

Stonestreet Green Solar

Consultation Report Appendix D: Community Organisations Consulted During 2022 and 2023 Statutory Consultation Appendices D-1 to D-5

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June 2024

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

Consultation Report
Appendix D-1: Community Organisations
Consulted During 2022 Statutory Consultation

Appendix D-1: Community Organisations consulted during 2022 Statutory Consultation

Table 1: Community Organisations consulted during 2022 Statutory Consultation

Community Organisations consulted during 2022 Statutory Consultation	Address	Email
E Sedgwick & S Godfrey Trust	Springfield House, Main Road, Sellindge, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6EG	
Rural Means Rural – Aldington		ruralmeansrural@gmail.com
The Village Alliance – Mersham		tva@thevillagealliance.co.uk
Rural Kent Action with Communities – East Brabourne	Penstock Hall, Canterbury Rd, East Brabourne, Ashford TN25 5LL	info@ruralkent.org.uk
St Martin’s Church, Aldington	Church Ln, Aldington, Ashford TN25 7EG	churchwardens@aldingtonchurch.uk
St. John the Baptist, Mersham	4 Church Cl, Mersham, Ashford TN25 6NR	vicar@stourdowns.org.uk
St Mary the Virgin, Sellindge	3 Whitehall Way, Sellindge, Ashford TN25 6ET	vicar@stourdowns.org.uk
St Mary the Virgin, Smeeth	St Mary the Virgin, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SA	vicar@stourdowns.org.uk
St Stephens Church, Lympne	St Stephens Church, Castle Cl, Lympne CT21 4LQ	rector@saltwoodchurch.org
Kent Community Foundation	Evegate Business Centre, Station Rd, Ashford TN25 6SX	admin@kentcf.org.uk
Sellindge District Residents Association		sellindgeresidents@gmail.com
Sellindge Sport and Social Club	69 Swan Ln, Sellindge, Ashford TN25 6HB	club@sellindgeclub.co.uk
Ashford Ramblers		ashfordramblersmemsec@gmail.com
Extinction Rebellion Ashford		xrashfordkent@gmail.com
Mersham Sports Club	Mersham Sports Club, Flood St, The Forstal, Ashford TN25 7HE	mershamsportsclub@gmail.com
Kent Community Energy	W106 Vox Studios, 1 - 45 Durham Street, Vauxhall, London, SE11 5JH	info@kentcommunityenergy.org

Invicta Chamber of Commerce	Ashford Business Point, Waterbrook Avenue Sevington, Ashford TN24 0LH	info@kentinvictachamber.co.uk
Kent Wildlife Trust	Tyland Barn, Chatham Road, Sandling, Maidstone, Kent. ME14 3BD	info@kentwildlife.org.uk
Kent Downs AONB	The Granary, Canterbury Road, East Brabourne, Ashford, Kent, TN25 5LL	mail@kentdowns.org.uk
RSPB (Canterbury Local Group)	Blean Village Hall, 2 School Lane, Blean, Kent CT2 9JA	babs@squirrels.plus.com
RSPB (Regional media enquiries)		EngMediaEnquiries@rspb.org.uk
CPRE Kent	Queens Head House, Ashford Rd, Charing, Ashford TN27 0AD	info@cprekent.org.uk / david.mairs@cprekent.org.uk
North Downs Way National Trail		peter.morris@kentdowns.org.uk



Stonestreet Green Solar

Consultation Report

Appendix D-2: Emails to Community Organisations
Consulted During 2022 Statutory Consultation

From: info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk

To:

[REDACTED]

Subject: Stonestreet Green Solar - Statutory Consultation

Date: 17 October 2022 17:08:05

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you regarding Evolution Power's proposal to develop a renewable energy-generating project on land at Aldington near Ashford. As a local community group/organisation we thought this may be of interest.

Evolution Power is seeking the views of the public on its proposals, to be known as Stonestreet Green Solar. Views are also sought on the findings of Evolution Power's Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).

The Statutory Consultation will begin at 9am on Tuesday 25 October 2022 and will run until Tuesday 29 November 2022. Details of the consultation and all of the consultation documents (including the PEIR, the PEIR non-technical summary, and the Consultation Booklet) will be online from 25 October at: www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk

Evolution Power is holding four local information events:

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

A public presentation will also be held on Tuesday 8 November 2022, 8pm to 9.30pm, at Aldington Village Hall. To register to attend please email register@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk and include any questions you may want to ask.

If you have any questions about the project please do not hesitate to contact us and please feel free to communicate details of the events to members of your group.

Regards

Charlie Vavasour

From: info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Stonestreet Green Solar - Statutory Consultation
Date: 17 October 2022 17:14:30

Dear Sir/Madam

As you have registered to receive updates on the Stonestreet Green Solar project, please find below details about the forthcoming Statutory Consultation.

Evolution Power is seeking the views of the public on its proposals to develop a renewable energy generating project on land at Aldington near Ashford, Kent, to be known as Stonestreet Green Solar. Views are also sought on the findings of Evolution Power's Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).

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Should you wish to unsubscribe from these updates, please respond to this email with 'UNSUBSCRIBE'.

Kind regards.

From: info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk

To:

Subject: Stonestreet Green Solar - Statutory Consultation

Date: 17 October 2022 16:28:59

Dear Sir/Madam

As you have registered to receive updates on the Stonestreet Green Solar project, please find below details about the forthcoming Statutory Consultation.

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Should you wish to unsubscribe from these updates, please respond to this email with 'UNSUBSCRIBE'.

Kind regards.

From: info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Stonestreet Green Solar
Date: 17 October 2022 14:55:56
Attachments: [Stonestreet Green Solar - Community Information Leaflet - October 2022.pdf](#)
[SGS Statutory Consultation Poster A4 Poster.pdf](#)

Dear Parish Council Clerk

Evolution Power is seeking the views of the public on its proposals to develop a renewable energy generating project on land at Aldington near Ashford, Kent, to be known as Stonestreet Green Solar. Views are also sought on the findings of Evolution Power's Preliminary Environmental Information Report.

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Attached is a copy of a Community information leaflet that is being delivered to local homes and businesses. Also attached is a poster with the details of the consultation and events, which can be printed out and put on noticeboards.

I would be grateful if you could forward the details contained in this email to your Parish Councillors.

Regards

Charlie Vavasour



Stonestreet Green Solar

Consultation Report

Appendix D-3: Community Organisations Consulted
During 2022 Statutory Consultation Presentation Material



Stonestreet Green Solar

Presentation - Aldington Village Hall
8 November 2022

Introduction

- Evolution Power is a UK based, independent solar and energy storage developer
- The team has developed and/or financed over 50 UK solar projects, including some of the largest UK projects built to date
- The applicant will be EPL 001 Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Evolution Power Limited
- An experienced project team has been engaged to advise and assist with the application

Stonestreet Green Project Team

Evolution Power Management Team

Giles Frampton

- An engineer who has led the origination, development and construction of over 600MW solar
- Built the three largest UK ROC projects currently operational in the UK

Conor McNally

- Previously a Managing Director at a leading investment bank active in renewables
- Arranged c. 1GW funding solutions for UK solar equity investors



Project overview

The proposal

- A solar and energy storage project that will export up to 99.9MW of renewable electricity to the national grid and is expected to operate for approximately 40 years
- Sited on 189ha land approximately 2.4km south-east of Ashford
- The main infrastructure is located in Ashford Borough. Potential for an underground grid route to an existing tower in Folkestone & Hythe
- Classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (**NSIP**) under the Planning Act 2008 and determined by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Key project benefits

- Contributes to the legally binding national target to achieve net zero by 2050 and the ambition to decarbonize the UK electricity system by 2035
- Provides additional source of domestic energy security that is not impacted by gas prices
- The project will power almost 42,000 homes and save over 34,000 tonnes of carbon per year
- Contributes to the expected 5x increase in UK solar generation from 14GW to 70GW by 2035
- Material improvement in biodiversity, significantly above the 10% national and 20% Kent target
- Annual £40,000 inflation linked community fund

Project boundary

- The project is located on agricultural land north and west of the village of Aldington and immediately south of the HS1 railway
- A key criteria for a solar project is proximity to the national grid. The project substation is c. 1.5km west of the Sellindge Substation and a grid offer for 99.9MW has been secured
- EDF has submitted proposals to Ashford Borough Council for a 49.9MW project to the east and north of the site



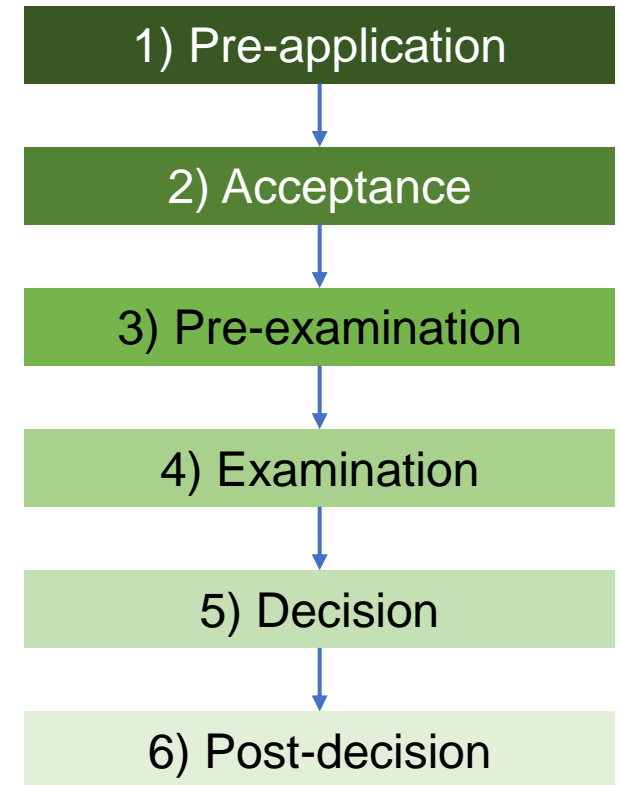
Site advantages

- ✓ Secured grid connection at Sellindge that has available capacity for a project of this size
- ✓ No statutory landscape, ecological or cultural designations within the site
- ✓ Local topography, together with existing and new hedgerows will minimise visual impact
- ✓ Around 80% lower quality agricultural land – provides the opportunity for a significant biodiversity gain without material loss of higher quality (“best and most versatile”) land
- ✓ Removal of land from agricultural use will reduce nitrate impact on the East Stour river
- ✓ Near to existing infrastructure including HS1, the M20, Sellindge substation and overhead power lines
- ✓ Good access, being located close to the M20/A20
- ✓ Limited direct impact on residential properties for a project of this size
- ✓ Use of this site for energy generation will remove any near term risk of residential development

