



STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

TOWN FARM SOLAR PARK, KELSALE CUM CARLTON, SUFFOLK

November 2021



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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. BSR Energy (“the Applicant”) conducted a programme of public consultation and stakeholder engagement with regards to its proposals for a solar park (“the Project”) on land at Town Farm Lane, Kelsale cum Carlton, East Suffolk, Suffolk, IP17 2RJ.
- 1.2. The Applicant began engagement with Kelsale cum Carlton Parish Council and the relevant ward councillors, following pre application engagement with East Suffolk Council.
- 1.3. The consultation centred around an in-person public exhibition, which was held on 8 September 2021 at Kelsale cum Carlton Village Hall (Appendix 1).
- 1.4. A brochure (Appendix 2) detailing the plans and inviting residents to attend the consultation event was sent out on 25 August 2021 to approximately 67 residential households (see Appendix 3 for postal distribution area).
- 1.5. At the public exhibition attendees were presented with 12 display boards (Appendix 1) giving information about the Applicant, the Site and the concept design. The Applicant and its development team were at the event, helping to explain the design of the site and to answer any questions attendees had. Attendees were encouraged to provide their thoughts and opinions by way of feedback forms (Appendix 2) available at the exhibition (or by way of the consultation brochure). Additionally, the development team provided attendees with contact details if they wished to send any follow up questions or feedback, and a project website was available for people to submit their feedback online.
- 1.6. Of the 8 local residents that completed a feedback form, 3 were in favour of the proposal, 4 objected to it and 1 was of no opinion.
- 1.7. Key matters raised during pre-application consultation by local residents and the Parish Council included:
 - Landscape and Visual Impact
 - Construction Traffic
 - Community Benefit

2. Introduction

- 2.1. BSR Energy (“the Applicant”) conducted a programme of public consultation and stakeholder engagement with regards to its proposals for a solar park (“the Project”) on land at Town Farm Lane, Kelsale cum Carlton, East Suffolk, Suffolk, IP17 2RJ.
- 2.2. The Applicant is proposing to develop a 21 MW DC Solar PV Park (“the Project”). This solar park will produce enough clean renewable electricity to power 5,251 homes per year, a saving of 4,651 tonnes of CO².
- 2.3. This document provides an overview of the consultation programme, the feedback received together with an explanation as to how that feedback led to changes to the scheme design.

3 Approach to Consultation

- 3.1 Alpaca Communications was appointed by the Applicant to assist with the pre-application public consultation on the Project.
- 3.2 Alpaca Communications is a specialist public consultation agency with broad expertise in advising on and implementing consultation programmes for both private and public-sector clients.
- 3.3 Alpaca Communications understands the role pre-application consultation can play in helping to influence a project before a planning application is submitted and respond to comments made by local residents relating to the Project.
- 3.4 We are currently living through a pandemic, the likes of which the country has not experienced in living memory. The Applicant and the development team agree with the recent guidance issued by the UK Government's Chief Planner, which emphasised that planning applications that positively impact the country and local communities must continue to come forward.
- 3.5 The Applicant strongly believes that now, more than ever, it is vital that local communities are able to see and shape planning applications that may have an impact on them.
- 3.6 'Front-loading' public engagement in this way helps ensure the proposals are as informed as possible by the local community and other stakeholders prior to the submission of the planning application to the relevant Local Planning Authority. This approach recognises that all parties benefit from a communications programme that ensures all of those people with a potential interest in a development are fully informed of the proposals and have had the opportunity to input early on. The Applicant is supportive of and fully committed to meaningful pre-application consultation.

4 Project Overview

- 4.1 The project is located on land at Town Farm Lane, Kelsale cum Carlton, East Suffolk, IP17 2RJ. The approximately 168 acre (68ha) site will be located in several fields which are currently used for arable farming. In addition to having solar panels on the site, the proposal also includes biodiversity and landscape enhancement measures.
- 4.2 The solar park would have an approximate generating capacity of 21 MWp. This solar park will produce enough clean renewable electricity to power 5,251 homes per year, a saving of 4,651 tonnes of CO².



Figure 1: Site Location Plan

5 The Consultation

5.1 Consultation Aims

The aims of the consultation were as follows:

- To work with Local Consultees (local residents and their political representatives) from the outset and see how we could improve the proposals by taking onboard their suggestions.
- To raise awareness of the Project with Local Consultees and to gain their valuable insight based on their local knowledge.
- To gain a firm understanding of the key issues affecting the Local Consultees.
- To ensure the Local Consultees had the opportunity to give feedback on the proposals, especially during the on-going pandemic.

Consultation Overview

5.2 Consultation on the proposals began in June 2021 when the development team contacted Kelsale cum Carlton Parish Council for a briefing regarding the Project. On 30 June 2021 the project team provided a presentation to the Parish Council, which included an overview of the proposals and the opportunity for members to ask questions about the Project.

5.3 A brochure and invite (Appendix 2) for the public consultation event was sent out on 25 August 2021 to approximately 67 residential households (see Appendix 3 for postal distribution area) inviting them to an in-person public exhibition on 8 September 2021. The Applicant held a public consultation event, where a Concept Design of the proposed scheme was available for residents to provide feedback on.

