

**Minutes of Meeting.**

<b>Meeting title</b>	Community Liaison Group – Substation South
<b>Location</b>	Fosdyke Village Hall
<b>Date/ time</b>	Thursday 19 October 2023
<b>Originator</b>	ODOW
<b>Attendees</b>	<p>Andrew Acum – Group Facilitator – ODOW - AJA  Chris Jenner - Development Manager – ODOW – CJ  David Wright – Land Manager - DW</p> <p>Alison Austin – Lincolnshire County Council – AA  Richard Austin – Wyberton PC and Boston Borough Council – RA  Kerry Gratton – Fosdyke Parish Council – KG  Alan Mowton – Fosdyke Parish Council - AM  Ian Pennington – Weston Parish Council – IP  Thomas Sneath – The Moultons Parish Council / South Holland District Council - TS  Simon Walsh – South Holland District Council - SW</p>
<b>Apologies</b>	None
<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>

1.	<p><b>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>The following potential conflicts of interest were declared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alan Mowton – landowner</li> <li>• Ian Pennington - landowner</li> </ul>
2.	<p><b>Project Update</b></p> <p><b>Communications and Autumn Consultation overview</b></p> <p>Communications to date;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mailer advertising the public information day has been sent to 11,000 households,</li> <li>• Section 48 public notices have been printed in national and local papers</li> <li>• Section 42 notices have been sent to statutory consultees</li> <li>• Adverts for the public information days have appeared in local papers</li> <li>• The events have been posted on Facebook and social media,</li> <li>• Almost 200 HOT sent to landowners,</li> </ul> <p>Communications to follow;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site notices have been placed on posts in fields</li> <li>• A press release will be issued Oct 20th</li> <li>• Consultation events will take place – both in person and online</li> <li>• Consultation launch – libraries, online etc,</li> <li>• Interactive map with measuring tool will be available online</li> <li>• An online interactive 3D model will be available at the events</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Autumn Consultation</b> This is final phase of our Statutory Consultation in preparation for the DCO application in Feb 2024.</p> <p>The consultation will cover the Environmental Update Report, Onshore Substation Visualisations and associated plans, and will run between 20 October and 24 November.</p> <p>CJ ran through the locations for the consultation events plus the locations where consultation documents could be accessed.</p> <p><b>Survey update</b> The geotechnical surveys finished in August and the results fed into the refinement of the proposals. Archaeology geophysical surveys are ongoing.</p> <p>IP asked what equipment was used. CJ said it was a fluxgate gradiometer which measures the Earth's magnetic field and detects anomalies in the subsurface. These anomalies can then be studied by the archaeologists who will determine if further investigation is needed. Any trial trenches needed would be undertaken from 2024.</p> <p>IP asked how long it would take to survey a field. DW said that some of the work would be done on foot and some using quad bikes to undertake the survey faster.</p>
3.	<p><b>Briefing on PID content</b></p> <p><b>Cable Route, including compounds &amp; accesses.</b> CJ outlined the major updates since the last consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary compound refinement</li> <li>• Highway improvement areas</li> <li>• Passing bays</li> <li>• Construction traffic routes</li> <li>• Reduced footprint at landfall</li> <li>• Substation location</li> <li>• Substation height and footprint – based on conversations with National Grid</li> </ul>

**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 the substation that which will be developed by National Grid Electricity Transmission.

TS asked whether there would be two substations. CJ explained that the Project would be building one substation, but National Grid would also be building one as part of their enabling works.

TS asked if this meant two lots of planting and disturbance, as well as paying to go under the Welland. DW explained that the Project has responsibility for the cable all the way to the National Grid substation site.

TS asked why the two substations couldn't be located together. DW said this was considered but ultimately it came down to the space required, taking into account overhead line modifications required by National Grid. In addition, two sets of traffic heading into Weston Marsh would have an impact, and the project felt that access to the site off the A16 would be preferable.

AA asked if National Grid would be building the substation to accommodate other projects. DW said he didn't know the full details of what National Grid were proposing, other than the Project would connect to the existing overhead lines via a new substation.

IP asked why the cable corridor was wider at the River Welland. DW said at this point they would drill under the river, and the deeper the cables, the greater the separation required.

