

Meeting 2

05 05 2026 | 6:30 – 8:30

Summary	
Project Team Attendees	Parishes with representatives in attendance
Kelly Wyness Barbara Campbell Andy Gregory Catherine Taggart Simon Gill (Chairperson) Connie Borthwick Addie Hammond Kayleigh O'Brien	Arkengarthdale Parish Council Barningham Parish Meeting Bowes Parish Council Dalton Parish Meeting Gayles Parish Meeting Marrick Parish Council Marske and New Forest Parish Council Newsham Parish Council Reeth, Fremington and Healaugh Parish Council Rokeby, Brignall & Egglestone Abbey Parish Council Wycliffe with Thorpe Parish Council Hope and Scargill
Agenda	
Meeting aim: To share our upcoming launch of consultation with parishes and discuss how we will be engaging with communities. Welcome from Simon Gill Housekeeping – Respectful conduct of participants and fire safety Terms of Reference Stage One consultation overview and how to take part Next steps Q&A and AOB	
Action items	

Minutes and slides to be issued following the meeting. These should be issued within a week wherever possible to ensure representatives are able to feedback.

Review wording of the Terms of Reference to ensure parishes are not obliged to share concerns and feedback answers to communities.

Check list of parish emails to ensure all primary and secondary parish representatives emails are correct. Several members shared that they did not receive the meeting agenda or terms of reference, although it was acknowledged that these could have been sent to the clerk and not passed on.

Consider locations for where project posters could be left to extend project reach. This could include auction markets and bookshops.

Consider additional in-person information event at the end of consultation. Monitor any delayed/incomplete responses/engagement with consultation as a result of the Reeth Medical Centre Closure campaign.

Update the project website with the link to PINS' website and the Scoping Report once available.

Circulate dates for the next Community Liaison Group Meeting as soon as possible.

Discussion notes		
Item number	Discussion notes	Action items
1	Purpose of meeting To share the upcoming launch of consultation and plans for engaging with communities. Sharing more information on the early proposals.	No Action
2	Introductions and housekeeping Welcome and introductions of team members. Chair asked that questions be taken via raised hands; asked representatives to say which parish they are from when they ask questions. Summary of guidelines for meeting The team will share minutes after the meeting and provide slides alongside them.	Hope Moor project team will share minutes and slides with agendas within one week of the meeting where possible. As transparency with the local community came up a lot in the CLG meeting, we think it would also be appropriate to publish these minutes on the Hope Moor project website.

3	Terms of Reference Shared an overview of the Terms of Reference and asked for parish views on this.	Action to share draft minutes sooner after meetings so discussion is fresh in minds. Action to check the emails of representatives are correct as some members said they did not receive the meeting agenda or the Terms of Reference. It was however noted that these may have been sent to clerks in place of the representatives. Action to review the language regarding an obligation that parishes communicate project updates to their communities. Note that the role of the CLG representatives is constantly evolving and the CLG meetings are a chance for us to have conversations with parishes on the level of involvement and representation on behalf of local members of the community they are comfortable with. Action to review the 4-week period allocated for parishes to review and respond to the CLG minutes published. This is in response to feedback raised that due to parish council/meetings' sometimes irregular meetings that they do not have enough time to collectively review and respond to the minutes as a group.
4	Purpose of this CLG meeting - Introduction to our Stage one consultation Fred. Olsen outlined that the purpose of the CLG meeting was to prepare parishes for the launch of the first stage of Hope Moor's consultation. The consultation will run from Wednesday 6 May until Wednesday 30 June 2026. Fred. Olsen set out what will be included in the consultation, the consultation materials that	Reeth Medical Centre is closing and there is a campaign operating to keep this open. If we receive any responses from members of the public that they have not had enough time to respond to the consultation due to the campaign we will respond to these on an ad-hoc basis and consider extending the consultation period.

	have been produced, how the consultation will be advertised, how feedback can be submitted, the details of the public events, and the role parishes are asked to play in supporting the first stage of consultation.	
5	Consultation Objectives It was explained that this first stage of consultation represents the community's first formal opportunity to engage with the proposals for Hope Moor Wind Farm. It was also noted that public consultation is a separate and distinct process to Scoping, which is ongoing. The objectives of the first stage of consultation were outlined: to clarify and build awareness of the proposals; to strengthen relationships with local communities and elected representatives; to provide a defined period for communities to comment on and provide feedback on the proposals; to identify local concerns and priorities; and to gather feedback to inform the ongoing development of the proposals ahead of a second stage of consultation.	
6	Current anticipated timeline The anticipated project timeline was shared, setting out the period during which initial work on the project proposals began, the start of the first stage of consultation and submission of the Scoping request, the proposed dates for the second stage of consultation, and the expected dates for DCO submission, examination recommendation, and decision.	For more information on the NSIP process please see PINS' explanation here.
7	What we are consulting on It was explained that this initial stage of consultation provides an opportunity to present emerging proposals and initial plans for the site.	

