

# A1iN\_ISH4\_Session1\_09062021\_TRANSCRIPT

Wed, 6/9 3:22PM • 1:02:48

00:11

Well, good afternoon. Can people hear me clearly?

00:15

Yes, Mr. Gleeson

00:18

can Ms Patten confirm the live streaming of events has commenced. The livestream has commenced  
Mr Gleeson pattern much

00:26

for those watching live stream should we at any point to Jen proceedings will have to stop the live stream in order to give us clear recording files. Therefore, when we commence the meeting and restart the live stream, you'll need to refresh your browser page to view those restarted stream.

00:45

I'll remind you of this again should we need to return

00:50

so the time time is now two o'clock and time for this meeting. To begin. I'd like to welcome you all to this issue specific hearing on environmental matters in relation to the application made by highways England, VA one in Northumberland. Morpeth to Ellingham

01:07

to development proposed comprises two parts, with part aping the widening of the existing carriageway to dual carriageway for approximately 12.6 kilometres of the existing Awan between more person Felton.

01:21

Its includes approximately 6.5 kilometres of online widening and 6.1 kilometres of new offline highway.

01:30

Park B involves the widening of existing single carriageway to dual carriageway for approximately eight kilometres of existing Awan between the canal engine.

01:41

Thank you for attending this virtual meeting.

01:46

My name is Kevin Gleeson. I'm a chartered town planner, a planning inspector employed by the planning Inspectorate. I've been appointed by the Secretary of State for housing Communities and Local Government to be the lead member of the panel to examine the application.

02:03

I'm now going to ask my fellow panel members to introduce himself.

02:09

Thank you, Mr. Gleeson. My name is Andre Pinto. And I am also a charter town planner in planning Spectre employed by the planning Inspectorate. I have been appointed by the Secretary of State to be a member of the panel for the examination of this application.

02:26

Thank you. So let's gather we constitute the examining authority for this application. And we'll be reporting to the Secretary of State for Transport with a recommendation as to whether the development consent order should be made.

02:43

I know that most people attending today have already participated or attended the previous hearing, or there are a few new people. So we'll go through a few further housekeeping matters.

02:57

So we're joined today by Candice Patten, who you have already spoken to who's the case manager for this project by James Bunten and George Harrold are the members of the case team.

03:09

This meeting is being held on the Microsoft team's platform has been live streamed. In order to minimise background noise, can you please make sure your phone switched off with turn to silence, and these stay muted with your camera off? Unless you're speaking?

03:26

If you wish to speak at a relevant point during the hearing, please use the Microsoft team's hands up function. Please wait to be invited to speak. Can I also remind people that the chat function in Microsoft Teams won't work? So please don't try to use this to ask any questions or post comments.

03:46

Please speak loudly and clearly. If you don't manage to speak at the relevant points in the agenda, there will be an opportunity at the end of the meeting for you to do so under item 10. on the agenda. I mean other matters.

04:01

Because digital recordings we make retained and published, they form a public record that can contain your personal information, and to which the general data protection regulations applies.

04:14

Consequently, if you participate in today's hearing, it's important that you understand that you'll be live streamed and recorded that the digital recording will be published. If you don't want your image to be recorded, you can switch off your camera.

04:31

Does anyone have any questions regarding this matter?

04:37

No, thank you.

04:40

As already mentioned, each time you speak Could you please introduce yourself and if you're representing someone who they are,

04:47

as this is a public examination, if even if you haven't indicated that you wish to speak if there is a point that you wish to make, please feel free to indicate to the relevant time that you wish to contribute

05:00

The hearing today will be a structured discussion, which will be led by the examining authority based on an agenda that has already been published. The purpose of the hearing is to enable you to answer any questions that we might have to ensure that we have all the information that we need. In order to make our recommendation to the Secretary of State.

05:23

I'd now like to turn to the agenda.

05:28

The agenda for this hearing was published on the project page of the inspector websites on Wednesday of last week, second of June.

05:36

That's not being shared on the screen.

05:41

The substantive items on the agenda are as follows. Under item two, we'll consider the water environment. While item three will cover biodiversity, ecology and the natural environment.

05:54

item for covered landscaping visual impacts of the scheme. With transport and traffic falling item five,

06:01

to mitigation of construction impacts item six, combined some cumulative effects arising from post developments. item seven, the final substantive topic will deal with statements of common ground as item eight.

06:20

We propose that this session will continue until about 330 when we should have a break of about 30 minutes. We tend to assume at four o'clock and may continue for further hour before joining until tomorrow at 10am.

