

The image features a large-scale solar farm with rows of photovoltaic panels stretching across a grassy field under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The panels are tilted towards the sun. In the top left corner, the company logo is displayed in white text.

# Tillbridge

Solar

**Tillbridge Solar Collaboration Workshops**

20-22 July 2022

\*Information correct as of July 2022



WELCOME

# The Tillbridge Solar team



# Agenda for today



Item	Timings
Welcome, introductions and logistics for today	10pm – 10:30pm
Session #1: Presentation – An introduction to Tillbridge Solar	10:30pm – 11am
Q&A session	11am – 11:20am
Refreshments break	11:20am – 11:40am
Session #2: Interactive sessions – key topic areas	11:40am – 1:15pm
Closing remarks and opportunity for final comments	1:15pm – 2pm
Workshop close	2pm



## Our approach to

**\*Previous version to what we are presenting now**

- Our plans for Tillbridge Solar are still at an early stage.
- The project is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) so needs to apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO).
- Consultation will be carried out in accordance with the Planning Act 2008.
- These collaboration workshops form an important role in the formative stages of the project and non-statutory consultation.
- Your engagement today and over the coming months will be important in helping us to refine our plans and project design as this develops in more detail.

\*Information correct as of July 2022

## Key aims

- We want to understand the local context and what is important to you
- We want to create an open and collaborative forum for engagement and achieve active participation in the design process for Tillbridge Solar
- To present the project in the context of existing applications in the area and set out areas for collaboration

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# Your role



- Today is an opportunity for us to introduce:
  - The project in more detail
  - Initial constraints that we are aware of so far
  - The timeline for the project
  - How we will be engaging with you moving forwards
- There is an opportunity for you to:
  - Interact with our plans and materials
  - Let us know what key issues, constraints and sensitivities we should be aware of
  - Shape the early-stage design of the scheme
  - Provide comments at this early stage

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# Logistics



- We want this session to be as open and collaborative as possible.
- There will be opportunities for you to ask questions and engage directly with the team.
- You can provide comments today by:
  - Providing comments on post-it notes, which can be pinned on printed maps.
  - Place pins/stickers to identify notable locations and constraints in the area.
  - Writing directly onto maps.
  - Using comment sheets – there will be an opportunity to write down your final thoughts at the end of today’s workshop.
- We will also be noting down actions and key discussion points throughout the day.

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The image features a large-scale solar farm with rows of photovoltaic panels stretching across a grassy field under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The panels are tilted at an angle, and their shadows are cast onto the ground. In the top left corner, the company name 'Tillbridge Solar' is displayed in a clean, white, sans-serif font. The word 'Tillbridge' is significantly larger than 'Solar', and a small orange semi-circle is positioned above the 'i' in 'Tillbridge'.

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**Session #1 - An introduction to Tillbridge Solar**

# About Tillbridge Solar Farm

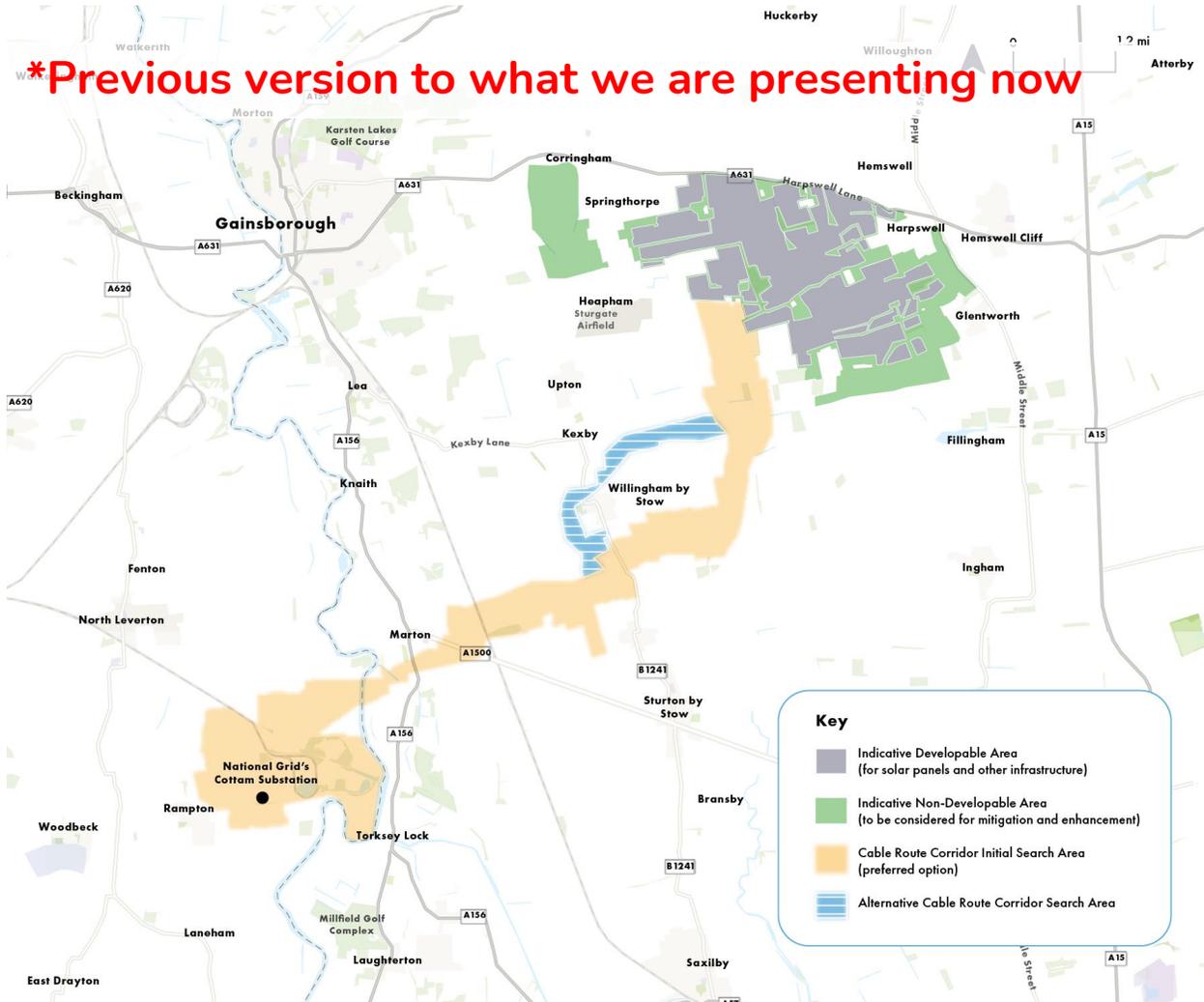


The project will comprise the construction, operation (including maintenance), and decommissioning of ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays and supporting infrastructure. The supporting infrastructure will include:

- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
- Solar stations, comprising electrical equipment such as inverters and transformers
- Substations
- Access tracks for maintenance and staff car parks
- Security fencing and CCTV
- Landscape planting to screen views, most likely through infilling and planting of hedgerows and trees
- Biodiversity Net Gain
- Underground cabling connecting the solar farm with National Grid at Cottam.
- Potential for collaboration with other developers (see later slides).

