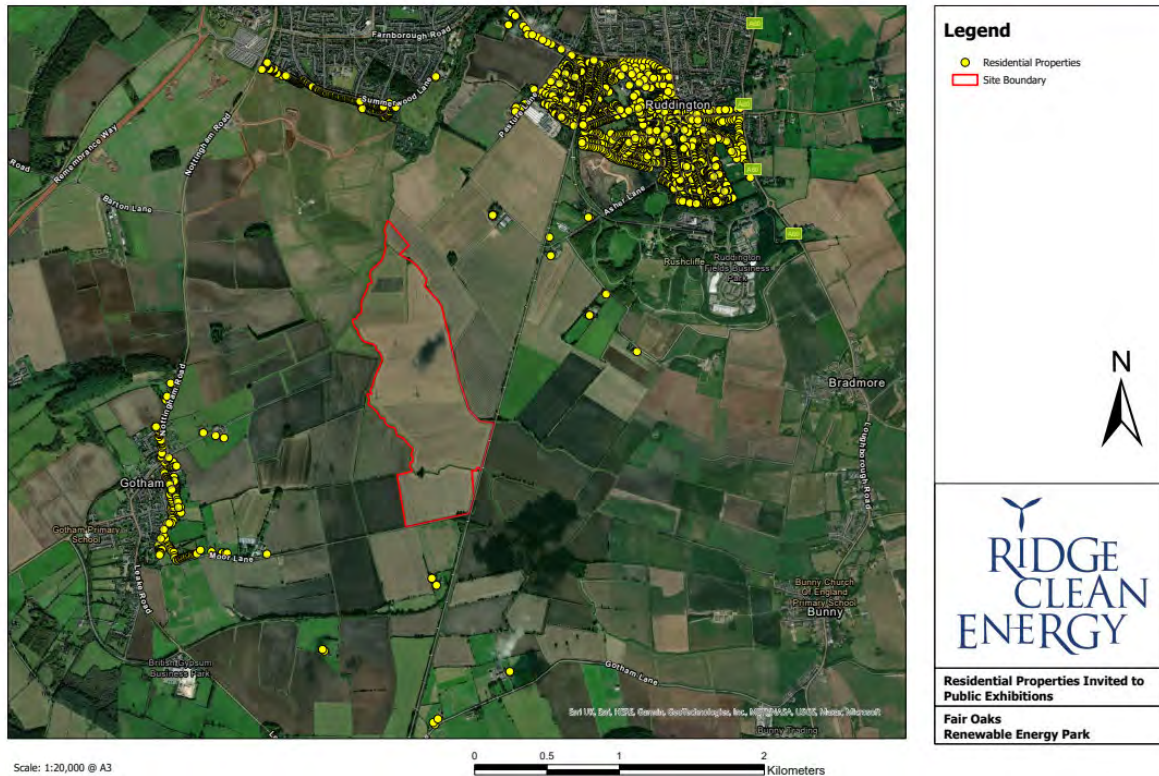


1 Community and Stakeholder Mapping

- 1.1.1 This section details the key local stakeholders on which the Applicant focused during the pre-application public consultation process. Prior to the start of the consultation, the Applicant undertook 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.
- 1.1.2 The stakeholder groups identified included:
- The local population to which invitations to the Proposed Development's public exhibitions would be posted; and
 - Local political representatives.
- 1.1.3 **Figure 1** below shows the boundary identified for issuing public invitations to the public exhibitions. A distance from the Indicative Application Boundary was not utilised as, owing to the scheme dimensions, inviting affected residents in Ruddington Village would result in invitations being sent to many unaffected properties to the north within Clifton.
- 1.1.4 Accordingly, the following were identified for inclusion within the public exhibition notification list:
- Properties in the southern and western extents of Ruddington Village;
 - Properties along the eastern extent of the village of Gotham;
 - Properties along the southern extent of Clifton (with a view across the proposed development site); and
 - Other individual properties within close proximity to the Indicative Application Boundary.
- 1.1.5 This equated to a total of 2207 residential properties.

Figure 1 – residential properties



1.1.6 Local political representatives included the following:

- Ruddington Parish Council;
- Gotham Parish Council;
- Barton in Fabis Parish Council; and
- Ruth Edwards – Conservative MP for Rushcliffe.

2 Overview of Consultation Undertaken

Liaison with Parish Councils

- 2.1.1 The pre-application consultation began on 11th October 2022, with an introductory letter issued to the Clerk of Ruddington Parish Council, as well as Gotham Parish Council and Barton in Fabis.
- 2.1.2 On 30th November 2021, Ruddington Parish Council offered the Applicant an informal parish council meeting as an opportunity to introduce the Proposed Development to Parish Council Members. 11 Parish Council members attended. At the meeting four members of the Applicant team attended to present, who also took two large exhibition boards for general information. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session with the Applicant team.
- 2.1.3 Follow up letters were issued in early December 2021 to Gotham Parish Council, Barton in Fabis Parish Council and East Clifton Ward, no response was received.

- 2.1.4 On the 14th December 2021, the Applicant issued a list of questions and answers from the November meeting to Ruddington Parish Council members.
- 2.1.5 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.

Liaison with Ruth Edwards – MP

- 2.1.6 On the 12th October 2021, an introductory letter was issued to Ruth Edwards MP introducing the Proposed Development, the Applicant and offering the opportunity to meet and discuss the proposal. A meeting date was set for November 2022, however this was cancelled due to COVID-19.

Liaison with Ward Councillors

- 2.1.7 On Monday 26th September 2022 three Applicant members met with two of the ward councillors to update them on the progress of the project. No response was received from the third ward councillor who did not attend the meeting which was held at the local 'Heat n eat' scheme.

Ongoing liaison with Ruddington Community

- 2.1.8 During the positive meeting held with Ruddington Community in November, the Applicant learned of an ongoing project within the Parish to renovate a derelict youth centre. Given the Applicant's own experience of such a development elsewhere, continued liaison was held between the Parish and the Applicant to share knowledge.
- 2.1.9 On the 13th January 2022, a virtual meeting was held between members of the Applicant's community liaison team and Ruddington Community to share further information and experience regarding the development of community centres. This was done under no obligation of support for the Proposed Development.
- 2.1.10 On the 28th February 2022, a meeting was held in person in Ruddington with the volunteer Architectural Designer of the proposed community centre, this was arranged by Ruddington Community.
- 2.1.11 In Thursday 16th June 2022, the Applicant hosted a digital tour of the local community centre they were influential in developing, to share knowledge and advice with the interested members of Ruddington community.
- 2.1.12 On Monday June 27th the Applicant met with the volunteer architectural designer, members of the Ruddington Community to discuss phase 1 of the community project which involves a car park and EV charge points. The Applicant sent a helpful document on 21st July including case studies, weblinks and potentially how the applicant can be involved with EV charge points.

Local media

- 2.1.13 On the 19th January 2022, the Applicant issued a press release to Ruddington Info and Ruddington Parish Council, informing the public of the Applicant, that a solar and battery storage development was being proposed, and that further information would become available regarding dedicated public exhibitions for the proposal. The same press release was also sent to 'The Rudd' which was published on 14th February 2022. A copy of the press release is available within **Appendix 1**.

Invitation Mailing for Public Exhibition

- 2.1.14 In early March 2022, invitations to the Applicant's public exhibitions were issued to residential dwellings as identified above. The invitation contained details on the Applicant, Proposed Development, the dates and times for the two exhibitions and our intentions for engagement and working with the local community. A copy of the invitation can be found at **Appendix 2**.
- 2.1.15 Copies of the invitation were also sent to Ruddington Parish Council, Gotham Parish Council and Barton in Fabis Parish Council. They were also digitally sent to MP Ruth Edwards, the portfolio holder for Communities and Climate Change at Rushcliffe Borough Council and the ward councillors for Ruddington.

Project Website

- 2.1.16 At the same time as issuing the invitations to the public exhibitions, a dedicated project website was launched at www.ridgecleanenergy.com/fairoaks, containing information on the project, the Applicant and contact details for the Applicant's project team.

Public Exhibitions

- 2.1.17 The Applicant hosted two public exhibitions for the Proposed Development, on the 22nd and 25th March 2022 at St Peter's Rooms, Ruddington, between 13.30 – 20.00 and 11.00 and 18.00 respectively.
- 2.1.18 The objective of the Public Exhibitions were:
- Present details of the Proposed Development that were known at the time to the local community;
 - Learn from the local community and encourage feedback; and to seek to make enduring relationships with groups or individuals to enhance community life.
 - Engage with the community to identify uses for the proposed community benefit fund and to identify local community initiatives that the Applicant could assist with.
- 2.1.19 Large display boards were set up at the exhibitions providing information relating to:
- An overview of the Applicant;
 - Indicative scheme details, including key facts and indicative timeline;
 - An OS map showing distances from the Indicative Application Boundary;
 - Proposed Site Design;
 - Infrastructure;
 - Information about the proposed technology;
 - Acoustic, Heritage and Construction;
 - Site Design, Biodiversity and Land Use;
 - Proposed Environmental Benefits;
 - Visualisations;
 - Community Engagement; and
 - Policy and Targets.

- 2.1.20 A series of photos were taken from the events showing the information available, which can be found in **Appendix 3**. The boards themselves can be found in **Appendix 4** and available to view here – [“https://ridgecleanenergy.com/fairoaks-faq/”](https://ridgecleanenergy.com/fairoaks-faq/).
- 2.1.21 Following the event, the Applicant emailed those attendees who left contact details to thank them for attending the events and providing a link to the FAQ page on the dedicated project website.

Community conversations and outcomes from the Public Exhibition

- 2.1.22 Note, the following information is not linked to the delivery of the Proposed Development and the Applicant continues to work in parallel to support these community initiatives.
- 2.1.23 A Governor from St Peter’s School enquired about ground mounted solar panels at the school. The Applicant emailed asking of the position of the project and included helpful websites, however no further response was received by the Applicant.
- 2.1.24 A Scout Leader from 1st Ruddington Scouts enquired about solar mounted panels on their roof. The Applicant sent a follow up email asking of the position of the project however no further response was received by the Applicant.
- 2.1.25 A resident runs a small business helping mental health of all residents through Art. The Applicant sent a follow up email asking what sort of help was required however no further response was received by the Applicant.

Other consultation/liaison undertaken

- 2.1.26 Following comments received at the two public exhibitions, the Applicant engaged with and met with the East Midlands Railway Trust and the Great Central Railway (Nottingham), to introduce the Applicant, the Proposed Development and to discuss opportunities for continued involvement between the two parties. Liaison remains ongoing between the parties.
- 2.1.27 The Applicant has engaged in written dialogue with the Deputy Head of St Peter’s Junior School. The Big Book Appeal where the school hope to raise £5,000 for a new library for the school children. The applicant asked about any future projects however no further response was received by the Applicant. On the 26th September the two members from the Applicant team visited St Peters School to meet the lead on the after school Gardening Club or the Green Team and offer any necessary resources. No response was received after this visit.
- 2.1.28 The Applicant has engaged in written dialogue with a Coop Pioneer member who is involved in many aspects of community life in Ruddington. The Applicant has offered a small financial contribution to suggested local charities or groups who need assistance. Liaison remains ongoing between the parties.
- 2.1.29 On the 27th June the Applicant met with a new initiative called Heat n Eat funded for one year by Rushcliffe Borough Council and run by volunteers. It provides a two course hot meal in a warm environment to tackle isolation. My Journey is being used to transport residents to the village. Liaisons remain ongoing.
- 2.1.30 On 2nd August 2022 the Applicant emailed The Ruddington Gardeners Association to offer plaques or trophies for prizes at the Garden show. A response was received on 7th September and they preferred natural prizes for the children and to encourage entries from

the primary school. Liaison remains ongoing and the Applicant will renew prize offer for the Spring Show next year.

- 2.1.31 The Applicant has paid £500 to cover the cost of the children's activities for the Christmas Fayre on 3rd December. This is being run by Ruddington Village Community Partnership which combines businesses, parish council and volunteers.

3 Feedback and Applicant's Response

- 3.1.1 Over the two public exhibition events held in the Village of Ruddington, at least 112 people were in attendance. Ridge Clean Energy requested all attendees to complete a feedback form upon entering the venue. Respondents had an opportunity to complete the form during the event or after the event through paid-postage envelopes. 50 feedback forms were collected following the public exhibitions. In response to the question, 'Do you support renewable energy?', 45 out of 50 respondents, or 90 percent, indicated support answering 'Yes'. Responses are provided in **Appendix 5**.

