



Frodsham Solar

Consultation Report Appendix 5: Phase Two Consultation Materials

May 2025



PINS Ref: EN010153

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**Planning Act 2008; and Infrastructure Planning (Applications:
Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 Regulation**

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1 Phase Two Community Consultation Leaflet



Frodsham Solar

Community Consultation Leaflet Phase Two

November - December 2024

Introduction

Cubico Sustainable Investments is proposing Frodsham Solar, a solar farm with energy storage, situated north of Frodsham in Cheshire.

Our community consultation leaflet details who we are, our updated proposals, and how you can take part in our Phase Two statutory consultation.

Frodsham Solar could be capable of generating approximately 130 megawatts (MW) of electricity through ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panels. The proposals include energy storage – often referred to as a Battery Energy Storage System (or 'BESS') – to store and supply electricity for when it is most needed. They also include the necessary infrastructure to connect the electricity into the regional distribution network, as well as various plans for mitigation and enhancement in terms of landscaping, biodiversity and permissive paths.

The project sits in an area of industry looking to lead the way in the deployment of low carbon infrastructure. It supports Cheshire West and Chester's ambitions to become net zero by 2045 and Net Zero North West's vision to become the world's first net zero industrial cluster by 2040.

As the project's generation capacity is above 50 MW, Frodsham Solar is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), meaning that a final decision on whether the project is able to proceed will be made by the Secretary of State.

Details on how to contact us and find out more about Frodsham Solar can be found on the back cover of this leaflet.

Who We Are

The proposals for Frodsham Solar were introduced last year by a joint venture known as Peel Cubico Renewables.

In January 2024, Cubico Sustainable Investments (Cubico) acquired Peel NRE's 50% stake in Peel Cubico Renewables Ltd. This includes the joint venture's solar development pipeline, meaning that Frodsham Solar is now a Cubico project and Frodsham Solar Limited is wholly owned by Cubico.

The acquisition also included the transfer of the North-West based Peel NRE renewables development team into the Cubico business, ensuring that those that know and have the experience of developing renewable energy in this area remain on the project.

Our Mission is to accelerate change to combat the climate crisis.



Our Phase Two Consultation

The design of the solar farm will be informed by feedback we receive and the results of our ongoing Environmental Impact Assessment process.

Our Phase Two consultation starts on **Thursday 7th November**. It will run for six weeks, closing on **Thursday 19th December 2024**. We are asking for feedback to be provided on or before this date.

We want to hear your feedback on topics such as:

- Our updated proposals
- Our environmental mitigation and enhancement plans, including the new areas for bird mitigation and the plans for new permissive paths
- The findings in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)
- The Frodsham Community Fund, a dedicated community benefit fund. More details can be found on page 10

Have Your Say

During this time, you can engage with our proposals in several ways:



Attend one of our community information events

We are holding a series of information events across the area, as well as a community webinar. These events provide an opportunity to view materials and discuss the proposals with members of the project team.



Visit our project website

Our dedicated website (www.frodshamsolar.co.uk) provides the latest project information, including relevant documents and answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ's). Here you can view and download all consultation documents and information.



Contact our team

A freephone information line, project email address, and freepost address are available for anyone wishing to contact us to answer questions you may have about the project. These details are listed on the back page of this leaflet.

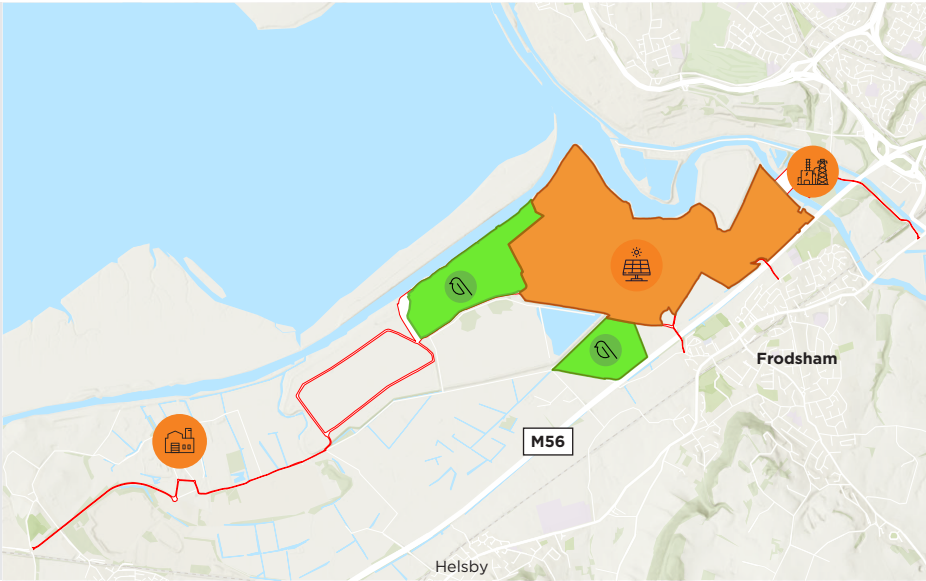


Provide your feedback

We want to hear any views you may have on our proposals. You can submit written feedback via our website, by completing a feedback form at one of our events, by writing to us, or by email. Please contact us if you're not sure how best to provide your feedback.

The Site

Frodsham Solar sits north of Frodsham, within an area of existing infrastructure including Frodsham Wind Farm, and bordered by the M56, Mersey Estuary, River Weaver and the Manchester Ship Canal.



Frodsham Solar Site Location Map, including PEIR Order Limits

Key

- Frodsham Solar
- Frodsham Substation
- Local Industry
- Bird Mitigation Areas
- Draft Order Limits

Frodsham Solar has the opportunity to grow of the region’s vibrant and vital low-carbon energy sector. Part of the solar farm site would be shared with Frodsham Wind Farm. Protos, an important energy and resource hub, neighbours the site. The addition of ground-mounted solar and battery storage, further strengthens this technological diversity, making the North West a UK energy pioneer.

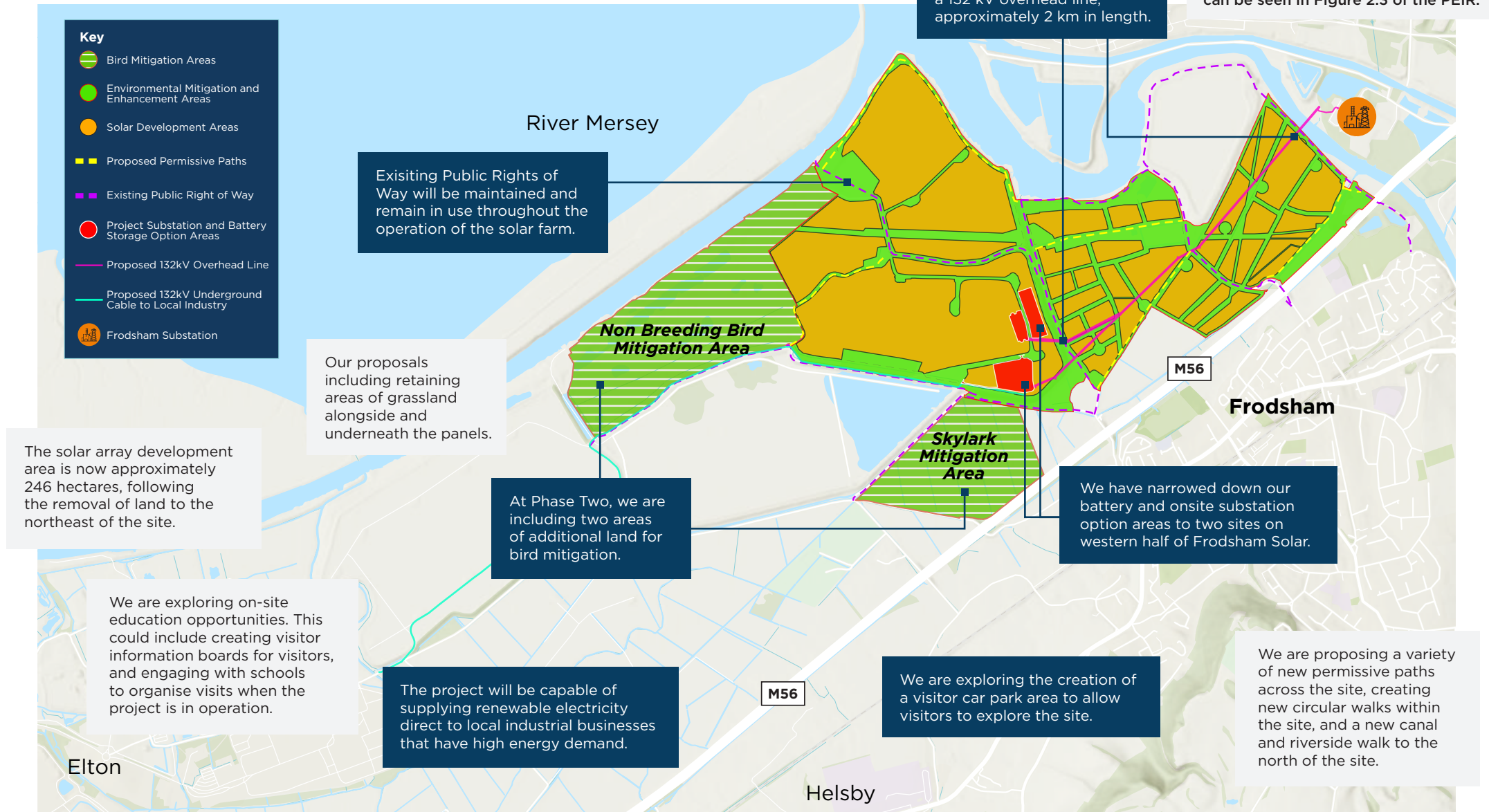
The site is also in close proximity to a grid connection at the existing Frodsham Substation, located adjacent to the site across the River Weaver. This allows us to easily connect electricity to where it is needed.

Our Phase Two Proposals

Since our first phase of consultation in June and July 2023, the team has developed the proposals for Frodsham Solar, taking on board the feedback that we received, as well as refining the proposals based on the ongoing environmental assessments.

