Lime Down
Solar Park

Consultation Report Appendices

Appendix F-4: 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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1 Stage Two Consultation Launch Website

About us

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 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 via the Island Green Power website **linked here.**

The Project

Community benefits and Biodiversity Net Gain

As part of our proposals for Lime Down Solar Park, we will support surrounding communities and deliver benefits to the local environment.

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.

Biodiversity net gain (BNG)

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.

From November 2025, there will be a legal requirement for developers of NSIP projects to show their projects will boost biodiversity by a minimum 10 per cent. This means our plans need to ensure that local wildlife habitats are in a measurably better state than before. Lime Down Solar Park could boost local biodiversity through means such as establishing wildflower areas that provide habitats for pollinators and birds, promoting wetland habitats to reduce flood risk and support aquatic and avian life, and restoring hedgerows and native species.

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.

The Project

Connecting to the 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.

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 400 kV 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.

Building the connection

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**.

Underground cables can be buried in areas without land restrictions. However, after the land is restored, restrictions may be applied to avoid the risk of cables being disturbed or damaged.

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

An interactive version of this map is available on our *Project Overview* webpage - click here to be redirected.

Stage One Consultation — March 2024

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.

- South from the 400kV substation, going across the M4 near Sevington then to the east of Yatton Keynell continuing to run south across the A420, then west of Gastard and east of Corsham until it reaches Melksham substation.
- South from the 400kV substation, crossing the M4 near Leigh Delamere, before continuing to the west of Kington St. Michael, across the A420, east of Gastard and West of Norton.
- A route that broadly follows the A350 road having run south from M4 junction 17.

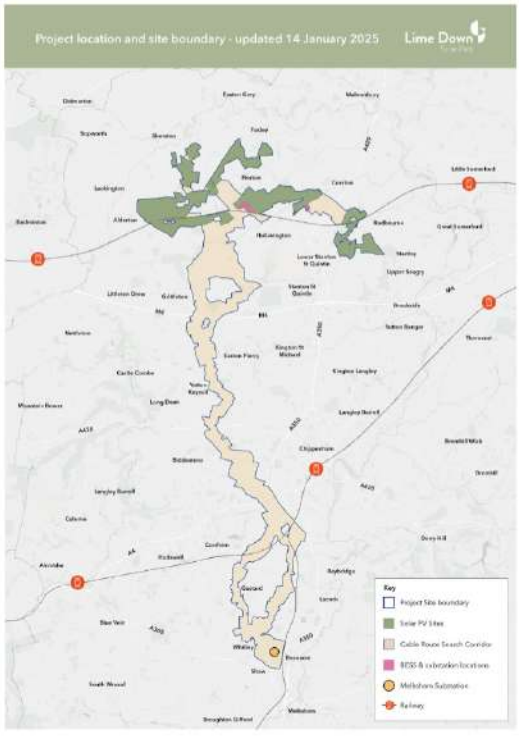
All project information published at Stage One is available on our Stage One Documents webpage, accessible by clicking here.

In selecting these route corridors, we have sought to minimise ecological impact and preserve cultural heritage by avoiding designated ecological areas, mature and historic woodlands, listed buildings, scheduled monuments, and conservation areas. Additionally, we have aimed to reduce their length and the number of crossings over roads, railways, watercourses, and hedgerows as much as possible.

What is a route corridor?

A route corridor is a broad ribbon of land through which an electrical connection could be routed. The corridor may vary in width depending on a range of factors including 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.
- Protected sites including nature conservation area



The Project

Construction, operation and 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 two and four years 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.

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.

Contact us

We want to keep you informed about Lime Down Solar Park.

We have established dedicated communications lines for Lime Down to ensure you always can get in touch with a member of our stakeholder engagement team, from **9am to 5pm**, **Monday through Friday** (excluding bank holidays).

Please register with us via this link to keep informed about Lime Down Solar Park.

Further, please feel free to get in touch using any of the communications lines listed below.

- Email: **info@limedownsolar.co.uk**
- Freephone information line: **0808 175 6656**
- Freepost: **FREEPOST Lime Down Solar*** *Free of charge, no need for a stamp.

Alternatively, If you have any questions or would like to find out more about the project please complete the contact form below to get in touch.

Name (required)

Email (required)

Phone

Message (required)

Would you like to receive news and information about Lime Down Solar Park straight to your inbox? (required)

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

Send

The Project

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.

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	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 resilience 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. 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 public rights of way, local recreation and access as much as we can. We are exploring the improvement of walking routes, footpath networks and permissive paths, along with enhancement measures for walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

The Project

Development process

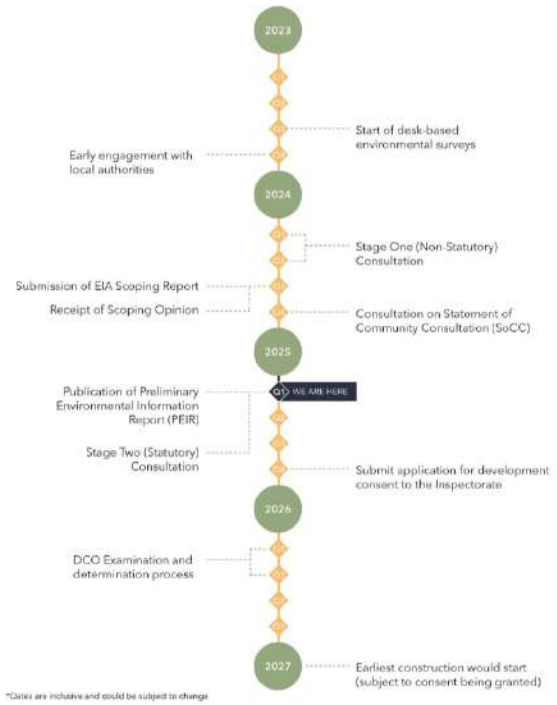
Lime Down Solar Park is anticipated as being able to deliver up to 500MW of electricity. As its generation capacity exceeds 50MW, it is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).

The development consenting regime for an NSIP comes under the Planning Act 2008. This means that we need to submit an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build, operate and decommission Lime Down Solar Park to the **Planning Inspectorate** rather than the local planning authority.

In the case of energy related NSIPs, the Planning Inspectorate acts on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy and Net Zero. The Planning Inspectorate will carry out an examination of our application and then make a final recommendation to the Secretary of State on whether to grant consent. The Secretary of State will make the final decision on whether to grant consent for Lime Down Solar Park.

We expect the development process, including DCO submission and examination, to span two to three years. We intend to submit our application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate in late 2025. Subject to obtaining consent, the earliest construction would start is 2027.

You can find more information about the application process for NSIP projects on the **Planning Inspectorate website here**.



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The Project

Environmental Impact Assessment

Lime Down Solar Park is classified as an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development. This requires us to assess the potential significant environmental impacts of our proposed development, as mandated by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

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 Lime Down 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.

Our initial work has identified a number of environmental considerations which will inform the development of our detailed design for Lime Down Solar Park. A summary of these topics can be found on this webpage below.

EIA is broken down into many topics that we need to assess. These include:

- Ecology and biodiversity
- Landscape and visual
- Cultural heritage
- Transport and access
- Soils and agriculture
- Hydrology flood risk and drainage
- Socio-economics, tourism and recreation
- Noise and vibration
- Climate change
- Air quality
- Health
- Waste

For each of these topics we will assess the impact of the project on them throughout its lifecycle from construction through to operation and decommissioning.

The results of the EIA will be set out in the Environmental Statement (ES) which will be included in our final DCO application.

Measures to reduce effects

We have been getting to know the local environment through site visits, early-stage environmental surveys and desk-based information gathering. The results of this work will help shape our project design.

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. A summary of the initial results from our environmental surveys and assessments can be found in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report and have been summarised in the PEIR Non-technical summary available via our Documents webpage **linked here**. More detailed information is set out in topic specific chapters of the **PEIR – Volume 1: Main Report**.

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 below, with full details and further topic areas provided in the PEIR.

Ecology and biodiversity +

Landscape and visual +

Archaeology and cultural heritage +

Transport and access +

Soils and agriculture +

Hydrology, flood risk and drainage +

Socio-economics, tourism and recreation +

Noise and vibration +

Climate Change +

Other environmental topics +

Stage 1: EIA Scoping

- On 16 July 2024 we submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). This is available on **the PINS webpage for Lime Down Solar Park, linked here**.
- The purpose of EIA is to comprehensively identify and evaluate the likely significant effects of a proposed development on the environment so we can then determine measures to reduce or manage any likely significant adverse effects.
- Production of a Scoping Report is the initial stage of the EIA process. It sets out the proposed scope of the EIA, and our submission of this Report to PINS formed a formal request for a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 10(1) of the EIA Regulations.
- Our Scoping Report for Lime Down Solar Park included:
  - A description of the proposed development, including its location and technical capacity
  - A description of baseline information and further data to be obtained
  - The methodologies we will use to assess environmental factors
  - The proposed scope of the assessments we will carry out
  - Potential impacts of the Project and associated mitigation
  - An explanation of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment,
  - The approach to cumulative assessment.
- Over a 42-day period, PINS consulted with various organisations, including the local authority, Statutory Environmental Bodies (SEBs) and other stakeholders with specific expertise and responsibilities related to environmental protection, to gather their views on the scope of the environmental assessment.
- PINS then compiled the feedback received and on 22 July 2024 published its 'Scoping Opinion'. This sets out comments on our proposed approach to EIA, and the topics we need to address in the Environmental Statement (ES) that will be submitted as part of our application for development consent.
- A copy of the Scoping Opinion PINS provided us with can be found on **the PINS website here**.

Stage 2: Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

- We are required by the Planning Act 2008 to prepare a PEIR.
- A core technical document, the PEIR sets out the initial findings of the EIA and identifies the measures we are proposing to reduce, enhance and improve the effects our proposed development may have on the environment.
- The PEIR is being presented at statutory consultation so technical stakeholders, local communities, individuals and interested parties can develop an informed view of the potential impacts Lime Down may have on the local environment and provide us with their views and feedback.
- You can view the PEIR via the Documents – Stage Two Consultation – Jan 2025 webpage **linked here**.

Stage 3: Environmental Statement (ES)

- After statutory consultation we will produce the ES.
- This will be prepared based on the Scoping Opinion and will advance the content of the PEIR, incorporating feedback received during statutory consultation and the public and the outcomes of our assessments undertaken.
- 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.

FAQs

Who is developing Lime Down Solar Park?

For more information, please visit the Island Green Power website at: https://www.islandgp.com/

What is Lime Down Solar Park?

Where is Lime Down Solar Park proposed as being located?

How will Lime Down Solar Park connect into the national grid?

How have our plans for Lime Down Solar Park changed since Stage One?

What are the timescales for delivering Lime Down Solar Park?

Why are we proposing Lime Down Solar Park?

What is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP)?

Will local communities be able to have their say on our proposals?

How will the local community benefit from our proposals?

How will Lime Down Solar Park affect biodiversity and local wildlife?

The proposed project includes Battery Energy Storage. What approach is being taken to ensure the battery is safe?

How has the land for the proposed project been acquired?

Is Lime Down Solar Park supported by government subsidies?

How does the DCO process enforce decommissioning?

I received a Land Interest Questionnaire (LIQ) letter. What does this mean?

Will Lime Down Solar Park increase flooding?

How will Lime Down Solar Park impact food security?

Latest Update

29 January 2025

Today we have launched a second stage of consultation, which will run for seven weeks before closing on 19 March 2025, including a series of online and in-person events between 05 February and 27 February.

During this time, we are inviting feedback from local communities near the site, as well as those from the wider area for their views on the updated proposals.

Welcome

Island Green Power is developing proposals to build a new solar and energy storage project on land in Wiltshire, with associated infrastructure to connect it to the national grid.

The electricity generated by the proposed solar park would be exported via an underground cable connection into the existing national electricity transmission system at Melksham substation.

The project is anticipated as being able to deliver up to 500 megawatts (MW) of renewable electricity through ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV panels). This is enough clean, affordable electricity to power approximately 115,000 homes every year.

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.

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.

The amount of electricity Lime Down Solar Park could generate exceeds 50MW. It is therefore classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). The development consenting regime for a NSIP comes under the Planning Act 2008. This means to get permission to build and operate the solar park we need to apply to the **Planning Inspectorate** for a Development Consent Order (DCO). We anticipate submitting our application to the Planning Inspectorate in Autumn 2025.

We want to hear your feedback

You are now invited to take part in our 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.

To find out more about this consultation please visit our *Stage Two Consultation - January 2025* webpage **linked here**. During this consultation period, we are hosting a series of in-person and online events, encouraging people to attend to find out more about the Project and how to provide us with their feedback.

Event details

- **Wed 5 Feb** (18:30–20:00) – ONLINE WEBINAR (Zoom) register to attend by clicking here.
- **Fri 7 Feb** (14:30–19:30) – Sherston Village Hall, SN16 0LQ
- **Sat 8 Feb** (11:00–15:00) – Hullavington Village Hall, SN14 6EB
- **Wed 12 Feb** (14:30–19:30) – Grittleton Village Hall, SN14 6AW
- **Thurs 13 Feb** (14:30–19:30) – Corsham Town Council Hall, SN13 0EZ
- **Fri 14 Feb** (14:30–19:30) – Malmesbury Town Hall, SN16 9BZ
- **Sat 15 Feb** (11:00–15:00) – Luckington Village Hall, SN14 6NP
- **Tues 25 Feb** (14:30–19:30) – Goss Croft Hall, SN15 5HD
- **Wed 26 Feb** (17:30–20:30) – Shaw CofE Primary School, SN12 8EQ
- **Thurs 27 Feb** (18:30–20:00) – ONLINE WEBINAR (Zoom) register to attend by clicking here.

