

Stonestreet Green Solar

Consultation Report Appendix A: 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation Appendices A-1 to A-5

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APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)
Planning Act 2008

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009



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Stonestreet Green Solar

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Appendix A-1: Press Release

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Consultation launched over Stonestreet Green Solar project planned for farmland near Ashford

[Read all comments | 21](#)

Rhys Griffiths (/authors/rhys-griffiths) rgriffiths@thekmgroup.co.uk
(<mailto:rgriffiths@thekmgroup.co.uk>)

15:15, 28 March 2022 | **Updated:** 15:36, 28 March 2022

[f](#) | [t](#) | [in](#) |

Listen to this article



A month-long consultation has been launched over plans for a huge solar farm which would stretch across swathes of countryside.

Evolution Power has said its Stonestreet Green Solar project, which would cover about 400 acres of farmland near **Ashford** ([Redacted]) could "act as a buffer to future housing development" in the area.



The Save Aldington campaign group is fighting plans for huge solar farms on land near Aldington

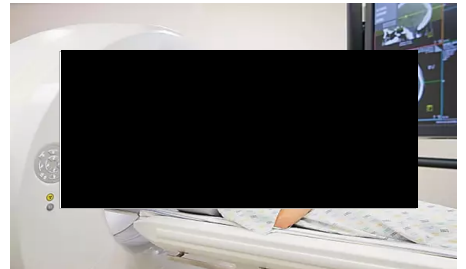
The solar array would consist of photovoltaic panels and battery storage – and would cover an area close to Aldington **roughly the size of around 250 football pitches**

[Redacted text block]

Proposals for multiple solar facilities have led **villagers concerned about plans for a total of 650 acres of panels** ([Redacted text])

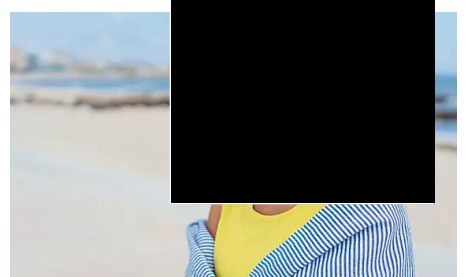
[Redacted text] around Aldington to form a campaign group.

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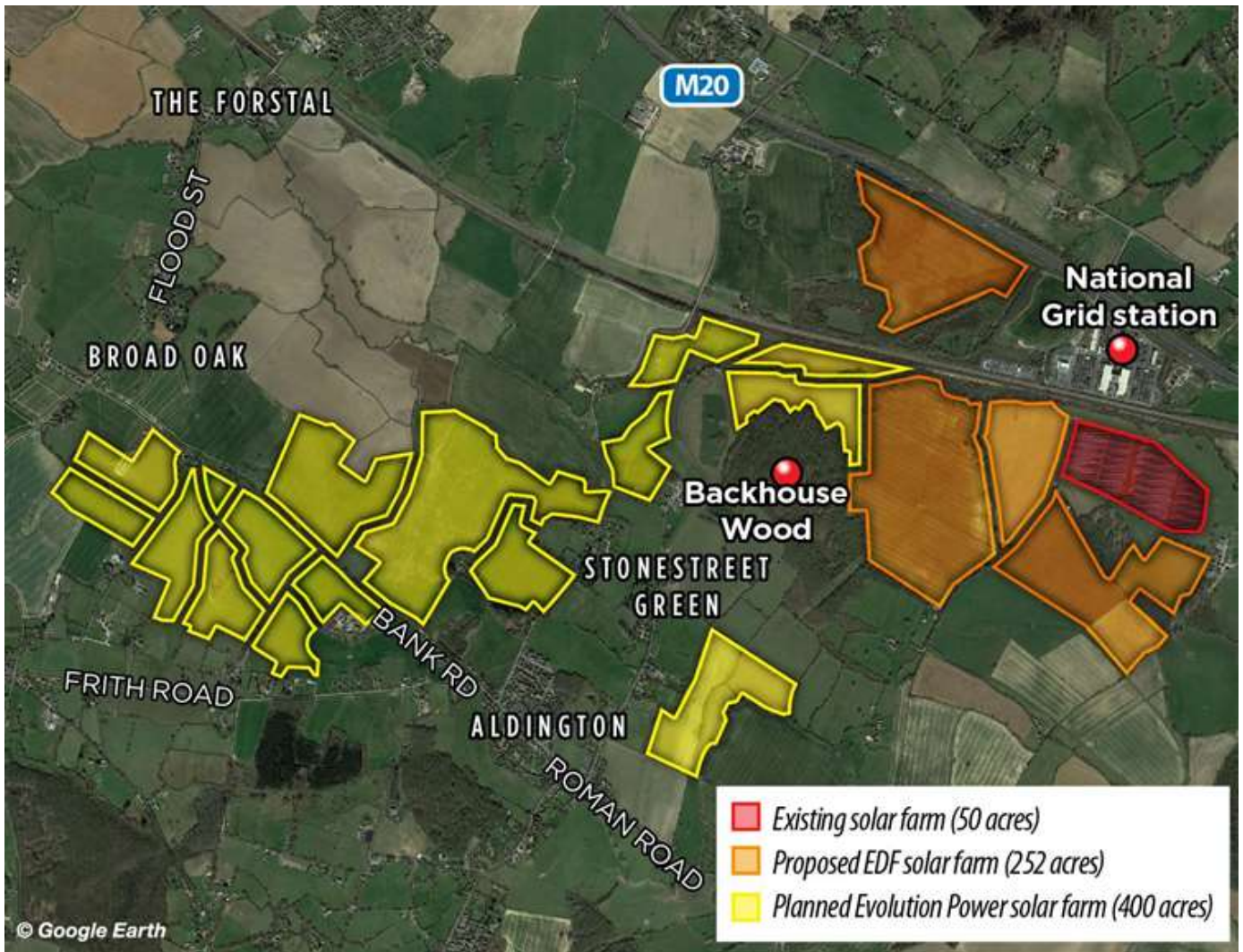


Reader's Digest Equity Release | ...

Evolution Power has now announced it will be carrying out "a non-statutory consultation" until Friday, April 29 to see [views on its vision for the project](#) | [REDACTED]

Giles Frampton, a director at the firm, said: "If approved, Stonestreet Green Solar would make a significant contribution to the UK's renewable energy generating capacity, saving around 37,000 tonnes of CO2 each year.

"The project would generate subsidy-free electricity, without public financial support and, as solar is the cheapest form of electricity generation worldwide, it would also help to reduce national power prices and provide security to the UK's energy supply, reducing our reliance on energy imports and fossil fuels."



Power would be fed into the national network via a connection at the nearby Sellindge electrical substation.

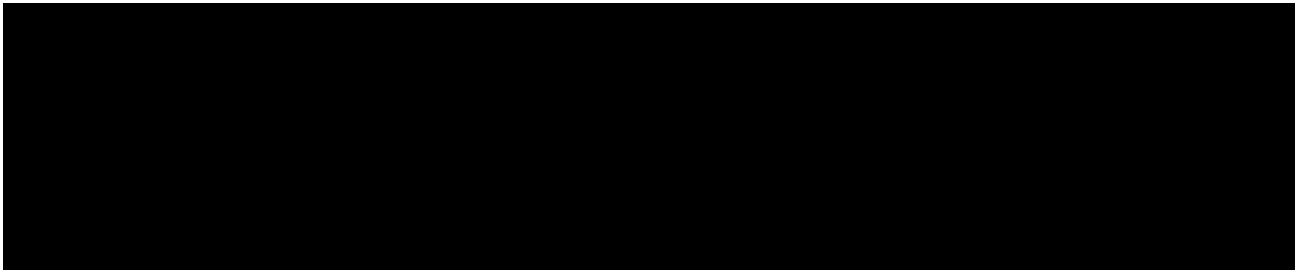
Evolution Power says it could generate enough renewable energy to power about 48,000 homes, while EDF Renewables' proposed East Stour Solar Farm could power 17,000.

In response to the two planned developments, villagers have formed a Save Aldington action group to coordinate their response to the massive schemes.



Save Aldington spokesman Derek Burles said: "This is not a campaign to oppose the development of solar farms in Aldington, but is intended to ensure that such developments do not overwhelm the village and the East Stour Valley, which they stand to do based on the current plans and proposals."

The information events as part of the consultation will be held at: Sellindge Village Hall on April 8 between 3pm and 7pm; Aldington Village Hall on April 9 between 11am and 3pm; Bilsington Village Hall on April 12 between 1pm and 5pm; Mersham Sports Club on April 13 between 2pm and 6pm.



