31:25 - 01:22:34:12

Hedgerows are planted on embankments which follow narrow lanes.

01:22:34:14 - 01:22:37:12

And tracks. Occasional groups of mature trees.

01:22:37:14 - 01:22:37:29

Are planted.

01:22:38:01 - 01:22:40:00

Within the hedgerows at intervals.

01:22:40:29 - 01:22:42:14

I noticed that the applicants don't.

01:22:42:16 - 01:22:43:01

Appear.

01:22:43:03 - 01:22:44:19

To have referenced the land.

01:22:44:21 - 01:22:45:11

That they propose to.

01:22:45:13 - 01:22:46:11

Put the substations.

01:22:46:13 - 01:22:48:06

On as anything exceptional.

01:22:48:19 - 01:22:49:09

The words aren't.

01:22:49:11 - 01:22:50:21

Just read are quoted.

01:22:50:23 - 01:22:52:27

By an appeal by Fylde Council.

01:22:53:11 - 01:22:54:02

The description.

01:22:54:04 - 01:22:54:19

Of the.

01:22:54:21 - 01:22:55:12

Area affected.

01:22:55:14 - 01:22:58:18

By this application and for the avoidance of doubt, I.

01:22:58:20 - 01:22:59:11

Have a reference.

01:22:59:13 - 01:23:03:08

Should you wish it. The applicants have not provided any.

01:23:03:10 - 01:23:05:00

Detailed renderings of the.

01:23:05:02 - 01:23:06:00

Substations.

01:23:06:02 - 01:23:08:03

Such that the impact of these significant.

01:23:08:05 - 01:23:09:00

Developments.

01:23:09:03 - 01:23:09:18

Both.

01:23:09:20 - 01:23:10:05

In area.

01:23:10:07 - 01:23:10:22

And.

01:23:10:24 - 01:23:11:09

Height, can.

01:23:11:11 - 01:23:16:12

Be judged. It has therefore been impossible for the public to gauge the effect on.

01:23:16:14 - 01:23:16:29

The area.

01:23:17:01 - 01:23:19:11

In terms of visual, acoustic and other.

01:23:19:13 - 01:23:23:19

Amenities when involved in local domestic planning applications.

01:23:23:21 - 01:23:26:15

We are made, quite rightly to submit.

01:23:26:17 - 01:23:27:02

Detailed.

01:23:27:04 - 01:23:28:13

Plans of a proposal.

01:23:28:17 - 01:23:29:21

In order to potentially.

01:23:29:23 - 01:24:01:02

Gain approval. Neighbors and other affected parties have full access to these detailed plans and can comment on the actuality of the proposal. In the case of this application, the public and it would seem that having an authority or being asked to comment on and approve an unknown entity, a development consent order should surely never be consented. On an ill defined development. The consultation has been as will. You will have heard from others, flawed in many ways.

01:24:01:11 - 01:24:33:25

The consultation with regard to the substations failed, as there was nothing concrete to be consulted on. You'll be aware, as mentioned, that incentives have been proposed for the transmission assets. Both routing and siting, one in particular is demonstrably less disruptive on an industrial site, as much shorter than cable route. The old adage advising not to make the best the enemy of good may be appropriate in many cases, but in this case, the applicant's proposal is not a good solution.

01:24:34:00 - 01:24:59:00

It is a bad solution, and as such, this DCO application for transmission assets should be denied or withdrawn. The applicants would garner much support and goodwill if they reconsidered this ill considered application. Very few people are against green energy through wind power, but many people are against unnecessarily harming our historic landscape environment.

01:24:59:07 - 01:24:59:24

Thank you.

01:25:00:04 - 01:25:15:25

Excellent. I was nearly dead on three minutes, Mr. Sharkey. So, I think, um, this is probably appropriate time to take a short break as we break now, until 4:15, and we'll reconvene then.