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.

To find out how to provide feedback, please visit our *How to provide feedback* webpage **linked here**.

You can register your contact details if you would like us to send you project updates straight to your inbox by **clicking here**.

Consultation

How To Provide Feedback

We'd really like to hear your views on our proposals. Your feedback is important to us. You can submit your comments to this consultation online and in writing. To respond to this consultation you can:

- Submit your Feedback Form online, please **click here**.
- Any emails sent to **info@limedownsolar.co.uk** during the consultation period will also be considered as feedback.
- 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.

You may complete as many sections of the feedback form as you would like, and please ensure you submit the whole form even if you do not answer all of the questions.

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. 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 our webpage Privacy Policy & GDPR **linked here**.

We will acknowledge and record all the comments submitted to this consultation and take them into consideration to help inform and shape our proposals. However, we will not be able to respond to you individually.

Contact Us:
Email: info@limedownsolar.co.uk
Call Freephone: 0808 175 6656
Write to: FREEPOST Lime Down Solar

29 Jan

Latest update

Consultation launched on updated plans for Lime Down Solar Park

Island Green Power has launched a second stage of consultation on its plans for Lime Down Solar Park – a new renewable solar energy and storage development proposed in Wiltshire.

Starting today, 29 January 2025, the consultation will run for seven weeks before closing on 19 March 2025. During this time, the developer is inviting feedback from local communities near the site, as well as those from the wider area, for their views on the updated proposals.

The refined plans cover a total development area of 878 hectares. Of this, 53 per cent will be utilised for solar panels and associated infrastructure, to support the generation of renewable energy.

The remaining 47 per cent of the land available for the development has been allocated for environmental purposes, including mitigation measures, biodiversity net gain initiatives, ecological enhancements and offsets, all contributing to deliver significant environmental benefits to the local area.

This second stage of consultation follows an initial consultation held early last year. During the first stage, Island Green Power presented its preliminary study area for the proposed solar development, alongside broad corridors in which an underground cable could be routed to connect the solar park to the national grid at Melksham substation.

The plans now being consulted on have been informed by the findings from extensive environmental studies as well as feedback received during the first consultation.

Will Threlfall, Senior Project Development Manager at Island Green Power explained:

> *"Following our initial round of consultation and as part of our ongoing commitment to sensitive design and responding to people's feedback, we have refined our proposals in several ways.*
>
> *"Nearly half of the area originally proposed for the solar park will now be used for solar development, with the remainder allocated to environmental improvements that benefit local biodiversity and ecology. This ensures the design is sensitive to the landscape and key features that people have highlighted as important, such as the Fosse Way.*
>
> *"We have also carefully considered ways to minimise the impact of the battery storage component by co-locating it within the solar development areas and increasing the distance between this equipment and nearby residences and communities.*
>
> *"We're really grateful to everyone who has shared their views and contributed to helping shape the Project so far. Projects like Lime Down Solar are vital to enabling the transition from fossil fuel to low carbon energy, and we're committed to delivering a scheme that makes a meaningful contribution to both local and national energy needs. I'd encourage people to find out more about how our proposals have evolved and come along to the events we're holding to speak with myself and the wider team."*

Full details of the updated proposals being consulted on, including maps and plans, as well as details of the consultation events taking place can be found on the Project website at: www.limedownsolar.co.uk.

Information about the consultation and where information can be found has also been advertised in the local press, with leaflets having been sent to over 14,000 homes and business.

Anyone wishing to receive updates about the Project and the consultation direct are encouraged to register their details on the Project website.

For further information please contact the Community Relations Team on:

- Freephone: 0808 175 6656
- Email: info@limedownsolar.co.uk
- Post: FREEPOST Lime Down Solar

Latest update 〉

News

Here you can find the latest updates regarding Lime Down Solar Park, including information at key milestones in project development.

29/01/2025

Latest update

Consultation launched on updated plans for Lime Down Solar Park

Read More

14/01/2025

Latest update

We have confirmed the details for our next stage of consultation (29 January - 19 March 2025), and will be holding a series of online and in-person events between 05 February and 27 February 2025.

Read More

17/12/2024

Update — December 2024

We have provided advance notice of our upcoming stage of consultation, which will run for seven weeks from Wednesday 29 January to Wednesday 19 March 2025, with online and in-person events expected in February.

Read More

24/10/2024

Update — October 2024

We have published a Consultation Summary Report. The report summarises the comments received during our Stage One consultation and how we are using this feedback to inform the project design process moving forward.

Read More

17/07/2024

Update — July 2024

On 16 July 2024 we submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report for Lime Down Solar Park to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS).

Read More

27/04/2024

Update — April 2024

Our first stage of community consultation has now closed. Our Stage One Consultation ran for six weeks, from Thursday 14 March 2024 to Friday 26 April 2024.

Read More

14/03/2024

Update — March 2024

Our Stage One consultation is now open until 26 April 2024. Please click this banner to find out more.

Read More

08/03/2024

Update — March 2024

Our Stage One consultation will begin soon. Please click this banner to find out more.

Read More

The Project

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, public rights of way, 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 archeology assets	We've removed panels in areas with archaeological and heritage sensitivities and proposed enhanced screening and offsets to reduce impacts on heritage assets. This includes near the Fosse Way and Fosse Lodge, and both the Alderton and Sherston Conservations Areas.
Provide detail on construction and decommissioning	Construction activities would be limited and controlled by a suite of management documents to address the impact of HGVs on local roads and 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. Visualisations of how the Project could look, including screening, can be found in the PEIR Volume 1, Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual linked here. Details of individual Project components can also be found in PEIR Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Scheme linked here.

Consultation

Overview of consultation stages

Public consultation is a crucial component of the pre-application process for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).

We are committed to early and continuous engagement to ensure that the development of our proposals for Lime Down Solar Park is informed and shaped by community input. Local communities, residents, and councils play a vital role in this process.

The design process for the proposed development will be iterative and will be informed by feedback received during the two stages of community consultation that are planned for the Project.

Stage One non-statutory consultation – March 2024

We held an initial stage of community consultation that ran for just over six weeks from Thursday 14 March to Friday 26 April 2024.

The aim of this consultation was to introduce Island Green Power and the overall project, and share our early-stage proposals for Lime Down Solar Park to give people the opportunity to share their views and local knowledge.

Feedback to this consultation helped us understand those aspects of the proposed development which people want us to prioritise as we continue to evolve the design for the Project.

You can find out more about this first stage of consultation here.

Further opportunities to contribute

The current second stage of consultation will likely be the last time we consult on our proposals for Lime Down Solar Park before submission.

However, subject to the Planning Inspectorate accepting our Development Consent Order application for examination, you will be able to register your interest in our proposals with them. The Planning Inspectorate will then keep you informed about the progress of our application as well as further opportunities to inform and contribute to that process.

Stage Two statutory consultation – January 2025

The second stage of consultation began on Wednesday 29 January and will be running for seven weeks, until Wednesday 19 March 2025.

This will be is a statutory stage of consultation as is required by the Development Consent Order process for NSIP applications. To find out more about this consultation, please visit our *Stage Two Consultation - January 2025* webpage **linked here**.

We are holding a series of in-person and online events throughout February as follows:

- **Wed 5 Feb** (18:30–20:00) – ONLINE WEBINAR (Zoom) register to attend by **clicking here**.
- **Fri 7 Feb** (14:30–19:30) – Sherston Village Hall, SN16 0LQ
- **Sat 8 Feb** (11:00–15:00) – Hullavington Village Hall, SN14 6EB
- **Wed 12 Feb** (14:30–19:30) – Grittleton Village Hall, SN14 6AW
- **Thurs 13 Feb** (14:30–19:30) – Corsham Town Council Hall, SN13 0EZ
- **Fri 14 Feb** (14:30–19:30) – Malmesbury Town Hall, SN16 9BZ
- **Sat 15 Feb** (11:00–15:00) – Luckington Village Hall, SN14 6NP
- **Tues 25 Feb** (14:30–19:30) – Goss Croft Hall, SN15 5HD
- **Wed 26 Feb** (17:30–20:30) – Shaw CofE Primary School, SN12 8EQ
- **Thurs 27 Feb** (18:30–20:00) – ONLINE WEBINAR (Zoom) register to attend by clicking here.

We will review our detailed proposals in light of the feedback received during this second consultation, along with the outcomes of ongoing assessments, to finalise the application for development consent we submit to the Planning Inspectorate.

As the applicant, we have a duty to demonstrate how we have taken your views into account in developing our final proposals for Lime Down Solar Park. The application we submit to the Planning Inspectorate will include a **Consultation Report** summarising all the issues raised in feedback to consultation along with an explanation of how we have taken views into account to develop our final proposals.

This Report, along with all the other application documents will be published on the Planning Inspectorate's website should our application be accepted for examination.

The Project

Project overview

Lime Down Solar Park is a utility-scale solar park and battery energy storage project proposed as being built on land in Wiltshire.

The Project would comprise the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and an on-site battery energy storage system (BESS). It will also include an underground cable connection to the national grid at Melksham Substation, ensuring that the renewable electricity produced can be made available to homes and businesses locally and across the UK.

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

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'.

The sites making up the solar park can be identified as follows:

- Lime Down A – located to the east of Commonwood Lane
- Lime Down B – located to the east of the Fosse Way
- Lime Down C – lies across the Fosse Way to the east of Alderton
- Lime Down D – lies immediately to the north of the Great Western Railway line and Hullavington, south of Bradfield Wood
- Lime Down E – located to the south-west of Rodbourne, and south of Corston

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 latest plan showing the location of the Project is available to view on this webpage. Additional maps and plans can be viewed in the 'Documents' webpage linked here.

The Project location map shows the extent of the land required for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Solar PV Sites and the connection into the national grid at Melksham Substation.

Within the boundaries of the Solar PV Sites there will be buffer zones to maintain a suitable distance between equipment and infrastructure and existing homes, landscape, ecological and habitat features and Public Rights of Way.

Scroll down to use the interactive map where you can search for a location and see how it relates to the site.

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:

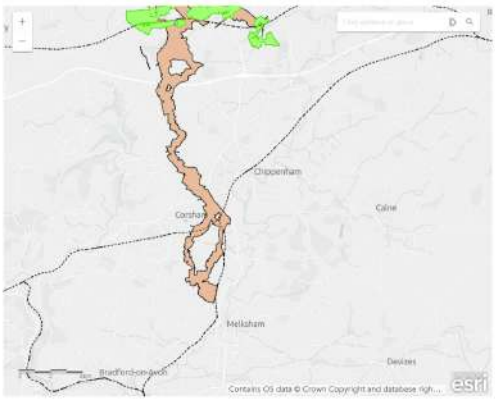
- They benefit from good levels of sunlight (irradiance), ensuring efficient electricity generation.
- The sites are close together and, combined, provide enough land to accommodate the Project.
- The sites comprise land of regular shape.
- The majority of the sites comprise grade 3 agricultural land, 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.

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. It comprises the following elements:

- The Solar PV Sites – comprising approximately 878 ha (2,169 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 22 km 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 2 km. We will refine this corridor before submitting our application for development consent to PINS.

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.



Click on the Project Location Map to enlarge.

Register to keep informed

Sign up with your email address to receive news and updates.

Email Address

Sign Up

Lime Down Solar Park

Contact Us:
Email: info@limedownsolar.co.uk
Call Freephone: 0808 175 6656
Write to: FREEPOST Lime Down Solar

Stage One Community Consultation - March 24

Copies of all the documents and information relating to Stage One Community Consultation on Lime Down Solar Park can be found here.

- Consultation Summary Report – October 2024
- Consultation Information Leaflet
- Feedback Form
- Poster
- Consultation Postcard
- Advert
- Event Display Panels
- Online Webinar Presentation Slides

Maps and plans

- Indicative Masterplan
- Lime Down A
- Lime Down B
- Lime Down C
- Lime Down D
- Lime Down E
- Cable Corridor Search Area 1a
- Cable Corridor Search Area 1b
- Solar Sites
- Land at Melksham Substation

If you would like a document in large text or an alternative format, please contact us on:

- Tel: **0808 175 6656**
- Email: **info@limedownsolar.co.uk**
- Post: **FREEPOST Lime Down Solar**

You can also use the contact form linked here.

Consultation

Stage One Consultation — March 2024

This consultation has now closed.

We held a first stage of non-statutory consultation on our early-stage proposals for Lime Down Solar Park between 14 March 2024 and 26 April 2024.

The aim of this initial consultation was to introduce Island Green Power and present our emerging proposals for Lime Down Solar Park; giving people living and working in the area the opportunity to share their views and local knowledge to help inform and influence our proposals from an early stage in the development process.

Copies of the consultation materials produced to inform this stage of consultation can be found here.

Community information events

Over the course of this consultation, we held six in-person events and two online webinars. Recordings of the webinars which took place are available to view and download below:

27 March – Online webinar

- Webinar recording here
- Presentation slides here
- Response to outstanding questions here

17 April – Online webinar

- Webinar recording here
- Presentation slides here
- Response to outstanding questions here

We received a significant level of feedback over the course of this consultation and are grateful to everyone who took the time to provide us with their views and suggestions on our emerging proposals.

