

Green Hill Solar Farm

Newsletter

**We are Island Green Power (IGP),
a leading developer of utility-scale
solar energy projects.**

We are proposing to develop a solar farm including battery storage on land located to the west and south of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, and north of Milton Keynes.

This newsletter explains how we will consult and gain feedback on our proposals for Green Hill Solar Farm.

If approved, Green Hill Solar Farm could generate a power output of up to 500 megawatts (MW) annually, enough clean electricity for approximately 115,000 households. The Scheme would include battery storage to store the surplus energy generated and supply the national grid as and when needed. The generation capacity of Green Hill Solar Farm means the Scheme would be classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).

Consultation process

We will launch a six-week statutory consultation that starts on 7 November and runs until 19 December 2024. During this period, we encourage you to share your feedback on our design proposals, including our preliminary environmental assessments and measures being taken to reduce the Scheme's impact. This feedback is critical to us and will be used to shape our final designs. This newsletter provides more information about the consultation, upcoming events, and how to take part. If you have any further queries, please contact us using the details provided on this page.

The planning process

As the proposed generation capacity for Green Hill Solar Farm is anticipated to be 500 megawatts (MW), it exceeds the 50 MW threshold to be classified as an NSIP. The consenting regime for NSIPs comes under the Planning Act 2008 ("the Act") and requires Green Hill Solar Farm Limited to apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO).

Unlike planning applications under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA), DCO applications must be submitted to the Secretary of State (SoS) through the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). We are therefore required to apply for development consent to the Secretary of State, in accordance with the Act.

The application would be examined by an independent Examining Authority appointed by PINS, who would make a recommendation on the application to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State of the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) makes the final decision on a DCO application.

How to contact us:

Project email
info@greenhillsolar.co.uk

Community Relations Team
0800 012 9882

Website
www.greenhillsolar.co.uk



About Green Hill Solar Farm

Green Hill Solar Farm is proposed for development on land that is within the administrative boundaries of North Northamptonshire, West Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes local planning authorities. In total, it would cover approximately 1,200 hectares across 9 separate sites, referred to as Green Hill A-G and Green Hill Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

The BESS element of the Scheme is proposed on land adjoining Grendon Substation to the west and south-east, parallel to Station Road, Grendon; a second location for energy storage is being considered at Green Hill C.

Our vision for Green Hill Solar Farm

Our ambition is for Green Hill Solar Farm to become a significant source of clean, “home-grown”, renewable energy that contributes to the Government’s target of the UK reaching carbon net zero by 2050 and tripling the energy generated from solar power to reach 50 GW by 2030.



Green Hill Solar Farm will:



generate clean, renewable energy for the equivalent of approximately 115,000 homes and reduce the UK’s reliance on imported energy.



provide environmental benefits and improve biodiversity by creating new habitats for wildlife, mitigation planting and landscaping that will deliver Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) of at least 10%.



support local employment by providing local contractors and suppliers with the opportunity to be part of the construction and operation of the Scheme.



retain existing public rights of way and explore opportunities to enhance connectivity through the creation of new permissive paths.



support continued agricultural use of the land, which could include sheep grazing.



deliver a community benefit fund for the lifetime of the Scheme.

Who we are

Island Green Power (IGP) is a leading developer of utility-scale solar projects and battery storage systems (BESS). We operate in the UK, Spain, Italy, Australia and New Zealand. Our mission is to help countries accelerate the transition from fossil fuels to solar power by making more renewable energy possible, drastically reducing carbon emissions and contributing to global net zero targets.

Since launch in 2013, we have successfully delivered over 34 solar projects worldwide that have generated more than 1 GW of energy capacity. This includes 17 solar projects in the UK and Republic of Ireland that range in size from below 5 MW to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) such as the Cottam Solar Project, currently the UK’s largest consented solar project.

As a developer, we oversee the entire development process, securing grid connections, sourcing of land and obtaining planning consents. This includes consulting with local communities, stakeholders and policymakers as well as technical experts at multiple stages during the development of our projects, to ensure they will enhance the biodiversity of the sites.





