



January 2025

Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park

Phase Two Consultation
Central Booklet

Introduction

Elements Green is developing proposals for a new solar and energy storage park located to the northwest of Newark-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire.

The project, named Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park, has a potential generation capacity of around 800 megawatts (MW) AC of solar energy. This is enough clean, affordable energy to meet the power needs of approximately 400,000 homes and businesses.

The project boundary comprises approximately 2,900 hectares of agricultural land located to the northwest of Newark. The solar PV area of the development is currently 1,372 hectares with the remaining area designated for enhancement, cables and access.

This central booklet outlines who we are, our updated proposals for the Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park, and how you can get involved in our Phase Two Statutory Consultation.

Our Phase Two Consultation starts on Thursday 09 January 2024, and will run for six weeks, closing on Thursday 20 February 2025.

This is a statutory phase of consultation and is intended to give you the opportunity to comment on our updated proposals and how they have evolved since the initial consultation.

Details on how to contact us and find out more about Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park can be found on the back cover of this booklet.

WHO WE ARE

The proposals for the Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park are being developed by Elements Green (EG), who has a proven track record in renewable energy development, with 7 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy development projects globally.

Elements Green is dedicated to developing renewable energy solutions that provide lasting benefits for communities and the environment. The Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park, our flagship project, demonstrates our commitment to clean energy, community engagement, and sustainability.

Having received the backing in principle of several key nature charities and trusts, Great North Road Solar Park has been renamed '**Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park**', with a new logo to reflect this.

For more information, please turn to page 8.

Our Phase Two Consultation

The design of Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park will be informed by feedback we receive and the results of our ongoing Environmental Impact Assessment process.

Our Phase Two (statutory) Consultation starts on Thursday 09 January. It will run for six weeks, closing on Thursday 20 February 2025. We are asking for feedback to be provided on or before this date.

We want to hear your feedback on topics such as:

- Our updated proposals
- Our environmental mitigation and enhancement plans, including the plans for new permissive paths
- The findings in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)
- Our NG+ Community Benefit Fund, including schemes and initiatives we could support or deliver to benefit local communities

HAVE YOUR SAY

During this time, you can engage with our proposals in a variety of ways:



ATTEND ONE OF OUR COMMUNITY INFORMATION EVENTS

We are holding a series of information events across the area, as well as a community webinar. These events provide an opportunity to view materials and discuss the proposals with members of the project team.



VISIT OUR PROJECT WEBSITE

Our dedicated website (www.gnrsolarpark.co.uk) provides the latest project information, including relevant documents and answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs). Here you can view and download all consultation materials and information.



