



Mallard Pass

Solar Farm

**Welcome to our
consultation event**

Our Stage Two Statutory Consultation

Windel Energy and Canadian Solar are proposing a new solar farm near Essendine called Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

We introduced our initial proposals during our Stage One, non-statutory phase of consultation, held between 04 November and 16 December 2021. By considering community and stakeholder feedback received during Stage One, alongside the results of the work undertaken to date on our environmental assessments, we have evolved the design for Mallard Pass which we are now sharing for this Stage Two Statutory Consultation.

Our Stage Two consultation will run for ten weeks, from **26 May 2022 to 04 August 2022**.

During this time, we want to hear your feedback on how our proposals for Mallard Pass have developed since Stage One.

We want to hear your comments and ideas on:

- Our developed concept plan, design and layout for Mallard Pass, which have had regard to the comments received during Stage One consultation. This includes how the project could look to local residents and visitors.
- Our suggested mitigation measures to address issues raised through consultation and identified through our preliminary environmental assessment work.
- Our proposed improvement measures to deliver benefits, such as new recreational connectivity and ecology habitats across the site.
- The information presented in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS).

You can find out more information about our proposals through reading our Main Consultation Document and PEIR, visiting our website, attending one of our upcoming events, or contacting the team using our communication lines.

Who we are



Windel Energy



CanadianSolar

- Founded in 2018, Windel Energy is a privately held company that specializes in the development and asset management of renewable energy projects and low carbon technologies.
- Windel is at the forefront of low carbon technologies including solar, energy storage, and wind. As of 2021, Windel has more than 3 gigawatts (GW) of clean, renewable power and battery energy storage in various stages of development.
- Founded in Canada in 2001, Canadian Solar is one of the world's largest solar power companies. It is a leading manufacturer of solar photovoltaic modules and provider of solar energy solutions.



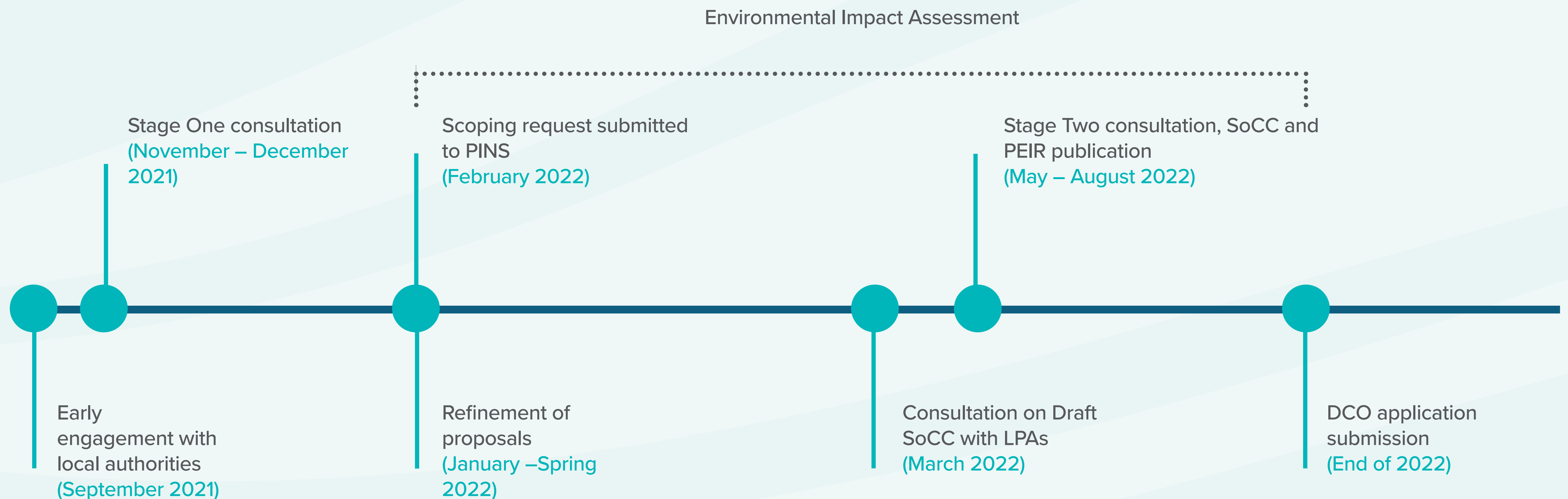
**Mallard
Pass**
Solar Farm

- Mallard Pass Solar Farm is being developed by Windel and Canadian, who have appointed a professional project team to provide support and expertise throughout the consenting stages of the project.
- Together, the project team have significant experience of working across solar and Development Consent Order (DCO) projects.
- Mallard Pass Solar Farm is a proposal that aligns with Windel Energy's core commitment to responsible land use and delivering large-scale solar projects that are in harmony with their surroundings.

Project timeline

We will be applying to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for a Development Consent Order (DCO).

The DCO application will be subject to examination by an independent examining authority appointed by the Secretary of State and that examination will be administered by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). The decision whether to grant development consent will be taken by the Secretary of State for BEIS.



About Mallard Pass Solar Farm

We are proposing a new solar farm partly situated in South Kesteven, Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland.

The proposals include infrastructure to connect to the national grid, along with mitigation measures, ecological enhancements and opportunities for improved recreational access by the local community. If approved, Mallard Pass will deliver in the region of 350 MW of renewable energy. This means it is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).

Our Vision for Mallard Pass is to support the urgent need to decarbonise our electricity system, deliver reliable and sustainable low-cost energy, enhance the local environment and be a responsible neighbour.

The need for Mallard Pass

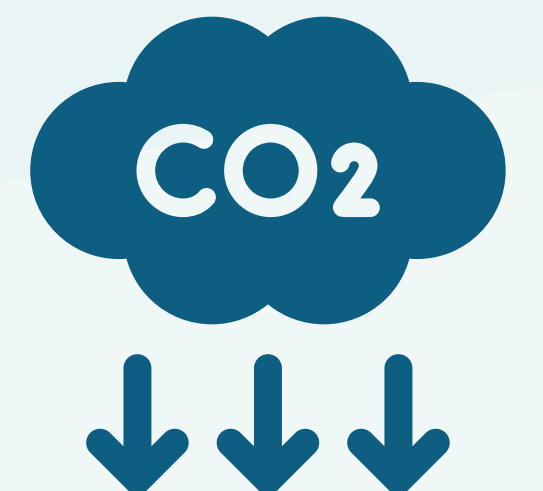
Large-scale solar is being developed in the UK to play a critical role in the fight against climate change while delivering energy security and affordability.