5.4 A website for the project (Appendix 4) was also created, which can be accessed at the following address: <https://britishrenewables.com/projects/town-farm-solar-park>. The website provides visitors with an overview of the proposals, planning documents as well the opportunity to get in contact with the development team or leave feedback.

Public Exhibition

5.5 A public exhibition was held on 8 September 2021 at Kelsale cum Carlton Village Hall from 14.00-19.00 hrs. Twelve display boards were presented to the public, which included information about BSR Energy, the solar farm concept layout, initial landscaping proposals, construction traffic details and viewpoint photographs of the Site from the surrounding area.

5.6 Attendees were encouraged to provide feedback by filling in a feedback form at the event or to take one away and return by way of freepost or to submit comments via the dedicated website or via email. Of the 67 residential households that were sent a brochure of the solar farm proposals, a total of 17 residents attended the event.

5.7 Figure 2 below shows the concept design on which feedback was sought.

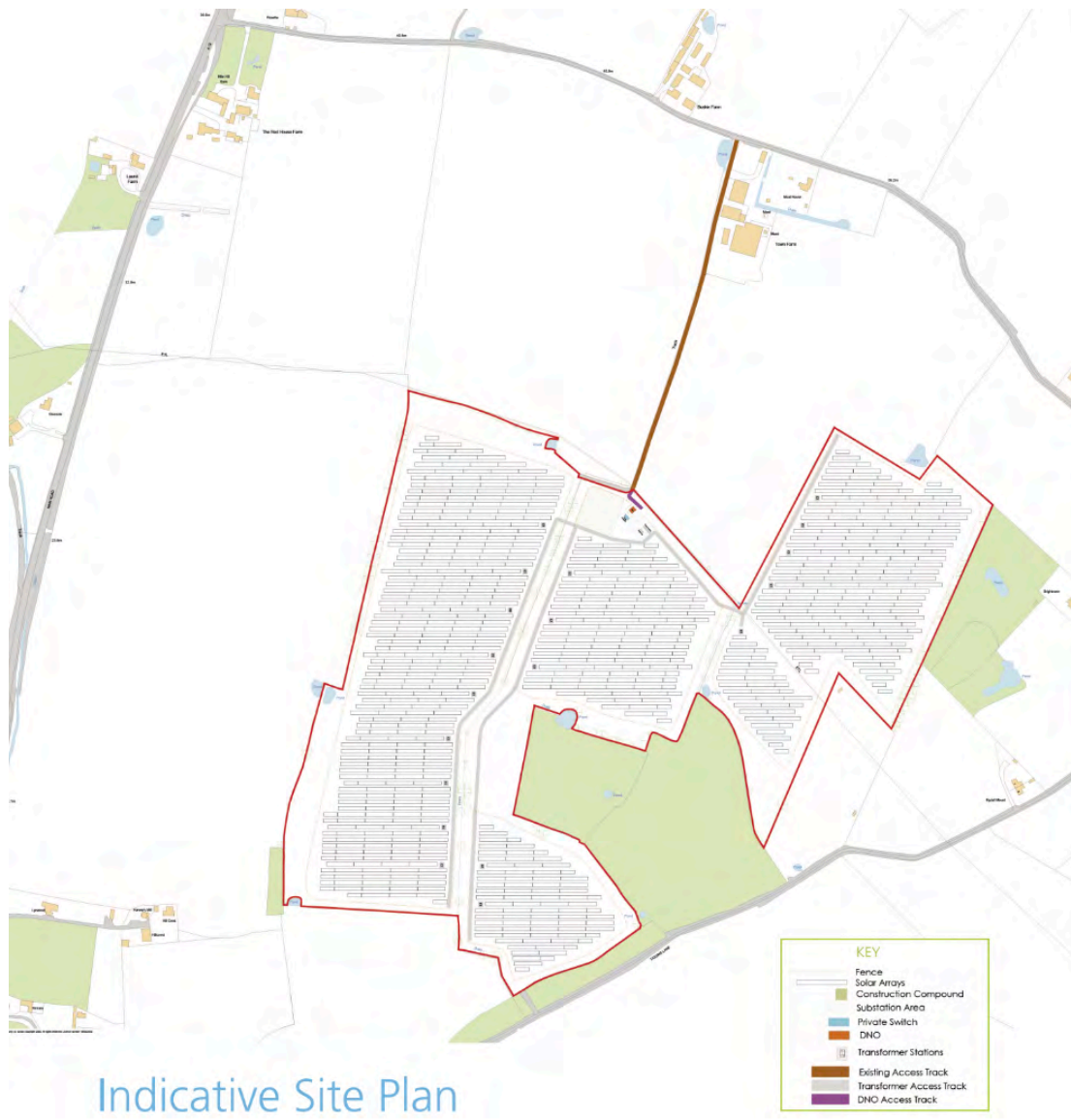


Figure 2: Concept design Presented at the Public Exhibition and included in the Brochure

6. Consultation Findings

6.1 The development team received 8 completed feedback forms. The results are presented below.

6.2 The feedback form included two multiple choice tick box questions and a space for additional comments.

Question one: Has this local resident brochure been helpful in understanding our proposal?

