

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Community Newsletter

Winter 2022/23



**OUTER
DOWSING**
OFFSHORE WIND

Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Community Newsletter. This edition provides an update on the results of our recent Phase 1 Consultation.

Firstly, I would like to thank all of you who took part in our Phase 1 public consultation which ran from 1 November to 29 November 2022. We have had a great response across the public information days, online exhibition, webinars, feedback forms, landowner meetings, freepost address and freephone telephone line.



I would like to offer special thanks to those who attended the public consultation events. We hosted four in person events – Anderby, Wainfleet, Fosdyke and Butterwick between 1 November and 11 November which were attended by nearly 500 people. It was great to meet you all and your local knowledge has helped to further shape the project. Details of the consultation results are summarised in this newsletter.

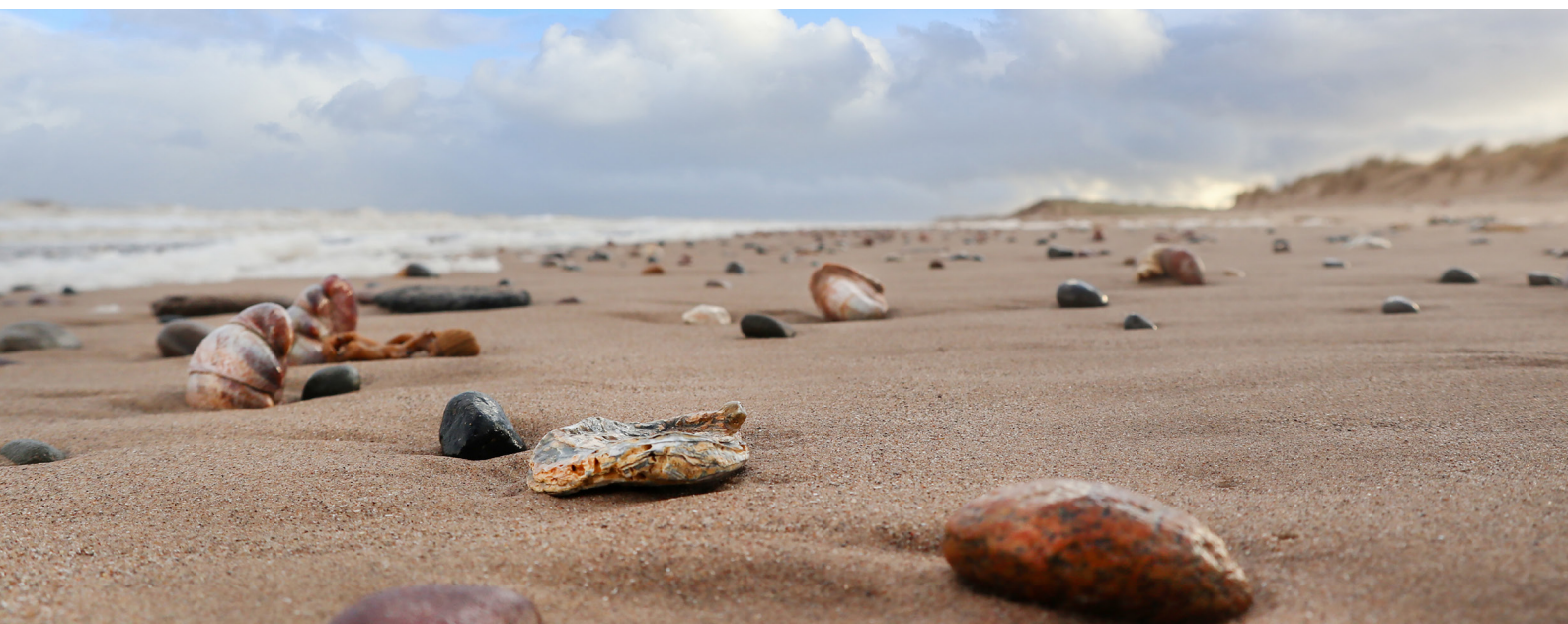
As part of the feedback received during the Phase 1 consultation, we have been made aware of various engineering and environmental considerations potentially affecting the proposed cable corridor to the Weston Marsh connection option as presented in November. As a result of this feedback the project has decided to consider a proposed amendment to the central section of the onshore cable route option to Weston Marsh between Wainfleet All Saints and Butterwick, in parallel with the original proposed cable corridor. Once fully assessed the project will make a route selection based upon the full information available and will continue with a single proposed route option. Details of the possible alternative route are shown on the map in this newsletter. At the moment, both routes are possible options which will be considered.

As a result of this alternative route proposal, we will now undertake further public consultation in the affected area between Wainfleet All Saints and Butterwick, to give the local communities an opportunity to comment on our plans. We will publish a new Statement of Community Consultation later in January which will outline how we will undertake the consultation process, and we will host two additional Project Information Days at Wainfleet on 21st February and Old Leake on 24th February, together with an updated online exhibition & webinar.

I hope you find the information in this newsletter useful, and as always, if you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us using the contact information on the back of this newsletter.

Chris Jenner





Development Manager








Results of the consultation

Between 1 November and 29 November we held our Phase 1 public consultation. The purpose of the consultation was to introduce the project's proposals to the local communities and, as such, give local communities the opportunity to influence the design and development processes before the submission of the DCO application. Outer Dowsing's aim is to develop its proposals collaboratively and responsibly, taking account of local community interests.

