

**Minutes of Meeting.**

<b>Meeting title</b>	Substation Community Liaison Group
<b>Location</b>	Tonic 44, Surfleet
<b>Date/ time</b>	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 7pm
<b>Originator</b>	ODOW
<b>Attendees</b>	<p>Andrew Acum – ODOW – AA  Sophie Brown – ODOW - SB  Chris Jenner – ODOW – CJ  Garrett Roche – GR</p> <p>Alison Austin – LCC, BBC – AAu  Richard Austin – Wyberton PC – RA  Chris Astill – Kirton PC – CA  James Cantwell – BBC Five Villages, Sutterton PC – JC  Kerry Gratton – Fosdyke PC - KG  Alan Tokley – Surfleet PC – At  Stephen Walker – Algarkirk PC – SW  Ian Pennington – Weston PC – IP</p>
<b>Apologies</b>	<p>Alan Mowton  Jenny Pennington</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, terms of reference and introductions</b></p> <p>CJ opened the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.</p> <p>Interests were declared as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IP – landowner</li> <li>• AAU – Marsh Lane Industrial Estate</li> </ul> <p>The group was reminded of the terms of reference.</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were noted as approved.</p>
	<p><b>2. Project Update</b></p> <p>CJ explained that the project application was accepted on 10 April 2024 and the examination period started in October. At the time of the meeting the examination was still ongoing, but at the time of writing the minutes, the Examination had completed (examination concluded on April 10<sup>th</sup>). The Planning Inspectorate will now produce a report with a recommendation for the Secretary of State who will make the development consent decision in Q4 this year.</p> <p>It was noted that some of the Inspectors had a background in onshore planning and landscape architecture, so they had a knowledgeable understanding of the issues being considered relating to design of the project, the Design Approach Document (DAD), the Design Principles Document (DPS) and visual impact mitigations relating to the onshore substation.</p>

3.	<p><b>Future Surveys</b></p> <p>An overview of upcoming surveys was given to attendees including an offshore geotechnical survey and a nearshore geophysical survey near to Anderby Creek planned for summer 2025.</p> <p>Archaeological excavations continue following consultation and approval of the scope of work by the County Council Archaeologist.</p>
4.	<p><b>Outer Dowsing in the Community</b></p> <p><b>Careers Outreach</b></p> <p>ODOW has attended many careers fairs, given presentations and undertaken outreach work in local schools and colleges including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attended Careers Fair at Thomas Middlecott Academy in Kirton as part of National Careers week</li> <li>- Presented to Year 7&amp;8 year groups and 6th form Engineering and Business students at University of Lincoln Academy Holbeach</li> <li>- Gave presentation to the girls at Spalding High School assembly</li> </ul>

	<p>ODOW is sponsoring Future Fest by funding a marquee outside that will focus on STEM.</p> <p>The aim is to try and boost interest and skills in STEM subjects and renewables in the area.</p> <p><b>Community Projects</b></p> <p>The main community benefit fund is planned to launch after financial close in 2027.</p> <p>In the meantime, applications for smaller projects and sponsorships can be considered and would be assessed against the themes and criteria outlined on the website. Organisations must have own bank account, pass due diligence checks and project must fit within themes of investment.</p> <p>Organisations must have own bank account, pass due diligence checks and project must fit within themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- STEM Skills</li><li>- Community health</li><li>- Nature positive</li><li>- Sustainable enterprise</li></ul>
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	<p><b>5. Supply Chain and Collaboration</b></p> <p>Humber Offshore Wind Cluster held an event at the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority which ODOW attended.</p> <p>ODOW will work to maximize investment in the UK supply chain and create skilled jobs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Over £2billion estimated investment in the UK</li> <li>- Over 1000 UK-based skilled jobs during construction – peaks at 2500</li> <li>- Over 400 UK-based skilled jobs during operations for 35 years</li> <li>- Member of Humber Offshore Wind Cluster working to bring economic growth to the region</li> <li>- Launched supplier portal – one of the most popular pages on the website with around 75 companies signed up already.</li> </ul>
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	<p data-bbox="416 226 443 259"><b>5.</b></p> <p data-bbox="547 226 751 259"><b>Design Panel</b></p> <p data-bbox="547 302 850 336"><b>Onshore Substation</b></p> <p data-bbox="547 340 1342 450">CJ noted that there have been no changes during Examination subsequent to the design envelope submitted as part of the DCO application.</p> <p data-bbox="547 517 1385 745">The project is continuing to engage with potential suppliers on detailed design. A technology choice i.e. AIS or GIS technology, is expected in early 2026. Engagement with potential suppliers has confirmed that the height and footprint measurements in the design envelope are valid.</p> <p data-bbox="547 786 1382 969">Landscape planting optimisation is being assessed in the context of the 2 different technology options that are in the design envelope (AIS or GIS), noting AIS technology would have a slightly lower elevation, but a larger overall footprint.</p>
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### **Timeline and Next Steps**

SB said that through the examination they had developed and strengthened the DAD and DPS documents. The next steps would involve the implementation of principles, looking at detailed design, etc. and this will feed into the production of the Design Report. There will be further engagement with the Local Design Panel.

Development of the detailed design will follow the process set out in the DAD and the principles set out in the DPS, with an emphasis on community engagement at every stage, and the project has a commitment to ongoing engagement with the Local Design Panel during the detailed design process.

The Local Design Panel will create a forum to bring together key disciplines and the local community including:

- Architects
- Landscape architects
- Environmental specialists
- Planning representatives
- Local community
- Engineers

AAU asked for a web link to the documents that are being submitted. SB said that they are all on the PINS website but they will circulate links to the most recent versions.

**ACTION: ODOW to circulate links to the most recent versions of the documents.**

	<p>Post-meeting note, Link to document library on PINS website here - <a href="#">EN010130-000660-Outer Dowsing Examination Library.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Landscape Screening</b> The current outline is based on the worst-case design scenario which includes maximum footprint and maximum height. Planting will be refined during detailed design stage and meetings with Local Design Panel and CLGs will allow the local community to contribute at key points where final landscaping and screening details are being finalised.</p> <p>It was asked how deep the drilling would be under the Haven and the River Welland. CJ said there was a protective provision in the DCO – he would get this figure and circulate to the group.</p> <p><b>ACTION: ODOW to circulate figure to the group.</b></p> <p><i>Post-meeting note: Protective Provisions have been incorporated into the Development Consent Order (Document Reference REP6-008 available in the PIND document library link above) for the Port of Boston in relation to the Haven which secures a condition that the cables inside of the channel width of the Haven defined by the mean low water springs contour, at a depth less than or at -8m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD). A similar depth commitment at the River Welland which will be required for the Environment Agency.</i></p>
6.	<p><b>AOB</b> ODOW will be attending the Lincolnshire Show again this year.</p>



	<b>7.</b>	<b>Chair's closing remarks and next steps / next meeting</b>  The next CLG is expected to be after the consent decision in late 2025 but ODOW will be in touch with details nearer the date.
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