

**East Lothian Developers
Construction Traffic Management Meeting
Tuesday, 3 October 2023
10am - 11am**

In attendance:

Gary Donlin (GD), SSE
Ciara Jamieson (CJ), SSE
James Wheeler (JW), SSE
Lesley Murray (LM), EDF
Ashleigh Dickson (AD), EDF
Rosie Scurr (RS), NnG
Steve Ruggi (SR), GridCodePower
Kevin Burns (KB), Fred Olsen

Barry Hughes BH), Eastern Green Link (EGL1)
Andy Black (AB), Belltown Power
Jon Canty (JC), East Lothian Council
Marshall Greenshields (MG), East Lothian Council
Kevan Jamieson (KJ), community rep
Fiona McGibbon (FM), community rep

1. Project updates

Berwick Bank Offshore Wind Farm

GD updated as follows:

Berwick Bank Wind Farm planning process is still ongoing and the Project team expects to be at an East Lothian Council planning committee hearing by the end of this year, this would then give clarity on the current proposals for onshore infrastructure within East Lothian. The Project team expects a decision from the Scottish Government regarding the offshore planning application by early 2024. GD also confirmed that an offshore application for the proposed grid connection at Cambois, Blyth has been submitted, with an onshore application for this area to be submitted by end of October 2023.

Braxton Battery Storage (BESS) - GridCodePower

SR updated as follows:

Planning Application for the Braxton Energy Storage Facility was submitted under the Section 36 application process at the end of 2022 and is still awaiting a decision from the Scottish Government. Given the current expected timeframe for a decision, GridCodePower will be unable to do a detailed transport plan until 2025. Construction of the battery facility is not expected to start before 2027 once necessary planning consent has been obtained.

FM asked what battery storage was required for Berwick Bank windfarm. GD confirmed that there are no battery storage facilities linked to Berwick Bank and that Braxton battery storage facility is a separate proposal by the developer GridCodePower and is not related to Berwick Bank wind farm.

Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) Offshore Wind Farm - EDF

LM updated as follows:

Works to construct a new substation at Crystal Rig II Onshore Wind Farm to connect NnG to the National Grid are close to completion. Works have commenced to reduce and remove materials, welfare and other temporary facilities from the site. This process had been expected to be completed by October.

However, due to additional unexpected works, this process has been delayed, and will be broken into two phases due to seasonal constraints on some activities. The first phase will be completed by December 2023, with a further final phase in spring 2024. We will be writing to residents to let them know this.

Newlands Hill Onshore Wind Farm - Belltown Power

AB updated as follows:

Newlands is looking to submit the planning application within the next few months. Therefore the earliest we are likely to start construction works at Newlands is H2 2026 (approx. 3 yrs from now). This is subject to ECU determination timescales. As the Newlands site is located south of Gifford we don't anticipate construction traffic will directly impact the local road network around Innerwick and Branxton. That said we want to ensure our activities are coordinated with the other East Lothian Developers active at that time.

Crystal Rig IV Onshore Wind Farm – Fred Olsen

KB updated as follows:

CR4-Wind Farm

FOR have held meetings with the council planners and the roads department to review our updated Transport Management Plans (TMP) for the project. A meeting was also held with Chris Bruce from ELCC, and Kevan Jamison from Innerwick, to get some further feedback on the proposed TMP solutions. FOR are now reviewing possible dates in late October to meet with members of the community to discuss our updated TMP and proposed project schedule.

The Crystal Rig 4 wind farm extension (11 consented turbines) is scheduled to have its Final Investment Decision (FID) by the end of the year.

If the project passes through the FID, then the construction phase of the project is scheduled to commence in February or March of 2024.

Crystal Rig Solar

The Crystal Rig solar project (26MW) is still in the development stage. All project surveys are now completed, we are now preparing the EIA. Exhibitions have taken place over the summer which have included Innerwick. Further exhibitions are planned for 21st and 22nd of November 2023, the events will be published locally. The planning application is due to be submitted in Q4 2023.

Eastern Green Link (EGL 1) -EGL1

BH updated as follows:

Preferred suppliers have now been selected for the project with Planning in Principle agreed in May 2023 for the onshore works and cable route. Full contracts are expected to be completed later this year with construction work due to begin next year. A traffic management plan will be developed in line with the proposed construction timeframe.

Torness Power Station – EDF

AD confirmed no update at present

ELC Update

JC said that ELC's Roads Department will continue to work with developers as projects progress and traffic management proposals come onstream. MG noted that the proposed Developer Coordinator role is currently being scoped and will be beneficial in supporting coordination between developers and each of the projects to ensure community impacts are managed in a cohesive and considerate way.

Community Charter Update

KB explained that Fred Olsen has led a draft Developer Commitment/Code of Conduct document to set out principles for developer conduct in the local community. KJ noted that it would be beneficial for the community to have sight of the draft in advance of the Stakeholder Meeting. It was agreed by the group that the agreed draft would be circulated to East Lammermuir Community Council for comment in advance of the in-person Stakeholder Meeting on 25/10/23.

Planning Tracker Update

GD confirmed that following a request from Chris Bruce (CB) at East Lammermuir Community Council, the developer forum should make updating a live planning tracker a priority. The current proposal is for a selected number (approx. 3-5) local representatives have access to an external sharepoint site, which would allow a live document to be viewed that contains details of exactly where Projects are at in the planning, development, construction process. It is also proposed that during each multi-developer meeting, the planning tracker is a regular agenda item to be updated.

Local community – key asks

KJ noted that it is essential for the community to have as much advanced notice of updates and developments with the projects as possible. The community also need more opportunity to comment and input to discussions rather than only listening. There needs to be much better coordination between the developers in East Lammermuir particularly with issues like traffic management. FM agreed with this. KJ has a number of suggestions for traffic management which he will sent to GD and CJ after the meeting (actioned).

AOB

RS suggested outward minutes be shared on ELCC website. CJ to check with Chris Bruce.

An SP Transmission representative to be invited to future meeting on behalf of the Branxton Substation project.

Meeting closed at 11am.