

Welcome to Dengie Solar Park Community Consultation

BSR Energy is bringing forward proposals for a new solar development on land south of Keelings Road, Dengie. The 32 hectare (78 acre) site is located to the southeast of Dengie village in Essex. The proposals represent an exciting opportunity to boost green energy generation in Maldon District.



Our consultation runs from
17th October to 15th November 2022

and we encourage you to submit your feedback on our proposals via the feedback forms available today or online via our project website.

The Climate Emergency

Maldon District Council declared a Climate Emergency in February 2021. The Council subsequently published its Climate Action Strategy 2021-2030, which identifies ways to reduce carbon emissions and increase climate resilience across Maldon District. One of the Council's aims is to become a carbon neutral district by the year 2030.



The effects of climate change have been seen across the country, with record-breaking temperatures reached during this summer (the joint hottest on record). The recent cost of living crisis, including huge increases in energy bills, also highlights the need to take action.

The UK has committed to reducing its carbon emissions by 78% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels. Dengie Solar Park would aid us in reaching this target.

About British Solar Renewables

British Solar Renewables (BSR) is the largest privately-owned, integrated solar developer in the UK. It develops utility-scale solar and storage projects for developers and investors in the UK and internationally. Having developed and built in excess of 700MWp, BSR is a major contributor to the UK renewable energy sector.



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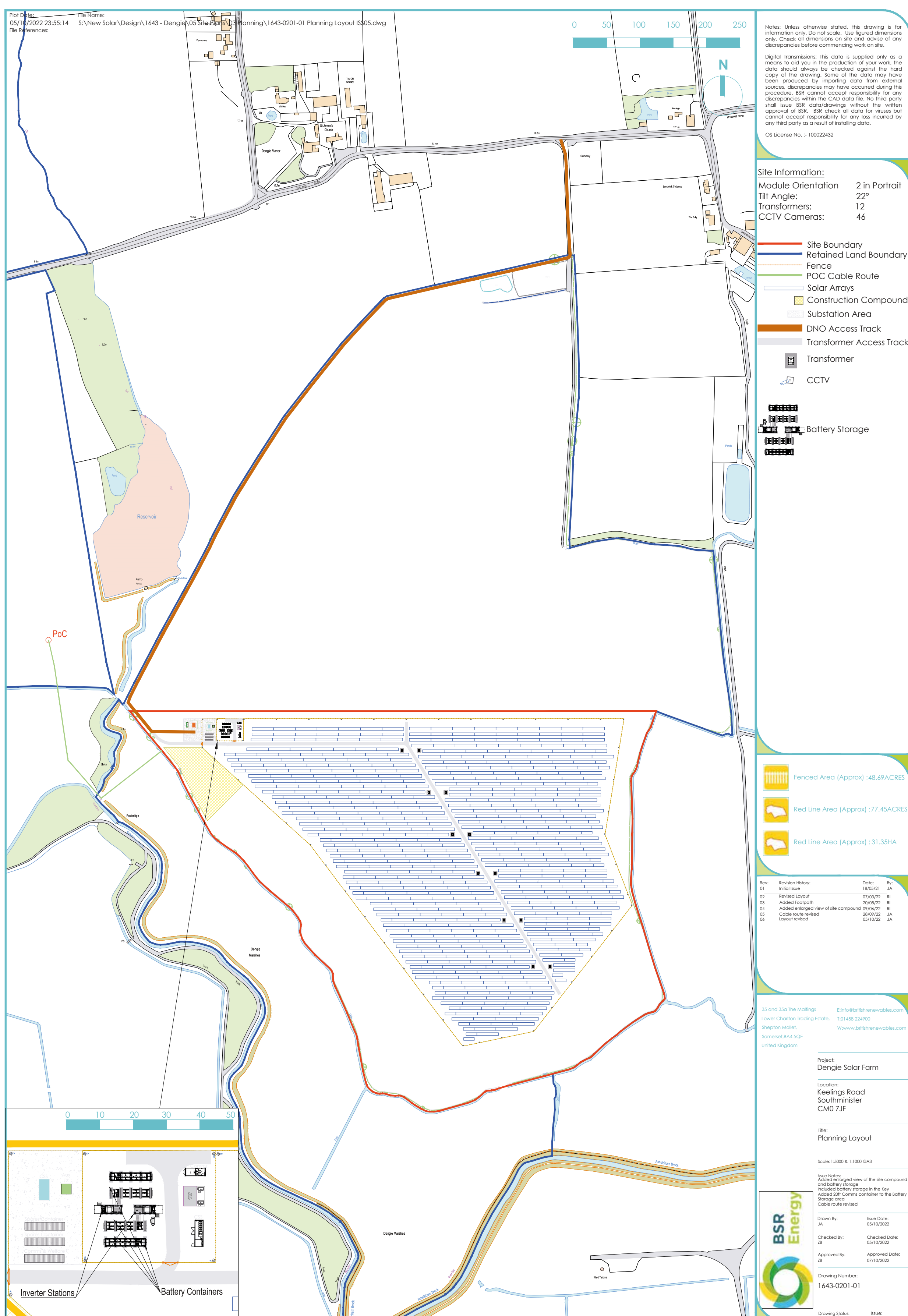
Introducing Dengie Solar Park