06:35

as a guide, though, we're not expecting to move on to item four today and may not even complete item three, but we will review the programme as we go forward.

06:48

We will continue the hearing as soon as all relevant contributions have been made. And all questions asked and responded to.

06:56

As many of you will know we have already had three issues specific hearings on environmental matters, and asked a considerable number of written questions. So today we won't be pursuing matters where we already have been satisfactory addressed.

07:16

Now let's take the names of those who wish to speak at this hearing. Don't forget to state your name and who you represent. I'd like to begin with the applicants please.

07:31

Good afternoon, sir. My name is Howard Bassford and solicitor at the law firm DLA Piper. And I represent highways England I'm supported here today by Mr. Mark Stoneman, who is the project manager or the of highways England on the a one in Northumberland project. I also have sundry other people supporting me as required, honestly, speaking, they will introduce themselves. Thank you, Mr. Bassford

08:01

And for the council, please.

08:07

Thank you, sir.

08:09

My name is Katherine Robbie,

08:11

seedy town planner with Northumberland county Council. With me today I've got Ann Deary-Francis, who will be

08:19

advising on

08:21

biodiversity ecology and natural environment matters if necessary. And also Mark Evans, from Stevenson Halladay on landscape and visual impacts. Thank you. Thank you.

08:34

And from the Environment Agency, please.

08:40

Hi, my name is Lucy Mo Well, I represent the Environment Agency. I'm supported by a number of people. We've got Heather Harrison, a catchment coordinator, Christoph Dobrosky biodiversity officer, Alister Lafferty, g mythologise, and Carol Boulton, legal representative. Thank you very much.

09:01

And is there anyone else who wishes to speak this point?

09:09

No.

09:12

Hi there.

09:15

It's Mark Hawes. I would like to reserve the option, If required, please. Certainly, in which case, I'd be representing North good farm residents.

09:25

Thank you.

09:27

As I said already, if anyone else wish to speak, please raise your hand at the appropriate point. And we'll try and bring you in at that point.

09:37

But no one further to identify themselves at this point. That's fine. Thank you.

09:45

So throughout the hearing, it may be helpful to have to hand copies of various documents, or key documents are listed in the agenda and briefly run through them. Those that we think will be needed. We'll have to trust development consent orders.

10:00

So, the outline construction environmental management plan, also known as the camp, the outline,

10:08

outline construction traffic management plan,

10:12

landscape mitigation master plan, party landscape mitigation plan Part B COVID, culvert mitigation strategy,

10:22

water Framework Directive assessments Part A and Part B

10:27

combined effects technical notes and the latest versions of statements of common ground. I won't go through the list in detail.

10:39

So that addresses the first item on the agenda. Welcome introductions and arrangements for the hearing. Are there any questions of an introductory or preliminary nature?

10:53

No one responding on that basis, then we'll move on to item two on the agenda which is the auto environment. And Mr. Pinto will lead on this. Thank you Mr. Pinto.

11:11

Thank you, Mr. Gleeson.

11:14

Item, water environment item. Indeed, indeed, agenda was defined within the agenda published with two main bullet points, which was to consider outstanding matters of disagreement between the applicants, the Environment Agency in natural England, particularly in respect of the covered mitigation, strategy and compensation, in to consider any other outstanding matters still under discussion between the applicant and the Environment Agency. So I would like to take each one of these bullet points in turn, and I will start the first two bullet points.

11:53

And my first question would actually be for the applicant.

12:03

And it relates to the riparian planting plan, landscape mitigation strategy, in the covered mitigation strategy as well. In our first question would be

12:17

considering the three different documents that I have mentioned just now, could the applicant please provide with a general introduction to which one of these documents, but also focusing particularly in terms of how these documents relate to each other, and any differences between those documents? So what they're trying to address?

12:41

If perhaps I could start with Mr. Bassford

12:47

So so if you wouldn't mind, I have the right parian planting plan listed there, the landscape mitigation strategy, and the culvert mitigation strategy calls it a mitigation strategy.

13:05

The intention

13:07

of each of them is slightly different. And so starting with landscape mitigate mitigation strategy, that's an overall approach to the design of mitigation in landscape setting for the scheme. The right parent planting plan sets out how the

13:32

undertaking of planting specifically

13:36

in riparian areas as part of the mitigation compensation for the

13:43

works, which result in loss of Bankside habitat we carried out. And then the culvert mitigation strategy is designed to show how the provision of mitigation at the culvert level is provided now, they should all be consistent, but if you are aware of any inconsistency, obviously we're able to address those.

