

Light Valley Solar

Consultation Report Appendix 3: Post-Phase One Communication Channels

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APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)



Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

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

Light Valley Solar

DCO Submission

Consultation Report Appendix 3: Post-Phase One Communication Channels

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Table of Contents

- 1 Project Update Newsletter and Phase One Consultation Summary Report**
- 2 Site Location Plan – April 2025**
- 3 Letter communicating new land to residents**
- 4 Letter communicating removal of Site 5 to residents**



1 Project Update Newsletter and Phase One Consultation Summary Report

Project Update Newsletter and Phase One Consultation Summary Report

April 2025



Introduction

This Consultation Summary Report provides an overview of the feedback we received during our Phase One Consultation for Light Valley Solar.

This document includes a summary of the comments received and how we are using this feedback to inform the project design process moving forward.

This document also provides an update on where we are at, including an update on changes in the land areas for the project, which you can see on pages 4 and 5.

About the Light Valley Solar

Light Valley Solar is a proposed solar project located on land between Escrick, Monk Fryston, Hambleton, Chapel Haddlesey and South Milford. The project will consist of a new solar electricity generating station and associated battery energy storage system (BESS).

Light Valley Solar is anticipated as being able to deliver approximately 500 megawatts (MW) of electricity over up to 60 years of operation. Clean electricity generated by the project will be supplied to the National Grid at the existing Monk Fryston substation, where a 500 MW AC (alternating current) connection has been agreed. For context, 500 MW AC is equivalent to powering approximately 115,000 homes annually.

Due to the project's size, it is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project. This means that the project will submit its application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), on behalf of the Secretary of State, who will ultimately decide whether to grant the project a development consent order (DCO).



Our Phase One Consultation

Our Phase One Consultation ran for six weeks from 24th October to 5th December 2024. We are grateful to everyone who took part. This includes attending one of our events, contacting our communications channels, and providing feedback.

We would like to thank everybody who has engaged with the project so far. Your feedback is important to us and is key in helping to shape the project moving forward.

During our consultation we:

-  Distributed our community consultation postcard to **over 12,500** residential properties and businesses in the vicinity of the project.
-  Advertised our Phase One Consultation, including our information events and webinar, in regional newspapers.
-  Held five in-person information events and a community webinar, with **over 270** attendees in total.
-  Engaged with political stakeholders across the project area, including councillors and parish councils.
-  Invited feedback through an online and hard copy feedback form, completed by **over 100** people.
-  Hosted free-to-use communications channels – including phone, post and email – for anyone interested in our proposals to submit questions and comments to our team.
-  Published all consultation materials online via our dedicated project website, which was visited by **over 2,000** people during consultation.

Project Boundary Update

Since the first phase of consultation, there have been a number of changes in the land parcels that are being used for Light Valley Solar. Some areas have been removed from the project, and new land has been added into the project.

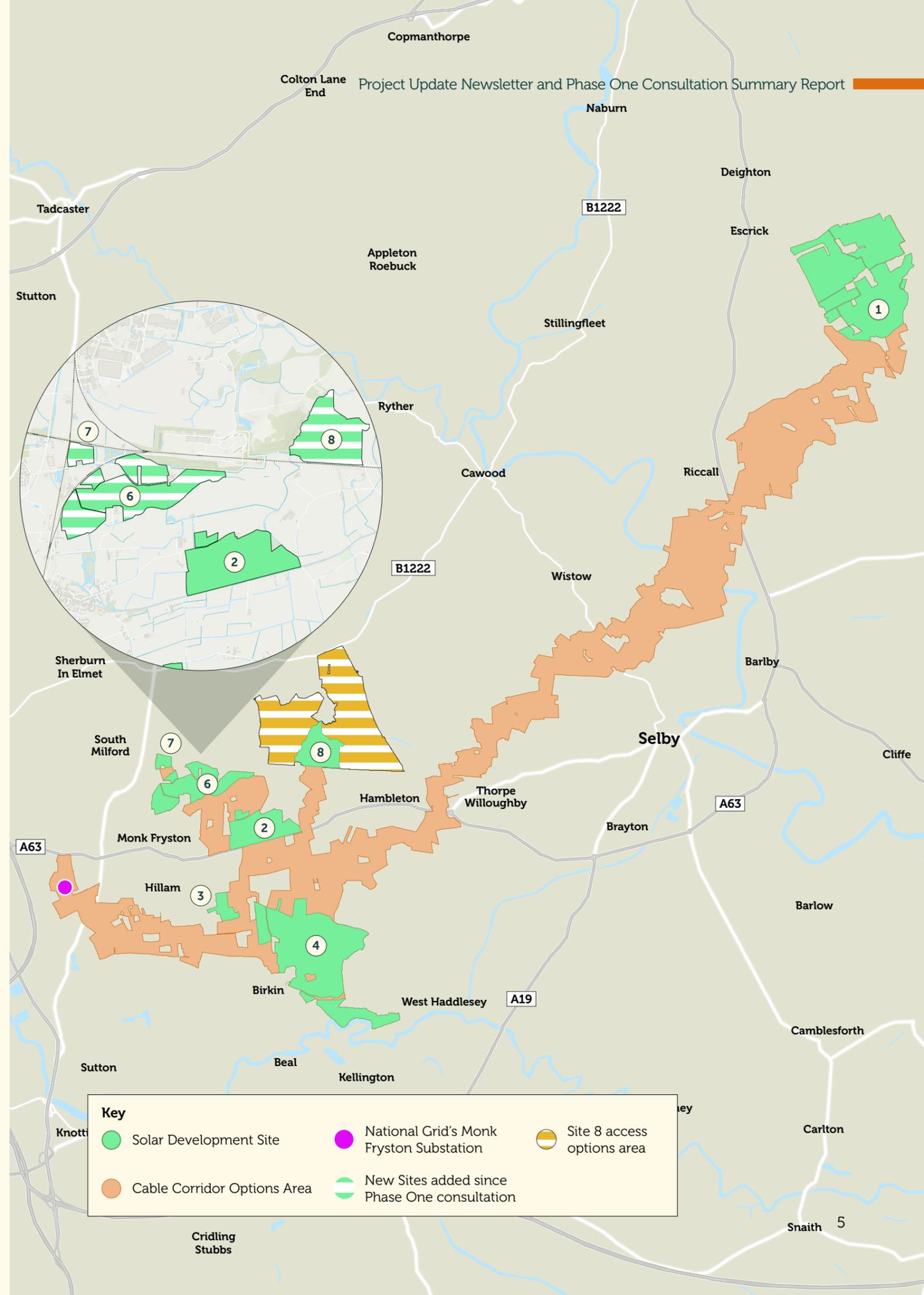
Light Valley Solar is committed to environmentally led design and as a result of our initial environmental assessments, Site 5 has been removed from the project. This was the area near Temple Hirst.

The decision to remove Site 5 from the project was reached following ongoing design work, and assessments indicating a high level of flood risk, making this area unsuitable for the installation of solar panels.

New land has now been added to the scheme, north of the existing Site 2 area, near to the village of South Milford. These areas are labelled as Sites 6, 7 and 8 on the map.

The scheme will continue to deliver 500 MW of clean electricity to the National Grid and create opportunities to deliver environmental mitigation and enhancement.

Our proposals at our Phase Two Consultation will include more details on the project, including further information relating to the new land that has been included.



Consultation Summary Report

Our Phase One Consultation provided an opportunity for people to view and comment on our early-stage proposals for Light Valley Solar.

Community feedback plays a crucial role in this process, and we are thankful for the comments we've received so far. Your comments have been considered in helping to shape our understanding of the aspects of Light Valley Solar that are most important to prioritise as we develop our proposals.

During our consultation we received a total of 127 feedback responses, including:



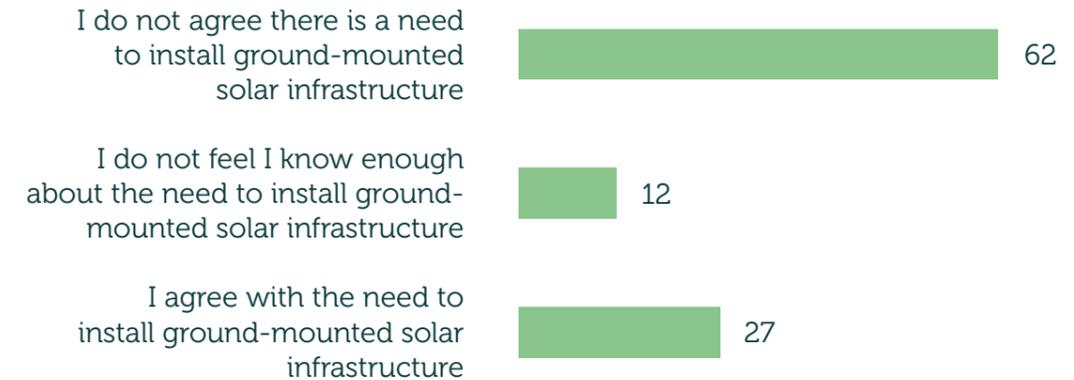
feedback forms
67 online and 37 paper



emails containing feedback

The majority of feedback we received during Phase One Consultation came from individuals living near the site area. Of those who responded to this question, **over 85% of respondents identified themselves as local residents.**

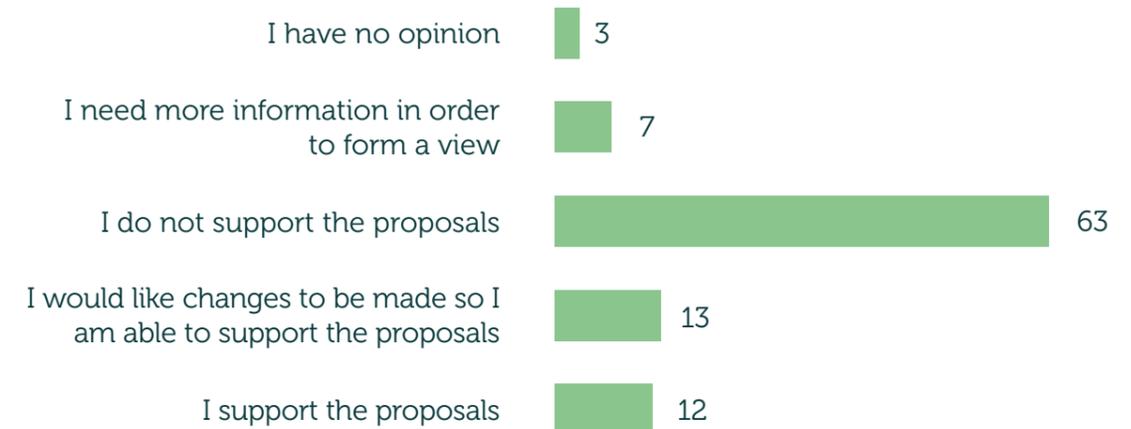
As a principle, what is your view of installing ground-mounted solar infrastructure in the UK?



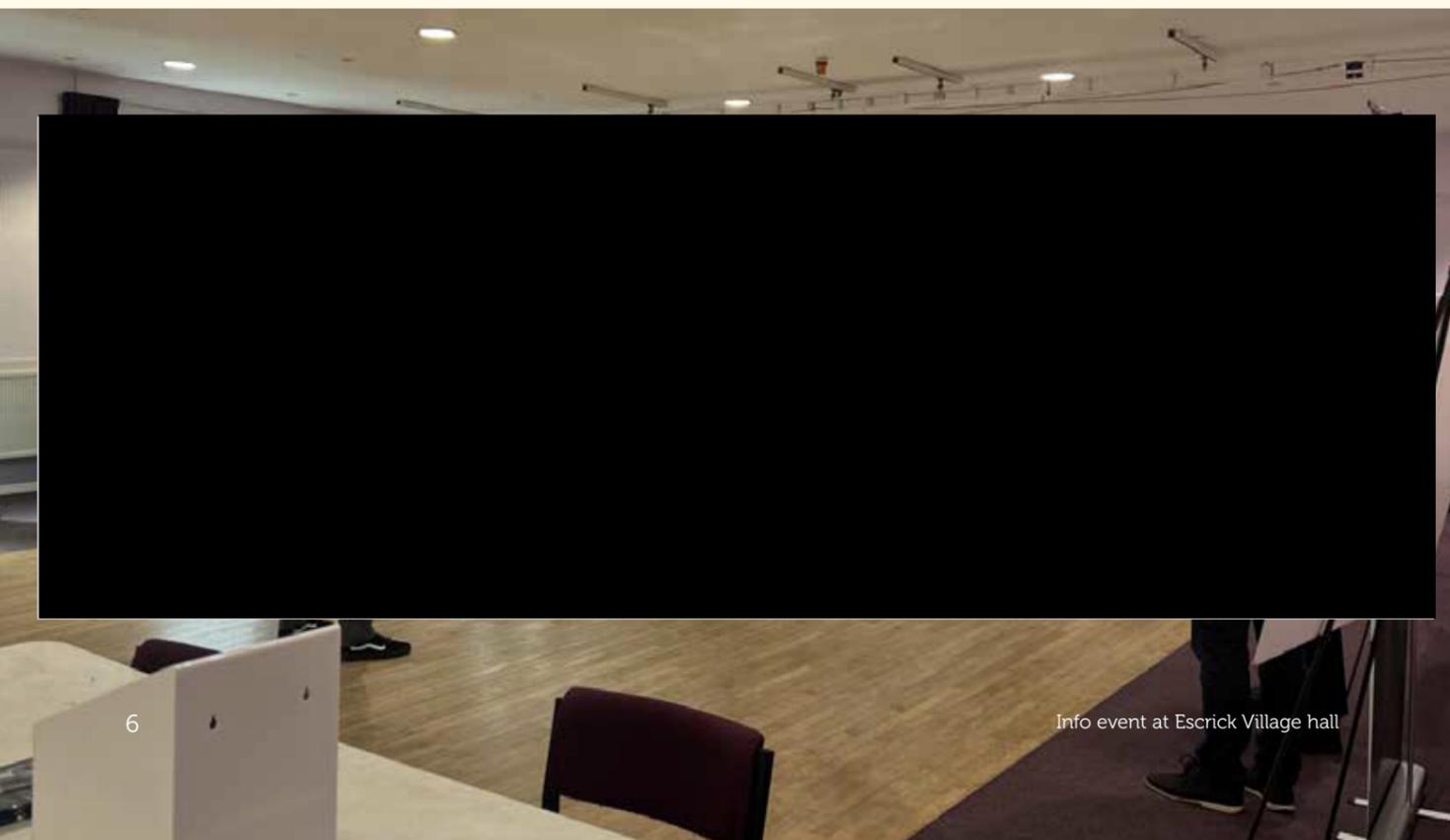
We understand that the majority of respondents did not agree with the principle of installing ground-mounted solar infrastructure in the UK.

Solar power is a clean, homegrown source of energy that gets power into the system and people's homes faster than any other renewable technology. The Government's Clean Power 2030 Action Plan, published in 2024, sets out the target to more than treble solar power by 2030, equivalent to around 50 gigawatts (GW) of generation capacity. To achieve this goal in such a short space of time, utility scale ground-mounted solar projects are necessary. This is in addition to, not instead of, rooftop solar.

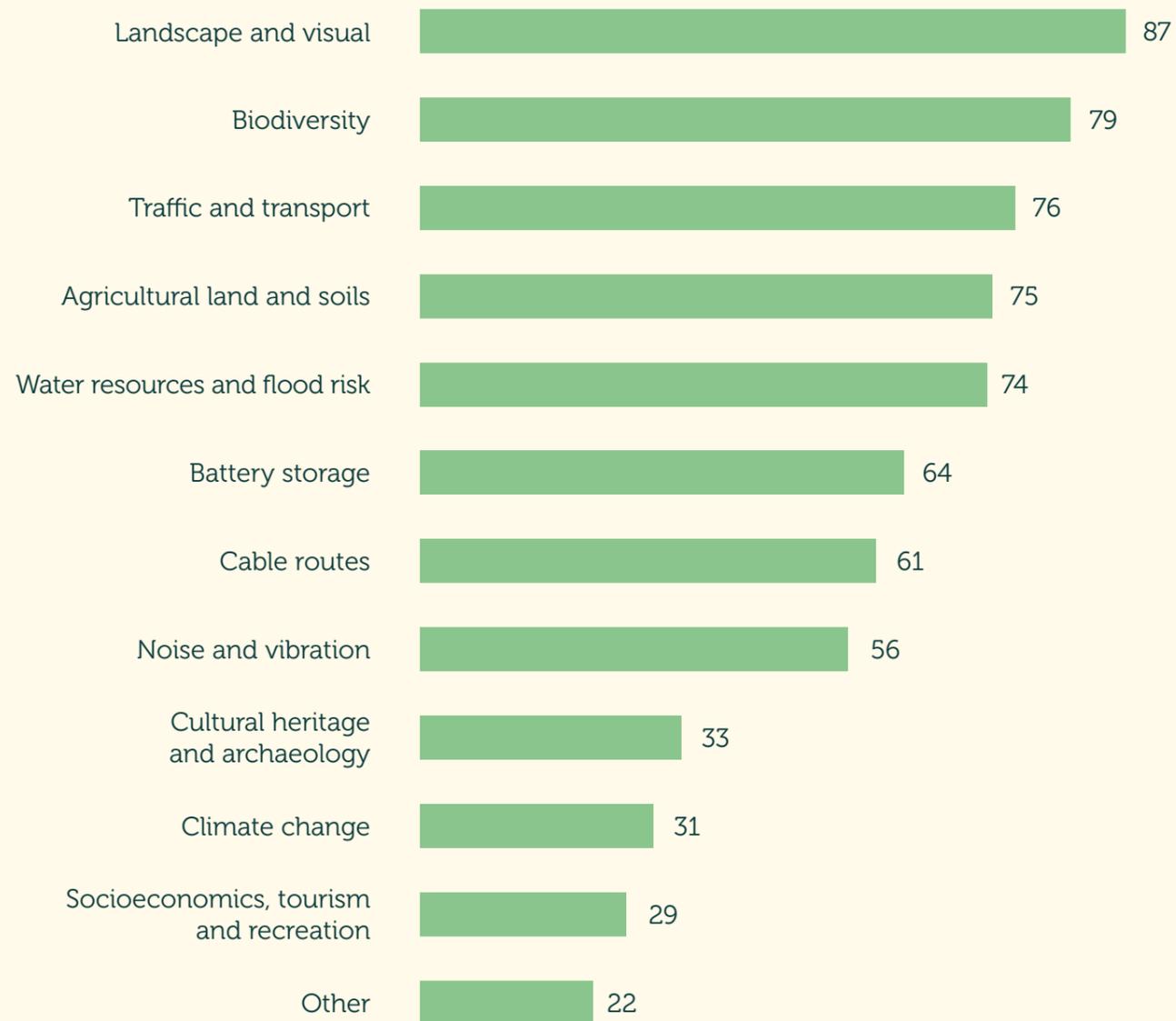
Based on our early-stage proposals, what are your views on Light Valley Solar?



Of the 98 people who responded to this question, the majority of respondents indicated opposition to the project. 12% indicated support for the project, and a similar number of respondents wanted changes to be made to the project in order to support it. We recognise this, and we are grateful for the feedback that we have received from those who oppose our Phase One proposals. This feedback is being considered to refine and shape our updated Phase Two proposals.



The aspects most important to you



In our feedback form, we asked which aspects of the proposals mattered to you most. We provided respondents the option to 'tick' from a list of key environmental themes which themes were most important to you. Respondents were also presented with an 'Other' box so they could speak to any other themes or areas of importance.

Which aspects of the project are most important to you?

The five aspects most frequently identified as being most important were:

- **Landscape and visual impacts** and how we can screen the project from particular viewpoints;
- **Ecology and biodiversity**, such as protecting existing wildlife and exploring opportunities to improve ecology and biodiversity across the site area;
- **Traffic and transport** and how we can best mitigate potential impacts on traffic, roads and access routes;
- **Agricultural land and soils**, including how we can mitigate any impacts on land quality as well as concerns for food security and the loss of agricultural land; and
- **Hydrology and flood risk**, such as the interaction between the project and existing flood zones, particularly how this could impact existing flooding issues.



How we're listening

The following pages summarise the key themes from the comments we received and how our team is considering them in the development of the design for Light Valley Solar.

Many of the topics mentioned below are currently being further assessed, and more details will be provided at Phase Two Consultation, anticipated for Summer 2025, with the publication of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). Following this, we will be publishing an Environmental Statement (ES) with our final DCO application, which will contain all relevant environmental information that has informed our final design.

Your comments	How we're listening and what happens next
Landscape and visual impact	
A common theme within the comments received was the proximity to residential properties of Light Valley Solar and potential visual impact.	Through environmentally led design, Light Valley Solar aims to reduce the visual impact of the project as much as possible through suitable mitigation measures.
Concerns were raised that this could result in the loss of visual amenity of views valued by the community.	We are undertaking a landscape and visual assessment, the preliminary results of which will be published within the PEIR. This will help us understand how the development might impact the views from residential properties in the vicinity and inform any necessary mitigation measures.
Respondents expressed concern about the mitigation measures that will be used to decrease the project's visual impact.	We are using a selection of viewpoints across the project area to inform the assessment, and photomontages are being produced that will show what the project could look like from these viewpoints. A full suite of photomontages will be produced for the ES.
	Where relevant, offsets from buildings and residential properties will be incorporated into the design. These offsets will be shown in our Outline Environmental Masterplan presented in our Phase Two Consultation materials.
	Our emerging scheme layout is already making offset allowances to protect existing trees, woodlands, and hedgerows. Where any loss is unavoidable, we'll replace them with new planting in a similar style and location.

Your comments

How we're listening and what happens next

Ecology and biodiversity

Respondents expressed concern about damage to the local ecology, ecosystems and biodiversity, from the construction phase to throughout the project.

Light Valley Solar is being developed with full consideration of its surroundings. The environmentally led design approach and the application of good practice construction techniques and mitigation measures will ensure the natural environment is carefully managed during construction and operation to avoid harmful impacts as far as possible, and to promote high levels of biodiversity net gain. We are continuing with our surveys to understand presence of wildlife and the usage of the sites.

Many respondents expressed concern about the potential impact on wildlife and birds.

The emerging scheme layout incorporates suitable offsets to ecology and biodiversity constraints including woodland habitat, designated assets and protected species.

A variety of habitats suited to the local landscape and appropriate for local ecology will be provided within the site. The details regarding the amounts of habitat provision, including trees and hedgerows, will be reported within the ES to be submitted with the application. Indication of proposed measures and locations will be shared in the Outline Environmental Masterplan at the Phase 2 Consultation.

Soils and agriculture

Respondents raised concerns regarding the loss of productive agricultural land and impacts on soil. This includes concerns surrounding the return of land use to agricultural purposes following decommissioning.

The quality of agricultural land used by Light Valley Solar is being established through soil and Agricultural Land Classification surveys which are being carried out across all the solar development sites. The preliminary results of these surveys will be reported in the PEIR and are being used to inform the scheme layout.

Respondents also expressed concern about the potential impact of the project on food security.

The assessment will consider the impacts of losing agricultural land and how the development might damage or affect soil resources on solar sites and along the cable corridors.

Solar and farming can be complementary, supporting each other financially, environmentally and through shared use of land. It may be possible to co-locate solar panels and food production, such as sheep grazing, and this will be considered within the design phase of the proposed development.

Your comments

How we're listening and what happens next

Soils and agriculture

Respondents expressed concern about the impact of the project on local farming, farmers and tenant farmers.

The United Kingdom Food Security Report 2024 (UKFSR) outlines that food production levels can be maintained or moderately increased alongside the land use change required to meet the UK's Net Zero and Environment Act targets and commitments.

Decommissioning requires the project to return the land to its original state, which in this case is agricultural land. The soils will have been predominantly inactive for a period of up to 60 years and therefore, will have improved in quality. Furthermore, solar panels, solar stations and cabling do not have a permanent impact on the soils underneath.

We recognise people's concerns about food production. The UKFSR states that climate change and nature loss pose significant risks to the ability of global food production to meet demand over the longer term. If built, Light Valley Solar can help to mitigate these impacts by generating clean energy and delivering biodiversity net gain.

Hydrology and flood risk

Respondents expressed concern about the potential impact on flood risk in areas already prone to flooding.

We note the concern that many respondents have made regarding flood risk however solar farms are typically water-compatible and are designed so that they do not increase flood risk.

Respondents also expressed concerns about local watercourses.

A Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) will be produced and included within the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. This will be supported by site-specific flood modelling.

Respondents noted particular concern regarding current flood levels around Site 5 near Temple Hirst.

The solar panels will be set back from watercourses at an increased minimum of 10 metres, in line with the aim set out at Phase One consultation.

Site 5 has now been removed from the project. This decision was reached following assessments that indicated a high degree of flood risk in this area make it unsuitable for the installation of solar panels.

Your comments

How we're listening and what happens next

Traffic and transport

Respondents expressed concern about the project's impact on increased traffic during construction.

We are carrying out a traffic and transport assessment (TTA) which looks at the impact of construction impacts on traffic.

Respondents expressed concern for impact on roads and access routes, including the impacts caused by HGVs.

We are engaging with the local highways authority to ensure that suitable controls are agreed to reduce any traffic and transport effects and ensure safety is maintained.

Additionally, respondents expressed concern for the safety of pedestrians.

Furthermore, a comprehensive outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) will be prepared as part of the DCO Application, detailing the exact routes to be utilised during the construction period, as well as any times of the day when HGV movements will not be permitted. Where reasonably practicable, routing of construction traffic will be away from sensitive receptors.

Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

Respondents expressed concern about the project's impact on the cultural and heritage legacy of the area, including the potential impact on listed and historical buildings, conservation areas, and archaeological sites.

A comprehensive heritage assessment is currently underway to determine potential impacts on the historic environment. Information that is being gathered is already informing decisions regarding the scheme layout. We have now almost completed geophysical surveys across the sites and are planning some trial trenching this summer to better understand what is beneath the ground.

Effects on heritage assets and unrecorded archaeology will be reported in the Environmental Statement which will form part of the DCO Application.

There are no designated heritage assets within the site boundary. Effects arising from changes in the setting of heritage assets, including listed buildings, scheduled monuments and conservation areas, are also being assessed.

Your comments

How we're listening and what happens next

Socioeconomics, tourism and recreation

Respondents commented on the potential job creation from Light Valley Solar.

The construction phase will create temporary employment opportunities. We are committed to hiring locally where possible and will submit an Outline Employment, Supply Chain and Skills Plan with the DCO Application.

Respondents commented that impacts on Public Rights of Ways would negatively affect recreation.

We are committed to minimising the impact of the Proposed Development on existing Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) during construction and operation. Should any PRoWs be blocked during construction, it will be for a short period of time, and diversions will be put in place to ensure that access is maintained. We intend to keep all PRoWs open during the operation of the solar farm. However, through the environmental masterplanning we are exploring opportunities where it may be appropriate to divert and enhance PRoWs for public benefit.

Some respondents expressed concern that recreation will be negatively impacted by the proximity of solar panels, including from footpaths and trails.

The Proposed Development design will incorporate a minimum 15m offset of all infrastructure (including fencing) from PRoWs. We will also seek opportunities to enhance PRoWs and we are exploring options for the creation of permissive paths to create longer, circular walks.

Construction and decommissioning

Respondents expressed concern about declining air quality during the construction phase.

We are committed to ensuring that construction impacts are mitigated as much as possible.

Respondents commented on potential damage during construction/ decommissioning.

A Construction Dust Assessment will be undertaken as part of the DCO application, which will look at the impact of air quality during the construction phase.

A suite of mitigation measures for the construction period will be contained in an outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP), which will be submitted as part of the application.

The project will be decommissioned and restored according to a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP). An outline DEMP (oDEMP) will be submitted with the DCO application.

Your comments

How we're listening and what happens next

Noise impacts

Respondents expressed concern for potential noise impacts from the project.

As part of developing our project proposals, we are carrying out surveys to make sure that the noise from the onsite equipment stays within acceptable levels. Offsets from potential noise sensitive receptors, including residential properties, are being incorporated into the scheme layout.

A full noise impact assessment will be included in the DCO Application for the Proposed Development.

Other themes and areas of importance

Cable Routes

Respondents expressed a preference for underground cables over pylons and requested exact cable routes.

All cabling for the project will be underground. Details will be set out in the scheme description presented in the PEIR.

Since the Phase One Consultation, the potential zone of the cable route corridors has been refined to the Cable Corridor Options Area shown on page 5 of this document.

The preferred cable corridor remains a broad area of search currently but will be significantly reduced by the time of the application stage once surveys and assessments have been completed. Further information on the cable corridor makeup and size will be reported in the PEIR.

Battery Storage

Respondents requested more information about the battery storage/sites, including safety measures.

Further details of the proposed battery storage location will be presented in the Environmental Masterplan at Phase Two Consultation. The consideration of impacts, including landscape and visual impacts, will be reported in the PEIR.

A Battery Fire Safety Management Plan will be produced and agreed with the local fire service. An outline of that plan will be included as part of the DCO application.

Other themes and areas of importance

Your comments

How we're listening and what happens next

Glint and glare

Some respondents expressed concern about the project's impact on glint and glare, including on local flying clubs.

A glint and glare assessment is being undertaken to identify impacts and mitigation measures required. Mitigation will be incorporated in the scheme design to ensure that no significant adverse effects arise. Further details will be provided at Phase Two Consultation.

This work includes a glint and glare assessment of impacts to aviation receptors in the area, including Sherburn-in-Elmet and Burn airfields.

Community impact

Respondents expressed concern around the impact on respondent's quality of life, mental wellbeing and any potential health issues such as construction emissions and electromagnetic fields (EMFs).

Solar power is one of the safest sources of energy and no significant long term negative health impacts from the Proposed Development are anticipated.

Management plans including, but not limited to, those for managing construction dust, fire safety management, pollution and spillage, traffic, and environmental management plans will be put in place to ensure that there are no significant adverse impacts on health arising from the project.

The PEIR will assess potential effects of the Project on physical health, including factors such as air quality and noise, as well as broader impacts on physical and mental wellbeing through the Human Health chapter. We understand that uncertainty can be challenging, and we are committed to communicating throughout the development process to provide clarity and reassurance. Recognising the importance of meaningful engagement, particularly during the pre-application phase, we will continue to engage with consultees to seek to reduce impacts on wellbeing and mental health.

Community Benefits

Light Valley Solar Limited is committed to offering a community benefits package alongside the renewable energy schemes it promotes. We believe that communities closest to the proposed project should benefit directly and are best positioned to recommend what those benefits should be.

We are grateful for the many community benefit suggestions that you made at the first phase of consultation, which are all now being carefully considered. Suggestions included:

- rooftop solar installations,
- playground and sports facility improvements,
- educational programmes, and
- improvements to street lighting and existing footpaths.

In response to feedback from Phase One, we are considering various 'on-site' initiatives as part of the project's design, such as environmental enhancements, and the creation of permissive paths.

Our community benefits package could also support 'off-site' initiatives, including funding for local groups, infrastructure improvements, and support for community sports clubs and organisations in line with the suggestions set out above. We are especially focused on creating opportunities for young people in both the delivery and operation of the scheme.

As the details of community benefits and funding levels are still being developed, we will continue refining this aspect of the project, taking into account both industry and government guidance, as well as your feedback. More details on our community benefits package will be presented at Phase Two Consultation.

Our consultation process

During our Phase One consultation we also asked for feedback on our consultation and engagement approach. This is being considered as we prepare for Phase Two consultation and identify how we can improve our engagement methods.

For example, some respondents have asked for the project to advise on cumulative impacts that could arise with other projects in the area. We intend to present our impacts alongside available information from other schemes in our Consultation materials and assess impacts within a dedicated chapter in the PEIR.

We have also received requests for a venue in Chapel Haddlesey to be considered for our in-person information events, and we can confirm that we are engaging with a venue in the area to host an event for our Phase Two Consultation.

Where we are now

We are continuing to develop our proposals for Light Valley Solar based on the feedback we received, alongside environmental studies and technical assessments.

Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

Through Spring 2025, we are engaging with North Yorkshire Council and City of York Council to formally invite their views on the approach we intend to take to further community consultation. This will be set out in our Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) which will be published ahead of our second phase of consultation.

Design Workshops

Prior to the launch of Phase Two consultation, the project team will be inviting parish councils and other key stakeholders to design workshops. The workshops will be an opportunity for the project team to openly engage with local stakeholders on the design, asking for suggestions on how the design could be changed, focusing on where people's feedback has the biggest scope to influence the design.

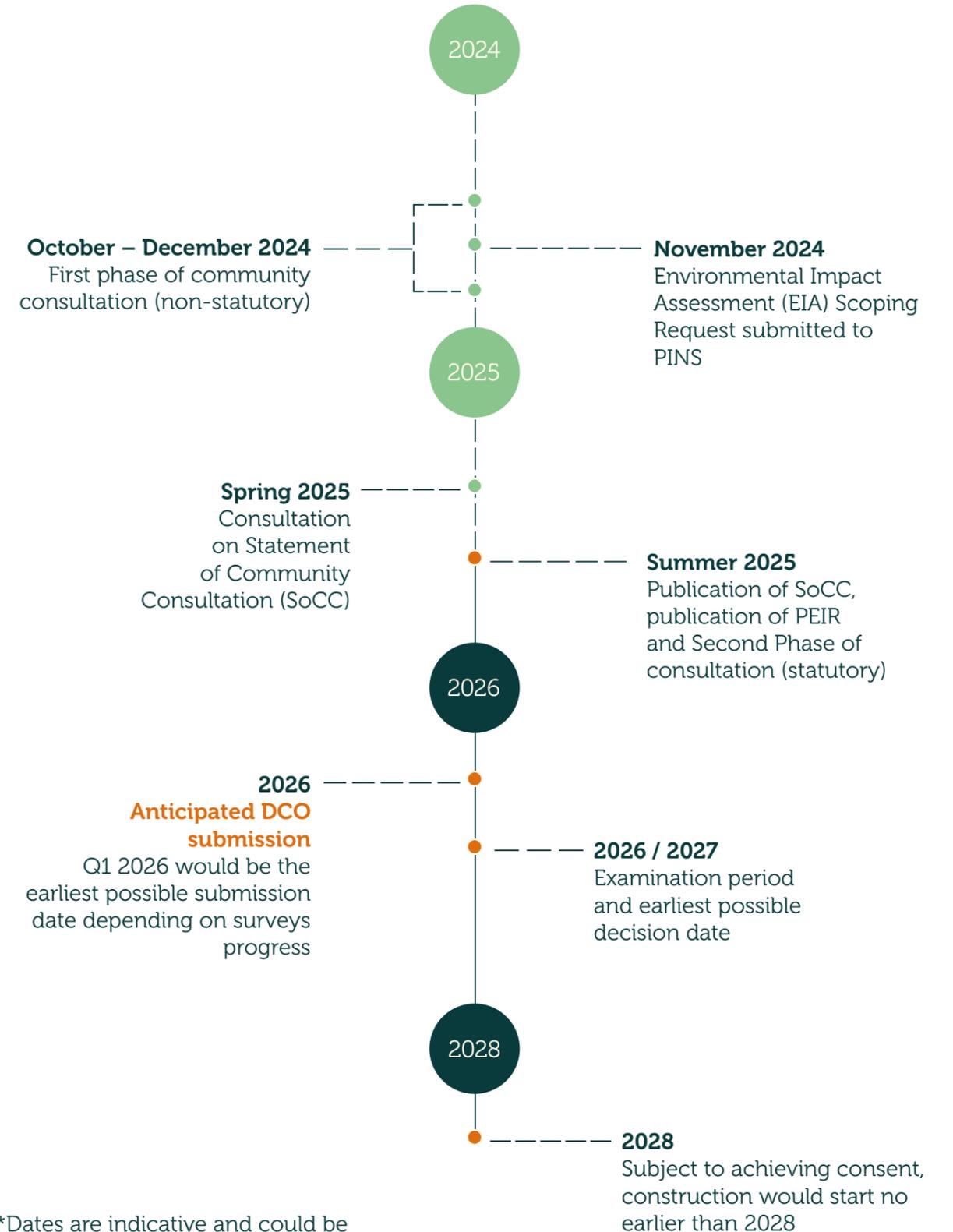
Phase Two Consultation

Following the publication of the SoCC, and continuous development of the project proposals, we will then carry out a second phase of community consultation. This is a statutory phase of consultation that is required by the application process for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).

This statutory stage of consultation is intended to give you the opportunity to comment on our updated proposals and how they have evolved since the initial consultation. As part of this, we will be publishing the preliminary results of our ongoing assessments in a document known as a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). This will explain the potential effects of Light Valley Solar and our plans for mitigating them.

We expect to carry out this second stage of consultation in Summer 2025, which will involve an additional round of in-person events and workshops. Following this consultation, we will review our proposals in light of feedback received along with the findings from our ongoing assessments so we can finalise and submit our application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate. As the developer, Light Valley Solar Limited has a duty to demonstrate how we have taken your views into account in developing our final application.

Indicative Project Timeline



*Dates are indicative and could be subject to change.

Contact Us



Website: www.lightvalleysolar.co.uk



Email: info@lightvalleysolar.co.uk



Freepost: Freepost LIGHT VALLEY SOLAR*

*Free of charge, no need for a stamp.



Freephone Information Line: 0808 281 4784

Available Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm.

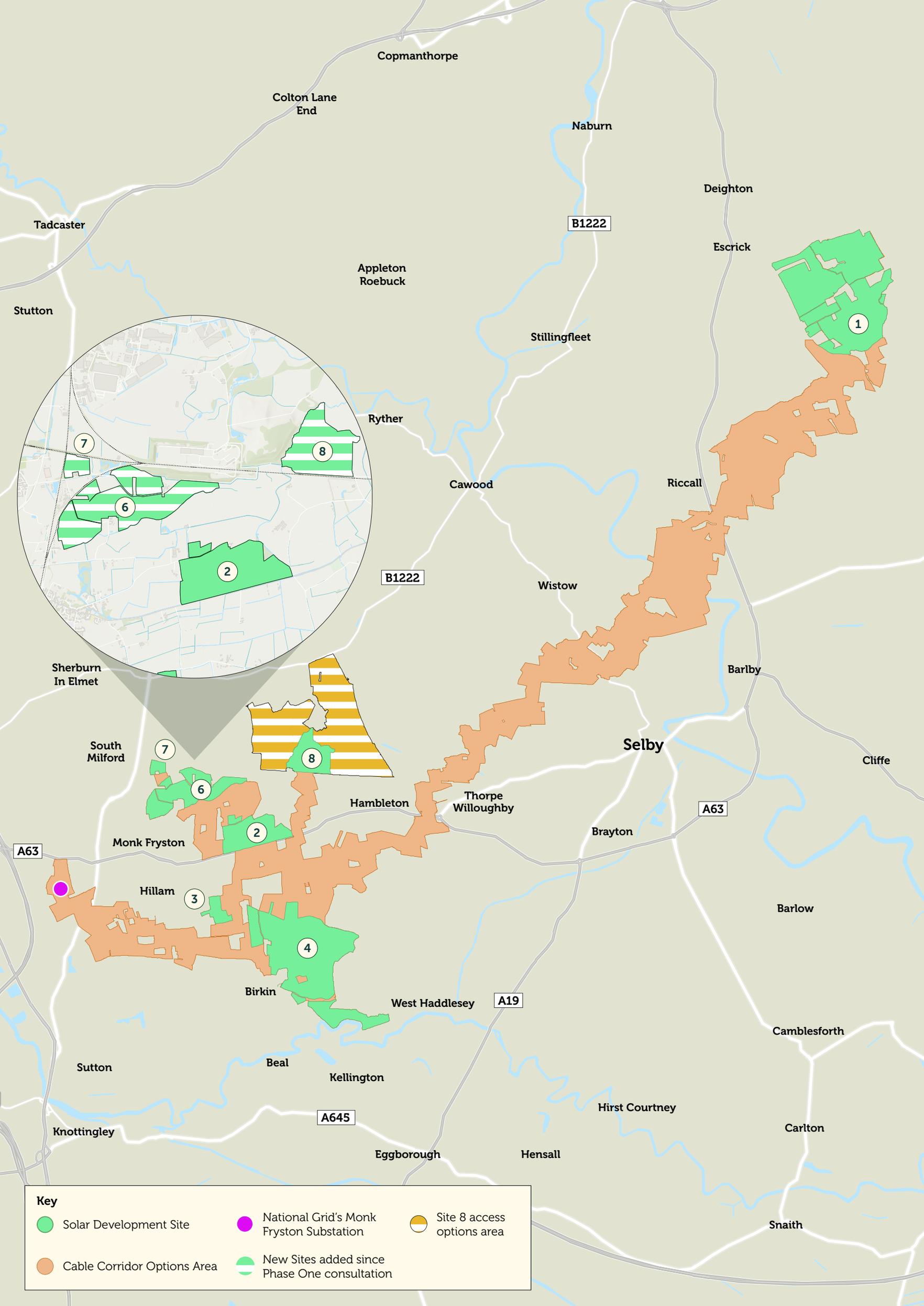
Voicemails can be left outside of these hours.

Please contact us using the details above if you would benefit from receiving this document in an alternative format, such as large print, audio or braille.

Please note that graphics, maps and dates in this document are indicative at this stage and have been included for illustrative purposes.



2 Site Location Plan – April 2025



Key

- Solar Development Site
- National Grid's Monk Fryston Substation
- Site 8 access options area
- Cable Corridor Options Area
- New Sites added since Phase One consultation



3 Letter communicating new land to residents

09 April 2025

Light Valley Solar project – change in land area

Dear Resident,

We are writing to you to provide information about Light Valley Solar, a solar farm and energy storage project to the north and west of Selby in North Yorkshire, being developed by Island Green Power.

In October 2024, Light Valley Solar was publicly launched, and we held the first phase of community consultation between November and December. You may have received a postcard publicising this or taken part. Since then, we have been considering the feedback received, as well as progressing with environmental surveys and assessments.

Following our initial public consultation at the end of 2024, we have made changes to the area covered by the project proposals. This includes introducing new land to the project moving forward which is now being considered for solar development.

You are receiving this letter as your property is located within close proximity of one of these additional sites – labelled as Site 6, Site 7 and Site 8 on the enclosed maps.

As a result of ongoing design work and environmental assessment ahead of our Phase Two consultation, one area of the project near Chapel Haddlesey and Temple Hirst has been removed.

Following these changes, the project will continue to deliver 500 megawatts (MW) of clean electricity to the National Grid and deliver environmental mitigation and enhancement.

More detailed information about the project, our previous consultation and these changes is due to be published shortly in our *Project Update Newsletter & Phase One Consultation Summary Report*, which will be available to view and download on our website: www.lightvalleysolar.co.uk. We will also provide more information when we hold our Phase Two (statutory) consultation, due to take place this summer. We will contact you in advance to provide details of this consultation.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything in more detail, please get in touch with us, using any of the details at the bottom of this letter.

Kind regards,

Annette Lardeur
Senior Development Manager, Light Valley Solar



4 Letter communicating removal of Site 5 to residents

09 April 2025

Light Valley Solar project update – change in land area

Dear Resident,

We are writing to you to provide an update for Light Valley Solar, a solar farm and energy storage project to the north and west of Selby in North Yorkshire being developed by Island Green Power.

This letter provides information on key changes to the site boundaries, in particular changes in relation to 'Site 5', which is an area of land near to Chapel Haddlesey and Temple Hirst, in the vicinity of your property. **Please find enclosed a map of the updated project area.**

In October 2024, Light Valley Solar was publicly launched, and we held the first phase of community consultation between November and December. You may have received a postcard publicising our first phase of consultation at the time. Since then, we have been considering the feedback received from our consultation, as well as progressing with environmental surveys and assessments.

As a result of the initial findings from our environmental assessment, Site 5 has been removed from the project and will not be included in our plans moving forward. This decision was reached following assessments indicating a high degree of flood risk, which makes this area unsuitable for the installation of solar panels.

Elsewhere, new land has been added to the project near South Milford – this land is labelled as Site 6, 7 and 8. The project will continue to deliver 500 megawatts (MW) of clean electricity to the National Grid and also create opportunities to deliver environmental mitigation and enhancement.

This information is shortly due to be published more widely in our *Project Update Newsletter & Phase One Consultation Summary Report*, which will be available on our website, but we wanted to inform you as soon as possible, as residents near to site 5. Further information will be made available when we hold our Phase Two (statutory) consultation, due to take place this summer.

As Site 5 is no longer part of our plans, we will no longer be writing to residents or businesses local to Site 5 (who previously fell within our consultation mailing zone but are now outside it), either by post and/or email. If you still have an interest in the scheme and would like to remain on our postal and/or electronic 'keep informed' list, you will need to tell us. You can sign up on the project website: <https://www.lightvalleysolar.co.uk/register-for-updates>. If you have previously registered for updates, you will continue to receive these unless you tell us you want to opt out.



Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to discuss anything in more detail. You can get in touch with the project team via the communication channels at the bottom of this letter.

Kind regards,

Annette Lardeur
Senior Development Manager, Light Valley Solar