

Minutes of Meeting.

Meeting title	Community Liaison Group – Cable Route South
Location	Butterwick Village Hall
Date/ time	Tuesday 29 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 David Wright – Land Manager – ODOW - DW</p> <p>John Grant – Benington Parish Council Judith Skinner - Boston Borough Council Paul Skinner - Boston Borough Council Peter Bedford - Boston Borough Council / Freiston Parish Council</p>
Apologies	Roly Ashley – Fishtoft 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.</p> <p>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>

2.	<p>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>JS asked why the CLGs were being held so early instead of waiting until the Grid connection point is known. CJ explained that the exact date of the decision is unknown as this is down to National Grid. It is hoped that there will be a decision early in the New Year but the project has a target of delivery by 2030. The programme is based around hitting this date and working back from this, the project will need consent by 2025 in order to start construction in 2026. The Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) consenting process takes around 16 months which means the Development Consent Order (DCO) application will need to be submitted by the end of 2023. This means that during the early stages, the project will twin track the two routes until one of them falls away.</p> <p>CJ then ran through the terms of reference on screen and these were agreed by the group.</p>
3.	<p>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

PB asked whether Crown Estate will sell the seabed or just lease it. CJ confirmed that the arrangement is a lease.

PS said he believed the lifespan of the turbines was around 25 years and wanted to know what happened to them at the end of their life. He said he had seen nothing on offshore wind projects about decommissioning. CJ explained that the seabed lease is for 60 years and the turbines have a design life of 30-35 years. The turbines could be repowered after this time with newer, more efficient technology. On decommissioning, there is a requirement to submit a decommissioning plan for approval by the Secretary of State prior to the start of construction. All offshore wind projects have a requirement for end of life decommissioning and the Crown Estate requires the seabed to be returned to its original state

JS asked if the cost of connecting to Weston Marsh would be more expensive than Lincolnshire Node due to the longer cable route. CJ explained that the cable route construction costs would be more expensive, but there are other factors also involved. How quickly the project can connect to the Grid has a value in terms of development costs and carbon savings.

JS asked if the requirement for additional National Grid works at Lincolnshire Node might delay the project. CJ confirmed that this may be a possibility that needs to be considered. At Weston Marsh there are existing overhead lines whereas Lincolnshire Node would require National Grid infrastructure to be installed.

JS asked if it also depended on the capacity at Weston Marsh. CJ confirmed that this is what National Grid is looking at to work out what is the most effective and efficient point to connect in terms of the wider network.

PS asked what storage provision is being made for when the wind isn't blowing. CJ said that offshore wind is more reliable than onshore wind with higher load factors. As there are offshore wind projects

around the UK coast, National Grid can use these as a balancing system to remove some of the intermittency. Some offshore wind projects are also starting to include battery storage to help balance the Grid.

PS asked what the local benefit would be to having additional infrastructure in the area. CJ explained that offshore wind is one of the cheapest forms of energy generation which will help bring prices down for everyone. PS asked whether the electricity generated by the project would just be sent down south to London. CJ said the project will supply enough electricity to power 1.6 million homes which increases supply on the Grid as a whole which means there is more power that everyone can use.

PS said that previous projects claimed they would bring jobs to the area, but on following up they never achieved the figures they promised. CJ said that he had worked on east coast offshore projects for over 20 years including the early projects at Skegness and was involved in the opening of the first Centrica office in Grimsby. Now Grimsby is a big offshore hub with a number of major developers based there and Siemens has opened a large blade factory in Hull. PS asked if the project would use Siemens. CJ said that it is still very early in the project and the turbine specification would be developed as part of the procurement process over the next few years.

JS asked if there would be a community benefit fund. CJ confirmed that the team was already looking at early ideas for how this could be delivered. The event questionnaire asked people what they would like to see in terms of a community benefit. The attendees at the Anderby CLG mentioned speaking to Lincolnshire Community Foundation who had managed the Triton Knoll community fund. The project is also keen to support biodiversity net gain projects such as nature conservation and public amenity.

4. Issues Raised at Public Information Days

CJ outlined the main themes raised at the public information days:

- Energy security is a key issue – now probably bigger than climate change
- Shared experiences (good & bad) from Viking & Triton Knoll, the following issues noted:
 - 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

5.

Question and Answer Session

PS mentioned that there are local elections in May and need to be careful that the project doesn't become an election issue.

DW said that the team is currently meeting with landowners and has met with around 84 per cent of them so far in order to gain feedback which will help inform the project design.

JG asked how long the project would require land for. DW said the construction phase would take around 2-3 years in total but this included offshore infrastructure and the construction of the substation. The cable route would normally be built in sections which will probably take around 3-4 months at a time.

PS asked what depths the cables will be buried to. DW said they would have 1.2m of cover so they would be below land drains but they can go deeper if they need to avoid a particular obstacle.

JG asked if it was ever necessary to compulsory purchase land or properties. DW said the compulsory purchase order powers are included as part of the DCO. Landowners are paid for the loss of value as a result of the works as set out in the statute.

JG asked whether it was ever necessary to demolish properties. DW said this wouldn't be necessary as the route avoids buildings as can be seen on the indicative plans.

JG said the scheme seemed to mainly affect farmers rather than general residents. The only issues he could see would be traffic, mud and dust. DW said that the route followed farmed areas so local residents would be used to plant and machinery in the fields and on the roads. CJ said that the red lines on the maps are the 300m search area. The actual cable route temporary construction area will be up to a maximum of 80m wide within this 300m area and once built, the land will be returned to agricultural use with a maximum 60m wide permanent easement, but this is based on six circuits. If fewer

	<p>circuits can be used then the strips could be reduced. By the next round of consultation there should be a more accurate figure. RA said the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) should be ready by Q2 next year and this will have more detailed proposals.</p>
6.	<p>AOB None.</p>
7.	<p>Chair's closing remarks and next steps / next meeting</p> <p>CJ thanked everyone for attending on a cold night with football on TV. 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 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