



Future Energy Llanwern Statement of Community Consultation

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Future Energy Llanwern Limited



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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the document

1.1.1 This document, known as a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), sets out how Future Energy Llanwern Limited plans to consult with the local community on its proposals for a new solar farm, located on land to the south of Llanwern Steelworks (approx. 2.5km) comprising the Gwent Levels between Whitson and Undy, Newport.

1.1.2 Feedback from this consultation will be used by Future Energy Llanwern (the Applicant) to influence and shape the final designs of the solar farm and will accompany the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO).

1.1.3 The SoCC comprises:

- A description of the consenting process we must follow
- An outline of our proposals
- How we have developed our approach to consultation
- How we will be consulting the local community
- How we will publicise the consultation
- The consultation arrangements
- What we will do with feedback from the consultation
- Next steps and further information.

1.2 Why are we publishing this document?

1.2.1 The Applicant is asking for consent under the Planning Act 2008 (the Act) for a ground-mounted solar farm with a generating capacity of approximately 380MW for a temporary period of 40 years (the Application). The development proposal comprises the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Future Energy Llanwern Solar Farm (the Proposed Development).

1.2.2 As a major infrastructure development, Future Energy Llanwern is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and we will, therefore, seek development consent for the Proposed Development by submitting a DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate (NSIP) under the Act. As part of the DCO pre-application process, we are required to publish this Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) to explain how we will publicise and consult with the local community. The consultation is an opportunity for stakeholders and members of the

local community to provide feedback on and inform our proposals before we finalise design and submit our Application.

- 1.2.3 This SoCC has been prepared in accordance with Section 47 of the Act and Regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations 2017), and with reference to guidance on pre-application consultation published by the UK Government Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (April 2024) as well as the Planning Inspectorate’s Advice Note Two The role of local authorities in the development consent process) and Advice Note Three EIA notification and consultation.
- 1.2.4 Section 47 of the Act states that ‘the applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land’. The applicant must then carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement, which comprises this document – the SoCC.

2.0 The planning process

2.1 Why are we publishing this document?

- 2.1.1 Section 14 of the Act defines the types of development that constitute an NSIP and that, therefore, must be consented by way of a DCO in accordance with Section 31 of the Act. The Proposed Development falls within the definition of an NSIP under Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(1) and 15(3A) of the Act; the construction of an onshore generating station in Wales that does not generate electricity from wind and which has a generating capacity of approximately 380 megawatts (MW).
- 2.1.2 DCO applications are submitted to PINS, which will administer the DCO process on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (SoS). PINS will appoint an Examining Authority made up of one or more planning inspectors to examine the Application and make recommendations to the SoS pursuant to the Act.
- 2.1.3 The SoS will subsequently determine whether development consent should be granted for the Proposed Development. Before submission of the Application, Future Energy Llanwern has consulted with statutory consultees, local and national politicians, local communities and the public.
- 2.1.4 To ensure local people are consulted on our proposals, we will agree a programme of public consultation with PINS and the two host local planning authorities – Monmouthshire County Council and Newport City Council. This statutory consultation programme will build on previous engagement undertaken to date and provide an opportunity for people in local communities and our stakeholders to ask questions and provide feedback on our proposals to help inform the Application.
- 2.1.5 In developing this SoCC, we will have consulted with and had regard to comments from the following S43 (1) stakeholders, the local planning authorities:
- Monmouthshire County Council
 - Newport City Council.
- 2.1.6 Following publication of this document, the SoCC will be circulated to neighbouring authorities for information. These include:
- Torfaen County Borough Council
 - Caerphilly County Borough Council

- Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
- Cardiff Council.

2.2 The DCO process

- 2.2.1 Before submitting the Application, the Act requires us to carry out consultation with people living in the vicinity of the land associated with our project, persons who have an interest in the land (PILs) and prescribed stakeholders.
- 2.2.2 Early involvement of communities, local authorities and other stakeholders helps to ensure we identify valuable information about the potential effects of the Proposed Development and provides an opportunity for early feedback from stakeholders, to help us understand any concerns and to shape the plans.
- 2.2.3 Early involvement also ensures that potential mitigation measures can be considered and, where appropriate, built into our designs before the Application is submitted.
- 2.2.4 The DCO process is shown in Figure 1 and explained in more detail on the Planning Inspectorate’s website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/>¹

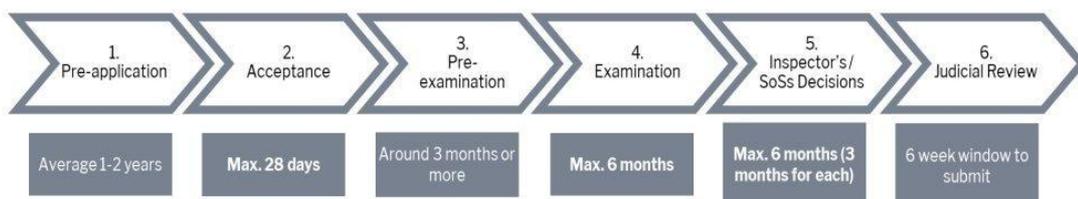


Figure 1: Summary of the planning process for the Proposed Development.

