

Little South
Solar Farm
Dover District Council

Statement of Community
Involvement

Prepared for Little South Clean Energy Ltd
September 2023



1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has been prepared in support of an application for full planning permission submitted to Dover District Council under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) on behalf of Little South Clean Energy Limited (the “Applicant”).

1.2 The SCI outlines the pre-application public consultation activity undertaken by the Applicant regarding Little South Solar Farm prior to the submission of a planning application, seeking:

“Construction, operation and decommissioning of a solar farm with grid connection, access and associated infrastructure and works.”

1.3 The Applicant conducted a programme of public consultation and stakeholder engagement with regards to its proposal in March 2023. Utilising traditional and digital forms of engagement ensured that comprehensive and meaningful engagement took place. This included a dedicated project website, www.littlesouth-solar.co.uk, where members of the public could submit feedback and reach out to the project team, and an in-person Public Exhibition to present the plans.

1.4 The Applicant also contacted local stakeholders, including ward members and the local parish council, to inform them of the plans, invite them to engage in the pre-application consultation and provide detailed briefings.

1.5 The comments received during public consultation are detailed in the feedback section of this report. A number of the issues raised during stakeholder engagement have informed amendments to the initial proposal, including construction access, impact on wildlife and site location.

1.6 The SCI has been written in line with Dover District Council’s Statement of Community Involvement (2019), the Revised National Planning Policy Framework (2021) and the Localism Act (2011).

1.7 This statement forms part of a portfolio of documents submitted as part of the planning application for the scheme.

2. CONSULTATION POLICY CONTEXT

2.1 The consultation programme was undertaken at the pre-application stage. It has been carried out in accordance with Section 122 of the Localism Act 2011, which requires developers to carry out pre-application consultation with local communities.

2.2 The consultation programme was also carried out in accordance with the Revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021. The pre-application consultation was carried out under the NPPF 2021, but the Applicant has reviewed the updated NPPF (September 2023) and there are no changes that are relevant to the design of this consultation. The NPPF encourages proactive community engagement. Paragraph 132 of the NPPF 2021 states that:

“Applicants should work closely with those affected by their proposals to evolve designs that take account of the views of the community. Applications that can demonstrate early, proactive and effective engagement with the community should be looked on more favourably than those that cannot.”

2.3 Additionally, it followed the guidelines of Dover District Council’s Statement of Community Involvement (2019), which sets out the importance of involving statutory bodies and the community in pre-application consultations and planning applications. Section 6 of the SCI states:

“We strongly encourage applicants to discuss their proposals with the local community, appropriate statutory and non-statutory consultees and their parish council at an early stage.”

3. CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

3.1 The Applicant has undertaken the process of pre-application consultation in line with national and local guidance and requirements. This provided an important opportunity to engage with the Council, key stakeholders and the local community to gather feedback and enable issues and concerns to be addressed prior to the submission of the planning application, where reasonably possible.

CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

3.2 The Applicant first contacted the Clerk of Ash Parish Council and elected members of the Little Stour and Ashstone Ward of Dover District Council on 4th March 2022 (Appendix 1) to introduce early proposals for the site. The Applicant subsequently met virtually with the parish to discuss initial proposals on 15th March 2022. This early engagement allowed significant changes to be adopted in the plans compared to the initial scoping, following consultation with Kent County Council, Historic England and other statutory bodies.

3.3 On Monday 6th February 2023 a letter, (Appendix 2) was issued to elected members of the Little Stour and Ashstone Ward of Dover District Council, the Clerk and Chair of Ash Parish Council and the local to share the developed plans, inform representatives of the upcoming public consultation and provide an offer to meet for a detailed briefing on the proposals.

3.4 The Applicant met with Ash Parish Council on 14th March 2023 to present the advanced proposals, introduce the project team to members and gather feedback. Points of discussion included:

- How much noise would be generated by the solar farm, in construction and operation.
- Construction access plans.
- Planting and biodiversity net gain.
- Approach to community consultation.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

3.5 The Applicant opted to undertake a hybrid consultation which included a digital consultation on a project website and an in-person Public Exhibition for people to meet the team and view plans in detail.

3.6 On 6th March, the Applicant issued a consultation invitation (Appendix 3) to 1,359 addresses within a consultation zone surrounding the Proposed Development (Appendix 4). The invitation introduced the proposals and provided details of a project website and the upcoming Public Exhibition event. The invitation included a misprint of the project webpage address and so a correction letter (Appendix 5) was re-posted to all members in the consultation zone on 9th March to ensure people had the chance to view the proposals and share their views via the website.

3.7 An email address was also included so that residents could contact the project team to find out more about the proposals (UKProjects@statkraft.com). A total 8 of emails were received over the consultation period.

3.8 Members of the public could also contact the project team on freephone number 0800 772 0668 or visit the website to request a call back.

3.9 A bespoke website (www.littlesouth-solar.co.uk) (Appendix 6) was also created and enabled residents to learn more about the proposals and the Applicant, and submit feedback. The webpage also detailed how to get in contact with the project team. The consultation website received a total of 139 unique visitors during the consultation period.

3.10 A public consultation event took place on 17th March 2023 at Ash Village Hall (Appendix 7) where the local community were able to find out more about the proposals from the project team. The project team included the Statkraft project team, and specialist consultants in areas identified as being of particular interest to local residents including an archaeologist, ecologist and landscape architect. This event provided details on the site, introduced the Applicant and provided members of the project team a chance to meet the public and gather feedback on the proposals. A total of 110 people attended the Public Exhibition.

3.11 Following the Public Exhibition on 17th March, the project website featured information from the in-person consultation including a copy of the exhibition brochure (Appendix 8), and banners (Appendix 9), as well as opportunities for local people to ask questions of the project team via email and answer the online survey (Appendix 10).

3.12 In response to a suggestion from Ash Parish Council we undertook a further mailing (Appendix 11) to 257 addresses further afield in the western end of Ash Parish (Appendix 12), inviting them to view the plans and participate in the consultation.

3.13 Near neighbours of the site and local representatives also received further communications through a letter issued on 1st September 2023 after work was carried out by the project team to provide information following significant redesign of the access route. This was sent by direct mail to near neighbours and by email to local representatives.

This correspondence detailed the alternative access route which was designed following feedback from Ash Parish Council and members of the community who attended the exhibition or who responded to the consultation. This correspondence is available in Appendix 13.

4. FEEDBACK

INTRODUCTION

4.1 Local residents were given the opportunity to submit feedback either by returning a freepost reply card included with the invitation to exhibition, filling out a survey on the dedicated project website, at the Public Exhibition, or by getting in touch through email.

4.2 The website survey and Public Exhibition survey consisted of three multiple choice questions which were related to clarity of the proposals, feelings about increased renewable energy generation in the UK and feelings about the proposed development. Below this was space for written feedback and further comments or questions. The Public Exhibition survey also asked residents their thoughts on landscaping and screening, plans for biodiversity increasing measures and suggestions for use of the Community Benefit fund. 145 responses to the surveys were received throughout the consultation period through the Public Exhibition survey, reply card and online survey. The Public Exhibition survey is available to view in Appendix 14 and the online survey is available to view in Appendix 10. Reply cards were also available at the Public Exhibition to take away for those who wanted to complete them at home and send back via Free Post. These are available in Appendix 15.

4.3 The Public Exhibition survey gave attendees space to provide written feedback (Appendix 16). A total of 70 surveys were received at the Public Exhibition, as well as 12 of the postal cards. A further 62 reply cards were returned by post to the Freepost address, and one survey was returned via the website.

4.4 12 responses from the Public Exhibition were not initially processed along with the others due to a technical error. This was discovered after a member of the public contacted the applicant to say that they had not received a response to their feedback despite requesting one. All of these responses have been incorporated into the quantitative analysis. All written feedback is available in Appendix 16.

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

4.5 The reply card, online survey and Public Exhibition survey all three had three closed questions. Below is a quantitative analysis of the responses to the three questions.

	Do you think that the country needs to generate more electricity from renewable sources?	Do you agree that solar farms are a good way to help achieve this?	Do you think that this site is an acceptable location for a solar farm?
Yes	123	77	43
No	12	35	73
Maybe	8	31	26

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

4.6 At the Public Exhibition and on the website survey and reply card, consultees were asked to submit written feedback on a range of elements of the plans. As well as this, residents emailed their comments and questions.

4.7 139 consultees submitted written feedback through the reply card at the Public Exhibition, online survey or by post (Appendix 16).

4.8 A number of residents left comments that were supportive of the proposals, such as:

- *“My initial thoughts on proposals are that this is a very good idea...”*
- *“Very good, I am impressed with the plans and location”*
- *“Excellent idea, seems to have minimal impact on the local area”*

- *“Excellent proposal. Endorses Sustainability, environmental, short delivery programme...”*
- *“Really positive + exciting project”*
- *“What a marvellous opportunity to create energy, protect wildlife, and make the most of what nature have given us.”*
- *“Very good, I am impressed with the plans and location”*
- *“Excellent exhibition”*
- *“So important that there is more renewable energy. This project for a solar farm has a projected life of no more than 40 years, so the land could be reclaimed if necessary”*

4.9 Other respondents left comments that were opposed to the plans, such as:

- *“Solar is a waste of taxpayer money generating little to our energy needs.”*
- *“Very much against these fields being used for a solar farm”*
- *“Total eyesore which will not be enhanced by ambitious biodiversity plans”*
- *“Too much and of no benefit to the village.”*
- *“The site is far too large and impact on wildlife too great.”*
- *“The access point through East-Street is unacceptable due to being single track road, you need to find access from A257”*
- *“This is the countryside, a greenfield, why develop such as large farm - should be brownfield areas be more suitable?”*
- *“We choose to live amongst green fields and those in the cities do not understand how these fields of panels are taking away our heritage. Solar energy is not renewable. Why not tidal power?”*
- *“I am in favour of this type of energy but not on good farmland.”*

4.10 The analysis has identified some additional themes. The topics that were cited most often are outlined below.

Transport and access:

- Increased traffic
- Site access

Community Impact:

- Community use of the land
- Impact on the growth of schools and the village hall
- Community benefit

Landscape Impact:

- Visual impact, including height of the solar panels
- Noise Impact
- Cumulative impact of infrastructure projects in the area
- Drainage

Environment:

- Use of arable land, including after project life span
- Impact on wildlife and ecology
- Biodiversity

Other:

- Site selection and size
- Potential for moving to brownfield site

5. RESPONSE TO FEEDBACK

5.1 The feedback in section 4 shows that residents are interested transport and access, landscape and community impact and the environment.

