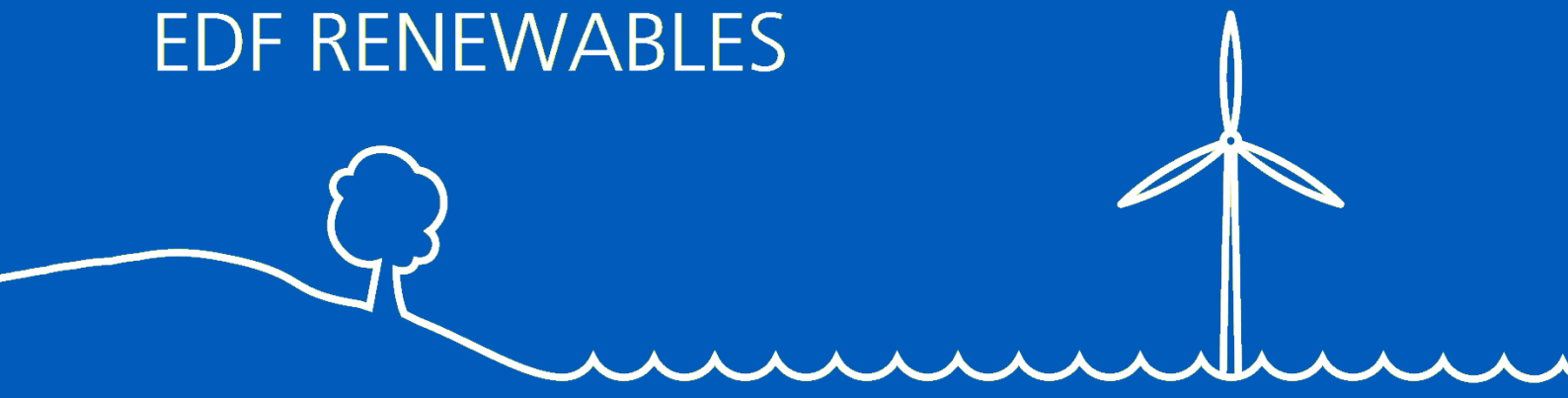


EDF RENEWABLES

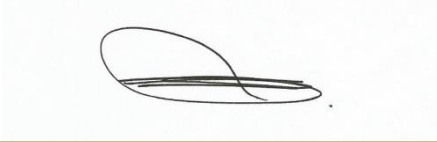
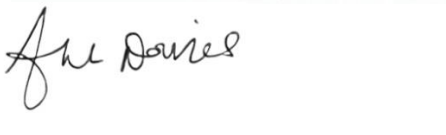


Sutton Bridge Solar Farm

Feedback Summary on Community Engagement July/August 2020



Document Control

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Executive summary

1. The proposed Sutton Bridge Solar Farm is EDF Renewables' first large scale solar farm project in the UK, and EDF R wanted to maintain the high standards of community and stakeholder engagement that it adopts across its development portfolio. As a result of Covid-19 restrictions, it wasn't possible to organise face-to-face public information events, in the normal way. Instead, EDF R adopted a remote consultation approach. The proposed Sutton Bridge Solar Farm was announced on 27th July 2020, and a four week public consultation period followed.
2. Confidential briefings took place with a number of community representatives prior to the project being announced, in order to ensure that these key stakeholders were in an informed position to comment publicly and field enquiries from local people.
3. The press release, issued on 27th July (see [Appendix 4](#)) was picked up by three media outlets, all of whom published details of the consultation, contact information for EDF R, and the website address for the virtual consultation.
4. An online virtual consultation page was established, which provided information on all the key features of the project, and an online feedback form. In order to address the issue of accessibility – specifically, reaching those who cannot access online information – an information leaflet was posted to the 87 households within 500m of the proposed site with information about the project. The leaflet invited people to contact the EDF R Sutton Bridge team via a dedicated email address and telephone number. A printed, pre-paid feedback form was also included in the information leaflet for people who wished to return their comments by post. An additional 230 information leaflets were distributed within the community. One person returned a paper feedback form prior to the end of the consultation. After the consultation ended a further seven postal feedback forms were received. That feedback is included in this report. The virtual exhibition was visited by a total of 364 people, of whom five completed feedback forms.
5. In total, thirty-three people engaged with EDF R and Cadno through meetings with stakeholders, completing online and postal feedback, and via email and phone. All are local to the area, except for one person who does not live in the area but has family in Sutton Bridge.
6. Overall, EDF R found the exercise helpful and informative, and particularly valued the discussions with residents and stakeholders, who provided useful feedback.

Introduction

Background

7. Between 20 July and 24 August EDF R undertook a range of community engagement activities to share information on Sutton Bridge Solar Farm, and to seek feedback from the local community. On 27th July 2020, the scheme was announced via a press release, the virtual exhibition went live on EDF R's website, and at the same time residents living close to the site started to receive information through the post.
8. Cadno Communications Ltd (Cadno) was appointed to manage the community engagement. Cadno worked closely with EDF R to plan and deliver the various engagement activities. Planning consultants, Arcus, liaised with the local authority planning team, who approved EDF R's consultation approach. 3D Webtech provided the web platform for the virtual exhibition.
9. Whilst there is no statutory responsibility on the developer to consult prior to submitting a planning application of this nature, South Holland District Council actively encourages developers to seek the involvement of the community and submit details of any preliminary consultation that they have undertaken with the community as part of their application. Moreover, EDF R has a reputation for good community and stakeholder engagement and wants to maintain these high standards, both during the public consultation, and in the future.

Community engagement plan

10. The overall strategic aim of the community engagement is to ensure that the local community and planning authority are well informed and that EDF R understands the concerns of the local community so that steps can be taken to mitigate these issues within the scheme as far as possible. The community engagement plan ([Appendix 1](#)) sets out the steps EDF R took to inform the community and invite feedback during the public consultation period. The plan was approved by the local planning authority prior to implementation.

Engagement with key political stakeholders

11. Key stakeholders were approached in confidence on 20 July 2020, a week prior to the formal announcement in order to ensure that they were in an informed position to comment publicly and field enquiries from local people. They were provided with a written briefing ([Appendix 2](#)) and offered a meeting to discuss the project in person.

South Holland District Council

12. EDF R briefed the Portfolio Holder for Place, Councillor Roger Gambba-Jones, on 22 July 2020
13. The two district councillors for Sutton Bridge ward, Councillor Michael Booth and Councillor Christopher Brewis, were briefed on 28 July 2020. Councillor Brewis is a member of the South Holland Planning Committee and is the local County Councillor. Both councillors are on Sutton Bridge Parish Council.
14. The councillors requested a pre-application site visit, which took place with the EDF R project manager, on 13 August 2020.
15. Councillors Booth and Brewis requested additional copies of the leaflet so that they could distribute these to those who found the internet inaccessible. The Councillors distributed 150 leaflets to elderly people in sheltered housing in the parish and to several local shops.

Lincolnshire County Council

16. The County Councillor for the area, The Suttons, is Councillor Christopher Brewis. Engagement with Councillor Brewis is detailed above.

