Lime Down
Solar Park

Consultation Report Appendices

Appendix F-3: Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008

September 2025

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010168

Document Reference: APP/5.2

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

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Document Navigation Booklet

A guide to our consultation documents

January 2025

Island GREEN POWER

Overview

Island Green Power UK Ltd is developing proposals to build a new solar and energy storage park on land near Malmesbury in Wiltshire, as well as infrastructure connecting the project into the national grid at a substation located to the north of Melksham.

Lime Down Solar Park has the potential to generate 500 megawatts (MW) of homegrown, renewable electricity through ground mounted solar photovoltaic panels. This is enough clean green energy to power around 115,000 homes.

We are undertaking consultation from Wednesday 29 January to Wednesday 19 March 2025 so we can share our proposals with you and give you the opportunity to tell us what you think. This formal stage of consultation is being carried out in line with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008.

We've prepared a set of documents and materials to provide information about what we're consulting on to help you form a view and provide us with your feedback and comments.

This booklet provides an overview of the documents that are available, a summary of information in them and where you can find them.

Community consultation literature

+ **Project Information Booklet** – provides information on the planning process, an overview of the project and what we're consulting on, how you can take part in the consultation, and what happens when this consultation closes.

+ **Feedback Form** – structured so you can provide your comments on our proposals. Alternatively, you can provide feedback online at **www.limedownsolar.co.uk** or by writing to us (see back cover for contact details).

Technical documents

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

We've conducted extensive environmental assessments as part of the development of our proposals. For this consultation, the findings from the assessments completed so far are set out in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).

The PEIR provides information about the potential effects we believe our proposals would have on the environment. It assesses how the proposed development could impact things like local wildlife, air and water quality, noise levels and the surrounding community. It also sets out details of those measures we are proposing to reduce or manage those impacts.

The PEIR comprises three volumes as follows:

+ **Volume 1: Main Report**
+ **Volume 2: Figures**
+ **Volume 3: Appendices**
+ **Non-Technical Summary (NTS)** of the PEIR – this provides an overview of the information and findings set out in the PEIR and is intended for a general audience.

The PEIR is different to the Environmental Statement (ES) which will accompany our final application for development consent.

The PEIR sets out the findings of our environmental assessments as they are available at the point of consultation. The ES is the final detailed report we will produce after the PEIR. It will include more comprehensive assessments, consider feedback from this consultation process and will outline the final environmental impacts and mitigation measures. Both the PEIR and the ES are legislative requirements.

Where to find the documents

+ **Online** – all of these documents are available to view and download from the 'Documents' section of the project website **www.limedownsolar.co.uk**

+ **In-person information** – printed copies of these documents will be available to view at the in-person events we're holding, listed in the full information events programme provided below.

+ **Community Access Points** – printed copies of these documents are available to view at publicly accessible Community Access Points in vicinity of the project, listed on **page 5** of this booklet. At these venues, you can also access the documents online using on-site computers, although proof of identity may be required. More information on this is available at **wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries-accessing-computers**

Information events

Wed 05 February 18:30 – 20:00	**Online (Zoom)** Find details on how to join on our website
Fri 07 February 14:30 – 19:30	**Sherston Village Hall** High Street, Sherston, Malmesbury, SN16 0LQ
Sat 08 February 11:00 – 15:00	**Hullavington Village Hall** Hill Hayes Lane, Hullavington, Chippenham, SN14 6EB
Wed 12 February 14:30 – 19:30	**Grittleton Village Hall** The Street, Grittleton, Chippenham, SN14 6AW
Thurs 13 February 14:30 – 19:30	**Corsham Town Council Hall** Town Hall, 65 High Street, Corsham, SN13 0EZ
Fri 14 February 14:30 – 19:30	**Malmesbury Town Hall** Cross Hayes, Malmesbury, SN16 9BZ
Sat 15 February 11:00 – 15:00	**Luckington Village Hall** Bristol Road, Luckington, Chippenham, SN14 6NP
Tues 25 February 14:30 – 19:30	**Goss Croft Hall** Startley Road, Upper Seagry, Chippenham, SN15 5HD
Wed 26 February 17:30 – 20:30	**Shaw CofE Primary School** Corsham Road, Shaw, Melksham, SN12 8EQ
Thurs 27 February 18:30 – 20:00	**Online (Zoom)** Find details on how to join on our website

Community Access Points

Venue and address	Opening times	Contact details
Corsham Library Springfield Community Campus Beechfield Road Corsham Wiltshire SN13 9DN	Mon, staffed: 9:00 – 19:00 Tues, staffed: 9:00 – 17:00 Weds, staffed: 9:00 – 17:00 Thurs, staffed: 9:00 – 17:00 Fri, staffed: 9:00 – 19:00 Sat, staffed: 9:00 – 17:00 Sun, not staffed **Note: Documents only available to view during staffed hours.**	libraryenquiries@wiltshire.gov.uk 01249 468 490
Melksham Library Melksham Community Campus Market Place Melksham Wiltshire SN12 6ES	Mon, staffed: 9.30 – 19:00 Tues, staffed: 9.30 – 17:00 Weds, not staffed. Thurs, staffed: 9.30 – 19:00 Fri, staffed: 9.30 – 17:00 Sat, staffed: 9.30 – 17:00 Sun, not staffed **Note: Documents only available to view during staffed hours.**	libraryenquiries@wiltshire.gov.uk 01225 702 039
Malmesbury Library 24 Cross Hayes Malmesbury Wiltshire SN16 9BG	Mon: 14:00 – 19:00 Tues: 9:30 – 17:00 Weds: 9:30 – 17:00 Thurs: closed Fri: 9:30 – 19:00 Sat: 9.30 – 13:00 Sun: closed	libraryenquiries@wiltshire.gov.uk 01666 823 611
Chippenham Library Timber Street Chippenham Wiltshire SN15 3EJ	Mon: 10:00 – 19:00 Tues: 9:00 – 17:00 Weds: 9:00 – 13:00 Thurs: 9:00 – 19:00 Fri: 9:00 – 19:00 Sat: 9:00 – 17:00 Sun: closed	libraryenquiries@wiltshire.gov.uk 01249 650 536

Opening times and accessibility may vary, so please check with venues directly for up-to-date information.

If you would like documents in large text or an alternative format, please contact us on 0808 175 6656 or send an email to info@limedownsolar.co.uk

Contact us

You can contact the project team to request printed or digital copies of community consultation literature, or digital copies of the technical documents and plans.

info@limedownsolar.co.uk

FREEPOST Lime Down Solar

Freephone 0808 175 6656
(open 09.00-17.00 Monday to Friday excluding bank holidays)

www.limedownsolar.co.uk

Scan the QR code here to visit our project website, where you can read all of our documents, submit your feedback and find out more about this consultation

2 Project Information Booklet

Lime Down
Solar Park

Project Information Booklet

January 2025

Island GREEN POWER

Contents

Island Green Power – who we are and what we do

Lime Down Solar Park Limited is part of Island Green Power. Established in 2013, Island Green Power (IGP) is a leading developer of renewable energy projects.

We specialise in the development of utility-scale solar projects and battery energy storage systems; overseeing the entire development process from start to finish, including sourcing land, securing grid connections and obtaining planning consents.

We are committed to help the UK decarbonise and meet net zero goals. Our mission is to help the UK increase its solar energy generation, making more renewable energy possible while drastically reducing carbon emissions.

Over the last decade we have successfully delivered over 34 projects worldwide totalling more than one gigawatt of clean, renewable energy assets. This includes 17 projects in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

We are equally committed to responsible land use, developing projects that work in harmony with local communities and the environment, while delivering bespoke benefits and enhancements best suited to the surroundings.

With a core team based in London, we are also supported by an established network of professional advisors and local partners in the various markets in which we operate.

Lime Down Solar Park Limited is a 100 per cent subsidiary of IGP UK Projects Limited, which is in turn a 100 per cent subsidiary of Island Green Power's UK group holding company, Island Green Power Group Limited.

You can find out more about us at: **www.islandgp.com**

1. Introduction

We are consulting on our proposals to build Lime Down Solar Park, a new solar and energy storage project in Wiltshire, including the underground cable connection into the national grid at Melksham Substation.

Lime Down Solar Park ('the Project') could deliver approximately 500 megawatts (MW) of homegrown, renewable electricity through ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panels. This is enough clean, affordable electricity to power 115,000 homes. The Project would also include a battery energy storage system, which would provide an important balancing service for the grid, allowing electricity generated by the panels to be stored at times of low demand, then exported onto the system when demand increases.

Why do we need Lime Down Solar Park?

The way we consume energy is changing. The move towards renewables and the transition away from fossil fuels is an environmental and economic necessity. National electricity demand is increasing and expected to double by 2050. Increasing our solar energy capacity is therefore essential if the UK is to hit its target of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050 while also meeting demand.

Solar power is a clean, homegrown source of energy that gets power into the system and people's homes faster than any other renewable technology. The Government's *Clean Power 2030 Action Plan*, published in 2024, sets out the target to more than treble solar power by 2030, equivalent to around 50 gigawatts (GW) of generation capacity[1].

Expected to deliver clean and affordable energy, the Project would contribute to the Government target to deliver a cheaper, zero-carbon electricity system by 2030 and accelerate to net zero.

Energy security

The *Clean Power Action Plan* also sets out how accelerating the switch to domestic renewable energy sources will reduce our reliance on fossil fuels faster and enhance energy security, making us less vulnerable to global market disruptions or geopolitical tensions that affect prices. The Project is anticipated to be operational for up to 60 years, supporting a rapid but sustained decarbonisation of our energy system.

To meet our net zero targets, we also need battery storage to store surplus energy generated by renewables for when it is needed. National Grid estimates that over 35.5 gigawatt hours (GWh) of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) will be required to meet the UK's net zero target by 2050[2] – the BESS we are proposing would deliver storage for up to 250 MW of electricity.

As we work to deliver our vision, we want to ensure that those communities living and working in the area have a chance to inform and influence the development of our proposals.

[1] **https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-power-2030-action-plan**

[2] **https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-202400433145/**

Generation capacity:
500MW

Enough clean, affordable energy to power over:
115,000homes

This consultation

You are now invited to take part in this second stage of consultation, which is running from 29 January to 19 March 2025. During this time, we'd like to know what you think about our revised proposals for the Project and how they have evolved since our earlier consultation.

Your feedback is important to us. After this consultation ends, we will review and update our detailed proposals in light of the feedback received. Your comments, together with the outcomes of ongoing assessments and design work, will help to finalise the application for development consent, which we are expecting to submit to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) later this year.

This booklet provides information about the Project, what we're consulting on and how you can take part in this consultation.

We've also prepared a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and PEIR Non-technical Summary (NTS) to inform this statutory consultation.

The PEIR is a core technical document which sets out the initial findings of the environmental impact assessments we have carried out to inform the development of the proposals we are now consulting on. It identifies what we currently believe the potential environmental effects of the project could be and the measures we are proposing to control or reduce those effects where practicable. The NTS accompanies and provides a summary of the information contained in the PEIR.

Copies of these documents are available on our website. Printed copies are also available to view. Please contact us for details (see back cover).

2. This consultation

We are now carrying out Stage Two 'statutory' consultation on our updated proposals for Lime Down Solar Park, having refined the early stage proposals presented during an initial stage of community consultation we held last year.

The first stage of community consultation ran for six weeks, from 14 March to 26 April 2024. It provided an initial introduction to the Project, outlined the extent of the land available for the solar development, including associated mitigation and environmental enhancement measures.

It also explained how the Project could connect to the national grid at Melksham Substation.

The feedback we received during this initial consultation helped us understand aspects of the Project that were most important to individuals, groups, and organisations. It highlighted the specific areas you wanted us to consider as we continued to shape a more detailed design for the Project.

We have used your feedback, along with the findings from our ongoing environmental and technical surveys, to further develop our proposals. We have sought to develop the Project in a way that responds to the sensitivities of the local landscape, preserve wildlife and habitats, enhance the environment and reduce impacts on neighbouring communities.

Stage Two consultation

The purpose of this second stage of 'statutory' consultation is to present our updated proposals and invite feedback. Running for a seven-week period, between Wednesday 29 January and Wednesday 19 March 2025, we are asking for your views on:

+ The overall Project.
+ The indicative masterplans for the solar development areas setting out where we're proposing to locate:
  - equipment associated with the Project (e.g. solar panels, BESS and substations);
  - areas for environmental mitigation and enhancement; and
  - buffers to maintain a suitable distance between equipment and existing homes, landscape, ecological and habitat features, and Public Rights of Way (PRoW).
+ The route for an underground cable connecting the Project into the national grid at Melksham Substation.
+ Suggestions for initiatives the Project could support to benefit local communities.
+ Anything else you think is important.

Once the consultation has closed, we will review the feedback we receive and see if there are any changes we can make to the Project.

Stage One consultation

Views of the surrounding countryside and the character of local villages	Protect soil quality and agricultural land for food production	Reduce visibility and noise from neighbouring properties	Avoid increasing flood risk	Protect wildlife and the local environment
Protect PRoW, recreation and amenity with a view to human health and wellbeing	Avoid impact on archaeology and heritage assets	Consider the impact on the local economy	Avoid disruption to roads during construction	

Statutory Consultation

Lime Down Solar Park is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) because it involves the construction of a solar generating station with a generating capacity exceeding 50 MW.

The development consenting regime for an NSIP comes under the Planning Act 2008. This means that we need to submit an application for development consent for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Project to PINS, the body responsible for managing the examination process for NSIPs.

Before we can submit our application, the Planning Act 2008 requires that we conduct a statutory stage of consultation. This is our statutory stage of consultation for Lime Down Solar Park. This is your opportunity to tell us what you think about how and where we are proposing to build the Project.

Should the application be accepted for examination, you will be able to register your interest in our proposals directly with PINS, who will then let you know about further opportunities you will have to inform and contribute to the ongoing planning process.

More information about the development consenting regime for NSIP's can be found on PINS' website: **national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/**

1 Stage One Consultation

A summary of the feedback received during this first stage of consultation and how it has been taken into consideration as we've continued to refine our proposals for the Project is set out in our Stage One Consultation Summary Report. This is available to view and download from the Project website (see back cover).

3. Lime Down Solar Park

Lime Down Solar Park would feature a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating station and supporting infrastructure including an on-site battery energy storage system (BESS). It will also include an underground cable connection to the national grid at Melksham Substation, ensuring the renewable electricity produced by the Project can power homes and businesses across the UK.

Subject to being consented, the Project is anticipated as having a generation capacity of up to approximately 500 MW. This is equivalent to providing enough clean, affordable energy to meet the power needs of around 115,000 homes.

Location

The solar park would be located within five land parcels; Lime Down A, B, C, D and E – collectively referred to as the 'Solar PV Sites'. They are located to the north of the M4, southwest of Malmesbury between the villages of Sherston, Luckington, Corston, Hullavington and Rodbourne.

In addition to hosting the solar PV panels and supporting infrastructure, these areas will incorporate biodiversity and environmental enhancements, complemented by landscaping to include the establishment of native tree, hedgerow and ground cover planting along with reinforcement of existing tree belts and hedgerows. This will ensure the panels, BESS, on-site substations, and other necessary infrastructure for generating and storing electricity are carefully and sensitively integrated into the surroundings.

The electricity generated by the Project would be exported to the existing national electricity transmission system at National Grid's Melksham Substation, which lies approximately 3 km to the north of Melksham near the villages of Beanacre and Whitley. The connection from the Solar PV Sites to Melksham Substation would be through underground cables. There is no requirement for new overhead electricity lines to be used or constructed.

The Project site

The land for which DCO consent is being sought is called the Development Area and covers approximately 2,834 hectares (ha). The map on **page 7** shows the extent of the land required for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Project and the grid connection to Melksham.

The Project comprises the following elements:

+ The Solar PV Sites – comprising approximately 878 ha (2,170 acres) of predominantly agricultural fields. Around 464 ha of this land is proposed as being required for installation of solar PV, battery storage, and associated infrastructure. The remaining 414 ha would be retained as agricultural land or used for landscaping, ecology mitigation and environmental enhancements.
+ The Cable Route Search Corridor – which stretches about 22km from the 'Lime Down D' site to Melksham Substation and also links together the Solar PV Sites. It covers approximately 1,947 ha of mainly agricultural land, and ranges in width from 75 metres to 2km. We will refine this corridor before submitting our application for development consent to PINS.

Site selection

One of the key factors influencing the location of the Project was the availability of a grid connection at Melksham Substation. Once a point of connection was established, various land parcels within a 20km radius of Melksham Substation were considered against a number of technical, environmental and economic factors.

The five Solar PV Sites were selected because:

+ They benefit from good levels of sunlight (irradiance), ensuring efficient electricity generation.
+ The sites are close together and, combined, provide enough land to accommodate the Project.
+ The sites comprise land of regular shape.
+ The majority of the sites comprise grade 3 agricultural land, being lower quality than grades 1 and 2.
+ The gently undulating topography makes them suitable for solar development and helps maximise panel efficiency.
+ The sites are largely unconstrained by trees.
+ The majority of the sites are within areas at low risk of flooding, with only small sections within higher risk zones.
+ There are no listed buildings or heritages assets within the sites.
+ There are few residential properties nearby, and additional landscaping and screening could minimise any visual impact.
+ Access to the sites is relatively well served by the existing road network, with only minor upgrades envisaged.
+ The land is available for the Project.

Further detail on how the Development Area for the Project was selected can be found in PEIR, Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution. A Site Selection report can be found in PEIR, Volume 3, Appendix 4-2: Site Selection Report.

Project location and site boundary

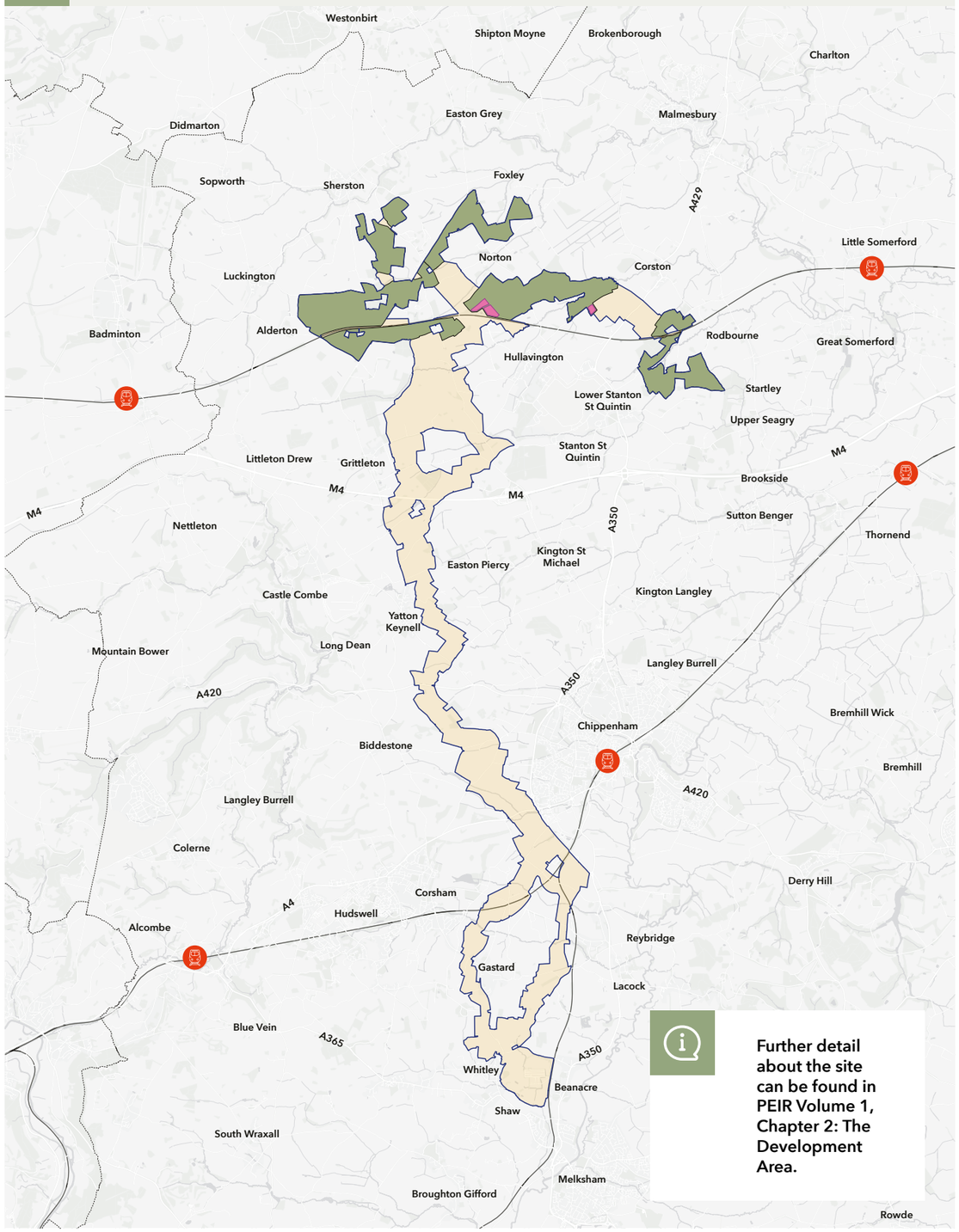


Figure 1: Project location and site boundary

Further detail about the site can be found in PEIR Volume 1, Chapter 2: The Development Area.

4. Our proposals

Our work so far

We used your Stage One feedback and environmental information to inform our updated plans for the Project. The revised proposals we're consulting on now have been informed by these comments, including in the ways described below:

You said	We did
Protect views and the setting of the Cotswold National Landscape	Our latest proposals include plans for green corridors, reinforced hedgerow and roadside planting, and enhanced riparian planting to reduce visual impacts of the Project. We have also created buffers and offsets from homes, vegetation, watercourses and drains, PRoWs, woodland and listed buildings.
Reduce impacts on soil quality and agriculture	The Development Area would be returned to its original use and condition when the Project reaches the end of its lifespan. As the land will have been undisturbed during operation and maintenance, the health, quality, and structure of soils within the Solar PV Sites is likely to improve.
Safeguard local wildlife and ecology	We have proposed specific ecology measures to achieve biodiversity net gain as a result of our Project, including substantial new hedgerow and tree planting, extensive grassland habitat creation and buffer distances to ecological features.
Protect heritage and archaeology assets	We've removed panels in areas with archaeological and heritage sensitivities and proposed enhanced screening and offsets to reduce impacts to heritage assets. This includes near the Fosse Way and Fosse Lodge, and both Alderton and Sherston Conservations Areas.
Construction and end-of-life	Construction activities would be limited and controlled by a suite of management documents to address the impact of HGVs on local roads an country lanes, and to avoid disrupting the local community and environment wherever possible. The Project would operate for up to 60 years, after which the land would be restored to its original use and condition as far as practicable.
Provide more details and visualisations about the Project components	The updated design shows the careful location of built elements, including the proposed solar panels, BESS, substations, and a refined cable route corridor. For more information, view **page 12** of this document. Visualisations of how the Project could look, including screening, can be found in the **PEIR Volume 1, Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual**. Details of individual Project components can also be found in **PEIR Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Scheme.**

Table 1: Key feedback themes from Stage One and how we've responded

Applying our design principles

We have developed a series of design principles to use as a framework for refining the ongoing development of the Project. These principles are based on the requirements of national and local planning policy, the specific characteristics and features of the site and the feedback received from the public during our initial phase of consultation.

These principles allow us to maximise the outcomes and value that the Project provides, deliver benefits to communities and control any adverse effects on the local environment throughout the lifecycle of the Project - from construction through to operation, maintenance and decommissioning.

Design Principle	
Landscape led design	The design will be 'Landscape Led,' meaning we will work to protect the intrinsic character and beauty of the surrounding countryside and enhance the landscape through design – appropriately screening and siting infrastructure to minimise effects.
Mitigation hierarchy[3]	We will follow the mitigation hierarchy, meaning our main goal will be to avoid impacts to sensitive receptors wherever we can. Where impacts can't be avoided, they will be minimised, remedied and compensated for.
Net gain	We will deliver more than 10 per cent net gain for biodiversity by creating and enhancing habitats for local wildlife and managing grassland to maximise ecological value.
Flexibility, resilient resources, climate change	We will keep the design flexible to allow it to adapt over time to new technological advancements and a changing climate, including building-in Project resilient against extreme weather events.
Site layout design	The layout of the Project will be designed to minimise, wherever possible, impacts to local communities during construction, operation, and decommissioning.
The water environment	Our Project design will make sure the risk of flooding is not increased anywhere else, and we will also ensure the Project itself is resilient to current and future flooding risks.
Heritage	We will include setbacks, buffers and screening in appropriate locations to minimise harm to heritage assets and their setting. Where archaeological assets have been identified, our design will seek to avoid them.
Land use	We will be sensitive to existing land uses wherever possible and maximise opportunities to strengthen and reinforce existing green infrastructure (natural / environmental areas) and blue infrastructure (water bodies / features). This includes measures such as connecting isolated trees and filling in hedgerows.
Recreation and access	We aim to limit impacts on PRoW, local recreation and access as much as we can. Improving walking routes, footpath networks and permissive paths are being explored, along with enhancement measures for walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

Table 2: Project design principles

[redacted]

5. The solar development

The main elements of the solar development would include the solar PV panels, the BESS, infrastructure and an on-site substations.

The core components of the solar park would include:

+ Solar PV panels converting sunlight into electricity.
+ Solar PV mounting structures.
+ Supporting infrastructure - inverters, transformers and switchgear – converting the direct current (DC) electricity collected by the Solar PV panels into alternating current (AC) and stepping up the voltage so it can be exported to the national grid.
+ An energy storage system (the BESS) enabling electricity generated by the solar PV panels to be stored on-site, and released to the national grid when needed. It also enables energy to be imported from the national grid so it can be stored until it is needed.
+ Substations to export the electricity from the Solar PV panels to the national grid. The substations will include a control building with welfare facilities.
+ On-site cables connecting the Solar PV panels and BESS to the inverters which, in turn connect to the transformers.
+ Grid connection cables providing the connection between the on-site substation and Melksham Substation to export the electricity generated by the Solar PV panels onto the national grid.
+ Temporary construction compounds and temporary roadway accesses to enable access to the land within the Site for the purposes of constructing the Project.
+ Accesses to the Site during construction and for routine maintenance when the Project is operational.
+ Fencing comprising wire mesh and wooden posts to enclose operational areas of the site with pole mounted internal facing CCTV systems around the perimeter.
+ New planting, landscaping and biodiversity measures across the site and around the perimeter to enhance biodiversity and improve the landscape.

Components of a typical solar farm

1. Solar energy
2. Fencing
3. Solar panels
4. Inverter (DC to AC power converter)
5. Landscape area
6. Substation
7. Battery storage
8. Underground cable

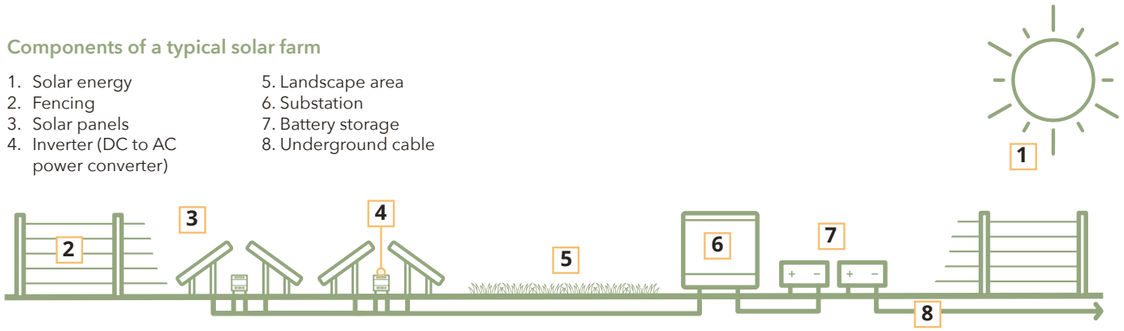


Figure 3: Components of a typical solar project

Fencing and security

Fencing around the perimeter and within the Solar PV Sites would typically be deer wire and mesh and wooden post fencing with a maximum height of 2.5 metres to prevent large mammals such as deer from getting close to equipment. Electrical infrastructure, including substations and BESS, would be secured through three metre high palisade fencing around the perimeter (of each compound).

Pole mounted internal facing CCTV systems would be used around the perimeter of the operational elements of the Solar PV Sites. It is anticipated these would be galvanised steep painted green poles with a maximum height of three metres.

Figure 2: Example of fencing from IGP's Salhouse Solar Farm

The Indicative project layout on **page 12** shows our current indicative proposals for the design and layout of the solar energy park.

An indicative diagram illustrating the components of a typical solar project is set out in **Figure 3:**

Additional design considerations

Solar PV technology is advancing quickly. To ensure we can incorporate the most current technology when we begin construction, our DCO application will be designed to be flexible.

When it comes to our application, we will seek a consent that restricts aspects of the Project which have potential environmental impacts including:

+ Solar panel height
+ Dimensions of the infrastructure, such as onsite substations
+ Location of the panels across the site

More information on the design parameters can be found in the PEIR NTS and PEIR Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Scheme.

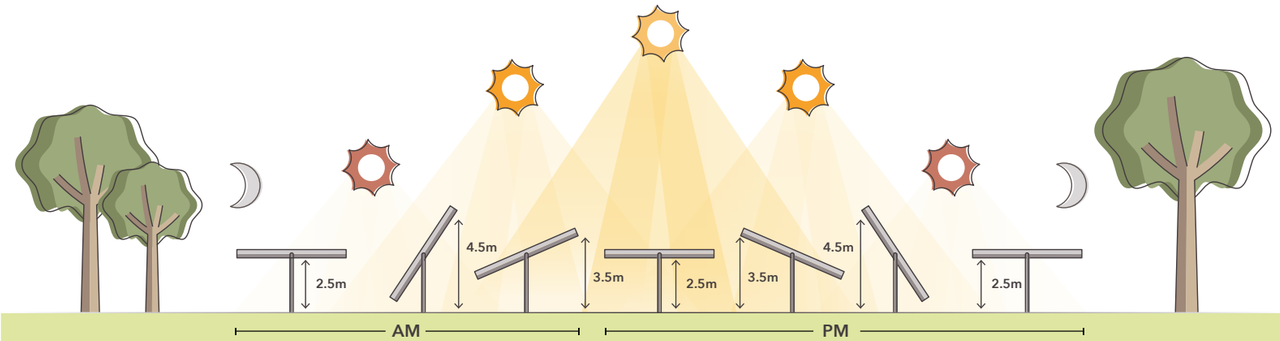
Solar photovoltaic (PV) panels

We plan to utilise a combination of tracker panel technology while keeping the option of fixed panels, ensuring the Project design remains as flexible as possible to suit its surroundings.

The tracker panels (and their supports) could have a maximum height up to 4.5 metres when at their greatest inclination, and a minimum height of 0.4 metres. These would be aligned in north-south rows, rotate to the east and west and tilt up to a maximum inclination of 60 degrees from horizontal. An indicative diagram of how a tracker panel typically works is shown in **Figure 4.**

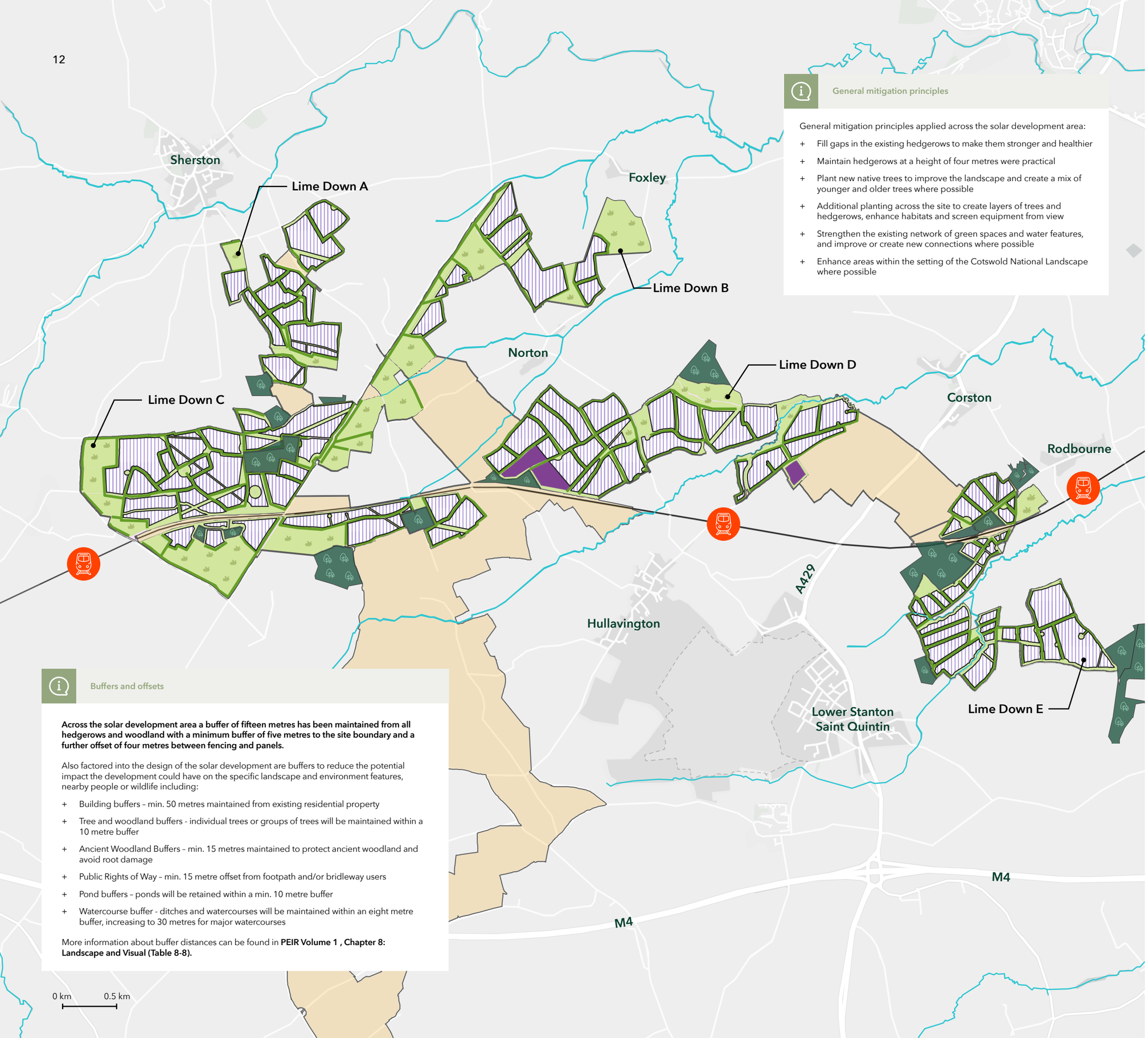
Fixed panels (and their supports) could have a maximum height of up to 3.5 metres, be aligned in east-west rows, and face south at a fixed tilt angle of between +10 to 35 degrees from horizontal.

Figure 4: Indicative diagram showing tracker panels



Indicative diagram to illustrate how solar PV tracker panels follow the sun's path on any given day.
Note: The maximum height of 4.5m occurs only for a very limited time at the beginning and end of each day in locations where no adverse visual impacts are identified.

6. Solar Development Areas - Indicative Layout



General mitigation principles

General mitigation principles applied across the solar development area:

+ Fill gaps in the existing hedgerows to make them stronger and healthier
+ Maintain hedgerows at a height of four metres were practical
+ Plant new native trees to improve the landscape and create a mix of younger and older trees where possible
+ Additional planting across the site to create layers of trees and hedgerows, enhance habitats and screen equipment from view
+ Strengthen the existing network of green spaces and water features, and improve or create new connections where possible
+ Enhance areas within the setting of the Cotswold National Landscape where possible

Buffers and offsets

Across the solar development area a buffer of fifteen metres has been maintained from all hedgerows and woodland with a minimum buffer of five metres to the site boundary and a further offset of four metres between fencing and panels.

Also factored into the design of the solar development are buffers to reduce the potential impact the development could have on the specific landscape and environment features, nearby people or wildlife including:

+ Building buffers – min. 50 metres maintained from existing residential property
+ Tree and woodland buffers - individual trees or groups of trees will be maintained within a 10 metre buffer
+ Ancient Woodland Buffers – min. 15 metres maintained to protect ancient woodland and avoid root damage
+ Public Rights of Way – min. 15 metre offset from footpath and/or bridleway users
+ Pond buffers – ponds will be retained within a min. 10 metre buffer
+ Watercourse buffer - ditches and watercourses will be maintained within an eight metre buffer, increasing to 30 metres for major watercourses

More information about buffer distances can be found in **PEIR Volume 1 , Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual (Table 8-8).**

Key

- Solar development
- BESS & substation locations
- Cable route search corridor

Proposed mitigation / enhancement

- Proposed landscape mitigation
- Biodiversity and habitat enhancement areas

Existing infrastructure & landscape features

- Watercourses
- Existing woodland and ancient woodland
- Railway Line

Solar development area overview

Total area: **878 ha** (2,170 acres)

- Solar development area: 464 ha (1,147 acres)
- BNG, environment and offsets: 414 ha (1,023 acres)

53% | 47%

More information

This is an indicative layout plan for the purposes of statutory consultation.

Areas and features shown are subject to change based on environmental assessment, design development and feedback received.

6.1 Lime Down A Indicative Site Layout

Sherston

Foxley Road

Existing tree and hedgerows along roads will be strengthened with additional planting with hedgerows being maintained at a height of four metres.

Green corridors would be created across the site, with trees and hedgerows being layered to maintain and protect views.

Land has been excluded from the development for the purposes of environmental and biodiversity enhancement within the setting of Cotswold National Landscape.

Public Rights of Way - a minimum buffer of 15 metres to offset from footpath and/or bridleway users.

New hedgerows will be planted across the site to provide additional screening, enhance existing and create new habitat, and improve the landscape.

Where possible habitat corridors will be created between existing ponds.

One of three 132kv substations is proposed as being located in Lime Down A. This would act as a hub to collect the electricity generated by the solar panels, increasing its voltage so it can be exported to the 400kv substation located in Lime Down D.

Existing drystone wall along the bridleway will be restored and maintained.

These fields will be retained for habitat and to provide open areas for species, for example ground nesting birds.

Site B

Site C

Fosse Way

0 km 0.25 km 0.5 km

Key

- Solar development
- 132kv substation location
- Cable route search corridor
- Other solar development sites
- Site access

Proposed mitigation / enhancement

- Green corridors to enable species movement
- Reinforced road site screening
- New hedgerow
- Existing hedgerow reinforcement
- Biodiversity and habitat enhancement areas

Existing infrastructure & landscape features

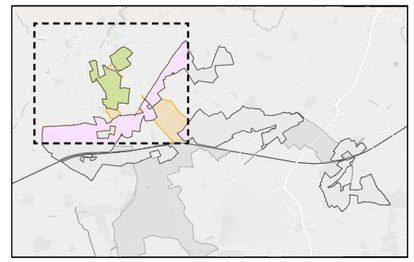
- Watercourses
- Existing woodland and ancient woodland
- Public Rights of Way

Site Overview

Total area: **94 ha** (233 acres)

- Solar development area: 58 ha (144 acres)
- BNG, environment and offsets: 36 ha (89 acres)

62% | 38%



Site access

- Access points to Solar PV Sites will be designed for safe use by HGVs up to 16.5 metres long.
- Existing field entrances will be used where possible, with visibility improved as needed based on nearby road speeds.
- Access design will respond to site-specific conditions and discussions with Wiltshire Council's highways team.
- Designs will avoid impacting old or mature trees, but small sections of hedgerow may be removed to accommodate visibility improvements.