5.2 The Applicant has provided a response to issues raised through feedback in the points below.

ISSUE	RESPONSE
TRANSPORT AND ACCESS	<p>The public consultation gave us the opportunity to listen to feedback from residents close to the site regarding access arrangements which have been amended to minimise impacts on the local community.</p> <p>This includes a proposed temporary access which bypasses tight corners and several properties on Cooper Street Drove. In addition, we have updated our plans to remove the need to use East Street during construction and decommissioning of the solar farm.</p> <p>As part of a planning application, we will prepare a Construction and Environment Management Plan, which will regulate the access to the site and the hours of work. We will seek to adopt measures to minimise the construction impact on local communities. These will include a plan to manage deliveries to site, including prescribing routes which construction vehicles and deliveries must follow.</p>
COMMUNITY IMPACT	<p>As part of a planning application, we will prepare a Construction and Environment Management Plan, which will regulate the access to the site and the hours of work.</p> <p>We want to make sure that Little South Solar Farm benefits local people. We will work with the local community to make sure that our plans can make a positive difference to the local area with a community benefit fund of £9,900 per year for local projects (based on £200 per megawatt installed and a project size of 49.9MW). We will also work with local business groups to increase awareness of opportunities to get involved in the construction and operation of our projects.</p>
LANDSCAPE IMPACT	<p>Our plan includes extensive planting to screen the new development, including trees, hedgerows and shrubs. We have reduced the maximum height of the panels from 4.46m to 2.7m, reduced the size of the site by 40 acres and introduced a Nature Restoration Area into the north of the development, both of which help to provide greater distance from Richborough Roman Fort. A possible roman road corridor will also be excluded from the scheme pending detailed archeological surveys.</p>
ENVIRONMENT	<p>Our plans will enhance biodiversity, providing new habitats for wildlife. We are committed to supporting a range of species, while making sure that our plans have no unacceptable impact on any existing wildlife on site. Much of the site is currently made up of land that has been farmed and currently has limited biodiversity, meaning the project</p>

	<p>provides the opportunity to support habitat restoration. Statkraft are engaged with the Bumblebee Conservation Trust to ensure that sites can provide good habitats to promote growth of the various species of Bumblebees in the local area.</p> <p>Our plans include retaining and enhancing the ecologically valuable ditch network around the site to support waterfowl habitats, as well as water vole, otter and aquatic plants, habitat creation for winterfowl and waders, including Red List species such as Lapwing and Curlew. No chemicals will be used in the washing of the solar panels, which will be cleaned with water.</p> <p>There may also opportunities for sheep grazing which would keep the site in agricultural use, while restoring parts of the site to the UK Priority Habitat, "Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh".</p>
SITE SELECTION	<p>The site has been selected for its suitability for solar development, taking account of the local environment and landscape. Site features include excellent solar irradiation to generate renewable electricity, suitable grid connection, land which is not of the highest agricultural quality and opportunities for landscape planting and biodiversity enhancement.</p>

6. CONCLUSION & NEXT STEPS

6.1 This SCI demonstrates the pre-application consultation undertaken with local residents and stakeholders for the development of Little South Solar Farm.

6.2 The initial proposals were designed in response to a thorough analysis of the Little South site, Ash, and the surrounding area.

6.3 The consultation process allowed the Applicant to further understand local views on the proposals, prior to submitting a planning application to Dover District Council. Particularly, early engagement with the Parish Council and local representatives allowed the area of the site thought to be the location of a Roman road to be protected in early designs.

6.4 The feedback indicates that some residents have concerns about community impact, landscape impact, and transport and access. Feedback received from local residents directly influenced the redesigned construction access route. Members of the community are also supportive of the plans and are keen to work with the project team to improve local sustainability.

6.5 The project team has reviewed all feedback received during the consultation and, where possible, has responded to this in the final plans. This has included including a complete redesign of the proposed access route and alterations to nature area to the north of site.

6.6 The development team will continue its discussions and engagement with local residents and stakeholders as the application progresses.

7. APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: 2022 INTRODUCTION LETTER



By email

4th March 2022

Dear councillors

LITTLE SOUTH SOLAR ENERGY FARM – PUBLIC CONSULTATION

I am writing to inform you of Statkraft’s emerging plans for a new solar energy farm and battery storage system near Richborough, within Ash Parish. The project, known as Little South, is in its early stages, but we anticipate our proposals delivering a 50MW solar energy farm alongside biodiversity and habitat improvements.

We are committed to consulting local residents and representatives early in the development process, ensuring that everyone’s views can be considered. To this end I am writing to offer the Parish Council the opportunity to have input into the emerging plans and seek a meeting to discuss the proposals.

The Little South Energy Project

The project comprises a solar farm located on land close to Richborough within Dover District Council. This site has been carefully selected as part of a detailed feasibility process which considers designated areas, land grade and levels of solar energy. A multitude of surveys are being carried out, including ecology, landscape and flood risk to assess the land’s suitability for solar energy farm use. Additionally, we expect to deliver significant amounts in business rates each year for Dover District Council.

We are proposing a combined generation and storage system because decarbonisation of the UK’s energy supply and the replacement of fossil fuel generation will require more sophisticated energy systems that store energy for use whenever it is needed - day or night.

A large proportion of the site will be dedicated for habitat, biodiversity and landscape improvements.

EIA Scoping Request

We have recently submitted an EIA Scoping Request to Dover District Council as part of the pre-application process. This will set out the scope of the topics to be included in the environmental reports submitted as part of a future planning application.

PAGE
10



By email

4th March 2022

Dear councillors

OFFICE ADDRESS
19th Floor
22 Bishopsgate
London EC2N 4BQ
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PHONE
+44 (0) 20 74 48 82 00

INTERNET
www.statkraft.co.uk

EMAIL
uk-post@statkraft.com

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How we plan to consult the local community

To ensure that everyone can participate in our consultation, we will be conducting a digital pre-application consultation. We will be sending an information leaflet to local residents, providing information about the proposals, details of our online consultation hub, and contact details. We will let you know as soon as the consultation is launched.

The dedicated project website will have detailed information about the project and a dedicated feedback section. We will then use the feedback from this consultation to inform our emerging proposals and for our community consultation report to the local planning authority. At the time of submission of a planning application, we will publish all feedback we have received and explain how we have responded to local views.

Community consultation and our work with our environmental consultants and organisations such as the Bumblebee Conservation Trust will help to shape environmental and biodiversity measures which work for the local area and wildlife. We welcome suggestions from the local community.

Get in touch

In the meantime, if you would like to arrange an informal discussion with me or have any questions or require further information about the project, please do get in touch by emailing me at gareth.hawkins@statkraft.com or by calling me on 07939 220365.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Gareth Hawkins.

Gareth Hawkins
UK Business Development Manager, Statkraft



By email

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22 Bishopsgate
London EC2N 4BQ
United Kingdom

PHONE

0800 772 0668

INTERNET

www.statkraft.co.uk

EMAIL

ukprojects@statkraft.com

Dear councillors

LITTLE SOUTH SOLAR ENERGY FARM – PUBLIC CONSULTATION

I am writing to update you of Statkraft's emerging plans for a new solar energy farm near Richborough, within Ash Parish. The project, known as Little South, would deliver approximately 50MWp of solar power.

The Little South Energy Project

As you are aware, Statkraft submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Request to Dover District Council in early 2022 (Reference 22/00245). As a result of the Council's response to the scoping request, an Environmental Statement will be submitted with the planning application. This will consider the environmental impacts of the proposal and how these impacts will be mitigated.

The proposed location of the solar farm is shown on the attached plan. In addition to the solar farm, a significant area of the site will be dedicated for biodiversity and habitat enhancements.

How we plan to consult the local community

We are committed to consulting local residents and representatives in the development process, ensuring that everyone's views can be considered. We are grateful for the initial input from the parish last year and are preparing updated plans that respond to the key issues raised in previous discussions.

To ensure that everyone can comment on the proposals, we will be conducting a full public consultation, with digital and in-person opportunities to find out more about the plans. These comments will be taken into account before the application is submitted to Dover District Council.

We expect to undertake pre-application consultation in March 2023. Before then, should the Parish Council wish to discuss the proposals in advance of public consultation, please email me at john.wallace@statkraft.com.

Yours sincerely,



Little South Solar Farm

Statkraft is preparing to submit a planning application to Dover District Council for a new solar energy farm to the north of the A257.



Have your say

Before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application, we want to ensure you are involved and have a chance to review the plans, ask questions and provide feedback. We are undertaking a public consultation and will be holding a drop-in event on 17th March.

You can get involved by:

-  Attending our public exhibition at **Ash Village Hall, Queens Road, CT3 2BG** on **17th March between 3.30pm and 7.30pm**. Members of the project team will be at the event to present plans and answer questions.
-  Visiting **www.littlesouth-solar.co.uk** to view detailed plans for the site and provide feedback via an online form.
-  Contacting a member of the team via email at **ukprojects@statkraft.co.uk**
-  Sending your reply card back to us in the provided envelope to Freepost Statkraft.

The proposals

The site, which is located to the north of the A257 and to the west of the A256, between Ash and Sandwich, has been carefully chosen for its potential to deliver renewable electricity to the grid, helping meet national and local renewable energy targets. If consented, we estimate the site could generate electricity to power the equivalent of approximately 18,000 homes*.

