

Welcome

We are consulting on our updated proposals for Light Valley Solar – a solar and energy storage project on land near Selby in North Yorkshire.

Thank you for attending today's event and engaging with our second phase of consultation.

You can scan the QR code below to visit our website



Here you can access information on our proposals and provide your comments through an online feedback form.



Why do we need Light Valley Solar?

There is a growing body of UK energy and climate change commitments, law, policy and guidance which highlights the urgent need for new energy generation infrastructure, particularly from renewable sources such as solar.

Decarbonisation is a UK legal requirement and is of global significance. In June 2019, the Government passed a law to end the UK's contribution to global warming by 2050: net zero. In December 2024, the Government published the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan¹ which reinforces the urgent need for low carbon generation schemes to come forwards to pave the way to decarbonising the wider economy by 2050.

The National Policy Statement (NPS) for Energy establishes that there is a critical national priority for the provision of nationally significant low carbon infrastructure, which includes large-scale solar projects. NPS EN-3² states that Government has 'committed to sustained growth in solar capacity to ensure that we are on a pathway that allows us to meet net zero emissions. As such solar is a key part of the Government's strategy for low-cost decarbonisation of the energy sector' (paragraph 2.10.9).

Light Valley Solar would make a significant contribution towards achieving net zero by helping provide clean, renewable electricity, whilst supporting national targets to decarbonise our electricity systems and bolster our energy security.

This Consultation

We are carrying out Phase Two 'statutory' consultation, which runs from **Thursday 26th June to Thursday 7th August 2025**. During this time, we'd like to know what you think about our updated proposals for the project and how they have evolved since our earlier consultation in Winter 2024.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions on local projects we could support to benefit communities close to the project.

Your feedback is important to us. We will use feedback you submit to this consultation to help us identify impacts and refine the proposals further, before our DCO application is submitted, anticipated for Q1 2026.

¹<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/677bc80399c93b7286a396d6/clean-power-2030-action-plan-main-report.pdf>

²https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64252f5f2fa848000cec0f52/NPS_EN-3.pdf

ISLAND GREEN POWER

WHO WE ARE

The proposals for Light Valley Solar have been put forward by Light Valley Solar Limited, a subsidiary of Island Green Power (IGP). IGP is a leading developer of renewable energy projects and battery storage systems.

We deliver renewable energy solutions that create lasting value for the communities we serve, protecting the environment while fostering economic growth and energy independence.

Since launch, we have successfully delivered more than 34 solar projects worldwide that have generated more than 3 GW of energy capacity. This includes 20 solar projects in the UK. These range in size from below 5 MW to Nationally Significant Infrastructure projects such as Cottam Solar project, currently the UK's largest consented solar project. Cottam will generate 600 MW of clean, renewable and secure electricity and includes 600 MW of battery storage that will store then release energy as needed.

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

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

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

Macquarie Asset Management, a leading global asset manager, acquired 50% of IGP in 2022, increasing its stake to 100% in 2025.

As a developer, IGP oversees the entire development process from start to finish, including sourcing land, securing grid connections and obtaining planning consents. When a project receives consent, it will either be constructed by IGP or sold to a specialist firm who will build the solar project to be operated and managed by a long-term owner through its lifecycle.

You can find out more about us via the Island Green Power website: **www.islandgp.com**



The Opportunity for Light Valley Solar

If built, Light Valley Solar has the potential to:



Utilise existing connections and infrastructure in the local area and build on North Yorkshire's energy legacy.



Provide up to 500 MW AC of clean, affordable energy into the National Grid.



Store up to 500 MWh (megawatt-hours) of energy in the battery energy storage system (BESS).



Generate enough renewable electricity capacity to power the equivalent of 115,000 homes annually.



Contribute to climate targets and the decarbonisation of our electricity supply.



Co-exist with and enhance the natural environment by delivering a net gain in biodiversity.



Provide community and local benefits for the surrounding area, with a commitment to work with the local community to identify and define community benefits.

We are committed to ensuring that Light Valley Solar supports local energy goals by working closely with the community it serves. This Phase Two consultation is an opportunity for you to have your say and help shape how the Project is developed in the future.

More broadly, the Project will play an active role in supporting the North East & Yorkshire Net Zero Hub¹, which drives the region's transition toward a low-carbon economy. In particular, the York and North Yorkshire Routemap to Carbon Negative² outlines an ambitious path to achieve carbon neutrality by 2034 and become carbon negative by 2040. Light Valley Solar will contribute directly to reaching these vital milestones.

The York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority is focused on positioning the region as a leader in net-zero ambitions, maximising biodiversity improvements and driving growth and innovation in the renewable energy sector.

Light Valley Solar specifically aligns with North Yorkshire Council's Climate Change Strategy³, which aims to install an additional 2,500 MW of solar, onshore wind, and hydropower capacity by 2038. The Project would provide approximately 500 MW of this capacity, expecting to connect to the grid by 2030.

¹<https://www.neynetzerohub.com/>

²<https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/project/routemap-to-carbon-negative/>

³<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/environment-and-neighbourhoods/climate-change/climate-change-strategy-2023-2030>

The Solar development

The Project is located on land between Escrick, Monk Fryston, Hambleton, Chapel Haddlesey and South Milford. The Project consists of seven solar development sites totalling approximately 1,020 hectares (2,500 acres) of land, as well as additional land being used for underground cabling to connect the sites to the National Grid Monk Fryston substation.

Project boundary update

Since the first phase of consultation, 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.

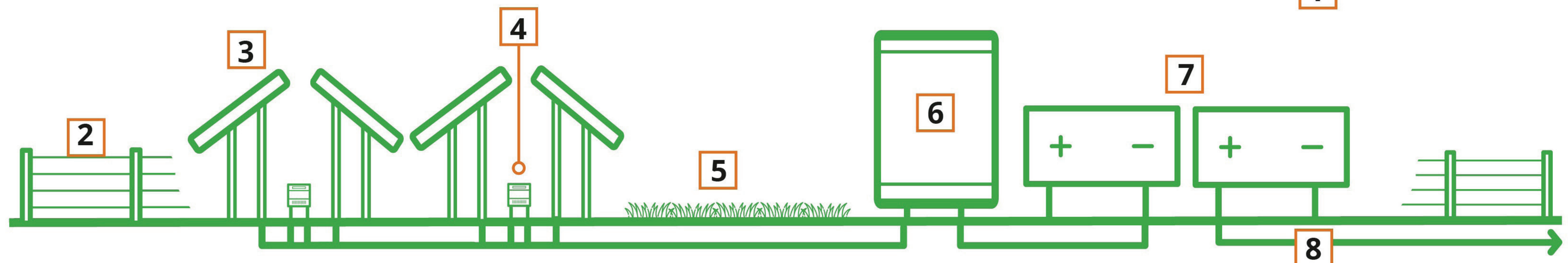
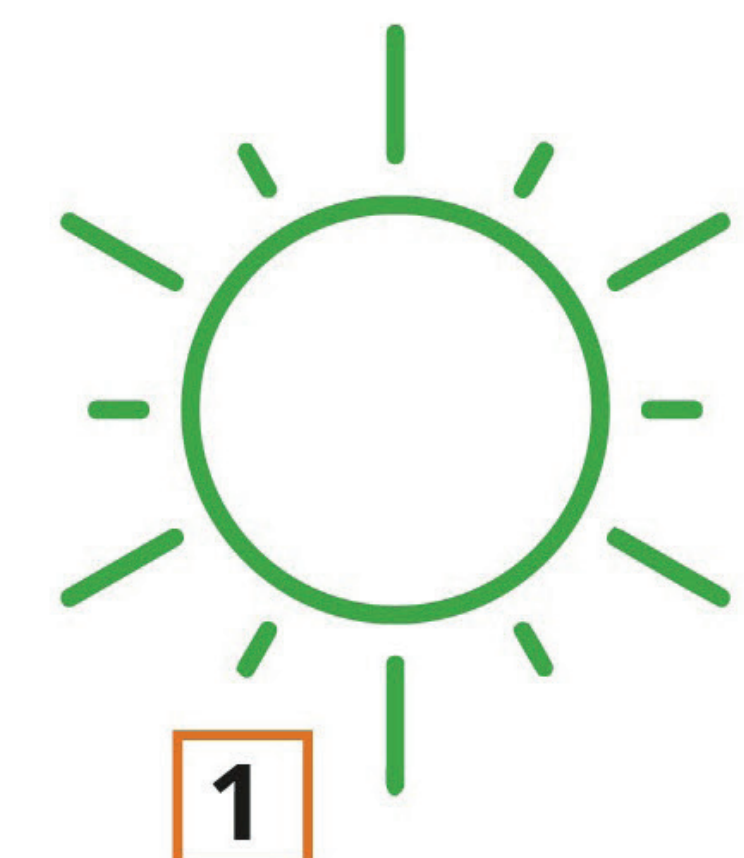
The decision to remove Site 5 from the Project was reached following ongoing design work, and assessments indicating a high level of flood risk, making this area unsuitable for the installation of solar panels. New land has now been added to the Project, north of the existing Site 2 area, near to the village of South Milford. These areas are labelled as Sites 6, 7 and 8 on the map.

The main elements of the Project would include the solar PV arrays, the BESS, electrical infrastructure, underground cables and National Grid's existing Monk Fryston substation. Light Valley Solar will comprise of the following main components:

- Solar Development Areas for the solar photovoltaic (PV) modules.
- The battery energy storage system (BESS), proposed to be located on Site 2, and associated infrastructure.
- Substations, including the main Project substation located on Site 4, as well as secondary substations on other sites.
- Fencing comprising wire mesh and wooden posts to enclose operational areas of the Site with pole mounted internal facing CCTV systems around the perimeter. Higher palisade fencing would enclose the substation and BESS.
- Other supporting infrastructure.
- Retained and/or proposed Environmental Mitigation/Enhancement Areas.
- A Cable Corridor to connect to the existing Monk Fryston Substation where the Project will connect to the National Grid. The Cable Corridor has been refined since Phase One consultation, following ongoing environmental assessments and will continue to be refined further following this consultation.

Components of a typical solar farm

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



Light Valley Solar Site Location Plan



Since Phase One Consultation and following ongoing environmental assessments, we have refined the underground Cable Corridor. A more detailed plan of the Cable Corridor, including showing the areas that have been assessed in the PEIR, can be seen in Figure 1.1 of the PEIR (Volume 2).

The triangles ▲ show small areas of land where the project may need to be able to oversail large loads or carry out road improvement works to allow construction vehicles to access the Cable Corridor.

The Solar Development Sites will include the solar panels and infrastructure required to deliver 500 MW of electricity to the grid, as well as incorporate environmental mitigation and enhancement areas, including to deliver biodiversity net gain.

Light Valley Solar will connect into the existing Monk Fryston substation.

The proposals for Light Valley Solar include energy storage. Following ongoing design and environmental assessments, the energy storage will be located within Site 2 only.

Key

Project Development Boundary for Consultation

Solar Development Site

National Grid's Monk Fryston Substation

Cable Corridor

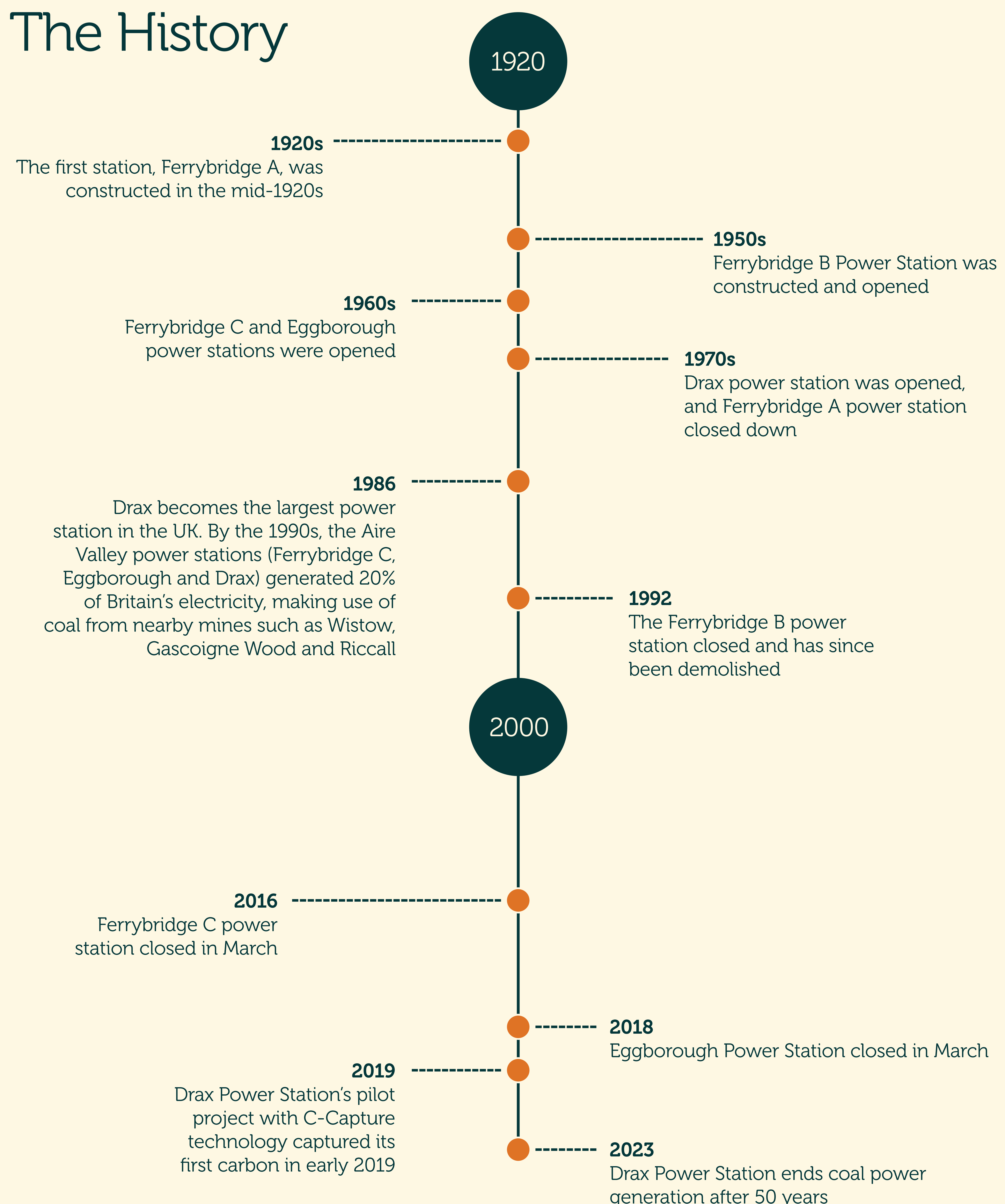
Site 8 access options

New Sites added since Phase One consultation

A Legacy of generating power

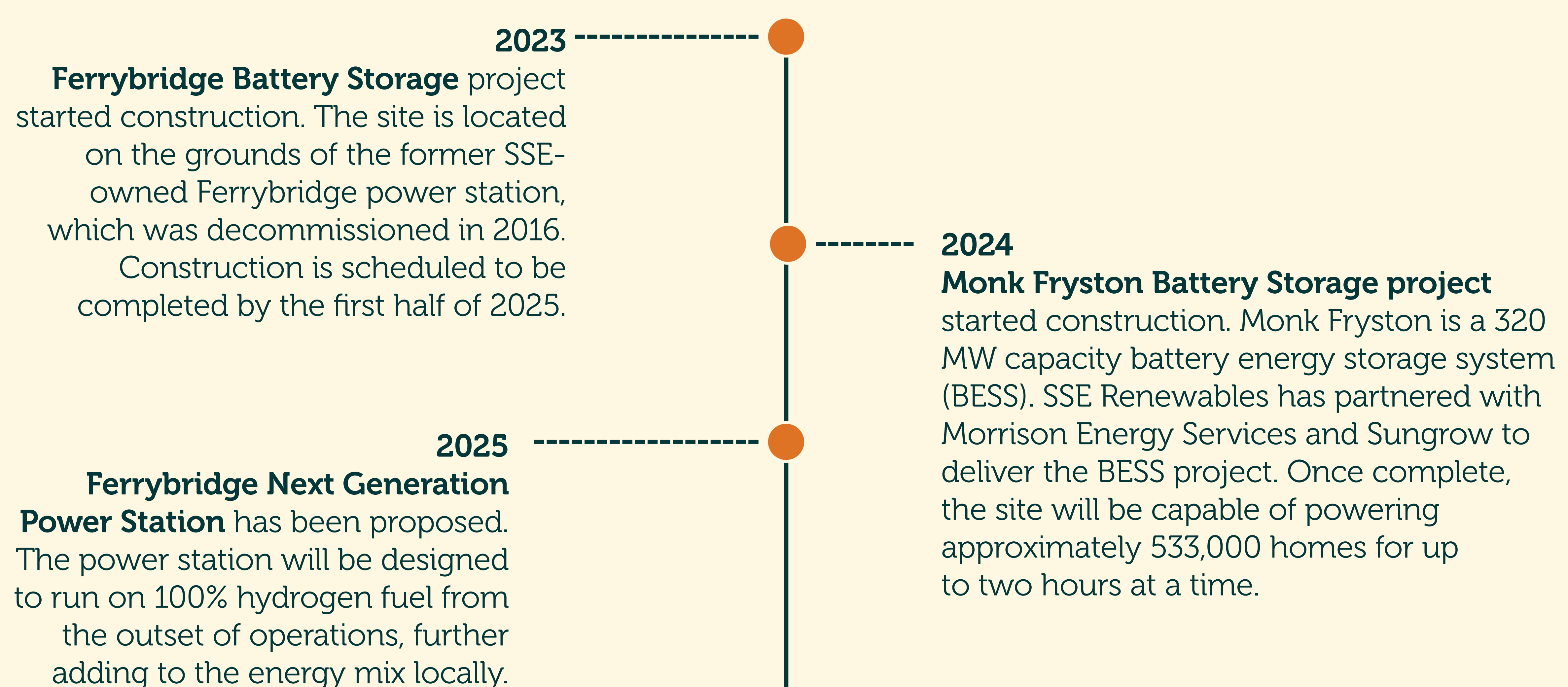
Light Valley Solar is proposed in an area with a significant history of power generation. Existing infrastructure and capacity in the grid makes the Project well placed to continue this legacy.

The History



The Now

Alongside projects like Light Valley Solar, there are a number of projects that are being proposed nearby that show how the area is becoming a hub for modern, sustainable and diverse power generation technologies, renewing the generating legacy of the area. A few examples are provided below, with more projects emerging in the local area and wider region.



Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

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

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

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

1

EIA Scoping

On 8 November 2024, we submitted an EIA Scoping Report to PINS. We set out the proposed scope of the EIA process for the Project, which is how we proposed to identify and evaluate the likely significant effects of the Project in order to then determine measures to reduce or manage those effects. PINS then produced a Scoping Opinion on 19 December 2024, which has been considered when producing the PEIR.

2

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

The PEIR presents the findings of the preliminary surveys and assessments undertaken to date, together with the measures we are proposing to avoid, reduce or, enhance the effects the Project may have on the environment. The purpose of the PEIR is to provide sufficient information for the consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects.

The PEIR forms part of the consultation materials for this consultation so technical stakeholders, local communities, individuals and interested parties can develop an informed view of these potential impacts and provide us with their feedback.

3

Environmental Statement (ES)

The ES presents our full assessments of the likely effects of Light Valley Solar.

After this phase of consultation, we will continue to develop the project's design, undertaking further surveys and assessments. The findings of the EIA will be presented in the ES. This will build on the PEIR and incorporate feedback received during Phase Two consultation and the outcomes of our assessments.

Our design considerations

As well as our design commitments, and further to the on-going EIA assessment work, the Project team has also created project-specific design considerations that have been and will continue to be applied in the design process.

Environmentally-Led Design:

- Follow a joined up and collaborative design approach.
- Retain and protect existing habitats and replace those removed to facilitate construction as far as practicable.
- Provide appropriate buffers between proposed infrastructure and sensitive habitats and features.
- Locate development to reduce potential flood risk, where possible.
- Maintain water sustainably.
- Minimise landscape and visual impact to residents.
- Minimise adverse impact of construction works.
- Protect and celebrate heritage assets.

Biodiversity net gain and Nature Recovery

- Locate development away from areas for nature conservation, where possible.
- Improve the connectivity of existing habitats by strengthening with new planting.
- Provide appropriate buffers between proposed infrastructure and protected species.
- Minimise disturbance to mammal transit through the Project
- Create new habitats and manage the land in ways that support local bird and mammal populations.
- Safeguard spaces for nature with a balance between public access and nature conservation.
- Manage land through grazing and/or suitable cutting, in suitable locations to enhance biodiversity.

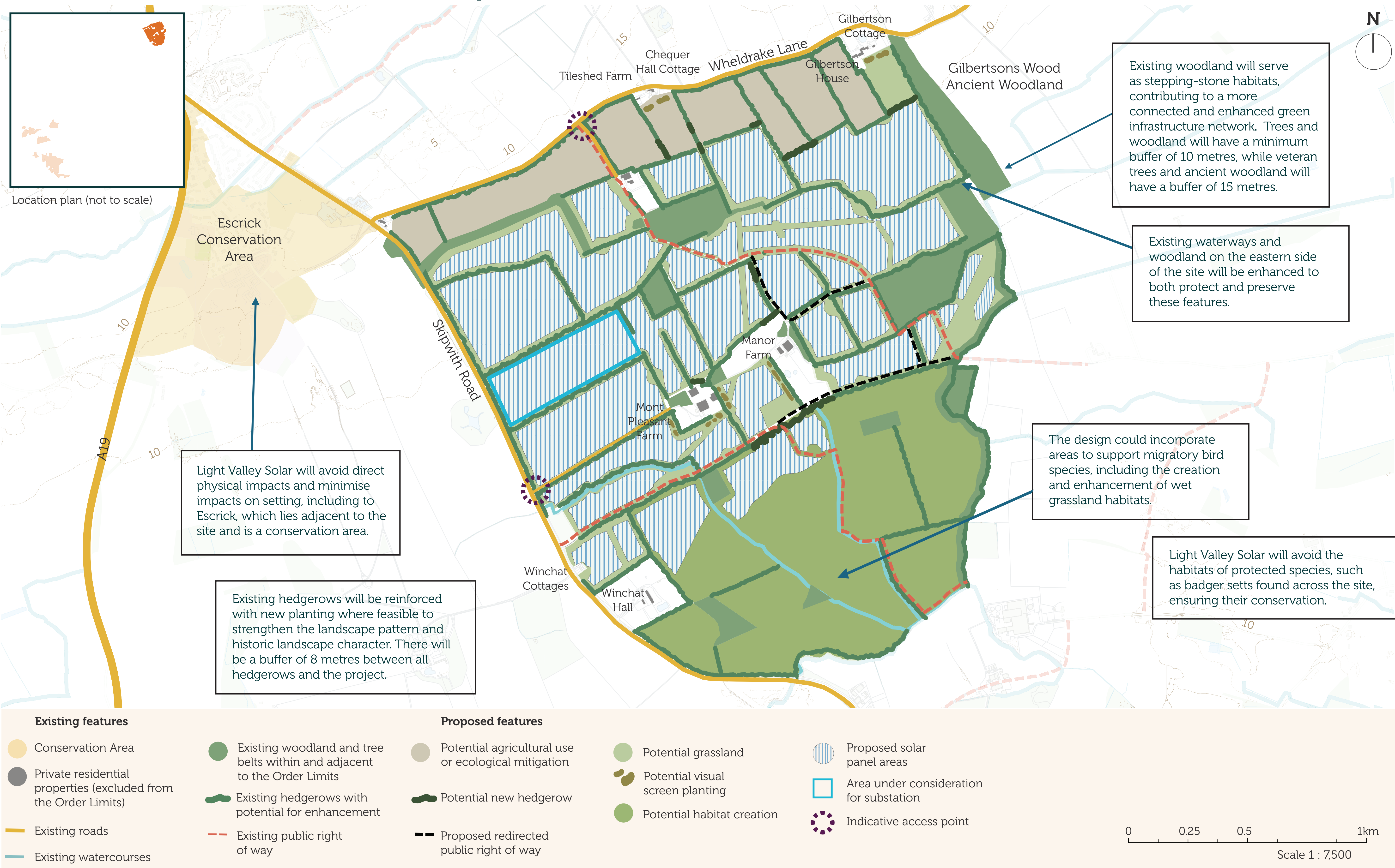
Social value and community

- Provide buffers between proposed development and footpaths.
- Improve the local pathway network to enhance use and enjoyment for local communities.
- Encourage responsible enjoyment of nature.
- Incorporate interpretation and wayfinding.
- Understand and collaborate with our neighbours.
- Enhance placemaking.

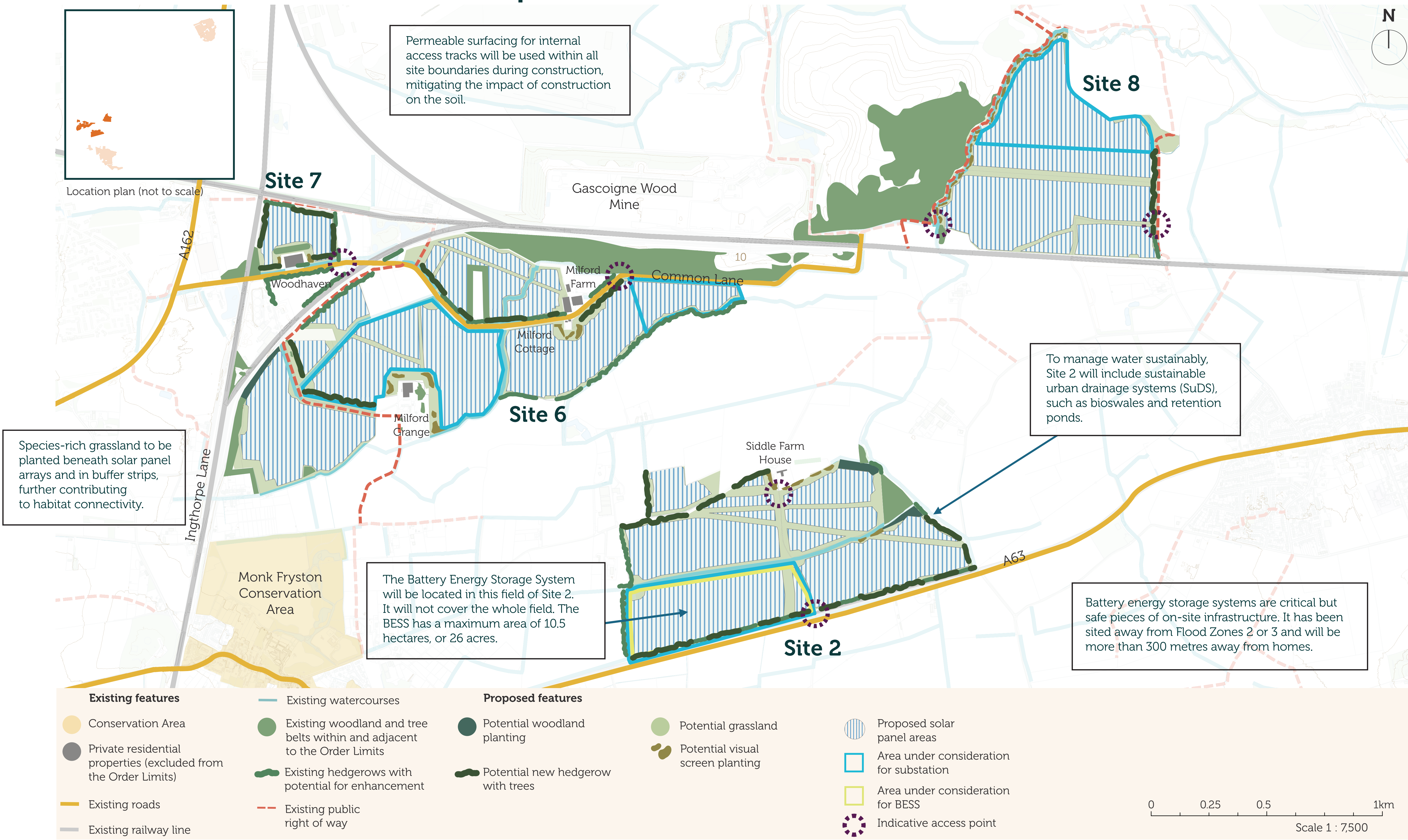


LIGHT VALLEY SOLAR

Outline Environmental Masterplan - Site 1



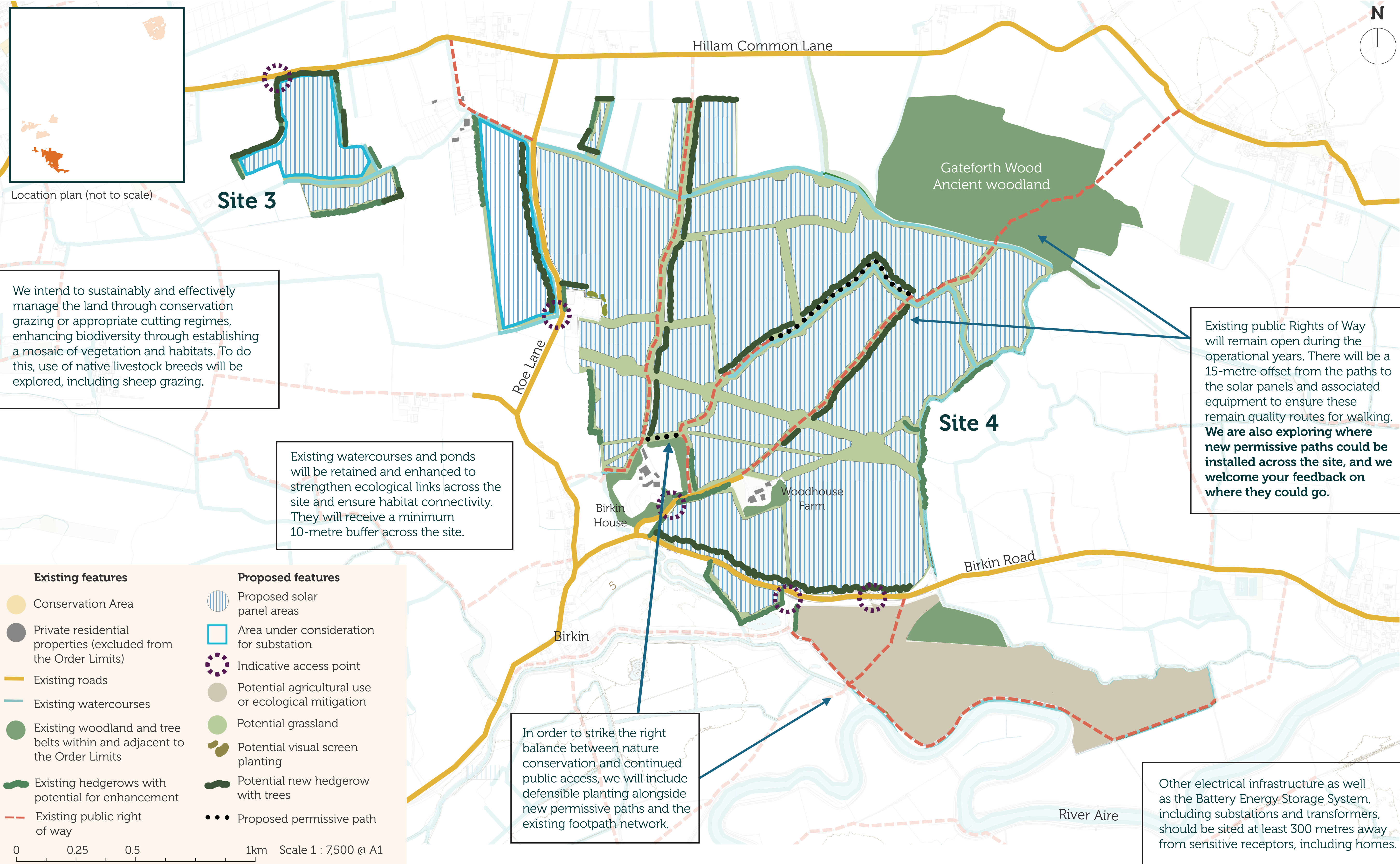
Outline Environmental Masterplan - Sites 2, 6, 7 and 8



LIGHT VALLEY SOLAR

Outline Environmental Masterplan - Sites 3 and 4

Proposed landscaping planting will mature over the lifetime of the project, which will enhance the enjoyment of the surrounding landscape for residents and tourists visiting the area.



A focus on community

We believe the communities closest to the Project should benefit from it – with these communities being best placed to recommend what they believe a “community benefit” 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 for young people
- Improvements to street lighting and existing footpaths

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

On-site initiatives could be mitigation and enhancement measures inherent within the design of the Project and could include improving access to and within green spaces and areas of interest, exploring options to create new permissive paths and other measures, as shown in our Outline Environmental Masterplan published as part of this Phase Two Consultation.

Our community benefits package could also support ‘off-site’ initiatives, including funding for local groups, infrastructure improvements, provision of rooftop/domestic solar, and support for community sports clubs and organisations in line with the suggestions set out above. We are also considering opportunities for young people in both the delivery and operation of the scheme, which, for example, could be included in an Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan submitted as part of our DCO application.