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Appendix A-2: 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation Materials



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Appendix A-2: 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation Materials

1. Community Information Leaflet



STONESTREET GREEN SOLAR

Non-statutory Consultation
Community Information Leaflet
March 2022



www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk



Introducing the proposal

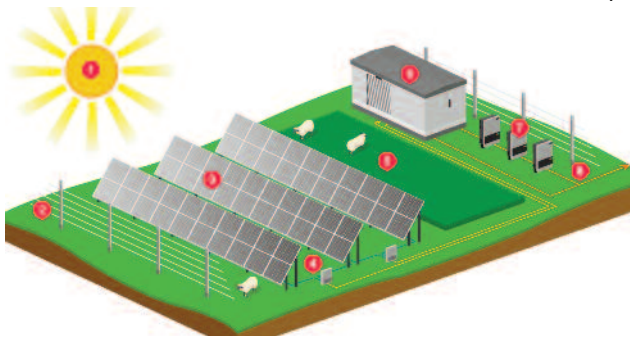
Evolution Power is intending to develop a renewable energy generating project, together with on-site energy storage, associated infrastructure and an underground cable connection, on land at Aldington near Ashford in Kent. Known as Stonestreet Green Solar, the project will generate renewable energy through solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, providing clean power to UK businesses, infrastructure and homes.

The project will have an export capacity of up to 99.9MW, which is enough renewable energy to power approximately 48,000 homes

and saving approximately 37,000 tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere each year. The project has secured nearby grid connection access at Sellindge.

The energy storage facility will be able to store electricity to maximise the output of the solar project and allow it to export at times of peak energy demand to ensure the solar output provides a stable and reliable addition to the UK energy supply.

The project will produce low carbon, affordable, unsubsidised renewable electricity and therefore help reduce the UK's dependence on fossil fuels and the associated carbon impact.



Typical solar project components

- 1 Solar Energy
- 2 Fencing
- 3 Solar panels
- 4 Inverter (DC to AC converter)
- 5 Landscape Area
- 6 Substation
- 7 Energy Storage
- 8 Underground Cable

About Evolution Power

Stonestreet Green Solar is being promoted by Evolution Power, a UK based independent solar developer with the aim of developing affordable and sustainable renewable energy projects to help the UK meet its legally binding 2050 net zero emissions target.

Evolution Power's team has extensive experience of successfully delivering solar projects having developed and financed more than 50 previous solar projects, including four of the largest sites developed in the UK to date.

For more information on Evolution Power visit: www.evolutionpower.co.uk



The ambition

Our ambition is to deliver a scheme that helps to address national and local electricity needs by generating an affordable and renewable source of clean energy.

The UK was the first country in the world to declare a Climate Emergency in May 2019 and has set a legally binding target of Net Zero emissions by 2050 (relative to 1990 levels). The Conservative Government announced in October 2021 a commitment to decarbonise the electricity grid by 2035, thereby accelerating the transition from fossil fuels.

A massive investment in renewable energy, including solar, will be required to provide the UK's power in the very near future. As the share of renewable energy increases, the UK also needs to be able to generate and store energy for use at peak times. Co-locating energy storage with the solar generation will allow energy produced to be stored and discharged when required, helping to balance supply and demand.

The proposed Stonestreet Green Solar project is a pioneering scheme which will help the UK to meet its legally binding emissions targets. The project will provide renewable energy without government subsidies, whilst helping to keep electricity bills down for households and provide energy security.

Our vision for the scheme

To develop an essential piece of infrastructure to help fight climate change, while maintaining the vast majority of the land for on-going agricultural use.

To generate subsidy-free electricity, without public financial support. As the lowest cost generation type it should also help reduce national power prices.

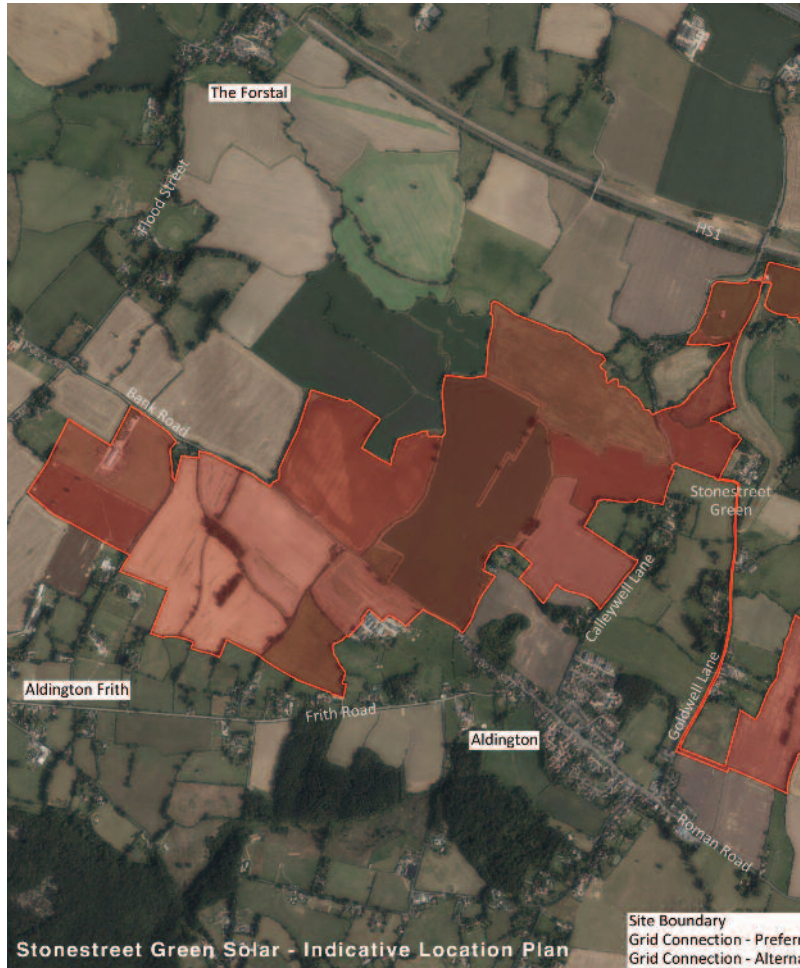
Potential to provide low carbon electricity directly to local large energy users.

Opportunity to provide an inflation linked community benefit fund for the lifetime of the project to be used locally for social and environmental projects.

Public access to the land will remain, and in places will be enhanced.

Net gain in biodiversity, which means that the biodiversity will be in a better state overall than before the project began (see further details on page 6).

Provides a buffer to encroaching housing estates, safeguarding the integrity and identity of Aldington village.



Why this site?

In this era of climate emergency there is a pressing need for new renewable energy sources that can reduce the UK's dependence on fossil fuels. However, solar projects cannot be situated anywhere. There are a number of criteria that need to be met for a site to be appropriate for development.

The Stonestreet Green Solar site has been selected as it meets all the key criteria for a development such as this:

1. Access to a nearby grid connection at Sellindge that has available capacity for a project of this size.
2. High levels of sunlight (irradiation) given its South-East location means that the land required for the same output is less than it would be in other parts of the country.
3. No statutory landscape, heritage or ecological designations on the site. No significant cultural designations.



4. Topography and existing hedgerows will help to minimise the visual impact of the project from Aldington and other viewpoints.

5. Adjacent to pre-existing infrastructure including HS1, the M20, the Sellindge electrical substation and overhead lines.

6. Proximity to local large energy users provides the opportunity for a direct connection to provide renewable power locally.

7. Predominately lower grade agricultural land. Removal of this land from intensive farming use will reduce nitrate impact on the East Stour River and surrounding waterways.

8. Good access, being located close to the M20/A20.



Ecology and landscape

During the lifetime of the project, the biodiversity will be significantly increased and the soil condition will be improved. Public access to the land will remain and/or be enhanced and the lack of farming on the site will encourage new flora and fauna to flourish, while it continues to be grazed by sheep.

A biodiversity scheme will be prepared to ensure that the project contributes to landscape and ecological improvements and provides a biodiversity net gain.



This will include protecting existing habitats and creating new habitats to benefit local wildlife, protecting and enhancing existing hedgerows, installing bird and bat boxes on the site and sowing wildflower meadows.

Evolution Power will be preparing reports to assess any visual impact from the project and will develop a mitigation strategy, to include the planting of new hedgerows and trees, to minimise visual impacts where reasonably possible.

Planning process

As the proposed generating capacity of the project exceeds 50 megawatts (MW), Stonestreet Green Solar is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). Our project must therefore apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) through the Planning Act 2008 process. Consent for the ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays, on-site energy storage, associated infrastructure and an underground connection to the existing National Grid Substation at Sellindge will be included in the DCO if granted.

