

Minutes of Meeting.

Meeting title	Community Liaison Group – Cable Route North
Location	Wainfleet Village Hall
Date/ time	Thursday 2 December 2022
Originator	ODOW
Attendees	<p>Andrew Acum – Group Facilitator – ODOW - AA Roisin Aldis – Onshore Consents Manager – ODOW - RA Chris Jenner - Development Manager – ODOW - CJ David Wright – Land Manager – ODOW - DW</p> <p>Mick Rust – Wainfleet St Mary PC - MR Kym Wickham – Friskney PC - KW Wendy Bowkett – East Lindsey District Council - WB Carleen Dickinson – East Lindsey District Council - CD Sid Dennis – East Lindsey District Council / Skegness Town Council / Croft Parish Council- SD John Walton – Orby PC - JW</p>
Apologies	Iain Hyde - Wainfleet St Mary PC
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. Chair’s welcome and introductions</p> <p>CJ opened the meeting and welcomed all members to the group. Each member of the group introduced themselves.</p>

	<p>2. Terms of Reference</p> <p>CJ checked that everyone had received a copy of the terms of reference and explained the purpose of the CLGs.</p> <p>CJ then ran through the terms of reference on screen and these were agreed by the group.</p>
	<p>3. Project Overview</p> <p>CJ ran through a presentation to bring everyone up to speed with the project including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background to partners and project • Offshore proposal • Onshore proposal • Grid connections – two possible options – Lincolnshire Node and Weston Marsh (based on recommendations from the Offshore Transmission Network Review) but will be National Grid's decision which one is progressed. Decision expected in the New Year. Currently looking at the two options in parallel until one of them drops away. • Landfall <p>WB asked about RAF training exercises over the project array area. CJ said that the array area does not overlap with any of the near shore bombing ranges and the team is working closely with the MOD on a range of issues including radar and early warning systems. The offshore wind industry in general has very close contacts with the MOD, CAA and NATS to ensure that national air defence and monitoring systems are not affected. Airspace in the southern North Sea is heavily regulated.</p> <p>KW asked how tall the nearest offshore wind turbines are. DW said that Lynn and Inner Dowsing are 133m tall – about a third as tall as the proposed maximum height of the turbines for Outer Dowsing. However, due to the distance, weather conditions and curvature of the Earth, the tip of the Outer Dowsing blades will only be visible for around two per cent of the year – approximately six or seven days a year.</p>

MR ask why the proposed connection is at Alford when the landfall is at Anderby Creek and why a substation couldn't be built near the coast. CJ said that it is down to what the substation does. Once the electricity goes into the substation, it is stepped up to 400,000KV and the substation needs to be as close as possible to the 400,00KV network to prevent power losses. The further from the network, the greater the losses.

SD asked how big the substation would be. DW said that it would require 9.2 hectares for the footprint of the electrical infrastructure, but a total of 24 hectares including landscaping and screening, etc. These figures are worst case scenario and subsequent engineering studies may be able to reduce this size.

KW asked whether there is any housing at Weston Marsh that would be affected. DW said that Weston Marsh is actually a marsh, but there are existing National Grid overhead lines there which the project would connect to.

KW asked if the connection was approved at Alford, would there be a chance that the project would come back to Weston Marsh at some point in the future. CJ said this would not happen. Whichever connection point is given, this will be the sole connection for the project. If the connection point is Alford, the Weston Marsh option would drop off and there would be no need for further CLG meetings in this area.

KW asked if the project had a preference for the connection point. DW said it was not the project's decision. There is no preference as there would be pros and cons to either site, for example a shorter cable route versus an earlier connection date.

JW pointed out that there are no overhead lines at Alford. CJ said that National Grid has an ambition to build overhead lines from the Humber Estuary down to Spalding onwards to reduce constraints on the network. That will need National Grid to come forward with proposals under the same consenting process, requiring an application for a Development

Consent Order (DCO) which would be determined by the Secretary of State. The application would need to follow the same consultation process as Outer Dowsing and the local councils would again be statutory consultees in this process.

CJ informed the group that Outer Dowsing has now established a Planning Performance Agreement with the local planning authorities to cover the costs of officer time involved in advising on the project.

SD asked what the timescales are on the project. CJ said the project would submit the DCO application at the end of 2023, with consent by 2025, construction during 2026/27 and be commissioned and operational by 2029/30 to hit the government's 2030 targets.

MR said at the last meeting he thought it was stated that depending on which route was taken, the works may be undertaken by either National Grid or Outer Dowsing. CJ clarified that there is no National Grid infrastructure currently at Alford so National Grid would need to build new lines as part of their wider plans. There are existing overhead lines at Weston Marsh so there is a smaller amount of equipment needed to connect there. Therefore it will take longer to establish a connection at Alford and this is what National Grid are considering at the moment, taking into account their wider plans for the national network.

MR said he had understood that if National Grid made the decision, the landfall would be in a different place to Anderby Creek. CJ clarified that the National Grid Holistic Network Review outlined their strategic view of how offshore wind should connect to the Grid and in the infrastructure that would be required. The projects themselves have to work out the detail of where the landfall and cable route needs to be to reach their connection points and then get consent for these proposals.

