

Minutes of Meeting.

Meeting title	Community Liaison Group – Cable Route North
Location	Wainfleet Coronation Hall
Date/ time	Tuesday 18 April 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 - DW</p> <p>Cllr Wendy Bowkett – Lincolnshire County Council - WB Cllr Sid Dennis – East Lindsey District Council - SD Cllr Carleen Dickinson – East Lindsey District Council – CD Cllr Dan Kirk – Skegness Town Council - DK Cllr Mick Rust – Wainfleet St Mary Parish Council – MR Dr Clive Shrubsole – Wainfleet St Mary Parish Council & Pear Tree Manor Residents Association – CS Cllr Kevin Smith – Friskney Parish Council - KS</p>
Apologies	
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>The minutes of the last meeting were approved.</p>

2.

Project Update

CJ gave an update on the project and introduced Gulf Energy as new partners. **CS asked about the role of Gulf Energy.** CJ explained that they are primarily a financial partner but have experience of investing in European renewable projects.

CJ explained that offshore proposal had not changed since the previous round of consultation and gave a summary of the previous Phase 1A consultation proposals. Both grid connection options in the north and south plus the two mid-section cable route options to the east and west of the A52 are all still under consideration. These will be included in the PEIR consultation which is likely to start in early June.

CJ explained that there would be refinements to the plans which would be included in the PEIR statutory consultation.

CJ then ran through the current anticipated timeline and summarised the contents of the latest newsletter and feedback from the Phase 1A consultation. In terms of a community benefit scheme, the project is happy to start gathering ideas, but until there is a confirmed grid connection point, it is unlikely that there will be any detailed progress on any proposals.

Ornithology and ecology surveys are progressing on both routes and geophysical surveys for archaeology are likely to start in June for three or four months, whilst some geo-technical surveys and boreholes are likely to start in late May in 25 locations along the route in order to validate ground conditions, particularly where horizontal direct drilling (HDD) will be required.

Hi-res aerial surveys of the routes have now been completed and offshore a large geo-technical survey is underway.

3.

Substation and Cable Route

CJ explained that the further refinements to the plans meant that it was now possible to look at the substation and cable route locations in more detail.

As the presentation was designed for all of the CLGs, CJ explained that he would focus more on the elements that affected the northern section of the cable route but was happy to talk through the other elements as well.

Cable Route North

CJ explained how the cable would be brought ashore at the landfall via horizontal direct drilling from a compound under the Roman Bank road, nature reserve, dunes and beach, punching out below the mean low water mark.

DW explained how proposed compounds and access points had been added to the map, taking into account feedback from the public exhibitions and avoiding the caravan park at Hogsthorpe.

A field next to Skegness Stadium has been identified as a possible location for a compound and at Burgh le Marsh a site next to where the Triton Knoll compound was has also been identified.

At Croft, just south of the A52, two options have been identified to give flexibility.

At Thorpe St Peter, a compound site location just north of the Wainfleet Relief Channel has been identified. **MR asked if it was near the flooding breach.** DW confirmed that it was. CJ said that there was a meeting in the diary with the Environment Agency to talk specifically about their requirements for drilling underneath this area.

At Friskney Fen near Wainfleet St Mary, access would be off the A52 to the east.

On the original proposed route, a compound site had been identified behind the farm buildings at Bray's Farm, near New Marsh. **MR asked if this was near Sea**

Lane. DW said it was just south of Sea Lane. CJ confirmed that this would only be used if the cable took the original route.

At Friskney, route 1A would have access from the A52 and a compound near Abbey Hills.

Again on Route 1A at Wrangle Low Ground, access would be off the A52 and head north to the compound.

On Route 1, there would be a compound at Wrangle Marsh east of the A52, near Staples Farm.

Cable Route South

DW said these compounds and accesses were out of the area so rather than spend time running through them all, the presentation would be circulated for information.

DK asked how much traffic could be expected. DW said that details would be included in the PEIR once they have been refined.

WB asked what impact there would be on local roads. DW said that Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) as the highways authority will ensure the project undertake pre and post surveys of the road conditions. SD confirmed that this was also the case with Triton Knoll.

WB said that at Friskney, local residents were complaining about large/agricultural vehicles shaking houses. DW said that the project would be avoiding villages wherever possible and would only use main A-roads and strategic roads to reach the cable corridor.

CJ confirmed that the presentation would be sent to all CLG members and that there would also be an interactive mapping tool on the website allowing users to zoom in and take measurements.

SD asked how long the compounds would be in place. CJ said they would be there for approximately 24-36 months depending on procurement, contractor

appointments, phasing, possibility for multi-tracking, etc. This would be a worse case assessment. DW said that this would not be continuous working but would be phased and built in sections.

DK asked whether there would be speed limits and traffic restrictions. DW said that this would largely relate to when construction traffic had to turn off onto the haul road and safety issues would be determined by LCC.

Substation South

CJ introduced the substation design parameters and explained that this was the only above ground infrastructure the project was proposing. The technology would either be AIS (air insulated) or GIS (gas insulated) and the diagrams outlined the footprint. The Phase 2 consultation would assess all of the options at the northern and southern grid connection points. Once National Grid had given a decision on the connection point, the project would narrow down to one site which would be taken forward to the DCO application.

To do this, the project has designed an envelope within which they are able to assess the options under consideration.

The GIS option would require a 4500m² building up to 19m high. This could sit anywhere within the footprint indicated on the map. There would also be other electrical infrastructure up to 12m high.

National Grid would also need to build some infrastructure at each location in order to facilitate connection.

CJ outlined the criteria used for substation site selection:

- Close proximity to the National Grid area of search
- Providing an area of land large enough to meet the requirements of the Project OnSS

- As far as possible, free from environmentally sensitive receptors
- Not within 200m of any occupied building.

In addition, there were a number of other environmental considerations:

- Air quality
- Archaeology and cultural heritage
- Ecology and ornithology
- Geology and ground conditions
- Hydrology and flood risk
- Land use
- Noise and vibration
- Traffic and transport
- Landscape and visual assessment
- Planning

At the Lincolnshire Node site in the north, all of these constraints were used to narrow down some site options. From these, it was possible to develop some photo montages of what the site would look like with screening at different intervals and locations.

The same process was also used for Weston Marsh North (Surfleet Marsh) and Weston Marsh South.

The photo montages showed the maximum envelope rather than the actual area that would be filled by the equipment.

DK asked whether the project would give greater energy security to Skegness. DW explained that the power to Skegness is supplied by a Distribution Network Operator (DNO) rather than by National Grid so it wouldn't have a direct effect on Skegness unless there was a 400KV-132KV substation built. SD said that he felt reinforcing the network would be a bigger benefit for the area than community benefit projects.

	4.	<p>Q&A</p> <p>CJ said that the next round of consultation is likely to take place at the end of June.</p> <p>SD asked what the project completion date was. CJ confirmed it was 2030. DW said it would probably be 2-3 years construction after consent.</p> <p>MR asked when National Grid were likely to give a decision. CJ said that this was just one part of a large strategic project that National Grid is undertaking. It was hoped that there would be more clarity by the end of July.</p> <p>KS asked when there would be a decision on Route 1 or Route 1A. CJ said that they would wait until after the Phase 2 consultation in June. DW added that there were also some GI works being undertaken on both routes which would feed into the decision-making process.</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 give details of the proposed grid connection point.</p> <p>The next CLG is expected to be in August but AA will be in touch with details nearer the date.</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