The approximately 78-acre site is located to the southeast of Dengie village in a large section of an existing field of Grade 3b agricultural land. Keelings Road is to the north of the site, which can be accessed via the existing entrance off this road.

The proposed Solar Park would deliver 19MW (megawatts) of power to the National Grid, saving 4,208 tonnes of CO₂ emissions per year¹. It would produce enough renewable energy to power approximately 4,751 homes in the UK².

A number of technical assessments have been carried out with regard to the suitability of the site for the proposed development. These include a Landscape and Visual Appraisal, Heritage Assessment, Flood Risk Assessment and Outline Drainage Strategy, Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Agricultural Land Classification, Highway Statement and Construction Traffic Management Plan, which have informed the site selection and layout.

The proposed project design has been informed by the site's opportunities and constraints.



¹Based on 'Emissions associated with the generation of electricity at a power station.' (Electricity generation factors do not include transmission and distribution).

²Based on an annual average domestic consumption per household (Great Britain) of 3,799 kWh. Source BEIS Greenhouse gas reporting: conversion factors 2020.

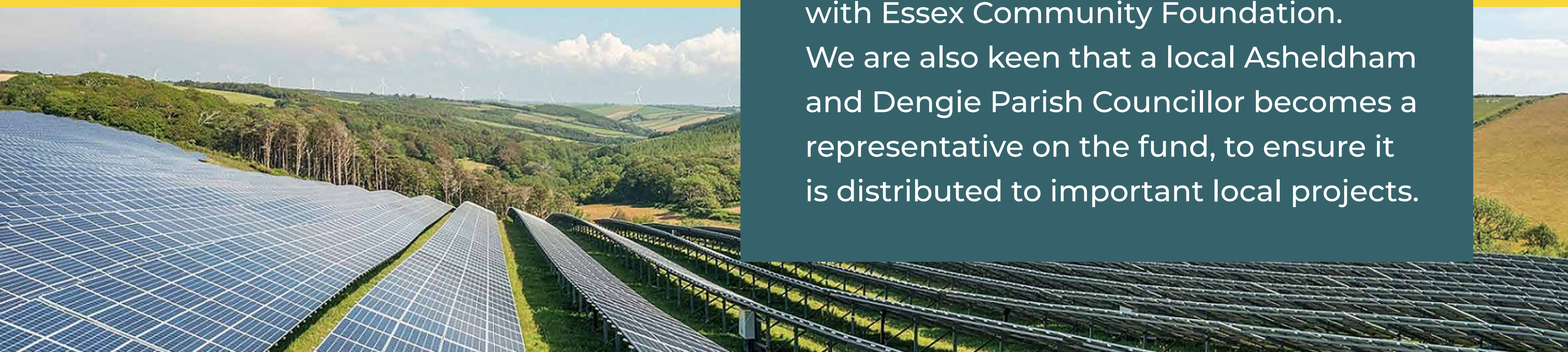
The Benefits of Dengie Solar Park

- The project will help the UK reach its carbon net zero targets by producing renewable energy to power over 4,700 homes and save over 4,200 tonnes of CO₂ emissions per year.
- It will assist Maldon District Council to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with local and national targets, as well as supporting the Council's strategy for its declared Climate Emergency.
- It will aid the security and robustness of the local electricity supply in Maldon District.
- Ecological enhancements including wildflower and wild bird seed grasslands, and a range of breeding boxes for bats and birds are being considered as part of the application. We anticipate the Solar Park will demonstrate at least **60% biodiversity net gain**.
- New hedgerow planting is proposed to fill in and strengthen existing hedgerows to ensure minimal visual and environmental impact.
- The Solar Park will connect to the National Grid via an underground cable to a point of connection in an adjacent field, removing the need for a long cable route.
- This is a temporary development (40 years), allowing the solar PV and associated infrastructure to be removed and agricultural use reinstated following decommissioning.
- No Public Rights of Way will be closed during or after construction of the Solar Park.

Community Benefit

If the project is consented, BSR Energy would create a Community Benefit Fund which will offer a total of £19,000 in grants to support local projects and benefit the local community.

We are in the process of setting up an agreement for the Community Fund with Essex Community Foundation. We are also keen that a local Asheldham and Dengie Parish Councillor becomes a representative on the fund, to ensure it is distributed to important local projects.