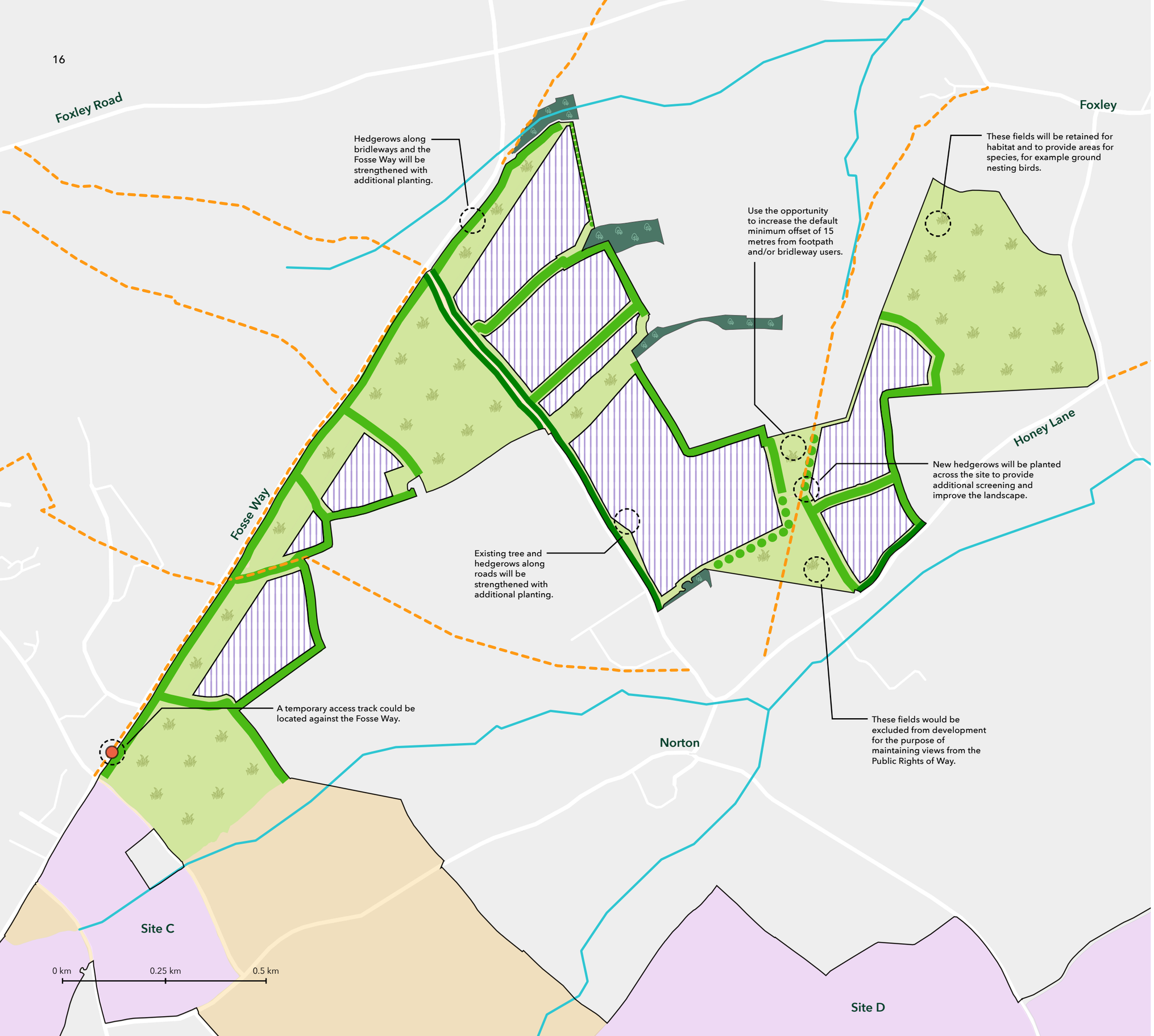
Further information can be found in **PEIR Volume 1, Chapter 13: Transport and Access.**

More information

This is an indicative layout for the purposes of statutory consultation. The areas and features shown are subject to change based on environmental assessment, design development and feedback.

A detailed indicative masterplan can be found in **PEIR Volume 2, Figure 8-15-1 Indicative Masterplan Lime Down A**.

6.2 Lime Down B Indicative Site Layout



Key

- Solar development
- Cable route search corridor
- Other solar development sites
- Site access

Proposed mitigation / enhancement

- Green corridors to enable species movement
- Reinforced road site screening
- New hedgerow
- Existing hedgerow reinforcement
- Biodiversity and habitat enhancement areas

Existing infrastructure & landscape features

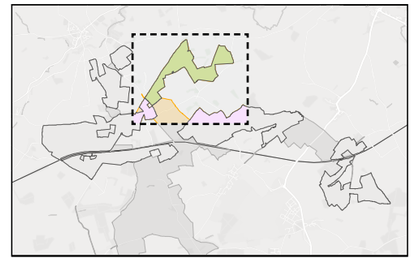
- Watercourses
- Existing woodland and ancient woodland
- Public Rights of Way

Site Overview

Total area: **114 ha** (282 acres)

- Solar development area: 42 ha (104 acres)
- BNG, environment and offsets: 72 ha (178 acres)

37% | 63%



More information

This is an indicative layout for the purposes of statutory consultation. The areas and features shown are subject to change based on environmental assessment, design development and feedback.

A detailed indicative masterplan can be found in **PEIR Volume 2, Figure 8-15-2 Indicative Masterplan Lime Down B.**

6.3 Lime Down C Indicative Site Layout

How would a 'community orchard' work?

Community orchards provide a shared space where fruit trees are planted for the benefit of the local community. Typically cared for by volunteers or a local group, anyone in the community can enjoy the produce whether by helping with maintenance or during harvest time.

As well as providing produce, community orchards create opportunity for communities to gather and connect, support education initiatives. Consisting of grassland meadow and fruit trees, community orchards serve to provide important habitat for wildlife, and can also help improve the environment by supporting pollinators and promoting biodiversity.

Site A

Site B

Site D

Hedgerows along bridleways and the Fosse Way will be strengthened with additional planting.

Use the opportunity to significantly increase the default minimum offset of 15 metres from footpath and/or bridleway users.

Additional native tree and ground cover planting will be provided alongside existing watercourses to improve ecological corridors from view.

Strengthen existing field margins with additional native tree planting to provide green layering.

These fields have been retained for habitat, and identified as offering potential to accommodate suggested ideas for a community orchard and apiary.

Where possible create habitat corridors between existing ponds.

New hedgerows will be planted across the site to provide additional screening, enhance existing and create new habitat, and improve the landscape.

Isolated trees will be connected by corridors to existing natural features.

Green corridors would be created across the site, with trees and hedgerows being layered to maintain and protect views.

One of three 132kv substations is proposed as being located in Lime Down C. These 132kv substations would act as a hub to collect the electricity generated by the solar panels, increasing its voltage so it can be exported to the 400kv substation located in Lime Down D.

Existing tree and hedgerows along roads will be strengthened with additional planting.

Fosse Way

What is a 'Riparian Corridor'?

A riparian corridor is the area of land next to a river, stream, or waterway. It often includes plants, trees, and wildlife that depend on the water. These corridors help keep the water clean, prevent flooding, and provide habitat for animals and plants. They are important for protecting the environment and maintaining healthy ecosystems.

0 km 0.25 km 0.5 km

More information

This is an indicative layout for the purposes of statutory consultation. The areas and features shown are subject to change based on environmental assessment, design development and feedback.

A detailed indicative masterplan can be found in **PEIR Volume 2, Figure 8-15-3 Indicative Masterplan Lime Down C.**

Key

- Solar development
- 132kv substation location
- Cable Route Search Corridor
- Other solar development sites
- Site access

Proposed mitigation / enhancement

- Green corridors to enable species movement
- Reinforced road site screening
- New hedgerow
- Existing hedgerow reinforcement
- Biodiversity and habitat enhancement areas
- Proposed new woodland
- Riparian Corridor

Existing infrastructure & landscape features

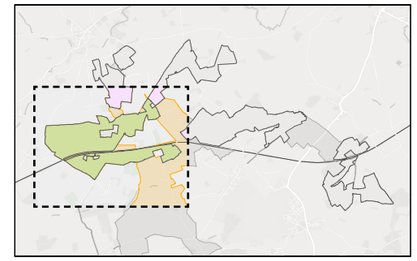
- Watercourses
- Existing woodland and ancient woodland
- Public Rights of Way
- Railway line

Site Overview

Total area: **318 ha** (786 acres)

- Solar development area: 152 ha (377 acres)
- BNG, environment and offsets: 166 ha (409 acres)

48% 52%



Site B

A 400kv substation is proposed as being located in Lime Down D. Acting as a hub collecting the electricity from the 132kv substations located on Lime Down A, C and E, to increase its voltage so it could then be exported via underground cables to Melksham Substation from where it would be distributed across the electricity system to homes and businesses.

Norton

New hedgerows will be planted across the site to provide additional screening, enhance existing and create new habitat, and improve the landscape.

Existing tree and hedgerows along roads will be strengthened with additional planting.

Additional native tree and ground cover planting will be provided alongside existing watercourses to improve ecological corridors from view.

Green corridors would be created across the site, with trees and hedgerows being layered to maintain and protect views.

These fields would be excluded from development for the purpose of maintaining views from the Public Rights of Way.

Habitat corridors would be created between existing ponds.

Site C

These fields will be retained for habitat and to provide open areas for species, such as ground nesting birds.

Isolated trees will be connected by corridors to existing natural features.

A429

Hullavington

What is a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) ?

A BESS is designed to provide storage for energy in large batteries. The BESS proposed for this Project would provide an important balancing service for the national grid. It would store excess electricity generated by the solar PV panels or excess energy in the grid when demand is low, releasing it back onto the grid at times of higher demand when its needed most.

0 km 0.25 km 0.5 km

The BESS proposed as part of the Project would be located on one or two areas located in Lime Down D, and at least 450 metres away from property. The total area required to accommodate a BESS is 10.5 ha (25 acres).

The BESS compound will be secured by 3-metre-high palisade fencing, with CCTV cameras for added security.

Batteries would be housed in individual shipping-style containers, each approximately 16 metres long, 3 metres wide, and no more than 3.2 metres high. The exact number of containers is still to be determined, but the Project could include up to 270. Each container will be equipped with fire detection and an automatic fire extinguisher system.

More information

This is an indicative layout for the purposes of statutory consultation. The areas and features shown are subject to change based on environmental assessment, design development and feedback.

A detailed indicative masterplan can be found in **PEIR Volume 2, Figure 8-15-4 Indicative Masterplan Lime Down D.**

6.4 Lime Down D Indicative Site Layout

Key

- Solar development
- 400kv substation location
- BESS location options
- Cable Route Search Corridor
- Other solar development sites
- Site access

Proposed mitigation / enhancement

- Green corridors to enable species movement
- Reinforced road site screening
- New hedgerow
- Existing hedgerow reinforcement
- Biodiversity and habitat enhancement areas
- Riparian corridor

Existing infrastructure & landscape features

- Watercourses
- Existing woodland and ancient woodland
- Public Rights of Way
- Railway line

Site Overview

Total area: **213 ha** (526 acres)

- Solar development area: 131 ha (324 acres)
- BNG, environment and offsets: 82 ha (202 acres)

61% 39%

More information

This is an indicative layout for the purposes of statutory consultation. The areas and features shown are subject to change based on environmental assessment, design development and feedback.

A detailed indicative masterplan can be found in **PEIR Volume 2, Figure 8-15-5 Indicative Masterplan Lime Down E.**

Rodbourne Road

A429

Rodbourne

Startley

Lower Stanton Saint Quintin

Upper Seagry

Existing field margins will be enhanced and strengthened with additional native tree planting to provide green layering.

These fields would be excluded from development for the purpose of maintaining views from the Public Rights of Way.

Existing tree and hedgerows along roads will be strengthened with additional planting.

We have identified two locations in Lime Down E where one of three 132kv substations required for the Project could be sited. These 132kv substations would act as a hub to collect the electricity generated by the solar panels, increasing its voltage so it can be exported to the 400kv substation located in Lime Down D.

Links between existing woodland would be strengthened by improving tree lines or planting new trees to connect wooded areas.

Green corridors would be created across the site, with trees and hedgerows being layered to maintain and protect views.

Isolated trees will be connected by corridors to existing natural features.

New hedgerows will be planted across the site to provide additional screening, enhance existing and create new habitat, and improve the landscape.

Where possible habitat corridors will be created between existing ponds.

Additional native tree and ground cover planting will be provided alongside existing watercourses to improve ecological corridors from view.

0 km 0.25 km 0.5 km

6.5 Lime Down E Indicative Site Layout

Key

- Solar development
- 132kv substation locations
- Cable route search corridors
- Other solar development sites
- Site access

Proposed mitigation / enhancement

- Green corridors to enable species movement
- Reinforced road site screening
- New hedgerow
- Existing hedgerow reinforcement
- Biodiversity and habitat enhancement areas
- Proposed new woodland
- Riparian corridor

Existing infrastructure & landscape features

- Watercourses
- Existing woodland and ancient woodland
- Public Rights of Way
- Railway line

Site Overview

Total area: **139 ha** (343 acres)

- Solar development area: 81 ha (199 acres)
- BNG, environment and offsets: 58 ha (144 acres)

58% 42%

7. Connecting to the national grid

The electricity generated by the Project will be exported to the national grid via underground electricity cables. It will connect at National Grid's Melksham Substation located approximately 20 km south of the Solar PV Sites, to the north of Melksham and west of the A350.

During our initial stage of consultation in March to April 2024, we had identified three broad cable route corridors within which the underground cables could be located **(see Figure 5 and Figure 6 below).**

Our aim was to minimise ecological impact and preserve cultural heritage by avoiding designated ecological areas, mature and historic woodlands, listed buildings, scheduled monuments, and conservation areas. We also wanted to reduce the length of the corridors and the number of crossings over roads, railways, watercourses, and hedgerows as much as possible.

Stage One Indicative Masterplan

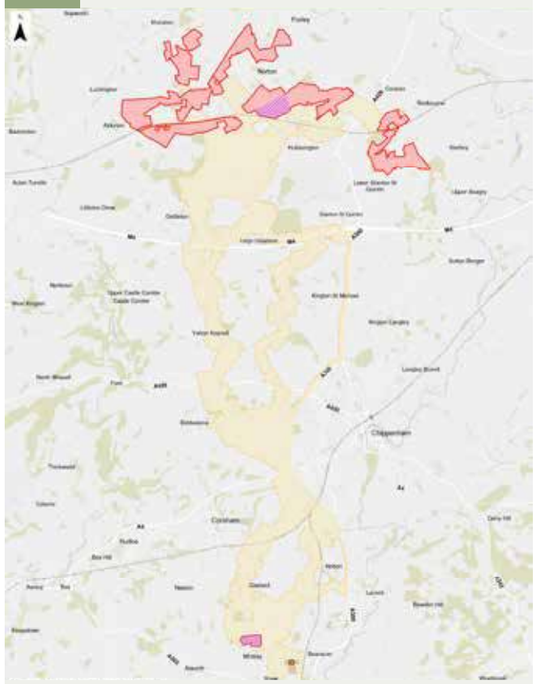


Figure 5: Map showing previous Cable Route Search Corridor (Stage One plans)

Stage Two Indicative Masterplan

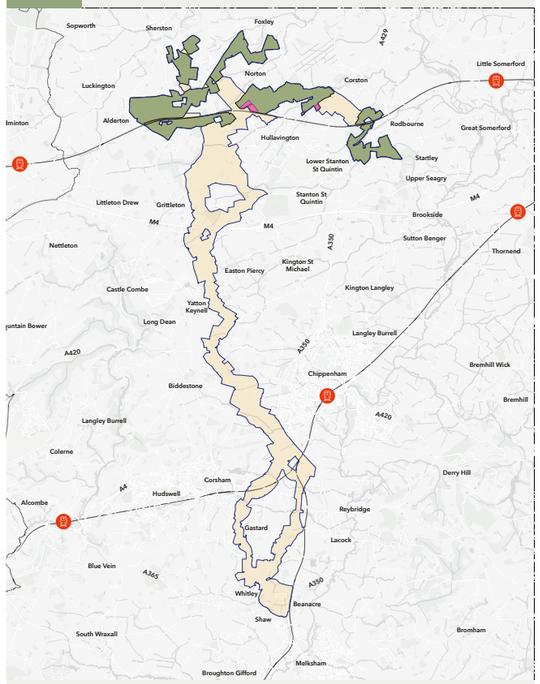


Figure 6: Map showing revised Cable Route Search Corridor (Stage Two plans)

Our preferred route

The Cable Route Search Corridor comprises the area in which the Cable Route Corridor would connect the Solar PV Sites to one another (i.e. 'Interconnecting Cables) and to the existing Melksham Substation.

The cable route corridor would follow an alignment south from the on-site 400kv substations, going across the M4 near Sevington then to the east of Yatton Keynell continuing to run south across the A420 east of Corsham until it reaches Melksham Substation.

The Cable Route Search Corridor will be further refined as the design progresses and will be a narrower corridor for the final DCO application.

What is a cable route corridor?

A route corridor is a broad ribbon of land through which an underground electrical connection could be routed. The corridor may vary in width depending on a range of factors including avoiding the location of:

+ Built up areas where people live,
+ Infrastructure including roads and railway lines,
+ Physical landscape features as well as other features that may be sensitive in terms of ecology, heritage or landscape, and
+ Protected sites including nature conservation areas.

We are proposing to build the connection between the solar park, BESS, and the substation by installing underground cable. **We are not proposing to use pylons and overhead lines.**

After the cable has been installed and the land is restored, the land can return to its current use. Restrictions may be applied to avoid the risk of cables being disturbed or damaged but typical agricultural activities can continue.

A sealing end compound will be needed where a section of underground cable comes above ground. For example, where it joins Melksham Substation.

What is a substation?

Substations provide a connection point for generators to input power into the network. They adjust electricity to the right voltage to ensure it can be safely and efficiently transported to homes and businesses.

Figure 7: Illustrative model of the 400kv substation

8. Measures to reduce effects

Findings from our ongoing assessments are important in determining the potential impacts the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Project could have on the landscape, environment and local communities.

Reducing or avoiding impacts is one of our top priorities. In developing our proposals for the Project, we have incorporated a range of measures to minimise its impacts on a range of different factors. A number of topic areas are listed in Table 3, with full details and further topic areas provided in the PEIR.

Topic	Proposed measures to reduce effects
	Landscape and visual The Project will be designed to integrate within the landscape and existing vegetation patterns, sensitively aligning with the local landscape characteristics wherever possible. The design will incorporate minimum offsets from existing landscape features, including residential properties, ancient woodland, woodland and hedgerows, PRoWs and watercourses.
	Ecology and biodiversity We are proposing a range of buffers to avoid impacts on ditches, watercourses, ponds, woodland, hedgerows, trees, designated sites and badger setts, bat roosts and nesting sites. We propose using a technique called Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) for sections of the grid connection route. This involves drilling underground rather than digging open trenches, helping to avoid disturbing priority or sensitive habitats.
	Climate change Climate adaptation mitigation measures are being designed into the Project to ensure surface water is managed appropriately, flood risk is not increased, and impacts to human health receptors are mitigated. We are also assessing impacts on human health as a result of climate change, and the increased likelihood of extreme weather events and combination factors.
	Cultural heritage We have designed the grid connection route and the Solar PV Sites to avoid direct impacts on archaeologically sensitive areas. Some panels have been entirely removed as a result of archaeological or heritage sensitivities. To minimise such impacts as far as possible, we are proposing measures such as trenchless construction techniques, appropriate routing of vehicles and avoidance of archaeological remains preserved below ground wherever this is practicable.
	Hydrology, flood risk and drainage We are proposing eight metre buffers around watercourses, flood-resilient service cabling, and will keep construction activities away from watercourses and drainage ditches. New access tracks will be designed to be permeable, and temporary drainage systems may also be installed during the construction phase to manage runoff and prevent blockages. There are no significant residual effects for flood risk and water resources during the construction, operation and decommissioning. The assessment will be reviewed and revised where necessary ahead of submission.
	Noise and vibration We propose to minimise operational noise and vibration impacts by strategically locating the BESS area and substation sites at least 450m and 400m (respectively) from sensitive receptors. After implementing our proposed measures, these impact would be limited during construction, operation and decommissioning. We will maintain dialogue with neighbours, providing advance notice on any construction activity which could give rise to noise and vibration, and retain a direct project communications channel so people can contact us directly if they have any queries or concerns.

Table 3: Environmental topic areas and proposed measures to reduce impacts

Tell us what you think

If you think there are ways we can change our plans to reduce effects more, we'd like you to tell us how and why.

More information

A summary of the initial results from our environmental surveys and assessments can be found in the PEIR and have been summarised in the PEIR NTS. More detailed information is set out in topic specific chapters of the **PEIR – Volume 1: Main Report.**

9. Agricultural land classification

We are carrying out surveys on the agricultural land within the area to identify its Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) grading.

ALC is a framework for classifying land according to its quality and long-term agricultural use. The framework uses a 'grading' system to assess its quality – Grade 1 being the highest quality land, and Grade 5 being the lowest.

Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land is graded between 1 to 3a, meaning land ranges from 'excellent' to 'good' quality land. Non-BMV landed is graded from 3b to 5.

70% of the land surveyed for Lime Down Solar Park so far is non-BMV land. PEIR Volume 1, Chapter 17: Soils and Agriculture provides a more detailed overview of likely effects as a result of the Project.

Impacts our Project would have on farmable areas are reversible, and our plans include restoring the land to its original use and condition as far as practicable. Where BMV land is included in the Project, we have worked closely with farmers to use their least productive land where we can.

Cumulative impacts

We also recognise combined effects that multiple projects may have in the area. **PEIR Volume 1, Chapter 21**: Cumulative and In-Combination Effects provides more information on combined impacts anticipated at this stage.

If all identified projects were to move forward, in addition to Lime Down Solar Park, this would represent approximately 1,386 hectares of agricultural land being permanently or temporarily lost, representing 0.5% of the agricultural land in Wiltshire.

Survey findings

Soil and ALC surveys have been completed across most of the Solar PV Sites, BESS Area and substation areas. We are continuing to survey land to the west of the 'Lime Down C' site. Final survey results will be contained within the Environmental Statement to be submitted with the DCO application.

During the lifespan of the Project, some agricultural land would not be used for arable crops. As land within the Solar PV Sites would be largely undisturbed during this time, there would be the opportunity for improvements in the health, quality, and structure of soil.

How this has influenced the Project design

In refining the Project's design, we have sought to locate access tracks, compounds and substation on the lowest quality land available within each parcel. A number of management plans will also be in place to help manage and reduce impacts from the Project.

For example, an Outline Soil Management Plan will focus on reducing soil impacts and will include measures for us to monitor the land and soil during construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning (when the Project is taken out of service).

Climate change and food security

The biggest risk to the UK's domestic food production comes from climate change, and other environmental pressures including soil degradation, water quality and changes in biodiversity[4].

Our proposals would deliver approximately 500 MW of clean, renewable solar energy and secure a biodiversity net gain. By temporarily taking some farmable land out of production, the Project would also result in improved soil and water quality, given the land will have had time to rest without regular ploughing, fertilising, and spraying with pesticides and herbicides during its 60-year lifetime.

Did you know?

The UK agriculture industry manages around 71% of the UK's land, the majority of which is grassland for grazing rather than crops[5].

Just 0.3% of land within the UK is required to meet the fivefold increase in solar set out in the Government's Energy Security and Net Zero Strategy to build up to 70 GW of solar by 2035[6].

[4] Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), updated 22 October 2024, UK Food Security Report 2021. gov.uk/government/statistics/united-kingdom-food-security-report-2021/united-kingdom-food-security-report-2021-theme-2-uk-food-supply-sources

[5] DEFRA, updated 22 October 2024, UK Food Security Report 2021.

[6] Solar Energy UK, June 2024, Factsheet: Solar Farms and Agricultural Land. solarenergyuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/FactSheet-Solar-Farms-and-Agricultural-Land-2024.pdf

10. Environment

Our focus is on ensuring the Project is well-designed to respond sensitively to the local environment, and to improve biodiversity and enhance local wildlife.

Environmental impact assessment

The Project is classified as an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development, which means we are required to assess the potential significant environmental impacts of the Project.

EIA is the iterative process in which the assessment of environmental impacts is carried out in parallel with the development design process. We will use EIA as a tool to identify the potential effects the Project might have on the environment – benefits as well as negative impacts.

The purpose of the EIA process is to make sure that where we identify any significant effects, we put in place measures to reduce any negative impacts, while also seeking to enhance positive effects. The results of the EIA will be set out in the Environmental Statement (ES) which will be included in our final DCO application to PINS.

Biodiversity net gain

A well-managed solar farm can be a nature reserve – helping boost and protect wildlife and extend biodiversity. As the panels are set on posts with minimal disturbance to the ground, much of the land is available to support new plants and animal life.

To achieve a biodiversity net gain, our plans should ensure that local wildlife habitats are in a measurably better state than before. We aim to exceed the baseline requirement for developers to boost biodiversity by a minimum 10 per cent, by proposing measures such as:

+ Delivering substantial new hedgerow and tree planting;
+ Reinforcing planting at existing hedgerow and field boundaries;
+ Extensive grassland habitat creation;
+ Managing grassland habitats under solar PV panels by using a balance of grazing and cutting to maximise ecological benefits; and
+ Providing enhancement opportunities for habitats of local, regional or national significance.

1 Scoping Report

On 16 July 2024 we submitted an EIA Scoping Report to PINS. We set out the proposed scope of the EIA process for the Project, which is how we proposed to identify and evaluate the likely significant effects of our development so we can then determine measures to reduce or manage effects.

2 Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

The PEIR builds upon the previous documents and considers the feedback received at the non-statutory consultation and stakeholder engagement to date. It is a core technical document which sets out our initial EIA findings and identifies the measures we are proposing to reduce, enhance and improve the effects the Project may have on the environment.

We are consulting on the PEIR (and NTS) as part of this consultation so technical stakeholders, local communities, individuals and interested parties can develop an informed view of these potential impacts and provide us with their feedback.

3 Environmental Statement (ES)

After statutory consultation we will produce the ES, which comprises the results of the EIA process. This will again build on the previous documents and incorporate feedback received during statutory consultation and the outcomes of our assessments.

The ES will describe any changes to the Project and the measures we are proposing to implement to reduce, improve or enhance the impacts of the Project. The ES, along with a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) will form part of the DCO application we submit to PINS.

11. Construction, operation & decommissioning

If granted consent, construction of the Project could start in mid-2027. We estimate it would take around two years to build, with the site potentially being operational from mid-2029.

The operation of the Project is expected to be up to 60 years. Decommissioning at the end of this time is expected to take between 12 and 24 months and would be carried out in phases.

Construction

Construction of the grid connection cables is anticipated to take around 18 months, and construction of the Solar PV Sites is expected to take about 24 months.

To build the grid connection, activities include laying the cable circuits (using trenchless methods where required), the construction of jointing bays (to connect the cables together), and the final testing and commissioning of electrical infrastructure.

Construction of the Solar PV Sites will involve site preparation and civil engineering works, the creation of temporary compounds, upgrades to existing access points and creation of new ones. It will also involve the installation of the Solar PV panels, mounting structures, and associated electrical cabling, construction of electrical infrastructure (including inverters, transformers, switchgear, cables, and BESS), as well as installation of fencing, security, and lighting.

Our environmental work is considering potential impacts on local communities linked to transport, noise, vibration and dust during construction, as well as operation and decommissioning. We're inviting your views on the measures we have identified to minimise disruption to residents and impacts on the environment.

Work on site

During construction, core on-site working hours would be 7:00 to 18:00 Monday to Friday, and 8:00 to 13:30 on Saturdays. During the winter months, working hours would be shorter to account for the reduced daylight hours.

Work may occasionally take place outside these hours/days, in an emergency or if there is activity which needs to be conducted continuously. For example, Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD).

Construction staff

The number of construction workers on-site will vary over the period of construction – however at the peak of construction, which is anticipated to be during 2027, there could be up to 558 full-time staff on site.

Construction traffic and site access

We will manage construction vehicle movements to ensure effects on the local highway network are minimised as much as practicable, including measures to provide shuttle buses to transport construction workers to and from the area.

During construction we're proposing a number of access points to the Solar PV site.

+ For Lime Down Sites A, B, and C, the primary access points are expected to be along the road between Ladyswood and Sherston, adjacent to the SHER37 Byway, and along Fosse Way.
+ For Lime Down Sites D and E, primary access points are expected to be located on Bradfield Cottages Road and along the A429. Key roads will include the M4, A46, B4040, B4039, A429, Alderton Road, and Fosse Way.

Across the full extent of the Project site, during the peak construction period, we estimate that there would be a maximum of 52 HGV deliveries per day. Deliveries will come directly to the compounds, with kit and equipment then being transported within the site to minimise impact on the local road network.

Ahead of and/or during the construction works, we may also need to carry out minor highways improvement works, which will be captured in the final DCO application. These improvements would be consulted on and agreed with the relevant local highways authority.

Installing underground cable – open trench method

1. A trench approximately two metres wide and two metres deep will be excavated
2. During construction the working width of land needed would typically be 25 metres, with wider areas at road, rail and watercourse crossings and narrower areas to minimise impact on features such as hedgerows where these are crossed
3. Jointing bays will be installed where one section of cable joins the next
4. When land is reinstated, land-use restrictions may apply to avoid risk of cables being disturbed or damaged

Construction controls

Management documents would be put in place to limit and control construction activities to avoid or reduce impacts on the environment and local communities.

+ **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP)** – setting out our plan to manage and monitor construction traffic, to minimise disruption to existing road users and limit congestion.
+ **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)** – focused on wider environmental management and mitigation rather than focusing exclusively on traffic.
+ **Outline Soil Management Plan (SMP)** – to ensure effects on agricultural land and soil are minimised where possible during construction, operation and decommissioning.
+ **Outline Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP)** – to manage waste in accordance with industry standard practices, reusing and recycling wherever we can.
+ **Outline Public Right of Way Management Plan (PRoWMP)** – to ensure PRoW access is safeguarded as much as possible.
+ **Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan (SSCEP)** – to promote local apprenticeships and use local workers and suppliers during construction and beyond.

These framework documents will be turned into detailed Environment and Traffic Management Plans prior to construction starting. Measures for continual monitoring and review will be put in place to ensure impacts are minimised throughout the construction phase.

Operation

During the operational phase of the Project, onsite activity would mainly involve vegetation management, equipment maintenance and servicing, ad hoc component replacements, periodic fence inspections, and system monitoring. Activities along the cable route would consist of routine inspections and maintenance when necessary.

A team of up to 15 staff are anticipated as being employed – working offsite and monitoring the Project remotely, in addition to occasional routine visits. The main access would be via Bradfield Cottages Road during the operation and maintenance phase.

The Project is expected to be operational for up to 60 years, and we expect that there will be a requirement to replace some or all of the electrical infrastructure during this time. For example, we are expecting to replace all of the solar panels once during the operational phase, given panels are typically expected to have an operational life of 40 years. Individual defective or broken panels will also be replaced on an ad hoc basis.

Decommissioning

At the end of the Project's operational life, all Solar PV Sites would be decommissioned and the land restored to its original use and condition as far as practicable. We expect that most of the solar equipment – including panels, cabling, inverters, BESS and substations – to be recycled and disposed of, in line with industry practice. We expect there to be even greater opportunities for recycling at the end of the Project's design life.

There will be opportunities for the landowners to retain a range of biodiversity improvements, including established habitats, hedgerows and woodland, beyond the decommissioning of the Project, ultimately enhancing the ecological value of the area.

We will be producing an Outline Decommissioning Strategy as part of the EIA and will submit this with the DCO application. This strategy will be prepared and agreed with the relevant authorities at that time of decommissioning and will include detailed measures and timescales. We expect decommissioning to take between 12 and 24 months.

12. Community benefits

Island Green Power offers a community benefits package with the renewable energy schemes that it promotes.

We believe those communities living closest to the proposed Project should benefit from it – with these communities being best placed to recommend what a 'community benefit' should be.

We would like to continue to work with you to identify and define community benefits, including building on your suggestions made during our Stage One consultation last year.

Some of your suggestions included:

+ Ongoing community funding to provide annual revenue for local projects and facilities, such as local churches and major sports projects (e.g. in Chippenham).
+ Engagement with the community regarding ecological mitigation and enhancement options.
+ Direct benefits for the local community through access to domestic solar panels and/or reduced energy costs.
+ Development of wildflower areas to support education for school children, along with wildlife/pollinator corridors to improve biodiversity.
+ Funding for active travel between communities, including shared and dedicated pedestrian routes to nearby towns and signage for public footpaths/routes (e.g. for a Gastard Nature walk)

We are continuing to investigate potential on-site and off-site initiatives we could support during the lifespan of the Project.

+ On-site initiatives could be mitigation and enhancement measures inherent within the design of the Project and could include the protection of existing ecological and environmental features, such as woodland, hedgerows and ponds, provision of biodiversity net gain (e.g. through wildflower meadows), or the creation of permissive paths through the site.
+ We would also like to support off-site initiatives that involve broader community support and are outside of the immediate vicinity of the Project. Examples include a designated 'Community Benefit Fund' which could support local charities, groups and educational programmes. Initiatives could also include the provision of solar PV for educational facilities, domestic installations and improvements to existing community initiatives.

We recognise that there is no firm guidance on community benefits and levels of funding. This aspect of our proposals for the Project will continue to evolve, both in response to industry/government-level guidance and your suggestions. For example, the Project could provide funding on an annual basis, proportionate to the Project's capacity, for the Project's 60-year lifespan.

Questions 12 and 13 in our **Feedback Form** invite you to suggest any specific on-site and off-site initiatives that we could consider.

We also welcome any further suggestions for how a Community Benefit Fund could run, should the Project be consented to. For example, through the support of independent experts in local need and grant-making.

13. How to take part

This statutory consultation is open for seven weeks from Wednesday 29 January to Wednesday 19 March 2025.

During this time, we welcome and will consider feedback on all aspects of our proposals for the Project, and are specifically inviting comments on:

+ The design for the five Solar PV Sites, within which the electricity generating station and BESS would be contained;
+ The proposed Cable Route Search Corridor, within which an underground cable would be installed to connect the Solar PV Sites to one another and provide an electrical connection into the national grid at Melksham Substation;
+ The environmental effects of the Project, as detailed in PEIR, which sets out the results of our preliminary environmental assessments and associated mitigation;
+ The timescales and next steps for the Project; and
+ Anything else you think we need to consider.

There are a number of different ways you can take part in our consultation:

+ **Join us at a consultation event or webinar** to learn more about our proposals, meet the Project team and provide us with your comments. A list of events taking place is available on our website.
+ **Visit our Project website** to view information about our proposals at this stage and submit feedback to this consultation. All the information being made available at events is on the website.
+ **Visit a Community Access Point** where you will find copies of all our consultation materials (to view and/or take away). Details of the four locations in Wiltshire are listed on our website. Alternatively, contact us directly (see back cover for details).
+ **Contact our community relations team** if you are unable to attend our events, have any questions, or would like help accessing information about the Project or responding to this consultation.

Tell us what you think

We'd really like to hear your views on our proposals. Your feedback is important to us. To respond to this consultation, you can:

+ **Submit comments online:** you can access the online feedback form where you can leave your comments on the Project website. Any emails sent to **info@limedownsolar.co.uk** during the consultation period will also be considered as feedback.
+ **Fill in a feedback form:** pick up a copy of our feedback form at one of our events or ask us to send one to you directly. Then just fill in your details and post it back to us at **FREEPOST Lime Down Solar**. Any letters sent to this address during the consultation will also be considered as feedback.

The deadline for responding to this consultation is 23:59 on Wednesday 19 March 2025.

14. What happens next

After this consultation ends, we will review our detailed proposals in light of the feedback received.

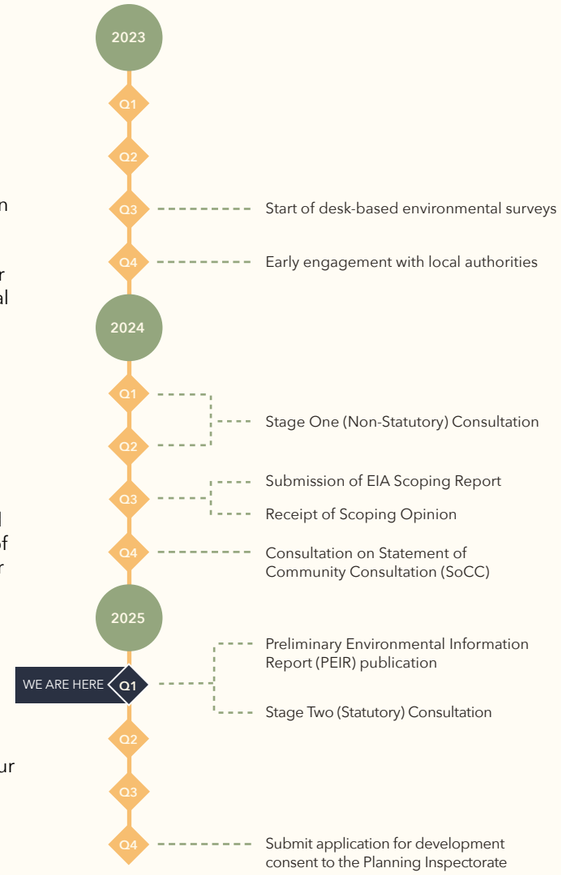
Your feedback, together with the outcomes of ongoing assessments and design work, will help to finalise the application for development consent, which we are expecting to submit to PINS later this year.

After submission, PINS, will decide whether the application meets the standards required to be accepted for examination, examine the application and prepare a recommendation report for the Secretary of State (SoS) for Energy Security and Net Zero (SoS), who will make the final decision on the application.

The application process
Our application will include:

+ **A Consultation Report:** as the applicant, we have a duty to demonstrate how we have taken your views into account in developing our final proposals for the Project. The application we submit will include a Consultation Report summarising all the issues raised in consultation feedback, along with an explanation of how we have taken views into account to develop our final proposals; and
+ **An Environmental Statement:** as the applicant, we have a duty to fulfil the EIA process and report what environmental effects we believe the Project would have, and how we propose to minimise them.

Both reports, along with all the other application documents, will be published on PINS' website should our application be accepted for examination.



What happens when the application is submitted?

1
After receiving our application, PINS has 28 days to accept it and decide if it can proceed to the examination stage.

2
When the application is accepted anyone wishing to be involved in the examination process will be invited to register their interest with PINS.

3
Those who register their interest will be invited to submit their views on our proposals in writing and may be asked to speak at any public hearings that are held.

4
PINS will hold an examination. When this finishes it has three months to make a recommendation to the SoS about whether the application should be approved. The Secretary of State then has a further three months to make a final decision.

5
Subject to our application being approved, construction of the Project would start no earlier than 2027.

Contact us

info@limedownsolar.co.uk

Freephone 0808 175 6656
(open 09.00-17.00 Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays) with voicemail outside these hours)

FREEPOST Lime Down Solar

www.limedownsolar.co.uk

Register for updates

If you would like to be kept informed about our Project, please register your details with us by completing the registration form on the Project website or by sending an email to the community relations team.

If you would like this document in large text or an alternative format please contact us on 0808 175 6656 or send an email to info@limedownsolar.co.uk

3 Consultation Leaflet

Lime Down
Solar Park

Public Consultation

29 January to 19 March 2025

Island Green Power invites you to participate in the second stage of public consultation on our detailed proposals for Lime Down Solar Park.

About Lime Down Solar Park

Lime Down Solar Park is a utility-scale solar park and battery energy storage project proposed to be built on land in Wiltshire. The Project involves the installation of solar panels and an on-site battery energy storage facility, with an underground cable connection into the National Grid at Melksham substation. Electricity generated would be made available for homes and businesses across the UK.

If consented, the solar park could deliver up to 500 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy. This is equivalent to providing enough clean affordable electricity to power approximately 115,000 homes annually.

This consultation

You are invited to take part in our consultation which will run for seven weeks from 29 January to 19 March 2025.

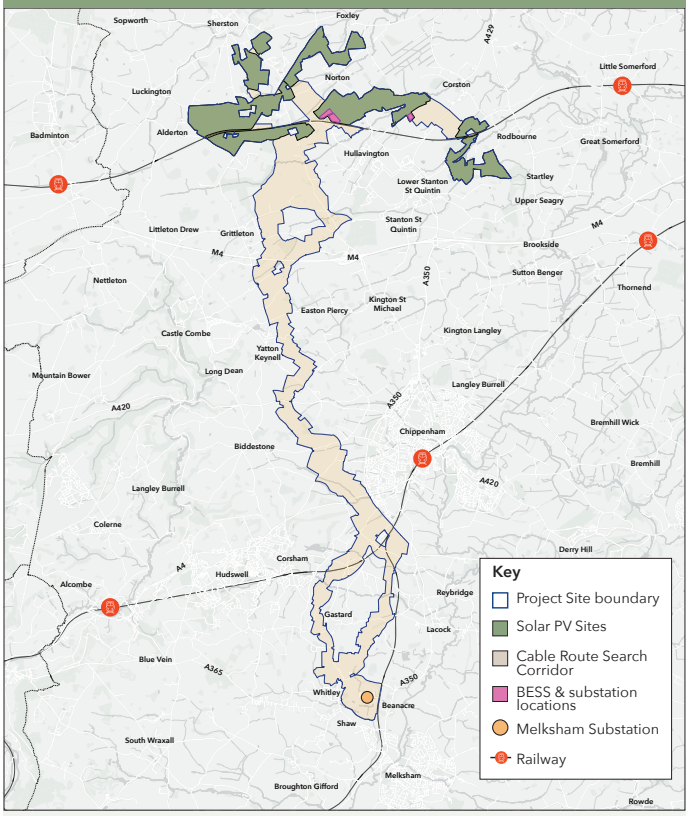
Your feedback from our Stage One consultation in March and April 2024 has been important in helping us refine our plans further. We now want to hear your views on our refined design for Lime Down Solar Park.

Please see the overleaf for an Indicative Masterplan of our revised proposals at this stage, with more detailed plans available on our website and in printed format.

For more Project information, please visit our website and view our consultation materials.

Scan the QR code to visit our website and find out more.

Project location and site boundary



This map shows the overall extent of the Project, known as the 'Project Site boundary'.

More detailed maps showing each individual element, including the Solar PV Sites and Cable Route Search Corridor, can be found on the Project website.

Inside this newsletter you will find:

+ An overview of Lime Down Solar Park
+ Our work so far
+ How to take part in our consultation
+ Why we need your feedback
+ A fold-out map showing our updated Project design
+ Updated Project timeline
+ How to contact us

The Project

Our work so far

We used your Stage One feedback and environmental information to inform our updated plans for Lime Down Solar Park.

The proposals we're now consulting on have been informed by comments submitted to the initial consultation we held in March and April 2024, along with our ongoing design work and findings from environmental and technical studies.

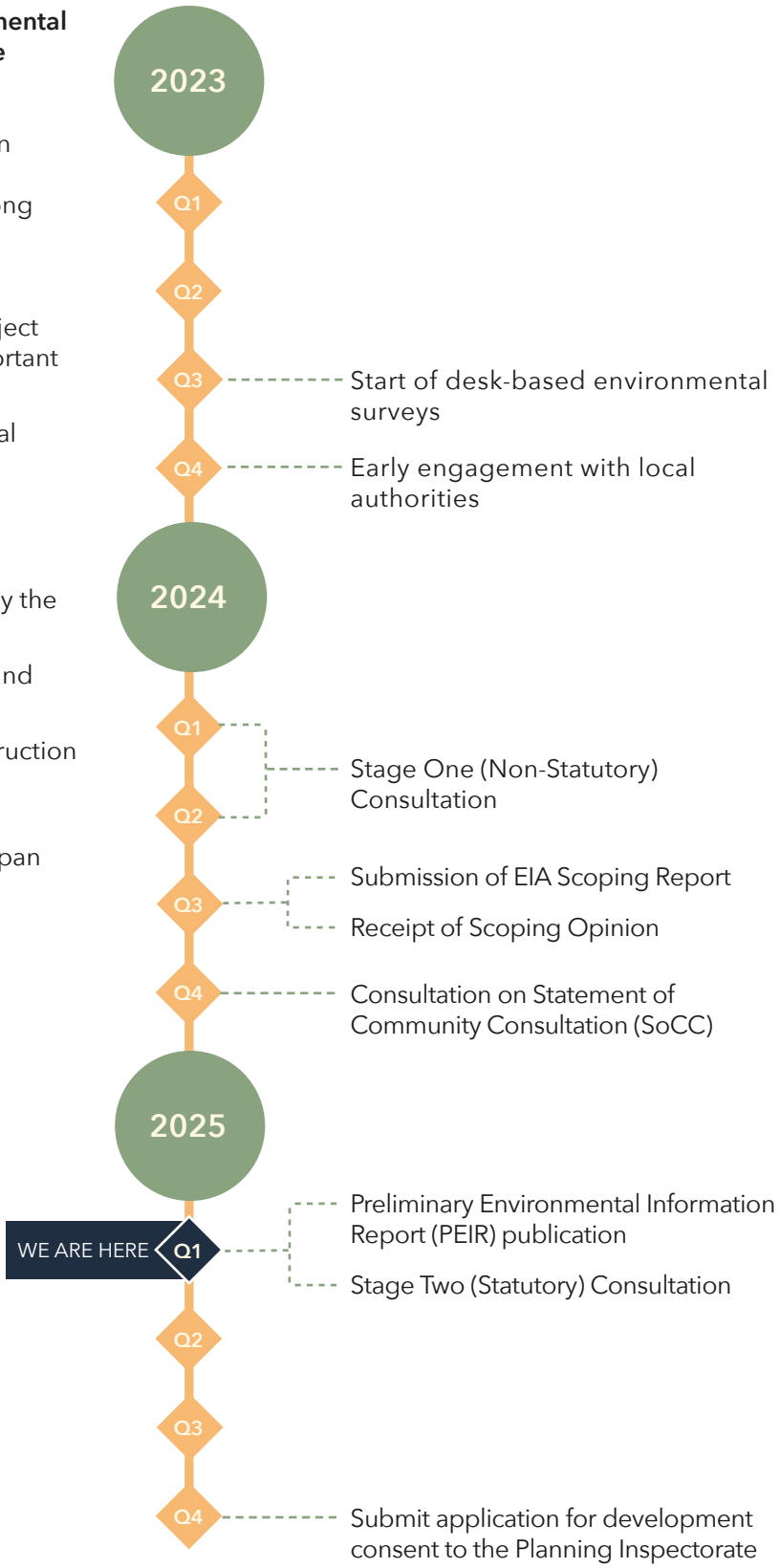
We last consulted you at an early stage in the project development process. Here are some of the important areas you asked us to consider:

+ Views and the setting of the Cotswold National Landscape
+ Soil quality and agriculture
+ Safeguard local wildlife and ecology
+ Protect heritage and archaeology – particularly the Fosse Way
+ Consider the impact of HGVs on local roads and country lanes
+ Limit disruption to communities during construction

You also wanted to know more about:

+ What happens at the end of the Project's lifespan
+ How we'll ensure the equipment is safe
+ How we'll connect into the National Grid

Project timeline



Stage Two consultation

Where we are now

During our Stage Two consultation, we are asking for feedback on our more developed proposals. Our latest plans now include:

+ Careful location of built elements of the Project, including proposed solar panels, substation, battery and energy storage system, and site access points/tracks.
+ Visualisations of how the Project could look, once built, including screening.
+ A refined Cable Route Search Corridor, within which the underground cable connecting the Project to the National Grid will be located.
+ Measures to reduce potential impacts of the Project, including proposed planting, ecological mitigation and enhancement.
+ Additional land to allow buffers and offsets from sensitive heritage assets, landscape features, woodland, public rights of way and listed buildings.

All Project information, including more details on how our plans have evolved, is available at **www.limedownsolar.co.uk**

Come along to an event

Join us at any of the in-person or online events we're holding to meet the Project team, find out more about our proposals and provide your feedback.

Wednesday 05 February 2025 18:30 – 20:00	**Online (Zoom)** register to attend via Project website **www.limedownsolar.co.uk**
Friday 07 February 2025 14:30 – 19:30	**Sherston Village Hall** High Street, Sherston, Malmesbury, SN16 0LQ
Saturday 08 February 2025 11:00 – 15:00	**Hullavington Village Hall** Hill Hayes Lane, Hullavington, Chippenham, SN14 6EB
Wednesday 12 February 2025 14:30 – 19:30	**Grittleton Village Hall** The Street, Grittleton, Chippenham, SN14 6AW
Thursday 13 February 2025 14:30 – 19:30	**Corsham Town Council Hall** Town Hall, 65 High Street, Corsham, SN13 0EZ
Friday 14 February 2025 14:30 – 19:30	**Malmesbury Town Hall** Cross Hayes, Malmesbury, SN16 9BZ
Saturday 15 February 2025 11:00 – 15:00	**Luckington Village Hall** Bristol Road, Luckington, Chippenham, SN14 6NP
Tuesday 25 February 2025 14:30 – 19:30	**Goss Croft Hall** Startley Road, Upper Seagry, Chippenham, SN15 5HD
Wednesday 26 February 2025 17:30 – 20:30	**Shaw CofE Primary School** Corsham Road, Shaw, Melksham, SN12 8EQ
Thursday 27 February 2025 18:30 – 20:30	**Online (Zoom)** register to attend via Project website **www.limedownsolar.co.uk**

PLEASE NOTE: Entrance to some of these events will be managed if attendance exceeds the maximum capacity of the venue.

Have your say

We'd really like to hear your views on our proposals.
Your feedback is important to us. To respond to this consultation you can:

+ **Submit comments online:** you can access the Online Feedback Form where you can leave your comments on the Project website. Any emails sent to **info@limedownsolar.co.uk** during the consultation period will also be considered as feedback.
+ **Fill in a feedback form:** pick up a copy of our Consultation Feedback Form at one of our events or a local library (see below), or ask us to send one to you direct. Then just fill in your details and post it back to us at **FREEPOST Lime Down Solar**. Any letters sent to this address during the consultation will also be considered as feedback.

The deadline for responding to this consultation is **23:59 on Wednesday 19 March 2025.**

Visit one of our community access points

Visit one of our Community Access Points (CAPs) listed below, where you can view (but not take away) technical documents, maps and plans, and collect a more detailed Project Information Booklet and Feedback Form.

Malmesbury Library, 24 Cross Hayes, Malmesbury, SN16 9BG

Chippenham Library, Timber Street, Chippenham, SN15 3EJ

Corsham Library, Springfield Community Campus, Beechfield Road, Corsham, SN13 9DN

Melksham Library, Melksham Community Campus, Market Place, Melksham, SN12 6ES

Opening times are dependent on each venue listed and may be subject to change. Please make sure to check these on the day of your visit.

Next Steps

After this consultation ends, we will review our detailed proposals in light of the feedback received. Your feedback, together with the outcomes of ongoing assessments and design work, will help to finalise the application for development consent, which we are expecting to submit to the Planning Inspectorate later this year.

Because the Project is expected to generate up to 500MW, it is classified as an Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).

Find out more about the development process for NSIPs at: **national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/decision-making-process-guide**

Contact us directly for more information:

info@limedownsolar.co.uk

Freephone:
0808 175 6656

FREEPOST Lime Down Solar

Website:
www.limedownsolar.co.uk

Indicative Project Layout

Key

- Solar development areas
- BESS & substation locations
- Cable Route Search Corridor

Proposed mitigation / enhancement

- Proposed landscape mitigation
- Biodiversity and habitat enhancement areas

Existing infrastructure & landscape features

- Watercourses
- Existing woodland and ancient woodland
- Railway Line

This area represents the Cable Route Search Corridor, within which the Cable Route Corridor will be located.

More detailed maps showing the full extent of this corridor can be found on the Project website.

Sherston
Foxley
Norton
Corston
Rodbourne
Hullavington
Hullavington Airfield
Lower Stanton Saint Quintin
A429
A429
Fosse Way
M4
M4
M4
0 km
0.5 km

This is an indicative Project layout plan for the purposes of statutory consultation and this Consultation Leaflet. More detailed maps and plans - including those published as part of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) - can be found on the Project website.

More detailed plans include an Indicative Site Layout Plan (Figure 3-1 of the PEIR) and five individual indicative masterplans (covering Solar PV Sites A-E).

Areas and features shown are subject to change based on environmental assessment, design development and feedback received.

4 Poster

5 Consultation Feedback form

Lime Down
Solar Park

Lime Down Solar Park
Consultation feedback form

January 2025

Island Green Power UK Ltd is developing proposals to build a new solar and energy storage project on land in Wiltshire. Lime Down Solar Park involves the installation of solar panels and an on-site battery energy storage facility, with an underground cable connection into the national grid at Melksham Substation.

If consented, the solar park could deliver up to 500 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy. This is equivalent to providing enough clean, affordable electricity to power approximately 115,000 homes annually.

You are invited to take part in our consultation which will run for seven weeks from 29 January to 19 March 2025. This is a formal stage of consultation being carried out in line with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008.

Your feedback is important to us. We have considered comments submitted during the previous stage of consultation to inform the development of the proposals we are now seeking your further views on.

The deadline for submitting feedback to this consultation is 23:59 on Wednesday 19 March 2025.

Providing your feedback

You can use this feedback form to respond to our consultation. Complete as many sections of this form as you would like and send it back to us at FREEPOST Lime Down Solar. You do not need a stamp.

Please ensure you return the whole feedback form even if you do not respond to all questions. If you need more space to answer any of the questions, provide your response on a separate piece of paper and attach it to this form.

You can also submit feedback to the consultation using any of the methods listed below:

+ **In-person:** by handing in a feedback form at an in-person consultation event
+ **Email:** scan a copy of your completed form and email it to us at **info@limedownsolar.co.uk**
+ **Online:** complete the online version of this form on our project website **www.limedownsolar.co.uk**

Any written letters sent to us at FREEPOST Lime Down Solar or emails received at **info@limedownsolar.co.uk** during the consultation period will also be considered as feedback.

Where can I find more information?

We've prepared a set of documents, including a Project Information Booklet and Document Navigation Booklet, to explain the proposals we are consulting on and help you provide feedback. We recommend you review these documents to help you fill in this form.

There are also more detailed technical documents available:

+ Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) – this sets out the findings from the environmental assessments we have conducted to inform the development of the proposals we are now consulting you on. It identifies what we currently believe to be the potential environmental effects of the Project and provides information on the measures we are proposing to manage or reduce those effects.
+ PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS) – this provides an overview of the information and findings set out in the PEIR.

All these documents are available to view and download on our Project website. Alternatively, please contact us for details of where you can find printed copies (see back cover for contact details).

Section 1: About you

Title: Name:

Address:

Postcode: Telephone:

E-mail address:

Are you responding on behalf of an organisation? (If 'yes' please tick box): ◯ Name of organisation (if applicable):

What is your age?

◯ Under 18 ◯ 18-34 ◯ 35-54 ◯ 55-74

◯ 75 and over ◯ Prefer not to say

How would you describe your interest in Lime Down Solar Park?

◯ Local resident ◯ Local representative ◯ Landowner ◯ Local business owner

◯ Regular visitor ◯ Local interest group member (if so, please name):

◯ Statutory organisation (if so, please name):

◯ Other (please specify):

Project updates

If you would like to receive updates about the Project, please tick one of the following boxes to indicate how you would like to be contacted and provide the relevant details in the section above.

◯ Email ◯ Post

You do not have to supply personal details; however, it will help us work together towards meeting the needs of the public during the consultation period and enable us to contact you regarding Lime Down Solar Park. Further details on how we will use any personal information can be found on the back page in the data privacy notice on the Project's website: www.limedownsolar.co.uk/privacy-policy

Your personal details will be stored in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) by Counter Context, acting on behalf of the Lime Down Solar Park project team, and will not be shared with any third parties. More information on privacy and GDPR is available on the Project website.

Section 2: General

Q1: As a principle do you agree there is a need to install ground-mounted solar infrastructure in the UK?

◯ I agree there is a need ◯ I do not know enough to have an opinion ◯ I do not agree there is a need

Q2: Based on the information made available to support this consultation what is your view of our proposals for Lime Down Solar Park?

◯ Supportive ◯ Supportive subject to changes being made ◯ Do not support ◯ Need further information to form an opinion

◯ No opinion

Q3: What aspects of the Project are most important to you?

In the table below please tick the topic areas which are most important to you that you would like us to consider. You can refer to these topic areas when responding to Question 4.

Tick box	Topic area	Further comments (please provide specific examples where possible)
	Climate Change (e.g. the impact on the climate, such as greenhouse gases, during the Project's lifespan)	
	Landscape and visual (e.g. local viewpoints particularly important to you)	
	Ecology and biodiversity (e.g. the impact on local wildlife and habitats)	
	Arboriculture (e.g. the impact on trees and hedgerows)	
	Hydrology, flood risk and drainage (e.g. any flooding or drainage issues in the area)	
	Cultural heritage (e.g. the impact on important heritage and archaeology sites)	
	Transport and access (e.g. the impact on the local road network)	
	Noise and vibration (e.g. during construction and when the Project is operational)	
	Air quality (e.g. the impact on air quality levels)	
	Socio-economic, tourism and recreation (e.g. wider benefits of the Project, including job creation, and impacts on public rights of way and access)	
	Soils and agriculture (e.g. how the land should be managed during the Project's lifespan)	
	Human health (e.g. the impact on physical and mental health)	
	Ground conditions (e.g. the impact on the local landscape and ground/soil conditions, along with contamination)	
	Cumulative and in-combination effects (e.g. consideration of multiple projects in the area)	
	Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives (e.g. how we have selected the location of the Project)	
	Other (please list)	

Q4: Please provide any overall comments you have on our proposals for Lime Down Solar Park.

You may choose to expand on your answer to Question 3 (the topic areas most important to you which you would like us to consider).

Section 3: Lime Down Solar Park

The DCO application we submit for Lime Down Solar Park will comprise the installation of solar photovoltaic panels (PV) and an on-site energy storage facility, plus infrastructure to connect the scheme into the national grid at Melksham Substation so the electricity it generates can be made available to the UK's homes and businesses.

The Solar Development

Indicative masterplans

The solar development would be contained within five land parcels. We have developed an indicative masterplan for the solar development, along with individual site layout plans for each of the five solar sites (Lime Down A-E). These show the proposed location of solar infrastructure, existing landscape features and designations and proposed planting, ecological mitigation and enhancement.

Q5: Please provide any comments you have on the indicative masterplan for the Project as a whole, and/or the site layouts for any of the individual solar sites. For example, the location of equipment, site access and buffer zones.

For more information please refer to **PEIR Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Scheme.**

Design principles

We have developed nine key principles to inform our approach to achieving 'good design' for the solar development. These state that the Project design will be 'landscape led', adhere to the 'mitigation hierarchy' to reduce impacts and deliver a minimum 10 per cent biodiversity 'net gain'.

The Project would retain 'flexibility' over time, be 'carefully designed' to minimise impacts and be sensitive to the 'water environment, heritage' assets and their setting. It would also be sensitive to 'land quality' and land use and seek to minimise the effects to local 'recreation and access'.

Q6. Please provide any comments you have on the Project's design principles. If you have any further suggestions, please list them here.

For more detailed information refer to the **PEIR Volume 3, Appendix 4.1: Design Principles.** A summary of the design principles can also be found in the Project Information Booklet.

Landscape and views

Q7. Please tell us what you think about our assessment of the potential effects the Project could have on the landscape and views, and the measures we are proposing to reduce those impacts. For example, siting of equipment, conservation of existing vegetation, additional tree and hedgerow planting.

For more detailed information refer to the **PEIR Volume 1, Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual**.

Ecology and biodiversity

Q8. Please tell us what you think about our assessment of the potential effects the Project could have on ecology and biodiversity, and the measures we are proposing to reduce those impacts. For example, tree and hedgerow planting, wildlife and species protection and habitat enhancements.

For more detailed information refer to the **PEIR Volume 1, Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity**.

Environment

Q9. Please tell us what you think about our assessment of the potential effects the Project could have on the environment and measures we are proposing to reduce those impacts. We welcome suggestions of additional environmental matters you think we should consider.

For more detailed information, please refer to the **PEIR Volume 1, Chapters 7 and 10-22.** An overview of the environmental assessments we carried out is provided in the Project Information Booklet.

Section 4: Grid connection

The electricity generated by the Project will be exported into the existing national electricity transmission system at National Grid's Melksham Substation via an underground cable. The five solar sites will also be connected via underground cables.

Q10. Please provide any comments on the Cable Route Search Corridor in which we are proposing installing an underground cable to provide an electrical connection from the solar park into Melksham Substation.

For more detailed information refer to the **PEIR Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Scheme**.

Section 5: Construction, operation and decommissioning

The construction, operation and decommissioning of Lime Down Solar Park will require careful planning to ensure it is delivered in a way that reduces any impact on local communities, the environment and local roads.

Q11. Please provide any comments you have on our assessment of the potential effects construction, operation and decommissioning of the Project and an underground cable connecting it to Melksham Substation could have, and the measures we are proposing to mitigate those impacts.

For more detailed information refer to the **PEIR Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Scheme**.

Section 6: Community benefits

We believe those communities living closest to the proposed Project should benefit from it – with these communities being best placed to recommend what a 'community-benefit' should be. For more information refer to the Project Information Booklet section 'Community Benefits'.

On-site community benefit initiatives

These relate to initiatives that could be incorporated into the design of the Project. For example, protection of existing ecological and environmental features, such as woodland, hedgerows and ponds, provision of biodiversity net gain (e.g. through wildflower meadows), or the creation of permissive paths through the site.

Q12. Please provide suggestions for on-site initiatives you think could be incorporated in the Project design to deliver benefit for local communities. For example, information boards, nature trails, permissive paths.

Off-site community benefit initiatives

These relate to initiatives that involve broader community support and are outside of the immediate vicinity of the Project. Examples include a designated 'Community Benefit Fund' which could support local charities, groups and educational programmes. Initiatives could also include the provision of solar PV for community and/or educational facilities, domestic installations and improvements to existing community initiatives.

We recognise that there is no firm guidance on community benefits and levels of funding. This aspect of our proposals for Lime Down Solar Park will continue to evolve in response to industry/government-level guidance and your suggestions.

Q13. Please provide any suggestions for off-site initiatives to which the Project could contribute.

We welcome suggestions you might have on how a Community Benefit Fund could operate, including the framework put in place to manage and administer funding, as well as any suggestions of specific initiatives financial support could be reserved for i.e. environmental causes, local health care support, education.

Section 7: Additional comments

Q14. Please use the box below to provide any further comments you have on our proposals for Lime Down Solar Park.

What happens next?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form and provide us with your feedback.
Your views are important to us.

When this consultation closes on Wednesday 19 March 2025, we will consider all the feedback we receive, along with the findings from our ongoing environmental and technical assessments, to help finalise the application for development consent we submit to the Planning Inspectorate.

A Consultation Report summarising all the issues raised in response to this consultation with an explanation of how we have taken your views into account in finalising our proposals will be included in the application. This will be published on the Planning Inspectorate's website subject to our application being accepted for examination.

Get in touch

You can contact our team by:

Call us on: FREEPHONE 0808 175 6656
(lines open 09.00-17.00 Monday to Friday excluding bank holidays)

Email us at: info@limedownsolar.co.uk

Write to us at: FREEPOST Lime Down Solar
(no stamp required)

Visit our website: www.limedownsolar.co.uk

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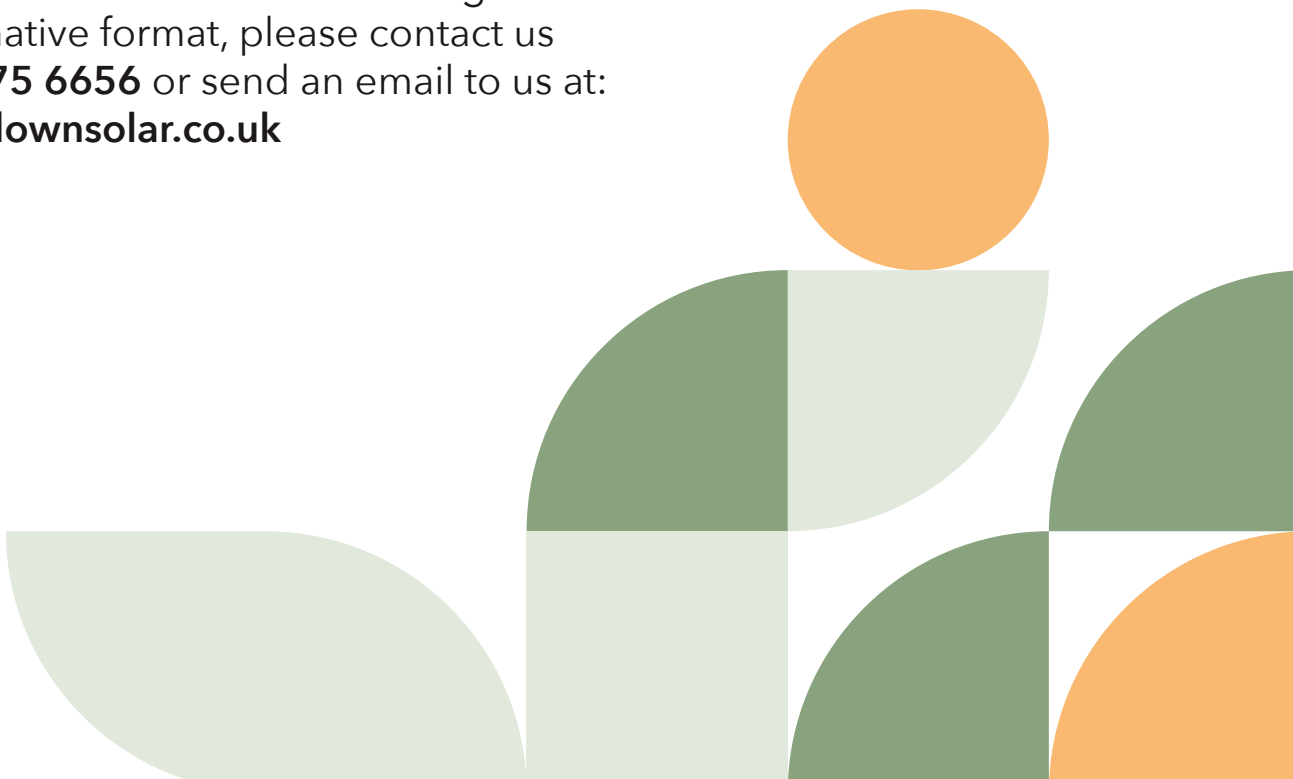

6 PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS)

Lime Down Solar Park

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume 4, Non-Technical Summary

January 2025

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010168

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1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

1.1.1 This document has been prepared on behalf of Lime Down Solar Park Limited (hereafter referred to as the 'Applicant') and provides a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) for the proposed Lime Down Solar Park (hereafter referred to as the 'Scheme').

1.1.2 The Scheme will involve the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, together with associated infrastructure including a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and import and export connection to the national grid via the Existing National Grid Melksham Substation. The Scheme also includes land for ecological mitigation and enhancement.

1.1.3 The Scheme is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 (Ref 1), as it will have the capacity to generate more than 50 megawatts (MW) of electricity. Under the Planning Act 2008, a type of planning consent called a Development Consent Order (DCO) is required to build and operate an NSIP.

1.1.4 The Applicant will undertake additional design and environmental assessment work following statutory consultation (of which the PEIR is a key part), with the intention of submitting an application for a DCO in late 2025. Following an examination by the Planning Inspectorate, this application will then be decided by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.

1.2 The Applicant

1.2.1 The Scheme is being developed by Lime Down Solar Park Limited. Lime Down Solar Park Limited is a 100% subsidiary of IGP UK Projects Limited which is, in turn, a 100% subsidiary of the holding company, Island Green Power Group Limited. The Applicant is part of Island Green Power Group Limited, who are a leading international developer of renewable energy projects, established in 2013.

1.2.2 Island Green Power (IGP) has delivered 34 solar projects worldwide with a total generating capacity of more than 1 gigawatt (GW) which includes 17 solar projects in the UK and Republic of Ireland. Their mission is to increase solar energy usage, making more renewable energy possible and saving thousands of tonnes of CO_2 emissions in the process.

1.2.3 Recently, IGP have taken two NSIP solar projects (Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project) through the examination stage of the DCO process. The examination of the West Burton Solar Project closed on the 8

May 2024 and a decision is set for 24 January 2025. The Cottam Solar Project was granted development consent by Secretary of State on 5 September 2024.

1.3 The Development Area

1.3.1 The land for which DCO consent is being sought is referred to as the 'Development Area' and comprises approximately 2,834 hectares (ha) of land. The Development Area is shown on Figure 1 of this NTS.

1.3.2 The Development Area comprises the following elements as shown on Figure 2 of this NTS:

- The Solar PV Sites, comprising approximately 878 ha of land for solar PV, battery storage, associated infrastructure, landscaping, and ecology mitigation and enhancement areas. The Solar PV Sites comprise of the following five areas:
  - Lime Down A;
  - Lime Down B;
  - Lime Down C;
  - Lime Down D; and
  - Lime Down E.
- The BESS Area(s) which comprises the area of land within which BESS infrastructure would be located. The Scheme would include one or two BESS Areas, both of which would be located within Lime Down D;
- The Highway Improvement Areas which comprise areas of land within which improvements to existing highway would be completed to facilitate the Scheme;
- The Cable Route Search Corridor which comprises the area in which the Cable Route Corridor would connect the Solar PV Sites to one another and the Existing National Grid Melksham Substation. It includes both the Interconnecting Cables between the Solar PV Sites and Grid Connection Cables connecting the Solar PV Sites to the Existing National Grid Melksham Substation. The Cable Route Search Corridor will be refined as the design progresses to a Cable Route Corridor for the DCO Application; and
- The Existing National Grid Melksham Substation which comprises the existing Melksham substation (owned and operated by the National Grid) where the 400 kilovolt (kV) Grid Connection Cables would connect to the grid.

1.3.3 The Development Area is located entirely within Wiltshire Council's administrative area.

1.3.4 A description of the physical characteristics of the Scheme and the land-use requirements during the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases is presented in Section 4 of this NTS.

1.4 The Purpose of the PEIR and NTS

1.4.1 The purpose of the PEIR is to accompany formal statutory pre-application consultation under Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref 1) and to enable *"consultees (both specialist and non-specialist) to understand the likely environmental effects of the Proposed Development and helps to inform their consultation responses on the Proposed Development during the pre-application stage"* (Planning Inspectorate, Planning Advice Note 7 (Ref 1)). It has been prepared to meet the requirements of Regulation 12(2) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) (Ref 3).

1.4.2 The PEIR therefore presents an overview of the preliminary environmental information available about the Scheme, based on the design information available at this stage. The PEIR is intended to provide members of the public, statutory consultees, and other stakeholders with preliminary information on the Scheme's likely significant environmental effects.

1.4.3 The EIA information contained within the PEIR is 'preliminary' and does not represent a final Scheme design or include final conclusions of the EIA. The Applicant is seeking consultation responses to the information presented in order to continue to refine the Scheme design. The Applicant will continue to obtain information regarding the impacts of the Scheme and the findings of the EIA will be contained within the Environmental Statement (ES) accompanying the DCO Application. When the conclusions are finalised in the ES, the significance of the effects identified in the PEIR may be revised so that adverse effects decrease in significance due to further certainty and information available.

1.4.4 The various assessments are therefore at different stages due to ongoing design work and continued gathering of baseline information.

1.4.5 The purpose of this NTS is to provide a summary of the PEIR in non-technical language.

2 EIA Process and Methodology

2.1.1 The approach the EIA has taken to assessing impacts associated with the Scheme, including the significance criteria against which impacts have been assessed, is fully described within **Volume 1, Chapter 6**.

2.2 Overview

2.2.1 EIA is the process undertaken to identify and evaluate the likely significant effects of a proposed development on the environment and to identify measures to avoid, mitigate or manage any significant negative effects, and explore opportunities to enhance through positive effects. The EIA will be informed by consultation with statutory consultees, other interested bodies, and members of the public. The purpose of identifying significant effects is to ensure decision makers are able to make an informed judgement on the environmental impacts of a proposal.

2.2.2 The PEIR provides the latest environmental information obtained and assessed as part of the EIA and forms an essential part of the statutory consultation materials. Following statutory consultation, the EIA presented in the PEIR will be updated and presented in the ES accompanying the DCO application. The assessments within the ES will reflect feedback received during statutory consultation, the findings of the ongoing surveys, and the Scheme design refinements. The ES will accompany the DCO Application and will follow a similar systematic approach to EIA and Scheme design as the PEIR. The process of identifying environmental effects is both iterative and cyclical, running in tandem with the iterative design process.

2.3 EIA Scoping

2.3.1 The purpose of the EIA Scoping process is to identify key environmental issues at an early stage, to determine which elements of the Scheme are likely to result in significant effects on the environment and to establish the extent of survey and assessment requirements for the EIA, including identifying which topics should be included in the EIA and the level of detail to which they should be assessed.

2.3.2 An EIA Scoping Report and request for an EIA Scoping Opinion under Regulation 10 of the EIA Regulations (Ref 3) was submitted to the Secretary of State through the Planning Inspectorate on 16 July 2024.

2.3.3 The Scoping Opinion was received on 22 August 2024. It presents the formal response from the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) and statutory consultees. At this stage, key responses received from the Planning Inspectorate are presented in the consultation section of each technical chapter of the PEIR (**Volume 1**). The full range of matters raised in the Scoping Opinion will be summarised and responded to within

a Scoping Table submitted as part of the ES to demonstrate how these have been addressed.

2.4 Consultation

2.4.1 The main consultation activities undertaken so far include:

- Preparation of the Statement of Community Consultation involving consultation with relevant local authorities;
- EIA Scoping;
- Non-Statutory (informal) Consultation Events; and
- Ongoing engagement with a range of consultees and stakeholders. At this stage, a summary of statutory consultee engagement is presented in the consultation section of each technical chapter, covering the key matters discussed and how these have been addressed.

2.4.2 In addition, a project website has been set up to provide information on the Scheme (https://www.limedownsolar.co.uk/) and channels (email, Freepost, and phone line) have been opened for stakeholders to enquire about the Scheme.

3 Site Selection and Design Evolution

3.1.1 The Development Area was identified through a site selection exercise undertaken by the Applicant. **Volume 1, Chapter 4** presents an overview of the policy requirements for considering alternatives, factors that influenced the site election process, and the alternatives considered as the design has evolved since EIA Scoping.

3.1.2 A range of technical, environmental and economic factors are considered when investigating and assessing any potential site for NSIP-scale ground-mounted solar PV development. The key factors which were considered by the Applicant when selecting land for the Scheme included (in no particular order):

- Irradiance and site topography;
- Network connection;
- Proximity to dwellings;
- Agricultural land classification and land type;
- Accessibility; and
- Public Rights of Way (PRoW).

3.1.3 Following consideration of the above factors, the Development Area was identified as having good potential for a large-scale ground mounted solar PV facility.

3.1.4 The preparation of the PEIR has led to a variety of key changes to the layout of and technology used by the Scheme, including for example:

- Refinement of the design of the Scheme following desktop analysis and site surveys, including accesses for construction and operation and maintenance phases;
- Development of buffers and offsets from existing landscape features, such as residential dwellings, PRoW, trees and hedgerows, and watercourses;
- Integrating areas of habitat creation (grassland habitat, woodland habitat and screening) into the design of the Scheme;
- Integrating screening and planting into the Site design to reduce visual impact by providing environmental enhancement areas, off-sets and buffer zones; and
- Carefully locating larger built elements of the Scheme, such as the BESS and substations, away from residential dwellings.

4 Scheme Description

4.1 Description of the Scheme

4.1.1 The Scheme comprises a solar PV electricity generating station with a total capacity exceeding 50 (MW) and 'associated development' comprising BESS, grid connection infrastructure and other infrastructure integral to the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases.

4.1.2 The environmental impacts of some conventional forms of power generation are a direct result of the amount of electricity it can generate, for example, through the import of fuel to power the process or the level of atmospheric emissions it produces. This is not the case for solar PV energy generation and for this reason it is not proposed that the Scheme is restricted by imposing a limit on how much electricity it can generate.

4.1.3 Instead, the Scheme will seek a DCO that would restrict the aspects of the solar farm which have potential environmental impacts, such as the height and location of the Solar PV Panels and dimensions of the associated infrastructure. These are known as the 'design parameters' which also ensure the Scheme would be able to generate electricity as efficiently as possible by allowing for the use of improving technologies to potentially allow a greater amount of electricity to be generated in the future. Further information about the design parameters is presented in the sections below and described in full in **Volume 1, Chapter 3**.

Scheme Components

4.1.4 The Scheme will consist of the principal infrastructure described below. To ensure the likely significant environmental effects of the Scheme are no worse than those assessed in the preliminary EIA presented in this PEIR, the design parameters defined in **Volume 1, Chapter 3** are the basis upon which the Scheme has been assessed.

4.1.5 The Scheme would comprise the key components listed below:

- Solar PV Panels that would be made up of multiple bifacial PV cells which convert sunlight into direct current (DC) electricity from both sides of the Solar PV Panel. Example tracking Solar PV Panels are presented in Plate 1;
- Solar PV Mounting Structures that would either be a fixed south facing system (most commonly seen layout in the UK) or a single axis tracking system around a north-south axis. Example tracking Solar PV Panels are presented in Plate 2;

- Conversion Units which contain central inverters, a transformer, and switchgear to convert the DC electricity collected by the Solar PV Panels into alternating current (AC) via the inverters;
- BESS Battery Containers and associated infrastructure to store excess electricity generated from the Solar PV Panels or excess energy in the grid. The individual BESS Containers would have built-in fire detection and be fitted with an automatically operated fire extinguisher system;
- 33 kV Substations with up to five located within Lime Down A to E to increase the voltage of electricity received from the Conversion Units for export to the 400 kV Substation;
- 132 kV Substations with up to three located within Lime Down A, Lime Down C, and Lime Down E to increase the voltage of electricity received form the Conversion Units for export to the 400 kV Substation;
- 400 kV Substation comprising electrical infrastructure, such as the transformers, switchgear and metering equipment, to step up the voltage of electricity received from the 33 kV and 132 kV Substations for export to the Existing National Grid Melksham Substation.
- On-Site Cables to transfer electricity between the Solar PV panels and Conversion Units;
- Interconnecting Cables to transfer electricity between the Conversion Units and 33 kV and/or 132 kV Substations;
- Grid Connection Cables to transfer electricity between the 400 kV Substation and Existing National Melksham Substation;
- Highway Improvement Areas comprising minor improvements along existing highways, such as repair to road edges where this has deteriorated and provision of passing places;
- Access tracks to facilitate access within the Development Area;
- Temporary construction compounds/laydown areas to facilitate the construction phase of the Scheme;
- Fencing and security measures (e.g. CCTV) around the perimeter and within the Development Area;
- Ecological mitigation and enhancement such as grassland and meadow management, increasing diversity of hedgerows, applying vegetation buffers, and installation of bird nest and bat boxes;

- Landscaping including the creation of new woodland blocks and belts, planting new hedgerows and trees, and reinforcing existing boundary hedgerows; and
- Surface water drainage measures to manage surface water drainage within the Development Area.

Plate 1 Typical Tracking Solar PV Panels

Plate 2 Typical Fixed Solar PV Panels (with Conversion Unit/Inverter)

Plate 3 Typical BESS Area

Plate 4 Typical 132 kV Substation Compound

4.2 Construction

Construction Programme

4.2.1 Subject to being granted DCO consent and following a final investment decision, the earliest construction could start is in 2027. Construction of the Grid Connection Cables is anticipated to be undertaken over an 18 months period; construction of the Solar PV Sites is anticipated to be undertaken over 24 months.

Construction Activities

4.2.2 The core construction working hours during which construction activities would be completed for the Scheme are defined as:

- Monday to Friday from 07:00 to 18:00 (daylight hours permitting);
- Saturday from 08:00 to 13:30 (daylight hours permitting); and
- No Sunday or Bank Holiday working unless crucial to construction (for example for HDD which must be a continuous activity) or in an emergency.

4.2.3 Construction activities within the Solar PV Sites would broadly include:

- Site preparation and civil engineering works;
- Import of construction materials;
- Upgrading of existing access points and creation of new access points and associated access tracks
- Enabling works and creation of temporary compounds;
- Erection of Solar PV Panels and Solar PV Mounting Structures;
- Installation of electrical cabling associated with the Solar PV Panels;
- Installation of the Solar PV Panels;
- Construction of electrical infrastructure including inverters, transformers and switch gear;
- Construction of electrical cables between Conversion Units and the substations;
- Construction of BESS; and
- Installation of fencing, security and lighting.

4.2.4 Key construction phase features across the Solar PV Sites are presented in Figure 3.

4.2.5 Construction activities within the Cable Route Search Corridor would broadly include the construction of cable circuits (including the use of trenchless methods where required), jointing bays, and the final testing and commissioning of electrical infrastructure.

Construction Access

4.2.6 Wherever possible, the Scheme will utilise existing points of access and access tracks. New access tracks will also be established across the

Development Area. New access tracks would be a maximum of 6 m wide, constructed of hardcore or gravel over a levelling layer of substrate.

4.2.7 The access points into the individual Sites will be designed to accommodate articulated heavy goods vehicles (HGV) with a maximum length of 16.5 m. Existing field access points are proposed to be used, where practicable, with visibility splays added, where necessary, based on the recorded speed of the vehicles on the road network to ensure safety. There may be some variation on visibility splays based on site specific conditions and discussion with Wiltshire Council highways.

4.2.8 Accesses will be designed to ensure there are no impacts on veteran and mature trees generated by vehicle movements, however, there may be localised removal of hedgerows e.g. for visibility splays for safety purposes. Figure 4 of this NTS illustrates the indicative layout for the Scheme, including proposed access locations.

4.2.9 Indicative accesses for the Solar PV Sites include:

- Lime Down A – Two accesses on the road between Ladyswood and Sherston;
- Lime Down B – New access track adjacent to SHER37 Byway;
- Lime Down C – Three accesses on Fosse Way;
- Lime Down D – Three accesses on Bradfield Cottages road;
- Lime Down D – Access from the A429;
- Lime Down E – Access from the A429; and
- Lime Down E – Accesses to the west of Rodbourne.

4.2.10 **Volume 1, Chapter 13** provides an assessment of these accesses to the Solar PV Sites, as well as the potential access routes along the Cable Route Search Corridor.

Construction Staff

4.2.11 For the purposes of the PEIR, it is assumed the construction of the Scheme elements would take place concurrently, maximising the estimated potential numbers of construction staff working at one time.

4.2.12 Based on the above assumption regarding the construction phase and Applicant's experience of other similar sized solar projects, it is currently estimated the Scheme would generate a peak of 558 direct Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs on-site per day during the construction phase. The size of the workforce is based on the activities required and would fluctuate

during the period, therefore, being both higher and lower than average depending on the activities taking place.