- 2.2.5 PINS has also published a suite of advice notes, which inform applicants, consultees, the public and others about a range of matters in relation to the Act’s process. This includes advice note eight, which provides more detail on the NSIP planning process. All advice notes can be found on the Planning Inspectorate’s website:<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and>
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice/advice-notes/>

¹ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/%20the-process/>

- 2.2.6 An EIA Scoping Request was submitted on the 19 December 2024 and a Scoping Opinion was issued by PINS on 29 January 2025. This identified the environmental issues and topics relevant to the Proposed Development, and which should be assessed as part of the EIA.
- 2.2.7 The Applicant is committed to ongoing engagement with local authorities, statutory consultees and local organisations to inform our proposals and how we assess them.

2.3 Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) report

- 2.3.1 We intend to submit an Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) report at least three months before planned submission of the Application.
- 2.3.2 The AoCM report is a key part of the pre-application process for NSIPs in the UK. It assesses whether the applicant has adequately consulted with stakeholders, including local authorities, prior to submitting a DCO application. The report allows PINS to evaluate the consultation process and identify any potential gaps or issues before the Application is submitted.
- 2.3.3 The AoCM is designed to occur early enough in the pre-application phase to allow for any necessary additional engagement based on the findings of the assessment. It provides a written submission from the Applicant summarising the consultation undertaken to date, including responses received and how they have informed the application.
- 2.3.4 The AoCM helps ensure that the Applicant has taken account of the views of consultees, particularly local authorities, and that any outstanding issues are addressed before the Application is submitted. The Application will be published on the Planning Inspectorate's website (<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/project-search>) and the project website (<https://www.futureenergyllanwern.co.uk/>).

2.4 Programme and submission

- 2.4.1 We will produce a Programme Document setting out stipulated information; stating what issues and potential resolutions exist; and a timeline for submission of the Application. The Programme Document is held on our project website and updated, as necessary.

- 2.4.2 We will submit the Application when we have considered and responded to the statutory consultation. The Application will include a consultation report, which PINS will use to help inform their decisions as to whether to accept the Proposed Development for examination.
- 2.4.3 PINS has up to 28 days to decide whether the Application meets the required standards for examination.

3.0 About Future Energy Llanwern

- 3.1.1 Future Energy Llanwern is a special purpose vehicle set up to manage the Proposed Development on behalf of NextEnergy Solar Fund, a leading investor in solar energy with a proven track record in the UK.
- 3.1.2 NextEnergy has significant experience and expertise across the whole lifecycle of utility scale solar; ranging from solar investment management, solar operation and asset management and solar development.
- 3.1.3 NextEnergy's assets are helping to confront climate change by generating clean electricity in partnership with local stakeholders.

4.0 Project overview

4.1 The Proposed Development

- 4.1.1 The Proposed Development is located on lower grade agricultural land,² and lies to the south of Llanwern steelworks and the M4, between Newport and Caldicot. The development, comprising ground-mounted solar panels, is expected to cover approximately 548 hectares and will have a connection capacity of approximately 380 megawatts (MW).
- 4.1.2 The Applicant continues to liaise with relevant landowners and local planning authorities, while undertaking initial environmental surveys to identify suitable areas for development. The final area, which will be submitted as part of the Application, will comprise:
- Developable land – this land would be where all associated required electrical infrastructure would be located, such as solar panels and grid connection
 - Non-developable land – the land not used for the above purposes would be utilised for site mitigation measures, such as landscaping, biodiversity enhancement and habitat restoration.
- 4.1.3 The Proposed Development will connect into the existing National Grid Substation at Whitson through an underground cable route.

4.2 Order limits

- 4.2.1 The indicative Order Limits for the Proposed Development are within the administrative boundaries of Monmouthshire County Council and Newport City Council. Appendix B shows the indicative proposed site layout for the Proposed Development.
- 4.2.2 The indicative Order Limits for the Proposed Development are within the boundaries of Monmouthshire County Council and Newport City Council.

² Lower Grade Agricultural Land is not classified as Best and Most Versatile (BMV), in line with the Welsh Government's Land Classification Assessment System (LQAS).