Appendix 1 – Press Release

Proposed 'Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park'

Ridge Clean Energy is a UK-based clean energy company. We have been developing, constructing and operating clean energy projects in Great Britain since 2003. These successful projects are producing essential clean energy for UK consumers today.

We are at the early stages of developing the Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park to the south west of Ruddington Village, which would include solar and battery storage.

We will be holding a public exhibition soon (dates to be confirmed), and will be keeping you informed through The Rudd and Ruddington.Info. We're also preparing a dedicated website. We're keen to work with your community on sustainable projects and initiatives, so keep watching for further details.

Company Website: <https://ridgecleanenergy.com>



Appendix 2 - Exhibition Invite

Community Support

As an industry-leading developer, we engage with local communities and councils at an early stage. Specifically, we are keen to identify local initiatives for which our expertise and seed capital may be useful. We want to support existing community projects and help new local ideas become a reality, whilst supporting the community's path to Net Zero.

We want to learn more about the surrounding area, to better understand how our work can support you in Ruddington village and enhance your local community. We look forward to meeting you at our public exhibition and hearing your views.



Image Credit: RUDDINGTON.Info

You are invited to our Public Exhibition

Ridge Clean Energy invite you to our Public Exhibition to learn more about the proposed **Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park**. Join us to review our ideas for a solar array and battery storage on land to the south-west of Ruddington Village.

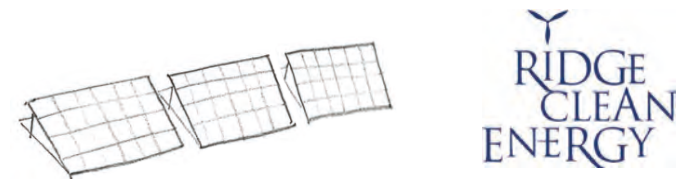
The first exhibition will be held on Tuesday, 22nd March, 1.30pm until 8pm:

- St Peter's Rooms Ruddington NG11 6HA

The second exhibition will be held on Friday, 25th March, 11am until 6pm:

- St Peter's Rooms Ruddington NG11 6HA

The Wednesday Morning Coffee Club will provide refreshments.



Key Facts

- The scheme would generate as much electricity as is used by approximately **11,200 homes** annually.
- Solar capacity of up to **49.9 MW**.
- Battery storage capacity of up to **49.9 MW**.
- **35 year** operational period.
- Approximately **6-9 month** construction period.
- Fully decommissioned after operational period.
- Renewable electricity generation from the proposed development would support the UK's legally binding net zero commitment, as well as the climate emergency declared by Rushcliffe Borough Council and Nottinghamshire County Council.
- Result in a net gain for biodiversity, through new ecological and enhanced planting measures including beehives.



Learn more about the project:
<https://ridgecleanenergy.com/fairoaks>

Contact us:
fairoaks@theridgegroup.com
01608 819253



About Ridge Clean Energy

Working in partnership with land owners and local communities, **Ridge Clean Energy's (RCE)** team identifies and develops new projects to supply clean energy to homes, businesses, and other power consumers. The RCE team have a wealth of experience with community engagement support and have created a range of local initiatives in small towns and villages that focus on improving community value.

About the Project

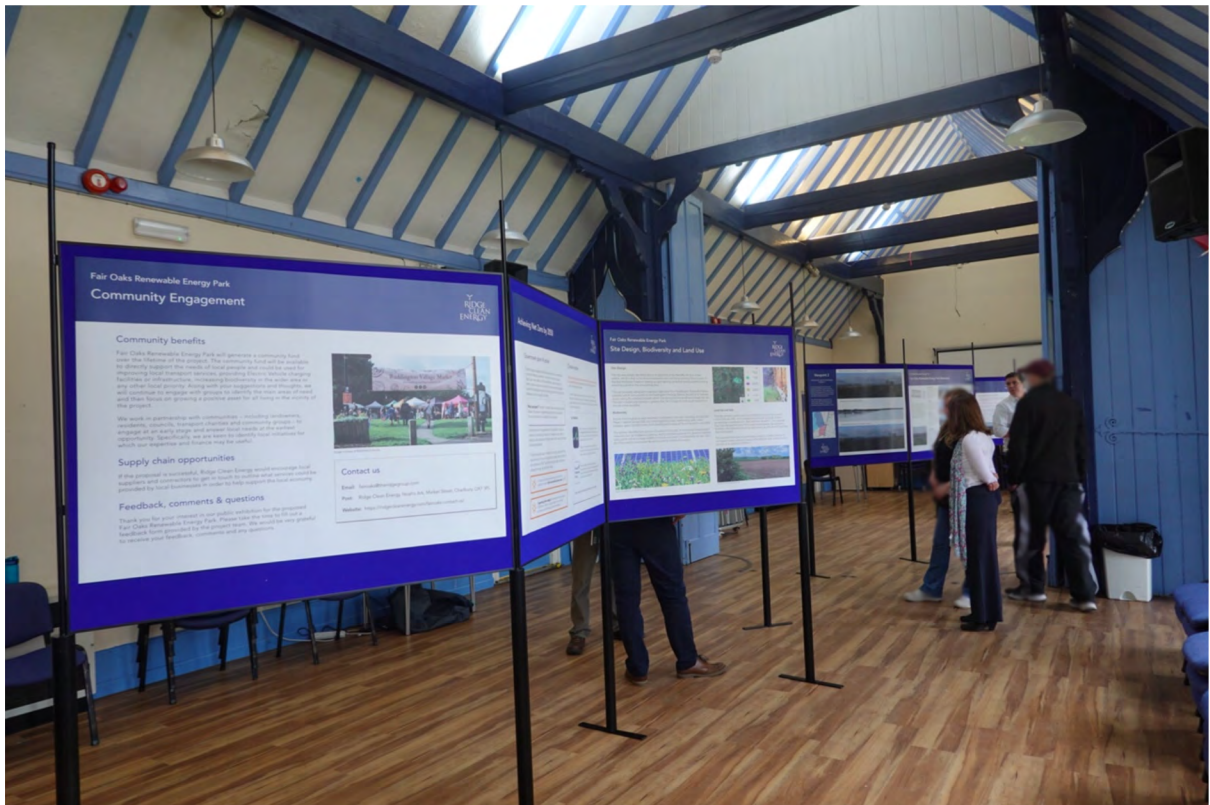
RCE is proposing the **Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park** on farmland to the south of Clifton and south-west of Ruddington village. The project would include an array of ground-mounted solar and ancillary infrastructure. In addition, a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) would be included within the project.



Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park Site Map

The project could deliver up to 49.9 MW of renewable electricity, which would generate as much electricity each year as is used by approximately 11,200 homes (based on average domestic consumption per household of 3,900kWh – DBIS, 2020). The environmental survey work has commenced and will be ongoing through the first part of this year.

Appendix 3 - Exhibition Photos





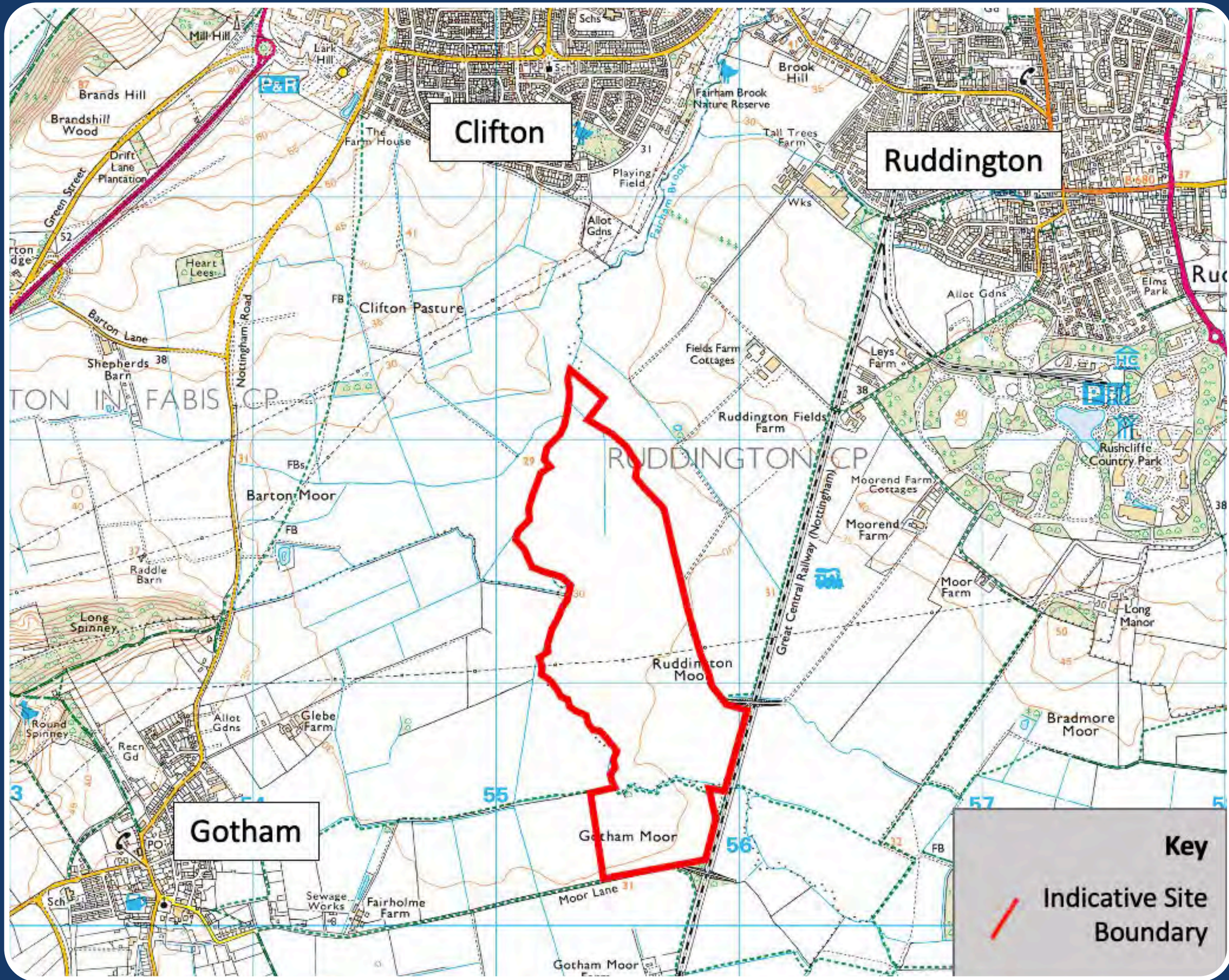


Appendix 4 – Exhibition Posters

Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park

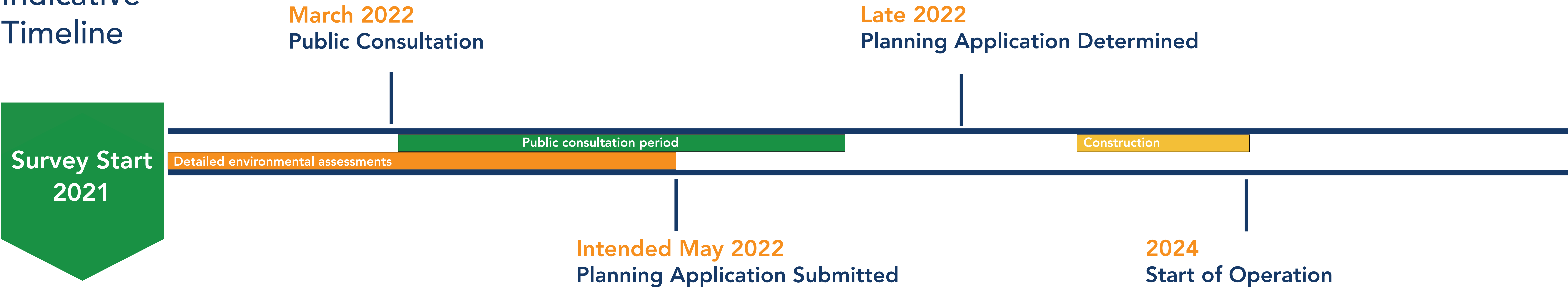
Key Facts

- The scheme would generate as much electricity as is used by approximately **11,200 homes** annually.
- Site area of approximately **99 ha/245 acres** (consisting of solar PV, batteries, access tracks and associated infrastructure).
- Solar capacity of up to **49.9 MW**.
- Battery storage capacity of up to **49.9 MW**.
- 35-40 year operational period.
- Approximately **6-9 month** construction period.
- Fully decommissioned after operational period.
- We will contribute an **annual benefits package** for the duration of the project, including our net zero app and climate preparation survey.
- Renewable electricity generation from the proposed development would support the UK's legally binding net zero commitment and contribute to the UK's **domestic energy supply**.

