



Peartree Hill Solar Farm

Consultation Report Appendices Part F

Application Document Ref: EN010157/APP/5.2
February 2025

Planning Act 2008
Infrastructure Planning
(Applications: Prescribed Forms
and Procedure) Regulations 2009 –
Regulation 5(2)(q)



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1.1 Purpose of this document

- 1.1.1 This document the Consultation Report Appendices contains information relevant to the **Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1]**. The Consultation Report has been prepared by RWE (as the Applicant) to accompany an application for a Development Consent Order for Peartree Hill Solar Farm (the Proposed Development).
- 1.1.1. The report is submitted in accordance with section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008), which requires that any application for an order granting development consent must be accompanied by a consultation report.
- 1.1.2. This document contains information which evidences or supports the information provided in the **Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1]**.

1.2 Structure of this document

- 1.2.1. The Appendices are as far as possible the order that are referenced within that report.
- 1.2.2 A list is provided below in Table 1-1 of the documents within Appendix F.

Table 1-1 List of documents in Appendix E

Appendix No.	Appendix Title
Appendix F-1	Community newsletter
Appendix F-2	Consultation brochure
Appendix F-3	Consultation feedback form
Appendix F-4	Freepost envelope
Appendix F-5	Non-technical summary of PEIR
Appendix F-6.1	Consultation poster
Appendix F-6.2	List of consultation poster locations
Appendix F-7	Consultation banners

Appendix F-8.1	Photos of Leven consultation event
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Appendix F-8.4	Photos of Cottingham consultation event
Appendix F-9.1	Photos of Tickton deposit point
Appendix F-9.2	Photos of Leven deposit point
Appendix F-9.3	Photos of Beverley deposit point
Appendix F-10	Example of social media posts during statutory consultation
Appendix F-11	Website screenshots
Appendix F-12	Webinar presentation
Appendix F-13.1	Statutory consultation launch press release
Appendix F-13.2	Statutory consultation reminder press release
Appendix F-13.3	List of media outlets the press release was sent to
Appendix F-13.4	Media coverage



Appendix F-1 Community newsletter



Peartree Hill Solar Farm

Statutory Consultation

Wednesday 15 May - Wednesday 26 June 2024



RWE (previously JBM Solar) is commencing its statutory consultation on proposals for Peartree Hill Solar Farm, a new solar farm project with battery storage in East Riding of Yorkshire.

As Peartree Hill would generate over 50MW of electricity, it is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and will proceed through the Development Consent Order (DCO) planning process.

Why solar?

Our energy system is vulnerable to changes in global energy prices, directly impacting UK bills. Our proposals for Peartree Hill will help to address this, supporting the UK to become a more independent and self-sufficient energy-producing nation.

As one of the cheapest and most rapidly deployable forms of renewable energy, solar will play an important role in bolstering the UK's energy security, while supporting the UK's net zero commitments.

Seeking your views

We were pleased so many local residents and stakeholders took part in our non-statutory consultation last year. Feedback received, alongside the emerging findings from environmental and technical assessments, has helped to shape our proposals.

We now want to hear your thoughts on the updated design of Peartree Hill.


The statutory consultation will run from **Wednesday 15 May** lasting six weeks, until **11:59pm on Wednesday 26 June 2024**.


Your input is important to us, and we look forward to your active participation in shaping the proposals further, ahead of submitting our application for a DCO to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.


What has changed?


In response to feedback, we have significantly reduced the areas proposed for solar panels, with large buffers added near homes, as well as increased ecological areas and additional planting to screen views of solar infrastructure from residential areas, roads and footpaths. We have also added permissive paths throughout the site, providing up to 7km of new recreational walking routes for local people.


Our proposals


- 


Contributing **320MW of clean electricity to the national grid**, enough to power the equivalent of approximately 167,000¹ homes – that’s more than every home in Hull!
- 


Supporting the UK’s net zero targets by **displacing over 11,400,000 tonnes of CO₂** from equivalent fossil fuel energy – that equates to taking c.166,000 cars off the road each year.
- 


Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) on-site, ensuring the solar farm can be as flexible and as efficient as possible in delivering energy to the grid.
- 


Over 95% of the solar panel areas can be made available for sheep grazing, retaining an agricultural use and allowing topsoil to recover, by increasing soil organic matter and improving soil structure.
- 

Over 50% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) to be delivered on-site, providing ecological enhancements through new and improved habitats, such as wildflower meadows, grassland areas, bird and bat nesting boxes, and beehives.
- 

RWE will provide **a community benefit fund of up to £4.2 million** to support local community groups and initiatives.
- 

Around £18.5 million generated in business rates over the lifetime of the project, to be used by East Riding of Yorkshire Council to fund important local services.
- 

Providing **additional opportunities for public recreation**, with up to 7km of proposed new permissive paths across the site, outdoor picnic areas, benches, wildflower meadows and community orchards.
- 

Up to 15km of proposed new hedgerow and trees including a mix of mature and semi-mature tree planting to further improve visual screening and habitat creation.
- 

Educational opportunities introduced across the site, including an outdoor classroom area, information boards and educational trails, providing information about local wildlife, historical features and renewable energy generation.

Who is RWE?

The initial plans for Peartree Hill were presented by JBM Solar during the non-statutory consultation. We are proud to announce that JBM Solar has now been acquired by RWE, one of the three largest solar developers in the UK. It is RWE’s ambition to have a carbon neutral energy portfolio by 2040, providing clean, secure and affordable energy to millions of households.

Proposals for Peartree Hill are still led by the same knowledgeable team with the same values. As part of RWE, Peartree Hill will now benefit from over 125 years of energy expertise, through design, construction, and operation.

Key Milestones

- 

October 2023
Early stage (non-statutory) consultation

Winter 2023/24
Review all community feedback and refine design

Winter/Spring 2024
Ongoing environmental impact assessment and further design refinement

Spring 2024
Statutory public consultation on more progressed proposals and the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

Summer 2024
Review all community feedback and assessments and refine the design

Autumn/Winter 2024
Development Consent Order application submitted

2025
Examination of the Development Consent Order

2026
Determination of Development Consent Order application by Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero

Peartree Hill Illustrative Masterplan

For more details on the proposals for each land area, please visit the consultation website, pick up a brochure or attend one of our public events.



¹ Calculated based on 2022 generation, and assuming average (mean) annual household consumption of 3,240kWh, based on latest (Jan 2024) statistics from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero.



How to get involved!

We hope that you will take the opportunity to learn more about Peartree Hill and help shape the development proposals. The deadline for responses is **11:59pm on Wednesday 26 June 2024**. Here is how you can get involved:

Visit Our Website

View our proposals, learn more about solar and provide us with your feedback by visiting our consultation website at peartreehillsolar.co.uk.

You can also register for updates to ensure you receive important notifications about Peartree Hill as the project progresses.

Contact Us

If you have any questions, suggestions, or would like to provide feedback on our proposals, our dedicated team is here to assist you. You can reach us via:

 **01482 695 004**

 **info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk**

 **FREEPOST PEARTREE HILL SOLAR FARM**

Follow us on Social Media

Connect with us on Facebook to stay informed, receive project updates, and engage in online discussions. Find us on Facebook using fb.com/peartreehillsolarfarm.

Unable to get online?

If you are unable to access the internet, have any accessibility requirements or would prefer a hard copy of our material please contact us on our dedicated phonenumber at: **01482 695 004**.

A member of our team would be happy to arrange for copies of the consultation information to be sent in the post, in the format required, or to record your feedback over the phone.

Scan the QR code to visit
our consultation website:
peartreehillsolar.co.uk



Join us at our Consultation Events

Join us at our in-person consultation events or webinars to engage directly with our project team, ask questions, and share your thoughts. You'll find a full list of event details below:

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday 21 May 2024	1pm-7pm	Cottingham Civic Hall , Market Green, Cottingham, HU16 5QG
Wednesday 22 May 2024	1pm-7pm	Leven Village Hall , North Street, Leven, HU17 5NF
Tuesday 28 May 2024	6.30pm-8pm	Online Webinar (Register at peartreehillsolar.co.uk)
Saturday 1 June 2024	11am-3pm	Tickton Village Hall , Main Street, Tickton, HU17 9RZ
Monday 3 June 2024	1pm-6.30pm	Wawne Village Hall , 36 Main Street, Wawne, HU7 5XH
Wednesday 12 June 2024	6.30pm-8pm	Online Webinar (Register at peartreehillsolar.co.uk)

Deposit Locations

A physical copy of the consultation documents, along with feedback forms and Freepost envelopes, will be available for inspection at a number of deposit locations throughout the consultation period.

A hard copy of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report can be requested for a charge £0.35 per page to cover printing and posting costs.

Locations	Opening times*
Beverley Library , Champney Road, Beverley, HU17 8HE	Monday 9:30am-5pm Tuesday 9:30am-8pm Wednesday 9:30am-5pm Thursday 9:30am-8pm Friday 9:30am-5pm Saturday 9am-4pm Sunday closed
Leven Library , Recreation Hall, East Street, Leven, Beverley, HU17 5NG	Wednesday 10:30am-12:30pm, 3:30pm-7pm

Consultation documents will also available to view at Tickton Village Hall (Main Street, Tickton, HU17 9RZ) when the village hall is open.

*subject to change on bank holidays

Appendix F-2 Consultation brochure

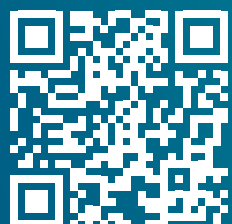


Peartree Hill Solar Farm

Statutory Consultation Brochure

Wednesday 15 May - Wednesday 26 June 2024

Scan the QR code to visit
our consultation website:
peartreehillsolar.co.uk



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Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the consultation on our proposals for a new solar project in East Riding of Yorkshire.

RWE Renewables UK Solar & Storage is launching its statutory consultation on proposals for Peartree Hill Solar Farm, a solar and battery storage project that would provide 320MW of clean energy, enough to power the equivalent of approximately 167,000 homes¹. Peartree Hill would play a key role in supporting the UK's energy ambitions, improving energy security, while supporting the transition away from fossil fuels.

Peartree Hill would establish a connection, via underground cables, to the existing Creyke Beck Substation, which will transfer the electricity to the national network. The exact route of this cable route has not yet been determined but has been refined since our preliminary consultation.

As Peartree Hill would generate over 50MW of electricity, it is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and will be subject to the Development Consent Order (DCO) planning process, meaning that the final decision on whether Peartree Hill is consented will be made by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.

About the consultation

Our statutory consultation will run from **Wednesday 15 May 2024, lasting for six weeks, until 11:59pm on Wednesday 26 June 2024**. The consultation introduces our revised proposals, which have been informed by comprehensive surveys and valuable feedback received during our initial consultation phase.

While we welcome feedback on all aspects of Peartree Hill, local insight on the below areas would be particularly valuable in helping to shape the final design that will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate:

- The overall vision for Peartree Hill
- The updated illustrative masterplan, setting out the layout of the project
- The remaining cable route corridors under consideration to connect Peartree Hill to Creyke Beck Substation
- Measures proposed to avoid or minimise impacts identified in our preliminary environmental assessments
- Community benefits
- Anything else you want to tell us about our work so far

More details about the statutory consultation, public events and how to contact the project team can be found on **Page 23** of this brochure.

Who is RWE?

The initial plans for Peartree Hill Solar Farm were presented by JBM Solar during the non-statutory consultation in Autumn 2023. We are proud to announce that JBM Solar has now been acquired by RWE, one of the top three largest solar developers in the UK.

Proposals for Peartree Hill are still led by the same knowledgeable team with the same values. As part of RWE, Peartree Hill will now benefit from over 125 years of energy expertise, through design, construction, and operation.

It is RWE's ambition to have a carbon neutral energy portfolio by 2040, providing clean, secure, and affordable energy to millions of households.

¹ Based on 2022 generation, and assuming average (mean) annual household consumption of 3,240kWh, based on latest (Jan 2024) statistics from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero.

What you have told us so far

Thank you to all those who took part in our non-statutory consultation in Autumn 2023. The feedback received from the local community has helped to guide the development of our plans.

Over 100 responses were received from the local community during our non-statutory consultation, all of which have been considered and responded to as part of our non-statutory consultation report, published in January 2024.

The non-statutory consultation report is available on the project website at: peartreehillsolar.co.uk/documents

You Said	We did
We received comments regarding the size of the Land Areas presented at non-statutory consultation and concerns regarding potential visual impact.	<p>Within the Land Areas, we have reduced the area proposed for solar panels, and associated infrastructure. This has enabled the addition of appropriate buffers to homes, villages and environmental features closest to the site.</p> <p>Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Area A: increased the environmental mitigation and enhancement area in the northern part of the Land Area, which also minimises potential impacts on identified below-ground archaeology. • Land Area B: removed an area (0.44 hectares) in the southern part of Land Area B from being solar development. • Land Area C: set back solar areas to reduce visual impact on local properties. • Land Area D: set back solar areas to reduce visual impact on local properties and removed solar panels near Meaux Deserted Medieval Village to protect its setting. • Land Area E: removed two fields from solar development to be used for environmental mitigation and enhancement, reducing the impact on nearby properties. • Land Area F: removed solar panels from areas to minimise potential impacts on below-ground archaeology.
We received comments on land use and ensuring impacts on ecology are mitigated.	<p>We have increased the areas that are proposed for ecological mitigation, ecological enhancement and land retained for agricultural use. Together, these non-solar areas now make up 10.2% of the total site.</p> <p>Our illustrative masterplan includes proposed locations for outdoor classrooms, wildflower meadows and amenity spaces.</p>
We received comments about the visual impact of the solar farm.	We have progressed our plans to include new planting across the site to screen views of solar infrastructure from residential areas, roads and footpaths.
We received comments outlining the desire for Peartree Hill to include public rights of way, bridleways and new permissive paths (a route which can be used by the public during the lifetime of the project, but will not become a permanent right of way).	We have progressed our plans to include new permissive paths, which could provide up to 7km of new walking routes , whilst also exploring opportunities for horse riders in some areas. We are seeking feedback on our proposed permissive path routes as part of this consultation.
We received comments outlining the importance of locating battery energy storage and on-site substations with consideration to location, visibility and noise.	<p>We have progressed the site configuration to consider siting the two on-site substations in the illustrative Land Areas C and E, alongside battery storage. Please see masterplan on Page 9.</p> <p>We will be undertaking further noise assessments to inform the mitigation and screening required to minimise likely significant effects regarding local noise.</p>

Why do we need solar?

Solar's role in supporting national energy ambitions

While the UK has been making steady progress towards decarbonisation and reducing reliance on fossil fuels, our energy system is not self-sufficient. It is therefore vulnerable to changes in global energy prices, impacting people's energy bills.

Solar power is a vital part of the energy mix helping the UK meet its net zero targets, while becoming less reliant on expensive fossil fuel imports for electricity and heating.

The UK has a legally binding commitment **to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050**. As one of the cheapest and most rapidly deployable forms of renewable energy, solar will play an important role in achieving this commitment.

The UK Government has set an expectation of reaching **70GW of installed solar capacity by 2035**, a five-fold increase on the current installed capacity, and our proposals for Peartree Hill would make a key contribution towards achieving this ambition.

The urgent need for renewable energy is further supported by the Overarching National Policy Statements for Energy (designated January 2024) which recognises all low carbon technology, including solar, as **Critical National Infrastructure**. This is a step-change in support for solar, reflecting the role that the Government considers it will play in meeting net zero targets.

In 2021, **East Riding of Yorkshire Council declared a climate emergency** and has committed to achieving Net Zero through the reduction of its own emissions to assist with national and regional decarbonisation goals.



Our Proposals

Peartree Hill is made up of several areas of land (currently named Land Areas A-F), with the areas being connected by a series of underground cables. Peartree Hill would establish a grid connection via underground cables to the Creyke Beck Substation, which would transfer the electricity to the National Electricity Network.

The most northern part of the site is located northwest of Leven, with the remainder of the site to be located on land between the villages of Tickton, Riston, Wawne, Weel and Woodmansey.

Proposals at a glance



Contributing 320MW of clean electricity to the national grid, enough to power the equivalent of **approximately 167,000 homes²** – that's more than every home in Hull!



Supporting the UK's net zero targets by displacing over 11,400,000 tonnes of CO₂ from equivalent fossil fuel energy – that equates to taking c. **166,000 cars off the road for a year**.



Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) on-site, ensuring the solar farm can be as **flexible as possible in delivering energy** to the grid.



Over 95% of the solar panel areas can be made available for sheep grazing, **retaining an agricultural use** and allowing topsoil to recover, by increasing soil organic matter and improving the soil structure.



Over 50% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) to be delivered on-site, providing new and improved habitats, such as wildflower meadows, grassland areas, bird and bat nesting boxes, and beehives.



Providing **additional opportunities for public recreation**, with up to 7km of proposed new permissive paths across the site, outdoor picnic areas and classrooms, new signage, benches and community orchards.



Up to 15km of proposed new hedgerows and trees, including a mix of mature and semi-mature tree planting to further improve visual screening and habitat creation.



Educational opportunities introduced across the site, including an outdoor classroom area, information boards and educational trails, providing **information about local wildlife, historical features and renewable energy generation**.



RWE would provide a **community benefit fund of up to £4.2 million** to support local community groups and initiatives.



Around **£18.5m generated in business rates** over the lifetime of Peartree Hill, to be used by East Riding of Yorkshire Council to fund important local services.



² Based on 2022 generation, and assuming average (mean) annual household consumption of 3,240kWh, based on latest (Jan 2024) statistics from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

Components of Peartree Hill Solar Farm

Peartree Hill would include the below necessary components, along with a range of environmental mitigation and enhancements, as well as new community assets.

Solar panels and associated mounting structures

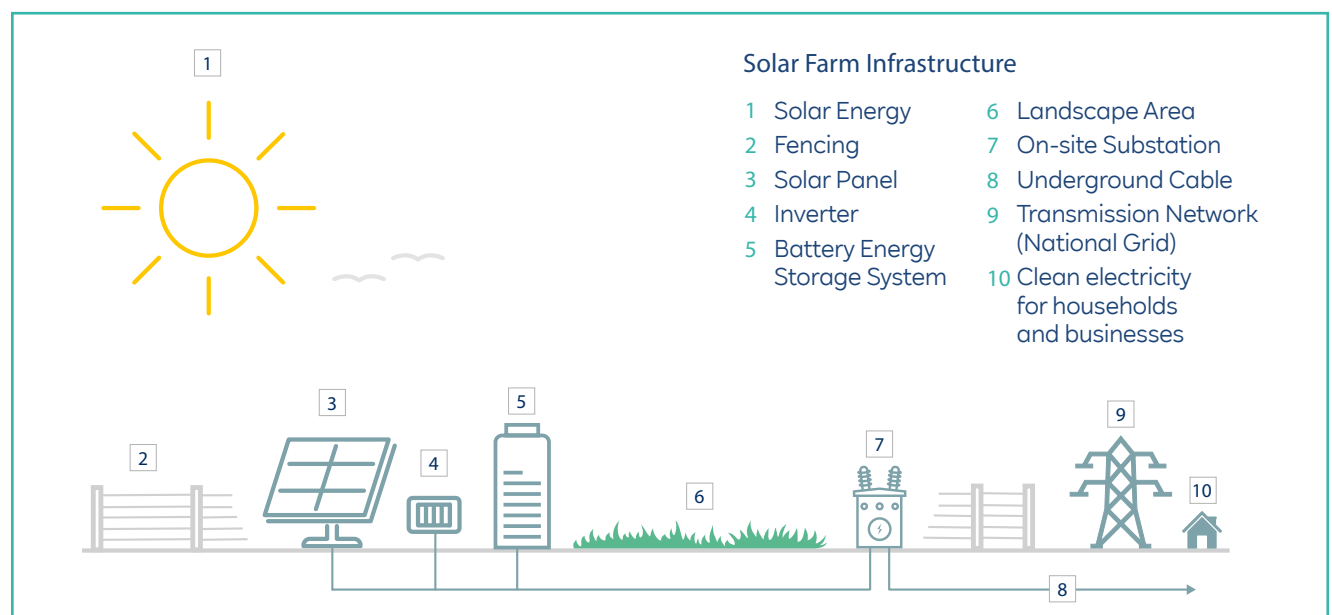
- Solar panels harness the sun's rays and convert them into electricity. The panels proposed would reach a maximum height of 3.5m and will be made of a frame (typically aluminium), glass, crystalline silicon solar cells, and copper wiring, all of which can be extracted, separated, and recycled or reused.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

- Battery storage is an integral component of renewable energy technologies, storing excess energy during periods of peak generation or low demand and releasing it during peak demand or in case of power outages. This safe and proven technology would support Peartree Hill to generate a consistent and reliable renewably generated power supply, even when the sun is not shining.

Other infrastructure

- On-site supporting equipment including inverters, transformers, and switchgears.
- Two on-site substations to connect the solar panels to the electricity network.
- Underground cabling connecting solar panel areas to the on-site substations, to other Land Areas and to Creyke Beck Substation.
- Supporting infrastructure including access tracks, security measures, gates and fencing, lighting, drainage infrastructure and storage containers.
- Highways works to enable construction for example, additional passing places.



Design Principles

The illustrative masterplan for Peartree Hill can be viewed on **page 9**. The draft Order Limits are shown as a red line on the plan and are the limits of the land proposed to be acquired or used permanently or temporarily for Peartree Hill in accordance with the DCO. Throughout the design evolution of Peartree Hill, we have and will continue to be, guided by our strategic design principles:

Climate

Designing the project to be climate resilient and sustainable through design, construction and long-term maintenance.



People

Respecting local amenities, optimising site use for inclusive active living, and maintaining effective community communication.



Place

Considering efficient land use, responding to local character, and ensuring effective place-keeping through committed management arrangements.



Environment

Maximising net environmental gains, minimising harmful impacts, ensuring climate-resilient water management, enhancing wildlife biodiversity, and establishing effective ecological links.



For more information on design principles, please view the PEIR.

Community Benefit Fund

Beyond the benefits of the Peartree Hill, RWE wants to give back to the local community and is committed to providing a community investment fund that can be used to support a wide variety of community projects over the lifetime of the solar farm.

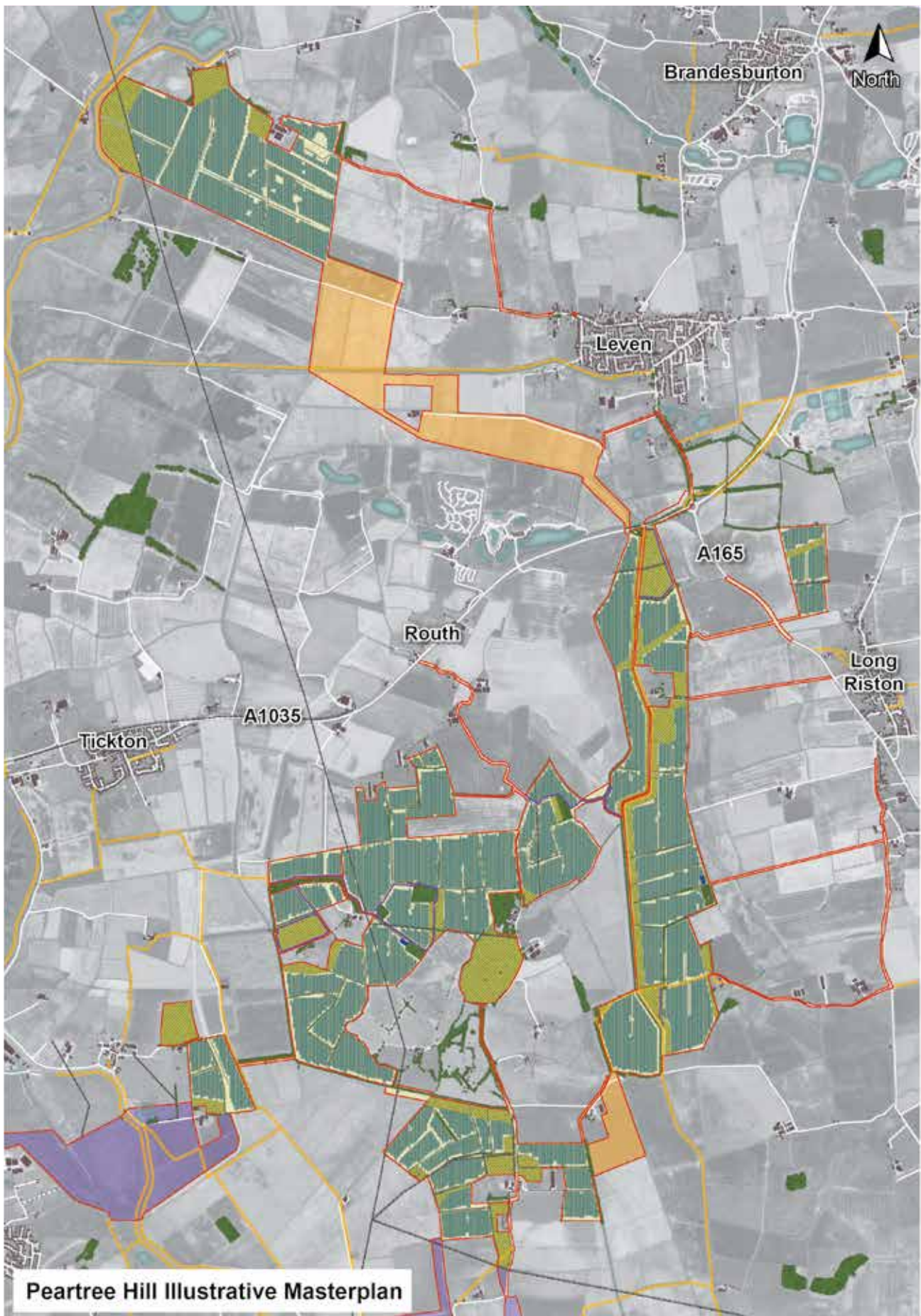
Typically RWE community funds are managed by an independent third party who support fund applicants to ensure the funds are as accessible as possible, and recruit a panel of local people to make decisions on fund allocations. We are proposing to provide up to £4.2 million over the lifetime of the Peartree Hill.

This would take the form of annual payments spread across the 40-year lifespan of Peartree Hill's operation.

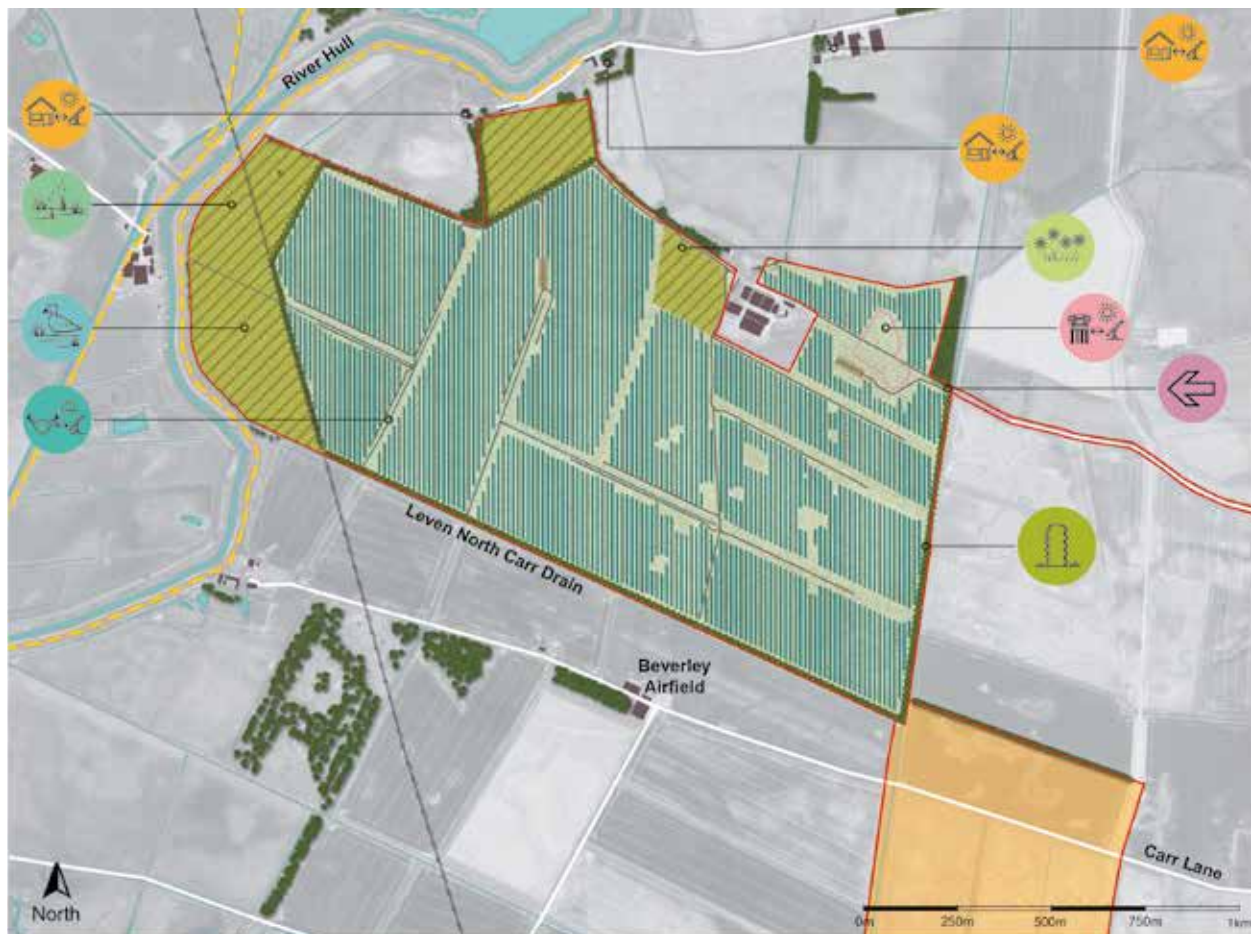
RWE has a long track record for involving communities in shaping how their funds are developed and we would welcome feedback on your ideas for how such funding might benefit your local area. You can visit our website to find out more about how RWE community funds are benefitting local communities: <http://www.rwe.com/in-your-community>



