Mylen Leah Solar Farm

Co-design workshops summary report
March 2025

Statkraft

Contents

1. Introduction

Report purpose

This report relates to the co-design workshops which Statkraft delivered as part of the non-statutory consultation for Mylen Leah Solar Farm, presenting the key findings and themes from our co-design workshops, held in November 2024. The document outlines our response to this feedback, ahead of the statutory consultation, scheduled to take place later in 2025.

The findings of this report have been presented to stakeholders who attended the co-design workshops and has been made publicly available on the Mylen Leah website at www.mylenleah-solar.co.uk.

Introduction to Mylen Leah

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

Mylen Leah Solar Farm is expected to have a capacity of approximately 500 MW, which will be exported to the National Grid via underground cable to the Thornton Sub Station. There is no Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) included within the proposal. The project, if granted consent, would help to contribute to the UK government's ambitious target on solar energy, to reach 70,000 MW (70 GW) of solar capacity by 2035. This solar specific target and the role played by projects like Mylen Leah would make a significant contribution to the UK's target to reach net zero by 2050, bolstering the UK's energy security and ultimately lowering electricity bills for consumers and businesses.

Locally, Mylen Leah Solar Farm would deliver increased biodiversity and social and economic benefits, including employment during construction, and projects delivered with help from a community benefit fund.

About Statkraft

Statkraft, Europe's largest producer of renewable energy, has been developing and operating hydropower, wind, solar, and district heating projects for over 125 years. Founded in Norway, Statkraft is globally recognised as a dependable partner with a solid foundation in renewable energy production and energy market operations.

Operating in the UK since 2006, Statkraft's headquarters are based in central London, supported by over 450 employees across three offices. With a total global installed solar capacity of 1.7 GW, Statkraft has invested over £1.4 billion into renewable energy in the UK.

Locally, Statkraft is currently delivering the Soay Solar Farm and Thornton Greener Grid Park, located approximately 3km north of the Mylen Leah project site.

The Planning and consultation approach

As the proposal for Mylen Leah Solar Farm will generate over 50 MW, the scheme is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). NSIPs are major developments which require consent from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero through a Development Consent Order (DCO).

The process for our DCO application will be as follows:

- **Project launch:** Initiation of the project and announcement to the public.
- **Non-statutory consultation:** Early engagement with community representatives and stakeholders through a series of meetings and the co-design workshops, to gather initial feedback and insights.
- **Statutory consultation:** Formal consultation process where detailed plans are shared with the public and stakeholders for their feedback.
- **DCO submission:** Submission of the DCO application to the national Planning Inspectorate (PINS), the body responsible for examining applications for NSIPs.

- **Examination:** Thorough examination of the DCO application by PINS, including public hearings and review of submitted evidence.
- **Decision:** PINS makes a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, who will make the final decision on whether to approve the DCO, in accordance with the Planning Act 2008.

Engagement to date

To date, we have undertaken early non- statutory engagement with key stakeholders, including local authorities, parish councils, and statutory consultees, to learn and benefit from their expert knowledge of the local area. These initial discussions have provided valuable insights into the opportunities and constraints associated with the site and the surrounding area.

During this early engagement period, we have informed a range of key stakeholders including the host and surrounding parish councils of Foggathorpe, Ellerton and Aughton, Seaton Ross, East Cottingwith and Storwood, Thornton, Allerthorpe and Melbourne and offered the opportunity to meet and receive a briefing on the project.

We have written to near neighbours of the Proposed Development (90+ properties) to inform them of our early proposals and provide a direct line of communication throughout the consultation period and beyond. We have also met in-person, with some near neighbours and written to all known landowners within the area of search for underground grid connection cable.

We invited local ward councillors and officers from East Riding of Yorkshire Council to an online meeting to introduce the Proposed Development, around the time of launch. We also met with the office of Sir David Davis, MP for Goole and Pocklington, to discuss our proposals in more detail.

We have attended and presented at a number of local Parish Council meetings, at their request, to introduce the proposed development, both remotely and in-person.

In addition to this engagement, we have conducted a series of co-design workshops, facilitating collaborative discussions with local representatives, technical stakeholders, and community groups; this report focuses on the outcome of these sessions.