Sutton Bridge Parish Council

17. Sutton Bridge Parish Council convened an extraordinary meeting on 18 August 2020 in order to be briefed about the project. The meeting was attended by the chair, vice chair, the two district councillors, three further parish councillors and the council's clerk. Following the meeting the parish council responded by email and completed online feedback form, stating, "Sutton Bridge Parish Council is supportive of the solar farm proposal, subject to the following comments: That the Parish Council will be directly involved in the negotiation of a community benefits fund. That the natural planting scheme for the site will contribute to the area's biodiversity, with the planting of native species. That landscaping will provide satisfactory screening of the site from neighbouring properties, such that residents will not be adversely affected by the development."
18. The parish magazine will run an article about the project, focussing on the community benefit fund.

MP for South Holland and the Deepings

19. On 12 August 2020 EDF R met with the MP for the area Sir John Hayes MP.

Engagement with local residents

20. Due to public health advice at the time to prevent the spread of Covid-19, no face to face public information events were held. EDF R was keen to ensure residents had access to information about the project and an opportunity to provide feedback, despite not being able to attend meetings in person. The following measures were put in place to communicate the project to local residents.

Information leaflet

21. An eight page, double-sided, A5 information leaflet including a tear-out, postage paid feedback form ([Appendix 3](#)) was sent via Royal Mail to every household within a 500m radius, totalling 87 households. The leaflet arrived from 27 July 2020 onwards.
22. Leaflets were also distributed to venues to be made available to the public: Long Sutton Post Office, The Curlew Centre, Long Sutton Library, and South Holland District Council.
23. The local district councillors also distributed 150 leaflets to elderly people in sheltered housing and to local shops.

Press coverage

24. A press release ([Appendix 4](#)) was distributed to the following media outlets: Lincolnshire Echo, The Spalding and South Holland Voice for immediate release on 27 July 2020. The press release was published here:

“EDF Renewables reveals plans to build solar power station in Lincolnshire” [Lincolnshire Live \(27 July 2020\)](#)

“New solar farm on the cards for Sutton Bridge” [Spalding Voice \(27 July 2020\)](#)

“Sutton Bridge could be getting a solar farm if new plans come off” [Spalding Today \(28 July 2020\)](#)

25. Trade and industry press also carried the story.
26. A quote was provided to the parish magazine about the community benefit fund.
27. Local media outlet Spalding Today published the quote provided to the parish magazine in a positive article about the community benefit fund. The article included a quote from the chair of Sutton Bridge Parish Council:

“Sutton Bridge Parish Council chairman Simon Booth has welcomed news of the offer of the community fund and feels that this money should be administered by the same group which looks after the power station fund. He said: “I think it will be great for the village. I would not normally support Grade 1 land being used for a solar farm but the land in that area is earmarked for industry in the past. It would be good for that area and may free up that industrial area further to the north. I think a solar farm will be good for Sutton Bridge and talk of a community fund will help to get things up and running.” He hopes it will support projects in the community.”

“Sutton Bridge solar farm developer offering cash community fund” [Spalding Today \(5 September 2020\)](#)

EDF R Website

28. The website <https://www.edf-re.uk/our-sites/sutton-bridge-solar> went live on 27 July 2020. Details of the website were provided on the information leaflets and the press release. At close of play on 24 August 2020 the website had 332 page views and 279 unique page views¹. Two call to action buttons direct website visitors to the virtual exhibition hosted by 3D Webtech.

¹ Google Analytics. “A pageview is defined as a view of a page on your site that is being tracked by the Analytics tracking code. If a user clicks reload after reaching the page, this is counted as an additional pageview. If a user navigates to a different page and then returns to the original page, a second pageview is recorded as well. A unique pageview, as seen in the Content Overview report, aggregates pageviews that are generated by the same user during the same session. A unique pageview represents the number of sessions during which that page was viewed one or more times.”

Virtual exhibition

29. The virtual exhibition <https://3dwtech.co.uk/portal/edf-re/sutton-bridge-solar/exhibition/> went live on 27 July 2020. (Screenshots at [Appendix 5](#)). Up until 24 August 2020 the virtual exhibition had been visited 364 times. Hosted by 3D Webtech, the virtual exhibition consisted of:

- Six exhibition banner style information panels ([Appendix 6](#))
- Information leaflet ([Appendix 3](#))
- Press release ([Appendix 4](#))
- Statement of Community Consultation ([Appendix 7](#))
- Landscape Concept Plan ([Appendix 8](#))
- Site location plan ([Appendix 9](#))
- Feedback form ([Appendix 10](#))
- Contact information ([Appendix 11](#))

Email address and telephone number

30. The email address sutton.bridge.solar@edf-re.uk and telephone number 01775 662965 went live on 27 July 2020. Details of the website and email address were provided on the leaflet, press release, website and virtual exhibition. Up until the end of 24 August 2020 telephone calls were received from three individuals and three emails were received.

Feedback

31. 327 leaflets were distributed in total. Five online feedback forms and one written form were returned within the consultation period. A further seven written forms were received through the post after the consultation ended. That feedback is included in this report.
32. In total, thirty-three people engaged with EDF R and Cadno through meetings with stakeholders, completing online and postal feedback, and via email and phone. All are local to the area, except for one person who does not live in the area but has family in Sutton Bridge.
33. The online feedback form was designed to obtain views under four main headings: the exhibition, about the person, the project and further comments. The printed form contained three specific questions and a blank box for further comments.
34. The following emerged as themes from key stakeholders, residents and respondents to the consultation.

Glare

35. There were many questions about possible glare from the solar panels, and reference was made a number of times to the nearby RAF base at Holbeach.
36. EDF R responded by explaining that glint and glare is thoroughly assessed, both for aviation purposes and household/premises.
37. Following a Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study no significant impacts upon ground based receptors have been identified and no mitigation requirement beyond the proposed landscaping has been identified. No significant impacts are anticipated at RAF Holbeach due to its distance and location in relation to the proposed development.

Quality of agricultural land on the site

38. There were a number of references to the fact that the site is good quality agricultural land. However, there was also some acknowledgment that whilst of good quality, the land was not the best quality land in the area and therefore probably most suitable for solar. One respondent said: 'While the soil is good agricultural quality, protecting it from overuse, pesticides and fertilisers for 35 years is a net benefit to farming and local biodiversity'.
39. EDF R has undertaken further land quality measurements and found that two-thirds of the site is grade 2 agricultural land classification (ALC) and one-third is grade 1 ALC.

Transport and access

40. There was some concern about the possibility of there being a lot of activity on site, and an increase in traffic as a result. Some respondents wanted more clarification on transport routes and access, fearing that heavy lorries would be using the local highway network.
41. EDF R has explained that beyond the installation phase – which will take approximately 6 months – the solar farm would be remotely monitored and operated. Activity would be confined to occasional maintenance, including some cleaning.
42. The access route for traffic will follow the A17 and turn onto Centenary Way.
43. Specific routes will be proposed in the planning application for heavy construction vehicles. All deliveries to site will follow the approved routes and an onsite Construction Manager (during the construction period) will ensure compliance. There will be a point of contact on site during the construction phase for residents and updates provided to those living locally throughout the development and construction process.
44. One respondent asked about public footpaths on site. EDF R confirmed that there are no public footpaths within the site boundary.

