Statkraft

Statutory Consultation Information Booklet

Mylen Leah Solar Farm

www.mylenleah-solar.co.uk

Contents

Foreword

Statkraft is pleased to be able to share its proposals for Mylen Leah Solar Farm. These proposals have been shaped by feedback received during our co-design workshops and early engagement with local communities and stakeholders in 2024, as well as by ongoing environmental assessments and technical work.

Matt Simpson
Senior Project Manager
Mylen Leah Solar Farm

"Mylen Leah Solar Farm would help strengthen the UK's energy security by generating clean, affordable energy right here in the East Riding. Solar is one of the most cost-effective forms of energy generation, and projects like Mylen Leah Solar Farm play an important role in keeping national energy bills down while reducing our reliance on imported fossil fuels in an uncertain and changing world.

Statkraft has been developing clean energy for 130 years. We have invested over £1.8 billion in renewable energy infrastructure in the UK, including projects in the East Riding. We are constructing the Soay Solar Farm and Thornton Greener Grid Park between the villages of Allerthorpe and Thornton. This is already supporting community projects and local jobs in the area. We know that being a good neighbour to the communities where we develop our projects doesn't just mean getting the project design right and minimising disruption. It means listening to local people, investing and buying local and leaving the environment of our sites in a better condition than we found it.

Our commitment to boosting biodiversity and protecting the local ecology is at the heart of our plans on every project we work on. We are committed to a minimum biodiversity net gain (BNG) of 10% on all projects we work on, but the reality is that often the boost to biodiversity on our sites is higher than this. This is achieved with the enhancement and creation of hedgerows, grassland and wildflower meadows, creating new, natural habitats for animals and plants to flourish. We also work closely with independent ecologists, including Natural England, and conservation charities, such as the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, to ensure our plans make a difference.

Thank you to everyone who has already provided feedback on our early proposals in 2024 and for those of you who are taking the time to engage with our plans for the first time. The Mylen Leah Solar Farm team will be available throughout the statutory consultation and beyond to answer your questions and discuss the proposals in detail.

We look forward to hearing your views on our proposals."

Introduction

Mylen Leah Solar Farm is proposed between the villages of Seaton Ross, Melbourne, Laytham, Ellerton, East Cottingwith and Foggathorpe in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

If consented, Mylen Leah Solar Farm would have a capacity of approximately 500 megawatts (MW), generating enough clean electricity to power the equivalent of around 180,000 homes[1], helping to strengthen the UK's energy security. Mylen Leah Solar Farm would establish a grid connection via underground cabling to National Grid Thornton Substation, which would transfer the electricity to the national electricity network. There is no battery energy storage system (BESS) included in the proposal, meaning all the electricity produced would go directly to the national grid.

Solar is one of the most cost-effective forms of energy generation, and projects like Mylen Leah Solar Farm play a key role in reducing the need to import expensive gas from abroad. Over its operational lifetime, the project would deliver real benefits to the local area, including employment during construction, opportunities for local businesses to become suppliers and a community benefit fund.

The consultation process

You are now invited to take part in our statutory consultation, which runs from **Thursday 16 April to Thursday 28 May 2026.** During this period, we are asking for your feedback on our updated proposals, which are summarised in this document. This is an opportunity for you to ask questions, have your say and shape our proposals before we submit our Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

We encourage you to share your feedback on our design proposals, including our preliminary environmental assessments and measures being taken to reduce the potential effects of the project.

The materials, alongside this booklet, that have been published as part of this consultation are detailed on pages 24 to 25.

To contact our Community Relations Team, please use the details provided below:

Website: **www.mylenleah-solar.co.uk**

Email: **community@mylenleah.com**

Freephone: **0800 772 0134**

The phoneline is monitored from 9:00 to 17:30 Monday to Friday. Outside of these hours, callers will be asked to leave a message, and the team will be in touch at the earliest opportunity.

[1] *The equivalent homes figure has been calculated in line with the latest DESNZ guidance / methodology published on 20th March 2026 https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/estimating-renewable-generation-and-homes-powered-methodology/estimating-renewable-generation-and-homes-powered-methodology-note. Calculation: Annual estimated generation MWh (Capacity, MW x hours in a year x solar capacity factor x DUKES electricity loss proportion) / Median Annual UK household electrical consumption, MWh (DESNZ stacked electricity consumption) = Homes Equivalent.*

The planning process

As Mylen Leah Solar Farm would have a capacity greater than 100MW, it is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).

As a result, Statkraft will submit an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO). DCO applications must be submitted to the Secretary of State (SoS) through The Planning Inspectorate. The DCO application will be examined by an independent Examining Authority appointed by The Planning Inspectorate, who will then make a recommendation on the DCO application to the SoS. The SoS for Energy Security and Net Zero makes the final decision on the DCO application.

While East Riding of Yorkshire Council will act as a statutory consultee during this process, the final decision on whether to approve (grant) the DCO will be made by the SoS.

Further information on the DCO planning process can be found on The Planning Inspectorate website: **https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/decision-making-process-guide.**

Who is Statkraft?

Statkraft is at the heart of the UK's energy transition. Since 2006, Statkraft has gone from strength to strength in the UK, building experience across wind, solar, hydro, energy storage and grid stability projects.

The company has invested over £1.8 billion in the UK's renewable energy infrastructure and facilitated over 4.5 gigawatts (GW) of new-build renewable energy through power purchase agreements. Statkraft employs more than 500 people in England, Scotland and Wales.

Soay Solar Farm and Thornton Greener Grid Park

Statkraft may already be your neighbours if you live in Allerthorpe or Thornton. This is where we are currently constructing the Soay Solar Farm and Thornton Greener Grid Park – a combined solar and battery project on a 150 hectare site, representing an investment of around £125 million.

The 200MW battery storage construction is already progressing well, and construction on the 49.9MW solar farm began in January 2026. We expect Soay Solar Farm to be operational by the end of 2026.

What we have learned from working in the East Riding of Yorkshire

The Soay Solar Farm and Thornton Greener Grid Park project has been shaped by local people at every stage, with local insight and feedback helping to refine our plans, some examples of which are included below.

Agricultural land and farming: The community cares deeply about what happens to the land. The location of Soay Solar Farm and Thornton Greener Grid Park was selected for its lower-quality agricultural land, and we designed the project so that grazing could continue beneath and around the panels. An Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey is informing our design for Mylen Leah Solar Farm, and we are prioritising lower-quality land wherever possible.

What it will look like: We know that visual impact matters more than almost anything else for most people living near a solar farm. For Soay Solar Farm, we are adding substantial numbers of trees and hedgerows to the existing landscape, which will help screen views as they mature. At Mylen Leah Solar Farm, we are taking the same landscape led approach using the co-design workshop feedback to understand which views and settings matter most locally and designing our screening and setbacks around them.

Lasting benefit for local communities: A community benefit fund has been active since construction began on Soay Solar Farm and Thornton Greener Grid Park. Additionally, we are working with local businesses who have registered on our supply chain registry. At Mylen Leah Solar Farm, we are committed to the same model: real investment in local projects, jobs, the local community and the natural environment.

To find out more about Soay Solar Farm and Thornton Greener Grid Park or the Community Benefit Fund, visit:

Project website: **www.statkraft.co.uk/soay**

The Community Benefit Fund website: **https://grantscape.org.uk/fund/soay/**

Site selection: How was the site identified?

The proposed site has been identified and refined following an in-depth site selection process in accordance with the key site selection factors outlined in the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (December 2025, published January 2026).

The site selection process considered a number of factors, including:

- **irradiance and site topography** – preference was given to sites with a south-facing aspect and flatter topography.
- **electricity network connection** – site selection also focused on the area around National Grid Thornton Substation, where there was an available electricity connection with preference given to sites in close proximity to the point of connection.
- **proximity of the site to dwellings** – we sought to avoid sites in close proximity to residential dwellings or where it would not be possible to appropriately mitigate visual amenity and glint and glare.
- **agricultural land classification and land type** – we sought to minimise the impact on Best and Most Versatile agricultural land (land classified as Grade 3a and above).
- **accessibility** – we considered the suitability of the access routes, during construction, operation and decommissioning.
- **public rights of way** – we sought to avoid and minimise the visual impact from public rights of way.

Other considerations include environmental and spatial constraints (for example avoiding direct impacts on designated ecological and geological sites, historic designations and nationally designated landscapes), site size and land assembly (for example identifying sufficient adjoining areas of land for Mylen Leah Solar Farm to be economically viable) and land availability (for example identifying willing landowners with large-scale land holdings).

For more information, see Chapter 4 of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).

Statkraft's Talayuela Solar Farm, Spain

Why is Mylen Leah Solar Farm needed now?

Solar is one of the most cost-effective forms of energy generation, and projects like Mylen Leah Solar Farm play a key role in reducing the need to import expensive gas from abroad. By producing homegrown solar energy, we can futureproof our energy supply, improve our energy security and lower energy bills.

Solar is the cheapest source of electricity, far more affordable than gas or nuclear and more cost effective to build than onshore wind. Recent energy price crises have made the case for solar even stronger, and the cost of solar continues to decrease year on year.

Low-carbon solar generation is an essential step to meeting the UK Government's objectives to enable decarbonisation, with the UK Government identifying low-carbon energy generation as a critical national priority. Mylen Leah Solar Farm would contribute towards the achievement of UK Government energy targets, including reaching 70GW of solar capacity by 2035, and would help to secure a UK energy supply that is low carbon and low cost.

Consultation to date

April 2024
Introductory meeting held with East Riding of Yorkshire Council and The Planning Inspectorate

September 2024
Introductory letters sent to local community members, inviting them to meet and discuss Mylen Leah Solar Farm

September 2024
Near-neighbour and grid search area landowner letters sent

September 2024
Mylen Leah Solar Farm website launched and the concept masterplan published

October 2024
Introductory meeting held with local Ward Members

November 2024
In-person co-design workshops held in Melbourne and Bubwith and attendance at scheduled parish council meetings in Seaton Ross, Melbourne, East Cottingwith and Storwood

March 2025
Online webinars to present the findings from the co-design workshops held

March 2025
Report presenting the key findings and themes from the co-design workshops published

In addition to the activities outlined, we have continued to engage with key stakeholders, including parish councillors and landowners, to discuss the project and incorporate feedback iteratively as we develop our more detailed proposals.

Our early-stage engagement

Co-design workshops

In November 2024, as part of the early, non-statutory engagement for Mylen Leah Solar Farm, two co-design workshops were held with local political representatives, community groups, statutory consultees and technical officers from the local authority.

These workshops enabled us to introduce the early-stage design proposals for the project in an environment where attendees could actively participate in the design process.

Over 50 stakeholders from a variety of groups and technical disciplines were invited to the workshops, with 20 total attendees across both events. Invitee groups included:

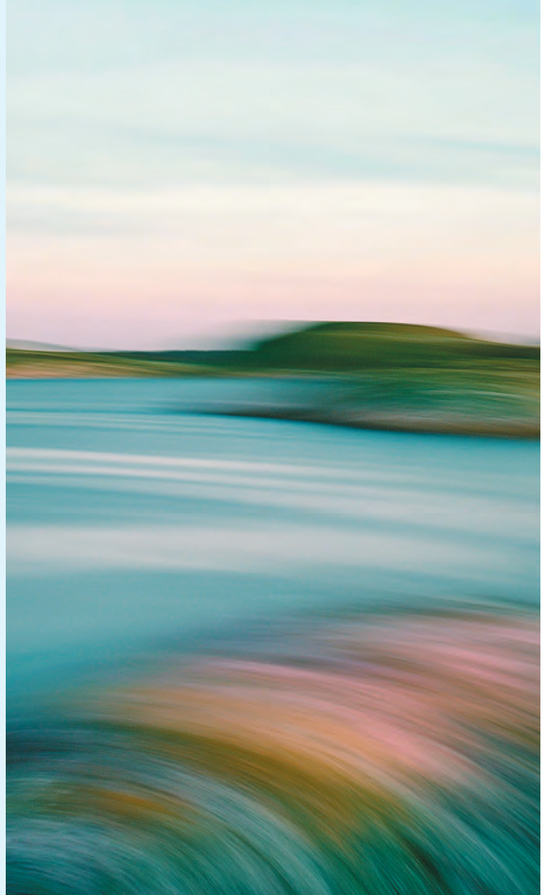
- ward councillors and local authority portfolio holders.
- representatives of the local community, including parish councils and local interest/community groups.
- statutory consultees and wider environmental/technical stakeholders.
- representatives from the local planning authority.

We have used feedback shared during the workshops to shape our design proposals. As part of this process, we produced a co-design report, which provides further details on the feedback received and how it has been incorporated into the design process. The report can be accessed on the Project Documents tab of our website: **Mylen Leah: Co-design Workshop Summary Report - March 2025.**

On the right hand page is a summary of the key changes we have made to the project since this stage and how the feedback received has influenced the design process.

Ongoing early-stage engagement

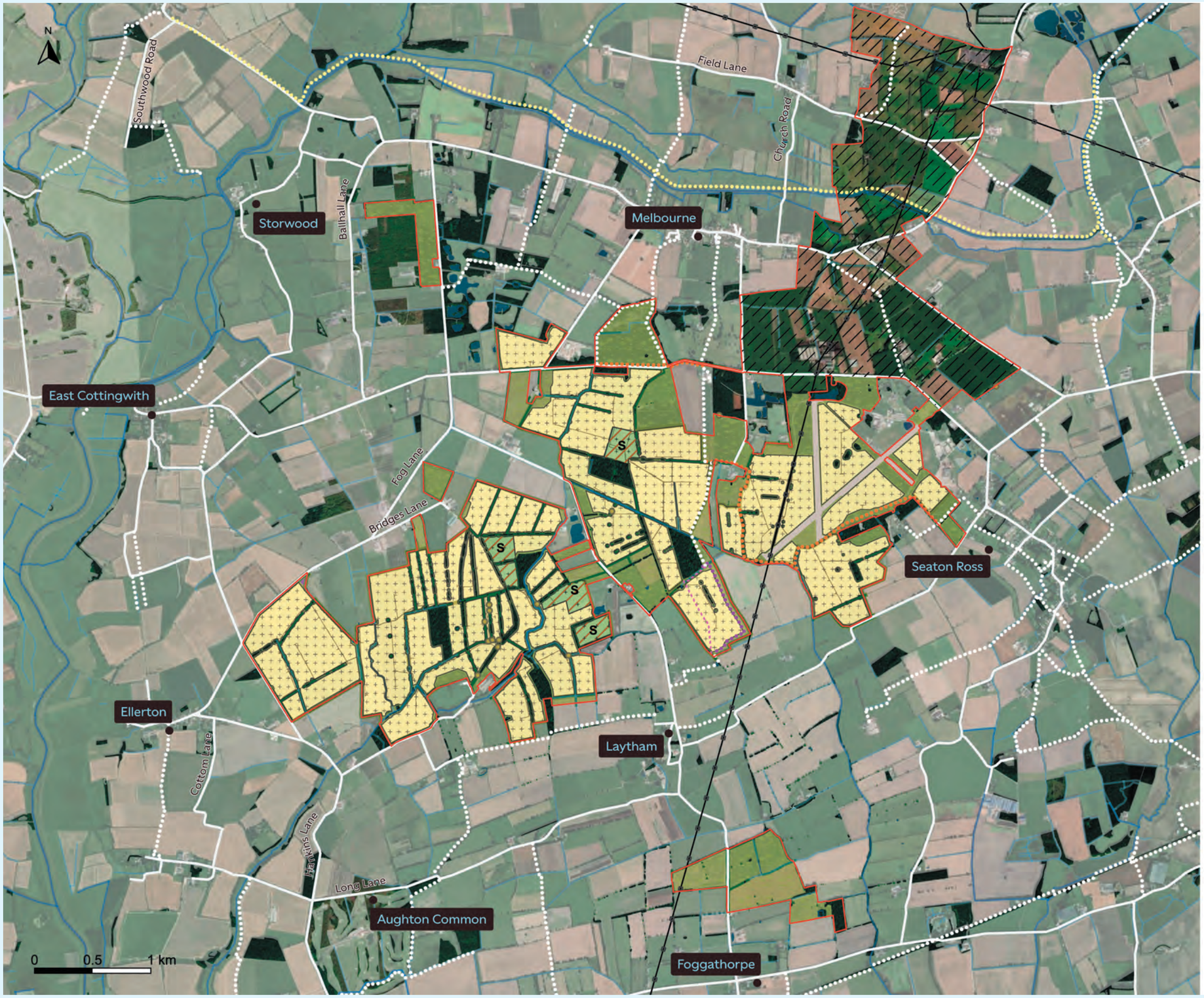
In addition to the co-design workshops, we also held several meetings with consultees to provide further information on the design of Mylen Leah Solar Farm, the progress of environmental surveys, and to agree the approach to the methodology for environmental surveys and assessments. This engagement will continue as the project progresses towards the submission of its DCO application.



Our response to feedback

Feedback theme	What we have done in response
Effects on ecology, biodiversity and wildlife For more information see PEIR Chapter 7.	We are exploring potential wildlife corridors within the design of Mylen Leah Solar Farm to facilitate the movement of a variety of species. We will work to retain and enhance local green infrastructure corridors where possible to ensure wildlife routes avoid creating dead ends or obstruct natural pathways. A key aim of our projects is to enhance biodiversity and contribute to the local environment. There is an expectation that all projects deliver a biodiversity net gain of 10%, however at Statkraft we aim to deliver above this measure. In our plans, there are dedicated areas for landscaping, habitat management and screening as part of the development.
Use of agricultural land and potential grazing opportunities For more information see PEIR Chapter 17.	Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) is a framework for classifying land according to its quality and long-term agricultural use. Best and Most Versatile land is classified as Grade 1, Grade 2 and Grade 3a. The final design of Mylen Leah Solar Farm will be informed by the full results of our ALC survey. Where possible, areas of lower-quality agricultural land will be preferred to those of a higher quality. It is well publicised that the biggest risk to UK domestic food production comes from climate change and other environmental pressures, including soil degradation, water quality and changes in biodiversity. By temporarily removing land from arable food production, we can enhance biodiversity and provide ecological benefits. The use of this land for solar would also help diversify existing agricultural business initiatives, which could include sheep grazing.
Flooding and water runoff For more information see PEIR Chapter 15.	The majority of Mylen Leah Solar Farm lies in Flood Zone 1 and has a low risk of flooding, meaning it is not considered vulnerable to significant river flooding or surface water flooding. We are committed to consulting with statutory bodies and key stakeholders, including East Riding of Yorkshire Council, the Internal Drainage Board and the Environment Agency, to inform our approach. A Flood Risk Assessment and a Drainage Strategy will be provided as part of the DCO application.
Access and public rights of way For more information see PEIR Chapter 3.	We are committed to keeping public rights of way open, safe and accessible throughout construction and operation, where possible. Our project design takes account of existing public rights of way across the site and only one section of public right of way route is proposed to be permanently diverted. All other public rights of way would remain in their current alignments. A network of new permissive paths is proposed to link the existing public right of way network, and path enhancement within the site would lead to improved connectivity for users, and would link to existing routes within the local area. More details on our strategy for improving movement through the site can be found on page 18.

Our proposals for Mylen Leah Solar Farm



Legend

Draft Order Limits

Existing Features and Constraints

- Existing vegetation within and around the site
- Existing public rights of way (PRoW)
- National long distance path
- Existing overhead electricity lines
- Existing watercourses
- Existing waterbodies
- Existing former airfield runway
- Existing veteran or ancient tree

Indicative Proposed Development

- Proposed area of solar PV development and /or associated development
- Proposed area for ecological mitigation and enhancement
- Proposed woodland planting for screening
- Proposed hedgerows for screening and creation of ecological corridors to be maintained at a minimum height of 2.5m
- Existing hedgerow to be maintained at a minimum height of 2.5m (where required for screening purposes) and may require new planting (gapping up)
- Proposed section of PRoW to be diverted
- Proposed diverted PRoW
- Proposed permissive route
- Potential substation location (maximum 2 out of 4 will be included within DCO application. Locations identified as not requiring a substation are proposed to accomodate PV panels)
- Proposed underground grid connection corridor
- Proposed internal access roads

Please note, a high resolution version of this map can be viewed on our project website on the 'Project documents' tab.

How our plans have evolved

Our proposals for Mylen Leah Solar Farm have changed significantly since we first began developing the project. Following our co-design workshops in November 2024 and continued discussions with stakeholders including East Riding of Yorkshire Council, we have refined our layout to respond to what matters most locally: reducing visual impact, prioritising keeping footpaths open, giving more space to nature and protecting local heritage.

Removal of panels from southern area of the site: One of the most significant changes we have made to the project is the removal of solar panels from the southern part of the site closest to Foggathorpe, including the fields nearest to the Moated site at Chapelgarth which is a Scheduled Monument. This change has been informed by ongoing discussions with landowners, the findings of surveys and design work, as well as concerns about potential flood risk. Some of the southern area remains where we are proposing to use it for biodiversity and landscape planting, including new hedgerows, meadow grassland and other habitats.

Reducing panel height: We have reduced the maximum height of the solar panels from 5.5 metres to 3.5 metres.

Reducing visual impact: Across the site, we have worked to ensure that the layout sits sensitively within the local landscape. This includes minimum setbacks from residential properties, woodlands, trees and watercourses, as well as a commitment not to enclose public rights of way on both sides, together with new native planting along paths and lanes. Where the site meets key field boundaries, we are strengthening existing hedgerows and planting new ones to provide effective natural screening as they mature.

We have considered how the project's larger infrastructure, such as the on-site substation(s), can be positioned and designed to reduce its visual presence, locating it away from residential properties, sensitive views and existing woodland blocks. This work is ongoing and is being refined with East Riding of Yorkshire Council's landscape advisers.

Project description

We have developed our designs for Mylen Leah Solar Farm following our co-design workshops, early engagement and extensive technical and environmental surveys. These more detailed proposals are what we are now consulting on as part of this statutory consultation.

Mylen Leah Solar Farm is expected to have an operational lifetime of 50 years and would consist of a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating station with associated development, including:

- ground-mounted solar panels, with a maximum height of 3.5 m.
- mounting structures for the solar panels.
- associated equipment, such as inverters, transformers, switchgear housed in medium-voltage (MV) stations and cabling.
- on-site substation(s).
- cabling to connect the MV stations to the on-site substation(s) and then onwards to National Grid Thornton Substation.
- other infrastructure, including cables, closed-circuit television (CCTV) and security equipment, fencing, landscaping, tracks, vehicle parking, earthworks, surface water management, footpath diversions and any other works identified as necessary to construct the solar farm.
- areas for biodiversity mitigation and enhancement and planting areas.

The project description can be found in PEIR Chapter 3.

Mylen Leah Solar Farm design principles

We have developed a series of project design principles to guide the development of our design, to ensure that we mitigate impacts where possible, and conserve and enhance the natural environment.

We want Mylen Leah Solar Farm to provide benefits for the local economy and local area while helping to address energy security. These design principles will be refined further at the application stage.

Climate action

- Maximise the potential to efficiently generate clean, secure and affordable energy.
- Take steps to decarbonise Mylen Leah Solar Farm throughout its project lifecycle.
- Design for resilience against the effects of climate change.

Environment

- Retain and protect existing trees and woodlands from built development, where possible.
- Retain and protect existing hedgerows and ditches, where feasible.
- Create new habitats to support biodiversity to help regenerate ecosystems that integrate with the landscape.
- Respect the setting of historic and cultural sites.
- Protect and enhance the local environment.
- Retain and enhance green infrastructure corridors to improve connectivity for wildlife through the site and into the surrounding landscape.
- Reinforce the existing landscape structure and sequential experience for users.

Place

- Protect the amenity of homes and villages, with buffers and setbacks from built development.
- Retain and enhance existing public rights of way and create new permissive footpaths.

Shared value

- Create jobs and contribute to the local economy, through our local supply chain registry.
- Provide resources for research and development.
- Provide a positive legacy for local communities through our community benefit fund, which would last for the operational lifetime of Mylen Leah Solar Farm.

For more information, see PEIR Chapter 3.

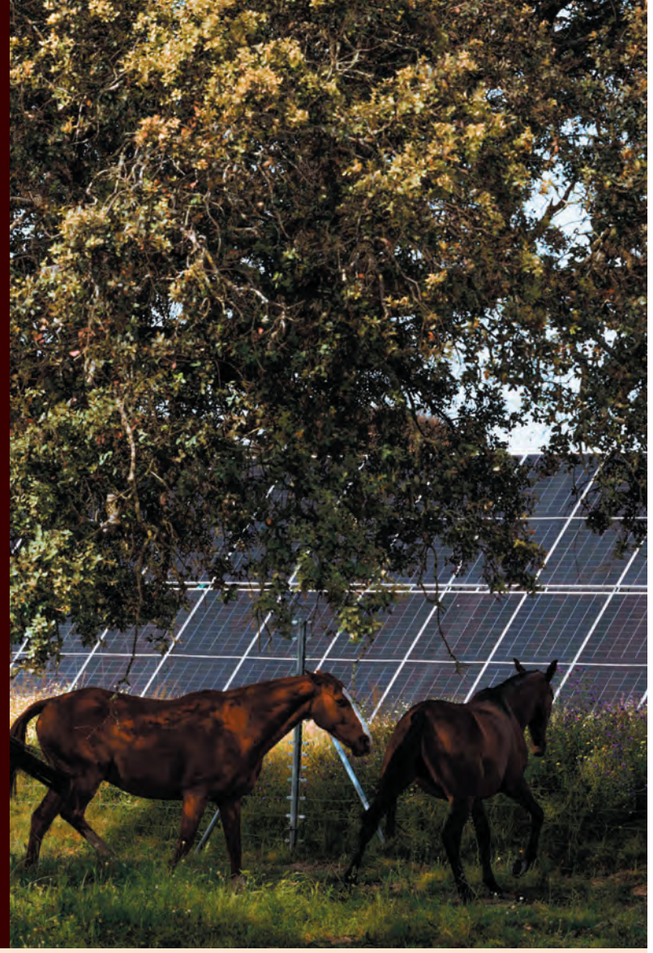
Overview of the EIA Process

Mylen Leah Solar Farm is classified as an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development, which means we are required to assess the likely environmental effects of the project.

The goal of the EIA process is to ensure that we:

- identify any likely significant environmental effects (positive and negative) the project may have.
- implement measures to reduce or remove negative impacts.
- work to enhance positive effects.

The findings from the EIA will be presented in the Environmental Statement, which will be submitted as part of our DCO application to The Planning Inspectorate.



There are three main stages:

Scoping Report: On 8 January 2025 we submitted an EIA Scoping Report to The Planning Inspectorate. This document set out the proposed scope of the EIA process, which is how we proposed to identify and evaluate the likely significant effects of the project. In response to the EIA Scoping Request, The Planning Inspectorate issued a Scoping Opinion on 18 February 2025, providing their feedback and confirming the key areas to be considered as part of the EIA process.

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR): The PEIR builds upon previous documents and considers feedback received during our early-stage engagement. It is a core technical document that sets out our preliminary EIA findings and identifies the measures we are proposing to reduce, enhance and manage the effects the project may have on the environment. We are consulting on the PEIR as part of this consultation so that technical stakeholders, local communities, individuals and interested parties can develop an informed view of the project and provide us with their feedback.

Environmental Statement: After statutory consultation, we will produce an Environmental Statement, which comprises the results of the EIA process. This will build on earlier stages of the EIA, reflect any design evolution and incorporate feedback received during statutory consultation. The Environmental Statement will describe any changes to the project and the measures we are proposing to implement to reduce, enhance and manage the effects of the project. The Environmental Statement, along with a Non-Technical Summary of the Environmental Statement, will form part of the DCO application we submit to The Planning Inspectorate.

More detailed information from our environmental surveys and assessments is set out in the main report of the PEIR, which is summarised in the Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR.

Biodiversity

It is expected that from May 2026, biodiversity net gain (BNG) will be a mandatory requirement for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects in England, mandating at least 10% improvement in biodiversity. By converting agricultural land to improved grassland, solar projects enhance local ecosystems through habitat creation and improved land management.

Our approach to biodiversity

A key aim of our projects is to enhance biodiversity and contribute positively to the local environment. There is an expectation that all projects deliver a biodiversity net gain of 10%, however at Statkraft we always aim to deliver above this measure. This includes incorporating dedicated areas for landscaping, habitat management and screening as part of the development.

How biodiversity has been incorporated into the project

In practice, BNG at Mylen Leah Solar Farm would include new hedgerows, wildflower meadows, native woodland planting, enhanced grassland, and cultivating habitats to support wildlife for the lifetime of the project.

The project design will incorporate ecological mitigation areas that would remain free of solar PV development. Solar PV infrastructure would also be at least 10 m away from woodland and ponds, and at least 5 m away from hedgerows and any other watercourses or ditches.

Working with stakeholders

As part of preliminary assessments, we have engaged with Natural England and East Riding of Yorkshire Council alongside other stakeholders to inform our approach. We are now developing an ecological mitigation and enhancement strategy.

Statkraft also partners with conservation charities such as the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, the Rare Breeds Survival Trust and Buglife. By working together, we are delivering clean, green, renewable energy while providing greater ecological value and benefits on and across our sites.

We will continue to engage with stakeholders as we develop our proposals, and are keen to hear your thoughts on our approach to ecology, mitigation and enhancement as part of this statutory consultation.

Research into solar farms and biodiversity

There is plenty of research into the relationship between solar farms and wildlife with findings suggesting numerous benefits.

For example, a recent RSPB and University of Cambridge* study found that solar farms managed with nature in mind and in areas with a greater mix of habitats, had nearly three times as many birds compared to nearby arable farmland.

For more information, see PEIR Chapter 7.

*Solar farms managed for nature can boost bird numbers and biodiversity - Cambridge University and RSPB (2025). Available at: https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/news/solar-farms-managed-for-nature-boost-bird-numbers-and-biodiversity

Public rights of way and permissive routes

The project design takes account of existing public rights of way across the site and we are committed to keeping these open, safe and accessible throughout construction and operation, where possible.

- Only one public right of way route is proposed to be permanently diverted, and it will remain open while the diverted route is being installed to maintain local connectivity during construction.
- Users of the Wilberforce Way long-distance path may experience temporary disruption during construction of the underground grid connection corridor, but the route will remain open.
- Where other paths run through or near the development, we will maintain setbacks, provide screening through new planting and ensure clear signage.
- Any temporary diversions that are needed during construction will be agreed with East Riding of Yorkshire Council and communicated well in advance.

Any temporary diversions will be managed through a Public Rights of Way and Access Management Plan.

- New permissive paths and path enhancements within the site would lead to improved amenities for users and would connect to existing routes within the local area.

As part of the statutory consultation, we are keen to hear your thoughts on our proposals for public rights of way and permissive routes, including any improvements or additional links you would like to see to further improve connectivity.

For more information, see PEIR Chapter 3.

Socioeconomics

Construction employment: a project of this scale will create a significant number of jobs during the construction period (up to 36 months). These could be in, but are not limited to, engineering, electrical works, fencing, landscaping, logistics and site management.

Local suppliers: A register of local suppliers has been running for Mylen Leah Solar Farm since the project was launched, allowing businesses in the area to register their interest in getting involved in the project throughout its lifetime.

Operational employment: once operational, the site would be maintained by a regionally based maintenance team, providing long-term skilled employment in the area. This team would be based off-site at our control hub.

Business rates: the project would generate business rates for East Riding of Yorkshire Council throughout its operational lifetime.

Community benefits

Statkraft is committed to supporting local community projects in the areas we operate. In 2024 we doubled our commitment to £400 per MWac of operational capacity of our solar farms.

This equates to a £200,000 annual community fund.

How it works: the fund would be independently administered by a third-party organisation. Final decisions on grant allocation would be made by a local panel of community representatives, and not by Statkraft.

What it funds: community and environmental projects within the parishes closest to the project. These could be, for example, local sustainability or environmental initiatives, village hall improvements, sports-facilities upgrades, funding local school projects and energy-efficiency measures.

When it starts: the earliest possible start date for the fund would be 2030, when Mylen Leah Solar Farm would be operational.

Construction, operation and decommissioning

If the project is approved, we expect construction to begin in 2029 and take up to 36 months.

Measures to manage construction

We understand that the prospect of construction can be a concern for local communities. The following construction management measures will be used to minimise disruption locally:

- **Traffic management:** a Construction Traffic Management Plan will be developed and agreed with the local highways authority. This will include measures such as approved delivery routes, tracking, wheel washing, road sweeping and no deliveries on Sundays or bank holidays.
- **Keeping people informed:** We propose to establish a community liaison group and will provide regular website and email updates, as well as maintain a dedicated contact point via email and phone throughout construction.
- **Minimising noise, dust and other disruption:** we will notify local households in advance of any particularly noisy works. Any vehicles involved in the construction of the project would be fitted with a "white noise" reversing alarm and have covered loads to minimise dust escaping from deliveries.
- **Construction access routes:** our proposed construction access routes have been carefully selected to help minimise potential effects on local communities, sensitive receptors and the surrounding road network. These routes are shown in Figures 14 of the PEIR.

Construction

The works required to construct Mylen Leah Solar Farm include but are not limited to:

- Highways works to facilitate access for construction vehicles.
- The installation of perimeter security fencing, access tracks and temporary construction compounds (areas for temporary site offices, parking, welfare facilities, and plant and construction equipment).
- The delivery of plant machinery and materials.
- The installation of mounting structures and solar panels.
- Works to lay electrical cables and associated infrastructure, including cable trenches.
- The installation of drainage.
- The construction of on-site substation(s).
- Areas for landscaping, habitat management and biodiversity enhancement.

Operation

- The project is expected to have an operation lifetime of 50 years. Throughout this period, day-to-day operations would be managed by an operations and maintenance team.
- Solar farms generate minimal noise once operational. We have undertaken baseline noise surveys and we will include a full noise assessment within our DCO application.
- Habitat management will continue throughout the operational period as required to ensure the achievement of BNG.

Decommissioning

- At the end of the operational period, solar infrastructure would be removed and the land returned to the landowner who will determine its use.
- A Decommissioning Management Plan will be prepared to mitigate the effects of the decommissioning process.

For more information, see PEIR Chapter 12.

Guide to consultation

We are now in the statutory consultation period for Mylen Leah Solar Farm. The consultation is an opportunity for you to ask questions of the project team and have your say on our plans. Your feedback will help shape our final proposals, which we expect to submit to The Planning Inspectorate in late 2026.

Feedback has already helped shape our plans through the co-design workshops we held in 2024. We received valuable insights from local stakeholders, which have helped inform our proposals for this second round of consultation.

We look forward to continuing these conversations throughout the statutory consultation period and encourage everyone with an interest in the local area or in renewable energy to engage with us during this time, so that we can continue to develop a project that maximises potential benefits for local communities.

The consultation runs from **Thursday 16 April to Thursday 28 May 2026**

All responses must be received by **11:59pm** on the closing date.

Getting involved

We are holding three in-person events in the local area, which you can drop in to at any time to meet the project team, view our plans and provide your feedback. We will also be holding three online webinar events in May. You can sign up for these by scanning the QR code on this page, registering via our website, or emailing the Community Relations Team.

