



# ST MARY IN THE MARSH SOLAR FARM

Providing clean, green energy for Kent





# INTRODUCING ST MARY IN THE MARSH SOLAR FARM

Enviromena is preparing to submit a planning application to Folkestone and Hythe District Council for a solar farm located on land on St Mary's Road, Romney Marsh, TN29 0BT.

The proposed solar farm will have an approximate capacity of 16MW per annum. The solar farm will create enough clean, renewable energy to power approximately 10,600 homes per annum. The carbon offsetting of this solar farm is approximately 5,900 tonnes of carbon in emissions per annum, which is the equivalent of taking 4,200 cars off the road each year.

Unlike other, much larger schemes under consideration across the UK, this proposal is a 16MW solar farm and will instead be decided at a local level, by Folkestone and Hythe District Council. We are therefore keen to engage with the community and hear your thoughts. Comments provided by the local community will be considered in shaping the final planning application.







# THE BENEFITS







## KEY

### EXISTING

-  Vegetation to be retained
-  Drains to be retained and enhanced
-  Telegraph poles and overhead lines running through the site
-  Footpath to be retained

### PROPOSED

-  Species rich grassland
-  Solar photovoltaic panel arrays
-  Native hedgerow planting
-  Native shrub planting with specimen trees

- 1 Site entrance with new DNO and client sub-stations
- 2 Existing footpath to be retained with new hedge planting to front of boundary fence
- 3 Existing pond and associated planting to be retained and enhanced
- 4 Existing network of drains to be retained and enhanced
- 5 New native shrub planting pond
- 6 New boundary planting to comprise native species hedgerows with new hedgerow trees to replicate existing planting in wider landscape, where space permits areas of thicket planting to be provided

- The solar farm will assist Folkestone and Hythe District Council in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with national and local targets in response to the Climate Emergency.
- The project will deliver major biodiversity net gains of 80.93% in habitat units, 387.87% in hedgerow units and 28.09% in watercourse units. Research has shown that responsibly managed solar farms can play an important role in reducing the decline in biodiversity.
- Existing trees and hedgerows will be retained and protected and supplemented by additional native species planting to support local habitats as part of a wider ecological network.
- The development of green projects like St Mary in the Marsh Solar Farm also creates business opportunities and economic activity which contribute to the country's green recovery.
- We are committed to using local suppliers and contractors during construction and long-term operation of the project, which will benefit the local economy, and provide jobs to people in the local area.
- The proposal does not require the stopping or diversion of any public rights of way.
- This is a temporary development, allowing the land to rest for the period of operation up to 40 years. Decommissioning and full restoration of the site at the end of life of the development will be secured via planning condition.
- The project does not require Government subsidies.
- The project utilises considerably less land than other larger Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) proposals across the UK.
- The project connects to the local distribution network within the land, eliminating the need for off-site cable routing.

## CLIMATE EMERGENCY

In 2019, the UK became the first country in the world to declare a Climate Emergency. It has subsequently committed to reach Net Zero carbon emissions by 2050. In October 2021 the UK Government set out its Net Zero commitments and obligations in the 'Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener'. Amongst a number of initiatives, it confirms that by 2035 all our electricity will need to come from low carbon sources.

Support for renewable energy in this area was strengthened in 2019, when Folkestone and Hythe District Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency. The Council developed a 'Carbon Action Plan' in 2021, setting out actions to continue their journey to reduce carbon emissions to zero by 2030. The Council's strategy acknowledges the importance of increasing renewable energy generation including solar, if they are to achieve this target.



# ABOUT ENVIROMENA

Enviromena, the developer of this project, is a clean energy solutions company providing safe, affordable, and reliable solutions for growing sustainable power demands.

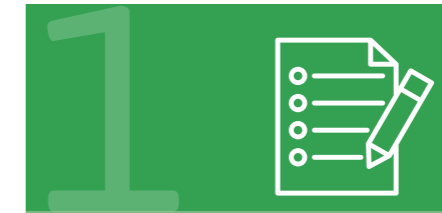
Headquartered in the UK, Enviromena has more than 17 years' global experience in developing, designing, constructing, managing, and operating ground-breaking renewable energy projects.

Enviromena currently manages, operates, and maintains over 300 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy assets including solar and energy storage projects. Additionally, Enviromena currently has a further 3GW in construction and development across the UK and Italy.



## GET INVOLVED

We invite you to provide feedback on our draft proposals in the following ways:



Fill in the feedback form that accompanies this public consultation brochure.

Please read through the leaflet and provide feedback to us by way of the free post feedback form that came with the brochure.



Visit the dedicated public consultation website:  
[www.stmaryinthemarshsolar.co.uk](http://www.stmaryinthemarshsolar.co.uk)

We have set up a dedicated public consultation website, where you can find information about our draft proposals and provide feedback.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHY SOLAR?