The next stage of engagement to take place will be the statutory consultation, currently scheduled for later in 2025. The statutory consultation will provide an opportunity for local communities to find out more and share their feedback on our proposals for Mylen Leah. Following this consultation and further refinement of the design, we anticipate submitting the final DCO application in Winter 2025.

Ahead of submitting our application, we will continue to undertake meaningful consultation with the community and stakeholders to help shape and refine our plans where possible to deliver a proposal which strikes the right balance between renewable energy output and environmental considerations.

Ongoing engagement remains a core part of this process and our approach to development, and we will be keeping stakeholders informed and involved as the project progresses. To keep up to date with the project's progress, please visit www.mylenleah-solar.co.uk

2. Co-design workshops

Introduction

As part of our early engagement for the Mylen Leah Solar Farm, in November 2024 we hosted a series of invite-only, in-person workshops with local political representatives, community groups, statutory consultees and technical officers.

Co-design workshops have been proven to encourage meaningful, in-depth dialogue and collaboration providing the opportunity for the developer to learn more about the project site and local area along with communities priorities from key representatives.

The workshops

The workshops were held with separate groups, on different days:

- **Technical workshop:** Wednesday, 13th November 2024, from 10:00 to 13:30 at Melbourne Village Hall, Melbourne
- **Community workshop:** Thursday, 14th November 2024, from 10:00 to 13:30 at the Bubwith Leisure Centre, Bubwith

Workshop format

The workshops consisted of two sessions. Each workshop began with an introductory presentation providing an overview of the project, followed by an open question and answer session. This provided attendees the opportunity to raise any initial queries or thoughts directly with the project team.

The workshops then moved into an interactive 'master planning' session, where participants were invited to share local knowledge, provide insights, collaborating with the project team at a formative stage of the design process. By taking this early 'hands on approach', we gave attendees the opportunity to influence the project's development and design.

A series of maps were provided to facilitate discussion and allow participants to pinpoint specific areas of concern or interest directly.

The full workshop presentation can be found on the project website here:
https://projects.statkraft.co.uk/mylen-leah-solar-farm/

The workshops were attended by members of the Statkraft team and independent technical specialists from the project team across a range of disciplines, including biodiversity and ecology, and landscape and visual impacts. The attending project team's technical expertise allowed them to explain the current project masterplan, outline the work undertaken to date, and address specific questions with technical detail.

The interactive format, which was designed for foster collaboration and engagement, ensured stakeholders could share valuable local insights with us while gaining a better understanding of the project, fostering a transparent and constructive dialogue from this early stage of the project.

Workshop attendees

We invited over 50 stakeholders to the workshops, from a variety of groups and technical disciplines. Both workshops were attended by 20 participants in total. This included six technical attendees at the technical workshop, and 14 community representatives at the community workshop.

Workshop attendees included:

- Planning and technical officers from the East Riding of Yorkshire Council.
- Local ward councillors from Wolds Weighton, from the East Riding of Yorkshire Council.
- Representatives of the local community, including parish councils and local interest and community groups.
- Wider environmental and technical stakeholders.

The project team in attendance consisted of:

- Statkraft – developer.

- Quod – planning consultants.
- RSK Environment – technical consultants.
- Copper Consultancy – communications and engagement consultants.

Information presented

The table below provides a summary of the information presented at the workshops.

The Statkraft team delivered a presentation about the proposals, then focused on key topics before setting out a number of discussion points after each topic. This allowed us to focus on understanding a wide range of topic areas in more detail.

Introduction	
During the co-design workshops , we provided participants with a presentation of our early, developing proposals for the Mylen Leah Solar Farm project. The presentation covered various key topics, including the background of Statkraft, the Development Consent Order application process, and technical updates on biodiversity, cultural heritage, landscape and visual impact, transport and access, water environment, and socio-economic factors. This structured approach allowed us to focus on understanding a wide range of topic areas in more detail and gather valuable feedback from the attendees.	
About Statkraft	We introduced Statkraft to attendees, a leading developer of renewable energy with a growing portfolio across the UK, including a nearby

	development, Soay Solar Farm and Thornton Greener Grid Park. The project team also discussed Statkraft's commitment to engaging with local residents as part of the application process and the company principle to be a good neighbour where we operate.
Purpose of the session and providing feedback	Following this introduction, we progressed to explain the aims for the session, including how to provide feedback and next steps.
Application for Development Consent Order	We then introduced to the Development Consent Order (DCO) application process required for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) and the associated planning policy.
Overview of Mylen Leah Solar Farm	For the final element of the introduction, we shared more details about the project, including its location and proposed infrastructure. The project team also set out the work we have carried out to date and included an initial identification of key environmental considerations that will inform the project design. We shared an indicative timeline with project milestones from inception to consent.

