



Fosse Green Energy

**Non-Statutory Consultation
Information Booklet**

September 2023

Introduction

Fosse Green Energy is a proposal for a new solar and energy storage park and associated infrastructure on land south west of Lincoln in North Kesteven.

The project is anticipated to have a generating capacity of c.350MW peak dc, with an export capacity of 240MW peak ac. This is enough clean energy to power in the region of 110,000 homes.

Background

The UK's transition to a low-carbon energy system is necessary to avoid the effects of climate change. The Government expects that a low-cost, net zero and consistent electricity system is likely to be composed predominantly of wind, solar and nuclear.

Solar will be a key building block of this future generation mix. The UK needs sustained growth in the capacity of this sector in the next decade to ensure we are on a pathway that allows us to meet net zero emissions.

Carbon emissions are near to zero for electricity generated from solar power and over the lifetime of a project through construction, operation and decommissioning phases any greenhouse gas emissions are offset. Solar projects are also quick to construct and operate, meaning they will provide decarbonisation benefits at the earliest opportunity.

The UK already has over 13 gigawatts (GW) of solar installed and operational (Office of National Statistics, 2022). This has been instrumental in helping the UK achieve a 70+ per cent reduction in carbon emissions from electricity generation versus a 1990 baseline.

In 2022 solar energy supplied more than four per cent of the UK's entire electricity demand, with a target of up to 70GW of solar by 2030 (British Energy Security Strategy, 2022). Solar is already, and is set to continue to be, an incredibly important part of the UK's electricity generation sector.

This consultation

Fosse Green Energy would make a vital contribution towards achieving net zero by ensuring the supply of clean electricity to UK consumers.

As we work to deliver this vision, we want to ensure that those communities living and working in the area have a chance to inform and influence the development of our proposals from an early stage.

This initial public consultation, running from 11 September to 20 October 2023, is an opportunity for us to share information with you about our plans for Fosse Green Energy.

Our aim is to present our emerging proposals for the project and its connection into the electricity transmission system, and give you the opportunity to tell us what you think. This will help us to identify and better understand wider potential local impacts.

We would also welcome your suggestions of local projects we could support or deliver to benefit those communities closest to the project.

Your views are important to us. They will be used to help us decide how and where we build the components of the project while ensuring we do so in the most sympathetic manner possible.

? What is net zero?

Net zero refers to the balance between the amount of greenhouse gas produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere. If the UK is to achieve net zero by 2050 we need to have reached a place where we are adding no more carbon to the atmosphere than we are taking away. This is also referred to as being carbon neutral.

? What is low carbon?

There are four main types of low carbon energy: solar, wind, hydropower and nuclear power. These types of energy sources release substantially less carbon dioxide (CO₂) than fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas. CO₂ is a key greenhouse gas that drives climate change and by using low carbon energy sources we can minimise future climate change and its impacts.

Fosse Green Energy – who we are



The project is being developed by Fosse Green Energy Limited. Fosse Green Energy Limited is made up of Windel Energy Limited, Recurrent Energy and a professional project team which has been created to

provide specific support and expertise throughout the consenting stages of the project. Together, all members of the Fosse Green Energy team have significant experience of working across solar projects and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).



Founded in 2018, Windel Energy Limited is a privately held company that specialises in the development and asset management of renewable energy projects and low carbon technologies.

With more than 3.5 GW of clean, renewable power and battery energy storage in various stages of

development, Windel Energy is at the forefront of low carbon technologies including solar, energy storage, and onshore wind, and are helping to pave the way to achieve the UK's net zero target by 2050.

Windel Energy is committed to responsible land use and believes that the development and delivery of a large-scale solar energy and storage park can be achieved in harmony with its surroundings.



A subsidiary of Canadian Solar

Recurrent Energy is one of the world's largest and most geographically diversified utility-scale solar and energy storage project development, ownership and operations platforms. With an industry-leading team of in-house energy experts, we are a wholly-owned

subsidiary of Canadian Solar Inc. and function as Canadian Solar's global development and power services business. Recurrent Energy has completed the development of 9 gigawatts (GWp) of operating utility-scale solar projects and 3 gigawatt hours (GWh) of energy storage projects across six continents. We have more than 25 GWp of solar and 47 GWh of battery storage projects under development.

