



Planning Inspectorate
Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

Hearing Transcript

Project:	Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms Transmission Assets
Hearing:	Open floor hearing 2 (OFH2)
Date:	24 June 2025

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FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:01:30:13 - 00:01:40:22

Good evening and welcome, everybody. It's now 630 and time for this hearing to begin. Can I just confirm that everybody in the room can hear me clearly?

00:01:43:01 - 00:01:51:13

Thank you. If at any point you can't, then just let us know. And can I also confirm with the case team that the live streaming and recording of this event has commenced?

00:01:53:09 - 00:01:58:07

Good. And can we have an indication that those joining online can also hear me.

00:02:12:11 - 00:02:43:21

Good. Welcome to this second open floor hearing in relation to the application by Morgan Offshore Wind Limited and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farm Limited for an order granting development consent for the Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farm transmission assets. My name is David Cliff. I'm a chartered town planner and examining inspector at the Planning Inspectorate. I've been appointed by the Secretary of State to be the lead member of the panel to examine this application, before asking my colleagues to introduce themselves. I'll quickly deal with a few housekeeping matters for those attending in person.

00:02:44:18 - 00:03:17:14

Please can everyone keep devices and phones to silent or on silent, please? Uh, toilets are located out in the foyer behind you through the doors. Cause we've not been made aware of any fire alarm tests this evening. So in the event of a fire alarm, please leave the room via the doors on my left hand side, your right hand side and the the the evacuation meeting point is at the tennis courts, which are if you go outside and then turn left and Karen walking around the building, you'll get to the tennis courts.

00:03:18:11 - 00:03:25:13

And for those attendees who have joined us via teams, please keep your cameras and microphones turned off unless you are speaking.

00:03:27:17 - 00:03:31:16

I'm now going to ask my colleagues on the panel to introduce themselves.

00:03:35:01 - 00:03:42:07

Good evening. My name is John Gorst. I've also been appointed by the Secretary of State to be a member of this panel. Thank you.

00:03:44:12 - 00:03:49:20

Good evening. My name is Richard Morgan. I'm a chartered civil engineer and examining inspector.

00:03:51:13 - 00:04:03:09

Good evening. My name is Maria Rocha. I'm a chartered scientist and a chartered environmentalist. I'm also an examining inspector, and I will be leading the main part of this hearing tonight.

00:04:05:10 - 00:04:26:05

Thank you. Together, we constitute the examining authority for this application. After our examination finishes in late October, we'll be preparing a recommendation report. And in submitting that to the Secretary of State for Energy Security in net zero, who will be responsible for making the final decision on the application?

00:04:28:15 - 00:05:00:17

We're supported in the room by colleagues from the planning Inspectorate's case team. Today. We have Caroline Hopewell and Georgie Hannigan over on the right at the right hand side of the room, and also Rebecca Luxton and Alicia Wines, who are supporting us virtually today. If you've got any questions about the examination process or the technology, we are using. The case team should be your first point of contact. For any queries. A link to the Planning Inspector's privacy notice was provided in the notification for this hearing.

00:05:00:19 - 00:05:36:05

I assume that everybody here today has is aware of this document, which establishes how the personal data of our customers is handled in accordance with the principles set out in data protection laws. Please speak to a member of the case team if you have any questions about this. But as a general point, obviously if you've got personal information that you wish to speak about, then do be aware of data protection laws and the fact that items are recorded by the planning inspector. So if you have personal information you want to tell us about, please talk to the case team about that first.

00:05:36:24 - 00:05:51:00

As the hearing today is being recorded, the only official record of the proceedings is is this recording, which will be uploaded onto the Inspectorate's website as soon as practicable after the hearing. Is there anybody here from the press today?

00:05:54:07 - 00:05:58:04

Okay. Or anyone who intends to record this hearing?

00:06:01:19 - 00:06:36:06

Okay. Thank you. As I say, the Planning Inspectorate is recording the hearing, and there'll be a recording of that available on line shortly afterwards. Tomorrow and Thursday we are accompanying. We are carrying out our first accompanied site inspection. The examining authorities also carried out unaccompanied site inspections, where we've seen lots of features of the site. And it surrounds that those places, principally those places that are accessible or can be viewed from public land.

00:06:36:18 - 00:07:09:00

Just to make clear that the site visit tomorrow and Thursday is to primarily view those locations where we need to get access to private land. So there are some locations, for example, Blackpool Recreation Ground. We're not visiting tomorrow or Thursday, but we have already seen those because we've and we spent some time at those because we're able to see them from obviously from public land. Uh, and we'll also be carrying out the most likely to be carrying out further unaccompanied site inspections later on in the examination.

00:07:09:02 - 00:07:30:02

So I just want to make clear that some people, I think, might be a little bit concerned about what's on the itinerary in terms of not the places that they necessarily want us to visit. But but the main thing about tomorrow and Thursday, it's those places that we need to get access to private land and that all of the places we will go onto the site or have done already, uh, where it's public land.

00:07:33:16 - 00:07:40:24

Okay. Thank you. I'll now hand over to Mr. Kiko, who will lead the remainder of this hearing. Thank you.

00:07:41:14 - 00:08:15:15

Thank you, Mr. Cliff. So this open lyric hearing has been called by the examining authority because we wish to hear from interested parties. It is an opportunity for the examining authority to hear firsthand your thoughts about the application and your opportunity to raise anything directly to us that is important and relevant, and that you think we should know about and consider. I would like to reassure you that we are familiar with the documents that you have sent in.

00:08:16:02 - 00:08:36:03

So when speaking or answering a question, you do not need to repeat at length something that has already been submitted. If you wish to refer to information already submitted, I would be very grateful if you could provide the appropriate Planning Inspectorate examination library reference.

00:08:38:10 - 00:08:54:23

Could I also please ask that the first time you use an abbreviation or an acronym that you give the full title, as there will be people here today or listening on the audio that may not be as familiar with the application or the documents as you are.

00:08:57:02 - 00:09:29:01

The examining authority will firstly hear from those parties that have pre-registered to speak, as set out in the agenda that has been published on the website, in case they could put that up for now. Thank you. And it is noted that the agenda doesn't include those who have already spoken at open

floor hearing one. And that's because the priority has been given to those who have not previously spoken.

00:09:30:05 - 00:10:02:07

Should time permit, we will then hear from any interested party who also wishes to speak and those who have already spoken should limit their comments to submissions that have not already been made. However, time may be quite tight and this will be at the discretion of the examining authority. This hearing is not expected to go beyond 9 p.m. and to make best use of the time.

00:10:02:09 - 00:10:16:13

It would be of great assistance if points already made by other speakers were not repeated, and you can be rest assured that the examining authority will have understood a point made the first time.

00:10:18:10 - 00:10:57:05

The examining authority will offer the applicants a right of response. Once all the submissions have been made by interested parties and others following any response from the applicants, should they choose to make one. The meeting will close and to ensure everyone can have their say. please. Can I ask that each individual speaker keep to a limit of three minutes? Unless you are speaking on behalf of a community or a larger group, in which case you have five minutes to speak and I will let you know when you are approaching your time limit.

00:10:58:18 - 00:11:30:10

The order in which you will be invited to speak will largely follow the agenda. And to save time, we will ask people to come forward to the table at up to four at a time. We will ask each of you to speak in turn based on the time allocated to you. When we have heard from all four of you and asked any questions the panel may have. You can return to the general seating and we will call the next group of four forward.

00:11:32:15 - 00:11:41:12

And once you have returned to the general seating, please feel free to depart the venue if you wish. Um, if you wish to leave. Please do so quietly.

00:11:43:05 - 00:12:13:23

For the purposes of the recording and for reference. When you do speak, please can I ask that you state your name and your interest in the case? And at this point, I would like to invite the first four people on the agenda list to make themselves available. And uh, I will say the names I've got and apologies if I mispronounce any of it. Just feel free to correct me. So I've got Councillor Richard Radcliffe for File Council

00:12:15:18 - 00:12:26:21

and I've got Councillor Noreen Griffith for Fylde as well. I've got councillor Victoria Wells for Wyre Borough Council.

00:12:29:18 - 00:12:35:09

And I've got, uh, Mr. David Thompson for Newton Residents Association.

00:12:41:00 - 00:12:48:10

And could I just confirm with Councillor Victoria Wells? Are you speaking today on behalf of the wider borough Council?

00:12:51:15 - 00:12:59:09

That I'm here on behalf of the Bourne ward within Wyre Borough Council. Not on behalf of the Borough Council itself. Thank you. Thank you.

00:13:02:14 - 00:13:12:11

And each of you has been allocated five minutes. So we will start with Councillor Richard Radcliffe. Please.

00:13:13:23 - 00:13:47:08

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I'm Councillor Richard Radcliffe and I have been elected member of final council for 14 years, serving the people of Fylde. I'm chairman of the Planning committee and deputy leader of the council. I have lived in Fylde for nearly 50 years and served as a headteacher of two primary schools for 28 years. I feel privileged to speak on possibly one of the most challenging issues that has ever faced our local communities in recent times.

00:13:48:09 - 00:14:29:23

However, I would like to begin by reaffirming final support for the principle of cleaner energy production. Indeed, our Local Plan sets out support for renewable energy development. But importantly, we must address adverse impacts and ensure that development is not pursued at the expense of our local environment, communities or planning principles. I'm deeply concerned that the environmental statement submitted by the applicant does not contain the information reasonably required to reach a sound conclusion on the likely impacts of the scheme.

00:14:30:13 - 00:15:00:22

This is not just my view or our view as a council. It is a concern shared by statutory consultees. Businesses, residents. Virtually all interested parties have raised concerns along these lines. Any consideration of the potential benefits of the scheme is undermined by this issue, and as such, all parts of any planned balanced assessment would be flawed.

00:15:01:24 - 00:15:38:08

The landscape and residents are Fylde face real and tangible risks. Our previously submitted local impact report and written statement sets out a wide range of issues. I only have time to mention a few of these now. The impacts on large areas of farmland are unclear, and we have clear evidence from farmers that their livelihoods could be irreparably harmed. The dunes that live them in towns which are an irreplaceable and protected habitat are under threat.

00:15:38:22 - 00:16:11:13

And still our statutory consultees are having to request information from the applicant. The impact on Blackpool Road Playing Fields, which support 46 local football teams, is neither properly assessed or mitigated. Our council tourism, which underpins a large part of the local economy, faces prolonged disruption. The proposed substations would cover a vast area and would impact local residents.

00:16:11:18 - 00:16:45:13

The green belt and landscape. It is unacceptable that details of what actually be built is beyond basic, and that no clear or convincing justification for two separate buildings in such close proximity in a sensitive location has been provided. Residents have told us that they feel shut out of a process clouded by late submissions, vague commitments and no clear timeline.

00:16:46:04 - 00:17:21:10

This has impacted not only on their ability to engage but their wellbeing. People need to know what is being built, where and when. Additionally, there have been significant concerns expressed by local communities about the lack of assessment of the alternative route. Given that the development would result in demonstrable harm for Fylde, I would expect that any deficiencies in the justification for the applicant's chosen route be taken into consideration by the examiners.

00:17:22:03 - 00:17:51:13

My message today is this for this type of development to come forward. The applicant must demonstrate clearly and convincingly that it will deliver local and national benefits, while respecting our local environment, policies and people. As things stand, this proposal does not do that. There is a risk of unjustified harm with very little direct benefit for the Fylde area. Thank you.

00:17:53:13 - 00:17:54:07

Thank you.

00:18:01:04 - 00:18:04:10

Okay. Uh, councillor Noreen Griffith, please.