Further to the consultation closing, we reviewed all the feedback you submitted to help us better understand those aspects of the project you want us to prioritise as we continue to develop our proposals.

We have published the findings from this initial consultation in a report. This outlines the key themes raised in feedback and explains how, along with the outcome from ongoing environmental assessments, they are being used to help us refine the design for the project.

You can view a copy of this report HERE.

Contact Us:
Email: info@limedownsolar.co.uk
Call Freephone: 0808 175 6656
Write to: FREEPOST Lime Down Solar

Stage Two Community Consultation - January 25

Copies of all the documents and information relating to Stage Two Community Consultation on Lime Down Solar Park can be found here.

A guide to our documents:

- Document Navigation Booklet

- Project Information Booklet
- Consultation Leaflet
- Poster
- Consultation Feedback form
- PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS)
- Section 48 Notice

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

- Contents, Glossary and Abbreviations

Volume 1 - Main Report +

Volume 2 - Figures +

Volume 3 - Technical Appendices +

Click here for copies of all documents relating to the Stage One community consultation we held in March - April 2024, which remain available for you to view and download.

This includes the **Stage One Consultation Summary Report**, which you can view and download direct by clicking here.

Maps and plans

- Site Development Areas Lime Down Solar
- Indicative Site Layout Lime Down Solar A
- Indicative Site Layout Lime Down Solar B
- Indicative Site Layout Lime Down Solar C
- Indicative Site Layout Lime Down Solar D
- Indicative Site Layout Lime Down Solar E
- PEIR Volume 2 Figure 8-15-1 Lime Down A
- PEIR Volume 2 Figure 8-15-2 Lime Down B
- PEIR Volume 2 Figure 8-15-3 Lime Down C
- PEIR Volume 2 Figure 8-15-4 Lime Down D
- PEIR Volume 2 Figure 8-15-5 Lime Down E
- PEIR Volume 2 Figure 8-1-6 Cable Route Search Corridor
- PEIR Volume 2 Figure 8-1-7 Cable Route Search Corridor
- PEIR Volume 2 Figure 8-1-8 Cable Route Search Corridor

If you would like a document in large text or an alternative format, please contact us on:

- Tel: **0808 175 6656** (open 09:00-17:00 Monday to Friday excluding bank holidays)
- Email: **info@limedownsolar.co.uk**
- Post: **FREEPOST Lime Down Solar**

You can also use the contact form linked here.

Consultation

Stage Two Consultation - January 2025

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.
- **Visit a Community Access Point** where you will find copies of all our consultation materials (to view and/or take away). Details on this are available on page 24 of the SoCC **linked here**.
- **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.
- **Visit our *How to provide feedback* webpage** linked here to find out the different ways to submit feedback to this consultation.

In person and online events

- **Wed 5 Feb** (18:30–20:00) – ONLINE WEBINAR (Zoom), register to attend by **clicking here**.
- **Fri 7 Feb** (14:30–19:30) – Sherston Village Hall, SN16 0LQ
- **Sat 8 Feb** (11:00–15:00) – Hullavington Village Hall, SN14 6EB
- **Wed 12 Feb** (14:30–19:30) – Grittleton Village Hall, SN14 6AW
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- **Wed 26 Feb** (17:30–20:30) – Shaw CofE Primary School, SN12 8EQ
- **Thurs 27 Feb** (18:30–20:00) – ONLINE WEBINAR (Zoom), register to attend by **clicking here**.

Tell us what you think

We'd really like to hear your views on our proposals. Your feedback is important to us.

Visit our *How to provide feedback* webpage linked here to submit your comments.

We have set out how we are engaging with and obtaining feedback from local communities and interested parties in our Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), which we developed by working with Wiltshire Council. **The SoCC is available for you to view on our Documents webpage linked here.**

Contact Us:
Email: info@limedownsolar.co.uk
Call Freephone: 0808 175 6656
Write to: FREEPOST Lime Down Solar

Statement of Community Consultation

Tuesday 14 January 2025 - In accordance with Section 47(6) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008), in advance of Stage Two Statutory Consultation for Lime Down Solar Park launching, we have published a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) setting out how we will carry out the statutory consultation.

A Section 47 Notice has been placed in local newspapers to advertise that the SoCC had been published. A Section 48 Notice has also been placed in local and national press and the London Gazette to advertise our intention to submit a Development Consent Order (DCO) application for Lime Down Solar Park.

Copies of these documents can be found here.

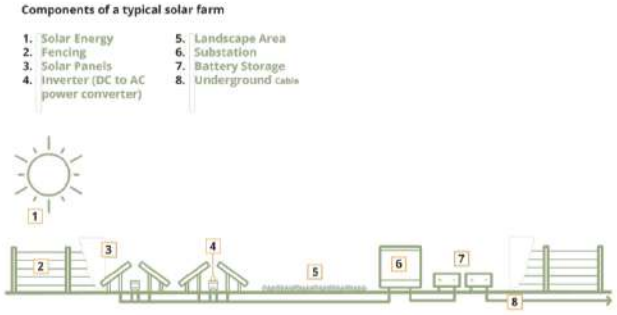
- Lime Down Solar Park – Statement of Community Consultation – Jan 2025
- Lime Down Solar Park – Errata Statement – Statement of Community Consultation – 27 Jan 2025
- Lime Down Solar Park – Section 47 Notice – Jan 2025
- Lime Down Solar Park – Section 48 Notice – Jan 2025

The Project

The Solar Park

The main elements of the solar park would include:

- **Solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and PV mounting structures**: panels are positioned directly on the ground to convert the sun's energy into electricity that will then be exported to the grid via an underground cable. We anticipate using a combination of fixed and tracker panels. The tracker panels (including their supports) could have a maximum height up to 4.5 metres.



Solar PV – additional design considerations

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

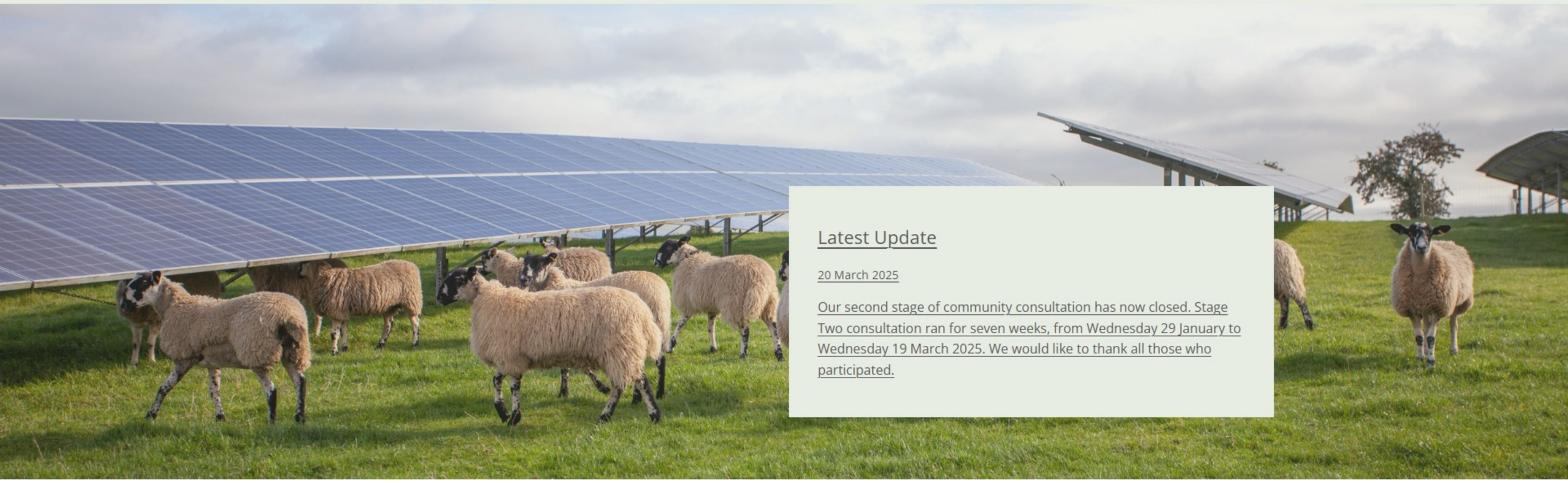
When it comes to our application, we will therefore seek a consent that restricts aspects of the solar park which have potential environmental impacts including:

- Solar panel height
- Dimensions of the infrastructure i.e. onsite substations
- Location of the panels across the site

The core components of the solar park include:

- **Solar PV panels**: converting sunlight into electricity.
- **Solar PV mounting structures**
- **Inverters**: converting the direct current (DC) electricity generated by the panels into alternating current (AC). AC electricity is what powers homes and businesses.
- **Transformers**: to increase the voltage of the electricity so it can be exported to the national grid.
- **Switchgear**: to manage the flow of electricity and direct it to where needed.
- **Energy Storage System**: on-site storage facilities – known as a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) - would provide an important balancing service for the national grid. The BESS would store electricity generated by the solar PV panels at times when demand for electricity is low, with it then being exported on to the electricity transmission system when demand peaks. It could also be used to import and store electricity from the national grid until it is needed.
- **On-site cables**: to connect the solar panels and the battery energy storage system to the inverters which in turn connect to the transformers. Higher voltage cables will be required between transformers and switchgear and from switchgear to the off-site electrical infrastructure.
- **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.
- **On-site substations**: to export electricity from the solar park to the national grid, ensuring it is accessible for public use. The substations will include will include a control building with welfare facilities.
- **Fencing**: comprising deer wire and mesh and wooden posts to enclose operational areas of the site with pole mounted internal facing CCTV systems around the perimeter.
- **Site accesses:** to be used during construction and for routine maintenance when the Project is operational, there will be designated entry points to allow safe access to different areas within the solar park.
- **New planting**: new planting, landscaping and biodiversity measures across the site and around the perimeter to enhance biodiversity and improve the landscape - for example, planting new trees and vegetation.
- **Construction compounds**: during construction, temporary construction compounds and temporary roadway accesses will be required to enable access to the land within the Site.

2 Stage Two Consultation Close Website



Latest Update

20 March 2025

Our second stage of community consultation has now closed. Stage Two consultation ran for seven weeks, from Wednesday 29 January to Wednesday 19 March 2025. We would like to thank all those who participated.

Welcome

Island Green Power is developing proposals to build a new solar and energy storage project on land in Wiltshire, with associated infrastructure to connect it to the national grid.

The electricity generated by the proposed solar park would be exported via an underground cable connection into the existing national electricity transmission system at Melksham substation.

The project is anticipated as being able to deliver up to 500 megawatts (MW) of renewable electricity through ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV panels). This is enough clean, affordable electricity to power approximately 115,000 homes every year.

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.

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.

The amount of electricity Lime Down Solar Park could generate exceeds 50MW. It is therefore classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). The development consenting regime for a NSIP comes under the Planning Act 2008. This means to get permission to build and operate the solar park we need to apply to the **Planning Inspectorate** for a Development Consent Order (DCO). We anticipate submitting our application to the Planning Inspectorate in Autumn 2025.

The Project

Project overview

Lime Down Solar Park is a utility-scale solar park and battery energy storage project proposed as being built on land in Wiltshire.

The Project would comprise the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and an on-site battery energy storage system (BESS). It will also include an underground cable connection to the national grid at Melksham Substation, ensuring that the renewable electricity produced can be made available to homes and businesses locally and across the UK.

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

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'.

The sites making up the solar park can be identified as follows:

- Lime Down A – located to the east of Commonwood Lane
- Lime Down B – located to the east of the Fosse Way
- Lime Down C – lies across the Fosse Way to the east of Alderton
- Lime Down D – lies immediately to the north of the Great Western Railway line and Hullavington, south of Bradfield Wood
- Lime Down E – located to the south-west of Rodbourne, and south of Corston

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 latest plan showing the location of the Project is available to view on this webpage. Additional maps and plans can be viewed in the 'Documents' webpage linked here.

The Project location map shows the extent of the land required for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Solar PV Sites and the connection into the national grid at Melksham Substation.

Within the boundaries of the Solar PV Sites there will be buffer zones to maintain a suitable distance between equipment and infrastructure and existing homes, landscape, ecological and habitat features and Public Rights of Way.

Scroll down to use the interactive map where you can search for a location and see how it relates to the site.

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:

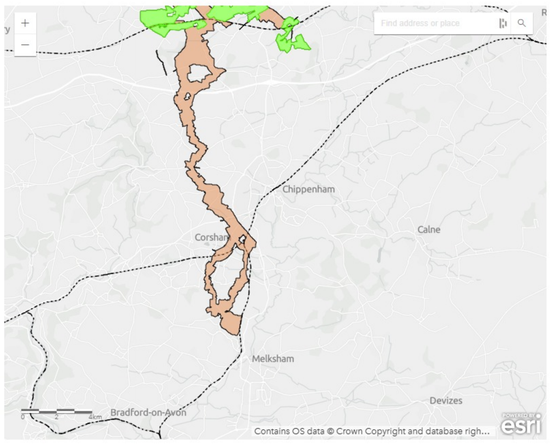
- They benefit from good levels of sunlight (irradiance), ensuring efficient electricity generation.
- The sites are close together and, combined, provide enough land to accommodate the Project.
- The sites comprise land of regular shape.
- The majority of the sites comprise grade 3 agricultural land, 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.

