

Burnt House Farm Solar Farm

A photograph of a solar farm with rows of blue solar panels in the background, partially obscured by tall green grass and purple flowers in the foreground. The image has a light blue overlay.

Welcome to Burnt House Solar Farm Public Consultation

Burnt House Farm Solar Farm



Introducing Burnt House Farm Solar Farm

Bluefield Renewable Developments Ltd is preparing to submit a planning application to Northumberland County Council for a solar farm on Land East of Burnt House Farm, Netherton Road, Bedlington, Northumberland.

The site is a former open cast coal mine that is currently in arable use.

The project is situated to the north-east of Nedderton and north-west of Bedlington and south east of Hepscoth. The proposed site covers 75.5 hectares and is split into separate land parcels. The proposed site is located east of Burnt House Farm, which is currently operating as a Trainbase Construction Training Facility. The northern boundary is defined by the railway.



The solar farm would have an approximate capacity of 49.9 MW. The proposed development would create enough renewable energy to meet the **annual electricity needs of approximately 15,000 homes.**



It would also offset approximately 11,200 tonnes of CO₂ each year, the **equivalent to taking around 5,160 cars off the road.**

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Introducing Bluefield Renewable Developments Limited

Bluefield

Founded in 2009, the Bluefield Group builds, manages and operates solar and other renewable energy projects on behalf of its clients. It currently operates over 100 solar farms in the UK with an aggregate capacity of over 610 MWp. As both a developer and operator of renewable energy projects, Bluefield seeks to build long-term relationships with landowners and the local community. It aims to deliver high quality projects that generate significant renewable energy, have low visual impact and enhance biodiversity and land management.

Climate Emergency

In 2019, the UK became the first country in the world to declare a Climate Emergency. It has subsequently committed to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050. In October 2021 the UK Government set out its Net Zero commitments and obligations in the 'Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener'. Amongst a number of initiatives, it confirms that by 2035 all our electricity will need to come from low carbon sources.

Northumberland County Council has declared a 'Climate Emergency' in 2019 with Councillors pledging to take local action to contribute to national carbon neutral targets through the development of practices and policies, with an aim to half the County's carbon footprint by 2025 and make the County carbon neutral by 2030.



Have Your Say

Please take your time to consider the information within this exhibition, and don't hesitate to contact a member of our team should you have any questions or matters you need to be clarified.

We would be grateful if you could fill in the feedback form and let us have your contact details for the purpose of informing the project design and providing feedback to the Council.

For further information, please do not hesitate to email:
burnhousesolarfarm@pegasusgroup.co.uk

Or visit the dedicated public consultation website :
<https://www.burnhousesolarfarm.co.uk/>

Please provide any feedback by Wednesday 9th February 2022.



