



Meridian Solar Farm

EN010169

Volume 5

Consultation

5.1 Appendix E: Statutory
Consultation Materials

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

Infrastructure Planning (Applications:
Prescribed Forms and Procedure)
Regulations 2009

March 2026

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Appendix E-1.1 Section 42 Consultation Letter 2025



Thursday 24 April 2025

Dear Consultee,

Meridian Solar Farm Development Consent Order

Statutory Consultation: Thursday 24 April to Sunday 8 June 2025

Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) ("the Act")

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) ("APFP Regulations")

The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the "EIA Regulations")

Planning Inspectorate reference: EN010169

We are writing to you regarding the proposed Meridian Solar Farm (the "Scheme"), which is a proposed solar farm and overhead line connection to the national grid, that will generate around 750 MW of electricity and connect to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS). This letter is being sent to you as part of a statutory consultation exercise carried out pursuant to Section 42 the Act. Meridian Solar Farm Limited (the "Applicant") is consulting you in your capacity as a prescribed consultee under Section 42(1) of the Act and Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations.

The Scheme

The Scheme is being promoted by Meridian Solar Farm Limited, a subsidiary of Downing Renewable Developments. The Scheme is proposed to be located on land to the north of Crowland and east of Spalding, and is located within the administrative boundaries of Lincolnshire County Council and South Holland District Council.

The Scheme would comprise the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels and an approximate 12 to 13 km of overhead line connection into National Grid's planned Weston Marsh substation (due to be located east of Spalding, with the exact location to be confirmed by National Grid). The Scheme will also include associated infrastructure, including co-located battery energy storage systems (BESS) and inter-array connections to link together the land parcels where the solar panels are located. The BESS is associated development to ensure that energy can be stored when it is generated and not demanded. The BESS will have a direct relationship with the solar PV panels and it will support the operation of this by storing electricity produced during times of peak capacity until it is needed.

The Scheme comprises a generating station of approximately 750 megawatts and the installation of an above ground electric line greater than two kilometres in length. The Scheme therefore qualifies as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under sections 14(1)(a), 14(1)(b), 15(2) and 16 of the Act. A Development Consent Order ("DCO") application for the Scheme (the "Application") will be made by the Applicant to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the "Secretary of State") via the Planning Inspectorate, who will appoint an Examining Authority to examine the application on behalf of the Secretary of State. After examination, the Examining Authority will make its recommendation on the Application to the Secretary of State, who will make the final decision on whether or not to grant the DCO. The Applicant intends to submit the Application towards the end of 2025.

Why we are writing to you

The Act and the APFP Regulations set out specific requirements with respect to a duty to consult on applications for DCOs before an application is made. You have been identified as a prescribed consultee under Section 42(1) of the Act and Regulation 3 of the APFP Regulations, or you are a consultee identified under Regulation 11 of the EIA Regulations or a person where it has been decided it would be appropriate to consult in any event.

This letter is to give you notice of stage two of the Applicant's consultation on the Scheme, that is statutory consultation, which is running from Thursday 24 April 2025 until 11:59pm on Sunday 8 June 2025 (hereafter referred to as "the consultation period") and we invite responses on or before the closing date. Details of how this consultation is being carried out can be found in the Statement of Community Consultation (the "SoCC"), which will be available during the consultation period at www.meridiansolarfarm.co.uk/documents and in hard copy (for reference only) at the in person consultation events and local information point listed below.

This statutory consultation is an opportunity for you to share your views on our proposals for the Scheme as a whole. By responding you will enable us to have regard to your views as we develop and refine our proposals before submitting the DCO Application to the Planning Inspectorate.

We have prepared a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ("PEIR") and a PEIR Non-Technical Summary ("NTS") as the Scheme is an Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") development as defined by the EIA Regulations. These documents will help you to understand the likely significant environmental effects of the Scheme. An Environmental Statement will be submitted with the Application.

Consultation materials

We have produced several materials that will provide further details of the consultation and our proposals:

- Consultation Newsletter, which is being posted to all addresses within a defined Primary Consultation Zone (as described in the SoCC). This document provides introductory information about the Scheme, the consultation, and where more detailed information can be found.
- Consultation Information Booklet, which provides a more detailed overview of the Scheme, including a summary of some of the potential effects, as explained in the PEIR.
- Consultation Feedback Form, which may be used to provide a response to the consultation.
- Interactive Scheme map, which is a digital map hosted on the website for users to engage with elements of the Scheme by zooming, dragging and clicking to reveal more information.
- Copy of the newspaper notice (also enclosed with this letter) published under section 48 of the Act and the requirements set out in Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations.
- PEIR and NTS.
- SoCC, which has been publicised in accordance with Section 47 of the Act.

These materials can be accessed during the consultation period via our website: www.meridiansolarfarm.co.uk.

The consultation materials are available in hard copy at no extra charge (except the PEIR and NTS, hard copies of which can be requested for a charge of £0.35 per page to cover printing and posting costs). If you require this information in an alternative format, such as Braille, large print or alternative languages, please contact us using the details in this letter.

At the start of the consultation period, copies of consultation information booklets, feedback forms and newsletters will be deposited in local information points located in the vicinity of the Scheme. Our SoCC,

NTS and full PEIR will be available in printed format for inspection at the information point: Crowland Library. All of the locations and opening times are as follows:

| Venue | Opening hours | Materials available |
|---|---|---|
| Crowland Library, Hall Street, Crowland PE6 0EW | Tuesday and Thursday: 9.30am to 12.30pm and 2pm to 5pm Saturday: 10am to 1pm | To takeaway Consultation Information Booklet Consultation Feedback Form Consultation Newsletter For reference only PEIR NTS SoCC |
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Venue opening times are correct at the time of publication. We recommend contacting the venue to check the opening times before visiting, especially over bank holidays.

Consultation events and online presentations

During the consultation period, a series of in person consultation events will be held where you can speak with members of the project team. Printed copies of the consultation materials will be made available at consultation events for attendees to view. Attendees will also be able to take away copies of the consultation information booklet, feedback form and newsletter.

| Venue | Date | Time |
|---|-----------------------|---------------|
| Sutton St Edmund Village Hall, 273 Broadgate, Spalding PE12 0LR | Saturday 10 May 2025 | 10:30 - 16:30 |
| Crowland Snowden Pavilion, Thorney Road, Peterborough PE8 9QR | Wednesday 21 May 2025 | 14:00 - 20:00 |
| Weston Village Hall, Small Drove, Spalding PE12 6HU | Thursday 22 May 2025 | 14:00 - 20:00 |

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We will also upload two online information presentations to the Scheme website during the consultation period. The first presentation will provide an overview of our proposals and where to find out more

information. The second presentation will be uploaded after the in person events and will provide a summary of the main questions we were asked and responses to them.

Responding to the consultation

Responses to the consultation must be (i) received by 11:59pm on Sunday 8 June 2025, (ii) be made in writing, (iii) state the grounds of the response or representation, (iv) indicate who is making the response or representation, and (v) give an address to which correspondence relating to the response or representation may be sent. Should you wish your comments to remain anonymous, please provide your postcode only.

You can provide your response to the consultation by completing our feedback form online at www.meridiansolarfarm.co.uk or completing a paper copy/writing your own form of a response and sending it via email (enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk) or by post (by writing: FREEPOST DOWNING MERIDIAN – no stamp needed). If you require materials in an alternative format (e.g. large print or braille) please get in touch using the details above.

The Applicant will have regard to any comments received as part of the consultation and any of its appointed agents with respect to the further development of the Scheme and Application. Responses will form the basis of a consultation report that will be one of the factors taken into consideration by the Secretary of State when deciding whether the Application can be accepted for Examination. Therefore, in providing any comment, it should be borne in mind that the substance of your comment may be communicated to others as part of that consultation report.

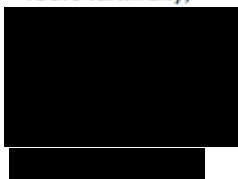
However, we will request that personal details are not placed on the public record. Personal details will be held securely in accordance with the relevant data protection legislation and will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and the development of the Scheme and, except as noted above, will not be disclosed to any third parties.

The Development Consent Order process

Information about the Act and DCOs can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>

If you have any questions about this letter, the Scheme or consultation, please do not hesitate to contact enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk or 0800 652 6120.

Yours faithfully,



Head of NSIP Projects
Downing Renewable Developments

Enc. Copy of section 48 notice
Enc. Scheme Development Area Boundary Plan

MERIDIAN SOLAR FARM

The Planning Act 2008 - Section 48

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 - Regulation 4

Notice Publicising a Proposed Application for a Development Consent Order

Meridian Solar Farm

Notice is hereby given that Meridian Solar Farm Limited of 10 Lower Thames Street, London, England, EC3R 6AF (the 'Applicant') intends to submit an application (the 'Proposed Application') to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the 'SoS') for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the '2008 Act').

The land required for the Proposed Application is located within the administrative boundaries of Lincolnshire County Council and South Holland District Council.

Summary of proposed works

The Proposed Application comprises the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels and approximately 12 to 13 km of overhead line connection into National Grid's planned Weston Marsh substation (due to be located east of Spalding, with the exact location to be confirmed by National Grid) (the 'Scheme'). The Scheme will also include associated infrastructure, including co-located battery energy storage systems (BESS) and inter-array connections to link together the land parcels where solar panels are located. The Scheme would have capacity to generate approximately 750 megawatts (MW) of electricity for export to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS).

The solar PV panels and associated BESS would be located within four land parcels (A, B, C and D), referred to collectively as the PV area. The inter-array areas are the indicative areas within which connection cables (the 'inter-array connection') would link the land parcels of the PV area. The configuration of the inter-array connection would be either overhead lines (up to 132kV), underground cabling (up to 132kV) or a combination of both. The grid connection corridor is the area between the PV area and the proposed National Grid Weston Marsh substation in which a 400kV overhead line (the 'grid connection') could be located.

The Scheme would be located within south-east Lincolnshire, north of Crowland and east of Spalding. The PV area and inter-array areas would be located within the boundaries of the five civil parishes of Crowland, Whaplode, Holbeach, Fleet and Cowbit parish. The grid connection corridor would be located within the boundaries of the two civil parishes of Weston and The Moultons.

The DCO will also seek the compulsory acquisition of land and/or rights in, on, under or over land required for the Scheme, as well as rights authorising the temporary occupation of land for the Scheme.

Other powers that the DCO may seek include the extinguishment and/or overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land required for the Scheme; the application and/or disapplication of legislation relevant to the Scheme; the temporary stopping up or diversion of public footpaths during construction works; permanent and temporary alterations to the highway network for and in the vicinity of the Scheme, and such ancillary, incidental and consequential works, provisions, permits, consents, waivers or releases as are necessary and convenient for the successful construction, operation and maintenance of the Scheme.

The Scheme is an Environmental Impact Assessment Development ('EIA development') as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations') and an Environmental Statement ('ES') will form part of the Proposed Application. The Applicant has notified the SoS in writing under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that it intends to provide an ES in respect of the Scheme. The ES will provide a detailed description of the Scheme and its likely significant environmental effects. Information compiled so far about the Scheme's likely environmental impacts is contained in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') and summarised in a Non-Technical Summary, both of which form part of the consultation material.

Consultation

The Applicant is undertaking a statutory consultation on the proposals for Meridian Solar Farm between **Thursday 24 April and Sunday 8 June 2025** (the 'Consultation Period'). Responses must be received no later than 11:59pm on 8 June 2025 and responses received after that date may not be considered.

The consultation documents show the nature and location of the Project and will include plans, the PEIR and its Non-Technical Summary, among other documents ('the Consultation Documents').

How to view the Consultation Documents

The Consultation Documents are available to view or download free of charge from www.meridiansolarfarm.co.uk (the 'Scheme website') throughout the duration of the Consultation Period, from 24 April 2025 to 11:59pm on 8 June 2025.

Hard copies of the Consultation Documents, including the Statement of Community Consultation, the full PEIR and Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR, will be deposited at the locations listed below at the start of the Consultation Period.

| Location and address | Opening hours | Materials available |
|---|--|---|
| Crowland Library , Hall Street, Crowland PE6 0EW | Tuesday and Thursday: 9.30am to 12.30pm and 2pm to 5pm Saturday: 10am to 1pm | Consultation Information Booklet Consultation Feedback Form Consultation Newsletter For reference only PEIR NTS SoCC |
| Spalding Library , Victoria Street, Spalding PE11 1EA | Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 9am to 5pm Thursday: 9am to 6pm Saturday: 9am to 1pm | Consultation Information Booklet Consultation Feedback Form Consultation Newsletter |
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| Tonic Health Centre Holbeach , Holbeach Hub, Boston Road | Monday and Thursday: 10am to 7pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 10am to 3pm | Consultation Information Booklet Consultation Feedback Form Consultation Newsletter |

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| South, Holbeach PE12 7LR | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|

Venue opening times are correct at the time of publication. The Applicant recommends contacting the venue to check the opening times before visiting, especially over bank holidays.

The Applicant is hosting three in person public consultation events, where the Consultation Documents will be available to view:

| Venue | Date | Time |
|---|-----------------------|---------------|
| Sutton St Edmund Village Hall , 273 Broadgate, Spalding PE12 0LR | Saturday 10 May 2025 | 10:30 – 16:30 |
| Crowland Snowden Pavilion , Thorney Road, Peterborough PE8 9QR | Wednesday 21 May 2025 | 14:00 – 20:00 |
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Details are correct at the time of publication and are unlikely to change. Any updates will be reflected on the Scheme website, which the Applicant recommends to check for the most current details before attending.

The Applicant will also upload two online information presentations to the Scheme website during the consultation period. The first presentation will provide an overview of our proposals and where to find out more information. The second presentation will be uploaded after the in person events and will provide a summary of the main questions we were asked and a response to them.

All Consultation Documents, including the SoCC, will be in hard copy at no extra charge (except the PEIR and NTS, hard copies of which can be requested for a charge of £0.35 per page to cover printing and posting costs). Upon request, all documents can be made available in alternative formats, such as large print, braille, audio and alternative languages.

Responding to this consultation

Comments and representations in response to this consultation may be submitted in the following ways:

Feedback Form: Complete or download the Feedback Form at the Scheme website www.meridiansolarfarm.co.uk; or it can be completed and left at the consultation event; or by request from the project team either at an event or via phone or email.

By email or post: Completed Feedback Forms, and any other comments, can be emailed to enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk or returned by post (no stamp required) to FREEPOST DOWNING MERIDIAN.

Responses must be received by the Applicant by no later than 11:59pm on Sunday 8 June 2025. The Applicant will have regard to all responses when developing the proposals for the Scheme once the consultation has closed. Responses will be reported in a Consultation Report which will form part of the Proposed Application. This will be taken into consideration by the Planning Inspectorate when deciding whether the Application can be accepted for examination. Therefore, in providing any comment, it should be noted that the substance of it may be communicated to others as part of the Consultation Report.

Personal data supplied to the Applicant in response to this consultation will be treated confidentially and processed and handled in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR. The information may be disclosed to or shared with the Applicant’s connected companies, agents, contractors and advisors who provide services to the Applicant in connection with the preparation of an application for development consent under the 2008 Act. This will allow the Applicant to fully consider the responses and use them in the preparation of application materials. Upon submission of the

Proposed Application, the SoS may require the Applicant to supply copies of all consultation responses received. If a request is made, the Applicant is under a legal obligation to supply such copies. By submitting a consultation response to the Applicant, you understand that we may supply a copy of your response to the SoS via the Planning Inspectorate if required.

How to contact us

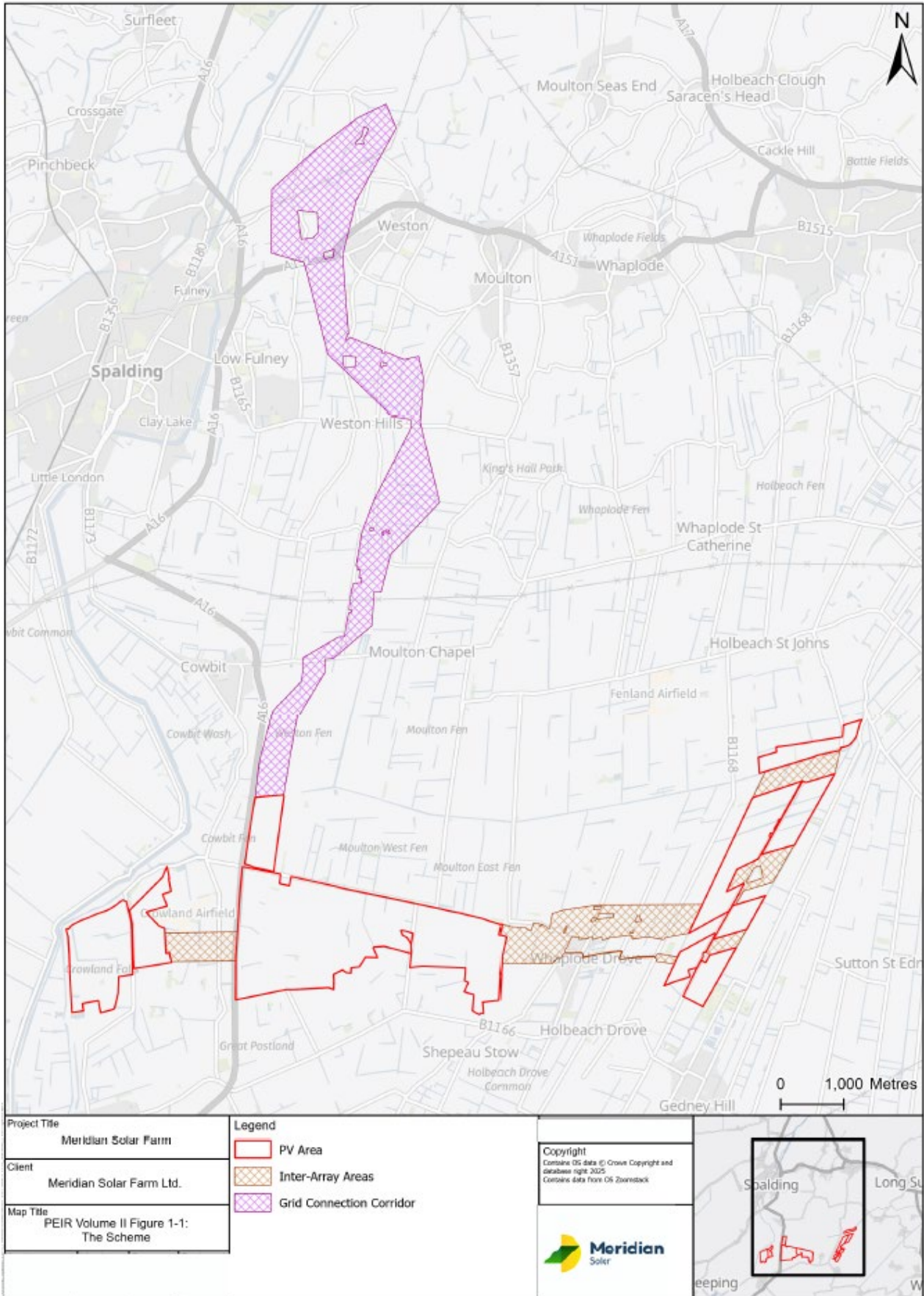
If you have any questions about this notice, the consultation, or the Scheme, please contact the Applicant by using one of the contact methods provided below:

Email: enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk

Telephone: 0800 652 6120

Postal address: FREEPOST DOWNING MERIDIAN (no stamp needed)

April 2025



Appendix E-1.2 Section 44 Consultation Letter 2025



Thursday 24 April 2025

Dear Consultee,

Ref: Land shown on enclosed plan
Meridian Solar Farm Development Consent Order

Statutory Consultation: Thursday 24 April to Sunday 8 June 2025
Sections 42 (Duty to consult on a proposed location) and 44 (Categories for purposes of section 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act 2008 (the "Act")
The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (the "APFP Regulations")
The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the "EIA Regulations")

Planning Inspectorate reference: EN010169

We are writing to you regarding the proposed Meridian Solar Farm (the "Scheme"), which is a proposed solar farm and overhead line connection to the national grid, that will generate around 750 MW of electricity and connect to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS).

