

# KILNSIDE

ENERGY PARK



**Introducing  
Kilnside  
Energy Park**





## Introduction

**We are writing to introduce Kilnside Energy Park, a proposed solar farm that would be located to the north west of Great Casterton in Rutland.**

Kilnside is being developed by Aukera, a renewable energy company that specialises in developing and operating onshore wind, solar and energy storage projects in Europe.

The project is currently at a very early stage of development. We will be introducing our proposals to the public through a series of online question and answer sessions ahead of consultation next year.

We encourage you to read on and learn more about our proposals for Kilnside Energy Park.



# Kilnside Energy Park

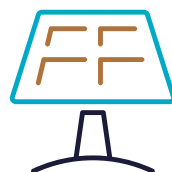
Kilnside is a proposed solar farm that would include the necessary components to capture energy from sunlight and convert it into electricity to power homes, businesses, schools and hospitals across the UK.

In addition to these technical components, Kilnside would include green spaces to support wildlife and promote recreation.

## Technical components

1

**Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Panels** would capture energy directly from sunlight, and convert it into low voltage, direct current (DC) electricity.

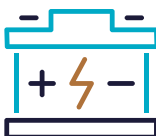


**Underground cabling** would carry the electricity to other locations around the site.

2

3

**Inverters** would change the current from DC to alternating current (AC) electricity.



**Battery Energy Storage System (BESS):** During times of low energy demand, the battery would balance the grid by storing power during times of high generation (typically in the middle of the day), before releasing it back into the grid during times of peak demand (typically in the evening).

4

5

**Substation** would collect electricity from the inverters and BESS and transfer it to the National Grid, providing clean, renewable electricity to homes and businesses within Rutland and across the UK.



## Environmental components



A well-designed solar farm includes green spaces and other features to protect existing wildlife and create habitats for native species to increase biodiversity, while protecting and expanding recreational opportunities for the community.

In general, solar farms are good habitats where wildlife can flourish. The mix of native grasses under and around the panels can support a diverse ecosystem of insects, birds, bats, small mammals and other wildlife. Solar farms are quiet places that require little activity for maintenance, allowing wildlife to thrive beneath and between the panels.

We will also set aside areas to support existing wildlife and create new habitats to support native species. These will be informed by environmental assessments and consultation with technical experts including local wildlife groups, the Environment Agency and Natural England.



Small mammal gates and deer fences help ensure that animals can move through the project. Bat boxes and bug hotels provide habitats for wildlife.

All existing public rights of way will be maintained, with sizable offsets around them to ensure that existing recreation routes are protected. We could also include new permissive paths to expand recreational opportunities across the site. These will be informed through consultation with the community.



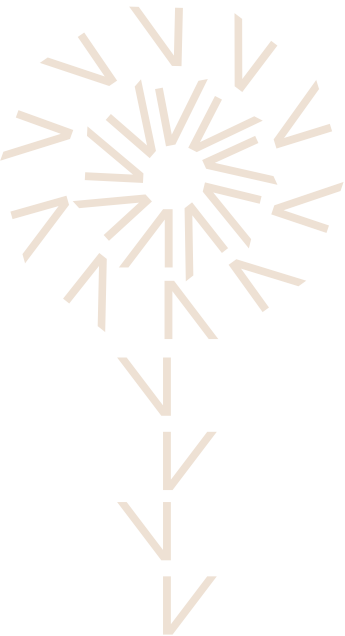
Scan the QR code to read more from the RSPB about solar farms and birds:



# The need for solar power

The UK has set a target for clean power by 2030 to help in the fight against climate change, support energy security and help reduce energy costs.

We are cutting our reliance on fossil fuels, including coal and natural gas, to generate electricity. This means we need new renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar, to replace them.



At the same time, our demand for electricity is projected to double by 2050. This is due to the transition from traditional fuels to electricity to heat our homes and power our vehicles, as well as growing demand for the internet and data centres. To meet our growing energy needs with clean energy sources, we need to quickly ramp up development of solar and wind.

Current targets call for tripling solar production from 17GW to 50GW by 2030. Kilnside could make a significant contribution to our national energy goals, providing up to 400MW to the National Grid.

# Did you know?

The last coal power station in the UK, Ratcliffe-on-Soar, was closed down in 2024.

Demand for electricity is doubling.

Wind and solar work well together: the sun shines when the wind isn't blowing and vice versa.

Batteries are needed to help store the energy until it is needed the most.

To understand how much energy we need, let's put these numbers in context:

The average LED lightbulb uses about 10 watts (w).

An average rooftop solar installation generated around 4 kallowatts (kW), enough to power the home it sits on.

An onshore wind turbine generates about 5 megawatts (MW), enough to power a large hospital.

