



# Stonestreet Green Solar

## Consultation Report

### Appendix G: 2023 Statutory Consultation Materials and Consultation Responses Appendices G-2 to G-5

PINS Ref: EN010135

Doc Ref. 6.2

Version 1

June 2024

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

Planning Act 2008

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





# Stonestreet Green Solar

Consultation Report  
Appendix G-2: 2023 Statutory Consultation  
Leaflet, Advert and Poster

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## 1. Community Information Leaflet



**STONESTREET GREEN SOLAR**  
**Community Information Leaflet**  
**June 2023**





## Introduction

EPL 001 Limited<sup>1</sup> ("EPL 001"), which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Evolution Power Limited, is intending to apply for a Development Consent Order ("DCO") through the Planning Act 2008 process for a renewable energy generating project, together with on-site energy storage, associated infrastructure and an underground cable connection, on land at Aldington, near Ashford in Kent.

Known as Stonestreet Green Solar, the project will generate renewable energy through solar photovoltaic ("PV") panels, providing clean power to UK homes, businesses and infrastructure. A DCO is required for the project because the proposed generating capacity of the project exceeds 50 megawatts ("MW"), so the project is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ("NSIP").

Following a round of non-statutory consultation on the initial proposals for the project undertaken during March and April 2022, EPL 001 undertook a round of statutory consultation pursuant to the Planning Act 2008 during October and November 2022 (the "2022 Statutory Consultation"). The purpose of consultation is to inform statutory consultees, the local community and the general public about the project and to gain feedback on the proposals, to enable EPL 001 to amend its proposals in response to the feedback it receives.

Since the end of the 2022 Statutory Consultation EPL 001 has been reviewing all of the feedback received to consultation and has made amendments to the proposals. EPL 001 is now intending to carry out a round of statutory consultation on the updated proposals.

This community information leaflet has been produced to provide information about the

upcoming statutory consultation (the "2023 Statutory Consultation"), including details of forthcoming local information events. It also provides details on how the proposals have developed since the 2022 Statutory Consultation and explains where to find further information, view the plans, contact the project team and provide feedback.

## Statutory consultation

**EPL 001 will soon be launching the 2023 Statutory Consultation on its proposals for the Stonestreet Green Solar project and invites you to take part.**

We have made some small amendments to the Statement of Community Consultation ("SoCC") following further consultation with Kent County Council, Ashford Borough Council and Folkestone and Hythe District Council. The revised SoCC, which supersedes the earlier SoCCs published in March 2022 and September 2022, can be viewed on the project website ([www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk](http://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk))

**The 2023 Statutory Consultation will begin at 9:00am on Monday 12 June 2023 and end at 11:59pm on Monday 17 July 2023.**



<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.



## What has changed since the last consultation?

We are grateful to everyone who took part in the consultations in 2022. We received more than 170 responses overall to the 2022 Statutory Consultation. Common themes raised in responses included:

- support for the principle of new solar energy generation;
- concern about the overall scale of development and potential loss of agricultural land;
- questions over the need for the development;
- questions regarding site suitability and the consideration of alternative sites;
- concern about impacts to public rights of way;
- concern about HGV access;
- a desire for all cables associated with the scheme to be buried underground;
- requests for more information about landscape and visual impact, ecology and local job creation.

Since the 2022 Statutory Consultation we have refined our proposals, having regard to all consultation responses received, as well as the results of further studies and surveys and ongoing environmental assessments. This has also resulted in a number of changes to the project design to address points raised.

### We have therefore:

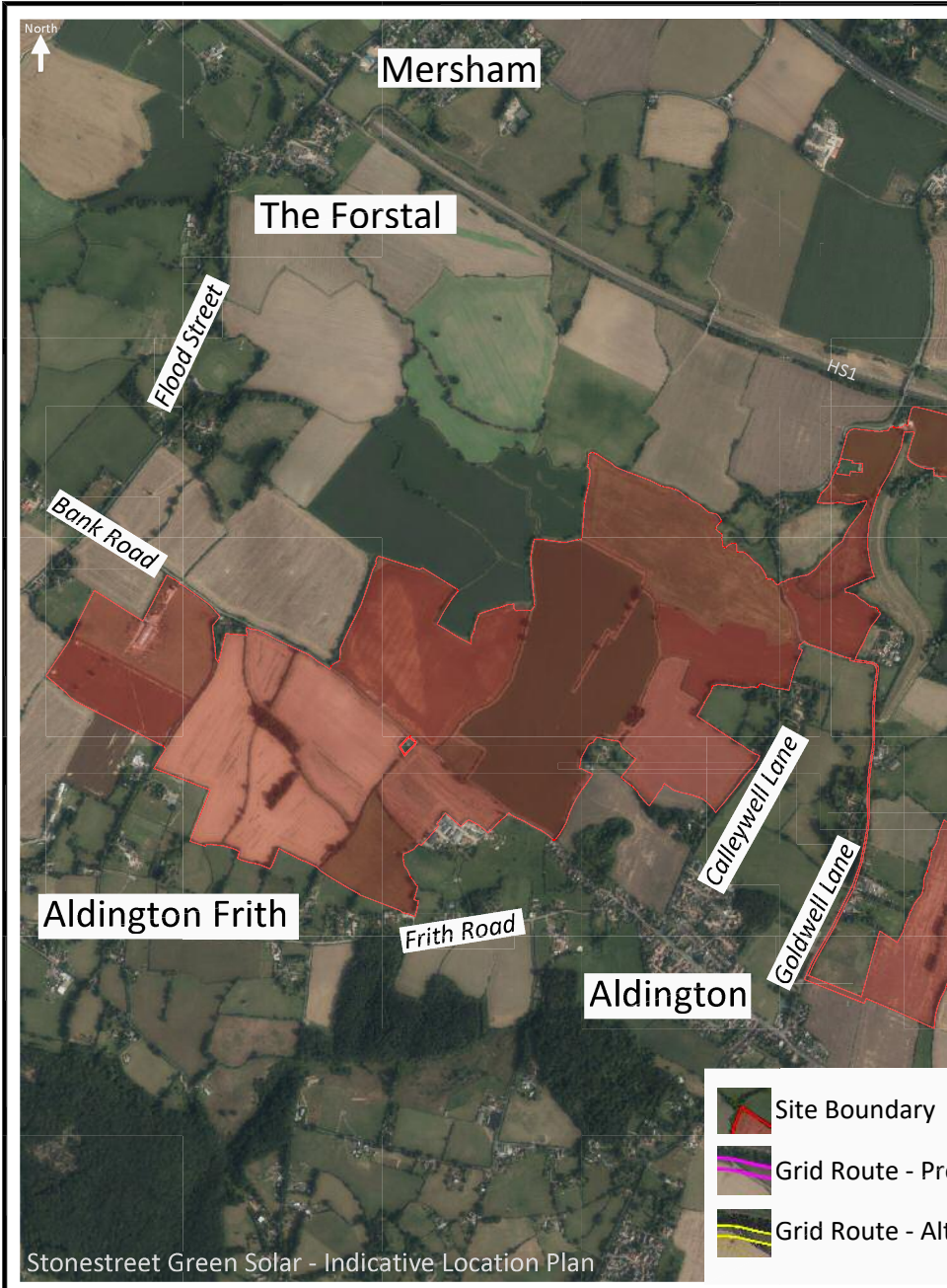
- prepared further information on the established and urgent need for the project, site suitability and alternative sites, which will be available in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (“PEIR”) Addendum that will be published as part of the 2023 Statutory Consultation;
- developed our package of landscaping and biodiversity enhancements, to include additional hedgerow and woodland planting and habitat creation;

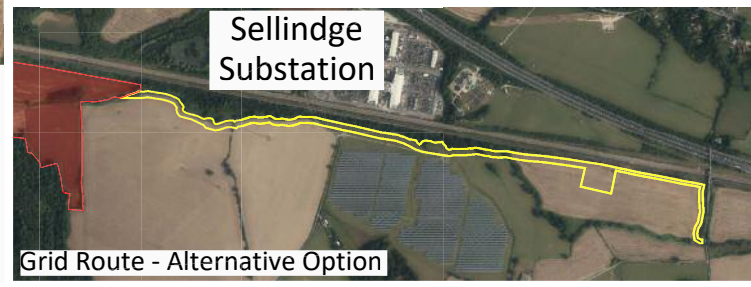
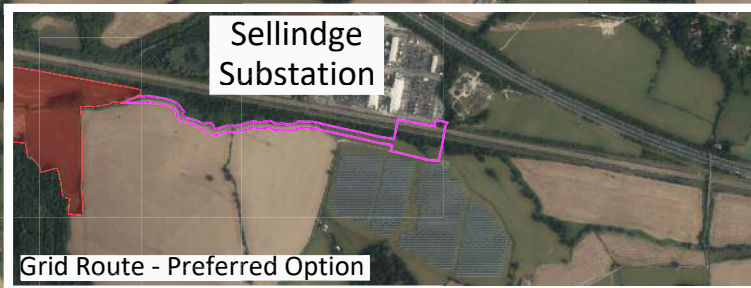
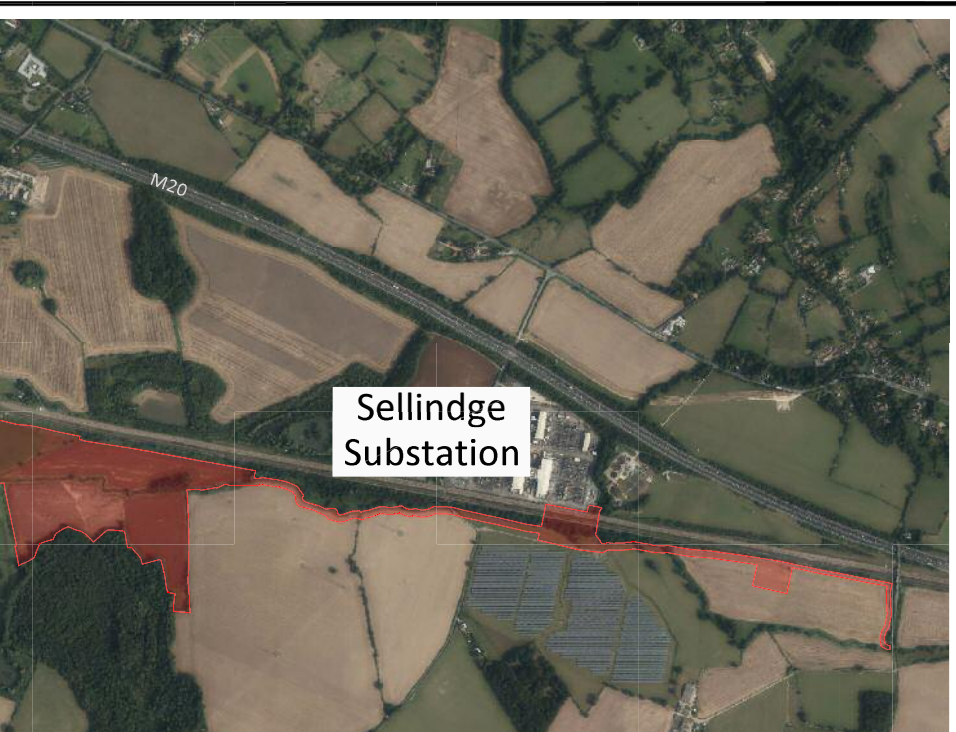
- reconfigured proposed public rights of way diversion layouts, lengths and routes to respond to local user and Kent County Council feedback;
- increased and enhanced setbacks from residential dwellings to reduce visual amenity impacts;
- updated the proposals to provide additional habitat for wildlife, in particular skylark and yellowhammer, to mitigate impacts identified in the previous design;
- relocated electrical infrastructure within the Order Limits and provided mitigation to reduce noise, visual amenity and archaeological impacts;
- updated the Order Limits (the boundary within which the development must be carried out) to remove small areas of land not considered necessary for development and to add a limited area of land near Sellindge substation to ensure sufficient space for installation of ducting under the East Stour River and rail line, if required to achieve a grid connection; and
- undertaken further assessment of the potential for any cumulative effects of the project together with other schemes in the vicinity of the project.

## What are we consulting on?

We want to hear your feedback on the updated proposals, including in particular on the following:

- the updated plans, design and layout for Stonestreet Green Solar;
- the proposed mitigation measures to address issues raised during consultation and/or identified through our preliminary environmental assessment work;
- the proposed improvement measures to deliver benefits, including significant biodiversity net gain; and
- the information presented in the PEIR Addendum.





Preferred Option  
Alternative Option





## Consultation Documents

The consultation documents will provide information about the updated project, and we are seeking comments from the local community on this.

The following documents will be available from the start of the 2023 Statutory Consultation to explain the consultation process and show the nature and location of the project:

- a **Consultation Booklet** which provides details about the project and the PEIR Addendum and highlights the questions on which we are inviting feedback as part of the 2023 Statutory Consultation;
- a **Book of Plans**, including (amongst other things) a Site Location Plan and Landscape Masterplan;
- the **PEIR** (published as part of the 2022 Statutory Consultation);
- the **PEIR Addendum**;
- a '**You said, we did**' document outlining responses to feedback received to date;
- this **consultation leaflet**; and
- the **exhibition boards** that will be used at the public information events listed below.

These documents, along with the revised SoCC, consultation leaflets/newsletters and the notice published under section 48 of the Planning Act 2008, may be inspected free of charge from 12 June 2023 to 17 July 2023 (excluding bank holidays) at the following deposit locations:

- **Ashford Library**, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS
- **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 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
- **New Romney Library**, 82 High Street, New Romney, TN28 8AU
- **Lyminge Library**, Station Road, Lyminge, CT18 8HS
- **Hythe Library**, 1 Stade Street, Hythe, CT21 6BQ

You can check the opening hours for each library on the Kent County Council website at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries/visiting-a-library>

Electronic copies of the consultation documents will also be available to download free of charge from 9:00am on 12 June 2023 until at least 11:59pm on 17 July 2023 on the Project website at [www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk](http://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk) under the tab labelled 'Consultation'.

The consultation documents can be provided on a USB memory stick upon request free of charge. Hard copies of the consultation documents can be obtained upon request at a cost of £500 per copy. Requests for large print, audio or braille versions of the consultation documents will be considered on a case-by-case basis and appropriate charges may apply. Requests for documents should be made to EPL 001 by telephone on 08081 698335 (free of charge) or by email at [info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk](mailto:info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk). Reasonable postage charges may apply.

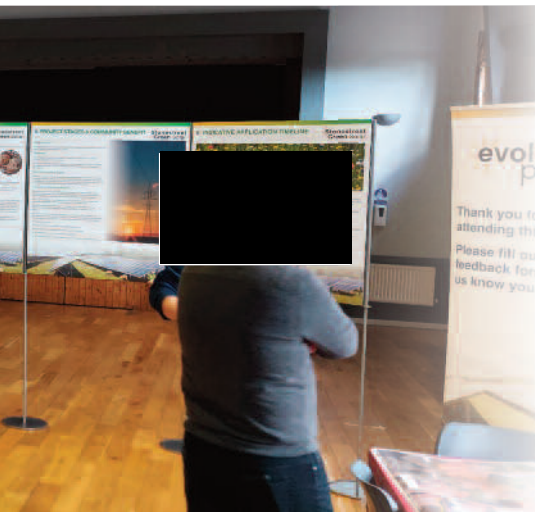


## Consultation events

A series of local information events will be held as part of the 2023 Statutory Consultation process. The local information events will give you the opportunity to view the consultation documents for Stonestreet Green Solar and provide feedback on the proposals.

The following local information events will be held:

- **Sellindge Village Hall**  
Friday 23 June 2023, 2pm-6pm
- **Mersham Village Hall**  
Saturday 24 June 2023, 11am-3pm
- **Aldington Village Hall**  
Monday 26 June 2023, 3pm-7pm
- **Bilsington Village Hall**  
Tuesday 27 June 2023, 1pm-5pm



## Feedback

The 2023 Statutory Consultation on the proposals commences at 9:00am on 12 June 2023 and runs until 11:59pm on 17 July 2023.

Any person may respond to the consultation.

**Comments must be received by EPL 001 by no later than 11:59pm on Monday 17 July 2023.**

When providing your comments please include your name and address or, if you would prefer your comments to be anonymous, your postcode only, and confirm the nature of your interest in the project.

Please submit any comments by:

- Completing an online feedback form on the project website at [www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk/consultation](http://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk/consultation)
- Completing a hard copy feedback form (available at the local information events, the aforementioned deposit locations and upon request to EPL 001 using the contact details below) and either handing it to the project team at the local information event or submitting it by post (free of charge; no stamp required) to FREEPOST Stonestreet Green Solar.
- Submitting comments by email to [info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk](mailto:info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk), by post (free of charge; no stamp required) to FREEPOST Stonestreet Green Solar or by telephone (free of charge) at 08081 698335.

EPL 001 will have regard to all responses received by the above deadline before finalising the proposals and submitting the DCO application later in 2023. EPL 001 may be required to submit copies of the consultation responses to the Planning Inspectorate and if so it will comply with all applicable data protection legislation.

## Indicative planning application timeline



## Contact details

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to find out more information about Stonestreet Green Solar or to provide your feedback on the proposals.

You can contact EPL 001's Community Relations Team by using the details below.

**Email:** [info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk](mailto:info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk)

**Call our Freephone information line:** 08081 698335

**Visit our website:** [www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk](http://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk)

**Send us a letter:** FREEPOST Stonestreet Green Solar

**You can also follow us on Twitter:** @SGS\_solar





# Stonestreet Green Solar

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Leaflet, Advert and Poster

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## 2. Consultation Advert



# KENTISH EXPRESS

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Stylish & Affordable Flooring

Showrooms in  
Ashford & Tenterden

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Tel: 01233 610 700

KM KentOnline **KMFM** KENT'S BIGGEST HITS TRUSTED NEWS SINCE 1855 June 8-June 14, 2023 £1.80

## 'BUSINESSES HAVE FAILED - BUT WE'RE HERE TO STAY'

HUSBAND-AND-WIFE TEAM TAKE ON TOWN CENTRE CAFE: PAGE 4

## INDEX



'PLANT THIEF' 'Brazen' woman targets house

PAGE 2



HOMES PLAN Hidden huts set for conversion

PAGE 5



ROAD U-TURN Zebra crossing torn up already

PAGE 13

# 'He will never be forgotten'

Heartbroken mum and son remember devoted dad, 34, following tragic death

FULL STORY SEE PAGES 8-9



Craig and Laura Bourke with their son Teddy; Craig died at his home in March

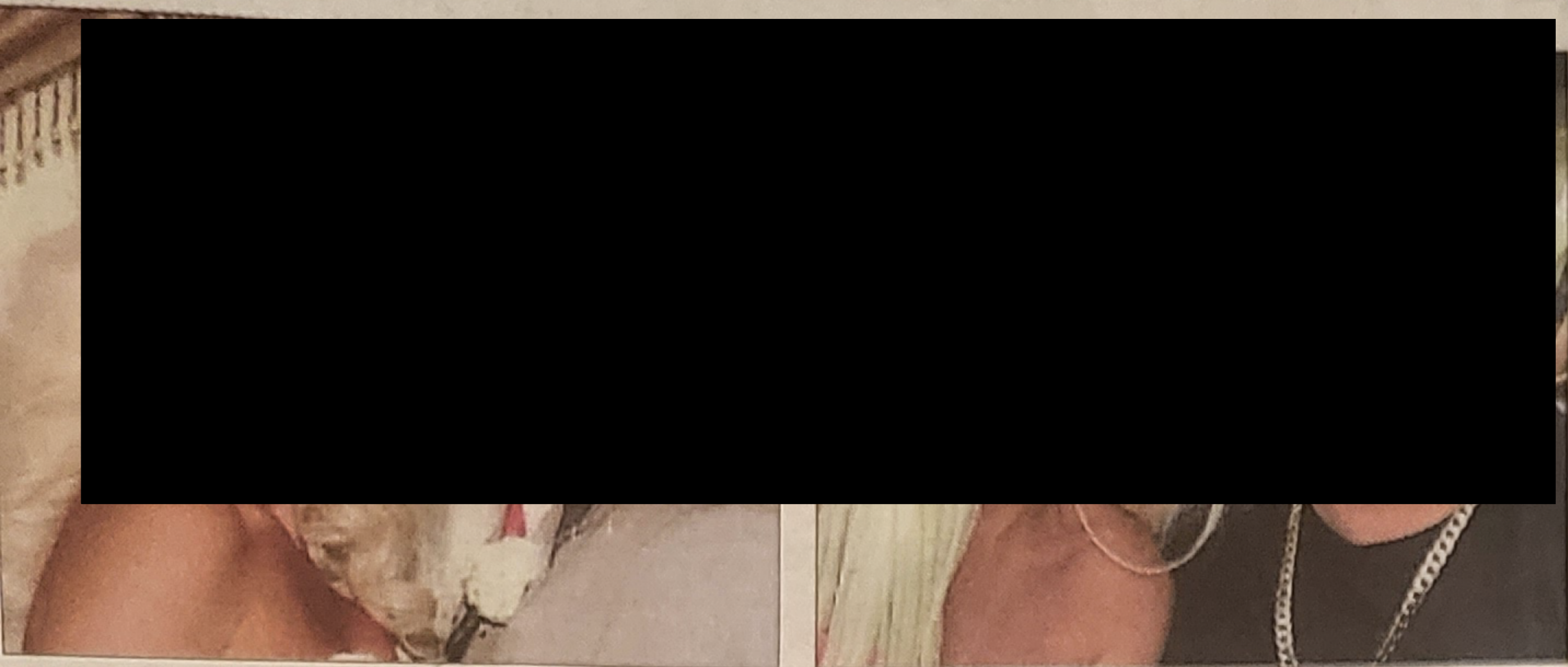


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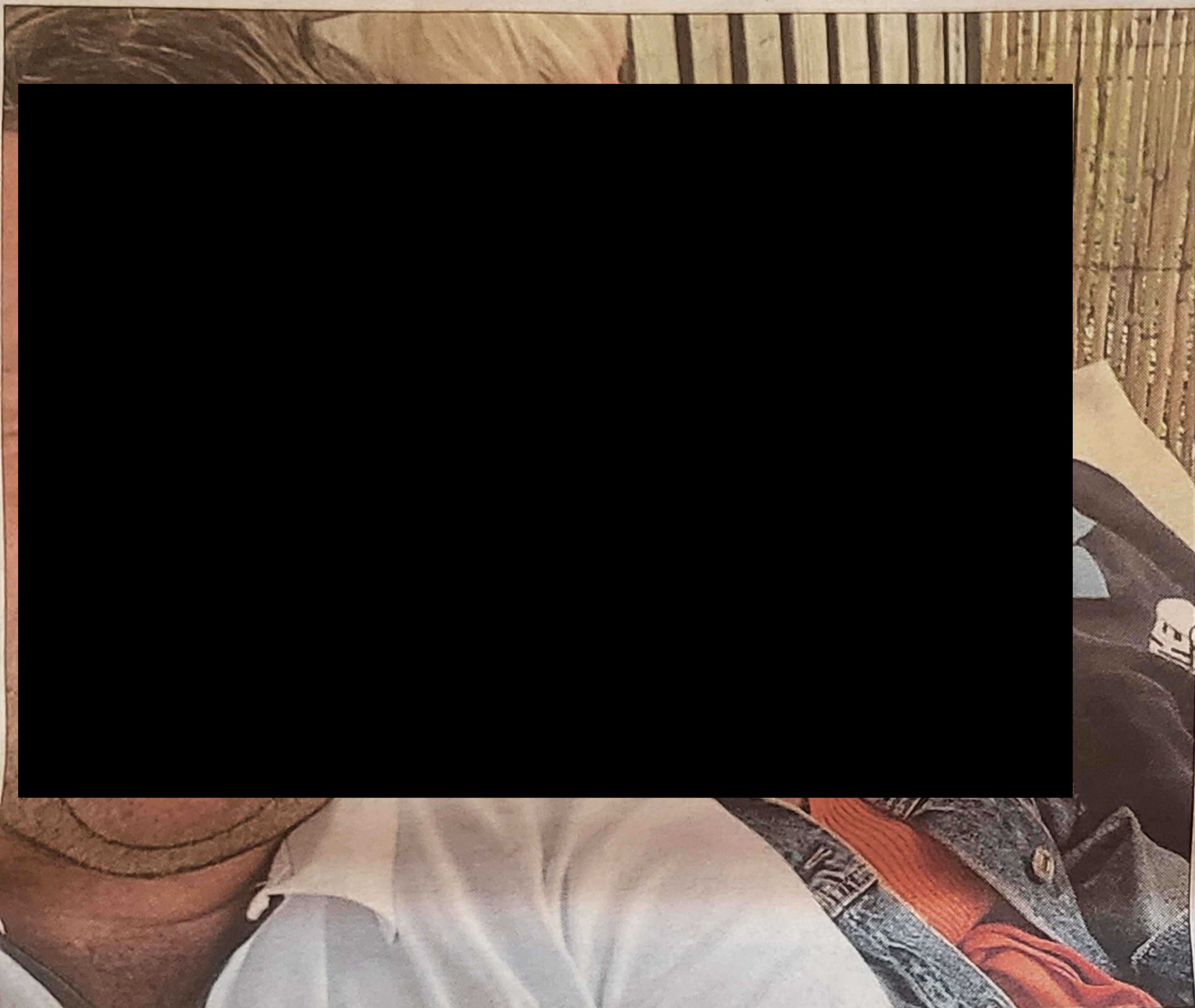


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Laura and Craig Bourke on the wedding day and, right, creating happy memories



Craig and Laura Bourke, from Ashford, with their son Teddy



Craig Bourke was a doting dad to Teddy, who he loved to go fishing with

inner and he was much happier when he was going out and working.”

In recent years the couple had been working to launch their own equestrian business and had taken the step of purchasing a large plot of land for the project.

But the inquest heard Mrs Bourke had discovered evidence of her husband's debts reaching £70,000 to friends and associates, and a tax bill of £1,000.

She also found out he had been hiding the fact he had lost his gas safety certification and was being investigated by the safety authority.

The statement read out by the coroner said police discovered following his death that the investigations the plumber faced from the gas authority were

Mrs Bourke also found that her husband had been hiding a £398 fine for using his phone while driving.

