

# Stonestreet Green Solar

## Consultation Report Appendix B: Preparation and Compliance with the Statement of Community Consultation Appendices B-10 to B-13

PINS Ref: EN010135

Doc Ref. 6.2

Version 1 (unredacted)

June 2024

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

Planning Act 2008

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



## **CONTENTS**

### **Appendix B: Preparation and Compliance with the Statement of Community Consultation**

#### **Appendices B-10 to B-13**

Appendix B-10: Emails and Letters Consulting Host Authorities on  
Statement of Community Consultation 3

Appendix B-11: Regard had to Host Authorities' Responses to  
Statement of Community Consultation 3

Appendix B-12: Published Statement of Community Consultation 3

Appendix B-13: Section 47 Notices for Statement of Community  
Consultation 3



# Stonestreet Green Solar

Consultation Report

Appendix B-10: Emails and Letters Consulting Host  
Authorities on the Statement of Community Consultation 3

---

Roland Mills  
Strategic Development & Delivery Manager  
Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre  
Tannery Ln  
Ashford, Kent  
TN23 1PL

Sent by email: [REDACTED] [ashford.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@ashford.gov.uk)

20 January 2023

Dear Roland

### **Section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008 - Consultation on Draft Statement of Community Consultation with Local Planning Authorities**

EPL 001 Limited, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Evolution Power Limited, is intending to develop a renewable energy generating project, including solar photovoltaic arrays and on-site energy storage, together with associated infrastructure and an underground cable connection, on land at Aldington near Ashford in Kent, to be known as Stonestreet Green Solar (the "project").

The project will be located approximately 6.5km to the south-east of Ashford Town Centre and approximately 13.7km to the west of Folkestone Town Centre, in the county of Kent. It is situated on approximately 189 hectares (467 acres) of land to the north and west of the village of Aldington.

As the proposed generating capacity exceeds 50 megawatts, Stonestreet Green Solar is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(1) and (2) of the Planning Act 2008. A Development Consent Order ("DCO") must therefore be obtained for the project through the Planning Act 2008 process.

Section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008 requires the applicant to prepare a statement setting out how it proposes to consult, about the proposed DCO application, people living in the vicinity of the land. Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within Section 43(1) of the Planning Act 2008 about what is to be in the statement.

A draft updated Statement of Community Consultation ("SoCC") has been prepared explaining how EPL 001 Limited will consult the local community about the project. This updated SoCC will, when finalised, supersede earlier SoCCs published in March 2022 and September 2022. It explains what consultation has been carried out so far on the project, describes the further consultation that is planned to take place in 2023 and sets out how that consultation will be undertaken. It confirms that the consultation will be carried out over a period of at least 28 days.

As a host authority in which the proposed development is situated, we wish to invite your comments on the draft updated SoCC. With your local knowledge and insight, we warmly welcome your input on how effective community consultation should be conducted for the project.

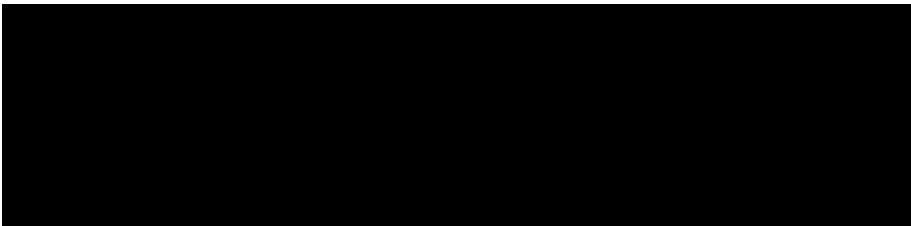
We should be grateful if you would in particular confirm if the address details and opening hours for the Deposit Locations listed in the draft updated SoCC are correct and let us know if you would like us to specify that access is by appointment only or if any other access arrangements will apply.

Section 47(3) of the Planning Act 2008 sets a statutory deadline for the receipt by an applicant of the local authority's response to a consultation on a draft SoCC of 28 days, beginning with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the draft SoCC. Therefore, we kindly request that all comments on the draft updated SoCC for Stonestreet Green Solar be submitted to EPL 001 Limited by **23:59:59 on Friday 17 February 2023**. Following receipt of all comments from the relevant local authorities, we will carefully consider the comments before finalising the updated SoCC then making it available for public inspection and publishing a notice stating where and when the updated SoCC can be inspected.

Please send any comments on the draft updated SoCC via email to [info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk](mailto:info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk).

Please do not hesitate to get in contact with the project team at any time using the email address provided above or via our project phone line: 08081 698335.

Yours sincerely,



**EPL 001 Limited**

**Enc.**  
Draft updated Statement of Community Consultation

Llywelyn Lloyd  
Chief Planning Officer  
Folkestone and Hythe District Council, Civic Centre  
Castle Hill Ave  
Folkestone, Kent  
CT20 2QY

Sent by email: [REDACTED]@folkstone-hythe.gov.uk

20 January 2023

Dear Llywelyn

### **Section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008 - Consultation on Draft Statement of Community Consultation with Local Planning Authorities**

EPL 001 Limited, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Evolution Power Limited, is intending to develop a renewable energy generating project, including solar photovoltaic arrays and on-site energy storage, together with associated infrastructure and an underground cable connection, on land at Aldington near Ashford in Kent, to be known as Stonestreet Green Solar (the "project").

The project will be located approximately 6.5km to the south-east of Ashford Town Centre and approximately 13.7km to the west of Folkestone Town Centre, in the county of Kent. It is situated on approximately 189 hectares (467 acres) of land to the north and west of the village of Aldington.

As the proposed generating capacity exceeds 50 megawatts, Stonestreet Green Solar is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(1) and (2) of the Planning Act 2008. A Development Consent Order ("DCO") must therefore be obtained for the project through the Planning Act 2008 process.

Section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008 requires the applicant to prepare a statement setting out how it proposes to consult, about the proposed DCO application, people living in the vicinity of the land. Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within Section 43(1) of the Planning Act 2008 about what is to be in the statement.

A draft updated Statement of Community Consultation ("SoCC") has been prepared explaining how EPL 001 Limited will consult the local community about the project. This updated SoCC will, when finalised, supersede earlier SoCCs published in March 2022 and September 2022. It explains what consultation has been carried out so far on the project, describes the further consultation that is planned to take place in 2023 and sets out how that consultation will be undertaken. It confirms that the consultation will be carried out over a period of at least 28 days.

As a host authority in which the proposed development is situated, we wish to invite your comments on the draft updated SoCC. With your local knowledge and insight, we warmly welcome your input on how effective community consultation should be conducted for the project.

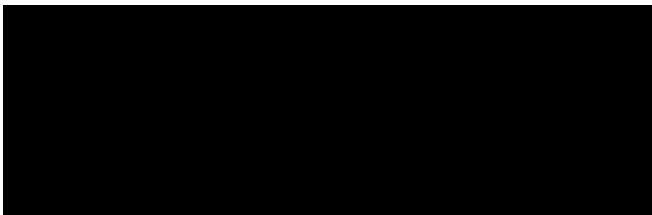
We should be grateful if you would in particular confirm if the address details and opening hours for the Deposit Locations listed in the draft updated SoCC are correct and let us know if you would like us to specify that access is by appointment only or if any other access arrangements will apply.

Section 47(3) of the Planning Act 2008 sets a statutory deadline for the receipt by an applicant of the local authority's response to a consultation on a draft SoCC of 28 days, beginning with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the draft SoCC. Therefore, we kindly request that all comments on the draft updated SoCC for Stonestreet Green Solar be submitted to EPL 001 Limited by **23:59:59 on Friday 17 February 2023**. Following receipt of all comments from the relevant local authorities, we will carefully consider the comments before finalising the updated SoCC then making it available for public inspection and publishing a notice stating where and when the updated SoCC can be inspected.

Please send any comments on the draft updated SoCC via email to [info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk](mailto:info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk).

Please do not hesitate to get in contact with the project team at any time using the email address provided above or via our project phone line: 08081 698335.

Yours sincerely,



**EPL 001 Limited**

**Enc.**  
Draft updated Statement of Community Consultation

Francesca Potter  
Senior Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Officer  
Growth and Communities, Growth, Environment and Transport  
Kent County Council  
Invicta House  
Maidstone, Kent  
ME14 1XX

Sent by email: [REDACTED]@kent.gov.uk

20 January 2023

Dear Francesca

### **Section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008 - Consultation on Draft Statement of Community Consultation with Local Planning Authorities**

EPL 001 Limited, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Evolution Power Limited, is intending to develop a renewable energy generating project, including solar photovoltaic arrays and on-site energy storage, together with associated infrastructure and an underground cable connection, on land at Aldington near Ashford in Kent, to be known as Stonestreet Green Solar (the "project").

The project will be located approximately 6.5km to the south-east of Ashford Town Centre and approximately 13.7km to the west of Folkestone Town Centre, in the county of Kent. It is situated on approximately 189 hectares (467 acres) of land to the north and west of the village of Aldington.

As the proposed generating capacity exceeds 50 megawatts, Stonestreet Green Solar is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(1) and (2) of the Planning Act 2008. A Development Consent Order ("DCO") must therefore be obtained for the project through the Planning Act 2008 process.

Section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008 requires the applicant to prepare a statement setting out how it proposes to consult, about the proposed DCO application, people living in the vicinity of the land. Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within Section 43(1) of the Planning Act 2008 about what is to be in the statement.

A draft updated Statement of Community Consultation ("SoCC") has been prepared explaining how EPL 001 Limited will consult the local community about the project. This updated SoCC will, when finalised, supersede earlier SoCCs published in March 2022 and September 2022. It explains what consultation has been carried out so far on the project, describes the further consultation that is planned to take place in 2023 and sets out how that consultation will be undertaken. It confirms that the consultation will be carried out over a period of at least 28 days.

As a host authority in which the proposed development is situated, we wish to invite your comments on the draft updated SoCC. With your local knowledge and insight, we warmly welcome your input on how effective community consultation should be conducted for the project.



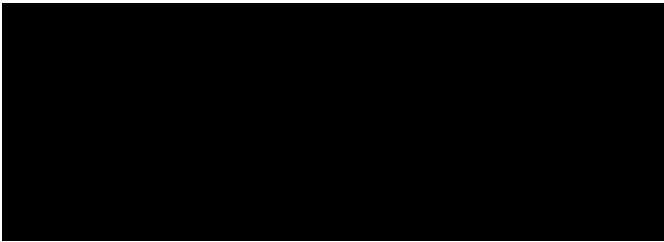
We should be grateful if you would in particular confirm if the address details and opening hours for the Deposit Locations listed in the draft updated SoCC are correct and let us know if you would like us to specify that access is by appointment only or if any other access arrangements will apply.