00:18:05:17 - 00:18:40:23

Thank you. Good evening. I speak tonight as an elected member of Fylde Borough Council and Freckleton Parish Council on concerns the cable route for the Morecambe and Morgan windfarm may have on our Freckleton community the purpose of maintaining the greenbelt areas is to preserve and protect the countryside, keeping land permanently open. The five new golden rules brought into planning to develop the countryside and greenbelt do not mention this type of development.

00:18:41:08 - 00:19:16:03

Development on Greenbelt should only be given where there is a real need. This land performs a real purpose, not just for farming. The adjacent bridleway is used by horse riders, dog walkers and ramblers for pleasure and to enjoy the countryside for their health and wellbeing. Which leads me on to the effects the threat of this development is having on residents living in close proximity to the proposed covector substation site.

00:19:16:24 - 00:19:30:18

Some people are sensitive to noise pollution, which may be an issue from the station along with the EMF exposure. Will these factors be monitored? And if so, by Who?

00:19:32:13 - 00:20:23:02

Further concerns have been raised by Freckleton history Group around the proximity of the substations to the historic Quaker burial site. Documentation has been supplied regarding subsequent

burials in the fields known as the Burying Yards. Oxford Archaeology North have taken scrapes from the site. However, we have not been given any information on their findings. Will these findings be made available for public comment before any on site work is commenced? I'd like to finish with a quote by Lord Devon, chairman of the Climate Change Committee, which says what on earth are we doing trying to deal with a difficult issue with very out of date proposals.

00:20:23:12 - 00:20:38:02

This is not a Nimby battle. We have got an alternative which is better than which is being proposed and its more up to date. Our neighbours are building offshore hubs. Thank you.

00:20:39:21 - 00:20:40:22

Thank you very much.

00:20:44:20 - 00:20:48:00

Okay. Now councillor Victoria Wellesley.

00:20:49:24 - 00:21:25:24

Thank you and good evening. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address you today. I speak in my capacity as the elected councillor for Bourn ward on the North Wyre Peninsula, and a long standing advocate for sustainable regeneration in our region. My purpose today is to respectfully urge you to include three specific locations in your upcoming site visits as part of the Development Consent Order Examination for the Morgan and Morecambe Transmission Project.

00:21:27:00 - 00:21:59:10

These sites, centered on the Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone, are not only materially relevant but potentially transformational. I believe they offer a more efficient, cost effective and environmentally responsible alternative to the currently proposed 30 kilometre transmission route. So firstly, I'd like to highlight the socio economic and strategic importance of the wider peninsula.

00:22:00:01 - 00:22:46:17

The wider peninsula has for far too long borne the burden of the post-industrial decline tourism, fishing, sea transport and chemical manufacturing. Once our economic backbone have diminished drastically Today, wire is one of the most deprived areas nationally. But within that challenge lies a really rare opportunity. The Hill House industrial zone within my ward is not just an underused asset, it is a designated enterprise zone supported by our local master plan, complete with planning advantages, existing utilities and, crucially, a direct link to the national grid via the 400 kV Stanley substation.

00:22:48:06 - 00:23:27:03

The case for an alternative connection route. So, despite these obvious advantages, the applicant has offered no clear rationale for dismissing this site or route. The existing transmission corridor from Stanley to the Irish Sea, just two kilometres in length, is already partially developed. The Walney two offshore wind farm is proof of that. By contrast, the current proposal requires a 30 kilometre new cable trench through multiple communities, sensitive areas and virgin greenbelts.

00:23:27:22 - 00:23:56:06

Independent stakeholders such as MPL Hillhouse have also submitted evidence supporting this route as more appropriate, citing reduced environmental impacts, faster delivery and lower costs. Given the absence of a full evaluation of this option by the applicant, I submit that an on site assessment by the panel is not just justified, it is essential

00:23:57:23 - 00:24:38:22

so the specific locations and the material importance. I respectfully request you visit three locations, the first being the Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone to directly observe its scale, infrastructure and proximity to the existing standard substation. Also, to appreciate the warmly two transmission infrastructure and the feasibility of expansion. And also to consider the implications for regional regeneration and, crucially, potential for support supporting environmental remediation of historically contaminated land.

00:24:39:07 - 00:25:16:01

And there is currently an e investigation on the land as we speak. The second location is the Fleetwood Road North and Surprise Way junction to see the protected corridor for potential cable route routing, and also to assess suitability for trench technologies like HDD with minimal disruption. Finally, Russell Promenade Beach to evaluate the clear and short two kilometre corridor from shoreline to substation to compare its impact with the proposed 30km inland trench.

00:25:16:16 - 00:25:50:04

Each of these sites offers unique material insights into a viable and potentially superior alternative that cannot be gained from maps or documents alone. Members of the panel. It is not mere local preference. It is credible, deliverable routes that may offer better outcomes for both the project and the public. Visiting these sites will equip you with firsthand evidence to determine whether due consideration has truly been given to all reasonable alternatives, as required by law and policy.

00:25:51:02 - 00:26:00:20

Thank you for your attention and for your commitment to a thorough, fair, and evidence based examination of this nationally significant infrastructure project. Thank you very much.

00:26:02:04 - 00:26:04:00

Thank you very much for the submission.

00:26:07:21 - 00:26:08:23

Put them off to.

00:26:13:05 - 00:26:26:00

A counselor. Thank you for that. You mentioned three sites you wanted us to visit, and I wasn't quite sure where the beach was. Is it possible you could submit a plan or something so that we'd be aware of where those three sites were?

00:26:26:02 - 00:26:30:20

Yeah, absolutely. I'd be more than happy to submit a plan that supports this. These visits. Thank you.

00:26:31:15 - 00:26:50:20

And just one point for me. Um, Councilor Wells. As I said before, we've got the itinerary for tomorrow and Thursday, which obviously doesn't include those locations. But as I've said, we're keeping an open mind for further visits. Uh, later in the examination. And obviously we'll give consideration to those suggestions of yours. So thank you.

00:26:51:02 - 00:26:52:16

That's excellent. Thank you very much.

00:26:55:02 - 00:27:02:13

Okay. Thank you. And finally in this group, Mr. David Thompson for Newton Residency.

00:27:03:01 - 00:27:04:22

Good evening. My name is David Thompson.

00:27:04:24 - 00:27:38:12

And I'm speaking as a committee member for the Newton Residents Association, a post I have held for over a decade. I'm here to raise serious and heartfelt concerns about the irreversible onshore elements of the Morgan or Morgan offshore wind farm projects. Whilst these projects are promoted as green energy solutions for us in the Fylde, especially in Newton with scales, Freckleton and Kirkham, the cost is devastating. This isn't just about cables and substations. It is about what we stand for and what we stand to lose forever.

00:27:39:04 - 00:28:14:21

The plan includes 35km of underground cables stretching from Blackpool Airport, culminating in the substations near Newton, and then onwards to pen with them. These two of us are vast substations, each about 34 acres in size, with buildings up to 25m high. This is equivalent to 17 football pitches per site. These industrial installations are proposed on greenbelt land. Some of the best and most productive farmland in our region. This land feeds our communities, supports our rural economy and defines the identity of the countryside.

00:28:15:15 - 00:28:50:12

Once in place, these substations will run 24 over seven. They will hum, they will buzz. They will light up the night sky. What is now peaceful and green will be permanently transformed into an industrial corridor. The cable trench passes close to Newton Bluecoat Primary School and crosses key local roads. These impacts were never made clear to the public. We are not just worried. We are frightened. These installations bring constant noise, light pollution, electromagnetic conditions next to homes, schools and children.

00:28:51:05 - 00:29:21:06

We risk losing cherished footpaths, bridleways and green spaces. Local farms and smallholdings are under threat to the historical fabric of our villages, Newton, Clifton and Southwick are all mentioned in the Domesday Book and they all face irreversible damage. HGV traffic is forecast to raise by up to 700%. Or narrow rural roads simply cannot cope. And despite repeated requests, we still have no visual renderings of the substations.

00:29:21:09 - 00:29:54:01

No clear noise limits, no drainage plans, no mitigation strategies, no enforcement guarantees, no answers. We are told this is about sustainability, yet it destroys the greenbelt protection and the vital areas of separation that prevent our villages from being swallowed by urban sprawl. We are told it's about clean energy, yet value farmland will be compulsory, purchased and built over. Where is the balance between energy security and food security? And that's not happening in isolation.

00:29:54:14 - 00:30:35:03

We already live near two operational solar farms, 25 acres of solar farms to the north of Clifton, and 25 acres to the west of the parish at Tollcross. Now two more are proposed a large solar farm in Concord and Marsh for 170 acres, and another 79 acre site west of Newton. This site was a result of a recent application which is currently under review. We drew attention to the fact of the second site, which is reference 24 0541, as the applicant has changed their construction access to use Lower Lane rather than Park Lane in Newton.

00:30:36:00 - 00:31:16:04

We would contest that this is also not suitable and dangerous and yet it is a preference for the M&M project. This would lead to a more protracted and harmful impact on the residents of Lower Lane, as this would be accumulated from the existing applications, potentially plus the windfarm project. Bit by bit, we are being encircled by 300 acres of energy infrastructure, on top of the proposed 45 acres for the two substations. To quote our green and pleasant land is becoming an energy corridor, and all the while brownfield alternatives and industrial sites are dismissed without proper assessment.

00:31:16:12 - 00:31:51:16

Let me be clear. We are not against renewable energy. We support it. We want a greener future, but we also want fairness, transparency and a voice in the process. The way this project has been managed through unclear consultation, missing information and disregard of residents concerns has shattered public interest. Many only realize the full scale of the plan when it was nearly too late. We are calling for better. We are asking for a full reassessment of the site selection, environmental impacts and the deeply flawed consultation process.

00:31:51:24 - 00:32:23:04

We are asking you the examining authority to listen, not just to the data, but to people. To see the human cost, the real cost and the permanent cost of getting this wrong. Let's work towards a smarter, fairer and truly sustainable solution. Let's protect the fight not just today, but for the generations to come. Let's protect our farmers. Let's protect our homes. Let's protect our children. And finally, let's protect our green and pleasant land.

00:32:23:06 - 00:32:23:21

Thank you.

00:32:27:24 - 00:32:36:13

Thank you very much. Uh, can I just, um, confirm? Because I've got you on the agenda twice. Um.

00:32:37:06 - 00:32:39:06

Apologies. The second one is in a personal capacity.

00:32:39:18 - 00:32:42:09

And you still wish to speak? Yes. Thank you.

00:32:47:07 - 00:32:53:15

Okay, so we will move on to the next, uh, four. So I've got Mr. Peter Collins.

00:33:02:19 - 00:33:06:00

I've got miss Roslyn Forsey.

00:33:11:05 - 00:33:13:09

Mr. Andrew Leigh.

00:33:17:16 - 00:33:22:19

And Mr. Andrew Cohen, just to check if he is in the room.

00:33:25:18 - 00:33:31:04

Okay, so it will be a miss Michelle Fair.

00:33:42:14 - 00:34:04:00

So in this group, we've got Mr. Peter Collins who has five minutes, Mr. Ross. Miss. Miss Rosaline for five minutes, Mr. Andrew Lee. Five minutes and Miss Michelle for three minutes. We'll start with Mr. Peter Collins.

00:34:06:06 - 00:34:12:12

Chair. Members of the Examining Authority Board. Thank you for the opportunity to address you today.

00:34:12:21 - 00:34:45:04

As chair of the Lancashire Lancashire Association of Local Councils, Valley Area Committee, energy working Group. We recognise the vital role offshore wind plays in the UK's future energy mix, and support the government's ambitions for economic growth, regional levelling up, energy security and sustainable development at the lowest cost to consumers. However, our review of the applicant's proposals and responses reveals significant concerns that must be addressed for those national objectives to be delivered.