5.0 Environmental Impact Assessment

- 5.1.1 As part of the planning process, we will assess the potential for likely significant effects on the environment and people in line with current standards and regulations. We will undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as required under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. The EIA will identify potential environmental impacts associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development; to demonstrate how these have influenced design development; and our approach to avoiding or mitigating likely significant effects.
- 5.1.2 We will report on the outcomes of the EIA process in our Environmental Statement (ES), which we will submit as part of our Application. The EIA will be based on the Planning Inspectorate's 'Scoping Opinion' for the scheme, which is available to view at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/wales/future-energy><https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/wales/future-energy-llanwern-solar-project/llanwern-solar-project/>
- 5.1.3 A Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) – which contains preliminary environmental information on the effects of the Proposed Development – will be consulted on as part of the pre-application process. The PEIR and a Non-Technical Summary will be available to view on the project website and at in person events during the statutory consultation. This will be found here: <https://www.futureenergyllanwern.co.uk/>

6.0 Consultation and engagement approach

6.1 Principles of engagement and consultation

- 6.1.1 In line with the requirements set out in the Act, along with the Guidance on pre-application consultation published by the Government (Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the Pre-Application Process Preapplication stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (April 2024)), as well as the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Two (The role of local authorities in the development consent process) and Advice Note Three (EIA notification and consultation).
- 6.1.2 Future Energy Llanwern will be carrying out meaningful, statutory pre-application consultation and engagement with the local community in the vicinity of the Proposed Development, as well as landowners, businesses, parish councils, elected representatives and wider technical stakeholders, where appropriate.
- 6.1.3 To ensure we consider all the potential impacts, Future Energy Llanwern will go beyond the minimum requirements prescribed in the Act in proactively seeking the views of communities and wider stakeholders.
- 6.1.4 We intend to undertake our engagement in line with principles provided by the Cabinet Office (2018),³ which recommend that consultation:
- should be clear and concise
 - should have a purpose
 - should be informative
 - is only part of a process of engagement
 - should last for a proportionate amount of time
 - should be targeted
 - should take account of the groups being consulted
 - should be agreed before publication • should facilitate scrutiny.

6.2 Consultation objectives

- 6.2.1 The programme of consultation and engagement has four core objectives:
- To share and explain our proposals

³ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5ae6d71ae5274a702130dc30/Consultation_principles_.pdf

- To gain insight through listening to the views of local communities and other stakeholders about our Proposed Development, while still in the design stage
- To identify potential impacts of the Proposed Development and take stakeholder and community input into account in avoiding these issues or developing potential mitigation and enhancement strategies
- To provide a robust evidence base for the Application, enabling us to demonstrate how we have had regard to community and stakeholder feedback and how it has influenced our design considerations.

6.3 Consultation approach

- 6.3.1 Future Energy Llanwern wants to ensure that we consult, engage and listen to the views of the people living in the immediate area of the Proposed Development, as well as gathering views from a wider group of stakeholders.
- 6.3.2 We are committed to engaging and consulting with all our stakeholders and local communities where there is an opportunity for them to provide feedback at a formative stage; when inputs can feed to the more detailed design work being carried out.
- 6.3.3 To maximise the opportunity for a wide range of stakeholders to participate in our programme of consultation and engagement, and to increase the range of local views that can influence our considerations, Future Energy Llanwern has committed to undertake a multi-channel consultation approach. This commitment includes providing project information in accessible formats to help make sure we engage with as wide a range of stakeholders as possible.
- 6.3.4 An initial non-statutory consultation took place in from February to September 2024. During this informal consultation period, we received feedback and insights from various stakeholders, including community members, the local authority and environmental organisations. We have used the feedback, suggestions and insights received so far to inform the next stage of the consultation process – the statutory consultation. For more information on our non-statutory consultation, see section 6.4.
- 6.3.5 Our statutory consultation is anticipated to take place during Autumn/Winter 2025/26. We will facilitate a consultation period that meets or exceeds the statutory minimum period required by the Act. The launch of the consultation, along with the

precise dates on which events will be held, will be advertised at the relevant time, with the local authorities being informed in advance.

6.3.6 Future Energy Llanwern will be implementing a digital/in-person hybrid approach to consultation. As well as providing in-person drop-in events, members of the public and other stakeholders will be able to view the proposals online, join in webinars and provide feedback through a dedicated consultation website. Future Energy Llanwern will also be utilising non-digital methods to provide alternative means for stakeholders and the public to engage with the consultation and offer their comments.

6.3.7 Future Energy Llanwern will publicise the consultation in accordance with the Act and the EIA Regulations 2017 and ensure that all relevant information is accessible and readily available to members of the public. This includes:

- making copies of all consultation documents available – including copies of the PEIR (and Non-Technical Summary), all consultation documentation and a feedback questionnaire – available both online and in printed form
- setting up two public information points containing hard copies of the consultation brochure, feedback form and the Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR
- holding three in-person consultation events
- holding two public webinar consultation events and two dedicated stakeholder webinars.

6.3.8 Ahead of conducting statutory consultation, this SoCC has been prepared and the relevant local authorities have been consulted. Future Energy Llanwern has engaged with officers at Monmouthshire County Council and Newport City Council to discuss the proposed consultation. This has enabled officers to provide feedback on our approach, which is outlined in this SoCC.

6.4 Early engagement

6.4.1 In early 2024, Future Energy Llanwern formally launched the Proposed Development and undertook a programme of initial public engagement. This preliminary phase of non-statutory consultation was designed to provide members of the local community and key stakeholders with the opportunity to review early-

stage proposals and offer feedback at a formative stage in the development process.

