Minutes of Meeting.

Meeting title	Community Liaison Group – Substation South
Location	Fosdyke Village Hall
Date/ time	Thursday 23 February 2023
Originator	ODOW
Attendees	Andrew Acum – Group Facilitator – ODOW - AA Roisin Alldis – Onshore Consents Manager – ODOW - RA Chris Jenner - Development Manager – ODOW - CJ David Wright – Land Manager – ODOW – DW Alison Austin – Lincolnshire County Council – AAu Richard Austin – Boston Borough Council - RAu Kerry Gratton – Fosdyke Parish Council – KG Ian Pennington – Weston Parish Council - IP Thomas Sneath – The Moultons Parish Council – TS Simon Walsh – South Holland District Council - SW
Apologies	
Purpose of meeting	1. To involve key local stakeholders in the design and development of the Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind project (landfall, onshore cable route and substation) through presentations, discussions and planned workshop activities. 2. To act as a two-way communication channel between local communities and the project team. 3. To help foster local involvement and ownership of the project.

	1.	**Chair's welcome and introductions** CJ opened the meeting and introductions were made. DW pointed out that IP was a landowner affected by the scheme and that TS was an agent acting on behalf of a landowner. DW asked if anyone had any conflicts of interest to declare. None were declared. The minutes of the last meeting were approved. CJ added that minutes of all meetings would be uploaded to the website for transparency. **ACTION: AA to arrange upload of meeting minutes for all CLGs**
	2.	**Feedback from Consultation Events and Project Update** <u>Offshore:</u> CJ explained that the offshore element has not changed since the last meeting. The only significant development is that the Project has signed the Agreement for Lease with the Crown Estate which is an exclusivity agreement for the seabed, but the landfall and connection options remain the same. The offshore array will consist of up to 100 turbines, 54km offshore, each up to 403m above sea level. These will be approximately 7.5km behind the Triton Knoll development and the very top of the blades would only visible on average five or six days a year when weather conditions permit. The landfall will be just south of Anderby Creek and the onshore cable will either connect at a northern site near Alford known as Lincolnshire Node or at a southern site known as Weston Marsh.

		Onshore: The previous round of consultation events introduced the southern underground cable route along the east coast down to Weston Marsh. The project has received a lot of feedback regarding subsurface conditions in The Tofts area, such as flowing sands, high water table and intensive agriculture which would make this route more challenging than originally anticipated. As a result, it was decided to consult on a second option for the underground cable route known as, known as Phase 1A. This would run from just north of Wainfleet All Saints, west of the A52 and down towards Butterwick where it would connect to the original route option. This alternative route option had been selected to avoid any major towns and villages, intensive agriculture, existing infrastructure, archaeological sites, etc. and the alternative option was now the subject of an additional consultation. IP asked whether the alternative route option would face the same problems with ground conditions around Fosdyke and Weston Marsh. DW said that the challenge with the first route was proximity to the sea and the high water table. IP said that the route wasn't far from the sea at the river crossing. DW explained that this is the only practical point for a crossing. Whilst ground conditions at Weston Marsh may be similar, it would be less subject to tidal effects. The alternative route option was about minimising the distance with challenging engineering conditions wherever possible. DW said that the Project would be undertaking some ground investigation works from the end of March to get a better understanding of subsurface conditions. IP asked how deep the tests would be. DW said that boreholes would be about 20m deep and trenches about 3.5m. IP said that his father had a well that was affected by the tides.

		CJ indicated where the tests would take place. Alongside the boreholes and trenches, there would also be some ground penetration tests to understand soil composition and strength. These tests would take about six weeks to complete, with equipment in locations for around two-three days at a time. RAu said that in 1976, a number of boreholes towards Bourne became saline as the drought persisted, indicating that the pressure of the sea was still having an effect many miles inland. CJ explained that one of the two connection point options would fall away, probably around May, when National Grid decide which connection point the Project will connect to. However, the consultation in June will still include two options as all the chapters for the Preliminary Environmental Information Report are having to be written now and it is not possible to pre-empt the decision. <u>Environmental data:</u> The Project has been undertaking a wide variety of onshore surveys including: • Ornithology • Ecology • Archaeology • Engineering • Traffic & transport • Visual • Geology and hydrology • Aerial photography • Meteorology The project is also undertaking a number of offshore surveys including: • Geophysical and geotechnical • Metocean and wind resource • Ornithology and marine mammals • Benthic ecology • Marine traffic surveys TS asked what the lifespan of the turbines was. CJ said that the Project had a 60-year lease and the turbines had a 35-year design life. After around 30