Section 47(3) of the Planning Act 2008 sets a statutory deadline for the receipt by an applicant of the local authority's response to a consultation on a draft SoCC of 28 days, beginning with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the draft SoCC. Therefore, we kindly request that all comments on the draft updated SoCC for Stonestreet Green Solar be submitted to EPL 001 Limited by **23:59:59 on Friday 17 February 2023**. Following receipt of all comments from the relevant local authorities, we will carefully consider the comments before finalising the updated SoCC then making it available for public inspection and publishing a notice stating where and when the updated SoCC can be inspected.

Please send any comments on the draft updated SoCC via email to [info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk](mailto:info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk).

Please do not hesitate to get in contact with the project team at any time using the email address provided above or via our project phone line: 08081 698335.

Yours sincerely,



**EPL 001 Limited**

**Enc.**  
Draft updated Statement of Community Consultation

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fwd: Stonestreet Green Solar DCO: Consultation on draft SoCC  
**Date:** 24 January 2023 08:33:38  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

---

Morning Llewelyn,

I received a bounce back this morning and realise there was a typo in the email address below (and the same one on the covering letter).

Please see below and attached.

I would be grateful if you can confirm receipt.

Many thanks,

Matt



**Matthew Sharpe**  
Senior Director  
matthew.sharpe@quod.com

Mobile: 07921 089 513  
www.quod.com

21 Soho Square  
London  
W1D 3QP

We are excited to let you know we have moved our London offices,  
for more information please [click here](#).

---

**From:** Matthew Sharpe [REDACTED]@quod.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2023 09:31  
**To:** [REDACTED]@folkstone-hythe.gov.uk [REDACTED]@folkstone-hythe.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk <info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk>; Charlotte Dyer [REDACTED]@hsf.com>; Conor McNally [REDACTED]@evolutionpower.co.uk>; Giles Frampton [REDACTED]@evolutionpower.co.uk>; Kevin McGhee [REDACTED]@evolutionpower.co.uk>; Sophie Maloney [REDACTED]y@quod.com>  
**Subject:** Stonestreet Green Solar DCO: Consultation on draft SoCC

Llywelyn,

I am the new planning advisor for Evolution Power. As you may be aware, we are proposing to make some minor amendments to the Statement of Community Consultation. I therefore attach the revised draft Statement of Community Consultation. This sets out the updated programme and additional consultation that will be undertaken this year. You will note from the covering letter that we have asked that you confirm if the address details and opening hours for the Deposit Locations listed in the draft SoCC are correct and let us know if you would like us to specify that access is by appointment only or if any other access arrangements will apply.

We have asked that any comments you may have on the draft SoCC are provided by Friday 17 February.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss any of the details, then please do not hesitate to contact Conor or myself.

Many thanks,

Matt



## Stonestreet Green Solar

Consultation Report

Appendix B-11: Regard had to Host Authorities' Responses to  
Statement of Community Consultation 3

---

## Appendix B-11: Regard had to Host Authorities' Responses to Statement of Community Consultation 3

Table 1: Feedback received and applicant response

Section of draft SoCC	Date of receipt	Comment by local authority	Regard to comment	Amendment to SoCC (if applicable)
<b>Ashford Borough Council</b>				
Page 11 - 2023 Statutory Consultation	15/02/2023	The complexities of the project and the extent of material offered for comment are such that a s.47 consultation in excess of the minimum 28-day period should be undertaken to ensure that all consultees have a reasonable time within which to understand and review proposed any changes and then arrange to provide a detailed comment. At the very minimum, ABC would wish to see the 2nd sentence on Page 14 revised by the insertion of 'and extended beyond by prior agreement' after '28 days'.	The applicant increased the consultation period in the SoCC to five weeks to ensure consultees would have sufficient time to review changes to project material.	The applicant added the following statement: <i>2023 Statutory Consultation, page 12, The consultation will be carried out over a period of five weeks.</i>
Page 12 - 2023 Statutory Consultation	15/02/2023	Bullet 5 –after impacts insert '(including proposed landscaping approach)'	This was noted and actioned.	The applicant added " <i>including proposed landscaping approach</i> " to bullet point 5 on <i>Page 13 - 2023 Statutory Consultation</i>
Page 13 - 2023 Statutory Consultation	15/02/2023	Feedback from the 1st s.47 consultation process needs to be summarised and made available to inform those interacting with a 2nd s.47 consultation in both the virtual and public realms	This was noted and actioned.	The applicant added the following point to the <i>2023 Statutory Consultation</i> section

Section of draft SoCC	Date of receipt	Comment by local authority	Regard to comment	Amendment to SoCC (if applicable)
		(as per comments below) so that the nature of the proposed changes made in response to the 1st consultation is clear.		on page 13 of the SoCC to address the feedback received in the previous consultation event, " <i>A summary of the key themes in the responses to the 2022 Statutory Consultation and how that feedback has been taken into account in shaping the project.</i> "
Page 13 - 2023 Statutory Consultation	15/02/2023	Solely holding a ‘virtual exhibition’ is unacceptable to the Borough Council. ‘Virtual exhibition’ needs clarification: is it simply updating the existing <a href="https://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk">https://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk</a> web-site with revised consultation material with some sort of narrative or something more? In respect of the latter, the reference to Section 13 suggests an ability to complete a form and that a response will be provided at some point after submission by the Project Team: is that correct? Section 12 simply suggests the ability to fill in an on-line questionnaire in respect of the 2023 consultation so ABC queries how the Project Team will ‘be	This was noted and actioned.	The applicant amended the SoCC to include face to face events at the following, locations (subject to Covid-19 restrictions): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mersham Village Hall</li> <li>▪ Aldington Village Hall</li> <li>▪ Sellindge Village Hall</li> </ul>

Section of draft SoCC	Date of receipt	Comment by local authority	Regard to comment	Amendment to SoCC (if applicable)
		available to answer questions' in a virtual exhibition as is being suggested.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bilsington Village Hall.</li> </ul>
Page 13 - 2023 Statutory Consultation	15/02/2023	It is agreed that a virtual exhibition could be a useful additional method of consultation in order to help reach those that cannot attend a public exhibition but, in the Council's opinion, it should not replace actual physical public realm exhibitions. Public exhibitions are therefore requested as part of a further round of a s.47 consultation.	This was noted and actioned.	<p>The applicant amended the SoCC to include face to face events at the following locations (subject to Covid-19 restrictions):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mersham Village Hall</li> <li>▪ Aldington Village Hall</li> <li>▪ Sellindge Village Hall</li> <li>▪ Bilsington Village Hall.</li> </ul>
Page 13 - 2023 Statutory Consultation	15/02/2023	Leaflet drops to residents must make the dates and times of public exhibitions clear.	The Applicant notes that the dates and times of the public exhibitions were already clear in the SoCC.	No changes to SoCC required. The <i>Literature</i> section on page 15 of the draft SoCC already stated " <i>Leaflets and</i>

Section of draft SoCC	Date of receipt	Comment by local authority	Regard to comment	Amendment to SoCC (if applicable)
				<p><i>newsletters have been and will continue to be distributed to all residents and businesses within the core consultation zone (as shown in Figure 2 of this SoCC) at key pre-application consultation stages which provide information on the proposals and details of how the local community can have their say. Newsletters will continue to be distributed during the examination stage."</i></p>
<p>Page 13 - 2023 Statutory Consultation</p>	<p>15/02/2023</p>	<p>The Council's preference is for public exhibition events in the x4 village halls as per the previous approach in 2022 with times and dates chosen that will help ensure good community turn-out. At the very least, public exhibition events must be held in Mersham and Aldington.</p>	<p>This was noted and actioned.</p>	<p>The applicant amended the SoCC to include face to face events at the following locations (subject to Covid-19 restrictions):</p>



Section of draft SoCC	Date of receipt	Comment by local authority	Regard to comment	Amendment to SoCC (if applicable)
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mersham Village Hall;</li> <li>▪ Aldington Village Hall;</li> <li>▪ Sellindge Village Hall; and</li> <li>▪ Bilsington Village Hall.</li> </ul>
Page 13 - 2023 Statutory Consultation	15/02/2023	The use of videos and other media should be considered as part of s.47 consultation approach to assist easy understanding of the proposal and any changes that have been made since the previous consultation.	The applicant changed the consultation events to be face to face.	As such no changes to the SoCC were required in response to this comment. The <i>Communication outreach</i> section on page 16 of the draft SoCC already addressed effective communication for all persons through the following statement, "As was the case for the 2022 Statutory Consultation, the 2023 Statutory Consultation will therefore include measures to ensure

Section of draft SoCC	Date of receipt	Comment by local authority	Regard to comment	Amendment to SoCC (if applicable)
				<p><i>we communicate effectively with these groups and provide an opportunity for them to have their say. This includes making information available across a number of online or offline outlets and in different formats. We will be directly engaging with representative groups in the community. We will ensure our written consultation material is in easy to understand, plain English style. A Freephone number, staffed by our community relations team, will be available to assist people who find it difficult to submit written comments and we will offer a telephone</i></p>

Section of draft SoCC	Date of receipt	Comment by local authority	Regard to comment	Amendment to SoCC (if applicable)
				<p><i>surgery to discuss the proposals if required. Large print and braille versions of consultation documents will also be available on request. A Freepost service will be available for people who prefer to send feedback by post rather than respond online or by email."</i></p>
<p>Page 13 - 2023 Statutory Consultation</p>	<p>15/02/2023</p>	<p>The approach needed is one that clearly brings out the changes made in response to feedback: an approach that leaves consultees having to ‘spot the difference’ in both text and drawings needs to be avoided, especially if drawings are at a scale where understanding change is then difficult to discern from display material becomes it covers a large physical area of land.</p>	<p>This was noted and actioned.</p>	<p>The Applicant inserted the following statement to the 2023 <i>Statutory Consultation</i> section on page 13 of the SoCC to address the feedback received in the previous consultation event, "<i>A summary of the key themes in the responses to the 2022 Statutory</i></p>

