



ARCUS

**STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
NINFIELD GREENER GRID PARK**

JULY 2021



Prepared By:

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This Statement of Community Engagement ('SCE') has been prepared on behalf of Statkraft UK LTD ('the Applicant') as part of an application for full planning permission for development on land southwest of the Ninfield National Grid Substation at Kilnwood Farm ('the Site'). The Development comprises of the construction of a Greener Grid Park with energy storage and grid balancing equipment, along with associated infrastructure, landscaping, and access. Full details of the application are provided in the Planning, Design and Access Statement and the suite of planning drawings.

The Applicant has taken an open and inclusive approach and carried out an extensive pre-application consultation with the local community and elected representatives.

This SCE sets out the details of the consultation carried out by the Applicant in the preparation of the planning application, the issues raised by consultees during the consultation and steps taken by the Applicant to address these issues. Where possible, suggestions made by consultees have been incorporated in the amended final plans as the project has progressed.

2 CONSULTATION PROCESS

2.1 Consultation Scope

The main consultation period was between 27th January and 23rd February 2021, with further correspondence with consultees continuing throughout spring 2021. In order to comply with Covid-19 social distancing requirements, the consultation was conducted remotely using a variety of communication methods to reach the widest possible audience.

In brief, the consultation exercise incorporated the following elements:

- Letters to local residents;
- Letters and emails to Ninfield Parish Council, and also to the neighbouring Parish Council of Catsfield;
- Letters and emails to Wealden District Council Ward Members;
- Consultation website with information on the proposal and an online question & answer/feedback form;
- Phone line, postal address and email address for enquiries and consultation responses; and
- Follow up correspondence with consultees.

The scope of this consultation was discussed and agreed with the Wealden District Council Case Officer on 15th February 2021.

Each of these elements is explained in further detail in the sections below.

2.2 Consultation Letters

Consultation letters and notices were posted to 164 households and 13 businesses in the vicinity of the Site on January 27th 2021, as shown on the consultation area map at Appendix 1. Consultation letters and notices were also posted and emailed to the following recipients:

- Ninfield Parish Council;
- Catsfield Parish Council (the Site lies within the boundaries of Ninfield Parish but near the boundary with Catsfield Parish);
- Fletching Parish Council;

- Uckfield Town Council;
- Member of Parliament for Bexhill and Battle;
- Councillors for the Catsfield and Crowhurst Ward;
- Councillors for the Wealden East Ward; and
- Wealden District Councillors for the Herstmonceux and Pevensey Levels.

The letters contained a general overview of the type, purpose, location, and scale of the proposed Development, as well as the consultation website address, contact phone number and email address for the project team.

Enclosed with the letter and consultation notice were a Location Plan, feedback/comments form and freepost envelope to make it as easy as possible for consultees to respond. Copies of the letters and enclosures are included at Appendix 2.

2.3 Consultation Website

A consultation website was prepared and made available for the duration of the consultation period at the following address: www.statkraft.co.uk/ninfield. The website provides general information about the Development and features a brochure (included at Appendix 3) and a 'Frequently Asked Questions' page as well as short videos explaining the type of development proposed, the challenges facing the grid, and the need for this type of development to stabilise the grid.

The website was viewed 246 times before the end of the consultation period. The website remains available for members of the public to keep informed with project news and communicate with the project team

3 CONSULTATION RESPONSES

11 responses were received to the consultation in total, with 4 responses received by email and/or online response form, 6 reply cards sent by post and one phone call.

The majority of the responses were received from local residents requesting further information about the Development and several respondents wished to be kept updated on the progress of the project. One message of support was received, with no outright objections to the Development. Ninfield Parish Council engaged with the consultation and sent a list of queries to which the Applicant provided detailed responses.

The queries received during the consultation and the Applicant's responses were posted on the 'Frequently Asked Questions' page of the website to share information widely with other consultees.

The main queries and issues raised by respondents were as follows:

- The need for the Development in light of the approved battery scheme to the east of the substation;
- Construction timescales;
- Traffic volumes and management during construction;
- Wildlife protection and biodiversity enhancements;
- Appearance of infrastructure;
- Access entrance details and gate;
- Impact on trees and hedges;
- Health & safety and emergency response measures;
- Lighting levels; and
- Impact on residential amenity and noise.