6.4.2 As part of this phase, a non-statutory introductory leaflet was distributed to 2850 addresses within the Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ)⁴ in June 2024, outlining the scope of the Proposed Development, anticipated benefits, and avenues for further engagement. This activity served to introduce the project to local audiences and raise awareness. Prior to the public launch, Future Energy Llanwern shared informal briefing materials and consultation plans with officers at Monmouthshire County Council and Newport City Council. These materials included a summary of the Proposed Development, anticipated timelines for consultation, and an overview of engagement objectives. Feedback received from both authorities informed the approach to early engagement and contributed to the preparation of this SoCC; ensuring alignment with local expectations and statutory requirements.

6.4.3 The non-statutory consultation phase comprised the following activities:

- Project website – The website <https://www.futureenergyllanwern.co.uk/> was launched to provide comprehensive information about the Proposed Development. The website includes an overview of the project, anticipated delivery timescales, relevant policy context and contact details for public enquiries via enquiries@futureenergyllanwern.co.uk.
- Consultation leaflet distribution – A project leaflet was delivered to all 2850 properties within the PCZ. It provided a concise summary of the Proposed Development, background on the investors and set out the next steps as the project moves towards consenting.
- Media launch and press coverage – Information about the Proposed Development was disseminated through a coordinated media campaign to reach audiences beyond the PCZ.

6.4.4 Coverage for the media launch and press coverage included:

- Green Economy Wales (25 January 2024)
- Solar Farm Proposed for Newport and Monmouthshire Wales Online (9 May 2024)

⁴ See Section 6.6 for explanation of the PCZ

- Wales' Biggest-Ever Solar Farm Planned to Power 100,000 Homes Business Live (10 May 2024)
- Plans for Huge Solar Farm in the Gwent Levels Progressing.

6.4.5 Stakeholder letters and briefings – Letters were issued to elected representatives and local authorities, formally introducing the Proposed Development and inviting recipients to participate in early stakeholder briefings. The correspondence outlined the Proposed Development's scale, alignment with Welsh renewable energy targets, and offered opportunities for feedback prior to formal consultation.

6.4.6 Local Authority and Community/Town Councils – Initial engagement meetings were held with relevant officers at Monmouthshire County Council, Newport City Council and relevant community and town councils. These briefings enabled early discussions regarding the scope of proposals, potential community impacts, and the overarching consultation strategy.

6.5 Objectives of early engagement

6.5.1 The primary objectives of this phase of informal non-statutory consultation were as follows:

- To establish early dialogue with key stakeholders ahead of formal consultation
- To seek initial feedback on high-level information about the Proposed Development to inform the preparation of consultation materials and proposals

6.5.2 To identify potential local issues and opportunities at an early stage in the development process.

6.5.3 Feedback received through this initial engagement has informed both the evolution of the Proposed Development and the approach to statutory consultation. Specifically, it has shaped the design principles for the solar array layout, the community benefits package and the outline assessment of potential environmental effects. Future Energy Llanwern remains committed to conducting a transparent and inclusive consultation process as the Proposed Development advances through the Development Consent Order (DCO) application stages.

6.6 The consultation zone

6.6.1 To help facilitate and guide the engagement with the local community, a Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) has been established; which comprises the homes and businesses surrounding the Proposed Development. The PCZ has been developed

to be proportionate to the size and potential impact of the Proposed Development and is based on the assessment of the indicative Order Limits and local authority boundaries, which we believe is proportionate for the Proposed Development. In developing the zone, we have considered:

- existing natural and human geographic boundaries, such as main roads, railway lines and country borders
- capturing entire communities, rather than excluding small numbers of properties
- where we propose to undertake additional works to enable construction transport and equipment areas.

6.6.2 We have identified a PCZ by initially extending a minimum distance of two kilometres from the boundary of the Order Limits Red Line Boundary (Appendix B) within which the PV panels, on-site substation and supporting infrastructure would be located. The PCZ has also been extended in certain areas to consider:

- zone of theoretical visibility for the Proposed Development, which assesses areas in vicinity of the Order Limits(Appendix B) which could experience a degree of visual impact
- existing physical boundaries, such as main roads
- capturing entire communities, rather than excluding small numbers of properties
- where we propose to undertake additional works to enable construction transport, equipment areas or road modifications.

6.6.3 The PCZ has been identified as those communities who are most likely to experience direct effects from the Proposed Development.

6.6.4 The zone has been extended further where proportionate and reasonable based on existing boundaries to avoid inappropriate 'severance' of communities



Figure 2: The PCZ for the statutory consultation.

6.6.5 We recognise that people who live and work beyond the PCZ may have an interest in our proposals and may wish to participate in the statutory consultation. As a result, for our statutory consultation we have also developed a Secondary Consultation Zone (SCZ) to ensure all individuals, communities, and organisations in the wider southern region are made aware of and able to participate in the consultation. This will ensure that those communities which may experience more indirect effects of the Proposed Development, such as increased traffic, will also be consulted. Within the SCZ we will raise awareness using a number of methods, such as advertising and a press release sent out to the local media, and engagement with community and town councils. See Section 6.11 – Promoting the consultation – for further details.

