



Welcome to our consultation event

Thank you for attending the public exhibition on our proposals for High Grove Solar Farm (High Grove) in the Breckland District.

High Grove is a solar and battery storage project that would play a key role in advancing the UK's energy ambitions, improving energy security, while supporting the transition away from fossil fuels.

Following our early (non-statutory) consultation held in Autumn 2024, this is our statutory consultation, presenting our refined proposals. This consultation runs from **Thursday 24 April to Thursday 12 June 2025.**

We encourage all participants to complete either a physical or online feedback form to share their thoughts during this consultation period. Please scan this QR code to view our online feedback form.



Who is RWE?

The proposals for High Grove are being brought forward by RWE, a leading provider of renewable energy.

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



You said



We listened

Concerns around the loss of agricultural land and its impact on food security



Agricultural land classification data is informing the layout of project components

Visual and landscape concerns related to the project's scale and design



Adjusting landscaping and screening to minimise visual impact

The need to protect biodiversity and prioritise environmental enhancements



Expanding environmental measures such as wildflower meadows and habitat creation

Traffic and construction disruption in local communities



Further evaluating access points and potential construction traffic routing to and from the site, identifying potential mitigation requirements to minimise disruption





Why do we need High Grove Solar?

The UK's target of reaching **net zero carbon by 2050** highlights the urgent need for low-carbon energy. As one of the cheapest and most rapidly deployable forms of renewable energy, solar will play an important role in achieving this commitment.

Post-election, the UK Government has reaffirmed its **commitment to renewable energy** with major investments in solar power infrastructure and policies to **accelerate solar technology deployment**.

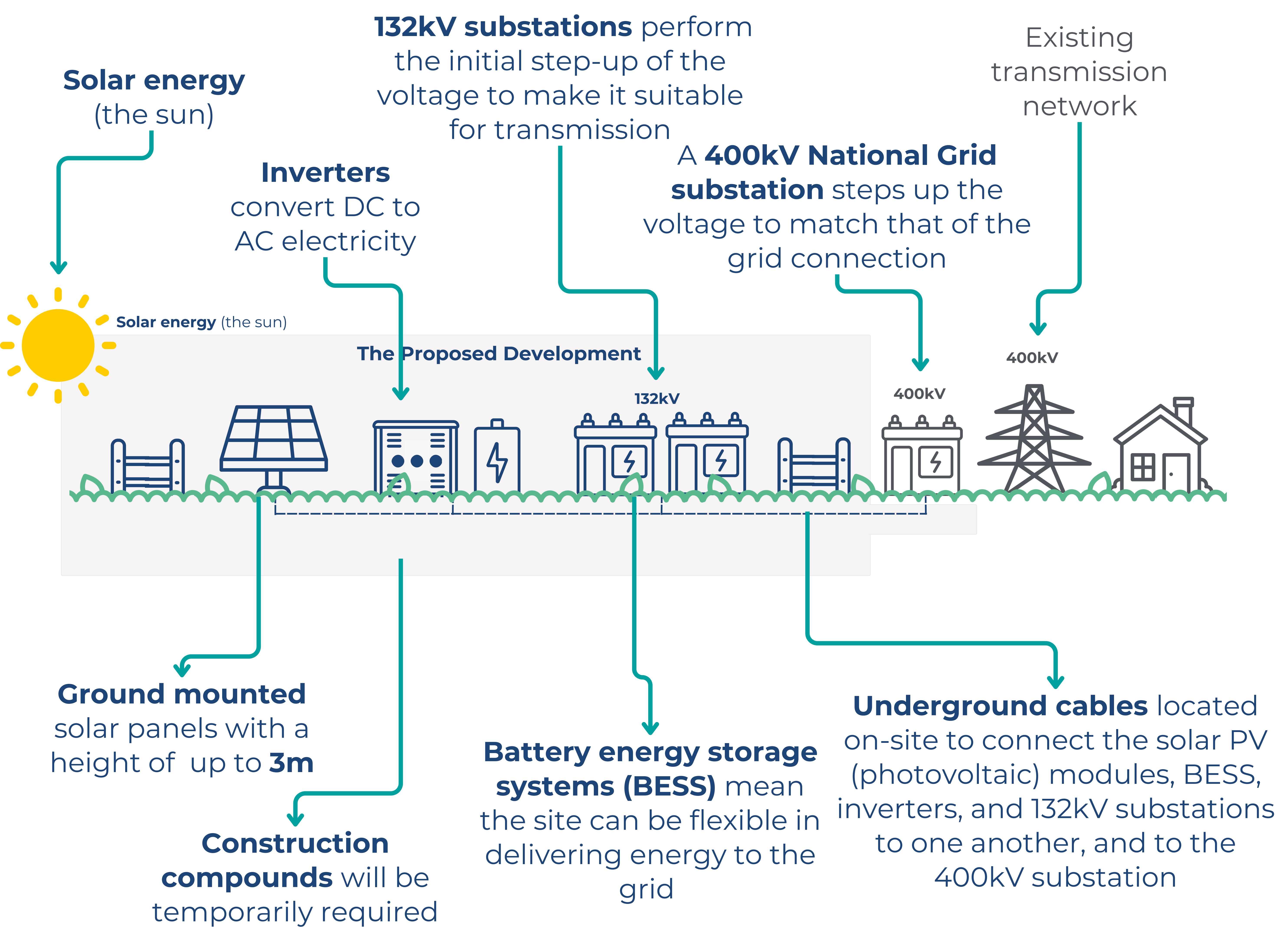
This decade is critical for addressing the climate crisis, requiring a swift transition to renewables like wind and solar to **reduce reliance on fossil fuels** and **support energy security**.

