



# CLEVE HILL SOLAR PARK

**Phase One: Community Project Update**

January 2018

[www.clevehillsolar.com](http://www.clevehillsolar.com)



**CLEVE HILL**  
SOLAR PARK

# 1. Introduction

Cleve Hill Solar Park Ltd are proposing to develop a solar park on the north Kent coast, at a site located roughly one mile northeast of Faversham, three miles west of Whitstable and situated closest to the village of Graveney.

The project could have a generating capacity exceeding 350 Megawatts (MW). This would be enough to power approximately 110,000 homes a year – roughly the equivalent number of households for the Swale and Canterbury districts combined.

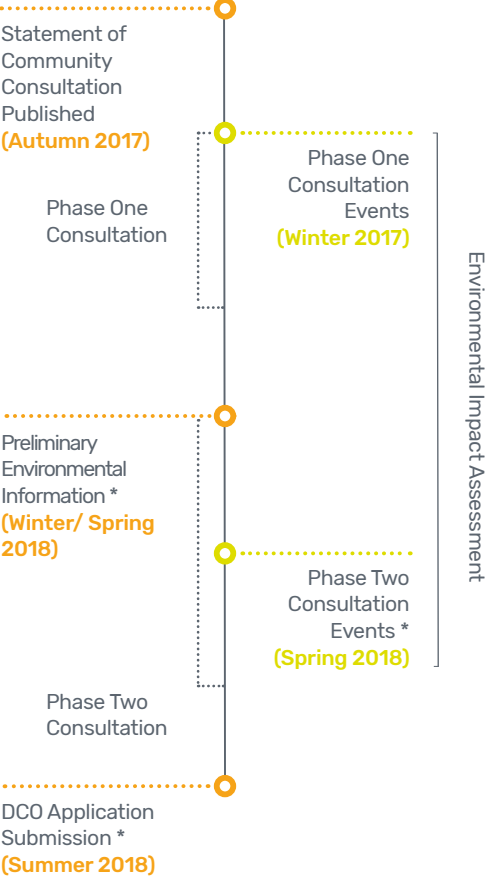
This Phase One Community Project Update provides a summary of the views expressed in the feedback we've received during our Phase One consultation period.



Seasalter Christian Centre

| Phase One Consultation Event Venues | Dates                |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Sheppey Evangelical Church          | Tuesday 5 December   |
| Faversham Assembly Rooms            | Wednesday 6 December |
| Graveney Village Hall               | Thursday 7 December  |
| Seasalter Christian Centre          | Friday 8 December    |

## Consultation timeline



\* All dates are indicative and may change.

# 2. Our Community Consultation Events

At the consultation events we presented the initial project proposals, which will evolve as we continue the development of the plans.

At the events we had specialists from our environmental and technical team as well as our developers on hand to answer questions.

The materials shown at our events are available to view and download on our website: [www.clevehillsolar.com/downloads](http://www.clevehillsolar.com/downloads).



Faversham Assembly Rooms



Graveney Village Hall

## An overview of our consultation period



Attendees:

494



Feedback responses received:

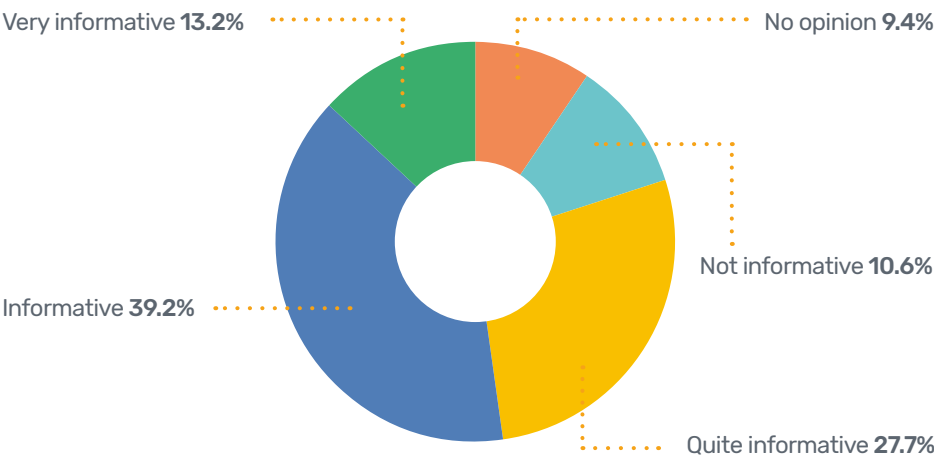
364<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>We received 291 feedback forms and 73 consultation responses were sent to our information lines.

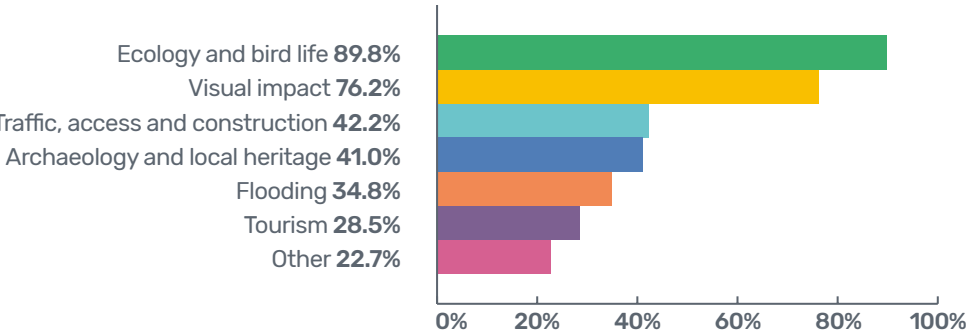
### 3. Our Feedback

The feedback which was received during the Phase One consultation period which ended 22 December 2017, highlighted a number of key areas people are concerned about.