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# Location and key facts

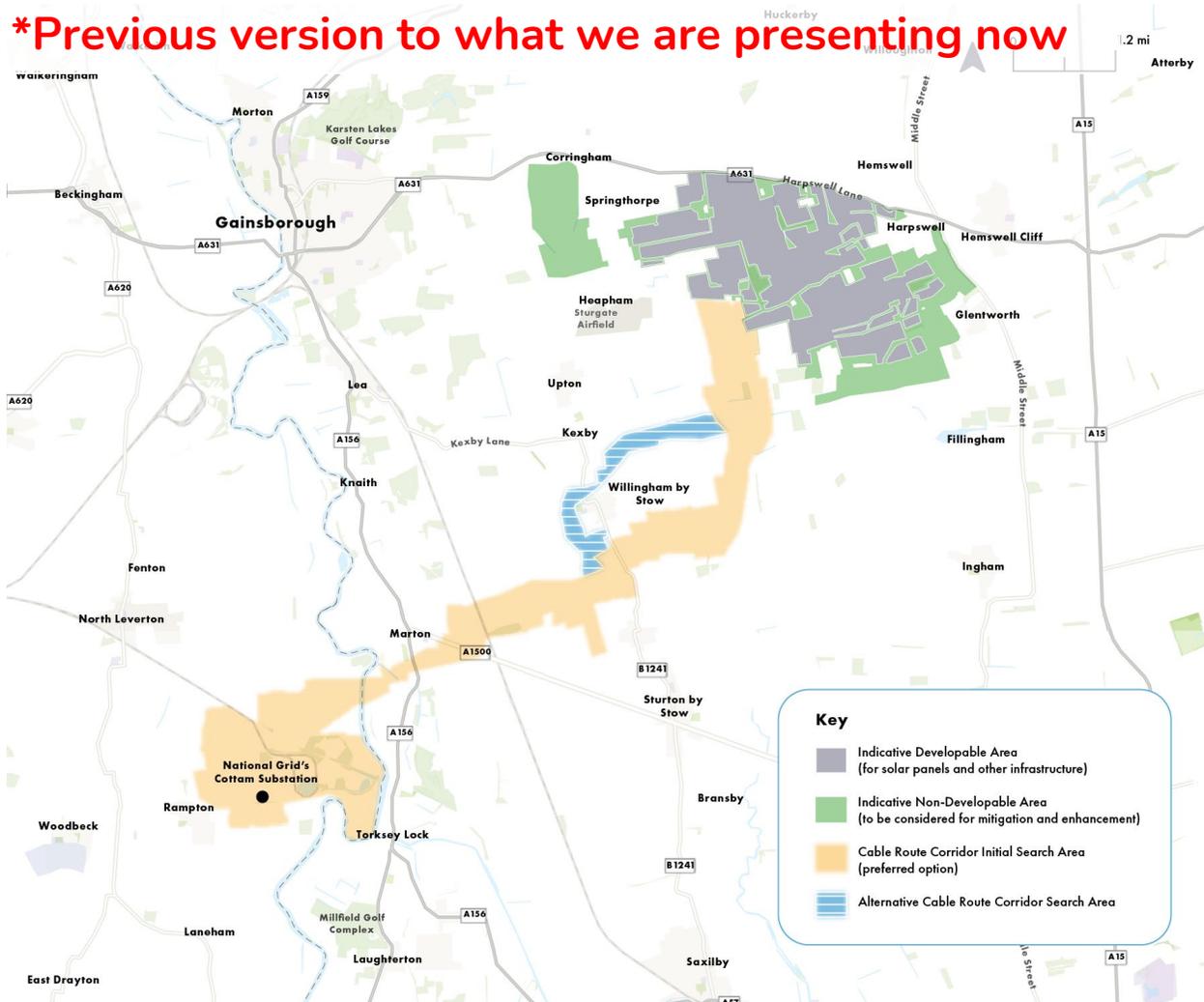


- Located on land to the south, east and south-east of Gainsborough, and to the north-west of Lincoln. The scheme would be built on agricultural land.
- Connection to the National Grid at Cottam substation in Nottinghamshire.
- We have an offer from National Grid to access up to 500MW of grid connection capacity. We are working to develop a project that provides the best and most efficient solution and allows the project to provide as much renewable electricity within these constraints.
- We have initially identified the following areas (these are subject to change following ongoing feedback and design work):
  - Total area within RLB
  - Preferred areas for development – referred to as ‘developable areas’ is currently approximately 1,000 hectares
  - Preferred areas to be considered for mitigation and enhancement – referred to as ‘non-developable’ is currently approximately 700 hectares
  - Provisional area for breeding bird mitigation is currently approximately 200 hectares
  - Preferred initial search area for underground cable route corridor is approximately 16km
- **Please see the printed maps in the room.**

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# Location and key facts

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- Tillbridge Solar would be located on agricultural land.
- We will be carrying out agricultural land classification surveys in the near future, which will define the grading.
- Agricultural land will not be lost in the development of this project – it will provide an opportunity for restoration during the lifespan of the project.
- Benefits include reduction in intensive agriculture and chemical fertilizer, revenue streams for local farmers.

\*Information correct as of July 2022



## The needs case

- The UK is committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This pathway requires the decarbonisation of many sectors across the UK.
- Decarbonisation requires energy generation from low carbon sources and phasing out electricity currently being generated by burning fossil fuels.
- More renewable energy is needed to accelerate this transitions and large-scale solar will play an important role in this.
- Large-scale solar will deliver a secure and affordable energy supply to those that need it most.
- The recent Energy Security Strategy sets out an increased target of around 70 gigawatts (GW) of total solar generation capacity by 2050.
- Tillbridge Solar would make a vital contribution towards achieving net zero and provide clean, green electricity during its operation (around 40 years).

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# The opportunity



- We have the opportunity to develop a scheme:
  - In a responsible way, in collaboration with local communities and key stakeholders and from an early stage.
  - In collaboration with other developers (see later slides).
  - In-keeping with the local and regional landscape.
  - That supports Lincolnshire's transition away from electricity generation using fossil-fuels, towards a net zero economy.

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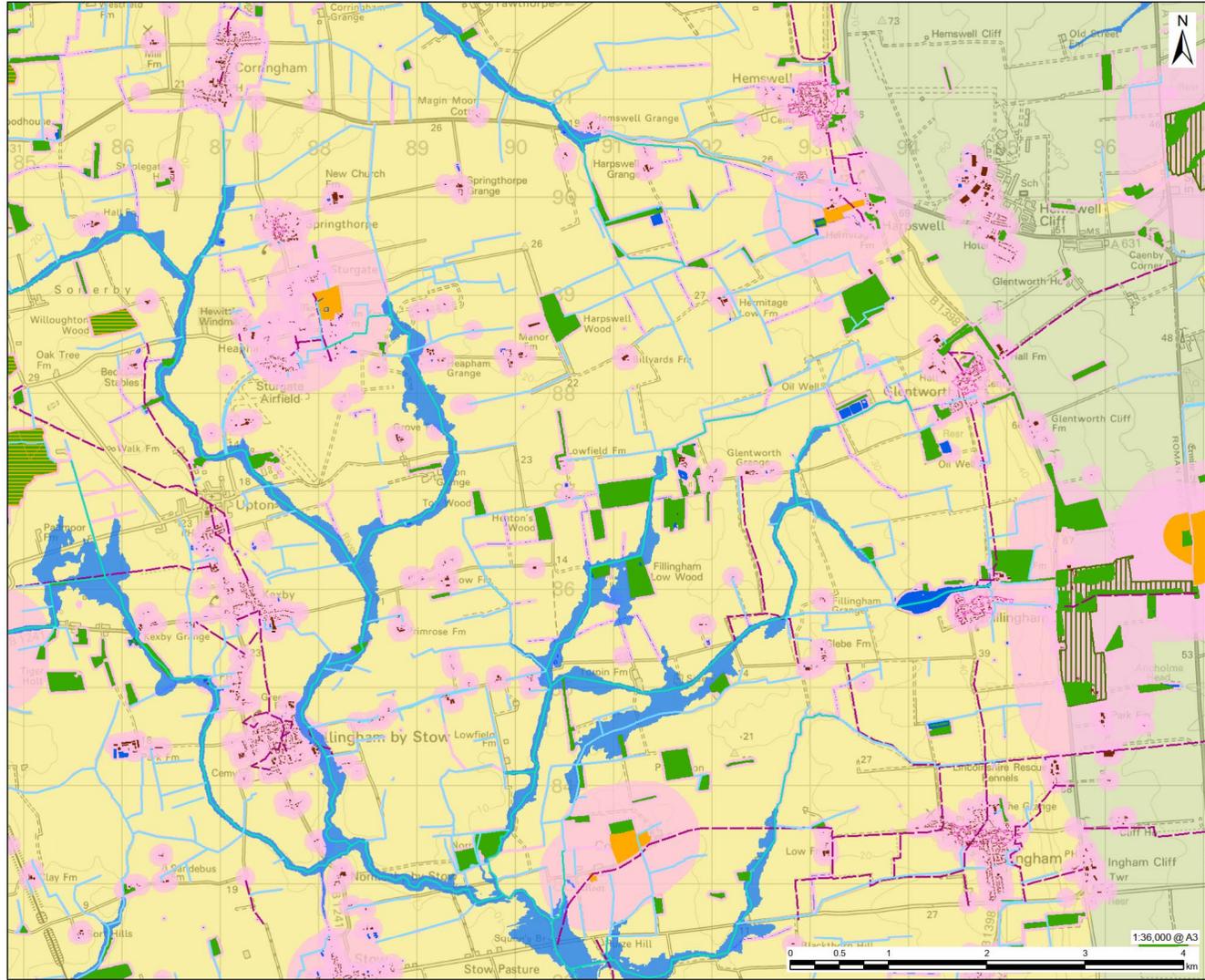
Questions