High Grove has a proposed capacity of up to **720 megawatts** (MW), enough to power **363,000 typical UK households** and resulting in an estimated yearly saving of approximately **24.8M tonnes of CO₂**.



What do solar farms look like?

High Grove would include the below key components, along with a range of environmental mitigation and enhancements, as well as new community assets such as permissive paths.



Connecting to the grid

High Grove has a grid connection agreement with National Grid to export up to **720MW of electricity** through a new substation near the existing overhead transmission line at the site.

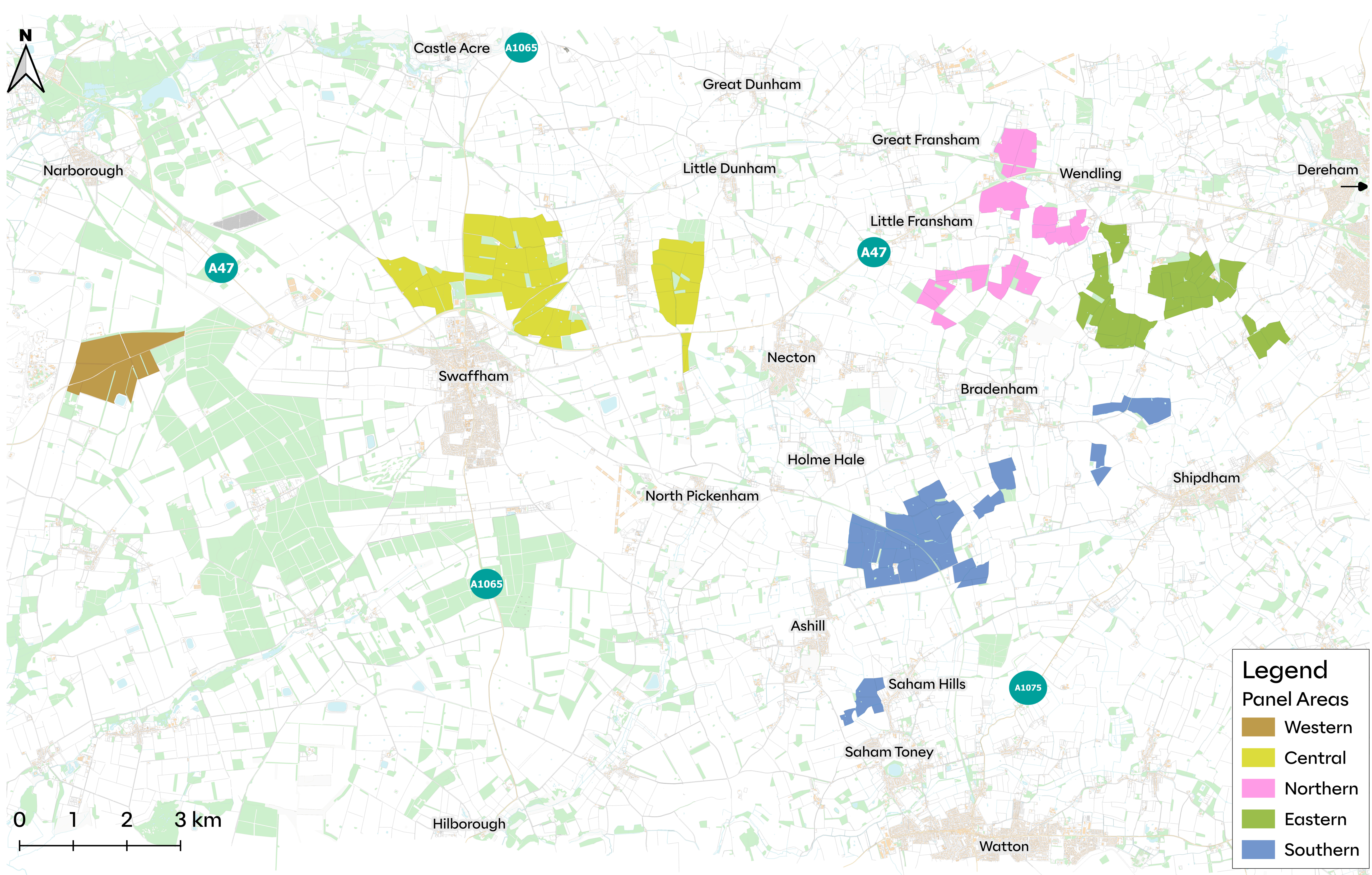
We are collaborating with National Grid to find the best **400kV** substation location. National Grid will bring forward this substation at a later date.