Biodiversity and planting

- 45. There were a number of questions about biodiversity and planting both in relation to environmental improvements and visual screening.
- 46. EDF R was able to reassure respondents that the trees at the centre of the site would be maintained. Panels will be set back some distance from the trees to create a buffer (and to ensure that the shadow of the trees didn't impact on the panels' solar generation capacity).
- 47. Additional hedgerow and planting proposed was outlined in the landscape concept plan.
- 48. One collective submission (sent on behalf of 5 local people) said: 'The location will have no adverse effect environmentally.'
- 49. In response to feedback, EDF R will plant additional hedgerow to provide more screening.
- 50. A biodiversity plan will be submitted with the planning application. EDF R's aim is to achieve a net biodiversity gain.
- 51. EDF R was also informed about frequent dust storms and is now considering what additional plant screening might be added in order to protect the panels from these occurrences.

Electricity generation and connection

- 52. There were a number of questions relating to how the solar farm would be connected and the distribution of the electricity.
- 53. The electricity will be fed into the national grid via National Grid's substation at Walpole, some 3 km south of the site. The connection will be undergrounded along the public highway, either buried in the verge or road. The route with the least impact will be chosen. There will be no overhead line connection for the project.
- 54. The grid route application is a separate application and separate decision from the Solar Farm proposal.

Support for renewable energy

- 55. There was considerable support for renewable energy and wide acknowledgement that climate change meant that more needed to be done, at pace, to reduce carbon emissions. Respondents also, mostly, acknowledged that the area was advantageous to solar generation, and needed to 'play its part'.
- 56. One respondent queried whether solar was 'a long or short term answer to the energy issue'. EDF R's proposed project has a lifetime of 40 years.

Electric Vehicles (EV)

- 57. A small number of those with whom EDF R engaged were excited about the partnership with Pivot Power and the opportunity for energy storage and electric vehicle charging. EDF R is not in a position to expand on the exact scale of that opportunity in relation to Sutton Bridge at this stage but is hopeful that the collaboration can bring local benefits in the future.

Community Benefit Fund

- 58. There were some questions about a community benefit fund. Some local stakeholders said that there would be an 'expectation' of a community benefit fund. The parish council expressed their desire to be involved in the development of a community benefit fund.
- 59. In response to a direct query from the editor of the Sutton Bridge Parish Magazine, EDF R was able to articulate its commitment. EDF R said:

'EDF Renewables is offering a community benefit fund linked to its proposed solar farm at Sutton Bridge. Although it's not common practice for developers to offer community funds for solar farms, EDF R wishes to maintain its reputation for good relationships with the communities that host renewable energy projects, and has decided to offer a fund for the 40-year lifetime of the project, of between £5,000-£10,000 annually, which would total between £200,000-£400,000. The size of the fund will depend on the final size of the project, should it receive planning permission'.

- 60. A group of respondents said, 'The location will have no adverse effect environmentally and the proposed annual grant will be of real help if directed to appropriate projects to benefit the community. A badly needed new Sports Pavilion is an example.'

61. One respondent asked how much EDF R intends to contribute to Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) or Section 106 development funds. The Council will advise with regard to any such contributions.

Consultation timescales and methods

62. Overall, there was a positive response to EDF R's approach to consultation, with an acknowledgement that in the circumstances (Covid-19), efforts had been taken to reach out both online, in writing and in person.
63. Nonetheless, a minority didn't think that the consultation exercise was adequate, and felt that the period of consultation (four weeks) was too short, that the timing was inconvenient, and that the decision not to host face-to-face meetings locally, was wrong.

Conclusions

64. The public consultation exercise provided EDF R with the opportunity to inform local stakeholders and residents about the proposed solar farm at Sutton Bridge and in most cases, reassurances could be given in relation to concerns, as outlined in the key themes section, above.
65. Whilst the numbers who engaged was fairly low (33), EDF R was satisfied with the quality of engagement. Local community representatives also took soundings from residents and provided feedback.
66. Overall, there appeared to be little opposition to the project, and many of those who responded said they had concerns about climate change and that renewable energy projects were part of the solution, acknowledging that the local area had a part to play in hosting such schemes.
67. There is some existing industrial infrastructure in the area, including the operational Sutton Bridge gas power plant, next to the proposed solar site, and because of this, local people may feel that the impact of a solar farm compares favourably.
68. The feedback has been useful in helping EDF R to shape the final planning application. In particular, EDF R can confirm that the following elements of its application will be amended to take account of the feedback received during the public consultation exercise:
- RAF Holbeach - Our assessment concluded that no significant impacts are anticipated at RAF Holbeach due to its distance and location in relation to the proposed development.
 - Planting to reduce visual impact – as a result of feedback, EDF R intends to plant more hedgerow on site to act as screening.
 - Planting to reduce the impact of dust storms – the additional hedgerow will also help reduce the impact of dust storms on the panels.
 - Although not part of the planning application, in response to questions raised, EDF R confirmed its intention to offer a community benefit fund and specified an annual sum that could be available.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Community Engagement Plan




Sutton Bridge Solar PV - Comms/Stakeholder Engagement 2020

The overall strategic aim is to ensure that the local community and planning authority are well informed, that EDF R understands the concerns of the local community so that steps can be taken to mitigate these issues within the scheme as far as possible. Engagement with the key stakeholders will begin in the week commencing the 20th July, and the deadline for feedback from stakeholders and residents is 24th August. The plan below sets out the steps EDF R will take to inform the community and invite feedback.

Date	Activity
w/c 20 July	Approach key council stakeholders A confidential written briefing will be sent to key council stakeholders, including the two district council ward members, and the county council ward member. They will be offered a virtual meeting to be briefed about the project in person.
w/c 27 July	Announcement of the scheme A press release will be issued to the local press announcing the project.
w/c 27 July	Project website goes live Public information days will not be held in person due to Covid-19. The project webpage on the EDF R website will incorporate exhibition stand style information boards detailing the scope and timescales of the project, an online feedback form, a pdf of the project leaflet, and details on how to contact the project team. The website will be publicised in the press release and the mailing to residents (see below).
w/c 27 July	Distribute information leaflet to residents An information leaflet will be sent to residents living close to the site. The leaflet will include information on the project scope and timescales, and direct people to the project website. A tear-off, postage paid feedback form will be included to enable people to provide feedback by post.
28 July	Sutton Bridge & Wingland Parish council presentation. The presentation will cover the scope of the project and timescales, followed by the opportunity for members to ask questions and raise concerns.
24 August	Close of consultation.
Aug/Sept	Analysis of feedback All feedback will be collated in a community engagement report and incorporated into the planning submission.
September	Submission of planning application.

1

www.cadnocomms.co.uk

Appendix 2: Written briefing to key stakeholders




Sutton Bridge Solar Farm

EDF Renewables UK (EDF R) is developing a solar farm near to Sutton Bridge and intends to submit a planning application to South Holland District Council at the end of September. We are soon to announce the project and begin a public consultation exercise.

A summary of the scheme is below, and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss the project details and our plans for community consultation with you.