Working together with local communities – how can we support you?

We believe that the communities closest to Fosse Green Energy should benefit from it – with these communities being best-placed to recommend what a 'community benefit' should be. As part of this first stage of consultation we invite you to suggest any ideas you have for a sustainable local project that you would like us to consider supporting.

Benefits associated with the development of Fosse Green Energy include:

- Producing enough clean energy to power approximately 110,000 homes.
- Delivering biodiversity net gain through additional planting to encourage more native wildlife with habitats and food sources increased for insects and birds.
- Payment of business rates to the local authority when the project is operational, contributing to the provision of local services.
- Provision of educational packs for local primary schools to utilise in addition to offering educational visits.
- New permissive paths introduced across the site, creating connections to existing paths within and around the site area.

Let us know about any ideas you have in your feedback.

This booklet provides information about who we are and our proposals for Fosse Green Energy so far and how you can take part in this consultation.

The deadline for responding to this consultation is **20 October 2023**.



Our Proposals

Fosse Green Energy is a proposal for a new solar and energy storage park and associated infrastructure to connect into the national grid. The project is anticipated to have a generating capacity of c.350MW peak dc, with an export capacity of 240MW peak ac.

The clean, renewable energy produced by Fosse Green Energy would make a valuable contribution to the UK Government's targets to reach net zero by 2050. The Government's Net Zero Growth Plan published in March 2023 reiterated these aims, including the commitment to increase the UK's solar capacity fivefold by 2035.

Because the capacity of the solar and energy storage park exceeds 50MW, Fosse Green Energy is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and requires a Development Consent Order (DCO) under the Planning Act 2008.

Location

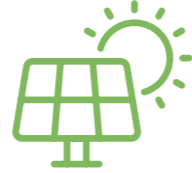
Fosse Green Energy is proposed to be located on land 5.6 miles (9 km) south west of Lincoln in North Kesteven, Lincolnshire. It will be made up of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, power conversion stations, an onsite substation and battery energy storage areas located to the north and south of the A46, known as Fosse Way.

To the east of the solar PV array we are looking at potential corridors for transporting electricity through underground cables to a connection point into the national grid. We are currently considering two options for the grid connection corridor. The decision on the corridor will be informed by continuing survey work and the location of National Grid's new substation.

There will also be areas for ecological enhancements, mitigation measures and screening, as well as access points and infrastructure for energy storage.

There are many factors that have been considered in selecting the proposed location for Fosse Green Energy. This includes the topography of the landscape; availability and location of a connection to the electricity system; planning and environmental factors including visual impact, biodiversity, agricultural land quality and land use, and flood risk. The availability and ownership of land, and access rights to the land through construction and operation have also been considered.

Generation capacity:



Approximately
350
Mega Watts

Enough clean energy to power:



In the region of
110,000
homes

The solar and energy storage park

At this early stage, we have not yet finalised the design of the project. This will be informed by considering the findings from the surveys we're carrying out, alongside feedback provided through ongoing consultation.

We are in the process of determining how much of the land would be used for solar panels and associated equipment, and how much more would be set aside as zones for the purposes of creating new, or enhancing existing, habitats for biodiversity net gain.

