Community Update

January 2024

One Earth is a proposed new solar development with battery storage, located on the border of Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire.

The project is still in the early stages of its development and will be shaped and refined by feedback from the community, elected representatives, and technical experts.

This newsletter provides an update on our recent consultation, answers to frequently asked questions raised in our engagement so far and our next steps.

Our recent consultation

From 27 September to 8 November 2023, we shared our initial plans for One Earth with the local community and asked for feedback. During this period, we hosted public information events and visited local properties to provide information about the proposals and hear the views of the community.

We received feedback through our paper and online questionnaire, as well as emails and letters sent from the community. We want to thank everyone for taking the time to learn about our proposals and submit feedback. If you did not have the opportunity to have your say, there will be another community consultation later this year.

212

local residents attended 5 public information events

462

emails, letters and questionnaires

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a DCO?

Because One Earth would produce more than 50 MW of energy, it is considered a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).
The Planning Act 2008 defines the planning process for NSIPs and requires that we apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build and operate One Earth. Unlike planning applications, which are determined by local authorities, NSIPs are submitted to and decided at the national level. We will submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), an independent body that will review and examine the application on behalf of the relevant Secretary of State. After examination, PINS will make a recommendation about whether or not to approve the project, but the final decision will be made by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.

2. Hasn't the government stated that the country can meet all of its renewable energy needs using offshore wind?

No. This statement refers only to the energy needed to power homes, but we need to meet the energy needs of businesses, schools, hospitals and all sectors of the economy.
The current UK policy calls for increasing solar production to 70GW by 2030, which was confirmed and restated very recently in the National Policy Statement for Energy Infrastructure on 22 November 2023.

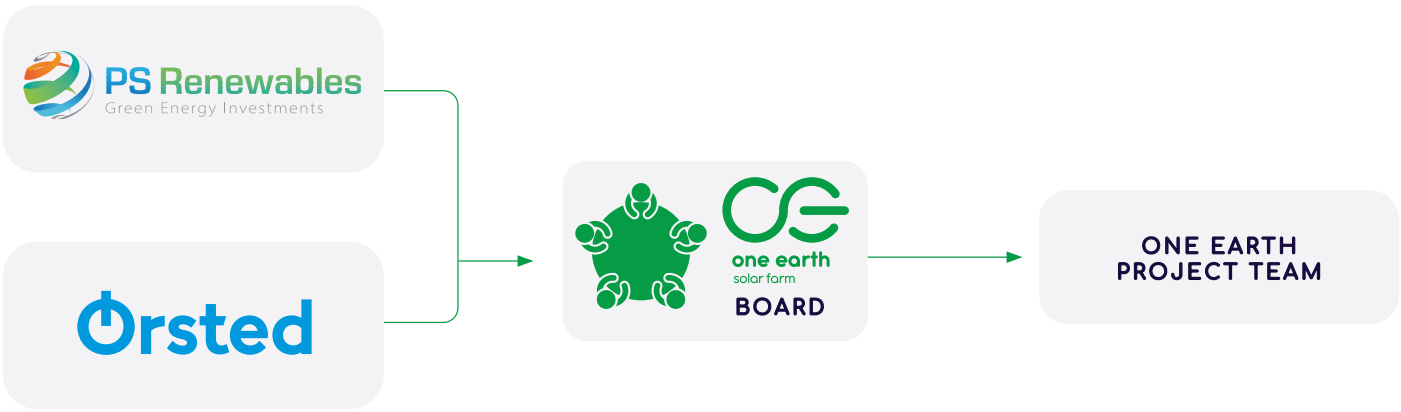
3. What is One Earth?

The developers behind One Earth are Ørsted and PS Renewables (PADERO SOLAER LTD. Company number: 08021337). Both companies are leaders in the development of renewable energy across the UK and are working together to develop this project. When two companies collaborate in this way it is common to establish a new project-specific company, which is One Earth Solar Farm Limited in this case. Representatives of PS Renewables and Ørsted sit on the board of this company and are responsible for providing funding and oversight of the development of One Earth Solar Farm. The One Earth board has appointed a team of specialists to help develop the project, who are experts in their fields. This includes a dedicated project lead, who is effectively the 'Managing Director' of One Earth and reports directly to the board. This team, including the project lead, works for One Earth and was present at consultation events to answer questions.

4. How will this impact agricultural production?

Across the country, we must strike a balance between meeting our energy needs and our food needs. Because of the grid's capacity at High Marnham, we are looking for available land in this area, which is largely farmland. We want to minimise the use of the most productive agricultural land where possible. We are currently carrying out surveys to help us understand the quality of the agricultural land, which will inform the design we present at the next stage of consultation.