- With an anticipated capacity of 130 MW, Frodsham Solar could provide enough electricity for **40,000 homes**.
- Frodsham Solar is seeking to **improve existing public rights of way**, and now includes plans for **4.5 km of new permissive paths across the site**.
- Frodsham Solar will include **nearly 15km of tree and hedgerow planting** to boost biodiversity on site.
- Frodsham Solar now includes **an area that will create improvements to habitats for non breeding birds** whilst also mitigating the scheme’s impacts, covering an area of approximately **60 hectares**.
- Over construction period, approximately **150 full time (or equivalent) jobs could be created, as well as wider economic benefits**.
- Cubico will also be bringing forward a dedicated Frodsham Solar community benefit fund in the region of **£65,000 per year**. More information can be found on page 10.


Frodsham Solar Concept Plan





Our Approach to Design


We want to ensure that the design of Frodsham Solar is developed sensitively and with respect to its surroundings.

During our first phase of consultation, we spoke about a number of principles that were informing how we would design the project. At our second phase of consultation, we can now speak to a number of design and construction considerations that are included as part of the current design:

- 

To mitigate impacts on the birdlife of the Mersey Estuary, we are proposing to create a Non Breeding Bird Mitigation Area as part of the project.
- 

The project includes over 4.5 km in new permissive paths. Not only will these paths create new circular walks, including a canal and riverside walk by the Manchester Ship Canal and River Weaver, but they can provide educational opportunities for walkers through the installation of information boards and other features to improve visitors' experience.
- 

The height of the panels is currently expected to be 3.5 metres above ground. The minimum height of the panels will be 0.8 metres in most areas. However, the minimum panel height above ground will be raised to 1.5 metres in areas at higher risk of flooding. The height of the panels will allow sheep grazing across the site.
- 

The most critical electrical infrastructure would be sited on higher ground, away from any onsite flooding. This includes both option areas for the on-site substation and the battery storage system. Supporting electrical equipment that must be installed on lower ground at higher risk of flooding, such as some of the inverters and transformers, will be raised to a minimum of 1.5 metres above ground.

- 

We are looking to plant approximately 3.5 km of new native hedgerows, over 4.5 km and tree and shrub belts, and reinforce over 6 km of existing hedgerow to help create new habitats and mitigate the visual impact of the project. Existing hedgerow will not be removed, except in circumstances where a gap is required for access or cabling. We are seeking to use existing access gates or gaps in hedgerow for these purposes.
- 

Skylark plots will be created in a dedicated skylark mitigation area to provide foraging opportunities and to support the local skylark population.
- 

Construction is expected to last 30 months. During this time, all construction activity will be between 8am and 6pm, with no activity on Sundays or Bank Holidays.
- 

There would be no access to the Site through Frodsham, Helsby, Elton or Ince during construction, operation or decommissioning, other than for emergency vehicles, and access to the potential new visitor carpark proposed at Moorditch Lane, via Brook Furlong.

The angle of some panels has been adjusted to mitigate against any glint and glare impacts to road users on the M56.
- 

We will work to drive forward the highest traceability and environmental sustainability standards across all our supply chains, in partnership with our suppliers, the UK solar industry, and our international partners in Europe and beyond.

We are keen to hear your feedback about our approach to design and our design considerations during this phase of consultation.

Frodsham Community Fund

Cubico recognises its responsibility towards the communities and environments where we operate.

As such, we commit to Frodsham Solar providing a community benefit fund.

We propose an annual fund of £500 per MW installed. As the project currently has a proposed installation capacity of approximately 130 MW, this means the fund could be £65,000 per year.

We want to ensure that the Frodsham Community Fund is invested in initiatives that can make the most difference.

As part of this, we would like to explore ways in which the community may wish to use their funding, which may include:

- **Fuel Funding** – In partnership with organisations focused on providing financial support to households living in fuel poverty.
- **Employment and Skills Funding** – Funding the skills, training and employment initiatives to enable local people to secure wider employment.
- **Community Funding** – Funding for other local projects e.g. community infrastructure, environmental, educational or social initiatives

We welcome and encourage your feedback on any ideas that you may have on where the Frodsham Community Fund could be invested. This is your funding for your community.

You can find out more about our commitment to community involvement on Cubico Renewables' website: www.frodshamsolar.co.uk

The DCO Process

As the generation capacity for Frodsham Solar is above 50 MW, the project is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) given the amount of low-carbon electricity that the project will be able to generate. If the project is granted consent, it will be given a Development Consent Order (DCO).

The final decision of whether the project gets consent will be decided by the Secretary of State, following a thorough examination period and recommendation carried out by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS).

This process is robust, and we must demonstrate how we have consulted with councils, technical and statutory stakeholders, landowners and members of the community. When we submit our DCO application to PINS, it will be accompanied by a Consultation Report, setting out how we have consulted and how we have considered the feedback that we have received.

Our final DCO Application will also include an Environmental Statement, a document that details how the potential impacts of the project will be mitigated and where possible, environmental enhancements provided. Our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), which we are consulting on during this consultation phase and is available to view online, highlights the assessments that have been undertaken to date, and how we seek to mitigate against impacts.

Further detail on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process can be found on pages 11 and 12 of this leaflet.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

We are undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Frodsham Solar. The purpose of EIA is to identify, describe and assess, the likely significant effects (both adverse and beneficial) of the development on the environment, which includes the effect on people and ecology.

As the Proposed Development is a NSIP, the following are the key EIA reporting stages through to submission of the DCO application:

EIA Screening – depending on the scale of the development, EIA screening is undertaken to establish whether the development has the potential for significant environmental effects. The Applicant did not undertake EIA Screening but instead acknowledged that the Proposed Development has the potential for significant environmental effects and notified the Secretary of State of their intention to provide an Environmental Statement (ES) with the DCO application.

EIA Scoping – the scope of the EIA is consulted on with the Planning Inspectorate and consultees including the Local Planning Authority. An EIA Scoping Report was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on the 30th May 2023, and the Planning Inspectorate issued their Scoping Opinion on the 10th July 2023. The Scoping Opinion has informed the scope of the EIA.

Preliminary Environmental Information (PEIR) – the PEIR provides the Applicants preliminary assessment of the potential environmental effects of the project. The Applicant must prepare and consult on the PEIR as part of a statutory consultation that includes statutory consultees (such as the Environment Agency, Natural England, and Cheshire West and Chester Council), persons with land interests and members of the public.

Environmental Statement (ES) – following consultation on the PEIR, the Applicant must submit an ES with the DCO application that reports on the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development, along with any proposed mitigation to reduce effects. The ES is taken into account by the Secretary of State when deciding on whether to grant a DCO.

We are currently at the third stage, as we are consulting on the Preliminary Environmental Information with our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) as part of this statutory phase of consultation.

The environmental assessment reported in this PEIR is 'preliminary' and is based on the design and layout of the Proposed Development as it currently stands; it does not represent a final assessment of the Proposed Development.

The purpose of consultation is to gain feedback on the preliminary design, layout, and environmental assessment undertaken to date of the Proposed Development. The feedback received will be considered as the Proposed Development continues to be refined, and in accordance with the iterative approach to EIA will inform the final assessment of environmental impacts to be contained within the ES accompanying the DCO application.

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

The PEIR produced as part of this consultation is split across three volumes and a range of different topics. The structure of the PEIR is as follows:

- Introduction
- The Proposed Development
- Alternatives and Design Evolution
- EIA Methodology
- Climate Change
- Landscape and Visual Amenity
- Terrestrial Ecology
- Ornithology
- Flood Risk, Surface Water, and Drainage
- Ground Conditions
- Cultural Heritage
- Tourism and Recreation
- Summary of Effects

You can access the full PEIR, along with a shorter 'Non Technical Summary' from the Document Library on our website: www.frodshamsolar.co.uk.

You can also request a hard copy of the PEIR or specific sections of the PEIR via the project's communication channels. Please note that a reasonable charge up to £500 may apply to providing printed copies of the PEIR.

Information Events

Come and meet our team at one of our community information events.

These events will be an opportunity for you to view our proposals and discuss them in person with members of the project team. A full copy of the PEIR will be available to view at each of the information events. We encourage anyone with an interest in our proposals to come along. You are welcome to drop-in any time during the opening hours.

Community Information Events

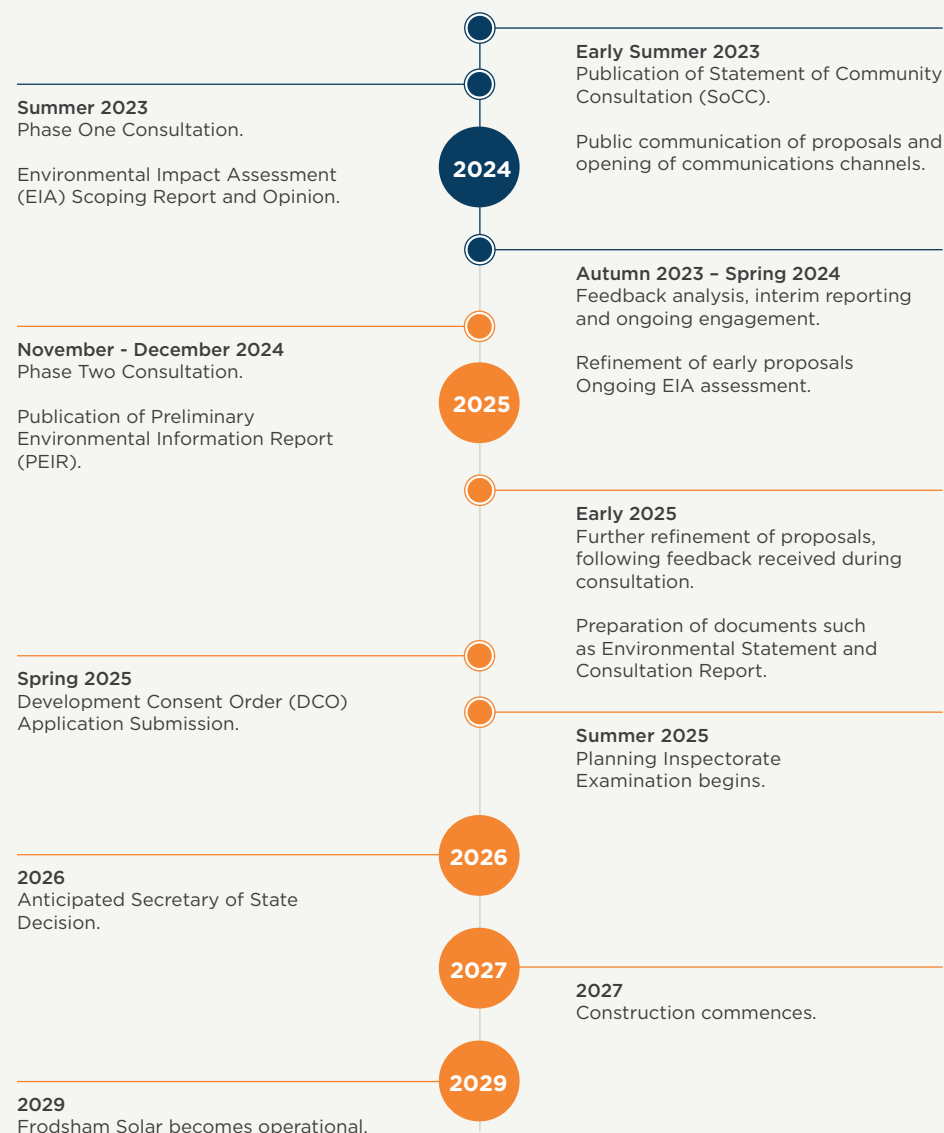
Location	Date & Time
Christchurch Hall, Weston Point Sandy Lane, Weston Point, Runcorn, WA7 4EU	Monday 25th November 3pm – 7pm
Helsby Community Centre Lower Robin Hood Lane, Frodsham, WA6 0BW	Tuesday 26th November 2pm – 6.30pm
Elton Community Centre School Lane, Elton, Chester, CH2 4PU	Friday 29th November 3pm – 7pm
Frodsham Community Centre Fluin Ln, Frodsham, WA6 7QN	Saturday 30th November 1.30pm – 5.30pm
Frodsham Community Centre Fluin Lane, Frodsham, WA6 7QN	Monday 2nd December 2.30pm – 6.30pm
Online Community Webinar Via Zoom Register to attend via www.frodshamsolar.co.uk	Wednesday 4th December 6pm – 7.30pm

