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ECO POWER
SUFFOLK

EcoPower Suffolk Solar Consultation

22 June to 16 August 2026

Welcome to the consultation

Thank you for attending our second round of consultation for the EcoPower Suffolk Solar project.

We are consulting on our updated proposals between 22 June and 16 August 2026. Your feedback will help shape the final design before we submit an application for development consent.

This consultation builds on the feedback we received during our first consultation in March and April 2025. Since then, we have refined the design, undertaken further environmental assessments and continued engagement with stakeholders.

How to view the consultation documents

All Consultation Documents will be available online to view on the Project Website (www.ecopowersuffolk.com). A hard copy of the Consultation Documents can also be supplied, but there will be a reasonable charge of £0.40 per page to cover the printing and posting costs associated with this. Upon request, all documents can be made available in alternative formats, such as large print and alternative languages. To request copies of the Consultation Documents or for other enquiries, please contact the Applicant using the e-mail address, postal address or telephone number provided at the end of this letter.

Hard copies of the Consultation Information Booklet and Feedback Form will be available to take away at the locations listed below. A paper copy of the SoCC (for reference only) will also be available to view free of charge at the locations listed below during the Consultation Period.

Location	Standard opening hours (subject to change)
Mellis Church Mellis Road, Mellis, IP23 8EE	9am-4pm daily
Hoxne Church Green Street, Hoxne, IP21 5AT	9am-5pm daily
Eye Library 6 Cross Street, Eye, IP23 7AA	**Monday:** Closed **Tuesday:** 9am – 1pm **Wednesday:** 9am – 1pm, 2pm – 6pm **Thursday:** 2pm – 5pm **Friday:** 9am – 1pm, 2pm – 5pm **Saturday:** 9am – 1pm **Sunday:** 10am – 3pm

Consultation events

Date and time	Location
Friday 26th June 15:00 – 19:00	Gislingham Village Hall, Mill Street, Gislingham, IP23 8JX
Saturday 27th June 11:00 – 15:00	Occold Village Hall, Mill Road, Occold, IP23 7PL
Friday 3rd July 15:00 – 19:00	Eye Community Centre, 25 Magdalen Street, Eye, IP23 7AJ

We are also holding a series of webinars for those unable to attend in person:

- Monday 29 June, 18:00–19:00
- Thursday 16 July, 18:00–19:00
- Monday 27 July, 14:00–15:00

List of consultation documents

Document	Detail
Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI)	Prepared in an accessible, visual format and provides details of what is being proposed to avoid, reduce and manage potential environmental effects, to help facilitate a useful and meaningful consultation process. The assessments will be refined following consultation to reflect the description of the Proposed Development and reported within the Environmental Statement to be submitted with the Application, The main report, the Preliminary Environmental Findings (PEF), summarises the preliminary assessments and proposed mitigation measures in a non-technical manner. The report will be available to download from the Proposed Development website, with a paper copy available at consultation events. The full list of PEI and related documents are as follows: *Main report* • Preliminary Environmental Findings (including figures) *Maps & plans* • Indicative Masterplan (A1 and A3 area zoom plans) • Annotated Indicative Masterplan (You said, We did) • Illustrative Environmental Masterplan • Overview of Environmental Designations • Construction Strategy *Draft Outline Management Plan documents* • Draft Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan • Draft Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan • Draft Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan • Draft Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan • Draft Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan • Draft Outline Public Rights of Way and Access Management Plan • Draft Outline Battery Safety Management Plan

Overview of promotional activity

Method	Detail
Consultation newsletter	All residents, local businesses, and communities within the PCZ will be notified of the start of statutory consultation through a consultation letter. The letter will also be issued by email to wider consultees, including community groups and seldom heard groups (see Appendix 2). .
Emails	Emails will be sent to stakeholders informing them of the statutory consultation, upcoming events, how to request further information, and how to provide feedback. This will allow stakeholders to engage with the consultation and to share the consultation information among their networks, such as with local constituents or group members.
Proposed Development website	The Proposed Development website will be updated on the launch of the statutory consultation. This update will include details of consultation events, consultation materials, and information on how to feed back on the Proposed Development proposals. This will allow stakeholders to engage fully with the consultation, either in-person or online.
Statutory notices	Statutory notices to publicise the consultation and the SoCC will be published in local and national news publications.
Information point	Hard copies of the consultation materials will be available to takeaway or view for reference in local information points.
Site notices	Notices will be placed in publicly accessible locations within the Proposed Development site to notify of the consultation.
In-person consultation events and online information presentation	We are holding three in-person for anyone with an interest in the Proposed Development to attend, learn about our proposals and provide their initial feedback. In-person events are being held at venues within the PCZ and publicised alongside online events in site and press notices. We will also host three online information presentations about the Proposed Development during the consultation period to provide an overview of our proposals.
Stakeholder briefings & previews	Briefings with key political stakeholders will be arranged prior to public consultation events to provide an opportunity for early feedback and input. Briefings will be conducted either in-person or remotely online. The briefings will be offered to key affected stakeholders including Suffolk County Council, Mid Suffolk District Council, the host Members of the UK Parliament, host ward councillors, portfolio holders and host parish councils.

List of consultation documents

Document	Detail
Consultation letter	A consultation letter providing a high-level overview of the Proposed Development, of the consultation events and how people can get involved. The letter indicates where the relevant project information can be found and publicises the consultation events, including locations, dates, and times. This will be sent to all homes and businesses within the PCZ and will be available on the consultation website, and on request by post.
Consultation Information Booklet	The Consultation Information Booklet will include the following information: • summary of the proposals we are consulting on; • details of how people can take part in the consultation; • information on the potential benefits and impacts of the Proposed Development; • how we propose to mitigate any potential impacts; and • the timeline for the Proposed Development (planning, construction, operation and decommissioning). Paper copies of the Consultation Information Booklet will be available at our consultation events, information points, and on request by post.
Feedback Form	A Feedback Form will be prepared to allow people to provide feedback on the proposals. This will include an 'open box' question should consultees wish to provide any other feedback after responding to the questions in the form. The questionnaire can be completed online or downloaded in a printable format, if required, and sent into the consultation via Freepost. Paper copies of the Feedback Form will be available at consultation events, information points, and on request by post.
Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)	The SoCC document will be made available online as part of the consultation, and in paper format at our consultation events and the information points.

What is a Development Consent Order?

A Development Consent Order (DCO) is a type of planning permission for large infrastructure projects in England, such as energy developments. The process is managed by the Planning Inspectorate.

