

Longhedge Solar Farm

Statement of Community Involvement



CONTENTS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
2. INTRODUCTION	3
3. PURPOSE OF THIS STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	3
4. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER MAPPING.....	5
5. CONSULTATION	5
6. FEEDBACK AND APPLICANT'S RESPONSE.....	10
7. CONCLUSION.....	20
APPENDICES.....	21

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has been produced for a proposed 49.9MW solar farm and associated infrastructure (the “Proposed Development”) on lands between Thoroton and Hawksworth, Nottinghamshire (the “Application Site”).
- 1.2. The SCI has been prepared by the Applicant to provide a comprehensive record of the pre-application public consultation undertaken on the Proposed Development.
- 1.3. As well as detailing the stakeholders and community the Applicant has consulted with during the pre-application period, it also details the various consultation methods used.
- 1.4. The SCI goes on to summarise feedback from stakeholders and the community and how this feedback has been taken into account regarding the design of the Proposed Development.

2. INTRODUCTION

Background

- 2.1. This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) accompanies the planning application for a proposed 49.9MW solar farm and associated infrastructure (the “Proposed Development”) on lands between Thoroton and Hawksworth, Nottinghamshire (the “Application Site”).
- 2.2. Please refer to Figure 4 of Volume 2: Planning Application Drawings for the layout of the Proposed Development.

Proposed Development

- 2.3. The Proposed Development will consist of the construction of 49.9MW solar farm. It will involve the construction of bi-facial ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, new access tracks, underground cabling, perimeter fencing with CCTV cameras and access gates, 2 x temporary construction compounds, substation and all ancillary grid infrastructure and associated works including environmental mitigation and enhancements. Refer to the Planning Statement (see Volume 1), for more details of the Proposed Development

3. PURPOSE OF THIS STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 3.1. This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has been prepared by the Applicant to provide a comprehensive record of the pre-application public consultation undertaken on the Proposed Development.
- 3.2. Conducting an early and transparent pre-application public consultation is consistent with the guidance within the NPPF (2019). Paragraph 39 of the NPPF states that:
“Early engagement has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties. Good quality pre-application discussion enables better coordination between public and private resources and improved outcomes for the community.”
- 3.3. The NPPF goes on to state that:
“[Local Authorities] should also, where they think this would be beneficial, encourage any applicants who are not already required to do so by law to engage with the local

community and, where relevant, with statutory and non-statutory consultees, before submitting their applications.”

- 3.4. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act of 2004 ensures Local Authorities develop strategies to engage the local community in the planning process. These strategies must be set out in a document called a “Statement of Community Involvement” and must be aimed at all sections of society - including identified “hard to reach” groups - and encourage engagement in the planning process. The aim is to encourage “ownership” of the planning process by the community.
- 3.5. As a result, this SCI (for the Proposed Development) also fulfils a formal recommendation of Rushcliffe Borough Council, as the Local Planning Authority (LPA), by documenting how people have been provided with an opportunity to feed into the design process of a scheme.
- 3.6. Rushcliffe Borough Council’s Statement of Community Involvement¹ sets out how early community consultation should take place on planning issues. Paragraph 1.2 states:
- “The aim is to ensure that all groups in the Borough are involved in the process early enough for people to be able to have an input, and to address the needs of those groups of people who traditionally have not been involved in the process but may have specific needs to be met or addressed. It is important that all views are sought, not just those of people with a direct interest in a land use proposal.”*
- 3.7. It goes on to note:
- “At the pre-application stage we consider that developers can have a crucial role in engaging local communities with the planning process.”*
- “If a proposal is likely to prompt significant community interest, we recommend and would encourage early involvement with the community before submitting a planning application, particularly for larger developments”*
- 3.8. In addition to the above, the Applicant recognises that local people can make a valuable contribution to the proposals by offering their local knowledge and raising issues that may not have been considered by the Applicant or project team, in many cases resulting in a stronger proposal.
- 3.9. Consistent with advice in the LPA’s Statement of Community Involvement, this document forms a consultation supporting statement that summarises the consultation activities undertaken by the Applicant, a summary of comments received, and issues raised, and how the Applicant has had regard to these comments.
- 3.10. The approach to community consultation as presented in this SCI reflects the LPA’s advice for community consultation. Throughout the pre-application public consultation, the Applicant has:
- Invited comments at a time when they can inform the process;
 - Provided sufficient information to describe the subject matter of the consultation;
 - Given notice of consultations in advance;
 - Clearly described how to submit comments and emphasised that comments made were not representations to the determining authority (Rushcliffe Borough Council) and that there would be the opportunity for representations to be made to the determining authority once the planning application was submitted;

1

<https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/planningpolicy/localplan/communityinvolvement/#:-:text=The%202019%20Statement%20of%20Community,the%20determination%20of%20planning%20applications.>

- Considered the representations received prior to submitting the planning application;

4. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER MAPPING

4.1. This section details the key local stakeholders the Applicant identified and engaged with during the pre-application public consultation process. Prior to the start of the consultation, the Applicant undertook detailed desktop research to develop a comprehensive understanding of the key stakeholders to engage with during pre-application public consultation. This research involved identifying local stakeholders located around the site of the Proposed Development.

4.2. The stakeholder groups identified included:

- The local population around the Application Site, including Thoroton and Hawksworth and the surrounding area;
- Outdoor recreation groups; and
- Locally elected political representatives from the following parish meetings and wards:
 - Thoroton Parish Meeting;
 - Hawksworth Parish Meeting;
 - Sibthorpe Parish Meeting;
 - Shelton Parish Meeting;
 - Ward councillor for Thoroton ward, Rushcliffe Borough Council;
 - Nottinghamshire County Councillor for the Bingham East ward.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1. The pre-application public consultation began on Wednesday 30 March 2022. During the pre-application public consultation, a range of communication methods were used to provide information about the Proposed Development and ensure that the local community had the opportunity to provide their feedback. These methods included:

5.1.1 Introductory letter to county and district councillors

On 30 March 2022, the Applicant wrote to the ward councillor for Thoroton ward and county councillor for Bingham East ward, to advise them that they were investigating the potential for a solar farm development at the site location and would be undertaking a range of consultation activities in the near future. The letter also invited the parties to get in contact if they wished to arrange a meeting to discuss the proposal. A copy of the letter can be found at **Appendix A**.

5.1.2 Introductory letter to parish meetings

On 8 April 2022, the Applicant wrote to Thoroton, Hawksworth, Sibthorpe and Shelton parish meetings, to advise them that they were investigating the potential for a solar farm development at the site location and enclosing a newsletter regarding the upcoming public exhibitions. The letter also invited these parties to get in contact if they wished to arrange a meeting to discuss the proposal. A copy of the letter can be found at **Appendix B** and a copy of the newsletter can be found at **Appendix C**.

5.1.3 Introductory letter to outdoor recreation groups

On 8 April 2022, the Applicant wrote to representatives from Rushcliffe Ramblers, the British Horse Society, Vale of Belvoir Cycling Club and Velo Club Flintham to advise them that they were investigating the potential for a solar farm development at the site location and enclosing a newsletter regarding the upcoming public exhibitions. The letter also invited these parties to get in contact if they wished to arrange a meeting to discuss the proposal. A copy of the letter can be found at **Appendix B** and a copy of the newsletter can be found at **Appendix C**.

5.1.4 Email to county and district councillors

On 8 April 2022, the Applicant wrote to the ward councillor for Thoroton ward and county councillor for Bingham East ward enclosing a newsletter regarding the upcoming public exhibitions. A copy of the newsletter can be found at **Appendix C**.

5.1.5 Newsletter to local residents

On 8 April 2022, the Applicant sent a newsletter, advertising upcoming public exhibitions, to 137 properties identified within 500m of the site as shown on the map below. A copy of the newsletter can be found at **Appendix C**.



5.1.6 Pre-exhibition advertising

The applicant placed an advertisement in the Newark Advertiser, on 7 April 2022 to inform the wider community of the public exhibitions. A copy of the advertisement can be found at **Appendix D**.

5.1.7 Project website

On 8 April 2022, a project website was launched at www.longhedge-solarfarm.co.uk containing information on the project as well as contact details for the Applicant project team.

The project website is updated regularly including when the planning submission is made, to include links to all planning application documentation and information on how people can comment on the application.

5.1.8 Pre-exhibition posters

On 12 April 2022, laminated A4 posters, advertising the upcoming public exhibitions, were sent to Thoroton and Hawksworth parish meetings. A copy of the poster can be found at **Appendix E**.

5.1.9 Pre-exhibition meetings

On 20 April 2022, the Applicant met with a representative from Thoroton Parish Meeting ahead of the public exhibition at 2pm, to discuss the proposal. Similarly, the Applicant met with a representative from Hawksworth Parish Meeting ahead of the public exhibition on 21 April 2022.

5.1.10 Public exhibitions

The public exhibitions took place between 2pm and 7pm on 20 April 2022 at Thoroton Church and at the same times on 21 April 2022 at Hawksworth Community Hall.

All of the material provided at the public exhibitions was also published on the project website at <http://www.longhedge-solarfarm.co.uk> from 20 April 2022. A copy of the exhibition materials can be found at **Appendix F**.

For people without internet access, hard copies of the exhibition material were available upon request. One request for hard copies was received.

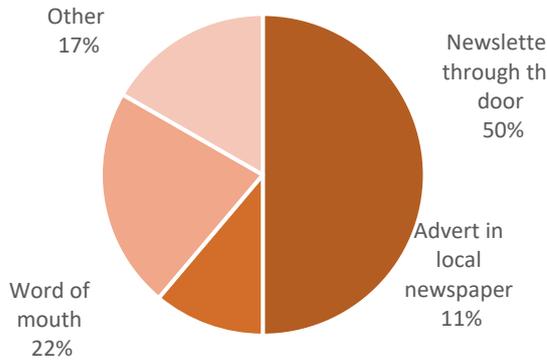
A comments form was provided as part of the public exhibitions and online, to encourage feedback from attendees about renewable energy in general, the project design specifically and requesting feedback on the permissive path proposal (see Section 6.7 for further information), and was made available as a hard copy at the exhibitions or as a downloadable version on the project website. A copy of the comments form can be found at **Appendix G**.

Eighteen completed comments forms were received by the Applicant. Below is a summary of the answers received to the questions on the comments form.

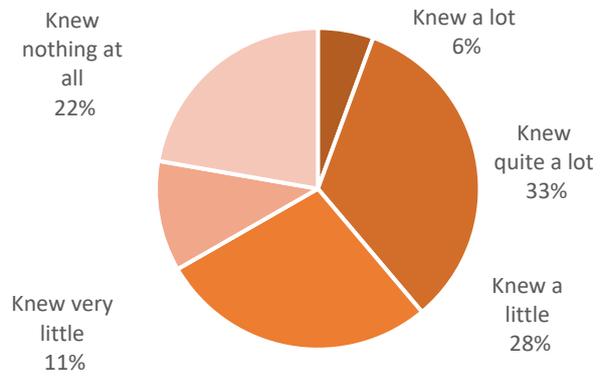
At all stages of the consultation process the Applicant set out clearly the purpose of the consultation and emphasised that comments made were not representations to the determining authority (Rushcliffe Borough Council) and that there would be the opportunity for representations to the determining authority once the planning application was submitted.

5.1.11 Summary of responses to questions on submitted comments form

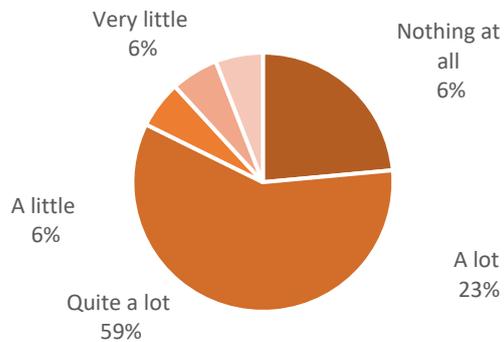
Q1.1 How did you find out about our public exhibitions?



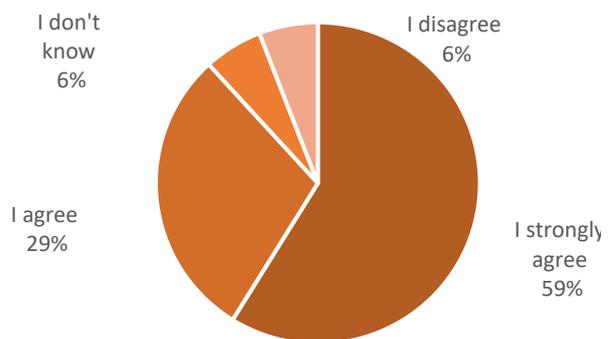
Q1.2 Before visiting the exhibitions how would you describe your knowledge of the proposed Longhedge Solar Farm?



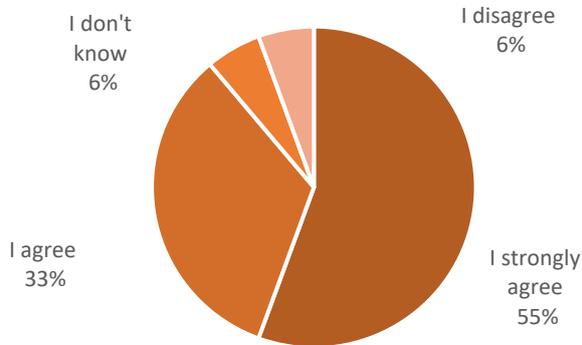
Q1.3 Having visited the exhibitions, to what extent do you feel you have increased your understanding about the proposed Longhedge Solar Farm?



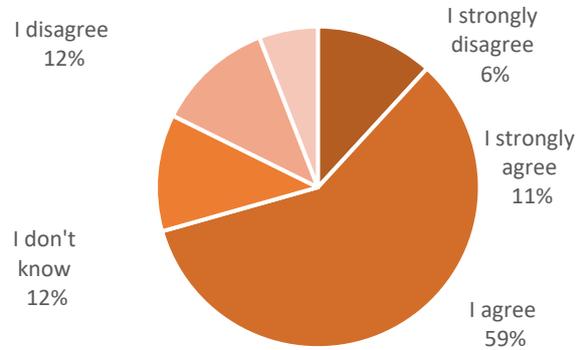
Q2.1 Do you agree that we are facing a global climate change emergency?



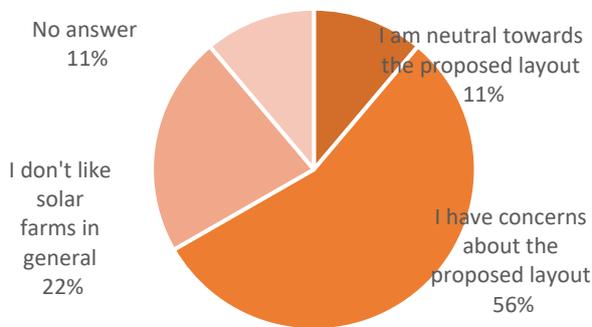
Q2.2 Do you agree that generating electricity from renewable sources, and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, can help towards tackling the issue of climate change?



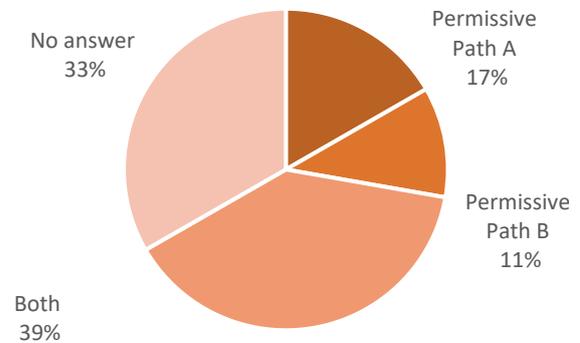
Q2.3 Do you agree that we need to continue developing large scale solar sites which can generate electricity efficiently and at least cost to consumers?



Q3.1 What do you think about the proposed layout of Longhedge Solar Farm?



Q 3.2 RES is exploring the creation of a permissive path to enhance the local Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network and are asking visitors to choose their preferred permissive path option.



5.1.11 Other consultation

On 11 May 2022, the Applicant held an online meeting with a representative from the British Horse Society.

In addition to the activities outlined in sections 5.1.1 to 5.1.10, the Applicant has been receiving and responding to enquiries and comments from representatives of Thoroton and Hawksworth parish meetings, via email.

5.2. All feedback received during the consultation has been considered by the Applicant throughout the design iteration and pre-planning stages of the Proposed Development. A summary of feedback, issues and concerns raised, together with the Applicant's response to each can be found in section 6.

6. FEEDBACK AND APPLICANT'S RESPONSE

The Applicant believes in meaningful and effective consultation, to facilitate constructive dialogue with stakeholders and the community. All feedback received through the pre-application consultation activities is considered, as part of the iterative design process. A summary of the feedback received, and the Applicant's response is below.

6.1. Need for Large Scale Ground Mounted Solar

Comment(s) received:

"We'll cope - past history shows the planet a lot warmer than today and life still developed. The earth cools/warms on a cycle"

"The whole problem is down to too many people using available sources"

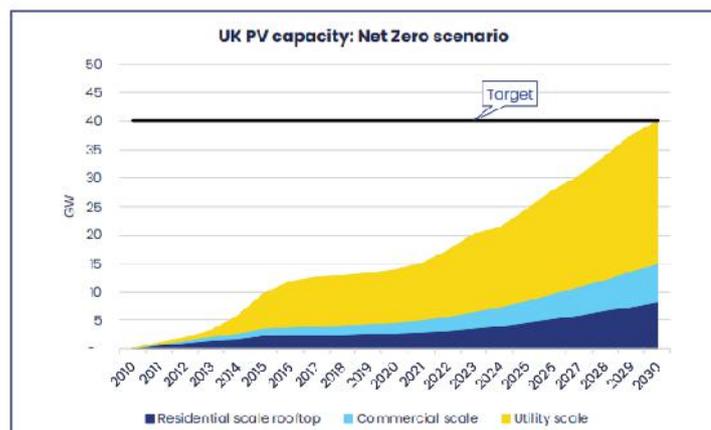
"We need to relax planning to allow more onshore wind turbines - you do not lose so much land"

Applicant response:

As laid out in its Net Zero Strategy published in October 2021, the UK Government has made it clear that solar and wind will be the backbone to achieving a secure, affordable and low carbon energy supply.

Analysis from the Climate Change Committee² and other independent bodies shows that the UK will need to deploy at least 40GW of solar by 2030 if it is to achieve net zero by 2050.

Solar Energy UK² has published an analysis, as shown in the table below, estimating that residential and commercial development is expected to account for nearly 37% (15GW) of the total 2030 solar PV deployment with the remaining 63% (25GW) coming from large scale ground mounted solar farms.



Solar Energy UK's *Lighting the Way Report*² estimates the type and amount of solar deployment needed to reach the target of 40GW of solar by 2030.

The UK Energy Security Strategy³ published in April 2022 commits to look to increase the UK's current 14GW of solar capacity by up to 5 times by 2035. Our current power system still relies heavily on fossil fuels, such as gas. The volatile price of gas is the main reason

² <https://solarenergyuk.org/resource/lighting-the-way-making-net-zero-a-reality-with-solar-energy/?cn-reloaded=1>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/british-energy-security-strategy/british-energy-security-strategy>

that bills have increased so rapidly in recent months. The need to rapidly scale up home grown energy has become even more urgent.

Large-scale solar, alongside onshore and offshore wind is now the cheapest form of electricity generation. This makes developments like the Proposed Development not just good for the environment but also for the consumer. If consented, the Proposed Development would be capable of producing clean, green electricity for approximately 15,200 homes⁴ every year.

6.2. Loss of Agricultural Land and Agricultural Land Classification

Comment(s) received:

“Unsure as to the loss of agricultural land at a time when we need to improve our ability to feed our nation”

“Destruction of valuable farm land”

“Solar farms should not be on agricultural land”

“We should be making every effort to become as self-sufficient as possible in our food production. I therefore have strong reservations about the use of arable land for use as solar farms. This may not be 'prime agricultural' land but non the less it has been producing crops for as long as I can remember (nearly 40 years) and a very long time before that”

“You’ve classified the land on which the solar farm is to be situated as predominantly sub grade 3b. However, the DEFRA classification show this land as a mixture of grade 2 (majority) and grade 3 (minority)”

Applicant response:

The Proposed Development would not pose a threat to food security. One of the biggest risks to food security is the changing climate. This is clear from recent reports on how this year’s drought is affecting harvests of staple crops including potatoes, carrots and onions⁵. The Proposed Development will help towards tackling climate change and furthermore, is specifically designed to be dual purpose, enabling continued agricultural use, in the form of sheep grazing, and renewable generation.

Agricultural land covers between 56% and 70% of UK land. Solar farms in the UK currently have a combined capacity of around 14GW which makes up just under 0.1% of land in the UK. By comparison, the total land used by the UK’s golf courses is 0.5% and airports is 0.2%. The UK Energy Security Strategy³ commits to increase the UK’s current 14GW of solar capacity by up to 5 times by 2035. If the government meets its target of increasing solar capacity fivefold, ground-mounted solar would cover a total of around just 0.3% of the UK’s land surface⁶ which is still less than the total land used by the UK’s golf courses.

The project has been designed in such a way that just 4% of the land is physically occupied by the solar infrastructure. This allows remaining land to be accessible for plant growth, wildlife enhancements and complementary agricultural activities such as grazing.

The application is for temporary consent for dual purpose - enabling agricultural use in the form of sheep farming and generating renewable electricity using solar as a green energy source. It should be noted that the project is fully reversible, and the site can therefore be reinstated back to its current state following the operational period. Furthermore, where a solar farm is installed on land which has been previously farmed, it enables the ground underneath to recover, while providing income for the

⁴ Based on average annual yield of 57GWh/3,748kWh per household

⁵ <https://i.news.co.uk/news/uk-drought-farmers-struggle-feed-cattle-cheap-meat-heatwave-1793194>

⁶ <https://www.carbonbrief.org/factcheck-is-solar-power-a-threat-to-uk-farmland/>

farming business. This means solar farms help to regenerate soil quality, and so are helping to ensure the continued availability of high-quality agricultural acreage for future generations.

Sheep farming provides employment, supports rural economies and can produce a much more diverse ecological mosaic across the site. Landscapes managed by grazing sheep support a rich diversity of wildlife, while producing food.

An Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey (**Volume 3 - Technical Appendix 9**) accompanies the planning application. The largest proportion of land has been classified as subgrade 3b.

6.3. Scale of the Development

Comment(s) received:

“Too big”

“I believe the area is too big and question why the field to the east is included”

“Take out east field to reduce the overall area”

Applicant response:

The Applicant’s priority is to deliver clean, green electricity at the lowest cost for consumers. Unlike older solar farms which benefitted from subsidies, economies of scale are required to drive the cost efficiencies needed to keep the cost of electricity low and to meet the government’s net zero ambitions.

As a result of feedback from the community and the results of site surveys and assessments, , solar infrastructure in the field on the eastern side of Shelton Road has been removed, along with removal of infrastructure from fields to the north east of the site alongside the bridleway, reducing the overall size of the scheme by over 14 hectares to a total of 94.24 hectares.

6.4. Location/Visual Impact

Comment(s) received:

“Too close to villages”

“Concern regarding the proximity to the village”

“Build it further away from villages”

“Proximity to villages”

“Impact on the landscape”

“I feel the visual impact could be much greater than you imply”

“Tree planting on all borders for higher screening. Larger buffers, particularly near Stubbs works - too close”

Applicant response:

The site has been chosen as it has good solar irradiation levels, lies outside of any statutory environmental, archaeological and landscape designations and due to its proximity to a viable grid connection.

The Proposed Development has been through a detailed design process, and the Applicant has taken account of feedback from the community and stakeholders, as well as the results of site surveys and assessments. This has resulted in a number of changes being made to the design to ensure the solar farm fits sensitively into the existing landscape whilst maximising the low carbon, low cost electricity generation. The design changes made include:

6.5. Traffic and Construction

Comment(s) received:

“Impact during construction phase, highway amenity, etc”

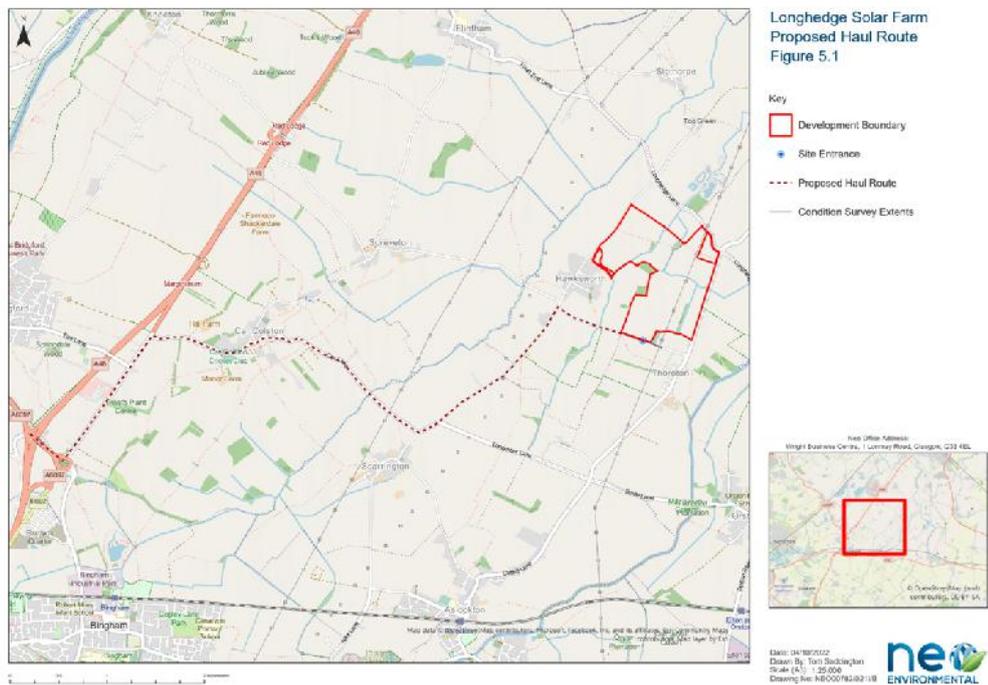
“The roads around this area are not suitable for the amount of traffic you want to bring in. Roads are very narrow”

“The Hawksworth road is narrow which is a concern if construction traffic is to use it to access the site”

“Bridleway Hawksworth 7 reaches Thoroton Road which is the proposed route used by the construction/maintenance traffic. Equestrians would need to ride along the road to access permissive path B or to continue up Shelton Road to use Thoroton BW3. The lanes are single track and between hedgerows and although there are verges, HGV’s are generally 2.5m wide and 4.5m high (some vehicles for component transportation significantly larger) which would sandwich a horse and rider between the vehicle and the hedgerow along the route with little room for refuge which may cause panic”

Applicant response:

Construction and delivery vehicles will leave the A46 onto Bridgford Street before turning left onto Fosse Way. The vehicles will then follow Tenman Lane and Car Lane through Car Colston before turning left onto Hawksworth Road. Vehicles will then turn right onto Thoroton Road before the village of Hawksworth, reaching the site entrance on the left, to the south of the project. This route will avoid impacting either Hawksworth or Thoroton villages.



A Construction Traffic Management Plan (**Volume 3 - Technical Appendix 5**) accompanies the planning application and itemises expected traffic movements and hours of operation.

Hours of operation and traffic movements will be limited to avoid morning and evening peak times. There will also be a dedicated Community Liaison Officer to engage with local residents, throughout the construction and operational phases.

A pre-and post-construction condition survey of all access roads and tracks will be undertaken and the Applicant will be liable to repair any damage caused as a result of the solar farm construction.

Operational traffic movements are generally low, on average once a month for maintenance purposes, and site inspections. Active monitoring is carried out by the Operations & Maintenance (O&M) team and site manager which can reduce site attendance through early fault detection.

6.6. Impact on Property Values

Comment(s) received:

“Houses in Hawksworth may drop in value”

Applicant response:

Property value is subjective and can be affected by a range of factors. There is no firm evidence on whether UK solar farms do or do not affect house prices.

The Applicant is aware of residents close to other renewable energy projects, who enjoy having renewable energy projects close by and believe that they add value to their community.

Potential impact on local properties, in terms of noise, visibility and glint and glare, have been assessed as part of the preparation of this planning application and design changes and mitigation measures have been adopted where appropriate to minimise any potential impacts.

6.7. Public Rights of Way (PROW)

Comment(s) received:

“All bridleways need to be kept or relocated”

“The PROW with equestrian access that would be immediately impacted by the proposed development are Public Bridleways 1, 4 and 7 in the parish of Hawksworth and BW1, 3 and 6 in the parish of Thoroton. Hawksworth BW 1 and Thoroton BW 6 would be consumed within the site. We would want to be assured how the bridleway, offering vital off-road access, would remain accessible to equestrians during the construction then the maintenance phases. The width of the PROW corridor and maintenance of hedge planting to avoid encroachment on the width should be clarified. Avoiding additional furniture eg gates on the route is preferable but if a necessity and authorised then these should be able to be operated by a rider mounted using one hand”

“Can routes be in perpetuity?”

“Minimum width of Bridleway should be 3m”

“Can Permissive path B continue on along the southern road”

Applicant response:

The Applicant understands the value of the Public Rights of Way (PROW) Network to the local community and users. Solar infrastructure will be set back from the PROW and planting will be proposed along sections of the PROW to ensure openness is not compromised and to reduce potential visual impact.

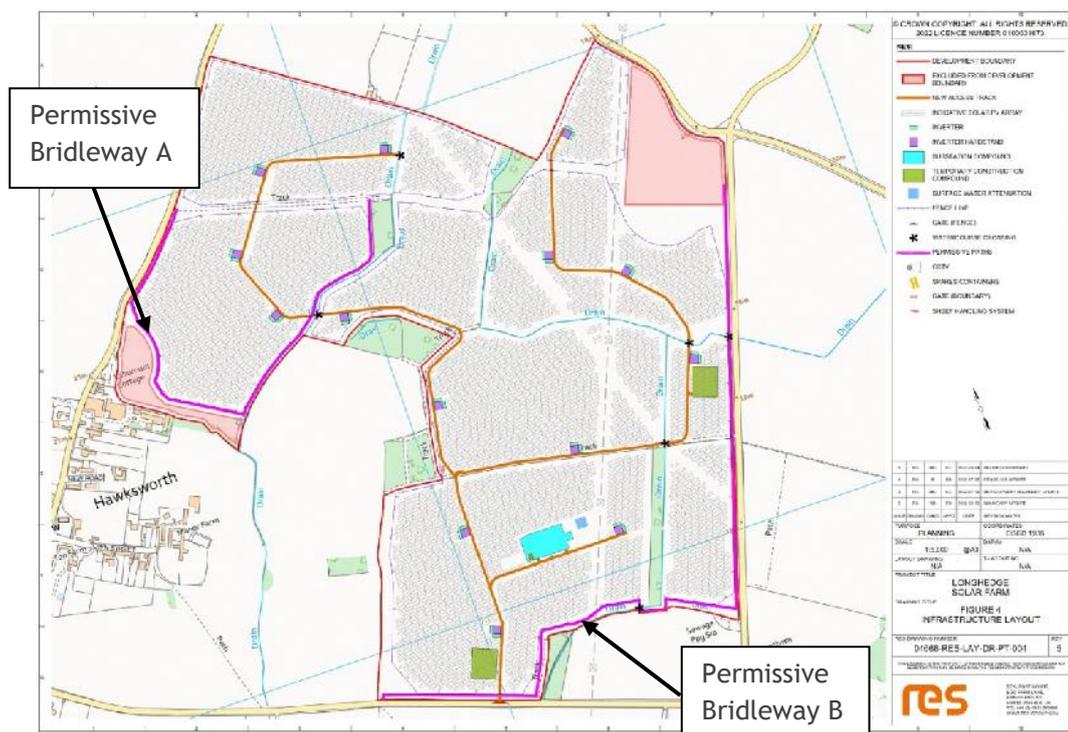
As part of pre-application consultation, the Applicant has consulted with the British Horse Society (BHS) as well as a representative of the rambler's association. Their feedback, the British Horse Society advice on solar farms⁷ and the Notts Area Ramblers' Policy Solar Energy (England) has helped to inform the design for the Longhedge Solar Farm, particularly with regard to the bridleway widths to be maintained and set-back distances from inverters.

At the public exhibitions in April 2022, the Applicant explained they were exploring the creation of a new permissive path to enhance the local PRow network, and presented a plan showing two permissive path options to the visitors at the public exhibition, asking them to choose their preferred option. Based on the feedback that the majority would prefer that both permissive paths be created, both options have been included in the planning application.

To provide recreational benefits to a wide range of Public Rights of Way users, the Applicant proposes the creation of two permissive bridleways. The permissive bridleways will be a minimum width of 5 metres and remain in place throughout the proposed 40-year lifetime of the solar farm, after which the land can be returned to its original use.

Permissive bridleway A, to the west of the site, provides a safe off-road route from the village of Hawksworth connecting with the existing bridleway running across the north of the site. Permissive bridleway B runs along the eastern side of the site toward the village of Thoroton to the south where it connects to the existing Public Right of Way.

The location of permissive bridleways A and B are shown in purple in the plan below.



6.8. Biodiversity

Comment(s) received:

*“Biodiversity needs to be maintained/improved”
“Ecology should be improved”*

Applicant response:

An Ecological Assessment has been undertaken for the proposed solar farm, to assess the potential impacts on local ecology as a result of the development. The short-term disturbance resulting from the Proposed Development will not be significant. With the proposed mitigation undertaken and, with the implementation of pre-commencement surveys, there will be no significant adverse effects upon protected or notable species. For more information see **Volume 3 - Technical Appendix 2**.

Accompanying the planning application is a Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) which sets out the Applicant’s proposals to maintain and enhance biodiversity on the project. Measures include planting of native trees and over 2.5km of new species-rich hedgerows to provide a plentiful source of food and shelter for a range of fauna. The creation of wildlife shelters, placed strategically throughout the site, will provide shelter for a range of species. These include bird and bat boxes, hedgehog houses, reptile hibernacula, invertebrate hotels and additional bee banks to complement the existing beehives on the site. The proposals would lead to a significant biodiversity net gain of 187.13% in area habitat units as well as contributing towards the National Pollinator Strategy.

Creating hedgerows will benefit a range of local species including Priority Species such as terrestrial mammals and newts. If the correct species are planted and maintained correctly, a hedgerow’s potential can be maximised, providing food and shelter throughout the year, as well as connecting existing green infrastructure and wildlife movement corridors. Where possible, measures have been implemented as part of the iterative design process to prevent potential effects on sensitive ecological features.

Such measures include:

- 5m buffer from hedgerows
- 8m drainage ditch buffer
- Tree buffers
- 10m buffer from woodland

More details can be found at **Volume 3 - Technical Appendix 2, appendix 2.1**.

6.9. Flood Risk

Comment(s) received:

“The large field has historically flooded”

Applicant response:

A Flood Risk and Drainage Impact Assessment (**Volume 3 - Technical Appendix 4**) has been produced as part of the planning application.

The site of the proposed solar farm is not assessed to be at significant risk of flooding from groundwater or surface water flooding with the design of the project carefully considered to mitigate against any potential risk.

Whilst the assessment demonstrates that the development’s impact on surface water runoff is minimal, drainage in the form of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) has been

proposed which will not only adequately mitigate the minimal increase in flow rates but provides a significant improvement to drainage on the site.

6.10. Local Benefits

Comment(s) received:

“Consideration for a supply to local villages”

“Thoroton is a tiny village and as such lacks much community infrastructure. One suggestion would be for money for the defibrillator we are wanting to place in the phone box. Another would be for money to enable the plans already in waiting to turn over part of the church for community use to be carried out”

“Support for maintenance of the church building”

“You need to give back to the villages and community affected”

“Glass doors in the church”

“Pay church heating”

“Charging points - useful”

“Part ownership with villages”

Applicant response:

As we transition to a net-zero future, reducing the impacts of climate change both locally and globally, the Applicant’s priority is to deliver clean, green electricity at the lowest cost for consumers.

The Applicant estimates the Proposed Development would deliver over £6.5million in business rates over its lifetime, supporting vital local services for all local residents.

The Applicant has included the creation of both permissive bridleways in the Proposed Development, following feedback from the local community. Permissive bridleway A, to the west of the site, provides a safe off-road route from the village of Hawksworth connecting with the existing bridleway running across the north of the site. Permissive bridleway B runs along the eastern side of the site toward the village of Thoroton to the south where it connects to the existing Public Right of Way.

Through a comprehensive Biodiversity Management Plan, a significant biodiversity net gain of over 187% is predicted.

The Applicant is exploring other local benefits which the project may be able to deliver and also welcomes further feedback and ideas from the local community on priority projects and aims in their area, which may be able to be supported as part of our proposal.

6.11. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Comment(s) received:

“Request that RES pay for a full independent Environmental Impact Assessment to be undertaken by expert consultants. These independent experts to be chosen by and answerable to village residents”

Applicant response:

The Applicant’s principal consultant is Neo Environmental Ltd (Neo). Neo are an independent planning and environmental consultancy who are corporate members of The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessments (IEMA). As part of their

membership they must accord strictly with the IEMA code of conduct and ensure all reports and surveys are produced in line with relevant statutory standards and guidelines. All Neo staff and any sub-contractors are highly accredited and members of various relevant industry bodies including the Landscape Institute (LI), Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (CIFA), Institute of Acoustics, Royal Town and Planning Institute (RTPI) and Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES). The staff are guided by the principles and code of conducts of these various bodies and must comply with the relevant standards. Further to this Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC) and statutory consultees will be consulted as part of any of Neo's assessments and methodologies will be agreed in line with industry standards. RBC and statutory consultees will assess and vet reports to ensure they are produced in line with the standard policies and criteria.

The planning system ensures all supporting documentation submitted with the Applicant's planning application is reliable and competent. The application and supporting documentation is reviewed against material considerations including planning policies in the Rushcliffe Borough Local Plan, government advice and policy, highway safety and traffic, noise and disturbance and design amongst other factors. As well as consulting with the local community regarding the application, the local authority will also consult with statutory consultees, with all consultee responses and the planning officer's report made publicly available.

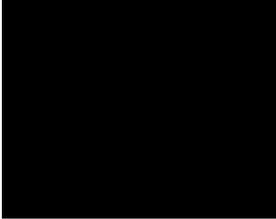
7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1. This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has provided an overview of the engagement and consultation activities that have been, and continue to be, undertaken by the Applicant on the Proposed Development.
- 7.2. The Applicant has undertaken a comprehensive pre-application engagement programme in order to proactively inform and engage with the local community and key stakeholders. This process has allowed the Applicant to identify and respond to local issues and potential concerns.
- 7.3. Analysis from the comments forms has shown that those who attended the public exhibition felt better informed about the proposals further to their attendance. 78% increased their understanding of the Proposed Development either 'a lot' or 'quite a lot' following attendance at the exhibition.
- 7.4. Of the issues raised during the consultation, issues relating to loss of agricultural land and traffic were of particular importance to the community. Constructive comments on these and other topics have been taken into consideration by the Applicant before the submission of the planning application. The solar farm is specifically designed to be dual-purpose enabling continued agricultural use, in the form of sheep grazing, and renewable generation. The solar farm will also contribute towards tackling climate change, the biggest threat to the UK's food security. The access route has been specifically designed to avoid both the villages of Thoroton and Hawksworth and where PRoW meet the access route, measures have been proposed to ensure PRoW users have priority and are kept safe at all times.
- 7.5. This feedback has resulted in the Applicant undertaking an iterative design process in order to integrate the Proposed Development into the surrounding site as sensitively as possible, while taking account of comments received during the pre-application consultation.
- 7.6. Changes that have been made throughout the pre-application process include removing solar infrastructure from the east field as well as from a large section from the far north-eastern field. To further reduce any potential visibility, the height of the solar panels has been reduced from 3.5m to 2.8m.

7.7. The Applicant is committed to continuing the open dialogue it has established with the local community during pre-application public consultation as the application process continues, as outlined within this SCI.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A	Introductory letter to county and district councillors
APPENDIX B	Introductory letter to parish meetings and recreation groups
APPENDIX C	Public exhibition newsletter
APPENDIX D	Public exhibition newspaper advert
APPENDIX E	Public exhibition poster
APPENDIX F	Public exhibition materials
APPENDIX G	Comments Form



30th March 2022

Dear ,

RE: Longhedge Solar Farm Proposal, between Thoroton and Hawksworth

I am writing to advise you that RES is exploring the potential for a solar farm between Thoroton and Hawksworth with the hope of submitting a planning application later this year.

RES, a British company, is the world's largest independent renewable energy business active in onshore and offshore wind, solar, energy storage and transmission and distribution. At the forefront of the industry for 40 years, RES has delivered more than 22 GW of renewable energy projects across the globe.

Analysis from the Climate Change Committee and other independent bodies shows that the UK will need to deploy at least 40GW of solar by 2030 if it is to achieve net zero targets. Large-scale solar, alongside onshore wind are now the cheapest forms of electricity generation making developments like Longhedge Solar Farm not just good for the environment but also the consumer.

Solar farms have significant potential to enhance biodiversity, hosting a range of habitats including wildflower meadows, hedgerows, nectar-rich areas for pollinators, and woodland. A typical solar farm uses around just 5% of the total site area with the rest of the land remaining undisturbed, creating significant opportunities to provide a range of ecological benefits.

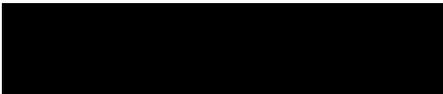
Detailed technical and environmental assessments will be carried out to ensure any potential impact upon the environment, landscape, heritage and local residents is appropriately assessed. The findings from the surveys and assessments will be written up in a number of detailed documents which will accompany any planning application. We are liaising with Rushcliffe Borough Council, on the proposal, and have recently submitted an EIA screening request.

RES believes in meaningful and effective consultation and we aim to also engage early with the local community and key stakeholders in order to facilitate constructive dialogue. In early April we will distribute a newsletter to all properties in Thoroton and Hawksworth, along with other stakeholders, ahead of public exhibitions to be held later in April. We will also shortly be launching a dedicated website for the proposed solar farm. Feedback from the community will be taken into account, along with the results of site surveys and assessments, as we refine the design of the proposed solar farm.

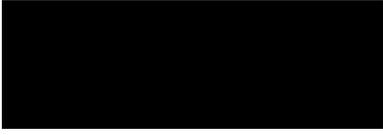
We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the proposed scheme in more detail with you and would be happy to set up a telephone/video call at a convenient time.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries.

Yours sincerely,



Claire Chamberlain
Development Project Manager
E: claire.chamberlain@res-group.com



8 April 2022

Dear ,

RE: Longhedge Solar Farm Proposal, between Thoroton and Hawksworth

I am writing to advise you that RES is exploring the potential for a solar farm between Thoroton and Hawksworth with the hope of submitting a planning application later this year.

RES, a British company, is the world's largest independent renewable energy business active in onshore and offshore wind, solar, energy storage and transmission and distribution. At the forefront of the industry for 40 years, RES has delivered more than 22 GW of renewable energy projects across the globe.

Analysis from the Climate Change Committee and other independent bodies shows that the UK will need to deploy at least 40GW of solar by 2030 if it is to achieve net zero targets. Large-scale solar, alongside onshore wind are now the cheapest forms of electricity generation making developments like Longhedge Solar Farm not just good for the environment but also the consumer.

RES believes in meaningful and effective consultation and we aim to also engage early with the local community and key stakeholders in order to facilitate constructive dialogue. Enclosed with this letter is a newsletter with further information about public exhibitions we will be holding in the local area on 20 and 21 April, to enable people to find out more about the proposal and provide us with their views. RES staff will be on hand to answer any questions or queries. We have also launched a dedicated website at www.longhedge-solarfarm.co.uk.

Solar farms have significant potential to enhance biodiversity, hosting a range of habitats including wildflower meadows, hedgerows, nectar-rich areas for pollinators, and woodland. A typical solar farm uses around just 5% of the total site area with the rest of the land remaining undisturbed, creating significant opportunities to provide a range of ecological benefits as well as agricultural activity.

Detailed technical and environmental assessments will be carried out to ensure any potential impact upon the environment, landscape, heritage and local residents is appropriately assessed. The findings from the surveys and assessments will be written up in a number of detailed documents which will accompany any planning application. We are liaising with Rushcliffe Borough Council, on the proposal, and have recently submitted an EIA screening request.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the proposed scheme in more detail with you and we would be happy to set up a telephone/video call at a convenient time.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries.

Yours sincerely,



Claire Chamberlain
Development Project Manager
E: claire.chamberlain@res-group.com

LONGHEDGE SOLAR FARM

APRIL 2022



RES is exploring the potential for a solar farm on lands between Thoroton and Hawksworth.

Environmental and technical surveys have been ongoing in recent months to ensure that the site is suitable for a solar farm development and to inform a preliminary layout and design.

RES is now at the stage of consulting with the local community to get feedback on our early stage proposal. The feedback will be taken into account, along with the results of site surveys and assessments, as we refine the design.

Public exhibitions

We are keen to engage with the local community and as part of our pre-application consultation we are holding public exhibitions in the local area to enable people to find out more about the proposal and provide us with their views. RES staff will be on hand to answer any questions or queries, and comment forms will be available to gather feedback.



WEDNESDAY

20th April 2022,
2pm to 7pm
St Helena's Church,
Thoroton

THURSDAY

21st April 2022,
2pm to 7pm
Hawksworth
Community Hall

All information provided at the public exhibitions will also be available on our website at www.longhedge-solarfarm.co.uk from 20th April 2022.

The public exhibitions initiate a consultation period being run by RES to gather comments on the proposal. **The closing date for comments is 6th May 2022.** Comments will still be accepted after this date but may not be considered in relation to the design development.

Comments on the proposal should be provided in writing by either filling out a comment form at one of the exhibitions or online, or by writing to RES, Beaufort Court, Egg Farm Lane, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, WD4 8LR.

Please note that comments submitted to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (Rushcliffe Borough Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.

Longhedge Solar Farm at a glance

The proposed Longhedge Solar Farm is located between the villages of Thoroton and Hawksworth in Nottinghamshire.

It is anticipated that the solar farm would be capable of generating around 49.9MW of clean, low cost renewable electricity, enough to power approximately 12,000* homes.

The site has been chosen as it has good solar irradiation levels, lies outside of any statutory environmental, archaeological and landscape designations and due to its proximity to a viable grid connection.



About RES

RES is the world's largest independent renewable energy company with operations across Europe, the Americas and Asia-Pacific. At the forefront of renewable energy development for 40 years, RES has developed and/or built more than 22GW of renewable energy capacity worldwide.

RES are developing a number of projects, ranging from 20MW to 120MW, across the UK & Ireland using the latest solar technology. RES also provide full scope asset management and operations and maintenance services across a wide portfolio, and in 2021 were voted the fastest growing solar O&M provider in the UK, by a report published by Wood Mackenzie.



Claire Chamberlain

Development Project Manager

✉ claire.chamberlain@res-group.com



Carey Green

Community Liaison Officer

✉ carey.green@res-group.com

☎ 01872 226 931

RES, Beaufort Court, Egg Farm Lane, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, WD4 8LR

If you require information in Braille, large text or audio, please let us know.

*The homes figure has been calculated by taking the predicted annual electricity generation of the site (based on RES assessments Longhedge has a predicted capacity factor of approx. 10.3%) and dividing this by the annual average electricity figures from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) showing that the annual UK average domestic household consumption is 3,748 kWh (Dec 2021).

The cost of delivering aid — can you assist?

VOLUNTEERS sending aid to war-ravaged Ukraine and its displaced population urgently needs help from anyone able to provide lorries to make the trip, or funding to make their deliveries possible.

The group has a collections space at Tuxford courtesy of Premier Movers and has sent several lorry-loads of vital supplies to both Poland and Ukraine.

Lorries had been provided for free as they delivered goods to shops selling regional food stuffs and delicacies in the UK and travelled back empty, but rising costs mean that is no longer possible.

"We recognised the need all over Poland and Ukraine," said Emilia Golanowska, one of those involved with the group.

"We work with communities all over Poland and have close links with Poles in the UK.

"They tell us what they need and we put out an appeal.

"We've been asked to send a lorry-load of canned food to meet an immediate need."

The group, Ukraine Support from Mansfield and Ashfield, was set up after the owner of a Polish shop travelled to Ukraine to rescue his wife's sister and his mother-in-law, returning home



ROMAN GASECKI and Emilia Golanowska from the group Ukraine Support from Mansfield and Ashfield at their collection space at Premier Movers, Tuxford.

realising he had little to give them and that hundreds of thousands of people were in the same desperate position.

"We work with mayors and counsels to get them exactly what they need," said Emilia.

"Humanitarian aid such as toiletries, toys, clothing, food mattresses, 100 camp beds and for Ukrainian soldiers, medical sup-

plies, power generators and chainsaws.

"There is no point in collecting if we can't get it there.

"There are lots of little places in Poland that need help with refugees. I am from a little town in south Poland that now has 400 refugees, one tenth of the village. Small communities that have no experience in dealing with sudden increases in their populations. It

is hard to imagine what they are going through, having to support their families, make a living, and support all of the refugees. Poland is not a wealthy nation.

"We now have to pay for lorries because there is a cost in fuel and they use more because they are laden. We have negotiated a reduced price, £1,300 per lorry down from £2,500 to £3,000. What we need is a transport company who are willing to help get our aid out there for free, or for less, or some form of sponsorship or funding. We are all volunteers who give our time for free and are fully recognised as legitimate.

"Some of us have family in Poland or Ukraine. Some of us have young families and we were so upset seeing young families displaced by the war, children separated from their parents, innocent people.

"It was heartache to think of the little kids, so we set our group up."

The group welcomes donations to Premier Movers at Walker's Industrial Estate, Tuxford, NG22 0PQ, from Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, or Saturdays, 9am to noon.

Emilia can be contacted with offers of help on 07865 073207 or zuziaczek5@hotmail.com

Five-star rating for home care

A CARE HOME has been commended for its excellent standards

Bowbridge Court, Newark, was awarded a band five rating by Nottinghamshire County Council.

The council carried out its annual quality monitoring audit at the care home in February and found it to have fully met all five of the standards assessed with no recommendations for improvement.

Claire Gordon-Bundle, home manager, said: "We are absolutely delighted to receive this report, which highlights everything that we strive to achieve at Bowbridge Court.

"The council's care home banding system involves an annual audit to ensure that residential and nursing care in the county meet the highest standards and we are very proud to have achieved the highest possible banding from them.

"Our staff and our residents have a wonderful and fulfilling relationship and they enjoy being here, and being together, every single day and I am incredibly proud to lead such a compassionate and dedicated team."

Bowbridge Court, on Bowbridge Road, is a residential and dementia care home operated by Ideal Carehomes.

The audit covered a wide range of areas and contained detailed observations, including residents' care, food, staff training, and management.

LONGHEDGE SOLAR FARM

Public Exhibitions



RES is exploring the potential for a solar farm on lands between Thoroton and Hawksworth.

We are keen to engage with the local community and as part of our pre-application consultation we are holding public exhibitions in the local area to enable people to find out more about the proposal and provide us with their views. RES staff will be on hand to answer any questions or queries, and comment forms will be available to gather feedback.

WEDNESDAY

20th April 2022, 2pm to 7pm
St Helena's Church, Thoroton

THURSDAY

21st April 2022, 2pm to 7pm
Hawksworth Community Hall

All information provided at the public exhibitions will also be available at www.longhedge-solarfarm.co.uk from 20th April 2022.

The public exhibitions initiate a consultation period being run by RES to gather comments on the proposal. The closing date for comments is 6th May 2022. Comments will still be accepted after this date but may not be considered in relation to the design development.

Comments on the proposal should be provided in writing by either filling out a comment form at one of the exhibitions or online, or by writing to RES, Beaufort Court, Egg Farm Lane, Kings Langley, Herts, WD4 8LR.

Please note that comments submitted to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (Rushcliffe Borough Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.

For more information please visit our website at www.longhedge-solarfarm.co.uk



EVENT organiser Marie Elizabeth Edwards, of Mee And You Connect at Kelham Hall.

Networking for women

A NEW face-to-face networking event has been launched for businesswomen.

Run by business networking expert Marie Elizabeth Edwards, Mee And You Connect aims to help women in business to be inspired, get motivated and make like-minded connections.

A launch event was held in the recently-reopened Kelham Hall.

Trina Kavanagh-Thomas, intuitive mind and body coach at Trina Kavanagh.com, said:

"Marie provides a safe and welcoming space for purpose driven to rise up in their business."

"She brings a unique and fun twist to serious business."

Mee and You Connect included a workshop with empowerment coach Rachel Haith's and expert brand photographer and event sponsor Gemma Wilks creating headshots.

The events will be held every four weeks. The next event will be on April 28.

LONGHEDGE SOLAR FARM

Public Exhibitions



RES is exploring the potential for a solar farm on lands between Thoroton and Hawksworth.

We are keen to engage with the local community and as part of our pre-application consultation we are holding public exhibitions in the local area to enable people to find out more about the proposal and provide us with their views. RES staff will be on hand to answer any questions or queries, and comment forms will be available to gather feedback.

WEDNESDAY

20th April 22, 2pm to 7pm
St Helena's Church, Thoroton

THURSDAY

21st April 22, 2pm to 7pm
Hawksworth Community Hall

All information provided at the public exhibitions will also be available at www.longhedge-solarfarm.co.uk from 20th April 2022.

The public exhibitions initiate a consultation period being run by RES to gather comments on the proposal. The closing date for comments is **6th May 2022**. Comments will still be accepted after this date but may not be considered in relation to the design development.

Comments on the proposal should be provided in writing by either filling out a comment form at one of the exhibitions or online, or by writing to RES, Beaufort Court, Egg Farm Lane, Kings Langley, Herts, WD4 8LR.

Please note that comments submitted to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (Rushcliffe Borough Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.

For more information please visit our website at
www.longhedge-solarfarm.co.uk

WHY SOLAR?

- » Renewable energy at lowest cost to the consumer¹
- » Tackling climate change by supporting the UK's target of net zero by 2050
- » Specifically designed to be dual purpose, combining continued agricultural use and renewable generation
- » Quick to deploy
- » Modern, efficient technology allowing more electricity generation in less space
- » Diversification of agricultural business
- » Significant biodiversity enhancement opportunities by supporting new and existing plant and animal habitats
- » High level of public support²



¹ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/911817/electricity-generation-cost-report-2020.pdf

² https://solarenergyuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Copper-Consultancy_Solar-Energy-UK_Public-attitudes-to-solar_January-2022.pdf



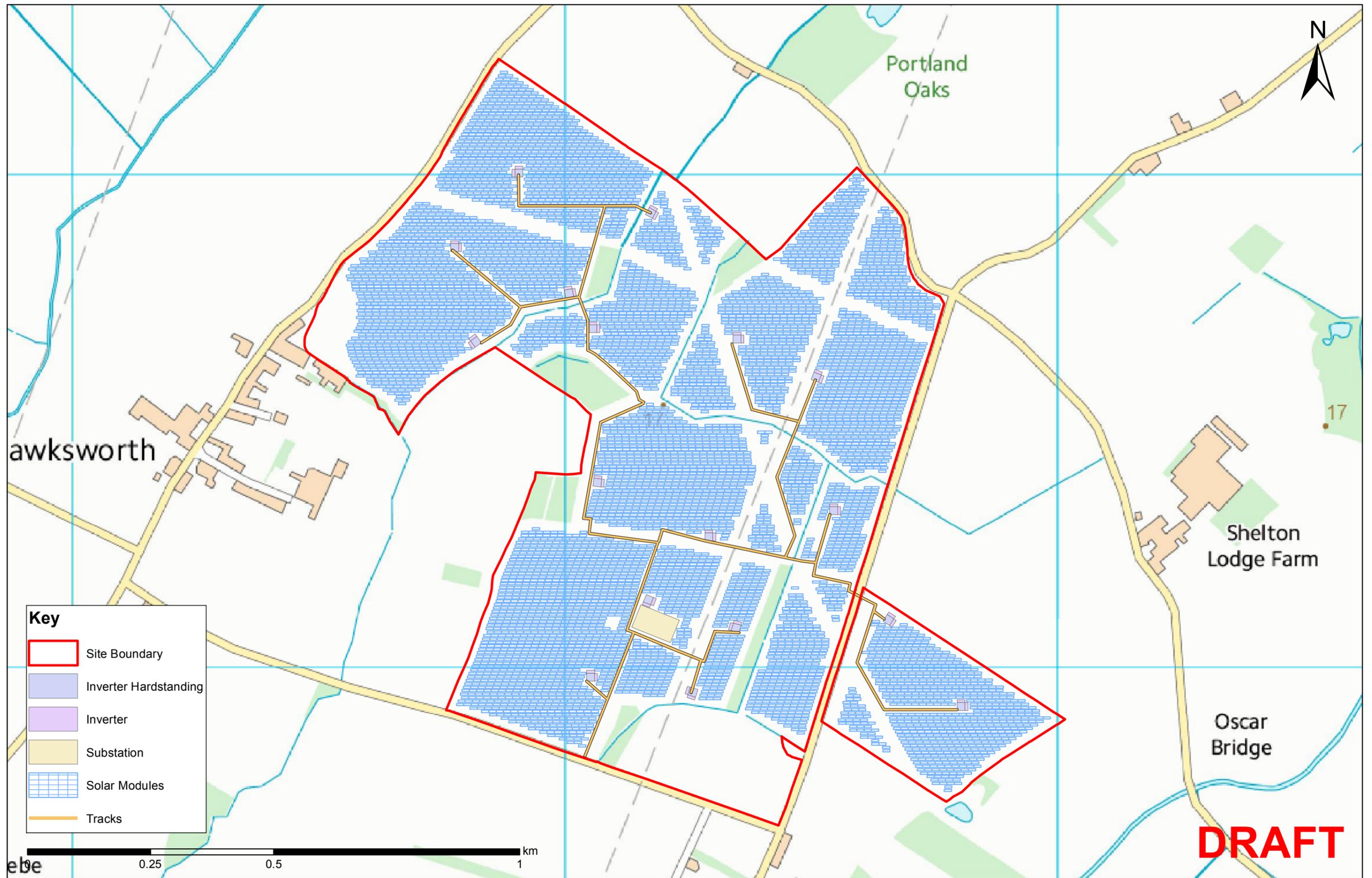
Longhedge Solar Farm Design Layout and Infrastructure

The plan below shows the preliminary layout for the 49.9MW Longhedge Solar Farm.

In addition to the solar panels, the site infrastructure is expected to include:

- A network of on-site tracks
- A substation compound with security fencing
- Inverters on hardstandings
- Temporary construction compound
- Deer fencing around the perimeter of the solar farm

Longhedge Solar Layout





Longhedge Solar Farm Traffic and Access

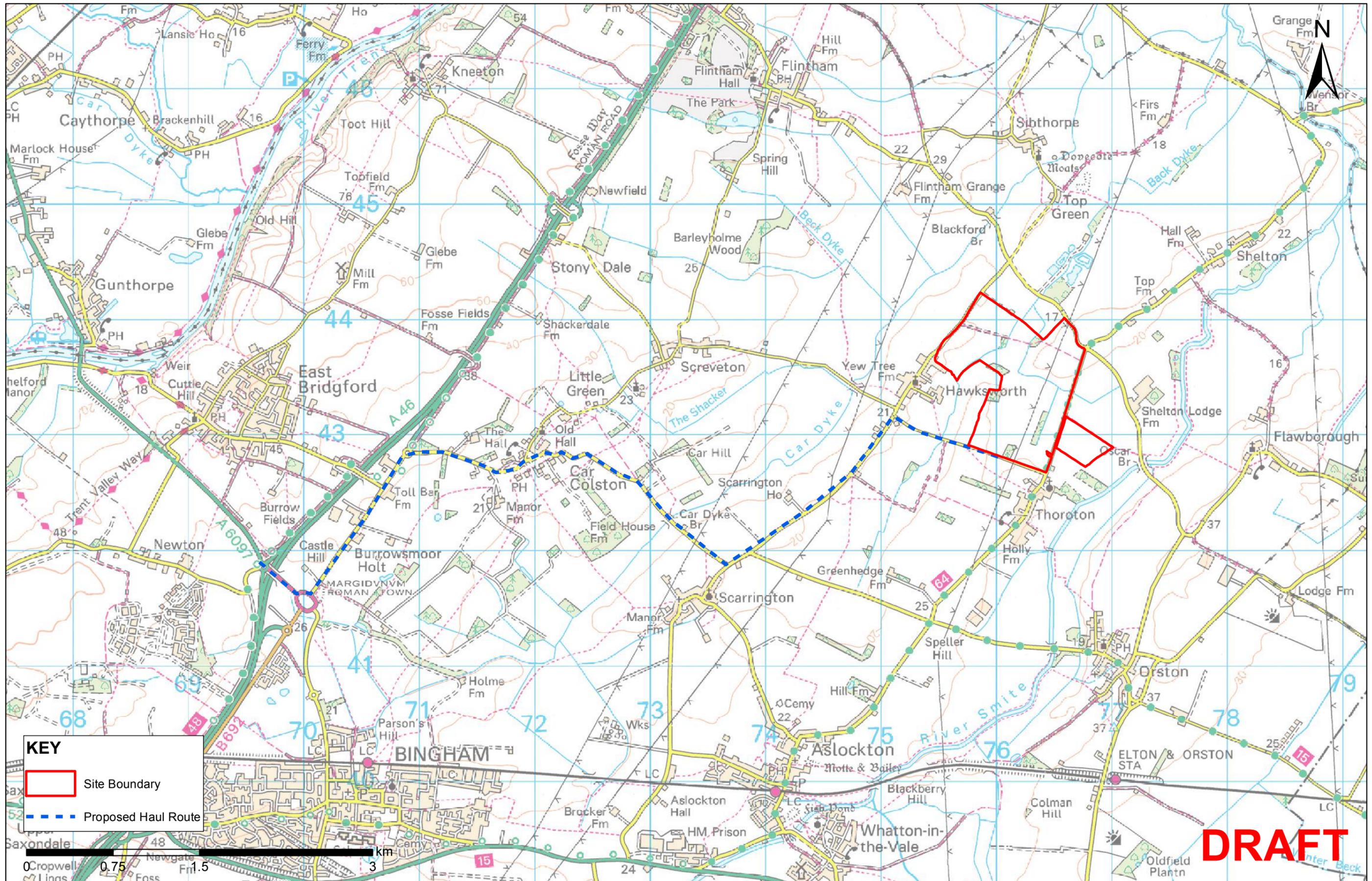
Access is an important consideration when selecting a potential solar farm site.

The plan below shows the proposed delivery route and access point.

We will consult with the local authority, the emergency services, the local community and other relevant bodies to produce a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) to support any planning application. The CTMP outlines the overall framework for managing the safe movement of construction and delivery traffic as well as itemising the expected number of traffic movements and timing restrictions.

The traffic movements will be limited to avoid morning and evening peak times, where possible. There will also be a dedicated Community Liaison Officer to engage with local residents throughout the construction and operational phases, if the solar farm is consented.

Longhedge Proposed Haul Route



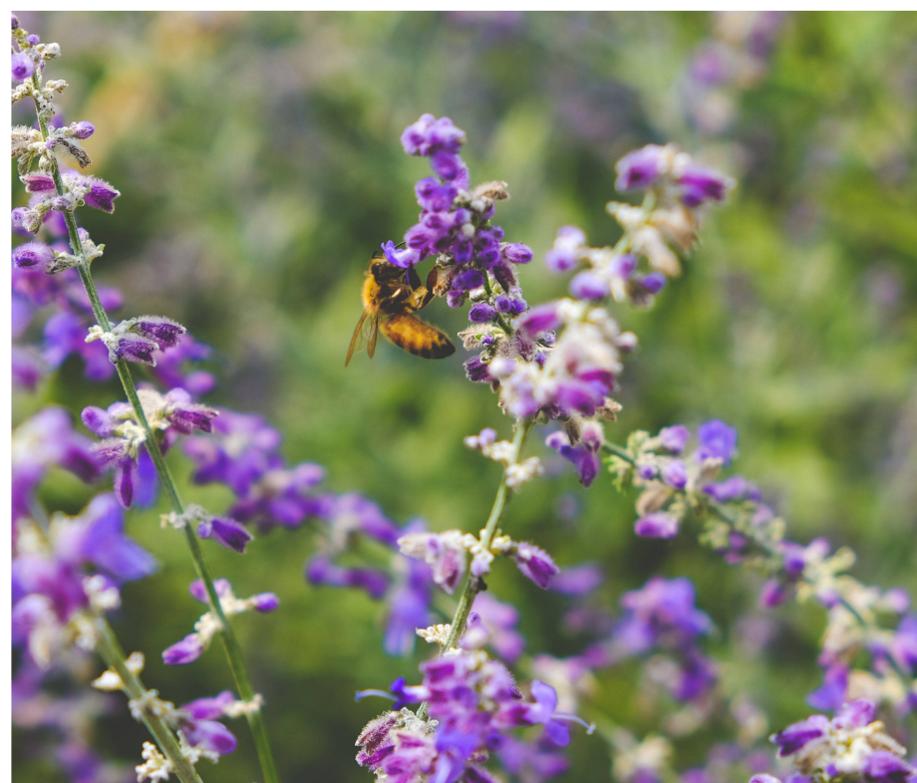
RES design their solar farms so that they will fit sensitively in the surrounding landscape

As part of the planning process, RES carries out a number of detailed technical and environmental surveys to ensure any potential impact upon the environment, landscape, heritage and local residents is appropriately assessed and mitigated. These assessments include:

- » Landscape and Visual
- » Ecology
- » Cultural Heritage and Archaeology
- » Traffic and Transport
- » Agricultural Land Classification
- » Noise
- » Glint and Glare

The results of these surveys, along with feedback from the local community and stakeholders, are taken into account as the design of the solar farm is refined and finalised.

The assessments will accompany any planning application that is made.



The plan below shows a preliminary Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP). The LEMP details our immediate and long-term commitment to manage planting and other landscape measures as well as the protection and enhancement of biodiversity around the solar farm.

KEY

-  Development boundary
-  Solar infrastructure
-  Public Rights of Way
-  Proposed Permissive Paths



Reptile hibernaculum, hedgehog houses, bee banks, bird boxes and invertebrate hotels will provide further biodiversity enhancement



Solar infrastructure will be set back from the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and planting will be proposed along sections to ensure openness is not compromised and to reduce potential visual impact.



Wildflower meadows will provide habitat for pollinators such as butterflies, bees and hoverflies



Educational boards in the area to provide information on the local area and biodiversity.



A typical solar farm uses around just 5% of the total site area leaving a significant proportion available for agricultural purposes such as sheep grazing.



New and infill native planting will provide screening from the solar farm as well as wildlife corridors and vital resources for mammals, birds, and insect species

Plan for illustrative purposes only



Longhedge Solar Farm

Public Rights of Way

RES understands the importance of the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) to the local community. Solar infrastructure will be set back from the PRoW and planting will be proposed along sections of the PRoW to ensure openness is not compromised and to reduce potential visual impact.

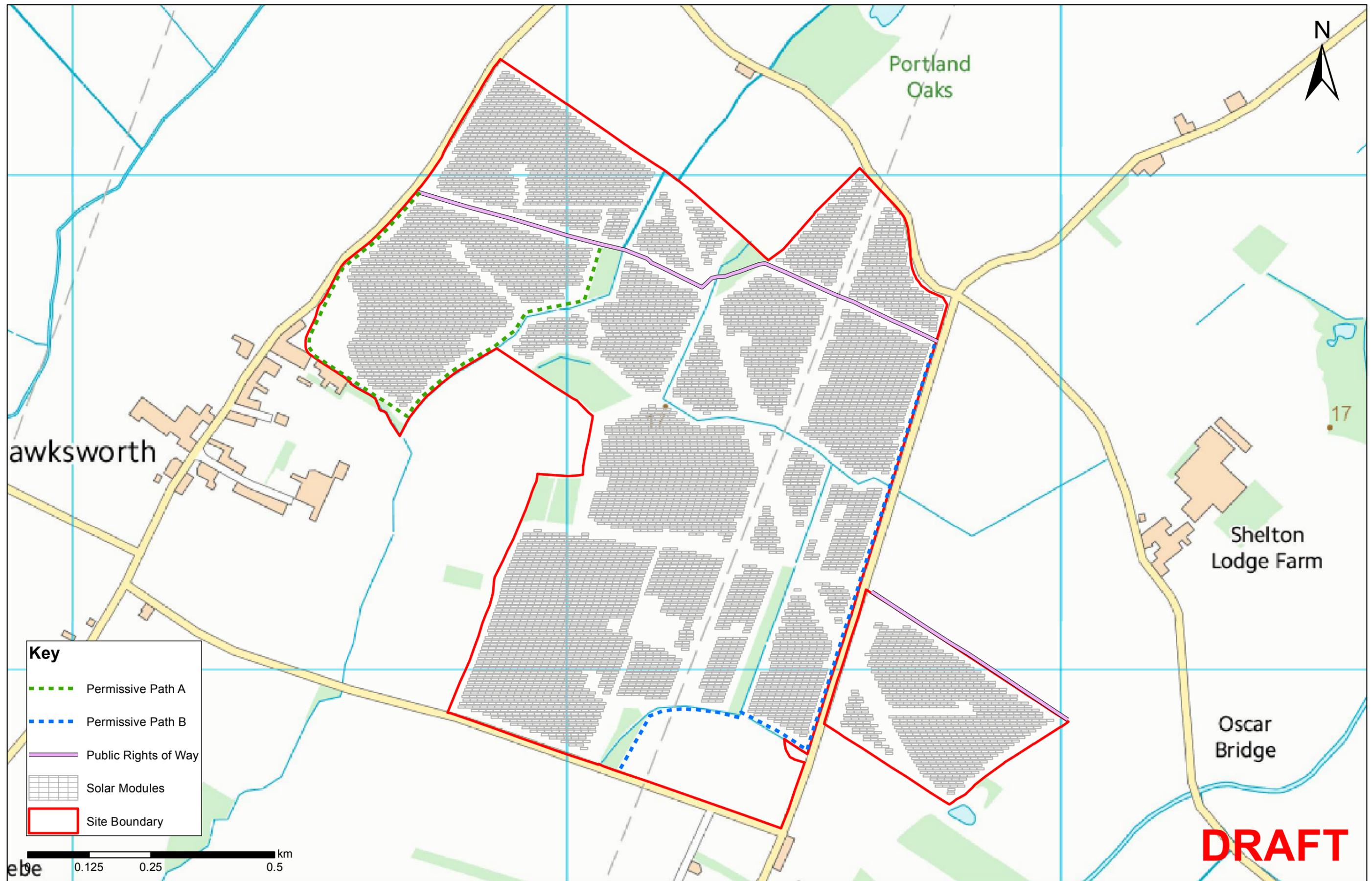
As part of the proposal, RES is exploring the creation of a permissive path to enhance the local PRoW network. The plan below shows two options for the locations of the new permissive path.

- **Permissive path A would create a circular walking route out of Hawksworth village, connecting with the existing PRoW to the north of the solar farm.**
- **Permissive Path B would provide an off-road path for riders and walkers alongside the adjacent road, linking the two existing bridleways to the north and east of the solar farm.**

We are keen to develop this proposal in collaboration with the community, outdoor recreation groups and the local authority. We are asking visitors to choose their preferred permissive path option. To provide feedback please complete a comments form or speak to one of the project team.

www.longhedge-solarfarm.co.uk

Longhedge Permissive Path Routes



We believe in meaningful and effective consultation

The aims of our consultation process are to:

Engage early with the local community to facilitate a constructive consultation process to help identify and understand concerns.

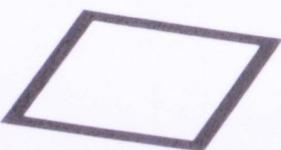
Assist the local community in understanding the benefits and potential impacts of the proposed solar farm.

Add value and improve the quality of our proposal through meaningful and productive consultation.

Before we submit a planning application, we will create a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), that documents the community engagement process and any steps we have taken to adapt our proposal.

At this stage we are inviting the local community to submit comments directly to RES. If an application is submitted there will be the opportunity to submit representations to the determining Planning Authority at that time.

We are keen to understand your views on the proposal and the information available at this exhibition. Please take a few minutes to fill out a feedback form with your comments.



RES believes in meaningful and productive consultation and we aim to engage early with the local community and key stakeholders in order to facilitate constructive consultation. This helps to identify issues and concerns, as well as benefits and opportunities, which we can then consider when developing the design of the proposal.

Feedback from the local community is an important part of our pre-application consultation and we would be grateful if you would take time to fill out this comments form with your feedback. The closing date for comments is **6th May 2022**. Comments will still be accepted after this date but may not be considered in relation to the design development.

Please note that any comments submitted to RES are not representations to the determining authority (Rushcliffe Borough Council) and that there will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.

1 Public exhibition

1.1 How did you find out about our public exhibitions?

- Newsletter through the door
- Advert in local newspaper
- Project website - www.longhedge-solarfarm.co.uk
- Word of mouth
- Other (please specify)

1.2 Before visiting the public exhibitions how would you describe your knowledge of the proposed Longhedge Solar Farm?

- Knew a lot
- Knew quite a lot
- Knew a little
- Knew very little
- Knew nothing at all

1.3 Having visited the public exhibitions, to what extent do you feel you have increased your understanding about the proposed Longhedge Solar Farm?

- A lot
- Quite a lot
- A little
- Very little
- Nothing at all

1.4 Do you have any suggestions for ways we could have improved our public exhibitions?

2 Climate change and renewables

2.1 Do you agree that we are facing a global climate change emergency?

I strongly agree

I agree

I don't know

I disagree

I strongly disagree

If you disagree or strongly disagree please explain why:

2.2 Do you agree that generating electricity from renewable sources, and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, can help towards tackling the issue of climate change?

I strongly agree

I agree

I don't know

I disagree

I strongly disagree

If you disagree or strongly disagree please explain why:

2.3 Do you agree that we need to develop solar farms to help reduce our carbon emissions?

- I strongly agree
- I agree
- I don't know
- I disagree
- I strongly disagree

If you disagree or strongly disagree please explain why:

3 Longhedge Solar Farm Proposal

3.1 What do you think about the proposed layout of Longhedge Solar Farm?

- I am happy with the proposed layout
- I am neutral towards the proposed layout
- I have concerns about proposed layout
- I don't like solar farms in general

Further Comments:

3.2 Please provide us with any further suggestions or comments regarding the design of the proposed Longhedge Solar Farm

4 Local benefit

- 4.1 As part of the proposal, RES is exploring the creation of a permissive path to enhance the local Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network. Our plan shows two options for the location of the new permissive path.

Permissive path A would create a circular walking route out of Hawksworth village, connecting with the existing PRoW. Permissive Path B would provide an off-road path for riders and walkers alongside the adjacent road, linking the two existing bridleways to the north and east of the solar farm.

We are keen to develop this proposal in collaboration with the community and are asking visitors to choose their preferred permissive path option.

Permissive Path A

Permissive Path B

If you have any further comments please let us know in the box below.

- 4.2 We firmly believe that solar schemes should provide meaningful benefits locally and we are inviting input from the local communities on their priority projects and aims in the area, which we may be able to support.

5 Your details

Please provide your name and contact details below.

Your contact details will be treated by RES with the strictest of confidence, in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018. We may at times share your contact details, in confidence, with third parties who we employ to help process your comments or update you on the project and by providing your details below you consent to this. You may write to RES at any time to ask that your contact details be removed from our records and from any third parties we work with.

Name	
Email	
Address	

If you would like to be kept up to date with the project, please tick this box

Once completed, please return your form by email to carey.green@res-group.com or by post to RES, Beaufort Court, Egg Farm Lane, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, WD4 8LR.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this comments form, your feedback is important to us