14:09

Thank you for that. Mr. Bassford. My question is linked with also how the proposals within the right period planting plan are actually integrated, particularly as part of the landscape mitigation strategy and covered mitigation strategies. Just a clarification on that, that to our parent planting plan is

14:33

reflected within these two documents.

14:39

I will have to take away to check that sir. And let you know in our response, but they should all mesh and obviously they all need to be secured through the DCA so if you are flagging with me that you're not convinced that they are all secured then we are able to address

15:00

That.

15:01

I mean, just just to say, though, the right parian plan is an excerpt from the landscape plan.

15:12

And

15:15

details are provided in the culvert mitigation strategy. But we will set out an explanation of how the three mesh when we respond in writing following this hearing.

15:27

Okay, thank you very much for that information as to Mr Bassford

15:34

Assuming which

15:37

Mr. Gleeson, I know that you have on your cam, would you like to intervene at this point? Can I just clarify that, Mr. Bassford?

15:47

If you're saying that there's no, the the repairing plan is an excerpt from the landscape mitigation master plan, then why is it two separate documents?

16:01

It was prepared separate. Forgive me, sir.

16:06

My

16:09

reasoning behind this line of questioning is because having looked at the three documents together, we were trying to understand the purpose of each and expecting that because there are three documents that will be

16:23

providing different seven different purposes. That's essentially what's the questioning was about. So if you're saying that the repairing plan isn't any different, doesn't contain anything different from thin landscape plans, then is it needed?

16:45

It needs not what we will do is we will check the riparian planting plan, which was produced at the request of the Environment Agency, I believe in order to assist them in understanding what what was proposed, or the culvert mitigation strategy, while not at the environment agency's request was produced by us, so that each individual culvert could be understood. Yes, let us take away to simplify that. Because if it can all be shown in one document, then that is much more elegant than having a multitude of documents cluttering up for consent. So we will take that away and confirm to you the position. Thank you through the other points, just briefly on the repairing planting plan, is that this being produced on a satellite base, rather than an iOS base? Which

17:40

is there any reason why it's been telling that way? Was it simple drafting choice? Again, I'm not expecting you the answer now, but if someone could respond on that as well, because when things are presented the different ways it makes you wonder why that is the case

17:58

against in relation to the

18:02

ripe harem party plan, our objective was to assist our interlocutors that the Environment Agency and so in order that they would see where existing prompting is, we produced it so that it it so that that could be seen it, hence the use of the satellite base. Understood. Thank you, again.

18:28

Thank you, Mr. Gleeson. Mr. Bassford, I would also like to now turn to the latest segment of Common Ground representation with the Environment Agency representation eight. Oh, 18, I believe.

18:45

Table 3.1 item one, that Environment Agency is waiting for an updated version of the covered mitigation strategy which will contain repairing planting plans in an overall scheme mitigation plan, which I think is actually related to the point that you were alluding to on your previous answer.

19:04

This question is actually for the Environment Agency, particularly. Could the Environment Agency please comment if the latest version of strategy submitted a deadline aid includes all of the information that is needed? Ms. Mo I, if you could actually answer to this question on behalf of government agency.

19:23

Hi, it's Lucy Mo from the Environment Agency. And we are currently in the process of reviewing the repair and planting the landscape mitigation master plan and the culvert mitigation strategy. So can't

give you a definitive answer on that. However, it appears that the applicant has taken on board or in representations and the discussions that we've had at recent meetings.

19:49

Thank you very much for that information with Ms Mo

20:04

Thank you both, I would now like to actually ask some queries in terms of compensation. But before I do, Mr. Bassford perhaps,

20:17

I noticed from statement of common ground, that

20:21

conversations in the show has actually been moving from the last set of hearings that we had, could I just ask you to please summarise where you stand at the moment with the environmental agency on the issue of compensation, and if there have been any further progress further from the last statement of common ground that was submitted.

20:46

So, in relation to compensation, and the position at the parties,

20:55

highways England remains of the view that it has provided sufficient compensation for converting and for the impacts of the project on the river Kokott that, that stop position. However, in order to address this and to satisfy the environmental agency, it has been agreed that a contribution will be made to secure compensation for the effects of both of those impacts, which is say, in relation to converting and in relation to the effects on the river Kokott. And the compensation

21:43

has been identified or the possibility of compensation was considered in some detail and housing that has undertaken a great deal of work on the red carpet and its catchment to establish whether compensation is possible. Now, the results

22:10

of the

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the result of the work that was undertaken in relation to a coke it was that it isn't possible to undertake compensation on the coke itself, unlike in relation to a lot of the converting. And it therefore, means that compensation has to be provided elsewhere slightly further afield, the coconut is in good shape.