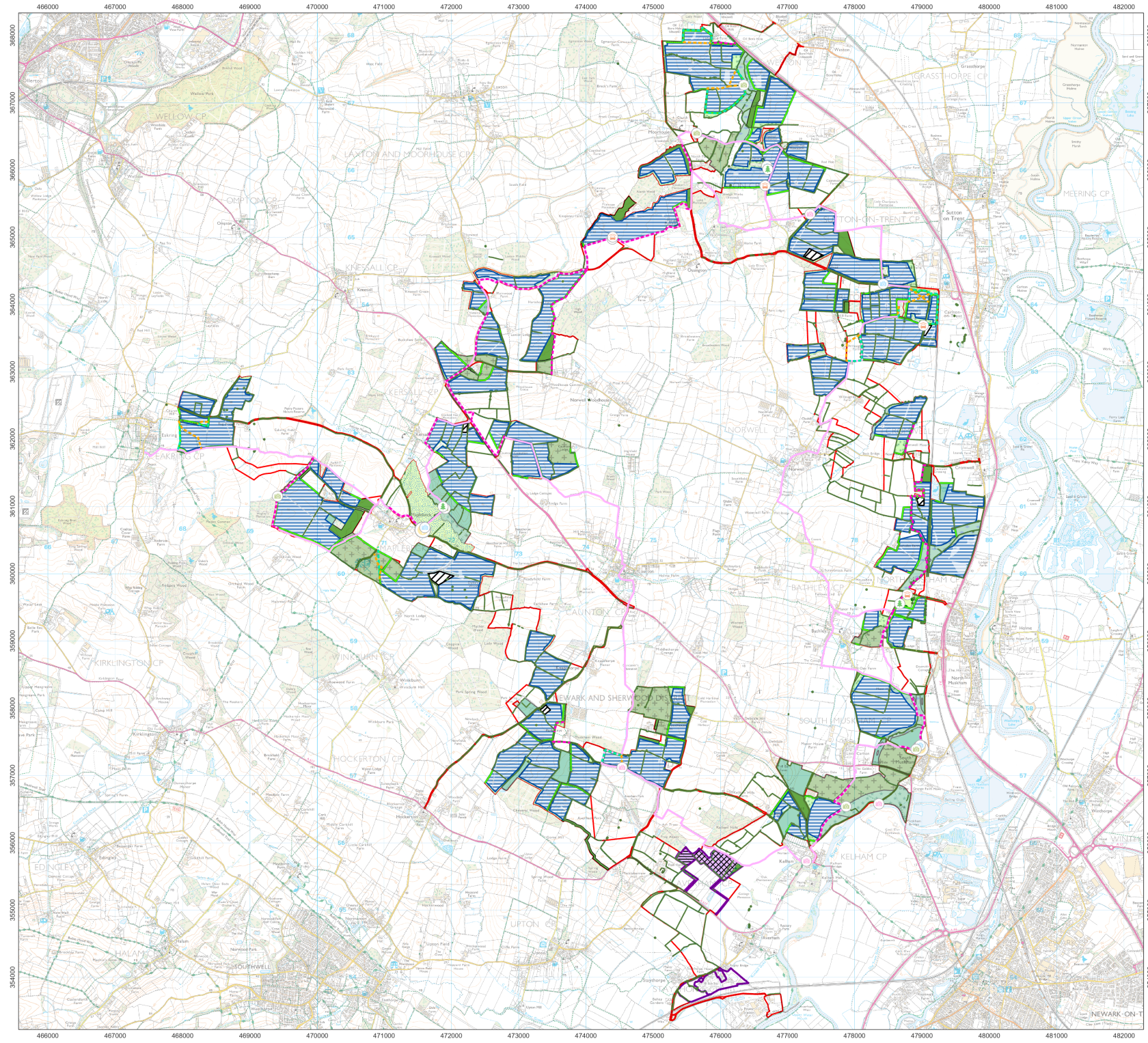
CONTACT OUR TEAM

A freephone information line, email address, and freepost address are available for anyone wishing to contact us to answer questions you may have about the project. These details are listed on the back page of this booklet.



PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK

We want to hear your views on our updated proposals. You can submit written feedback via our website, by completing a feedback form at one of our events, by writing to us, or by email. Please contact us if you're not sure how best to provide your feedback.



- Order Limits
- Proposed Solar Array Areas
- Substation Areas
- BESS and 400kV Substation Development Areas
- 400kV Substation
- BESS
- Landscape & Ecology
 - Existing Hedgerows
 - Proposed Hedgerows
 - Proposed Woodland
 - Proposed Hedge and Tree Belt
 - Retained Agricultural Land - enhanced ecological management
 - Proposed Permanent Grassland
 - Proposed Green Corridor
 - Proposed Riparian Corridor
 - Proposed Wildlife Site
 - Proposed Community Orchard
 - Proposed Grassland (PV areas) - species diverse
 - Target area for ecological enhancement
- Access, Recreation & Interpretation
 - Proposed GNR Circular Long Distance Route
 - Proposed New Permissive Route
 - Proposed Public Right of Way Diversion
 - Proposed Public Right of Way Deletion
- Visitor Facilities & Interpretation
 - Visitor Hub
 - Clean Energy Information
 - Ecology/Landscape Information
 - Heritage Information
 - Picnic Area
 - Potential Parking Area (small, c. 4-6 vehicles)

1:55,000 Scale @ A3

0 0.5 1 2 km

Ref: []

PEIR Stage Masterplan - Overview

Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park Preliminary Environmental Information Report

This map is for illustrative purposes only. Please visit our website to view and download Project maps.

Our Phase Two Proposals

Our refined proposals for the Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park have been informed by the feedback received during Phase One Consultation, as well as ongoing environmental assessments.

NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION SNAPSHOT

During our initial consultation in January and February 2024, community feedback highlighted key priorities and concerns, guiding the direction of the proposals for the Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park. Responses from the local community, including parish councils and community groups, helped us focus on the aspects that matter most to residents, including visual impact, ecology, flood risk, local employment, and recreational amenities. This consultation was pivotal in ensuring that the project's goals align with community needs.