00:34:46:07 - 00:35:20:16

Firstly, the national significance of these projects have been overstated. Ofgem's recent grid connection reforms highlight a backlog of 750GW of projects awaiting connection, far exceeding national needs, even by 2050. The M&M projects contribute only 0.264% of that backlog, and so cannot be considered nationally significant in scale. Moreover, both projects have suffered delivery delays of over two years, meaning they will not be the 2030 clean power target had previously claimed.

00:35:22:04 - 00:36:03:23

The current application involves constructing two 30 kilometer underground cable corridors in separate substations, an approach that is neither efficient nor economic. This stands in direct conflict

with the requirements of the National Planning Statements and the Electricity Act 1989, which mandates economic and efficient solutions. Recent costings published by the Institute of Engineering and Technology we are to demonstrate that adopting this and nothing but adopting the material alternative route by a standard, Hillhouse would save developers and consumers approximately £904 million compared to the current the applicant's current proposal.

00:36:05:18 - 00:36:45:08

The applicants have failed to make use of extensive, already provisioned local energy infrastructure. The alternative route offers 130 hectares of development land with streamlined planning procedures, direct connectivity to the National Grid substation, which already holds offshore wind connections, and existing 400 volt Twin Circuits overhead line and Kingston with Pan with them and Heysham. By utilising this infrastructure, project could avoid the environmental, community and economic harms associated with the current proposals and deliver the lowest toll system costs to consumers.

00:36:47:08 - 00:37:20:05

The applicant science selection process is fundamentally flawed, but the holistic network design review HMD, which underpins the proposed route, was based on the assumption that both projects would share a single land substation site. The current application, however, proposes independent substations and activity streams, contradicting the very basis of the HMD recommendation. Furthermore, there is no evidence that National Grid or the applicants properly assessed or compared the standard Hill House alternative.

00:37:20:15 - 00:37:56:03

Despite its clear advantages and its inclusions in local development plans. Recent written statements to Parliament claimed that standard was assessed and dismissed due to space and environmental constraints. Yet there is no reference to such an assessment in the H&R block pen with them, and they would require substation extensions. Engines. The Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone provides ample space, and any additional time or cost for a new substation must be weighed against the significant savings from avoiding 30km of new land cabling.

00:37:57:06 - 00:38:37:19

In summary, the applicant's current approach is non-compliant, inefficient and unnecessarily harmful to local communities and the environment. The standard Hillhouse route offers a proven lower cost, lower impact and policy compliant alternative that has not been properly considered. We urge the board to require a full, transparent reassessment of alternatives, including the standard Hillhouse route, before any consent is granted. We remain committed to constructive engagement and are ready to support all parties in pursuing a solution that delivers clean power efficiently, economically and with the least impact on our communities and environment.

00:38:38:10 - 00:38:39:19

Thank you for your attention.

00:38:41:19 - 00:38:46:17

Thank you very much. And, Mr. Collins, can I just confirm you wish to speak again as well?

00:38:47:09 - 00:38:48:00

Yes, sir.

00:38:48:04 - 00:38:49:07

Okay. Thank you.

00:38:50:24 - 00:38:54:22

So now we'll move to. Miss Roslyn Fawcett, please.

00:39:07:00 - 00:39:40:08

Thank you. I'm Ross Forsey from Squires Gate residents group. Um, and I'm bringing some concerns around what will be happening around Squires Gate Beach, Blackpool Airport and that area of this proposed project. Um, things we're very concerned about following our attendance at the last hearings are the lack of detail that's been shared with us. Um, questions were asked about consultation with local

00:39:42:02 - 00:40:14:18

emergency services and the responses we felt were very inadequate in terms of, um, saying that emails had been sent and no replies had been received, and as if that somehow indicated that the um, ambulance service, the fire service and the um lifeboat service were happy for this to go ahead. And that's clearly not true. And we would very much like for there to be a meeting called with those groups to look at this in much more detail.

00:40:15:12 - 00:40:45:24

Um, we're also very concerned about the fact that it's been demonstrated that by unsettling bird habitats around the area, it will very likely almost certainly increase the risk of bird strikes around the airport, and that this has just been written off. It has been unmitigated. It's not something that can be dealt with, anything that's wholly inadequate. And we want to have that looked at again.

00:40:46:18 - 00:40:58:16

Uh, so these details, they seem to be just skimmed over, not looked at as if they're very terribly important. And we find this quite distressing and concerning as a group.

00:41:00:05 - 00:41:30:20

Um, the other thing that we're really concerned about is that, um, this talk about a cable, there was a comment made at one of the hearings I attended and somebody said, oh, it's just a cable. And and I think people don't really understand what is being spoken about. We have a map that has lots of red lines on it, which doesn't really seem like a very creative or inventive or imaginative way to share information with people.

00:41:31:04 - 00:42:01:11

And it appears to us that there is quite a significant amount of money behind this project, and we thought what would be really helpful be for somebody to show us a kind of very basic mock up of what this cable actually looks like and bring it down to the sand dunes so we can see what it will look like and what is actually being proposed to tunnel under our precious sand dunes.

00:42:01:13 - 00:42:05:08

And we felt that would be a much more creative way of sharing that.

00:42:07:15 - 00:43:02:17

The other thing we're really concerned about is that very suddenly, seemingly very stealthily, the project has jumped from a six year project to an 11 year project, and it was just spoken about as if that was absolutely okay and not of any increased importance or different. And that is very distressing for people in this area. It's not a hugely prosperous area compared to the whole of the country. There are many young families here who don't have their own chance for the idea that they would be destined to live within this project, and on a building site, pretty much for this length of time with congested roads, and not have any opportunity to get out and go anywhere else for their exercise or what they're doing.

00:43:02:23 - 00:43:39:19

This seems criminal to us. Similarly, there are many retired people here. These are retired workers, retired, got retired nurses, retired firefighters, retired teachers, all sorts of retired people who've come here for the final years of their lives. And they are now being asked if they don't mind living on a building site for 11 years in order to progress, something that seems pretty unproven to many people as an as a very positive way forward.

00:43:40:06 - 00:44:15:20

So we would like these things to be considered. We would like for documents and consultations that are directed towards the community to be much more creative in their attempts for local people to understand what is happening and what they are being asked to do. And because as it stands, we feel it isn't. That's not happening. And what we're being subjected to is dribs and drabs of information and questions are met with very scant dismissive responses.

00:44:18:21 - 00:45:00:19

What we feel is 11 years is a long time, and there are people in our community who will not be here in 11 years. So you are asking some of these retired people to spend the rest of their days living on a building site with congested roads and dirt? And for what? For an unnecessary evidenced and seemingly ill thought through project, when there is a very clear alternative being proposed through facts and other local groups and local councils.

00:45:01:01 - 00:45:09:24

That would prevent a lot of this from happening. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of this group.

00:45:12:01 - 00:45:13:04

Thank you very much.

00:45:16:05 - 00:45:19:11

We move to Mr. Andrew Lee now, please.

00:45:23:04 - 00:45:23:24

Okay.

00:45:24:09 - 00:45:24:24

Can you.

00:45:25:01 - 00:45:25:16

Hear.

00:45:25:18 - 00:45:26:08

Me?

00:45:26:22 - 00:45:28:04

I will first of all like to.

00:45:28:06 - 00:45:28:21

Say.

00:45:28:23 - 00:45:29:13

Thank you.

00:45:29:15 - 00:45:32:01

Very much for giving me this opportunity to speak. I have.

00:45:32:10 - 00:45:33:06

Um, been.

00:45:33:08 - 00:45:34:09

Looking forward to this day.

00:45:34:11 - 00:45:35:01

For the.

00:45:35:03 - 00:46:05:10

Last three years, since the first consultation that took place at Newton with Skills Village Hall, which was a very, very poor consultation. Um, it wasn't even a consultation because they got from Squires Gate to Newton. They had no consultation period between Newton Village Hall and Penwortham. That was missed off when he asked a question to land agent. He said we haven't done that yet. Uh, we're looking forward to going to us later on. Anyway, enough about that. Um, my name is Andrew Lee.

00:46:05:20 - 00:46:39:09

I'm the chairman of facts. Um, I haven't been for several months. I feel very, very strongly about this. I'm not very good with the technical jargon stuff. My my passion is conservation. Um, I've spent the last 45 years being a conservationist. The three topics that I would like to mention this evening is obviously the first one is conservation the wintering migratory birds in winter that's between September and October and flooding.

00:46:39:12 - 00:47:12:24

I do feel that the applicant hasn't really considered these three aspects, and it is a very, very important, um, to me. Um, I have 45 years of experience as a conservationist. Um, I work very closely with, um, and I have for the last ten years with Natural England, the RSPB, uh, Northwest Fylde Bird Club and Garstang Road Police Task Force. And over those last ten years we have achieved massive amounts of conservation.

00:47:13:12 - 00:47:43:24

We've done projects. We've been very successful. Um, I am secretary of Wildflowers. We are the second biggest landowners in the country. The ripple estuary is a very, very, um, big part of, um, migratory birds in winter. In fact, it is the biggest, not just the biggest in Britain, it is the biggest in Europe. And the reason why it is the biggest in Europe is because of food.

00:47:44:13 - 00:48:03:17

It is most concentrated food. Um, I could go into this all night. Five minutes is not enough for what I want to say. So I will be putting a detailed submission in of maps and, um, concentration of birds, etc.. Um, later on. I have not enough time to speak to that today. Um,

00:48:05:15 - 00:48:37:02

go back to the river estuary. Um, it is obviously it is the biggest migratory stronghold in Europe and probably in the world for migratory birds. Um, it's a travel, as I say. It's society's interest. It's a rum soaked site, and we're also part of the natural nature reserve, um, which you obviously, if you go into that, you can research all that. Um, the reason why I bring this up, and it's only a mile and a half from the cable car corridor.

00:48:37:19 - 00:49:18:07

Um, and I think that obviously the, the wintering birds that have come there and I've seen the surveys that has been produced and the 250 page document and to be honest, they haven't witnessed what I've witnessed. I've been out there in the evening, in November, December and seen literally thousands and thousands of birds coming into fields that are flooded inland. Newton, Clifton, Freckleton. Those birds are essential. That tree will contain 60,000 widgeon, um, which is a duck that's a migratory duck between 20 and 30,000 pink feet.

00:49:18:09 - 00:49:48:17

Geese And over 10,000 waders. These waders consist of um butter goblets, sandpipers, wimple, etc. etc. they come to that region because it's there because of the resources there. Those birds are there for one reason, because of the food. Where do those birds fly to? They fly inland. They fly on the route of the cable car corridor from Lisbon, right through to Witham. Those grounds in winter are very wet. They flood.

00:49:49:02 - 00:50:05:05

They're just above sea level. They go there to eat the food. Now you can imagine a cable car corridor coming through there, 120m wide in width, 22km in length. Where are those birds going to go? Then you've got.

00:50:05:10 - 00:50:10:10

To remind you that there is a time limit. There's 30s left.

00:50:10:20 - 00:50:31:16

And you've got to remind the, um, the fear of bird strikes with BSE. Also as chairman. of facts, I would just like to say a very big thank you to the people of our residents for doing all the work they've put in and spending all the time and all the efforts. And I'm really, really pleased to be chairman of the facts Group. Thank you.

00:50:35:09 - 00:50:46:11

Thank you. If you could, if you wish to submit the rest of the representation in writing, then we are happy to receive it. Thank you.

00:50:47:17 - 00:50:57:12

Mr. Lee, I ask a question. I think you said you were going to provide a detailed submission. Is that over and above? What Facts has already provided?

00:50:57:14 - 00:51:05:07

Because it's such a lengthy subject, I will send that in detail. I've written by email, right with maps. Sir.

00:51:05:18 - 00:51:14:20

If you could do so, because time is progressing during the examination and I know whilst the written representations deadline has already gone. But if you could do so by deadline three, which is Monday the seventh.