The DCO application will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), the agency responsible for managing the examination process for NSIPs. If accepted, the application will be examined by an independent Examining Authority at PINS who will review the application and may ask written questions and hold hearings during the examination. The Examining Authority will then prepare a detailed report and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State (SoS) for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The SoS will then make a decision on whether to grant a DCO for the project.

The DCO process will ensure a robust examination of the application and allow interested persons to participate in the examination to have their say on the project.

Indicative Pre-Application Timeline

March to April 2022: Non-Statutory Consultation

April 2022: Local Information Events

Summer 2022: Statutory Consultation

Autumn 2022: Finalise Environmental Statement and DCO application

Winter 2022: DCO application submission



Public consultation

Evolution Power's ambition is to develop innovative renewable energy projects in the 'right' way. Our aim is to work with local communities, maximising opportunities for community participation, creating employment opportunities and providing meaningful community benefits.

Throughout the pre-application stage, we will be consulting the local community about the Stonestreet Green Solar project. We are currently intending to carry out non-statutory consultation in March/April 2022 and then statutory consultation in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 in summer 2022. Details of our consultation are provided in our Statement of Community Consultation, which is available on our website (www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk - Consultation page). We will carefully consider all consultation feedback and provide details of that feedback and how it helped to shape our proposals in a consultation report that will be submitted with our DCO application.

Consultation events

We are planning to hold two rounds of local information events at locations across our consultation area to provide interested members of the local community with the opportunity to view the proposals and submit feedback to help shape the proposals for Stonestreet Green Solar. These events will be a direct opportunity for you to view our plans and discuss them with members of the project team.

Our first round of events will be held in April and will be an opportunity to view our proposals and provide your views. We would encourage anyone with an interest in the project to come along.

At the events you will be able to find out more detail about the site layout, screening and landscaping, transport and traffic, construction and operation, biodiversity net gains, and community benefits.

If you are unable to attend one of these events a further round of consultation will be held in the summer and all of the information available at the events will be on the project website. There will be a feedback form on the website from 25 March 2022 that you can complete at any time during the non-statutory consultation. The deadline for feedback is 29 April 2022.

Local information events (Non-statutory Consultation)

Sellindge Village Hall
Friday 8 April, 3pm to 7pm

Aldington Village Hall
Saturday 9 April, 11am to 3pm

Bilsington Village Hall
Tuesday 12 April, 1pm to 5pm

Mersham Sports Club
Wednesday 13 April, 2pm to 6pm

w: www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk

e: info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk

t: 08081 698335

Community Liaison Panel (CLP)

As part of our consultation programme, Evolution Power is planning to establish a Community Liaison Panel specifically for the project.

Local Parish and Borough Councillors will be invited to join the CLP, but we would also like a small number of local residents to join. The Terms of Reference for the CLP are on the project website. If you are interested in joining the CLP please email: info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk

Contact details

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to find out more information about Stonestreet Green Solar. You can contact our Community Relations Team by using the details below.

Email: info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk

Call our Freephone information line: 08081 698335

Visit our website: www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk/Contact+Us

Send us a letter: FREEPOST Stonestreet Green Solar

Follow us on Twitter: @SGS_solar



Stonestreet Green Solar

Consultation Report

Appendix A-2: 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation Materials

2. Hardcopy Feedback Form



Non-statutory Consultation

Feedback Form

April 2022

Evolution Power is proposing to develop a renewable energy generating project together with on-site energy storage, associated infrastructure and an underground grid connection on land at Aldington near Ashford in Kent, to be known as Stonestreet Green Solar. Evolution Power is carrying out non-statutory consultation with the local community about the proposed development. Details of the project can be found at www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk

We want to hear your thoughts about our proposals. We would be grateful if you could take a few moments to complete this short questionnaire and provide us with any comments you have about the project.

1. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

1(a) How did you find out about today's consultation event?

Newspaper article Leaflet Advert / Notice Website

Social media Word of mouth Other (please specify)

1(b) Has this public exhibition been informative about the proposals?

Very Informative Informative Quite Informative Not Informative No opinion

1(c) If you had any questions, were they answered adequately by a member of our team?

Yes Partly No

2. SOLAR POWER

Please tell us to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements:

2(a) The UK should invest more in renewable energy to tackle climate change

Strongly Agree Somewhat Agree No opinion Somewhat Disagree Strongly Disagree

2(b) Solar power can play an important role in de-carbonising the UK's energy supply

Strongly Agree Somewhat Agree No opinion Somewhat Disagree Strongly Disagree

2(c) It is important for the UK to produce energy that is subsidy-free

Strongly Agree Somewhat Agree No opinion Somewhat Disagree Strongly Disagree

2(d) Storing excess energy in on-site energy storage facilities so it can be used when required makes sense

Strongly Agree Somewhat Agree No opinion Somewhat Disagree Strongly Disagree



w: www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk

e: info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk

t: 08081 698335

3. PROJECT FEEDBACK

3(a) At this early stage, what are your initial views on our proposals for Stonestreet Green Solar?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

3(b) Which aspects of the project are most important to you?

Please rank from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Generating green electricity | <input type="radio"/> | Visual impact of the project | <input type="radio"/> |
| Local ecology and wildlife | <input type="radio"/> | Archaeology and local heritage | <input type="radio"/> |
| Ensuring the land can still be used for agriculture | <input type="radio"/> | Minimising impact from traffic during construction | <input type="radio"/> |

3(c) Do you have any concerns about these proposals at this stage?

.....

.....

.....

.....

3(d) What do you think are the most important benefits of the proposals?

.....

.....

.....

.....

4. PERSONAL DETAILS

Name:

Organisation:

Date:

Address:

Tel:

Email:

Your data will be stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act and will not be passed on to any third parties.

4(a) How would you describe your interest in Stonestreet Green Solar?

Local Resident Work Locally Visit the area regularly Local Representative

Statutory body Belong to a local group or organisation (please specify)

Other (please specify)

4(b) Please confirm if you would like to be kept up to date by email with news on this project, and are happy for us to keep your details on file for this sole purpose.

Yes, please keep me informed No, I do not wish to be kept informed

4(c) As part of the project there are opportunities to enhance the area.

Please tick which of the following initiatives you would like to see, or suggest your own:

Additional tree and hedgerow planting Increased biodiversity

Enhanced public footpaths Funding for educational projects

Improved habitats Educational visits to the site

Other (please specify)

Please use this page to share any additional comments about the proposals:

A large rectangular area with a green border, containing 18 horizontal dotted lines for writing feedback.

CONTACT US

Thank you for taking the time to provide your feedback, your views on our proposals are important to us.

If you are unable to complete your feedback form during the exhibition event, please use one of the following options to submit your feedback to the Stonestreet Green Solar project team:

Online: www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk

Email: info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk

Write to us: **FREEPOST Stonestreet Green Solar**

Freephone: **08081 698335**

Please note that the deadline for submission of feedback for this non-statutory consultation is 29 April 2022.

A second phase of consultation will follow in summer 2022.



Stonestreet Green Solar

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3. Online Feedback Form



Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Form - 25 March - 29 April 2022

Evolution Power is proposing to develop a renewable energy generating project together with on-site energy storage, associated infrastructure and an underground grid connection on land at Aldington near Ashford in Kent, to be known as Stonestreet Green Solar.

Evolution Power is carrying out non-statutory consultation with the local community about the proposed development. Details of the project can be found at www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk

We want to hear your thoughts about our proposals. We would be grateful if you could take a few moments to complete this short questionnaire and provide us with any comments you have about the project. **The deadline for submitting the form is 29 April 2022.**

1 SOLAR POWER

Please tell us to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements:

1a) The UK should invest more in renewable energy to tackle climate change

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strongly agree	Agree	Moderately agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	

1b) Solar power can play an important role in de-carbonising the UK's energy supply



<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strongly agree	Agree	Moderately agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	

1c) It is important for the UK to produce energy that is subsidy-free

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strongly agree	Agree	Moderately agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	

1d) Storing excess energy in on-site energy storage facilities so it can be used when required makes sense

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strongly agree	Agree	Moderately agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	

[Continue to Project Feedback](#)

EPL 001 Limited
Registered in England and Wales
Company number: 12444050
Registered office address: 2nd Floor, Regis House, 45 King William Street, London, United Kingdom, EC4R 9AN

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- > [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- > [Consultation and Resources](#)

Legals

- > [Terms and Conditions](#)
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- > [Accessibility Policy](#)



Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Form - 25 March - 29 April 2022

Evolution Power is proposing to develop a renewable energy generating project together with on-site energy storage, associated infrastructure and an underground grid connection on land at Aldington near Ashford in Kent, to be known as Stonestreet Green Solar.