Section of draft SoCC	Date of receipt	Comment by local authority	Regard to comment	Amendment to SoCC (if applicable)
				<i>Consultation and how that feedback has been taken into account in shaping the project."</i>
Page 13 - 2023 Statutory Consultation	15/02/2023	ABC is aware of previous local requests for full documentation to be made available for viewing at Public Exhibitions. However, it will be difficult for anybody attending an event to review and take in that information just while attending a public exhibition. Given this, and the need to avoid unnecessary travel and inconvenience through having to travel to local libraries, ABC requests that one physical deposit copy of consultation documents and further PEI should be left with the Parish Councils to then be made available for local viewing at each of the x 4 village halls. Again if this preference is not considered feasible for all village locations then, at the very least this should be the case for Aldington and Mersham.	Physical copies of the documents were made available at in person consultation events and at other deposit locations identified in the SoCC. The applicant can also print documents on request.	No changes to the SoCC were made because it was considered unnecessary to provide physical copies of the documents at Parish Councils.
Page 13 – Literature: Briefing packs	15/02/2023	The 2022 position is noted. For a further round of s.47 consultation in 2023, updated packs should be provided. This will assist KCC and ABC to update Members easily as to the changes that have been made and which are being formally consulted upon.	This was noted and actioned.	The applicant inserted the following statement to address this comment on page 15 of the SoCC, <i>"Further briefing packs will be provided to elected members</i>

Section of draft SoCC	Date of receipt	Comment by local authority	Regard to comment	Amendment to SoCC (if applicable)
				<i>in advance of the 2023 Statutory Consultation."</i>
Page 14 – location of statutory consultation documents	15/02/2023	<p>The address details and opening times of the Ashford Borough Council’s Civic Centre offices are correct.</p> <p>Ashford Gateway Plus is a KCC facility: opening times should be checked with KCC. Web - information is available here <a href="https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/our-offices/gateway/ashford-gateway-plus">https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/our-offices/gateway/ashford-gateway-plus</a></p> <p>As per comments further above, ABC’s preference is for physical copies of the 2023 Statutory Consultation documents (including further PEI) to be provided at each of the x 4 village hall locations and, if that is not feasible, then at the very least at Aldington and Mersham.</p>	This comment was noted and actioned.	<p>The applicant amended the SoCC to include face to face events at the following locations (subject to Covid-19 restrictions):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mersham Village Hall</li> <li>▪ Aldington Village Hall</li> <li>▪ Sellindge Village Hall</li> <li>▪ Bilsington Village Hall.</li> </ul> <p>Physical copies of the documents will be available at face-to-face consultation events and at other deposit locations identified in the SoCC. The applicant</p>

Section of draft SoCC	Date of receipt	Comment by local authority	Regard to comment	Amendment to SoCC (if applicable)
				can also print documents on request.
Page 14 – copies of the full DCO application	15/02/2023	Once the application for DCO is submitted, hard copies should be provided in the same minima local venues as per the same approach to s.47 consultation in 2023 for the same reasons (convenience and avoiding unnecessary travel).	This comment was noted.	No changes to SoCC are required because the <i>Literature</i> section on page 15 of the draft SoCC already stated, " <i>Once submitted, copies of the full DCO application will be available at one or more of the sites listed above (to be confirmed nearer to the time of submitting the application and subject to agreement from the venues listed). Copies of the application documents will also be made available to access on the project website...</i> ".
<b>Kent County Council</b>				

Section of draft SoCC	Date of receipt	Comment by local authority	Regard to comment	Amendment to SoCC (if applicable)
2023 Statutory Consultation (page 11/12)	17/02/2023	The County Council notes the matters which will be considered as part of the further consultation, covering an extensive range of topics including landscape and visual impacts, cultural heritage and Public Rights of Way (PRoW). These are topics which the County Council and Ashford Borough Council identified as requiring further consideration ahead of the submission of the Development Consent Order application.	This was noted and actioned.	The applicant inserted the following statement to the <i>2023 Statutory Consultation</i> section on page 13 of the SoCC to address the feedback received in the previous consultation event, “ <i>A summary of the key themes in the responses to the 2022 Statutory Consultation and how that feedback has been taken into account in shaping the project.</i> ”
2023 Statutory Consultation (page 11)	17/02/2023	The County Council would request that the consultation is carried out over a period of more than the 28 days stated. Given the complexities and importance of the topics which are expected to be considered as part of this consultation, the County Council requests that the consultation is at least as long as the previous Statutory Consultation (5 weeks) to ensure that consultees	This was noted and actioned.	The applicant increased the consultation period in the SoCC to five weeks to ensure consultees would have sufficient time to review changes to project material.

Section of draft SoCC	Date of receipt	Comment by local authority	Regard to comment	Amendment to SoCC (if applicable)
		have adequate time to review the material provided and provide detailed comment accordingly.		
How we will consult you? (page 12)	17/02/2023	The County Council would request that details of the feedback from previous consultations is shared and the latest consultation provides detail on how proposals have been shaped by the feedback provided. The 2023 Statutory Consultation should provide a clear reference of how the scheme has evolved since the last consultation – perhaps in a “you said / we did” format to ensure it is clear how the scheme has responded to feedback.	This was noted and actioned.	The applicant inserted the following statement to the <i>2023 Statutory Consultation</i> section on page 13 of the SoCC to address the feedback received in the previous consultation event, "A <i>summary of the key themes in the responses to the 2022 Statutory Consultation and how that feedback has been taken into account in shaping the project.</i>
2023 Statutory Consultation (page 13)	17/02/2023	The County Council strongly recommends that given the scale of this project, and the importance of the topics proposed to be considered, the 2023 Statutory Consultation is not only a virtual consultation. An element of virtual consultation would be welcomed, but this should be in conjunction with in-person events to ensure that	This was noted and actioned.	The applicant amended the SoCC to include face to face events at the following locations



Section of draft SoCC	Date of receipt	Comment by local authority	Regard to comment	Amendment to SoCC (if applicable)
		<p>the consultation material is accessible to the widest audience. The County Council would prefer for consultation events to occur across the four villages where previous events were held, at appropriate times with the exhibitions staffed by the applicant / technical project team as may be required.</p>		<p>(subject to Covid-19 restrictions):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mersham Village Hall;</li> <li>▪ Aldington Village Hall;</li> <li>▪ Sellindge Village Hall; and</li> <li>▪ Bilsington Village Hall.</li> </ul>
<p>2023 Statutory Consultation (page 13)</p>	<p>17/02/2023</p>	<p>The County Council would also support the request from Ashford Borough Council for full documentation regarding the consultation to be available at the relevant Parish Council offices. It is recommended that after the application is submitted, the application material is also available in the Parish Council offices.</p>	<p>Physical copies of the documents will be available at in person consultation events and at other deposit locations identified in the SoCC. The applicant can also print documents on request.</p>	<p>No changes to SoCC were made because it was considered unnecessary to provide physical copies of the documents at Parish Councils.</p>
<p>2023 Statutory Consultation (page 13)</p>	<p>17/02/2023</p>	<p>In respect of any virtual consultation, it must be ensured that the material is fully digitally accessible to that people using screen readers can participate / view the material.</p>	<p>The applicant changed the consultation events to be face to face. As such this comment no changes to the SoCC were required to consider this comment.</p>	<p>No change made.</p>

Section of draft SoCC	Date of receipt	Comment by local authority	Regard to comment	Amendment to SoCC (if applicable)
2023 Statutory Consultation (page 13)	17/02/2023	The County Council recommends that videos could be provided to explain the scheme and the key elements of the consultation to support people with low literacy to participate in the consultation particularly with the move to virtual exhibitions.	The applicant changed the consultation event to be face to face.	No changes to the draft SoCC were required to consider this comment. The Communications outreach section on page 16 of the draft SoCC already addressed effective communication for all persons through the following statement, <i>"As was the case for the 2022 Statutory Consultation, the 2023 Statutory Consultation will therefore include measures to ensure we communicate effectively with these groups and provide an opportunity for them to have their say. This includes making information available across a number of online or offline outlets and in</i>

Section of draft SoCC	Date of receipt	Comment by local authority	Regard to comment	Amendment to SoCC (if applicable)
				<p><i>different formats. We will be directly engaging with representative groups in the community. We will ensure our written consultation material is in easy to understand, plain English style. A Freephone number, staffed by our community relations team, will be available to assist people who find it difficult to submit written comments and we will offer a telephone surgery to discuss the proposals if required. Large print and braille versions of consultation documents will also be available on request. A Freepost service will be available for people</i></p>

Section of draft SoCC	Date of receipt	Comment by local authority	Regard to comment	Amendment to SoCC (if applicable)
				<i>who prefer to send feedback by post rather than respond online or by email."</i>
2023 Statutory Consultation (page 13)	17/02/2023	The County Council notes that previous consultations included the provision of briefing packs to elected members. It is expected that revised packs will be provided accordingly for this latest consultation.	This was noted and actioned.	The applicant inserted the following statement to the SoCC in order to address this comment, " <i>Further briefing packs will be provided to elected members in advance of the 2023 Statutory Consultation.</i> "
<b>Folkestone &amp; Hythe District Council</b>				
N/A	21/02/2023	The content of the document is clear, specifically with regard to the timetable of events leading up to the formal submission of the draft Development Consent Order (DCO) itself.	Noted.	No change made.
N/A	21/02/2023	From a Folkestone & Hythe District Council (FHDC) perspective, and in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) the Council is required by legislation to consult certain bodies which it considers may have	Noted.	No change made.

Section of draft SoCC	Date of receipt	Comment by local authority	Regard to comment	Amendment to SoCC (if applicable)
		an interest in or be affected by a document. These bodies include local parish and town councils.		
N/A	21/02/2023	Evolution Power has stated that the relevant town and parish councils will be consulted, which is considered to be in accordance with our SCI. For clarity this should include Sellindge, Lymyne and Burmarsh parish Councils.	Noted.	No change made.
N/A	21/02/2023	I note that the wider consultation zone map extends 10km from the centre of the site and includes a large proportion of the North Downs and Romney Marsh areas in the Folkestone & Hythe District. From communication with the Applicant, FHDC are satisfied with the use of the Ashford Mobile Library, which will cover New Romney, Lyminge and Hythe. Details will also be available at Folkestone Library and at the Council Offices.	Noted. Folkestone Library is closed for the foreseeable future. FHDC confirmed providing copies of the consultation documents at the New Romney, Lyminge and Hythe libraries is sufficient.	No change made.
N/A	21/02/2023	FHDC is content with the proposed consultation methods as set out in the most recent SoCC..	Noted.	No change made.
N/A	21/02/2023	Whilst the SoCC is generic, rather than a specific Statement of Common ground between FHDC and Evolution Power, I do have one or two queries with regard to consultations specifically with FHDC.	Noted.	No change made.

