

# Nuneham Solar Farm

## Statement of Community Involvement



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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has been produced for a proposed solar farm and associated infrastructure which would be capable of generating up to 49.9MW of renewable electricity (the "Proposed Development") in Nuneham Courtenay, south Oxfordshire (the "Application Site").
- 1.2. The SCI has been prepared by Renewable Energy Systems Ltd ("the Applicant") to provide a comprehensive record of the pre-application public consultation undertaken on the Proposed Development.
- 1.3. As well as detailing the stakeholders and community the Applicant has consulted with during the pre-application period, it also details the various consultation methods used.
- 1.4. The SCI goes on to summarise feedback from stakeholders and the community and how this feedback has been taken into account regarding the design of the Proposed Development.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### Background

- 2.1. This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) accompanies the planning application for a proposed solar farm and associated infrastructure (the "Proposed Development") in Nuneham Courtenay, south Oxfordshire (the "Application Site").
- 2.2. Please refer to Figure 4 - Drawing Number 04531-RES-LAY-DR-PT-003 Rev 5 for the layout of the Proposed Development.

### Proposed Development

- 2.3. Construction and operation of a solar farm with all associated works, equipment, necessary infrastructure and biodiversity net gains - know as 'Nuneham Solar Farm'
- 2.4. The Proposed Development will result in the production of clean energy from a renewable energy resource (daylight) and will also involve additional landscaping including hedgerow and tree planting and improved biodiversity management - further details can be found in the Landscape Masterplan which accompanies the planning application.

## 3. PURPOSE OF THIS STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 3.1. This SCI has been prepared by the Applicant to provide a comprehensive record of the pre-application public consultation undertaken on the Proposed Development.
- 3.2. Conducting an early and transparent pre-application public consultation is consistent with the guidance within the NPPF (2023). Paragraph 39 of the NPPF states that:

*"Early engagement has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties. Good quality preapplication discussion enables better coordination between public and private resources and improved outcomes for the community."*

3.3. The NPPF goes on to state that:

*“[Local Authorities] should also, where they think this would be beneficial, encourage any applicants who are not already required to do so by law to engage with the local community and, where relevant, with statutory and non-statutory consultees, before submitting their applications.”*

3.4. In addition to the above, the Applicant recognises that local people can make a valuable contribution to the proposals by offering their local knowledge and raising issues that may not have been considered by the project team, in many cases resulting in a stronger proposal.

3.5. This document forms a consultation supporting statement that summarises the consultation activities undertaken by the Applicant, a summary of comments received, and issues raised, and how the Applicant has had regard to these comments.

3.6. The approach to community consultation as presented in this SCI reflects guidance within the NPPF for community consultation. Throughout the pre-application public consultation, the Applicant has:

- Invited comments at a time when they can inform the process;
- Provided sufficient information to describe the subject matter of the consultation;
- Given notice of the consultation in advance;
- Clearly described how to submit comments and emphasised that comments made were not representations to the determining authority (South Oxfordshire District Council) and that there would be the opportunity for representations to be made to the determining authority once the planning application was submitted; and
- Considered the representations received prior to submitting the planning application.

## 4. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER MAPPING

4.1. This section details the key local stakeholders the Applicant identified and engaged with during the pre-application public consultation process. Prior to the start of the consultation, the Applicant undertook detailed desktop research to develop a comprehensive understanding of the key stakeholders to engage with during pre-application public consultation. This research involved identifying local stakeholders located around the site of the Proposed Development.

4.2. The stakeholder groups identified included:

- The local population around the Application Site, including Nuneham Courtenay, Sandford-On-Thames, Radley, Lower Radley, Kennington and the surrounding area;
- Locally elected political representatives from the following parish council and wards:
  - Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council;
  - Ward councillor for Berinsfield & Garsington ward of South Oxfordshire District Council;
  - County Councillor for the Sandford and the Wittenhams electoral division of Oxford County Council; and



- Outdoor recreation groups and local businesses.

## 5. CONSULTATION

5.1. The pre-application public consultation began on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022. During the pre-application public consultation, a range of communication methods were used to provide information about the Proposed Development and ensure that the local community had the opportunity to provide their feedback. These methods included:

5.1.1 Introductory letter to elected representatives

On 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022, the Applicant wrote to Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council, the ward councillor for Berinsfield & Garsington ward of South Oxfordshire District Council and the County Councillor for the Sandford and the Wittenhams electoral division of Oxford County Council, to advise them that they were investigating the potential for a solar farm development at the site location and would be undertaking a range of consultation activities in the near future. The letter also invited the parties to get in contact if they wished to arrange a meeting to discuss the proposal. A copy of the letter can be found at Appendix A.

5.1.2 Introductory letter to near neighbours

On 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022, the Applicant wrote to the nearest neighbours located with 500 metres of the Proposed Development, to advise them that they were investigating the potential for a solar farm development at the site location and would be undertaking a range of consultation activities in the near future. The letter also invited the parties to get in contact if they wished to arrange a meeting to discuss the proposal. A copy of the letter can be found at Appendix B.

5.1.3 Introductory letter to outdoor recreation group

On 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022, the Applicant wrote to Oxford Ramblers, to advise them that they were investigating the potential for a solar farm development at the site location and would be undertaking a range of consultation activities in the near future. The letter also invited the group to get in contact if they wished to arrange a meeting to discuss the proposal. A copy of the letter can be found at Appendix C.

5.1.4 Project website

On 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022, a dedicated project website was launched at [www.nuneham-solarfarm.co.uk/](http://www.nuneham-solarfarm.co.uk/) containing information on the Proposed Development as well as contact details for the Applicant.

The project website is updated regularly including when the planning submission is made, to include links to all planning application documentation and information on how people can comment on the application.

5.1.5 Introductory letter to local business

On 13<sup>th</sup> October, the Applicant wrote to Brahma Kumaris UK, to advise them that they were investigating the potential for a solar farm development at the site location and would be undertaking a range of consultation activities in the near future. The letter also invited the group to get in contact if they wished to arrange a meeting to discuss the proposal. A copy of the letter can be found at Appendix D.

5.1.6 Email to elected representatives and outdoor recreation group

On 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022, the Applicant wrote to Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council, the ward councillor for Berinsfield & Garsington ward of South Oxfordshire District Council, the County Councillor for the Sandford and the Wittenhams electoral division of Oxford County Council and Oxford Ramblers, enclosing a newsletter regarding the upcoming public exhibition. A copy of the newsletter can be found at Appendix E.

#### 5.1.7 Pre-exhibition advertising

The Applicant placed an advertisement in the Oxford Mail, on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022 to inform the wider community of the public exhibition. A copy of the advertisement can be found at Appendix F.

#### 5.1.8 Newsletter to local residents

On 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022, the Applicant sent a newsletter, advertising the upcoming public exhibition, to 831 properties identified within a 1.5km radius of the Application Site. A copy of the newsletter can be found at Appendix E.

#### 5.1.9 Zoom meeting with local business

On 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022, the Applicant held a Zoom meeting with Brahma Kumaris UK. A copy of the presentation provided at the meeting can be found at Appendix G.

#### 5.1.10 Public exhibition

The public exhibition took place between 2pm and 7pm on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at Nuneham Courtenay Village Hall. Approximately 25 people attended the exhibition.



All of the information provided on the exhibition boards at the public exhibition was also published on the project website at [www.nuneham-solarfarm.co.uk](http://www.nuneham-solarfarm.co.uk) from 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022. A copy of the exhibition boards can be found at Appendix H.

A comment form was provided as part of the public exhibition and online, to encourage feedback from attendees about renewable energy in general and the project design specifically. The comment form was made available as a hard copy at the exhibition or as a downloadable version on the project website. A copy of the comment form can be found at Appendix I.

For people without internet access, hard copies of the information on the exhibition boards and comment forms were available upon request. No requests for hard copies were received.

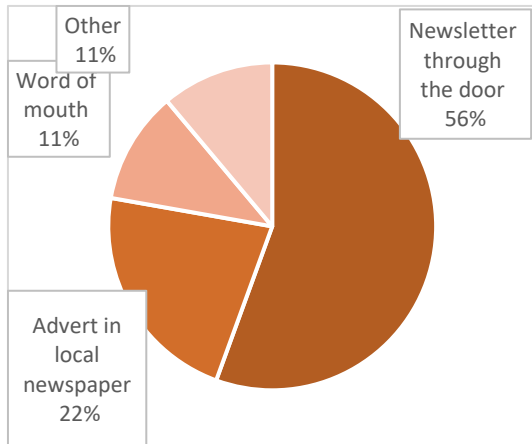
Nine completed comment forms were received by the Applicant. Below is a summary of the answers received to the questions on the comment form.

At all stages of the consultation process the Applicant set out clearly the purpose of the consultation and emphasised that comments made were not representations to the determining authority (South Oxfordshire District Council) and that there would

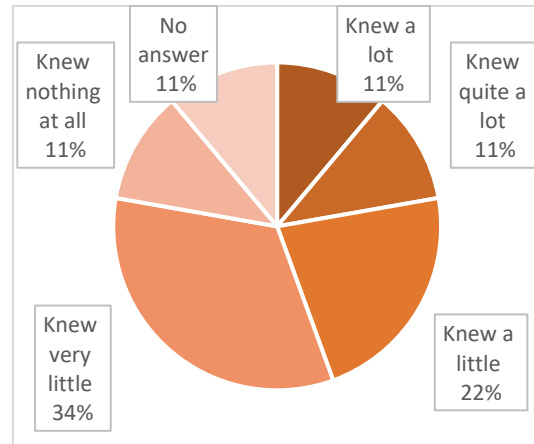
be the opportunity for representations to the determining authority once the planning application was submitted.

5.1.11 Summary of responses to questions on submitted comment forms

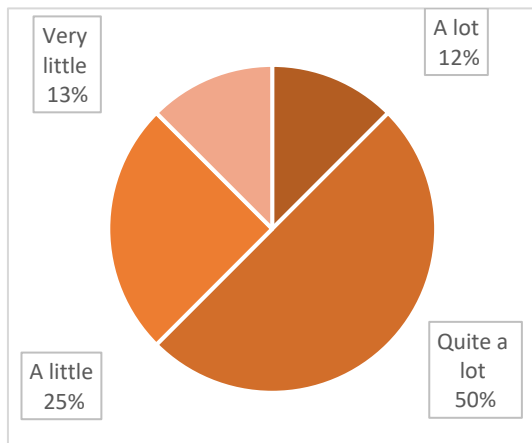
Q1.1 How did you find out about our public exhibition?



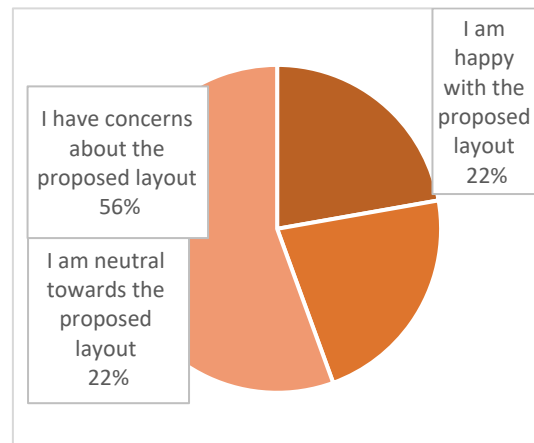
Q1.2 Before visiting the exhibition how would you describe your knowledge of the proposed Nuneham Solar Farm?



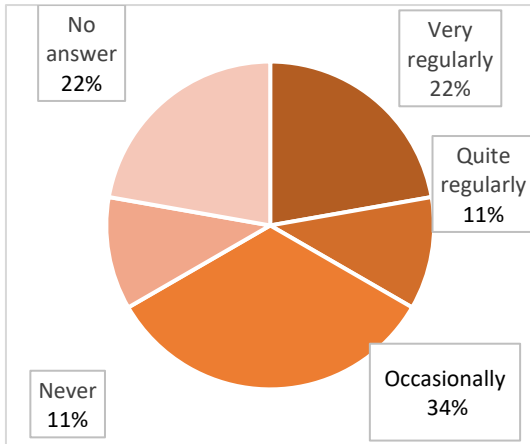
Q1.3 Having visited the exhibition, to what extent do you feel you have increased your understanding about the proposed Nuneham Solar Farm?



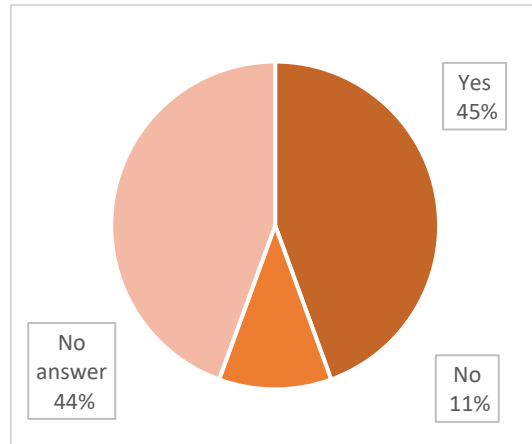
Q2.1 What do you think about the proposed design layout of Nuneham Solar Farm?