# Tillbridge Solar



The story so far





**AECOM**  
PROJECT  
Tillbridge Solar

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CLIENT  
Tillbridge Solar Ltd

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LEGEND

- Stream
- River
- Indicative PROW Boundary
- Buildings
- Waterbody
- Ancient Woodland
- National Forest Inventory
- Scheduled Monument
- Registered Park and Garden
- Conservation Area
- Flood Zone 3
- Buffer Zone

Agricultural Land Classification (Grade)

- Grade 2
- Grade 3

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NOTES

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ISSUE PURPOSE

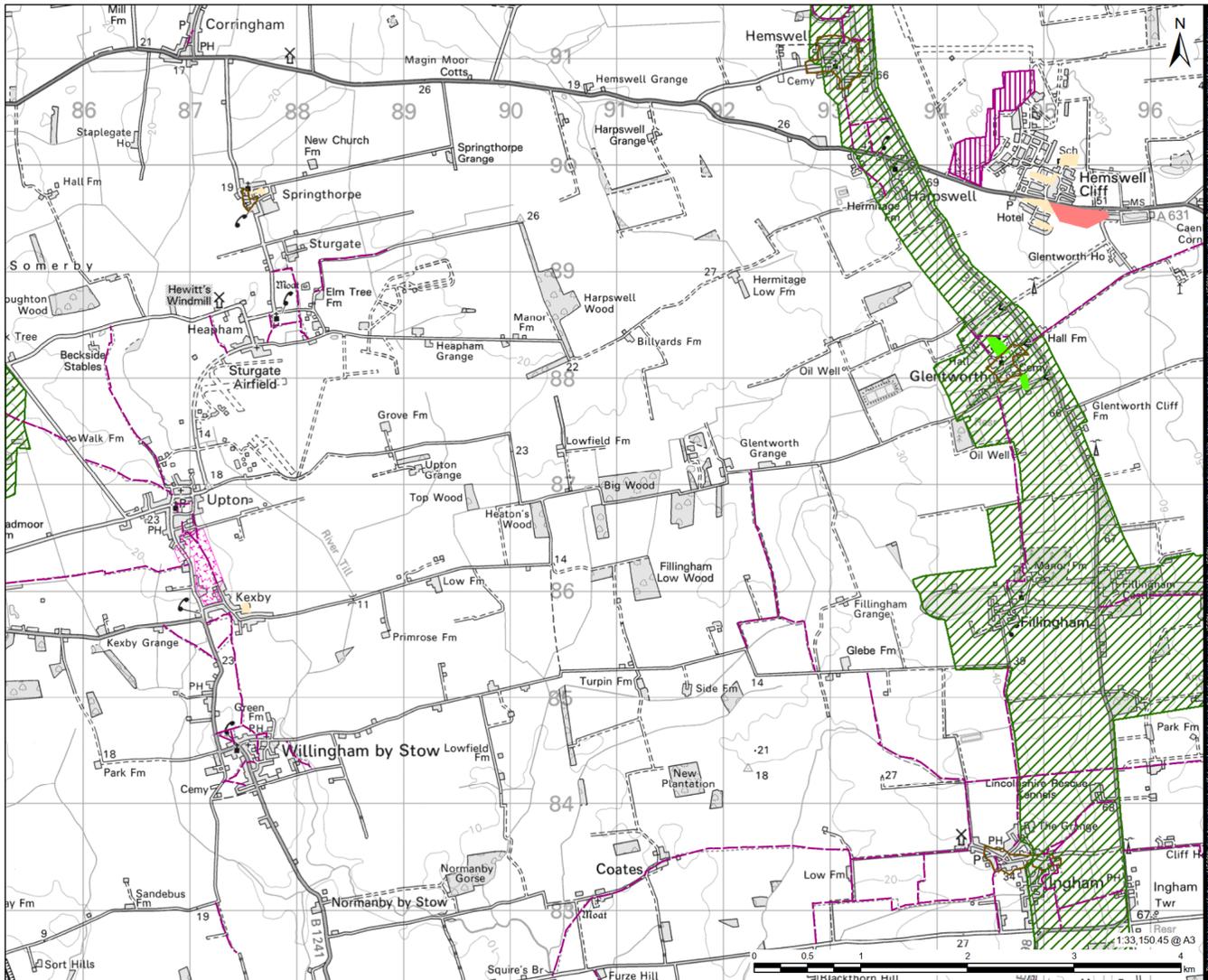
DRAFT  
PROJECT NUMBER  
60682158  
FIGURE TITLE  
Constraints Plan to Inform Design  
Freeze 1  
FIGURE NUMBER  
Figure 2

# Environmental Constraints and Opportunities – desk based

- Environmental analysis of constraints to further shape and define the area of search.
- Inclusion of buffers where development would be too sensitive.

# Consideration of planning designations – desk based

Revision: 0 Drawn: LL Checked: DW Approved: NC Date: 2022-06-10  
 File: \\aecom.com\EMEA\Lincolnshire\Lincolnshire Local Plan\Tillbridge Solar\2022\12\_TillbridgeSolar\_Kinsham\TillbridgeSolar\_LocPlan\Designation.mxd



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LEGEND

- PROW Boundary
- Indicative Local Plan Designation Boundary
- Allocated Residential Site
- Area of Great Landscape Value
- Conservation Area
- Green Wedge
- Important Open Space
- Local Green Space
- Strategic Employment Site

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ISSUE PURPOSE  
 DRAFT  
 PROJECT NUMBER  
 60682158

FIGURE TITLE  
 Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Designations  
 FIGURE NUMBER  
 Figure 3

- Area of Great Landscape Value
- Conservation Area
- Green Wedge
- Public Rights of Way

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# Landscape, Visual and Planning Analysis of area of search – walk-over 2022

