

# South Brooks Solar Farm

## Programme Document

May 2026

Blue Planet Solar Limited



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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Document Purpose

- 1.1.1. Planning Inspectorate (PINS) advice **[Ref. 1]** and government guidance **[Ref. 2]** require the production and submission of a Programme Document for Development Consent Order (DCO) applications which lays out the proposed timetable and activities during pre-application. This document fulfils that requirement.
- 1.1.2. South Brooks Solar Farm is currently at the start of the pre-application process.
- 1.1.3. Following the Inception Meeting with PINS, Blue Planet Solar Limited<sup>1</sup> (the Applicant) will host and maintain a Programme Document on its website and update it as necessary during the pre-application period.

## 1.2. Summary of South Brooks Solar Farm

- 1.2.1. South Brooks Solar Farm is a proposed new solar farm with associated battery storage and infrastructure that would help meet the country's need for low-carbon, homegrown energy. It includes approximately 1,094 hectares of land that is primarily located within Kent (the 'Site') and would connect into the National Grid at Dungeness substation. The Applicant has a grid connection agreement which would allow the import and export of up to 500MW of electricity to and from the National Grid via Dungeness Substation.

## 1.3. Document Contents

- 1.3.1. This document details the following information:
  - Timetable of the pre-application process including the planned submission date;
  - Initial areas of interest for examination and how these will be considered and managed;
  - The plan for engaging stakeholders and details of financial support in place; and
  - Cross reference to the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

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<sup>1</sup> South Brooks Solar Farm is a joint venture between EDF power solutions and PS Renewables. The directors of Blue Planet Solar Limited are senior members of EDF power solutions and PS Renewables. Blue Planet is the original working name for the project.

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## 2. Pre-Application Timetable

### 2.1. Overview

2.1.1. South Brooks Solar Farm is at an early stage of development. An initial programme has been developed to achieve the key activities required prior to the submission of the DCO. This chapter summarises the activities that have taken place to date and forecasts those activities remaining to achieve successful submission of the DCO application.

### 2.2. Planning Submission Date

2.2.1. It is our intention to submit the DCO application on in **Q1 2027**.

### 2.3. Timetable of Activities

2.3.1. South Brooks Solar Farm publicly launched in **early-September 2025**. This launch comprised the publication of a project website and meetings with key consultees, along with a booklet being sent to properties within the parishes of Lydd, New Romney, Old Romney, Camber and Ivychurch. Prior to launch, meetings were held with the Local Planning Authorities (LPA’s) including Kent County Council, East Sussex County Council, Folkestone and Hythe District Council and Rother District Council, and relevant stakeholders, including Natural England and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), noting the presence of RSPB Dungeness and environmental designations relevant to the Site and surrounding area.

2.3.2. An initial phase of non-statutory consultation (‘Phase One Consultation’) ran between **18 September – 30 October 2025**. This included publishing consultation materials which described the early plans and proposals for South Brooks, holding 5 public events in the local area, publicising the consultation through digital and online advertising as well as ongoing meetings with key consultees.

2.3.3. Table 1 summarises the key milestone dates for the South Brooks project. Those highlighted in green are activities that have now taken place and are complete. The remaining dates are approximate quarter forecasts based on the Applicant’s current understanding of the South Brooks project and required remaining work.

Table 1: South Brooks Solar Farm Key Pre-Application Activity Dates

Milestone Description	Actual/Forecast Dates
Initial Engagement (LPAs/RSPB)	September 2024 – September 2025
Project Launch	9 September 2025
Non-Statutory Consultation (‘Phase One Consultation’)	18 September 2025 – 30 October 2025
Inception meeting with PINS	8 October 2025

Environmental Impact Report (EIA) Scoping Report submission	Q4 2025
Receipt of Scoping Opinion	Q1 2026
Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation	Q1 2026
Publication of Statement of Community Consultation	Q2 2026
Statutory Consultation ('Phase Two Consultation')	Q2-Q3 2026
Post section 42 consultation meeting with PINS	Q3 2026
Adequacy of Consultation Milestone	Q1 2027
Pre-submission meeting with PINS	Q1 2027
DCO Submission	Q1 2027