The Scheme

The Scheme is being promoted by Meridian Solar Farm Limited, a subsidiary of Downing Renewable Developments. The Scheme is proposed to be located on land to the north of Crowland and east of Spalding, and is located within the administrative boundaries of Lincolnshire County Council and South Holland District Council.

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Your interest in land

Prior to making the Application, we are required to consult with a variety of people and organisations about the proposal for the Application in accordance with Section 42(1)(d) of the Act. As set out in section 44 of the Act, we are required to consult with three categories of person under section 42(1)(d): (1) landowners, lessees, tenants, occupiers; (2) those with other interests in the land or have a power to sell and convey the land or release the land; and (3) those who may be entitled to make a claim for compensation as a result of the Scheme.

Further to a review of title and information received from landowners, we have identified that you may have an interest in land which falls within our current proposed development area.

Please refer to the Scheme Development Area Boundary Plan enclosed with this letter showing all land within the development area boundary, which we believe includes your interest in land.

Whilst this information is considered up to date at the time the consultation will take place, this is an ongoing process. The identification of all land interests to which the Scheme relates will be updated and refined following our stage two consultation (more details below), prior to submission of the Application.

Consultation on the Scheme

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You can provide your response to the consultation by completing our feedback form online at www.meridiansolarfarm.co.uk or completing a paper copy/writing your own form of a response and sending it via email (enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk) or by post (by writing: FREEPOST DOWNING MERIDIAN – no stamp needed). If you require materials in an alternative format (e.g. large print or braille) please get in touch using the details above.

The Applicant will have regard to any comments received as part of the consultation and any of its appointed agents with respect to the further development of the Scheme and Application. Responses will form the basis of a consultation report that will be one of the factors taken into consideration by the Secretary of State when deciding whether the Application can be accepted for Examination. Therefore, in providing any comment, it should be borne in mind that the substance of your comment may be communicated to others as part of that consultation report.

However, we will request that personal details are not placed on the public record. Personal details will be held securely in accordance with the relevant data protection legislation and will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and the development of the Scheme and, except as noted above, will not be disclosed to any third parties.

The Development Consent Order process

Information about the Act and DCOs can be found on the Planning Inspectorate’s National Infrastructure Planning website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>

If you have any questions about this letter, the Scheme or consultation, please do not hesitate to contact enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk or 0800 652 6120.

Yours faithfully,



Head of NSIP Projects
Downing Renewable Developments

Enc. Copy of section 48 notice
Enc. Scheme Development Area Boundary Plan

MERIDIAN SOLAR FARM

The Planning Act 2008 - Section 48

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 - Regulation 4

Notice Publicising a Proposed Application for a Development Consent Order

Meridian Solar Farm

Notice is hereby given that Meridian Solar Farm Limited of 10 Lower Thames Street, London, England, EC3R 6AF (the 'Applicant') intends to submit an application (the 'Proposed Application') to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the 'SoS') for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the '2008 Act').

The land required for the Proposed Application is located within the administrative boundaries of Lincolnshire County Council and South Holland District Council.

Summary of proposed works

The Proposed Application comprises the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels and approximately 12 to 13 km of overhead line connection into National Grid's planned Weston Marsh substation (due to be located east of Spalding, with the exact location to be confirmed by National Grid) (the 'Scheme'). The Scheme will also include associated infrastructure, including co-located battery energy storage systems (BESS) and inter-array connections to link together the land parcels where solar panels are located. The Scheme would have capacity to generate approximately 750 megawatts (MW) of electricity for export to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS).

The solar PV panels and associated BESS would be located within four land parcels (A, B, C and D), referred to collectively as the PV area. The inter-array areas are the indicative areas within which connection cables (the 'inter-array connection') would link the land parcels of the PV area. The configuration of the inter-array connection would be either overhead lines (up to 132kV), underground cabling (up to 132kV) or a combination of both. The grid connection corridor is the area between the PV area and the proposed National Grid Weston Marsh substation in which a 400kV overhead line (the 'grid connection') could be located.

The Scheme would be located within south-east Lincolnshire, north of Crowland and east of Spalding. The PV area and inter-array areas would be located within the boundaries of the five civil parishes of Crowland, Whaplode, Holbeach, Fleet and Cowbit parish. The grid connection corridor would be located within the boundaries of the two civil parishes of Weston and The Moultons.

The DCO will also seek the compulsory acquisition of land and/or rights in, on, under or over land required for the Scheme, as well as rights authorising the temporary occupation of land for the Scheme.

Other powers that the DCO may seek include the extinguishment and/or overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land required for the Scheme; the application and/or disapplication of legislation relevant to the Scheme; the temporary stopping up or diversion of public footpaths during construction works; permanent and temporary alterations to the highway network for and in the vicinity of the Scheme, and such ancillary, incidental and consequential works, provisions, permits, consents, waivers or releases as are necessary and convenient for the successful construction, operation and maintenance of the Scheme.

The Scheme is an Environmental Impact Assessment Development ('EIA development') as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations') and an Environmental Statement ('ES') will form part of the Proposed Application. The Applicant has notified the SoS in writing under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that it intends to provide an ES in respect of the Scheme. The ES will provide a detailed description of the Scheme and its likely significant environmental effects. Information compiled so far about the Scheme's likely environmental impacts is contained in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') and summarised in a Non-Technical Summary, both of which form part of the consultation material.

Consultation

The Applicant is undertaking a statutory consultation on the proposals for Meridian Solar Farm between **Thursday 24 April and Sunday 8 June 2025** (the 'Consultation Period'). Responses must be received no later than 11:59pm on 8 June 2025 and responses received after that date may not be considered.

The consultation documents show the nature and location of the Project and will include plans, the PEIR and its Non-Technical Summary, among other documents ('the Consultation Documents').

How to view the Consultation Documents

The Consultation Documents are available to view or download free of charge from www.meridiansolarfarm.co.uk (the 'Scheme website') throughout the duration of the Consultation Period, from 24 April 2025 to 11:59pm on 8 June 2025.

Hard copies of the Consultation Documents, including the Statement of Community Consultation, the full PEIR and Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR, will be deposited at the locations listed below at the start of the Consultation Period.

| Location and address | Opening hours | Materials available |
|---|--|---|
| Crowland Library , Hall Street, Crowland PE6 0EW | Tuesday and Thursday: 9.30am to 12.30pm and 2pm to 5pm Saturday: 10am to 1pm | Consultation Information Booklet Consultation Feedback Form Consultation Newsletter For reference only PEIR NTS SoCC |
| Spalding Library , Victoria Street, Spalding PE11 1EA | Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 9am to 5pm Thursday: 9am to 6pm Saturday: 9am to 1pm | Consultation Information Booklet Consultation Feedback Form Consultation Newsletter |
| Holbeach Library , Co-Op Store, 5 Fleet Street, Holbeach, Spalding PE12 7AX | Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm Saturday: 9am to 12 noon | Consultation Information Booklet Consultation Feedback Form Consultation Newsletter |
| Tonic Health Centre Spalding , 6 Broadgate House, Westlode Street, Spalding PE11 2AF | Monday and Thursday: 10am to 7pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 10am to 3pm | Consultation Information Booklet Consultation Feedback Form Consultation Newsletter |
| Tonic Health Centre Holbeach , Holbeach Hub, Boston Road | Monday and Thursday: 10am to 7pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 10am to 3pm | Consultation Information Booklet Consultation Feedback Form Consultation Newsletter |

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| South, Holbeach PE12 7LR | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|

Venue opening times are correct at the time of publication. The Applicant recommends contacting the venue to check the opening times before visiting, especially over bank holidays.

The Applicant is hosting three in person public consultation events, where the Consultation Documents will be available to view:

| Venue | Date | Time |
|---|-----------------------|---------------|
| Sutton St Edmund Village Hall , 273 Broadgate, Spalding PE12 0LR | Saturday 10 May 2025 | 10:30 – 16:30 |
| Crowland Snowden Pavilion , Thorney Road, Peterborough PE8 9QR | Wednesday 21 May 2025 | 14:00 – 20:00 |
| Weston Village Hall , Small Drove, Spalding PE12 6HU | Thursday 22 May 2025 | 14:00 – 20:00 |

Details are correct at the time of publication and are unlikely to change. Any updates will be reflected on the Scheme website, which the Applicant recommends to check for the most current details before attending.

The Applicant will also upload two online information presentations to the Scheme website during the consultation period. The first presentation will provide an overview of our proposals and where to find out more information. The second presentation will be uploaded after the in person events and will provide a summary of the main questions we were asked and a response to them.

All Consultation Documents, including the SoCC, will be in hard copy at no extra charge (except the PEIR and NTS, hard copies of which can be requested for a charge of £0.35 per page to cover printing and posting costs). Upon request, all documents can be made available in alternative formats, such as large print, braille, audio and alternative languages.

Responding to this consultation

Comments and representations in response to this consultation may be submitted in the following ways:

Feedback Form: Complete or download the Feedback Form at the Scheme website www.meridiansolarfarm.co.uk; or it can be completed and left at the consultation event; or by request from the project team either at an event or via phone or email.

By email or post: Completed Feedback Forms, and any other comments, can be emailed to enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk or returned by post (no stamp required) to FREEPOST DOWNING MERIDIAN.

Responses must be received by the Applicant by no later than 11:59pm on Sunday 8 June 2025. The Applicant will have regard to all responses when developing the proposals for the Scheme once the consultation has closed. Responses will be reported in a Consultation Report which will form part of the Proposed Application. This will be taken into consideration by the Planning Inspectorate when deciding whether the Application can be accepted for examination. Therefore, in providing any comment, it should be noted that the substance of it may be communicated to others as part of the Consultation Report.

Personal data supplied to the Applicant in response to this consultation will be treated confidentially and processed and handled in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR. The information may be disclosed to or shared with the Applicant’s connected companies, agents, contractors and advisors who provide services to the Applicant in connection with the preparation of an application for development consent under the 2008 Act. This will allow the Applicant to fully consider the responses and use them in the preparation of application materials. Upon submission of the

Proposed Application, the SoS may require the Applicant to supply copies of all consultation responses received. If a request is made, the Applicant is under a legal obligation to supply such copies. By submitting a consultation response to the Applicant, you understand that we may supply a copy of your response to the SoS via the Planning Inspectorate if required.

How to contact us

If you have any questions about this notice, the consultation, or the Scheme, please contact the Applicant by using one of the contact methods provided below:

Email: enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk

Telephone: 0800 652 6120

Postal address: FREEPOST DOWNING MERIDIAN (no stamp needed)

April 2025

Appendix E-1.3 Consultation Press Release 2025

PRESS RELEASE

Embargoed for release on Thursday 24 April 2025

Meridian Solar announces statutory consultation

Stage two (statutory) consultation has opened for a proposed solar farm in Lincolnshire. The consultation will run for six weeks, from Thursday 24 April 2025 to Sunday 8 June 2025, and is held under the Planning Act 2008 as the Scheme is deemed a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project.

Meridian Solar Farm Limited, a subsidiary Downing Renewable Developments (DRD), is bringing forward proposals for Meridian Solar.

Meridian Solar is a proposed new solar farm and approximately 12 to 13 km overhead line connection line into National Grid's planned Weston Marsh substation (due to be located east of Spalding, with the exact location to be confirmed by National Grid).

It will also include associated infrastructure, including co-located battery storage systems and inter-array connections to link together the land parcels where the solar panels are located.

Meridian Solar would have the potential to generate around 750 megawatts (MW) of electricity to the national grid, enough energy to power up to 215,000 homes.

This stage two consultation follows the first stage which took place in summer 2024. This is an opportunity for the public to view and comment on the initial design. Following this stage of consultation, feedback will be reviewed, and the proposals will be updated in advance of a Development Consent Order application being submitted to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero via the Planning Inspectorate, towards the end of 2025.

A series of in person consultation events are being held for people to find out more information about the proposals:

- Saturday 10 May, 10.30am – 4.30pm, **Sutton St Edmund Village Hall**, 273 Broadgate, Spalding PE12 0LR
- Wednesday 21 May, 2pm – 8pm, **Crowland Snowden Pavilion**, Thorney Road, Peterborough PE8 9QR
- Thursday 22 May, 2pm – 8pm, **Weston Village Hall**, Small Drove, Spalding PE12 6HU

Two online information presentations will also be uploaded to the Meridian Solar website during the consultation period. The first presentation will provide an overview of the proposals and where to find out more information. The second presentation will be uploaded after the in person events and will provide a summary of the main questions asked and a response to them.

Hard copies of the consultation materials are available to view at several local information points, as listed on the Meridian Solar website. The website also contains electronic copies of the consultation materials, along with further information about the statutory consultation and proposals. Please visit www.meridiansolarfarm.co.uk

[REDACTED] Head of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects at DRD, comments *“Since we introduced Meridian Solar last summer, we have been working hard to develop a design based on the early feedback received and our ongoing environmental, technical and engineering assessments.*

We’re inviting the public to learn more about and provide feedback on our developed proposals, which is important to help us shape our final designs. We encourage anyone with an interest in Meridian Solar to take part in the consultation.”

The UK has set ambitious climate change targets to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and to ensure that the energy supply remains affordable, secure and reliable. Meridian Solar has the potential to accelerate the transition to net zero and make a significant contribution towards achieving the government’s targets, while also increasing national energy security at a time of both rising energy bills and the increasing urgency to tackle the climate emergency.

If you have any questions about Meridian Solar or the proposals, you can contact the community relations team by email at enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk, by phone on 0800 652 6120 or write to FREEPOST DOWNING MERIDIAN (no stamp is needed).

- ENDS -

Note to editors:

For more information, please contact:

| | | |
|---|------------------|--|
| Caoimhe Friel Community Relations | M: 0800 652 6120 | enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk |
|---|------------------|--|

UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The personal data processed in connection with the press releases will be processed in compliance with the legal data protection requirements. If you are not interested in continuing to receive the press release, please inform us at enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk. Your data will then be deleted, and you will not receive any further press releases from us in this regard. If you have any questions about our data protection policy or the exercise of your rights under the GDPR, please contact enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk.

Appendix E-1.4 Stage Two Consultation Newsletter 2025



Welcome to our stage two (statutory) consultation newsletter for Meridian Solar.

This newsletter details how you can take part in our consultation, find out more information and provide your feedback.

Meridian Solar is a proposed solar farm and overhead line connection to the national grid, located north of Crowland and east of Spalding in Lincolnshire. It would generate around **750 megawatts (MW)** of electricity and could power up to **215,000 homes annually**.

The proposals consist of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels and an approximately 12 to 13 km overhead line connection to National Grid's planned Weston Marsh substation (due to be located east of Spalding, the exact location to be confirmed by National Grid). The Scheme also includes associated infrastructure, including co-located battery energy storage systems (BESS) and inter-array connections to link together the land parcels where the solar panels are located.

Meridian Solar is being promoted by Meridian Solar Farm Limited, a subsidiary of Downing Renewable Developments (DRD). DRD was founded to deliver renewable energy which is critical to the transition to a low carbon economy and achieving net zero.

As part of our early engagement for Meridian Solar, we held our stage one consultation between May and July 2024, which introduced the proposals and encouraged feedback on our development areas and principles for development. We are now inviting you to take part in this stage two consultation on our updated proposals for the Scheme.

Our stage two consultation will run for six weeks, from **Thursday 24 April 2025 to Sunday 8 June 2025**. We would like your views on our design proposals, including our preliminary environmental information and how we are planning to reduce any potential impacts of the Scheme.

More information about the consultation can be found on our website www.meridiansolarfarm.co.uk.

A high-level map showing the location of our proposals is shown on the following pages.

