

Consultation Report

Heath Road Solar Farm

Land at Heath Road, Bagworth

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Revision	Description	Originated	Checked	Reviewed	Authorised	Date
1.0	FINAL	OW	CD	CD	CD	July 2025
DWD Job Number: 15981						

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Renewable Connections Developments Limited (the 'Applicant') has carried out a comprehensive and meaningful pre-application community engagement exercise in respect of the construction, operation and subsequent decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic farm and associated infrastructure on land at Heath Road, Bagworth (the 'Site'), located south of Bagworth and Thornton, north of Newbold Verdon and Desford, and east of Barlestone. The proposal is referred to collectively as the 'Proposed Development' and the project is known as 'Heath Road Solar Farm'.

The primary purpose of this Consultation Report is to set out the measures taken to ensure the local community in the surrounding area was consulted regarding the Proposed Development. The report details how local residents were able to share their feedback and how the Applicant has responded to views expressed by consultees, including through changes incorporated into the Proposed Development.

The local community consultation advertised the Proposed Development through a newsletter mailout, emails, an online consultation website, and an in-person consultation event. The initial consultation period ran for approximately 4 weeks, from 27 May 2025 until 27 June 2025. In total, 3 pieces of feedback were left via the consultation email address and feedback form.

During the consultation, respondents were predominantly positive about the project, providing support due to the need for renewable energy and the benefits of the Proposed Development. However, some concerns were raised, including the loss of agricultural land and construction vehicle routing. It is considered that the further information provided with the planning application and outlined in Table 5.1 should alleviate these concerns.

The Applicant considered the points raised by consultees during the engagement process. The Applicant considers that information provided in the Transport Report, Construction Traffic Management Plan, Alternative Site Assessment and Planning, Design and Access Statement suitably addresses the concerns raised regarding loss of arable/cropland and construction traffic. Further to this, the majority of feedback received was positive and as a result no changes or additions are deemed to be necessary.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Overview

- 1.1 This Consultation Report has been prepared on behalf of Renewable Connections Developments Ltd (the 'Applicant') in support of an application for planning permission submitted to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (the 'Council' or 'HBBC') under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).
- 1.2 The proposal comprises the construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic ('PV') farm and associated infrastructure, including the following:
- Rows of solar PV panels;
 - Transformer/ power stations;
 - String inverters;
 - Substation compound, which includes the customer substation and DNO substation;
 - Internal access tracks and access gates;
 - Perimeter fence;
 - CCTV cameras;
 - Temporary construction compound;
 - Underground cabling to the Point of Connection ('PoC') (an existing electricity pylon); and
 - Ecological and Skylark mitigation areas (no development, for ecological mitigation only).
- 1.3 The PoC to the electricity grid is an existing electricity pylon off-site to the north-west. An on-site substation will be required to facilitate this connection via the underground cables.
- 1.4 The proposal is referred to collectively as the 'Proposed Development' and the project is known as 'Heath Road Solar Farm'. It is estimated that the solar panels would generate 21.5 megawatts ('MW') of renewable energy, enough to power approximately 7,581 homes annually and displacing up to 3,856 tonnes of CO2 per year.
- 1.5 The Proposed Development does not include a Battery Energy Storage System ('BESS').
- 1.6 The Site covers approximately 31.9 hectares ('ha'), comprising the main site of 26.9 ha of agricultural land where the solar panels and associated would be located (hereafter referred to the 'Main Site') and two cable route corridors to the PoC into the electricity grid. It is located to the

south of Bagworth and Thornton, north of Newbold Verdon and Desford, and east of Barlestone. The Site comprises predominantly sub-grade 3b (93%) 'moderate quality' agricultural land, with a small amount of sub-grade 3a (6%) agricultural land and non-agricultural land (1%).

- 1.7 The UK Government has committed to meeting a legally binding target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050, which now includes an accelerated political target of 2030 for a net zero electricity system under the Labour Government, known as Clean Power 2030. Further to this, HBBC recognises the role of renewable energy in tackling climate change, declaring a climate emergency in July 2019 and a biodiversity emergency in July 2023. The Council aims to become carbon neutral by 2030 and the entire borough by 2050. The Council's 'Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy 2024 to 2028', adopted in 2024, includes a goal to promote the use of renewable energy and support the potential installation of new solar farms. The Proposed Development would help support this need by generating clean and renewable energy.
- 1.8 Planning permission is being sought to operate for 40 years, at which point it would be decommissioned and the Site restored back to full agricultural use.

The Applicant

- 1.9 Renewable Connections Developments Ltd (the 'Applicant') is one of the most experienced renewable energy developers in the UK having consented over 1 gigawatt ('GW') of solar, battery and hydrogen projects nationally since 2010. The Applicant works in partnership with HelioFidem, a renewable energy Developer with over 1 GW of renewable assets in development worldwide.

Pre-Application Consultation

- 1.10 The Applicant considers that being a good neighbour is instrumental to delivering a successful development project. Furthermore, that it is important to engage with the local community at the earliest opportunity to seek feedback about the Proposed Development, using local knowledge to inform and refine the approach wherever possible.
- 1.11 The Applicant has therefore carried out a comprehensive and meaningful pre-application community engagement exercise in respect of the Proposed Development, primarily focused on the local community, but also including consultation with parish councils, ward and borough councillors, and other key local consultees.
- 1.12 For the purposes of this report, the 'local community' refers to local residents and businesses, parish councils, borough and ward councillors, and local interest groups and organisations. The

local community consultation included advertising the Proposed Development through a newsletter mailout, emails, an online consultation website, and an in-person consultation event.

1.13 The consultation with the Council consisted of an Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') Screening Opinion Request.

1.14 The Applicant considered the points raised by consultees during the engagement process. The Applicant considers that information provided in the Transport Report, Construction Traffic Management Plan, Alternative Site Assessment and Planning, Design and Access Statement suitably addresses the concerns raised regarding loss of arable/cropland and construction traffic. Further to this, the majority of feedback received was positive and as a result no changes or additions are deemed to be necessary.

1.15 The approach taken to consultation was informed by the Council's Draft Statement of Community Involvement (June 2024), which sets out the proposals for involving and consulting members of the public and wider stakeholders in respect of both planning applications and planning policy matters.

Purpose and Structure of this Report

1.16 This Consultation Report provides details of the pre-application consultation undertaken by the Applicant in respect of the Proposed Development. The focus is primarily on consultation with the local community.

1.17 The following matters are covered:

- the approach that has been taken to consultation;
- the methods and activities employed;
- the timescales and deadlines set for consultation; and
- the responses that have been received to the consultation and how these have been taken into account by the Applicant.

1.18 The remainder of this report is structured as follows:

- Section 2 – explains the consultation strategy adopted by the Applicant;
- Section 3 – provides details of the pre-application consultation with the local community;
- Section 4 – sets out the responses the Applicant received to the consultation with the local community;

- Section 5 – sets out how the Applicant has had regard to the responses received to the consultation with the local community; and
- Section 6 – provides a summary and conclusions.