YES	NO	OF NO OPINION
4	0	4

The results of question one reflects the effectiveness of the webinar, demonstrating how attendees felt engaged and informed.

Question two: With regards to the proposals you have read about, are you:

IN FAVOUR	IN OBJECTION	NEUTRAL
3	4	1

Question three: Additional comments

Apart from one feedback form, each form received contained additional comments. Appendix 5 contains those comments in full, in addition to the Applicant's response.

The comments covered the following topics:

- Visual and landscape impact
- Construction disturbance
- adverse economic effects to local economy
- General support for renewable energy development
- Increasing biodiversity

Summary of Feedback

The consultation programme successfully engaged residents that live in close proximity to the proposed development site. Local residents felt that the consultation process had been informative.

Of the 8 local residents that completed a feedback form 3 were in favour of the proposal, 4 objected to it and 1 person was of no opinion. The most frequently cited issues were the impact the solar farm would have on agricultural land, the impact it would have on the Suffolk countryside and the size of the project.

How Feedback Influenced the Scheme Design

- Ponds have been included within the final red line boundary following a site walkover with the local biodiversity action group (The Kelsale cum Carlton Biodiversity Group). It is the Applicant's long term aspiration to manage these ponds to increase Biodiversity on the site over the lifetime of the project.

- The Applicant has extended the site boundary in the southwest corner of the site to allow further hedgerow planting in response to the comments made regarding visual impact towards the southernmost part of the site.
- As a result of feedback received during the consultation process, the Applicant is now taking an 'outcome led' (rather than prescriptive) approach to its Landscape and Ecology Management Plan. Co-operation with The Kelsale cum Carlton Biodiversity Group, will allow the Applicant to monitor the land for the lifespan of the project, enabling the Applicant to re-evaluate their approach to biodiversity on the site as appropriate.

7. Conclusion

7.1 The Applicant undertook a comprehensive programme of public consultation, which successfully engaged with residents and key community and political stakeholders, and the feedback received has influenced the final scheme design.

8. Appendices

- Appendix 1: Public Exhibition Display Boards
- Appendix 2: Consultation Brochure
- Appendix 3: Consultation Brochure Distribution Area
- Appendix 4: Website
- Appendix 5: Comments Received and Applicant's Response

Appendix 1: Public Exhibition Display Boards

Town Farm Solar Park

Where is Town Farm Solar Park?

BSR Energy is preparing to submit a planning application to East Suffolk Council for a solar park on land at Town Farm Lane, Kelsale-cum-Carlton, East Suffolk, IP17 2BL.

The solar park would have an approximate design capacity of 21 MW and would produce enough clean, renewable electricity to power **3,000 homes per year**, a saving of 4,551 tonnes of CO₂.

Town Farm Solar Park

Introducing BSR Energy

The Climate Emergency

In June 2019, East Suffolk Council declared a Climate Emergency in recognition of the need to take urgent action in respect of climate change. As part of this declaration, East Suffolk Council aims to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

In addition to this, the Government has made a legal commitment to cut carbon emissions to net zero by 2050 which will require a rapid and expanded deployment of low carbon power generation, including solar PV schemes such as the one proposed for this site.

Let's make renewable energy accessible, abundant and affordable for all.

As BSR, we strive to be a significant contributor in the production of renewable energy. Having already developed and built in excess of 700MW, we're not just on our way. We want to keep committed to advancing the use of renewable energy, improve the way we manage our land and develop what we call 'solar parks'.

Town Farm Solar Park

Local value

BSR continues to have an aim of the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions with significantly designed solar PV schemes to increase and improve on local communities and the environment, while creating rich ecosystems and protected farming for wildlife.

Register your Views

We welcome feedback from members of the community on our draft proposals at this event or via our dedicated website where you can get further information and keep in contact with us.

Please do have a look at our website at www.bsrenergy.com/Town-Farm-solar-park to remain updated about our proposals.

Town Farm Solar Park

The benefits of Town Farm Solar Park

- It will assist East Suffolk Council and the region as a whole to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with local and national targets. In addition to supporting its strategy for its declared Climate Emergency.
- The proposed development will contribute towards the security of energy supply in East Suffolk through the provision of a local renewable energy supply.
- No public rights of way will close during or after construction of the solar park.
- New hedgerow planting is proposed to contain and screen the solar arrays from its surroundings and for them to be used as green corridors by wildlife.
- Ecological enhancements including wildflower and wild bird seed grasslands, and a range of flowering trees for bats and birds are being considered as part of the application. We anticipate that the solar park will have a significant positive net biodiversity gain impact.
- This is a temporary development (40 years), allowing the land to rest for the period of operation.
- The proposed solar farm will not require any Government subsidy.
- British Solar Renewables UK is committed to using local suppliers during construction and operation where possible.