The Climate Emergency, the cost-of-living crisis and the energy crunch are all linked by how we generate, use and supply energy. We urgently need to generate energy from new, low cost, low carbon sources and solar is the lowest cost and quickest to deploy of all energy sources.

It is currently one-ninth the cost of gas and less than one third of the cost of nuclear. The proposed solar farm will generate renewable electricity integral to the UK Government's overarching policy to provide significant reductions in national greenhouse gas emissions and improved energy security.

The Government's Energy Security Strategy (2022) proposed a five-fold increase in solar by 2035. St Mary in the Marsh Solar Farm will help the UK reach this target and create a greener, cleaner energy future for Kent. We are committing long-term funding to bring forward renewable energy generation and low carbon programmes which we believe will help deliver a more sustainable future.

## WHY HERE?

The site for St Mary in the Marsh Solar Farm has been carefully selected as part of a detailed site assessment process. Considerations have been made on all the following, to ensure this site is the most appropriate one for our scheme: grid capacity, land availability, heritage assets, flood risk and agricultural land quality. The project connects to the local distribution network within the land, meaning no requirement for off-site cable routing.

## WILL THE DEVELOPMENT CHANGE THE LAND CLASSIFICATION?

The solar farm is a temporary development and will not change the land classification. Once the solar farm is no longer in operation it will be decommissioned, and the land will return to its previous agricultural usage.



## DO SOLAR FARMS EMIT NOISE?

No. Solar panels have no moving parts and emit no sound. Inverters and transformers can emit very low-level sound, but these are sited away from houses and cannot be heard from more than a few metres away.

## ARE SOLAR FARMS A THREAT TO FOOD SECURITY?

The UK Food Security Report (2021) found that "the biggest medium to long term risk to the UK's domestic production comes from climate change and other environmental pressures like soil degradation, water quality and biodiversity". Solar farms currently account for 0.08% of total land use in the UK (Solar Energy UK 2022). The Government targets for a fivefold increase in solar would result in 0.3% of the UK land area being used by solar (Carbon Brief, 2022). This is the equivalent to around half of the space used by golf courses.

## WILL THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT HARM WILDLIFE?

There is no evidence that solar farms have a negative impact on wildlife. In fact, wildlife thrives within the sites when managed sensitively.

We are committed to significant net biodiversity gain at St Mary in the Marsh through the creation of new habitats to support local wildlife. Existing hedgerows will be strengthened, and new hedgerows will be planted to improve habitat connectivity across the site. We will set aside a significant proportion of the land for habitats to support mammals, birds and invertebrates.

Further ecological enhancement measures such as bird boxes and bat boxes will be placed within the site to encourage those populations to prosper.



# HAVE YOUR SAY

Please take your time to consider the information within this brochure and don't hesitate to contact a member of our team should you have any questions or matters you need to be clarified.

Comments provided by the local community will be considered in shaping the final planning application submission. Please provide any comments you have on the proposal by email or via the feedback form on the website. We would be grateful if you could complete the feedback form (including your contact details) for the purpose of informing the project design and providing feedback to the Council.

For further information, please do not hesitate to email: [feedback@alpacacommunications.com](mailto:feedback@alpacacommunications.com)

## REGISTER FOR UPDATES

Please visit [www.stmaryinthemarshsolar.co.uk](http://www.stmaryinthemarshsolar.co.uk) where information about our proposals will be updated, and where you can register to receive updates.



# FEEDBACK FORM

To return your completed feedback form please tear it from the brochure, insert into the enclosed pre-paid envelope and pop it in the post by **Wednesday 26th February 2025**. Alternatively, you can return your form via email to [feedback@alpacacommunications.com](mailto:feedback@alpacacommunications.com)

Title:  Name:   
 Address:  Postcode:   
 Email:  Telephone:

- Has this brochure been helpful in understanding our proposal?  Yes  No  Not sure
- Do you support the proposals you have read about within this brochure?  
 Fully support  Broadly support  Do not support  Undecided
- Please use this space to provide any comments on the proposal. We would welcome your feedback on all aspects of the proposals outlined in the brochure.

**By filling-in this form you are agreeing that the Enviromena Project Team can hold and process your personal data in relation to this public consultation exercise only. Your data will be stored in line with the GDPR and will not be shared or publicised without your consent. Your contact details will not be listed on the planning application documentation.**

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**Instructions**

To return your feedback form, please fold and put it in the post to us.

If you'd like more space to share your thoughts, send us an email, or just write your comments down and pop them in an envelope with 'FREEPOST ALPACA COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED' written on the front. You don't need any further address or stamp.

Any queries or problems? Get in touch via [feedback@alpacacommunications.com](mailto:alpacacommunications.com).