Peartree Hill Illustrative Masterplan



Land area A: Land South of High and Low Baswick

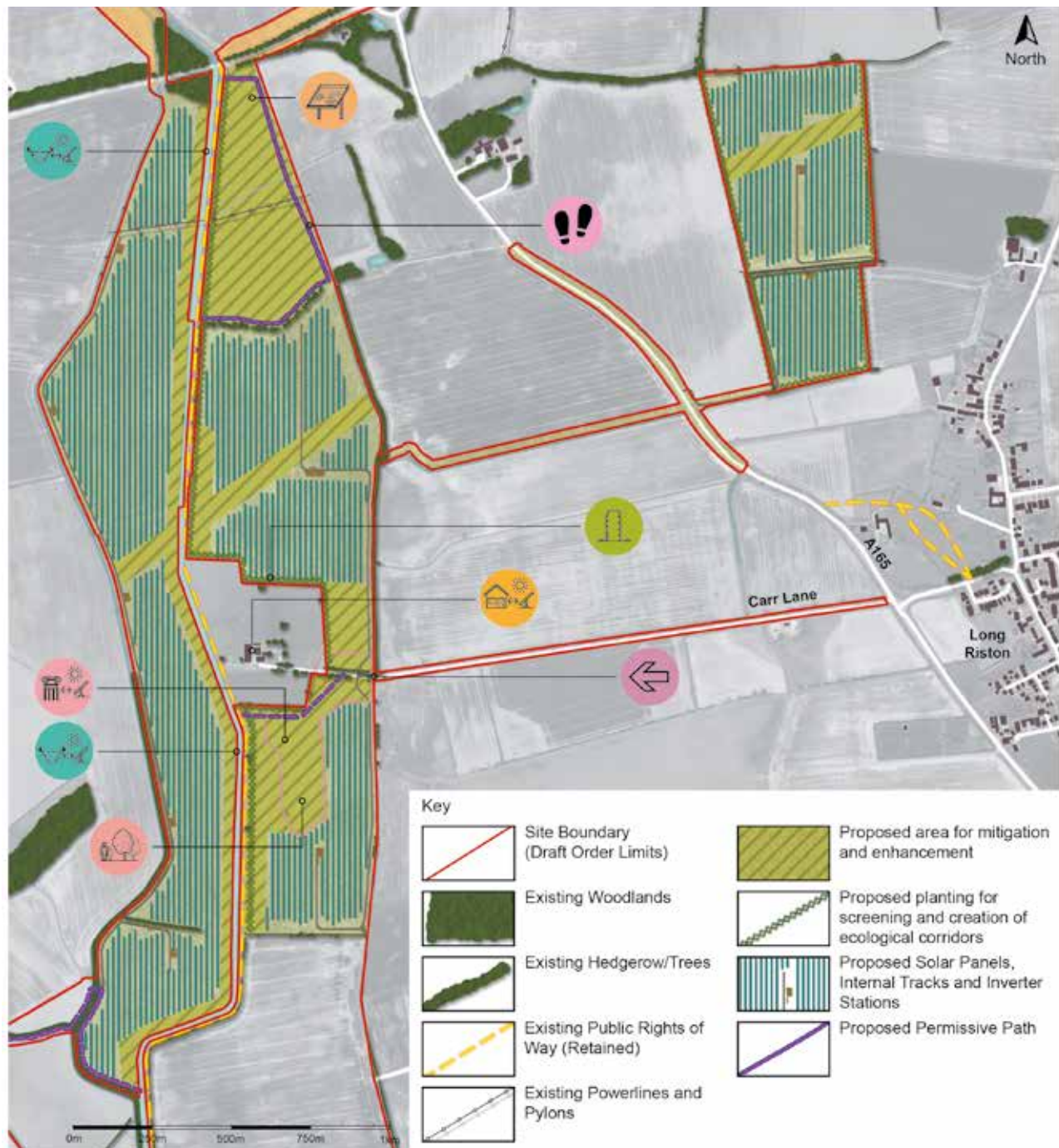


Key

	Site Boundary (Draft Order Limits)
	Existing Woodlands
	Existing Hedgerow/Trees
	Existing Public Rights of Way (Retained)
	Existing Powerlines and Pylons
	Proposed area for mitigation and enhancement
	Proposed new and infill planting for screening and creation of ecological corridors
	Proposed Solar Panels and Internal Tracks
	Proposed Inverter Stations
	Proposed Interconnecting Cable Corridor

	Residential Property Minimum 50m offset between solar development and residential properties
	Archaeological Buffer Minimum 20m buffer from non-designated heritage asset
	Primary Access Proposed Operational Access
	Waterfowl Habitat Supporting existing populations by creating additional habitat
	Watercourse and Drainage Ditch Buffer Minimum 8m offset from existing watercourses and drainage ditches
	Floodplain Grassland Creation Creating a biodiverse area of grassland alongside the River Hull
	Proposed Screening Planting Proposed hedgerow to site boundary
	Wildflower Meadow/Margins For the benefit of pollinators and other wildlife

Land area B: Land North West of Long Riston



Archaeological Buffer

Minimum 20m buffer from non-designated heritage asset



Primary Access

Proposed Operational Access



Watercourse and Drainage Ditch Buffer

Minimum 8m offset from existing watercourses and drainage ditches



Residential Property

Minimum 50m offset between solar development and residential properties



Proposed Screening Planting

Proposed hedgerow to site boundary



Proposed Information Board

With ecological focus



Proposed Permissive Path

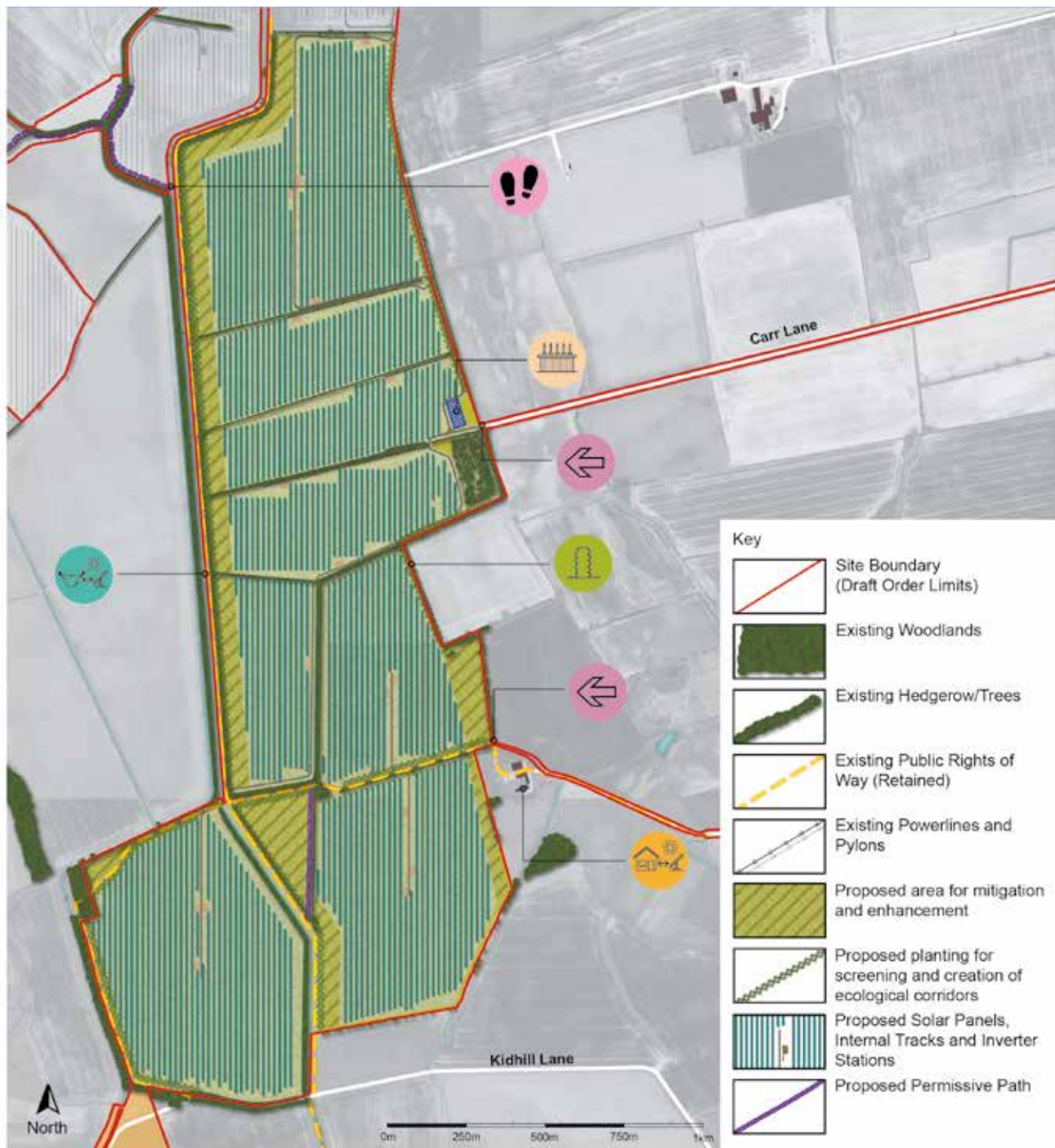
Connections with existing Public Rights of Way network



Potential Community Greenspace

Potential for orchard, wildflower meadow, seating

Land Area C: Land West of Arnold



Substation Location

Adjacent to existing vegetation which provides screening



Primary Access

Proposed Operational Access



Watercourse and Drainage Ditch Buffer

Minimum 8m offset from existing watercourses and drainage ditches



Proposed Screening Planting

Proposed hedgerow to site boundary



Residential Property

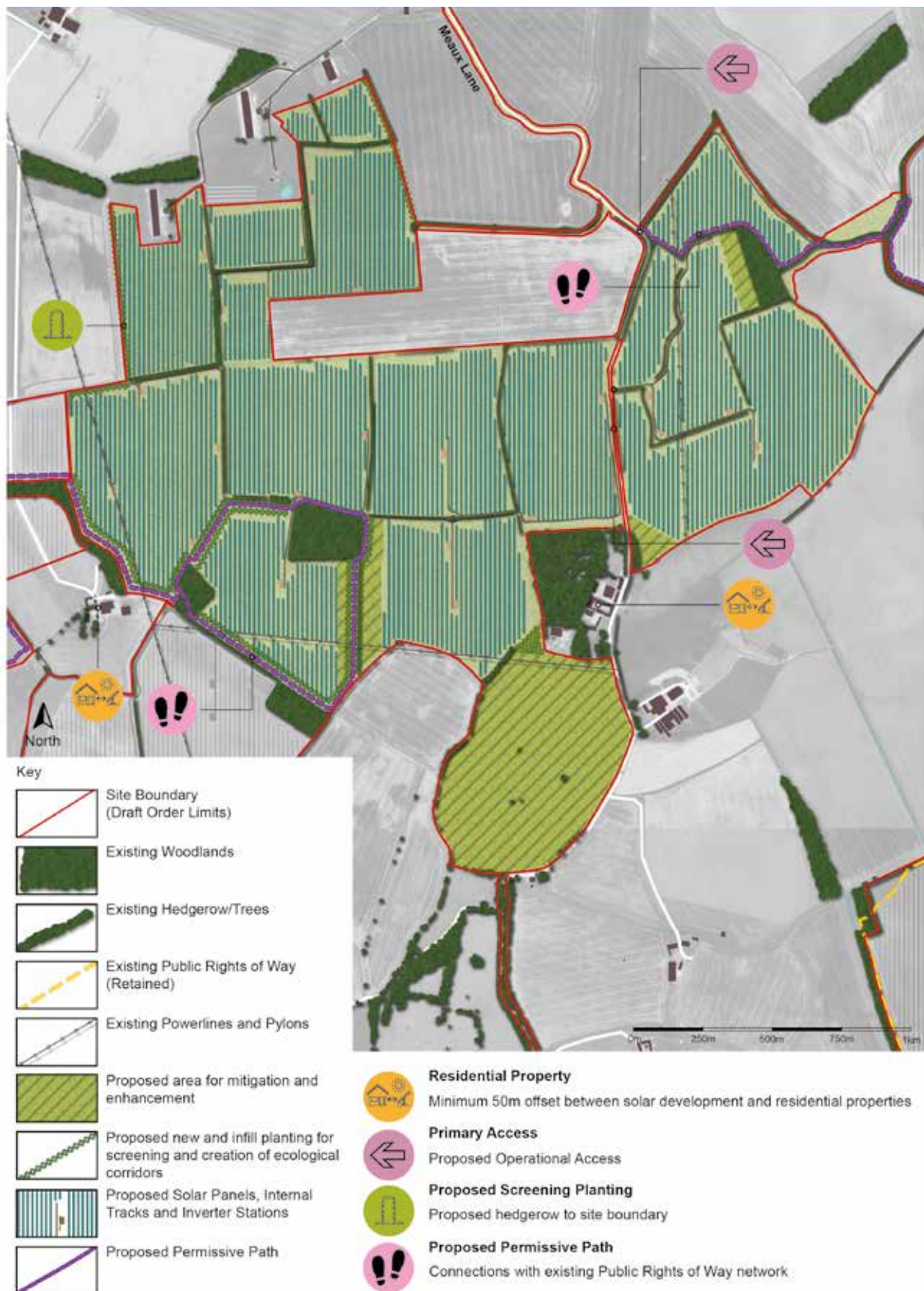
Minimum 50m offset between solar development and residential properties



Proposed Permissive Path

Connections with existing Public Rights of Way network

Land Area D: Land South of the A1035











Land Area E: Land East of Weel





Land Area F: Land North of Wawne



Key

-  Site Boundary (Draft Order Limits)
-  Existing Woodlands
-  Existing Hedgerow/Trees
-  Existing Public Rights of Way (Retained)
-  Existing Powerlines and Pylons
-  Proposed area for mitigation and enhancement
-  Proposed planting for screening and creation of ecological corridors
-  Proposed Solar Panels, Internal Tracks and Inverter Stations

-  Proposed Interconnecting Cable Corridor
-  Proposed Cable Corridor Options for Substations

-  **Residential Property**
Minimum 50m offset between solar development and residential properties
-  **Primary Access**
Proposed Operational Access
-  **Proposed Screening Planting**
Proposed hedgerow to site boundary
-  **Proposed Information Board**
With educational focus
-  **Archaeological Buffer**
Minimum 100m buffer from designated heritage asset
-  **Potential Community Greenspace**
Opportunity for outdoor classroom
-  **Wildflower Meadow/Margins**
For the benefit of pollinators and other wildlife

Cable Route Corridors

Peartree Hill would connect via underground cabling to the existing National Grid Substation at Creyke Beck, near Cottingham, located approximately 5.6km southwest of Land Area F: Land North of Wawne, the most southern extent of the Land Areas.

Careful planning and assessment have determined the most efficient and environmentally responsible cable route. After discounting options such as the 'Highways option' due to traffic disruption concerns, three indicative cable route corridor options are under consideration. These routes avoid residential properties and gardens. Ongoing engagement with relevant landowners will refine the cable route further.

The below map shows the updated indicative cable route corridor options under consideration, of which there are three.

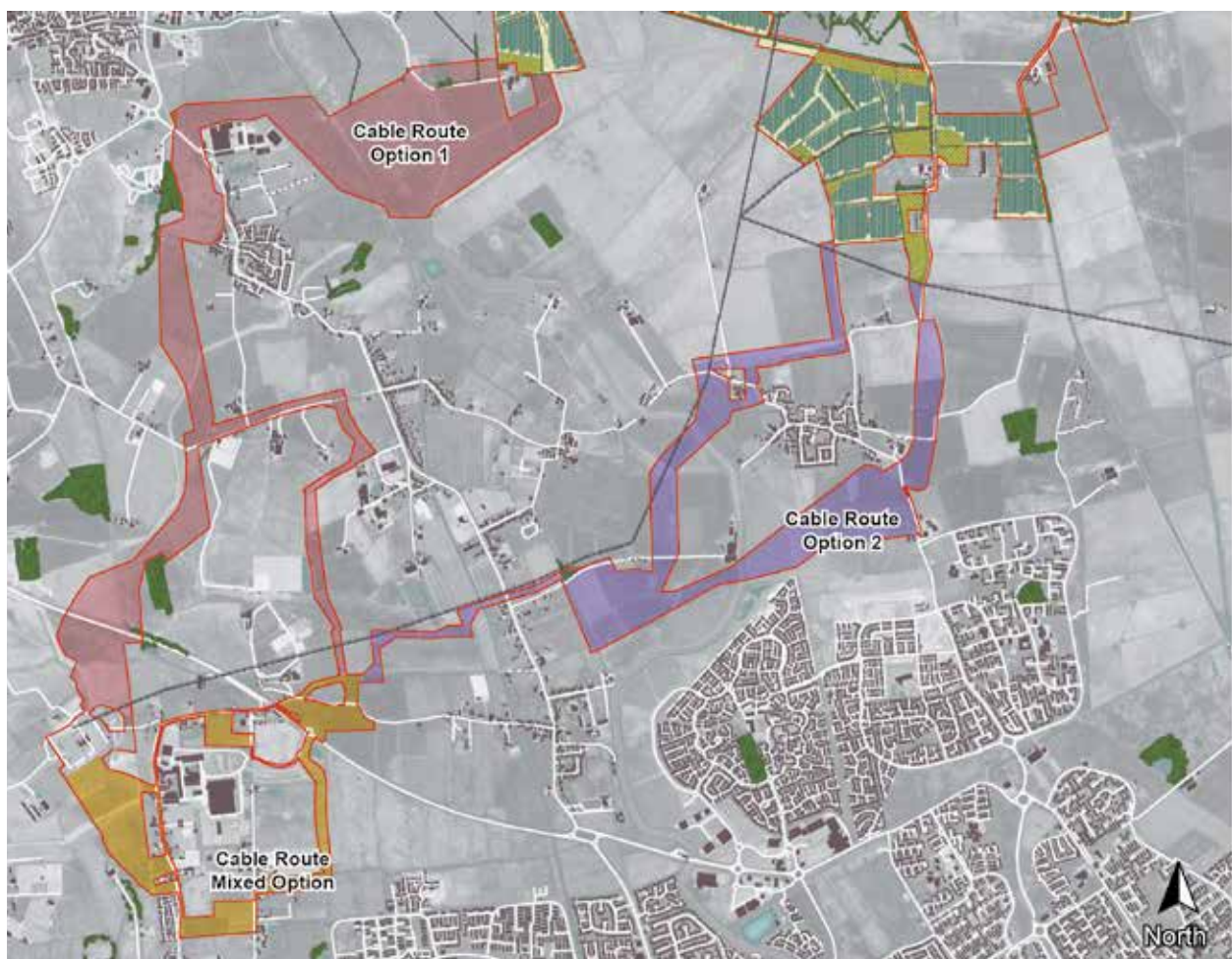
Only one cable corridor option to Creyke Beck Substation will be submitted as part of the DCO application.

The cable routes illustrated on this plan do not represent the total area required for the installation of the cabling, but rather show the extent of land under consideration at this stage within which the cables would be installed.

In addition to the main cable route that connects to Creyke Beck substation, there will also be an interconnecting cable route between the Land Areas.

Cable routes will be installed using the following approaches:

- Utilising a cable plough, which will be the most efficient and least impactful method of cable installation, causing minimal disruption to the ground by cutting, installing and back-filling in one operation.
- Creating 'open-cut' trenches 1.2m deep and 1.5m wide within which cables will be laid.
- For open-cut trenches the working width of the land needed would be between 15 – 30 metres.
- In instances where the cable plough or open-cut trench cannot be used (for example, when crossing a road, railway or large drainage ditch) alternative methods, such as horizontal directional drilling (HDD), would be used.
- HDD involves the cables being installed underground without disturbing the surface.
- When land is reinstated, land-use restrictions may apply to avoid risk of cables being disturbed or damaged.



Environmental Impact Assessments

- Our work so far

As part of the DCO process we are carrying out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to assess the likely significant effects (both positive and negative) Peartree Hill could have on the environment and local communities.

A Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) has been developed to outline our assessments of the potential impacts of Peartree Hill carried out to date, so the local community can make an informed response about Peartree Hill.

Early environmental assessments (summarised in the PEIR) have already helped shape the plans for how Peartree Hill will be designed, built and operated. Feedback from this consultation, along with ongoing environmental assessments and technical work and surveys will help to further refine our proposals. This includes identifying appropriate mitigation measures to avoid, reduce, mitigate or offset any likely significant

negative effects that we have identified in the PEIR. The final results of these assessments will be presented in an Environmental Statement, which will accompany the DCO application.

As part of the PEIR, we have developed a number of landscape visualisations, assessing the visual impact of Peartree Hill after 0 years, 5 years and 10 years in consideration of new planting and mitigation.

The PEIR and non-technical summary, including the landscape visualisations, are available on our website and at our deposit locations and consultation events (more information about the statutory consultation is provided on **Page 23**).

The EIA considers a wide range of topics such as landscape and visual, biodiversity, cultural heritage, flood risk, traffic, noise and other considerations. A summary of which is provided in the table below.

Environmental Impact	What we've assessed	Further information
Air Quality	The likely effects on air quality during construction and decommissioning on nearby sensitive ecological and human receptors.	PEIR Chapter 6
Biodiversity	The likely effects on international, national, and local ecological networks, including habitats for protected species.	PEIR Chapter 7
Climate	The likely effects on greenhouse gas emissions and the resilience of Peartree Hill against any major climate events.	PEIR Chapter 8
Cultural Heritage	The likely effects on historical assets such as scheduled monuments, listed buildings, and conservation areas.	PEIR Chapter 9
Land, Soils and Groundwater	The likely effects on soils, groundwater, and agricultural land.	PEIR Chapter 10
Landscape and Visual	The likely effects on the character and views of the local landscape and people's enjoyment of it.	PEIR Chapter 11
Noise and Vibration	The likely noise effects during construction, operation and decommissioning at noise-sensitive locations near Peartree Hill.	PEIR Chapter 12
Population	The likely effects on dwellings, commercial properties, agricultural operations, community assets and Public Rights of Way.	PEIR Chapter 13
Transport and Access	The likely effects on local traffic and access routes during the construction and decommissioning of Peartree Hill.	PEIR Chapter 14
Hydrology and Flood Risk	The likely effects on surface water, flood risk, and drainage.	PEIR Chapter 15
Glint and Glare	The likely glint and glare effects on residential dwellings, Public Rights of Way, road, rail, airfields, Air Traffic Control Towers, and approaching aircrafts near to Peartree Hill.	PEIR Chapter 16

Agriculture and Land Use

Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) surveys have been undertaken to assess land use and agriculture. From our initial assessments, approximately 70% of the surveyed land falls under the category of lower-quality Subgrade 3b and 4 agricultural land, while 30% consists of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land (ALC Grades 1-3a), with the majority of that land classed as 3a.

Over 95% of the solar panel areas can be made available for sheep grazing. As the land is no longer subject to intensive farming or the use of pesticides and herbicides, the topsoil can recover, by increasing soil organic matter and improving the soil structure.

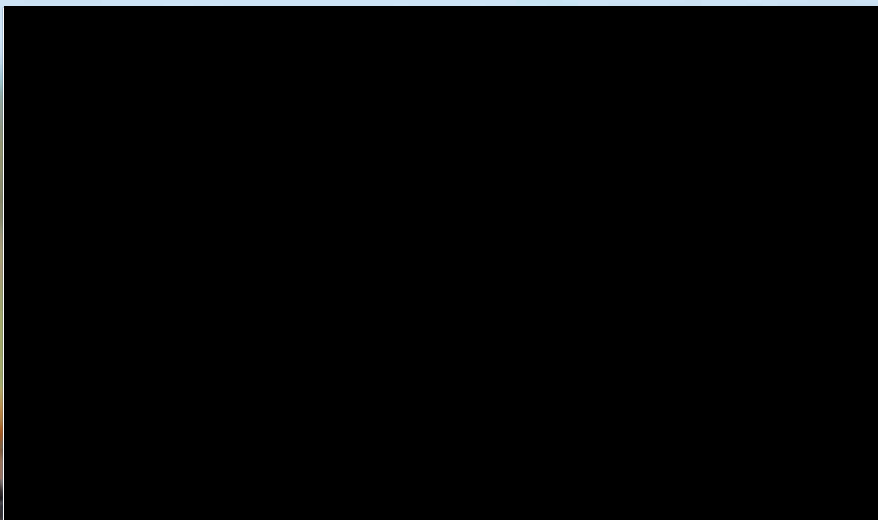
At the end of its operational life, solar infrastructure associated with Peartree Hill will be removed, and the land returned to agricultural use. Upon decommissioning, the land retains its current designation, meaning the site is still regarded as agricultural land. Further detailed information about land use can be found in Chapter 10 Land, Soils and Groundwater of the PEIR.

Biodiversity Impacts

Ecology surveys have helped identify the different habitats and species in and around the Land Areas, with surveys of the cable route to be undertaken later this year. Peartree Hill is located in an area comprising predominantly of arable fields but also contains relatively small areas of fields of grassland, woodland and scrub. These fields are bordered by a mix of hedgerows, wet ditches, and a network of drains and dykes.

There are internationally, nationally and locally important ecological sites near to Peartree Hill and evidence of protected and notable species within and nearby the project such as breeding and wintering birds, bats and badgers. Peartree Hill has been designed to:

- allocate areas of ecological mitigation that would remain free of solar infrastructure to provide continued availability of habitat for ground nesting birds as well as suitable habitat for wintering birds and a range of other species;
- retain the majority of hedgerows and woodland and improve existing hedgerows using native species;
- create buffers between the solar infrastructure and watercourses, hedgerows and trees; and
- allow planting under and between the solar panels with wildflowers.



Heritage, Landscape and Visual Impacts

Understanding the character of the local landscape helps to ensure that we are proposing different elements of Peartree Hill in appropriate places. Views of Peartree Hill during construction, operation and decommissioning from public and private locations - including nearby homes and villages as well as roads and footpaths - are also important considerations.

To reduce effects on visual amenity, opportunities have been sought to incorporate buffers between project infrastructure and nearby homes and villages, as well as new planting, where appropriate, to further screen views.

More information can be found in **Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage** and **Chapter 11 Landscape and Visual** of the PEIR, available on our website and at our deposit locations and consultation events.

To assess the heritage in the area, we have been undertaking various studies, including desk-based assessments, analysis of aerial photography, geophysical survey, and site visits. From this initial work, no significant heritage impacts have been identified in the PEIR.

However, to achieve this and protect the heritage of the area, mitigation measures and buffer zones have been carefully designed to protect the built heritage and features of likely archaeological interest. More information can be found in **Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage** of the PEIR.

Please see below for example cross sections



Cumulative Impacts

RWE is aware that there are already some consented and proposed solar schemes in proximity to Peartree Hill, as well as other nationally significant infrastructure projects - comprising offshore windfarms such as Dogger Bank South and Hornsea 4, which are proposing to connect into the existing Creyke Beck Substation or a proposed new substation to the north.

As part of the planning process, we will assess the combined impacts of these projects during construction, operation, and decommissioning, ensuring that the impacts of Peartree Hill are considered alongside those of other nearby proposed renewable energy projects.

Construction, Operation and Decommissioning

Construction

If consented, the construction period is estimated to be around 18-24 months, with the project built out in a phased approach.

Each Land Area would have its own dedicated access and construction compounds as shown in Figure 3.1 of the PEIR. These temporary construction compounds would likely include:

- Temporary gated security fencing (e.g. Heras Fencing), security officer kiosk, and temporary CCTV cameras;
- Temporary portable buildings to be used for offices, welfare and toilet facilities;
- Materials and equipment storage areas;
- Parking and turning areas for delivery vehicles and workers' vehicles; and
- Wheel washing facilities.

Each Land Area would contain a number of internal access tracks for the movement of construction and maintenance vehicles. The majority of the site already benefits from a good network of farm tracks which would be utilised wherever possible.

We are also proposing some permanent road improvements to ensure safe access into parts of the site. These would take the form of passing places located on sections of public highway considered too narrow.

Early assessments have suggested that one or more passing places may be required at the following locations:

- Heigholme Lane, Leven;
- West Street, Leven;
- Carr Lane, Long Riston;
- Arnold Lane West, Arnold/Long Riston;
- Black Tup Lane, Arnold/Long Riston;
- Woodhouse Lane, (West of Skirlaugh);
- Meaux Lane, Meaux (between the A1035 and east of the A165); and
- Meaux Road, Meaux.

These passing places would be retained permanently, providing a legacy improvement after construction works have been completed.

At the peak of construction, we would expect up to 300 staff on site each day. Limited parking facilities would be located within the construction compounds. The use of sustainable transport, such as car sharing, and mini-bus transfers will also be provided.



Operation

During operation, activities taking place at Peartree Hill would result in minimal disruption. Routine activities would primarily involve ongoing maintenance, safety and security checks, including replacement of components. There would also be a need to carry out environmental checks, such as monitoring the success of new planting and maintaining the local vegetation and amenity areas.

The safety and security of the site would be reinforced through the installation of security fencing and perimeter CCTV cameras surrounding the solar panel areas.

Decommissioning

Peartree Hill is a reversible development, and after 40 years would be decommissioned and the land would be reinstated with the exception of retaining environmental mitigation. Up to 99% of the materials in solar PV modules can be recycled, while non-recyclable infrastructure would be disposed of following established good practice and contemporary processes.

Throughout decommissioning we would engage with local landowners, ensuring any potential requirements to leave certain infrastructure, such as access tracks, are addressed collaboratively.

As part of the DCO application, RWE will prepare an outline decommissioning plan. This plan will outline the procedures and requirements for dismantling, removing, and disposing of Peartree Hill at the end of its operational life with details finalised closer to decommissioning. This will ensure safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible dismantling of Peartree Hill.



DCO Process and Key Milestones

DCO Process

As Peartree Hill would generate more than 50MW of power, it is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and will proceed through the Development Consent Order (DCO) planning process.

Applications for DCOs are examined independently by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). Following an Examination of Peartree Hill, the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, who will decide on the outcome of the application.

You can read more about the DCO Process here:
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/>



Key Milestones

October 2023

Early stage (non-statutory) consultation

Winter 2023/24

Review all community feedback and refine design

Winter/Spring 2024

Ongoing environmental impact assessment and further design refinement

Spring 2024

Statutory public consultation on more progressed plans and the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

Summer 2024

Review all community feedback and assessments and refine the design

Autumn/Winter 2024

Development Consent Order application submitted

2025

Examination Process by the Planning Inspectorate

2026

Determination of Development Consent Order application by Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero

Statutory Consultation Information

To ensure we can gain feedback from all corners of the local community, we have a wide range of mechanisms through which you can learn about Peartree Hill and provide feedback. Information about Peartree Hill is available via:

Online

Explore our dedicated consultation website, where you can find detailed information about Peartree Hill and our commitment to the community and the local environment. By visiting the website, you can stay connected with the latest project updates and announcements throughout the consultation and planning process.

Join us at our Consultation Events

Get to know our team and project first-hand by attending our in-person events or webinars. These events offer an excellent opportunity to interact with our experts, ask questions, and provide feedback in a friendly and engaging environment. Your input is crucial in shaping Peartree Hill, and we would be pleased to speak with you.

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday 21 May 2024	1pm-7pm	Cottingham Civic Hall , Market Green, Cottingham, HU16 5QG
Wednesday 22 May 2024	1pm-7pm	Leven Village Hall , North Street, Leven, HU17 5NF
Tuesday 28 May 2024	6.30pm-8pm	Online Webinar (Register at peartreehillsolar.co.uk)
Saturday 1 June 2024	11am-3pm	Tickton Village Hall , Main Street, Tickton, HU17 9RZ
Monday 3 June 2024	1pm-6.30pm	Wawne Village Hall , 36 Main Street, Wawne, HU7 5XH
Wednesday 12 June 2024	6.30pm-8pm	Online Webinar (Register at peartreehillsolar.co.uk)

Please register for the webinars via the project website peartreehillsolar.co.uk or by emailing info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk. Recordings will be made available on the project website shortly after.

Materials in alternative formats

Upon request, all documents can be made available in alternative accessible formats, such as, large print and alternative languages. All requests should be made to the communications team by email at info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk or via our dedicated Phonenumber at **01482 695 004**.

The PEIR can be downloaded free of charge from the project website. A printed copy of the full PEIR will be available to view (but not take away) at the consultation events. A hard copy can be requested for a charge of £0.35 per page to cover printing and posting costs.

Deposit Locations

A physical copy of the consultation documents, along with feedback forms and Freepost envelopes, will be available for inspection at a number of deposit locations throughout the consultation period.

Locations	Opening times*
Beverley Library , Champney Road, Beverley, HU17 8HE	Monday 9:30am-5pm, Tuesday 9:30am-8pm, Wednesday 9:30am-5pm, Thursday 9:30am-8pm, Friday 9:30am-5pm, Saturday 9am-4pm, Sunday closed
Leven Library , Recreation Hall, East Street, Leven, Beverley, HU17 5NG	Wednesday 10:30am-12:30pm, 3:30pm-7pm

Consultation documents will also be available to view at Tickton Village Hall (Main Street, Tickton, HU17 9RZ) when the village hall is open.

*subject to change on bank holidays

How to provide comments

There are a number of different ways you can respond to the consultation:

- By returning a feedback form at our in-person events or via the Freepost address
- By completing the feedback form on our consultation website
- By getting in touch via email

The deadline for the statutory consultation is **11:59pm on Wednesday 26 June 2024**. We encourage you to provide your feedback within this period to ensure that your comments are considered as we finalise our proposals for Peartree Hill.

Contact us

If you would like to speak with a member of the Peartree Hill project team, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to provide information, answer any questions and to take your feedback.



peartreehillsolar.co.uk



info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk



01482 695 004



FREEPOST PEARTREE HILL SOLAR FARM (no stamp required)

You can also stay up to date with the proposals, with regular updates and announcements, by following us on our Facebook page:

fb.com/peartreehillsolarfarm

Thank you for participating in our statutory consultation on proposals for Peartree Hill. Your engagement and feedback will be instrumental in finalising the plans for Peartree Hill to align with local needs and contribute to the local community.