Ratcliffe-on-Soar generated around 2 gigawatts (GW), enough to power a small city.

KILNSIDE ENERGY PARK would supply up to 400MW to the grid.

1,000W = 1kW → 1,000kW = 1MW → 1,000MW = 1GW



## Project location

**There are several factors we need to consider when looking for sites for new solar farms.**

First, the National Grid connects power users to power sources across the UK through a network of substations and overhead power lines. New energy projects can only connect into the National Grid where there is capacity, which is rare. We have secured an agreement to connect to the existing National Grid transmission line near Ryhall.

Second, once a grid connection is secured, we need to find land near the connection point that is suitable for solar. Generally, the best land for solar is flat or slightly southern facing and avoids environmental designations such as ancient woodlands or sites of special scientific interest (SSSI). It should also be located away from population centres and have good screening from existing hedgerows to help reduce visual impacts.

In addition to meeting these standards, the land we have identified for Kilinside is identified within the emerging Rutland Local Plan as suitable for solar.

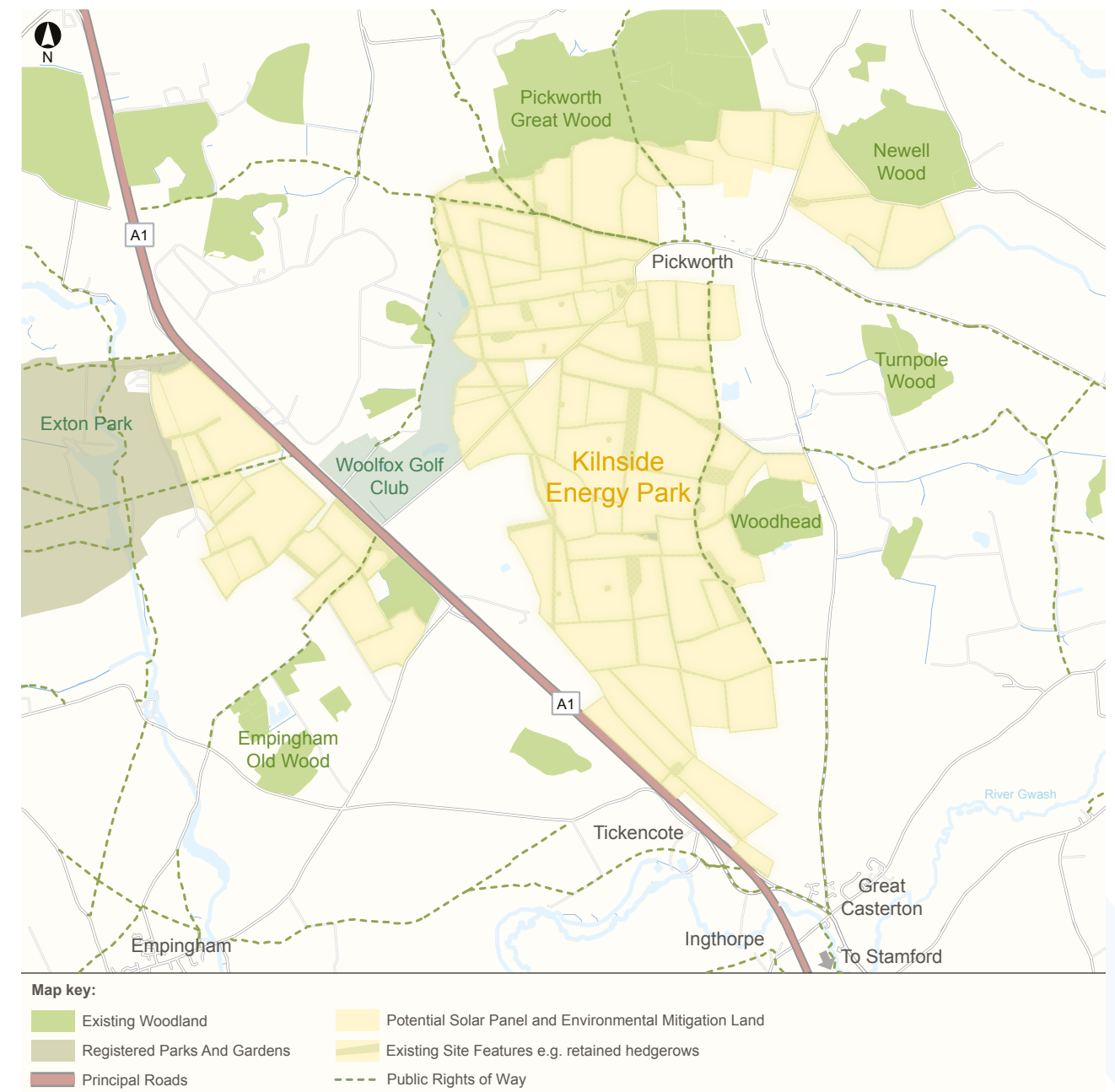


## Did you know?

**The Government is also supporting a 'rooftop revolution' to encourage homeowners and business owners to install solar panels on their roofs. This could generate as much as 10GW of energy, so both rooftop and ground-mounted solar projects are needed to meet our energy needs.**