As part of the process:

- we must carry out public consultation before submitting an application
- the application will be examined by independent inspectors
- local people and stakeholders can submit their views
- a recommendation is made by the Planning Inspectorate to the Secretary of State, who makes the final decision

Have your say

We encourage you to review the information presented and provide feedback in the following ways:

online: complete the feedback form at https://ecopowersuffolk.com/

in person: view consultation materials and collect a feedback form at our deposit locations or at our events

by email: send your comments to contact@ecopowersuffolk.com

by post: return your completed feedback form to FREEPOST ECOPOWER SUFFOLK (no stamp required).

Feedback must be submitted before the deadline of 16 August 2026. All responses will be carefully considered and will inform our final application.

Our proposals

What we are proposing

EcoPower Suffolk is a proposed solar and energy storage project that would generate clean, renewable electricity and have an anticipated export capacity of about 250MW.

The Proposed Development includes:

- solar panels
- battery energy storage
- supporting infrastructure to connect to the electricity network.

Once built, the Proposed Development would generate enough electricity to power about 75,000 homes.

Where is the site?

The Proposed Development is located in Mid Suffolk and is made up of five areas of land:

- south and east of Stuston
- north and east of Eye
- north of Gislingham
- north of Occold
- between Thrandeston and Mellis.

Together, these areas cover approximately 900 hectares. The different areas will be linked by underground cables.

Our design considerations

Our masterplan has been shaped by a set of guiding principles that respond to the landscape, environment and local character:

Safeguard environmental health and quality of life: Minimise noise and pollution through careful siting and design.

Increase climate resilience: shaping landscapes that can adapt to and withstand future environmental change

Improve countryside access: enhancing opportunities for people to reach, enjoy and interact with rural landscapes

Support traditional agriculture: supporting long-standing farming practices and sustaining productive land use

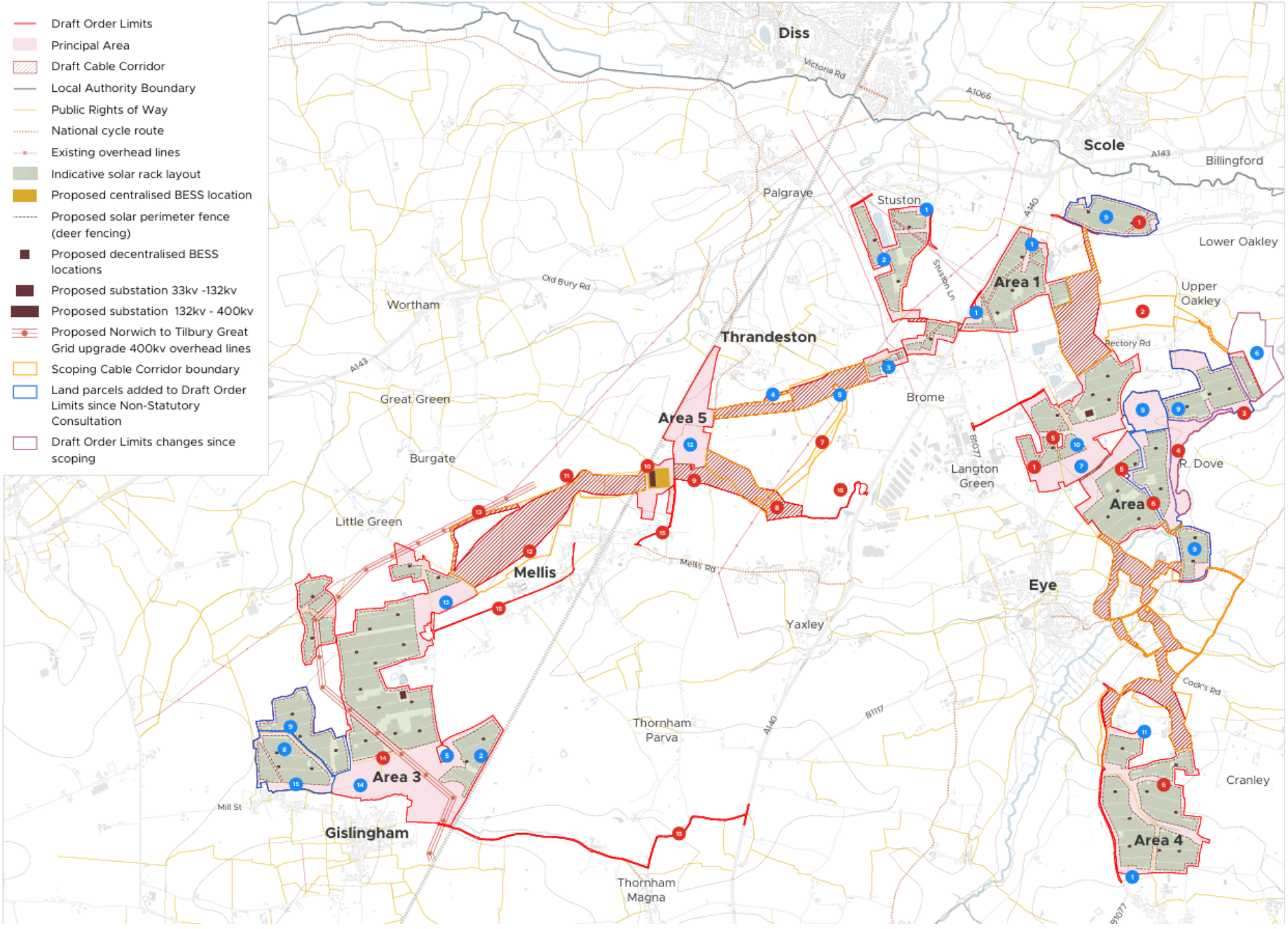
Protect local habitats: conserving and enriching areas that support native flora and fauna

Connect ecological networks: strengthening links between habitats to support biodiversity at a wider scale

Enhance Mid Suffolk's landscape character: maintaining and celebrating the distinct qualities of the district's varied landscapes

Respect cultural heritage: recognising, protecting and showcasing the area's historic and cultural assets

