

# Welcome to the Eden Meadows Solar Farm Public Consultation

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Should it be approved, the farm would be able to generate enough affordable, renewable electricity for over 18,600 North East Derbyshire homes.



## The Need for Solar

### Reaching for Net Zero

The UK has made a **legally binding commitment to achieve a net zero fully decarbonised power system by 2035**. This can only be achieved with the adoption and roll-out of reliable, affordable, clean energy sources such as solar.



### Climate Emergency

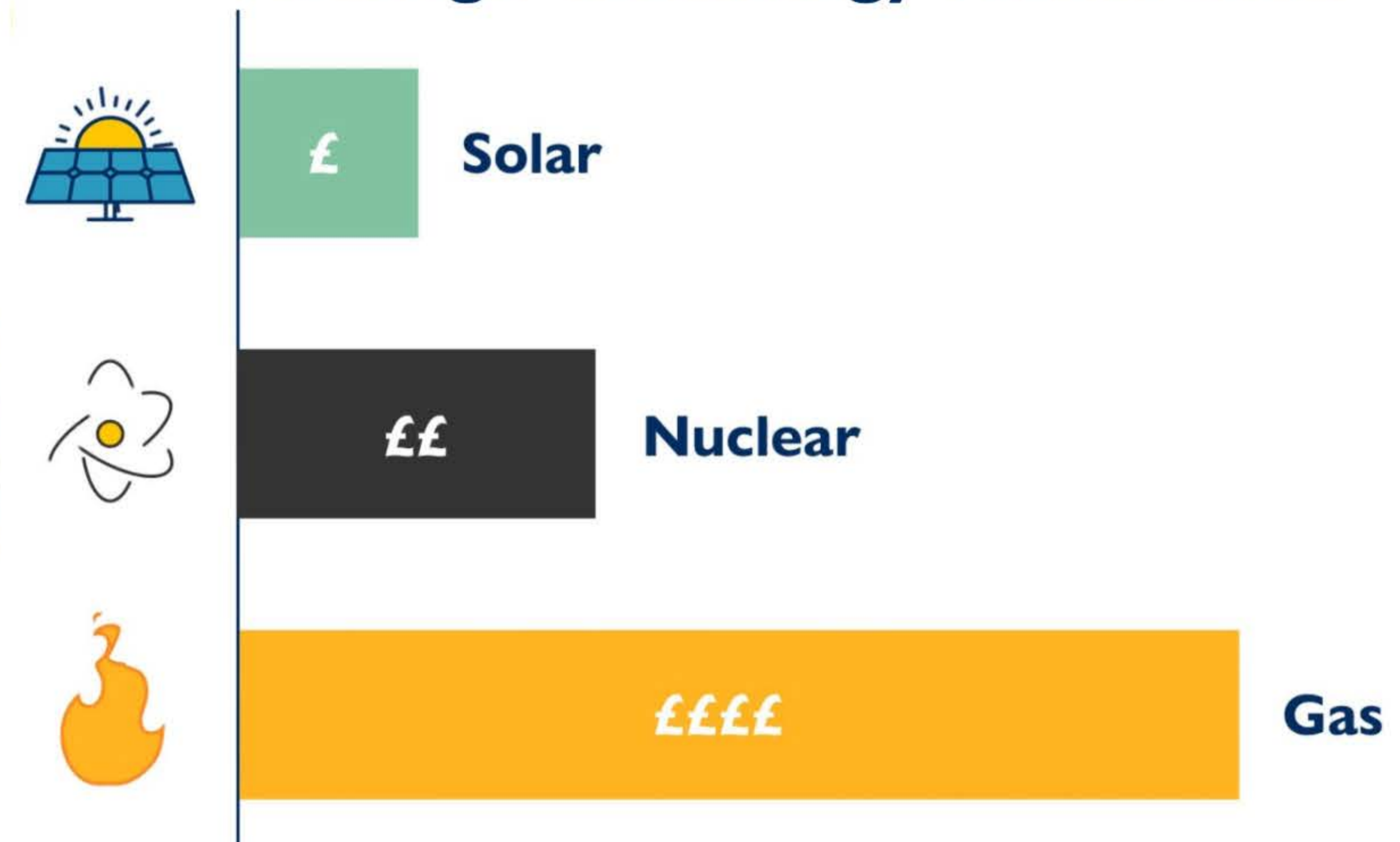


**North East Derbyshire District Council declared a climate emergency in 2019** and published its Climate Change Action Plan, setting a target for the county to lead the way and **become carbon neutral by 2050**. Solar farms, such as Eden Meadows, will make a meaningful contribution to the local, and national, climate commitments.

### Tackling Energy Security and the Cost of Living Crisis

Solar energy provides **one of the cheapest forms of electricity in the UK**. This year alone solar has been over **4 x cheaper than gas** and **2 x cheaper than nuclear** in the UK. A **fivefold increase in solar capacity** is anticipated **by 2035** in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. If approved, Eden Meadows Solar can help drive down bills and tackle the energy crisis.

