



**Statkraft**

# **Mylen Leah Solar Farm**

## **Programme Document**

**February 2025**





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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 Mylen Leah Solar Farm is a proposed new solar farm in the East Riding of Yorkshire exceeding 50MW AC (the 'Proposed Development'). The land comprises approximately 1,000ha to the south of Melbourne and is predominantly in agricultural use, with some previously developed land at the former RAF Melbourne (the 'Site').
- 1.1.2 This pre-application Programme Document sets out the main steps that Mylen Leah Solar Limited (the 'Applicant') anticipates taking during the preparation of the application.
- 1.1.3 This document will be maintained by the Applicant throughout the pre-application stage.
- 1.1.4 The main features of the Proposed Development are:
- Ground mounted solar PV generating station, comprising solar PV modules and mounting structures.
  - Inverters, transformers, and switchgear.
  - Mylen Leah Substation.
  - 400kV Grid Connection Corridor to connect the Mylen Leah Substation to National Grid's Thornton Substation.
  - Underground cabling to connect the Solar PV modules to the inverters, transformers and switchgear, and to Mylen Leah Substation.
  - Ancillary infrastructure works, including boundary treatments, security equipment, lighting, landscaping, access tracks, earthworks, surface water management, and any other associated works identified as necessary to enable the development.
  - Landscaping, habitat management, biodiversity enhancement and amenity improvements.
  - Highway works to facilitate vehicular access to the Site.

## 2. Project programme

- 2.1.1 The main events and expected dates during the pre-application period are set out below:
- Non-Statutory Consultation: September – November 2024.
  - EIA Scoping Report submitted: January 2025.
  - EIA Scoping Opinion due to be received: 19 February 2025.
  - Statutory Consultation: Q2 – Q3 2025.
  - Adequacy of Consultation Milestone: Q4 2025.
  - Application submitted: Q1 2026.
- 2.1.2 Details on engagement with relevant statutory consultees and other stakeholders throughout the pre-application period are set out in Section 4.

## 3. Issues and Activities

- 3.1.1 This section identifies the Applicant's view on the main considerations that may require resolution with stakeholders throughout the pre-application stage and the associated next steps.

**Table 3.1 – Main issues and next steps by topc area**

| Topic        | Issues  | Proposed activities  |
|--------------|---|--|
| Biodiversity | <p>The Site is located outside of the Lower Derwent SPA, SAC and RAMSAR and has the potential to be used by birds for foraging land.</p> <p>Baseline survey work has commenced.</p> | <p>Engagement will be sought with stakeholders including Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Natural England and East Riding of Yorkshire Council.</p> <p>Potential impacts and mitigation to reduce and avoid these impacts will be outlined within the Environmental Statement. Mitigation measures, where necessary, will be secured in Outline Management Plans.</p> |

|                      |  |  |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Water                | The majority of the Site is within Flood Zone 1, with some fields at the eastern extent of the site located in Flood Zones 2 and 3. There are also multiple drains across the site.  | Engagement will be sought with stakeholders including the Environment Agency, the Lead Local Flood Authority and the Internal Drainage Board.<br><br>Mitigation, where necessary, will be identified in the Environmental Statement and secured in Outline Management Plans. |
| Landscape and Visual | The Site is not within a designated landscape area with the exception of the underground Grid Connection Corridor, which is proposed to pass through a Locally Important Landscape Area.                                       | Engagement will be sought with stakeholders including East Riding of Yorkshire Council.<br><br>Mitigation, where necessary, will be identified in the Environmental Statement and secured in Outline Management Plans.   |
| Cultural Heritage    | The Site is in close proximity to a Scheduled Monument and several Listed Buildings.<br><br>The setting of heritage assets has informed the selection of fields for solar arrays and other infrastructure to minimise effects. | Engagement will be sought with stakeholders including Historic England and East Riding of Yorkshire Council.<br><br>Mitigation, where necessary, will be identified in the Environmental Statement and secured in Outline Management Plans.                                  |
|                      |  | –  |
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| Grid Connection      | The Grid Connection Corridor to Thornton Substation must cross the Pocklington Canal, which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).   | Engagement will be sought with stakeholders including the Natural England and the Canal and River Trust to discuss the construction methodology.<br><br>–  |

## 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 beyond will focus on proactive communication and collaboration.
- 4.1.2 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 should help to provide the necessary resource and support, enabling them to effectively inform the proposed development and help to foster a cooperative and constructive relationship.
- 4.1.3 The Applicant will also undertake Statutory Consultation as set out in Section 1 and will publish a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), as required under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008. Before publishing the SoCC, we will consult with East Riding of Yorkshire Council on the draft version for a period of 28 days.

**Table 4.1 – Approach to stakeholder engagement**

| Audience                          | Methods of engagement   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Planning Inspectorate             | Direct engagement<br><br>Written briefings  |
| Prescribed consultees (technical) | Direct engagement through relevant technical lead(s)<br><br>Written briefings<br><br>Invitation to in-person consultation events<br><br>Preparation of Statement of Common Ground (where required)<br><br>Project website |

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Prescribed consultees (community) | <p>Direct engagement</p> <p>Written briefings</p> <p>Invitation to consultation events</p> <p>Project website</p>  |
| Host authority                    | <p>Direct engagement (including regular meetings with planning officers) and relevant technical officers).</p> <p>Written briefings</p> <p>Invitation to consultation events</p> <p>Project website</p> <p>Preparation of Statement of Common Ground</p> |
| Neighbouring authorities          | <p>Written briefings</p> <p>Invitation to consultation events</p> <p>Project website</p>   |
| Member of Parliament              | <p>Direct engagement</p> <p>Written briefings</p> <p>Invitation to consultation events</p> <p>Project website</p>  |
| Community                         | <p>Direct engagement</p> <p>Newsletter</p> <p>Project website</p> <p>Invitation to consultation events</p>   |

## 5. Minimising programme risks

- 5.1.1 The project manager for the Applicant monitors risks on an ongoing basis, allowing for the early detection and resolution of obstacles that could impede progress.
- 5.1.2 Risks are analysed and evaluated according to the likelihood they will be realised and the level of seriousness/impact they will have if they do occur. Measures that will be taken to reduce risk include early engagement with stakeholders.