It is believed that all these factors, in addition to relationship issues the couple were attempting to work through in counselling, contributed to Mr Bourke's state of mind in the weeks before his death.

In her conclusion, coroner Sarah Clarke said: “It appears the downturn in Craig's mental health was precipitated by the lockdown.”

She added that despite the lack of evidence as to his intention to die, she would rule Mr Bourke's death a suicide.

She explained: “I can't find another explanation as to why he did what he did, so I'm going to record a conclusion of suicide.”

“There is evidence to suggest

than he let on.”

In an online obituary to Mr Bourke, his family describe him as “devoted” to his wife and son and having a “huge network of friends”.

“His absence has left a huge hole in our hearts,” it adds.

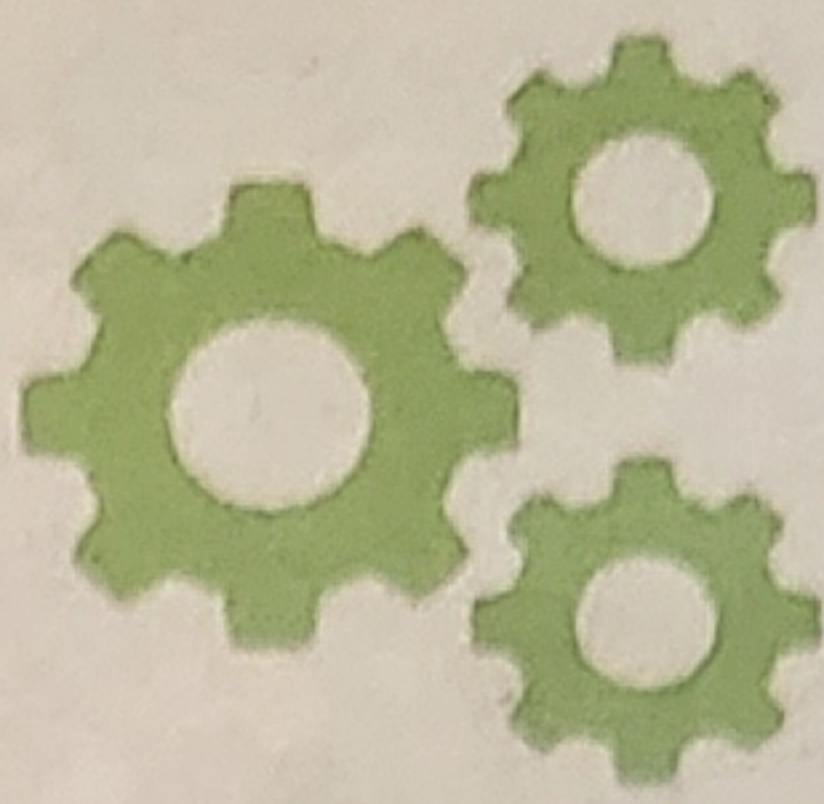
“He will be forever in our memories and never forgotten.”

“His personality and character will always shine and will help us remember how lucky we were to have him for a short time on this earth, but a lifetime in our hearts.”

On Sunday a charity football match was played in Mr Bourke's honour, with the money raised going to Winston's Wish, a charity supporting grieving children.

For confidential support on an emotional issue, call Samaritans any time on 116

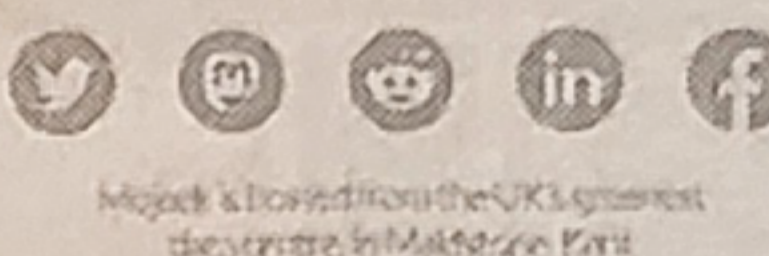
# There is another search engine



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## STATUTORY CONSULTATION - LOCAL INFORMATION EVENTS

EPL 001 Ltd ("EPL 001") is seeking the views of the public on its proposals for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of ground-mounted solar photovoltaic arrays and on-site energy storage, together with associated infrastructure and an underground cable connection to the existing National Grid Substation at Sellindge, on land at Aldington near Ashford in Kent, to be known as Stonestreet Green Solar.

The Statutory Consultation will begin at 9:00am on Monday 12 June 2023. The deadline for responses to the consultation to be received by EPL 001 is 11:59pm on Monday 17 July 2023.

Details of the project can be found at [www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk](http://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk)

During the consultation period, digital copies of the updated Statement of Community Consultation, the Consultation Booklet, a Book of Plans, the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), the PEIR Addendum, a 'You said, we did' document, a consultation leaflet, the exhibition boards that will be used at the local information events listed below and a feedback form will be available at [www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk/Consultation](http://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk/Consultation)

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## Stonestreet Green Solar

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Send us a letter: FREEPOST Stonestreet Green Solar  
You can also follow us on Twitter: @SGS\_solar

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# Crosskeys Coach Trips



## DAY TRIPS:

LEEDS CASTLE CLASSICAL CONCERT

8th July, £55.00

THAMES TRADITIONAL BOAT FESTIVAL -

HENLEY ON THAMES

15th July, £49.00

A DAY IN GREENWICH

27th July, £25.00

WINDSOR CASTLE, ST GEORGE'S

CHAPEL & ROYAL WINDSOR

31st July, £58.00

CHESSINGTON WORLD OF ADVENTURES

4th August, £65.00

DIDCOT RAILWAY CENTRE

5th August, £58.00

ORWELL LADY RIVER CRUISE WITH

AFTERNOON TEA

30th August, £78.00

LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM

14th September, £49.00

## SHORT BREAKS

\*NEW\* PEAKS, TREATS AND BEATS

14th August, 5 Days, £450.00pp

SUNBORN YACHT HOTEL, SHOPPING IN

LONDON & WINDSOR

27th August, 2 Days, £125.00pp

BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATIONS

18th September, 5 Days, £345.00pp

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2nd October, 5 Days, £410.00pp

LONGLEAT FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

26th November, 3 Days, £350.00pp

\*NEW\* POTTERS RESORTS FIVE LAKES

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01303 27 26 25



# Stonestreet Green Solar

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## 3. Consultation Poster



## STATUTORY CONSULTATION - LOCAL INFORMATION EVENTS

### PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AND DECOMMISSIONING OF A RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATING PROJECT AND ENERGY STORAGE FACILITIES ON LAND LOCATED TO THE NORTH AND WEST OF THE VILLAGE OF ALDINGTON

EPL 001 Ltd<sup>1</sup> (“EPL 001”) is seeking the views of the public on its proposals for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of ground-mounted solar photovoltaic arrays and on-site energy storage, together with associated infrastructure and an underground cable connection to the existing National Grid Substation at Sellindge, on land at Aldington near Ashford in Kent, to be known as Stonestreet Green Solar.

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**Visit our website:** [www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk](http://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk)

**Send us a letter:** FREEPOST Stonestreet Green Solar

**You can also follow us on Twitter:** @SGS\_solar

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# Stonestreet Green Solar

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Exhibition Boards and Screenshots of Project Website

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# Stonestreet Green Solar

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Appendix G-3: 2023 Statutory Consultation  
Exhibition Boards and Screenshots of Project Website

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## 1. Exhibition Boards

# 1. Introduction



**Thank you for attending this local information event about the proposed Stonestreet Green Solar project. These exhibition boards provide an overview of the project and information about how to take part in the Statutory Consultation.**

Non-statutory consultation on the proposed Stonestreet Green Solar project (the "Project") was undertaken over five weeks in spring 2022 with a further five weeks of Statutory Consultation undertaken in autumn 2022 (the "2022 Statutory Consultation").

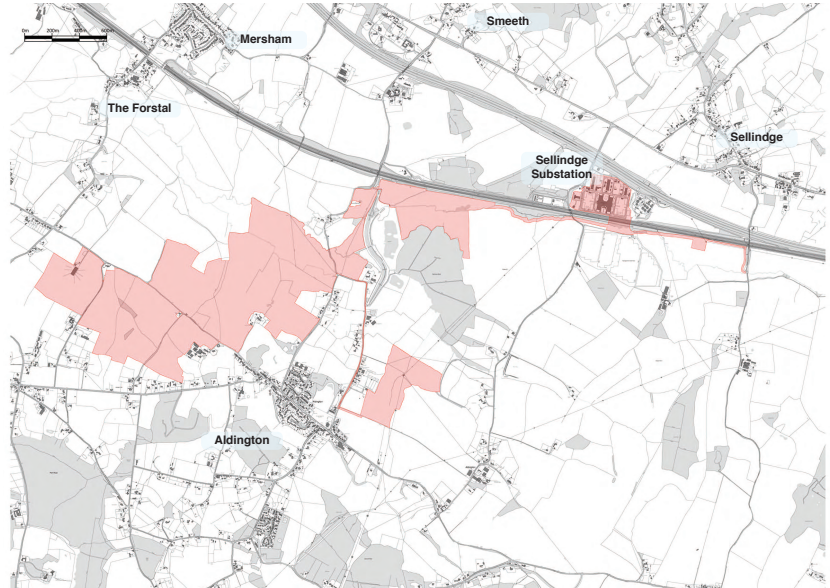
Having carefully considered the responses to both those consultations and made changes to the Project in light of those responses, further studies and surveys, ongoing environmental assessments and technical design work, EPL 001 Limited<sup>1</sup> (the "Applicant") has chosen to undertake a further five weeks of Statutory Consultation on the updated Project. The Applicant is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Evolution Power Limited.

These exhibition boards provide details of the changes made to the Project since the 2022 Statutory Consultation, along with further details about the Project and its anticipated effects.

This Statutory Consultation is being carried out in accordance with the Planning Act 2008 between 12th June and 17th July 2023.

Once the responses to this consultation have been considered, the Applicant will finalise the Project and then submit an application (the "Application") for a development consent order ("DCO") to the Secretary of State under the Planning Act 2008.

<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.



**We are consulting between 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023.**

## Contact details

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

Send us a letter: FREEPOST Stonestreet Green Solar

You can also follow us on Twitter: @SGS\_solar



# 2. Our Proposals



### Project overview

The Project comprises the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of solar photovoltaic ("PV") arrays and energy storage, together with associated infrastructure. The Project will be able to export and import up to 99.9 megawatts ("MW") of electricity to the electricity grid.

The Project will be a high quality and innovative solar farm. It will provide a domestic source of renewable energy for 40 years, making a meaningful addition to UK domestic energy security and contributing to the UK's climate change objectives. It has been carefully sited and designed, taking account of nearby receptors, and will provide significant biodiversity improvements in the area.



The Project includes:

- Solar panel areas: including PV panels, mounting structures, converters, connecting cabling and safety and security measures;
- Inverter Stations: to convert direct current produced by the PV panels into alternating current that can be exported to the electricity network;
- Energy storage units: to provide grid balancing services and able to be charged directly by the PV panels;
- Project substation: to house switchgear, Project transformer, control equipment and site facilities;
- Cable connection route: to connect into the existing substation at Sellindge.

There are currently two potential points where the Project could connect to the electricity grid. The Applicant's preferred route is directly into the existing Sellindge Substation and lies entirely within the administrative area of Ashford Borough Council. The alternative route, which would connect into the Sellindge Substation via an existing nearby tower, would require additional land some of which would be located within the administrative boundary of Folkestone and Hythe District Council.

### Why here?

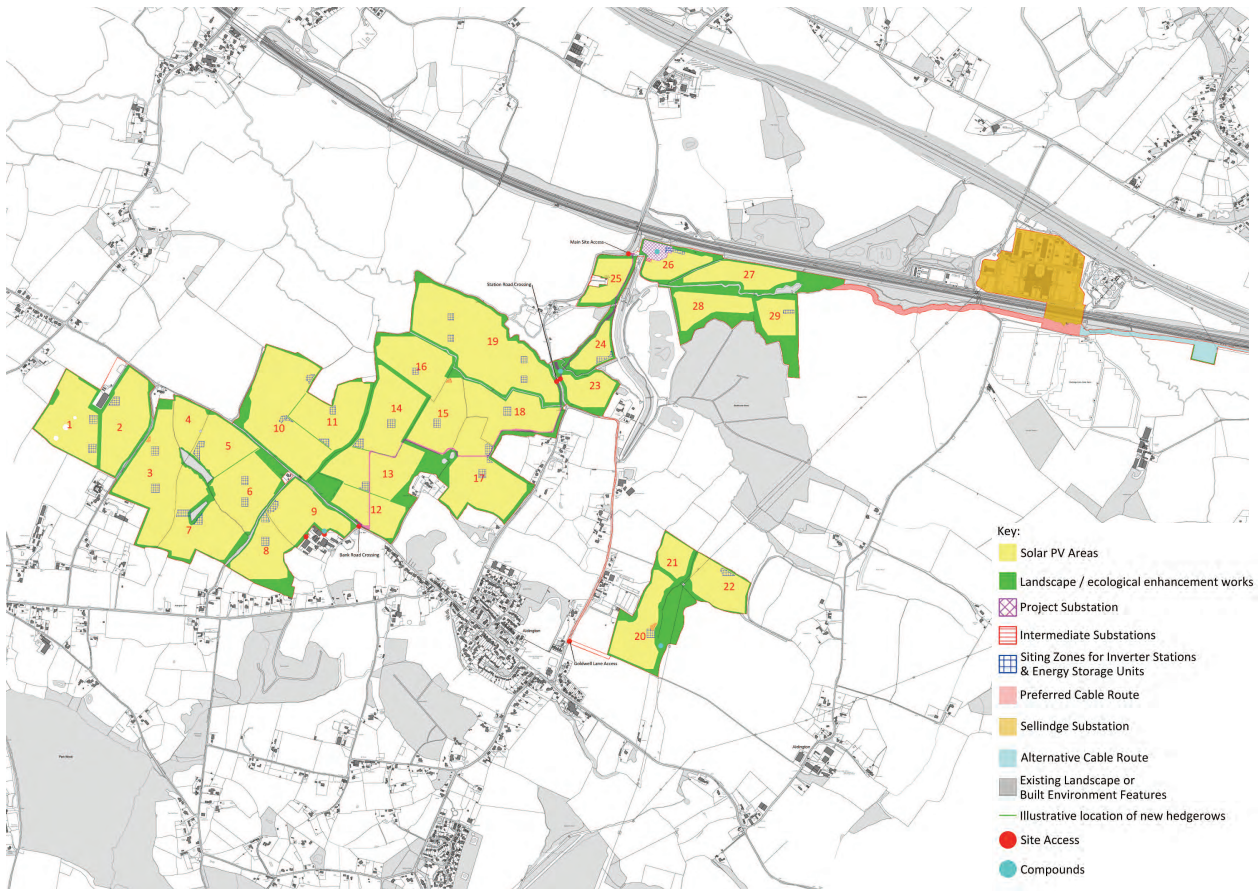
The site has been selected for a number of reasons, including:

- The south east of England was identified as a suitable area due to the high levels of solar irradiation and the high level of regional energy demand. The Project will contribute to meeting local demand including from High Speed 1 and Otterpool Park;
- The securing of available capacity at the Sellindge Substation provides a point of connection for the scale of energy generation proposed;
- The site is not subject to any international, national, landscape, ecological or geological designations, or to any housing allocations or heritage designations;
- The site benefits from existing natural screening through vegetation and topography;
- The site is approximately 80% lower-quality agricultural land or non-agricultural land.

More information on the site selection process is set out in Chapter 4 of the PEIR Addendum which forms part of this consultation.



# 3. Indicative Proposed Layout



# 4. Need & Project Benefits



## Project Need

The Climate Change Act 2008 requires the Secretary of State to ensure that the net carbon account for the year 2050 is at least 100% lower than the 1990 baseline in the UK (known as net zero). This is the overarching carbon reduction target for the Government.

In October 2021, the Government published a report entitled 'Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener'. One of the key policies in this report is for the UK to be powered entirely by clean electricity by 2035, which would also help ensure UK security of electricity supply and result in a reduction in energy costs.

In April 2022, the Government published the British Energy Security Strategy which forecast an increase in UK solar from the current level of approximately 15,000 MW to 70,000 MW by 2035.

In March 2023, the Government published for consultation the updated draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3).

This explains that there is an urgent need for new renewable electricity generating capacity and that the Government has committed to sustained growth in solar capacity to meet net zero emissions and achieve low-cost decarbonisation of the energy sector. It notes that solar farms are one of the most established renewable electricity technologies in the UK and the cheapest form of electricity generation.

Whilst a portion of the additional 55,000 MW of capacity may be delivered by rooftop solar the Government does not consider that this would be sufficient to address the urgent need for new renewable energy in the UK.

Even under highly optimistic projections it is likely that the UK will require over 200 projects of a similar size to the Project by 2035.

## Benefits

The Project will deliver the following key benefits:

- It will make a meaningful contribution to the UK's legally binding net zero commitment;
- It will provide an additional source of domestic energy security that is not impacted by gas prices;
- It 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 carbon per year;
- It will result in a biodiversity net gain of more than 100%, significantly above the 10% national biodiversity net gain target or the 20% Kent County target;
- It will provide for the additional planting of new hedgerows and woodland, with additional planting in already established areas. The updated Project design includes over 30,000 new hedgerow plants and over 16,000 new woodland shrubs/trees;
- It will introduce new public rights of way in the local area to improve connectivity;
- It will result in a reduction in nitrate emissions to the East Stour river; and
- It will provide a community benefit fund to be used locally for social and environmental projects.



# 5. Consultation Overview



## Consultation to date

Non-Statutory Consultation took place over five weeks between 25 March and 29 April 2022.

Statutory Consultation under the Planning Act 2008 was then carried out over a further five weeks between 25 October and 29 November 2022 (the "2022 Statutory Consultation"). This provided detailed information about the Project, including a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ("PEIR").

In each case the Applicant held four, three hour exhibition events at each of Aldington, Bonnington, Mersham, and Sellindge.

As part of the 2022 Statutory Consultation a two hour public presentation was held, which included a Q&A session where the Applicant responded to over 40 questions received from the local community.

## Feedback from the 2022 Statutory Consultation

We received 168 responses overall to the Statutory Consultation, including from statutory consultees, local authorities and the local community.

Common themes raised included:

- Support for the principle of new solar energy generation
- Concern about the overall scale of development and potential loss of agricultural land
- Questions over the need for the development
- Questions regarding site suitability and the consideration of alternative sites
- Concern about impacts to public rights of way
- Concern about HGV access
- A desire for all cables associated with the scheme to be buried underground
- Requests for more information about landscape and visual impact, ecology and local job creation

## Our Response

Since the 2022 Statutory Consultation we have refined the Project, having regard to all consultation responses received, as well as the results of further studies and surveys and ongoing environmental assessments. These have included further ecological surveys and mitigation, viewpoint analysis, landscape improvements, archaeological redesign and public rights of way refinement.

We have therefore:

- Developed a Book of Plans to support this consultation that provides further detail on our proposals;
- Provided further information on the need for the Project, site suitability and alternative sites;
- Developed our package of landscaping and biodiversity enhancements, to include additional hedgerow and woodland planting and habitat creation;
- Reconfigured proposed public rights of way diversions;
- Increased and enhanced setbacks from residential dwellings to reduce visual amenity impacts;
- Updated the proposals to provide additional habitat for wildlife, in particular skylark and yellowhammer, to mitigate impacts identified in the previous design;
- Relocated electrical infrastructure and provided mitigation to reduce any noise, visual amenity and archaeological impacts;
- Updated the scheme boundary (Order Limits) to remove small areas not considered necessary for development and to add land at Sellindge Substation to allow installation of new ducting, if required; and
- Undertaken further assessment of the potential for any cumulative effects of the Project together with other schemes in the vicinity of the Project.



# 6. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)



The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") development. We are committed to improving the local environment and the Project will be supported by a long-term landscape and ecological management plan ("LEMP") to ensure this is achieved.

We are required to carry out an environmental impact assessment of our proposals as part of the planning process. The preliminary outcomes from the EIA have informed the site design and content of this consultation.

The topics in the EIA include:

- Cultural heritage
- Landscape and views
- Biodiversity
- Water environment
- Land contamination
- Socio-economics
- Traffic and access
- Noise
- Climate change
- Cumulative effects

## Summary of effects

A summary of each EIA topic is set out below. For further information and conclusions on residual effects please refer to the Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR Addendum that has been published to support this Statutory Consultation. More detailed information can be found in the topic-specific chapters of the PEIR, as updated by the PEIR Addendum.

## Cultural heritage

Limited effects on archaeological remains and the historical landscape character of the area have been identified during construction.

These effects will be mitigated via a programme of

archaeological works and the use of native species for the reinstatement of hedgerows.

During the operational phase potential effects have been identified on the setting of nearby designated heritage assets which will be mitigated by planting hedgerows to screen views and minimise the potential for glint from the solar panels.

## Landscape and views

Mitigation of impacts has been considered as part of the Project design. Taking this into account, the effects during construction and decommissioning are considered to be of moderate adverse significance; operational effects on features of the landscape will be of moderate beneficial significance, effects on landscape character will be of moderate to minor adverse significance and effects on visual receptors will be of moderate to minor adverse significance.

The establishment of new landscape features will result in improvements such as enhanced management and reinforcement of existing hedgerows, new habitat planting for the East Stour River and new shrub planting for woodland margins.

## Biodiversity

Any impacts on the Stodmarsh Special Area of Conservation will be avoided by tankering any foul water to a location beyond the Stour River catchment and implementation of pollution prevention measures.

During construction suitable protection zones will be set up around veteran trees, Backhouse Wood and the East Stour River to ensure no adverse impacts.

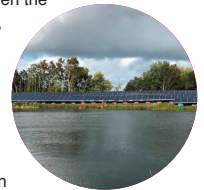
Operational phase mitigation includes the creation of new

habitats adjacent to Backhouse Wood and the East Stour River and additional foraging habitat to reduce the impact of the effects on skylark, yellowhammer and brown hare that were identified and reported in the 2022 Statutory Consultation.

The Project will deliver a material Biodiversity Net Gain over its 40 year life, expected to be significantly higher than the 10% national requirement and the 20% Kent County target.

## Water environment

Minor impacts have been identified with mitigation to include standoff distances between the Project and the East Stour River, ponds, lakes and drains. During construction and decommissioning phases a best practice approach will be implemented under a Construction/Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan ("CEMP/DEMP") to ensure disruption to watercourses is minimised. Operational mitigation includes a surface water drainage system that that will maintain existing rates of surface water runoff.

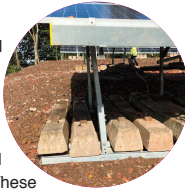




# 7. Environmental Impact Assessment (cont.)

## Land contamination

Potential impacts during construction/decommissioning will be managed via the CEMP/DEMP which will include minimisation of dust generation and the storage of fuel, oil and chemicals within a secure bunded area or secondary containment. These measures will be carried through to the operational phase where beneficial.



## Socio-economics

During construction/decommissioning the Construction/Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan ("CTMP/DTMP") and the CEMP/DEMP will minimise any impacts on local amenity. During the operational phase, the LEMP will ensure the proposed planting is maintained. Changes to improve local connectivity will be introduced to offset any negative impact from public right of way diversion.

## Traffic and access

The CTMP will ensure effects of additional traffic are avoided/minimised by controlling hours of site operation/access, provision of wheel washing facilities, minibus collection and drop-off arrangements and parking strategies for construction workers. Construction traffic is planned for outside of peak hours to minimise impacts in terms of traffic flow volume and highway network capacity. A similar approach will be adopted during the decommissioning phase, controlled under the DTMP.

## Noise

Mitigation is proposed to reduce potential impacts. During construction, this will include the CEMP, regular maintenance of machinery to control noise and vibration and siting of activities to avoid noise-sensitive locations. Localised noise barriers will be installed at the outset of development to shield noise-sensitive receptors as far as reasonably possible. These measures will be carried through to the operation phase where beneficial. Mitigation for the decommissioning phase will be controlled by the DEMF.

## Climate change

Measures will be implemented to minimise vehicle movements and emissions during construction including the promotion of the most sustainable transport methods for construction workers to access the site. During the operational stage the approach to habitat creation, enhancement, monitoring and mitigation measures will be agreed with the local authority.

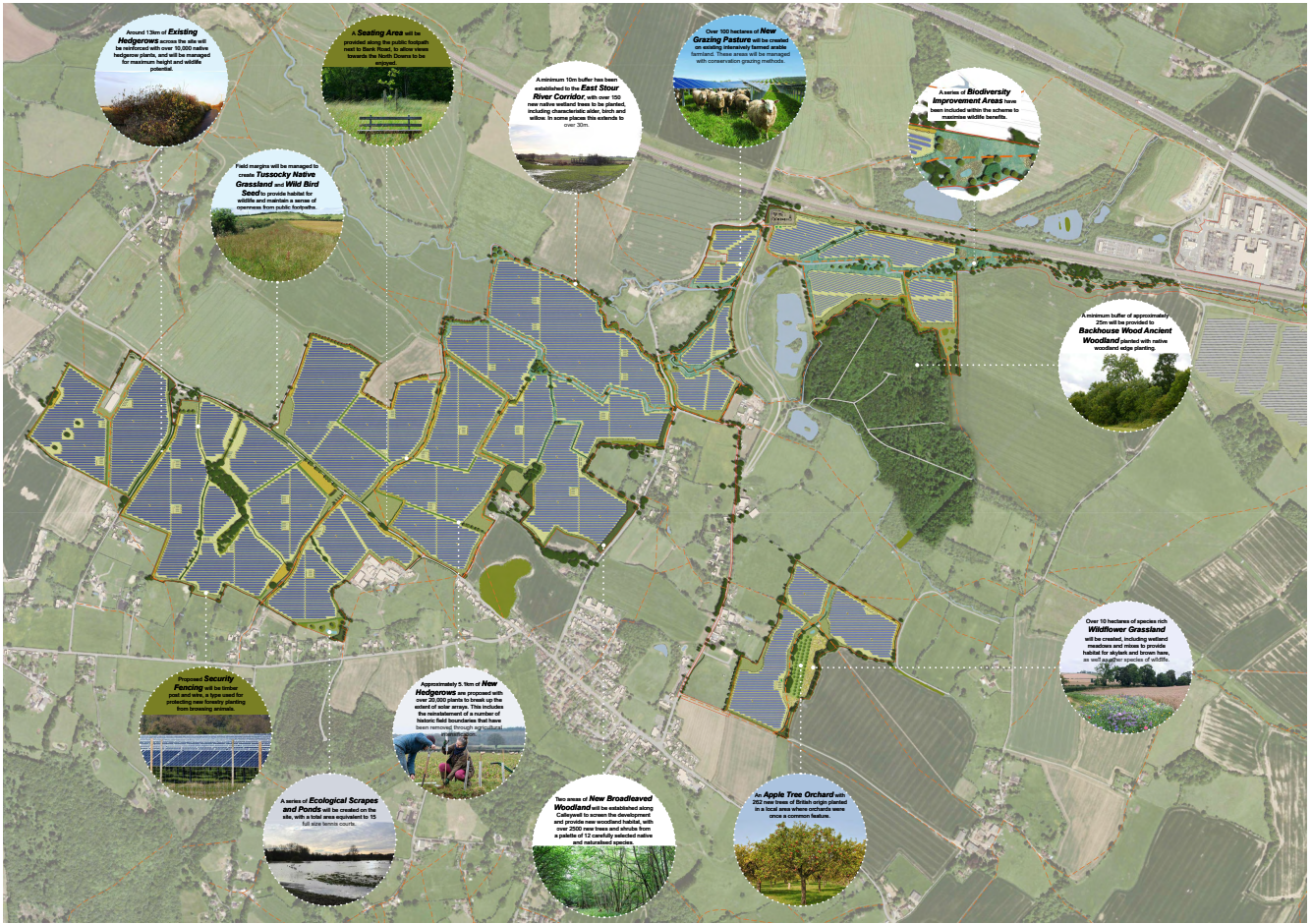


## Cumulative effects

The potential effects of the project have also been considered in the context of other approved or emerging schemes. These are set out in further detail in the PEIR Addendum.



