



CLEVE HILL
SOLAR PARK

Cleve Hill Solar Park

Community Newsletter

November 2023

Welcome to the Cleve Hill Community Newsletter for November

Since our last edition in August, construction works have continued to accelerate across the site, from the electrical compound to the solar array installation area. The new HGV marshalling area has now been built and is in operation, ensuring more extensive monitoring of HGVs that travel to and from site.

Read on to find out about an update of how the project is progressing and what is planned over the next few months.



Cleve Hill Solar Park Electrical Compound

Construction Works

Construction work on the electrical compound has continued, with the boundary fence around the site now being completed. Material from a borrow pit on the south side of Cleve Hill has been used to create the flood bund around the electrical compound with the works being completed in September. The borrow pit area is now earmarked for 32 acres of dedicated wildflower meadow which will be planted in due course.

Piling works have also started across the site. After thorough pile testing over last winter, using all the ground investigation data and engineering solutions, we have designed a screw pile that can be installed in the majority of the field parcels. Screw piling has the advantage of having a lower noise impact than percussion piling, ensuring that this work will be comfortably below the maximum noise levels set out within the Construction Noise Management Plan (CNMP).

Works on installing the solar panel arrays are also being prepared. The construction team have begun installing trial test solar panel tables, which are the structures that the solar panels will sit on, ahead of the panels arriving to site.

Battery Safety Management Plan

Following the submission of the Battery Safety Management Plan and meetings with various key stakeholders and the local community, anybody with an interest in the project was able to provide comment on the plans via Swale Borough Council.

As expected, the plans received a significant number of comments which Swale Borough Council will consider before making a decision. It is still available to view on the council's online planning portal (<https://pa.midkent.gov.uk/online-applications/>).

Kent Fire and Rescue Service have provided their comments on the plan. With agreement of the parties Swale Borough Council have appointed an independent battery expert to review the plan. A decision is expected before Christmas.

Traffic Management

We are pleased to announce that the HGV marshalling area is now in operation. A key benefit of this area is that instead of just the convoy vehicle being tracked when HGVs are travelling to and from the site, all HGVs within the convoys are now tracked. This ensures better monitoring of HGV movements, which will result in more transparency and hopefully a faster process in responding to traffic enquiries.

Meetings between the project team and the Traffic Management Group are continuing on a fortnightly basis. The project team now includes Munnelly Support Services, who oversee traffic management and the marshalling area. They are on hand at the meetings to report on traffic movements, including any infringements of the speed limit or unescorted vehicles. This gives the Traffic Management Group the opportunity to speak directly with the team managing the HGV movements.

Public Rights of Way (PRoWs)

In the previous newsletter, we outlined the impact of construction to PRoWs. We would like to reiterate our commitment that PRoWs ZR485 and ZR488 will remain open during the construction period.

In some instances where construction traffic is moving near to these PRoWs, banksmen are operating gates to allow construction traffic to move across PRoWs and to prevent any members of the public from entering the site.

However, please be reassured that gates will be opened to allow for users of any PRoW to walk on paths that run through the site area.

Following construction, it is expected that further permissive footpaths will become available.

Ecology Works - Water Vole Habitat

Water vole displacement works have been completed across the site within the license period granted by Natural England.

The newly created ditch will now be able to flourish into a home for the water vole over the winter period. We have been able to monitor the water vole and see how they are getting on in their new habitat, which can be seen in the image below.



Site Visit with the Parish Council

On Tuesday 24th October, six Graveney with Goodnestone parish councillors took part in a site visit with Reece Monk, a project manager for Cleve Hill. The visit gave councillors a flavour of the work that has been progressing on site over the past 12 months or so, from the electrical compound near Cleve Hill to through the site area via the spine roads to show where solar panels will be installed.

Reece was also able to talk through construction so far and what is planned in the near future, and councillors were able to ask questions and have a general discussion about the project. The team felt that the site visit was a success and are keen to hold future site visits once the project hits the next project milestones.

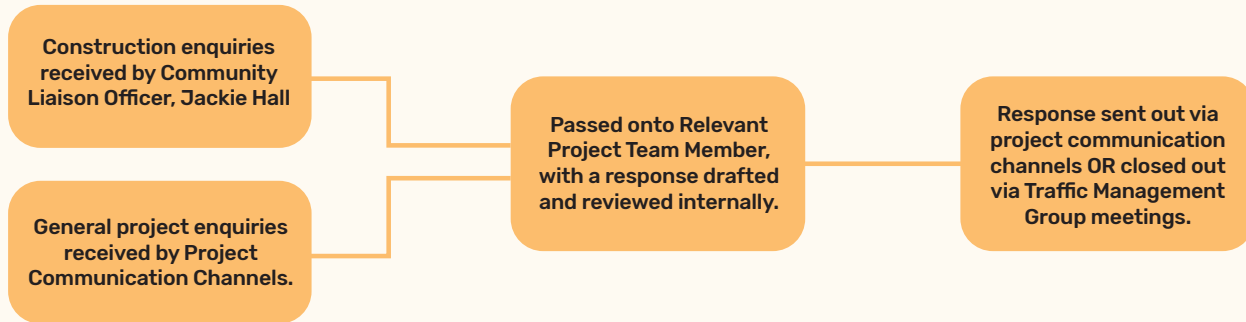


Cleve Hill Solar Park Spine Road

How we deal with your enquiries

With the increase in the amount of correspondence received by the project team, a communications protocol has been created to deal with enquiries more efficiently

and direct you to the right person. The below flowchart highlights this protocol, which was presented to the parish council at a meeting on Monday 13th November.



Contact Us:

If you would like to be kept updated via email, please get in touch with the project team via the communication channels below:



Write to us at:

Freepost: Cleve Hill Solar



Email us at:

info@clevehillsolar.com



Call our Freephone information line:

0800 328 2850

Available Monday - Friday, 9am-5pm

Voicemails can be left outside of these hours



Visit our website at:

www.clevehillsolar.com