Technical updates	
Ecology and biodiversity	We provided an overview of the biodiversity strategy for the scheme, which included a commitment to a minimum biodiversity net gain of 10% at the project site. The project team also shared an overview on who we are intending to consult with throughout our consultation period. Following this, we presented participants with questions and key topics relating to ecology and biodiversity to structure the discussion and gather input on areas of interest. This feedback will help guide the ongoing development of our proposals.
Cultural heritage	We provided an overview of the proposed studies and factors that will be taken into consideration once the application is put forward. The project team also provided an update on the bodies that we will consult with throughout our consultation period. Following this, we presented participants with questions and key topics relating to cultural heritage to structure the discussion and gather input on areas of interest. This

	feedback will guide the ongoing development of our proposals.
Landscape and visual	We shared an overview of the landscape and visual assessments undertaken to date, identifying key considerations that will inform the project design. The project team provided an overview of the proposed studies and factors that will be taken into consideration as the application progresses. We also provided an update on the bodies that we intend to consult with throughout our consultation period. Following this, we presented participants with questions and key topics relating to landscape and visual to structure the discussion and gather input on areas of interest. This feedback will guide the ongoing development of our proposals.
Transport and access	We provided an overview of ongoing traffic and access assessments, including a review of field access points and route options for construction vehicles and Public Rights of Way (PRoWs). Following this, we presented participants with questions and key topics relating to transport and access to structure the discussion and gather

	input on areas of interest. This feedback will guide the ongoing development of our proposals.
Water environment	We provided an overview of the existing water environment. Following this, we presented participants with questions and key topics relating to water environment to structure the discussion and gather input on areas of interest. This feedback will guide the ongoing development of our proposals.
Socio-economic and land use	We gave an overview of key socio-economic considerations. We also provided further insight on our initial Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) surveys. The project team shared our commitment to working with local community organisations, to understand how best to support local community initiatives and projects. Following this, we presented participants with questions and key topics relating to socio-economics and land use to structure the discussion and gather input on areas of interest. This feedback will guide the ongoing development of our proposals.

Cumulative Impacts	We informed attendees that, as part of our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), we will identify and evaluate any potential interactions with nearby solar farms and other future developments.
Interactive Session	
Q&A	Following the introduction to the project and the technical updates, we invited attendees to put forward any initial questions to the team.
Interactive session	During the interactive session, attendees were invited to review and engage with the site maps on display around the room. To facilitate meaningful feedback, the project team provided post-it notes, pens, and feedback forms, enabling participants to share their insights, highlight key areas of interest and concerns in a collaborative way that encouraged group discussion. On this basis, attendees were invited to suggest considerations for the design of Mylen Leah. In particular, we welcomed comments on the following themes presented earlier around the key questions: • Ecology and biodiversity. • Cultural heritage.

	• Landscape and visual impact. • Transport and access. • Water environment. • Socioeconomics and land use. • Cumulative impacts. • Any other issues or considerations important to the local community. This collaborative format allowed participants to engage directly with the project team, providing valuable input to inform the ongoing design and development of the project.

Maps and plans

A range of maps and plans were available at each workshop. The materials included:

- Concept Masterplan.
- Concept Masterplan - zoomed in by area.
- Concept Masterplan including area of search for underground Grid Connection.
- Biodiversity Features Map.
- Cultural Heritage Features Plan.
- Environmental Features Plan.
- Flood Risk Map.
- Indicative Access Routes.
- Existing Public Rights of Way Plan.

3. Key feedback

Feedback methods

Attendees were able to submit their feedback in the following ways:

- On the prompt boards via post-it notes.
- Providing written comments on the different maps provided.
- Speaking to members of the project team.
- Completing the open feedback form provided.