	This includes sharing information on potential turbine locations, site access and turbine transportation routes, initial land surveys and findings to date, identified environmental and technical constraints, and early ideas for mitigation and enhancement measures. This stage of consultation also provides an opportunity to gather local community views on the potential use of community benefits, as well as initial proposals for how Hope Moor could benefit the local area through the provision of local jobs, training opportunities, and skills development.	
8	Consultation materials It was explained that all consultation materials for the first stage of consultation will be available on the project website from 12:00pm the following day, as well as in printed form at consultation events. It was also confirmed that copies will be provided by post for individuals unable to access the internet or attend events in person, and that copies were available for distribution at the meeting. The key materials to be made available at this stage of consultation were outlined, including the project brochure, feedback form, maildrop leaflet, maps, and event materials.	Action taken to share materials with Barningham Parish Meeting as they have a meeting a week from the date of the CLG.
9	Primary Consultation Zone and Project Boundary A map of the Primary Consultation Zone identified for the first stage of consultation was shared. The zone includes the parishes identified as being in closest proximity to the proposals and which will receive a maildrop to ensure awareness of the proposals and the launch of the first stage of consultation.	

	The map also showed the red-line boundary of the consultation area and the Scoping boundary.	
10	Consultation advertising Plans to advertise the consultation widely were outlined, using a range of platforms to ensure communities are aware of the consultation and understand how to take part. The proposed advertising approach includes direct mail, social media, posters issued to elected representatives for display on local noticeboards, the project website, press releases and wider media engagement including local radio, coverage through local news outlets and print media, traditional in-press newspaper advertisements, and consultation-specific signage such as wobble boards.	Action to consider placing consultation posters in auction markets to ensure they reach members of the farming community.
11	Public events Details of the planned in-person information events for the first stage of consultation were shared, along with details of the online webinar that will be held. The information provided included the times, dates, and locations of the events. Events will take place at Newsham Village Hall, The Witham in Barnard Castle, Reeth Memorial Hall, Bowes and Gilmonby Village Hall, Barningham Village Hall, and The Station in Richmond.	Action to consider a possible additional event towards the end of the consultation period. Although the events are planned towards the start of consultation so that members of the public can attend, ask questions about our proposals and then submit feedback. FORL will keep a further event under review depending on feedback received.
12	How to submit feedback The process for providing feedback on the proposals was outlined. This includes submitting the feedback form via the project website and returning it by Freepost, submitting written feedback by post to the Freepost address, providing written	

	responses by email, and completing hard-copy feedback forms available at in-person events. Parish representatives were asked to take an active role in supporting local attendance and engagement with the consultation. This included directing local residents to consultation materials and feedback channels, encouraging attendance at in-person information events, submitting feedback on behalf of the parish, and distributing posters locally.	
13	Next steps We shared with attendees that at the end of the consultation period we will prepare a short update summarising the feedback received during consultation, with an overview of the key themes. At the second stage of consultation, we will publish a more detailed summary of the issues, themes and suggestions raised at stage one consultation with an outline of how this feedback has influenced the project's development. This document will include our responses to key points raised, as well as an explainer of any changes made as a result of the first stage of consultation, and will be published on our website. A second stage of consultation is expected to launch either late this year or in early 2027. This second stage of consultation will see us present our refined proposals which developed as a result of feedback submitted during stage one consultation, as well as the results of ongoing technical and environmental surveys.	
14	Q&A and AOB	
a	Scoping Boundary/Primary Consultation Zone Map	