## 2.4. Other new documents required

- 2.4.1. The Applicant is also required to prepare an Issues Tracker in line with the updated PINS guidance.
- 2.4.2. The Issues Tracker has been prepared, and it is the aim to issue this to the Local Planning Authorities and other relevant stakeholders, and PINS during the Non-Statutory Consultation period. Issues have been tracked throughout the pre-application stage and will continue to be tracked, and similar issues have been presented in Section 5 of this document.
- 2.4.3. A Potential Main Issues for the Examination (PMIE) document will also be prepared. This culminates from the Issues Tracker, and should be a short document which, where possible, is agreed by relevant statutory bodies and local authorities. It is the aim to agree the PMIE with as many stakeholders as possible before submission, and it is the aim to issue this document in Q1 2027 to discuss and agree this, where possible, ahead of submission.
- 2.4.4. The Applicant also intends to submit a Design Approach Document (DAD) and a Policy Compliance Document with the DCO application.

## 2.5. Other consents potentially required

- 2.5.1. Additional consents, licenses and permits may be required as part of the Proposed Development, and are anticipated to include:
    - In terms of hydrology and drainage, a water discharge permit and flood risk activity permit may be required and will be subject to agreement with the Environment Agency.
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- Other water resource consents may be required and will be reviewed as the design of the Proposed Development progresses.
- Protected species licenses for bats, Great Crested Newt, badger and other species are likely to be required, subject to agreement with Natural England.
- Because the Proposed Development is partially located within SSSI, SSSI consent will be required.
- Discussions will take place with the Lead Local Flood Authority to determine if land drainage consents are required.
- Highways consents may also be required for any new or altered accesses which may be required.

2.5.2. Where possible, the DCO will seek to disapply any overlapping consents which are identified as the Proposed Development progresses and a schedule of other consents and licences likely to be required will be provided with the DCO application.

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### 3. Areas of Interest for Examination

#### 3.1. Overview

- 3.1.1. The Applicant has assembled an experienced team of technical consultants and is currently undertaking a suite of technical feasibility studies and environmental baseline surveys, in order to inform both the design process and the identification and assessment of the likely environmental effects of South Brooks Solar Farm.
- 3.1.2. The Applicant will, through the submission of an EIA Scoping Request in Q4 2025, be seeking to confirm the scope of the Environmental Statement (ES) and ensure that all necessary environmental baseline surveys have been commissioned. As detailed above, the Applicant has already established contact with a number of prescribed consultees and will be engaging with other parties as necessary to agree the scope of those environmental baseline surveys.
- 3.1.3. Table 2 below identifies the Applicant’s view on the main environmental topics that require further discussion with stakeholders and associated next steps.

*Table 2: Areas of interest and summary of their status and proposed next steps*

Area of interest	Status	Planned work and next steps
<b>Designations</b>	The Site is within and adjacent to the following European designated sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Ramsar;</li> <li>– The Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Special Protection Area (SPA);</li> <li>– Dungeness Special Area of Conservation (SAC); and</li> <li>– Dungeness National Nature Reserve (NNR).</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The initial design of South Brooks excludes solar panels, substation or battery storage from being located on land which is nationally or internationally</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued engagement with prescribed consultees (e.g. Local Planning Authorities) and non-prescribed consultees (e.g. local Wildlife Trust, RSPB).</li> <li>• Continued engagement with Natural England through the Discretionary Advice Service (DAS).</li> <li>• Consideration of feedback received during Phase One Consultation to inform design.</li> <li>• Ongoing ecological surveys and assessment to inform design.</li> <li>• Interdisciplinary approach to understanding the preferred routing for grid connection corridor.</li> </ul>