Our proposals

The proposals for High Grove are situated entirely within the Breckland District authority area in Norfolk. The development is distributed across five distinct Proposed Panel Areas.

Geographically, the site is located about 1.5km southwest of Dereham, extending to the west of Swaffham.

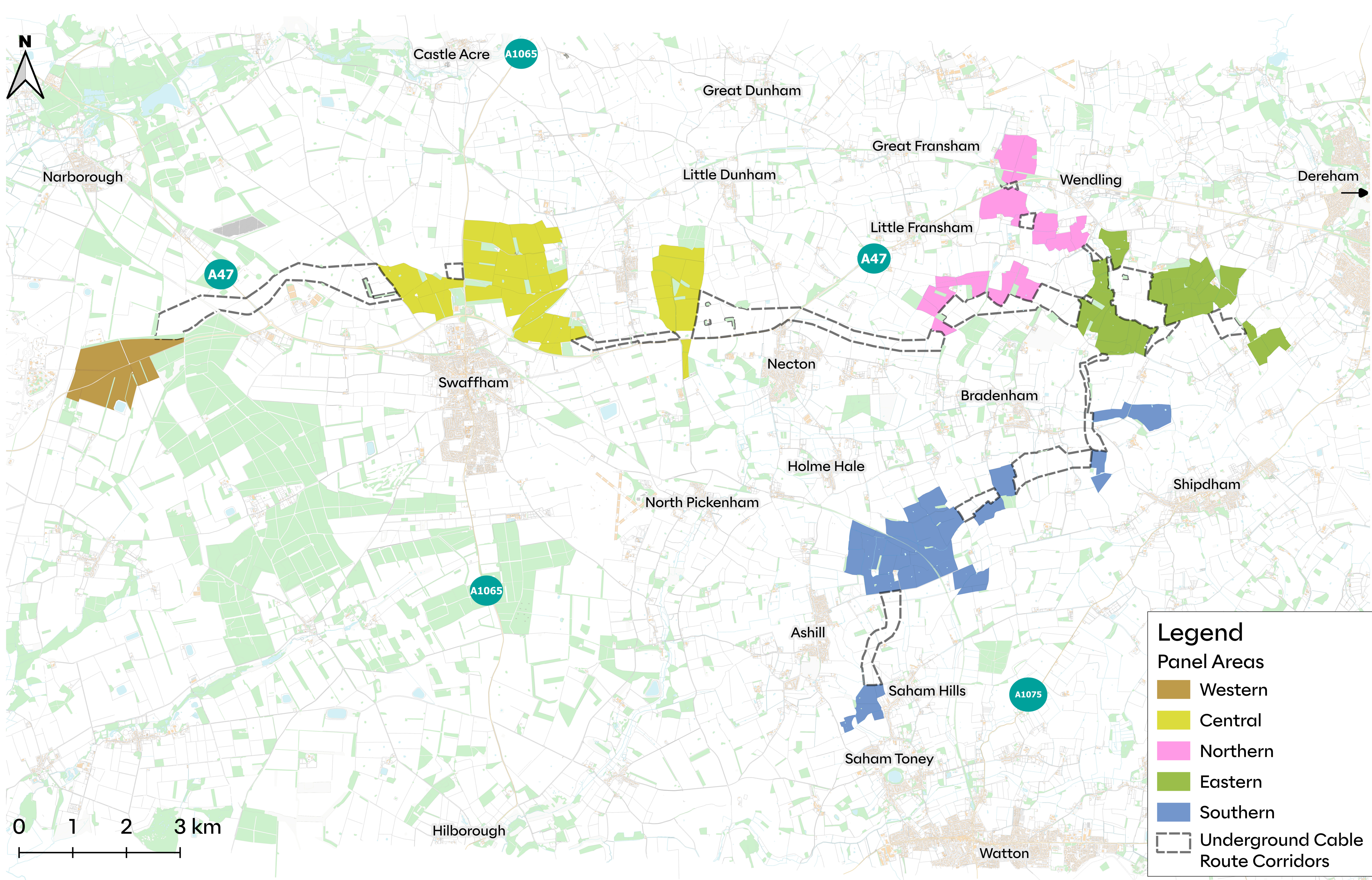
The full extent of the site is shown below, demonstrating how the site has been split across the five Proposed Panel Areas: Western, Central, Northern, Eastern, and Southern.