Our early stage consultation

We are committed to working with local communities to develop our proposals for Green Hill Solar Farm. In March and May 2024, we held a series of workshops with local councillors and community organisations to better understand the local area and what is important to the local community.

A report summarising the feedback received was published in September 2024. The report included information presented and the key themes from the comments received. It also set out how this feedback has been incorporated into our proposed design for Green Hill Solar Farm.

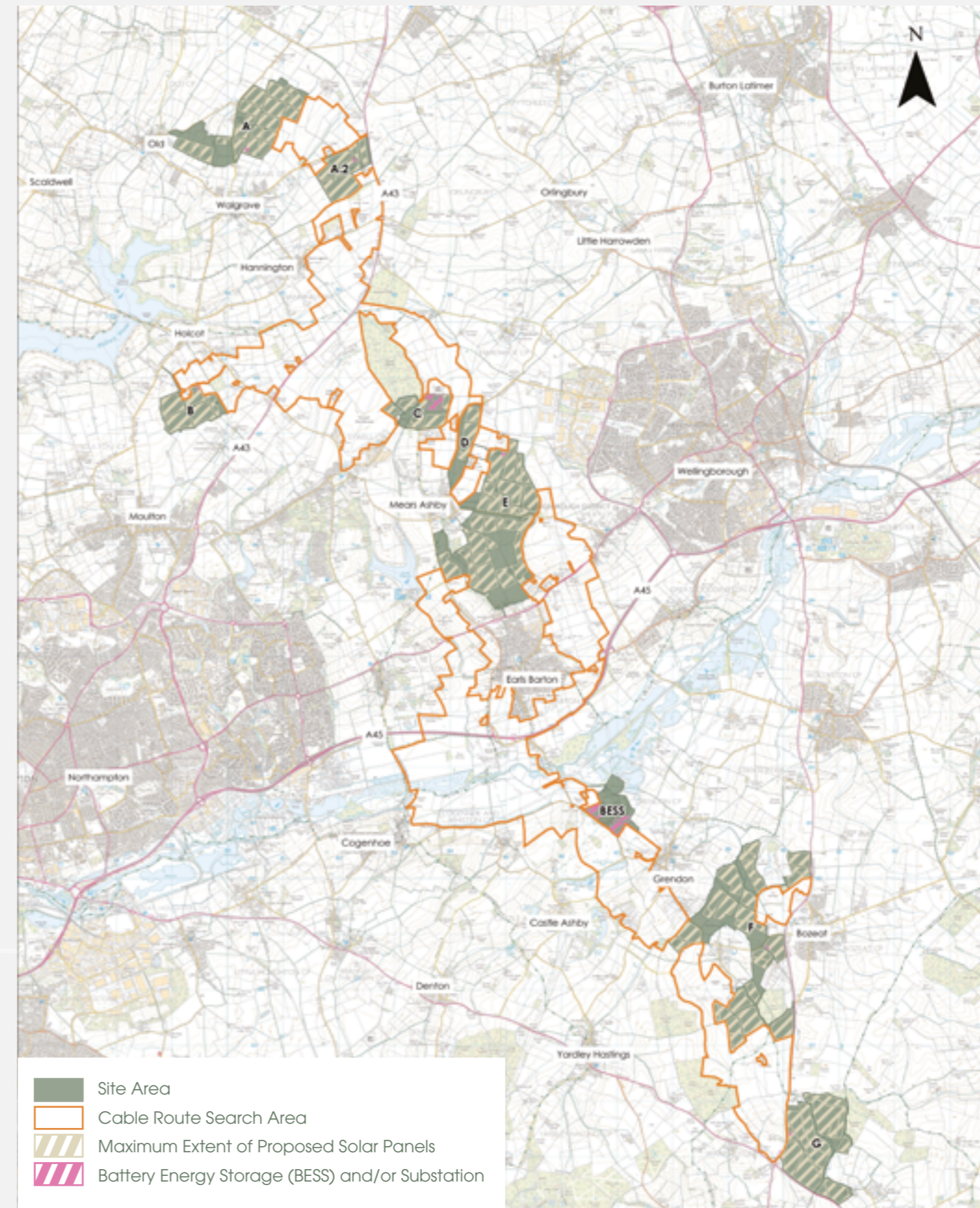
This report was shared with key stakeholders and community groups, and has been made publicly available on our website.