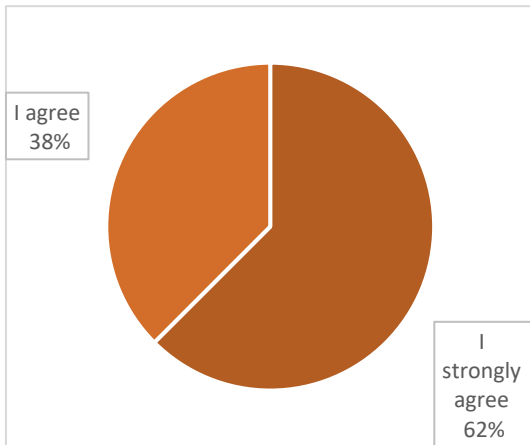
Q3.1a Do you use the PRow which crosses the site of the proposed solar farm?



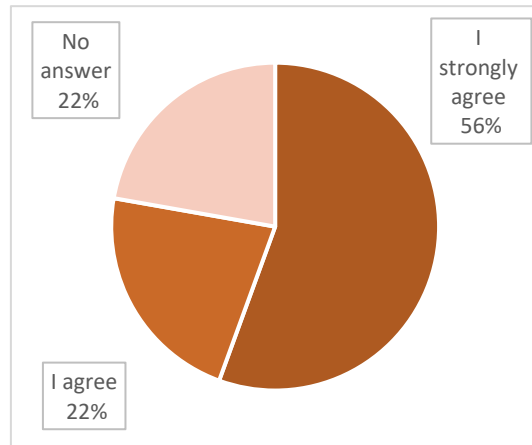
Q3.1b Would you like RES to explore improvement opportunities on the PRow which crosses the site?



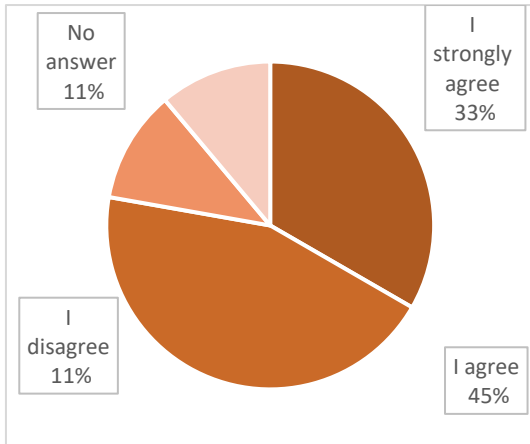
Q4.1 Do you agree that we are facing a global climate change emergency?



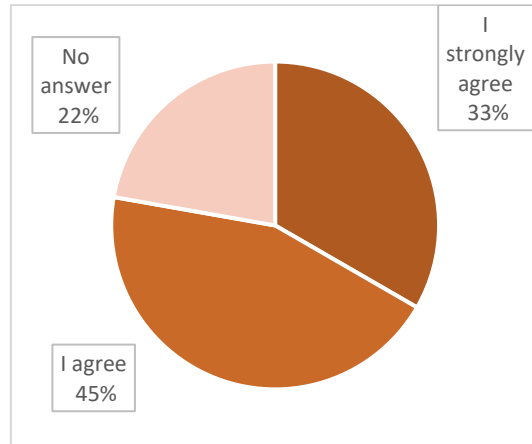
Q4.2 Do you agree that generating electricity from renewable sources, and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, can help towards tackling the issue of climate change?



Q4.3 Do you agree that we need to develop solar farms to support greater energy independence and security for the UK?



Q4.4 Do you agree that we need to develop solar farms to cut energy bills?



5.1.12 Other consultation

On 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023 the Applicant sent an email inviting Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council to a meeting to present the current design for the Proposed Development.

On 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023 the Applicant sent an email to Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council advising them that a programme of archaeological investigation and evaluation by trial trenching was currently underway on the Application Site and that the Applicant would be in touch again regarding a meeting to present the updated design of the Proposed Development.

On 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024, the Applicant sent an email to Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council advising that the design was being finalised and that there have been a number of changes from the preliminary design. The Applicant invited the parish council to a meeting to discuss the updated proposal, measures to be taken to increase biodiversity and to discuss local benefits which the Proposed Development could deliver, if it is consented.

On 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024, the Applicant sent an email to Brahma Kumaris UK advising that the design was being finalised and that there have been a number of changes from the preliminary design. The Applicant invited the organisation to a meeting to discuss the updated proposal and measures to be taken to increase biodiversity.

5.2. All feedback received during the consultation has been considered by the Applicant throughout the design iteration and pre-planning stages of the Proposed Development. A summary of feedback, issues and concerns raised, together with the Applicant's response to each can be found in Section 6.

## 6. FEEDBACK AND APPLICANT'S RESPONSE

6.1. The Applicant believes in meaningful and effective consultation, to facilitate constructive dialogue with stakeholders and the community. All feedback received through the pre-application consultation activities is considered, as part of the iterative design process. A summary of the feedback received, and the Applicant's response is below.

### 6.2. Need for Large Scale Ground Mounted Solar

Sample of Comment(s) received:

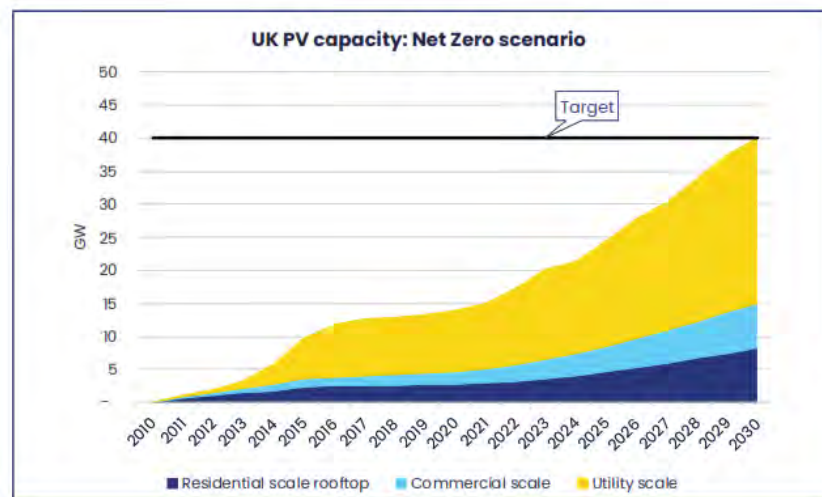
*"I am very supportive of this proposal and glad that this is happening in our area."*

*"I am fully supportive of green energy/solar energy, however, it is inappropriate at the proposed site"*

Applicant response:

As laid out in its Net Zero Strategy published in October 2021, the UK Government has made it clear that solar and wind will be the backbone to achieving a secure, affordable and low carbon energy supply. Analysis from the Climate Change Committee<sup>1</sup> and other independent bodies shows that the UK will need to deploy at least 40GW of solar by 2030 if it is to achieve net zero by 2050.

Solar Energy UK<sup>2</sup> has published an analysis, as shown in the graph below, estimating that residential and commercial development is expected to account for nearly 37% (15GW) of the total 2030 solar PV deployment with the remaining 63% (25GW) coming from large scale ground mounted solar farms.



Solar Energy UK's *Lighting the Way Report*<sup>2</sup> estimates the type and amount of solar deployment needed to reach the target of 40GW of solar by 2030.

The UK Government has committed to decarbonising the electricity system by 2035 to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and exposure to volatile global wholesale energy prices.

The UK Government's Energy Security Plan<sup>2</sup>, published in March 2023, states "Energy security necessarily entails the smooth transition to abundant, low-carbon energy. If we do not decarbonise, we will be less energy secure". Furthermore, it calls for energy to be

1 <https://solarenergyuk.org/resource/lighting-the-way-making-net-zero-a-reality-with-solar-energy/?cn-reloaded=1>

2 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/powering-up-britain/powering-up-britain-energy-security-plan>

*“cheap, clean and British”*. The government has also established a solar government-industry taskforce and will be publishing a solar roadmap setting out a clear step by step deployment trajectory to achieve 70GW of solar by 2035. The report recognises that ground-mounted solar is one of the cheapest forms of electricity generation and is readily deployable at scale and encourages deployment of solar technology that delivers environmental benefits, with consideration for ongoing food production or environmental improvement.

Large-scale solar, alongside other renewable technologies, is now the cheapest form of new electricity generation<sup>3</sup>. This makes developments like the Proposed Development not just good for the environment but also for the consumer. If consented, the Proposed Development would be capable of producing clean, green electricity for over 13,000 homes<sup>4</sup> every year.

### 6.3. Loss of Agricultural Land and Agricultural Land Classification

Sample of Comment(s) received:

*“Contravenes local policy Grade 3 arable land whereas alternative sites are available”*

Applicant response:

The Proposed Development would not pose a threat to food security. One of the biggest risks to food security is the changing climate. This is clear from reports on the 2022 heatwave in the UK affected fruit and vegetable harvests<sup>5</sup>.

According to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), climate change could reduce the UK’s stock of high-grade agricultural land by nearly three-quarters by 2050<sup>6</sup>. Solar farms help to tackle the effects of climate change.

Agricultural land covers between 56% and 70% of UK land. Solar farms in the UK currently have a combined capacity of around 15GW which makes up just under 0.1% of land in the UK. By comparison, the total land used by the UK’s golf courses is 0.5% and airports is 0.2%. The UK Energy Security Strategy<sup>7</sup> commits to increase the UK’s current 14GW of solar capacity by up to 5 times by 2035. If the government meets its target of increasing solar capacity fivefold, ground-mounted solar would cover a total of around just 0.3% of the UK’s land surface<sup>8</sup>.

Typically, solar farms are designed in such a way that around just 5% of the land is physically occupied by the solar infrastructure. This allows remaining land to be accessible for plant growth, wildlife enhancements and complementary agricultural activities such as grazing.

The application is for temporary consent for dual purpose - enabling agricultural use in the form of sheep farming and generating renewable electricity using solar as a green energy source. It should be noted that the Proposed Development is fully reversible, and the site can therefore be reinstated back to its current state following the operational period. Furthermore, where a solar farm is installed on land which has been previously farmed, it enables the ground underneath to recover, while providing income for the farming business. This means solar farms help to regenerate soil quality, and so are

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3 <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6556027d046ed400148b99fe/electricity-generation-costs-2023.pdf>

4 The homes equivalent figure has been calculated by taking the predicted annual electricity generation of the site (based on RES assessments Nuneham has a predicted capacity factor of 11.2% and dividing this by the annual average electricity figures from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero showing that the annual GB average domestic household consumption is 3,239 kWh (January 2024).

5 <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/aug/01/uk-farmers-count-cost-as-heatwave-kills-fruit-and-vegetable-crops>.

6 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/united-kingdom-food-security-report-2021/united-kingdom-food-security-report-2021-theme-2-uk-food-supply-sources#united-kingdom-food-security-report-2021-theme2-indicator-2-1-15>

7 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/british-energy-security-strategy/british-energy-security-strategy>

8 <https://www.carbonbrief.org/factcheck-is-solar-power-a-threat-to-ukfarmland/#:~:text=This%20is%20significant%20because%2C%20as,to%20grow%20biofuels%20for%20cars.>

helping to ensure the continued availability of high-quality agricultural acreage for future generations.

Sheep farming provides employment, supports rural economies and can produce a much more diverse ecological mosaic across the site. Landscapes managed by grazing sheep support a rich diversity of wildlife, while producing food.

An Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey accompanies the planning application. More than 95% of the land to be used by the Proposed Development has been classified as Subgrade 3b and is not considered Best and Most Versatile. As a result of the ALC survey, infrastructure was removed from an area to the southeast of the Proposed Development, on land which was classified Grade 2.

#### 6.4. Location/Visual Impact

Sample of Comment(s) received:

*"This solar farm is simply too close to Oxford and will be too visible from the surrounding area"*

*"The key for the Lower Radley community is the visual impact from across the Thames"*

*"The registered park was specifically designed to embrace the open views to the skyline of Oxford. This proposal is totally inappropriate."*

*"The plan will add significant problems in the landscape"*

*"Visual impact from grade 1 listed registered gardens"*

Applicant response:

Our iterative design process is informed by site surveys and assessments, and feedback from the community and stakeholders. Feedback resulted in the removal of solar infrastructure from the southeast to reduce potential visibility as well to avoid use of land classified as Best and Most Versatile.

As well as appropriate setting back of the solar infrastructure, potential visibility will be reduced by extensive existing trees and hedgerow and proposed new and infill native woodland and hedgerow planting. As well as providing screening, the planting will provide wildlife corridors and vital resources for mammals, birds, and insect species. New planting proposed includes:

- Offsetting from the existing field boundaries and hedgerow to avoid impact on the root protection areas.
- Management and enhancement of all existing field boundary hedgerows.
- Creation of over 3.1km of new native species-rich hedgerow lengths, accompanied with new native tree planting along hedgerow lengths.