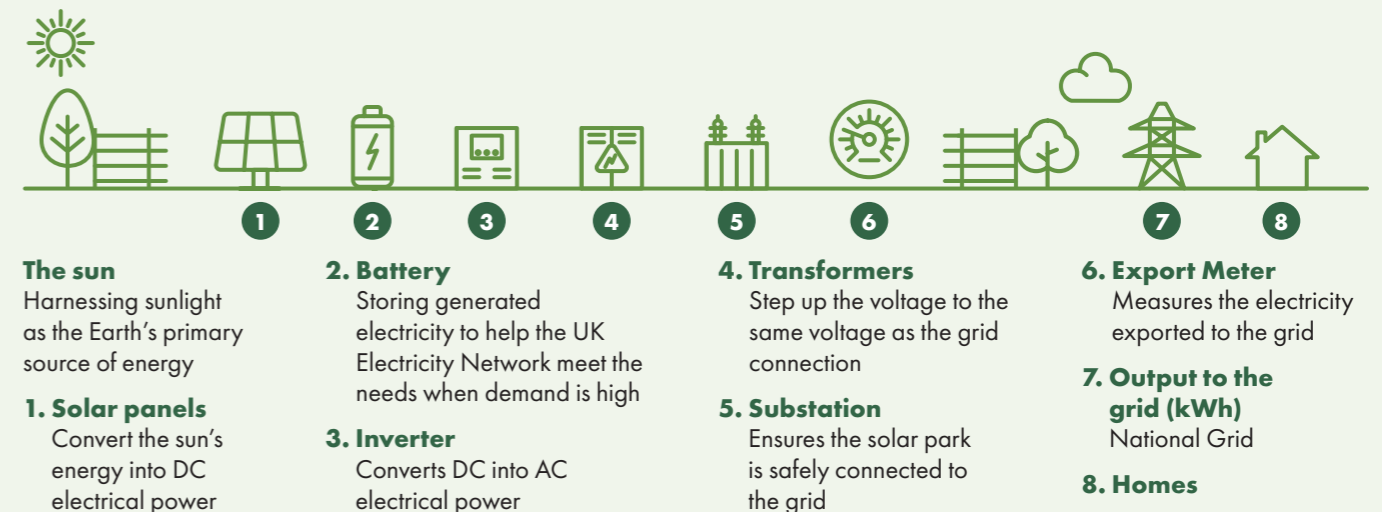
The principal components of the solar and energy park are:

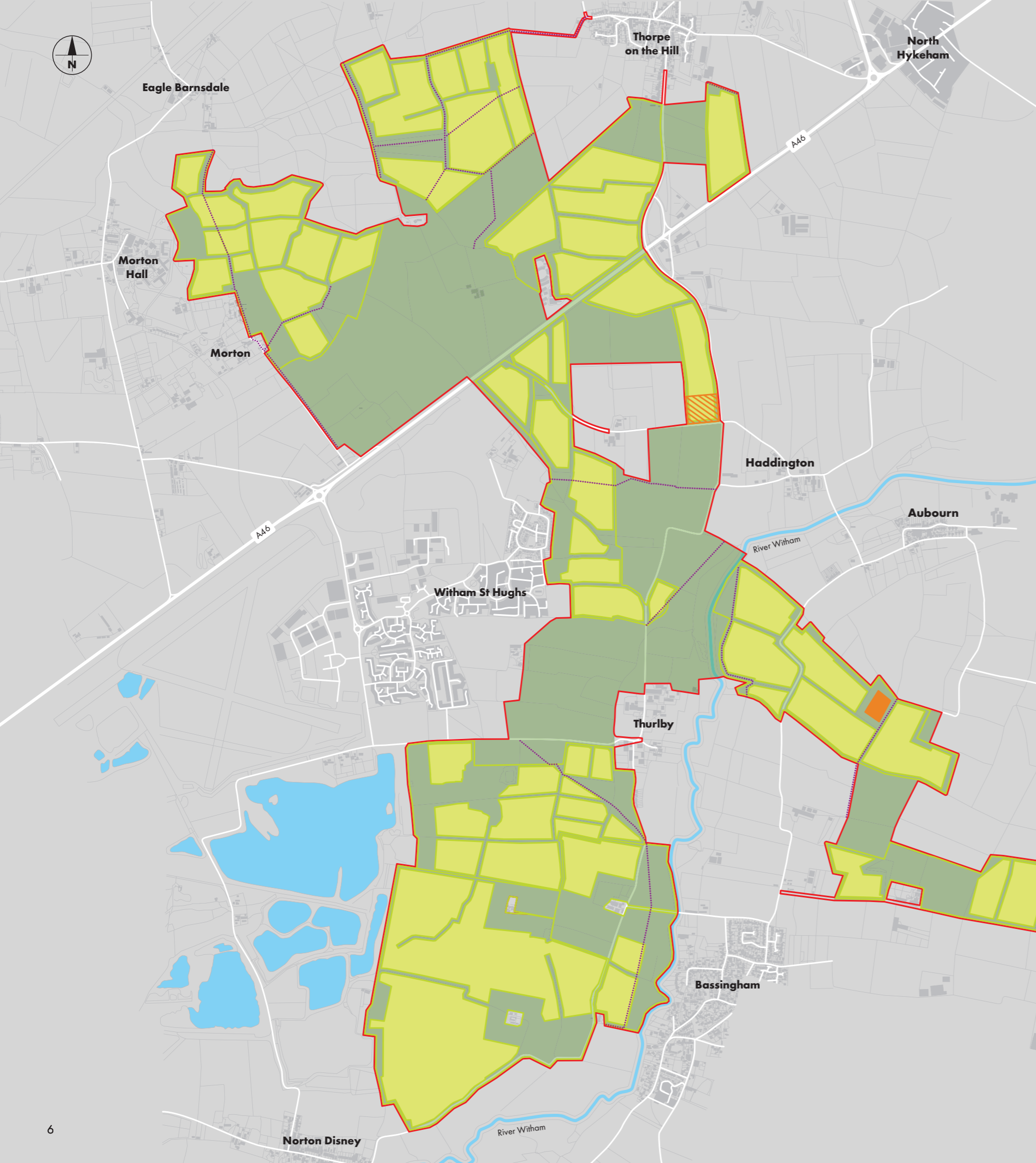
- Ground mounted solar PV panels arranged in rows (known as tables) converting sunlight into electricity.
- Solar PV Array: a distinct group of PV Tables which are grouped together.
- PV module mounting structures.
- Supporting infrastructure – inverters, transformers and and switchgear, (known as power conversion stations) - converting the direct current to alternating current and stepping up the voltage so it can be exported to the national grid.
- The electricity generated by Fosse Green Energy is expected to be exported into the existing national electricity transmission system at a substation near to Navenby to be brought forward by National Grid.
- An energy storage system so electricity imported from the grid network and generated by the solar PV panels can be stored on site and released to the national grid when it is needed most.
- Security fencing, likely to be 2m in height to enclose the operational areas of the site, along with pole mounted internal facing closed circuit television (CCTV) deployed around the perimeter of the operational site.
- Accesses to the site during construction and for routine maintenance when the energy park is operational.
- New planting and landscaping to enhance biodiversity and improve the landscape.
- Protecting the existing network of Public Right of Ways (PROWs), comprising bridleways, footpaths and a byway.
- Electricity export and connection into the National Electricity Transmission System.
- During construction one or more temporary construction compounds would be required, as well as temporary roadways, to enable access to all the land within the site boundary.