We're also committed to providing significant local benefits including increasing the biodiversity value of the site, creating an annual community benefit fund for local projects, and seeking to use local suppliers wherever possible.

At the end of the lease the land will revert back to agricultural use once the solar farm is decommissioned.

*Consumption of 3578 kWh pa (BEIS, Dec 2020)

About Statkraft

Statkraft is Europe's largest generator of renewable energy delivering 67 terrawatt-hours of energy across 20 countries every year.

Our vision is a world where renewable energy powers every industry, every business, every community and every home. In the UK we are on target to make a significant contribution to the UK Government's 2050 net zero target, its targets for renewable energy and energy supply security.

We are committed to engaging with local communities early on in the development of our projects as we recognise the value of community input.

Get in touch

If you have any questions or would like further information, you can contact us by:

-  **0800 772 0668**
-  **www.littlesouth-solar.co.uk**
-  **ukprojects@statkraft.co.uk**
-  **FREEPOST Statkraft**

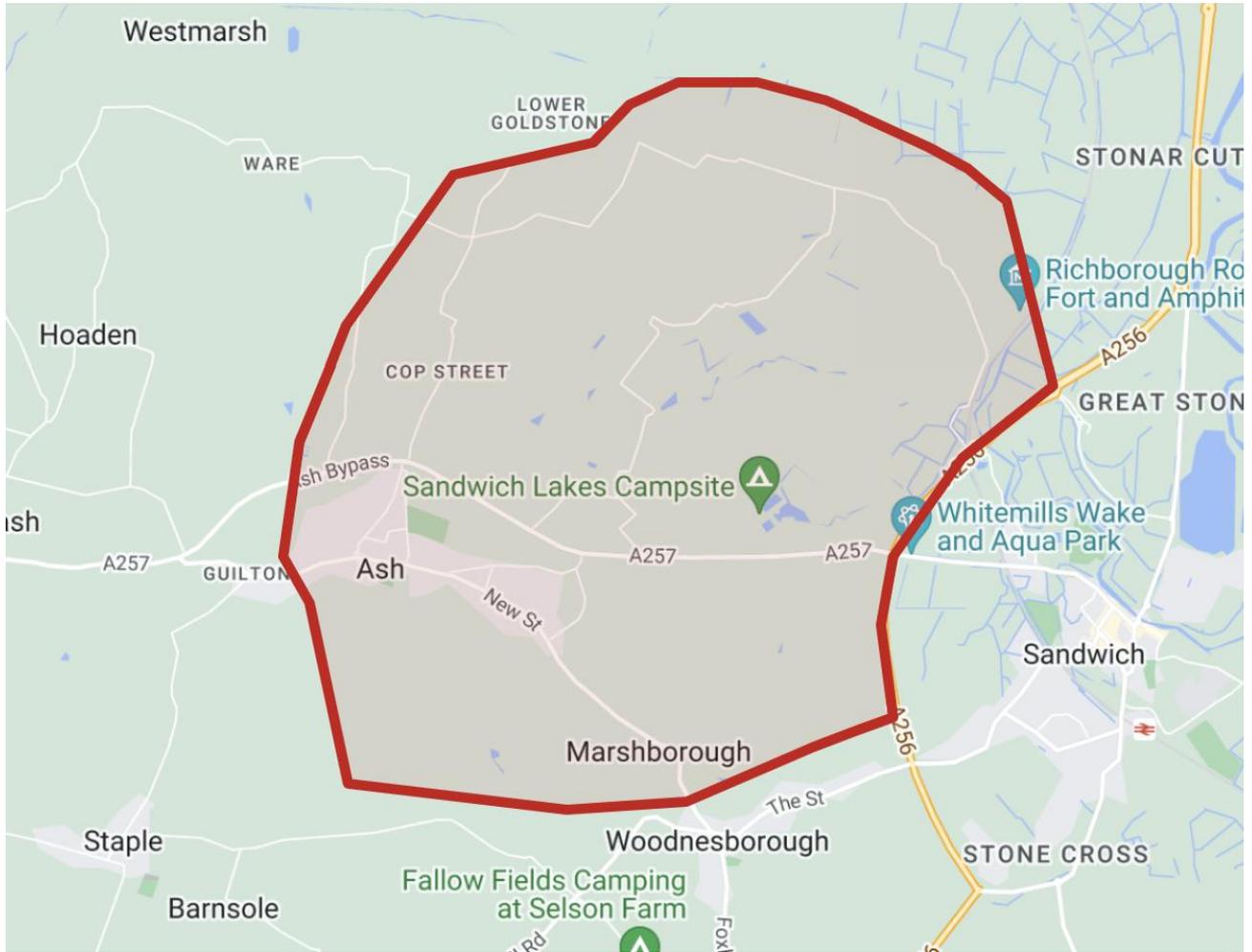
Public exhibition

Come to our public exhibition:

-  **Ash Village Hall, Queens Road, CT3 2BG**
-  **Friday 17th March, 3:30pm - 7:30pm**

Members of the project team will be at the event to present plans and answer questions.

APPENDIX 4: CONSULTATION INVITATION DISTRIBUTION AREA (1,359 addresses)





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INTERNET
www.statkraft.co.uk

EMAIL
uk-post@statkraft.com

09.03.2023

Dear Neighbour,

This week you will have received a leaflet about Statkraft's plans for a new solar energy farm to the north of the A257 know as Little South. This leaflet included a misprint of the project website address. We would like to apologise for any confusion caused by this.

If you want to find out more about the plans for Little South Solar Farm, the best place to do this is at littlesouth-solar.co.uk.

We are committed to engaging with the community and our public exhibition at Ash Village Hall, Queens Road, CT3 2BG will also be going ahead as planned on 17th March between 3.30pm and 7.30pm. Members of the project team will be at the event to present plans and answer questions. You can also email a member of the team at ukprojects@statkraft.co.uk. You can send your reply card back to us in the envelope we provided this week to Freepost Statkraft or complete it online at the website.

We apologise again for the confusion and look forward to speaking with the local community in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

Seumas Skinner



Community Liaison Manager, UK Wind & Solar



Scan here to [visit](http://littlesouth-solar.co.uk)
littlesouth-solar.co.uk



Home Little South Solar Farm

Project Updates

Project Documents

Local Suppliers

Frequently Asked Questions

Get in touch





Home Little South Solar Farm

Project Updates

Project Documents

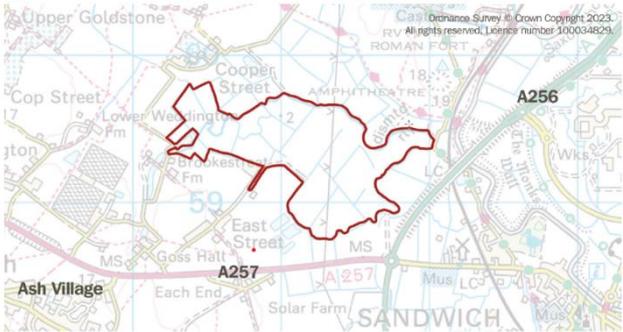
Local Suppliers

Frequently Asked Questions

Get in touch

About Little South

Statkraft is preparing to submit a planning application to Dover District Council for a solar energy farm on land at Little South, southwest of Richborough, Sandwich.

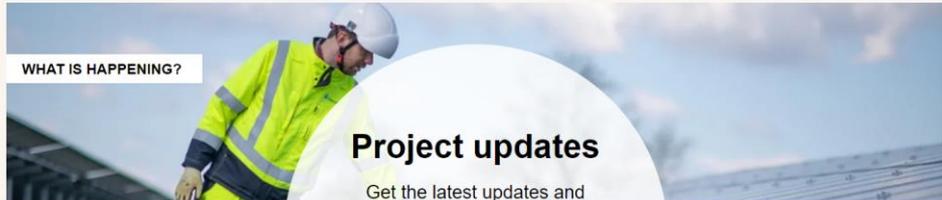


The site has been carefully chosen for its potential to deliver clean, renewable electricity direct into the local grid network, with a considerable contribution to national and local renewable energy targets. If consented, this 73ha site would generate up to 49.9MW of energy from photovoltaic (PV) solar panels, equivalent to the electricity needs of around 18,000 homes per year.

On this page you will be able to find more details on the proposal and the

estimated timeline of the project, as well as details on how to get in touch and provide feedback.

In 2022, we submitted an EIA scoping report to the local authority, where we consulted Dover District Council on the opportunities and constraints for the site. We are now looking forward to sharing our proposals with local people to get feedback and suggestions on the plans for Little South Solar Farm, before submitting plans to Dover District Council in Spring 2023.



Project Updates

These are the latest project updates for Little South Solar Farm.

Latest news

11 MAR, 2023

Announcing our Public Exhibition

We are inviting the local community to review the project plans, ask questions and provide feedback before plans are finalised for submission.

Ash Village Hall, Queens Road, CT3 2BG

Friday 17 March, 2023.

Drop in any time between 3.30pm and 7.30pm

[View the invitation for more details](#)

25 OCT, 2022

Low Emissions Scenario report 2022 published

Statkraft's Low Emissions Scenario is an extensive analysis of the energy market moving towards 2050. Learn all about it here.

