

**30**

MW solar farm capacity



**9,642**

Homes powered each year



**5,407**

Tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e  
avoided each year



**35**

proposed size (hectares)

## About the project

Low Carbon is proposing to develop a new solar farm to be known as Willow Solar Farm

- The site is located on land at Middlewood Green, Stowmarket, Suffolk.
- The solar farm will have a generating capacity of approximately **30 megawatts (MW)** of clean energy.
- The proposed site is approximately **35 hectares** (86 acres) in size.
- The solar farm will be a temporary development for a period of **40 years**, maintaining its agricultural classification throughout the development and after the removal of the equipment.

## To learn more, attend our Public Consultation Events

Webinar, followed by a Q&A. Register your details on our project website to join the webinar, [www.willowsolarfarm.co.uk](http://www.willowsolarfarm.co.uk)

### Webinar

When: Tuesday 2 May, 2023

Time: 7:30pm

Come and meet us in person and review our proposal.

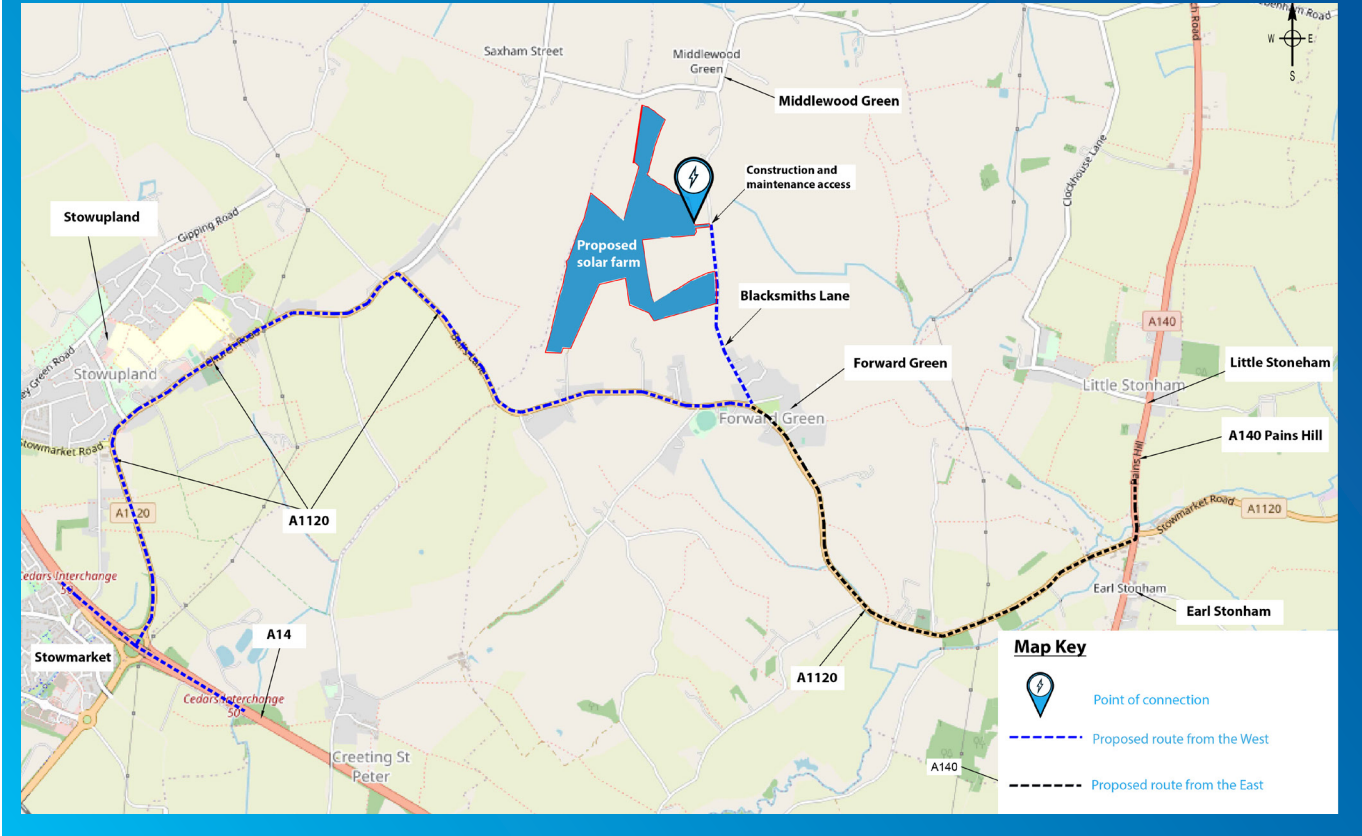
### Village Hall Drop-in Event

When: Tuesday 9 May, 2023

Time: 2:30pm - 7:30pm

Location: Earl Stonham Village Hall,  
Forward Green, Earl Stonham IP14 5HJ

# Construction information



## Construction period

A typical construction period for a solar farm of this scale is around 20-30 weeks. It is proposed that construction working hours would be as follows:

- 08:00 - 18:00 Monday to Friday
- 08:00 - 13:00 Saturday



## Access information

Our proposed construction routes are based on reaching Blacksmiths Lane from the south via the surrounding A-road network.