Perimeter hedgerow of the entire site would be maintained to a minimum of 4m in order to help screen potential views towards the site generally.

A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), which accompanies the planning application, provides an assessment of the potential effects of the Proposed Development on the existing landscape and visual amenity of the site and the surrounding area. The LVIA considers the landscape character of the site and the surrounding areas and the features that define it, as well as views from key points locally.

The project proposals have been developed iteratively in conjunction with the production of the LVIA with the intention of incorporating mitigation into the project from the outset. A Landscape Masterplan also accompanies the planning application and provides



detail on where hedgerow reinforcement is proposed, as well as the location and detail of planting.

The Landscape Masterplan also provides further details on measures to protect existing vegetation, proposed species and specifications for new vegetation, and other enhancement measures.

The Nuneham Courtenay Registered Park and Garden has been included and assessed as part of the LVIA and includes an additional viewpoint from near All Saints Church.

#### 6.5. Ecology and Biodiversity

Sample of Comment(s) received:

*"I am glad you are considering wild flower meadows alongside the solar farm."*

*"This development, should it actually end up being approved, must do a lot more to sustain biodiversity"*

Applicant response:

The site of the Proposed Development lies outside of any ecological designations and a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal has been undertaken to assess its potential impacts on local ecology and accompany the planning application. The short-term disturbance resulting from the Proposed Development will not be significant. There will be no adverse impacts upon Designated or Non-Statutory Designated Sites.

Perimeter fencing for the Proposed Development would be in the form of deer fencing, with mammal gates to allow the free movement of small mammals. Deer fencing is typically situated inside of any boundary vegetation.

Creating and infilling hedgerows will benefit a range of local species including Priority Species. If the correct species are planted and maintained correctly, a hedgerow's potential can be maximised, providing food and shelter throughout the year, as well as connecting existing green infrastructure and wildlife movement corridors. Where possible, measures have been implemented as part of the iterative design process to prevent potential effects on sensitive ecological features.

Such measures include:

- 5m from species rich grass
- 10m from woodland
- 5m from existing hedgerow

Through significant planting and biodiversity enhancement measures, put forward as part of the Proposed Development, there is potential to deliver a 70.94% biodiversity net gain (BNG) for habitat units, a BNG net gain of 61.48% for hedgerow units and a BNG net gain for 24.32% watercourse units.

The Proposed Development will result in the creation of over 3.1km of new native species-rich hedgerow lengths, accompanied with new native tree planting along hedgerow lengths.



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- KEY**
- EXISTING**
- Environmental Statement Boundary
  - Existing vegetation
  - Root protection areas
  - Existing boundary planting
  - Overhead line landscape buffer
  - Public rights of way (definitive map)
  - Permissive footpath
- PROPOSED**
- Native tree planting
  - Native hedgerow planting
  - Tussock / wild flower grassland - Emergate EM2 Standard General
  - Purpura Mix or similar approved (outside the security fence)
  - Grazing / wild flower grassland - Emergate E02 Special (Old Fashioned)
  - Grazing Mix or similar approved (within the security fence)
  - Fencing
  - ★ Indicative Heritage Interpretation Board
  - Proposed stile

**Indicative plant list**

NATIVE TREES		
PLANT SPECIES	SIZE	%
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	14-16cm girth, 400-450 cm ht, RB, 3x, large feathered, 7 breaks	15
<i>Betula pendula</i>	14-16cm girth, 400-450 cm ht, RB, 3x, large feathered, 7 breaks	15
<i>Betula pubescens</i>	14-16cm girth, 400-450 cm ht, RB, 3x, large feathered, 7 breaks	15
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	12-14cm girth, 350-425 cm ht, RB, 3x, large feathered, 7 breaks	10
<i>Quercus robur</i>	14-16cm girth, 400-450 cm ht, RB, 3x, large feathered, 7 breaks	25
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	12-14cm girth, 350-425 cm ht, RB, 3x, heavy standard, ca 175-200cm, 5 breaks	10
<i>Salix fragilis</i>	12-14cm girth, 350-425 cm ht, RB, 3x, heavy standard, ca 175-200cm, 5 breaks	10

NATIVE MIXED HEDGEROW (Planted at 5/1m m double staggered row)		
PLANT SPECIES	SIZE	%
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	40-60cm ht, B, 1+L, branched, 2 breaks	20
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	40-60cm ht, B, 1+L, transplant	30
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	40-60cm ht, 2L, leader with laterals	10
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	40-60cm ht, B, 1+L, transplant	2.5
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	40-60cm ht, B, 1+L, branched, 2 breaks	10
<i>Rosa canina</i>	40-60cm ht, 2L, branched, 3 breaks	2.5
<i>Salix caprea</i>	40-60cm ht, 2L, cutting, branched, 3 breaks	15
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	40-60cm ht, B, 1+L, branched, 2 breaks	10

Rev	Date	By	Note
E	25/03/24	KCH	Minor amends
D	21/03/24	KCH	Minor amends
C	14/03/24	KCH	New layout and amends
B	13/02/24	KCH	Minor amends
A	10/02/24	KCH	New layout
-	10/03/23	VR	Original drawing

**Landscape Masterplan**  
**Nuneham Solar Farm**  
 Client: RES  
 DRWG No: P21-2947\_EN\_100 REV: E  
 Drawn by: VR Approved by: DG  
 Date: 10/03/2023  
 Scale: 1:2500 @ A1

A comprehensive Landscape Masterplan accompanies the planning application which sets out immediate and long-term commitments to manage planting and other landscape measures as well as the protection and enhancement of biodiversity around the Proposed Development.

## 6.6. Public Rights of Way

Sample of Comment(s) received:

*"Pressure should be applied to the farm directly across the A4074 to reinstate removed and diverted footpaths to make for an improved local network."*

Applicant response:

The Applicant understands the importance of the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) to the local community. All PRoW will remain open throughout the construction phase, if the project is consented.

The design of the Proposed Development illustrates the Applicant's commitment to retain and protect existing PRoW with a minimum distance of 8m from the centre of the PRoW to the infrastructure. Larger setback distances have been achieved in some areas (specifically at the north of the site where solar infrastructure has been removed due to archaeology consideration). This will ensure the sense of openness is not compromised and to reduce potential visual impact.

Landscape planting is also proposed to protect the amenity value of the PRoW, in the form of hedgerow between each side of the PRoW and solar infrastructure, except on the northern PRoW where views of agricultural land to the north have been retained. Further details can be found in the Landscape Masterplan.

## 6.7. Green Belt

Sample of Comment(s) received:

*"The plan will add significant problems in the landscape and greenbelt"*

*"Developed in greenbelt where it would have a direct impact on the setting and special character of a historic city"*

Applicant response:

All of the area proposed for the Proposed Development is in the Green Belt. It is considered that the benefits of renewable energy production and net biodiversity gain from the development will outweigh any potential negative impacts on the Green Belt as demonstrated in the 'Very Special Circumstances' section of the Green Belt Assessment.

There will not be a long-term loss or reclassification of Green Belt land. Green Belt designations can only be changed by a Local Plan review, not by the grant of planning permission. The Proposed Development is temporary in nature and can be returned to purely agricultural practices at end of life.

Furthermore, where a solar farm is installed on land which has been intensively farmed, it enables the ground underneath to recover, while providing income for the farming business. Solar farms help regenerate soil quality and can help to ensure the continued availability of high-quality agricultural acreage for future generations.

There are strong local and national policies demonstrating the need for renewable energy projects in order to tackle climate change and to meet the UK Government's targets for net zero carbon emissions by 2050. The Proposed Development aligns with these policies and the benefits of the renewable energy generated by the project would be realised locally and nationally.

The Applicant has reviewed the South Oxfordshire District Council brownfield register. There is 61.55 hectares of brownfield land spread across 51 different locations in the area, with an average area of 1.2 hectares. These are not practicable for ground-mounted solar projects.

An Alternatives Assessment has been undertaken. The study focusses on the available grid connection with grid capacity identified on the Oxford-Cowley 132kV overhead line (OHL) which runs through the City of Oxford, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse boundaries. It has also been determined that it would only be viable for a development to connect into the 132kV OHL if it was located within 2km of the network. The assessment determined that there are no potential alternative sites subject to any less environmental constraints than the Proposed Development within the study area or located outside of the Green Belt.

## 6.8. Efficiency

Sample of Comment(s) received:

*"I specifically doubt the irradiation levels that will be achieved on such a NW facing site and thus the actual generation that will be achieved."*

*"Farms such as this should be larger for greater overall efficiency"*

Applicant response:

Technological advancements in solar panel manufacture in recent years has been significant. This includes an industry standard move towards the use of the more efficient Monocrystalline (single crystal) technology. Monocrystalline solar cells are made from a very pure form of silicon, making them the most efficient material when it comes to the conversion of sunlight into energy.

Furthermore, the Applicant is proposing the use of bifacial modules for the Proposed Development, which as the name suggests, have two sides of solar cells, enabling additional energy generation from the reflected and diffused light on the rear-side of the panels. Solar panels do not require direct sunlight to produce energy - diffuse sunlight is sufficient, and a grass surface reflects enough light to justify the use of bifacial modules. The use of bifacial panels means that there is potential to produce more electricity in less space.

In the preliminary design, some of the infrastructure had been located on north/north-east facing land. This particular section has been removed from the final design. It is worth noting that whilst flat/south-facing land provides the optimum orientation for solar generation, solar panels on east, west and north facing land are still viable in terms of the amount of energy produced from both direct and diffuse sunlight.

## 7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1. This SCI has provided an overview of the engagement and consultation activities that have been, and continue to be, undertaken by the Applicant on the Proposed Development.
- 7.2. The Applicant has undertaken a comprehensive pre-application engagement programme in order to proactively inform and engage with the local community and key stakeholders. This process has allowed the Applicant to identify and respond to local issues and potential concerns.

- 7.3. Analysis from the comment forms has shown that of those who completed a comment form, as part of the public consultation, just under half of all respondents were happy with or were neutral towards the proposed layout.
- 7.4. Of the issues raised during the consultation, issues relating to the visual impact, ecology and Green Belt were of particular importance to the community. Constructive comments on these and other topics have been taken into consideration by the Applicant before the submission of the planning application.
- 7.5. This feedback has resulted in the Applicant undertaking an iterative design process in order to integrate the Proposed Development into the surrounding site as sensitively as possible, while taking account of comments received during the pre-application consultation.
- 7.6. Changes that have been made throughout the pre-application process include:
- Removal of solar infrastructure from the fields to the southeast, reducing potential visibility as well as removing any infrastructure from land classified as ALC grade 2.
  - Removal of solar infrastructure from the fields to north due to archaeology consideration, retaining views of agricultural land to the north from the PRoW and avoiding the use of land classified as ALC grade 3a.
  - A reduction in the size of the site by 30 acres increasing the land available that could still be used for growing crops.
  - Relocating the substation closer to the grid point of connection at the north of the site away from areas of flood risk.
  - A minimum distance of 8m from the centre of the PRoW to the infrastructure. Larger setback distances have been achieved in some areas, specifically at the north of the site).
- 7.7. The Applicant is committed to continuing the open dialogue it has established with the local community during pre-application public consultation as the application process continues, as outlined within this SCI.

## APPENDICES

APPENDIX A	Introductory letter to elected representatives
APPENDIX B	Introductory letter to near neighbours
APPENDIX C	Introductory letter to outdoor recreation group
APPENDIX D	Introductory letter to local business
APPENDIX E	Public exhibition newsletter
APPENDIX F	Public exhibition newspaper advert
APPENDIX G	Presentation to local business
APPENDIX H	Public exhibition materials
APPENDIX I	Comment form



7 October 2022

Dear 

RE: Nuneham Solar Farm Proposal in Nuneham Courtenay, South Oxfordshire

I am writing to let you know that RES is exploring the potential for a solar farm in Nuneham Courtenay, south Oxfordshire, with the hope of submitting a planning application in 2023.

**RES, a British company, is the world's largest independent renewable energy business active in onshore and offshore wind, solar, energy storage and transmission and distribution. At the forefront of the industry for 40 years, RES has delivered more than 23GW of renewable energy projects across the globe.**

Analysis from the Climate Change Committee and other independent bodies shows that the UK will need to deploy at least 40GW of solar by 2030 if it is to achieve net zero targets. Large-scale solar, alongside onshore and offshore wind are now the cheapest forms of electricity generation making developments like Nuneham Solar Farm not just good for the environment but also consumers.

Solar farms have significant potential to enhance biodiversity, hosting a range of habitats including wildflower meadows, hedgerows, nectar-rich areas for pollinators, and woodland. A typical solar farm uses around just 5% of the total site area with the rest of the land remaining undisturbed, creating significant opportunities to provide a range of ecological benefits.

