



Sheepwash Solar
Energy Farm,
Maidstone Borough

Statement of Community
Involvement

Prepared for Statkraft
March 2022



2. CONSULTATION POLICY CONTEXT

2.1 The consultation programme was undertaken at the pre-application stage. It has been carried out in accordance with Section 122 of the Localism Act 2011, which requires developers to carry out pre-application consultation with local communities.

2.2 The consultation programme was also carried out in accordance with the Revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021, which encourages early and proactive community engagement. Paragraph 132 of the NPPF 2021 states that:

“Applicants should work closely with those affected by their proposals to evolve designs that take account of the views of the community. Applications that can demonstrate early, proactive and effective engagement with the community should be looked on more favourably than those that cannot.”

2.3 Additionally, it followed the guidelines of Maidstone Borough Council’s Council’s Statement of Community Involvement (2020), which sets out the importance of involving statutory bodies and the community in pre-application consultations and planning applications. Sections 43 and 44 of the SCI state:

“43. We encourage early engagement to be as open as possible, giving a genuine opportunity for the local community to influence the design and form of the development proposed. The extent of consultation depends on the proposal, and would include factors like the scale, location and type of planning application.

44. Whilst the Council can identify potential consultees (including Local Ward Councillor(s), Parish Councils and neighbourhood forums, local community and statutory consultees) and encourage applications, particularly where they think this would be beneficial, to consult with these consultees as part of the pre-application process, we cannot require the applicant to consult with any particular stakeholders. As such, as this is largely an applicant driven process and, in an effort to encourage requests for pre-application discussions, it is important that the Council respect the applicant’s requests as to how they wish the pre-application consultation process to be approached by the Council. The planning case officer, through their discussion with the applicant, will endeavour to facilitate discussions between the developer and consultees.”

3. CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

3.1 The Applicant opted to undertake a digital consultation so that the local community had a chance to view the plans, ask questions and provide feedback in a safe manner.

3.2 On 23rd July 2021, the Applicant sent an introductory letter (Appendix 1) to key stakeholders, setting out some details of the proposals and informing stakeholders of the intention to launch the wider pre-application consultation with the community throughout the coming summer. The letter was sent to the relevant members of Maidstone Borough Council, local parish councils and the local Member of Parliament:

- Helen Grant, MP for Maidstone and the Weald
- Cllr David Burton, Leader of Maidstone Borough Council and site ward councillor
- Cllr Annabelle Blackmore, site ward councillor
- Cllr Claudine Russell, site ward councillor
- Marden Parish Council
- Collier Street Parish Council

3.3 The pre-application public consultation was launched in July 2021 and the Applicant issued a consultation leaflet (Appendix 2) to 588 addresses within an agreed consultation zone (Appendix 3). The leaflet introduced the proposals and provided details of how to get in touch with the project team, should residents have any questions.

3.4 An email address (sheepwashsolar@statkraft.com) and phone number were also included so that residents could contact the project team to find out more about the proposals.

3.5 A dedicated project webpage (Appendix 4) was set up on the Applicant's corporate website at www.statkraft.co.uk/about-statkraft-uk/where-we-operate/Locations/sheepwashsolar/, through which residents were able to view the preliminary proposals for the project, submit feedback and get in touch with the project team.

3.6 The website included a feedback section with nine multiple-choice questions and three open feedback questions where residents were able to write more detailed comments. The feedback section of the website was open from 23rd July to 27th August.

3.7 The website also included a section on Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). The FAQs were updated to incorporate additional questions that had arisen during the pre-application consultation.

3.8 A press release (Appendix 5) was issued in July 2021 announcing the launch of the public consultation and setting out some of the details of the proposals. This was issued to the following media outlets, although was not published:

- Downs Mail
- Kent Live
- Kent Online

3.9 The Applicant also presented the proposals virtually to Collier Street Parish Council on 25th August 2021. The main points of the discussion included:

- Noise

- Consultation
- Employment
- Construction access and traffic
- Community benefit fund
- Surface water drainage strategy
- Location of HV compound and battery storage

3.10 The Applicant was invited to attend a meeting with Marden Parish Council on 17th August 2021. A total of 14 people attended the meeting, which included an initial presentation from Statkraft followed by a Q&A. The main points of the discussion included:

- Visual impact
- Planting of mature trees
- Construction timescales
- HGV numbers
- Assurances over seep grazing
- Site decommissioning
- Return of site to agricultural use
- Number of vehicle visits to site during operation
- Battery storage noise
- Weeds
- Loss of agricultural land
- Footpaths
- Community consultation

3.11 The Applicant and project team met with Cllr David Burton (Leader of the Council and site ward councillor) and Cllr Claudine Russell (site ward councillor) for a site visit on 17th August 2021. The visit consisted of a walkover aided by maps and plans. Discussion at the visit covered a range of issues, including:

- Footpath routes and the proposed diversion
- Sustainable drainage
- Ensuring screening from nearby properties
- Character of the structures on site
- Biodiversity
- Construction and maintenance

4. FEEDBACK

INTRODUCTION

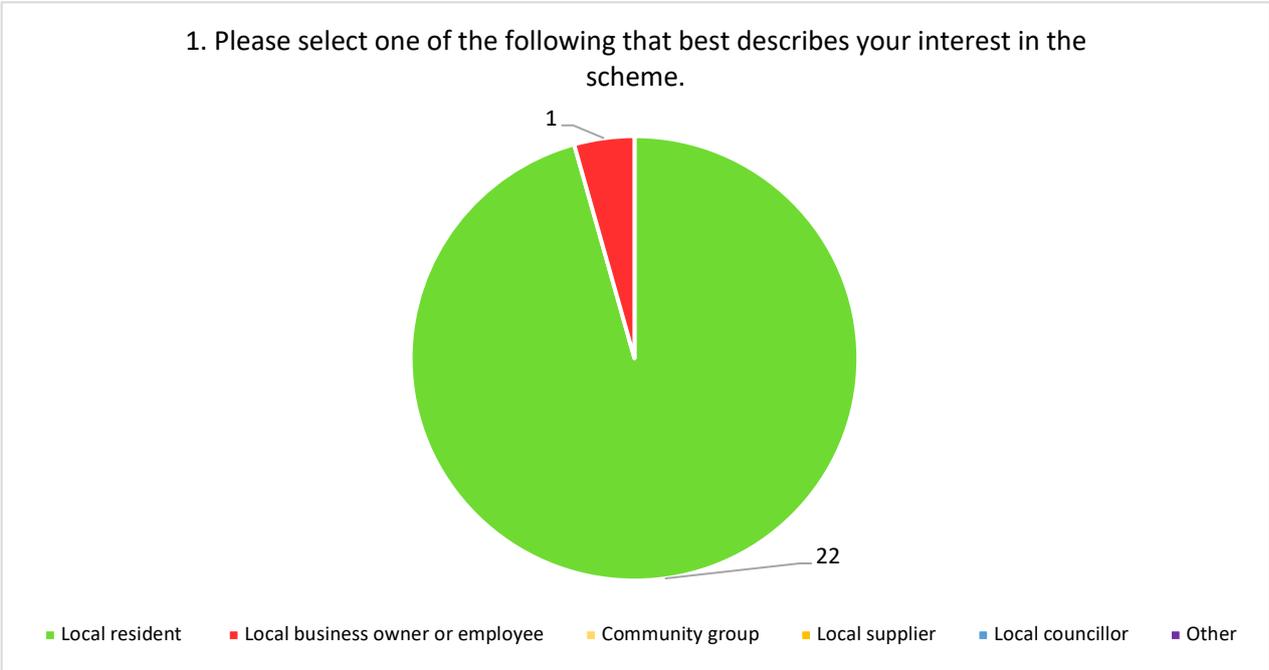
4.1 Local residents were given the opportunity to submit feedback either by filling out a survey on the dedicated project website, or by getting in touch through email.