IP asked how wide the corridor would be at that point DW said that the main cable route would be 60m wide, CJ added that one of the reasons for choosing Surfleet Marsh was that the Project doesn't have to cross the Welland north of Fosdyke Bridge, which would have required 12 drills (one for each cable) compared to just two required at Surfleet where the cable has increased voltage to 400KV.

CJ explained how offsite planting along existing field boundaries would provide additional screening for the substation. In future, the Fosdyke CLG would be used as a design panel to give feedback on preliminary proposals for screening and other elements such as roof design, materials, colour palettes, landscaping, fencing, etc. The aim would be to work together to minimise the visual impact.

IP pointed out that there is a building on the A16 which uses graduated colour to break up its profile. A number of members agreed.

KG asked what the rectangle on the map near to Fosdyke Bridge was. DW said that it would be a temporary compound at the yacht club. Access to the Weston Marsh site would be via the existing Environment Agency track rather than using the local roads.

### **Onshore Substation Design Process**

A Local Design Panel would be formed to include invitations to:

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

	<p>The visualisations to be shown at the PIDs were based on the “worst case scenario” based on two potential technologies still under consideration that will impact the footprint:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS)</li> <li>• Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS)</li> </ul> <p>CJ 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.</p> <p>IP asked when the Project would start laying cables in the ground. DW said it would be around 2026-2027 with a three year construction period. CJ added that the Project had a connection agreement for 2030.</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Timeline and Next Steps</b></p> <p>CJ 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>AM asked if the Secretary of State could ask for a public enquiry. CJ said no but the Examination process provides a high level of scrutiny and offers transparent participation.</p> <p>AA asked if there was a deadline for representations. A previous project in the area had been slowed down by additional questions being raised after the examination period. CJ said the Inspectors and Secretary of State have the authority to ask for further information which can delay the decision, but the Project was trying to mitigate against that risk by submitting a comprehensive application that addresses any significant issues.</p>

	<p>AA asked if the process was the same as for Viking Link and Triton Knoll. CJ said that Triton Knoll followed the same DCO process, but Viking Link went through local planning.</p> <p>IP asked whether there would be any grants for the local parish councils now that the substation had been proposed at Surfleet Marsh and not Weston Marsh. CJ said that the Project was currently formulating ideas on a Community Benefit Fund to launch in 2025, with some possible smaller ad hoc funding in 2024. The Project is currently working on themes for the fund and has spoken to the County Council.</p> <p>IP said that they had previously been told that Weston Parish Council would get funding from the Spalding Power Station fund due to the overhead lines in the parish, but all the funding went to Spalding. DW said that the Project was looking to set up criteria for funding based on impact in an area.</p> <p>TS asked why the County Council was being consulted and not the Districts. CJ said that the Project was also talking to the District councils and will also be influenced by the CLG discussions.</p> <p>IP asked if there would be any grants available in 2024. CJ said that is something the Project will need to come back to the group on, but it is anticipated that they will be able to present a framework for funding before the application.</p>
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5.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>CJ asked if there were any recommendations for an examination venue for the hearings. One of the solar farms had previously used Boston United Football Club.</p> <p>KG said this was a good venue and AA said it had good access and good parking.</p> <p>DW said that a venue in Skegness had been suggested but IP felt that this was a long way from the substation site.</p> <p>IP asked if the CLG meetings would continue. CJ confirmed that they would and that the Project was open to suggestions on frequency. The next one would probably be towards the end of January 2024 when the group could be updated on the DCO submission and the design panel could be initiated.</p> <p>AA said that the community was most interested in traffic and traffic routes. DW said that the public exhibitions would include large maps on tables showing all the proposed traffic routes and compounds.</p> <p>IP asked how much cable would be on each reel. DW said that it depended on the supplier, but approximately 800m - 1.2km, but bigger cable reel need bigger lorries which can cause access issues.</p> <p>AM asked how much land would be taken out of production from the landfall to the substation. DW said that this is a calculation that is being worked on, but most land take would be temporary. There would be 14ha of permanent landtake required for the substation, with the rest being reinstated.</p> <p>TS asked what the lifespan of the project was. CJ said that the turbines had a 30-35 year design life and a 60 year lease, so they would probably be repowered halfway through the lease.</p> <p>RA said he would be able to inform the Boston Marathon Committee that there would be no</p>
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	disruption for 2024 – there are 2,000 runners for one morning in April.
<b>6.</b>	<b>Chair's closing remarks and next steps / next meeting</b>  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.

<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