Section of draft SoCC	Date of receipt	Comment by local authority	Regard to comment	Amendment to SoCC (if applicable)
N/A	21/02/2023	As previously noted clarification is required as to how FHDC will be treated in the consultation process, are we treated as a Statutory consultee or considered a 'business' within the core consultation zone? Will we be sent all consultation documents, feedback etc. including the PEIR directly? Would information relevant to each stage of the engagement process be obtained either directly from the PINs website or the local centres (such as Libraries) as detailed within the SoCC?	The Applicant clarified to FHDC how they would be consulted during 2023 Statutory Consultation.	No change made.
N/A	21/02/2023	Finally, and as per my previous SoCC response, should the alternative option be forthcoming (as identified on page 5), would it be Evolution Power's intention to discuss any matters directly with us, or would it be for us to attend the workshop events as set out on page 13 of the SoCC in order for discussions (if felt necessary) to take place?	The Applicant clarified to FHDC how they would be consulted during 2023 Statutory Consultation.	No change made.
N/A	21/02/2023	I note that the Applicant reached out following previous communication on the above matters, however clarification on the above would be appreciated.	Clarification provided above.	No change made.



# Stonestreet Green Solar

Consultation Report  
Appendix B-12: Published Statement of  
Community Consultation 3

---



# Stonestreet Green Solar

EPL 001 Limited

Statement of Community Consultation

Published in accordance with Section 47(6) of the Planning Act 2008

May 2023







## Contents

1	Introduction	p. 3
2	The purpose of community consultation and this SoCC	p. 3
3	About EPL 001	p. 4
4	The planning process	p. 4
5	The project	p. 5
6	Who will we consult?	p. 8
7	What will we consult on?	p. 11
8	Environmental information	p. 11
9	The consultation process	p. 12
10	Indicative consultation timeline	p. 13
11	How will we consult with you?	p. 14
12	Consultation feedback	p. 17
13	Communication lines	p. 17



## **1. Introduction**

EPL 001 Limited<sup>1</sup> (referred to throughout as "EPL 001") is intending to develop a renewable energy generating project, including solar photovoltaic ("PV") arrays and on-site energy storage, together with associated infrastructure and an underground cable connection, on land at Aldington near Ashford in Kent, to be known as Stonestreet Green Solar (the "project").

For the avoidance of doubt EPL 001 is the applicant for the purposes of section 41 of the Planning Act 2008. EPL 001 is a wholly owned subsidiary of Evolution Power Limited, which is the group holding company for all renewable developments of the Evolution Power Group.

EPL 001 welcomes your views on our proposals for Stonestreet Green Solar.

## **2. The purpose of community consultation and this SoCC**

This Statement of Community Consultation ("SoCC") (which supersedes earlier SoCCs published in March 2022 and September 2022) explains how EPL 001 intends to consult with you about a proposed application for development consent for our proposals for Stonestreet Green Solar in accordance with section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 before we submit the application.

This SoCC explains how we have identified who to consult, the consultation methods proposed, the timescales for consultation and how consultees can help shape the project.

The publication of this SoCC is being advertised in local newspapers and is available on the project website ([www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk](http://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk)) and at the Deposit Locations listed on page 15 of this document.

EPL 001 will carry out consultation with the local community in accordance with this SoCC. We recognise that local people have a vital role to play at the pre-application stage and that carrying out consultation on the project with the local community will help to inform the development of our proposals. The pre-application consultation provides the opportunity for the local community to engage with and comment on the project as the proposals evolve. We want to listen to your views and work with you to develop our proposals for Stonestreet Green Solar. This will allow us to develop our plans responsibly and in a manner that supports local community and national objectives.

We will use the feedback that we receive during the consultation to help us develop our final proposals for Stonestreet Green Solar before submitting our application.

---

<sup>1</sup> Company name: EPL 001 Limited; company number: 12444050; registered office address: 2nd Floor, Regis House, 45 King William Street, London, United Kingdom, EC4R 9AN; registered in England and Wales.



### **3. About EPL 001**

EPL 001 is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Evolution Power Group, which is a UK-based, independent solar developer that aims to develop affordable and sustainable renewable energy projects to help the UK meet its legally binding 2050 net zero emissions target. Evolution Power's ambition is to develop innovative, renewable energy projects in the 'right' way and carefully selects sites to minimise local impact and targets sites where it has identified potential opportunities to provide energy to local customers to maximise sustainability, environmental and social outcomes. Our aim is to work with local communities, maximising opportunities for community participation and providing meaningful community benefits.

### **4. The planning process**

As the proposed generating capacity exceeds 50 megawatts ("MW"), Stonestreet Green Solar is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ("NSIP") under sections 14(1)(a) and 15(1) and (2) of the Planning Act 2008. The project must therefore apply for a Development Consent Order ("DCO") through the Planning Act 2008 process. Consent for the solar PV arrays, on-site energy storage, associated infrastructure and underground cable connection will be included in the DCO if granted.

The DCO application will be submitted by EPL 001 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. Throughout the examination, interested parties (including members of the local community who submit a relevant representation form to PINS) will be entitled to participate in the examination. The Examining Authority will then prepare a detailed report and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State ("SoS") for Energy Security and Net Zero. The SoS will then make a decision on whether to grant a DCO for the project.

Before the application can be accepted for examination, EPL 001 must demonstrate that pre-application consultation has been undertaken. Consultation must be carried out with statutory consultees under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 and the local community under section 47 of the Planning Act 2008. The proposed application must also be publicised under section 48 of the Planning Act 2008. Before carrying out consultation under section 47 we are required to prepare and publish a SoCC to explain how we will consult the local community. Consultation with statutory consultees under section 42 and publicity under section 48 are outside the scope of this SoCC but will be undertaken in accordance with the Planning Act 2008 and will be reported in the Consultation Report submitted as part of our DCO application.

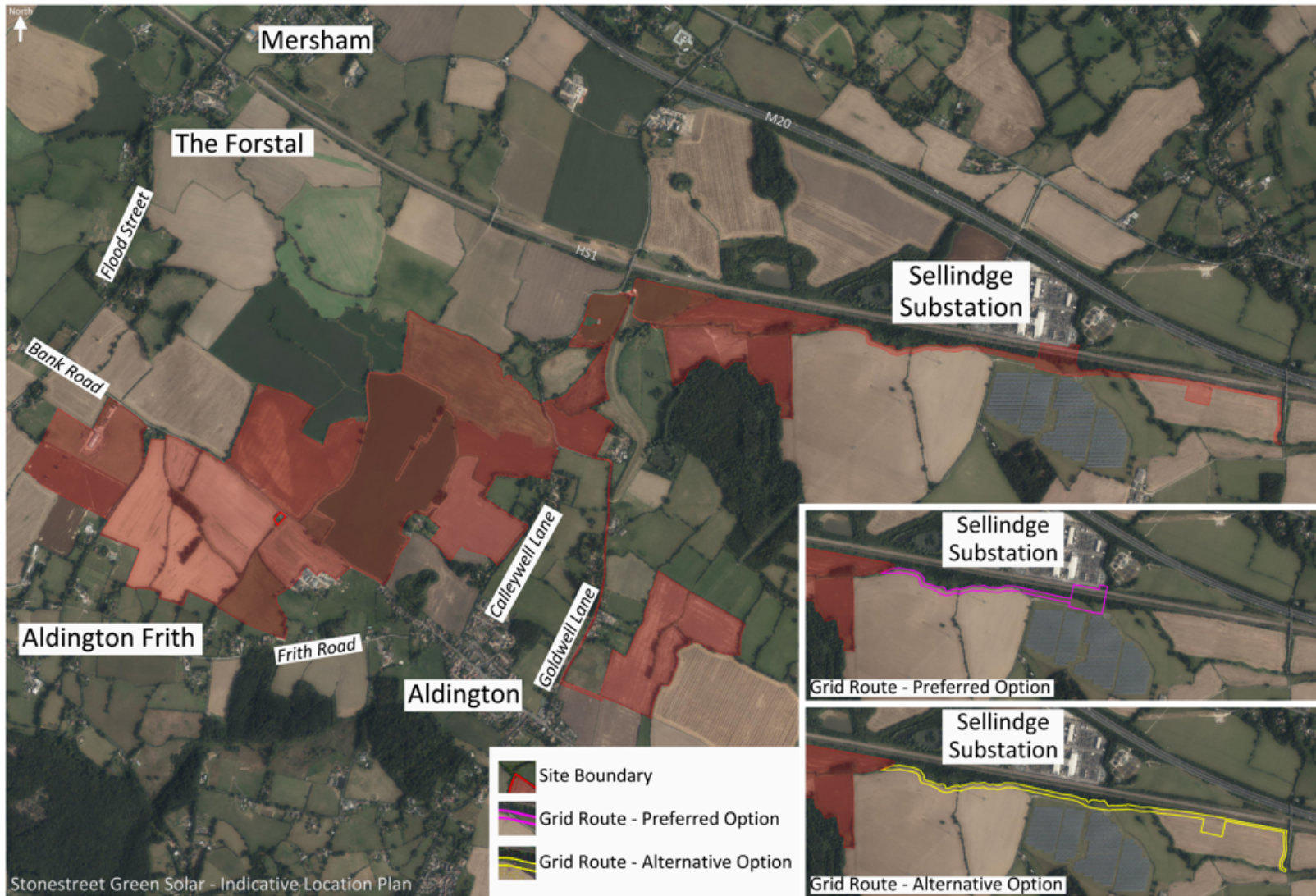
For more information on this process, you can access a short film made by PINS at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/participating-in-the-process/> or a series of PINS advice notes at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>



## **5. The project**

The project will be located approximately 6.5km to the south-east of Ashford Town Centre and approximately 13.7km to the west of Folkestone Town Centre, in the county of Kent. It is situated on approximately 190.57 hectares (470.91 acres) of land to the north and west of the village of Aldington. The project site is within the administrative boundary of Kent County Council, Ashford Borough Council and Folkestone and Hythe District Council. Figure 1 below provides an indicative site location.

