

Welcome



We are consulting on our proposals to build a new solar and energy storage park on land near Gate Burton in Lincolnshire, as well as infrastructure to connect the scheme into the national grid at Cottam substation in Nottinghamshire.

Why it's needed

The transition to a low carbon energy system is necessary to avoid the effects of climate change. The UK is committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

The pathway to net zero requires the decarbonisation of transport, industry, agriculture and homes through electrification – which will see electricity demand double by 2050.

More renewable energy is needed to fast-track the transition away from fossil fuels, and large-scale solar has an important role to play in achieving this target.

Gate Burton Energy Park has an anticipated generation capacity of around 500 megawatts (MW). It would make a vital contribution towards achieving net zero – providing enough clean energy to power over 160,000 homes and avoid 100,000 tonnes of CO₂ every year, while also delivering UK energy security of supply and value for years to come.

This consultation – 22 June to 5 August 2022

After holding an initial consultation earlier this year on our emerging proposals for Gate Burton Energy Park we have continued to shape and refine our plans; taking into consideration your feedback together with the findings from our ongoing surveys and assessments.

We're now inviting you to take part in this second consultation to tell us what you think about these more detailed plans and how they have evolved.

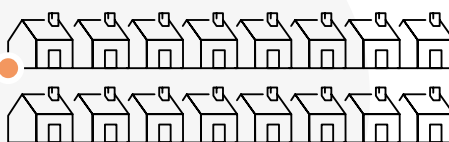
Your views are important to us. We will use your comments to help shape the final plans we submit to Planning Inspectorate in our application for development consent.

Generation capacity:

500 ^{MW}



Enough clean energy
to power over



160,000
homes

Contact us

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Low Carbon – who we are



Founded in 2011, Low Carbon is a privately-owned UK investment and asset management company specialising in renewable energy.

Our aim is to have a positive, lasting impact on climate change. In practice this means:

- Responsible and innovative investment in renewable energy projects
- A commitment to protecting the earth's natural resources
- Dedication to creating a low carbon future for us all.

To this end we have established our own target of achieving net zero by 2030.

At Low Carbon, we specifically target investments in solar, onshore wind, waste-to energy, battery storage and other proven renewable energy technologies.

Deploying capital at scale into renewables, we invest across the full life cycle from concept through to development, construction and operation.



To date Low Carbon investments are generating sufficient clean energy to power more than 427,000 homes and, since commissioning, have avoided more than 750,000 tonnes of CO₂.¹

¹ Low Carbon internal calculations using OFGEM Typical Domestic Consumption Values and BEIS Carbon Conversion Factors.

Working together with local communities – how can we support you?

As a certified B Corporation we believe it is right that those communities closest to the proposed energy park are able to benefit from it – with those communities themselves being best-placed to recommend what a 'community benefit' should be.

Benefits associated with the development of Gate Burton Energy Park include:

- Producing enough clean energy to power more than 160,000 UK homes
- Supporting and enhancing natural habitats, food sources, and green spaces to enhance biodiversity
- Payment of business rates when the project is operational, contributing to the provision of local services
- Provision of educational packs for local primary schools to utilise in addition to offering educational visits.

Tell us about any local projects and initiatives you'd like us to consider supporting in your feedback.