Feedback summary

The table below provides a summary of the key themes that were raised during the workshops, and how we will respond to this feedback. All feedback provided across the co-design sessions, together with our ongoing engagement, design work, and assessments, will help inform our updated proposals.

We will present the refined plans during our statutory consultation, currently scheduled to take place later in 2025.

Key feedback theme	Statkraft response
Ecology and biodiversity - general In the technical workshop, participants cited the need to mitigate the solar farm's impact on the natural environment. They encouraged Statkraft to prioritise local wildlife and suggested incorporating features such as hedgerows, orchards, and wildflower	**Local wildlife** Statkraft will prioritise local wildlife by looking to incorporate features such as hedgerows, orchards, and wildflower meadows to enhance biodiversity, where possible. Statkraft also recognises the ecological importance of the Melbourne and Thornton Ings Site of Special Scientific

Key feedback theme	Statkraft response
meadows to enhance biodiversity across the site. Community stakeholders raised questions about the environmental impact of panel maintenance, specifically where cleaning products would go and whether this could affect the site's ecology. Additionally, one participant noted that a portion of woodland shown on the biodiversity features map in the southern part of the site no longer exists. A parish councillor highlighted the ecological significance of the nature reserve located to the north of Melbourne and suggested this should be considered in the project's design.	Interest (SSSI), Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site and is committed to engagement with national and local environmental groups. **Solar panel cleaning** Panel cleaning will be carried out when ground conditions permit, typically in spring to early summer. We use a tractor brush water jet system to clean the panels. Here's how it works: • **Water integration:** The brush system is equipped with water jets that spray water onto the panels as the tractor moves along the rows. This helps to loosen and wash away dirt, dust, and other debris more effectively. • **Brush mechanism:** The rotating brushes lightly scrub the panels, ensuring a thorough clean without damaging the surface of the PV modules. • **Efficiency:** This combination of water and brushes allows for efficient cleaning, especially in

Key feedback theme	Statkraft response
	areas with heavy dust or bird droppings. This method is particularly useful for maintaining the efficiency of solar panels on large solar farms. Routine cleaning via the tractor brush water jet system can significantly improve the energy output of the panels. Within the UK and Ireland, Statkraft's operations and maintenance requirement is to use purified water. This effectively removes dirt and debris and minimises the risk of damaging the panels by avoiding the use of harsh chemicals or detergents. This is considered the safest and most effective way to clean solar panels so not to pollute soils and groundwater with chemicals. **Local environmental group engagement** We are committed to meeting with local environmental groups to discuss ecology and biodiversity in detail.
Ecology and biodiversity – species Participants highlighted several significant species in the area that	**Surveys to date** To date, we have engaged with Natural England and East Riding of Yorkshire

Key feedback theme	Statkraft response
should be carefully considered when assessing the ecological impact of the development. These species and their locations include: • Aquatic invertebrates - Limited data currently available. • Bird species - Concerns were raised about birds potentially confusing solar panels for bodies of water. • Flyaway gulls and geese - Frequent movement observed between Melbourne Raceway, Melbourne Community Primary School, and Kidd Lane. • Lapwings and deer - Present near Thornton. • Deer and badgers - Present year-round to the east of Ellerton. • Bats, buzzards, jays, barn owls, skylarks, raptors, swans and geese - Identified south of Foggathorpe. • Newts - Found north of Foggathorpe. • Newts and geese - Reported in two historical woodland areas south of Foggathorpe. • Migrating whimbrel - Noted northwest of the site. • Gull roost - Present during winter and autumn east of the site, on the boundary between York, East	Council. We plan to also engage with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. Baseline data has sensitively assessed the presence of various different wildlife in the site area. We are considering mitigation and enhancement measures for construction, operation and decommissioning as we develop our plans which will be presented in detail at statutory consultation. Statkraft remains dedicated to working collaboratively with the community and stakeholders to ensure that the project delivers positive ecological and biodiversity outcomes while respecting the local environment.