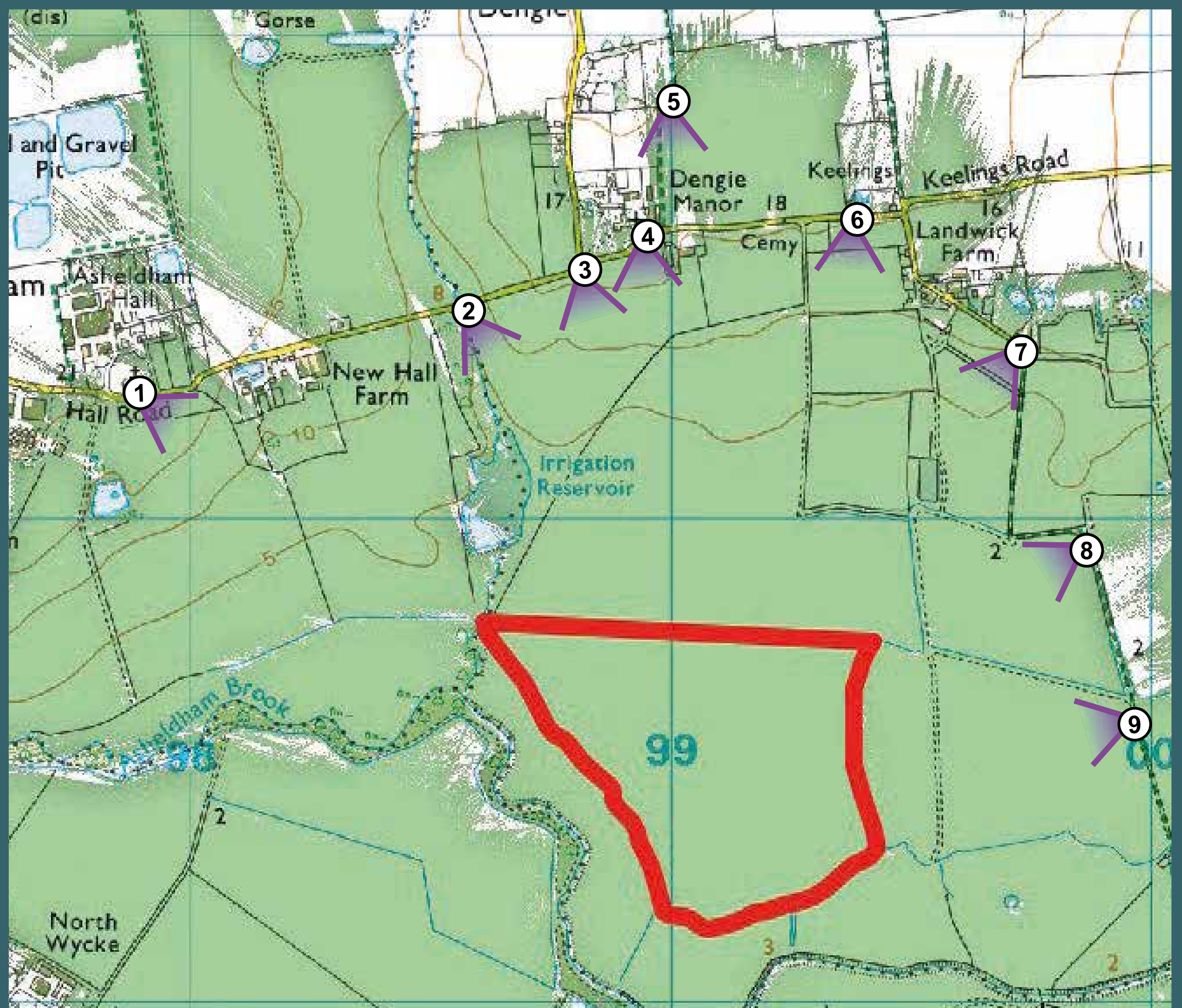