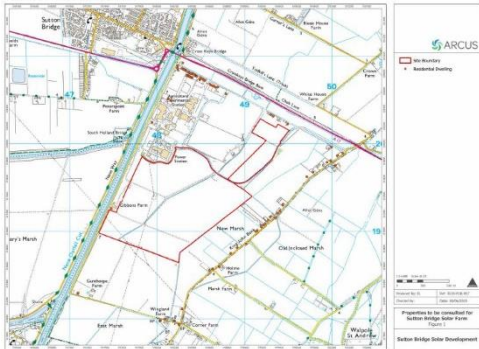


Figure 1: Site boundary

Summary

The site is approximately 139 hectares in size, just south of the Sutton Bridge Power Station, where there are good levels of solar irradiation. Our feasibility assessments demonstrate that a solar farm here could generate up to 49.9 MW which would be enough electricity to supply the average annual needs of 9,581 households¹ and save approximately 21,641 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions each year². The UK Government has a target of reaching net zero by 2050. Solar generation plays an important part in the UK energy mix, and the planning system supports the transition to a low carbon future.

¹ Based upon the average domestic electricity consumption per home (temperature corrected) per the Energy Consumption in the UK (published July 2019, Table C9 of ECUK Consumption data tables)

² Based upon BEIS's 'all fossil fuels' emissions statistic of 450 tonnes of carbon dioxide per GWh of electricity supplied in the Digest of UK Energy Statistics (published July 2019, p96)




The development

The development will consist of rows of solar panels mounted on a rack of metal poles, no higher than 2.8m above the ground. The metal poles will be pile-driven or screwed into the ground to a depth of around 1.5 meters, without the need to excavate. Panels are typically tilted 10 to 25 degrees from the horizontal to face south towards the sun. There will be 2-6 metres between the strings of panels.

The solar farm will be connected to the National Grid at the Walspole substation, some 3km to the south of the site. It is proposed that the connecting cable will run underground within the public highway and will not be visible.

The existing access road for the Sutton Bridge Power Station off Centenary Way will be used for construction and operational vehicles.

Environmental considerations

When developing a solar farm, environmental assessments are undertaken to inform the planning application, identifying potential impacts and mitigation measures. In the case of Sutton Bridge:

- There are no **heritage** sites near to the proposed solar farm.
- There are no national **landscape** designations within 1km of the site, and there are existing trees and hedgerows that will form **visual screening**.
- We will submit a **Landscape Plan** that includes additional planting along site boundaries. As part of the design we will also plan to increase **biodiversity** on the site.
- There are no national **ecological** or **ornithological** designations near to the site. Ornithology and ecology surveys have been carried out to create the site design along with **habitat surveys** that will form part of the full planning application.
- The site is of good quality **agricultural land**. We can demonstrate that there are no alternative sites with lesser quality farming land in the area.
- Whilst the site lies within **Flood Zones 2 and 3**, we will design the scheme to elevate the critical infrastructure so that it is flood resistant.

Community consultation and timescales

Under normal circumstances we would host public information events on the project in the local community, but we've decided not to do that at this time because of the possible risk to public health. Instead, we are conducting community engagement online, through the post, over the telephone, and through virtual meetings.

- 27th July – public announcement is made via a press release
- Week of 27th July – information and a freepost feedback form sent to residents living nearby
- 27th July – Sutton Bridge solar farm project website goes live, with a virtual village hall, including exhibition panels and an online feedback form <https://www.edf-rs.uk/our-sites/sutton-bridge-solar>
- 24th August – consultation closes
- EDF R will consider all feedback before finalising the planning application
- End September – EDF R will submit the final planning application to South Holland District Council
- Q4 2020 – South Holland District Council will consider and determine the application

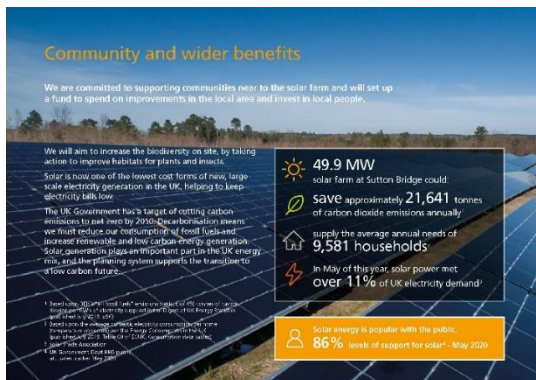
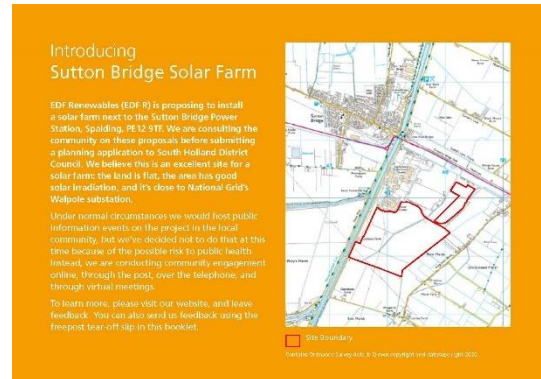
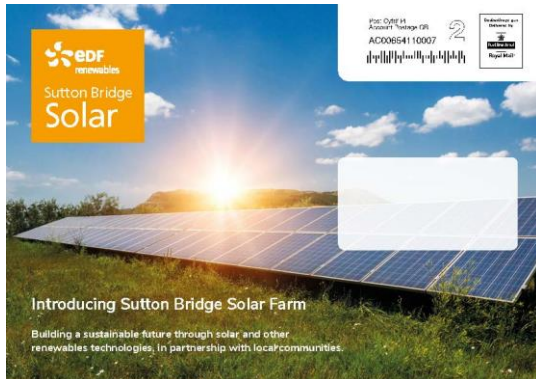
If the development gets planning permission, site preparation will begin in 2021. Installation of the solar farm will take approximately 6 months.

About EDF Renewables

EDF Renewables is part of one of the world's largest electricity companies and is a leading renewable energy operator and developer in the UK with nearly 600 MW in construction and 1GW in operation including 34 onshore wind farms, 2 offshore wind farms and one of the largest battery storage units in Europe. There is almost 1GW in development, across wind, solar and battery projects. We are an experienced and considerate developer and will work with the community to deliver as many benefits as possible, including committing to a dedicated fund to spend on improvements in the local area and investment in local people. The local community will be familiar with one of our shareholders, EDF in the UK. EDF in the UK owns the site and gained consent from the UK Government in 2015 to build a gas power plant here. This plan is now no longer going ahead.

The local community will be familiar with one of our shareholders, EDF in the UK. EDF in the UK owns the site and gained consent from the UK Government in 2015 to build a gas power plant here. This plan is now no longer going ahead.

Appendix 3: Information leaflet



FreePost RSRL-YALH-HCUA
EDF Renewables
PO Box 91
Aberystwyth
SY23 9AY



Appendix 4: Press release



For immediate release Monday 27th July 2020

SOLAR FARM AT SUTTON BRIDGE PLANNED BY EDF RENEWABLES

EDF Renewables (EDF R) plans to develop a 49.9 MW solar farm next to the Sutton Bridge Power Station, which will be capable of generating enough renewable electricity for the domestic needs of 9,581 households* annually.

EDF R has been carrying out ecological and other feasibility surveys and is now consulting with the local community about the proposal ahead of submitting a planning application at the end of September. Originally EDF had plans to build a gas power plant on the site but after considering a number of options it is clear a solar farm is better suited here.

The proposed solar farm would, if given planning permission, allow the project team to think about potential battery storage and electric vehicle (EV) charging possibilities at the site too. Along with solar power, battery storage and EV rapid charging are both significant enablers for the UK's goals to reach net zero by 2050.

