

**Minutes of Meeting.**

<b>Meeting title</b>	Community Liaison Group – Cable Route North
<b>Location</b>	Wainfleet Coronation Hall
<b>Date/ time</b>	Tuesday 21 February 2023
<b>Originator</b>	ODOW
<b>Attendees</b>	<p>Andrew Acum – Group Facilitator – ODOW - AA  Roisin Alldis – Onshore Consents Manager – ODOW - RA  Chris Jenner - Development Manager – ODOW - CJ  David Wright – Land Manager - DW</p> <p>Cllr Carleen Dickinson – East Lindsey District Council – CD  Cllr Mick Rust – Wainfleet St Mary Parish Council – MR  Dr Clive Shrubsole – Wainfleet St Mary Parish Council &amp; Pear Tree Manor Residents Association - CS</p>
<b>Apologies</b>	
<b>Purpose of meeting</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>2. To act as a two-way communication channel between local communities and the project team.</li> <li>3. To help foster local involvement and ownership of the project.</li> </ol>

<p>1.</p>	<p><b>Chair's welcome and introductions</b></p> <p>CJ opened the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were approved. CJ added that minutes of all meetings would be uploaded to the website for transparency.</p> <p>MR commented that the exhibition in the main hall was very clear and well laid. CJ thanked him for his comments and emphasised that this is a two-way process and the Project wanted stakeholders to be involved in the development and design of the project. CD said the newsletter had also been helpful in explaining the proposals to people. MR said he was pleasantly surprised at how little the revised plans affected built up and residential areas.</p> <p><b>ACTION: AA to arrange upload of meeting minutes for all CLGs</b></p>
<p>2.</p>	<p><b>Feedback from Consultation Events and Project Update</b></p> <p><u>Offshore:</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>The offshore array will consist of up to 100 turbines, 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.</p> <p>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.</p>

MR asked what the height of the turbines referred to. CJ clarified that the 403m is from sea level to the blade tip and that this is a worst-case scenario.

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 running silts, 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.

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.

MR asked who makes the decision on the connection point. CJ confirmed that it was National Grid.

CD pointed out that group members may change as a result of parish and district elections in May.

Environmental data:

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

Onshore Geotechnical Survey

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 and conditions. 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.

MR said that any public notices could be shared on the community Facebook pages.

Informing the Local Community:

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.

CS asked whether it was becoming increasingly unlikely that National Grid would build the infrastructure for Lincolnshire Node. CJ said that the National Grid reinforcement project had been around for many years and was part of a wider scope of work to upgrade the grid nationally, predating the ODOW project and that it would be required regardless of whether ODOW connected there or not.

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 through the use of 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

	<p>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.</p> <p>CS asked if wildlife corridors were being considered. RA confirmed that the Project had had discussions with various groups about this. CJ added that rewilding schemes were also being looked at.</p>
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Key Feedback and response</b></p> <p>CJ outlined the headline consultation responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning from Viking Link and Triton Knoll – all feedback is passed to our technical teams to look at how we can improve the Project</li> <li>• Grid connection – regular meetings with National Grid with hopefully a grid connection offer by late Spring</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Temporary impact on agriculture and restoration – the Project has met with over 300 landowners and established Landowner Interest Groups.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li><li>• 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.</li></ul>
--	--	---

4.	<p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p> <p>MR said that he thought the exhibitions had been well-attended.</p> <p>CS asked for confirmation that the National Grid decision in May would determine which connection option would be used. CJ said this was correct, but that National Grid would also give a connection date as well as a connection location.</p> <p>MR said he wanted to add that the panels and maps at the exhibition had been excellent and allowed him to fully understand the proposals. CS agreed with him.</p> <p>CD asked where the turbines would be made. CJ said there are three or four main manufacturers, but any decision on turbine supplier would be undertaken through a formal procurement process. CD said it was important to encourage local young people into engineering and maintenance jobs.</p> <p>CS asked what the lifespan of the turbines was. CJ said that the Crown Estate lease was for 60 years, although the turbines have a design life of around 35 years. No project has got that far yet, but they would probably be repowered with new technology after around 30 years.</p> <p>CJ re-emphasised that the project wants to listen to all of the parish/district councils and local stakeholders and give everyone a voice.</p>
5.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>No AOB.</p>
6.	<p><b>Chair's closing remarks and next steps / next meeting</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>The next CLG is expected to be in May but AA will be in touch with details nearer the date.</p>



<b>Meeting Protocol</b>	
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