Community Access Points

You can also pick up hard copies of our Phase Two consultation leaflet and feedback form, as well as view our PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS) at one of our Community Access Points (CAPs). Each of the CAPs has computer access to view the full PEIR via the project website: www.frodshamsolar.co.uk

Location	Opening Times
Frodsham Library Princeway, Frodsham, WA6 6RX	Mon – Fri: 9am – 6pm Sat: 9:30am – 1pm
Helsby Library Lower Robin Hood Lane, Helsby, WA6 0BW	Mon and Fri: 9.30am – 5pm Tues and Weds: 9.30am – 7pm Saturday: 9.30am – 1pm
Ellesmere Port Library Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BG	Mon, Thurs and Fri: 9am – 7pm Tues and Weds: 9am – 5pm Sat: 9am – 1pm

Indicative Project Timeline



2029
Frodsham Solar becomes operational.

Contact Us

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to find out more information about Frodsham Solar using any of the methods below.



Email: info@frodshamsolar.co.uk



Freephone information line: 0808 175 4004



Freepost: FREEPOST FRODSHAM SOLAR



Website: www.frodshamsolar.co.uk

Should anybody require any documents in an alternative format, such as translated language, large print, audio or braille, then please contact us at the details provided.

All graphics and maps in this document are for illustrative purposes only.

2 Phase Two Feedback Form

Frodsham Solar

Phase Two Consultation

Feedback Form

Thursday 7th November – Thursday 19th December 2024

Cubico Sustainable Investments is developing a new solar project with energy storage on land north of Frodsham in Cheshire.

We are inviting you to take part in the second phase of consultation for Frodsham Solar, which could provide approximately 130 megawatts (MW) of clean, homegrown energy to homes across Cheshire and Merseyside.

Have your say

This second phase of community consultation is an opportunity for you to provide feedback on our updated proposals for Frodsham Solar.

We will acknowledge and record all the comments submitted to us during the consultation, taking them into consideration to help inform our decisions as we develop and finalise our proposals.

You can provide your written feedback by filling in this form, completing our online feedback form on our website or by emailing a scanned copy via email, or by writing to us via email or freepost at the address below:



info@frodshamsolar.co.uk



FREEPOST FRODSHAM SOLAR



www.frodshamsolar.co.uk

If you have any questions or would like guidance in responding to this consultation, please contact us by email at info@frodshamsolar.co.uk or by calling the community relations team on our freephone information line: 0808 175 4004 (open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, excluding bank holidays. A voicemail service operates outside of these hours).

Please note that the period to submit feedback runs from Thursday 7th November until 23:59 on **Thursday 19th December 2024**.

You do not have to supply personal details when you submit the feedback form; however, it will enable us to contact you regarding your feedback, if necessary. Your personal details will be stored securely and in compliance with the Planning Act 2008.

The project's privacy policy can be viewed via the Frodsham Solar website: <https://www.frodshamsolar.co.uk/privacy-policy>

About You

Name:

Postcode:

Organisation:
(if applicable)

Would you like us to keep you updated?

Please let us know if you agree for us to contact you with any future updates regarding the project. This may include sharing the results of this phase of consultation with you and notifying you of any future consultation opportunities.

If you agree to being contacted, please provide your preferred contact method and your postal and/or email address below.

☐ Post ☐ Email

Address:

Email address:

What is your age?

☐ Under 18 ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44

☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65-74 ☐ 75 and over

☐ Prefer not to say

General

Q1: How would you describe your interest in Frodsham Solar?

☐ Local resident ☐ Local representative ☐ Landowner ☐ Local business owner

☐ Regular visitor ☐ Local interest group (if so, please specify the name) ☐ Statutory organisation (if so, please name) ☐ Other (please specify)

Q2: What is your view of installing ground-mounted solar infrastructure in the UK?

☒ I agree there is a need to install solar infrastructure

☒ I do not feel I understand enough about the need to install solar infrastructure

☒ I do not agree there is a need to install solar infrastructure

Project specific feedback

Q3: Based on our updated proposals, what are your views on Frodsham Solar?

☒ I support the proposals

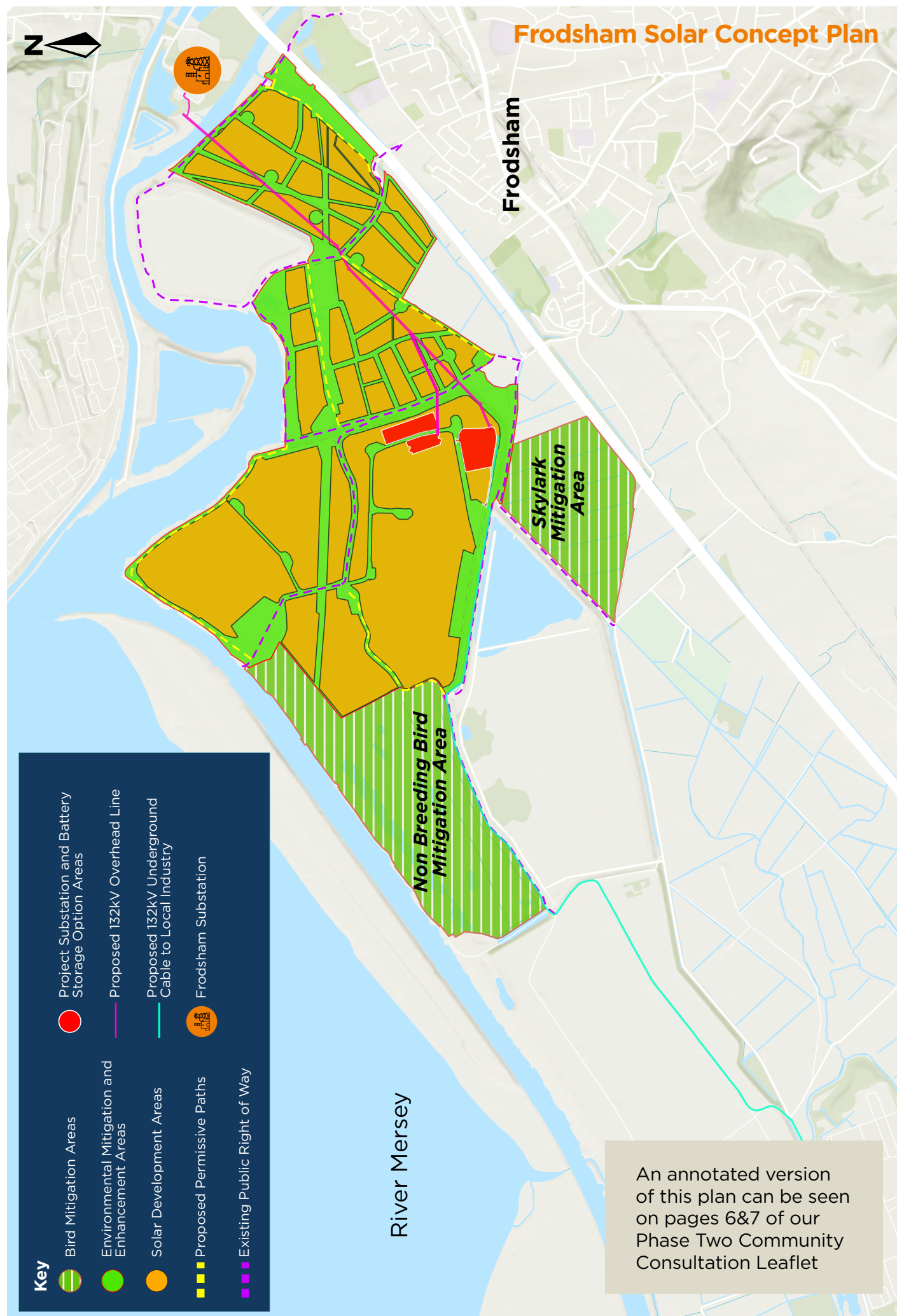
☒ I would like changes to be made to be able to support the proposals

☒ I do not support the proposals

Q4: Which aspects of the project are most important to you?

The Frodsham Solar project team are considering the following topics carefully as we develop the proposals. Environmental assessments are already underway to determine any potential impacts and how they can be mitigated. In the following table, please tick the topic areas which are most important to you. You can add further detail regarding the topic areas when responding to Question 5.