NSIP planning process

- As the project has an energy generating capacity above 50MW it constitutes a nationally significant infrastructure project
- It will require a Development Consent Order (**DCO**), a statutory instrument made by the Secretary of State
- The application process from start to finish typically takes circa 3 years
- Prior to application the applicant is required to complete all environmental surveys and undertake extensive consultation
- Once submitted, the application is scrutinised rigorously by an independent Examining Authority over a six-month period
- The Examining Authority will examine all aspects of the application and engage with interested parties, meaning the host and neighboring councils, statutory consultees and people who have submitted a relevant representation, prior to making a recommendation to the Secretary of State

DCO Process Stages



Project timeline to submission

2019/2020

Grid offer secured from UK Power Networks

Land identified and secured; ecology surveys started (ongoing)

Oct - Nov 2021

Planning, legal and technical team appointed

Remaining surveys started (ongoing)

Mar – Apr 2022

Non-statutory consultation

Apr - May 2022

Scoping report submitted and opinion received

Oct – Nov 2022

Statutory consultation

Spring/Summer 2023

Finalise development consent order application and submit to the Planning Inspectorate

Since April 2022 we have been refining the project design to have regard to comments received in the non-statutory consultation and in response to the scoping report

The design is an iterative process – we are required by the Planning Act 2008 to have regard to, and report on, comments received during statutory consultation. The design will not be finalised until the application is submitted

Project timeline post-submission

16-17 months total

Acceptance *28 days*

- PINS reviews the application package and confirms it has been accepted for Examination

Pre-examination *3-4 month timescale*

- Applicant advertises acceptance
- PINS invite Relevant Representations
- Appointment of Examining Authority
- Timetable for Examination process and Hearing sessions
- Preliminary Meeting

Examination *6 months*

- Begins the day after the preliminary meeting
- Predominantly written process
- Inquisitorial
- ExA will issue Written Questions to all parties which must be responded to by set deadlines (circa 10-12)
- Hearing Sessions (circa 6 – 8 days) - Topic-Specific & Open Floor

ExA Report *3 months*

- Following the close of the Examination, the ExA prepares its report.
- No communication between PINS / ExA and Examination parties during this time.
- At the end of the 3 months, the ExA submits its report and recommendation to the SoS

SoS Decision *3 months*













- The SoS then considers the ExA's report and make a decision.
- The SoS can request further written submissions from all parties during the decision-making period

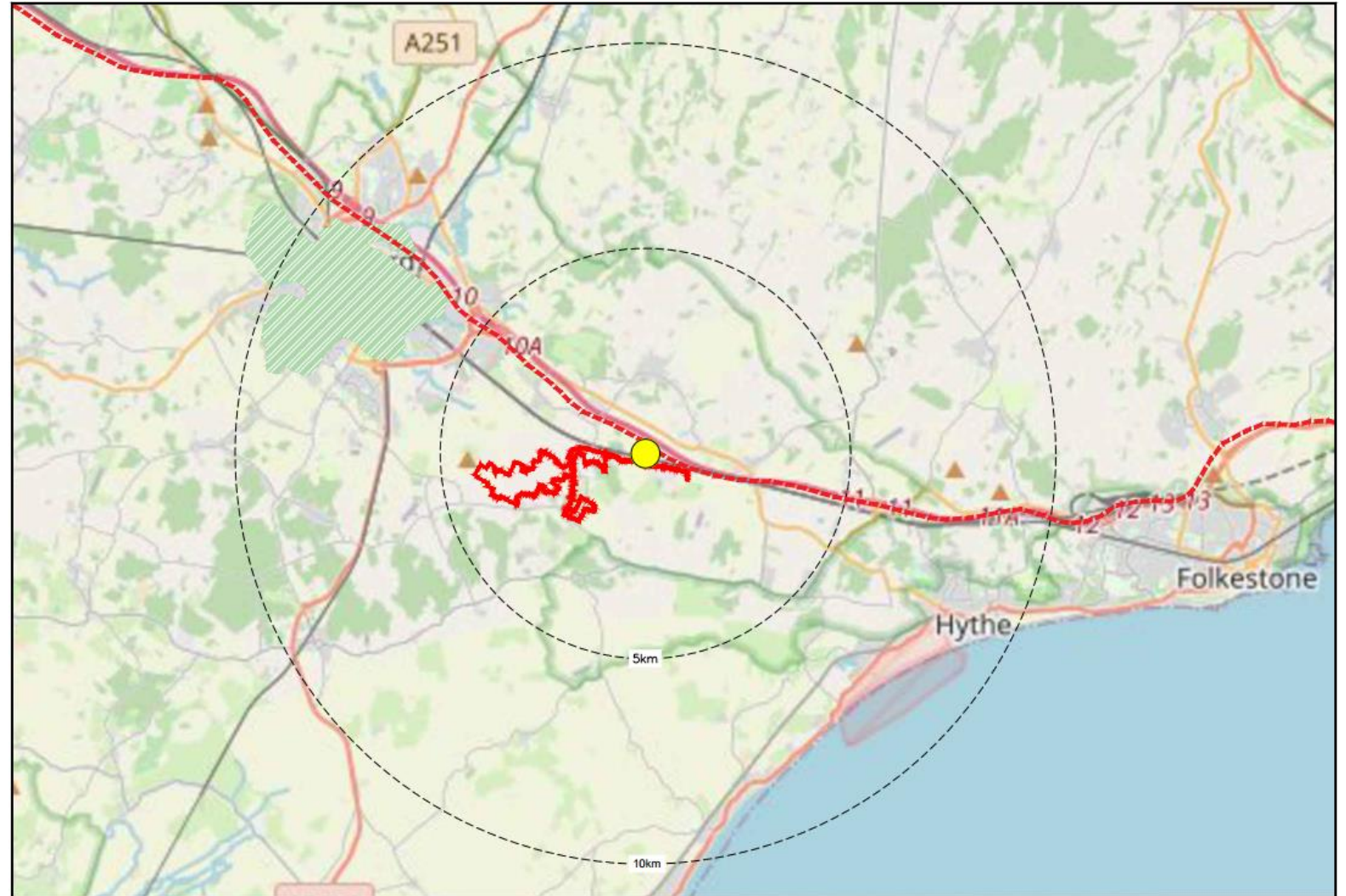
Engagement and consultation

- The Evolution Power team has installed and/or financed over 50 UK solar projects. We have been working on this development for over two years
- Over that time we have met many members of the local community and answered questions raised on various topics, both during and outside the two consultation periods
- We set up a Community Liaison Panel including representatives from Parish, Ashford Borough, Folkestone District and Kent County Councils and local residents
- We also held a briefing with Kent, Ashford and Folkestone councillors and with one of the two local MPs
- These interactions have allowed us to answer questions but we have not had the chance to provide responses and clarification to a wider audience
- We appreciate this opportunity to share our experience and address some of the more common questions we have received to ensure that everyone is fully informed of the facts when considering our proposal

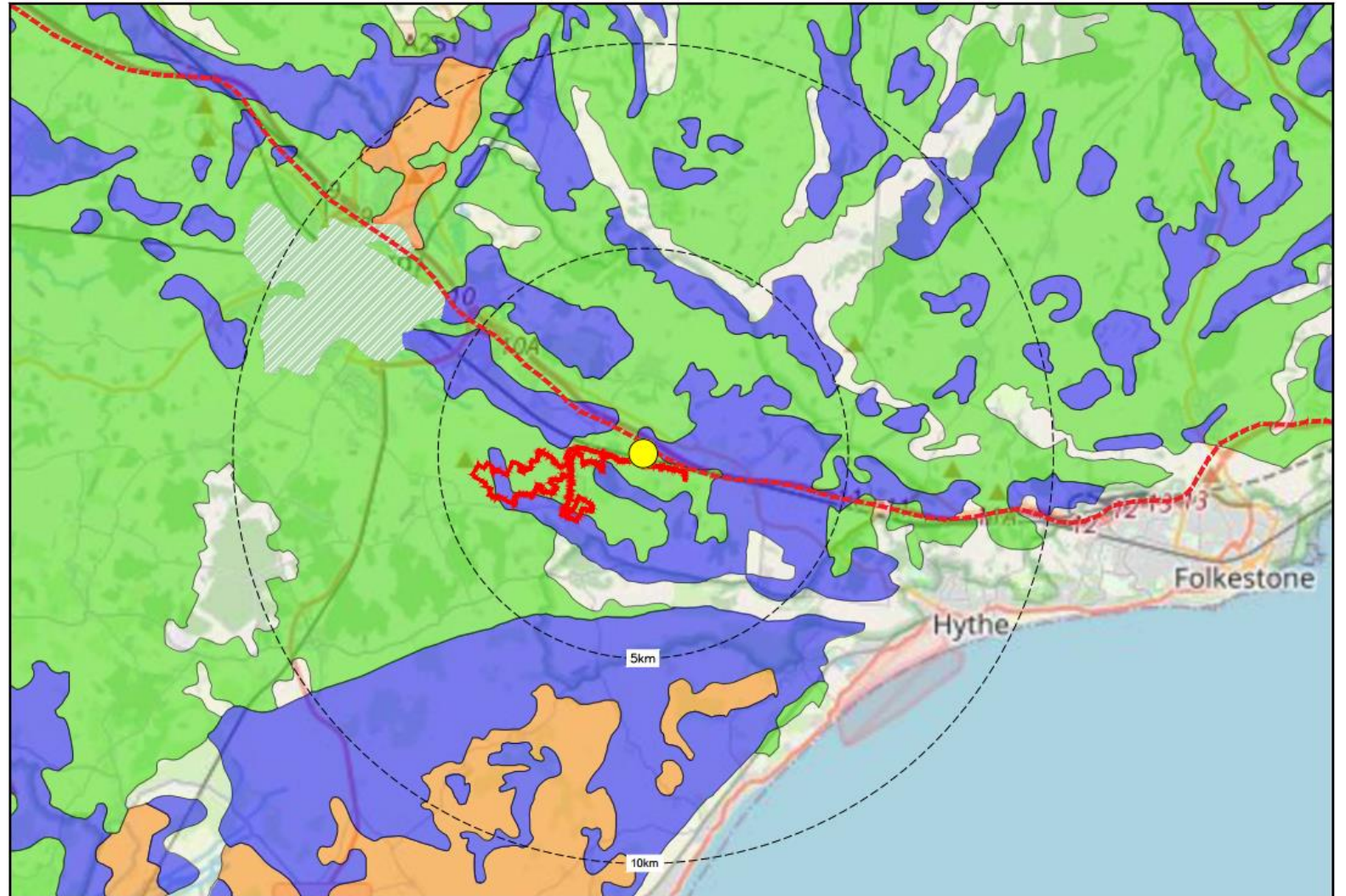
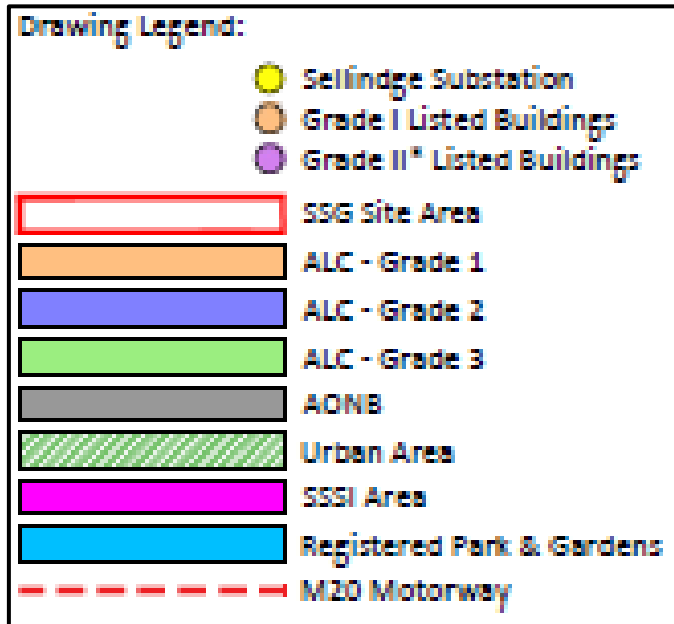
Location: *Grid / Site*