**AECOM**

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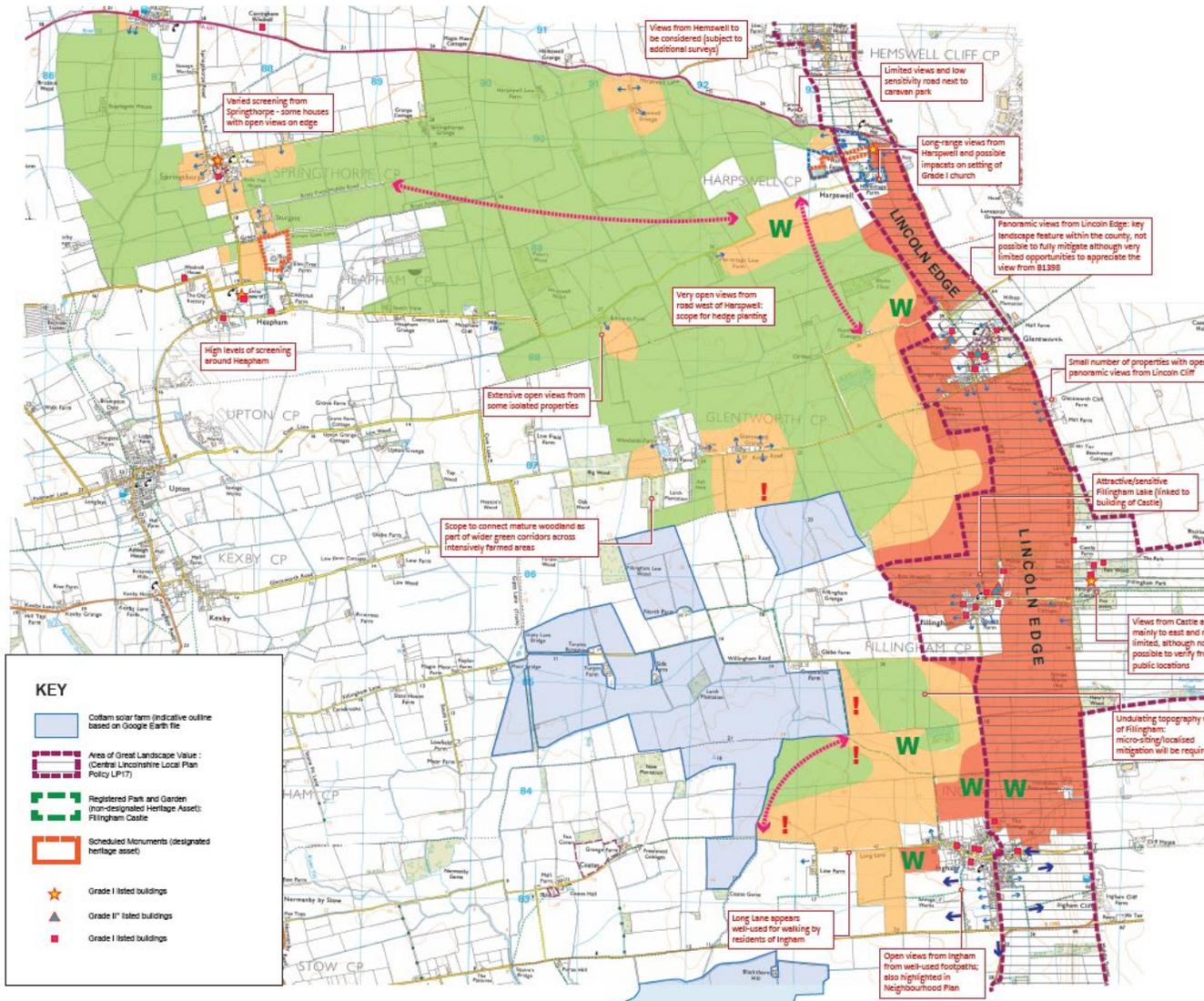
**LEGEND**

- 'Higher risk' areas: little or no opportunity for development without extensive mitigation. Constraints include planning designations, collective open views from settlements and setting of listed buildings.
- 'Medium risk' areas: development will likely require micro-siting and/or higher levels of mitigation. Constraints open private residential views, sensitive elevated topography and proximity to Public Rights of Way or roads with amenity value.
- 'Lower risk' areas: greater capacity for development due to absence of sensitive receptors and landscape/visual constraints.
- ! Areas of highest sensitivity to cumulative effects with Cotnam solar farm: standards to be considered
- Open views from residential receptors (based on assumptions from aerial mapping and site surveys)
- ← 'Important views' noted in Ingham Neighbourhood Plan
- W Areas with higher opportunities for woodland planting to assist with screening and improve/connect biodiversity/green infrastructure
- ~ Broad corridors where improved recreational routes may be of greatest benefit (permissive paths/bridleways or PFIOW)

**NOTES**

FOR INTERNAL CIRCULATION ONLY

ISSUE PURPOSE  
DRAFT - INTERNAL ONLY  
PROJECT NUMBER  
60882158  
FIGURE TITLE  
SKETCH CONSTRAINTS, RISK AND OPPORTUNITIES PLAN (LANDSCAPE/VISUAL)  
FIGURE NUMBER  
Figure SK1 Version 1: 13/08/22



- Identification of key landscape and views
- Sensitive receptors
- Cumulative impacts
- Proximity to Public Rights of Way
- Topography
- Planning designations
- Heritage Assets
- Conservation Areas

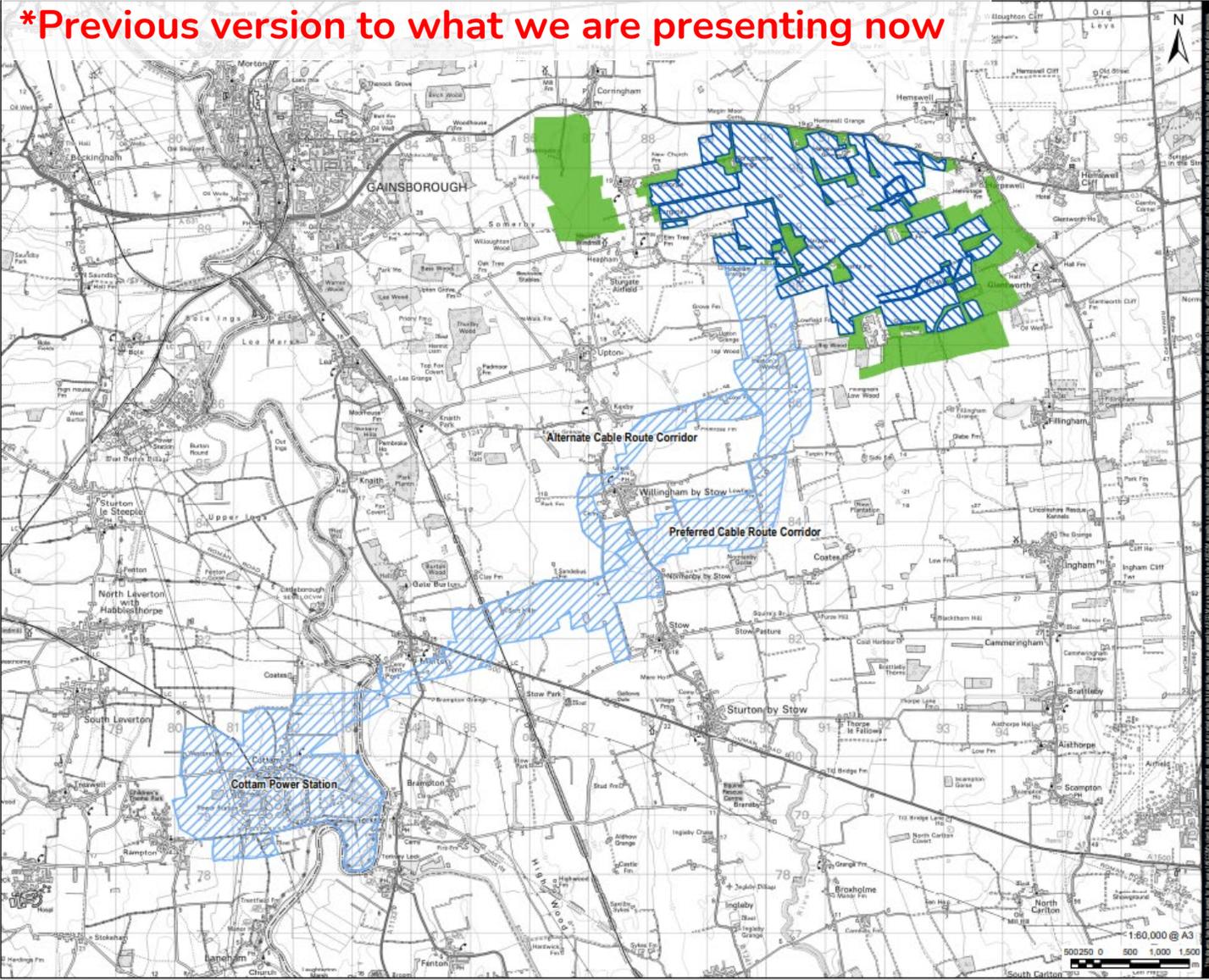
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# Extent of DCO following site selection process – July 2022

