

Minutes of Meeting.

Meeting title	Community Liaison Group – Substation North
Location	St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Alford
Date/ time	Monday 20 February 2023
Originator	ODOW
Attendees	<p>Andrew Acum – Group Facilitator – ODOW - AA Roisin Alldis – Onshore Consents Manager – ODOW - RA Chris Jenner - Development Manager – ODOW - CJ David Wright – Land Manager – ODOW - DW</p> <p>Hayley Brown – Anderby resident – HB Cllr Hannah Fairfield – Willoughby & Sloothby Parish Council - HF Cllr Kevin Pryke – Alford Town Council - KP Lynette Pryke – Alford Town Council – LP Cllr Graham Marsh – East Lindsey District Council – GM</p>
Apologies	Graham Fisher – Anderby Parish 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. Chair's welcome and introductions</p> <p>CJ opened the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.</p> <p>CJ pointed out that there was an anomaly in the minutes of the last meeting. Cllr Chris Meaker stated that the Lincolnshire Node connection would be more expensive than the Weston Marsh connection. It is the other way around and Weston Marsh would be more expensive since the onshore cable route is longer. From his subsequent comments it appears that Cllr Meaker meant Weston Marsh would be the more expensive option. AA will contact CM to confirm that he is happy for the minutes to be amended.</p> <p>Other than the above, 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 contact CM to confirm that he is happy for the minutes to be amended. AA to arrange upload of meeting minutes for all CLGs.</p>
	<p>2. Feedback from Consultation Events and Project Update</p> <p><u>Offshore:</u> 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>

The offshore array will consist of up to 100 turbines, 54km offshore, each 403m above sea level. These will be approximately 10 miles behind the Triton Knoll development and only 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 running silts, high water table, drainage 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 this section of the underground cable route 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, 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.

GM said that “Countryfile” had put it into perspective by explaining that it is the whole network that is being reviewed and there are so many unknowns for National Grid. CJ agreed that it is a difficult decision for National Grid having to balance between

investing for known demand and investing for anticipatory demand.

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.

LP asked whether the findings of the geotechnical surveys could be shared with the CLG. CJ said that this would be possible.

HF asked what would happen if the results showed that there was not a suitable site. CJ said there was a degree of confidence as Triton Knoll and Viking Link had already been through the area. The surveys were more about getting detailed data which would assist in getting a specification for contractors and

determining the construction techniques that would be required.

CJ said site notices would be placed in advance so that members of the public were aware of what was happening. Notices would also be sent to CLG members and parish councils.

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 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.

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

	<p>designed in consultation with the people and stakeholders who are local to it.</p> <p><u>Landfall:</u> 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 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>KP asked if on completion there would be any surface indication that the underground cables were present at the landfall site. DW said that there would be no presence on the beach or dunes, but on the western side of Roman Bank there would be a temporary compound were the cables would come up, but once the project is completed, it would be fully reinstated just like the other projects along the coast.</p> <p>KP asked how far out to see the HDD would start. CJ said this would be determined by the geotechnical surveys.</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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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.	<p>Q&A</p> <p>KP asked what the target completion date for the project was. CJ said that the target is to be generating by 2030 as this project is a fundamental part of the government’s target of 50GW by 2030. Energy security and affordability had become a key issue for people. Nearly 500 people attended the events in November and there was broad debate about energy generation, how the market works, price of wind, dependency on imports, benefits for the region, etc.</p>

	<p>Q&A</p> <p>KP asked whether the Project was actively reaching out to other projects in the area, or just being aware of them CJ said that the Project was collaborating with other offshore projects, such as Dogger Bank and the Dudgeon and Sheringham extension project (connecting in Norfolk), working with other offshore projects on ecology, sharing data, etc. Onshore, National Grid have a role in co-ordinating projects. RA said that the Project was already looking at a number of collaborations on bio-diversity net gain and community benefits to help build bigger projects that will have a greater positive impact on local communities.</p> <p>KP said he was particularly thinking about Viking Link with the construction of the temporary haul road and then its subsequent removal. Now Outer Dowsing is proposing to do the same thing, and future projects may come along and want to do this as well. He wanted to know how these different schemes could work together to minimise disruption. DW said that the Project did look at other projects and was aware that there could be another project connecting into Lincolnshire Node, but this would be a different developer with different timescales to Outer Dowsing, so collaboration between projects on construction is difficult. Also, projects like interconnectors do not go through the same planning process as offshore wind farms, so it is very difficult to know in advance which schemes might be coming on stream.</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>AOB</p> <p>No AOB.</p>

	6.	<p>Chair's closing remarks and next steps / next meeting</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>
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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