



CLEVE HILL SOLAR PARK

Community Newsletter

May 2019

www.clevehillsolar.com



CLEVE HILL
SOLAR PARK

1. Introduction

Cleve Hill Solar Park is a new solar and energy storage park that is being proposed by Cleve Hill Solar Park Ltd. The site is on the north Kent coast, located roughly one mile northeast of Faversham, three miles west of Whitstable and situated closest to the village of Graveney.

This newsletter has been produced to provide you with an update on the Examination period for Cleve Hill Solar Park, including the details of the Preliminary Meeting and the draft timetable for the Examination.

2. Our proposals

Our aim is to make Cleve Hill Solar Park one of the lowest cost generators of electricity in the UK. This is at a time when a quarter of the UK's energy generating capacity is due to close. More renewable energy generation is needed to achieve the UK's legally binding targets of reducing our carbon emissions by 80% by 2050.

The transition to a low carbon energy system is necessary to avoid the catastrophic effects of climate change to wildlife and humans. Combined solar and energy storage projects like Cleve Hill Solar Park provide a solution to help accelerate the transition to a low carbon future.

3. What we have done to date

Between November 2017 and November 2018, we held a pre-application consultation where we met with people from across the community to discuss our proposals and listen to feedback.

Throughout this process, we modified the proposals for Cleve Hill Solar Park in response to the feedback we received. This included reducing the number of panels and increasing the Habitat Management Area for over-wintering birds. These changes are detailed in full in the Consultation Report.

On 16 November 2018 we submitted our Development Consent Order (DCO) application to the Planning Inspectorate, which was accepted for Examination on 14 December 2018.

You can view the full application, including our Consultation Report (Document Reference APP-022) via the Planning Inspectorate's website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/cleve-hill-solar-park/>

Cleve Hill Solar Park provides:



Subsidy-free electricity, without public financial support.



Enough clean, renewable electricity to power over **91,000** UK homes.¹



Pioneering **energy storage** technology, providing power to people's homes when it's needed the most.



A Habitat Management Area of **56 ha** (138 acres) for over-wintering birds.



An additional **3.64 km** of native hedgerow planting.



A new permissive **footpath** facilitating a round walk from Seasalter Road.



Business rates of around **£1 million** per year for local authorities plus additional business rates attributable to the energy storage.²

¹Based on the calculated estimate of annual energy output from the solar park of approximately 303 GWh and the Solar Trade Association's assumption of 3,300 kWh average annual consumption of electricity for a house.

²Calculations based on Valuation Office Agency (2018).

4. Rule 6 notification and the Preliminary Meeting

The Planning Inspectorate appointed an Examining Authority on 15 March 2019 and it published the Rule 6 notification on 18 April 2019. The Rule 6 notification included:

- The details and agenda of the Preliminary Meeting
- The Examining Authority's initial assessment of the principal issues
- A draft timetable for Examination

If you have registered as an Interested Party in Cleve Hill Solar Park via the Planning Inspectorate, you should have received this Rule 6 letter directly. You can view this in full, including all annexes, via the Planning Inspectorate's website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/cleve-hill-solar-park/>

The Preliminary Meeting

The purpose of the Preliminary Meeting is to enable views to be put to the Planning Inspectorate about the way in which the application will be examined. This meeting is only concerned with procedure and not the merits of the application. Consideration of the merits of the application will occur during the Examination.

To help you prepare, please see the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 8.3 – Influencing how an application is Examined: the Preliminary Meeting (December 2016) – accessible via the following link: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Advice-note-8-3v4.pdf>

The details of the Preliminary Meeting are as follows:

Date: Thursday 30 May 2019

Seating available: 09:30am

Meeting start time: 10:00am

Venue: The Alexander Centre, 15-17 Preston St, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8NZ

Attendance at the Preliminary Meeting

If you wish to attend the Preliminary Meeting, and if you wish to make any submissions on matters not set out in the agenda, you should write to the Planning Inspectorate's Case Officer, Mr Hefin Jones, by no later than **Thursday 16 May 2019**.

Details of how to contact Mr Hefin Jones, and the information you should provide, are included in the Rule 6 notification at <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/cleve-hill-solar-park/>

The Planning Inspectorate will try to accommodate reasonable requests and alter the agenda on opening the Preliminary Meeting if it considers this will assist the discussion of the procedure for the Examination.

5. What happens next?

Following the close of the Preliminary Meeting, the Examining Authority will publish the finalised Examination timetable and its written questions. The Preliminary Meeting is the beginning of the formal Examination which can take up to six months.

An Examination is principally undertaken by written submissions of evidence. However, there will also be open floor hearings and issue-specific hearings at which oral submissions can be made.

The Planning Inspectorate has produced Advice Notes to help you to participate in all of these aspects of the Examination, which you can view here:

- Advice Note 8.4 – The Examination (December 2016)
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Advice-note-8-4v3.pdf>
- Advice Note 8.5 – The Examination: hearings and site inspections (December 2016)
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Advice-note-8-5v3.pdf>

The Examination will end no later than Friday 29 November 2019. Following this, the Planning Inspectorate has three months to prepare a report, including a recommendation for the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The Secretary of State then has a further three months to grant or refuse development consent.

6. Timeline



7. Contact us

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to find out more information about Cleve Hill Solar Park.

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

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

For all information sources please visit our website.

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



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Write to us at:

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Email us at:

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