[Low emissions scenario 2022](#)

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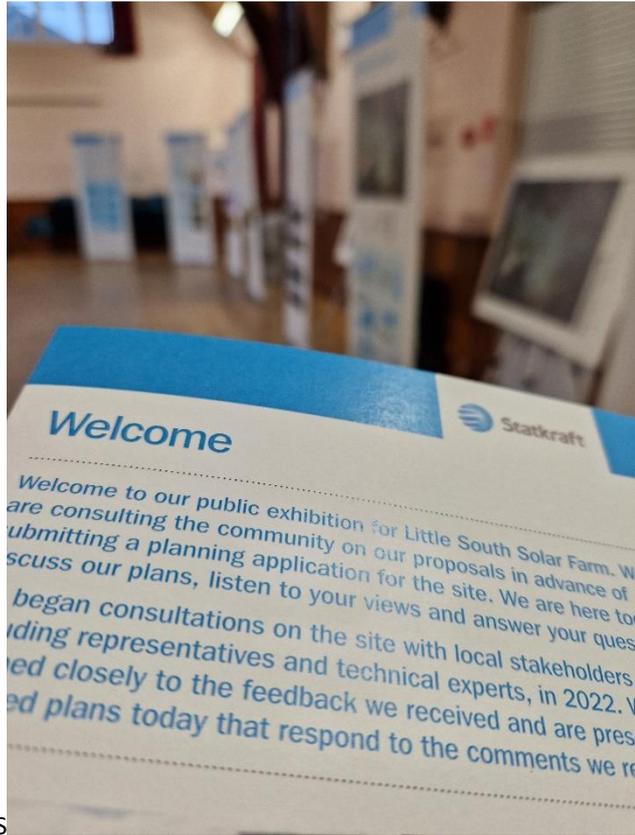
[Low emissions scenario 2022](#)



[Show more +](#)

8 MAR, 2022

Pre-application consultation launched



APPENDIX 7: PUBLIC EXHIBITION IMAGES





Welcome

Welcome to our public exhibition for Little South Solar Farm. We are consulting the community on our proposals in advance of submitting a planning application for the site. We are here today to discuss our plans, listen to your views and answer your questions.

We began consultations on the site with local stakeholders, including representatives and technical experts, in 2022. We have listened closely to the feedback we received and are presenting updated plans today that respond to the comments we received.



About Statkraft

- The largest generator of renewable electricity in Europe
- A state owned utility with origins in Norwegian hydropower over 125 years ago
- Operating in the UK since 2006
- Offices across the UK
- Development pipeline includes wind, solar, and grid stability services
- Distributed over £2 million to communities near operating renewables projects



The site

The site is located to the North of the A257 and West of the A256. Ash lies to the South West of the site, and Richborough is to the North West.

Why here?

The site has been selected for its suitability for solar development, taking account of the local environment and landscape. Site features include:

- Excellent solar irradiation to generate renewable electricity
- Land which is not of the highest agricultural quality
- A suitable grid connection
- Opportunities for landscape planting and biodiversity enhancement

At the end of the operational life of the solar farm, the land can return to original use once the solar farm is decommissioned.

Site location plan



Indicative Site Layout



<p>18,000* </p> <p>Renewable electricity to power the equivalent of 18,000 homes</p> <small>*Based on average household consumption of 2020 (see 2020)</small>	<p>Biodiversity net gain, enhancing nature through providing new habitats </p>
<p>Extensive landscaping and planting to screen the solar farm </p>	<p>Landscape buffers to nearby heritage assets </p>
<p>Community benefit fund to support local projects </p>	<p>Use of local suppliers where possible </p>

Landscape and heritage

Our plan includes extensive planting to screen the new development, including trees, hedgerows and shrubs. We are very keen to understand your views on landscape, and to ensure that our plans reflect local priorities wherever possible.

We are undertaking an archaeological assessment on-site, ensuring that our proposals take account of and respect local history.

In response to feedback, we have already:

- Reduced the maximum height of the panels from 4.46m to 2.7m
- Added a landscape buffer to the North East of the site
- Reduced the size of the site, providing greater distance from Richborough Roman Fort
- Excluded a possible roman road corridor from the scheme



Enhancing biodiversity

Our plans will enhance biodiversity, providing new habitats for wildlife. We are committed to supporting a range of species, while making sure that our plans have no unacceptable impact on any existing wildlife on site.

Much of the site is currently made up of land that has been farmed and currently has limited biodiversity, meaning the project provides the opportunity to support habitat restoration.

Our plans include:

- Retaining and enhancing the ecologically valuable ditch network around the site to support waterfowl habitats, as well as water vole, otter and aquatic plants.
- No chemicals will be used in the washing of the solar panels, which will be cleaned with water.
- Habitat creation for winterfowl and waders, including Red List species such as Lapwing and Curlew.
- There are opportunities for sheep grazing which would keep the site in agricultural use, while restoring parts of the site to the UK Priority Habitat, "Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh"



Statkraft's work with Bumblebee Conservation Trust

In the last 100 years bumblebee populations have crashed, with two species becoming extinct in the UK. The land selected for a solar project has typically been dominated by intensive agriculture, stripping the soils of nutrients and the environment of wildlife diversity, yet they have the potential to provide an ideal environment for bee habitats because they can support a range of attractive microhabitats. The variety of dry and wet and shaded and sunny areas, if properly planted and managed, can encourage a wide variety of fauna.

That's why we're working closely with the experts at the Bumblebee Conservation Trust to develop habitat management practices at our solar farms which enhance, create and restore bumblebee habitats. The Bumblebee Conservation Trust provides feedback on habitat, plant species and ground preparation techniques which enable bumblebees to thrive.

Access and construction

Once operational, Little South Solar Farm will attract very little traffic as the facility does not require a permanent on-site presence. We are currently undertaking detailed assessments of potential construction traffic routes, with a focus on minimising impact on local roads.

As part of a planning application, we will prepare a Construction and Environment Management Plan, which will regulate the access to the site and the hours of work. We are keen to hear your views on the most suitable access to the scheme.

Construction of a solar energy farm typically takes 6 to 12 months. In the first six weeks most of the deliveries take place. After the parts have been delivered to site there are fewer vehicle movements as the site is built and then made operational.

We will seek to adopt measures to minimise the construction impact on local communities. These will include a plan to manage deliveries to site, including prescribing routes which construction vehicles and deliveries must follow.



Community benefits

We want to make sure that Little South Solar Farm benefits local people. We will work with the local community to make sure that our plans can make a positive difference to the local area.

Community benefit fund

We will set up a community benefit fund of over £9,900 per year for local projects (based on £200 per megawatt and a project size of 49.9MW). This will be available for local organisations.



Local supply chain

We work with local business groups to increase awareness of opportunities to get involved in the construction and operation of our projects. We want to ensure that local businesses have the opportunity to benefit.



Biodiversity enhancements

Statkraft looks to actively improve the environment around our projects. We welcome your ideas on improving local biodiversity.



Feedback and next steps

Thank you for coming to our consultation event. Our plans have already evolved in response to local feedback, but we want to understand your views in detail as we finalise the plans ahead of the submission of a planning application to Dover District Council.

We will set out our response to all feedback when the planning application is submitted, highlighting where the scheme has changed in response to local views.

Please take the time to fill out a feedback form and leave it with our team today. You can also provide feedback online at www.littlesouth-solar.co.uk. Or by writing to **FREEPOST STATKRAFT**.



APPENDIX 9: EXHIBITION BANNERS

Welcome

Welcome to our public exhibition for Little South Solar Farm. We are consulting the community on our proposals in advance of submitting a planning application for the site. We are here today to discuss our plans, listen to your views and answer your questions.

We began consultations on the site with local stakeholders, including representatives and technical experts, in 2022. We have listened closely to the feedback we received and are presenting updated plans today that respond to the comments we received.



About Statkraft

- The largest generator of renewable electricity in Europe
- A state owned utility with origins in Norwegian hydropower over 125 years ago
- Operating in the UK since 2006
- Offices across the UK
- Development pipeline includes wind, solar, and grid stability services
- Distributed over £2 million to communities near operating renewables projects



The site

The site is located to the North of the A257 and West of the A256. Ash lies to the South West of the site, and Richborough is to the North West.

Why here?

The site has been selected for its suitability for solar development, taking account of the local environment and landscape. Site features include:

- Excellent solar irradiation to generate renewable electricity
- Land which is not of the highest agricultural quality
- A suitable grid connection
- Opportunities for landscape planting and biodiversity enhancement

At the end of the operational life of the solar farm, the land can return to original use once the solar farm is decommissioned.

Site location plan



Indicative Site Layout



LEGEND

<p>18,000* </p> <p>Renewable electricity to power the equivalent of 18,000 homes</p> <p><small>*Based on average household electricity use of 3,000 kWh per year</small></p>	<p>Biodiversity net gain, enhancing nature through providing new habitats</p>
<p>Extensive landscaping and planting to screen the solar farm</p>	<p></p> <p>Landscape buffers to nearby heritage assets</p>
<p>Community benefit fund to support local projects</p>	<p>Use of local suppliers where possible</p>

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Please take the time to fill out a feedback form and leave it with our team today. You can also provide feedback online at www.littlesouth-solar.co.uk. Or by writing to **FREEPOST STATKRAFT**.



Get in touch

Hello, thank you for your interest in this project. We hope you will have your say and complete our survey. This will enable us to gather community views which can shape our plans.

Feedback Survey

Do you think that the country needs to generate more electricity from renewable sources? *

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Do you agree that solar farms are a good way to help achieve this?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Do you think that this site is an acceptable location for a solar farm? *

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Do you have any questions on the project? We will respond to any questions but this won't add you to our mailing list.

Add your question here



OFFICE ADDRESS
19th Floor
22 Bishopsgate
London EC2N 3BQ
United Kingdom

PHONE
0800 772 0668

INTERNET
www.statkraft.co.uk

EMAIL
ukprojects@statkraft.com

23 March 2023

Hello,

We are writing to you today to invite you to participate in a consultation about plans for a new solar farm in your area. Statkraft is preparing to submit a planning application to Dover District Council for a solar energy farm on land at Little South, southwest of Richborough, Sandwich.

The Little South site has been carefully chosen for its potential to deliver clean, renewable electricity direct into the grid network, with a considerable contribution to national and local renewable energy targets. If consented, this 73ha site would consist of up to 49.9MW of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels, estimated to generate electricity equivalent to the needs of around 18,000 homes per year.