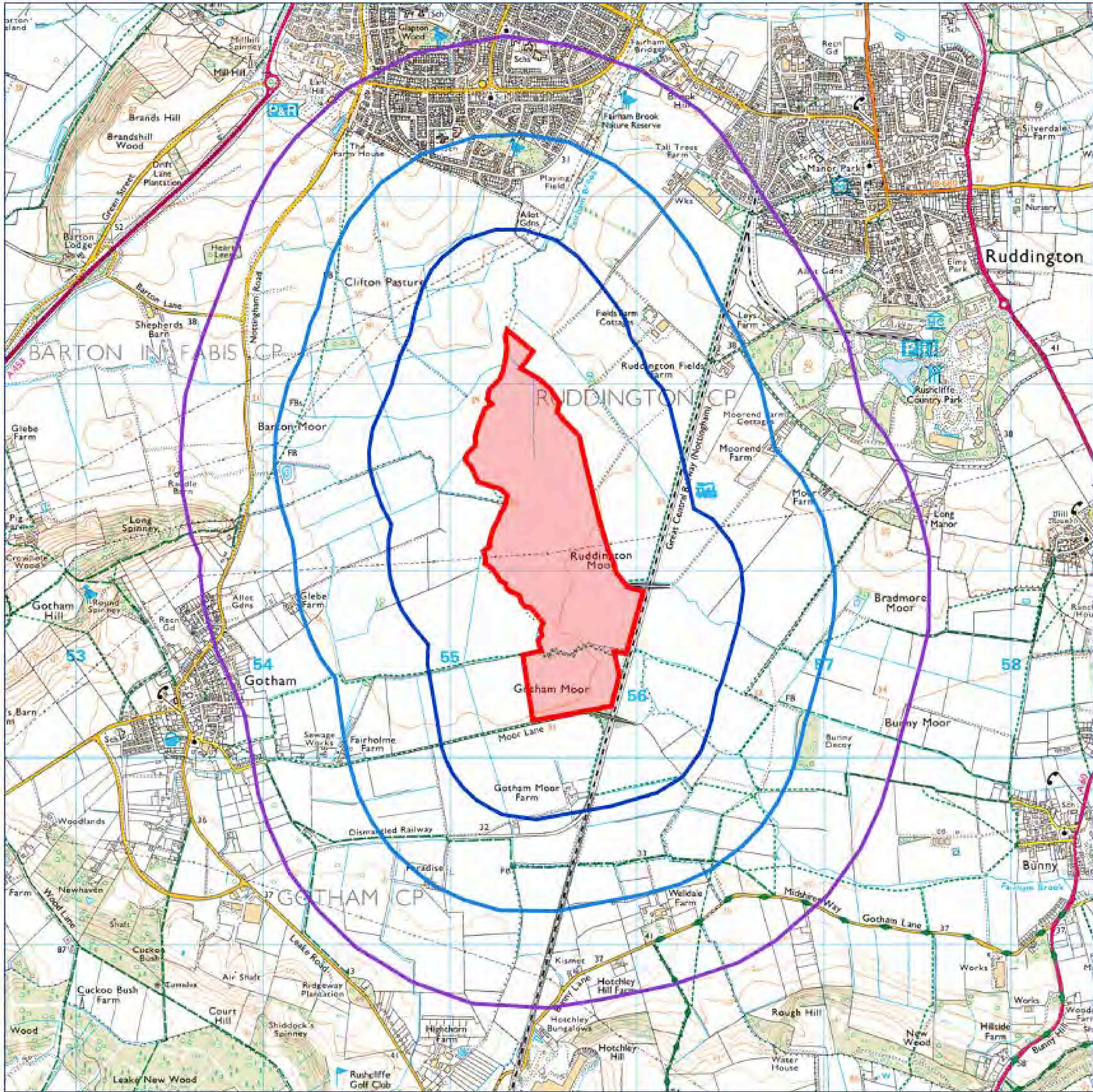


Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park Site Location

Indicative Timeline



How far do you live from Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park?



Legend

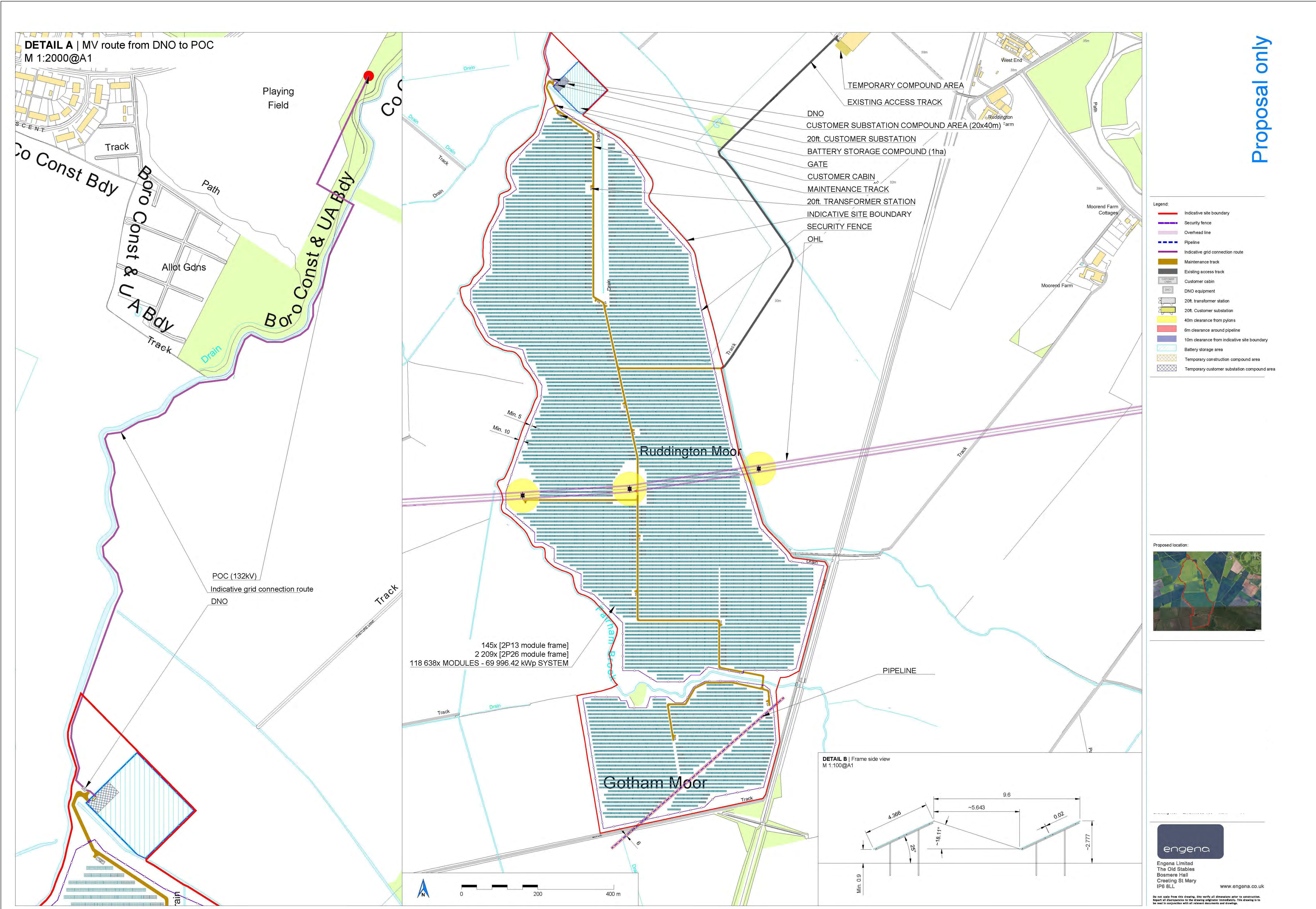
- Indicative site boundary
- 500m from the indicative site boundary
- 1km from the indicative site boundary
- 1.5km from the indicative site boundary

Distance from indicative site boundary

Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park

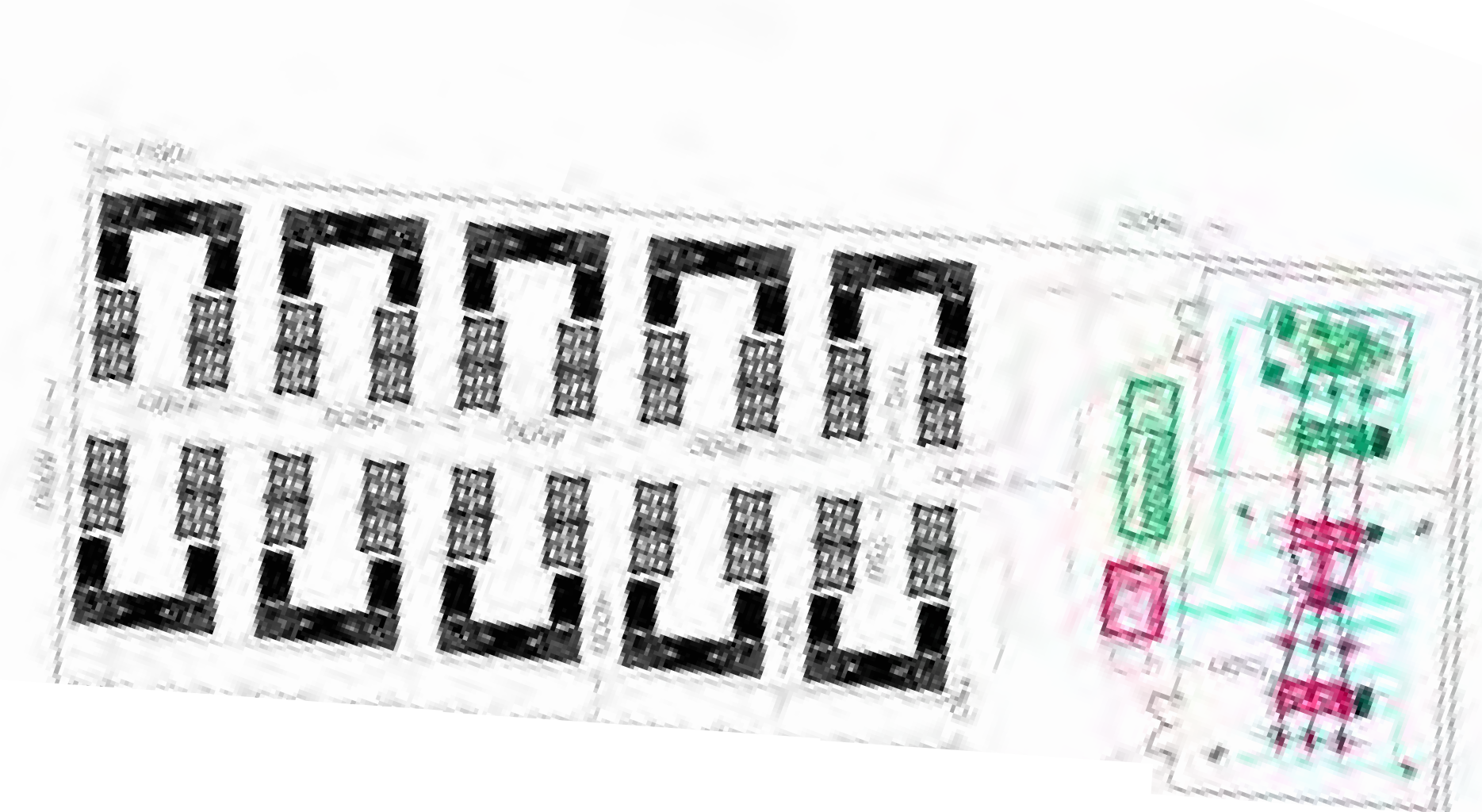
Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park

Proposed Site Design



Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park

Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park Infrastructure



The battery energy storage system (BESS), transformer and substation are located in the north of the site, where the renewable energy park would then connect to the local distribution network via new underground cables. The compound would be surrounded by a climb proof fence and house infrared cameras for security.



General representation of battery storage and solar panels

1. Access Track

New, upgraded or widened access track (grassed over in time) would be 4 metres wide and laid over a stone sub-surface constructed upon a geotextile membrane.



2. Frame

Frames to support the solar panels would be push driven into the ground or supported on concrete plinths if sensitive areas are identified.



3. Inverters

Inverters can be situated beneath the solar panels. These are used to convert the direct current (DC) generated by the solar PV to alternating current (AC) for distribution to the grid.