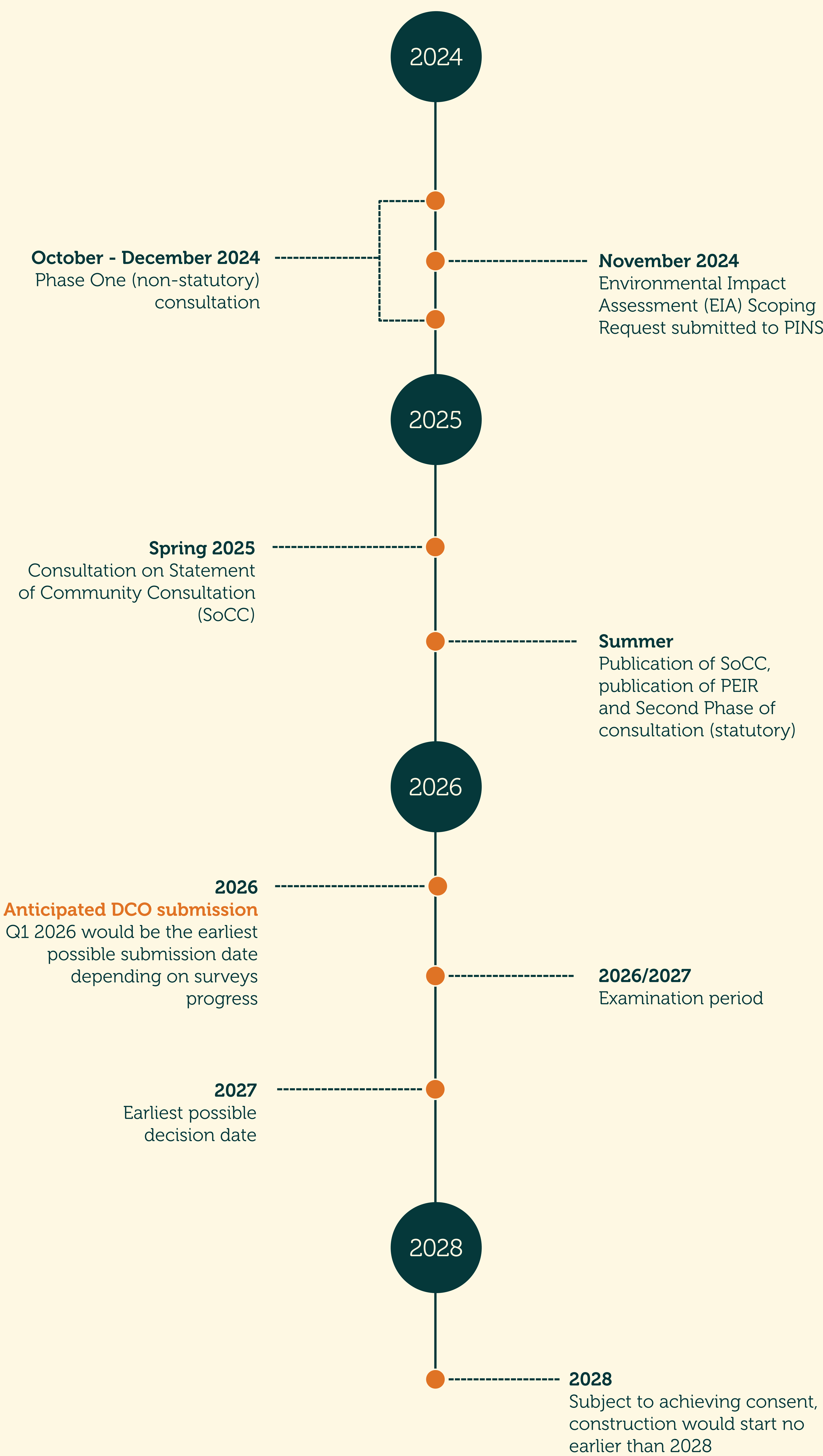
We are also exploring how a community benefit package could be managed for the Project. We are in discussions with organisations such as Two Ridings Community Foundation to understand how best a fund can be managed and implemented. Any fund will be managed independently from the Project to ensure that the funds work best for local people.



Provide your suggestions

We would value your suggestions on any on-site and off-site initiatives we could bring forward as part of our proposals for Light Valley Solar. You can provide your suggestions via questions six and seven on our Feedback Form, or in writing by email or post.

Indicative Project Timeline



Dates are indicative and could be subject to change.

Have Your Say

Thank you for taking part in this consultation. Your views are important to us, and we will use them to refine and finalise our proposals for the project.

What happens next?

Your feedback, together with the outcomes of ongoing surveys, assessments and design work, will help to shape the DCO application, which we expect to submit to PINS in Q1 2026.

After submission of the DCO application, PINS will decide whether the application meets the standards required to be accepted for examination.

If the application is accepted, you will have the opportunity to participate in the examination process by registering as an Interested Party, enabling you to submit your views in writing or present them orally at hearings.

Once the examination has concluded, PINS will make a recommendation to the SoS within three months. The SoS for Energy Security and Net Zero will then have a further three months to issue a final decision on the application.

Providing your comments

You can submit feedback to this consultation online and in writing by:



Completing the online feedback on our website **www.Lightvalleysolar.co.uk**



Sending an email to **info@lightvalleysolar.co.uk**



Posting a feedback form or letter to us at **FREEPOST Light Valley Solar** (no stamp or further address details required)

Printed feedback forms available at this event can also be completed and handed in to a member of the Project team here today.

The deadline for feedback to this consultation is Thursday 7th August 2025.

Further opportunities to contribute

This is likely to be the last time we consult on our proposals for the Scheme. If it is accepted for Examination, you can register your interest with the Planning Inspectorate, who will keep you informed and outline further opportunities for you to contribute.