

Minutes of Meeting.

Meeting title	Community Liaison Group – Cable Route North
Location	Wainfleet Coronation Hall
Date/ time	Tuesday 17 October 2023
Originator	ODOW
Attendees	<p>Jennifer Marsden – ODOW - JM David Wright – ODOW - DW Dan Clark – ODOW - DC</p> <p>Mick Rust – Wainfleet St Mary Parish Council - MR Jean Hart – Wainfleet All Saints - JH Kym Wickham – Friskney - KW Paul Jones – Wainfleet – PJ</p>
Apologies	None
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.</p>	<p>Chair's welcome and introductions</p> <p>DW opened the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were approved.</p> <p>ACTION: Email minutes when completed to KW.</p> <p>KW asked if the cable route was coming south. DW confirmed that it was, and the latest round of consultation featured a refined cable route area. JM added that the southern cable route option had also been included in a press release and a mailout regarding to local residents.</p> <p>KW said that she did not receive this through the post.</p> <p>ACTION: Check KW address against Post Office mailing list and send electronic versions.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Project Update</p> <p>Communications and Autumn Consultation overview</p> <p>Communications to date;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mailer advertising the public information day has been sent to 11,000 households, • Section 48 public notices have been printed in national and local papers • Section 42 notices have been sent to statutory consultees • Adverts for the public information days have appeared in local papers • The events have been posted on Facebook and social media, • Almost 200 HOT sent to landowners,

Communications to follow;

- Site notices have been placed on posts in fields
- A press release will be issued Oct 20th
- Consultation events will take place – both in person and online
- Consultation launch – libraries, online etc,
- Interactive map with measuring tool will be available online
- An online interactive 3D model will be available at the events

KW said that the Friskney Community page is well used and updates would be recommended there.

DW said that site notices will be placed on unregistered land as this is a legal requirement.

Autumn Consultation

This is the final phase of the Statutory Consultation in preparation for the DCO application in Q1 2024.

The consultation will cover the Environmental Update Report, Onshore Substation Visualisations and associated plans, and will run between 20 October and 24 November.

DW and JM ran through the details of the consultation events plus the locations where consultation documents could be accessed.

KW asked if the next round of consultation was in 2023 or 2024. JM confirmed it was next week, so 2023.

PJ asked if the two red lines on the map were showing the 300m corridor, or the 80m corridor. DW said that they did represent 300m in previous meetings, but now this represents the 80m corridor the Project is considering, and it is confident they are in the optimum place.

MR asked how many homes the Project could generate electricity for. He said a recent project in Scotland generates renewable electricity for 75% of homes there.

JM confirmed that the Project would generate 1.5GW – which would be equivalent to that used by 1.6 million homes.

MR asked if that figure could be increased. JM said that the figure was related to average household consumption and energy performance, and takes into account older houses as well as new houses, which are more energy efficient. If houses become more energy efficient, then this number could increase.

MR said that older houses are harder to insulate. Solar was an example and East Lindsey District Council made it harder to place solar panels on homes as they have planning restrictions.

Survey update

The geotechnical surveys finished in August and the results fed into the refinement of the proposals. The project have also started archaeology geophysical survey.

JM said that the archaeology geophysical surveying team also use quad bikes to help survey the land but also walk with the survey equipment where required. The machines search for anomalies and disturbances in the subsurface. The team is working with the archaeologists who will analyse the information. If there are signs of archaeological interest, then they may choose to dig trenches to investigate further.

KW asked if anything been found so far. DW said the equipment has picked up anomalies where land has been disturbed. Over 50 per cent of that work has been completed so far.

3.

Briefing on PID content

Cable Route, including compounds & accesses

DW outlined what was new for the consultation:

- Temporary compound refinement
- Highway improvement areas
- Passing bays
- Construction traffic routes
- Reduced footprint at landfall
- Substation location
- Substation height and footprint – based on conversations with National Grid

DW said that the cable corridor had been refined and suitable routes for construction works traffic and the compounds had been identified. This information will be readily available at the consultation events.

The traffic routes aimed to use the A16 and A52 as much as possible to reduce the impact on smaller roads. There may be additional temporary roads needed to create access to land but the team is speaking to landowners about this.

PJ asked if these access roads would remain in place once the project is finished. DW said that they are all temporary so unless highways and landowners give notice they want them there and they get planning permission, then the land would be returned to its original condition.