Community benefit

We offer a Community Benefit fund of £1,000 per installed MW for our local sustainable community projects. For this scheme we would offer £21,000.

A boost for biodiversity

We work with landowners, environmental specialists and planning authorities to develop, build, operate and manage our solar parks in order to improve local biodiversity and achieve a net gain of at least 25%.

Town Farm Solar Park

Indicative Site Plan

The project is situated on land at Town Farm Lane, Kelsale-cum-Carlton, East Suffolk, IP17 2BL. The approximately 168 acres (68ha) site will be located on fields which are currently used for arable farming. The existing agricultural land is of low quality - it is Grade 3B-4C. Therefore the proposed solar PV development will mean the net reduction of run off and ground water infiltration of fertilisers, herbicides, pesticides into the local water courses. The layout of the solar array and the grid route have been informed by comments received from planning officers and the recommendations contained within the various environmental specialist reports.

Town Farm Solar Park

Timescales

BSR have commissioned consultants to assist with matters relating to ecology, landscape, heritage, transport, agricultural land classification. We are now finalising reports.

An EA Screening Request was submitted to East Suffolk Borough Council in May 2021. The conclusion of the District Council was that the development did not require an Environmental Statement.

Planning overview

BSR have commissioned numerous consultants to assist with matters relating to ecology, landscape, heritage, transport, agricultural land classification. A pre-application has previously been submitted to East Suffolk followed by an EA Screening request. East Suffolk District Council have confirmed the development would not require an Environmental Statement.

The layout of the solar array has been informed by comments received from officers and the recommendations contained within the various specialist reports, which will accompany the formal application submission.

Town Farm Solar Park

Construction and access

- Access will be from Town Farm Lane, via the A12
- It is not proposed to route HGVs through any surrounding villages.
- We anticipate between 6-8 vehicle movements per day, over the course of 4-6 months.
- A full Construction Traffic Management Plan will be prepared as part of the planning application.
- All the HGVs can be tracked using GPS technology to monitor their movements and enforce the route agreed with the council.

Town Farm Solar Park

Other environmental considerations

Landscape

The proposed Solar PV Development will not give rise to any significant impacts on the landscape given the presence of the existing hedgerows and trees and the proposed landscape planting scheme which will fit in any gaps and further provide a haven for new habitat creation.

Public Rights of Way

No Public Rights of Way (PRoW) will be affected by the proposed development.

Flood risk

The risk of flooding is categorised as flood zone 1 (a very low risk). Furthermore, there is a lack of impact on existing drainage position, lack of risk to human health and sensitive equipment being sited to avoid any surface run-off issue. The scheme will not give rise to any increase of flooding elsewhere given the site is not at risk of flooding.

Heritage

The location of the proposal and the existing screening, the distance away from the designated heritage asset and a full Built Heritage Assessment has concluded that the proposed development would result in no harm to the heritage significance of the Grade II Listed North Green Farmhouse, the Grade II Listed Land Farmhouse and the Grade II Listed Kelsale Mill, or any other designated heritage assets in the vicinity of the site.

Town Farm Solar Park

Coronavirus

Our staff and consultants will be wearing face masks. We would encourage you to wear a face mask.

Please use the hand sanitiser provided before you enter.

Please maintain a safe social distance.

Windows and doors will be opened to provide ventilation.

Please be patient, we are monitoring numbers and you may be asked to wait or come back later.

Viewpoint 5
Town Farm Lane, looking
south towards the site



Existing view



Year 0 view



Year 15 view



Viewpoint 6
Tiggins Lane, looking
north-west towards the site



Existing view



Year 0 view



Year 15 view



Viewpoint 9
PRoW E-344/015/0, looking
north into the site



Existing view



Year 0 view



Year 15 view



Appendix 2: Consultation Brochure

Town Farm Solar Park





Invitation to public consultation event:
Wednesday 8th September 2021 from 14:00 - 19:00



Introducing Town Farm Solar Park

BSR Energy is preparing to submit a planning application to East Suffolk Council for a solar park on land at Town Farm Lane, Kelsale-cum-Carlton, East Suffolk, IP17 2RJ.

The solar park would have an approximate design capacity of 21 MW and would produce enough clean, renewable electricity to power 5,251 homes per year, a saving of 4,651 tonnes of CO₂.

The proposed design has been informed by the site's opportunities and constraints and pre-application consultation with East Suffolk Council. The proposed layout has taken advantage of the layout of the land, notably through making use of the existing topography and landscape features including the strong boundary treatments.

A number of technical assessments have been carried out over the last few months with regard to the suitability of the site for the proposed development, including a Landscape and Visual Appraisal and a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal.

The site will be accessed from the existing access point taken from the A12. In addition to the solar PV panels, ancillary development will include transformers dotted throughout the site, private switchgear and DNO switchgear.

What are the benefits of the Solar Park?

The main benefits of the proposed development are summarised below.