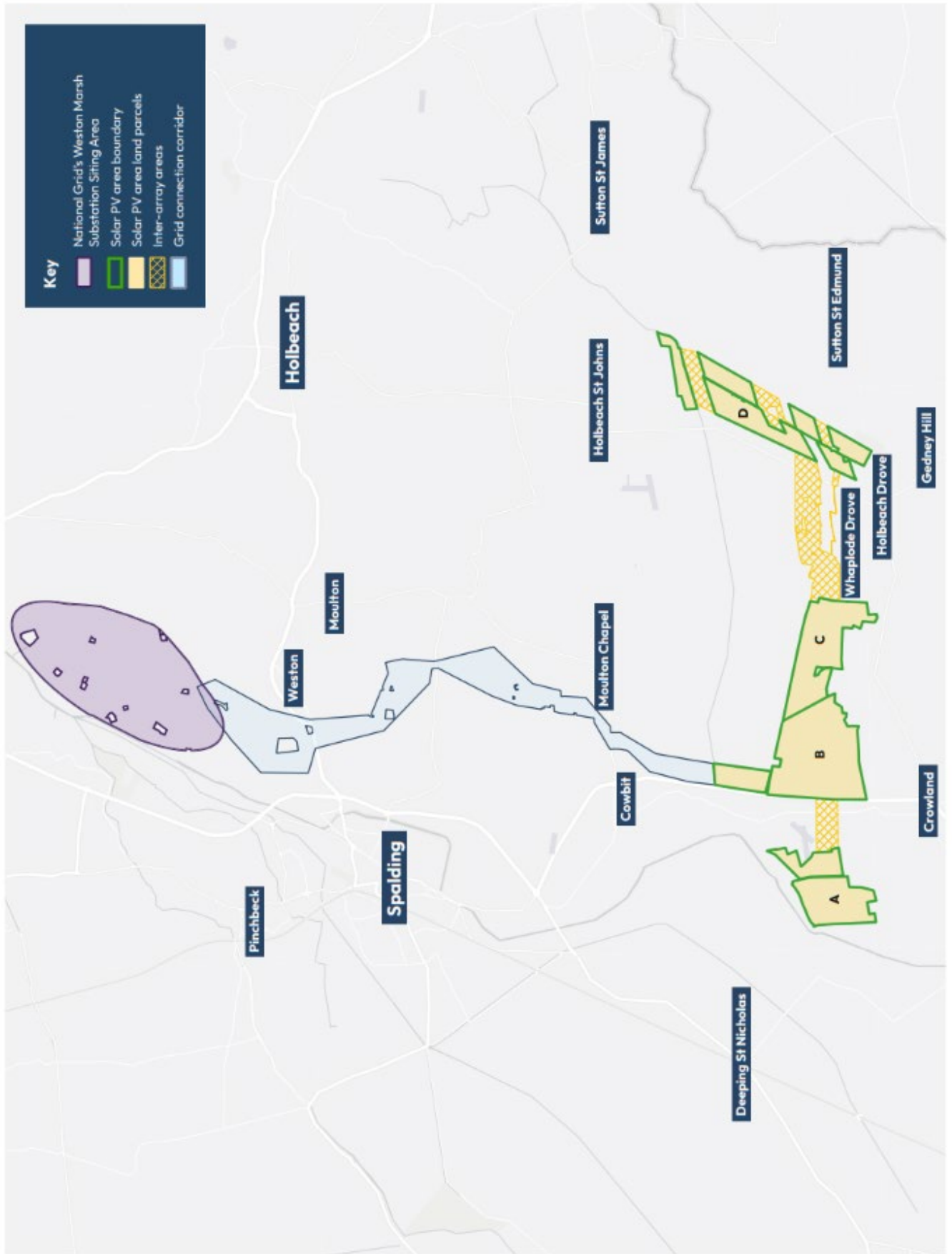
"Since we introduced Meridian Solar last summer, we have been working hard to develop a design based on the early feedback you provided and our ongoing environmental, technical and engineering assessments.

We're inviting you to learn more about our proposals and provide feedback on our developed proposals, which is important to help us shape our final designs."

Head of NSIP Projects, DRD

The location of our proposals

You can use our Interactive Map on the project website to find locations of interest to you.



Have your say on Meridian Solar

More information is available on our website, including the current Scheme design and our suite of public consultation documents.

We want to hear your views on our proposed design. You can provide feedback by:

- Completing our feedback form online at www.meridiansolarfarm.co.uk
- Completing a hard copy of the feedback form and returning it to **FREEPOST DOWNING MERIDIAN**
- Submitting your comments or completed form by email to enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk

If you wish to receive our consultation materials in another format, please get in touch by **freephone** on **0800 652 6120**, or by email at enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk

Please submit your response by **11:59pm on Sunday 8 June 2025**.

Meet the team

As part of our stage two consultation, we are holding three in person consultation events to find out more details about our proposals.

| Date | Time | Location |
|-----------------------|---------------|---|
| Saturday 10 May 2025 | 10:30 – 16:30 | Sutton St Edmund Village Hall, 273 Broadgate, Spalding PE12 0LR |
| Wednesday 21 May 2025 | 14:00 – 20:00 | Crowland Snowden Pavilion, Thorney Road, Peterborough PE8 9QR |
| Thursday 22 May 2025 | 14:00 – 20:00 | Weston Village Hall, Small Drive, Spalding PE12 6HU |

We will also upload two online information presentations to the Scheme website during the consultation period. The first presentation will provide an overview of our proposals and where to find out more information. The second presentation will be uploaded after the in person events and will provide a summary of the main questions we were asked and a response to them.



You can find out more online at www.meridiansolarfarm.co.uk



Appendix E-1.5 Stage Two Consultation Digital Adverts 2025

The second stage of consultation has opened for Meridian Solar, a proposed solar farm and overhead line connection to the national grid, located north of Crowland and east of Spalding in Lincolnshire.



The consultation will run for six weeks from **Thursday 24 April 2025 until Sunday 8 June 2025**, which will include in person events to find out more about our proposals.

To find out how to take part, attend a public event and provide your feedback, please visit our website: www.meridiansolarfarm.co.uk

Meridian Solar stage two consultation is **now open**



The second stage of consultation has opened for Meridian Solar, a proposed solar farm and overhead line connection to the national grid, located north of Crowland and east of Spalding in Lincolnshire.

The consultation will run for six weeks from Thursday 24 April 2025 until Sunday 8 June 2025.

Have your say

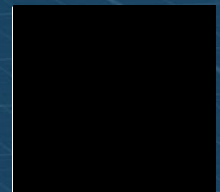
In person consultation events will be open to members of the public to view our proposals and speak to members of the project team.

| Date | Time | Location |
|-----------------------|---------------|---|
| Saturday 10 May 2025 | 10:30 – 16:30 | Sutton St Edmund Village Hall, 273 Broadgate, Spalding PE12 0LR |
| Wednesday 21 May 2025 | 14:00 – 20:00 | Crowland Snowden Pavilion, Thorney Road, Peterborough PE8 9QR |
| Thursday 22 May 2025 | 14:00 – 20:00 | Weston Village Hall, Small Drove, Spalding PE12 6HU |

Your feedback is important to us

We're encouraging you to take part in the consultation and provide feedback to help us refine our proposals. You can provide feedback online on our website or by returning a feedback form to us via email enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk or by post to **FREEPOST DOWNING MERIDIAN** (stamp not required).


Scan here to find out more about our stage two consultation.








For more information about Meridian Solar and the consultation, visit www.meridiansolarfarm.co.uk or contact the team at enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk or by Freephone 0800 652 6120.

Appendix E-1.6 Example Email Issued to Section 47 Consultees

Meridian Solar – stage two consultation launch

 Enquiries@MeridianSolar.co.uk
To
Cc Enquiries@MeridianSolar.co.uk

 Reply  Reply All  Forward  
Thu 24/04/2025 14:39

 Meridian Solar - stage two consultation newsletter.pdf 1 MB  Meridian Solar - Statutory Consultation - Section 47 letter - Community Groups.pdf 368 KB

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to inform you of the launch of the stage two consultation for Meridian Solar, which is a proposed solar farm and overhead line connection to the national grid in Lincolnshire that will generate around 750 megawatts of electricity and connect to the National Electricity Transmission System.


Please find attached a notification letter in accordance with Section 47 'Duty to consult local community' of the Planning Act 2008.

The letter provides information about the consultation including how to get involved, how to access our suite of consultation materials and how to provide feedback. Our consultation newsletter is also attached for your reference.

Please let us know if you have require any further information.

Kind regards,

Appendix E-1.7 Stage Two Consultation Banners 2025



Welcome

Welcome to our stage two consultation for Meridian Solar.

Today's event will provide information about our proposals for a new solar farm and overhead line connection to the national grid (the "Scheme").


Our stage two consultation

Since our stage one consultation in 2024, we have been carrying out surveys and assessments to help inform the Scheme design and to prepare our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). We are now inviting you to take part in our stage two (statutory) consultation to view and comment on our initial design.

Our consultation is running from Thursday 24 April to Sunday 8 June 2025.

We encourage you to read the information on display today alongside our consultation information booklet, and speak to the project team to ask any questions you may have.

Have your say and provide your feedback by completing a feedback form online by 11:59pm on Sunday 8 June 2025.





About us

Who we are

Meridian Solar is being promoted by Meridian Solar Farm Limited, a subsidiary of Downing Renewable Developments (DRD). DRD was founded by Downing LLP (Downing) to deliver renewable energy which is critical to the transition to a low carbon economy and achieving net zero.

Our approach is to own, develop and manage our projects throughout their full lifecycle, so for Meridian Solar, we will manage the pre-application, construction, operational, and decommissioning stages.

About the planning process

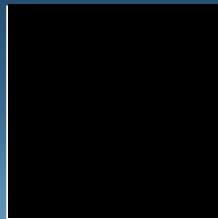
As Meridian Solar is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), we will be submitting an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Secretary of State, which we expect to happen later this year.


Before then, we are carrying out engagement with the local community as part of our stage two consultation to ask for feedback on our proposals.

More information on the national infrastructure planning process can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's website:



This includes details on what comes next in the process after our application is submitted, including Acceptance, Examination, Recommendation and Decision.











Our vision

Our vision for Meridian Solar is to deliver cleaner, greener, and lower-cost energy, whilst delivering direct benefits to the local environment and community.

Our objectives:

-  Generate renewable electricity to support the transition to net zero and the UK's ambition to be increasingly self-sufficient in energy
-  Produce clean energy for the equivalent of approximately 215,000 homes
-  Provide opportunities for local communities and the local economy
-  Deliver a Scheme that enhances local ecology and achieves significant Biodiversity Net Gain
-  Work to support community initiatives throughout the lifetime of the Scheme.





The Scheme

Key facts



The Scheme consists of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels, battery energy storage systems (BESS), and associated infrastructure within four land parcels, as well as an overhead line connection to the national grid, and inter-array connections between the four land parcels.



The four land parcels would be made up of an area of approximately 1,100 hectares (ha) (2,700 acres), and approximately 600 ha (1,482 acres) of that is being considered for the solar PV panels and associated infrastructure.



The Scheme would connect to the national grid at the planned new Weston Marsh substation, due to be located to the east of Spalding (exact location to be confirmed by National Grid), via an approximate 12 to 13 km overhead line.



The Scheme would have a generation capacity of around 750 MW, providing enough clean energy to power approximately 215,000 UK homes.

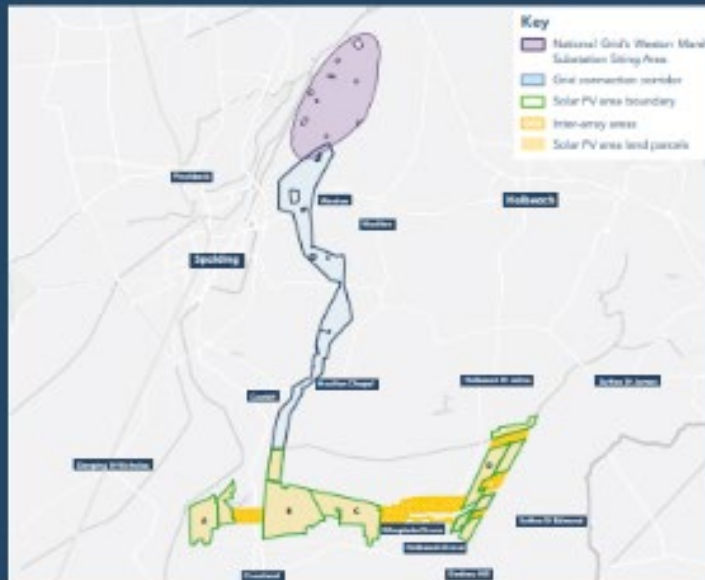


If approved, we anticipate that the earliest the Scheme could be fully operational is from 2029, and would generate clean energy for 40 years. At the end of its lifecycle, the Scheme would be decommissioned and the land would be returned to its current form.



If consented, the Scheme would be built, operated and decommissioned by Meridian Solar.

Meridian Solar location





Evolution of the Scheme design

Key developments to our proposals since the stage one consultation:

-  Creation of an initial Scheme design within the land parcels, with approximately 55% being considered for the solar PV panels and associated infrastructure.
-  Provision of offsets from existing landscape features such as ponds, hedgerows and woodland.
-  Solar panels will be located at least 40 metres away from residential properties. The BESS and on-site substation compounds will be located at least 135 metres away from residential properties.
-  Indicative screening and planting proposals to reduce potential visual impacts from residential properties.
-  We have avoided placing infrastructure in known areas of heritage importance, particularly Scheduled Monuments.
-  To the greatest degree practical, infrastructure will be placed on areas with the lowest grade classification of agricultural land available.
-  Selection of our single preferred connection corridor between the solar farm and the National Grid substation.
-  Developed an indicative alignment for the overhead line within the grid connection corridor.





Indicative site layout

The indicative layout plan for the solar PV development and inter-array areas below shows our current proposals.

Preliminary Design, Land Parcel A – Clout Drove

Land Parcel A – located in Crowland parish, west of the A16



- ① Following engagement with the Peterborough & Spalding Gliding Club, infrastructure is not proposed in this location to reduce potential effects on its ongoing operations at Crowland Airfield.
- ② Tree planting in this general location could help to break up views of this area, particularly from local Public Rights of Way and residential properties to the south and to the west across the River Welland.
- ③ Potential hedgerow planting to support biodiversity improvements.



Indicative site layout

The indicative layout plan for the solar PV development and inter-array areas below shows our current proposals.

Preliminary Design, Land Parcel B – Queen's Bank

Land Parcel B – located in Crowland, Weston and Cowbit parishes, east of the A16



| Key | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Solar PV development area boundary | Indicative BSSS and On-Site Substation Compound Locations | Scheduled Monuments |
| Solar PV development area | Inter-array areas | Indicative planting proposals |
| Indicative location of solar panels | Grid connection corridor | Existing vegetation |

- ① Infrastructure is not proposed in the northern section to provide potential opportunities for environmental mitigation and increase the distance of infrastructure from residential properties on Queen's Bank.
- ② Surveys have indicated this is grade 1 agricultural land, and therefore no infrastructure is proposed in this location so the land could continue to be farmed.
- ③ Planting along the A16 would be retained and with the opportunity for it to be enhanced to reduce the potential effect on views from the road.
- ④ In addition to the location of the 400kV substation and any associated planting, there is the opportunity to use this area for environmental mitigation to support biodiversity net gain.



Indicative site layout

The indicative layout plan for the solar PV development and inter-array areas below shows our current proposals.

Preliminary Design, Land Parcel C – Martins Road

Land Parcel C – located in Crowland parish, between Queen's Bank road and the B1166



| Key | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Solar PV development area boundary | Inter-array areas | Existing vegetation |
| Solar PV development area | Scheduled Monuments | |
| Indicative location of solar panels | Indicative planting proposals | |

- ① Infrastructure is not proposed in these locations to avoid direct impacts on two Scheduled Monuments.
- ② Planting in keeping with the character of the landscape could be incorporated to reduce potential effects on views from Queen's Bank and local Public Rights of Way.
- ③ Planting in keeping with the character of the landscape could be included to reduce the potential effects on the views from Martins Road and local Public Rights of Way.
- ④ Infrastructure is not proposed in this location to reduce the potential effects on a residential property on Martins Road.
- ⑤ No development is proposed in the area adjacent to the Scheduled Monument to avoid the highest grade of agricultural land that was identified through surveys.
- ⑥ No development is proposed in the eastern section to avoid the highest grade of agricultural land that was identified through surveys.



Indicative site layout

The indicative layout plan for the solar PV development and inter-array areas below shows our current proposals.

Preliminary Design, Land Parcel D – Langary Gate Road

Land Parcel D – located in Fleet parish, east of the B1168



| Key | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Solar PV development area boundary | Indicative BESS and On-Site Substation Compound Locations | Scheduled Monuments |
| Solar PV development area | Inter-array areas | Indicative planting proposals |
| Indicative location of solar panels | | Existing vegetation |

- ① One of the options for the inter-array area connection between land parcel C and D includes the potential to install cables under the road. This would not be routed over or under residential properties or gardens. Only one option for the inter-array connection would be taken forward.
- ② Two options for the location of an on-site substation and BESS compound are presented in land parcel D. These are subject to further environmental and technical consideration and feedback received to the consultation will feed in to the selection of a single option to be included within our application.
- ③ Planting in keeping with the character of the landscape could be incorporated to reduce potential effects on views from Holbeach Drove Gate and local Public Rights of Way.
- ④ Planting to help reduce potential impacts on existing land users, including the golf course.



Connecting to the national grid

Our preferred connection corridor

Meridian Solar would connect to the national grid at the planned new Weston Marsh substation (exact location to be confirmed by National Grid), via an approximate 12 to 13 km overhead line.

The map below shows the indicative alignment of the overhead line in the southern section of the connection corridor.

Southern section



- ① The most direct alignment for the overhead line has been identified between the land parcels and Moulton Chapel Road due to few environmental and technical constraints being located in this area.
- ② The typical spacing between the pylons could be approximately 293 metres to maintain a distance from a property on Moulton Chapel Road.
- ③ The indicative alignment aims to allow as much space as possible from the properties to the east of Delgate Bank and West Gate, while maintaining 50 metres from the sewage treatment plant to the east.
- ④ There is an existing 132 kV overhead line crossing the proposed alignment, which will be discussed with the asset owner to determine the most appropriate crossing design.
- ⑤ As much as possible, the indicative alignment has been designed to pass properties at an equal distance on both sides as it crosses Austendike Road.



Connection corridor and indicative alignment of overhead line

The map below shows the indicative alignment of the overhead line in the southern section of the connection corridor.

Northern section



| Key | | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| | Grid connection corridor | | Indicative position of electricity pylons | | National Grid's Weston Marsh substation siting area |
| | Indicative alignment of overhead line | | Indicative location to cross the existing 400kV overhead line | | |

- ① The most direct alignment for the overhead lines has been identified in this location, passing an equal distance on both sides between properties and maintaining a distance of 50 metres.
- ② In this section, the alignment would cross existing 11 kV and 33 kV overhead lines, as well as Long Lane, Delgate Bank and Broad Gate.
- ③ The indicative alignment includes a distance of approximately 50 metres separation around the woodland and sewage treatment works, north of High Road.
- ④ The alignment has been designed to pass an equal distance on both sides between the farm complex to the north, and woodland and a sewage plant to the south.
- ⑤ Dependent on the proposed location of the Weston Marsh substation and any associated works in this area, the alignment could be required to cross the existing 400 kV overhead line. The most appropriate design to take forward in this area will be discussed with National Grid as more information becomes available.
- ⑥ The indicative alignment finishes at the edge of National Grid's indicative siting area for its proposed Weston Marsh substation because the location is to be identified by National Grid.



Construction, operation and decommissioning

Construction

If Meridian Solar is granted development consent, the construction phase could start in 2027 at the earliest. We anticipate the construction phase will last between 24 to 36 months.

At the peak of the construction phase, a maximum of 900 construction staff could be on site.

Standard working hours would be Monday to Saturday, from 7am to 7pm Monday to Friday and from 8am to 1.30pm on Saturday.

Operation

Once the site is operational, we would expect to carry out routine maintenance and operation which would include:

- vegetation management
- equipment maintenance and servicing
- replacement of any components
- periodic fence inspection and monitoring.