You said, we did – Annotated Indicative Masterplan



Consultation-led changes since April 2025

1. Buffer zone introduced to set back solar PV panels from residential properties.
2. Solar PV panels relocated to this section of Draft Cable Corridor following removal of solar PV panels from a land parcel in Area 2 Eye.
3. Buffer zone introduced to set back solar PV panels from Malting Farm House and Grade II listed Home Farm House to manage setting impacts.
4. Existing orchard removed from the Draft Order Limits.
5. Land excluded from Draft Order Limits to avoid impacts on private residential property.
6. Solar PV panels area amended, reducing impact on views from the north and north west, and on the River Dove and surrounding habitat.
7. Buffer zone introduced to avoid solar development encircling Brome Avenue, local public rights of way and cluster of Grade II listed buidlings.
8. Additional land parcel introduced to the west to move solar PV panels further from Gislingham.
9. Additional land parcels included for solar PV panels and environmental mitigation in October 2025 following non-statutory consultation to enable larger buffer zones and environmental mitigation area throughout.
10. Solar PV panels relocated here following removal of solar PV panels from a land parcel in Area 2 Eye.
11. Solar development removed from this area to set back solar PV panels from residential properties and avoid impacts to the setting of the Scheduled Ancient Monuments to the north.
12. No solar development proposed on land around Kiln Farm due to potential impact on Thrandeston and the views from, and setting of, existing property. Consultation ongoing to agree extent of new woodland planting to provide screening.
13. Buffer zone introduced (and solar PV panels removed) to reduce visual effects for nearby residential properties in Gislingham and Mellis, and increase distance from Mellis Common Nature Reserve.
14. No solar development proposed here to avoid impacts on views towards and from Gislingham.
15. Buffer included to allow existing vegetation to provide screening and reduce visual effects to residential properties to the south in Gislingham.

Design-led changes... taking into account environmental considerations and engineering requirements

1. Solar PV panels removed along existing gas main alignment.
2. Alternative Area 1 Stuston to Area 2 Eye Cable Corridor route option removed.
3. Land here to only be used for environmental mitigation to set back development from the River Dove.
4. Draft Order Limits extended to enable opportunity to enhance habitat adjacent to the River Dove and potential for a permissive path.
5. Area of existing woodland excluded from the Draft Order Limits.
6. Buffer zone introduced to set back solar PV panels to protect existing hedgerows along the field boundaries.
7. Alternative Grid Connection Cable route option removed to avoid impacts on the watercourse and public rights of way. More efficient connection selected to the National Grid Substation from the west.
8. Draft Cable Corridor extended to include the full extent of the National Grid Substation construction site and enable the Grid Connection Cable to connect.
9. Draft Cable Corridor extended south to avoid historic landfill.
10. BESS and Main Substation located here due to exisiting screening opportunities, distance from surrounding residential properties and proximity to the National Grid Substation reducing the distance required for the Grid Connection Cable.

Draft Illustrative Environmental Masterplan

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Design principles

Eight Design principles have been drafted to guide the Proposed Developemt and will be continually tested and improved to secure the best outcomes for the local communities and environment.

Safeguard environmental health and quality of life: Minimise noise and pollution through careful siting and design.

Increase climate resilience: Shaping landscapes that can adapt to and withstand future environmental change.

Improve countryside access: Enhancing opportunities for people to reach, enjoy and interact with rural landscapes.

Maintain traditional agriculture: Supporting long-standing farming practices and sustaining productive land use.

Protect local habitats: Conserving and enriching areas that support native flora and fauna.

Connect ecological networks: Strengthening links between habitats to support biodiversity at a wider scale.

Enhance Mid Suffolk's landscape character: Maintaining and celebrating the distinct qualities of the district's varied landscapes.

Respect cultural heritage: Recognising, protecting and showcasing the area's historic cultural assets.

- Principal Area
- Draft Cable Corridor

Existing features

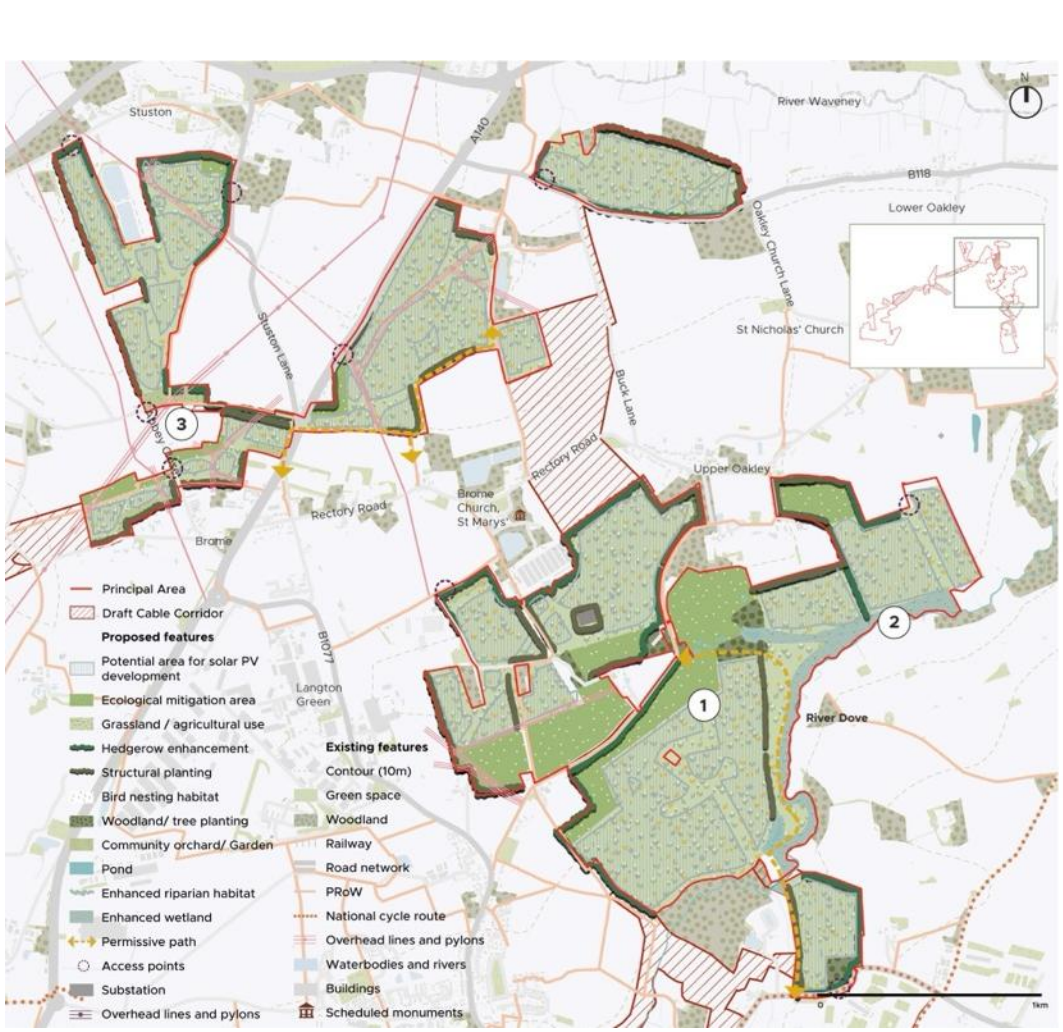
- Contour (10m)
- Green space
- Woodland
- Railway
- Road network
- PRoW
- National cycle route
- Overhead lines and pylons
- Waterbodies and rivers
- Buildings
- Scheduled monuments