KW asked if the cables would all be underground. CJ confirmed that they would and that any IDB ditches, roads, rivers, etc, would be directionally drilled under

	<p>to avoid any disturbance. SD asked if this was similar to Viking Link and CJ confirmed it was and would have a similar timescale of 2-3 years for the total project from spade in the ground to reinstatement.</p> <p>KW asked whether it would be reinstated to the original condition as she felt that Viking Link was a bit of an eyesore. CJ said it would be reinstated to the same condition as a minimum but also that Viking Link was still in the process of reinstatement and hadn't finished yet.</p> <p>KW asked what advantages there would be for local people as a result of the project. CJ explained that if he could run through the feedback themes from the public information days then this might answer the question.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Issues Raised at Public Information Days</p> <p>CJ outlined the main themes raised at the public information days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy security is a key issue – now probably bigger than climate change. Offshore wind is one of the cheapest forms of electricity generation • Shared experiences (good & bad) from Viking & Triton Knoll, the following issues noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chopping down of trees for access turning points • Dust • Traffic & air quality (in particular the 40mph temporary zones in place 24/7) • Limit to HGVs through Boston - air quality • Grid connection options - views vary depending on location of attendees • Constraint to expansion of economic development from lack of grid availability • Useful information & feedback for substation search zones – feedback on ecology, access, transport, visual impact, noise

- Concerns for cumulative impacts for future projects – planning coordination and what's coming next?
- Interface with National Grid wider works – Where? When? How will they consult?
- Temporary impact on agriculture, food security & restoration. Construction will require temporary access to a small strip of land 80m wide to put the cables in.
- Archaeology
 - The Salterns
- Ecology and ornithology
 - The coastal communities of Lincolnshire have an inspiring fondness for nature
 - We want to encourage, support and foster this.
 - Ideas for bio-diversity net gain. How can ODOW get involved?
- Community benefit engagement and Biodiversity Net Gain – feedback from community

KW asked how the cables will cross the Boston River. CJ explained that the project will horizontally direct drill (HDD) under all main rivers, drains and roads. The cables will pass 2-3m underneath the bed of the river and this would be the same at the landfall site where the drilling would start offshore and go under the beach, sand dunes and nature reserve to ensure these are not disturbed and public access is maintained at all times.

SD said he thought people needed to be pragmatic about these types of schemes so they can get the job done and get the projects generating clean, cheap electricity faster. People shouldn't lose sight of what this is all about. CJ said these types of projects typically take 10-15 years from start to finish. He said that Triton Knoll started in around 2005 with the award of the lease and reinstatement only finished a couple of years ago, so that was around 15 years in total. Outer Dowsing hopes to complete the project in approximately eight years.

MR asked to whom the compounds that are still dotted around belong to. CJ said they belong to Viking Link who are in the process of reinstatement now.

KW asked whether electricity market reform would happen in her lifetime so that people could benefit from cheap offshore electricity. DW said that the more offshore projects that come online, the closer this becomes. In the last CfD round, offshore wind was quoted a fixed price of £37 per megawatt hour, whereas gas is currently around £300 per megawatt hour, so offshore wind is substantially cheaper.

MR said he understood that the project had a 30-year lifespan and asked what happens after this. CJ explained that the project will have a 60-year lease on the seabed, with the turbines having a 30–35-year design life. The project plans to retain the option to repower (replace) the machines halfway through the lease period and replace them with newer, more efficient technology as this becomes available.

SD said he felt everyone needed to sit back and show a bit of vision so these types of schemes can be brought online and provide the country with energy independence.

MR said it was down to a choice of solar, wind or nuclear, and no-one wants a nuclear power station near them. DW said that ultimately there will probably be an energy mix in order to provide energy security.

MR said the problem with solar was that it took up a lot of farmland which reduced capacity for growing food. CJ said there was a balance between energy security and food security, particularly in Lincolnshire which has some of the best agricultural land in the country. The project will have a temporary impact of an 80m wide construction corridor, but this would be fully reinstated and returned to agricultural use afterwards with just a 60m permanent easement over it. This may be reduced as the design is refined.

KW asked how deep the cable trenches would be. CJ said that the cables would be at a depth of 1.2m.

	<p>DW added that it would be 1.2m of cover on top of the cables so the trench may be 1.5m at the bottom. This is more than sufficient for farming which normally only uses the top 300-400mm.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Question and Answer Session</p> <p>WB said residents are anxious about cables possibly going through their gardens. DW said that this wouldn't be the case. The cable route plans on display at the information days and on the website show that the 300m cable route search area diverts round buildings, farms, settlements, etc. SD said it is often social media that starts these unfounded rumours.</p> <p>JW said that the theme that had come out of the night was that Outer Dowsing is taking a responsible attitude and he could alleviate the worries of his residents' concerns, and it had been a worthwhile evening.</p>
	<p>SD said that the main challenge of consultations is getting people involved and turning up to events. He said this scheme would cause minimal disruption and this had to be set against the benefits it will bring to the UK and the work it will bring to the area.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>AOB None.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Chair's closing remarks and next steps / next meeting</p> <p>CJ thanked everyone for attending on a cold Friday night. Minutes and the presentations will be circulated to the group members. Any further questions can be raised at any time via the website, freephone number or Freepost address. The team would like continuous dialogue with communities as decisions made now can have the biggest impacts.</p> <p>The next meeting is pencilled in for February but AA will be in touch with details in due course.</p>

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