The Scheme would generate clean energy for a 40 year lifetime from the date of final commissioning.

Decommissioning

Decommissioning is expected to take up to approximately 24 months, when the start of the decommissioning phase, above-ground physical infrastructure would be dismantled and removed. The land would be restored to its original use (typically agricultural) and returned to the relevant landowners once the decommissioning phase is complete.





Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Overview of the EIA process

The EIA is a process to identify and fully understand the potential effects that a proposed development may have on the environment and communities. This process involves consultation with affected local people, wider communities and other stakeholders to ensure that the EIA has identified the relevant effects of the Scheme.

Through the design evolution process, we are working to reduce any potential negative effects of the Scheme where possible.

The initial findings for the EIA are reported within the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and its Non-Technical Summary (NTS), which have been prepared for the purposes of the stage two consultation.

These documents will allow members of the public, consultation bodies and other stakeholders to develop an informed view of the likely significant effects of the Scheme, as identified at this stage, and to comment on particular areas of interest.

We will update the Scheme proposals in response to feedback where possible. As part of this application, we will provide an Environmental Statement, which will report the outcome of the EIA process.

Accessing the PEIR

The full suite of PEIR documentation can be found on our website and is available to view at this event. A printed copy of the PEIR is also available to view (but not take away) at one of our local information points, Crowland Library.





Community benefits

We believe communities living closest to the Scheme should benefit from it and we're keen to understand your views on how a community benefit fund could be used.

The final sum for our community benefit fund will rely heavily on the final Scheme design, but we expect that around **£500,000 per year** could be available for community benefits for the life time of the Scheme (approximately £20 million in total should the Scheme go ahead).

Early suggestions from the stage one consultation included suggestions for funding towards:

- Improvements to existing community facilities, such as village halls
- Sports facilities, such as all-weather 3G pitches
- Subsidised solar PV panels and electric vehicle charging points for community use and lower cost energy
- Traffic calming measures through local villages and road improvements
- Support for community gardens and food growing
- Wider STEM training and education opportunities, such as a nature education fund

Managing and delivering the fund


We are exploring how a community benefit fund could be managed and delivered independently. There are different ways of doing this, such as appointing a community foundation which would independently manage the fund on our behalf, and/or distributing the fund between local parish and town councils.

Funding could also be provided directly for educational purposes, such as to local schools and for courses at higher education.

This stage two consultation will be important in helping us to understand what local projects could be supported to benefit the communities located closest to the Scheme.

We're inviting your continued views on how community benefit could be made available through our Scheme and how it could be administered and managed.













Have your say

Our consultation closes at 11:59pm on Sunday 8 June 2025.
You can provide your feedback in the following ways:

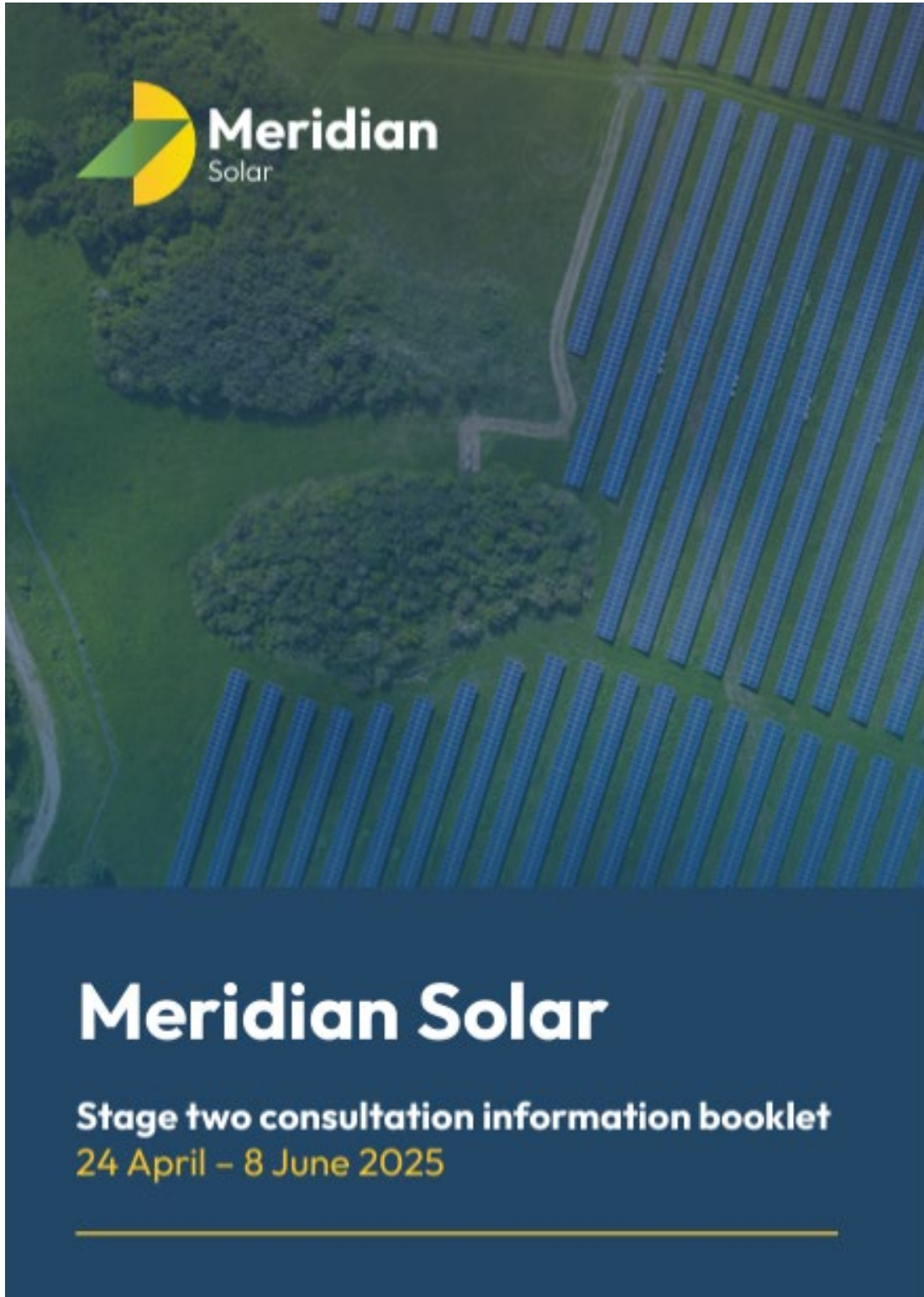
- Completing a feedback form, and returning it free of charge to **FREEPOST DOWNING MERIDIAN** (no stamp required)
- Submitting your completed feedback form by email to enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk
- Providing your free form comments by email or post.

Completing a feedback form online at www.meridiansolarfarm.co.uk

Project timeline and next steps

| | | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Spring 2024 |  | Scheme launch |
| Summer 2024 |  | Early engagement with stakeholders, including stage one consultation. EIA Scoping Report submitted to the Planning Inspectorate |
| Spring 2025 |  | Ongoing development of our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and publication of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) |
| April - June 2025 |  | Stage two (statutory) consultation to be held with community and technical stakeholders, including sharing findings of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) |
| Summer 2025 |  | Design refinements and continued environmental and technical surveys |
| Winter 2025 |  | Anticipated submission of DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate for examination |
| 2026 - 2027 |  | DCO examination period and decision |
| 2027 |  | Anticipated earliest start of construction |

Appendix E-1.8 Stage Two Consultation Information Booklet 2025



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Introduction

Meridian Solar Farm Limited is developing proposals for a new solar farm and overhead line connection to the national grid near Spalding in Lincolnshire (the "Scheme").

The Scheme would include all associated infrastructure, including co-located battery energy storage systems (BESS) and inter-array connections to link together the land parcels where the solar panels are located.

The Scheme, known as Meridian Solar, would have capacity to generate up to around 750 megawatts (MW) of electricity, the equivalent of powering approximately 215,000 homes annually. This would support the transition to net zero and assist the UK in achieving net zero targets by 2050.

Our stage two consultation: April to June 2025

The Scheme is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) due to it having a proposed generation capacity exceeding 50 MW and because it will involve the installation of an above ground electric line greater than two kilometres (km) in length. We are therefore required to submit an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Secretary of State, in accordance with the Planning Act 2008.

We are planning to submit our application for development consent later this year. Before then, we are required to carry out a statutory stage of consultation.

More information on the national infrastructure planning process can be found on the [Planning Inspectorate's website: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/), including [Acceptance](#), [Examination](#), [Recommendation](#) and [Decision](#).

Since our stage one consultation in 2024, we have been carrying out surveys and assessments to help inform the Scheme design and to prepare our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). We are now inviting you to take part in our stage two (statutory) consultation to view and comment on our initial design. Our consultation is running from Thursday 24 April to Sunday 8 June 2025. This information booklet provides a summary on the proposals for Meridian Solar and information on how you can get involved and have your say. Your feedback is important in helping us to refine our proposals for our Scheme application, which we are expecting to submit to the Planning Inspectorate later in 2025.

Key information
You can find the details of our [in-person consultation events](#) in this information booklet, including where you can [find and request a hard copy](#) and [online information](#) relating to the Scheme. We recommend that alongside the information in this booklet, you read our [PEIR and its Non-Technical Summary \(NTS\)](#) before providing feedback during this consultation. These documents provide more detail on the findings from our environmental assessments to date and our initial proposed mitigation measures.

Key facts



The Scheme consists of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels, battery energy storage systems (BESS), and associated infrastructure over four principal development areas, as well as an



The Scheme would have a generation capacity of around 750 MW, providing enough clean energy to power approximately 215,000 UK homes.



overhead line connection to the national grid, and inter-array connections between the four development areas.



If approved, we are anticipating that the earliest the Scheme could be fully operational is from 2029, and would generate clean energy for 40 years.



The four development areas would comprise an area of approximately 1,100 hectares (ha) (2,700 acres) of predominantly agricultural land, and approximately 600 ha (1,482 acres) of that is being considered for the solar PV panels and associated infrastructure.



At the end of its lifecycle, the Scheme would be decommissioned and the land would be returned to its current form.



The Scheme would connect to the national grid at the planned new Weston Marsh substation, due to be located to the east of Spalding (exact location to be confirmed by National Grid), via an approximate 12 to 13 km overhead line, dependent on the proposed location of the Weston Marsh substation to be identified by National Grid.



If consented, the Scheme would be built, operated and decommissioned by Meridian Solar, ensuring one consistent entity through its lifetime.



Who we are

Meridian Solar is being promoted by Meridian Solar Farm Limited, a subsidiary of Downing Renewable Developments (DRD).

DRD was founded by Downing LLP (Downing) to deliver solar, battery storage, and onshore wind projects across the UK and Europe.



Downing has been investing in renewables since 2010 and has significant experience in owning and operating renewable energy, battery storage, and other infrastructure across the UK and Nordics.



For Meridian Solar, this means Meridian Solar Farm Limited would be responsible for the Scheme during the pre-application, construction and operational stages, as well as during its decommissioning.



In September 2022, Downing completed certification for becoming a B Corporation, which means it meets the highest standards of social and environmental performance, transparency and accountability.



As a responsible developer, DRD is progressing an approximate 6 gigawatt (GW) pipeline of projects across the UK helping to deliver a low-carbon energy future for the country. DRD's approach is to own, develop and manage these projects throughout their full lifecycle, rather than selling to a third-party operator once development consent has been granted.

More information about DRD can be found on our website: www.downing-renewables.co.uk.



Consultation and engagement so far

Our proposals for Meridian Solar were first introduced in 2024. Our stage one consultation ran from 30 May until 11 July 2024, which involved three in-person public events and an online webinar.

The consultation introduced the Scheme to the local community and sought feedback on the development areas.

Feedback received during stage one consultation, along with our ongoing engagement with local

authorities, parish councils and other interested parties, including statutory consultees, has helped to shape our more detailed proposals that we are presenting as part of this stage two consultation.

The table below outlines some of the key themes raised during our stage one consultation and how we have been working to address and incorporate the comments into our Scheme design.

Key feedback themes

Land use and agriculture
Feedback highlighted the importance of agricultural land and concern about the loss of land for valuable food production.



Meridian Solar response and how we are working to address and incorporate feedback

Agricultural land can be graded according to its suitability for food production, with Grade 1 being the most high-quality agricultural land and Grade 5 an ever poor-quality agricultural land. Grades 3a, 3b, 4, 5a and 5b are 'moderate' quality land. Grades 1, 2 and 3a are defined as Best and Most Versatile (BMV).

We have conducted Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) surveys within the solar PV development areas, which indicate a mix of Grades 1, 2, subgrade 3a and subgrade 3b. The results of these surveys have fed into the ongoing design process, and we are seeking to avoid land of the highest quality, where practical, focusing on lower grade agricultural land for development.

The findings of our preliminary assessments in relation to ALC have been presented in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), which reports on the initial findings of our environmental assessment of land use and agriculture.

Further ALC surveys will be undertaken, the results of which will be reported within our Environmental Statement (ES), submitted as part of our application for development consent.

The Scheme will not degrade the quality of soils and will not negatively change the ALC classification of land. Instead, during the operation of the Scheme, solar PV areas will remain under a grass cover which will facilitate a recovery of topsoil organic matter. Once the Scheme has been decommissioned, land can be returned to agricultural use around the boundaries with 10 to 150m.

Landscape and visual impact

Feedback highlighted concern about the impact on the look and feel of the landscape, including the visual impacts.

Comments noted the flat landscape and therefore concern about the height of solar panels, BESS and electricity pylons.



Where possible, our design seeks to take advantage of any existing screening from hedgerows, planting and woodland.

A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) forms an important part of our ES. The potential landscape and visual impacts of the Scheme identified in the PEIR have been assessed from several key viewpoints. While ensuring sensitivity with the existing landscape character, indicative landscaping proposals are identified which would help provide visual screening. The PEIR includes the preliminary findings of the environmental assessments concerning the LVIA and has been based on what is considered to be the 'worst case' heights of the panels (up to 5.7 metres) to take account of the steepest angle of the panels and certain flood risk scenarios.

We expect natural pond heights in our application to be far lower for the next stage of design and will continue to refine the proposed overhead line route. The LVIA will continue to be refined as we take onboard the comments received to our stage two consultation, and the final LVIA will be provided within our ES. An offline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) will also be included as part of our application for development consent, which will outline the key measures proposed to mitigate any potential effects of the Scheme on landscape, biodiversity and heritage features.

The PEIR has assessed the likely significant effects of an overhead line being located within the grid connection corridor. An indicative alignment has been shown during the consultation stage. The LVIA will be refined as we take onboard the comments received during this consultation. Our surveys will help refine the route of the overhead line and inform the works required for construction for our application design and this will be assessed within the ES.

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| <p>Key feedback themes</p> | <p>Biodiversity and ecology</p> <p>Feedback highlighted the potential negative impact on local wildlife, including concerns about how the Scheme would impact local biodiversity and ecology.</p>  | <p>Meridian Solar response and how we are working to address and incorporate feedback</p> <p>Due to the scale of the scheme and the construction involved, the PEIR has identified the potential for some likely significant effects on ecology and biodiversity during the construction and operation of the Scheme. Ongoing surveys and design refinement of the overhead line, solar PV development areas and inter-array areas will enable us to continue to determine how we can reduce the potential for these effects.</p> <p>Ground-mounted solar projects provide significant environmental benefits, in addition to providing renewable, low-carbon energy - which is good for the planet - they also improve biodiversity locally by creating new habitats for wildlife and letting plant life grow around the panels over time, compared to harvesting crops yearly.</p> <p>Solar farms have been proven to be able to deliver considerably higher levels of biodiversity net gain (BNG) compared to other types of development and our proposals for the Scheme will be no different. A BNG Report will be submitted as part of our application for development consent, which will outline the strategy undertaken for the Scheme to achieve a minimum of 30% BNG.</p> <p>We're also identifying indicative areas for landscape planting as part of the proposals to provide local ecology and biodiversity. This includes the inclusion of hedgerows and additional planting of trees and shrubs along the edge of the solar PV areas. These landscape enhancements would increase biodiversity across the Scheme and contribute to BNG.</p> |
| <p>Key feedback themes</p> | <p>Health and safety</p> <p>Feedback highlighted concerns with the health and safety implications of living close to solar PV and other infrastructure, including the risk of fires.</p> <p>Comments also expressed concern with exposure to Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs) through electricity pylons and overhead lines.</p>  | <p>Meridian Solar response and how we are working to address and incorporate feedback</p> <p>We recognise and take seriously people's concerns with fire safety and EMFs. Solar is one of the safest energy generation technologies in the world. Solar PV technology dates back to the 1950s and its use is widespread throughout the world - not only in large-scale solar farms but in domestic situations too, in the form of rooftop solar panels.</p> <p>Solar cells are made from silicon, almost the same as sand, and contain no heavy metals or toxic substances. They are then covered with a thin layer of protective tempered glass. Solar panels have no moving parts and create no emissions.</p> <p>Our BESS containers will adhere to strict health and safety standards. They're fitted with automatic fire detection systems and fire suppression systems, and there will be robust measures in place to maintain safety during construction and operation. As part of our application for development consent, we will submit a battery safety management plan to detail the safety measures we propose to use and consult on these measures with the Local Fire and Rescue Service.</p> <p>All of our equipment would also be designed to comply with the government guidelines and policies for Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs). We would ensure the overhead line is compliant with any appropriate independent safety standards, i.e. the exposure limits advised by Public Health England and adopted by government.</p> <p>The effects on public health as a result of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme has been assessed and more information is detailed within the PEIR.</p> |
| <p>Key feedback themes</p> | <p>Flood risk and drainage</p> <p>Feedback highlighted concern with flooding across The Fenlands and proposals.</p> <p>Comments also highlighted concerns with water runoff from solar panels into drains, rivers and waterways, which could increase water pollution and flood risk for the surrounding area.</p>  | <p>Meridian Solar response and how we are working to address and incorporate feedback</p> <p>We've aware of issues regarding local flooding, particularly in relation to the River Welland.</p> <p>We have been in discussion with the Environment Agency about assessing the impacts of flooding and have been reviewing historical flood data and undertaking our own modelling as part of our work on the ES.</p> <p>There is a precedent for solar farms being developed in areas prone to flooding. Solar farms are classified as essential national infrastructure and can therefore be developed within typically wetter landscapes, subject to assessments carried out as part of the ES and engagement with key stakeholders to appropriately assess the impacts of flood risk.</p> <p>Our work to assess flood risk is ongoing, and while the preliminary assessments are sought within the PEIR, ongoing discussions and ongoing engagement with stakeholders will feed into the evolving Scheme design.</p> |
| <p>Key feedback themes</p> | <p>Traffic and access</p> <p>Feedback highlighted the poor condition of local roads, including their narrow width and concern with any additional traffic that would be created by construction, maintenance and operational vehicles.</p>  | <p>Meridian Solar response and how we are working to address and incorporate feedback</p> <p>We're aware of the condition of local roads and understand the importance of reducing potential traffic impacts on existing infrastructure and local communities. We have undertaken traffic and access assessments to understand the potential impacts of traffic associated with the Scheme and our preliminary assessments are outlined within the PEIR.</p> <p>We will undertake further assessment as part of the ES to inform the proposals for any road works required to facilitate the construction of the Scheme.</p> <p>An outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will be developed and submitted alongside the ES, which will set out how construction traffic is to be managed to reduce impacts within the local area.</p> <p>Once operational, vehicle movements would be limited as the Scheme would be managed by a normal number of staff. This would include staff travelling to site, deliveries and maintenance visits during standard operation, and replacement of any Scheme components as required.</p> |
| <p>Key feedback themes</p> | <p>Site selection</p> <p>Feedback highlighted concern about the location of the solar farm and whether alternative options were considered closer to the proposed grid connection.</p>  | <p>Meridian Solar response and how we are working to address and incorporate feedback</p> <p>We have undertaken a multi-stage approach to site selection, led by our point of connection provided by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET), which is to connect the solar farm into their planned new Weston Marsh substation.</p> <p>Following confirmation of the grid connection area, we have considered the constraints and opportunities for a number of factors in determining the site location. A guiding principle was the early consideration for the deliverability of land for solar development: large areas of available land holdings are needed in close proximity in order to deliver the required capacity.</p> <p>Other important factors for consideration included topography, distance away from residential areas, availability of construction accesses, agricultural land classification, proximity to archaeological and heritage features, landscape and nature conservation designations, flood risk and watercourses.</p> <p>Our assessments have concluded our proposed site is the most appropriate, and there are no suitable alternative sites located closer to the planned Weston Marsh substation.</p> |
| <p>Key feedback themes</p> | <p>Connecting directly into the Grimsey to Wolpole overhead line</p> <p>Feedback questioned whether the Scheme could connect directly into National Grid's planned Grimsey to Wolpole overhead line project, as the Scheme close to the solar PV development areas.</p> <p>Comments suggested this would reduce the need for a lengthy connection to Weston Marsh substation.</p>  | <p>Meridian Solar response and how we are working to address and incorporate feedback</p> <p>The point of connection for the Scheme is the new proposed Weston Marsh substation, to be delivered by National Grid. The Scheme has developed on that basis to identify a grid connection corridor within which an overhead line could be routed. It is considered that a connectable and deliverable overhead line could be developed within this corridor and as part of this consultation, we have shown an indicative alignment on which we are seeking people's feedback.</p> <p>Whilst we are required to continue to develop the Scheme in line with our connection agreement, we are engaging with National Grid about whether an option of a 'line connection' into the planned Grimsey to Wolpole overhead line would be technically feasible and could accord with technical requirements and guidelines. This would potentially significantly reduce the length of the Scheme's overhead line, but is dependent on significant technical and environmental work and consideration before any decisions can be made on the viability of this approach.</p> <p>An alternative connection point and type would need to be offered by National Grid and we will continue discussions with them to understand the viability of an alternative type of connection.</p> |