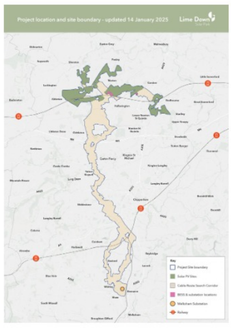
The Project site

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. It comprises the following elements:

- The Solar PV Sites – comprising approximately 878 ha (2,169 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 22 km 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 2 km. We will refine this corridor before submitting our application for development consent to PINS.

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.





Click on the Project Location Map to enlarge.

Register to keep informed

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About us

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 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 via the Island Green Power website **linked here.**

The Project

Development process

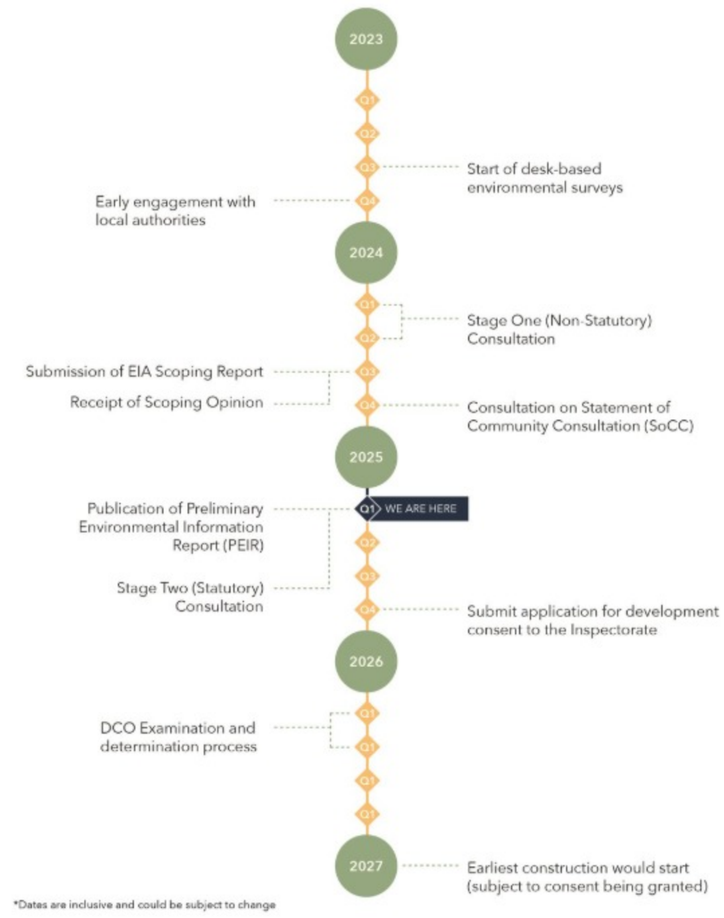
Lime Down Solar Park is anticipated as being able to deliver up to 500MW of electricity. As its generation capacity exceeds 50MW, it is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).

The development consenting regime for an NSIP comes under the Planning Act 2008. This means that we need to submit an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build, operate and decommission Lime Down Solar Park to the **Planning Inspectorate** rather than the local planning authority.

In the case of energy related NSIPs, the Planning Inspectorate acts on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy and Net Zero. The Planning Inspectorate will carry out an examination of our application and then make a final recommendation to the Secretary of State on whether to grant consent. The Secretary of State will make the final decision on whether to grant consent for Lime Down Solar Park.

We expect the development process, including DCO submission and examination, to span two to three years. We intend to submit our application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate in late 2025. Subject to obtaining consent, the earliest construction would start is 2027.

You can find more information about the application process for NSIP projects on the **Planning Inspectorate website here**.



In line with the latest NSIP guidance, we have prepare a pre-application Programme Document which sets out the main steps we anticipate taking as we prepare our DCO application for submission.

Please click here here to view our pre-application Programme Document.

Please click here to read the relevant NSIP guidance, as published by the Planning Inspectorate.

Contact Us:
Email: info@limedownsolar.co.uk
Call Freephone: 0808 175 6656
Write to: FREEPOST Lime Down Solar

The Project

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 consulted on during the Stage Two consultation were 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 Stage Two proposals included plans for green corridors, reinforced hedgerow and roadside planting, and enhanced riparian planting to reduce visual impacts of the Project. We also created buffers and offsets from homes, vegetation, watercourses and drains, public rights of way, 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 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 archeology assets	We removed panels in areas with archaeological and heritage sensitivities and proposed enhanced screening and offsets to reduce impacts on heritage assets. This includes near the Fosse Way and Fosse Lodge, and both the Alderton and Sherston Conservations Areas.
Provide detail on construction and decommissioning	Construction activities would be limited and controlled by a suite of management documents to address the impact of HGVs on local roads and 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 showed the careful location of built elements, including the proposed solar panels, BESS, substations, and a refined cable route corridor. 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.

The Project

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.

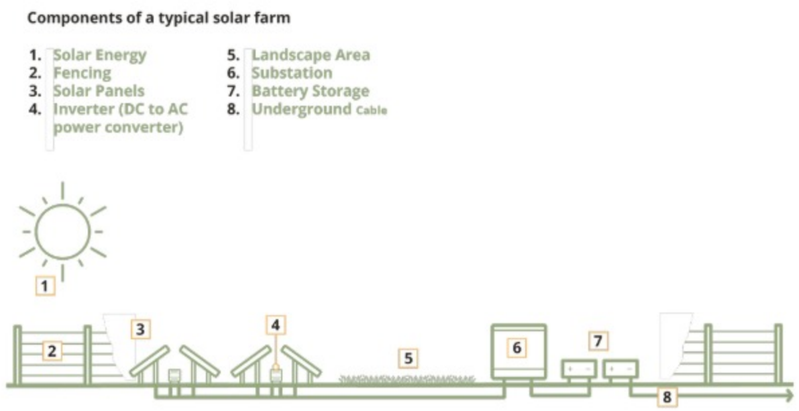
Landscape led design	The design will be 'Landscape Led,' meaning we will work to protect the intrinsic character and beauty of the surrounding countryside and enhance the landscape through design – appropriately screening and siting infrastructure to minimise effects.
Mitigation hierarchy	We will follow 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 resilience 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. 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 public rights of way, local recreation and access as much as we can. We are exploring the improvement of walking routes, footpath networks and permissive paths, along with enhancement measures for walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

The Project

The Solar Park

The main elements of the solar park would include:

- **Solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and PV mounting structures**: panels are positioned directly on the ground to convert the sun's energy into electricity that will then be exported to the grid via an underground cable. We anticipate using a combination of fixed and tracker panels. The tracker panels (including their supports) could have a maximum height up to 4.5 metres.



Solar PV – additional design considerations

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

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

- Solar panel height
- Dimensions of the infrastructure i.e. onsite substations
- Location of the panels across the site

The core components of the solar park include:

- **Solar PV panels**: converting sunlight into electricity.
- **Solar PV mounting structures**
- **Inverters**: converting the direct current (DC) electricity generated by the panels into alternating current (AC). AC electricity is what powers homes and businesses.
- **Transformers**: to increase the voltage of the electricity so it can be exported to the national grid.
- **Switchgear**: to manage the flow of electricity and direct it to where needed.
- **Energy Storage System**: on-site storage facilities – known as a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) - would provide an important balancing service for the national grid. The BESS would store electricity generated by the solar PV panels at times when demand for electricity is low, with it then being exported on to the electricity transmission system when demand peaks. It could also be used to import and store electricity from the national grid until it is needed.
- **On-site cables**: to connect the solar panels and the battery energy storage system to the inverters which in turn connect to the transformers. Higher voltage cables will be required between transformers and switchgear and from switchgear to the off-site electrical infrastructure.
- **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.
- **On-site substations**: to export electricity from the solar park to the national grid, ensuring it is accessible for public use. The substations will include will include a control building with welfare facilities.
- **Fencing**: comprising deer wire and mesh and wooden posts to enclose operational areas of the site with pole mounted internal facing CCTV systems around the perimeter.
- **Site accesses:** to be used during construction and for routine maintenance when the Project is operational, there will be designated entry points to allow safe access to different areas within the solar park.
- **New planting**: new planting, landscaping and biodiversity measures across the site and around the perimeter to enhance biodiversity and improve the landscape - for example, planting new trees and vegetation.
- **Construction compounds**: during construction, temporary construction compounds and temporary roadway accesses will be required to enable access to the land within the Site.

The Project

Connecting to the 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.

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 400 kV 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.

Building the connection

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**.

Underground cables can be buried in areas without land restrictions. However, after the land is restored, restrictions may be applied to avoid the risk of cables being disturbed or damaged.

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

An interactive version of this map is available on our *Project Overview* webpage - click here to be redirected.

Stage One Consultation — March 2024

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.

- South from the 400kV substation, going across the M4 near Sevington then to the east of Yatton Keynell continuing to run south across the A420, then west of Gastard and east of Corsham until it reaches Melksham substation.
- South from the 400kV substation, crossing the M4 near Leigh Delamere, before continuing to the west of Kington St. Michael, across the A420, east of Gastard and West of Norton.
- A route that broadly follows the A350 road having run south from M4 junction 17.

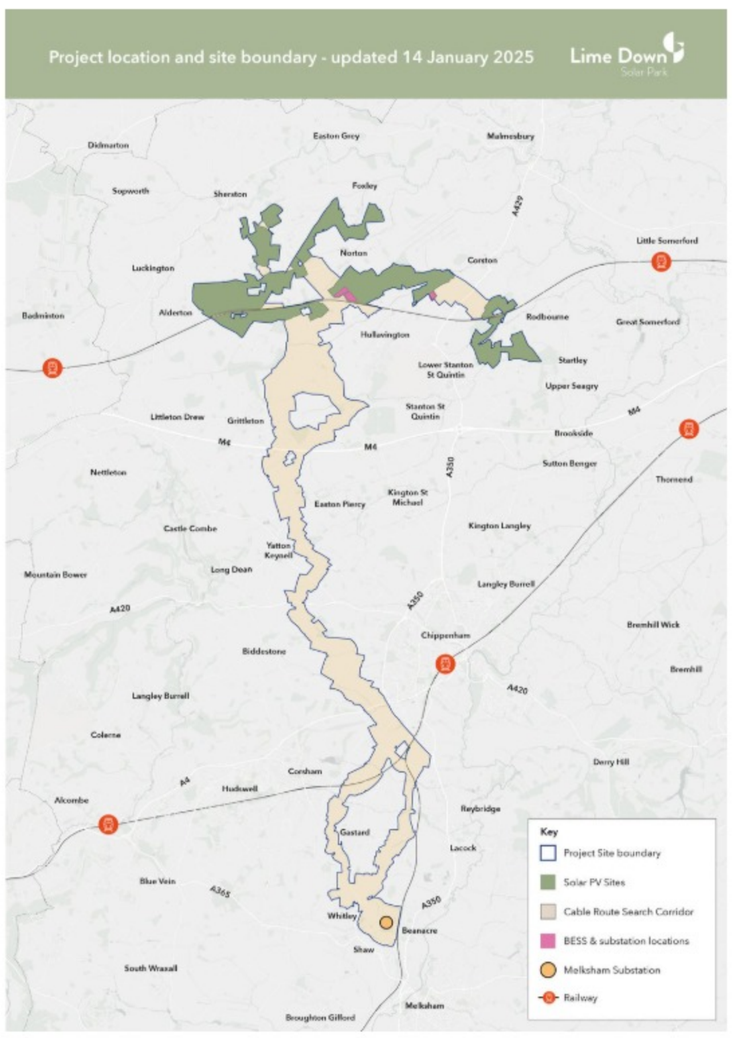
All project information published at Stage One is available on our Stage One Documents webpage, accessible by clicking here.

In selecting these route corridors, we have sought to minimise ecological impact and preserve cultural heritage by avoiding designated ecological areas, mature and historic woodlands, listed buildings, scheduled monuments, and conservation areas. Additionally, we have aimed to reduce their length and the number of crossings over roads, railways, watercourses, and hedgerows as much as possible.

What is a route corridor?

A route corridor is a broad ribbon of land through which an electrical connection could be routed. The corridor may vary in width depending on a range of factors including 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.
- Protected sites including nature conservation area



The Project

Environmental Impact Assessment

Lime Down Solar Park is classified as an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development. This requires us to assess the potential significant environmental impacts of our proposed development, as mandated by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

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 Lime Down 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.

Our initial work has identified a number of environmental considerations which are informing the development of our detailed design for Lime Down Solar Park. A summary of these topics can be found on this webpage below.

EIA is broken down into many topics that we need to assess. These include:

- Ecology and biodiversity
- Landscape and visual
- Cultural heritage
- Transport and access
- Soils and agriculture
- Hydrology flood risk and drainage
- Socio-economics, tourism and recreation
- Noise and vibration
- Climate change
- Air quality
- Health
- Waste

For each of these topics we will assess the impact of the project on them throughout its lifecycle from construction through to operation and decommissioning.

The results of the EIA will be set out in the Environmental Statement (ES) which will be included in our final DCO application.

Measures to reduce effects

We have been getting to know the local environment through site visits, environmental surveys and desk-based information gathering. The results of this work helps shape our project design.