We also submitted our Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) in July this year, in consultation with local planning authorities – West Northamptonshire Council, North Northamptonshire Council, Milton Keynes City Council and Bedfordshire Borough Council.



The location of our proposals

You can view the detailed Indicative Masterplans on our project website and in our Consultation Information Booklet. The booklet can be found on our website www.greenhillsolar.co.uk and in print at Local Information Points (see page 10 for details).





Public consultation

We are now inviting you to take part in our public consultation that will take place between 7 November and 19 December 2024.

As part of this consultation, we are providing updated information, including the Indicative Masterplans for the sites, Cable Route Search Area, a full Scheme description and a summary of key environmental topics in the Consultation Information Booklet.

We have also provided a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and non-technical summary (NTS) of the PEIR, which describe the initial results of the environmental surveys that were undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. The PEIR and NTS are designed to help you understand the potential environmental effects of Green Hill Solar Farm and the mitigation measures proposed.

We recommend viewing our detailed plans in the PEIR (outlining the findings from our initial studies) and the Non-technical Summary (NTS) alongside the Consultation Information Booklet.

In preparation for the public consultation, we prepared a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), which sets out how we intend to consult on proposals during the development of the Scheme. The draft statement was shared with local planning authorities and they provided feedback.

All these documents are available on our website www.greenhillsolar.co.uk.

Hard copies of the Consultation Information Booklet and Feedback form will also be available at our consultation events and can be provided on request. If you would like a hard copy of the PEIR, a charge to cover printing and postage costs of £0.35 per page, totalling £750.



Have your say

Your feedback is important to us and will be used to help us develop and refine our proposals.

You can share your feedback in the following ways:

- Visit our website to access the latest information, including all statutory consultation documents, and complete our feedback form online at www.greenhillsolar.co.uk
- Attend one of our consultation events to meet the project team, learn about our plans, and complete a feedback form. Return the completed form to FREEPOST GREEN HILL SOLAR FARM.
- Visit one of our information points to view hard copies of the consultation materials and pick up a Consultation Information Booklet and feedback form.
- Contact us via phone, post or email, to request a form or ask questions about the consultation.

If you require materials in an alternative format (for example, large print or braille) please let us know.





Our events

We are holding a series of events as part of our public consultation where people can view and discuss our plans for Green Hill Solar Farm with members of the development team.

We encourage anyone with an interest in our project to attend these events. We are also holding webinar events for those unable to attend in person.

The public consultation events will be held at the following times and locations:

Date	Time	Location
Monday 18 November 2024	14:00–19:00	Grendon Village Hall, Main Road, Grendon, Northampton, NN7 1JW
Saturday 23 November 2024	12:00–17:00	Lavendon Village Hall, 22 High Street, Lavendon, Buckinghamshire, MK46 4HA
Wednesday 27 November 2024	14:00–19:00	Swanspool Pavilion, Swanspool Parade, Wellingborough, NN8 9SR
Saturday 7 December 2024	12:00–17:00	Walgrave Village Hall, 1 Newland Road, Walgrave, Northampton, NN6 9PZ

Online webinars:

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday 20 November	18:00–19:00	Webinar
Tuesday 26 November	18:00–19:00	Webinar
Wednesday 4 December	12:30–13:30	Webinar

You can register for our webinars in advance by visiting our website www.greenhillsolar.co.uk

Local information points

There are a number of local information points where you can obtain hard-copy information on the Scheme and the consultation process, and collect a copy of the feedback form and Consultation Information Booklet. At each location with computer access, digital copies of the PEIR and NTS will be available to view and download electronically.