Tick Box	Topic area
<input type="checkbox"/>	Land use and agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/>	Local ecology and biodiversity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Climate Change <i>For example, the need for large-scale solar projects and the carbon footprint of the project.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural heritage and archaeology <i>For example, any ways that our proposals may interact with local heritage sites and the sharing of any archaeological findings.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape and visual
<input type="checkbox"/>	Noise and vibration
<input type="checkbox"/>	Battery Storage <i>This includes any feedback regarding the battery storage element of the project, including the two location options.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Construction and Decommissioning
<input type="checkbox"/>	Socio-economics
<input type="checkbox"/>	Traffic and transport
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water resources and flood risk
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please detail) <i>Please list any other key topics that you would like our team to consider:</i> <div></div>



Q5: Please provide comments on our proposals for Frodsham Solar.

You may choose to expand on the topic areas in Question 4 in your answer, refer to the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), or provide more general feedback. Please feel free to include additional sheets of paper alongside this form if you require more space to provide all of your comments. All feedback received will be considered.

We are keen to hear your feedback on aspects such as:

- Our approach to design, such as the design considerations set out on pages 8&9 of our Phase Two Community Consultation Leaflet
- Additional ecological enhancements you think we should consider as part of the Illustrative Environmental Masterplan
- Any comments regarding the routing of the new permissive paths that we are proposing
- Any on-site initiatives that could be a resource to the community

If you are providing location specific feedback, please try to include as much detail as possible to help our team identify this. Please use the map to the left to provide location-specific feedback should you wish.

Extra space to write your feedback to Question 5 on the next page

Question 5 answer box continued

Q6: Please provide your feedback on how you think the Frodsham Community Fund should be spent.

Cubico recognises its responsibility towards the communities and environments where we operate. As such, we commit to Frodsham Solar providing a community benefit fund.

We want to ensure that the Frodsham Community Fund is invested in initiatives that can make the most difference.

As part of this, we would like to explore ways in which the community may wish to use their funding, this may include:

- **Fuel Funding** - In partnership with organisations and charities focused on providing financial support to households living in fuel poverty.
- **Employment and Skills Funding** - Funding the skills, training and employment initiatives to enable local people to secure wider employment.
- **Community Funding** - Funding for other local projects e.g. community infrastructure, environmental, educational or social initiatives

More information on the Frodsham Community Fund can be found on page 10 of the Community Leaflet.

Get in touch

To return your completed feedback form, place this feedback form in an envelope and address it to: FREEPOST FRODSHAM SOLAR. You will not need a stamp.

Alternatively, you can answer the same questions in our online feedback form, available on the website: www.frodshamsolar.co.uk. You can also fill in a PDF copy of this feedback form via the project website's document library, and email a copy to us at info@frodshamsolar.co.uk

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form and providing us with your feedback.

We will acknowledge and record all the comments submitted to us during consultation, taking them into consideration to help inform our decisions as we develop and finalise our proposals.

All information on our updated proposals, including a consultation leaflet, can be found by scanning the QR code or visiting our website at www.frodshamsolar.co.uk

If you have any questions, you can contact our team by:



Emailing: **info@frodshamsolar.co.uk**



Calling our Freephone information line: **0808 175 4004**



Writing to: **FREEPOST FRODSHAM SOLAR**



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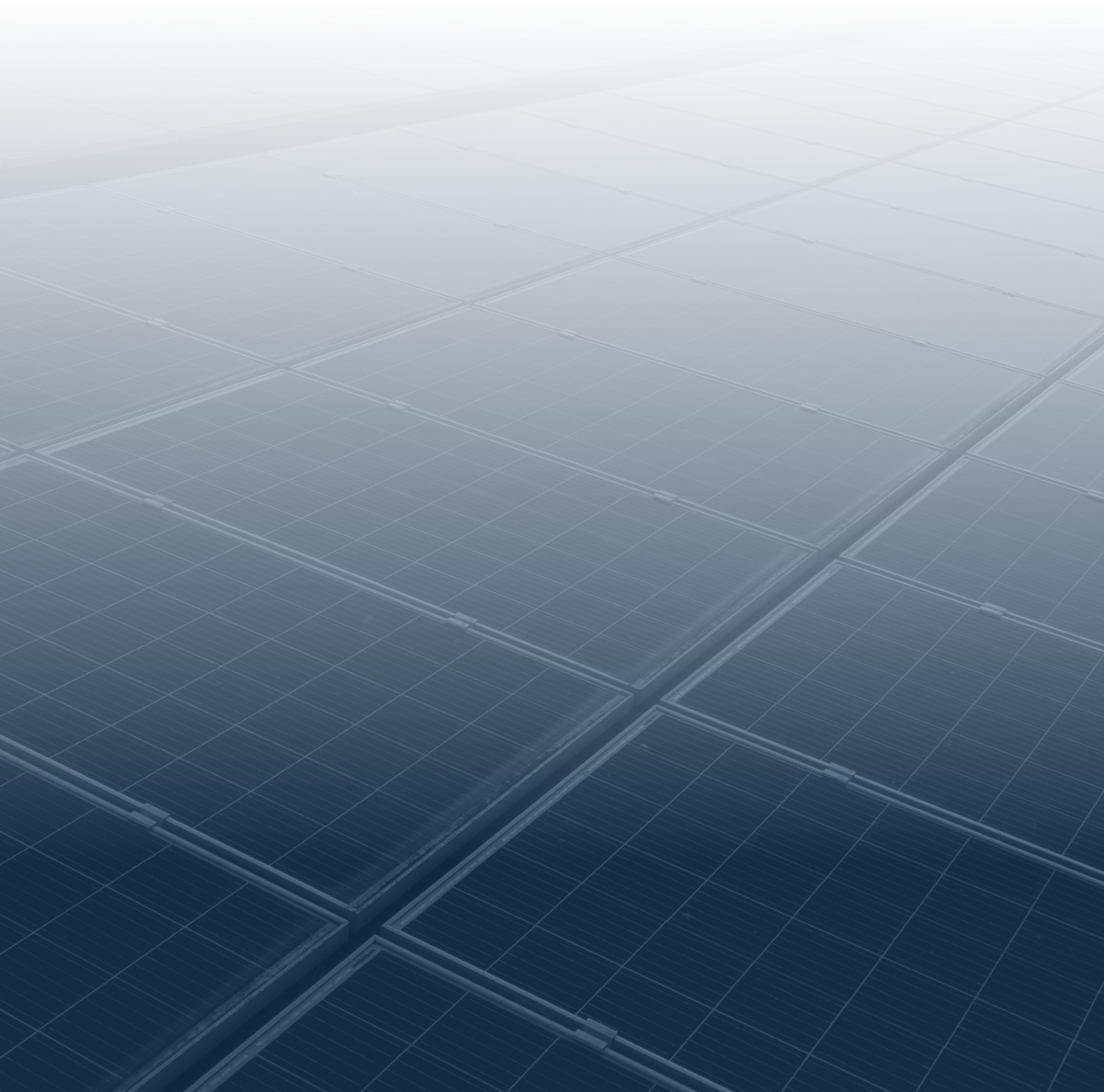
3 Phase Two Information Display Boards



Welcome to our information event for Frodsham Solar

Thank for attending today's event. Please have a look around and speak to members of our team. Remember to please fill in a feedback form so that we can record your feedback.

You can scan the QR code below to visit our website (www.frodshamsolar.co.uk). Here you can access information on our proposals and provide your comments through an online feedback form.



Frodsham Solar

Frodsham Solar could be capable of generating approximately 130 megawatts (MW) of electricity through ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panels. The proposals include energy storage – often referred to as a Battery Energy Storage System (or ‘BESS’) – to store and supply electricity for when it is most needed. They also include the necessary infrastructure to connect the electricity into the regional distribution network, as well as various plans for mitigation and enhancement in terms of landscaping, biodiversity and permissive paths.

We introduced our initial proposals during our Phase One, non-statutory phase of consultation, held between June and July 2023. By considering community and stakeholder feedback received during Stage One, alongside the results of the work undertaken to date on our environmental assessments, we have evolved the design for Frodsham Solar which we are now sharing for our second, statutory phase of consultation.

The project sits in an area of industry looking to lead the way in the deployment of low-carbon infrastructure. It supports Cheshire West and Chester’s ambitions to become net zero by 2045 and Net Zero North West’s vision to become the world’s first net zero industrial cluster by 2040.

Who We Are

The proposals for Frodsham Solar were introduced last year by a joint venture known as Peel Cubico Renewables.

In January 2024, Cubico Sustainable Investments (Cubico) acquired Peel NRE’s 50% stake in Peel Cubico Renewables Ltd. This includes the joint venture’s solar development pipeline, meaning that Frodsham Solar is now a Cubico project and Frodsham Solar Limited is wholly owned by Cubico.

