



## Public Consultation

### Webinar

Join us for a webinar for the Reeds Solar Farm. The webinar will be followed by a Q&A. Register your details on our project website to join the webinar, [www.reedssolarfarm.co.uk](http://www.reedssolarfarm.co.uk).

**When:** Wednesday, 10th August 2022

**Time:** 7:30pm

### Come and meet us in person

We are delighted to confirm that we are hosting an event where you can come review our proposal and we will be available to hear your feedback and comments and, answer your questions.

**When:** Wednesday, 17th August 2022

**Time:** 2:30pm-7:30pm

**Location:** Capel Village Hall, Falmouth PI, Five Oak Green, Tonbridge TN12 6RD

We are very much looking forward to you joining us!

If you have any questions, contact us:

**Email:** [info@reedssolarfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@reedssolarfarm.co.uk)

**Call our free information line:** 0800 458 9979

### About Low Carbon:

Low Carbon, the developer of this project is a British-owned investment and asset management company whose business model is based on the financing, development, construction and operational responsibility of renewable energy projects at scale. Low Carbon is committed to making a positive and significant impact on the causes of climate change with the goal of a low carbon future with environmental stewardship and collaboration with local communities and biodiversity at the heart of this approach.

Certified



Corporation

Low Carbon is a certified B Corporation®.

B Corps™ are businesses that meet the highest standards of social and environmental performance, transparency and accountability.

[www.lowcarbon.com](http://www.lowcarbon.com)



## Reeds Solar Farm Community Information



10

MW solar farm capacity



3,323

Homes powered each year



2,247

Tonnes of CO2 saved each year



11

proposed size (hectares)

### About the project

Low Carbon is proposing to develop a new solar farm with battery storage to be known as Reeds Solar Farm

- The site is located on the land north of Alders Road, Capel.
- The solar farm will have a generating capacity of approximately **10 megawatts (MW)** of clean energy.
- The proposed site is approximately **11 hectares (27 acres)** in size.
- The solar farm will be a temporary development for a period of **40 years**, maintaining its agricultural classification throughout the development and after the removal of the equipment.

### Why Here?

Low Carbon has carefully identified this site as part of a detailed feasibility process to deliver a large-scale clean energy scheme. Many factors are considered by our specialists when evaluating appropriate sites for development. These include considering the available grid locally as well as various planning and environmental constraints.

“ Now more than ever we must focus on generating cheaper, cleaner power in Britain, for Britain ”

Kwasi Kwarteng, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Reeds Solar Farm will help assist in delivering low cost, safe and affordable electricity which can also help us transition into a low carbon future.

The proposal includes battery storage which will allow energy to be stored on site at times when grid-demand is lower and exported at times of higher demand to ensure no energy is 'lost' and help balance the National Grid.



### Construction information

A typical construction period for a solar farm of this scale is around 12-14 weeks. During the construction period, it is estimated that there will be an average of 1-2 HGV trips per day. Whilst this figure is an average, there will often be a higher volume earlier in the construction period and less towards the end. It is proposed that construction working hours would be as follows:

- 08:00 - 18:00 Monday to Friday
- 08:00 - 13:00 Saturday



### Access Information

At this stage, our proposed construction routes are based on reaching the eastern end of Alders Road via the surrounding A-road network, principally the A228.

From the north, the route will use the A26, and from the south the route will be via the A21 and A262.

The proposed construction and maintenance route will access the site from an existing farm entrance on Alders Road. We have engaged a Highways Consultant to advise us of the best route. A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will be agreed with the Local Highways Authority ahead of any construction.