Underground Cable Route Corridors

The project will be connected through a series of underground cables and will also be linked to a new 400kV National Grid substation once the best location for this has been determined by National Grid.

Since our non-statutory consultation, we have refined and narrowed our potential underground cable route corridors. Consultation feedback, further design and consideration of environmental constraints has helped us in arriving at the preferred cable corridors now being presented at this statutory consultation. Many of these corridors are likely to be narrowed further prior to the submission of the DCO application based on ongoing assessment work, responses to this consultation, and ongoing engagement.





Community benefit fund

Beyond the direct benefits of High Grove, RWE plans to contribute to the local community with a Community Benefit Fund, supporting various community projects over the solar farm's lifetime.



Typically, RWE community funds are managed by an independent third party, who assist applicants and involve a local panel in fund allocations. We propose to provide up to **£11.5 million** over 40 years in annual payments.

RWE has a history of involving the community in shaping our funds. We welcome feedback and ideas for how this funding could benefit your local area.

Environmental Impact Assessment

We are carrying out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to assess the likely significant effects (both positive and negative) the project could have on the environment.

- A Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) outlines our initial assessments of High Grove's potential impacts during construction, operation and decommissioning. The final assessment will be presented in an Environmental Statement provided as part of the DCO application.
- Early environmental assessments have shaped plans for High Grove's design, construction, and operation.
- Feedback from this consultation, along with ongoing assessments and surveys, will further refine our proposals.



Why has this location been chosen?

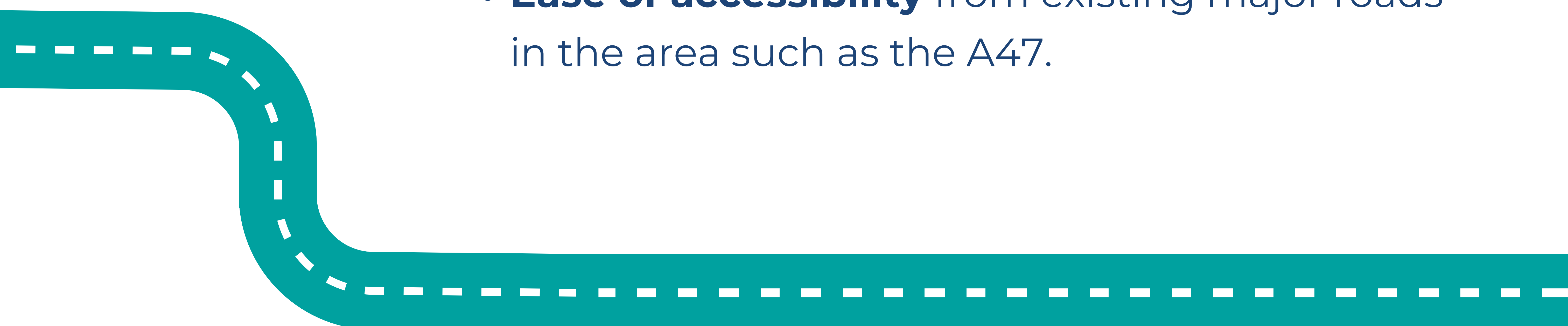
Norfolk has **good levels of sunshine**, along with days that are cool and clear, maximising the efficiency of solar modules.