Appendix F-3 Consultation feedback form



Pear tree Hill Solar Farm Consultation

Statutory consultation feedback form

Wednesday 15 May until Wednesday 26 June 2024



RWE Renewables UK Solar & Storage is seeking views on our detailed proposals for Pear tree Hill Solar Farm, as part of our statutory consultation.

To inform your responses please review the information presented in our consultation brochure and our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).

The deadline for responses is **11:59pm on Wednesday 26 June 2024**

All feedback received will be reported in a consultation report, which forms part of the DCO Application and will be published as part of the submission – your personal details will not be included. Please note that it is not our policy to provide individual responses to consultation feedback.

Please return paper copy questionnaires to one of the team members or drop it in the box provided at an in-person event or send it to our Freepost address, **FREEPOST PEARTREE HILL SOLAR FARM** (no stamp needed).

Electronic copies can be returned via email to **info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk** or you can complete the questionnaire via the website (**peartreehillsolar.co.uk**).

If you would like to receive this questionnaire in larger print or in another format, please contact us on: **01482 695004**.

Thank you for taking part in our consultation.

About you

We will only use these details to contact you and update you on the proposals. You don't have to fill in this section if you'd rather we didn't contact you.

Your details

Title (Miss/Mrs/Ms/Mr/Other):	Email:
First Name or Initial:	Address:
Surname:	
Organisation (if applicable):	
Telephone:	Postcode:

I confirm I am over 13 years old and agree to the privacy statement* (see back page)

1 How would you describe your interest in Peartree Hill Solar Farm?

Local resident	
Local representative	
Potentially affected landowner or occupier	
Local business owner	
Local interest group member (please name below)	
Statutory organisation (please name below)	
Other (please specify below)	

Please add further detail, if required



Our proposals for Peartree Hill

2 Do you agree or disagree with the following five statements?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Climate change is an important issue						
Energy security is an important issue						
Moving away from fossil fuel use is important						
The UK needs more renewable energy						
The UK needs more energy storage						

3 How supportive are you of our proposals for Peartree Hill, which would generate clean, affordable energy, helping the UK to reach its decarbonisation targets?

Strongly support	Support, but with concerns	Neutral	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't Know

Please explain why

Site configuration

For more information on each Land Area, please see pages 10-15 of our consultation brochure.

4 Do you have any comments on the overall layout of Peartree Hill?

Comments

5 Do you have any comments on the specific Land Areas? Including any comments on supporting infrastructure necessary for the operation of a solar farm, including battery storage, substations, electrical equipment and security measures. Please tick the relevant area(s) and add comments below.

- Land Area A: Land South of High and Low Baswick

☐
- Land Area B: Land North West of Long Riston

☐
- Land Area C: Land West of Arnold

☐
- Land Area D: Land South of the A1035

☐
- Land Area E: Land East of Weel

☐
- Land Area F: Land North of Wawne

☐
- All areas

☐

Comments

6 We have shared our updated options for cable corridors to connect Peartree Hill to Creyke Beck Substation via underground cables. Please see page 16 of our consultation brochure. Do you have any comments on the cable corridor options presented?

Comments

Environmental Information

Our proposals for Peartree Hill include our suggested approach to minimise our impact on the environment and the local community during construction, operation and decommissioning.

On **pages 18-21** of the consultation brochure, we provide information on the local environment surrounding Peartree Hill. More information can be found in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and the non-technical summary.

7 Do you have any comments on the methodology and/or preliminary assessments in the PEIR? Where possible, please specify the environmental topic area(s) you are commenting on.

Comments



8 Do you have any comments on our Peartree Hill Illustrative Masterplan and proposed environmental mitigation? Please make your comments in relation to each of the topics below where applicable.

Landscape and visual

Biodiversity

Public Rights of Way

Heritage assets

Construction impacts

Cumulative impacts

Other

Community benefit

Through Peartree Hill, we are committed to delivering tangible benefits to the local community, both within the Land Areas and through a community benefit fund.

Detailed information about our on-site community benefits can be found on page 6 of our consultation brochure, while detailed information about our proposed community benefit fund can be found on page 8.

9 Are there any other on-site community benefits that you would like to see incorporated into plans for Peartree Hill?

Comments

10 RWE is committed to providing a community benefit fund to support local community groups or initiatives. What organisations or local initiatives would you like to see us contribute to as part of our proposals for Peartree Hill?

Comments

Other comments?

11 Do you have any further comments on our proposals for Peartree Hill?

Comments

Consultation

12 How did you find out about this consultation?

- Social media

Word of mouth

Media (newspaper, radio, TV)

Through a local group / organisation

Project newsletter

Other
- ☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

13 How informative have you found our consultation?

- Very informative

Somewhat informative

Not informative

Don't know
- ☐

☐

☐

☐

What happens next?

Thank you for providing us with your feedback. We will review all the feedback we have received once the consultation closes at **11:59pm on Wednesday 26 June 2024**. We encourage you to provide your feedback within this period to ensure that your comments are considered as we finalise our proposals for Peartree Hill.

After the statutory consultation we will use your comments, together with the findings of our environmental and technical studies, to finalise our proposals for Peartree Hill that we submit to the Planning Inspectorate.

Privacy Statement

Cavendish Consulting is working on behalf of RWE Renewables UK Solar & Storage to undertake community consultation on plans for Peartree Hill. By filling in this form, you are agreeing that Cavendish Consulting can hold and process your personal data in relation to this Development Consent Order application.

Your personal data will not be used for any other purpose without your consent.

All personal information received will be handled in accordance with the privacy policy which can be found at **peartreehillsolar.co.uk/privacy**.

Data Protection

We process all personal data in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation, the EU General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (together the "GDPR") and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Your personal data will not be transferred outside the European Economic Area (the EU member states plus Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein). You can see our full Privacy Policy at the following website address: **peartreehillsolar.co.uk/privacy**.

If you have any questions or concerns about the way we are processing your personal data, please contact us on **01482 695 004** or email **info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk**

Thank you for taking part in our consultation.

Appendix F-4 Freepost envelope

Freepost
PEARTREE HILL SOLAR FARM

Appendix F-5 Non-technical summary of PEIR



Peartree Hill Solar Farm

**Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)
Non-Technical Summary**

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Appendix A: Location plan

Appendix B: Proposed operational layout plan

Appendix C : Environmental features plan

1 Introduction

1.1 What is the context of this non-technical summary?

- 1.1.1 RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited is seeking to obtain development consent for the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of Peartree Hill Solar Farm, located in East Riding of Yorkshire.
- 1.1.2 To inform statutory consultation as part of the planning process, a Preliminary Environmental Information Report has been prepared to provide the information reasonably required for interested parties, including the public, to understand the likely significant effects of Peartree Hill Solar Farm on the surrounding environment and residents, as understood at this stage.

1.2 What is environmental impact assessment?

- 1.2.1 Environmental impact assessment is the process that identifies the key environmental effects resulting from the construction, operation and, where relevant, decommissioning of a proposed development. It suggests ways that these effects can be avoided, reduced or managed. Environmental impact assessment is a requirement of United Kingdom law for certain developments that have the potential to cause significant environmental effects.

1.3 What is the purpose of this document?

- 1.3.1 The Preliminary Environmental Information Report outlines the environmental assessment work undertaken to date, the likely significant environmental effects identified to date, proposed 'embedded' mitigation¹ and 'additional' mitigation², and likely residual significant environmental effects based on the environmental baseline information currently available and the current design of Peartree Hill Solar Farm. The Preliminary Environmental Information Report is split into four volumes:
 - **Volume 1:** Preliminary Environmental Information Report (main text)
 - **Volume 2:** Supporting figures
 - **Volume 3:** Supporting reports
 - **Volume 4:** Landscape figures

¹ Mitigation measures that are incorporated in the design of Peartree Hill Solar Farm

² Mitigation measures to avoid, reduce or manage any significant adverse effects that remain after embedded mitigation has been taken into consideration

- 1.3.2 The Preliminary Environmental Information Report has been prepared to enable interested parties (including members of the public, local planning authorities and statutory bodies) to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of Peartree Hill Solar Farm and to help inform their consultation responses during this statutory consultation stage.
- 1.3.3 The design of Peartree Hill Solar Farm, as presented in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report, has been informed by the ongoing environmental assessment process and responses to consultation and engagement to date. **It does not represent the final design.** Ongoing survey and design work is currently being undertaken which, along with feedback received from statutory consultation, will inform the further development of the design of Peartree Hill Solar Farm.
- 1.3.4 This document provides a non-technical summary of the environmental assessments presented in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report. Further details can be found in **Volumes 1 to 4** of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report. Below is an overview of where details on each environmental assessment can be found in **Volume 1**:

Section of Volume 1 of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report	Environmental assessment
Section 6	Air quality
Section 7	Biodiversity
Section 8	Climate
Section 9	Cultural heritage
Section 10	Land, soils and groundwater
Section 11	Landscape and visual
Section 12	Noise and vibration
Section 13	Population
Section 14	Transport and access
Section 15	Water
Section 16	Glint and glare
Section 17	Other environmental considerations
Section 18	Cumulative effects

2 Peartree Hill Solar Farm

2.1 Where is Peartree Hill Solar Farm?

- 2.1.1 Peartree Hill Solar Farm is located within the administrative boundary of East Riding of Yorkshire Council. As shown on **Appendix A: Location plan**, the northernmost section of Peartree Hill Solar Farm is located north-west of Leven, with the remainder of Peartree Hill Solar Farm located between the villages of Tickton, Riston, Wawne, Weel and Woodmansey.

2.2 What is Peartree Hill Solar Farm?

- 2.2.1 Peartree Hill Solar Farm is a proposed solar photovoltaic electricity generating and storage facility with an export capacity of 320 megawatts and associated infrastructure.
- 2.2.2 Peartree Hill Solar Farm comprises several areas of land ('Land Areas A to F'), which are connected by a series of underground cables (see **Appendix B: Proposed operational layout plan**). Peartree Hill Solar Farm will connect to the National Grid Creyke Beck Substation via underground cables.
- 2.2.3 The main elements of Peartree Hill Solar Farm comprise the following:
- Solar photovoltaic modules and associated mounting structures;
 - On-site supporting equipment including inverters, transformers and switchgear;
 - A Battery Energy Storage System;
 - Two on-site substations to connect the solar photovoltaic modules to distribution and transmission networks;
 - Low voltage and 33 kilovolt interconnecting cabling within the Land Areas to connect the solar photovoltaic modules together and to connect the solar photovoltaic modules to the two on-site substations.
 - 132 kilovolt underground cabling connecting the Land Areas to the National Grid Creyke Beck Substation;
 - Associated infrastructure including access tracks, parking, security measures, gates and fencing, lighting, drainage infrastructure and storage containers;
 - Works at the National Grid Creyke Beck Substation to facilitate the connection of the 132 kilovolt cabling to the substation;
 - Highways works to facilitate access for construction vehicles;

- Environmental mitigation and enhancement measures; and
- Temporary development during the construction phase including construction compounds, parking and temporary access roadways.

2.2.4 The export capacity of Peartree Hill Solar Farm would exceed 50 megawatts. Therefore, it is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and will require a Development Consent Order under the Planning Act 2008.

2.3 What is the existing use of the Site?

2.3.1 The Site comprises approximately 1,461 hectares of land. The land within the draft Order Limits (the maximum area of land that would be required for the construction, operation and maintenance of Peartree Hill Solar Farm, which may be subject to change) predominantly consists of agricultural fields interspersed with hedgerows, small woodland blocks, farm access tracks, wet ditches and some of the many drains and dykes in the area.

2.4 Are there any environmental designations within or near the Site?

2.4.1 There is some variation in the environmental features immediately surrounding and within each of the Land Areas and cable route options within the Site and a range of environmental designations, as shown in **Appendix C: Environmental features plan**.

Ecology and biodiversity

2.4.2 No statutory ecological designations lie within the Site.

2.4.3 There are five international statutory designations covering three sites within 10 kilometres of the Land Areas:

- Hornsea Mere Special Protection Area (approximately 5.8 kilometres east);
- Humber Estuary Ramsar/Special Protection Area/Special Area of Conservation (approximately 9.3 kilometres south); and
- Greater Wash Special Protection Area (approximately 9.5 kilometres east).

2.4.4 There are two statutory nationally designated sites within 2 kilometres of the Land Areas:

- Tophill Low Site of Special Scientific Interest (approximately 400 metres north of Land Area A); and

- Leven Canal Site of Special Scientific Interest (approximately 900 metres south of Land Area A).

- 2.4.5 There are seven non-statutory designated sites, all local wildlife sites, within 1 kilometre of the Land Areas. One of these, Cote Wood Local Wildlife Site, lies adjacent to Land Area D, though on the other side of a ditch.
- 2.4.6 There is one area of ancient semi-natural woodland within 1 kilometre of the draft Order Limits. This is Cote Wood Local Wildlife Site, as described above.

Landscape

- 2.4.7 The draft Order Limits are not covered by any statutory landscape designations, nor are there any within 3 kilometres.
- 2.4.8 The Site is located in the centre of National Character Area 40 Holderness³.

Water resources

- 2.4.9 There are five Main Rivers within or in close proximity to the draft Order Limits: The River Hull and the Beverley and Barmston Drain run outside the draft Order Limits to the west of Land Area A, while Holderness Drain, Monk Dike, Meaux and Routh East Drain run through or adjacent to the Site.
- 2.4.10 The Site occupies predominantly low-lying land which relies on a network of drainage systems including ditches, culverts and pumping stations.
- 2.4.11 Large parts of the Site fall within Flood Zones 2 (between a 0.1% and 1% annual probability of river or sea flooding) and 3 (a 1% or greater annual probability of river or sea flooding) based on the Environment Agency's flood map for planning.

Geology

- 2.4.12 Bedrock geology across the Site is recorded as chalk. The bedrock deposits underlying the Site form a principal aquifer.
- 2.4.13 Large sections of the Site belong within a Source Protection Zone⁴

³ A National Character Area is an area defined by Natural England as having a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, history, and cultural and economic activity

⁴ A Source Protection Zone is an area of land through which water infiltrates into a public potable ground-water abstraction site. Source Protection Zones are defined and subject to protection by the Environment Agency to safeguard drinking water quality.

Cultural heritage

- 2.4.14 There is one designated asset located within the draft Order Limits, a Grade II listed bridge along West Street, Leven.
- 2.4.15 Within 5 kilometres of the draft Order Limits there are 43 Scheduled Monuments, three Grade II Registered Parks and Gardens, 33 Conservation Areas and 707 Listed Buildings (of which 17 are Grade I Listed and 52 are Grade II* Listed). Of these, the following lie within 100 metres of the draft Order Limits:
- Three Scheduled Monuments: Bowl barrow, Site of Meaux Cistercian Abbey Scheduled Monument and Meaux duck decoy.
 - One Grade II* Listed Building and six Grade II Listed Buildings.
- 2.4.16 No Registered Battlefields or World Heritage Sites lie within 5 kilometres of the draft Order Limits.

2.5 Why is Peartree Hill Solar Farm needed?

- 2.5.1 Peartree Hill Solar Farm would contribute towards the achievement of the Government's net zero targets and a United Kingdom energy supply that is secure, low carbon and low cost. This is in line with the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), published in November 2023, which states that *"a secure, reliable, affordable, net zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar"*. It also states that low-carbon energy infrastructure, including solar and Battery Energy Storage Systems, is a *"critical national priority"*.

2.6 What alternatives have been considered?

What alternative sites have been considered?

- 2.6.1 The proposed Site has been selected following an in-depth site selection process.
- 2.6.2 The Site is of a large enough scale to deliver sufficient wattage, i.e. greater than 50 megawatts, to help deliver as much solar energy as possible to meet Government targets. RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited did not consider sites that could only deliver smaller scale projects.
- 2.6.3 The site selection process considered a number of factors, including:
- **Aspect and topography** – preference was given to sites with a south facing aspect and flatter topography.

- **Network connection** – preference was given to sites near to the National Grid Creyke Beck Substation, where RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited has secured a grid connection. Utilising existing connections instead of building new ones helps maximise existing infrastructure and minimise costs, delivery timescales and environmental impacts. A search area of 10 kilometres from the National Grid Creyke Beck Substation was set.
- **Proximity of site to dwellings** – the site selection process sought to avoid sites in close proximity to residential dwellings or where it would not be possible to appropriately mitigate visual impacts or glint and glare impacts.
- **Agricultural land classification and land type** – the site selection process sought to minimise the impact on best and most versatile agricultural land. No brownfield land of an adequate area to accommodate a large-scale solar project was identified within the search area.
- **Accessibility** – the Site is well serviced by the rural road network. Areas which could not be accessed by the existing road network were discounted.
- **Public rights of way** – the site selection process sought to avoid and minimise the visual impact from public rights of way.
- **Security and lighting** – the site selection process sought to minimise the landscape and visual impact of security measures such as lighting.

2.6.4 Other considerations include environmental and spatial constraints (e.g. avoiding direct impacts on designated ecological and geological sites, historic designations and nationally designated landscapes), site size and land assembly (e.g. identifying sufficient adjoining areas of land for Peartree Hill Solar Farm to be economically viable), and land availability (e.g. identifying willing landowners with large scale land holdings).

What alternative solar technologies have been considered?

2.6.5 The main options available for solar technologies are a fixed panel system or a tracking panel system, the latter meaning solar photovoltaic panels that track the sun's movement throughout the day. Assessments to date have been based on a worst-case scenario, depending on which type of panel system is deemed to have the most potential to lead to likely significant effects for each environmental discipline. RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited intends to further assess these options before finalising the design of Peartree Hill Solar Farm.

What alternative layouts have been considered?

2.6.6 The current design and layout of Peartree Hill Solar Farm (shown on **Appendix B: Proposed operational layout plan**) has resulted from an iterative process

informed by ongoing environmental assessment and taking into consideration the design principles, non-statutory consultation feedback and stakeholder engagement. The layout will continue to be developed with regard given to statutory consultation responses and further environmental assessments and stakeholder engagement.

- 2.6.7 Modifications to the design and layout of Peartree Hill Solar Farm up to this point include the removal of solar photovoltaic development and associated infrastructure from certain areas and refinement of the locations of proposed Battery Energy Storage System components and substations and the cable route options in response to the findings of environmental assessments. See **Section 2.8** of this Non-Technical Summary for more details.

2.7 How will Peartree Hill Solar Farm be built?

- 2.7.1 Subject to obtaining development consent, the earliest construction could start is 2026 and would take a maximum of 24 months, with completion potentially by early 2028. The Environmental Statement will provide further details of the proposed construction activities and their assumed duration, along with an assumed programme of each phase of works.
- 2.7.2 Construction access to the Site is expected to be via the A1035, the A165 and existing local roads, subject to their suitability for heavy goods vehicles. The requirement for highways improvements will be determined following completion of further assessments, but possible highways improvement locations have been identified.
- 2.7.3 Construction compounds are expected to be established in each Land Area for the storage of materials, plant and equipment. Any live construction areas would be closed to the public throughout the construction phase to ensure public safety.

2.8 How has the design considered environmental constraints and opportunities?

Environmental constraint or opportunity	Design response
Potential effects on biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The design is expected to avoid any development on Habitats of Principal Importance. The design is expected to incorporate a minimum offset of 10 metres from existing trees, hedgerows, watercourses and ditches.

Environmental constraint or opportunity	Design response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The design is expected to incorporate mitigation and enhancement areas for ground nesting and wintering birds. Where reasonably practicable, existing habitat is expected to be retained and any access tracks, security fencing and cable routes will be designed to use existing agricultural tracks and breaks in hedgerows as much as is practicable. The design is expected to incorporate animal gates to allow animals to continue to travel across the Land Areas.
Potential impacts on climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of concrete would be minimised where reasonably practicable.
Potential impacts on below-ground archaeology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No solar infrastructure is expected to be erected in areas of probable below-ground archaeology, with a 20-metre buffer zone also in place around identified below-ground remains.
Potential impacts to the setting of scheduled monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A buffer zone of 100 metres is expected to be incorporated to the south of Meaux Abbey Scheduled Monument. No solar infrastructure is expected to be erected in fields which border Meaux duck decoy Scheduled Monument.
Potential impacts on land, soils and groundwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where not used for solar photovoltaic development, and where reasonably practicable, areas that are not best and most valuable land have been prioritised for areas of environmental mitigation and enhancement.
Potential impacts on residential properties and users of public rights of way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The design is expected to incorporate a minimum offset distance of 50 metres from residential properties. The design is expected to incorporate a minimum offset distance of 10 metres from all public rights of way. No public right of way is expected to require permanent closure. The design is expected to incorporate planting around large infrastructure to provide screening.
Potential landscape and visual impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The design is expected to incorporate a minimum offset of 10 metres from landscape features identified in landscape character studies. The design is expected to protect existing long-range and panoramic views from public rights of way wherever reasonably practicable, with low-level planting that is set back from routes.

Environmental constraint or opportunity	Design response
Potential noise and vibration impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The two on-site substations are not expected to be within 250 metres of residential properties or any environmentally designated site.
Potential impacts on transport and access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where necessary, passing places are expected to be provided for heavy goods vehicles to pass. Construction works would be phased, which is intended to minimise the overall impact of construction vehicles on the local road network.
Potential impacts on water (flood risk and water quality)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electrical infrastructure (e.g. substations, inverters) is expected to be sited in locations at low risk of flooding and/or set at the necessary minimum ground levels determined by the Flood Risk Assessment. The design would include an easement of 9 metres from the top of watercourse banks and 8 metres from flood defences. Access tracks are expected to be designed to allow water to percolate, for example being formed from permeable materials. For hard surfaces, runoff is expected to be directed to the ground locally via gravel beds.
Potential impacts on glint and glare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The solar photovoltaic modules are designed to absorb rather than reflect light as much as possible.
Potential impacts on utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offsets are expected to be implemented as required.
Opportunities for enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The areas discounted for solar photovoltaic development are retained within the Site for potential mitigation, enhancement or retained agricultural use. Wildflowers and meadow grassland are expected to be planted underneath suitable solar photovoltaic modules. The design is expected to include new permissive paths.

2.8.1 The table above outlines only a few of the ways in which the design has responded to environmental constraints and opportunities that have been identified up to this point.

3 Environmental impact assessment process

3.1 What is the environmental impact assessment process?

- 3.1.1 Environmental impact assessment is a systematic process that examines the likely significant effects (beneficial or adverse) on the environment resulting from the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of a proposed development. The environmental impact assessment process is shown on **Image 1: Main stages of the environmental impact assessment process**. The Preliminary Environmental Information Report is the third stage in this image.

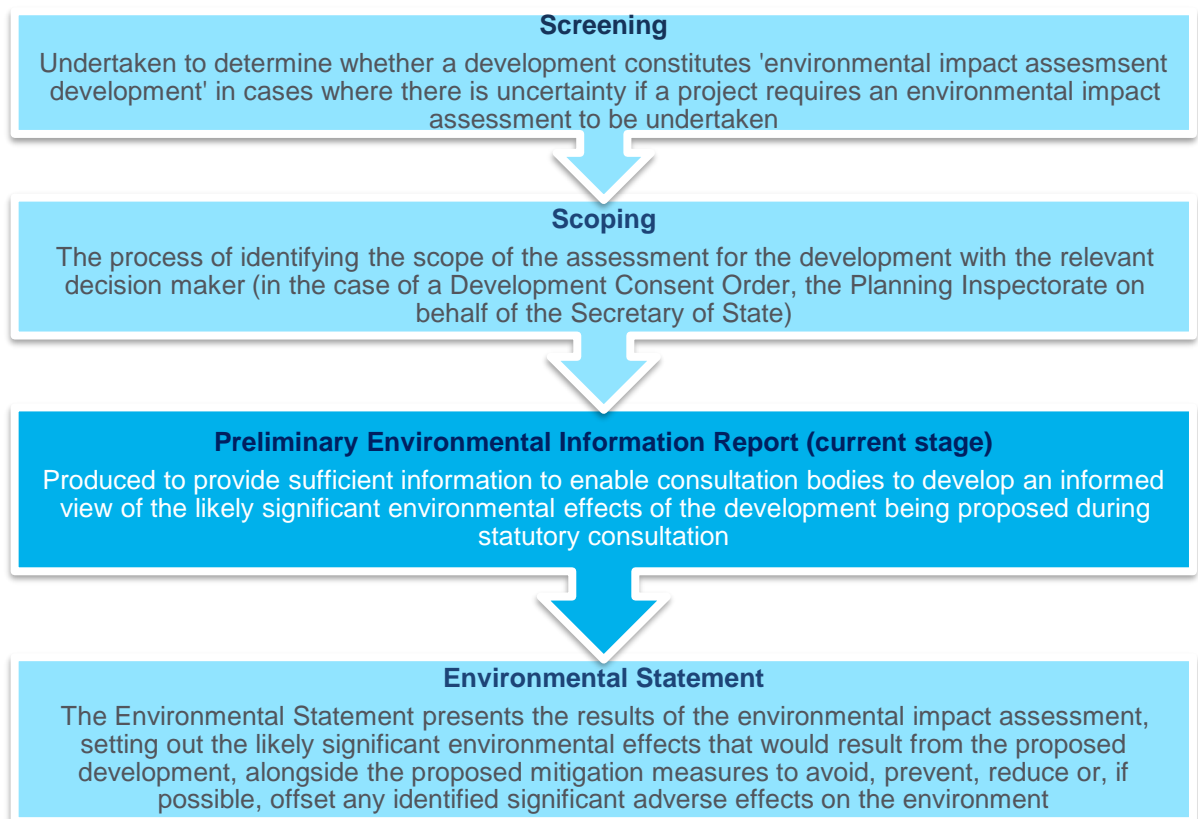


Image 1: Main stages of the environmental impact assessment process

- 3.1.2 The Environmental Statement, once it has been produced, will be submitted as part of an application for development consent and is used to report to decision makers, consultees and stakeholders on the likely significant environmental effects of a development and helps the decision maker (in the case of a Development Consent Order, the Secretary of State) determine the application.

4 Assessment findings

4.1 Air quality

Would dust and emissions generated during construction and decommissioning affect nearby properties and ecological receptors?

- 4.1.1 Dust and emissions released via construction works and construction traffic movements have the potential to adversely affect air quality and impact on nearby sensitive human and ecological receptors (e.g. Cote Wood ancient woodland). The same applies during the decommissioning phase, but to a lesser extent.
- 4.1.2 Site-specific dust mitigation measures would be proposed based on the results of a pre-mitigation dust impacts assessment to be undertaken. Mitigation measures, e.g. relating to construction site management and operation of machinery, will be documented in an Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan and an Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan. Measures to manage the impact of construction traffic emissions, such as minimising the use of sensitive routes by heavy goods vehicles, are expected to be documented in an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan. These outline plans will be submitted in support of the Development Consent Order application.
- 4.1.3 With mitigation measures in place, the effects of dust and emissions during construction and decommissioning are predicted to be **not significant**.

Would air quality in the area worsen because of the operation of the Proposed Development?

- 4.1.4 No site activities that generate significant emissions are anticipated during the operational phase and there would be minimal vehicle movements (e.g. maintenance vehicles) during operation. Therefore, impacts of Peartree Hill Solar Farm on air quality during the operational phase are not considered further in the preliminary assessment.

4.2 Biodiversity

Would Peartree Hill Solar Farm affect any designated sites?

- 4.2.1 There are five international statutory designated sites within 10 kilometres (designated for wintering or breeding bird assemblages), two national statutory

designated sites within 2 kilometres (noted for wintering birds and wetland plants respectively) and seven non-statutory designated sites within 1 kilometre of the Land Areas.

- 4.2.2 Construction activities are not anticipated to have a direct impact on any designated sites. However, construction activities could potentially disturb or displace species associated with the designated sites, such as breeding and wintering bird species, although relatively low numbers of wintering birds were recorded on Site. There is also potential for local wildlife sites to be indirectly impacted by pollution runoff during construction.
- 4.2.3 In some cases, the distance between Peartree Hill Solar Farm and the designated sites means no significant noise, lighting or visual disturbance is anticipated. Where this is not the case, appropriate buffers would be in place between the works and the boundary habitats and measures documented in a Construction Environmental Management Plan would be followed to reduce the risk of potential impacts during construction. An Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan will be submitted in support of the Development Consent Order application. Further assessments of potential impacts on any international statutory designated sites will be undertaken through a Habitats Regulations Assessment, which will be submitted in support of the Development Consent Order application.
- 4.2.4 With mitigation, during the construction phase for the Land Areas likely effects on designated sites are anticipated to be **not significant**. During the operational phase, no direct impacts on designated sites are anticipated as maintenance work during operation would be limited. There is potential for **beneficial effects significant at the local level** since planned environmental mitigation and enhancement areas are expected to improve the area for species associated with the designated sites, particularly wintering birds.

Would Peartree Hill Solar Farm affect habitats and species?

- 4.2.5 The majority of the Site consists of species-poor arable and grassland habitats, which would be directly modified by the construction phase of Peartree Hill Solar Farm. However, these habitats are of little intrinsic biodiversity value and there are large amounts of similar habitat in the surrounding area. Other existing habitats, mostly located along field margins, include woodland, scrub, reedbeds, ponds, rural trees and boundary habitats. The majority of these are expected to be retained and field boundaries would be managed to enhance biodiversity. Appropriate buffers to watercourses would be applied.
- 4.2.6 Species potentially supported by the Site and surroundings include wintering and nesting birds, invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles, bats, riparian mammals, badger, brown hare, hedgehogs and other small mammals. Construction and

decommissioning of Peartree Hill Solar Farm could cause disturbance and lead to a short-term loss of foraging and/or breeding habitat for these species. During decommissioning, effects could potentially be greater than during construction due to the higher biodiversity value of the proposed habitats that will be created in comparison with the existing habitats. However, the majority of existing habitats are expected to be retained, and measures such as maintaining buffers from sensitive habitats and utilising permeable security fencing that is not dug into the ground should retain foraging opportunities and connectivity.

- 4.2.7 An Environmental Clerk of Works, an independent environmental specialist, would be appointed during the construction phase to advise on how to protect valued biodiversity features and comply with environmental legislation. The Outline Construction and Decommissioning Environmental Management Plans will document best practice measures to avoid or minimise potential impacts to species and habitats, including reducing the risk of pollution to watercourses. The Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan is also expected to specify any pre-construction surveys and checks to be undertaken and whether any Species Protection Plans are needed.
- 4.2.8 During operation of Peartree Hill Solar Farm, no direct impacts on retained habitats are anticipated. Habitat creation and enhancement measures, such as planting under and between solar photovoltaic modules, strengthening hedgerows, and implementing environmental mitigation and enhancement areas, are expected to provide habitat and connectivity opportunities. The principles of retention, creation, enhancement and management of habitats within the Land Areas will be documented in an Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan. An Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan will be submitted in support of the Development Consent Order application and is expected to include measures that are required during maintenance works, such as regular checks of animal fencing to ensure no species have become trapped.
- 4.2.9 With mitigation, the majority of likely residual effects on biodiversity during all phases of Peartree Hill Solar Farm are anticipated to be **not significant**. There are anticipated to be **beneficial effects significant at the local level** due to proposed habitat creation and enhancement.
- 4.2.10 There is potential for likely **significant** effects to remain for displacement and loss of habitat for foraging bats. These effects are expected to be reduced by the proposed mitigation but a full assessment will be undertaken in the Environmental Statement. Other ecological surveys are also planned where information gaps exist, for example a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal survey of cable routes, and this information will be presented within the Environmental Statement.
- 4.2.11 Opportunities for enhancement, such as providing bat and bird boxes on trees, would be considered during the detailed design of Peartree Hill Solar Farm.

Habitat creation and enhancement measures will be assessed in a Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment and Calculation that will be submitted in support of the Development Consent Order application.

4.3 Climate

What impact would Peartree Hill Solar Farm have on climate?