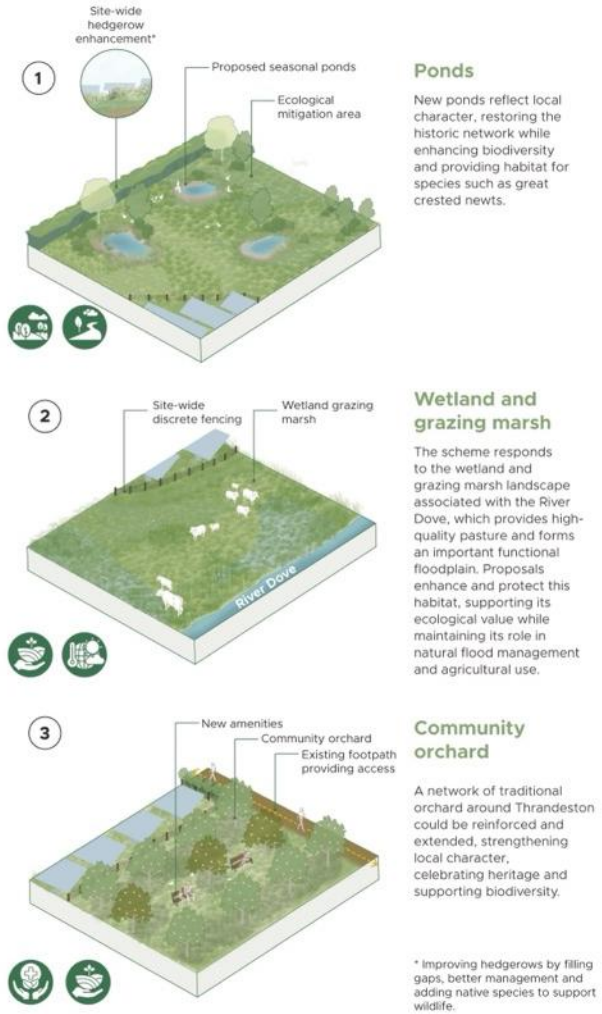
Proposed features

- Potential area for solar PV development
- Ecological mitigation area*
- Grassland / agricultural use
- Hedgerow enhancement
- Structural planting
- Bird nesting habitat
- Woodland/ tree planting
- Community orchard/ Garden
- Pond
- Enhanced riparian habitat
- Enhanced wetland
- Permissive path
- Access points
- Substation
- Overhead lines and pylons

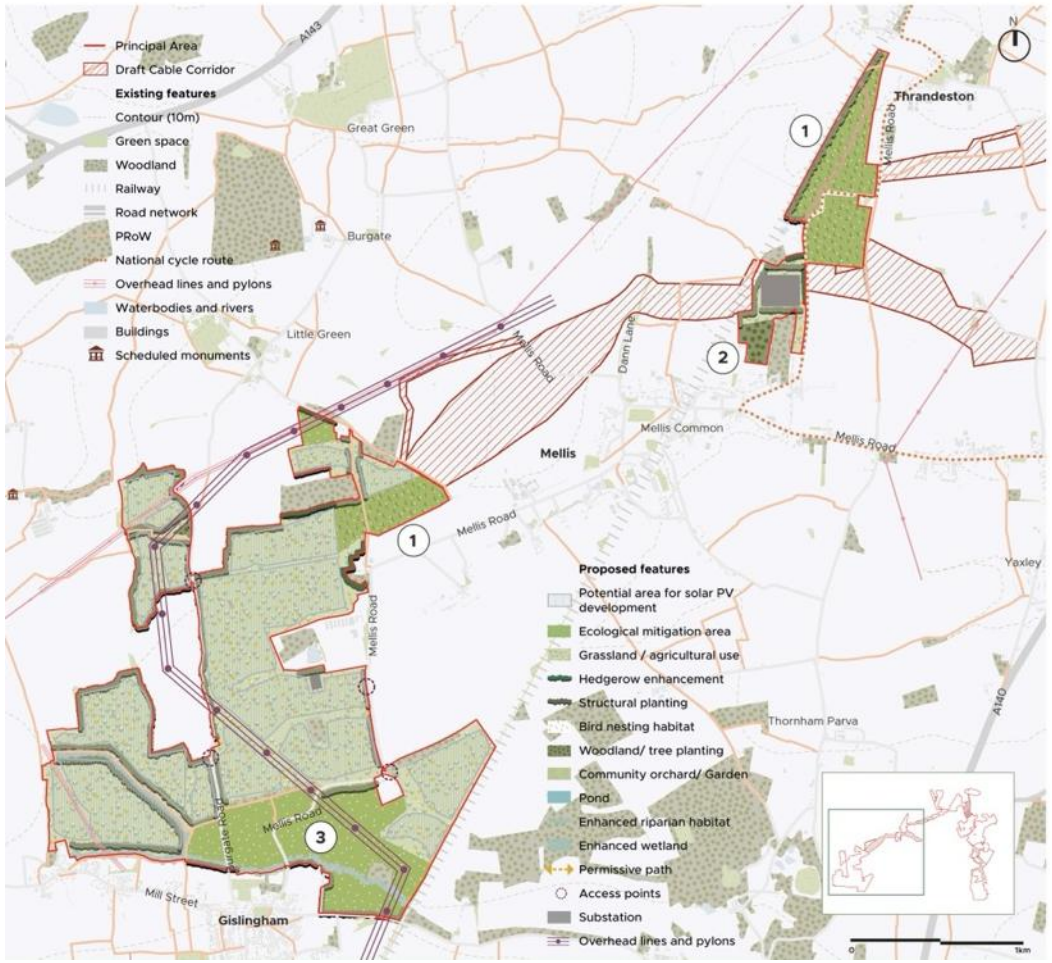
*An ecological mitigation area is land set aside or redesigned within the project to protect, replace, or improve habitats for wildlife that might be affected by the development. This could be either an area of agricultural land with enhanced ecological benefits, or a space managed for a specific habitat or ecological goal.