00:51:14:22 - 00:51:15:20

Sorry, Can you repeat that?

00:51:15:22 - 00:51:39:06

If you could do so by deadline three, which is Monday the 7th of July. We have no problem because time is proceeding within the examination. Yeah, I know we've had deadlines already for written representations, but if there's anything further above what facts are providing, then I think to give the applicant a chance to give us a chance to respond to that in the remainder of the time, if that comes in by Monday, the 7th of July, which is the next deadline.

00:51:39:09 - 00:51:39:24

Okay.

00:51:43:07 - 00:51:48:06

Okay. Thank you very much. We'll move on then to Michelle Pfeiffer.

00:51:52:08 - 00:52:28:24

Thank you very much for allowing me to speak today. Um, I farm and live with my family at Greenbank Farm, which is one of the sites that you'll be visiting on Thursday. Um, we've lived here for almost 35 years, and as well as being our business and livelihood, it is our family home. We first heard about the proposals for the building of the substation in 2022 through a neighbor who had been

speaking to a local counselor. To say that we were shocked and upset as an understatement, and the fact that the applicants hadn't even have the common decency to come and speak to us beforehand made it even more devastating.

00:52:30:09 - 00:53:07:02

Our land agent was notified on the 18th of September, 2023 that the substations were to be within zone one. However, McLaren advised that they had no authority from the applicant to share specific site locations, even with affected landowners. It wasn't until the 6th of October in that year that our land agent received confirmation from MacLaren that the applicants had finally agreed to share the plans publicly and advised that the site, which would take a substantial proportion of our farmland, was the preferred location for the substation.

00:53:09:00 - 00:53:42:12

Communication through McLaren has not improved at all, and on many occasions we found out that decisions have been made about our land with absolutely no consultation with us. And when it's been too late for us to have any input. One example of this is when we and other local landowners serve with a legal notice under section 172 of Housing and Planning Act. In order for the applicants to gain access to our land for survey works because, according to them, it had not been possible to agree the terms for voluntary access.

00:53:43:21 - 00:53:54:19

Perhaps if the applicants had actually visited each landowner to discuss what they were trying to achieve from the outset, they would have had more success rather than having to threaten us with legal documents.

00:53:56:16 - 00:54:13:02

In our second site meeting with Malcolm McLaren on the 5th of February this year. We have numerous specific queries which we were promised a response to. It is now June and we have heard nothing which has left us feeling like our queries and opinions are completely irrelevant.

00:54:14:24 - 00:54:48:20

Our greatest concern is that the applicants have applied for permission to use our single track farm lane as access. The lane is by no means suitable for any additional traffic. And the fact that there are two businesses operating from the yard, and children living and playing here seems to be of no concern. The Farm Lane is also a widely used public footpath and bridleway, as well as a route for moving our livestock. And despite us asking more than once what the applicant plans to do regarding this access, we have had no response.

00:54:51:07 - 00:55:13:20

When the final plans were submitted to the inspectorate. We were shocked to see that the land behind Fresh Field Farm, which is directly in front of our house, has been designated as a site for environmental mitigation. At no point during the consultation was this mentioned? And if we had been consulted, we would have been able to suggest other, more suitable locations across the farm.

00:55:15:20 - 00:55:35:10

Even the arrangements for this week's site visit have been very poorly organised by Adele McLaren, who was supposed to have contacted us to agree car parking in advance, but didn't do anything until our agent pointed out that we had heard nothing. If we were as disorganised in running our business, then we would not be farming any more.

00:55:37:13 - 00:55:44:13

Our most recent communication with McLaren relates to the voluntary heads of terms, which they are very keen for us to agree to.

00:55:46:01 - 00:56:10:01

The compensation that's being offered is most certainly more than we would receive if we do not sign the agreement, and our land was taken by compulsory purchase. However, if we do sign this document, we are subject to a clause which requires us to withdraw all objections to the project. And I think that everyone here will agree that this puts all landowners in an extremely difficult situation.

00:56:10:23 - 00:56:16:05

Mr. Parker, can I please just ask you to start drawing your comments to a close? Yeah. Thank you.

00:56:16:17 - 00:56:47:03

And finally, we're extremely concerned over the health implications from the large substation site next to our home and that of our neighbours. The construction phase will be absolutely horrendous with dust, noise and vibrations. Nobody seems to have considered the human health risk of living in such close proximity to a vast electrical magnetic field, when exposure has been linked to childhood leukaemia. In this day and age, protecting human health and wellbeing should prioritise the industrialisation of the Green Belt.

00:56:51:02 - 00:56:52:06

Thank you very much.

00:56:53:24 - 00:56:54:22

Good questions.

00:56:55:16 - 00:56:59:19

Um, thank you for coming along. Um, and your submission this evening.

00:57:00:07 - 00:57:24:19

Um, can I just have for a bit of clarity as to. There's quite a few fairs involved in this, and, um, forgive me, but I'm trying to keep track of which which which fairs you are because there's some freeholders, some tenant farmers, and you've got different planning agents. Can you just sort of clarify for me who you're planning agent is and whether you're freeholder or tenant farmer?

00:57:24:21 - 00:57:33:05

Thank you. Um, we're a freehold farm at Greenbank Farm. Um, and I'm representing the farm business of D and M and big Mike farm.

00:57:37:24 - 00:57:43:03

Right. And the tenant farmers are also fairs, but they're.

00:57:44:00 - 00:57:50:00

Yes, but they're no direct relation. Okay, so just the next door farm with the same name.

00:57:51:14 - 00:57:54:16

Right. Thank you very much.

00:57:58:16 - 00:58:13:06

Okay, so, um, the four of you can return to your seating, and I've got the next four on the list, which is messed. Uh, Karen Leeming.

00:58:17:02 - 00:58:19:15

Um, miss Beth duckworth.

00:58:21:22 - 00:58:24:07

Miss Jeanette McCormick.

00:58:26:13 - 00:58:29:04

And Mr. David Thompson again.

00:58:41:00 - 00:58:48:07

And you have been allocated three minutes each. So we'll start with, um, Miss Karen.

00:58:48:12 - 00:58:49:03

Meaning.

00:58:50:23 - 00:59:06:08

Good evening. My name is Karen Leeming, and I'm speaking as a resident of Freckleton about the effects these proposals will have on my village, together with my involvement in the local opposition to the project's current onshore proposals. I have lived.

00:59:06:10 - 00:59:07:00

In.

00:59:07:02 - 00:59:07:20

The files all my life.

00:59:07:23 - 00:59:08:13

And.

00:59:08:15 - 00:59:13:07

Spent the last 25 years living in Freckleton. Married to a born and bred Freckleton in.

00:59:14:11 - 00:59:15:01

Freckleton.

00:59:15:03 - 00:59:27:22

Is a special community. We are now a large village but still have a small village community spirit. We have a well-known brass band, an annual club day and we stage the oldest half marathon in the UK.

00:59:28:15 - 00:59:29:17

The root of which could be.

00:59:29:19 - 00:59:45:18

Disrupted by these proposals during construction of the cable corridor and substations surrounding the village. We have many local footpaths, rights of way and bridleways which are enjoyed by locals for walking, cycling, horse riding etc..

00:59:46:14 - 00:59:47:04

These.

00:59:47:06 - 00:59:50:10

Activities will be majorly affected by the cable corridor.

00:59:50:19 - 00:59:51:09

Together with the.

00:59:51:11 - 00:59:58:17

Two substations and their associated noise and lighting. Visual disturbance across previously opened views.

01:00:00:00 - 01:00:01:02

Be denied access.

01:00:01:04 - 01:00:22:05

To parts of the countryside which have always been available, but impact on local people's general health and wellbeing. I attended the first public consultation by Morgan and Morcom in Newton back in October 2023, and was shocked at the extent of the proposals. It wasn't until our local history group learnt about the.

01:00:22:07 - 01:00:23:03

Proposals.

01:00:23:09 - 01:00:24:00

And realised.

01:00:24:02 - 01:00:24:17

The cable.

01:00:24:19 - 01:00:32:18

Corridor could cut through the Quaker burial ground in Freckleton I became more involved. We set up a small group. There were.

01:00:32:20 - 01:00:33:10

Eight.

01:00:33:12 - 01:01:01:07

Of us at the first meeting, but this quickly grew as others joined and the group widened. Involved in the whole project across the files. This group became what we now know as facts filed against cable transmission and substations. For my sins, I agreed to take up the position of secretary. And since then, this has become a huge part of my life, together with the Facebook group set up by Johnny Wild. We have done our very.

01:01:01:09 - 01:01:01:24

Best.

01:01:02:01 - 01:01:16:02

To try to gather information and raise awareness within the community and, together with others, push for an alternative route which would cause far less damage and disruption to the community as a whole. Being so involved.

01:01:16:04 - 01:01:16:19

Has.

01:01:16:21 - 01:01:18:23

Affected my life in ways I never envisage.

01:01:19:10 - 01:01:20:00

Taking.

01:01:20:02 - 01:01:33:00

Up much time and effort and always being somewhere in my thoughts. I never imagined that I would be here speaking in public on this matter, but this is so important to me. Thank you for allowing me the time.

01:01:35:14 - 01:01:37:04

Thank you for the submission.

01:01:39:04 - 01:01:41:01

Now back.

01:01:41:23 - 01:01:43:24

Good evening. My name is Beth. I live.

01:01:44:01 - 01:01:44:16

In Newton with.

01:01:44:18 - 01:01:45:08

Scales.

01:01:45:10 - 01:01:46:00

And I jointly.

01:01:46:02 - 01:01:46:17

Owned six.

01:01:46:19 - 01:01:47:09

Acres.

01:01:47:11 - 01:01:48:16

Of land off Thames Street in Newton.

01:01:49:05 - 01:01:49:20

I'm here.

01:01:49:22 - 01:01:50:23

To express concern about this.

01:01:51:00 - 01:01:55:02

Proposed scheme. We support the transition to green energy, but the current.

01:01:55:04 - 01:01:55:22

Cabling route and.

01:01:55:24 - 01:01:56:14

Substation.

01:01:56:16 - 01:01:59:12

Plans show a clear disregard the real and.

01:01:59:14 - 01:02:00:04

Lasting.

01:02:00:06 - 01:02:00:21

Impact on rural.

01:02:00:23 - 01:02:01:14

Communities like.

01:02:01:16 - 01:02:04:19

Ours. Many of us maintain small holdings.

01:02:04:23 - 01:02:05:13

Not for.

01:02:05:15 - 01:02:09:11

Commercial enterprise, but as part of a lifestyle that we built with care, commitment.

01:02:09:13 - 01:02:10:03

And.

01:02:10:05 - 01:02:11:18

Respect for the land. That way of.

01:02:11:20 - 01:02:12:10

Life depends.

01:02:12:12 - 01:02:13:02

On calm.

01:02:13:04 - 01:02:14:05

Predictable surroundings.

01:02:14:08 - 01:02:14:23

Something.

01:02:15:00 - 01:02:15:19

Which will be devastated.

01:02:15:21 - 01:02:16:11

By years of.

01:02:16:13 - 01:02:17:05

Construction.

01:02:17:22 - 01:02:18:20

Specifically, I'd.

01:02:18:22 - 01:02:19:12

Like to.

01:02:19:14 - 01:02:20:04

Draw.

01:02:20:06 - 01:02:33:04

Your attention to the risk to equine welfare and public safety. Horses are prey animals with highly refined sensory systems. They are biologically wired to react to unfamiliar sights, sounds, and vibrations. Exposure to construction.

01:02:33:06 - 01:02:33:24

Stressors.

01:02:34:01 - 01:02:38:04

Can trigger immediate and sometimes violent escape behaviors. A spooked.

01:02:38:06 - 01:02:38:21

Horse.