- 4.3.1 Peartree Hill Solar Farm has the potential to affect the global climate through the addition or avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions. Greenhouse gas emissions could occur directly from construction, operation and decommissioning activities (e.g. fuel consumption), but emissions occurring outside of the draft Order Limits must also be considered, such as those resulting from the extraction, manufacture and transportation of materials to the Site during construction.
- 4.3.2 The Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan will document measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the construction phase. Such measures could include decreasing fuel use by maximising energy efficiency, promoting sustainable fuels and recycled materials, and using locally sourced materials as much as is practicable.
- 4.3.3 During the operational phase, significant greenhouse gas savings are anticipated due to the displacement of fossil-fuel derived electricity within the National Grid. Proposed planting could increase the carbon sequestration potential of the land.
- 4.3.4 Overall, Peartree Hill Solar Farm is anticipated to have a **significant beneficial** effect on the climate.

How resilient would Peartree Hill Solar Farm be to climate change?

- 4.3.5 There is potential for climate hazards (e.g. fluctuating temperatures, increased rainfall, flooding) to affect elements of Peartree Hill Solar Farm.
- 4.3.6 The Outline Construction and Decommissioning Environmental Management Plans will include measures to manage climate change risks during the construction and decommissioning phases, such as the provision of welfare facilities and Emergency/Incident Response Plans. During the operational phase, assets would be regularly assessed and maintained.
- 4.3.7 Most climate hazards are judged to pose a **negligible or minor risk** to Peartree Hill Solar Farm. The only one that poses a **moderate risk** is river flooding.

4.4 Cultural heritage

- 4.4.1 A desk-based assessment, site visit and geophysical survey have been undertaken. The development layout is being finalised and assessments are ongoing (such as geophysical surveys of the cable routes), meaning uncertainty remains about the impacts on some heritage assets. At the current design stage, and without consideration of additional mitigation, 10 designated heritage assets and 13 non-designated heritage assets of up to medium importance could potentially be at risk of significant effects.

Would Peartree Hill Solar Farm physically impact on heritage assets?

- 4.4.2 Physical impacts to heritage assets could include damage to below- and/or above-ground archaeological remains and listed buildings during the construction or operation phases. The Site layout has been designed to avoid directly impacting on heritage assets as much as is practicable.
- 4.4.3 Mitigation measures to protect the physical remains of in-situ designated heritage assets will be included within the Outline Construction, Operation and Decommissioning Environmental Management Plans, and could include the installation and maintenance of fencing around assets during construction works. Toolbox talks to inform site contractors of the procedure to follow in case of archaeological remains being exposed would also be produced.
- 4.4.4 With mitigation in place, **no likely significant effects** are anticipated regarding physical impacts on heritage assets both within and outside of the draft Order Limits.

Would Peartree Hill Solar Farm affect the setting of heritage assets?

- 4.4.5 Impacts on the setting of a heritage asset could include temporary loss of tranquillity during construction or partial loss of surrounding undeveloped land during operation.
- 4.4.6 No development would take place in sections of certain fields to reduce impacts on the settings of certain heritage assets, such as Meaux Abbey and Meaux duck decoy Scheduled Monuments. Some adverse residual setting effects would occur due to increased noise, dust and/or lighting associated with construction and decommissioning activities. However, as these setting effects would be temporary and fully reversible, they are considered to be **not significant**.

- 4.4.7 Opportunities for enhancement will be explored as the detailed design is developed, such as the installation of information boards and new permissive paths to improve public access to heritage assets.

4.5 Land, soils and groundwater

Would Peartree Hill Solar Farm lead to any contamination?

- 4.5.1 During construction and decommissioning, there is a risk of soil contamination from spills when refuelling or operating equipment. A Preliminary Risk Assessment did not identify any significant sensitive receptors relating to land contamination.
- 4.5.2 Construction and decommissioning activities could cause minor damage to field drains, which may affect groundwater quality in the underlying aquifer (particularly in the areas of the Source Protection Zone). Spillages or leaks of fuels, oils, and chemicals and silt run-off, for example from construction activities or from maintenance works during operation, could potentially pollute the underlying aquifer. The likelihood of significant effects is lower during operation compared to construction and decommissioning, as fewer activities are involved. The presence of hard surfaces, for example for the substations, could affect groundwater infiltration rates.
- 4.5.3 The Outline Construction, Operation and Decommissioning Environmental Management Plans would include procedures to mitigate against land contamination and effects to groundwater, including emergency procedures to manage accidental spillages and leaks.
- 4.5.4 With mitigation, the effect on land contamination and on groundwater is anticipated to be **not significant** for all phases of Peartree Hill Solar Farm.

How would soils and agricultural land be affected by Peartree Hill Solar Farm?

- 4.5.5 Construction activities could cause compaction and deterioration of the soil. However, handling and moving of soil would be limited and avoided where practical. During decommissioning, it is assumed that below ground cabling would be left in situ, therefore limiting the disturbance and impact to soil quality.
- 4.5.6 The Site has been identified as predominantly Grade 3 agricultural land, with areas of Grade 2. The site selection and design of Peartree Hill Solar Farm has sought to minimise the use of best and most valuable land. Other embedded mitigation includes optimising existing tracks, crossings and gaps in the

hedgerows for access tracks and cable routes wherever practicable, and running cabling alongside access tracks as much as possible to avoid wider excavations.

- 4.5.7 An Outline Soil Management Plan will be submitted in support of the Development Consent Order application to document measures to manage any potential impacts to the soil (and agricultural land), which is expected to include guidance on restoring the land to its pre-construction condition at the end of the lifetime of Peartree Hill Solar Farm.
- 4.5.8 Soil health could be enhanced during operation through the implementation of a Soil Management Plan and the proposed permanent cover of grassland and wildflowers, which would help reduce soil erosion. These will be detailed in the Environmental Statement.
- 4.5.9 With mitigation, the effect on soils and agricultural land is anticipated to be **not significant** during operation and decommissioning. However, potentially **significant adverse** effects on soils and agricultural land could occur during the construction phase.
- 4.5.10 A Minerals Safeguarding Assessment⁵ will be undertaken to inform the design of Peartree Hill Solar Farm and will form part of the Planning Statement submitted in support of the Development Consent Order application.

4.6 Landscape and visual

How would Peartree Hill Solar Farm affect landscape character?

- 4.6.1 The landscape is open with wide views of exposed farmland. However, there are no focal points on which these views focus. The 12 turbines of Hall Farm Wind Farm are prominent vertical features in the local landscape. No part of the Site or its immediately surrounding context falls within a nationally designated landscape.
- 4.6.2 Embedded mitigation of landscape and visual effects includes retention of existing trees and hedgerows as much as is practicable, offsets of solar infrastructure from residential properties and public rights of way, new planting, use of underground cables, and use of existing access tracks wherever practical.
- 4.6.3 With embedded mitigation, **significant adverse** landscape character effects are only anticipated on Landscape Character Area 'Central Holderness Open

⁵ An assessment of land to identify the potential future extraction of minerals and whether this creates a conflict with a proposed development, i.e. the minerals could not be extracted due to construction of the development

Farmland' within 1 kilometre of Peartree Hill Solar Farm during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases.

Would Peartree Hill Solar Farm have a visual impact?

- 4.6.4 Visual receptors include local residents, users of public rights of way and users of the local road network. The relatively flat landscape means that there can be long-distance views but also that fairly low-level planting, such as hedgerows, can provide significant screening for low-level developments.
- 4.6.5 A comprehensive landscape scheme (the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan) would be developed in accordance with the design principles to integrate Peartree Hill Solar Farm into the landscape and to mitigate visual effects as far as practicable. The landscape scheme would be complementary to any biodiversity and other environmental objectives.
- 4.6.6 Likely visual effects on local settlements and on the River Hull are anticipated to be **not significant** during all phases of Peartree Hill Solar Farm.
- 4.6.7 After mitigation, visual effects during the construction and decommissioning phases are anticipated to be **not significant** for most key routes and recreational routes, however **significant adverse** visual effects are anticipated on two public rights of way during construction and decommissioning. Regarding the operation phase, **significant adverse** visual effects are anticipated on Meaux Lane and seven public rights of way during year 1 of operation (while planting establishes), with the **significant adverse** effects continuing into year 10 of operation for four of the public rights of way.
- 4.6.8 A Residential Visual Amenity Assessment will be undertaken and submitted alongside the Environmental Statement to assess residential properties identified as potentially experiencing significant effects on visual amenity.

4.7 Noise and vibration

Would noise generated during construction and decommissioning affect nearby properties and ecological receptors?

- 4.7.1 Details of noise emitting construction plant and equipment are not available at this stage, therefore a qualitative assessment has been undertaken based on professional judgement. An increase in daytime noise and vibration levels due to construction and decommissioning phase activities and an increase in daytime noise levels from construction traffic could cause potential disturbance to nearby occupants of residential properties and ecological receptors, such as Tophill Low Site of Special Scientific Interest.

- 4.7.2 During the construction and decommissioning phases, Best Practicable Means as defined by the Control of Pollution Act 1974 would be implemented to reduce noise and vibration impacts on residential properties located near the works. Noisy operations would be undertaken outside of nesting and breeding seasons to minimise ecological impacts. These, and other measures, would be documented in the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan.
- 4.7.3 With mitigation, residual effects at residential receptors and Tophill Low Site of Special Scientific Interest are anticipated to be **not significant** during construction and decommissioning.

Would noise levels in the area worsen because of Peartree Hill Solar Farm?

- 4.7.4 Fixed plant is expected to be designed and positioned to comply with noise limits at all receptor locations. As part of the Environmental Statement, an operational phase noise assessment will be undertaken to identify any requirements for additional mitigation measures, such as noise barriers or enclosures.
- 4.7.5 With mitigation, residual effects of noise generated by operational fixed plant on local residents and Tophill Low Site of Special Scientific Interest are anticipated to be **not significant**.

4.8 Population

Would Peartree Hill Solar Farm adversely affect population?

- 4.8.1 The population assessment covers the following:
- **Private property and housing** - no properties are at risk of demolition to accommodate Peartree Hill Solar Farm and none of the Site is allocated for residential development. Therefore, no impacts to property or housing are anticipated.
 - **Community land and assets** - Peartree Hill Solar Farm largely covers agricultural land and no community assets are located within the draft Order Limits. Therefore, no impacts to community land and assets are anticipated.
 - **Agricultural land holdings, development land and businesses** – there are eight farming operations in and around the Site, of which all landowners have voluntarily agreed to be a part of Peartree Hill Solar Farm with remuneration agreed accordingly. Two tenant farmers will receive compensation in lieu of the loss of ability to farm.
 - **Walkers, cyclists and horse riders** – where possible, public rights of way would be retained. Where temporary or permanent diversions are required,

the level of impact is expected to be not significant. New permissive paths are also proposed in the design. An Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan will be submitted in support of the Development Consent Order application, which will detail mitigation measures to minimise impacts to public rights of way.

- 4.8.2 Following implementation of the Public Rights of Way Management Plan, likely residual effects on users of public rights of way during construction of Peartree Hill Solar Farm are anticipated to be **not significant**. The level of effects during decommissioning is expected to be similar to or less than that during construction. During operation, no public rights of way are anticipated to be permanently diverted, therefore **no likely significant effects** are anticipated for users of public rights of way.
- 4.8.3 For other receptors in the bullet point list above, no likely significant effects on population due to Peartree Hill Solar Farm are expected prior to mitigation, so it is anticipated that **no likely significant effects** would remain.

4.9 Transport and access

Would construction and decommissioning traffic adversely affect the transport network?

- 4.9.1 Total vehicle and heavy goods vehicle flows have been calculated for each road link that connects the Site to the wider road network, based on anticipated construction traffic routes and worst-case assumptions of construction traffic volumes. Predicted construction traffic flows are generally shown to only result in a small percentage increase to the expected baseline traffic flows.
- 4.9.2 For access routes that are narrow and do not normally accommodate heavy goods vehicle movements, passing places, signage and temporary speed reductions are expected to be implemented to reduce any potential significant effects.
- 4.9.3 Additional mitigation measures to reduce likely significant effects of construction traffic on the local road network will be documented within an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan to be submitted in support of the Development Consent Order application. The plan is expected to include details such as arrangements for access, parking, and loading and unloading of plant and materials, and a scheme for routing and control of construction traffic. An Outline Travel Plan will be prepared and is expected to set out strategies for encouraging the use of sustainable transport for the construction workforce.

- 4.9.4 Effects during the decommissioning phase are assumed to be no greater than the construction phase. The management of movement of decommissioning traffic will be documented within an Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan, which will be submitted in support of the Development Consent Order application.
- 4.9.5 The preliminary assessment has identified that some severance effects are anticipated to be **significant** and will require further assessment before the Development Consent Order application is submitted. As the design of Peartree Hill Solar Farm develops, further assessments of severance effects (along with assessments of driver/pedestrian delay, amenity, fear and intimidation and road safety) will be undertaken and reported in the Environmental Statement and the Transport Assessment.

4.10 Water

Would Peartree Hill Solar Farm increase flood risk?

- 4.10.1 The Site is predominantly located in Flood Zones 2 and 3 but benefits from the presence of flood defences, such as the River Hull Tidal Surge Barrier. During early engagement, the Environment Agency confirmed that it did not consider the Site to be at significant risk of tidal flooding.
- 4.10.2 Solar photovoltaic modules and vulnerable infrastructure are expected to be raised above modelled flood levels to avoid any risk to Peartree Hill Solar Farm. The addition of such infrastructure would not have a significant effect on floodplain storage or off-site flood risk, meaning the likely effect of Peartree Hill Solar Farm on flood risk is anticipated to be **not significant**. Buffers are proposed between infrastructure and watercourse banks (9 metre buffer) and existing flood defences (8 metre buffer).
- 4.10.3 A Flood Risk Assessment will evaluate flood risk posed to the Site, including an assessment of climate change effects for Peartree Hill Solar Farm's lifetime.

Would Peartree Hill Solar Farm affect water quality?

- 4.10.4 There is a potential risk of increased runoff from hard surfaces or containerised infrastructure. Limiting or dispersing such infrastructure and using permeable materials for Site access tracks would promote rainfall percolation as per the existing Site. A formal drainage strategy will help manage runoff rates and is expected to include mitigation to protect surface and groundwater.
- 4.10.5 Where cable routes need to cross watercourses, horizontal directional drilling is expected to be used to minimise impacts on the watercourses.

- 4.10.6 The stopping of existing agricultural activities would lead to less compaction and therefore improvements in soil structure. A reduction in herbicide and fertilizer use would result in a reduction of pollution to groundwater and surface water resources.
- 4.10.7 Residual risk may include localised compaction caused by vehicle movement or the spillage of harmful substances. However, the flat topography of the Site means negative impacts would be limited to a small area and would have little to no effect on the water quality of the local watercourse network.
- 4.10.8 The Outline Construction and Decommissioning Environmental Management Plans are expected to document how the risk of increased runoff would be mitigated during construction and decommissioning. Possible mitigation measures include constructing and using access tracks early in the programme, planting riparian vegetation early in the programme where possible, and appropriate storage of pollutants.
- 4.10.9 Any residual effects on the water environment during the construction and decommissioning of Peartree Hill Solar Farm would be **not significant**. The operation of Peartree Hill Solar Farm has the potential to have a beneficial, but **not significant** effect on the water environment.

4.11 Glint and glare

Would glint and glare caused by Peartree Hill Solar Farm adversely affect residential dwellings, major roads and aviation infrastructure?

- 4.11.1 Although solar panels are designed to absorb rather than reflect sunlight, they have potential to cause a brief flash of bright light typically received by moving receptors or from moving reflectors ('glint') or a continuous source of bright light typically received by stationary receptors or from large reflectors ('glare').
- 4.11.2 The preliminary glint and glare assessment has considered potential residential receptors and major roads within 1 kilometre of the Site and any airfields or airports within 10 kilometres of the Site. There is potential for glint and glare effects on:
- 225 residential dwellings (without consideration of screening);
 - two sections of the A1035, and one section of the A165 (without consideration of screening); and
 - aviation activity at Beverley Airfield.

- 4.11.3 Any likely significant glint and glare effects on ground-based infrastructure (i.e. houses and roads) are expected to be solved with mitigation strategies, the most common being the provision of screening (e.g. hedgerow planting). Any likely significant effects on aviation activity are expected to be removed by rearranging the panel layout or agreed to be operationally accommodatable with the airfield safeguarding team. Mitigation will be informed by the full glint and glare assessment to be submitted in support of the Development Consent Order application.
- 4.11.4 Following the implementation of mitigation, it is anticipated that **no likely significant effects** would remain for glint and glare.

4.12 Other environmental considerations

Electric, magnetic and electromagnetic fields

- 4.12.1 Electromagnetic fields arise from the generation and transmission of electricity and can impact on human health and ecological receptors. However, the voltage of the underground cables does not exceed the threshold of 132 kilovolts (as set out in health protection guidelines) and Peartree Hill Solar Farm is expected to incorporate offsets between the on-site substations and residential properties and public rights of way to avoid the potential for any electromagnetic effects on these sensitive receptors. The likely electromagnetic effects during the construction, operation and decommissioning of Peartree Hill Solar Farm are therefore expected to be not significant.

Heat and radiation

- 4.12.2 Due to the scale and nature of Peartree Hill Solar Farm, no significant sources of heat or radiation are anticipated during construction, operation or decommissioning.

Human health

- 4.12.3 The likely effects of Peartree Hill Solar Farm on human health are considered within the respective relevant environmental assessments, which are summarised in the following sections of this Non-Technical Summary: **Section 4.1** ('Air quality'), **Section 4.6** ('Landscape and visual'), **Section 4.7** ('Noise and vibration'), **Section 4.8** ('Population'), **Section 4.9** ('Transport and access'), and **Section 4.11** ('Glint and glare'). Of these assessments, the ones with the most direct links to human health are Air quality, Noise and vibration and Population. All of these concluded in their respective assessments that any likely effects would be not significant.

- 4.12.4 Potential cumulative effects to human health are considered, with the overall approach to cumulative assessment summarised in **Section 4.13** ('Cumulative effects') of this Non-Technical Summary.

Major accidents and disasters

- 4.12.5 The construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of Peartree Hill Solar Farm has the potential to give rise to major accidents and disasters such as those outlined below; however, they can be mitigated as described below or in the relevant section of this Non-Technical Summary:
- Flooding – large parts of the Site are located in Flood Zones 2 and 3 but the Site is not considered to be at significant risk of flooding, as confirmed by the Environment Agency. See **Section 4.10** ('Water') of this non-technical summary for more information.
 - Fire – there is a potential fire risk associated with the Battery Energy Storage System. Cooling systems and siting of Battery Energy Storage System components a suitable distance from sensitive receptors would minimise this risk. An Outline Battery Safety Management Plan will be submitted in support of the Development Consent Order application and would document relevant mitigation.
 - Aircraft disasters – see **Section 4.11** ('Glint and glare') of this Non-Technical Summary
 - Plant disease – new planting could be susceptible to pests and disease. Risks would be managed through the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan.
- 4.12.6 The proposed embedded mitigation and the implementation of safety standards mean that no likely significant effects in relation to major accidents and disasters are anticipated during any phase of Peartree Hill Solar Farm.

Material assets and waste

- 4.12.7 The main potential effects relating to material assets and waste are depletion of resources and unsustainable use of resources, which could lead to degradation of the natural environment.
- 4.12.8 Indirect impacts resulting from materials consumption and waste disposal (e.g. water consumption and release of greenhouse gas emissions) are incorporated in the assessments of other environmental disciplines, which are summarised in **Section 4.2** ('Biodiversity'), **Section 4.3** ('Climate') **Section 4.6** ('Landscape and Visual') and **Section 4.10** ('Water') of this Non-Technical Summary. Of these assessments, the ones with the most direct links to material assets and waste

are Climate and Water. Both of these concluded that no likely significant adverse effects are anticipated, with significant beneficial effects anticipated in relation to greenhouse gas displacement.

- 4.12.9 Potential streams and volumes of materials and waste disposal would be described within the Environmental Statement. The Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (including a Site Waste Management Plan and a Materials Management Plan) and the Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan will set out how waste would be recycled or disposed of.

Transboundary effects

- 4.12.10 Due to the nature and location of Peartree Hill Solar Farm, no likely significant effects are anticipated on the environment of another European Economic Association State.

4.13 Cumulative effects

Will the different environmental effects from Peartree Hill Solar Farm be considered together?

- 4.13.1 Different environmental effects from Peartree Hill Solar Farm could occur concurrently on certain receptors.
- 4.13.2 Receptors that could experience more than one environmental effect at the same time include local residents and users of public rights of way, ecological receptors, heritage assets such as listed buildings and conservation areas, and land, soils and water. For example, combined effects on human receptors, such as local residents, could arise from air quality (dust), visual and noise impacts.
- 4.13.3 A full assessment of such effects will be undertaken and detailed within the Environmental Statement.

Will the effects of Peartree Hill Solar Farm be considered together with other projects in the area?

- 4.13.4 There is potential for significant environmental effects of Peartree Hill Solar Farm to occur cumulatively with those of other approved developments.
- 4.13.5 Other projects to be included in the cumulative assessment have been selected based on identifying major developments that: have the same Zone of Influence as Peartree Hill Solar Farm for at least one environmental factor; have temporal crossover in the proposed dates for construction, operation and/or

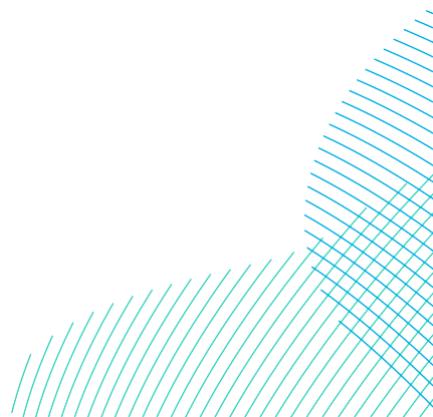
decommissioning; and are of a scale and nature where a significant effect is likely. The other projects to be included in the cumulative assessment include consented and proposed solar schemes in proximity to Peartree Hill Solar Farm as well as other Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects comprising offshore wind farms which are proposing to connect into the existing Croyke Beck Substation or a proposed new substation further north.

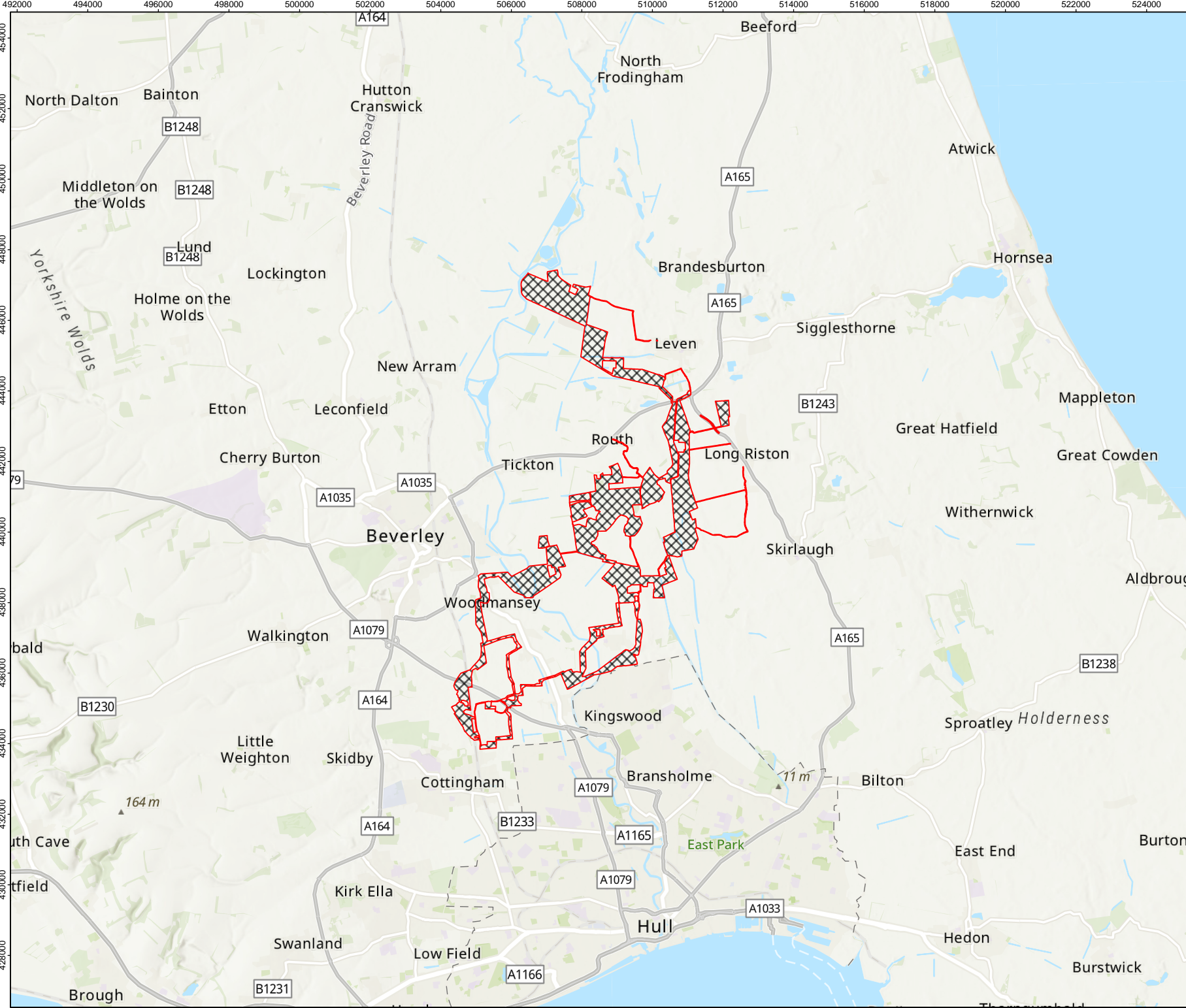
4.13.6 A full cumulative assessment will be reported in the Environmental Statement.


5 What happens next?


- 5.1.1 The statutory consultation period for Peartree Hill Solar Farm runs from Wednesday 15 May until Wednesday 26 June. More information can be found at the consultation website (www.peartreehillsolar.co.uk). As previously mentioned, the Preliminary Environmental Information Report, to which this Non-Technical Summary relates, is intended to enable interested parties, including members of the public, to understand the likely significant environmental effects of Peartree Hill Solar Farm to help inform their consultation responses.
- 5.1.2 There are a number of ways to respond to the consultation:
- By returning a feedback form at the in-person consultation events (see the above website for details).
 - By sending feedback to FREEPOST PEARTREE HILL SOLAR FARM (no stamp required).
 - By completing the feedback form on the above website.
 - By email (info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk).
- 5.1.3 Any feedback that is received through the consultation process will help inform the ongoing design of Peartree Hill Solar Farm.

Appendix A: Location plan






Legend:
 Draft Order Limits

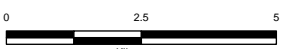



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Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App

Peartree Hill Solar


TITLE: Appendix A —
Location Plan

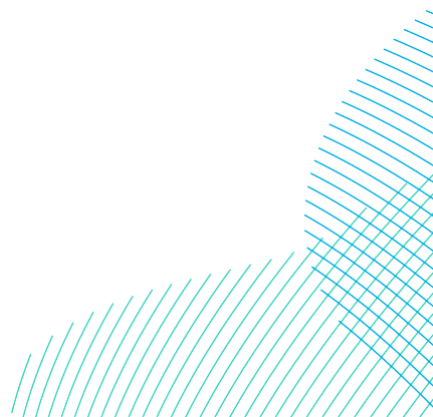
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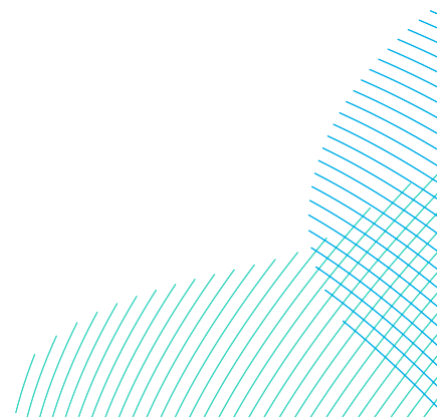


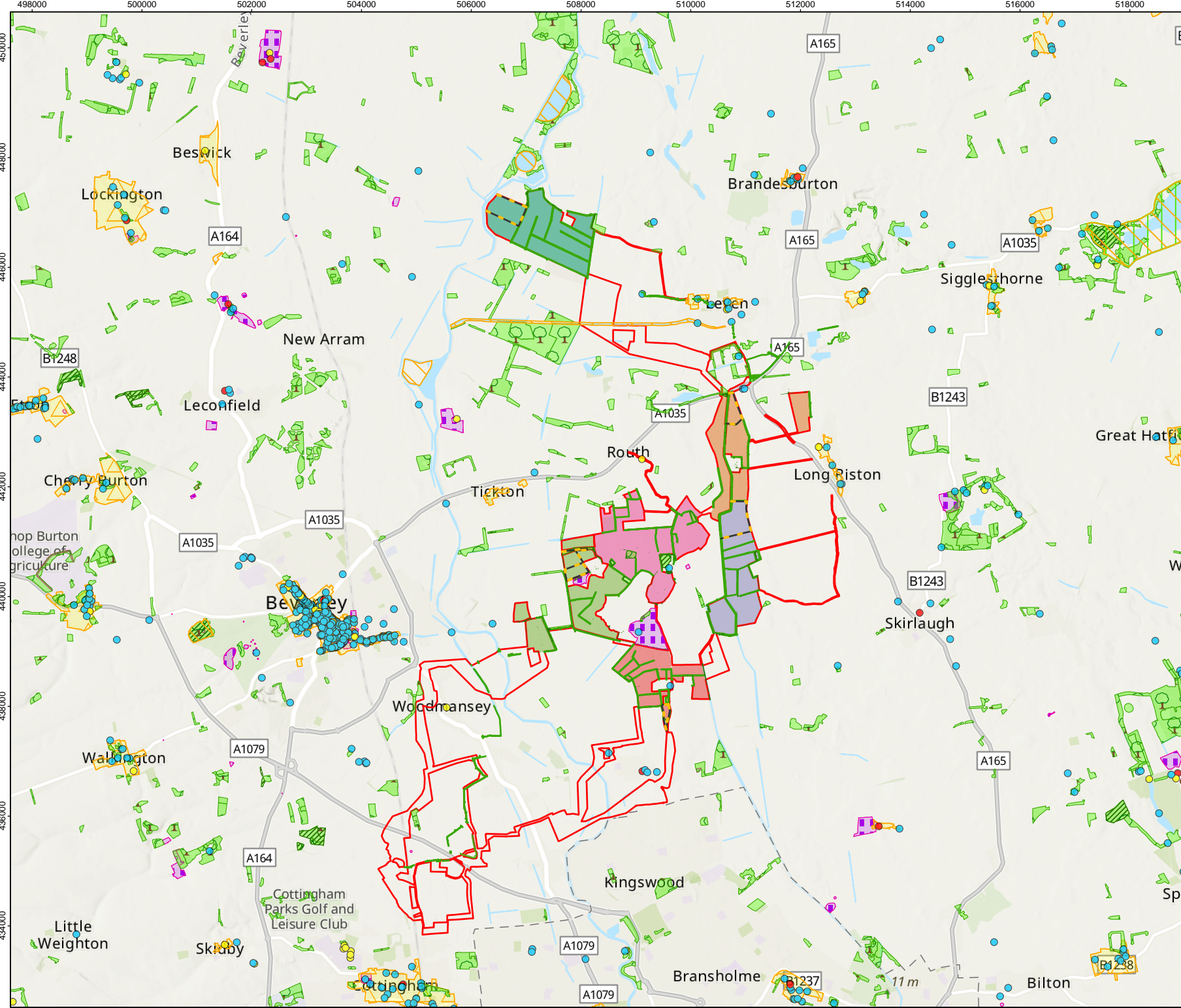
Appendix B: Proposed operational layout plan





Appendix C : Environmental features plan





Legend:

Draft Order Limits

Listed Building

- I
- II
- II*

Public Rights of Way (indicative)

Hedges

Trees

SSSI

SPA

Ancient Woodland

Woodland

Conservation_Areas

Scheduled Monuments

Land Areas

- A
- B
- C
- D
- E
- F

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05	05/04/2024	Updated RLB	FA	MM	AB
04	18/03/2024	Updated RLB & Legend	FA	MM	AB
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Peartree Hill Solar