By participating in the consultation, you will have the chance to view the proposals, ask any questions you may have, and provide feedback and suggestions on the plans for Little South Solar Farm. You can get involved by visiting our project website at littlesouth-solar.co.uk, where you will be able to find more details on the proposal and the estimated timeline of the project, as well as details on how to get in touch and provide feedback. If you would prefer, you can also contact us direct by emailing ukprojects@statkraft.com, via freephone on 0800 772 0668 or by mail at FREEPOST Statkraft.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and we hope that you will take this opportunity to participate in the consultation and help shape the future of renewable energy in your area.

Yours faithfully,

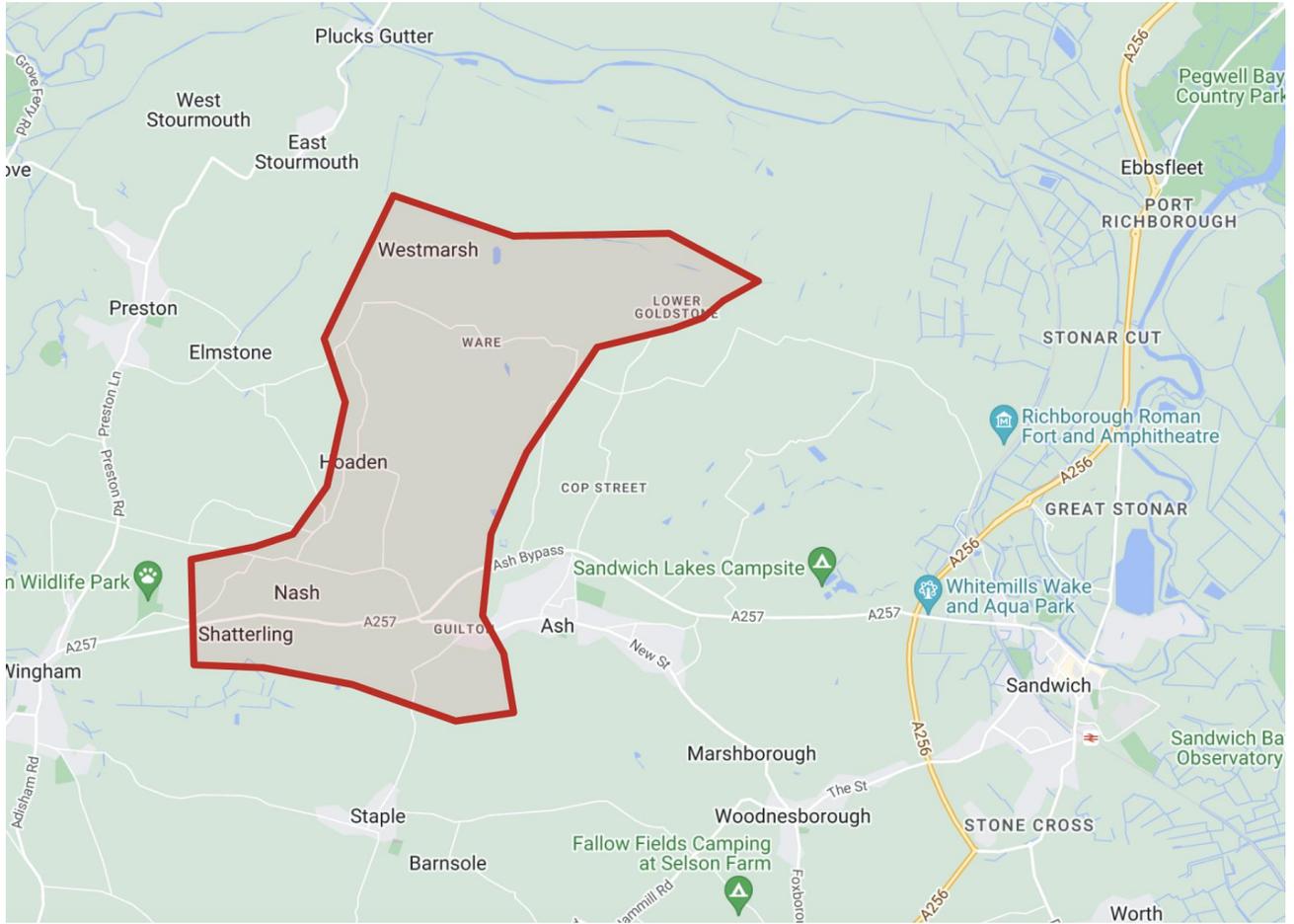
Seumas Skinner

Community Liaison Manager, UK Wind & Solar



Scan here to visit
littlesouth-solar.co.uk

APPENDIX 12: ADDITIONAL MAILING AREA (257 ADDRESSES)





OFFICE ADDRESS

19th Floor
22 Bishopsgate
London EC2N 4BQ
United Kingdom

PHONE

+44 (0) 20 772 0666

INTERNET

www.statkraft.co.uk

EMAIL

ukprojects@statkraft.com

01.09.2023

Little South Solar Farm

Dear Neighbour,

I am getting in touch with an update on Statkraft's plans for a new solar energy farm to the north of the A257, known as Little South Solar Farm. As a reminder, the photovoltaic solar panels would generate electricity, equivalent to the electricity needs of around 18,000 homes each year. You can view our emerging proposals at www.littlesouth-solar.co.uk

Since March, we have been consulting local people on our proposals in advance of submitting a planning application for our plans. In particular, we have been listening to the views of neighbours on East Street and Cooper Street Drove regarding access arrangements to the site.

We want to ensure that there are no unacceptable impacts for local people through the construction of the site, and feedback from residents has informed our emerging plans. We have now developed a proposed access arrangement for the site and are keen to inform you and gather your feedback.

A plan of the proposed access route is attached. The proposal includes:

- A new temporary access route for construction and decommissioning. This will bypass tight corners and several properties on Cooper Street Drove. This road will be returned to agricultural use while the solar farm is operational.
- Site Accesses 1 and 2, shown on the plan, will be used during construction, operations and decommissioning. Construction delivery vehicles will only use Site Access 1.
- Site Access 3, through East Street, will only be used by small maintenance vehicles during the operations of the solar farm and vehicles accessing the Nature Restoration Area.
- East Street will not be used for the construction of the solar farm infrastructure.
- Once the site is operational, there will be very low levels of traffic.

PAGE
1/2

As part of the planning process, we will also prepare an outline Construction and Environment Management Plan and Transport Statement, which will set out further measures to ensure that access to the site through is appropriately managed.

We will shortly be submitting a planning application for Little South Solar Farm. The details of our plans, including access arrangements, will be available for review and comment on Dover District Council's website. In the meantime, if you have any questions you can get in touch with us by emailing ukprojects@stafkraft.co.uk, or by calling 0800 772 0668.

Yours sincerely,



John Wallace

Senior Project Manager, UK Wind and Solar

LITTLE SOUTH SOLAR FARM PUBLIC EXHIBITION - MARCH 2023

Thank you for attending our public exhibition. You can use this form to let us know your views on the proposals. You can post this feedback form back to us at FREEPOST STATKRAFT.

If you have any questions or would like further information, you can contact us by:

 0800 772 0668

 www.littlesouth-solar.co.uk

 ukprojects@statkraft.com



1. What are your initial thoughts on the proposals?

2. Do you agree that the country needs to generate more energy from renewable sources?

Yes

No

Maybe

3. Do you agree that solar farms are a good way to achieve this?

Yes

No

Maybe

4. Do you think this site is an acceptable location for a solar farm?

Yes

No

Maybe

If no, please share your concerns below:

5. Do you have any thoughts on the plans for landscaping and screening?

Please see further questions overleaf

**6. Do you have any thoughts on the plans to increase biodiversity on the site?
Are there additional or different measures which could benefit plants and wildlife
on the site?**

**7. Little South Solar would provide a Community Benefit fund of £200 per MW so
the local community benefits directly from the project. How would you like to see
the funding utilised?**

**8. Do you have any questions or topics you would like more information on?
Please share below:**

**Would you like to receive project updates? If yes, please leave your contact
details below:**

Name:

Address:

Postcode: Telephone:

Email:

Thank you for taking part in our consultation

PRIVACY STATEMENT

Respect for privacy and personal data protection is part of Statkraft's corporate culture. This enables us to maintain an environment where our customers, vendors and other stakeholders can trust Statkraft to process their personal data. Our online privacy statement explains how, why and for how long Statkraft processes your personal data. Go to <http://bit.ly/5KUKp2>

Comments made to Statkraft are not representations to the consenting authority. An application is expected to be submitted in 2023, there will be an opportunity to make representations on that planning application to Dover District Planning Department.