OUR PHASE TWO PROPOSALS

- With an anticipated capacity of 800 MW, Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park could provide enough electricity for **400,000 homes and businesses**.
- Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park aims to improve existing public rights of way, and now includes plans for **19 km of new permissive paths across the site**.
- Approximately 800 acres will be dedicated for **wildlife enhancement** that will create improvements to habitats.
- The Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park will include the planting of **50,000 trees** and the addition of **25 km of hedgerows**.
- The project would create around **400 job roles during its construction**, with a further **60 needed permanently** once its operational.
- The Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park would offer a community benefit package, known as NG+, which has the potential to make available around **£1 million per annum to support local initiatives**.

We have sought to evolve our vision for Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park. The following pages detail the specific actions taken by Elements Green in response to community feedback received so far.

We ... designed to protect your Countryside Views

EG has developed a landscape-sensitive design that respects the local aesthetic. We have incorporated a range of measures to ensure the project complements the natural surroundings and minimises visual impact.

Key Commitments:

- + **Extensive Natural Screening:** To shield the park from view we will plant over 50,000 native trees and establish 46 km of hedgerows.
- + **Low-Profile, Well-Spaced Solar PV Arrays:** Solar panels are designed to be low-profile respecting the area's topography, minimising height and density while preserving key sightlines.
- + **Design Adjustments Based on Visual Impact Feedback:** In direct response to feedback, we have removed select arrays from highly visible areas and relocated the substation.

NEXT STEPS

We remain committed to further consultation on landscape impact, inviting residents to review updated visual simulations to guide additional adjustments.



We ... designed to enhance Local Ecosystems

We have established a Biodiversity Steering Group (BSG), with respected conservation partners, including the RSPB, Sherwood Forest Trust, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, and Trent Rivers Trust.

Key Commitments:

- + **More:** Increasing the diversity of habitats to support birds, insects, pollinators and small mammals, helping deliver a Biodiversity Net Gain across the site.
- + **Bigger:**
 - Over **50,000** native trees
 - **46 km** of new hedgerows
 - **850** acres of native wildflower meadows, grasslands and wetlands.
- + **Better:** Enhancing habitat quality through active management to improve ecological value.
- + **Joined-up:** Establishing wildlife corridors to reduce habitat fragmentation.

Collaborative Conservation Partnerships:

RSPB:
“We are excited to unite expertise with Elements Green to create a future where both wildlife and clean energy thrive.”

Sherwood Forest Trust:
“We’ll develop a robust plan to improve habitats within the Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park.”

NEXT STEPS

- Further BSG design meetings to refine the details of the biodiversity enhancement areas.

We ... diversified the agricultural use of the land by design

This is a temporary land use, not a permanent loss of farmland, guaranteed by both the planning process and the bond in the land agreements.

Key Commitments:

- + **Avoided siting on the highest grade land** based on data provided by Natural England.
- + **The decommissioning bond** guarantees funding for the removal of equipment after 40 years.
- + **Collaboration with Local Farmers for Dual Land Use:** Working with local farmers, sheep will graze under and around the solar PV arrays.
- + **Removing Intensive Farming:** Eliminating nitrates and phosphates, supporting soil health, biodiversity and improving water quality.

NEXT STEPS

- Finalise detailed agricultural land classification assessments
- Design water supply to fields for grazing purposes.



We ... created a Rooftop PV Grant Scheme

The UK Solar target of 47 GW by 2030 requires both ground-mounted and rooftop PV. Part of our NG+ programme provides renewable energy-saving solutions for local residents and businesses.

Key Commitments:

- + **Rooftop Solar Funding:** Funding is available for local homes, businesses, and public buildings.
- + **Energy Efficiency Surveys:** In 2024, with over 80 people registering interest, we conducted free energy efficiency surveys. This will continue in 2025.
- + **Energy Efficiency Upgrades:** Grants for energy-efficient upgrades, including insulation, LED lighting, household batteries, car chargers and efficient heating systems.

NEXT STEPS

- Continue to expand NG+ funding and support for energy efficiency as demand grows.
- First installations are planned for late 2025.



We ... designed the scheme to not increase flood risk

EG has prioritised sustainable water management in the park design. Our partnership with the Trent Rivers Trust (TRT) has enabled the initiation of design of projects to alleviate pre-existing flooding in local villages.