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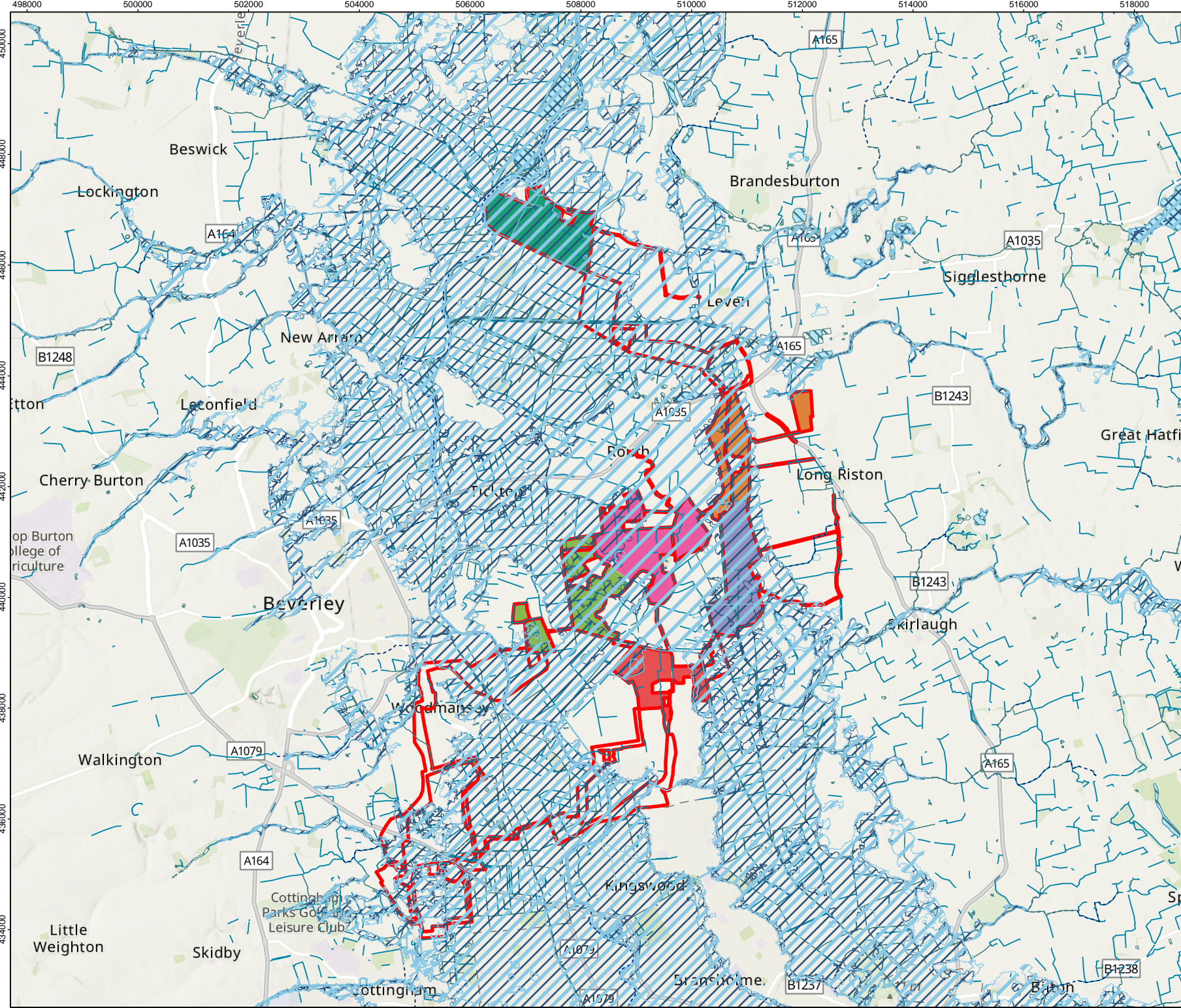
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Esri, Intermap, NASA, NGA, USGS, Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, Microsoft, Facebook, Inc. and its affiliates, Esri Community Maps contributors, Map layer by Esri, Esri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, Foursquare, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS



Legend:

- Draft Order Limits
- Main Rivers
- Watercourses
- Waterbodies
- Flood Zone 2
- Flood Zone 3

Land Areas

- A
- B
- C
- D
- E
- F

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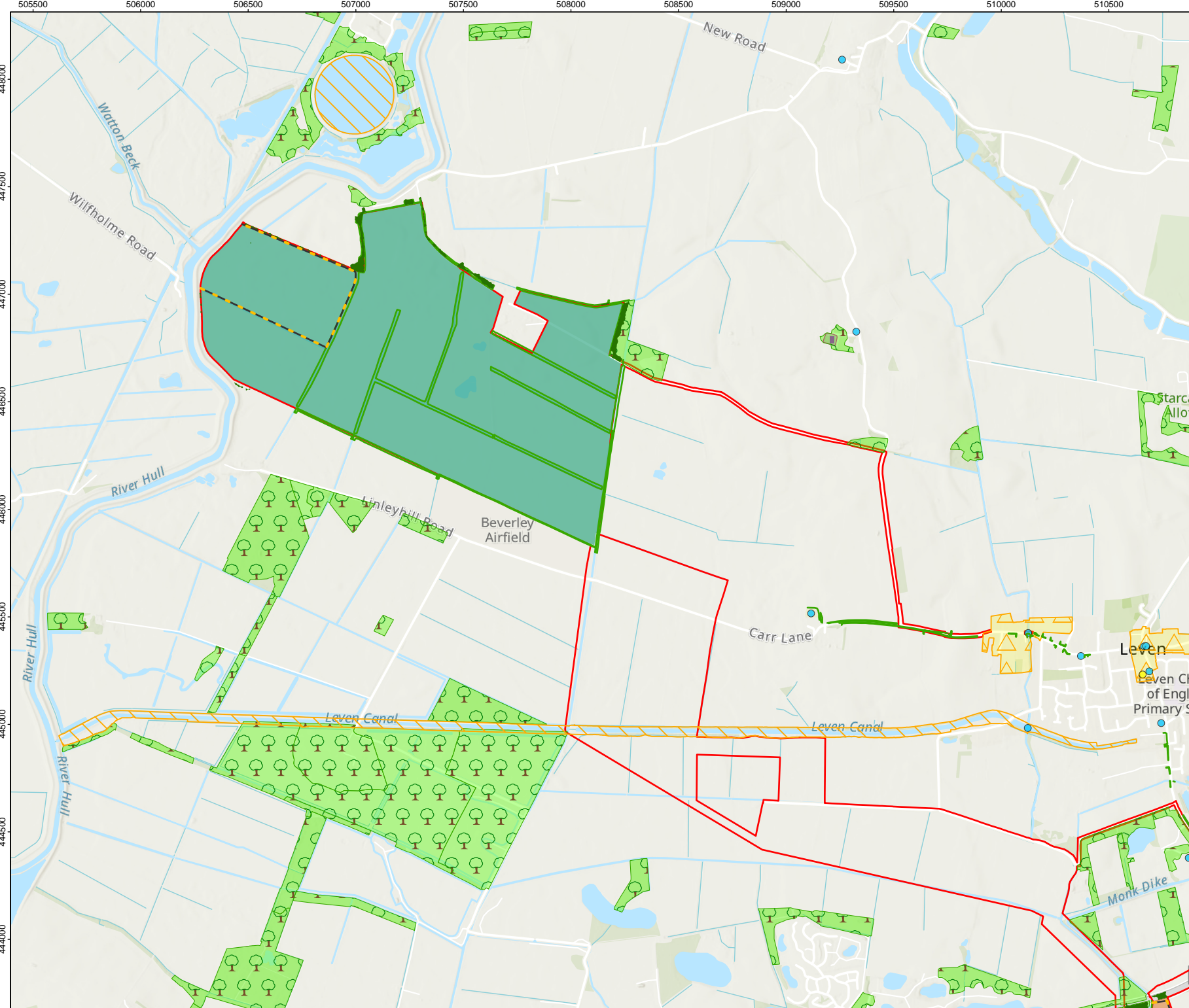
Peartree Hill Solar

TITLE: Appendix C —
Environmental Features Plan
(Flood Zones)

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Legend:

- Draft Order Limits
- Listed Building**
 - II
 - II*
 - Public Rights of Way (indicative)
 - Hedges
 - Trees
 - SSSI
 - Woodland
 - Conservation_Areas
 - Scheduled Monuments
- Land Areas**
 - A
 - B



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Peartree Hill Solar

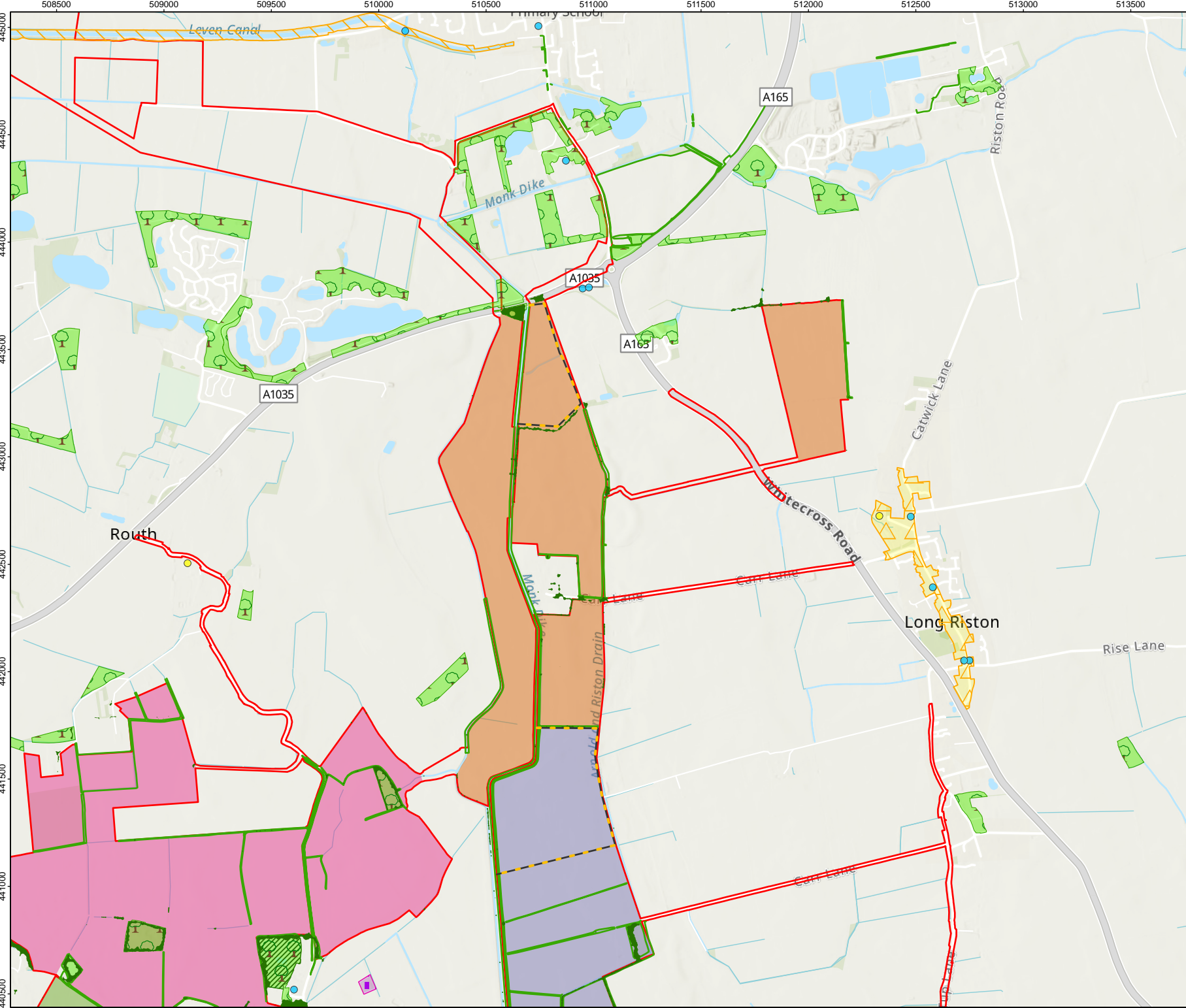
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Environmental Features Plan

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REV 06



Legend:

- Draft Order Limits
- Listed Building
 - II
 - II*
- Public Rights of Way (indicative)
- Hedges
- Trees
- SSSI
- Ancient Woodland
- Woodland
- Conservation_Areas
- Scheduled Monuments
- Land Areas
 - B
 - C
 - D
 - E

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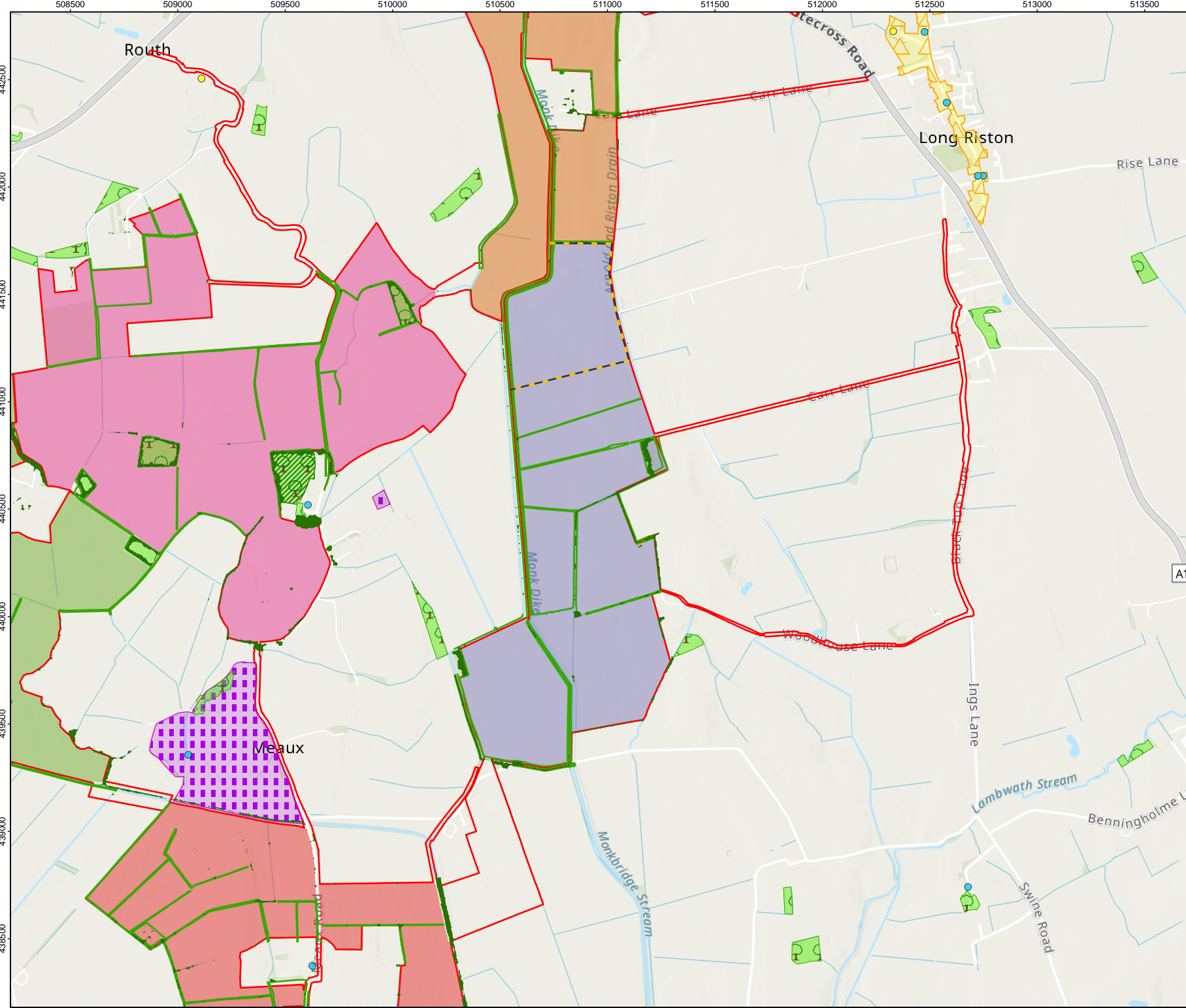
Peartree Hill Solar

TITLE: Appendix C —
Environmental Features Plan

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REV 06



Legend:

- Draft Order Limits
- Listed Building
 - II
 - II*
- Public Rights of Way (indicative)
- Hedges
- Trees
- Ancient Woodland
- Woodland
- Conservation_Areas
- Scheduled Monuments
- Land Areas
 - B
 - C
 - D
 - E
 - F

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Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App

Peartree Hill Solar

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Environmental Features Plan

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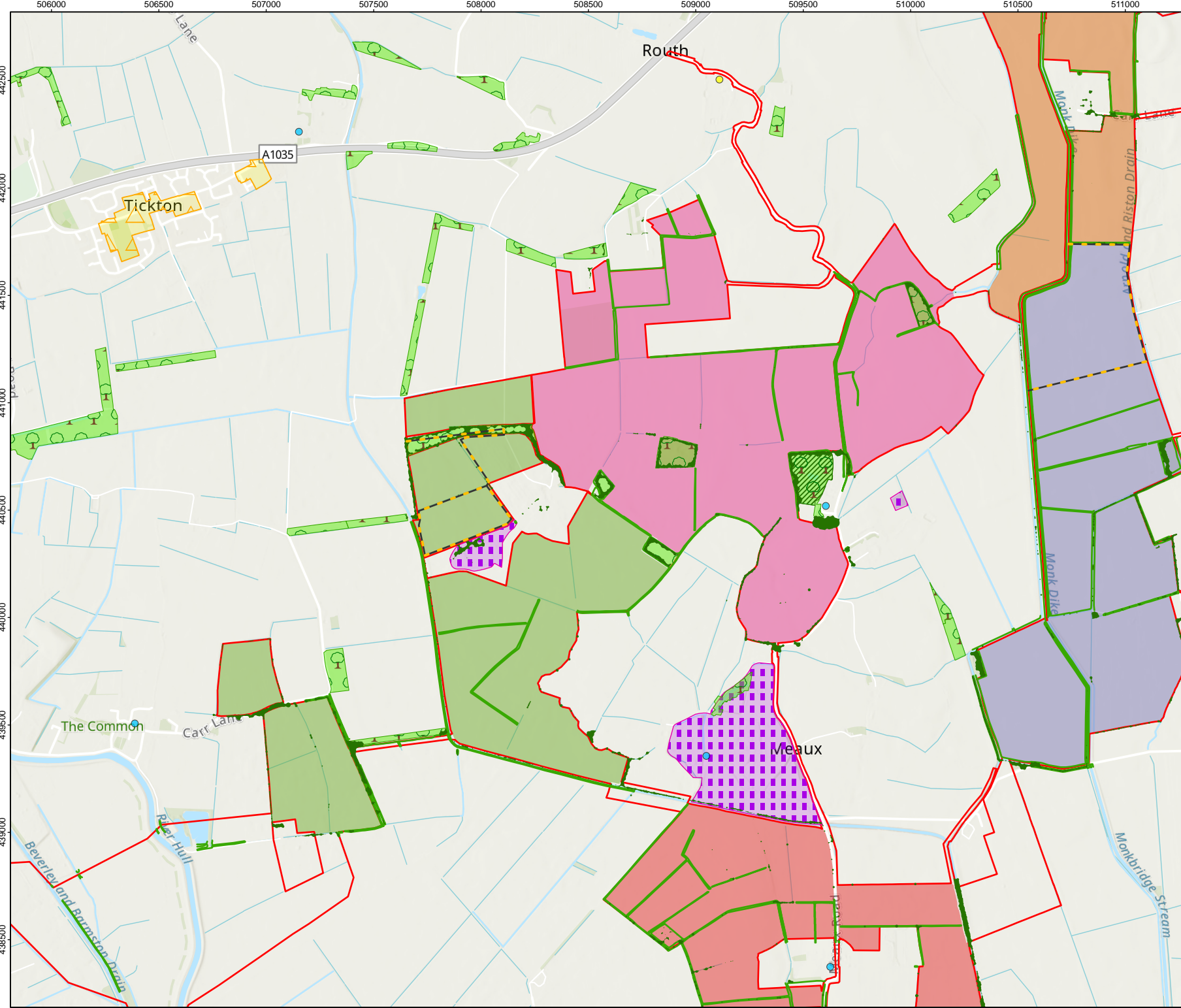
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REV 06



Legend:

- Draft Order Limits
- Listed Building
 - II
 - II*
- Public Rights of Way (indicative)
- Hedges
- Trees
- Ancient Woodland
- Woodland
- Conservation_Areas
- Scheduled Monuments
- Land Areas
 - B
 - C
 - D
 - E
 - F

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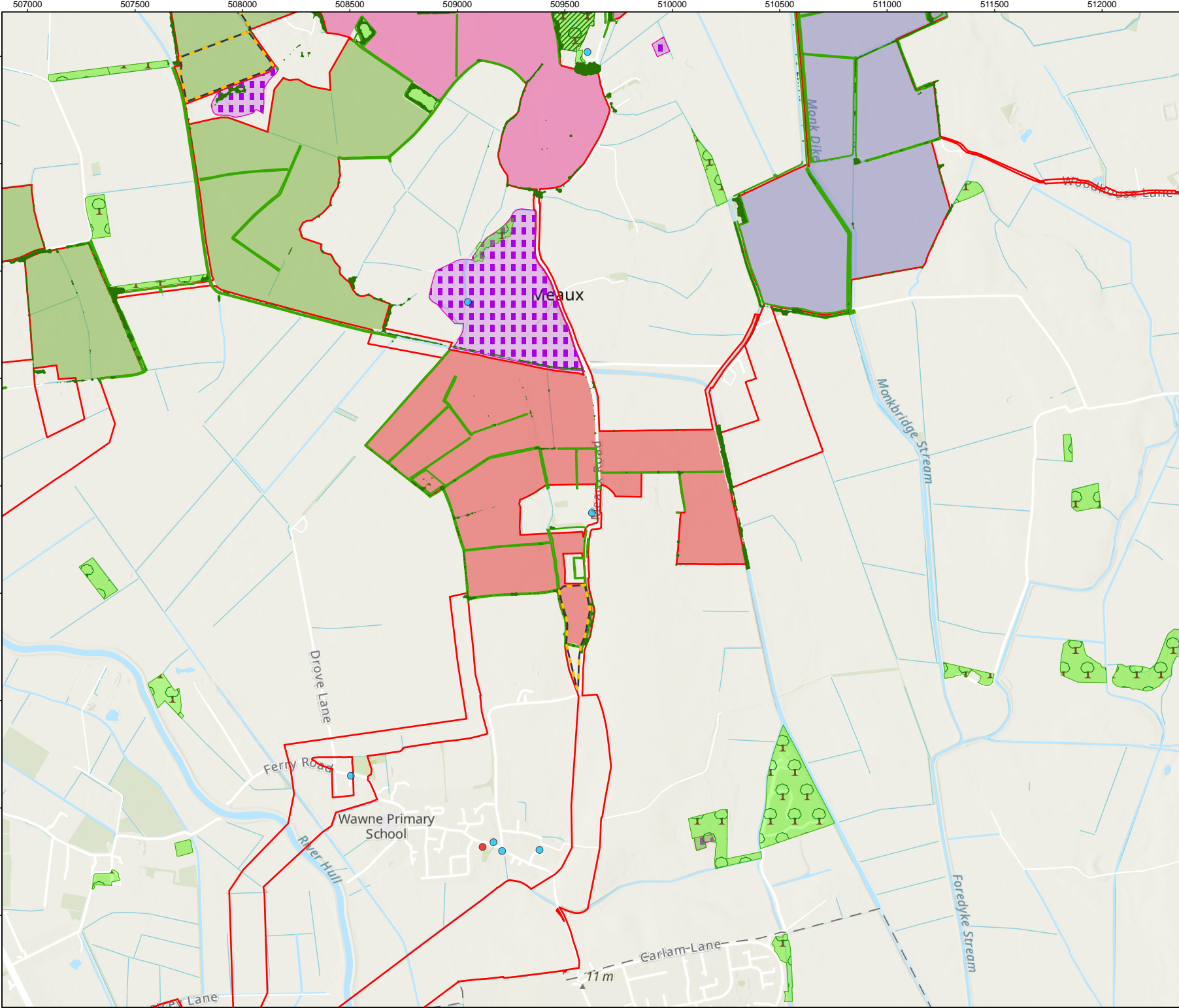
Peartree Hill Solar

TITLE: Appendix C —
Environmental Features Plan

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REV 06



Legend:

- Draft Order Limits
- Listed Building**
 - I
 - II
- Public Rights of Way (indicative)
- Hedges
- Trees
- Ancient Woodland
- Woodland
- Scheduled Monuments
- Land Areas**
 - C
 - D
 - E
 - F



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Peartree Hill Solar

TITLE: Appendix C —
Environmental Features Plan

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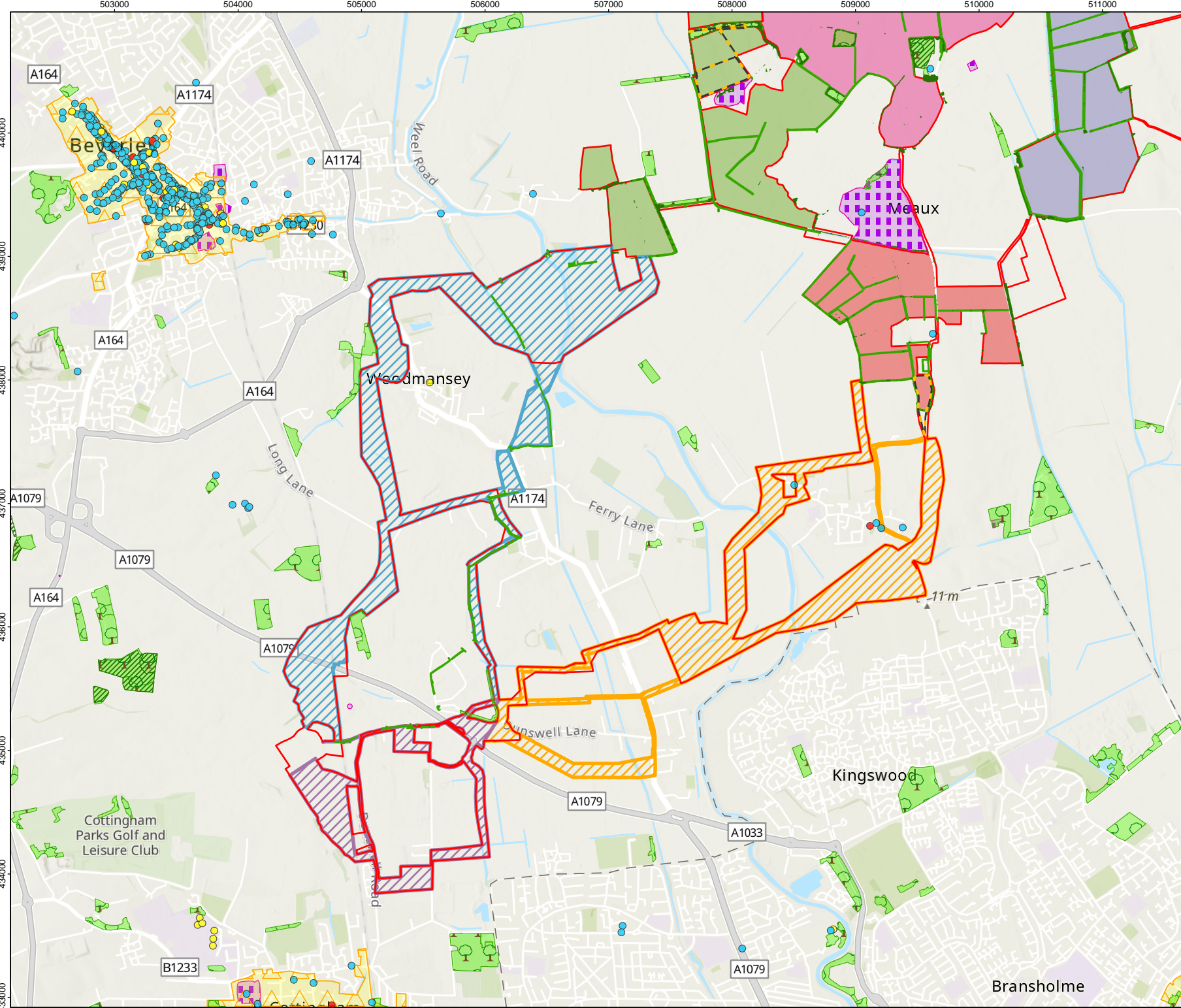
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REV 06



Legend:

- Draft Order Limits
- Listed Building
 - I
 - II
 - II*
- Public Rights of Way (indicative)
- Hedges
- Trees
- Ancient Woodland
- Woodland
- Conservation Areas
- Scheduled Monuments
- Proposed Cable Route Options
 - Option 1
 - Option 2
 - Mixed Option
- Land Areas
 - C
 - D
 - E
 - F

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Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App

Peartree Hill Solar

TITLE: Appendix C —
Environmental Features Plan
(Proposed Cable Route Options)

ID:P663880_envFeaturesPlanCable_A4L

REV 06

Appendix F-6 Consultation poster and locations

Appendix F-6.1 Consultation poster



View our updated plans for Peartree Hill Solar Farm!

Wednesday 15 May – Wednesday 26 June 2024



RWE has now refined its plans for a new solar project in East Riding of Yorkshire based on the valuable feedback you provided at our non-statutory consultation.

We would like your input on our updated proposals to inform the final plans we submit.

Our statutory consultation will run from **Wednesday 15 May**, lasting for six weeks until **11:59pm** on **Wednesday 26 June**.

Join us at our in-person consultation events or webinars:

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday 21 May 2024	1pm-7pm	Cottingham Civic Hall , Market Green, Cottingham, HU16 5QG
Wednesday 22 May 2024	1pm-7pm	Leven Village Hall North Street, Leven, HU17 5NF
Tuesday 28 May 2024	6.30pm-8pm	Online Webinar (Register at peartreehillsolar.co.uk)
Saturday 1 June 2024	11am-3pm	Tickton Village Hall Main Street, Tickton, HU17 9RZ
Monday 3 June 2024	1pm-6.30pm	Wawne Village Hall 36 Main Street, Wawne, HU7 5XH
Wednesday 12 June 2024	6.30pm-8pm	Online Webinar (Register at peartreehillsolar.co.uk)

Contact Us

If you would like to speak with a member of the Peartree Hill project team, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to provide information, answer any questions and to receive your feedback.

peartreehillsolar.co.uk (or scan QR code below)

 **info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk**

 **01482 695 004**

 **Freepost PEARTREEHILL SOLAR FARM**

You can also stay up to date with the proposals by following us on our Facebook page:
fb.com/peartreehillsolarfarm

Scan the QR code to visit
our consultation website:
peartreehillsolar.co.uk



Appendix F-6.2 List of consultation poster locations

Catwick Parish Council,
Riston Parish Council,
Tickton and Routh Parish Council,
Wawne Parish Council,
Leven Parish Council
Woodmansey Parish Council
Swine Parish Council
Brandesburton Parish Council
Cottingham Parish Council Skidby
Parish Council
Beverley Town Council
Beverley Library
Leven Library
Crown and Anchor Tickton Beverley
Micro Pig Bar
Tastie Butties
Nags Head
Tickton Post Office and Store
Walkington Post Office Costcutter,
Wawne Village Shop



Appendix F-7 Consultation banners



Welcome

Thank you for attending the public exhibition on our refined proposals for Peartree Hill Solar Farm in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

RWE Renewables UK Solar & Storage is launching its statutory consultation on proposals for Peartree Hill Solar Farm, a solar and battery storage project that would provide 320MW of clean energy, enough to power the equivalent of approximately 167,000 homes.

Peartree Hill would play a key role in supporting the UK's energy ambitions, improving energy security, while supporting the transition away from fossil fuels.

Our statutory consultation runs from **Wednesday 15 May**, lasting six weeks, until **11:59pm** on **Wednesday 26 June**.

The consultation introduces our revised proposals, which have been informed by comprehensive surveys and the feedback we received at our non-statutory consultation.