Burnt House Farm Solar Farm

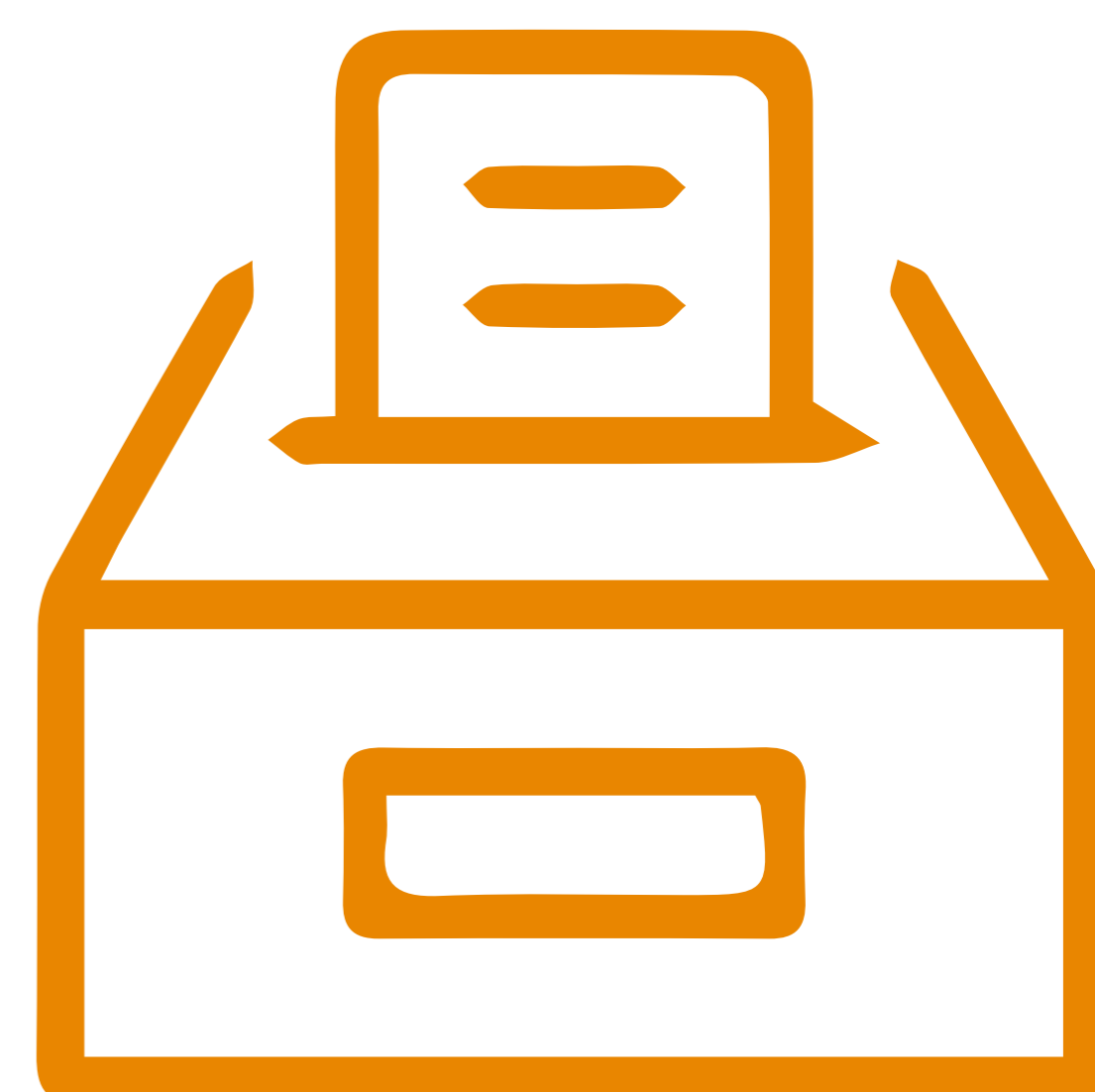


What are the Benefits of the Solar Farm?

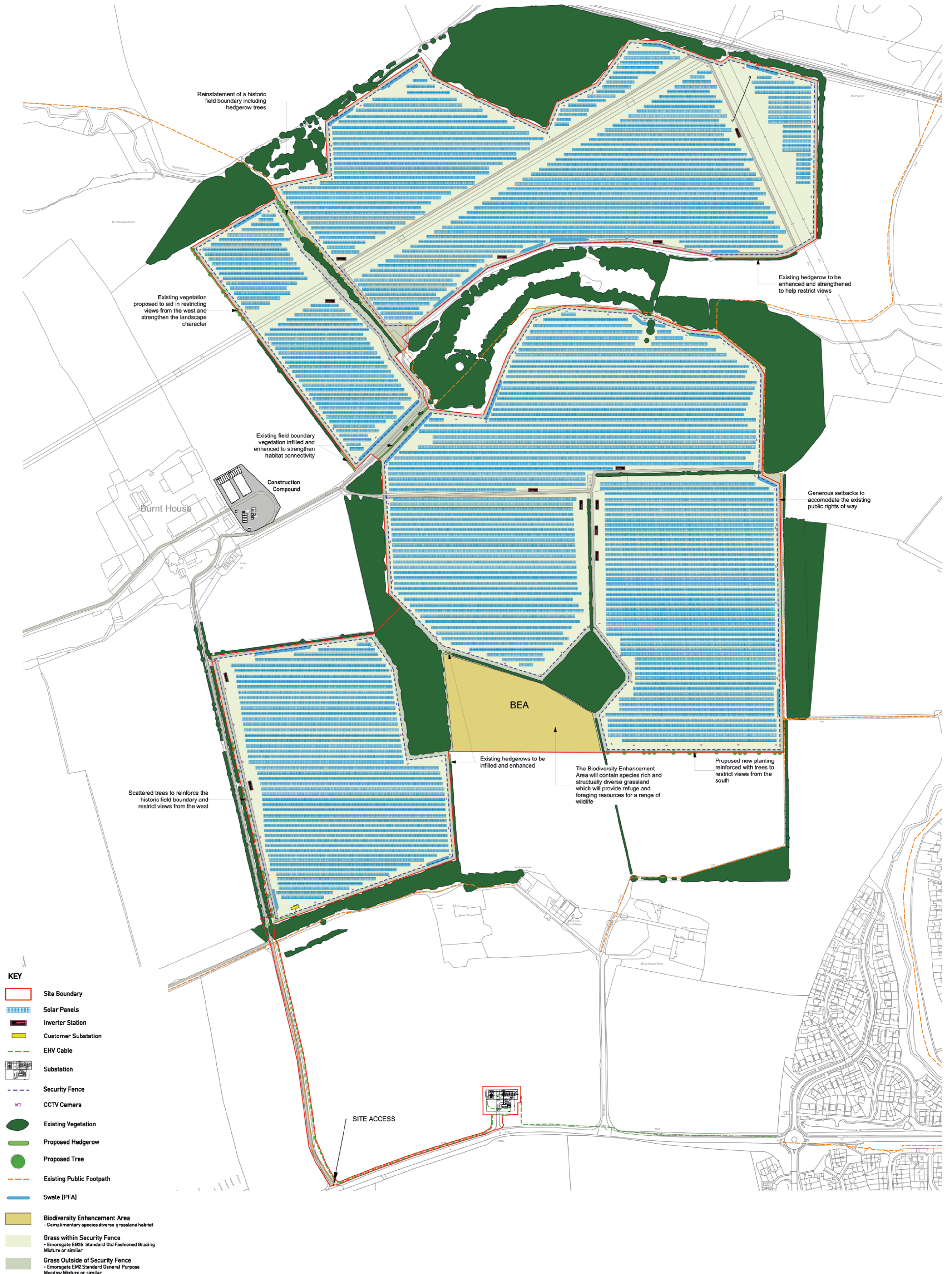
- It will assist Northumberland County Council in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets.
- It will contribute towards the security of energy supply in Northumberland through the provision of local, renewable energy.
- Public rights of way will be unaffected by the operational solar farm.
- New hedgerow planting is proposed to contain and screen the solar farm from its surroundings.
- This is a temporary development, allowing the land to rest for a period of up to 40 years. The land could be sensitively grazed by livestock to maintain agricultural function.
- We anticipate that the solar farm will have a significant positive net biodiversity impact. Ecological enhancements being considered include tree planting, strengthening of existing hedgerows, planting of wildflower areas together with bird boxes and bat boxes.
- The proposed solar farm will not require Government subsidy.

Community Benefits

We believe that it's right that the community closest to a solar farm is able to benefit from it. We therefore seek suggestions from you on how we could best provide that benefit. In particular, if you have an idea for a sustainable community-based scheme or project, then please share your idea with us within the comments box.



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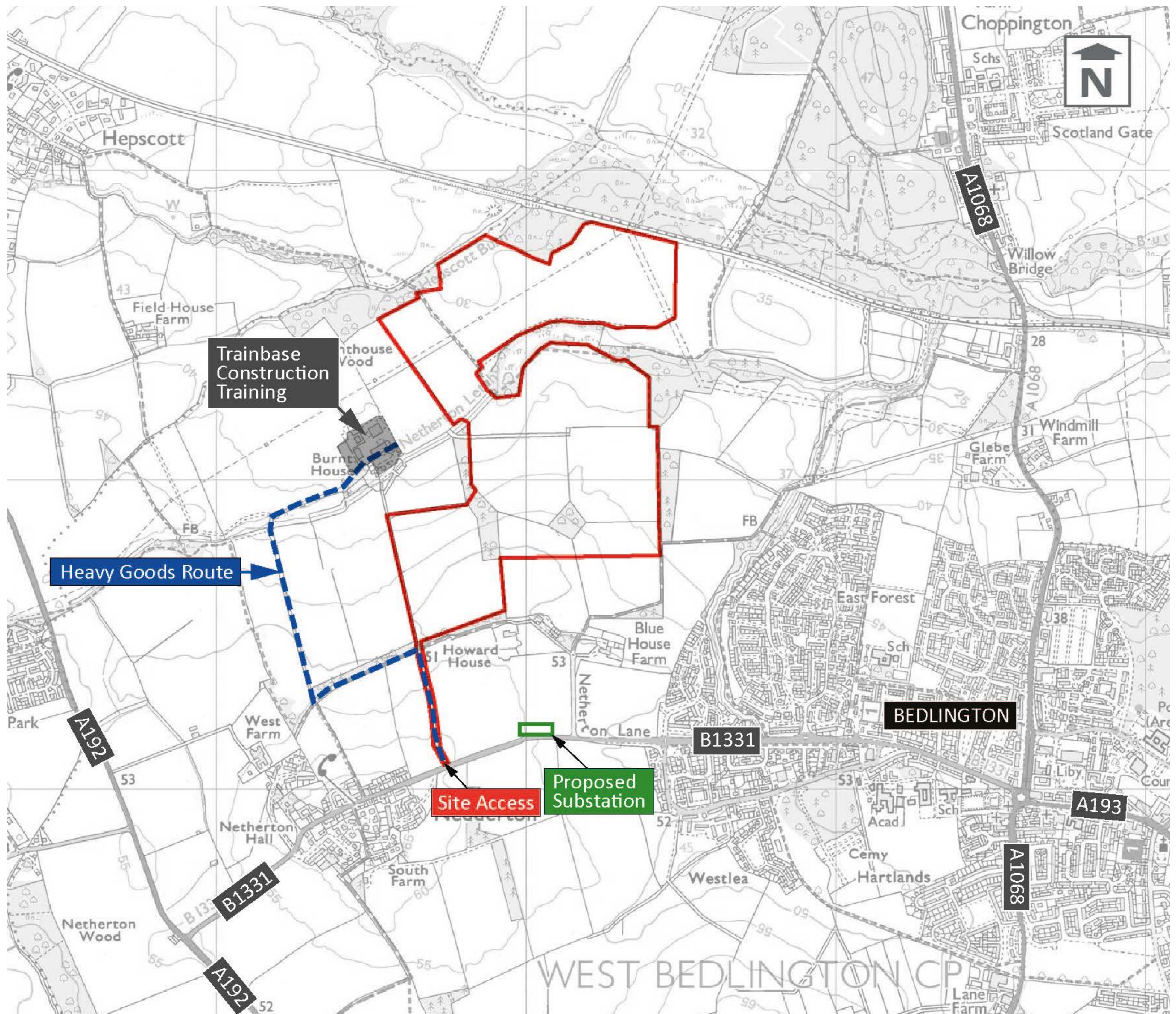