\*Previous version to what we are presenting now



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LEGEND  
 [Light Blue Hatched] Cable Route Corridor Initial Search Area  
 [Dark Blue Hatched] Indicative Developable Area  
 [Light Blue Hatched] Indicative Non-Developable Area / Areas to be Considered for Mitigation  
 [Solid Green] Areas to be Considered for Mitigation

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ISSUE PURPOSE  
 DRAFT  
 PROJECT NUMBER  
 60677969  
 FIGURE TITLE  
 Main Site and Cable Route Corridor  
 Indicative Scheme Boundary

FIGURE NUMBER  
 Figure 1

- Dark blue hatching denotes the potential **developable area** subject to the outcome of survey work.
- Solid green shaded area shows anticipated areas that will not be developed; but will provide land for ecological mitigation if required and landscape enhancement – **non-developable**.
- The light blue hatched area denotes the preferred route (and an alternative route) of the cable corridor as associated development – **developable**.

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Session #1 – Q&A

# Tillbridge Solar



Refreshments break – 20 minutes



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Session #2 – Key topic areas

## Discussing the key issues and constraints



- We will now be focusing on a number of key topic areas in relation to how we design the project going forwards. The topics below are examples of environmental topics that will be addressed as part of our ongoing assessments.
  - Cumulative impact
  - Site selection and consideration of alternatives
  - Ecology and biodiversity
  - Cultural heritage
  - Landscape and visual
  - Transport and access
  - Water environment
  - Socio-economics and land use (including consideration of agricultural land)
  - Other environmental topics
- We value your input on these key issues and welcome any comments you have during this session.

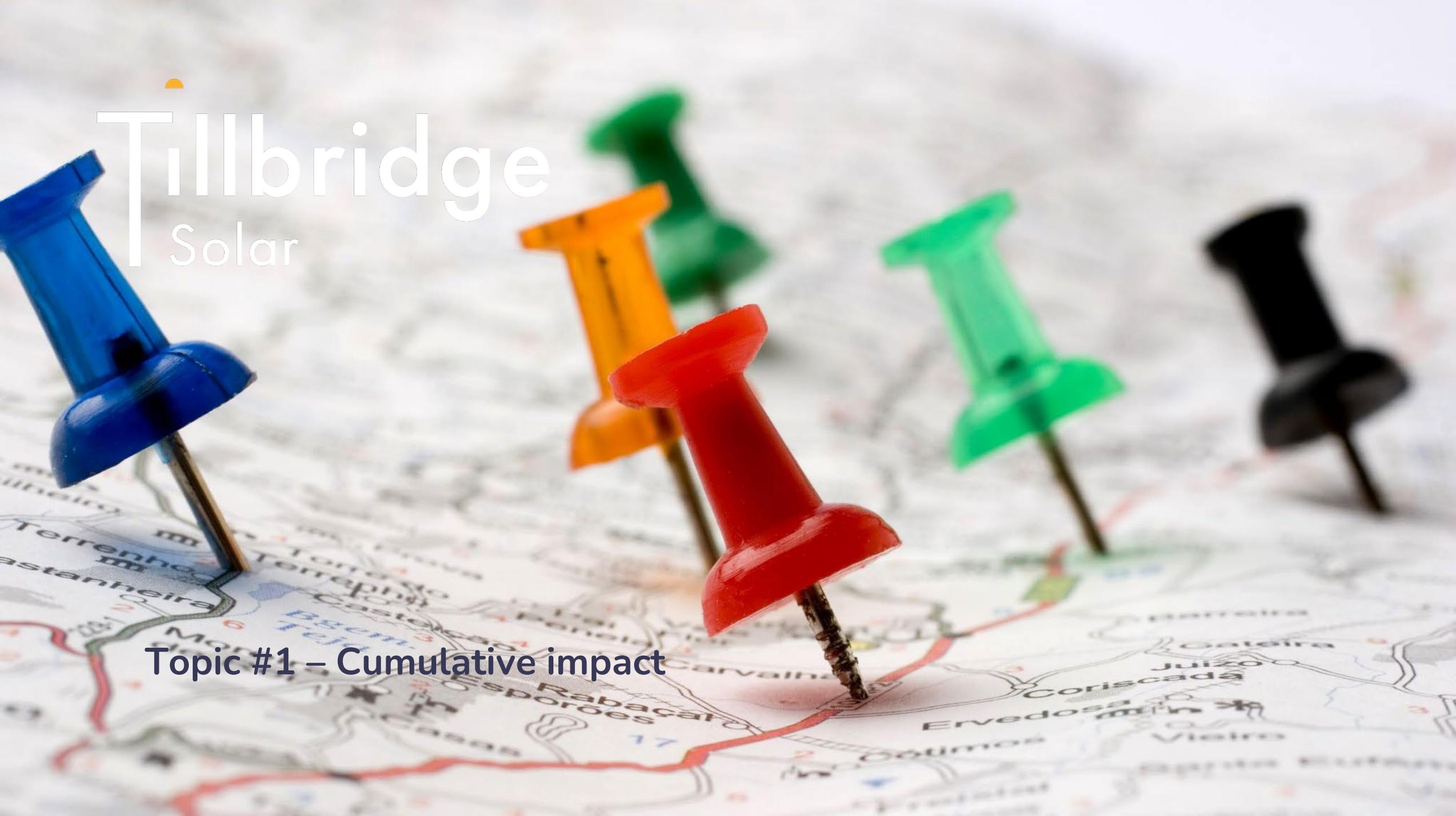
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# Collaboration on key issues

- The following slides will provide further information on the relevant environmental topic areas. We welcome your input on these issues, particularly in relation to local constraints and features that are important to you.