Drawing Legend:

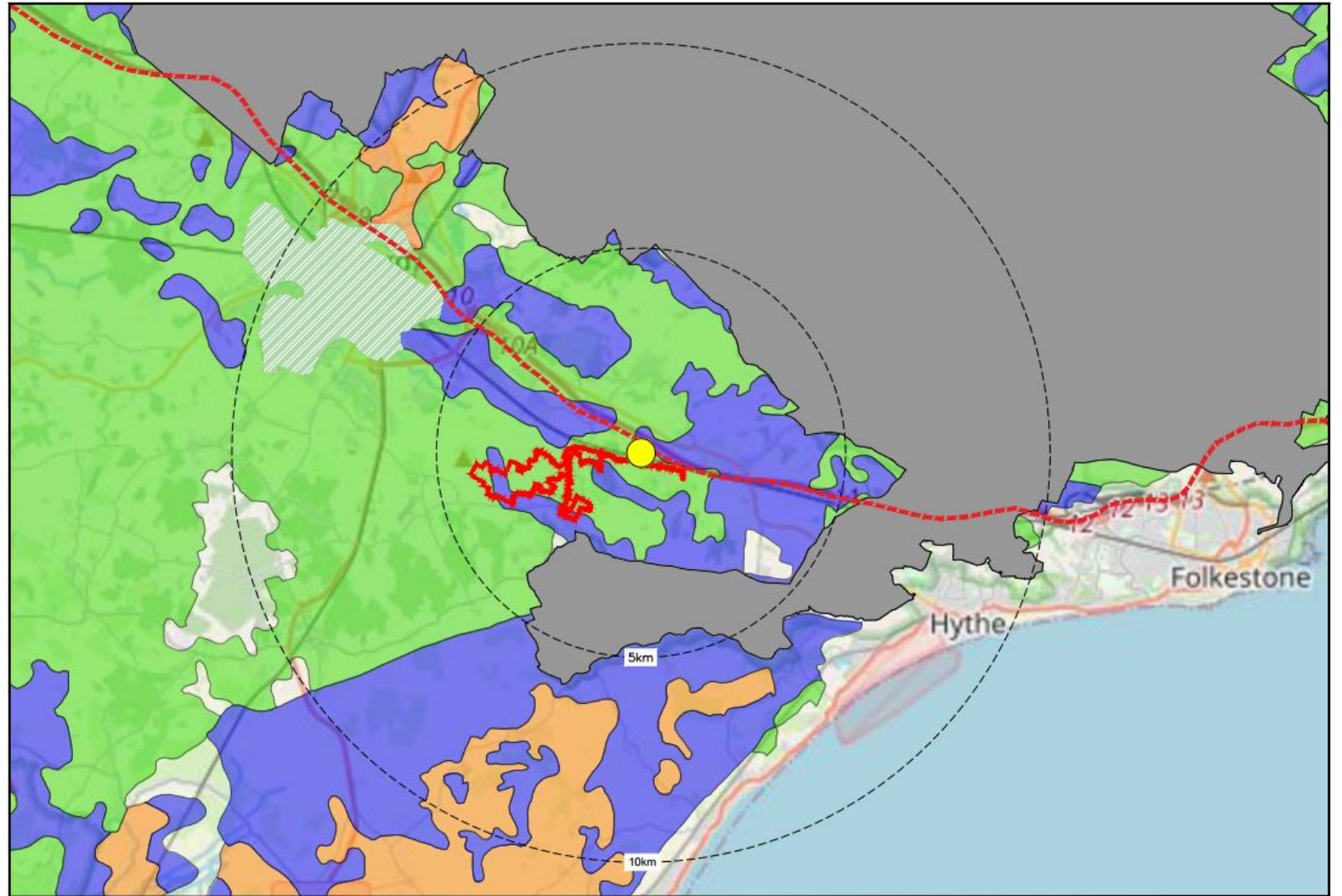
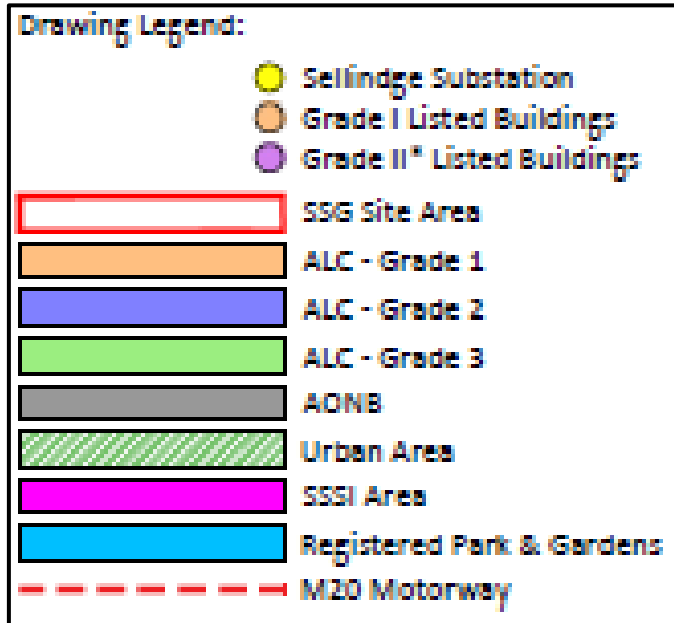
	Sellindge Substation
	Grade I Listed Buildings
	Grade II [*] Listed Buildings
	SSG Site Area
	ALC - Grade 1
	ALC - Grade 2
	ALC - Grade 3
	ADNB
	Urban Area
	SSSI Area
	Registered Park & Gardens
	M20 Motorway



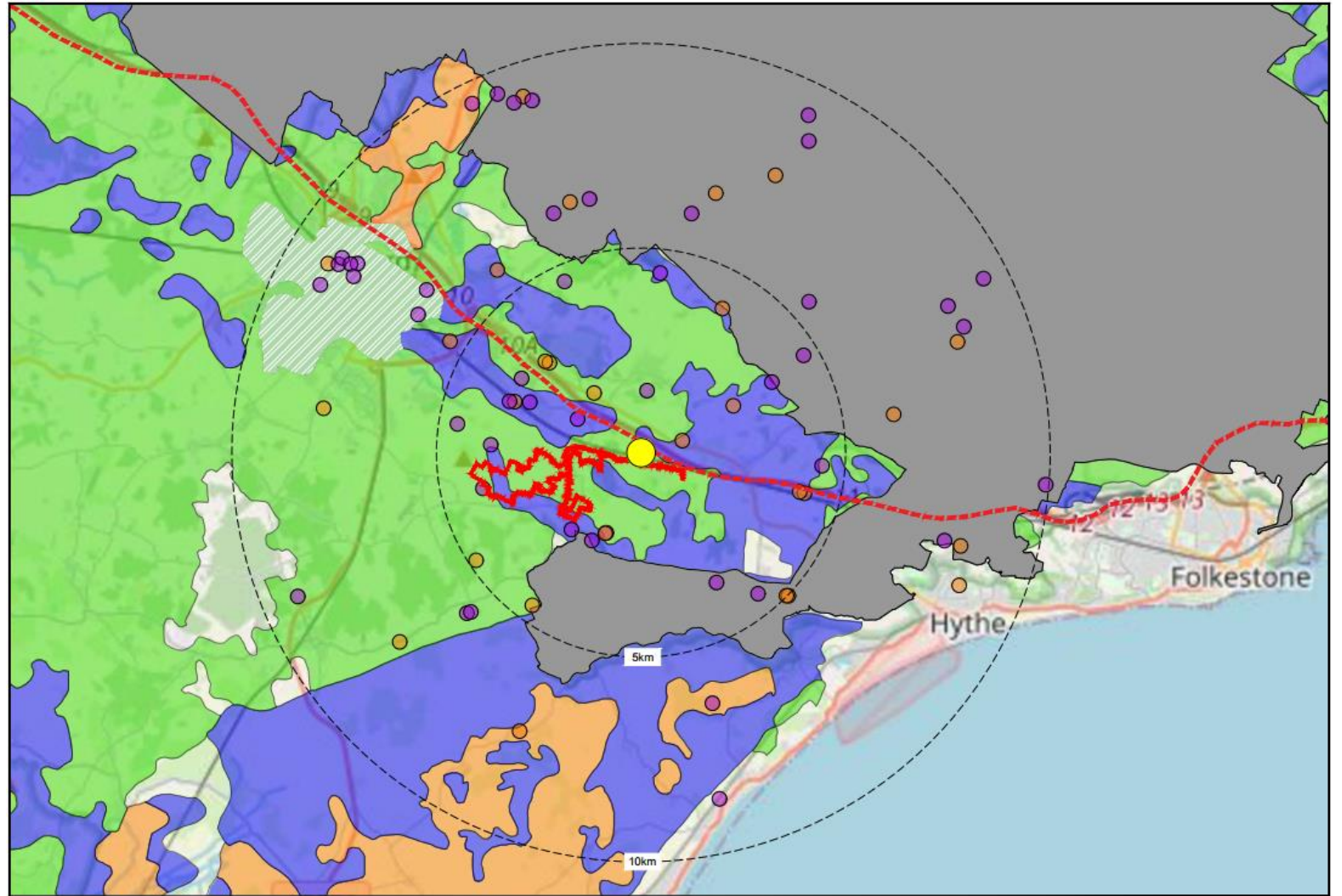
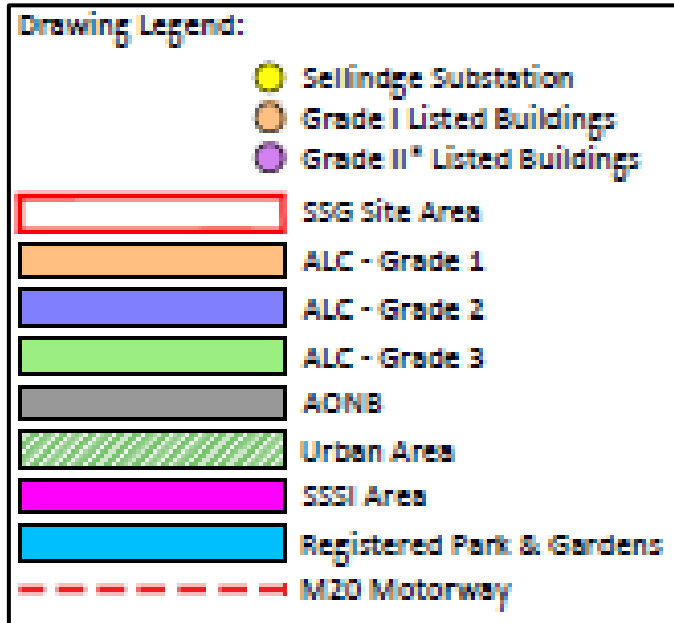
Location: *Land Classification*