There is growing concern about climate change and EDF Group plans to double its installed renewable energy capacity globally from 28GW to 50GW in the next ten years. At 49.9 MW, the Sutton Bridge scheme could save around 21,642 tonnes** of carbon dioxide emissions each year.

EDF Renewables Director of Solar and Onshore Wind Development, Mark Vyvyan-Robinson said, "This is an excellent site for a solar farm, with high levels of irradiation and a nearby grid connection. EDF Renewables is an experienced renewables developer and Sutton Bridge is the first of several solar projects we have planned in the UK. Our renewables projects will enable us to contribute to the UK's green economic recovery from COVID-19 and help the country reach its net zero targets."

EDF R is conducting online and postal community engagement. Residents near to the site will be contacted by post and members of the public are encouraged to visit EDF R's Sutton Bridge website for further information and a chance to provide feedback. The public consultation closes on 24th August and EDF R intends to submit a planning application to South Holland District Council at the end of September.

ENDS

NOTE TO EDITORS

EDF Renewables UK (www.edf-re.uk) is part of one of the world's largest electricity companies and our investment and innovation in the UK is bringing down costs for consumers and bringing significant benefits for communities. With our operating portfolio of 36 wind farms and one of the UK's largest battery storage units (together totalling almost 1GW) we are providing some of the much needed new, affordable, low carbon electricity to the UK across all technologies. We have an expanding renewables portfolio with almost 46GW of projects in planning and development and 600 MW currently under construction. We also have offices in Edinburgh, Rainton Bridge (near Durham), London and Dublin.

The development will consist of rows of solar panels mounted on a rack of metal poles, typically 3m above the ground though in some parts of the Site they will need to be raised further, on 139 hectares of land. There will be 2-6 meters

between the strings of panels. The site entrance will be off the existing access road for the Sutton Bridge Power Station off Centenary Way, and connection to the grid will be made at Walpole substation.

Further project information can be found on the Sutton Bridge website www.edf-re.uk/our-sites/sutton-bridge-solar.

* Based upon the average domestic electricity consumption per home (temperature corrected) per the Energy Consumption in the UK (published July 2019, Table C9 of ECUK: Consumption data tables)

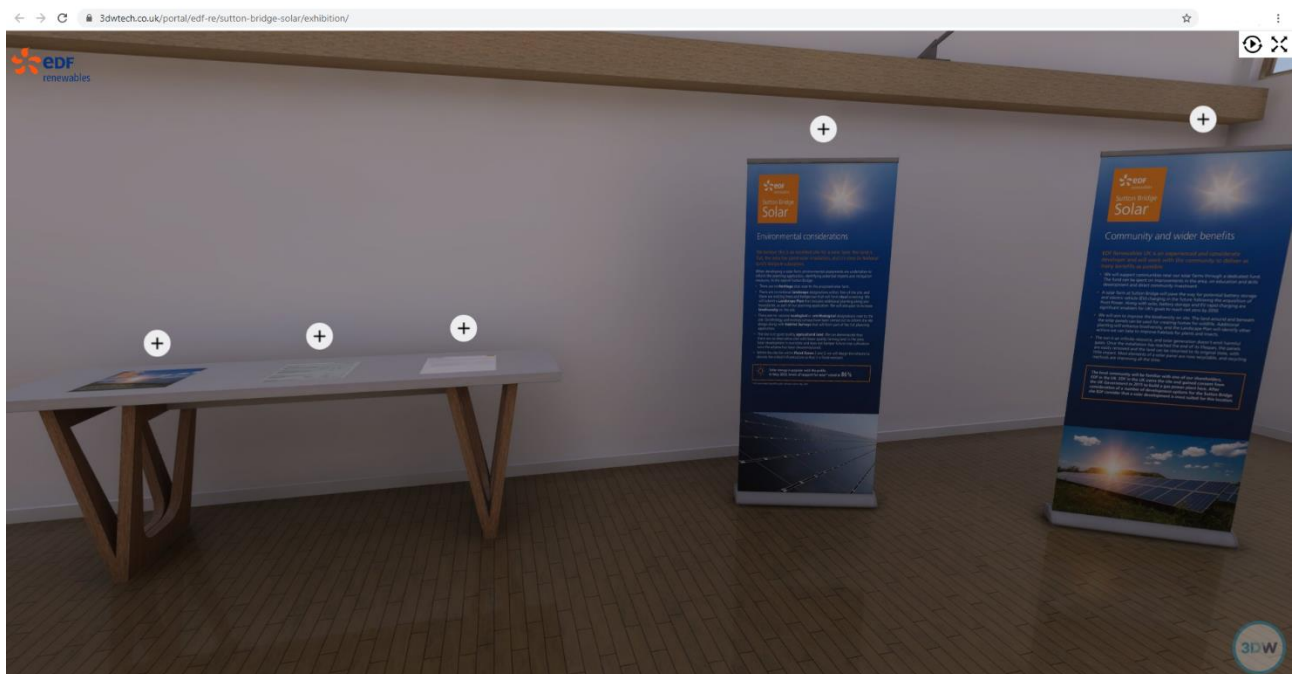
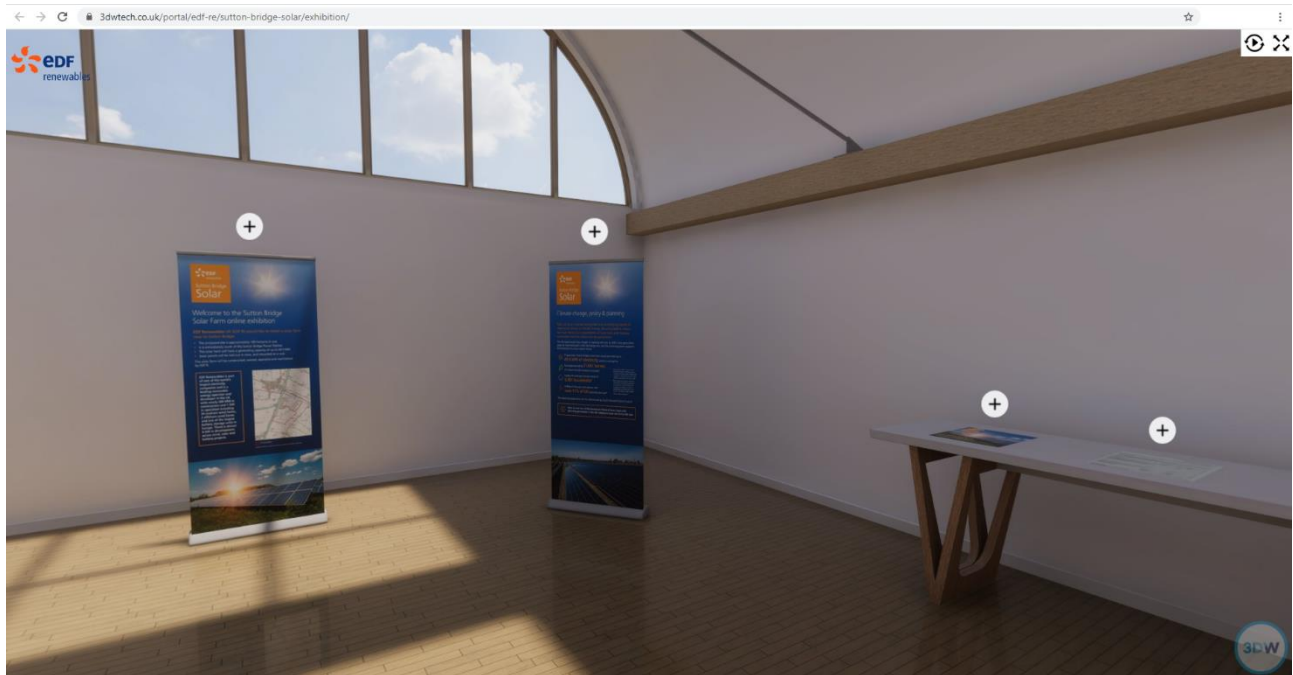
** Based upon BEIS's "all fossil fuels" emissions statistic of 450 tonnes of carbon dioxide per GWh of electricity supplied in the Digest of UK Energy Statistics (published July 2019, p96)