**This map shows the area we are considering for Kilinside; however, not all of this land will be needed for the project.**



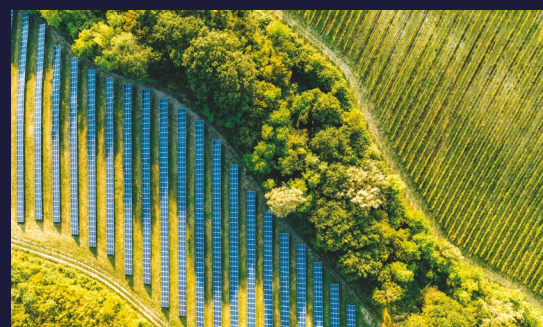
Through consultation and stakeholder engagement, we will refine our proposals to help design the project in a way that is sensitive to the local community and environment. This means that areas which are currently marked for potential development may instead be used for environmental mitigation and enhancement.

We are also assessing options for the cable route to connect the project to the National Grid. We are working closely with the National Grid to understand where the connection point will be located and will refine the cable route options as we have more certainty. The results of environmental assessments will also help us understand more about the land and where the cable could be located.

# Development process

## Applying for consent

Because Kilnside would generate more than 50MW of energy, it is considered a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). This means that we must apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to authorise its construction, operation and decommissioning. We will submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate, who will review our application on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. The Planning Inspectorate will make a recommendation, but the final decision will be made by the Secretary of State (SoS).



Scan the QR code to learn more about the DCO process:



## Protecting the environment

Because of the size of the project, we will complete an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). We will assess the potential impacts of the project on a variety of environmental topics. If we identify any significant impacts, we must also explain how we would mitigate them.

Key milestones in this process include:

- **Scoping:** We will submit a Scoping Report to explain our proposed approach to completing the EIA. The Planning Inspectorate will respond with its Scoping Opinion, which will then define how we approach the EIA.
- **Preliminary results:** We will consult on our early results to help fact check our initial assessments.
- **Final results:** We will present our final results in the environmental statement of our DCO application.

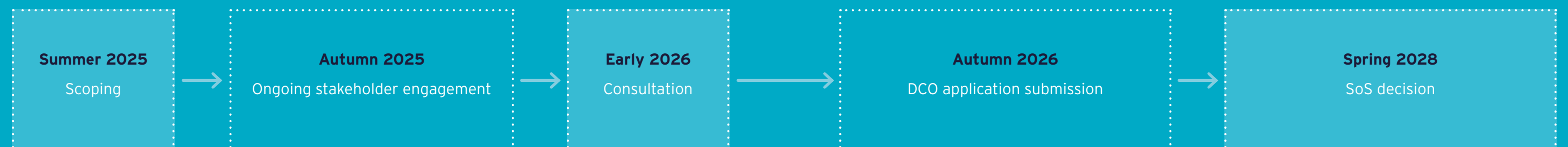
## Consulting experts and the community

Consultation is an important part of the development of an NSIP to ensure that local knowledge is built into the project's design. Throughout the project's development, we will engage with technical stakeholders to help inform our ongoing environmental assessments. We will also engage with local community members and political stakeholders on the initial design.

Next year, we will hold a community consultation period to present our updated design and preliminary environmental results for feedback. At this stage, we will have more information on the potential impacts of Kilnside and how we propose to mitigate them. We will host public information events and design workshops to explain our proposals and hear your feedback, which will inform the final proposals that we submit in our DCO application.



## Indicative timeline



# KILNSIDE

## ENERGY PARK

**To learn more about our early ideas for Kilnside, please join one of our online question and answer sessions:**

### **Date**

### **Time**

Wednesday 18 June 2025

6-7pm

Monday 23 June 2025

6-7 pm

**To sign up for any of the events, please visit our project website at [www.kilnsideenergypark.co.uk](http://www.kilnsideenergypark.co.uk) or scan the QR code below:**



### **Get in touch:**

**Visit:** [www.kilnsideenergypark.co.uk](http://www.kilnsideenergypark.co.uk)

**Call:** 0800 779 7886

**Email:** [info@kilnsideenergypark.co.uk](mailto:info@kilnsideenergypark.co.uk)

**Write to:** FREEPOST Kilnside Energy Park, SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL (no stamp required)