Figure 1: Indicative site location plan





The project comprises the proposed construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of a renewable energy generating project. The project will include solar PV arrays and on-site energy storage, together with associated infrastructure and an underground cable connection to the existing UK Power Networks ("UKPN") Substation at Sellindge. The development will be split between various parcels of land which will minimise any visual impact.

The following provides a summary of the project:

- 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 132 kilovolts;
- Project substation, consisting of a private-side project owned substation and a UKPN adopted substation;
- On-site energy storage;
- Two spare parts storage containers;
- Boundary fencing and closed-circuit television security measures; and
- Access tracks.

There are two options for the proposed grid connection arrangement: a Preferred Option and an Alternative Option. The indicative site location plan at Figure 1 includes the land required to deliver both options. The Preferred Option would connect directly to the existing Sellindge Substation. The Alternative Option would instead connect to the existing Sellindge Substation via an existing nearby tower. As shown on Figure 1, the Alternative Option requires additional land, of which approximately 350m of cable route, a switching station adjacent to the tower and approximately 510m of access track would be located within the administrative boundary of Folkestone and Hythe District Council. The exact point of connection for the project is subject to final confirmation from UKPN and, at this stage, it is considered appropriate to include both the Preferred Option and the Alternative Option as part of the project. If a route can be confirmed with UKPN prior to submission then a single route only will be included in the application.

The energy storage will be provided by batteries accommodated in containerised units distributed throughout the site adjacent to the inverter stations. A heating, ventilation, and cooling system will be integrated into the containers to ensure efficiency and safe performance.

Stonestreet Green Solar will provide a range of benefits including:

- The project is expected to have a generating capacity of around 165MW of renewable energy. The agreed grid connection for the project will allow the export and import of up to 99.9MW of clean, renewable electricity to the national grid at any time, contributing to the UK's 2050 net-zero target.
- The generation of renewable electricity from the project will displace the generation of electricity from other conventional power sources, including fossil-fuel reliant sources, resulting in a saving of approximately 34,500 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum.



- The project will include energy storage on-site, which will enable the storage, import and export of electricity to and from the grid.
- The project will generate subsidy-free electricity, without public financial support.
- The project will provide an inflation-linked community benefit fund for the lifetime of the project to be used locally for social and environmental projects.
- During the lifetime of the project, the biodiversity of the site will be greatly enhanced and the soil condition will be improved.

## **6. Who will we consult?**

In accordance with this SoCC, we will consult with the local communities in the vicinity of the land to which the proposed DCO application relates. We also welcome feedback from anyone who may be interested in or in any way feel impacted by our proposals for Stonestreet Green Solar.

People can register their interest at the project website ([www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk](http://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk) – use the 'Contact Us' tab) to receive regular updates on the project.

We will also consult relevant parish and town councils, community groups, organisations representing local businesses and communities and tourist organisations. In addition, we will also be consulting on our proposed project with a range of other statutory and non-statutory consultees.

### ***Core Consultation Zone (see Figure 2)***

A core consultation zone has been defined to cover a 4km radius from the centre of the site. The zone centres on the proposed development site in Aldington and extends outwards to include the nearby surrounding villages of Bilsington, Bonnington, Brabourne Lees, Kingsnorth, Mersham and Smeeth. All elements of the project (as described in Section 5 of this SoCC) will be located within this core consultation zone. Residents and businesses within the core consultation zone will receive our leaflets and newsletters directly.

### ***Wider Consultation Zone (see Figure 3)***

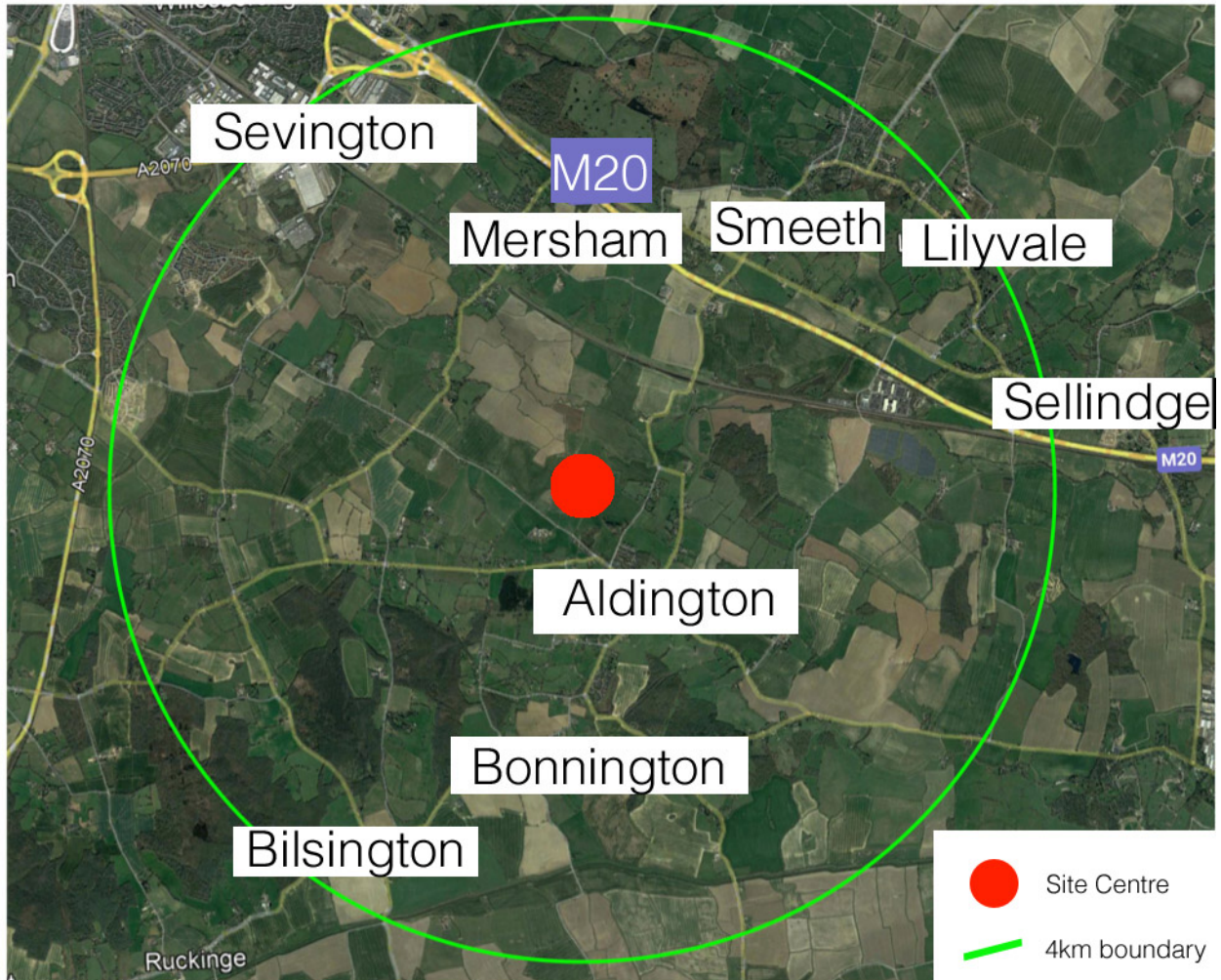
EPL 001 recognises that there will be some people who do not live within the core consultation zone but are nevertheless interested in our proposals. We want to ensure that these people are aware of our proposals and the opportunities to get involved. Therefore, we will use tools such as media relations and advertising to notify residents and businesses within a wider consultation zone about the consultation, covering a 10km radius from the site.

Together, the core consultation zone and the wider consultation zone comprise our consultation area.

EPL 001 will be visiting areas within the consultation area throughout the development of the proposals to meet with communities, provide information and listen to feedback on the proposals.



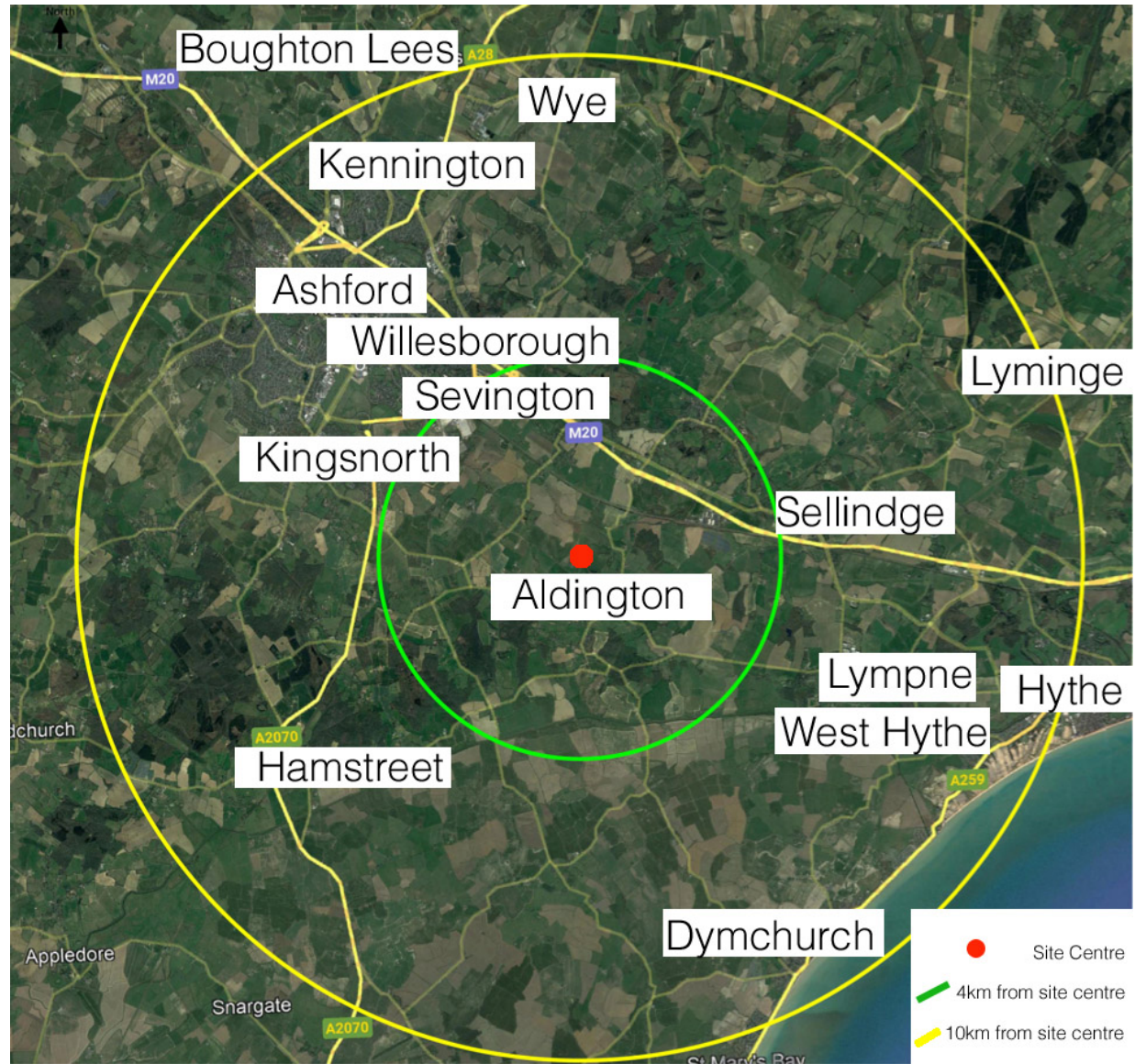
**Figure 2: Core Consultation Zone Map**