The UK will decarbonise by increasing low carbon electricity generation and by using that electricity to displace fossil fuels from homes, transport and industry. Electricity demand is expected to double by 2050, with this demand being met with clean energy produced through a mix of wind and solar (HMG Energy White Paper, December 2020). Mallard Pass has the potential to power in the region of 92,000 UK homes by generating low-cost renewable energy, while increasing the reliability of our national grid and our own electricity supply.

By generating clean electricity through solar power, Mallard Pass will make a meaningful contribution to responding to increasing energy demands, meeting carbon targets, and providing low-cost energy.



Mallard Pass Solar Farm has the potential to power in the region of **92,000 UK homes**.



Help the UK reach urgent climate change targets while supporting the local environment by delivering a biodiversity net gain.



Supporting green spaces that connect habitats, enhance biodiversity and link recreational routes.



Support low-cost energy generation that increases the reliability of our National Grid.

The site area

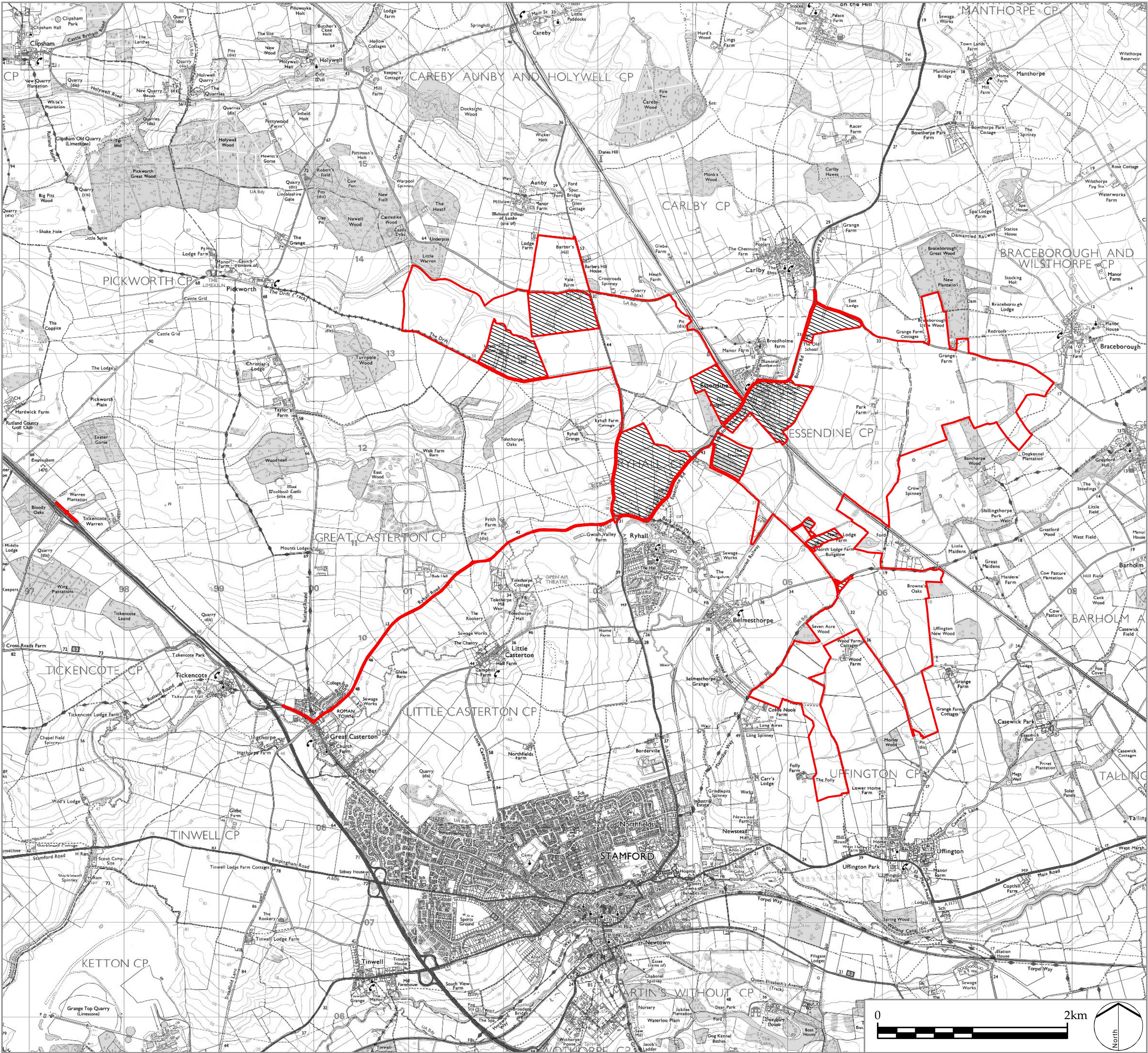
Mallard Pass Solar Farm is proposed to be located on agricultural land either side of the East Coast Main Line near Essendine.

The site area for Mallard Pass is partly situated in South Kesteven, Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland. It equates to approximately 906 hectares, including areas for solar development, mitigation and enhancement measures, as well as an area for potential highway works.

Feature	Approx. site area
Solar array and connection infrastructure (the solar PV site)	463 hectares
Areas for mitigation and ecological improvements (including existing woodland/hedgerows and associated offsets and continued agriculture)	420 hectares
Areas to allow for potential improvement works for accessing the developed area	23 hectares
Total site	906 hectares

While we have slightly increased our overall site boundary to include sections of local highway that may require improvement during construction of the proposals, the area proposed for solar panels has decreased from approximately 570 hectares at Stage One, to approximately 463 hectares at Stage Two.