# 8. Landscape Strategy



# 9. Construction, operation & decommissioning

## Construction

If the scheme were to receive consent, we anticipate that the total construction period would last approximately 12 months, including 3 months of site preparation.

We expect to build the Project in phases which should mean that we will not be working across the whole site for the entire construction period.

Early in the construction period, we will establish the main site entrance, internal roads for moving around the site, construction compounds and security fencing.

There will be vehicles travelling to and from the site while we are building the scheme, which will vary day to day. These will access the site using an entrance from Station Road, where the main site construction compound will be located. We will build the majority of the Project using an internal access track, meaning we will not need to rely on public roads. The only exception to this will be the access to the southern section which will be via Goldwell Lane.

Where public rights of way are impacted we will provide temporary signage for users and implement a 5mph speed limit for construction traffic to ensure public safety.

Construction activities will be carried out during the core hours of 08:00 – 18:00 on weekdays and 08:00 – 13:00 on Saturdays. There will be no construction activities on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

A full description of the anticipated construction works is set out in Chapter 5 of the PEIR Addendum which forms part of this Statutory Consultation.

## Operations and Maintenance

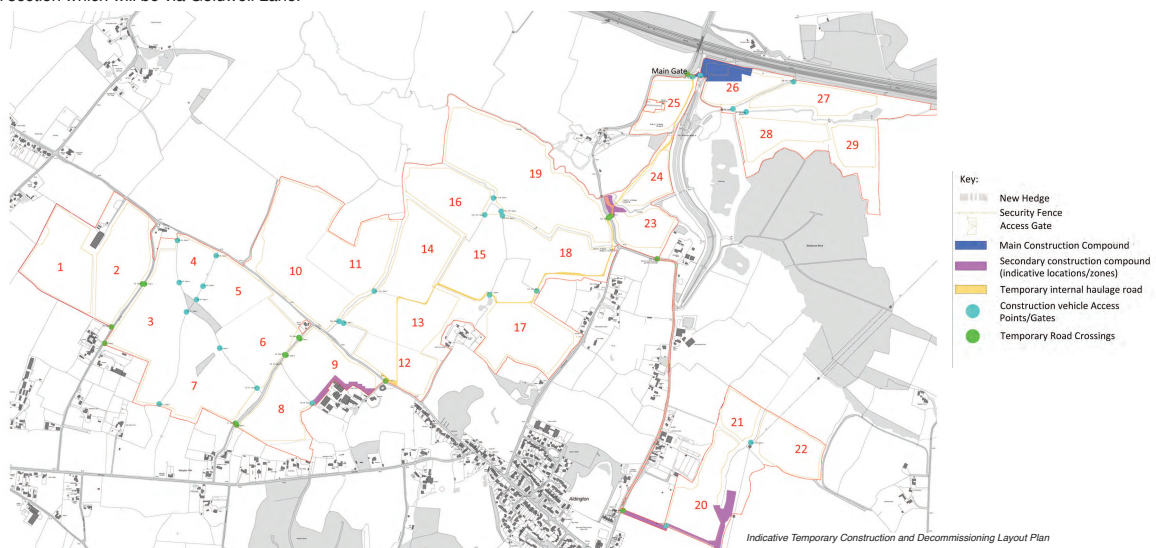
The Applicant is committed to operating the Project in a responsible way. Once the Project is operational, activity across the site will be minimal and largely restricted to monitoring, maintenance and the management of the visual and ecological mitigation features.

## Decommissioning

Solar farms typically have a design lifespan of 40 years. The Project has been designed so that once it has reached the end of its lifespan it can be dismantled. A decommissioning plan will be prepared in advance of decommissioning activities beginning and agreed with Ashford Borough Council.

## Jobs and skills

The Project will create jobs and skills, as well as creating wider economic benefits. Overall, we expect to create an average of 130 new jobs in the construction and decommissioning phases and between 182 and 279 direct and indirect roles once the Project is operational.



# 10. Planning, consultation & questions



## Planning process

The Project is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ("NSIP") pursuant to the Planning Act 2008 because its generating capacity will be more than 50MW.

Unlike applications for planning permission, which are considered by the relevant local planning authority, a DCO application is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate ("PINS"). PINS manages the application process on behalf of the Secretary of State. In this case, the relevant Government Department is the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero ("ESNZ"). The final decision on the Application will be made by the Secretary of State for ESNZ.

The Planning Act 2008 requires consultation with the local community before we submit our Application.

We are carrying out this consultation in accordance with this requirement – it is therefore referred to as a 'Statutory Consultation'.

You can find out more about the DCO process at PINS' website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>

## 2023 Statutory Consultation

We have developed our approach to this consultation through engagement with Ashford Borough Council, Folkestone & Hythe District Council and Kent County Council.

Consultation on the Project will take place from **9:00am on 12 June 2023 until 11:59pm on 17 July 2023**.

The following documents have been prepared to support the consultation:

- a Consultation Booklet;
- a Book of Plans, including (amongst other things) a Site Location Plan and Landscape Masterplan;
- the PEIR (originally published as part of the statutory consultation that took place in October and November 2022);
- the PEIR Addendum (which updates the PEIR and includes an updated non-technical summary);
- a 'You said, we did' document outlining responses to feedback received to date;
- a consultation leaflet; and
- the exhibition boards.

A full set of consultation documents can also be provided on a USB memory stick upon request, free of charge. Hard copies of the consultation documents can be obtained upon request at a cost of £500 per copy. Requests for large print, audio or braille versions of the consultation

documents will be considered on a case-by-case basis and appropriate charges may apply.

Requests for documents should be made to the Applicant by telephone on 08081 698335 (free of charge) or by email at [info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk](mailto:info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk). Reasonable postage charges may apply.

## How to respond

Any person may respond to the consultation. Comments must be received by the Applicant by **no later than 11:59pm on Monday 17 July 2023**. When providing your comments please include your name and address, or if you would prefer your comments to be anonymous your postcode only, and confirm the nature of your interest in the Project.

Please submit any comments by:

- Completing an online feedback form on the Applicant's website at [www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk/consultation](http://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk/consultation)
- Completing a hard copy feedback form (available at the local information events, the deposit locations and upon request to the Applicant using the contact details below) and either handing it to the Project team at the local information event or submitting it by post (free of charge; no stamp required) to FREEPOST Stonestreet Green Solar.
- Submitting comments by email to [info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk](mailto:info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk), by post (free of charge; no stamp required) to **FREEPOST Stonestreet Green Solar** or by telephone (free of charge) at **08081 698335**.

The Applicant will have regard to all responses received by the above deadline when finalising the proposals and submitting the Application. A Consultation Report will be submitted as part of the Application that will provide the details of the pre-application consultation undertaken by the Applicant, summarise any relevant responses received by the Applicant and explain the account taken by the Applicant of those relevant responses.

The Applicant may be required to submit copies of the consultation responses to the Planning Inspectorate and if so the Applicant will comply with all applicable data protection legislation.

## Consultation Questions

We are seeking your views on the following questions as part of the consultation:

- 1) Do you have any comments on our proposals for the solar energy generation element of the scheme?
- 2) Do you have any comments on our proposals for the energy storage element of the scheme?
- 3) Do you have any comments on our proposals for connecting to the national electricity system?
- 4) Do you have any comments on the potential environmental impacts and our proposals for enhancements and mitigation during:
  - The construction of Stonestreet Green Solar Farm?
  - The operation of Stonestreet Green Solar Farm?
  - The decommissioning of Stonestreet Green Solar Farm?
- 5) Do you have any comments on the contribution that the scheme will make to the local community?
- 6) Do you have any comments on the landscape strategy and the proposed biodiversity enhancements set out in the Consultation Booklet, the PEIR and PEIR Addendum?
- 7) Do you have any comments on the changes made to the Project following the previous statutory consultation in 2022?
- 8) Do you have any comments on the information presented in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report ("PEIR") as updated by our PEIR Addendum?
- 9) Do you have any comments on potential projects that the Community Benefit Fund could contribute towards?
- 10) Do you have any further comments?

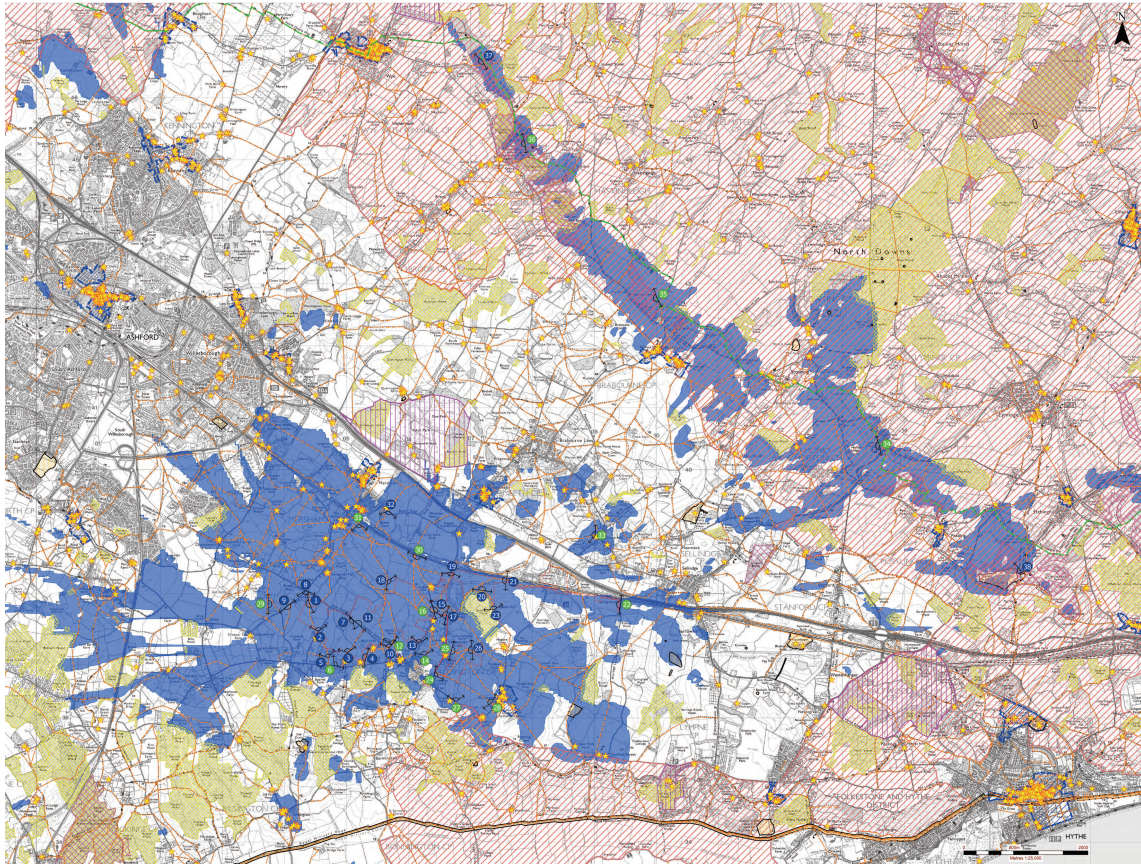
As part of our previous statutory consultation in 2022, we asked questions around the use of solar energy generation in the UK. A data error in our online consultation form meant that answers to the following question were not recorded, and we would be grateful for your response as part of this 2023 statutory consultation:

**Please explain why you support/do not support the use of solar energy as part of the UK energy mix?**



# 11. Visual appraisal plan

The plan below identifies the viewpoints which will be used to provide visualisations showing winter and summer views which will be included in the Application.



**NOTES**

Source:  
 A GIS Mapping  
 B Natural England GIS Data Set  
 Historic England National Monument Record  
 GIS Data Set  
 Kent County Council GIS Data Set  
 Southern National Cycle Network GIS Data

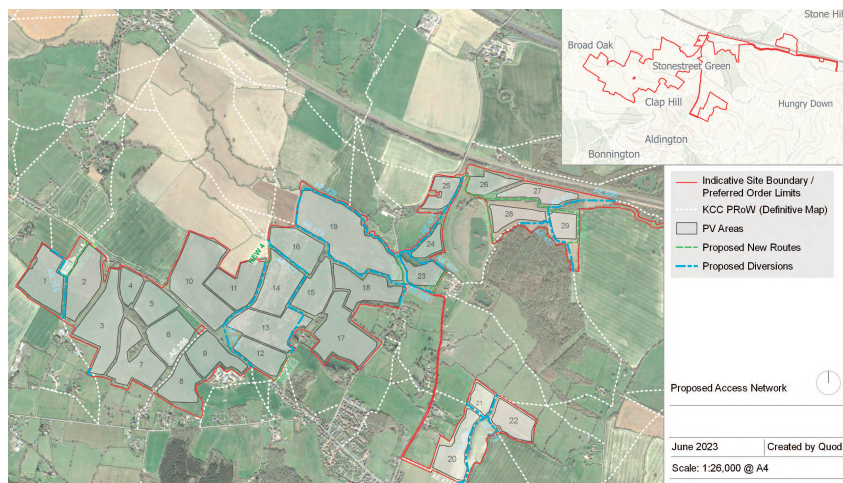
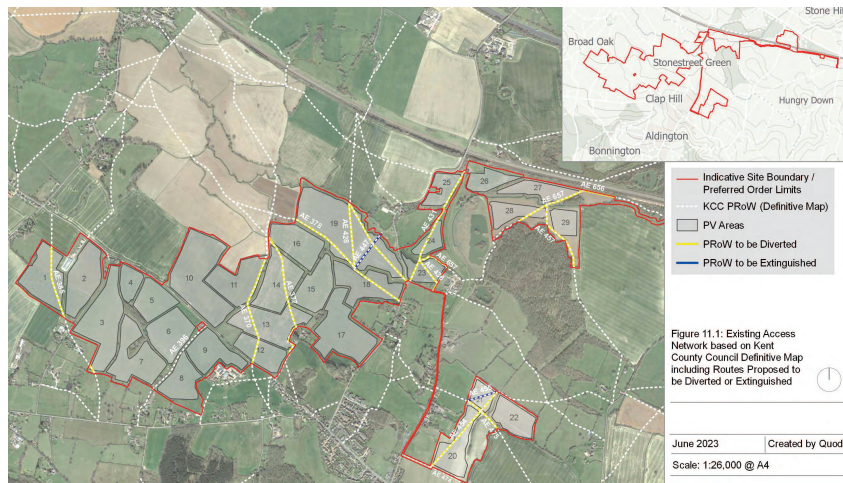
Data collected for constraints and analysis mapping is based on publicly available sources at the time of preparation intended using the British National Grid and may therefore not be accurate. Stonestreet Green Solar shall not be liable for the accuracy of data derived from external sources.

**LEGEND**

- INDICATIVE REDLINE BOUNDARY
- ANCIENT WOODLAND
- EXISTING WOODLAND, COPSES AND TREE BELTS
- EXISTING SCRUB
- EXISTING WATER COURSES AND FEATURES
- PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY
- NATIONAL TRAILS
- COUNTRYSIDE RIGHTS OF WAY ACCESS AREAS
- LISTED BUILDINGS
- CONSERVATION AREA
- REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS
- SCHEDULED MONUMENTS
- AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY
- LOCATION OF REPRESENTATIVE VIEWPOINTS (SITE CONTEXT PHOTOGRAPHS 1-28 EXCLUDING VIEWPOINTS FOR WHICH VISUALISATIONS WILL BE PREPARED)
- LOCATION OF REPRESENTATIVE VIEWPOINTS FOR WHICH VISUALISATIONS WILL BE PREPARED (SITE CONTEXT PHOTOGRAPHS: 6, 12, 14, 16, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36)
- ZONE OF THEORETICAL VISIBILITY (ZTV)
- VISUAL ENVELOPE



# 12. Public Rights of Way plans





# Stonestreet Green Solar

Consultation Report  
Appendix G-3: 2023 Statutory Consultation  
Exhibition Boards and Screenshots of Project Website

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## 2. Screenshots of Project Website



### Statutory Consultation (Summer 2023) Documents

- [Book of Plans \(uploaded 9 June 2023\)](#)
- [Community Information Leaflet \(uploaded 2 June 2023\)](#)
- [Consultation Booklet \(uploaded 9 June 2023\)](#)
- [Exhibition Boards \(uploaded 9 June 2023\)](#)
- [Feedback Form \(Online Form - live 12 June 2023\)](#)
- [Feedback Form \(Printable - uploaded 12 June 2023\)](#)
- [PEIR Addendum - Vol.1 - Non-Technical Summary \(uploaded 9 June 2023\)](#)
- [PEIR Addendum Vol. 2 - Main Text \(uploaded 9 June 2023\)](#)
- [PEIR Addendum - Vol. 3 - Appendices \(uploaded 9 June 2023\)](#)
- [Section 48 Notice \(uploaded 9 June 2023\)](#)
- [Site Location and Preferred Order Limits \(uploaded 9 June 2023\)](#)
- [You Said, We Did \(uploaded 9 June 2023\)](#)

### Events

A series of local information events will be held as follows:

- [Sellindge Village Hall - Friday 23 June 2023, 2pm-6pm](#)
- [Mersham Village Hall - Saturday 24 June 2023, 11am-3pm](#)
- [Aldington Village Hall - Monday 26 June 2023, 3pm-7pm](#)
- [Bilsington Village Hall - Tuesday 27 June 2023, 1pm-5pm](#)

EPL 001 has published an updated Statement of Community Consultation, please use the links below to download the document.

- [Updated Statement of Community Consultation \(uploaded 24 May 2023\)](#)
- [Updated Notice publicising Statement of Community Consultation \(uploaded 24 May 2023\)](#)

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

You are here: [Home](#) > [Consultation](#) > [Statutory Consultation Summer 2023](#)

EPL 001 Limited  
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Company number: 12444050  
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London, United Kingdom, EC4R 9AN

#### Information

- [About Stonestreet Green Solar](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Consultation and Resources](#)

#### Legals

- [Terms and Conditions](#)
- [Privacy and Cookie Policy](#)
- [Accessibility Policy](#)





## Stonestreet Green Solar

Consultation Report

Appendix G-4: Regard had to Section 42 Consultee Responses

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## Appendix G-4: Regard had to Section 42 Consultee Responses

The tables below set out a summary of the responses to the 2023 Statutory Consultation from consultees under s42(1)(a), (b) and (d) of the PA 2008 and the regard had to them by the Applicant. It should be read in conjunction with Section 6 of the **Consultation Report (Doc Ref. 6.1)**.

This Appendix covers the following topics:

[Table 1: Summary of responses to the 2022 Statutory Consultation from consultees under s42\(1\)\(a\) and s42\(1\)\(b\)](#)

- [Theme 1: Principle of Development](#)
- [Theme 2: Alternatives](#)
- [Theme 3: Landscape and Views](#)
- [Theme 4: Biodiversity](#)
- [Theme 5: Traffic and Access](#)
- [Theme 6: Agricultural Land](#)
- [Theme 7: PRow Changes](#)
- [Theme 8: Cultural Heritage](#)
- [Theme 9: Water Environment](#)
- [Theme 10: Health and Safety](#)
- [Theme 11: Consultation](#)
- [Theme 12: Noise and Air Quality](#)
- [Theme 13: Minerals Safeguarding](#)

[Table 2: Summary of responses to the 2022 Statutory Consultation from consultees under s42\(1\)\(d\)](#)

- [Theme 1: Principle of Development](#)
- [Theme 2: Alternatives](#)
- [Theme 3: Landscape and Views](#)
- [Theme 4: Biodiversity](#)
- [Theme 5: Traffic and Access](#)
- [Theme 6: Water Environment](#)
- [Theme 7: Community Benefits](#)
- [Theme 8: Consultation](#)
- [Theme 9: Noise](#)
- [Theme 10: Light](#)
- [Theme 11: Health and Safety](#)
- [Theme 12: Ground Conditions](#)
- [Theme 13: Glint and Glare](#)
- [Theme 14: Decommissioning](#)
- [Theme 15: Climate Change](#)
- [Theme 16: Property Impacts, Protected Provisions and Asset Protection](#)

Table 1: Summary of responses to the 2023 Statutory Consultation from consultees under s42(1)(a) and s42(1)(b) of the PA 2008

**Theme 1: Principle of Development**

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<b>Ashford Borough Council ('ABC')</b>	The Council is committed to reducing the reliance on fossil fuels and accepts that there is a compelling need to increase renewable energy generation in order to support the Government's agenda to reach net zero carbon by 2050.	N	Noted.
	The Council does not object to the principle of large-scale solar photovoltaic generation subject to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ development being appropriately sited and well-designed to minimise the landscape, visual and experiential impacts, and</li> <li>▪ any significantly harmful impacts being appropriately mitigated and that mitigation being able to be secured.</li> </ul>	N	The Applicant demonstrates how the Project has been appropriately sited and well designed to reduce the landscape, visual and experiential impacts in the <b>Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.4). ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> explains the design evolution of the Project and how it has changed in response to consultation feedback and in response to sensitive receptors.  The Applicant has engaged with ABC to explain the proposals for significant biodiversity and landscape enhancements to mitigate any potential impacts to the landscape, views and character of the area. These are set out in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> , the <b>Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan ('LEMP') (Doc Ref. 7.10)</b> .

### Theme 1: Principle of Development

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	<p>The Council, however, objects to the amended proposal for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There has been no fundamental change to the Project since 2022 Statutory Consultation and so the revised application does not address the Council's previously stated concern regarding minimising the impacts to an acceptable level for the rural location</li> <li>▪ The applicant does not include evidence of the Project being unviable if the scale were to be reduced</li> <li>▪ Disagrees the applicant's statement that the draft NPS EN-3 does not allow for a reduction</li> </ul>	N	<p>There have been notable changes to the Project since 2022 Statutory Consultation and the Applicant has undertaken further engagement with ABC to explain the Project. <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> describes the changes to the Project together with the <b>Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.4)</b> which explains the approach taken and the decisions made to arrive at the final Project design.</p> <p>The need for large-scale solar projects is set out in the <b>Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.6)</b> and is established in the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy ('NPS EN-1'). A significant reduction to the scale of the Project is not considered to be a reasonable alternative. Further details on this are set out in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>.</p>
<b>Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council</b>	<p>Object to the Project on the following grounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ inappropriate location and scale of the proposal overall</li> <li>▪ failure to minimise visual impact</li> </ul>	N	<p>The factors influencing site selection are set out in section 2.3 of the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure ('NPS EN-3'). The Project has been assessed against these criteria and it is considered that the Site is consistent with NPS EN-3, as confirmed in <b>ES</b></p>

### Theme 1: Principle of Development

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	<p>against the noted landscape impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ proximity to the village settlement</li> <li>▪ cumulative impacts of this proposal together with the EDF East Stour Solar proposal (ref PA/2022/00668)</li> <li>▪ the continued failure to recognise and minimise the impact of this proposal on the rural character of Aldington village.</li> </ul>		<p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> and in the <b>Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.6)</b>.</p> <p>The Applicant considers that the Project has been designed sensitively within the landscape. The likely landscape visual effects of the Project and the mitigation measures proposed to reduce effects are set out in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>. This Chapter assesses the landscape and visual impacts of the Project on Aldington village.</p> <p>Effects during the operational phase of the Project are to be mitigated through proposed landscape planting secured by the <b>Outline LEMP (Doc Ref. 7.10)</b>.</p> <p>A full cumulative assessment is set out at <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 17: Cumulative Assessment (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> including consideration of the East Stour Solar Farm development located adjacent the Site.</p>
<p><b>Smeeth Parish Council</b></p>	<p>Smeeth Parish Council's opinion has not changed since 2022 Statutory Consultation. General concerns about the Project are the scale of development and the considerable environmental impact.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The need for large-scale solar projects is set out in the <b>Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.6)</b> and is established in NPS EN-1. A significant reduction to the scale of the proposal is not considered to be a reasonable alternative. Further details on this are set out in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>.</p>
<p><b>Mersham Parish Council</b></p>	<p>Object to the Project. Without a clearly defined solar strategy, there is a significant risk of haphazard development, leading to</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The <b>Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.6)</b> provides details on the need for the Project, noting that the need for large-scale ground-mounted solar is established in NPS EN-1 and NPS EN-3.</p>

### Theme 1: Principle of Development

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	detrimental consequences for local communities and the environment.		
<b>Dover District Council</b>	I can confirm that Dover District Council have no significant concerns over the project, however we would like to highlight the potential for temporary impacts during construction on the M20, specifically to the impact on the port-bound traffic.	N	Noted. Impacts to the highway network have been assessed in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Traffic and Access (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> .
<b>Tunbridge Wells Borough Council</b>	<p>TWBC is in general supportive of this Project, which proposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning of photovoltaic arrays and energy storage;</li> <li>▪ Associated infrastructure and an underground cable connection to National Grid at the Sellindge Substation or an alternative (potentially including land in Folkestone and Hythe District);</li> </ul>	N	Comment noted.