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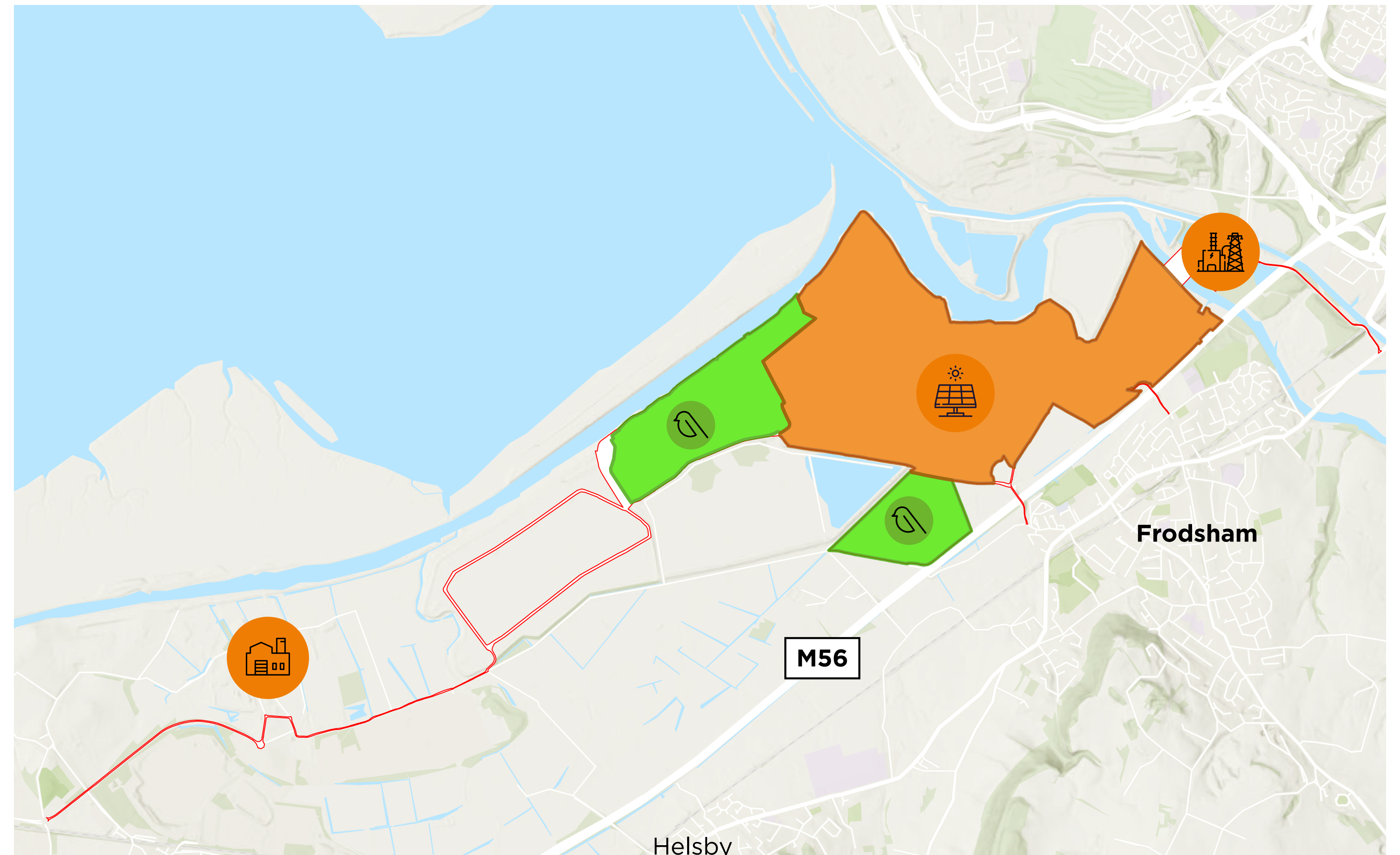
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Frodsham Solar has the opportunity to grow of the region's vibrant and vital low-carbon energy sector. Part of the solar farm site would be shared with Frodsham Wind Farm. Protos, an important energy and resource hub, neighbours the site. The addition of ground-mounted solar and battery storage, further strengthens this technological diversity, making the North West a UK energy pioneer.

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Frodsham Solar Site Location Map, including PEIR Order Limits

Key



Frodsham Solar



Frodsham Substation



Local Industry



Draft Order Limits



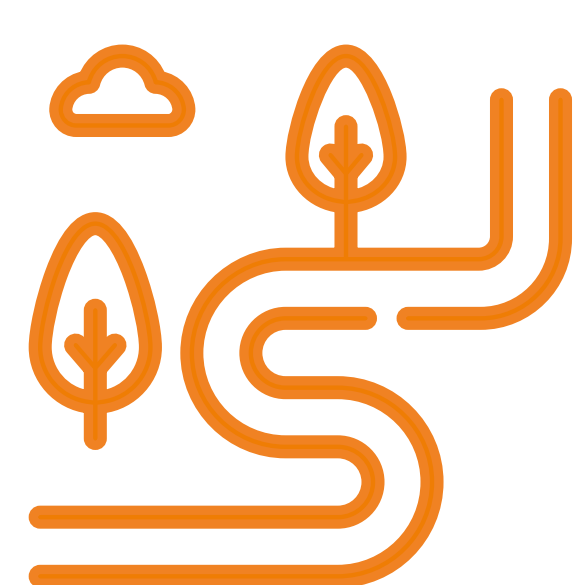
Bird Mitigation Areas

Our Phase Two Proposals

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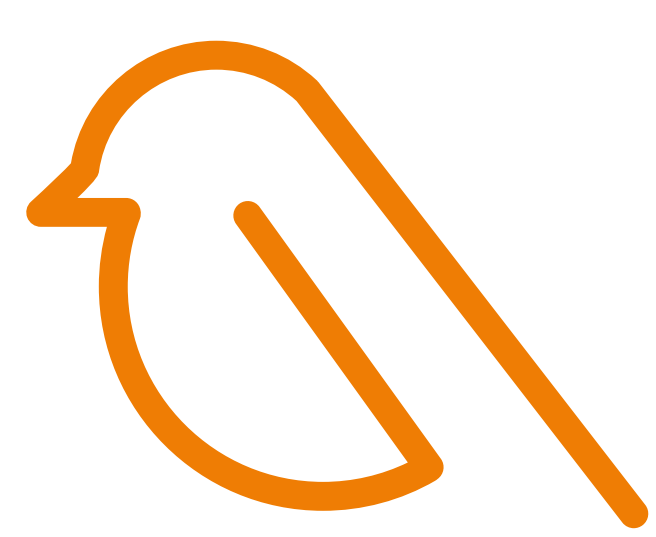
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Fuel Funding

In partnership with organisations focused on providing financial support to households living in fuel poverty.



Employment and Skills Funding

Funding the skills, training and employment initiatives to enable local people to secure wider employment.



Community Funding

Funding for other local projects e.g. community infrastructure, environmental, educational or social initiatives

We welcome and encourage your feedback on any ideas that you may have on where the Frodsham Community Fund could be invested. This is your funding for your community.

You can find out more about our commitment to community involvement on Cubico Renewables' website: www.frodshamsolar.co.uk

Our Design Principles

We want to ensure that the design of Frodsham Solar is developed sensitively and with respect to its surroundings.

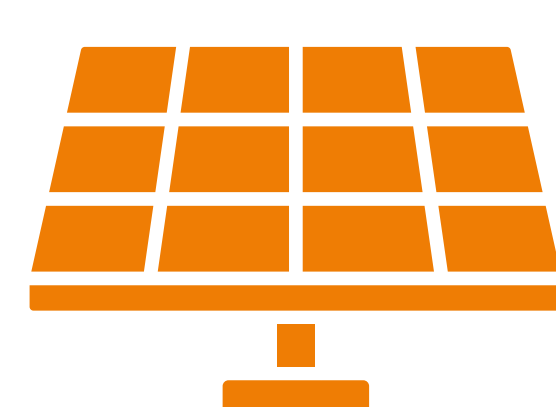
During our first phase of consultation, we spoke about a number of principles that were informing how we would design the project. At our second phase of consultation, we can now speak to a number of design and construction considerations that are included as part of the current design:



To mitigate impacts on the birdlife of the Mersey Estuary, we are proposing to create a Non Breeding Bird Mitigation Area as part of the project.



The project includes over 4.5 km in new permissive paths. Not only will these paths create new circular walks, including a canal and riverside walk by the Manchester Ship Canal and River Weaver, but they can provide educational opportunities for walkers through the installation of information boards and other features to improve visitors’ experience.



The height of the panels is currently expected to be 3.5 metres above ground. The minimum height of the panels will be 0.8 metres in most areas. However, the minimum panel height above ground will be raised to 1.5 metres in areas at higher risk of flooding. The height of the panels will allow sheep grazing across the site.



The most critical electrical infrastructure would be sited on higher ground, away from any onsite flooding. This includes both option areas for the on-site substation and the battery storage system. Supporting electrical equipment that must be installed on lower ground at higher risk of flooding, such as some of the inverters and transformers, will be raised to a minimum of 1.5 metres above ground.



We are looking to plant approximately 3.5 km of new native hedgerows, over 4.5 km and tree and shrub belts, and reinforce over 6 km of existing hedgerow to help create new habitats and mitigate the visual impact of the project. Existing hedgerow will not be removed, except in circumstances where a gap is required for access or cabling. We are seeking to use existing access gates or gaps in hedgerow for these purposes.



Skylark plots will be created in a dedicated skylark mitigation area to provide foraging opportunities and to support the local skylark population.



Construction is expected to last 30 months. During this time, all construction activity will be between 8am and 6pm, with no activity on Sundays or Bank Holidays.



There would be no access to the Site through Frodsham, Helsby, Elton or Ince during construction, operation or decommissioning, other than for emergency vehicles, and access to the potential new visitor carpark proposed at Moorditch Lane, via Brook Furlong.

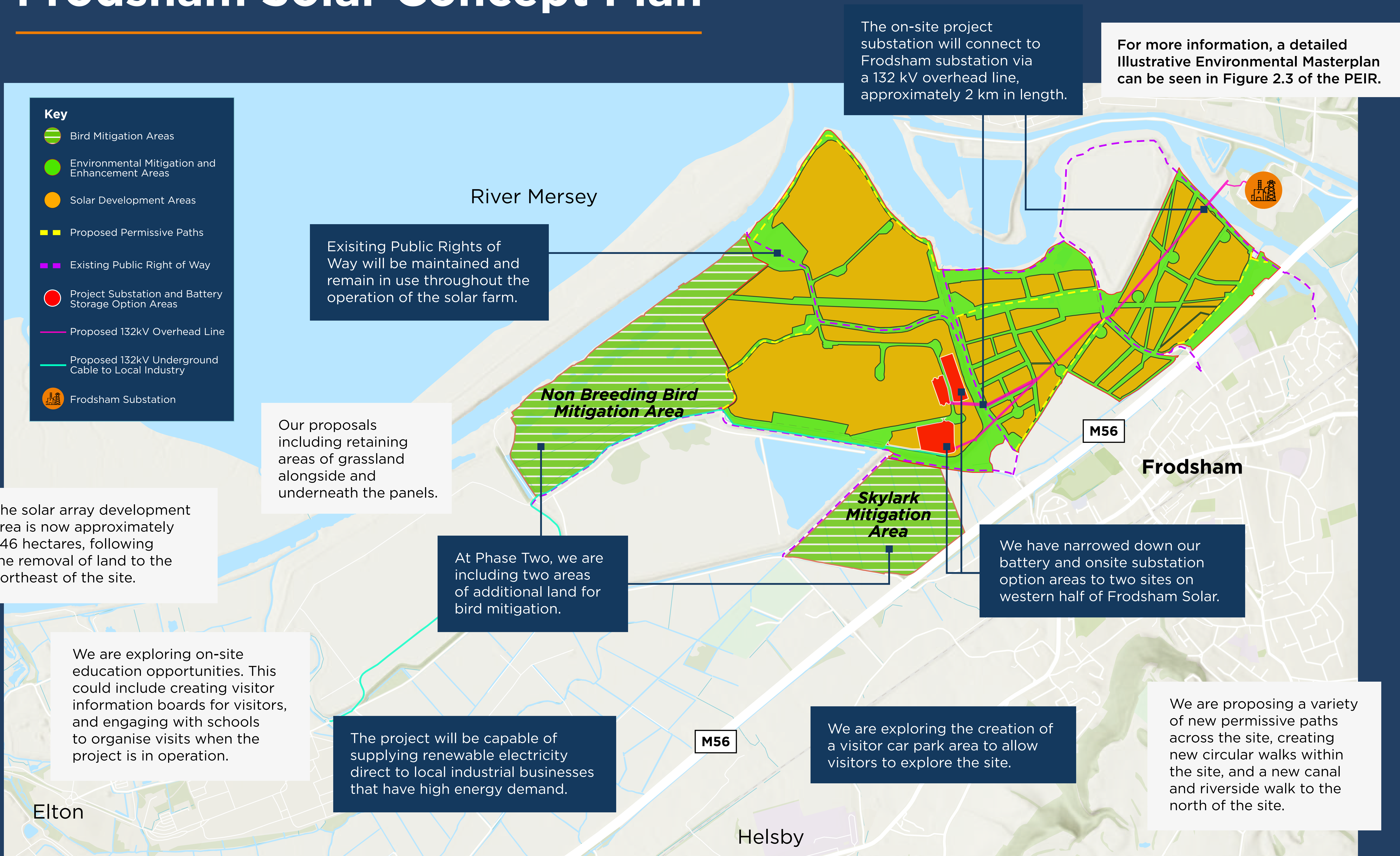
The angle of some panels has been adjusted to mitigate against any glint and glare impacts to road users on the M56.