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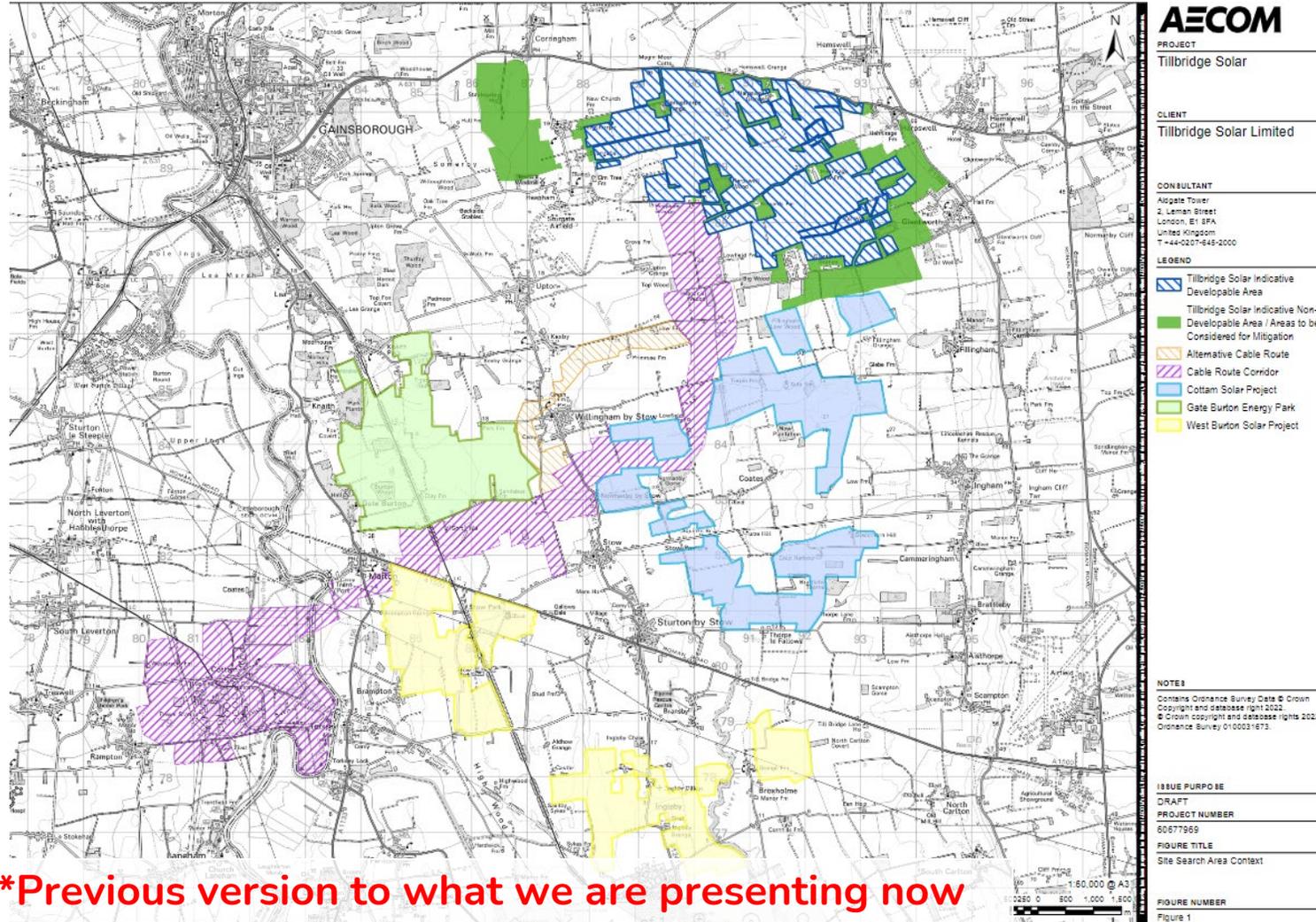


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**Topic #1 – Cumulative impact**

# Cumulative impact



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- We are committed to working collaboratively with other developers to minimise impacts.
- Our initial search area was large, to provide scope for refinement of the site area to avoid the most sensitive sites.
- Cumulative effects to be assessed as part of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report and as part of the Environmental Statement.
- We have been and will continue to work constructively with developers of both the Cottam and West Burton Projects (Island Green Power) and the Gate Burton Energy Park (Low Carbon), to ensure that:
  - People can easily engage with each of our consultation processes and that our materials clearly signpost other consultations.
  - The combined effects of our projects together, including potential environmental impacts or disruption to communities, are fully assessed.
  - We take a commonsense approach to construction to minimise any disruption to local communities as much as we can where possible. This includes sharing sections of underground cabling to avoid the need to dig multiple trenches for each project.

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# Your comments – Cumulative impact

- What issues would you like us to collaborate on?
- Are there any sensitive areas that could be impacted by multiple developers?
- Are there any shared benefits that we can consider for delivery for the local communities?

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# Tillbridge Solar

**Topic #2 – Site selection**



## Site selection

- Site Search Assessment – 2020 - Four stage approach to identify the potential location for a solar farm:
  - Point of Connection at Cottam (15km)
  - Environmental Constraints
  - Planning Constraints
  - Identification of three potential development zones.
  - Zone chosen including land to the east and south-east of Gainsborough for further consideration for the siting of a solar farm. Site search area sufficiently large to provide flexibility on location and design.
- Environmental Constraints and Opportunities and Planning Designations mapping (May 2022) within the south-eastern part of the chosen zone, this being least constrained to further inform the location of a site.
- Landscape and environmental RAG analysis May 2022
- Identification of land to form the basis of the DCO application – July 2022.

\*Information correct as of July 2022

# Your comments – Site Selection

- Do you have any comments on the location of the scheme (developable and non-developable areas)?
- Are there any other areas that should be considered?
- Are there any further criteria that need to be considered as we refine our plans further?
- Is there anything further we need to consider in our initial search areas (developable, non-developable, cable corridor and connection search areas)?

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**Topic #3 – Ecology and biodiversity**



## Ecology and biodiversity

- Desk-based baseline information shows that there are no European designated nature conservation sites within 10km of the scheme.
- There are no Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) located within 2km of the main site.
- The nearest Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is located approximately 3km to the west of the scheme in Gainsborough.
- Our terrestrial and aquatic ecology teams are currently carrying out habitat and species surveys which will then allow us to identify any potential biodiversity impacts of the scheme.
- These surveys include, but are not limited to, breeding birds, wintering birds, bats, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, water vole and otter.
- Where there are potential impacts, we will look to provide appropriate mitigation in consultation with Natural England and other bodies, such as Wildlife Trusts.

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# Your comments – Ecology and Biodiversity

- Are there any local ecological features that we should be aware of?
- Are there any species that we should be aware of in the local area?
- How could we enhance the local area from a nature and biodiversity perspective?
- Which areas could we consider for enhancement?

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Topic #4 – Cultural heritage



## Cultural heritage

- Villages to the west of the B1398 such as Hemswell, Glentworth and Fillingham near to the scheme, and Springthorpe further to the west, contain built heritage conservation areas containing Listed Buildings.
- There is a Scheduled Monument and Grade I Listed Building in Harpswell and a Scheduled Monument just south of Springthorpe.
- There is a Registered Park and Garden approximately 1.5km to the south-east of the main site.
- As part of a cultural heritage assessment, archaeological surveys (i.e. geophysical surveys and trial trenching) will be undertaken for the scheme in consultation with Historic England and the County Archaeologist.
- This will provide the information we need to assess the impacts and identify an appropriate mitigation strategy.

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## Your comments – Cultural heritage

- Are there any local heritage features that we should be aware of?

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Topic #5 – Landscape and visual



## Landscape and visual

- Initial landscape site visits have been undertaken to understand the landscape and visual constraints and opportunities at receptors surrounding the scheme.
- An Area of Great Landscape Value encompasses the historic villages to the west of the B1398, including several public rights of way. The developable area is set back from these designations.
- The landscape and visual impacts from the scheme will be assessed from a number of key views agreed with the landscape specialist from the relevant local planning authority.
- Mitigation will be incorporated into the scheme where appropriate including setting back from existing development and planting to screen views where appropriate.

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# Your comments – Landscape and Visual

- Are there any key landscape features that we should be aware of?
- Are there any key viewpoints that we should be aware of?
- What type of enhancement and mitigation measures would you like to see?

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**Topic #6 – Transport and access**





## Traffic and Access

- Traffic surveys are being undertaken including:
  - Manual Classified Counts (MCC) turning counts and queue length surveys.
  - Automatic Traffic Count (ATC) surveys.
- The MCC data will be analysed to identify turning movements for the construction staff peak hours (AM & PM). The ATC data will also be analysed to identify the network peak hours and extracting the baseline traffic flows for the construction staff peak hours (AM & PM), and to review of the speed data.
- The impacts of the scheme on local traffic will be assessed as part of a traffic and access assessment.
- The scheme design will look to avoid the closure or diversion of public rights of way.
- The impacts of the scheme on public rights of way will be assessed as part of a socio-economics and land use assessment.

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# Your comments – Traffic and Access

- Which are the most popular local traffic routes?
- Which routes current present issues to local people?
- Which public rights of way are well-used locally?
- Would there be benefits to introducing a permissive path through the site?