Area of interest	Status	Planned work and next steps
	<p>designated for ecology. The proposed grid connection corridor between the Site and Dungeness Substation would likely cross the designations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial engagement with a range of prescribed consultees (e.g. host local authorities) and non-prescribed consultees (e.g. RSPB).</li> <li>Engagement with Natural England through the Discretionary Advice Service (DAS).</li> <li>Ecological surveys ongoing.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Ecology</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential for species using the Site to have a functional link to the SSSI and European sites.</li> <li>Initial engagement with a range of prescribed consultees (e.g. host local authorities) and non-prescribed consultees (e.g. RSPB).</li> <li>Engagement with Natural England through the Discretionary Advice Service (DAS).</li> <li>Ecological surveys ongoing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued engagement with prescribed consultees (e.g. Local Planning Authorities) and non-prescribed consultees (e.g. local Wildlife Trust, RSPB) (in progress and continuing).</li> <li>Continued engagement with Natural England through the Discretionary Advice Service (DAS).</li> <li>Consideration of feedback received during Phase One Consultation to inform design.</li> <li>Ongoing ecological surveys and assessment to inform design.</li> </ul>

Area of interest	Status	Planned work and next steps
<b>Water resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Site is partially located within Flood Zones 2 and 3.</li> <li>Engagement with Environment Agency through the Discretionary Advice Service (DAS).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued engagement with Environment Agency through the enhanced pre-application service.</li> <li>Engagement with Kent County Council (as main Lead Local Flood Authority) and relevant Internal Drainage Boards.</li> <li>Consideration of feedback received during Phase One Consultation to inform design.</li> <li>Ongoing assessment of water resources, inc. analysis of flood data and modelling to inform design.</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape and visual</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential for effects upon local landscape character and visual amenity, noting the Site is not covered by any statutory or local landscape designations.</li> <li>The initial design of South Brooks includes initial offsets from properties and public rights of way.</li> <li>Publication of design principles at Phase One Consultation to guide the design of South Brooks throughout the pre-application period.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing surveys and assessment to inform design.</li> <li>Continued engagement with prescribed consultees (e.g. Local Planning Authorities) and non-prescribed consultees (e.g. near neighbours to the Site).</li> <li>Consideration of feedback received during Phase One Consultation to inform design.</li> </ul>
<b>Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Site is partially located within areas which are provisionally mapped as Best and Most Versatile (BMV) soil.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agricultural Land Classification survey scheduled and assessment ongoing to inform design.</li> <li>Continued engagement with host local authorities.</li> </ul>

Area of interest	Status	Planned work and next steps
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued engagement with Natural England through the Discretionary Advice Service (DAS).</li> <li>Consideration of feedback received during Phase One Consultation to inform design.</li> </ul>
<b>Cumulative effects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two other DCO-scale solar farms are also proposed in the local area – South Kent Energy Park and Shepway Energy Park.</li> <li>Engagement with other projects in the local area to understand potential project interrelationships.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued engagement with host local authorities.</li> <li>Continued engagement with other projects in the local area to understand potential project interrelationships.</li> <li>Consideration of feedback received during Phase One Consultation.</li> <li>Adherence to Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 17: Cumulative Effects Assessment.</li> </ul>
<b>Glint and glare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part of the Site is located near to Lydd Airport.</li> <li>Preliminary glint and glare assessment undertaken.</li> <li>Engagement with Lydd Airport ongoing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued engagement with Lydd Airport and additional stakeholders if required.</li> <li>Detailed assessment of glint and glare ongoing to inform design.</li> <li>Consideration of feedback received during Phase One Consultation to inform design.</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within 1km of the Site there are some heritage receptors including two scheduled monuments, as</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued engagement with prescribed consultees (e.g. Local Planning Authorities) and non-</li> </ul>

Area of interest	Status	Planned work and next steps
	<p>well as a number of listed buildings.</p>	<p>prescribed consultees (e.g. RSPB who manage the land around the Sound Mirrors).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued engagement with Historic England through the Discretionary Advice Service (DAS).</li> <li>Detailed assessment of cultural heritage ongoing to inform design.</li> <li>Consideration of feedback received during Phase One Consultation to inform design.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Buried heritage</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential for significant effects to buried heritage assets within and in close proximity to the Site.</li> <li>Early desk-based assessment undertaken.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geophysical survey and walkover site visits scheduled and assessment ongoing to inform design.</li> <li>Agreement of further survey work (e.g. trial trenching).</li> <li>Continued engagement with host local authorities.</li> <li>Continued engagement with Historic England through the Discretionary Advice Service (DAS).</li> <li>Consideration of feedback received during Phase One Consultation to inform design.</li> </ul>

## 4. Approach to Phase Two Consultation

### 4.1. Approach to Phase Two Consultation

4.1.1. The Phase Two Consultation will be inclusive, transparent and open to anyone with an interest in South Brooks Solar Farm who considers that they may be directly or indirectly affected by the Project or has a view that they would like considered.