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. A summary of the initial results from our environmental surveys and assessments can be found in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and have been summarised in the PEIR Non-technical summary available via our Documents webpage **linked here.** More detailed information is set out in topic specific chapters of the **PEIR - Volume 1: Main Report.**

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 below, with full details and further topic areas provided in the PEIR.

Ecology and biodiversity

Detailed survey work is being carried out to understand where and what wildlife is currently found across the site so we can identify the potential impacts of our proposals on local species, as well as ways we can protect, promote and enhance wildlife habitats in our plans. These will include:

- Breeding bird surveys
- Bat surveys
- Badger surveys
- Great Crested Newt Surveys
- Water vole and otter surveys

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.

Landscape and visual

A full Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment will be produced so we can identify any potential visual impacts associated with the development we're proposing and put in place appropriate measures to reduce them. For example, views of equipment could be screened by enhancing existing hedgerows and planting new ones.

We are also committed to going beyond the requirements and plan to undertake a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment which seeks to mitigate potential impacts on private views and amenity. Where appropriate, we will propose bespoke measures to visually reduce the potential impacts of the development for each of the properties that may be impacted.

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, public rights of way and watercourses.

Archaeology and cultural heritage

We recognise the cultural and historical importance of this area of Wiltshire, and are carrying out studies to fully understand the significance of heritage assets in the surrounding area, such as Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Scheduled Monuments.

We have undertaken site visits and desk-based assessment to understand the heritage value of the site, and will carry out detailed ground investigation and archaeological surveys to ensure that any assets are protected and avoided during the construction phase of the project. We will also be undertaking field walking and a geo-physical survey of the entire project area to get a better understanding of the potential for buried archaeology.

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.

Transport and access

We are evaluating traffic and access considerations, and have undertaken initial site visits to identify the existing access points into Lime Down Solar Park. We will assess the potential impact of our proposals on traffic, and produce a Construction Traffic Management Plan to outline how we will minimise impact on local traffic during construction and operation.

Soils and agriculture

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.

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. 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.

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.

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).

Hydrology, flood risk and drainage

Emerging flood risk findings from initial research we have carried out indicate that the majority of the project area is located within Flood Zone 1 which is classified as having a low risk to flooding. Parts of the Lime Down sites (D and E) are located within Flood Zones 2 and 3, so we will prepare a Flood Risk Assessment in line with the requirements of National Policy Statement for Energy guidance.

Further, we have also identified land between parts of Lime Down sites (B and C) located within Flood Zones 2 and 3.

Additionally, we will conduct a drainage assessment that describes baseline land drainage conditions and existing site runoff rates, also producing a concept strategy for managing site runoff during the operational lifetime of the development, including resilience to climate change.

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.

Socio-economics, tourism and recreation

We recognise the need to deliver Lime Down Solar Park sensitively and make sure we have considered local communities in designing the Scheme. We are therefore seeking to design the project in a way which will maintain amenity and provide continued access to recreational benefits in the local area.

We are committed to keeping Public Rights of Way in place and open to the public. There may be temporary diversions during the construction period for safety reasons.

Noise and vibration

We are carrying out baseline noise monitoring at those residential properties closest to the site area to understand the noise levels currently experienced.

Solar developments do not tend to produce a significant amount of noise during operation. However, we will model noise which could arise from the electrical transformers across the site and the cooling equipment associated with the battery storage facility, which has potential to be a source of noise from the development. This is so we can assess any potential impact at the nearest properties and then determine appropriate mitigation to include as part of the design.

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 impacts would be limited during construction, operation and decommissioning.

We will maintain dialogue with local residents, 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.

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.

Other environmental topics

As part of the EIA, we will be undertaking baseline surveys, modelling and assessment of a range of other issues including, but not limited to:

- Air Quality
- Human Health
- Waste
- Arboriculture
- Ground Conditions

Although our Stage Two consultation has now closed, we continue to welcome any environmental ideas, local initiatives or environmental information you may hold for the project area that could assist with the evolution of the project, our understanding of the baseline environment and assessment of the effects of the proposal on the environment.

Stage 1: EIA Scoping

- On 16 July 2024 we submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). This is available on the **PINS webpage for Lime Down Solar Park, linked here.**
- The purpose of EIA is to comprehensively identify and evaluate the likely significant effects of a proposed development on the environment so we can then determine measures to reduce or manage any likely significant adverse effects.
- Production of a Scoping Report is the initial stage of the EIA process. It sets out the proposed scope of the EIA, and our submission of this Report to PINS formed a formal request for a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 10(1) of the EIA Regulations.
- Our Scoping Report for Lime Down Solar Park included:
  - A description of the proposed development, including its location and technical capacity
  - A description of baseline information and further data to be obtained
  - The methodologies we will use to assess environmental factors
  - The proposed scope of the assessments we will carry out.
  - Potential impacts of the Project and associated mitigation
  - An explanation of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment.
  - The approach to cumulative assessment.
- Over a 42-day period, PINS consulted with various organisations, including the local authority, Statutory Environmental Bodies (SEBs) and other stakeholders with specific expertise and responsibilities related to environmental protection, to gather their views on the scope of the environmental assessment.
- PINS then compiled the feedback received and on 22 July 2024 published its Scoping Opinion. This sets out comments on our proposed approach to EIA, and the topics we need to address in the Environmental Statement (ES) that will be submitted as part of our application for development consent.
- A copy of the Scoping Opinion PINS provided us with can be found on **the PINS website here.**

Stage 2: Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

- We are required by the Planning Act 2008 to prepare a PEIR.
- A core technical document, the PEIR sets out the initial findings of the EIA and identifies the measures we are proposing to reduce, enhance and improve the effects our proposed development may have on the environment.
- The PEIR was presented at statutory consultation so technical stakeholders, local communities, individuals and interested parties can develop an informed view of the potential impacts Lime Down may have on the local environment and provide us with their views and feedback.
- You can view the PEIR via the Documents - Stage Two Consultation - Jan 2025 webpage **linked here.**

Stage 3: Environmental Statement (ES)

- The results of the EIA will be set out in the ES.
- This is being prepared based on the Scoping Opinion and advances the content of the PEIR, incorporating feedback received during statutory consultation and the outcomes of our assessments undertaken.
- 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.

The results of the EIA will be set out in the Environmental Statement (ES) which will be included in our final DCO application.

Measures to reduce effects

We have been getting to know the local environment through site visits, environmental surveys and desk-based information gathering. The results of this work helps shape our project design.

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. A summary of the initial results from our environmental surveys and assessments can be found in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and have been summarised in the PEIR Non-technical summary available via our Documents webpage **linked here.** More detailed information is set out in topic specific chapters of the **PEIR – Volume 1: Main Report.**

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 below, with full details and further topic areas provided in the PEIR.

Ecology and biodiversity +

Landscape and visual +

Archaeology and cultural heritage +

Transport and access +

Soils and agriculture +

Hydrology, flood risk and drainage +

Socio-economics, tourism and recreation +

Noise and vibration +

Climate Change +

Other environmental topics +

related to environmental protection, to gather their views on the scope of the environmental assessment.

- PINS then compiled the feedback received and on 22 July 2024 published its 'Scoping Opinion'. This sets out comments on our proposed approach to EIA, and the topics we need to address in the Environmental Statement (ES) that will be submitted as part of our application for development consent.
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- The PEIR was presented at statutory consultation so technical stakeholders, local communities, individuals and interested parties can develop an informed view of the potential impacts Lime Down may have on the local environment and provide us with their views and feedback.
- You can view the PEIR via the Documents – Stage Two Consultation – Jan 2025 webpage **linked here**.

Stage 3: Environmental Statement (ES)

- The results of the EIA will be set out in the ES.
- This is being prepared based on the Scoping Opinion and advances the content of the PEIR, incorporating feedback received during statutory consultation and the outcomes of our assessments undertaken.
- 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.

Community benefits and Biodiversity Net Gain

As part of our proposals for Lime Down Solar Park, we will support surrounding communities and deliver benefits to the local environment.

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.

This is why we invited your ideas and suggestions on this point during our first stage of consultation (in March – April 2024) and our second stage (in January – March 2025). We extend our sincere thanks to all those who submitted feedback on this and let us know their views on what kind of benefits (both onsite and offsite) would be most suitable for the area.

Some of your suggestions made during our Stage One consultation 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.

Biodiversity net gain (BNG)

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.

From November 2025, there will be a legal requirement for developers of NSIP projects to show their projects will boost biodiversity by a minimum 10 per cent. This means our plans need to ensure that local wildlife habitats are in a measurably better state than before. Lime Down Solar Park could boost local biodiversity through means such as establishing wildflower areas that provide habitats for pollinators and birds, promoting wetland habitats to reduce flood risk and support aquatic and avian life, and restoring hedgerows and native species.

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.

Contact Us:
Email: info@limedownsolar.co.uk
Call Freephone: 0808 175 6656
Write to: FREEPOST Lime Down Solar

The Project

Construction, operation and 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 two and four years 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.

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.

Consultation

Overview of consultation stages

Public consultation is a crucial component of the pre-application process for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).

We are committed to early and continuous engagement to ensure that the development of our proposals for Lime Down Solar Park is informed and shaped by community input. Local communities, residents, and councils play a vital role in this process.

The design process for the proposed development will be iterative and will be informed by feedback received during the two stages of community consultation that are planned for the Project.

Stage One non-statutory consultation – March 2024

We held an initial stage of community consultation that ran for just over six weeks from Thursday 14 March to Friday 26 April 2024.

The aim of this consultation was to introduce Island Green Power and the overall project, and share our early-stage proposals for Lime Down Solar Park to give people the opportunity to share their views and local knowledge.

Feedback to this consultation helped us understand those aspects of the proposed development which people want us to prioritise as we continue to evolve the design for the Project.

You can find out more about this first stage of consultation here.

Further opportunities to contribute

The current second stage of consultation will likely be the last time we consult on our proposals for Lime Down Solar Park before submission.

However, subject to the Planning Inspectorate accepting our Development Consent Order application for examination, you will be able to register your interest in our proposals with them. The Planning Inspectorate will then keep you informed about the progress of our application as well as further opportunities to inform and contribute to that process.

Stage Two statutory consultation – January 2025

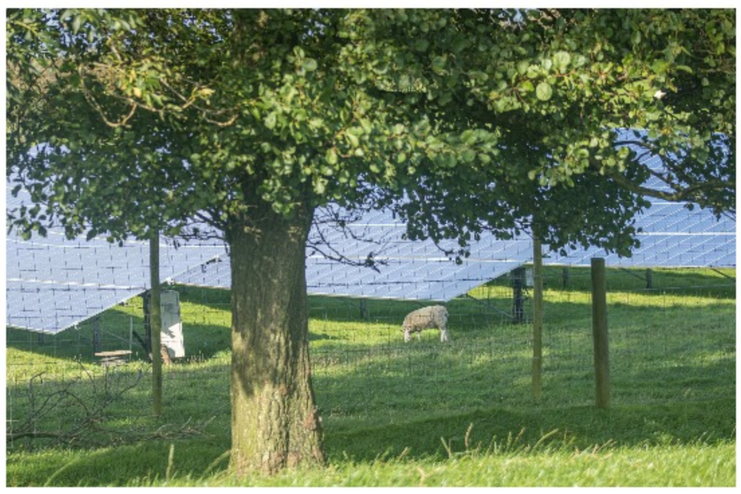
We held a second stage of consultation that ran for seven weeks, from Wednesday 29 January to Wednesday 19 March 2025.

This statutory stage of consultation enabled us to present our updated proposals for the solar and energy storage project and provide local communities and interested parties with the opportunity to share their views on how our plans have evolved since the initial consultation we held last year.

Now that the consultation has closed we are reviewing all the responses alongside findings from ongoing assessments to help finalise our proposals before submitting an application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). We expect to submit the application later this year.

As the applicant, we have a duty to demonstrate how we have taken your views into account in developing our final proposals for Lime Down Solar Park. The application we submit to PINS will include a **Consultation Report** summarising all the issues raised in feedback to consultation along with an explanation of how we have taken views into account to develop our final proposals.

This Report, along with all the other application documents will be published on the Planning Inspectorate's website should our application be accepted for examination.



Consultation

Stage Two Consultation - January 2025

This consultation has now closed.

This statutory stage of consultation enabled us to present our updated proposals for the solar and energy storage project and provide local communities and interested parties with the opportunity to share their views on how our plans have evolved since the initial consultation we held last year.

Copies of the consultation materials produced to inform this stage of consultation can be found here.

Community information events

Over the course of this consultation, we held eight in-person events and two online webinars. Recordings of the webinars which took place are available to view and download below:

5 February – Online webinar

- Webinar recording
- Presentation slides
- Response to outstanding questions

27 February – Online webinar

- Webinar recording
- Presentation slides
- Response to outstanding questions

In advance of our Stage Two consultation, we set out how we would engage with and obtain feedback from local communities and interested parties in our Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), which we developed by working with Wiltshire Council. **The SoCC is available for you to view on our Documents webpage linked here.**

We would like to thank everyone who has taken part in and provided feedback to this important stage of the development process.

Now that the consultation has closed, we are reviewing all the responses alongside findings from ongoing assessments to help finalise our proposals before submitting an application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). We expect to submit the application later this year.

Our final application will include a **Consultation Report** summarising the feedback received with an explanation of how it has informed the development of our final proposals for the Project.

Consultation

Stage One Consultation — March 2024

This consultation has now closed.