2.0 THE APPLICANT'S APPROACH TO CONSULTATION

Introduction

- 2.1 The Applicant devised a consultation strategy before carrying out the local community consultation. When devising the strategy, the Applicant recognised that early community engagement can identify key issues, help allay concerns, and allow for amendments to proposals before formal submissions.

Planning Policy and Guidance

- 2.2 The Applicant has had regard to the relevant planning policy and guidance in devising the consultation strategy. This included reviewing relevant local and national policy and guidance.

- 2.3 The HBBC Draft Statement of Community Involvement (June 2024) states:

"The views of the local community are important for officers to utilise their local knowledge to make good decisions on planning applications."

"The process of deciding planning applications is often of great public and local interest and comments from the local community are welcomed. Publicity is therefore carried out on all planning applications. As a general rule, the larger and more complex (major) planning applications are publicised more widely than proposals that are small scale and/or routine."

- 2.4 Furthermore, the National Planning Policy Framework ('NPPF') (2024) 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."

Consultation Objectives

- 2.5 The Applicant's overall consultation objectives have been to:
- raise awareness of what is proposed and to give the local community and other stakeholders the opportunity to make informative comments about the Proposed Development;
 - provide clear and concise information;
 - invite feedback and have regard to it in finalising the Proposed Development; and
 - show, within the application, how the Applicant has taken account of consultation.
- 2.6 To deliver the consultation objectives, the Applicant proposed a wide-reaching consultation centred around online and in-person consultation methods.

3.0 LOCAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Introduction

- 3.1 This section explains the scope of the local community consultation, including who was consulted, consultation methods, how the information was made available and how feedback could be provided by consultees.
- 3.2 The initial local community consultation ran for approximately 4 weeks from 27 May 2025 until 27 June 2025, although the Applicant was happy to accept public comments up until submission.

Consultees

- 3.3 The following groups were consulted:
- local residents and businesses;
 - local parish councils; and
 - relevant borough councillors.

Consultation Methods

- 3.4 A significant element of the exercise was conducted via an online consultation website and an in-person consultation event. The information on the website is covered in further detail below.

Website

- 3.5 The consultation website was hosted on the Applicant's own website so that consultees could quickly access information about the Applicant. The consultation website featured the following sections on a single page that consultees could easily scroll through:
- Heath Road Solar Farm – here consultees received a brief introduction to the project and the consultation period, including details of the in-person consultation event;
 - Quick facts – here consultees could view a number of quick facts about the project;
 - Location – here consultees could view the Site location plan and a description of the Site and surrounding area;
 - Our proposals – here consultees could read about various components of the Proposed Development;
 - Project documents – here consultees could access links to the Site location plan and Site layout plan;

- Project timeline – here consultees were given a rough timeline of how the Applicant intended the project to progress;
- The need for the project – here consultees could read about the local and national need for renewable energy in response to climate change;
- FAQ's – here consultees could view succinct answers to a number of common questions; and
- Get in touch – here consultees were given email, telephone and postal contact details for leaving feedback.

3.6 A screenshot of the project website can be found at **Appendix 1** of this Report.

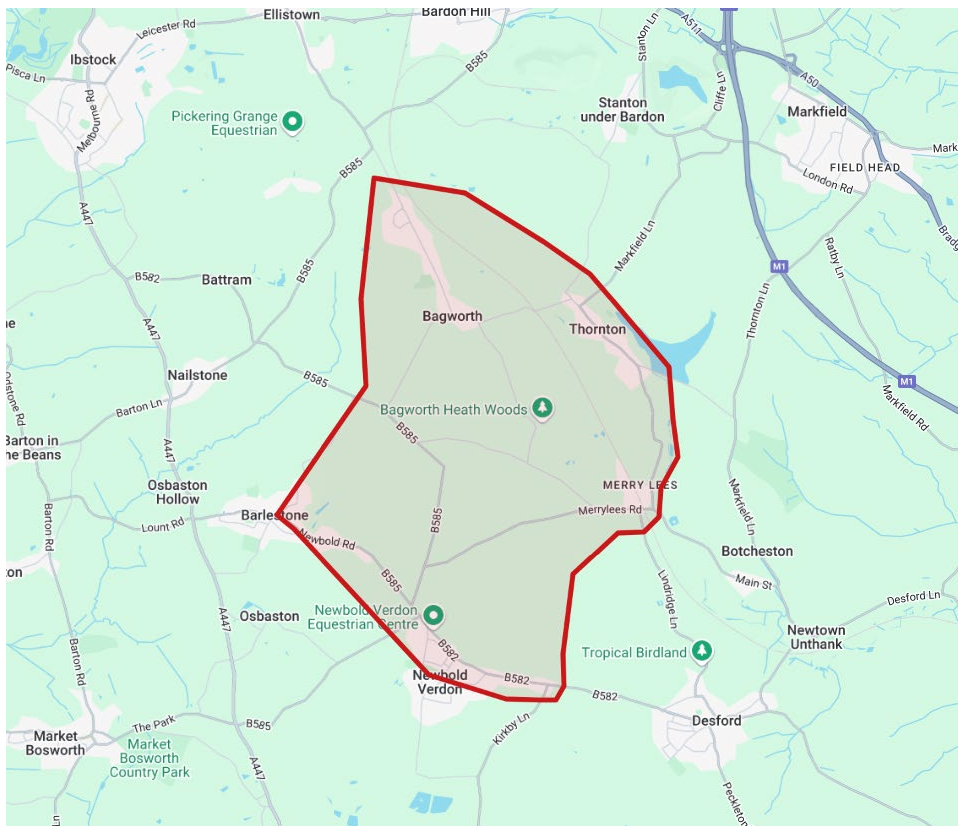
3.7 The website was published on 27 May 2025 and the URL address is: heathroadsolarfarm.co.uk

Mailout

3.8 The initial mailout comprised of newsletters, posted first class on 2 June 2025 via Royal Mail. In total, 2,611 copies of the newsletter were sent to properties within a specified area surrounding the Site as shown in Figure 3.1. The area of the consultation was determined based on the aim of consulting all of the residential settlements/villages and businesses within the vicinity of the Site. It extends from 1.9 km away from the Site up to 3.5 km away. Other residential areas, such as Desford, were scoped out due to their distance from the Site and intervening development.

3.9 These newsletters, an example of which is attached at **Appendix 2** of this Report, informed local occupiers of the proposals along with further details of the consultation including how to view information online and how to comment.

Figure 3.1: Mailout Area



Consultation Event

- 3.10 A significant element of the exercise was conducted via an in-person consultation event held on Tuesday 17th June 2025 at Bagworth Community Centre, Station Rd, Bagworth, Coalville LE67 1BH. The consultation event ran from 16:00 to 19:00.

Other

- 3.11 Parish councils, parish ward members, and HBBC members were contacted via email on 30th May 2025 with the project newsletter (**Appendix 2**) and a project letter, an example of which is at **Appendix 3**. They were given details of the Proposed Development, the project website, the in-person consultation event, as well as the opportunity to discuss the project.
- 3.12 The local MP was sent a letter prior to submission to inform them of the upcoming application for the Proposed Development.