4.1.2. The Applicant is committed to making sure that everybody has the opportunity to understand and provide their feedback on the proposals for South Brooks. The key objectives for achieving this through pre-application consultation are:

- Ensure thorough, open and transparent engagement and consultation on the proposals.
- Provide sufficient opportunities for interested parties to understand, provide feedback on and influence the proposals.
- Gather high quality responses to, and feedback on, the plans to help inform proposals ahead of submission of the DCO application.
- Deliver a consultation that is best practice for a DCO application.

### 4.2. Developing our approach

4.2.1. Our multi-phase approach to consultation has ensured that community input has already helped to shape the plans that are being presented at this stage. The feedback received from this phase of consultation will help to further refine the proposals and inform the assessments before the DCO application is submitted.

4.2.2. Engagement undertaken to discuss the Applicant's approach to Phase Two Consultation and the key outcomes of those discussions are detailed in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Engagement undertaken and key outcomes

Engagement	Outcomes
<b>Consultation workshop with Hands Off Our Marsh</b> 14 March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Additional webinar to focus on the consultation process</li><li>• Running of the public events to reflect comments on technical expert identification and recording of verbal feedback.</li><li>• Door knocking proposed to nearest neighbours.</li><li>• Facebook and LinkedIn advertising to be more targeted to inner zone.</li></ul>

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- Coordination with HOOM on sharing information about the consultation on its channels.

**Consultation approach workshop with Folkestone and Hythe District Council**

16 April 2026

- Addition of the parish of East Guldeford into the inner zone of consultation and consideration of a 5km radius from each parcel.
- Placement of posters to consider tourist attractions like the Romney Hythe and Dymchurch Railway.
- Addition of screenshots of views from key viewpoints from the 3D model to the consultation website.
- Contact the Youth Forum.
- Request for engagement with members.

**Consultation approach workshop with East Sussex County Council**

16 April 2026

- Addition of the parish of East Guldeford into the inner zone of consultation.
- Using the A21 to set a boundary for the outer zone of consultation rather than the administrative boundary of Rother District Council.
- Use Rye Library as a deposit point.
- Consult with the Hastings and Rother Economic Forum.

**Consultation approach workshop with Kent County Council**

17 April 2026

- Suggestions for deposit points to include New Romney Library and the reception of the KCC offices.
- Need to ensure cumulative effects have been addressed.

**Consultation approach workshop with Rother District Council**

21 April 2026

- Addition of the parish of East Guldeford into the inner zone of consultation.
- Use Rye Library as a deposit point.
- Placement of posters to consider Camber Sands car parks which are heavily used by tourists.

**Attendance at Romney Marsh Forum**

23 April 2026

- Need to acknowledge the wider Romney Marsh community that are not captured within the inner zone of consultation.
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### 4.3. Scope of the Phase Two Consultation

4.3.1. As part of the Phase Two Consultation, the Applicant will be asking for views on:

- The design of South Brooks, including the potential location(s) of each of its elements and proposed environmental enhancements and mitigation.
- Preliminary information on environmental assessments – the Applicant will present information about the potential likely significant effects of the Project and preliminary details on potential mitigation measures to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset these.
- How South Brooks could contribute to the local community, including the development of a community benefit package.