## Theme 2: Alternatives

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<b>Ashford Borough Council</b>	Good project design appears to be a secondary consideration.	N	<p>The design has been refined since the start of the Project to factor in stakeholder engagement, consultation feedback, the results of surveys and studies and technical design evolution. A more detailed demonstration of site suitability and design iteration is detailed in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> and the <b>Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.4)</b>.</p> <p>The Council and its landscape consultant raised a number of suggestions as part of the 2022 and 2023 Statutory Consultation and changes were made to the Project to accommodate the majority of these.</p> <p>Following the Council's s42 response the Applicant sought further engagement with ABC to understand the Council's specific design concerns but these remain unclear.</p> <p>Further details are provided in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> and the <b>Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.4)</b>.</p> <p>A set of project requirements were established at the outset of the Project, taking policy requirements into account. These have been embedded in the Site design and explained in the <b>Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.4)</b>, <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> and the <b>Design Principles (Doc Ref. 7.5)</b>.</p>
	The design approach is not in accordance with the draft NPS EN-3 which states ' <i>direct considerable effort towards minimising the landscape and visual impact of solar PV arrays</i> '. ' <i>Considerable effort</i> ' clearly applies to analysis informing the design and the thought processes then applied to the design of the scheme as a whole.	Y	
	The draft NPS EN-3 identifies that proposals for renewable energy infrastructure should demonstrate 'good design' particularly in respect of matters of landscape, visual amenity and heritage impacts.	N	
	The draft NPS EN-1 suggests design principles should be established from the outset of the development, including those published by the National Infrastructure Commission ('NIC'), as well as any local design policies and standards. The	N	

## Theme 2: Alternatives

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	<p>Council's adopted Renewable Energy Planning Guidance Note 2: The development of large scale (&gt;50MW) Solar PV Arrays (2013) clearly indicates, as local policy and standards, the importance of minimising landscape, visual, the public right of way user experience and heritage impacts when proposing large scale solar photovoltaic development</p>		
	<p>Paragraph 4.6.7 of the 2023 draft NPS EN-1 identifies that applicants should consider taking independent professional advice on the design aspects of a proposal and that it also encourages applicants to use the Design Council to undertake 'design review'. The Council is not aware that design review only applies to NSIP proposals that would involve the creation of large buildings. The Council further notes that the design principles guide produced by NIC Design Group acknowledges that 'too often design has been treated as an afterthought', identifies that the well-designed infrastructure can support the</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>NPS EN-1 notes that applicants should "<i>consider</i>" taking independent professional advice on the design aspects of a proposal (paragraph 4.7.8).  The Applicant has adopted a clear, design-led approach which is founded on iterative design principles which seek to minimise the impact upon landscape and visual receptors, as required by the NPS. Further information is detailed in the <b>Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.4)</b>.</p>



**Theme 2: Alternatives**

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	<p>natural environment but should 'respect and enhance local culture and character' and recommends that design review panels should be set up for every NSIP scheme. The Council expresses its concern as to why the guidance and encouragement set out in draft NPS EN-1 is being ignored.</p>		
	<p>It is recognised all of the above creates a design challenge in the context of a site where minimisation of landscape and visual impacts is the expectation (as per 2023 draft NPS EN-3 para 3.10.89) and the retention of character and the essence of a place (including how that place is accessed and is experienced) is required. The applicant has yet to demonstrate that the approach being taken to the proposed development solar farm development represents an acceptably well-designed and sympathetic one balancing the needs of this location against the planning benefits of increased renewable energy generation.</p>	<p>N</p>	

### Theme 2: Alternatives

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<b>Kent County Council</b>	Details of security proposals including gates, fencing, CCTV and towers have not been mentioned and they should be provided to KCC.	N	<p>The <b>Design Principles (Doc Ref. 7.5)</b> set the details of proposed CCTV and security fencing.</p> <p>The <b>Draft Development Consent Order ('DCO') (Doc Ref. 3.1)</b> includes a Requirement for the detailed design of the Project, including proposed security measures, to be submitted to the local planning authority for approval prior to commencement of the Project.</p>
	Requested the impact to PRow views and their role within landscape character included within the Landscape Ecological Management Plan.	N	<p>The <b>Outline LEMP (Doc Ref. 7.10)</b> includes the proposed management and monitoring arrangements for the landscape and ecological enhancements.</p> <p><b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> assesses the likely effects to the views of Public Rights of Way ('PRow') users. <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Socio-economics (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> sets out the likely effects on users of the PRow during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages of the Project.</p>

### Theme 3: Landscape and Views

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback

### Theme 3: Landscape and Views

<p><b>Ashford Borough Council</b></p>	<p>There is little evidence showing how the landscape and visual assessment has informed the starting point and evolution of the scheme layout and extents as part of <i>'good design'</i> to accommodate renewable energy infrastructure at a significant scale in accordance with the draft NPS EN-3 para 3.10.50.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p><b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2), the Illustrative Landscape Drawings (Doc Ref. 2.7) and the Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.4)</b> evidence how the landscape context has influenced the Project design.</p>
	<p>The Council has previously raised concerns in respect of some LVIA judgements relating to sensitivity, magnitude of change and the overall effects on landscape character and visual amenity. The PEIR anticipated that there would be significant adverse impacts arising from the Project on elements of landscape character and visual amenity. Despite the beneficial changes to some elements of the scheme the Council remains of the view that significant adverse impacts would remain for the 40 year lifetime of the Project. The Council also further notes that the judgements in the updated PEIR do not take into account the cumulative effects linked to the nearby undetermined 49.9MW solar farm planning application.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The Applicant undertook engagement with ABC, including agreeing the proposed LVIA methodology with their appointed landscape consultants. <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 17: Cumulative Assessment (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> includes additional cumulative schemes in the assessment. Further information about the LVIA methodology is in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>.</p>

### Theme 3: Landscape and Views

	<p>The application site is crossed by a large number of PRowS and substantial parts of the site have an open character allowing appreciation of medium to long range views of a much wider landscape beyond the site including heritage assets (the careful analysis of which in terms of significance and setting is required pursuant to 2023 draft EN1 paras 5.9.12 &amp; 5.9.13). The Council notes with interest that the applicant identifies that the site was determined as being suitable because ‘a good portion of the site sits within a ‘bowl’ in the landscape’ (Page 9 ‘You said, we did’ Summer 2023 document) because a substantial element of the scheme does not and involves higher ground. The locally changing topography within the landscape reinforces the Council’s concern that insufficient attention has been given to a properly informed analysis and appreciation of that landscape informing scheme design (layout and extents) from the outset.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p><b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> assesses the likely landscape and visual effects to Public Rights of Way (‘PRow’).</p> <p><b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> acknowledges that the Site: <i>‘sits predominantly within the bowl-like landscape of the East Stour River valley, for the most part occupying low lying land adjacent to the river itself, but also extending to a degree up the northern flank of the Aldington Ridge and outwards to the more gently undulating landscape further west’</i>. This is shown on <b>ES Volume 3, Figure 8.2: Site Context Plan (Doc Ref. 5.3)</b>.</p> <p><b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> describes the landscape features of the Site.</p>
	<p>It is suggested the new, re-routed and retained PRow should be annotated on a greater number of plans such as the Landscape Strategy Plans.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The Landscape Strategy Plans presented at 2023 Statutory Consultation included the proposed PRow diversions and extinguishments, together with existing PRow routes that will be unchanged. These are clearly shown on the <b>Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans (Doc Ref. 2.5)</b>,</p>

### Theme 3: Landscape and Views

			<p>the <b>Illustrative Landscape Drawings (Doc Ref. 2.7)</b> and at <b>ES Volume 3, Figure 3.2: Proposed Access Network (Doc Ref. 5.3)</b>.</p>
	<p>The 2023 draft NPS EN-3 para 3.10.28 acknowledges the importance of the experiential qualities of public rights of way through, inter alia, encouraging both good design and the taking of an approach that seeks to <i>'minimise the visual outlook from public rights of way taking into account the impacts this may have on any other visual amenities in the surrounding landscape'</i>. The Council notes subscript Note 80 to 2023 EN-3 para 3.10.28 which identifies, as an example, how <i>'screening along public right of way networks to minimise outlook into a solar park may impact on the ability of users to appreciate the surrounding landscape'</i>. The Council considers that Note 80 is highly pertinent to the proposed scheme: it acknowledges that 'screening' (which might include elements of landscape softening) may have a role as a design element to help manage views of arrays at short and medium distances as one moves through a solar park but recognises that in so doing this has the potential to have an adverse impact on the other experiential qualities enjoyed by public rights of way users in terms of the ability to appreciate</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The Applicant has assessed the impacts to experiential qualities of the PRow in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>. <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Socio-economics (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> sets out the likely effects on users of the PRow during the construction and operational stages of the Project.</p> <p>The Project's design-led approach factors in landscape and visual analysis as set out in the <b>Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.4)</b>. The DCO Application is supported by detailed <b>Illustrative Landscape Drawings (Doc Ref. 2.7)</b> and the <b>Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.4)</b> which explains the approach taken and the decisions made to arrive at the final design.</p> <p>The <b>Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.6)</b> sets out how the Project complies the NPS.</p>

### Theme 3: Landscape and Views

	the surrounding wider landscape. In the Council’s opinion, this further underpins the importance of sound analysis informing the design approach to be taken to the site.		
<b>Kent Downs AONB Unit</b>	Amendments that were made in response to 2022 Statutory Consultation feedback are welcome. The additional planting along the southern boundary of the site addresses concerns regarding the visibility of Parcel E.	N	Noted.
	The incorporation of ‘advanced planting’ which includes locations that will assist in providing earlier mitigation for potential impacts from closer up views from the AONB to the south east is also welcome.	N	Noted.
	Request the decommissioning of the Project at the end of the lifetime is secured through the DCO.	N	The <b>Draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1)</b> includes a requirement that limits the Project to 40 years from first operation, following which the site will be restored in accordance with the <b>Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (‘DEMP’) (Doc Ref. 7.12)</b> and <b>Outline Decommissioning Transport Management Plan (‘DTMP’) (Doc Ref. 7.13)</b> .
<b>Kent County Council</b>	The objectives of Framing Kent’s Future and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan must also be considered in the assessment of the PRoWs.	N	Framing Kent’s Future and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan has been considered in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Socio-economics (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> and in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> .

### Theme 3: Landscape and Views

	<p>The Applicant should recognise that all criteria noted affect the PRoW network with a significant adverse impact. The proposed “maturation of planting” has been previously discussed and a timescale of 15 years for planting to mature is not considered to be appropriate and planting proposals are requested to have more of an immediate effect.</p> <p>The mitigation for PRoWs is inadequate and would welcome continued discussions with the Applicant to ensure measures are enhanced.</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p><b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> assesses the likely effects to the landscape and views of Public Rights of Way (‘PRoW’) users. <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Socio-economics (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> sets out the likely effects on users of the PRoW during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages of the Project.</p>
<p><b>Natural England</b></p>	<p>The application site falls within the immediate setting of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Noted. The Applicant has assessed the potential impacts of the Project to the setting of the Kent Downs NL including consideration of the Kent Downs AONB Management Plan in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>. The assessment of visual effects demonstrated there is likely to be limited visual impact to the Kent Downs National Landscape to the north of the Site.</p> <p>The cumulative effects of the Project with other schemes have been assessed in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 17: Cumulative Assessment (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>.</p>
<p>We are pleased to note the following responses to our landscape advice in the PEIR Addendum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) will include the AONB as a specific receptor</li> <li>▪ Recommend the ES reflects the potential impacts to the AONB and include point 6 of section 3.5, ‘Sustainable Development – aims’ of</li> </ul>	<p>N</p>		

### Theme 3: Landscape and Views

	<p>the Kent Downs AONB Management Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A significant effect on a special quality of the AONB is likely to equate to a significant effect on how the designated area delivers its statutory purpose, irrespective of the perceived geographical location of that effect</li> <li>▪ SCP 34 was selected for the preparation of a photomontage from the North Downs</li> <li>▪ The ES will include reference to views from Tolsford Hill along with a photograph to clearly demonstrate that the site is not visible from this location</li> <li>▪ The updated list of schemes to be considered as part of the cumulative assessment of the Project</li> <li>▪ Otterpool Park may be delivering its own solar scheme outside of the current red line boundary and this may also need to be considered as part of the cumulative assessment.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Aldington and Bonnington</b></p>	<p>The ridge landscape character was not adequately considered and the major visual impact upon residents entering the village via Station Road is not addressed. The</p>	<p>N</p>	<p><b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> assesses the visual impact to visual receptors on Station Road, Bank Road and also includes an assessment of the effects on fixed residential</p>



### Theme 3: Landscape and Views

<b>Parish Council</b>	consultation material does not consider the landscape character that is defined by the Aldington Ridgeline, nor the importance of long views.		receptors. This ES Chapter also assesses the impacts on the Aldington Ridgeline Landscape Character Area.
	Justification of the viewpoints as agreed by Ashford Borough Council and Folkestone and Hythe District Council does not address community concerns.	N	The LVIA viewpoints ( <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> ) were consulted upon at 2022 and 2023 Statutory Consultation and agreed with ABC and KCC in accordance with GLVIA3.
	The proposed removal of ancient hedgerow in Goldwell Lane will be detrimental to wildlife and visual amenity.	N	The Project retains the vast majority of existing hedgerows. Only limited removal is proposed where this is necessary for the creation of new access points, as set out on the <b>Vegetation Removal Plan (Doc Ref. 2.8)</b> . <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> sets out the principles of ecological mitigation, including how protected and priority species, important habitats, ancient woodland and designated sites will be protected during construction and enhanced during operation of the Project.
	The proposed 'acoustic fencing' would be an additional visual impact.	N	The visual impact of the acoustic fencing has been assessed in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> .
	The proposed biodiversity mitigation will change the landscape character of the area. Increased height to hedgerows would change the landscape character of the area.	N	Lanes bounded by hedgerows are a characteristic feature of the receiving landscape area and the provision of further hedgerows is therefore not incongruous. Further information about how the potential landscape character impacts have been considered is in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> .

### Theme 3: Landscape and Views

<b>Mersham Parish Council</b>	The Project will be highly visible from various vantage points within the villages of Mersham and Aldington. This will have an adverse impact on the aesthetics and scenic beauty of the rural landscape, significantly diminishing the quality of life for our residents and visitors.	N	<p><b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> assesses the landscape and visual impacts of the Project on Aldington village. Effects during the operational phase of the Project are to be mitigated through proposed landscape planting as secured by the <b>Outline LEMP (Doc Ref. 7.10)</b>.</p> <p>In response to 2023 Statutory Consultation feedback, the Applicant has included viewpoints from Mersham. The potential effects to these receptors are set out in <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 8.9: Visual Effects Table (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b>.</p>
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### Theme 4: Biodiversity

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<b>Natural England</b>	We do not anticipate any additional or more significant impacts to the nationally designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest ('SSSIs') underpinning Habitats Sites.	N	Comment noted.
	The applicant may wish to consider whether the impact of the Project through the pathway of reduced water quality on the Stodmarsh sites can be screened out in the forthcoming Habitats Regulations	N	The Project has been subject to HRA screening, as set out in the <b>Information for Habitats Regulations Assessment ('IHRA') (Doc Ref. 7.19)</b> to determine if there are likely significant effects on European Sites arising from the Project either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

### Theme 4: Biodiversity

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	Assessment ('HRA') as its not likely to have a significant effect.		Mitigation of impacts on the Stodmarsh sites is secured in the <b>Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan ('CEMP') (Doc Ref. 7.8)</b> <b>Outline Operational Management Plan ('OMP') (Doc Ref. 7.11)</b> and <b>Outline DEMP (Doc Ref. 7.12)</b> .
	The survey work for the wintering birds associated with the Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA and Ramsar site provided in the PEIR Addendum is robust and sufficiently demonstrates the Site is not functionally linked to the Dungeness SPA and Ramsar site.	N	Noted.
	Encourage early engagement on the 'Shadow HRA', particularly if further works indicate some effects can not be screened out. This would provide increased certainty prior to DCO Submission that impacts to Habitats Sites have been assessed appropriately.	N	The Applicant shared the <b>IHRA (Doc Ref. 7.19)</b> with Natural England for comment prior to submission of this DCO Application.
	Satisfied the impacts are unlikely for the Gibbin's Brook SSSI.	N	Noted.

**Theme 4: Biodiversity**

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	<p>We encourage the applicant to apply for the relevant Letters of No Impediment (LONI) as soon as possible as it can take some time to fully review the information.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The Applicant's ecologist has engaged with Natural England through submission of draft information on licensable protected species mitigation strategies and has sought Letters of No Impediment from Natural England. This is confirmed in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>.</p>
<p><b>Kent County Council</b></p>	<p>The surveys provide a good understanding of the ecological interest of the site and there are currently additional surveys being carried out (including roosting bats and barn owls) in preparation for the submission of the Development Consent Order.</p> <p>The site is largely arable and as the proposal is for a solar farm it is likely that if the site is enhanced/managed appropriately, the ecological interest of the site is likely to increase. However, for some species the proposal will result in a loss of habitat, in particular ground nesting birds such as skylark or birds which use the site in winter such as black headed gull.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The loss of habitat and associated mitigation has been assessed in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>.</p>

**Theme 4: Biodiversity**

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	<p>The enhancement of the site is demonstrated through the consultation material, which details that the solar arrays and boundaries are to be enhanced with a suite of suitable mitigation habitats and features. The EMES or an outline management plan are not currently available. Therefore, while the County Council can agree that the measures are likely to benefit the majority of species recorded within the site, until the detailed information is provided, the County Council is unable to provide specific comments at this stage.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The <b>Illustrative Landscape Drawings (Doc Ref. 2.7)</b> sets out the illustrative landscape and ecological proposals including a schedule of the anticipated planting types and species.</p> <p>Mitigation and enhancement measures and habitat management prescriptions are detailed in the <b>Outline LEMP (Doc Ref. 7.10)</b>.</p>
	<p>No information has been provided demonstrating that the skylark plots will be suitable for ground nesting birds. The areas may be too small or the tall fences/solar panels may mean that ground nesting birds do not have sufficient visibility to enable ground nesting birds to use them. Details are required to demonstrate why the</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The <b>Outline LEMP (Doc Ref. 7.10)</b> sets out the principles for the skylark plots proposed, and management principles for the lifespan of the Project.</p>

### Theme 4: Biodiversity

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	proposed plots will be utilised by ground nesting birds.		
	The creation of bird crop strips is likely to be management intensive as they will probably need to be managed every 1-2 years to ensure that they continue to provide foraging opportunities for the birds within the site. The applicant should confirm they are able to implement the management detailed within the management plan for the lifetime of the development.	N	The <b>Outline LEMP (Doc Ref. 7.10)</b> sets out the proposed measures and commits to the management of bird crop strips.
	The information submitted with the DCO application must demonstrate that the required management will be carried out for the lifetime of the Project to ensure that the development will achieve the Biodiversity Net Gain detailed within the future submission.	N	The <b>Outline LEMP (Doc Ref. 7.10)</b> includes the principles of habitat management that will be implemented for the lifespan of the Project, and to ensure the habitat types and conditions predicted in the <b>Biodiversity Net Gain ('BNG') Assessment (Doc Ref. 7.1)</b> are achievable.  Detailed landscape proposals will be developed post-grant of the DCO, and these will be used to further evidence how the BNG will be delivered. This is secured by Requirement in the <b>Draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1)</b> .
	Detailed landscaping plans will be required to be submitted with any Development Consent Order application to demonstrate that the mitigation detailed within the EMES	N	

### Theme 4: Biodiversity

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	can be implemented and the conclusions within the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment area achievable.		
	Satisfied that through good design or the implementation of appropriate measures during construction/operational phase, that impacts can be avoided on local, national or international sites.	N	Noted. The <b>Design Approach Document (Doc Ref.7.4)</b> sets out the Project's approach to good design.
	A shadow Habitat Regulations Assessment must be submitted with the Development Consent Order with regards to impacts on the Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar sites.	N	Noted. The <b>IHRA (Doc Ref. 7.19)</b> is submitted with the DCO application.
	There could be potential to generate 'nutrient credits' that can be traded to help offset nutrient impacts from future planned residential development in Ashford.	N	Noted.
<b>Environment Agency</b>	If beavers are found in the area of the project, a licence may be required to manage beavers or manipulate parts of their habitat. Surveys for beavers must be	N	The riparian mammal survey work undertaken to inform the <b>ES (ES Volume 4, Appendix 9.5k: Riparian Mammal Survey Report (Doc Ref. 5.4))</b> included searches for beaver field signs.

### Theme 4: Biodiversity

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	conducted by appropriately qualified and experienced ecologists.		
	Survey data for all species should be shared with the Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre in a format acceptable to them KMBRC Submit Your Records.	N	Noted.
	If appropriate, the requirements of Biodiversity Net Gain on the river may also need to be met by the applicant.	N	A River Habitat Condition Assessment was undertaken and the results have informed the <b>BNG Assessment (Doc Ref. 7.1)</b> . The ecological enhancement measures secured in the <b>Outline LEMP (Doc Ref. 7.10)</b> include additional enhancements for watercourses.
<b>Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council</b>	The Biodiversity Net Gain from proposed planting of new hedgerow should be evaluated against that already there.	N	The <b>BNG Assessment (Doc Ref. 7.1)</b> provides a detailed quantitative assessment of all hedgerow losses and gains, including the locations, conditions and extents of existing and proposed hedgerow.
<b>Mersham Parish Council</b>	The Project could disrupt local ecosystems, wildlife habitats, and potentially cause soil and water quality issues if not planned and implemented carefully.	N	The <b>Outline LEMP (Doc Ref. 7.10)</b> outlines how the Applicant will be responsible for implementing the management and monitoring of the biodiversity proposals.



### Theme 5: Traffic and Access

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<b>National Highways</b>	We look forward to being consulted on the detailed Construction and Traffic Management Plan prior to the commencement of construction.	N	Noted.
<b>Kent Fire and Rescue Service</b>	Two access points to the site should be provided to account for opposite wind conditions. Roads/hard standing should be provided to allow access for fire service vehicles in all weather conditions with no extremes of gradient.	N	The <b>Design Principles (Doc Ref. 7.5)</b> and the <b>Outline Battery Safety Management Plan ('BSMP') (Doc Ref. 7.16)</b> secures appropriate access for emergency vehicles. Access roads will be provided from the public highway to each of the BESS locations, with an approach to each BESS location possible from two directions.
<b>Kent County Council</b>	Requested clarification as to whether the construction vehicle access points will use the entry point to AE431. PRow user safety would need to be considered	N	The <b>Outline Rights of Way and Access Strategy ('RoWAS') (Doc Ref. 7.15)</b> and <b>Outline CEMP (Doc Ref. 7.8)</b> include measures to ensure that there is minimal disruption to PRow. Access to the Site during construction is shown on <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 13.7: Access Drawings (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b> .
	Queried whether construction on Saturdays is necessary.	N	Construction on Saturdays is necessary to complete the Project within the 12-month timeframe.
<b>Ashford Borough Council</b>	The Council disagrees with the applicant's suggestion at paragraph 12.3.2 of the PEIR Addendum Volume 1: Non-Technical Summary June 2023 that <i>'no construction</i>	N	The main road that passes through Aldington village is the section of Roman Road between Forge Hill and the B2067. This section does not form part of

### Theme 5: Traffic and Access

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
and <b>Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council</b>	<i>traffic will pass through Aldington village</i> because the applicant is clearly using its own definition as to that which constitutes the village in order to justify the 'on-road construction route' that is proposed along Goldwell Lane in order to access outlying solar array Parcels 20, 21 and 22.		the construction traffic route which is controlled through the <b>Outline CTMP (Doc Ref. 7.9)</b> .  Only the section of Goldwell Lane north of Goldwell Close will be used for construction traffic. Appropriate traffic management measures will be in place to minimise any impact or disruption to other road users as detailed in the <b>Outline CTMP (Doc Ref. 7.9)</b> .
<b>NATS Safeguarding</b>	The Project does not conflict with the safeguarding criteria and NATS (En Route) Public Limited Company has no safeguarding objection at this time in the Project.	N	Noted.
<b>Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council</b>	Not all of the roads in close proximity to the Project have been surveyed.	N	Only roads that constitute the construction traffic route detailed in the <b>Outline CTMP (Doc Ref. 7.9)</b> have been included in the assessment as construction traffic will not use other local roads.
<b>Smeeth Parish Council</b>	Concerned about impacts to the local transport network during the construction phase.	N	Management of construction traffic is set out in the <b>Outline CTMP (Doc Ref. 7.9)</b> , including specifications of the appropriate routes to the Site.

### Theme 6: Agricultural Land

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<b>Natural England</b>	We are pleased to see that the PEIR Addendum now includes a detailed Soils and Agricultural Land Assessment at Appendix 2.4. We are satisfied with the soil survey work which has been undertaken and note that around 37.75ha of BMV agricultural land will be affected by the proposal.	N	Noted.
<b>Mersham Parish Council</b> and <b>Smeeth Parish Council</b>	The site is prime agricultural land. Its use for the Project would reduce the available arable land and affect local food production.  Concerns about the loss of agricultural land.	N	<b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref 5.2)</b> sets out the site selection process for the Site which carefully considered minimising best and most versatile ('BMV') land included in the Order limits. The Applicant's site selection has avoided the use of BMV where possible.  The Soils and Agricultural Land Report at <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 16.1: Soils and Agricultural Land Report (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b> and <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Other Topics (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> provides information and assessment of effects to agricultural land and soils.
<b>Smeeth Parish Council</b>	Expresses uncertainty about the potential for a combined agricultural use.	N	The Applicant notes that grazing under PV arrays is possible and has committed to making the land available for grazing purposes to assist with the management of the Site. This commitment is secured in the <b>Outline LEMP (Doc Ref. 7.10)</b> .

