



CLEVE HILL SOLAR PARK

Community Newsletter

May 2018

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.

This community newsletter has been produced to update you on the progress of our plans and explain what stage we are at in the pre-application process.

2. Why solar?

Cleve Hill Solar Park could be the lowest cost generator of energy in the UK. At over 350MW, Cleve Hill Solar Park could provide enough affordable and clean electricity to power over 110,000 homes.

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 goal of reducing our carbon emissions by 80%.

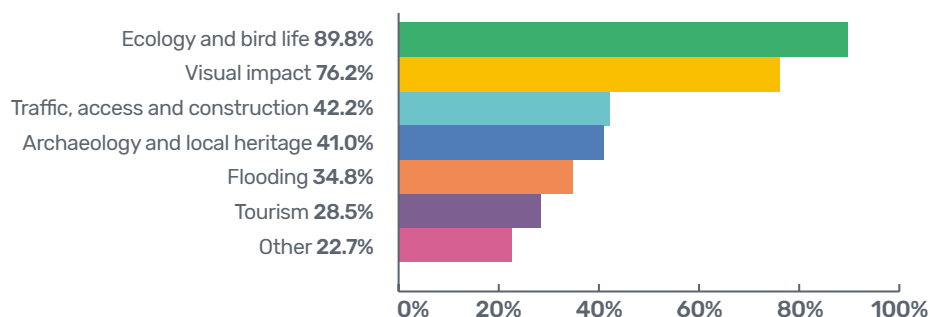
We also plan to use battery storage to help ensure that energy is supplied into the grid at the time when it is most needed.

Cleve Hill Solar Park will provide the opportunity for the dual-use of land, allowing sheep grazing and providing biodiversity benefits to land previously exposed to intensive farming practices.

3. What we've learnt

We held our Phase One community consultation in December 2017, where we met with over 500 people and received over 350 responses.

Most important aspects for people at our consultations



We have also held a number of meetings with near neighbours, local residents and interest groups and have received further feedback on our proposals.

4. Innovation at Cleve Hill Solar Park



This project is **non-subsidised** so will not receive government funding.



Over **£1,000,000** income per annum will be generated for local authorities.



Cleve Hill Solar Park could save **150,500** tonnes of CO₂, equivalent to **29,400** cars.

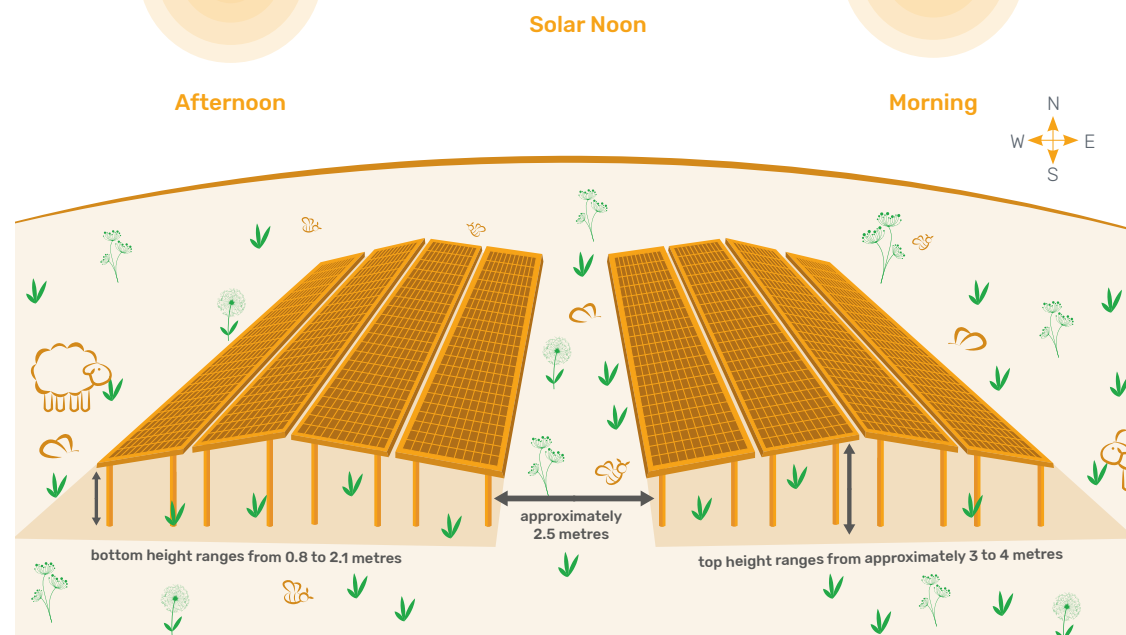


Option for onsite **battery** storage technology.

Why an east-west layout?

Ground-mounted solar panels in the UK have typically been angled to face the southern sky, often resulting in a peak in generation around midday.

Cleve Hill Solar Park is proposing an alternative layout to this, in an east-west orientation, which will allow a more effective use of the land by producing a larger electricity output over the course of the day.



5. What we're doing

Since our Phase One community consultation we have been undertaking a series of environmental studies and assessments as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. A draft of this, called Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI), will be consulted on during our Phase Two community consultation.

Evolving our proposals

There will be at least 60 metres set-back from the Saxon Shore Way.

We are working with Kent County Council (KCC) on plans to enhance Public Rights of Way (PROW) and extend the existing footpath network. This includes the possibility of permissive pathways, cycleways or bridleways across the site.