01:02:38:23 - 01:02:47:06

Can bolt through fencing, injure itself, or become unsafe to handle. This isn't theory. It's well-established in equine science and often witnessed.

01:02:47:09 - 01:02:48:02

You may remember.

01:02:48:04 - 01:02:48:19

The.

01:02:48:21 - 01:02:49:11

Household.

01:02:49:13 - 01:02:50:03

Cavalry horses.

01:02:50:05 - 01:02:50:20

Last year.

01:02:50:22 - 01:02:51:18

Spooked by a loud noise from.

01:02:51:20 - 01:02:52:10

A construction.

01:02:52:12 - 01:02:58:12

Site. They bolted through the centre of London, resulting in damage, vehicles, injury to the horses and to several people.

01:02:59:09 - 01:03:00:10

Our family.

01:03:00:12 - 01:03:19:11

Ranging from infants to older adults, regularly spend time at our yard, increased safety risks for them, and the equine professionals that we rely on, such as farriers and vets, are simply unacceptable. The stress can also lead to physical illness in animals. Some common horse problems are highly likely to be exacerbated by stress. This is a.

01:03:19:13 - 01:03:20:03

Particular.

01:03:20:05 - 01:03:23:17

Concern for us, as one of our horses already suffers from stomach.

01:03:23:19 - 01:03:24:09

Ulcers.

01:03:24:11 - 01:03:29:22

And has a tendency to colic. If these conditions worsen, he will suffer real pain and will be faced.

01:03:29:24 - 01:03:30:14

With increased.

01:03:30:16 - 01:04:06:20

Vet bills. Further, the long term impact on soil and land usability will be profound. Table trenches, even if reinstated, alter soil compaction levels, drainage patterns and vegetation recovery sections of fields will be disrupted for cabling, leaving behind fragmented pockets of land that are no longer usable for grazing. These small holdings are typically just a few acres in size. On low lying land that's already prone to flooding if paddocks are damaged. Owners face increased feed costs, households problems due to restricted turnout and in some cases they need to sell animals or relocate yards.

01:04:07:08 - 01:04:37:12

There's so much land in the area being consumed by this scheme. Finding alternative grazing will be very challenging. Lastly, I want to highlight the community impact. Our animals are kept at the edge of the village on popular walking route. People often tell me the highlight of their family walk down the lane is to stop and see the horses and the alpacas. This outdoor activity is important for people's health and wellbeing, for their children's education and fosters a real sense of community. The loss of this amenity to years of construction is unthinkable.

01:04:37:21 - 01:04:54:02

I'd like to know what specific measures will be taken to protect animal welfare and public safety during construction, and the loss of grazing land will be mitigated such that animals can be cared for responsibly, and how the wider community can continue to enjoy the local area. Thank you for your attention.

01:04:57:15 - 01:05:00:22

Thank you very much. I'll move to the next speaker now.

01:05:02:24 - 01:05:05:09

Thank you. Good evening. I'm Jeanette McCormick.

01:05:05:11 - 01:05:06:01

A resident.

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

Of Newton.

01:05:06:20 - 01:05:07:10

With.

01:05:07:12 - 01:05:08:02

Scales.

01:05:08:04 - 01:05:08:19

And.

01:05:08:21 - 01:05:09:11

A.

01:05:09:13 - 01:05:10:03

Retired primary school deputy.

01:05:10:05 - 01:05:10:20

Head.

01:05:10:22 - 01:05:11:12

Teacher.

01:05:11:14 - 01:05:40:24

The phrase commonly used in the project documentation is public interest versus private loss. I wonder, has the applicant considered the impact of the construction and ongoing operation of the transmission assets on the educational community and the educational opportunities that children may lose? I understand that this is the first project of this size to be built so close to existing residential communities. Newton Bluecoat Schools Trailway Primary School and Carr Hill High School.

01:05:41:02 - 01:06:13:09

Are schools close to the proposed substation sites and cable corridors. These schools alone have a total capacity of over 1300 children. With the 11 year construction window for the Morecambe and Morgan. The possibility of two solar farms being built before and there may be more value in the mix. A four year old starting at one of these primary schools, who then goes to Carr Hill, could experience their entire school life from 4 to 16.

01:06:13:12 - 01:07:10:14

In the shadow of energy project construction and ongoing operational works with potential continuous noise and disruption to their learning noise during the school day will make it more difficult for children and teachers to focus and concentrate, to learn and to teach. Instructions, including safety instructions and learning activities will need to be regularly revisited and repeated. This will affect the children's and teachers workload, their achievements, their stress levels and their well-being. In addition, sudden loud noises caused by construction work, vehicles and equipment will potentially have a greater impact on some individuals and groups of children, such as those with special educational needs and disabilities, in periods of assessments and national examinations when pupils should be working in quiet conditions, they will be further disadvantaged compared to other children across the country.

01:07:11:05 - 01:07:42:13

Power Hill was rated Requires Improvement by Ofsted in March 2024, and government data shows that the children have below average progress in the end of Key Stage four assessments compared to similar pupils across the country. This isn't going to help. I'm going home. Some children won't have respite as the transmission assets are being close to their houses, with building work from 7 to 7 six days a week, with an hour before and after the set up and closed down.

01:07:43:01 - 01:08:20:24

This will impact educational home study. The arrival time of children and staff may also be affected by roadworks and diversions necessitated by the project. Arriving late at school by just ten minutes a day and up to around six and a half days worth of lost learning over a school year, further impacting attainment and achievement. Finally, I ask, has the applicant consulted with the local education authorities, the governing and trust boards, the head teachers and principals, and just how the needs and views of the children's teachers, parents and carers be taken into account.

01:08:21:06 - 01:08:25:17

After all, children only get one chance at an education.

01:08:29:22 - 01:08:32:03

Thank you. We appreciate the submission.

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

Okay. Mr. Thompson, please.

01:08:39:07 - 01:09:16:10

Hello and good evening again. I'm in. On this occasion I'm speaking in a personal capacity. I have been a resident of Newton for approximately 21 years with myself and my family moving here. Um, we have brought up our daughter, who attended both Newton Blue Court Primary School, uh, within the village and then Castle Hill Secondary School for over a decade. Both my wife and I have also supported technology lessons on Friday afternoons at the primary school. In addition to running after school, IT and chess clubs, both of which are included in the school's list of extracurricular activities.

01:09:16:19 - 01:09:53:06

It fills us with pride to see our children thrive and develop our willingness to support our wonderful community. It doesn't end there. In 2018, we joined the Friends of Newton Community Park who over the last seven years, as the name suggests, have been champions for the community in our endeavors to develop our community park. And last year, we were honored as a group to be awarded the King's Award for Volunteer Service. I now want to read a small extract from that commendation from what we actually put forward, which is labelled From Park to Palace.

01:09:53:22 - 01:10:26:10

This award is equivalent to an MBA and is the highest award that can be given to a local volunteer group. The award would not be possible without the tremendous help that we have received from the residents of Newton and organizations supported throughout our journey, with advice from grants from Borough Council, Lancashire and Far and from the fund. The Newton with Clifton Parish Council. Without their help and belief in our project, nothing would have been achieved. Aligned to the FOMC Friends and Newton Community Park and supported by a sensory working group.

01:10:26:14 - 01:10:53:12

Our parks have also been fortunate to be recognized by Your Neighborhood, a program which is run by Northwest in Bloom, Resulting in a significant achievement of gaining level five, the highest level of award, and we've managed to do this for two consecutive years. Additionally, we were awarded a Sustainability Award by North West in Bloom last year, and that was the highest award out of approximately 700 groups.

01:10:55:07 - 01:11:14:18

In my capacity, also of the. We've been on the Newton Residents Association and my volunteer work that I've been doing, I was also asked recently to support a presentation to Freckleton relating to the application for the solar farm, which is all intended to also use Lower Lane. As I mentioned earlier,

01:11:16:09 - 01:12:00:12

what are we to expect from this project if approved, especially given the way it has been managed through unclear consultation, missing information and a disregard for residents concerns is telling and we believe the full scale of this plan is still not clear. We are asking for full reassessment of site selection, environmental impacts and the deeply flawed consultation process. Please can the examiner authority listen to the people and recognize that the human cost and the rural cost will be permanent? We need and we require a smarter solution which protects the child for our children who are our future.

01:12:00:16 - 01:12:01:06

Thank you.

01:12:03:16 - 01:12:04:18

Thank you very much.

01:12:07:08 - 01:12:16:17

Okay. We're going. We've got three more people on the agenda that has been published. So I'm going to call Mr. Gordon Smith,

01:12:18:06 - 01:12:35:11

Miss Susan Ashton and Mr. Peter Collins. Again. And we also had several people indicating they wish to speak when they've registered. So I'm going to call the first from my list and that's Mr. John Kirkham.

01:12:57:09 - 01:13:00:13

Okay. We'll start with Mr. Gordon Smith.

01:13:03:06 - 01:13:04:14

Chair. And members of.

01:13:04:16 - 01:13:05:06

The.

01:13:05:08 - 01:13:17:19

Examining Authority. My name is Gordon Smith. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I feel that this project presents a critical moment, one where we can choose to deliver clean energy.

01:13:17:23 - 01:13:18:13

In a.

01:13:18:15 - 01:13:20:18

Way investors, developers.

01:13:20:20 - 01:13:22:00

Communities and.

01:13:22:02 - 01:13:22:17

Consumers.

01:13:22:19 - 01:13:23:16

Alike and.

01:13:23:18 - 01:13:45:07

Genuinely be proud of. From everything I've heard, people in the file to support offshore wind and the transition to clean energy, but also that they expect that transition to be delivered in the fastest, smartest and most cost effective way. Logically making full use of the infrastructure already in place.

01:13:46:21 - 01:14:19:06

This application, as it currently stands, proposes entirely new corridors of development, ones that introduce significant adverse impacts and on compliances without correction. They risk refusal or legal challenge, along with the unnecessary delays and added costs that follow. The national policy statements require that developments comply with legislation and the law is clear. Energy systems must be both economical and efficient.

01:14:20:12 - 01:14:55:06

We've heard compelling representations that are well established. High voltage route already exists linking the Irish Sea. Across the file to pan with them and onward to consumers. This includes the infrastructure at Hillhouse, Stanhope and the 400 kV lines. Functional, upgradeable and serving the nation's network for over 60 years. Yet we've seen no evidence that this route was considered an equal footing with others in the applicant statements, national feedback or in ministers responses.

01:14:56:02 - 01:15:26:21

No comparative data or analysis has been presented and published. Reports are silent on the. Despite up to date estimates, choosing the existing corridor could save consumers up to £900 million in the coming days. You will personally see at first hand the scale of the impacts caused by the current proposal. I urge you also to take time to observe that infrastructure that already performs the job.

01:15:27:03 - 01:15:44:16

This application seeks to replicate from the working connection at Penn Witham substation, across the River Ribble and on to Stana by the existing 400 kV line that is meters away from the applicant's weaving trenching route across the A483 road.

01:15:46:04 - 01:16:19:07

We've not yet scheduled a visit to the northern end of this infrastructure. But I see and hear that Hill House's owner and the local Wyre ward councillor have invited you. I strongly encourage you to take, accept, accept that offer. Finally, I ask you to ensure this application can demonstrate clearly and transparently that it meets the statutory test of being efficient and economic and at the lowest cost to the consumer. That means considering what is already in place.

01:16:19:18 - 01:16:20:08

Thank you.

01:16:22:12 - 01:16:28:04

Thank you very much for the submission. Now we'll move to Miss Susan Ashton.

01:16:30:08 - 01:16:31:04

Good evening.

01:16:31:06 - 01:16:35:00

I am Susan Ashton, vice chair of Westbury Parish Council.

01:16:35:06 - 01:16:37:24

I've lived on Pearl road for over 30 years.