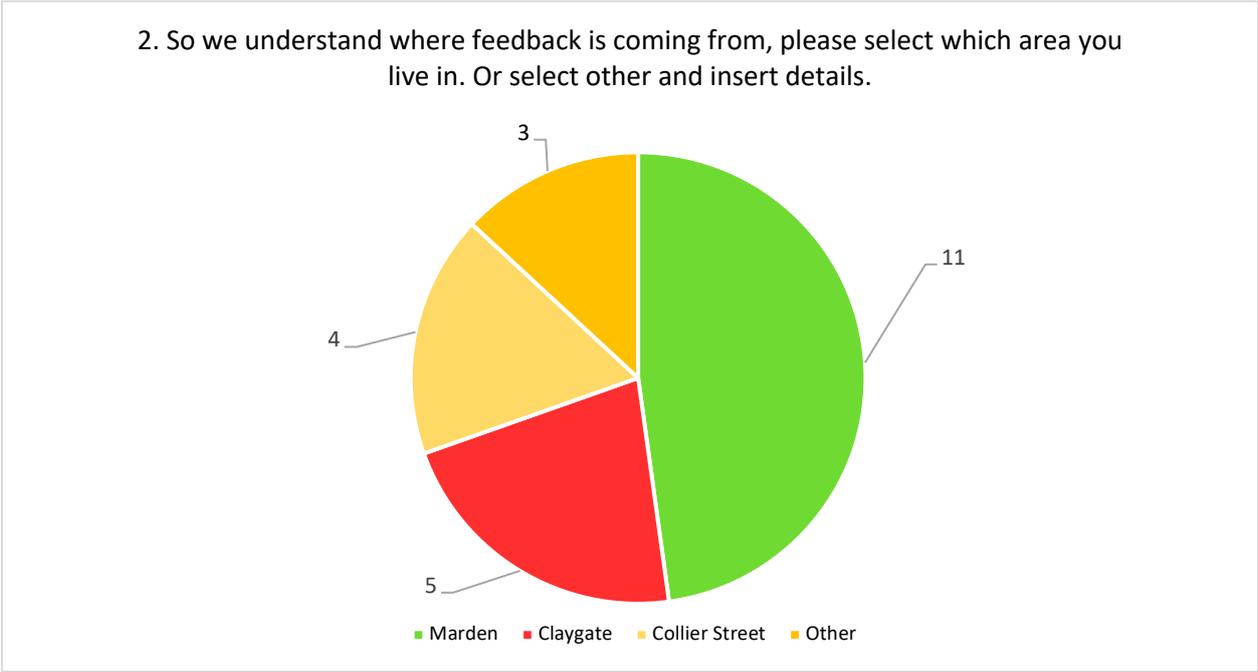
4.2 The survey (Appendix 6) consisted of three multiple choice questions which were related to the respondents' views on the benefits of the proposals. Below this were questions which asked respondents to rate the plan and share what they considered to be benefits and issues requiring management. There were also questions about how local businesses could be involved in the project and a space for further comments was provided below. A total of 23 completed surveys were received over the consultation period.

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

4.3 Below is a quantitative analysis of responses to the six multiple-choice questions, a ratings question, and benefits and issues questions on the online survey, to which 23 responses were received. The feedback indicates that many residents have mixed feelings about the project and are most interested in ensuring that visual impact, loss of agricultural land and traffic impacts are mitigated as the project progresses.

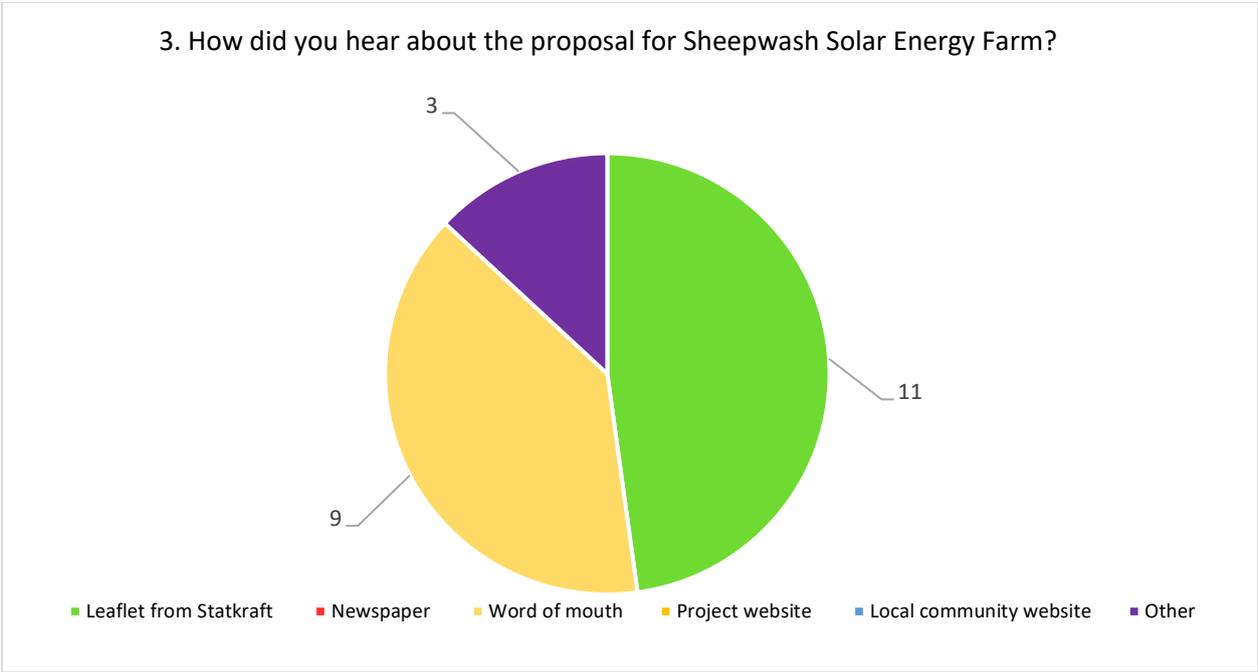
4.4 Questions 1 and 2 on the form were related to demographics, asking respondents their position in the community and location. 23 people responded and a breakdown of responses to the first two questions can be found below.