22:38

And so that is why a contribution is being made to the Environment Agency, the Environment Agency and housing the door and discussion as to the amount of the payment, the terms are which is to be paid, which is to say the timing at which the payment is made, and in relation to the items on which it can be extended. And I have seen, and I'm very grateful for this correspondence today from Miss volts, two colleagues here at DLA Piper, which has come back on the draft draft agreement. And that agreement has only a very small number of matters outstanding. And as I stated, it relates to things such as detailed timing of payments, topics on which the compensation committee can be paid, and one other matters. So we're expecting that to be in place very shortly. Having done that, we also expect to be able to conclude step to common ground in this respect in relation to the Environment Agency. And

23:45

we understand that if we're able to reach agreement on that, then the environment agency's concerns will be resolved.

23:54

That's very helpful. Thank you, Mr. Bassford

23:59

In terms of the conflict mitigation strategy itself, so I believe the latest revision of this document is rep eight, zero to three. It does state within paragraph 1.2 point two, that it was prepared to enhance response to comments made by the government agency requested clearly marked in relatable mitigation and compensation plan to be provided.

24:28

I can see that there is further information that has been added when compared to previous versions. But from what I can gather from my analysis of the document, it does appear that most of the maps and figures that are included actually relate to mitigation in what the applicant is doing in relation to mitigation. So considering again, that the purpose of the document was to

24:59

was to

25:00

To respond to environmental agencies calming comments requiring clearly marked relatable mitigation and compensation plan

25:08

is what is the expectation in terms of trying to make the compensation a little bit clearer.

25:17

providing that information

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the

25:23

the document was prepared at the request of the Environment Agency. That's correct. When they were expecting to see the compensation. This is me speaking from the environment agency's point of view rather than being a position that is accepted by highways England

25:39

a position where it was expected to see the compensation shown on the same drawings. The work we have done has shown that it is necessary to look further afield to secure the compensation and that is why the mitigation is captured in the in the

25:58

culvert mitigation strategy rather than compensation the compensation is secured to be secured by the community some payments to the Environment Agency, there may be some compensation in the in the

26:15

litigation COVID mitigation strategy, but in the strict sense, the bulk is provided elsewhere by the Environment Agency.

26:25

Thank you for that, Mr. Bassford.

26:29

for that update Ms Mo Can I also ask the Environment Agency for what is depth position on this issue. So, if you are satisfied

26:44

that a plan is not needed for compensation, because the compensation will actually be mailed as well, elsewhere.

26:55

And

26:57

we are working with the applicant to finalise a legal agreement regarding compensation for the loss of water courses, and also to manage the impacts of the scheme on the river coconut. So we are working with applicant on that and making progress. And

27:17

we will work with the applicant to finalise the agreement and the statement of common ground as quickly as possible.

27:26

So presumably, because you we have been moving towards a legal agreement for compensation elsewhere within the river COVID system.

27:37

The issue that has been wasted previously, in terms of clear mapping of compensation is no longer something that the environmental agency is pursuing in light of the latest development. Is that case? That's correct.

27:51

Thank you very much Ms Mo

28:07

And can I also ask perhaps,

28:12

the environmental agency as well here, if there are any ideas of where this compensation will occur, or if that is something that is actually required from the environment agency perspective, in order to actually be able to fully understand and define its position in relation to the impacts of this proposal, or this is something that is actually not of their concern at the moment we smell

28:44

high, we have offered alternative proposals for compensation on two locations, but water bodies associated with the river kokott and also on the river line. These are boarded water bodies that are linked to the scheme, but fall outside the DCR boundary.

29:06

That's very helpful. Thank you very much Ms Mo

29:10

so before I move to other outstanding matters in relation to water environment,

29:18

now looking at why the issues with the culvert mitigation strategy in compensation, there are any outstanding mentors of disagreement between the Environment Agency and applicants

29:33

on COVID, mitigation strategy in compensation,

29:37

perhaps Mr. Bassford if you could start if as far as your knowledge, as far as you are aware if there is any other outstanding matters of disagreement

29:48

are on culvert mitigation strategy and the river kokott. I understand there are no matches between the Environment Agency and housing that's subject to the

30:00

That text of the agreement being concluded.

30:06

Thank you very much that that is about drafting. Yes, there are other matters which you may pick up in relation to things such as officers, but I'll wait for you to ask me to address you on those specifically. But in all areas, we're making good progress.

30:23

Yes. Thank you very much for that.