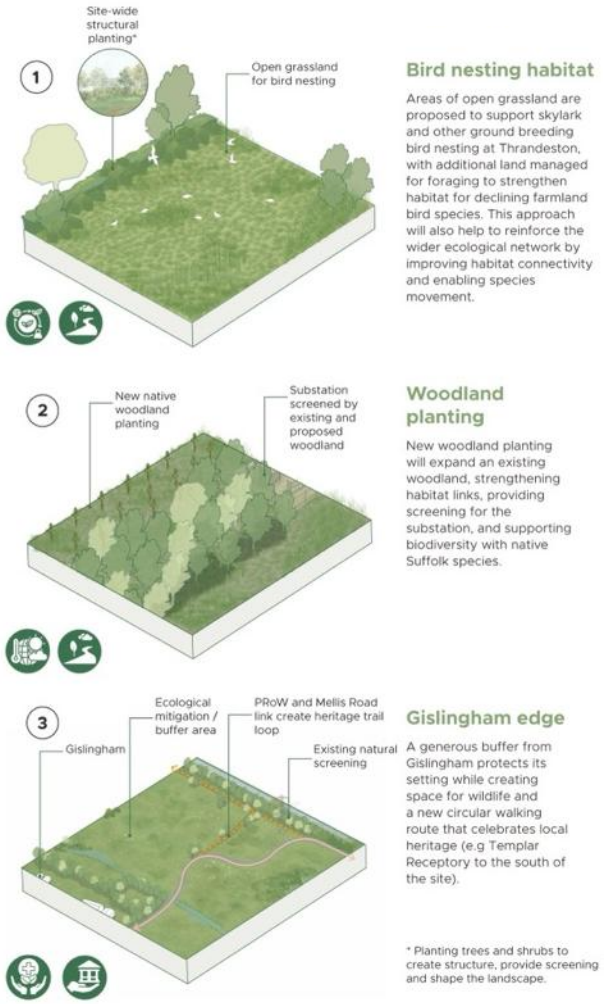
Area 1 and 2


Stuston
River Waveney
A140
B118
Lower Oakley
Oakley Church Lane
St Nicholas' Church
Stuston Lane
Buck Lane
Rectory Road
Upper Oakley
Brome Church, St Marys'
Brome
Langton Green
B1077
River Dove
1
2
3
Principal Area
Draft Cable Corridor
Proposed features
Potential area for solar PV development
Ecological mitigation area
Grassland / agricultural use
Hedgerow enhancement
Structural planting
Bird nesting habitat
Woodland/ tree planting
Community orchard/ Garden
Pond
Enhanced riparian habitat
Enhanced wetland
Permissive path
Access points
Substation
Overhead lines and pylons
Existing features
Contour (10m)
Green space
Woodland
Railway
Road network
PRoW
National cycle route
Overhead lines and pylons
Waterbodies and rivers
Buildings
Scheduled monuments
0
1km

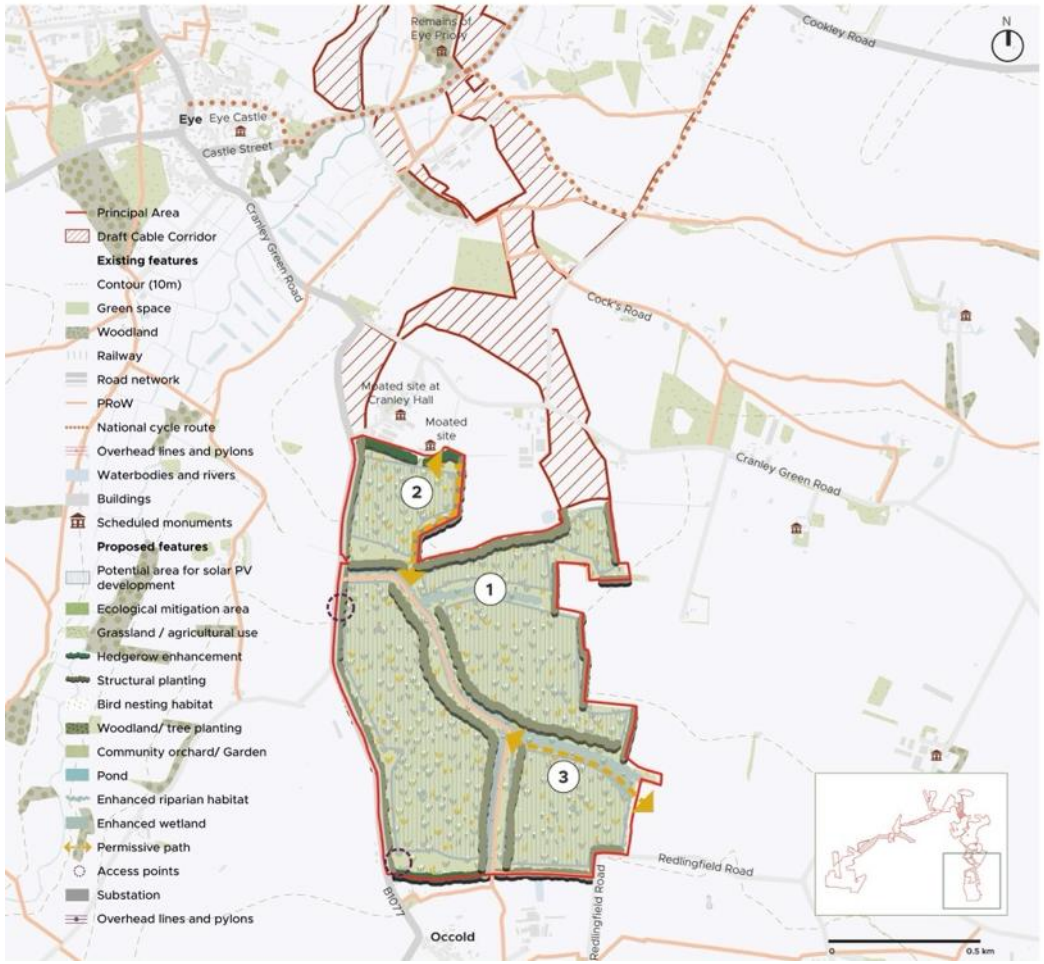

Site-wide hedgerow enhancement*
1
Proposed seasonal ponds
Ecological mitigation area
Ponds
New ponds reflect local character, restoring the historic network while enhancing biodiversity and providing habitat for species such as great crested newts.
2
Site-wide discrete fencing
Wetland grazing marsh
River Dove
Wetland and grazing marsh
The scheme responds to the wetland and grazing marsh landscape associated with the River Dove, which provides high-quality pasture and forms an important functional floodplain. Proposals enhance and protect this habitat, supporting its ecological value while maintaining its role in natural flood management and agricultural use.
3
New amenities
Community orchard
Existing footpath providing access
Community orchard
A network of traditional orchard around Thrandeston could be reinforced and extended, strengthening local character, celebrating heritage and supporting biodiversity.
* Improving hedgerows by filling gaps, better management and adding native species to support wildlife.

Area 3 and 5


Principal Area
Draft Cable Corridor
Existing features
Contour (10m)
Green space
Woodland
Railway
Road network
PRoW
National cycle route
Overhead lines and pylons
Waterbodies and rivers
Buildings
Scheduled monuments
A143
Great Green
Burgate
Little Green
Thrandeston
Mellis Road
Damn Lane
Mellis Common
Mellis
Yaxley
Thornham Parva
A140
Gislingham
Mill Street
Proposed features
Potential area for solar PV development
Ecological mitigation area
Grassland / agricultural use
Hedgerow enhancement
Structural planting
Bird nesting habitat
Woodland/ tree planting
Community orchard/ Garden
Pond
Enhanced riparian habitat
Enhanced wetland
Permissive path
Access points
Substation
Overhead lines and pylons
N
1
2
3
0
1km


Site-wide structural planting*
Open grassland for bird nesting
Bird nesting habitat
Areas of open grassland are proposed to support skylark and other ground breeding bird nesting at Thrandeston, with additional land managed for foraging to strengthen habitat for declining farmland bird species. This approach will also help to reinforce the wider ecological network by improving habitat connectivity and enabling species movement.
New native woodland planting
Substation screened by existing and proposed woodland
Woodland planting
New woodland planting will expand an existing woodland, strengthening habitat links, providing screening for the substation, and supporting biodiversity with native Suffolk species.
Ecological mitigation / buffer area
PRoW and Mellis Road link create heritage trail loop
Gislingham
Existing natural screening
Gislingham edge
A generous buffer from Gislingham protects its setting while creating space for wildlife and a new circular walking route that celebrates local heritage (e.g Templar Receptory to the south of the site).
* Planting trees and shrubs to create structure, provide screening and shape the landscape.

Area 4


Remains of Eye Priory
Cooksey Road
N
Eye Eye Castle
Castle Street
Cranley Green Road
Cock's Road
Moated site at Cranley Hall
Moated site
Cranley Green Road
Redlingfield Road
Redlingfield Road
Occold
Principal Area
Draft Cable Corridor
Existing features
Contour (10m)
Green space
Woodland
Railway
Road network
PRoW
National cycle route
Overhead lines and pylons
Waterbodies and rivers
Buildings
Scheduled monuments
Proposed features
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Ecological mitigation area
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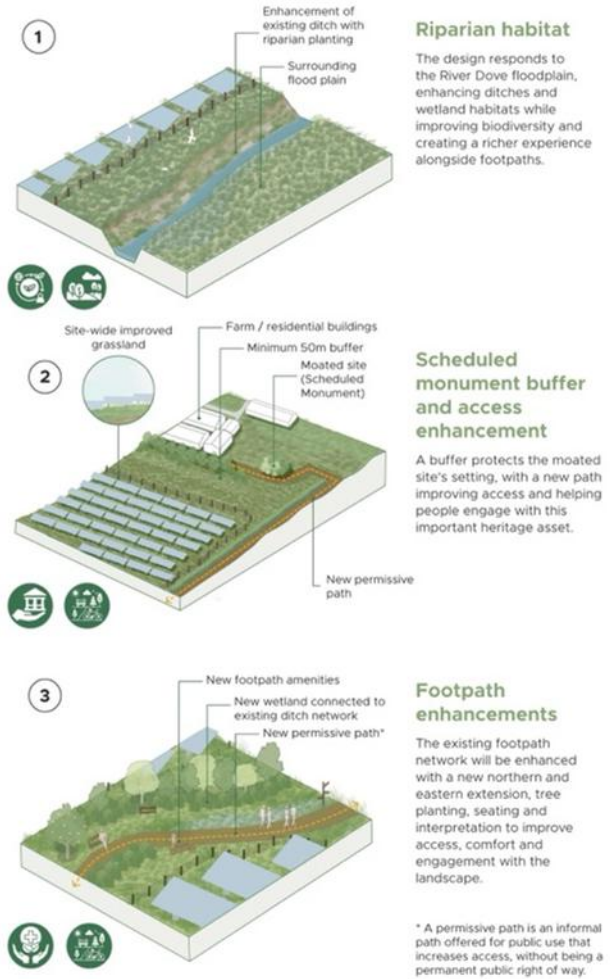
Structural planting
Bird nesting habitat
Woodland/ tree planting
Community orchard/ Garden
Pond
Enhanced riparian habitat
Enhanced wetland
Permissive path
Access points
Substation
Overhead lines and pylons
0
0.5 km


1
Enhancement of existing ditch with riparian planting
Surrounding flood plain
Riparian habitat
The design responds to the River Dove floodplain, enhancing ditches and wetland habitats while improving biodiversity and creating a richer experience alongside footpaths.
2
Site-wide improved grassland
Farm / residential buildings
Minimum 50m buffer
Moated site (Scheduled Monument)
New permissive path
Scheduled monument buffer and access enhancement
A buffer protects the moated site's setting, with a new path improving access and helping people engage with this important heritage asset.
3
New footpath amenities
New wetland connected to existing ditch network
New permissive path*
Footpath enhancements
The existing footpath network will be enhanced with a new northern and eastern extension, tree planting, seating and interpretation to improve access, comfort and engagement with the landscape.
* A permissive path is an informal path offered for public use that increases access, without being a permanent public right of way.

What’s changed since we last spoke

Feb 2025:

Project soft launch; briefings offered to local Parish, Ward, District Councillors and the MP.

Mar–Apr 2025:

Non-Statutory Consultation; stakeholder briefings and meetings held throughout this period upon request.

May–Jun 2025:

Project timeline extension announced in light of feedback; further analysis of Consultation Feedback.

Jul 2025–Mar 2026:

Non-statutory feedback shared with the Community Liaison Group, followed by meetings.

Site area expanded to enable greater separation from homes and panels and Scoping Report submitted to Planning Inspectorate.

Since our previous consultation, we have carefully considered the feedback received and used it to inform the ongoing development of our proposals.

What's changed since we last spoke

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

Views are important - reduce visual impacts on the landscape

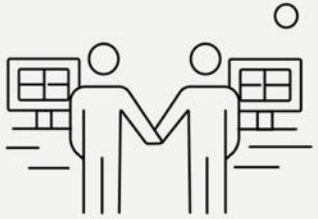
Maintain a respectful distance - reduce visibility and noise from neighbouring properties

Avoid disruption to communities during construction

Protect **archaelogy** and **heritage**

Protect the **environment** and **wildlife**

Collaborate with other developers



Protect agriculture land for food production

Consider the impact on the **local economy**

Feedback gathered during earlier engagement, alongside continued discussions with local authorities, parish councils and other stakeholders, has helped shape and refine the design. The updated proposals presented reflect this work and form the basis of our consultation.