### Theme 7: PRoW Changes

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<b>Kent County Council</b>	There appears to be infrastructure near PRoW routes, e.g., Field 29 which are not clear from the key and Field 2 / AE380 and the substation. The positioning of this infrastructure close to PRoW is not accepted.	N	A number of follow-up meetings have been held between Kent County Council and the Applicant to address these points. The <b>Outline RoWAS (Doc Ref. 7.15)</b> has been shared with KCC and agreed with officers.
	With regard to 'Residual Effects', the proposed PRoW improvements/new access will only be of "less significance" if they come forward as strategic links and not just "potential opportunities". This gives cause for concern and there is a need for continued engagement with the County Council to ensure that there are definite PRoW network benefits as part of the Solar Park legacy.	N	
	A legacy fund to cover offsite wider network improvements to meet the objective of the ROWIP objectives quoted is expected.	N	
	In respect of the Link Level assessment KCC agrees with the points raised but	N	

### Theme 7: PRow Changes

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	request that the KCC approve and agree to this assessment.		
	PRow routes should not be used for construction or decommissioning traffic. Request for the proposed PRow diversions is overlaid on the access route plan as there appears to be conflict with the PRow and “temporary” internal haulage roads – AE431, AE448, AE378, AE377, AE370 and AE474. With crossings on Byway AE396, currently no route is shown. There would be a significant impact to PRow users, during both construction and decommissioning, and notes the apparent clash with the proposed haulage routes.	N	The <b>Outline RoWAS (Doc Ref. 7.15)</b> , <b>Outline CEMP (Doc Ref. 7.8)</b> and <b>Outline DEMP (Doc. Ref. 7.12)</b> include measures to ensure that there is minimal disruption to PRowS, and in the event of damage – rectification of the affected routes and this has been accounted for within the assessment.  <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> assesses the likely effects to the views of Public Rights of Way (‘PRow’) users. <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Socio-economics (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> sets out the likely effects on users of the PRow during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages of the Project.
	The applicant should consider PRow user safety/amenity during decommissioning.	N	
	Request the following documents are approved by KCC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rights of Way and Access Strategy</li> <li>▪ Final Construction Environment</li> </ul>	N	The <b>Outline RoWAS (Doc Ref. 7.15)</b> has been shared with KCC and agreed with officers. The <b>Outline CEMP (Doc Ref. 7.8)</b> and the <b>Outline CTMP (Doc Ref. 7.13)</b> have also been included within the application. The <b>draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1)</b> includes requirements for the <b>RoWAS, CEMP</b>

### Theme 7: PRow Changes

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	<p>Management Plan and the Construction Traffic Management Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improved surfaces upon re-instatement post construction</li> </ul>		<p>and the <b>CTMP</b> to be submitted and approved by the local planning authority prior to the commencement of construction.</p>
	<p>There would be significant impact to the PRow network, both within site boundaries and across the wider Network. This should be acknowledged.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Noted. The <b>Outline RoWAS (Doc Ref. 7.15)</b> has been shared with KCC and agreed with officers.</p> <p>Following the 2023 Statutory Consultation, panels were removed from Fields 26-29. As a result, the proposed PRow diversions were amended to create more direct routes in these fields and to provide amenity access to the river. This has resulted in some new linking routes and one minor diversion to move an existing path away from the railway line to improve amenity. The proposed changes were discussed and agreed with KCC.</p>
	<p>The outlined benefits of the development do not include the improvements and enhancements expected to the PRow network on site or offsite which is disappointing. This should be seen as a benefit of this proposal and its omission raises to a concern as to whether these improvements will be forthcoming.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Further details of how the 2023 Consultation Scheme evolved in relation to PRowS are provided in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Socio-economics (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> of this ES and supporting appendices.</p> <p><b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> assesses the likely effects to the views of Public Rights of Way ('PRow') users. <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Socio-economics (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> sets out the likely effects on users of the PRow during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages of the Project.</p>
	<p>Byway AE396 improvements should not be limited to just clearance, surface and other improvements. The County Council considers that it is important to also provide high quality links including</p>	<p>N</p>	

### Theme 7: PRow Changes

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	appropriate width and necessary signage. Byway AE396 improvements to high-quality off-road use are noted and the Applicant should be aware that this will also require future maintenance funding to ensure quality is future proofed.		
	Welcomes the inclusion of connecting routes across the wider area to Folkestone, Hythe and Ashford.	N	
	Agrees in principle with the movement to new routes prior to the closure of existing ones, to ensure consistency across the network and to avoid no gap in use.	N	
	The legal mechanisms for alterations to the PRow network must be approved and processed by KCC.	N	
	The County Council would wish to draw attention to commentary relating to the Main Gate and Compound / AE431 access. The Applicant should also ensure consideration of all Non Motorised Users	N	

### Theme 7: PRow Changes

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	<p>who require appropriate safety measures on Goldwell Lane.</p> <p>The following comments are provided in relation to PRow changes:</p> <p><b>AE454</b> – diversion from Crossfield route, appears enclosed on western side which has the potential to impact on visual amenity</p> <p><b>AE475</b> – junction of AE475 and 454 appears to create new dog-leg around the existing pylon which is not favourable</p> <p><b>AE474</b> – the County Council agrees that PRow to remain on existing alignment. Concerns are raised regarding use during construction, which is not acceptable.</p> <p><b>AE657</b> – this route appears to run alongside the railway where it joins AE656. KCC requests clarity regarding route numbering and exact alignment. Concerns are raised by the County Council regarding AE656 continuation</p>	<p>Y</p>	



### Theme 7: PRow Changes

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	<p>East and clarity is requested around what is proposed here.</p> <p><b>AE370</b> – with the proposed cycle route, there is a need to address the legal mechanism for upgrade, which should not be permissive. KCC agrees with the cross-field route west of Field 12. In respect of new PRow</p> <p><b>'New 4'</b> – is this new route necessary if AE370 is upgraded?</p> <p><b>AE377</b> – the route still dog-legs, which is not considered to be acceptable. This needs a sweeping route, not harsh angle turnings. Could this route go through Field 13 and keep the alignment around Field 14?</p> <p><b>New 6</b> - requests clarification regarding "parallel to AE377 existing on-road path".</p> <p><b>AE385</b> – short diversion at corner of Field 3 is agreed by the County Council. Main diversion and new AE360 extension agreed. Diversion of AE385 again dog-</p>		

### Theme 7: PRow Changes

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	<p>legs, which is not acceptable and should be sweeping bends as before.</p> <p><b>AE436</b> – as above. PRow widths will require further consideration by the Applicant.</p> <p><b>AE448 / 'New 7' / AE378</b> – request clarity around this proposal. The path references and legal connectivity require resolution, together with the proposed routing of AE428 across Field 19. Clarification is sought as to whether AE428 remains.</p> <p><b>AE431</b> – the route alongside the road, and between road and panels, requires greater width to avoid “alleyway” environment. It should be noted that work will also be required to prevent flooding on AE431. These works should be seen as a priority. Where AE431 continues to AE448 over the road, this will require a gap to be created in the hedge or another means of direct access.</p>		
	<p>The following changes are accepted:</p>	<p>N</p>	

### Theme 7: PRow Changes

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ AE380 extension</li> <li>▪ AE447 extension</li> <li>▪ AE455 extinguishment</li> <li>▪ New 5</li> <li>▪ Link between Fields 28 and 29</li> <li>▪ New 1</li> <li>▪ AE657 – connection to AE431 is agreed.</li> </ul>		
	<p>PRow widths are not included, despite being requested. It is requested the PRow widths are provided.</p>	N	
<b>Aldington and Bonington Parish Council</b>	<p>Construction and maintenance access into Fields 20, 21, 22 should not be adjacent to PRowS.</p>	N	<p>The <b>Outline RoWAS (Doc Ref. 7.15)</b> and <b>Outline CEMP (Doc Ref. 7.8)</b> include measures to ensure that there is minimal disruption, and in the event of damage, rectification of the affected routes.</p>
	<p>The Project should be designed around PRowS in accordance with NPS EN3, and not revised or diverted to accommodate the Project.</p>	N	<p>The <b>Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.4)</b> details how PRow have been considered in the Project design.</p> <p><b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> assesses the likely effects to the views of Public Rights of Way ('PRow') users. <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Socio-economics (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> sets out the</p>

### Theme 7: PRow Changes

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
			likely effects on users of the PRow during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages of the Project.

### Theme 8: Cultural Heritage

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<b>Ashford Borough Council</b>	The historic landscape should be part of the assessment of the impact of the proposals on the setting of heritage assets in a revised Heritage Statement. The viewpoint and visualisation locations map is assumed to assist the assessment of impacts in that revised Heritage Assessment. The Council considers that there are some major views that would be visually interrupted and encroached upon by the Project and therefore considers that a more thorough identification and analysis of the designated and non-designated heritage assets needs to be	N	<b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> incorporates consideration of how the historic landscape contributes to the setting of some identified heritage assets (and vice versa).

### Theme 8: Cultural Heritage

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	made, to include the impact on and the impact by, long-range views of the proposed development across the historic landscape.		
	A revised Heritage Statement has not been submitted and so it is not possible to comment on any revised assessment approach in drawing out a meaningful assessment of the setting of the heritage assets, the potential impact of the proposal on their significance and the extent of mitigation. Therefore, the Council's previously expressed concerns remain. Conservation areas and non-designated heritage assets will need to be included in that Statement. Not all of the non-designated heritage assets will be in the HERS: these will, instead, need to be identified on site.	N	The updated Heritage Statement ( <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 7.2: Heritage Statement (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b> ) is submitted to support the DCO Application.  It is noted that the Applicant engaged with ABC's Conservation Officer and KCC's Senior Archaeologist Officer, to agree the approach to assessing impacts on non-designated cultural heritage assets.
<b>Historic England</b>	The Environmental Statement is required to include a thorough assessment of the likely effects the Project might have on the identified 22 designated heritage assets.	N	<b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> includes an assessment of the effects of the Project on designated heritage assets.

### Theme 8: Cultural Heritage

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	The Environmental Statement is required to consider the potential impacts on non-designated features of historic, architectural, archaeological or artistic interest.	N	<b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> includes an assessment of the effects of the Project on non-designated heritage assets.
	The assessment should clearly demonstrate that the extent of the proposed study area is appropriate to ensure that all heritage assets likely to be affected by this Project have been included and can be properly assessed.	N	<b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> sets out the justification for the study area used.
	The assessment should be designed to ensure that all impacts are fully understood. Section drawings and techniques such as photomontages are a useful part of this.	N	A Zone of Theoretical Visibility and visual representations such as photomontages have been used to establish impacts on heritage assets, in conjunction with <b>ES Volume 2 Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> .
	The assessment should take account of the potential impact which associated activities (such as construction, servicing and maintenance, and associated traffic) might have upon perceptions, understanding and appreciation of the	N	The Archaeological Desk Based Assessment ( <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 7.1: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b> ) and the Heritage Statement ( <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 7.2: Heritage Statement (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b> ) take account of all activities associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Project.

### Theme 8: Cultural Heritage

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	<p>heritage assets in the area. The assessment should also consider the likelihood of alterations to drainage patterns that might lead to in situ decomposition or destruction of below ground archaeological remains and deposits, and can also lead to subsidence of buildings and monuments.</p>		
	<p>Historic England agree with the methodologies and add further comments below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the assessment of the impact on the built heritage must be underpinned by a qualitative approach in addition to the quantitative approach</li> <li>▪ the undulated landscape within a broader 'valley' of the landscape 'assets' need to be acknowledged in the ES and Views Study in a broader sense, rather than just look at heritage from a focus that only considers Historic Environment Records in its approach</li> </ul>	<p>N</p>	<p><b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> and <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 7.2 Heritage Statement (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b> uses a qualitative approach, which will feed into, although not be constrained by the quantitative methodology for the assessment of impact.</p> <p>The Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (<b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 7.1: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b>) examines the history of the landscape, both in terms of its agricultural character and earlier uses.</p>

### Theme 8: Cultural Heritage

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The historic landscape should also be part of the assessment of the impact to the setting of heritage assets</li> <li>▪ Concerned about the lack of sufficient assessment in the Heritage Statement</li> <li>▪ An example of where surrounding landscape including potentially the site would contribute to the significance of heritage assets are the manorial complex at Mersham (Barn about 30 metres NW of Mersham Manor, Grade II; and Mersham Manor, Grade I; and the Church of St John the Baptist, Grade I) and the Grade I Church of St Martin at Aldington</li> <li>▪ There are long views from the Roman Road across the valley to the north (i.e. across the site) in which the grade II* listed Mersham Barn, the Grade I listed Mersham Manor, and parts of the roof of the Grade I</li> </ul>		



### Theme 8: Cultural Heritage

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	<p>listed of St John the Baptist can be seen. As a manorial complex the surrounding fields, including, potentially the site, contribute to the significance of these assets and especially to the manor and barn, as agricultural fields help explain medieval origin and function of these buildings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Church of St Martin is sited on a high point with an unusually prominent church tower of exceptional quality. The tower is highly visible as an important focus point of the landscape, including parts of the site, which contributes to the significance of the Grade I church as it helps explain its rural origins and enhances its aesthetic value.</li> </ul>		
	<p>Conservation Areas and non-designated heritage assets need to be included in the assessment. Not all of the non-designated heritage assets will be on the HERS, so</p>	<p>N</p>	<p><b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> includes potential effects to the setting of Mersham and Smeeth Conservation Areas, as well as Bilsington Conservation Area.</p>

### Theme 8: Cultural Heritage

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	the applicant will have to identify them on site.		This ES Chapter includes buildings identified through the Historic Environment Record ('HER') and by ABC's Conservation Officer
	Concerned the Scheduled Monument Aldington Knoll is not mentioned in the 5km assessment of assets. It is advised this asset be scoped in and fully assessed. It is requested that a view from this monument be included in the Long Views Study. Every designated and non-designated heritage asset that has been scoped in needs to be assessed separately within the ES. Currently the PEIR only include two assessment of designated heritage assets.	N	Aldington Knoll has been identified and has been scoped into <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> .  In response to 2022 Statutory Consultation feedback, the Applicant prepared an additional viewpoint from Aldington Knoll, from the monument towards the Site. This was considered as part of the assessment of the potential impact to the asset. All designated and non-designated heritage assets identified and scoped into the assessment are assessed separately.
	The significance of effect to Stonelees site would likely be greater than Moderate Adverse. We disagree with the PEIR judgement as set out in paragraphs 6.5.41 and 6.5.50 that this significance of effect is 'not significant'. This is because a combination of the undulation of the land which makes the building's agricultural	N	<b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> sets out the assessment of impact on Stonelees.

### Theme 8: Cultural Heritage

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	setting more apparent, would be eroded towards the east and south.		
	Without fuller information on proposed mitigation, we also cannot conclude if this is sufficient to reduce harm to heritage significance.	N	<b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> sets out the proposed mitigation, alongside that set out in the <b>Outline LEMP (Doc Ref. 7.10)</b> and shown on the <b>Illustrative Landscape Plans (Doc Ref. 2.7)</b> .
	The ES must reference and consider the Ashford Heritage Statement (2017) and national guidance from Historic England guidance, Commercial Renewable Energy Development and the Historic Environment (2021).	N	References and consideration of the Ashford Heritage Strategy (2017) and national guidance from Historic England guidance, Commercial Renewable Energy Development and the Historic Environment (2021) are included within the Heritage Statement ( <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 7.2: Heritage Statement (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b> ).
	Concerned about the potential cumulative harm that could be caused by the Project due to the large number of major developments south of the Kent Downs and in close proximity to the site.	N	<b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> includes a cumulative assessment which considers any potential cumulative impacts from the Project.
	A greater number of photomontages may be required to explain the impacts on heritage assets. In particular, the manorial complex of Mersham visible from	N	The Applicant prepared additional viewpoints from Aldington and towards the assets at Mersham in response to comments from ABC and KCC. The additional viewpoints inform the assessment of these assets within <b>ES</b>

### Theme 8: Cultural Heritage

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	Viewpoint 11 must be taken into consideration, as well as the long views across the valley from Viewpoints 6, 25, 28 and 31.		<b>Volume 2, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> and were agreed with ABC's Conservation Officer and KCC.
<b>Kent County Council</b>	Request to review the Archaeological Landscape Assessment. Very limited and targeted archaeological fieldwork is going to take place and the location of these trenches has been agreed. Continues to be concerned regarding the lack of reasonable field intrusive investigations, which are needed to verify the geophysical survey results and to provide suitable data upon which to base mitigation.	N	The <b>Archaeological Management Strategy (AMS) (Doc Ref. 7.17)</b> and <b>Archaeological Landscape Assessment (ES Volume 4, Appendix 7.1: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Doc Ref. 5.4))</b> have been prepared to support the DCO application. The Applicant shared a draft version of these documents with KCC in December 2023 and feedback has been incorporated.
	The Project seems to have increased in size by c.11ha. This increase needs to be reflected in the Archaeological Assessment. It is also not clear whether the Archaeological Assessment is taking into account service routes, compounds and temporary enabling works. The Archaeological Assessment needs to appropriately cover all areas of impact.	N	<b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> and <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 7.1: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b> include an assessment of the archaeological features within the Site, which has taken into account the proposed service routes, compounds and all relevant construction works.

### Theme 8: Cultural Heritage

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	<p>The meeting on 30 June 2023 focused on the heritage receptors, particularly sites which may be impacted by glint and glare. Viewpoint sites from which to take images and photographs were discussed and it is understood that there may be some additional sites suggested following further consideration by Conservation Officers. Further engagement from the Applicant on this matter would therefore be welcomed.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The Applicant undertook further engagement with KCC who requested four additional viewpoints. ABC requested an additional four viewpoints. The Applicant undertook an additional 8 viewpoints in response to ABC and KCC comment. The assessment considers a total of 38 viewpoints in the <b>ES Volume 2, Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>.</p>
	<p>It is understood that adjustments to the design have been made to avoid significant glint and glare effects on residential and railway but not on heritage assets.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The potential impacts from glint and glare have been taken into account in the Heritage Statement (<b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 7.2: Heritage Statement (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b>). No significant effects on heritage assets in respect of glint and glare have been identified.</p>
	<p>All new vegetation should be subject to appropriate archaeological assessment and suitable mitigation.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>This has been considered in the Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (<b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 7.1: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b>).</p>
	<p>There are some proposals which must be subject to archaeological assessment and, if necessary, mitigation. It is not clear whether the archaeological assessment</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (<b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 7.1 Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b>) identifies the</p>

### Theme 8: Cultural Heritage

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	has considered all proposals because the archaeological assessment so far has been very broad and wide-ranging. All elements of groundworks need to be subject to archaeological assessment.		main and likely significant environmental effects for all works associated with the Project.
	Recommends the decommissioning proposal includes a Heritage Management Plan, which provides conservation measures to ensure any known sensitive archaeological sites within the solar farm boundary are managed appropriately for the future.	N	The <b>AMS (Doc Ref. 7.17)</b> sets out the scope, guiding principles and methods for the planning and implementation of further archaeological mitigation works associated with the design and construction of the Project.
	The Messerschmitt Bf109E sites are very sensitive and need to be protected but they are very difficult to locate. Extra measures need to be taken to ensure this crash site is located and appropriately protected if it does lie within the proposed development area.	N	As outlined in the Archaeological Desk Based Assessment ( <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 7.1: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b> ), all current evidence indicates that the aircraft was recovered from the scene at the time of landing, or shortly thereafter, and that no evidence of the aircraft remains within the Site. Therefore the impact of the Project on the Messerschmitt Bf109E crash site and the findspots would be very low.  The Applicant has obtained a licence from the Ministry of Defence (Licence 1921) to excavate any remains associated with the PMR crash site as set out in the <b>Schedule of Other Consents and Licences (Doc Ref. 3.4)</b> .

### Theme 8: Cultural Heritage

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	<p>Welcomes the proposed Archaeological Management Strategy which must clearly set out that archaeological mitigation will be a phased with an iterative programme. The programme should include evaluation, detailed mitigation of either preservation in situ or excavation where appropriate, safeguarding measures and post excavation and publication works. Preferably the programme of archaeological work needs to be fully agreed, including resources and timescales, prior to submission of the Development Consent Order.</p>	N	<p>The <b>AMS (Doc Ref. 7.17)</b> establishes a strategy which will minimise the impact of the Project on the archaeological resource and preserve and record archaeological features.</p>
	<p>KCC continue to maintain that the fieldwork so far is not robust and may be too insubstantial to ensure informed decisions are made. To guarantee the archaeological mitigation programme is evidence-based and fully appropriate, there needs to be far more fieldwork, especially of areas which have essential, unmoveable elements.</p>	N	<p>The <b>AMS (Doc Ref. 7.17)</b> sets out the approach to archaeological management, which will be submitted to the local planning authority for approval prior to commencement as secured by a Requirement in the <b>Draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1)</b>.</p> <p>If archaeological findings are identified, the <b>Works Plans (Doc Ref. 2.3)</b> secure flexibility to relocate infrastructure and the <b>Design Principles (Doc Ref. 7.5)</b> allow flexibility for the use of alternative construction techniques for the PV array areas to reduce impacts.</p>

### Theme 8: Cultural Heritage

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	<p>Welcomes the proposed Archaeological Landscape Assessment and suggests it is submitted as a draft to allow an KCC to provide comments and any subsequent revisions to be made. If the Archaeological Landscape Assessment highlights possible areas of prehistoric or later activity, these areas need to be tested for surviving significant remains at an early stage.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (<b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 7.1: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b>) was shared with KCC as a draft in December 2023 and feedback from Officers has been taken into account.</p>

### Theme 9: Water Environment

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<p><b>Environment Agency</b></p>	<p>The statement in Ch9 p15 of the PEIR Addendum states: <i>Downstream of the AFSA other Fields are situated within Flood Zone 3, as shown on the currently available EA modelling and Figure 3.7. However, as previously outlined, it is</i></p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Hydraulic modelling (included in <b>Annex B</b> of the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) (<b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: FRA (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b>) defines the risk posed to the Project and is considered an appropriate basis for design. This includes the effect of the Adlington Flood Storage Area and is therefore a defended scenario. This will not redefine Flood Zone 3.</p>



### Theme 9: Water Environment

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	<p><i>understood that the EA are updating the flood modelling of the East Stour River which will incorporate the AFSA within the modelling and this would potentially reduce the extent of Flood Zone 3 downstream of the AFSA.</i></p> <p>This statement is not correct as Flood Zone 3 is based on the Undefended 1% AEP.</p>		<p>Further information is in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Water Environment (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>.</p>
	<p>Flood risk assessment (FRA) should take account of guidance within the NPPF, including allowing for climate change.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p><b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.1: Water Legislation, Planning Policy and Guidance (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b> addresses the guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework ('NPPF').</p>
	<p>The Order limits includes land that is part of the Aldington Flood Storage Area (FSA). The development must not in any way compromise the function or efficacy of the FSA or our ability to undertake maintenance or improvements. Without additional details and an assessment of risk we are unable to confirm if any development within the FSA would be acceptable.</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>The Applicant has undertaken a risk assessment of the Aldington Flood Storage Area ('AFSA') which is set out in <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.4: Aldington Flood Storage Area Risk Assessment (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b>. Following 2023 Statutory Consultation, all PV panels were removed from Fields 26 to 29 following further evaluation of flood risk associated with the AFSA and East Stour River. Further information about the design evolution is in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>.</p> <p>The <b>Design Principles (Doc Ref. 7.5)</b> secure an offset of 8m from the toe of the AFSA.</p>

### Theme 9: Water Environment

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	<p>The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 require a permit to be obtained for any activities which will take place on or within 8 metres of a main river (16 metres if tidal)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ on or within 8 metres of a flood defence structure or culverted main river (16 metres if tidal)</li> <li>▪ on or within 16 metres of a sea defence</li> <li>▪ involving quarrying or excavation within 16 metres of any main river, flood defence or culvert</li> <li>▪ in a floodplain more than 8 metres from the riverbank, culvert or flood defence structure and you don't already have planning permission</li> </ul>	N	<p>The Applicant has engaged with the Environment Agency and Flood Risk Activity Permits will be sought as appropriate and as set out in the <b>Schedule of Other Consents and Licences (Doc Ref. 3.4)</b>. The <b>Design Principles (Doc Ref. 7.5)</b> provide restrictions on development near to existing water elements.</p>
	<p>There appears to be some uncertainty about works in, on, over or under the East Stour which must be clarified. Where works are planned that will affect the East</p>	N	

### Theme 9: Water Environment

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	Stour, a Flood Risk Activity Permit is required.		
	The ES and FRA should describe the number, locations and types of watercourse crossings required for the development – the applicant should not assume permits will automatically be forthcoming if planning permission is granted and we therefore advise that they consult with us at the earliest opportunity.	N	<b>ES Volume 3, Figure 3.3: Watercourse Crossing Locations (Doc Ref. 5.3)</b> shows the indicative location of watercourse crossings. Further details of the crossing locations, likely works and permit requirements are provided in <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.5: Schedule of Watercourse Crossings (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b> and in the <b>Schedule of Other Consents and Licences (Doc Ref. 3.4)</b> .
	Agree in principle with the groundwater conclusions in the PEIR and have no objections from a groundwater quality protection perspective.	N	Noted.
<b>Kent County Council</b>	KCC is disappointed that comments relating to the management of surface water and associated Flood Risk provided in response to 2022 Statutory Consultation do not appear to have been considered. The Applicant should engage with the Lead Local Flood Authority accordingly to respond to the points raised.	N	KCC's comments in relation to Sustainable Drainage Systems were considered in the principles and management of the Sustainable Drainage System as detailed in the <b>Outline Operational Surface Water Drainage Strategy ('OSWDS') (Doc Ref. 7.14)</b> .

