

### Minutes of Meeting

<b>Meeting title</b>	Community Liaison Group – Substation South
<b>Location</b>	Fosdyke Village Hall
<b>Date/time</b>	Thursday 10 August 2023, 7-8pm
<b>Originator</b>	ODOW
<b>Attendees</b>	<p>Andrew Acum – Group Facilitator – ODOW - AJA  Chris Jenner - Development Manager – ODOW – CJ  Jennifer Marsden – Communications Manager – ODOW- JM</p> <p>Alison Austin – Lincolnshire County Council – AA  Richard Austin – Boston Borough Council – RA  James Cantwell – Sutterton Parish Council / Boston Borough Council – JC  Anthony Casson – South Holland District Council - AC  Kerry Gratton – Fosdyke Parish Council – KG  Alan Mowton – Fosdyke Parish Council - AM  Ian Pennington – Weston Parish Council – IP  Mike Sharp – Wyberton Parish Council  Thomas Sneath – The Moultons Parish Council / South Holland District Council - TS  Simon Walsh – South Holland District Council - SW</p>
<b>Apologies</b>	Councillor Allan Beal, Whaplode & Holbeach St John's Ward
<b>Purpose of meeting</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To involve key local stakeholders in the design and development of the Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW) project (landfall, onshore cable route and substation) through presentations, discussions and planned workshop activities.</li> <li>2. To act as a two-way communication channel between local communities and the project team.</li> <li>3. To help foster local involvement and ownership of the project.</li> </ol>

#### **Chair's welcome and introductions**

CJ opened the meeting and attendees introduced themselves. Due to late circulation, the minutes of the last meeting would be approved via email. The minutes of this meeting would be sent out for approval within two weeks of this meeting.

#### **Phase 2 Consultation Update**

CJ gave an update on the PEIR consultation. The main topics of raised at the events were: Noise, traffic & dust, Grade 1 land, Running silts, Proximity to substations and Impact to health.

437 people had attended across the five consultation events with 31 attendees on the two webinars. 162 feedback cards were submitted with many more emails, phone calls and letters.

#### **Onshore Site Investigation Works**

It is necessary to validate ground conditions at key crossing locations where Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) will be deployed, for example at the landfall and under main rivers. Sampling ground conditions will allow engineers to optimise engineering for the underground cable installation works. Samples were taken from a single borehole, a few inches in diameter at a depth of roughly 20m, together with some trial pits. The soil samples were now in laboratories for testing. RA asked if the labs could detect running silts. CJ confirmed that running silts had been identified at some locations and this has informed the decision on the onshore cable route.

## **Substation and Cable Route Update**

### Substation

CJ: National Grid have completed their appraisal work of the two connections options included within the original Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR) Report (July 2022) and decided that Weston Marsh will be the connection point for the project. Development work associated with the connection option for Outer Dowsing referred to as 'Lincolnshire Node' would be ceased. At this stage, it is not possible to say whether the connection will be at the Surfleet Marsh study area (previously called Weston Marsh North) or at the Weston Marsh Study area (previously called Weston Marsh South).

### Cable Route

CJ: ODOW confirmed that the Phase 1A route northwest of the A52 would be progressed. Development work associated with the route to the southeast of the A52 would be ceased. This decision has been made on the basis of engineering, environmental, planning policy and consultation feedback.

The above update has been issued by post to ~11,000 local residents within the consultation zone and other interested stakeholders.

National Grid and ODOW will each require to consent and build a substation and are working closely together to determine the most efficient locations. CJ noted this may include the requirement to make minor amendments to the red line boundary subject to the outcome of the discussions with National Grid. The CLG would be briefed in the Autumn on the outcome of these discussions prior to the launch of a public consultation.

IP asked why the search area was bigger for Weston Marsh than for Surfleet Marsh. CJ: due to environmental constraints, field boundaries, the A16, etc. Size difference in search areas is not indicative of any preference.

IP asked how much screening there would be for the site. CJ: the preliminary photomontages issued for the Phase 2 consultation<sup>1</sup> (Doc Ref. 6.2.28.1) provided an indicative screening. Further information will be provided in the Autumn consultation. In a flat landscape, offsite planting nearer to receptors tended to be more effective at screening than planting around the immediate boundary of the substation.

JM clarified with JC that Algakirk Parish Council were invited via the clerk.

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.outerdowsing.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/6.2.28.1\\_Landscape-and-Visual-Assessment-Visualisations-and-Wirelines-Part-1.pdf](https://www.outerdowsing.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/6.2.28.1_Landscape-and-Visual-Assessment-Visualisations-and-Wirelines-Part-1.pdf)  
[https://www.outerdowsing.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/6.2.28.1\\_Landscape-and-Visual-Assessment-Visualisations-and-Wirelines-Part-2.pdf](https://www.outerdowsing.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/6.2.28.1_Landscape-and-Visual-Assessment-Visualisations-and-Wirelines-Part-2.pdf)

AA asked what infrastructure there will be beyond the ODOW substation. CJ said that the ODOW project will be responsible for the ODOW substation and a short 400kV underground connection to National Grid substation. The substation required to be developed by National Grid will be subject to a separate consent application by National Grid.