Key Commitments:

- + **Enhanced Drainage:** Planned sward, swales and constructed wetlands will naturally absorb and slow water run-off. A piped drainage network will be installed at the main substation compound and BESS.
- + **Partnership with the Trent Rivers Trust (TRT):** "Our vision is for a healthy, functioning water environment that supports diverse habitats. TRT will help develop, implement, and monitor Natural Flood Management (NFM) interventions to reduce flood risk and increase catchment resilience."
- + **Tree Planting for Soil Stability:** Over 50,000 trees will be planted, increasing water absorption, reducing erosion and slowing rainwater flow, acting as natural barriers.
- + **Pre-existing Flood Prevention Schemes:** NG+ funding for SuDs (sustainable drainage systems), culvert expansions, and other water management solutions.

NEXT STEPS

- More detailed drainage surveys and calculations.
- Having carried out hydraulic modelling and site visits, we intend to launch planning applications for the pre-existing flood prevention schemes in 2025
- Trent Rivers Trust, EG, the Environment Agency, the Internal Drainage Board, and our hydrology experts will design and review flood mitigation measures.

We ... expanded Recreational Spaces

EG has designed the park to include green spaces that enhance tourism, provide outdoor activities, and contribute to the overall well-being of residents and visitors alike.

Key Commitments:

- + **New Permissive Pathways and Cycling Routes:** The new paths will connect with existing local routes. Certain new paths are designed for horse riding and cycling, and are landscaped where suitable.
- + **NG+ Support for Community Initiatives:** Funding will be directed towards local recreational projects, such as community gardens, allotments and outdoor fitness.
- + **Incorporated a large new community orchard:** Supporting health and well-being.

NEXT STEPS

- Finalise the footpath designs in line with community feedback.
- Continue working closely with local councils, recreational organisations, and community groups.
- Establish maintenance plans to keep these recreational spaces safe and clean.



We ... Sourced what we can from the UK

Following feedback, we researched what products we could procure from the UK to minimise imports from Asia. Electrical cable and steel for mounting frames can be purchased from the UK. EG is a London based developer delivering sustainable investment to the UK regions.

Key Commitments:

- + **Use of British Steel:** Brian McGhee, Managing Director of supplier Pro-renewables, says: "Using British Steel together with innovative manufacturing, we can significantly reduce the carbon footprint of the project whilst at the same time reducing the number of vehicle movements required which will benefit the local towns and villages."
- + **Commitment to UK-Based Sourcing:** Where possible, materials, technology, and services for the park are sourced from UK suppliers. Partnerships with local renewable businesses and service providers such as printers, accommodation and food suppliers are prioritised.
- + **Recycling Partnership with UK Clean Steel producer:** We are discussing a buy-back arrangement, ensuring the steel used in the mounting frames will be recycled at the end of the project. This closed-loop approach promotes the circular economy.
- + **NG+ Investment in Local Businesses:** Through NG+, we are funding local renewable energy and green technology businesses. Grants are available to both start-ups and established companies, fostering resilience and growth in the renewable energy sector.

NEXT STEPS

- Continue engaging UK suppliers and sharing updates on sourcing progress, economic contributions, and regional employment benefits.



We ... launched the EG Academy

EG is committed to educating and empowering the local workforce and providing high value job opportunities. For this reason we created a renewable energy skills Academy. EG Academy offers local people of all ages free online and on-site CPD accredited learning.

Key Commitments:

- + **Launch of the EG Academy:** Designed for local talent, the EG Academy offers comprehensive courses covering all stages of renewable energy projects - from conception to completion - helping prepare people for future careers in this rapidly growing sector.
- + **Support for Local Green Businesses and Start-ups:** By supporting sustainability focused start-ups, we aim to stimulate innovation in the green economy, creating new pathways for job creation.
- + **Apprenticeships and Green Skills Training:** We will offer apprenticeships, PHDs and vocational training tailored to renewable energy related topics.
- + **School Partnerships and Educational Programmes:** EG Academy is partnering with local schools to introduce renewable energy education, including workshops, classroom materials, and interactive sessions on sustainability. Students will also have the chance to visit the park, gaining hands-on experience with renewable energy in action.

NEXT STEPS

- With over 250 expressions of interest in the EG Academy so far, we anticipate many local students attending our classes.
- Arrange PHDs with local universities on innovative research.
- Continue to expand green job training and educational resources.