Evolution Power is carrying out non-statutory consultation with the local community about the proposed development. Details of the project can be found at www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk

We want to hear your thoughts about our proposals. We would be grateful if you could take a few moments to complete this short questionnaire and provide us with any comments you have about the project. **The deadline for submitting the form is 29 April 2022.**

2 PROJECT FEEDBACK

2a) At this early stage, what are your initial views on our proposals for Stonestreet Green Solar?

Please add your comments

2b) Which aspects of the project are most important to you?

Please rank from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)



Generating green electricity

3 4 5 6

1 2

Local ecology and wildlife

3 4 5 6

1 2

Ensuring the land can still be used for agriculture

3 4 5 6

1 2

Visual impact of the project

3 4 5 6

1 2

Archaeology and local heritage

3 4 5 6

1 2

Minimising impact from traffic during construction

3 4 5 6

1 2

2c) Do you have any concerns about these proposals?

Please add your comments

2d) What do you think are the most important benefits of the proposals?

Please add your comments

[Go back to Solar Power](#)

[Continue to Personal Details](#)



Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Form - 25 March - 29 April 2022

Evolution Power is proposing to develop a renewable energy generating project together with on-site energy storage, associated infrastructure and an underground grid connection on land at Aldington near Ashford in Kent, to be known as Stonestreet Green Solar.

Evolution Power is carrying out non-statutory consultation with the local community about the proposed development. Details of the project can be found at www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk

We want to hear your thoughts about our proposals. We would be grateful if you could take a few moments to complete this short questionnaire and provide us with any comments you have about the project. **The deadline for submitting the form is 29 April 2022.**

3 PERSONAL DETAILS

Name

Organisation

Address

Town

Postcode

Telephone

Email

Your data will be stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act and will not be passed on to any third parties.

3a) How would you describe your interest in Stonestreet Green Solar?

I belong to a local group/organisation

Local Resident Work locally Visit the area regularly

Local representative

Statutory body



3b) Please confirm if you would like to be kept up to date by email with news on this project, and are happy for us to keep your details on file for this sole purpose.

I would like to be kept up to date by email with news on this project.

3c) As part of the project there are opportunities to enhance the area. Please tick which of the following initiatives you would like to see, or suggest your own:

Additional tree and hedgerow planting

Enhanced public footpaths

Improved habitats

Increased biodiversity

Funding for educational projects

Educational visits to the site

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Please use this space to share any additional comments about the proposals

Please add your comments

[Go back to Project Feedback](#)

[Submit your feedback](#)

EPL 001 Limited

Registered in England and Wales

Company number: 12444050

Registered office address: 2nd Floor, Regis House, 45 King William Street, London, United Kingdom, EC4R 9AN

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4. Exhibition Boards

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT



Stonestreet Green Solar

Stonestreet Green Solar comprises the proposed construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of a renewable energy generating project on land to the north of Aldington. The development will export up to 99.9 megawatts ('MW') of clean, renewable electricity to the national grid. This will contribute to the UK's 2050 net zero target and is sufficient to power around 48,000 homes, saving around 37,000 tonnes of CO₂ per annum.

The project is in its early stages and this consultation process is being undertaken to secure the local communities initial views on the Proposed Development.

About Evolution Power

Evolution Power Limited is a UK-based independent solar company established to develop affordable and sustainable renewable energy projects that will help the UK meet its legally binding 2050 net zero emissions target.

The Directors of Evolution Power have installed and/or financed more than 50 UK solar photovoltaic ('PV') projects, including four of the five largest solar projects built in the UK during the renewable obligation certificate subsidy period.

Evolution Power is committed to developing projects that help address the climate emergency, as well as benefitting the local areas in which they are located.

Climate Change Emergency

In June 2019, the UK Government declared a climate emergency.

In 2021, the Climate Change Act was amended to set a target to achieve 'net zero' emissions by 2050 compared to a 1990 baseline. The UK Government's strategy to achieve net zero by 2050 requires a dramatic increase in electricity generation from renewable resources.

In October 2021, the UK Government confirmed its target to decarbonise the electricity system by 2035 and secure a home-grown clean electricity supply.

To reach net zero the UK will need to transition to a much more widespread use of renewable electricity generation, the use of electric heat pumps in the home and the use of electric vehicles. The UK will need to generate significantly more electricity and the type of generation will need to change from fossil fuels to renewables.

The development of solar as a renewable energy generation is supported by national and local energy policy – in addition to the UK Government position, Ashford Borough Council, Folkestone & Hythe District Council and Kent County Council have publicly acknowledged the climate emergency and are adjusting their supply chains to achieve net zero.

The development of domestic renewable generation will reduce the UK's exposure to global energy markets and its current reliance on importing energy from potentially unstable parts of the world, resulting in more stable supply and lower energy bills.



2. THE PLANNING PROCESS



As the Proposed Development has an expected energy generating capacity in excess of 50MW, it constitutes a 'nationally significant infrastructure project' ('NSIP').

NSIPs are major infrastructure projects (such as large scale solar farms), which require a type of consent known as 'development consent' under procedures governed by the Planning Act 2008. Accordingly, Evolution Power needs to make an application for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') to authorise the Proposed Development.

Applications for a DCO are examined by the Planning Inspectorate who then make a recommendation (to approve or refuse an application) to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The Secretary of State will then decide whether to grant or to refuse development consent.

The DCO process is split into the following six stages:

- 1) Pre-application
- 2) Acceptance;
- 3) Pre-examination;
- 4) Examination;
- 5) Decision; and
- 6) Post-decision.

Further information on the process can be found on the Planning Inspectorate website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>.

Evolution Power is intending to submit its DCO application in late 2022.

The Site

The site is located approximately 2.4km to the south-east of Ashford and approximately 13.7km to the west of Folkestone, in the county of Kent. It is situated on approximately 189 hectares (467 acres) of land which is currently predominantly in agricultural use.

The Proposed Development will include solar PV arrays and on-site energy storage, together with associated infrastructure and an underground cable connection via the existing National Grid Substation at Sellindge.

The site has been carefully selected to provide energy close to where it can be exported to the electricity grid, in a way that minimises local impact and maximises sustainability, environmental and social outcomes. The Proposed Development will generate green electricity and will have the capability to export and import up to 99.9MW of electricity at any time. This is enough to power around 48,000 homes.

The Stonestreet Green Solar site has been selected as it meets all the key criteria for a development such as this.



1. Access to a nearby grid connection at Sellindge that has available capacity for a project of this size;
2. High levels of sunlight (irradiation) given its South-East location means that the land required for the same output is less than it would be in other parts of the country;
3. No statutory landscape, or ecological designations or Scheduled Ancient Monuments on the site. No significant cultural designations;
4. Topography and existing hedgerows will help to minimise the visual impact of the project from Aldington and other viewpoints;
5. Adjacent to pre-existing infrastructure including HS1, the M20, the Sellindge electrical substation and overhead lines;
6. Proximity to local large energy users provides the opportunity for a direct connection to provide renewable power locally;
7. Predominately lower grade agricultural land. Removal of this land from intensive farming use will reduce nitrate impact on the East Stour River and surrounding waterways; and
8. Good access, being located close to the M20/A20.



3. WHAT IS PROPOSED?

The Proposed Development will include the following key infrastructure:

- Solar PV modules;
- PV module mounting structures;
- On-site electrical stations including inverters, transformers and switchgear;
- On-site and grid connection cabling with a maximum voltage of 132kV;
- Project substation, including high voltage switchgear and control equipment;
- An energy storage system;
- A spare parts storage building or enclosure;
- Boundary fencing and closed-circuit television ('CCTV') security measures; and
- Access tracks.

The layout and design of the Proposed Development will evolve as the application is prepared to take account of the consultation feedback from the local community and statutory consultees and to reflect the technical results of the Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') process.

The technologies proposed (solar PV and energy storage) are rapidly evolving and the application will propose that some flexibility is maintained to ensure the latest technology can be utilised at the point of construction to maximise the Proposed Development's benefits. Any flexibility sought will be defined within the DCO.



Indicative example of solar panels



Indicative example of fencing

Solar PV Infrastructure

Solar PV modules convert sunlight into direct electrical current ('DC'). Individual modules are typically up to 2.5m long and 1.5m wide, with cells located below a layer of toughened glass. Each panel is enclosed in a module frame, typically built from anodised aluminium or steel.