*Other: "Opposite site, My property adjoins the land, *ADDRESS REDACTED TO PRESERVE ANONYMITY**"

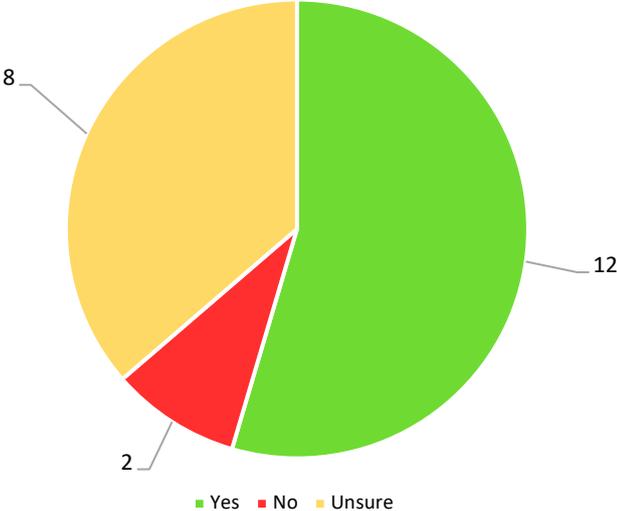
4.5 Question 3 asked people how they had come to learn about plans for the Sheepwash Solar Energy Farm. 23 people responded and a breakdown of responses can be found below.



*Other: Told by neighbour, my neighbour, Scoping request to MBC re EIA

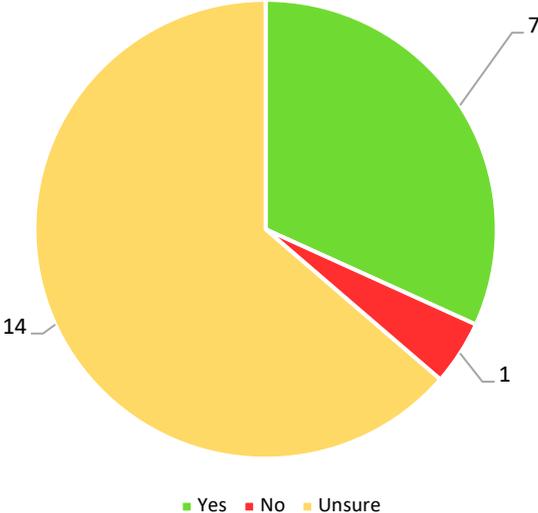
4.6 Question 4 asked the respondents' views on the the importance of generating more renewable energy, rather than relying on fossil fuels. 22 people responded and a breakdown of the results can be found below.

4. Do you think it is important for the UK to generate more renewable energy rather than rely on fossil fuels?

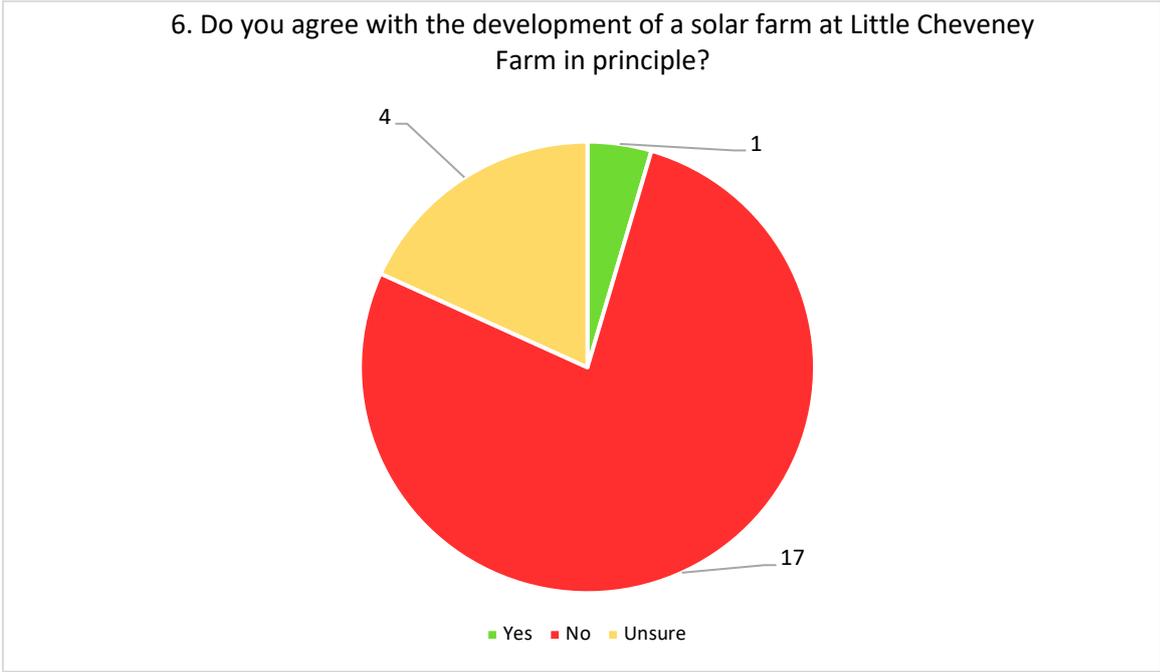


4.7 Question 5 asked about respondents' views on the need to generate more energy from solar photovoltaic sources. 22 people responded and a breakdown of the results can be found below.