For more information

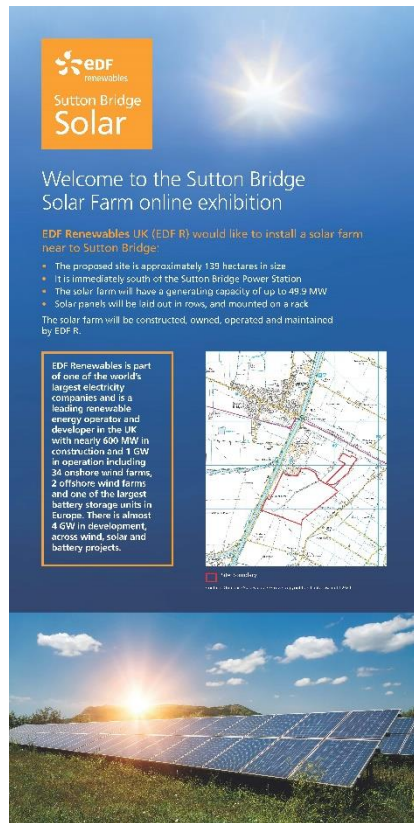
Lindsey Southworth lindsey.southworth@edf-re.uk
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(M) 07813 230379

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(M) 07918 722080

Appendix 5: Virtual exhibition



Appendix 6: Exhibition banners



Welcome to the Sutton Bridge Solar Farm online exhibition

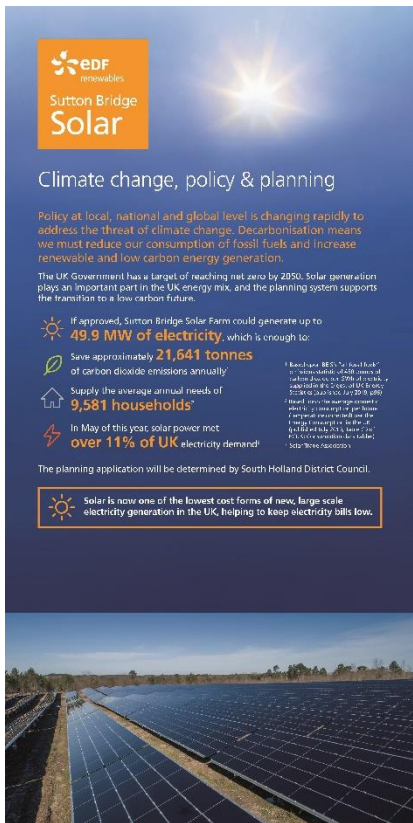
EDF Renewables UK (EDF R) would like to install a solar farm near to Sutton Bridge:

- The proposed site is approximately 139 hectares in size
- It is immediately south of the Sutton Bridge Power Station
- The solar farm will have a generating capacity of up to 49.9 MW
- Solar panels will be laid out in rows, and mounted on a rack

The solar farm will be constructed, owned, operated and maintained by EDF R.

EDF Renewables is part of one of the world's largest electricity companies and is a leading renewable energy operator and developer in the UK with nearly 600 MW in construction and 1 GW in operation including 36 onshore wind farms, 2 offshore wind farms and one of the largest battery storage units in Europe. There is almost 4 GW in development, across wind, solar and battery projects.



Climate change, policy & planning

Policy at local, national and global level is changing rapidly to address the threat of climate change. Decarbonisation means we must reduce our consumption of fossil fuels and increase renewable and low carbon energy generation.

The UK Government has a target of reaching net zero by 2050. Solar generation plays an important part in the UK energy mix, and the planning system supports the transition to a low carbon future.

If approved, Sutton Bridge Solar Farm could generate up to **49.9 MW of electricity**, which is enough to:

- Save approximately **21,641 tonnes** of carbon dioxide emissions annually
- Supply the average annual needs of **9,581 households**
- In May of this year, solar power met **over 11% of UK electricity demand**

The planning application will be determined by South Holland District Council.

Solar is now one of the lowest cost forms of new, large-scale electricity generation in the UK, helping to keep electricity bills low.





Environmental considerations

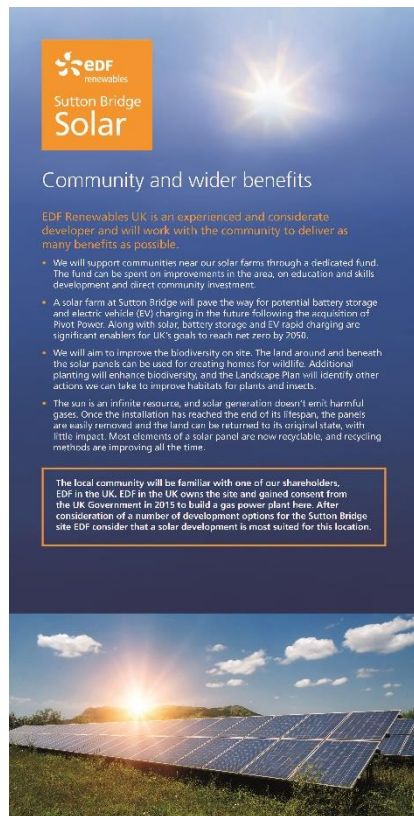
We believe this is an excellent site for a solar farm: the land is flat, the area has good solar irradiation, and it's close to National Grid's Walpole substation.

When developing a solar farm, environmental assessments are undertaken to inform the planning application, identifying potential impacts and mitigation measures. In the case of Sutton Bridge:

- There are no **heritage** sites near to the proposed solar farm.
- There are no national **landscape** designations within 1km of the site, and there are existing trees and hedgerows that will form visual screening. We will submit a **Landscape Plan** that includes additional planting along site boundaries, as part of our planning application. We will also plan to increase **biodiversity** on the site.
- There are no national **ecological** or **ornithological** designations near to the site. Ornithology and ecology surveys have been carried out to inform the site design along with **Habitat Surveys** that will form part of the full planning application.
- The site is of good quality **agricultural** land. We can demonstrate that there are no alternative sites with lesser quality farming land in the area. Solar development is reversible and does not hamper future crop cultivation once the scheme has been decommissioned.
- Whilst the site lies within **Flood Zones 2 and 3**, we will design the scheme to elevate the critical infrastructure so that it is flood resistant.

Solar energy is popular with the public. In May 2020, levels of support for solar* stood at **86%**.