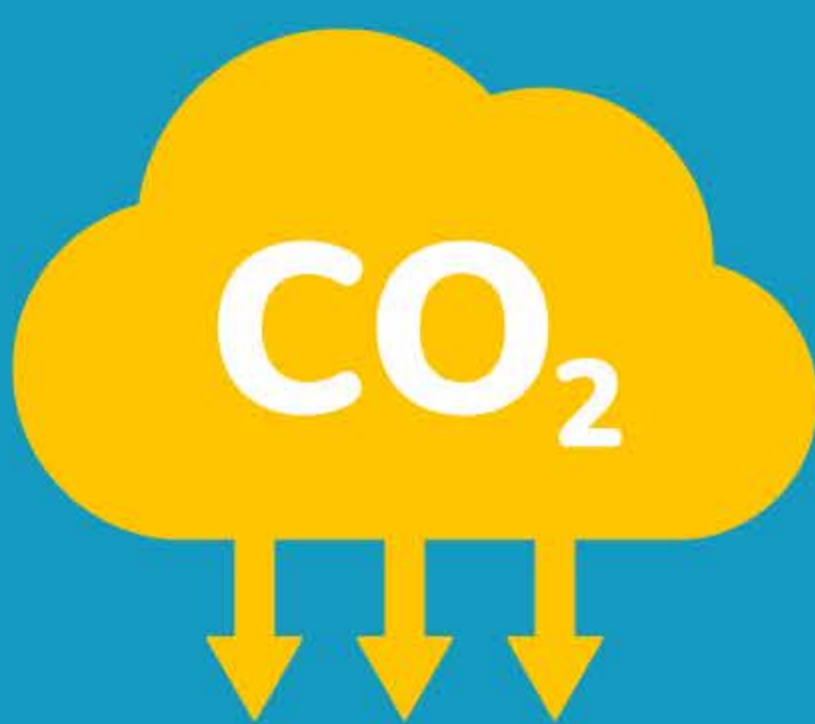
Average UK Energy Prices 2022



## Benefits

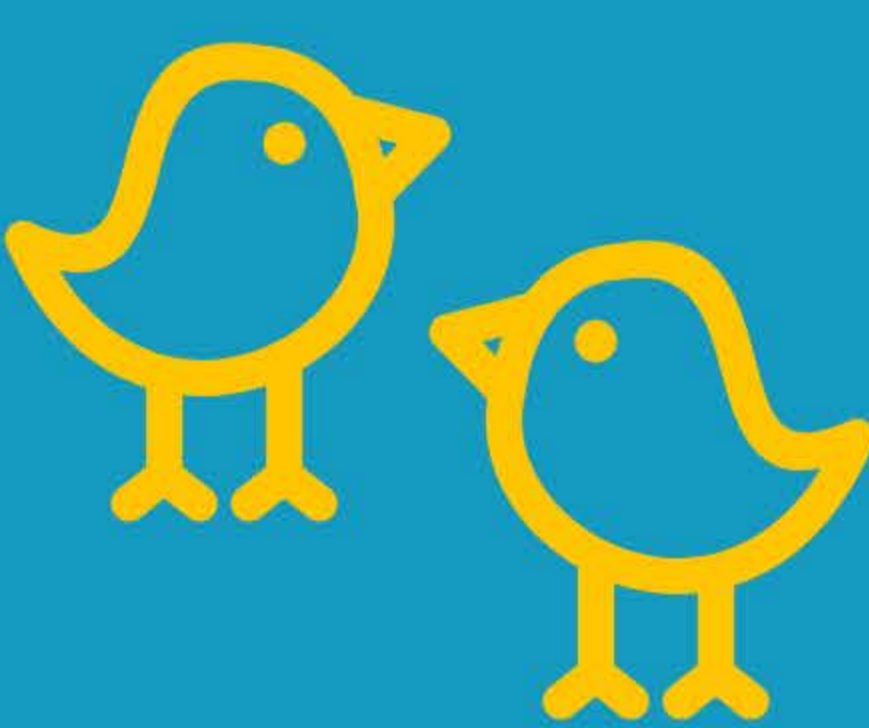
### Building a brighter future

By working in partnership with local communities, JBM Solar unlocks a project's full potential. We ensure that the benefits of solar energy developments are realised in a way that positively impact the surrounding community.



The displacement of over **1,116,000 tonnes of CO2** from equivalent fossil fuel energy, which equates to taking **21,000 cars off North East Derbyshire's roads annually**.

Genuine benefits for local residents, including a **community benefit fund of up to £660,000**.