Climate change is a major threat to agricultural production, with impacts already being seen around the world and here in the UK. We can support sustainable agriculture and produce renewable energy at the same time. Just 0.3% of land across the country would be enough to deliver the 70GW of solar needed by 2030.



5. Why can't we use brownfield sites or roofs for solar instead of fields?

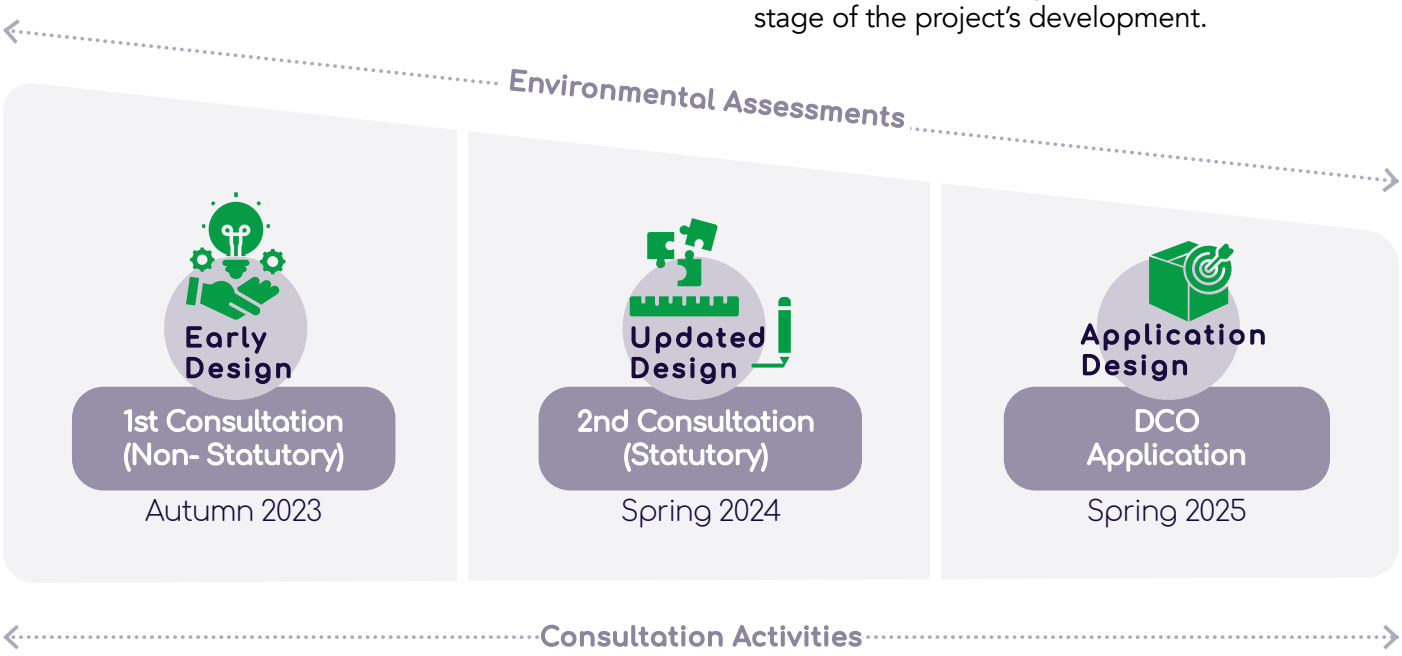
Placing solar panels on rooftops and former industrial sites have an important role to play, but we also need larger solar projects to meet the country's future energy needs. Projects like One Earth, which can be built quickly and make use of existing capacity in the National Grid, can make a major contribution.

That is why the starting point for site selection for this project was the grid connection at High Marnham. Because the coal-fired power plant was decommissioned, there is capacity at this location for new energy sources to come online.

6. Why can't you answer some questions about project details?

At this point, the project is still in the early stages of its development. Throughout the project's development, the design will be updated and refined, based on consultation feedback and ongoing environmental assessments.

At each stage of consultation, we will be able to provide additional levels of detail, as the design becomes more solidified and key decisions are made.
This means that we may be unable to answer questions at this point about details of the final design, which have not yet been decided, but will have more information at the next consultation. We encourage the community and other stakeholders to provide feedback at each stage of the project's development.



7. How will the site be decommissioned? Will the panels be recycled?

At the end of the life of the project, the above-ground infrastructure would be removed. The DCO would include specific legal requirements for the decommissioning, that would be enforced by the local authorities. We aim to recycle all of the panels and batteries, so we are working continuously to improve recycling options to ensure that all valuable materials are fed back into new material production.

8. Is your supply chain ethical?

We want the companies we work with to run their businesses and supply chains free from labour and human rights violations, corruption, and environmental risks. We have established a Responsible Business Partner Programme (RPP), building on our general human rights due diligence approach to collaborate with suppliers and business partners on improving their adherence to our social, environmental and ethical expectations. This is to protect the environment and all groups of workers and stakeholders in our supply chains, including those that are most vulnerable.

Environmental Assessments

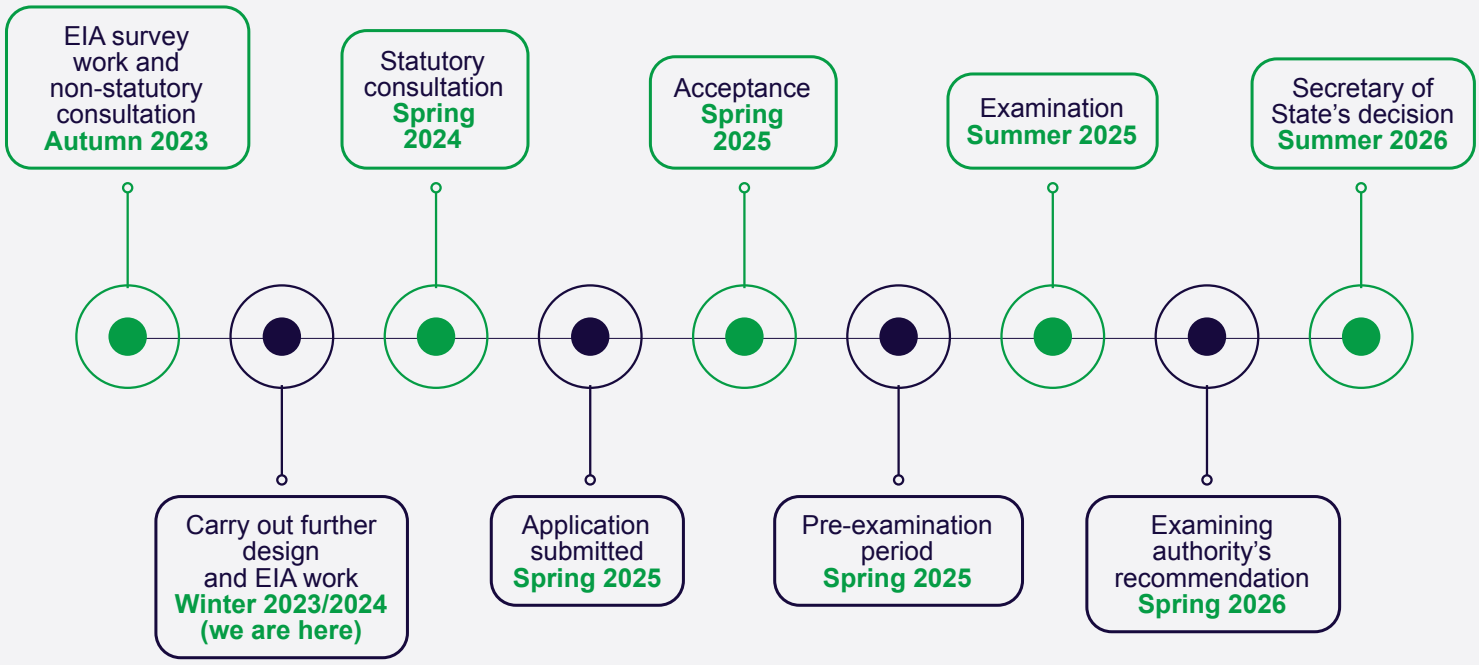
We are carrying out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for One Earth Solar Farm to understand how the project would impact the environment and develop a plan to mitigate any significant impacts.

At each step of the way in preparing our EIA, we must consult with technical experts and elected representatives to inform our approach and factcheck our results. We have completed our initial surveys to understand the site and are now working to define how we will conduct the assessments. This is known as a 'Scoping Report', which has been reviewed by technical bodies like Natural England and the Environment Agency, as well as parish, district and county councils. You can find out more by going to the One Earth Solar Farm page on the Planning Inspectorate's website: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/

All of the findings of our environmental assessments will be made public. Initial results will be included in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) at the next stage of consultation, while final results will be included in the Environmental Statement in our DCO application.

Next Steps

We are currently reviewing all of the feedback we received during the consultation, studying the results of ongoing environmental assessments, and continuing conversations with technical experts to help refine our design. We will present the updated design along with the PEIR at the next phase of consultation, due to take place this spring.



Get in Touch

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One Earth Solar Farm, FREEPOST
SEC Newgate UK Local (no stamp required)