What are your initial thoughts on the proposals? (Public Exhibition Survey and Online Survey)

- I am astonished that this proposal is not being built on brownfield site. The addition of a biodiversity site is very unconvincing. and just a sop to placate local residents.
- It is less intrusive than I thought it could be. I do not want to see onshore wind as it serves city and town dwellers and country folk suffer the degraded environment.
- Loss of farmland, use roof space instead
- Negative, congratulations on the excellent exhibition
- Very concerned about access for walkers, horse riders, residents, and kids. Don't have an issue with the solar panels themselves.
- Its a very large area, going to be visible from a long distance. Lots of farmland - but is it actually a better/ more diverse environment? Probably. Main concern of what happens afterwards: it is going to be treated as brown field?
- The site is too large and will dominate and change the character of this part of rural Kent. It is not in keeping with an area close to the historic agricultural area. Use of agricultural land for 40 years is unacceptable given the current need to import food. I am concerned that although it is clear the site can be returned to agriculture, that its use for power generation will lead to further development.
- Looks ok
- A number of considerations have been made to help protect +preserve the area as a finish project such as heritage + wildlife. The damage + disruption caused over the construction phase has no information. Would be interested to know proposals to protect during construction other than "traffic management".
- Not keen. I don't think its an appropriate site for solar. Needs more consideration for wildlife and wider community. Access increased traffic flow. Is it impacting on public footways?
- Very very concerned about initial site access the roads "leading" to the site are no suitable for heavy vehicles, not to mention we live & ride horses on a daily basis along those roads so a huge safety issue. Feel slightly better about the solar panels themselves no they are a lot shorter
- Solar panels should be on barn/supermarket roofs and new housing roofs. New technology is coming soon. Only works well in summer. Land should be used for agriculture or cattle/sheep pasture - we need the food!
- Panels could be placed on all farm buildings, supermarkets etc. why? Is it so difficult to have 'solar tiles' to blend in with the new buildings? Ie - as in Germany
- Excellent idea. Seems to have minimal impact on the local area
- Brilliant scheme
- Site is far too big, causing the loss of a large piece of workable grazing and arable crop growing land.
- 1) I think the mistakes in the accessibility for the public consultation are inexcusable. The wrong website address, no freepost envelope and no response on given contact details. It looks like it is being made difficult for people to share their thoughts. 2) Lack of accountability mechanisms for biodiversity commitments - what are the processes for continued accountability post proposal? 3) When so much land has been used for housing , why are solar panels not being put on new housing instead?
- Solar is a waste of tax payer money generating little to our energy needs. This is an important loss of grade A agricultural land when we should be producing more not less

home grown food. I would welcome fracking to provide efficient gas which is the ultimate renewable.

- My initial thoughts on proposals are that this is a very good idea. It's better than a power station. The idea of renewable energy is certainly the correct way forward, and because of this, and the fact that 18,000 houses in the local area will be positively affected by this is a good thing. My concerns about the project is that it could be considered as covering an area of outstanding natural beauty (in the locals opinion) and it is very near a grade 1 listed building. This could upset the locals, who could spread negative thoughts in the local community about the project, which could lead to issues. It is useful that grids are already in place at Richborough.
- Very good, I am impressed with the plans and location
- Excellent proposal. Endorses sustainability, environmental, short delivery programme. Opportunity to consider archeological surveys. Grids already in place at richborough 1800 homes will be benefit.
- Really positive +exciting project
- Too much and of no benefit to the village. Destroying wildlife and habitat.
- Site too large, too much impact on ash levels.
- Happy to support
- I understand the need and the reasons for choosing this location. Also encouraged that changes have been made following feedback from DDC. BUT very disappointed about access and effect on residents. Would feel much happier and would not oppose if access off A257 or roundabout was possible
- Good idea provided the site is also grazed (sheep are the obvious animal) I would not support the diversion of land resources from agriculture to energy production but would support 100% a collective + cooperative use of land.
- Potential waste of valuable agricultural land when this country should be aiming to be more self sufficient in food production not less
- How can use of agricultural land, arable and/or livestock be justified when this country needs to produce more HOME GROWN food and much less imported
- Initially I was against as the Ash levels support a variety of species (fauna and flora) and are important for migrating birds. As marshland, they are unlikely to be developed for other uses but whether a solar farm is positive is debatable.
- Generally positive provided it does not negatively impact upon the local environs
- In favour!
- Confusion and unanswered questions
- That is it essential to preserve and enhance biodiversity and habitation, particularly as the site is almost adjacent to mounds wall nature reserve and the area is known for its ground nesting, as well as visiting and permanent water birds. I was please to note your intention to create habitats and hope that this is sincerely followed through.
- So important that there is more renewable energy. This project for a solar farm has a projected life of no more than 40 years, so the land could be reclaimed if necessary
- Too Big! Impact to wild life i.e breeding swans by oor paddock in the lane. Access for construction using East Street is not viable. The lane gets blocked frequently from oil tankers and waste removal. Please explore using main road access
- Covers a very large area. Close to heritage site. Access for construction maintenance. Disruption to land drainage. Not just on the proposed site but to functional agricultural

land in the local vicinity. Total eyesore which will not be enhanced by ambitious biodiversity plans

- Not in favour
- Access is very restricted on roads used by horseriders, children, dog walkers, agricultural machinery. Birds will crash into solar panels on wetlands thinking they are water. Whats happening to the existing wildlife. We need to grow food on farmland!!! Why can't solar panels go on roofs not on good farmland. It will be an eyesore in an area that has beautiful countryside.
- Alarmed at the heigh of panels over 8 feet. On the maps the site appears to cross the Ash boundary - beating the bounds takes place every 4 years. Access and traffic disruption on narrow country lanes.
- It looks O.K.
- What would have been helpful is knowing how you intend to access the area. Access via Hills Court Road & Copper St is not viable due to the width of the road. A access road off the bypass would probably be the way in.
- Although I am interest in an increase in renewable energy I am concern for the impact on the environment that this development would have. We need all our farmland for food production and this part of Kent has had much greenfield site taken for development - 66% in this area alone
- The area is too large and should not include the bottom half which covers the lower ash levels. There needs to be a proper public meetings with experts who can answer on a Q+A basis to an audience. Today's meeting is just PR with no real data being displayed.
- Done in the correct way these schemes are necessary.
- The site is far too large and impact on wildlife too great with little to no consideration made in conservation ad limiting impact during construction for both wildlife and nearby residents. Also including long term visual impact.
- Very impressive and convincing, except that nothing is that good, and these things look awful. Can't we just put the panels on home roofs?
- What a marvelous opportunity to create energy, protect wildlife, and make the most of what nature have given us.
- Access to the site is a concern - ruining narrow roads with large vehicles. Safety of walkers during construction.
- This is the countryside, a greenfield, why develop such as large farm - should be brownfield areas be more suitable? Al new builds should be with solar panels. This area is seeing significant building all the way through to westwood. This is just impacting our open countryside. I moved to the countryside for a reason - not to live in an industrialised area. This is chipping away at local peoples well being. Those building benefit, they do NOT live here.
- I'm against! Why are we building thousands of houses destroying communities and not putting solar panels on all of the roof space in the country.
- Why does it have to be this location? The whole of this part of Kent is becoming covered with buildings / solar panels. Soon we will have no green space left.
- A tragedy
- Should be on homes or commercial buildings
- Very much against these fields being used for a solar farm
- Too big & in the wrong place. The access is totally inappropriate.

- I do not understand - why here? Use wind mills off shire, there are miles of the off-channel-shore that would be a less ugly site. TAKE YOUR IDEA ELSEWHERE!
- Have seen solar farms continuing to use arable land.
- This is the wrong site for many reasons
- Its massive - its in the wrong place. This area is an important area for migrating birds and you are so close to the people that live here. This process has been hidden from local people until now! You say you have solutions, rubbish!
- Excellent idea
- Good idea. The level of detail and past examples of landscaping is poor. Are you working with wildlife centric stakeholders
- solar panels should be put on every new build house, offices, farms etc which would avoid the desecration of land
- I object to this project in this particular location, because of the loss of good agricultural land. There are many alternative sites that could be utilized , located on much poorer land which cannot grow good crops. We cannot afford even more good land to be lost from agriculture; food security is important. There is even less justification for the loss of this land when we find out that this project will not be using Battery storage. New Solar farms must not be developed on sites which cannot utilize battery storage. The operator will be forced to sell their electricity immediately, along with every other existing solar operator that does not have storage. This appears to be foolhardy. Much better to invest your capital on new sites where storage is possible. Thank you.

Your questions and comments (Reply Card)

- 1) Ash Levels is an important wildlife corridor
- 2) The site has breeding yellow hammer skylarks, warblers etc
- 3) The fields are an important feeding ground for curlew (a red-listed bird) in winter and at high tide
- 4) The area is near the sea and an important landing and departure place for birds crossing the channel
- Renewable sources of energy are an answer to current problems, but we feel the site is too extensive. East Kent is becoming over developed and England is the most nature depleted country in the world.
- Build this on a brownfield site. Do not industrialise beautiful countryside and farmland that should carry on being used for food production.
- Solar farms now are too big. This particular proposal would have a major impact on wildlife. There are currently 30 or more swans feeding and roosting around this site, we observe them often from our main bedroom.
- How can you call it 'Little South' solar farm. This is misleading. It will be the size of 102 football pitches. Leave our marshlands alone! Leave the wildlife alone!
- The access point through East-Street is unacceptable due to being single track road, you need to find access from A257

- This site is a place for nature which I visited in May 2018. This site is farmland, grazing sheep /cattle to high welfare standards. Solar needs to be on houses (such as mine) and any other appropriate building. New builds should have solar panels included. Perhaps this is the route for your company, not destroying places used for the production of food. I believe tidal power is the best way forwards. Don't trash ash.
- This is an unsuitable location. It is not a truly green solution. It will be detrimental to our holiday cottage (signal cottage) which is our main source of income. How do you expect us to accept bookings with this development right on our doorstep and within view of us?
- Has an impact assessment on wildlife been done? Why can't the farm be built on brownfield site. Is it true that after the lease is up, the site is then considered brownfield?
- Brilliant source of generating electricity
- Are the streams going to be left as this is important environmentally for many creatures from snails to swans?
- If I knew what subsidies you get I would know if it was economical or not, I do not believe in subsidies!!
- I would like to see increasing use of roof spacer and other free areas before approving additional solar farms
- I would like to know the specific measurable environmental benefits re biodiversity and how this will be achieved.
What is the value of the community benefit fund and what is "the community"? Be specific, don't box tick for planning
- Why has this land been selected?
We need to cut down on high electric prices and stop building so many new houses and damaging our wildlife and environment
- Will the proposed solar farm reduce the food production from the area covered?
- Ash is not the right place to build a massive solar farm (wildlife). You should use wind turbines out at sea or solar panels on new housing or at the industrial discovery park in Sandwich
- This is grade agricultural land, not to be used for wind/ solar farms
- Good agricultural land should not be used. We need crops grown. Industrial sites, roofs on buildings could be used for solar
- There should be more emphasis on solar panels sited on roofs of new-builds. This type of development ruins rural areas and surely has a negative effect on wildlife. Nature is so important but it is being made to pay a high price
- 1) How long is the lease?
2) What happens at the end? Do you just renew the lease?
3) When the lease ends where will you move to then in Ash or near?
4) Are there any more projects hiding away?
- Solar panels on roofs of municipal buildings and new houses, not fields
- Solar farms are destroying our countryside. We choose to live amongst greenfields and those in the cities do not understand how these fields of panels are taking away our heritage.
Solar energy is not renewable. Why not tidal power?
Put in your backyard.
We will never get this green land back again- how is that renewable?
- if you can be bothered to speak to the parish council, you will not get any support from the village. Apparently [illegible] your words, you do not have any team [illegible] to talk to the

council. have to say you have a front sending this.