We ... prioritised Safety, Noise Reduction & Heritage

These concerns are addressed in detail in the project's Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).

Key Commitments:

- + **Safety in Battery Energy Storage (BESS):** The BESS will be designed with robust safety features, including 24/7 monitoring, fire suppression systems and low-noise cooling ensure safe, quiet operation.
- + **Respecting Archaeology and Local Heritage:** Comprehensive assessments are ongoing to identify and protect historically significant areas. Based on these findings, design adjustments will be made to avoid sensitive locations.
- + **Noise Reduction:** The main substations and the BESS have been positioned away from sensitive properties and their occupants. They may be equipped with acoustic walls if required, following further assessment.

NEXT STEPS

- A copy of the PEIR and the Non-Technical Summary are available at our events and on our project website for community review, offering comprehensive answers to public questions.
- Continue engaging with the community and interdisciplinary experts on technical matters.

We ... Planned Lasting Benefits Through NG+

EG has launched the NG+ scheme EG has launched the NG+ scheme, which has the potential to make available around £1 million per annum, to create a positive, lasting impact on the region surrounding the park. Throughout 2024, we engaged with local communities to identify key priorities, ensuring that NG+ funding will directly address their needs. This ongoing dialogue will continue in 2025.

Key Commitments:

- + **NG+ Trust managed by Nottingham Community Foundation (NCF):** To guarantee fair and transparent distribution of funds, we have partnered with NCF charitable trust to manage the NG+ Trust.
- + **Enhancing Local Well-being and Biodiversity:** NG+ funding supports initiatives like community gardens, wildlife habitats, and recreational amenities. So far EG's discretionary funding has included Maplebeck's flood shed, the sponsorship of Muskham's youth football club, new kitchen flooring for Egmonton's Village Hall and subsidising a living roof garden at the Air and Space Institute.

- + **Investment in Green Job Skills Development:** NG+ funding supports development through training and apprenticeships in renewable energy. Partnerships with local schools, colleges, and training providers will equip residents with in-demand skills.

NEXT STEPS

- Continue developing and delivering projects and, alongside NCF, continue to engage with community organisations and residents to ensure NG+ aligns with evolving local needs.



DCO Process

As the generation capacity for Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park is above 50 MW, the project is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).

The 2008 Planning Act defines the consent regime for an NSIP. It requires that we apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO), which we will submit to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) rather than the local planning authority.

The final decision of whether the project gets consent will be decided by the Secretary of State, following a thorough examination period and recommendation carried out by PINS.

Our focus is on undertaking a transparent and robust consultation, and we must demonstrate how we have consulted with councils, technical and statutory stakeholders, landowners and members of the community. When we submit our DCO application to PINS, it will be accompanied by a Consultation Report, setting out how we have consulted and how we have considered the feedback that we have received.

Our final DCO Application will also include an Environmental Statement, a document that details how the potential impacts of the project will be mitigated and where possible, environmental enhancements provided. Our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), which we are consulting on during this consultation phase and is available to view online, highlights the assessments that have been undertaken to date, and how we seek to mitigate against impacts.

Further detail on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process can be found on pages 18 and 19 of this booklet.

Find out more information about the DCO process via this link:
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

We are undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park.

The purpose of EIA is to identify, describe, and assess the likely significant effects (both adverse and beneficial) of the project on the environment, which includes the effect on people and ecology.

As Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park is a NSIP, the following are the key EIA reporting stages through to submission of the DCO application:

EIA SCOPING

The Scoping Report sets out our proposed approach to assessing and reporting on the potential environmental effects of our proposals. The scope of the EIA is consulted on with PINS and consultees including the Local Planning Authorities. Our EIA Scoping Report was submitted to PINS on 08 November 2023, and PINS issued their Scoping Opinion on 19 December 2023. The Scoping Opinion informed the scope of the EIA undertaken on the proposals, which is then presented in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report.

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION (PEIR)

The PEIR provides the Applicants preliminary assessment of the potential environmental effects of the project. The Applicant must prepare and consult on the PEIR as part of a statutory consultation that includes statutory consultees (such as the Environment Agency, Natural England, Newark and Sherwood District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council), persons with land interests and members of the public.