4. Transformer

Underground cables connect to a transformer that steps up the voltage to 33kV. From here, underground cables take the electricity to the substation compound where a transformer steps up the voltage to 132kV, the connection voltage on the distribution network.



5. Solar Power Station

The inverter and transformer can be housed in solar power stations that would be distributed at regular intervals amongst the solar panels. Each solar power station would be no more than 3 metres in height.



6. Batteries

The batteries can store electricity generated from the solar farm or the grid when there is excess generation, for use when the electricity is required.



7. Security Fencing

Security fencing (such as Deer Fencing) would surround the site. Small gaps at the base can allow small animals to cross the site.



Solar Photovoltaics and Battery Storage

How does solar energy work?

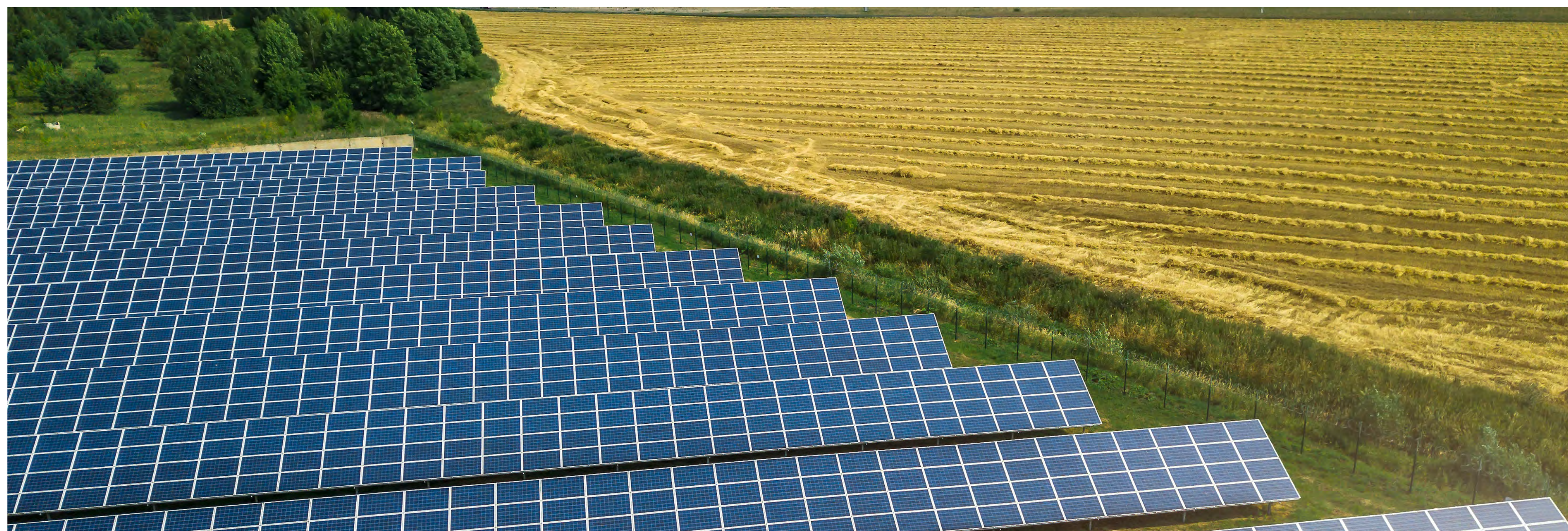
A solar PV panel consists of many cells made from layers of semi-conducting material, most commonly silicon. When light shines on this material, a flow of electricity is created.

The cells don't need direct sunlight to work and can even work on cloudy days. However, the stronger the sunshine, the more electricity generated.

Solar PV systems are made up of several panels, with each panel generating around 200-350W of energy in strong sunlight. (courtesy of Energy Saving Trust)

What are the benefits of solar panels?

- Generation of electricity without emissions of carbon dioxide, thereby supporting the path to Net Zero.
- Over a Solar PV system's lifetime, the ground becomes fallow land. This fallow land has the effect of becoming a soil improver and capturing carbon rather than releasing it into the atmosphere.
- With good environmental management measures in place, the renewable energy park would have a positive impact on local biodiversity, increasing the diversity and abundance of grasses, wildflowers, butterflies, bumblebees and birds.



Rows of solar panels

How does battery storage work?

A battery is a device which stores electricity as chemical energy and then converts it into electrical energy. Many modern solar projects are balanced with battery energy storage systems (BESS for short).

What are the benefits of battery storage?

The BESS can provide a number of services that are useful for the grid distribution and transmission system:

- Batteries can be charged during low demand periods, and then discharged into the system during peak time when demand is high. As more battery storage enters the market, this should result in reduced costs of electricity.
- Energy from the solar panels could also charge up the batteries to help balance the flow of energy.
- Provision of enhanced frequency response to maintain grid frequency.
- Fast acting reserve to quickly inject power into the system.
- Provision of voltage service to keep voltage within limits.



Representation of battery storage and solar panels

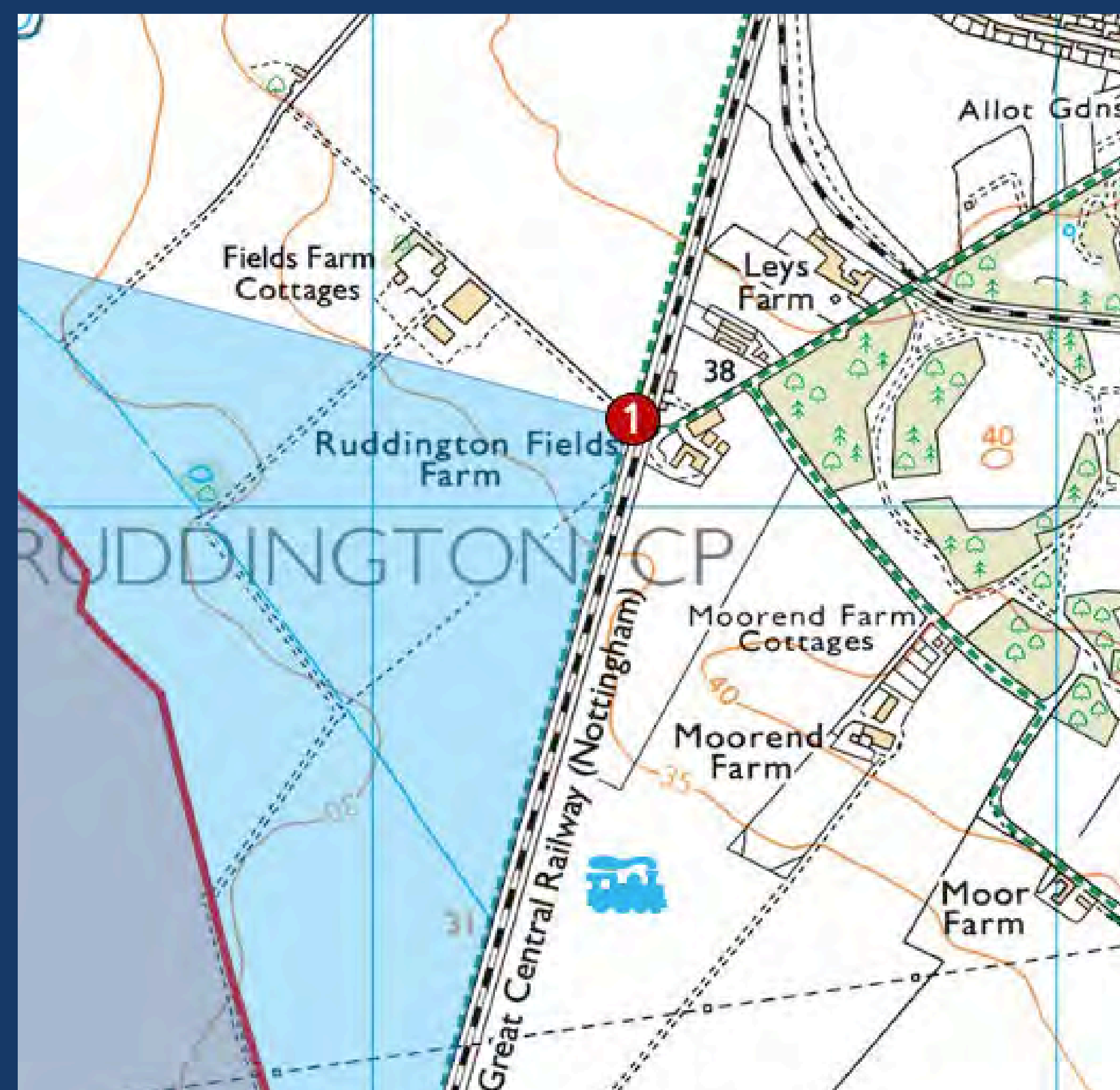
The battery storage system would be monitored 24/7, therefore allowing preventative maintenance to be carried out. In the unlikely event of a fire, the fire suppression system within the container housing would be activated to extinguish the fire.

Viewpoint 1

Looking south west by the heritage railway.

The photomontage has been created using Lidar 2m data to superimpose the proposed solar farm on the existing view to illustrate the appearance from this location. The viewpoint locations have been agreed with the Local Planning Authority.

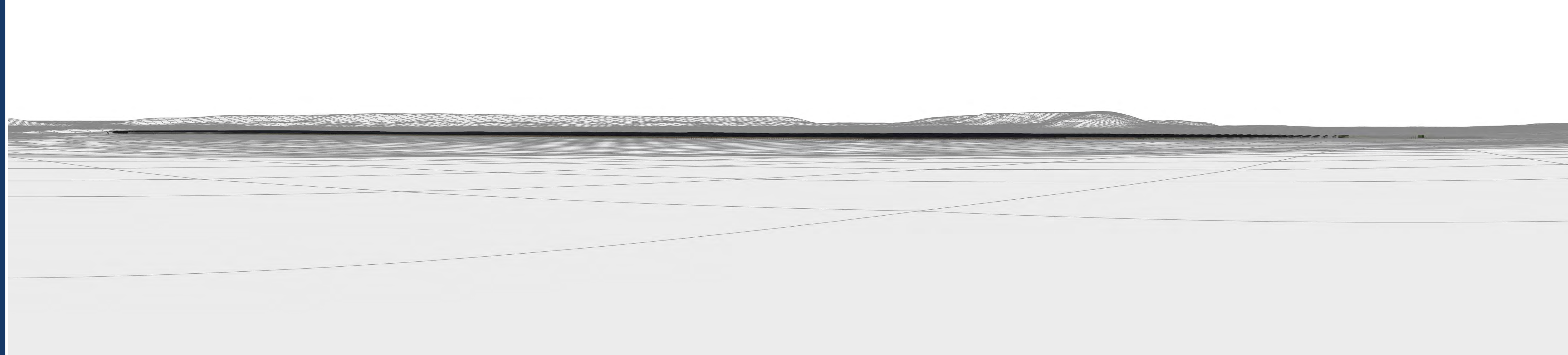
The photomontages, alongside onsite analysis, are used in the landscape and visual impact assessment to assess the potential impacts of the proposal to views.



Existing view looking south west by the heritage railway



3D Model of Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park



Predicted view looking south west by the heritage railway

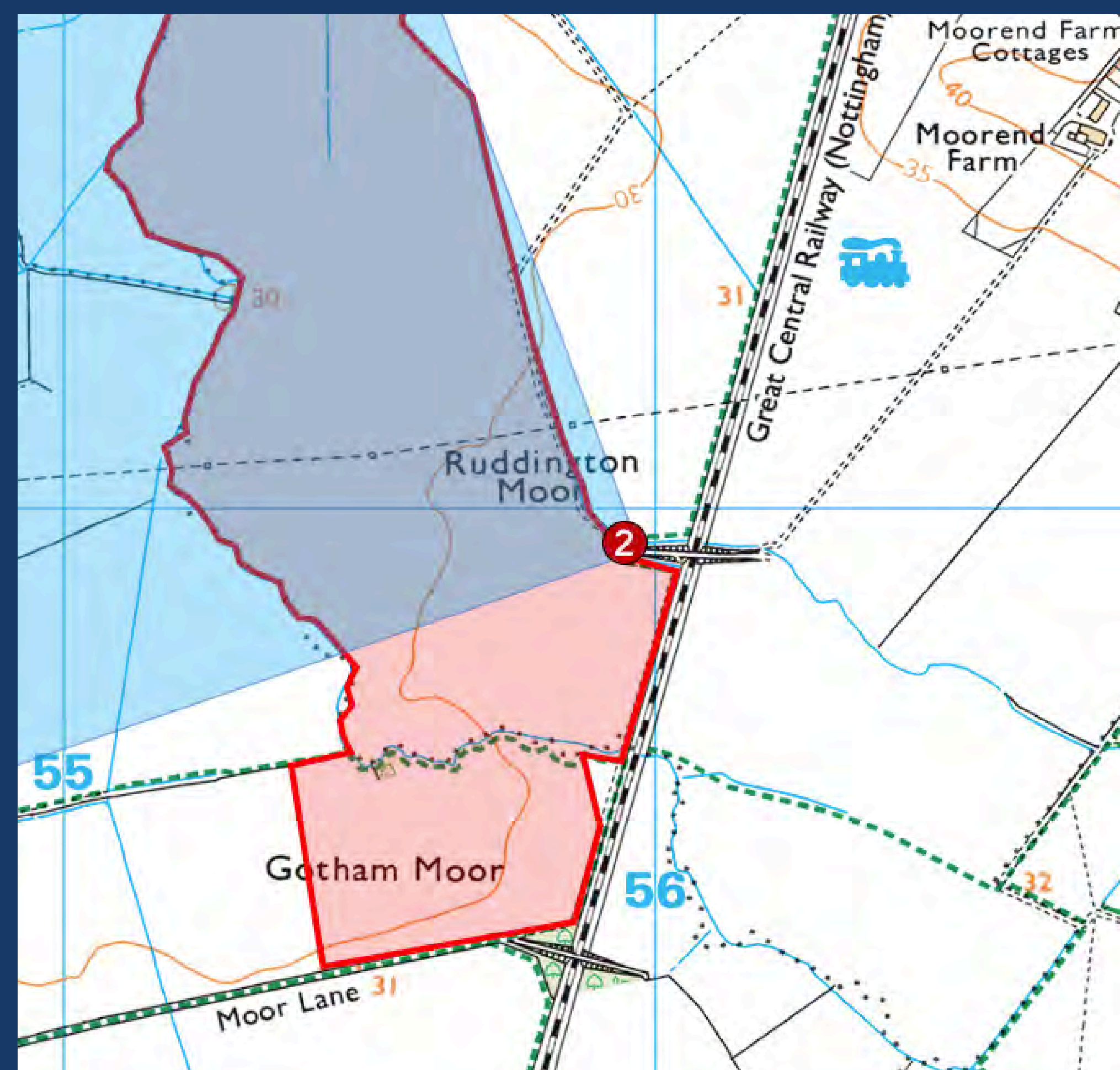


Viewpoint 2

Looking north west from Ruddington Footpath 6.

The photomontage has been created using Lidar 2m data to superimpose the proposed solar farm on the existing view to illustrate the appearance from this location. The viewpoint locations have been agreed with the Local Planning Authority.

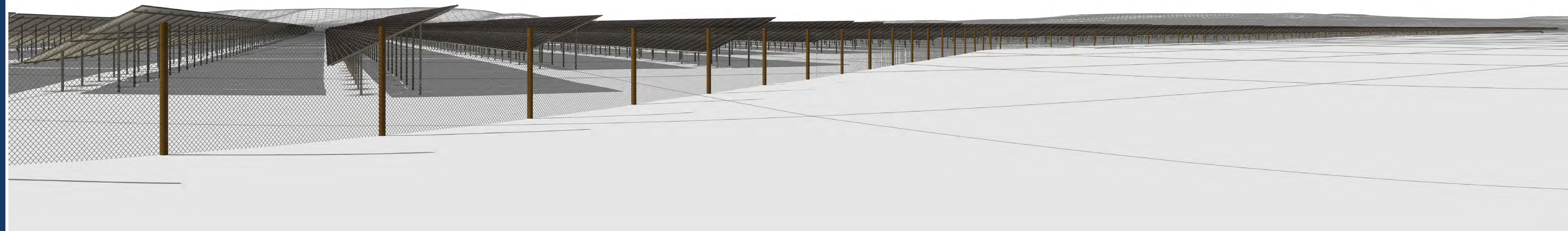
The photomontages, alongside onsite analysis, are used in the landscape and visual impact assessment to assess the potential impacts of the proposal to views.



Existing view looking north west from Ruddington Footpath 6



3D Model of Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park



Predicted view looking north west from Ruddington Footpath 6

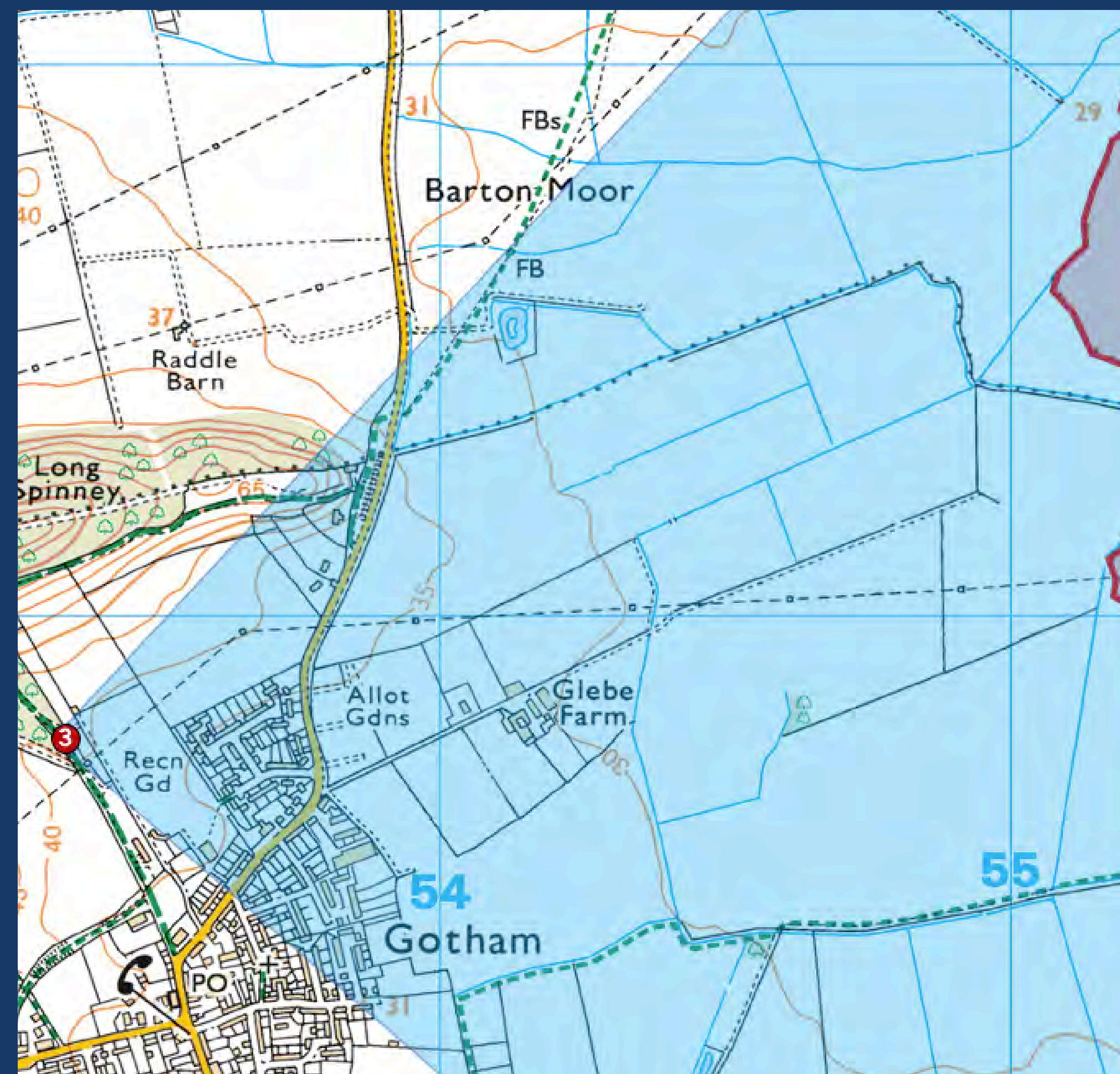


Viewpoint 3

Looking east from Gotham Heritage Trail.

The photomontage has been created using Lidar 2m data to superimpose the proposed solar farm on the existing view to illustrate the appearance from this location. The viewpoint locations have been agreed with the Local Planning Authority.

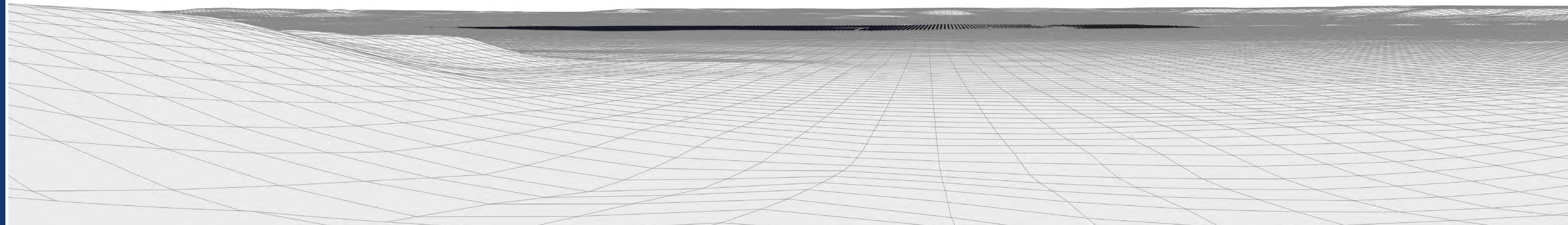
The photomontages, alongside onsite analysis, are used in the landscape and visual impact assessment to assess the potential impacts of the proposal to views.



Existing view looking east from Gotham Heritage Trail



3D Model of Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park



Predicted view looking east from Gotham Heritage Trail



Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park

Site Design, Biodiversity and Land Use



Site Design

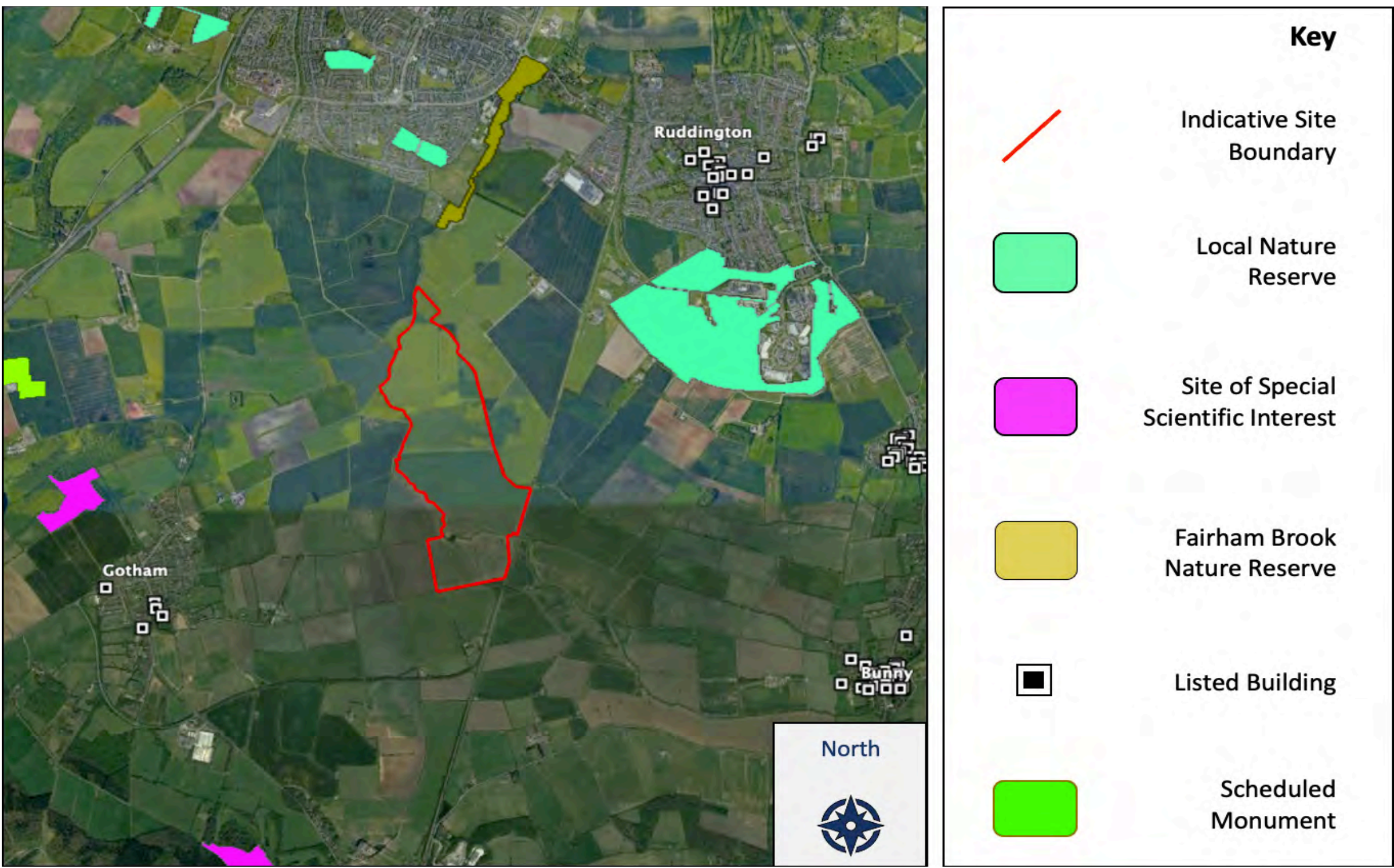
The site was initially identified due to its proximity to the Ratcliffe-On-Soar power station, which is due to be decommissioned soon and has an exciting future as part of the East Midlands Freeport, freeing up grid capacity, as well as having suitable existing electricity pylons in the surrounding area.

The site has been designed to maintain separation from Ruddington Footpath 6 (where possible) which runs parallel to the Nottingham Heritage Railway, as well as to maintain access along the existing footpath which runs along the Fairham Brook through the site. The site includes solar panels no greater than 3m in height to limit visual impacts from the site where possible.

Biodiversity

A suite of ecological surveys have been conducted on the site, including: an extended Phase 1 habitat survey, bats and wintering bird surveys. Additionally, water voles, badgers, great crested newts and breeding bird surveys will be conducted in early 2022.

The species identified are typical of farmland in this area. Environmental enhancement measures such as hedgerow planting, and incorporating species rich grass mix between solar panels will encourage wildlife to the site and result in a biodiversity net gain. See the *Proposed Environmental Benefits* board for further information.



Land Use and Soils

The site consists of arable land and a detailed soil survey was carried out in February 2022, which classed land at the site as Grade 3A (the poorest type considered to be 'Best and most Versatile'). The proposed Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park would be a temporary development; therefore, the land would remain for agricultural use after the site has been decommissioned.

The extended fallow period would allow a return to a higher balance of soil organic matter, and would improve the ability to store carbon for the duration of its operational lifetime.



Species rich wildflower mix amongst PV panels



Looking across existing farmland on site

Acoustic

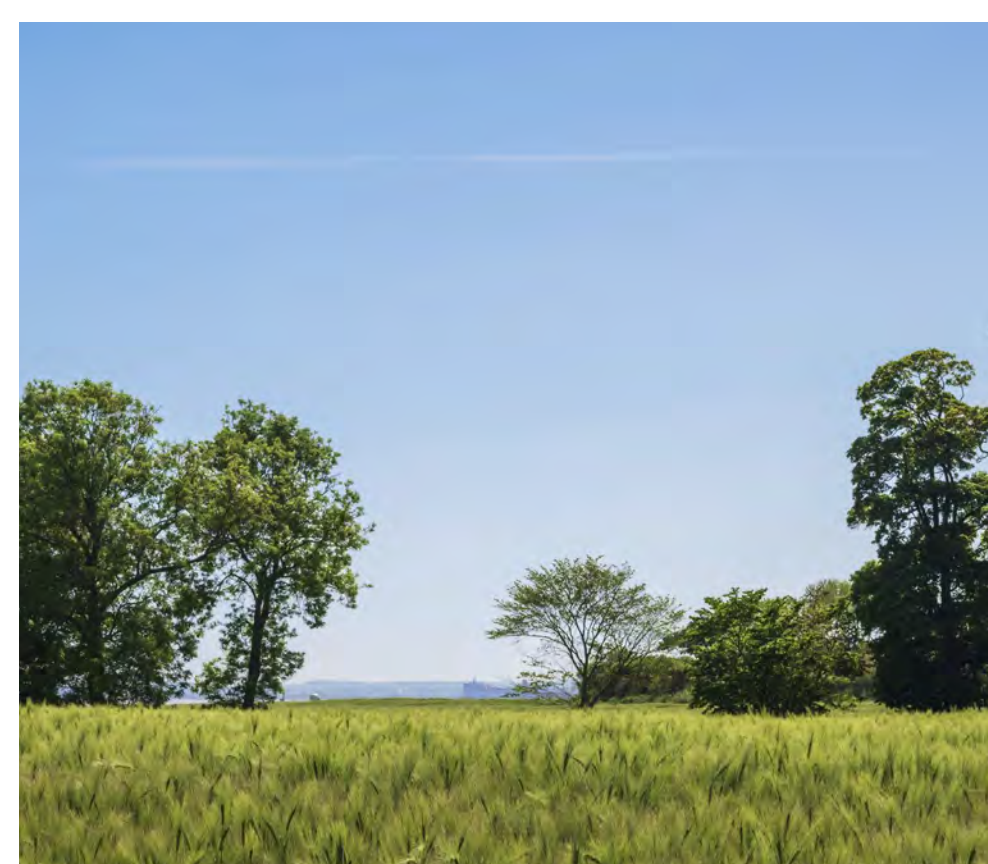
Noise during the construction phase could result from the Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) construction traffic. This would be managed by restricting working hours – for example from 7am to 7pm during the week and 7am to 1pm on Saturdays. In addition, standard noise reduction techniques such as silencers on plant/ machinery and not allowing idling of engines could be implemented. During the operational phase, both the heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) for the batteries and the cooling fans for the power conversion system (PCS) would generate sound from the grid compound in the north of the site.

Within the solar farm itself, inverters used to convert the direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC) would also generate sound. Noise is not expected to impact residential properties. A noise assessment will accompany the planning application to assess any potential impacts at sensitive receptors.

Heritage

There are no statutory designations within the proposed site or immediate surrounding area, and there would be no direct impact to designated or non-designated heritage assets. A desk-based heritage assessment has been undertaken, which identified some scattered medieval pottery previously recorded at the proposed site.

During a site walkover nothing was identified, and it is considered there is a low potential for historic finds at the site. Nevertheless, a geophysical survey (consisting of an array of magnetometers) will be undertaken to further consider the potential for archaeology on site. Disturbance of any assets could be avoided by the use of concrete plinths to support the solar frames and panels.



Construction, Operation and Decommissioning

The proposed Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park would take approximately 6 - 9 months to construct. Initial works would consist of the site tracks and compounds, followed by installation of the frames, electrical equipment and solar PV panels. It is expected that the frames would be push driven into the ground to provide a secure foundation. Finally, the battery energy storage system and transformer equipment would be brought on to site, for connection to the local electricity distribution network.

HGV's, including flatbed trailers for the solar frames and panels, would be used to transport material and equipment to site. The indicative access route would have HGV's leave the A60, through Ruddington Village, joining Asher Lane then on to site. Approximately 1,100 deliveries (2,200 vehicle movements) would be required and, assuming a 6 month construction period, would result in an average of eight deliveries (16 vehicle movements) per day.

During the operational phase, there would be regular site visits to clean the panels and inspect the equipment. In addition, there would be an environmental management plan in place, which describes the environmental enhancements and their ongoing maintenance. The performance of the renewable energy park would be monitored remotely.

At the end of the 35-40 year operational lifetime, the site would be decommissioned and returned to agricultural use. All material would be recycled where possible.



Cleaning the panels



Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park

Proposed Environmental Benefits



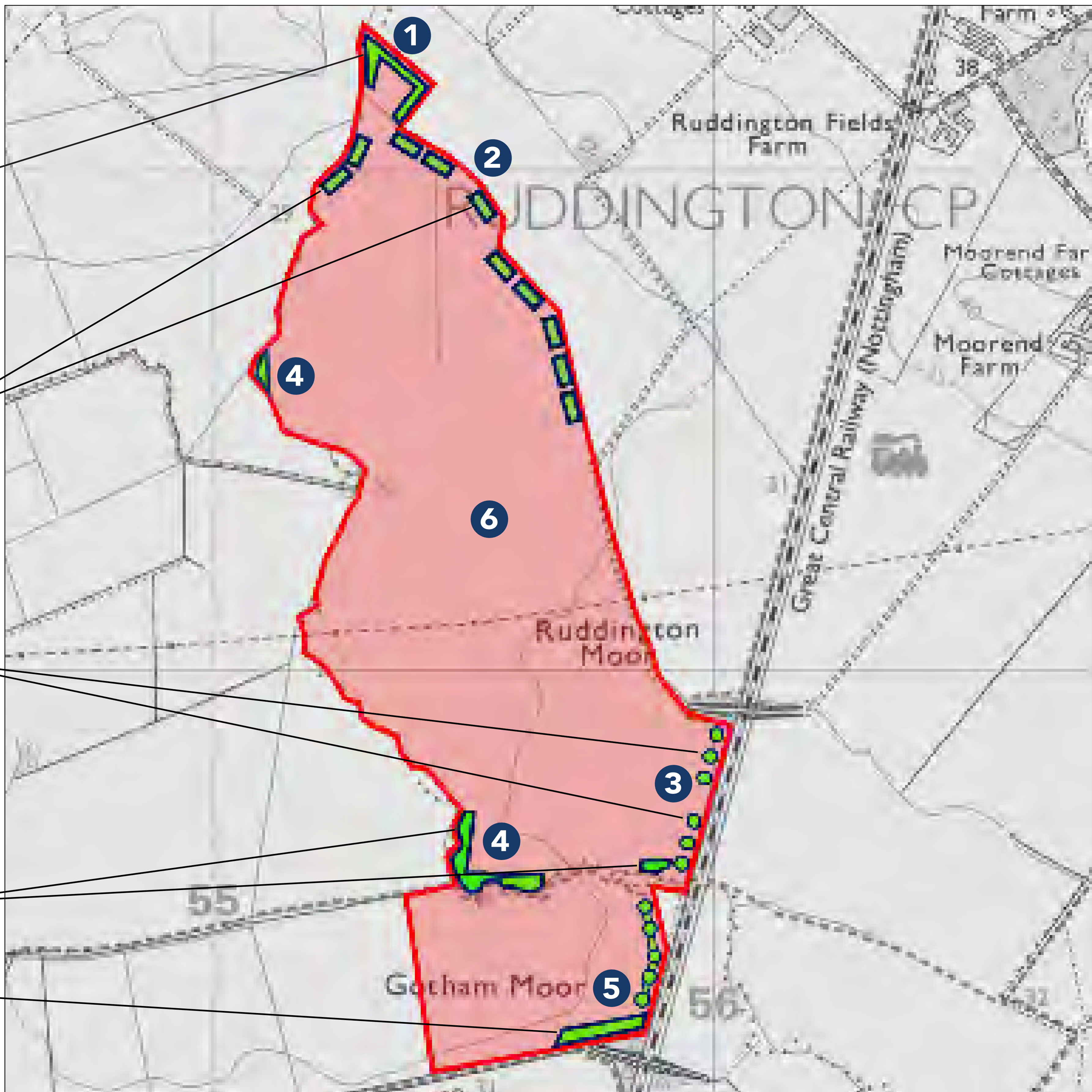
The Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park is being designed with the local ecology and landscape in mind. It's our aim to deliver a project that not only generates clean energy, combats climate change, strengthens our energy security and contributes to the local community, but also results in a biodiversity net gain and complements the character of the local area where possible. This information shows our current intention to enhance the site for landscape and biodiversity, but we want to hear your views and suggestions, which we'll consider in our final site design before submission.

Landscape

We're currently considering the following ideas, based on the survey work we've undertaken at the site:

- 1 Possible **native woodland, hedgerow** and possible **bunding** to screen views of the battery units and substation.
- 2 Possible new **hedgerow** to screen views to the north west and north east.
- 3 Possible line of **Oak trees** to complement and extend the existing line of oaks alongside the footpath parallel to the heritage railway.
- 4 Possible copse of **native trees**.
- 5 New **native hedgerow** with **Oak trees**.
- 6 **Wildflowers** provided between the panels.

Suggestions for Landscape Mitigation and Enhancements



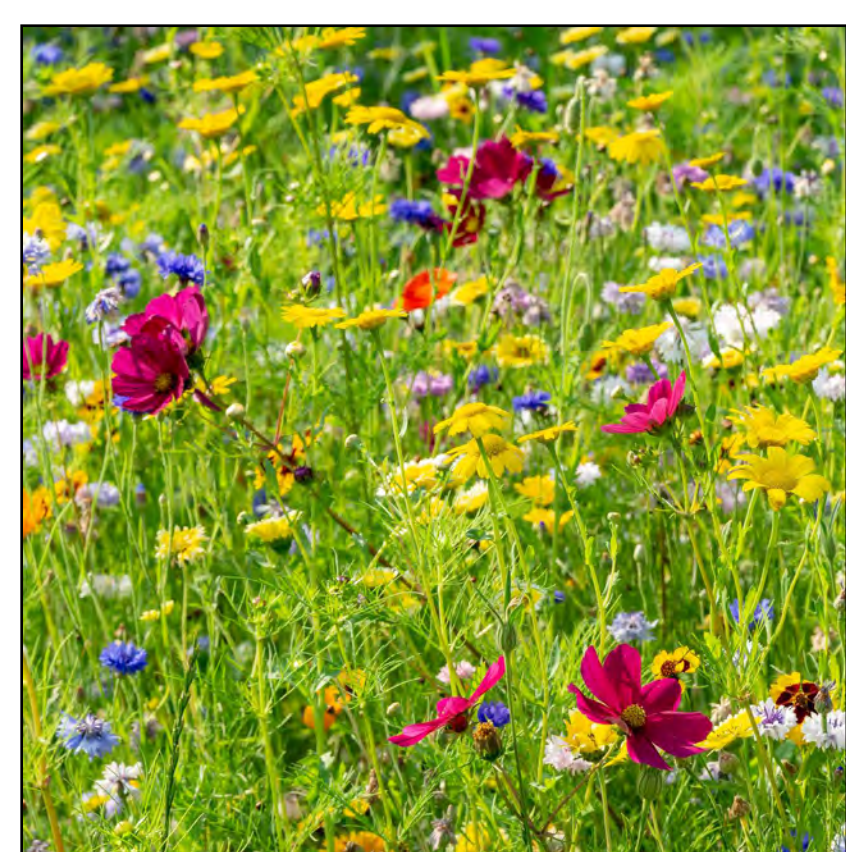
Example of an agricultural bund



Example of hedgerow planting



Example of tree planting



Example of species rich grass mix with wildflowers

Ecology

The proposed Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park is dominated by arable farmland, which is poor in biodiversity.

From our existing survey work, we know the area supports species including barn owl, kingfisher and plovers. It also supports badgers, water voles and includes areas suitable for bat roosts.

The aim is to design the site to allow a net gain in biodiversity, through enhancement measures such as converting arable land to wildflower meadow, new hedge and tree planting and provision of bird and bat boxes, as well as provision of habitat to encourage local bees.

The solar site would be fenced and land left alone, rather than being cultivated, for the lifetime of the development. A biodiversity management plan will be prepared for our application.

Achieving Net Zero by 2050

Government plan of action

Climate change is arguably the most serious threat to our world and an issue that defies boundaries – the actions of one country can impact upon many others. By the middle of this century, the world needs to reduce emissions as close to net zero emissions as possible to avoid the increasing impact our changing climate has on us, such as heatwaves, floods, droughts, and fires.

What is net zero? The term “net zero” refers to achieving a balance between the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced and the amount removed or avoided from the atmosphere.

To achieve net zero, the government is driving efforts to reduce our emissions by increasing production of renewable energy as well as offsetting current emissions through natural carbon sinks, such as trees and restored peatland.

The UK is leading the way in the path to net zero, becoming the first major economy in the world to legislate a binding target to reach net zero emissions by 2050. The UK has made a number of pledges to achieve this target, two of which include:



At the core of the government strategy to net zero is the ambition to create a **fully decarbonised power sector** by 2035.



Supporting green industry. The government aims to support 54,000 jobs in 2030 in industry alongside future-proofing businesses and transforming industrial heartlands.

Climate matters

Ridge Clean Energy wants to change the way the UK harnesses locally produced clean energy. We develop each project with the scope to do much more than generate power.

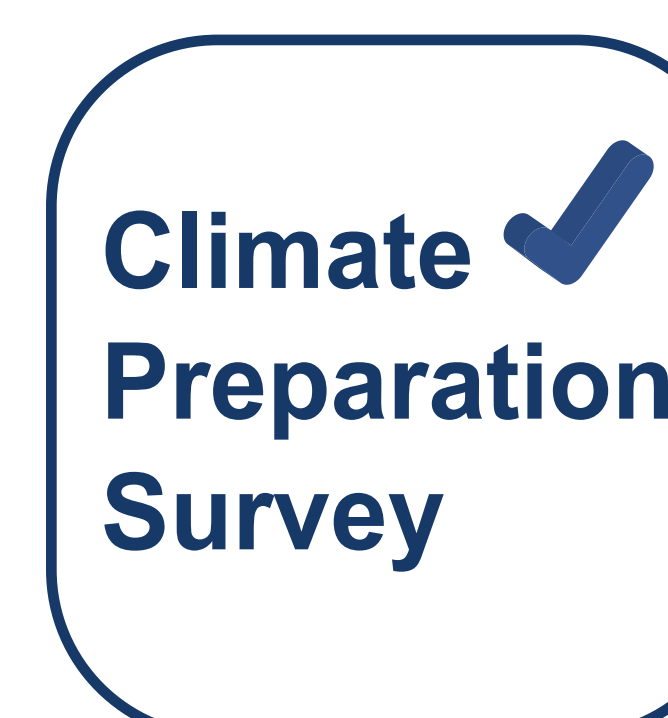
Our work supports businesses and communities across the UK in their mission to become net zero by 2050, combining our renewable energy projects with local community initiatives, which could include a community hub and integrated app.

Our Initiatives



Net Zero Community is a mobile application available on the **Apple App Store** encouraging local people to act and think more environmentally in their day-to-day lives, especially adapted to your community.

The App is a simple and effective way to enable the adoption and track the progress of local projects reducing carbon footprints and supporting climate repair.



We have created a survey designed to assess a household's and business's level of preparedness for all types of climate risk and their experience dealing with previous extreme weather events.

Ask us how we can help set up an initiative in your community.

Ridge Clean Energy Community Support



Our ethos

Ridge Clean Energy's ethos is centred around community engagement and support throughout the life of our projects. From an early stage we identify key stakeholders and work in tandem with them. We use our development experience and seed capital to maximise the benefit a local community would receive from our projects.

Community matters

"Working together to provide wider prosperity and improve quality of life for our communities now and into the future."

Ridge Clean Energy is keen to work with and support local people:



to help provide facilities that are needed to enable a strong community to thrive.



to address local needs at a local level.



to support communities to achieve net zero.

Ridge Clean Energy realises that a strong community can:

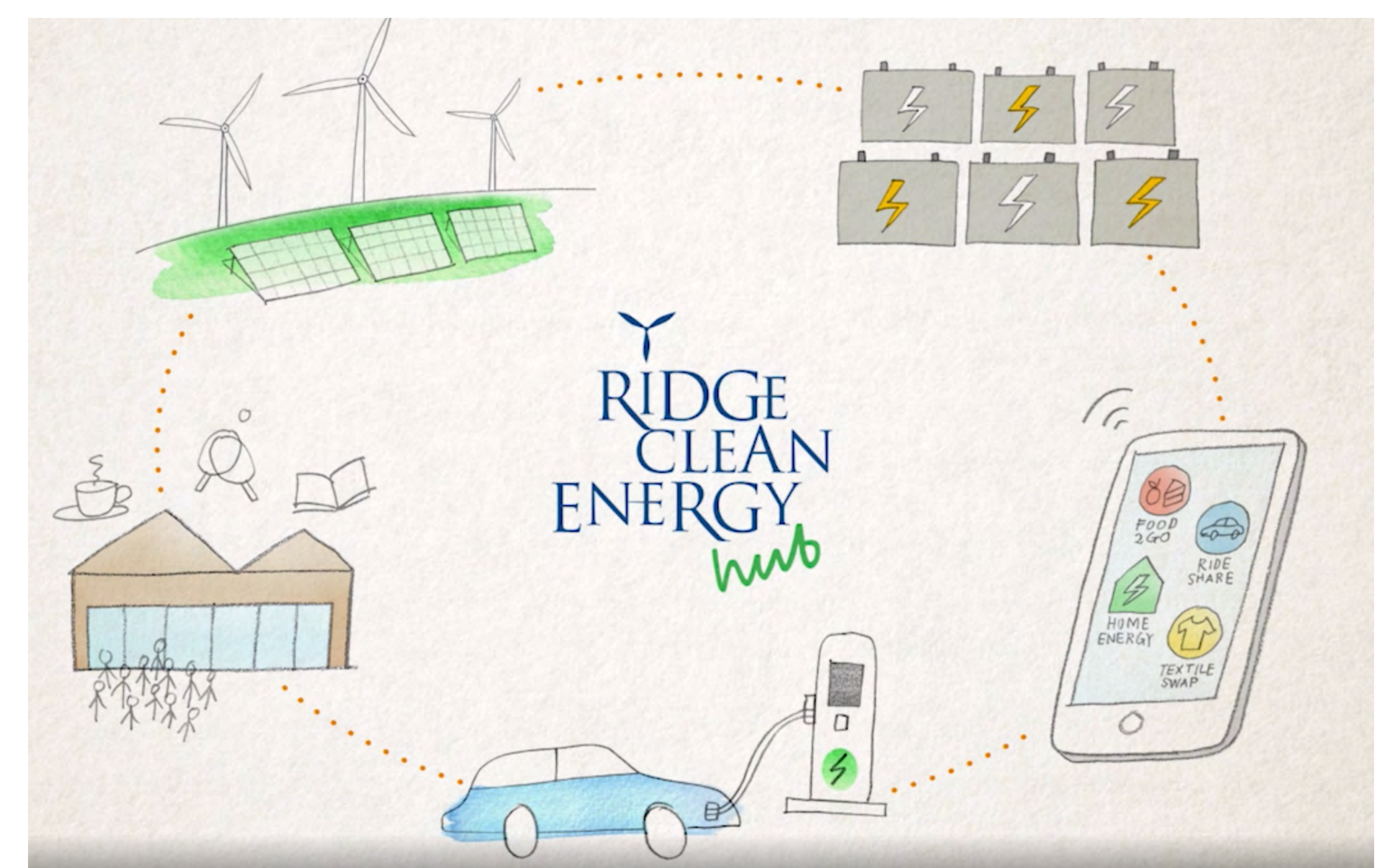


provide support, friendship and help to those who need it.



be the leader in taking action on local and global issues such as climate repair, protecting the environment and creating safer neighbourhoods.

Learn more



Watch our video at www.ridgecleanenergy.com

Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park

Community Engagement



Community benefits

Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park will generate a community fund over the lifetime of the project. The community fund will be available to directly support the needs of local people and could be used for improving local transport services, providing Electric Vehicle charging facilities or infrastructure, increasing biodiversity in the wider area or any other local priority. Along with your suggestions and thoughts, we will continue to engage with groups to identify the main areas of need and then focus on growing a positive asset for all living in the vicinity of the project.

We work in partnership with communities – including landowners, residents, councils, transport charities and community groups – to engage at an early stage and answer local needs at the earliest opportunity. Specifically, we are keen to identify local initiatives for which our expertise and finance may be useful.

Supply chain opportunities

If the proposal is successful, Ridge Clean Energy would encourage local suppliers and contractors to get in touch to outline what services could be provided by local businesses in order to help support the local economy.

Feedback, comments & questions

Thank you for your interest in our public exhibition for the proposed Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park. Please take the time to fill out a feedback form provided by the project team. We would be very grateful to receive your feedback, comments and any questions.



Image courtesy of RUDDINGTON.info

Contact us

Email: fair Oaks@theridgegroup.com

Post: Ridge Clean Energy, Noah's Ark, Market Street, Charlbury, OX7 3PL

Website: <https://ridgecleanenergy.com/fairoaks-contact-us/>

Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park

Policy and Targets



The Ruddington Neighbourhood Plan

The Ruddington Neighbourhood Plan (adopted in July 2021), includes policy on sustainability, as well as maintaining a thriving village centre and promoting community projects.



Image courtesy of RUDDINGTON.info



Rushcliffe Borough Council

Rushcliffe Borough Council declared a climate emergency in 2019. It also plans to be carbon neutral (for its own operations) by 2030.



Nottinghamshire County Council

Nottinghamshire County Council declared a climate emergency in May 2021, and has pledged to be carbon neutral by 2030.



Climate Change Act

The UK is leading the way in the path to net zero, becoming the first major economy in the world to legislate a binding target to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

The Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park would assist in the fight against climate change, support the UK's energy security and contribute to plans and targets set at the local, regional and national level.



Climate Change Act 2008

Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park

This is where we have been.

Do you recognise the location of these photos?



Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park

This is where we have been.

Do you recognise the location of these photos?



Appendix 5 – Question Responses

Question 1: Do you support renewable energy development?*

[illegible]

Question 2: Do you have any initial comments or questions on the Six Oaks Renewable Energy Park?*

Response #	Respondents Answer (Yes/No/Don't Know/Neutral)	Responses (Comment)
	Yes	This development will spoil the view, use valuable farmland, cause huge disruption during building. It will spoil enjoyment of walking across the moot. It takes up virtually the whole area of field.
	No	Null
	No	Null
	Yes	Excellent use of Gotham, Ruddington, Bradore Moors.
	Yes	Are there not other sites, (e.g. brownfields sites, Ratcliffe power station) rather than farmland that we need for growing food?
	Null	I've no problem with renewable energy, but the access solution is a terrible idea.
	Yes	Lots of possibilities! It would be good to see how the final plan turns out.
	No	Null
	Yes	Will noise emanating from the site be audible at all in Ruddington?
	Don't Know	I think 35 – 40 years is rather short term. It depends on how successful it proves to be.
	Yes	Looks an interesting project & beneficial in many ways in this present climate.
	Null	It looks good. Combining sustainable energy with environmental benefits.
	Yes	Seems a good idea environmentally, will have more questions once we have walked around the site. Impact on glare, views + views, wildlife.
	Yes	Will lorries delivering panels have a timed delivery.
	No	Null
	No	Null
	Yes	Concern over loss of farmland. Impact on the Railway. Consideration of local flora/fauna & location of boundary.
	Yes	I am in support of the proposed solar park but am concerned about access through the village. It's a shame that there isn't an alternative.
		Although my questions were answered, it was rewarding the access to local footpaths which has been answered.
	Yes	
	No	Use of available arable land. Sheer scale of it.
	Null	Null
	Null	Null
	Yes	Times for construction traffic access should be amended to suit typical construction sites – 8 AM to 6 PM MON TO FRI. 8 AM – 1 PM Saturday.
	Yes	I think it's a great idea [smiley face symbol]
	Null	Null
	No	Null
	No	Great representatives Full engaged + Informed
	No	Null
	Null	Great Idea
	Yes	Access through the village should be avoided. Any parts of the site which are adjacent to the rights of way should have hedgerows planted to help with screening.
	No	I strongly support this.
	Yes	Enhancing biodiversity – questions answered by great reps. Thanks.
	Yes	Ongoing (project life) engagement with the community.
	Yes	Very impressed with the planning + thought that has gone into the development.
	No	Null
	No	Null
		1)Access route 2) Being satisfied that all materials are recyclable 3) maximise local contractors 4) assurance on safety of battery facilities 5) minimize impact on the environment 6) at end of
	Null	20yrs/40yrs, g'tee that site returns back to agricultural or other agreed use: not left as an eyesore.
	Yes	More sustainable, renewable energy is needed more than ever so: fully support the proposal + have faith the boundary will be sympathetic to the surroundings.
	No	Null
	Yes	The park seems to be a considered response about renewables – well presented presentation!
	No	Null
	No	Null
	No	I asked everything I wanted to ask at this point + felt all was answered as completely + honestly as possible.
	Neutral	Explained well in the exhibition and by your representatives.
	Yes	It appears that everything has been considered to improve things
	Null	Concern about build up access using A60 – could you use the old ordnance road?
	Yes	Access to the site during the construction period. Should not be through Ruddington Village – HGVs!!
	Yes	Concerned about amount of traffic down kirk made during build. Experiencing large reaction currently due to estate building.
	No	Null

Q3 - Do you have any comments or questions that can help inform the environmental studies and assessments being undertaken?

Response #	Respondents Answer (Comments)
	<p>Many of the options above are already more than adequate.</p> <p>The development if it goes ahead could take on a more compact shape. A less intrusive, destructive site could surely be round. It should not be south of the Fairham Brook.</p> <p>I spoke with Jonny Murphy – and informed him of two papers I have recently published on this area, relating to periglacial phenomenon.</p> <p>I like the community fund. Would that be managed by Rushcliffe B.C? How would we know how much is in it and how the fund is being distributed.</p> <p>Ashler lane access? Is it the best?</p> <p>It was suggested that access for construction traffic was thought to be best via A60 and Ruddington Village. We think it would be less disruptive to the villages transport system to use the southern access point into Asher Lane (perimeter Rd) from the A60, passing farms only.</p> <p>I'm confused about the possible relationship with sheep and wildlife.</p> <p>Look at utilising more hedgerows to encourage more wild life habitats</p> <p>Not at this stage.</p> <p>Would not agree to wind farms. Need to visualize how high & size of complex proposed.</p> <p>i.e. Early morning or late afternoon (note, drew a double-headed line between question 2 & 3).</p> <p>No</p> <p>Need to consider glare on trains heading north. Need to consider root damage to railway infrastructure (physical & water extraction) & impact on stability.</p> <p>Everything seemed to be covered.</p> <p>Wildflowers + bees [check mark symbol]. Possible to have chickens or sheep?</p> <p>I hope that planting will provide adequate screening from the Country Park.</p> <p>Access route for construction traffic should consider use of Asher Lane by other traffic perimeter road would be a preferential route with access off Loughborough Road.</p> <p>I regret the sound and disturbance to their pretty area but fully support the cause of renewable energy and believe that this is a good location.</p> <p>Uncertain as to the definite impact re biodiversity + community support</p> <p>Consult with Notts Wildlife Trust - essential</p> <p>Talk to [REDACTED], University of Nottingham ([REDACTED], Head of School)</p> <p>Only time will tell, how the impact will be viewed in 10yrs or 20 yrs.</p> <p>Check usage of Asher Lane for lorries</p> <p>Speed cameras on Asher Lane, PLEASE!! Be aware of vandalism (go + talk to the people who run Ruddington Station)</p> <p>Restoration of lost hedgerows. Ensure wildlife can use and get through the site.</p> <p>No</p>

Q4 - How do you feel our support could provide most benefit to your community

Response #	Respondents Answer (Comments)
	<p>Many of the options above are already more than adequate.</p> <p>Creating a renewable energy village.</p> <p>All positive for me</p> <p>We are no longer living in Ruddington (recently moved to Chilwell) but are maintaining an interest in the village. Could the development support the Ruddington Transport Museum & railway line?</p> <p>Not if you choose the proposed access.</p> <p>By a good distribution of the community fund.</p> <p>Any support would enable our Parish Council / Community Groups to enhance our village fairly.</p> <p>Contribution to local youth and adult organisations would be very much appreciated.</p> <p>Won't know unless/until it happens. If it stops more building it will be a benefit.</p> <p>The village hall, possibility of funding more parking. A new mobile mast to improve signal.</p> <p>A contribution to the new village hall would be great.</p> <p>Local amenities for young people – teenagers to meet older people. Mini bus. Road improvements & traffic. Electrical points for cars. In fact this could be for all community.</p> <p>Youth club / Tennis courts</p> <p>Helping to make net zero possible</p> <p>Engage with railway/footpaths to increase access & make it a feature not a blot on the landscape – wide width adjacent to railway – 'mini park'.</p> <p>By keeping the local community fully informed.</p> <p>Provide panels for our new community centre.</p> <p>I hope the village centre on the green will be able to benefit.</p> <p>The community carbon footprint would be a big win. Community fund -> local community groups / businesses.</p> <p>Fund the new Ruddington Community Centre. Also help fund battery charging points for electric cars.</p> <p>Improve biodiversity + community space.</p> <p>Enhance biodiversity as opposed to current monoculture of farmland.</p> <p>The village is looking to build a new community hall in the community.</p> <p>Encouragement for and enhancement of green energy adoption within Ruddington e.g. contribution to the energy generation (solar? panels on roof) of the proposed new village community centre.</p> <p>Continued engagement, support biodiversity</p> <p>I like the wildflower meadows beneath panels + hedgerows along the corridors. Plan in EV points in village for electric vehicle owners.</p> <p>We live on the edge of the project, east leake side. (kismet on the map), we are 4 houses connected to a borehole. It would really help us if you could support us to get the mains water to us as part of your support to the community.</p> <p>Renewable energy is really important and we need to plan now. So I'm in favour of this park. It would be even better if we could have mains water as well? A simple thing that in this day of age would be available at a low cost of installing.</p> <p>1) Schools 2) Health services with help towards new community hall at bottom of wish list.</p> <p>I believe you will help contribute to the new community centre and with other projects within the village centre being pursued by RVCP.</p> <p>Any renewable interventions for the local community.</p> <p>I'm not in favour of automatically including a community 'bonus' as a result of the project. It should stand on its own merits.</p> <p>Sustainable – biodiverse</p> <p>electricity</p> <p>Opportunities/investment in training. Educational visits during the life of the project from the planning stage onwards. Some investment + support of Ruddington Station. They could use it.</p> <p>Car charging points for public use in Ruddington. Currently there are none.</p> <p>Financing community projects - possible 'menshed' creation</p> <p>Would like to discuss how the community fund can be used & the process to decide on its use.</p> <p>Pressure on councils to look at / build car park</p> <p>A significant contribution to the building of a new community centre on the village green would be great.</p>

Any additional comments and feedback

Response #	Respondents Answer
	<p>It would be better to put solar panels on household roofs, or use derelict land or development.</p> <p>If it needs to happen. Best location chosen.</p> <p>I will email Johnny Murphy with further details.</p> <p>Could you work with home-builders and get your panels on the rooves of new-build houses</p> <p>Change the access route and you will probably have a lot more support.</p> <p>It was a good display and the staff were very helpful.</p> <p>Thank you for mounting the exhibition and answering questions. I would be interested to learn more when all assessments are completed. I was disappointed that staff did not wear masks to help mitigate the risk of Covid 19 when the rate of cases is v. high locally.</p> <p>I thought the display was well organised, informative, and the reps of the company seemed well informed and happy to listen to doubts.</p> <p>Have you looked at medical research and the possibility of side effects of electrical and battery sub stations? I.e. Cancer</p> <p>Pleased about the thinking of helping the wildlife, flowers, and additional trees & fencing around the site. The display is very informative and easy to understand. Follow ups would be good. Involve whole village, as some friends were unaware.</p> <p>Would Ruddington receive energy. Because of our proximity, or does it benefit the national grid? Such as the 3, rod Homes proposed between between Rudd & Gotham.</p> <p>No</p> <p>Please please talk to & engage with the railway.</p> <p>None at the moment.</p> <p>Access along Asher lane through the village is already congested. Other options should be considered as a priority – e.g. along pasture lane.</p> <p>Concerned about construction traffic through the village & especially Asher Lane.</p> <p>Panel manufacturer within the UK would be preferable to sourcing for AB Road.</p> <p>I help to run the RACS (Ruddington Arts and Crafts Society). I also run a company supporting groups with emotional wellbeing + mental health.</p> <p>There is a concern that drivers on the railway line may be 'blinded' under certain conditions.</p> <p>Great exhibition, thank you.</p> <p>A clear + consise presentation. Much thought has been put into the 'finer' points of the presentation.</p> <p>Very impressed with the planning and possible planting of trees and hedges. Also wild flowers and pathways for animals.</p> <p>Get on with it Boris!</p> <p>A very effective, friendly + knowledgeable team, who were interesting to talk and debate with.</p> <p>Completely support the proposal.</p> <p>Becks was very helpful</p> <p>If the Avant homes estate off Musters Road is still being built in 2023, then your additional traffic along Asher Lane could be a problem. Could nearby houses benefit from subsidized electricity?</p> <p>"Huge thanks to you for organising the virtual tour, it was really great to see and I have had several messages from the attendees to say how much they enjoyed it and found it very inspirational!!!"</p>
16/06/2022	Ruddington Residents also asked specifically about Electric Vehicle Infrastructure help for the new car park. They would like to know how 4 car points and 1 van point
27/06/2022	would be able to be incorporated into their plans. Liaisons remain ongoing.
27/06/2022	Applicant met with resident and Co-op Pioneer organising Ruddington food pantry to help those needing/wanting food, by sharing food gluts grown on allotments and avoiding food waste from shops. It has been going 3 months but envisages a growth in use by Autumn and Winter. Liaisons remain ongoing.
27/06/2022	Applicant met with new initiative of Heat n Eat where 30+ Ruddington residents booked to eat a hot meal in a warm place and to reduce isolation. The organiser envisages this will rise to at least 50 and doesn't want to turn anyone away. She wants to have a better understanding of the initiative and will contact the Applicant after a month to engage with possible funding. Liaisons remain ongoing.