In response to consultation, we have reduced the number of panels and we propose screening mitigation in the development areas immediately near to neighbouring properties at Nagden, Warm House and Cleve Hill.



Orchard at Brogdale



Saxon Shore Way

Ecology and bird life

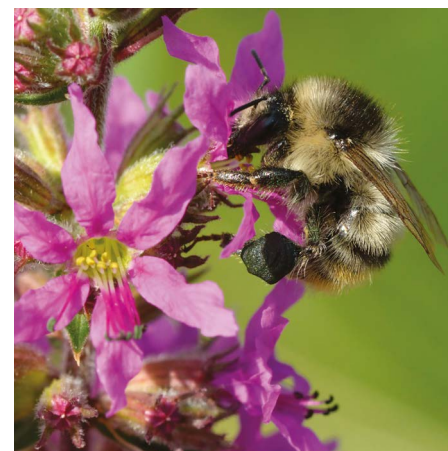
We have set up a habitat management steering group, with representatives from Natural England, RSPB and Kent Wildlife Trust, to discuss our mitigation and biodiversity enhancement proposals.

These proposals include increasing our habitat management area in the part of the site where our surveys have shown migratory birds use the land most, to include land further eastward in our land management programme.

Improving biodiversity and land management

We are currently working with experts from Lancaster University and the University of Birmingham to understand how land and soil conditions underneath the panels can be managed to improve the biodiversity. In particular, this involves looking at improving conditions for invertebrates.

One exciting prospect for the site is the potential to improve conditions for pollinators, such as bees. We've been in dialogue with The Bumblebee Conservation Trust about their 'Making a buzz for the coast' project. We will be working with the trust to see how we can design the site to benefit bees.



Bumblebee



Water Vole

Archaeology and heritage

We've been working with KCC Archaeology on our assessments of potential archaeological interest on site.

To date we have completed a desk-based assessment and have undertaken field work including geoarchaeological site investigations to understand the archaeological potential of the site.

Flood protection

We've been regularly engaging with the Environment Agency (EA) on how they currently protect the site, and how they plan to do so in the future – particularly regarding the Medway Estuary and Swale Strategy (MEASS). We are working with the EA to ensure the site will continue to be protected from flooding throughout its operation.

We are continuing to have regular and detailed discussions with the EA on how the sea defences are managed, and how we can work together to continue this management, whilst also complementing MEASS.

We have undertaken flood modelling for 1 in 200-year and 1 in 1000-year events based on flood predictions using predicted sea levels in 2070 and shared this with the EA.

Views

As part of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), we have taken a number of photographs from viewpoints selected in consultation with KCC, Swale Borough Council and Canterbury City Council. Photomontages will be shown at Phase Two community consultation events.

In response to consultation we have removed panels near to immediately neighbouring properties, and PRowS. We have also proposed native planting screening in areas on the south of the site, to preserve short-range and long-range views, whilst screening mid-range views.

Access and traffic

We have been listening to local experience of how the London Array substation construction was managed, and we are using this to inform our Construction Traffic Management Plan.



Shoreline

6. Phase Two community consultation events

Our Phase Two consultation period will begin on Thursday 31 May and finish on Friday 13 July. Throughout this period we will be welcoming your comments and feedback via the information lines overleaf.

We welcome you to attend our Phase Two consultation events which will be held in June 2018. These events will be an opportunity to view how our proposals have developed and provide your views.

Wednesday 13 June from 4.30pm to 7.30pm,
at Ferry House Inn, Harty Ferry Road, Harty, ME12 4BQ

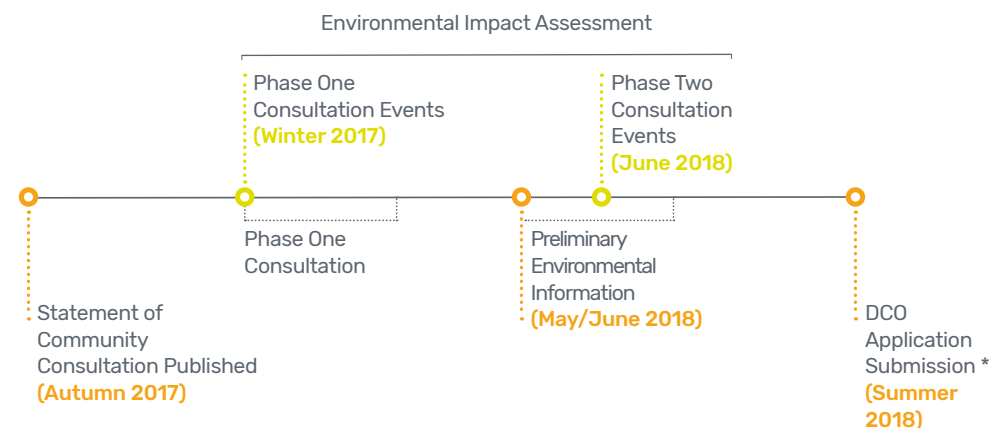
Thursday 14 June from 1.30pm to 8pm,
at Graveney Village Hall, Graveney, Faversham, ME13 9DN

Friday 15 June from 11am to 4pm,
at Seasalter Christian Centre, Seasalter, Faversham Road, Whitstable, CT5 4AX

Saturday 16 June from 11am to 5.30pm,
at Faversham Guildhall, 8 Market Place, Faversham, ME13 7AG



Consultation timeline



* All dates are indicative and may change.

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, 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
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