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Topic #7 – Water environment



## Water environment

- Initial constraints mapping indicates that several small watercourses exist within the main site. The cable route would cross watercourses, including the River Trent and associated flood zones.
- A combined water quality, flood risk and drainage assessment will consider the impacts of the scheme through the construction, operation and decommissioning phases.
- A Water Framework Directive (WFD) Screening will be undertaken.
- A Flood Risk Assessment and a Drainage Statement will also be prepared as part of the DCO application.

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# Your comments – Water environment

- Are there any popular water courses locally?
- Is there a history of flooding/poor drainage that we should be aware of?
- Are there any sensitive sites that we should be aware of?

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Topic #8 – Socio-Economics and Land-Use

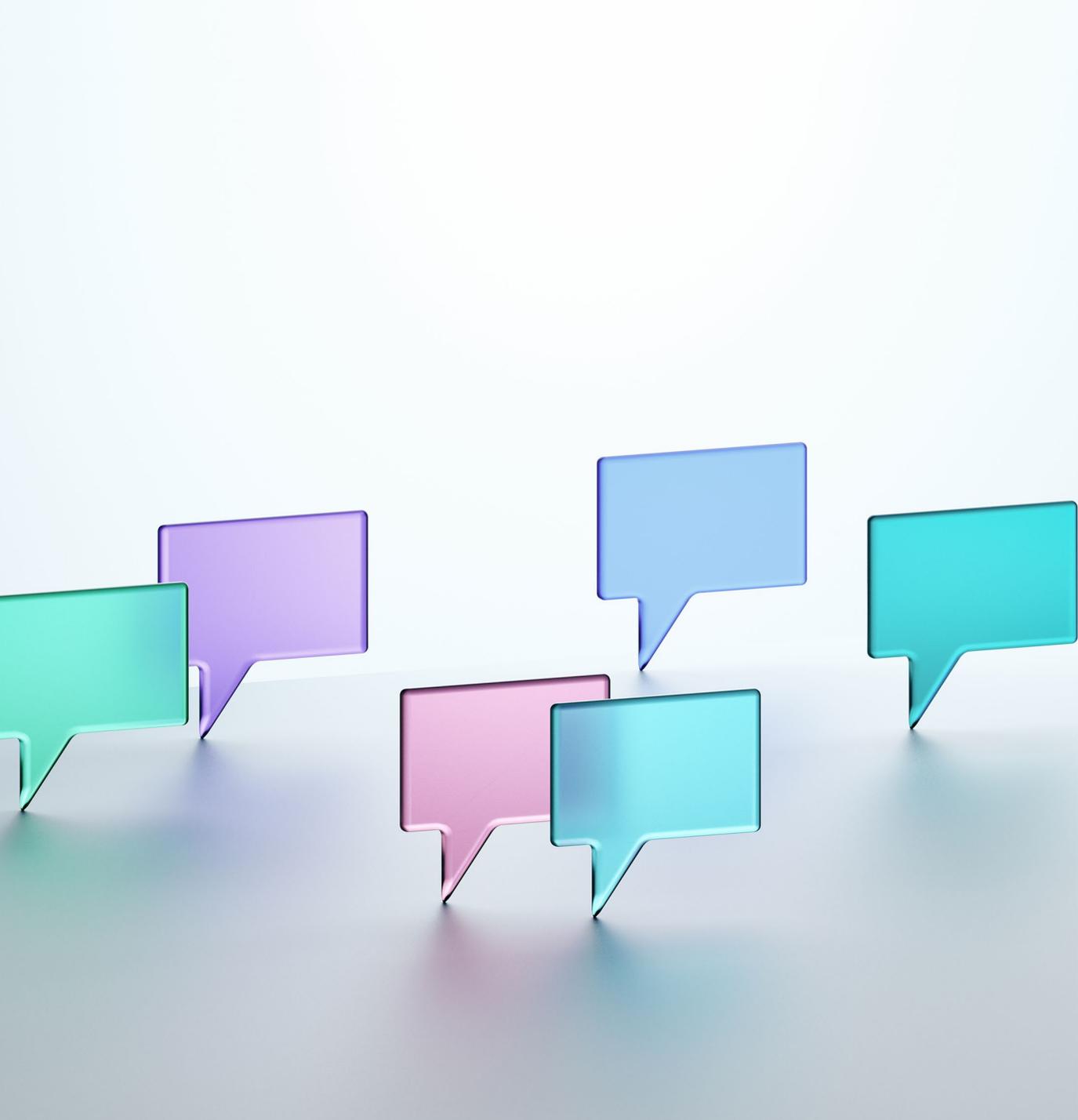




## Socio-economics and land use

- As part of the socio-economics and land use assessment, an Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey is planned to be undertaken. Baseline mapping indicates that the land that encompasses the main site is of Grade 3 soil quality. The ALC survey will determine which land is of Grade 3a and Grade 3b soil quality.
- The socio-economic and land use assessment will also consider other aspects such as impacts on employment, local businesses, impacts on local amenities and land use, and impacts on public rights of way.

\*Information correct as of July 2022



# Community benefits

- We value your feedback on what benefits you would like to see and what would be of most benefit for communities closest to the project.
- Benefits could be **on-site** and **off-site**, along with benefits independent to the project (Tillbridge Solar), or in collaboration with other projects/initiatives.
- **On-site** – this refers to initiatives that you would like to see incorporated into the project design and on the site itself (within the **developable** and **non-developable** areas).
  - For example, this could be environmental mitigation and enhancements, or achieving biodiversity net gain, through additional planting and habitat creation.
- **Off-site** – this refers to separate initiatives, including supporting wider community projects (new and existing), or providing shared benefits outside of the project areas
  - For example, this could be providing wider broadband/fibre-optic improvements, EV charging points, wider educational initiatives.

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## Community benefits

- We are currently investigating initiatives for how local communities can benefit from Tillbridge Solar. These include (and are not limited to):
  - Recreational access improvements, such as new or upgraded footpaths and bridleways in the project design.
  - Careful landscaping, including alignment with other local proposals to deliver public value
  - Collaboration with other initiatives, such as rewilding and biodiversity net gain, creation of wildflower meadows and other habitats, new ponds, additional planting around the site areas and neighbouring villages.
  - Providing free-to-use community infrastructure, such as EV charging point, fibre-internet access through underground cabling.
  - Providing solar panels for local communities (e.g., church and village halls)
  - Business rates to the local authority during operational lifespan of the project
  - Educational packs and visits for local primary schools
- We could also create a fund that is independently administered by relevant community foundations, such as the Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Community Foundations, who are better placed to identify relevant opportunities.

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# Your comments – Socio-economics and land use

- Do you have any thoughts on our approach to community benefits and how local people can benefit from the scheme?
- Are there any local groups that could positively benefit from the scheme?