Feedback

- 3.13 Feedback could be provided via the following means:

- **Website:** heathroadsolarfarm.co.uk;

- **Post:** Heath Road Solar Farm, Level 4, LDN:W, 3 Noble Street, London, EC2V 7EE;
- **Email:** heathroad@renewableconnections.co.uk; and
- **Telephone:** 0800 254 5011.

3.14 As stated previously, comments were accepted beyond the consultation period, up until submission of the application.

4.0 CONSULTATION RESPONSES

- 4.1 This section provides details of the general interest in, and responses received in relation to the consultation.

Consultation Responses

- 4.2 The public consultation event was attended by 4 people.
- 4.3 In total, 3 pieces of feedback were received, all via feedback forms. No online feedback forms were received. The feedback received was generally positive and in support of renewable energy, the site location and proposed layout, and the landscaping and biodiversity enhancement initiatives being proposed. Concern was raised regarding the replacement of arable land for crops and construction traffic.
- 4.4 More detailed topics and examples of specific comments are displayed below in Table 5.1 of Section 5, alongside the Applicant's regard had to those comments and any related changes made to the Application.

5.0 REGARD HAD TO CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY

- 5.1 The Applicant has given meaningful consideration to the feedback received from the local community and has made a number of additions and changes to the design of the Proposed Development.
- 5.2 Table 5.1 on the following pages sets out the key themes identified from analysis of all the submitted feedback and the Applicant's response in respect of each matter, including where changes have been made (if needed).

Table 5.1: Regard had to Consultation Responses

Categories/ Themes	Sub themes	Example Comments	Applicant's response/regard had to the comments/issues	Changes made to the Proposed Development & relevant document/s
Agricultural land	Loss of arable land / cropland	<i>"Personally I'd prefer the land to be left producing much needed crops."</i>	It is acknowledged that the Site is currently used for arable rotation and the Proposed Development for a solar farm would allow for grazing around the panels. As such, while arable land for crops would be replaced with pasture land, it would allow for an agricultural use to be retained. It is considered that the Site could return to arable use following the removal of the Proposed Development at the end of its lifespan. Furthermore, the Proposed Development is minimally invasive and impactful on the surrounding environment in comparison to other forms of development, such as residential schemes. Current government schemes actually encourage farmers to take land out of production and put it to grass, meadows, or trees for carbon capture. Furthermore, the Government is extremely supportive of renewable energy and acknowledges that agricultural land is likely to be required for large-scale renewable energy developments. The site-specific Agricultural Land Classification Survey undertaken confirms that the Site is predominantly sub-grade 3b (93%) 'moderate quality' agricultural land, with a small amount of sub-grade 3a (6%) agricultural land and non-agricultural land (1%). Grades 1 - 3a are considered 'Best and Most Versatile' ('BMV') land, which is most flexible, productive and efficient in response to inputs, and which can best deliver food and non-food crops for future generations. Therefore, the Proposed Development uses only a very small portion of BMV land. Whilst there is no statutory or policy requirement to justify or explain the selection of the Site, the Applicant has elected to produce an Alternative Sites Assessment ('ASA') which accompanies the planning application. This defines a 3.5km search area from the PoC (being an existing electricity pylon) and includes a search of all previously developed and agricultural land of equal or lower grade (so Grades 4 or 5). It should be noted that the surrounding areas within 3.5 km of the Site predominantly comprise Grades 2 and 3 BMV agricultural land, which are of higher agricultural quality than the predominant Grade 3b of the Site. As such, the search area around the available PoC to the grid is reasonably constrained for alternative sites. The ASA has not identified any other sites that represent a more feasible alternative to this Site. Furthermore, it is important to emphasise that limited opportunities currently exist for grid connections nationally, however, in this case the Applicant benefits from an accepted grid connection point.	No changes made. Please refer to the following documents: • Agricultural Land Classification Survey. • Alternative Site Assessment. • Planning, Design and Access Statement.
Construction	Construction vehicle routing	<i>"The lorries bringing supplies need to be carefully monitored as we have a lot off</i>	During the period of construction, which is estimated at 24 weeks, all construction traffic will follow a prescribed route laid out in the	An alternative construction route was considered, and whilst it would provide a shorter route to the SRN, it would route vehicles through the village of Bagworth. As such, the selected construction

		7.5T restricted roads bordering the project.”	submitted Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan (‘CTMP’). The construction vehicle routing of all vehicles to/ from the Site will approach via the B585 and the A511, which is considered to be the most appropriate route to/ from the Strategic Road Network (‘SRN’), whilst avoiding as many local settlements, such as Bagworth, as possible and any height and weight restrictions. Swept path analysis was undertaken at the access route, which has identified that it is suitable for construction vehicles, such as HGVs. An alternative construction route was considered, which would provide a shorter route to the SRN. However, this would route vehicles north on Heath Road from the Site, through the village of Bagworth to the B585 and on to the A511. Whilst being the shorter route, it is not considered to be the most appropriate for HGV traffic, given that it goes through villages of Bagworth and Stanton under Bardon. The road network itself will be surveyed pre-commencement of the works and again once complete. HBBC will hold a bond to ensure the condition of the road is not degraded due to construction traffic. If any repairs are required, these will be carried out shortly after termination of works.	route is considered to be the most appropriate for HGV traffic, given that it avoids the villages of Bagworth and Stanton under Bardon. Please refer to the following documents: • Transport Statement. • CTMP. • Planning, Design and Access Statement.
	Construction impacts	“Happy that minimum impact will be put on the area whilst construction is underway.” “It would appear that impact will be low and time allowed for this will be short.”	Acknowledged. Acknowledged.	n/a n/a
The project	Principle development of	“Important, as this is the future, or at least part of it.” “Very happy that a scheme such as this is being proposed on our ‘door step’ and not just on TV.” “Big thumbs up.” “This fab idea, more renewable energy needs.”	Acknowledged. Acknowledged. Acknowledged. Acknowledged.	n/a n/a n/a n/a
Biodiversity	Planting	“I am happy that the land underneath the panels will be used for flowers, bees etc.” “Do like the idea of more plants being planted so yes!!”	Acknowledged. Acknowledged.	n/a n/a
	Grazing	“Yeah, think this is all good as still going to be used for grazing land for farm animals as well as solar panels.”	Acknowledged.	n/a
Landscape	Screening	“Plus the hedges they’re planting should shield some panels.”	Acknowledged.	n/a
Site	Layout	“Site layout appears to be tidy.”	Acknowledged.	n/a
Location	Separation from residential properties	“Very rural and not near houses so all good.”	Acknowledged.	n/a

6.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The Applicant has carried out a comprehensive and meaningful pre-application exercise in respect of the Proposed Development, primarily focused on the local community but also including consultation with other key consultees.
- 6.2 The local community consultation included a newsletter mailout, emails, an online consultation website, and an in-person consultation event.
- 6.3 During the consultation, feedback received was generally positive and respondents acknowledged the need for renewable energy, the suitable location and proposed site layout, and the landscaping and biodiversity enhancement initiatives being proposed. Concern was raised regarding the replacement of arable land for crops and construction traffic.
- 6.4 The Applicant considered the points raised by consultees during the engagement process. The Applicant considers that information provided in the Transport Report, Construction Traffic Management Plan, Alternative Site Assessment and Planning, Design and Access Statement suitably addresses the concerns raised regarding loss of arable/cropland and construction traffic. Further to this, the majority of feedback received was positive and as a result no changes or additions are deemed to be necessary.
- 6.5 It follows that the Applicant has carried out a significant and meaningful consultation exercise prior to submitting the planning application, in accordance with relevant local and national policy and guidance, and the Council's Draft Statement of Community Involvement (June 2024).

