



SENT VIA EMAIL

**Thursday 24 April 2025**

Dear Parish Council Clerk,

**Meridian Solar Farm**

**Stage two (statutory) consultation: Thursday 24 April to Sunday 8 June 2025**

We are writing to you regarding the proposed Meridian Solar Project (the “Scheme”), which is a proposed solar farm and overhead line connection to the national grid, that will generate around 750 megawatts of electricity and connect to the National Electricity Transmission System.

The Scheme is being promoted by Meridian Solar Farm Limited, a subsidiary of Downing Renewable Developments. The Scheme is proposed to be located on land to the north of Crowland and east of Spalding, and is located within the administrative boundaries of Lincolnshire County Council and South Holland District Council.

The Scheme would comprise the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels and an approximately 12 to 13 km of overhead line connection into National Grid’s planned Weston Marsh substation (due to be located east of Spalding, with the exact location to be confirmed by National Grid). The Scheme will also include associated infrastructure, including co-located battery energy storage systems (BESS) and inter-array connections to link together the land parcels where the solar panels are located. The BESS is associated development to ensure that energy can be stored when it is generated and not demanded. The BESS will have a direct relationship with the solar PV panels and it will support the operation of this by storing electricity produced during times of peak capacity until it is needed.

The Scheme comprises a generating station of approximately 750 megawatts and could generate enough green electricity to power approximately 215,000 homes. The Scheme qualifies as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008, which means we will submit a Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the Scheme to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero via the Planning Inspectorate. An Examining Authority will then be appointed to examine the application on behalf of the Secretary of State. After examination, the Examining Authority will make its recommendation on the Application to the Secretary of State, who will make the final decision on whether or not to grant the DCO.

We are writing to you as a local interest group or stakeholder that may have an interest in our proposals to announce the start of our stage two (statutory) consultation. The consultation is running from **Thursday 24 April 2025 until 11:59pm on Sunday 8 June 2025** (hereafter referred to as “the consultation period”) and we invite responses on or before the closing date.

## How to get involved

During the consultation period, a series of in person consultation events will be held where you can speak with members of the project team. Printed copies of the consultation materials will be made available at consultation events for attendees to view. Attendees will also be able to take away copies of the consultation information booklet, feedback form and newsletter.

Venue	Date	Time
<b>Sutton St Edmund Village Hall</b> , 273 Broadgate, Spalding PE12 0LR	Saturday 10 May 2025	10:30 – 16:30
<b>Crowland Snowden Pavilion</b> , Thorney Road, Peterborough PE8 9QR	Wednesday 21 May 2025	14:00 – 20:00
<b>Weston Village Hall</b> , Small Drove, Spalding PE12 6HU	Thursday 22 May 2025	14:00 – 20:00

*Details are correct at the time of publication and are unlikely to change. Any updates will be reflected on the Scheme website, which we recommend to check for the most current details before attending.*

We will also upload two online information presentations to the Scheme website during the consultation period. The first presentation will provide an overview of our proposals and where to find out more information. The second presentation will be uploaded after the in person events and will provide a summary of the main questions we were asked and a response to them.

## Consultation materials

We have produced the following consultation materials as part of this statutory consultation, all of which can be viewed on our website during the consultation period [www.meridiansolarfarm.co.uk](http://www.meridiansolarfarm.co.uk):

- Consultation Newsletter, which is being posted to all addresses within a defined Primary Consultation Zone (as described in the Statement of Community Consultation). This document provides introductory information about the Scheme, the consultation and where more detailed information can be found. **Please find an electronic copy of the newsletter enclosed with this letter.**
- Consultation Information Booklet, which provides a more detailed overview of the Scheme, including a summary of some of the potential environmental effects, as explained in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (“PEIR”).
- Consultation Feedback Form, which may be used to provide a response to our consultation on the Scheme.
- Interactive Scheme Map, which is a digital map hosted on the website for users to engage with elements of the Scheme by zooming, dragging and clicking to reveal more information.
- PEIR and Non-Technical Summary (“NTS”).
- Statement of Community Consultation (“SoCC”), which has been publicised in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 to explain how we will consult on our proposals.

### Hard copy information

At the start of the consultation period, copies of consultation information booklets, feedback forms and newsletters will be deposited in local information points located in the vicinity of the Scheme. Our SoCC, NTS and full PEIR will be available in printed format for inspection at the information point: Crowland Library. All of the locations and opening times are as follows:

Venue	Opening hours	Materials available
<b>Crowland Library</b> , Hall Street, Crowland PE6 0EW	<b>Tuesday and Thursday:</b> 9.30am to 12.30pm and 2pm to 5pm <b>Saturday:</b> 10am to 1pm	<b>To takeaway</b> Consultation Information Booklet Consultation Feedback Form Consultation Newsletter  <b>For reference only</b> PEIR NTS SoCC
<b>Spalding Library</b> , Victoria Street, Spalding PE11 1EA	<b>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday:</b> 9am to 5pm <b>Thursday:</b> 9am to 6pm <b>Saturday:</b> 9am to 1pm	<b>To takeaway</b> Consultation Information Booklet Consultation Feedback Form Consultation Newsletter
<b>Holbeach Library</b> , Co-Op Store, 5 Fleet Street, Holbeach, Spalding PE12 7AX	<b>Monday to Friday:</b> 9am to 5pm <b>Saturday:</b> 9am to 12 noon	<b>To takeaway</b> Consultation Information Booklet Consultation Feedback Form Consultation Newsletter
<b>Tonic Health Centre Spalding</b> , 6 Broadgate House, Westlode Street, Spalding PE11 2AF	<b>Monday and Thursday:</b> 10am to 7pm <b>Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday:</b> 10am to 3pm	<b>To takeaway</b> Consultation Information Booklet Consultation Feedback Form Consultation Newsletter
<b>Tonic Health Centre Holbeach</b> , Holbeach Hub, Boston Road South, Holbeach PE12 7LR	<b>Monday and Thursday:</b> 10am to 7pm <b>Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday:</b> 10am to 3pm	<b>To takeaway</b> Consultation Information Booklet Consultation Feedback Form Consultation Newsletter

*Venue opening times are correct at the time of publication. We recommend contacting the venue to check the opening times before visiting, especially over bank holidays.*

Paper copies of the consultation materials are available in hard copy for individuals at no extra charge (except the PEIR and NTS, hard copies of which can be requested for a charge of £0.35 per page to cover printing and posting costs). If you require this information in an alternative format, such as Braille, large print or alternative languages, please contact us using the details in this letter.

## Providing feedback

Your feedback is important in helping us refine our proposals. You can response to the consultation in the following ways:

- Completing an online feedback form, which can be accessed during the consultation period via our website: [www.meridiansolarfarm.co.uk](http://www.meridiansolarfarm.co.uk).
- Collecting a feedback form from one of our consultation events, a local information point or on request, and returning your completed feedback form to us by email ([enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk)) or by post (by writing 'FREEPOST DOWNING MERIDIAN' on a blank envelope – no stamp required).
- Providing your free form comments by email or post. Please note that we will not accept comments over the phone but we will assist you wherever possible.

**The deadline for providing feedback is 11:59pm on Sunday 8 June 2025.**

## Publicity

As a clerk for a parish council in the local area, we kindly ask that you share this information about our consultation more widely. Please find enclosed our Consultation Newsletter which will help raise awareness of the Scheme and how people can get involved in the consultation.

If you have any questions about this letter, the Scheme or consultation, please do not hesitate to contact [enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk) or 0800 652 6120.

Yours faithfully,



David Vernon  
Head of NSIP Projects  
Downing Renewable Developments

Enc. Consultation Newsletter