

# Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Community Newsletter

Spring 2023



**OUTER  
DOWSING**  
OFFSHORE WIND

# Welcome

**Welcome to the Spring edition of the Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Community Newsletter. This edition provides an update on the findings of our most recent consultation on the alternative route option.**

Our first round of consultation (known as Phase 1) took place back in November 2022 and we received some very valuable responses and comments from local communities. As a result of this feedback, it became clear that the middle section of our original proposed route for the Weston Marsh connection option would face some engineering challenges. As a result of a high water table and running sands in the Tofts area, along with agricultural concerns, the project decided to consider a potential alternative to the central section of the onshore cable route option to Weston Marsh between Wainfleet All Saints and Butterwick. Both route options are currently being taken forward for assessment at this stage.

The consultation for this alternative route proposal, known as Phase 1A, was undertaken between 21 February to 21 March 2023. We held two in-person events at Wainfleet All Saints and Old Leake, which were attended by over 300 people, along with two webinars and a four-week long online exhibition.

It was great to get out in the community and meet both old faces and new, and your local knowledge has helped to further shape the project. Details of the consultation results are summarised in this newsletter.

I hope you find this information useful, and as always, if you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us using the contact information on the back of this newsletter.

**Chris Jenner**






**Development Manager**





# Results of the consultation

Between 21 February and 21 March we held our Phase 1A public consultation. The purpose of the consultation was to introduce the Project's alternative route option proposals to local communities and, as such, give local communities the opportunity to influence the design and development processes before the submission of the application for the Development Consent Order (DCO). Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind aim to develop its proposals collaboratively and responsibly, taking account of local community interests.

## The consultation period included:

-  Two in-person public information day exhibitions at Wainfleet All Saints and Old Leake
-  An online version of the public exhibitions which ran for the full 28-day consultation period
-  Two online webinar presentations with question and answer sessions
-  Meetings with landowners and key stakeholders
-  Holding four community liaison groups in the area

## The consultation facts and figures

-  We sent out invitations to over 5,500 households in the Phase 1A consultation zone as well as MPs, district and parish councillors
-  We had a total of 314 visitors
-  Our online exhibition was viewed 114 times



# Overarching themes

In addition to the feedback received from the first round of consultation, the Phase 1A feedback also drew out some new themes:

Theme	Comments	Response
Alternative route proposals	The general feedback was that this was a good route as it affected fewer residential properties and avoided the engineering issues raised at Phase 1.	These comments will be fed back to the development team to help with the production of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report, the next step in the consultation process.
Energy costs	A number of respondents asked whether the project would make a difference to the energy bills of people in the local area.	The cost of energy crisis is a broad issue and one that this project cannot solve on its own. However, the Outer Dowsing scheme will increase supply of renewable energy into the Grid, providing enough electricity to power 1.6 million homes with clean, green electricity.
Biodiversity and environmental enhancements	Several people commented that they would like to see an environmental corridor/green grid, with an increase in relevant biodiversity.	We are actively looking into opportunities where we can provide Biodiversity Net Gain as part of the Project and are talking to local organisations who may be able to help us deliver these aims.
Consultation quality	A number of attendees at the events commented on how well the information was presented and that it was easy to understand. They also wanted the Project to keep in regular contact at a local level.	We are delighted that attendees found the exhibition useful. We will take on board these comments when designing the exhibition for the Phase 2 consultation in the summer. We will continue to hold regular community liaison groups and communicate via newsletters and the website.
Supporting local projects	We received a lot of feedback on how other projects in the area delivered community benefit in the form of a Community Benefit Fund, with suggestions on how we could support with funding local projects	We are keen to offer a community benefit fund with an aim to deliver a substantive and enduring benefit to local communities. We are talking to local organisations who may be able to help us deliver these aims.
The effects of previous schemes on local communities	People highlighted concerns regarding previous schemes in the area. It was acknowledged that whilst some aspects could have perhaps been handled better, there was also a lot of good practices the scheme could learn from.	We aim to learn from what worked well for other schemes and also what didn't work so well. Our aim is to deliver a traffic, construction and operations programme that has been shaped by local input and views.

## National Grid Connection Point

At this stage, we do not know whether we will be connecting to the National Grid at Lincolnshire Node (east of Alford) or at Weston Marsh (near Spalding). Until National Grid gives us the connection point, we will continue to consult on the two connection points and cable routes in parallel. Once the connection point is known, one of the cable routes will drop off and we will only take one route forward to the DCO application.

## What happens next?

All of the comments provided through the public information days, online exhibition, questionnaires, Freepost cards, Freephone calls and emails are being analysed and will be fed back to the Project team.

This information will play an important role in helping us develop a community-driven Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). The PEIR describes the proposed project and sets out the potential impacts; considering the environmental, social and economic effects of each project and the mitigation measures proposed to reduce impacts. It is in effect the forerunner of the Environmental Statement that will be submitted as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

Phase 2 of our consultation will take place this summer and will give local communities an opportunity to comment on the PEIR. These comments and feedback will help us in the production of our Environmental Statement.





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# Contact Us

We are always happy to hear your thoughts and you can contact us in the following ways:

Email: [contact@outerdowsing.com](mailto:contact@outerdowsing.com)

Call our Freephone information line: **0808 175 2970**

You can write to the Project free of charge at:

**FREEPOST ODOW**

(no stamp or further address details needed on the envelope)

Register your interest to receive project updates at:

[www.outerdowsing.com/get-in-touch](http://www.outerdowsing.com/get-in-touch)



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