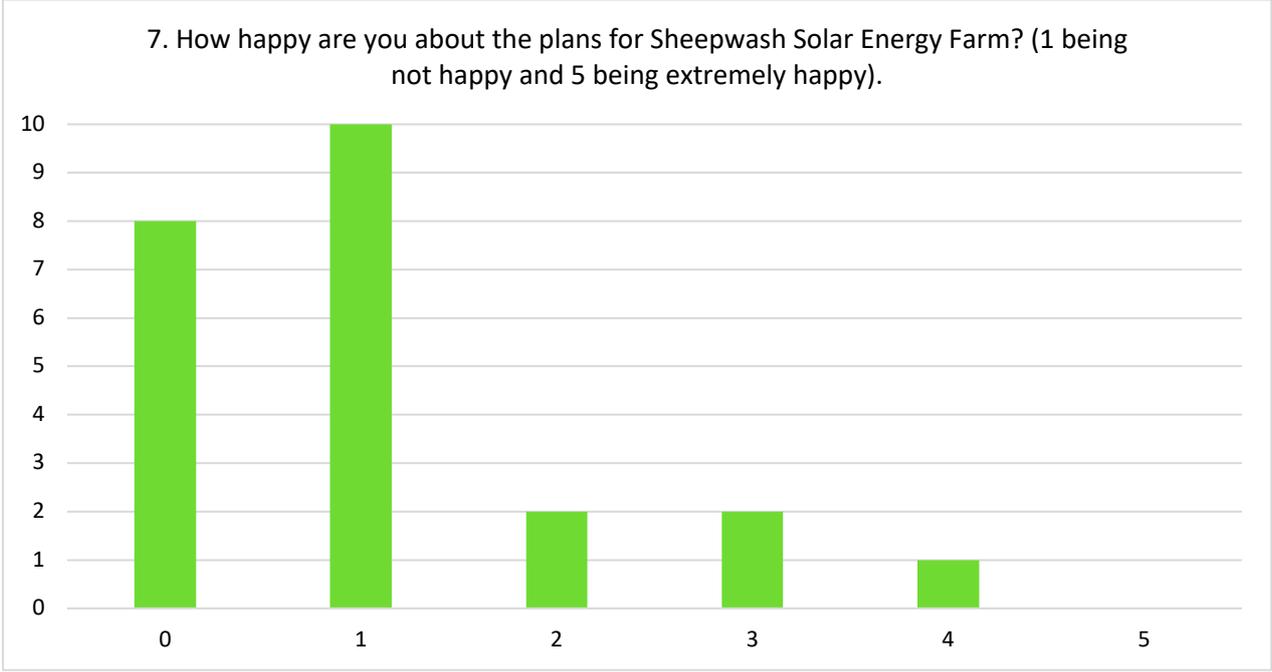
5. Do you believe that the UK should be producing more energy from solar photovoltaic (PV) sources?



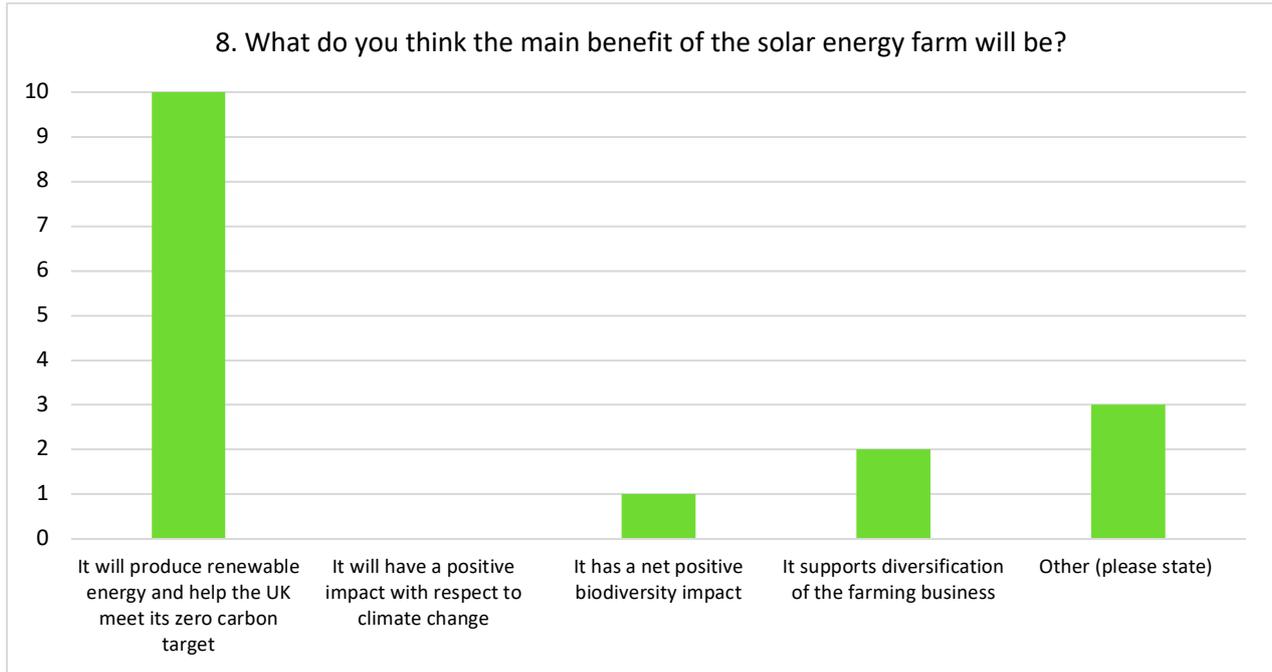
4.8 Question 6 asked for the respondents' views on the principle of the development of a solar farm at Little Cheveney Farm. 22 people responded and a breakdown of the results can be found below.



4.9 Question 7 asked how happy respondents were about plans for the Sheepwash Solar Energy Farm. 23 people responded and a breakdown of the results can be found below.