Z:\7863_NSIP_SOLAR_FARM_CONFIDENTIAL\8GIS\PROJECTS\FIGURES FOR PEIR\FIGURE 1.1_SITE LOCATION.MXD



LEGEND

Site boundary

Areas outside of Site Boundary

LDA DESIGN

PROJECT TITLE
MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM:
PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REPORT

DRAWING TITLE
Figure 1.1: Site Location Plan

ISSUED BY	Oxford	T: 01865 887050
DATE	March 2022	DRAWN AG
SCALE @A3	1:40,000	CHECKED DB
STATUS	Final	APPROVED RP

DWG. NO. 7863_SK_302

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Sources: Ordnance Survey, Esri

Site selection

Many characteristics are considered in the selection of appropriate locations for large-scale solar. The site for Mallard Pass performs well against these considerations.

One of the key drivers influencing the location of the site for Mallard Pass was the availability of a suitable grid connection, with sufficient capacity to enable the power generated from the solar farm to feed back into the grid. Following a review to identify which of the land in proximity to the substation may be appropriate for solar from a technical, environmental and community perspective, Windel Energy then commenced discussions with landowners to understand whether there was a willingness to enter into lease agreements. This led to the identification of the proposed site, which is considered to be suitable for solar for several reasons.

These include:

- **Connection to the national grid** – There is sufficient capacity at the existing nearby Ryhall substation.
- **Planning and environmental considerations** – The site is not subject to any protected landscape or spatial designations and is well located in relation to sensitive heritage and ecological assets.
- **Availability of land** – The site has individual landowners, who were agreeable in principle to leasing their land for solar.
- **Topography** – The site has a gently undulating topography which is technically suitable and ensures maximum efficiency of the solar panels.
- **Proximity to people's homes** – Although relatively close to Essendine and some individual homes, there are limited residential properties in the immediate proximity. Through design, the impact on those properties can be effectively mitigated through sensitive landscaping and the location of panels.
- **Accessibility** – The site has good connections to the Strategic Road Network.
- **Land Classification** - The Agricultural Land Classification is Grade 3, with small pockets of Grade 2, with the opportunity to limit the level of Grade 3a (Best and Most Versatile) land proposed for solar panels.

Further detail on this process is explained in Chapter 4 of the PEIR, which also considers the ability of brownfield land to accommodate the proposed solar farm.

Proposed layout



The area for solar development has decreased from approx. 570 ha at Stage One to approx. 463 ha. Around 420 ha of the Site area will be for ecological mitigation and enhancement or retained as woodlands, hedgerows and agricultural land.



Proposed hedgerows and tree belts will be located within the proposed buffers and potential mitigation and enhancement areas.



Approx. 4.7 km of new permissive paths have been introduced across the Site. These connect to existing paths within and beyond the Site area.



Panels will be set back by a min. distance of 15 m either side from any PRoWs (which will also apply to new permissive paths), Ancient Woodland and woodland, Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).



The updated design supports the West Glen River in its vital role as an ecological corridor. This will conserve and enhance its biodiversity and strengthen it as a link between habitats for different species.



Some areas of road have been identified where improvement works may be required to allow Site access.



Areas for solar development along the West Glen River corridor have been removed to reduce development within the flood plain.



Panels will be set back by a min. distance of 10 m from the Site boundary, hedgerows, the West Glen River and ponds. Veteran trees will have a min. offset of 15 times the width of the diameter of the stem.



Fields identified as consisting entirely of Grade 2 agricultural land will not be used for solar panels.

Key

- Site boundary
- Railway line
- Existing National Grid Ryhall Substation
- Potential substation area
- Potential solar development
- Existing woodland, hedges, trees, field boundaries and ditches
- Potential mitigation and enhancement areas
- Proposed buffers to woodland, trees, hedgerows, ditches, utilities and PRoWs
- Existing PRoWs
- New permissive paths

This is a graphic illustration of the key elements in our proposals. This map is intended for illustrative purposes only and more detailed plans can be found within the PEIR and on our website.

What has changed since Stage One?

Our developed proposals for Mallard Pass have been informed by the feedback we received at Stage One, our environmental assessment and our project design principles.

We have sought to evolve our vision for Mallard Pass in three key ways to address the feedback we have received.

1. Reducing impacts to residential properties and higher quality agricultural land

The area proposed for solar panels has decreased from approximately 570 ha at Stage One, to approximately 463 ha.

Approximately 420 ha of the overall Site area will be for ecological mitigation and enhancement or retained as woodlands, hedgerows and agricultural land.

We have reduced the total area for solar panels by removing panels from fields which are entirely Grade 2 agricultural land and also by increasing the distance of the proposed solar panels and infrastructure from people's homes. We are also proposing additional tree and hedgerow screening to protect residential amenity.

In addition, new hedgerow planting, tree belts and woodland blocks have been introduced to limit any potential visual impact from particular public vantage points throughout the Site.

2. Enhancing biodiversity and ecological connectivity

Our updated design will enhance biodiversity and ecological connectivity across the site through the creation of new habitats, including wildflower and grassland, improving the connectivity of existing habitats through new native tree and hedgerow planting, and allowing existing hedgerows to grow out more fully to the benefit of a wide range of local wildlife species.

The development proposals include 420 ha of land outside of the solar array area to deliver mitigation and enhancement to the local landscape, this includes:

- The Drift Wildflower Grassland Corridor and Little Warren Valley Wildflower Grassland: creation of over 30 ha of wildflower grassland with calcareous species.
- West Glen Wet Woodland: creation of 3.7 ha of riparian habitat which could include wet woodland or carr planting in areas with no development along the river corridor.
- Sitewide wildflower and tussock grassland planting: creation of over 108 ha of this habitat across the site.
- We are also adopting skylark plots, grazed grassland, hedgerows and woodland belts, bird, owl, and bat boxes, and otter holts/layup areas at appropriate locations.

3. Supporting recreational and amenity opportunities

We are supporting recreational and amenity opportunities by retaining all Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) within the site.

We have introduced approximately 4.7 km of new permissive paths across the site.

These permissive paths include:

- Essendine to Carlby Road link: an approximate 1.2 km route linking Essendine to Carlby Road providing a new off-road route;
- West Essendine Link Loop: an approximate 1 km link creating a loop running northwest of Essendine linking back to the existing bridleway, and;
- West Glen River Corridor: an approximate 2.5 km link from Stamford Road south-eastward along the river corridor to join the Macmillan Way.

