

STONESTREET GREEN SOLAR SECTION 48 PLANNING ACT 2008 REGULATION 4 INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (APPLICATIONS: PRESCRIBED FORMS AND PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS 2009

NOTICE PUBLICISING A PROPOSED APPLICATION FOR A DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER

Notice is hereby given that EPL 001 Limited of 2nd Floor, Regis House, 45 King William Street, London, United Kingdom, EC4R 9AN (company number 12444050) registered in England and Wales ("the Applicant"), which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Evolution Power Limited, proposes to make an application ("the Application") to the Secretary of State under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 for a Development Consent Order for the Stonestreet Green Solar project ("the Project").

The Project

The Project comprises the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of groundmounted solar photovoltaic ("PV") arrays and on-site energy storage, together with associated infrastructure and an underground cable connection to the existing National Grid Substation at Sellindge. The Project will have the capability to export and import up to 99.9 megawatts ("MW") of electricity to the national grid at any time.

The Project is located approximately 6.5km to the south-east of Ashford Town Centre and approximately 13.7km to the west of Folkestone Town Centre, in the county of Kent. The Project is situated on approximately 200 hectares (approximately 495 acres) of land to the north and west of the village of Aldington.

The Project is proposed to include the following key infrastructure:

- solar PV modules;
- PV module mounting structures;
- on-site electrical stations including inverters, transformers and switchgear;
- on-site and grid connection cabling with a maximum voltage of 132 kilovolts;
- Project substation, including high voltage switchgear and control equipment;
- on-site energy storage;
- spare parts storage buildings;
- boundary fencing and closed-circuit television security measures; and
- access tracks.

It is proposed that the Application will, amongst other things, also seek authority for (to the extent required):

- the compulsory acquisition of land and rights in land and the temporary possession of land;
- the overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land;
- the application and disapplication of legislation; and
- such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, licenses, rights, permits, consents and authorisations as are necessary and/or appropriate.

At the time of writing, there are two potential points at which the Project could connect via underground cables to the electricity grid. The Applicant's preferred route, which would connect directly into the existing Sellindge Substation, lies entirely within the administrative area of Ashford Borough Council. The alternative route, which would connect into the Sellindge Substation via an existing nearby tower, would require additional land some of which would be located within the administrative boundary of Folkestone and Hythe District Council. The whole site including both grid connection options is within the administrative area of Kent County Council.

The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment development (EIA development), as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, and an Environmental Statement will be submitted as part of the Application. The Environmental Statement will provide a detailed description of the Project and its likely significant environmental effects. Information compiled so far about the Project's likely significant environmental effects is set out for consultation in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ("PEIR"), which has been updated by a PEIR Addendum and summarised in a non-technical summary.

Consultation on the Project will take place from **9:00am on 12 June 2023 until 11:59pm on 17 July 2023** in accordance with our Statement of Community Consultation (available at https://stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk/files/image/consultation/SoCC_May_2023.pdf).

The consultation documents

The following documents (which contain plans and maps) have been prepared to explain our consultation process and show the nature and location of the Project:

- a Consultation Booklet which provides details about the project and the PEIR Addendum and highlights the questions on which we are inviting feedback as part of the statutory consultation;
- a Book of Plans, including (amongst other things) a Site Location Plan and Landscape Masterplan;
- the PEIR (originally published as part of the statutory consultation that took place in October and November 2022);
- the PEIR Addendum (which updates the PEIR and includes an updated non-technical summary);
- a 'You said, we did' document outlining responses to feedback received to date;
- a consultation leaflet; and
- the exhibition boards that will be used at the local information events listed below.

These documents, together with the Statement of Community Consultation, consultation leaflets/newsletters and this notice may be inspected free of charge from 12 June 2023 until 17 July 2023 (excluding bank holidays) at the deposit locations listed below.

- **Ashford Library**, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS
- **Ashford Borough Council Offices**, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford TN23 1PL (Monday to Friday: 9am to 4pm; Saturday and Sunday: closed)
- **Folkestone and Hythe Council Offices**, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone CT20 2QY (Monday to Friday: 10am to 4pm; Saturday and Sunday: closed)
- **Kent County Council**, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ (Monday to Friday: 8am to 5pm; Saturday and Sunday: closed) - by appointment only
- **New Romney Library**, 82 High Street, New Romney, TN28 8AU
- **Lyminge Library**, Station Road, Lyminge, CT18 8HS
- **Hythe Library**, 1 Stade Street, Hythe, CT21 6BQ

You can check the opening hours for each library on the Kent County Council website at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries/visiting-a-library>

Electronic copies of the consultation documents will also be available to inspect free of charge from 9:00am on 12 June 2023 until at least 11:59pm on 17 July 2023 on the Applicant's website at www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk under the tab labelled 'Consultation' then 'Statutory Consultation (Summer 2023)'.

The Applicant will host a series of local information events as part of the 2023 statutory consultation process. The local information events will provide the opportunity to view the consultation documents for the Project and provide feedback on the proposals.

The details of the events are as follows:

- **Sellindge Village Hall** – Friday 23 June 2023, 2pm to 6pm
- **Mersham Village Hall** – Saturday 24 June 2023, 11am to 3pm
- **Aldington Village Hall** – Monday 26 June 2023, 3pm to 7pm
- **Bilsington Village Hall** – Tuesday 27 June 2023, 1pm to 5pm

A full set of consultation documents can also be provided on a USB memory stick upon request, free of charge. Hard copies of the consultation documents can be obtained upon request at a cost of £500 per copy. Requests for large print, audio or braille versions of the consultation documents will be considered on a case-by-case basis and appropriate charges may apply.

Requests for documents should be made to the Applicant by telephone on **08081 698335** (free of charge) or by email at info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk. Reasonable postage charges may apply.

Have your say

Any person may respond to the consultation. Comments must be received by the Applicant by no later than **11:59pm on Monday 17 July 2023**. When providing your comments please include your name and address, or if you would prefer your comments to be anonymous your postcode only, and confirm the nature of your interest in the Project.

Please submit any comments by:

- Completing an online feedback form on the Applicant's website at www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk/consultation
- Completing a hard copy feedback form (available at the local information events, the aforementioned deposit locations and upon request to the Applicant using the contact details below) and either handing it to the Project team at the local information event or submitting it by post (free of charge; no stamp required) to **FREEPOST Stonestreet Green Solar**.
- Submitting comments by email to info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk, by post (free of charge; no stamp required) to **FREEPOST Stonestreet Green Solar** or by telephone (free of charge) at **08081 698335**.

A data error in our 2022 online consultation form meant that answers to the following question were not recorded and we would be grateful for your response as part of the 2023 consultation: **Please explain why you support/do not support the use of solar energy as part of the UK energy mix?**

The Applicant will have regard to all responses received by the above deadline when finalising the proposals and submitting the Application. A Consultation Report will be submitted as part of the Application that will provide the details of the pre-application consultation undertaken by the Applicant, summarise any relevant responses received by the Applicant and explain the account taken by the Applicant of those relevant responses.

The Applicant may be required to submit copies of the consultation responses to the Planning Inspectorate and if so the Applicant will comply with all applicable data protection legislation.

Further information

Further details in relation to the Project can be found on the Applicant's website at www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk

For further information or queries about this notice, the consultation, the consultation documents or the Project, please contact the Project team by calling **08081 698335** (free of charge); writing to **FREEPOST Stonestreet Green Solar** (free of charge; no stamp required); or emailing info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk