

Minutes of Meeting

Meeting title	Community Liaison Group – 29 April 2026
Location	Hogsthorpe Village Hall
Date/ time	29 April 2026, 7pm
Attendees	Andrew Acum – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind– AA Andy Carolan – Bilsby and Farlesthorne PC - AC Bernadette Hornby – Hogsthorpe PC – BH Linda McCaig – Mumby PC - LM Paul Sutton – Ingoldmells PC / ELDC – PS Greg Tomlinson – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind - GT David Wright – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind - DW
Apologies	None
Purpose of meeting	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.

1. Chair's welcome, terms of reference, introductions and declarations of interests.

GT opened the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.

The group was reminded of the terms of reference.

Conflicts of interest were raised: LM said she owns land that is involved with the project.

2. Project Refresh and Update

The group was given a reminder of the background of the project (see power point slides).

It was noted that there had been extensive consultation throughout the development of the project and this had resulted in changes to the project including moving the onshore cable route.

Consent was granted for the project in February 2026. The project is now procuring assets and services, and is out to market for main asset packages.

An explanation was given about what the DCO award means: that the project has been formally approved by Government and can now go ahead, albeit construction will not start yet. The next steps will be to secure a route to market, progressing project financing arrangements and preparing for construction which is expected to commence in 2028. Onshore construction will complete in 2030 in time for the Grid Connection.

The next phase includes detailed design, further survey works and agreeing detailed plans with Lincolnshire County Council. It was stressed that management of impacts like traffic, noise and disruption is a requirement of the DCO. Detailed plans will be agreed before construction starts to reduce impacts on local communities as much as possible.

The Outer Dowsing team reiterated the wish to keep a two-way channel of communication with the community open throughout this period and in the lead up to construction. It was discussed that a Community Liaison Officer (CLO) will be appointed before construction starts to assist with timely resolution of queries or issues. The project will continue to encourage ongoing engagement, which will include the continuation of Community Liaison Group (CLG) meetings.

3. Land

The team shared an update that had recently been shared with landowners. The main points were that the project will conduct various surveys in the run up to construction in Q1 2028 (at the earliest). See slides for the detailed timeline. Outer Dowsing shared that there will be continued liaison with landowners throughout the survey work. Any queries related to land should be directed to the ODOW land agent via outerdowsing@dalcourmaclaren.com or 0333 188 5374.

The Land Manager shared Outer Dowsing's approach to land rights. Even though the DCO granted CPO powers to Outer Dowsing, ODOW's preference is to secure rights voluntarily. Compulsory acquisition will only be

exercised where it has not been possible to reach a voluntary agreement. An update was given showing that the majority of landowners along the route have signed Heads of Terms with the project, and nearly two thirds of landowners have signed option agreements.

LM said she had been approached by a local tenant on land inside the project boundary who was worried that they will have to get rid of their cows. DW asked if LM could tell them to get in touch with him as he was always happy to meet tenants and landowners to discuss their concerns.

LM raised that some landowners had reported problems after cables have been laid from other projects in the area. DW said they were aware of this from speaking to landowners and local land agents, and explained that Outer Dowsing has put additional safeguards in place such as more detailed soil baseline surveys so that they can restore the soil to the original baseline.

4. Archaeological trial trenching

An update was given on archaeological works. Nearly 400 trenches have been excavated but the majority of trenches contained no archaeology of major interest.

Findings included:

- Postmedieval ditches
- Potential Iron Age archaeology including intact horse and cow skulls and pottery
- Potential intact Roman pottery
- Potential medieval pottery
- Potential Salt-working activity

LM enquired if there would be audible security warnings given that on a previous scheme an automatic warning and flashing lights had startled a horse and rider. DW said that these security systems tended to only be used to protect machinery overnight, and that the machinery was more likely stored in a compound away from roads or paths, but Outer Dowsing took an action to pass this feedback on to the teams undertaking the surveys.

5. Future Survey Plans

The project team advised that a campaign of archaeological trial trenching will be undertaken in 2026. Works will comprise the excavation of approx. 200 trial trenches predominantly between Friskney and Fosdyke in agreement with Lincolnshire County Council and Historic England.

In and around the landfall construction compound, located in farmland south of Anderby Creek, ODOW will be installing boreholes to assess ground conditions and monitor groundwater levels.