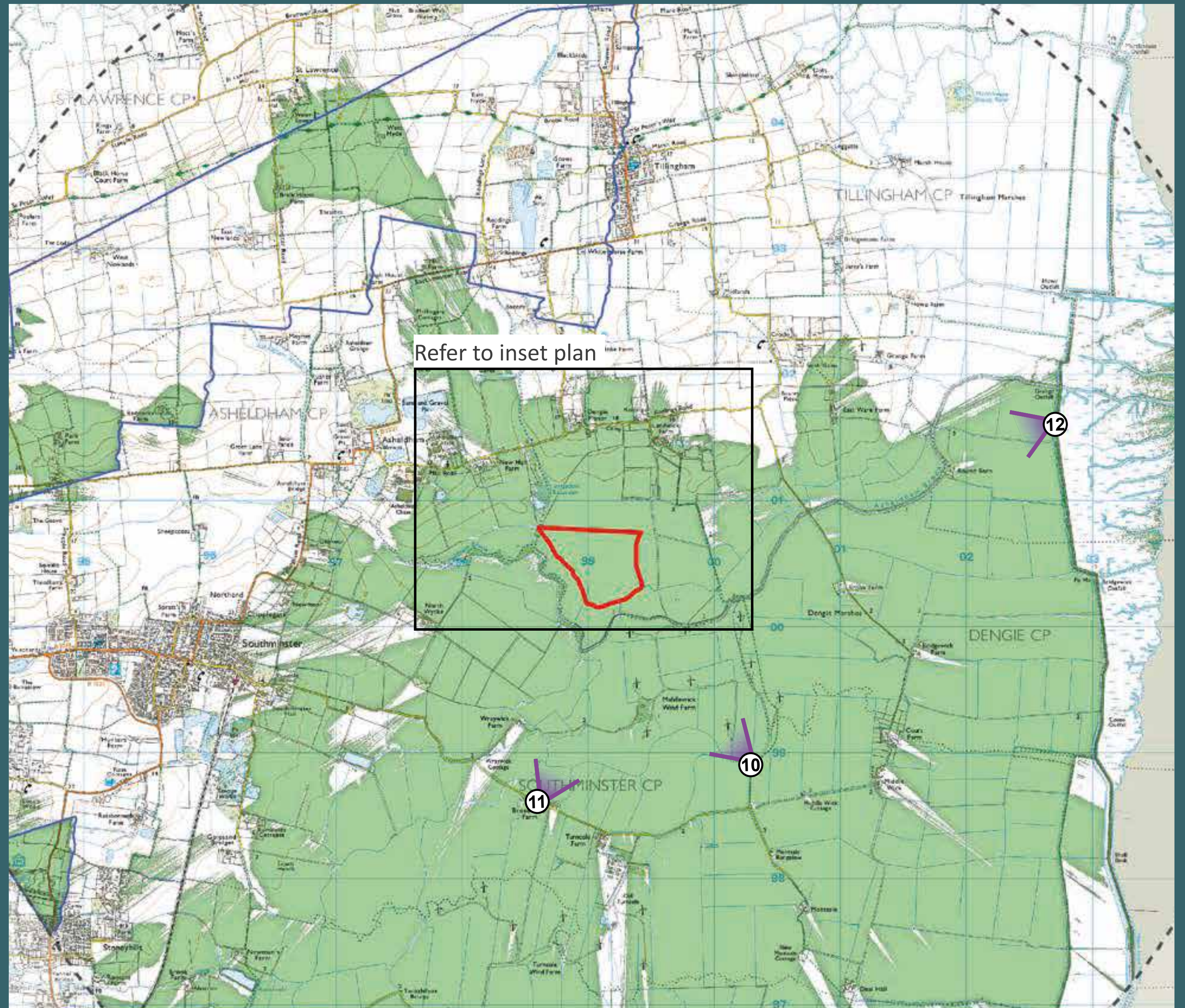