**Figure 3: Wider Consultation Zone Map**





## **7. What will we consult on?**

We will be seeking feedback on all aspects of our plans for Stonestreet Green Solar. We will encourage the local communities to give their views about how our proposals may affect them or their area. For example, we will be seeking feedback to help develop our proposals regarding impacts such as, but not limited to:

- Short term, temporary construction impacts, such as upon wildlife and local residents.
- Long term, operational impacts, such as upon wildlife, landscape and views.
- Benefits, such as contributing towards low carbon energy production and providing security of energy supply.

## **8. Environmental information**

In accordance with Regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, we confirm that the Stonestreet Green Solar development is an Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") development as defined in those regulations and that we intend to publicise and consult on preliminary environmental information. We will be undertaking an EIA for Stonestreet Green Solar in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, including the preparation of an Environmental Statement ("ES").

### ***Scoping***

In May 2022, we obtained a Scoping Opinion from PINS (on behalf of the SoS) on the scope and level of detail of the information to be provided in the ES. EPL 001's request for that Scoping Opinion included a Scoping Report that described the project and explained our initial analysis of the anticipated likely significant environmental effects and the scope of technical assessment required. PINS sought feedback on this from consultation bodies before issuing the Scoping Opinion. A copy of the Scoping Report and the Scoping Opinion are available on the PINS project website under the 'Documents' tab (<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/stonestreet-green-solar/>) and on the project website ([www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk/Consultation](http://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk/Consultation)).

### ***Preliminary Environmental Information***

Following the publication of the Scoping Opinion, we prepared a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ("PEIR") which provided a preliminary statement of the environmental information compiled by EPL 001 for the Stonestreet Green Solar study area. EPL 001 consulted on the PEIR as part of the 2022 Statutory Consultation (see Section 9 of this SoCC). EPL 001 is currently considering the feedback received from that consultation, and the results of further studies/surveys, and is preparing further preliminary environmental information (which will take the form of a "PEIR Addendum") that will be consulted on as part of the 2023 Statutory Consultation (see Section 9 of this SoCC). Together the PEIR and the PEIR Addendum will enable consultees to develop an informed view of any likely significant environmental effects of the development.



### ***Environmental Statement ("ES")***

The ES will advance the content of the PEIR and the PEIR Addendum. In preparing the ES, consideration will be given to the responses to the 2022 Statutory Consultation and the 2023 Statutory Consultation and results of the studies/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.

Details of when the above documents have been or are expected to be published can be found in Section 10 of this SoCC, which displays the indicative consultation timeline.

## **9. The consultation process**

The consultation process for Stonestreet Green Solar will be an iterative one as the design of the project develops in response to the consultation. The following consultation process shapes the indicative consultation timeline, as presented in Section 10 of this SoCC.

### ***Stakeholder briefings – Spring 2022***

We introduced community members to our proposals for Stonestreet Green Solar in spring 2022 through initial meetings with members of the community and stakeholders.

### ***Non-Statutory Consultation - 25 March to 29 April 2022***

Non-statutory consultation and local information events took place between 25 March and 29 April 2022. These provided interested members of the local community with the opportunity to view the initial proposals and submit feedback. A consultation leaflet was also delivered to all residents and businesses within the core consultation zone. The feedback received to this non-statutory consultation is helping to shape the proposals for Stonestreet Green Solar.

### ***2022 Statutory Consultation – 25 October to 29 November 2022***

Statutory consultation, in accordance with section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, took place between 25 October and 29 November 2022. This provided detailed information about the project, including in the PEIR (as described in Section 8 of this SoCC), and sought consultation comments from the local community. Local information events and a public presentation were held. Details of the consultation were publicised through adverts in the local press and on social media, via a newsletter to residents and businesses in the core consultation zone, via email to local parish councils, via the project Twitter feed and via the project website, in advance of the consultation starting. Notices about the statutory consultation were placed in local and national newspapers and at the site.

### ***2023 Statutory Consultation***

A further round of statutory consultation, in accordance with section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, will take place in 2023 in advance of the DCO application being submitted. The consultation will be carried out over a period of five weeks. The consultation materials will



provide information about the project as updated following consideration of the feedback received from the 2022 Statutory Consultation and the results of further studies/surveys, and will seek consultation comments from the local community. It will provide information in particular on topics including (but not limited to):

- A summary of the key themes in the responses to the 2022 Statutory Consultation and how that feedback has been taken into account in shaping the project
- The anticipated landscape and visual impacts of the project, including information on glint and glare
- The anticipated impacts on ecology including the proposed biodiversity net gain as a result of the project
- The anticipated impacts on cultural heritage
- The proposed alterations to the Public Rights of Way network
- Mitigation measures that are proposed to seek to address the project impacts (including proposed landscaping approach)

Details of the consultation will be publicised through adverts in the local press and on social media, via a newsletter to residents and businesses in the core consultation zone, via email to local parish councils, via the project Twitter feed and via the project website, in advance of the consultation starting. Notices about the statutory consultation will be placed in local and national newspapers and at the site.

### ***Ongoing engagement***

Anyone interested in our proposals is welcome to get in touch with us at any time during the pre-application process. Our contact details are listed at the end of this SoCC. We will consider the feedback and comments we receive on an ongoing basis. You will also have the opportunity to comment on our proposals for the project when the DCO application is submitted to PINS.

In addition to the above, we may also decide to hold further rounds of statutory or non-statutory consultation, including targeted consultation with specific groups, where appropriate.

### **10. Indicative consultation timeline**

Spring 2022: Publication of March 2022 SoCC and stakeholder briefings (completed)

Spring 2022: Non-Statutory Consultation (completed)

Spring 2022: Scoping Report submitted (completed)

Spring 2022: Scoping Opinion published (completed)

Autumn 2022: Publication of September 2022 SoCC (completed)

Autumn 2022: 2022 Statutory Consultation and PEIR published (completed)

Summer 2023: 2023 Statutory Consultation and PEIR Addendum published (indicative)

Summer/Autumn 2023: Finalise ES and DCO application (indicative)

Autumn 2023: DCO application submission (indicative)



## 11. How will we consult with you?

### ***Local information events***

Local information events open to the public took place in spring 2022 as part of the Non-Statutory Consultation and autumn 2022 as part of the 2022 Statutory Consultation. Attendees had the opportunity to view informative materials about the project, discuss the proposals with members of the team and provide their feedback on the proposals. All the materials available at those local information events are available to view on the project website. Regard has been had to all feedback captured from these events.

### ***Non-Statutory Consultation***

Local information events as part of our Non-Statutory Consultation were held at the following venues:

- Sellindge Village Hall - Friday 8 April 2022, 3pm - 7pm
- Aldington Village Hall - Saturday 9 April 2022, 11am - 3pm
- Bilsington Village Hall - Tuesday 12 April 2022, 1pm - 5pm
- Mersham Sports Club - Wednesday 13 April 2022, 2pm - 6pm

### ***2022 Statutory Consultation***

Local information events as part of the 2022 Statutory Consultation were held at the following venues:

- Mersham Village Hall - Friday 4 November 2022, 3pm - 7pm
- Aldington Village Hall - Saturday 5 November 2022, 11am - 3pm
- Sellindge Village Hall - Tuesday 8 November 2022, 2pm - 6pm
- Bilsington Village Hall - Wednesday 9 November 2022, 1pm - 5pm

A public presentation was also held at Aldington Village Hall on Tuesday 8 November 2022 to enable members of the public to ask questions about the project.

### ***2023 Statutory Consultation***

Local information events open to the public will be held as part of the 2023 Statutory Consultation, subject to any Covid-19 restrictions that may be in place at the time, at the following venues or equivalent nearby venues:

- Mersham Village Hall
- Aldington Village Hall
- Sellindge Village Hall
- Bilsington Village Hall

The events will be held during afternoons and early evenings in the week and on one day at the weekend. The dates and times of the events will be publicised through adverts in the local press, via newsletters to residents and businesses in the core consultation zone, via email to local parish councils, via the project Twitter feed and via the project website, before the commencement of consultation. The exhibition materials used at these events will be made available to download on the project website during the 2023 Statutory Consultation. A hard



copy of the 2023 Statutory Consultation documents including the PEIR Addendum will be made available at these events, and members of the project team will be available to answer questions about the project.

### ***Literature***

Stakeholder briefing packs were provided to elected members in spring 2022 to introduce the scheme and inform them of how their constituents will be engaged with during the process. Further briefing packs will be provided to elected members in advance of the 2023 Statutory Consultation.

Leaflets and newsletters have been and will continue to be distributed to all residents and businesses within the core consultation zone (as shown in Figure 2 of this SoCC) at key pre-application consultation stages which provide information on the proposals and details of how the local community can have their say. Newsletters will continue to be distributed during the examination stage.