Key feedback theme	Statkraft response
Riding of Yorkshire, Selby, and North Yorkshire LPAs. • Starlings and murmurations - Observed west of the site in the shaded zone between Selby LPA and East Riding of Yorkshire LPA. Participants stressed the importance of ensuring these species are appropriately considered in the project's design and ecological assessments.	
Farmland and animal grazing Participants highlighted concerns about the potential impact on grazing animals, particularly geese, which are present in the area during the winter months. Specific areas of concern included the woodlands south of Melbourne Community Primary School and land adjacent to the main road.	**Surveys and buffer** Our ecology surveys to date have not identified any specific reports of geese in the area. However, we will continue to monitor the situation, and any future reports highlighting the presence of geese will be addressed with appropriate mitigation measures as advised by our ecologists. Additionally, we are exploring the potential for a landscaped buffer zone between the woodlands and any planned infrastructure. A buffer would be maintained and protected in accordance with best practices for construction, operation and decommissioning to minimise any potential impact on the local wildlife.

Key feedback theme	Statkraft response
Water environment Participants noted that the proposed development route appeared to cross a waterway and raised questions about the potential impacts this may have. The Flood Plain Partnership was suggested as an organisation for Statkraft to engage with. Concerns about flooding were highlighted, particularly in areas above Rudding Lane. Parish councillors referenced historic flooding issues and recommended consulting with the Environment Agency (EA). They also noted previous discussions with Yorkshire Water regarding the matter. Participants expressed concerns about water runoff from the solar panels and its potential effect on the surrounding land. Additionally, they stressed the importance of maintaining dykes to prevent flooding and waterlogging in the area.	**Flood mitigation** We will look to engage with relevant organisations to better understand potential impacts and possible mitigation measures. This will include seeking to engage with the relevant bodies to better understand any historic flooding issues around Rudding Lane. Additionally, we are conducting assessments related to flood risk, including water dykes in and around the project site. The findings of these assessments will help inform our approach and will be shared as part of the statutory consultation. A Flood Risk Assessment and Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy will be prepared to support the DCO application **Water runoff from panels** In response to the concerns raised in the workshops, when it rains, water runs off solar panels in a specific manner due to their installation and design. Solar panels are typically mounted above the ground at an angle, allowing rainwater to flow down

Key feedback theme	Statkraft response
	the surface of the panels and drop directly onto the ground below. Since the existing surface profile and vegetation coverage beneath the panels will remain unchanged, there will be no alteration to the existing greenfield runoff rate or infiltration rates associated with the solar PV panels. This ensures that there is no increase in runoff rates or volumes due to the panels. Solar panels do not translate directly to hardstanding paved areas or roofs and their associated surface water runoff, primarily because the ground is not converted to an impermeable surface. Essentially, the ground remains in-situ to absorb rainfall. The existing soft landscaping under the panels absorbs the water, maintaining the natural infiltration process. No additional drainage measures are required under or adjacent to the panelled areas.
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and areas of interest Participants recognised the importance of engaging with other	**Possible mitigations** The site is not located within any designated sites for landscape and ecological values.

Key feedback theme	Statkraft response
developers in the area to share knowledge relating to SSSIs. There were several important sites flagged on maps by participants including the Wheldrake Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve and Yorkshire Wolds National Landscape. It was suggested that landscaped buffer zones could be used to minimise the effect of the development in these areas. Other attendees highlighted the Pocklington Canal as an area which Statkraft could use to increase biodiversity, whist one parish councillor mentioned Lower Derwent Valley as a Special Area of Conservation.	As part of the assessments on landscape and visual impact, we will make appropriate recommendations if required to minimise any potential significant impacts from the development on any designated sites. We will engage with relevant stakeholders and local groups. Additionally, we will explore potential improvements to the Pocklington Canal.
Landscape and visual impact Participants expressed shared concerns about the scheme's potential impact on the Wolds landscape and its rural character, particularly regarding visual effects on nearby properties. One attendee highlighted the importance of key viewpoints in the area and referenced the need for a	**Viewpoints** We will continue engaging with East Riding of Yorkshire Council to understand key viewpoints that may be relevant for the statutory consultation. As part of our ongoing assessments, we will explore appropriate screening measures to help minimise visual impact, including along Public Rights of Way, where feasible and appropriate. Plans relating to screening and