The Applicant responded to all queries received, where respondents indicated that they wished to be contacted. As a result of feedback received during the consultation, the position of the entrance gate was set back further from Potman's Lane. In addition, further information was provided in the Planning, Design and Access Statement and Statement of

Need regarding the purpose of the Development and the technical reports have assessed potential cumulative impacts with the consented battery scheme.

Details related to the queries listed above are provided in the Planning, Design and Access Statement, Transport Statement, Biodiversity Metric Assessment, Landscape Mitigation Plan, Arboricultural Report and Planning Drawings. Further information on construction will be provided in a Construction Transport Management Plan to be secured by condition.

4 CONCLUSION

A thorough pre-application consultation with local communities and elected members was undertaken prior to the submission of the planning application. The consultation was designed to be as accessible as possible by presenting information in a variety of formats and inviting feedback by freepost, email and phone.

The Applicant responded to any queries or comments received during the consultation period and the responses were taken into account in the preparation of this application.

Appendix 1 – Consultation Area Map



GEOLIST© REPORT

To: Statkraft Uk Ltd, Alison Hood

Selection ID: 5275

Date: 19/01/2021

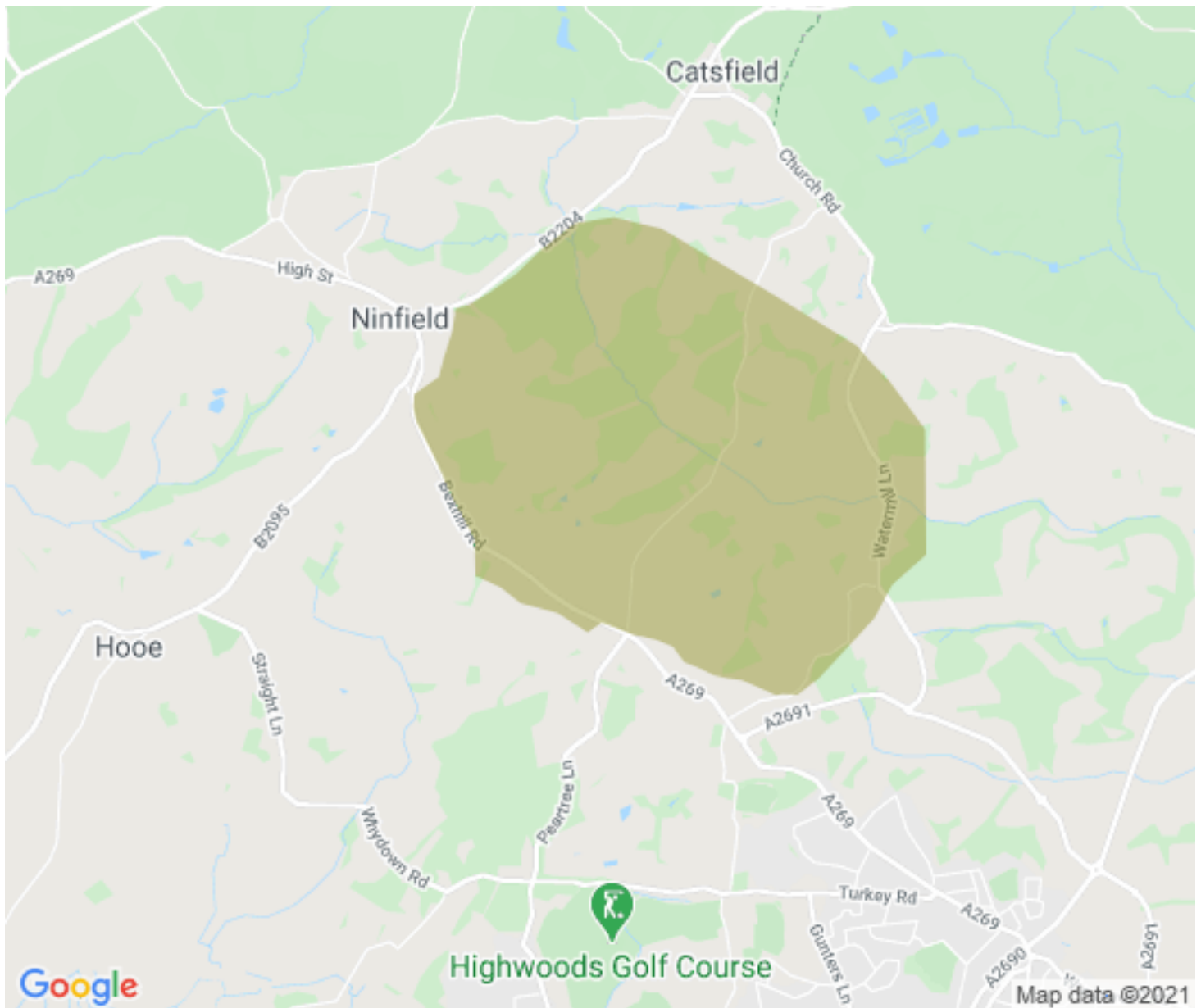
Valid: 21 Days

YOUR SELECTION

Selection Name: Ninfield NH
Selection Type: Polygon
Created By: Alison Hood
Selection Size: 1.96 square miles
Status: Not Selected

YOUR COUNTS

Households 164
Businesses 13
Total 177



www.geolist.co.uk

Appendix 2 – Letters to residents

POSTAL ADDRESS:
Statkraft UK Ltd
41 Moorgate
4th Floor
London
EC2R 6PP

-- INTERNET:
www.statkraft.co.uk

E-MAIL:
ukprojects@statkraft.com
--

YOUR REF./DATE:

OUR REF.:

PLACE/DATE:
27 January 2021

Notice of Planning Application: Helping the Grid Go Carbon Free near Ninfield

Dear Resident,

We would like to inform you of our interest in an area of land to the south of the Ninfield National Grid Substation to install a Greener Grid Park. A pre-application consultation event is now being held for those interested in finding out more information, ask questions and comment.

Introducing Greener Grid Parks: vital to the decarbonisation of our energy system

Our Greener Grid Parks are a collection of small buildings, usually located near substations, containing innovative technology designed to provide grid stability and increase the amount of renewable energy penetrating the grid.