Venue	Date/Time
Holme-on-Spalding-Moor Village Hall, 60 High Street, Holme-on-Spalding-Moor, York, YO43 4EN	Thursday 30th April 13:00 – 20:00
Melbourne Village Hall, Main Street, Melbourne, York, YO42 4QJ	Wednesday 6th May 13:00 – 20:00
Bubwith Leisure and Sports Centre, Main Street, Bubwith, Selby, YO8 6LX	Thursday 7th May 12:00 – 18:30
Online Webinar 1	Saturday 9 May 10:00 – 11:00
Online Webinar 2	Monday 11 May 18:00 – 19:00
Online Webinar 3	Wednesday 13 May 19:00 – 20:00

You can access our website by scanning the QR code on this page, where you will find a link to sign up to our webinars.

Where to find our consultation materials

All consultation materials will be available to view and download free of charge on our website throughout the statutory consultation period: **www.mylenleah-solar.co.uk**

Hard copies will also be available to view at our in-person events. Copies in alternative formats are available upon request. Printed copies of selected consultation materials can be provided free of charge upon request. These are:

- Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)
- Consultation information booklet
- Consultation feedback form
- Consultation newsletter
- Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR

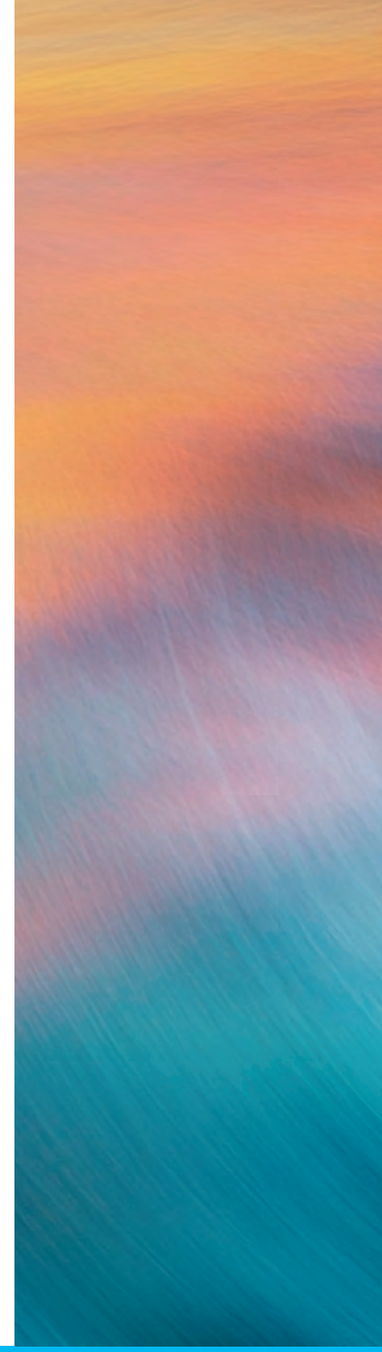
A hard copy of the PEIR can also be supplied, but there will be a reasonable charge of £0.35 per page to cover the printing and posting costs.

Local information points

Alternatively, you can visit one of our local information points, where you can view hard copies of the consultation materials, including the Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR and the SoCC. A hard copy of the PEIR will not be available at these locations, however the PEIR and the Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR will be available on USB sticks to take away. You can also collect an information booklet and a feedback form.

Location	Address	Standard opening hours*
Elvington	Holy Trinity Church Elvington, Church Lane, Elvington, York, YO41 4AD	Open 10:00–17:00 daily
Bubwith	Bubwith Sports and Leisure Centre, Main Street, Bubwith, Selby, YO8 6LX	Open 09:00–11:30 on Mondays
Thornton	St Michael's Church, Church Lane, Thornton, York, YO42 4SA	Open 10:00–15:00 Tuesday to Saturday Open 13:00–15:00 Sundays *Please note the Church will not be open on 15 and 16 May 2026.*

**Hours may be subject to change. Please check our website or give us a call for the latest opening hours.*



Responding to the consultation

You can respond to the consultation in a number of ways, including:

- in person at our consultation events
- by email to **community@mylenleah.com**
- online via the feedback form on our project website
- by post using the FREEPOST address – **FREEPOST MYLEN LEAH** (no stamp required)
- via a printed copy of the feedback form, copies of which are available at events, at local information points and by request.

Navigating our consultation documents

To help you find out more we have prepared a range of documents and materials that explain our proposals in more detail.

Details of where to find these materials are provided on page 23 of this booklet.

Consultation information booklet (this document)

This document provides a guide to the project, the consultation and what we are seeking feedback on. This includes an overview of our plans for Mylen Leah Solar Farm and how our plans have evolved in response to feedback already.

Consultation feedback form

This document provides an opportunity to provide feedback on all aspects of the plans we are consulting on, including the principle of Mylen Leah Solar Farm and any general comments you may have. You can:

- Complete and submit this form at one of our in-person consultation events.
- Take a copy away from an event or information point and return it via FREEPOST.
- Complete the feedback form online via the project website.
- Submit your feedback by email to **community@mylenleah.com.**

Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

The SoCC sets out how we intend to engage with local communities as we prepare our DCO application for the project.

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

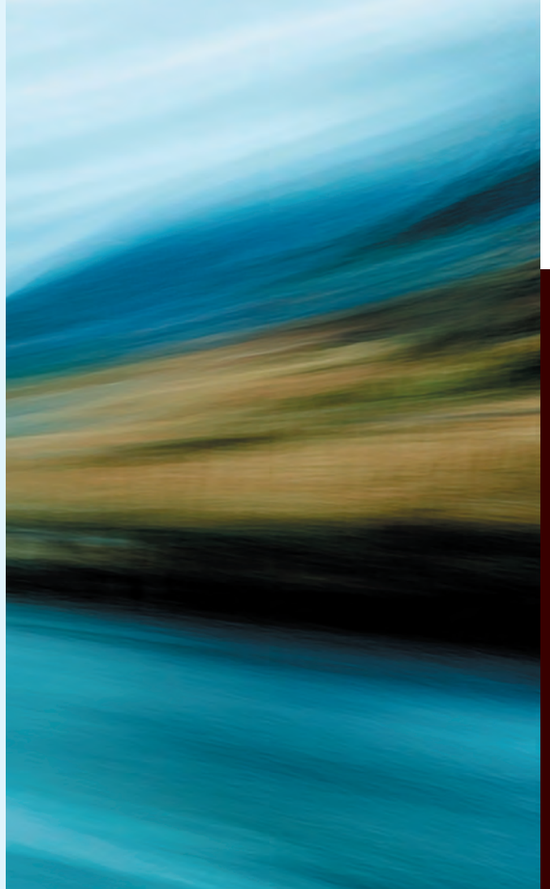
The PEIR is a technical report that outlines the effects the project could have on the environment. This includes the main report, figures, maps and plans.

Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR

This is a non-technical, summary of the PEIR that gives you an overview of the different technical considerations in our plans.

Maps and plans

A series of maps and plans for the project will be available on our website and displayed at our in-person consultation events and on our online webinar events.



Navigating the PEIR

The PEIR is structured into a number of volumes to help readers navigate the preliminary environmental information. The table below provides a guide to what each volume contains and where to look depending on the information you are interested in.

PEIR volume and Chapter reference	What it covers	This section is useful if you would like to
Volume 1, Chapters 1–5	These chapters introduce the project in detail, including its location, design development, project description and the approach to the preliminary environmental assessments.	Gain an overview of the project and how the environmental assessments have been undertaken.
Volume 1, Chapters 6–19	These chapters relate to specific technical disciplines. They set out the surveys undertaken, the assessment approach, and the preliminary findings for each environmental topic, including any expected significant effects.	Understand a specific topic area in more detail.
Volume 2: Supporting Figures	This volume contains the figures, plans and mapping that support the chapters in Volume 1.	View the figures and plans that support Volume 1. You will also find the proposed masterplan (see Volume 2, Figure 3).
Volume 3: Supporting Reports	This volume contains the detailed survey information that underpins the assessments in Volume 1. For example, ecological surveys.	Review more detailed surveys that support some of the preliminary findings set out in Chapter 6-19.
Volume 4: Landscape visualisations	This volume contains landscape visualisations showing how the project could appear at different stages in its lifetime, including after one and 10 years of operation, taking into account proposed mitigation measures and planting.	See how the project may look in the landscape over time.

If you cannot find the information you are looking for in the PEIR, please contact the Community Relations Team, who will be happy to assist you.

What happens next?

After the consultation closes, we will carefully review all feedback received and and analyse the main themes of consultation.

Respondents' views will be taken into account as we update the design of the project.

We expect to submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate in late 2026, which will include a Consultation Report, providing an overview of the themes of consultation, and explaining how feedback has been considered.

After submission, The Planning Inspectorate will determine whether our DCO application meets the required standards for acceptance. If the application is accepted, you will have the opportunity to participate in the examination process by registering as an Interested Party, enabling you to submit your views in writing or present them orally at hearings.

Sign up to updates on our project website to be kept up to date with our application's progress.

FAQs

We have provided responses to some of the frequently asked questions raised through our engagement so far. If you have any questions that are not covered here, or would like any further information about the project, please contact the Community Relations Team using the details on the back page.

Will Mylen Leah Solar Farm lower my energy bills?

Mylen Leah Solar Farm will not directly change individual household energy bills, however, the more renewable technology that gets developed in the UK, the cheaper energy bills will become for consumers. At present, the UK's marginal cost pricing system for electricity is vulnerable to high external gas prices, which is then reflected in consumer bills.

Unfortunately, we are unable to directly offer discounted energy bills to local communities as energy bills are controlled by energy providers.

Should panels be placed on rooftops, rather than farmland?

Roof mounted solar is becoming an increasingly familiar sight, particularly when it comes to new build developments across the UK. Recent Government policy is supportive and promotes more rooftop solar in the UK. However, rooftop solar alone cannot deliver the volume of cheap and reliable low-carbon electricity needed to meet national climate and energy security targets. Both technologies play an important role in the UK's future energy mix.

Who makes the decision on the planning application?

Since Mylen Leah Solar Farm is expected to have a capacity greater than 100MW, it is classified as a **Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).** As a result, Statkraft will submit an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO). While East Riding of Yorkshire Council will act as a key statutory consultee during this process, the final decision on whether to approve the project will be made by the Secretary of State.

Will there be a battery energy storage system (BESS)?

No, battery storage is not being considered as part of the proposal.

Are cumulative effects with other projects considered?

Yes. Cumulative effects are a core part of the environmental assessment process for Mylen Leah Solar Farm. The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) includes a dedicated Cumulative Effects chapter (Chapter 19), which assesses whether the effects of Mylen Leah Solar Farm could combine with those of other existing, consented or proposed developments in the area, including other solar projects, energy infrastructure, housing and transport schemes.

The assessment looks at both intra-project effects (where different impacts from this project may overlap in time or location) and inter-project effects (where impacts may combine with other developments). Where the potential for cumulative effects is identified—such as for landscape and visual effects, biodiversity or transport—these are assessed using agreed methodologies and will be taken forward in more detail in the Environmental Statement, with appropriate mitigation proposed where necessary.

Where is the project located in relation to the proposed Yorkshire Wolds National Landscape Designation?

The Mylen Leah Solar Farm site is not located within the proposed Yorkshire Wolds National Landscape Designation. In terms of buffer zones to National Landscape designations, there is no set distance at which potential effects should be considered.

Where will the project connect to the grid?

The project will connect into National Grid's existing 400KV transmission substation at Thornton, via underground cables.

The underground cable route from the solar farm to the grid connection point is still being assessed. We have identified a grid corridor search area that we are currently investigating.

Statkraft

Contact us

If you have any questions or comments, or would like to be kept up to date on the project, please sign up for updates on our website or contact our Community Relations Team using the details below:

Website: **www.mylenleah-solar.co.uk**

Email: **community@mylenleah.com**

Phone: **0800 772 0134**

The Community Relations Team can assist you with any questions about the proposed development or consultation. They will monitor phonelines from 9:00 to 17:30 Monday to Friday. Outside of these hours, callers will be asked to leave a message, and the team will be in touch at the earliest opportunity.

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