Modules are mounted on a metal frame which is attached to galvanised steel piles that are driven up to 3m into the ground. The distance between each row of frames is typically 3.2m to limit shading and to allow for movement of maintenance vehicles. Sufficient light passes through panels and between panel rows to allow a grassland habitat and to protect the soil surface from erosion. The maximum height of the panels from the ground is expected to be approximately 3m. The lowest point of the panels will be approximately 800mm above the ground to allow smaller livestock such as sheep to graze and pass below and between rows.

The electrical output from the solar panels will be exported by low voltage cabling to a dedicated inverter station. The electricity is then exported to intermediate on-site substations and then finally to the main project transformer substation. From there, it is exported from the site at 132kV via the UKPN substation at Sellindge and then to the electricity grid.

Energy Storage Infrastructure

The energy storage provided on the site will enable the maximum benefit to be obtained from the renewable energy produced and provide vital 'grid balancing' services to the electricity grid. It is expected that the energy storage facility will typically be charged using electricity generated by the solar PV modules but it will also be possible to import electricity from the grid for storage on-site. The stored electricity can then be exported back to the grid at times of high demand which is often in the evening.

The energy storage will either be located in a single compound or distributed throughout the site, adjacent to the inverter stations. This will be finalised prior to the submission of the DCO application.

Grid Connection

The site will connect to the National Grid by underground cabling via an existing substation at Sellindge. The voltage for the cable connection will be up to 132kV. The grid connection route will be included in the DCO application.



4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The DCO application will be accompanied by an Environmental Statement ('ES') which will set out the results of the assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development on the environment and any mitigation required in response.

The Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') process can be broadly summarised as consisting of three main elements that take place prior to the submission of the DCO application:

- **EIA Scoping:** the project applicant requests a formal Scoping Opinion from the Planning Inspectorate which confirms the impacts that will need to be assessed as part of the EIA of the project;
- **Consultation:** the project applicant is required to conduct pre-application consultation. A Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') will be produced which will provide an initial statement on the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Development. Feedback will be sought from the local communities and other stakeholders on the PEIR; and
- **ES Preparation:** the ES is prepared taking into account the responses to the consultation process. It will advance the content of the PEIR and incorporate the responses from the consultation and the results of the surveys undertaken. It will also describe any changes made to the project and any mitigation measures that need to be implemented. The ES will form part of the DCO application.

It is anticipated that the ES will include an assessment of the impacts of the Proposed Development on the following:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| ● Biodiversity | ● Noise |
| ● Climate Change | ● Socio-Economics |
| ● Cultural Heritage | ● Traffic & Access |
| ● Landscape & Views | ● Water Environment |

Evolution Power has already commenced work on a number of technical matters:

Landscape

A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment will be undertaken to assess any visual impact from the project and inform the landscape mitigation strategy to minimise visual impacts where reasonably practicable.

The Proposed Development will be sensitively designed to work with existing features in the landscape. It is expected that the landscape strategy will deliver multiple benefits by seeking to retain existing field boundaries, new planting (if required) and improve connectivity (for people and habitats) where possible.

Biodiversity

The lack of farming on the site will help to improve the soil and encourage new flora and fauna to flourish, while it continues to be grazed by sheep.

A biodiversity scheme will be prepared in consultation with stakeholders to ensure that the project contributes to landscape and ecological improvements and provides a biodiversity net gain. This will include protecting existing habitats and creating new habitats to benefit local wildlife, and protecting and enhancing existing hedgerows.

The landscape and ecological strategy is currently being prepared and will be subject to further consultation prior to submission of the application.



Agricultural Land and Soils

A detailed Agricultural Land Classification ('ALC') survey of the site was undertaken in November/December 2021 in accordance with Natural England guidance.

The survey confirmed that 148.53 hectares of land (circa 80% of the total site area) is either lower quality agricultural land (comprising ALC Subgrade 3b land) or non-agricultural land.

Traffic and Access

An assessment will be undertaken to determine whether there are any significant effects arising from the construction of the Proposed Development on the environment with respect to traffic and access. This will include assessing the effects on existing traffic flows and the local road network, with the flows predicted as a result of the construction of the Proposed Development. The likely significant cumulative effects of the Proposed Development's construction traffic with other developments on traffic flow will also be assessed, as necessary.

Construction traffic will be controlled by a Construction Traffic Management Plan ('CTMP'). An Outline CTMP will be submitted with the DCO application and the final version will need to be agreed with Ashford Borough Council.



5. PROJECT STAGES & COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Construction

The construction of the Proposed Development is anticipated to commence in 2025 and span a period of approximately 12 months.

Operation

The Proposed Development comprises a temporary structure with a modelled operational lifespan of up to 40 years.

During the operational phase the activities on-site are expected to amount to limited maintenance activities, including servicing of plant and equipment and vegetation management.

Decommissioning Phase

Following cessation of energy generation and exportation at the site all PV modules, mounting structures, cabling, inverters and transformers will be removed and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. It is anticipated that decommissioning will take approximately 12 months.

Community Relations/Benefit

Evolution Power aims to work with local communities in the development of the Proposed Development and to maximise opportunities for community participation, create employment opportunities, and provide meaningful community benefits.

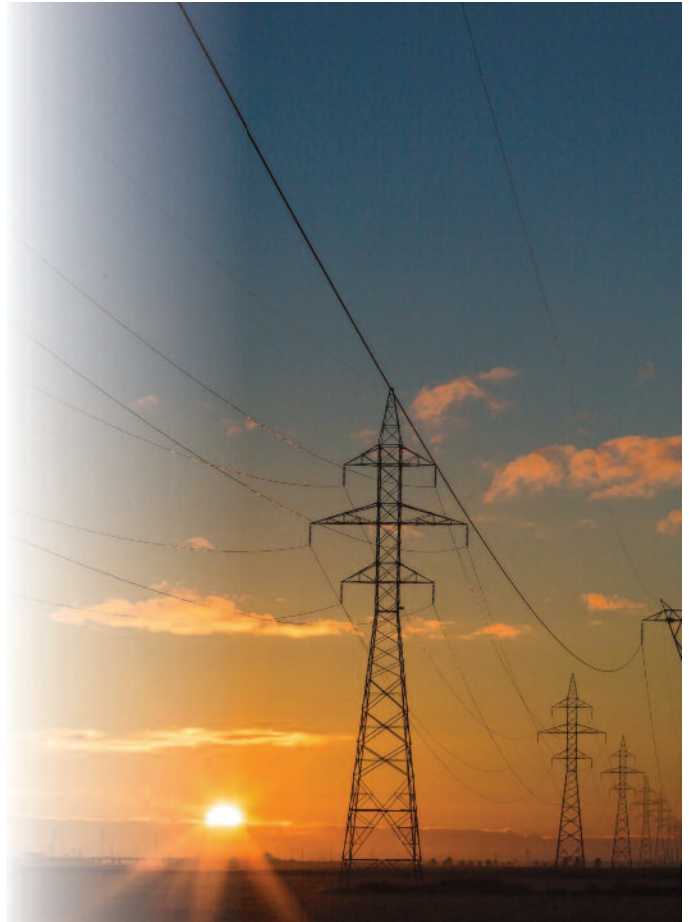
Being a good neighbour is very important to us and we aim to build long-term and meaningful relationships and to always operate in a transparent way.

We want to engage early with people in the local area to seek feedback on our proposals and use local knowledge to inform and refine our approach wherever possible.

We value the opinions of the local community and will work hard to minimise any disturbance as much as possible. We want to understand the issues that are important to you, as well as any suggestions you have as to how we can make improvements.

Our initial ideas include:

- Ways to enhance the footpaths and public rights of way
- Improved land management practices to support biodiversity
- Educational visits once the solar park is operational
- A community benefit fund to be used locally for social and environmental projects



6. INDICATIVE APPLICATION TIMELINE



Indicative Application Timeline

- **Spring 2022: Publication of Statement of Community Consultation**
- **Spring 2022: Non-Statutory Consultation**
- **Spring 2022: Scoping Report submitted**
- **Spring/Summer 2022: Scoping Opinion published**
- **Summer 2022: Statutory Consultation and PEIR published**
- **Autumn 2022: Finalise ES and DCO application**
- **Winter 2022: DCO application submission**

Feedback

Please complete one of the feedback forms that are available at the information events and are also on the project website. Forms can be completed at the event or taken away and sent in via the FREEPOST address below. The deadline for us to receive the feedback form is 29 April 2022.

We will be using the feedback from these events to inform our proposals going forward, so your views are very important to us.

We will be holding a further series of public consultation events later this year.

Contact Details

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to find out more information about Stonestreet Green Solar.

You can follow us on Twitter at @SGS_solar and you can contact our Community Relations Team by using the details below.