Technology

Solar PV arrays

The areas of the Site with solar photovoltaic (PV) modules will convert sunlight into electrical current. The PV Modules will be fixed to a Mounting Structure.

There are currently two options for the Mounting Structures which are being considered – Fixed South Facing (FSF) arrays which are orientated on an east west axis, and Single Axis Tracker (SAT) arrays which are orientated on a north south axis. Under the SAT system, PV Modules would track from east to west throughout the day and would return to their resting position (facing east) overnight. The FSF arrays have no moving parts and would be fixed at an angle of between 18 and 25-degrees facing south. We are proposing indicatively that (under either system) each solar module will be approximately up to 2.4 m long and 1.35 m wide.

The reason for including two options for the Mounting Structures is to allow some flexibility in the type of PV Modules used on the Site in response to technological developments in the solar industry, ensuring the most effective technologies can be installed, should the DCO be approved. Each solar module will be located approximately between 3m and 8m away from one another.

Primary Substation

Mallard Pass Solar Farm will have a single primary substation, located near to the Ryhall Substation to facilitate the export of electricity from the solar farm to the National Grid. This substation will comprise of the electrical infrastructure, including transformers, switchgear and metering equipment required.

This primary substation will also include a control building which will include office space and welfare facilities, as well as operational monitoring and maintenance equipment. The above will be located within a primary onsite substation compound. The indicative size of this compound will be approximately 100 m x 200 m and up to a maximum 12.5 m in height.

Battery Energy Storage Systems

Our Stage One consultation proposals stated that we were considering the inclusion of battery storage as part of these proposals. Our updated proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm do not include energy storage facilities. While we continue to recognise the importance of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in achieving the UK's decarbonisation and energy security needs, our design development process has not found it appropriate to include them in this scheme at this time. This decision has been informed by technical and commercial factors, considered alongside the feedback received through our Stage One consultation.

Grid Connection

Mallard Pass Solar Farm will need a connection to the National Grid in order to export the electricity generated from the scheme. This will be completed via underground cables from the primary substation (see above), which will be located near to the Ryhall National Grid Substation.

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LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- Existing Woodland
- Existing Hedgerow / Verge
- Existing Watercourse / Drain
- Public Right of Way
- Proposed Design / Proposed Development Features
 - Proposed Tussock Grassland with Wildflowers
 - Proposed Wildflower Grassland with Calcareous Species
 - Proposed Grazed Grassland
 - Proposed Screening / Structure Planting Woodland Copse
 - Proposed Scattered Woodland and Wetland Planting
 - Proposed Screening / Structure Planting Tree Belt
 - Proposed Screening / Structure Planting Hedgerows
 - Proposed Access Point and Internal Track
 - Proposed Primary Onsite Substation
 - Proposed Permissive Footpath
 - Proposed Feature (e.g. Interpretation Board / Bench / Ecological Habitat)
 - Proposed PV Arrays and Central Inverter / Transformers

LDĀ DESIGN

PROJECT TITLE
MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM

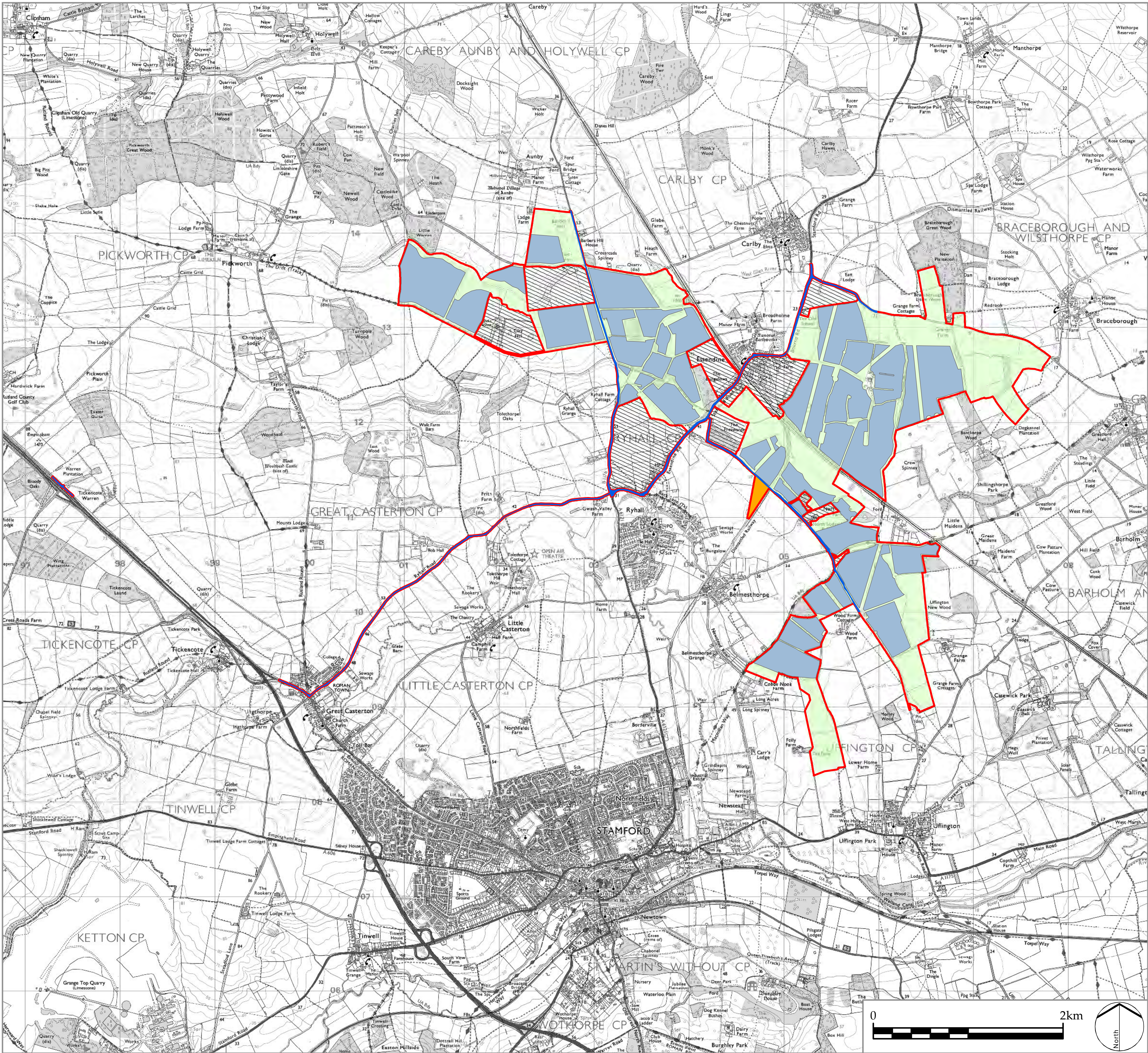
DRAWING TITLE
Stage 2 PEIR Illustrative Development Layout:
Fixed South Facing Solar Layout Option