01:16:38:08 - 01:16:49:10

I've chosen to speak about the economic effects closing Balam Road will have on many small local businesses, situated on Balham Road and Peel Road.

01:16:49:19 - 01:16:50:09

Many of the.

01:16:50:11 - 01:17:00:17

Businesses are family run. All rely on good road communication to move goods around or to advertise. I've visited Surrey.

01:17:00:19 - 01:17:01:09

I have.

01:17:01:11 - 01:17:02:01

Visited.

01:17:02:03 - 01:17:02:18

The majority.

01:17:02:20 - 01:17:03:10

Of.

01:17:03:12 - 01:17:04:02

The.

01:17:04:04 - 01:17:04:19

Businesses.

01:17:04:21 - 01:17:05:11

Which will be.

01:17:05:13 - 01:17:13:18

Affected if Balham Road is closed or access is interrupted. On Balham Road, Pemberton's farm. They have a shop.

01:17:13:20 - 01:17:14:10

For.

01:17:14:12 - 01:17:18:04

Dairy and milk deliveries. Lorna's farm and it's.

01:17:18:06 - 01:17:20:10

A family run business and that they rely.

01:17:20:12 - 01:17:21:02

On.

01:17:21:04 - 01:17:21:21

Christmas trees.

01:17:21:23 - 01:17:22:13

For most.

01:17:22:15 - 01:17:23:05

Of.

01:17:23:07 - 01:17:28:24

Their income. Westby Hall is a caravan storage. Real time.

01:17:29:01 - 01:17:29:16

At Willows.

01:17:29:18 - 01:17:43:13

Farm. They're concerned about the staff traveling to and from work. On West Moss Lane is a new business park, Coppice Park. Tony's Tony's bodywork.

01:17:43:15 - 01:17:44:10

And Valentin.

01:17:44:12 - 01:17:54:14

Is one of the businesses. Whack, nanny. It's a dog's day nursery and animals feed silent Mill Company. They make beer and lager.

01:17:54:16 - 01:17:55:06

Which they sell.

01:17:55:08 - 01:18:13:06

Through Pemberton's and customers from the local area. WG gifts they are toymakers and they sell online. And then the park is a gym on Hill Road. Hill Hall business park. Many companies house.

01:18:13:08 - 01:18:13:23

This.

01:18:14:00 - 01:18:14:15

Part of this.

01:18:14:17 - 01:18:22:18

Site and all our small family run lowlands farm. It's an alpaca farm open to the public. Ridgeway farm.

01:18:22:22 - 01:18:23:16

Is also.

01:18:23:18 - 01:18:25:14

Open to the public, mostly.

01:18:25:16 - 01:18:26:20

For family and school.

01:18:26:22 - 01:18:36:14

Visits. Clifton Estate is a family run caravan park and green future recycling. It's based on Annas Road.

01:18:36:19 - 01:18:37:21

Off Peel Road.

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

All these.

01:18:39:05 - 01:18:40:06

Companies have.

01:18:40:08 - 01:18:40:23

Voiced.

01:18:41:00 - 01:18:41:20

Great concern.

01:18:41:24 - 01:18:43:01

At the effect.

01:18:43:05 - 01:18:54:10

Cutting off Elland Road will have on their businesses. Granting permission for the cable to travel across the Fylde, across or under Balam Road will have.

01:18:54:12 - 01:18:55:02

Serious.

01:18:55:04 - 01:18:59:01

Economic effect on the small businesses disrupting the life.

01:18:59:03 - 01:18:59:18

Of the local.

01:18:59:20 - 01:19:00:10

Residents.

01:19:00:13 - 01:19:01:07

Possibly for.

01:19:01:09 - 01:19:02:08

11 years.

01:19:02:11 - 01:19:03:01

And leaving.

01:19:03:03 - 01:19:04:01

A lasting.

01:19:04:09 - 01:19:04:24

Negative.

01:19:05:01 - 01:19:06:06

Effect on the land.

01:19:06:16 - 01:19:08:20

Please consider less disruptive.

01:19:08:22 - 01:19:10:06

Cheaper alternative.

01:19:10:18 - 01:19:11:08

Using.

01:19:11:10 - 01:19:13:13

The Stone Hill House site.

01:19:13:22 - 01:19:14:13

Thank you

01:19:16:08 - 01:19:34:16

and thank you very much for that representation. Could could I just ask that you submit a list of those businesses? Because obviously some of them we recognize, some of them we didn't recognize. It'd be quite helpful if you could just submit by email to the planning inspectors a list of those businesses, if you don't mind. Thank you.

01:19:34:18 - 01:19:35:14

Yeah. Okay.

01:19:38:10 - 01:19:42:24

Thank you very much. We'll move to Mr. Peter Collins now.

01:19:44:18 - 01:20:05:21

Thank you again. Chair. Examining authority board members. I speak as a parish councillor with Newton Clifton Parish Council, with over 40 years standing. The borough council at councilor at file

for over 20. My ward includes both Newton and Clifton, both deeply affected by the substations, cable routes and construction compounds.

01:20:07:15 - 01:20:45:07

Many hours were spent by officers and members at fouled alike in the production of our Local Plan prior to its approval by a government appointed inspectors. This plan is designed to safeguard the identity and sustainability of our communities. At length, our Council made very considered judgments, despairingly allocate greenbelt designation for those critical areas vital to protect the sustainability of our communities and their identities. But geography and topography resulted in my ward already being overwhelmed by infrastructure.

01:20:46:19 - 01:21:19:11

We are inundated with existing and proposed solar farms. We have the biggest tiff in Lancashire sewage treatment works, LPG and liquid ethylene pipelines passing through and also the country's nuclear fuel manufacturing facility, which already produces 32% of all the low carbon electricity generated in the UK. This factory has the capacity to manufacture fuel for all the UK's foreseeable future needs, including overseas exports.

01:21:21:01 - 01:21:30:20

We also have four renewable overhead power lines radiating out from Panmure Gordon, one of which links directly to Stanley's substation in Hillhouse Enterprise Zone.

01:21:32:23 - 01:21:40:24

On first hearing of the Eminem proposals, I thought there must be good reasons why the Hillhouse route had not been been discounted,

01:21:42:20 - 01:22:05:17

but been unable to find any evidence of it ever being considered. Instead, the reasons for choosing Hillhouse became more and more compelling. The use of existing infrastructure and derelict industrial land, instead of the desecration of open countryside and areas of separation, speedy delivery and the savings to consumers of over £900 million.

01:22:07:06 - 01:22:39:23

And as you've heard from Councillor Wells, local councillor for Bowen ward, why she is desperate for the cable route to go that way as a catalyst for the regeneration of the area and the whole peninsula. The applicants claim very special circumstances justify the use of greenbelt land, but these circumstances are a choice and not compelling. The evidence provided is insufficient and the alternatives have not been properly explored.

01:22:41:03 - 01:23:11:06

We support the government's aims for energy security and are eager to work with them to achieve this in a way that fits with our local plan. However, we cannot accept an approach that disregards years of careful planning risks undermining our communities futures. In conclusion, this proposal does not align with sustainable development or a local plan. I respectfully urge you to reject the application or require a revised route that fully complies with our planning framework.

01:23:12:05 - 01:23:12:22

Thank you.

01:23:14:07 - 01:23:24:23

Thank you very much. I appreciate the submission and we'll move to Mr. Kirkham. You also have a three minute time limit.

01:23:30:20 - 01:23:31:12

Oh, hi.

01:23:31:19 - 01:23:33:02

Um, thank you to the chair.

01:23:33:04 - 01:23:33:24

For firstly.

01:23:34:01 - 01:23:37:19

For not allowing me to speak. Um, I did.

01:23:37:21 - 01:23:38:12

Request.

01:23:38:20 - 01:23:39:16

Via email.

01:23:39:17 - 01:23:40:21

To speak, but.

01:23:41:03 - 01:23:48:07

I got an email saying I was declined because I'd spoken before. I don't think this is very democratic.

01:23:48:17 - 01:24:00:10

That's correct. But we have prioritized people who have not spoken previously. So we do have additional time, which is why we've called those who have spoken.

01:24:00:17 - 01:24:01:07

Yeah.

01:24:01:09 - 01:24:01:24

So I have spoken before.

01:24:02:01 - 01:24:27:17

I don't want to repeat what I've said before. And thank you for everyone else's, um, consultations this evening. I'd just like to say we've not been consulted from the beginning about this project. Um, we've

had at least five meetings with Morgan and Malcolm's agents, Malcolm McLaren, and have on each occasion asked for details of the project and answers to our queries.

01:24:29:07 - 01:25:07:11

We're still waiting for answers to some of the questions we asked at the very first meeting, some 18 months ago. For example, we've asked at three meetings for the accesses of Balon Road for the construction roads to be via two pairs of existing farm gates, which are each 28ft wide. Instead, Morgan and Morcombe, via their land agent Malcolm McLaren, insist that our hedges will be ripped out 30 to 40m Meters further along the road concerned.

01:25:08:12 - 01:25:17:04

Off the same field. This is. This is a perfect example of how impractical this project is.

01:25:19:23 - 01:25:26:04

Land drainage. We still have not got an answer on how deep this cable will be.

01:25:29:14 - 01:25:56:00

It might be 90cm deep. It might be 1.2m. This depth is completely impractical. It's this the land? Our land is roughly three meters above sea level. The ditches are 2 to 3m deep. The land drains are at the same depth as the proposed cable depth.

01:25:57:21 - 01:26:12:21

It will be simply impossible to drain the land shallower or deeper than the proposed depth. These ditches are half full to full most of the winter.

01:26:14:20 - 01:26:34:05

So we request that the cables in the land concerned. If the wind farm goes ahead through this route, is buried a minimum of 2.5m deep for safety, for drainage, and for the long term viability of the land.

01:26:36:17 - 01:26:46:24

Um, just a bit on so on our farms. And we also run a caravan park which is directly close to the route. Um,

01:26:48:12 - 01:27:04:04

you're proposing to go with that? Morgan and Morgan are proposing to go through five out of our nine fields and the remaining four fields. They're now proposing a mitigation area to feed birds,

01:27:05:17 - 01:27:26:04

which is directly under Blackpool Airport flight line. And they already have procedures in place to feed them elsewhere, and they have put in a separate complaint about this. Again, this is demonstrating how impractical this application is. Thank you.

01:27:30:09 - 01:27:31:13

Thank you very much.

01:27:35:01 - 01:27:50:05

We are now going to move to those that are not on the agenda, but have earlier indicated the wish to speak. So I've got Mr. Robert Silverwood and Miss Angela Slinger.

01:27:56:12 - 01:27:59:18

And councillor Josh Roberts.

01:28:04:04 - 01:28:28:16

And before we moved, uh, to ourselves, we also have two participants online who have indicated a wish to speak. So if I take representations from Miss Sheila Hall, um, and later, Miss Ann Mason first, and it's three minutes each. So we'll start with Miss Sheila Hall.

01:28:33:18 - 01:29:36:21

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. Um, Sheila Hall, who is an impacted farmer. Um, I don't want to repeat, um, things that have been raised already this evening. Um, my, my, um, people have already talked about the lack of information available to the community and to the landowners to help us properly understand, And the impact that the construction phase will have and the long lasting impact. And I'd like to raise the question, given that there is an issue with the lack of understanding and as an impacted person, ability to get answers to properly understand impacts, how could this be addressed during this examination phase, so that people can raise appropriate representations in time and raise points so that the project and the impacted people and the community can work together to achieve better outcomes.

01:29:37:19 - 01:30:08:18

Um, I am really concerned that our community haven't had the information to appreciate what this will mean long term for our countryside and our environment. So I just raised that as a concern that, um, there's an information gap and can it be addressed in any way in time, as soon as possible, for things to be brought to the examination phase? Thank you.

01:30:12:15 - 01:30:20:17

Thank you very much. We know we not noted that concern. Uh, we'll move to Miss Ann Mason now.

01:30:23:05 - 01:30:25:10

Hello. Good evening. Hopefully you can hear me.

01:30:29:21 - 01:30:30:23

Yes, we can hear you.

01:30:31:00 - 01:31:04:23

Okay. Okay. Right. Okay. Thank you. Um. I'd like. I have already spoken. So thank you for the opportunity to speak briefly on three points, which are new. I'd like to draw the examining authority's attention to the financial incentives offered to landowners by the applicants in the latest voluntary heads of terms. These incentives are subject to the condition that our submissions and representations to. Yourselves are withdrawn. I feel this is unethical, disingenuous and undermines the whole ethos of the consultation period.

01:31:06:01 - 01:31:38:11

It also represents the heavy handed approach of the applicant, in my opinion. Second point is, I am concerned the applicant claims our land will being reinstated and returned to agriculture once the cables are installed. This is nonsense. We have evidence, albeit on a smaller scale, during the investigation process of the so-called reinstatement of our prime pastureland, and it has not been reinstated properly. And we look forward to showing you some evidence tomorrow during your site visit.

01:31:39:04 - 01:32:10:17

And finally, we are deeply concerned that we will be deprived of our most valuable asset, which is the land, for two significant periods of time. We are third generation working with the farm on this project may well put us out of business. Um, but I'd like to thank the examining authority for their request for an impact statement from the applicants during the interview. For each individual holding by deadline one which was requested at the issue specific hearing part eight.

01:32:11:01 - 01:32:27:08

Um, and I look forward to receiving the applicant's response. I've submitted a Freedom of Information request for my own individual holdings. Um, impact statement because I could not locate it on the planning website, so I look forward to getting that. Thank you for your time.

01:32:30:24 - 01:32:32:02

Thank you very much.

01:32:34:09 - 01:32:42:11

Okay. We'll move back to participants in the room. And it's Mr. Robert Silverwood first and it's three minutes.

01:32:45:07 - 01:33:25:12

Sorry. Good evening. Uh, thank you again for allowing us to speak. It means a lot to us. It's the voice that I think, um, we all recognize has not been listened to by Morgan and Morgan. We went to the consultations and they were abysmal. We were dismissed. We were referred to other people, uh, to maybe another person who was in that room who might know something about what we were asking. There was a queue, and when we did get there, they didn't have the answers. The plans were very vague. The maps were first substation, which I believe gives us a very, very high chance of getting, at the very least, leukemia, which I don't look forward to.

01:33:26:03 - 01:34:03:05

Um, also the noise listening 24/7 or when I'm at the house to noise is just impossible to actually accept. We wouldn't be able to sell the house, would we? I mean, if I put the house on the market today with this application in, we wouldn't even be able to get a buyer for it in our house. It's besides the point. But it is a large house. It's probably one of the most valuable in the area, and we wouldn't be able to move. And I find that completely depressing and also frightening that we will be trapped in this environment for such a long period of time.

01:34:03:07 - 01:34:36:01

Probably see me out anyway, and it's just wrong. We are near. I think as you, as we have all heard, we are near schools and so on. We have on this side of Freckleton one walk, one walk and that is an eco

lane which you will visit off Lower Lane, which is full of hairpin bends, which we navigate pretty much every day. And quite often we're hugging. We're always hugging the corner because something will come round and nearly take you out. The idea that these HGVs and so on will cut through our lane, you will see, is just impossible.

01:34:36:03 - 01:35:17:01

And I just say that at Rosica, which was a fracking, a potential fracking site, the inspector rode in one of the wagons that would have been driving, um, quite often down that, that, that, that particular stretch. And he, um, he cancelled that application. He refused that application based on highways. And I think if you were just using Lower Lane as one example, you would realize that, you know, highways is a massive problem. Um, I think tonight, as you're shown in my view, again, because I am a member of the facts group, a kind of tsunami against this application, when they should have looked.

01:35:17:03 - 01:35:47:15

We wouldn't be here if they looked at Hill House. They ignored or just disregarded or didn't even realize that Hill House existed. And we would not have been put through all this and all this potential had this other place been, uh, been viewed properly. It's a it's a valuable site, Hill House, and it is much needed by the people in that area. We don't need it. I cannot think we have. We've looked at this Consistently and we cannot find one positive to this proposed route.

01:35:47:17 - 01:36:03:24

Not one, but I cannot find and we cannot find one negative of it going to Hillhouse. I've got to win now because my I'm -29. Um, so thank you very, very much for listening to me. And please explore that route properly. Thank you.

01:36:05:02 - 01:36:12:11

Thank you very much for your submission. Um, can we move to Miss Angela Slinger, please?

01:36:13:06 - 01:36:43:20

Thank you very much for giving me another opportunity to speak. I'm not going to repeat anything that's already been said. Um, there are just a couple of things that I wanted to bring your attention to. Uh, which, um, follow on from, uh, what was Robert's has just said in the respect of Colin that is also subject to a current planning permission application live with Fylde Council for Bloomfield Solar Farm.

01:36:44:00 - 01:37:36:21

They're hoping that their project to erect 79 acres of solar panels in between the two substations will actually complete before M&M start. I'm not sure that point has been made clearly, but that is the current situation where I believe there hasn't. I'd like to see any communication between Bluefield and and M, because if the two were to go together, that would create absolute chaos around that area, because these are, um, two different schemes which, um, seemingly will overlap from our point of view because things don't always go to plan with planning committee and Fylde Council processes.

01:37:37:18 - 01:38:11:02

Um, so that's the first point. Um, the second point is in relation to, um, access, um, which goes from the west to the east of the area along, um, Clifton Drive. And this might be something that you might wish to look at when you make your visit tomorrow and, and, um, Queensway, which is, um, to the

01:38:13:00 - 01:38:43:09

west of the airport. Um. Oh, sorry. It's the east. Um, anyway, the these two, these two roads, because they're the the airport is right in the middle. Um, they're the only ways that traffic can go from the Blackpool side to the Saint Hans side. And I haven't seen anything in relation to blue light services. How they might manage with all the traffic congestion. Anything creates chaos there.

01:38:43:11 - 01:39:13:18

When there's an accident or roadworks and forcing, if the two were to be blocked at the same time, that would that would just that would be impossible. Um, one alone would cause complete chaos. And it's not just blue light services, it's the Coast Guard as well that needs to use that road and that route. So it's a really it's a it's got, um, potential for health and safety issues for the public. That's my submission.

01:39:13:20 - 01:39:14:10

Thank you.

01:39:18:00 - 01:39:24:00

Thank you very much. And we will move now to councillor Josh Roberts.

01:39:24:06 - 01:39:56:09

Yeah. So I'm the county councillor, um, for Fylde East. I'm also the cabinet member for rural affairs, Environment and Communities. My first thing is I find it very sinister how poorly communication has been. You know, I've lived in my entire life and and I also, from a facts point of view, I only discovered this because of facts on Facebook. I had one leaflet for the door which was very poor. I didn't explain anything. You go online. It's very difficult and I've learnt more from a Facebook group than I have from you guys.

01:39:56:22 - 01:40:27:08

And my personal opinion and my political opinion is this route is the worst route. We should be paying the people behind us consultancy fees for the alternative route they've suggested today and which I've been told about. It's a great alternative route. It will benefit Wyre. It will benefit Fylde. I've written a letter which will go to the leader of Reform County Council, the majority on Lancashire County Council. If he approves it, it will be going to Nigel Farage.

01:40:27:18 - 01:41:01:06

And from my view, when we take over the government in 2029, we will be going against this. That's what my letter is. So don't waste your time, resources, infrastructure, building a route for years which will then be stopped. Please listen to the residents and go for the alternative route because this isn't a political thing. This is a resident thing. And whether you reform Lib Dem, independent, green, everyone behind us will be politically different. Please listen. We all agree the alternative route is the better route.

01:41:01:10 - 01:41:05:01

Please listen to the residents of the Fylde coast. Thank you.

01:41:06:20 - 01:41:17:10

Thank you everybody. Thank you, thank you. If you can just refrain from applauding, please. It is a formal event and we do need to concentrate on what's been said. We do understand the feelings of everybody.

01:41:19:17 - 01:41:31:02

Okay. Thank you very much. Now, before I ask the applicant if they wish to respond to what they have heard today, is there anyone else who wishes to speak?

01:41:32:20 - 01:41:34:19

Mr. Morgan, come forward.

01:41:44:22 - 01:41:51:01

Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak again. Um, I just want to do a quick update about the.

01:41:51:03 - 01:41:51:18

Situation.

01:41:51:20 - 01:41:57:06

With Morgan and which has impact on the considerations today. Uh, sorry, my name is Phil Morgan.

01:41:57:08 - 01:41:57:23

I'm vice.

01:41:58:00 - 01:41:58:17

Chair of Newton.

01:41:58:19 - 01:41:59:19

Clifton Parish Council.

01:41:59:21 - 01:42:00:11

And chair of.

01:42:00:13 - 01:42:02:10

The transmission assets steering.

01:42:02:12 - 01:42:05:18

Committee, um, with Morgan.

01:42:05:20 - 01:42:06:10

And we.

01:42:06:12 - 01:42:07:09

Had a meeting as.

01:42:07:11 - 01:42:08:05

Parish councillors.

01:42:08:07 - 01:42:18:04

Myself, Beth Duckworth and Jeanette McCormick, who you've met since this evening. Uh, and we met with them at Newton, with Clifton Village Hall on the 27th of May about a consultation they're.

01:42:18:06 - 01:42:18:21

Proposing.

01:42:18:23 - 01:42:49:09

To have in September. They're currently proposing to explore two routes, one with landfall north of Blackpool, which then crosses the wire, and then comes down east of Kirkham towards a crossing of the Rebel to Penwortham and a second route which has landfall north of Crosby Beach, zigzagging through West Lancashire to get to Penwortham. They did say that they would have considered a third option of following the M&M route, but they'd rejected that due to what they described as complications.

01:42:50:00 - 01:43:21:13

Their substation would be within five kilometres of them, which stiffened to the seventh seven kilometres with the applicants. These proposals are consistent with maps on the government website for the more than in proposal, which shows the search area for landfall from Crosby to Fleetwood. This shows that there are alternatives to landfall, which M&M are insisting are the only place that they could use it. Nails. Finally, once and for all, the myth that they only could go in by Blackpool Airport.

01:43:21:22 - 01:43:34:11

That is not the case. It's not the case with Morvern. They've got two different options that are we're projecting that, and there's absolutely no reason whatsoever why the current applicant couldn't do the same. Thank you.

01:43:38:13 - 01:43:42:08

Thank you. Is there anyone else in the room who wishes to speak?

01:43:44:18 - 01:43:56:08

Or online? I don't see anyone indicating so. Um, does the applicant, do the applicant wish to respond to any of the comments heard this evening?

01:44:30:21 - 01:44:33:20

Thank you, madam. Um, Liz Dunn, on behalf.

01:44:33:22 - 01:44:34:12

Of the.

01:44:34:14 - 01:44:35:04

Applicant.

01:44:35:06 - 01:44:42:21

Um, so, um, there are there have been a number of points made today, and we thank everybody for the submissions.

01:44:42:23 - 01:44:43:13

Which have.

01:44:43:15 - 01:44:45:02

Been detailed and.

01:44:45:06 - 01:44:46:11

Um, comprehensive.

01:44:47:01 - 01:44:57:00

Um, an awful lot of the submissions that have been made, uh, this evening, the applicant has already responded to in various representations, uh, and particularly.

01:44:57:08 - 01:44:58:01

Uh, in deadline.

01:44:58:03 - 01:44:58:19

One and deadline.