A summary of our engagement during stage one is set out in the stage one consultation summary, which is available on our website: www.meridiansolarfarm.co.uk/documents/

Need for Meridian Solar

The government has set ambitious climate change targets to achieve net zero carbon emissions and ensure that the energy supply remains secure, reliable, and affordable.

The government's Clean Power 2030 Action Plan¹ highlights the importance of achieving 45-47 GW of solar power by 2030 to reduce carbon emissions and the dependence on imported energy.

Meridian Solar has the potential to accelerate the UK's transition to net zero and make a significant contribution towards achieving the government's targets, while also increasing national energy security at a time of both rising energy bills and the increasing urgency to tackle the climate emergency.

Decarbonisation is a UK legal requirement and is of global significance. As established in the National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1), there is an urgent demonstrated need and critical national priority for low carbon and renewable energy infrastructure, which includes solar development at a national scale. The National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks (NPS EN-5) also states it is the government's position that overhead lines should be the strong starting presumption for electricity

networks in general and EN-1 establishes that there is a critical national priority for electricity grid infrastructure, including those associated with the development of a project like Meridian Solar.

Solar developments play a crucial role in the UK's energy landscape, especially in meeting renewable energy targets outlined in key government policies such as the NPSs.

Solar energy schemes can contribute significantly to reducing carbon emissions, increasing energy security, and promoting a greener future for the UK, supporting the decarbonisation of transport and heat sectors, through electrification.

As a Scheme, Meridian Solar is committed to helping to realise the benefits of solar technology. We also understand the local sensitivities and are committed to developing our plans in a considerate and sensitive way.

Our vision for Meridian Solar

Our vision for Meridian Solar is to deliver cleaner, greener, and lower-cost energy, whilst delivering direct benefits to the local environment and community. While assessments in the PEIR indicate the Scheme would have some environmental effects, we are going through, and will continue to go through, the process of avoiding, reducing and mitigating them where practical.

Our objectives for Meridian Solar are to:

- Generate renewable electricity to support the transition to net zero and the UK's ambition to be increasingly self-sufficient in energy
- Produce clean energy for the equivalent of approximately 215,000 homes
- Deliver a Scheme that enhances local ecology and achieves Biodiversity Net Gain
- Work with the local community to support community initiatives throughout the lifetime of the Scheme
- Provide opportunities for local communities and the local economy.



Identifying and selecting the connection corridor

Once the solar PV development areas were identified, a grid connection routing study was completed to find a suitable grid connection corridor between the solar PV development areas and the planned Weston Marsh substation.

Technology selection

The selection of an overhead line as the preferred technology for the grid connection is guided by national policy contained in the National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks, EN-5 which states that the Government's position that outside of nationally designated landscapes, overhead lines should be the strong starting presumption for electricity networks in general. Unless these would give rise to particularly significant landscape and visual effects.

Whilst the PEIR has identified some likely significant effects associated with the routing of an overhead line within the grid connection corridor, it is considered that an appropriate route is deliverable for the Scheme.

In addition to this, it is considered likely that a fully underground route could potentially lead to the likelihood for increased effects on hydrology, buried archaeology, and the requirement for trenchless crossings of watercourses and drainage ditches which could significantly add to the cost and complexity of an underground cable route in this area.

Further details relating to the options appraisal and comparison of underground and overhead line routes will be provided in the ES, using the results of ongoing environmental and technical surveys along with the feedback received during this consultation.

Identifying the connection corridor has been undertaken in three stages.



Stage one – defining initial corridor options

The first stage established the study area from which data would be gathered to inform corridor options.

The study area was created from the most eastern and western corners of the solar PV development area, meeting to form a triangular shape with the provisional location of the Weston Marsh substation provided by National Grid. This was established using straight lines to form the most direct route, requiring the minimum amount of new development that could give rise to environmental effects. Land through which it would be unfeasible, for technical reasons, to route the grid connection was removed. This largely included land around built-up areas: Moulton Chapel, Cowbit, Moulton and Weston.

The remaining area was then divided into the seven corridor options. Five corridor options were considered within the south section of the study area, and two corridor options considered within the north section.

See PEIR Volume II Figure 3-1: Grid Connection Initial Study Area and Volume II Figure 3-2: Grid Connection Routing Study Initial Corridors for further details.



Stage two – assessment of initial corridor options

The second stage assessed each corridor option against a list of key environmental constraints, such as cultural heritage, ecology and biodiversity, landscape and visual, and more.

The two northern corridor options were taken forward for a more detailed round of consideration, including further refinement of the corridor and reducing its width to bring them further from residential areas.

Of the five southern corridor options, two options were considered unsuitable and removed due to the presence of Scheduled Monuments within their boundaries.

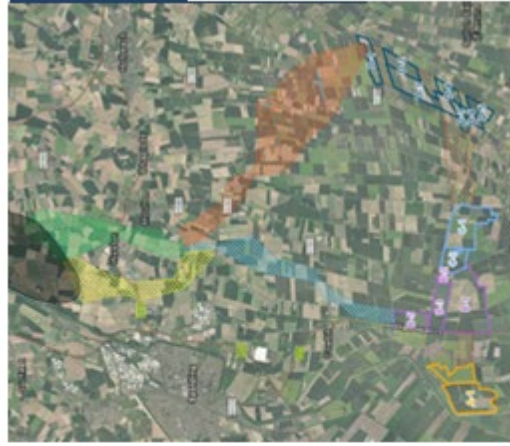
Further assessments identified that the on-site substation required within the land parcels would have to be located within land parcel B or D, due to the presence of cultural heritage within land parcel C. This resulted in a third southern corridor being removed, leaving two remaining southern corridor options.



Stage three – selection of preferred corridor

During our stage one consultation, we presented the two options (eastern and western) for both the northern and southern sections of the connection corridor.

Since then, we have selected the western corridors for both northern and southern sections, which forms our single preferred connection corridor.



The Scheme proposed as shown during our stage one consultation

Showing an indicative overhead line alignment

To allow for flexibility in routing after the statutory consultation, the assessments in the PEIR are based on the realistic worst case scenario of a pylon route being aligned anywhere within the preferred connection corridor and the likely significant effects have been identified on that basis.

In order for members of public and stakeholders to provide us with detailed feedback to support the ongoing development of our proposals, we have shown an indicative alignment for the overhead line within the grid connection corridor.

This can be viewed in the section 'Connecting to the national grid' in this information booklet and on the interactive map on our website.

Following stage two consultation, consideration of the feedback we receive and the results of ongoing surveys and investigations, a defined route, associated construction working areas and access routes will be developed and presented within our ES.



More information on the selection of the grid connection corridor can be found in PEIR, Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution.

Each of the four corridor options presented during our stage one consultation were considered for their relative environmental, social and technical constraints, as well as, for southern corridors, the potential suitability of the corresponding land parcel that would need to host an on-site substation.

| Consideration | Northern section | Southern section |
|---|---|---|
| Landscape and visual amenity | The north eastern corridor was identified as potentially requiring a longer route and would be closer to the residential receptors at the village of Hoxton. It would therefore likely have greater visual amenity impacts than the shorter north western corridor. The north western corridor would also overlap with the current National Grid Corridor to Walslop proposed overhead line corridor, so a preference was taken to follow a similar route to that, rather than needing to cross it and create a further visual intrusion to the north east. | The south western corridor was identified to have a smaller number of residential properties within or near the corridor, whereas the south eastern corridor was in close proximity to the villages of Hultoeash, St Johns and Whaplole St Catherine where landscape and visual amenity impacts were increased. |
| Ecology and water | Ecology and the water environment were considered for the north eastern corridor. While there were a series of priority habitat areas identified within the north western corridor, it was considered that careful micro-siting could reduce the potential effect on the majority of these habitats. | Ecology and water environment assessments established no clear preference for either southern corridors. |
| Heritage and archaeology | Numerous listed buildings were identified in proximity to both northern corridors where they pass either side of Walslop. The north eastern corridor was recognised as being closer to Hoxton Conservation Area, while the north western corridor was shown to border a Scheduled Monument. | Both southern corridors were identified as having similar potential impacts on heritage based on the information available, due to the presence of Scheduled Monuments. |
| Access | For both northern corridors, there were no determining factors in relation to access due to their close proximity to the strategic road network and availability of two-way roads. | The location of both southern corridors present a relatively equal challenge in relation to access and transporting electrical substations to site during construction. |

With these factors considered, a preference emerged for the north western and south western connection corridors, our single preferred connection corridor.

Stage two consultation - our proposals for Meridian Solar

Our application will be for the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of a ground-mounted solar PV panels and an approximate 12 to 13 km of overhead line connection into National Grid's planned Weston Marsh substation (due to be located east of Spalding, with the exact location to be confirmed by National Grid). The Scheme will also include associated infrastructure, including co-located battery energy storage systems (BESS) and inter-array connections to link together the land parcels where the solar panels are located.

The Scheme has a connection agreement with National Grid to allow 750 MW of electricity to be transferred in and out of its substation. This would allow the Scheme to transport this amount of power to the national grid at one time. With energy storage facilities on-site, we would be able to store excess energy and release it at times when it is needed most.

We are particularly keen to receive comments on:

- The overall Scheme
- Our updated plans for the land parcel sites, including the indicative location of equipment and infrastructure within each
- Our connection corridor between the land parcels and connection at National Grid's proposed Weston Marsh substation
- Our indicative alignment for the overhead line within the grid connection corridor
- Measures we are proposing to reduce the impacts associated with the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Scheme
- Suggestions on how Meridian Solar can benefit the local community
- Any other feedback on our work so far or local issues and sensitivities of which we should be aware.



Community benefits

We are committed to making a positive contribution to South Holland and beyond through opportunities for community benefit.

We believe communities living closest to the Scheme should benefit from it and we're keen to understand your views on how a community benefit fund could be used. While the final sum for our community benefit fund will rely heavily on the final Scheme design post stage two consultation and what commitments are required through documents such as the ES, it is likely that around £500,000 per year could be available for community benefits for the life time of the Scheme (approximately £20 million in total should the Scheme go ahead).

Early suggestions from the stage one consultation included suggestions for funding towards:

- Improvements to existing community facilities, such as village halls
- Sports facilities, such as all-weather 3G pitches
- Subsidised solar PV panels and electric vehicle charging points for community use and lower cost energy
- Traffic calming measures through local villages and road improvements
- Support for community gardens and food growing
- Wider STEM training and education opportunities, such as a nature education fund.

We are currently investigating how a community benefit fund could be managed and delivered independently. There are different ways of doing this, such as appointing a community foundation which would independently manage the fund on Meridian Solar Farm Limited's behalf, and/or distributing the fund between local parish and town councils.

Funding could also be provided directly for educational purposes, such as to local schools and for courses at higher education. Given the proposed scale of investment from the Scheme, it will likely mean a mix of all types of delivery vehicles will be implemented to ensure as wide a cross section of the community as possible will see direct benefits from the Scheme and experience a positive impact, beyond the national energy generation and transition to net zero.



Main infrastructure

As part of our application for development consent, we are applying for authorisation to construct, operate, maintain and decommission the following Scheme elements.

More information on the Scheme infrastructure can be found in the [PEIR, Chapter 2: The Scheme](#).



Solar PV panels – Panels convert sunlight into electrical current. The Scheme is expected to use fixed panels that would face south. The panel height will be subject to a number of environmental, engineering and maintenance considerations, including visual impacts, engineering feasibility with regards to structural and foundation design, as well as impacts to archaeology and flood risk. For the purposes of the PEIR and to ensure a thorough approach to consulting on environmental impacts, we have assessed a worst case scenario of the panels reaching a height of up to 3.7 metres (m) above ground level in areas that could be flooded if the flood defences of the River Weland failed. However, we will continue to review the design requirements and we are seeking to undertake further consultation with stakeholders on these. In practice, we strongly consider that panels up to a maximum of 4.25 m above ground level are more realistic, and more typical for this type of development.



Overhead line grid connection – approximately 12 to 13 km in length, dependent on the final location of the Weston Marsh substation to be delivered by National Grid. This would be 400 kV steel lattice towers with a standard height of approximately 50 m. A standard distance between pylons could be approximately every 350 m. The pylon heights and distances between them can increase and decrease depending on the final proposed route alignment, however our plans show an indicative route alignment for the overhead lines and pylons within the grid connection corridor.



Solar stations (transformers, inverters and switchgear) – This converts the electricity to be exported to the national grid.



Battery and Energy Storage Solution (BESS) and on-site substation compounds – a total of four compounds will be located across the land parcels. The BESS will allow any excess electricity generated to be stored and exported to the national grid when required. One 400 kilovolt (kV) substation would be the starting point of the grid connection to export the electricity, and three smaller (up to 132 kV) electrical substations will facilitate the electricity moving around the site between land parcels. The indicative locations are shown on the indicative site layout, including two options in land parcel D.



On-site cabling – Low voltage cabling will connect solar PV panels, solar stations and equipment within BESS and on-site substation compounds. Cabling between panels would be above ground, fixed to mounting frames. Cabling between the panels and solar stations would be buried underground in trenches.



Access – Where existing routes within the solar PV areas cannot be utilised, access tracks would be constructed. Parking bays would also be provided during operation of the BESS and on-site substation compounds. There could be the requirement for highway works and upgrades to be needed as part of the Scheme to facilitate construction and access and this will continue to be refined as the project develops and we undertake additional surveys.

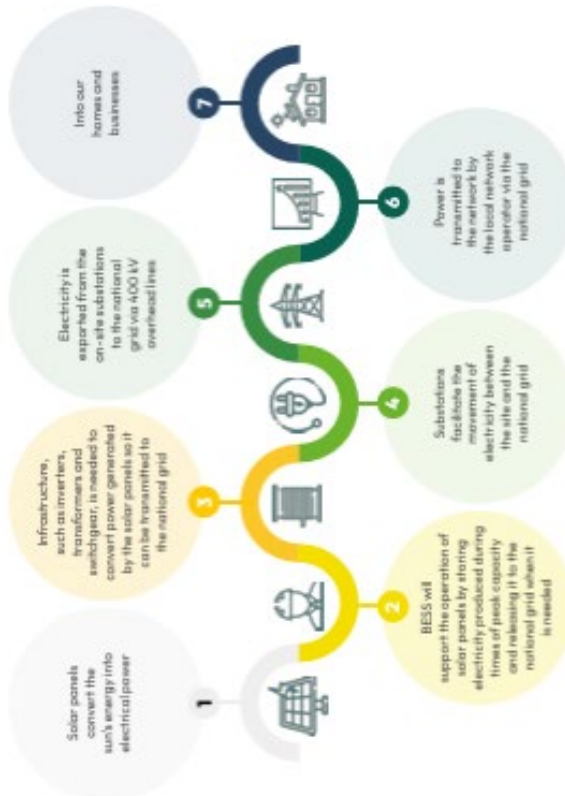


Fencing and security – Fencing would enclose operational areas. A post-mounted closed-circuit television (CCTV) camera system would be installed around key infrastructure and the perimeter of the operational area of the site.



Inter-array connection – These are electricity connections which link the land parcels together. Both an overhead line and/or underground cabling are being considered for the inter-array connection. An overhead line could use a 'trident' style wood pole design with a standard height of approximately 15 m above ground level. Underground cables would be installed via open cut and/or trenchless methods.