ISSUED BY	Oxford	T: 01865 887050
DATE	May1 2022	DRAWN SMC
SCALE@A2	NTS	CHECKED BC
STATUS	Draft	APPROVED RP

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Sources: Ordnance Survey...

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LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- Solar PV Site
- Mitigation and Enhancement Areas
- Potential Highways Works
- Grid Connection Route
- Areas outside of Site Boundary

LD A DESIGN

PROJECT TITLE
MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM:
PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REPORT

DRAWING TITLE
Figure 3.1: Extents of the Site, Solar PV Site, Mitigation
and Enhancement Areas and Potential Highway
Works

ISSUED BY	Oxford	T: 01865 887050
DATE	April 2022	DRAWN AG
SCALE @A3	1:40,000	CHECKED DB
STATUS	Final	APPROVED RP

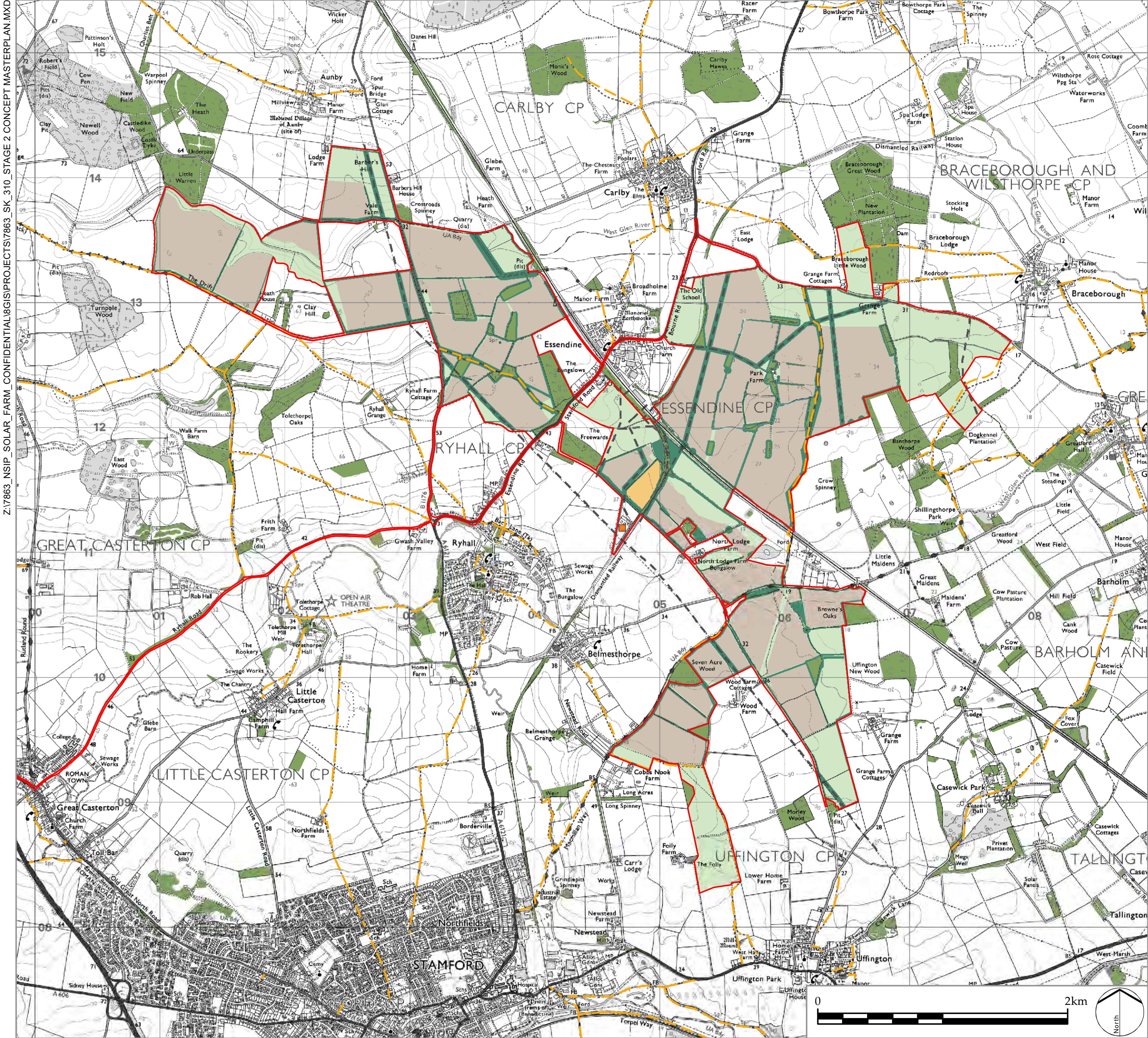
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Sources: Ordnance Survey, Esri

Z:\7863_NSP_SOLAR_FARM_CONFIDENTIAL\8GIS\PROJECTS\7863_SK_310_STAGE 2 CONCEPT MASTERPLAN.MXD



LEGEND

Site Features

Site boundary

Existing Utilities (gas, water, sewer and electricity)

National Grid Ryhall Substation

Public Right of Way

Woodland, hedgerows, trees, field boundary and ditches

Concept Masterplan Proposals

Solar PV Site

Mitigation and Enhancement Areas

Primary Onsite Substation

Buffers to woodland, trees, hedgerows, ditches, utilities and Public Rights of Way

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PROJECT TITLE
MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM:
PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REPORT