Who is RWE?

The initial plans for Peartree Hill Solar Farm were presented by JBM Solar during the non-statutory consultation in Autumn 2023. We are proud to announce that JBM Solar has now been acquired by RWE, one of the top three largest solar developers in the UK.

Proposals for Peartree Hill are still led by the same knowledgeable team with the same values. As part of RWE, Peartree Hill will now benefit from over 125 years of energy expertise, through design, construction, and operation.

It is RWE's ambition to have a carbon neutral energy portfolio by 2040, providing clean, secure, and affordable energy to millions of households.



What you have told us so far

Thank you to all those who took part in our non-statutory consultation in Autumn 2023. The feedback received from the local community has been critical to guiding the development of our plans.

You Said	We did
We received comments regarding the size of the Land Areas presented at non-statutory consultation and concerns regarding potential visual impact.	Within the Land Areas, we have reduced the area proposed for solar panels, and associated infrastructure. This has enabled the addition of appropriate buffers to homes, villages and environmental features closest to the site.
We received comments on land use and ensuring impacts on ecology are mitigated.	We have increased the areas that are proposed for ecological mitigation, ecological enhancement and land retained for agricultural use. Our illustrative masterplan includes proposed locations for outdoor classrooms, wildflower meadows and amenity spaces.
We received comments about the visual impact of the solar farm.	We have progressed our plans to include new planting across the site to screen views of solar infrastructure from residential areas, roads and footpaths.
We received comments outlining the desire for Peartree Hill to include public rights of way, bridleways and new permissive paths (a route which can be used by the public during the lifetime of the project but will not become a permanent right of way).	We have progressed our plans to include new permissive paths, whilst also exploring opportunities for horse riders in some areas. We are seeking feedback on our proposed permissive path routes as part of this consultation.
We received comments outlining the importance of locating battery energy storage and on-site substations with consideration to location, visibility and noise.	We have progressed site configuration to consider siting the two on-site substations in Land Areas C and E, alongside battery storage. We will be undertaking further noise assessments to inform the mitigation and screening required to minimise likely significant effects regarding local noise.

Our Proposals

Why do we need solar?

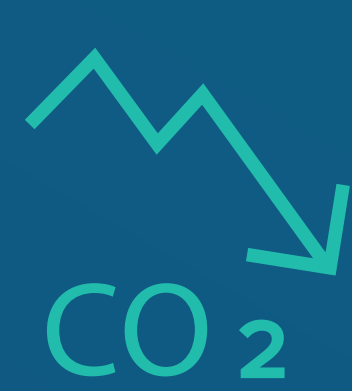
Our energy system is vulnerable to changes in global energy prices, impacting people's bills. Our proposals for Peartree Hill will help to address this, supporting the UK to become a more independent and self-sufficient energy-producing nation.

As one of the cheapest and most rapidly deployable forms of renewable energy, solar will play an important role in bolstering the UK's energy security, while supporting the UK's net zero commitments.

Proposals at a glance



Contributing 320MW of clean electricity to the national grid, enough to power the equivalent of **approximately 167,000 homes** – that's more than every home in Hull!



Supporting the UK's net zero targets by displacing over 11,400,000 tonnes of CO₂ from equivalent fossil fuel energy – that equates to taking **c. 166,000 cars off the road for a year**.



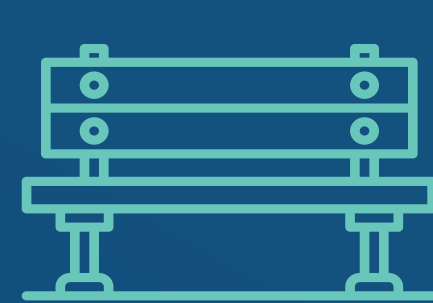
Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) on- site, ensuring the solar farm can be as **flexible as possible in delivering energy** to the grid.



Over 95% of the solar panel areas can be made available for sheep grazing, **retaining an agricultural use** and allowing topsoil to recover, by increasing soil organic matter and improving the soil structure.



Over 50% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) to be delivered on-site, providing new and improved habitats, such as wildflower meadows, grassland areas, bird and bat nesting boxes, and beehives.



Providing **additional opportunities for public recreation**, with up to 7km of proposed new permissive paths across the site, outdoor picnic areas and classrooms, new signage, benches and community orchards.



Up to 15km of proposed new hedgerows and trees including a mix of mature and semi-mature tree planting to further improve visual screening and habitat creation.



Educational opportunities introduced across the site, including an outdoor classroom area, information boards and educational trails, **providing information about local wildlife, historical features and renewable energy generation**.



RWE would provide a **community benefit fund of up to £4.2 million** to support local community groups and initiatives.



Around **£18.5m generated in business rates** over the lifetime of Peartree Hill, to be used by East Riding of Yorkshire Council to fund important local services.

What do solar farms look like?

Peartree Hill would include the below necessary components, along with a range of environmental mitigation and enhancements, as well as new community assets.

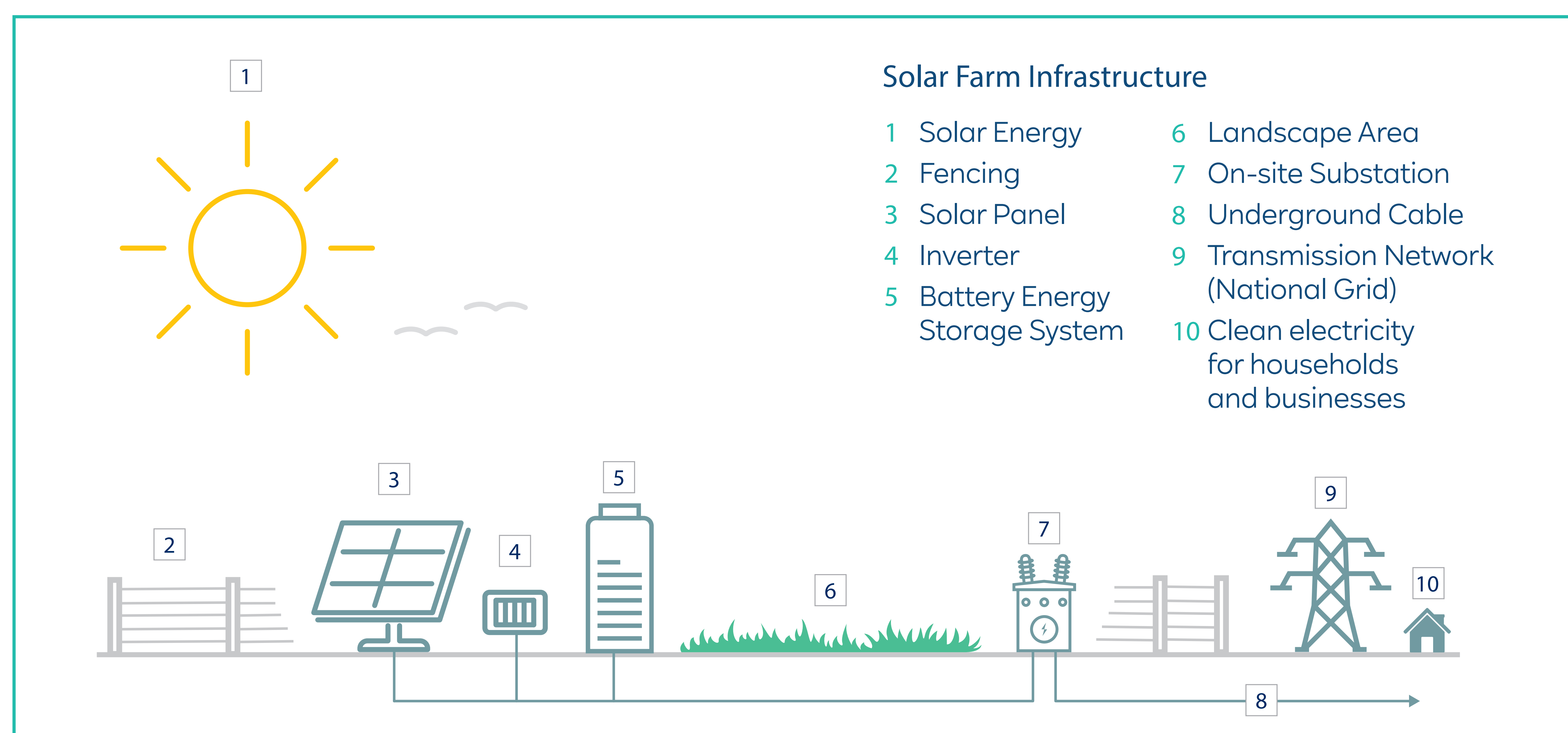
- **Solar panels and associated mounting structures**

Solar panels harness the sun's rays and convert them into electricity. The panels proposed would reach a maximum height of 3.5m and will be made of a frame (typically aluminium), glass, crystalline silicon solar cells, and copper wiring, all of which can be extracted, separated, and recycled or reused.

- **Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)**

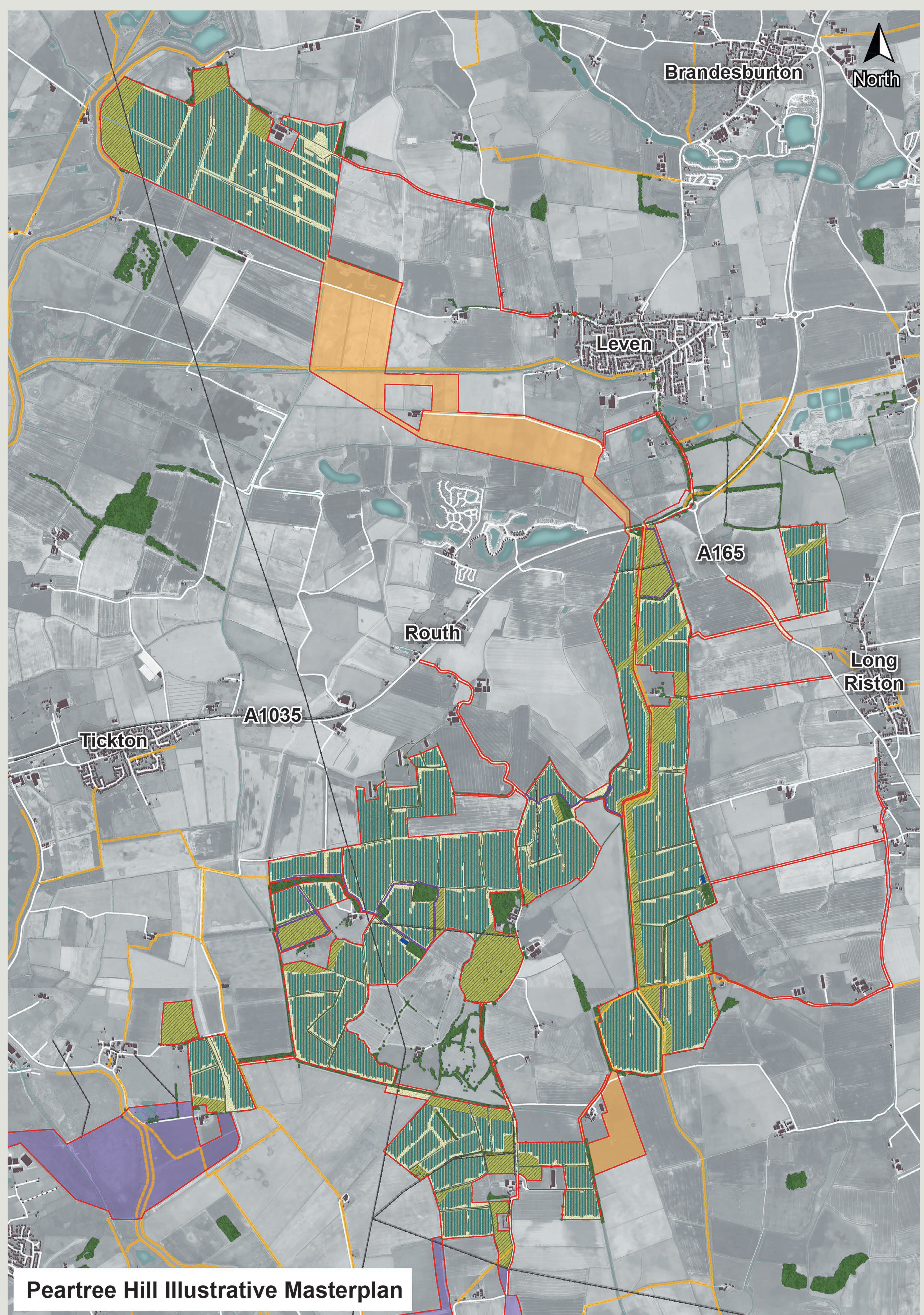
Battery storage is an integral component of renewable energy technologies, supporting Peartree Hill to generate a consistent and reliable renewably generated power supply, even when the sun is not shining.

- **On-site supporting equipment including inverters, transformers, and switchgears**
- **Two on-site substations to connect the solar panels to the electricity network**
- **Underground cabling connecting solar panel areas to the on-site substations and to Creyke Beck Substation**
- **Supporting infrastructure including access tracks, security measures, gates and fencing, lighting, drainage infrastructure and storage containers**
- **Highways works to enable construction for example, additional passing places**



Land Areas

Take a look at each Land Area (A-F) by considering the plans located on the table.



Cable route corridors

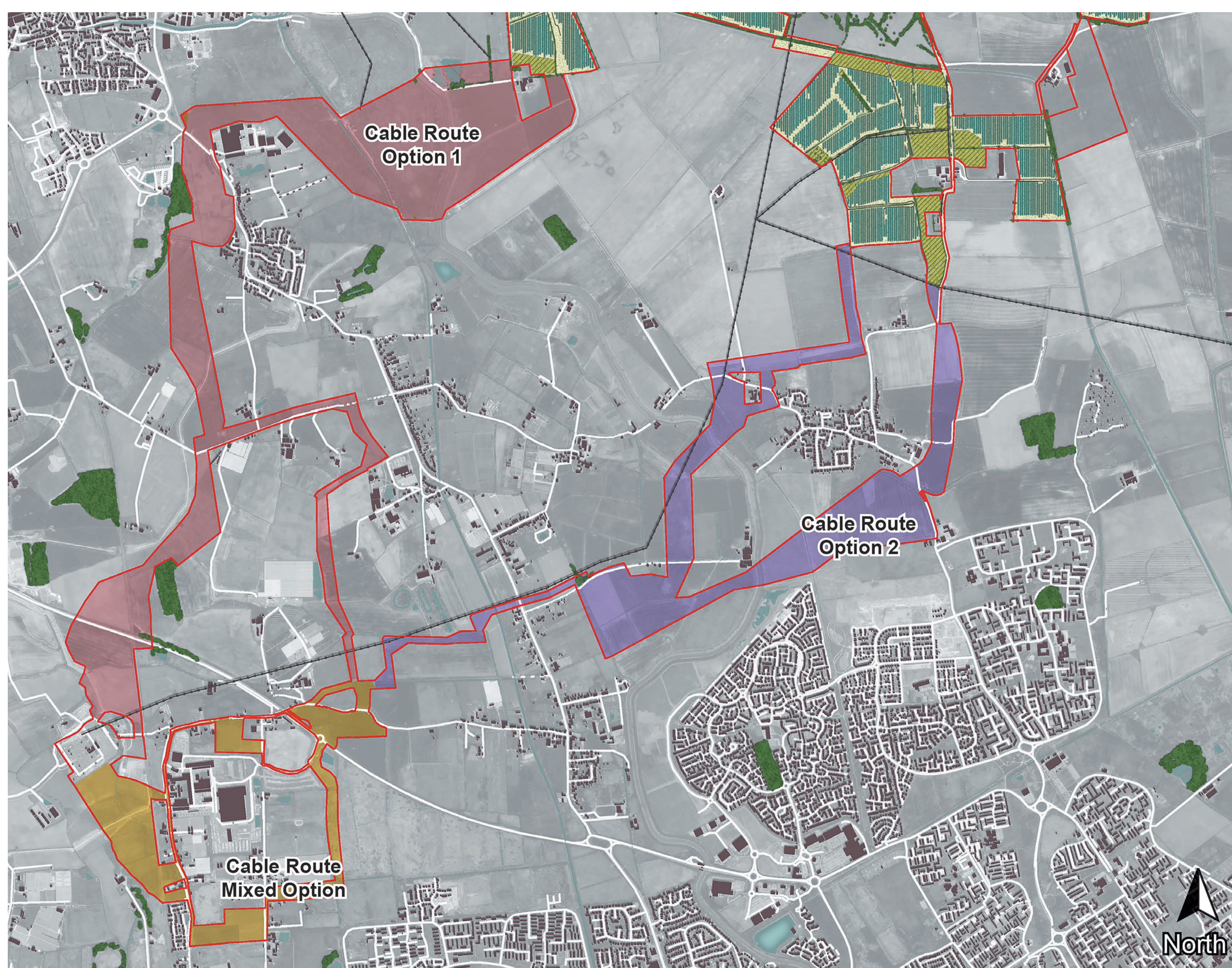
Peartree Hill would connect via underground cabling to the existing National Grid Substation at Creyke Beck, near Cottingham.

The potential cable route has undergone careful planning and assessment to consider the most efficient and environmentally responsible options, while a number of potential cable route options have been discounted since the previous consultation due to a range of concerns.

The below map shows the two indicative cable route corridor options under consideration.

While these options show routes passing through settlements, no cables would be installed under residential properties or within residential gardens.

In addition to the cable route connecting to Creyke Beck Substation, there will also be interconnecting cable routes between the Land Areas.



How will the cable route be installed?

Cable routes will be installed using the following approaches:

- Cable plough – A cable plough would be the most efficient and least impactful method of cable installation, causing minimal disruption to the ground by cutting, installing and back-filling in one operation.
- ‘Open cut’ trenches - Creating ‘open-cut’ trenches 1.2m deep and 1.5m wide within which cables will be laid. This process requires a temporary working width of between 15 – 30 metres.
- Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) – To be used in instances where the cable plough or open-cut trench cannot be used (for example, when crossing a road, railway or large drainage ditch). This process involves the cables being installed underground without disturbing the surface.

When land is reinstated, land-use restrictions may apply to avoid risk of cables being disturbed or damaged.



Community Benefit Fund

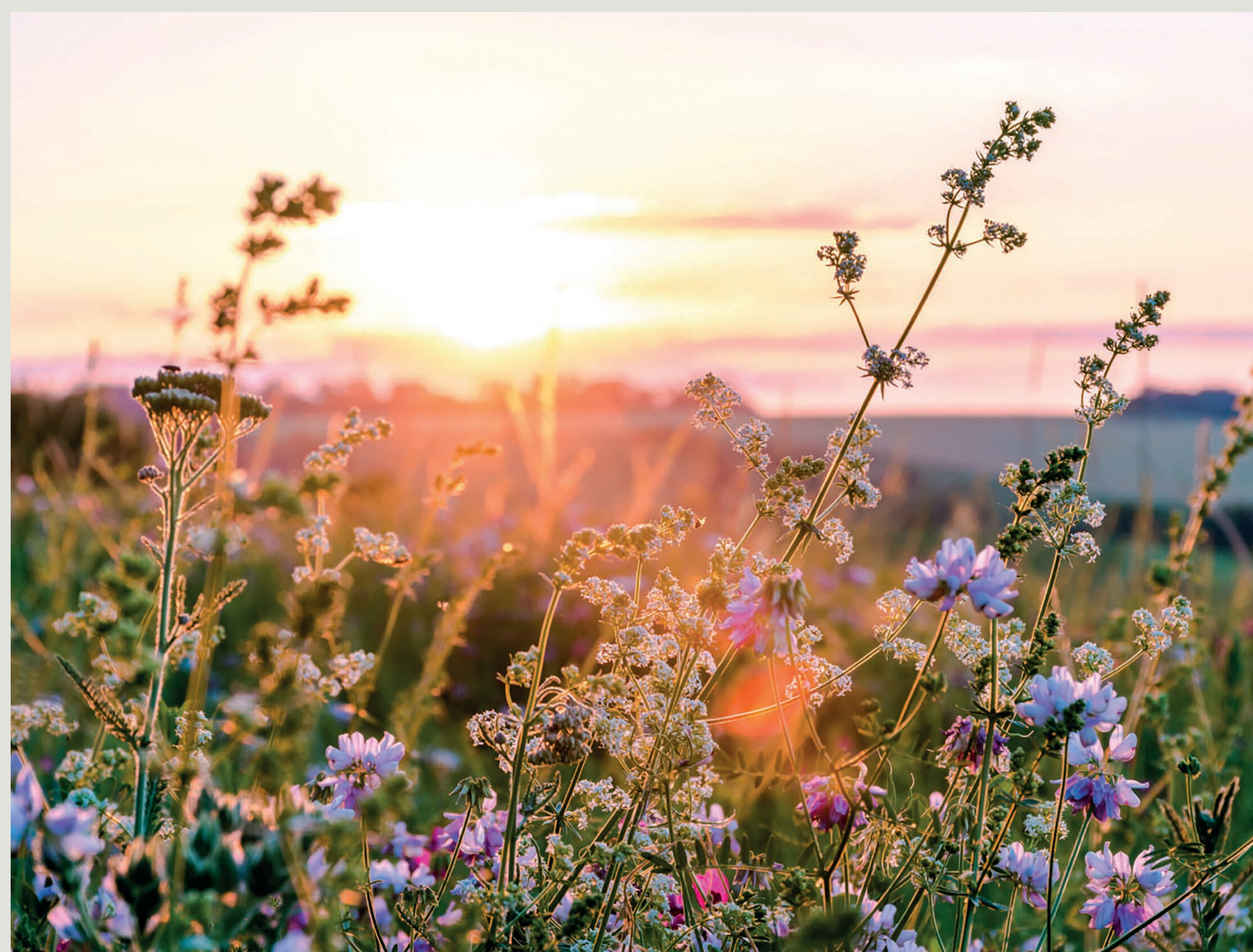
Beyond the benefits of the Peartree Hill site, RWE wants to give back to the local community and is committed to providing a community investment fund that can be used to support a wide variety of community projects over the lifetime of the solar farm.

Typically RWE community funds are managed by an independent third party who support fund applicants to ensure the funds are as accessible as possible, and recruit a panel of local people to make decisions on fund allocations. We are proposing to provide up to £4.2 million over the lifetime of the Peartree Hill.

This would take the form of annual payments spread across the 40-year lifespan of Peartree Hill's operation.

RWE has a long track record for involving communities in shaping how their funds are developed and we would welcome feedback on your ideas for how such funding might benefit your local area. You can visit our website to find out more about how RWE community funds are benefitting local communities:

<http://www.rwe.com/in-your-community>



Environmental Impact Assessments – Our work so far

As part of the DCO process we are carrying out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to assess the likely significant effects (both positive and negative) Peartree Hill could have on the environment.

A Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) has been developed to outline our assessments of the potential impacts of Peartree Hill carried out to date.

Early environmental assessments have already helped shape the plans for how Peartree Hill will be designed, built and operated. Feedback from this consultation, along with ongoing environmental assessments, technical work and surveys will help to further refine our proposals.

Environmental impact	What we’ve assessed
Air Quality	The likely effects on air quality during construction and decommissioning on nearby sensitive ecological and human receptors.
Biodiversity	The likely effects on international, national, and local ecological networks, including habitats for protected species.
Climate	The likely effects on greenhouse gas emissions and the resilience of Peartree Hill against any major climate events.
Cultural heritage	The likely effects on historical assets such as scheduled monuments, listed buildings, and conservation areas.
Land, Soils and Groundwater	The likely effects on soils, groundwater, and agricultural land.
Landscape and Visual	The likely effects on the character and views of the local landscape and people’s enjoyment of it.
Noise and Vibration	The likely noise effects during construction, operation and decommissioning at noise-sensitive locations near Peartree Hill.
Population	The likely effects on dwellings, commercial properties, agricultural operations, community assets and Public Rights of Way.
Transport and Access	The likely effects on local traffic and access routes during the construction and decommissioning of Peartree Hill.
Hydrology and Flood Risk	The likely effects on surface water, flood risk, and drainage.
Glint and Glare	The likely glint and glare effects on residential dwellings, Public Rights of Way, road, rail, airfields, Air Traffic Control Towers, and approaching aircrafts nearby Peartree Hill.

Construction

If consented, the construction period is estimated to be around 18-24 months, with the project built out in a phased approach. Each Land Area would have its own dedicated access and temporary construction compound, which would likely include:

- Temporary gated security fencing (e.g. Heras Fencing), security officer kiosk, and temporary CCTV cameras;
- Temporary portable buildings to be used for offices, welfare and toilet facilities;
- Materials and equipment storage areas;
- Parking and turning areas for delivery vehicles and workers' vehicles; and
- Wheel washing facilities.

Each Land Area would contain a number of internal access tracks for the movement of construction and maintenance vehicles, utilising existing farm tracks where possible.

Early assessments have suggested that one or more passing places may be required at several highways locations to ensure safe access into parts of the site.

These passing places would be retained permanently, providing a legacy improvement after construction works have been completed.



Operation and Decommissioning

Operation

During operation, routine activities would primarily involve ongoing maintenance, safety and security checks.

There would also be a need to carry out environmental checks, such as monitoring the success of new planting and maintaining the local vegetation and amenity areas.

The safety and security of the site would be reinforced through the installation of security fencing and perimeter CCTV cameras surrounding solar panel areas.

Decommissioning

Peartree Hill is a reversible development, and after 40 years would be decommissioned and the land would be reinstated.

As part of the DCO application, RWE will prepare an outline decommissioning plan, ensuring safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible dismantling of Peartree Hill. Up to 99% of the materials in solar PV modules can be recycled, while non-recyclable infrastructure would be disposed of following established good practice and contemporary processes.

Throughout decommissioning, established biodiversity and habitat measures would be preserved, fostering a legacy of ecological stewardship in the landscape.



DCO Process

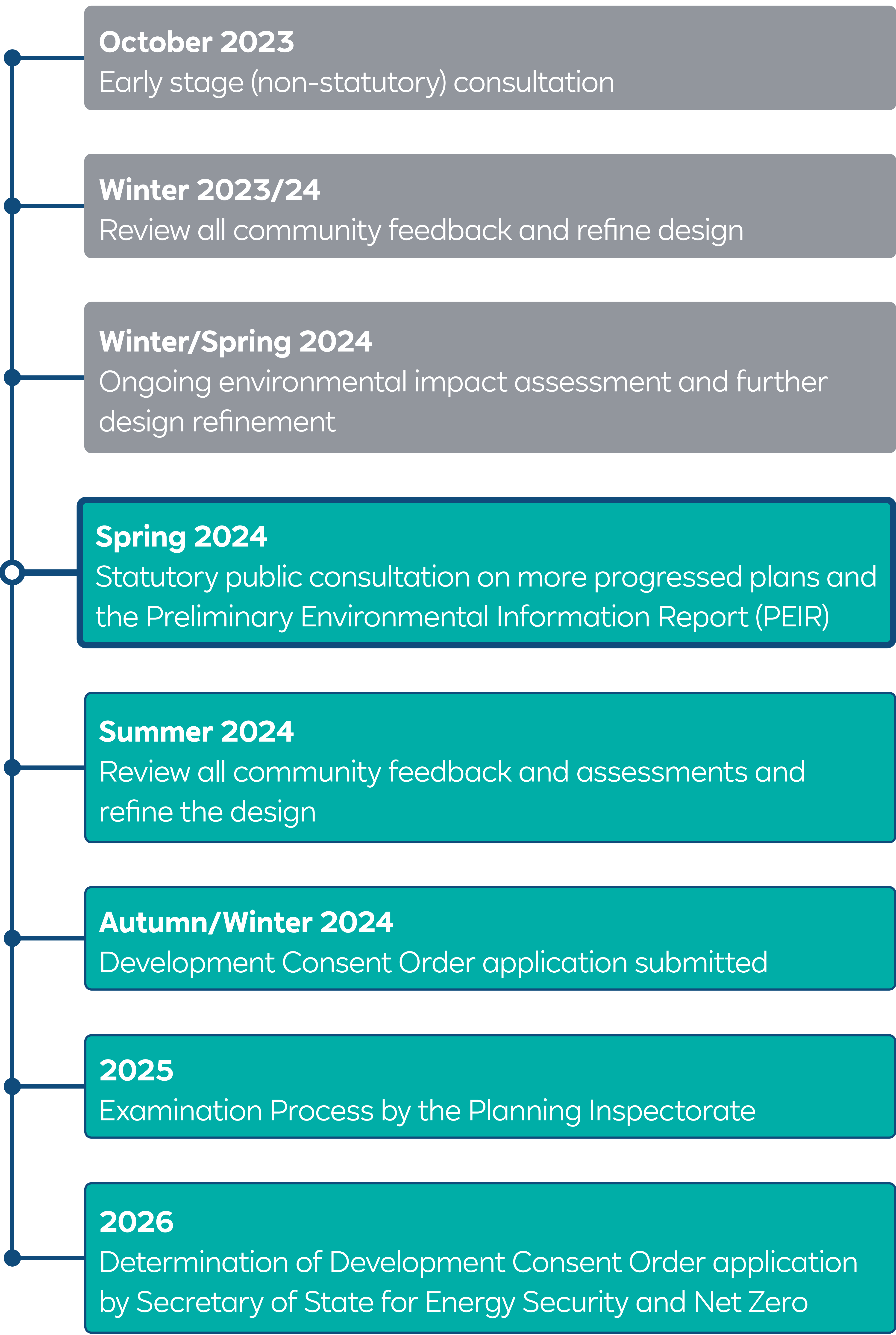
As Peartree Hill would generate more than 50MW of power, it is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and will proceed through the Development Consent Order (DCO) planning process.

Applications for DCOs are examined independently by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). Following an Examination of Peartree Hill, the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero, who will decide on the outcome of the application.

You can read more about the DCO Process here:
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/>



Key Milestones



Next steps

How to provide comments

There are a number of different ways you can respond to the consultation:

- **By returning a feedback form at our in-person events or via the Freepost address**
- **By completing the feedback form on our consultation website**
- **By getting in touch via email**

The deadline for statutory consultation is **11:59pm on Wednesday 26 June 2024**. We encourage you to provide your feedback within this period to ensure that your comments are considered as we further refine our proposals for Peartree Hill.

Contact us

If you would like to speak with a member of the Peartree Hill project team, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to provide information, answer any questions and to take your feedback.

 **peartreehillsolar.co.uk**

 **info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk**

 **01482 695 004**

 **PEARTREE HILL SOLAR FARM**

You can also stay up to date with the proposals, with regular updates and announcements, by following us on our Facebook page: **fb.com/peartreehillsolarfarm**

Thank you for participating in our statutory consultation on proposals for Peartree Hill. Your engagement and feedback will be instrumental in finalising the plans for Peartree Hill and ensuring they align with local needs and contribute to the local community.