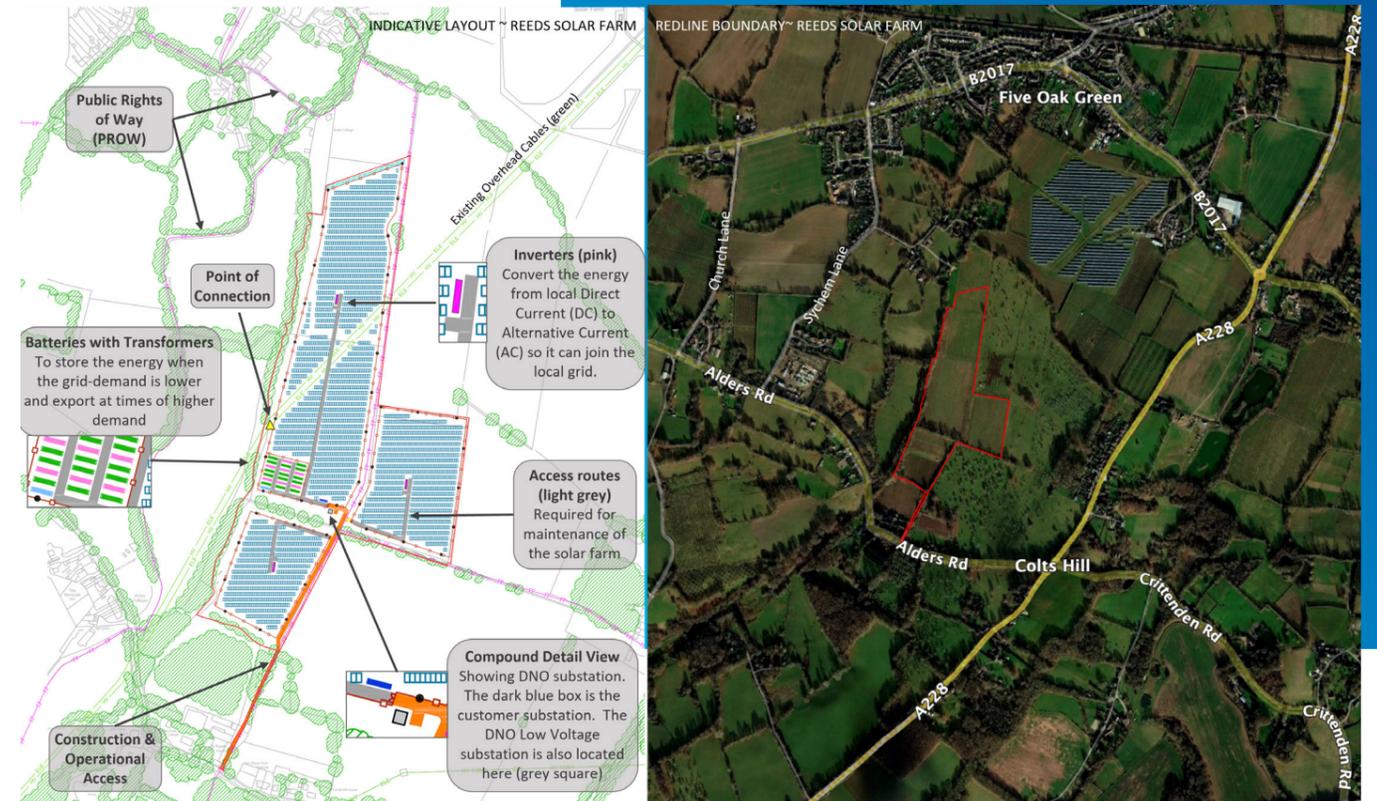
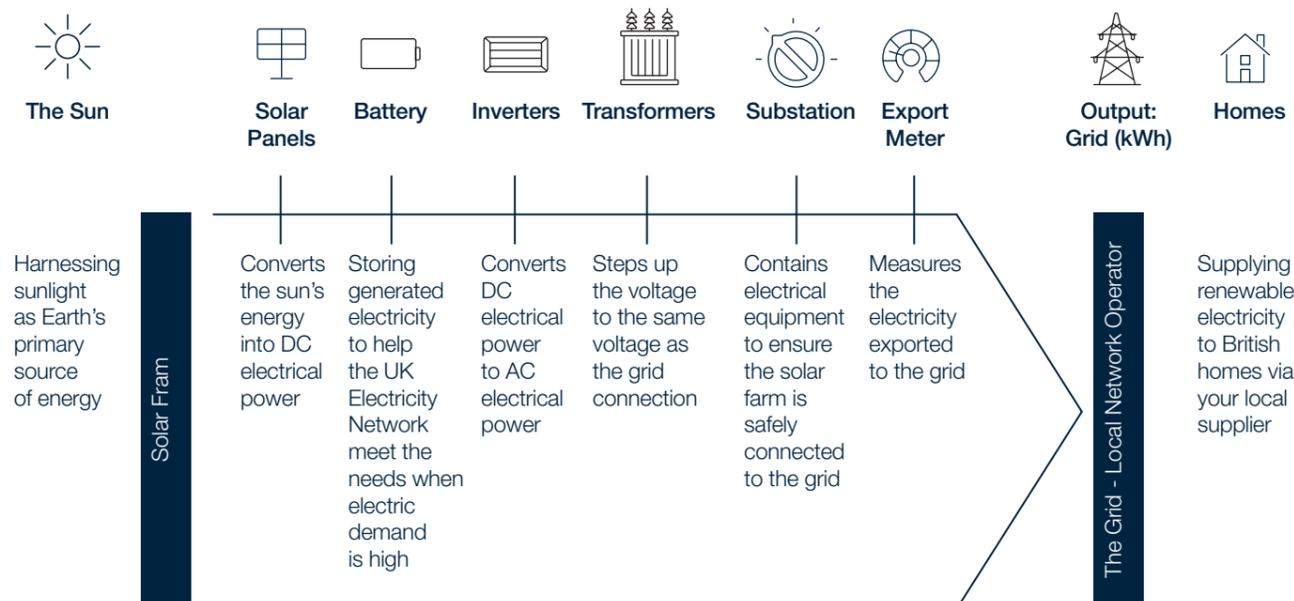