National Grid have published information on the regions across Great Britain most in need of grid stability, and the south of England has been identified. The Ninfield National Grid substation has the capacity to accommodate this complex technology which will significantly contribute to the UK's zero carbon energy target by 2050.

The site is located to the west of Potman's Lane, and south of the existing Ninfield National Grid Substation. The site has been selected as it is close to Ninfield National Grid Substation, which prevents the need for lengthy transmission cables to and from the substation, minimising the impact on the local landscape.

The Development will incorporate a landscape scheme with hedge and tree planting. The existing pond to the east of the Development will remain untouched and an additional pond installed to the north of the Site. These features will deliver visual screening, enhance the biodiversity value of the Site and provide a sustainable drainage system to reduce local flooding.

We intend to apply to Wealden District Council for planning permission, and this application will include a full set of planning drawings, a planning, design and access statement and technical reports that will be publicly available.

Find Out More, and Take Part

At the present time, our consultation will be held remotely. We have launched a project website to engage with the local community, but there are also other ways to contact us:

Website: www.statkraft.co.uk/ninfield
Post: write to us at "Freepost Statkraft" (no stamp required)
Email: ukprojects@statkraft.com
Phone: 0800 772 0668

This consultation period runs to 23 February 2021 and we welcome any comments or queries. Please refer to the further information below, and our website for more details.

Yours sincerely,



Lucy Kent

Senior Project Manager, Grid Services

Further Information

About Statkraft

Statkraft is Europe's largest generator of renewable energy and has 4,000 employees in more than 17 countries. In the UK, the Group own and develop wind power, hydropower, solar and greener grid projects. Statkraft has been granted planning consent for Greener Grid Parks in other strategic locations, including Liverpool and Moray, Scotland.

About the Development

The Development is set to support National Grid with their ambition to manage a carbon-free grid by 2025 and ties into the UK's commitments to achieve NetZero status by 2050. As an innovative technology, the Development will provide a flexible and rapid release of electricity to allow the operator of the National Grid network to regulate electricity supply and demand without greenhouse gas emissions. Conversely, the Development will also have the capacity to absorb electricity quickly which will allow for the oversupply of the grid to be managed.