From the east, the route will come from the A140, heading west on the A1120, onto Blacksmiths Lane.

From the west, the route will come from the A14, heading north on the A1120, turning north onto Blacksmiths Lane.

The proposed maintenance and construction route will access the site from an existing farm entrance on Blacksmiths Lane.

We have engaged a Highways Consultant to advise us of the best route. A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will be agreed with the Local Highways Authority ahead of any construction.

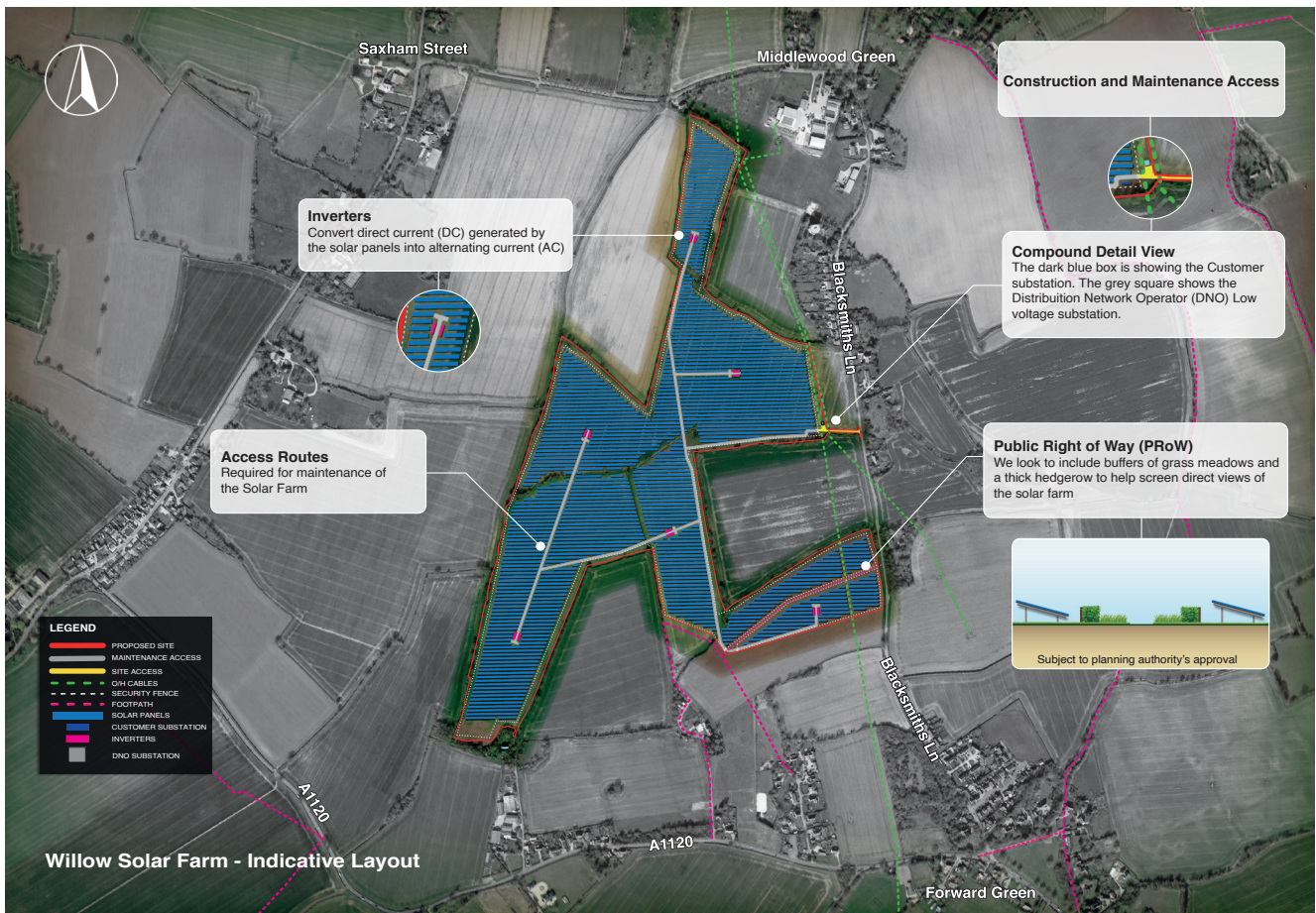


## Point of connection

The electricity generated by the solar panels is proposed to connect into the local distribution network operator, via an existing pylon along the eastern boundary of the site. A transformer substation compound would be built to step up the voltage to be fed into the grid. From there the power will likely be distributed locally - south to Forward Green and then to Stowmarket, as well as north towards Mendesham Green, before joining the main lines into the wider UK transmission lines.

The renewable energy produced from our farm connects into a high voltage (HV) cable. As the electricity travels through the local network, it feeds into the low voltage (LV) cables, which power households and commercial sites (e.g. switching on lights / boiling a kettle).





The final design will be informed by considering the findings from the surveys we're carrying out, alongside feedback provided through our ongoing consultation.

## Proposed site layout

### Design of the site

- The development would consist of **static rows** of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels fixed into metal framework supported by either single or double mounted posts.
- The panels would be set to a **maximum height of 3m** with the bottom of the panels approximately 0.9m from the ground.
- The metal poles would be **pile-driven** into the ground to a depth of around 1.5m.
- The panels would be laid out in straight arrays set at an angle of between **10 and 35 degrees from east to west** across the field enclosures.
- The final number of panels depends on a variety of factors such as the capacity of each panel and the design of the arrays. It is too early in the process to confirm this yet.
- **No flood lights** will be installed within or around the site. Above the entrance door to the DNO Substation, there may be a downlighter to aid access.
- **Public Rights of Way (PROW) will not be moved or closed** during construction or operation (if planning is granted).
- There is a **minimum separation distance between solar panels of 2.5m**, where biodiversity enhancements such as pasture-mix grassland planting can be implemented.
- Between the arrays and the site perimeter or, in other areas of unused space, we typically plant wildflowers or pasture-mix grasses.

## Indicative timeline

**December 2022  
to March 2023**

Planning pre-application  
& EIA Screening