Oh and your website fails to load this [illegible] and is full of adverts

- Good agricultural land should not be used- also Ash level is iconic countryside/ landscape. I would object if the solar panels reach as far as the northside of Brooke sr or if the access route is via Coope Street Drive. The road is used daily by cyclists, walkers and horse riders. Has access route via the Ash bypass been considered?
- Why can't these panels be placed on industrial roofs, house roofs, garages, etc. Where will the swans + other wintering birds go? What does the village gain from here?
- I am local RVN + director of AHPAW local wildlife rescue. This project will be detrimental to our local wildlife including endangered species
- This site is farmland + countryside- what's left of it! St would be plundering natural wildlife habitat think all the country lanes with all the comings + goings of lorries etc. It is a horrifying concept. This is a wildlife habitat- its not for man to steal.
- This is all sold on a lie. Manmade climate change is not real. It's natural climate change. Reduce actual pollution. Yes. Reduce Co2? Why? Pollute environment to make money out of renewables? Why? Stop pushing the lie
- Does this "farm" impact on access to local footpaths? Will local people get any direct benefit from the "farm" i.e cheaper power?
- The countryside should be kept as such + farming should be provided to feed this nation rather than relying on imports which have far greater negative impact on the climate. If it were possible to stop this project, stop. If it goes ahead it must be low level + the land must revert to countryside
- The plan covers too big an area of farmland
- 1) It says that this will "feed" approx 18,000 homes. Why are we not building new properties and incorporating solar panels on the roofs of new build properties? Instead of taking over the countryside?
2) When do you expect decommissioning of land?
- Solar is best suited for roofs, not large scale projects such as this close to a historic monument. Wind not solar
Wind not solar
- This is the most wrong place for a solar farm.
A) There is already a solar farm on the South of the A257
B. Not another [illegible] on the landscape!!!
C. better uses: growing food, animal grazing (or re-wilding)
- I'm all for renewables but why do you not use 1000s of acres of roof space? Also this site is environmentally very important to rare birds flock in the winter season. Plus I'm a farmer and it is becoming increasingly difficult to find grazing land this will be a big chunk gone
- Impact on mash and migrant birds? Esp as near to Pegwell Bay Reserve
- Is the areas surrounding the proposed solar farm going to have hedges and trees surrounding it so as not to spoil the view?
- How much of generated electric will remain in England etc? Exported power goes to where? And how does UK benefit? How does the surrounding locality benefit?
- Please make sure not visible from A257
- I am in agreement with this development as long as the impact to local wildlife + biodiversity is minimal
- Fully supported
- Go for it.

- This is good agricultural land and also a habitat for a variety of wildlife. It is also very close to an historical Roman site
- I am in favour of this type of energy but not on good farmland as we need all we can get as much is used for housing
- All wildlife always seem to adapt to all the upset. Can't wait to see it up and running
- I think using fertile land for solar panels is not the best thing. Offshore wind turbines are probably the best way to go
- Is this going to be on first class agricultural land?
Not on good agricultural land
- OK- to continue with the environment theme will trees be planted around the perimeter to obscure the site from view?
- the site in question is unsuitable in the winter months as it is a swan haven and a home for many wintering birds and wildlife. Please find somewhere more suitable. All the houses that have been built in ash, not one of them have a solar panel. It's about time developers started putting them on new homes
- This is rich valuable farmland for growing food! Also a landing place for migrating birds and a valuable natural area. Yes to solar but not here. Put it on roofs of houses/ factories/ schools
- I feel the size of the project particularly so close to an important archaeological site is too great and uses up valuable agricultural land
- This is a very peaceful, natural area, which although farmed, is also very extensively used/ inhabited by a very broad range of wildlife including migrating birds. It is currently one of the most attractive areas of natural beauty in the area of Kent. This proposed solar development would have a terrible impact on the wildlife (especially during the phase of construction) and would permanently destroy the natural beauty of this area. Surely there must be better alternative sites?
- Yes I think that this is a good idea. I look forward to seeing the project commence. Many thanks
- I am in favour of using potential arable land/ natural environment areas to achieve "net zero" as quickly as possible. We can then look to reducing these systems as new, more long-term solutions are feasible
- I agree that we need solar farms but so much green space is being swallowed up with building sites etc. This area is a nice green space + a popular walking area for locals. It will be a shame to lose it.
- Apologies for not attending the "have your day". I am sure there is never the perfect location for a project like this, but it has to be the best of a bad lot. There is already a solar farm on the opposite side of the A257!!

If no, please share your concerns below: (Public Exhibition Survey regarding prior question Do you think this site is an acceptable location for a solar farm?)

- Use brownfield site.
- Loss of agricultural land. Gov should be encouraging growth of crops + self sufficiency rather than rely on other sources of food.
- Ash has 200 new houses. None has solar panels. The best place for solar capture is on top of buildings. Less convenient for you, much better for the community.
- See above. Solar panels should be installed on roofs of existing industrial areas not occupying agricultural land.

- More focus on small scale + home solar panels so households have better sustainability. Not reliant on energy providers supplying overpriced fuel
- This site is a prime green site. It upholds significantly high quality agricultural land as it is on a sand belt with high nutritional value. I believe the site should be used either for farming or re-wilding purposes. Needs to have more considerations for drainage.
- There are so many houses in the area & sadly more and more being built, can solar panels be put on roofs of houses/buildings
- We are already connected to France via undersea cables
- Enough sites in this area. access poor at east street
- We need farmland
- Too big. Access is limited.
- Only a maybe due to potential roman road but thats not really reason enough not to pursue this scheme in my opinion.
- The site is subject to flooding. Are the ditches you propose large enough?
- Access (see above)
- Much too large a development
- I have major concerns over drainage of the site, this will need continual management. Access is a major problem.
- I say maybe because I am concerned about the nature biodiversity impacts.
- Will it take agricultural land out of food production.
- Too close to heritage site, disruption to land drainage.
- Its not low grade agricultural land as stated, far too big an area which will have impact on visuals
- See my opinions above!!
- Too large an area for too long
- The site is a valuable agricultural land and is very close to Richborough - a future monument of natural importance
- The bottom half is situated directly in the wildlife corridor which is the River Stour Valley of Ash levels, and it preserves lots of white swans and curlew and geese in the winter time.
- As stated above
- We could cover the entire country in solar panels, but would we be any happier?
- Whilst understanding the topography of the site - flat and open - suggests this would be ideal, my concern relates to the fact that this is open marshland, it is a greenfield site. We live in the countryside for a reason
- I do not believe that using Green field sites is the answer use roof space.
- As above
- View from our house + garden. Noise would be utterly intrusive. Thatch cottage grade 2 listed cooper st
- Good agricultural growth, excellent crops
- Solar panels should go on municipal buidlings Agricultural , industrial and new build housing not filed of historical value and landscape. Access is a no no in country lanes
- This is land which can and should grow food
- You are taking a beautiful landscape and turning into nothing but black plastic/glass
- Due to the large size of the area, the people who live very near by. Also the effects to wildlife
- The access must not be through the very narrow road at East Street

- Land to the South of this site is quite degraded

Do you have any thoughts on the plans for landscaping and screening?

- It is a thoughtful addition to the proposed, but overall I do not consider this site is suitable.
- No, apart from the access that locals are very angry about.
- Must be done.
- Unnecessary if there are no solar panels
- Lots of swans live on the marshes - how will this affect them?
- It needs to be native/local species and as much of it as possible . Pleased to see height has been reduced.
- The reduced height is an improvement and save landscaping planned but this site will still be visible and intrusive - especially from the North of the river (A299)
- Wildlife, bees, fish
- The preservation during construction is unclear, so is the reinstatement for any losses. Collaborate with conservation trusts +screening are good, additional sheeps
- There are very minimal provisions. Screening doesn't seem sufficient.
- As long as it doesn't interfere too much with the current birds and wildlife. There are up to 22 swans who nest out that way for some years
- Tree planting, sheep grazing
- If it goes ahead, I hope not, then as much landscaping as possible
- No concerns
- No as long as its not ugly
- Looks good what is proposed but its whether you actually do it.
- Reduce the site. Restore more land for biodiversity
- No
- Im sure you will work with expert bodies
- All as covered in the exhibition are excellent ideas and well thought.
- Rubbish!
- Native indigenous plants no conifers
- Excellent
- Important to use range of planting & indigenous species - talk to local people - there is a biodiversity group / working party on the parish council.
- The creation of permanent screens - not just for the duration of the farm. Who maintains these screens in future decades.
- Window dressing
- Any landscaping/ screening is positive as long as it is also a benefit for biodiversity.
- Screening is a critical aspect of the project. If it is not visible outside of the site all the better.
- Screening is more offensive than panels
- Not enough being done to compensate for loss of wildlife habitat and migratory birds.
- More biodiversity if possible. Not too many reeds as these could block ditches.
- landscaping and management plans look impressive. The developers must follow through. Your plans look promising if carried out effectively.
- Sounds ok

- I live at REDACTED I will be severely impacted by noise and visually from the farmhouse. Site should be reduced and moved towards A256
- Reed beds - dangerous - slow water flow. Landscaping and screening plans are often not fulfilled or maintained.
- No the site is fine as it is
- Don't build the awful eyesore there. It's anything but "Little South" its bloody massive!!!
- Hedges for birds and wildlife.
- Not enough information, what happens about the wild life thats already there.
- Trees and hedges should be placed to screen this development and provide habitat for difference species.
- Not to build it at the Ash Levels. Build it on the farmland nearby which is not critical for wildlife.
- Inadequate.
- If you cover it too well the panels will be in the shade! If you don't cover it enough, it will be an eyesore.
- It is such a secluded site that I doubt much screening would be required.
- More screening the better, especially when viewed from Richborough
- The proposals to screen the site will again impact the view of the landscape with planting that would not have naturally been available. The proposal is deceptive, making it seem the panels will not be visible but the closer to the site you get from different angles they will be seen...
- Leave the site as it is!
- Wildflower, hedging
- they will help
- Any landscaping/ screening will change the biodiversity and not benefit existing wildlife
- Leave the place alone. Go elsewhere
- All good, as it improves what is already there
- Pleased to approve them +agree
- No
- Would be good to see a scheme you have done before to show how effective the landscaping is.
- I would have thought that that area would have been more suitable for a solar array.