### Theme 9: Water Environment

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<b>Natural England</b>	There appears to be slight contradiction in that there is a connection between the water course passing through Gibbin's Brook SSSI and the East Stour River (within the Site) but various factors mean any hydrogeological connection is unlikely to be direct and significant impacts are unlikely to result. It would be helpful if the ES could provide further clarity on this matter in defining the nature of the connection between the two watercourses and the justification for concluding significant impacts as unlikely.	N	<b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> notes Gibbin's Brook SSSI has been scoped out of the assessment due to its location upstream of the Site, therefore not being connected hydrologically to the Project.
	Query as to whether it is necessary to mitigate nutrient discharges to the Stour Catchment as it is normally only required for development including new, overnight accommodation.	N	The Applicant proposes a precautionary approach whereby foul flows generated through construction are collected and tankered to a licensed treatment facility outside of the Stour catchment. This will ensure that no adverse impacts to Stodmarsh occur as a result of the development as set out in the <b>IHRA (Doc Ref. 7.19)</b> .
<b>Aldington and Bonnington</b>	All fields in Flood Zone 3 and sloping sites that drain into those fields should be removed from the Project.	Y	All PV arrays and other sensitive infrastructure have been removed from areas of the floodplain upstream of the AFSA. In addition, inverter stations (Work No. 2) downstream of the AFSA have been moved to land designated as Flood Zone 1.

### Theme 9: Water Environment

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<b>Parish Council</b>			<b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.4: Aldington Flood Storage Area Risk Assessment (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b> demonstrates that the operation of the proposed PV arrays in the floodplain downstream of the AFSA will not increase flood risk.

### Theme 10: Health and Safety

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<b>Kent Fire and Rescue Service</b>	<p>KFRS requested the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The proposed battery chemistries (e.g. Lithium-ion Phosphate (LFP), Lithium Nickel Manganese Cobalt Oxide (NMC))</li> <li>▪ The battery form factor (e.g. cylindrical, pouch, prismatic)</li> <li>▪ Type of Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) e.g. container or cabinet</li> </ul>	N	An <b>Outline BSMP (Doc Ref. 7.16)</b> has been prepared to set out details of how the Battery Energy Storage System ('BESS') will be managed to ensure that the Project is managed in a safe and appropriate way. The <b>Outline BSMP (Doc Ref. 7.16)</b> has been prepared following consultation with Kent Fire and Rescue to ensure that the Project is consistent with all relevant guidance.

### Theme 10: Health and Safety

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of BESS containers/cabinets</li> <li>▪ Size/capacity of each BESS unit (typically in MWh)</li> <li>▪ How the BESS units will be laid out relative to one another.</li> <li>▪ A detailed diagram / plan of the site.</li> <li>▪ Evidence that site geography has been taken into account (e.g. prevailing wind conditions).</li> <li>▪ Access to, and within, the site for FRS assets</li> <li>▪ Details of any fire-resisting design features</li> <li>▪ Details of any fire suppression systems</li> <li>▪ On site water supplies (e.g. hydrants, EWS etc)</li> <li>▪ Smoke or fire detection systems (including how these are communicated)</li> <li>▪ Gas and/or specific electrolyte</li> </ul>		

### Theme 10: Health and Safety

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	vapour detection systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Temperature management systems</li> <li>▪ Ventilation systems</li> <li>▪ Exhaust systems</li> <li>▪ Deflagration venting systems</li> <li>▪ Identification of any surrounding communities, sites, and infrastructure that may be impacted as a result of an incident.</li> </ul>		
	Careful consideration to the design, layout and management is required due to the potential hazards of BESS.	N	The <b>Design Principles (Doc Ref. 7.5)</b> and the <b>Outline BSMP (Doc Ref. 7.16)</b> secure the relevant measures to manage potential hazards of the proposed BESS.
	A minimum of 6m separation is needed between BESS units. To reduce this distance, competent fire engineering justification is required through clear, evidence-based analysis. A minimum of 25m should be maintained between BESS containers and buildings/site boundaries. If the distance is less than this, mitigation would be required.	N	The <b>Outline BSMP (Doc Ref. 7.16)</b> requires the Applicant to prepare an emergency response plan prior to construction and to be agreed in consultation with Kent Fire and Rescue Service.

### Theme 10: Health and Safety

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	Any potential environmental damage must be mitigated against in the event of an emergency response and be supported with a robust emergency response plan.	N	
	Vegetation should be managed appropriately around each BESS container to avoid and minimise the risk of fire.	N	Vegetation around the BESS will be managed appropriately in accordance with the <b>Outline LEMP (Doc Ref. 7.10)</b> . As shown on the <b>Illustrative Project Drawings (Doc Ref. 2.6)</b> and the <b>Illustrative Landscape Drawings (Doc Ref. 2.7)</b> .
	Suitable water supplies are required to be provided at the site to allow for firefighting operations in the event of an emergency. Water supplies should be at a safe distance from any BESS containers.	Y	The Applicant has included measures for water supplied in the <b>Design Principles (Doc Ref. 7.5)</b> and the <b>Outline BSMP (Doc Ref. 7.16)</b> .
<b>Health and Safety Executive</b>	The Project does not fall into any consultation zones, and it is therefore unlikely that HSE would advise against the development.	N/A	Noted.
	It is not clear whether the hazard classification of any chemical substances has been considered. Hazardous substances consent is required to store or	N	There are no hazardous chemicals anticipated to be stored as part of the Project.



### Theme 10: Health and Safety

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	use any of the Categories of Substances or Named Hazardous Substances.		Major accidents have been assessed in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Other Topics (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> .
	The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 requires the assessment of significant effects to include, where relevant, the expected significant effects arising from the proposed development's vulnerability to major accidents.	N	
	It is not clear if there was consideration of risk assessments arising from the development's vulnerability to major accidents and we advise this to be considered.	N	Major accidents and disasters were scoped out of the Environmental Statement as noted in the Planning Inspectorate's Scoping Opinion. Risk of fire associated with battery storage facilities has been considered in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Other Topics (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> and measures to avoid and reduce risks are set out and secured through the <b>Outline BSMP (Doc Ref. 7.16)</b> .

## Theme 11: Consultation

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<b>Ashford Borough Council</b>	<p>The Council thanks the applicant for carrying out 2023 Statutory Consultation and notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the drawings are clearer and easier to follow</li> <li>▪ welcomes the PRoW sections that enables a better understanding of the Project impacts to the PRoW character and appearance</li> <li>▪ the strengthening of the landscape framework and additional biodiversity benefits.</li> </ul>	N	Noted.
<b>Kent County Council</b>	<p>Concerned a number of points raised by Kent County Council in response to 2022 Statutory Consultation do not appear to have been taken account in the revised 2023 Statutory Consultation material.</p>	N	<p>The Applicant responded to KCC's 2023 Consultation response explaining how points were or will be addressed. The Applicant met with KCC to discuss the response.</p>
<b>NHS Kent and Medway</b>	<p>Interested in whether the Project could supply energy to NHS (Kent and Medway) and request for further engagement on this point.</p>	N	<p>The Project is proposed to be connected to the National Grid through the Sellindge Substation. The Project exports renewable energy to the grid, which is then distributed by National Grid to the local area. The Applicant</p>

### Theme 11: Consultation

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<p><b>Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council</b></p>	<p>More information was made available at 2023 Statutory Consultation, particularly through the sharing of the Book of Plans. The siting of battery storage and inverters is clearer and welcome the greater emphasis on biodiversity and Public Rights of Way.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>would be happy to have a discussion with NHS Kent and Medway post determination of the Application.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
	<p>Feedback in regard to 2023 Statutory Consultation were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ did not acknowledge the greater impact to Aldington compared to surrounding villages</li> <li>▪ times of the events were unsuitable for commuters</li> <li>▪ some of the consultation material was not helpful</li> <li>▪ did not adequately address community concerns raised at 2022 Statutory Consultation</li> </ul>	<p>N</p>	<p>The potential effects of the Project on Aldington have been assessed in the <b>Environmental Statement (Doc Ref. 5.1-5.4)</b>.</p> <p>The 2023 Statutory Consultation was undertaken in accordance with the Statement of Community Consultation. The <b>Consultation Report (Doc Ref. 6.1)</b> explains how consultation was undertaken in accordance with the requirements in the Planning Act 2008.</p> <p>The Flood Risk Assessment (<b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: Flood Risk Assessment (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b>) assesses the potential flood risk, which is to be managed during the construction phase by the <b>Outline CEMP (Doc Ref. 7.8)</b> and the operational phase by the <b>Outline OSWDS (Doc Ref. 7.14)</b>.</p> <p>The noise impacts associated with construction and decommissioning were assessed and found to be potentially minor adverse or negligible (not</p>

### Theme 11: Consultation

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ did not adequately address concerns about flooding risks and rainfall</li> <li>▪ did not adequately address noise generated by the Project.</li> </ul>		<p>significant) as set out in the <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Noise (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>.</p> <p>Mitigation measures relating to the construction and decommissioning phases of the Project to protect noise sensitive receptors are included within the <b>Outline CEMP (Doc Ref. 7.8)</b> and <b>Outline DEMP (Doc Ref. 7.12)</b> which accompany the Application and are secured through DCO requirements.</p>
<p><b>Mersham Parish Council</b></p>	<p>There has been inadequate planning and consultation with the community and it suggests there has been a disregard for the concerns and needs of the residents who will be directly affected by the array. Project is an opportunistic "tick box" exercise, driven by commercial interests rather than genuine commitment to sustainable energy development.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The 2023 Statutory Consultation was undertaken in accordance with the Statement of Community Consultation (<b>Consultation Report, Appendix B-12: Published Statement of Community Consultation 3 (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>). The <b>Consultation Report (Doc Ref. 6.1)</b> explains how consultation was undertaken in accordance with the requirements in the Planning Act 2008.</p>

## Theme 12: Noise and Air Quality

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<b>Natural England</b>	<p>Concerned about air quality impacts from construction / decommissioning traffic for the following designations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment SAC - pleased to note this will be considered fully through the HRA</li> <li>▪ Wye and Crundale Downs SAC – the site is still referenced in the HRA for the proposal and justification provided if it is screened out at the 'likely significant effect' stage</li> <li>▪ Hatch Park SSSI – pleased this will be considered as part of the ES.</li> </ul>	N	<p><b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 9.6: Biodiversity Air Quality Screening Report (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b> submitted to support the <b>IHRA (Doc Ref. 7.19)</b> addresses the risk of air quality effects upon Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment SAC and Wye and Crundale Downs SAC. The risk of air quality effects upon Hatch Park SSSI is addressed through <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> as this SSSI does not fall within an international site designation and is therefore not subject to HRA.</p>
<b>Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council</b>	<p>The consultation and proposal does not address the impact of 'wind noise' and wind streams to residents across the wide area impacted.</p>	N	<p><b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Noise (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> considers the baseline scenario noise measurements.</p>

### Theme 13: Minerals Safeguarding

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<b>Kent County Council</b>	Engagement from the Applicant with the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority is encouraged to clarify points raised in the KCC's response to 2022 Statutory Consultation.	N	<b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 16.3: Mineral Safeguarding Assessment (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b> provides an assessment of compliance with relevant policies and was updated following engagement and agreement with KCC.

Table 2: Summary of responses to the 2022 Statutory Consultation from consultees under s42(1)(d) of the PA 2008

**Theme 1: Principle of Development**

s42(1)(d) Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
The Project size is too large and will have negative impacts to the surrounding community and countryside. Energy generation projects should use roofs, brownfield land. The Project is close to residential areas.	N	The need for large-scale solar projects is set out in the <b>Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.6)</b> and is established in NPS EN-1. A significantly reduced scale proposal to the Project is not considered further by the Applicant as to be a reasonable alternative. Further details on this are set out in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> .
The developer still has not provided any justification for the size of the scheme or reasons why a reduced scale would make the project unviable.	N	
Do not support solar projects on agricultural land.	N	<p><b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref 5.2)</b> sets out the site selection process for the Site which carefully considered minimising BMV land included in the Order limits. The Applicant's site selection has avoided the use of BMV where possible.</p> <p>The Soils and Agricultural Land Report at <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 16.1: Soils and Agricultural Land Report (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b> and <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Other Topics (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> provides information and assessment of effects to agricultural land and soils.</p>

### Theme 1: Principle of Development

s42(1)(d) Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
The panels are outdated and unnecessarily large.	N	The exact size of the solar PV panels will be determined post DCO consent. The illustrations of the solar PV panels and typical dimensions are included in the DCO Application.
It is physically impossible to have lush grass to feed sheep under solar panels.	N	The Applicant notes that grazing under PV arrays is possible and has committed to making the land available for grazing purposes to assist with the management of the Site. This commitment is secured in the <b>Outline LEMP (Doc Ref. 7.10)</b> .
The battery storage area planned is too close to residential properties.	N	The nearest residential receptor to any BESS unit will be a minimum of 150m as set out in the <b>Design Principles (Doc Ref. 7.5)</b> . This is 6x the guidance level of 25m.
Solar energy has proved to be ineffectual, the panels in Aldington produced barely any energy for at least 6 months last winter.	N	The Applicant has determined the site is suitable for the Project as set out in <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: Site Selection Influencing Factors (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b> .
Any connection should be undergrounded to avoid adding more pylons.	N	The proposed grid connection is underground as set out in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 3: Project Description (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> .
There is little evidence to support the scattered approach to energy storage facilities throughout the development, or that the alternative consolidated approach has been effectively evaluated and considered.	N	The design for the Project employs a distributed approach with four individual containerised BESS Units located at any one Inverter Station, with a maximum of two Inverter Stations (and therefore eight units) being located in any one area of the Site, as opposed to locating all BESS Units in a single centralised compound area. This has been proposed to minimise fire risk and the Applicant has consulted with Kent FRS on the BESS layout. Further information about BESS is set out in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 3:</b>



### Theme 1: Principle of Development

s42(1)(d) Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
		<b>Project Description (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> and <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref 5.2)</b> provides justification for the Applicant's design choice.

### Theme 2: Alternatives

s42(1)(d) Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
The site is in the wrong place it could be between the rail line and M20.	N	The alternative sites considered for the Project, including the site requirements, are set out in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> .
I do support solar energy but not here. Every new house built should have them installed and large buildings.	N	A description of the Applicant's process for selecting the Site and the main reasons for its choice with regard to these influencing factors is described in <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: Site Selection Influencing Factors (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b> .
It would be more efficient to put new generators at Dungeness power station which has the infrastructure and will not impact farming land and destruction of Aldington as a village.	N	

### Theme 2: Alternatives

The Project appears to be driven primarily by the financial incentive recognised by the principal landowner, as evidenced by the redline boundary matching the farm boundary, other than more suitable sites.	N	
The proposed EP scheme completely ignores national policy guidelines which notes that undulating land is less suitable for solar as compared with flat land where achieving effective mitigation is easier	N	

### Theme 3: Landscape and Views

s42(1)(d) Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
The views provided at consultation were difficult to gain perspective of the impacts of the Project.	N	<b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> includes a full landscape and visual impact assessment, including accurate visual representations. The selected viewpoints for the LVIA were agreed with ABC and KCC.
I do not wish to be boxed in by trees and hedgerows. Widening of footpaths will increase my vulnerability to theft as increase ability for vehicles to get near my property	N	Noted.

### Theme 3: Landscape and Views

s42(1)(d) Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
Additional planting alongside Calleywell Lane welcome but the destruction of the historical PROW network into fenced corridors is appalling. The quiet rural idyll with extensive views is destroyed.	N	Noted
Several of the proposed fields for development are clearly visible from our property and adjacent road, even though the hedgerows of some of these fields are yet to be cut.	N	The potential significant effects on the landscape and visual amenity have been identified and assessed in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> . The <b>Illustrative Landscape Drawings (Doc Ref. 2.7)</b> have been prepared to assist in communicating the extent and vision of the landscape mitigation strategy.
The Project will have impact to the North Downs AONB.	N	Assessment of the Kent Downs National Landscape is included in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> . The assessment of visual effects demonstrated there is likely to be limited visual impact to the Kent Downs National Landscape.
Planting new hedgerows does nothing to help mitigate the impact of the panels here on undulating farmland.	N	The potential significant effects on the landscape and visual amenity have been identified and assessed in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> . The <b>Illustrative Landscape Drawings (Doc Ref. 2.7)</b> have been prepared to assist in communicating the extent and vision of the landscape mitigation strategy.
The visual impact of the project is very significant, and it is evident that the scale of the Landscape Visualisations displayed at the 2022 consultation did not meet the	N	<b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> considers views from Ashford and the North Downs and concludes impacts to be minimal, with this conclusion supported by the Kent Downs AONB Unit in their Section 42 response.

### Theme 3: Landscape and Views

s42(1)(d) Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
standards set out by the Landscape Institute nor do they allow the visual impact of the project to be determined by the local community. Despite these observations being submitted by us as part of the 2022 consultation, the Applicant did not present any landscape visualisations (revised or otherwise) at the 2023 consultation		
The Applicant does not understand the topography of the land, stating on several occasions that it is "located in a bowl" and would therefore have limited visual impact.	N	<b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> acknowledges that the Site: <i>'sits predominantly within the bowl-like landscape of the East Stour River valley, for the most part occupying low lying land adjacent to the river itself, but also extending to a degree up the northern flank of the Aldington Ridge and outwards to the more gently undulating landscape further west'</i> . This is shown on <b>ES Volume 3, Figure 8.2: Site Context Plan (Doc Ref. 5.3)</b> .
The amount of development in the area has greatly impacted its rural character, and with expansion from Ashford coupled with the planned Otterpool Park I feel that it is important to maintain a green buffer around the village. There will be little green space between Folkestone and Ashford if all the planned developments go ahead.	N	The cumulative effects of the Project with nearby solar projects have been assessed in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 17: Cumulative Assessment (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> . Landscape character has been considered and assessed as part of the assessment of landscape effects (as set out in <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 8.8: Landscape Effects Table (Doc Ref 5.4)</b> ).

### Theme 3: Landscape and Views

s42(1)(d) Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
The cumulative effect of the current and proposed solar farms by EDF alongside the EP proposal would engulf Aldington and some of Smeeh and Mer sham and turn a picturesque landscape into an industrial park.	N	

### Theme 4: Biodiversity

S42(1)(d) Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
Wildlife, skylarks, herons, badgers and barn owls and their habitat must be protected.	N	Measures to protect existing wildlife are summarised in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> and set out in the <b>Outline CEMP (Doc Ref 7.8)</b> , and the <b>Outline LEMP (Doc Ref 7.10)</b> .
Loss of habitats to particular birds – yellowhammer, skylarks, swallows/martins feeding ground for migration	N	

### Theme 5: Traffic and Access

s42(1)(d) Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
The construction traffic impacts have not been adequately assessed.	N	The construction traffic impacts of the Project have been assessed and are set out in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Traffic and Access (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> .
How will traffic be monitored?	N	Traffic monitoring will be undertaken as part of the traffic management measures secured in the <b>Outline CTMP (Doc Ref. 7.9)</b> .
<p>There will be impact, disruption and damage to local roads. The lanes are narrow and already difficult to manoeuvre through. There is also an issue of access for construction if access was required alongside us [at Goodwin Farm]. Construction traffic particularly on Station Road from A20 junction (past Evegate) is already an accident black spot and should require traffic signals.</p> <p>What guarantee do we have that vehicles will not use other roads in the village?</p>	N	<p>The Applicant has undertaken a review of the local highway network to identify suitable construction routes to the Site, informed by traffic accident data (summarised at <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 13.5: Accident Data and Plots (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b>).</p> <p>Management of construction traffic is set out in the <b>Outline CTMP (Doc Ref. 7.9)</b>, including specifications of the appropriate routes to the Site. Detailed CTMP(s) for the Project's phases are secured by a DCO Requirement as set out in the <b>Draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1)</b>, which will ensure that construction traffic keeps to the identified construction routes, the agreed hours of construction are adhered to, and interaction with PRow and highway users is managed safely and effectively.</p>
PRow's are of historic value and a public benefit of the countryside for all generations to use and explore and they must not be moved or relocated.	N	The diversion of certain PRow's is required to deliver the Project. The approach has been agreed with KCC to ensure that amenity value, including the ability to travel from one location to another, is maintained.

## Theme 6: Water Environment

s42(1)(d) Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
Concerned about increased risk of erosion flooding. Concerned this will affect my property.	N	The <b>Outline OSWDS (Doc Ref. 7.15)</b> sets out the principles of the drainage strategy and the measures to ensure that the existing regime is retained. The FRA, <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: Flood Risk Assessment (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b> confirms no significant adverse effects.
The panels and compaction of the surrounding land will cause run off of water and increased flooding to low lying land.	Y	Since the 2023 Statutory Consultation, PV arrays previously proposed in Fields 26-29 have been removed from the Project in response to detailed flood modelling. In addition, Inverter Stations downstream of the AFSA have also been moved to land designated as Flood Zone 1.
The Government's flood risk map shows a high risk of surface water or pluvial flooding in the western part of the proposed development. Spring Cottage and Bow Cottage located at the corner of Laws Lane and Bank Road are regularly affected by this flooding, which occurs as a result of runoff from a large area of agricultural land within the proposed development. In our comments to the 2022 consultation, we raised this issue and the potential for increased magnitude and frequency of flooding during the construction and operation of the site, based on analogues with a similar soil type and topography. On	Y	The risk of surface water flooding has been evaluated further as part of a full, detailed Flood Risk Assessment provided as <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: Flood Risk Assessment (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b> , which includes modelling of runoff from the Site.

### Theme 6: Water Environment

s42(1)(d) Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<p>the issue of flooding, the You Said We Did document (page 18) simply reaffirms the statement that the project is not expected to increase the risk of flooding without any substantiation and refers to hydraulic modelling that will be submitted with the Application. This will obviously be too late for the plans to be amended and the modelling work should therefore be carried out prior to the submission and presented to residents, so that they can understand the increased flood risk.</p>		
<p>Have you considered access to main foul sewer outfall from village from Calleywell Lune pumping station across area 19?</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The main foul sewer has been considered. Relevant information is in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Water Environment (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>.</p>



## Theme 7: Community Benefits

s42(1)(d) Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
The community grant should compensate people directly affected by the Project.	N	The Applicant proposes a £40,000 per annum (inflation-linked) Community Benefit Fund, details of which are set out in the <b>Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.6)</b> and were made available for feedback during the 2023 Statutory Consultation. The Community Benefit Fund does not form part of the DCO Application and this funding is not required to mitigate the effects of the Project.
The Project does not benefit local people.	N	Information on the Community Benefit Fund and other Project benefits are set out in the <b>Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.6). ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> assesses the socio-economic impacts of the Project.
How will the price of the electricity be regulated or capped and how long will it take for the community to benefit? Other energy companies that already have solar farms are still charging extremely high energy rates. Local people should get free electricity.	N	Supply of electricity to residential properties by the Project is not possible due to Office of Gas and Electricity Markets electricity regulations.

### Theme 8: Consultation

s42(1)(d) Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
The consultation process did not provide sufficient information of the Project to address issues. Many issues raised at 2022 Statutory Consultation were unresolved.	N	The <b>Consultation Report (Doc Ref. 6.1)</b> sets out how the consultation was undertaken in compliance with the Planning Act 2008, the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 and the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2017).
The Applicant is listening to some concerns but not enough.	N	The consultation process was carried out in accordance with the relevant Statement of Community Consultation (see <b>Consultation Report (Doc Ref. 6.1)</b> and <b>Consultation Report, Appendices B-3: Published Statement of Community Consultation 1, B-8: Published Statement of Community Consultation 2 and B-12: Published Statement of Community Consultation 3 (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> ), which were agreed by the host authorities for the Project.
The information on the plans was difficult to understand.	N	
The Applicant has shown little willingness to engage with the community, let alone adapt their proposals in the face of overwhelming public opposition	N	The Applicant has presented accurate information at the relevant stage in the Project at the 2022 and 2023 Statutory Consultations. <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> describes the iterative design process which has resulted in Project information being changed or updated at the stages of consultation.
The Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process states that <i>“that consultation should be based on accurate information that gives consultees a clear view of what is proposed”</i> . Furthermore, the consultation should occur at a time when the proposals are at a formative stage and the product of the consultation should be taken into account when finalising any	N	

### Theme 8: Consultation

s42(1)(d) Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
proposals. In our opinion neither of these criteria have been met.		
We do not believe that EPL001/Evolution Power has provided sufficient and accurate information regarding the key issues of visual impact, flood risk, public rights of way, loss of agricultural land and the location of the development, to enable residents to make informed comments on the Project.	N	

### Theme 9: Noise

s42(1)(d) Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
Concerned about noise impacts near my property. Did the noise assessment take into account different weather conditions?	Y	<b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Noise (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> assesses different weather conditions. Additional modelling resulted in the relocation of noise generating infrastructure further away from nearby residential properties.

### Theme 9: Noise

s42(1)(d) Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<p>We have concerns about the impact on wildlife regarding disruption of habitat and noise levels when constructing the solar farm. When erected, what effect will noise from the onsite electrical equipment have on animals and birds or if any frequency noise will affect the bats echolocation?</p>	N	<p><b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> considers disturbance impacts to wildlife during construction. The <b>Outline CEMP (Doc Ref. 7.8)</b> will ensure that best practice construction methods are carried out to minimise impacts to existing sensitive receptors and the environment during the construction phase.</p>

### Theme 10: Light

s42(1)(d) Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<p>Concerned about light impacts close to property.</p>	N	<p>The <b>Design Principles (Doc Ref. 7.5)</b> secure that the Project (with the exception of the Sellindge Substation extension) will not be permanently lit. The <b>Outline CEMP (Doc Ref. 7.8)</b>, <b>Outline Operational Management Plan (Doc Ref. 7.11)</b> and <b>Outline DEMP (Doc Ref. 7.12)</b> provide further details on lighting arrangements for each phase of the Project.</p>
<p>Aldington is in a Dark Skies Zone. The proposed site is on agricultural fields with no lighting. Any lighting put in place, even if</p>	N	

downward facing, would introduce light that was not there before.

### Theme 11: Health and Safety

s42(1)(d) Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
Concerned about the risk of fire from the solar panels which could threaten my property and life. Energy storage units should be closer to public roads so the emergency services can have easy access if necessary.	N	The Applicant has consulted Kent Fire and Rescue Service on the proposed layout, fire access and firefighting arrangements. The <b>Outline BSMP (Doc Ref. 7.16)</b> provides details of the design and fire prevention measures proposed.
Will the anti-freeze cause health issues and impact wildlife?	N	<b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> includes an assessment of the potential impacts on biodiversity.
Concerned solar panels cause dizziness, headaches for people with pre-existing conditions.	N	Electricity from solar panels and transmission to the power grid emits extremely weak electromagnetic fields. Exposure to low-level electromagnetic fields has been studied extensively, and there is no evidence that it is harmful to human health, according to the World Health Organization.