We will work to drive forward the highest traceability and environmental sustainability standards across all our supply chains, in partnership with our suppliers, the UK solar industry, and our international partners in Europe and beyond.

We are keen to hear your feedback about our approach to design and our design considerations during this phase of consultation.

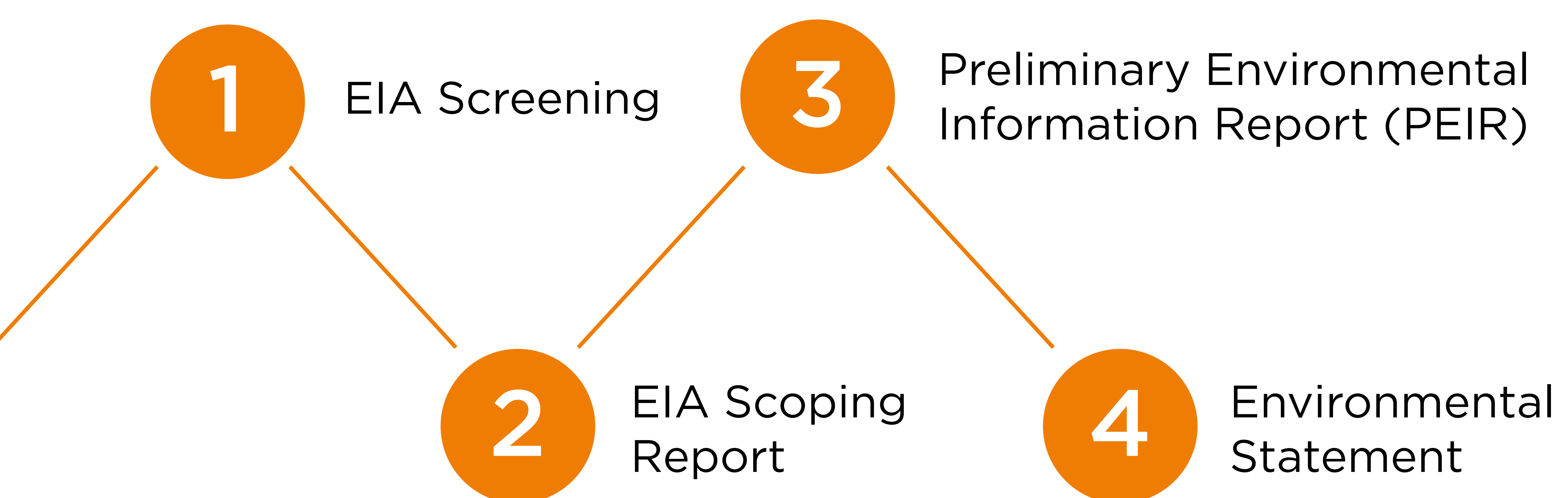
Frodsham Solar Concept Plan



Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

We are undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Frodsham Solar. The purpose of EIA is to identify, describe and assess, the likely significant effects (both adverse and beneficial) of the development on the environment, which includes the effect on people and ecology.

As the Proposed Development is a NSIP, the following are the key EIA reporting stages through to submission of the DCO application:



We are currently at the third stage, as we are consulting on the Preliminary Environmental Information with our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) as part of this statutory phase of consultation.

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

The PEIR produced as part of this consultation is split across three volumes and a range of different topics. The structure of the PEIR is as follows:

- Introduction
- The Proposed Development
- Alternatives and Design Evolution
- EIA Methodology
- Climate Change
- Landscape and Visual Amenity
- Terrestrial Ecology
- Ornithology
- Flood Risk, Surface Water, and Drainage
- Ground Conditions
- Cultural Heritage
- Tourism and Recreation
- Summary of Effects

You can access the full PEIR, along with a shorter 'Non Technical Summary' from the Document Library on our website: www.frodshamsolar.co.uk.

You can also request a hard copy of the PEIR or specific sections of the PEIR via the project's communication channels. Please note that a reasonable charge up to £500 may apply to providing printed copies of the PEIR.

The DCO Process

As the generation capacity for Frodsham Solar is above 50 MW, the project is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) given the amount of low-carbon electricity that the project will be able to generate. If the project is granted consent, it will be given a Development Consent Order (DCO).

The final decision of whether the project gets consent will be decided by the Secretary of State, following a thorough examination period and recommendation carried out by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS).

This process is robust, and we must demonstrate how we have consulted with councils, technical and statutory stakeholders, landowners and members of the community. When we submit our DCO application to PINS, it will be accompanied by a Consultation Report, setting out how we have consulted and how we have considered the feedback that we have received.

Our final DCO Application will also include an Environmental Statement, a document that details how the potential impacts of the project will be mitigated and where possible, environmental enhancements provided. Our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), which we are consulting on during this consultation phase and is available to view online, highlights the assessments that have been undertaken to date, and how we seek to mitigate against impacts.

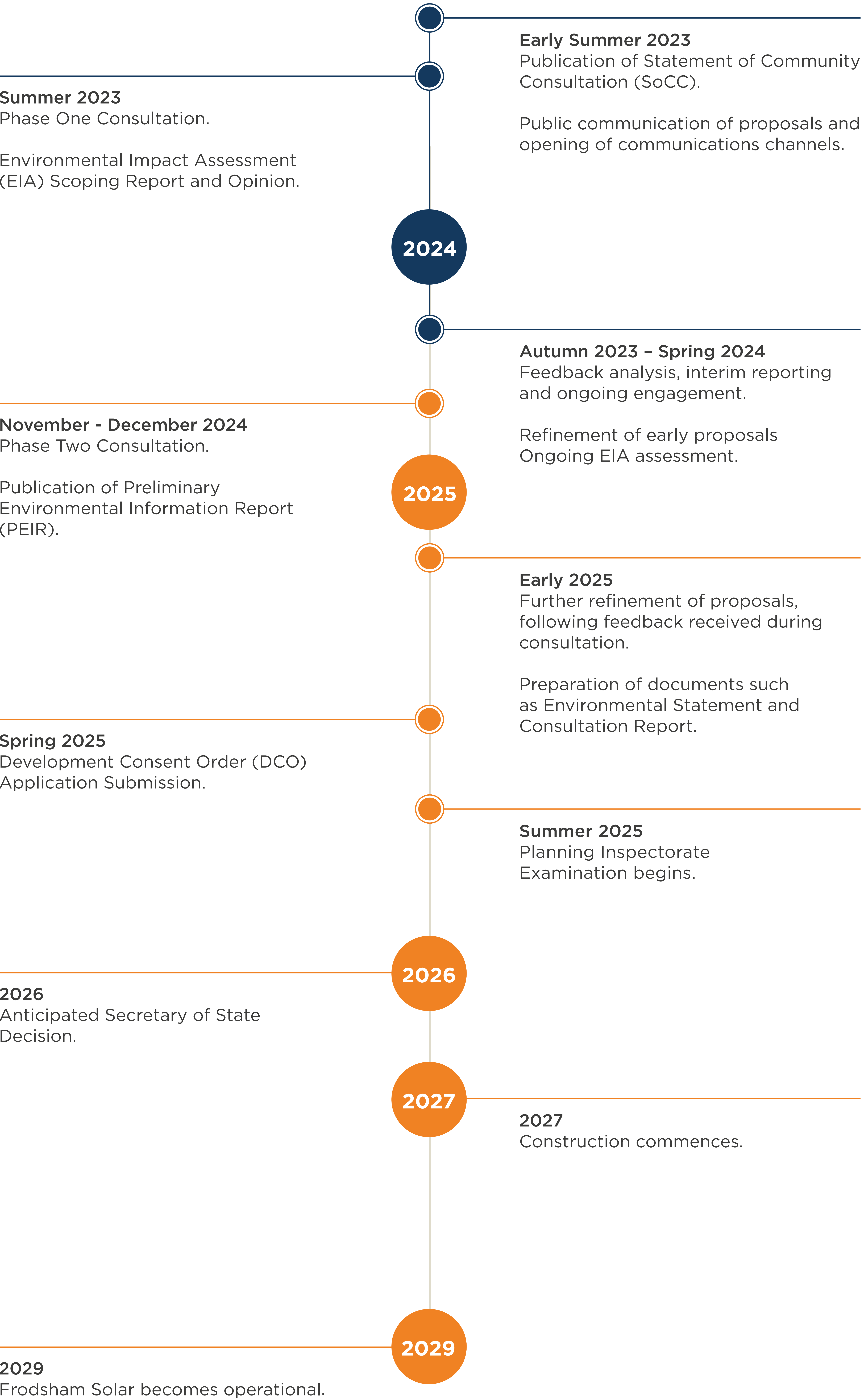
For further information on the DCO application process, please see here: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/>

Stages of the NSIP application process

- 1 Pre-Application ← **WE ARE HERE**
- 2 Acceptance
- 3 Pre-examination
- 4 Examination
- 5 Recommendation and Decision
- 6 Post Decision



Indicative Project Timeline



Have Your Say

Our Phase Two Consultation for Frodsham Solar will run until Thursday 19th December 2024.