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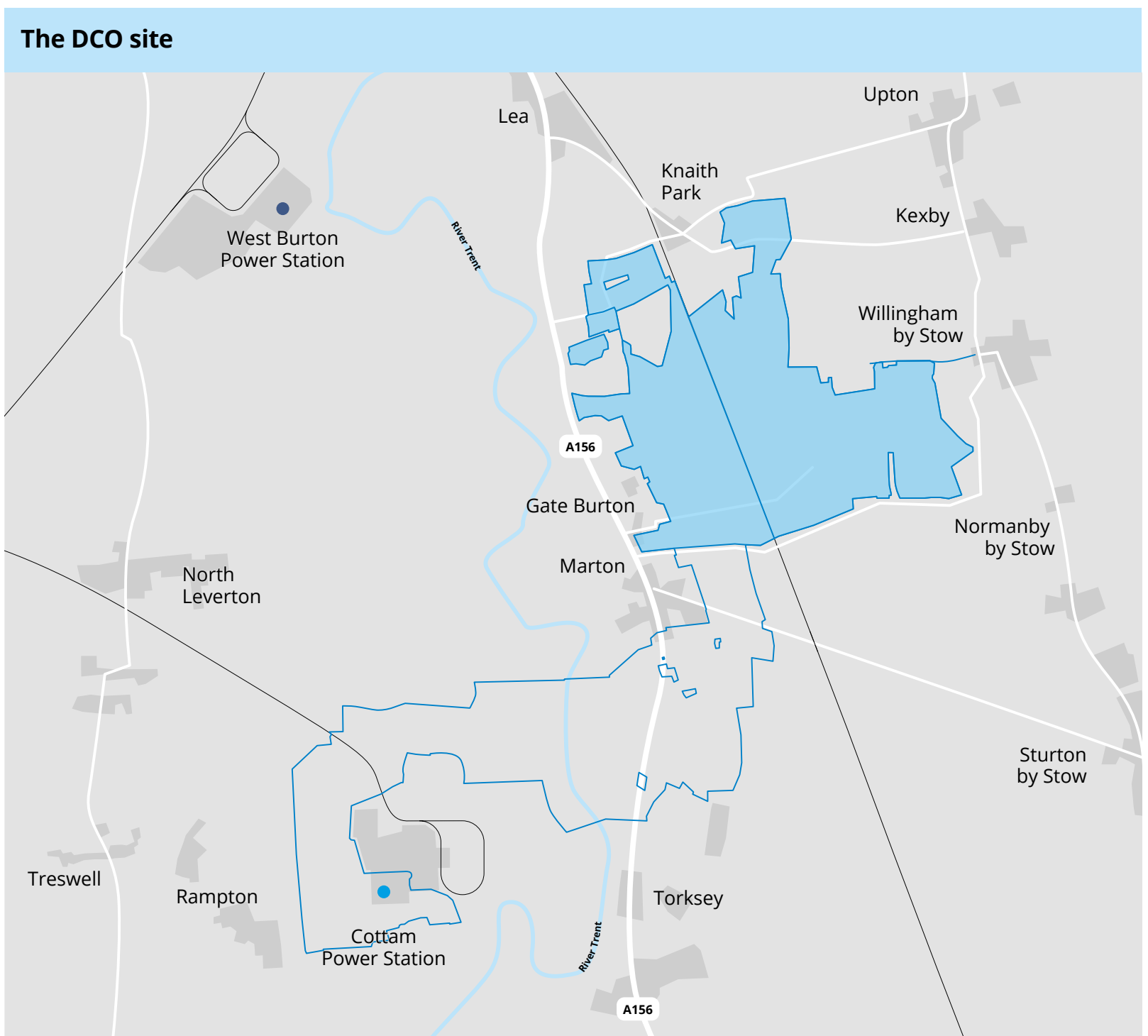
The project site



The application we submit to the Planning Inspectorate for the project – known as a Development Consent Order (DCO) – will comprise the solar energy storage park and the grid connection route to Cottam substation. Combined these are known as the ‘DCO site’.

The DCO site comprises an area of 1,436 hectares. The map below shows the extent of the land required for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the energy park and the grid connection into Cottam.

Within the boundary of the DCO site there will be areas for mitigation and ecological improvements, buffer zones that maintain a respectful distance between equipment and infrastructure and existing homes, landscape, ecological and habitat features as well as Public Rights of Way.



Key

- Gate Burton Energy Park site
- Gate Burton Energy Park connection corridor

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Stage Two Consultation



This second stage of consultation is intended to present our updated proposals and invite you to tell us what you think about how they have evolved.

We're specifically inviting your feedback on:

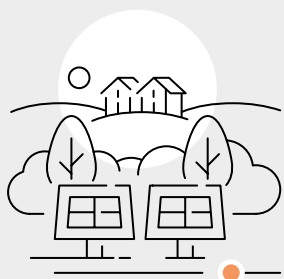
- The overall project
- Our updated concept masterplan
- The preferred route corridor for the grid connection
- Measures we're proposing to reduce effects
- Community benefits and local initiatives
- Anything else you want to tell us about our work so far

How we got here

We've considered all the feedback submitted to the initial consultation along with the findings from our ongoing environmental and technical surveys to help us refine the design for Gate Burton Energy Park; incorporating measures to reduce the impact of the scheme on neighbouring communities and residents, being sensitive to the local landscape, preserving wildlife and habit, while also providing environmental and ecological enhancements.

We'd like to thank you for helping us understand what different people, community groups and specialist organisations feel is most important to them.

In your feedback to our first consultation, some of the important areas you asked us to consider include:



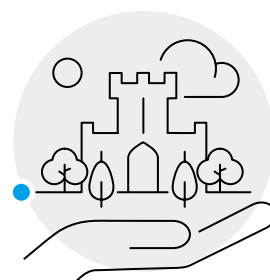
Views are important – reduce visual impacts on the landscape

Maintain a respectful distance – reduce visibility and noise from neighbouring properties



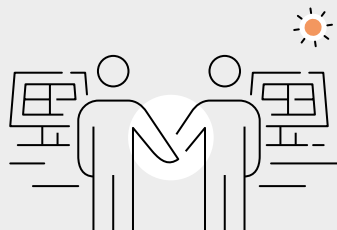
Avoid disruption to communities during construction

Protect archaeology and heritage



Protect the environment and wildlife

Collaborate with other solar developers



Protect agricultural land for food production

Consider the impact on the local economy



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Other solar energy parks



Gate Burton Energy Park is a standalone project being progressed by Low Carbon, however from an early stage in our development process we have been aware of other large-scale solar projects coming forward in geographic proximity to our project.

We have sought to work collaboratively with Island Green Power in areas where we have common interests. One significant area we have explored is the opportunity to combine the grid connection corridors into Cottam substation, resulting in the identification of a shared grid connection corridor.

Island Green Power – Statutory Consultation (June-July 2022)

Island Green Power will be conducting statutory consultation on its proposals for West Burton Solar Project and Cottam Solar Project over the course of June and July 2022.

You can find out more about these projects, the separate consultations Island Green Power is undertaking and how you can take part by visiting Island Green Power's project websites:

- cottamsolar.co.uk
- westburtonsolar.co.uk

Key

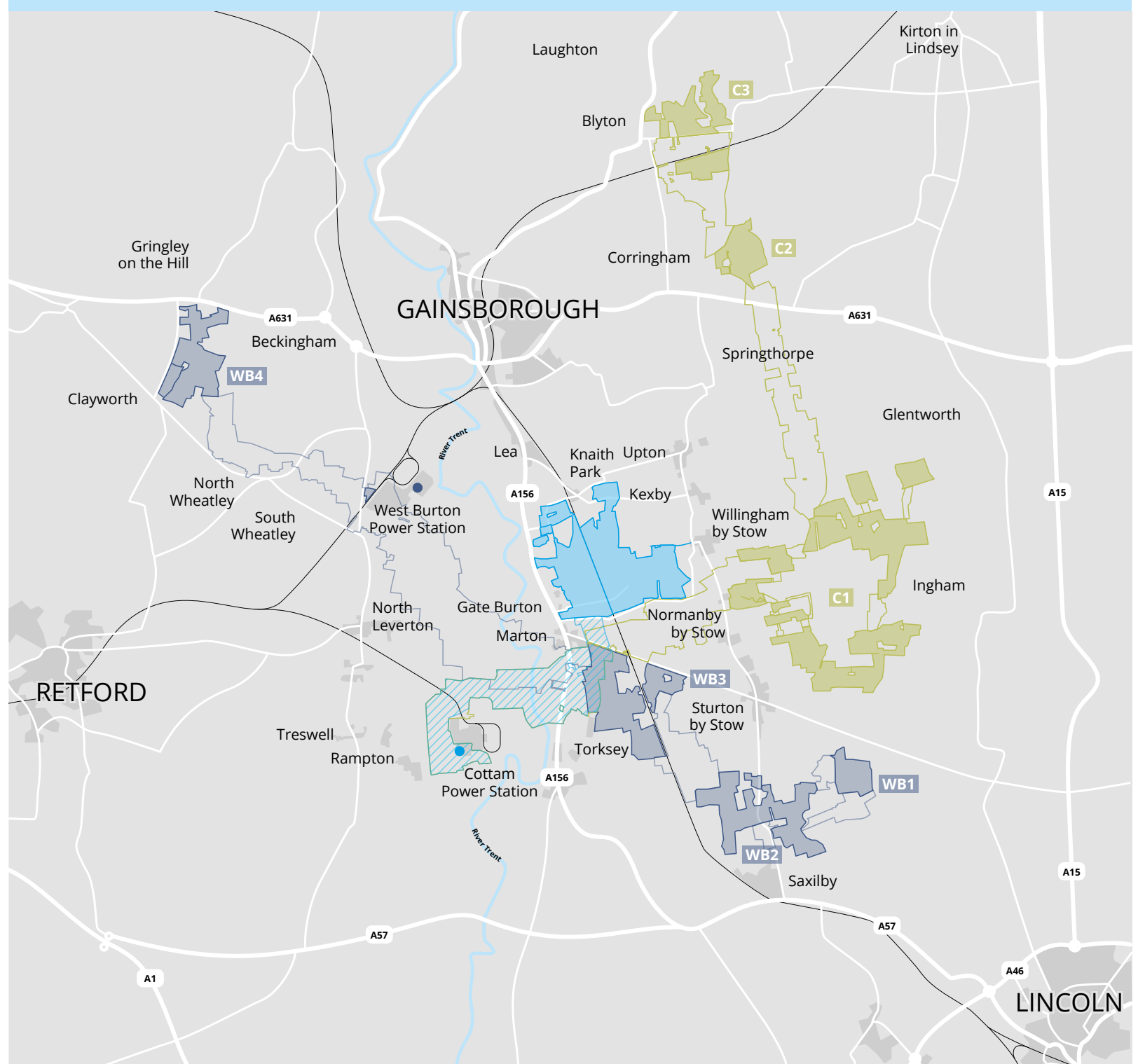
Low Carbon:

- Gate Burton Energy Park site
- Gate Burton Energy Park connection corridor
- Cottam substation
- West Burton substation
- Rail network

Island Green Power:

- Cottam Solar Project
- Cottam Solar Project connection corridors
- West Burton Solar Project
- West Burton Solar Project connection corridors

The location of Cottam and West Burton solar projects shown relative to Gate Burton Energy Park



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What's changed?



The updated proposals we are now consulting on have evolved from the early-stage proposals we presented during our initial consultation based on feedback to that consultation and the findings from our survey and assessment work.

We have made a number of changes to the layout and technology we're proposing for the project to address potential impacts identified through our assessment work and your feedback on our early-stage proposals:

- Inclusion of undeveloped buffers and offsets from:
 - Existing landscape features including ponds, hedgerows and woodland
 - Ancient woodland
 - Public Rights of Way
 - Listed buildings
- Careful location of the larger built elements including the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
- Adoption of skylark plots and lapwing fields
- New grassland and wildflower mixes under the panels to enhance biodiversity
- New planting and improvements to existing hedgerow
- Siting infrastructure to avoid below ground archaeological features wherever possible
- Screening and planting to minimise the impact on the setting of heritage assets
- No disturbance to Burton Ancient and Semi-Natural woodland
- Integration of the energy park to improve ecological connectivity across the site
- Selection of a preferred route connection corridor largely using underground cable
- Collaboration with Island Green Power on cable connection corridor to minimise areas for disturbance



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The solar energy park



Gate Burton Energy Park would comprise the installation of solar photovoltaic panels (PV) and an on-site energy storage facility, plus infrastructure to connect the scheme into the national grid at Cottam substation so the electricity it generates can be made available to the UK's homes and businesses.

The principal components of the energy park will comprise:

- Solar PV panels and modular ground-mounting structures
- Supporting infrastructure – inverters, combiner box, transformers – converting the direct to alternating current and stepping up the voltage to export it to the national grid
- Onsite substation to export electricity from the energy park to the national grid; including a control building with an office, welfare space and storage
- A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) storing electricity on-site then releasing it into the national grid when it is needed most. It may also enable energy to be imported from the national grid so it can be stored until it is needed
- On-site cables connecting the solar PV modules and energy storage system to the inverters which, in turn, connect to the transformers

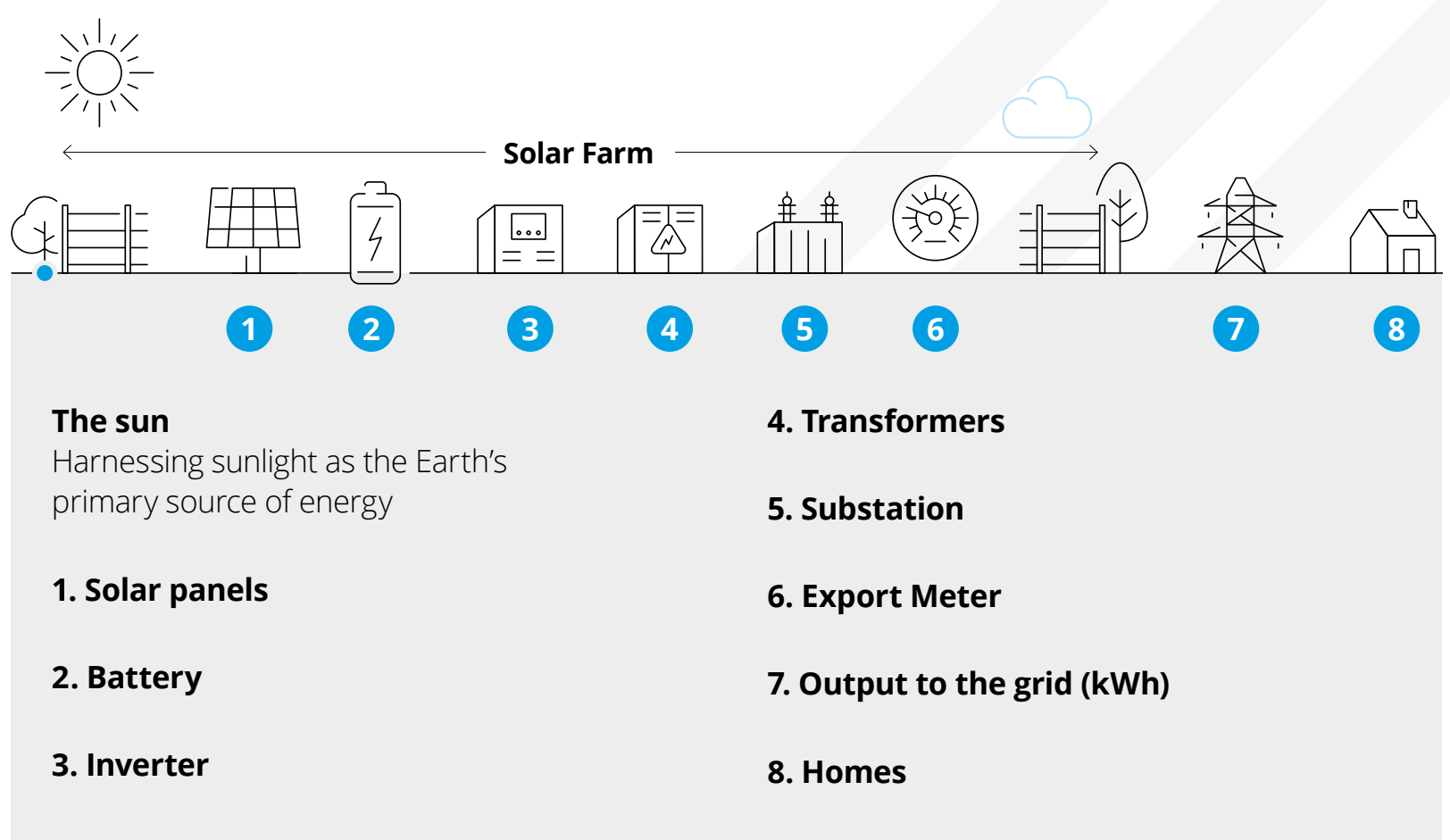
- Fencing enclosing the operational areas of the site, with security measures including pole mounted internal facing closed circuit television (CCTV) around the site perimeter
- Accesses to the site during construction and for routine maintenance when operational
- New planting around the site perimeter and within the solar PV area to enhance biodiversity and improve the landscape

In addition:

- During construction in addition to the main construction compound, up to three temporary construction compounds will be required, as well as temporary roadways, to enable access to all the land within the energy park boundary
- Opportunities for landscaping and habitat management will be explored in areas around the energy park equipment and other land within the DSCO site to contribute to achieving Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

The Concept Masterplan shows our current indicative design and layout of the solar energy park.

How a solar farm works

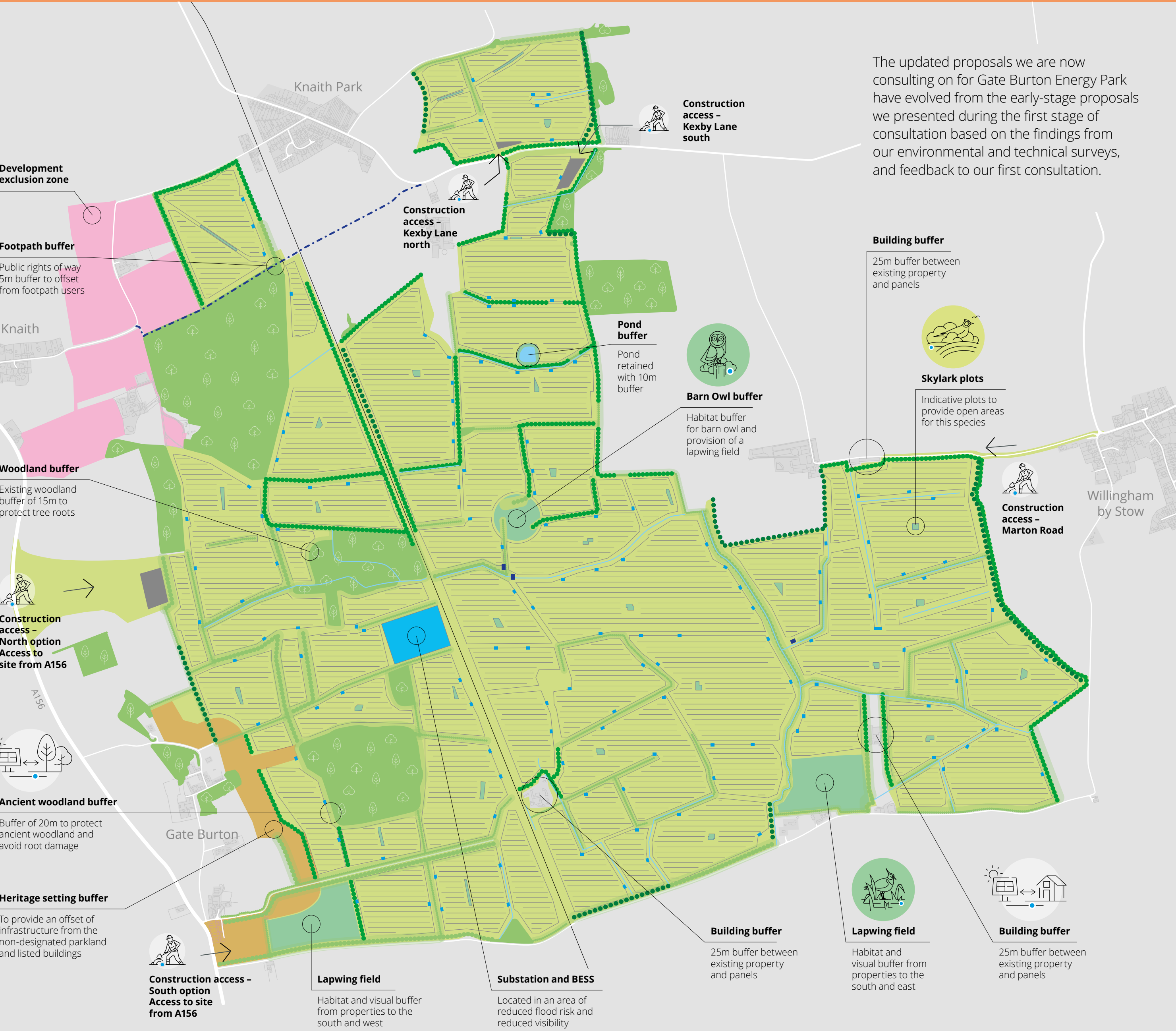


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Indicative concept masterplan



The updated proposals we are now consulting on for Gate Burton Energy Park have evolved from the early-stage proposals we presented during the first stage of consultation based on the findings from our environmental and technical surveys, and feedback to our first consultation.