The consultation period included:

-  Four in person public information day exhibitions
-  An online version of the public exhibitions
-  Two online webinar presentations with question and answer sessions
-  Meetings with landowners and key stakeholders

The consultation facts and figures

-  We sent out invitations to over 21,000 local households in the consultation zone as well as MPs, county, district and parish councillors
-  We held four in-person public information day exhibitions at Anderby, Wainfleet, Butterwick and Fosdyke
-  We had a total of 476 visitors who signed in
-  We received 13 hard copy questionnaires back along with 7 online questionnaires and 11 Freepost postcards
-  Our online exhibition was viewed 310 times



Overarching themes

Many people who attended the public information days were happy to provide us with thoughts, comments and local knowledge regarding the substation search areas and proposed onshore cable routes.

The feedback we received will be published in detail in our Consultation Report, but a number of clear themes emerged:

Theme	Comments	Response
Energy security	People were concerned about energy security and the rising cost of fuel.	Whilst energy security is a broad subject and one that this project alone cannot solve, the Outer Dowsing scheme will provide enough clean, green electricity to power 1.6m homes.
Learning from previous schemes in the area	People highlighted concerns regarding previous schemes in the area such as the chopping down of trees for access turning points, dust, traffic & air quality (in particular the 40mph temporary zones in place 24/7) and a limit to HGVs through local towns and villages.	We aim to learn from what worked well for other schemes and also what didn't work so well. Our aim is to deliver a traffic, construction and operations programme that has been shaped by local input and views.
Substation search zones	Residents' views on constraints within the substation search zones were heavily influenced by the location of their homes, existing screening, topography, ecology, potential noise impacts and access for construction traffic.	Site-specific knowledge will be added to the constraints mapping that will be used to identify substation sites that will be taken forward to the Phase 2 Consultation Events.
Local grid constraints	People commented that the growth in the local economy is being held back by a lack of local grid capacity, e.g. electric car charging points, capacity to supply new industrial developments	Whilst our project cannot directly affect local power supply, it will increase capacity in the Grid as a whole, increasing the potential for local development.
Cumulative impacts for future projects	Some residents mentioned that there had already been a number of schemes in the area and they were concerned about the cumulative impact of this project and any future projects.	We are aware of the previous schemes in the area and we aim to learn from them. We will also work closely with the local councils to identify, consider and mitigate any potential cumulative impacts with future projects.
Environmental impact	Attendees provided useful information and feedback on ecology, flood risk, access, transport, visual impact, noise and dust.	We are currently undertaking a number of detailed studies and surveys to understand how the project might impact these topics and others, the results and any proposed mitigation measures will be outlined in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) which we will publish and consult on as part of our Phase 2 Consultation Events.

Overarching themes

Theme	Comments	Response
Temporary impact on agriculture, food security & restoration	Some people were concerned about how much land the project would require and whether this would affect agriculture in the area.	Along most of the cable route construction will require temporary access to a small strip of land up to 80m wide to place the cables in. This will be reinstated and returned to agricultural use shortly afterwards. We are undertaking additional consultation on an alternative route between Wainfleet and Butterwick. If this alternative route is chosen, we think that it would reduce the impact on the most intensively farmed areas and would mitigate some engineering issues.
Archaeology	Visitors provided us with some detailed information about local archaeological and heritage sites such as the salterns and submerged forests.	We are carrying out detailed archaeological and heritage studies as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. Details will be provided in the PEIR.
Ecology and ornithology	Respondents gave us valuable feedback in terms of areas important to wildlife and different species which can be found across the area.	The Project is committed to delivering a positive legacy for local wildlife, it is for this reason that the avoidance of sensitive environmental receptors has been central to the design of the project. We are carrying out habitat and species surveys and studies and will report the results in the PEIR and ES.
Community benefit engagement and Biodiversity Net Gain	Visitors gave us their ideas for Biodiversity Net Gain and asked how the project could support various schemes. We also received a lot of feedback on how other projects in the area delivered community benefit in the form of a Community Benefit Fund (CBF).	We are keen to offer a community benefit fund with an aim to deliver a substantive and enduring benefit to local communities. We are talking to local organisations who may be able to help us deliver these aims. The coastal communities of Lincolnshire have an inspiring fondness for nature. We want to encourage, support and foster this and are actively looking into opportunities where we can provide Biodiversity Net Gain as part of the Project.

Additional consultation on potential alternative to section of onshore cable route option to Weston Marsh.

We were given a great deal of valuable feedback on various elements of the proposed cable route which we have taken some time to process and understand.

Taking onboard the information received during the Phase 1 public consultation along with guidance from our environmental and engineering team and our site surveys/meetings, we are now also considering a potential alternative to the central section of the proposed onshore cable corridor to the Weston Marsh option between Wainfleet All Saints and Butterwick. Details of the possible alternative route are shown on the map below. At the moment, both routes remain as possible options which will be considered pending further feedback and studies.



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What happens next?

As a result of this potential route alternative, we will be hosting some additional Project Information Days at Wainfleet on 21st February and Old Leake on 24th February to seek stakeholder views on this potential option. If the Weston Marsh grid connection option is progressed, the project will use this feedback to inform the route selection that would be taken forward to consent application at the end of 2023. We will publish a new Statement of Community Consultation later in January which will outline how we will undertake this additional consultation.

Residents in the consultation area indicated on the map will receive further details in the post at the beginning of February. Adverts for the public consultation events will also be placed in local newspaper and on social media.





Contact Us

We are always happy to hear your thoughts and you can contact us in the following ways:

Email: contact@outerdowsing.com

Call our Freephone information line: **0808 175 2970**

You can write to the Project free of charge at:

FREEPOST ODOW

(no stamp or further address details needed on the envelope)

Register your interest to receive project updates at:

www.outerdowsing.com/get-in-touch

