

Minutes of Meeting

Meeting title	Community Liaison Group – 7 May 2026
Location	Online meeting held on Microsoft Teams
Date/ time	7 May 2026, 7pm
Attendees	John Baxter – Boston Borough Councillor, District Cllr Old Leake and Wrangle. Stef Bristow – East Lindsey District Councillor, Sutton on Sea. Maplethorpe Parish Council. Callum Butler – Boston Borough Councillor, Old Leake and Wrangle. Portfolio holder for Environmental Services for Boston Borough Council. Carleen Dickinson – East Lindsey District Councillor, Friskney. Sarah Sharpe – Boston Borough Councillor, Fishtoft Ward. Helen Smithson Whitehead – Parish Cllr Firsby Group Parish Council. Greg Tomlinson – ODOW. David Wright – ODOW. Jenny Marsden – ODOW.
Apologies	n/a
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 and introductions

GT opened the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.

The group was reminded of the terms of reference and no conflicts of interest were raised.

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 during 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 preparation for construction which is expected to commence in 2028. 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 the 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 to 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.

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

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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

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

9. 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.

10. Meeting Feedback

As it was the first online CLG meeting in this format, the project team invited feedback from participants. Feedback was given that this format works well for councillors that are unable to join a face-to-face meeting.

The project team agreed and stated that in-person meetings will continue to occur, one for landfall and cable north, one for south cable, one for the substation and that they will continue with an online CLG for those that cannot join in-person meetings due to other commitments. 1. The next set of community liaison group meetings are planned towards the end of the year.

Feedback was given to the project that there will be changes to the local government structures given the creation of a unitary authority, but this will not affect them until 2028. Parish councils will potentially be given more power at that stage and therefore it is important that they are brought into the CLG model. JM mentioned that parish councils were invited and would take an action to ensure the project has up to date contact information.

Feedback was given that there may be some local knowledge about the skulls that were found as part of the archaeological works and this may be linked to local ancient witchcraft. Cllr Baxter said he would ask local historians.

John Baxter offered to put JM in touch with the communities and volunteering portfolio leads.

Cllrs Baxter, Dickinson and Smithson-Whitehead all fed back that the Outer Dowsing Energise workshops they observed were really valuable and worthwhile for teachers and pupils alike.

11. AOB

Cllr John Baxter asked where will the pottery found will be shown?

Answer from the project:

The few artifacts that have been found will be stored in the Lincolnshire Archives, in accordance with the agreed Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation. As works progress, archaeological investigations may help the Outer Dowsing team better understand the history of the local area. If finds of particular interest are identified, Outer Dowsing will look at suitable ways to share that story with the community, potentially through a future update, talk, display or similar activity, subject to the nature of the finds and specialist archaeological advice.

Cllr Smithson Whitehead asked how Outer Dowsing is linked to Grimsby to Walpole project, which is part of the great grid upgrade. The project answered that they are a separate project. Outer Dowsing will connect at a

new National Grid substation at Weston Marsh via the existing overhead lines independently of the Grimsby to Walpole project, which do need some modifications to existing towers to enable that to happen.

Cllr Sharpe had a query about the road leading to Pilgrim's monument, with a concern that we were planning works on it. The project confirmed it would be drilling under roads, including this one therefore the road would not be disturbed, which was well received given that the road is in line for an upgrade. The project team explained that we are aware that closing roads in a rural area is going to cause disruption, so we will use existing access routes into a field to build 90% of our access points in order to minimise disruption to local communities.

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

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