

Yaxley Synchronous Condenser Community Forum Minutes

Date: 5th August 2024
Time: 6.30pm – 8pm
Location: Yaxley Village Hall

Meeting Minutes

Item	Notes	Action
Review of previous meeting	Recap of queries from previous meeting around supply of the landscaping plan, noise assessment report and drainage design. Conrad confirmed that since the last minute there had been quite a few updates within the boundary of the site, but the intention was to circulate the plans and reports with these meeting notes. Flood water run-off Yaxley Parish Council highlighted that there is a problem with an increase of run-off flood water because of the projects. Acknowledged that the airfield is the key contributor and confirmed that he has a meeting with local MP this week to discuss. Stated that Conrad was sensitive to the flooding and retained lots of water over the winter and didn't intentionally discharge it but paid to get the additional water removed from site. Working hours Question if Conrad had requested an extension to working hours. Conrad confirmed that they hadn't.	All updated plans and reports to be circulated.
Project overview	Conrad showed the most recent landscaping plan, pointing out the location of the synchronous condenser (to be installed), the perimeter security fencing (now installed) and the access route. 'Blast wall' query Yaxley Parish Council queried over the purpose of a supposed 'blast wall' located next to the main synchronous condenser building. Conrad confirmed it is designed to serve the purpose of a fire wall. But to protect the transformer (as this is the one that is harder to replace) to the west rather than the synchronous condenser. The	

	building the synchronous condenser is located within has its own safety measures built in. Yaxley Parish Council queried on the capacity of the SUDs pond. Landscaping Yaxley Parish Council queried how the planting around the site will be looked after once in place and construction finished. Conrad confirmed Conrad will launch a tendering process with local contractors for maintenance of plants on site. Conrad explained that additional landscaping within the site boundary to the southwest of the site is intended but requires planning approval. Construction access Question about if the access track to the A140 will be kept once construction is complete. Conrad confirmed that Conrad don't have land rights, so unsure on this now. It would add value to Conrad and NG, so they are looking at keeping it, in case of additional deliveries in the future and improved site access. Noise measuring Thrandeston Parish Council questioned the if noise measurement would take place when the unit was operational. Conrad stated that a noise modelling exercise was carried out previously as part of the application. The planning conditions for the site requires the condenser to 'start up' before operation, to validate the modelling that has previously taken place, to confirm the report is correct, and that there would be no background noise impact to the closest noise receptors.	Conrad to confirm capacity.
Programme	Conrad gave a run through of the programme. Still expecting late 2024 for the end of the ground works phase and the start of the main construction. The civils contractor is due to finish in next few months and demobilise. A long period for equipment deliveries, connecting and HV testing, gearing towards connection to the National Grid substation. Still end of June 2025 for operation.	
Project update visuals and project look ahead	Showed the progress on site and deliveries through pictures and a run through given of activity on site over the next few months.	

	Cable connection to substation Query on the route the cable takes to connect to the National Grid substation. Conrad clarified the route runs from the most westerly equipment location, down the western boundary of the site and across into the National Grid boundary by the access track. Further question over how we connect to all the power sources that the site will synchronise. Conrad confirmed that the site only has a two-way connection to the substation and all sources of energy are fed through the substation.	
Construction principles	Conrad ran through construction principles that are in place throughout construction. Operational site security Query of whether the site will be manned once operational. Conrad confirmed that it would only be remotely monitored by CCTV. Concerns on IT/Cyber security were raised. Conrad informed that they have to align with National Grid's strict cyber security standards and there are protocols in place if something were to go wrong.	
Equipment deliveries	Conrad confirmed an announcement has taken place following approvals from district attorney and relevant highways authorities for the delivery. Taking place from Ipswich Port to the hard-standing land at Yaxley for transfer to another vehicle to then be taken to site. The synchronous condenser delivery is to take place on Sunday 11th August, the HV Transformer delivery to take place on Sunday 18th August. A rolling blockade will be in place, operated by Suffolk Constabulary. Additional information provided on the weight of delivery, route travelled and closures / restrictions. Expected to start at 6am each day.	Further information to be provided via the Suffolk Constabulary notice on the website.
Community fund	Conrad confirmed that some local initiatives have been supported and are intending to visit them over the coming months to get an update. At the next meeting Conrad will be able to confirm what has been supported.	
AOB	Leys Lane access Concerns raised about construction and delivery vehicles accessing the site not via the permitted access route from the A140 but instead via Leys Lane. Conrad acknowledged that there are more deliveries due to mechanical and electrical works having started. All deliveries and workers are	Conrad to look into placing an additional signage for help inform correct access routes.

	briefed and issued briefing packs with information on how to access the site. Unfortunately, some of these drivers don't follow this for various reasons (such as drivers from abroad not understanding signage). Conrad confirmed that an additional sign is being placed at the junction of the A140 and exploring additional signage being placed to ensure correct route it being followed. Next meeting Next community forum planned for October once civil works are completed, aiming to host this on site.	
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