

**October 2025**

## **Community Update**

Welcome to our Community Update on Shepway Energy Park, a proposed solar and battery development that would deliver circa. 200 megawatts (MW) of renewable electricity and circa. 400MW of storage capacity.

Our first public consultation closed on 20 July, after seven weeks of talking and listening to local communities about our proposals. We'd like to thank all of you who came to our consultation events in Newchurch and Dymchurch as well as those who filled in feedback forms, emailed or wrote to us with your feedback. Hearing from our communities, landowners and other stakeholders is a central part of the development process. Your comments are helping us to understand the local area, and any potential impacts our proposals may have on the community and the environment.

Our first consultation ran from **28 May to 20 July**. We held three consultation events with a total of 224 attendees.

### **Publicity:**

- 3,387 postcards to local residents and businesses.
- Posters across local communities.
- Press releases issued and consultation through local and trade media.
- Letters and emails issued to various stakeholder groups, including local elected representatives; statutory bodies, local planning authorities and community and seldom heard groups.

### **Responses:**

**140** responses in total:

- **27** responses returned via our online feedback form.
- **34** hard copy response forms
- **79** free-form email responses returned to our dedicated email address.

## What did we learn from your feedback?

Most people who responded live locally in the Romney Marsh area. We also received feedback from technical bodies, business owners and interest groups.

We recognise that there are concerns about aspects of our proposals and we have carefully considered all of the responses we received. We'll use all this feedback to help inform our ongoing work to refine our proposals ahead of further consultation.

Below we have provided a summary of some of the key themes people raised in their feedback. This is only an overview – more details on what you've told us, and how we've responded, will be summarised in a report which we'll publish at our next consultation.

What we heard from you	How we are using this feedback
<p>We received lots of feedback on how the site we presented during our consultation may impact on the existing scenery of the area, particularly due to Romney Marsh's flat landscape. We heard that it would be preferable for the solar infrastructure to be lower in height to minimise impact on views from houses, roads and footpaths.</p> <p>The feedback also indicated a preference for any screening (such as hedges or new tree planting) to remain in keeping with the character of the local area, including species native to Romney Marsh to be used.</p>	<p>We're continuing to explore options to minimise the visual impact from our proposals. This will be informed by further visual impact assessments, which we're currently carrying out, and these will help us identify areas that may need additional screening. Any screening we use will be designed to be complementary to the character of the local area, and we'll discuss options for this with stakeholder organisations such as the Kent Downs National Landscape Unit, Natural England and the local authorities.</p>
<p>We heard that you found our consultation materials informative, but recognise that including more visual images to demonstrate what the infrastructure could look like would be beneficial.</p>	<p>We'll look at opportunities for how we can visually present our proposals as we plan for our second phase of consultation.</p>
<p>The feedback we received noted concerns about the potential impact on the environment, particularly existing habitats and local wildlife species, as well as whether our ecological surveys would adequately capture all flora and fauna that could potentially be impacted by the Scheme.</p>	<p>We've already carried out ecology surveys on the site throughout the year, and this work is continuing over the coming months. This includes considering a wide range of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and plant species. This will include ongoing discussions with specialist bodies such as Natural England.</p>

	<p>We'll publish the findings of these assessments, along with details of how we're proposing to mitigate any potential impacts, in the updated environmental information we publish at our next consultation.</p>
<p>We received useful comments in relation to proposed environmental mitigations and enhancements, improvements to public rights of way and footpaths such as the Royal Military Canal Path; and planting of wildflower meadows for bees and to create habitats for small mammals.</p>	<p>We'll consider the opportunities highlighted in feedback as we consider the potential mitigations and enhancements we might need to deliver as part of the project. We'll provide more information on these plans at our next consultation.</p>
<p>We heard that there are concerns about the Scheme's potential impact on local watercourses and the intricate drainage system which exists on the Marsh. We understand that people want to know more about any flood risk mitigations and we will ensure that in our next consultation we share further detailed information.</p>	<p>We'll be carrying out extensive flood risk assessments and flood modelling as part of our environmental work. The results of this work will be available in the updated environmental information we publish at our next consultation. We'll also be engaging with relevant organisations such as the Environment Agency and Romney Marsh Area Internal Drainage Board.</p> <p>We know how important the existing drainage systems are to the Marsh and we'll carefully consider these as part of our ongoing design work.</p>
<p>We received useful feedback on our proposed location of our construction site access points, particularly their proximity to residential properties. We also heard your concerns about the impact of construction traffic on the local road infrastructure, including along A-roads and single-track roads in Romney Marsh and Eastbridge Road, alongside concerns about the potential impact of construction noise and vibrations during the build process.</p>	<p>We will consider our proposed accesses and their suitability as part of our ongoing design work and explain any changes at our next consultation.</p> <p>We'll also be carrying out traffic and transport surveys and further discussions with Kent County Council's highways department. This will help us understand how we can manage our construction traffic's impact on local roads.</p>
<p>Some of the feedback we received noted concerns about potential operational impacts of the Scheme. Comments raised concerns about the potential noise and vibration generated by the Scheme's</p>	<p>When built, we don't expect the operational site will bring significant impacts from noise or lighting. We'll select equipment with low noise emissions, and assess the use of enclosures, local</p>

infrastructure, including buzz and humming sounds. We recognise that you also had concerns around light pollution, such as from security lighting, and the impact of this on nocturnal animals such as bats and owls and opportunities for star gazing.	screening, mufflers, and silencers will help to minimise noise emissions across the scheme.
We understand that you would like to know more about the safety of the Battery Energy Storage System.	<p>Safety is the founding principle of SSE. We work with internal business colleagues, contractors, communities and stakeholders to ensure we adhere to the highest standards of safety at every stage of development and operation.</p> <p>We are an experienced operator of high voltage electricity infrastructure and have a track-record of constructing, commissioning and operating infrastructure. We treat the safety of our infrastructure very seriously and we invest in ensuring the highest level of prevention measures.</p> <p>We are actively engaging with the fire service as a statutory consultee and will work closely with them as we develop our proposal.</p>

### **What happens next?**

All the comments we received will be used, alongside further engagement with relevant organisations and our own technical and environmental assessments, to inform the Scheme design.

We'll hold another public consultation next year, where we'll present our updated proposals. This second phase of public consultation will provide another opportunity for you to have your say on the project, as well as to review any proposed changes.

In the meantime, you can find our indicative project timescales on our website [here](#). You can also get in touch with us at any time via the contact details at the bottom of this page.

**The Shepway Energy Park Team**

**Get in touch**

**Email:** [shepway@sse.com](mailto:shepway@sse.com)

**Phone:** 01233 429013 (Monday to Friday 09:00 to 17:00 excluding bank holidays)

**Freepost SHEPWAY ENERGY PARK** (no stamp required)