RWE

# Peartree Hill Solar Farm

## Statutory Consultation Brochure

Wednesday 15 May - Wednesday 26 June 2024

**Scan the QR code to visit our consultation website:**
**peartreehillsolar.co.uk**

# Contents

# Introduction

## Thank you for your interest in the consultation on our proposals for a new solar project in East Riding of Yorkshire.

RWE Renewables UK Solar & Storage is launching its statutory consultation on proposals for Peartree Hill Solar Farm, a solar and battery storage project that would provide 320MW of clean energy, enough to power the equivalent of approximately 167,000 homes[1]. Peartree Hill would play a key role in supporting the UK's energy ambitions, improving energy security, while supporting the transition away from fossil fuels.

Peartree Hill would establish a connection, via underground cables, to the existing Creyke Beck Substation, which will transfer the electricity to the national network. The exact route of this cable route has not yet been determined but has been refined since our preliminary consultation.

As Peartree Hill would generate over 50MW of electricity, it is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and will be subject to the Development Consent Order (DCO) planning process, meaning that the final decision on whether Peartree Hill is consented will be made by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.

## About the consultation

Our statutory consultation will run from **Wednesday 15 May 2024, lasting for six weeks, until 11:59pm on Wednesday 26 June 2024**. The consultation introduces our revised proposals, which have been informed by comprehensive surveys and valuable feedback received during our initial consultation phase.

While we welcome feedback on all aspects of Peartree Hill, local insight on the below areas would be particularly valuable in helping to shape the final design that will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate:

- The overall vision for Peartree Hill
- The updated illustrative masterplan, setting out the layout of the project
- The remaining cable route corridors under consideration to connect Peartree Hill to Creyke Beck Substation
- Measures proposed to avoid or minimise impacts identified in our preliminary environmental assessments
- Community benefits
- Anything else you want to tell us about our work so far

More details about the statutory consultation, public events and how to contact the project team can be found on **Page 23** of this brochure.

## Who is RWE?

The initial plans for Peartree Hill Solar Farm were presented by JBM Solar during the non-statutory consultation in Autumn 2023. We are proud to announce that JBM Solar has now been acquired by RWE, one of the top three largest solar developers in the UK.

Proposals for Peartree Hill are still led by the same knowledgeable team with the same values. As part of RWE, Peartree Hill will now benefit from over 125 years of energy expertise, through design, construction, and operation.

It is RWE's ambition to have a carbon neutral energy portfolio by 2040, providing clean, secure, and affordable energy to millions of households.

[1] Based on 2022 generation, and assuming average (mean) annual household consumption of 3,240kWh, based on latest (Jan 2024) statistics from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero.

# What you have told us so far

Thank you to all those who took part in our non-statutory consultation in Autumn 2023. The feedback received from the local community has helped to guide the development of our plans.

Over 100 responses were received from the local community during our non-statutory consultation, all of which have been considered and responded to as part of our non-statutory consultation report, published in January 2024.

The non-statutory consultation report is available on the project website at: **peartreehillsolar.co.uk/documents**

| You Said | We did |
|---|---|
| We received comments regarding the size of the Land Areas presented at non-statutory consultation and concerns regarding potential visual impact. | Within the Land Areas, we have reduced the area proposed for solar panels, and associated infrastructure. This has enabled the addition of appropriate buffers to homes, villages and environmental features closest to the site.<br><br>Specifically:<br><br>• **Land Area A:** increased the environmental mitigation and enhancement area in the northern part of the Land Area, which also minimises potential impacts on identified below-ground archaeology.<br>• **Land Area B:** removed an area (0.44 hectares) in the southern part of Land Area B from being solar development.<br>• **Land Area C:** set back solar areas to reduce visual impact on local properties.<br>• **Land Area D:** set back solar areas to reduce visual impact on local properties and removed solar panels near Meaux Deserted Medieval Village to protect its setting.<br>• **Land Area E:** removed two fields from solar development to be used for environmental mitigation and enhancement, reducing the impact on nearby properties.<br>• **Land Area F:** removed solar panels from areas to minimise potential impacts on below-ground archaeology. |
| We received comments on land use and ensuring impacts on ecology are mitigated. | We have increased the areas that are proposed for ecological mitigation, ecological enhancement and land retained for agricultural use. Together, **these non-solar areas now make up 10.2% of the total site**.<br><br>Our illustrative masterplan includes proposed locations for outdoor classrooms, wildflower meadows and amenity spaces. |
| We received comments about the visual impact of the solar farm. | We have progressed our plans to include new planting across the site to screen views of solar infrastructure from residential areas, roads and footpaths. |
| We received comments outlining the desire for Peartree Hill to include public rights of way, bridleways and new permissive paths (a route which can be used by the public during the lifetime of the project, but will not become a permanent right of way). | We have progressed our plans to include new permissive paths, which could provide **up to 7km of new walking routes**, whilst also exploring opportunities for horse riders in some areas. We are seeking feedback on our proposed permissive path routes as part of this consultation. |
| We received comments outlining the importance of locating battery energy storage and on-site substations with consideration to location, visibility and noise. | We have progressed the site configuration to consider siting the two on-site substations in the illustrative Land Areas C and E, alongside battery storage. **Please see masterplan on Page 9**.<br><br>We will be undertaking further noise assessments to inform the mitigation and screening required to minimise likely significant effects regarding local noise. |

# Why do we need solar?

## Solar's role in supporting national energy ambitions

While the UK has been making steady progress towards decarbonisation and reducing reliance on fossil fuels, our energy system is not self-sufficient. It is therefore vulnerable to changes in global energy prices, impacting people's energy bills.

Solar power is a vital part of the energy mix helping the UK meet its net zero targets, while becoming less reliant on expensive fossil fuel imports for electricity and heating.

The UK has a legally binding commitment **to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050**. As one of the cheapest and most rapidly deployable forms of renewable energy, solar will play an important role in achieving this commitment.

The UK Government has set an expectation of reaching **70GW of installed solar capacity by 2035**, a five-fold increase on the current installed capacity, and our proposals for Peartree Hill would make a key contribution towards achieving this ambition.

The urgent need for renewable energy is further supported by the Overarching National Policy Statements for Energy (designated January 2024) which recognises all low carbon technology, including solar, as **Critical National Infrastructure**. This is a step-change in support for solar, reflecting the role that the Government considers it will play in meeting net zero targets.

In 2021, **East Riding of Yorkshire Council declared a climate emergency** and has committed to achieving Net Zero through the reduction of its own emissions to assist with national and regional decarbonisation goals.

# Our Proposals

Peartree Hill is made up of several areas of land (currently named Land Areas A-F), with the areas being connected by a series of underground cables. Peartree Hill would establish a grid connection via underground cables to the Creyke Beck Substation, which would transfer the electricity to the National Electricity Network.

The most northern part of the site is located northwest of Leven, with the remainder of the site to be located on land between the villages of Tickton, Riston, Wawne, Weel and Woodmansey.

## Proposals at a glance

Contributing 320MW of clean electricity to the national grid, enough to power the equivalent of **approximately 167,000 homes**[2] – that's more than every home in Hull!

Supporting the UK's net zero targets by displacing over 11,400,000 tonnes of $CO_2$ from equivalent fossil fuel energy - that equates to taking c. **166,000 cars off the road for a year**.

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

Over 95% of the solar panel areas can be made available for sheep grazing, **retaining an agricultural use** and allowing topsoil to recover, by increasing soil organic matter and improving the soil structure.

**Over 50% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)** to be delivered on-site, providing new and improved habitats, such as wildflower meadows, grassland areas, bird and bat nesting boxes, and beehives.

Providing **additional opportunities for public recreation**, with up to 7km of proposed new permissive paths across the site, outdoor picnic areas and classrooms, new signage, benches and community orchards.

**Up to 15km of proposed new hedgerows and trees,** including a mix of mature and semi-mature tree planting to further improve visual screening and habitat creation.

Educational opportunities introduced across the site, including an outdoor classroom area, information boards and educational trails, providing **information about local wildlife, historical features and renewable energy generation**.

RWE would provide a **community benefit fund of up to £4.2 million** to support local community groups and initiatives.

Around **£18.5m generated in business rates** over the lifetime of Peartree Hill, to be used by East Riding of Yorkshire Council to fund important local services.

[2] Based on 2022 generation, and assuming average (mean) annual household consumption of 3,240kWh, based on latest (Jan 2024) statistics from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

# Components of Peartree Hill Solar Farm

Peartree Hill would include the below necessary components, along with a range of environmental mitigation and enhancements, as well as new community assets.

**Solar panels and associated mounting structures**

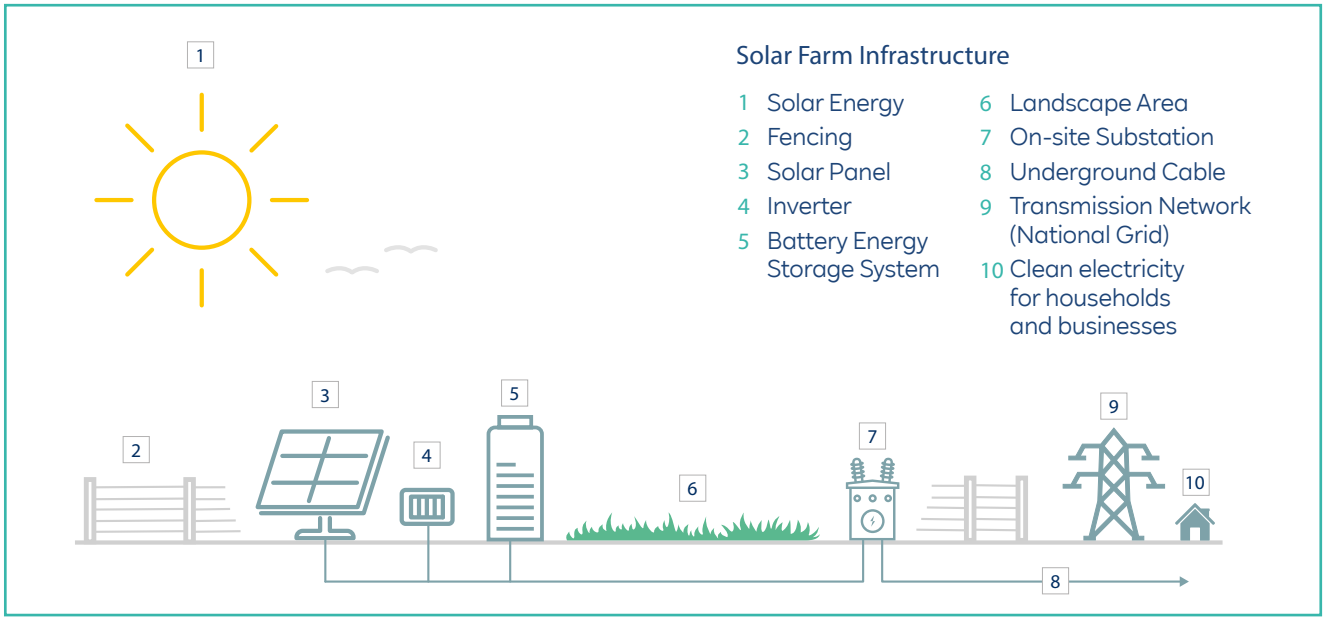
- Solar panels harness the sun's rays and convert them into electricity. The panels proposed would reach a maximum height of 3.5m and will be made of a frame (typically aluminium), glass, crystalline silicon solar cells, and copper wiring, all of which can be extracted, separated, and recycled or reused.

**Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)**

- Battery storage is an integral component of renewable energy technologies, storing excess energy during periods of peak generation or low demand and releasing it during peak demand or in case of power outages. This safe and proven technology would support Peartree Hill to generate a consistent and reliable renewably generated power supply, even when the sun is not shining.

**Other infrastructure**

- On-site supporting equipment including inverters, transformers, and switchgears.
- Two on-site substations to connect the solar panels to the electricity network.
- Underground cabling connecting solar panel areas to the on-site substations, to other Land Areas and to Creyke Beck Substation.
- Supporting infrastructure including access tracks, security measures, gates and fencing, lighting, drainage infrastructure and storage containers.
- Highways works to enable construction for example, additional passing places.



# Design Principles

The illustrative masterplan for Peartree Hill can be viewed on **page 9**. The draft Order Limits are shown as a red line on the plan and are the limits of the land proposed to be acquired or used permanently or temporarily for Peartree Hill in accordance with the DCO. Throughout the design evolution of Peartree Hill, we have and will continue to be, guided by our strategic design principles:

### Climate

Designing the project to be climate resilient and sustainable through design, construction and long-term maintenance.

### People

Respecting local amenities, optimising site use for inclusive active living, and maintaining effective community communication.

### Place

Considering efficient land use, responding to local character, and ensuring effective place-keeping through committed management arrangements.

### Environment

Maximising net environmental gains, minimising harmful impacts, ensuring climate-resilient water management, enhancing wildlife biodiversity, and establishing effective ecological links.

For more information on design principles, please view the PEIR.

