

Minutes of Meeting.

Meeting title	Community Liaison Group – Landfall/Substation North
Location	Anderby Village Hall
Date/ time	Monday 28 November 2022
Originator	ODOW
Attendees	<p>Andrew Acum – Group Facilitator – ODOW - AA Roisin Aldis – Onshore Consents Manager – ODOW - RA Chris Jenner - Development Manager – ODOW - CJ Graham Meeks - Stakeholder Manager – ODOW - GM David Wright – Land Manager – ODOW - DW</p> <p>Kevin Pryke – Alford Town Council - KP Lynette Pryke – Alford Town Council - LP Jenny Hayes – Anderby Parish Council - JH Graham Fisher – Anderby Parish Council - GF Hayley Brown – Anderby resident representative - HB Graham Marsh – East Lindsey District Council - GMa Tim Smith – Hogsthorpe Parish Council - TS Nigel Sylvester – Huttoft Parish Council - NS Chris Meaker – Huttoft Parish Council - CM Paul Russell – Mablethorpe and Sutton Town Council - PR Steve Holland – Mablethorpe and Sutton Town Council - SH Linda McCaig – Mumby Parish Council - LM Hanna Fairfield – Willoughby & Sloothby Parish Council - HF</p>
Apologies	<p>Ron Christie-Smith – Chapel St Leonards PC Annie Maynard – Chapel St Leonards PC Colin Matthews – Lincolnshire County Council</p>
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. CJ then ran through the terms of reference on screen.</p> <p>Several members of the group said that they had been involved with similar groups on Triton Knoll and CJ said ODOW was happy to take on board any learnings on what had worked well and what had not worked so well from previous projects.</p> <p>GF asked whether the chair would have final say on invitations to join the group. CJ clarified that ODOW is hoping to have a diverse representation of local communities and is open to suggestions on new members. ODOW will also be happy to bring in specialists as and when necessary to answer any detailed technical questions.</p> <p>GF asked about speaking to the media. He felt that if he was asked a question about the scheme by the media, as an elected representative he would have to answer that question. AA clarified that the terms of reference only stated that individuals could not act as official spokespersons for the group, but as elected representatives of the community, it is expected that they will speak to the media during the course of their day to day work and ODOW would encourage them to communicate information obtained from group meetings.</p>

	<p>3. Project Overview</p> <p>Five people said they had attended a public information day. 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>4. 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 • 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 capacity at distribution voltages • 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?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Salterns • Ecology and ornithology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>CJ said that ODOW doesn't have answers to all of these at the moment, but will speak to local communities, councils, businesses and wildlife organisations to understand their views, ideas and thoughts.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Question and Answer Session</p> <p>GF said as he understood it there were two possible sites for connection, but it will be National Grid's decision. He asked what opportunity there would be to discuss this with National Grid. He felt that the scheme would get consent regardless so it was about getting the best possible outcomes for their communities. He also asked for it to be recorded in the minutes that he asked why all the windfarm projects couldn't be co-ordinated and share landfall and infrastructure. CJ explained that ODOW is the only Round 4 offshore wind project coming through area. Other North Sea wind farms connect in East Yorkshire, North East Lincolnshire and Norfolk. National Grid's remit is to look at how best to co-ordinate and connect wind farms and their conclusion was that the best options were Lincolnshire Node or Weston Marsh. The whole point of developing these connection points is to reduce long-term impact.</p>

TS said there had already been three years of disruption and they didn't want the same for the next three or four projects. DW replied that National Grid has undertaken an in-depth analysis of all future projects they know about which has informed the OTNR – details can be found on their website. National Grid can however only assess known projects and cannot spend money on speculative projects. Further assessments will be likely as future projects become known. GM said that the link to the website will be circulated.

[National Grid OTNR - <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/offshore-transmission-network-review>]

LP asked if the cables would be underground or overhead. GM said that the ODOW cables from landfall to the National Grid would be underground. The National Grid lines for Lincolnshire Node would be overhead. Weston Marsh would be connecting to existing National Grid overhead lines but Lincolnshire Node would be connecting to infrastructure proposed by National Grid and they will be required to undertake separate statutory consultation on their own projects.

TS asked where the overhead cables would go. DW said that ODOW couldn't say as this would be a National Grid project.