A reference copy of the PEIR and NTS will only be available at information points without access to a computer. We recommend contacting the venues before visiting to check how they can assist you.

Venue	Opening times	Materials available to take away	Reference materials
Brixworth Library , Spratton Road, Brixworth, Northampton, NN6 9DS	Monday to Friday: 9:00–17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information Booklet Consultation Feedback Form 	Digital copy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEIR NTS SoCC
Wellingborough Library , 7 Pebble Lane, Wellingborough, NN8 1AS	Monday to Friday: 9:00–18:00 Saturday: 9:00–17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information Booklet Consultation Feedback Form 	Digital copy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEIR NTS SoCC
Duston Library , Duston Community Centre, Pendle Road, Northampton, NN5 6DT	Monday to Friday: 9:00–18:00 Saturdays: 10:00–14:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information Booklet Consultation Feedback Form 	Digital copy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEIR NTS SoCC
Moulton Community Library , Moulton Community Centre, Sandy Hill, Reedings, Moulton, Northamptonshire, NN3 7AX	Monday to Saturday: 9:00–17:00 Sundays: 9:00–16:00 (self-service only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information Booklet Consultation Feedback Form 	Hard copy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEIR NTS SoCC



Venue	Opening times	Materials available to take away	Reference materials
Earls Barton Community Library , 27 Broad Street, Earls Barton, Northampton, NN6 0ND	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 14:00–17:00 Wednesday: 10:00–13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information Booklet Consultation Feedback Form 	Digital copy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEIR NTS SoCC
Rothwell Community Library , Market Hill, Rothwell, NN14 6EP	Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday: 10:00–16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information Booklet Consultation Feedback Form 	Hard copy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEIR NTS SoCC
Milton Keynes Library , 555 Silbury Boulevard, Milton Keynes, MK9 3HL	Monday to Friday: 9:00–18:00 Saturday: 9:00–17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information Booklet Consultation Feedback Form 	Digital copy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEIR NTS SoCC

Opening times are correct at time of print.

Navigating our consultation documents

We are following a consultation process on the development of our proposals for Green Hill Solar Farm that has been designed in accordance with the Planning Act 2008. To find out more and get support on how to provide feedback, we have prepared a range of documents and materials that explain our proposals in more detail. These documents will be available on our website during the statutory consultation period: www.greenhillsolar.co.uk/#documents

Document Glossary

Consultation Information Booklet

Provides detailed information about the Scheme, the planning process, the focus of our consultation, and how our plans have evolved, and includes a map of the proposed sites. This booklet is available on our website and in hard copy at our events.

Feedback form

By completing this questionnaire, your feedback will be reviewed. This can be completed on our website. You can also collect it from our events, a local information point or by request over email, post or the phone.

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

This is a technical report which outlines the impacts we believe the Scheme could have on the environment and what measures we are proposing to mitigate these. This includes the main report, figures, maps and plans. This can be accessed on our website, or as a reference copy at our events.

Non-technical summary (NTS) of the PEIR

This summary of the PEIR is available to view on our website and at our consultation events.

Maps and plans

A series of maps and plans for the project are also available on our website and at our consultation events.

Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

The SoCC sets out how we intend to consult people ahead of our application for development consent for the Scheme. The SoCC can be found on our website or in hard copy at our events.





Timeline

We will use the feedback received during the public consultation to prepare the Environmental Statement and submit the Development Consent Order (DCO) application in Spring 2025. During this period, regular updates will be published to our website: www.greenhillsolar.co.uk

Updates can also be found on PINS website:

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010170>



How to contact us

We want to hear from you. To stay up to date on the progress of our plans, please contact us via email or Freephone:

Email: info@greenhillsolar.co.uk

Call: **0800 012 9882**



Our communication lines will remain open during working hours (Monday–Friday 09:00–17:30) throughout the statutory consultation period, between 7 November and 19 December 2024.

It is important to complete the feedback form before the deadline.

You can find the form and our other documents on our website: www.greenhillsolar.co.uk

www.greenhillsolar.co.uk to find out more.