We held a first stage of non-statutory consultation on our early-stage proposals for Lime Down Solar Park between 14 March 2024 and 26 April 2024.

The aim of this initial consultation was to introduce Island Green Power and present our emerging proposals for Lime Down Solar Park; giving people living and working in the area the opportunity to share their views and local knowledge to help inform and influence our proposals from an early stage in the development process.

Copies of the consultation materials produced to inform this stage of consultation can be found here.

Community information events

Over the course of this consultation, we held six in-person events and two online webinars. Recordings of the webinars which took place are available to view and download below:

27 March – Online webinar

- Webinar recording here
- Presentation slides here
- Response to outstanding questions here

17 April – Online webinar

- Webinar recording here
- Presentation slides here
- Response to outstanding questions here

We received a significant level of feedback over the course of this consultation and are grateful to everyone who took the time to provide us with their views and suggestions on our emerging proposals.

Further to the consultation closing, we reviewed all the feedback you submitted to help us better understand those aspects of the project you want us to prioritise as we continue to develop our proposals.

We have published the findings from this initial consultation in a report. This outlines the key themes raised in feedback and explains how, along with the outcome from ongoing environmental assessments, they are being used to help us refine the design for the project.

You can view a copy of this report HERE.

Stage Two Community Consultation - January 25

Copies of all the documents and information relating to Stage Two Community Consultation on Lime Down Solar Park can be found here.

A guide to our documents:

- Document Navigation Booklet

- Project Information Booklet
- Consultation Leaflet
- Poster
- Consultation Feedback form
- PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS)
- Section 48 Notice
- Event Display Panels

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

- Contents, Glossary and Abbreviations

Volume 1 - Main Report —

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: The Development Area
- Chapter 3: The Scheme
- Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution
- Chapter 5: Energy Need, Legislative Context and Energy Policy
- Chapter 6: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology
- 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 and Contamination
- Chapter 20: Other Environmental Matters
- Chapter 21: Cumulative and In-Combination Effects
- Chapter 22: Summary of Residual Effects

Volume 2 - Figures —

- Figure 1
- Figure 2
- Figure 3
- Figure 4
- Figure 8
- Figure 9
- Figure 10
- Figure 11
- Figure 12
- Figure 13
- Figure 14
- Figure 15
- Figure 16
- Figure 17
- Figure 18
- Figure 20
- Figure 21

Volume 3 - Technical Appendices —

- Appendix 1
- Appendix 3
- Appendix 4
- Appendix 8
- Appendix 9
- Appendix 10
- Appendix 11
- Appendix 12
- Appendix 14
- Appendix 15
- Appendix 16
- Appendix 17
- Appendix 18
- Appendix 19
- Appendix 20
- Appendix 21

Click here for copies of all documents relating to the Stage One community consultation we held in March - April 2024, which remain available for you to view and download.

This includes the **Stage One Consultation Summary Report**, which you can view and download direct by clicking here.

Maps and plans

- Site Development Areas Lime Down Solar
- Indicative Site Layout Lime Down Solar A
- Indicative Site Layout Lime Down Solar B
- Indicative Site Layout Lime Down Solar C
- Indicative Site Layout Lime Down Solar D
- Indicative Site Layout Lime Down Solar E
- PEIR Volume 2 Figure 8-15-1 Lime Down A
- PEIR Volume 2 Figure 8-15-2 Lime Down B
- PEIR Volume 2 Figure 8-15-3 Lime Down C
- PEIR Volume 2 Figure 8-15-4 Lime Down D
- PEIR Volume 2 Figure 8-15-5 Lime Down E
- PEIR Volume 2 Figure 8-1-6 Cable Route Search Corridor
- PEIR Volume 2 Figure 8-1-7 Cable Route Search Corridor
- PEIR Volume 2 Figure 8-1-8 Cable Route Search Corridor

If you would like a document in large text or an alternative format, please contact us on:

- Tel: **0808 175 6656** (open 09:00-17:00 Monday to Friday excluding bank holidays)
- Email: **info@limedownsolar.co.uk**
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You can also use the contact form linked here.

Stage Two Community Consultation - January 25

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Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

- Contents, Glossary and Abbreviations

Volume 1 - Main Report +

Volume 2 - Figures +

Volume 3 - Technical Appendices +

Click here for copies of all documents relating to the Stage One community consultation we held in March - April 2024, which remain available for you to view and download.

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- Site Development Areas Lime Down Solar
- Indicative Site Layout Lime Down Solar A
- Indicative Site Layout Lime Down Solar B
- Indicative Site Layout Lime Down Solar C
- Indicative Site Layout Lime Down Solar D
- Indicative Site Layout Lime Down Solar E
- PEIR Volume 2 Figure 8-15-1 Lime Down A
- PEIR Volume 2 Figure 8-15-2 Lime Down B
- PEIR Volume 2 Figure 8-15-3 Lime Down C
- PEIR Volume 2 Figure 8-15-4 Lime Down D
- PEIR Volume 2 Figure 8-15-5 Lime Down E
- PEIR Volume 2 Figure 8-1-6 Cable Route Search Corridor
- PEIR Volume 2 Figure 8-1-7 Cable Route Search Corridor
- PEIR Volume 2 Figure 8-1-8 Cable Route Search Corridor

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- Post: **FREEPOST Lime Down Solar**

You can also use the contact form linked here.

Statement of Community Consultation

Tuesday 14 January 2025 - In accordance with Section 47(6) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008), in advance of Stage Two Statutory Consultation for Lime Down Solar Park launching, we published a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) setting out how we would carry out the statutory consultation.

A Section 47 Notice was placed in local newspapers to advertise that the SoCC had been published. A Section 48 Notice was also placed in local and national press and the London Gazette to advertise our intention to submit a Development Consent Order (DCO) application for Lime Down Solar Park.

Copies of these documents can be found here.

- Lime Down Solar Park – Statement of Community Consultation – Jan 2025
- Lime Down Solar Park – Errata Statement – Statement of Community Consultation – 27 Jan 2025
- Lime Down Solar Park – Section 47 Notice – Jan 2025
- Lime Down Solar Park – Section 48 Notice – Jan 2025

Stage One Community Consultation - March 24

Copies of all the documents and information relating to Stage One Community Consultation on Lime Down Solar Park can be found here.

- Consultation Summary Report – October 2024
- Consultation Information Leaflet
- Feedback Form
- Poster
- Consultation Postcard
- Advert
- Event Display Panels
- Online Webinar Presentation Slides

Maps and plans

- Indicative Masterplan
- Lime Down A
- Lime Down B
- Lime Down C
- Lime Down D
- Lime Down E
- Cable Corridor Search Area 1a
- Cable Corridor Search Area 1b
- Solar Sites
- Land at Melksham Substation

If you would like a document in large text or an alternative format, please contact us on:

- Tel: **0808 175 6656**
- Email: **info@limedownsolar.co.uk**
- Post: **FREEPOST Lime Down Solar**

You can also use the contact form linked here.

News

Here you can find the latest updates regarding Lime Down Solar Park, including information at key milestones in project development.

20/03/2025

Latest Update

Our second stage of community consultation has now closed. The Stage Two consultation ran for seven weeks, from Wednesday 29 January to Wednesday 19 March 2025.

Read More

05/03/2025

Update - March 2025

We are reminding local residents and wider stakeholders to provide feedback ahead of the close of the second stage of consultation on Wednesday 19 March 2025.

Read More

29/01/2025

Update — January 2025

Starting today, 29 January 2025, a second stage of consultation on plans for Lime Down Solar Park will run for seven weeks before closing on 19 March 2025.

Read More

14/01/2025

Update — January 2025

We have confirmed the details for our next stage of consultation (29 January - 19 March 2025), and will be holding a series of online and in-person events between 05 February and 27 February 2025.

Read More

17/12/2024

Update — December 2024

We have provided advance notice of our upcoming stage of consultation, which will run for seven weeks from Wednesday 29 January to Wednesday 19 March 2025, with online and in-person events expected in February.

Read More

24/10/2024

Update — October 2024

We have published a Consultation Summary Report. The report summarises the comments received during our Stage One consultation and how we are using this feedback to inform the project design process moving forward.

Read More

17/07/2024

Update — July 2024

On 16 July 2024 we submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report for Lime Down Solar Park to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS).

Read More

27/04/2024

Update — April 2024

Our first stage of community consultation has now closed. Our Stage One Consultation ran for six weeks, from Thursday 14 March 2024 to Friday 26 April 2024.

Read More

14/03/2024

Update — March 2024

Our Stage One consultation is now open until 26 April 2024. Please click this banner to find out more.

Read More

08/03/2024

Update — March 2024

Our Stage One consultation will begin soon. Please click this banner to find out more.

Read More

Contact Us:
Email: info@limedownsolar.co.uk
Call Freephone: 0808 175 6656
Write to: FREEPOST Lime Down Solar

20 Mar

Latest Update

The second stage of consultation on our proposals for Lime Down Solar Park has now closed.

This statutory stage of consultation enabled us to present our updated proposals for the solar and energy storage project and provide local communities and interested parties with the opportunity to share their views on how our plans have evolved since the initial consultation we held last year.

We would like to thank everyone who has taken part in this important stage of the development process. Over the seven-week consultation, we welcomed more than 1,110 people to events we hosted and received a significant amount of constructive and insightful feedback.

Now that the consultation has closed, we are reviewing all the responses alongside findings from ongoing assessments to help finalise our proposals before submitting an application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). We expect to submit the application later this year.

Our final application will include a Consultation Report summarising the feedback received with an explanation of how it has informed the development of our final proposals for the Project.

Anyone wishing to receive updates about the ongoing development process is encouraged to register for updates by clicking here.

Update - March 2025 ›

FAQs

Who is developing Lime Down Solar Park?

Lime Down Solar Park Limited is a 100% subsidiary of IGP UK Projects Limited, which is in turn a 100% subsidiary of Island Green Power's UK group holding company, Island Green Power Group Limited. All the companies are registered in England and Wales.

Established in 2013, Island Green Power (IGP) is a leading developer of renewable energy projects.

IGP has successfully developed 37 solar projects worldwide with a total of more than 2.5 gigawatts of energy capacity. This includes 20 projects in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

This includes the recently consented West Burton Solar Project, which will generate 480 MW of clean energy, enough to power 115,000 homes.

At IGP, we manage the entire development process for our renewable energy projects, from identifying suitable land and assessing feasibility to securing planning permission, grid connection permits, and advancing projects to the notice to proceed stage.

In all we do, we are committed to responsible land use and believe that the development and commercial delivery of utility-scale solar farms can be achieved in harmony with their surroundings.

For more information, please visit the Island Green Power website at: www.islandpv.com

What is Lime Down Solar Park?

Island Green Power is bringing forward proposals to build a new solar and energy storage project in Wiltshire, including the underground cable connection into the national grid at Melksham Substation. Known as 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.

Where is Lime Down Solar Park proposed as being located?

The solar park is located entirely within the administrative boundary of Wiltshire. It is proposed as being built across five sites comprising approximately 878 hectares (2,169 acres) located to the north of the M4, southwest of Malmesbury. The electricity generated by the solar park is exported to the national grid at Melksham Substation by installing an underground cable. This electrical connection will form part of the design for the Project.

To view our latest Project location and site boundary map, please **click here** to be redirected to our webpage *Project Overview*.

We have not yet finalised the layout at this stage in the development process. This will evolve based on the findings from environmental and technical surveys we are carrying out and feedback we receive through consultation and engagement.

As part of our Stage Two consultation (29 Jan – 19 March 2025), we presented our refined plans for the Project. Of the 878 hectares proposed, 53 per cent will be utilised for solar panels and associated infrastructure, to support the generation of renewable energy.

The remaining 47 per cent of the land available for the development has been allocated for environmental purposes, including mitigation measures, biodiversity net gain initiatives, ecological enhancements and offsets, all contributing to deliver significant environmental benefits to the local area.

You can find more information regarding the Project as presented during the Stage Two consultation in the *Documents* section of our website **linked here.** To keep informed on the Project development process, **please register your details with us by clicking here.**

How will Lime Down Solar Park connect into the national grid?

We have secured a connection agreement with National Grid for the electricity generated by Lime Down Solar Park to be exported into the national electricity transmission system via its existing Melksham substation.

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

To find out more about how the Project would connect into the grid, **please click here** to be redirected to our *Connecting to the grid* webpage.

How have our plans for Lime Down Solar Park changed since Stage One?

The feedback we received during our initial stage of consultation in 2024 helped us understand aspects of the Project that were most important to individuals, groups, and organisations. We then used your feedback, along with the findings from ongoing environmental and technical surveys, to further develop our proposals, which are presented as part of our second stage of consultation (29 Jan – 19 March 2025).

We have sought to develop the Project in a way that responds to the sensitivities of the local landscape, preserves wildlife and habitats, enhances the environment and reduces the impacts on neighbouring communities. During our stage two 'statutory' consultation, we presented a number of changes to the Project, including:

- A more detailed indicative site layout, comprising a total development area of 878 hectares; 53 per cent of which will be utilised for solar panels and associated infrastructure and 47 per cent has been allocated for environmental purposes, including mitigation measures, biodiversity net gain initiatives, ecological enhancements and offsets.
- Collocating the battery storage component of the Project within the solar development areas, therefore no longer proposing to use land near Melksham substation – this increases the distance between the equipment and nearby residences and communities.
- An additional 44 hectares of land to be used to increase buffer zones, putting more distance between solar infrastructure and sensitive areas.
- Further refining the cable route search corridor from the three broad routes at Stage One. This will be further refined ahead of DCO application submission later in 2025.
- Initial findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Project in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), including measures to reduce any anticipated effects.