Development Components

The Development will include the following elements, as shown on the enclosed Plan:

- Energy management system building containing grid balancing equipment and E-houses
- Containerised battery storage units
- Inverters
- Transformers
- Coolers
- Control room
- Switchgear container
- Emergency diesel generator (for back-up use only)
- Security fencing and fire wall
- Security columns with CCTV cameras and motion censored lights
- Access track
- Landscape enhancements (e.g. hedge and tree planting, new pond)

Key benefits

As well as supporting the transition to renewable energy and balancing the grid, the Development will also deliver the following benefits:

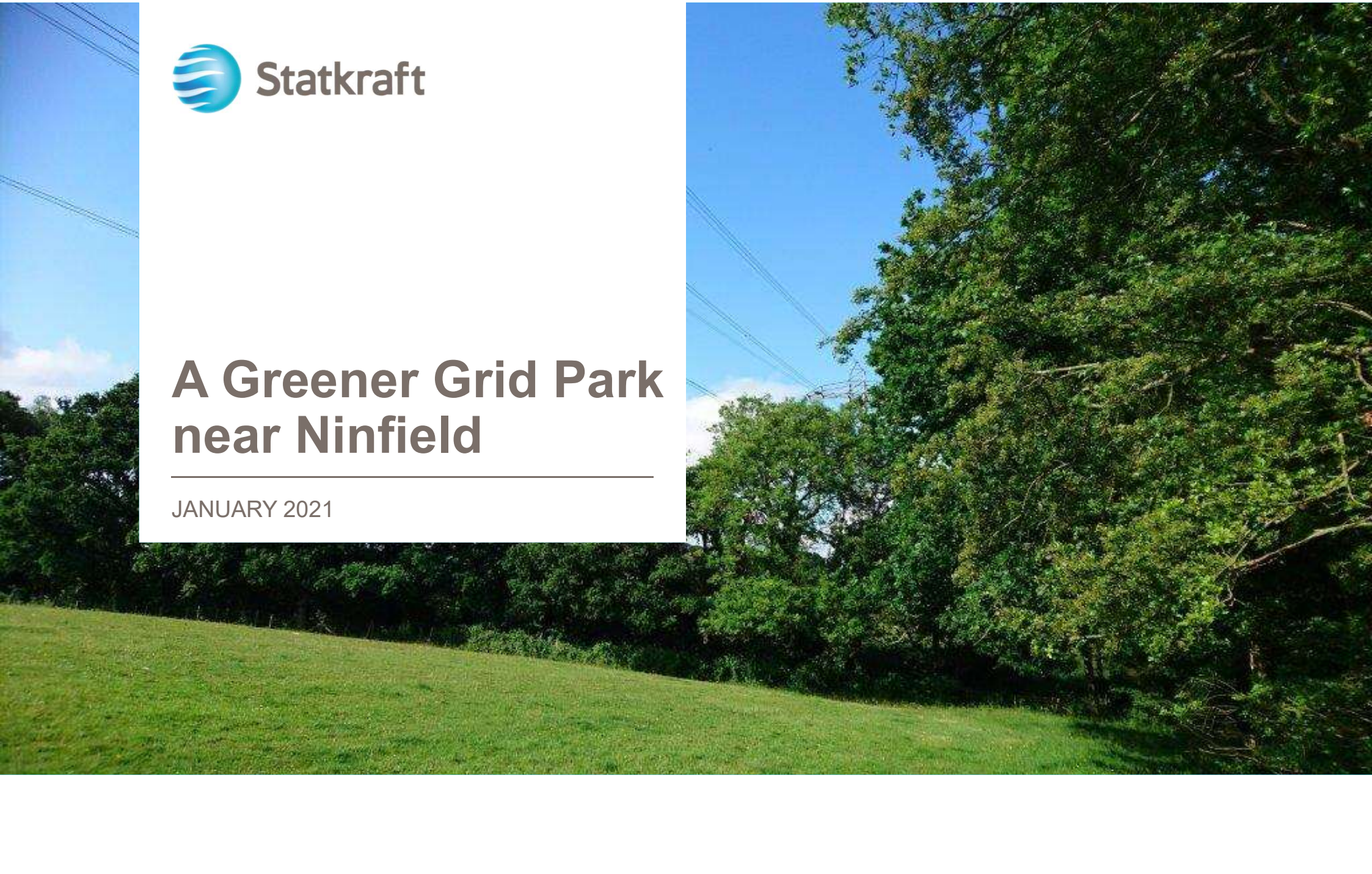
- Retention of existing trees, hedges and pond;
- Additional landscaping including hedge and tree planting around the site boundaries;
- The creation of a new pond to store surface water;
- A significant 'net gain' in biodiversity as a result of the landscape scheme and habitat enhancement scheme;
- 'Betterment' in terms of surface water drainage, which means that more surface water will be stored on site and this water will be released more slowly into the surrounding environment than the current situation. This will benefit the surrounding area, which is vulnerable to flooding as a result of surface water run-off.