Our site selection process has been extensive, guided by the need to identify suitable land within **reasonable proximity of grid connection infrastructure** with capacity to accommodate the electricity generated. In selecting this site, we carefully considered the following:



- There are **no suitable alternative sites on brownfield land**.
- The site is **generally flat and low-lying** with areas which are screened by **existing hedgerows**.
- The site is **not located within places identified by the Government as having special landscape and ecological value**.
- There are only a **small number of individual properties and settlements within 1km**.
- **Agricultural land classification** with desktop data indicating most of the site comprises good to moderate quality land.
- **Ease of accessibility** from existing major roads in the area such as the A47.





The Development Consent Order process

High Grove is classed as a **Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project**, requiring consent via a Development Consent Order (DCO) under the Planning Act 2008.

DCO applications undergo **impartial public examination** by an appointed Examining Authority. The Examining Authority advises the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, who ultimately decides whether to grant the DCO.

Our planned timeline

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- A vertical timeline graphic on the left side of the content area. It consists of a teal line with circular markers at each step. The line starts at the top, goes down, and then curves to the right at the bottom. A dashed yellow box highlights the 'Spring 2025' step.
- **September 2024**
EIA scoping report submission
 - **Sept-Oct 2024**
Non-statutory consultation
 - **Late 2024**
Review all non-statutory consultation feedback and refine the design
 - **Spring 2025**
Statutory consultation
 - **Mid 2025**
Review all statutory consultation feedback and refine the design
 - **Winter 2025**
Submission of DCO application
 - **2026**
Examination of DCO application by the Examining Authority
 - **2027**
Recommendation from the Examining Authority
 - **2027**
Decision by the Secretary of State following the Examining Authority's recommendation
 - **2028**
Commence construction



Your views

Gathering feedback is essential to the DCO process and we want to hear your thoughts.

Your written views will be analysed and considered as the project is developed in advance of submitting the DCO application. You can share your views in a number of different ways.

Please fill out one of the feedback forms available at this event, and either hand it in or post it to us using the Freepost address below.

Alternatively, you can complete the form online at our website below. If you need to give your feedback in another way, or have accessibility requirements, please do let us know.

The deadline for responding to this consultation is **11.59pm on Thursday 12 June 2025**.