30:28

So,

30:30

goes depth actually concludes the questions that I had on the first bullet point linked to the covered mitigation, strategy and compensation.

30:41

Are there any other questions that anyone has in relation to this specific issue? Or shall I move on to the next bullet point?

30:54

I don't see any hands raised,

30:59

therefore, are moving on to the next point, which is to consider any other outstanding matters still under discussion between the applicant and the environmental agency. Still, so Mr. Bassford, you have mentioned already the issue with the otters which opposite was an issue that we picked up on the previous set of hearings? Could you actually provide us with a quick update on where we stand on that specific issue with the quarters? Obviously, this has been already reflected, I believe, within like the latest segments of Common Ground,

31:35

particularly between the environmental agency and natural England. But if you could provide us with a quick update, please. Yes, yes, of course, sir. In relation to otters, we have looked at the information that has been provided by the Environment Agency following their own recent survey efforts. And in light of that, we have taken steps to propose mitigation in the form of mammal fencing, which is added to landscape mitigation plan, the landscape mitigation plan for Plan B, we understand that being considered by the Environment Agency, but we expect it to be acceptable to them short term as Ms Mo, in just a second to check that.

32:22

Thank you, Mr. Bassford. Ms Mo, Please, could you actually confirm that information to us as well, please?

32:29

I echo what Mr. Bassford reader said, we're still in the process of reviewing the landscape minute mitigation plan, the applicant appears to have taken aboard our previous comments, and we're in agreement, we just need to finalise and review the latest set of information. Okay, for part two, B, thank you very much.

32:53

Just to think about that, those are to be included in the landscape mitigation plan referenced in the plant camp, and therefore, the therefore there will be it will be secured appropriately.

33:12

Thank you very much,

33:14

is I believe that you are referring to now Mr. Bassford, to the latest statement in rep 8029 of the Environment Agency regarding formally signing off the measures of protection of waters in Part B.

33:30

So you are giving us an assurance that that will be formally included?

33:39

I would have to check that, sir. But the critical point is that there is that the mitigation that is agreed should be secured.

33:51

Yes.

33:53

Thank you. That's that's helpful. Ms Mo, I believe from my interpretation of the latest version of the Alpine camp, that it has been updated in our debt protection of otters in Part B is actually included there. Can

34:12

Can you please provide us with any information if you had have had a chance to actually review this? If you are satisfied with the proposals and measures now included into our planned camp relation to part B?

34:27

We're still undertaking a final review of all the relevant documents, but it does appear that the applicant has taken a board or comments. There are appropriate mitigation measures for officers for part B, please. That was my understanding of the position which is that you want to see it in black and white was

34:45

correct. Thanks. Thank you very much both.

34:51

Let me just check my notes in terms of further questions.

35:04

So, I would actually like to go to me smile again, please. So Ms Mo in the, in the Environment Agency rep 8029, the same document that I have referenced to before it requested section five of the protected outline camp provision, six is updated to include reference to groundwater monitoring. This I believe was in relation to the watering borrow pits.

35:33

Can environmental agency confirm it stated within the wrap?

35:39

But regarding change, I think it was delayed representation, it's submitted to deadline at a that he's has now been carried out to a satisfactory degree.

35:50

confirmed that is the case I have reviewed the latest outlines does make reference in section five to the groundwater monitoring. Okay.

36:05

And that closes dewatering borrowing pit issue that was raised previously.

36:11

Now, I would actually like to go to a specific action within the outline camp.

36:19

So I believe that environmental agency has asked in requested for changes to be made to action a, that there should be 40.

36:30

could could the Environment Agency, please mismo? Explain what changes are required here in I believe this is also linked

36:41

with issues raised before in terms of

36:46

compensation in deer grazing, but Ms Mo if you could actually explain what changes are actually required to this action to satisfy divine intention? See, could you just say the reference within the camp again, for us? I believe it's action A,

37:07

B 14.

37:11

A dash b 40?

37:17

Ms Mo? If, if you could potentially comment on this. Hi, I'll need to take action just to double check on this. Okay, thank you.

37:31

So we'll put in an extra note for the Vermont agency to come back in terms of

37:38

its satisfaction with action A B 40.

37:48

Now, before I move on to edit to any other issue, can I just ask

37:56

if Ms Mo if there are any other further outstanding issues in relation to water environment, obviously excluding the issues linked with the change request, as those will be dealt with next week. But if there are any further issues, outstanding issues that you would like to raise today that we could perhaps explore further.

38:21

We have no further issues to raise bargaining or zoning issues. Okay, thank you very much.

