Mylen Leah Solar Farm

Programme Document

October 2026



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1. Introduction

1.1 Document Purpose

1.1.1 PINS pre-application advice expects applicants to prepare and maintain a Programme Document, while Government guidance encourages applicants to publish programme information covering the principal milestones and activities during pre-application.

1.1.2 Mylen Leah Solar Farm (the 'Proposed Development') is currently part way through the pre-application process. This document has been shared with East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC), the Local Planning Authority (LPA), during pre-application discussions held in August 2026.

1.1.3 Statkraft UK (the Applicant) will host and maintain this document on its project website and update it as necessary during the pre-application period, consulting with relevant statutory bodies and the LPA as necessary.

1.2 Summary of the Mylen Leah Solar Farm

1.2.1 Mylen Leah Solar Farm is a proposed new solar farm in the East Riding of Yorkshire exceeding 100MW AC (the 'Proposed Development'). The Site (Land Parcels A to E and the underground grid connection corridor) comprises approximately 1,254 hectares (ha) of land to the south of Melbourne and is predominantly in agricultural use, with some previously developed land at the former RAF Melbourne (the 'Site').

1.2.2 The Proposed Development comprises the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of solar photovoltaic ('PV') arrays together with associated infrastructure and an underground grid connection cabling corridor to Balwen Substation.

1.2.3 The Proposed Development will connect to the NGET Thornton Substation through an existing private connection owned by a Statkraft subsidiary company (Balwen Limited). The authorised development includes the electrical infrastructure required to facilitate this connection, comprising a 400kV cable from the on-site project substations together with associated electrical works at the point of connection.

1.2.4 The main features of the Proposed Development are:

- Ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) modules mounted on fixed mounting structures.
- Balance of Solar System (BoSS) plant, including inverters, transformers, switchgear and associated electrical equipment.
- Up to two onsite substation compounds and associated works including, switch room buildings, control buildings, reactive power units and harmonic filters and monitoring and control infrastructure.
- Works in connection with the installation and/or development of monitoring and control infrastructure and /or the development of automated weather stations.
- Works to lay electrical cables and compounds for the electrical cables to connect to the Balwen Substation.
- Works to lay electrical cables connecting Works No.1, 2, 3 and 4 to one another and connecting solar panels to one another, including laying down of internal access tracks and means of access.
- Construction and decommissioning compounds in connection with Work Nos. 1 to 5 including, welfare facilities, storage areas, workshops, parking and security infrastructure.
- Associated utility infrastructure, including electricity, telecommunications, water supply, wastewater infrastructure, batteries and backup power generation facilities.
- Site access works, including new and improved accesses, visibility splays, highway improvements and abnormal load access arrangements.
- Landscaping, ecological mitigation and biodiversity enhancement areas, including habitat creation and management.
- Internal access tracks, permissive paths, watercourse crossings and public rights of way improvements.
- Fencing, gates, boundary treatments, screening, earth bunds and other enclosure measures.

1.3 Document Contents

1.3.1 This document details the following information:

- Section 2: Programme of the pre-application process including the planned DCO application submission date;

- Section 3: Potential Principal Issues for Examination and proposed next steps to reach resolution;
- Section 4: The approach for engaging stakeholders; and
- Section 5: The approach to minimising programme risks.

2. Project Programme

2.1.1 The main completed and upcoming activities are set out Table 2.1 and Table 2.2 respectively, below.

Table 2.1. Completed Activities

Event	Held	Format
Inception meeting with ERYC	29 April 2024	Online (Teams)
Inception meeting with PINS	10 May 2024	Online (Teams)
Inception meeting with Ward Councillors	21 October 2024	Online (Teams)
Pre-submission meeting with PINS (including post-statutory consultation feedback summary)	21 September 2026	Online (Teams)
Non-statutory Consultation	**September – November 2024**	
Co-design workshop (Melbourne)	13 November 2024	In-person
Co-design workshop (Bubwith)	14 November 2024	In-person
Presentation of findings from co-design workshops and report publication	5 & 6 March 2025	Online
EIA Scoping Report		
Submitted	8 January 2025	
Opinion received	18 February 2025	
Statutory Consultation	**16 April – 28 May 2026**	
PEIR published	16 April 2026	
Public exhibition (Holme-on-Spalding-Moor)	30 April 2026	In-person
Public exhibition (Melbourne)	6 May 2026	In-person
Public exhibition (Bubwith)	7 May 2026	In-person
Webinar	9 May 2026	Online
Webinar	11 May 2026	Online
Webinar	13 May 2026	Online
Environment Statement Design Freeze	2 September 2026	

