

**Minutes of Meeting.**

<b>Meeting title</b>	Community Liaison Group – Cable Route South
<b>Location</b>	Butterwick Village Hall
<b>Date/ time</b>	Friday 21 April 2023
<b>Originator</b>	ODOW
<b>Attendees</b>	<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>Judith Skinner – Boston Borough Council – JS  Paul Skinner – Boston Borough Council – PS</p>
<b>Apologies</b>	<p>Peter Bedford – Boston Borough Council  Roly Ashley – Fishtoft Parish Council</p>
<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>
	<p><b>1. Chair’s welcome and introductions</b></p> <p>CJ opened the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were approved.</p>

<p>2.</p>	<p><b>Project Update</b></p> <p>CJ gave an update on the project and introduced Gulf Energy as new partners. CJ explained that they are primarily a financial partner with a history of investing in offshore wind in Europe.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>JS asked if the 1A route option avoided residential areas.</b> CJ confirmed that it did.</p> <p>CJ explained that there would be refinements to the plans which would be included in the PEIR statutory consultation. RA added that PEIR will be available on USB sticks and online, plus hard copies of the Non-Technical Summary and the exhibition panels.</p> <p><b>JS asked about publicity for the events.</b> CJ said that over 800 people had attended events so far. Over 12,000 leaflets were sent out to local residents along with adverts in local newspapers, posters in village halls, email updates and articles on the website. Leaflets and posters were also left at all of the caravan parks in the area to reach temporary residents.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>
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	<p>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.</p> <p>Consultation has taken place with landowners regarding drainage. DW confirmed the project's intention to appoint a local drainage expert to aid in the design pre- and post-construction drainage.</p> <p>Hi-res aerial surveys of the routes have now been completed and offshore a large geo-technical survey is underway.</p>
	<p><b>3. Substation and Cable Route</b></p>
	<p>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.</p> <p>The southern substation option had now been refined to two sites – one at Weston Marsh and one at Surfleet Marsh. The northern substation option near Alford had also been further refined.</p> <p>As the presentation was designed for all of the CLGs, CJ explained that he would focus more on the elements that affected the southern cable route element of the project but was happy to talk through the other elements as well.</p> <p><u>Southern Cable Route</u></p> <p>The areas highlighted in yellow in the presentation were the areas in which a compound is proposed. It does not mean that the compound would fill this area. The aim is to use the main roads to gain access to the haul road and then have compounds every 6-8km. This will avoid the need for construction traffic to use smaller roads.</p> <p>On the southern section of the cable route, the first compound is proposed for Ings Road, Benington. Traffic would come off the A52 and then head up the haul road to the compound.</p>

**JS asked about damage to the A52 and any required repairs.** DW said that the local highways authority would require pre- and post-construction surveys and any damage would have to be rectified.

The next compound would be at Sea Lane, Benington. This would be accessed from the A52 and then down David's Lane. This road was already used by large agricultural machinery.

There would be a proposed access to the haul road from Pinfold Lane at Hobhole Bank near Fishtoft to allow crossing of the Haven at Nunn's Bridge.

**JS asked about the flood defences.** DW said that the team was working closely with the Environment Agency to establish a minimum working distance from the toe of the embankments to protect their assets. CJ said that the 300m red line boundary will reduce to 80-100m by the time of the DCO application.

A compound is proposed just off the A16 at Old Farm, Frampton which will be accessed directly from the A16.

There will be an access point south of Bleak House Farm at Wyberton. This will use an existing field access to avoid the need to remove any hedgerows.

#### Substation Design Parameters

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.

**JS asked what gas would be used.** DW said that at the moment it would be a gas called FS6, but as this has a high carbon footprint, they are looking at other

alternatives. IF FS6 was used it would be tightly controlled and within a sealed unit.

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 which connection point would be used, 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.

**JS asked about flood risk.** DW said the Project will be undertaking a flood risk assessment, at this time the visualisations have assumed a 1m AOD finished flow level but this will be confirmed/ updated for the DCO submission.

The GIS option would require a 4500m<sup>2</sup> 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.

The project is currently progressing with all three substation sites as the connection point was not yet known.

**JS asked about the boundary fence and felt it looked a bit utilitarian.** CJ said that there would be a security fence but there would be a full landscaping plan around the perimeter of the substation to screen as much as possible. The team has also been speaking about bio-diversity net gain with a few different organisations in the area including the Boston Woods Trust, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and the RSPB to bring together initiatives that may already be underway. Environmental stewardship is an important part of the project and RA has been doing a lot of work on this.

Both the AIS and GIS technology option would be progressed. By the time of the DCO submission, there would be a single substation location proposed and the final design would be completed post-consent as

there are a number of details the local planning authority needs to confirm. This will be another opportunity for the local authority to ensure that the end design is acceptable.

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 are 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

All of these constraints were used to narrow down some site options and substation footprints.

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 photo montages showed the maximum envelope rather than the actual area that would be filled by the equipment. Although early stages, the photo montages gave an example of what the visual

	<p>impact may be at different points in time and these would all be available in large format at the public consultation events.</p> <p>Off-site planting may be provide better screening on a flat landscape.</p> <p>CJ said that there would be extensive visualisations issued in June but the presentation gave an indication of what it could look like if the connection at Weston Marsh was taken forward.</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p> <p>CJ said that the government had issued some principles for community benefits on transmission projects a couple of weeks ago. At this stage, the project is talking to everyone to understand what has worked well in the past and build up a portfolio of options, however, no details could be decided until the grid connection point is known.</p> <p>CJ said that there will be an interactive map on the website in the next couple of weeks with the next round of consultation likely to take place at the end of June.</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>No AOB.</p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Chair's closing remarks and next steps / next meeting</b></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>

<b>Meeting Protocol</b>	
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