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Construction and Access

Access to the site will be from the B1331 via Burnt House Farm (operating as a Trainbase Construction Training Facility). The development is anticipated to be constructed over a 6-9 month period.

Once operational there would be limited vehicle visits each month comprising a transit van, accessing the site for maintenance purposes.



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 Site Boundary (indicative only)

0 500m

Location plan with construction route

Burnt House Farm Solar Farm

Landscape Viewpoints



1. Centre of site looking north-east



2. Mature on site trees, accommodated within the layout



3. On site (sw field) looking along southern boundary



4. On site footpath, A shaped style



5. On site footpath, looking south



6. On site looking north along mature tree belt



7. Typical on site hedgerow with trees



8. View from the residential area to the south-east

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What Happens Next?

It is intended that a detailed planning application will be submitted to Northumberland County Council following feedback from the public consultation. The application will be accompanied by a suite of technical studies including:

Ecological Assessment

Ecology surveys of the site will be carried out. Ecological enhancements currently being considered include tree planting, strengthening of existing hedgerows, planting of wildflower areas together with bird boxes and bat boxes. The proposed enhancements will result in a positive biodiversity net gain.

Landscape and Visual

A Landscape and Visual Impact assessment will be carried out of the site and surrounding context. A Planting Plan will also be prepared to demonstrate the additional planting proposed across the site.

Arboriculture

A detailed assessment of the trees present onsite and an associated package of mitigation and enhancement works will be prepared.

Heritage

An assessment of the archaeological and cultural heritage implications of the site will accompany any future planning application to understand the effects on any buried archaeology and avoid development in areas of potential significance.

Transportation/Highways

An assessment of the effects of the development on the road network and the production of an associated package of mitigation and enhancement works.

Flood Risk Assessment

The site is located within Flood Zone 1, the area at least risk of flooding. A Flood Risk Assessment will be undertaken and will include proposals for Sustainable Urban Drainage techniques and measures to reduce surface water run-off in line with climate change requirements.

Noise Assessment

There will be minimal noise associated with the proposed development. A noise assessment will be undertaken to identify any noise implications of the proposal and mitigation measures will be proposed if they are deemed necessary.

Glint and Glare Assessment

Detailed assessments of the glint and glare implications of the proposal will be undertaken.

Soil Survey

A detailed agricultural land classification study has been undertaken. The survey confirms that the majority of the site forms Grade 3b 'moderate quality' agricultural land, which is not classed as best and most versatile land.

Minerals Resource Assessment

A minerals resource assessment report will be prepared.



Next Steps

Comments provided by the local community will be taken into account in shaping the final planning application submission. Please provide any comments you have on the proposal by email or via the feedback form on the website. We would be grateful if you could answer the feedback form and let us have your contact details for the purpose of informing the project design and providing feedback to the Council by Wednesday 9th February 2022.

For further information, please do not hesitate to email:

burnhousesolarfarm@pegasusgroup.co.uk

Please visit <https://www.burnhousesolarfarm.co.uk/> where information about our proposals will be updated.

Following the consultation, once the application has been registered by the Council there will be a formal opportunity for members of the public to comment on the proposals to the Council as part of the planning application process.

Ahead of this submission, we would welcome any comments and would be pleased to discuss the proposals further.

Thank you for attending today.