TS said he was a landowner and felt that the project would affect tourism and his business if people couldn't get on the beaches or on the roads. CJ said that effect on tourism is a key factor which the project is taking into consideration to ensure that the design of the construction programme mitigates any impact on tourism. At the landfall, the joint bay for the export cable will be inland of the Roman Bank road so there would be no interruption of the road, car parks, beach, nature reserve or the sand dunes as the cable would be horizontally direct drilled (HDD) underneath them. Materials would be brought in along a temporary haul road, not the local road network. Ensuring that access to the beach is maintained throughout the project is critical and that

is why ODOW has set up the CLGs, hosted public information days and met with the County, District and Parish Councils to take on board community views and knowledge to minimise any possible impacts. DW asked if there was a local tourism board that could send a representative to the CLGs. It was suggested that the team contacts Lincolnshire County Council

LM added that agricultural impact was also very important.

SH said there had been a debate in parliament raising concerns about suppliers to wind farms going bankrupt. He asked where the equipment was coming from and how could ODOW ensure that the project would be completed and not leave stranded assets. CJ said he would need to see the transcript of the debate but the project was already building a procurement team and relationships with Tier 1 and Tier 2 suppliers in order to develop a strong and secure supply chain. GM added that the industry as a whole struck a sector deal with the government which involved developers taking greater ownership of the need to develop the supply chain to deliver the aim of 30GW (at that time) by 2030 and ensure that there was capability, capacity and viability to deliver this. The ambition has now grown from 30GW to 50GW by 2030.

KP asked what input ODOW would have in National Grid's selection of landfall and the connection site. GM clarified that the landfall site was already decided – it was just the connection point that was still not decided. RA indicated where the two substation search zones are and that ultimately the grid connection location is National Grid's decision.

KP asked whether a cable route through the Wash had been considered. GM explained that National Grid looked at offshore and onshore constraints via the OTNR. Due to the SPA, SAC and RAMSAR designations, Natural England has said that they would not support any proposals for cables to be routed through The Wash.

KP asked what interface there would be with the Triton Knoll cables. DW said that the ODOW landfall is south of the Triton Knoll landfall and that the proposed southern cable route for ODOW would remain south east of that of Triton Knoll's for the whole of its length.

NS asked why the project couldn't connect at Bicker Fen and use existing infrastructure. CJ explained that Bicker Fen wouldn't be able to accommodate a 1.5GW connection.

NS asked why the project couldn't run alongside the Triton Knoll route. CJ said that Weston Marsh is approximately 15km from Bicker Fen so requires a different route.

NS asked whether flooding and over-topping would mean a route further inland would be more practical. CJ said that flooding would only be an issue for the substation not the cable route.

CM said that Lincolnshire Node would appear to be more expensive than Weston Marsh. CJ said that purely in terms of capital expenditure, this may be true but there were also other factors to consider. A connection at Weston Marsh may be possible earlier since the overhead lines are already in place. Earlier connection would offer savings in terms of carbon savings and other development costs.

JH asked whether the cables couldn't go down the Wash due to the proposal for a barrage. CJ said that the two projects were not linked.

GF said that overhead cables were not mentioned at the public information day. CJ said the ODOW project only involves underground cables. The development and construction of overhead lines was the responsibility of National Grid.

GF asked if it was true that Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) had sent a letter saying that they would object to the project. CJ said no such letter had been received.

TS said that he was at a council meeting where a councillor said he was putting in a strong objection to the cable coming through Lincolnshire. The councillor said that this was being pushed through and that the project was not wanted. He said he had heard this directly from the councillor himself. GM said he had also heard this from a member of the Executive. TS said he thought there would be disruption of businesses for 20 years. CJ explained that construction would only take 2-3 years and the cable route would be reinstated and returned to agricultural use. The project team has liaised closely with LCC. The project will be considered by the Secretary of State as it is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project. LCC is a statutory consultee in the process and will be able to put forward their views. It is the project team's job to work with local stakeholders to identify issues and to mitigate and minimise any potential impacts.

GMa asked if the councillor who had made the comments was Cllr Colin Davie. TS and GF confirmed that it was. GMa said that ELDC would respond to the project through the appropriate channels. CJ informed the group that ODOW has already set up a Planning Performance Agreement with the Local Planning Authorities so that they have a formal channel to consult on any issues.

CJ said the Phase 1 consultation still had one day to run and questionnaires and comments were still welcomed and being received. This feedback will be evaluated to decide if any changes or amendments need to be made to the proposals/route. Next year there will be another round of consultation on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). Subject to a decision from National Grid, it should be possible to come back with more detailed proposals on the location for the substation. If no decision has been made, the project may have to twin track both proposals until one falls away.