At this early stage we have submitted a Scoping Report to South Oxfordshire District Council, whilst our site-specific surveys continue to inform the layout of the proposed solar farm. A copy of the Scoping Report can be viewed at <http://www.nuneham-solarfarm.co.uk/media/2641454/scoping-report.pdf>.

RES believes in meaningful and effective consultation, and we aim to engage early with the local community and key stakeholders in order to facilitate constructive dialogue. In the coming weeks, we will distribute a newsletter to all properties in the local area, along with other stakeholders, ahead of a public exhibition to be held later this year. Feedback from the community will be taken into account, along with the results of site surveys and assessments, as we refine the design of the proposed solar farm.

We have also launched a dedicated website at [www.nuneham-solarfarm.co.uk](http://www.nuneham-solarfarm.co.uk) which will be updated regularly.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the proposed scheme in more detail with you and would be happy to arrange a meeting at a convenient time.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries.

Yours sincerely,



Bertrand Devosset  
Development Project Manager  
E: [bertrand.devosset@res-group.com](mailto:bertrand.devosset@res-group.com)







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Bertrand Devosel  
Development Project Manager  
E: [bertrand.devosel@res-group.com](mailto:bertrand.devosel@res-group.com)



[REDACTED]

7 October 2022

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[REDACTED]

Bertrand Devosset  
Development Project Manager  
E: [bertrand.devosset@res-group.com](mailto:bertrand.devosset@res-group.com)





13 October 2022

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# NUNEHAM SOLAR FARM

OCTOBER 2022



RES is exploring the potential for a solar farm on land in Nuneham Courtenay, south Oxfordshire. Environmental and technical surveys have been ongoing in recent months to ensure that the site is suitable for a solar farm development and to inform a preliminary layout and design.

RES is now at the stage of consulting with the local community to get feedback on our early stage proposal. The feedback will be taken into account, along with the results of site surveys and assessments, as we refine the design.

## Public Exhibition

We are keen to engage with the local community and as part of our pre-application consultation we are holding a public exhibition in the local area to share more information about the proposal and to enable you to provide us with your feedback.

RES staff will be on hand to answer any questions or queries, and comment forms will be available to gather feedback.

Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> November

2pm to 7pm

Nuneham Courtenay Village Hall



All information provided at the public exhibition will also be available at

[www.nuneham-solarfarm.co.uk](http://www.nuneham-solarfarm.co.uk)

from 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

The public exhibition initiates a consultation period being run by RES to gather written comments on the proposal. **The closing date for comments is 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022.**

Comments will still be accepted after this date but may not be considered in relation to the design development. Comments on the proposal should be provided in writing by either filling out a comment form at the public exhibition or online, or by writing to RES, Beaufort Court, Egg Farm Lane, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, WD4 8LR.

Please note that comments submitted to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (South Oxfordshire District Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.



## Nuneham Solar Farm at a Glance

The proposed Nuneham Solar Farm is located on land in Nuneham Courtenay, south Oxfordshire. It is anticipated that the solar farm would be capable of generating around 49.9MW of clean, low cost renewable electricity, enough to power approximately 13,000<sup>1</sup> homes.



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The site has been chosen as it has good solar irradiation levels, lies outside of any statutory environmental, archaeological and landscape designations and due to its proximity to a viable grid connection.

Solar projects like Nuneham contribute to Net Zero targets, enable more energy to be generated domestically improving security of supply, and are the cheapest form of new electricity generation<sup>2</sup>, alongside onshore and offshore wind. This makes developments like Nuneham not just good for the environment but also for the consumer.

### About RES

RES, a British company, is the world's largest independent renewable energy company with operations across Europe, the Americas and Asia-Pacific. At the forefront of renewable energy development for over 40 years, RES has developed and/or built more than 23GW of renewable energy capacity worldwide.

RES is developing a number of projects, ranging from 12MW to 120MW, across the UK & Ireland using the latest solar technology. We also provide full scope asset management and operations and maintenance services across a wide portfolio, and in 2021 were voted the fastest growing solar O&M provider in the UK, by a report published by Wood Mackenzie.



**Bertrand Devossel**  
Development project Manager  
✉ [bertrand.devossel@res-group.com](mailto:bertrand.devossel@res-group.com)



**Carey Green**  
Community Liaison Officer  
✉ [carey.green@res-group.com](mailto:carey.green@res-group.com)  
☎ 01872 226 931

RES, Beaufort Court, Egg Farm Lane, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, WD4 8LR

If you require information in Braille, large text or audio, please let us know.

<sup>1</sup> The homes figure has been calculated by taking the predicted average, annual electricity generation of the site and dividing this by the annual average electricity figures from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) showing that the annual UK average domestic household consumption is 3,748 kWh (Dec 2021).

<sup>2</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/911817/electricity-generation-cost-report-2020.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/911817/electricity-generation-cost-report-2020.pdf)





## Disabled stalker misses court due to prison lift issue

A WHEELCHAIR using stalker was stuck in a catch-22 situation – unable to attend court in person because there were no lifts to the dock and unable to go to the jail’s video conferencing suite as the lift was broken.

Stephen Gittins, 69, was due to appear before Oxford Crown Court this week to be sentenced for stalking his ex-partner by bombarding her with calls, turning up at her workplace and stables, and leaving unwanted presents.

But defence counsel Kellie Enever said her client had not been brought from HMP Bullingdon, near Bicester:

“He requires a wheelchair and the court cannot facilitate that. When the court made the enquiries to have him produced by way of video link for today’s purposes, as I understand it the prison informed the court the video link facility was on the second floor and their lift is broken,” Ms Enever said.

Judge Michael Gledhill KC adjourned the case to November 23 for a new presentence report to be completed by the probation service.

Earlier this month, Oxford Magistrates’ Court heard that Gittins, of Corn Street, Witney, struggled with severe ill-health.

Gittins’ victim said in an impact statement, which was read to the justices, that the stalking had left her feeling like a ‘shell’ of her former self. The case was sent to the crown court for sentence.



The River Thames in Abingdon. Picture by Becca Collacott

## Autumnal scenes along misty River Thames

**AUTUMN has descended with its mists, darker mornings and evenings and falling leaves.**

**The banks of the Thames in Abingdon look particularly**

**autumnal, with golden leaves and a blanket of morning fog over the water.**

**Photographer Becca Collacott captured the scene at St Helen’s**

**Wharf in the town where she came across a sunken rowing bow filled with red and orange leaves.**

**The picture perfectly sums up the season with its hint of melancholy.**

## Christmas lights energy costs come under scrutiny

WITH plans progressing for the switching on of this year’s Christmas lights, there have been calls for the traditional illuminations in one town to be scrapped.

Some in Witney are questioning whether, in the face of an energy and cost of living crisis, Christmas decorations are needed to light up the town.

Last year’s switch-on in Witney was jointly organised by the Witney Rotary Club, Witney Lions and Witney Round Table, and supported by Witney Town Council which has a Christmas lights budget allocation.

The council already has a contract with an operator to supply this winter’s festive display of low-energy lights.

However, a user of the Witney Spotted Facebook page asked: “What are people’s thoughts about cancelling the Christmas lights this year? It is a bit in the face of those who can’t afford to heat their homes. In its place perhaps the council could decorate the Corn Exchange, using lights they already have to make it magical for children and a warm place for people to sit.”

A council spokesperson said: “Last year we entered the first year of a new contract with our Christmas lights supplier. This means that the lights have been pre-ordered and included in the budget for the duration of the contract.

“We do not own the lights. The contractor supplies, installs and stores the lights each year. All the lights are low-energy LED lights and are on timers.”

# Tinder cheat put video of victim on porn website

**Tom Seaward**  
tom.seaward@newsquest.co.uk

A TINDER cheat who bragged to his victim after posting explicit videos of her online was accused of having ‘no moral compass’.

Married dad-of-one Peter Taylor, calling himself ‘David’, met his Oxfordshire victim on dating app Tinder in 2020. The pair exchanged explicit photographs and videos.

In June that year, she drove to meet him at his home in Berkshire. He failed to show then, when she returned to her car, sent a message instructing her to perform a sexual act in her vehicle.

Months later, she discovered that he had uploaded videos she had sent him privately to pornographic website Pornhub. The videos had been viewed and downloaded ‘hundreds’ of times, Oxford Crown Court heard.

When she contacted the website and the material was taken down, Taylor sent her another message that bragged: “Ha ha. You think

they won’t go back up again.”

In a victim personal statement read to the court, the woman – who we have chosen not to name – said: “I genuinely thought my life was over for a while.”

She had struggled to tell her family and employer about what had happened. “Christmas 2020 was ruined by Covid-19 and David.”

The woman added: “I can’t change the past but I hope by coming forward we will stop him doing this to anyone else.”

The court heard that Taylor, 41, of Draper Close, Thatcham, was identified and, when police analysed his computer, they found the images of his victim.

He pleaded guilty at the magistrates’ court to disclosing a private photograph with intent to cause distress. He had no previous convictions.

Sentencing him to six months’ imprisonment, Judge Maria Lamb said: “Your behaviour towards this entirely blameless individual was despicable. It was her great misfortune to cross your path.

“I adopt the words of your counsel; it beggars belief that one human being can act towards another in this way.

“You deceived her into travelling a not inconsiderable distance to your house under the pretence of meeting you. That was all a ploy, presumably some sort of joke at her expense.”

Taylor had ‘no moral compass whatsoever’, she said, and his username on the Pornhub website ‘reeks of misogynistic and hypocritical attitudes’.

Turning to his offending, Judge Lamb summarised: “This is significant, it is planned, it is prolonged, it is aimed in my assessment at causing maximum distress.”

Earlier, defence barrister Peter du Feu said Taylor ‘can’t explain’ why he did what he did. “His self-loathing is absolutely apparent. It’s almost as if the cathartic effect of receiving the ultimate punishment is something he feels he needs or wants.”

His client, who is married, a father, and in work, felt ‘deep remorse’.

## Nuneham Solar Farm

PUBLIC EXHIBITION



RES is exploring the potential for a solar farm on land in Nuneham Courtenay, south Oxfordshire.

We are keen to engage with the local community and as part of our pre-application consultation we are holding a public exhibition in the local area to enable people to find out more about the proposal and provide us with their views. RES staff will be on hand to answer any questions and comment forms will be available to gather feedback.

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November**  
**2pm – 7pm**  
**Nuneham Courtenay**  
**Village Hall**

All information provided at the public exhibition will also be available at [www.nuneham-solarfarm.co.uk](http://www.nuneham-solarfarm.co.uk) from 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

The public exhibition initiates a consultation period being run by RES to gather comments on the proposal.

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For more information please visit our website at [www.nuneham-solarfarm.co.uk](http://www.nuneham-solarfarm.co.uk)

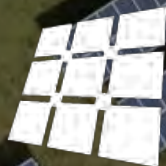






# Nuneham Solar Farm Proposal

November 2022





- Introductions
- About RES
- Nuneham Solar Farm Proposal
- Q&A
- Any Other Business