### Point of connection

The electricity generated by the solar panels is proposed to connect into the local distribution network operator, UK Power Networks (UKPN Eastern), via an existing electricity pylon along the western boundary of the site. A transformer substation compound would be built to step up the voltage to be fed into the grid.

### How a solar farm works

The illustration (below) is indicative of the components usually found on a solar farm.



*The final design will be informed by considering the findings from the surveys we're carrying out, alongside feedback provided through ongoing consultation.*

### Proposed site layout

#### Design of the site

- The development would consist of **static rows** of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels fixed into metal framework supported by either single or double mounted posts.
- The panels would be set to a **maximum height of 3m** with the bottom of the panels approximately 0.9m from the ground.
- The metal poles would be **pile-driven** into the ground to a depth of around 1.5m.
- The panels would be laid out in straight arrays set at an angle of between **10 and 35 degrees from east to west** across the field enclosures.
- The final number of panels depends on a variety of factors such as the capacity of each panel and the design of the arrays. It is too early in the process to confirm this yet.
- **No flood lights** will be installed within or around the site. Above the entrance door to the DNO Substation, there may be a downlighter to aid access.
- **Public Rights of Way (PROW) will not be moved or closed** during construction or operation (if planning is granted).
- There is a **minimum separation distance between solar panels of 2.5m**, where biodiversity enhancements such as pasture-mix grassland planting can be implemented.
- Between the arrays and the site perimeter or, in other areas of unused space, we typically plant wildflowers or pasture-mix grasses.

## Indicative timeline

July 2022

EIA Screening

August 2022

Community  
Consultation

Late Summer 2022

Planning application  
submission to  
Tunbridge Wells Borough  
Council

Winter 2022

Tunbridge Wells Borough  
Council will consider and  
determine the application

Summer 2023/2024

Commencement of  
Construction (if planning  
permission is granted)



### Technical Assessment

We undertake a wide range of detailed studies and technical assessments to help respond to questions raised and to assist the final design.

- Transport
- Ecology including Biodiversity Net Gain
- Heritage including geophysical survey
- Landscape and Visual Impact including photomontages
- Flood Risk and Drainage
- Arboricultural Assessment
- Agricultural Land Classification survey
- Glint and Glare Assessment
- Alternative Site Assessment



### Benefits

#### Biodiversity

It is important that the site is improved for nature and shows a biodiversity net gain, thus helping to protect and improve new and existing habitats whilst allowing the land to recover from a monocultural environment. Creating a species rich haven for wildlife.

#### Sheep grazing

We work in partnership with the landowner or local shepherds to provide a unique and innovative space for sheep to graze amongst the solar panels which provide protection in both summer and winter.

#### Beehives

We encourage the siting of beehives within the solar farm, which not only helps to pollinate nearby crops and plants but provides a secure environment with readily available food sources. The hives are tended by trained local beekeepers to ensure the health and welfare of the bees.

#### Public Rights of Way

We would look to keep the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) open throughout construction and operation of the solar farm. If possible and to maintain the enjoyment of these paths we look to include buffers of meadow or wildflower planting and a thick hedgerow to help screen direct views of the solar farm.

#### Planting

Our sites are designed around existing hedgerows and trees. We look to enhance the site with additional planting of native species of hedgerows, trees, pasture-mix grasses and wildflowers.