Do you have any thoughts on the plans to increase biodiversity on the site? Are there additional or different measures which could benefit plants and wildlife on the site? (Public Exhibition survey)

- Considering the area given to biodiversity in relation to the overall site of the site for solar panels, it is fairly substantial.
- No doubt this will affect the existing diverse wildlife which will require special measures to ensure they are not adversely affected.
- You have enough money to have professional advice
- I am happy to leave this to the experts, although I would like to see a managed wildflower meadow
- I agree there is likely to be an increase in biodiversity compared to use as monoculture. However this land is usually grazed.
- More plant and wildlife

- 6-12 months construction period is a long time causing disturbance to local habitats and wildlife. I'm not convinced that the proposals could repair the potential long term damage.
- More of the site should be given for wildlife. Wildlife does not thrive in shaded areas so the majority of the site is not beneficial. Do the view of solar panels affect wildlife?
- Will construction take into account nesting, migration, and "breeding time".
- Pasture use/crops
- I understand wildlife can thrive - fences keep out foxes and nurture birds.
- No - I'll leave that to the experts
- Otters? Really? Keep the land grazed under the panels
- Greater land area restored. Regular monitoring of impact on species numbers. Chemical pollution monitoring
- Ensure that areas of wetlands are preserved and sustained for animals and migrating birds, and make sure habitats are not destroyed.
- I believe you have consulted correctly
- Ensure that habitats are made in the wetlands for migrating birds and resident swans etc.
- Don't build it
- Nest boxes for birds. Hedgehog houses
- Sheep grazing, make use of the ground/ land under for nature
- See point 5, long term maintenance plan.
- Times grazing so that the ground cover has various stages of growth and development available at any given time.
- Yes, if it can be improved/ protected. Sometimes applications can 'talk the talk' but once consent is given it sometimes doesn't happen!
- Not knowledgeable enough on this topic, but anything that positively impacts on biodiversity should be good for the local environment.
- A very good plan and important... If the plans to increase biodiversity ever happen
- bigger variety of tree species.
- The enhancing biodiversity plans look impressive and must be sincerely and sensitively followed through. I am concerned about bat corridors. As it is a wetland habitat migrating birds could well mistake panels for water.
- If this goes ahead I request willow fencing around the whole property boundary of REDACTED
- The site is not fully in intensive agriculture at present. There are many grazing marshes with well developed biodiversity. Often interfacing techniques disrupt the natural habitat, flora, fauna, solar panels local eye sore
- Leave it alone
- Keep it as it is
- Hedges
- Not at present
- Seedy wildflower meadows and waterways
- Without knowing exactly what the plans are i.e. what areas will you drain to enable the land to be firm enough for panel buildings. Resultant change in water tables/flows - It is very hard to provide suggestions. Once known then yes happy to provide feedback
- Reduce planned solar farm size to 1/3. Remaining to be gifted to national trust and turned into a reserve. Talks to be had with local building developers in order to have panels fitted to all local new builds.

- Can you increase biodiversity if you are pulling up mud in the shadow. Can you grow wildflowers under solar panels?
- Bio diversification is ALWAYS good
- No
- The overall site size, the small area that is selected for 'biodiversity'. I don't see the presentation indicate the negative view of the installation and the impact that will have on the existing biodiversity.
- No solar site
- Don't know
- Very unlikely to increase biodiversity
- Any will be minimal, as will results
- Keep it as it is
- What is the long term management plan?
- You cannot do anything to compensate for what you will vandalise. Think again
- Sheep grazing
- Actively work with local wildlife trust. Who will manage it once you are gone or is the land/project sold?
- Mitigation strategies seem to be quite good

Little South Solar would provide a Community Benefit fund of £200 per MW so the local community benefits directly from the project. How would you like to see the funding utilised? (Public Exhibition Survey)

- Purchasing land primarily for increasing biodiversity
- Money should be used to enhance the local outside spaces for public amenity.
- Community resources, schools, recreational parks
- Provide solar panels across the parish - starting with those of public benefit (village hall, scout hut, sheltered housing, vicarage). Why not more funding?
- In any way possible to help protect what little is left of the local environment. There are bits that haven't been built on already. An extensions to the Sceek wood perhaps?
- Set up a trust so that any land be returned to agriculture
- Ash village
- Community spaces. Park/recreation. Picnic benches. Tree planting. Although the community benefit seems considerably low given the scale of the site. More benefits locally and not towards Norwegian state owned company
- DIRECT TO THE VILLAGE!
- Footpath maintenance
- Improving biodiversity and footpaths
- Improving roads when the project is finished, local children's groups. Local wildlife groups.
- Restoration of biodiversity/ energy cost assistance for vulnerable peoples. This is not a lot of funding.
- Funding should be used to help sustain the local area, for example planting trees and making sure that habitats and animal populations are not impacted. Also, the community benefit fund could put money into the local community through helping local businesses which would then make local more interested in the plans, as they have personal gains
- On Local projects within a 3 mile radius

- Funding to be used in sustaining woodland and wildlife habitats tree planting.
- On other environmental schemes would be lovely
- Can we trust you?
- Planting biodiversity around village
- There are a no of projects which are ongoing including upkeep and maintenance.
- Some form of nature group/ conservation group/ school/ youth organisation lin perhaps tied in to my comments in box 5
- More window dressing
- for biodiversity/ nature improvement projects. Perhaps educational talks +workshops
- Support of local organisations, improvement / maintainance of local footpaths, new local facilities
- Maintain footpath
- For the small amount being proposed for he community benefit fund it should be decided by the Parish Council.
- To help community assets and projects e.g. improve playground equipment. Recreation ground.
- For green projects locally.
- I am sceptical as to whether this money would ever materialise. Sugar coating to sweeten a bitter pill.
- Bollocks! We won't see any benefit from it!!!
- I would like the parish council to have overall charge of this
- By great councils
- Projects could be established to support an educational programme to inform people on biodiversity and to learn how to improve habitats.
- To create more wildlife areas for birds, plants + insects for people to enjoy
- I'm not sure, but a great idea
- Support for local wildlife projects, schools, doctors.
- Which local community is this?
- Majority rules for me
- Liason with local parish council to establish priorities
- This is small change when the people living here already have an open countryside to enjoy!
- Keep your money
- Depends who it is paid to and if we have any input. Local groups/ clubs could benefit.
- Fill in potholes, not putting up more footpath signs
- I wouldn't like to benefit from this money
- What does this actually mean in real terms?
- Ash is expanding rapidly - we may need extensions to the school, or possibly a new village hall
- The only way to get me to accept this vandalism is to provide free electric for this locality.
- Environmental projects
- As all the development is all in the Parish of Ash I assume that all this money will come to Ash
- Money better used to enhance on site biodiversity
- Every effort must be made to ensure the well being of existing wild life on the site.

Do you have any questions or topics you would like more information on? (Public exhibition survey)

- Will this site be returned to agricultural standard, we don't want this land to be designated as 'brownfield' at the end.
- Archeology updates - if it does go ahead, what about disturbance to folks who live in east street during building. Compensation? What happens to the site after 40 years
- Access
- The main concern is what happens afterwards, I would need reassurance that the land would not be built on
- Do you sell direct to the grid? Do you have potential to store electrical charge during the day, to discharge at night? What do you sell a kWh for, what do we pay from energy provider? Will the land be owned or leased by yourselves? What is the life span of equipment?
- Drainage plans. How the money will get to village bumble plans. Screening and landscaping
- My main concern is the access
- No
- Our address is not local, but we own land next to the solar farm site.
- How will you make public consultation more accessible in future? How will feedback be incorporated.
- Will be interested to hear about the outcome of the excavation of the site
- How soon will you give up the idea
- Access, wildlife habitat loss
- Final access route. How will cables between block go over/under ditches
- Why there is no planned battery storage outside? Will the energy generated directly benefit local residents?
- Are there any ecological benefits to our area?
- Hedges and definitive area plan showing parish boundary
- Access
- What is happening to the footpaths that we currently use to cross the land? Where will the swans graze - they like arable land in winter not scrapes? How are you going to keep the grass low without using sheep all year round? How are you going to dredge the ditches out each year?
- No!
- How will the panels impact the marshland during really wet periods. Will they channel the water into swampy areas. How will this be managed -impact on surrounding farms. Construction traffic, how will this be managed on the A257 which has a poor record for accidents, with slow vehicles pulling onto an open speed limit road.
- Not at the moment
- Noise level
- The impact on local residents during construction. e.g. how many lorries a day for how long?
- Concern over access on narrow rural lanes. Would expect these to be reinstated to a high standard.
- What benefit will compensate for the loss of such a chunk of the garden of england. How would you like it in your garden?
I just hope there is no project