Construction Controls

4.2.13 The construction phase would be subject to a suite of management documents which will limit and control activities. The outline documentation that will be produced with the DCO Application will include:

- Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP);
- Outline Soil Management Plan (SMP);
- Outline Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP);
- Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP);
- Outline Public Right of Way Management Plan (PRoWMP); and
- Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan (SSCEP).

4.3 Operation and Maintenance

Operation and Maintenance Programme

4.3.1 The Scheme would have a 60-year operational life. It is anticipated that the operation and maintenance phase would commence in 2029.

Operation and Maintenance Activities

4.3.2 During operation and maintenance, activity on the Solar PV Sites would be restricted principally to vegetation management, equipment maintenance and servicing, ad hoc replacement of any components that fail or reach the end of their lifespan, periodic fence inspection, and monitoring to ensure the continued effective operation of the Scheme.

4.3.3 For purpose of this assessment, the operational replacement of Solar PV Panels would comprise:

- Replacement of defective and broken Solar PV Panels on an ad hoc basis; and
- Planned replacement of all Solar PV Panels once over a 12-to-24-month programme during the operation and maintenance phase.

4.3.4 For the purpose of this assessment, it is assumed that the BESS cells could be replaced up to five times during the operation and maintenance phase, inclusive of complete BESS Battery Container replacement up to three times.

4.3.5 Along the Cable Route Corridor, operation and maintenance activity would consist of routine inspections and any reactive maintenance, such as where a cable has been damaged.

Operation and Maintenance Access

4.3.6 During operation and maintenance, other than the period of operational replacement of Solar PV Panels, there would be a small number of daily vehicle trips with staff attending for maintenance and cleaning activities when required.

4.3.7 Existing field accesses would be used, where practicable, and accesses from the construction phase would be reused. This excludes the access from the Fosse Way to Lime Down B which would be returned to its previous condition. The main access to Lime Down D during the operation and maintenance phase would be via Bradfield Cottages Road.

Operation and Maintenance Staff

4.3.8 No on-site staff would be required to operate the Scheme, however, there would be limited staff facilities located in the control rooms associated with the 400 kV and 132 kV Substations. Some permanent equipment for monitoring the Solar PV Sites would be located in the Relay and Control Room. Whilst this would typically be accessed remotely, it would be available for occasional physical access during routine visits. A further 15 staff jobs would be created which would not be based on site.

Operation and Maintenance Controls

4.3.9 The operation and maintenance phase would be subject to management documents which will manage and control activities. The outline documentation that will be produced with the DCO Application to mitigate effects associated with this phase will include:

- Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP);
- Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP); and
- Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (BSMP);

4.3.10 The delivery of detailed versions of these plans will be secured through a DCO requirement.

4.4 Decommissioning

4.4.1 Decommissioning would take between 12 and 24 months and would be undertaken in phases. For the purposes of this assessment, decommissioning would occur after a 60-year design life of the Scheme.

4.4.2 The Solar PV Sites would be decommissioned, and the land restored to its original use and condition as far as practicable. All Solar PV Panels, mounting piles, cabling, inverters, transformers, switchgear, BESS and substations would be removed from within the Solar PV Sites and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time.

4.4.3 The mode of decommissioning the Interconnecting Cables and Grid Connection Cables would be dependent upon government policy and good practice at that time. Currently, the most environmentally acceptable option is considered to be leaving the cables in situ, as this avoids disturbance to overlying land and habitats and to neighbouring communities, however, the cables can be removed by opening up the ground at regular intervals and pulling the cable through to the extraction point. This assessment has been based on the worst-case parameters for each technical discipline.

4.4.4 Any works within the Existing National Grid Melksham Substation would remain under National Grid's control.

4.4.5 An Outline Decommissioning Strategy will be prepared and submitted alongside the DCO Application. A detailed Decommissioning Strategy would then be prepared and agreed with the relevant authorities in advance of the commencement of decommissioning works and would include timescales and transportation methods.

4.4.6 The effects of decommissioning are usually similar to, or of a lesser magnitude, than construction effects and are considered in the relevant sections of the PEIR. The specific method of decommissioning the Scheme at the end of its design life is uncertain at present as the engineering approaches to decommissioning would evolve over the design life of the Scheme. Assumptions have therefore been made where appropriate in the PEIR. Decommissioning would be undertaken safely and with regard to the environmental legislation at the time of decommissioning, including relevant waste legislation.

5 Assessing Environmental Effects

5.1 Topics Assessed

5.1.1 **Volume 1, Chapters 1 to 6** provide a description of the Development Area and its surrounding, an overview of the Scheme, an overview to the alternatives considered during the design evolution, an introduction to energy need and policy and legislative context, and the approach and methodology to the EIA.

5.1.2 The following topic specific chapters have been produced and assessed in **Volume 1**:

- Chapter 7 Climate Change;
- Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual;
- Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity;
- Chapter 10 Arboriculture;
- Chapter 11 Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage;
- Chapter 12 Cultural Heritage;
- Chapter 13 Transport and Access;
- Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration;
- Chapter 15 Air Quality;
- Chapter 16 Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation;
- Chapter 17 Soils and Agriculture;
- Chapter 18 Human Health;
- Chapter 19 Ground Conditions;
- Chapter 20 Other Environmental Matters, including:
  - Minerals;
  - Materials and Waste;
  - Telecommunications, Utilities and Television;
  - Glint and Glare;
  - Electromagnetic Fields; and
  - Major Accidents and Disasters.

5.1.3 **Volume 1, Chapter 21** describes cumulative effects and effect interactions that lead to combined effects from the Scheme and other identified developments on sensitive receptors.

5.1.4 **Volume 1, Chapter 22** presents a brief summary of the PEIR, outlining the preliminary significant effects identified at this stage of the EIA process.

5.2 PEIR Terminology

5.2.1 To enable comparison between technical topics and to aid understanding of the PEIR findings, standard terms are used wherever possible to describe the relative significance of effects throughout the PEIR (i.e. 'major', 'moderate', minor', and 'negligible'). The effects are also described as being adverse or beneficial. Where technical disciplines deviate from the standard assessment methodology, these are described in the relevant technical chapters of the PEIR (**Volume 1**).

5.2.2 Each of the technical chapters within PEIR (**Volume 1**) provides a further description and definition of the significance criteria relevant to the discipline. Where practicable, this has been based upon quantitative and accepted criteria (e.g. noise assessment guidelines), together with the use of value judgement and expert interpretation to establish to what extent an effect is significant.

5.2.3 Typically, effects that are considered to be negligible or minor are judged to be 'not significant', whereas those that are moderate or major are 'significant'. Where the preliminary EIA presented in this PEIR predicts a significant adverse effect on one or more receptors, it has been considered whether there are further mitigation measures which could avoid or reduce the effect or reduce the likelihood of it happening. The use of any such mitigation will be secured through the DCO should it be granted. As the design of the Scheme has evolved, the Applicant has worked with environmental specialists to ensure the design avoids or reduces environmental effects on receptors where practicable through the use of measures that form part of the design or methods for construction or operation (also known as embedded mitigation measures), such as the use of a CEMP. These measures are taken into account in the EIA and assessment of effects of the Scheme.

6 PEIR Findings

6.1.1 A preliminary assessment of the environmental effects of the Scheme during its construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases has been completed for each of the topics identified in Section 5.1 above. Key environmental and planning constraints are presented in Figure 5.

6.1.2 The preliminary conclusions on the likely significant environmental effects of the Scheme are described within the technical chapters of this PEIR (**Volume 1**). This section provides a non-technical summary of the overall findings of the PEIR.

6.2 Climate Change

6.2.1 This section summarises the key findings of the preliminary assessment of the climate change effects of the Scheme. The full preliminary climate change assessment is found in **Volume 1, Chapter 7**.

Baseline and Context

6.2.2 The Development Area predominantly consists of arable land with managed trees and hedgerows with baseline GHG emissions derived from agricultural activities. The extent of baseline GHG emissions is dependent on the soil and vegetation present, and the fuel used during the operation of any plant and machinery.

6.2.3 Consideration has been given to the following aspects of climate change assessment:

- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Impact Assessment – the impact of GHG emissions arising from the Scheme on the climate over its lifetime;
- Climate Change Risk (CCR) Review – the resilience of the Scheme to climate change impacts; and
- In-combination Climate Change Impact (ICCI) – the combined impact of the Scheme and future climate change on the receiving environment.

6.2.4 For the lifecycle GHG impact assessment, the future baseline is a ‘business as usual’ scenario whereby the Scheme is not implemented. The future baseline comprises existing carbon stock and sources of GHG emissions within the Development Site from existing activities. As a conservative approach, the baseline activities are assumed to generate zero emissions.

6.2.5 The current baseline for the CCR review and ICCI assessment is the current climate of the Development Area. This is based on historic climate

data recorded by the closest Met Office station to the Development Area (Yeovilton) for the 30-year climate period of 1991 to 2020.

6.2.6 It is anticipated the future baseline would be different from the current present-day baseline due to changes in climate, however, this would not be significant. For this assessment, probabilistic projections have been provided for 30-year periods from 2020 to 2099.

Assessment of Effects

Lifecycle GHG Impact Assessment

6.2.7 GHG emissions over the two-year construction phase are estimated to equate to approximately 433,327 tCO_2e. The majority of emissions would be generated as a result of manufacturing the materials and components required for the Scheme. Other sources of GHG emissions would include transport of materials for construction and staff during the construction phase.

6.2.8 GHG emissions during the 60-year operation and maintenance phase are estimated to equate to 661,239 tCO_2e. These would arise from mains electricity required to heat and power any proposed buildings on the Solar PV Sites (i.e. the substations, control room and BESS areas), as well as transportation of on-site workers, water consumption, and operational replacement activities. The total energy generated by the Scheme during the operation and maintenance phase would be approximately 28,158 TWh.

6.2.9 As technology and recycling methods are expected to be more efficient and sustainable by the decommissioning phase, GHG emissions are assumed to be negligible compared to those during the construction and operation and maintenance phases. The highest GHG emissions typically arise from manufacturing of solar infrastructure components.

Climate Change Risk Assessment

6.2.10 Potential climate change risks that could affect the resilience of the Scheme are considered as part of the Climate Change Risk (CCR) Assessment and includes increased extreme weather during the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the Scheme.

In-Combination Climate Change Impact Assessment

6.2.11 The greatest risk of in-combination effects is increased flooding events from extreme weather arising from a changing climate. Solar PV Panels would not impact surface water runoff, however, infrastructure such as substations and BESS Area would generate increased impermeable areas which may increase surface water runoff and the risk of flooding.

6.2.12 An increased likelihood of extreme weather events in-combination with increase in traffic movements and resident population may impact human health. This will be considered on an individual receptor basis in the ES, where required.

Mitigation

6.2.13 Applicable measures for the reduction of energy and GHG emissions will be included in the Outline CEMP, Outline OEMP, and Outline Decommissioning Strategy as part of the DCO Application.

6.2.14 Where required, climate adaption mitigation measures are being designed into the Scheme to ensure surface water is managed appropriately, flood risk is not increased, and impacts to human health receptors are mitigated.

6.2.15 The Scheme will have a beneficial effect on climate change in terms of reduction of GHG emissions in the energy mix. No additional mitigation or monitoring beyond the measures described above are required during construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Scheme.

Residual Effects

6.2.16 Whilst the Scheme would generate GHG emissions during the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases, the renewable energy generated will offset these. Therefore, the overall GHG impact of the Scheme is **beneficial (significant)**.

6.2.17 Following the implementation of embedded mitigation measures, it is concluded that climate change risks to the Scheme are **not significant**.

6.2.18 Following the implementation of embedded mitigation measures, it is concluded that in-combination climate impacts as a result of the Scheme are **not significant**.

6.3 Landscape and Visual

6.3.1 This section summarises the key findings of the preliminary assessment of the landscape and visual effects of the Scheme. The full preliminary landscape and visual assessment is found in **Volume 1, Chapter 8**.

Baseline and Context

6.3.2 The Development Area is set within a rural landscape, characterized by gently undulating agricultural land with arable fields, hedgerows, scattered woodlands, and woodland blocks. Its landform comprises gently undulating topography, generally rising westwards, with a series of small valleys and flatter land between these. In the surrounding area, there are several

individual farm holdings, rural dwellings, and small commercial business properties.

6.3.3 The Development Area is situated within and in proximity to a number of local to national landscape character areas. The northern boundary of Lime Down A and western boundary of the Lime Down B and C are located within 10m of the Cotswold National Landscape (previously Area of Natural Beauty (AONB)). Minor highway improvement works will be undertaken within the Cotswold National Landscape to the north of Grittleton (refer to **Volume 2, Figure 8-6**).

6.3.4 The Development Area is visible from minor roads, byways, bridleways, and footpaths. Views of the Development Area are generally from short-distances due to panel areas being interspersed with hedgerows and woodland, with longer-distance views from higher ground in the surrounding area. There are PRoW, cycleway, and road receptors, located within or in close proximity to the Development Area, as well as a number of residential properties and settlements, which have views of the Development Area.

Assessment of Effects

6.3.5 The Scheme will have an adverse impacts on the individual tangible elements of the landscape such as landform, woodland and hedges (also known as landscape fabric) within the Development Area during the construction phase and Year 1 of the operation and maintenance phase due to the presence of Solar PV Panels and associated infrastructure. Following the establishment of planting and other screening, the impact of the Scheme would be beneficial at Year 15 of the operation and maintenance phase and during the decommissioning phase.

6.3.6 Similarly, the Scheme will have adverse impacts to the landscape within 1 km of the Development Area throughout the construction, Year 1 of the operation and maintenance phase, and decommissioning phase. The impact would be at its greatest during the construction phase and at Year 1 of the operation and maintenance phase. This would have reduced by Year 15 of the operation and maintenance phase, and further reduce at the decommissioning phase due to screening becoming better established.

6.3.7 The Scheme would impact property receptors, transport receptors, and PRoW receptors during the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases. Generally, the impacts to these receptors would be greatest during the construction phase and at Year 1 of the operation and maintenance phase. At Year 15 of the operation and maintenance phase, the impacts to the receptors would have reduced, and further reduce at the decommissioning phase. Table 8-10 of **Volume 1, Chapter 8** sets out the assessment of these receptors in full.

Mitigation

6.3.8 An Indicative Masterplan (**Volume 2, Figure 8-15**) has been developed for the Scheme. This includes proposals for green corridors, hedgerow reinforcement, reinforced roadside planting, enhanced riparian planting, new hedgerow planting, and areas of ecological mitigation.

6.3.9 Buffers have been integrated into the design of the Scheme to avoid, reduce and/or mitigate potential adverse landscape and visual effects, reduce potential effects and/or mitigate potential adverse effects. Distances are highlighted in Table 8-8 of **Volume 1, Chapter 8** and include buffers from vegetation, watercourses and drains, and sensitive human and ecological receptors such as residential properties and PRoW.

6.3.10 Planting is proposed across the Scheme to provide visual mitigation and introduce landscape features which are characteristic of the landscape.

6.3.11 Details of species and density for each typology will be included within the ES and described within the Outline LEMP submitted alongside the DCO Application.

Residual Effects

6.3.12 The landscape fabric within the Development Area will experience a **moderate/minor adverse effect (not significant)** during the construction phase and Year 1 of operation and maintenance. During Year 15 of the operation and maintenance phase and decommissioning phase, the landscape fabric within the Development Area would experience a **moderate beneficial effect (significant)**.

6.3.13 The wider landscape within 1 km of the Development Area will experience a **moderate adverse effect (significant)** during the construction phase and Year 1 of operation and maintenance. At Year 15 of operation and maintenance, the effect of the Scheme would reduce to a moderate/minor adverse effect (not significant) and further reduce to minor adverse (not significant) at decommissioning.

6.3.14 Eleven property receptors, 16 transport receptors, and 33 PRoW receptors would experience **moderate** to **major adverse effects (significant)** during the construction phase and Year 1 of operation and maintenance. The majority of effects would reduce to minor or minor/moderate adverse effects (not significant) at Year 15 of operation and maintenance and then further reduce to no effect to moderate/minor adverse effects (not significant) at decommissioning. The exceptions include nine PRoW which would experience a **moderate** and one **major/moderate adverse effects (significant)** at Year 15 of the operation and maintenance phase and during decommissioning. Footpath WT|SHER|15 would also experience a **moderate adverse effect (significant)** during Year 15 of the operation and

maintenance phase and minor adverse effect (not significant) during the decommissioning phase.

6.4 Ecology and Biodiversity

6.4.1 This section summarises the key findings of the preliminary assessment of the ecology and biodiversity effects of the Scheme. The full preliminary ecology and biodiversity assessment is provided in **Volume 1, Chapter 9**.

Baseline and Context

6.4.2 The Development Area comprises a variety of habitats, including arable fields, grasslands, woodlands, hedgerows, ponds, and watercourses. These support a range of protected and notable species, such as badgers, bats, dormice, otters, water voles, brown hares, hedgehogs, reptiles, amphibians, breeding and overwintering birds, terrestrial invertebrates, white-clawed crayfish, and various fish species.

6.4.3 There are no statutory internationally designated ecological sites located within 10 km of the Development Area. There are four statutory internationally designated ecological sites located within 30 km. These include the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Severn Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar, and Salisbury Plain SPA (refer to **Volume 2, Figure 9-1-1**).

6.4.4 There are four statutory nationally designated ecological sites located within 5 km of the Development Area including Harries Ground, Rodbourne Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Corston Quarry and Pond Local Nature Reserve (LNR), Sutton Lane Meadows SSSI, and Conygre Mead LNR.

6.4.5 There are 37 non-statutory locally designated sites located within 2 km of the Development Area which include 36 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and one Protected Road Verge.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

6.4.6 The magnitude of habitat loss and change would have an impact on ground-nesting birds such as skylark and yellow wagtail. Similarly, bats, dormice, riparian mammals, and white-clawed crayfish would experience impacts due to habitat loss and fragmentation from new access routes and cable installations. The potential for accidental harm to amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals during construction activities also poses a risk that will be managed.

6.4.7 Disturbance from construction activities, including noise, could temporarily affect breeding and overwintering birds. Pollution and habitat degradation from sediment and pollutant runoff has been considered and has the potential to adversely impact watercourses and associated species, such as otters and water voles.

6.4.8 The creation of new habitats and the enhancement of existing ones would have beneficial effects, particularly for grassland and hedgerow species, with a high magnitude of impact.

Operation and Maintenance

6.4.9 During the operation and maintenance phase, the risk of significant adverse effects is much lower. The retention and management of buffer zones and new habitats are expected to mitigate most potential impacts and therefore the effect of habitat loss and change is limited. The risk of harm to species is also minimal due to the limited activities required and provision of habitat connectivity through buffer zones. Therefore, adverse effects through harm to species would be not significant. Improved water quality and habitat conditions as the Scheme would stop agricultural practices would benefit watercourses and associated species.

6.4.10 The creation and enhancement of diverse grassland, hedgerow, and woodland habitats are anticipated to have significant beneficial effects on biodiversity. These improvements will provide better foraging and nesting opportunities for various species, leading to long-term positive outcomes for the local ecosystem.

Decommissioning

6.4.11 The removal of Solar PV Panels and infrastructure could lead to habitat disturbance which would have a moderate effect. The risk of accidental harm to species during decommissioning activities is also a concern. However, careful management and adherence to decommissioning plans can mitigate these impacts.

6.4.12 The restoration of habitats to their original or an enhanced state is expected to result in long-term beneficial effects. The re-establishment of natural habitats will provide opportunities for species to recolonize and thrive, ultimately enhancing the ecological value of the area.

Mitigation

6.4.13 An Outline CEMP, Outline OEMP, and Outline Decommissioning Strategy will be submitted alongside the DCO Application and include measures to be adopted to limit the likelihood of impacts upon retained habitats through damage, pollution, and disturbance. Details of landscape planting and

habitat management options to provide net gains in biodiversity will also be set out within the Outline LEMP submitted alongside the DCO Application.

6.4.14 The Scheme has been designed to exclude the Chalkenhams LWS and Brickyard Scrub LWS in proximity to Lime Down E. This measure ensures that direct impacts to these features are avoided.

6.4.15 Buffers have been integrated into the Scheme to avoid impacts to ditches, watercourses, ponds, woodland, hedgerows, trees, designated sites, and other ecological features identified, such as badger setts, bat roosts, and nesting sites. These buffer distances are detailed in **Volume 1, Chapter 9** and will not contain Solar PV Mounting Structures, hard standing or electrical hardware, with the exception of new accesses and cables which need to cross existing habitats. Protective fencing will observe these buffer distances during the construction phase.

6.4.16 Accesses for construction and operation will utilise existing field entrances and gaps in hedgerows and other linear habitats. Tracks would then be routed with ecological sensitivity in mind, utilising existing farm tracks and avoiding designated buffer zones, where practicable. Any unavoidable deviations from this will be identified in the ES.

6.4.17 Temporary lighting during the construction phase is required to enable safe working during hours of darkness (likely over the winter months only). This will utilise standard good practice measures to minimise light spill, including glare, to sensitive ecological receptors. During operation and maintenance, motion sensing security lighting would be provided within substations and at the BESS Area to be used only for maintenance and security purposes. Lighting measures will be set out in a sensitive lighting strategy.

6.4.18 Where practicable, the final Cable Route Corridor would avoid impacts on ecological features identified during the desk study and ecological fieldwork. This would include observing appropriate buffers from sensitive boundary features, where practicable. Final details regarding the installation of the Grid Connection Cables have not yet been determined, however, the general principles are provided in **Volume 3, Appendix 3-2**.

6.4.19 The Scheme would deliver substantial new hedgerow and tree planting, reinforcement planting at existing hedgerows and field boundaries, extensive grassland habitat creation and sympathetic management both within buffers and under the Solar PV Panels , as well as discrete, valuable habitat creation away from Solar PV Panels.

6.4.20 Enhancement opportunities would be sought to target particular receptors with local, regional or national significance such as species and habitats of principal importance, species of conservation concern, Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan species and habitats, species known to be present

in the local area through local records or survey data, and habitats with potential for creation, restoration or enhancement in strategic locations.

6.4.21 Grassland habitats under Solar PV Panels would either be managed through grazing or cutting. The proportion of grazing and cutting would be balanced to maximise the ecological benefits which can arise from a sensitively-timed cutting regime. Grazing methods such as pulse-grazing, aftermath grazing, and conservation grazing may also be employed.

Residual Effects

6.4.22 The adverse residual effects detailed in this section present a worst-case scenario. It is likely significant adverse effects identified will be reduced to non-significant effects through the completion of further survey work and identification of appropriate mitigation measures which will be presented in the ES.

6.4.23 During the construction phase, the Scheme has potential to impact habitat within or functionally linked to the Bath and Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC, Severn Estuary Ramsar, and Fagot Heath, The Privet, Fox Covert and Corsham Wood LWS. As a worst-case at this stage, these impacts are assessed as **adverse effects (significant)**.

6.4.24 In addition, the Scheme has the potential to impact ditch and watercourse habitat, roosting and foraging/commuting bats, dormice, riparian mammals, breeding birds, overwintering birds, white-clawed crayfish, fish, and plants. As a worst-case at this stage, these impacts are assessed as **adverse effects (significant)**.

6.4.25 During the operation and maintenance phase, the Scheme has potential to impact habitat within or functionally linked to the Bath and Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC and Severn Estuary Ramsar. As a worst-case at this stage, these impacts are assessed as **adverse effects (significant)**. There is also an impact to fish movement and spawning which is an **adverse effect (significant)**.

6.4.26 The operation and maintenance phase of the Scheme would have to **beneficial effects (significant)** for other neutral grassland and woodland habitat, hedgerow and tree lines, and ditches and watercourses. The Scheme is also anticipated to have **beneficial effects (significant)** for species, including badger, foraging/commuting bats, harvest mouse, hedgehog, polecat, amphibians, reptiles, breeding birds, overwintering birds, and terrestrial invertebrates.

6.5 Arboriculture

6.5.1 This section summarises the key findings of the preliminary assessment of the arboricultural effects. The full preliminary arboricultural assessment is found in **Volume 1, Chapter 10**.

Baseline and Context

6.5.2 There are no Tree Protection Orders (TPOs), Conservation Areas and no records of ancient/veteran trees within the Solar PV Sites. There are six registered ancient woodlands located within 50m of the Solar PV Sites.

6.5.3 356 individual trees have been surveyed across the Solar PV Sites, with 43 of these recorded as veteran trees.

6.5.4 There are seven TPOs within the Cable Route Search Corridor. There are five Conservation Areas, five TPOs and five ancient woodlands within 50m of the Cable Route Search Corridor.

Assessment of Effects

6.5.5 The Scheme has the potential to impact twelve arboricultural features during the construction phase. These effects are detailed in Table 10-4 of **Volume 1, Chapter 10** and relate to the location of infrastructure, fencing, and access roads within Veteran Tree Buffer Zones.

6.5.6 Impacts to trees in the Cable Route Search Corridor during construction are likely to be focused on areas of open-cut trenching as well as vehicular and machinery access into fields, haul roads and working corridors.

6.5.7 During operation and maintenance, the Scheme design will ensure as far as practicable that all Veteran Tree Buffer Zones would be unaffected during site operation activities such as maintenance visits and replacement activities. No significant effects to ancient and veteran trees or ancient woodlands are anticipated during the operation and maintenance phase.

6.5.8 During decommissioning no significant effects to ancient and veteran trees and ancient woodland are anticipated given that Solar PV Panels are anticipated to be removed using the roads and accesses installed during the construction phase. The cables associated with the Cable Route Corridor are anticipated to be left in situ and, as such, no additional impacts to arboricultural features are anticipated.

Mitigation

6.5.9 Mitigation measures will be included in an Outline Arboricultural Method Statement and will include the employment of sensitive installation methods and minimising disturbance to existing ground conditions and trees.

6.5.10 Buffers have been integrated into the Scheme to avoid, reduce and/or mitigate potential adverse arboricultural effects. These include buffers from Veteran Trees, ancient woodlands, root protection areas (RPAs) and canopy spreads of existing trees and woodlands.

6.5.11 Existing habitat connectivity between ancient woodlands and other woodland is preserved and enhanced wherever practicable, and opportunities for creating new habitat connectivity are maximised wherever practicable.

6.5.12 An Arboricultural Clerk of Works will provide monitoring and supervision during construction to ensure Tree Protection Barriers, ground protection and stem protectors are implemented as appropriate to safeguard retained trees during construction.

6.5.13 Any new tree planting will comprise a diverse and predominantly native species mix appropriate for the soils present and with due consideration to future climate change. New tree planting would not occur within 30m of existing veteran and ancient trees or within close proximity to proposed accesses, visibility splays, parking areas and internal roads.

6.5.14 All tree pruning works, undertaken throughout all phases of the Scheme, would be undertaken by a professionally qualified and insured arborist working in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010 'Tree Work – Recommendations'.

Residual Effects

6.5.15 The Scheme has the potential to affect approximately 12 arboricultural features during the construction phase. Following the implementation of embedded mitigation measures, it is concluded that arboricultural impacts to the Scheme are **not significant**.

6.6 Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage

6.6.1 This section summarises the key findings of the preliminary assessment of the hydrology, flood risk and drainage effects of the Scheme. The full preliminary hydrology, flood risk and drainage assessment is found in **Volume 1, Chapter 11**.

Baseline and Context

6.6.2 The Development Area is situated within the Severn River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) area, specifically within the Avon Bristol and North Somerset Streams Management Catchment. The majority of the Solar PV Sites and Cable Route Search Corridor are located within Flood Zone 1 with a low risk of fluvial flooding. However, there are also limited areas of Flood Zone 2 and Flood Zone 3 with a medium and high risk of

fluvial flooding, respectively, within Lime Down B, C, D and E and the Cable Route Search Corridor. Likewise, the Solar PV Sites and Cable Route Search Corridor are generally at a very low risk to surface water flooding with limited areas of low to high risk along watercourses and drains. The risk of fluvial and surface water flooding is illustrated in **Volume 2, Figure 11-1** to **Figure 11-8**.

6.6.3 There are watercourses and drains located within or in proximity to the Development Area. Watercourses within the Solar PV Sites include Gauze Brook running through the eastern extent of Lime Down D and Gabriel's Well River running through the centre of Lime Down E, as well as various unnamed drains. The River Avon is located approximately 240 m north of Lime Down A. The Cable Route Search Corridor is intersected by various tributaries associated with the River Avon.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

6.6.4 There is potential for blockages to drainage networks due to construction mud and debris, temporary increases in areas of impermeable surfacing, and compaction of soils during the construction phase which could result in adverse impacts to flood risk within and surrounding the Development Area.

6.6.5 Risks to water resources during the construction phase include increased silt-laden runoff, inappropriate wastewater disposal, and the spillages and leakage of pollutants which could result in adverse impacts to local watercourses and ditches within and surrounding the Development Area.

6.6.6 All significant construction phase effects would be negligible with the application of appropriate mitigation measures.

Operation and Maintenance

6.6.7 There is potential for blockages to drainage networks, increases in areas of impermeable surfacing, and increases in discharge to local watercourses and ditches during the operation and maintenance phase which could result in increased flood risk within and surrounding the Development Area.

6.6.8 Risks to water resources during the operation and maintenance phase include an increased demand on water supply, inappropriate wastewater disposal, increased runoff and pollution from highways, and increased pollution from firewater and other spillages and leakages. These could result in adverse impacts to local watercourses and ditches within and surrounding the Development Area.

6.6.9 All operation and maintenance phase effects would be negligible with the application of appropriate mitigation measures.

Decommissioning

6.6.10 As a reasonable worst-case assumption for the assessment, the effects on flood risk and water resources during the decommissioning phase would be the same or similar to those for the construction phase.

Mitigation

6.6.11 Embedded mitigation measures integrated into the design of the Scheme to minimise environmental impacts include establishing 8 m buffer zones around watercourses, designing flood-resilient service cabling, and keeping construction activities away from watercourses and drainage ditches. Critical infrastructure would be in low flood probability areas with elevated solar panels and equipment. Existing access tracks would be retained, and new tracks designed to be permeable and avoid crossing drainage ditches, where practicable.

6.6.12 As the Scheme would change the arable land use within the Development Site, nitrate application would also no longer be required and therefore improve water quality.

6.6.13 An Outline CEMP which includes water management measures, will be developed and submitted alongside the DCO Application. These will include measures to manage water during the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases, such as water quality monitoring and the control of surface water runoff.

6.6.14 A Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy is presented as **Volume 3, Appendix 11-1** which details how the Scheme will manage and mitigate flood risks and ensure effective drainage throughout the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases. This will be updated for the ES.

6.6.15 Additional mitigation measures will be included in the Outline CEMP and Outline Decommissioning Strategy submitted with the DCO Application. These will include measures for silt management during construction, spill prevention, and emergency response plans. Temporary drainage systems may also be installed during the construction phase to manage runoff and prevent blockages.

Residual Effects

6.6.16 Following the implementation of embedded and additional mitigation, the Scheme would not result in significant effects in relation to flood risk and water resources. All potential effects have been found to be **not significant**.

6.7 Cultural Heritage

6.7.1 This section summarises the key findings of the preliminary assessment of the cultural heritage effects of the Scheme. The full preliminary cultural heritage assessment is found in **Volume 1, Chapter 12**.

Baseline and Context

6.7.2 There are no World Heritage Sites, Registered Battlefields, or Protected Wrecks within 2 km of the Solar PV Sites and 250 m of the Cable Route Search Corridor.

6.7.3 No designated heritage assets are located within the Solar PV Sites, however, a total of 261 Listed Buildings, five Schedule Monuments, and eight Conservation Areas, are located within 2 km. In addition, there are 134 Listed Buildings, four Scheduled Monuments, eight Conservation Areas, and two Registered Parks and Gardens located within 250 m of the Cable Route Search Corridor.

6.7.4 Forty-seven records of non-designated archaeological assets are present within the Solar PV Sites according to the Wiltshire Historic Environment Records (HER), as well as an additional 53 areas of potential archaeological interest and 37 Historic Landscape Character (HLC) units.

6.7.5 There are 588 records of non-designated archaeological assets are present within the Cable Route Search Corridor. Potential archaeological features and finds within the Cable Route Search Corridor have not yet been assessed, however ongoing assessment work is being used to define the final cable route to minimise impacts.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

6.7.6 During the construction phase, there is potential for groundworks to directly affect archaeological remains within the Development Area. There are 20 archaeological assets which without mitigation, have the potential to experience adverse effects. Along the Cable Route Search Corridor, impacts are considered to be negligible or beneficial as the Scheme does not require regular ploughing which could impact archaeological deposits.

6.7.7 There is potential for the construction of the Scheme to indirectly impact heritage assets beyond the Development Area, such as affecting their setting. These effects would be temporary along the Cable Route Corridor as cables would be buried and reversible within the Solar PV Sites as the Scheme would be decommissioned.

Operation and Maintenance

6.7.8 Once the Scheme is operational, no further direct adverse effects on buried archaeological remains are anticipated as there would be no additional piling or ground disturbance. Limited effects would occur for some archaeological assets due to the reduced agricultural disturbance.

6.7.9 During the operation and maintenance of the Scheme, there may be effects on the drainage patterns within the Development Area which could cause hydrological changes in areas which it is assessed there may be potential for the survival of waterlogged deposits. Further assessment of this will be undertaken in the ES to determine the potential for waterlogged remains.

Decommissioning

6.7.10 While there is a high degree of uncertainty regarding the decommissioning phase because engineering approaches and technology is likely to change during the operation and maintenance phase of the Scheme, there is potential to impact archaeological remains during the decommissioning phase as a result of any proposed groundworks and/or plant movement. However, these effects would be managed with appropriate mitigation strategies in place.

6.7.11 There is also potential for the Scheme to have effects upon the settings of heritage assets within the surrounding area during the decommissioning phase. These effects would be temporary in nature and therefore would be not significant.

Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation

6.7.12 Applicable mitigation measures for cultural heritage will be included in the Outline CEMP, Outline OEMP, and Outline Decommissioning Strategy as part of the DCO Application.

6.7.13 Mitigation has been embedded into the Scheme by design including the avoidance of direct impact to archaeologically sensitive areas. Where appropriate, the installation of concrete feet for the panels will serve to preserve archaeological remains in situ.

6.7.14 In locations with heritage assets that could be impacted by the Scheme through their settings, enhanced screening and offsets are proposed in the Scheme design. This has already been implemented near the Fosse Way and Fosse Lodge, Alderton Conservation Area and Sherston Conservation Area.

6.7.15 Some proposed solar panels have been removed entirely from the Scheme design as a result of archaeological or heritage sensitivities. These areas are detailed in **Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage**.

6.7.16 If the Cable Route Corridor is identified as impacting important archaeological remains, trenchless construction techniques at a suitable depth to avoid impacts to buried archaeological remains would be implemented. The refined Cable route Corridor will be assessed in the ES, and associated archaeological mitigation will be identified.

6.7.17 For the operation and maintenance phase, mitigation will include landscape mitigation proposals to preserve and/or enhance the setting of heritage assets. Other embedded mitigation measures will be detailed in the Outline OEMP and include appropriate routing of vehicles (where practicable avoiding areas known for their historic character), adherence to an agreed approach on activities that generate noise (which can impact on the appreciation of heritage assets nearby), and avoidance of archaeological remains preserved below ground.

6.7.18 During the decommissioning phase it is envisaged that detailed mitigation strategies to avoid or minimise any impacts would be included in the Decommissioning Strategy that would be required prior to decommissioning, and this would ensure that any decommissioning effects would not be 'significant'.

Additional Mitigation

6.7.19 Additional mitigation may involve Strip, Map and Sample (SMS) excavation or Archaeological Monitoring and 'preservation by record' or the implementation of a transport management plan.

6.7.20 The additional mitigation measures for the construction phase would be detailed in an archaeological mitigation strategy to be submitted with the DCO application, and will include detailed proposals and locations where this additional mitigation would be, or is likely to be, required.

Residual Effects

6.7.21 While the full assessment will be provided in the ES, it is anticipated that based on current information, the potential residual effects at construction and operation on designated and non-designated heritage assets could range from neutral up to major adverse, which is **significant** in EIA terms.

6.7.22 **Significant beneficial** residual effects have been identified for archaeological assets where embedded mitigation measures removes arable cultivation from areas.

6.8 Transport and Access

6.8.1 This section summarises the key findings of the preliminary assessment of the transport and access effects of the Scheme. The full preliminary transport and access assessment is found in **Volume 1, Chapter 13**.

Baseline and Context

6.8.2 Roads within and surrounding the Development Area include a mix of major roads (A-roads), minor roads (B-roads), and various named and unnamed rural roads. Key roads include the M4, A46, B4040, B4039, A429, Alderton Road, and Fosse Way. Traffic surveys indicate varying levels of usage with an element of HGV use on all routes. Access routes and subsequent surveys along the Cable Route Corridor will be presented in the ES. Traffic flows are expected to increase slightly in future years.

6.8.3 Pedestrian infrastructure is available along roads to the Development Area, including along the A46, A429, B4039, and Alderton Road. Section 14 of the Wiltshire Cycleway which is an on-road, unsegregated route operates along Alderton Road and the Fosse Way, and there are cycle routes which cross the Cable Route Search Corridor. There are a number of PRoW that run through or nearby the Solar PV Sites or within the vicinity of the Cable Route Search Corridor.

6.8.4 A number of bus routes connecting local towns and villages operate in the area surrounding the Development Area. The nearest railway station is located in Chippenham, approximately 10 km from the Solar PV Sites, which offers connections to major cities.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

6.8.5 Details and assessment of proposed construction routes and accesses to the Solar PV Sites, and potential construction routes to the Cable Route Corridor, are presented in Section 13.10 of **Volume 1, Chapter 13**. As a worst-case assessment, it is assumed all elements of the Scheme would be constructed concurrently across 24 months.

6.8.6 At the peak of the construction phase, there would be 462 trips completed to the Solar PV Sites each day by construction vehicles. This would comprise 104 trips by HGV and 358 trips by cars and/or light good vehicles (LGV) and is a reasonable worst-case for the assessment. On a typical day, traffic flows would be lower than this. In addition, construction of the Cable Route Corridor would generate up to four trips per day with approximately half of these completed by HGV and half by LGV.

6.8.7 The construction of the Scheme would have an effect on the local highway network in regard to severance, NMU delay, road safety, and hazardous loads/large loads.

Operation and Maintenance

6.8.8 During the operation and maintenance phase, vehicle movements would largely be required on an ad hoc basis with the exception of the operational replacement period across the Solar PV Sites.

6.8.9 The operational replacement period would last 12 months and generate 338 trips, comprising 80 HGV and 258 cars/LGV, to the Solar PV Sites on peak days. This would be significantly less than the trips required for construction and therefore further assessment is not required.

6.8.10 The operation and maintenance of the Scheme would have a negligible effect on the local highway network in regard to severance, driver delay, NMU delay, NMU amenity, road safety, and hazardous loads/large loads.

Decommissioning

6.8.11 The number of vehicles associated with the decommissioning phase are not anticipated to exceed the number set out for the construction phase. Therefore, the effect of the decommissioning phase would be the same or similar to that for the construction phase.

Mitigation

Construction

6.8.12 An Outline CTMP will be submitted alongside the DCO Application and provide a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme to ensure effects from the construction phase on the local highway network are minimised.

6.8.13 An Outline CWTP will be submitted alongside the DCO Application and include measures for the provision of shuttle buses to transport construction workers to and from the Development Area.

6.8.14 Where construction routes pass through sections of road considered narrow and requiring widening, these have been adopted into the design as ‘Highway Improvement Areas’ which will ensure sufficient passing room is present along the routes.

6.8.15 Abnormal load movements to transport larger transformers and substation equipment would be managed by a specialist haulage company so potential effects are mitigated. The exact measures would be agreed with the Local Highway Authority (LHA) and police prior to the movements occurring.

Operation and Maintenance

6.8.16 Suitable points of access would be provided for operation and maintenance phase vehicles with turning areas.

6.8.17 Planting would be undertaken to conceal reflections from the Solar PV Panels, as far as possible, to mitigate adverse impacts to drivers on the local highway network.

6.8.18 Measures detailed within the Outline CTMP will be implemented during the programme of replacement for the Solar PV Panels and other associated infrastructure, where appropriate.

Decommissioning

6.8.19 An Outline Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan (DTMP) will be prepared and agreed with the LHA prior to the decommissioning phase. The Outline DTMP will follow the principles set out in the Outline CTMP.

Residual Effects

6.8.20 During the construction phase, effects on severance, non-motorised user (NMU) delay, road safety, and hazardous load impacts across all road links are **negligible (not significant)**. Driver delay and NMU amenity effects would be **minor (not significant)** across all road links. PRoW would experience a minor temporary effect in regard to NMU delay and amenity during the construction phase.

6.8.21 Effects during the operation and maintenance phase are **negligible (not significant)**. The effects during the operational replacement period would be less than those for the construction phase as a reasonable worst-case assessment. The effects for Solar PV Panel replacement would be short term and temporary.

