

High Grove Solar Farm

Non-statutory consultation

Monday 9 September 2024 to Friday 18 October 2024



RWE is excited to present the initial proposals for the High Grove Solar Farm, a new 720MW solar farm project with integrated battery storage, located in the heart of Breckland District.

The project would play a key role in advancing the UK's energy ambitions, improving energy security, while supporting the transition away from fossil fuels.

The UK has a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Solar energy, being one of the most cost-effective and swiftly deployable renewable resources, is pivotal in fulfilling this commitment.

With the UK Government aiming for a solar capacity of 70 gigawatts by 2035 - quintupling the present capacity - and recent post-election announcements reinforcing a commitment to solar projects through supportive policies and incentives, our proposals for High Grove Solar Farm will make a substantial contribution to this national objective.

Our Proposals

The High Grove Solar Farm will harness the power of the sun to provide a substantial 720MW of clean energy, contributing significantly towards the UK's net zero carbon emissions target by 2050.

The proposals will include solar panels and co-located battery storage situated across five distinct Proposed Development Areas, with the site extending from about 1.5km southwest of Dereham in the east to the west of Swaffham.

We want to hear the views of local people about our plans, so turn over to find out more, or visit our website to have your say!

Scan the QR code to visit our consultation website:



rwe.com/highgrove



Who is RWE?

We are key drivers of the energy transformation – working to achieve ambitious goals.

The proposals for High Grove Solar Farm are being brought forward by RWE. RWE is a leading provider of renewable energy. The company is committed to driving the transformation towards a sustainable energy future, focusing on generating electricity, building new storage capacities, and energy trading. With significant investments in the expansion of renewables and storage technologies, RWE plays a vital role in enhancing national energy security and sustainability.



Community & Environmental Benefits

Biodiversity and Habitat Enhancement: We are committed to environmental enhancement and mitigation, ensuring a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) of **at least 50%** and providing **several kilometres of new native hedgerows and trees.**

Community Benefits:

We will provide additional opportunities for public recreation with proposed new footpaths, outdoor picnic areas and benches. We are also proposing to provide up to **£11.5 million** over the operational lifetime of High Grove. This would take the form of annual payments spread across the **40-year period.**

RWE has a long track record of involving communities in shaping a benefits package that works for them. We want to hear your ideas for the High Grove Solar Community Benefit Fund.

Project Timeline

- September 2024**
EIA scoping report submission
- Sept-Oct 2024**
Non-statutory consultation
- Late 2024**
Review all consultation feedback and refine design
- Early 2025**
Publication of the PEIR & statutory consultation
- Mid 2025**
Review all consultation feedback and refine design
- Late 2025**
Submission of the 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



Anticipated generation capacity of up to 720MW



Displacing over 24.8M tonnes of CO₂ from equivalent fossil fuel energy



Enough to power 363,000 typical households*



Equivalent to taking 368,573 cars off the road for a year!



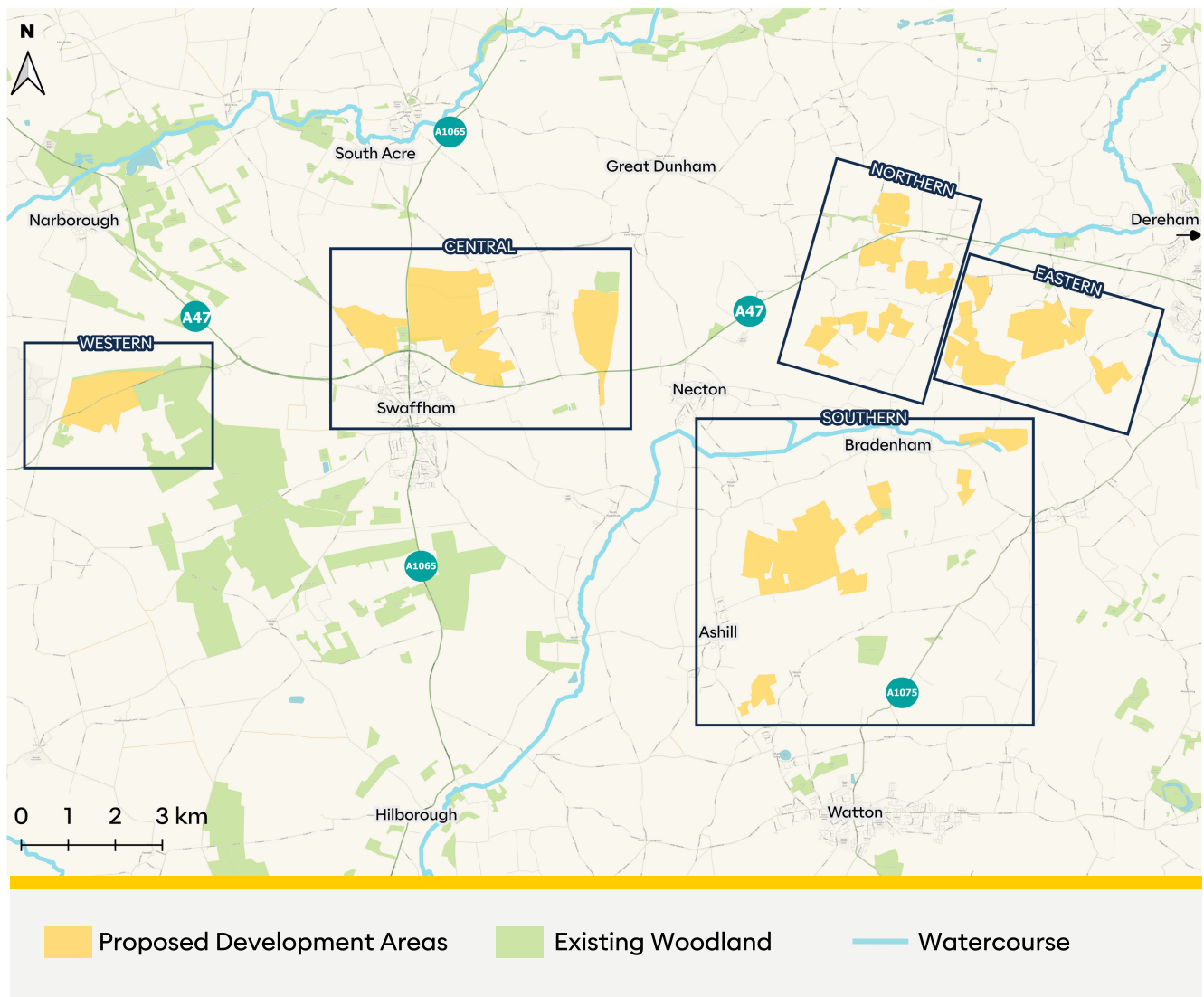
Over 95% of the panel areas can be used for sheep grazing, should the landowner wish to do so



