

Minutes of Meeting.

Meeting title	Community Liaison Group – Substation South
Location	Fosdyke Village Hall
Date/ time	Thursday 20 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>Kerry Gratton – Fosdyke Parish Council – KG Ian Pennington – Weston Parish Council - IP Thomas Sneath – The Moultons Parish Council - TS Simon Walsh – South Holland District Council - SW</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
	<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>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>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.</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 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>IP asked whereabouts in Weston these would take place. DW said they would be either side of the Haven and a couple near the A17. The aim is to get a better understanding of the subsurface at points where they may have to drill under obstacles.</p>

	<p>IP asked whether it would affect the aquifer. CJ said that the team has been working closely with the Environment Agency to ensure that they don't drill into the aquifer. They also have a lot of data from the Triton Knoll project.</p> <p>Hi-res aerial surveys of the routes have now been completed and offshore a large geo-technical survey is underway.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Substation and Cable Route</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 substation element of the project but was happy to talk through the other elements as well.</p> <p><u>Substation South</u></p> <p>CJ said that work has been undertaken to try and identify access points to the haul road and compounds for storage which he would run through, along with some initial photo montages of what the substations could look like. These would also be shown at the next consultation events in June.</p>

The compound locations were chosen to be away from residential areas as well as having access to a main road to keep traffic off the minor roads.

DW talked through possible compound locations along the cable route at Benington, Hobhole Bank, Wyberton, Weston Marsh (south of the Haven) and Fosdyke Bridge.

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.

SW asked how the height compared to other buildings in the area. CJ said that it was more than a traditional agricultural building which would be around 10-12m. DW said that to give some context, the nearby pylons are approximately 50 m 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 option 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

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.

	<p>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 impact may be at different point in time and these would all be available in large format at the public consultation events.</p> <p>Off-site planting may be more appropriate on a flat landscape to give better screening.</p> <p>CJ showed an example of the Five Estuaries project in Essex which showed that the equipment wouldn't be a large solid box and that it was possible to screen the site.</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>4.</p>	<p>Q&A</p> <p>IP asked how far away the WM North substation would be from the existing overhead lines. DW said it would be a couple of hundred metres.</p> <p>IP asked where the construction access road would be if Weston Marsh South was chosen. CJ said it would be due north east. DW added that it would be via a haul road rather than using local roads.</p> <p>IP asked how large the substation site would be. CJ said that the operational area would be 10ha with a total area of 18ha to allow for landscaping, drainage, screening, etc.</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>

	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