6.7 Consultation timings

6.7.1 The statutory consultation is anticipated to take place during Autumn/Winter 2025/26. A consultation period that meets or exceeds the statutory minimum period required by the Act will be facilitated. The launch of the consultation, along with the precise dates on which events will be held, will be advertised at the relevant time, and the local authority will be informed in advance.

- 6.7.2 Held in accordance with the Act and its associated regulations,⁵ this consultation provides an opportunity for Future Energy Llanwern to present the proposals for the Proposed Development and to enable consultees to formally provide their views on the project. More details on what we will be consulting on and how we propose to consult are set out below.
- 6.7.3 Should we carry out any further stages of limited, focused consultation prior to submission of the Application, we will use some, but not necessarily all, of these means of consultation. We will work with the relevant local authorities to assist us in deciding the most appropriate activities for any further stages of consultation.

6.8 What are we consulting on?

- 6.8.1 Future Energy Llanwern will be seeking feedback on all aspects of the Proposed Development. This will involve inviting comments on topics including, but not limited to:
- how the Proposed Development can be accommodated in the area
 - the changes to the Order Limits following the publication of the Scoping Report
 - the potential mitigation measures for any identified environmental effects of the Proposed Development at this preliminary stage, set out in our PEIR
 - other plans, maps and documents to accompany the PEIR
 - the proposals for construction, operation, and decommissioning of the site set out in the PEIR, including options, where these are presented
 - any local issues or sensitivities of which we should be aware.
- 6.8.2 The primary aim of this statutory consultation is to ensure that the community, landowners, stakeholders and technical consultees have the opportunity to understand, comment on and influence aspects of our proposals before we submit our Application.

6.9 Who are we consulting?

- 6.9.1 Anyone who is interested in the proposals is welcome to take part in our consultation. Future Energy Llanwern welcomes all views and will have regard to

⁵ The Act refers to the [Planning Act 2008](#), and the associated regulations include the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) [Regulations 2009](#) and the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

the relevant responses received during the statutory consultation before the Application is submitted.

6.9.2 Under Section 47 of the Act, Future Energy Llanwern has a duty to consult people living in the vicinity of the Proposed Development. In consultation with host local authorities, we have developed the PCZ, as shown in Figure 2.

6.9.3 In addition to the PCZ, Future Energy Llanwern will consult the following groups:

- local authorities falling within section 43 of the Act
- local residents and businesses within the vicinity of the Proposed Development
- landowners with interest in the Proposed Development (those falling within section 44 of the Act)
- community and town councils
- community groups
- environmental groups in the vicinity of the Proposed Development
- schools and colleges within the vicinity of the Proposed Development
- seldom-heard or hard-to-reach groups
- other statutory consultees (as set out in Schedule 1 to the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009)
- non-statutory consultees
- Members of Parliament/Senedd and local government.

6.9.4 A list of seldom-heard and hard-to-reach groups, and non-statutory stakeholder groups, is included in Appendix A.

6.10 How are we consulting?

6.10.1 During our statutory consultation, we will use a range of methods to ensure the consultation is inclusive and accessible for all stakeholder audiences. In addition to making information available online, we will host a series of webinars that include a presentation regarding the proposals and provide an opportunity to ask questions, to also help inform consultation responses and improve understanding of the Proposed Development.

6.10.2 Alongside the digital/in-person hybrid approach to consultation, non-digital methods will also be used to provide alternative means for consultees to engage and give feedback. In-person consultation events are planned to be held within the vicinity of

the Proposed Development during statutory consultation. Table 1 details the documents that will be made available as part of the consultation.

Table 1: Statutory consultation documents

Document	Detail
<p>Consultation Newsletter</p>	<p>A Consultation Newsletter provides a high-level overview of the Proposed Development, the consultation events, and how people can get involved. The newsletter indicates where the relevant information on the Proposed Development can be found and publicises the consultation events, including locations, dates, and times.</p> <p>This will be sent to all homes and businesses within the PCZ and will be available on the Applicant's website, at events, information points and on request by post.</p>
<p>Consultation Brochure</p>	<p>The Consultation Brochure will include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a summary of the proposals we are consulting on, details of how people can take part in the consultation, information on the potential benefits and impacts of the Proposed Development • how we propose to avoid and mitigate potential environmental effects • how stakeholder feedback will be considered and the timeline for the Proposed Development • Hard copies of the Consultation Brochure will be available at our consultation events, at information points, and on request by post, free of charge.