MR said that many local compounds had been and gone and you wouldn't know they had been there. DW said that farmers often like the access points and will sometimes ask for planning permission to make them permanent.

Onshore Substation

Following a decision from the National Grid that the connection point would be in the vicinity of Weston Marsh, Lincs Node was removed from the Project Scope.

The Project has subsequently selected Surfleet Marsh as the optimum site for the substation taking into account multiple factors including engineering and environmental considerations.

There will also be a need for a National Grid substation and associated enabling works within the vicinity of the project's onshore substation which the Project will connect to using 400kV underground cables running between the project substation and that which will be developed by National Grid Electricity Transmission.

DW explained how offsite planting along existing field boundaries would provide additional screening for the substation.

Onshore Substation Design Process

A Local Design Panel would be formed to include:

- Expert topic groups
- ODOW staff
- Landscape architects
- Council members
- LPAs
- Council landscape architects
- Local Flood Authority
- Appointed consultants

The visualisations were based on the "worst case scenario" based on two potential technologies still under consideration that will impact the footprint:

- Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS)
- Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS)

DW said that another critical factor was getting the right species of trees for the planting and this is something the Design Panel would be consulted on.

MR asked if this information would be sent to the group. JM confirmed this information would be sent out and also published on the website on Friday as well as being available at the consultation events.

JM also flagged that one key difference for those in Wainfleet is the traffic route, which no longer passes through Wainfleet, instead using the A52.

	<p>JH asked if the access would be near Mill Lane. DW said it would be near the brewery, but this will be for light goods only.</p> <p>MR asked what sort of traffic could be expected. DW said that it would be for light goods vehicles only.</p> <p>JH said that the concern there was how narrow Mill Lane is. DW said that it has been assessed and that is why they are only using it for light goods. Other traffic will be looking at Eastville to Midville via the A52.</p> <p>MR said that this a bad road. DW said it is the best route available for these works.</p> <p>The group was shown map plans for the route corridor – the same plans to be shown at the Autumn Consultation.</p> <p>KW confirmed swans would probably use the Croft compound. KW also asked if there would be resurfacing of Hogarth. DW said the Project did complete a pre-condition survey and will do what they can to make it a more suitable condition. The biggest success for the Project is to ensure there is no traffic through Wainfleet. KW said the old houses rattle with heavy traffic.</p> <p>JH asked where the nearest compounds were to Wainfleet. DW confirmed locations (available to view on map).</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Timeline and Next Steps</p> <p>DW said that the Project was aiming to submit the DCO application in Q1 next year, which would then be followed by an 18-month examination period including six months of hearings where everyone can get involved. The hearings are recorded and transcripts of all the meetings will be available on the Planning Inspectorate's website. The Inspector would then write a report with recommendations which would be sent to the Secretary of State for a decision. The process is designed to test the project against national planning policy.</p>

	<p>PJ asked if this could this change if there is an election. DW said that once inspectors are allocated then there wouldn't be a change. JM added that it would require a radical change in net zero policy and renewable energy strategy from the government for this to change. Both Labour and the Conservatives are committed to net zero and most parties are on board as it also provides jobs and local investment. Between 40 to 60 per cent of the overall spend could be invested in the UK supply chain, so this is a big boost to the economy in addition to bolstering energy security.</p> <p>KW asked when construction would start. DW said that it would be 2026/27 subject to consent decision.</p> <p>KW asked if financing was already in place. DW said full consent was needed before all financing can be in place – there are lots of things that have to happen before which is why the Project can't be exact with the date at this stage.</p> <p>KW asked if there was interest in getting this done quickly. DW said there was but there is a lengthy consenting and planning process and procurement takes time.</p> <p>MR asked if updating or maintenance would be required. DW said that the lifespan of the turbines is estimated to be 30-35 years but could last longer. National Grid is using infrastructure from the 60s which is still in place. The seabed lease is for 60 years, so the turbines may be re-powered with new technology around halfway through the lease.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>JM asked if there were any suggestions for locations for the public examination. It would need to have enough room for more than 100 people with good facilities and accessibility.</p> <p>The Embassy Theatre in Skegness and the The Beonna Centre were recommended.</p>

	6.	<p>Chair's closing remarks and next steps / next meeting</p> <p>The next CLG is expected to be in January/February prior to the DCO submission but AA will be in touch with details nearer the date.</p>
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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