38:30

Mr. Bassford. Are there any comments that you would like to make in terms of further issues on water environment? I don't believe we have anything further for you on that, sir.

38:42

Okay, thank you very much.

38:45

The one thing I can say is that the matter is in relation to which we were just checking inclusion in the camp is the dash v 100. In the outline.

39:02

Think that was in relation to

39:06

not officers, it was groundwater.

39:12

officers

39:14

in relation to otters, yes, yes. Okay.

39:19

That was what's linked to the

39:22

the landscape mitigation plan for part B, and the oak campus the Yeah, that's, that is the action in relation to part B, and mitigation for artists. Yes. Thank you very much for clarifying. Thank you very much for clarifying that specific point. Mr. Bassford.

39:41

Can I ask before I move on, if there are any

39:46

further questions that anyone would like to make at this point and the item of water environment

40:01

I don't believe there are any. Therefore, I will hand it over to Mr. Gleeson who will actually lead us through the next topic, biodiversity in college and natural environment. Mr. Gleeson

40:24

Thank you Mr. Pinto.

40:27

So this item is

40:31

on the agenda summarised has to confirm the position in respect of outstanding matters between the applicants and natural England relating to air quality impacts on the river coconuts and coconut Valley Woodlands took less I.

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We have previously addressed this

40:52

earlier hearings, and in written form.

40:57

I don't think we need to go for the detail of those discussions have been held dates.

41:06

What I would like to know is how this matter has now been progressed further, I think the last discussion seems to have been

41:16

most recently discussed as a meeting on 17th of May, with natural England's local team.

41:24

essentially looking for an update, see if this can be resolved within the scope of this examination. Mr. Bassford

41:34

Thank you, sir. I'm pleased to say in relation to this, that whilst the exact methodology may be a subject of debate between the parties, the position of natural England and highways England is that there is not a significant effect from the specific scheme. And therefore, the position is as we have assessed it, now, how the tea parties reach that position, maybe different bumps, there is nothing between the parties on that point. There are significant effects within the assessment that so so there are

42:20

there are two approaches, there are some areas where there are no significant effects identified such as the river kokott area, but there are some veteran trees, notably t six eight to Mt 701. And it has now been agreed that compensation will be provided for those and also compensation for impacts on our wood and well wood is to be secured by an agreement between the body that manages those two words, which is Northumberland county council and highways England. So

43:01

the overall position is that there's no adverse significant effect on the triple si parties agree that

43:11

compensation is provided or impacts on veteran trees and to other sites elsewhere, but the triple si and whatever kokott there is no significant effect.

43:25

Thank you. So will there be a written agreement will presume the covered tin stems Common Ground is that the way you envisage it being finalised?

43:36

We expect that the socg annual have seen an updated draft at deadline eight or 80. I forget which but that will say that this is this has been addressed between the parties. There's been an exchange of emails, which is also recorded in the socg. I think it was 24th of May, the natural England confirmed it was content with the position

43:59

and the agreement for the management of Bara wooden Wellwood is being progressed as between the council and the applicant to ensure that that is secured. Thank you. So just picking upon this points

44:24

you mentioned per woods and Wellwood. And I was going to raise this

44:31

onto another item.

44:43

Yes.

44:44

So the response to

44:49

question bio 3.3. So the applicants response.

44:54

Rep eight oh 26 does say that the applicant says

45:00

Saved suggested options from Northumberland county council for measures compensate or offset the impacts to pro woods. Well, word.

45:12

So that that's fairly comprehensive.

45:17

As you describe that

45:21

what what was puzzling to me is, I can't recall seeing reference those locations before. Presumably they were there outside of the

45:33

order limits, but I couldn't even see them on the wider study areas for biodiversity. Can you explain please, where these locations are?

45:45

Yes, they are, indeed, outside the order limits, and they are two and 10 kilometres south of the scheme respectively. So even looking carefully, you won't have found them within the order limits.

45:58

And they are affected as a consequence of changes in

46:03

in deposition as a result of the scheme. It may be, you want to speak to Mr. Jack Fenwick of WSP about this, because he will explain the links and the way the impacts work. But, but in short, that is why they are removed from the scheme.

46:21

I think an explanation would be helpful, please if Mr. Fenwick is available, Mr. Fenwick? If you would,

46:29

there is Mr. Fenwick No problem. Yeah. Jack Fenwick, Principal ecologist at dw SP.

46:34

So as Mr. Bassford would have mentioned, the reason they're not in within your limits is the air quality assessment extends far beyond the scheme. So it looks at the affected road network.