Appendix 3 – Consultation Brochure



A Greener Grid Park near Ninfield

JANUARY 2021



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Ecology

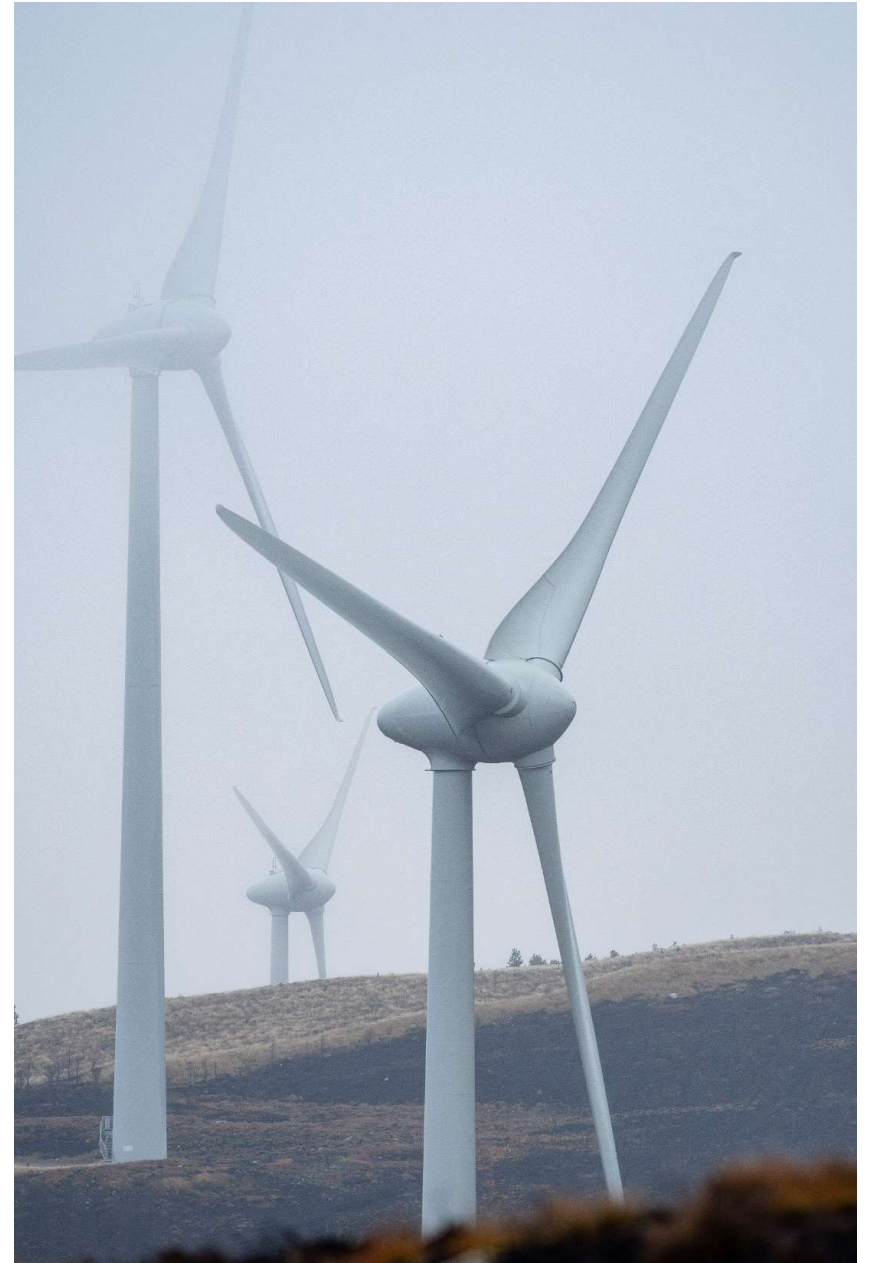
Landscape

Design

Other Issues

[Next Steps](#)