DRAWING TITLE
Figure 4.2: Stage 2 Concept Masterplan

ISSUED BY	Oxford	T: 01865 887050
DATE	April 2022	DRAWN VW
SCALE @A3	1:30,000	CHECKED RP
STATUS	Final	APPROVED RP

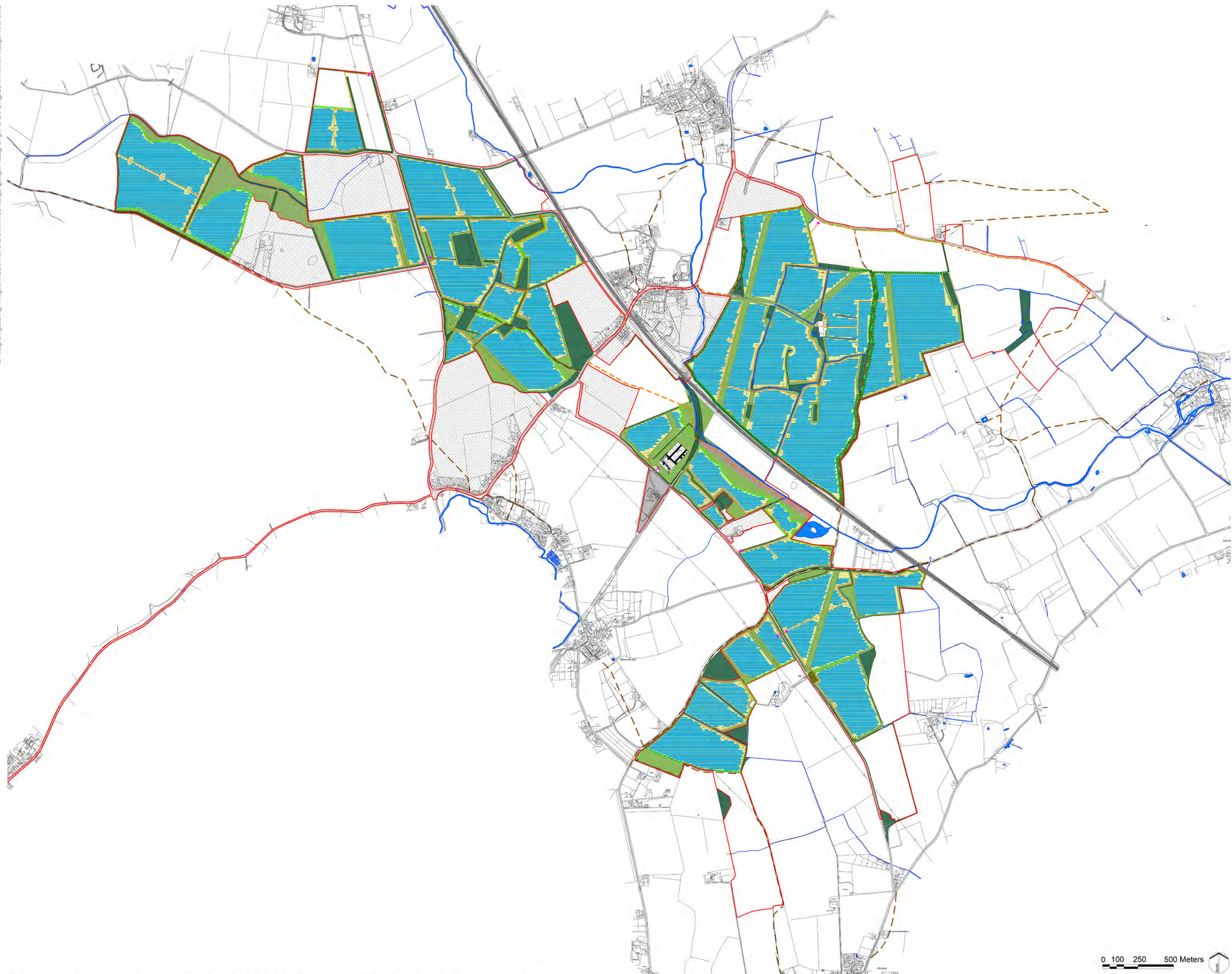
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Sources: Ordnance Survey, Natural England,
National Tree Mapping - © Bluesky International Limited

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- LEGEND
- Site Boundary
 - Existing Woodland
 - Existing Hedgerow / Verge
 - Existing Water Course / Drain
 - Existing Waterbody
 - Public Right of Way
 - Area outside of Site Boundary
- Proposed Development Features
- Proposed Tussock Grassland with Wildflowers
 - Proposed Wildflower Grassland with Calcareous Species
 - Proposed Grazed Grassland (Within Fenced Solar Arrays)
 - Proposed Screening / Structure Planting Woodland Copse
 - Proposed Scattered Wet Woodland Planting
 - Proposed Screening / Structure Planting Tree Belt
 - Proposed Screening / Structure Planting Hedgerows
 - Proposed Onsite Primary Substation
 - Proposed primary and secondary access points and internal tracks
 - Proposed Permissive Footpath
 - Proposed PV Arrays with Central Inverter / Transformer
 - Grid Connection Route

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PROJECT TITLE
MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM
PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REPORT

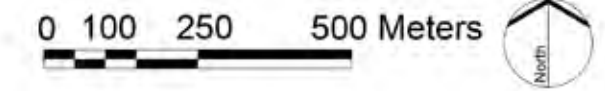
DRAWING TITLE
Figure 5.1(a) Fixed South Facing
Illustrative Development Layout

ISSUED BY	Oxford	T: 01865 887 050
DATE	May 2022	DRAWN TB
SCALE: A1	As Shown	CHECKED BC
STATUS	Final	APPROVED RP