Subject to any measures put in place by the government in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, during the pre-application period, copies of this SoCC, leaflets and newsletters, the 2022 Statutory Consultation documents including the PEIR and (from the start of the 2023 Statutory Consultation) the 2023 Statutory Consultation documents including the PEIR Addendum will be available to view free of charge at the following public buildings and libraries ("Deposit Locations"):

- Ashford Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford TN23 1PL (Monday to Friday: 9am to 4pm; Saturday and Sunday: closed)
- Folkestone and Hythe Council Offices, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2QY (Monday to Friday: 10am to 4pm; Saturday and Sunday: closed)
- Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ (Monday to Friday: 8am to 5pm; Saturday and Sunday: closed) – by appointment only
- Ashford Library, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS
- New Romney Library, 82 High Street, New Romney, TN28 8AU
- Lyminge Library, Station Road, Lyminge, Folkestone, Kent CT18 8HS
- Hythe Library, 1 Stade Street, Hythe, Kent CT21 6BQ

Information on the opening hours for the libraries listed above can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries/visiting-a-library>

Copies of this SoCC, leaflets and newsletters, the 2022 Statutory Consultation documents including the PEIR and (from the start of the 2023 Statutory Consultation) the 2023 Statutory Consultation documents including the PEIR Addendum are also available to access on the project website at [www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk](http://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk)



Once submitted, copies of the full DCO application will be available at one or more of the sites listed above (to be confirmed nearer to the time of submitting the application and subject to agreement from the venues listed). Copies of the application documents will also be made available to access on the project website at [www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk](http://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk) and on the PINS project website at <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/stonestreet-green-solar/>.

### ***Direct communication lines***

Anyone interested in the project can contact us using any of the communication lines detailed in Section 13 of this SoCC. All project information will be available to download from the project website at [www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk](http://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk)

### ***Communications outreach***

Across the consultation area we have been and will continue to raise awareness of the project amongst those living or working in this area. As mentioned above, documents providing information about the project are available to view at the Deposit Locations and the 2023 Statutory Consultation documents will be available at these locations from the start of the 2023 Statutory Consultation (subject to any applicable Covid-19 restrictions). This SoCC will also be sent to local community groups as appropriate. We will use a newsletter, posters, social media, the project website and local media to reach out to those within the consultation area to inform them about the 2023 Statutory Consultation (as we did for the 2022 Statutory Consultation).

EPL 001 will also seek to consult with “hard to reach” groups, which are demographic groups that may be less likely to participate in or respond to traditional consultation techniques. They may find it harder to get involved in consultation and need additional support to access materials. As was the case for the 2022 Statutory Consultation, the 2023 Statutory Consultation will therefore include measures to ensure we communicate effectively with these groups and provide an opportunity for them to have their say. This includes making information available across a number of online or offline outlets and in different formats. We will be directly engaging with representative groups in the community. We will ensure our written consultation material is in easy to understand, plain English style. A Freephone number, staffed by our community relations team, will be available to assist people who find it difficult to submit written comments and we will offer a telephone surgery to discuss the proposals if required. Large print and braille versions of consultation documents will also be available on request. A Freepost service will be available for people who prefer to send feedback by post rather than respond online or by email.

### ***Community Liaison Panel***

We have established a Community Liaison Panel ("CLP"). The terms of reference for the CLP, along with notes of meetings, can be viewed on the project website at <https://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk/Consultation>.



## 12. Consultation feedback

### ***Collection of responses***

To capture participant feedback, we will produce a consultation questionnaire for the 2023 Statutory Consultation inviting comments on the proposed Stonestreet Green Solar project, as we did previously for the 2022 Statutory Consultation and Non-Statutory Consultation. During the 2023 Statutory Consultation period, the questionnaire will be made available at the local information events, online through the dedicated project website ([www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk](http://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk)) and via post upon request. Consultees will be able to respond by completing the questionnaire online or by returning a completed questionnaire at a local information event or by using the contact details set out in Section 13 of this SoCC during the 2023 Statutory Consultation period.

### ***How will we consider the responses?***

Following the end of the 2023 Statutory Consultation, we will carefully consider all the responses that we have received and have regard to this in finalising our proposals for the Stonestreet Green Solar project, ahead of submitting our DCO application. Our DCO application will include a Consultation Report setting out how we have had regard to the responses received. This will:

- describe our consultation process;
- explain how we complied with all legal requirements;
- detail how we worked with the local planning authority to ensure our consultation was suitable for your area;
- provide a summary of all consultation responses (from the local communities, statutory and non-statutory consultees and the general public);
- describe any changes we have made to our application as a result of what you told us; and
- explain why, if any, changes were not made to the application that you told us needed changing.

We will ensure that the Consultation Report complies with data protection legislation including that personal data of individuals is treated appropriately. EPL 001 may be asked to provide a copy to PINS of any or all of the statutory consultation responses that were received and we will ensure that we comply with any applicable obligations under data protection legislation.

## 13. Communication lines

Send us an email: [info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk](mailto:info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk)

Call our Freephone information line: 08081 698335

Visit the project website: [www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk](http://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk)

Send us a letter: FREEPOST Stonestreet Green Solar

Should you require this SoCC in large print, audio or braille then please contact us using the details provided.

**May 2023**





**Stonestreet  
Green Solar**



# Stonestreet Green Solar

Consultation Report

Appendix B-13: Section 47 notices for Statement of  
Community Consultation 3

---



# Folkestone & Hythe EXPRESS

FOLKESTONE TAXIS  
01303  
252000  
ANY TIME  
ANY WHERE

KM KentOnline

KMfm KENT'S BIGGEST HITS

FOR ALL YOUR NEWS IN FOLKESTONE, HYTHE & ROMNEY MARSH May 24 - May 30, 2023

£1.50



## RESTAURANT SHUTS AMID RISING COSTS

CUSTOMERS SORRY TO SEE TOWN CENTRE EATERY CLOSE - PAGE 2

# Tip opening days set to be slashed

by Chantal Weller  
cweller@thekmgroupp.co.uk

Folkestone's rubbish tip could shut two days of the week as part of drastic cost-saving measures.

Cash-strapped Kent County Council has announced plans to close as many as four recycling centres and cut the opening hours of a further 10 as it looks to balance the books.

The site in Shorncliffe Road, Cheriton, is among those which could have its operational days reduced to five a week.

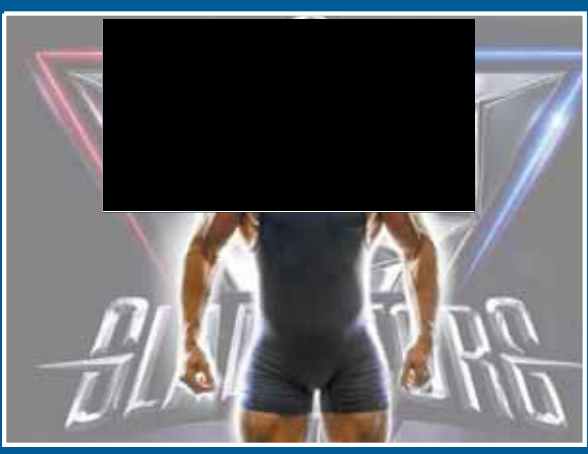


Four tips could permanently close under the proposals

Councillors debated the controversial proposals yesterday and agreed to put the options out to public consultation ahead of a final decision being made.

■ See page 7

## FOLKESTONE DAD TO STAR IN RETURN OF GLADIATORS



YOUTUBE FAVOURITE PART OF NEW LINE-UP - PAGE 4

**T20 CRICKET IS BACK**  
FIVE SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT IN CANTERBURY  
ENJOIN US THROUGHOUT MAY AND JUNE

BE THERE FOR THE MOMENTS THAT MATTER  
**BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW AT**  
[TICKETS.KENTCRICKET.CO.UK](http://TICKETS.KENTCRICKET.CO.UK)

SPITFIRE  
ST LAWRENCE

7  
SHEPHERD  
NEAME

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Stonestreet Green Solar**

**EPL 001 Limited**

Notice stating where and when Statement of Community Consultation can be inspected

**Section 47(6) of the Planning Act 2008**

An updated Statement of Community Consultation ("SoCC") (which supersedes earlier SoCCs published in March 2022 and September 2022) has been made available for inspection by the public to explain how EPL 001 Limited proposes to consult the local community about a proposed application for a development consent order ("DCO") for the Stonestreet Green Solar project.

Stonestreet Green Solar is a proposed renewable energy generating project, including solar photovoltaic arrays and on-site energy storage, together with associated infrastructure and an underground cable connection, on land at Aldington near Ashford in Kent (the "project"). The project will be located approximately 6.5km to the south-east of Ashford Town Centre and approximately 13.7km to the west of Folkestone Town Centre, in the county of Kent. It is situated on approximately 190.57 hectares (470.91 acres) of land to the north and west of the village of Aldington.

As the proposed generating capacity exceeds 50 megawatts, Stonestreet Green Solar is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under sections 14(1)(a) and 15(1) and (2) of the Planning Act 2008. A DCO must therefore be obtained for the project through the Planning Act 2008 process.

The updated SoCC explains what consultation has been carried out so far on the project, describes the further consultation that is planned to take place in 2023 over a period of five weeks and sets out how that consultation will be undertaken.

The updated SoCC can be viewed free of charge at [www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk](http://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk) (under the tab labelled 'Consultation') and is also available to view free of charge until submission of the DCO application at the following public buildings and libraries (subject to any measures put in place by the government in response to the Covid-19 pandemic):

- Ashford Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford TN23 1PL (Monday to Friday: 9am to 4pm; Saturday and Sunday: closed)



- Folkestone and Hythe Council Offices, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2QY (Monday to Friday: 10am to 4pm; Saturday and Sunday: closed)

- Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ (Monday to Friday: 8am to 5pm; Saturday and Sunday: closed) – by appointment only

- Ashford Library, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS

- New Romney Library, 82 High Street, New Romney, TN28 8AU

- Lyminge Library, Station Road, Lyminge, Folkestone, Kent CT18 8HS

- Hythe Library, 1 Stade Street, Hythe, Kent CT21 6BQ

Information on the opening hours for the libraries listed above can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries/visiting-a-library>

Following the end of the consultation, the consultation responses will be carefully considered and regard will be had to them in finalising the proposals for the project ahead of submitting the DCO application. The DCO application will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by EPL 001 Limited (company number: 12444050; registered address: 2nd Floor, Regis House, 45 King William Street, London, United Kingdom, EC4R 9AN; registered in England and Wales), which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Evolution Power Limited.