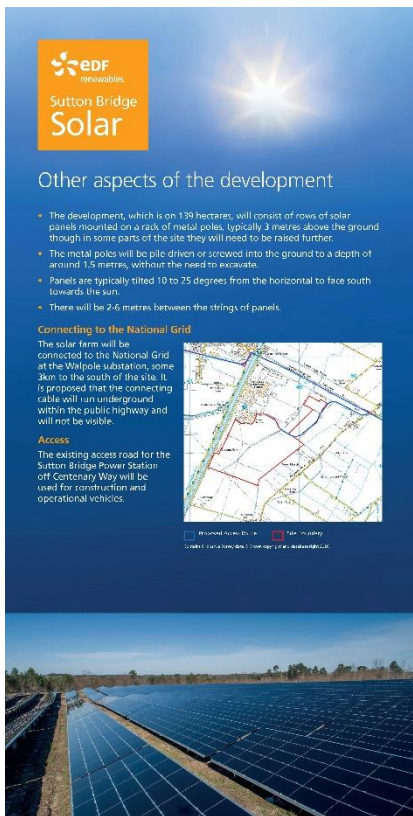
Community and wider benefits

EDF Renewables UK is an experienced and considerate developer and will work with the community to deliver as many benefits as possible.

- We will support communities near our solar farms through a dedicated fund. The fund can be spent on improvements in the area, on education and skills development and direct community investments.
- A solar farm at Sutton Bridge will pave the way for potential battery storage and electric vehicle (EV) charging in the future following the acquisition of Pivot Power. Along with solar, battery storage and EV rapid charging are significant enablers for UK's goals to reach net zero by 2050.
- We will aim to improve the biodiversity on site. The land around and beneath the solar panels can be used for creating homes for wildlife. Additional planting will enhance biodiversity, and the Landscape Plan will identify other actions we can take to improve habitats for plants and insects.
- The sun is an infinite resource, and solar generation doesn't emit harmful gases. Once the installation has reached the end of its lifespan, the panels are easily removed and the land can be returned to its original state, with little impact. Most elements of a solar panel are now recyclable, and recycling methods are improving all the time.

The local community will be familiar with one of our shareholders, EDF in the UK. EDF in the UK owns the site and gained consent from the UK Government in 2015 to build a gas power plant here. After consideration of a number of development options for the Sutton Bridge site EDF consider that a solar development is most suited for this location.





Other aspects of the development

- The development, which is on 139 hectares, will consist of rows of solar panels mounted on a rack of metal poles, typically 3 metres above the ground though in some parts of the site they will need to be raised further.
- The metal poles will be pile driven or screwed into the ground to a depth of around 1.5 metres, without the need to excavate.
- Panels are typically tilted 10 to 25 degrees from the horizontal to face south towards the sun.
- There will be 2-6 metres between the strings of panels.

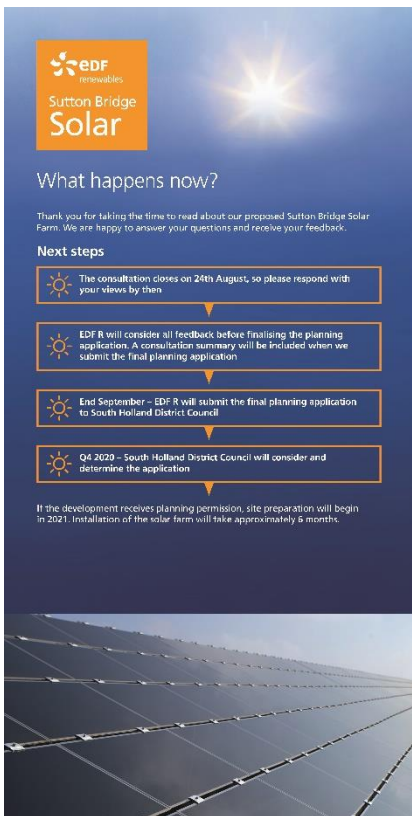
Connecting to the National Grid

The solar farm will be connected to the National Grid at the Walpole substation, some 3km to the south of the site. It is proposed that the connecting cable will run underground within the public highway and will not be visible.

Access

The existing access road for the Sutton Bridge Power Station off Cortworthy Way will be used for construction and operational vehicles.



What happens now?

Thank you for taking the time to read about our proposed Sutton Bridge Solar Farm. We are happy to answer your questions and receive your feedback.

Next steps

- The consultation closes on 24th August, so please respond with your views by then.
- EDF R will consider all feedback before finalising the planning application. A consultation summary will be included when we submit the final planning application.
- End September - EDF R will submit the final planning application to South Holland District Council.
- Q4 2020 - South Holland District Council will consider and determine the application.

If the development receives planning permission, site preparation will begin in 2021. Installation of the solar farm will take approximately 6 months.



Appendix 7: Statement of Community Consultation



Sutton Bridge Solar Farm

Statement of Community Consultation

EDF Renewables (EDF R) aims to ensure that the local community and planning authority are well informed, and that EDF R understands the concerns of the local community so that steps can be taken to mitigate these issues within the scheme as far as possible. Engagement with the key stakeholders will begin in the week 20th July, and the deadline for feedback from stakeholders and residents is 24th August. This document sets out the steps EDF R will take to inform the community and invite feedback.

Please note public information days will not be held in person due to Covid-19.

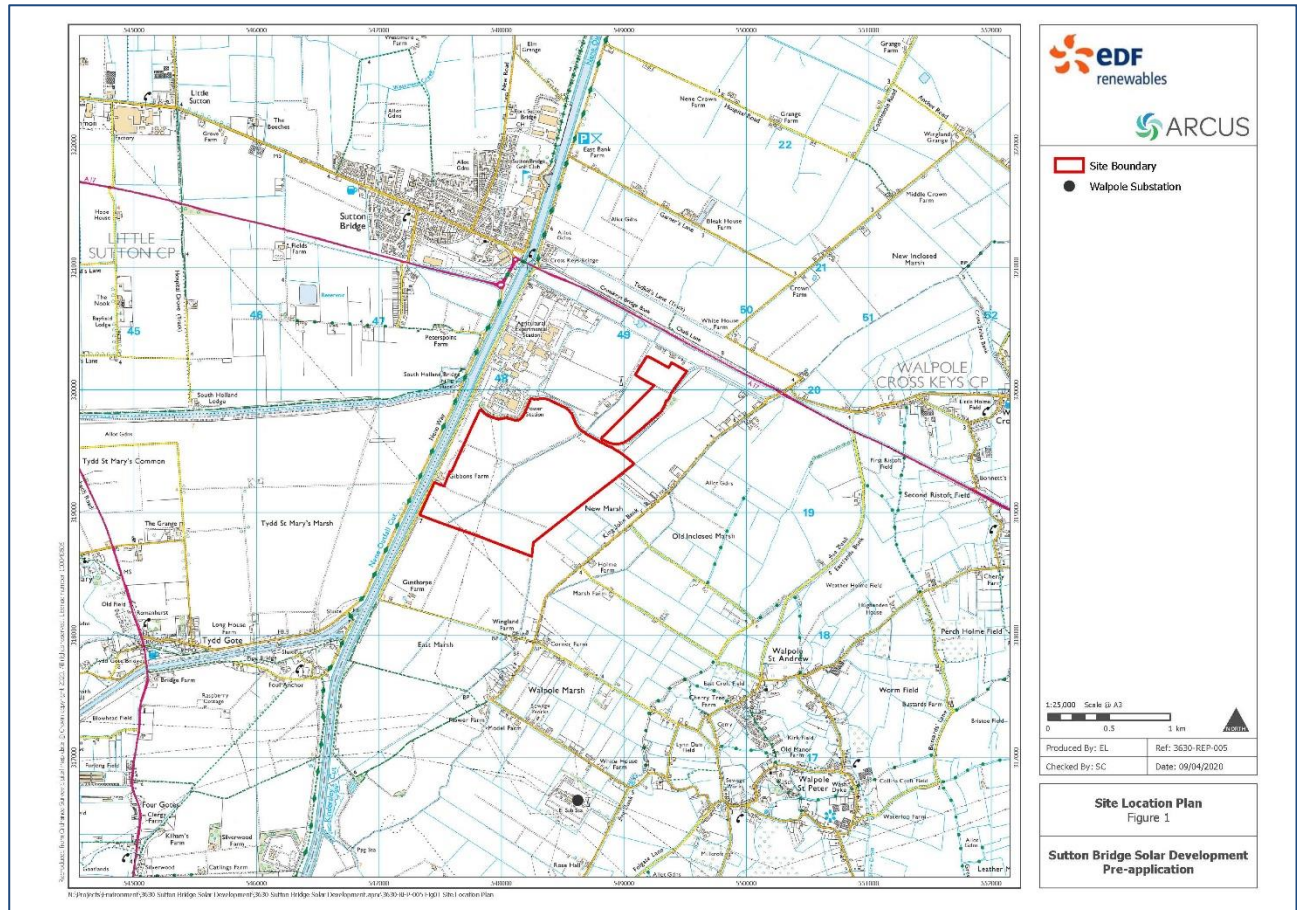
EDF R will:

- Brief key council stakeholders.
- Issue a press release to the local press announcing the project.
- Provide clear ways to contact the project team: telephone 01775 662965 and email sutton_bridge.solar@edf-re.uk.
- Have a project website www.edf-re.uk/our-sites/sutton-bridge-solar for the duration of the project, updated regularly with information and timescales.
- Set up an interactive virtual exhibition space, accessed through the project website, displaying information and providing the opportunity for people to provide feedback on the project.
- Distribute an information leaflet to households near to the site.
- Offer residents and other stakeholders the ability to provide feedback through an online form accessed through the virtual exhibition. Households near the site will also receive a feedback form in the information leaflet which they can detach, complete and return to EDF R free of charge.
- Brief the Sutton Bridge and Wingland Parish Council.
- Incorporate all feedback in a community engagement report and take it into account when refining the planning submission.

Appendix 8: Landscape Concept Plan



Appendix 9: Site location plan



Appendix 10: Online feedback form

Have Your Say on the Proposed Sutton Bridge Solar Farm

EDF Renewables would like to hear your views on the Sutton Bridge Solar Farm proposal.

There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions. If you would prefer to submit an overall comment, please go straight to the last question.

1. The virtual exhibition

It's likely that we will be conducting more of our community engagement virtually, rather than in person, over the coming months, and your feedback will be helpful to us to improve our engagement methods.

Where did you find out about the virtual solar farm exhibition? (please tick)

☐ Newspaper
☐ Word of mouth
☐ Website
☐ Information leaflet through my door
☐ Other (please state) _____

Overall, has the exhibition been useful and informative?

☐ Yes
☐ No

If not please tell us why and what we can do better at future exhibitions?

Were the information boards clear?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Did the information board provide answers to your questions?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not applicable

If you answered 'No' please use the 'contact us' form to ask any questions, and we'll get back to you.

Which aspects of the virtual exhibition did you find useful?

	Yes	No	Did not view
Information panels	☐	☐	☐

Maps ☐ ☐ ☐

Statement of community consultation ☐ ☐ ☐

Press release ☐ ☐ ☐

Landscape concept plan ☐ ☐ ☐

If you have any further comments about the virtual exhibition, please tell us.

2. About yourself

Do you live locally?

☐ Yes
☐ No

If you're local please provide your postcode, so we can analyse whether we're reaching local people.

Are you responding as a representative of any organisation or group?

☐ Yes
☐ No

If so, which organisation? If you'd like us to speak to your organisation, let us know by using the 'contact us' form – we can arrange to do this virtually.

What age category do you fall into?

☐ Under 20
☐ 20-29
☐ 30-39
☐ 40-49
☐ 50-59
☐ 60+

3. The project

	Yes	No	Unsure
Are you concerned about the effects of climate change?	☐	☐	☐

Do you support the generation of renewable energy in Lincolnshire? ☐ ☐ ☐

Do you support the development of solar farms? ☐ ☐ ☐

Are you supportive of the Sutton Bridge solar farm proposal? ☐ ☐ ☐

4. Further comments

Please use this section to comment on any aspect of the scheme.

Thank you for completing this online feedback form. Please use the 'contact us' section if you have any further queries or would like us to respond to any comments made in this form. Please visit the website regularly for updates on the project <https://www.edf-re.co.uk/at-sites/sutton-bridge-solar>

Submit

Thank you for your feedback. The information that you have provided will be analysed by Cadno Communications Ltd on behalf of EDF Renewables and used to inform the development of the project. Your comments will not be used in a way that identifies you. Your personal details are not placed on the public record, will be held securely by Cadno Communications Ltd and EDF Energy Renewables in accordance with the GDPR 2016/679 data protection provisions.

Please note: Comments and feedback on these proposals are not formal representations on the planning application. These can be made to South Holland District Council once the planning application has been submitted.

Appendix 11: Contact information



The poster features a blue background with a bright sun in the upper right. In the top left corner, there is an orange square containing the EDF Renewables logo and the text 'Sutton Bridge Solar'. Below this, the heading 'Get in touch' is displayed in white. The main text, in orange, encourages feedback and provides contact details. A white box with an orange border contains the consultation closing date. At the bottom, a photograph shows rows of solar panels stretching into the distance under a clear sky.


Sutton Bridge
Solar

Get in touch

**We value your feedback and would be happy to hear from you.
Please complete the feedback form online:**

If you have any questions, please get in touch:
Use the online contact form www.edf-re.uk/our-sites/sutton-bridge-solar
E-mail sutton.bridge.solar@edf-re.uk
Phone 01775 662965

The consultation closes on 24th August, so please send your feedback by this date.

You can also contact South Holland District Council with feedback on the planning application once this has been submitted (likely to be the end of September).



Appendix 12: Parish Council magazine article

EDF Renewables is offering a community benefit fund linked to its proposed solar farm at Sutton Bridge. Although it's not common practice for developers to offer community funds for solar farms, EDF R wishes to maintain its reputation for good relationships with the communities that host renewable energy projects, and has decided to offer a fund for the 40-year lifetime of the project, of between £5,000-£10,000 annually, which would total between £200,000-£400,000. The size of the fund will depend on the final size of the project, should it receive planning permission.

EDF Renewables Director of Solar and Onshore Wind Development, Mark Vyvyan-Robinson, said: "We are delighted to be able to make this community benefit fund commitment and look forward to working with the parish council and wider community on how the fund can be spent on local good causes if the project gets consent. We hope that residents in Sutton Bridge will feel proud of having a solar farm in the area and the contribution it will make to generating low carbon electricity, which helps in our collective efforts to tackle climate change."