Email: info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk

Call our Freephone information line: 08081 698335

Visit our website: www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk/Contact+Us

Send us a letter: FREEPOST Stonestreet Green Solar





Stonestreet Green Solar

Consultation Report

Appendix A-3: Regard Had to 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback

Appendix A-3: Regard had to 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback

As set out in the **Consultation Report (Doc Ref. 6.1)**, an online feedback form (see **Consultation Report, Appendix A-2: 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation Material (Doc Ref. 6.2)**) was made available on the Project website during the consultation period for the 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation. A hard copy feedback form (see **Consultation Report, Appendix A-2: 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation Material (Doc Ref. 6.2)**) was available at the local information events, the Deposit Locations and via post upon request from the Applicant.

Table 1 below sets out the number of responses received for tick box questions in the feedback forms. **Table 2** then sets out comments received in the feedback forms to written questions 2a, 2c, 4d of the online feedback form and question 3a, 3c, 3d of the hardcopy feedback form and via other methods set out in the **Consultation Report (Doc Ref. 6.1)** and how the Applicant had regard to those comments.

Table 1: Number of responses to feedback form questions

Number of responses to feedback form questions

Question 1(a) of the hardcopy feedback form: How did you find out about today's consultation event?

Newspaper	Leaflet	Advert/Notice	Website	Social media	Word of mouth	Other (specify)
1	11	2	1		2	

Question 1(b) of the hardcopy feedback form: Has this public exhibition been informative about the proposals?

Very informative	Informative	Quite informative	Not informative	No opinion		
2	8	3		1		

Question 1(c) of the hardcopy feedback form: If you had any questions, were they answered adequately by a member of our team?

Yes	Partly	No				
8	3	1				

Number of responses to feedback form questions

Question 1(a) of the online feedback form and question 2(a) of the hardcopy feedback form: The UK Should invest more in renewable energy to tackle climate change

Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	No opinion	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree		
12	5	1	1			

Question 1(b) of the online feedback form and question 2(b) of the hardcopy feedback form: Solar power can play an important role in de-carbonising the UK's energy supply

Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	No opinion	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree		
8	4	3	2	2		

Question 1(c) of the online feedback form and question 2(c) of the hardcopy feedback form: It is important for the UK to produce energy that is subsidy-free

Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	No opinion	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree		
5	4	3	3	4		

Question 1(d) of the online feedback form and question 2(d) of the hardcopy feedback form: Storing excess energy in on-site energy storage facilities so it can be used when required makes sense

Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	No opinion	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree		
6	1	6	2	3		

Number of responses to feedback form questions

Question 3(a) of the online feedback form and question 4(a) of the hardcopy feedback form: How would you describe your interest in Stonestreet Green Solar?

Local resident	Work locally	Visit the area regularly	Local representative	Statutory body	Belong to local group /organisation	Other
19	1	0	1	0	1	Church Council Village alliance

Question 3(a) of the online feedback form and question 4(c) of the hardcopy feedback form: As part of the project there are opportunities to enhance the area. Please tick which of the following initiatives you would like to see:

Additional tree/hedgerow pla	Enhanced public footpaths	Improved habitats	Increased biodiversity	Funding educational projects for	Educational visits to the site	Other
12	11	11	11	6	5	2

Table 2 below sets out a summary of the feedback received during the 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation and the regard had to that feedback by the Applicant. This Appendix should be read in conjunction with Section 2 of the **Consultation Report (Doc Ref. 6.1)**. Where multiple responses containing the same comment have been received, these are addressed at the same time in the tables below.

Table 2: How regard was given to the 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation feedback

Feedback	Change to the Project Design Y/N	How was regard had to feedback?

What are your initial views on our proposals for Stonestreet Green Solar? (Question 2a of the online feedback form and question 3a of the hardcopy feedback form)

Feedback	Change to the Project Design Y/N	How was regard had to feedback?
<p>The land is not appropriate and should be protected for future generations and not used on this industrial scale for profit. It would be a blight on the land, which is not good for people who live in the surrounding areas wellbeing, visitors, or future generations.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The alternative sites considered for the Project, including the site requirements are set out in ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2).</p> <p>A description of the Applicant's process for selecting the Site and the main reasons for its choice with regard to these influencing factors is described in ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: Site Selection Influencing Factors (Doc Ref. 5.4).</p>
<p>Studies show solar farms kill birds. We have to take care of the land, animals and wildlife and they will take care of us.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The potential disturbance to wildlife impacts including birds has been assessed in ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 5.2).</p>
<p>Solar panels are not green, they are made from extracted resources and are not sustainable as they need to be replaced.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Solar is one of five types of energy that the Government has defined as renewable energy. These forms of renewable energy are covered by National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (NPS EN-3).</p> <p>The climate change assessment set out in ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Climate Change (Doc Ref. 5.2) explains the Project will result in a lifetime total Greenhouse Gas saving.</p>
<p>We consider the likely scale and location between two rural villages to be an infringement on both Aldington and Mersham with parts that are on a hillside and will be visible from the lower lying countryside to the South.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The need for large-scale solar projects is set out in the Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.6) and is established in the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1). A significant reduction to the scale of the proposal is not considered to be a reasonable alternative. Further details on this are set out in ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2).</p>

Feedback	Change to the Project Design Y/N	How was regard had to feedback?
		Details of the assessment of landscape and visual effects are set out in ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2) .
A better extension of the existing proposal would be the land surrounding the Sellindge Converter Station which will handle the power output.	N	The land between the A20 and M20 was considered, but it does not have sufficient available land to meet the Project requirements as set out in ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2) .
The battery storage proposed is a safety worry and early talk of re-using car batteries has not been proven to be viable or carbon efficient.	N	There is no proposal to re-use car batteries as part of the Project. The Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan (Doc Ref. 7.16) sets out details of how the Energy Storage equipment will be managed to ensure that the Project is operated in a safe and appropriate way.
At this stage there are no details of screening, traffic management or realignment of the current range of footpaths. This is a popular walking area.	N	<p>The Illustrative Landscape Drawings (Doc Ref. 2.7) show the proposed screening.</p> <p>The proposed diversions to the Public Right of Way (PRoW) network are shown on Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans (Doc Ref. 2.5) and are assessed in ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Socio-economics (Doc Ref 5.2).</p> <p>Suitable traffic regulations measures, including temporary traffic signals, warning signage and use of a banksman where required, are controlled by the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan ('CTMP') (Doc Ref. 7.9) and are shown on the Traffic Regulations Measures Plans (Doc Ref. 2.4).</p>

Feedback	Change to the Project Design Y/N	How was regard had to feedback?
I like this Project, but it needs to be considered alongside existing solar farms and the EDF proposal we do not want the whole area to be covered by different solar farms.	N	The cumulative assessment is set out at ES Volume 2, Chapter 17: Cumulative Assessment (Doc Ref. 5.2) with other committed development in the vicinity of the Site, including the East Stour Solar Farm development located adjacent to the Site and Otterpool Park development.
We support the Project and it would be positive for the village.	N	Noted.
It is imperative that schemes like this are pursued.	N	Noted.
The Project is very positive and has been well thought out.	N	Noted.
Totally against solar panels, I understand provision of energy is important but it must be directed to places where it will do least harm to the growing of crops, enjoyment of our fields. Energy supply is needed but growing of food is even more important.	N	<p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref 5.2) sets out the site selection process for the Site which carefully considered minimising BMV land included in the Order limits. The Applicant's site selection has avoided the use of BMV where possible.</p> <p>The Soils and Agricultural Land Report at ES Volume 4, Appendix 16.1: Soils and Agricultural Land Report (Doc Ref. 5.4) and ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Other Topics (Doc Ref. 5.2) provides information and assessment of effects to agricultural land and soils.</p>
The proposal is too big and will destroy the countryside visually. It is very large and will be negative to the area.	N	The need for large-scale solar projects is set out in the Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.6) and is established in NPS EN-1. A significantly reduced scale proposal to the Project is not considered further by the Applicant as to be a reasonable alternative. Further details on this are set out in

Feedback	Change to the Project Design Y/N	How was regard had to feedback?
		ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2).
Energy is important, but the proposal does not specify how the local community would benefit, except for unspecified amount to community fund. I suggest providing financial benefit to residents.	N	Noted. The Applicant commits to deliver a £40,000 per annum (inflation-linked) Community Benefit Fund for the duration of the Project, details of which are set out in the Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.6) .
Do you have any concerns about these proposals? (Question 2c of the online feedback form and question 3c of the hardcopy feedback form)		
Community benefit from wind turbines is greater than solar, which also can generate more energy and leave land free for agricultural use. No description of community fund or direct benefit to the community.	N	The Applicant commits to deliver a £40,000 per annum (inflation-linked) Community Benefit Fund, details of which are set out in the Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.6) .
Significant harm to landscape character.	N	ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2) assesses the potential effects to the affected landscape character areas.
Grade 2 land should not be used for the Project.	N	ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref 5.2) sets out the site selection process for the Site which carefully considered minimising BMV land included in the Order limits. The Applicant's site selection has avoided the use of BMV where possible. The Soils and Agricultural Land Report at ES Volume 4, Appendix 16.1: Soils and Agricultural Land Report (Doc Ref. 5.4) and ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Other Topics