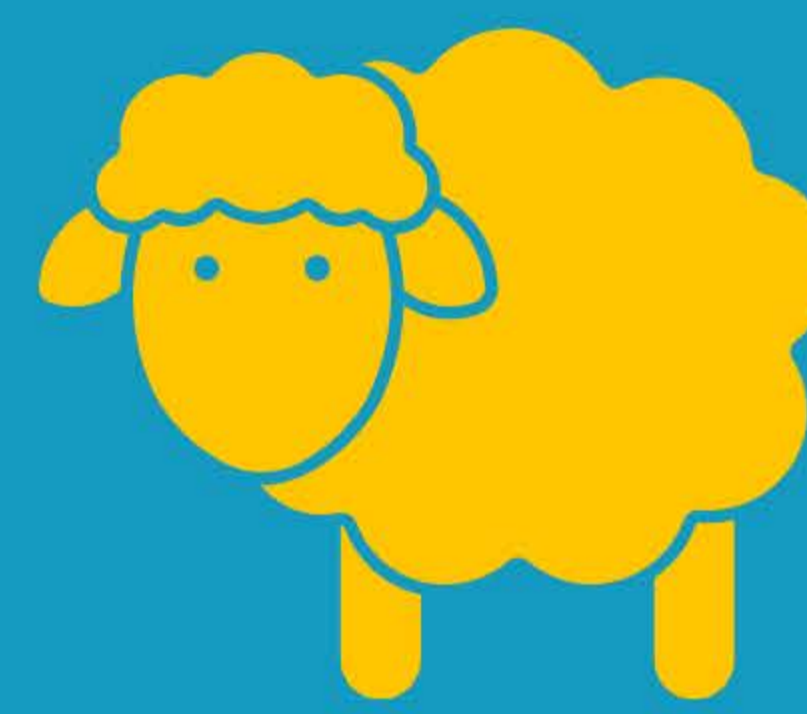
**>50% biodiversity net gain** providing **ecological benefits** through new habitats, such as wildflower meadows, grassland areas, bird and bat nesting boxes and bug hotels.

**£6.5m** generated in **business rates** over the lifetime of the project available to use for vital local services .



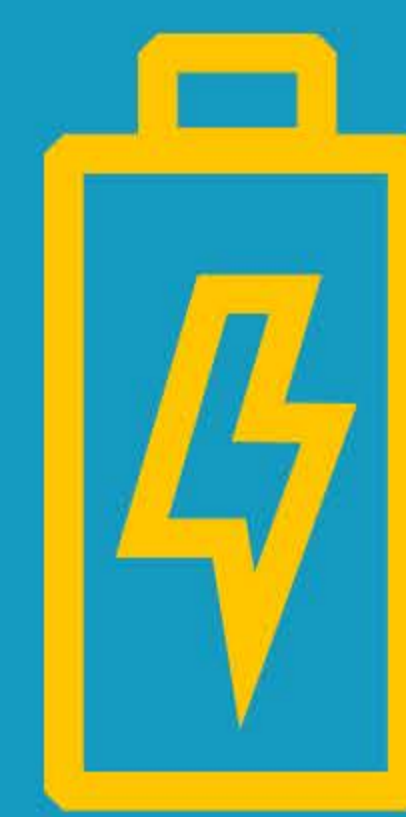
**>800m of new hedgerow / tree planting** will provide ecological benefits alongside landscape mitigation.

The ability for over **95% of the site** to be used for sheep grazing and **remain in farming use**, allowing topsoil to recover, by increasing soil organic matter and improving the soil structure.



**Investment in new green infrastructure** such as enhanced rights of way, new permissive paths, picnic benches, educational trails and information boards.

**Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)** on site, ensuring the solar farm can be as flexible as possible in delivering energy to the grid.