<p>Feedback Form</p>	<p>A Feedback Form will be prepared to allow people to provide feedback on the Proposed Development. The questionnaire can be completed online or downloaded if required and sent in to the consultation via Freepost.</p> <p>Paper copies of the Feedback Form will be available at consultation events, the public information points, and via post on request.</p>
<p>Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and Non-Technical Summary</p>	<p>The PEIR will contain a description of the Proposed Development, a preliminary assessment of the potential environmental effects, and the initial strategies being considered to mitigate any likely significant adverse effects.</p> <p>The PEIR will be based on information available at that time, but the assessments will continue to be developed taking account of any design evolution that has taken place, as well as feedback received during consultation and reported within the Environmental Statement submitted with the Application.</p> <p>A Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR will also be available for download from the project website. Paper copies of the PEIR and the Non-Technical Summary will be available at our consultation events for reference.</p>
<p>Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)</p>	<p>The SoCC document will be made available online as part of the consultation and is available in paper format at our consultation events and information points for reference.</p>

6.10.3 All statutory consultation documents will be available online, on the project website, and in hard copy at information points and in-person events. All materials listed above (with the exception of the SoCC and PEIR) will be available in Welsh on the project website. This includes the PEIR Non-Technical Summary, which will be available in Welsh. Documents can be made available in alternative formats, such as braille, speaking text, or alternative language, on request.

6.11 Promoting the consultation

6.11.1 We will use a variety of methods to make people in the PCZ and SCZ aware of the Proposed Development and to advertise the consultation. These methods are outlined in Table 2.

Table 2: Engagement methods

Method	Detail
Consensus/co:design workshop	We will meet with the local authorities and technical stakeholders early in the design evolution of the Proposed Development to share information on our sites and plans, gain local insight and find common ground.
Consultation newsletters	All residents, local businesses, and communities within the PCZ will be notified of the start of statutory consultation through a consultation newsletter. The newsletter will also be issued by email to wider consultees, including community groups and hard-to-reach groups.
Press releases	<p>As part of our outreach and publication of the consultation, we will place consultation advertisements in several local publications and across social media.</p> <p>In addition, a local media press release will provide wider notification to local stakeholders of the consultation events, reaching stakeholders outside the PCZ. The press release would be circulated with local media outlets and trade titles. This will be sent to the following local and regional media outlets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Wales Argus • South Wales Echo • South Wales Evening Post • South Wales Guardian • Monmouthshire Beacon

<p>Stakeholder briefings</p>	<p>We will issue communications to key stakeholders, including local political representatives (Councillors, MS's and MPs) and Community Council Clerks representing Wards and Community Councils within the Primary Consultation Zone to provide information about the Proposed Development and to invite them to take part in the consultation.</p> <p>We will also offer briefings and organise online webinars for these stakeholders to provide information about the consultation. We will consider invitations to, or requests for, meetings with other local groups or special interest organisations on a case-by-case basis.</p>
<p>Emails and letters</p>	<p>We will send emails about the consultation and how to get involved to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • host constituency and neighbouring constituency area MPs and MSs • Elected representatives at the following community councils • Redwick Community Group⁶ • Portskewett Community Council • Rogiet Community Council, • Magor with Undy Town Council • Caerwent Community Council • Goldcliff Community Council • Neighbouring local authorities • Local interest groups, such as community and environmental groups.

⁶ Redwick Community Council has recently been disbanded. However, the Applicant will engage with Redwick Community Group instead.

<p>Project website</p>	<p>The project website will be updated on the launch of the statutory consultation. This update will include details of consultation events, consultation materials, and information on how to feed back on the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The technical documents listed in Table 1 will also be uploaded onto the website ahead of submission for consent. This will allow stakeholders to engage fully with the consultation, either in person or online. A Welsh version of the project website is also available.</p>
<p>Statutory notices and adverts</p>	<p>Statutory notices to publicise the consultation and the SoCC will be published in local and national news publications in advance of the consultation launching.</p> <p>We will run adverts in the local media prior to commencement of the consultation period. The adverts will be designed in a clear, accessible format, clearly communicating what the consultation is about, when it is running and how to take part.</p> <p>We will also contact local community councils and invite them to share the advert through their own social channels.</p>
<p>Information points</p>	<p>Hard copies of the consultation newsletter, consultation brochure and the feedback form will be available to take home from two designated information points within the SCZ. A copy of the SoCC and Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR will also be available to inspect at local locations</p> <p>Locations to be assessed prior to publication include Redwick Village Hall and a potential site in Magor, such as the Town Council Office in the Square.</p>
<p>Site notices</p>	<p>Notices placed in publicly accessible locations within the indicative Order Limits to notify of the consultation.</p>

<p>Online and in-person consultation events</p>	<p>We will hold three in-person and two online consultation events for anyone with an interest in the Proposed Development to attend, learn about our proposals and provide their feedback. In-person events will be held at venues within the PCZ and publicised alongside online events, in the Consultation Newsletter, poster, advert and press release. Interested parties can register to attend online events via the project website, or by contacting the project team directly.</p>
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6.12 How the public will be able to participate and respond

6.12.1 The public will be able to participate in, and respond to, the consultation through:

- three community drop-in events, hosted in an exhibition format at locations across the PCZ
- two public online webinars, enabling people to join events virtually
- a dedicated website, providing a repository of information and an online feedback form
- information points at community venues to host copies of consultation materials and signposting to feedback mechanisms
- a project contact centre, including dedicated email address, phone number and freepost.