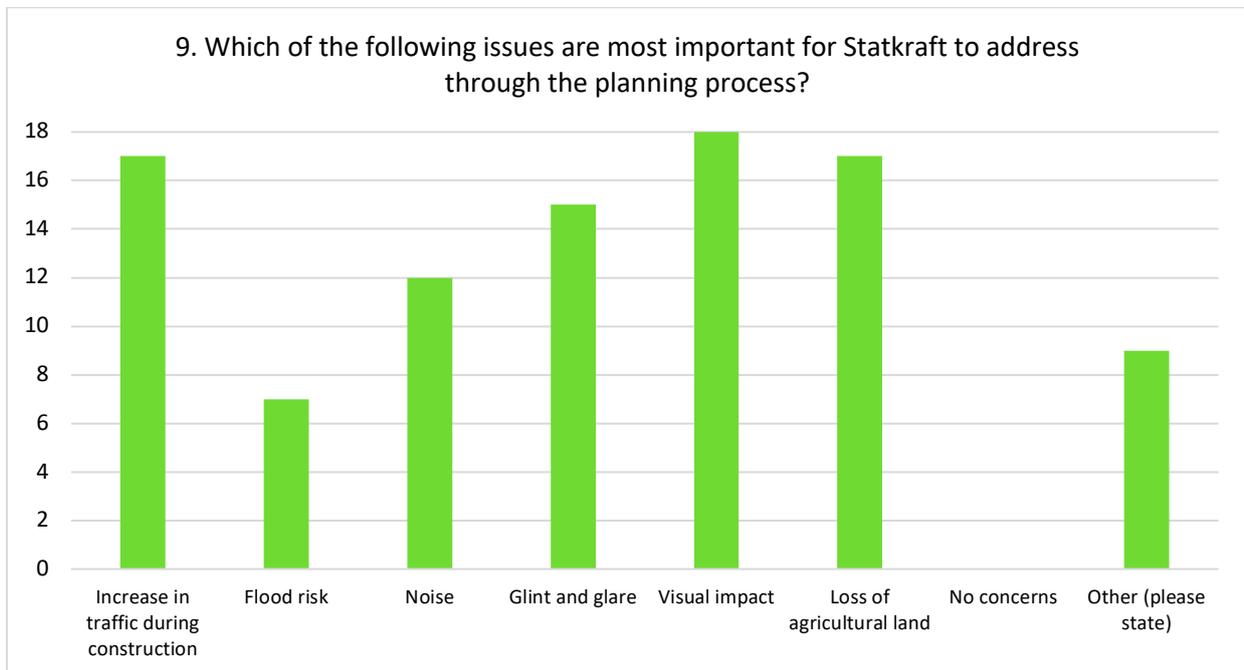


4.10 Question 8 asked people for their views on what the main benefits of the solar farm could be. 18 people responded and a breakdown of the results can be found below.



*Other: The landowner will profit hugely at the cost of local countryside and footpaths, Farmer wants more money, no benefit in this particular position

4.11 Question 9 asked people for their views on what the most important issues for Statkraft to address throughout the planning process could be. 23 people responded and a breakdown of the results can be found below.



*Other: Change of location-Marden has already lost loads of countryside and footpaths to new housing development in the past 6 years

NB: Ten respondents who responded 'other' did not state their a suggestion.

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

4.12 The consultation questionnaire also provided three spaces for written feedback. The questions asked for suggestions on how the Applicant could support the local community as part of the project, for suggestions on how local businesses could get involved in plans and for further comments. 21 respondents provided written comments on the survey (the full list of these comments can be found in Appendix 7) or left comments via email.

4.13 In the below sections are some of the comments received during the consultation period, broken down by source of comments.

ONLINE SURVEY

4.14 Question 10 asked respondents 'Do you have any suggestions or comments on how we can support the local community as part of this project?'. 13 people responded and suggestions included:

- Concern over noise
- Change of location
- Enough solar farms in the area
- Electricity discounts
- Habitat management
- Questioning of community and wildlife benefit
- Road repairs and maintenance
- Move plans to brownfield site

4.15 Question 11 asked respondents 'How could local businesses get involved in the plans for the solar energy farm?'. 11 people responded and suggestions included:

- Regular communication
- Contributions to infrastructure
- Through opposing the plan

4.16 Question 12 asked respondents 'Do you have any further comments on the proposals?' 17 people responded and answers have been summarised and broken down thematically:

Biodiversity and Wildlife

- Full provisions for habitat and biodiversity conservation area to be demonstrated
- Impact on deer and barn owls
- Impact on newts and slow worms

Traffic

- Suggestion that Burton Lane cannot cope with construction traffic

Community impact

- Concern over view from property
- Need for screening
- Concern over footpath size and relocation
- Impact on residents of Shephurst lane
- Poor timing following development of homes in close proximity

Ecology

- Concern over light and noise pollution
- Flooding concern
- Affect on agricultural land

Solar Farm

- Concern over size of solar farm
- Proximity to Oak Parkland field
- Too many solar farms in local area
- Suggestion of other location (unspecified)

EMAILS

4.17 Further to this, a total of 4 emails were received which also included feedback on the plans. These raised diverse issues, including:

- Visual impact
- Light and noise impacts
- Environmental impact
- Proposed footpath diversion and preservation of Public Rights of Way
- Location of access
- Flood mitigation
- Site location and layout
- Preservation of Ancient Woodland
- Construction timeframe and lifetime of project

5. RESPONSE TO FEEDBACK

5.1 The feedback in section 4 shows that residents are interested in traffic, flood risk, noise and environmental issues.

5.2 The Applicant has provided a response to issues raised through feedback in the points below.

ISSUE	RESPONSE
TRAFFIC	<p>The proposals are accompanied by a comprehensive Construction and Environment Management Plan, which sets out the strategy for construction traffic.</p> <p>Once operational, the scheme will not generate large amounts of traffic as the site will usually be unstaffed.</p>
FLOOD RISK	<p>The planning application has been informed by a detailed drainage assessment, and the plans include sustainable drainage measures to manage surface water discharge. The plans will not increase the runoff rate of surface water from the site.</p>
NOISE	<p>The solar arrays will not generate noise. The energy storage system is now located in a timber barn and compound with a timber acoustic fence.</p>
VISUAL IMPACT	<p>The plans include extensive screening to minimize the visual impact from surrounding properties, including new trees and hedgerows. No solar panels will be placed on the fields closest to the properties on Sheephurst Lane and the green boundaries of those fields will be strengthened.</p>
LOSS OF AGRICULTURAL LAND	<p>The site is located on relatively low grade agricultural land, and will support the diversification of the farming business. The scheme will be operational for 37 years, after which the solar farm will be decommissioned and can be returned to agricultural use.</p>
IMPACT ON WILDLIFE	<p>The proposals include several measures to support wildlife and biodiversity, including wild grass margins, new planting, and a dedicated habitat and biodiversity conservation area. Overall, the scheme will deliver significant biodiversity net gain.</p>

7. APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: INTRODUCTORY LETTER TO STAKEHOLDERS [23.07.21]

By Email

Friday 23rd July 2021



SHEEPWASH ENERGY FARM – PUBLIC CONSULTATION

I am writing to inform you of Statkraft's emerging plans for a new solar energy farm and battery storage system on land at Little Cheveney Farm, between Claygate and Marden. The project is in its early stages, but we anticipate our proposals delivering a 50MW solar energy farm, 10MW battery storage system, and biodiversity and habitat improvements.