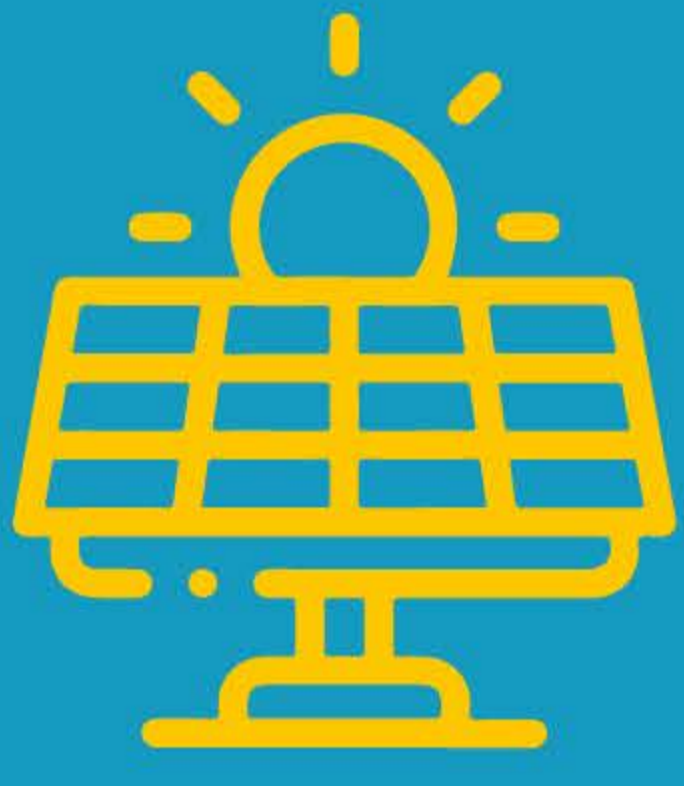
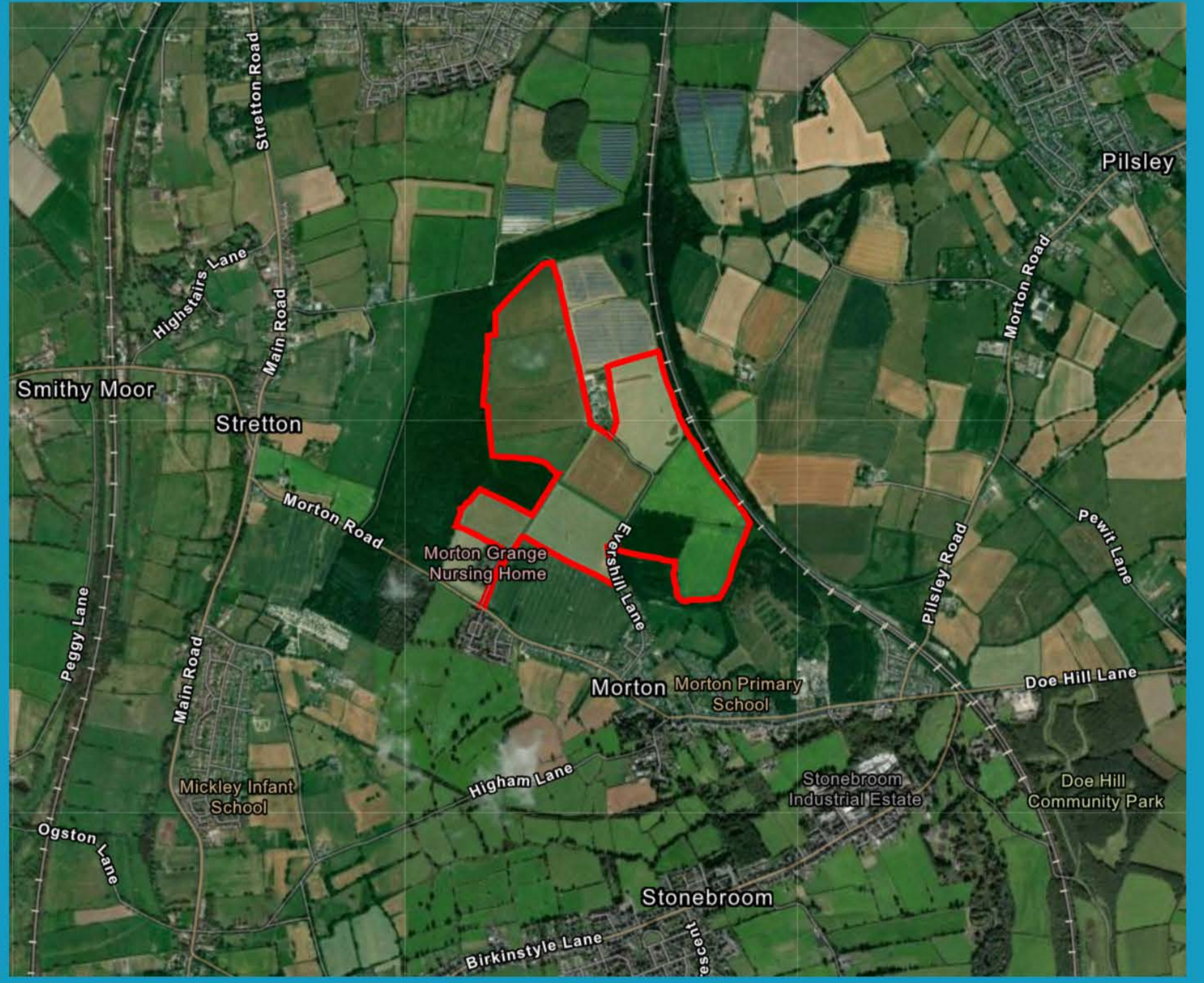
## Proposals