Key feedback theme	Statkraft response
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. It was confirmed that Statkraft is actively liaising with East Riding of Yorkshire Council on this matter. Suggestions to mitigate and enhance the local landscape included using screening measures along the Public Right of Way between Melbourne and Park Farm. Additionally, participants raised questions about whether the development would feature fixed or tracker panels.	hedgerows will be outlined in our Landscape and Visual Assessment, in the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) at statutory consultation. **Panel types** Regarding the type of panels to be used, we will provide more information at the statutory consultation, to help stakeholders understand the differences and benefits of each option.
Transport, access and Public Rights of Way (PRoW) The impact of the project on existing PRoWs was another key topic among participants. Attendees highlighted the high recreational value of local walking, cycling, and riding routes and were concerned about potential disruptions to access during and after construction. Suggestions were made to enhance and create new routes to improve connectivity across the site and with other nearby proposed projects.	**Reducing PRoW disruption** Disruption to Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) would be minimised. Statkraft will also seek to engage with local groups as part of the statutory consultation, to ensure the local community's needs and preferences are carefully considered.

Key feedback theme	Statkraft response
Sentiment was expressed against installing gates or fences on PRoW routes. Specific routes like Wilberforce Way - a popular, Long Distance Path used by the local community - were also referenced, with suggestions to engage with local ramblers' groups for further insights.	
Construction and access Participants shared valuable insights regarding the quality of roads surrounding the site and emphasised in particular the importance of managing construction traffic effectively. Concerns were raised about the existing volume of HGVs in the area and how the development might exacerbate this during the construction phase. During the workshops, participants recommended avoiding specific roads or adopting alternative routes to minimise construction impacts. Suggestions to mitigate the potential effects of construction traffic on other road users included:	**Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP)** We appreciate the local knowledge that was shared by participants on local roads. The CTMP will outline measures for managing construction traffic. Statkraft will also consider the potential cumulative impacts of the traffic generated during construction.

Key feedback theme	Statkraft response
• Buffers around individual dwellings, not just settlements. • Installing passing places to ease traffic flow. Participants also requested that a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) and details of construction compounds be shared so technical stakeholders could provide input and ensure effective mitigation.	
Socio-economic and land use Participants raised questions about the future use of the land once the development has been decommissioned, including whether it would be sold or returned to its previous state. A key concern among attendees was the potential impact of the development on property values in the area. Participants enquired whether there would be any form of compensation for affected residents. One attendee asked whether Melbourne Raceway would still be able to host race days and camping	**Land use** Statkraft is committed to ensuring that the land will be returned to its current condition, depending on the agreements in place at that time, once the development has been decommissioned. If the landowner wishes and the terms of the DCO allow it, onsite tracks may be left in situ. **Property concerns** We acknowledge concerns regarding potential impacts on property values. While direct financial compensation is not planned, we are committed to ongoing engagement with the community to address concerns and

Key feedback theme	Statkraft response
events during and after the development.	explore ways to maximise the benefits of the project. **Melbourne Raceway** Regarding Melbourne Raceway, Statkraft intend to engage with the Raceway to ensure that they are kept up to date on the project's development.
Cumulative impact Participants expressed concerns about the cumulative impact of multiple developments proposed within the local area. Suggestions included: • Providing a map to clearly show all proposed sites and any areas of overlap. • Addressing concerns about combined noise levels and construction traffic resulting from multiple projects. Attendees also recommended co-ordinating efforts across proposed developments to better manage and mitigate any shared impacts on the local community and infrastructure.	**Cumulative effects assessment** We recognise the concerns raised regarding cumulative impact and will be conducting a cumulative effects assessment as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. This will assess the potential combined effects of Mylen Leah Solar Farm alongside other developments in the area.

Key feedback theme	Statkraft response
Cultural heritage Participants from East Riding of Yorkshire Council noted the importance of conservation groups in the area and confirmed that they would check with the Council's Conservation Team for additional groups for Statkraft to engage with. Another participant from the Council mentioned that Bubwith bridge is a Grade II listed building in the area which has recently undergone repairs. They suggested there could be potential impacts resulting from the scheme's construction.	**Bubwith bridge** Recognising the heritage sensitivities of Bubwith bridge, we will consider its inclusion in the Construction Environmental Management Plan. We will explore options to minimise any potential impacts. Engagement with the Highways Department at East Riding of Yorkshire Council will help inform our approach to managing construction traffic in the area. **List of conservation groups** We will take into account the conservation groups recommended by the Council and explore opportunities for engagement as the project progresses. Engagement with Historic England is already underway and will continue through the process.
Partnerships and consultees Attendees to both workshops cited the importance of interacting and engaging with local groups to help	**Local groups** We appreciate the emphasis placed by attendees on the importance of interacting and engaging with local

Key feedback theme	Statkraft response
inform certain aspects of the development. Regarding biodiversity, the following groups were mentioned as being beneficial for Statkraft to engage with: • East Yorkshire of Riding Bat Group. • Yorkshire Derwent Catchment Partnership. • Yorkshire Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development Team. • Yorkshire Wildlife Trust • Carstairs Conservation Trust in York. • Natural England.	groups to inform various aspects of the development. Statkraft is committed to fostering strong partnerships and maintaining open lines of communication with local groups.
Community benefits Participants provided valuable insights into the local community and organisations that could benefit from the community benefit fund. These suggestions included: • Team Wilder (local group) • Subsidised solar panels for residents	**Upgraded Community Benefit Fund** Following Statkraft's recent upgrade to their community benefit fund, now set at £400 per megawatt per year the solar farm is operational, we have gathered valuable insights regarding potential beneficiaries within the local community. These suggestions reflect a diverse range of needs and opportunities for positive impact.

Key feedback theme	Statkraft response
• Financial energy incentives for residents • Melbourne Primary School • Youth groups • Village halls • Road damage repairs	Suggestions highlight the importance of supporting local groups, enhancing residential energy solutions, and investing in community infrastructure. We will continue engaging with the community to ensure that the fund is utilised effectively and fairly, delivering meaningful local benefits.
General While few general themes were raised, one participant suggested using a local HGV delivery company, for construction-related logistics.	**Supply chain database** Statkraft is committed to supporting local economies and fostering strong community relationships where we operate, as good neighbours. We have set up a supplier database for local suppliers and businesses that are interested in working with us during construction and operation to sign up. Local suppliers can sign up to our supply chain database for Mylen Leah via this link: Local suppliers | Mylen Leah Solar Farm - Statkraft UK We are dedicated to using local suppliers and businesses where possible, ensuring that the benefits of our projects extend to our neighbours in the local community.

4. Frequently asked questions

During the workshops, attendees raised a series of questions related to the project. We have summarised our answers to these below:

Design

How much of the site will be occupied by solar and security infrastructure?

We are still at the initial stages of the scheme, so cannot provide exact figures. However, the proposed development site covers approximately 1,200 hectares composed primarily of existing farmland. This area will be used to accommodate solar panels, supporting infrastructure, as well as ecology and biodiversity enhancements and landscaping.

We look forward to sharing more information on the ecology and biodiversity enhancements associated with the project as we complete our studies and learn more about the possibilities of the site.

Are you proposing a Battery Energy Storage (BESS) site with your scheme?

No, we are not proposing a BESS site with our scheme. The output generated by Mylen Leah Solar Farm is currently proposed to be directly transferred to the National Grid and stored at offsites BESS schemes, such as Thornton Green Park.

Is the Mylen Leah Solar Farm project related to the Melbourne BESS project?

No, the Mylen Leah Solar Farm project is entirely separate from the Melbourne BESS project. The Mylen Leah Solar Farm will generate clean, renewable solar energy which would be directly directed into the National Grid, while the Melbourne BESS project, developed by Elmya RPC and Renewable Power Capital (RPC), is centred on electricity storage. These projects are independent of each other and have different objectives and locations.

Operation and maintenance

How long will the construction phase be?

We expect that Mylen Leah Solar Farm will take between 24 and 36 months to be constructed. To minimise the impact to local residents and attend to local requests, we are assessing how to construct the development in phases. The duration of the project build will become clearer as we continue to refine the site, and more details are to follow in our Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR).

What is the lifespan of the project?

The scoping report considers that the solar farm could have a lifespan of up to 60 years. The scheme is considered a 'temporary' development, meaning it would be decommissioned after 60 years, after which the land will be returned to its original use as per the Development Consent Order.

How will this solar farm be decommissioned?

Should the project be consented and built, the site will be decommissioned in line with the planning conditions issued as part of the consent. A Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan will be agreed as part of the planning conditions.