Table 2.2. Upcoming Activities

Event	Date	Format
Statement of Common Ground engagement	September 2026 – Examination	Online
Final DCO application document reviews	December 2026 – February 2027	Online
Pre-submission meeting with PINS	To be confirmed (January 2027)	Online (Teams)
DCO application submission	Q1 (February) 2027	Online

2.1.2 Details on engagement with relevant statutory consultees and other stakeholders throughout the pre-application period are set out in Section 4.

2.2 Other new documents required

2.2.1 In addition to the above key milestones, the Applicant is required to prepare the following documents to comply with PINS advice and Government guidance:

- Updated Issues Tracker; and
- Updated Land and Rights Negotiations tracker.

2.2.2 The Issues Tracker has been prepared, and this will be issued to the Local Planning Authority and other relevant stakeholders throughout the pre-application period. An updated version has also been shared with PINS in September 2026.

2.2.3 Issues have been tracked throughout the pre-application stage and will continue to be tracked, and similar issues have been presented in Section 3 of this document.

2.2.4 The Land and Rights Negotiations Tracker has been prepared and will continue to evolve throughout the pre-application stage of the project until submission. The Applicant will submit a draft of the Tracker to PINS ahead of each Project Update Meeting.

3. Principal Issues and Proposed Next Steps

3.1.1 Drawing on environmental baseline survey findings and engagement undertaken with consultees, this section identifies the Applicant's view of the principal issues that may require further consideration and resolution with stakeholders throughout the pre-application stage. It also sets out the proposed next steps for resolving these matters. The principal issues are summarised in Table 3.1 below.

Table 3.1 – Principal Issues and Next Steps by Topic Area

Topic	Principal Issues	Proposed Next Steps to Reach Resolution
Biodiversity	• The Site is located outside the Lower Derwent SPA, SAC and Ramsar site but has the potential to be used by birds for foraging. • Baseline survey work has commenced.	• Continue baseline ecological surveys. • Engage with Natural England, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and East Riding of Yorkshire Council. • Assess potential impacts and identify mitigation within the Environmental Statement. • Secure mitigation measures, where required, through Outline Management Plans.
Water	• The majority of the Site lies within Flood Zone 1, with some eastern fields located within Flood Zones 2 and 3. • Multiple drains are present across the Site.	• Engage with the Environment Agency, Lead Local Flood Authority and Internal Drainage Board. • Identify mitigation measures within the Environmental Statement and Flood Risk Assessment. • Secure mitigation, where necessary, through Outline Management Plans.
Landscape and Visual	• The Site is not located within a designated landscape area, with the exception of the underground grid connection corridor, which passes through a Locally Important Landscape Area. • Viewpoints are currently being discussed with East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Landscape Consultant.	• Engage with East Riding of Yorkshire Council. • Identify mitigation measures within the Environmental Statement. • Secure mitigation, where necessary, through Outline Management Plans.
Cultural Heritage	• The Site is located in close proximity to a Scheduled Monument and several Listed Buildings. • The setting of heritage assets has informed the site design and selection of fields for solar arrays and associated infrastructure. • Geophysical surveys are ongoing, and an archaeological mitigation strategy will be agreed with relevant stakeholders.	• Engage with Historic England and East Riding of Yorkshire Council. • Identify mitigation measures within the Environmental Statement. • Secure mitigation, where necessary, through Outline Management Plans.
Underground Grid Connection	• The underground grid connection corridor to Balwen Substation crosses the Pocklington Canal SSSI. • The canal crossing is proposed to be undertaken using Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD).	• Engage with Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Canal & River Trust to discuss the proposed construction methodology. • Identify mitigation measures within the Environmental Statement. • Secure mitigation, where necessary, through Outline Management Plans.

4. Approach to Stakeholder Engagement

4.1.1 The Applicant's approach to engaging with relevant statutory consultees and other stakeholders during the pre-application period and throughout the project lifecycle, will focus on proactive communication and collaboration.

4.1.2 Table 4.1 below outlines the summary of key stakeholders and proposed methods of engagement.

4.1.3 The Applicant has agreed a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) and Service Level Agreements with key stakeholders to facilitate a smoother and more efficient pre-application process. These agreements are expected to provide the necessary resource and support, enabling them to effectively inform the Proposed Development and help to foster a cooperative and constructive relationship.

4.1.4 The Applicant has delivered its consultation and engagement programme in line with the statutory requirements under the previous Planning Act 2008 regime. However, in line with the updated Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 guidance, there is no longer a requirement to produce a Consultation Report as part of the DCO application.

4.1.5 Instead, the Applicant will submit a more streamlined Engagement and Consultation Summary Report, which will outline the consultation activities undertaken during the pre-application stage, a summary of the consultation feedback received and how the proposals have developed as a result.

4.1.6 The Applicant will meet the costs of statutory bodies (e.g. the Environment Agency), as appropriate and in accordance with statutory requirements. The Applicant has set up Advice Service agreements with Natural England, Environment Agency and Historic England.

Table 4.1 – Approach to Stakeholder Engagement

Audience	Methods of Engagement
Planning Inspectorate	• Direct engagement • Written briefings
Prescribed Consultees (Technical)	• Direct engagement through relevant technical leads • Written briefings • Invitation to in-person consultation events • Preparation of Statements of Common Ground (where required) • Project website
Prescribed Consultees (Community)	• Direct engagement • Written briefings • Invitation to consultation events • Project website
Host Authority	• Direct engagement (including regular meetings with planning officers and relevant technical officers) • Written briefings • Invitation to consultation events • Project website • Preparation of Statement of Common Ground
Neighbouring Authorities	• Written briefings • Invitation to consultation events • Project website
Member of Parliament	• Direct engagement • Written briefings • Invitation to consultation events • Project website
Community	• Direct engagement • Newsletter • Project website • Invitation to consultation events

5. Minimising Programme Risks

5.1.1 The Applicant's Project Manager is responsible for the ongoing management of project risks, enabling the timely identification and mitigation of issues that may affect delivery. Key responsibilities include:

- Maintaining and regularly reviewing the project risk register;
- Ensuring sufficient resources are available to manage risks effectively;
- Monitoring the project to identify new, evolving, or emerging risks; and
- Reporting regularly to senior management on risk exposure and mitigation actions.

5.1.2 Table 5.1 below sets out the identified project risks and the measures proposed to manage them. The table is not intended to be exhaustive and will be reviewed and updated throughout the project lifecycle as new risks emerge and existing risks are mitigated or removed.

Table 5.1. Project Risks and Proposed Mitigation

Risk	Summary of Risk	Proposed Mitigation
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	Potential delays or difficulties in undertaking the EIA, which is essential for assessing environmental effects and securing the necessary consents and approvals.	• Engage suitably qualified environmental consultants at the earliest opportunity. • Carry out early environmental surveys to identify potential issues and inform project design. • Implement a detailed EIA strategy and programme to support effective management and timely delivery of the assessment process.
Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)	Delays in the preparation or completion of the HRA, potentially affecting compliance with the Habitats Regulations and the timely securing of required approvals.	• Engage an experienced ecology consultant at an early stage of the Project with specific expertise in undertaking HRAs. • Establish clear project objectives and prepare a comprehensive HRA strategy and programme, including a defined timetable and key milestones. • Engage proactively with Natural England from the outset of the Project to seek early feedback, agree assessment requirements, and address any potential concerns.
Community and Stakeholder Opposition	Local community or stakeholder opposition, potentially causing delays to project development and approvals.	• Implement a robust community and stakeholder engagement strategy. • Carry out comprehensive public consultation and provide transparent information on the Project and its potential effects. • Engage proactively with local communities and stakeholders to understand and address concerns at an early stage.
Technical and Design Issues	Technical design and feasibility challenges, potentially leading to delays and increased project costs.	• Appoint experienced engineering and design firms to progress technical assessments and project design. • Undertake early feasibility and engineering studies to identify potential constraints. • Apply a rigorous design review process to manage technical risks and support timely project delivery.
Political and Policy Changes	Policy changes relating to renewable energy development, potentially affecting project feasibility, costs, or delivery.	• Keep abreast of policy and regulatory developments affecting renewable energy projects. • Develop adaptable project plans that can accommodate changes in policy requirements. • Engage with industry groups and stakeholders to support and advocate for renewable energy policy objectives.