### Site Location

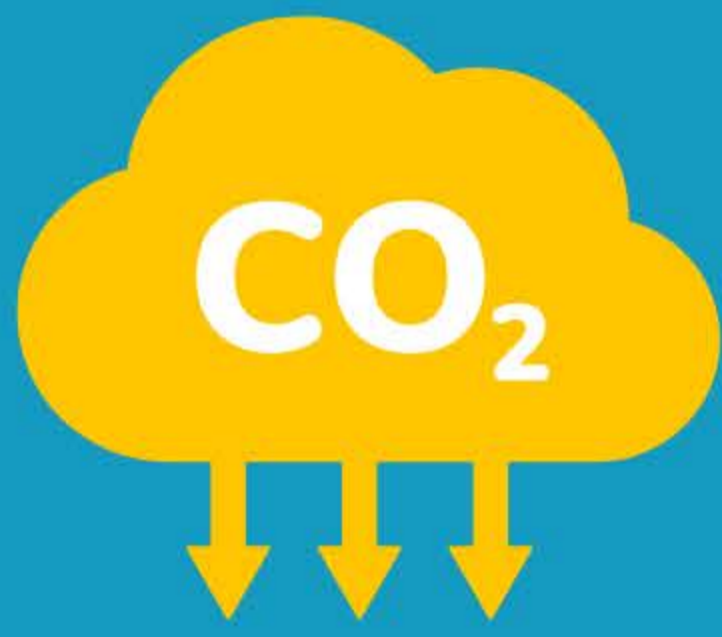


**Eden Meadows Solar Farm** would be located north of Morton and east of Stretton.

This location has been carefully chosen by our integrated team of experts. The site will benefit from an in-field connection to the electricity grid, can be screened to minimise visual impact and has the potential to deliver significant positive gains for protected species.



The planned solar farm will generate enough clean, cheap renewable **electricity** to meet the **equivalent annual energy needs** of over **18,600 North East Derbyshire homes**.



**CO2 savings** will exceed **1,116,000 tonnes** over the lifetime of the project which equates to taking **21,000 cars** of North East Derbyshire's roads annually.



We are also planning to install **batteries to store electricity** which can be fed back into the local energy network to help balance the grid at times of high demand.



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## Natural Capital

### Tackling the Ecological Crisis through Natural Capital

Not only are we facing a climate crisis, but we are facing an **ecological emergency** too, and the two are intrinsically linked. According to the ground-breaking 2019 'State of Nature Report', **60% of British wildlife species monitored have declined** and **15% are facing extinction** for a variety of reasons including use of pesticides and habitat loss.

### A Green Future

The Government's 25-year Environment Plan 'A Green Future' highlights the **importance of natural capital as a tool in decision-making**. Natural capital refers to the aspects of nature that directly or indirectly produce value for people, such as the stocks of forests, rivers, land, minerals and oceans.

### Increasing Biodiversity on Solar Farms

From stocks of natural capital flow ecosystem services or benefits which may be economic, social, environmental, cultural or spiritual with qualitative or quantitative values. For example, access to open spaces and providing a healthy environment. Solar farms offer a unique opportunity to provide **significant biodiversity net gains** through habitat creation and planting of trees.

**>50%  
Net  
Gain**

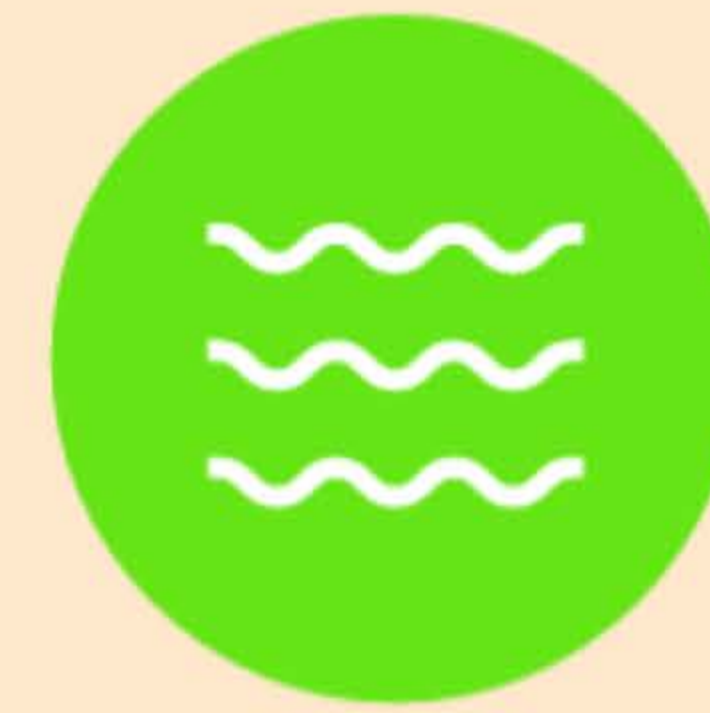
### Ecosystem services arising from well-managed solar farms