Key	
	Development exclusion zone
	Indicative solar panel arrays
	Indicative skylark plots
	Lapwing field
	Construction compound
	Transformer station
	Collector station
	Substation and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
Proposed mitigation / enhancement	
	Species rich grassland
	Proposed or strengthened hedgerow
	Tree and shrub belt planting
	Hedge with trees - 10m buffer
	Other hedge - 5m buffer
	Heritage setting buffer
Existing infrastructure / features	
	Railway line
	Public right of way
	Existing woodland
	Existing hedgerow
	Existing hedgerow with trees
	Ordinary watercourse

More information

More detailed information about the proposed scheme can be found in the **PEI Report, Chapter 2: The Scheme.**

This is an indicative preliminary masterplan for the purposes of statutory consultation. The areas and features shown are subject to change based on environmental assessment, design development and feedback received.

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Connecting to the national grid



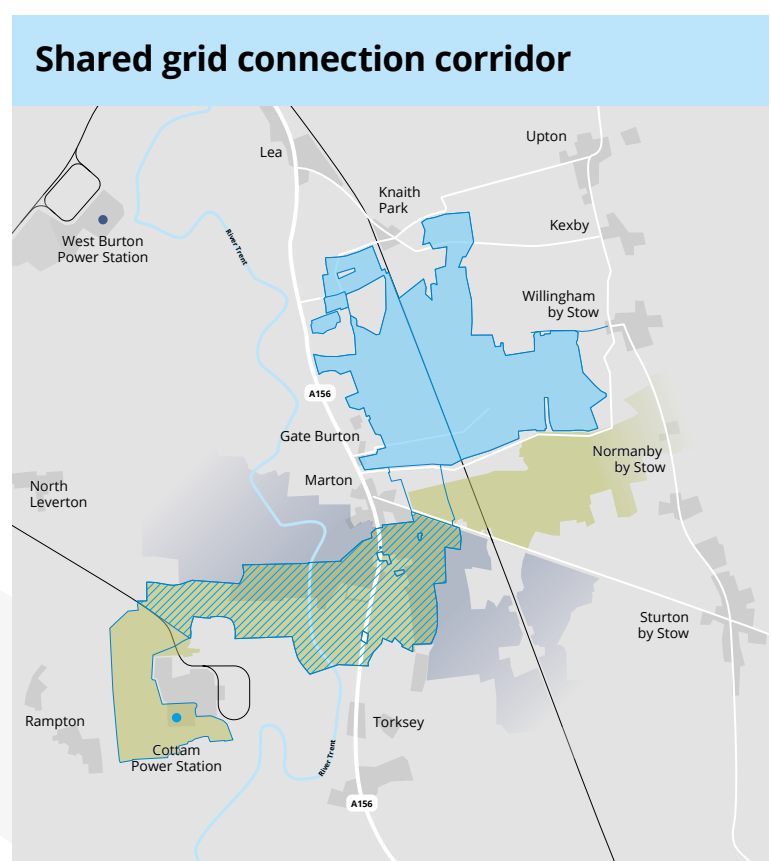
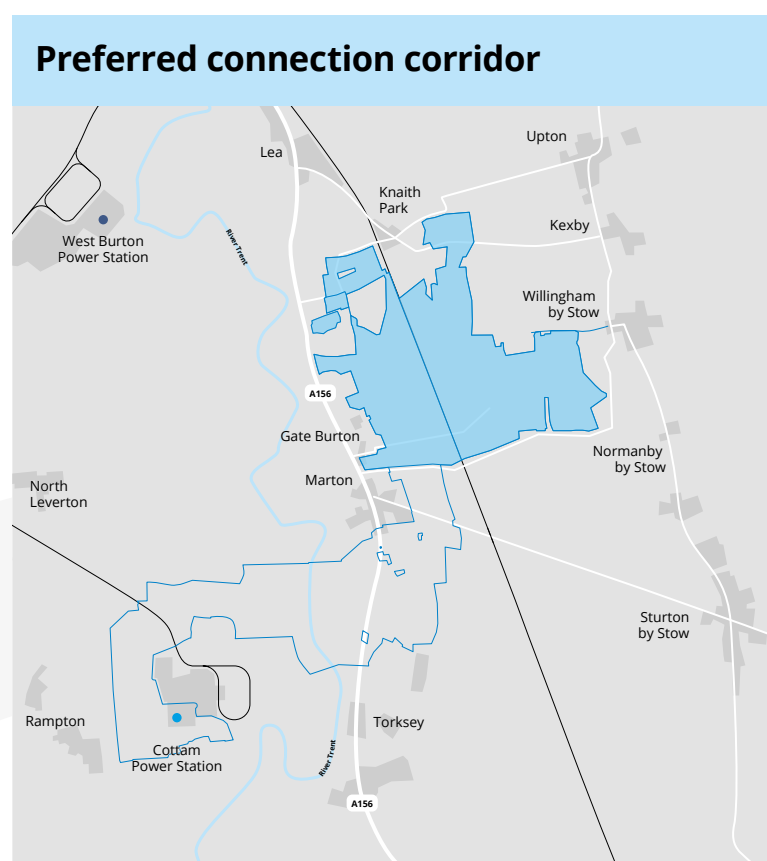
We plan to build much of the cable connection to the Cottam substation underground, following the southern route option presented at our previous consultation.