6.8.22 Effects for the decommissioning phase would be the same or less than those for the construction phase as a reasonable worst-case. The effects would be short term and temporary.

6.9 Noise and Vibration

6.9.1 This section summarises the key findings of the preliminary assessment of the noise and vibration effects of the Scheme. The full preliminary noise and vibration assessment is provided in **Volume 1, Chapter 14**.

Baseline and Context

6.9.2 The baseline noise levels at sensitive receptors surrounding the Solar PV Sites have been established following noise surveys undertaken in early

2024. Further noise surveys to establish baseline noise levels along to the Cable Route Corridor will be undertaken to support the ES.

6.9.3 Sensitive receptors that are representative of background noise levels and noise and vibration effects from the Solar PV Sites have been selected for consideration in the assessment. The closest is located approximately 20 m from the Solar PV Sites. Further representative sensitive receptors along the Cable Route Corridor will be selected for consideration in the ES.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

6.9.4 Construction noise at surrounding receptors would vary depending on the location and type of work taking place. Construction activities and locations vary across the Development Area and, therefore, high construction noise levels experienced would be of a limited short-term duration (i.e. less than one month).

6.9.5 Typical construction noise across the overall construction phase would be limited to a low magnitude impact. Increases in noise at sensitive receptors due to construction traffic are predicted to be 'Low' or less.

6.9.6 Periods of construction vibration experienced at receptors would be unlikely to exceed one month with no permanent residual effect once construction is complete. As such, any construction vibration effects would be short-term in duration.

6.9.7 Vibration from construction activities and construction traffic are anticipated to be below the level at which there is any potential for cosmetic damage to structures. Therefore, the Scheme is expected to have a negligible effect.

Operation and Maintenance

6.9.8 The assessment considered a worst-case scenario that all noise generating infrastructure would operational simultaneously. This is unlikely to be the case in practice and, therefore, noise levels are expected to be substantially lower.

6.9.9 Noise generated by the Scheme is not predicted to exceed the existing background noise levels at sensitive receptors during the daytime or night-time in the worst-case scenario.

6.9.10 Operation and maintenance traffic is expected to be less than half of that for the construction phase. This includes the periods of Solar PV Panel and equipment during the operation and maintenance phase. Therefore, the operational effects of the Scheme are not expected to be significant.

6.9.11 Due to the relatively limited nature of the operation and maintenance activities, vibration effects during the operation and maintenance phase are negligible.

Decommissioning

6.9.12 Noise effects during the decommissioning phase would be similar to or less than noise effects during construction. The assessment presented for the construction phase is therefore representative (or an overestimate) of the decommissioning phase.

Mitigation

6.9.13 Potential noise and vibration effects impacts would be prevented, avoided, and/or mitigated through the design and management of the Scheme.

6.9.14 Management measures would represent Best Practical Means (BPM) and will be detailed in the Outline CEMP and Outline Decommissioning Strategy submitted alongside the DCO Application.

6.9.15 The design of the Scheme has been developed to locate the BESS Area and substation sites at least 450 m and 400 m, respectively, from sensitive receptors to minimise noise and vibration effects during the operation and maintenance phase.

Residual Effects

6.9.16 After implementing mitigation measures, the impact of noise and vibration from the Scheme would be limited. Noise and vibration impacts during the construction, operational, or decommissioning phases are identified as **not significant**.

6.10 Air Quality

6.10.1 This section summarises the key findings of the preliminary assessment of the air quality effects of the Scheme. The full preliminary air quality assessment is found in **Volume 1, Chapter 15**.

Baseline and Context

6.10.2 Wiltshire Council has eight Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) in place due to exceedances in annual average nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) Air Quality Strategy (AQS) objectives. The closest of these is AQMA 4: Bradford-on-Avon which is located over 7 km southwest of the Development Area.

6.10.3 Predicted background concentrations of NO_2 and particulate matter (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$) in the vicinity of the Development Area are well below relevant annual average AQS objectives for each pollutant.

6.10.4 There are sensitive human and ecological receptors in the vicinity of the Development Area. These include residential properties, such as those in Farleaze, Grittleton, Sevington, Chippenham, Corsham, Whitley, Gastard, and schools in Shaw, Yatton Keynell and Hullavington. Sensitive ecological receptors include Surrendell Wood Ancient Woodland, Bincombe Wood Ancient Woodland, North Bincombe Wood Ancient Woodland, and Harries Ground, Rodbourne SSSI.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

6.10.5 Construction dust generated by trackout (transportation of dust and dirt onto the public road network), earthworks, and other construction activities has the potential to adversely affect human health when airborne and people, property and sensitive ecological habitats through deposition and soiling.

6.10.6 The construction dust impact assessment for the Scheme determined that the worst-case risk of dust effects would be high. However, in accordance with relevant dust guidance, mitigation measures have been identified to reduce the effect. These mitigation measures will be presented in the Outline CEMP alongside the DCO Application.

6.10.7 Emissions from construction vehicles have the potential to affect air quality at human and ecological receptors located within 200 m of routes used by these vehicles.

6.10.8 Anticipated vehicle movements associated with the construction phase have been compared against relevant guidance criteria and are well below the threshold for an assessment.

6.10.9 Emissions from Non-Road Mobile Machinery Emissions (NRMM), including diesel generators, bulldozers and excavators, would be temporary and minimised through mitigation which will be detailed in the Outline CEMP. Individual plant would operate for relatively short periods in any given area and background concentrations are well below the relevant AQS objectives.

Operation and Maintenance

6.10.10 During the operation and maintenance phase, traffic generated by the Scheme would be limited to that associated with maintenance work and the scheduled replacement activities required of Solar PV Panels and BESS batteries. Combined daily traffic flows are expected to be less than those during the construction phase.

6.10.11 The proposed BESS Area has the potential to give rise to air quality effects in the rare event of a fire. Associated air quality impacts are expected to be short-term (e.g. a couple of hours) due to the likely nature of any fire incident

and there the closest sensitive residential and ecological receptors are located approximately 440 m and 1.6 km, respectively, from areas being considered for BESS.

Decommissioning

6.10.12 There is the potential for fugitive dust emissions, NRMM emissions, and vehicle emissions during the decommissioning phase. These are expected to be the same or less than those identified during the construction phase.

Mitigation

6.10.13 Mitigation measures to manage dust and vehicle emissions will be included in the Outline CEMP and Outline Decommissioning Strategy submitted alongside the DCO Application. These will include measures such as avoiding stockpiling soil and materials near to boundaries, using water to damp down soil if earthworks are undertaken in dry weather, and covering any dusty materials being transported.

6.10.14 Air quality monitoring for dust would be required for the construction phase and will be set out in the Outline CEMP. Monitoring may also be required during the decommissioning phase and, if required, will be in the Outline Decommissioning Strategy.

6.10.15 Mitigation measures to manage BESS fire emissions will be included in the Outline BSMP submitted alongside the DCO Application.

Residual Effects

6.10.16 After the application of mitigation measures, the impact on air quality from the Scheme would be minimal. Residual dust, NRMM emissions, and vehicle emissions during construction and decommissioning would be controlled and therefore would be **not significant**.

6.10.17 Residual effects as a result of vehicle emissions and emissions from BESS fire during the operation and maintenance phase are unlikely to exceed standards. Therefore, these effects are **not significant**.

6.11 Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation

6.11.1 This section summarises the key findings of the preliminary assessment of the socio-economics, tourism and recreation effects of the Scheme. The full preliminary socio-economics, tourism and recreation assessment is found in **Volume 1, Chapter 16**.

Baseline and Context

6.11.2 The Development Area and surrounding area is characterized by a lower proportion of children and a higher proportion of elderly residents compared to national averages with significant population growth projected by 2027.

6.11.3 There are high employment rates, low unemployment, and a strong presence in sectors such as wholesale and retail trade, human health and social work, and professional, scientific, and technical activities.

6.11.4 There are challenges in housing affordability and marginal undersupply of housing in some areas and the area experiences significant inequalities in deprivation levels with some neighbourhoods among the least deprived in England. Overall, the socio-economic conditions indicate a healthy and growing economy with a strong labour market and a relatively affluent population.

6.11.5 Wiltshire is a significant destination for both domestic and international visitors, driven by attractions such as the Cotswolds National Landscape and events like the Badminton Horse Trials.

6.11.6 The area offers a substantial amount of serviced accommodation, with high occupancy rates during peak seasons, and hosts numerous historic buildings, country parks, and recreational facilities. There is a local network of PRoW and long-distance recreational routes, as well as formal and informal recreational facilities such as sports grounds, golf clubs, and equestrian centres.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

6.11.7 The construction phase would generate beneficial effects for employment and the economy by providing significant employment opportunities with 558 temporary workers at peak periods, including 353 from outside the region, and would boosting local economic activity. However, there would be adverse effects on the availability of local housing and the agricultural sector due to increased competition from construction workers and the ceasing of agricultural activities within the Development Area.

6.11.8 The Scheme would have an adverse effect on tourism and PRoW, resulting from the visual and noise effects, and temporary closures and diversions to PRoW.

Operation and Maintenance

6.11.9 During the operation and maintenance phase, the Scheme would have a beneficial effect for employment and the economy. However, there would

be adverse effects on agriculture due to ongoing use of the Development Area for solar energy generation.

Decommissioning

6.11.10 As a reasonable worst-case assumption for the assessment, the effects for the decommissioning phase would be the same or similar to those for the construction phase.

Mitigation

Construction

6.11.11 The Outline CEMP, Outline CTMP, and Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan will be submitted alongside the DCO Application and include measures to mitigate impacts during the construction phase.

6.11.12 The construction contractor will assist workers in finding suitable accommodation, minimizing impacts on existing residents and visitors.

6.11.13 The Outline SSCEP to be submitted as part of the DCO Application will promote local apprenticeship and training schemes, enhancing local skills and reducing the need for external workers during the construction phase, as well as throughout the operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases.

Operation and Maintenance

6.11.14 Measures in the Outline OEMP and Outline LEMP submitted alongside the DCO Application will detail measures to control visual impacts, noise, and glint and glare during the operation and maintenance phase.

6.11.15 The Scheme retains the routing of PRoW, where practicable, to maintain their use and connectivity throughout the operation and maintenance phase.

6.11.16 During peak replacement activities, embedded mitigation and good practice from the construction phase would be reintroduced to manage impacts effectively.

Decommissioning

6.11.17 Mitigation measures from the construction phase would be applied during the decommissioning phase, such as the management of traffic and PRoW. These will be detailed in the Outline Decommissioning Strategy to be submitted alongside the DCO Application.

6.11.18 Grid Connection Cables may be left in situ with extraction through joint bays to reduce impacts on agricultural land.

Residual Effects

6.11.19 During the construction and decommissioning phases, the influx of peak inbound construction workers will lead to a short-term temporary **moderate beneficial (significant) effect** on residential population growth. However, long-distance recreational routes will experience up to medium-term temporary **moderate adverse (significant) effect** due to temporary diversions or closures and the use of these routes by construction traffic. Formal recreation facilities, such as Whitley Golf Club and Cricket Club, may face short-term temporary **moderate adverse (significant) effects** due to potential partial or full closures required for cable burying works.

6.11.20 During the operation and maintenance phase, the Scheme will have long-term visual effects on long-distance recreational routes, resulting in up to long-term **moderate adverse (significant) effects**.

6.12 Soils and Agriculture

6.12.1 This section summarises the key findings of the preliminary assessment of the soils and agriculture effects of the Scheme. The full preliminary soils and agriculture assessment is found in **Volume 1, Chapter 17**.

Baseline and Context

6.12.2 The Development Area is located within primarily arable land with some grassland areas. The land is generally level to gently sloping, with varying soil types including slowly permeable clay soils, shallow brashy soils, and deep sandy soils. The agricultural land is classified into different grades, with around 30% of land surveyed so far within the Solar PV Sites being Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land (Grades 2 and 3a) and the remaining 70% being lower quality (Subgrade 3b, Grade 4, and Grade 5). There are seven soil associations are present which are generally comprise fine, lime-rich loamy or clayey soils. Underlying geology includes Forest Marble, Kellaways, and Cornbrash Formations and superficial deposits consist of Alluvium and Head deposits.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

6.12.3 During the construction phase, there would be a loss of BMV land and agricultural land. This would be a short-term and temporary along the Cable Route Corridor whilst Grid Connection Cables are installed but longer term and temporary within the Solar PV Sites as impacts would extend throughout the 60-year design life of the Scheme.

6.12.4 Short-term and temporary disturbance to soil would occur from construction activities with the greatest impacts anticipated to result from the installation

of access tracks, substations and compounds, and Grid Connection Cables.

Operation and Maintenance

6.12.5 No direct agricultural effects would occur during the operation and maintenance phase.

6.12.6 Over the operation and maintenance phase, the Scheme would have an impact on the availability of BMV land and agricultural land which would be unavailable for food production.

6.12.7 As the land within the Solar PV Sites would be largely undisturbed over the operation and maintenance phase, there would likely be improvements in the health, quality, and structure of soil.

Decommissioning

6.12.8 The Development Area would be returned to its original use and condition at the decommissioning phase and, as the land will have been undisturbed during operation and maintenance, the health, quality, and structure of soils within the Solar PV Sites is likely to improve. Therefore, there would be a beneficial effect for soil resources and agriculture within the Solar PV Sites.

6.12.9 The Grid Connection Cables would be left in situ or removed by excavating at regular intervals and pulling these out. In either scenario, the effect would be less than those during the construction phase.

Mitigation

Construction

6.12.10 The Scheme has been designed to locate access tracks, construction compounds, and substations on the lowest quality land available within the Development Site, wherever practicable.

6.12.11 The Outline SMP as well as the overarching Outline CEMP to be submitted with the DCO Application will incorporate good practice measures to ensure adverse effects on agricultural land and soil are minimised, where practicable. These will include measures such as only handling or tracking soils that are in a dry and friable condition and ensuring topsoil and subsoils are handled separately when being stripped, stored and reinstated.

6.12.12 The Outline LEMP will include monitoring requirements to ensure disturbed land and soil resources continue to fulfil all of their ecological functions. The soil should be monitored visually for signs of compaction, waterlogging and vegetation death, and remedial action taken if these issues were to be identified. Monitoring requirements will also be set out in the Outline SMP.

Operation and Maintenance

6.12.13 The Scheme will continue to adhere to the SMP when accessing areas for maintenance and replacement activities.

Decommissioning

6.12.14 The Outline SMP and Outline CEMP will make similar provisions for the decommissioning phase as those during construction. This includes measures in regard to tracking and the handling of soils.

Residual Effects

6.12.15 During the construction phase, the long-term and reversible loss of farmable area would result in a **moderate adverse effect (significant)** as there is no available mitigation measures to reduce this impact. Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land, which has medium sensitivity, will also experience a long-term and reversible loss of farmable area, leading to a **major/moderate adverse effect (significant)** which, again, is due to there being no mitigation measures available for this. Soil resources, which are highly sensitive, will face a temporary but long-term loss of one or more soil functions, however, the implementation of a SMP would mitigate this to a **moderate adverse effect (significant)**. Soil resources would benefit temporarily from improved soil health due to the management of land according to the Outline LEMP, leading to a **moderate beneficial effect (significant)**.

6.12.16 During the operation and maintenance phase, soil resources may be damaged due to maintenance or replacement works, however, the implementation of a SMP would mitigate this impact. This therefore results in a **moderate/minor adverse effect (significant)**.

6.13 Human Health

6.13.1 This section summarises the key findings of the preliminary assessment of the human health effects of the Scheme. The full preliminary human health assessment is found in **Volume 1, Chapter 18**.

Baseline and Context

6.13.2 There is a population of approximately 60,300 within 2 km of the Development Area. This comprises 17.6% aged up to 15 years and 22.8% aged 65 or above which are comparable to statistics for Wiltshire but slightly higher than national averages. Health indicators show that 4.3% of the population reported ‘bad’ or ‘very bad’ health which is lower than regional and national averages.

6.13.3 There are 38 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) with varying levels of deprivation are located within 2 km of the Development Area. Overall, the area performs better than Wiltshire and national averages with only three LSOAs in the 20% most deprived areas in England, however, there are challenges regarding the availability of housing and community services.

6.13.4 Health risks from environmental conditions, such as GHG emissions, air and water quality, transport, noise, and ground conditions, are generally low.

6.13.5 The area is well-served by PRoW and recreational facilities, and there are nine GP practices and two community hospitals located within 5 km of the Development Area which provide good access to primary and emergency care services.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

6.13.6 During the construction phase, there would be a temporary increase in competition for accommodation and demand on health and social care services from construction workers, as well as greater construction traffic on local roads. There is also the potential for negative impacts to community identity and resilience, and reduced access and enjoyment of recreational facilities due to construction activities.

6.13.7 There will be impacts to land quality, air quality and water quality through dust and emissions and runoff, albeit these impacts will be minimised through implementation of the construction phase mitigation measures identified below.

6.13.8 Opportunities for employment, education and training would have an overall beneficial effect.

Operation and Maintenance

6.13.9 During the operation and maintenance phase, there would be adverse effects to community identity and resilience, and reduced access and enjoyment of recreational facilities due to the visual impact of the Scheme.

6.13.10 Ongoing training and employment opportunities during the operation and maintenance phase would have minor/negligible beneficial effects for employment, education and training. The contribution to reduction in greenhouse gas emissions would have a beneficial effect on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Decommissioning

6.13.11 As a reasonable worst-case assumption for the assessment, the effects for the decommissioning phase would be the same or similar to those for the construction phase.

Mitigation

6.13.12 Throughout the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases, mitigation measures would be implemented to minimise impacts on human health. A Community Liaison Manager would be appointed at the construction phase and continue to address community concerns through the operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases.

6.13.13 Impacts to environmental conditions would be managed through the Outline CEMP, Outline OEMP, and Outline Decommissioning Strategy submitted alongside the DCO Application. Further details regarding these mitigation measures are provided in the respective sections of this NTS.

6.13.14 The construction phase schedule would be phased and staggered to reduce peak impacts. Support would be provided to construction workers in finding suitable accommodation to minimise impact to residents.

6.13.15 During the operation and maintenance phase, enhancement measures such as improve local opportunities and provision of new non-vehicular routes to improve local connectivity and recreation, would be considered.

Residual Effects

6.13.16 During the construction and decommissioning phases, resident's sensitive to noise could experience temporary effects on their mental health and wellbeing. Mitigation measures to limit construction activities near sensitive receptors would be implemented to reduce these impacts, however, a **moderate/minor adverse effect (significant)** is still anticipated.

6.13.17 No further significant residual effects are identified during the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the Scheme.

6.14 Ground Conditions

6.14.1 This section summarises the key findings of the preliminary assessment of the ground conditions effects of the Scheme. The full preliminary ground conditions assessment is found in **Volume 1, Chapter 19**.

Baseline and Context

6.14.2 Ground conditions across the Solar PV Sites generally consists of lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with varying drainage properties, underlain by the

Forest Marble Formation. Potential contamination sources include historical farming activities, vehicle repair garages, and quarries with some recorded pollution incidents. Regarding hydrogeology, the Solar PV Sites are largely characterized by shallow groundwater perched on low permeability soils with varying aquifer designations and Source Protection Zones (SPZ). Key geohazards identified include a moderate risk of shrink-swell clays and compressible ground.

6.14.3 The Cable Route Search Corridor comprises a variety of soil types, potential contamination sources, and geohazard risks. The soils range from lime-rich loamy and clayey to sandy clayey loam with some areas having superficial deposits, such as Alluvium. Potential sources of contamination include historical farming activities, quarries, sewage works, and railway lines. Regarding hydrogeology, the Cable Route Search Corridor is within various SPZ with shallow groundwater often perched on low permeability soils. Key geohazards include a moderate risk of compressible ground, shrink-swell clays, landslides, and instability from historical mining activities.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

6.14.4 Construction activities, such as excavation, has the potential to disturb soils and mobilise contaminants which could impact highly sensitive receptors, including surface water features and private water supplies. The impact of mobilising contaminated soil through construction processes is minor and unmitigated would result in a **moderate effect**. If contamination reaches groundwater and/or surface water features, the impact would be of a greater magnitude (moderate).

6.14.5 The removal of unexpected contaminant-impacted soils during construction works could impact soil quality, human health, and groundwater resources which are highly sensitive.

6.14.6 Construction and maintenance workers are receptors of very high sensitivity and may be affected by the explosion of historic unexploded ordnance (UXO) during excavation and/or interactions with mine workings and unstable ground.

Operation and Maintenance

6.14.7 **No significant impacts** are anticipated during the operation and maintenance phase. PFAS coating would not be used on Solar PV Panels and no fluid-filled cables would be used in the development. Any potential adverse effects from firefighting foam at the BESS Area would be controlled to ensure soils and groundwater are not impacted.

Decommissioning

6.14.8 The decommissioning phase would **not give rise to significant impacts**. Any contaminant-impacted soils encountered during the construction phase would have been removed and decommissioning activities would be managed to ensure soils and groundwater are not adversely affected.

Mitigation

Construction

6.14.9 An Outline CEMP, Outline SWMP, and Outline SMP will be included as part of the DCO Application. These plans will effectively manage the hazards associated with the construction phase of the development.

6.14.10 Where HDD techniques are to be used, an appropriate risk assessment will be carried out where drilling fluids are to be used. All HDD activity would be carried out in line with relevant guidance and good practice measures.

6.14.11 A detailed UXO desk study will be undertaken as part of the ES for all areas which are identified as being at risk of containing military ordnance due to historic use as or proximity to, military facilities or training grounds.

6.14.12 Where unexpected contamination is encountered, consideration would be given to the impacts of its disturbance on sensitive receptors, such as water supplies and surface water features.

Operation and Maintenance

6.14.13 An Outline OEMP will be submitted as part of the DCO Application, outlining the mitigation that would be deployed during the operation and maintenance phase.

Decommissioning

6.14.14 An Outline Decommissioning Strategy will be submitted as part of the DCO Application, outlining the mitigation which would be deployed during the decommissioning phase.

6.14.15 An assessment would be undertaken to determine whether the removal of installed cabling is environmentally expedient.

6.14.16 If areas of instability related to mining or ground conditions have been identified and mitigated during construction, the stability of the ground would be assessed prior to decommissioning.

Residual Effects

6.14.17 Following the implementation of mitigation, the effects of the Scheme on round conditions during the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases would be **not significant**.

6.15 Other Environmental Matters

6.15.1 **Volume 1, Chapter 20** presents the findings of a preliminary assessment of the likely effects of the Scheme on the following topics:

- Minerals;
- Materials and Waste;
- Telecommunications, Utilities and Television;
- Glint and Glare;
- Electromagnetic Fields; and
- Major Accidents and Disasters.

Minerals

Baseline and Context

6.15.2 Within the Development Area, the surface bedrock is a series of sedimentary beds dating from the Jurassic period. The oldest occurring bedrock is mudstone, progressing to limestone and younger mudstones and sandstone. The strata is generally progressively younger moving from west to east across the Development Area.

6.15.3 There is no evidence of any significant mineral working relating to limestone deposits in the Study Area. There are no safeguarded mineral resources within the Solar PV Sites identified in the Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Local Plan.

6.15.4 The Cable Route Corridor does not affect any safeguarded minerals, however it does cross a Mineral Safeguarding Area (MSA) south of Corsham. The area of the MSA affected extends to 214 ha. Within this MSA, the Cable Route Search Corridor also crosses the permitted area of Monks Park Mine where stone is mined approximately 20 to 30m below ground surface. The Cable Route Search Corridor affects approximately 56 ha of the permitted area.

6.15.5 Park Lane Quarry is located to the west of Monks Park Mine and is unaffected by the Cable Route Search Corridor, but is partially within the Minerals Study Area.

6.15.6 The superficial fluvial sand and gravel deposits associated with the River Avon south of Chippenham are identified as another MSA and a Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ) in the Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Local Plan. This MRZ is identified as a potential area for future sand and gravel supply in Wiltshire. The Cable Route search Corridor affects approximately 41 ha of this MRZ.

Assessment of Effects

6.15.7 The only identified surface mineral that the Scheme has potential to affect to the extent it becomes unviable to exploit in future are sand and gravel deposits. On the basis that the Scheme does not require deep excavations, disturbance would be limited to the surface layers rather than underlying deposits and therefore would not affect the long-term viability of working the identified sand and gravel resource.

6.15.8 The impact of the Scheme is limited to two MRAs identified in the Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Local Plan and located within the Cable Route Search Corridor between Lime Down B, C and D and the Existing National Grid Melksham Substation. There are no impacts to other identified mineral resources.

Oolitic Limestone Mineral Safeguarding Area

6.15.9 The Oolitic Limestone MSA is impacted by the Cable Route Search Corridor to the southeast of Corsham towards Whitley. On the basis that open cut cable trenches would be no more than 2 metres deep, the installation of cables via open cut would have no impact on the identified mineral resource, nor on the ability to exploit the permitted mineral resource. Given the depth of mine works 20 to 30 metres below the surface, the installation of cables via HDD is also unlikely to impact mining works. Should HDD be required over the mining works, a feasibility study would be undertaken to ensure the mining works are unaffected.

6.15.10 Monks Park Mine and Park Lane Quarry would be unaffected by the Scheme and there would be no impact to these mineral resources.

6.15.11 As a worst case, the Interconnecting Cables and Grid Connection Cables would be left in the ground after decommissioning. However, any below ground infrastructure that is decommissioning in situ is not anticipated to present any significant constraint to future mineral extraction as it could be removed as part of any future mineral working.

Bristol Avon Mineral Resource Zone and Mineral Safeguarding Area

6.15.12 The Cable Route Search Corridor has the potential to affect the future sand and gravel supply through the installation of Grid Connection Cables,

potentially restricting the future exploitation of this resource for the life of the Scheme.

6.15.13 The Scheme affects a peripheral area of the MRZ where mineral resource is likely to be at its thinnest. Wiltshire and Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Allocations Local Plan acknowledges that the minerals industry has already indicated that they are not keen to move to this area in the foreseeable future unless market conditions dictate otherwise.

6.15.14 Approximately 19.5 ha of the Bristol Avon MRZ and MSA southwest of the Existing National Grid Melksham Substation would be impacted by the Cable Route Search Corridor. Potential mineral extraction in this area is already heavily constrained by existing surface development and as a consequence the extraction of underlying mineral is restricted and not available to meet Wiltshire's aggregate needs.

6.15.15 To the south and southeast of the Existing National Grid Melksham Substation a further 21.5 ha of the Bristol and Avon MRZ and MSA would be impacted by the Cable Route Search Corridor. This land is in agricultural use and crossed by a PRoW and railway. Although this area could potentially be worked for sand gravel, it is relatively isolated with no apparent suitable access, on the periphery of the MRZ and subject to a number of environmental constraints. Therefore, it is unlikely to be a high candidate for mineral extraction.

6.15.16 MRZs are identified to contribute towards Wiltshires future aggregate needs, and as such the impact on mineral resource is minor and not significant.

Mitigation

6.15.17 Above ground plant and structures associated with the Scheme would be decommissioned and removed during the decommissioning phase. Such measures will restore the baseline condition of identified mineral resources.

6.15.18 Works relating to the decommissioning phase of the Scheme will be set out in the Outline Decommissioning Strategy submitted as part of the DCO application.

Residual Effects

6.15.19 Overall, following the implementation of embedded mitigation, **no significant residual effects** have been identified.

Materials and Waste

Baseline and Context

6.15.20 The key materials expected to be used during the Scheme's construction are steel, aggregates, asphalt and concrete. The existing baseline for national annual steel availability is 15 million tonnes, and the regional annual availability of aggregates, concrete, and asphalt is approximately 29 million tonnes, 3 million tonnes, and 2 million tonnes, respectively.

6.15.21 There are no permitted waste sites or waste site specific applications located within the Scheme boundary. There are also no historic and/or authorised landfills identified within the Scheme boundary.

6.15.22 A full description of the baseline and context for the waste assessment is provided in **Volume 3 Appendix 20-5.**

Assessment of Effects

Construction

6.15.23 As the Development Area is relatively flat, large-scale earthworks are not expected to be required and therefore there is not expected to be a large surplus of fill requiring export. It is expected that all materials removed by cable trenching operations or in the creation of working or laydown/compound areas would be reinstated. At this stage, the potential for generation of some surplus excavated material cannot be rules out but the quantities involved would not be significant in the context of regional landfill capacity and would only be disposed of to landfill as a last resort.

6.15.24 With embedded mitigation measures in place, the anticipated waste streams and quantities of waste to be disposed of to landfill are anticipated to be below 1% of regional inert and non-hazardous landfill capacity. Significant waste effects are not expected during construction of the Scheme.

Operation and Maintenance

6.15.25 During operation and maintenance, there are expected to be no on-site staff with additional staffing/visitors such as maintenance workers and deliveries attending site as needed. Therefore, waste generation is expected to be negligible as Solar PV Panels do not generate any waste as part of the energy production process.

6.15.26 During the anticipated 60-year design life of the Scheme it is expected that there would be requirement for periodic replacement of some, or all of the electrical infrastructure.

6.15.27 Recycling routes are generally available for component replacement waste, and it is likely that there would be even greater opportunities for recycling in the future.

6.15.28 It is likely that the Solar PV Panels and battery waste generated by the Scheme during operation would be managed by specialist regional or national facilities, and that such facilities would be developed over the operation and maintenance phase in response to demand generated by the UK-wide Solar PV Panel industry.

6.15.29 It is assumed that specialist regional or national facilities would be in place at the time of component replacement and decommissioning, and these would be developed in response to demand generated by the UK-wide Solar PV Panel industry and waste components would be reused, recycled, or recovered and not disposed of to landfill.

6.15.30 With embedded mitigation measures in place, the overall quantities of operational waste to be disposed of to landfill are anticipated to be below 1% of regional inert and non-hazardous landfill capacity and less than 0.1% of national hazardous landfill capacity.

Mitigation

6.15.31 The Scheme will aim to prioritise waste prevention, followed by preparing for reuse, recycling and recovery and lastly disposal to landfill as per the waste hierarchy. All management of waste would be accordance with the relevant regulations and waste would be transported by licenced hauliers.

6.15.32 The construction of the Scheme would be subject to measures and procedures defined within a CEMP and SWMP. The CEMP and SWMP will be secured by a Requirement in the DCO and include the implementation of industry standard practice and control measures.

6.15.33 The operation and maintenance of the Scheme would be subject to measures and procedures defined within an Operational Management Plan (OEMP) and will include the approach for material and waste management on-site, including component replacement.

6.15.34 The decommissioning of the Scheme would be subject to measures and procedures defined within a Decommissioning Strategy which will include the approach for material and waste management on-site.

6.15.35 No additional mitigation has been identified as being required for the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the Scheme.

Residual Effects

6.15.36 **No residual significant effects** have been identified during the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the Scheme.

Telecommunications, Utilities and Television

Baseline and Context

6.15.37 There are several cables, pylons and pipelines crossing the Scheme which are owned and operated by a number of different utilities providers.

6.15.38 Utilities surveys are currently ongoing which will identify the precise locations of any cables, pylons and pipelines. Initial discussions have been undertaken with providers to confirm potential assets across the Development Area and their required offsets.

6.15.39 There are a number of overhead cables running across all parts of the Scheme.

Assessment of Effects

6.15.40 The Scheme is unlikely to interfere with telecommunications infrastructure due to the relatively low height of the Solar PV Panels and other Scheme infrastructure. The low-lying infrastructure is also unlikely to interfere with digital television signals. Therefore, it is anticipated that there would be no significant effects in relation to telecommunications and television reception.

6.15.41 The potential exists for utilities on the Site to be affected during the construction of the Scheme through inadvertent damage caused as a result of excavation and engineering activities, such as cabling. However, with embedded mitigation in place to identify, avoid and manage utilities interactions, it is expected that there would be no significant effects.

6.15.42 No effects on utilities are predicted as a result of the operation and maintenance phase of the Scheme given that below-ground works would be limited in nature.

6.15.43 Effects during decommissioning on utilities are dependant on several factors. The embedded mitigation used during construction would also apply during decommissioning and with the implementation of such measures, no significant adverse effects on utilities are predicted.

Mitigation

6.15.44 The following embedded mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Scheme design to identify and manage utilities interactions. These include precautionary measures such as:

- Locating the Scheme outside of utilities protected zones, where practicable;
- Above-ground infrastructure located with adequate offsets from existing telecommunications and utility infrastructure;
- Use of topographical data alongside mapping provided by telecommunication and utilities providers to ensure underground and overground utilities are adequately offset;
- The use of ground penetrating radar before excavation to identify any unknown utilities; and
- Consultation and agreement of construction/demobilisation methods prior to the works commencing.

6.15.45 No additional mitigation is identified as being required during the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases.

Residual Effects

6.15.46 The Scheme is to be designed so that sufficient off-set distances are provided between on-site infrastructure associated with the development and underground and overground services. As such, **no significant** residual effects to telecommunications, utilities, and television are anticipated.

Glint and Glare

Baseline and Context

6.15.47 The location of the Scheme is rural, surrounded by roads, dwellings, PRoW, railway, and local airfields. Five airfields have been identified for assessment, along with road receptors along the A429 and the Bradfield Cottages Road, 248 dwellings receptors, 94 receptors along the railway line and several kilometres of footpaths and bridleways.

Assessment of Effects

6.15.48 Solar reflections are possible towards two airfields within the Study Area. A **low impact** is predicted towards aviation activity associated with Badminton Airfield and **no impact** is predicted towards Hullavington

Airfield. While the impact is **not significant**, nevertheless, consultation with the airfields would be undertaken.

6.15.49 With the implementation of mitigation measures in certain locations, as detailed in the section below, impacts to road receptors, dwelling receptors, railway receptors and PRoW receptors are not significant.

Mitigation

6.15.50 No embedded mitigation measures have been included in the Glint and Glare assessment at this stage. The assessment has been conducted with consideration of the baseline conditions only and this is considered to be a reasonable worst case scenario.

6.15.51 The Glint and Glare Assessment for the ES will take into account embedded mitigation measures.

6.15.52 Additional mitigation measures in the form of vegetation screening along the Scheme boundary in areas where potential significant impacts have been identified, including a 0.7 km section of the Bradfield Cottages Road.

Residual Effects

6.15.53 No significant residual effects have been identified following the implementation of additional mitigation measures. Residual effects will be identified and stated within the ES.

Electromagnetic Fields

Baseline and Context

6.15.54 The Scheme would be located on predominantly agricultural land. There are existing cable routes and electrical infrastructure within the Study Area and surrounding areas which will have associated EMF.

6.15.55 The Scheme will not use any of the existing cable routes or other associated electrical infrastructure present within the Scheme Boundary. Therefore, the focus of the assessment will be primarily on the Scheme's proposed electrical infrastructure, rather than any existing electrical infrastructure.

Assessment of Effects

6.15.56 The maximum magnetic field level at 1 metre above ground, for a direct buried single underground cable 0.9m below ground level, is below standard reference levels. This is considering a 400kV underground cable, which represents the maximum assumed voltage for underground cables in the Scheme.

6.15.57 The electrical design is considering the possibility of up to three high-voltage cables within a single trench along sections of the Cable Route Corridor. However, it is considered that this scenario could potentially result in a cumulative impact on the resultant magnetic field intensity. The precise voltages and quantity of cables within the cable trenches are still awaiting confirmation. The Applicant will implement necessary EMF mitigation measures to ensure that the levels of electromagnetic radiation at existing residential properties, places of work, and PoWs from the proposed cable routes remain within standard reference levels

6.15.58 Where the 400kV cable configuration design is used, conservative setback distances using a conservative and worst-case approach would be recommended and implemented into the cable design.

6.15.59 Considering the medium sensitivity of receptors and the low magnitude of EMF impacts, the overall significance of the effect would be **minor**.

Mitigation

6.15.60 The Scheme will be designed so that the maximum levels of electromagnetic radiation received at existing residential properties, places of work, and PRoW, from the proposed 400kV Grid Connection Cables during operation would be below industry standard levels.

6.15.61 There would be no overhead cables as part of the Scheme. Underground cables significantly reduce the risk of significant EMF impacts upon human health as there are no electric fields above ground associated with underground cables.

6.15.62 When the cable design is finalised, minimum setback distances between receptors and electrical cables would be implemented if required.

Residual Effects

6.15.63 Whilst at this stage of the Scheme, residual effects have not been fully assessed, it is anticipated that through the use of the embedded mitigation measures and the implementation of well-established good industry practices, the Scheme will result in no significant residual adverse EMF effects on human health.

Major Accidents and Disasters

Baseline and Context

6.15.64 As set out in the Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) guidance document ‘Major Accidents and Disasters in EIA: A Primer:

- 'Accidents' are an occurrence resulting from uncontrolled developments in the course of construction, operation, and maintenance, and decommissioning (e.g. a major emission, fire or explosion); and
- 'Disasters' are naturally occurring extreme weather events or ground related hazard events (e.g. subsidence, landslide, earthquake).

6.15.65 There are several sensitive receptors present in the vicinity of the Scheme which could be vulnerable to major accidents or disasters, including towns, villages, farms and residential homes, roads, designated ecological sites, designated heritage sites, and underground utilities and services

Assessment of Effects

6.15.66 By their very nature, major accidents and disasters have the potential to lead to moderate or major adverse effects, irrespective of the Scheme. Therefore, the focus is on prevention and response planning to reduce any additional risk or effect of this happening which may arise as a result of the Scheme.

6.15.67 An assessment of the vulnerability of the Scheme to flooding and consideration of flood risk and drainage will be provided in the Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage chapter of the ES.

6.15.68 There is a potential fire risk with certain types of batteries, such as lithium ion, which may be used for the BESS. The Scheme design includes cooling systems for the batteries, which are designed to regulate temperatures to within safe conditions to minimise the risk of fire. Health and safety on-site would be managed by the contractor during construction and decommissioning to mitigate the risk of fire in accordance with relevant legislation and guidance.

6.15.69 There are no sites recorded on the HSE's Public Information about Establishments that are covered by the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations 2015 within 3 km of the Scheme.

6.15.70 The Great Western Main Line (between London and Swansea) crosses through the centre of the Scheme. Network Rail will be consulted, and the potential for glint and glare will be considered within the Glint and Glare section of the Other Environmental Matters chapter of the ES. If any risks are identified, subsequent mitigation would be considered and, where necessary, incorporated into the Scheme design.

6.15.71 An assessment of the vulnerability of the Scheme to unstable ground conditions will be provided in the Ground Conditions chapter of the ES.

Mitigation

6.15.72 The Scheme layout seeks to avoid greatest areas of flood risk and avoids existing utilities to reduce risk of damage or severance. Fire suppression will be embedded into the design of the battery energy storage containers.

6.15.73 Minimising the risk of major accidents and disasters during construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning will be addressed through appropriate risk assessments, as will be set out in the Outline CEMP, OEMP and Decommissioning Strategy to be submitted with the DCO.

6.15.74 An Outline BSMP will also be developed for the Scheme and submitted with the DCO.

6.15.75 No additional mitigation is identified as being required during the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases.

Residual Effects

6.15.76 It is considered that all major accident and disaster risk events associated with the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Scheme can be appropriately mitigated through design and the application of management plans that will be submitted as part of the DCO Application. No significant major accident and disaster effects would arise.

6.16 Cumulative and In-Combination Effects

6.16.1 This section summarises the key findings of the preliminary assessment of the cumulative and in-combination effects for the Scheme. The full preliminary cumulative and in-combination assessment is found in **Volume 1, Chapter 21**.

In-Combination Effects

6.16.2 In-combination effects are the combined effect of individual impacts from the Scheme that are likely to result in a new or different likely significant effect, or an effect of greater significance, than any one of the impacts on their own. The assessment draws on the assessment of impacts provided in **Volume 1, Chapter 7 to 20**.

6.16.3 There is the potential for both adverse and beneficial effect interactions associated with the Scheme, for example, combined noise and visual impacts on receptors in close proximity during the construction phase. The likelihood of effect interactions resulting in significant effects will be reported in the ES, following completion of the individual environmental topic assessments.

Cumulative Effects

6.16.4 The assessment of cumulative effects arising from the Scheme in combination with other proposed Schemes (inter-project effects) is based upon a review of current submitted planning applications, as well as a study of planning policy documents.

6.16.5 A list of cumulative developments that overlap the Development Area or are located close enough to have the potential to generate significant cumulative effects have been identified and shared with Wiltshire Council for comment. A longlist of cumulative developments is found in **Volume 3, Appendix 21-1** and a short list of cumulative developments is found in **Volume 1, Chapter 21**.

6.16.6 An assessment of the cumulative effects of the Scheme along with the shortlisted cumulative developments is presented in each technical chapter (**Volume 1, Chapter 7 to 20**) and summarised in Table 21-4 of **Volume 1, Chapter 21**.