Biodiversity and wildlife habitat provision



Carbon storage and climate regulation



Flood attenuation and water cycle support



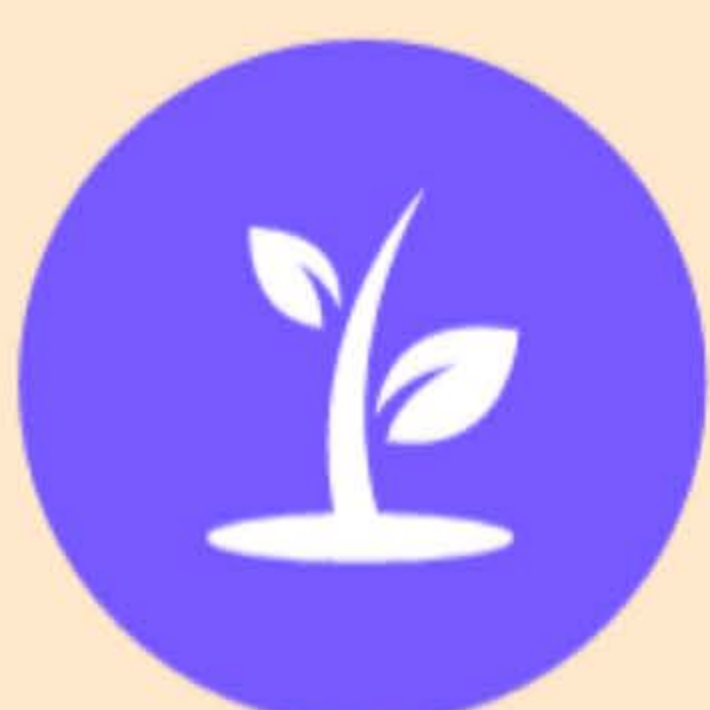
Water quality regulation



Pollination



Air quality regulation



Soil erosion mitigation and soil quality regulation



Education, leisure and community engagement



Food provision and support for sustainable agriculture



Proposed development offset from existing woodland vegetation to protect their integrity

Proposed substation

Proposed information boards to provide details about the local area and the solar farm. Wild flower area provides a sense separation between the proposed solar farm and new housing development

Creation of permissive path to provide additional looped walk

**LEGEND**

[Red line]	Planning Boundary		
[Green outline]	Existing trees and vegetation (Showing canopy extents)		
[Green circle]	Proposed Trees		
[Green circle]	Species	Common Name	Mx %
[Green circle]	Acer campestre	Field Maple	10
[Green circle]	Betula pendula	Silver Birch	10
[Green circle]	Malus sylvestris	Crab Apple	10
[Green circle]	Malus domestica	Apple	10
[Green circle]	Malus domestica	Wild Cherry	10
[Green circle]	Quercus robur	Oak	10
[Green circle]	Salix caprea	Bowen	10
[Green circle]	Tilia x europaea	Lime	10
[Green line]	Proposed Hedgerow Planting		
[Green line]	Species	Common Name	Mx %
[Green line]	Cirsium arvense	Thistle	10
[Green line]	Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	10
[Green line]	Prunella spinosa	Blackthorn	10
[Green line]	Rosa canina	Dog Rose	10
[Green line]	Rhamnus cathartica	Blackthorn	10
[Light green fill]	Proposed Grazing Meadow Mix - Habitat Aid		
[Light green fill]	Grazing Meadow Seed Mix or similar approved	Ag/m <sup>2</sup>	
[Light green fill]	Proposed Species Rich Grassland - Emergent		
[Light green fill]	EM2 General Purpose Meadow Mix - Open at	Ag/m <sup>2</sup>	
[Dotted fill]	Proposed Grass areas with additional wild flower mix		
[Pink dashed line]	Footpath		
[Orange dashed line]	Proposed permissive path		
[Blue dashed line]	Overhead Line		
[Blue dashed line]	Solar Panels		
[Blue dashed line]	For details of solar equipment and layout, please see Engineers Specification		
[White box]	CTV		
[White box]	Spare Container		
[White box]	Battery Storage		
[White box]	Maintenance Track		
[White box]	Deer Fence		
[White box]	Bench		
[White box]	Information Board		
[White box]	Bird / Bat Box		

- NOTES**
- For planning purposes only not construction
  - All contractors should ascertain the location of all underground and above ground services / utilities before undertaking any work. Any work undertaken near services should be done in accordance with guidance provided by the utility / service owner
  - All planting work to be undertaken in conjunction with a suitable specification to be agreed prior to any work being undertaken
  - It is assumed all work will be carried out by an experienced landscape contractor working to an approved method statement
  - ADAS should be notified immediately by email of any discrepancies in the drawing
  - No dimensions are to be taken from this drawing and all dimensions should be confirmed on site.

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## Community Benefits

### Green Infrastructure

Investment in new green infrastructure through the improvement of existing rights of way and creation of new permissive paths to provide a looped walk.

All footpaths enhanced and planted with wildflower margins.

New picnic benches set within a wildflower garden with potential for local beehives.

New "Educational Trail" including interpretation boards detailing the benefits of solar energy and wildflower meadows / pollination process.

Additional native hedgerow and trees planted across the site



### Local Economy

Community Benefit fund of up to £660,000 which can be used on rooftop solar for community buildings / schools and/or other sustainable initiatives locally, e.g. village improvement schemes or other new amenities.

Sponsorship of local schools in partnership with the Good Bee Company, includes free curriculum lessons from qualified beekeepers, site visits to the beehives and wildflower establishment.