23<sub>GW</sub>

PROJECT  
PORTFOLIO

40

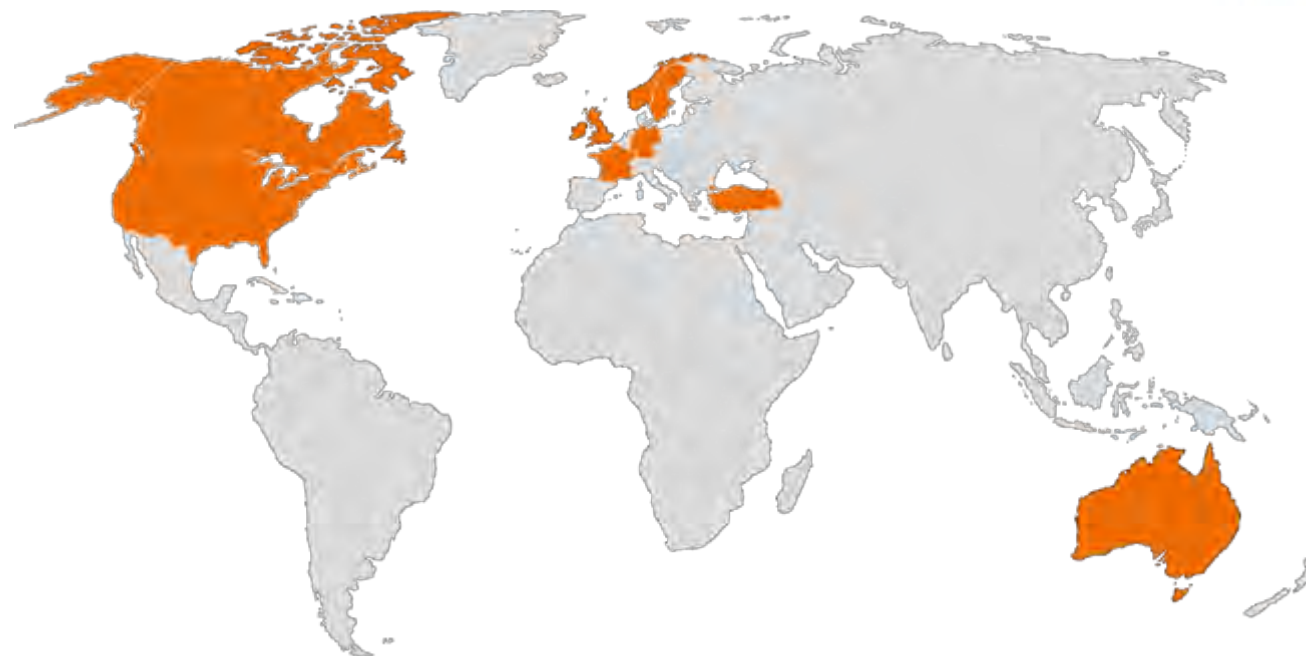
YEARS OF  
EXPERIENCE

10<sub>GW</sub>

OF OPERATIONAL  
ASSETS SUPPORTED

2,500+

EMPLOYEES



ACTIVITIES



DEVELOP



CONSTRUCT



OPERATE

TECHNOLOGIES



WIND



SOLAR



STORAGE

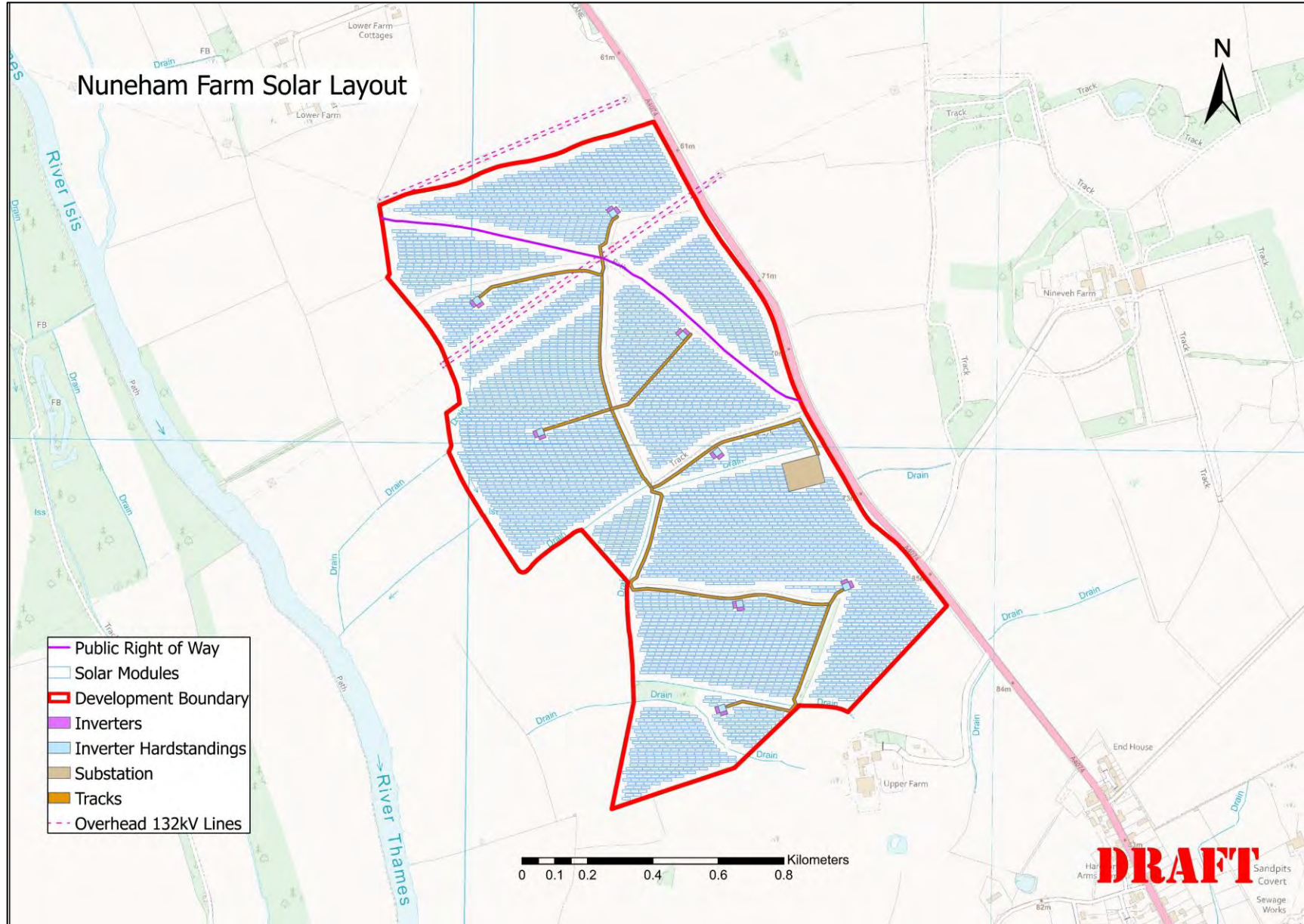


T&D

- Renewable energy at lowest cost to the consumer
- Tackling climate change by supporting the UK's target of net zero by 2050
- Specifically designed to be dual purpose, combining continued agricultural use and renewable generation
- Quick to deploy
- Modern, efficient technology allowing more electricity generation in less space
- Diversification of agricultural business
- Significant biodiversity enhancement opportunities, supporting new & existing plant & animal habitats
- High level of public support



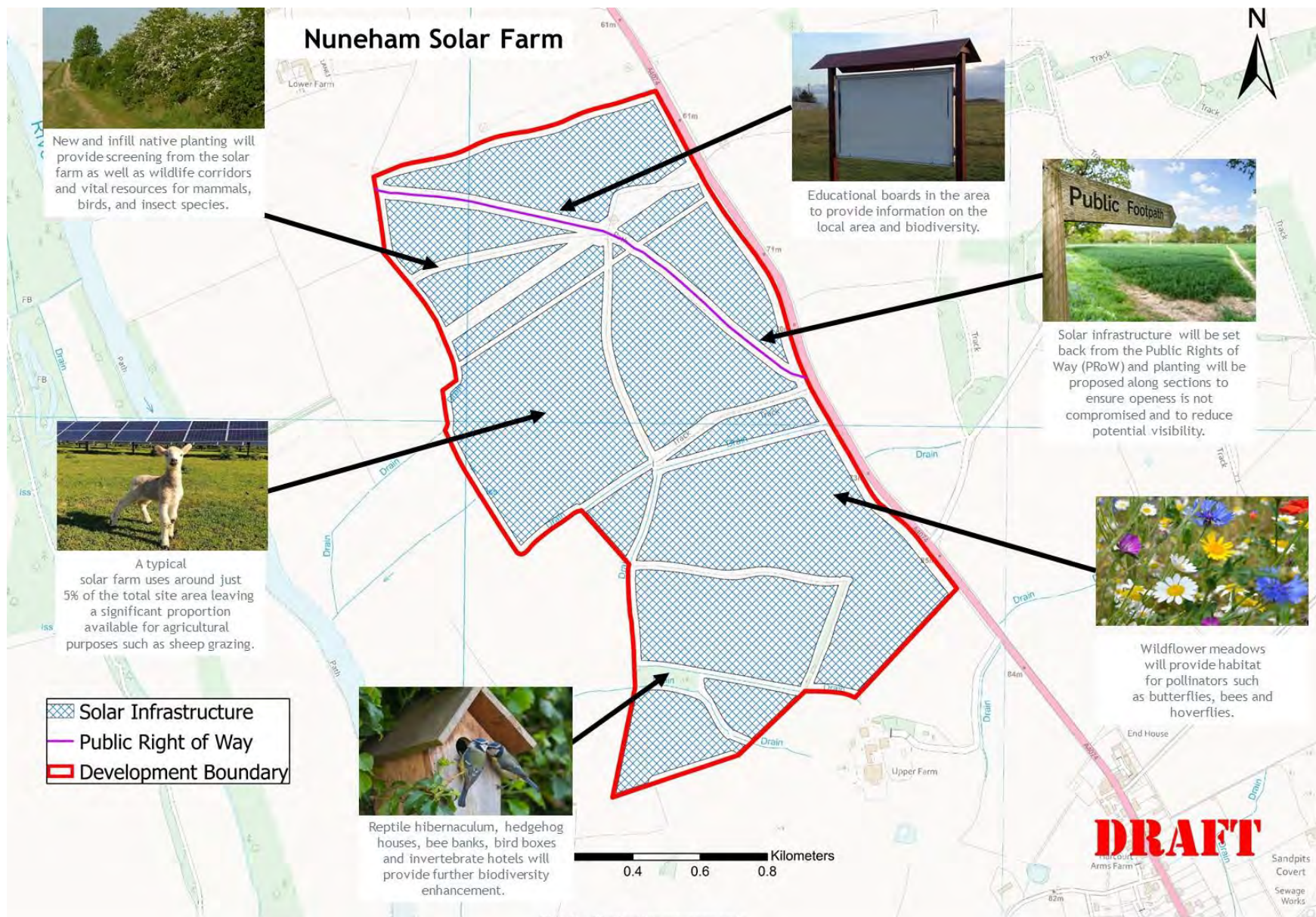




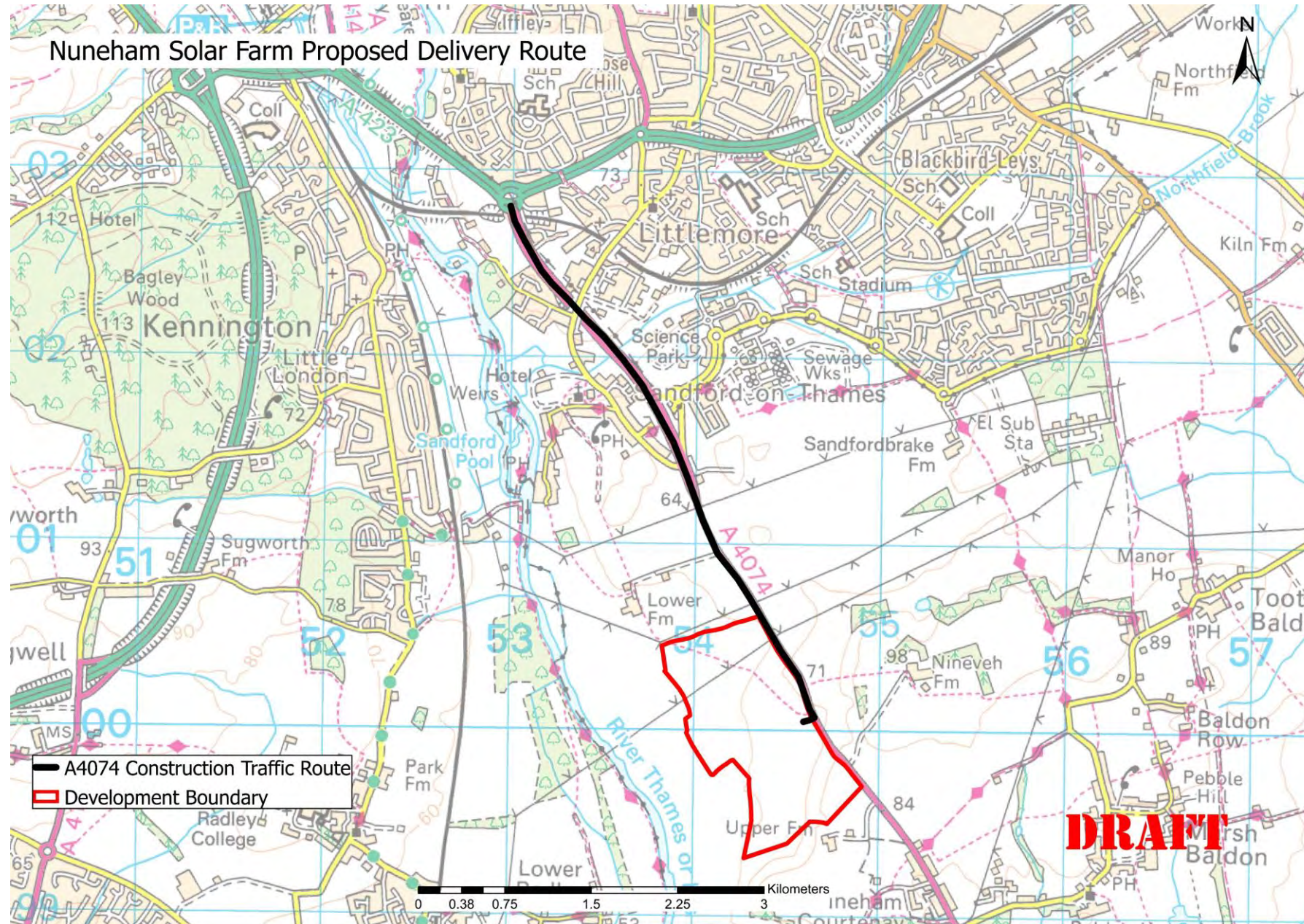


- RES design their solar farms so that they will fit sensitively in the surrounding landscape
- As part of the planning process, RES carries out a number of detailed technical and environmental surveys to ensure any potential impact upon the environment, landscape, heritage and local residents is appropriately assessed and mitigated.
- These assessments include:
  - Landscape and Visual
  - Ecology
  - Cultural Heritage and Archaeology
  - Traffic and Transport
  - Agricultural Land Classification
  - Noise
  - Glint and Glare
- The results of these surveys, along with feedback from the local community and stakeholders, are taken into account as the design of the solar farm is refined and finalised. The assessments will accompany any planning application that is made.