46:45

both the sides burwood and Wellwood are actually adjacent to the one. But as Mr. Bassford pointed out, they are located two kilometres and 10 kilometres to the south of the scheme adjacent to the affected road network. They are found on there will be found on maps presented within the updated biodiversity air quality dmrB sensitivity assessment, which is red 3010.

47:10

That's probably the best location to where to find the locations of those two sites. Thank you. So we have got maps of them already. We have Yes, thank you.

47:21

Okay.

47:46

And just clarify. So those

47:49

those positions are, they've been suggested by the county council. And they are locations that are supported by natural England.

48:03

The the impacts were identified and assessed by our team.

48:10

The resultant leads to provide mitigation or compensation, as the case may be was then identified with natural England. And then the owners of those two assets is Northumberland county council. So they are the counterparty for the agreement. I think that's right, isn't it? Mr. Fenwick

48:33

I was just quickly passing your notes. But and yes, the the two locations for compensator e habitat were identified by northern Northumberland County Council. And we've had more information about those two sites in question. But the two locations are also supported by natural England that we've had through discussions and engagement. And this will be secured in what way? Is it separate agreements?

48:57

It is

48:59

Mr. Bassford? Yes.

49:03

It is occurring to me though, that we will need to have a provision in the decio or the O Chem. Mr. Fenwick may have that at the fingertips already which saved that there has to be provision made for

49:16

compensated measures to be carried out by reward and well would

49:21

then provide the necessary link. Yes, yeah. seem necessary. So thank you for that. Okay.

49:53

So are there any other points the applicants or other parties wish to make in relation to

50:00

Biodiversity at this stage,

50:03

bear in mind that we will be touching we'll be covering the issue

50:09

as it relates to

50:11

the change requested next week's hearing, Mr. Bassford? Nothing from me. Thank you have many other parties.

50:25

No, not.

50:28

Okay, thank you. Can I just

50:31

check my notes, please?

51:37

Okay, I think that's addressed is item three, we seem to have

51:44

called through items two and three, much quicker than expected. So we are in a position to move on to item for this afternoon, which was to say, say I wasn't expecting to be able to do so. But before we do that, I think it's appropriate. Having

52:03

given people the indication that we wouldn't

52:06

be able to reach up points. And perhaps we'll take a break now for 20 minutes and then come back. I'll do that shortly. But just before doing that,

52:18

can I just ask

52:21

Ms Brooks? I know that's your list listening to live stream?

52:28

I understand from notes I've been getting that. You wanted to make a points.

52:34

Do you wish to make the point now or ask your question now? I know there's been provided with the option of listening to the discussion and then putting something in writing. But if you want to make a point to the examination this this time, I'm happy to take that as books.

52:57

I think that's me. Hello. Yes. Hello. And yes, and apologies. I'm probably coming in at this a little bit more

53:06

blame and term type of questioning. And

53:12

we've got a couple of things that I'd like to ask Firstly, is

53:16

we've we've obviously quite close to the one and have to travel on new one to drop my son off at school on a regular basis. And we noticed that there's a lot just recently there's I don't know whether it's just mainly because I've noticed that perhaps more than before,

53:33

we've been noticing a lot of dead animals on the side of the road because of you know, traffic, obviously, whether that's because of the lockdown and things like that having an effect on it. I don't know. But we were just wondering whether there was any kind of plan to perhaps preserve that sort of,

53:51

you know, to preserve wildlife in the in the in the area.

53:56

I know, I don't know whether there's any thought or any protest of any impact that could have on the on the local

54:05

animals and things. It's mostly things like pheasants and rabbits and things like that. I know that some people

54:12

asked if you don't find them. Nice, but it's we just wanted to know whether or not there was anything that could be preserved in

54:20

a couple of other questions was, we just wanted to know with the effect of Z of closing party a one as we as the construction is taking place. What would be the effect of diversion through the local town of Hebron. It's a fairly busy road already. We just have a small, small village. So we just wanted to know what kind of effect any diversions would be having on that area.

54:47

So that those were the two main questions. The other questions I just wanted to ask was in terms of when the construction takes place, would there be any limit on working hours is it going to be through the night or is it going to be

54:59

you know what

55:00

What is what can we explore terms of how long the construction might take over through the day? And then just looking at things like noise reduction, what kind of plan there was for the Hebron junction?

55:15

For noise reduction?

55:18

Yes. Okay. Thank you for that. I'm going to ask Mr. Bassford on behalf of the applicant to respond to those points.