### 4.4. Consultation publicity

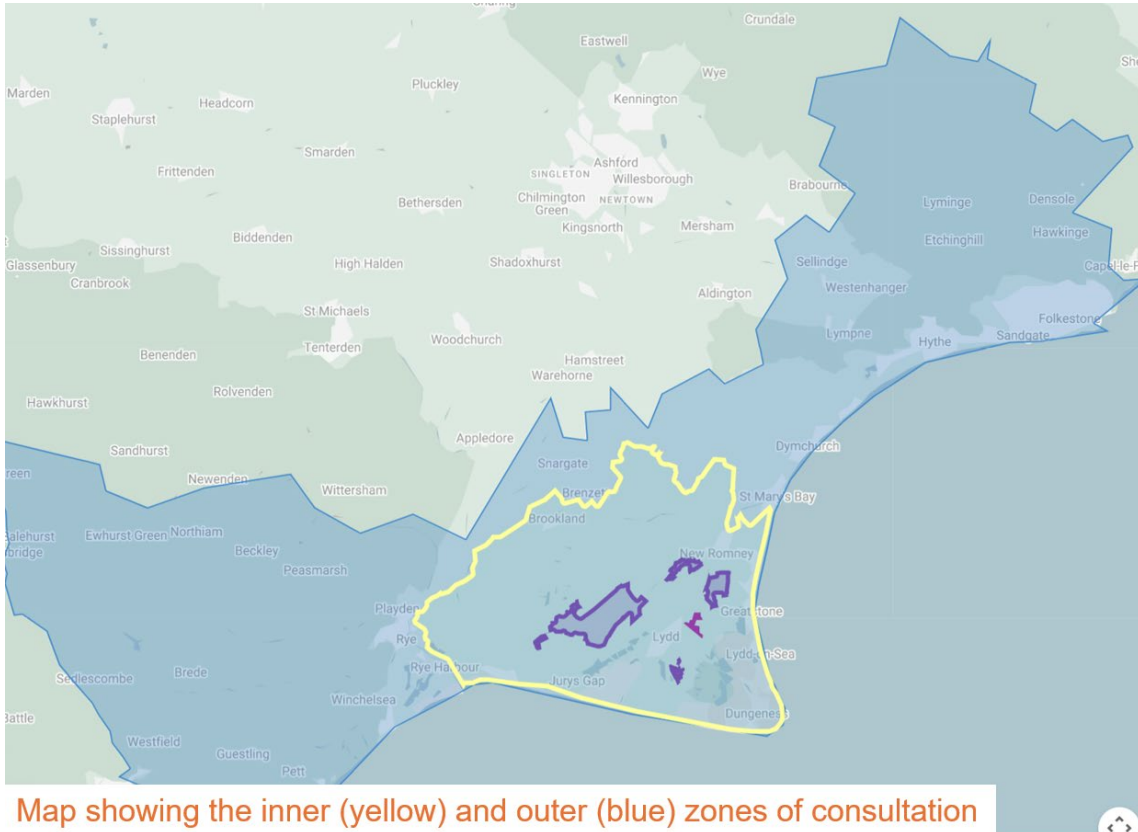
#### Zones of community consultation

4.4.1. The Applicant has defined two geographic zones – an inner zone and an outer zone – for the purpose of consulting with the local community. This recognises the fact that levels of potential impact and interest are likely to vary depending on distance to the Site. These zones have informed how the Applicant will publicise the consultation:

- **Inner zone:** People who live, work, visit and study closest to the proposed Site and their political representatives. Consultation activity will be most intensive in this zone. This zone includes all properties within the parishes of Ivychurch, Brookland, Lydd, New Romney, Old Romney, East Guldeford and Camber where South Brooks is proposed to be located. This zone extends in some areas to consider an approximately 5km radius from each parcel, for example properties along the A259 and St Mary in the Marsh.
- **Outer zone:** People who live, work and study in the area outside the inner zone, who may be affected by or have an interest in proposals being brought forward in their local district authority area. This zone follows the boundaries of Folkestone & Hythe District Council and Rother District Council (up to the A21).

4.4.2. These zones in relation to the Site are shown in the Figure below.

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Map showing the inner (yellow) and outer (blue) zones of consultation

Figure 1: Map showing the inner (yellow) and outer (blue) zones of consultation

4.4.3. Within the outer zone of consultation, the Applicant acknowledges that communities within Romney Marsh may have a particular interest in the Project and will tailor its activity within the outer zone to be most focused within those parishes (Brenzett, Burmarsh, Dymchurch, Newchurch and the remainder of St Mary in the Marsh).