# Community Benefit Fund

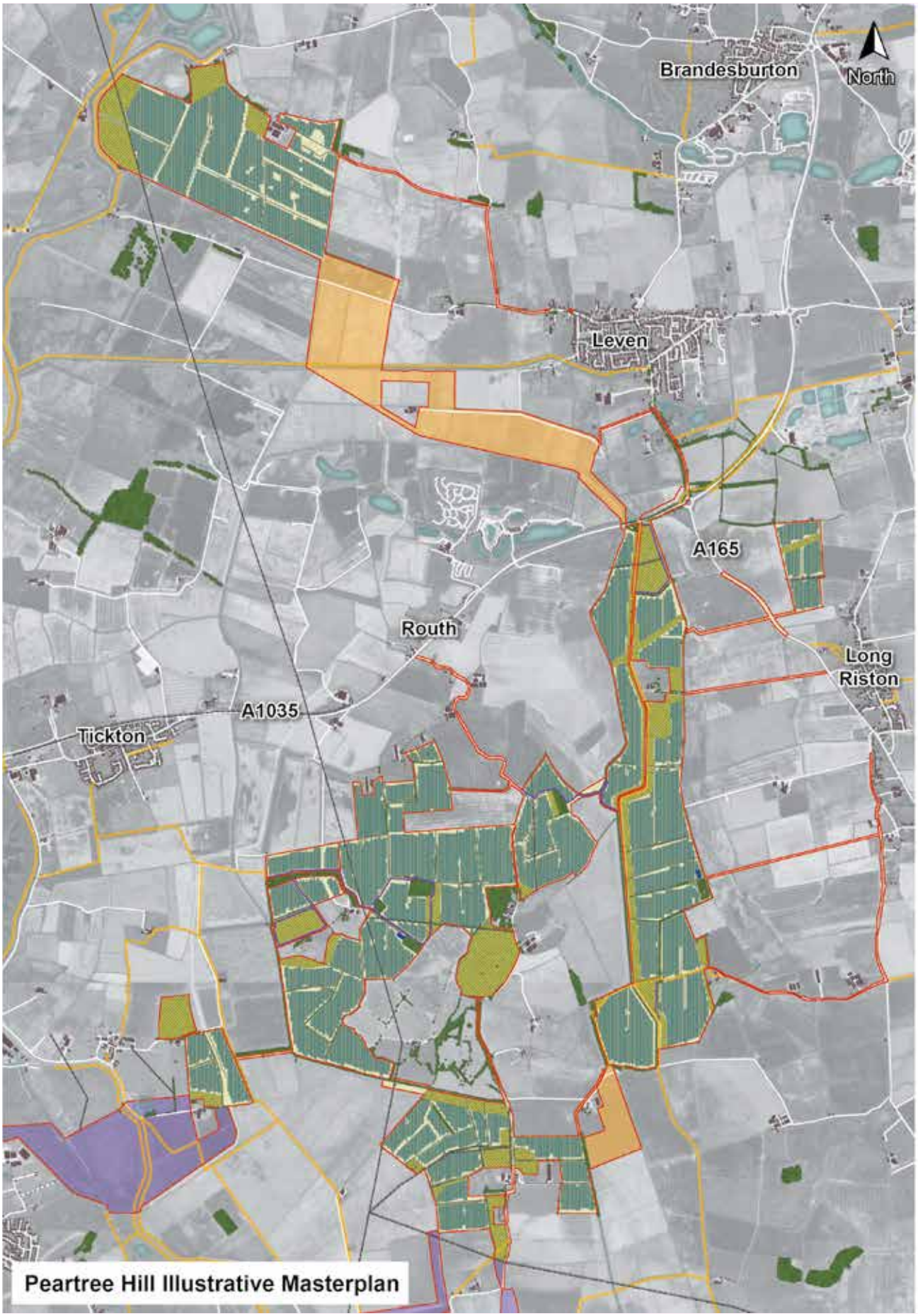
Beyond the benefits of the Peartree Hill, RWE wants to give back to the local community and is committed to providing a community investment fund that can be used to support a wide variety of community projects over the lifetime of the solar farm.

Typically RWE community funds are managed by an independent third party who support fund applicants to ensure the funds are as accessible as possible, and recruit a panel of local people to make decisions on fund allocations. We are proposing to provide up to £4.2 million over the lifetime of the Peartree Hill.

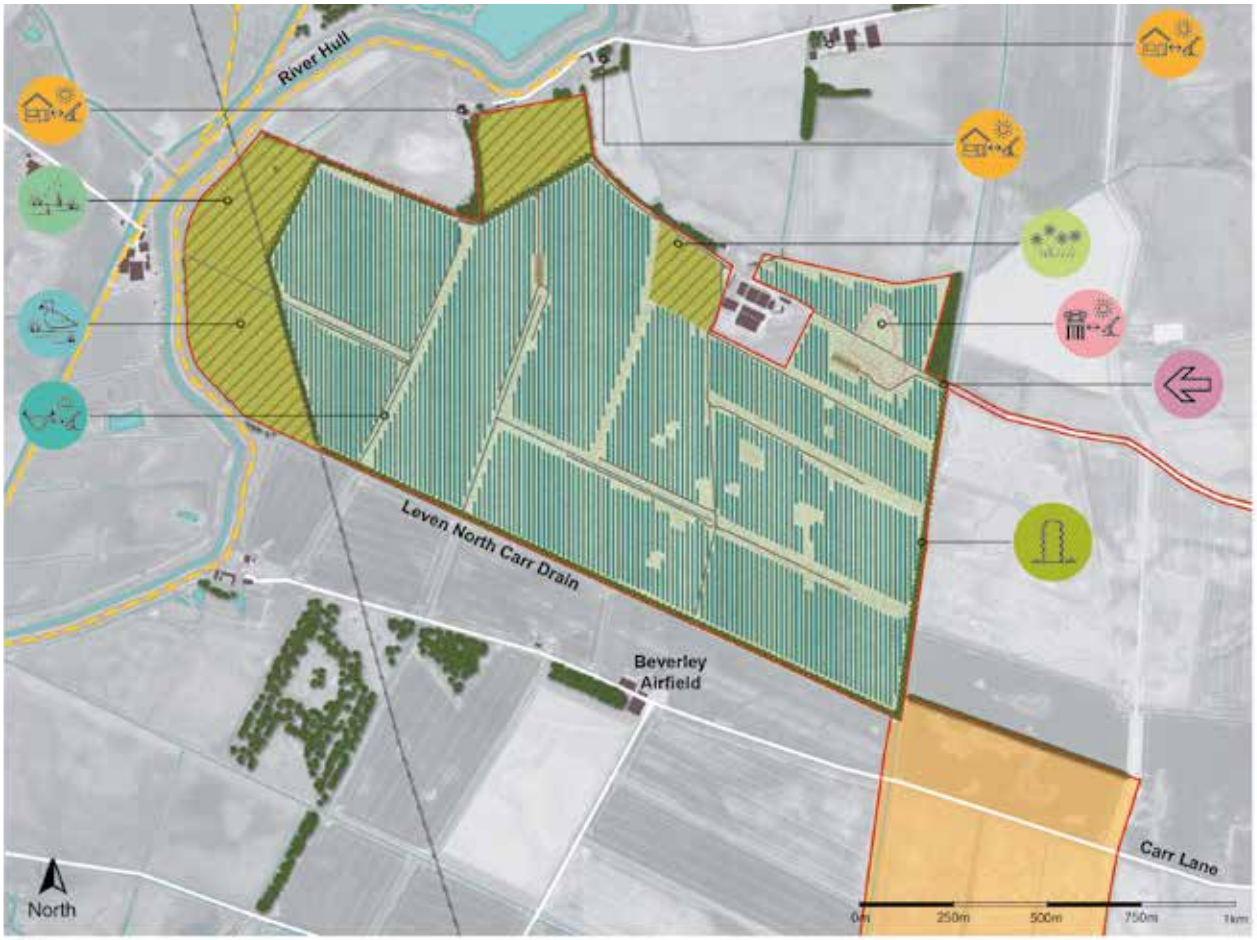
This would take the form of annual payments spread across the 40-year lifespan of Peartree Hill's operation.

