

Welcome to the Brentingby Meadows Solar Farm Public Exhibition

Brentingby Meadows Solar Farm (Windel Solar 12 Limited)
is being proposed by Windel Energy Limited.



Founded in 2018, Windel Energy is a privately held company dedicated to driving the transition towards a sustainable future. Specialising in the origination, development and integration of renewable energy projects and low-carbon disruptive technologies, Windel Energy is at the forefront of clean energy innovation.

With a portfolio exceeding 5 gigawatts of renewable power in various stages of development, our team of talented professionals bring a deep understanding & high level of expertise in land viability, electricity networks, TCPA, DNS and NSIP consenting, legal processes and construction feasibility.

At Windel Energy, we adopt a long-term ownership approach, ensuring the efficient operation and management of renewable assets. Leveraging an extensive network of relationships, institutional grade infrastructure and in-house expertise, we are committed to delivering impactful and enduring energy solutions.

Windel Energy is committed to responsible land use and we believe that the development and delivery of a solar farm can be achieved in harmony with its surroundings, working alongside and with the community.



\ Site Location

Brentingby Meadows Solar Farm is a development comprising of the construction and operation of a ground mounted solar farm alongside associated infrastructure, with the capacity to generate up to 45MW of clean, renewable power.

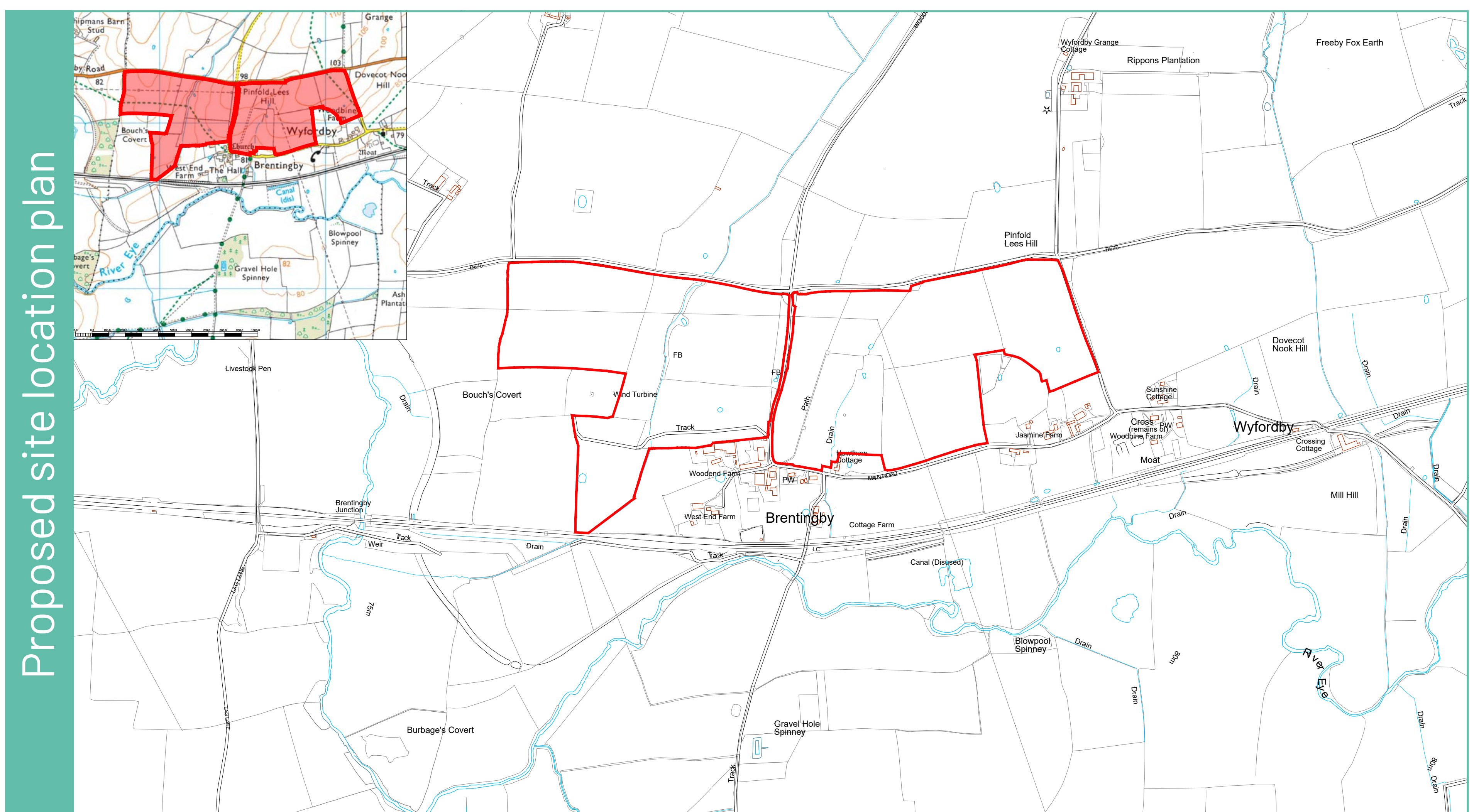
The application site is proposed on land to the north of the village of Brentingby, Melton Mowbray. A planning application will be made to Melton Borough Council who will make the decision on whether to grant planning permission in their role as the Local Planning Authority.

Brentingby Meadows Solar Farm provides an important opportunity to help the UK on its journey to net zero. Clean renewable power generation is front-and-centre of the UK's strategy to reach net zero by 2050, with Melton Borough Council recognising this by declaring a climate emergency in 2019.

If consented the project could produce enough renewable electricity for up to 13,100 homes each year and offset over 13,200 tonnes of Co2 per year.

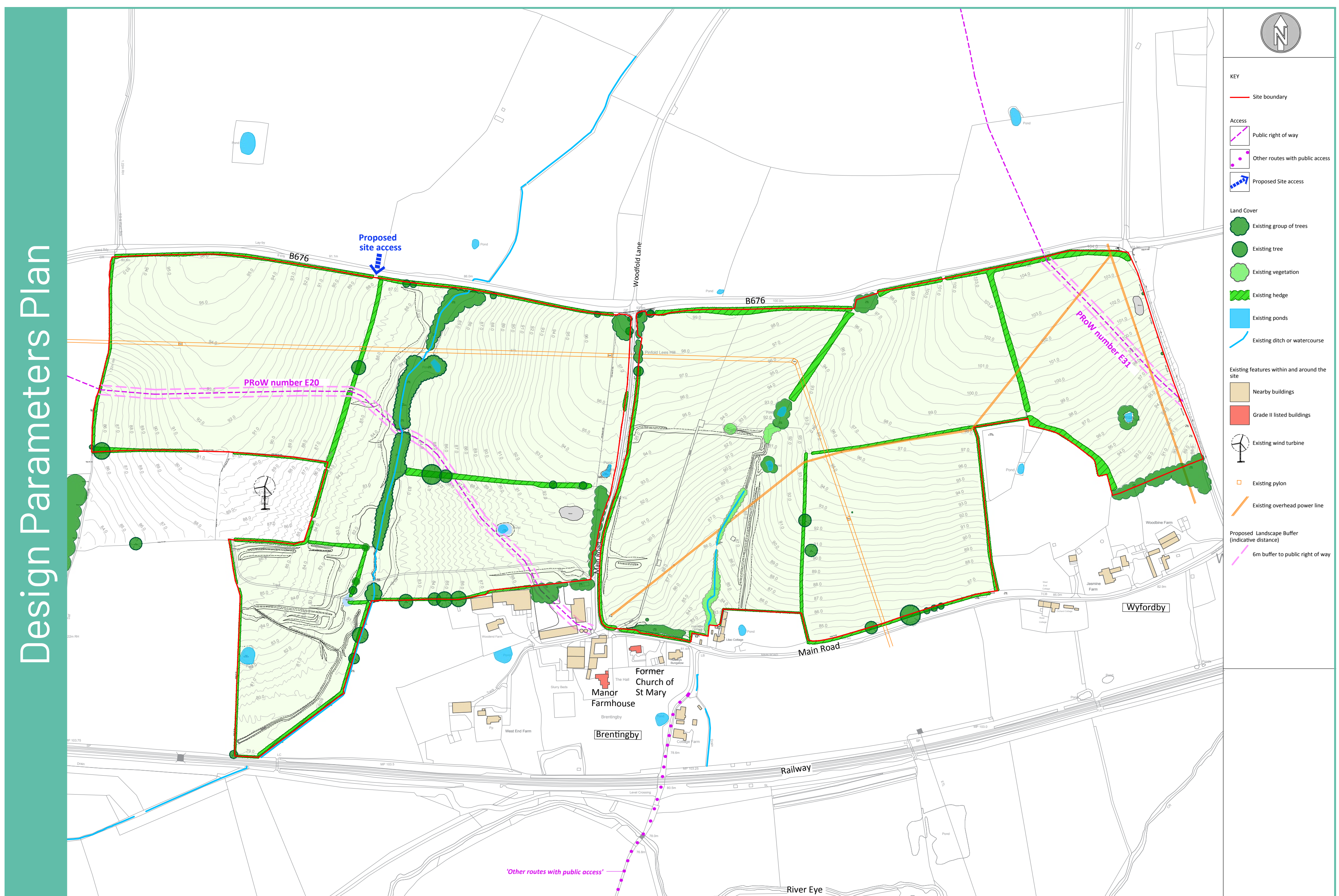
Proposed site location plan

The proposed site location plan shows the area to be developed. The point of connection to the national grid will be via an existing pylon located within the development site, negating the need to lay a cable within the highway. The proposal consists of a development area of approximately 127 acres (51.4 hectares).



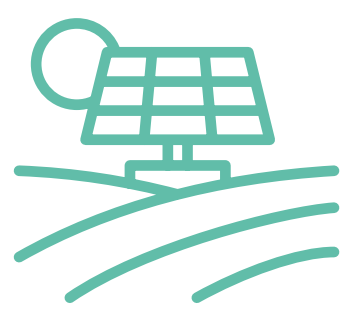
\ Design Parameters

The Design Parameters Plan identifies the known potential constraints to the development of a solar farm. The proximity to residential properties, public rights of way, topography, hedgerows/trees, water courses/bodies and overhead powerlines all need to be considered as part of the solar farm design. As more detailed site surveys and assessments are carried out, additional constraints may be identified. The planning application will consider each of these constraints in detail and set out how the solar farm will interact with them.



\ Environment

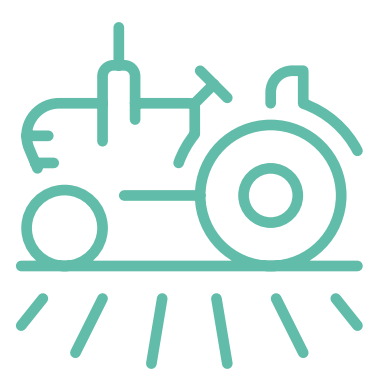
The following considerations will inform the final design of the development to support the planning application.



Site selection

The application site for this proposal is considered to be suitable for a development of this nature for the following key reasons:

- Proximity to a viable grid connection
- Direct access from the highway without passing residential properties
- The site is available with a willing landowner
- Opportunity to provide biodiversity enhancement to the site
- South facing gradient with established boundary hedgerows to provide screening



Agricultural land classification

The Natural England map classifies the land on the site as Grade 3 (good to moderate) quality soils. An assessment is being undertaken of the agricultural land quality, the results of which will be included as part of the planning application submission.

The land can continue to be used for agricultural purposes (such as for grazing sheep) or for biodiversity enhancement opportunities following installation of the panels.



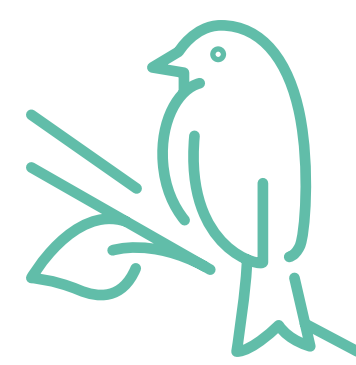
Landscape and visual impact

To assess the potential impact on the landscape and visual receptors, a Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment has been prepared for the proposal. Over time, the visual impact from the solar farm will be reduced further with careful management of existing trees and hedgerows and any additional required.



Flood risk

The proposal site is largely within Flood Zone 1 (lowest risk of flooding) with an isolated area of Flood Zone 3 in the south west corner of the site.



Ecology

A detailed Ecological Impact Assessment has been undertaken to assess, manage and, where appropriate, mitigate the scheme during construction and operation. The assessment outlines that direct effects on designated sites, priority habitat and protected species will be avoided, with a range of ecological enhancements proposed to protect and enhance habitats and wildlife. These measures include stand-offs from key ecological features and active management and monitoring of habitats. The enhancements are set out within an Ecological Management Plan which will be submitted as part of the planning application.



Heritage

An assessment of heritage assets and archaeology is being undertaken. The assessment will determine if there are any listed buildings or designated heritage assets within the site and its surroundings. Solar farms are usually well screened given their low height so form a small part of wider views of the landscape from heritage assets, which would be reduced further through a sensitive landscaping scheme.

\ Environment continued



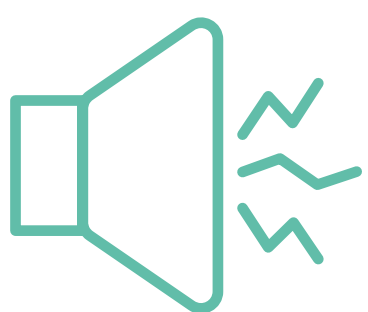
Public rights of way

There is a public right of way that enters the north western boundary of the site. The public footpath runs east through two fields, then heads south east towards buildings where it joins the highway. There is another public footpath across the most eastern field of the proposal site. The footpath routes will be kept free of development, other than a single access track connecting to the southern development parcel.



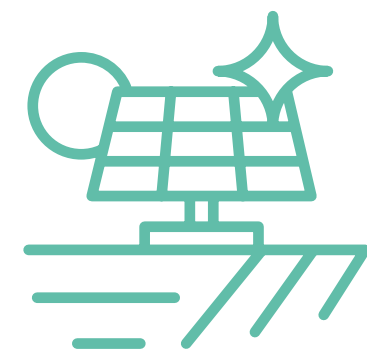
Trees

Trees and hedgerows are located along the field boundaries, providing a valuable contribution to the character of the area and local wildlife. An assessment of the trees on the site has been undertaken, with the solar panels located within the field parcels to avoid impacts on existing trees and hedgerows. No trees are proposed to be removed as part of the development and further tree planting is proposed as part of a comprehensive landscaping scheme. The introduction of native trees and hedgerows on the site can also provide nesting, roosting and foraging opportunities for birds, bats and invertebrates.



Noise

Solar farms are quiet energy generating facilities. They have very few moving parts and as such require less ongoing maintenance and generate little noise or vibration. Noise modelling and assessment works have been undertaken to ensure that the proposal is acceptable and does not result in adverse changes to baseline noise conditions.



Glint and glare

Photovoltaic (PV) solar panels are specifically designed to absorb light rather than reflect it. Light reflecting from solar panels results in a loss of energy output. PV modules are dark in colour due to their anti-reflective coatings and are manufactured with low-iron, ultra-clear glass with specialised coatings and textures to enable maximum absorption.



Highways and construction

A Construction Traffic Management Plan has been prepared. This document sets out the access proposals and considers any impacts during the construction period. The construction phase would last approximately 12 months after which the solar farm will operate for 40 years. Following the operational phase, the site will be decommissioned, and the land returned to its original use.

A compound and vehicle parking area will be provided on site during construction to ensure all vehicles can safely turn and leave the site in a forward gear. No parking of vehicles will be permitted on any nearby roads during construction. Vehicle movements following construction will be limited to ongoing maintenance and monitoring.

\ Frequently Asked Questions

What are the key infrastructure components of a solar farm?

The proposal comprises a ground mounted solar farm together with associated equipment and infrastructure which consists of:

- Photovoltaic (PV) arrays, based on a simple metal framework and placed into the ground, eliminating the need for substantial foundations. The arrays typically have a maximum height of 3m
- A series of inverters
- Transformer and switchgear substations
- A customer substation building and DNO substation building
- Boundary fencing (very similar to deer fencing) around the edge of the site, with gates for access
- An inward facing CCTV system located at strategic points around the site
- Associated infrastructure such as access tracks and cabling, transformer and switchgear substations and storage container(s) for spare parts and communications equipment.

Why are solar farms being constructed?

Urgent action is needed to achieve net zero and address the challenge of climate change.

Generating renewable energy is a key part of that commitment. Solar farms are a simple and established technology providing a source of safe and clean energy which produces zero emissions when in operation.



Solar projects have a low visual impact potential if designed correctly, have very few moving parts, meaning maintenance requirements are low through the lifetime of the project, and are considered 'temporary' as they are decommissioned at the end of their lifetime (40 years).

Biodiversity enhancements, and ongoing agricultural use of the land (animals such as sheep can continue to graze the land around solar panels) means that this technology can easily operate alongside traditional land uses.

Why not use brownfield, industrial land and rooftop solar?

Prior to selecting this land, we undertook a full review of the potential brownfield land in the area. Unfortunately, the land that existed was either already being used or was not suitable in size to be a viable option. In terms of rooftop solar, this has a vital role to play in achieving net zero but unfortunately is currently unviable for many households due to the high upfront costs, or the shape/material of older/pitched rooftops.

\ Have Your Say

We want to hear your feedback on our proposal. You can send us your thoughts via any of the channels listed below:



Feedback form

Available at the public exhibition and online at www.bretingbymeadowssolarfarm.co.uk. We will post hard copies of the form upon request. On the website you can also register for project updates.



Email

Written feedback can be sent to info@bretingbymeadowssolarfarm.co.uk



Post

You can send feedback via post to **FREEPOST PC CONSULTATION** (no stamp required).



Phone

Register your views or request a call back from the communications team on **07493 060539**.

\ Project timeline

Pre-application advice 2023

Pre-application advice and screening request submitted to Melton Borough Council.

Surveys 2024 onwards

Surveys and development of early scheme proposal.

Early engagement January 2025

With near neighbours and stakeholders.

Public consultation March 2025

Consultation with local communities and stakeholders.

Planning application submission Spring 2025

Following public consultation, a planning application will be submitted to Melton Borough Council.

Construction to begin 2030

Construction to begin, connecting to the national grid in 2031.

The deadline for response to this consultation is **14th April 2025**.