You can view a plan showing the areas we are considering for the different components on pages six and seven of this booklet.

This is an early design and we welcome your views on the layout we are proposing as part of this consultation.

How a solar and energy storage park works





Early layout plan

At this stage of consultation we welcome your feedback on the early proposed layout for Fosse Green Energy. The design of the project will be informed by the feedback we receive, continuing environmental assessment and design work, with any updates presented at the second stage of community consultation planned for early 2024.

Key

- Development areas for solar PV panels and battery energy storage systems (BESS)
- Onsite substation
- Other land areas within the site boundary which may be required for buried cabling and habitat creation
- Site boundary
- Potential alternative location for onsite substation
- Existing Public Rights of Way within the site boundary

0 0.5km 1

Connecting to the national grid

The electricity generated by Fosse Green Energy is expected to be exported into the existing national electricity transmission system at a substation near to Navenby.

National Grid is currently considering a number of location options for the substation. The selected substation will not form part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for Fosse Green Energy.

Electricity will be transported by underground cable from the solar and energy storage park to this substation. You can find out more about how underground cables are installed on page nine.

Grid connection corridor options

Studies are being carried out to determine the preferred route for the grid connection. At this stage we have identified two broad grid connection corridor options. Work is underway to refine these corridors so we can select which corridor meets the objective of minimising environmental and social impact, and which corridor is appropriate for connecting into the selected substation location.