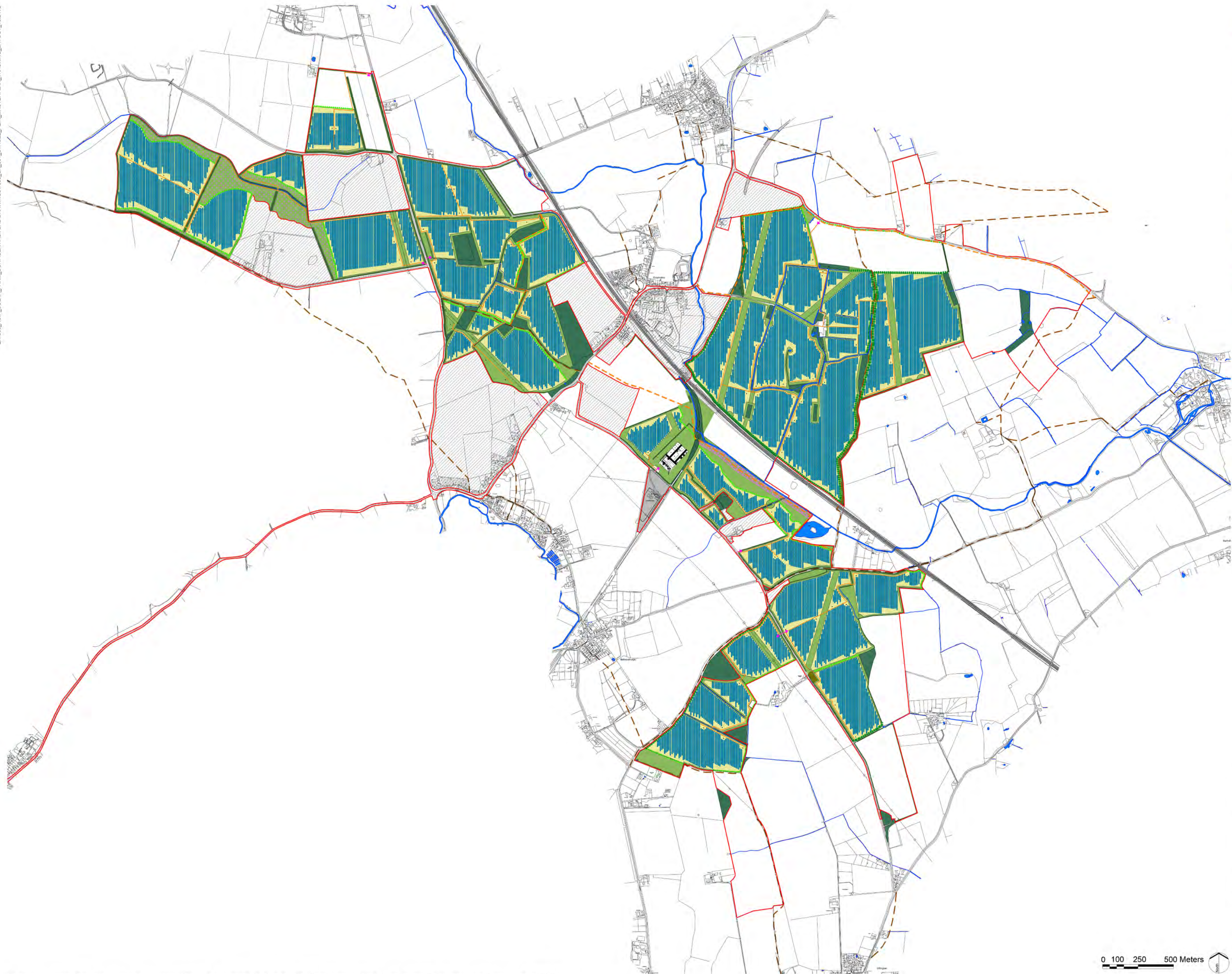
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Sources: Ordnance Survey



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- LEGEND
- Site Boundary
 - Existing Woodland
 - Existing Hedgerow / Verge
 - Existing Water Course / Drain
 - Existing Waterbody
 - Public Right of Way
 - Area outside of Site Boundary

- Proposed Development Features
- Proposed Tussock Grassland with Wildflowers
 - Proposed Wildflower Grassland with Calcareous Species
 - Proposed Grazed Grassland (Within Fenced Solar Arrays)
 - Proposed Screening / Structure Planting Woodland Copse
 - Proposed Scattered Wet Woodland Planting
 - Proposed Screening / Structure Planting Tree Belt
 - Proposed Screening / Structure Planting Hedgerows
 - Proposed Onsite Primary Substation
 - Proposed primary and secondary access points and internal tracks
 - Proposed Permissive Footpath
 - Proposed PV Arrays with Central Inverter / Transformer
 - Grid Connection Route

REV. DESCRIPTION APT. DATE

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PROJECT TITLE
MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM
PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REPORT

DRAWING TITLE
Figure 5.1(b) Single Axis Tracker
Illustrative Development Layout

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DATE	May 2022	DRAWN TB
SCALE: A1	As Shown	CHECKED BC
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Sources: Ordnance Survey

0 100 250 500 Meters



Environmental information

Mallard Pass is committed to positively contributing to the local environment.

This will be done through mitigation measures to address impacts arising from the proposals, and deliver positive environmental enhancements as an investment in the local environment.

To identify the potential effects our project might have, and understand how we can reduce and mitigate impacts on the environment and society, environmental assessments are undertaken in parallel with the design process of our development. This is known as the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

We have prepared a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) to provide the results of our environmental assessments undertaken so far. This has been published as part of our Stage Two consultation for information and feedback.

The PEIR sets out the preliminary mitigation measures that may be required to reduce any residual impacts upon the environment, which will be further developed as part of the Environmental Statement, which will be submitted with the DCO application.

We are proposing a series of documents to help manage and mitigate the effects of the project during construction, operation, and decommissioning phases, which will be secured as requirements within the DCO. Some of these plans are provided in draft as part of this consultation, including:

- Draft outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP);
- Draft outline Landscape and Ecological Management plan (oLEMP);
- Framework Travel Plan;
- Draft outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP); and
- Draft outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP).