What's changed since we last spoke

What we've changed

- **Expanded site area** to enable greater separation from homes and more space for landscaping and environmental mitigation
- **Refined layout to reduce impacts**, with improved screening and better positioning of panels and infrastructure
- **Extended programme** to enable more time for surveys, environmental assessments and community engagement
- **Refined cable corridors** following detailed design work and engagement with landowners

We will continue to refine the proposals as we receive feedback during this consultation.

About the developer

Who is behind the Proposed Development?

EcoPower Suffolk Ltd (the Applicant) is a Special Purpose Vehicle set up and owned by Econergy International Ltd to deliver this project.

About Econergy

Econergy is an independent renewable energy producer active across Europe, including the UK, delivering large-scale projects from initial design and planning through to construction, ownership and operation.

About the developer

What we are proposing

We aim to develop projects responsibly and in partnership with the communities around them.

This means:

- listening to local views and understanding concerns
- engaging early and openly with communities and stakeholders
- responding to feedback where possible as the design develops
- delivering positive local impact alongside renewable energy.

By working closely with local people, we can better understand the area and shape projects in a way that reflects local priorities wherever possible.

Working with communities

We are committed to:

- providing clear and accessible information
- creating opportunities for dialogue and feedback
- keeping communities informed as the Proposed Development progresses.

Your feedback plays an important role in helping us refine the proposals.

Why solar and why here

Why solar?

Solar energy is a central pillar of UK Government policy to deliver a clean, secure and affordable energy system.

The UK has a legally binding target to reach net zero emissions by 2050, and national policy makes clear that a rapid expansion of renewable electricity - including solar - is essential to achieving this.

Solar power is critical because it:

- Delivers the UK's clean power ambitions for 2050
- Reduces dependence on imported fossil fuels, strengthening energy security
- Generates homegrown, low-cost electricity at scale
- Cuts carbon emissions and helps tackle climate change
- Drives economic growth and skilled jobs across the UK

Why solar and why here

Why this site?

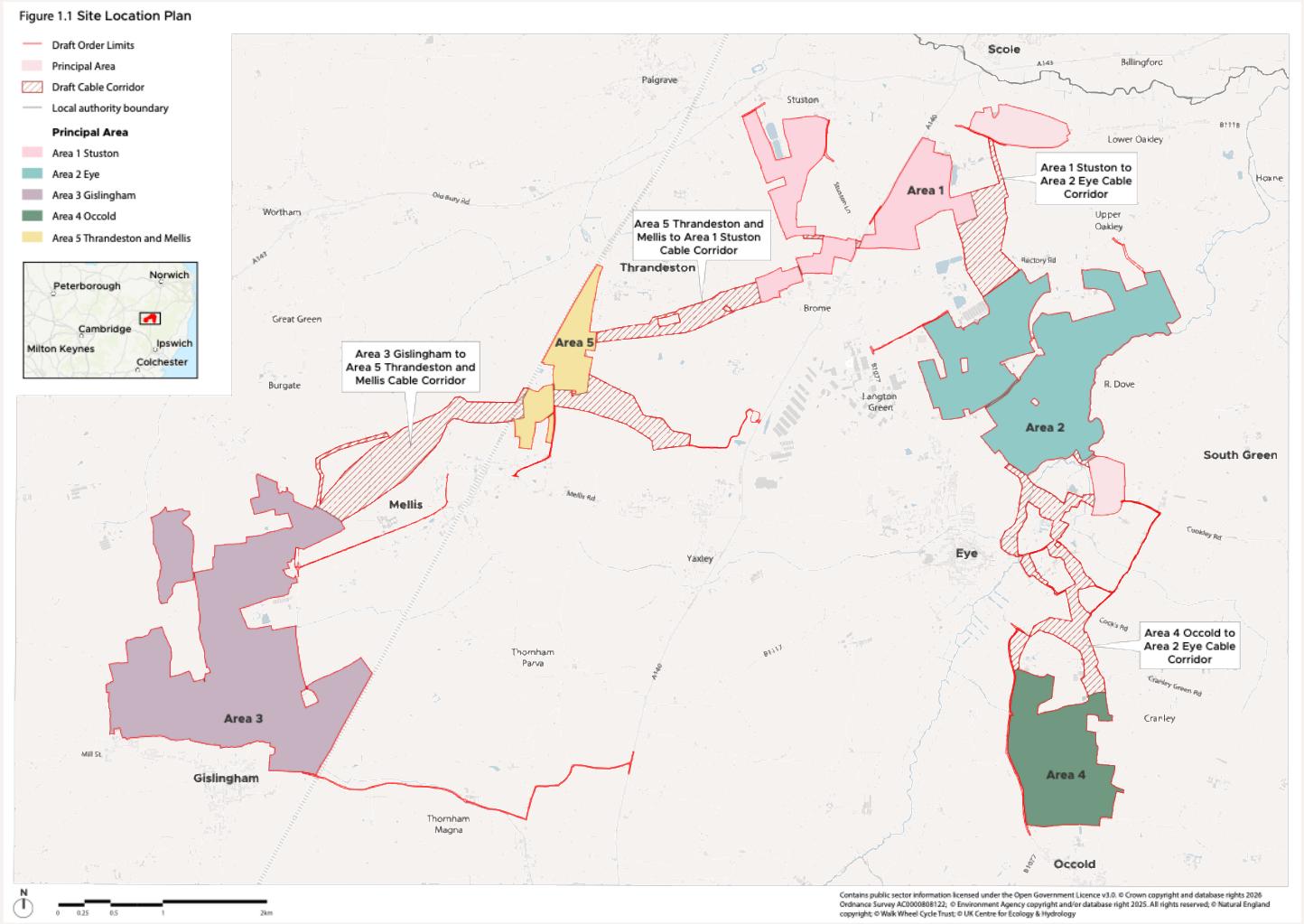
Why this site?

- This site has been selected for several reasons, including:
- suitability of land for solar photovoltaics and proximity to grid infrastructure
- limited environmental constraints (with mitigation)
- opportunity for biodiversity enhancement.

How will the site be connected to the grid?
The site will be connected to the national grid via a new underground cable, which will run to the point of connection at the Yaxley 400kV substation. The DCO application will seek consent for the grid connection also.

Why solar and why here

How will the site be connected?



Overview of Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI)

EcoPower Suffolk Solar is what's known as an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development. This means we must assess how the Proposed Development could affect the environment.

EIA is an ongoing process that runs alongside the design of the Proposed Development. It helps us identify potential environmental effects – both positive and negative – as plans evolve.

Where we identify likely environmental effects, we will take steps to reduce or avoid harm and, wherever possible, enhance environmental benefits.

The findings of this work will be set out in an Environmental Statement, which will be submitted as part of our application to the Planning Inspectorate.

Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI)

As part of the EIA process, we have prepared Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI).
This explains the likely environmental effects of the Proposed Development based on surveys and assessments carried out so far, and it outlines the measures we are proposing to manage these effects.

The PEI is included in this consultation to help local communities and stakeholders understand the likely impacts of the project and give informed feedback.

Environmental Impact Assessment topic summary

We are reviewing baseline data and early assessments to understand the potential environmental effects of EcoPower Suffolk Solar during construction, operation and decommissioning.

Landscape and views

- Minimum stand-off distances from homes, woodland, hedgerows and watercourses
- Retention of existing woodland and new planting to provide screening of solar panels

Heritage and archaeology

- Archaeological surveys across the site to identify sensitive areas
- Avoidance of known features, and design changes where needed
- Findings used to inform layout, including hardstanding and cabling routes

Noise and vibration

- Temporary construction compounds and equipment located away from homes and sensitive habitats
- Design includes offsets and layout measures to minimise disturbance

Communities and wellbeing

- Construction managed to limit noise and disturbance
- Enhancements to Public Rights of Way across the site

Climate impacts

- The Proposed Development will deliver a long-term reduction in greenhouse gas emissions

Ecology and nature

- Buffer zones from sensitive habitats, including:
- 30m from active badger setts
- 15m from ancient or veteran trees
- 10m from hedgerows with trees and potential bat roosts.
- Preference for directional drilling under watercourses to avoid habitat disturbance

Water and drainage

- Developed in consultation with the Environment Agency
- Maintaining setbacks from watercourses
- Drainage designed to avoid an increase in flood risk downstream
- Sustainable water supply without affecting local resources

Transport and access

- Working with the Suffolk County Council highways team
- Routing construction traffic to avoid villages where possible
- Phased construction to reduce prolonged disruption

Agricultural land and soils

- Soil surveys and testing to protect best and most versatile land
- Design seeks to minimise land quality impacts

Cumulative effects

- Engagement with nearby developers to co-ordinate construction and reduce combined impacts

What the infrastructure looks like

These images show typical examples of equipment used on similar solar and battery projects.

They are provided to help illustrate the scale and appearance of components such as panels and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) units.

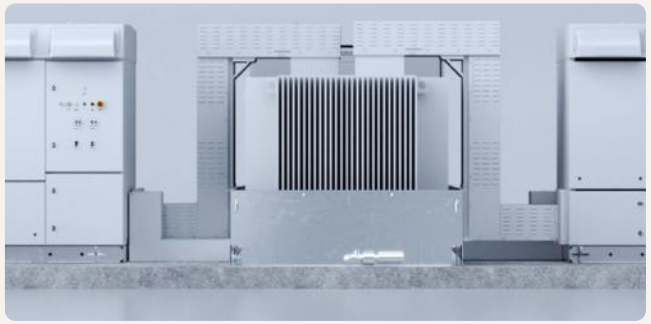
Final designs for EcoPower Suffolk Solar will be developed through ongoing environmental assessment and consultation.

Example of a 132kv substation

Typical Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) unit

Solar farm construction in progress – an Econergy project

Econergy's 50MW battery storage facility at Swangate



Power Conversion System

Solar perimeter fencing (deer fence)

Overview of construction programme

Construction timeframe

If consented, the earliest construction could begin is late 2028 and will be delivered in phases across the site. Construction of the site would take approximately 2-3 years. Activity will move between different areas over time, so work is not happening everywhere at once. Below is a high-level overview of how construction will be carried out.

Early enabling works: preparatory works such as site setup, temporary access works and early planting.

Groundworks preparation: civil works such as drainage, minor cut and fill operations, and internal access tracks.

Structure installation: any necessary foundations and solar module mounting systems.

Panel installation and electrical works: modules are fixed to the mounting system and connected in strings. Underground cables will connect the areas.

Reinstatement and habitat creation: once the main construction activity is complete ground conditions are reinstated. Habitat areas which could not be planted before construction, as they may be damaged, are created.

Testing and energisation: final commissioning is completed and EcoPower Suffolk Solar is connected to the National Grid.

Overview of construction programme

Management plans

Outline management plans will set out a framework of measures that must be implemented by Contractor(s) to ensure construction works, construction traffic and the arrival and departure of construction workers cause to reduce disturbance to the surrounding communities and habitats as far as practical.

For consultation, we have prepared a suite of draft outline management plans which set out the proposed commitments and measures to be implemented for the management of effects during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development and include:

- draft Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP);
- draft Outline Construction Traffic - Management Plan (oCTMP);
- draft Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP);
- draft Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP);
- draft Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (oBSMP);
- draft Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP); and
- draft Outline Public Rights of Way and Access Management Plan (oPRoWAMP).

Next steps

Your role in the consultation

This consultation is your opportunity to help shape our proposals before we submit a formal application. We're committed to ensuring that local communities, landowners, stakeholders and technical consultees can understand the details of what's being proposed, share feedback and ideas, and influence key aspects of the Proposed Development through meaningful input.

Feedback from this consultation will be used by EcoPower Suffolk to influence and shape the final designs of the solar farm and will accompany the DCO application.

online: complete the feedback form at https://ecopowersuffolk.com/

in person: view consultation materials and collect a feedback form at our deposit locations or at our events

by email: send your comments to contact@ecopowersuffolk.com

by post: return your completed feedback form to FREEPOST ECOPOWER SUFFOLK (no stamp required).

Our commitment to working with the community

The Proposed Development will deliver a Community Benefit Fund of £125,000 annually over the 40-year lifetime.

In line with Suffolk County Council's guidance, this funding will support community-led initiatives that deliver lasting local, environmental and economic benefits for areas hosting the new infrastructure.

The fund is expected to be administered by the Local Authority, with local groups, organisations and communities able to apply for funding, ensuring it reflects local priorities.

Funding could support initiatives such as:

- Education, skills and training opportunities
- Biodiversity enhancement and nature recovery
- Community wellbeing, facilities and local initiatives
- Energy efficiency, climate resilience and sustainability projects

Your feedback is important.

Your feedback helps shape the project and ensures it reflects community needs. Any suggestions on how the fund could be used will be considered.

Next steps

Feedback must be submitted before the deadline of 16 August 2026. All responses will be carefully considered and will inform our final application.

DCO timeline

1. Consultation closes: **16 August 2026**
2. Review of feedback and design refinement
3. Submission of Development Consent Order (DCO) application **(Q1 2027)**
4. Examination by the Planning Inspectorate **(Q2 to Q4 2027)**
5. Recommendation and decision **(Q3 2028)**

All feedback received will be summarised in a Consultation Report submitted with the application.