In our initial consultation we identified three broad corridor options in which an electrical connection to Cottam substation could be routed. The combination of a preference for an underground cable together with the extent of the known beneath ground archaeological assets ruled out two of the three corridor options we considered.

We have now identified a shared grid connection corridor with Island Green Power.

While the cable may be required to be above ground in a number of locations for example, joining Cottam substation, or avoiding archaeology, we have selected it as our preferred option on the basis of it enabling us to underground the cable wherever possible while avoiding known archaeological sites.

It provides the best balance of minimising impacts on the environment and local communities while meeting the technical and constructability feasibility requirements.



Key

Low Carbon:	Island Green Power:
Gate Burton Energy Park site	Cottam Solar Project connection corridors
Gate Burton Energy Park connection corridor	West Burton Solar Project connection corridors
Shared connection corridor area	

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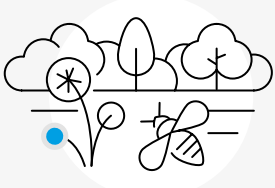
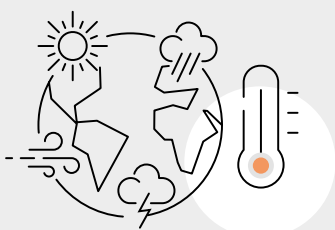
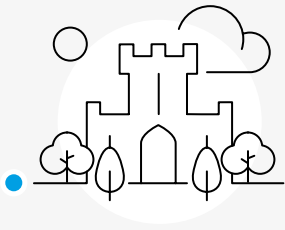
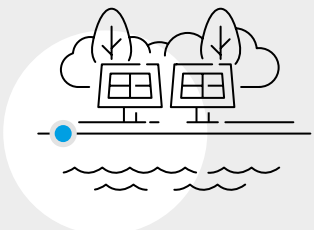




Measures to reduce effects

We have carefully considered the findings from our ongoing assessments to gauge the potential impact the construction, operation and decommissioning of Gate Burton Energy Park could have on the landscape, environment and local communities.

Reducing or avoiding impacts is one of our top priorities. In developing our proposals for the project we have factored in a range of measures to reduce its effect against a range of different factors.

These include but are not limited to:

Topic	Proposed measures to reduce effects	
Landscape and views		Gate Burton Energy Park will incorporate minimum offsets from existing landscape features, including residential properties, ancient woodland, woodland and hedgerows; Public Rights of Way; and watercourses.
Ecology and nature		We propose to design in the avoidance of protected species, such as 30m buffers from badger setts and 10m buffers from watercourses, and to drill underground rather than digging open trenches, helping us to avoid disturbance to habitats.
Climate change		Our drainage systems have been designed to ensure there will be no significant increases in flood risk downstream, including climate change scenarios.
Heritage and archaeology		We are seeking to avoid known archaeological remains. We will carry out archaeological survey work along our grid connection route and will share the survey results in an appropriate format and supporting archive.
Water and drainage		The solar PV panels will be offset from watercourses. The exact distance will be agreed with the Environment Agency through further consultation.
Noise and vibration		We propose to minimise operational noise impacts by locating the battery and energy storage system (BESS) compound to reduce the effect of noise impacts.
Socioeconomics and land use		We have designed Gate Burton Energy Park to take into account the quality of agricultural land. We will limit impact on best and most versatile land as far as possible, and also minimise impacts on Public Rights of Way.

Construction, operation and decommissioning



Subject to being granted consent, construction of Gate Burton Energy Park could start in early 2025. We estimate it would take between two to three years to build, with the site potentially being operational from early 2028.

Construction

Delivery of the solar park would involve site preparation, civil engineering, installation, testing and commissioning of the operation kit and equipment, as well as site installation, landscape and habitat creation.

We have identified a number of measures to keep disruption to local communities and effects on the environment to a minimum. These include:

- Working hours - core on-site working hours during the week would be 7am-7pm Monday to Friday and 9am-1pm on a Saturday
- Construction workers - while the number will vary, at the peak of activity (around 2026) there could be up to 400 staff on site
- Construction compounds - up to three temporary construction compounds will be established along with temporary roadways to access all land within the energy park
- Construction traffic - HGVs will come directly to the compounds and then be transported within the site



Operation

When the energy park becomes operational, activity on the site would be limited; mainly involving vegetation management, equipment maintenance and servicing, periodic replacement of components, fence inspection and general monitoring to ensure the continued effective operation of the scheme.

A team of up to 14 full time staff are anticipated as being employed, working on a site and flexible office basis.

Decommissioning

The operation of Gate Burton Energy Park is expected to be around 60 years, while decommissioning is expected to take between two to four years. The effects of decommissioning are usually similar to or of a lesser magnitude than construction effects.