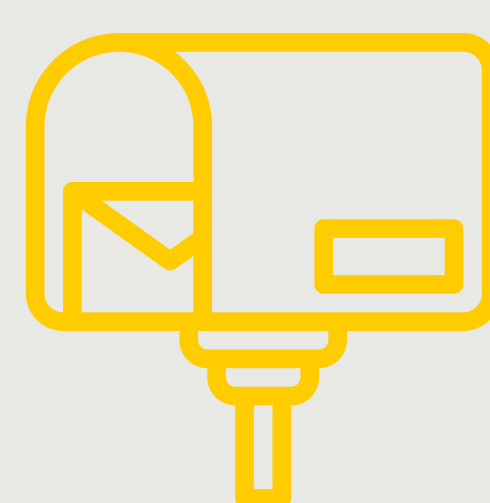
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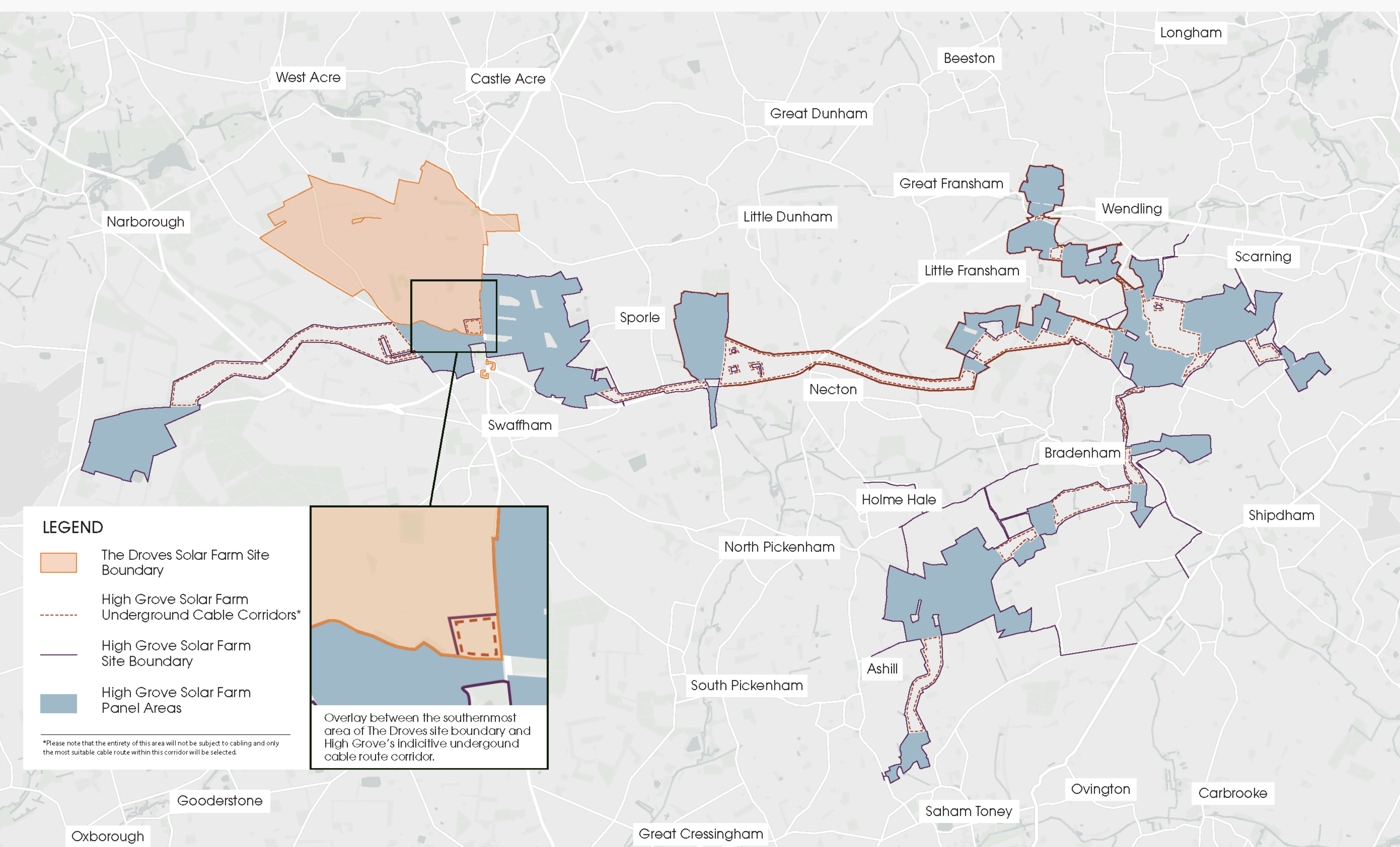


FREEPOST HIGH GROVE SOLAR





High Grove Solar Farm & The Drovers Solar Farm



High Grove Solar Farm and **The Drovers Solar Farm** are two separate projects, being developed by **RWE** and **Island Green Power (IGP)** respectively. At present, there is a small section of overlap between the southernmost area of The Drovers Site Boundary and High Grove's indicative underground cable route corridor. The above map illustrates the extent of this overlap.

We encourage anyone with an interest in either proposal to participate in both consultations and provide separate feedback for each project, noting that the consultation period for The Drovers begins on Wednesday 21 May.

We are in regular contact with IGP and are working together to **assess the cumulative effects** of the two projects. This includes exploring opportunities to deliver **community benefits in partnership**. By working collaboratively, we can broaden the scope of these initiatives and maximise their positive impact on local communities and the surrounding area.

High Grove Solar Farm

Statutory consultation period runs from Thursday 24 April to Thursday 12 June 2025.

01362 350 063

info@highgrovesolar.co.uk

Scan below to access the High Grove project website:



The Drovers Solar Farm

Statutory consultation period will run from Wednesday 21 May to Wednesday 9 July 2025.

0800 0129 154

info@drovessolarfarm.co.uk

Scan below to access The Drovers project website:

