

Minutes of Meeting.

Meeting title	Community Liaison Group – Substation North
Location	The Windmill Hotel, Alford
Date/ time	Wednesday 19 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>Hannah Fairfield – Willoughby & Sloothby Parish Council - HF Jenny Hayes – Anderby Parish Council - JH Linda McCaig – Mumby Parish Council – LM Chris Meaker – Huttoft Parish Council - CM Lynette Pryke – Alford Town Council - LP Nigel Sylvester – Huttoft Parish Council - NS</p>
Apologies	<p>Hayley Brown – Anderby Resident Graham Fisher – Anderby Parish Council Graham Marsh – East Lindsey District Council</p>
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. CJ explained that they are primarily a financial partner with a history of investing in offshore wind in Europe.

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. RA added that PEIR will be available on USB sticks and online, plus hard copies of the Non-Technical Summary and the exhibition panels.

LP asked whether they would be able to get hold of the documents for their councils. RA said that the project would supply links to the online documents and provide copies of the PEIR document on a USB stick. The Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR would be available as a hard copy. Photo montages could also be supplied.

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 progress on any detailed 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.

LM asked when traffic counts would take place. CJ said that some had been done in October last year and more were planned for the summer. DW said that LCC wanted figures from the summer to give some seasonality to the data. LM said she was concerned that an average figure did not account for quiet roads in winter and very busy roads in the summer. DW explained that was how the highways authority calculated the impact. Busy roads in the summer would actually mean a smaller relative impact.

LM said she was concerned about traffic on the A52 at Hogsthorpe. DW said the traffic would not use the A52 at Hogsthorpe but would approach from the west and turn off before Hogsthorpe.

DW explained that there would be a pre- and post-construction surveys of the roads and any damage identified would have to be rectified.

CM said Huttoft is still suffering from subsidence from the Viking Link project.

CJ said the traffic assessment would be released in early June so that everyone could examine it. He added that there is a strict industry standard for undertaking traffic assessments. LP pointed out that there would probably be restrictions on working hours.

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 substation element of the project but was happy to talk through the other elements as well.

Substation North

CJ explained how the cable would come 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. Access to the landfall compound for construction would be via the Project's haul road rather than by the coastal road.

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.

LM asked if the access would be near the bad bends.

DW said that access would be at Station Road at Mumby. LM said that was sensible.

CJ pointed out that the coloured areas showed the maximum envelope and the compounds would not take up this full space.

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. 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.

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.

The substation design parameters showed the worst case scenarios. Up until the end of the Phase 2 consultation in mid-July, the project would progress with all three substation sites as the connection point was not yet known.

Both the AIS and GIS technology options would also be progressed. By the time of the DCO submission, there would be a single substation location proposed whilst 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 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 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 same process was also used for Weston Marsh North (Surfleet Marsh) and Weston Marsh South.

Although early stages, the photo montages give an example of what the visual impact may be at different points in time and these would all be available in large format at the public consultation events.

CM asked how the electricity would be transferred from the Outer Dowsing substation into the National Grid. CJ explained that reinforcement works would be required to be undertaken by National Grid, at this stage the nature or extent of these works are not known.

LP asked if there would be jobs for local people. CJ said he hoped there would be. Residents have already been approaching the project team directly asking about opportunities. The economic impact assessment for the project predicted around 2,000 jobs during the construction phase. This involved a range of different skills and expertise, however the project is talking to different companies in the local supply chain. LP said that even if some of these workers were from outside of the area, they would still spend money in the local economy. CJ said the project was looking at an online register for supply chain companies. There were also obligations to reach certain levels of local and regional content for the project.

CJ said that there would be visualisations issued in June as part of the Phase 2 consultation but the presentation gave an indication of what it could look like if the connection at Lincolnshire Node was taken forward.

CM said that the cost of cabling to Lincolnshire Node would appear to be a lot less than to Weston Marsh.

DW said that this point had been raised by members of the public at the consultation events. The simple answer was that the decision would be based on the cost and practicality of the cable route alongside the available connection date. An earlier connection date would allow earlier generation which may offset the cost of a more expensive cable route.

JH asked if ODOW timescales would be affected if National Grid chose Lincolnshire Node but still had to go through the consenting process to build the infrastructure.

CJ said the target is to be generating by 2030. Weston Marsh may reduce costs of delay to connecting to the grid and give higher carbon cost savings. Although it may cost more money to build the project in the short term, it could save money for the consumer in the longer term.

Substation South

CJ explained that there is a similar process being undertaken at Weston Marsh in terms of identifying sites and visual impacts/mitigations. The terrain is much flatter and would require more screening and offsite planting.

4.

Q&A

LP said that the project didn't seem as scary now she had seen the visualisations. DW said that the various assessments had led to the best site options being identified.

CM said that there had previously been a proposal for an onshore wind farm, but said this proposal wasn't as high and blended in better.

JH said she felt that people were more worried about pylons. Having seen Triton Knoll and Viking Link, they largely know what to expect and that it is a temporary impact and the pylons have a greater visual impact and are permanent. DW said that the ODOW project will be underground apart from the substation and any associated works required to facilitate the connection at this point.

CM asked about funding for local parishes. DW said that this would be developed once the grid connection had been confirmed. CJ said that the project was happy to have conversations about frameworks and look at which projects had worked well in the past but it would be a bit premature to start looking at detailed bids before the cable route was known. The team had also spent a day at the Alford Careers Fair to talk to local students about careers in offshore wind and this had been very well-received. LP said that the organisers were very pleased with how many young people were interested in STEM subjects and possible careers in this area.

	<p>LP said that the fuel crisis has focused people's thoughts on energy supplies. DW said that this had been a strong theme at the public events and that the project will help contribute towards energy security, lower costs and reduced carbon footprint.</p> <p>JH said that one concern that had been raised was that Lincolnshire was getting all of the infrastructure but didn't get any local benefit from the electricity as this was transported south. CJ said that the ODOW project would connect to the 400KV National Grid circuit. DW said that more 132KV and 33 KV lines would give capacity for potential new projects like electric vehicle charging points or new manufacturing facilities.</p> <p>CJ said that the next round of consultation is likely to take place at the end of June.</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