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Other Environmental Topics



## Other topics

- The following topics are also being considered as part of the EIA scoping stage:
  - Air quality
  - Noise and vibration
  - Climate change
  - Human health
  - Glint and glare
  - Ground conditions
  - Major accidents and disasters
  - Waste

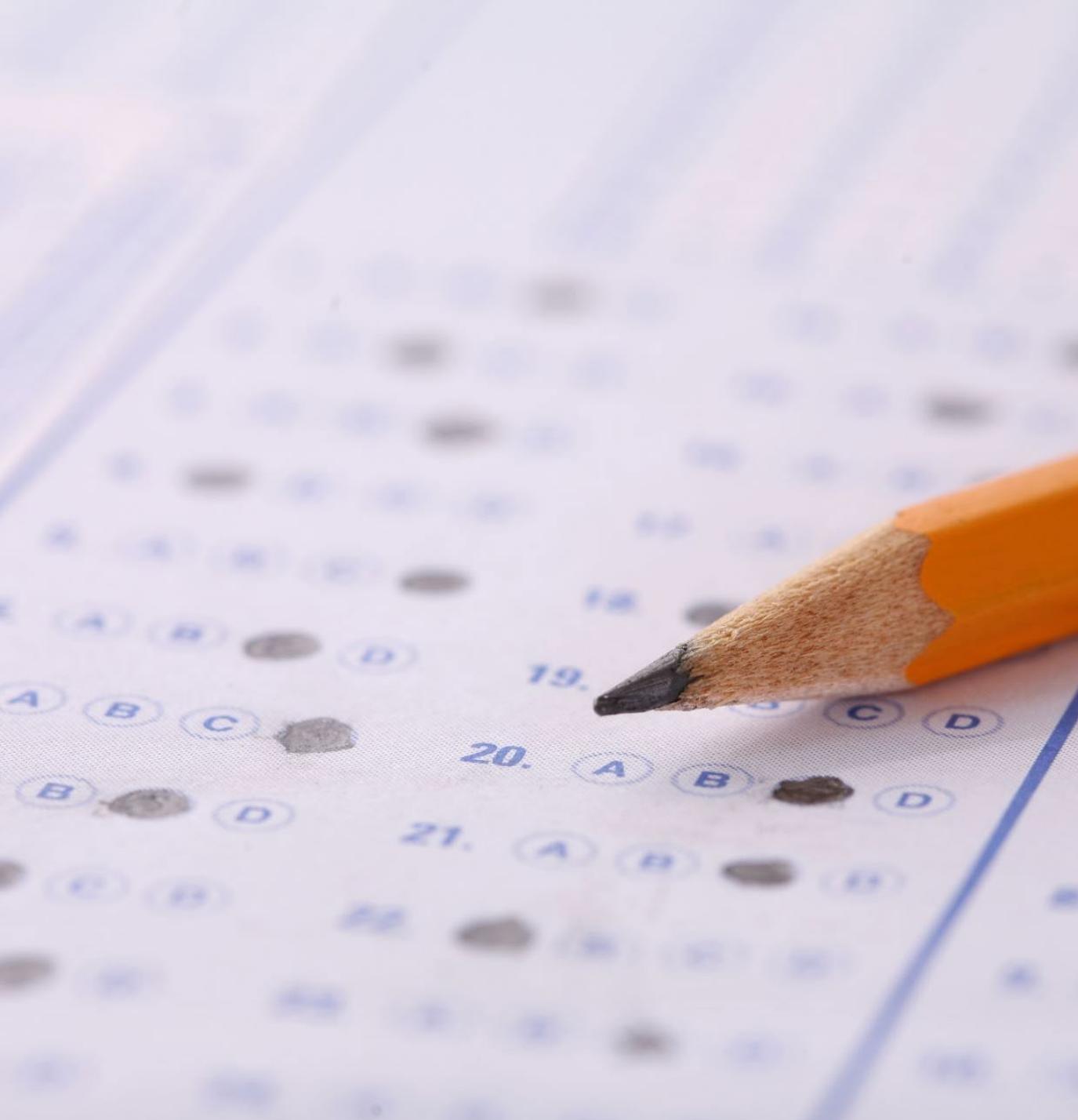
\*Information correct as of July 2022

## Your comments – other topics

- Do you have any thoughts on other topic areas?

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## Your feedback

- Your feedback at this stage is important to us in helping to refine our plans for Tillbridge Solar further and contribute towards a more defined proposal.
- We welcome you to provide any additional feedback using the comment sheets. This includes any wider considerations, outside of the topic areas we have discussed during this session.

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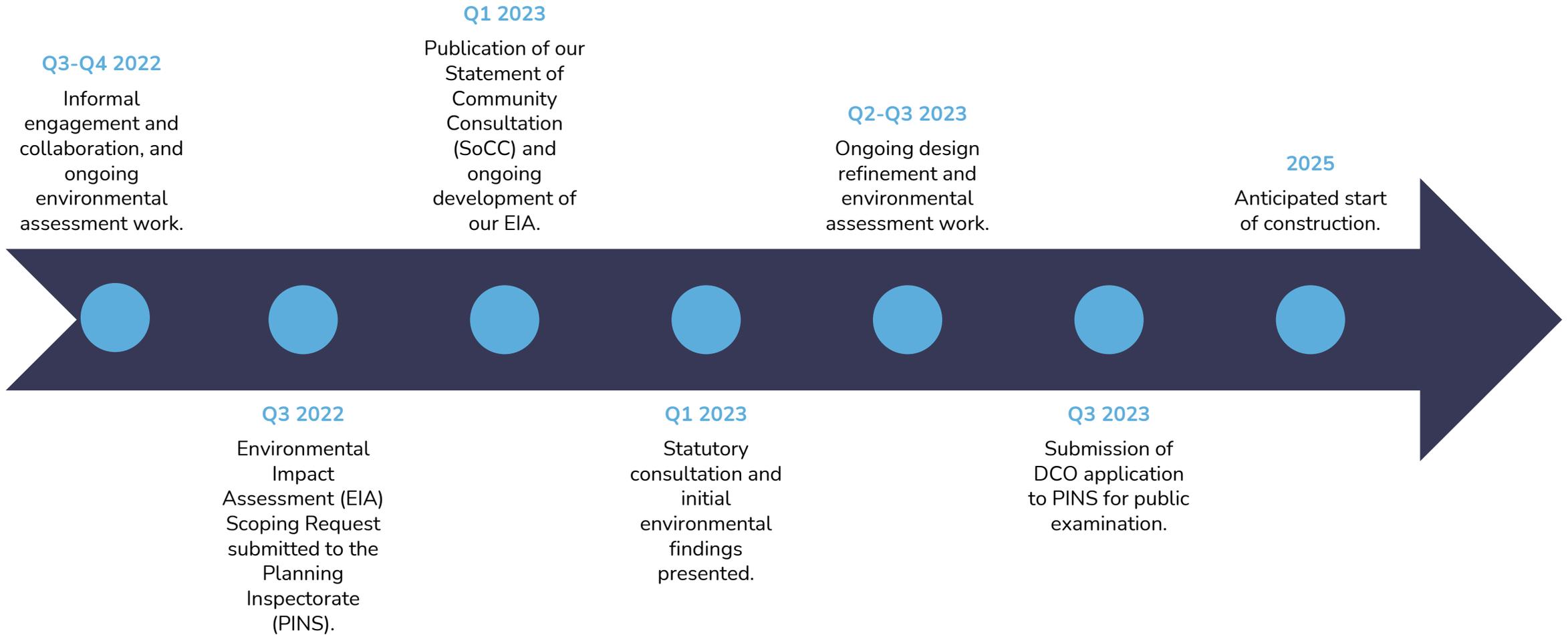
**Session #3 – Next steps and closing remarks**

## Next steps

- Thank you for attending today's workshop.
- These workshops have played an important role in our early-stage engagement for Tillbridge Solar and have allowed us to introduce the scheme in more detail.
- After these workshops we will:
  - Consider all comments and suggestions and factor these into the ongoing development of the project ahead of statutory consultation.
  - Share information with you and follow up with a record of what was discussed today.
  - Share information more widely with local communities and wider stakeholders.
  - Continue our engagement with all stakeholders, including local planning authorities.

\*Information correct as of July 2022

# Timeline ahead



\*Information correct as of July 2022



## Keeping in touch

- We are committed to engaging openly with all stakeholders.
- You can continue to get in touch using the details below:
  - Email: [info@tillbridgesolar.com](mailto:info@tillbridgesolar.com)
  - Freephone: 0800 046 9643
  - Freepost: FREEPOST TILLBRIDGE SOLAR
  - Website: [www.tillbridgesolar.com](http://www.tillbridgesolar.com)
- We welcome the opportunity to set up additional meetings with you/your organisation and establish an ongoing relationship.

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# Tillbridge Solar



Final comments and questions