

**Minutes of Meeting.**

<b>Meeting title</b>	Community Liaison Group – Cable Route South
<b>Location</b>	Butterwick Village Hall
<b>Date/ time</b>	Friday 11 August 2023, 7-8pm
<b>Originator</b>	ODOW
<b>Attendees</b>	<p>Andrew Acum – Group Facilitator – ODOW - AA  Chris Jenner - Development Manager – ODOW – CJ  Roisin Alldis – Onshore Consents Manager – RA</p> <p>Cllr Peter Bedford – Boston Borough Council / Freiston Parish Council - PB  Cllr Callum Butler – Boston Borough Council – CB  Cllr Kevin Forman – Butterwick parish Council - KF  Cllr John Grant – Benington Parish Council - JG  Cllr Frank Pickett – Old Leake Parish Council - FP  Cllr Sarah Sharpe – Boston Borough Council - SS</p>
<b>Apologies</b>	None
<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 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.

PB asked if this was now the definitive route. CJ confirmed that it was and that this would be the route that would be submitted in the DCO at the end of the year. Geophysical surveys for archaeology are currently being undertaken along the route, so there may be some minor modifications and it would be narrowed down to an indicative construction corridor.

JG asked if the cable route would be constructed in sections or in one go. CJ said that the project was currently getting soil data which would feed into the detailed engineering design.

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.

JG asked how long the project would take to complete. CJ said that it would take approximately 36 months for both the onshore and offshore elements – a similar time period to Triton Knoll and Viking Link.

CN asked if the land and dykes would be reinstated. CJ confirmed that they would and that Viking Link was currently going through the final stages of the reinstatement process. JG commented that it was very impressive how they could reinstate the land and leave no trace of what had been there before.

PB said he thought most people would be pleased with the choice of inland cable route. CJ said that now that the route and connection point had been decided, they were now looking at bringing forward work on the Community Benefit Fund.

CJ said that the project would drill under all Internal Drainage Board (IDB) drains and Environment Agency (EA) main rivers and already had sub-groups established with these bodies.

#### **Q&A**

CJ said that the team would be working closely with National Grid would be back in the autumn with further consultation and more details.

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.

RA said that an update leaflet was going out via Royal Mail to 11,000 households in the consultation zone.

SS asked how much disruption would be caused to roads by construction, particularly cut end road given it is a single-track road with a dead end. CJ assured SS that access would be maintained at all times and that it would only take a few days for the cable to be installed under the road.

PB asked why Freiston was not included on the infographic. Post meeting update: It was explained that while Freiston was not historically included on the infographic, it was on the consultation maps and interactive map. Moving forward

#### **Next Steps**

The next round of consultation would take place in the autumn.

Now the grid connection was known, the project could start looking in more detail at Community Benefit Funds.

#### **AOB**

None.

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

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