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Visual Impact

The map highlights the three key viewpoint angles for the images covered on the next three boards. We have selected to show viewpoints 1, 4 and 8 as these are the most prominent views from St James' Church, the wind turbine viewing platform as well as the Public Right of Way that runs to the east of the site.

The viewpoints are shown before construction, at Year 1 after construction and at Year 15 after construction.



Key Viewpoints

Viewpoint 1: From Asheldham Youth Church
(Church of St Lawrence – Grade II Listed), looking south-west.



Existing View



1 year



15 years



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Key Viewpoints

Viewpoint 4: From the Church of St James (Grade II Listed), looking south.



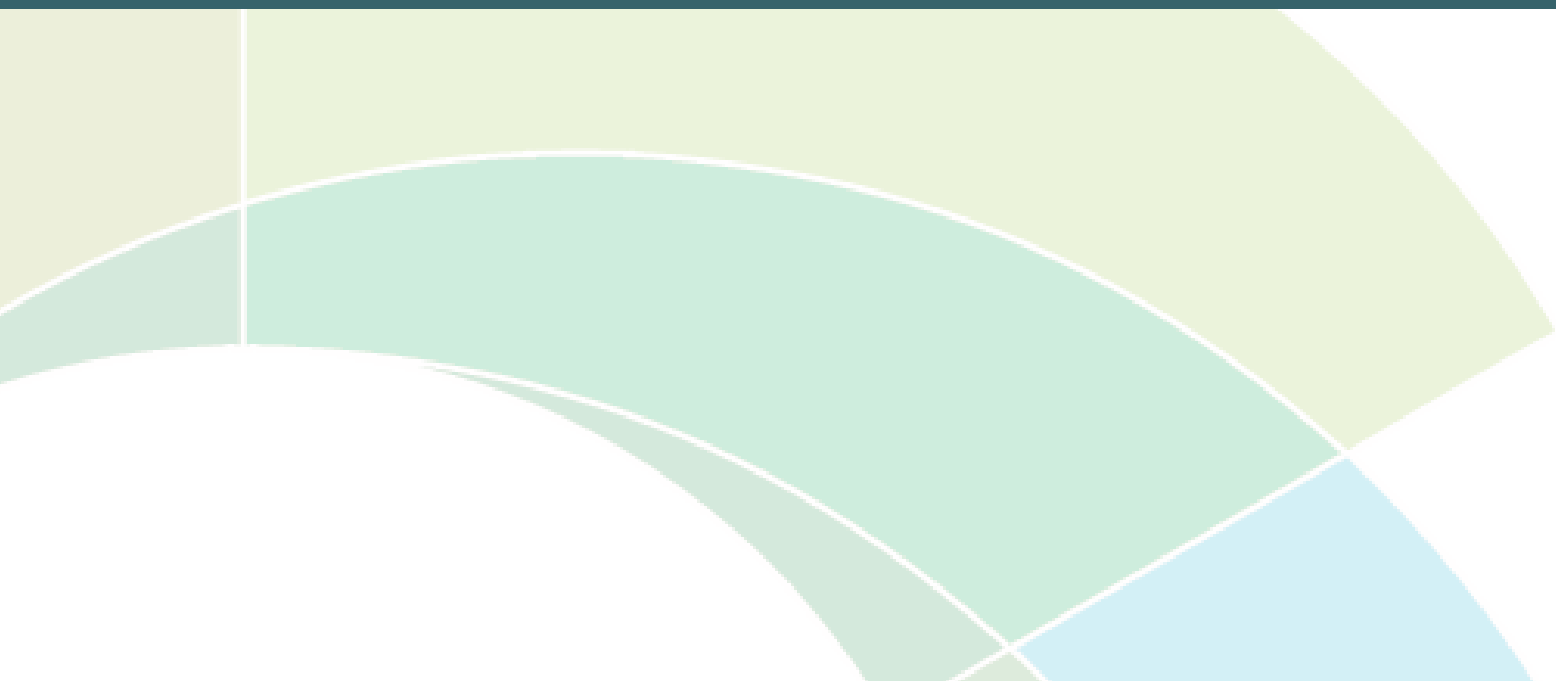
Existing View



1 year



15 years



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Key Viewpoints

Viewpoint 8: From PRow Essex 244 8, looking south-west.