We are committed to consulting local residents and representatives early in the development process, ensuring that everyone's views can be taken into account. To this end I am therefore writing to let you know what our pre-planning application consultation plans will be and how you will be able to participate in the process.

The Sheepwash Energy Project

The project comprises a solar farm and an energy storage facility located on land at Little Cheveney Farm, between Claygate and Marden. The energy storage system will store energy from renewable energy generation. At times of high demand this energy will then be fed back into the grid.

This site has been carefully selected as part of a detailed feasibility process which includes considering designated areas, land grade and levels of solar energy. A multitude of surveys are being carried out, such as ecology, landscape and flood risk to assess the land's suitability for solar energy farm use.

We are proposing a combined generation and storage system because decarbonisation of the UK's energy supply and the replacement of fossil fuel generation will require more sophisticated energy systems that store energy for use whenever it is needed - day or night.

The land proposed for the project totals 75 hectares, of which a large proportion will be dedicated for habitat, biodiversity and landscape improvements.

How we plan to consult the local community

To ensure that everyone can participate in our consultation safely, we will be conducting a digital pre-application consultation which will close on Friday 27th August. We will be sending an information leaflet to local residents, providing information about the proposals, details of our online consultation hub and contact details.

The dedicated project website will have detailed information about the project and a dedicated feedback section. We will then use the feedback from this consultation to inform our emerging proposals and for our community consultation report to the local planning authority. At the time of

submission of a planning application, we will publish all feedback we have received and explain how we have responded to local views.

Get in touch

In the meantime, if you would like to arrange an informal discussion with me or have any questions or require further information about the project, please do get in touch by emailing me at [REDACTED] or by calling me on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,



Gareth Hawkins

UK Business Development Manager, Statkraft



Sheepwash Solar Energy Farm

Statkraft is proposing to develop a new solar energy farm on land at Little Cheveney Farm, between Claygate and Marden. The proposed solar energy farm will generate up to 60MW of low carbon electricity which will support the UK's target of zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.



Have your say

Before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application, we want to ensure the local community can review the proposals, ask questions and provide feedback. We are undertaking a digital public consultation to make sure that everyone can take part in a safe manner. You can get involved by:



Visiting
[www.statkraft.co.uk/
sheepwashsolar](http://www.statkraft.co.uk/sheepwashsolar) to
view the detailed plans



Providing feedback via
the project website



Contact a member of the
team using the contact
details provided

Please give us your feedback by Friday 27th August.

The proposals

The site has been chosen for its potential to deliver 60MW of electricity to the grid. 50MW will be generated by the solar panels and exported to the electricity network and 10MW will be stored by an onsite battery energy storage system.

The solar energy farm will be designed to have as little impact as possible on the local area and the landscape and wildlife. Where possible landscape and biodiversity enhancements and improvements will be put in place such as providing foraging for birds on the land between and under the solar panels and at the field margins.

The solar energy farm is temporary therefore at the end of the lease the land will revert back to agricultural use once the solar farm is decommissioned.

About Statkraft

Statkraft is Europe's largest generator of renewable energy and the leading developer in the European solar market. Our highly skilled development team operates across 18 countries with a 10GWp pipeline.

Get in touch

If you have any questions or would like further information, you can contact us by:

-  www.statkraft.co.uk/sheepwashesolar
-  sheepwashesolar@statkraft.co.uk
-  **Sheepwash Solar, Statkraft, 19th Floor,
22 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4BQ, United Kingdom**



APPENDIX 3: CONSULTATION LEAFLET DISTRIBUTION AREA



APPENDIX 4: WEBSITE

HOME \ ABOUT STATKRAFT UK \ WHERE WE OPERATE \ LOCATIONS \ SHEEPWASH SOLAR ...

Sheepwash Solar Energy Farm at Little Cheveney Farm

UNITED KINGDOM / SOLAR POWER / PROJECT

Statkraft is preparing to submit a planning application to Maidstone Borough Council for a solar energy farm which will comprise solar arrays and battery energy storage on land at Little Cheveney Farm, between Claygate and Marden.

The site has been carefully chosen for its potential to deliver renewable electricity to the grid, helping meet national and local renewable energy targets.

The solar energy farm would have an approximate design capacity of 50MW and 10MW of energy storage. The anticipated carbon displacement is approximately 20,000 tonnes per year, the equivalent to removing 7,000 cars from the road each year.

The project, known as Sheepwash solar energy farm, is in the early stages and we plan to share more details with you in the coming weeks.

[Contact & FAQs](#) >

Sheepwash solar - a welcome




Why Statkraft?

Statkraft is Europe's largest generator of renewable energy and the leading developer in the European solar market. Having acquired solar pioneer Solarcentury in November 2020, our highly skilled development team operates across 12 countries.

Our vision is a world that runs entirely on renewable energy. We believe that renewable energy can power every industry, every business, every community, every home. It can power progress. It can power possibilities. For us to meet growing energy demand, keep our planet's temperature below breaking point, and close the gap for nearly one billion people in the world who still have no access to electricity, renewable energy can't be part of the solution - it must be the solution.

When developing a project, Statkraft manage the whole process - from the early stages of community engagement, to submission of a planning application, to financing, construction and operation of the solar energy farm. We are committed to engaging with local communities throughout project development and welcome community input to our projects.

Renewable energy - targets and benefits

In June 2019, the UK government set a legally binding target to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Their aim: to set a world-leading target that will bring to an end the UK's contribution to climate change.

Maidstone Borough Council declared a climate emergency in April 2019 and adopted a climate change action plan in October 2020. The action plan explains that the council will "take every opportunity to generate renewable energy across the Borough".

Sheepwash solar energy farm will not only deliver climate change benefits, it will also deliver biodiversity and landscape enhancements, local jobs during the construction period, and a community benefit fund.