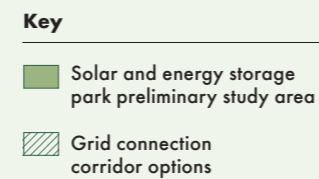
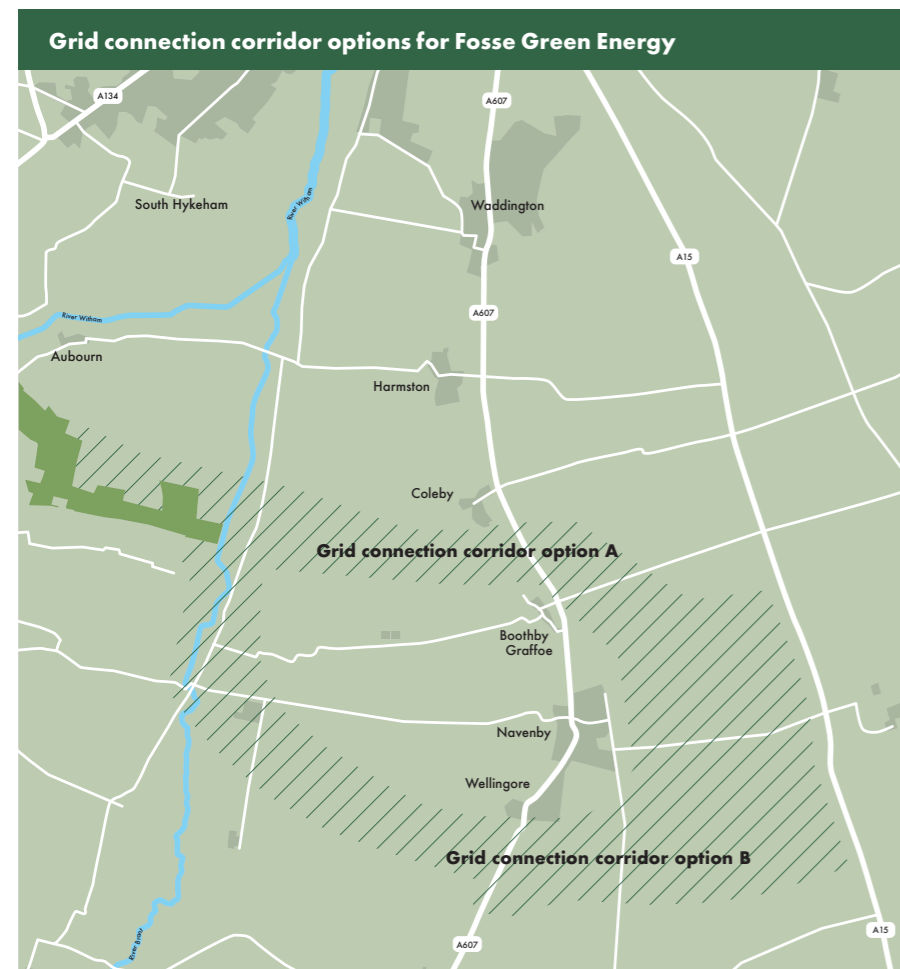
Feedback gathered from consultation will also be taken into account when considering the grid connection corridor route.

? What is a grid connection corridor?

A grid connection corridor is a broad ribbon of land through which an electrical connection could potentially be routed. A corridor can vary in width.

? What is a substation?

Substations are high-voltage electric system facilities which are used to gather voltage and step it up or down for export.



Building the connection

The connection for Fosse Green Energy will be built using cables installed underground.

