



CLEVE HILL SOLAR PARK

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

VOLUME 1 - CHAPTERS

CHAPTER 3 - CONSULTATION

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Revision A

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SOLAR PARK

3 CONSULTATION

3.1 Introduction

1. This chapter of the ES provides a summary of the approach taken to consultation and how consultation has influenced the EIA carried out in relation to the Development.
2. Further detail on the consultation undertaken for the Development is provided in the Consultation Report (DCO Document Reference 5.1), which accompanies the Application. That document sets out the consultation activities undertaken, the responses received and explains where the comments have been addressed in the Application. This chapter should be read in conjunction with that Consultation Report.
3. As set out in the Consultation Report, from August 2015 and throughout the pre-application phase to the time of writing, the Applicant has engaged with the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), the local community and a range of statutory and non-statutory consultees and stakeholders.
4. This chapter is supported by the following technical appendices provided in ES Volume 4:
 - Technical Appendix A3.1 EIA Scoping Report;
 - Technical Appendix A3.2 EIA Scoping Opinion; and
 - Technical Appendix A3.3 Other Comments on EIA Scoping Report.

3.1.1 Consultation Activities

5. The main consultation activities that have been undertaken and have informed this ES include:
 - Meetings with a wide range of statutory consultees and stakeholders;
 - Feedback on the Statement of Community Consultation;
 - EIA Scoping;
 - Public exhibitions;
 - Section 42 consultation on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR); and
 - A series of meetings with the nearest neighbours to the Development.
6. Consultation responses received have been taken into account and are referenced throughout the technical chapters of this ES. The Development design has also evolved to take into account the responses received and has resulted in mitigation being “embedded” into the design. The design process is iterative and will continue to evolve in response to consultation after the point of submission of the Application.
7. The following sections summarise the main consultation activities which been undertaken in relation to the Development.

3.2 Statement of Community Consultation

8. The Applicant consulted with the relevant Local Planning Authorities under Section 43(1) of the Planning Act 2008. Responses received were incorporated into the final Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).
9. As part of the consultation process, the Applicant is engaged with the local community in order to inform local people about the project, to explain the Development and its likely environmental effects and to take on board any concerns or issues raised. The

way the Applicant has engaged with the local community is set out in the SoCC for the Development¹.

10. Whilst not formally part of the EIA, much of the consultation set out in the SoCC relates to environmental information and the EIA process, and the responses received to the consultation set out in the SoCC have informed the EIA.

3.3 EIA Scoping

11. Detail on the outcomes of the EIA scoping process undertaken in December 2017 and January 2018 is provided in Chapter 2: Environmental Impact Assessment. A copy of the EIA Scoping Opinion and additional scoping comments are provided in Technical Appendices A3.1 and A3.2 respectively.
12. The key points raised in response to EIA scoping have been summarised in the consultation section at the start of each technical chapter of the ES.
13. In addition to the comments received from PINS, the following organisations also provided consultation responses relating to the scope of the EIA:
- Environment Agency;
 - Highways England;
 - Historic England;
 - Natural England;
 - Royal Society for the Protection of Birds;
 - Kent County Council;
 - Swale Borough Council;
 - Canterbury City Council;
 - Maritime and Coastguard Agency;
 - National Grid Electricity Transmission;
 - Public Health England;
 - Southern Water; and
 - Graveney with Goodnestone Parish Council.

3.4 Public Exhibitions

14. A series of public exhibitions were carried out in December 2017, following the submission of the EIA Scoping Report.
15. The occupants of approximately 12,000 properties across the core consultation zone outlined in the SoCC were invited to the public exhibitions. The events were also publicised across a range of portals including television, radio, online and traditional news outlets and using posters.
16. The details of the public exhibition events held in December 2017 are provided in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1 Summary of Public Exhibitions December 2017

Date and Time	Location
5 th December 2017 5pm to 8pm	Sheppey Evangelical Church, Warden Bay Road, Leysdown, ME12 4NA
6 th December 2017 11.30am to 7.30pm	Faversham Assembly Rooms, 66 Preston Street, Faversham, ME13 8PG
7 th December 2017 1.30pm to 8pm	Graveney Village Hall, Graveney, Faversham, ME13 9DN

¹ Available online at: <https://www.clevehillsolar.com/> [accessed on 15/08/2018]

Date and Time	Location
8 th December 2017 12.30pm to 4.30pm	Seasalter Christian Centre, Faversham Road, Whitstable, CT5 4AX

19. 494 people attended the public exhibitions across the 4 days and 364 feedback responses were received.
20. Feedback received during and after the public exhibitions was collated and summarised in an update newsletter entitled the "*Phase One: Community Project Update*" dated January 2018, which was circulated to the properties in the core consultation area and made available online².
21. The feedback received informed the ongoing Development design process between late January and May 2018.
22. The details of the public exhibition events held in June 2018 are provided in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2 Summary of Public Exhibitions June 2018

Date and Time	Location
13 th June 2018 4.30pm – 7.30pm	Ferry House Inn, Harty Ferry Road, Harty, ME12 4BQ
14 th June 2018 1.30pm – 8pm	Graveney Village Hall, Graveney, Faversham ME13 9DN
15 th June 2018 11am – 4pm	Seasalter Christian Centre, Seasalter, Faversham Road, Whitstable, CT5 4AX
16 th June 2018 11am – 5.30pm	Faversham Guildhall, 8 Market Place, Faversham, ME13 7AG

25. Over 400 people attended the public exhibitions across the 4 days and over 700 feedback responses were received.
26. Feedback received during and after the public exhibitions was collated and summarised in an update newsletter entitled the "*Phase Two: Community Project Update*" dated August 2018, which was circulated to the properties in the core consultation area and made available online³.
27. The feedback received informed the ongoing Development design process between June and October 2018.

3.5 Near Neighbour Meetings

28. A series of meetings has been undertaken with the owners or occupiers of the closest residential properties to the Development. Feedback received at these meetings has been considered in the Development design.
29. These meetings and the feedback provided are reported in the Consultation Report.

3.6 Meetings with consultees

30. A series of meetings has been undertaken with a range of statutory and non-statutory consultees and stakeholders with an interest in the Development site. Feedback received at these meetings has been considered in the Development design.
31. Where relevant, the meetings are referred to in the relevant technical chapters of this ES.
32. These meetings are also reported in the Consultation Report.

² Available online at: <https://www.clevehillsolar.com/> [accessed on 20/10/2018]

³ Available online at: <https://www.clevehillsolar.com/> [accessed on 20/10/2018]

3.7 Section 42 and 47 Consultation - Preliminary Environmental Information

33. In May 2018, the PEIR⁴ was published, prior to a period of consultation in June and early July required under Section 42 and Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008. In addition, the public were consulted again at this time, in accordance with the Statement of Community Consultation issued in October 2017 in response to Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008. The PEIR was produced in the form of a draft ES, in order to allow consultees to provide detailed responses.
34. Where Section 42 responses made requests, comments or advice regarding the EIA, these are summarised at the start of each technical chapter of the ES.

⁴ Available online at: <https://www.clevehillsolar.com/> [accessed on 20/10/2018]