6.16.7 Within the majority of technical chapters, no likely significant effects have been identified through the cumulative effects assessment where they were not already predicted for the Scheme in isolation. Nor are any significant effects associated with the Scheme made greater (e.g. Moderate to Major) when considering these other developments alongside the Scheme. Therefore, effects resulting from the Scheme alongside other cumulative developments are **not significant**.

7 Summary and Conclusions

7.1.1 The PEIR explains the interim findings of the EIA process that has been undertaken for the Scheme.

7.1.2 A number of environmental impact avoidance, design and mitigation measures have been identified to mitigate and control environmental effects during the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the Scheme. It is proposed that these will be secured through appropriate requirements and other controls within the DCO for the Scheme, should this be granted.

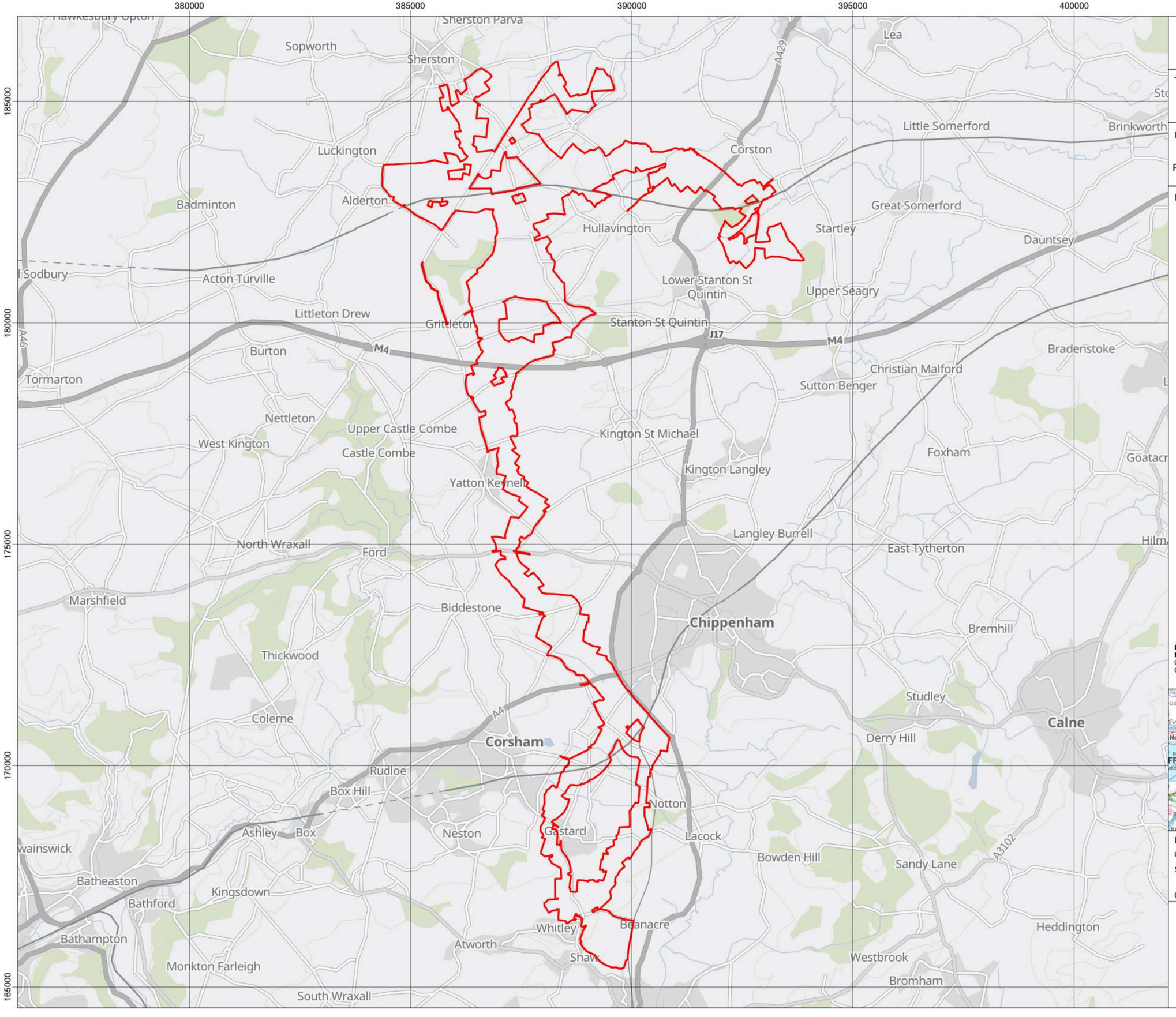
7.1.3 Feedback from the consultation process will continue to be taken into account when preparing the DCO application and in undertaking the EIA process. An ES will accompany the DCO application. The ES will present the final findings and conclusions associated with the EIA process.

8 References

Ref 1 The Planning Act 2008 (as amended). Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/pdfs/ukpga_20080029_en.pdf

Ref 2 Planning Inspectorate (2020) Advice Note 7: EIA: Process, Preliminary Environmental Information and Environmental Statements. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-note-seven-environmental-impact-assessment-process-preliminary-environmental-information-an.

Ref 3 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended). Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/572.



Lime Down Solar Park

Title:

Figure 1: Development Area

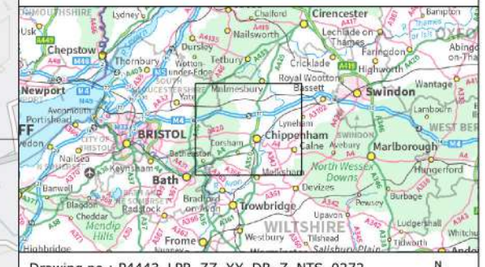
Document:

Volume 4
Non-Technical Summary
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

Legend:

Development Area

Data: IGP, 2024
Base map: © Crown copyright and database rights 2024 Ordnance Survey 0100031673. Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2023 Contains data from OS Zoomstack



Drawing no.: P4443_LPR_ZZ_XX_DR_Z_NTS_0272
Coordinate system: British National Grid
Scale: 1:80,000 @ A3

0 2 4 km

Island GREEN POWER

Lanpro

Lime Down Solar Park

Title:

Figure 2: Elements of the Site

Document:

Volume 4
Non-Technical Summary
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

Legend:

- Solar PV Sites
- Cable Route Search Corridor
- Highway Improvement Areas
- Existing National Grid Melksham Substation (PoC)

Data: IGP, 2024
Base map: © Crown copyright and database rights 2024 Ordnance Survey 0100031673. Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2023 Contains data from OS Zoomstack

Drawing no.: P4443_LPR_ZZ_XX_DR_Z_NTS_0273

Coordinate system: British National Grid

Scale: 1:80,000 @ A3

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Island GREEN POWER

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186000 184000 182000 180000

Lime Down A
Lime Down B
Lime Down C
Lime Down D
Lime Down E
Lime Down E

1 2 2a 2b 3 4 4a 4b 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 17a 17b 18

SHERSTON CP
NORTON CP
HULLAVINGTON CP
GRITTLETON CP
STANTON ST QUINTIN CP
ST PAUL MALMESBURY WITHOUT CP

Lime Down Solar Park

Title:
Figure 3: Key Construction Phase Features

Document:
Volume 4
Non-Technical Summary
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

Legend:
- Solar PV Sites
- Cable Route Search Corridor
- Highway Improvement Areas
- Indicative Temporary Construction Compounds
- Existing or New Access Location
- New Crossing Location
- Access Track

Data: IGP, 2024
Base map: © Crown copyright and database rights 2024 Ordnance Survey 0100031673.

Drawing no.: P4443_LPR_ZZ_XX_DR_Z_NTS_0274
Coordinate system: British National Grid
Scale: 1:30,000 @ A3

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Island GREEN POWER
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Lime Down A
Lime Down B
Lime Down C
Lime Down D
Lime Down E
Lime Down E
400kV Substation
BESS Area

SHERSTON CP
NORTON CP
HULLAVINGTON CP
STANTON ST QUINTIN CP
GRITTLETON CP
ST PAUL MALMESBURY WITHOUT CP

Sherston
Easton Grey
Pinkney Park
Foxley
Norton
Maidford
Kings Heath
Corston
Rodbourne
Hullavington
Stanton St Quintin
Grittleton
Foscote
Leigh Delamere
Burton Hill

M4

Lime Down Solar Park

Title:
Figure 4: Indicative Site Layout Plan

Document:
Volume 4
Non-Technical Summary
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

Legend:

- Solar PV Sites
- Cable Route Search Corridor
- Highway Improvement Areas
- Existing or New Access Location
- New Crossing Location

Indicative Site Layout

- Solar PV Area
- 400kV Substation
- BESS Area
- 132kV Substation
- Access Track
- Fence

For further detail in relation to the proposed hedgerow and woodland planting, green corridors, mitigation areas and roadside and riparian planting, refer to the Indicative Masterplan (PEIR Figures 8.15.1 to 8.15.5)

Drawing no.: P4443_LPR_ZZ_XX_DR_Z_NTS_0275
Coordinate system: British National Grid
Scale: 1:30,000 @ A3

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Island GREEN POWER

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Lime Down Solar Park

Title: Figure 5-1: Environmental and Planning Constraints Lime Down A

Document:
Volume 4
Non-Technical Summary
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

Legend:

- Solar PV Sites
- Cable Route Search Corridor
- Highway Improvement Areas
- Listed Building Grade I
- Listed Building Grade II*
- Listed Building Grade II
- Scheduled Monument
- Conservation Area
- Ancient Woodland
- National Landscape
- Flood Zone 3
- Flood Zone 2
- Statutory Main River
- Watercourse

Data: IGP, Natural England, Historic England, Environment Agency, National Grid, 2024
Base map: © Crown copyright and database rights 2024 Ordnance Survey 0100031673.

Drawing no.: P4443_LPR_ZZ_XX_DR_Z_NTS_277
Coordinate system: British National Grid
Scale: 1:15,000 @ A3

0 200 400 600 Metres

Island GREEN POWER

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Lime Down Solar Park

Title: Figure 5-2: Environmental and Planning Constraints Lime Down B

Document:
Volume 4
Non-Technical Summary
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

Legend:

- Solar PV Sites
- Cable Route Search Corridor
- Highway Improvement Areas
- Listed Building Grade I
- Listed Building Grade II*
- Listed Building Grade II
- Scheduled Monument
- Conservation Area
- Ancient Woodland
- National Landscape
- Flood Zone 3
- Flood Zone 2
- Statutory Main River
- Watercourse

Drawing no.: P4443_LPR_ZZ_XX_DR_Z_NTS_277
Coordinate system: British National Grid
Scale: 1:15,000 @ A3

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Island GREEN POWER

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Lime Down Solar Park

Title: Figure 5-3: Environmental and Planning Constraints Lime Down C

Document:
Volume 4
Non-Technical Summary
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

Legend:

- Solar PV Sites
- Cable Route Search Corridor
- Highway Improvement Areas
- Listed Building Grade II*
- Listed Building Grade II
- Scheduled Monument
- Conservation Area
- Ancient Woodland
- National Landscape
- Flood Zone 3
- Flood Zone 2
- Statutory Main River
- Watercourse

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Drawing no.: P4443_LPR_ZZ_XX_DR_Z_NTS_277
Coordinate system: British National Grid
Scale: 1:15,000 @ A3

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Lime Down Solar Park

Title: Figure 5-4: Environmental and Planning Constraints Lime Down D

Document:
Volume 4
Non-Technical Summary
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

Legend:
- Solar PV Sites
- Cable Route Search Corridor
- Highway Improvement Areas
- Listed Building Grade I
- Listed Building Grade II*
- Listed Building Grade II
- Conservation Area
- Ancient Woodland
- Flood Zone 3
- Flood Zone 2
- Statutory Main River
- Watercourse

Drawing no.: P4443_LPR_ZZ_XX_DR_Z_NTS_277

Coordinate system: British National Grid

Scale: 1:15,000 @ A3

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Lime Down Solar Park

Title: Figure 5-5: Environmental and Planning Constraints Lime Down E

Document:
Volume 4
Non-Technical Summary
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

Legend:

- Solar PV Sites
- Cable Route Search Corridor
- Highway Improvement Areas
- Listed Building Grade II*
- Listed Building Grade II
- Scheduled Monument
- Conservation Area
- Ancient Woodland
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Local Nature Reserves (LNR)
- Flood Zone 3
- Flood Zone 2
- Statutory Main River
- Watercourse

Data: IGP, Natural England, Historic England, Environment Agency, National Grid, 2024
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Drawing no.: P4443_LPR_ZZ_XX_DR_Z_NTS_277
Coordinate system: British National Grid
Scale: 1:15,000 @ A3

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Island GREEN POWER

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Lime Down Solar Park

Title: Figure 5-6: Environmental and Planning Constraints Cable Route Search Corridor

Document:
Volume 4
Non-Technical Summary
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

Legend:

- Cable Route Search Corridor
- Highway Improvement Areas
- Listed Building Grade II*
- Listed Building Grade II
- Scheduled Monument
- Conservation Area
- Ancient Woodland
- National Landscape
- Flood Zone 3
- Flood Zone 2
- Statutory Main River
- Watercourse
- 400kV Overhead Line
- Electricity Tower

Data: IGP, Natural England, Historic England, Environment Agency, National Grid, 2024
Base map: © Crown copyright and database rights 2024 Ordnance Survey 0100031673.

Drawing no.: P4443_LPR_ZZ_XX_DR_Z_NTS_277
Coordinate system: British National Grid
Scale: 1:15,000 @ A3

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Island GREEN POWER

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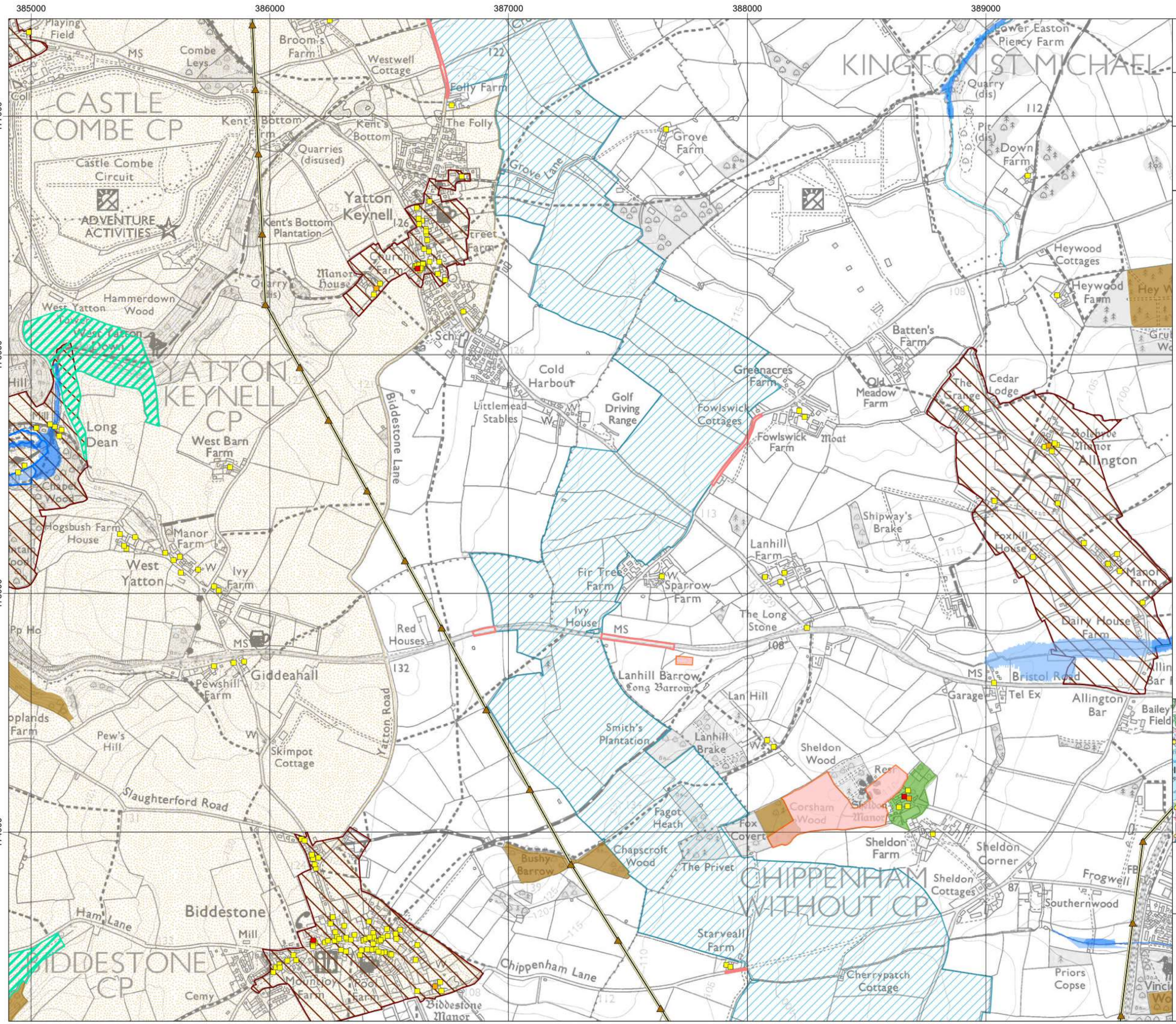

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CASTLE COMBE CP
YATTON KEYNELL CP
BIDDESTONE CP
CHIPPENHAM WITHOUT CP
KINGTON ST MICHAEL
Castle Combe Circuit
ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES
Yatton Keynell
Biddestone
Allington
Long Dean
West Yatton
Giddeahall
Playing Field
Combe Leys
Broom's Farm
Westwell Cottage
Folly Farm
The Folly
Kent's Bottom Farm
Kent's Bottom
Quarries (disused)
Kent's Bottom Plantation
Grove Farm
Grove Lane
Lower Easton Piercy Farm
Down Farm
Heywood Cottages
Heywood Farm
Batten's Farm
Cedar Lodge
The Grange
Old Meadow Farm
Greenacres Farm
Fowlswick Cottages
Fowlswick Farm
Moat
Cold Harbour
Golf Driving Range
Littlemead Stables
Biddestone Lane
Hammerdown Wood
West Yatton Down
West Barn Farm
Hogsbush Farm House
Manor Farm
Ivy Farm
Shipway's Brake
Lanhill Farm
Foxhill House
Fir Tree Farm
Sparrow Farm
Ivy House
Red Houses
The Long Stone
Dairy House Farm
Bristol Road
Garage
Tel Ex
Allington Bar
Bailey Field
Lanhill Barrow
Long Barrow
Lan Hill
Pewshill Farm
Pew's Hill
Skimpot Cottage
Yatton Road
Slaughterford Road
Smith's Plantation
Lanhill Brake
Sheldon Wood
Corsham Wood
Sheldon Manor
Sheldon Farm
Sheldon Corner
Sheldon Cottages
Fox Covert
Fagot Heath
Bushy Barrow
Chapscroft Wood
The Privet
Frogwell
Southernwood
Starveall Farm
Cherrypatch Cottage
Priors Copse
Chippenham Lane
Ham Lane
Mill
Mounjoy Farm
Biddestone Manor
Cemy

Title: Figure 5-7: Environmental and Planning Constraints Cable Route Search Corridor

Document: Volume 4 Non-Technical Summary Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

Legend:
- Cable Route Search Corridor
- Highway Improvement Areas
- Listed Building Grade I
- Listed Building Grade II*
- Listed Building Grade II
- Scheduled Monument
- Conservation Area
- Registered Parks and Gardens
- Ancient Woodland
- National Landscape
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Flood Zone 3
- Flood Zone 2
- Statutory Main River
- Watercourse
- 400kV Overhead Line
- Electricity Tower

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Drawing no.: P4443_LPR_ZZ_XX_DR_Z_NTS_277
Coordinate system: British National Grid
Scale: 1:15,000 @ A3

0 200 400 600 Metres

Lime Down Solar Park

Title: Figure 5-8: Environmental and Planning Constraints Cable Route Search Corridor

Document:
Volume 4
Non-Technical Summary
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

Legend:
- Cable Route Search Corridor
- Highway Improvement Areas
- Listed Building Grade I
- Listed Building Grade II*
- Listed Building Grade II
- Conservation Area
- Registered Parks and Gardens
- Ancient Woodland
- Flood Zone 3
- Flood Zone 2
- Statutory Main River
- Watercourse
- 400kV Overhead Line
- Electricity Tower
- Cable

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Drawing no.: P4443_LPR_ZZ_XX_DR_Z_NTS_277
Coordinate system: British National Grid
Scale: 1:15,000 @ A3

0 200 400 600 Metres

Island GREEN POWER

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169000 168000 167000 166000

Lime Down Solar Park

Title: Figure 5-9: Environmental and Planning Constraints Cable Route Search Corridor

Document:
Volume 4
Non-Technical Summary
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

Legend:

- Cable Route Search Corridor
- Highway Improvement Areas
- Listed Building Grade I
- Listed Building Grade II*
- Listed Building Grade II
- Conservation Area
- Registered Parks and Gardens
- Ancient Woodland
- Flood Zone 3
- Flood Zone 2
- Statutory Main River
- Watercourse
- 400kV Overhead Line
- Substation
- Electricity Tower
- Cable

Data: IGP, Natural England, Historic England, Environment Agency, National Grid, 2024
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Drawing no.: P4443_LPR_ZZ_XX_DR_Z_NTS_277
Coordinate system: British National Grid
Scale: 1:15,000 @ A3

0 200 400 600 Metres

Island GREEN POWER

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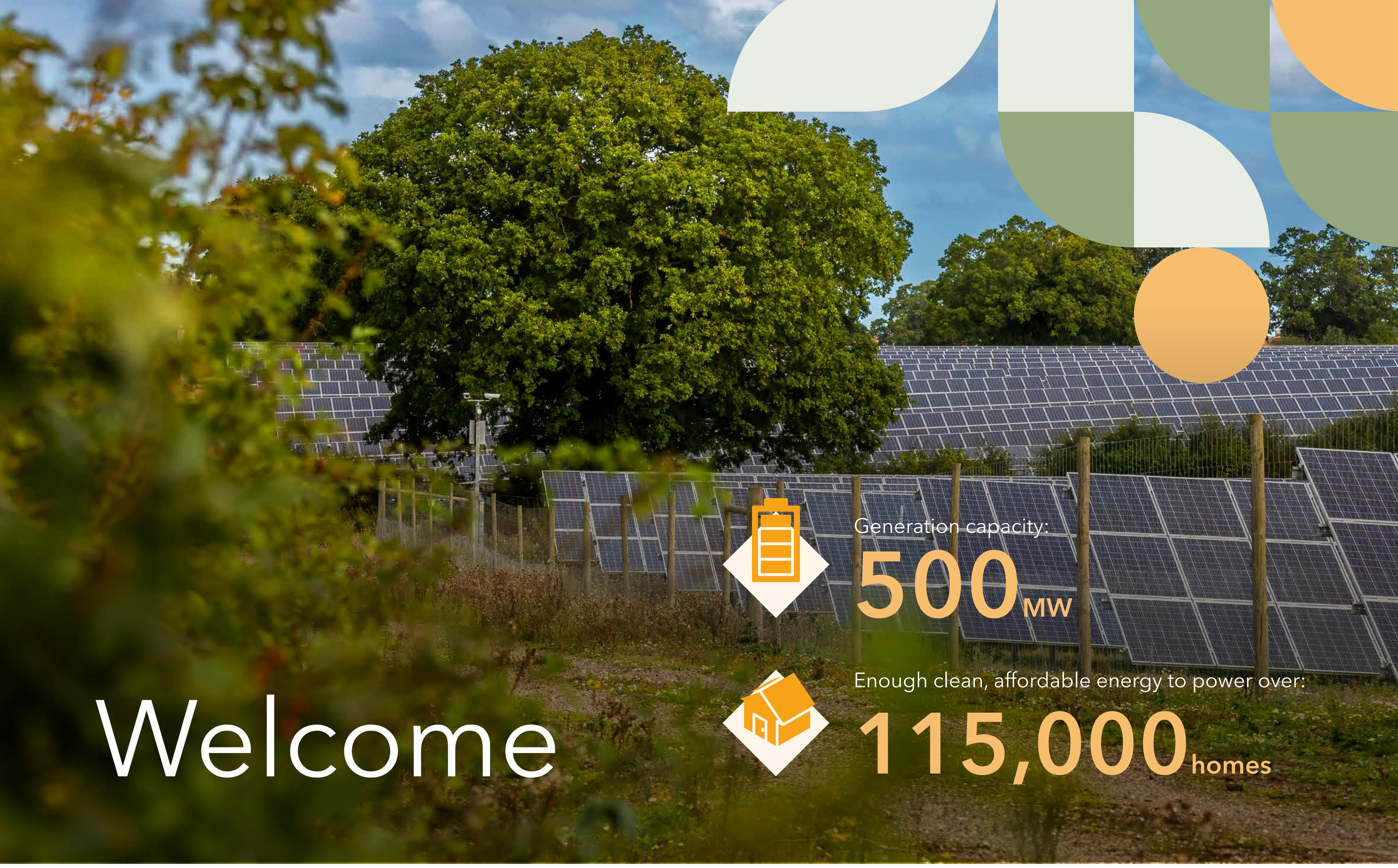
7 Event Display Panels



Welcome

Generation capacity:
500MW

Enough clean, affordable energy to power over:
115,000 homes

We are consulting on our proposals for Lime Down Solar Park – a new solar and energy storage project in Wiltshire, as well as associated infrastructure to connect the Project to the national grid at Melksham Substation.

As we work to deliver this vision, we want to ensure people living and working in the area have the opportunity to inform and influence the development of our proposals.

This consultation – 29 January to 19 March 2025

After holding an initial consultation in 2024 on our early stage proposals for Lime Down Solar Park, we have continued to refine our plans, with the findings from extensive environmental studies we're conducting as well as feedback received during the first consultation being used to inform that process.

We're now inviting you to take part in this second consultation to tell us what you think about our more detailed plans.

Your views are important to us. We will use your feedback to help update the proposals we plan to submit to the Planning Inspectorate later this year.

Why do we need Lime Down Solar Park?

The way we consume energy is changing. The move towards renewables and the transition away from fossil fuels is an environmental and economic necessity. At the same time electricity demand is expected to double by 2050. Increasing our solar energy capacity is essential if the UK is to hit its target of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050 while also meeting demand.

The Government's Clean Power 2030 Action Plan sets out the target to more than treble solar power by 2030, equivalent to around 50 gigawatts (GW) of generation capacity and explains how accelerating domestic renewable energy sources will work to enhance energy security. Additionally, National Grid estimates over 35.5 GW of battery energy storage systems would be needed to meet net zero targets by 2050.

With an anticipated generation capacity of up to 500 megawatts (MW) of clean affordable electricity and 250MW of electricity storage Lime Down Solar Park would make a vital contribution to achieving net zero targets, while providing energy security of supply and value to us all.

Lime Down Solar Park

Island GREEN POWER

Island Green Power who we are

Lime Down Solar Park Limited is part of Island Green Power (IGP). Established in 2013, IGP is a leading developer of renewable energy projects and specialise in the development of utility-scale solar projects and battery energy storage systems; overseeing the development process from start to finish, including sourcing land, securing grid connections and obtaining planning consents.

We are committed to help the UK decarbonise and meet net zero goals. Our mission is to help the UK increase its solar energy generation, making more renewable energy possible while drastically reducing carbon emissions.

We are equally committed to responsible land use, developing projects that work in harmony with local communities and the environment, while delivering bespoke benefits and enhancements best suited to the surroundings.

Over the last decade we have successfully delivered over 34 projects worldwide totalling more than one gigawatt of clean, renewable energy assets. This covers 17 projects in the UK and Ireland, including the recently consented NSIP developments Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project.

Lime Down
Solar Park

The Project site

The application we submit to the Planning Inspectorate – known as a Development Consent Order (DCO) – will comprise the solar development area and the underground cable connection to the national grid at Melksham Substation. Combined these are known as 'the Development Area.'

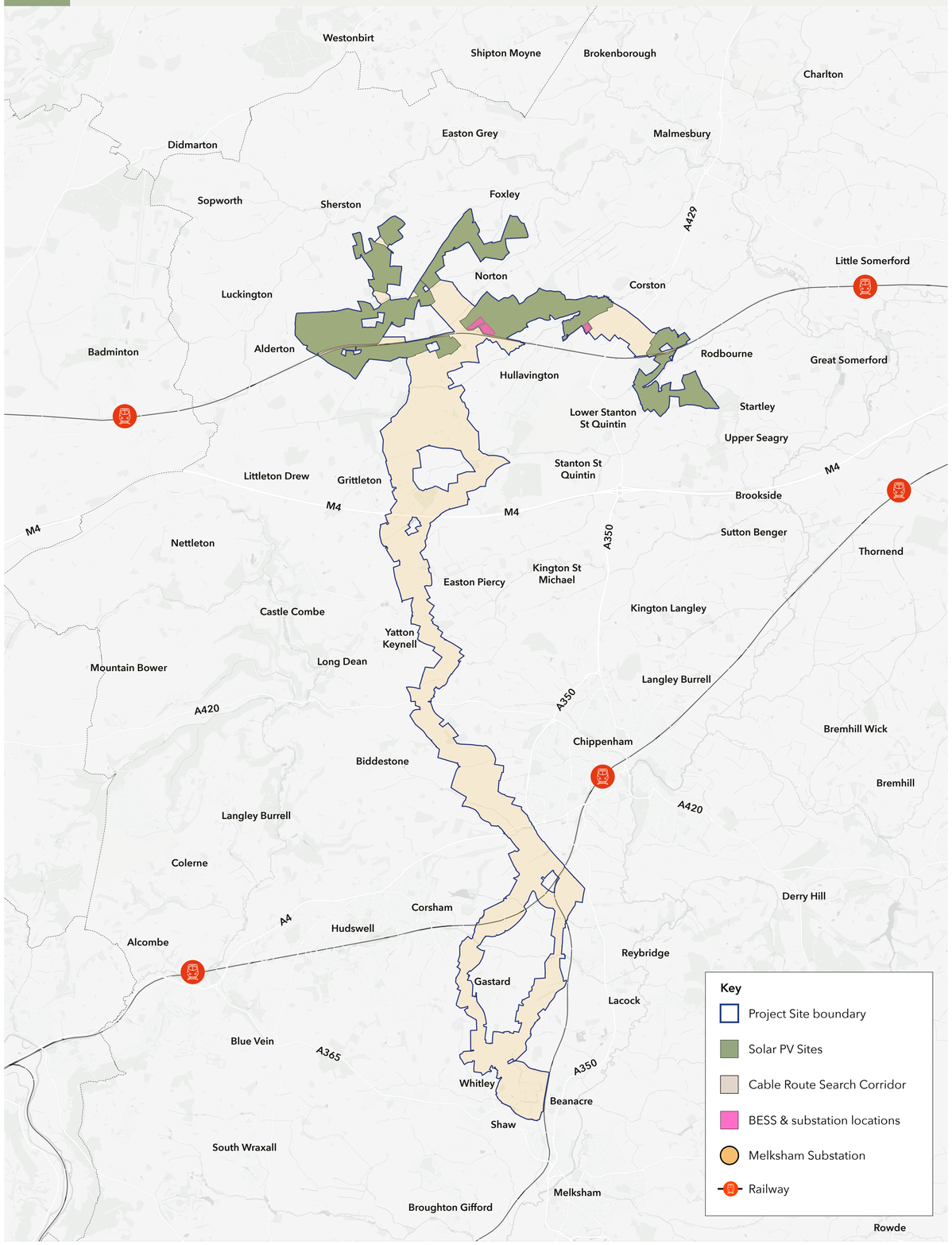
The Development Area covers an area of approximately 2,834 hectares (ha). The map shows extent of the land required for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Project and the grid connection to Melksham.

The solar development area is made up of five land parcels (Lime Down A, B, C, D and E) comprising a total 878 ha. Of this area 53 per cent (464 ha) will be used for solar panels, battery storage and associated infrastructure, while the remaining 47 per cent (414 ha) has been allocated for environmental purposes, including mitigation measures, biodiversity net gain initiatives, and offsets, all contributing to deliver significant environmental and ecological benefits to the local area.

The Cable Route Search Corridor stretches about 22 km from the 'Lime Down D' site to Melksham Substation, and also links Lime Down A to E together. It covers approximately 1,947 ha of mainly agricultural land, and ranges in width from 75 metres to 2 km. We will refine this corridor before submitting our application for development consent to PINS.

The electricity generated by Lime Down Solar Park would be exported through underground cables to the existing grid connection into Melksham Substation, which lies approximately 3 km to the north of Melksham near the villages of Beanacre and Whitley.

Project location and site boundary



Lime Down
Solar Park

This consultation

This second stage of consultation is intended to present our updated proposals and invite your feedback about how they have evolved.

We're specifically inviting feedback on:

+ The overall Project.
+ The indicative layout for the solar development.
+ The route for an underground cable connecting the Project into the national grid.
+ Measures we're proposing to reduce the effects of the development.
+ Suggestions for initiatives the Project could support to benefit local communities.
+ Anything else you think is important.

How we got here

We've considered all the feedback submitted to the initial consultation along with the findings from our ongoing environmental and technical surveys to further develop our proposals for Lime Down Solar Park. We have sought to develop our more detailed design in a way that responds to the sensitivities of the local landscape, preserves wildlife and habitats, enhances the environment and reduces impacts on neighbouring communities.

We'd like to thank you for helping us understand what different individuals, groups and organisations feel is most important to them.

In your feedback to our first consultation, some of the areas you asked us to consider include:

Views of the surrounding countryside and the character of local villages

Protect soil quality and agricultural land for food production

Reduce visibility and noise from neighbouring properties

Avoid increasing flood risk

Protect wildlife and the local environment

Protect PRoW, recreation and amenity with a view to human health and wellbeing

Avoid impact on archaeology and heritage assets

Consider the impact on the local economy

Avoid disruption to roads during construction

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Lime Down Solar Park

Our proposals – what's changed

We used your feedback and environmental information to inform our updated plans for Lime Down Solar Park.

The revised proposals we're now consulting on have been informed by our ongoing survey work and the comments we received to our Stage One consultation.

You said	We did
Protect views and the setting of the Cotswold National Landscape	Our latest proposals include plans for green corridors, reinforced hedgerow and roadside planting, and enhanced riparian planting to reduce visual impacts of the Project. We have also created buffers and offsets from homes, vegetation, watercourses and drains, PRoWs, woodland and listed buildings.
Reduce impacts on soil quality and agriculture	The solar development areas would be returned to their original use and condition when the Project reaches the end of its lifespan. As the land will have been undisturbed during operation and maintenance, the health, quality, and structure of soils within the Solar PV Sites is likely to improve.
Safeguard local wildlife and ecology	Specific ecological measures are proposed to achieve biodiversity net gain, including substantial new hedgerow and tree planting, grassland habitat creation and ecological features.
Protect heritage and archaeology assets	We've removed panels in areas with archaeological and heritage sensitivities and proposed enhanced screening and offsets to reduce impacts to heritage assets. This includes near the Fosse Way and Fosse Lodge, and both Alderton and Sherston Conservations Areas.
Construction and end-of-life	Construction activities would be limited and controlled by a suite of management documents to address the impact of HGVs on local roads an country lanes, and to avoid disrupting the local community and environment wherever possible. The Project would operate for up to 60 years, after which the land would be restored to its original use and condition as far as practicable.
Provide more details and visualisations about the Project components	The updated design shows the careful location of built elements, including the proposed solar panels, BESS, substations, and a refined cable route corridor.

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Lime Down
Solar Park

The solar development

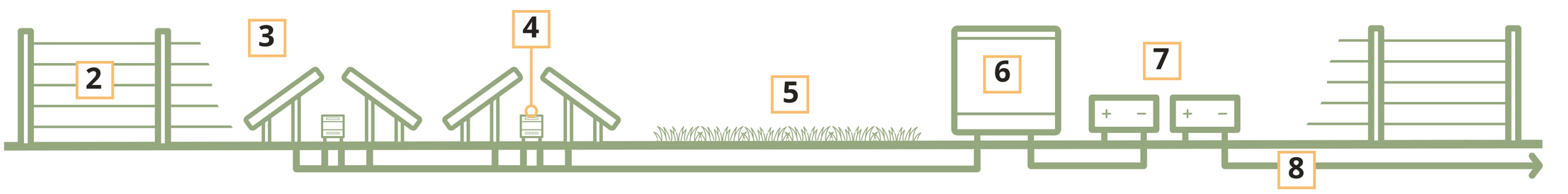
The main elements of the solar development would include the solar PV panels, the BESS, infrastructure and on-site substations.

The core components of the solar park would include:

+ Solar PV panels converting sunlight into electricity, and panel mounting structures.
+ Supporting infrastructure - inverters, transformers and switchgear – converting the direct current (DC) electricity collected by the Solar PV panels into alternating current (AC) and stepping up the voltage so it can be exported to the national grid.
+ An energy storage system (the BESS) enabling electricity generated by the Solar PV panels to be stored on-site and released to the national grid when needed. It also enables energy to be imported from the national grid so it can be stored until it is needed.
+ Substations to export the electricity from the Solar PV panels to the national grid. The substations will include a control building with welfare facilities.
+ On-site cables connecting the Solar PV panels and BESS to the inverters which, in turn connect to the transformers.
+ Underground cables providing the electrical connection between the solar sites and, ultimately, the connection into the national grid at Melksham Substation.
+ Temporary construction compounds and temporary roadway accesses to enable access to the land within the Site for the purposes of constructing the Project.
+ Accesses to the Site during construction and for routine maintenance when the Project is operational.
+ Fencing comprising wire mesh and wooden posts to enclose operational areas of the site with pole mounted internal facing CCTV systems around the perimeter.
+ New planting, landscaping and biodiversity measures across the site and around the perimeter to enhance biodiversity and improve the landscape.

Components of a typical solar farm

1. Solar energy
2. Fencing
3. Solar panels
4. Inverter (DC to AC power converter)
5. Landscape area
6. Substation
7. Battery storage
8. Underground cable



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Sherston
Lime Down A
Foxley
Lime Down B
Norton
Lime Down C
Lime Down D
Corston
Rodbourne
A429
Hullavington
Lower Stanton Saint Quintin
Lime Down E
M4
M4
0 km
0.5 km

General mitigation principles

General mitigation principles applied across the solar development area:

+ Fill gaps in the existing hedgerows to make them stronger and healthier
+ Maintain hedgerows at a height of four metres were practical
+ Plant new native trees to improve the landscape and create a mix of younger and older trees where possible
+ Additional planting across the site to create layers of trees and hedgerows, enhance habitats and screen equipment from view
+ Strengthen the existing network of green spaces and water features, and improve or create new connections where possible
+ Enhance areas within the setting of the Cotswold National Landscape where possible

Buffers and offsets

Across the solar development area a buffer of fifteen metres has been maintained from all hedgerows and woodland with a minimum buffer of five metres to the site boundary and a further offset of four metres between fencing and panels.

Also factored into the design of the solar development are buffers to reduce the potential impact the development could have on the specific landscape and environment features, nearby people or wildlife including:

+ Building buffers – min. 50 metres maintained from existing residential property
+ Tree and woodland buffers - individual trees or groups of trees will be maintained within a 10 metre buffer
+ Ancient Woodland Buffers – min. 15 metres maintained to protect ancient woodland and avoid root damage
+ Public Rights of Way – min. 15 metre offset from footpath and/or bridleway users
+ Pond buffers – ponds will be retained within a min. 10 metre buffer
+ Watercourse buffer - ditches and watercourses will be maintained within an eight metre buffer, increasing to 30 metres for major watercourses

More information about buffer distances can be found in **PEIR Volume 1 , Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual (Table 8-8).**

Solar Development Areas - Indicative Layout

Key

- Solar development
- BESS & substation locations
- Cable route search corridor

Proposed mitigation / enhancement

- Proposed landscape mitigation
- Biodiversity and habitat enhancement areas

Existing infrastructure & landscape features

- Watercourses
- Existing woodland and ancient woodland
- Railway Line

Solar development area overview

Total area: **878 ha** (2,170 acres)

- Solar development area: 464 ha (1,147 acres)
- BNG, environment and offsets: 414 ha (1,023 acres)

53% | 47%

More information

This is an indicative layout plan for the purposes of statutory consultation.

Areas and features shown are subject to change based on environmental assessment, design development and feedback received.

Lime Down
Solar Park

Connecting to the grid

We plan to build the electrical connection between the solar park and Melksham Substation by installing underground cables.

In our initial consultation, we identified broad cable route corridors within which an underground cable could be installed.

Our goal was to minimise ecological impact and protect cultural heritage by avoiding designated ecological sites, mature and historic woodlands, listed buildings, scheduled monuments, and conservation areas. We also aimed to shorten the corridors and reduce crossings over roads, railways, watercourses, and hedgerows wherever possible.

We have now refined the corridor, aligning it south from the on-site 400kV substations, crossing the M4 near Sevington, passing east of Yatton Keynell, and continuing south across the A420 east of Corsham before reaching Melksham Substation.

The Cable Route Search Corridor will be further refined through ongoing design work, with a narrower corridor included in our final application.

After installing the underground cable, the land will be restored and returned to its current use. Restrictions may apply to avoid the risk of cables being disturbed or damaged but typical agricultural activities can continue.

What is a cable route corridor?

A route corridor is a broad ribbon of land where an underground electrical connection could be routed. The corridor may vary in width depending on a range of factors including avoiding the location of:

+ Built up areas where people live.
+ Infrastructure including roads and railway lines.
+ Physical landscape features that may be sensitive in terms of ecology, heritage or landscape.
+ Protected sites including nature conservation areas.

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Lime Down Solar Park

Measures to reduce effects

Findings from our ongoing assessments are important in determining the potential impacts the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Project could have on the landscape, environment and local communities.

Reducing or avoiding impacts is a priority. In developing our proposals for the Project, we have incorporated a range of measures to minimise its impacts on a range of different factors.

Topic	Proposed measures to reduce effects
	Landscape and visual The Project will be designed to integrate within the landscape and existing vegetation patterns, sensitively aligning with the local landscape characteristics wherever possible. The design will incorporate minimum offsets from existing landscape features, including residential properties, ancient woodland, woodland and hedgerows, PRoWs and watercourses.
	Ecology and biodiversity We are proposing a range of buffers to avoid impacts on ditches, watercourses, ponds, woodland, hedgerows, trees, designated sites and badger setts, bat roosts and nesting sites. We propose using a technique called Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) for sections of the grid connection route. This involves drilling underground rather than digging open trenches, helping to avoid disturbing priority or sensitive habitats.
	Climate change Climate adaptation mitigation measures are being designed into the Project to ensure surface water is managed appropriately, flood risk is not increased, and impacts to human health receptors are mitigated. We are also assessing impacts on human health as a result of climate change, and the increased likelihood of extreme weather events and combination factors.
	Cultural heritage We have designed the grid connection route and the Solar PV Sites to avoid direct impacts on archaeologically sensitive areas. Some panels have been entirely removed as a result of archaeological or heritage sensitivities. To minimise such impacts as far as possible, we are proposing measures such as trenchless construction techniques, appropriate routing of vehicles and avoidance of archaeological remains preserved below ground wherever this is practicable.
	Hydrology, flood risk and drainage We are proposing a minimum buffer of eight metres around watercourses, flood-resilient service cabling, and will keep construction activities away from watercourses and drainage ditches. New access tracks will be designed to be permeable, and temporary drainage systems may also be installed during the construction phase to manage runoff and prevent blockages. There are no significant residual effects for flood risk and water resources during the construction, operation and decommissioning. The assessment will be reviewed and revised where necessary ahead of submission.
	Noise and vibration We propose to minimise operational noise and vibration impacts by strategically locating the BESS area and substation sites at least 450m and 400m (respectively) from sensitive receptors. After implementing our proposed measures, these impact would be limited during construction, operation and decommissioning. We will maintain dialogue with neighbours, providing advance notice on any construction activity which could give rise to noise and vibration, and retain a direct project communications channel so people can contact us directly if they have any queries or concerns.

Lime Down
Solar Park

Environment

Our focus is on ensuring the Project is well-designed to respond sensitively to the local environment, and to improve biodiversity and enhance local wildlife.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

As an EIA development, we must assess the Project's potential significant environmental impacts.

EIA is an iterative process, carried out alongside the development design process, to evaluate environmental effects—both positive and negative. It helps identify potential impacts and inform measures to minimise harm and enhance benefits.

The EIA results will be presented in the Environmental Statement (ES), which will form part of our final DCO application to PINS.

Biodiversity net gain (BNG)

A well-managed solar farm can serve as a nature reserve, enhancing wildlife and biodiversity. Panels are mounted on posts, minimising ground disturbance and allowing the land to support new plant and animal life.

To achieve BNG, our plans must leave local wildlife habitats in a measurably better state than before. We aim to exceed the minimum 10 per cent biodiversity gain required of developers by proposing measures such as:

+ New hedgerow and tree planting.
+ Reinforcing planting at existing hedgerow and field boundaries.
+ Creation of extensive grassland habitat.
+ Balanced use of grazing and cutting to manage grassland habitats beneath panels and maximise ecological benefits.
+ Enhancing habitats of local, regional or national significance.

Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)

We are surveying agricultural land across the solar development area to determine its ALC grading. ALC classifies land by quality and long-term agricultural use, using a grading system from Grade 1 (highest quality) to Grade 5 (lowest).

Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land falls within Grades 1 to 3a, ranging from 'excellent' to 'good' quality. Non-BMV land is graded 3b to 5.

So far, 70 per cent of the land surveyed for the Project is non-BMV. Where BMV land is included, we have worked with farmers to prioritise the least productive areas.
Impacts the Project could have on farmable land are reversible, and our plans include restoring land to its original use and condition as far as practicable.

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Lime Down
Solar Park

Construction, operation and decommissioning

If granted consent, construction could start mid-2027. We estimate it would take around two years to build, with the site potentially being operational from mid-2029.

Construction

Construction of the Solar PV Sites is expected to take about 24 months, installation of the underground grid connection cables is expected to take around 18 months.

Construction of Solar PV sites would involve site preparation and civil engineering works, the creation of temporary compounds, access works, the installation, testing and commissioning of the operation kit and equipment and installation of fencing, security, and lighting.

To minimise disruption to residents and impacts on the environment, we are proposing a number of measures including:

+ **Working hours:** core on-site working hours would be 7:00-18:00 Monday to Friday, and 8:00-13:30 on a Saturday.
+ **Construction staff:** while the number will vary, at the peak of activity (around 2027), there could be up to 558 staff on site.
+ **Construction traffic:** HGV would come directly to the compounds with kit and equipment then being transported within the site to minimise impact on the local road network.

To install the grid connection activities involve laying the cable circuits (using trenchless methods where required), construction of jointing bays to connect cables, then final testing and commissioning of electrical infrastructure.

Operation

When the Project becomes operational, onsite activity would be limited; mainly involving routine inspections and equipment maintenance to ensure the continued effective operation of the scheme, as well as vegetation management, component replacement, fence inspections, and system monitoring.

We anticipate employing a team of up to 15 staff, working on a site and remote basis. During this phase, the main access would be via Bradfield Cottages Road.

Decommissioning

Lime Down Solar Park is expected to be operational for up to 60 years. When it reaches the end of its operational life, the Solar PV Sites would be decommissioned in phases and the land restored to its original use and condition as far as practicable. Decommissioning is expected to take between 12 and 24 months.

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Lime Down Solar Park

Community benefits

We believe those communities living closest to the proposals should benefit from it – with these communities being best placed to recommend what a 'community benefit' should be.

We would like to continue working with you to identify and define community benefits, including building on suggestions made during Stage One consultation last year:

+ Funding to provide revenue or local projects and facilities (local churches, sports projects e.g. in Chippenham).
+ Community engagement on mitigation and enhancements options for local ecology.
+ Direct benefits for the local community through access to domestic solar panels and/or reduced energy costs.
+ Development of wildflower areas to support education initiatives, with wildlife/pollinator corridors to improve biodiversity.
+ Funding active travel between communities, including shared / dedicated pedestrian routes and signage for public footpaths/ routes (e.g. Gastard Nature walk).

We are continuing to investigate potential on-site and off-site initiatives we could support over the lifetime of the Project.

On-site initiatives:

+ Enhancing existing environmental and ecological features (woodland, hedgerows and ponds).
+ Delivering biodiversity net gain (e.g. through wildflower meadows).
+ The creation of permissive paths through the site.

Off-site initiatives:

+ A designated 'Community Benefit Fund' to support local charities, groups and educational programmes.
+ The provision of solar PV for educational facilities and domestic installations.
+ Supporting improvements to existing community initiatives.

We welcome suggestions of specific on-site and off-site initiatives, including different ways a Community Benefit Fund supporting local needs could be managed.

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Lime Down
Solar Park

The development process

Lime Down Solar Park is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) because it involves the construction of a solar generating station with an anticipated generating capacity exceeding 50 MW.

This means that we need to apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Project. Our application for development consent will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, the body responsible for managing the examination process for NSIPs.

After submitting our application, the Planning Inspectorate will decide whether the application meets the standards required to be accepted for examination, examine the application and then make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero on whether to grant consent. The Secretary of State will make the final decision on whether to grant a DCO for the Project.

2023

- **Q1**
- **Q2**
- **Q3** — Start of desk-based environmental surveys
- **Q4** — Early engagement with local authorities

2024

- **Q1** — Stage One (Non-Statutory) Consultation
- **Q2**
- **Q3** — Submission of EIA Scoping Report; Receipt of Scoping Opinion
- **Q4** — Consultation on Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

2025

- WE ARE HERE **Q1** — Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) publication
- **Q2** — Stage Two (Statutory) Consultation
- **Q3**
- **Q4** — Submit application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate

Island GREEN POWER

Lime Down Solar Park

Have your say

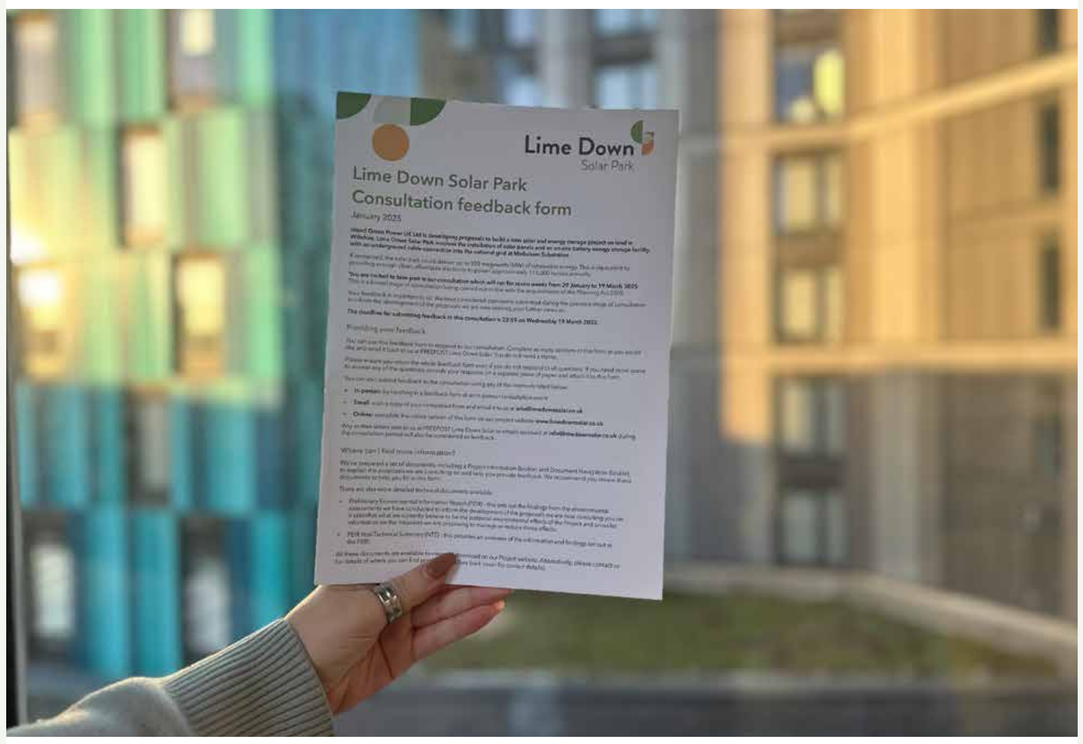
Thank you for taking part in this consultation. Your views are important to us, and we will use them to refine and finalise our proposals for the Project.

Providing your feedback
You can provide your comments in the following ways:

+ **Online:** feedback can be submitted via the Project website – www.limedownsolar.co.uk
+ **Email:** send an email to us at: info@limedownsolar.co.uk
+ **Write to us at:** FREEPOST Lime Down Solar

Fill in a feedback form:

Complete one of the feedback forms available at today's event and hand it in to a member of the team or send it back to us the FREEPOST address above.



The deadline for feedback to this consultation is 23:59 on Wednesday 19 March 2025.

What happens next?

Further to this consultation closing, we will review all the feedback we receive alongside the findings from ongoing assessments to see if there are any changes we need to make to the design of the Project. When we're happy our proposals are ready will finalise our application for development consent and submit it to the Planning Inspectorate.

Further opportunities to contribute

This is likely to be the last time we consult on our proposals for Lime Down Solar Park before we submit our development consent application. If it is accepted for Examination, you can register your interest with the Planning Inspectorate, who will keep you informed and outline further opportunities for you to contribute.

All the comments submitted to this consultation will be acknowledged, recorded and taken into consideration as we continue to refine our proposals. While we will not be able to respond to you individually, all the issues raised in your feedback will be summarised and addressed in the Consultation Report that will be submitted as part of our application for development consent.

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8 Site Development Area Lime Down Solar

Solar Development Areas - Indicative Layout

Key

- Solar development
- BESS & substation locations
- Cable route search corridor

Proposed mitigation / enhancement

- Proposed landscape mitigation
- Biodiversity and habitat enhancement areas

Existing infrastructure & landscape features

- Watercourses
- Existing woodland and ancient woodland
- Railway Line

Solar development area overview

Total area: **878 ha** (2,170 acres)

- Solar development area: 464 ha (1,147 acres)
- BNG, environment and offsets: 414 ha (1,023 acres)

53% | 47%

General mitigation principles

General mitigation principles applied across the solar development area:

+ Fill gaps in the existing hedgerows to make them stronger and healthier
+ Maintain hedgerows at a height of four metres were practical
+ Plant new native trees to improve the landscape and create a mix of younger and older trees where possible
+ Additional planting across the site to create layers of trees and hedgerows, enhance habitats and screen equipment from view
+ Strengthen the existing network of green spaces and water features, and improve or create new connections where possible
+ Enhance areas within the setting of the Cotswold National Landscape where possible

Buffers and offsets

Across the solar development area a buffer of fifteen metres has been maintained from all hedgerows and woodland with a minimum buffer of five metres to the site boundary and a further offset of four metres between fencing and panels.

Also factored into the design of the solar development are buffers to reduce the potential impact the development could have on the specific landscape and environment features, nearby people or wildlife including:

+ Building buffers – min. 50 metres maintained from existing residential property
+ Tree and woodland buffers - individual trees or groups of trees will be maintained within a 10 metre buffer
+ Ancient Woodland Buffers – min. 15 metres maintained to protect ancient woodland and avoid root damage
+ Public Rights of Way – min. 15 metre offset from footpath and/or bridleway users
+ Pond buffers – ponds will be retained within a min. 10 metre buffer
+ Watercourse buffer - ditches and watercourses will be maintained within an eight metre buffer, increasing to 30 metres for major watercourses

More information about buffer distances can be found in **PEIR Volume 1 , Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual (Table 8-8).**

More information

This is an indicative layout plan for the purposes of statutory consultation.

Areas and features shown are subject to change based on environmental assessment, design development and feedback received.

Sherston
Lime Down A
Foxley
Lime Down B
Norton
Lime Down C
Lime Down D
Corston
Rodbourne
A429
Hullavington
Lower Stanton Saint Quintin
Lime Down E
M4
M4

0 km 0.5 km

9 Indicative Site Layout Lime Down Solar A

Lime Down A Indicative Site Layout

Sherston

Foxley Road

Existing tree and hedgerows along roads will be strengthened with additional planting with hedgerows being maintained at a height of four metres.

Green corridors would be created across the site, with trees and hedgerows being layered to maintain and protect views.

Land has been excluded from the development for the purposes of environmental and biodiversity enhancement within the setting of Cotswold National Landscape.

Public Rights of Way - a minimum buffer of 15 metres to offset from footpath and/or bridleway users.

New hedgerows will be planted across the site to provide additional screening, enhance existing and create new habitat, and improve the landscape.

Where possible habitat corridors will be created between existing ponds.

One of three 132kv substations is proposed as being located in Lime Down A. This would act as a hub to collect the electricity generated by the solar panels, increasing its voltage so it can be exported to the 400kv substation located in Lime Down D.

Existing drystone wall along the bridleway will be restored and maintained.

These fields will be retained for habitat and to provide open areas for species, for example ground nesting birds.

Site B

Site C

Fosse Way

0 km 0.25 km 0.5 km

Site access

- Access points to Solar PV Sites will be designed for safe use by HGVs up to 16.5 metres long.
- Existing field entrances will be used where possible, with visibility improved as needed based on nearby road speeds.
- Access design will respond to site-specific conditions and discussions with Wiltshire Council's highways team.
- Designs will avoid impacting old or mature trees, but small sections of hedgerow may be removed to accommodate visibility improvements.

Further information can be found in **PEIR Volume 1, Chapter 13: Transport and Access.**

Key

- Solar development
- 132kv substation location
- Cable route search corridor
- Other solar development sites
- Site access

Proposed mitigation / enhancement

- Green corridors to enable species movement
- Reinforced road site screening
- New hedgerow
- Existing hedgerow reinforcement
- Biodiversity and habitat enhancement areas

Existing infrastructure & landscape features

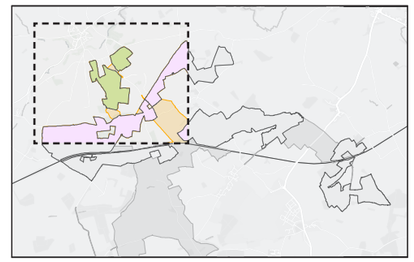
- Watercourses
- Existing woodland and ancient woodland
- Public Rights of Way

Site Overview

Total area: **94 ha** (233 acres)

- Solar development area: 58 ha (144 acres)
- BNG, environment and offsets: 36 ha (89 acres)

62% 38%



More information

This is an indicative layout for the purposes of statutory consultation. The areas and features shown are subject to change based on environmental assessment, design development and feedback.

A detailed indicative masterplan can be found in **PEIR Volume 2, Figure 8-15-1 Indicative Masterplan Lime Down A**.

10 Indicative Site Layout Lime Down Solar B

Lime Down B
Indicative Site Layout

Key

- Solar development
- Cable route search corridor
- Other solar development sites
- Site access

Proposed mitigation / enhancement

- Green corridors to enable species movement
- Reinforced road site screening
- New hedgerow
- Existing hedgerow reinforcement
- Biodiversity and habitat enhancement areas

Existing infrastructure & landscape features

- Watercourses
- Existing woodland and ancient woodland
- Public Rights of Way

Site Overview

Total area: **114 ha** (282 acres)

- Solar development area: 42 ha (104 acres)
- BNG, environment and offsets: 72 ha (178 acres)

37% | 63%

More information

This is an indicative layout for the purposes of statutory consultation. The areas and features shown are subject to change based on environmental assessment, design development and feedback.

A detailed indicative masterplan can be found in **PEIR Volume 2, Figure 8-15-2 Indicative Masterplan Lime Down B.**

Foxley Road

Foxley

Honey Lane

Fosse Way

Norton

Site C

Site D

Hedgerows along bridleways and the Fosse Way will be strengthened with additional planting.

Use the opportunity to increase the default minimum offset of 15 metres from footpath and/or bridleway users.

These fields will be retained for habitat and to provide areas for species, for example ground nesting birds.

New hedgerows will be planted across the site to provide additional screening and improve the landscape.

Existing tree and hedgerows along roads will be strengthened with additional planting.

A temporary access track could be located against the Fosse Way.

These fields would be excluded from development for the purpose of maintaining views from the Public Rights of Way.

0 km 0.25 km 0.5 km

11 Indicative Site Layout Lime Down Solar C

Lime Down C
Indicative Site Layout

How would a 'community orchard' work?

Community orchards provide a shared space where fruit trees are planted for the benefit of the local community. Typically cared for by volunteers or a local group, anyone in the community can enjoy the produce whether by helping with maintenance or during harvest time.

As well as providing produce, community orchards create opportunity for communities to gather and connect, support education initiatives. Consisting of grassland meadow and fruit trees, community orchards serve to provide important habitat for wildlife, and can also help improve the environment by supporting pollinators and promoting biodiversity.

Site A

Site B

Site D

Hedgerows along bridleways and the Fosse Way will be strengthened with additional planting.

Use the opportunity to significantly increase the default minimum offset of 15 metres from footpath and/or bridleway users.

Strengthen existing field margins with additional native tree planting to provide green layering.

Additional native tree and ground cover planting will be provided alongside existing watercourses to improve ecological corridors from view.

These fields have been retained for habitat, and identified as offering potential to accommodate suggested ideas for a community orchard and apiary.

Where possible create habitat corridors between existing ponds.

New hedgerows will be planted across the site to provide additional screening, enhance existing and create new habitat, and improve the landscape.

Isolated trees will be connected by corridors to existing natural features.

Green corridors would be created across the site, with trees and hedgerows being layered to maintain and protect views.

One of three 132kv substations is proposed as being located in Lime Down C. These 132kv substations would act as a hub to collect the electricity generated by the solar panels, increasing its voltage so it can be exported to the 400kv substation located in Lime Down D.

Existing tree and hedgerows along roads will be strengthened with additional planting.

Fosse Way

What is a 'Riparian Corridor'?

A riparian corridor is the area of land next to a river, stream, or waterway. It often includes plants, trees, and wildlife that depend on the water. These corridors help keep the water clean, prevent flooding, and provide habitat for animals and plants. They are important for protecting the environment and maintaining healthy ecosystems.

0 km 0.25 km 0.5 km

More information

This is an indicative layout for the purposes of statutory consultation. The areas and features shown are subject to change based on environmental assessment, design development and feedback.

A detailed indicative masterplan can be found in **PEIR Volume 2, Figure 8-15-3 Indicative Masterplan Lime Down C.**

Key

- Solar development
- 132kv substation location
- Cable Route Search Corridor
- Other solar development sites
- Site access

Proposed mitigation / enhancement

- Green corridors to enable species movement
- Reinforced road site screening
- New hedgerow
- Existing hedgerow reinforcement
- Biodiversity and habitat enhancement areas
- Proposed new woodland
- Riparian Corridor

Existing infrastructure & landscape features

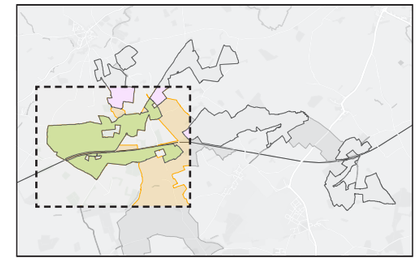
- Watercourses
- Existing woodland and ancient woodland
- Public Rights of Way
- Railway line

Site Overview

Total area: **318 ha** (786 acres)

- Solar development area: 152 ha (377 acres)
- BNG, environment and offsets: 166 ha (409 acres)

48% 52%



12 Indicative Site Layout Lime Down Solar D

Lime Down D
Indicative Site Layout

Key

- Solar development
- 400kv substation location
- BESS location options
- Cable Route Search Corridor
- Other solar development sites
- Site access

Proposed mitigation / enhancement

- Green corridors to enable species movement
- Reinforced road site screening
- New hedgerow
- Existing hedgerow reinforcement
- Biodiversity and habitat enhancement areas
- Riparian corridor

Existing infrastructure & landscape features

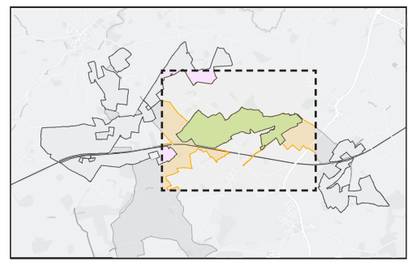
- Watercourses
- Existing woodland and ancient woodland
- Public Rights of Way
- Railway line

Site Overview

Total area: **213 ha** (526 acres)

- Solar development area: 131 ha (324 acres)
- BNG, environment and offsets: 82 ha (202 acres)

61% | 39%



Site B

Site C

Norton

Hullavington

A429

A 400kv substation is proposed as being located in Lime Down D. Acting as a hub collecting the electricity from the 132kv substations located on Lime Down A, C and E, to increase its voltage so it could then be exported via underground cables to Melksham Substation from where it would be distributed across the electricity system to homes and businesses.

New hedgerows will be planted across the site to provide additional screening, enhance existing and create new habitat, and improve the landscape.

Existing tree and hedgerows along roads will be strengthened with additional planting.

Additional native tree and ground cover planting will be provided alongside existing watercourses to improve ecological corridors from view.

Green corridors would be created across the site, with trees and hedgerows being layered to maintain and protect views.

These fields would be excluded from development for the purpose of maintaining views from the Public Rights of Way.

Habitat corridors would be created between existing ponds.

These fields will be retained for habitat and to provide open areas for species, such as ground nesting birds.

Isolated trees will be connected by corridors to existing natural features.

What is a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) ?

A BESS is designed to provide storage for energy in large batteries. The BESS proposed for this Project would provide an important balancing service for the national grid. It would store excess electricity generated by the solar PV panels or excess energy in the grid when demand is low, releasing it back onto the grid at times of higher demand when its needed most.

0 km 0.25 km 0.5 km

The BESS proposed as part of the Project would be located on one or two areas located in Lime Down D, and at least 450 metres away from property. The total area required to accommodate a BESS is 10.5 ha (25 acres).

The BESS compound will be secured by 3-metre-high palisade fencing, with CCTV cameras for added security.

Batteries would be housed in individual shipping-style containers, each approximately 16 metres long, 3 metres wide, and no more than 3.2 metres high. The exact number of containers is still to be determined, but the Project could include up to 270. Each container will be equipped with fire detection and an automatic fire extinguisher system.

More information

This is an indicative layout for the purposes of statutory consultation. The areas and features shown are subject to change based on environmental assessment, design development and feedback.

A detailed indicative masterplan can be found in **PEIR Volume 2, Figure 8-15-4 Indicative Masterplan Lime Down D.**

13 Indicative Site Layout Lime Down Solar E

Lime Down E Indicative Site Layout

More information

This is an indicative layout for the purposes of statutory consultation. The areas and features shown are subject to change based on environmental assessment, design development and feedback.

A detailed indicative masterplan can be found in **PEIR Volume 2, Figure 8-15-5 Indicative Masterplan Lime Down E.**

Rodbourne Road

A429

Existing field margins will be enhanced and strengthened with additional native tree planting to provide green layering.

These fields would be excluded from development for the purpose of maintaining views from the Public Rights of Way.

Rodbourne

We have identified two locations in Lime Down E where one of three 132kv substations required for the Project could be sited. These 132kv substations would act as a hub to collect the electricity generated by the solar panels, increasing its voltage so it can be exported to the 400kv substation located in Lime Down D.

Existing tree and hedgerows along roads will be strengthened with additional planting.

Startley

Green corridors would be created across the site, with trees and hedgerows being layered to maintain and protect views.

Isolated trees will be connected by corridors to existing natural features.

Links between existing woodland would be strengthened by improving tree lines or planting new trees to connect wooded areas.

New hedgerows will be planted across the site to provide additional screening, enhance existing and create new habitat, and improve the landscape.

Where possible habitat corridors will be created between existing ponds.

Additional native tree and ground cover planting will be provided alongside existing watercourses to improve ecological corridors from view.

0 km 0.25 km 0.5 km

Lower Stanton Saint Quintin

Upper Seagry

Key

- Solar development
- 132kv substation locations
- Cable route search corridors
- Other solar development sites
- Site access

Proposed mitigation / enhancement

- Green corridors to enable species movement
- Reinforced road site screening
- New hedgerow
- Existing hedgerow reinforcement
- Biodiversity and habitat enhancement areas
- Proposed new woodland
- Riparian corridor

Existing infrastructure & landscape features

- Watercourses
- Existing woodland and ancient woodland
- Public Rights of Way
- Railway line

Site Overview

Total area: **139 ha** (343 acres)

- Solar development area: 81 ha (199 acres)
- BNG, environment and offsets: 58 ha (144 acres)

58% 42%

14 Webinar Presentation slides

Lime Down Solar Park

Lime Down Solar Park

Welcome

This online information event will start at 18.30

Thursday 27 February 2025

Island GREEN POWER

Lime Down Solar Park

Lime Down Solar Park

Welcome

This online event will start in a few minutes

Thursday 27 February 2025

Island GREEN POWER

Lime Down Solar Park

Lime Down Solar Park

Stage Two Consultation – Online Information Event

Thursday 27 February 2025

Island GREEN POWER

Disclaimer

The webinar is now being recorded.

By participating in this session you are consenting to be part of the recording. This will later be published on the project website.

Please make sure to keep this in mind and not share private information in your questions.

FREEPOST Lime Down Solar

info@limedownsolar.co.uk

0808 175 6[illegible]56

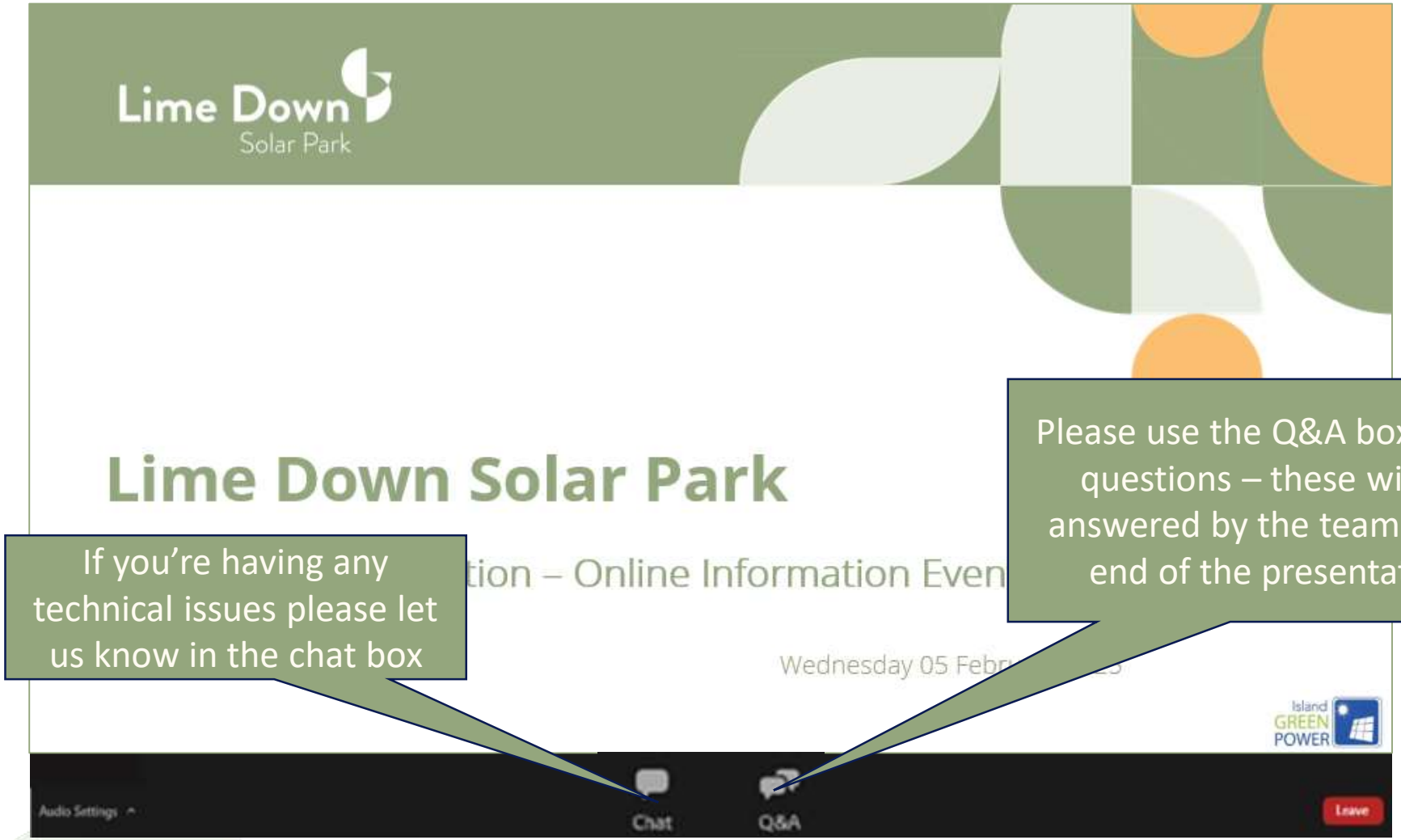
Lime Down Solar Park

Agenda

1. Housekeeping
   - Taking part in today's event
   - Ground rules
2. Project team introductions
3. Presentation
4. Q&A
5. Close

Lime Down
Solar Park

Taking part in today's event



If you're having any technical issues please let us know in the chat box

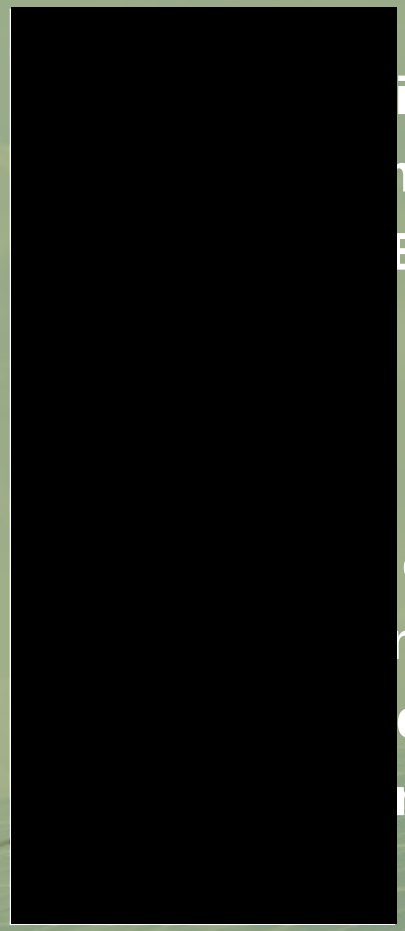
Please use the Q&A box to ask questions – these will be answered by the team at the end of the presentation

Lime Down
Solar Park

Ground rules

- Taking part is not a presumption of support
- Respectful of others' views
- We will respond to questions submitted when the presentation concludes
- Questions will be unattributed unless requested
- This session will be recorded and posted on the project website following this event
- Please submit any feedback to this consultation in writing or using the online feedback form on the Project website
- Deadline for receipt of feedback to this consultation is 23.59 Wednesday 19 March 2025

Team introductions



ior Project Development Manager (Island Green Power)
mmunications (Island Green Power)
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) lead (AECOM)
ndscape and visual (Lanpro)
ltural heritage (Lanpro)
ter & drainage (Arthian)
ology (Clarkson Woods)
nsport (TPA)
ds (Dalcour Maclaren)
mmunity relations (Counter Context)
Community relations (Counter Context)

Lime Down Solar Park

Lime Down
Solar Park

Welcome

Lime Down Solar Park is anticipated as having a generation capacity of around:

500 MW

Equivalent to enough clean, affordable energy to power over:

115,000 homes

Island Green Power – who we are

- Established in 2013 - a leading developer of renewable energy projects;
- Specialise in the development of utility-scale solar projects and battery energy storage systems; oversee the development process from start to finish including sourcing land, securing grid connections, and obtaining planning consents;
- In the last 10 years we have successfully delivered 35 projects worldwide totaling more than one gigawatt of clean, renewable energy assets; of which,
- 21 projects in the UK and Ireland, including the two solar NSIP developments
    - Sept 2024: Cottam Solar (600MW inc. energy storage system, Lincs)
    - Jan 2025: West Burton Solar (480MW, Lincs)

Lime Down Solar Park

Lime Down Solar Park

The Project site

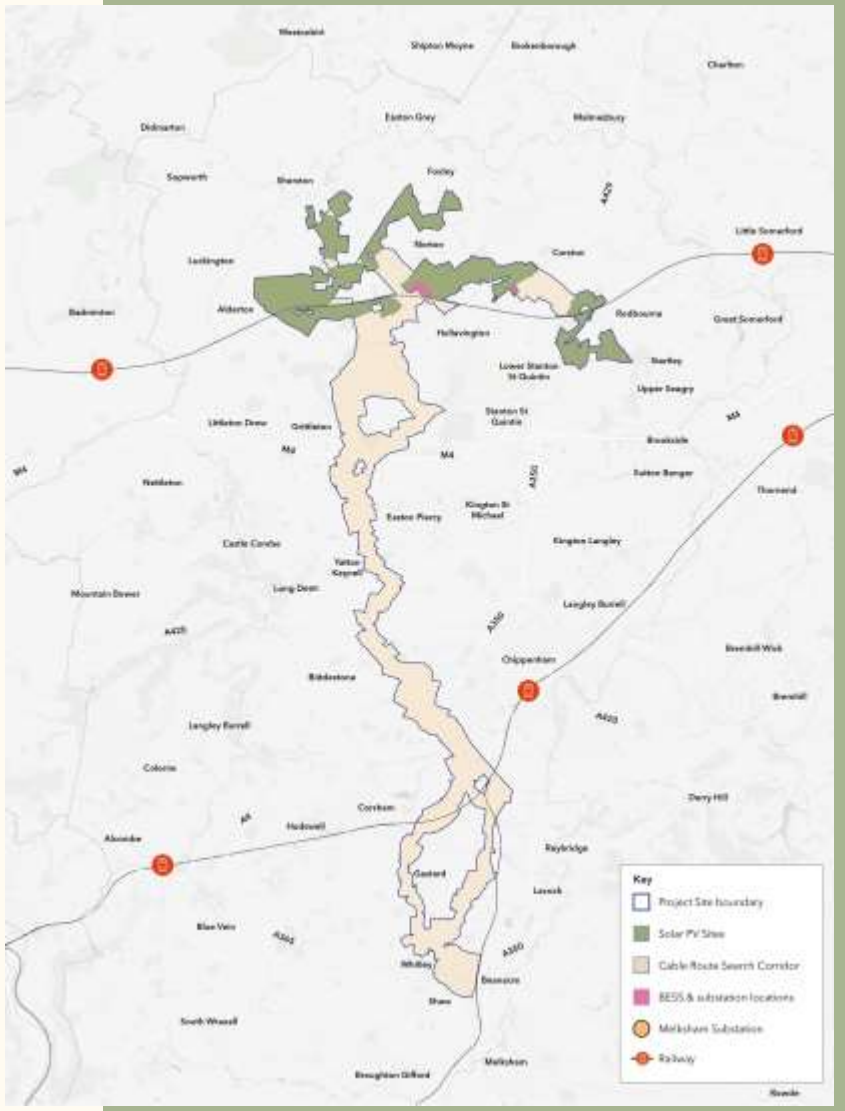
Total development area: 2,834 hectares

Solar development area: 878 hectares (ha) comprising five land parcels - Lime Down A, B, C, D and E:

- 53% (464 ha) will be used for solar panels, battery storage and associated infrastructure
- 47% (414 ha) allocated for environmental purposes, including mitigation measures, biodiversity net gain initiatives, and offsets

Cable Route Search Corridor: approx. 1,947 ha mainly agricultural land:

- about 22 km from the ‘Lime Down D’ to Melksham Substation
- ranges from 75 metres to 2 km in width currently



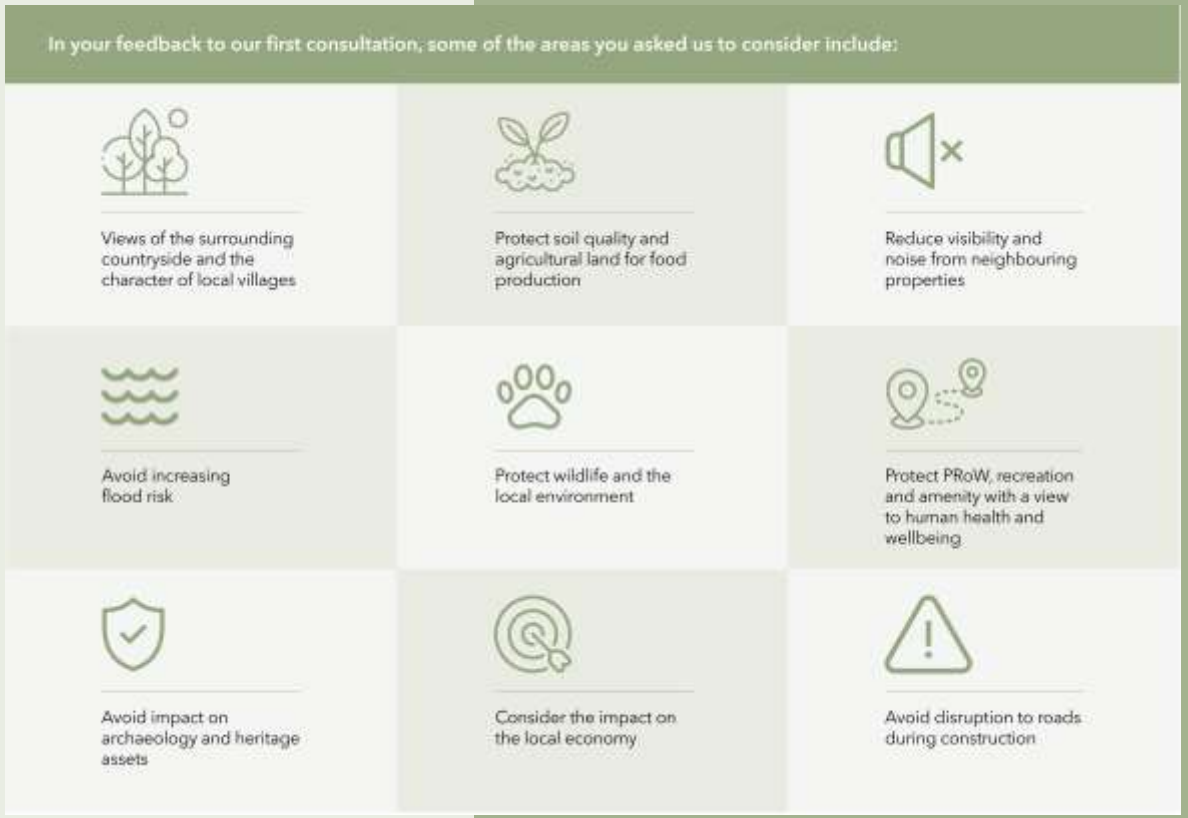
We will refine this corridor before submitting our application to the Planning Inspectorate.