### Other relevant consultees

4.4.4. Along with consulting the local community, the Applicant will consult with organisations that may have an interest in the Project. This list has been informed by the results of environmental assessments, feedback to Phase One Consultation, the Regulation 11 list provided by PINS, applicable legislation and guidance, engagement with LPAs and community organisations and desktop research. These groups include:

- The host local authorities and parish/town councils.
- Prescribed consultees.
- Relevant statutory undertakers.
- People with an interest in land that may be affected by the proposals.
- Local businesses.
- Non-prescribed organisations such as relevant local wildlife trusts and economic partnerships as well as other proposed infrastructure projects.

- Local community organisations and those representing people seldom heard in consultation, including schools and youth forums.

## Publicising the consultation

4.4.5. The Applicant will use a range of techniques to publicise the consultation:

- **Newsletter:** A newsletter will be sent to all properties within the inner zone prior to the beginning of the consultation period.
- **Newspaper and social media paid advertisements:** Adverts publicising the consultation will be placed in newspapers (print and digital) and on social media (Meta and LinkedIn) covering the inner and outer zones of consultation prior to and during the consultation period.
- **Email updates:** Emails will be sent to people who indicated they would like to be kept updated on the project.
- **Press release:** Issued to trade media, local newspapers and newsletters within the inner and outer zones of consultation.
- **Direct outreach:** Door knocking will be undertaken to notify properties closest to where above ground infrastructure is proposed.
- **Direct email outreach:** Emailing relevant elected representatives, local community groups and organisations representing those seldom heard in consultation within the inner and outer zone. This will include an invitation to attend the public events, offer a briefing and to provide a graphic that can be used to promote the consultation.
- **Posters:** Sent to shops, village halls and noticeboards to be put up within the inner zone with information about the consultation. This includes areas where tourists are likely to visit including Camber Sands car parks, stations along the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway and Dungeness Lighthouse.
- **Website updates:** Updates will be published on the project website.
- **Statutory notices:** The proposed DCO application will also be publicised as required by section 48 of the Planning Act 2008.

## 4.5. Consultation techniques

### Consultation information

4.5.1. Information about the proposals will be published for consultation in the formats below. Requests for consultation information in alternative formats (e.g. in different languages, large print or easy access) will be considered on a case-by-case basis so that the Applicant can establish how best to provide the information required. Deposit points are available at Romney Marsh Community Hub and Rye Library.

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- **Inner zone newsletter:** setting out how to find out more about the proposals and participate in the consultation. This will additionally be published on the project website to view and download.
- **Consultation booklet:** an accessible summary of the proposals for South Brooks, the EIA process, the consultation and planning process, approach to community benefit and next steps. Printed copies will be made available at deposit points and the public events, mailed on request (free of charge) and published on the project website to view and download. This will explain how the proposals have changed since Phase One Consultation.
- **Questionnaire:** the main way the Applicant will collect feedback from the community. The questions will be easy to understand, and the responses will be considered as the Applicant refines its plans. Printed copies will be made available at deposit points and the public events, posted on request (free of charge) and published on the project website to view and download.
- **3D model:** a virtual model of the Project will be available to view at the public events.
- **Project website:** the project website ([www.southbrookssolarfarm.co.uk](http://www.southbrookssolarfarm.co.uk)) will host all of the consultation documents, including the PEIR, and link to the online questionnaire. It will also include details of the deposit points and public events as well as hosting contact information for people to get in touch with the project team. This will explain how the proposals have changed since Phase One Consultation.
- **Public event banners:** a summary of the proposals for South Brooks, the EIA process, the consultation and planning process, approach to community benefit and next steps which will be displayed at the public events. The exhibition banners will also be available as PDFs to download from the project website. This will explain how the proposals have changed since Phase One Consultation.
- **Preliminary Environment Information (PEI):** containing the initial results of ongoing environmental assessments as well as preliminary information on measures to avoid, reduce, mitigate or, if possible, offset any potentially significant adverse effects. Printed copies will be made available to view at the deposit points, and individual requests for printed copies of the PEI will be considered on a case-by-case basis. A fee to cover reasonable printing costs may be charged to the recipient. This will explain how the proposals have changed since Phase One Consultation.
- **Management plans:** Printed copies of relevant draft management plans will be made available to view at the deposit points, posted on request and published on the project website to view and download.

