

Minutes of Meeting.

Meeting title	Community Liaison Group – Cable Route South
Location	Old Leake Village Hall
Date/ time	Friday 24 February 2023
Originator	ODOW
Attendees	Andrew Acum – Group Facilitator – ODOW - AA Roisin Alldis – Onshore Consents Manager – ODOW - RA Chris Jenner - Development Manager – ODOW - CJ Frank Pickett – Old Leake Parish Council - FP
Apologies	Roly Ashley – Fishtoft PC Paul Skinner – Boston Borough Council Judith Skinner - Boston Borough Council
Purpose of meeting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
	<p>1.</p> <p>Chair’s welcome and introductions</p> <p>CJ opened the meeting and welcomed Cllr Pickett.</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>ACTION: AA to arrange upload of meeting minutes for all CLGs</p>

2.

Feedback from Consultation Events and Project Update

Offshore:

CJ explained that the offshore element has not changed since the last meeting. 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 miles behind the Triton Knoll development and the very top of the blades would only be 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.

FP said that he lived near the proposed route but as it was an underground cable it didn't concern him.

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.

FP asked whether Triton Knoll connecting at Bicker Fen would have any effect on the connection decision.

CJ said that is unlikely as ODOW is just one customer that National Grid has to consider as part of where and how electricity needs to flow around the country. Ultimately, electricity users are paying for the investment in infrastructure so National Grid will want to make their decision based on what is most economical, practical and delivers the best value for money to the GB consumer.

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. 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.

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.

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.

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

	<p>dunes, Anderby Marsh LNR and the coastal (Roman Bank) road so as not to disturb them.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Key Feedback and response</p> <p>CJ outlined the headline consultation responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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