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT (ES)

Following consultation on the PEIR, the Applicant must submit an ES with the DCO application that reports on the likely significant effects of the project, along with any proposed mitigation to reduce effects. The ES is taken into account by the Secretary of State when deciding on whether to grant a DCO.

We are currently at the third stage, as we are consulting on the PEIR as part of this statutory phase of consultation.

The environmental assessment reported in this PEIR is ‘preliminary’ and is based on the design and layout of the project as it currently stands; it does not represent a final assessment of the project.

The purpose of consultation is to gain feedback on the preliminary design, and environmental assessment undertaken to date. The feedback received will be considered as the project continues to be refined, and in accordance with the iterative approach to EIA will inform the final assessment of environmental impacts to be contained within the ES accompanying the DCO application.

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REPORT

The PEIR produced as part of this statutory phase of consultation is split into three volumes and a range of different topics. The structure of the PEIR is as follows:

- Introduction
- The Proposed Development
- Alternatives and Design Evolution
- EIA Methodology
- Local Ecology and Biodiversity
- Landscape and Visual
- Archaeology and Local Heritage
- Traffic and Access
- Land Use and Agriculture
- Hydrology and Flood Risk
- Recreation and Amenity
- Noise and Safety
- Socio-Economics
- Climate Change

You can access the full PEIR, along with a shorter ‘Non-Technical Summary’ from the Document Library on our website: www.gnrsolarpark.co.uk

You can also request a hard copy of the PEIR or specific sections of the PEIR via the project’s communication channels. Please note that a reasonable charge may apply to providing printed copies of the PEIR.

Information Events

Come and meet our team at one of our community information events.

Our information events will be an opportunity for you to view our proposals and discuss them in person with members of the project team.

We will be holding a total of nine information events during our second phase of consultation, this includes eight in-person events and one online webinar.

A full copy of the PEIR will be available to view at each of the information events. We encourage anyone with an interest in our proposals to come along. You are welcome to drop-in any time during the opening hours.

Location	Date & Time
Maplebeck Village Hall Main Street, Maplebeck, Newark, NG22 0BS	Thursday 23rd January 2pm - 7:30pm
Sutton on Trent Sports Club Grassthorpe Rd, Sutton on Trent, Newark, NG23 6QX	Friday 24th January 2pm - 7:30pm
North Muskham Rural Community Centre North Muskham, Newark, NG23 6HL	Saturday 25th January 11am - 3pm
Laxton Village Hall High St, Laxton, Newark, NG22 0NX	Wednesday 29th January 2pm - 7:30pm
Kelham House Country Manor Main Street, Kelham, Newark, NG23 5QP	Thursday 30th January 11am - 3pm
Carlton on Trent Village Hall Main Street, Carlton-on-Trent, Newark, NG23 6NW	Friday 31st January 2pm - 7:30pm
Eakring Cator Hall Kirklington Road, Eakring, Newark, NG22 0DA	Tuesday 4th February 2pm - 6:30pm
Newark Town Hall Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG24 1DU	Wednesday 5th February 11am - 3pm
Online Community Webinar Zoom	Monday 10th February 5:30pm - 7:00pm