Appendix F-8 Photos of consultation event

Appendix F-8.1 Photos of Leven consultation event



Appendix F-8.2 Photos of Wawne consultation event



Appendix F-8.3 Photos of Tickton consultation event

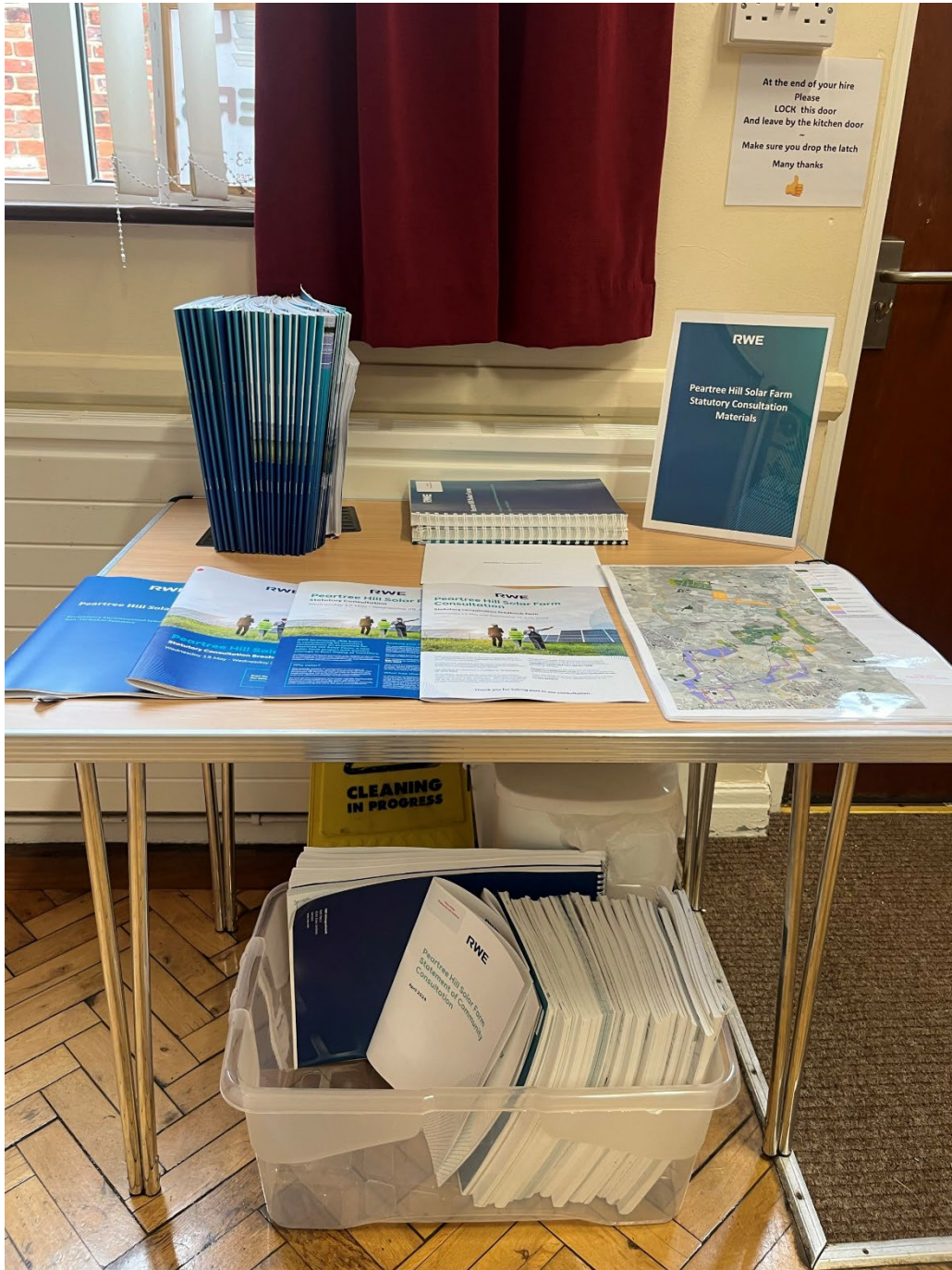


Appendix F-8.4 Photos of Cottingham consultation event

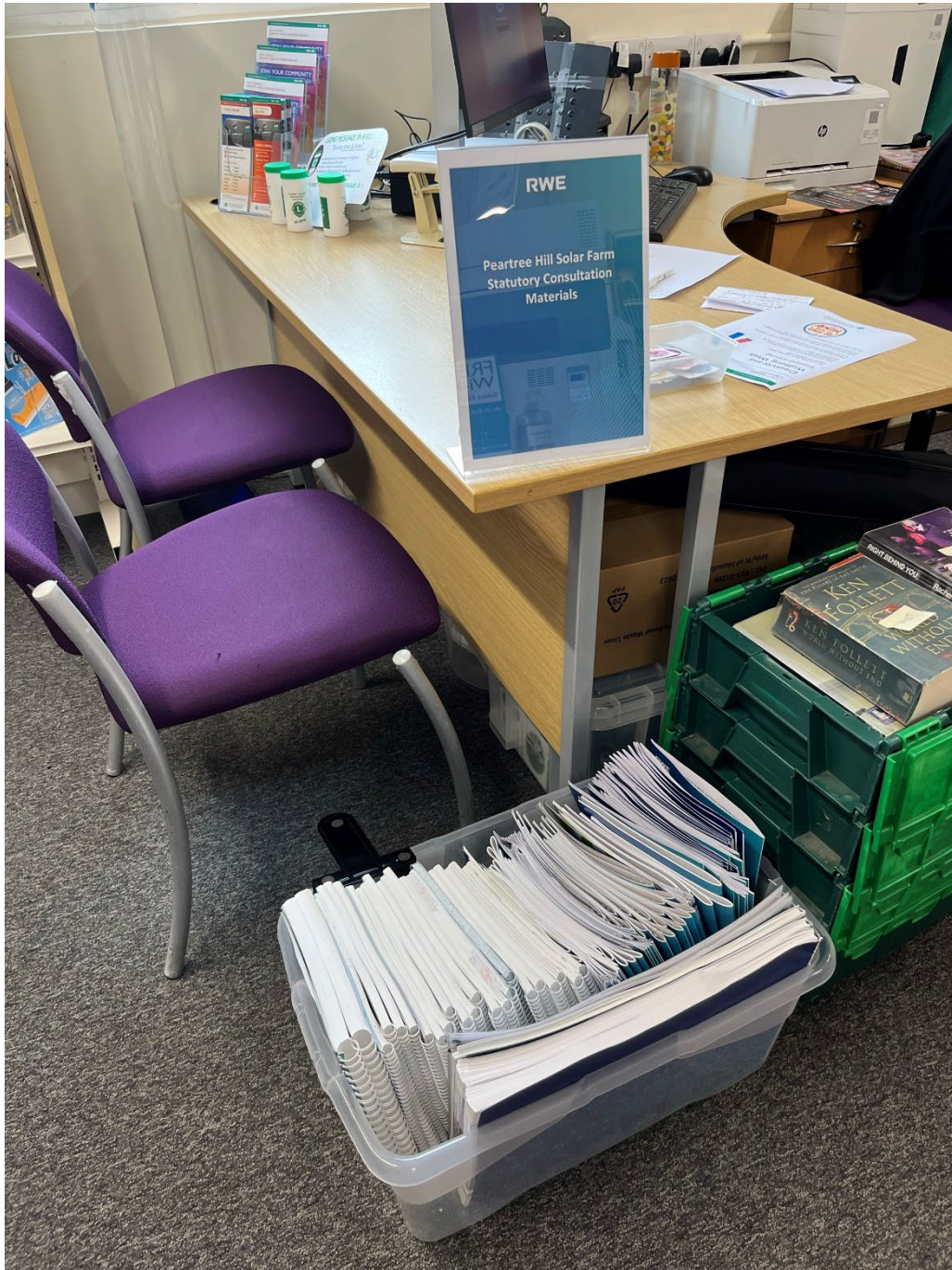


Appendix F-9 Photos of deposit points

Appendix F-9.1 Photos of Tickton deposit point



Appendix F-9.2 Photos of Leven deposit point

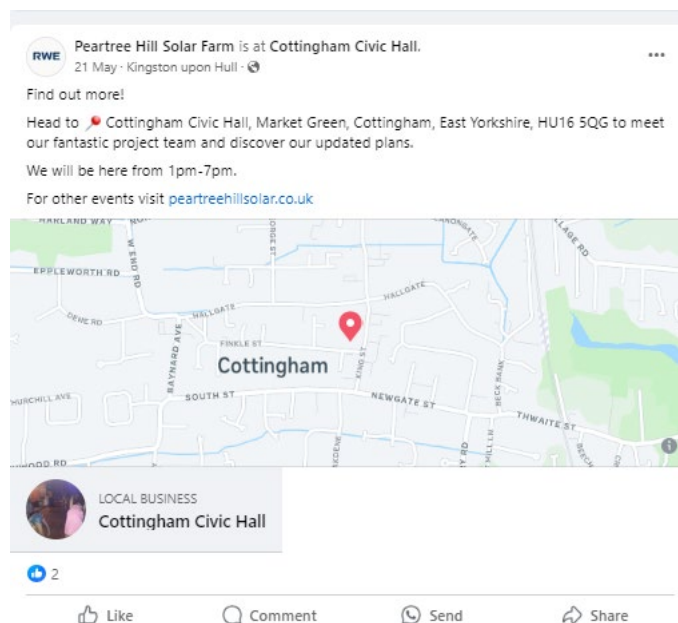


Appendix F-9.3 Photos of Beverley deposit point



Appendix F-10 Example of social media posts during statutory consultation

Appendix F-9 - Example of social media posts during statutory consultation




Peartree Hill Solar Farm
6 June · 🌐
...

We are now halfway through our six-week consultation period! We would like to say thank you to everyone who has taken the time to provide us with feedback. 🙏


If you haven't already, visit our website now to learn more about the proposals and help us finalise the design of Peartree Hill 📌

[PEARTREEHILLSOLAR.CO.UK](https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk)
📄

Have your say – RWE Peartree Hill Solar

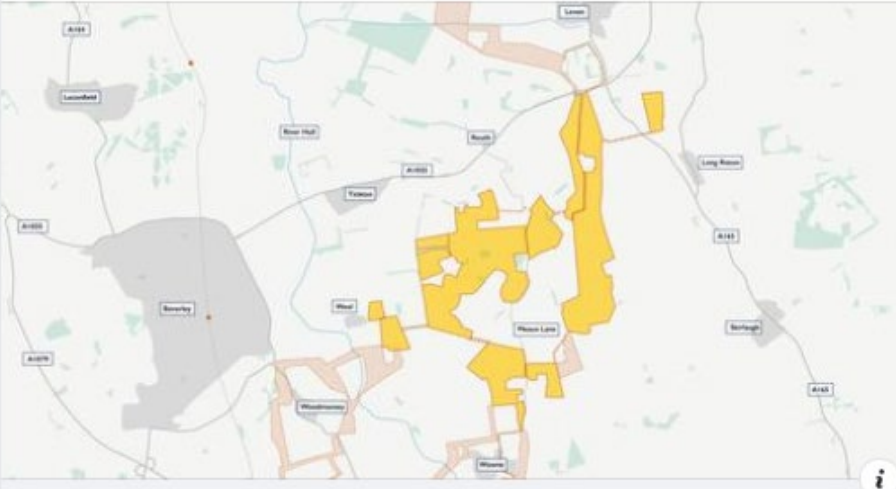
👍🥰 33
41 comments 2 shares

👍 Like
💬 Comment
📧 Send
➦ Share


Peartree Hill Solar Farm
9 June · 🌐
...

We have already taken on board your feedback, reducing the solar areas and proposing more new planting and walking routes. 🌳

📄 Learn more about the changes here, and help to shape the plans further:



[PEARTREEHILLSOLAR.CO.UK](https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk)
📄

Proposals – RWE Peartree Hill Solar

Peartree Hill is made up of several areas of land (Areas A-F), with the areas being connected b...

👍 1
3 shares

👍 Like
💬 Comment
📧 Send
➦ Share

Appendix F-11 Website screenshots

Pear tree Hill Solar Farm

The solar farm, located in the East Riding of Yorkshire would provide enough low-carbon energy to meet the equivalent annual needs of approximately 167,000 homes.

The Need For Solar

Our Proposals For Peartree Hill

Figure 10 is a map of the area of land currently owned by Land Area A. It is the area being connected by a series of underground pipes. Figure 11 is a similar map showing the underground cables to the City's Gas Substation, which will transfer the electricity to the natural gas-fired vehicles.

For a proposal to generate 0.25 MW of clean energy, Phase 1a is viewed as a preliminary assessment of non-transportation R&D projects in order to define the project and proceed through Phase 1b and 2. Grants of \$100,000 per year are available. The grant holder is expected to give a grantee for the project all its costs to the Secretary of State for Transportation for Energy Policy and that 2009.

More information about the program can be found on the www.doe.gov/energy website.

We believe our continued ability to participate in the above projects for Phase 1a, 1b, and 2 will ensure the funds go to the research and use of a



Proposals at a glance

- 
Save 50% off electricity that you use by installing a smart meter. Smart meters allow you to monitor your electricity usage in real time, so you can make changes to your energy consumption when you need to.
- 
Conducting a SWOT analysis is a strategic planning tool that helps you identify your organization's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.
- 
Save 50% off electricity that you use by installing a smart meter. Smart meters allow you to monitor your electricity usage in real time, so you can make changes to your energy consumption when you need to.
- 
Conducting a SWOT analysis is a strategic planning tool that helps you identify your organization's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.
- 
Save 50% off electricity that you use by installing a smart meter. Smart meters allow you to monitor your electricity usage in real time, so you can make changes to your energy consumption when you need to.
- 
Conducting a SWOT analysis is a strategic planning tool that helps you identify your organization's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

Components of Peartree Hill Solar Farm

Reform III would include the below regulatory components, along with a range of institutional integration and enhancements, as well as new committees, if passed.

* *Conus* species fed on the earth's eggs and concept shells. I probably underestimated depth as maximum height of 4.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>• Large panels are made by extruding a molten plastic material through a die.</p> <p>• Small panels are made by the roll-to-roll and sheet processes. In this process, the plastic material is extruded through a die and then passes through a series of rollers to form a continuous sheet. The sheet is then cut into individual panels.</p> <p>• Large panels are made by extrusion and sheet processes. In this process, the plastic material is extruded through a die and then passes through a series of rollers to form a continuous sheet. The sheet is then cut into individual panels.</p> <p>• Small panels are made by roll-to-roll and sheet processes. In this process, the plastic material is extruded through a die and then passes through a series of rollers to form a continuous sheet. The sheet is then cut into individual panels.</p> | <p>• Large panels are made by extrusion and sheet processes. In this process, the plastic material is extruded through a die and then passes through a series of rollers to form a continuous sheet. The sheet is then cut into individual panels.</p> <p>• Small panels are made by roll-to-roll and sheet processes. In this process, the plastic material is extruded through a die and then passes through a series of rollers to form a continuous sheet. The sheet is then cut into individual panels.</p> |
|---|--|

- Battery storage is an integral component of renewable energy technologies, storing excess energy during periods of peak generation or low demand and releasing it during peak demand or in case of power outage. This safe and proven technology would support Peewee Hill to generate a consistent and reliable renewable generated power supply, even when the sun is not shining.
- Supporting infrastructure including access roads, security measures, gates and fencing, lighting, drainage infrastructure and storage containers.
- Highways works to enable construction for example, additional passing places.

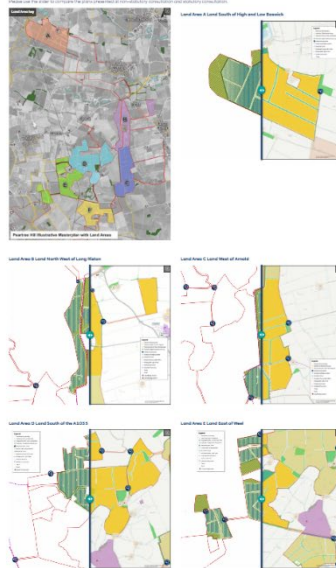
You said, we did!

Over 100 responses were received from the local community during our non-statutory consultation in August 2023, all of which have been considered and responded to as part of our [non-statutory consultation report](#), published in January 2024.

This community feedback, along with the findings from our ongoing environmental and technical assessments and surveys, have helped to refine our proposals for Peartree Hill Solar Farm. On the below table, you can see how our feedback has already helped to shape the design of Peartree Hill.

- **We said**
 - The land is used, we have received the use proposal for solar panels, and associated infrastructure. We will expedite the adoption of approvals to homes, villages and estates closest to the site.
 - **Land Use A** - increase the environmental mitigation and enhancement on the eastern side of the land which sits between the proposed site and the identified brownfield employment.
 - **Land Use B** - remove the use of the factories in the southern part of the land from being solar employment.
 - **Land Use C** - install solar panels on the roof of the existing industrial premises.
 - **Land Use D** - install solar panels to make use of the roof of the existing premises on the eastern side of the land.
 - **Land Use E** - remove two fields from the solar development to be used for ecological mitigation and enhancement, including the impact on the proposed highway.
 - **Land Use F** - install solar panels from road to avoid impacting brownfield employment.
- **We received comments on land use**
 - We received comments on the use and siting of the solar panels, on access and siting of the proposed road, on the proposed highway.
 - Our illustrative mitigation plan proposed between the southern boundaries, wildlife measures and amenity spaces.
- **We said**
 - We have progressed our work to include a new planning point on the site to cover the solar panels which have been agreed.
 - We have progressed our work to include new amenity paths, which should provide us with **new walking routes**, which will extend existing opportunities for local to some extent, and we will be feedback on our proposed permeable paths route at this consultation.
- **We received comments on the proposed mitigation**
 - We have progressed the consultation to consider the two on the southern side of land uses C and D alongside better routes. **Routes**
 - We will be undertaking further work to consider the mitigation and amenity spaces to provide local sustainable active recreation and local

Take a closer look at each of the Land Areas (A-F)



RWE Peartree Hill Solar Farm Home Proposals Benefits Documents Planning Process FAQs Have your say


Benefits

We are committed to delivering a solar farm that contributes to local and national energy goals, while also providing tangible benefits to the local community, both within the land areas and through a community benefit fund.

Creating a local space for wildlife, leisure and education

We have listened to feedback from the early-stage consultation and are proposing:

- New wildflower meadows and grassland areas** across the site, to **support local ecology**
- Habitat creation**, including new bird and bat boxes and beehives
- Up to 7km of new permissive paths**, helping to **improve public access to the site**
- Outdoor classroom**, with public information boards, where **local people can learn about local biodiversity and renewable energy technology**
- New picnic areas and benches** which will be accessible from the new permissive paths
- Up to 15km of new native hedgerows and trees** to further **improve visual screening and habitat creation**
- New community events**, helping to **encourage people of all ages to get involved in local biodiversity**



Community Benefit Fund

Beyond the benefits of the Peartree Hill site, RWE wants to give back to the local community and is committed to providing a community benefit fund which can be used to support a wide variety of community projects over the lifetime of the solar farm.

Typically RWE community funds are managed by an independent third party who support local applicants to ensure the funds are accessible to provide, and set out a panel of criteria against which decisions on fund allocations are made, helping to provide up to £1.2 million over the lifetime of the Peartree Hill.

This would take the form of annual payments spread across the 25-year lifespan of Peartree Hill's operation.

RWE has a long track record for involving communities in shaping how their funds are developed and we would welcome feedback on your ideas for how such funding might benefit your local area. You can visit our website to find out more about how RWE community funds are benefiting local communities: <https://www.rwe.com/en/energy/peartree-hill>

Statutory consultation documents

Peartree Hill Solar Farm Statement of Community Consultation	Download	View
Peartree Hill Solar Farm Statutory Consultation Brochure *	Download	View
Peartree Hill Solar Farm Statutory Consultation Feedback Form	Download	View
Peartree Hill Solar Farm Statutory Consultation Newsletter	Download	View
Peartree Hill Solar Farm Statutory Consultation Poster	Download	View
Peartree Hill Solar Farm Statutory Consultation Exhibition Banners	Download	View
Peartree Hill Solar Farm Statutory Consultation Webinar 28 May	Download	
Peartree Hill Solar Farm Statutory Consultation Webinar 12 June	Download	
Section 47 and Section 48 Notice	Download	View

[Watch a recording of our webinar.](#)

* Some printed copies of the brochure contained an error on page 11. This online version contains the correct plan for Land Area B on page 11.

Area plans

Illustrative Masterplan	Download	View
Land Area A Land South of High and Low Boswick Map	Download	View
Land Area B Land North West of Long Riston Map	Download	View

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

[Download all](#) (731MB zip file)

Volume 1 – Main Report

Main report	Download	View
Preliminary Environmental Information Report Non-Technical Summary	Download	View

Volume 2 – Figures

2.1 – Location Plan	Download	View
2.2 – Draft Order Limits	Download	View
2.3 – Environmental Features Plan	Download	View
3.1 – Proposed Development Construction Layout and Access Plan	Download	View
3.1a – Proposed Development Construction Layout and Access Plan – Land Area A	Download	View
3.1b – Proposed Development Construction Layout and Access Plan – Land Area B	Download	View
3.1c – Proposed Development Construction Layout and Access Plan – Land Area C	Download	View
3.1d – Proposed Development Construction Layout and Access Plan – Land Area D	Download	View
3.1e – Proposed Development Construction Layout and Access Plan – Land Area E	Download	View
3.1f – Proposed Development Construction Layout and Access Plan – Land Area F	Download	View

Volume 3 – Appendices

6.1 – Air Quality Method Statement	Download	View
6.2 – Response on Air Quality Method Statement	Download	View
7.1 – Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Land Areas) (Part 1)	Download	View
7.1 – Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Land Areas) (Part 2)	Download	View
7.2 – Badger Survey Report	Download	View
7.3 – Ornithology Survey Report	Download	View
7.4 – Wintering Bird Survey Report	Download	View
8.1 – Climate Data Sources and Assumptions	Download	View
9.1 Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Part 1)	Download	View
9.1 Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Part 2)	Download	View
9.1 Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Part 3)	Download	View
9.1 Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Part 4)	Download	View
9.1 Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Part 5)	Download	View
9.1 Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Part 6)	Download	View
9.1 Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Part 7)	Download	View
9.2 – Geophysical Report (Part 1)	Download	View

Volume 4 – Viewpoints

Viewpoint Location Plan	Download	View
Viewpoints 1a-2b	Download	View
Viewpoints 3a-5a	Download	View
Viewpoints 6a-7b	Download	View
Viewpoints 8a-9b	Download	View
Viewpoints 9c-10a	Download	View
Viewpoints 10b-10d	Download	View
Viewpoints 11a-13a	Download	View
Viewpoints 13b-14b	Download	View
Viewpoints 14c-15a	Download	View
Viewpoints 15b-15d	Download	View
Viewpoints 16a-18a	Download	View
Viewpoints 18a-26a	Download	View
Viewpoints 18b-20a	Download	View
Viewpoints 21a-22b	Download	View
Viewpoints 22c-23b	Download	View



Appendix F-12 Webinar presentation



Peartree Hill Solar Farm

Webinar 1

Tuesday 28 May 2024

Agenda

- Introductions
- Since our non-statutory consultation
- Proposed Development
- Updated Proposals
- Why do we need solar? and What do solar farms look like?
- Land Areas and Cable Corridor
- EIA
- Community Benefit
- Construction, Operation and Decommissioning
- Statutory Consultation and how to provide comments
- Indicative timeline

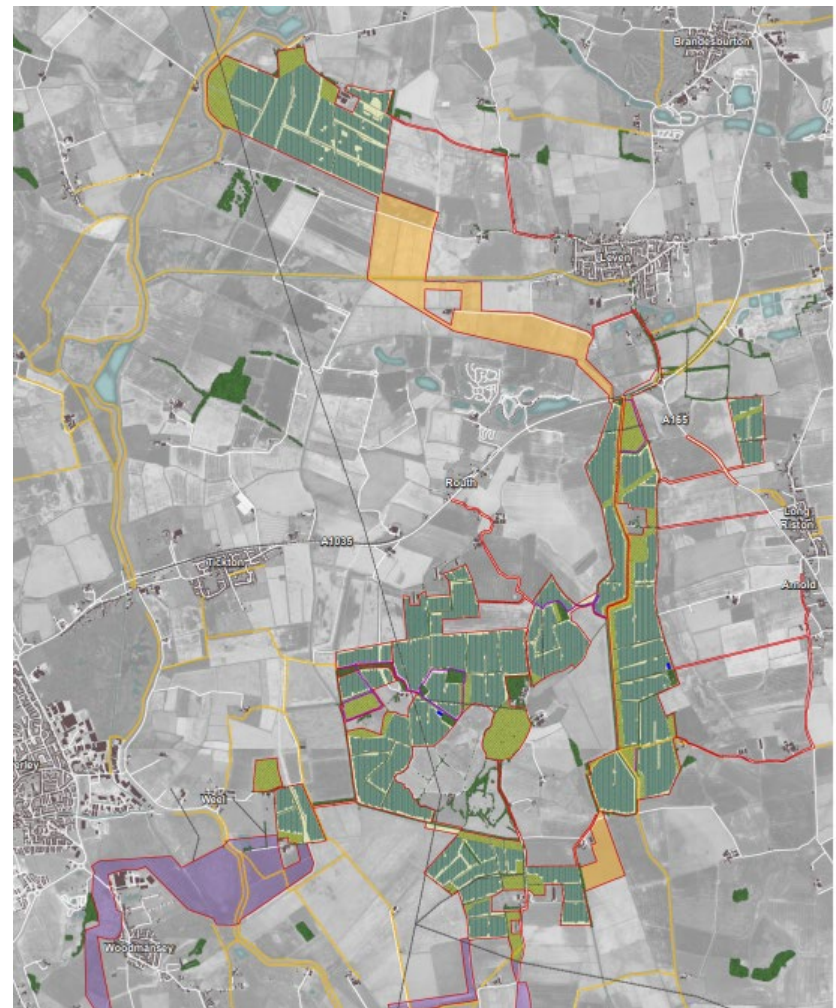
Since our non -statutory consultation

- The initial plans for Peartree Hill Solar Farm were presented by JBM Solar during the non -statutory consultation.
- In 2023, RWE acquired JBM Solar, establishing itself as one of the top three solar developers in the UK.
- We are committed to projects throughout their lifetime, from development to construction and operation, all the way through to decommissioning
- It is RWE's ambition to have a carbon neutral energy portfolio by 2040, providing clean, secure, and affordable energy to millions of households.



Proposed Development

- 320 MW of electricity, enough to power 167,000 homes
- Several areas of land (currently named Land Areas A-F)
- Connected to the grid at the existing Creyke Beck Substation by underground cables
- Life span of approximately 40 years
- Non-statutory consultation in Autumn 2023
- Environmental Impact Assessment: Scoping Opinion received in December 2023.
- Ongoing surveys and assessment to support development of Preliminary Environmental Information Report
- The project will go through the Development Consent Order (DCO) planning process. The Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero, who will decide on the outcome of the application.



Proposals at a glance



Contributing **320MW of clean electricity to the national grid**, enough to power the equivalent of approximately 167,000¹ homes – that's more than every home in Hull!



Supporting the UK's net zero targets by **displacing over 11,400,000 tonnes of CO₂** from equivalent fossil fuel energy - that equates to taking c.166,000 cars off the road each year.



Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) on-site, ensuring the solar farm can be as flexible and as efficient as possible in delivering energy to the grid.



Over 95% of the solar panel areas can be made available for sheep grazing, retaining an agricultural use and allowing topsoil to recover, by increasing soil organic matter and improving soil structure.



Over 50% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) to be delivered on-site, providing ecological enhancements through new and improved habitats, such as wildflower meadows, grassland areas, bird and bat nesting boxes, and beehives.



RWE will provide **a community benefit fund of up to £4.2 million** to support local community groups and initiatives.



Around £18.5 million generated in business rates over the lifetime of the project, to be used by East Riding of Yorkshire Council to fund important local services.



Providing **additional opportunities for public recreation**, with up to 7km of proposed new permissive paths across the site, outdoor picnic areas, benches, wildflower meadows and community orchards.



Up to 15km of proposed new hedgerow and trees including a mix of mature and semi-mature tree planting to further improve visual screening and habitat creation.



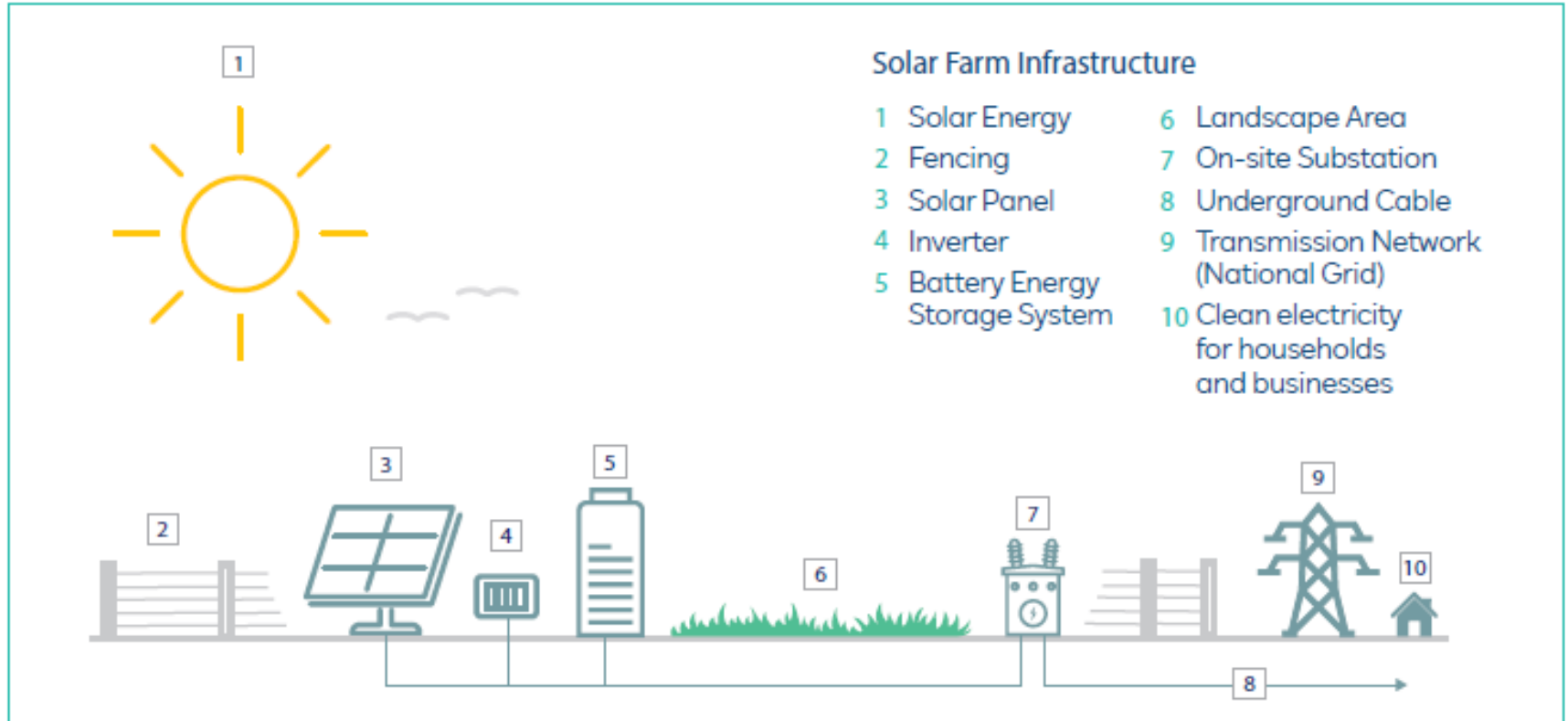
Educational opportunities introduced across the site, including an outdoor classroom area, information boards and educational trails, providing information about local wildlife, historical features and renewable energy generation.



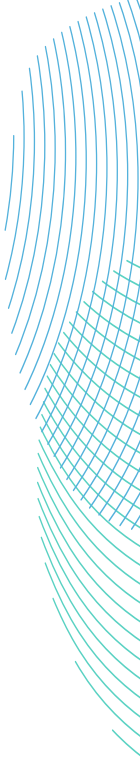
Why do we need solar?

- The UK has a legally binding commitment to achieve **net zero carbon emissions by 2050**. As one of the cheapest and most rapidly deployable forms of renewable energy, solar will play an important role in achieving this commitment.
- Home-grown energy security. UK government has set an ambition of reaching **70 gigawatts of installed solar capacity by 2035**, a five-fold increase on the current installed capacity.
- In 2021, **East Riding of Yorkshire Council declared a climate emergency** and has committed to achieving net zero through the reduction of its own emissions to assist with national and regional decarbonisation goals

What do solar farms look like?