6.13 Community drop-in events

6.13.1 We will hold in-person public consultation events in the local area, providing consultees with an opportunity to meet the team, learn more about the proposals and ask any questions they may have. As the main site spans across the electoral boundaries of Newport West and Monmouthshire, we will hold consultation events within both these constituencies. Key project information will be provided on large consultation boards and members of our project team will be on hand to discuss the project, answer questions and receive feedback.

6.14 Community and stakeholder webinars

6.14.1 We will offer online stakeholder briefings at the beginning of statutory consultation for stakeholders to find out more about the Proposed Development, ask questions and provide feedback. We will also hold online public consultation events, giving people the option of attending in person or virtually to suit them. These events will

give people the opportunity to find out more about the Proposed Development and ask questions of the project team. The stakeholder events will be by invite only. The public webinars will be open to any interested individuals or groups and is anticipated to be hosted on Livestorm.

6.14.2 Details of how to register for online events will be provided in the following documents prior to and throughout the consultation:

- Consultation website
- Consultation brochure
- Consultation newsletter
- Consultation launch letter
- Adverts
- Posters.

6.15 Project contact channels

6.15.1 In addition to the methods described above, people will be able to find out about the Proposed Development and the consultation, ask questions and request documents through the project freephone number and email address. People will also be able to submit feedback to the project email address and freepost address.

6.15.2 Contact channels for the project are as follows:

- Telephone: 0800 783 5601
- Email: enquiries@futureenergyllanwern.co.uk
- Post: FREEPOST FEL SOLAR FARM (please note that no stamp is required).

6.16 Wider engagement

6.16.1 Ongoing engagement will be undertaken ahead of the launch of the consultation with relevant stakeholders, including Natural Resources Wales, local authorities, MPs, MSs, and with local interest groups, residents and landowners who get in touch.

6.16.2 We will contact all relevant local and community councils, elected members for Monmouthshire County Council and Newport City Council, amongst other relevant local authorities, MS's and MPs at the launch of the consultation and they will be kept informed about the proposals. They will also be encouraged to share information about the consultation with members of their constituencies or local communities.

6.17 Hard-to-reach groups

6.17.1 It is important to ensure that consultation is inclusive and enables participation from a wide range of audiences, including those who are seldom heard in public. Hard-to-reach groups are defined as being inaccessible to most traditional and conventional methods of consultation. To ensure that hard-to-reach groups are encouraged to get involved in the consultation, the materials and their content will be prepared to be accessible and clear. Hard-to-reach groups include:

- the elderly
- people with visual impairments
- people with hearing impairments
- people with limited mobility
- geographically isolated individuals or communities.

6.17.2 We will seek to engage with hard-to-reach and seldom-heard groups by:

- holding webinars at a variety of times, including evenings and weekends, to enable participation from people with different time commitments
- making provision for people who do not have access to the internet through the consultation programme. This will include sending a community newsletter to every address in the PCZ and making key materials such as the consultation brochure and feedback form available at information points
- choosing accessible venues for public information points and in-person events
- providing materials in alternative formats such as Braille on request contacting local community and voluntary organisations including community councils and schools with information about the Proposed Development and encouraging them to promote the consultation through their own existing communication channels
- providing a variety of communication channels including a Freephone number, email address and Freepost address for those seeking information.

6.17.3 We will liaise with local organisations representing hard-to-reach and seldom-heard groups to provide accessibility to the consultation and to ensure that materials can be made available in the appropriate formats. Organisations representing hard-to-reach and local interest groups that we will contact include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Monmouth County Council
- Newport City Council
- Royal British Legion Caldicot & District
- Caldicot & District U3A
- Newport Youth Council
- Citizens Advice Newport.

6.17.4 A full list of hard-to-reach and local interest groups that we will contact are listed in Appendix A.

7.0 Responding to the consultation

7.1.1 Feedback to the consultation should be submitted in writing or online during the consultation period. Consultation responses can be submitted in the following ways:

- Online by completing the online feedback questionnaire, which can be accessed via the project website: www.futureenergyllanwern.co.uk.
- At an in-person consultation event – attendees at consultation events will be able to complete an online feedback form on tablets provided.
- Alternatively, a paper copy of a feedback form can be provided to be filled in and handed to a member of the project team or posted back to us via Freepost.
- At an information point – hard copies of the feedback form will be available at information points and we will also signpost visitors to the online feedback form as an alternative.

7.1.2 Via a request at the community contact centre – requests for paper copies of the feedback form can be made via the following community contact centre channels:

- Telephone: 0800 783 5601
- Email: enquiries@futureenergyllanwern.co.uk
- Post: FREEPOST FEL SOLAR FARM (please note that no stamp is required).
- Submitting comments via email – Anyone can share their views by submitting their comments via email to: enquiries@futureenergyllanwern.co.uk or in writing to the Freepost address.

8.0 How we will record feedback and respond to it

- 8.1.1 All feedback received during the consultation period will be processed into a secure database, reviewed and analysed. Thematically similar comments will be identified and grouped together into 'issues'. All comments per issue will then be summarised as 'issue statements' and considered by the Future Energy Llanwern project team. The team will consider all issue statements as part of the ongoing design process and assess how potential impacts of the Proposed Development can be avoided, managed or mitigated and how this mitigation should be secured through requirements (similar to planning conditions) in the Application submitted, while taking onboard suggestions where possible and appropriate.
- 8.1.2 An Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AOCM) Report, which demonstrates that we have adequately consulted with stakeholders including local authorities during the consultation, will be submitted to PINS at least three months before anticipated submission of the Application.
- 8.1.3 A Consultation Report will also be produced as part of our Application, which will be submitted to the SoS. This document will set out how the feedback from the consultation has shaped and influenced the Proposed Development. All feedback submitted during the statutory consultation will be responded to within the Consultation Report and included within the document with all personal details redacted. We will take reasonable care to comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Planning Inspectorate's Privacy Policy.

9.0 Further information

9.1.1 For further information, please contact us by:

- Visiting the project website www.futureenergyllanwern.co.uk
- Email: enquiries@futureenergyllanwern.co.uk
- Call: 0800 783 5601 (9:00am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday)
- Writing to the project team at FREEPOST FEL SOLAR FARM (no stamp required).



Statement of Community Consultation

Appendix A: Non-statutory consultation groups

PINS reference: EN010171

Revision number: 1

Date: 9 October 2025

Future Energy Llanwern Limited

Appendix A: Non-statutory consultation groups

Community groups		
Pillgwenlly Community First	Monmouthshire Youth Service	Caldicot Town Team
Monmouthshire Housing Association	Monmouthshire Community Hubs	Newport City Homes
St Thomas's Church, Redwick	Newport Mind	Redwick Community Group
Educational establishments		
Monmouth Comprehensive School Eco Club	Llanwern High School	Maes Ebbw School
Alway Primary School	Charles William Church in Wales Primary	Eveswell Primary School
Glan Llyn West Primary School	Langstone County Primary School	Lliswery Primary School
Lodge Hill Primary School	Maesglas Primary & Nursery School	Magor Church in Wales Primary School
Maindee Primary School	Pillgwenlly Primary School	Ringland Primary School
Somerton Primary School	St Andrew's Primary School	St Gabriel's RC Primary School
St Joseph's RC Primary School	St Julian's Primary School	St Marys RC Primary School
St Michaels RC School	St Woolos County Primary	Undy Primary School
Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Gwenlli	Ysgol Gymrarg Casnewydd	St Patrick's RC Primary
Glan Usk Primary	Llanmartin Primary	Milton Primary School

Liswerry High School	St Julian's School	The John Frost School
Caerlon Comprehensive	Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed	Llanwern High
University of South Wales – City Campus	Coleg Gwent – Newport Campus	Wadham College of Science
Industry groups and business landowners		
South East Wales Energy Agency	Monmouthshire Business Forum	Newport BID
Celtic Manor Resort	Monmouthshire Building Society	Associated British Ports (Newport Docks)
CBI Wales	RenewableUK Cymru	Wales & West Utilities
National Grid (South Wales)	South Wales Chamber of Commerce	Institute of Welsh Affairs (IWA)
Wales Innovation Network	Cardiff Capital Region Business Council	Tata Steel
Gwent Europark/Tesco	Magor Brewery (ABInBev)	EV Cargo
Wilko Distribution	Lovell Homes	Redrow
Bellway	Revantage (Glan Llyn)	Miller Homes (Glan Llyn)
Indurent (Indurent Park)	Persimmon Homes (Glan Llyn)	
Hard-to-reach groups		
Newport Citizens Advice	GAVO	The Wallich
Age Cymru Gwent	Monmouthshire Women's Aid	Newport Refugee Integration Project
Monmouthshire Disability Access Group	Caldicot Food Bank	Disability Wales
Royal British Legion Caldicot & District	Chepstow & District Probus Club	Gwent WI
Caldicot & District U3A	Newport Youth Council	Gwent Young Farmers Club
Monmouth Youth Service	Gwent Girlguides	Gwent Scouts

Gypsies and Travellers Wales	Muslim Council of Wales	Associating Evangelical Churches in Wales
Baptist Union of Wales	Catholic Church of England and Wales	Hindu Cultural Association
Diocese of Monmouth (Church of Wales)		
Environmental groups		
Friends of the Earth Newport	CPRW	Gwent Ornithological Society
RSPB Cymru	Severn Estuary Partnership	Living Levels Landscape Partnership
Monmouthshire Meadows Group	Natural Resources Wales	Amphibian & Reptile Conservation Trust
Monmouthshire Environment Partnership Board	Gwent Wildlife Trust	



Statement of Community Consultation

Appendix B: Order limits

PINS reference: EN010171

Revision number: 1

Date: 9 October 2025

Future Energy Llanwern Limited

Appendix B: Order limits