Existing View



1 year

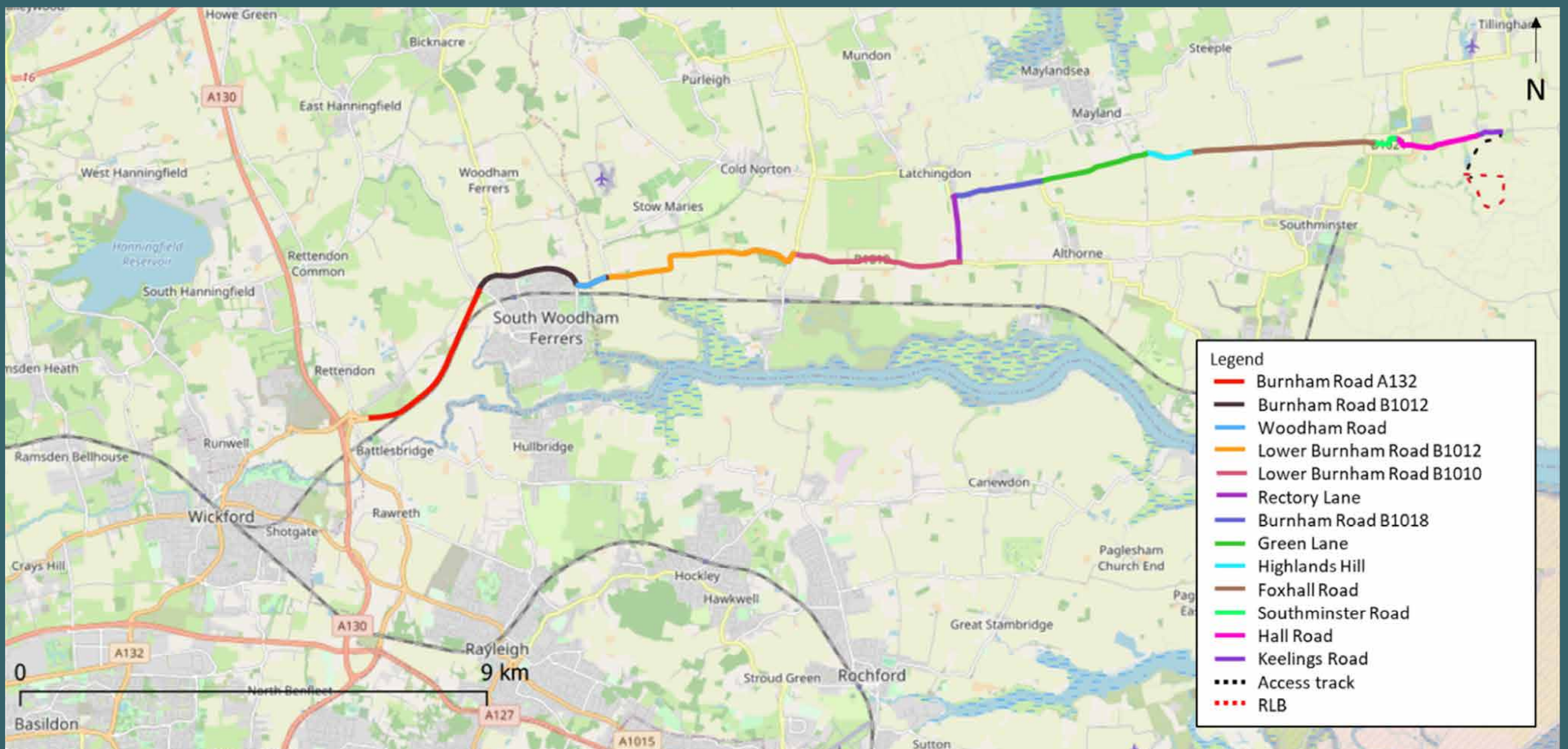


15 years



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Construction Traffic



A Highway Statement and Construction Traffic Management Plan were produced in May 2022 (and will be submitted alongside the application).

The construction phase is likely to last for approximately **six months**. At its peak there would be an average of around **nine HGVs** to the site each day.

Once operational, the Solar Park will encounter low traffic levels with an anticipated one or two visits per month for maintenance and inspection purposes.

Access to the site is from an existing track from Keelings Road to the north of the site. Keelings Road is a rural single-carriageway running in an east-west direction, connecting to Hall Road to the west and to Bridgewick Road to the east.

Essex County Council Highways are being consulted on the suitability of the construction route, with a Transport Statement currently being prepared.



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Environmental Considerations

Flooding

The risk of flooding is categorised as very low as the area is fortified with flood defences. We have undertaken a Drainage Strategy which confirms the development will not give rise to increased on-site drainage or surface run-off issues once constructed. However, some drainage features will still be required to promote infiltration across the site. The drainage details are included within our Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy, which will be submitted alongside the application.

Ecology

We work with landowners, environmental specialists and planning authorities to develop, build, operate and manage our solar parks in order to improve local biodiversity and achieve a net gain of at least 60%.

Dengie Solar Park will be protected by fencing that allows animal movements in and out of the site along their foraging routes. New hedgerows will be created and native trees will be planted to suitably screen the site. In addition, existing hedgerows will also be enhanced to provide further screening. A full survey and report has been undertaken to establish the ecological assets on site, including species and habitats. This report will be submitted alongside the full application. The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal sets out the constraints, opportunities and recommendations for habitats, species and other enhancement opportunities.

Rights of Way

No Public Rights of Way will be closed during or after construction of the Solar Park.

Noise

A Noise Impact Assessment has been carried out, with the report concluding there would be no adverse impact with regards to noise levels. The Report summarises that whilst the predicted levels from the development are initially shown to exceed the background levels (in accordance with BS 4142:2014), it should be noted that this is more indicative of the particularly low background levels in the area rather than any substantial noise output from the site.