If you have any questions please visit the project website at [www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk](http://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk) or contact the project team by:

- Email: [info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk](mailto:info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk)
- Freephone information line: 08081 698335
- Post: FREEPOST Stonestreet Green Solar

# Campbells



MOT's Class 1, 2, 4 & 7 | Servicing & Repairs | Tyres & 4 Wheel Alignment | Car Sales

1969 - 2019

## Quality Late Low Mileage, Low Road Tax & Insurance Cars

<p><b>2018 (68) Renault Captur Play TCE</b>, red/black, manual, petrol, 5dr, SH, 31,264 miles, RFT £180... <b>£11,995</b></p> <p><b>2018 (18) Renault Clio Signature Nav TCE</b>, grey, manual, petrol, 45,866 miles, 5dr, SH, RFT £180... <b>£10,995</b></p> <p><b>2018 (68) Fiat 500 1.2 Lounge</b>, red, petrol, 3drs, SH, manual, £180 RFT... <b>£9,995</b></p> <p><b>2017 (67) Fiat Panda 0.9 Twinair Lounge Dualogic Automatic</b>, silver, 14,196 miles, petrol, 5dr, SH, RFT £165... <b>SOLD</b></p> <p><b>2017 (67) Skoda Fabia 1.0 MPI 75 SE</b>, red, 5dr, petrol, manual, 38,600 miles... <b>SOLD</b></p> <p><b>2017 (67) Hyundai i10 1.0 S</b>, grey, 5dr, petrol, manual, 26,920 miles, SH, RFT £180... <b>£8,495</b></p> <p><b>2017 (17) Mini Cooper Seven</b>, green, 49,000 miles, manual, petrol, 5dr, RFT £180... <b>now £12,599</b></p> <p><b>2017 (17) Citroen C1 1.0 Feel</b>, grey, 39,600 miles, SH, petrol, manual, 3dr, RFT £180... <b>£6,995</b></p> <p><b>2017 (17) Ford Fiesta Zetec 1.0 Turbo</b>, white, 41,000 miles, petrol, manual, 5dr, SH, RFT £200... <b>£9,895</b></p> <p><b>2017 (17) Fiat 500 1.2 Lounge</b>, blue, petrol, manual, 18,750 miles, SH, RFT £180... <b>£9,295</b></p> <p><b>2016 (66) Renault Clio Dynamique Nav TCE</b>, grey, manual, petrol, 19,012 miles, 5dr, SH, RFT £20... <b>£9,495</b></p>	<p><b>2016 (66) Volkswagen Up! 1.0 MPI 60 Up Beats</b>, white, 39,890 miles, petrol, 3dr, manual, RFT £20... <b>£8,495</b></p> <p><b>2016 (16) Fiat Doblo Multijet Easy</b>, manual, blue, diesel, 20,000 miles, SH, RFT £180... <b>£10,995</b></p> <p><b>2015 (15) Volkswagen Polo 1.0 60 SE</b>, 42,152 miles, blue, petrol, manual, 5drs, SH, £20 RFT... <b>SOLD</b></p> <p><b>2015 (15) Fiat Panda 1.2 Easy</b>, black, 26,500 miles, petrol, manual, 5dr, SH, RFT £35... <b>£DUE IN SOON</b></p> <p><b>2015 (15) Fiat Panda Pop</b>, white, 5dr, petrol, manual, only 5,600 miles!, SH, RFT £35... <b>£7,195</b></p> <p><b>2014 (64) Hyundai i10 1.2 SE</b>, silver, manual, petrol, 5dr, 14,900 miles, RFT £35... <b>£7,995</b></p> <p><b>2014 (14) Ford Kuga 1.6 E/B 2WD Titanium X StationWagon</b>, grey, 47,600 miles, 5dr, petrol, manual, SH, RFT £240... <b>£12,995</b></p> <p><b>2013 (63) Nissan Micra 1.2 Acenta</b>, blue, 19,900 miles, petrol, manual, 5dr, SH, RFT £35... <b>£7,495</b></p> <p><b>2013 (13) Volkswagen Up! 1.0 60 Move Up ASG</b>, white, 39,960 miles, Auto, petrol, 5dr, RFT £20... <b>£8,495</b></p> <p><b>2013 (13) Ford Focus 1.6 TI-VCT 125 Titanium Estate</b>, auto, brown, petrol, 40,000 miles, 5dr, RFT £180... <b>£8,494</b></p> <p><b>2009 (59) Skoda Fabia</b>, manual, petrol, red, 40,339 miles, 5dr, SH, RFT £180... <b>SOLD</b></p>
---	---

Includes ★ 6 Months Warranty ★ MOT ★ Part Exchange Welcome **VIEWING BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

1-3 DEAL BUSINESS PARK, MINTERS YARD, SOUTHWALL ROAD, DEAL

**WWW.CAMPBELLSOFDEAL.CO.UK**

**01304 373527** Up to 3 years RBC Warranty available

**OPENING HOURS**  
Mon-Fri 8.30am - 5.30pm  
Online enquires welcome

\*Finance available subject to status. T&C's apply

**KM Travel Reader Exclusive Offers**

**BOOK YOUR ADVENTURE NOW!**

**DAY TRIPS**

**SHORT BREAKS**

**WORLDWIDE HOLIDAYS**

READER EXCLUSIVE OFFERS

Please reference ABTA 6982 when booking.

0330 221 1015

crosskeys.uk.com/km

# CARS WANTED

# CASH TODAY

## 1/2 Hour Anywhere + VANS

### (MOTORHOMES & CLASSIC CARS)

## £500 - £20,000 MAX

High or Low Mileage

## MOT OR NOT

## GOOD CLEAN OR DAMAGED

Honest & reputable Well est.

All areas covered – 24hr 7 days

LOCAL DEALER

# 07760 752834

ADVERTISING WEEKLY FOR OVER 30 YEARS



# KENTISH EXPRESS

ASHFORD & TENTERDEN



Trinity Flooring  
stylish & Affordable Flooring

Showrooms in  
Ashford & Tenterden

www.trinity-flooring.co.uk  
Tel: 01233 610 700



KM KentOnline

KMFM  
KENT'S BIGGEST HITS

TRUSTED NEWS SINCE 1855

May 25-May 31, 2023

£1.80

## RUGBY CLUB COULD BECOME 'KENT'S BEST'

FULL STORY  
PAGE 14

BOSSES UNVEIL BOLD PLAN FOR NEW FACILITIES



## INDEX



**NEW LOOK**  
£100,000 pub  
refurbishment

PAGE 8



**FARM PLAN**  
Restaurant bid  
at historic site

PAGE 9



**BROCK BACK**  
Contraflow  
is out again

PAGE 13

# 'IT STINKS!'

STUBBS CROSS ROAD

Neighbours' fury as plans submitted for wastewater management site at huge Chilmington Green housing estate

FULL STORY PAGE 5



# MERCURY



WINDOWS  
DOORS  
CONSERVATORIES

For Quotes Please Call 01233 713111 or email: sales@mercurywindows.com

Visit our showroom Maidstone Road, Tutthill, Hothfield, Ashford, Kent TN26 1AW

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**VEHICLES WANTED**

**Stonestreet Green Solar**

EPL 001 Limited

Notice stating where and when Statement of Community Consultation can be inspected



**Section 47(6) of the Planning Act 2008**

An updated Statement of Community Consultation ("SoCC") (which supersedes earlier SoCCs published in March 2022 and September 2022) has been made available for inspection by the public to explain how EPL 001 Limited proposes to consult the local community about a proposed application for a development consent order ("DCO") for the Stonestreet Green Solar project.

Stonestreet Green Solar is a proposed renewable energy generating project, including solar photovoltaic arrays and on-site energy storage, together with associated infrastructure and an underground cable connection, on land at Aldington near Ashford in Kent (the "project"). The project will be located approximately 6.5km to the south-east of Ashford Town Centre and approximately 13.7km to the west of Folkestone Town Centre, in the county of Kent. It is situated on approximately 190.57 hectares (470.91 acres) of land to the north and west of the village of Aldington.

As the proposed generating capacity exceeds 50 megawatts, Stonestreet Green Solar is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under sections 14(1)(a) and 15(1) and (2) of the Planning Act 2008. A DCO must therefore be obtained for the project through the Planning Act 2008 process.

The updated SoCC explains what consultation has been carried out so far on the project, describes the further consultation that is planned to take place in 2023 over a period of five weeks and sets out how that consultation will be undertaken.

The updated SoCC can be viewed free of charge at [www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk](http://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk) (under the tab labelled 'Consultation') and is also available to view free of charge until submission of the DCO application at the following public buildings and libraries (subject to any measures put in place by the government in response to the Covid-19 pandemic):

- Ashford Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford TN23 1PL (Monday to Friday: 9am to 4pm; Saturday and Sunday: closed)

- Folkestone and Hythe Council Offices, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2QY (Monday to Friday: 10am to 4pm; Saturday and Sunday: closed)

- Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ (Monday to Friday: 8am to 5pm; Saturday and Sunday: closed) – by appointment only

- Ashford Library, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS

- New Romney Library, 82 High Street, New Romney, TN28 8AU

- Lyminge Library, Station Road, Lyminge, Folkestone, Kent CT18 8HS

- Hythe Library, 1 Stade Street, Hythe, Kent CT21 6BD

Information on the opening hours for the libraries listed above can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries/visiting-a-library>

Following the end of the consultation, the consultation responses will be carefully considered and regard will be had to them in finalising the proposals for the project ahead of submitting the DCO application. The DCO application will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by EPL 001 Limited (company number: 12444050; registered address: 2nd Floor, Regis House, 45 King William Street, London, United Kingdom, EC4R 9AN; registered in England and Wales), which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Evolution Power Limited.

If you have any questions please visit the project website at [www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk](http://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk) or contact the project team by:

- Email: [info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk](mailto:info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk)
- Freephone information line: 08081 698335
- Post: FREEPOST Stonestreet Green Solar

# CARS WANTED CASH TODAY

## 1/2 Hour Anywhere + VANS

### (MOTORHOMES & CLASSIC CARS)

### £500 - £20,000 MAX

### High or Low Mileage

## MOT OR NOT



## GOOD CLEAN

## OR DAMAGED

### Honest & reputable Well est.

### All areas covered – 24hr 7 days

### LOCAL DEALER



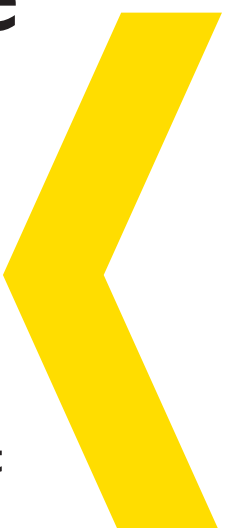
# 07760 752834

### ADVERTISING WEEKLY FOR OVER 30 YEARS



# Please recycle your KM Group newspapers

## The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2018 was 69.2%



# together we make a difference