



CLEVE HILL
SOLAR PARK

Cleve Hill Solar Park

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2024

In this newsletter:

Our new-look website (www.clevehillsolar.com) is now live – check in for the latest updates.

We've been catching up with residents at a series of community events and a site visit over recent weeks and months.

Construction Update.

The solar modules on site are installed onto structures known as tables which are, in turn, supported by piles. Zones K, L, M and C are now complete with all solar modules in place – see the map of the solar park zones below.

Table construction is very advanced in zones A, H, I, M and O.

There has been recent testing of piling methods in zones Q, U, V, X and W which has resulted in the decision to use the impact installation method which is now underway. Piling is well underway across the rest of the site.

While the noise generated by this work is within required legal tolerance levels, we appreciate that the tapping sound from this installation method is of concern to the local community.

We are continuously monitoring the noise levels using a mixture of fixed and mobile receptors and using mitigation methods to minimise the sound levels as far as possible.

An independent noise consultant is working with our team to ensure compliance with the DCO requirements. The work being carried out is being used to plan the mitigation measures we are putting in place, such as installing acoustic barriers and fencing around the working areas.

In addition, our project team is striving to complete the piling in these key zones as quickly as possible through planned phases of works using multiple ramming machines. Weather conditions permitting, we anticipate that all piling in these areas will be completed towards the end of October.



Zone Map

Construction traffic.

For several months we have worked to keep construction deliveries at a lower level on Saturdays. As discussed at the fortnightly Construction Traffic Management Group (CTMG) meetings, the reduced level was set at 20 deliveries (a total of 40 HGV movements to and from site).

However, the current phase of construction requires an increase in Saturday deliveries back to the original figure of 40. These deliveries are part of the enabling programme for the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

We understand there is some concern among residents about this reversion to the original number of Saturday HGV movements. We are employing the same measures to minimise the impact as we have in place on weekdays.

This includes marshalling traffic in the holding area and issuing individual trackers to all vehicles. Convoys of a maximum of six vehicles each are escorted through the villages to ensure adherence to the 20mph speed limit. The construction project team introduced these measures over and above the requirements of the Construction Traffic Management Plan.



View over zone P from viewing platform

Southern Gas Network Head Hill Road closure from 21 October.

Southern Gas Network (SGN) have been carrying out planned gas network upgrade works on Head Hill Road since Monday 21 October.

The road closure and all traffic management are the responsibility of SGN and their subcontractors. The proposed management of the SGN road closure was agreed following meetings between the solar park team, SGN and Kent County Council Highways. Further discussions were held at the Construction Traffic Management Group meeting on 9 October regarding both HGV and staff traffic movements during the closure period.

The arrangements for solar park traffic are as follows:

HGVs:

- All solar park deliveries are diverted along Monkshill Road.
- HGVs must visit the traffic holding area before and after visiting site to pick up and drop off vehicle trackers.
- At the holding area HGV drivers are briefed on the diversion route and delivery traffic procedures.
- No deliveries will take place between 8.15 – 9.15am and 3.00 – 4.00pm as

- SGN traffic marshals stop and control traffic at the western and eastern ends of Monkshill Road, between Waterham Road and Seasalter Road.
- Traffic is allowed to travel in one direction at a time, a procedure SGN has agreed with Kent County Council.

Staff traffic:

- Staff cars/vans entering/leaving the solar park site use the SGN diversion route via Faversham Road/Joy Lane.

Residents and businesses located along Monkshill Road will be directed by the traffic marshals as outlined above.

The CHSP construction project team are in regular contact with SGN during these works to ensure adherence to their traffic management throughout the road closure.

The road closure covers a four-week period, however SGN have indicated that the works could be completed in a shorter period.

Please contact SGN directly if you have any queries about traffic management during this road closure www.sgn.co.uk/Contact-SGN.

Ecology and wildlife news.

Ecologists from specialist company Tetra Tech have been back on site to monitor the water vole population. The team survey for signs of activity to assess the numbers of animals across the site. This work is in line with Natural England licences that have been granted and are required to carry out this work.

Our Ecological Clerks of Works (ECoWs) have been carrying out two types of bird survey to record different species in the area. Two ECoWs work as a team to carry out vantage point surveys using binoculars to spot bird species flying over the site.

In addition to this, the ECoWs walk along the sea wall from the Sportsman to Faversham Creek to undertake a winter field count. They check along this route once at high tide and once at low tide to count and record the bird species they spot on the ground. As well as the foreshore, where the numbers of Brent geese are now starting to increase, the team also check the land side of the route.

The team recently moved around 30 eels from one section of a ditch to another, when a culvert was drained down to enable works to a sluice gate. The eels were relocated to a part of the ditch closer to the sea. It is during autumn and winter that eels migrate to their spawning grounds in the Sargasso Sea (south-west of Bermuda) which is around 4,500 miles from the UK. Males undertake spawning migrations when aged 6 – 12 years and females between the ages of 9 – 18. In addition to making this extraordinary journey, the eels do not feed at all on their migration to the breeding grounds.

The adult eels do not leave the Sargasso Sea and are thought to die after spawning, where it is estimated that each female produces more than one million eggs. The young make the same incredible journey in reverse, changing into transparent “glass eels” as they arrive on the Atlantic coast of Europe. This journey can take as long as three years with a mortality rate of 99.8%.

Landscaping and planting.

We are now in the process of confirming the planting programme with the landscaping company, to include screening, trees and native hedgerows. Watch this space for more details.

Community events.

The first of two drop-in sessions took place in the Graveney Village Hall on the afternoon of 6th August. The project team were available to answer any queries or concerns regarding the progress of the solar park construction programme. The second drop-in session on 29th August welcomed visitors between 5pm and 8pm. A total of 18 local people came along to these two information events.

Six representatives of Hernhill Parish Council attended a site visit on 13 August, which included a rather blustery viewing session on the rooftop platform overlooking the whole site. There was also a Q&A session with the construction project team and one of our Ecological Clerk of Works (EcoWs) with topics ranging from maintenance of the sea wall to different piling methods across the site, habitat management techniques and observations on increased biodiversity.

Local history buffs enjoyed the History Weekend event at All Saints Church in Graveney (17th – 19th August). Maps and information on Cleve Hill Solar Park were on display alongside exhibitions covering many years of local history.

On Saturday 21st September, the CHSP construction team hosted two community site visit sessions. 16 visitors came along to hear about the progress on site, view the emerging solar park from the rooftop platform and discuss the project in general.



The project team at the second drop-in session on 29th August



The materials on display at All Saints Church

Contact Us:

If you would like to be kept updated via email, please get in touch with the project team via the communication channels below:



Write to us at:

Freepost: Cleve Hill Solar



Email us at:

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Call our Freephone information line:

0800 328 2850

Available Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm
Saturday, 9am - 1pm
Voicemails can be left outside of these hours



Visit our website at:

www.clevehillsolar.com