How solar farms work





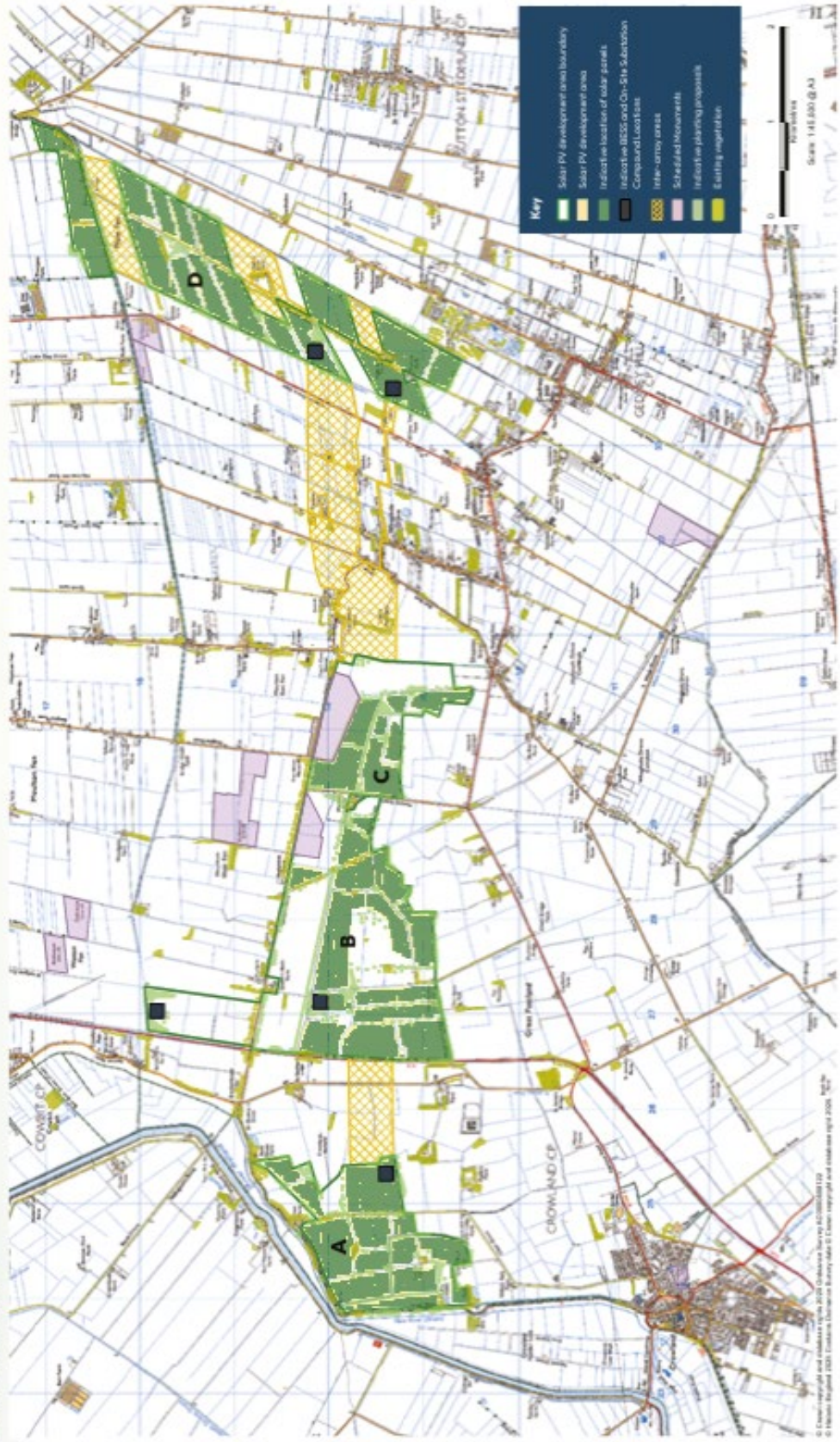
Evolution of the Scheme design

Our early engagement, including stage one consultation, along with ongoing environmental and technical design work, has resulted in the following key developments to our proposals:

- Creation of an initial Scheme design within the land parcels, with approximately 55% being considered for the solar PV panels and associated infrastructure.
- Provision of offsets from existing landscape features such as ponds, hedgerows and woodland.
- Solar panels within the land parcels located approximately 40 metres at its closest point to residential properties. BESS and on-site substation compounds located approximately 135 metres and solar stations approximately 100 metres at their closest points.
- Indicative screening and planting proposals to reduce visual impacts for sensitive receptors, such as residential properties.
- Avoidance of infrastructure within heritage assets, including the two Scheduled Monuments within the solar PV development areas.
- Agricultural Land Classification surveys indicate a mix of B1/V land, and we have adopted a sequential approach to locating infrastructure on lower grades of agricultural land, where practical.
- Selection of our single preferred connection corridor between the solar farm and the National Grid substation.
- Developed an indicative alignment for the overhead line within the grid connection corridor.

Indicative layout of the solar PV development and inter-array areas

The indicative layout plan for the solar PV development and inter-array areas below shows our current proposals. Please view the interactive Scheme map on our website for areas of interest to you.



Preliminary Design, Land Parcel A – Clout Drive

Land Parcel A – located in Crowland parish, west of the A16



- 1 Following engagement with the Peterborough & Spalding Gliding Club, infrastructure is not proposed in this location to reduce potential effects on its ongoing operations at Crowland Airfield.
- 2 Tree planting in this general location could help to break up views of this area, particularly from local Public Rights of Way and residential properties to the south and to the west across the River Welland.
- 3 Potential hedgerow planting to support biodiversity improvements.

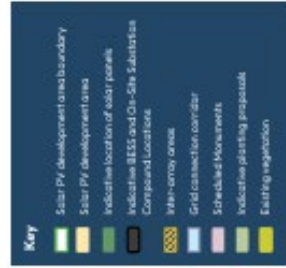


Preliminary Design, Land Parcel B – Queen's Bank

Land Parcel B – located in Crowland, Weston and Cowbit parishes, east of the A16



- 1 Infrastructure is not proposed in the northern section to provide potential opportunities for environmental mitigation and increase the distance of infrastructure from residential properties on Queen's Bank.
- 2 Surveys have indicated this is grade 1 agricultural land, and therefore no infrastructure is proposed in this location so the land could continue to be farmed.
- 3 Planting along the A16 would be retained and with the opportunity for it to be enhanced to reduce the potential effect on views from the road.
- 4 In addition to the location of the 400kV substation and any associated planting, there is the opportunity to use this area for environmental mitigation to support biodiversity net gain.



Preliminary Design, Land Parcel D – Langary Gate Road

Land Parcel D - located in Fleet parish, east of the B1168



- 1** One of the options for the inter-array area connection between land parcel C and D includes the potential to install cables under the road. This would not be routed over or under residential properties or gardens. Only one option for the inter-array connection would be taken forward.
- 2** Two options for the location of an on-site substation and BESS compound are presented in land parcel D. These are subject to further environmental and technical consideration and feedback received to the consultation will feed in to the selection of a single option to be included within our application.
- 3** Planting in keeping with the character of the landscape could be incorporated to reduce potential effects on views from Hobbeach Grove Gate and local Public Rights of Way.
- 4** Planting to help reduce potential impacts on existing land users, including the golf course.

Preliminary Design, Land Parcel C – Martins Road

Land Parcel C - located in Crowland parish, between Queen's Bank road and the B1168



- 1** Infrastructure is not proposed in these locations to avoid direct impacts on two Scheduled Monuments.
- 2** Planting in keeping with the character of the landscape could be incorporated to reduce potential effects on views from Queen's Bank and local Public Rights of Way.
- 3** Planting in keeping with the character of the landscape could be included to reduce the potential effects on the views from Martins Road and local Public Rights of Way.
- 4** Infrastructure is not proposed in this location to reduce the potential effects on a residential property on Martins Road.
- 5** No development is proposed in the area adjacent to the Scheduled Monument to avoid the highest grade of agricultural land that was identified through surveys.
- 6** No development is proposed in the eastern section to avoid the highest grade of agricultural land that was identified through surveys.

Inter-array connection

Electricity connections (the inter-array connection) link the land parcels together in what is known as the inter-array areas.

The inter-array connection would cross roads (including the A16 and B1168), watercourses (agricultural drainage ditches and the South Holland Main Drain) and a series of fields in agricultural use. The inter-array area between land parcel C and D includes options in and around the village of Whapode Drove, with the southern route being included as a potential to install cables under the road. We will not route over or under residential properties or gardens.

Both an overhead line and/or underground cable configuration are currently being considered for the inter-array connection, both up to 132 kV. Ongoing surveys, technical work and the feedback received from this consultation will help us refine the design further for the ES and our application.

An overhead line would likely be via a single circuit, 'trident' style, single wood pole design with a standard height of approximately 15 m above ground level. A pole is expected to be located every approximately 120 m, though this is subject to refinement as the design of the Scheme progresses.

Underground cables would be installed via open cut and/or trenchless methods if they needed to cross certain roads or sensitive watercourses.

Open cut installation methods are typically used within open agricultural land. These involve the excavation of a trench within which cables are directly laid, or a duct is placed through which cables are pulled before land is reinstated.

Details about the selection of the inter-array areas are outlined within the [PEIR, Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution](#).



Example of a typical trident style wood pole

Connecting to the national grid

The electricity generated by the Scheme would be exported via a 400 kV overhead line within the connection corridor to National Grid's planned Weston Marsh substation.

Information about how the connection corridor was selected and justification for use of overhead lines can be found in the section 'Identifying and selecting the connection corridor' within this informational booklet.

The length of the overhead line connection would be approximately 12 to 13 km, however this is dependent on the final positioning of the Weston Marsh substation to be confirmed by National Grid.

It would likely be installed via 400 kV steel lattice towers with a standard height of approximately 50 m. A standard distance between pylons could be approximately every 350 m. The pylon heights and distances between them can increase and decrease depending on the final proposed route alignment, however our plans show an indicative route alignment for the overhead line and pylons within the grid connection corridor.

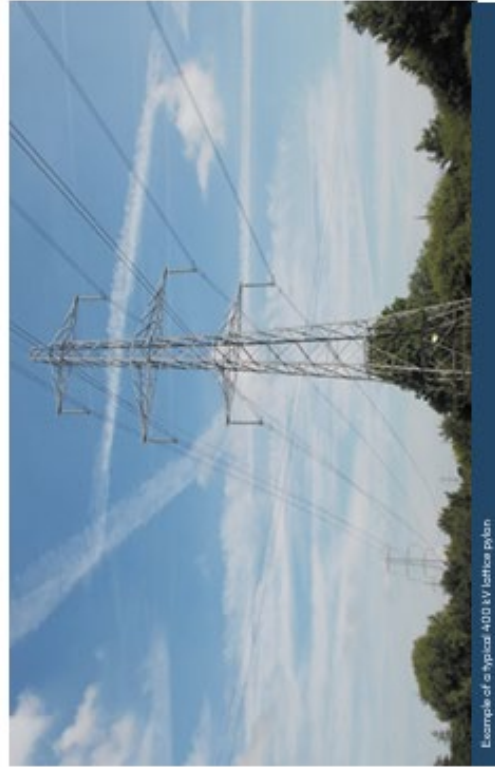
Location of Weston Marsh substation

During our stage one consultation, we presented National Grid's broad search area for the location of the proposed Weston Marsh substation.

We are in regular discussions with National Grid about its ongoing proposals for Weston Marsh including confirmation of its intended location. At this time, there are no further details available for us to present during our stage two consultation.

As a result, we are showing the same National Grid search area as shown during our stage one consultation, and in the PEIR we have assessed the connection corridor routing into the southern section of the broad search area.

When National Grid announce more information on the location of the substation, we will work with the relevant bodies to understand the implications for the Scheme and progress accordingly.



Example of a typical 400 kV lattice pylon

Connection corridor and indicative alignment of overhead line – southern section



- 1 The most direct alignment for the overhead line has been identified between the land parcels and Moulton Chapel Road due to few environmental and technical constraints being located in this area.
- 2 The typical spacing between the pylons could be approximately 293 metres to maintain a distance from a property on Moulton Chapel Road.
- 3 The indicative alignment aims to allow as much space as possible from the properties to the east of Deigate Bank and West Gate, while maintaining 50 metres from the sewage treatment plant to the east.
- 4 There is an existing 132 kV overhead line crossing the proposed alignment, which will be discussed with the asset owner to determine the most appropriate crossing design.
- 5 As much as possible, the indicative alignment has been designed to pass properties at an equal distance on both sides as it crosses Austendike Road.



Connection corridor and indicative alignment of overhead line – northern section



- 1 The most direct alignment for the overhead lines has been identified in this location, passing an equal distance on both sides between properties and maintaining a distance of 50 metres.
- 2 In this section, the alignment would cross existing 11 kV and 33 kV overhead lines, as well as Long Lane, Deigate Bank and Broad Gate.
- 3 The indicative alignment includes a distance of approximately 50 metres separation around the woodland and sewage treatment works, north of High Road.
- 4 The alignment has been designed to pass an equal distance on both sides between the farm complex to the north, and woodland and a sewage plant to the south.
- 5 Dependent on the proposed location of the Weston Marsh substation and any associated works in this area, the alignment could be required to cross the existing 400 kV overhead line. The most appropriate design to take forward in this area will be discussed with National Grid as more information becomes available.
- 6 The indicative alignment finishes at the edge of National Grid's indicative siting area for its proposed Weston Marsh substation because the location is to be identified by National Grid.



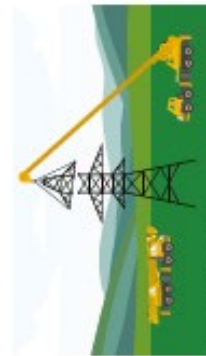
Installing overhead lines

Construction of overhead lines takes place in a number of stages, including:

- 1. Site set-up and temporary construction compounds** - we will create temporary construction compounds at points along the connection route, for deliveries, storage of materials, office space, welfare facilities and vehicle parking. The compounds will be at strategic positions to reduce potential disturbance to local communities. They will be removed following construction and the land returned to its original condition. Construction of the overhead line begins with creating a temporary access track to the pylon site, fencing off a safe working area, clearing vegetation and carrying out any drainage works required.
- Pylon foundations** - excavators will dig a foundation hole for each leg of the pylon. The pylon leg is fixed in place, the foundation is concreted and then backfilled with soil to be re-seeded.
- 3. Building pylons** - pylons are delivered to site in sections by lorry. The pylon sections are assembled on the ground and then lifted into place using a mobile crane.
- 4. Attaching the wires** - once the pylons are assembled, we hang the wires that carry the electricity. This process is known as 'stringing'. We string a section of pylons at a time. We'll need to erect scaffolding and netting where the route crosses areas such as roads during the stringing. We may need to close some roads for short periods or use traffic lights during this work. Running blocks are then fitted to the insulators and the wires are pulled through by a winch machine. There will be temporary 'pulling areas' along the route. The most appropriate solution for each location will be determined as the Scheme develops further.



Stage 1: Site set-up and temporary construction compounds



Stage 3: Building pylons



Stage 2: Pylon foundations



Stage 4: Attaching the wires

Construction, operation and decommissioning

Construction

Should the Scheme be granted development consent, the construction phase could start in 2027 at the earliest. We anticipate the construction phase is likely to take between 24 to 36 months in duration. Details on the construction programme are being further refined alongside our ongoing Scheme design process and will be outlined in the ES.

At the peak of the construction phase, a maximum of 900 construction staff could be on site. This could equate to approximately 700 construction staff associated with the solar PV area and inter-array connection, and approximately 200 construction staff associated with the construction of the grid connection.

Standard working hours would be Monday to Saturday, with working hours from 7am to 7pm Monday to Friday and from 8am to 1.30pm on Saturday, however there could be the requirement for some work to take place out of these hours for technical or safety reasons. Works out of these hours would be agreed with South Holland District Council prior to activities taking place, and with Lincolnshire County Council as the local highway authority as required.

We will be preparing a Construction Traffic Management Plan, which would manage the impacts of construction traffic associated with the Scheme, and a Construction Environmental Management Plan, which will set out the measures to manage the environmental effects of construction activities. Outline versions of these documents will be available as part of our application for development consent.

All construction access, including temporary access for the construction phase and decommissioning phase, will be confirmed as the Scheme design progresses and in consultation with Lincolnshire County Council highways team, and National Highways where required.

Operation

During the operational phase, activities from the routine maintenance and operation would include vegetation management, equipment maintenance and servicing, replacement of any components, periodic fence inspection and monitoring.

The Scheme would generate clean energy for a 40 year lifetime from the date of final commissioning. After that time, decommissioning will commence thereafter.

It is currently anticipated that components (such as BESS and solar panels) could be replaced during the operational phase. Full details relating to a programme for the replacement of all components during the operational phase will be reported and assessed as part of the ES.

We will be preparing a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan, which will set out measures for the monitoring and maintenance of landscaping and any new habitats provided, and an Operational Environmental Management Plan, which will provide the measures for the management of environmental effects during operation. Outline versions of these documents will be submitted with the application for development consent.

Decommissioning

Decommissioning the Scheme is expected to take up to approximately 24 months. Upon the start of the decommissioning phase, above-ground physical infrastructure would be dismantled and removed. It is assumed that any below ground infrastructure will be left in situ following decommissioning, subject to best industry practice, obligations to landowners and the relevant statutory requirements.

An outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan will be prepared alongside the ES which will outline general principles to be adhered to during the decommissioning phase.

The land would be restored to its original use (typically agricultural) and returned to the relevant landowners once the decommissioning phase is complete.

More information on construction, operation and decommissioning can be found in [PEIR, Chapter 2: The Scheme](#).

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Overview of the EIA process

The EIA is a process to identify and fully understand the potential effects that a proposed development may have on the environment and communities. This process involves consultation with affected local people, wider communities and other stakeholders to ensure that the EIA has identified the relevant effects of the Scheme.

Through the design evolution process, we are working to reduce any potential negative effects of the Scheme where possible.

The initial findings for the EIA are reported within the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and its Non-Technical Summary (NTS), which have been prepared for the purposes of the stage two consultation. These documents will allow members of the public, consultation bodies and other stakeholders to develop an informed view of the likely significant effects of the Scheme, as identified at this stage, and to comment on particular areas of interest.

It is important to note that the consultation is taking place before we finalise the design as part of our application for development consent. This means at this stage, in order to ensure we have fully consulted on any potential effects, the assessment has been undertaken in an overly precautionary way and as a result, identifies significant effects which we anticipate being able to mitigate and reduce by the time the application is submitted. We will update the Scheme proposals in response to feedback where possible. As part of this application, we will provide an Environmental Statement, which will report the outcome of the EIA process.

Accessing the PEIR

The full suite of PEIR documentation can be found on our website and will be available to view at the in-person consultation events. A printed copy of the PEIR is also available to view (but not take away) at one of our local information points, Crowland Library, if you would like a hard copy of the PEIR and/or NTS, a reasonable charge to cover printing and postage costs of £0.35 per page may apply. Please use the contact details at the end of this booklet to request a copy.