On-site battery storage providing flexibility to deliver energy to the grid when it is needed most

*Based on 2022 generation, and assuming average (mean) annual household consumption of 3,240kWh, based on latest (Jan 2024) statistics from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

Proposal Map



Our vision for High Grove is to deliver a project that not only contributes to the UK's net zero target, but also incorporates a wide range of ecological and community enhancements. New planting will reduce landscape and visual impact, while delivering a network of habitat creation. Existing footpaths would be improved, and new connections created, providing access to educational trails, picnic areas and outdoor classrooms.

Consultation and Your Views

We are at the preliminary design stage and keen to integrate community feedback into our plans. The consultation period starts on Monday 9 September 2024 and will conclude on Friday 18 October 2024.

After the current consultation phase concludes, we will carefully review and integrate community feedback into our proposals as appropriate before conducting a subsequent 'statutory' consultation on our refined plans, currently scheduled for early 2025.

We greatly value your contributions and are eager for your ongoing involvement as we refine our proposals throughout the next year.





How to get involved

We hope that you will take the opportunity to learn more about High Grove and help shape the development plans.

The deadline for responses to this early consultation is Friday 18 October 2024.

Here is how you can get involved:

Visit our website

View our plans, learn more about solar, sign up to our webinars, and provide your feedback by visiting our consultation website at rwe.com/highgrove

You can also register for updates to ensure you receive important notifications about the proposal as the project progresses.

Contact Us

If you have any questions, suggestions, or would like to provide feedback on our proposals, our dedicated team is here to assist you. You can reach us via:

 01362 350 063

 rwe.com/highgrove

 info@highgrovesolar.co.uk

 FREEPOST HIGH GROVE SOLAR

Attend our events

Join us at our in-person consultation events or webinars to engage directly with our project team, ask questions, and share your thoughts. You'll find a full list of event details below.

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday 17 September	2.00pm-7.00pm	Regency Room, Swaffham Assembly Rooms, Swaffham PE37 7AB
Wednesday 18 September	10.30am-2.30pm	Scarning Village Hall, Scarning, NR19 2PF
Thursday 19 September	6.30pm-7.30pm	Online webinar (register at rwe.com/highgrove)
Friday 27 September	2.00pm-7.00pm	Letton Hall, Shipdham, Thetford IP25 7SA
Saturday 28 September	10.30am-2.30pm	Ashill Community Centre, IP25 7AX
Tuesday 1 October	1.00pm-2.00pm	Online webinar (register at rwe.com/highgrove)
Tuesday 1 October	6.30pm-7.30pm	Online webinar (register at rwe.com/highgrove)
Friday 4 October	1.00pm-6.00pm	Necton Community Centre, PE37 8EH
Saturday 5 October	10.30am-2.30pm	Sporle Village Hall, PE32 2DR

Materials in alternative formats

If you are unable to access the internet or you have particular accessibility requirements, our consultation materials can be made available in alternative formats. All requests should be made by email via info@highgrovesolar.co.uk or via our dedicated phoneline, 01362 350 063

A physical copy of the consultation documents, along with feedback forms will be available for inspection at two deposit locations throughout the consultation period.

- Swaffham Library, The Pightle, PE37 7DF
- Dereham Library, 59 High St, NR19 1DZ