#### How informative did you find the event?



#### Which aspect of the project is most important to you?



There were several key themes which emerged from the feedback received, these are listed below.

| Issue                       | Comments   | What's Next   |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Landscape and Visual Impact | Respondents expressed their concerns about the visual impact of the site, and were interested to know more about the impact from a number of viewing points. These included: Faversham Creek, Victory Wood, Seasalter Road, Thanet Way, Ham Marshes, Wraik Hill, Sheppey, Hollowshore, Monkshill and Oare Marshes.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment is underway which will include a consideration of the impacts on landscape character and people's views. A Residential Amenity Assessment will also be undertaken to assess viewpoints from neighbouring buildings and sites.</li></ul>  |
| Tourism                     | Respondents highlighted that they believe that the popularity of the area for tourism and leisure is due to its attractiveness to walkers and bird-watchers. As a result respondents were interested in the potential for set-back and screening in popular areas of the proposed development area.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>As we evolve the project design, we will begin to model the visibility of the solar park from key viewpoints. We have requested comments on these viewpoints from consultees in our Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report. We will also seek to ensure that the viewpoints chosen represent the responses received from members of the public.</li></ul> |
| Public Rights of Way        | Respondents highlighted the importance that they place on the Public Rights of Way (PROW) which run alongside and through the proposed site, particularly the Saxon Shore Way. Respondents were interested in the visual impact that the development may have on these routes. This feedback highlighted that respondents feel that these particular PROWs are popular because of the landscape character of the area. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>We are looking for opportunities to enhance or upgrade the PROW network in the area, and are considering ideas provided by members of the public.</li></ul>   |



96% of respondents agreed that Climate Change is an important issue.



95% of respondents agreed that the UK needs more renewable energy.

| Issue                        | Comments  | What's Next  |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Ecology and Bird Life</b> | <p>Respondents expressed their concerns about the potential impacts the development could have upon wildlife which use the site and the adjacent areas. Respondents highlighted that they feel it is of paramount importance that the local salt marshes, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and conservation areas which surround the site are respected, and do not experience any negative impacts from the development and its proximity to them.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are continuing bird surveys onsite throughout this winter to further our existing understanding of how birds use the site.</li> <li>• We have set up a Habitat Management Steering Group involving representatives from Natural England, RSPB and the Kent Wildlife Trust which will meet in February 2018 to discuss our mitigation and habitat enhancement proposals.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Traffic and Access</b>    | <p>Respondents expressed their concerns about construction traffic increasing congestion on roads which they feel are already inadequate and dangerous. They also raised previous negative experiences during the construction of the London Array onshore substation, and expressed a preference for whichever construction method would cause the least amount of disruption for residents and wildlife.</p> <p>Respondents were also asked for a preference on construction patterns. <b>54% of those who had a preference wished for a shorter, more intensive construction period.</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have been listening to feedback including the positive and negative views of how the London Array substation construction traffic was managed, and we will use this information to inform our Construction Traffic Management Plan.</li> </ul>   |



**71%** of respondents agreed that producing energy that is subsidy-free is important.



**89%** of respondents agreed that storing renewable energy is an important part of renewable energy production.

| Issue                           | Comments   | What's Next   |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Archaeology and Heritage</b> | <p>Respondents highlighted that they feel that the local heritage and landscape character of the marshes and the local area should be preserved.</p> <p>Respondents wished to ensure that any potential archaeology on the development site is investigated thoroughly, and were particularly interested in the potential for the discovery of items of interest such as the Graveney Boat.</p>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have commissioned archaeological investigations which will be carried out onsite to help us understand the archaeological potential of the site in more detail.</li> <li>• As we work towards the final layout design, we will consider the setting of heritage assets around the site, such as the Grade I listed Church of All Saints at Graveney.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Flooding</b>                 | <p>Respondents were interested in the potential for flooding in the site area and wished to know more about how Cleve Hill Solar Park Ltd intended to protect against the risk of flooding.</p> <p>There was also interest from respondents in the ongoing Environment Agency (EA) consultation on Medway Estuary and Swale Strategy (MEASS), and how Cleve Hill Solar Park would be compatible with this.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have undertaken a detailed flood modelling exercise to inform the layout design. We have begun to consider the flood levels identified under a range of scenarios to ensure the site is protected during the operational phase.</li> <li>• We are engaging with the EA's MEASS consultation which ends on 5 February 2018.</li> </ul>                           |

## 4. Next Steps

**Consultation for Cleve Hill Solar Park is ongoing, which means you can comment on our proposal at any point up to our Development Consent Order (DCO) application in Summer 2018, by contacting us directly at the details overleaf.**

A final Consultation Report will be produced and submitted alongside our application. This report will outline how we consulted, the feedback we received and how we have considered comments in the final project design. In the coming months we will be refining our proposals. Following this, in Spring 2018, we will begin our second phase of consultation where we will present our updated plans for your comments.

## 5. Contact Us

**Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to find out more information about Cleve Hill Solar Park and our associated consultation programme.**

You can contact our Community Relations Team and find out more by using the details below.

All images, graphics and maps in this document are for illustrative purposes only.

For all sources please visit our website.

If you would like this document in large print, audio or braille please get in touch as below.



**CLEVE HILL**  
SOLAR PARK



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