	A few parish representatives asked about the Scoping Boundary on the Primary Consultation Zone Map and asked why it was the size and shape it was. There were also questions on why Barnard Castle was not included in the Primary Consultation Zone Map. Response In response, it was explained that the rectangular area extending from the north-east of the Scoping boundary represents the current area proposed for access into the site. This allows for an area and subsequent route to be identified to enable the transport of materials and turbine components to the site. In response to the inclusion of Barnard Castle within the Primary Consultation Zone map, it was clarified that the Consultation Zone comprises parishes and towns in closest proximity to the proposed project site. Other local villages, towns, and parishes will be informed of the consultation through alternative means, including newspaper advertisements, locally distributed posters, social media advertising, and communication via elected representatives.
b	Distribution of the in-person information events within the consultation period A parish representative asked why the in-person events are largely scheduled at the start of the consultation period, in May, while the consultation does not close until 30 June. Response It was explained that the events are scheduled at the start of the consultation period to provide opportunities for attendees to take part in events, ask questions, review consultation materials, and subsequently submit informed feedback.
c	Are the consultation period and public feedback the same A parish representative asked if the consultation period and public feedback period are the same. Response It was confirmed that the consultation period and the public feedback period are the same. All feedback submitted during the consultation period, which closes on 30 June, will be considered. It was also noted that public consultation is a separate process to Scoping, which is ongoing.
d	How many team members will be at the events A member asked how many team members will be at the events representing the developer. Response The team will be well represented at each event, with members from different disciplines present to answer any questions.

e	Document Requests A request was made for consultation documents to be sent to members of Barningham Parish Meeting ahead of the Parish Meeting's gathering a week from the date of the CLG. Response It was confirmed that hard-copy consultation materials can be provided to individuals at any point during the consultation period where required, and that an address was requested to enable the materials to be sent.
f	Funding of legal representation to oppose Hope Moor A parish council representative asked if Fred. Olsen would consider funding legal representation during examination. They also questioned how funding members of the local community that oppose the project is different to projects that compensate landowners for disruption/access to their land. The member also asked if Fred. Olsen would consider releasing funds from the Community Fund to cover legal expenses. Response It was explained that, based on experience, developers do not fund legal representation unless there is a legal entitlement to representation, such as where an individual is a landowner whose land is being accessed or disrupted. It was also noted that communities may raise objections through their local authority, which will have access to legal representation. Community Benefits would also not be available until the project is operational, so would not be suitable for this.
g	Why is the grid connection not included in this consultation A member of the HMCLG asked why the grid connection process is not being included as part of this consultation. Response It was explained that recent changes to grid connection processes across the UK mean that grid connection points will not be confirmed until later in the development timeline. As a result, grid connection will not be addressed through the Hope Moor DCO application and will instead be considered separately.

h	When will the Scoping Report be submitted and uploaded to the project website A representative asked when the Scoping Report will be submitted and uploaded to the project website. Response It was explained that confirmation is still awaited from the Planning Inspectorate regarding the timing of the Scoping Report submission, as the Inception Meeting - at which the Planning Inspectorate will authorise the request for Scoping - has not yet taken place. Once published, a link to the Scoping Report on the Planning Inspectorate's website will be uploaded to the project website.
i	Who decides which stakeholders are consulted by PINS? A representative asked who is the responsible person for deciding who is consulted by PINS during the Scoping Process. Response It was confirmed that this is a process managed by PINS
j	[Relating to a previous request for a copy of the ZTV to be shared] When will the Zone of Theoretical Visibility be shared? A member of the HMCLG asked when the Zone of Theoretical Visibility map will be shared. Response The Zone of Theoretical Visibility assessment has been completed based on the current scoping layout. The proposed approach is set out in the Scoping Report, which can be shared with parish councils once it is published. It was also noted that a full ZTV assessment will be part of the Landscape and Visual Assessment (LVIA) which is undertaken as part of the wider Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process once the approach is agreed. A full landscape and visual assessment will be included as part of the EIA.
k	Have we decided where the turbines will go? A representative asked if it has been decided where the turbines will go. Response It was confirmed that turbine locations have not yet been finalised. At this early stage, proposed locations are being shared based on the findings of initial environmental and technical assessments. These proposed locations are included in the consultation materials, and the process involves sharing the proposed turbine locations with the Planning Inspectorate and relevant consultees to agree an appropriate approach.