We are now reviewing our detailed proposals in light of the feedback received to our second consultation, along with the outcomes of ongoing assessments, and will use this information to finalise the application for development consent we submit to the Planning Inspectorate.

To keep informed on the Project development process moving forward, please register your details with us by clicking here.

What are the timescales for delivering Lime Down Solar Park?

We anticipate that the development process through DCO submission and examination will take between two to three years. We intend to submit our DCO application to PINS in late 2025. Subject to achieving consent, construction could start in mid-2027. We estimate it would take around two years to build, with the site potentially being operational from mid-2029.

Our indicative timeline can be found on *The Development Process* webpage **linked here.**

Why are we proposing Lime Down Solar Park?

Lime Down Solar Park will provide a significant amount of clean electricity for business and homes in the region, supporting national and regional aims to decarbonise our electricity systems and bolster our energy security.

The way we consume energy is already changing. The move towards renewables and the transition away from fossil fuels is an environmental and economic necessity. National electricity demand is increasing and could double by 2050. To hit our net zero and climate change targets, boosting our solar energy capacity is an essential component.

Solar power is a clean, predictable, homegrown source of energy that gets more power into the system and people's home faster than any other renewable. 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 (**linked here**). Expected to deliver 500 megawatts of clean, predictable and affordable energy, Lime Down Solar Park would contribute to the Government target to deliver a cheaper, zero-carbon electricity system by 2030 and accelerate to net zero.

What is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP)?

A Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) is a project over a certain size or scale which means it is considered by the Government to be of national importance.

Lime Down Solar Park is classified as an NSIP because the amount of electricity it is anticipated as delivering (up to 500MW) exceeds the minimum 50MW threshold set out in the Planning Act 2008 which qualifies it as an NSIP.

For projects with a generation capacity of less than 50MW, a developer is required to apply for planning permission from the relevant local planning authority under the Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA).

The development regime for an NSIP comes under the Planning Act 2008. This means we need to submit an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build, operate and decommission Lime Down Solar Park to the Planning Inspectorate rather than a local planning authority.

In the case of energy-related NSIPs, the Planning Inspectorate acts on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. It will carry out an examination of our application for development consent for Lime Down Solar Park and then make a recommendation to the Secretary of State on whether to grant consent. The Secretary of State will make the final decision on whether to grant consent for the Project.

While our DCO application will not be submitted to the local planning authority, Wiltshire Council and stakeholder groups will play a key role in the planning process and be consulted as the Project progresses.

You can find more information about the application process for NSIPs on the Planning Inspectorate website **here.**

Will local communities be able to have their say on our proposals?

Yes. Public consultation forms an important part of the pre-application process for NSIPs. Early-ongoing engagement will serve to inform and influence the design of our project throughout the pre-application stage of the development process; with Wiltshire Council, political representatives, and local communities all having an important role to play.

We are committed to engaging openly throughout the development process, carrying out clear, comprehensive and accessible public consultation before we submit our application. The development of our proposals for Lime Down Solar Park will therefore be an iterative process: structured to make sure that people receive information at the right time so they have the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to the process from an early stage.

We have held two stages of public consultation: an initial stage of 'non-statutory' consultation, and a second stage of 'statutory' consultation on our updated plans for the Project. These were undertaken ahead of the submission of our application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate, which we anticipate submitting later in 2025.

The second stage of consultation is likely to be the last time we consult on our proposals for Lime Down Solar Park before submission. However, subject to the Planning Inspectorate accepting our Development Consent Order application for examination, you will be able to register your interest in our proposals with them. The Planning Inspectorate will then keep you informed about the progress of our application as well as further opportunities to inform and contribute to that process.

To find out more about the consultation process and having your say, please visit our Overview of consultation stages webpage **linked here.**

Our communications lines remain open should you have any questions. To keep informed on the Project development process, **please register your details with us by clicking here.**

How will the local community benefit from our proposals?

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.

This is why we invited your ideas and suggestions on this point during our first stage of consultation (in March – April 2024) and our second stage (in January – March 2025). Thank you to all those who submitted feedback on this and let us know their views on what kind of benefits (both onsite and offsite) would be most suitable for the area. We are now reviewing this feedback as we prepare our application for development consent.

Further information on community benefits at this stage remains available via our *Community benefits and Biodiversity Net Gain* webpage, **linked here.**

How will Lime Down Solar Park affect biodiversity and local wildlife?

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 of 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.

Our initial findings and measures we are proposing to reduce, enhance and improve the effects the Project may have on the ecology and biodiversity can be found in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) Volume 1, Chapter 7 **available here.**

The proposed project includes Battery Energy Storage. What approach is being taken to ensure the battery is safe?

To meet our net zero targets, we 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 – the BESS we are proposing would deliver storage for up to 250 MW of electricity.

We have listened to feedback from local residents and community stakeholders, particularly those that relate to Battery Energy Storage and working to ensure that our project design approach addresses issues raised. We are committed to delivering a safe and responsible solution that will meet or exceed the latest regulatory and compliance standards, including the National Fire Chief Council Fire Safety Guidelines.

Battery Energy Storage Systems under consideration incorporate several safety features to prevent issues such as overheating or short-circuiting. These include thermal management systems, built-in sensors, and monitoring software to detect and address potential problems early. Alongside, we will conduct thorough safety assessments in collaboration with fire service authorities.

We will submit a comprehensive battery safety management plan to the Planning Inspectorate as part of our application for development consent.

How has the land for the proposed project been acquired?

Lime Down Solar Park Limited, a company within the Island Green Power (IGP) group of companies, proposes to apply for development consent from the Secretary of State to allow it to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission a solar energy and energy storage development. This will be known as Lime Down Solar Park (the Project).

IGP has an 11-year track record in successfully delivering utility-scale solar projects and battery storage systems in the UK, Spain, Italy, Australia and New Zealand. As is common practice in the solar industry, Lime Down Solar Park Ltd has been established by IGP as a special purpose vehicle (SPV) to develop the Project.

At the initial stage of developing proposals for the Project, Lime Down Solar Park Ltd has entered into option agreements with landowners. These agreements put in place legally binding obligations to lease land that is being proposed for solar panels, substations, energy storage and other associated developments relating to the Project.

The option agreements ensure that the land will be available to lease subject to the Project being granted development consent. These agreements are industry standard and provide landowners with certainty and protection over the use of their land while securing development rights for Lime Down Solar Park. The option agreements give Lime Down Solar Park exclusive rights during both the option period and the lease term.

The agreements set out the duration of the option period when Lime Down Solar Park has sole discretion to decide whether to proceed with taking the lease including conditions under which the option can be exercised and the rights to carry out surveys. As with any option agreement, landowners during the option period are restricted from entering into similar agreements or granting interests with other parties without Lime Down Solar Park's consent and are legally obliged to comply with the terms set out in their agreements.

As a responsible developer, throughout the Project development process, our goal is to work collaboratively with landowners, their land agents and other representatives. Our aim is to ensure that all parties fully understand the legal process including the benefits and obligations from the legal terms and arrangements.

Is Lime Down Solar Park supported by government subsidies?

Lime Down Solar Park will not require any public money, subsidy or funding. This is one of the benefits of solar, compared to other forms of renewable (and non-renewable) energy generation – if the site is commercially viable and costs are as expected, projects like Lime Down Solar Park can be viably delivered by private investment with no impact to the taxpayer.

Furthermore, the proposals for Lime Down Solar Park include a community benefit package, which we seek to provide to the local area. To determine the specifics of this fund, we are taking into consideration the ideas and suggestions you submitted to us in response to our Stage One and Stage Two consultations. For more information on this, please see above the FAQ *'How will local communities be able to have their say on our proposals?*

How does the DCO process enforce 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 retention of 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.

A requirement to decommission the scheme will be part of the DCO itself, failing to comply with that requirement would be a criminal offence. We will be producing an Outline Decommissioning Strategy as part of the EIA and will submit this with the Development Consent Order (DCO) application. A final decommissioning 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.

I received a Land Interest Questionnaire (LIQ) letter. What does that mean?

As part of the pre-application process for a Development Consent Order (DCO) Application, it is our responsibility to consult parties who hold an interest in any land that is within the draft Order limits for the project. This is a statutory requirement under section 42(d) and section 44 of the 2008 Planning Act.

Following the statutory consultation for Lime Down Solar Park, which took place between Wednesday 29 January and Wednesday 19 March 2025, we are continuing to refine our plans for the Project which include the draft Order limits (i.e. the proposed location area). We are therefore continuing our environmental assessments to better understand the interests that may be held in areas of land that may be included as part of our proposals.

As part of these preliminary assessments, we have sent letters to parties we believe may have land interests affected (along with adjacent owners to unregistered land) by the Lime Down Solar Park proposals. This is to confirm whether the landowners' contact details obtained from HM Land Registry are up to date, and to ensure that we have correctly identified which parties may have an interest in the relevant land areas.

These parties are those who we may later be required to consult with during our statutory consultation under section 42(d) and section 44 of the 2008 Planning Act.

If you have received an LIQ and require assistance completing the form, please contact a member of the Dalcour Maclaren land referencing team on **03331 885374** or **limedownsolarpark@dalcourmaclaren.com**

Will Lime Down Solar Park increase flooding?

We are committed to ensuring that the site will not result in any increase in flood risk anywhere else off-site, and we will ensure the Project itself is resilient to current and future flooding risks. This is one of the core design principles for Lime Down Solar Park, listed on our *Design Principles* webpage **linked here.**

We are proposing a minimum 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. PEIR Volume 1, Chapter 11: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage (**linked here**) provides a more detailed overview of the likely effects of the Project and the proposed mitigation.

How will Lime Down Solar Park impact 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. Further information on this is available in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' UK Food Security Report **linked here**. 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.

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

Register for updates

Please register your contact details with us if you would like us to send you project updates straight into your inbox.

Name (required)

Email (required)

- [ ] Sign up for news and updates

Phone

Are you registering contact details on behalf of an organisation?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

If yes, which organisation are you registering details on behalf of?

I wish to be kept informed

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

Submit

Lime Down Solar Park Privacy Notice

Lime Down Solar Park Limited (the "**Project Entity**", "**we**", "**us**" or "**our**") is committed to protecting and respecting your privacy.

This privacy notice sets out the basis on which any personal data we collect from you, or that you provide to us, in relation to our proposed application for a Development Consent Order to construct, operate, maintain and decommission a solar photovoltaic generating station and energy storage project with grid connection infrastructure located in Wiltshire (the "**Project**"), will be processed by us. We are required to notify you of the information contained in this notice. It is important that you read this notice so that you are aware of how and why we are using such information and how we will treat it.

At the Project Entity we take your privacy very seriously and this privacy notice outlines how we will hold and process your personal data under UK data protection laws, including the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation ("**Data Protection Legislation**").

1. **Who we are**

1.1 The legal entity responsible for the processing of your personal data is Lime Down Solar Park Limited, registered address Unit 25.7 Coda Studios, 189 Munster Road, London, England, SW6 6AW, company number 13211532, Information Commissioner's Office registration reference ZB815635.

1.2 As referenced above, the Project Entity is the data controller of any personal data provided by you or collected about you in relation to the Project.

2. **The data we collect about you**

2.1 We may collect, use, store and transfer different kinds of personal data about you as follows:

Category of Data	Examples may include
Identity Data	information identifying who you are including: • name and / or company name and number • date of birth • occupation • information relating to your family, solicitors and other related parties;
Contact Data	information we may use to contact you (including address, registered company address, telephone number and e-mail address);
Property Data	information about property ownership, property occupation and/or other property interests (such as a mortgage);
Business Data	information about your businesses and business operations.
Provide detail on construction and decommissioning	Construction activities would be limited and controlled by a suite of management documents to address the impact of HGVs on local roads and 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.

3. **How we collect your data**

1.

This policy contains important information about what to expect when we collect personal data via all platforms, including when you visit our website, when you subscribe to our marketing communications or when you contact us for any other reason. It further explains the specific ways in which we use and disclose that information.

3.1 Information you provide to us directly

This privacy notice applies to the information we collect in regard to:

- Persons that subscribe to our communications; i.e. marketing emails, online feedback forms **(1)**; newsletters and event notifications;
- Persons that provide information to the project through feedback and enquiries, including in-person at consultation events; and
- Persons that complete a Land Interest Questionnaire.

(1) Online feedback forms from the statutory consultation for the Development Consent Order application for the Project is gathered using the Typeform platform and Typeform's privacy policies also apply. Please click here if you wish to view Typeform's privacy policies.

3.2 Marketing communications

When you subscribe to our newsletter, we may collect limited personal data from you:

- Name and job title (where applicable);
- Email address and telephone number;
- Company name where applicable.

4. **Information that we may obtain from third party sources**

4.1 We may receive personal data about you from third parties in connection with the development and operation of our Project, for instance we may receive information about property owners/occupiers and/or persons with other property interests from land agents and/or solicitors.

4.2 We may also engage land referencing agents in order to obtain any land related rights required in order to develop the Project. They may contact you on our behalf about the Project and enquire about any such rights or obligations you may have. They will then put you in contact with us to discuss the Project and share your details with us. We may also receive information from local councils, other statutory undertakers and public bodies when reviewing such rights.

4.3 We may also collect some of your information from other third parties, including public records such as the Land Registry, Companies House, the electoral roll, Experian 192, the Charity Commission, the Financial Conduct Authority, TracesIQ, BT Directory, online registries, websites of organisation and information which may be obtained from a general internet search or from other persons with a legal or beneficial interest in the land. Please note that we may combine personal data we receive from other sources with personal data you give us and personal data we collect about you.

5. **How we store, process and share your data**

5.1 It is necessary to collect and use personal data in order to comply with our legal obligations under the Planning Act 2008 and associated regulations. We have a legitimate interest to use the personal data we collect to further engage with you in connection with the Project.

5.2 We will only use your personal data for the purpose for which we collect it, which may include the following:

- Carrying out enquiries into land ownership and occupation, and land values / compensation.
- Communicating with you about the Project, including to conduct negotiations.
- Surveying land that may be affected by the Project.
- Consulting on the Project and reporting to the Secretary of State, Planning Inspectorate or local authorities on the consultation. This may involve passing your personal data to those parties, and in some cases, we are required to publish the data as part of a consenting process.
- The Planning Inspectorate's privacy notice can be viewed here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-inspectorate-privacy-notices/customer-privacy-notice
- Future development and implementation of the Project.
- To fulfil a contract, or take steps linked to a contract: this is relevant where you make an enquiry about leasing, selling or agreeing any other rights and/or obligations with respect to land that you own or occupy, such rights being in relation to the Project, or where you wish to become an investor. This may include:

- verifying your identity;

- communicating with you;

- arranging the lease and payment;

- managing the lease and access to the land.

- As required by the Project Entity to conduct our business and pursue our legitimate interests, in particular this may include:

- Using your information to deliver the Project and investor relations programme, and responding to any comments or complaints you may send us;

- monitoring the use of our websites, and using your information to help us monitor, improve and protect the Project, investor relations programme and websites, both online and offline;

- using information you provide to personalise our website for you;

- using information you provide to investigate any complaints received from you or from others, about our website, investor relations programme or the delivery of the Project;

- for business transfers: we may use your information to evaluate or conduct a merger, divestiture, restructuring, reorganization, dissolution, or other sale or transfer of some or all of our assets, whether as a going concern or as part of bankruptcy, liquidation, or similar proceeding, in which personal data held by us in connection with our service is among the assets transferred; and

- using data in connection with: offering to obtain land related rights, legal claims, compliance, regulatory and investigative purposes as necessary (including disclosure of such information in connection with legal process or litigation).

- Where you give us consent, in particular this may include:

- sending you direct marketing in relation to the Project, including investor materials;

- placing cookies and use similar technologies in accordance with the below section 'Information about our use of cookies' and the information provided to you when those technologies are used; and

- on other occasions where we ask you for consent, using the data for the purpose which we explain at that time.

- For purposes which are required by law, this may include:

- in response to requests by government or law enforcement authorities conducting an investigation.

- To exercise compulsory acquisition powers in the event that an order has been made under the Planning Act 2008 and only from the date such an order comes into force, this may include:

- where the applicable order authorises the Project Entity to construct, operate, maintain and/or decommission the Project, we may process additional personal data about you in connection with such order, including the exercising of compulsory acquisition powers. Whilst the Project Entity has sought to acquire the necessary land, interests or rights for the Project by agreement, there may be a number of interests that may need to be compulsorily acquired in order for the Project to be delivered. As a part of the compulsory acquisition process, the law requires the Project Entity to request that those people and organisations with a legal or beneficial interest in land which might be subject to compulsory acquisition powers provide us with information in order for us to establish whether they are entitled to claim compensation;

- where it is necessary for us to collect and use your personal data in order to comply with our legal obligations under the order, Planning Act 2008, the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 and the Compulsory Purchase (Vesting Declarations) Act 1981 in relation to the exercise of compulsory acquisition powers. This is the basis on which our processing of your personal data is lawful;

- to contact you to discuss the acquisition of land or rights over land from you and any compensation payable to you;

- to produce documents that are required by law including a General Vesting Declaration, which will be registered at the Land Registry and which will be a publicly available document;

- to notify you of the making of a General Vesting Declaration;

- to serve a Notice to Treat and Notice of Entry on you; and

- if applicable, share your mortgage reference with lenders or mortgagees to enable them to check information which may affect them;

- We also have a legitimate interest to use the personal data we collect to engage further with you in connection with the Project and these interests are not overridden by any detriment to your rights or freedoms. This is also the basis on which our processing of your personal data is lawful.

5.3 We have carried out balancing tests for all the data processing we carry out on the basis of our legitimate interests, which we have described above. You can obtain information on any of our balancing tests by contacting us using the details set out later in this notice. Wherever we rely on your consent, you will always be able to withdraw that consent, although we may have other legal grounds for processing your data for other purposes, such as those set out above. You have an absolute right to opt-out of direct marketing, or profiling we carry out for direct marketing, at any time. You can do this by following the instructions in the communication where this is an electronic message, or by contacting us using the details set out below.

5.4 We will only use your personal data for the purpose for which it is collected, unless we reasonably consider that we need to use it for another reason and that reason is compatible with the original purpose. If we need to use your personal data for an unrelated purpose, we will notify you and explain the legal basis which allows us to do so.

5.5 In general, whilst we will not proactively collect sensitive or special category personal data about you and we do not expect that your consultation responses will include any special category data, in limited circumstances there may be reasons for processing such data, such as when you engage with us during the consultation process and voluntarily provide us with information relating to your health and medical conditions. It is completely optional for you to provide such information when engaging with us. We may use any special category data you provide us with to manage our relationship with you or for the purposes of undertaking any environmental or equality impact assessments relating to the Project.

5.6 Stricter conditions apply to the processing of special category data, and we can only process such data if these conditions are satisfied. With respect to the special category data processed, we will only process such information where you provide us with your explicit consent or where such processing is necessary for the purposes of carrying out our legal and regulatory obligations. If your response does include special category data, the condition we rely on to process it under Article 9 of the UK GDPR is that it is retained for purposes of substantial public interest as we are required by Regulation 5(2)(5) of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 to retain responses to consultations and provide them to the Secretary of State on request.

6. **Who we may share this data with, where and when?**

6.1 We may share your personal data with our parent company (Island Green Power Limited) and our professional advisers including communications consultants, environmental consultants, land agents and land referencers and our legal advisors . We may also share your information (where required or permitted by law) with government bodies and law enforcement agencies.

6.2 Additionally, in the event that the business is sold or integrated with another business, your details will be disclosed to our advisers and any prospective purchaser's adviser and will be passed to the new owners of the business.

6.3 We will not rent or sell your information to third-parties without your consent.

7. **How we store information and international transfers**

7.1 In general, the personal data that we collect from you will be stored at a destination within the UK or European Economic Area (EEA). However, we may also transfer your data outside the UK or EEA, if stored on external platforms.

7.2 Please note that some countries outside of the UK or EEA have a lower standard of protection for personal data, including lower security requirements and fewer rights for individuals. Where your personal data is transferred, stored and/or otherwise processed outside the UK or EEA, we will take all reasonable steps to ensure that your personal data is treated securely and in accordance with this policy. When personal data is transferred internationally to a country that is not deemed adequate by the European Commission or the UK Secretary of State, we will rely on acceptable and defined legal mechanisms such as using standard contractual clauses which have been approved by the European Commission or the UK Government.

8. **Data security**

8.1 We take care to ensure the security of your personal data in use, storage and transmission and that it is only accessed by verified persons who have the necessary authority. All of our personnel who have access to personal data are legally and contractually obliged to respect the confidentiality of this information and we deliver training to ensure this is maintained.

8.2 We have in place appropriate policies, rules and technical and organisational measures to protect your personal data from unauthorised or unlawful processing, and against accidental loss, destruction or damage.

9. **Cookies information**

9.1 Our website uses cookies to help provide you with the most convenient browsing experience we can. Cookies are small text files that are placed on your computer or mobile phone when you browse websites. They are not executable and are harmless to your computer.

9.2 We use cookies to compile visitor statistics such as how many people have visited our website, what type of technology they are using (e.g. PC or Mobile Phone), what pages are being looked at, etc. All this useful information helps us to continuously improve our website and visitor experience.

9.3 If the settings on your internet browser that you are using to view this website are adjusted to accept cookies, we take this, and your continued use of our website, to mean that you accept their use.

9.4 Should you wish to remove, or not use cookies from our site, virtually all modern browsers allow you to see what cookies are held your browser and to delete them if you wish. Many browsers can also be set up to ask consent for each individual cookie.

9.5 This gives you very fine control over what cookies you allow on your browser. Most browsers also give you the right to block any third-party cookies. It is also possible to tell your browser to block all cookies from being set. You can access your cookie set-up in the settings of your browser.

10. **Use of third-party cookies**

10.1 We may use external services such as Google Analytics, Facebook, LinkedIn and X to display certain content on our Website.

10.2 We may use Google Analytics, a web analytics service provided by Google, Inc. Google Analytics sets a number of cookies in order to evaluate your use of our site and enable us to carry out actions including (but not limited to):

- Tracking the number of visitors to our Website;
- Monitoring the number of users on our Website at any given time; and
- Analysing popular content on our Website;
- Analytics information

10.3 As mentioned, we may use external services such as Google Analytics, Facebook, LinkedIn and X to display certain content on our website. We cannot prevent such websites from collecting information about your usage of their services, for example: the number of plays of a video, how many visits to the website and accessing location data, etc.

10.4 Google will use this information for the purpose of evaluating your use of our websites, compiling reports on website activity for Website operators and providing other services relating to Website activity and internet usage. Google may also transfer this information to third-parties where required to do so by law, or where such third-parties process the information on Google's behalf. Google will not associate your IP address with any other data held by Google.

11. **Location data**

11.1 When you access the website by, or through a mobile device, we may access, collect, monitor and/or remotely store "location data," which may include GPS coordinates (e.g. latitude and/or longitude) or similar information regarding the location of your device. Location data may convey to us information about how you browse and use the website. Some features of the website, particularly location-based services, may not function properly if use or availability of location data is impaired or disabled.

12. **Retention of personal data**

12.1 We will retain your personal data only for as long as we need it for the purposes set out in this notice, except in circumstances where we need to retain it for longer to comply with legal obligations or to progress legal claims. At the end of the retention period, we will take steps to delete your personal data or hold it in a form that no longer identifies you.

13. **What rights you have**

13.1 You have a number of rights under the Data Protection Legislation in relation to the way we process your personal data, which are set out below. You may contact us using the details at the end of this privacy notice to exercise any of these rights.

13.2 You have the following rights:

Right	Description
To be informed	A right to be informed about the personal data we hold about you.
Of access	A right to access the personal data we hold about you.
Property Data	information about property ownership, property occupation and/or other property interests (such as a mortgage);
To rectification	A right to require us to rectify any inaccurate personal data we hold about you.
To erasure	A right to ask us to delete the personal data we hold about you. This right will only apply where (for example): • we no longer need to use the personal information to achieve the purpose we collected it for; • where you withdraw your consent if we are using your personal data based on your consent; or where you object to the way we process your data (in line with Right 6 below).
To restrict processing	In certain circumstances, a right to restrict our processing of the personal data we hold about you. This right will only apply where (for example): • you dispute the accuracy of the personal data held by us; • where you would have the right to ask us to delete the personal data but would prefer that our processing is restricted instead; or where we no longer need to use the personal data to achieve the purpose we collected it for, but you need the data for the purposes of establishing, exercising or defending legal claims.
To data portability	In certain circumstances, a right to receive the personal data you have given us, in a structured, commonly used and machine readable format. You also have the right to require us to transfer this personal data to another organisation, at your request.
In relation to automated decision making and profiling	A right for you not to be subject to a decision based solely on an automated process, including profiling, which produces legal effects concerning you or similarly significantly affect you. We do not carry out any automated processing or profiling.
To withdraw	A right to withdraw your consent, where we are relying on it to use your personal data (for example, to provide you with brochures and newsletters).

13.3 You also have the right to object to processing of your personal data as follows:

- If processing of your personal data is based on it being necessary to comply with a legal obligation or for legitimate interests, you have the right to object, on grounds relating to your particular situation, at any time to the processing of your personal data.
- Where your personal data is processed for direct marketing purposes, you have the right to object at any time to the processing of personal data about you for such marketing.

13.4 There may be conditions or limitations on these rights. It is therefore not certain for example you have the right of data portability in the specific case - this depends on the specific circumstances of the processing activity.

13.5 If you have any concerns regarding our processing of your personal data or are not satisfied with our handling of any request made by you, or would otherwise like to make a complaint, please contact the Project Entity in the first instance using the details in this privacy notice, so that we can do our very best to sort out the problem.

13.6 You have the right to make a complaint at any time to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), the UK supervisory authority for data protection issues. The ICO can be contacted by telephone on 0303 123 1113 or by post as follows: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or via email at casework@ico.org.uk.

14. **Changes to this privacy notice**

We will keep this notice under regular review. Any changes we make to this notice in the future will be posted on this page.

15. **Contacting us**

If you have any queries, comments or requests regarding this notice or you would like to exercise any of your rights set out above, you can contact us as follows:

by post to FREEPOST Lime Down Solar; or

by email to info@limedownsolar.co.uk

Review date: January 2025