		(Doc Ref. 5.2) provides information and assessment of effects to agricultural land and soils.
The construction phase will be extremely disruptive.	N	The Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan ('CEMP') (Doc Ref. 7.8) includes best practice construction methods to be carried out to minimise impacts to existing sensitive receptors and the environment during the construction phase.
There should be an option to not to answer questions as this way we are forced to engage with a disingenuous consultation.	N	The questions on the consultation feedback form are considered to be appropriate and relevant for the Project. The Applicant also accepted feedback in other forms such as email or by post if consultees did not want to use the feedback form.
The proposal is not green because it takes extracted resources to make solar panels and they need replacing which means extracting more resources.	N	Solar is one of five types of energy that the Government has defined as renewable energy. These forms of renewable energy are covered by the NPS EN-3, which notes that the government has committed to sustained growth in solar capacity to ensure that we are on a pathway that allows us to meet net zero emissions. The climate change assessment set out in ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Climate Change (Doc Ref. 5.2) explains that it is anticipated that the Project will result in a lifetime total GHG saving (through displacing grid generated electricity).
Due to the ongoing traffic problems and access for freight to the channel tunnel, I am concerned that this Project would further add to the traffic within the local area and further disrupt journeys from the M20/A20 to the local area.	N	Management of construction traffic is set out in the Outline CTMP (Doc Ref. 7.9) , including specifications of the appropriate routes to the Site.
Although batteries would be spaced out there might risk of fire. It is not clear if recent fire at electricity substation was	N	The measures to prevent fires associated with the lithium-ion batteries are detailed in the Outline Battery Safety

<p>caused by existing solar panel batteries being too close together.</p>		<p>Management Plan (Doc Ref. 7.16). The Draft Development Consent Order ('DCO') (Doc Ref. 3.1) includes a requirement that prior to commencement of the works to provide the Energy Storage system, a detailed Battery Safety Management Plan must be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in consultation with Kent Fire and Rescue Service.</p>
<p>Main concerns are the impact on wildlife and local walks. The proposals address these but I cant visualise what it would be like to walk on the local rights of way.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The Project seeks to protect and enhance wildlife habitat where possible. There will be some impacts to arable-associated species which are addressed ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 5.2) and are subject to ongoing design of detailed mitigation measures. The Biodiversity Net Gain ('BNG') Assessment (Doc Ref. 7.1) confirms that BNG of at least 100% (for habitat units) and above 10% for hedgerow and river units is deliverable can be achieved for the Project and is secured via a Requirement within the Draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1).</p> <p>The Illustrative Landscape Drawings (Doc Ref. 2.7) have been prepared to assist in communicating the extent and vision of the landscape mitigation strategy including proposals to the PRoW.</p>

Question 2d – What do you think are the most important benefits of the proposals?

<p>Renewable initiatives should directly benefit the communities in which they are situated. At present there is no description of what this might be.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The Applicant commits to deliver a £40,000 per annum (inflation-linked) Community Benefit Fund, details of which are set out in the Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.6) and were made available for feedback during the 2023 Statutory Consultation. Further details of the Project benefits are in the Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.6).</p>
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<p>The only real benefit is likely to be generation of additional electricity, but it is unclear how 'green' will it really be.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The climate change assessment set out in ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Climate Change (Doc Ref. 5.2) explains that the Project will result in a lifetime total GHG saving (through displacing grid generated electricity) of almost 2 million tonnes CO₂e.</p>
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Which aspects of the project are most important to you? (Question 3d of the hardcopy feedback form)

<p>There is no attempt to provide an indication of 'the visual impact of the project'. The same criticism can be applied to the aspect of 'minimising impact from traffic during construction' when no supportive evidence of traffic density management, infrastructure or process was provided at the events.</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>The Applicant assessed the potential visual impacts in ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2) and ES Volume 4, Appendix 8.8: Landscape Effects Table (Doc Ref. 5.4).</p> <p>The construction traffic impacts of the Project have been assessed and are set out in ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Traffic & Access (Doc Ref. 5.2). This ES Chapter concludes that there are no predicted significant impacts on the local highway network.</p>
<p>Green energy. I like that the proposals talk about biodiversity but I want more detail.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Since 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation, the Applicant provided further details as scheme development progressed about the proposed biodiversity enhancements at 2022 Statutory Consultation and 2023 Statutory Consultation. Further information about the proposed biodiversity enhancements is in ES Volume 2, Chapter 3: Project Description (Doc Ref. 5.2).</p> <p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 5.2) includes an assessment of the potential impacts on biodiversity, including the proposed beneficial effects. The Biodiversity Net Gain ('BNG') Assessment (Doc Ref. 7.1) confirms that BNG of at least 100% (for habitat units) and above 10% for hedgerow and river units is deliverable can</p>

		be achieved for the Project and is secured via a Requirement within the Draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1) .
Control of the environment and the need to dispose of fossil fuels.	N	Noted.
Providing energy cheaply while reducing the negative effect on climate change.	N	Noted.
A positive step towards a decarbonised grid.	N	Noted.

Any additional comments about the proposals (Question 4d of the online feedback form and email responses)

This non-statutory consultation information should be made available as a summary on your website in the interests of transparency.	N	Summaries of responses and how the Applicant had regard to those responses received to the 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation are in this appendix. The Applicant also addressed feedback received at 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation in the Consultation Booklet (see Consultation Report, Appendix F-1: Consultation Information Pack (Doc Ref. 6.2)) and in the Consultation newsletter (see Consultation Report, Appendix I-2: June 2022 Newsletter (Doc Ref. 6.2)).
This project infills the countryside between two vibrant rural communities which will affect a number of residents.	N	ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2) assesses the potential landscape and visual effects to the affected landscape character areas and views to the countryside, which are set out in ES Volume 4, Appendix 8.8: Landscape Effects Table (Doc Ref. 5.4) and ES Volume 4, Appendix 8.9: Visual Effects Table (Doc Ref. 5.4) . The Applicant has sought to mitigate the landscape and visual impacts of the Project with extensive landscape

		features. Further details of the Project benefits are in the Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.6) .
We do not have any details of the noise levels from these battery storage units or whether there will be proposed lighting.	Y	The Applicant has undertaken noise assessment modelling and modified the Project design in response. To reduce noise impacts further, the Applicant proposes acoustic fencing around the noise generating infrastructure in certain locations to minimise potential noise impacts to nearby receptors (see ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Noise (Doc Ref. 5.2)) and the Design Principles (Doc Ref. 7.5)).
Questions 3b and 4c are the only parts of the form that address the significant issues of the Project. On the basis of the misrepresentation of questions in 3b and 4c, any responses should be considered as null and void.	N	The questions on the consultation feedback form are considered to be appropriate and relevant for the Project. The Applicant also accepted feedback in other forms such as email or by post if consultees did not want to use the feedback form.
<p>There was a lack of information and evidence to support the proposals including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Visual impacts ▪ Traffic density management ▪ Public rights of way 	N	<p>The information provided at 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation reflected the early stages of the proposals, providing early opportunity for community feedback to help shape the design of the Project. Further information was consequently provided at 2022 and 2023 Statutory Consultation, with more information about the Project as the design further progressed. It is considered there was sufficient information provided at 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation, 2022 Statutory Consultation and 2023 Statutory Consultation for members of the public to sufficiently understand the proposals.</p> <p>Further information about the predicted visual impacts of the Project is in ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2).</p> <p>Further information about the predicted traffic impacts is in ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Traffic and Access (Doc Ref. 5.2) and the proposed traffic management is in Outline</p>

		CTMP (Doc Ref. 7.9) and the Outline Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan (Doc Ref. 7.13).
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		The Applicant recognises the importance of PRowS and impacts on them have been assessed in ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Socio-economics (Doc Ref. 5.2).
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Stonestreet Green Solar