l	Where will the electricity generated by the wind farm go? A representative asked where the electricity generated by Hope Moor will connect to the grid. Response It was explained that NESO is responsible for facilitating grid connections. An application for a grid connection will be submitted once the application process opens; however, the timing of this is not yet confirmed. It was also noted that Hope Moor Wind Farm has the potential to be fast-tracked to a Gate 2 connection point.
m	How does grid connection work? A parish council representative asked how the grid connection process works. Response It was explained that, to facilitate a grid connection, an application must be made to NESO setting out the project proposals, following which NESO will advise on the required connection point. It is expected that the grid route would be promoted by the relevant network operator.
o	What technical information will be available to look at? A parish council representative asked what technical information will be available to look at. This included hydrology, geology and other technical data. Response It was explained that technical information will be shared at the second stage of consultation. A Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), or equivalent information, will be published, setting out the environmental scope of the project as refined following the first stage of consultation. In advance of this, the Scoping Report will set out the environmental topics and assessments to be considered as part of the project.
p	Why have such large turbines been chosen? A member of the HMCLG asked why turbines that are 200m in height have been chosen for Hope Moor Wind Farm. Response It was explained that turbines of up to 200 metres in height are standard in the latest wind technology. Larger turbines are more efficient at generating energy, and, as taller turbines have become the industry standard, many turbine manufacturers no longer offer smaller turbine models.

q	What has changed with Hope Moor's site compared to the previously rejected windfarm application in the 1990s? The Section 35 Direction has meant it has been taken out of the hands of local authorities and been aligned with national policy targets. A parish council representative asked what has changed with Hope Moor's proposed site that now makes it suitable for a windfarm and likely to be consented. Response It was explained that the current drive to increase energy security in England and to meet net-zero objectives has established a need for additional onshore wind development. It was also noted that a Section 35 Direction was sought to provide clarity on the consenting regime to be followed and, as prescribed consultees, that local authorities will have equal standing within the process.
r	What are we doing to engage with national parks? A member of the HMCLG asked what we are doing to engage with national parks. Response It was confirmed that meetings have already taken place with representatives from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and the North Pennines National Landscape, and that engagement with these organisations will continue throughout the consultation period.
s	How did we propose the Scoping Boundary? A parish council representative asked how we came up with the Scoping Boundary. Response It was explained that environmental and technical constraints surrounding the project boundary are used to define a zone that captures relevant constraints in proximity to the project. As a result, the boundary does not form a perfect circle, as it is shaped in accordance with natural boundaries.
t	Are we following government guidance on consultation? A member of the HMCLG asked if we are following government guidance on consultation. Response It was explained that the consultation is being undertaken in accordance with government guidance and will include two stages of public consultation, in line with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008. It was also noted that, while the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 has introduced changes to the consultation process, including

	the removal of statutory consultation, consultation will continue to be undertaken and will adhere to the Gunning Principles.
u	How many residents live withing the Scoping boundary? A parish council representative asked how many residential properties are within the Scoping boundary. Response It was confirmed that there are no residential properties located within the Scoping boundary.
v	Will maintenance facilities for the wind turbines be included in the Scoping boundary? A parish council representative asked if maintenance facilities will be included within the Scoping boundary. Response Maintenance facilities will be included within the Scoping boundary.
w	What is the elongated area that juts out at the north east of the Scoping boundary? A member of the HMCLG asked what the 'stick' area at the top of the Scoping boundary is. Response The rectangular area at the top of the Scoping boundary is the area that is being considered for construction access to the main site.
x	Could a second CLG meeting be proposed for later in the consultation period once they have read the materials? A parish council representative asked if a meeting could be scheduled later in the consultation, once the communities have received information on the project Response It was explained that this approach can be considered. It was also noted that the in-person information events will provide an opportunity for HMCLG representatives and members of the public to meet and ask questions. HMCLG meetings will continue to be held as appropriate, and community members and parish representatives may also contact the project via the project hotline or email with any questions.
y	Impact of the A66 Upgrade

	Several parish council representatives shared their concern about the cumulative impact of both the A66 Upgrade and Hope Moor Wind Farm. Response It was confirmed that the project's impacts, including traffic, workforce accommodation, and local disruption, will be considered as part of a detailed cumulative effects assessment to be undertaken within the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.
z	Common Land Questions were raised about the project site for Hope Moor Wind Farm being on an area of Common Land. This included questions on whether Common Land would need deregistration and whether we had engaged with landowners. Open access to the site will also be maintained during the operational phase of the project. Response It was confirmed that engagement has already taken place with landowners and that engagement will continue as the project progresses.