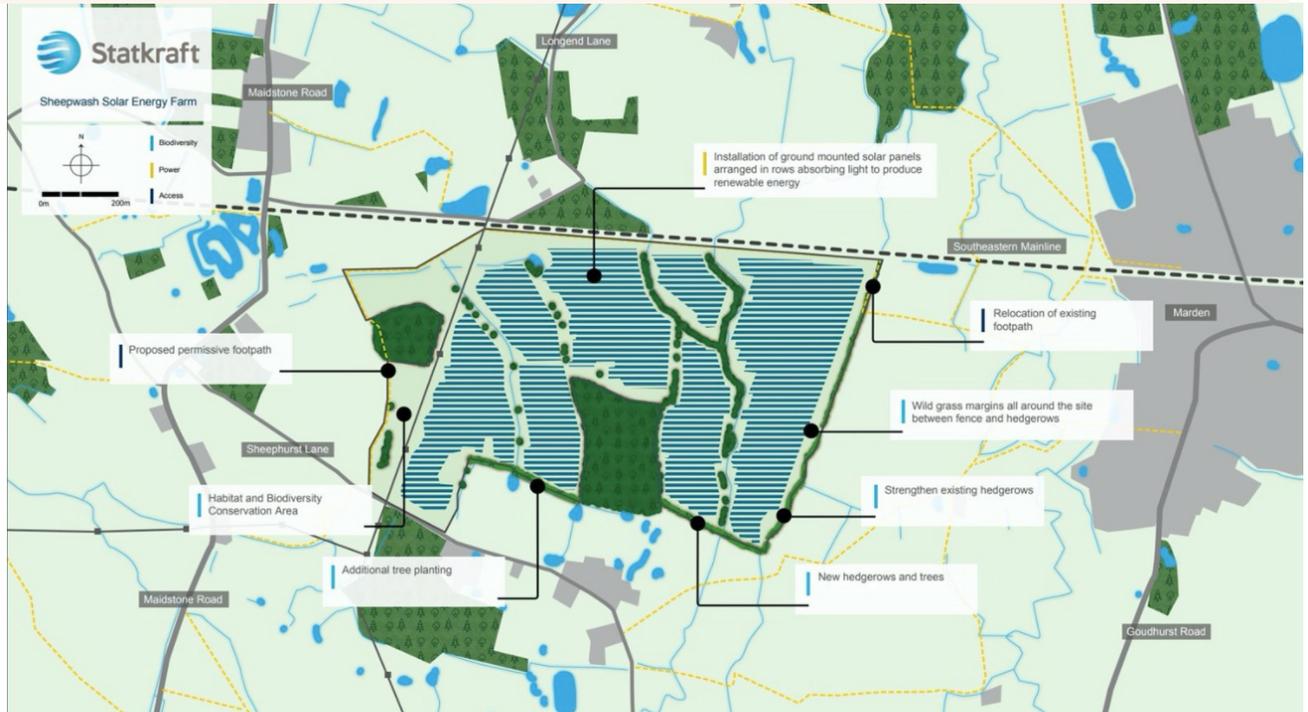



Key dates

Pre-application consultation	July 2021
Planning application submission	September 2021
Proposed construction	Spring 2022
Proposed completion	Summer 2022

Pre-application consultation presentation

Since we cannot yet safely meet in person, this presentation has been produced to include all the details about Sheepwash solar farm that you may be interested to know, from location to biodiversity measures to community benefits.



Have your say

We encourage your feedback as early in the planning stage as possible to ensure we have considered all points of view. There are a number of ways you can contact us if you'd like to give feedback.

[Complete this survey >](#)

Email: sheepwashsolar@statkraft.com
Write: Sheepwash Solar, Statkraft, 19th Floor, 22 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4BQ, United Kingdom

More details



Your questions answered

How does solar power work and what to expect as a resident living near a solar farm? We've compiled a list of the most frequently asked questions here.

Your project developer

Gareth Hawkins is the developer for this project. Don't hesitate to get in touch.



Gareth Hawkins

Development Manager

Digital public consultation on plans for Sheepwash solar energy farm**23rd July 2021****For immediate release**

Statkraft has today launched a digital public consultation on plans for a new solar energy farm on land at Little Cheveney Farm between Claygate and Marden, Kent.

An information leaflet has been sent to local residents including details of a dedicated project website: www.statkraft.co.uk/sheepwashesolar. The website contains details of the plans for Sheepwash solar energy farm, including information about how solar farms and energy storage work, further details about the design and layout of the site and how the plans can support local wildlife.

The website also includes a dedicated feedback section to ensure the local community can have their say on the plans before they are finalised.

Gareth Hawkins, UK Business Development Manager for Statkraft, commented:

"We are delighted to bring forward this site for development of a solar farm which will assist in the fight against climate change and cutting the UK's contribution to climate emissions. The Sheepwash solar energy farm has the potential to produce enough clean renewable energy to power thousands of homes each year and contribute positively to the local community through a benefit fund and the creation of local jobs and business rates.

"While we wish that we could have an in-person consultation, we want to ensure the safety of the community and are looking forward to engaging with the local community and stakeholders through our online consultation hub in the coming weeks, ahead of preparing a planning application to submit to Maidstone Borough Council."

The proposals

The land proposed for the project is 75 hectares of land between Claygate and Marden, of which a large proportion will be dedicated for habitat, biodiversity and landscape improvements. The plans include a 50MW solar farm and a 10MW battery storage system.

The energy storage component is a series of batteries that will store energy from renewable energy generation when there is too much energy in the UK's electricity infrastructure. At times of high demand, this energy can then be fed back into the grid. This is because decarbonisation of the UK's energy supply and the replacement of fossil fuel generation requires a more sophisticated energy system that can store energy for use whenever it is needed - day or night.

-ENDS-

Notes to Editor:

About Statkraft: Statkraft is a leading company in hydropower internationally and Europe's largest generator of renewable energy. The Group produces hydropower, wind power, solar power, gas-fired power and supplies district heating. Statkraft is a global company in energy market operations. Statkraft has 4,600 employees in 18 countries. www.statkraft.com

Further information:

Tom Martin
Email: tmartin@quatro-pr.uk
Mobile: 07734 855501

HOME \ PROJECTS \ COMMUNITY FEEDBA...

Community Feedback Form Sheepwash

This questionnaire is about Sheepwash Solar Farm. Your feedback will help shape the final design of the solar energy farm.

We may tabulate and analyse the question results to help inform us, our Planning Advisers and the final planning application, but at no point we will share any 'personal details'. For more information on how Statkraft generally processes your personal data, please read the [Privacy Policy](#), [Terms of Use](#) and [Cookie Policy](#).

Thank you for completing this survey. We are grateful for your feedback!

1. Please select one of the following that best describes your interest in the scheme.

- Local resident
- Local business owner or employee
- Community group
- Local supplier
- Local councillor
- Other

2. So we understand where feedback is coming from, please select which area you live in. Or select other and insert details.