### Theme 12: Ground Conditions

s42(1)(d) Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
Will the solar panels contaminate the land due to metal supports being driven into the ground?	N	<b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Land Contamination (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> considers the likelihood of potential contamination as a result of the Project.
Does the equipment include toxic metal components such as cadmium and lead that will affect human/animal health?	N	

### Theme 13: Glint and Glare

s42(1)(d) Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
Part of the site is exposed and on a high ridge. Will these panels produce reflective glare at different times of the year?	N	<b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 16.2: Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b> considers potential glint and glare impacts. The assessment found the Project is not expected to give rise to significant effects to local residents and PRow users.

### Theme 14: Decommissioning

s42(1)(d) Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
After decommissioning the land will be unfit for farming and will end up being used for industry or housing.	N	The <b>Draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1)</b> includes a requirement that limits the Project to 40 years from first operation, following which the site will be restored in accordance with the <b>Outline DEMP (Doc Ref. 7.12)</b> and the <b>Outline DTMP (Doc Ref. 7.13)</b> .

### Theme 15: Climate Change

s42(1)(d) Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
Solar panels come all the way from China and storage batteries come with their own carbon footprint, and this project will increase the carbon footprint of all electricity it provides to the grid.	N	<b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Climate Change (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> identifies the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the Project over its lifetime, including the embodied carbon emissions resulting from the manufacture of the PV arrays, and emissions from transport of PV arrays and other construction materials to the Site for installation.

### Theme 16: Property Impacts, Protected Provisions and Asset Protection

Consultee	s42(1)(d) Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<b>National Grid Ventures on behalf of NGIL</b>	National grid ventures converter station is included within the red line boundary. We will object to the development until we can confirm there is no impact on our assets.	N	Noted. The Applicant has engaged with National Grid Ventures. The <b>Draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1)</b> includes Protective Provisions and the Applicant is confident that an agreement can be reached.
<b>Fisher German on behalf of National Grid Ventures and NGIL</b>	The Project is to be constructed within close proximity to National Grid apparatus. Such works would require consent from National Grid and, in this instance, consent would not be granted as the Project would restrict access to the cable, both for routine maintenance and in an emergency situation. We must therefore object to the planning application. Further consultation is requested.	N	Noted. The Applicant has engaged with National Grid. The <b>Draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1)</b> includes Protective Provisions and the Applicant is confident that an agreement can be reached.
<b>HS1 Limited</b>	Most of the Project poses minimal risk to HS1 infrastructure. HS1 request further information about the connection route into the Sellindge facility, including whether it would be via existing ducting or via a new under track crossing. It would preferred that all avenues are explored to utilise any existing spare duct capacity	N	Noted. The applicant has engaged with HS1 Limited. The <b>Draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1)</b> includes Protective Provisions and the Applicant is confident that an agreement can be reached.



### Theme 16: Property Impacts, Protected Provisions and Asset Protection

Consultee	s42(1)(d) Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	<p>before any consideration is given to a new under track crossing.</p> <p>Should a new undertrack crossing be required, then there could be significant impacts on the project in terms of the amount of NRHS involvement, monitoring and the need for the project to enter Protective Provision arrangements with HS1.</p>		
<b>UK Power Networks</b>	<p>Request a GIS .shp format of the Order limits. Where land acquisition, extinguish rights or interfere with any of UKPN's apparatus is sought, UKPN will require appropriate protection and further discussion on the impact to its apparatus and rights including adequate Protective Provisions.</p>	N	<p>The <b>Grid Connection Statement (Doc Ref. 7.3)</b> sets out that the Applicant has been in extensive engagement with UK Power Network.</p> <p>The <b>Draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1)</b> includes Protective Provisions the Applicant is confident that an agreement can be reached.</p>
<b>Southern Water</b>	<p>Southern Water has apparatus and interests in land within the Order Limits. Appropriate protective provisions will be required to ensure the protection of Southern Water's assets and ensure that necessary provisions are in place. Without</p>	N	<p>Noted. The applicant has engaged with Southern Water. The <b>Draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1)</b> includes Protective Provisions and the Applicant is confident that an agreement can be reached.</p>

### Theme 16: Property Impacts, Protected Provisions and Asset Protection

Consultee	s42(1)(d) Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
	such provisions the Project will have an unacceptable impact on SWS's assets.		
<b>Network Rail</b>	Following a review of the proposals, I can confirm that Network Rail's comments remain unchanged.	N	Noted. The applicant has engaged with Network Rail. The <b>Draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1)</b> includes Protective Provisions and the Applicant is confident that an agreement can be reached.
<b>Person with an interest in the land</b>	The Project will affect property value. Homes will be devalued and difficult to sell.	N	The compensation code would apply to those who may be able to make an eligible claim outside of the Order limits. The Applicant's agent, Gateley Hamer can act as an initial point of contact for land and property queries, but those who believe they may be able to make an eligible claim should, in accordance with Government guidance, seek advice from a suitably qualified professional.
<b>Person with an interest in the land</b>	My property will be adversely impacted by views.	Y	There can be many factors impacting property values. The Project has been designed to avoid and mitigate environmental impacts as far as possible ( <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> ), sets out the evolution of the Project design. A number of changes were made to the layout of the Project in response to Statutory Consultation feedback to ensure that infrastructure is located away from residential properties and that impacts are minimised where possible.
<b>Person with an interest in the land</b>	The Project will surround our home on all three sides.	N	Where physical factors arising from the operation of the project (such as noise, dust or air pollution) impact property values, it could be possible to make a claim. However, it is not anticipated that there will be physical factors likely to impact property values. A claim could also be made if a

**Theme 16: Property Impacts, Protected Provisions and Asset Protection**

Consultee	s42(1)(d) Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
			homeowner/landowner was to suffer any damage due to the construction of the project. If homeowners think they may be able to make a claim, it is recommended they seek the appropriate professional advice.



## Stonestreet Green Solar

Consultation Report

Appendix G-5: Regard had to Section 47 and 48 Responses

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## Appendix G-5: Regard had to Section 47 and 48 Consultee Responses

The table below sets out a summary of the responses to the 2023 Statutory Consultation from consultees under s47 and s48 of the PA 2008 and the regard had to them by the Applicant. It should be read in conjunction with Section 6 of the **Consultation Report (Doc Ref. 6.1)**.

This Appendix covers the following themes:

- [Theme 1: Principle of Development](#)
- [Theme 2: Alternatives](#)
- [Theme 3: Landscape and Views](#)
- [Theme 4: Biodiversity](#)
- [Theme 5: Traffic and Access](#)
- [Theme 6: Agricultural Land](#)
- [Theme 7: PRow Changes](#)
- [Theme 8: Cultural Heritage](#)
- [Theme 9: Water Environment](#)
- [Theme 10: Community Benefit](#)
- [Theme 11: Consultation](#)
- [Theme 12: Noise](#)
- [Theme 13: Cumulative Effects](#)
- [Theme 14: Health and Safety](#)
- [Theme 15: Property Impacts](#)
- [Theme 16: Land Contamination](#)
- [Theme 17: Decommissioning](#)
- [Theme 18: Waste](#)
- [Theme 19: Climate Change](#)
- [Theme 20: Socio-economics](#)

## Theme 1: Principle of Development

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
Support the Project due to need for renewable energy generation.	N	Noted.
Do not support the Project due to location and scale of development.	N	The need for large-scale solar projects is set out in the <b>Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.6)</b> and is established in the Overarching National Policy Statement for energy EN-1. A significantly reduced scale proposal to the Project is not considered further by the Applicant as to be a reasonable alternative. Further details on this are set out in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> .
Solar panels are significantly more inefficient than offshore wind.	N	
The Applicant has not provided any justification for reasons why a reduced scale would make the project unviable.	N	
Support the need for renewable energy proposals both onshore and offshore to meet UK Government net zero targets where the environment is not impacted.	N	Noted.
There is the potential for a disruption of the mobile phone and broadband networks in the area from the electrical interference caused by the solar farm.	N	There is no evidence of solar panels disrupting mobile phone, broadband networks or electrical interference.
The Project should be reviewed by the Design Council as recommended by the National Infrastructure Commission Design Group (NICDG).	N	The Applicant has prepared a <b>Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.4)</b> that explains the design evolution of the Project and how it has changed in response to consultee feedback and change in response to sensitive receptors. This seeks to ensure that the Project has taken appropriate regard to good design, as set out in the

## Theme 1: Principle of Development

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
		Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy ('NPS EN-1') and the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure ('NPS EN-3').
There is no clarity about where the supply will enter the National Grid if it cannot access the Sellindge Converter Station for practical reasons, as discussed at the presentation to local residents.	N	Details about how the Project will connect to Sellindge Substation are in the <b>Grid Connection Statement (Doc Ref. 7.3)</b> .
The presence of CCTV cameras in the countryside is an unacceptable intrusion into the lives of local residents.	N	The <b>Design Principles (Doc Ref. 7.5)</b> sets out the proposed security measures for the Project. CCTV will be infrared and so will not be visible during daylight or hours of darkness.
Has access to the main foul sewer outfall from the village to Calleywell Lune pumping station across Field 19 been considered?	N	The main foul sewer in Field 19 has been considered and the Applicant is in discussions with Southern Water regarding potential relocation.
There is little evidence to support the scattered approach to energy storage facilities throughout the development, or that the alternative consolidated approach has been effectively evaluated and considered.	N	A feature of the design is that the battery energy storage system ('BESS') Units are not located in one location but are instead distributed across the Site. Further information and justification for this approach is in the <b>Outline Battery Safety Management Plan ('BSMP') (Doc Ref. 7.16)</b> and <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> .

## Theme 2: Alternatives

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<p>The location of the Project is inappropriate. Solar panels should be located on roofs of houses and commercial development such as the Inland Border Facility lorry park at Sevington, on motorways and in existing brownfield or industrial areas.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The Project is fully in line with national policy as set out in NPS EN-1 and NPS EN-3. The alternative sites considered for the Project, including the Site requirements, are set out in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>.</p> <p>A description of the Applicant's process for selecting the Site and the main reasons for its choice with regard to these influencing factors is described in <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: Site Selection Influencing Factors (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b>.</p>
<p>The site was selected based on the landowner and this is not acceptable when there are other sites available. Costs or landownership should not be a deciding factor in the site selection process.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>In response to consultation feedback changes have been made to the Project to provide further buffer to residential properties.</p>
<p>The proposed land use is primarily north facing, undulating land which is probably not the most efficient for reaping solar energy and creates a significant visual impact as the site is approached from all directions.</p>	<p>N</p>	
<p>National guidelines which note undulating land is less suitable for solar projects has not been addressed. The Draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) site selection policies requiring flat topography have not been considered or addressed.</p>	<p>N</p>	



## Theme 2: Alternatives

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
The location of the site is too close to residential properties and the Project will surround the village. Solar farms should be located away from the edges of villages.	Y	
Aldington is a village with significant historical legacy. The fact that there is such a concentration of nationally important buildings and landscapes should have resulted in the withdrawal of the Project.	N	
Suggest rehabilitating field 19 to wetland and grazing marsh to help achieve an acceptable scheme.	N	
There is no evidence that “sequential testing”, in relation to the use of agricultural land, has been applied in this case as advised by the planning inspectorate.	N	<p><b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref 5.2)</b> sets out the site selection process for the Site which carefully considered minimising best and most versatile (‘BMV’) land included in the Order limits. The Applicant’s site selection has avoided the use of BMV where possible.</p> <p>The Soils and Agricultural Land Report at <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 16.1: Soils and Agricultural Land Report (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b> and <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Other Topics (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> provides information and assessment of effects to agricultural land and soils.</p>
The work plans that show areas of reduction were misleading. Most of the areas were removed before consultation.	N	The Applicant notes that the removal of areas from the Project was accurate at the time of the Project during pre-application. Further information about the Project

## Theme 2: Alternatives

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
		evolution is in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives &amp; Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> .

## Theme 3: Landscape and Views

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
The Project will change and impact the character of the village and the surrounding landscape. It will interrupt most views of open countryside from the roads, in particular from Station Road.	N	The potential significant effects on the landscape and visual amenity have been identified and assessed in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> . The <b>Illustrative Landscape Drawings (Doc Ref. 2.7)</b> have been prepared to assist in communicating the extent and vision of the landscape mitigation strategy.
The screening proposals and the increased height of the hedgerows would have more impact to views of the landscape, as they will remove the views entirely in many locations and change the landscape.	N	
The following views would be impacted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ rerouting of footpath AE370 will result in the loss of a view across the East Stour Valley towards Mersham</li> </ul>	Y	

### Theme 3: Landscape and Views

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Views across the East Stour Valley both South to North and North to South will be very considerably changed.</li> <li>▪ long-distance views between Aldington Ridge and the Kent Downs AONB, as well as the ruining of visual amenity for footpath users among the solar array hardware is consistently dismissed as 'minor adverse to negligible'.</li> </ul>		
<p>There is little evidence of how landscape and visual assessment has informed the scheme layout and extent as part of 'good design'. Matters of location, energy export capacity and available land seem to be the primary drivers of the scheme; good design is a secondary consideration.</p>	N	<p>The <b>Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.4)</b> sets out the Project's approach to good design, confirming that the Project is consistent with the policies set out in NPS EN-1 and EN-3. The ES has demonstrated adequate consideration and mitigation for the Project.</p> <p>A description of the Applicant's process for selecting the Site and the main reasons for its choice with regard to these influencing factors is described in <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: Site Selection Influencing Factors (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b>.</p> <p><b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> explains the design evolution of the Project and how it has changed in response to consultee feedback and change in response to sensitive receptors.</p>
<p>Additional planting alongside Calleywell Lane is welcome. Fenced/enclosed PRowS are not supported.</p>	N	<p>The Applicant discussed and agreed with Kent County Council PRow Officer that it is not appropriate to screen the views of some PRowS with open views of the fields. Further information is in the <b>Illustrative Landscape Drawings (Doc Ref. 2.7)</b>.</p>

### Theme 3: Landscape and Views

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
Claiming the site is “located in a bowl” and would therefore have limited visual impact is misleading and incorrect.	N	The Site predominantly lies within a bowl with a flat and low-lying centre and a raised perimeter. The landform of the Site and its visual impact is described in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> .
The elevation of the top of the site would make the Project visible from Mersham and spoil the landscape amenity of all the land surrounding Aldington and between the two villages.	Y	Views from Mersham and other viewpoints agreed with ABC and KCC have been assessed in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> . Since the 2023 Statutory Consultation the planting proposals for the northern boundary of the Site have been enhanced with further tree planting to assist in reducing visual impacts from Mersham. The Project will not be visible from the core of Aldington Village.
The proposed planting does not mitigate the impacts of the Project to the landscape and the views.	N	<b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> assesses the potential landscape and visual effects of the Project.
The quality of the photographs is inadequate. The viewpoints are not adequate and do not represent the level of impact the Project will impose. The assessments do not contain any indication of what the landscape will look like in the future with solar panels installed and any hedging/screening in place.	N	Visualisations and representative photographs are set out in <b>ES Volume 4, Appendices 8.5: Representative Views - Winter, 8.6: Representative Views – Summer, 8.7: Night-time Photographs, 8.10: LVIA Visualisations, 8.11: Cumulative LVIA Visualisations (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b> .
Request for a full visual impact assessment undertaken from our property.	N	The impact on residential receptors has been considered in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> .
When the Project is viewed from Mersham, and more especially the historic St John the	N	The likely effects to the character of the Site and the surrounding area have been assessed in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> .

### Theme 3: Landscape and Views

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<p>Baptist Church, which is a Grade 1 listed building, the rear would be visible. The presence of industrial equipment in a rural setting will change the environment of the area.</p> <p>How has this 'core' been defined to determine that there are no views of the Project from the core of the local villages? This is disingenuous. There are views of the site from surrounding roads in both villages/parishes.</p>	N	<p>Impacts on heritage assets have been assessed in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b></p> <p>Representative viewpoint photographs for the 38 viewpoints are provided to support this assessment including winter and summer baseline annotated viewpoint photographs. The location of these viewpoints was agreed with ABC and KCC. The Project will be visible in glimpsed views from the northern edge of Aldington (VP14), the eastern edge (VP24) and the western edge (VP10), however these views are isolated partial glimpses and there are no views of the Project from within the core of the settlement, including from within the Aldington Clap Hill Conservation Area. Further information is in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>.</p>
<p>The Project could impact the enjoyment of the area and access to views and landscape, which is vital to the physical and mental well-being of those who live, work and walk here.</p>	N	<p>The potential amenity effects to the surrounding area have been assessed in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>.</p>
<p>Concern regarding light pollution.</p>	N	<p>No part of the Project (with the exception of the Sellindge Substation extension) will be continuously lit during operations, with lighting limited to emergency and overnight maintenance lighting only. If required to be used, lighting will be directed within the Site limits away from sensitive receptors and will include features to reduce light spill beyond the areas required to be lit. This is secured by the <b>Design Principles (Doc Ref. 7.5)</b> and the <b>Outline Operational Management Plan ('OMP') (Doc Ref. 7.11)</b>. Lighting during the construction and decommissioning phases will be limited in extent</p>

### Theme 3: Landscape and Views

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
		and directed within the Order limits, as secured by the <b>Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan ('CEMP') (Doc Ref. 7.8)</b> and the <b>Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan ('DEMP') (Doc Ref. 7.12)</b> .
Will these panels produce reflective glare at different times of the year?	N	The Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study in <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 16.2: Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b> identifies potential glare at different times. The Applicant has mitigated potential glint and glare impacts associated with the Project which has result in no significant impacts to road users and nearby residential properties.
There were no adequate visualisations of the associated infrastructure.	N	<b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 8.10: LVIA Visualisations (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b> provides the visualisations used to inform the LVIA.

### Theme 4: Biodiversity

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
Yellowhammers are an important species and should be protected from significant adverse impacts.	N	<b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> includes an assessment of the potential impacts on yellowhammer. A range of enhancement and mitigation measures are proposed to limit residual effects.
Industrial scale solar development must not be permitted to the detriment of wildlife,	N	<b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> includes an assessment of the potential impacts on biodiversity, including the proposed beneficial effects.

## Theme 4: Biodiversity

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
skylarks, herons, badgers and barn owls and their habitat must be protected.		The <b>Biodiversity Net Gain ('BNG') Assessment (Doc Ref. 7.1)</b> confirms that BNG of at least 100% for habitat units and above 10% for hedgerow and river units can be achieved for the Project and is secured via a Requirement within the <b>draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1)</b> .
There is evidence solar panels have a negative impact to wildlife, in particular birds and bats. The land would be degraded and would not be available for wildlife.	N	Information about potential effects to wildlife is set out in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> .
Request for further information about how the proposed biodiversity net gain of 100% will be achieved, measured and monitored.	N	The <b>BNG Assessment (Doc Ref. 7.1)</b> confirms that BNG of at least 100% for habitat units and above 10% for hedgerow and river units can be achieved for the Project and is secured via a Requirement within the <b>draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1)</b> . The <b>Outline LEMP (Doc Ref. 7.10)</b> confirms that the Applicant will be responsible for implementing the management and monitoring of the biodiversity proposals.
Has the cumulative effects to birds been assessed?	N	The cumulative effects to ecological features of the Site, including bird species have been assessed in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> and the conclusions of any cumulative impacts are presented in <b>ES Volume 2 Chapter 17: Cumulative Assessment (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> .
Concerned about construction impacts to ground nesting species, including the brown hare.	N	The Applicant has assessed the potential impacts to species during construction in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> .  The <b>Outline CEMP (Doc Ref. 7.8)</b> will ensure that best practice construction methods are implemented to minimise impacts to existing sensitive receptors and the environment during the construction phase.

## Theme 4: Biodiversity

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<p>There is a lack of sufficient information within the PEIR regarding mitigation, biodiversity net gain and management post construction to make an informed decision on the impacts the Project will have on protected species, habitats, and designated wildlife areas.</p> <p>There is insufficient information to fully review the proposed mitigation for Stodmarsh. The PEIR provides limited information about the potential threats to the remaining statutory designated sites and therefore KWT cannot comment further until a detailed impact assessment on all statutory designated sites is provided. Likely impacts to be considered include increases in dust, noise, artificial lighting, and air quality impacts.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The predicted impacts and associated ecological effects are provided in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>.</p> <p>Details of ecological mitigation, enhancement, management and monitoring proposals are described in the <b>Outline CEMP (Doc Ref. 7.8)</b> and <b>Outline LEMP (Doc Ref. 7.10)</b>.</p> <p>The <b>BNG Assessment (Doc Ref. 7.1)</b> confirms that BNG of at least 100% for habitat units and above 10% for hedgerow and river units can be achieved for the Project and is secured via a Requirement within the <b>draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1)</b>.</p> <p>The <b>Information to Inform a Habitats Regulations Assessment ('IHRA') report (Doc Ref. 7.19)</b> assesses the potential impacts to statutory designated sites of international importance, including Stodmarsh.</p>
<p>There are discrepancies within the PEIR and the Illustrative Landscape Masterplan regarding the size of the buffer between Backhouse Wood LWS and the works area. KWT supports guidance set out by The Woodland Trust, states <i>"...a minimum 50 metre buffer should be maintained between a development and the ancient woodland, including through the construction phase, unless the applicant can demonstrate very</i></p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>Since the PEIR and PEIR Addendum, PV panels have been removed from Fields 26 to 29. No infrastructure associated with the Project will be located within 200m of the Backhouse Wood LWS with the exception of deer fencing.</p> <p>Further detail of minimum buffer width is in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b> and in the <b>Outline CEMP (Doc Ref. 7.8)</b>. No infrastructure associated with the Project will be located within 200m of the Backhouse Wood LWS with the exception of deer fencing.</p>



## Theme 4: Biodiversity

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<p><i>clearly how a smaller buffer would suffice.</i>" If it can be demonstrated clearly why a 50m buffer is not required, a minimum buffer of a 25m buffer may be supported. More information is required regarding the potential impacts to all four LWS. It should be assessed whether impacts will arise from associated transport infrastructure, air quality impacts, increases in dust, noise and artificial lighting and impacts to species which rely on the LWS.</p>		<p>The potential residual effects to Backhouse Wood LWS are Negligible adverse (non-significant) (see <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b>).</p>
<p>It is understood that approximately 100m of hedgerow may be removed, however it this is not clear in the PEIR. We urge a clear plan is provided highlighting all hedgerows that may be lost to the proposals and their current condition. We strongly urge that all hedgerows are retained and enhanced where necessary.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Information about tree and hedgerow removal is included in <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 9.3: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b> and is shown on the <b>Vegetation Removal Plan (Doc Ref. 2.8)</b>. Significant hedgerow will be introduced and enhanced across the Site.</p>
<p>Hedgerows will have a minimum 4.2m buffer from the solar panel areas, however it is unknown whether work during the construction phase will encroach into these buffers, or whether these 4.2m buffers will be enhanced or be serving as access tracks for machinery during the operational phase. If</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The <b>Design Principles (Doc Ref. 7.5)</b> confirm that there will be an appropriate buffer between existing hedgerows and fencing during the operational phase of the Project.</p> <p>The <b>Outline LEMP (Doc Ref. 7.10)</b> then sets out the measures that would be put in place during construction that would avoid adverse impacts on retained vegetation, trees and hedgerows.</p>

## Theme 4: Biodiversity

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<p>these buffers are to be used for machinery or vehicles during either the construction or operational phase, then we consider 4.2m is too small of a buffer. We recommend that protection zones are provided for hedgerows to prevent the accidental encroachment and damage by heavy machinery.</p>		<p>The Applicant proposes to establish protection zones around identified hedgerows to prevent encroachment and damage as set out in the <b>Outline CEMP (Doc Ref. 7.8)</b>.</p>
<p>Request to see a detailed impact risk assessment on HDD techniques to show a comprehensive understanding on how this will impact wildlife and habitats. If HDD can't be used, the Project should include what other alternative options are available and the environmental threats they pose.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p><b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 3: Project Description (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> and the <b>Outline CEMP (Doc Ref. 7.8)</b> includes the anticipated approach to HDD drilling, including the anticipated locations.</p>
<p>It is unclear whether any ponds will be lost to the proposals. We advise that where possible, all ponds are retained, enhanced, and protected during the construction phase.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The proposals do not involve the loss of existing ponds. Details are shown on the <b>Illustrative Landscape Drawings (Doc Ref. 2.7)</b> and explained in the <b>Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.4)</b>.</p>
<p>It doesn't appear that golden plover has been recorded within the Site. If it is considered that the proposals have the potential to impact golden plover associated with the SPA, further surveys are recommended.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The results of the winter bird surveys are in <b>ES Volume 3, Chapter 9: Biodiversity, Appendix 9.5f: Wintering Bird Survey Report (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b>.</p>

## Theme 4: Biodiversity

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<p>Unable to confirm whether the impacts to wintering birds and their foraging habitats will be avoided and minimised by design. Concerned about the complete loss of habitat for skylark.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p><b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> includes an assessment of the potential impacts on biodiversity, including brown hare, yellowhammer and skylark habitat.</p> <p>Impacts to habitat areas will be mitigated using good environmental construction practices as part of the <b>Outline CEMP (Doc Ref. 7.8)</b> to reduce disturbance levels and through implementation of ecological watching briefs, set out in the <b>Outline LEMP (Doc Ref. 7.10)</b>.</p> <p>A range of enhancement and mitigation measures are proposed, including habitats targeting skylark, yellowhammer and brown hare among other species. Further details are set out in the <b>Outline LEMP (Doc Ref. 7.10)</b> and description of mitigation in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>.</p>
<p>The PEIR does not specify which habitats are to be lost or retained and therefore we strongly urge this information is provided before the DCO submission.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Information about habitat retention is shown on <b>ES Volume 3, Figure 9.11: Post-Development Habitat Plan (Doc Ref. 5.3)</b> and on the <b>Illustrative Landscape Drawings (Doc Ref. 2.7)</b>. Impacts to habitats has been assessed in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>.</p>
<p>Mitigation measures expected for breeding and wintering birds include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Suitable improvement and management of hedgerows and adjacent field margins within the solar array development area to maintain the current breeding population of yellowhammer.</li> </ul>	<p>Y</p>	<p>A range of enhancement and mitigation measures are proposed, including habitats targeting skylark, yellowhammer and brown hare among other species. Further details are set out in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>.</p>