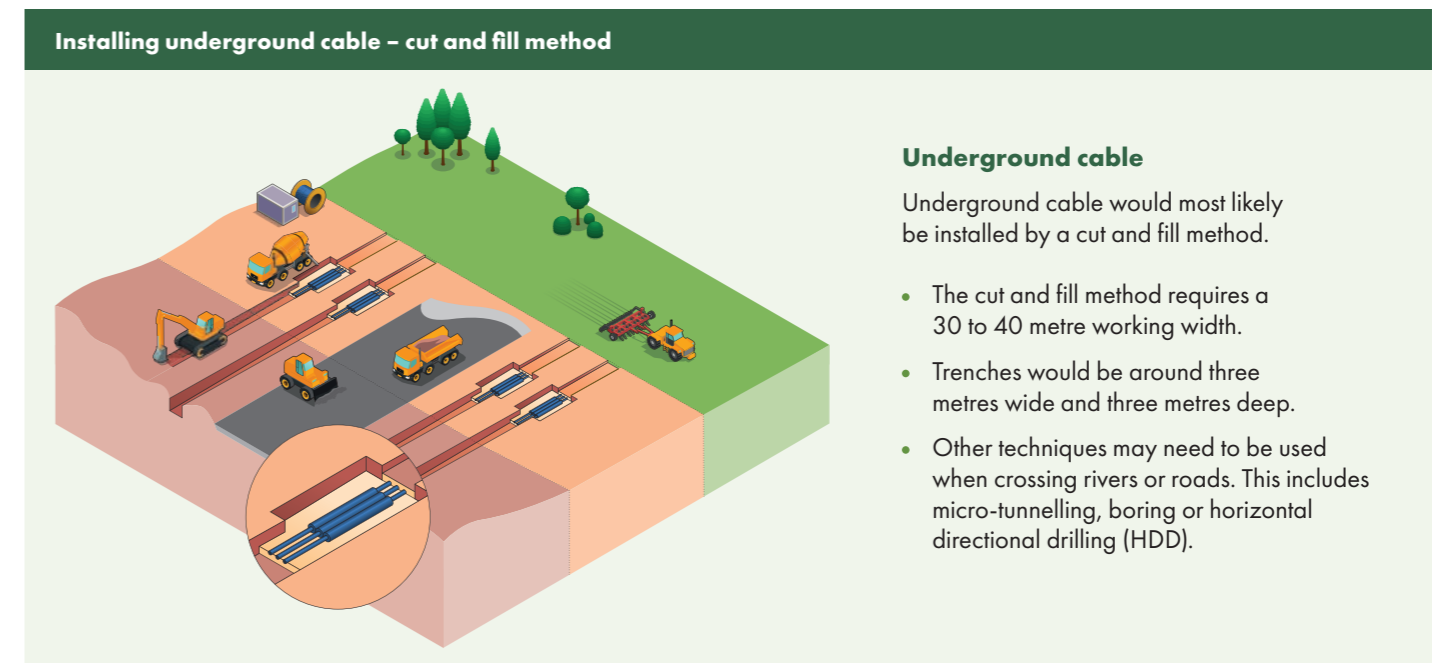
The Scoping Report for the Fosse Green Energy project, which was published in June 2023, presented options for an overhead connection or a connection built with underground cables.

Considering feedback from the Planning Inspectorate's consultation on the Scoping Report, we have decided to route the cables underground. This removes the landscape and visual impacts of pylons and overhead lines which could have required a maximum height of 50 metres.

The cables are likely to be installed using open trenching, and it is expected that multiple cables will be placed in each trench. You can view the image below to find out how cables are installed.

Data cables will also be required for monitoring and control of the solar and energy storage park during operation. These data cables will typically be installed within the same trench and alongside the electrical connection cables.

As well as the connection into the national grid, electrical cabling will be required between the solar PV array areas and battery storage locations.



Underground cable

Underground cable would most likely be installed by a cut and fill method.

- The cut and fill method requires a 30 to 40 metre working width.
- Trenches would be around three metres wide and three metres deep.
- Other techniques may need to be used when crossing rivers or roads. This includes micro-tunnelling, boring or horizontal directional drilling (HDD).

Ecology and landscape

Fosse Green Energy will be sensitively designed to mitigate and reduce environmental impacts.

Where possible existing hedgerows, woodland, ditches, ponds and field margins will be retained within the layout of the solar PV array area. Small crossings could be required for new access tracks, security fencing and connection routes. Any breaks or crossing will be designed to use existing agricultural accesses between the fields and will be kept to a minimum.

Buffer areas will also be used to deliver a combination of hedgerow, grass and wildflower planting. We are looking for suggestions on the ways we should deliver these new areas for planting and deliver biodiversity net gain across the Development Consent Order (DCO) site.

? What are the government targets for solar energy?

The Government's Net Zero Growth Plan published in March 2023 confirmed their commitment to 70GW of electricity generated from solar energy by 2035.

This level of deployment would equate to less than 0.5 per cent of land in the UK, providing areas for agriculture to maintain our food security, as well as solar energy production to power UK households and businesses.

How will local wildlife and the ecology be affected?

Solar farms that have been monitored by ecologists demonstrate an increase over time in the local abundance and variety of plants, pollinators, birds and other wildlife.

We will be taking steps to minimise any potential impacts on local habitats, making sure that Fosse Green Energy has as little impact on the natural environment as possible.