55:27

I think generally at this point, and then he may want to follow that up in writing, and you'll be able to access the written response, because some of the answers he might want to give might require more detail than these able to provide now. But hopefully, you can get your answers either today, or in written form, at some point. Okay.

55:51

Mr. Bassford do you want to respond?

55:54

Thank you very much, sir. And thank you, Ms Brooks for your questions. I think the first thing to say is that all of the points that you have raised are matters which are part of the considerations which are an organisation like housings and takes into account when it is promoting a scheme. And they are all matters which I know that Mr. Gleeson and Mr. Pinto will have in mind when they are making their recommendations to the Secretary of State. So that those have been taken properly into account.

56:29

In terms of ecology, you will have heard me talking earlier on this afternoon about auto fencing. Now, I can't speak to pheasants and rabbits, which again, but in terms of other ecological receptors, what we've been talking about with the Environment Agency, in particular are is mammal fencing, and that that's designed to make sure that creatures like otter or badgers tends to move towards safer ways to cross beneath the road, instead of passing across the surface of the carriageway.

57:05

And so the use of culverts though, and mammal shelves in them, things like that, where they're available, they do provide some opportunity for creatures to to cross the cross the road. And so ecology is very much taken into account in the design of schemes.

57:26

Then the next question you asked was about diversion through Hebron. Now, the this is something again, which housing does as you can well imagine very much takes into account when it's designing

schemes and the objective is to keep the main line of the road open. Throughout meeting that there wouldn't be exception very exceptional circumstances or diversion off the main mind. There are some occasions where that might happen where for instance, there overnight bridge works that would be taking place taking place, which could not take place whilst keeping the main line of the road open. But in most cases, there wouldn't be a major diversion from the main line of the road. And that brings us on to your question about working hours now, to ensure that a project is large and complex as this is properly taken, properly considered and taken into account that the

58:20

impacts on those who may be neighbours to the scheme are properly addressed. We have a thing called an outline construction environmental plan, which we've been developing it is a substantial document, as Mr. Gleeson has pointed out to me on a number of occasions. And it takes some navigating as he has also pointed me out to me on a number of occasions. But the important thing is it is designed to capture mitigation

58:45

for residents, ecological receptors, public authorities, critical people like that, during the carrying out the skin. And one of the things it provides is the working hours. And it is not expected that this would be a 24 seven

59:02

project and the working hours are captured in there. And when we when we provide our summary of this hearing, we'll put them in a summary so that if you check online, you'll be able to see the precise hours I don't have them at my fingertips right now I'm just saying he tells me but you'll be able to see those and then understand what they what they are and how they are limited. As I say there are some exceptional circumstances we can only do something when the road is quieter, which reduces the likelihood of diversion, but those are very much less frequent than the than the mainline works which are

59:40

which are managed as to the timing.

59:47

The working hours that are proposed I cannot tell you are 7am 7pm

59:53

so that is what we will also be dealing with another excellent I'm also reminded that another record

1:00:00

receptor, which is often very important to people, that's barn owls. And so there are buttons which read, which would reduce barn owl fatalities. And we're also providing for the translocation of barn owls so that they can be moved to New nesting sites where their nesting sites might be lost as a result of the scheme. The final thing that you flagged was in relation to noise reductions at Hebron junction. Now those are affected by the banding that were proposed by specific measures that we put in place.

1:00:38

I'm not able right now, and I don't think we have present active station. But we will provide a little note which sets out how noise has been taken into account in this particular facility. So you'll be able to see that in the summary of the hearing note. I hope that those are some that provides some help in understanding how housing the tics counter these things.

1:01:05

Because we've discussed it here today, Mr. Gleeson and Mr. Pinto, also have it before them. And so they will have it in mind as well. And they will ultimately report to the Secretary of State about the accessibility of the scheme and bearing in mind what I have said and what you have asked.

1:01:22

Thank you, Mr. Bassford. Ms Brooks is standing for the one say hell that. No, thank you very much for taking my questions. I really appreciate that. Thank you. Thank you. And as we've said, there will be written record of the hearing, which you can refer to in future. Thank you. Thank you.

1:01:41

So at three o'clock, I suggest we now take a 20 minute break. And then we come back at 320 and deal with landscape. Is that okay for you Mr. Bassword. And your team? I think I nobody is sending distress flare saying that that doesn't work. So I'm expecting that to be okay. Thank you. And also the County council. Mr. Evans, I think is the witness. Or Ms Robbie. Can you confirm you're okay with that?

1:02:17

Yes, that's fine with me. Thank you. Okay, that's great. Thank you. So we'll adjourn now until 320. Thank you. Thank you, sir.