Ecology and biodiversity

How will green infrastructure be used for mitigation and enhancement?

Solar farms have been proven to be able to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) of at least 10%. One our key aims at Statkraft is to deliver above those statutory levels and we will be working with environmental consultants and organisations, such as the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, to help shape environmental and biodiversity measures at Mylen Leah.

Landscape and visual

How will you seek to minimise impacts on local views?

Our design process is landscape-led, and we seek to take advantage of natural screening, existing hedgerows, and woodland. As solar panels are low-profile compared to other forms of infrastructure they can be more easily screened.

Existing screening would also be reinforced with new planting, i.e. filling in gaps in hedgerows with native species where appropriate.

The landscape and visual impacts will be assessed from key viewpoints agreed with landscape officers at East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

Transport and access

How will the cumulative impacts of construction traffic be managed?

We are at the initial stages of our proposals, and we recognise that construction traffic is a concern for local communities. Managing cumulative impacts will be a priority as the project progresses, and more detailed information will be included within our Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP).

The CTMP will outline measures to minimise disruption and ensure traffic is managed safely and efficiently.

Water environment

How will run-off from the site be managed?

National planning policy requires all NSIPs to include a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA), which includes mitigation in the form of a drainage strategy where necessary. An FRA and Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy will be provided as part of the DCO application.

Amenity and recreation

What will be the impact on local footpaths and bridleways?

Disruption to Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) would be minimised. We will also aim to make improvements within the site based on the feedback from our consultation. This will help ensure that communities can continue to access and enjoy the local environment and its amenities.

Socio-economic and land use

What is the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) for the Site?

To determine the grading of the land on the site, we are undertaking soil surveys and an Agricultural Land Classification survey.

The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) will outline these findings and be made available at our statutory consultation later in 2025.

Community benefit

We will be consulting with local stakeholders and community groups, to help inform our approach to delivering community benefit initiatives.

We will keep our communication channels open for feedback and suggestions, allowing attendees and members of the public to continue sharing ideas. Please visit our website for details on how you can share your thoughts.

Communication and engagement

When will the public have the opportunity to engage with the plans?

We are aiming to hold our statutory consultation later in 2025. This will last a minimum of six weeks and will comprise a combination of in-person and online events.

During this period, we will present our refined project design and rationale to the community. Feedback from these sessions will continue to influence the project design ahead of the DCO application being submitted.

Cumulative impact

Are you aware of other solar developments in the local area?

We are aware of other projects in the area, including several proposed solar developments and NSIPs. In response, we are continuing to meet with other developers and are exploring how we might work together to ensure concerns are addressed collectively, where appropriate.

As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, we are also required to undertake a cumulative effects assessment that will be submitted with the DCO application. The EIA will look at the combined impact of different projects happening in the same area and help identify any cumulative effects that might not be noticed when considering projects individually.

5. Next steps for our consultation and engagement

We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who took the time to provide feedback at our workshops and who got in contact with us through our communication channels. Your insights are valuable and are helping shape and refine the early design proposals for Mylen Leah as part of our master-planning process.

Looking ahead, we will share a more detailed design of the proposals during our statutory consultation, which is currently scheduled for later this year.

Alongside this, we will publish:

- **A Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC),** outlining how we engaged with stakeholders during the non-statutory consultation and how we will engage with local communities during the statutory consultation phase. This will be developed in consultation with Local Planning Authorities (LPAs). This document will also provide an overview of the wider engagement we undertook as part of the non-statutory consultation, in addition to the co-design sessions.
- **A Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR),** which will present the findings of our ongoing environmental assessments and our proposed approach to assessing the potential likely significance of effects of the project.

Ongoing engagement

Our engagement will remain ongoing ahead of and following our statutory consultation. We will continue to work closely with key stakeholders, including local parishes, community groups and landowners, as well as statutory consultees, environmental groups, and LPAs to ensure that local knowledge and feedback continues to inform and help refine our proposals as the project progresses.

Contact us

If you have any questions or would like to speak to a member of the team, please contact our Community Relations Team using the details below:

- **Email:** MylenLeah@statkraft.com
- **Freephone:** 0800 772 0134
- **Visit our website:** www.mylenleah-solar.co.uk