Under the Environment Act 2021, once in force, all new developments in England for which planning permission or development consent is needed will be required to demonstrate a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) of at least 10 per cent.

'Biodiversity Net Gain' is a term used to describe a specific approach to development that leaves biodiversity in an overall better state than it was in before development was undertaken.



The development process

As Fosse Green Energy has a generating capacity of over 50MW of electricity, this means that it is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).

Planning

The development consenting regime for an NSIP comes under the Planning Act 2008 and this means we need to apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build Fosse Green Energy. This will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate rather than the local planning authority of North Kesteven District Council.

In the case of energy-related development the Planning Inspectorate acts on behalf of the Secretary of State at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. It will carry out an examination of our proposals and then make a recommendation to the Secretary of State on whether or not to grant consent for the development.

The Secretary of State will make the final decision on whether to grant consent for the project.

We anticipate that the development process from start, through DCO submission, examination and then decision will take between two to three years. We intend to submit our proposals to the Planning Inspectorate by autumn 2024.

What is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping?

The purpose of an EIA is to assess, measure, evaluate and mitigate the likely significant effect of a proposed development on the environment. The EIA Scoping is a critical step in the EIA process – it sets out all those environmental, social and health issues likely to be most important and establishes the boundaries of the work that will be carried out in producing the final Environmental Statement for the proposed project.

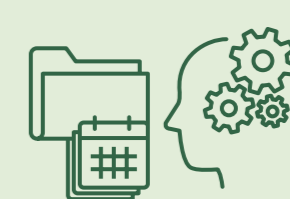
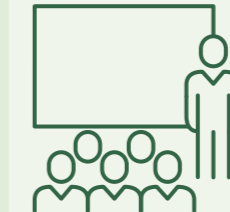
The EIA Scoping Report for Fosse Green Energy has been published and is available to view on the Planning Inspectorate's website <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/fosse-green-energy/?ipcsection=docs>

What is a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)?

The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) is a core technical document that sets out the preliminary findings from the environmental studies and assessments we carry out to develop our proposals for Fosse Green Energy. The findings from the PEIR will be presented at the statutory consultation, due to take place in early 2024. It will include detailed maps and plans of our proposed development.

What happens when the application is submitted?

1. After receiving our application the Planning Inspectorate has 28 days to accept it and decide if it can proceed to the examination stage.
2. When the application is accepted anyone wishing to be involved in the examination process will be invited to register their interest with the Planning Inspectorate.
3. Those who register their interest will be invited to submit their views on our proposals in writing and may be asked to speak at any public hearings that are held.
4. The Planning Inspectorate will hold an examination. When this finishes it has three months to make a recommendation to the Secretary of State about whether the application should be approved. The Secretary of State then has a further three months to make a final decision.
5. Subject to our application being approved, detailed design and the discharge of DCO requirements being finalised, construction of the project will commence.



Pre-application consultation

We are at an early stage in the development process for Fosse Green Energy. As we evolve and refine our plans, we are committed to striking an appropriate balance to mitigate the potential social, economic and environmental impacts that our final project may have.

We believe this balance is best achieved by:

- Consulting widely and effectively from an early stage in our project development process.
- Being open with information and transparent about the decisions we make.
- Developing proposals that deliver significant levels of renewable energy generation to secure the energy needs of the United Kingdom.

Public consultation forms an important part of the pre-application process for NSIPs; early and ongoing engagement will serve to inform and influence the design process with local councils, stakeholders and residents all having an important role to play.

The design of Fosse Green Energy will be a continual process and we welcome views at any time. However, prior to submitting a DCO application for the project we will hold two specific stages of consultation where we will be asking for feedback.

Adopting this approach means we can present and refine our proposals, sharing with those taking part how we have taken their views into consideration.

Stage One Consultation – 11 September to 20 October 2023

The first stage of consultation (this stage) is non-statutory. While not formally required, it is intended to give local communities a real opportunity to influence the proposed development from an early stage to gain a better understanding of what we are proposing, the potential benefits and its potential impacts.

The aim of this consultation is to introduce Fosse Green Energy and the overall project, share our early-stage proposals and give individuals and interested parties the opportunity to have their say and share their views and local knowledge.

We will use the feedback we receive to inform and shape a strong set of proposals that are sensitive to and respect any concerns of local communities.