Location: AONB















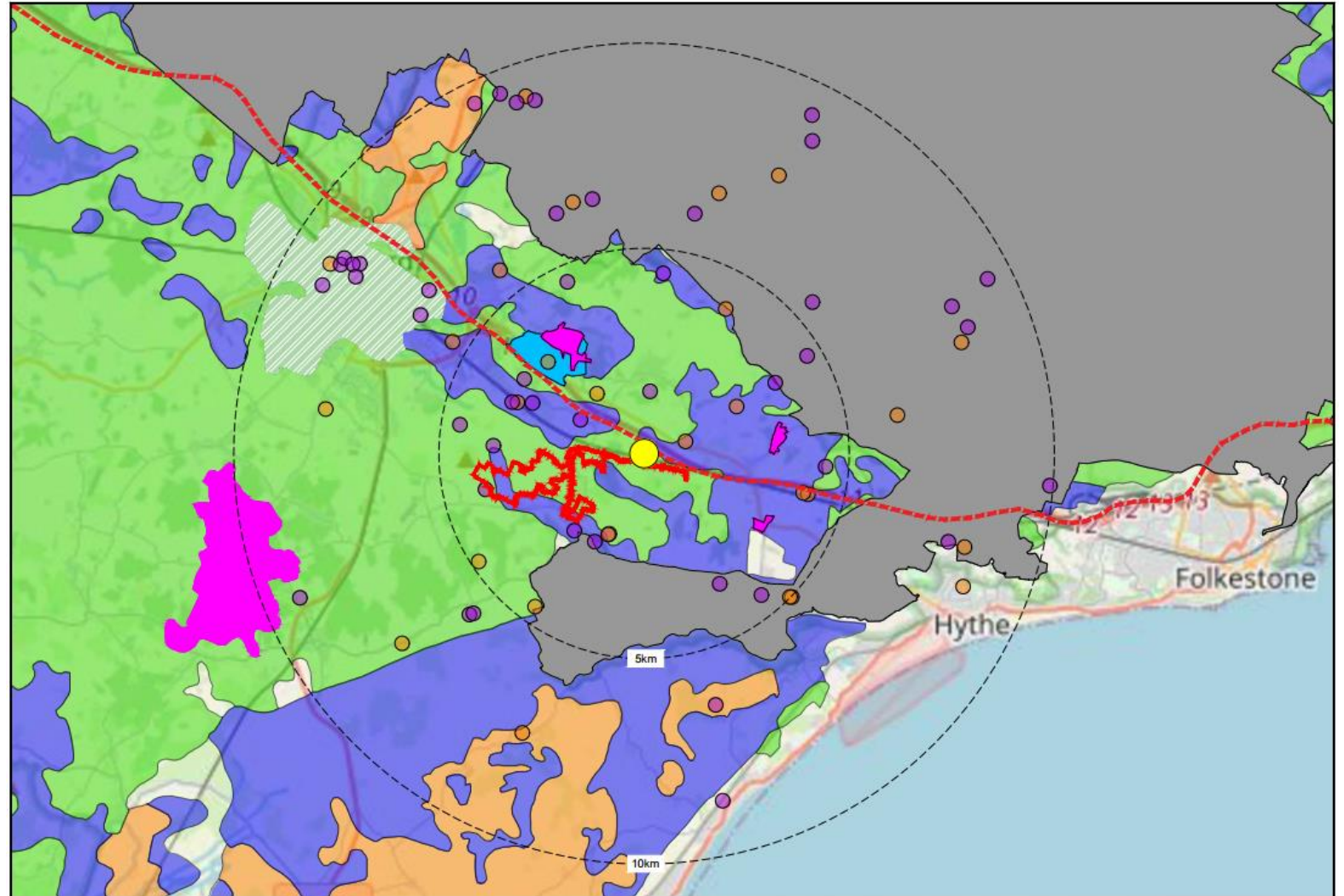
Location: *Listed Buildings*



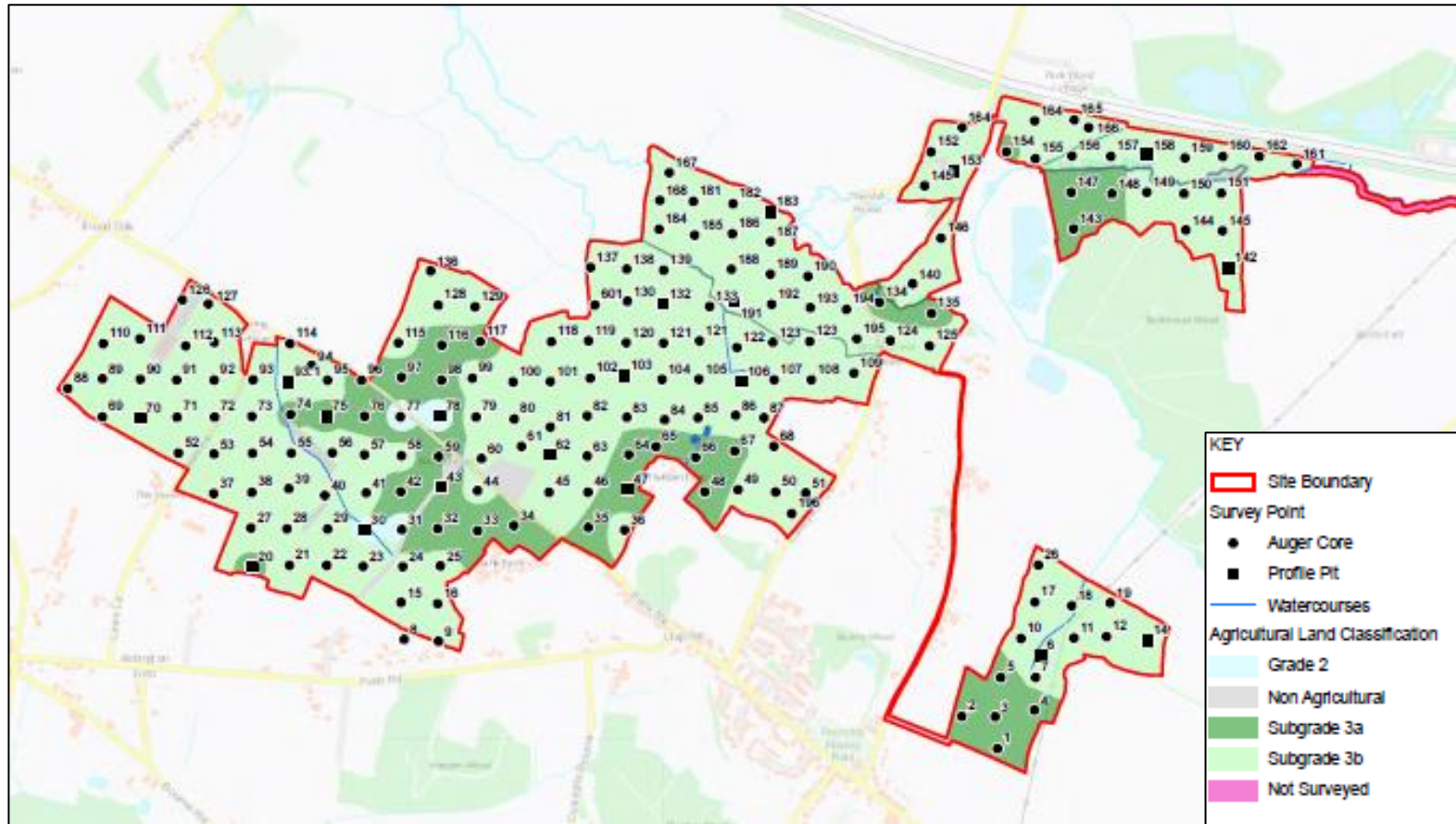
Location: *Other*

Drawing Legend:

	Sellindge Substation
	Grade I Listed Buildings
	Grade II* Listed Buildings
	SSG Site Area
	ALC - Grade 1
	ALC - Grade 2
	ALC - Grade 3
	ADNB
	Urban Area
	SSSI Area
	Registered Park & Gardens
	M20 Motorway