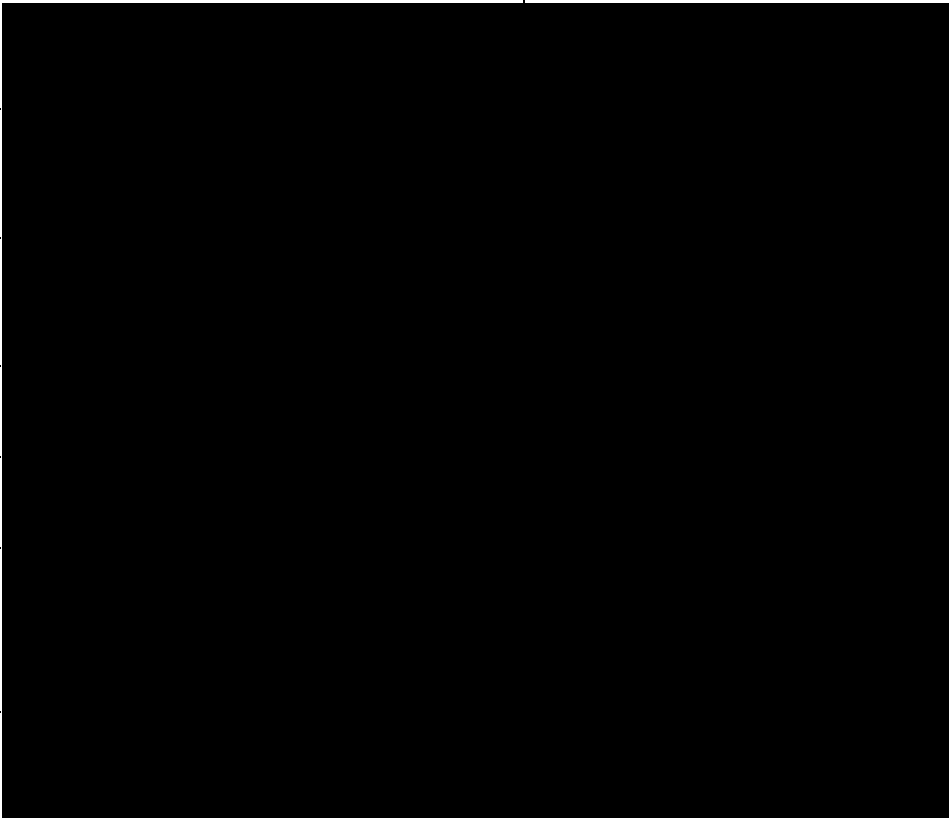
Consultation Report

Appendix A-4: Community Organisations Consulted

Appendix A-4: Community Organisations consulted during 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation

Table 1: Community Organisations consulted during 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation

Community Organisations consulted during 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation	Address	Email
E Sedgwick & S Godfrey Trust		
Rural Means Rural – Aldington		
The Village Alliance – Mersham		
Rural Kent Action with Communities – East Brabourne		
St Martin’s Church, Aldington		
St. John the Baptist, Mersham		
St Mary the Virgin, Sellindge		
St Mary the Virgin, Smeeth		
St Stephens Church, Lypne		
Kent Community Foundation		
Sellindge District Residents Association		
Sellindge Sport and Social Club		
Ashford Ramblers		
Extinction Rebellion Ashford		
Mersham Sports Club		
Kent Community Energy		

Invicta Chamber of Commerce	
Kent Wildlife Trust	
Kent Downs AONB	
RSPB (Canterbury Local Group)	
RSPB (Regional media enquiries)	
CPRE Kent	
North Downs Way National Trail	



Stonestreet Green Solar

Consultation Report
Appendix A-5: Briefing Presentation



Proposed Solar Farm Near Aldington

Briefing to Aldington Parish Council
29 November 2021

Giles Frampton
Charlie Vavasour

Introduction

- A 99.9MW Solar and energy storage project
- Generate clean, renewable energy and reduce reliance on fossil fuels
- Provide clean power to UK businesses, infrastructure and homes
- Battery storage capacity to help manage peaks in energy demand
- Potential for private wire agreements
- The solar project would operate for 40 years

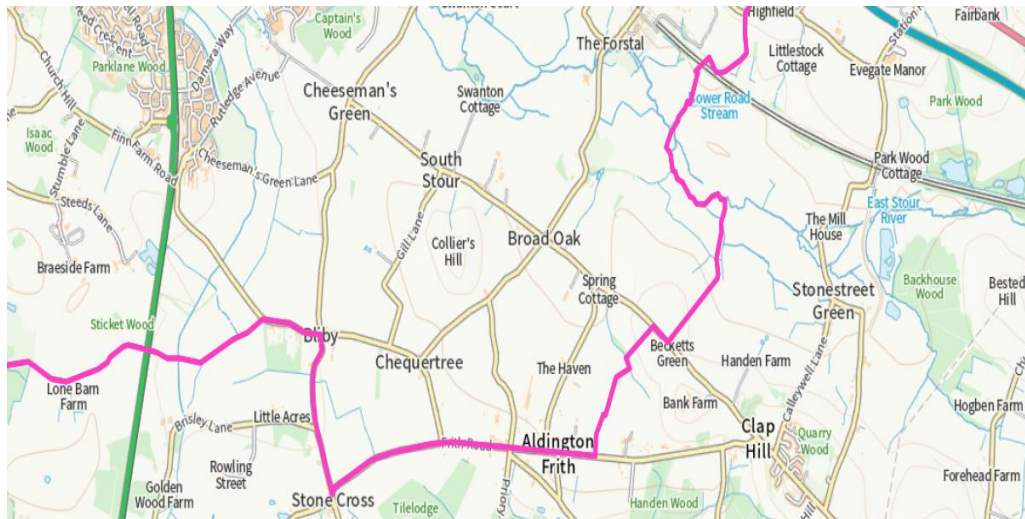
The Proposal

- The construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of Stonestreet Green Solar,
- A grid connection has been secured with the connection at the nearby Sellindge substation.
- The proposed development is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (“NSIP”) under the Planning Act 2008
- The application will be determined by the Planning Inspectorate and the Secretary of State for BEIS

Evolution Power

- Evolution Power is a UK based, independent solar developer.
- Evolution Power's team has extensive experience of successfully delivering large scale solar projects,
- The team has installed and financed more than 1GW of PV over 50 projects





Why this site?

- The site has been selected as it meets all the key criteria for a development such as this:
 - Access to grid connection at Sellindge that has capacity
 - No statutory landscape, heritage or ecological designations
 - Topography and existing hedgerows minimise the visual impact
 - Adjacent to existing infrastructure including HS1, the M20, and the electrical substation
 - Predominately low-grade agricultural land
 - Land can continue to be used as grazing for sheep
 - Removal of land from intensive farming will reduce nitrate impact on the east Stour River
 - High solar irradiation given location
- Ability to act as a buffer to future housing development

A Project of National Significance

- As a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, Stonestreet Green would require a Development Consent Order
- The DCO process is extremely thorough
- The process is expected to last approximately 2.5 to 3 years from start to determination
- Determined by PINS under the Planning Act
- Incorporates extensive community consultation
- A DCO application process comprises six key stages:
 - pre-application
 - acceptance
 - pre-examination
 - examination
 - decision
 - post-decision

Environment and Climate Emergency

- We are in a Climate Emergency
- UK Government has committed to net-zero by 2050, and to decarbonise the electricity grid by 2035
- Currently around 30% of UK emissions are from electricity generation and heating
- It is expected that solar generation will increase from 13.5GW to over 100GW
- Stonestreet Green Solar would contribute towards meeting these requirements
 - Fully supported by energy policy
 - Will assist with keeping energy bills affordable
 - Reduce the UK's exposure to global energy markets and unstable regions

The Ambition

If developed, the project will:

- deliver 99.9MW of renewable electricity, enough to power around 48,000 homes and saving around 37,000 tonnes of CO2 a year.
- generate subsidy-free electricity, without public financial support. As the lowest cost generation type it will also help reduce national power prices.
- provide an inflation linked community benefit fund for the lifetime of the project to be used locally for social and environmental projects
- provide a buffer to encroaching housing estates, safeguarding the integrity and identity of Aldington village
- maintain all footpaths and public access to the land
- mitigate any visual impact and distance views with additional screening.
- provide a biodiversity gain through the introduction of wildflower meadows, beehives and other habitat enhancements

Next steps – Public Consultation

- Still finalising our plans
- Project launched last November – Website, media release, introduction to stakeholders
- Initial meeting in public with Aldington PC pre-Xmas
- Statement of Community Consultation to be published in February
- Initial consultation in the March/April with local public exhibitions
- Preparation of Preliminary Environmental Report (PEIR)
- 2nd phase of Statutory Consultation in Summer 2022, with further exhibitions
- Submission of application scheduled by the end of 2022

Questions?