- It will assist East Suffolk Council to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with local and national targets, in addition to supporting its strategy for its declared Climate Emergency.
- The proposed development will contribute towards the security of energy supply in East Suffolk through the provision of local, renewable energy supply.
- No public rights of way will be closed during or after construction of the solar park.
- New hedgerow planting is proposed to gap up existing hedgerows to ensure minimal visual and environmental impacts.
- Ecological enhancements including wildflower and wild bird seed grasslands, and a range of breeding boxes for bats and birds are being considered as part of the application. We anticipate that the solar park will have a significant positive net biodiversity impact.
- This is a temporary development (40 years), allowing the solar PV development and associated infrastructure to be removed and agricultural use reinstated.
- The proposed solar farm will not require Government subsidy.
- British Solar Renewables UK is committed to using local suppliers during construction and operation where possible.

Climate Emergency

In June 2019, East Suffolk Council declared a Climate Emergency in recognition of the need to take urgent action in respect of climate change. As part of this declaration, East Suffolk Council's aim is to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

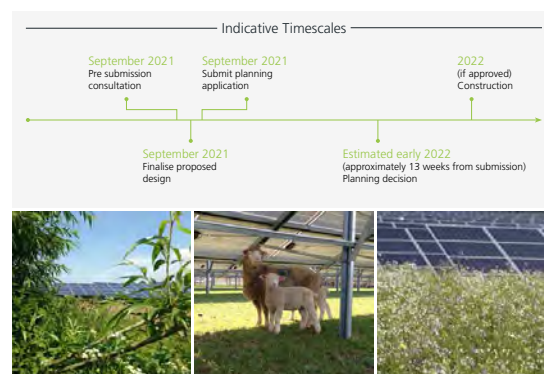
In addition to this, the Government has made a legal commitment to cut carbon emissions to net zero by 2050 which will require a rapid and expanded deployment of low carbon power, including solar.

Our approach to consultation during the pandemic

In accordance with guidance issued by the UK Government's Chief Planner, which emphasised that planning applications that positively impact the country and local communities must continue to come forward, we invite you to provide feedback on our draft proposals in the following ways:



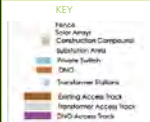
- 1 Attend our public consultation event on Wednesday 8 September 2021 from 14.00-19.00**
 You are invited to attend our public consultation event at which you can see our plans, learn more about our proposal and talk to the project team. We're holding our public consultation event Kelsale-cum-Carlton Village Hall
- 2 Fill in the feedback form that accompanies this public consultation brochure.**
 Please read through the leaflet and provide feedback to us by way of the free post feedback form that came with the brochure.
- 3 Visit the dedicated public consultation website:**
<https://bsrenergy.com/town-farm-solar-park/>
 We have set up a dedicated public consultation website, where you can find information about our draft proposals and provide feedback.

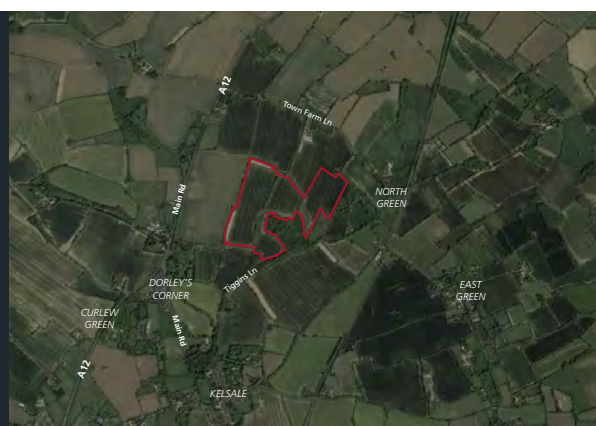


Where is the proposed Town Farm Solar Park?