## Public events

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- 4.5.2. The Applicant will hold in-person public events during the consultation period to enable anyone with an interest in the proposals to find out more about them and speak with members of the team. Printed copies of the consultation booklet and questionnaire will be available at these events for members of the public to take away. Completed questionnaires will be able to be returned at the events.
- 4.5.3. The events will be held in accessible venues focused around the inner zone of consultation and will be organised at a range of dates and times to ensure that people with working and caring commitments are able to attend. This includes events held after normal working hours and on the weekend.
- 4.5.4. The events will be held at the following times, dates and locations:
- Thursday 11 June (1pm – 5pm) Lydd Community Hall, Manor Road, Lydd TN29 9HU
  - Friday 12 June (4:30pm – 8:30pm) St Peter’s Church, Baldwin Road, Greatstone TN28 8RG
  - Saturday 13 June (11am – 3pm) Maude Community Centre, Station Road, New Romney TN28 8L
  - Friday 3 July (4pm – 7pm) Camber Memorial Hall, Lydd Road, Camber TN31 7RJ
  - Saturday 4 July (11am – 3pm) Lydd Community Hall, Manor Road, Lydd TN29 9HU
- 4.5.5. Requests for additional events throughout the consultation period will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Any further events or changes to scheduled events would be publicised on the project website, using social media adverts and, if possible, at the venue.

### Technical webinars

- 4.5.6. Technical webinars focused on key environmental topics and the consultation process will take place through the consultation period, which will include a presentation and time for Q&A (with attendees able to sign up and submit questions in advance). These will include the following topics and take place at the following times and dates via Zoom:
- Thursday 28 May 6pm-7pm: Taking part in the consultation process
  - Thursday 4 June 6pm-7pm: Water resources
  - Tuesday 9 June 6pm-7pm: Transport and access
  - Wednesday 17 June 6pm-7pm: Landscape and visual
  - Thursday 18 June 6pm-7pm: Battery safety
  - Thursday 25 June 6pm-7pm: Soils
  - Wednesday 1 July 6pm-7pm: Ecology
- 4.5.7. The slides used on the webinars will be uploaded to the project website afterwards along with a summary of questions and answers.
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## Presentations and stakeholder meetings

- 4.5.8. The Applicant welcomes reasonable requests for presentations and briefings from stakeholder groups, for example: host local authorities, parish councils and local community groups (including organisations representing those seldom heard in consultation) during the consultation period.
- 4.5.9. A reasonable request is defined as a request received during the consultation period from an organisation or individual who requires an additional way to find out more about the proposals or to provide feedback, which cannot be accommodated by the scheduled consultation activities set out above.
- 4.5.10. Other activities will be carried out if considered necessary and appropriate, to engage specific interests or seldom heard groups. This could include, for example, further meetings with residents who are closest to the proposed Site.

## 4.6. Getting in touch and responding to the consultation

- 4.6.1. Anyone can get in touch with the South Brooks team (including to request the above documents) by:
- Contacting the consultation team by calling the Freephone number 0800 038 3486, emailing [info@southbrookssolarfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@southbrookssolarfarm.co.uk) or by writing to the Freepost address (South Brooks Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK LOCAL).
  - Attending a public event during the consultation period.
- 4.6.2. Anyone can respond to the consultation by:
- Completing a questionnaire online at [www.southbrookssolarfarm.co.uk](http://www.southbrookssolarfarm.co.uk).
  - Posting a questionnaire by Freepost (no stamp required) to: South Books Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK LOCAL.
  - Emailing a questionnaire to: [info@southbrookssolarfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@southbrookssolarfarm.co.uk).
  - Submitting comments by email to [info@southbrookssolarfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@southbrookssolarfarm.co.uk) or in writing to the above Freepost address.
- 4.6.3. Responses must be individual. Petitions will be treated as a single response for the purpose of collating and considering feedback.
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## 5. Approach to Stakeholder Engagement

### 5.1. Overview

5.1.1. The Applicant is engaging widely with stakeholders and members of the communities in the vicinity of the Proposed Development. Audiences for engagement include:

- Statutory Consultees
  - Host and neighbouring local authorities;
  - Prescribed Consultees;
  - Relevant Statutory Undertakers; and
  - Persons with an interest in the land.
- The Community
  - Walking Groups;
  - Horse Riding Groups;
  - Cycling Groups;
  - Environmental Groups;
  - Local Residents;
  - Local Businesses;
  - Elected Representatives; and
  - Community Groups.

5.1.2. Each of these will have different interests in the Proposed Development and wish to engage differently. In this section the Applicant has set out how it will engage with these different groups.

5.1.3. An Issues Tracker document will also be produced to consolidate the relevant areas of disagreement during the pre-application phase to inform the PMIE. The PMIE will be produced and submitted with the DCO application.

5.1.4. Table 3 below outlines the summary of key stakeholders, the rationale for engagement and proposed methods of engagement.

*Table 3: Approach to Stakeholder Engagement*

Audience	Methods of Engagement
<b>Planning Inspectorate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Direct Engagement</li> <li>– Written Briefings</li> </ul>
<b>Prescribed consultees (Technical)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Direct Engagement through relevant technical lead(s)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Written Briefings</li><li>– Invitation to in-person consultation events</li><li>– Preparation of Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) (where required)</li><li>– Project Website</li></ul>
<b>Prescribed consultees (Community and non-governmental organisations)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Direct Engagement</li><li>– Written Briefings</li><li>– Invitation to in-person consultation events</li><li>– Project Website</li></ul>
<b>Host local authorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Direct Engagement and ongoing liaison with relevant technical leads</li><li>– Written Briefings</li><li>– Invitation to in-person consultation events</li><li>– Project Website</li><li>– Preparation of SoCG</li></ul>
<b>Neighbouring authorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Written Briefings</li><li>– Invitation to in-person consultation events</li><li>– Project Website</li></ul>
<b>Community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Direct engagement</li><li>– Newsletter</li><li>– Invitation to in-person consultation events</li><li>– Project Website</li></ul>
<b>Landowners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Invitation to in-person consultation events</li><li>– Project Website</li><li>– Direct Engagement</li></ul>

5.1.5. The Applicant is aware that the government is reviewing the statutory requirements for how consultation is carried out as part of its Planning and

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Infrastructure Bill. The Applicant will carry out future consultation in line with any relevant legislation and guidance in place at that time (early summer 2026). Feedback from Phase One Consultation will also inform the proposed approach.

- 5.1.6. Currently, the Applicant is expecting to conduct a statutory consultation in line with the existing formal requirements and will begin consulting with LPAs on the draft Statement of Community Consultation in Q1 2026. The Applicant will provide an update should this change.
- 5.1.7. A link to the SoCG will be provided once the Applicant has consulted on the SoCG with Folkestone and Hythe District Council, Rother District Council, East Sussex County Council and Kent County Council – the host local authorities. Consultation with surrounding local authorities will also be undertaken if required.

## 5.2. Financial Support to Stakeholders

- 5.2.1. The Applicant values the inputs of all stakeholders and recognises that many organisations, especially host local authorities, have stretched resources. To support their engagement in the process the Applicant is negotiating a Planning Performance Agreement with the four host local authorities.
  - 5.2.2. In addition, the Applicant will meet the costs of statutory bodies (e.g. the Environment Agency), as appropriate and in accordance with statutory requirements. The Applicant is in the process of setting up Advice Service agreements with Natural England, Environment Agency and Historic England.
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## 6. Minimising Programme Risks

6.1.1. The project manager for the Applicant monitors risks on an ongoing basis, allowing for the early detection and resolution of obstacles that could impede progress. This person is responsible for monitoring and managing all aspects of the risk management process. This includes the following:

- The development and regular review of a risk register;
  - Ensuring there are adequate resources for managing risks;
  - The continual monitoring of the South Brooks project to identify any new or changed risks; and
  - Regular reporting on the status of risks to internal senior management.
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## 7. References

**Ref. 1** – Planning Inspectorate, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus, 16 May 2024 (last updated 22 October 2025), Source:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-2024-pre-application-prospectus>

**Ref. 2** – Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, 30 April 2024, Source: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>

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