		years, it is likely that the turbines would be repowered with the latest technology. <u>Onshore Geotechnical Survey</u> In the coming months there will also be some onshore geotechnical survey work undertaken along the cable route options which will involve drilling boreholes, digging small pits and some core penetration tests to get a better understanding of the subsurface structure. This will start at the end of March and will last for around six weeks, although equipment will only be on site at each location for a couple of days. IP asked the cable would have to go deeper if there was running silt. CJ said that this is one of the things the geotechnical studies will determine. Once this information is available, the engineers would look at the Front End Engineering Design (FEED) studies where they would look to optimise the design, for example, trying to reduce the number of trenches, HVAC v HVDC, substation design, etc. IP asked what height the substation at Weston Marsh would be. CJ said that both HVAC and HVDC were still on the table at this point and this would influence substation design. <u>Informing the Local Community:</u> The Phase 1 consultation included writing to 23,000 households, hosting four public information days with around 500 visitors, along with four community liaison groups. The Project is currently undertaking the Phase 1A consultation on the alternative route option including writing to 5,500 households and hosting two public information days and four community liaison groups. All feedback will be considered to help inform the production of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report, which will itself undergo a formal consultation in the summer. All the work is building towards consent by 2025, build 2026 to 2029 operational by 2030.

		Onshore Substation Search Zones: There are existing overhead lines at Weston Marsh, so the Project would need to build a substation and National Grid would need to build a smaller substation to connect into these. At Lincolnshire Node there is currently no National Grid infrastructure and the Project would have to connect into the proposed National Grid wider reinforcement works, however the details of these works are not yet known. RAu asked if there was any indication of which site might be favoured. CJ said that the Project had no say in this, but a decision is expected in late Spring. As soon as a decision is known, this will be communicated to the CLGs. AAu asked if it would be the Secretary of State who would make this decision. CJ said the location of the substation would be decided by National Grid, but the decision on consent for the Project would be made by the Secretary of State after an Examination process. AAu asked how long the process would take. CJ said that the DCO application would be submitted at the end of the year with an examination period of 12-15 months, so a decision is expected by 2025. There are very strong drivers to achieve the 2030 target of 50 GW of offshore wind and ODOW is one of the next generation projects that will help meet that target. After the elections in May, the Project will meet with the CLGs to present visualisations of what the substations may look like. Feedback from these worst-case scenarios will be used to help inform the aspects of the design that will go into the DCO application. There will also be an Onshore Substation Working Group established once the grid connection point is confirmed. This will allow the onshore substation to be designed in consultation with the people and stakeholders who are local to it. Landfall: The cables at the landfall at Anderby Creek will be facilitated using horizontal directional drilling (HDD) -

		the project will be drilling underneath the beach, the dunes, Anderby Marsh LNR and the coastal (Roman Bank) road so as not to disturb them. As a project, there is a commitment to 10 per cent biodiversity net gain, so not only will the land be reinstated to its original condition, but there is also a commitment to a 10 per cent enhancement. The Project has been talking to a number of local organisations about how this can be delivered. Once a grid connection has been confirmed, the Project will be able to come back with more detailed plans.
	3.	**Key Feedback and response** CJ outlined the headline consultation responses: • Learning from Viking Link and Triton Knoll – all feedback is passed to our technical teams to look at how we can improve the Project • Grid connection – regular meetings with National Grid with hopefully a grid connection offer by late Spring • Feedback on the original route to Weston Marsh (agricultural practices, "running sands" and high water table) resulted in the introduction of an Alternative Route Option, that avoids the majority of this area. • Temporary impact on agriculture and restoration – the Project has met with over 300 landowners and established Landowner Interest Groups. • Archaeology (The Salterns) – the Project has been meeting with the County Council Archaeologist to discuss the results of our desk-based assessment and proposed approach to non-intrusive surveys through 2023.

		• Community benefit engagement and biodiversity net gain - the Project has been meeting with a number of key local stakeholders to discuss potential collaborations from both a community and biodiversity perspective. • Useful information and feedback for substation search zones – the Project is progressing with some visualisations for our Phase 2 Consultation for some specific candidate substation sites and configurations. We want to be as transparent as possible with the community and get their feedback on these options. • Concerns for cumulative impacts for future projects (planning coordination) - the Project is regularly updating the planning system to ensure any known projects are included in our Cumulative impact Assessment.
	4.	**Q&A** IP asked what would happen when the cable route needed to cross gas pipelines. DW said that the Project has a crossings schedule for every single utility along the route and once the connection point has been confirmed, the Project will enter discussions with the relevant utility that owns that asset, for example, gas, electricity, water, rail, etc. This is quite standard and happens up and down the country. AAu asked if there had ever been collisions between turbines and aircraft. CJ said that developers work very closely with the CAA, NATS and MOD to avoid this. CJ re-emphasised that the project wants to listen to all of the parish councils and local stakeholders and give everyone a voice.
	5.	**AOB** No AOB.

	6.	**Chair's closing remarks and next steps / next meeting** CJ said that he hoped that by the time of the next CLG the Project would be able to present more detail on the location and visualisations for the substation. The next CLG is expected to be in May but AA will be in touch with details nearer the date.

Meeting Protocol	
Distribute agenda before meeting	Fix responsibilities for each item
Start on time	Finish on time
Set out your ground rules	Publish minutes / actions
Stick to the agenda	Continuous improvement