KP asked if it would be possible to have a National Grid representative at the next CLG meeting. He felt that most people had no concerns about the ODOW element of the project but there were concerns

about the lack of information from National Grid. He felt that it would be useful to have someone attend who could give more detailed answers on the National Grid proposals. DW said that National Grid themselves probably aren't at a stage where they have detailed answers yet but will also need to go out to public consultation as part of the statutory process.

GF said that the next CLG meeting is scheduled for February by which time there may be a decision on the connection location. If this was the case, he asked whether someone from National Grid could attend. CJ said he could ask the question.

CM asked whether any of the landowners in the substation search zone had been contacted. He said a local farmer had told him there was a proposal to put a cable across a field he had dyked and drained. DW said there was a 300m corridor under consideration and the team has written to every landowner in the corridor. The project land agents Dalcour McLaren were meeting with all affected landowners. So far around 84 per cent of landowners had been met.

KP asked if there were any plans for how the heavy machinery and plant would get to site. He said all traffic has to go through Alford which has very narrow roads. DW said a full traffic and transport assessment will be produced as part of the application. All contractors will be briefed to use main roads and an agreed Traffic Management Plan would be put in place.

LP said Viking Link had sent three abnormal loads through the village (Alford) in the last week. She said it is also causing damage to the roads so Alford Town Council would like input on any proposed traffic routes. DW said at this stage the project doesn't have a Grid connection point so it is not possible to specify routes, but any future traffic plans would try to avoid populated areas. Once a connection point is known, the project team will consult on traffic management plans with parish councils, LCC Highways and the CLG.

CM said the removal of the temporary haul road was causing additional damage to the roads. CJ said that there had been feedback from the Triton Knoll experience about the removal of the haul roads. He said that in some instances it may be possible to use existing tracks instead to make it easier to reinstate afterwards.

LM asked if the chalk from the temporary haul road could be offered to local farmers. DW said he was aware of this on other schemes, but it would depend on the terms of the waste transfer licence as to whether this would be allowable legally. He also said that the Development Consent Order is for a temporary road with reinstatement afterwards. If the landowner could get planning permission for a permanent road, it might be possible for the chalk to be left in place.

LM said that landowners are not always the people that are farming the land and asked how tenants would be consulted. DW confirmed that tenants are being picked up as part of the consultation process.

NS asked if there would be a community benefit scheme for parishes affected by the project. CJ said that the consultation process was seeking thoughts and ideas from the local community on the best way to establish a benefit fund. There are a range of thoughts from small individual schemes through to more strategic schemes that involve different parishes working together.

LM asked who would make the decision on allocation of funds. GM said that everything is still at an early stage. The team has spoken to the district councils and they have pointed to funding and governance arrangements similar to those used in Somerset on the Hinckley Point C nuclear power station project. Alternatively, what works at a district level may not be appropriate for the individual parishes that are most affected. Once there is more clarity on the route then the team will start looking at what will be the most appropriate way of managing the fund. At the moment, it is still very much a case of

	<p>listening to what local communities are saying would work best.</p> <p>LP suggested making contact with Sue Fortune at Lincolnshire Community Foundation who have managed other community funds. DP asked what the experience had been like with Triton Knoll and Viking Link. LP said these projects had used LCF to do the due diligence, issue the grants and produce the impact reports afterwards.</p> <p>CM said Anderby and Huttoft benefitted from the funds.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>HF asked what the deadline for the National Grid decision would be. CJ said that it was all down to National Grid and the OTNR process. The team is speaking to National Grid on a regular basis. As soon as there is any information, it will be shared with the CLGs.</p> <p>DW asked if there was anyone else in the wider community who should be invited to join the CLG. GF suggested a representative from the NFU. LP said that the three district councils had set up community hubs with key players in the villages and towns and the organisations acting as the council's access points should have strong links with the local communities. The initial contact would be Roxanne Warwick at East Lindsey District Council.</p> <p>TS said that the project would take up large amounts of agricultural land and asked what compensation would be given to people who would lose crop yields. He said that in winter it would not be possible to get vehicles and plant onto the land. DW said Dalcour McLaren (land agents appointed by Outer Dowsing) are speaking to landowners about crops and compensation for any loss. The team understands the importance of early engagement with landowners and farmers. The project will also consider any additional land that becomes inaccessible due to works.</p>

7.	Chair's closing remarks and next steps / next meeting
	<p>CJ thanked everyone for attending on a cold and foggy 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 encouraged regular 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 later.</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