RWE has a long track record for involving communities in shaping how their funds are developed and we would welcome feedback on your ideas for how such funding might benefit your local area. You can visit our website to find out more about how RWE community funds are benefitting local communities: http://www.rwe.com/in-your-community

# Peartree Hill Illustrative Masterplan



# Land area A: Land South of High and Low Baswick

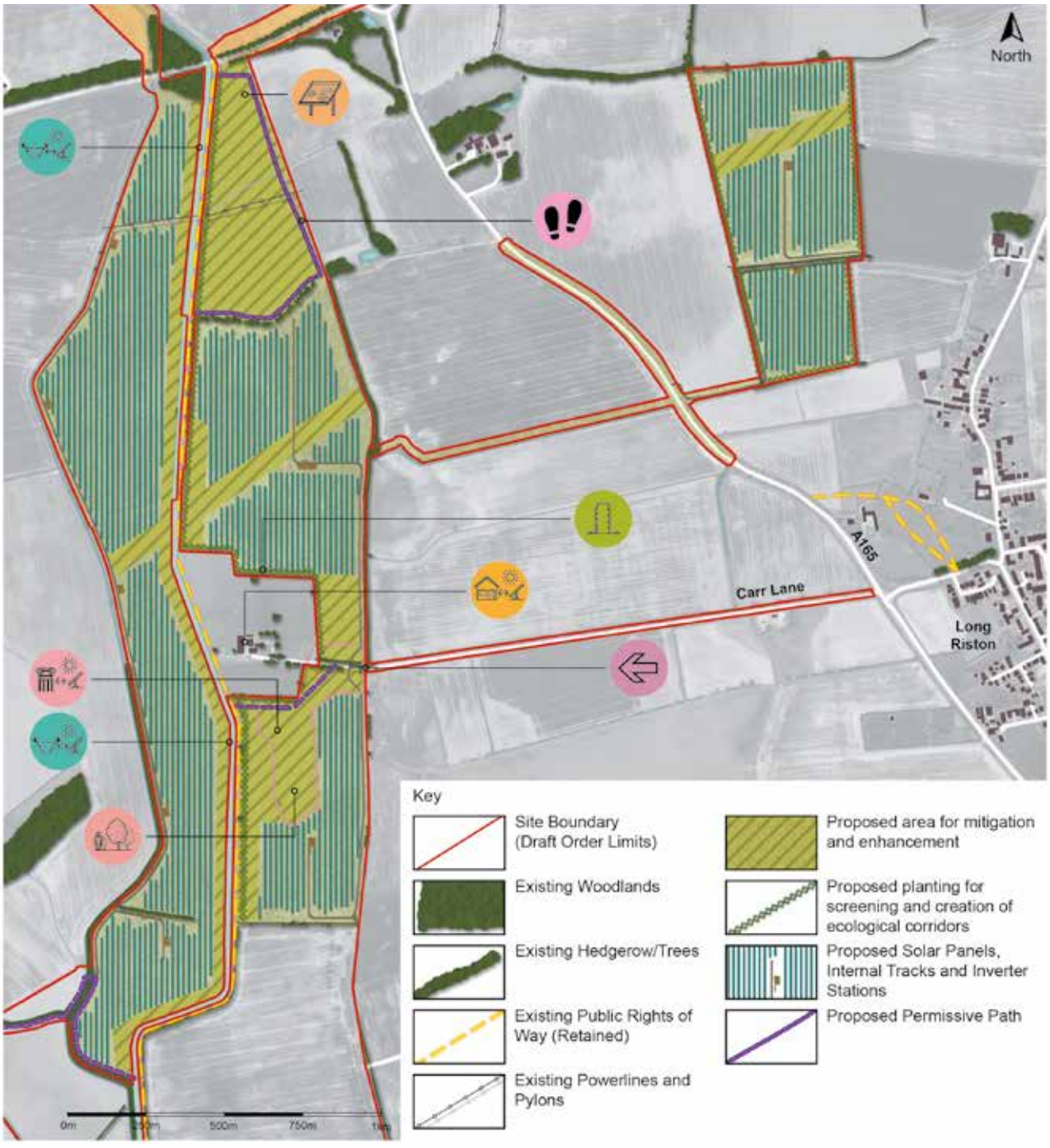



Key

- Site Boundary (Draft Order Limits)
- Existing Woodlands
- Existing Hedgerow/Trees
- Existing Public Rights of Way (Retained)
- Existing Powerlines and Pylons
- Proposed area for mitigation and enhancement
- Proposed new and infill planting for screening and creation of ecological corridors
- Proposed Solar Panels and Internal Tracks
- Proposed Inverter Stations
- Proposed Interconnecting Cable Corridor

- **Residential Property**
  Minimum 50m offset between solar development and residential properties
- **Archaeological Buffer**
  Minimum 20m buffer from non-designated heritage asset
- **Primary Access**
  Proposed Operational Access
- **Waterfowl Habitat**
  Supporting existing populations by creating additional habitat
- **Watercourse and Drainage Ditch Buffer**
  Minimum 8m offset from existing watercourses and drainage ditches
- **Floodplain Grassland Creation**
  Creating a biodiverse area of grassland alongside the River Hull
- **Proposed Screening Planting**
  Proposed hedgerow to site boundary
- **Wildflower Meadow/Margins**
  For the benefit of pollinators and other wildlife