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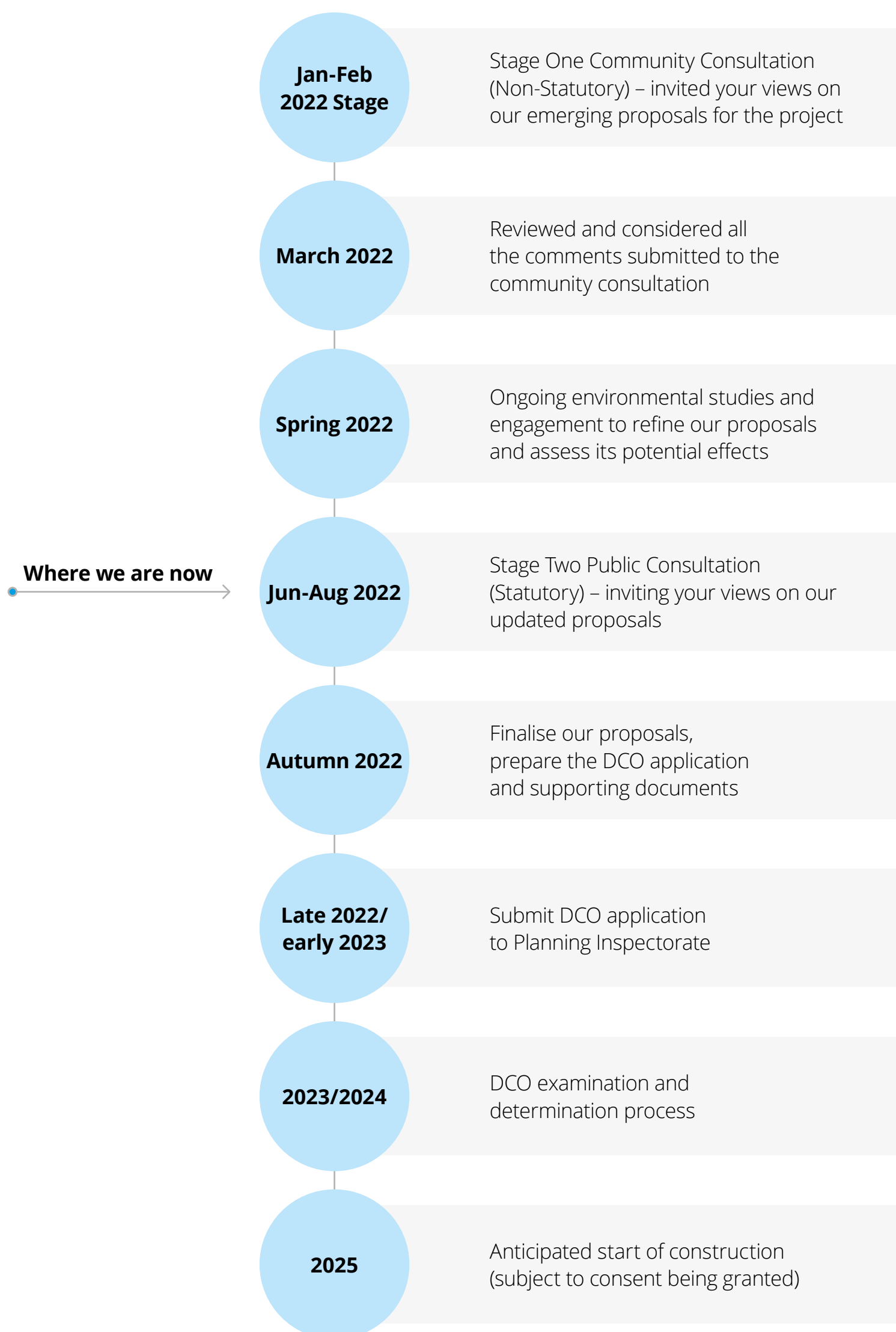
Project timeline



Gate Burton Energy Park is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) due to it having an anticipated generation capacity exceeding 50MW.

This means we need to apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO). This will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate which acts on behalf of the Secretary of State at the

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). A decision on whether to grant consent for our project will be made by the Secretary of State for BEIS.



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Have your say



Thank you for taking part in this consultation. Your views are important to us. We will use them to help us refine and shape the proposals we take forward.

Providing your feedback

You can submit your comments in a number of ways:



Online: feedback can be submitted via our project website:
www.gateburtonenergypark.co.uk



Email: send an email to us at:
info@gateburtonenergypark.co.uk



Write to us at: **FREEPOST GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK**

Printed feedback form: complete a printed feedback form and hand it to a member of the team at this event or send it to the FREEPOST address above.

The deadline for feedback to this consultation is 5 August 2022.

All the comments submitted to this consultation will be acknowledged, recorded and considered to inform our decisions as we finalise our proposals for the project.

While we won't be able to respond to you individually, all the issues and themes raised in your feedback will be addressed in the Consultation Report that will be submitted as part of our application for development consent.

What happens next?

After the consultation we'll review our proposals in light of the comments you provide to see if there are any changes we need to make.

When we're happy our proposals are ready, we will then submit our application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate.

Further opportunities to contribute

It's likely the last time we'll consult on our proposals for Gate Burton Energy Park before we submit our DCO application. When our application is accepted, you will be able to register your interest in our proposals directly with the Planning Inspectorate, who will then inform you about the progress of our application and let you know about further opportunities to contribute.



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