Have your Say





About Us

GREENER GRID PARK - NINFIELD

About Statkraft

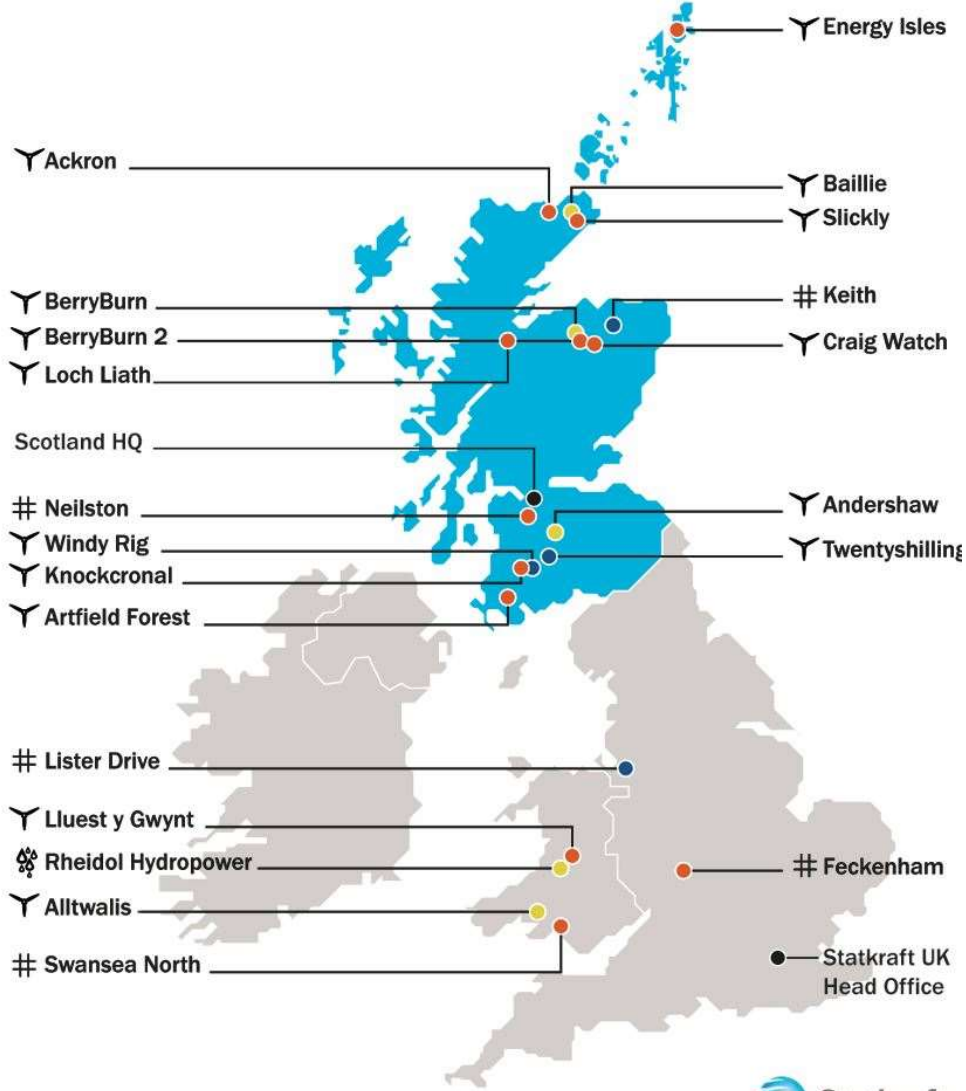
- Europe's largest renewable energy producer
- A state owned utility, with origins in Norwegian hydro power 125 years ago
- 4,000 employees in 17 countries
- Operating in the UK since 2006



Statkraft in the UK

- Currently generating wind and hydro power
- Acquired 100% of Solarcentury in November 2020
- 100% own Bryt Energy, supplying clean electricity to British businesses
- Recent expansion into vehicle charging infrastructure in UK
- Contracts awarded by National Grid in 2020 to provide grid stability services

- Operational
- Construction
- Development
- Offices
- Y Wind
- # Greener Grid Park™
- ⚙ Hydro



The Development Team

Senior Project Manager:

- Lucy Kent

Project Support:

- Grid and planning colleagues based in Glasgow and London office
- Arcus (York), a leading environmental, planning and engineering consultancy

Committed to playing a part in
delivering a net zero future



About our Greener Grid Parks

A pioneering project to help achieve zero carbon emissions

Keeping the power network stable has become more challenging as more renewable energy is generated.