# Land area B: Land North West of Long Riston




**Archaeological Buffer**
Minimum 20m buffer from non-designated heritage asset

**Primary Access**
Proposed Operational Access

**Watercourse and Drainage Ditch Buffer**
Minimum 8m offset from existing watercourses and drainage ditches

**Residential Property**
Minimum 50m offset between solar development and residential properties

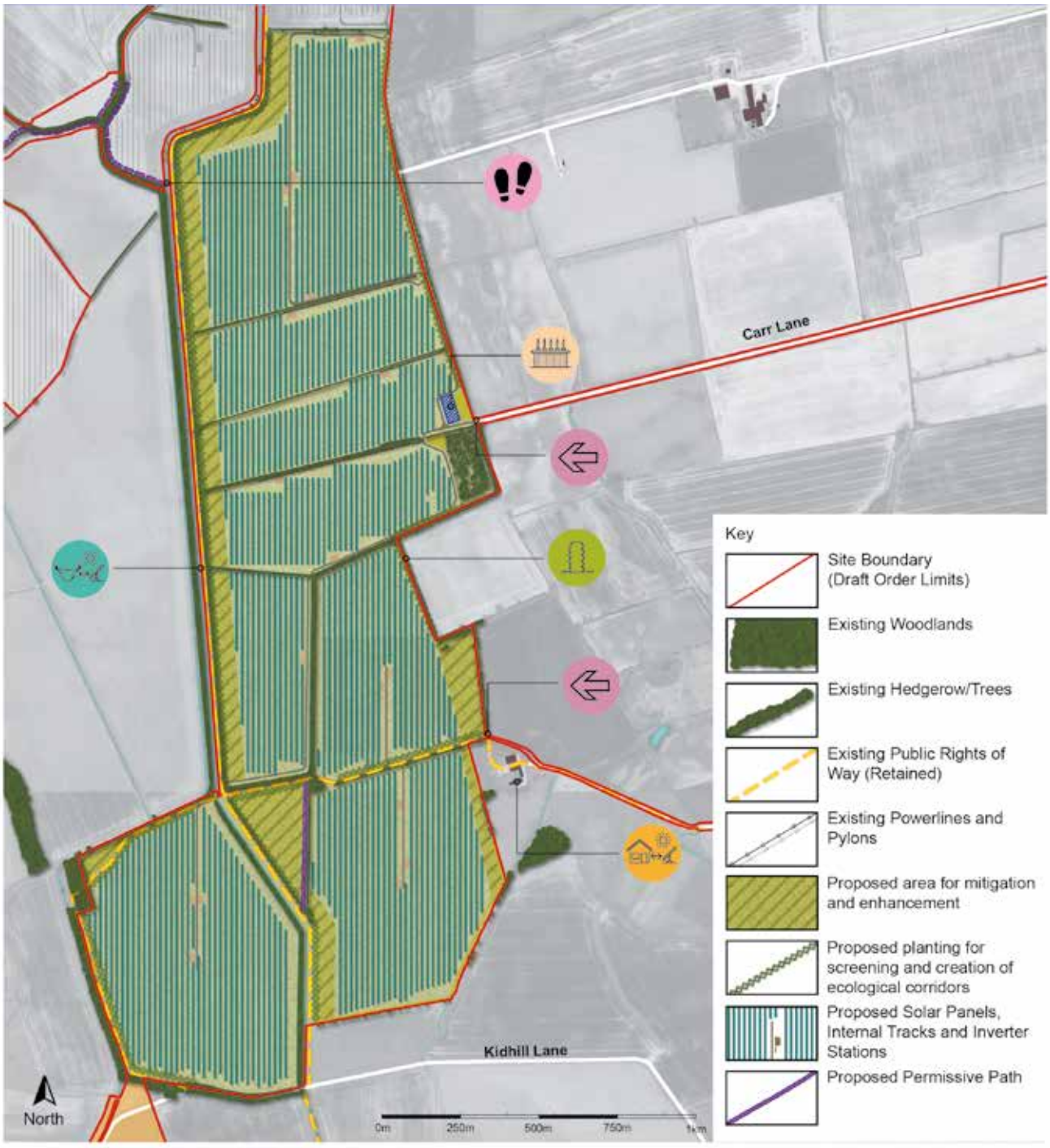
**Proposed Screening Planting**
Proposed hedgerow to site boundary

**Proposed Information Board**
With ecological focus

**Proposed Permissive Path**
Connections with existing Public Rights of Way network

**Potential Community Greenspace**
Potential for orchard, wildflower meadow, seating

# Land Area C: Land West of Arnold




**Substation Location**
Adjacent to existing vegetation which provides screening

**Primary Access**
Proposed Operational Access

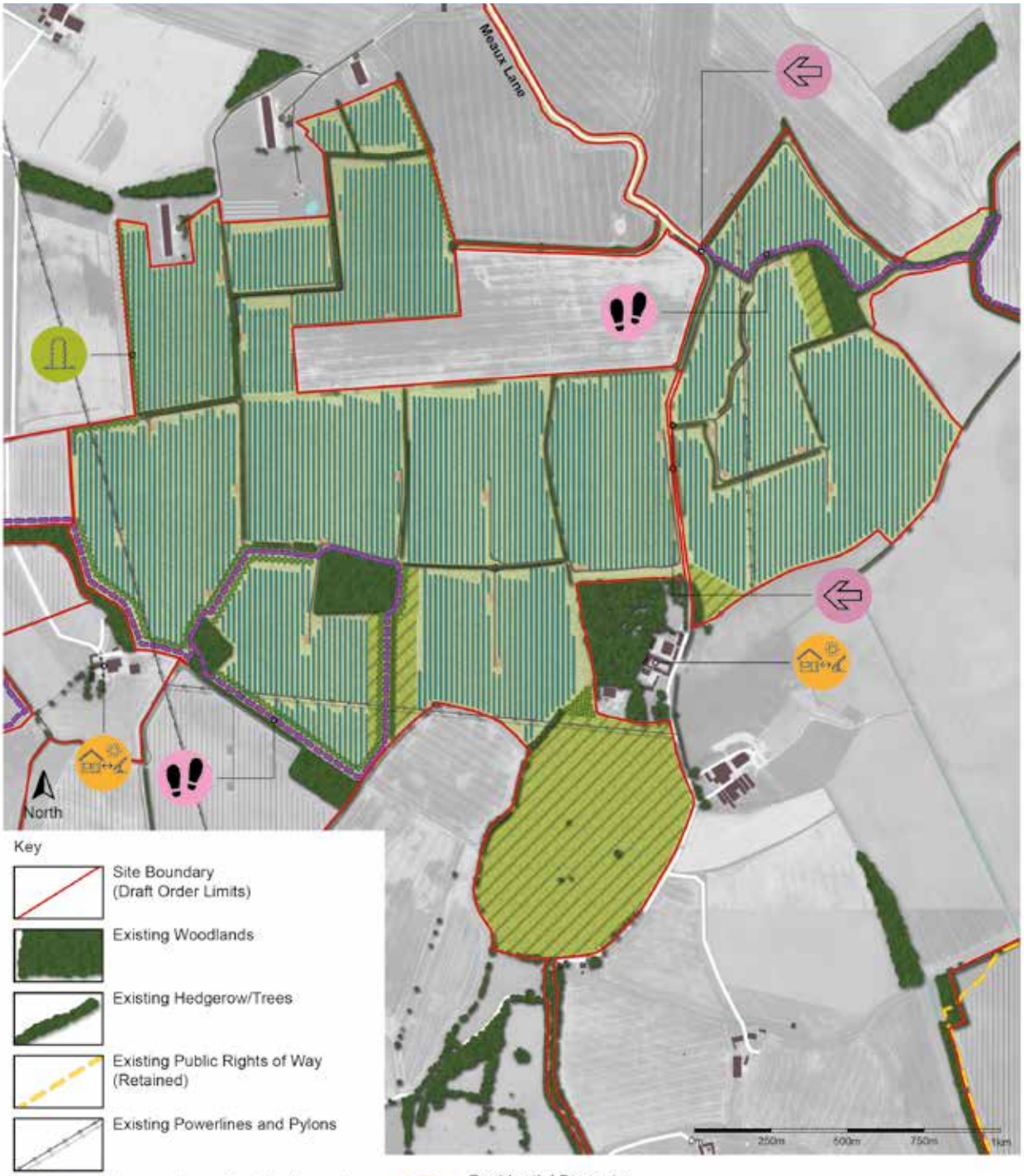
**Watercourse and Drainage Ditch Buffer**
Minimum 8m offset from existing watercourses and drainage ditches

**Proposed Screening Planting**
Proposed hedgerow to site boundary

**Residential Property**
Minimum 50m offset between solar development and residential properties

**Proposed Permissive Path**
Connections with existing Public Rights of Way network

# Land Area D: Land South of the A1035




Key

- Site Boundary (Draft Order Limits)
- Existing Woodlands
- Existing Hedgerow/Trees
- Existing Public Rights of Way (Retained)
- Existing Powerlines and Pylons
- Proposed area for mitigation and enhancement
- Proposed new and infill planting for screening and creation of ecological corridors
- Proposed Solar Panels, Internal Tracks and Inverter Stations
- Proposed Permissive Path

**Residential Property**
Minimum 50m offset between solar development and residential properties

**Primary Access**
Proposed Operational Access

**Proposed Screening Planting**
Proposed hedgerow to site boundary

**Proposed Permissive Path**
Connections with existing Public Rights of Way network

# Land Area E: Land East of Weel


**Primary Access**
Proposed Operational Access

**Substation Location**
Adjacent to existing vegetation which provides screening

**Residential Property**
Minimum 50m offset between solar development and residential properties

**Proposed Screening Planting**
Proposed hedgerow to site boundary

**Proposed Permissive Path**
Connections with existing Public Rights of Way network

**Proposed Information Board**
With heritage focus

**Archaeological Buffer**
Minimum 100m buffer from designated heritage asset

**Potential Community Greenspace/ Ecological Enhancements**
Potential for orchard, wildflower meadow, seating

# Land Area F: Land North of Wawne


Key

- Site Boundary (Draft Order Limits)
- Existing Woodlands
- Existing Hedgerow/Trees
- Existing Public Rights of Way (Retained)
- Existing Powerlines and Pylons
- Proposed area for mitigation and enhancement
- Proposed planting for screening and creation of ecological corridors
- Proposed Solar Panels, Internal Tracks and Inverter Stations
- Proposed Interconnecting Cable Corridor
- Proposed Cable Corridor Options for Substations

**Residential Property**
Minimum 50m offset between solar development and residential properties

**Primary Access**
Proposed Operational Access

**Proposed Screening Planting**
Proposed hedgerow to site boundary

**Proposed Information Board**
With educational focus

**Archaeological Buffer**
Minimum 100m buffer from designated heritage asset

**Potential Community Greenspace**
Opportunity for outdoor classroom

**Wildflower Meadow/Margins**
For the benefit of pollinators and other wildlife

# Cable Route Corridors

Peartree Hill would connect via underground cabling to the existing National Grid Substation at Creyke Beck, near Cottingham, located approximately 5.6km southwest of Land Area F: Land North of Wawne, the most southern extent of the Land Areas.

Careful planning and assessment have determined the most efficient and environmentally responsible cable route. After discounting options such as the 'Highways option' due to traffic disruption concerns, three indicative cable route corridor options are under consideration. These routes avoid residential properties and gardens. Ongoing engagement with relevant landowners will refine the cable route further.

The below map shows the updated indicative cable route corridor options under consideration, of which there are three.

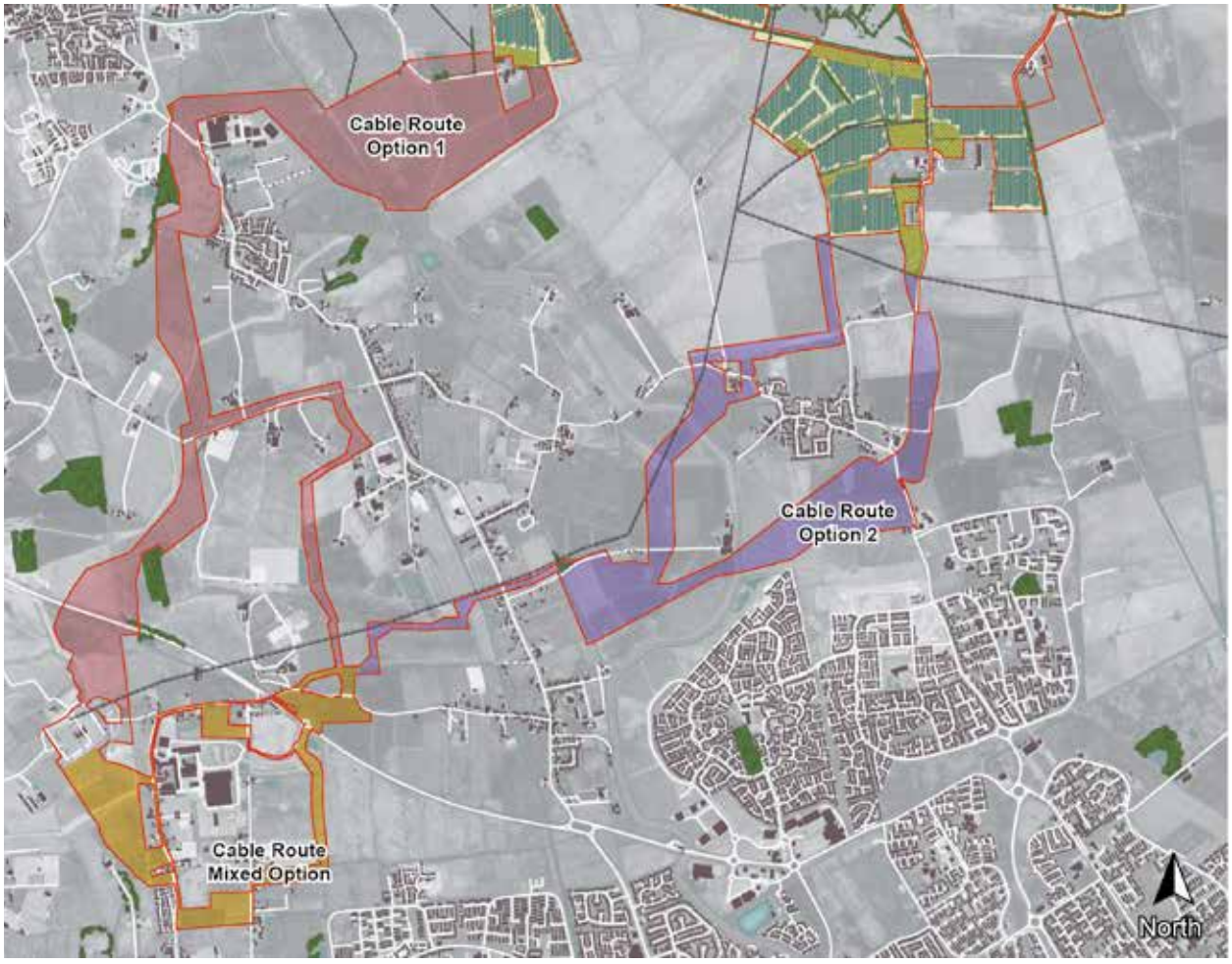
Only one cable corridor option to Creyke Beck Substation will be submitted as part of the DCO application.

The cable routes illustrated on this plan do not represent the total area required for the installation of the cabling, but rather show the extent of land under consideration at this stage within which the cables would be installed.

In addition to the main cable route that connects to Creyke Beck substation, there will also be an interconnecting cable route between the Land Areas.

## Cable routes will be installed using the following approaches:

- Utilising a cable plough, which will be the most efficient and least impactful method of cable installation, causing minimal disruption to the ground by cutting, installing and back-filling in one operation.
- Creating 'open-cut' trenches 1.2m deep and 1.5m wide within which cables will be laid.
- For open-cut trenches the working width of the land needed would be between 15 – 30 metres.
- In instances where the cable plough or open-cut trench cannot be used (for example, when crossing a road, railway or large drainage ditch) alternative methods, such as horizontal directional drilling (HDD), would be used.
- HDD involves the cables being installed underground without disturbing the surface.
- When land is reinstated, land-use restrictions may apply to avoid risk of cables being disturbed or damaged.



# Environmental Impact Assessments - Our work so far

As part of the DCO process we are carrying out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to assess the likely significant effects (both positive and negative) Peartree Hill could have on the environment and local communities.

A Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) has been developed to outline our assessments of the potential impacts of Peartree Hill carried out to date, so the local community can make an informed response about Peartree Hill.

Early environmental assessments (summarised in the PEIR) have already helped shape the plans for how Peartree Hill will be designed, built and operated. Feedback from this consultation, along with ongoing environmental assessments and technical work and surveys will help to further refine our proposals. This includes identifying appropriate mitigation measures to avoid, reduce, mitigate or offset any likely significant negative effects that we have identified in the PEIR. The final results of these assessments will be presented in an Environmental Statement, which will accompany the DCO application.

As part of the PEIR, we have developed a number of landscape visualisations, assessing the visual impact of Peartree Hill after 0 years, 5 years and 10 years in consideration of new planting and mitigation.

The PEIR and non-technical summary, including the landscape visualisations, are available on our website and at our deposit locations and consultation events (more information about the statutory consultation is provided on **Page 23**).

The EIA considers a wide range of topics such as landscape and visual, biodiversity, cultural heritage, flood risk, traffic, noise and other considerations. A summary of which is provided in the table below.

| Environmental Impact | What we've assessed | Further information |
|---|---|---|
| Air Quality | The likely effects on air quality during construction and decommissioning on nearby sensitive ecological and human receptors. | PEIR Chapter 6 |
| Biodiversity | The likely effects on international, national, and local ecological networks, including habitats for protected species. | PEIR Chapter 7 |
| Climate | The likely effects on greenhouse gas emissions and the resilience of Peartree Hill against any major climate events. | PEIR Chapter 8 |
| Cultural Heritage | The likely effects on historical assets such as scheduled monuments, listed buildings, and conservation areas. | PEIR Chapter 9 |
| Land, Soils and Groundwater | The likely effects on soils, groundwater, and agricultural land. | PEIR Chapter 10 |
| Landscape and Visual | The likely effects on the character and views of the local landscape and people's enjoyment of it. | PEIR Chapter 11 |
| Noise and Vibration | The likely noise effects during construction, operation and decommissioning at noise-sensitive locations near Peartree Hill. | PEIR Chapter 12 |
| Population | The likely effects on dwellings, commercial properties, agricultural operations, community assets and Public Rights of Way. | PEIR Chapter 13 |
| Transport and Access | The likely effects on local traffic and access routes during the construction and decommissioning of Peartree Hill. | PEIR Chapter 14 |
| Hydrology and Flood Risk | The likely effects on surface water, flood risk, and drainage. | PEIR Chapter 15 |
| Glint and Glare | The likely glint and glare effects on residential dwellings, Public Rights of Way, road, rail, airfields, Air Traffic Control Towers, and approaching aircrafts near to Peartree Hill. | PEIR Chapter 16 |

## Agriculture and Land Use

Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) surveys have been undertaken to assess land use and agriculture. From our initial assessments, approximately 70% of the surveyed land falls under the category of lower-quality Subgrade 3b and 4 agricultural land, while 30% consists of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land (ALC Grades 1-3a), with the majority of that land classed as 3a.

Over 95% of the solar panel areas can be made available for sheep grazing. As the land is no longer subject to intensive farming or the use of pesticides and herbicides, the topsoil can recover, by increasing soil organic matter and improving the soil structure.

At the end of its operational life, solar infrastructure associated with Peartree Hill will be removed, and the land returned to agricultural use. Upon decommissioning, the land retains its current designation, meaning the site is still regarded as agricultural land. Further detailed information about land use can be found in Chapter 10 Land, Soils and Groundwater of the PEIR.

## Biodiversity Impacts

Ecology surveys have helped identify the different habitats and species in and around the Land Areas, with surveys of the cable route to be undertaken later this year. Peartree Hill is located in an area comprising predominantly of arable fields but also contains relatively small areas of fields of grassland, woodland and scrub. These fields are bordered by a mix of hedgerows, wet ditches, and a network of drains and dykes.

There are internationally, nationally and locally important ecological sites near to Peartree Hill and evidence of protected and notable species within and nearby the project such as breeding and wintering birds, bats and badgers. Peartree Hill has been designed to:

- allocate areas of ecological mitigation that would remain free of solar infrastructure to provide continued availability of habitat for ground nesting birds as well as suitable habitat for wintering birds and a range of other species;
- retain the majority of hedgerows and woodland and improve existing hedgerows using native species;
- create buffers between the solar infrastructure and watercourses, hedgerows and trees; and
- allow planting under and between the solar panels with wildflowers.

## Heritage, Landscape and Visual Impacts

Understanding the character of the local landscape helps to ensure that we are proposing different elements of Peartree Hill in appropriate places. Views of Peartree Hill during construction, operation and decommissioning from public and private locations - including nearby homes and villages as well as roads and footpaths - are also important considerations.

To reduce effects on visual amenity, opportunities have been sought to incorporate buffers between project infrastructure and nearby homes and villages, as well as new planting, where appropriate, to further screen views.

More information can be found in **Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage** and **Chapter 11 Landscape and Visual** of the PEIR, available on our website and at our deposit locations and consultation events.

To assess the heritage in the area, we have been undertaking various studies, including desk-based assessments, analysis of aerial photography, geophysical survey, and site visits. From this initial work, no significant heritage impacts have been identified in the PEIR.

However, to achieve this and protect the heritage of the area, mitigation measures and buffer zones have been carefully designed to protect the built heritage and features of likely archaeological interest. More information can be found in **Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage** of the PEIR.

**Please see below for example cross sections**



## Cumulative Impacts

RWE is aware that there are already some consented and proposed solar schemes in proximity to Peartree Hill, as well as other nationally significant infrastructure projects – comprising offshore windfarms such as Dogger Bank South and Hornsea 4, which are proposing to connect into the existing Creyke Beck Substation or a proposed new substation to the north.

As part of the planning process, we will assess the combined impacts of these projects during construction, operation, and decommissioning, ensuring that the impacts of Peartree Hill are considered alongside those of other nearby proposed renewable energy projects.

# Construction, Operation and Decommissioning

## Construction

If consented, the construction period is estimated to be around 18-24 months, with the project built out in a phased approach.

Each Land Area would have its own dedicated access and construction compounds as shown in Figure 3.1 of the PEIR. These temporary construction compounds would likely include:

- Temporary gated security fencing (e.g. Heras Fencing), security officer kiosk, and temporary CCTV cameras;
- Temporary portable buildings to be used for offices, welfare and toilet facilities;
- Materials and equipment storage areas;
- Parking and turning areas for delivery vehicles and workers' vehicles; and
- Wheel washing facilities.

Each Land Area would contain a number of internal access tracks for the movement of construction and maintenance vehicles. The majority of the site already benefits from a good network of farm tracks which would be utilised wherever possible.

We are also proposing some permanent road improvements to ensure safe access into parts of the site. These would take the form of passing places located on sections of public highway considered too narrow.

Early assessments have suggested that one or more passing places may be required at the following locations:

- Heigholme Lane, Leven;
- West Street, Leven;
- Carr Lane, Long Riston;
- Arnold Lane West, Arnold/Long Riston;
- Black Tup Lane, Arnold/Long Riston;
- Woodhouse Lane, (West of Skirlaugh);
- Meaux Lane, Meaux (between the A1035 and east of the A165); and
- Meaux Road, Meaux.

These passing places would be retained permanently, providing a legacy improvement after construction works have been completed.

At the peak of construction, we would expect up to 300 staff on site each day. Limited parking facilities would be located within the construction compounds. The use of sustainable transport, such as car sharing, and mini-bus transfers will also be provided.

## Operation

During operation, activities taking place at Peartree Hill would result in minimal disruption. Routine activities would primarily involve ongoing maintenance, safety and security checks, including replacement of components. There would also be a need to carry out environmental checks, such as monitoring the success of new planting and maintaining the local vegetation and amenity areas.

The safety and security of the site would be reinforced through the installation of security fencing and perimeter CCTV cameras surrounding the solar panel areas.

## Decommissioning

Peartree Hill is a reversible development, and after 40 years would be decommissioned and the land would be reinstated with the exception of retaining environmental mitigation. Up to 99% of the materials in solar PV modules can be recycled, while non-recyclable infrastructure would be disposed of following established good practice and contemporary processes.

Throughout decommissioning we would engage with local landowners, ensuring any potential requirements to leave certain infrastructure, such as access tracks, are addressed collaboratively.

As part of the DCO application, RWE will prepare an outline decommissioning plan. This plan will outline the procedures and requirements for dismantling, removing, and disposing of Peartree Hill at the end of its operational life with details finalised closer to decommissioning. This will ensure safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible dismantling of Peartree Hill.

# DCO Process and Key Milestones

## DCO Process

As Peartree Hill would generate more than 50MW of power, it is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and will proceed through the Development Consent Order (DCO) planning process.

Applications for DCOs are examined independently by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). Following an Examination of Peartree Hill, the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, who will decide on the outcome of the application.

You can read more about the DCO Process here: **https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/**

## Key Milestones

**October 2023**
Early stage (non-statutory) consultation

**Winter 2023/24**
Review all community feedback and refine design

**Winter/Spring 2024**
Ongoing environmental impact assessment and further design refinement

**Spring 2024**
Statutory public consultation on more progressed plans and the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

**Summer 2024**
Review all community feedback and assessments and refine the design

**Autumn/Winter 2024**
Development Consent Order application submitted

**2025**
Examination Process by the Planning Inspectorate

**2026**
Determination of Development Consent Order application by Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero

# Statutory Consultation Information

To ensure we can gain feedback from all corners of the local community, we have a wide range of mechanisms through which you can learn about Peartree Hill and provide feedback. Information about Peartree Hill is available via:

## Online

Explore our dedicated consultation website, where you can find detailed information about Peartree Hill and our commitment to the community and the local environment. By visiting the website, you can stay connected with the latest project updates and announcements throughout the consultation and planning process.

## Join us at our Consultation Events

Get to know our team and project first-hand by attending our in-person events or webinars. These events offer an excellent opportunity to interact with our experts, ask questions, and provide feedback in a friendly and engaging environment. Your input is crucial in shaping Peartree Hill, and we would be pleased to speak with you.

| Date | Time | Location |
|---|---|---|
| Tuesday 21 May 2024 | 1pm-7pm | **Cottingham Civic Hall**, Market Green, Cottingham, HU16 5QG |
| Wednesday 22 May 2024 | 1pm-7pm | **Leven Village Hall**, North Street, Leven, HU17 5NF |
| Tuesday 28 May 2024 | 6.30pm-8pm | **Online Webinar** (Register at peartreehillsolar.co.uk) |
| Saturday 1 June 2024 | 11am-3pm | **Tickton Village Hall**, Main Street, Tickton, HU17 9RZ |
| Monday 3 June 2024 | 1pm-6.30pm | **Wawne Village Hall**, 36 Main Street, Wawne, HU7 5XH |
| Wednesday 12 June 2024 | 6.30pm-8pm | **Online Webinar** (Register at peartreehillsolar.co.uk) |

Please register for the webinars via the project website **peartreehillsolar.co.uk** or by emailing **info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk**. Recordings will be made available on the project website shortly after.

## Materials in alternative formats

Upon request, all documents can be made available in alternative accessible formats, such as, large print and alternative languages. All requests should be made to the communications team by email at **info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk** or via our dedicated Phoneline **at 01482 695 004**.

The PEIR can be downloaded free of charge from the project website. A printed copy of the full PEIR will be available to view (but not take away) at the consultation events. A hard copy can be requested for a charge of £0.35 per page to cover printing and posting costs.

## Deposit Locations

A physical copy of the consultation documents, along with feedback forms and Freepost envelopes, will be available for inspection at a number of deposit locations throughout the consultation period.

| Locations | Opening times* |
|---|---|
| **Beverley Library**, Champney Road, Beverley, HU17 8HE | **Monday** 9:30am–5pm, **Tuesday** 9:30am–8pm, **Wednesday** 9:30am–5pm, **Thursday** 9:30am–8pm, **Friday** 9:30am–5pm, **Saturday** 9am–4pm, **Sunday** closed |
| **Leven Library**, Recreation Hall, East Street, Leven, Beverley, HU17 5NG | **Wednesday** 10:30am-12:30pm, 3:30pm-7pm |

Consultation documents will also available to view at Tickton Village Hall (Main Street, Tickton, HU17 9RZ) when the village hall is open.

*subject to change on bank holidays

# How to provide comments

## There are a number of different ways you can respond to the consultation:

- By returning a feedback form at our in-person events or via the Freepost address
- By completing the feedback form on our consultation website
- By getting in touch via email

The deadline for the statutory consultation is **11:59pm on Wednesday 26 June 2024**. We encourage you to provide your feedback within this period to ensure that your comments are considered as we finalise our proposals for Peartree Hill.

## Contact us

If you would like to speak with a member of the Peartree Hill project team, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to provide information, answer any questions and to take your feedback.

**peartreehillsolar.co.uk**

**info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk**

**01482 695 004**

**FREEPOST PEARTREE HILL SOLAR FARM (no stamp required)**

You can also stay up to date with the proposals, with regular updates and announcements, by following us on our Facebook page: **fb.com/peartreehillsolarfarm**

**Thank you for participating in our statutory consultation on proposals for Peartree Hill. Your engagement and feedback will be instrumental in finalising the plans for Peartree Hill to align with local needs and contribute to the local community.**