## Theme 4: Biodiversity

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of field(s) away from the solar array development area as a set-aside zone to ensure availability of winter food for granivorous farmland bird species such as yellowhammer and skylark.</li> </ul>		
<p>No dedicated raptor or bird of prey vantage point surveys have been undertaken. The Site is suitable for foraging and commuting barn owls, which are primarily a farmland species. It is important to identify, protect and enhance barn owl foraging and commuting habitat.</p>	N	<p>The detailed results of barn owl assessment and other Schedule 1 bird information (provided within <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 9.5n: Schedule 1 Bird Species Report (CONFIDENTIAL) (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b>).</p>
<p>The Invertebrate Report highlights the importance of timing and density of sheep grazing. We urge a conservation grazing/mowing management plan is devised to maximise the benefits for invertebrates and be provided for consultation before the submission of the DCO.</p>	N	<p>The <b>Outline LEMP (Doc Ref. 7.10)</b> sets out the management measures that would be used for the landscape and ecological areas of the Site.</p>
<p>The PEIR does not provide the mitigation approach for Great crested newts (GCN). Protection zones around all waterbodies within the Site should be considered to prevent direct and indirect impacts such as pollution.</p>	N	<p><b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 9.7: Assessment of Effects (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b> provides an assessment of the expected construction phase impacts on great crested newt ('GCN'). Mitigation for GCNs is set out in the <b>Outline LEMP (Doc Ref. 7.10)</b>.</p>

## Theme 4: Biodiversity

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<p>Recommend the EMES is submitted for consultation prior to the DCO so all mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures can be reviewed.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>A detailed LEMP will be submitted to Ashford Borough Council as the local planning authority for approval prior to construction, as set out in the Requirements of the <b>Draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1)</b>.</p>
<p>It is uncertain which areas of bat habitat are to be lost to the Project, but we urge that areas of high bat activity are retained, such as hedgerows, woodland, and ditch corridors.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Information about habitat retention is shown on <b>ES Volume 3, Figure 9.11: Post-Development Habitat Plan (Doc Ref 5.3)</b> and on the <b>Illustrative Landscape Drawings (Doc Ref. 2.7)</b>.</p>
<p>There is a lack of detail surrounding the loss of suitable dormouse habitat, avoidance, mitigation, compensation, and enhancement. The mitigation strategy should ensure that connectivity for dormice is maintained and enhanced both across the Site and with the wider landscape.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The risk of dormouse mortalities and loss of habitats is addressed through a combination of embedded mitigation incorporated into the <b>Outline CEMP (Doc Ref. 7.8)</b> and <b>Outline LEMP (Doc Ref. 7.10)</b>. Information about habitats has been assessed in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>. Further information about habitat retention is shown on <b>ES Volume 3, Figure 9.11: Post-Development Habitat Plan (Doc Ref 5.3)</b> and on the <b>Illustrative Landscape Drawings (Doc Ref. 2.7)</b>.</p>
<p>Due to the suitability of the Site for the species, it is noted that hedgehog is assumed present even though they were not identified in the surveys. It is recommended that avoidance, mitigation, compensation, and enhancement measures for the species are considered within the EMES.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The Hedgehog surveys in 2020 and 2022 found no hedgehogs present on the Site. Given the presence of suitable habitat on the Site however hedgehog has been assumed in very low density. Further information about the management of hedgehog habitat is in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> and the <b>Outline LEMP (Doc Ref. 7.10)</b>.</p>
<p>It is recommended that mink control programme is introduced to help encourage</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The option for mink control strategy as a Project enhancement measure is outlined within the <b>Outline LEMP (Doc Ref. 7.10)</b> to be developed post DCO. Pre-</p>

## Theme 4: Biodiversity

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<p>water vole recolonisation in the area. Further enhancements of the Site in regard to water vole should also be considered. Evidence of otter including footprint and spraint were identified within the Site, but no evidence of beaver was recorded. We urge that surveys continue up until works commence following best practice guidelines.</p>		<p>commencement survey requirements for riparian mammals are outlined within the <b>Outline LEMP (Doc Ref. 7.10)</b>.</p>
<p>Beavers are known to be present within the East Stour River, and within a 10km radius of the Site. It is important that surveys are undertaken by suitably licensed ecologists /experts who have experience working and surveying beavers.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The riparian mammal survey work undertaken to inform the ES (<b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 9.6k: Riparian Mammal Survey Report (Doc Ref. 7.4)</b>) included searches for beaver field signs.</p>
<p>We recommend all watercourses are retained and enhanced where necessary. KWT are supportive of the suggested robust pollution strategy in order to minimise pollution of the East Stour River. It is recommended this document is reviewed by consultees before the DCO submission along with detailed mitigation measures.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>There are no direct or indirect impacts to ditches or watercourses within the Site. All watercourses and habitat features such as ditches within the Site are to be retained. Watercourse protection and pollution control measures in line with environmental best practice construction methods are detailed within the <b>Outline CEMP (Doc Ref. 7.8)</b>.</p>
<p>Strongly urge that badger setts are retained and protected from the Project and where necessary artificial badger setts be created if</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The risk of badger mortalities, disturbance and loss of habitats is addressed through a combination of embedded mitigation incorporated into the <b>Outline CEMP (Doc Ref.</b></p>

## Theme 4: Biodiversity

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
the works will result in the closure of main sett(s).		<b>7.8) and Outline LEMP (Doc Ref. 7.10)</b> . The detailed LEMP will include a badger strategy that would be agreed before any construction works commences.
With a large portion of the site being arable land, we are pleased the applicant has set an ambitious Biodiversity Net Gain target. We wish to highlight to the applicant that mitigation areas for protected species cannot provide net gain within the BNG metric, as they can only be considered as providing no net loss.	N	Noted. Details of the BNG calculation is provided in the <b>BNG Assessment (Doc Ref. 7.1)</b> .
<p>The following should be provided to consultees before the DCO submission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An assessment of noise on birds should be undertaken to assess the likely impacts of both construction and operational phases of the scheme. There is a body of evidence available for assessing impacts of noise on birds.</li> <li>▪ Evidence to support assertions that the breeding skylark population within the development area will be maintained post-construction.</li> <li>▪ Respect to all taxa, robust mitigation strategies to address likely effects.</li> </ul>	N	<b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> sets out an assessment of the project on bird and ecological receptors. The <b>Outline LEMP (Doc Ref. 7.10)</b> includes the principles of the monitoring programme for priority species and habitats.

## Theme 4: Biodiversity

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Commitment and plan for monitoring of priority species and focal habitats (hedgerows, field margins) post-construction in order to evaluate ecological effects. Integration of experimental evaluation of management approaches would be encouraged in order to facilitate collaborative research.</li> <li>▪ More detailed locational information about the priority and protected species present on site.</li> <li>▪ Detailed mitigation measures for both badger and brown hare should be provided before the DCO submission.</li> </ul> <p>Concerned about electromagnetic emissions from the solar panels and the potential impact to nearby residents and wildlife.</p>	N	<p>Electricity from solar panels and transmission to the power grid emits extremely weak electromagnetic fields. Exposure to low-level electromagnetic fields has been studied extensively, and there is no evidence that it is harmful to human health, according to the World Health Organization.</p>



## Theme 5: Traffic and Access

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<p>The Project would cause traffic impacts to village roads and the centre of Aldington village. Existing road users would use Calleywell Lane to avoid the construction traffic. Roman Road is already a bottleneck at the junction with Goldwell Lane, crowded and difficult to negotiate past the school. The section of Station Road, immediately south of the junction with Bower Road, is unsuitable for construction traffic.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The construction traffic impacts of the Project have been assessed and are set out in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Traffic and Access (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>. This ES Chapter concludes that there are no predicted significant impacts on the local highway network.</p> <p>Management of construction traffic is set out in the <b>Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan ('CTMP') (Doc Ref. 7.9)</b>, including specifications of the appropriate routes to the Site. Detailed CTMP(s) for the Project's phases are secured by a DCO Requirement as set out in the <b>Draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1)</b>, which will ensure that construction traffic keeps to the identified construction routes, the agreed hours of construction are adhered to, and interaction with PRow and highway users is managed safely and effectively.</p>
<p>Concerned about traffic safety to pedestrians including parents and schoolchildren. The Aldington Primary School dropping off period will clash with this large number of construction staff vehicle movements on Station Road.</p>	<p>N</p>	
<p>How will construction traffic be monitored and controlled to prevent it going through the village? HGV vehicles will damage the existing roads.</p>	<p>N</p>	
<p>Concerned the cumulative effects of construction traffic are not being considered.</p>	<p>N</p>	

## Theme 6: Agricultural Land

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<p>Concerned about the accuracy of the soil quality assessment as the fields are currently full of ripening cereal crops. Request for an independent soil analysis to verify this classification of the soil at the site.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p><b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref 5.2)</b> sets out the site selection process for the Site which carefully considered minimising BMV land included in the Order limits. The Applicant's site selection has avoided the use of BMV where possible.</p>
<p>Concerned about the loss of agricultural land and its need for food security. Government policy is that land of 3a and above is not suitable for solar panel development.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The Soils and Agricultural Land Report at <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 16.1: Soils and Agricultural Land Report (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b> and <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Other Topics (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> provides information and assessment of effects to agricultural land and soils.</p>
<p>Request for further information about the cropping records for the site. More granular information, such as explain the key criteria of how grade 3b land has been categorised and the margin any 3a land was downgraded, should be included in the Soils and Agricultural Land Assessment report.</p>	<p>N</p>	

## Theme 7: PRow Changes

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
Converting such fertile land for industrial purposes would have a detrimental impact on the local economy and food production.	N	<b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> includes an assessment of the potential impacts to the local agricultural economy.
Concerned about the impact to local tourism.	N	<b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> includes an assessment of the potential impacts to the local tourism economy.
Concerned about the impact to the community and quality of life. Concerned about disruptions to the village and schools in the area.	N	The Applicant has assessed the potential amenity effects of the Project in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> . <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Noise (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> assessed the potential impact to Aldington Primary School and found there would be no significant effects in relation to noise from during the construction phase.
Request for bridleway PRow opportunities in the Project	N	The Applicant acknowledges this request however as the affected network is currently not of Bridleway status, there is no planning or legislative requirement to improve it to that standard and it is noted that it is not required for delivery of the Project.
The Project will impact the views and experience of walkers using the PRowS.	Y	The Applicant has assessed the potential visual impacts to PRow users in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> and <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 8.8: Landscape Effects Table (Doc Ref 5.4)</b> . The proposed landscape strategy for the Project has been enhanced during the design process in response to landscape and visual analysis and consultation feedback and is detailed in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> , <b>Illustrative Landscape Drawings Not for Approval (Doc Ref. 2.7)</b> and <b>Outline LEMP (Doc Ref. 7.10)</b> .

## Theme 7: PRow Changes

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
		<b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Socio-economics (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> sets out the likely effects on users of the PRow during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages of the Project.
The additional consultation material was helpful to understand the proposed changes to the PRow. The proposed Rights of Way Working Group is supported.	N	Noted.
Do not support the principle of the extinguished and diverted PRow. The loss of many PRow cannot be compensated for the proposed diversions, which are longer and create a dogleg route.	N	The Applicant recognises the importance of PRow and impacts on them have been assessed in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Socio-economics (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> and in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> .
Support the changes to the development that allow for the PRow to revert to their original alignment and to at least their original condition or upgraded subject to consultation. This should be secured through legally binding arrangements.	N	The <b>Outline RoWAS (Doc Ref. 7.15)</b> provides detail of the proposed changes to the PRow network during and post the Project lifetime and has been agreed with KCC.
Would like to see details as to how the proposed 10m PRow will be kept clear and maintained. In particular explaining how the surfaces (especially in wet weather) will be maintained and priority is given to PRow users where possible. Request reassurance	N	The PRow pathways are proposed to be approximately 2m wide. The proposed 10m PRow corridor is the total distance between the fence and the relevant landscape feature, as secured by the <b>Design Principles (Doc Ref. 7.5)</b> . The <b>Streets, Access and Rights of Way Plans (Doc Ref. 2.5)</b> provide details of the proposed PRow pathways.

## Theme 7: PRow Changes

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
that access to PRow is maintained throughout the construction phase of the Project, in particular from Station Road.		The <b>Outline RoWAS (Doc Ref. 7.15)</b> provides detail of the proposed changes to the PRow network during and post the Project lifetime and has been agreed with KCC. A Rights of Way Working Group will be established and must be consulted on all PRow implementation plans before they are submitted.
<p>The following PRow diversions are acceptable or an improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ AE370 – where the cycle route is progressed</li> <li>▪ AE377</li> <li>▪ AE378</li> <li>▪ AE380</li> <li>▪ AE385</li> <li>▪ AE428 – there should be a route across field 19 over the East Stour River</li> <li>▪ AE431</li> <li>▪ AE436</li> <li>▪ AE448</li> <li>▪ AE455</li> <li>▪ AE457</li> <li>▪ AE475</li> <li>▪ AE657</li> </ul>	N	Noted.

## Theme 7: PRow Changes

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New 1</li> <li>▪ New 2</li> <li>▪ New 3</li> <li>▪ New 5</li> <li>▪ New 7</li> </ul>		
<p>The new 4 will need to be made suitable and upgraded from Public Footpath to Public Bridleway as required by KCC.</p>	N	<p>The Applicant is no longer proposing New Route 4 as connectivity is provided parallel to the Order limits by AE370. The <b>Streets, Access and Rights of Way Plans (Doc Ref. 2.5)</b> provide details on the proposed PRow diversions and new routes.</p>
<p>Supports the proposal to include the maintenance of Byway AE396 in the Rights of Way Strategy.</p>	N	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>New consultation material has made the proposed changes to the PRow's clearer and the Applicant has responded to 2022 Statutory Consultation comments. The Rights of Way Working Group is supported.</p>	N	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>PRow's originate from historic and ancient travel routes and the removal of these PRow's would result in the loss of this heritage.</p>	N	<p>The <b>Outline RoWAS (Doc Ref. 7.15)</b> provides detail of the proposed changes to the PRow network during and post the Project lifetime and has been agreed with KCC. The Applicant assessed the potential effects to amenity and human health in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Socio-economics (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>.</p>
<p>The recreational and mental health benefits of the use of local footpaths and PRow will be</p>	N	

### Theme 7: PRow Changes

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
substantially reduced by the presence of the solar farm.		

### Theme 8: Cultural Heritage

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
The consultation material does not consider Mersham village or the church on the hills to the north of the site.	N	St John Baptist Church and relevant heritage assets in Mersham including the Mersham Conservation Area have been considered and assessed in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> .

### Theme 9: Water Environment

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
Energy storage units should not be located on land that is subject to flooding. They should also be accessible by emergency services.	Y	All energy storage units are located in Flood Zone 1 and are accessible by emergency services.

### Theme 9: Water Environment

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<p>The Government's flood risk map shows a high risk of surface water or pluvial flooding in the western part of the proposed development. Spring Cottage and Bow Cottage located at the corner of Laws Lane and Bank Road are regularly affected by this flooding, which occurs as a result of runoff from a large area of agricultural land within the proposed development.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The Flood Risk Assessment (<b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: FRA (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b>) then confirms that the development is acceptable in flood risk terms.</p>

### Theme 10: Community Benefits

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<p>The Project provides minimal/no benefits to the community. The community benefit fund is insufficient to compensate for the Project impacts.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>There is no policy requirement to provide a Community Benefit Fund. The fund proposed therefore goes beyond the requirements needed for the Project. Further details of the Community Benefit Fund are set out in the <b>Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.6)</b>. These were also made available for feedback during the 2023 Statutory Consultation.</p>
<p>How will the price of the electricity be regulated or capped and how long will it take for the community to benefit?</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The Project will provide renewable energy to the National Grid. The Applicant does not regulate or cap the energy however it is expected that providing more renewable</p>



### Theme 10: Community Benefits

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
Request for a reduced electricity bill to compensate for the impacts of the Project.	N	energy supply will reduce energy costs for the future as there is not fuel cost associated with its generation.

### Theme 11: Consultation

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
Happy to see that a number of changes have been made as a result of the Consultation in October/November 2022 and broadly agree that in many aspects these represent an improvement compared with the original plans. I am satisfied that the issue of PRow is now addressed much more clearly than previously.	N	Noted.
Feedback to the 2022 Statutory Consultation has not been adequately addressed in the 2023 Statutory Consultation, in particular points raised about PRow.	N	<p>The Applicant made a number of changes to the Project including to PRow since 2022 Statutory Consultation as set out in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>.</p> <p>The assessment of impacts on PRow is set out in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Socio-economics (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>.</p>

## Theme 11: Consultation

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<p>Information in the consultation material and community information leaflet was contradictory or misleading, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ claiming that nitrogen run-off will be reduced</li> <li>▪ claiming sheep will graze the area</li> <li>▪ planting hedgerows with tussocky grass and wild bird seed could result in the introduction of undesirable alien species</li> <li>▪ biodiversity will be increased by 100%</li> <li>▪ how the 2022 Statutory Consultation feedback was summarised</li> <li>▪ visual and landscape impacts were not adequately addressed</li> <li>▪ recognition of the impact to the visual impact to PRow users</li> <li>▪ unclear how best practice measures will be implemented during construction and decommissioning of the Project</li> <li>▪ unclear how failed planting will be managed</li> </ul>	<p>N</p>	<p>The consultation material was correct and accurate and reflected the Project at that time. Updated details are contained within the DCO Application.</p>

## Theme 11: Consultation

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<p>The PRowS map in the consultation booklet is unhelpful and does not show sufficient information such as existing footpaths.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The Book of Plans presented at 2023 Statutory Consultation included a detailed plan of the existing PRowS. Updated plans prepared for DCO submission are in the <b>Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans (Doc Ref. 2.5)</b>.</p>
<p>The following issues were not adequately addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ does not address consultation comments about flooding</li> <li>▪ cumulative effects to the community</li> <li>▪ management plans for hedgerows</li> <li>▪ impact to the setting of heritage assets</li> <li>▪ request for consultation with local resident walkers</li> <li>▪ inadequate number of photomontages</li> <li>▪ parish clerk's traffic records were not considered</li> <li>▪ the scale of the transformers and associated infrastructure is not available</li> </ul>	<p>N</p>	<p>The consultation material was correct and accurate and reflected the Project at that time. Updated details are contained within the DCO Application.</p>
<p>The Applicant has not provided sufficient and accurate information about the key issues of visual impact, flood risk, PRowS, loss of agricultural land and the location of the</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The Applicant considers that it presented accurate information at the relevant stage in the Project at 2022 and 2023 Statutory Consultation. The Applicant provided additional information at 2023 Statutory Consultation in response to feedback. Further information about the Project evolution is in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>.</p>

## Theme 11: Consultation

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
development, to allow informed comments about the Project.		
The consultation material does not clearly state who the Applicant is as required by the Planning Act 2008. The Applicant has not adequately engaged with the community.	N	<p>The <b>Consultation Report (Doc Ref. 6.1)</b> sets out how the consultation was undertaken in compliance with the Planning Act 2008, Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 and the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2017).</p> <p>The Applicant's name was made clear on consultation material made available at 2022 Statutory Consultation and 2023 Statutory Consultation.</p>
Consultation materials were poor quality and did not provide meaningful information for comment.	N	<p>The Applicant considers that the consultation material provided at 2022 and 2023 Statutory Consultation was of appropriate quality and provided relevant information to the community in accordance with the Planning Act 2008, Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 and the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2017).</p>
Request clarity on whether consultation responses will be shared with the Planning Inspectorate.	N	<p><b>Consultation Report, Appendices Appendix A-3: Regard had to 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback, Appendix F-5: Regard Had to Section 42 Consultee Responses, Appendix F-6: Regard had to Section 47 and 48 Responses, Appendix G-4: Regard had to Section 42 Consultee Responses and this Appendix G-5: Regard had to Section 47 and 48 Consultee Responses (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> include a summary of consultation responses received and sets out how the Applicant had regard to the comments raised at Non-Statutory Consultation, 2022 Statutory Consultation, and at 2023 Statutory Consultation. Full copies of responses are not required to be provided to the Planning Inspectorate.</p>

## Theme 11: Consultation

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
The Community Liaison Panel and the Non-Statutory Consultation, Statutory consultation are box ticking exercises.	N	The <b>Consultation Report (Doc Ref. 6.1)</b> sets out how the consultations were undertaken in compliance with the Planning Act 2008, Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 and the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2017).
There is no evidence of ongoing engagement with impacted residents.	N	The <b>Consultation Report (Doc Ref. 6.1)</b> sets out the engagement with residents impacted by the Project. In addition to one-on-one meetings with residents, the Applicant established the Community Liaison Panel and provided Project updates through the distribution of letters. The Applicant responded and addressed to all direct concerns made in relation to individual properties.

## Theme 12: Noise

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
It is unclear whether the noise assessment takes into consideration different weather conditions. There are concerns about the wind noise that the panels could create.	N	<b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Noise (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> includes a noise assessment which considers the effects of different weather conditions that could alter the noise of the Project.
The noise impacts would have negative consequences to the village residents and the schools.	N	<b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Noise (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> assessed the potential impact found there would be no significant effects in relation to noise.

## Theme 12: Noise

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<p>The sound mitigation measures for the inverters are no more than partial screening by close boarded fencing and unlikely to address the issue satisfactorily.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Construction noise levels will be controlled through the use of embedded mitigation and the <b>Outline CEMP (Doc Ref. 7.8)</b> and <b>Outline DEMP (Doc Ref. 7.12)</b>. During the operational stage, the design of the Project has located noise sources away from sensitive receptors.</p> <p>The <b>Design Principles (Doc Ref. 7.5)</b> secure the principles for acoustic fencing and the impact of this mitigation is described in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Noise (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>.</p>

## Theme 13: Cumulative Effects

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
<p>The following projects should be included in the cumulative assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the Grid Stability Condenser Project (Walsh Power)</li> <li>▪ large Battery Storage Facility (Pivot Power)</li> </ul>	<p>N</p>	<p>Both projects are considered in the cumulative assessment set out in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 17: Cumulative Assessment (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>.</p>

### Theme 14: Health and Safety

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
Concerned about the safety of the inverter stations, the energy storage units, the substation and the cable connection.	N	The Applicant has consulted with Kent Fire and Rescue on the <b>Outline BSMP (Doc Ref. 7.16)</b> which explains how the BESS will be safely managed across the Site. <b>ES Volume 2 Chapter 16: Other Topics (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> assesses the risk of major accidents or disasters as a result of the Project. The assessment has concluded that, given the proposed mitigation and best practice measures proposed and the low risk of an event occurring for this type of development, no significant effects are therefore considered likely.

### Theme 15: Property Impacts

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
Do not support the converter unit near my property.	Y	In response to 2022 Statutory Consultation the Applicant located the inverter stations further from properties. The Project layout has been designed to further reduce effects at residential dwellings compared to earlier layouts and provides additional set backs of PV panels and Inverter Stations, enhanced visual screening and noise mitigation measures. Further information is in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> .
The proposed access route is close to my property and concerned about the disruption to my property and to nearby residents.	N	Proposed access points are shown in <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 13.7: Access Drawings</b> . During construction, suitable traffic measures, including visibility splays, temporary traffic signals, warning signage and use of a banksman are secured by

### Theme 15: Property Impacts

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
		the <b>Outline CTMP (Doc Ref. 7.9)</b> and are shown on the <b>Traffic Regulations Measures Plans (Doc Ref. 2.4)</b> .

### Theme 16: Land Contamination

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
Concerned the metal supports for the solar panels would cause contamination to the soil. There is the possibility of toxic chemicals leaching out from the panels. Lithium-ion battery storage represents a huge fire risk.	N	The Applicant has assessed potential land contamination effects in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Land Contamination (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> ). It is also noted that no hazardous chemicals are anticipated to be stored on Site.  Fire risk has been a consideration in the layout of the BESS. The <b>Outline BSMP (Doc Ref. 7.16)</b> provides further details on the management of fire risk and how this has influenced the Project design.
The site will have been degraded through water run off, leached chemicals from the industrial solar panels, and the land will look like and probably be treated as a brownfield industrial site.	N	The <b>Outline CEMP (Doc Ref. 7.8)</b> includes measures to mitigate risks of contamination to groundwater and surface water during construction. The Applicant also commits to maintenance measures for the operational phase (as outlined in the <b>OMP (Doc Ref. 7.11)</b> ) to ensure that any risks of site degradation, chemical leaching and spills are minimised.



### Theme 17: Decommissioning

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
Request for information about how the land would be returned to its original state. If this Project is approved it is vital that the Development Consent Order makes it a binding requirement that the land is returned to agricultural purposes of as good or better quality than the existing land whenever the solar farm ceases to operate.	N	The <b>Draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1)</b> includes a requirement that limits the Project to 40 years from first operation, following which the Site will be restored in accordance with the <b>Outline DEMP (Doc Ref. 7.12)</b> and the <b>Outline DTMP (Doc Ref. 7.13)</b> .

### Theme 18: Waste

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
Solar panels cannot be recycled. This Project will result in large amounts of waste from the solar panels.	N	During the decommissioning phase, the PV arrays, Inverter Stations, Project Substation and Intermediate Substations will be removed and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. Further details on waste are provided within in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Other Topics (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> .

## Theme 19: Climate Change

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
The Project will increase its the carbon footprint because the solar panels are from China.	N	<b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Climate Change (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> assesses the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the Project over its lifetime, including the embodied carbon emissions resulting from the manufacture of the PV Panels, and emissions from transport of PV Panels and other construction materials to the Site for installation. The assessment found the residual effects are beneficial and significant.

## Theme 20: Socio-economics

Consultee Feedback	Change to Project Design? Y/N	Regard Given to the Consultee's Feedback
Converting such fertile land for industrial purposes would have a detrimental impact on the local economy and food production.	N	<b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> includes an assessment of the potential impacts to the local agricultural economy.
Concerned about the impact to local tourism.	N	<b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> includes an assessment of the potential impacts to the local tourism economy.
Concerned about the impact to the community and quality of life. Concerned about disruptions to the village and schools in the area.	N	The Applicant has assessed the potential amenity effects of the Project in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> . <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Noise (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b> assessed the potential impact to Aldington Primary School and found there would be no significant effects in relation to noise from during the construction phase.