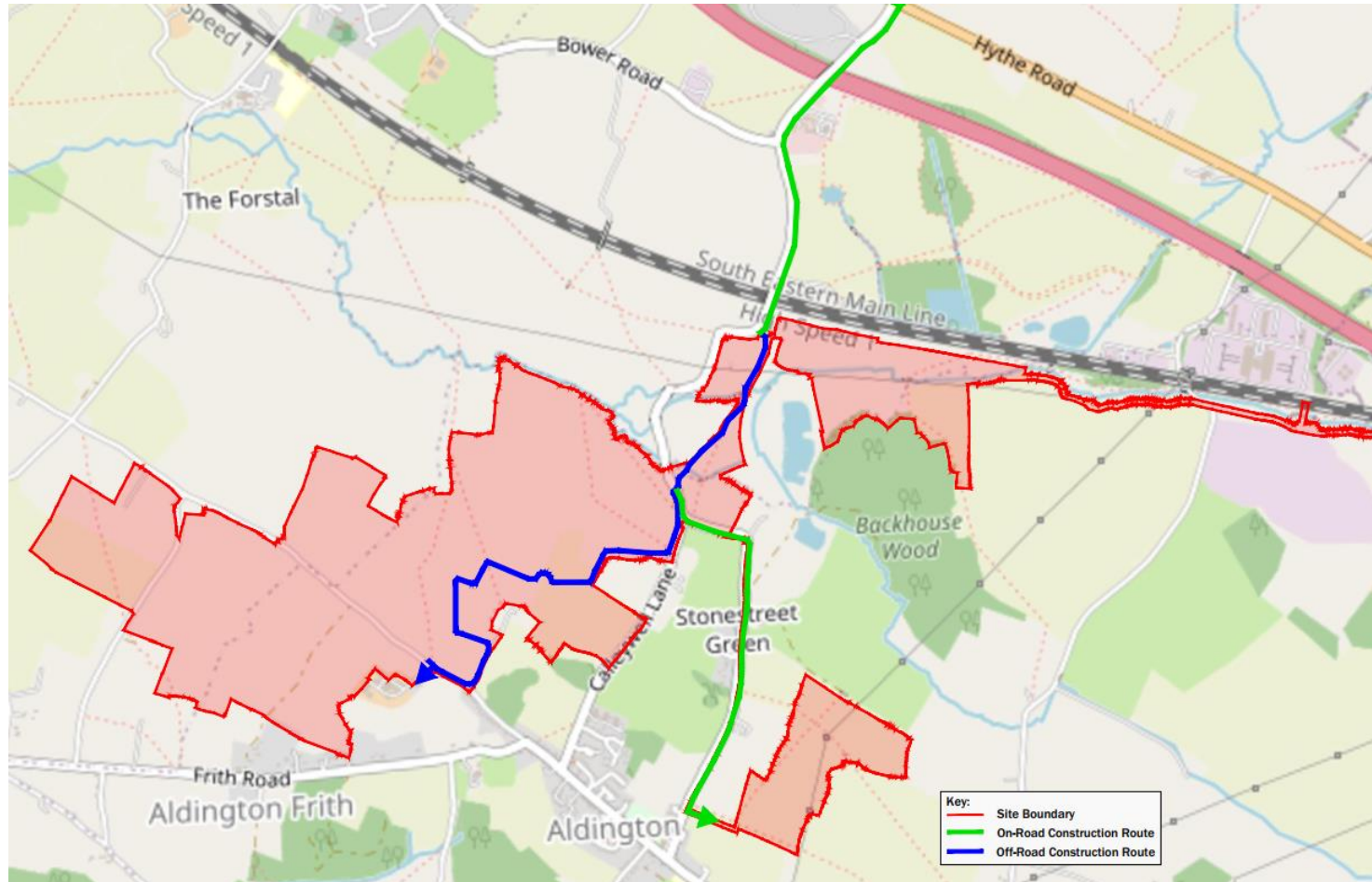


Land classification



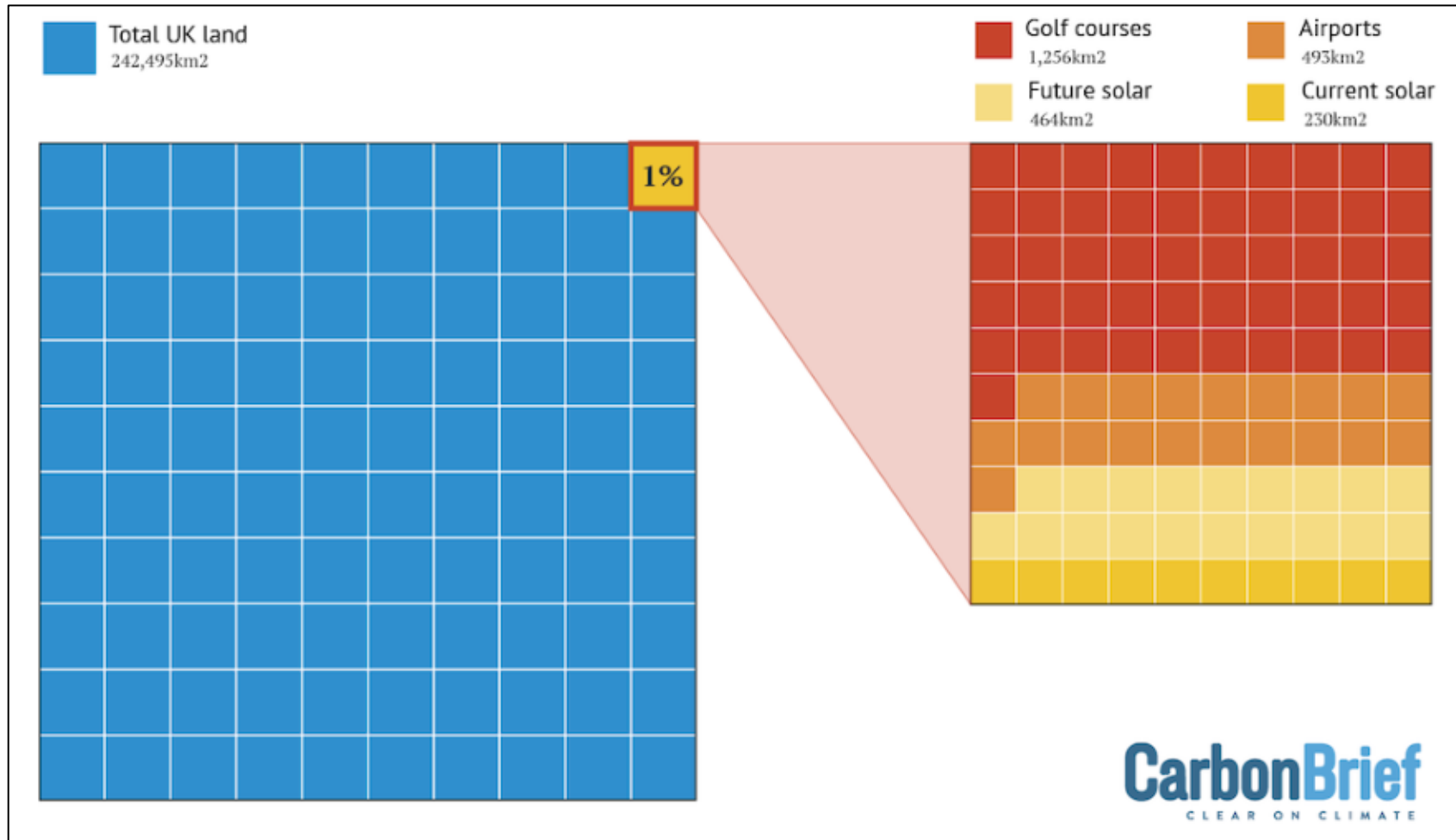
- Land is graded from Grade 1 (best) to Grade 5 (worst). Grade 3a and above is “best and most versatile” land
- 185 points were surveyed across the 189ha site
- Approximately 80% of the site was Grade 3b (lower quality), around 20% Grade 3a and about 1% Grade 2
- The Local Plan 2030 limits residential development on Grade 1 and Grade 2 land only – presumably due to the amount of Grade 3a land in Ashford

Construction traffic

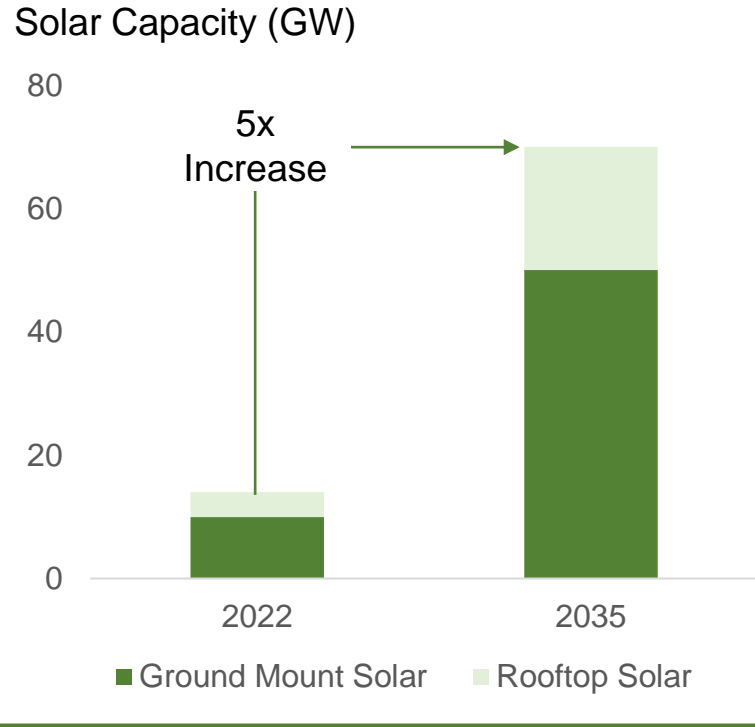


- Construction traffic will enter from the north, immediately after crossing HS1
- An internal route will be used to avoid The Mill House area of Station Road and Calleywell Lane
- >90% traffic will cross Station Road and continue within the site to the south west sections
- <10% traffic will need to use Goldwell Lane to access the south east section

UK solar land use



Rooftop / brownfield options



- The Government Energy Security Strategy (April 2022) expects a five-fold increase by 2035 from 14GW to 70GW
- This is a 56GW increase in 13 years. Of the 14GW deployed since 2010 around 4GW was on rooftops (with significant subsidies)
- In 2019 the European Commission Joint Research Centre published research that indicated an economic potential for UK rooftop solar of c. 7GW. Even if this doubled to 14GW the UK would need 46GW ground mount solar (on top of existing 10GW) to reach net zero
- Ashford Borough Council publishes a brownfield land register. The latest version confirms c. 44ha of brownfield land in Ashford (i.e. 23% of our site). The vast majority is allocated for housing development

Food security

- Liz Truss (and others) have suggested that the use of “high value agricultural land for farming” for solar developments could contribute to a food security crisis in the UK
- This view is contradicted by fact, Government-led research and its own published policies
- The Government Food Strategy (June 2022), approved by the Conservative Environment Minister, referenced the UK Food Security Report (December 2021) which was produced by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
- The report confirmed that the UK has a **high degree of food security**. It further confirmed that the biggest risk to UK food production comes from **climate change** and **other environmental issues**
- Separately DEFRA commissioned research that suggested under a medium emissions scenario the proposition of “best and most versatile” (Grades 1, 2 and 3a) arable farmland would **reduce from 38% to 11% by 2050**
- The land proposed for Stonestreet Green majority lower quality land. The proposal will contribute to reducing the impacts of climate change and result in a significant improvement in biodiversity, both of which will improve UK food security

Production / recycling / carbon impact

Production

- Solar panels are made from aluminium, glass and silicon
- Around 70% of solar panels are manufactured in China, 8% in South Korea
- Other major producers are the US (6%) and Canada (6%), typically for domestic use
- Concerns were raised regarding Chinese labour practices in 2021 but these should be resolved by the time of construction

Recycling

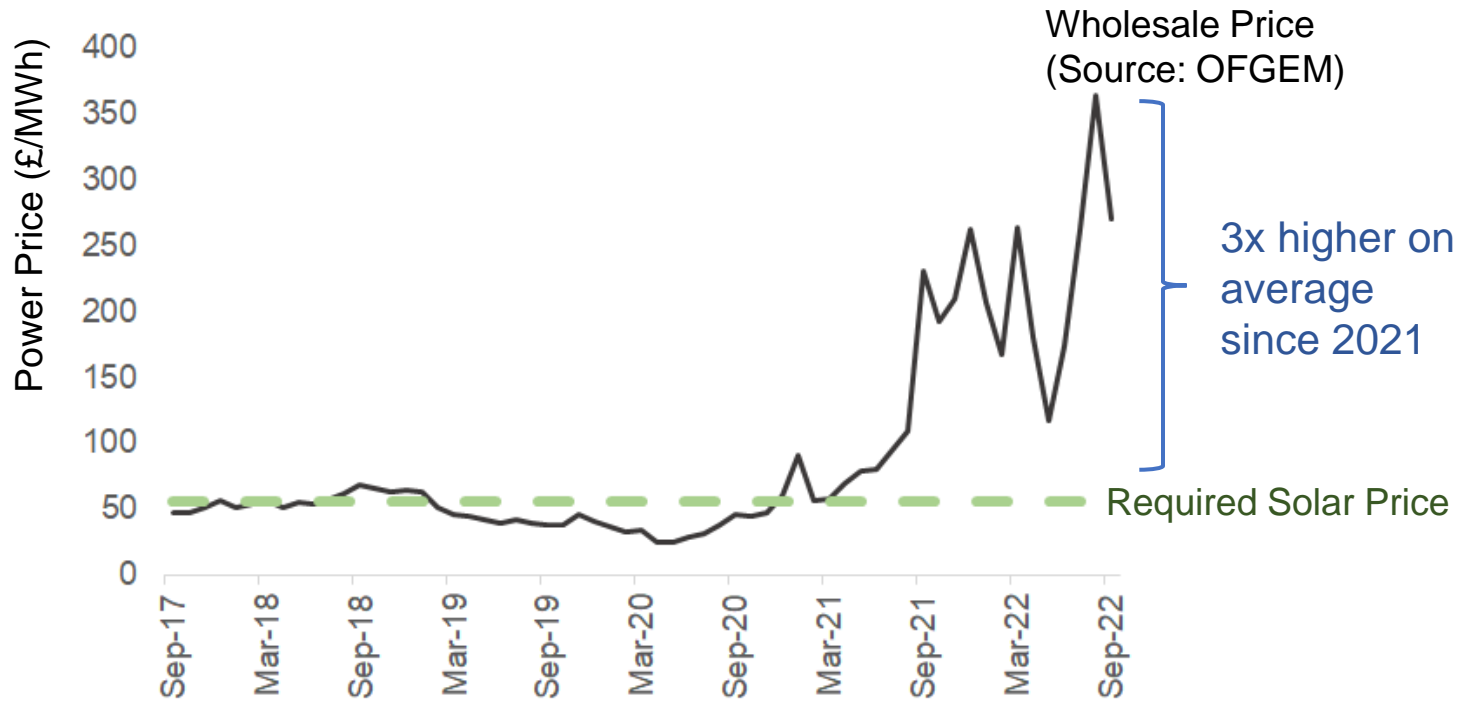
- Panels can be recycled - they are mainly metals and glass
- There was not sufficient volume to justify specialist plant until a few years ago – early panels lasted 25 years and so were still operational until recently
- Europe's first solar recycling plant was opened by Veolia in France in 2017, increasing its capacity from 1,400mt to 4,000mt by 2021. More are expected to follow

Carbon impact

- Carbon payback is typically < 5 years – that is after 5 years 100% of all energy produced reduces carbon impact
- The UN Intergovernmental Committee on Climate Change latest report calculates the lifecycle emissions of solar on average (inc. manufacturing) are c. 10% of gas (5% of coal)
- The upfront carbon costs from construction are insignificant in relation to the 34,000 tonnes of carbon avoided each year

Project benefits (excluding net zero)

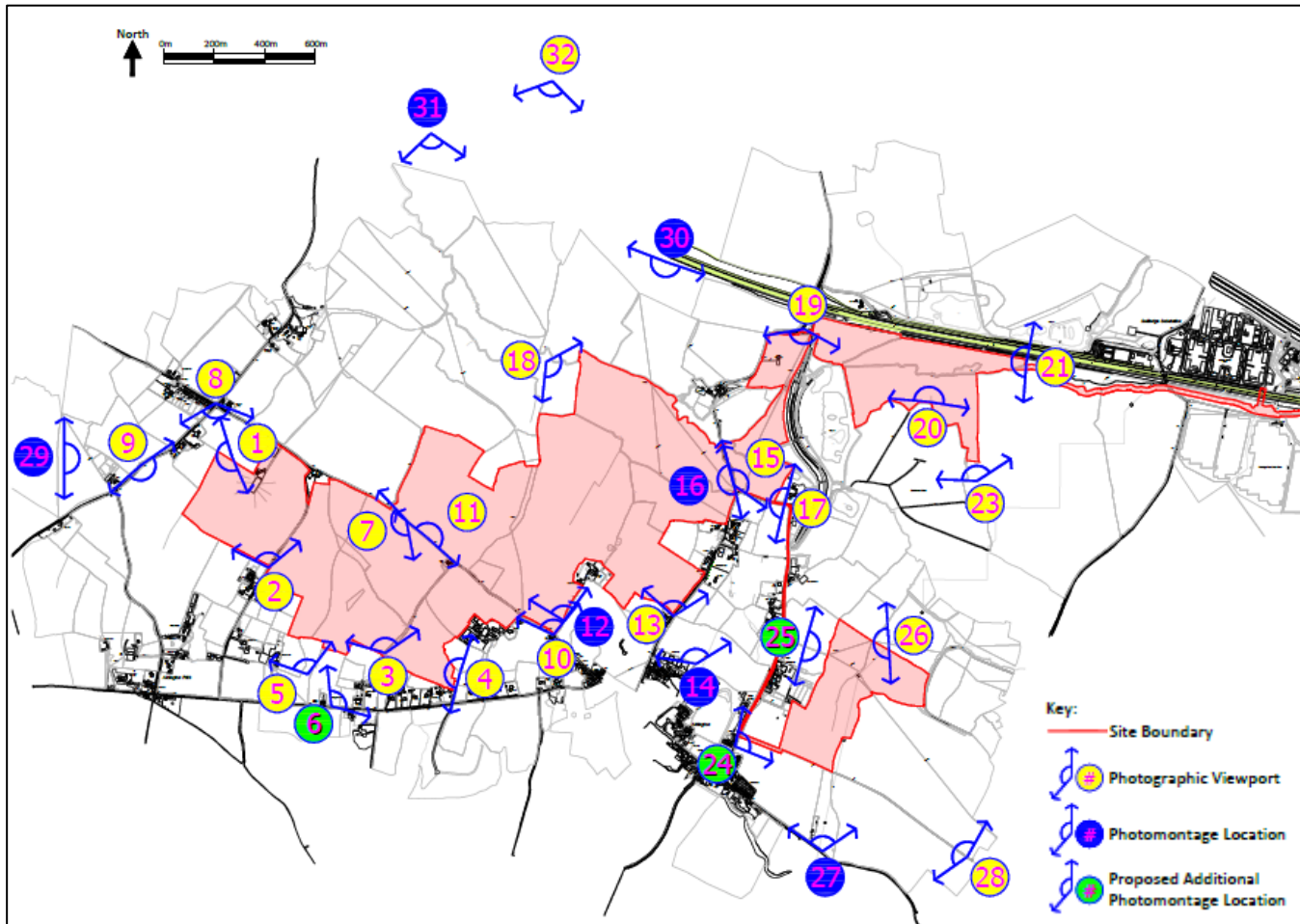
Economic benefit – reduced electricity costs



Specific local benefits

- £40,000 per annum, inflation linked benefit fund to be used as determined by local people to benefit the area
- Increased biodiversity in the local area
- Potential to deliver an off-road cycle route between Aldington and Mersham
- Introduction of new public footpaths as part of limited restructure of network. Commitment to maintain footpaths within the site during project lifetime

Viewpoints & visualisations



- 37 viewpoints have been agreed with Ashford Borough Council. The nearest 31 are shown on the plan
- 8 landscape visualisations were produced with the closest 7 are shown in blue on the plan
- A number of residents from Goldwell Lane and Frith Road requested visualisations from nearer to their properties
- We are considering adding further visualisations from viewpoint #6 (Frith Road) and viewpoints #24 and #25 (Goldwell Lane), all shown in green on the plan

Other local feedback & responses

- Some people suggested some limited additional changes to the public rights of way proposals to address specific localised impacts
- Some households that may have a view of the project suggested whether enhanced hedgerows and/or trees could be added in impacted areas
- Some residents on Goldwell Lane that are impacted by the on-road construction traffic have asked whether the schedule could be adjusted to limit the total construction period for that area
- A number of comments suggested engagement with Aldington Primary School, e.g. would it be possible to use of the community benefit fund to improve facilities, arrange school visits to the project when built, etc

We are reviewing the design proposal and will look to make changes to incorporate where possible

We have arranged or will arrange conversations with impacted parties to discuss potential mitigation

This can be discussed post planning approval as part of the development of our detailed programme

We are keen to work with Aldington (and other local primary schools) to enhance facilities and provide educational opportunities for children

Questions – Project and Design

- You increased the footprint of your scheme during the non-statutory phase and added a huge field close to the river adjacent to Station Road. This is an EA Flood Zone 3 area, downstream from a water storage area. It is scenically attractive, central to the East Stour Valley and panels here, if accepted by the Environment Agency, will have a terrible impact on the natural landscape. Why couldn't this area be offered, as part of the scheme, as wetland habitat to provide proper biodiversity gain for the losses elsewhere?
 - The footprint of the proposal was increased by approximately 40 acres (c. 9%) before the start of the non-statutory consultation. We are consulting with the Environment Agency as part of the Statutory Consultation process and this will include consideration of any flooding impacts. The project provides a number of habitat improvements which result in a biodiversity net gain of >100%, significantly above the national requirement of 10% and the Kent target of 20%.
- Accepting that there is access to the National Grid at Sellindge - what other land have you considered in the area?
 - Please see slides 10-14 which provide detail and the rationale for the selection of the site. This was explained in detail during the presentation on 8 November. Further detail on Alternatives is provided in Chapter 4 of the PEIR.

Questions – Project and Design

- On which grounds are you planning to adopt an energy storage facility that will further blight the Aldington environs by the placement of numerous large structures – commonly identified as white shipping container like units – across the entire development, when an alternative solution exists whereby the storage facility could be concentrated into a single unit within the development or indeed at a suitable location local to the development?
 - Our energy storage design allows the battery storage to be charged directly from the solar panels which minimises electrical losses. This design requires the battery units (which will be green/grey) to be located within the project area, near to groups of panels. As a solar project already requires electrical infrastructure (inverter-transformer stations) to be located throughout the site the additional impact should be limited, noting that the height of the battery storage units will be below the solar panel height.
- Your proposal has an export capacity of 99.9MW. From your point of view, what would be the minimum export capacity that you would consider viable?
 - We have accepted a 99.9MW grid offer from UKPN. The UK has a target to increase solar generation five-fold by 2035 (an additional 56,000MW above current levels). The main limitation to this is likely to be the availability of grid capacity. As such it is critical that any grid capacity available is fully utilised and we have identified suitable land to achieve this.

Questions – Project and Design

- I would like to ask a question about underground cabling and the section of the solar east of Goldwell Lane towards the church. What capacity will the cable be that links the isolated area you propose to develop between the village and the church, and will this capacity enable a link for a later phase or phases of panels on this side of the village?
 - The cable capacity will be sized for the generation capacity installed. It will not be oversized to allow for any potential later phase and there is no intention for this, noting that there is no available grid capacity at Sellindge to allow this in any case.
- We also hope that we don't suffer yet another bad storm(Aldington, 'the windy village' suffers not infrequently), but with climate change, will we be faced with this after our next storm?
 - One of the key benefits of the project is that it will displace fossil-fuel generation in the UK and therefore contribute to a reduction in climate change. In terms of the potential for storms to impact the panels this is highly unlikely and similar projects have been successfully developed in much windier areas.
- You say that the construction phase will employ about 200 people. How many full-time jobs will the site provide when fully operational?
 - When fully operational the project will support four direct full time equivalent (FTE) jobs consisting of operational and maintenance roles.

Questions – DCO and Consultation Process

- Are you required by the Planning Inspectorate, or the Secretary of State, to declare the total cost of developing Stonestreet Green Solar and, more importantly, secondly, prove that you have access to sufficient funds with which to complete the development – including all mitigation and future management? If not, are you willing to provide such undertakings to a body such as Ashford Borough Council?
 - There is no requirement to declare the total costs of development or provide proof of funds to complete the development. Management plans to deliver mitigation will be secured through the DCO.
- Will you please advise when, and by whom, during the DCO application timeline, public comments and responses will be accommodated and considered? Bearing in mind that elements of your application are not yet complete (at this consultation stage), to what extent is there the opportunity for further comments from the public before you finalise your application?
 - Public responses as part of the Statutory Consultation process can be submitted until 11:59:59pm on 29 November 2022. We are required to respond to all comments in a Consultation Report as part of our application. Post submission there is further opportunity for members of the public to register as an Interested Party, make a Relevant Representation in writing and be involved in the Examination process. Further information on the process is available at:
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/>

Questions – DCO and Consultation Process

- In the context of the Community Liaison Panel process, can your terms of reference accommodate a review and revision of the process, in order that the 'Community' and 'Liaison' elements become meaningful? The question is asked in the context that meeting dates, meeting frequency, the nomination of the chair and the agenda all fall within the remit of the developer, thus severely restricting the input and influence of the community.
- The Community Liaison Panel (CLP) terms of reference were sent to each member of the CLP when they requested, and were invited, to join the CLP. They are also available on the project website at: <https://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk/files/image/consultation/CLP%20Terms%20of%20Reference.pdf>

Meetings are scheduled by agreement of the CLP and any member can submit comments and questions to be raised during the meeting. The Chairperson, who approached Evolution Power at a local information event to express her interest in the project, is an independent person within the local community with experience of chairing panels of this type. The other members of the CLP are representatives of the local community (parish council, borough/district council, county council, local school governors, and others) who have volunteered to give up their time input into the process.

Questions – DCO and Consultation Process

- How long do you expect to occupy the site and would you be willing to accept the imposition of a condition on your planning decision that required you to keep that promise and return it to agricultural land of an equal or better grade when you leave the site?
 - We are applying for development consent for an operational project life of 40 years. The DCO will include a requirement to return the project site to its current state at the end of the project life and we have a similar obligation under our property contract with the landowners.
- What other local farmland did you look at near the connection point and why did you discount it? Why are there no plans in your proposals showing such other areas?
 - Please see slides 10-14 which provide detail and the rationale for the selection of the site. This was explained in detail during the presentation on 8 November. Further detail on Alternatives is provided in Chapter 4 of the PEIR.
- What legal mechanism can the village rely on to ensure all of the land is put back to agriculture at the end of the 40 years?
 - As noted above, the DCO (a statutory instrument) will include a requirement to return the project site to agricultural land at the end of the project life.

Questions – Public Rights of Way

- If you can't reach agreement with the planning authorities about your footpath diversion and closure plans, will you proceed anyway by compulsory purchase powers to achieve your plans?
 - Compulsory purchase powers are not relevant as the necessary powers to divert can be included in the DCO. We have proactively engaged with Kent County Council and the Ramblers Association regarding footpath diversions, including multiple meetings with each party and expect to reach agreement.
- Will you reinstate the old footpaths on their original routes at the end of the 40 years and if so how can that be assured?
 - If the project is approved the updated footpaths will remain in place after the 40 year project life.
- Why have you selected so much land that has public rights of way enjoyed across it?
 - There are a number of footpaths in this area - our approach is to redirect to ensure connectivity remains, whilst also introducing new routes (for example the river walk and cycleway) to improve local connectivity.
- Of the 19 Public Rights of Way identified by Kent County Council as being within the areas covered by your proposals, how many are you proposing a) to extinguish and b) to divert?
 - We are currently proposing to extinguish two footpaths and redirect 12 footpaths. This is subject to on-going discussions with KCC and ABC.

Questions – Solar Panels

- Where are the solar panels made?
 - According to Bloomberg NEF approximately 72% of solar panels are made in China, 8% in South Korea, 6% in each of the US and Canada with the balance across numerous other countries. There is no production facility in the UK.
- What materials are used to make the solar panels, what is the impact on environment/animals/people?
 - The key materials are aluminium, glass, crystalline silicon solar cells and copper.
- How will recycling be dealt with if this is a proposal that is supposed to be better for the environment?
 - As outlined on slide 20, panels can be recycled at the end of use.
- If solar panels are so clean, why do they produce so much toxic waste? We have concerns over what happens to solar panels, not only at the end of their life, but also whilst in situ
 - Evolution Power is not aware of any instance where this has occurred.
- How will the problem of solar panel disposal, which is anticipated to explode with full force in two or three decades and wreck the environment, be mitigated against at this particular site?
 - As outlined on slide 20, panels can be recycled at the end of use. The Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP), secured by DCO requirement, will ensure this is appropriately managed.

Questions – Solar Panels

- With heavy metal pollutants such as lead, carcinogenic cadmium and other toxic chemicals present in solar panels and the fact that these can be almost completely washed out of the fragments of solar modules over a period of several months, they may end up on our land and in our rivers through landfill or in Aldington, if the panels are broken or vandalised.
- Evolution Power is not aware of any instance where this has occurred.

Questions – Other Topics

- What will the carbon cost (expressed in terms of tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent) of the proposed construction works likely be?
 - This is anticipated to be extremely low, relative to the carbon savings generated by the project. Details will be included as part of the Environmental Statement to be submitted with the DCO application.
- What evidence can currently be adduced to show (a) that the power generated from the site will offset that cost and (b) how long that will take?
 - As per the answer above, this will be included in the application submission.
- How exactly are the surrounding villages benefitting from this proposal?
 - The project benefits are outlined on slide 21.
- How long will the road between Broad Oak and Aldington (Bank Road) be closed to vehicular traffic as a result of the proposed works?
 - There is no intention to close Bank Road. The only impact on Bank Road will be vehicles crossing the road to access the project area south of Bank Road from the project area to the north (and vice versa)

Questions – Other Topics

- Will local roads (a) need to be widened due to the access of large vehicles during (or after) the proposed works? and (b) will damage caused to local roads as a result of the works be promptly repaired?
- There is no requirement to widen local roads. All construction traffic will enter the site area using the existing access off C609 Station Road, south of the HS1/Channel Tunnel Rail Link railway line. The vast majority of construction traffic will then progress within the site area, using a purposefully designed internal haulage road with the only impact on local roads being cross-points. A limited (<10%) of traffic will need to travel up Goldwell Lane to access the eastern area but the traffic analysis has confirmed no changes are required to the road network. The Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (secured by DCO requirement) will include provisions to ensure that in the unlikely event that damage is caused then it will be repaired by Evolution Power.