That has meant National Grid has at times been forced to shut down wind farms and run gas power stations even when there is more than enough renewable energy to meet demand on the GB grid, to keep the system stable.

***But with more Greener Grid Parks
that will no longer be necessary in future.***

About our Greener Grid Parks

A pioneering project to help achieve zero carbon emissions

Large electrical machines with flywheels can replace the spinning turbines of a traditional power station but without emitting any carbon dioxide.

It means the GB's energy system will be able to handle increasing amounts of renewable energy without relying on coal and gas fired turbines.

That's why our projects that increase renewables on the grid are called Greener Grid Parks.



Planning & Development Management

GREENER GRID PARK - NINFIELD

Planning

This consultation is the starting point to a potential planning application to Wealden District Council for a Greener Grid Park near Ninfield.

Ninfield



If an application is made, it will include consideration of all relevant policies within the Wealden District Local Plan.

Project Timeline

Site Selection

Extensive research to identify suitable sites.

No public engagement is carried out during this time because the site may not pass the criteria required.

Submit Application

Accompanied by a comprehensive Planning, Design and Access Statement and Environmental Assessments.

All reports and assessments are made publicly available.

Construction

Typically takes 18 months.

Planning conditions are used to manage elements of construction.

Pre-Planning

Request the view of Wealden District Council on the level of study required. Contact local Parish Councils and consultees such as the Lead Local Flood Authority.

Decision

Application is decided by Wealden District Council.

Operation

Managed by a regionally based maintenance team. Operations are controlled by detailed planning conditions.



Environmental Considerations

GREENER GRID PARK - NINFIELD

Ecology

Studies of the site are ongoing, to assess any potential impacts. The development will also deliver the following benefits:

- Retention of existing trees, hedges and ponds.
- Additional landscaping and habitat enhancements including hedge and tree planting around the site boundaries.
- Native species selected for biodiversity benefits.
- A significant 'net gain' in biodiversity as a result of the landscape and habitat enhancement scheme

Landscape

Assessments are being carried out to ensure the development does not have an unacceptable impact

These assessments would be included in any planning application and will provide comprehensive information as to the appearance of the proposed development.

Following a landscape and visual site survey and assessment, a planting plan will be produced to ensure visual impacts are mitigated as far as reasonably practicable.

Other methods such as boundary treatment and colour of the infrastructure can be used to reduce the visual impacts further.

Suggestions on the colour of fencing and buildings is welcomed to help blend in with surroundings.



Design

- We are designing the project layout with consideration of the known constraints near the site such as woodlands and heritage assets.
- A draft site layout has been produced for comment.
- Images would be provided alongside any planning application, showing visualisations of what the project would look like.



Other issues taken into account

Sustainable drainage measures including an attenuation pond will increase the amount of surface water which can be stored on site. Therefore there will be less surface water runoff from the site than is currently the case. The Greener Grid Park equipment will be located in Flood Zone 1 (low risk).

Ninfield



A transport statement will be undertaken prior to submission of a planning application.



Health, Safety, Security and Environment (HSSE)

Statkraft are committed to preventing incidents and promoting a workplace without injury or harm.



- Statkraft follow The Construction Design and Management 2015 regulations
- The projects goal is to have zero recordable accidents
- HSSE File is created for each project including the Emergency Plan
- Fire Safety Strategy is created for the operation of the project
- Risk Assessments are updated through the projects lifetime

Next Steps

GREENER GRID PARK – NINFIELD



**The project website
will be kept updated
throughout the
development.**

**The consultation period
ends on 23 February 2021.**



Have your Say...

Online

www.statkraft.co.uk/ninfield

Email

ukprojects@statkraft.com

Phone

0800 772 0668

Post

Freepost Statkraft (no stamp required)