To help you read information on impacts and topic areas that are important to you, we have divided the PEIR into the following chapters:

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: The Scheme
- Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution
- Chapter 4: Overview of the EIA Process
- Chapter 5: Climate Change
- Chapter 6: Cultural Heritage
- Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity
- Chapter 8: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Water Framework Directive (WFD)
- Chapter 9: Agriculture and Soils
- Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual
- Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration
- Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use
- Chapter 13: Traffic and Access
- Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics
- Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects
- Chapter 16: Summary of Environmental Effects

An NTS of the PEIR is also available to view on the Scheme website and will be available at our in-person events.



Summary of PEIR findings

The table below outlines the areas of assessment and summarises some of the potential effects and proposed mitigation measures based on the proposed Scheme as it is currently understood. The preliminary effects and mitigation measures vary in detail depending on the level of assessments that has been undertaken to date.

The preliminary effects presented are a worst-case based on a precautionary approach to the assessment. We will seek to further refine the design and mitigation proposals following this consultation, and our strong expectation is that we will be able to reduce the significance of some of the adverse effects identified in the PEIR. The likely significant effects associated with the Scheme will be confirmed and reported in the Environmental Statement which forms part of our application for development consent.

The preliminary mitigation measures presented below are an example of those identified in the PEIR and may change and/or be supplemented as a result of further work in preparing the Environmental Statement. You can find more information on the anticipated environmental impacts in each of the relevant chapters within the PEIR.

| Area of assessment | Potential effects and proposed mitigation | For more information |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Climate change | Greenhouse gas emissions would be created during the construction and decommissioning phases from vehicles and machinery, and during operational maintenance, but these are expected to be minor adverse effects within the context of the decarbonisation of the grid that the Scheme will provide during the operational phase. Overall, the Scheme would have a significant positive impact on climate change by helping the UK achieve net zero and the government's target to generate 45-47 GW of solar power by 2030. | See PEIR Chapter 5 |
| Cultural heritage | The layout of solar PV areas has been designed to avoid works inside the scheduled areas of the two Scheduled Monuments located within the solar PV area. No Scheduled Monuments are located within the inter-array areas or grid connection corridor. The design of the Scheme has been refined to avoid dense groupings of buried archaeological remains that have been identified within the solar PV areas. We are aware that without further mitigation, the Scheme could result in a significant effect on archaeology. As such, we are in the process of completing further survey work, including geophysical surveys and archaeological trial trenching to confirm the importance of archaeology within the solar PV areas and the likely effects of the Scheme on archaeology. We will also engage with Lincolnshire County Council and Historic England to develop an archaeological mitigation strategy for the Scheme. We have also identified the potential for significant effects as a result of the impact on the setting of heritage assets adjacent to the solar PV areas and the grid connection corridor. We will further review the Scheme layout, so that any visual screening and / or buffers can be incorporated within the Scheme, where possible. For example, where feasible, the overhead line within the grid connection corridor would be routed away from the assets. | See PEIR Chapter 6 |

| Area of assessment | Potential effects and proposed mitigation | For more information |
|---|--|--|
| Ecology and Biodiversity | <p>Land within the Scheme consists of large agricultural fields in arable use, separated by a network of man-made drainage ditches and field margins. The Scheme is not likely to have significant effects on the ecology and biodiversity within identified designated sites located nearby. Some habitat for breeding and wintering birds may be lost, but this would not be significant and sufficient replacement habitat is available locally. An Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be prepared to identify measures to ensure ecological receptors are protected during construction. Similarly, measures for the operational and decommissioning phases will be set out within the Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) and Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP).</p> <p>The presence of pylons and overhead cabling along the grid connection corridor and inter-array areas could pose a collision risk to bird species, but mitigation options are being considered as part of our ongoing assessments. It is expected that the Scheme would deliver more than 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).</p> | See PER Chapter 7 |
| Hydrology, flood risk and water framework directive | <p>The main watercourses in the area are the River Weland and the River Nene, with the South Holland Main Drain running through the solar PV area.</p> <p>Effects on the watercourses are not likely to be significant throughout construction, operation and decommissioning, and any potential impacts would be localised and temporary. These impacts would be controlled by the mitigation measures identified in the Outline CEMP, Outline OEMP and Outline DEMP.</p> <p>A flood risk assessment will be prepared for submission with the application for development consent, which will set out a sequential approach to the selection of the site, as well as the development of the Scheme layout to minimise impacts associated with flood risk.</p> | See PER Chapter 8 |
| Agriculture and soils | <p>The land within the solar PV area is mostly level, arable farmland divided into fields with deep, straight watercourses. Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) surveys indicate the solar PV areas contain a mix of Grades 1, 2, 3a (defined as Best and Most Versatile (BMV)) and 3b agricultural land.</p> <p>While BMV land will be temporarily required for the solar PV areas, inter-array areas and the grid connection corridors, the Scheme has been designed to ensure that the areas of highest quality BMV are, as far as practical, avoided.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Scheme will not degrade the quality of soils and will not change the ALC classification of land. We will prepare an Outline Soil Management Plan for submission with the application for development consent, which will set out working practices to ensure that the soil quality is not adversely affected by the Scheme. During the operation of the Scheme, solar PV areas will remain under a grass cover which will facilitate a recovery of topsoil organic matter. Once the Scheme has been decommissioned, land can be returned to agricultural use should the landowners wish to do so.</p> | See PER Chapter 9 |
| Area of assessment | <p>Landscape and visual</p> <p>The local area is recognised by its large, low-lying, flat landscape with drainage ditches, dykes and rivers. There are no landscape designations such as National Landscapes or National Parks within the site, and it is not located within Green Belt.</p> <p>A mix of short-term and long-term, reversible adverse effects on the landscape character have been identified as significant across the Scheme, based on aspects such as construction activities, height of the infrastructure and the change of use of the land.</p> <p>Detailed mitigation proposals are being developed which include the consideration of design and component placement to reduce potential effects, the retention of existing hedgerows, trees and shrubs, where possible, and the provision of new landscaping.</p> | For more information See PER Chapter 10 |
| Noise and vibration | <p>We recognise that there is a potential for local communities to be impacted by noise and vibration during the construction and decommissioning phases of the Scheme. The Outline CEMP and Outline DEMP will set out measures to minimise disturbance. Furthermore, impacts from construction traffic will be managed through the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP).</p> <p>There is also a potential for effects to arise during the operation of the Scheme, as a result of noise-generating infrastructure (i.e. the BESS and on-site substation compounds) and the overhead line within the grid connection corridor, under certain weather conditions.</p> <p>We are in the process of reviewing the Scheme layout and design and any noise limits to be specified for plant, so that these effects could be minimised.</p> | See PER Chapter 11 |
| Socio-economics and land use | <p>The Scheme would generate employment and benefit the local economy, specifically during the construction and decommissioning phases. An Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan will be prepared for submission with the application for development consent to maximise the benefits locally.</p> <p>No potentially significant effects from land use change on residential properties, community land and assets, business premises, development land and agricultural businesses have been identified. Measures to reduce disturbance will be set out within the management plans to be submitted with the application for development consent.</p> <p>It is expected that a Community Liaison Officer would be appointed as a designated point of contact for any public concerns during the construction phase, and regular community updates would be provided through multiple channels to ensure residents are kept informed of any temporary changes to Public Rights of Way (PROW) access arrangements.</p> | See PER Chapter 12 |

How to have your say

The public consultation will run for six weeks between **Thursday 24 April to Sunday 8 June 2025**. We invite your feedback on our proposals to help shape our plans further before we submit our application for development consent later this year.

We would like your feedback on:

- The overall Scheme
- Our updated plans for the land parcels, including the indicative location of equipment and infrastructure within each
- Our connection corridor between the land parcels and connection at National Grid's proposed Weston Marsh Substation
- Our indicative alignment for the overhead line within the grid connection corridor
- Measures we are proposing to reduce the impacts associated with the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Scheme
- Suggestions on how Meridian Solar can benefit the local community
- Any other feedback on our work so far or local issues and sensitivities of which we should be aware.

How to take part in our consultation

Anyone who is interested in the Scheme is welcome to take part in the consultation. We welcome all views and will take them into account before our application for development consent is submitted.

We are holding a series of in person events at publicly accessible venues. At the events, you will be able to view and discuss our more detailed plans for Meridian Solar with members of the project team and provide your feedback. You will be able to take away printed copies of this consultation information booklet and our feedback form.

The in person events are being held as follows:

| Date | Time | Location |
|-----------------------|---------------|---|
| Saturday 10 May 2025 | 10:30 - 16:30 | St John's Edmund Village Hall, 275 Broadgate, Spalding PE12 0LR |
| Wednesday 21 May 2025 | 14:00 - 20:00 | Creswell Snowden Parkers, Thorney Road, Pwllborough PE8 9DR |
| Thursday 22 May 2025 | 14:00 - 20:00 | Weston Village Hall, Small Grove, Spalding PE12 6HU |

Details are correct at the time of publication and are unlikely to change. Any updates will be reflected on the Scheme website, which we recommend to check for the most current details before attending.

We will also spread two online information presentations to the Scheme website during the consultation period. The first presentation will provide an overview of our proposals and where to find out more information. The second presentation will be uploaded after the in person events and will provide a summary of the main questions we were asked and a response to them.

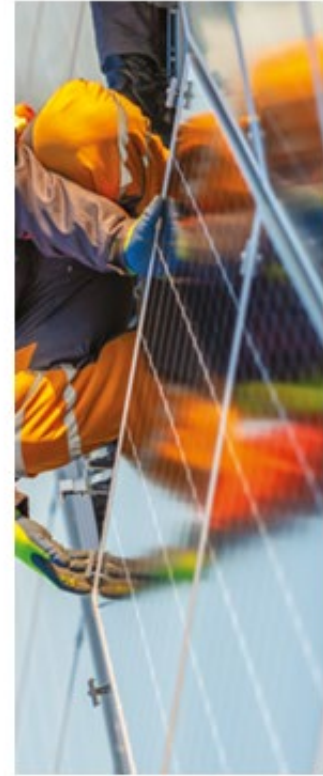


| Area of assessment | Potential effects and proposed mitigation | For more information |
|--|--|----------------------|
| Traffic and access | Major and minor roads have been identified alongside the solar PV areas, inter-array areas, and grid connection corridor. All P160W, cycling facilities, equestrian facilities, and public transport services have also been identified. We have identified how many construction vehicle trips will be generated and how they will be distributed across the Scheme. Indicative access points for construction vehicles and key construction routes have also been identified. All traffic impacts would be managed through our Construction Traffic Management Plan. Furthermore, we will prepare an Outline P160W Management Plan for submission with the application for development consent, to set out how impacts on P160W will be managed. We are also in the process of undertaking further work to determine any off-site highway improvements which may be required to facilitate construction vehicles accessing the solar PV areas. | See PER Chapter 13 |
| Other environmental topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Air quality - Human health - Glint and glare - Waste - Major Accidents and disasters | <p>Air quality: No likely significant effects associated with air quality have been identified. Measures for good construction environmental management will be set out within the Outline CEMP and Outline DEM, to minimise dust from the construction and decommissioning works impacting on adjacent properties.</p> <p>Human health: We recognise that impacts identified above with regards to noise and vibration and any impacts on P160W may consequently impact on the health and wellbeing of communities, specifically any vulnerable groups. Mitigation measures for all aspects of Human Health are being developed and more detailed mitigation measures will be outlined in our Environmental Statement.</p> <p>Glint and glare: The only source of glint and glare would be the solar PV panels. The Scheme is reviewing vegetation screening in key locations to reduce potential impacts.</p> <p>Waste: Management plans are being developed to detail how the generation of waste will be avoided on the Scheme in the first instance, and where it is produced, how it will be minimised and diverted from landfill. There is no concern that the level of waste that would be produced during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases would have a significant effect on the waste management infrastructure where it may be transferred.</p> <p>Major accidents and disasters: We have considered the potential for the Scheme to cause major accidents or disasters on individual categories, such as fire and explosions, road accidents, and utilities failure, as well as the cumulative impact of effects. As a result of our design assurances and safety controls, the risk of such events would be managed to an acceptable level that should an unlikely scenario occur, it would not be considered a major accident or disaster.</p> | See PER Chapter 14 |
| Cumulative effects | Our cumulative assessments have identified local developments that could have the potential to cause cumulative effects with the Scheme. Where possible, the Scheme would coordinate with other developers to minimise the cumulative effects, particularly in the construction and decommissioning phases. This would include ongoing liaison with National Grid on its siting of Weston Marsh substation and Grimsby to Welbore overhead line project. | See PER Chapter 15 |

Navigating our consultation materials

We have prepared a set of documents and materials to explain the proposals we're consulting on and to help you to provide feedback.

| Document | Summary |
|---|---|
| Consultation Information Booklet | The document you're reading, which provides detailed information on the Scheme, the planning process, what we're consulting on and how our plans have evolved over time. This can be found on our website, at our in person events, a local information point or sent free of charge by request. |
| Consultation Feedback Form | Allows you to provide comments on our proposals. This can be found at our in person events, a local information point or sent free of charge by request. You can also provide your feedback online via our website. |
| Consultation Newsletter | Pushed to properties within the Primary Consultation Zone to advertise the consultation. This can be found on our website, at our in person events, a local information point or sent free of charge by request. |
| Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) | Explains what effects we believe the Scheme may have on the environment based on our preliminary assessments, and the measures we are proposing to reduce the impacts. This includes a main report, figures, appendices, maps and plans. You can view this online, at our in person events, at Crowland Library, or request a USB device. If you would like a hard copy of the PEIR, a reasonable charge to cover printing and postage costs of £0.35 per page may apply. |
| Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the PEIR | A summary of the PEIR written in non-technical language. A NTS of the PEIR can also be viewed online, at our in person events, at Crowland Library, or sent free of charge by request. |
| Interactive map | Allows you to search for areas of interest, including explanations of the individual Scheme elements. You can view this on our website. |
| Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) | The SoCC sets out how we intend to consult people ahead of our application for development consent for the Scheme. This stage two consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the SoCC. This can be found on our website, at our in person events, at Crowland Library, or can be sent free of charge on request. |



View more information

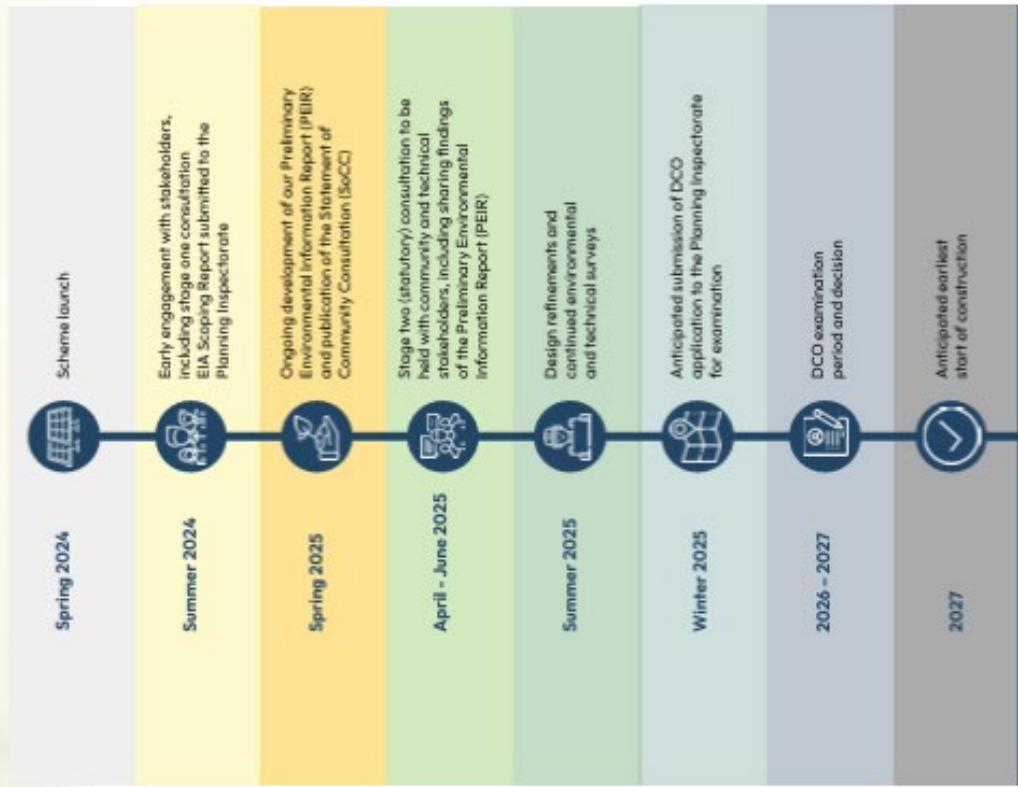
We recommend visiting our website (www.meridiansolarfarm.co.uk) where all of our consultation materials are available to view online. Alternatively, our materials are available to view in person at the local information points.

At these locations, you will be able to collect a copy of the Consultation Information Booklet, Feedback Form and Newsletter. Printed copies of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), NTS and full PEIR will be available at Crowland Library to view only. The information points and opening times are listed in the table below:

| Venue | Opening hours | Materials available |
|--|---|--|
| Crowland Library, Hall Street, Crowland PE6 0EW | Tuesday and Thursday: 09:30am to 12:30pm and 14:00pm to 17:00pm Saturday: 10:00am to 13:00pm | To takeaway: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation Information Booklet • Consultation Feedback Form • Consultation Newsletter For reference only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEIR • NTS • SoCC |
| Spalding Library, Victoria Street, Spalding PE11 1EA | Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 09:00am to 17:00pm Thursday: 09:00am to 18:00pm Saturday: 09:00am to 13:00pm | To takeaway: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation Information Booklet • Consultation Feedback Form • Consultation Newsletter |
| Holbeach Library, Co-Op Store, 5 Fleet Street, Holbeach, Spalding PE12 7AX | Monday to Friday: 09:00am to 17:00pm Saturday: 09:00am to 12:00pm | To takeaway: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation Information Booklet • Consultation Feedback Form • Consultation Newsletter |
| Tonic Health Centre Spalding, 6 Broadgate House, Westside Street, Spalding PE11 2AF | Monday and Thursday: 10:00am to 19:00pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 10:00am to 15:00pm | To takeaway: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation Information Booklet • Consultation Feedback Form • Consultation Newsletter |
| Tonic Health Centre, Holbeach, Holbeach Hub, Boston Road South, Holbeach PE12 7LR | Monday and Thursday: 10:00am to 19:00pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 10:00am to 15:00pm | To takeaway: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation Information Booklet • Consultation Feedback Form • Consultation Newsletter |

Venue opening times are correct at the time of publication. We recommend contacting the venue to check the opening times before visiting, especially over bank holidays.

Indicative Scheme timeline



Our consultation closes at 11:59pm on Sunday 8 June 2025. You can take part in the consultation and provide your feedback in the following ways:

- Completing a feedback form online at www.meridiansolarfarm.co.uk
- Completing a feedback form, and returning it free of charge to **FREEPOST DOWNING MERIDIAN** (no stamp required)
- Submitting your completed feedback form by email to enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk
- Providing your free form comments by email or post.

How we will use your feedback and next steps

Once the consultation has closed at 11:59pm on Sunday 8 June 2025, we will review all comments and suggestions that have been received during the consultation period.

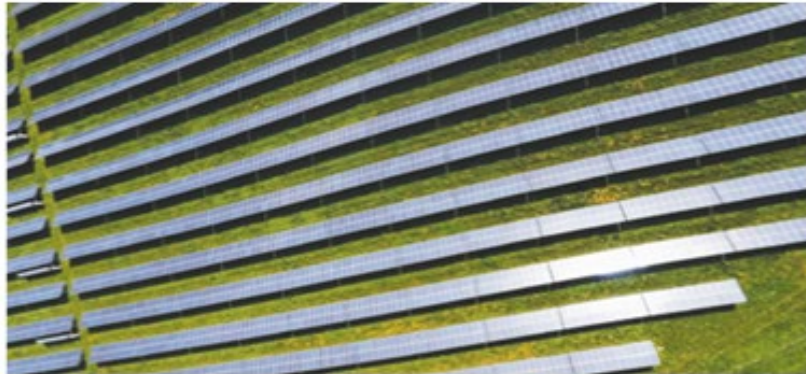
We will take time to consider and have regard to your feedback when making further refinements to our proposed design and developing our planned mitigation measures.

We will set out a summary of the responses that you have provided in a Consultation Report, which will detail how we have had regard to your feedback and how your feedback has influenced the proposals. This report will form part of our application for development consent which we expect to submit later this year.

Once our application for development consent has been accepted, an Examining Authority appointed by the Planning Inspectorate (acting on behalf of the Secretary of State) will examine the application.

You will be able to register your interest in our proposals directly with the Planning Inspectorate, who will then inform you about the progress of our application during the examination process and let you know about further opportunities you will have to inform and contribute to the planning process.

The Examining Authority will then make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero who will decide whether or not consent will be granted for the Scheme.





Contact details

If you have any questions about **Meridian Solar**, you can contact us using the details below:

-  Write to us at: **FREEPOST DOWNING MERIDIAN** (you do not need a stamp).
-  Email us at: **enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk**
-  Call our Freephone information line on: **0800 652 6120**
-  For more information on the Scheme please visit our website at:
www.meridiansolarfarm.com

Our phone lines are monitored **09:00am – 17:30pm Monday to Friday**, with an answerphone facility available outside of these hours.

Please contact us if you would like this document in a different format or an alternative language.

Appendix E-1.9 Stage Two Consultation Feedback Form 2025



We are developing proposals for a new solar farm and overhead line connection to the national grid, located north of Crowland and east of Spalding in Lincolnshire.

The proposals consist of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels and an approximately 12 to 13 km overhead line connection to National Grid's planned Weston Marsh substation (due to be located east of Spalding, the exact location to be confirmed by National Grid). It also includes associated infrastructure, including co-located battery energy storage systems (BESS) and inter-array connections to link together the land parcels where the solar panels are located.

Meridian Solar would generate around **750 Megawatts (MW)** of electricity, enough to **power around 215,000 homes**, which is roughly the equivalent of powering all the homes in South Holland, East Lindsey, North Kesteven and Lincoln combined.

We are now seeking your views as part of our stage two (statutory) consultation, where we are presenting more detailed proposals. This stage two consultation is being undertaken under the requirements of the Planning Act 2008. We will consider and have regard to all the feedback received in developing our proposals, before we submit our application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate.

To help inform your response, we have prepared a Consultation Information Booklet, which includes a description of the project elements, information about the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and details of how you can respond to the consultation.

We recommend that you read our Consultation Information Booklet to help you provide us with your feedback on our proposals. You may wish to refer to the PEIR or to the shorter Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the PEIR for more detailed information.

All our consultation materials can be found on our project website:
www.meridiansolarfarm.co.uk/documents.

How to provide your feedback

Please use this feedback form to provide your response as part of this consultation. You do not have to answer all the questions in this feedback form, and if you wish to make any other comments on our proposals, there is space available at the end of the form.

You can provide your feedback by:

- Completing this feedback form online at www.meridiansolarfarm.co.uk
- Completing this feedback form, and returning it free of charge to **FREEPOST DOWNING MERIDIAN** (no stamp required)
- Submitting your comments or completed feedback form by email to enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk

This stage two consultation will run from **Thursday 24 April 2025 to 11:59pm on Sunday 8 June 2025**. It is important you submit your feedback to us before the closing date, so that it can be considered in developing our proposals.

Section 1: About you

Your details are important to us in helping to understand who has responded to our consultation, including any organisations and members of the local community. **Please see our Data Privacy Notice at the back of this feedback form** for details on how we will use your data.

Name Postcode
 Organisation (if applicable) Email

What is your age?

- Under 16 35-44 65+
 16-24 45-54 Prefer not to say
 25-34 55-64

1. How would you describe your interest in our proposals?

- Local resident
 Local elected representative
 Landowner
 Local business owner
 Work locally
 Statutory organisation (please name them):

.....

Member of interest group (please name them):

.....

Other (please specify):

.....

Section 2: General questions

The need for Meridian Solar

2. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:

| | Strongly agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know |
|--|----------------|-------|---------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| Climate change is an important issue | | | | | | |
| Energy security is an important issue | | | | | | |
| Moving away from fossil fuels is important | | | | | | |
| The UK needs more renewable energy | | | | | | |
| The UK needs more energy storage | | | | | | |

2a. Please let us know the reasons for your responses and any other comments you have:

Section 4: Indicative layout of the solar PV and inter-array areas

We have produced an indicative layout plan which shows our current proposals for the land parcels, including areas for solar PV panels, as well as the inter-array areas to connect the land parcels together. Please refer to pages 24-29 of the Consultation Information Booklet for more information on the site layout, including land parcel areas A - D and the inter-array areas.

3. Please tell us your views on solar energy:
- Strongly support
 - Support
 - Neutral
 - Oppose
 - Strongly oppose
 - Don't know

3a. Please let us know the reasons for your responses and any other comments you have:

Section 3: Views on Meridian Solar

4. Based on the information presented as part of our stage two consultation, how supportive are you of our proposals for Meridian Solar?

- I support the proposals for the Scheme
- I am neither supportive nor unsupportive
- I do not support the proposals for the Scheme

4a. Please let us know the reasons for your responses and any other comments you have:

5. Do you have any comments on the indicative layout?

6. Do you have any specific comments about the land parcel areas A-D and/or the inter-array areas? Please specify which land parcel or inter-array area(s) you are commenting on.

Section 5: Connection corridor

The electricity generated by Meridian Solar would be required to be transferred to the national grid. The planned grid connection location for Meridian Solar is National Grid's proposed Weston Marsh 400kV substation, due to be located east of Spalding (the exact location to be confirmed by National Grid). Our proposal currently assumes that we will connect to the grid via an approximately 12 to 13 km overhead line. More information on the connection corridor and indicative alignment for the overhead line can be viewed on pages 31-33 in the Consultation Information Booklet. You can use the Interactive Map on the project website to find locations of interest to you inter-array areas.

7. Do you have any comments on the connection corridor or indicative alignment for the overhead line? Please describe any specific areas you are commenting on.

6

Section 6: Construction, Operation and Decommissioning

Should Meridian Solar be granted development consent, construction could start in 2027 and is expected to take between 24 and 36 months. It would be in operation for 40 years from the date of final commissioning after construction. We will develop, construct, maintain and operate Meridian Solar for the entirety of its lifecycle. It is expected that decommissioning may take up to approximately two years. More information about this can be found on page 35 of the Consultation Information Booklet.

8. Do you have any comments on our assessments relating to the potential effects during the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of Meridian Solar?

7

Section 7: Preliminary Environment Information Report (PEIR)

Our PEIR and Non-Technical Summary (NTS) provide an overview of our preliminary environmental findings (including studies and surveys) that have been undertaken to date. This work is across a range of environmental topic areas and also sets out any suitable measures identified to help reduce any impacts. We would like to receive your comments on the key environmental topics that are important to you. More information about this can be found on pages 36–40 of the Consultation Information Booklet.

9. Do you have any comments on the methodology and/or preliminary assessments in the PEIR or NTS? Please specify the environmental topic areas you are commenting on.

8

Section 8: Community benefits

We are committed to making a positive contribution in South Holland and beyond. Our consultation is important in helping us to understand what local schemes or projects could be supported to benefit the communities located closest to Meridian Solar. More information about this can be found on page 19 of the Consultation Information Booklet.

10. What types of projects/sectors should community benefit funds be targeted to? (possible examples included in brackets, but all suggestions welcome)

- Education (schools support, programmes) Community initiatives (solar panels on community buildings) (if possible, please specify)
- Recreation (playgrounds, skate parks) Other (please specify)
- Capital (new villages halls)
- Sustainability (allotments)
- Environmental enhancements (tree planting, nature areas)

11. How would you like community benefit funds to be managed/administered?

- Through relevant parish councils Through other local groups/organisations (if possible, please specify)
- Through bespoke community fund foundations/organisations
- Through the local authority Other (please specify)

11a. Please let us know the reasons for your responses and any other comments you have:

9

Section 9: Other comments

12. Please provide any further comments you would like to make on our proposals.

14. Did you attend our in person consultation events or watch an online information presentation?
 Yes, both in person and online Yes, only online
 Yes, only in person No

15. How informative did you find our consultation events and/or our consultation materials?
 Very informative No opinion
 Quite informative Not applicable
 Not informative

16. Please rate the information included as part of this consultation in terms of how clearly it was presented and how easy it was to understand:
 Very good Poor
 Good Very poor
 Average Don't know

17. Do you have any further comments on the delivery of the consultation?

Section 10: Views on the consultation

13. Please let us know how you heard about the consultation by ticking one or more of the following boxes:

- Received a community newsletter in the past Saw social media coverage
- Received an email from Meridian Solar Saw it on the project webpages
- Saw it advertised in a local newspaper / online newspaper Word of mouth
- Other (please specify):

What happens next

We will review and have regard to all comments and suggestions that have been received during the consultation period. We will set out a summary of the responses that you have given us in a Consultation Report, with details on how we have had regard to feedback and how it has shaped and influenced the proposals. This report will form part of our application for development consent and will be published following submission of our application.

Get in touch

You can find further information and details of progress at: www.meridiansolarfarm.co.uk or by getting in touch with the contact centre using the details to the right.

Meridian Solar Farm Limited (Company number 14887675) has a registered office at 10 Lower Thames Street, London, England, EC3R 6AF.

You can contact us using the following details:

Freephone: 0800 652 6120

Email: enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk

Post: FREEPOST DOWNING MERIDIAN
(no stamp required)

Data privacy notice

Meridian Solar Farm Limited is committed to protecting your personal information. Whenever you provide such information, we are legally obliged to use it in line with all applicable laws concerning the protection of personal data, including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

How will Meridian Solar Farm Limited use the information you submit?

We will use your responses for a number of purposes, including:

- in the analysis of the feedback to the consultation;
- to produce a Consultation Report, based on our analysis of responses (individuals will not be identified in the Report);
- to write to you with updates about the results of the consultation and other developments; and
- to keep up-to-date records of our communications with individuals and organisations.

Any personal information you include in this form will be handled and used by (or made available to) the following recipients to record, analyse and report on the feedback we receive:

- Meridian Solar Farm Limited and its consultants working on Meridian Solar, for the purposes of work relating to Meridian Solar only;
- the Planning Inspectorate (which will consider our application for development consent- any details published as part of this process will be anonymised);
- the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (who will make the decision on our application); and
- our legal advisers.

What rights do I have over my personal data?

Under the terms of the UK GDPR, you have certain rights over how your personal data is retained and used by Meridian Solar Farm Limited. For more information, see our full data privacy statement <https://www.downing.co.uk/legals/privacy-and-cookie-policy>

Appendix E-1.10 Example Screenshots of Scheme Website During Stage Two Consultation 2025



THE SCHEME

Delivering cleaner, greener, and lower-cost energy, whilst delivering direct benefits to the local environment and community.

OVERVIEW

Meridian Solar is a proposed solar farm and overhead line connection to the national grid, located north of Crowland and east of Spalding in Lincolnshire.

The proposals consist of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels and an approximately 12 to 13 km overhead line connection to National Grid's planned Weston Marsh substation (due to be located east of Spalding, the exact location to be confirmed by National Grid).

Meridian Solar – specific FAQs

- + How can I get involved with this consultation?
- + Why is Meridian Solar needed?
- + Why have you selected this site?
- + What is included in the proposals?
- + How big will Meridian Solar be?
- + What are the benefits for the local community?
- + How long will Meridian Solar be in operation?

General solar FAQs

- + Why don't you put solar on rooftops?
- + Does solar work in the UK?
- + How do solar farms work?

Stage two consultation materials

- [Stage two Consultation Information Booklet](#)
- [Stage two Consultation Newsletter](#)
- [Stage two Consultation Feedback Form](#) (printable version).
- [Stage two consultation banners](#)
- [Statement of Community Consultation \(SoCC\)](#)
- [Combined Section 47 and 48 notice](#)
- [Section 48 Notice](#)

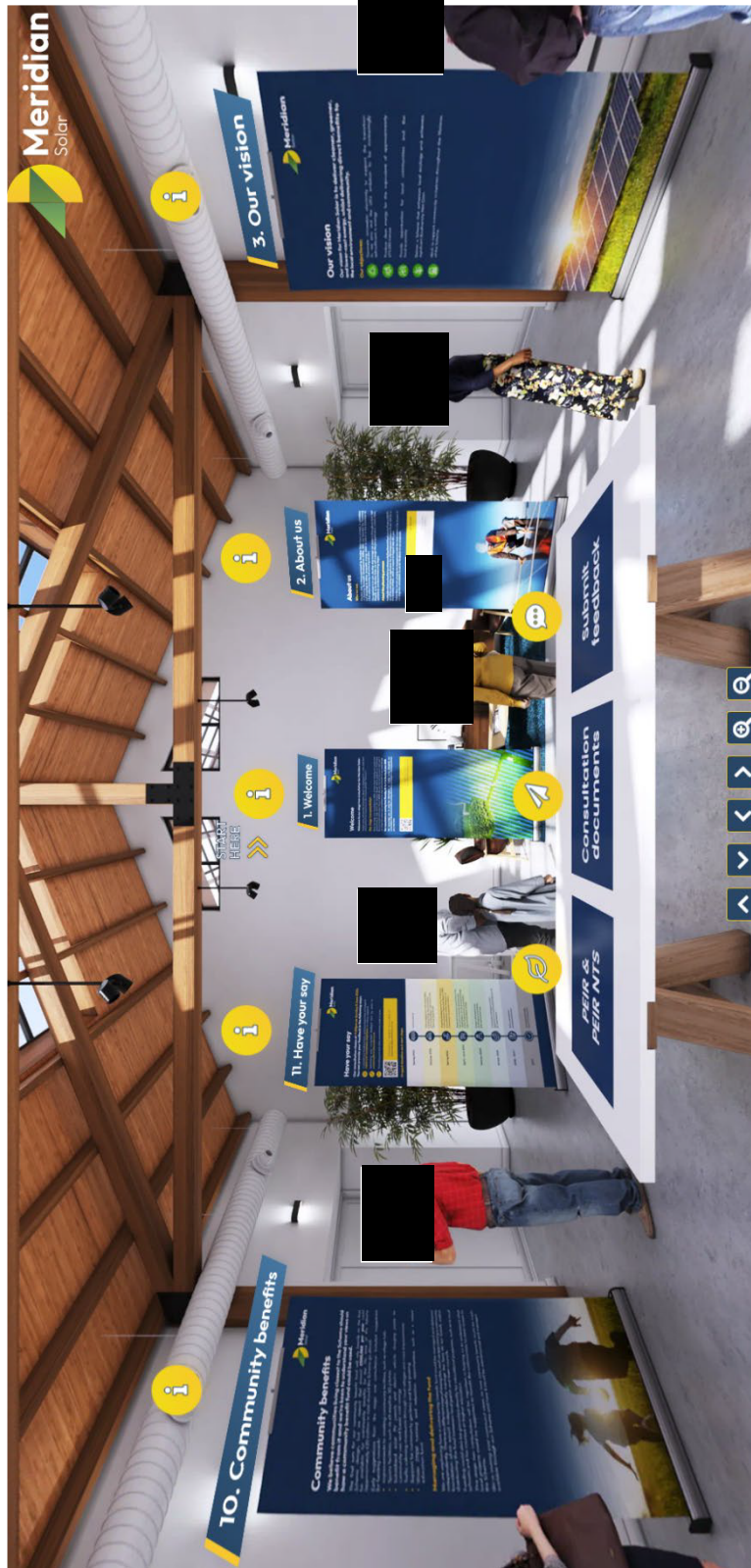
Preliminary Environmental Information Report

- [Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR](#)
- [PEIR Glossary and Abbreviations List](#)

- PEIR Volume I
 - [PEIR Volume I Contents](#)
 - [PEIR Volume I Chapter 1 Introduction](#)
 - [PEIR Volume I Chapter 2 The Scheme](#)
 - [PEIR Volume I Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Evolution](#)
 - [PEIR Volume I Chapter 4 Overview of the EIA Process](#)
 - [PEIR Volume I Chapter 5 Climate Change](#)
 - [PEIR Volume I Chapter 6 Cultural Heritage](#)
 - [PEIR Volume I Chapter 7 Ecology and Biodiversity](#)
 - [PEIR Volume I Chapter 8 Hydrology Flood Risk and WFD](#)
 - [PEIR Volume I Chapter 9 Agriculture and Soils](#)
 - [PEIR Volume I Chapter 10 Landscape and Visual](#)
 - [PEIR Volume I Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration](#)
 - [PEIR Volume I Chapter 12 Socio-Economics and Land Use](#)
 - [PEIR Volume I Chapter 13 Traffic and Access](#)
 - [PEIR Volume I Chapter 14 Other Environmental Topics](#)
 - [PEIR Volume I Chapter 15 Cumulative Effects](#)



Appendix E-1.11 Virtual Consultation Room 2025



Appendix E-1.12 Example Screenshot of Stage Two Consultation Online Information Presentation 1 2025



Appendix E-1.13 Example Screenshot of Stage Two Consultation Online Information Presentation 2 2025