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT WEBSITE



[Our Expertise](#) ▼ [Our Sites](#) [Landowners](#) [ESG](#) [Our Leadership](#) [News](#) [Community](#)

[Careers](#) [Contact](#)

HEATH ROAD SOLAR FARM

Renewable Connections is investigating the potential for a ground mount utility scale solar farm with capacity up to 21.5MW to the south of Bagworth, Leicestershire (known as the 'Heath Road Solar Farm'). Once operational, the project would supply enough power for up to 7,581 homes and make a valuable contribution towards tackling the climate emergency in Leicestershire and the wider UK.

As we prepare to submit an application to Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, Renewable Connections is undertaking consultation to inform local communities of our proposed plans and invite any feedback to shape the submission details.

We are inviting members of the community to provide any comments on the proposal either via the project website, by email or post. A community consultation event will take place on **Tuesday 17th June 2025 at the Bagworth Community Centre, Station Rd, Bagworth, Coalville LE67 1BH from 4pm to 7pm**. Comments provided by the local community will be taken into consideration and incorporated into the scheme where appropriate for the formal



planning application ready for submission later this year.

QUICK FACTS

3,856 tonnes*
of CO₂ saved annually

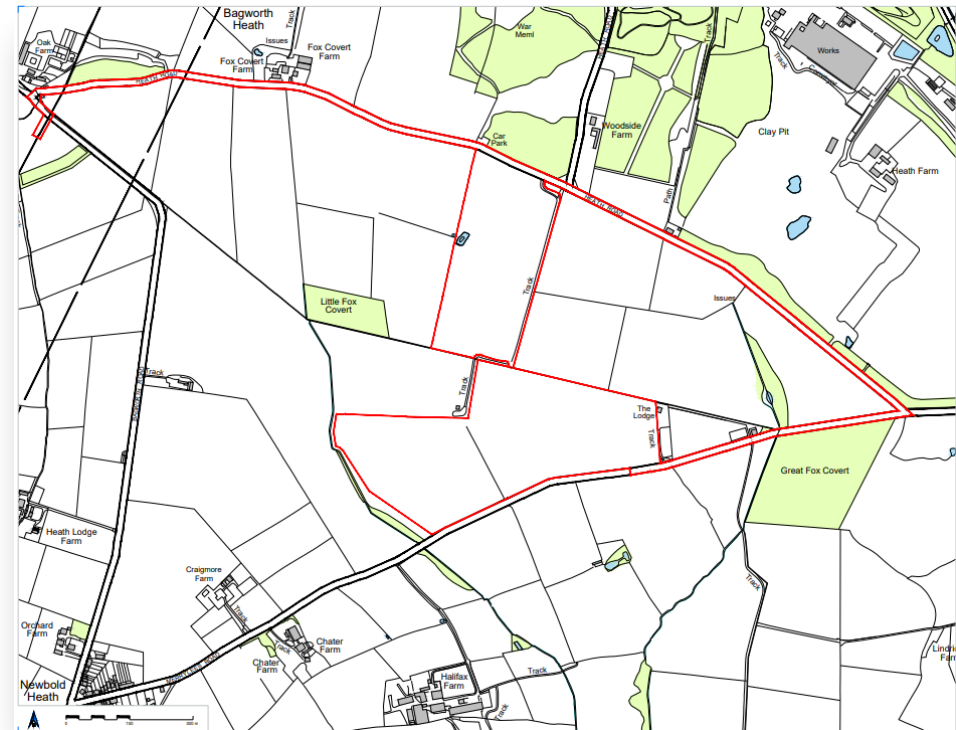
Equivalent annual energy
needs of up to **7,581 homes****

** (Calculated using BEIS's "all fossil fuels" emissions statistic of 446 tonnes of carbon dioxide per GWh of electricity supplied in the Digest of UK Energy Statistics (July 2020)*

*** (Calculated using the most recent statistics from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) showing that annual GB average domestic household consumption is 3,578kWh)*

LOCATION

The proposed Heath Road Solar Farm comprises agricultural fields south of Heath Road and adjacent to the north of Merrylees Road. The total area of the site is approximately 29 hectares ('ha'). It is situated to the south of Bagworth and Thornton, north of Newbold Verdon and Desford and east of Barlestone. The Site is within the administrative area of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council ('HBBC') and Leicestershire County Council ('LCC').



OUR PROPOSALS



If installed, the solar farm will have a capacity of up to 21.5 MWp and will be operational for up to 40 years. After the time, all of the installation will be removed and the land restored to how it was before, but with improved soil health and biodiversity. The power generated will be exported to the grid via a substation connecting to existing powerlines which run through the site boundary.

The solar panels will be installed in rows which run east to west through the site. These rows will be tilted towards the south to capture the maximum amount of solar irradiation possible. The total height of the panels will be no more than 3m above the ground with a gap of more than 0.8m above the ground at its minimum.

Small electric cabins will be located amongst the panels and these will be accessed by a network of crushed stone track which will run through the site. All of the panels will be surrounded by a security fence to protect the equipment from large animals and unauthorised users entering the site. CCTV cameras will be located periodically around the site perimeter for security.

The development will also involve additional landscaping including hedgerow planting and improved biodiversity management. The site is currently pasture and arable land with low ecological value, however with the implementation of a biodiversity management plan the site will be significantly enhanced for biodiversity by creating a range of new habitats, offering food and shelter to wildlife.

PROJECT DOCUMENTS



PROJECT TIMELINE

STAGE 1 STAGE 2 STAGE 3 STAGE 4 STAGE 5 STAGE 6

Site selection Summer 2022	Preliminary Surveys Summer 2022	Pre-application Winter 2022	Community Consultation Summer 2025	Submission Summer 2025	Construction 2026
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THE NEED FOR THE PROJECT

Following the Government's declaration of an "Environment and Climate Emergency" in May 2019, the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) advised that to meet 'Net Zero' targets, the UK will require substantial amounts of new, low carbon power sources to be built before 2050, up to four times that of today's levels.

HBBC declared their own climate emergency in July 2019 and have a vision to work towards making HBBC being carbon neutral by 2030 (direct council emissions) and to ensure that the borough is net zero by 2050 by considering both production and consumption costs, minimising the environmental impacts of our activities, through our leadership role, influencing and empowering others to take similar actions and ensuring all the council decisions consider the carbon usage and the resulting impact.

Solar is one of the cleanest, lowest cost forms of energy available. The Heath Road Solar Farm would make a meaningful contribution to Leicestershire's energy needs by delivering green energy to the equivalent of up to 7,581 homes annually. Over the lifetime of the project, it would save an estimated 3,856 tonnes of CO₂ from being emitted.





FAQ's

Why this location?

This site has been identified following extensive site selection across Leicestershire which took into account environmental designations, local electricity network access and capacity, the physical characteristics of the site, and a supportive landowner.

Will there be any impacts on local roads?



Will there be any permanent impact?



Does solar pose a health risk?



How long will the project be there?



Are solar farms and battery farms noisy?



What are the benefits to the local community?



GET IN TOUCH

heathroadsolar@renewableconnections.co.uk

0800 254 5011

Heath Road Energy Centre Limited

LDN:W,

3 Noble Street,

London,

EC2V 7EE

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NEWS

enquiries@renewableconnections.co.uk



COMMUNITY
PRIVACY & SECURITY
TERMS & CONDITIONS



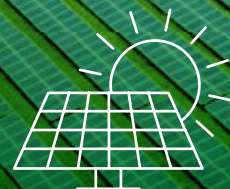
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Rivington Energy Limited is registered in England and Wales (no. 12351952), with its registered office at Level 4, LDN: W, 3 Noble Street, London, EC2V 7EE. Rivington Energy is majority-owned by Federated Hermes Limited.

Website by
TMS Media Ltd

APPENDIX 2: PROJECT NEWSLETTER

HEATH ROAD SOLAR FARM



A proposed solar farm of up to 21.5 MW capacity in Bagworth, Leicestershire.

Renewable Connections is investigating the potential for a solar energy project in Bagworth, Leicestershire. Once operational, the project could supply enough power for up to 7,581 new homes, and save up to 3,856 tonnes of CO₂ each year. As we prepare a planning application to submit to Hinkley and Bosworth Borough Council, Renewable Connections is undertaking a consultation process to inform local communities of our proposed plans and invite any feedback.

More information on the project, our plans and how you can consult with us is provided on our website at: heathroadsolarfarm.co.uk

Public consultation event

Tuesday 17th June 2025, at Bagworth Community Centre, Station Rd, Bagworth, Coalville LE67 1BH from 4pm to 7pm.

Have your Say

Please provide any comments you have on the proposal either via the project website, or by email or post using the details provided below. Comments provided by the local community will be taken into consideration and incorporated into the scheme, where appropriate, for the formal planning application.



Up to 3,856 tonnes of CO₂ saved annually



Up to 21,189 MWh generated per year



Up to 7,581 homes powered

Stage 1

Site selection
Spring 2022

Stage 2

Pre-application
Winter 2022

Stage 3

Preliminary surveys
Summer 2023

Stage 4

Community
Consultation
Summer 2025

Stage 5

Planning submission
Summer 2025

Stage 6

Construction
2026

T: 0800 254 5011

E: heathroad@renewableconnections.co.uk

A: Level 4, LDN:W, 3 Noble Street, London, EC2V 7EE



THE PROPOSED SITE

The site proposed for the Heath Road Solar Farm comprises approximately 29 hectares of land located on land directly off Heath Road. The site is north of Newbold Verdon and south of Bagworth.

The solar farm will have a capacity of up to 21.5MW and will be operational for up to 40 years. After that time, all of the installation will be removed and the land restored to its current state but with improved soil health and biodiversity.

The Proposed Development would include a package of landscape, ecological, and biodiversity benefits that could include the installation of bird nesting boxes, log piles, restoration of traditional field boundaries, and other hibernacula such as small buried rubble piles suitable for reptile species, amphibians and insect life.

Any existing hedgerows would be bolstered with additional hedgerow and tree planting, where required, in addition to potential new mitigation planting around the boundaries of the Site, in order to provide natural screening where appropriate. Land between and beneath the panels can be used for biodiversity enhancements or sheep grazing.

Our plans are still in the development stages, so our design proposals will evolve as we gather local input and the results of our environmental assessments.





WHY SOLAR?

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council declared their own climate emergency in July 2019 and have a vision to work towards making HBBC being carbon neutral by 2030 (direct council emissions) and to ensure that the borough is net zero by 2050 by considering both production and consumption costs, minimising the environmental impacts of their activities, through leadership and empowering others to take similar actions and ensuring all the council decisions consider the carbon usage and the resulting impact.

This site has been identified following extensive site selection across Leicestershire which took into account environmental designations, local electricity network access and capacity, the physical characteristics of the site, and a supportive landowner.

Further analysis and surveys were undertaken to better understand ecology and landscape impacts, and other factors such as flood risk, ecology, landscape and access.



FAQ'S

Will there be any impacts on local roads?

For a period of approximately 6 months during construction, there will be deliveries of equipment to site. Renewable Connections will put in place measures to manage impacts of construction traffic and these measures will be included in a Construction Traffic Management Plan that will be submitted with the planning application. There will be infrequent maintenance visits to the site during operation.

Will there be any permanent impact?

Solar farms are temporary and the land will be fully reinstated to farmland once the equipment is removed at the end of the project life. The development proposes a life span of up to 40 years. The land is not brownfield land, and is not able to be converted into residential or commercial development following the decommissioning of the site.

Does solar pose a health risk?

No - solar is a passive technology which doesn't produce any harmful by-products.

Are solar farms noisy?

No - solar farms are not noisy, producing no more than normal background levels of sound similar to wind or distant traffic beyond the site boundary.

What are the benefits to the local community?

Renewable Connections is committed to maximising benefits for the local Community. We will establish a Community Benefit Fund and support local good causes. The project will incorporate a range of ecological and wildlife enhancements on site.

ABOUT US

The Renewable Connections team is unlocking hundreds of megawatts of solar and storage across the UK, increasing energy independence and supporting the country's net zero targets. We are committed to developing high-quality projects which see benefits delivered to local residents and the natural environment.

Find out more at
heathroadsolarfarm.co.uk

Delivering our future energy needs today.

www.renewableconnections.co.uk

APPENDIX 3: PROJECT LETTER

Hinckley Hub
Rugby Road
Hinckley
Leicestershire
LE10 0FR
30 May 2025

Dear Councillor,

RE: Heath Road Solar Farm – Introduction to Project

I write to you on behalf of Renewable Connections, a UK renewable energy developer. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves and advise you about a proposed new solar energy project in your local area that we are developing.

Renewable Connections is a leading developer of solar projects across the UK. We are currently reviewing opportunities for a project located on land off of Heath Road, south of Bagworth. The site will have a generating capacity of up to 21.5 megawatts (MW) of electricity that will be distributed into the local electricity network, enough to power up to 7,581 homes annually. The site has been chosen because of its minimal landscape intrusion and its relatively unconstrained environmental and ecological features.

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) declared their own climate emergency in July 2019 and have a vision to work towards making HBBC being carbon neutral by 2030 (direct council emissions) and to ensure that the borough is net zero by 2050. Renewable Connections strongly believes it can work with HBBC to help deliver on its net zero targets.

We have undertaken numerous environmental and impact surveys. An Environmental Impact Assessment screening will be submitted in the coming days for review by the Council. We envisage a planning application for the site will be submitted in summer 2025.

Consultation of residents, businesses and community representatives is underway to provide information about the proposals, answer questions and to receive valuable feedback. All comments received will be taken into consideration for the formal planning application ready for submission later this year.

As part of our public consultation process, we will be hosting a public event on the **Tuesday 17th June 2025, at Bagworth Community Centre, Station Rd, Bagworth, Coalville LE67 1BH from 4pm to 7pm**, which you are most welcome to attend. We will also be writing to residents and businesses within the vicinity of the site, inviting them to attend the consultation and outlining details about the proposed solar farm and how they can provide feedback. Further information about the project can be found on the project website – www.heathroadsolarfarm.co.uk.



We hope this letter is a helpful introduction to our plans, if you do have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me via the details below.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fraser Shaw", written in a cursive style.

Fraser Shaw
Project Developer

Email: f.shaw@renewableconnections.co.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)7407 673929

Email: heathroadsolar@renewableconnections.co.uk

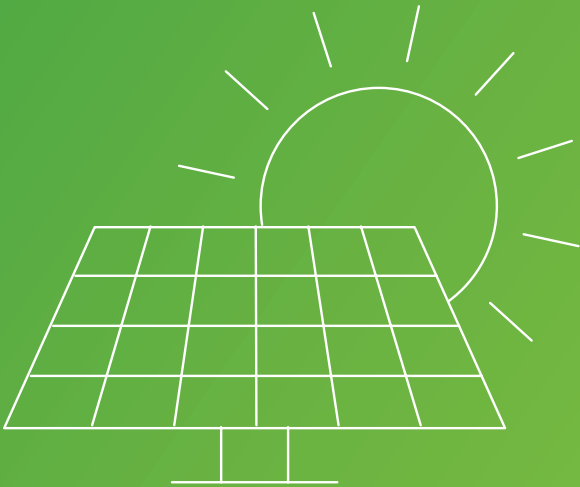
Website: www.heathroadsolarfarm.co.uk

Address: 4th Floor LDN:W, 3 Noble Street, London, EC2V

APPENDIX 4: EVENT BOARDS

Welcome to Heath Road Solar Farm Consultation Event

Renewable Connections is preparing a planning application for a solar photovoltaic (PV) farm of up to 21.5MW capacity in Bagworth, Leicestershire, to be known as ‘Heath Road Solar Farm’.



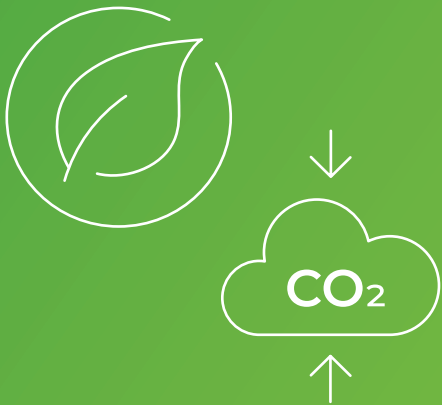
The site proposed for Heath Road Solar Farm comprises approximately 29 hectares of land located off Heath Road south of Bagworth and east of Barlestone. The site comprises three agricultural fields and access off Heath Road.

The site has been identified following extensive site selection across Leicestershire which took into account environmental designations, local electricity network access and capacity, the physical characteristics of the site, and a supportive landowner. The site is an appropriate distance from the point of connection to the local grid network which is an important factor in assessing the viability of the project.

Our plans are still in the development stages, and have been through several design iterations taking into account the results of our environmental assessments. Engagement with Leicestershire County Council (LCC) and key stakeholders has commenced.

Once operational, Heath Road Solar Farm would make a valuable contribution towards tackling the climate emergency in Leicestershire County Council and the UK by:

Supplying enough power for up to 7,581 homes annually.



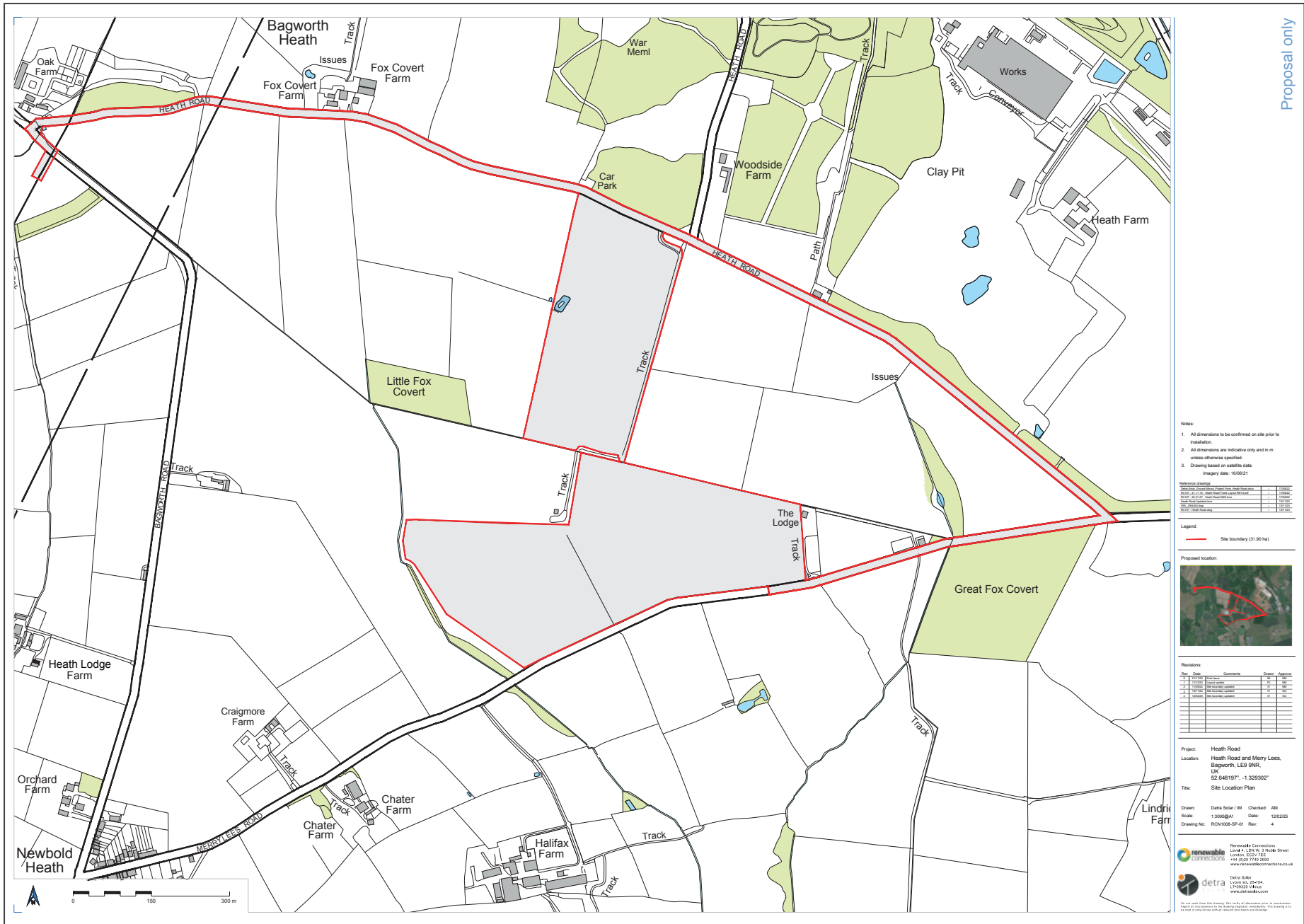
Displacing up to 3,856 tonnes of CO₂ from fossil fuel sources every year of its operation.



Renewable Connections has also committed to maximising benefits for the local community. We will establish a community benefit fund to support local good causes.

Please speak to a team member for more information.

Development boundary



Environmental Assessments

Transport

- The primary access to the site will be from Heath Road onto a third party access track leading down to the existing field access to the northern and southern parcels.
- The internal roads have all been designed to use MOT Type 1 aggregate, a material that is widely used in road construction. The material is made up of crushed stone and concrete and is used for its high load-bearing capacity.
- During the construction period, Heavy Good Vehicles (HGVs) will route between the site and the major highways network using the B585 leading to the A511. The B585 is suitable for construction vehicles at all points of the proposed construction route and will not propose significant impacts on the local road network.
- For a period of approximately 6 months during construction, there will be deliveries of equipment to site. Renewable Connections will put in place measures to manage the impacts of construction traffic such as timing deliveries outside of rush hour and school drop-off times, erecting temporary construction signage and using qualified Banksmen to marshal vehicles in and out of site in the safest manner.
- Once operational, there will be infrequent maintenance visits to the site. A Transport Statement will be prepared and submitted as part of the full application, which will detail both the construction and operational vehicle movements from the proposed development.

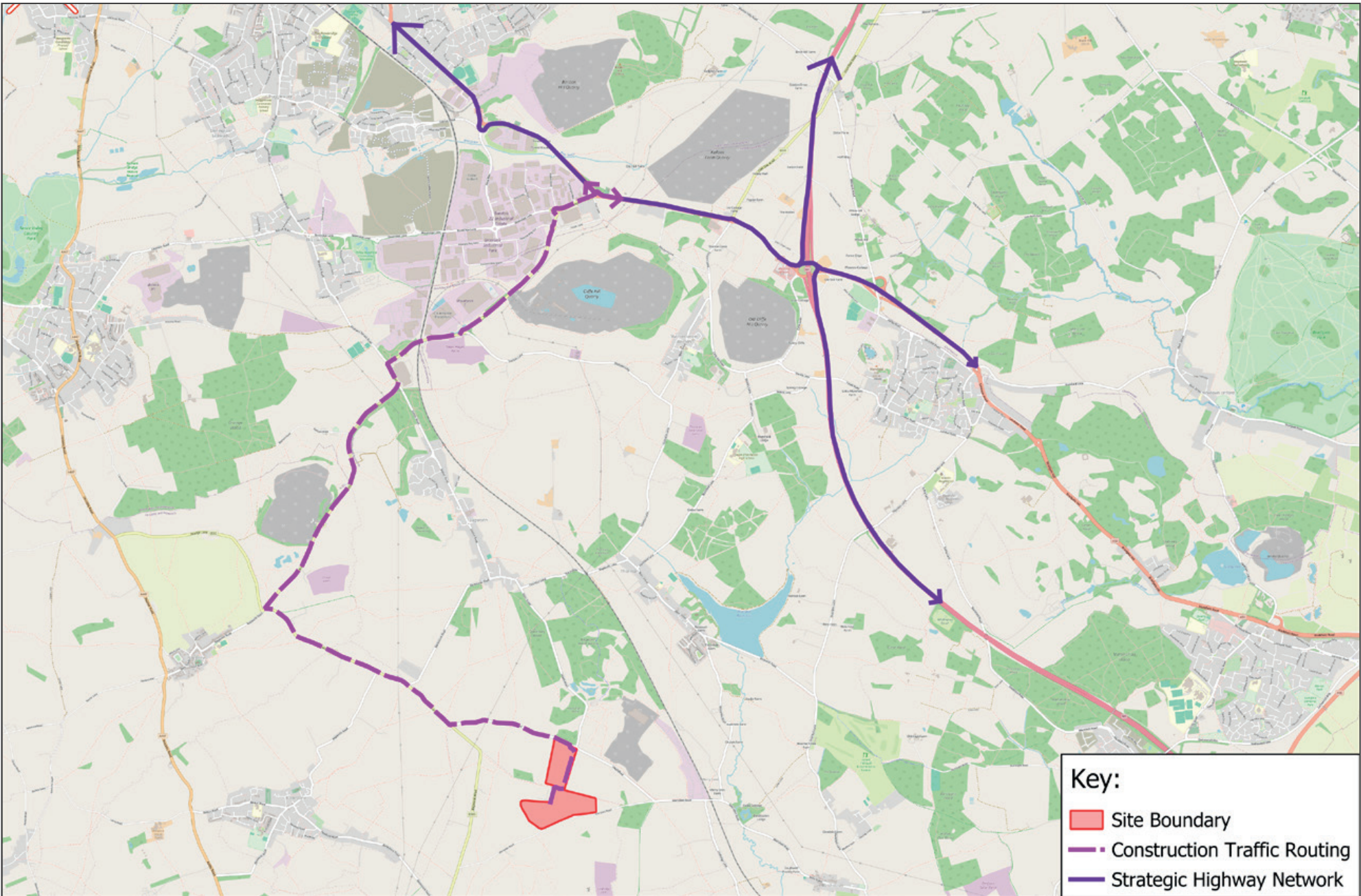
Ecology

- A full Ecological Assessment has been undertaken by EDP Ecology and will be submitted as part of the full application.
- The site comprises predominantly arable land with limited field margins separating the site, these are considered to be of low ecological value. The most valuable ecological features of the site are the hedgerows, mature trees of the boundaries and pond in the northern parcel. All of these features are to be kept and strengthened where necessary.
- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey has been undertaken, which has informed the subsequent ecological surveys below:
 - Badgers
 - Roosting Bats
 - Breeding Birds
 - Wintering Birds
 - Great Crested Newts
- No badger setts or trees suitable for roosting bats were recorded on site.
- During bird surveys, a large proportion of birds recorded were green list non-priority species. However, a small number of red list species were recorded including Skylarks, Yellowhammer and herring Gulls. Renewable Connections and EDP Ecology are in discussion with county ecologists to come to a mutually agreed mitigation scheme on site.

Flooding and Drainage

- The application site lies wholly within Flood Zone 1, defined as land with a low probability of flooding. The majority of the site is at ‘very low’ risk of flooding from all sources.
- The proposed solar development will use very little impermeable construction methods; piled solar panel foundations and type 1 maintenance tracks are completely permeable. The extent of impermeable surfaces proposed by the development is considered to be a small minority of the total site.
- Solar panels are raised to a height to allow grass sward to grow underneath, this allows rain to infiltrate into the ground at the same rate as currently.
- The proposed development includes a sustainable drainage system in the form of interception swales, to naturally slow the surface water runoff in the case of high rates of rainfall. The volume of surface water storage proposed in the interception swales is greater than the additional runoff generated in a 1 in 100 year flood event.
- The Flood Risk Assessment will form part of the full application, but the overall conclusions drawn are that the development will not increase flood risk elsewhere in the borough and will actively reduce flood risk on site.

Construction Delivery Routes



Environmental Assessments

Cultural Heritage

- Renewable Connections in conjunction with AOC Archaeology have undertaken a two stage assessment strategy:
 - Cultural Heritage Assessment
 - Geophysical Survey
- The Cultural Heritage Assessment has identified 23 designated heritage assets surrounding the site, however, no assets within 1.5km of the site boundaries. This includes the three scheduled moated sites at Lindridge Fields Farm, Newbold Verdon and Bagworth.
- All designated assets considered by this assessment, the potential impacts upon their setting are judged to be none or neutral.
- Two geophysical surveys have been conducted over the development land, a 2018 survey by a former developer and the 2023 survey conducted as part of this development proposal. Both surveys gave similar findings of little to no evidence of findings of relevant importance.
- RCD have liaised with Leicestershire County Council (LCC) archaeologists and come to mutual agreement on a trenching scheme pre/post consent. A Written Scheme of Investigation will be submitted to and approved by LCC prior to works being undertaken.

Landscape and Visual Impact

- A Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) has been prepared by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd and will be submitted as part of the full application.
- The site does not fall within any nationally or locally landscape designations, however, a Public Right of Way (PROW S14) passes through the centre of the site east to west.
- Due to the undulating topography of the site combined with the naturally well screened character of the landscape, the site is considered well enclosed. The LVA has concluded the receptors most impacted by the proposed development are within or immediately adjacent to the site.
- The development proposes a selection of mitigation measures including bolstering existing hedgerows and planting new native hedgerows to strengthen the screening of the infrastructure. Long term effects to landscape character are considered to be neutral, as there is a predicted balance of adverse and beneficial effects.
- Overall, the proposed development would result in localised harm to visual amenity within the vicinity of the Site, but it would also provide landscape enhancement with respect to habitat creation and bolstering the green infrastructure network which could be managed and maintained in the longer term.

Agricultural Land

- An Agricultural Land Classification survey has been undertaken by Land Research Associates on the full development and will be submitted as part of the formal application.
- The findings of the survey were the land is mainly of Subgrade 3b agricultural quality limited by wetness and workability constraints, with a minor area of Subgrade 3a land limited by topsoil stone content.

Footpath and bridleways

- Existing Public Rights of Way (PROW) in and around the site will remain open during the construction and operation of the solar farm. Renewable Connections will consult the Council's PROW team to ensure appropriate measures are put in place to minimise impacts to the use and enjoyment of the PROWs.



Viewpoint locations

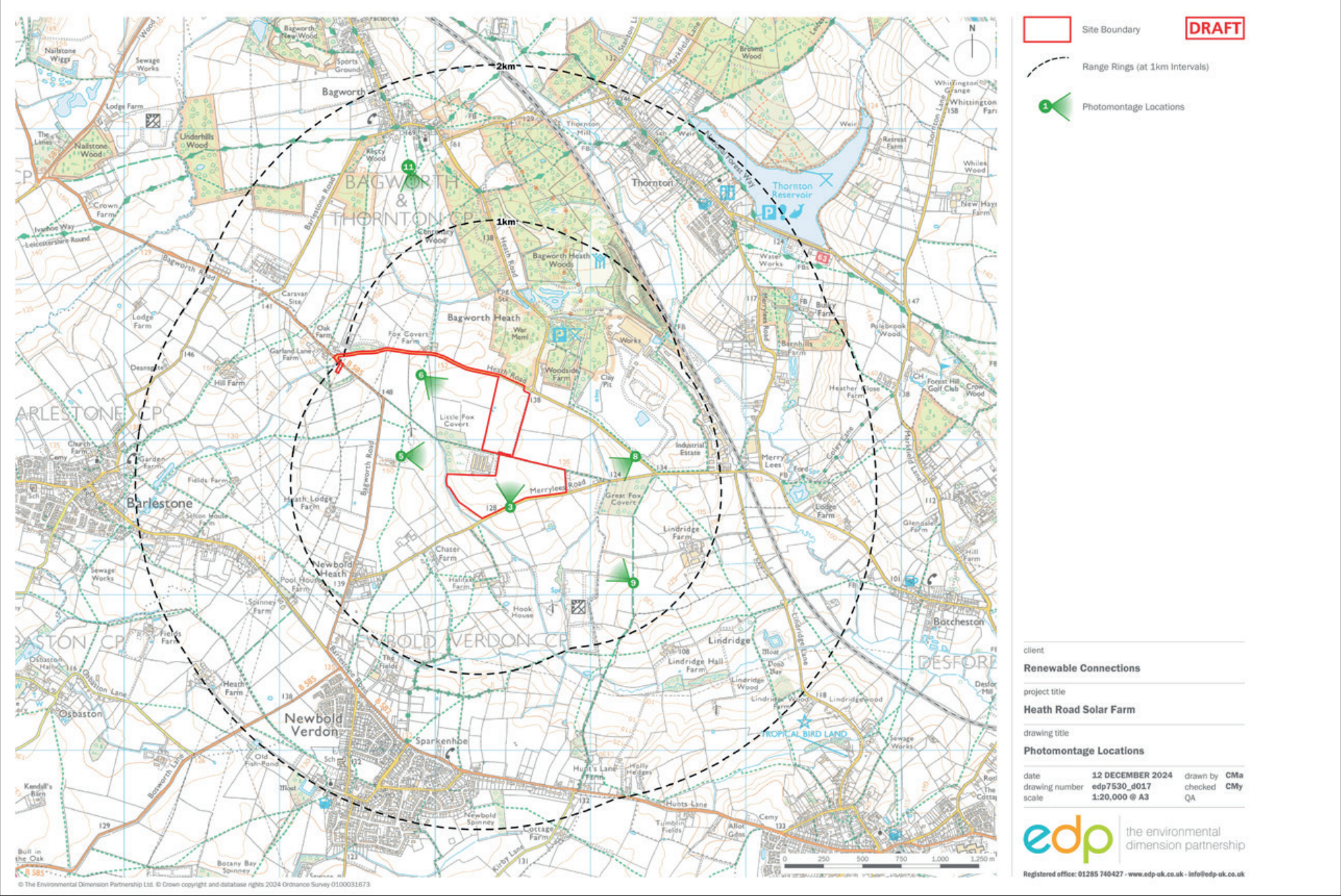


Photo viewpoint

5



Photo viewpoint

8



Photo viewpoint

9



Based on expert Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Mapping surveys.



Site layout