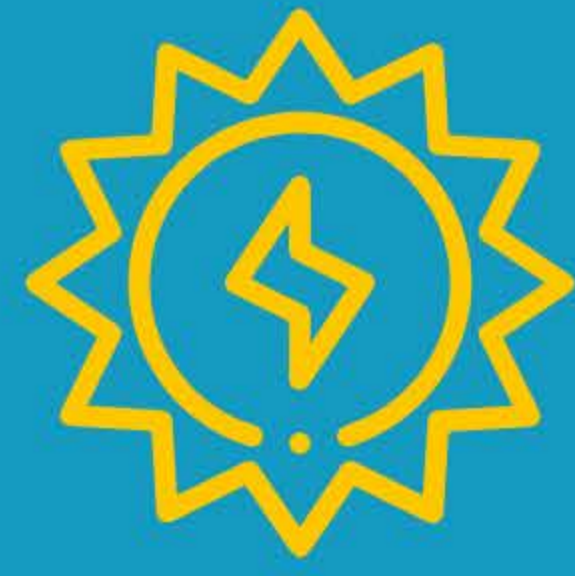
The provision of jobs and sourcing of materials locally associated with the construction of the solar farm and the operational phase of development.

Business rates contribution in excess of £6.5m over lifetime of the project.



## About JBM

### What We Do



As **part of the RWE** Group, we are at the heart of the UK's renewables revolution, helping to realise our collective goal of net zero emissions through the deployment of solar energy.

We believe this is best achieved through positive stakeholder relationships and listening to the voices of the community.



### Our Vision



Our vision is to power the UK with reliable, affordable, clean solar energy, and to add value through innovation and investment.

We're bringing the benefits of solar energy to communities and the planet – at the scale and pace that is needed to help the country meet its net zero ambitions.



### Our Projects

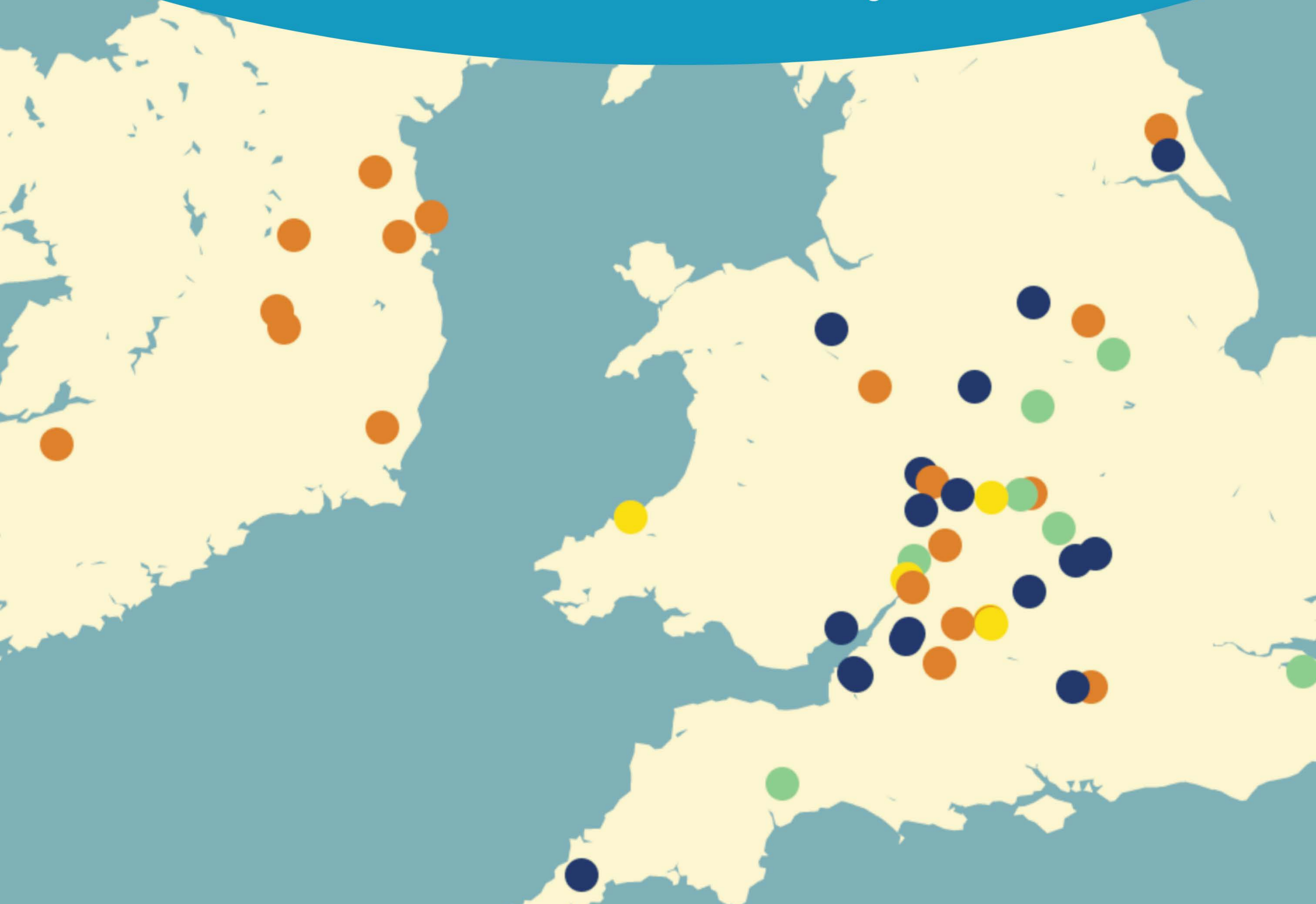


Our **98% planning application success rate** over the last decade speaks for itself. We remain committed to using the lessons we have learned in this time to continue delivering large-scale solar farms with co-located battery storage and biodiversity net gains on every project.