Stonestreet Green Solar

Consultation Report
Appendix D-4: Community Organisations
Consulted During 2023 Statutory Consultation

Appendix D-4: Community Organisations consulted during 2023 Statutory Consultation

Table 1: Community Organisations consulted during 2023 Statutory Consultation

Community Organisations consulted during 2023 Statutory Consultation	Address	Email
E Sedgwick & S Godfrey Trust	Springfield House, Main Road, Sellindge, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6EG	
Rural Means Rural – Aldington		ruralmeansrural@gmail.com
The Village Alliance – Mersham		tva@thevillagealliance.co.uk
Rural Kent Action with Communities – East Brabourne	Penstock Hall, Canterbury Rd, East Brabourne, Ashford TN25 5LL	info@ruralkent.org.uk
St Martin’s Church, Aldington	Church Ln, Aldington, Ashford TN25 7EG	churchwardens@aldingtonchurch.uk
St. John the Baptist, Mersham	4 Church Cl, Mersham, Ashford TN25 6NR	vicar@stourdowns.org.uk
St Mary the Virgin, Sellindge	3 Whitehall Way, Sellindge, Ashford TN25 6ET	vicar@stourdowns.org.uk
St Mary the Virgin, Smeeth	St Mary the Virgin, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SA	vicar@stourdowns.org.uk
St Stephens Church, Lympne	St Stephens Church, Castle Cl, Lympne CT21 4LQ	rector@saltwoodchurch.org
Kent Community Foundation	Evegate Business Centre, Station Rd, Ashford TN25 6SX	admin@kentcf.org.uk
Sellindge District Residents Association		sellindgeresidents@gmail.com
Sellindge Sport and Social Club	69 Swan Ln, Sellindge, Ashford TN25 6HB	club@sellindgeclub.co.uk
Ashford Ramblers		ashfordramblersmembers@gmail.com
Extinction Rebellion Ashford		xrashfordkent@gmail.com
Mersham Sports Club	Mersham Sports Club, Flood St, The Forstal, Ashford TN25 7HE	mershamsportsclub@gmail.com
Kent Community Energy	W106 Vox Studios, 1 - 45 Durham Street, Vauxhall, London, SE11 5JH	info@kentcommunityenergy.org

Invicta Chamber of Commerce	Ashford Business Point, Waterbrook Avenue Sevington, Ashford TN24 0LH	info@kentinvictachamber.co.uk
Kent Wildlife Trust	Tyland Barn, Chatham Road, Sandling, Maidstone, Kent. ME14 3BD	info@kentwildlife.org.uk
Kent Downs AONB	The Granary, Canterbury Road, East Brabourne, Ashford, Kent, TN25 5LL	mail@kentdowns.org.uk
RSPB (Canterbury Local Group)	Blean Village Hall, 2 School Lane, Blean, Kent CT2 9JA	babs@squirrels.plus.com
RSPB (Regional media enquiries)		EngMediaEnquiries@rspb.org.uk
CPRE Kent	Queens Head House, Ashford Rd, Charing, Ashford TN27 0AD	info@cprekent.org.uk / david.mairs@cprekent.org.uk
North Downs Way National Trail		peter.morris@kentdowns.org.uk
Aldington Primary School	Aldington Primary School, Aldington, Ashford TN25 7EE	office@aldington.kent.sch.uk
Led By The Wild	34 Downs Way, Sellindge, Ashford TN25 6EZ	ali@ledbythewild.co.uk
The British horse Society	Abbey Park, Stareton, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2XZ	sarah.rayfield@bhs.org.uk
Backhouse Wood	Backhouse Wood, Aldington, Ashford	hkmaryreid@gmail.com
Kent Ramblers	1 Clink Street, 3rd Floor, London, SE1 9DG	np_mjs@btinternet.com
Visit Kent	10 Best Lane, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2JB	enquiries@visitkent.co.uk



Stonestreet Green Solar

Consultation Report

Appendix D-5: Emails to Community Organisations
Consulted During 2023 Statutory Consultation

[REDACTED]

From: info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk
Sent: 02 June 2023 15:34
To: Damian.collins Mp
Subject: Fwd: Stonestreet Green Solar - Statutory Consultation
Attachments: Community_Information_Leaflet_June_2023.pdf

Dear Damian

I am writing to you regarding EPL's proposal to develop a renewable energy-generating project on land at Aldington near Ashford.

EPL 001 Limited is seeking the views of the public on its proposals to develop a renewable energy generating project on land at Aldington near Ashford, Kent, to be known as Stonestreet Green Solar. Views are also sought on the findings of EPL 001's Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and a PEIR Addendum.

The Statutory Consultation will begin at 9am on Monday 12 June 2023 and will run until Monday 17 July 2023. Details of the consultation and all of the consultation documents will be online from 12 June at:

[REDACTED]

As part of the consultation, EPL 001 is holding four local information events:

Sellindge Village Hall, Friday 23 June, 2pm-6pm Mersham Village Hall, Saturday 24 June, 11am - 3pm Aldington Village Hall, Monday 26 June 3pm - 7pm Bilsington Village Hall, Tuesday 27 June, 1pm-5pm

EPL 001 has also revised its Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) which can be viewed at

[REDACTED]

Attached is a copy of an information leaflet that is being distributed locally in advance of the consultation. If you have any questions about the project do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards.

[REDACTED]

From: info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk
Sent: 02 June 2023 15:33
To: Damian.green Mp
Subject: Stonestreet Green Solar - Statutory Consultation
Attachments: Community_Information_Leaflet_June_2023.pdf

Dear Damian

I am writing to you regarding EPL's proposal to develop a renewable energy-generating project on land at Aldington near Ashford.

EPL 001 Limited is seeking the views of the public on its proposals to develop a renewable energy generating project on land at Aldington near Ashford, Kent, to be known as Stonestreet Green Solar. Views are also sought on the findings of EPL 001's Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and a PEIR Addendum.

The Statutory Consultation will begin at 9am on Monday 12 June 2023 and will run until Monday 17 July 2023. Details of the consultation and all of the consultation documents will be online from 12 June at:

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As part of the consultation, EPL 001 is holding four local information events:

Sellindge Village Hall, Friday 23 June, 2pm-6pm Mersham Village Hall, Saturday 24 June, 11am - 3pm Aldington Village Hall, Monday 26 June 3pm - 7pm Bilsington Village Hall, Tuesday 27 June, 1pm-5pm

EPL 001 has also revised its Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) which can be viewed at

[REDACTED]

Attached is a copy of an information leaflet that is being distributed locally in advance of the consultation. If you have any questions about the project do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards.

[REDACTED]

From: info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk
Sent: 02 June 2023 15:25
Subject: Stonestreet Green Solar - Statutory Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you regarding Evolution Power's proposal to develop a renewable energy-generating project on land at Aldington near Ashford.

As a local community group/organisation we thought this may be of interest.

EPL 001 Limited is seeking the views of the public on its proposals to develop a renewable energy generating project on land at Aldington near Ashford, Kent, to be known as Stonestreet Green Solar. Views are also sought on the findings of EPL 001's Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and a PEIR Addendum.

The Statutory Consultation will begin at 9am on Monday 12 June 2023 and will run until Monday 17 July 2023. Details of the consultation and all of the consultation documents will be online from 12 June at:

[REDACTED]

As part of the consultation, EPL 001 is holding four local information events:

Sellindge Village Hall, Friday 23 June, 2pm-6pm Mersham Village Hall, Saturday 24 June, 11am - 3pm Aldington Village Hall, Monday 26 June 3pm - 7pm Bilsington Village Hall, Tuesday 27 June, 1pm-5pm

EPL 001 has also revised its Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) which can be viewed at

[REDACTED]

Kind regards.

From: info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk
Sent: 02 June 2023 15:15
Subject: Stonestreet Green Solar - Statutory Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam

As you have registered to receive updates on the Stonestreet Green Solar project, please find below details about the forthcoming Statutory Consultation.

EPL 001 Limited is seeking the views of the public on its proposals to develop a renewable energy generating project on land at Aldington near Ashford, Kent, to be known as Stonestreet Green Solar. Views are also sought on the findings of EPL 001's Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and a PEIR Addendum.

The Statutory Consultation will begin at 9am on Monday 12 June 2023 and will run until Monday 17 July 2023. Details of the consultation and all of the consultation documents will be online from 12 June at:

As part of the consultation, EPL 001 is holding four local information events:

Sellindge Village Hall, Friday 23 June, 2pm-6pm Mersham Village Hall, Saturday 24 June, 11am - 3pm Aldington Village Hall, Monday 26 June 3pm - 7pm Bilsington Village Hall, Tuesday 27 June, 1pm-5pm

EPL 001 has also revised its Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) which can be viewed at

Should you wish to unsubscribe from these updates, please respond to this email with 'UNSUBSCRIBE'.

Kind regards.

From: info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk
Sent: 02 June 2023 14:51
Subject: Stonestreet Green Solar - Statutory Consultation
Attachments: Community_Information_Leaflet_June_2023.pdf; SGS Statutory Consultation Poster_A4 Poster (5).pdf

Dear Parish Council Clerk

EPL 001 Limited is seeking the views of the public on its proposals to develop a renewable energy generating project on land at Aldington near Ashford, Kent, to be known as Stonestreet Green Solar. Views are also sought on the findings of EPL 001's Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and a PEIR Addendum.

The Statutory Consultation will begin at 9am on Monday 12 June 2023 and will run until Monday 17 July 2023. Details of the consultation and all of the consultation documents will be online from 12 June at:

As part of the consultation, EPL 001 is holding four local information events:

Sellindge Village Hall, Friday 23 June, 2pm-6pm Mersham Village Hall, Saturday 24 June, 11am - 3pm Aldington Village Hall, Monday 26 June 3pm - 7pm Bilsington Village Hall, Tuesday 27 June, 1pm-5pm

EPL 001 has also revised its Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) which can be viewed at

Attached is a copy of a Community information leaflet that is being delivered to local homes and businesses. Also attached is a poster with the details of the consultation and events, which can be printed out and put on noticeboards.

I would be grateful if you could forward the details contained in this email to your Parish Councillors.

Regards

Charlie Vavasour