01:44:58:21 - 01:44:59:11

Two submissions.

01:44:59:13 - 01:45:00:03

So we won't.

01:45:00:05 - 01:45:00:20

Be.

01:45:00:22 - 01:45:02:24

Repeating those, but there are a few.

01:45:03:01 - 01:45:03:16

Points.

01:45:03:18 - 01:45:04:08

That.

01:45:04:10 - 01:45:05:00

We would.

01:45:05:02 - 01:45:07:05

Like to pick up and respond to. Um, in respect of some.

01:45:07:07 - 01:45:07:22

Of.

01:45:07:24 - 01:45:08:18

The comments.

01:45:08:20 - 01:45:09:10

That have.

01:45:09:12 - 01:45:10:02

Been made.

01:45:10:04 - 01:45:20:05

I'll do it in the order of the submissions. Um, some of them will join together, I think, particularly around Stanwell Hill House, but we'll I'll try and make the references to.

01:45:20:07 - 01:45:20:22

Um.

01:45:20:24 - 01:45:21:14

To the relevant.

01:45:21:16 - 01:45:22:06

Parties there.

01:45:22:08 - 01:45:22:23

Um, I'll.

01:45:23:00 - 01:45:23:15

Keep.

01:45:23:17 - 01:45:41:04

It as short as possible. I don't know if I've got a time limit, but there are a few points that we wanted to respond to. Uh, first of all, um, in respect of councillor, uh, Redcliffe, I think who made the first submissions. Nothing very detailed to say.

01:45:41:06 - 01:45:41:21

I think those.

01:45:41:23 - 01:45:55:22

Were points that had previously been made. Um, I just note that the examining authority in its first written questions, question 1.2.3, have obviously asked Fylde Borough Council to substantiate.

01:45:55:24 - 01:45:57:04

The allegations its.

01:45:57:06 - 01:45:57:21

Been.

01:45:57:23 - 01:45:58:13

Making around.

01:45:58:15 - 01:45:59:05

The.

01:45:59:07 - 01:46:01:05

Environmental statement and the lack of information.

01:46:01:09 - 01:46:01:24

And we.

01:46:02:01 - 01:46:02:16

Look.

01:46:02:18 - 01:46:03:24

Forward to hearing files.

01:46:04:01 - 01:46:04:16

And seeing.

01:46:04:18 - 01:46:11:02

Files response to that. Um, in respect of Councilor Griffiths, uh, our second.

01:46:11:04 - 01:46:11:19

Speaker.

01:46:11:21 - 01:46:13:09

I think there was mention of.

01:46:13:11 - 01:46:14:01

An.

01:46:14:03 - 01:46:26:09

Additional archaeological, um, investigation being undertaken and somehow that the results of that weren't And available. Um, there has been some further assessment of, uh.

01:46:26:11 - 01:46:27:10

Of archaeology.

01:46:27:12 - 01:46:49:15

That of following on from the original investigations that were undertaken, um, in relation to some of the fines that had been identified. That material will be submitted at deadline three. So it will be available. Um, it's not additional, uh, sort of, um, on site archaeology. It's just an assessment of, of the fines that had previously been identified.

01:46:49:17 - 01:46:50:12

But that material.

01:46:50:14 - 01:47:24:01

Will be submitted at deadline three. So it will be available for the examination. Uh, in terms of, uh, Councillor Wells's submissions, and I think the sort of general submissions made around, uh, this suggestion of an alternative route, uh, to stand up and the use of the Hill House, um, site, it's come up in a number of representations. Um, the applicants have made it very clear in their submissions, put in a very detailed submission, Rec 1039, which was.

01:47:24:03 - 01:47:24:18

In.

01:47:24:20 - 01:47:31:13

Response to the examining authorities hearing action points and Rep 2032, which was the.

01:47:31:15 - 01:47:32:05

Applicant's.

01:47:32:07 - 01:47:42:15

Response to the Energy Working Group. Um, to make it absolutely clear that the connection point for this project is a matter for the National Grid.

01:47:42:17 - 01:47:43:07

Electricity.

01:47:43:09 - 01:47:51:19

System operator. Um, and that decision was taken to connect, um, the projects to Penwortham, and that is where they are.

01:47:51:21 - 01:47:52:11

Connecting.

01:47:52:13 - 01:48:22:15

To. The alternative that is being suggested requires a different point of interconnection, which was made very clear in those submissions and therefore in the applicant's submissions. It isn't a reasonable alternative or an obviously material one. Um, the applicants would also note, um, the matters around the alternative costing and some sorts of suggestion that using Danna Diana and Hill House would save. I think it's £904 million in terms of the connection.

01:48:23:06 - 01:49:04:21

Um, and I note, we note that the examining authority have requested a response to that in question.

1.2.1. Um, that actually should be addressed to Nisso and not to National Grid, because they're not the party that are able to answer that question. Um, and also question 1.2.2, um, we will be responding to those submissions made, but there is just something that I wanted to, um, to say in respect of, uh, of the suggestions around, um, that costing and particularly the report, the MacDonalds report that has been used for the basis of that, it hasn't been submitted to the examination, and we will be submitting it at deadline three.

01:49:05:11 - 01:49:50:01

But in page five of that report, it talks about, uh, the use that should be made of it, something that the Energy Working group didn't highlight in their submissions, and I'll just read out what it says at page five. This report has been produced on the basis of data provided to us by a variety of stakeholders between Q3 2022 and Q1 2020, sorry, 2022 and Q1 2023. The purpose of the report, as described in more detail in the introduction, is to provide an independent comparison of different technology types which may reasonably be expected to be deployed on the GB energy transmission system.

01:49:50:03 - 01:50:29:16

So this isn't the this isn't the the distribution system which this connects into. This is the transmission system within the next 10 to 15 years. The comparison considers cost as well as a number of other factors. Whilst an indication of lifetime costs for each technology option is provided. This is for comparison purposes only and has been based on Strong representative examples of situations as opposed to specific projects. The extent to which the costs of one transmission technology are greater or lesser than those of another can vary considerably according to the specific circumstances of any particular project.

01:50:30:02 - 01:51:03:15

As such, this report should not be used by any party for the purposes of estimating project costs. Transmission technology is complex, and this report can only act as a guide and cannot be used as a substitute for proper application of engineering and costing principles to transmission related projects. And then it says again, the report should not be used as a reference source in relation to the commercial, technical, economic or financial performance of projects.

01:51:03:21 - 01:51:15:17

We will be submitting that report and we will be responding. But we did just want to to make that very clear in terms of the basis on which we understand those figures have been put together. Um.

01:51:16:18 - 01:51:17:09

Uh.

01:51:17:22 - 01:51:18:18

So, uh.

01:51:18:20 - 01:51:56:12

And the other point, just to, um, just to flag is I think we, we highlighted it in our representations. But in terms of that, um, any sort of suggestion of there being, uh, an alternative connection, I think Mr. Harrop in rep one uh, dash 117, uh, has produced the outcome of a, um, Freedom of Information Act request that was made to National Grid, which actually confirms, um, uh, exactly the consideration that's given by National Grid and why it was discounted, um, as a connection point.

01:51:57:00 - 01:52:28:20

So, um, we have drawn that, uh, to everyone's attention in previous submissions. Um, and so just coming back on Mr. Thompson, um, talked about, um, there being homes, being very close to homes, um, footpaths and public rights of way being lost. Um, it's not accurate to say that footpaths or public rights of way will be lost as a result of this project. Uh, there was mentioned that there have been no drainage plans.

01:52:28:22 - 01:53:04:08

There is the outline operational drainage plan, and there was reference to lower Lane being used for construction traffic. It's very clear from the applicant's application that lower Lane will not be used for construction traffic. It's an operations and maintenance access. Um, uh, Miss Forsey, uh, referenced, um, concern about not being able to identify details, um, of the application and the cable works. I'd refer her to the project description chapter, which is rep 2008.

01:53:04:10 - 01:53:34:23

And there was also a quite a lot of information in the consultation materials around cable installation. If she needs any help identifying where those are. We'd be very happy to, uh, to signpost her to the relevant points where there's further detail about the cables and the cable installation. Um, she also referenced, I think, uh, the area being a building site for 11 years. That isn't, of course, accurate because there will be different sites in which works will be taking place over a period of time.

01:53:35:01 - 01:54:14:11

Uh, and it certainly isn't the case that the area will be a building site for 11 years. Uh, I think she also referenced concern, um, about bird strike matters. We have updated or the concerns raised by the airports and others around bird strike. Um, we have, uh, the applicants, uh, made submissions at deadline to, um, to explain the position in terms of, of where progress is being made. And I think it is worth reiterating Writing that in respect of this, um, bird strike is being managed by both BAE and Blackpool Airport on a daily basis or readily.

01:54:15:00 - 01:54:45:11

These airports are both located. We heard about the the number of birds there are within the area, very close to special protection areas. They both have operational wildlife hazard mitigation plans in accordance with CAA requirements in place already. And they manage bird strike on a daily basis. Um, this application is no different to others that would be coming forward in the area in terms of where there's a potential for birds to be, to be displaced as a result of construction activities.

01:54:46:06 - 01:55:11:16

Um, and the applicants have had very good engagement with Blackpool Airport, who have shared with us their current wildlife hazard mitigation plan and will continue to engage with BAA and hoping they will also be able to share their plan so that we can input into those in terms of the specific works that are, that are, um, that that will be undertaken. Uh.

01:55:14:21 - 01:55:46:07

Um, into. Miss miss Ashton, sir, I don't know if it was Mrs. or Miss Ashton. Um, talks about talked about road closures. Um, there are no road closures proposed, um, in respect to this project, and I appreciate. So you asked for lists of the of the of the businesses, but there are no road closures. Um, there will be a partial closure of, uh, Leach Lane where the cables go in, but there are no other road closures proposed. So these these, um, businesses will always have access.

01:55:46:12 - 01:55:52:00

Uh, in terms of, uh, during construction works. Um.

01:56:12:10 - 01:56:15:18

List down on behalf of the applicants, I think. I'm sorry, I don't I'm.

01:56:15:23 - 01:56:16:13

Not.

01:56:16:15 - 01:56:57:18

Sure who it was. Reference building heights of up to 25m. Um, for the substations, obviously. That's not correct. Uh, it's up to 15m for the Morgan substation and up to 13m for the Morgan substation. Uh, and then finally, Mr. Morgan, um, referenced the Morgan in project. Um, obviously, there are no details in the public domain regarding the next stage of the Morven project and indeed, when any consultation may take place. I think the only thing, the only points I would note or respond to in respect of those submissions are, um, it is notable that the more vanity project also has a connection at ten.

01:56:57:20 - 01:57:30:04

Wortham. Um, if Stana had been a suitable location for a connection either there or Hillhouse, you would have thought that perhaps that may be something, or somewhere more than in would have been interested in connecting into. But again, it hasn't been identified as the connection point and no consideration, as I understand it, given to that in respect of the two routes that were being proposed. In terms of why the more valiant project isn't locating close to the Morgan and Morgan project, it's a single project.

01:57:30:06 - 01:57:38:13

This is obviously two projects being brought together, and therefore in terms of available space or siting, you're looking at something of a very different scale.

01:57:46:01 - 01:57:46:19

Thank you.

01:57:50:09 - 01:58:08:16

Okay. Thank you very much. Um, please can I ask that parties provide any post hearing documents, including any written summaries from individuals who spoke today on or before deadline three, which is a Monday 7th of July.

01:58:10:08 - 01:58:41:11

And I would like to also remind you that the recording of this hearing will be placed on the planning Inspectorate's website as soon as practicable after this meeting. And thank you all very much for attending today and for your participation. We will consider all of your representations carefully. And once again, thank you. This the time is now 8:27. And this open floor hearing is now closed.