All our future solar schemes will achieve a **minimum 50% biodiversity net gain**, five times the minimum requirement of 10%.

Since 2012, our team has secured planning permission in the UK and Ireland for **more than 1GW of solar projects**, ranging from 30 to 150 megawatts. This is the equivalent of providing energy to over 265,000 homes.

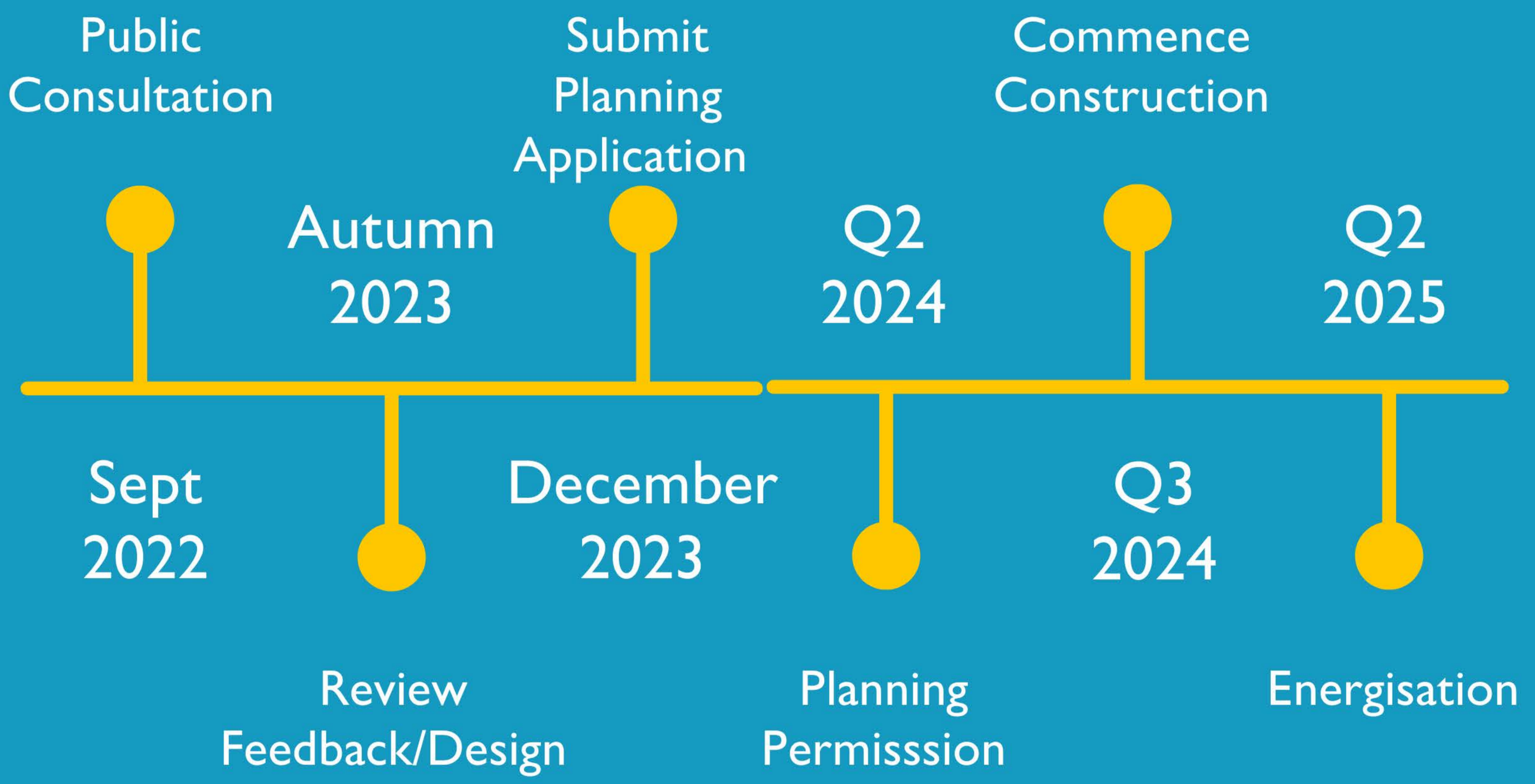
**We work closely with local people** to shape the future of our projects and to ensure the benefits of solar energy developments are realised in a way that **positively impacts local people**, through community benefit funds and significant investment in green infrastructure.





## Next Steps

### Timeline



### Your Feedback



Please take some time today to provide your feedback on the proposals. You can do this by **completing the feedback form** provided.

Please note our pre-submission consultation period closes on **5th October 2023**. Please ensure that any feedback is sent sufficiently in advance to arrive before this date.