Stage Two Consultation – Early 2024

Further to developing more detailed proposals for the project, a second stage of consultation will be carried out. This is a statutory stage of consultation required by the application process for NSIPs.

We expect to carry out this second stage of consultation in early 2024 when you will be invited to comment on our more detailed proposals for the project and its connection into the national grid.

Consultation Process timeline*

- **Spring 2023**
Outline information shared on the project.
- **Summer 2023**
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Request submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

Planning Inspectorate holds consultation on Scoping Report.
- **Autumn 2023**
First stage of community consultation (non-statutory).
- **Winter 2023/2024**
Development of a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) setting out how we will consult on the project at statutory consultation.
- **Early 2024**
Second stage of community consultation (statutory).
- **By Autumn 2024**
Finalise DCO application for submission to the Planning Inspectorate.

* Dates are indicative and could be subject to change

Taking part in this consultation

This first stage of community consultation on our emerging proposals for Fosse Green Energy is open from 11 September to 20 October 2023.

How you can learn more

There are a number of ways you can learn more about what we are consulting on and how to take part:

Join us at a consultation event or webinar to learn more about our proposals, meet the project team and provide us with your comments. A list of events taking place is available on our website.

Visit our project website to view information about our proposals at this stage and submit feedback to this consultation. All the information being made available at events will also be available on our website.

Contact our community relations team if you are unable to attend our events, have any questions, or would like help accessing information about the project or responding to this consultation.

What we are asking you to comment on

For this stage of consultation we are inviting your views on:

- The overall project.
- The proposed location of the project, including areas for solar panels and infrastructure to connect the project into the national grid.
- The two broad grid connection options we have identified that a connection for the Solar and Energy Storage Park could be routed along to connect it into the national grid.
- Initial ideas to mitigate potential environmental impacts, create areas for ecological enhancements and biodiversity net gain.
- Our proposed method to connect to the national grid via underground cables.
- Suggestions for community initiatives or schemes that we could support.

Contact details

 **0800 860 6262**
(open Monday – Friday 9am to 5pm)

 **info@fossegreenenergy.co.uk**

 **www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk**

 **FREEPOST FOSSE GREEN ENERGY**

Information

You can find more information about the application process for NSIP projects on the Planning Inspectorate website at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>

How you can tell us what you think

You can submit your comments to this consultation online or in writing:

To submit comments online:

Go to our project website and use our online feedback form: www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk

To submit comments in writing:

- Collect a feedback form from a consultation event or contact the Community Relations Team to request a copy (see back of this brochure for contact details)
- Hand your feedback form in at a consultation event or send it to us at this address:
FREEPOST FOSSE GREEN ENERGY
No stamp is required and this is the full address.

Alternatively any written letters sent to us using the project freepost address, or emails sent to us using our consultation email address – info@fossegreenenergy.co.uk – during the consultation period will also be considered as feedback.

Information

All the comments submitted to this consultation will be recorded and considered to inform and shape our proposals. We will not, however, be able to respond to you individually.

The deadline for responding to this consultation is **20 October 2023**.

Next steps

When this first stage of consultation closes we will review all the comments we receive, together with the findings from our ongoing environmental and technical studies, to inform and shape more detailed proposals for Fosse Green Energy.

We will then carry out a second statutory stage of consultation which is planned in early 2024, during which the PEIR will be available.

We will then review our proposals in light of all the feedback submitted to this second consultation and the findings from our ongoing assessments, so we can finalise and submit a DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate. As the developer, we have a duty to demonstrate how we have taken your views into account in developing our final proposal and prepare a consultation report to be submitted with the application.

Further opportunities to contribute

The second stage of consultation on our proposals for Fosse Green Energy is to likely be the last time we consult during the pre-application process, however, there will be ongoing opportunities to comment on the application at the examination stage.

Once our application has been accepted you will be able to register your interest in our proposals with the Planning Inspectorate via its website at <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>.

It will then keep you informed about the progress of our application during the pre-examination and examination process and supply further opportunities to inform and contribute to the planning process.





To contact us and provide feedback visit our website using the QR code:

Email: info@fossegreenenergy.co.uk Post: **FREEPOST FOSSE GREEN ENERGY**

Phone: **0800 860 6262** (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm)

www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk