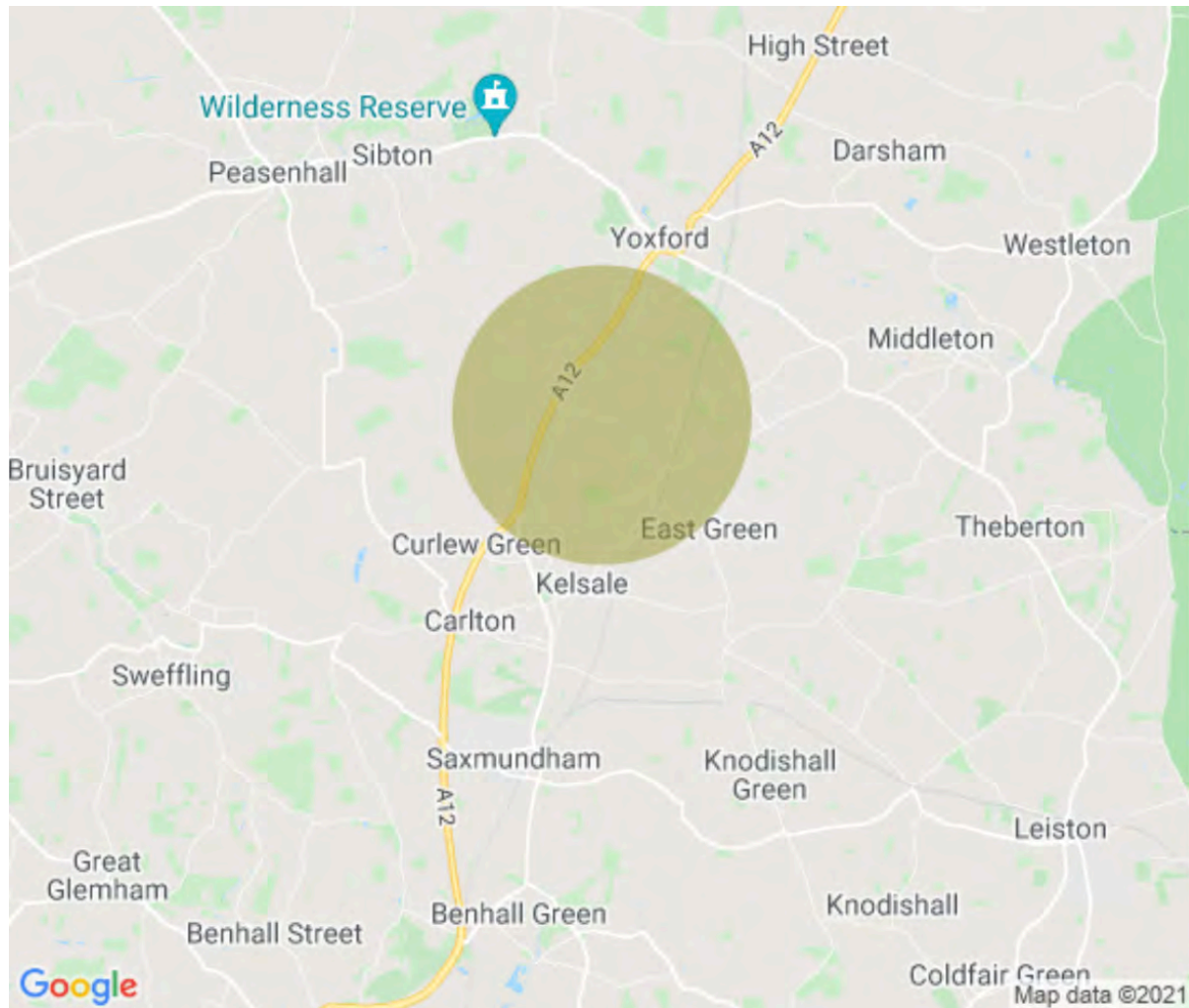
The project is situated on land at Town Farm Lane, Kelsale cum Carlton, East Suffolk, IP17 2RJ. The approximately 168 acres (68Ha) site will be located in several fields which are currently used for arable farming. In addition to having solar panels on the site, the proposal also includes biodiversity and landscape enhancement measures, such as the gapping up of existing hedgerows to ensure there are minimal visual and environmental impacts.







Appendix 3: Brochure Distribution Area



A brochure and invite (Appendix 2) for the public consultation event was sent out to approximately 67 Residential Households.

Appendix 4: Project Website

28/09/2021, 12:08

BSR / Town Farm Solar Park



EAST SUFFOLK

Town Farm Solar Park

BSR Energy are preparing to submit an application to East Suffolk District Council for a Solar PV scheme off of Town Farm Lane

<https://britishsolarrenewables.com/projects/town-farm-solar-park>

1/4

28/09/2021, 12:08

BSR / Town Farm Solar Park



<https://britishsolarrenewables.com/projects/town-farm-solar-park>

2/4

BSR Energy are preparing to submit an application to East Suffolk District Council

for a Solar PV scheme off of Town Farm Lane, approximately 2.8km north of the settlement of Saxmundham and to the eastern aspect of the A12. The Solar scheme will have an approximate design capacity of 21MWp and would generate an estimated 19,950 MWh of clean, renewable and sustainable electricity per year. This is the equivalent to the annual electrical needs of approx. 5,251 family homes*. The anticipated CO2 displacement is around 4,651 tonnes per annum!

** Based on an annual average domestic consumption per household (Great Britain) of 3,799 kWh. Source BEIS, Regional and Local authority electricity consumption statics 2018.*

! Based on 'Emissions associated with the generation of electricity at a power station (Electricity generation factors do not include transmission and distribution). Source BEIS, Greenhouse gas reporting: conversion factors 2020.

Brochure

Town Farm Brochure

Documents

Town Farm Solar Park - Photos

Drawings

Town Farm Solar Park - Layout

<https://britishrenewables.com/projects/town-farm-solar-park>

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Appendix 5: Comments Received and Applicant's Response

COMMENTS RECEIVED	APPLICANT'S RESPONSE
I am in favour of renewable energy projects in principle due to the climate emergency and the need to cut carbon emissions. I am concerned about the scale of this project as it extends all the way to Tiggins Lane and I would prefer a wider 'buffer' between the solar arrays and Tiggins Lane. I am also concerned about the screening and would like the Parish Council biodiversity Group involved in the areas to be set aside and the species planted	The application is accompanied by an Ecological Assessment and a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan which ensures that wildlife is protected, and habitats enhanced as part of the proposed development.
Another nail in the coffin of rural Suffolk. No benefit for the locality	A community benefit fund is available and was advertised as part of the consultation process.
I object to this proposal. It is too large. It will adversely affect Red Deer and other wild animals and birds. Deer fencing will be very intrusive. The proposed planting needs proper management.	The application is accompanied by an Ecological Assessment and a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan which ensures that wildlife is protected, and habitats enhanced as part of the proposed development.
In favour of renewable energy provision. Would like to see the following: biodiversity benefits in addition to proposed wildflower & birdseed planting and hedge gapping up. Reinstatement of some of the hedges grubbed up for farming, creation/ restoration of new or existing ponds and wetlands on site (and adjacent). Topographical features such as beetle banks, hymenopteran nesting sites, reptile and amphibian hibernacula nest + bat boxes especially for barn owls. Indication of how the site links in with existing sites such as Tiggins Meadows, Graces Plantation, Tiggins Lane and inclusion of these on plans.	The application is accompanied by an Ecological Assessment and a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan which ensures that wildlife is protected, and habitats enhanced as part of the proposed development.
Town Farm, Kelsale, Suffolk: proposed Solar Park Response to BSR Energy public consultation held 8th September 2021 My wife and I attended the above public consultation on 8th September and discussed various aspects with Carla and others from BSR Energy. We would like to make the following comments which relate mainly to issues around biodiversity.	The application is accompanied by an Ecological Assessment and a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan which ensures that wildlife is protected, and habitats enhanced as part of the proposed development. A site visit with the local Biodiversity Action Group,

1. The proposed solar park has potential for significant biodiversity gain although the information provided gave very little detail apart from some limited hedgerow planting, suggested wildflower grassland and nest boxes for bats and birds 'being considered'. There was no firm commitment to any of the above and our impression was that this was simply paying 'lip service' to the possible benefits. 2. There is a clear need for a detailed long-term biodiversity management approach and commitment to create and enhance a range of habitats within the site. The habitats should include species-rich wildflower grassland using native species, ponds, hedgerows, trees, deadwood and scrub. 3. There should be a targeted management programme to maintain and enhance biodiversity, in particular for declining species of insects and other invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles, bats and birds. Examples of birds that could benefit include Skylark, Yellowhammer, Linnet, Turtle Dove and Barn Owl among others that are on the Red List of most vulnerable species. 4. Ponds adjoining the site boundary could and should be added to the potential habitats for restoration and conservation. 5. There is an urgent need for close consultation and engagement with the local community, especially the following: (a) Kelsale cum Carlton Parish Council's local Biodiversity Action Group (b) adjoining landowners at Tiggins Meadow and Mabels Wood where private nature reserves are already established, and, (c) the Suffolk Wildlife Trust who have staff expertise and unrivalled experience in management of land for nature conservation. 6. We hope that a site meeting can be arranged as soon as possible with the local parish Biodiversity Action Group	Kelsale cum Carlton Biodiversity Group, took place on Tuesday 28 October 2021.
I have run Kelsale Holiday Cottages continuously as a business since I moved here in Dec 2005. The cottages bring hundreds of self-catering guests each year to the Suffolk area and they bring in turn much business to local hospitality businesses and attractions. The loss of these visitors multiplies many times from the amount that my business alone is turning over. This proposal could cause a major loss of income to the local and wider community in the area. I have two dog friendly cottages for holiday rental, details: https://www.kelsaleholidaycottages.co.uk/	The application is accompanied by an Ecological Assessment and a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan, which ensures that wildlife is protected, and habitats enhanced as part of the proposed development. A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP)

The planned Solar Farm is a very short distance away (<100m) across a small piece of field adjacent to the East side of my business. Part of the unique charm that I provide to my guests is the peace and tranquillity and the public footpaths and walks directly from my garden (which the footpath runs right through). Less than 100m from my gate they will encounter the solar farm site if this proposal is passed. One of the footpaths up towards Town Farm Lane will be hemmed in by the new development. This will change dramatically the character of the surroundings such that instead of peaceful walks through open countryside my guests will encounter a semi-industrial expanse of glass and metal. Over 50% of my business comprises regular customers some of which have been visiting me since 2007 up to 3 times a year. The loss of these valuable guests is not just one week but could be decades worth of income put at risk. The larger cottage, where most of them stay, rents out currently at £995 per week in the summer so the losses would be quite substantial. Construction Disturbance I am concerned about both the long term impact and also the short term disturbance during construction. I cannot see how I can let peaceful holiday lets while pile driving, and construction is going on <100m from their windows and garden. Obviously for much of the year indoor outdoor living is the main way people use the holiday space. I have large sliding doors which face East towards the site for this purpose. Compensation for short term disruption I would like to be compensated for the time during which the construction occurs at the full rental cost of the cottages as I think I will likely need to close or reschedule holidays for guests during that time. A hospitality business such as mine cannot risk getting bad reviews from sub-optimal experiences caused by excessive noise and disturbance, people come here to get away from noise and stress. Visual Amenity I'm also concerned particularly about the level of screening and hedging that will be provided especially towards the southerly end of the site. Currently the main view from the picture window of Hillcrest cottage (which is a 2 storey building) looks over the pointed southerly end where there is little or no hedging currently, just a couple of trees between the cottage and the site. This will spoil the beautiful view that the cottage has enjoyed for many years.	has been prepared and is submitted with the application, this details the proposed traffic levels and mitigation measures. The CTMP is provided to reduce the effect of the construction phase on the highway network. The Applicant has carefully considered potential visual impact. A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment has been undertaken as part of the planning application. The applicant met this resident on 29 October. The site boundary has been extended with further screening now being proposed to mitigate any potential visual impact.
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I would like the people responsible for the design of the site to make a visit to my property to see exactly the impact that I am describing and to discuss what their mitigations are for this area. My business operates all year around so winter cover is as important as summer when there will likely be more leaves on deciduous planting. I have asked several times for someone to come to visit my site in person, including when they were 2 mins away in the Village Hall but no-one has made any effort to do so as yet. I find this disappointing and somewhat revealing. I feel that since my business is going to be irreparably impacted by this development (should it go ahead) I should be awarded suitable compensation for the long term effects that this will have on the environment in which I may be forced to operate in future. Planning Timeline I very much would like to engage with the details of the plans and I would like to see copies of them at the earliest opportunity. So far the brochure information is very broad brush, which I understand, but it provides little guide other than the plan of the site. It seems that the planning decision is anticipated very soon (early 2022 according to the timeline in the brochure), considering we have Christmas and winter season of COVID expected during that time it does not seem long to really influence or refine the plans. Effect on the Local Economy I also think that the proposals should be weighed against their full impact to the whole local economy and not just me and my business. Holiday makers form a large part of the income of the East Suffolk area and repelling them by destroying the character of the area will have far reaching effects. We have just been through the onslaught of COVID and many holiday businesses are struggling to get back on their feet. Adding pressure by industrialising the open countryside and spoiling beautiful views that have existed for decades is very short sighted in my view. I can not envisage visiting a load of solar panels covering the fields being on any holiday makers top list of attractions.	
Apologies for the delay, hopefully you will accept my response. I did not receive a copy of the Consultation at home and so was sent one by email by the Parish Clerk. Can you clarify how many residents of the Parish were consulted? I object to the proposal for the following reasons: Opposition to yet more energy projects in this part of East Anglia	Approximately 67 addresses received a copy of the consultation brochure. The application is accompanied by an Ecological Assessment and a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan which

Farmland being urbanised, especially when it is needed to grow crops for the Country Red deer being displaced and 58 hectares deer fenced although this was not originally mentioned to the Parish Council	ensures that wildlife is protected, and habitats enhanced as part of the proposed development.
My wife and I attended the above public consultation on 8th September and discussed various aspects with Carla and others from BSR Energy. We would like to make the following comments which relate mainly to issues around Biodiversity. 1. The proposed solar park has potential for significant biodiversity gain although the information provided gave very little detail apart from some limited hedgerow planting, suggested wildflower grassland and nest boxes for bats and birds 'being considered'. There was no firm commitment to any of the above and our impression was that this was simply paying 'lip service' to the possible benefits. 2. There is a clear need for a detailed long-term biodiversity management approach and commitment to create and enhance a range of habitats within the site. The habitats should include species-rich wildflower grassland using native species, ponds, hedgerows, trees, deadwood and scrub. 3. There should be a targeted management programme to maintain and enhance biodiversity, in particular for declining species of insects and other invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles, bats and birds. Examples of birds that could benefit include Skylark, Yellowhammer, Linnet, Turtle Dove and Barn Owl among others that are on the Red List of most vulnerable species. 4. Ponds adjoining the site boundary could and should be added to the potential habitats for restoration and conservation. 5. There is an urgent need for close consultation and engagement with the local community, especially the following: (a) Kelsale cum Carlton Parish Council's local Biodiversity Action Group (b) adjoining landowners at Tiggins Meadow and Mabels Wood where private nature reserves are already established, and, (c) the Suffolk Wildlife Trust who have staff expertise and unrivalled experience in management of land for nature conservation.	This is a carefully chosen site based on land available to the Applicant for the development of a solar farm. Comprehensive assessments have been made on visual impacts of the Proposed Development within the accompanying Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal. The application is also accompanied by an Agricultural Land Classification report which assesses the quality of the land, a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Landscape and Ecological Enhancement Plan which will protect and enhance wildlife and habitats as one of the key, tangible local benefits of the of the proposed development. It is expected there would be a biodiversity net gain of at least 25%. A site visit with the local Biodiversity Action Group, Kelsale cum Carlton Biodiversity Group, took place on Tuesday 28 October 2021.

We hope that a site meeting can be arranged as soon as possible with the local parish Biodiversity Action Group in order to discuss fully the potential for biodiversity gains at Town Farm Solar Park.	
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