5. Outer Dowsing in the Community

The project gave an update to the group that the Outer Dowsing Energise Workshops launched in 2025 had now been delivered to 14 secondary schools and over 50 primary schools.

The project team also updated the attendees on the careers outreach and engagement, reaching over 10,000 young people in the last 12 months by attending careers fairs and outreach events.

Increased awareness of the project and the benefits the sector will bring with community leaders and farmers of the future will help contribute to the project success whilst also helping upskill young people, equipping them with valuable skills that will make it easier for them to enter the wider workforce, and enable them to access the higher paying skilled roles that the renewable energy industry offers.

6. Virtual work experience

The team updated the group on a pilot run by Business Lincolnshire that offered a virtual work experience to secondary school pupils. Rather than conventional work experience held in the place of work, this pilot offers in-school workshops, where students were given real-life scenarios and they had to come up with plans to solve these challenges.

7. Community Projects

The team updated attendees that the main Community Benefit Fund (CBF) will launch in 2028. In the interim the project has invested in nature positive and STEM projects that fall within the criteria to help support local communities.

Community investment until the formal CBF will continue to be focussed on STEM and careers outreach, and so far includes a new bird hide at Anderby and supporting the Friskney Outdoor Learning Programme.

LM asked if Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind had set up any criteria for the fund. The team responded that although the concept of the fund had been discussed at a number of the CLGs, the exact criteria will be confirmed at launch which is anticipated to be closer to 2028. The eligibility zone is

proposed to include the entire boundary of any parish council that comes within 3km of the cable route, or 5km of the substation.

LM asked if the fund was only for parish councils or whether individuals could apply. The project referred LM to the proposed criteria as published on the Outer Dowsing website that would not include donations to individuals.

8. Youth Representative

The Outer Dowsing representatives enquired with the community liaison group members to see if they would approve of inviting a youth representative. This would be a KS4 student (15/16 years old) who would join CLG meetings to represent the younger members of the community.

This would require a guardian or parent to act as a chaperone, but would give participants an opportunity to engage and also to gain work experience that they can add to their CV.

The project is proposing to seek applications via young farmers and local school groups with a selection committee to be formed if a number of candidates come forward.

The Youth representative idea was gladly received by all attendees. It was pointed out that in Boston as part of the "Pride in Place" workstream young people had been consulted on the town refurbishment of £20m which had worked well and resulted in useful meaningful feedback.

Outer dowsing will launch the scheme via the newsletter and promote to teachers with a view to having the youth representative in seat for next meeting.

BH said it would be good to put the offer out to the Young Farmers. DW said the project already had good links with the Young Farmers as they have recently funded mental health first aid training and intended to market the youth representative role to them, in addition to local schools

9. AOB

PS asked where the archaeological trenches had taken place. DW said they couldn't give exact locations for safety reasons, but they were in various places along the onshore works, as advised by previous surveys and in consultation with the county archaeologist.

AC asked which substation the cable would connect to. DW said Outer Dowsing will connect to the grid at Weston Marsh where there is existing capacity doesn't require any a new overhead line.

PS asked if the nature reserve at Anderby would receive any funding. DW said that they would receive rent for having the cables under their land and the project had just funded a new bird hide there.

LM wanted to know what was happening to the path from the equine business that comes out below the road to Wolla Bank. DW said this was a restricted byway and the plan was to drill under Ember Lane, but there would need to be a haul road crossing to allow machinery and materials to move north and south, so they would be looking to install an open managed crossing. The gate will be managed using a combination of signage and marshals, remaining open for the majority of the time and only closed for short periods when vehicles are crossing. Temporary closures to the path to install the crossing would have to be approved by LCC, but in any case, it would only be for a matter of days.

LM asked what equipment would be required. The Outer Dowsing team explained that there would be a compound on the southern side to drill under Ember Lane, but this would be located 30m back from Ember Lane.

LM asked if wagons would use the haul road and queried about how this would interact with local equine businesses. DW confirmed wagons would be used and the haul road would take construction traffic off the A52 to landfall, meaning it wouldn't have to use small local roads. The project team also confirmed that there would be a managed crossing with signage and other measures in place. The Outer Dowsing team took an action to take the feedback to the design team and to visit the local businesses.

10. Chair's closing remarks and next steps / next meeting

The Chair thanked everyone for their time and participation and explained that next CLG is expected to be towards the end of this year, but the team will be in touch with details nearer the date.