We want to hear your feedback on our proposals. We welcome your feedback on any aspect of our proposals, and there are a number of ways you can do this

To have your say, you can:

- By filling in a feedback form at one of our in-person community information events
- By completing our online feedback form on our website: www.frodshamsolar.co.uk
- By posting a feedback form or writing to us free of charge via our freepost address: FREEPOST FRODSHAM SOLAR. **You do not need a stamp.**
- By emailing us at info@frodshamsolar.co.uk

Further information regarding Frodsham Solar can be found on our website: www.frodshamsolar.co.uk

To find out more, please contact a member of our team using any of our communications lines:



Email: info@frodshamsolar.co.uk



Freephone information line: 0808 175 4004

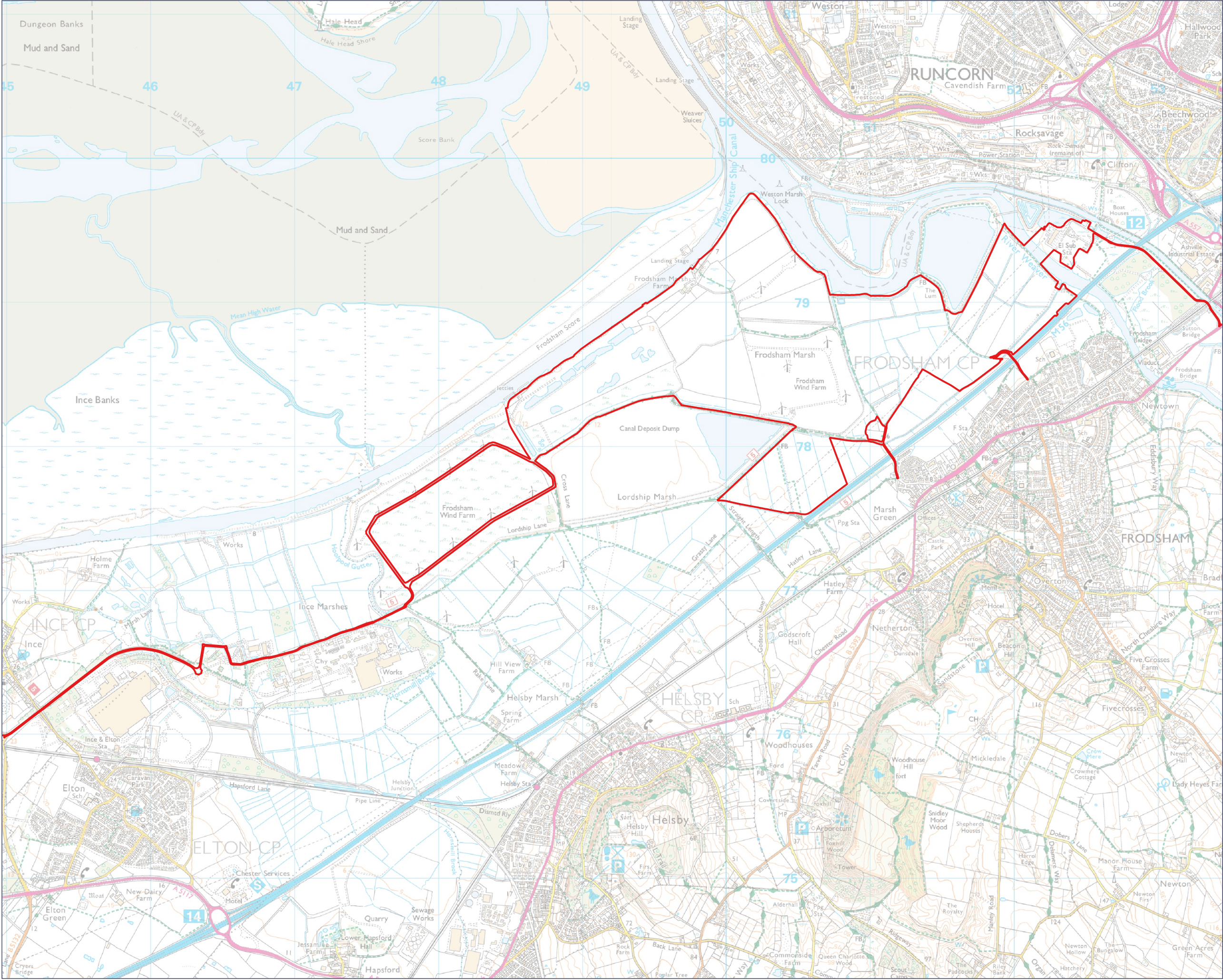


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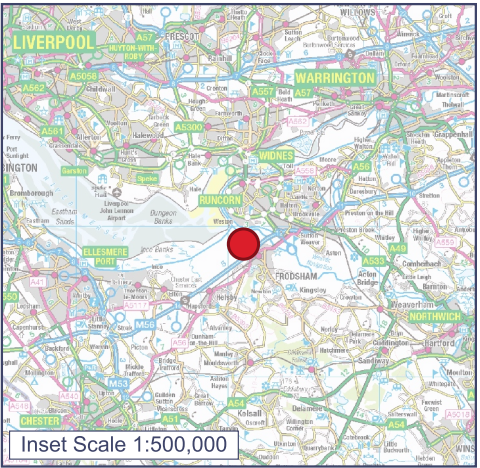


To access our online feedback form, please scan this QR code.

4 Site Location Plan



Draft Order Limits (the Site)



Inset Scale 1:500,000



0344 8700 007
axis.co.uk



Project

**FRODSHAM SOLAR
PEIR**

Figure Number

Figure 1-1

Figure Title

The Site Location

Scale

1:25000@A3

Date

October 2024

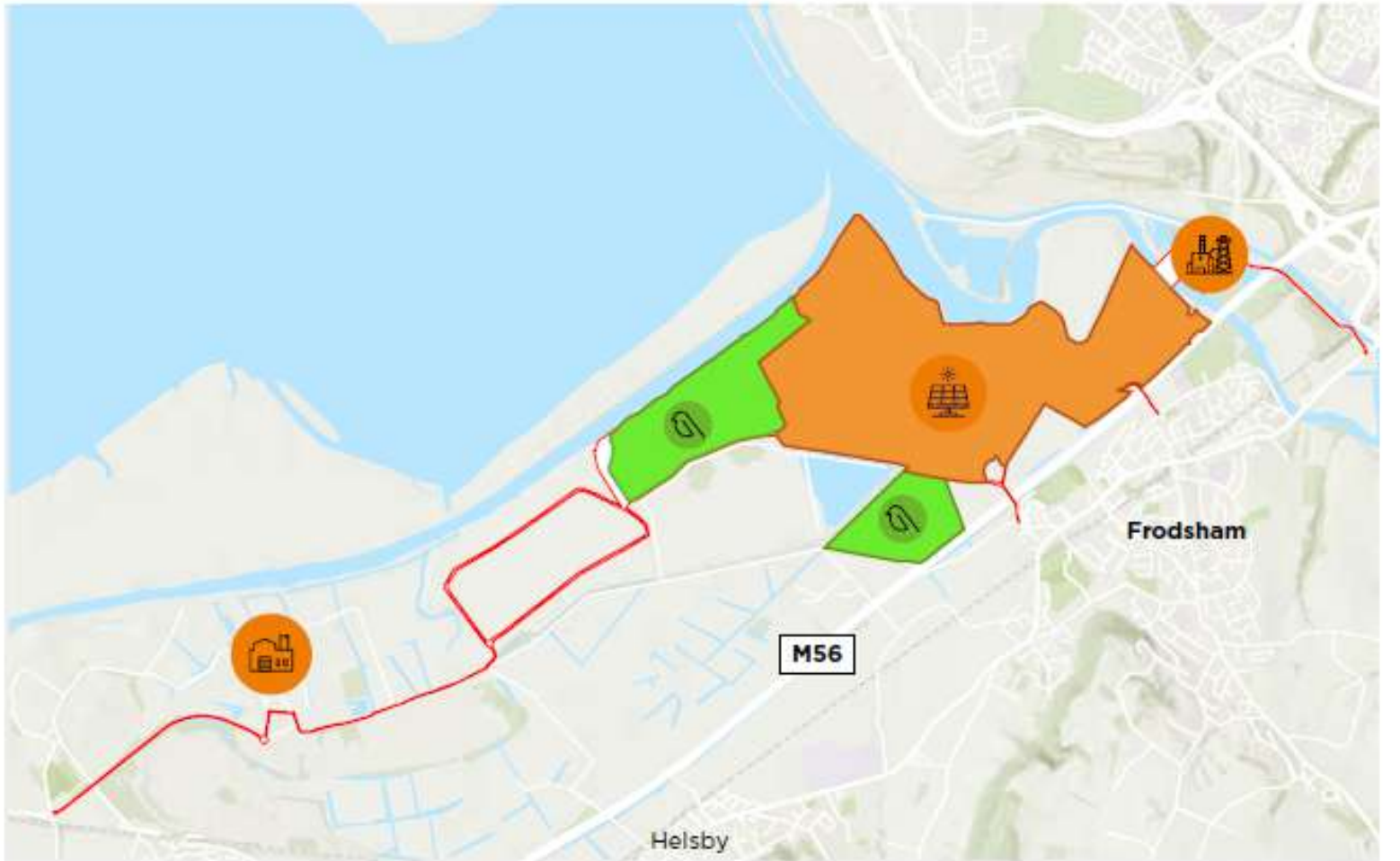


0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 2,500 m

5 Phase Two Concept Plan






The Site

Frodsham Solar sits north of Frodsham, within an area of existing infrastructure including Frodsham Wind Farm, and bordered by the M56, Mersey Estuary, River Weaver and the Manchester Ship Canal.



Frodsham Solar Site Location Map, including PEIR Order Limits

Key

- | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|---|---------------------|---|----------------|
|  | Frodsham Solar |  | Frodsham Substation |  | Local Industry |
|  | Bird Mitigation Areas |  | Draft Order Limits | | |

6 Phase Two Illustrative Masterplan

7 Phase Two Information Posters

Frodsham Solar

Phase Two Consultation

Thursday 7th November – Thursday 19th December 2024

Please come to our drop-in community information events to find out more about our proposals for Frodsham Solar, a solar farm with energy storage, situated north of Frodsham in Cheshire.

Our team will be at the following events for you to speak to them and ask questions about the proposals for Frodsham Solar.

Location	Date & Time
Christchurch Hall, Weston Point Sandy Lane, Weston Point, Runcorn, WA7 4EU	Monday 25th November 3pm – 7pm
Helsby Community Centre Lower Robin Hood Lane, Frodsham, WA6 0BW	Tuesday 26th November 2pm – 6.30pm
Elton Community Centre School Lane, Elton, Chester, CH2 4PU	Friday 29th November 3pm – 7pm
Frodsham Community Centre Fluin Ln, Frodsham, WA6 7QN	Saturday 30th November 1.30pm – 5.30pm
Frodsham Community Centre Fluin Ln, Frodsham, WA6 7QN	Monday 2nd December 2.30pm – 6.30am
Online Community Webinar Zoom – register your attendance via www.frodshamsolar.co.uk	Wednesday 4th December 6pm – 7.30pm

Community Access Points

You can also pick up hard copies of our Phase Two consultation leaflet and feedback form, as well as view our PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS) at one of our Community Access Points (CAPs). Each of the CAPs has computer access to view the full PEIR via the project website: www.frodshamsolar.co.uk

Location	Opening Times
Frodsham Library Princeway, Frodsham, WA6 6RX	Mon – Fri: 9am – 6pm Sat: 9.30am – 1pm
Helsby Library Lower Robin Hood Lane, Helsby, WA6 0BW	Mon and Fri: 9.30am – 5pm Tues and Weds: 9.30am – 7pm Saturday: 9.30am – 1pm
Ellesmere Port Library Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BG	Mon, Thurs and Fri: 9am – 7pm Tues and Weds: 9am – 5pm Sat: 9am – 1pm

If you have any questions about our proposals or our community consultation, please get in touch using the communication lines below:

8 Phase Two Press Release



PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONSULTATION LAUNCHED FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT PROPOSED BY CUBICO SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENTS

Thursday 7th November 2024 - Cubico Sustainable Investments (Cubico) has today launched the second phase of consultation for Frodsham Solar, a proposed solar farm capable of generating approximately 130MW of electricity with an energy storage system, located north of Frodsham in Cheshire. The consultation will run for six weeks until Thursday 19th December 2024.

Through the generation of renewable electricity, and the creation of hundreds of jobs during construction, Frodsham Solar will provide a boost to the existing low-carbon industry in the area, aligning with Net Zero North West's vision for the region to become the world's first zero-carbon industrial cluster by 2040. It also supports Cheshire West and Chester's ambitions to become net zero by 2045.

Subject to receiving consent, Frodsham Solar could be operational by 2029, generating enough clean electricity through ground-mounted solar panels to power over 40,000 homes annually. The proposals include a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility to store and supply electricity when its needed most.

Sharing part of the existing Frodsham Wind Farm and located near to Protos, an important energy and resource hub, the proposals for the site will include the building of infrastructure needed to supply the electricity into the regional distribution network via the existing Frodsham substation. The plans also include a "private-wire connection", enabling power generated by the solar farm to be supplied directly to local industry, and meeting local high demand for power with locally generated clean energy.

The project includes a range of plans to enhance the landscape, support biodiversity, and improve existing public rights of way with 4.5 km of new permissive paths set to be added across the site. Cubico is also committed to providing a Community Fund, providing over £2 million pounds across the life of the project. The fund will support impactful local initiatives that will make a difference to communities and their environment. For example, the community may choose to spend their funding on tackling fuel poverty in the local area, or by funding training and employment initiatives for local people.

After holding a first phase of consultation in June and July 2023, Cubico is holding a second and statutory phase of consultation on its revised plans for six weeks, from today until Thursday 19th December 2024. Frodsham Solar's website, www.frodshamsolar.co.uk, has more details on the project, including a downloadable consultation leaflet and details on how the community can get involved.

Mark Flaherty, Development Manager for Frodsham Solar, said:

“Our plans for Frodsham Solar present an exciting opportunity to strengthen the region’s vibrant low-carbon industry while supporting the UK’s ambitions to produce homegrown clean energy, reduce reliance on fossil fuel imports, and ultimately reduce energy prices for consumers.

“We’re looking forward to launching the second phase of consultation and continuing to build on the positive relationships formed with local communities so far. We encourage everyone who’s interested to get involved – come along to one of our events or share your thoughts by filling out our feedback form.

“Your feedback is really valuable to us, and we’ll take it on board as we continue to refine our plans ahead of submitting an application for consent, planned for Spring next year.”

There are many ways to take part in the consultation. Cubico will be hosting five in-person information events and one online community webinar, where attendees can speak directly to members of the project team. Printed copies of consultation materials will also be available at several locations in the local area, as listed on the project website.

The details of the events are:

Location	Date & Time
Christchurch Hall, Weston Point Sandy Lane, Weston Point, Runcorn, WA7 4EU	Monday 25th November 3pm – 7pm
Helsby Community Centre Lower Robin Hood Lane, Frodsham, WA6 0BW	Tuesday 26th November 2pm – 6.30pm
Elton Community Centre School Lane, Elton, Chester, CH2 4PU	Friday 29th November 3pm – 7pm
Frodsham Community Centre Fluin Ln, Frodsham, WA6 7QN	Saturday 30th November 1.30pm – 5.30pm
Frodsham Community Centre Fluin Lane, Frodsham, WA6 7QN	Monday 2nd December 2.30pm – 6.30pm
Online Community Webinar Via Zoom: Register your attendance here	Wednesday 4th December 6pm – 7.30pm

Anyone interested in the project is invited to provide their feedback in a number of ways, including filling out the online feedback form found on the project website, completing a feedback form at one of the information events, or by writing to the project’s email (info@frodshamsolar.co.uk) or freepost address (FREEPOST FRODSHAM CONSULTATION).

The deadline for receiving feedback is Thursday 19th December 2024.

More information about the proposals can be found on the project website, www.frodshamsolar.co.uk, and if anybody would like to ask questions about the project can do so by emailing info@frodshamsolar.co.uk, calling the freephone information line on 0808 175 4004, or by writing free of charge to FREEPOST FRODSHAM CONSULTATION.

END

Notes to editors:

About Cubico Sustainable Investments

The proposals for Frodsham Solar were introduced last year by a joint venture known as Peel Cubico Renewables.

In January 2024, Cubico Sustainable Investments (Cubico) acquired Peel NRE's 50% stake in Peel Cubico Renewables Ltd. This includes the joint venture's solar development pipeline, meaning that Frodsham Solar is now a Cubico project and Frodsham Solar Limited is wholly owned by Cubico.

The acquisition also included the transfer of the North-West based Peel NRE renewables development team into the Cubico business, ensuring that those that know and have the experience of developing renewable energy in this area remain on the project.

Our Mission is to accelerate change to combat the climate crisis.

About Frodsham Solar – the development process

Frodsham Solar has an anticipated generation capacity of approximately 130 MW. As this is above 50 MW, the project is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). This means that a Development Consent Order (DCO) application, as outlined in the Planning Act 2008, will need to be submitted to construct, operate and decommission the Project.

For energy-related NSIPs, the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), acting on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), will carry out an examination of the application and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State on whether to grant consent for the Project. Consent is then determined by the Secretary of State.

Following the close of the second stage of consultation in December 2024, the team will further refine the proposals (in response to feedback received) and prepare the DCO application for submission. The DCO application is expected to be submitted to PINS in Spring 2025.

Should the project receive consent from the Secretary of State, construction could begin in 2027.

Media contact

For media enquiries, please contact the project community relations team by emailing info@frodshamsolar.co.uk or calling 0808 175 4004.

Project information

Please find enclosed a copy of the 'Frodsham Solar Site Location Map'.

The project community relations team can be contacted directly using any of the details below:

Email: info@frodshamsolar.co.uk

Freephone information line: 0808 175 4004 (open 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, with an answerphone facility to take messages outside of these times).

Freepost: FREEPOST FRODSHAM CONSULTATION (no stamp or further address details required).

For more information about the proposed development, please visit the project website www.frodshamsolar.co.uk

Enclosed: Frodsham Solar Site Location Map

9 List of Publications Press Release Was Issued to

Publication	
New Statesman	ITV/Good Morning Britain
Infrastructure Investor	The I Paper
Runcorn Weekly News	BBC News Online - Science / Nature
The Sunday Telegraph	Sunday Mirror
Energy Live News	Thomson Reuters
The Economist - UK	Channel 4
BBC News Online - Liverpool Bureau	Good News Liverpool
Power Engineering International	The Telegraph
PV Magazine	Clean Energy Pipeline
Good Energy	Renewables & Environment
Daily Express	The Independent
Daily Mail	The Sunday Times
Ellesmere Port Standard	The Guardian
Inspiratia	The Observer
Reuters	BBC News Online
Solar Power Portal	Climate Home News
Sky News	Solar Power World
Chester Standard	Bloomberg - Renewable Energy
PV Tech	Refinitiv
Telegraph Business	1st Energy News
Energy Voice	Carbon Brief
Frodsham Life	Current News
PES - Power & Energy Solutions	Energy Engineering
1st Energy News	Daily Telegraph Environment
Carbon Brief	Scottish Energy News
Current News	The Sun
Energy Engineering	World of Renewables
The Energyst	WorldofPhotovoltaics.com
Recharge	BBC Science Editor
Renewables Now	Financial Times
reNews	Carbon Capture Journal
Planning Magazine	Energy CIO Insights
New Scientist	Renewables Investor
Carbon Pulse	The Mail on Sunday
SparkSpread / Inframation	CNBC
BBC Radio 4 - Farming Today	Solar+Power Management
Chester Chronicle	UNEF
Solar Magazine	The Times