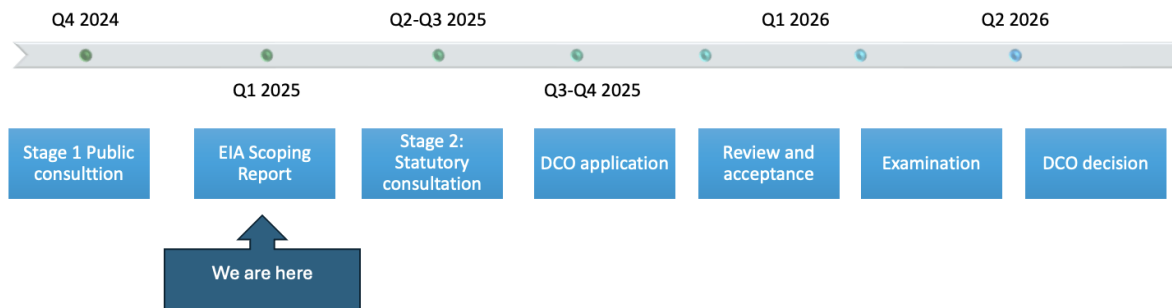


Kingsway Solar Farm: The development process

Project Timeline



Project Overview

Kingsway Solar is designed to generate 500 megawatts (MW) of electricity with battery energy storage (BESS), qualifying it as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008. Approval for NSIP projects requires a Development Consent Order (DCO), which, if granted by the Secretary of State, will authorize the construction, operation and decommissioning of the project.

Helpful links:

- [About Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects](#)
- [NSIPs: The process guide](#)
- [Download a complete list of all NSIPs for solar](#)

Key development stages

Stage One Non-statutory Consultation: Pre-application

The Stage One non-statutory consultation has now closed. Thank you to everyone who provided feedback on the Kingsway proposals. Your input will now be reviewed by Kingsway and should play a key role in shaping the project design. *According to the [NSIP guidance](#), responding to an applicant's pre-application consultation is the best time to influence a project, whether you agree with it, disagree with it, or believe it could be improved.*

Additional information and opportunities to comment will be available during our Stage Two consultation in 2025.

Visit the [Document Library](#) on the Kingsway website to view and download Stage One consultation materials.

Here are links to various responses to Kingsway's non-statutory consultation:

- [West Wratting Parish Council](#)
- [South Cambridge District Council \(SCDC\)](#)
- [Balsham Parish Council](#)
- [Weston Colville Parish Council](#)
- [Brinkley Parish Council](#)
- [Carlton cum Willingham Parish Council](#)
- [Kingsway Solar Community Action \(KSCA\) Group](#)
- [District Councillor Geoff Harvey, SCDC](#)

KSCA would also like to collect your responses. If you are happy to share these, please send to hello@kingswayaction.org

During this pre-application phase, the Planning Inspectorate provided an [Advice Log](#)

Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report: Pre-application

Due to the size of this project, an [Environmental Impact Assessment](#) (EIA) is required. This involves a scoping exercise that should be conducted during the early planning stages. This process helps design the project to avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts while incorporating opportunities for positive environmental enhancements. Engaging in early consultation with all relevant stakeholders, including the Environment Agency, is a crucial component of scoping. Even if a project does not fall under EIA legislation, undertaking a scoping exercise may still be beneficial—and sometimes necessary—to support applications for other required consents and authorizations essential for project implementation.

The EIA Scoping Report for Kingsway was issued on 17 December, and statutory consultees (including the District and County councils, and the Parish Councils) were given until 14 January to comment on this. This report lays out what is and is not intended to be included in the EIA.

Visit the [Document Library](#) on the Kingsway website to view the EIA scoping report.

Here are links to various responses to Kingsway's EIA scoping report:

- [West Wratting Parish Council](#).

- [South Cambridge District Council \(SCDC\)](#) with [covering letter](#)
- [Cambridge County Council](#)
- [Balsham](#) Parish Council, with appendices on [impacted views](#), [hydrology](#) and [anerobic digester](#).
- [Weston Colville](#) Parish Council (appendix includes links to their [parish plan](#))
- [West Wickham](#) Parish Council
- Brinkley
- Carlton cum Willingham
- [Reach](#) (including their [neighborhood plan](#))

Stage 2 Statutory Consultation: Pre-application

The **Statutory Consultation** is a legally required process to gather feedback from the public, local authorities, and stakeholders. Developers are required to consider this input when finalizing their designs prior to submitting the DCO application. The timeline for the statutory consultation should be clearly defined, allowing enough time for public and stakeholder responses.

Preparing for Statutory Consultation:

- Kingsway will publish a **Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)**, which outlines how statutory consultation will be conducted and how feedback will be managed. The SoCC will be agreed upon with the local authority and made publicly available.
- A **Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)** will be shared, detailing the project's potential environmental impacts
- **Detailed design release:** The design should take into account feedback from the first consultation phase and make sure it meets all planning, environmental, and technical rules.

During this phase, Kingsway will consult with a wide range of individuals and groups who may be interested or affected by the project.

Key facts:

- A formal notice of the consultation should be published in local and national media, including details about dates, locations (if in-person), and formats such as online portals or webinars.
- All consultation materials must be accessible to everyone, with alternative formats available for individuals with disabilities or language barriers. These may include in-person meetings and online webinars
- A structured process should be established to collect and record feedback with clear guidance on how this feedback will be evaluated and used to refine the project.

Following this consultation a Consultation Report should be prepared, summarizing the activities undertaken, feedback received, and how it has influenced the design or addressed concerns, as this report will be a key part of the DCO application.

Current Kingsway projected date for statutory consultation: Summer 2025

DCO Application Process

Refining Proposals:

Feedback from the Statutory Consultation will be used to further develop and refine the project proposals.

Submitting the Application:

The finalized application for development consent will be submitted to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate (PINS).

Current Kingsway projected date for DCO application: Late Summer 2025 (Note NSIP says Autumn 2025)

Application Review and Acceptance

Once the application is submitted, PINS will review it within a 28-day period to determine if it meets the criteria for examination. This includes assessing the adequacy of consultation efforts. If accepted, Kingsway Solar will publish a formal notification.

Examination Process

The appointed Examining Authority (a single Inspector or a Panel) will conduct the examination, which is primarily written but includes public hearings. Interested parties who have registered by making a Relevant Representation will have opportunities to submit their views or speak at hearings. The Planning Inspectorate has up to six months to carry out the examination. The timetable and decisions will be published on the PINS website.

Decision

The examination process will conclude within six months, followed by a three-month period for the Examining Authority to submit its recommendation to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State will then have three additional months to issue a final decision on whether to grant or refuse the DCO application.