- Marden
- Claygate
- Collier Street
- Other

3. How did you hear about the proposal for Sheepwash Solar Energy Farm?

- Leaflet from Statkraft
- Newspaper
- Word of mouth
- Project website
- Local community website
- Other

The UK is committed to an energy target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050. In the period April – June 2020, over 55% of the UK's electricity generation came from non-renewable sources (source).

4. Do you think it is important for the UK to generate more renewable energy rather than rely on fossil fuels?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

In the same period April – June 2020, solar photovoltaic (PV) accounted for less than 8% of the UK's electricity generation – despite 85% of the public supporting solar as a renewable energy source.

5. Do you believe that the UK should be producing more energy from solar photovoltaic (PV) sources?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

6. Do you agree with the development of a solar farm at Little Cheveney Farm in principle?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

7. How happy are you about the plans for Sheepwash Solar Energy Farm? (1 being not happy and 5 being extremely happy).



8. What do you think the main benefit of the solar energy farm will be?

- It will produce renewable energy and help the UK meet its zero carbon target
- It will have a positive impact with respect to climate change
- It has a net positive biodiversity impact
- It supports diversification of the farming business
- Other (please state)

9. Which of the following issues are most important for Statkraft to address through the planning process?

- Increase in traffic during construction
- Flood risk
- Noise
- Glint and glare
- Visual impact
- Loss of agricultural land
- No concerns
- Other (please state)

Solar energy farms also offer a range of wider benefits, including community grants, business rates, involvement of local businesses, and an opportunity to enhance local biodiversity with long term habitat management.

10. Do you have any suggestions or comments on how we can support the local community as part of this project?

11. How could local businesses get involved in the plans for the solar energy farm?

12. Do you have any further comments on the proposals?

I'm not a robot  reCAPTCHA
Privacy - Terms

By submitting this form, I agree to the processing of my personal data by Statkraft, in accordance with and as described in the [privacy policy](#) (see link above).

SUBMIT

APPENDIX 7: QUESTION 10 FULL COMMENTS SUBMITTED VIA SURVEY (Do you have any suggestions or comments on how we can support the local community as part of this project?)

I and my neighbours would like to meet the project manager to discuss various relevant issues especially important to us as we are in close proximity to the site. The siting and noise emitting from the power station are of especial concern
Find a different location - somewhere that hasn't already lost loads of countryside due to recent housing developments
Do it somewhere else
Enough around here don't need anymore to ruin the countryside
Don't put them up, there are more than enough around already
Don't build it
Don't build it. Get the plan correct, there are dwellings missing!!
Don't do it please!
Provide electricity back or discounts through recommended energy suppliers to those that can see the farm.
I am in support of renewable energy, but this location is unacceptable for numerous reasons so this question is irrelevant. Local groups are already very active to ensure long term habitat management. Is the suggestion that if the community backs the proposal, then they will benefit financially? There is no benefit for the local community or wildlife to have their beautiful historic, countryside turned over to the industrial production of energy.
Following the use of local roads for delivery of construction components, and the resultant wear and tear on our road conditions, Statkraft should be made responsible for all road repairs to help keep the roads in a suitable condition. I have noticed in other areas how much heavy vehicles destroy the edges of roads.
place the project on a brownfield site rather than desecrating the countryside and reducing agricultural use which is vital to the country's food production
no

APPENDIX 8: QUESTION 11 FULL COMMENTS SUBMITTED VIA SURVEY (How could local businesses get involved in the plans for the solar energy farm?)

They could block it
They can't
They can't
They can't
They shouldnt
?
Not my area of interest.
Not applicable
By opposing it
If you mean during construction then regular communication is essential
if you mean post construction then Marden Parish Council has an infrastructure spend plan and would be pleased to discuss with you
no

APPENDIX 9: QUESTION 12 FULL COMMENTS SUBMITTED VIA SURVEY (Do you have any further comments on the proposals?)

Not at this stage
Solar energy is I am sure advantageous to the planet but I would suggest a change of location at this present time. You are asking a community to lose more countryside and footpaths so soon after loads of housing development has deprived us of these valuable natural commodities. Bad timing on your behalf
I am against having such panels on my door step. The noise from construction, the look from my garden, and the huge impact on flooding in this area. Burton lane will not cope with any construction lorries coming up so must not enter this way.
I am very concerned of the impact it will have on my land and property, particularly Willow Cottage and Willow Barn. Also the effect of wildlife - deer and Barn Owls to name but a few
Do it somewhere else and don't ruin our countryside
Don't want it
If they go up I'll smash every panel down until they are removed
Taking away natural wildlife habitat and agricultural land and driving down the coat of housing is not good
There are already 3 in local area, build it elsewhere
This is the wrong place it will effect more than you realise to us who live here. Or at least make it smaller and away from housing . I am concerned about the close proximity to the Oak Parkland field which would be surrounded on three sides the Bird and general wildlife there is extraordinary and is bound to be impacted. Also there are houses right by the boundary!
We have locally some valuable animals which need protection, such as bats, newts and slow worms this Energy farm I believe, would jeopardise these animals survival.
Currently, there is a public footpath that runs alongside the river on the east side of the proposed development. It looks from the detailed plans that this is going to be removed but I would like to remain. It completes a circular route around turkey farmhouse back through gravel pit farmhouses.
The proposal should be should be withdrawn. It is on good land which has been productively farmed for some 500 years, and it also will have a significant negative impact on impact local residents on Sheephurst lane.. Industrial scale solar farms belong on poor or scrubland, brownfield sites or disused on roofs or existing buildings, NOT on good land in countryside where residents will be impacted negatively.
As above
I note that you are repositioning the existing public footpaths but I am unclear exactly where the changes are going to be (map not particularly good). The footpath from Claygate to Marden is well used by walkers/dog walkers and I need to have reassurance that this is still going to exist and be safe for both walkers and dogs. Also how is the wildlife (bats, badgers, birds etc) going to be affected by this (whilst new ones are good in the long-term, they take time to mature so existing ones will need to be kept and maintained)? Have relevant wildlife organisations been asked for their opinion? Will the frequent flooding of the Lesser Teise affect the site and how is this being addressed?
"Zero artificial external lighting to protect the dark night skies. Zero noise emissions to protect rural silence Zero development of site until all screening matured sufficiently to hide site. Permissible footpath and relocated public footpath to be minimum 4.0 metres wide to provide for 2.0 metre separation of users. Full Provision of Habitat and biodiversity conservation area and permissible footpath shown on preapplication consultation drawing to east of existing powerlines to be a condition of any planning approval prior to commencement of any works on site."
I am concerned that your website does not show my property and the plans to place the solar farm in the fueld next to my garden that I will directly look out on