Environmental information

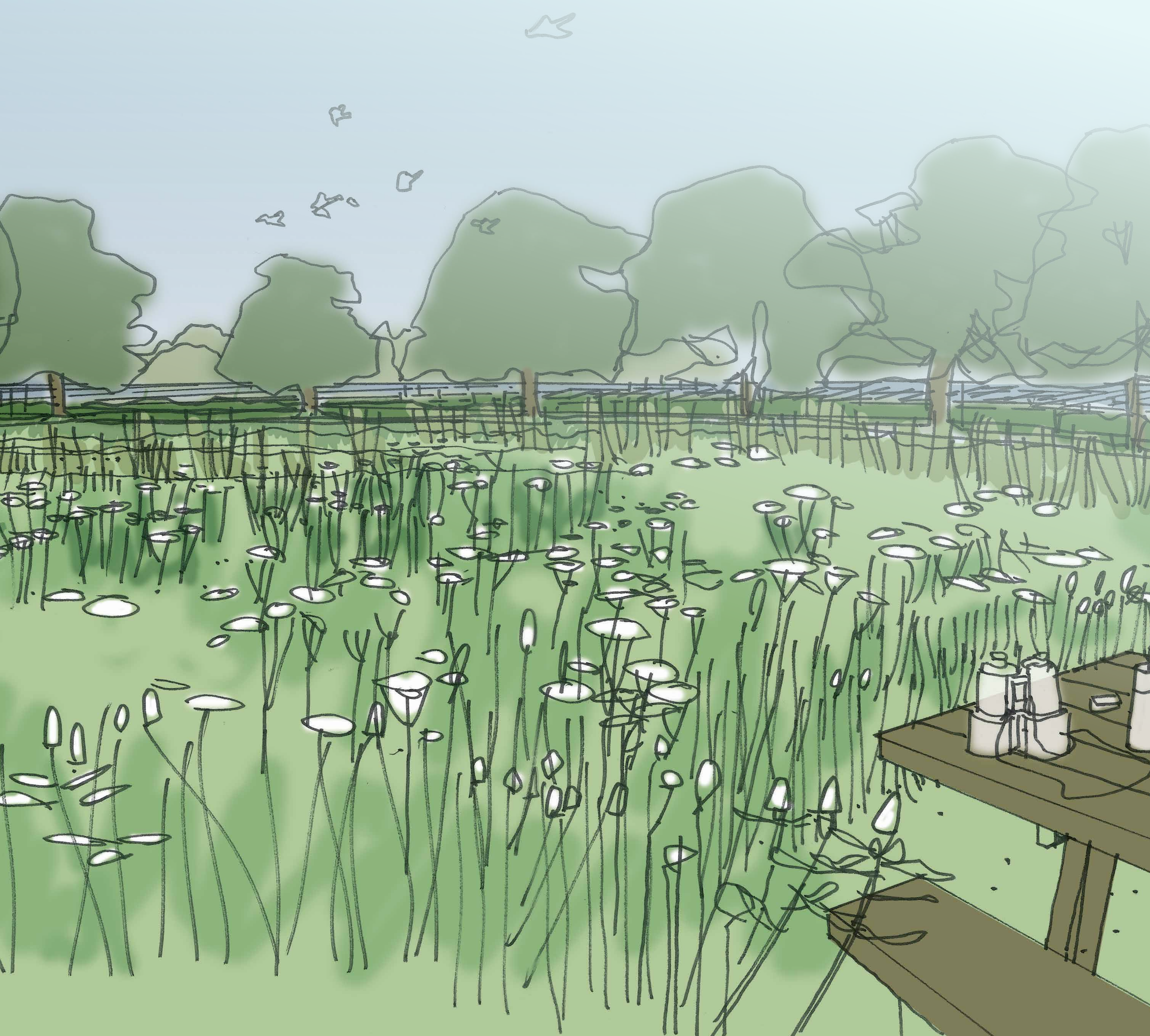
We are now sharing the preliminary results of our assessments as part of this consultation.

The PEIR, associated Non-Technical Summary, and Main Consultation Document, summarise our findings in areas including:

- Ecology;
- agricultural land;
- landscape and visual impacts;
- water resources and ground conditions;
- cultural heritage and archaeology;
- air quality;
- public access and recreation; and
- construction and traffic;

For more details and other topic areas please refer to the individual chapters within the PEIR document.

As with the updated design proposals, we want to hear further feedback on the information presented in our PEIR in order to help us further refine our proposals.



Summary of effects

The assessment process which is outlined in the PEIR has identified some potentially significant impacts upon the environment which will require mitigation to make the development proposals acceptable.

Where this is the case, we are proposing mitigation measures which will reduce the impact on surrounding properties and the environment. Some of these mitigation measures have been developed through the project and embedded into the design and layout, referred to as embedded mitigation. Others require specific working methods to be adopted in order to address the impacts identified.

Chapter 20 of the PEIR presents the potential significant environmental effects of Mallard Pass, our proposed mitigation measures and the residual effects for each of the assessed environmental topics. In summary, prior to mitigation, significant effects are predicted in relation to:

- Landscape and Visual
- Noise and Vibration
- Agricultural Land
- Glint and Glare
- Climate Change

There is scope to mitigate, and therefore reduce the impact of effects, through the combination of embedded mitigation measures, and through implementation of management strategies.

After mitigation, the only topics that are predicted to have a residual significant effects are **Landscape and Visual** and **Climate Change** (the impacts of climate change being positive).

Other topics areas assessed in the PEIR are not predicted to result in significant effects, even before mitigation. However, mitigation measures, both embedded and set out in management strategies, will be applied to minimise impacts upon the environment. This applies to the following topics:

- Cultural Heritage and Archaeology
- Access and Highways
- Air Quality
- Water Resources and Ground Conditions
- Socio-economics
- Ecology
- Arboriculture
- Major Accidents and Disasters

The design of Mallard Pass is an iterative process and will continue to develop through consultation. The final design parameters will be considered in detail by environmental and technical specialists, who will also review and update the impacts of the development, and appropriate mitigation requirements.

Have your say

We want to hear your feedback on our updated proposals.
Our Stage Two consultation will run between
26 May and 04 August 2022.

To have your say, please:

- Complete our online feedback form at **www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk**
- Return a written feedback form to **FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm.**
- Tell us your comments by contacting us by **email.**

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to find out more information about Mallard Pass Solar Farm and our associated consultation programme.

You can contact members of our stakeholder engagement team and find out more using any of our project-dedicated communications lines listed below.



Email:

info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk



Freephone information line:

0808 196 8717



Freepost*:

FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm *There is no need for a stamp.



Visit our website:

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Our communications lines will remain active for the duration of our consultation on Mallard Pass Solar Farm.