IP asked if the overhead lines would need to be upgraded. CJ said that they were waiting to hear back from National Grid on the final agreement but there would be no new additional overhead pylons required for the ODOW grid connection.

AM asked how big an area would be required for the substation. FOLLOW UP: ODOW to confirm indicative size of substation. [post meeting note – see dimensions presented at Phase 2 in the Onshore Substation Design Principles Report (Doc Ref. 6.2.3.3).<sup>2</sup>]

### **Q&A**

CJ said that the team will work with National Grid to develop greater certainty on the substation location and provide updates in Autumn. After submission there will be a ~1.5 year examination period with six months of Issue Specific Hearings where members of the public can attend and submit written questions.

JC asked if there are any plans to present to Parish Council meetings. CJ clarified to JC that there had been engagement with all parish councils via the consultation and that this will continue in the future. The project has adopted a multi-lateral approach where all parties could discuss the plans together and share information and thoughts. CJ noted that the Project is willing to consider requests from individual Parish Councils if that would be helpful.

CJ clarified with AA that the Project had presented to the Lincolnshire County Planning Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and also have monthly meetings with Neil McBride (Head of Planning) on a monthly basis to provide regular updates and an opportunity for questions. CJ noted that on a District Council level, South Holland District Council (SHDC) are providing the lead contact on planning matters for the S&E Lincs Partnership (SHDC, Boston Borough Council and East Lindsey District Council) on local planning matters. CJ noted that Planning Performance Agreements (PPAs) are in place with the County and District Councils.

CJ confirmed with MP that nesting bird and mammal surveys are ongoing and that some of the results were presented in the PEIR. FOLLOW UP: Send out ecology survey results to the CLGs. [post-meeting note – see footnote<sup>3</sup> for links to Habitat Survey, Roost Surveys for Bats and Winter Bird Survey 2022-23].

---

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.outerdowsing.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/6.2.3.3\\_Outline-Onshore-Substation-Design-Principles.pdf](https://www.outerdowsing.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/6.2.3.3_Outline-Onshore-Substation-Design-Principles.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.outerdowsing.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/6.2.21.2\\_Initial-Habitat-Survey.pdf](https://www.outerdowsing.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/6.2.21.2_Initial-Habitat-Survey.pdf)  
[https://www.outerdowsing.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/6.2.21.3\\_Preliminary-Roost-Surveys-for-Bats.pdf](https://www.outerdowsing.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/6.2.21.3_Preliminary-Roost-Surveys-for-Bats.pdf)  
[https://www.outerdowsing.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/6.2.22.3\\_Winter-Bird-Survey-2022-to-2023.pdf](https://www.outerdowsing.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/6.2.22.3_Winter-Bird-Survey-2022-to-2023.pdf)

IP asked if the sites would have to be raised to allow for flooding. CJ said that the project was working closely with the Environment Agency (EA) to ensure the appropriate levels can be designed to take into account predicted flood risk.

### **Next Steps**

The next round of consultation would take place in the Autumn. Now the grid connection is known, the project will be looking in more detail at the process and structure of a Community Benefit Fund. JC advised to learn from the Bicker Fen Community Fund.

AM asked if the substation had any spare capacity for future development. CJ said that the turbines could be repowered, but the project electrical system, including the Project substation, is designed for the current capacity of 1500MW.

RA asked when the first electricity would be generated if the project completion date was 2030. CJ said that testing would start approximately six months before the completion date.

AM asked if there would be a Section 106 agreement. CJ said that ODOW will have a Community Benefit Fund. JM clarified to RA that the Community Benefit Fund would be in place before construction began, with most funding going to communities within the vicinity of the project infrastructure.

TS asked when a decision would be made on which substation site would be used. CJ stated there would be a decision in time for the next round of consultation events and this would be communicated to the CLGs ahead of this. At this stage, there was no preference.

TS asked whether public opinion would be taken on board in the decision making process. CJ said that this was the purpose of all the previous 3 rounds of consultations and the CLGs.

AA asked whether a decision has been made regarding the HDD under the Hobhole Drain and the Haven. CJ said that further engineering studies would be required before making any decision regarding whether this would be one or two HDDs.

IP asked about the results of the boreholes either side of the river. CJ said that he would speak to the survey manager and get the results. *[post meeting note – CJ will provide copy of key results at next CLG]*

### **AOB**

JM explained that all Parish Council clerks had been asked to provide new nominations to the CLGs following the May elections.

### **Chair's closing remarks and next steps / next meeting**

The next CLG is expected to be in the autumn prior to the consultation events. ODOW will be in touch with details nearer the date.