# Any Questions?

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Carey Green  
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## WHY SOLAR?

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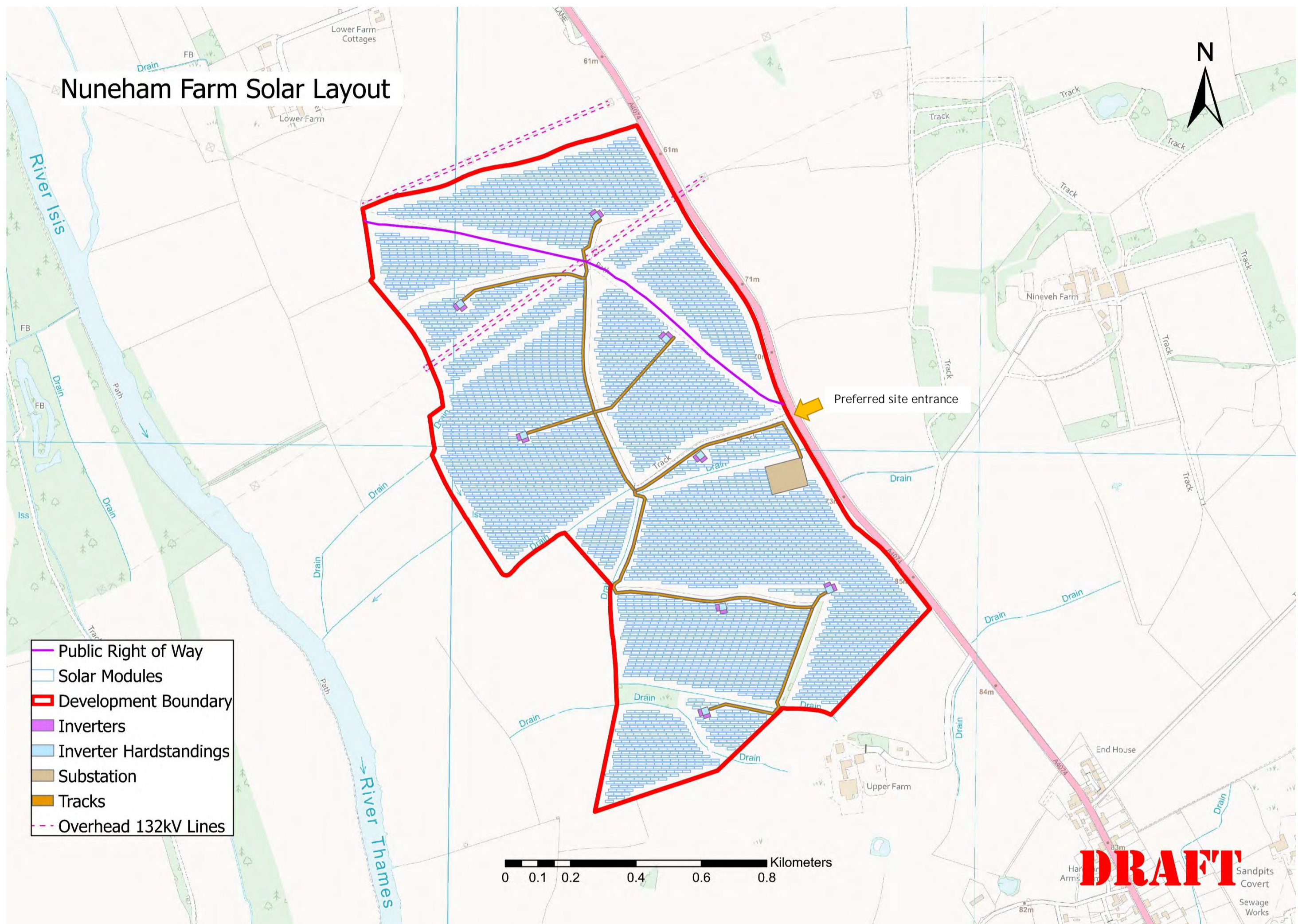
<sup>1</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/911817/electricity-generation-cost-report-2020.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/911817/electricity-generation-cost-report-2020.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://solarenergyuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Copper-Consultancy\\_Solar-Energy-UK\\_Public-attitudes-to-solar\\_January-2022.pdf](https://solarenergyuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Copper-Consultancy_Solar-Energy-UK_Public-attitudes-to-solar_January-2022.pdf)



## Design Layout and Infrastructure

The plan below shows the preliminary layout for the 49.9MW Nuneham Solar Farm, based on environmental and technical surveys which are underway. We are currently consulting on this layout and as such it is subject to change.



In addition to the solar panels, the site infrastructure is expected to include:

- A network of on-site tracks
- A substation compound with security fencing
- Inverters on hardstandings
- Temporary construction compound
- Deer fencing around the perimeter of the solar farm



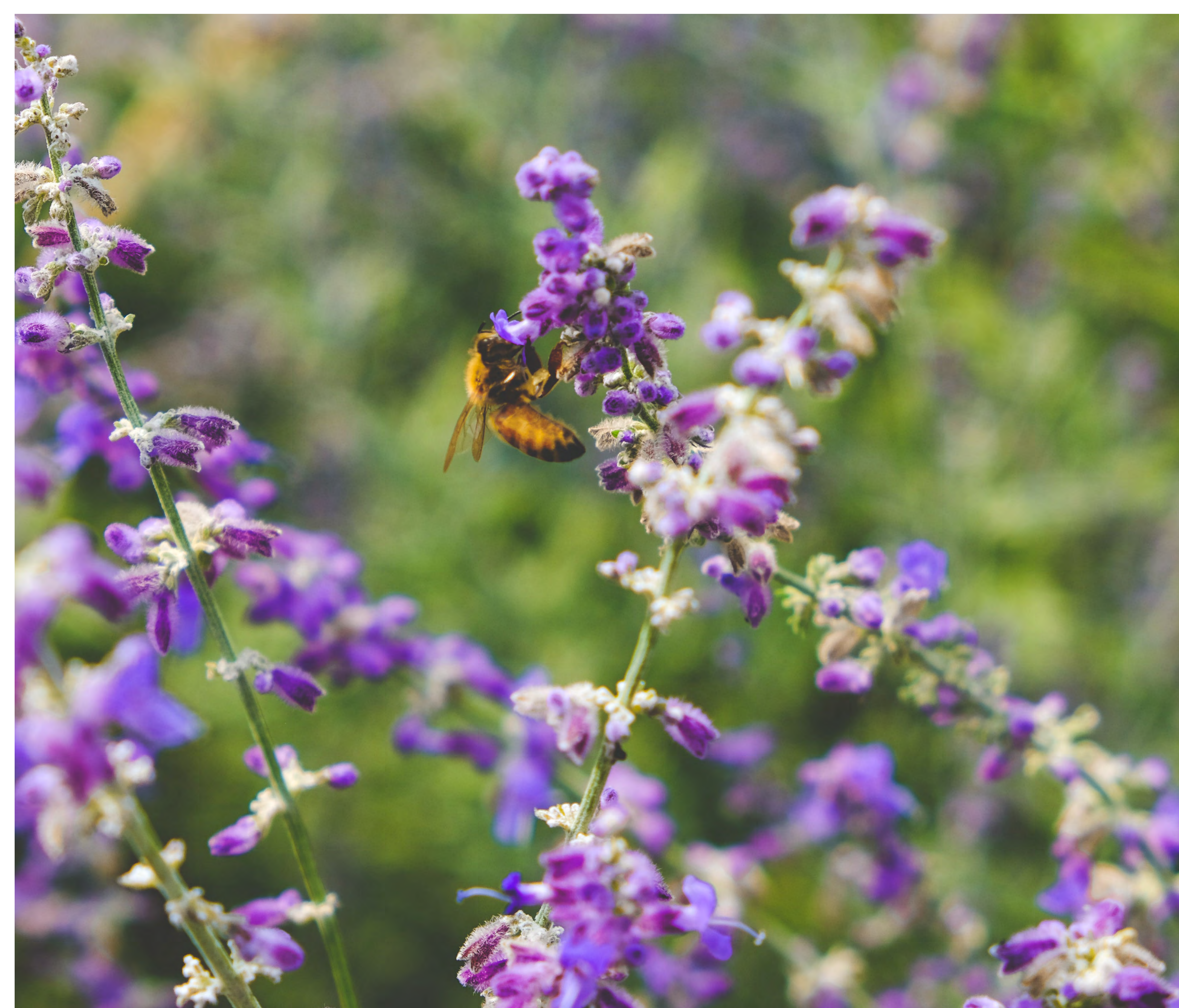
## RES design their solar farms so that they will fit sensitively in the surrounding landscape

As part of the planning process, RES carries out a number of detailed technical and environmental surveys to ensure any potential impact upon the environment, landscape, heritage and local residents is appropriately assessed and mitigated. These assessments include:

- » Landscape and Visual
- » Ecology
- » Cultural Heritage and Archaeology
- » Traffic and Transport
- » Agricultural Land Classification
- » Noise
- » Glint and Glare

The results of these surveys, along with feedback from the local community and stakeholders, are taken into account as the design of the solar farm is refined and finalised.

The assessments will accompany any planning application that is made.

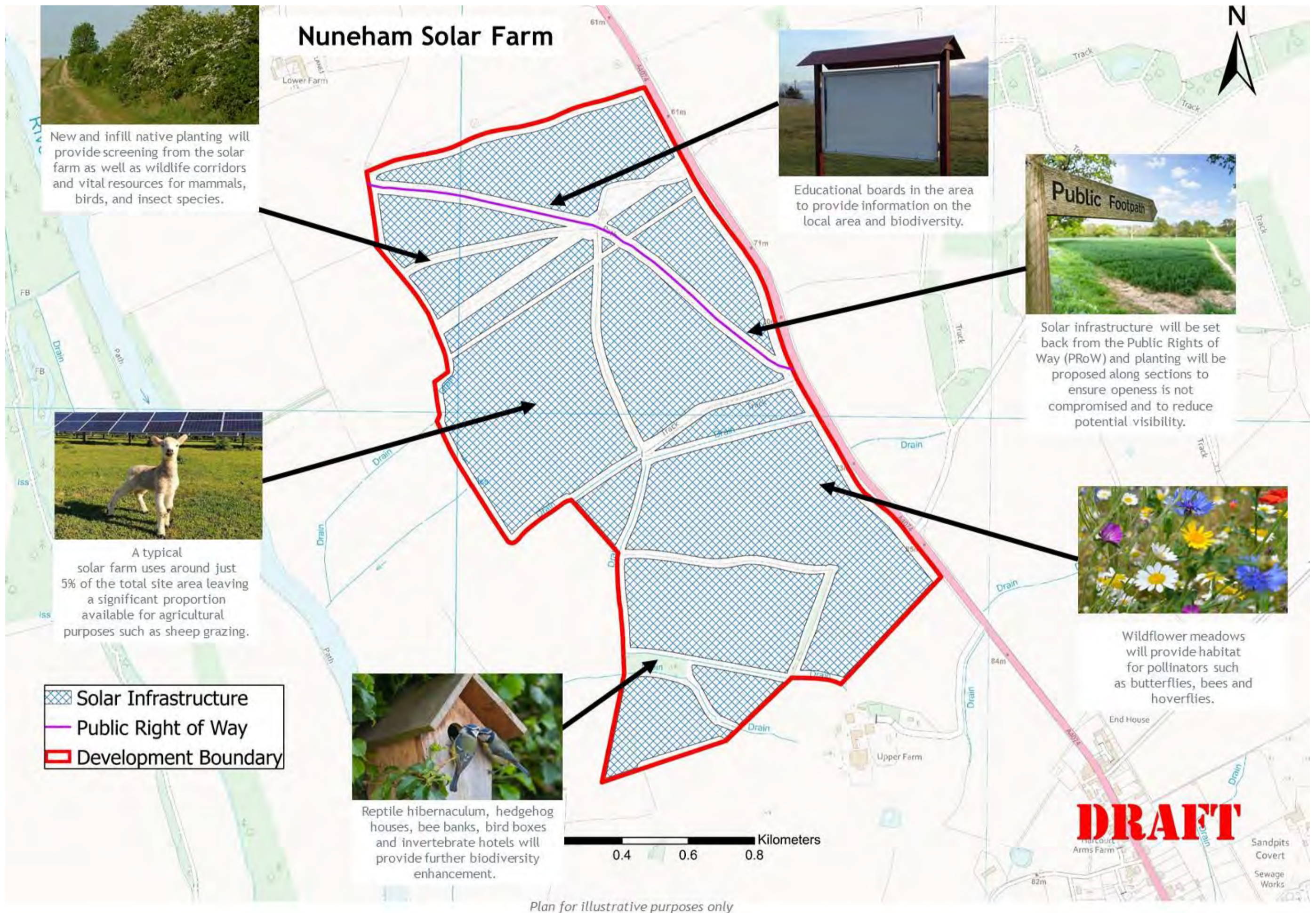




## Landscape and Ecology

The plan below shows a preliminary Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP).

The LEMP details our immediate and long-term commitment to manage planting and other landscape measures as well as the protection and enhancement of biodiversity around the solar farm.



## Public Rights of Way (PRoW)

RES understands the importance of the PRoW to the local community.

Careful and detailed surveys will be carried out to assess any potential impact from the solar farm on the PRoW. Solar infrastructure will be set back from the PRoW and planting will be proposed along sections to ensure the sense of openness is not compromised and to reduce potential visibility.

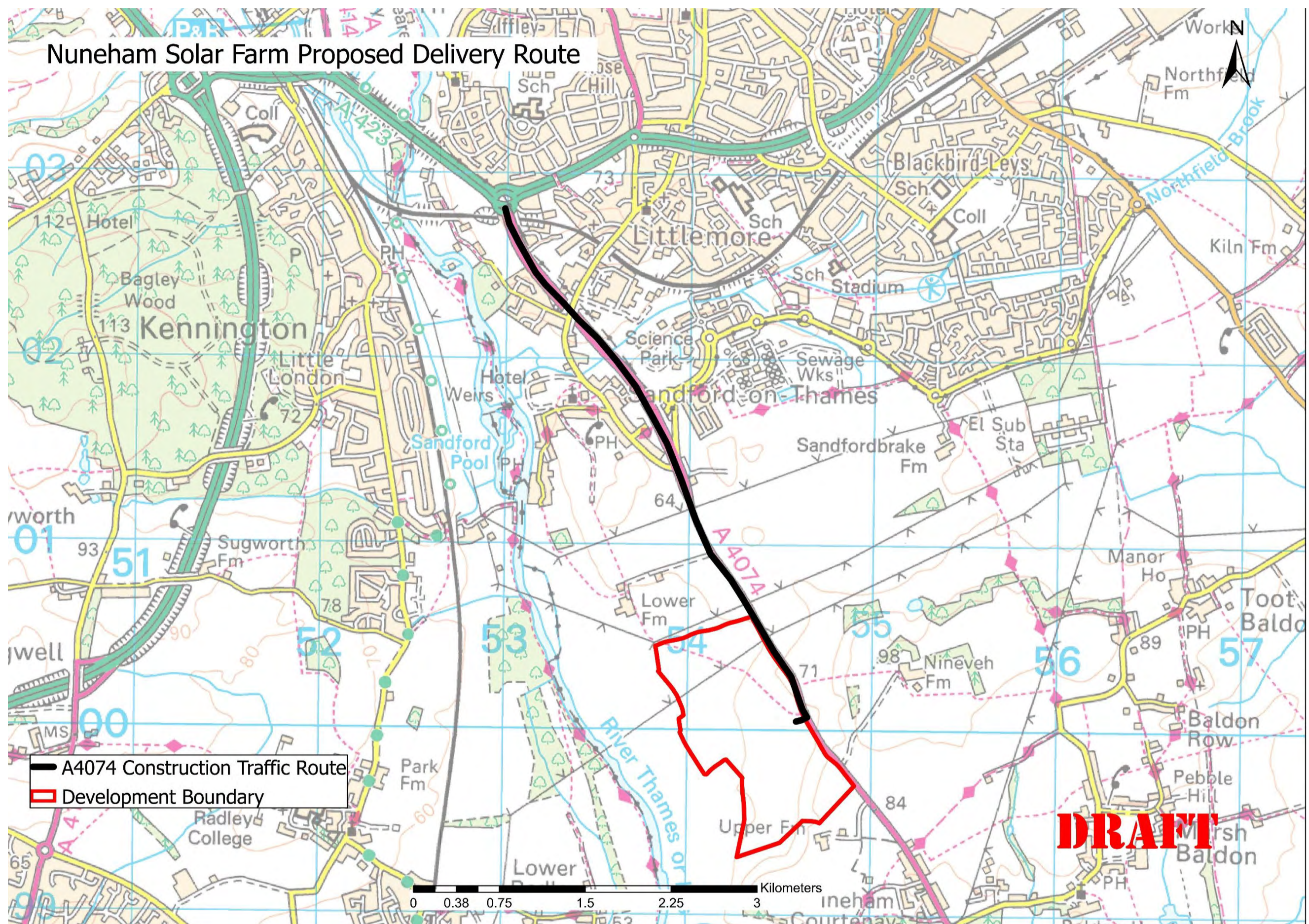
We welcome ideas and suggestions from the community on opportunities for improvements to the PRoW network which can be considered as part of our proposal.



## Delivery Route and Access

Access is an important consideration when selecting a potential solar farm site.

A transport survey is ongoing and the plan below shows the site access point and the delivery route currently under consideration.



We will consult with the local authority, the emergency services, the local community and other relevant bodies to produce a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) to support any planning application. The CTMP outlines the overall framework for managing the safe movement of construction and delivery traffic as well as itemising the expected number of traffic movements and timing restrictions.

The traffic movements will be limited to avoid morning and evening peak times, where possible. There will also be a dedicated Community Liaison Officer to engage with local residents throughout the construction and operational phases, if the solar farm is consented.



## How a Solar Panel Works



Solar PV panels are typically made from silicon, which is a great semi-conductor, installed in a metal panel frame with a glass casing.

The sun gives off light, even on cloudy days, and when these light particles, or photons, hit the thin layer of silicon on the top of a solar panel, they knock electrons off the silicon atoms which creates a direct current (DC) of electricity. This is captured by the wiring in the solar panels.

This DC electricity is then converted to alternating current (AC) by an inverter which is then funnelled into the grid network. AC is the type of electrical current used when you plug appliances into normal wall sockets.

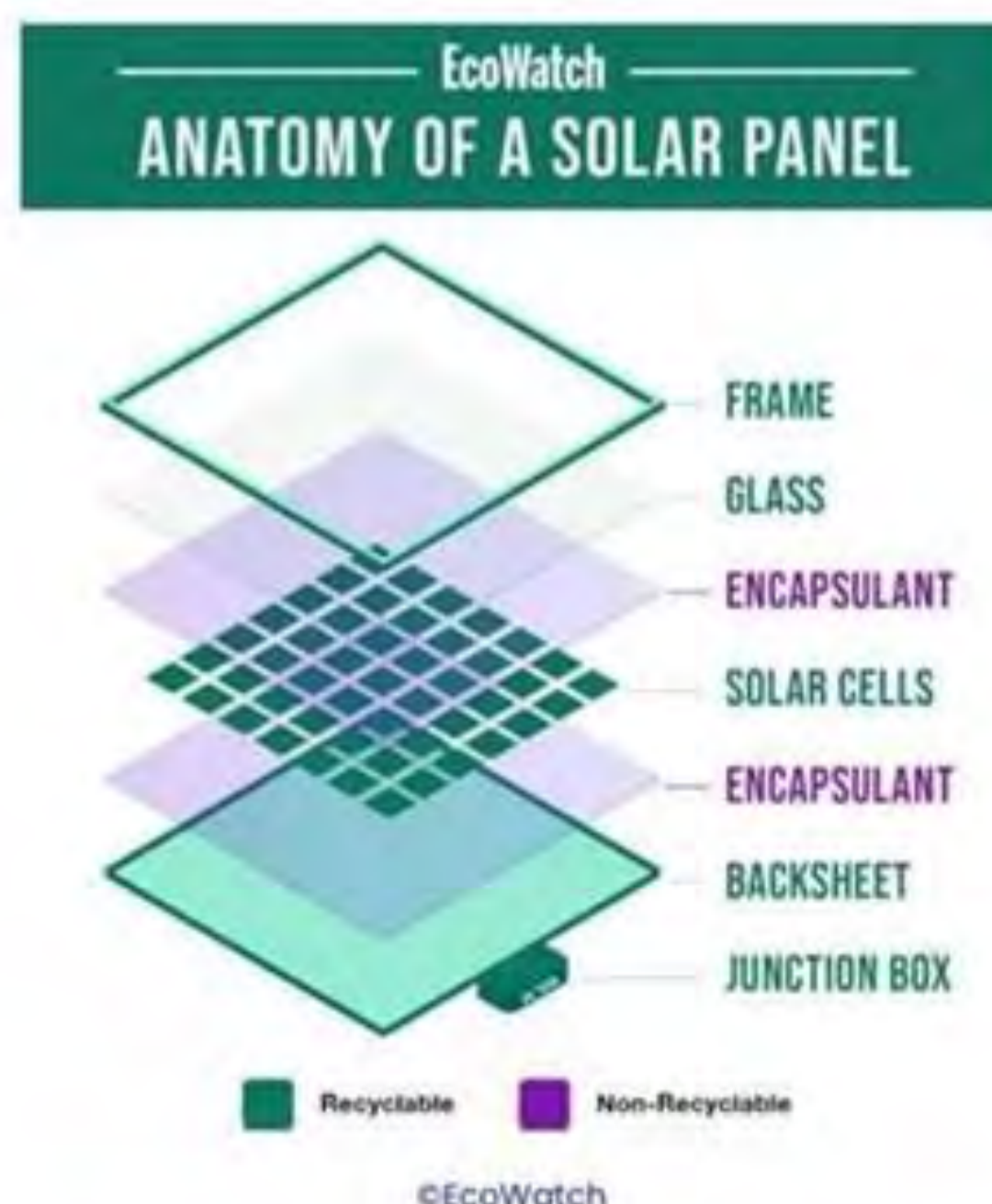
Bifacial modules have two sides of solar cells, enabling additional energy generation from the diffuse light reflected off the grass, on the rear-side of the panels.

## Recycling

In most cases solar panels are recyclable and there are well established industrial processes to do this. There are organisations around the UK and Europe specialising in solar recycling, such as PV Cycle and the European Recycling Platform.

They are working with solar developers to minimise electrical waste and recycle old panels in line with the Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> [https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/waste-and-recycling/waste-electrical-and-electronic-equipment-weee\\_en](https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/waste-and-recycling/waste-electrical-and-electronic-equipment-weee_en)





## We believe in meaningful and effective consultation

The aims of our consultation process are to:

Engage early with the local community to facilitate a constructive consultation process to help identify and understand concerns.

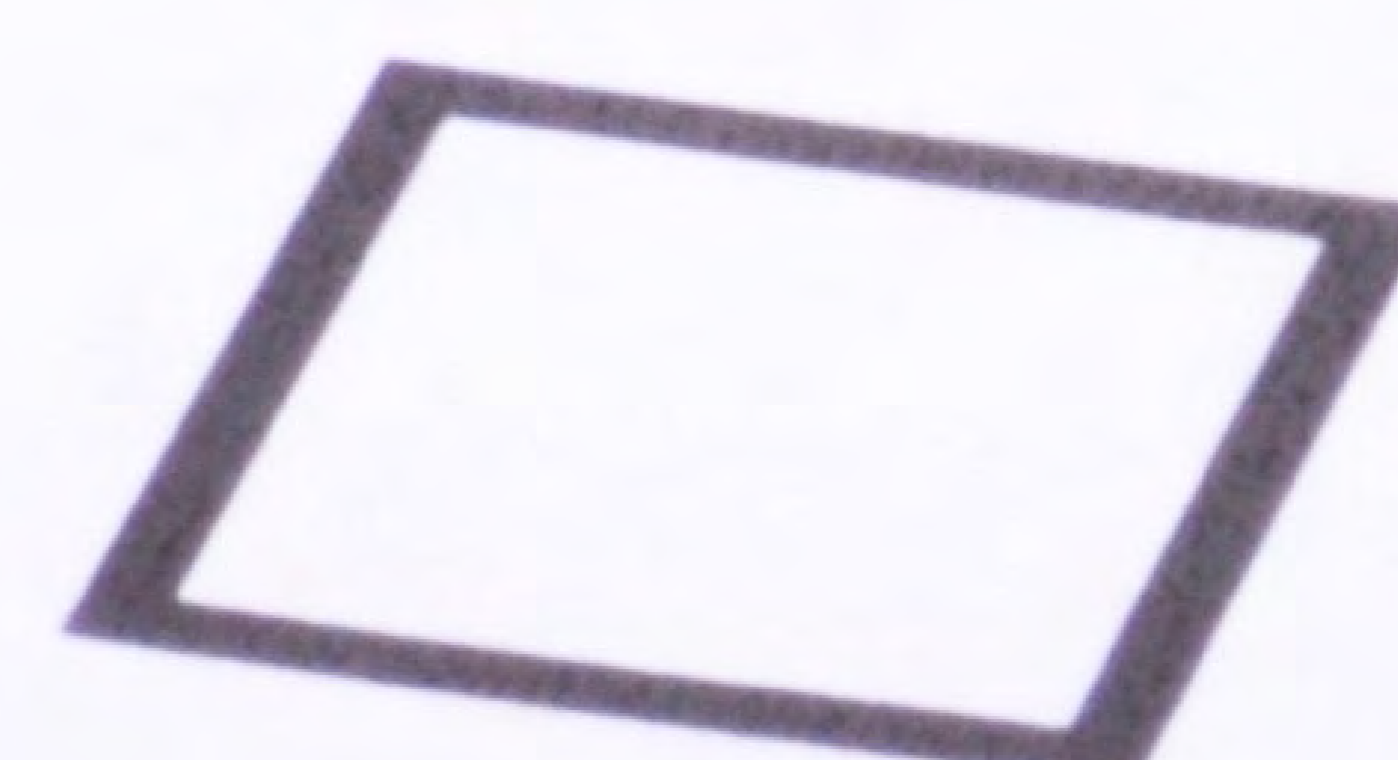
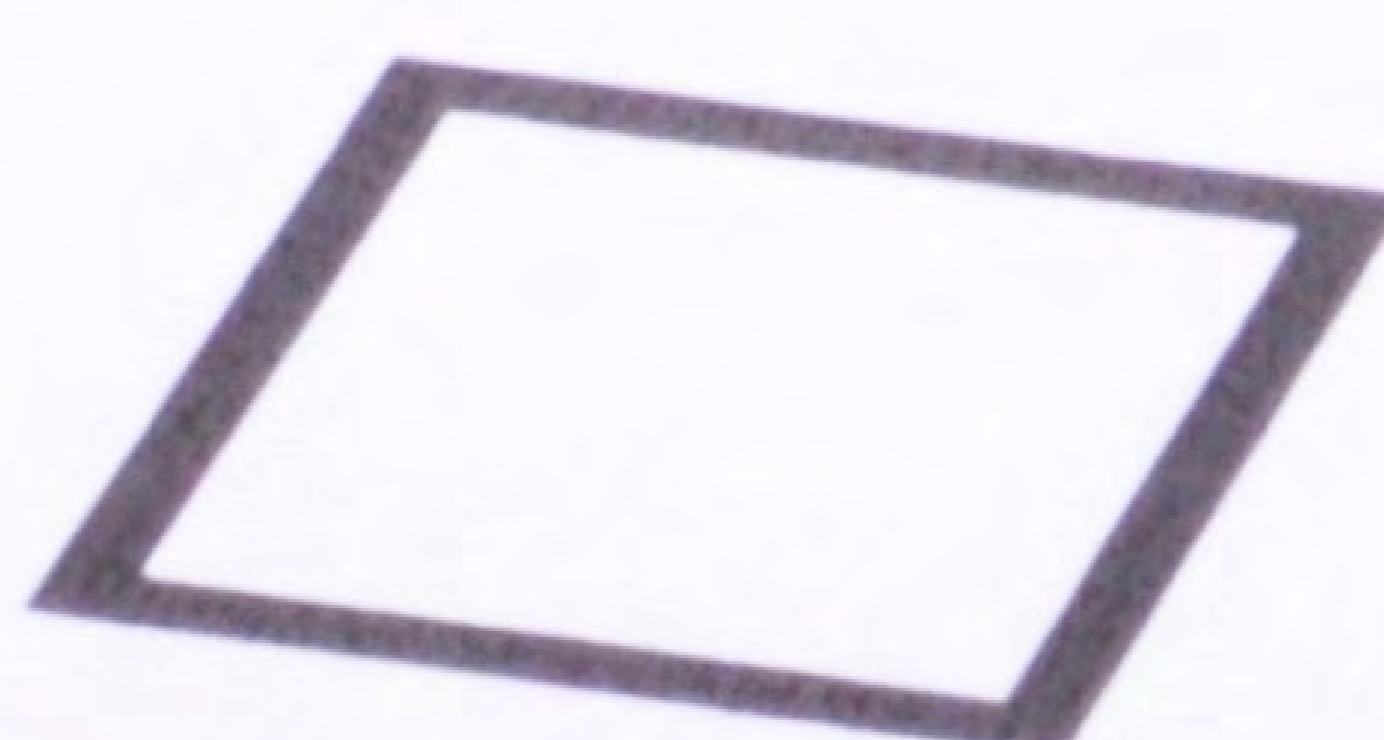
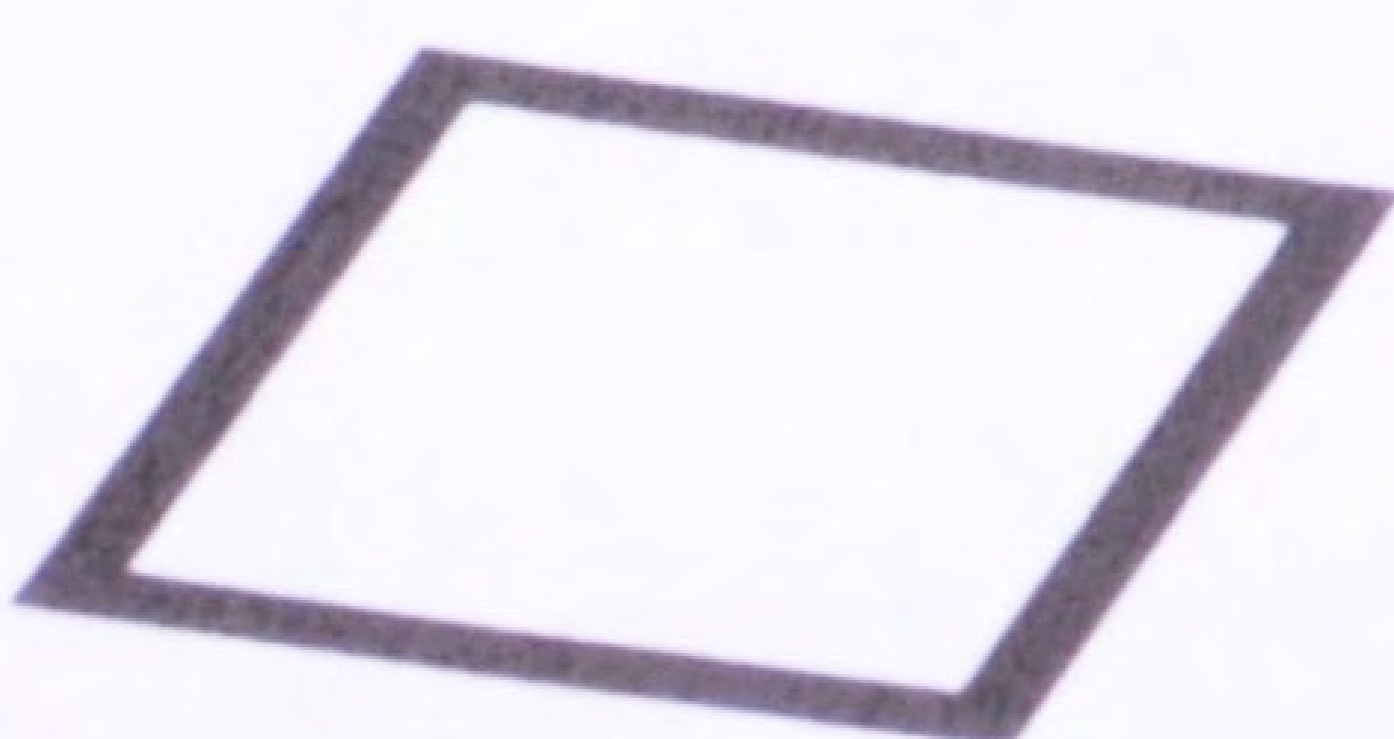
Assist the local community in understanding the benefits and potential impacts of the proposed solar farm.

Add value and improve the quality of our proposal through meaningful and productive consultation.

Before we submit a planning application, we will create a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), that documents the community engagement process and any steps we have taken to adapt our proposal.

At this stage we are inviting the local community to submit comments directly to RES. If an application is submitted there will be the opportunity to submit representations to the determining Planning Authority at that time.

We are keen to understand your views on the proposal and the information available at this exhibition. Please take a few minutes to fill out a feedback form with your comments.









RES believes in meaningful and productive consultation and we aim to engage early with the local community and key stakeholders in order to facilitate constructive consultation. This helps to identify issues and concerns, as well as benefits and opportunities, which we can then consider when developing the design of the proposal.

Feedback from the local community is an important part of our pre-application consultation and we would be grateful if you could take the time to fill out this comments form with your feedback. The closing date for comments is **30<sup>th</sup> November 2022**. Comments will still be accepted after this date but may not be considered in relation to the design development.

*Please note that comments submitted to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (South Oxfordshire District Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.*

### 1 Nuneham Solar Farm public exhibition

1.1 How did you find out about our public exhibitions?

- Newsletter through the door
- Advert in local newspaper
- Project website - [www.nuneham-solarfarm.co.uk](http://www.nuneham-solarfarm.co.uk)
- Word of mouth
- Other (please specify)

1.2 Before visiting the exhibition how would you describe your knowledge of the proposed Nuneham Solar Farm?

- Knew a lot
- Knew quite a lot
- Knew a little
- Knew very little
- Knew nothing at all

1.3 Having visited the exhibition, to what extent do you feel you have increased your understanding about the proposed Nuneham Solar Farm?

- A lot
- Quite a lot
- A little
- Very little
- Nothing at all



1.4 Do you have any suggestions for ways in which we could have improved our exhibition?

## 2 Nuneham Solar Farm Proposal

Your views on the Nuneham Solar Farm proposal - specifically the layout of the project where people's comments can have a direct influence - will be considered in relation to the design development of the project.

2.1 What do you think about the proposed design layout of Nuneham Solar Farm?

- I am happy with the proposed layout
- I am neutral towards the proposed layout
- I have concerns about proposed layout
- I don't like solar farms in general

Further comments:

2.2 Please provide us with any further suggestions or comments regarding the proposed Nuneham Solar Farm



### 3 Local benefit

3.1 We are keen to explore opportunities for improvements to the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network. Do you use the PRoW which crosses the site of the proposed solar farm:

Very regularly  Quite regularly  Occasionally  Never

If you use the PRoW which crosses the site, do you use it to link to other footpaths in the area?

Would you like RES to explore improvement opportunities on the PRoW which crosses the site?

Yes  No

If you have any ideas or suggestions of ways the local PRoW network can be improved, please let us know in the box below.

3.2 We also propose to create additional benefit from the scheme through a community benefit package. RES will work with the local community to gain feedback on their priorities and deliver projects that will help to secure long-term economic, social and environmental benefits. This approach will help to deliver a tailored package of benefits that are aligned with the local communities' priorities.

If you have any suggestions for local benefits the wind farm may be able to support, please let us know in the box below.





## 4 Climate change, energy security and renewables

The below section is optional and designed to help us understand people's thoughts on how renewables can help to tackle climate change and improve energy security.

4.1 Do you agree that we are facing a global climate change emergency?

- I strongly agree
- I agree
- I don't know
- I disagree
- I strongly disagree

Further comments:

4.2 Do you agree that generating electricity from renewable sources, and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, can help towards tackling the issue of climate change?

- I strongly agree
- I agree
- I don't know
- I disagree
- I strongly disagree

Further comments:

4.3 Do you agree that we need to develop solar farms to support greater energy independence and security for the UK?

- I strongly agree
- I agree
- I don't know
- I disagree
- I strongly disagree

Further comments:



4.4 Do you agree that we need to develop solar farms to cut energy bills?

I strongly agree

I agree

I don't know

I disagree

I strongly disagree

Further comments:

## 5 Your details

Please provide your name and contact details below.

Your contact details will be treated by RES with the strictest of confidence, in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018. We may at times share your contact details, in confidence, with third parties who we employ to help process your comments or update you on the project and by providing your details below you consent to this. You may write to RES at any time to ask that your contact details be removed from our records and from any third parties we work with.

Name	
Email	
Address	

If you would like to be kept up to date with the project, please tick this box

When you have completed the comments form, please send by email to [carey.green@res-group.com](mailto:carey.green@res-group.com) or by post to: Nuneham Solar Farm Project Team, RES, Beaufort Court, Egg Farm Lane, Kings Langley, Herts, WD4 8LR.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this comments form, your feedback is important to us.