Community Access Points

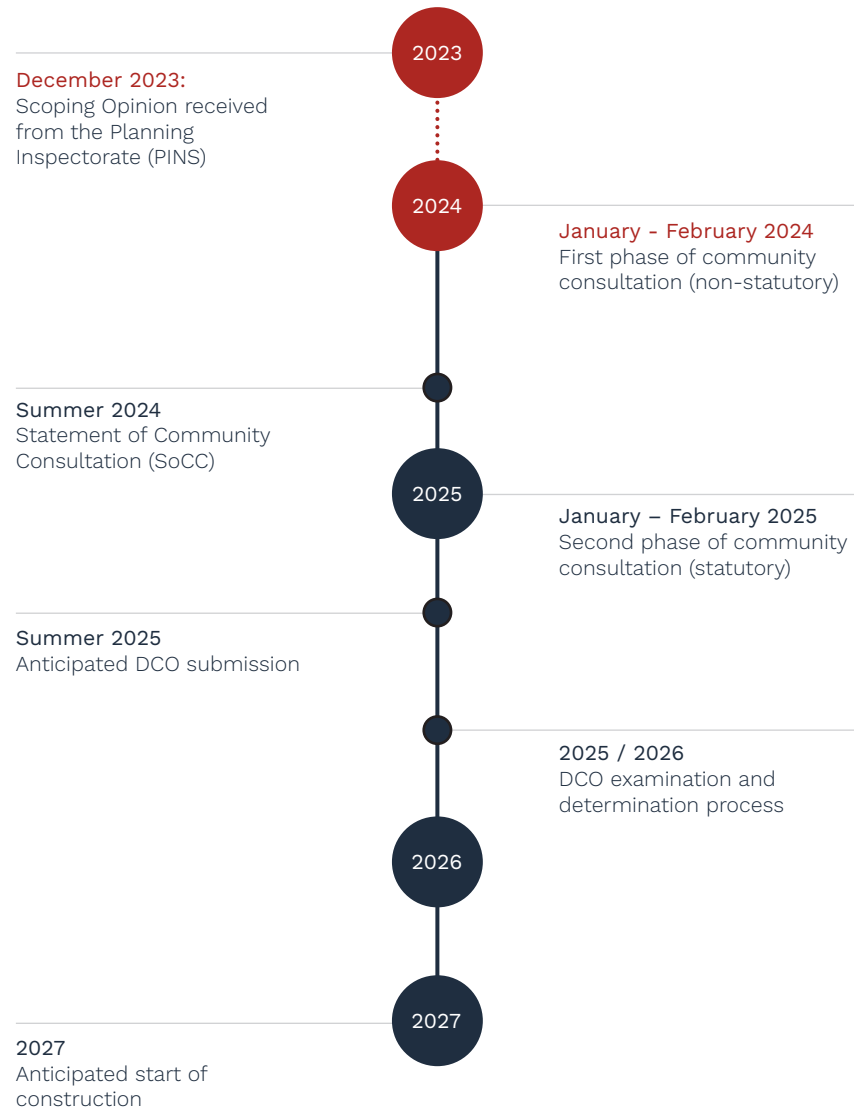
You can pick up hard copies of our Phase Two central booklet and feedback form, as well as view of PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS) at one of our Community Access Points (CAPs).

All consultation materials are available to view and download via the project website: www.gnrsolarpark.co.uk

Location	Opening Times
Newark and Sherwood District Council Offices, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG24 1BY	Monday to Friday: 9am - 5pm
Southwell Library, The Bramley Centre, King St, Southwell, NG25 0EH	Monday: 9am - 6pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 9am - 5pm Thursday: 9am - 1pm Saturday: 9am - 3pm Sunday: 11am - 3pm
Newark Library, Beaumont Gardens, Balderton Gate, Newark, NG24 1UW	Monday, Wednesday: 9am - 6:30pm Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9am - 6pm Saturday: 9am - 4pm
Ollerton Library, Forest Rd, New Ollerton, Newark, NG22 9PL	Monday, Friday: 9am - 1pm, 1:30pm - 5:30pm Tuesday: 9am - 1pm Wednesday: 2pm - 5:30pm Saturday: 9am - 12:30pm

**Current opening times, subject to change by the venue.*

Indicative Project Timeline



**Please note this timeline is indicative and may be subject to change*

Acronym Guide

Below is a list of acronyms in alphabetical order.

- AC:** Alternating Current
- ALC:** Agricultural Land Classification
- BESS:** Battery Energy Storage System
- BNG:** Biodiversity Net Gain
- CAPs:** Community Access Points
- DCO:** Development Consent Order
- DESNZ:** Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
- EIA:** Environmental Impact Assessment
- EPC:** Engineering, Procurement, and Construction
- ES:** Environmental Statement
- GW:** Gigawatt
- MW:** Megawatt
- NG+:** Our community benefit scheme linked to the Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park *for more information, please visit <https://ngplus.uk/>
- NGET:** National Grid Electricity Transmission
- NSIP:** Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
- PEIR:** Preliminary Environmental Information Report
- PEIR NTS:** Preliminary Environmental Information Report Non-Technical Summary
- PV:** Photovoltaic
- SoCC:** Statement of Community Consultation



Contact Us

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to find out more information about Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park using any of the communications lines below.



Email: info@gnrsolarpark.co.uk



Call: Freephone 0808 175 4054



Write: Freepost GNR Solar



Visit: www.GNRsolarpark.co.uk

Should you require any documents in an alternative format, please contact us at the details provided.

Please note all graphics and maps in this document are for illustrative purposes only.