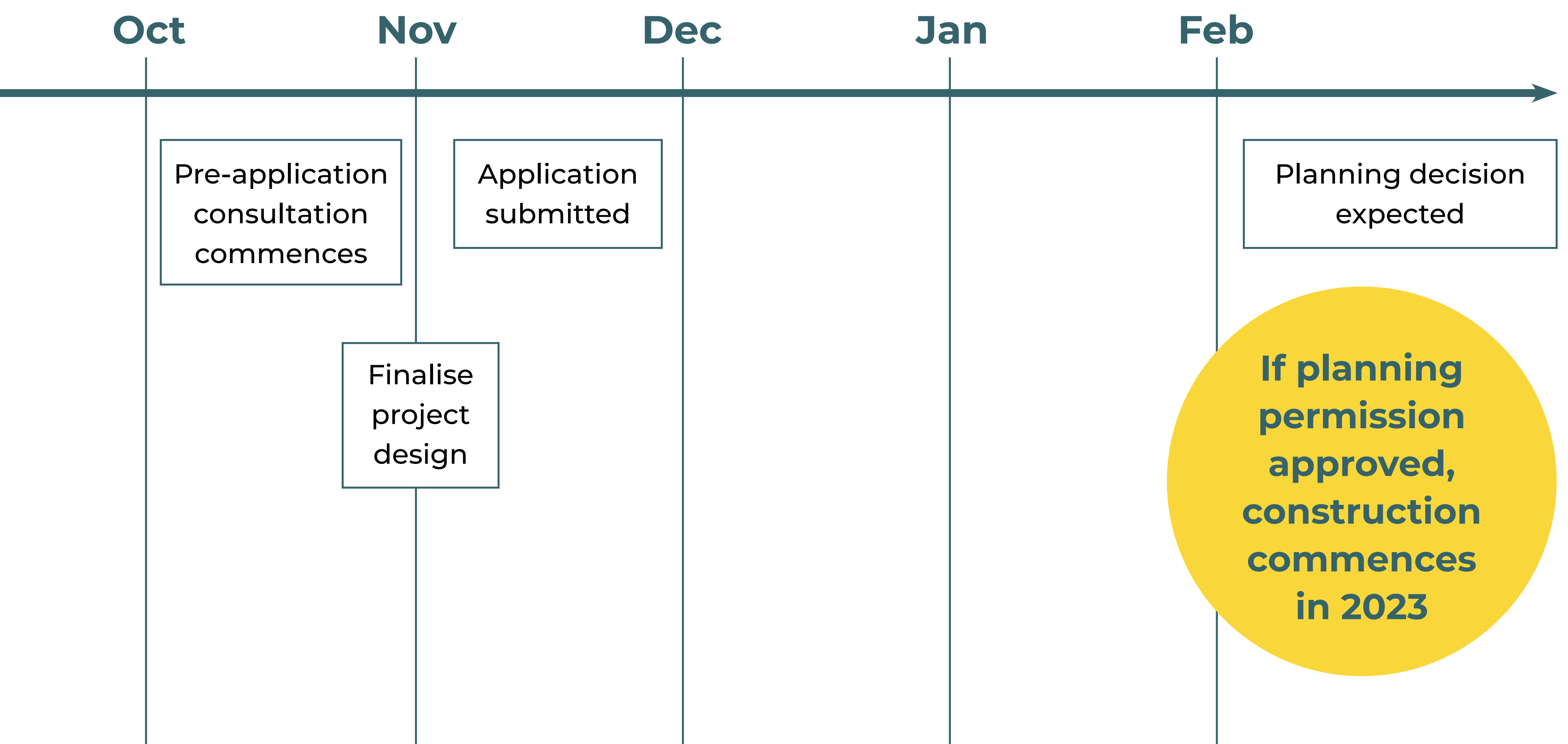


Next Steps

Once the community consultation closes on 15 November 2022, the project design will be finalised.

All feedback received during our consultation will be analysed and shared with the project team, who will incorporate changes and suggestions where appropriate. A Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which details the consultation process and summarises the feedback received, will be submitted to planning authorities as part of the application documents.

Indicative Timeline



You can view our consultation materials and fill out our feedback form online via our project website: www.britishrenewables.com/projects/dengie-solar-park

Contact Us

Email: dengie@bsrenergy.com

Freephone: 0330 1797 646

Leave us a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.



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