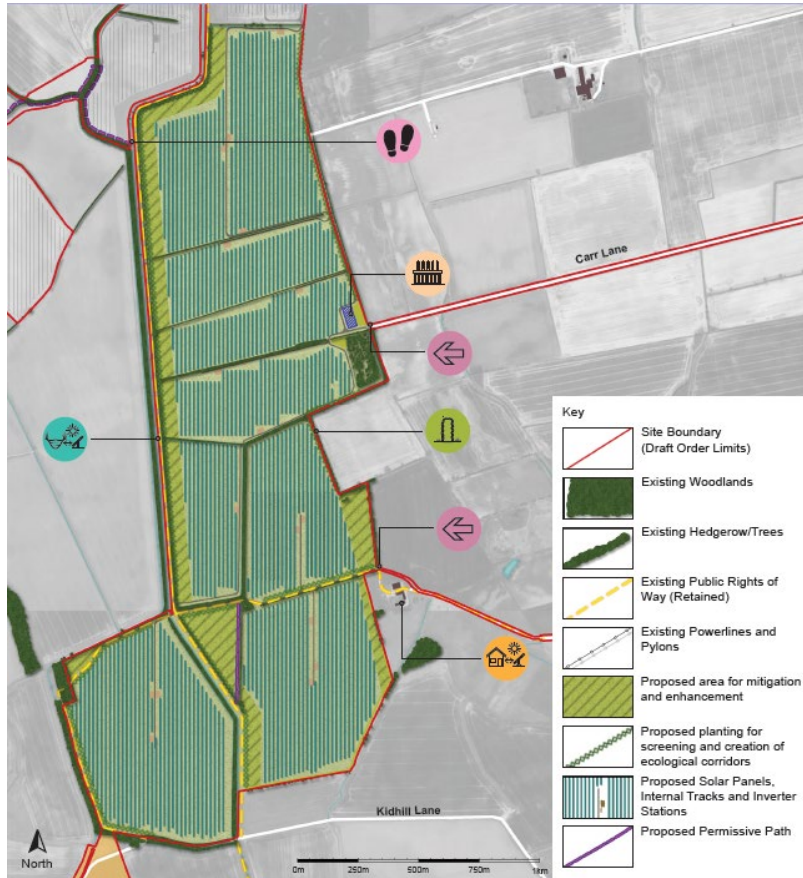
Baswick



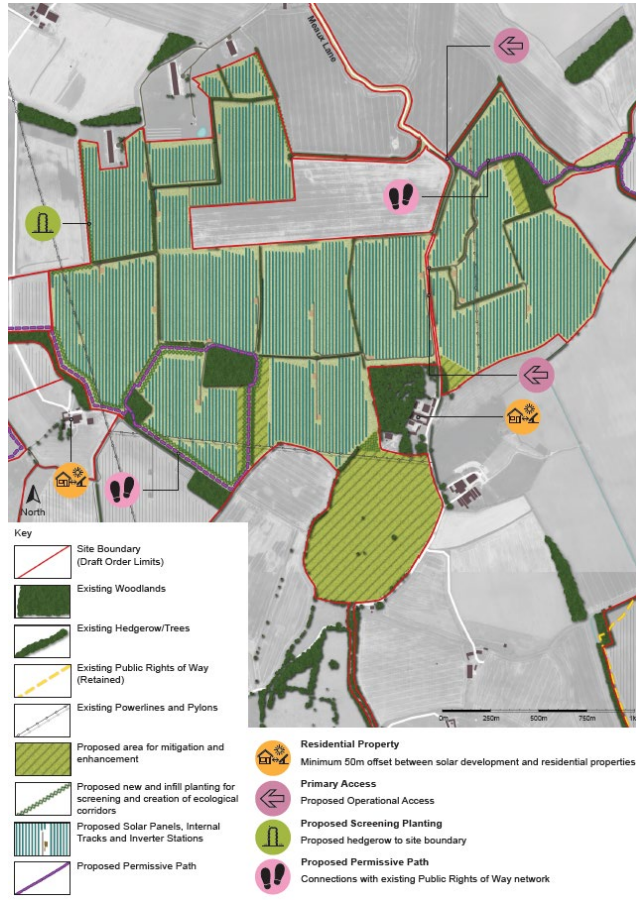
Land Area B: Land North West of Long Riston



Land Area C: Land West of Arnold



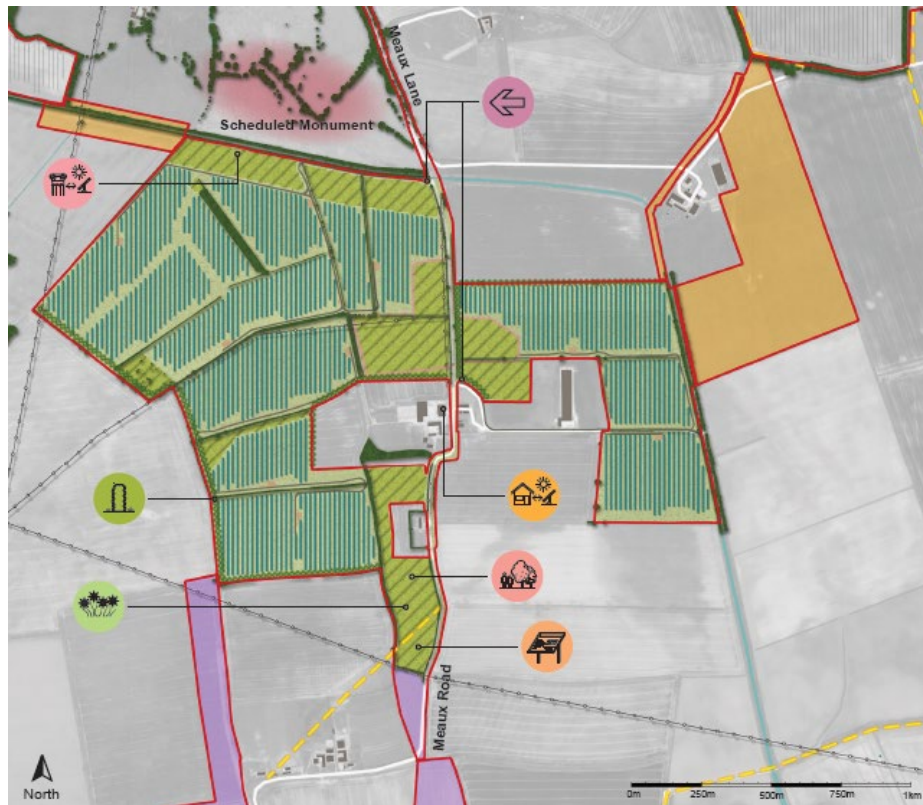
Land Area D: Land South of the A1035



Land Area E: Land East of Weel

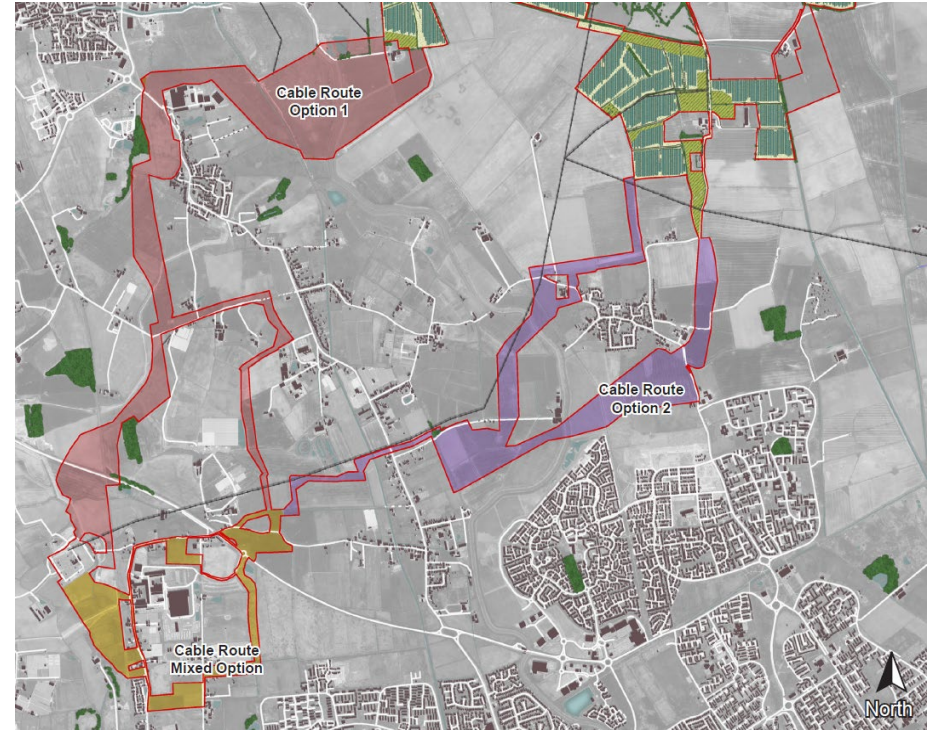


Land Area F: Land North of Wawne



Cable corridor

- The potential cable route has undergone careful planning and assessment to consider the most efficient and environmentally responsible cable routes to connect Peartree Hill to the Creyke Beck Substation.
- No cables will be installed under residential properties or within residential gardens.
- Only one cable corridor option to Creyke Beck substation will be submitted as part of the DCO application.
- In addition to the main cable route that connects to CB substation, there will also be an interconnecting cable route between the Land Areas.

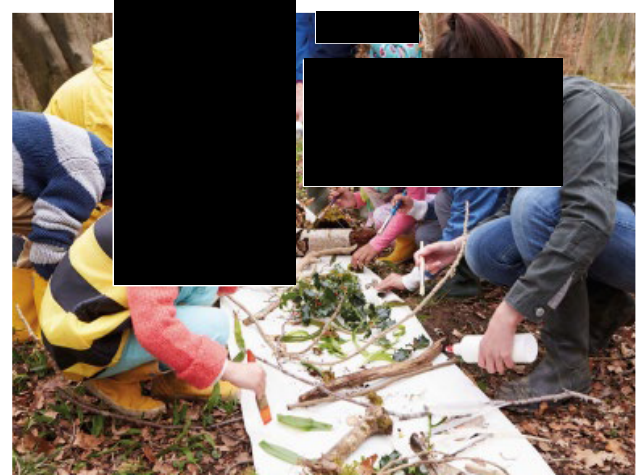


Environmental Impact Assessments – Our work so far

Environmental impact	What we've assessed
Air Quality	The likely effects on air quality during construction and decommissioning on nearby sensitive ecological and human receptors.
Biodiversity	The likely effects on international, national, and local ecological networks, including habitats for protected species.
Climate	The likely effects on greenhouse gas emissions and the resilience of Peartree Hill against any major climate events.
Cultural heritage	The likely effects on historical assets such as scheduled monuments, listed buildings, and conservation areas.
Land, Soils and Groundwater	The likely effects on soils, groundwater, and agricultural land.
Landscape and Visual	The likely effects on the character and views of the local landscape and people's enjoyment of it.
Noise and Vibration	The likely noise effects during construction, operation and decommissioning at noise -sensitive locations near Peartree Hill.
Population	The likely effects on dwellings, commercial properties, agricultural operations, community assets and Public Rights of Way.
Transport and Access	The likely effects on local traffic and access routes during the construction and decommissioning of Peartree Hill.
Hydrology and Flood Risk	The likely effects on surface water, flood risk, and drainage.
Glint and Glare	The likely glint and glare effects on residential dwellings, Public Rights of Way, road, rail, airfields, Air Traffic Control Towers, and approaching aircrafts nearby Peartree Hill.

Community Benefit Fund

- RWE is committed to providing a community investment fund that can be used to support a wide variety of community projects over the lifetime of the solar farm.
- Typically, RWE community funds are managed by an independent third party who support fund applicants and recruit a panel of local people to make decisions on fund allocations.
- We are proposing to provide up to **£4.2 million** over the lifetime of the Peartree Hill.
- This would take the form of annual payments spread across the 40 -year lifespan of Peartree Hill's operation.



Construction

- Construction period: estimated around **18 -24 months**.
- Phased approach.
- **Internal access tracks** for movement of construction and maintenance vehicles within each Land Area.
- One or more **passing places** may be required at several highways locations to ensure safe access into parts of the site.
- Passing places would be retained permanently, providing a **legacy improvement** after construction works have been completed.

Each Land Area would have its own dedicated access and temporary construction compound, which would likely include:

- Temporary gated security fencing (e.g. Heras Fencing), security officer kiosk, and temporary CCTV cameras;
- Temporary portable buildings to be used for offices, welfare and toilet facilities;
- Materials and equipment storage areas;
- Parking and turning areas for delivery vehicles and workers' vehicles; and
- Wheel washing facilities.

Operation and Decommissioning

Operation

- During operation, routine activities would primarily involve ongoing maintenance, safety and security checks.
- There would also be a need to carry out environmental checks, such as monitoring the success of new planting and maintaining the local vegetation and amenity areas.
- The safety and security of the site would be reinforced through the installation of security fencing and perimeter CCTV cameras surrounding solar panel areas

Decommissioning

- After 40 years Peartree Hill would be decommissioned, and the land would be reinstated.
- As part of the DCO application, RWE will prepare an outline decommissioning plan.
- Up to 99% of the materials in solar PV modules can be recycled.
- Nonrecyclable infrastructure would be disposed of following established good practice and contemporary processes.
- Established biodiversity and habitat measures would be preserved, fostering a legacy of ecological stewardship in the landscape.

Statutory Consultation

Our statutory consultation launched on **Wednesday 15 May** and will last until **Wednesday 26 June**.

We have put together a **Statement of Community Consultation** and have consulted East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Hull City Council.

We have sent newsletters to **over 11,000** addresses.

We will be hosting **four in -person events** and **two webinars**.

Physical copies of materials are available at: Beverley Library, Leven Library and Tickton Village Hall.

We will review the feedback received at this stage alongside the assessments we are conducting and use this to finalise of the scheme ahead of submitting a DCO application.

We expect the Examination Process by the Planning Inspectorate to take place in 2025.

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday 21 May 2024	1pm -7pm	Cottingham Civic Hall Market Green, Cottingham, HU16 5QG
Wednesday 22 May 2024	1pm -7pm	Leven Hall North Street, Leven, HU17 5NF
Tuesday 28 May 2024	6.30pm -8pm	Online Webinar (Register at peartreehillsolar.co.uk)
Saturday 1 June 2024	11am -3pm	Tickton Village Hall Main Street, Tickton , HU17 9RZ
Monday 3 June 2024	1pm -6.30pm	Wawne Village Hall 36 Main Street, Wawne, HU7 5XH
Wednesday 12 June 2024	6.30pm -8pm	Online Webinar (Register at peartreehillsolar.co.uk)

How to provide comments

Responding to the consultation

There are a number of different ways people can respond to the consultation:

- By returning a feedback form at our in - person events or via the Freepost address
- By completing the feedback form on our consultation website
- By getting in touch via email

Contact us

If you would like to speak with a member of the Peartree Hill project team, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

- peartreehillsolar.co.uk
- info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk
- 01482 695 004
- FREEPOST PEARTREE HILL SOLAR FARM
(no stamp required)

Indicative timeline

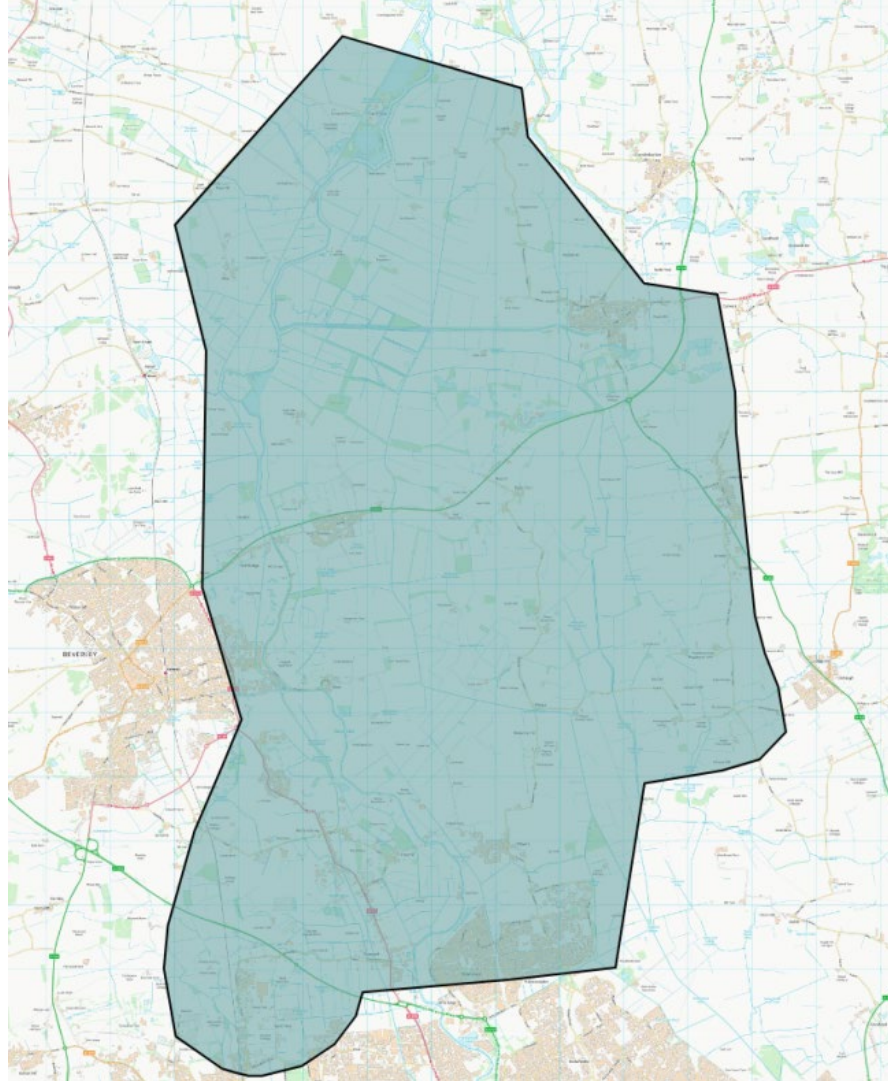


RWE

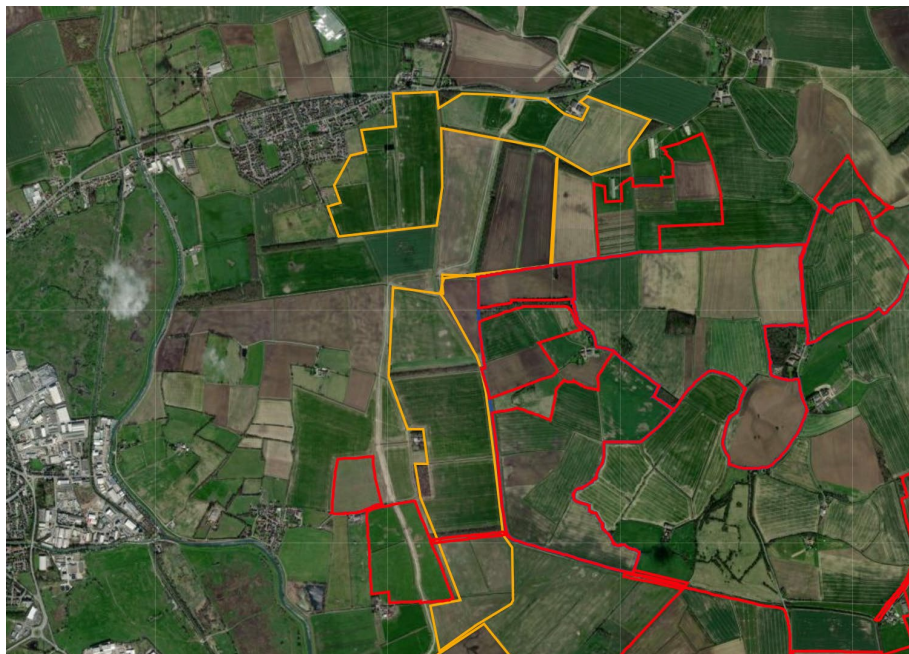
Thank you and any questions



Consultation zone



Other Solar Projects



Appendix F-13 Statutory consultation media engagement

Appendix F-13.1 Statutory consultation launch press release

RWE launches second round of consultation for 320MW Peartree Hill Solar Farm

RWE has unveiled its progressed proposals for Peartree Hill Solar Farm near Beverley in East Riding of Yorkshire, a project that would generate enough energy to power around 167,000 homes.

Following an initial round of consultation last year, the developer has used community feedback to shape plans for the 320MW solar project, which can be found at <https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk/>.

The community is now encouraged to view and respond to the updated proposals for Peartree Hill Solar Farm as part of a second consultation period running from Wednesday 15 May to Wednesday 26 June 2024.

Peartree Hill would comprise of six land parcels connected to Creyke Beck substation through a series of underground cables, allowing the transfer of energy to the national network. The most northern part of the site is located northwest of Leven, with the remainder of the solar farm located on land between the villages of Tickton, Riston, Wawne, Weel, and Woodmansey.

RWE remains dedicated to the retention and enhancement of natural habitats and species, as well as providing more than 50% Biodiversity Net Gain through new planting and habitat creation.

Based on community feedback, RWE is proposing additional opportunities for public recreation at the site, with new and enhanced footpaths, outdoor picnic areas, benches, wildflower meadows and community orchards.

Additionally, a £4.2m community benefit fund would be established across the project's 40-year lifespan to support local causes and initiatives. RWE will work with local community representatives to understand how this fund can be best used to meet the area's needs and aspirations.

As part of its commitment to community engagement, the team will be hosting several in-person and online events as part of its consultation to offer people the opportunity to meet the project team, provide feedback and ask questions.

RWE is holding four in-person consultation events for local people, at:

- **Cottingham Civic Hall, Market Green Cottingham on Tuesday 21 May 2024 from 1pm to 7pm;**
- **Leven Hall, North Street, Leven on Wednesday 22 May 2024 from 1pm to 7pm.**
- **Tickton Village Hall, Main Street, Tickton on Saturday 1 June 2024 from 11am to 3pm;**
- **Wawne Village Hall, 36 Main Street, Wawne on Monday 3 June 2024 from 1pm to 6:30pm;**

In addition to the in-person events, the team will also be hosting two online webinars which can be registered for on the project website. These will be held on:

- **Tuesday 28 May 2024 from 6:30pm to 8pm;**
- **Wednesday 12 June 2024 from 6.30pm to 8pm.**

Feedback on the proposals will be accepted until **11:59pm on Wednesday 26 June 2024**. This feedback will help shape the plans as they are finalised before a DCO submission later this year.

Peartree Hill is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and will proceed through the Development Consent Order (DCO) planning process. The final decision on whether to grant consent for the project will be made by the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero.

Detailed information about the proposals, and the methods for providing feedback can be found at the project website: <https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk/> or by contacting the project team by email at info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk or by phone on 01482 695 004. Upon request, all documents can be made available in alternative accessible formats.

- Information Ends -

For more information please contact:

Tel: 01482 695 004

Email: info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk

Appendix F-13.2 Statutory consultation reminder press release

Still time to have your say on proposals for 320MW Peartree Hill Solar Farm

RWE is asking the community to share feedback on progressed proposals for Peartree Hill Solar Farm near Beverley in East Riding of Yorkshire, a project that would generate enough energy to power around 167,000 homes.

The community is encouraged to view and respond to the proposals for Peartree Hill Solar Farm as part of its statutory consultation, which will run until **Wednesday 26 June 2024**.

Following an initial round of consultation last year, the developer has used community feedback to shape plans for the 320MW solar project proposing additional opportunities for public recreation, at the site, with new and enhanced footpaths across the site, outdoor picnic areas, benches, wildflower meadows and community orchards.

Peartree Hill would comprise of six land parcels connected to Creyke Beck substation through a series of underground cables, allowing the seamless transfer of energy to the national network. The most northern part of the site is located northwest of Leven, with the remainder of the solar farm located on land between the villages of Tickton, Riston, Wawne, Weel, and Woodmansey.

As part of its commitment to community engagement, the team has hosted several in-person and online events over the past few weeks to offer people the opportunity to meet the project team, provide feedback and ask questions.

The in-person events in Cottingham, Leven, Tickton, and Wawne attracted over 150 local people and provided the team with valuable insight that will help to shape the final proposals.

With the consultation now reaching its halfway point, anyone interested in the project can register for the final online webinar on the project website. This will be held on **Wednesday 12 June 2024** from **6.30pm to 8pm**.

RWE Development project manager, Mike Greslow, said: "This consultation period has been instrumental in shaping our plans and ensuring the project aligns with the needs of the community and the environment."

"We are committed to delivering a project that not only generates renewable energy but also contributes positively to the local area and I encourage local people to visit our consultation website, learn more about the proposals and to let us know what they think."

A £4.2m community benefit fund would be established across the project's 40-year lifespan to support local causes and initiatives. RWE will work with local community representatives to understand how this fund can be best used to meet the area's needs and aspirations.

Peartree Hill is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and will proceed through the Development Consent Order (DCO) planning process. The final decision on whether to grant consent for the project will be made by the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero.

The consultation launched on Wednesday 15 May and runs until Wednesday 26 June 2024.

Detailed information about the proposals, and the methods for providing feedback can be found at the project website: <https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk/> or by contacting the project team by email at info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk or by phone on 01482 695 004. Upon request, all documents can be made available in alternative accessible formats.

Information Ends –

For more information please contact:

Tel: 01482 695 004

Email: info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk

Appendix F-13.3 List of media outlets the press release was sent to

Type	Outlet
Local and national media	Hull Daily Mail
	Yorkshire Post
	Beverley Life
	AZoCleanTech
	Batteries International
	Business Green
	Business Live
	Clean Energy Pipeline
	Cleantech Business News
	Climate Home News
	Cornwall Insight
	Current+
	DeSmog UK
	Edie.net
	Energy Storage Journal
	Energy Storage News
	Environment Times
	Envirotec
	PV Tech
	Solar Energy UK
	Solar Power Portal
	World Battery News

EN010157

Peartree Hill Solar Farm

Appendix F-13.4 Media coverage

Two large solar projects are planned for East Yorkshire

A boom in applications for new solar farm schemes is helping create a second renewable energy revolution in East Yorkshire



by [Angus Young](#) — 19-06-2024 10:59 in [Environment](#), [Region](#) Reading Time: 6 mins

AA



Fifteen years ago, the first of what would become a series of large-scale onshore wind farms scattered across the county started producing electricity near a former RAF base south of Bridlington. However, when government subsidies for onshore wind were slashed in 2015, the pace of new development slowed dramatically. Now focus has switched from wind to solar with more than 20 separate planning applications for solar-related projects currently lodged with East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

Nationally significant infrastructure projects

Because of their anticipated generating capacity of more than 50MW of electricity, there are also two solar farm schemes earmarked for the area that are currently going through the development consent order process separately, as both are classed as nationally significant infrastructure projects.

The largest in terms of export capacity is Boom Power's East Yorkshire Solar Farm, which is proposed to cover an area of 1,277 hectares of land between the villages of Gribthorpe, Spaldington and Wressle and the town of Howden. The other is RWE's Peartree Hill Solar Farm, some 20 miles north of Hull, which includes several areas of land connected by a series of underground cables.

Neither proposed location is accidental. The Boom Power scheme is intended to feed into the National Grid's substation at Drax, while electricity generated at Peartree Hill would be applied to another National Grid substation at Cottingham which is also being geared up handle power from the Dogger Bank and Hornsea Four offshore wind farms in the North Sea.

Both solar schemes have been designed to occupy sites in close proximity to major grid connections, but sufficiently far enough away from areas of significant population to avoid the kind of protests staged against wind farm proposals over a decade ago.

Minimising the loss of valuable agricultural land

Inevitably, it means agricultural land is involved in both locations, with developers keen to stress their efforts in minimising the use of the most valuable and productive land. At Peartree Hill, most of the land is either arable or grassland and RWE are expected to encourage existing landowners or tenant farmers, including a free-range chicken business, to continue grazing under the raised solar panels.

I attended a recent public consultation event for the Peartree Hill scheme and was struck by a change in mood from the days of vociferous villagers campaigning against wind farms being built on their doorstep. Perhaps it's a visual thing. In East Yorkshire's predominantly flat landscape, solar farms are relatively easy to hide from view behind hedgerows.

I think there has also been a shift in attitudes towards not only the need for clean sustainable energy but also self-sufficiency when it comes to energy generation. Terrible though it is, the conflict in Ukraine has taught everyone a harsh lesson about energy dependency.

Arguments over land use don't stack up

Opponents of solar farms continue to raise the loss of agricultural land as a major concern but, from what I've actually seen on the ground, it's an argument that doesn't stack up. RWE says over 95% of solar panel areas can be made available for grazing, not only retaining an agricultural use but also allowing topsoil to recover by increasing organic matter in the soil.

According to Boom Power, even the five-fold increase in solar power predicted by the government as being necessary to meet net zero targets would still only account for 0.3% of UK land – less than the amount currently used for golf courses.

"This is an absurdly small area to help reduce the UK's carbon footprint, displace use of extortionate fossil fuels, reduce electricity bills, benefit nature and bolster the country's energy security," added the company.

Suspensions remain over fossil fuel links

As for the energy firms behind solar farms, critics often point to those with an entrenched trading legacy of gas and oil as a reason to be suspicious.

On its website, German-owned RWE makes no secret of its fossil fuel history in the mining of coal, lignite and gas but also goes to great lengths to detail its transition to clean energy sources. It says:

"Climate protection is a truly Herculean task for the area of conventional electricity generation in particular but we accept the challenge by constantly optimising and modernising our power plant portfolio, for example.

"The phaseout of coal is also on the agenda for RWE in the coming years. We are working very closely with our partners from industry and research as we take this responsible step, focusing in the process on the use of promising technologies that can help reduce gas emissions to a minimum."



Image courtesy of Peartree Hill Solar Farm

GROWATT

Ultimate flexibility for C&I storage system



News

Large-Scale Solar

RWE progresses 320MW solar farm proposals

By Molly Green

May 15, 2024

[Facebook](#) [Twitter/X](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Email](#)

German power company RWE has launched a second round of consultation for the 320MW Peartree Hill Solar Farm. The proposed site is near Beverly in East Riding of Yorkshire.

The initial round of consultation took place last year, and the developer has used community feedback to shape plans for the solar project, which the community is now encouraged to view.

It is an opportunity to respond to the updated proposals and will form part of RWE's second consultation period. Peartree Hill would comprise six land parcels connected to the Creyke Beck substation via underground cables.

RWE has committed to providing over 50% Biodiversity Net Gain through new planting and habitat creation. Based on feedback from last year, it is proposing additional opportunities for public recreation at the site with new and enhanced footpaths, outdoor picnic areas, benches, wildflower meadows and community orchards.

A £4.2 million community benefit fund would be established across the project's 40-year lifespan to support local causes and initiatives. As part of RWE's commitment to community engagement, the team will host several in-person and online events as part of its consultation.

Peartree Hill is classed as a nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP) and will proceed through the development consent order (DCO) planning process. The Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero will have the final decision on whether the project is consented.

Feedback from this round will aid plans as they are finalised before the DCO submission later this year.

RWE enters the UK

RWE, a German energy giant, has said it aims to commission an average of 450MW of new solar capacity in the UK annually until 2030 to bolster its global capacity, which is planned to increase by 3.9GW to 16GW by 2030.

The company secured a portfolio of UK solar projects through its acquisition of developer JBM Solar. Completed in March 2023, the acquisition made RWE one of the key players in the UK's solar market.

In March this year it began constructing its first seven solar and storage sites, representing 330MW of solar and 45MW of co-located battery energy storage systems (BESS). All seven projects have successfully secured Contracts for Difference (CfD) and will be constructed to facilitate a co-located BESS asset where one is not already installed. The first site is expected to be operational by the end of 2024.

Then, in April, RWE signed its first UK-based solar power purchase agreement (PPA) with the UK subsidiary of Kerry Group, which will last for over 10 years.

As part of the agreement, RWE will supply energy from its UK solar projects Cotmoor, located in Nottinghamshire, and Copse Lodge in Northamptonshire, via two separate financial pay-as-produced PPAs.

The Cotmoor site was included in the seven sites RWE will begin constructing this year and has already achieved Financial Investment Decision (FID). Copse Lodge Solar Farm is expected to follow in 2025.

Solar Power Portal's publisher Solar Media will host the [UK Solar Summit](#) on 4-5 June 2024 in London. The event will explore the UK's new landscape for utility and rooftop solar, looking at the opportunities within a GW+ annual market, and much more. For more information, go to the [website](#).

RWE Renewables UK Limited
Windmill Hill Business Park,
Whitehill Way,
Swindon,
Wiltshire,
England,
SN5 6PB