**April to May 2023**

Community  
Consultation

**Late spring to  
summer 2023**

Planning application  
submission to  
Babergh and Mid Suffolk  
District Councils

**Winter 2023**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk  
District Councils will  
consider and determine  
the application

**Summer 2024/25**

Earliest commencement  
of construction (if planning  
permission is granted)



## Benefits

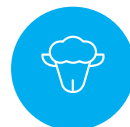
### Biodiversity

It is important that the site is improved for nature and shows a biodiversity net gain, thus helping to protect and improve new and existing habitats whilst allowing the land to recover from a monocultural environment. We are thereby creating a species rich haven for wildlife.



### Sheep grazing

We work in partnership with the landowner or local shepherds to provide a unique and innovative space for sheep to graze amongst the solar panels which provide protection in both summer and winter.



### Beehives

We encourage the siting of beehives within the solar farm, which not only helps to pollinate nearby crops and plants but provides a secure environment with readily available food sources. The hives are tended by trained local beekeepers to ensure the health and welfare of the bees.



### Public Rights of Way

We would look to keep the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) open throughout construction and operation of the solar farm. If possible and to maintain the enjoyment of these paths we look to include buffers of meadow or wildflower planting and a thick hedgerow to help screen direct views of the solar farm.



### Planting

Our sites are designed around existing hedgerows and trees. We look to enhance the site with additional planting of native species of hedgerows, trees, pasture-mix grasses and/or wildflowers.





## We would like to hear your feedback on the proposal.

Visit our project website to submit an online feedback form:

[www.willowsolarfarm.co.uk](http://www.willowsolarfarm.co.uk)

Send your feedback via the post (no stamp required):

Freepost

LOW CARBON UK SOLAR DEVELOPMENT

## If you have any questions:

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

**Call our free information line:** 0800 151 2998

### About Low Carbon:

Low Carbon, the developer of this project is a British-founded investment and asset management company whose business model is based on the financing, development, construction and operational responsibility of renewable energy projects at scale. Low Carbon is committed to making a positive and significant impact on the causes of climate change with the goal of a low carbon future with environmental stewardship and collaboration with local communities and biodiversity at the heart of this approach.

**Certified**



**Corporation**

**Low Carbon is a certified B Corporation®.**

B Corps™ are businesses that meet the highest standards of social and environmental performance, transparency and accountability.