Lime Down Solar Park

This consultation

We’re specifically inviting feedback on:

- The overall Project.
- The indicative layout for the solar development.
- The route for an underground cable connecting the Project into the national grid.
- Measures we’re proposing to reduce the effects of the development.
- Suggestions for initiatives the Project could support to benefit local communities.
- Anything else you think is important.



Lime Down Solar Park

You said	We did
Protect views and the setting of the Cotswold National Landscape	Sought to reduce visuals impacts by including green corridors, reinforced hedgerow and roadside planting, enhanced riparian planting, established minimum buffers from homes, vegetation, watercourses, PRoWs, woodland and listed buildings.
Reduce impacts on soil quality and agriculture	As the land will have been undisturbed during operation and maintenance, likelihood that the health, quality, and structure of soils in the Solar PV Sites will improve.
Safeguard local wildlife and ecology	Implement ecology measures to achieve biodiversity net gain such as new hedgerow and tree planting, grassland habitat creation and buffer distances to ecological features.
Protect heritage and archaeology assets	No panels located in sensitive archaeological and heritage areas; and enhanced screening and offsets to reduce impact on heritage asset such as the Fosse Way, Fosse Lodge, Alderton and Sherston Conservation Areas.
Construction and end-of-life	Construction management plan shaped to reduce the impact of HGVs on local roads and associated disruption to local communities and the environment. Land will be restored to its original use when the Project reaches the end of its 60-year operational lifespan.
Provide more details and visualisations about the Project components	Our refined proposals show the location of built elements including solar panels, BESS, substations, and a refined cable route corridor.

Further reference: PEIR Chapter 3 "The Scheme"(3.3.2)

Solar Panels

Less than 700,000 individual panels form the current design

We must assess maximum envelopes inc. operational height

Tracker Panels (up to max 4.5m)

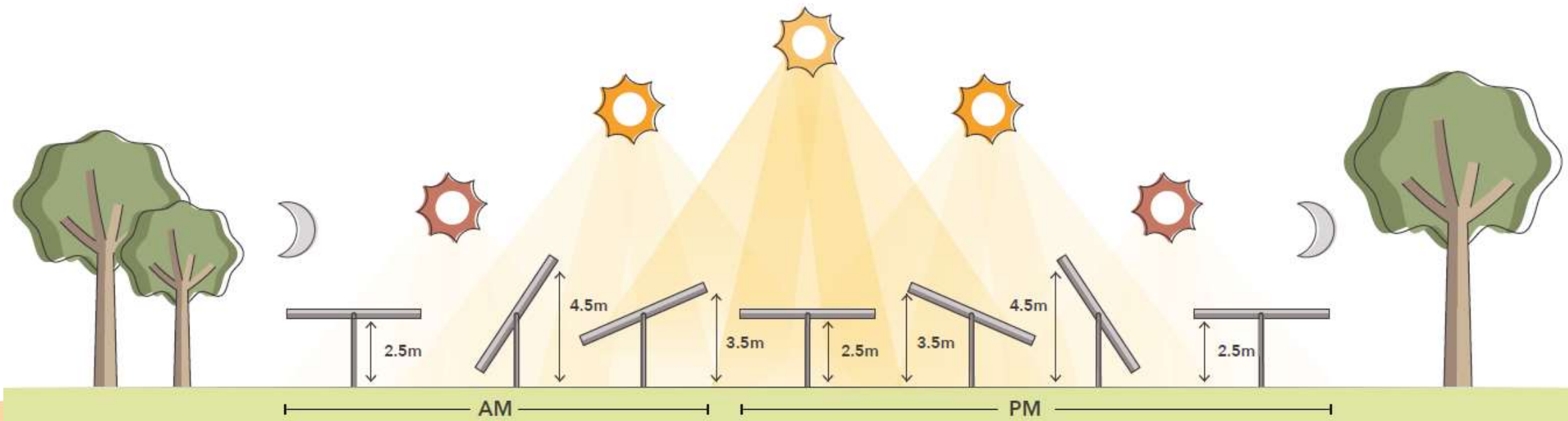
- Flexibility in operation and design allow height & tilt limitations to reduce visual impact
- Maximise energy generation inside a smaller area to reduce overall footprint.

Fixed Panels (up to 3.5m)

- Fixed panels could also be utilised at an individual field level where practical and/or environmental constraints prevent the use of tracker panel technology.

Lime Down Solar Park

Following the sun's path: Tracker Panels



Indicative diagram to illustrate how solar PV tracker panels follow the sun's path on any given day.

Note: The maximum height of 4.5m occurs only for a very limited time at the beginning and end of each day in locations where no adverse visual impacts are identified.

Lime Down Solar Park

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) & Substations

Further reference: PEIR Chapter 3 "The Scheme"(3.3.13) & (3.3.19)

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

- Provides peak energy supply and grid balancing by storing excess solar and grid energy in batteries for export when needed, including during outages, ensuring longer energy supply beyond daylight hours
- Up to 25 acres required to house up to 270 containers within Lime Down D

Substations

- Internal 33kV (up to five) & 132kV (up to three) substations would be used to feed power directly to the 400kV substation
- One 400kV substation (as shown) would be located in Lime Down D to allow for power to be exported via a single underground cable route to Melksham substation

Lime Down Solar Park

Connecting into the national grid

- Electrical connection would be to be built by installing **underground cabling**.
- We have refined the three broad cable route corridors identified at Stage One Consultation

- Current Cable Route Search Corridor:
  - aligns south from the 400kV substation at Lime Down D;
  - crosses the M4 near Sevington;
  - passes east of Yatton Keynell; and,
  - continues south across the A420 east of Corsham before reaching Melksham Substation.

- Avoids:
  - Built up areas where people live
  - Infrastructure i.e. roads and railway lines using drilling techniques
  - Sensitive landscape features i.e. ecology, heritage
  - Protected sites including nature conservation areas

Measures to reduce effects

Landscape and visual

Ecology and biodiversity

Climate change

Noise and vibration

Cultural heritage

Hydrology, flood risk, drainage

Environment

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

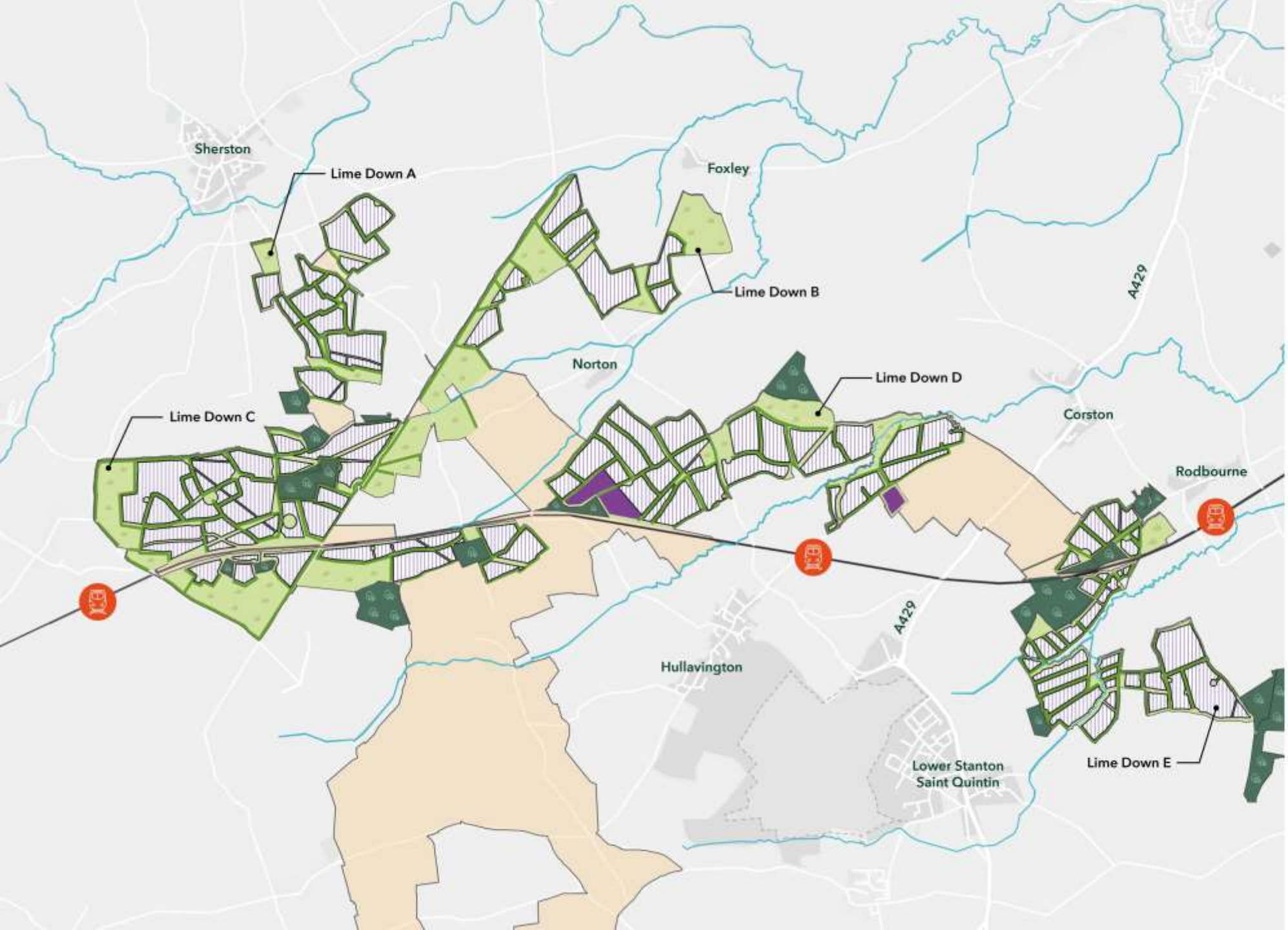
Aim to exceed min. 10 per cent BNG requirement by proposing measures including:

- New hedgerow and tree planting.
- Reinforcing planting at existing hedgerow and field boundaries.
- Creation of extensive grassland habitat.
- Balanced use of grazing and cutting to manage grassland habitats beneath panels and maximise ecological benefits.
- Enhancing habitats of local, regional or national significance.

Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)

- 70 per cent of the land surveyed for the Project is non-BMV land
- Where BMV is included, the least productive areas are being prioritised
- Plans include restoring land to original use after decommissioning

Lime Down Solar Park



Solar Development Areas - Indicative Layout

Key

- Solar development
- BESS & substation locations
- Cable route search corridor

Proposed mitigation / enhancement

- Proposed landscape mitigation
- Biodiversity and habitat enhancement areas

Existing infrastructure & landscape features

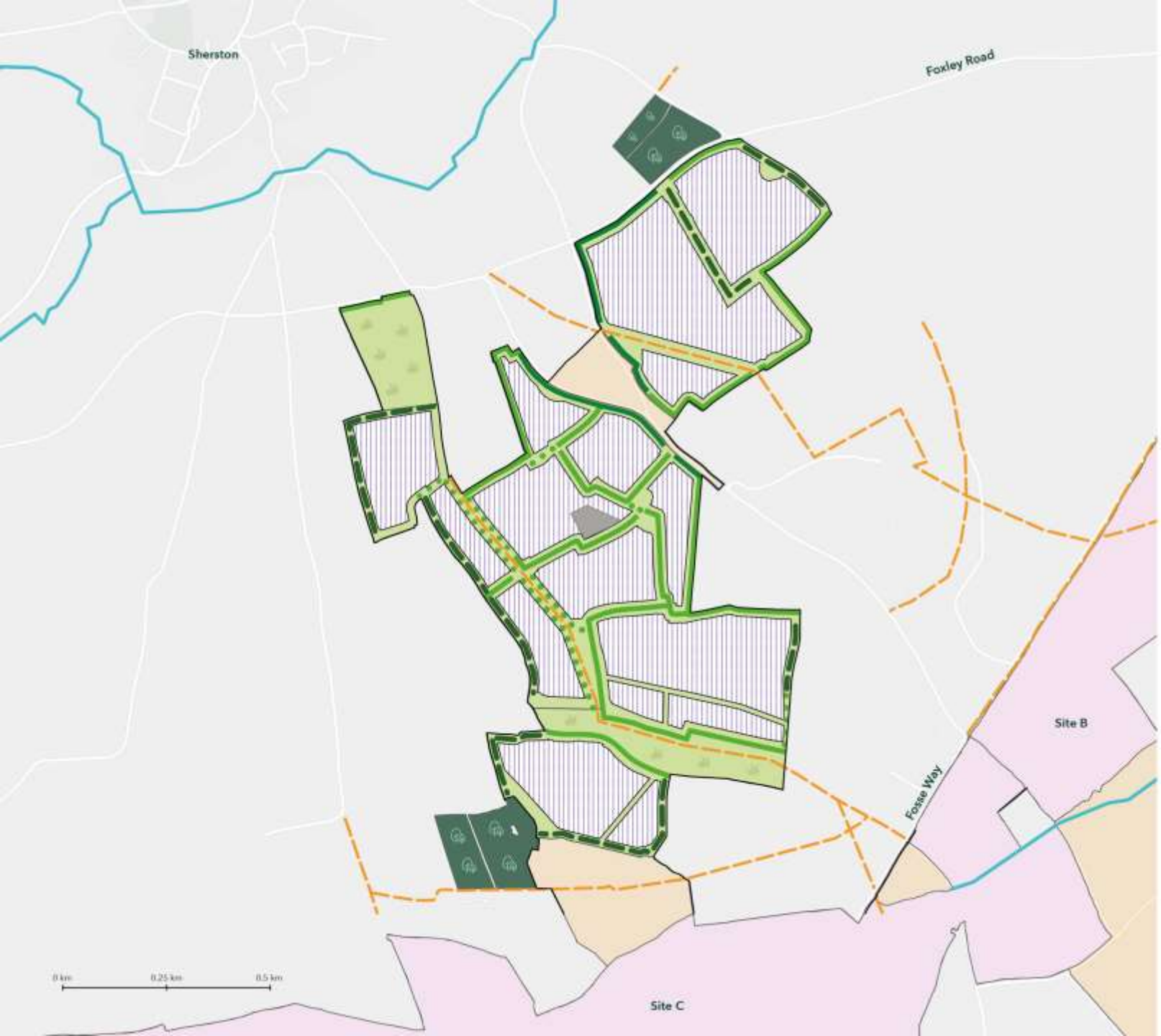
- Watercourses
- Existing woodland and ancient woodland
- Railway Line

Solar development area overview

Total area: **878 ha** (2,170 acres)

- Solar development area: 464 ha (1,147 acres)
- BNG, environment and offsets: 414 ha (1,023 acres)

53% | 47%



Lime Down A
Indicative Site Layout

Lime Down
Solar Park

Key

- Solar development
- 132kv substation location
- Cable route search corridor
- Other solar development sites
- Site access

Proposed mitigation / enhancement

- Green corridors to enable species movement
- Reinforced road site screening
- New hedgerow
- Existing hedgerow reinforcement
- Biodiversity and habitat enhancement areas

Existing infrastructure & landscape features

- Watercourses
- Existing woodland and ancient woodland
- Public Rights of Way

Site Overview

Total area: **94 ha** (233 acres)

- Solar development area: 58 ha (144 acres)
- BNG, environment and offsets: 36 ha (89 acres)

62% | 38%

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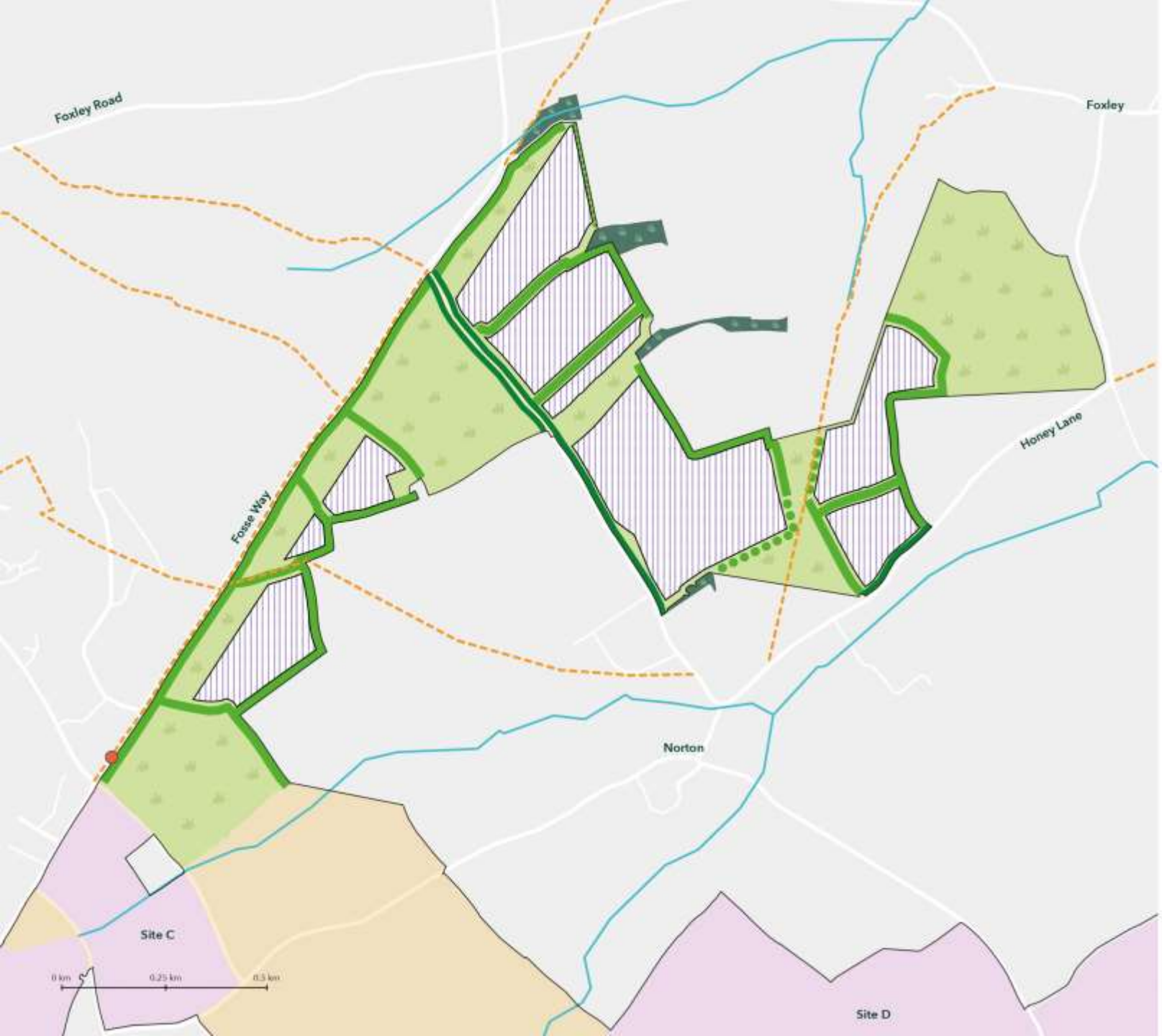


Lime Down B
Indicative Site Layout

Lime Down Solar Park

Key

- Solar development
- Cable route search corridor
- Other solar development sites
- Site access

Proposed mitigation / enhancement

- Green corridors to enable species movement
- Reinforced road site screening
- New hedgerow
- Existing hedgerow reinforcement
- Biodiversity and habitat enhancement areas

Existing infrastructure & landscape features

- Watercourses
- Existing woodland and ancient woodland
- Public Rights of Way

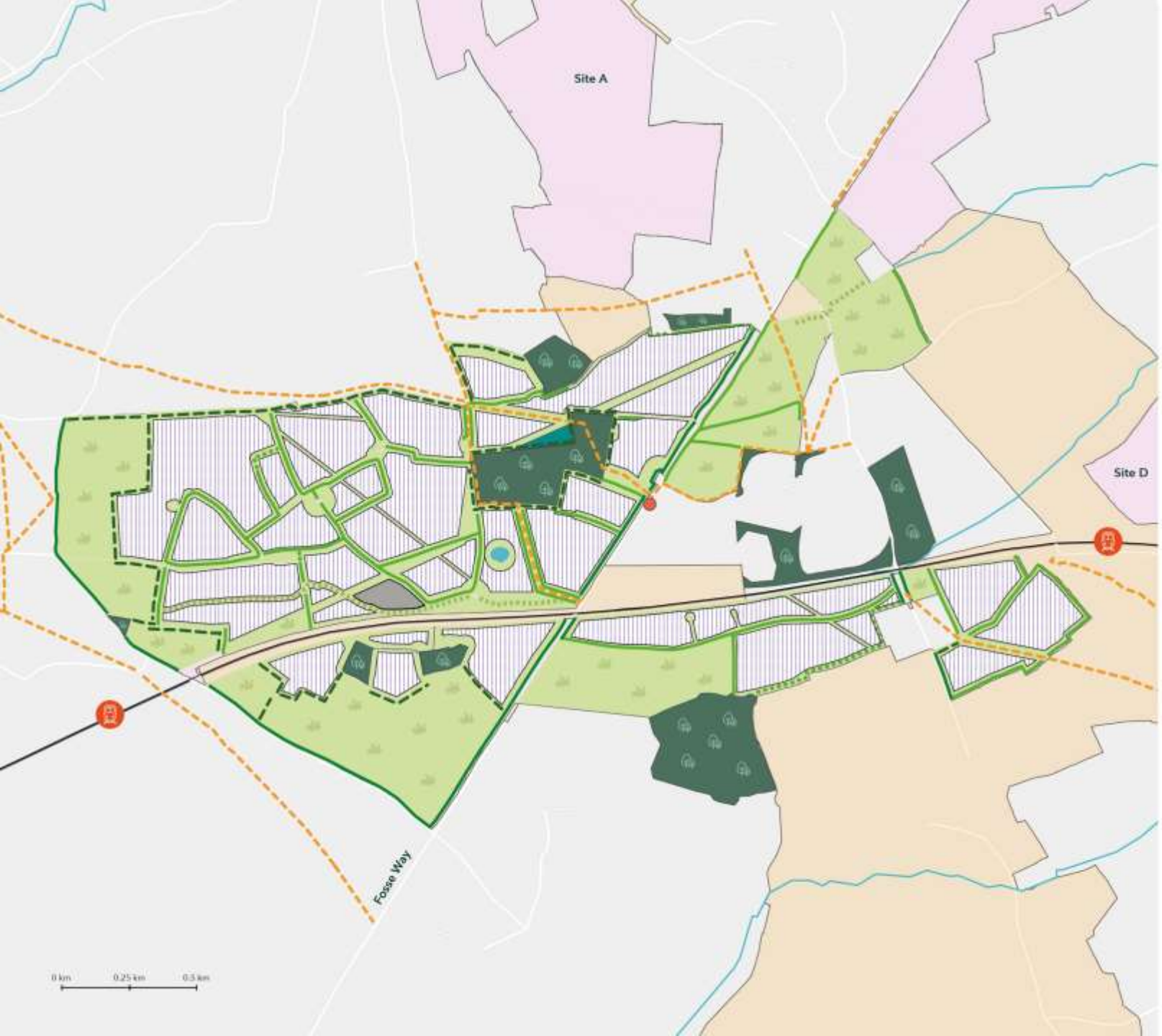
Site Overview

Total area: **114 ha** (282 acres)

- Solar development area: 42 ha (104 acres)
- BNG, environment and offsets: 72 ha (178 acres)

37% | 63%

Island GREEN POWER



Lime Down C
Indicative Site Layout

Lime Down
Solar Park

Key

- Solar development
- 132kv substation location
- Cable Route Search Corridor
- Other solar development sites
- Site access

Proposed mitigation / enhancement

- Green corridors to enable species movement
- Reinforced road site screening
- New hedgerow
- Existing hedgerow reinforcement
- Biodiversity and habitat enhancement areas
- Proposed new woodland
- Riparian Corridor

Existing infrastructure & landscape features

- Watercourses
- Existing woodland and ancient woodland
- Public Rights of Way
- Railway line

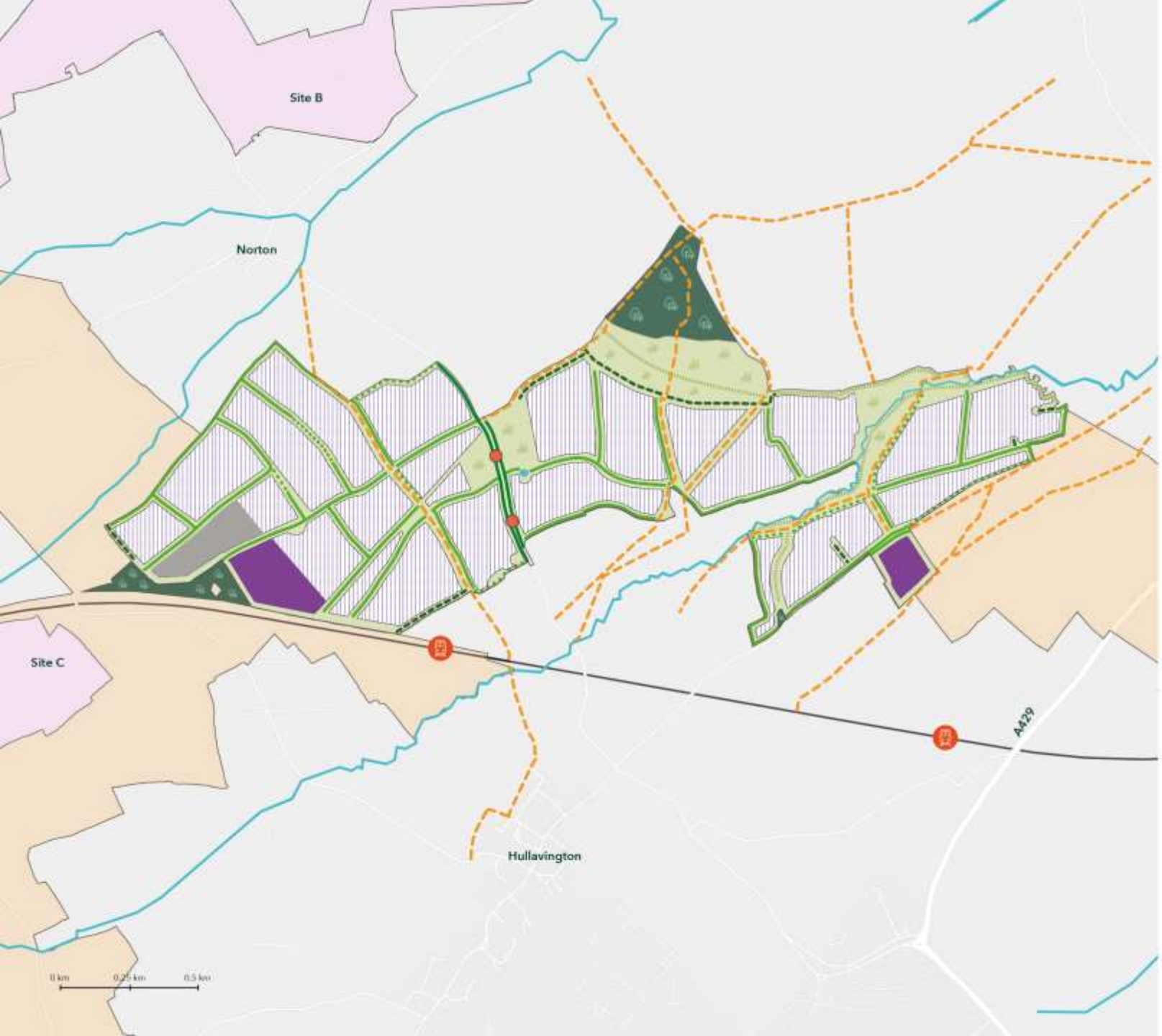
Site Overview

Total area: **318 ha** (786 acres)

- Solar development area: 152 ha (377 acres)
- BNG, environment and offsets: 166 ha (409 acres)

48% | 52%

Island GREEN POWER



Lime Down D
Indicative Site Layout

Lime Down Solar Park

Key

- Solar development
- 400kv substation location
- BESS location options
- Cable Route Search Corridor
- Other solar development sites
- Site access

Proposed mitigation / enhancement

- Green corridors to enable species movement
- Reinforced road site screening
- New hedgerow
- Existing hedgerow reinforcement
- Biodiversity and habitat enhancement areas
- Riparian corridor

Existing infrastructure & landscape features

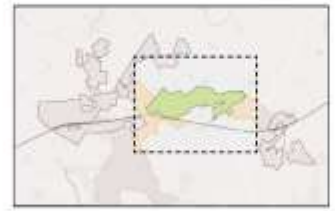
- Watercourses
- Existing woodland and ancient woodland
- Public Rights of Way
- Railway line

Site Overview

Total area: **213 ha** (526 acres)

- Solar development area: 131 ha (324 acres)
- BNG, environment and offsets: 82 ha (202 acres)

61% | 39%



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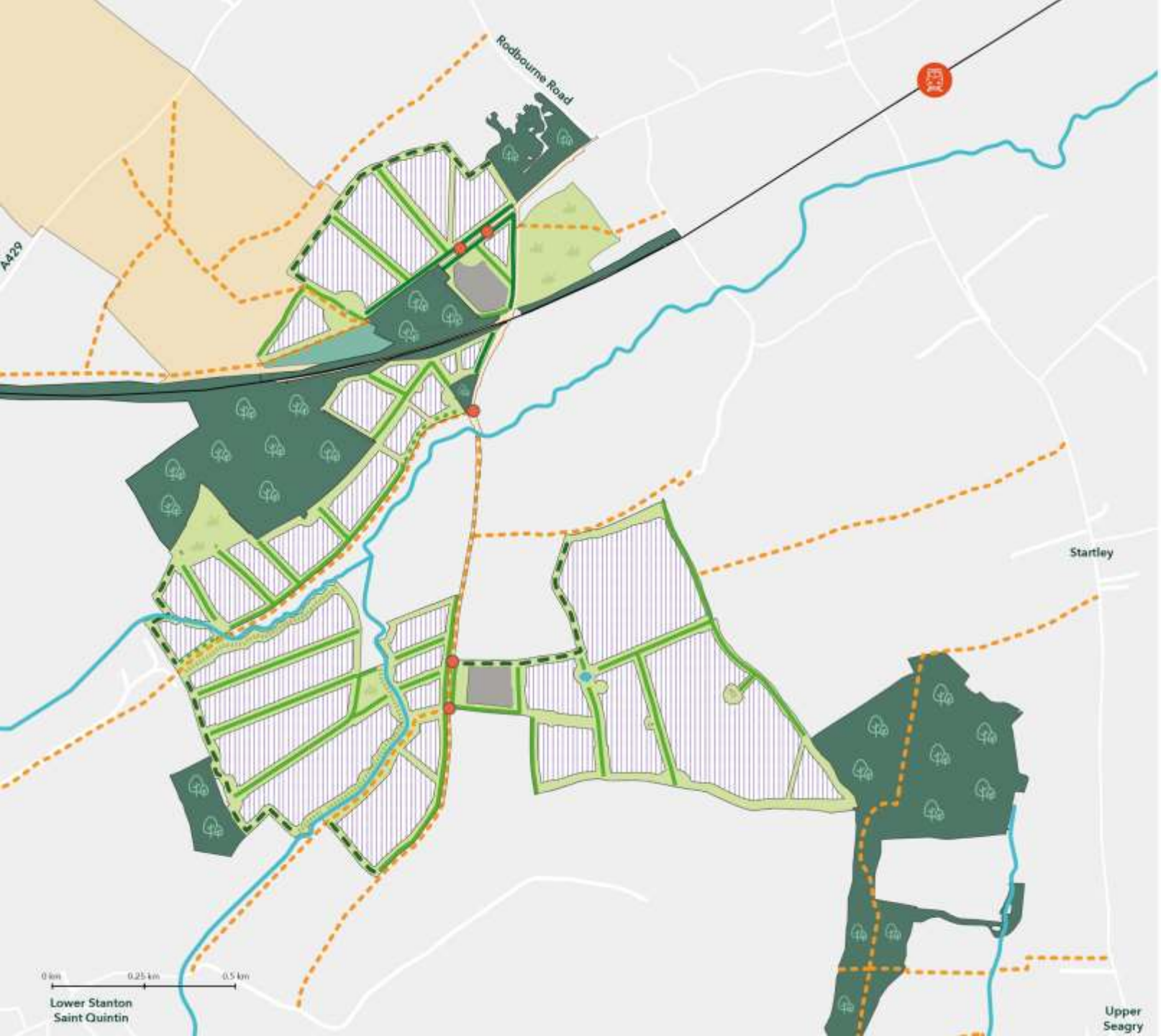

Lime Down E
Indicative Site Layout

Lime Down Solar Park

Key

- Solar development
- 132kv substation locations
- Cable route search corridors
- Other solar development sites
- Site access

Proposed mitigation / enhancement

- Green corridors to enable species movement
- Reinforced road site screening
- New hedgerow
- Existing hedgerow reinforcement
- Biodiversity and habitat enhancement areas
- Proposed new woodland
- Riparian corridor

Existing infrastructure & landscape features

- Watercourses
- Existing woodland and ancient woodland
- Public Rights of Way
- Railway line

Site Overview

Total area: **139 ha** (343 acres)

- Solar development area: 81 ha (199 acres)
- BNG, environment and offsets: 58 ha (144 acres)

58% | 42%

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Construction, operation & decommissioning

Construction (from mid-2027)

- Expected to take
  - approx. 24 months to build solar PV sites
  - Approx 18 months to install underground cable

- Measures proposed to minimise disruption:
  - **Working hours:** Mon-Fri 07:00- 18:00, Sat 08:00-13:30
  - **Construction staff:** up to 558 staff onsite at peak (around 2027)
  - **Construction traffic:** HGV would come direct to compounds. Kit transported within the site to minimise impact on the local roads.

Operation (from mid-2029)

- Once operational on-site activity limited to:
  - Routine inspections
  - Equipment maintenance
  - Vegetation management
  - Component replacement, fence inspections
- Employ team of up to 15 staff on/off site
- Main access: via Bradfield Cottages Road

Decommissioning

- Operational lifespan of up to 60 years
- Phased decommission
- Land restored to original use
- Expected to take between 12-24 months

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Community benefits: On-site initiatives

Long term benefits designed into the project area such as:

- Enhancing existing environmental and ecological features (woodland, hedgerows and ponds).
- Community schemes incorporated into the project such as community orchards, bee keeping & honey production.
- Creation of permissive paths through the site and enhancement of recreational amenities.

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Community benefits: Off-site initiatives

Administered fund which delivers lasting support to areas of identified need to the likes of:

- Local charities, groups, facilities & educational programmes.
- Provision of solar PV for educational facilities and domestic installations.
- Supporting existing initiatives such as community wildlife & energy projects

We would like to continue to work with you to identify and define off site community benefits during this next phase of consultation, building on your suggestions made during our Stage One consultation last year.

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The development process*

2023

Jun: Start of desk-based environmental studies

Nov: Initial engagement with Wiltshire Council

2024

Mar-Apr: Stage One (non-statutory) consultation

Jul: Submission of EIA Scoping Report

Aug: Receipt of Scoping opinion

Oct: Publication of Consultation Summary Report

Nov: Consultation on Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

Dec: Advance notice of consultation dates/timings

2025

Jan-Mar:

- Publication of SoCC and s.47 Notices
- Publish PEIR
- Consult S.42 prescribed and statutory consultees
- Consult communities (s.47 consultees) to provide feedback on our detailed Project proposals

April onwards:

- Review of all submissions from s.42 and s.47 consultees
- Finalise application

Sept: Submit application for development consent

2026

Jan-Jun:

- DCO Examination

Jul-Dec:

- Recommendation & decision

2027

Mid 2027 - Earliest construction would start subject to consent being granted

Mid-2029
Site potentially operational

*Dates are indicative and could be subject to change

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Materials available

Community consultation literature

- Project information Booklet
- Feedback Form
- Document Navigation Booklet
- Indicative ‘schematic’ site masterplans

Technical documents

- Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), including chapters, figures and appendices
- PEIR Non-technical Summary

From 29 Jan 2025, printed copies available to view at Community Access points, in-person events, and can be made available on request. All available to view and download from Project website

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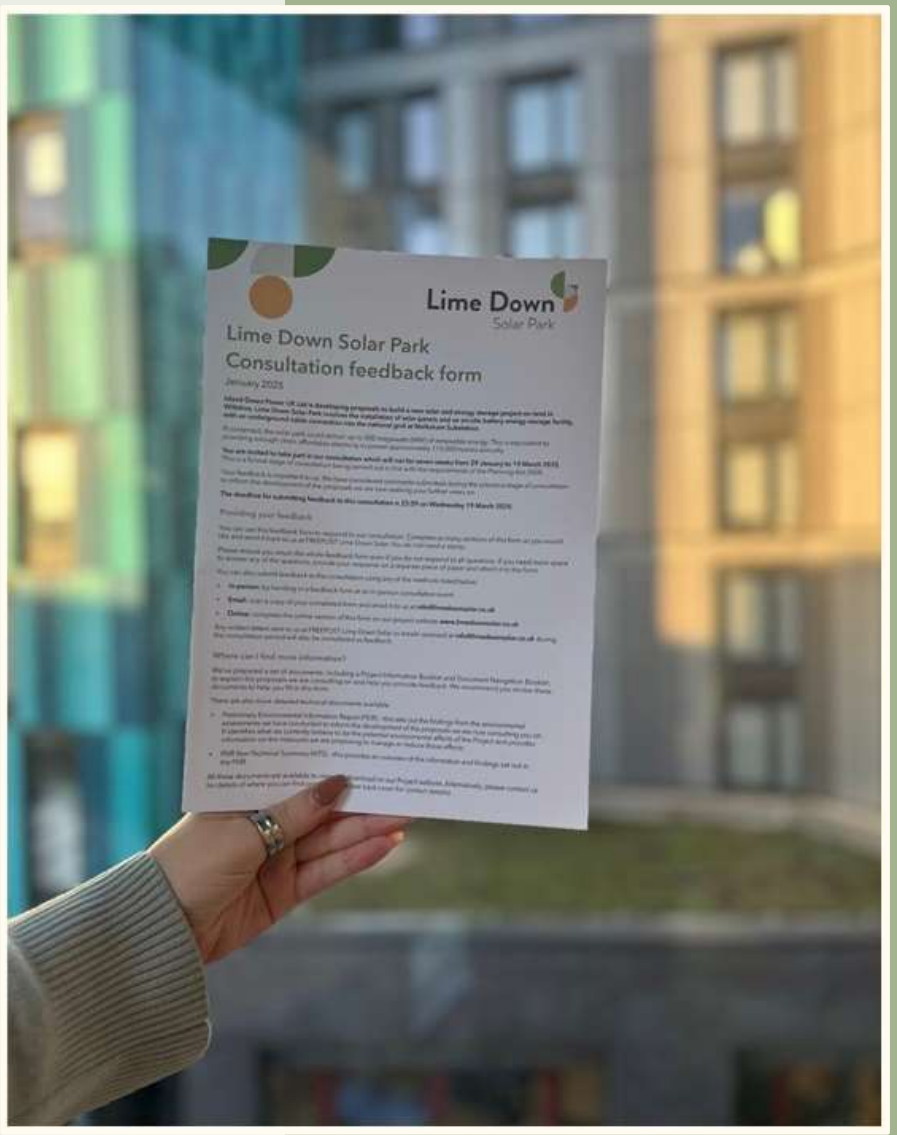
Have your say

You can submit your feedback to this consultation in the following ways:

- Online: feedback can be submitted via the Project website – www.limedownsolar.co.uk
- Email: send an email to us at: info@limedownsolar.co.uk
- Write to us at: FREEPOST Lime Down Solar

The deadline for submitting feedback to this consultation is Wednesday 19 March 2025.



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Your questions

Thank you

- **Email: info@limedownsolar.co.uk**
- **Freephone: 0808 175 6656**
- **FREEPOST Lime Down Solar**
- **www.limedownsolar.co.uk**