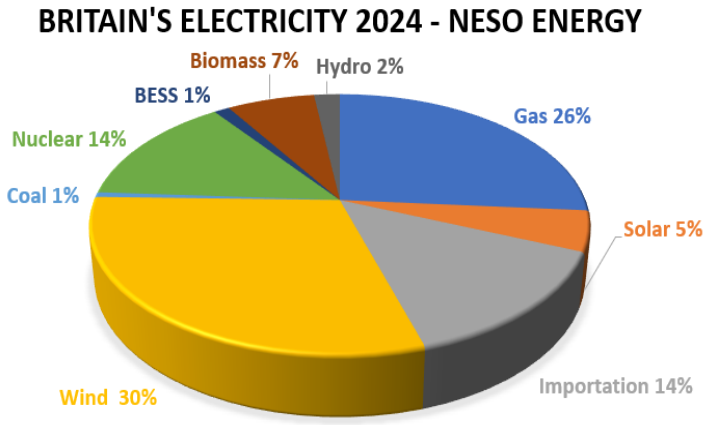
April 2025

Welcome to Valley Solar Farm Exhibition

1. Why do we need Renewable Energy

Renewable energy in UK

- In 2024, renewable electricity generation was 45% (more than double from 2014).
- Government targets 95% of energy from renewables by 2030, and 100% by 2050.
- Current solar capacity is 17GW.
- Government's Clean Power 2030 Action Plan sets the target of 45GW by 2030.
- Now is the momentum for the energy transition, from fossil and importation to green national renewable energy.

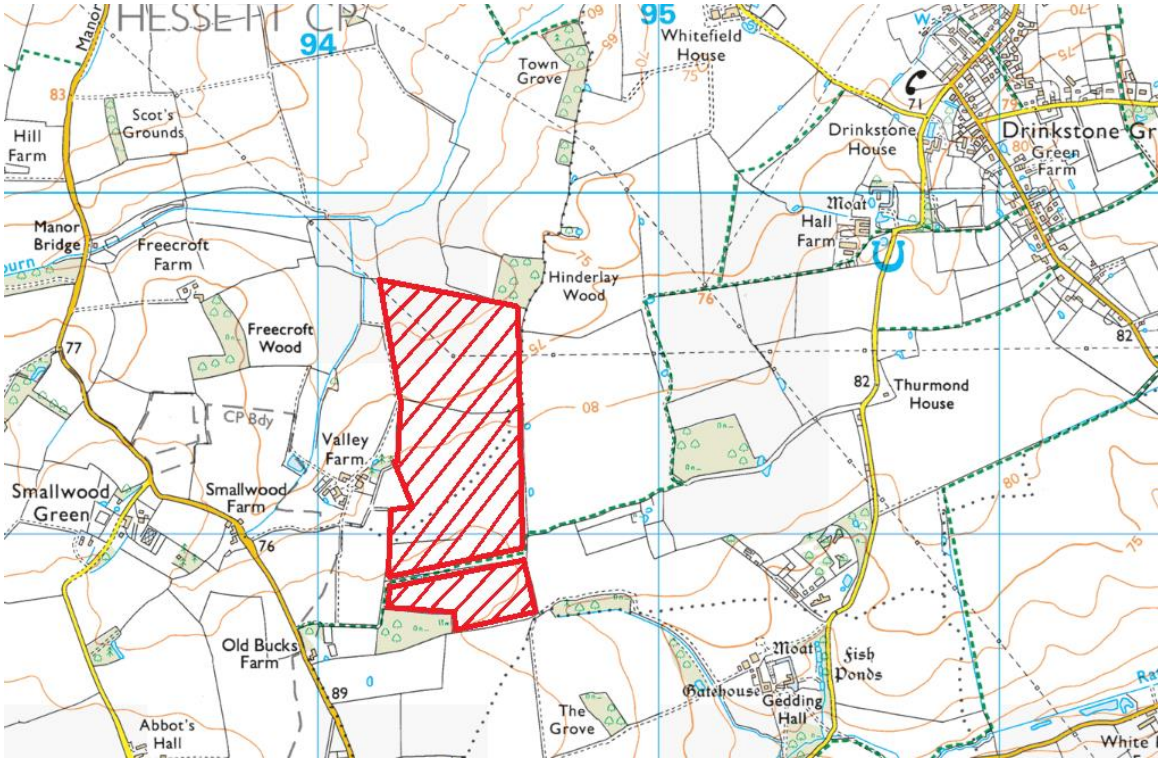


Public Opinion – Research

The UK Energy Research Centre published a national survey of public attitudes towards energy in the UK:

- 74% of respondents are very or fairly concerned about climate change.
- 78% of respondents are fairly or very concerned that petrol will become unaffordable for them within the next 10-20 years.
- 79% believe the UK should reduce its use of fossil fuels.
- 82% of the British public have strong concerns about the UK becoming too dependent on energy from other countries. Respondents were also concerned about having no alternatives in place when fossil fuels run out (84%), and the possibility of a national petrol shortage (73%) and frequent power cuts (63%).
- 61% agree that promoting renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, is a better way of tackling climate change than nuclear power.
- 81% of respondents want to reduce their energy use.

2a. Site Selection - Location



- The development is considered to be in compliance with National (NPPF) and Local plan policy (Babergh- Mid Suffolk Local Plan).
- A suitable site to accommodate a solar farm was found in an area with available grid capacity.
- Opdenergy proposes to install an up to 42 MW solar farm at Valley Farm, land west of Drinkstone Green. The solar farm would be connected to a power pylon within the site.
- This solar farm would generate enough electricity to feed more than **9,660 homes** per annum.
- Good to low quality agricultural land (grade 2, 3a and 3b) would be used.
- Outside of protected or restriction areas: AONB, SSSI, flood risk, heritage sensitive buildings.
- The search area has considered brownfield land within the whole of Babergh Council +15ha (our site is approx. 35ha). The only identified site is the Former HMS Ganges Site, Shotley Gate, which already has planning permission for around 300 dwellings.

2b. Site Selection – Site Design and Layout

- Low height of equipment proposed
- No archaeological remains found/anticipated on site.
- The development will be unlikely to have adverse impacts on the setting of nearby Listed Buildings.
- Ecology enhancement measures are proposed such as planting in hedgerow gaps, grassland in corners, and benefits to local wildlife, through Biodiversity Net Gain.
- The only noise operation would come from cooling fans in the transformer cabinets, which would typically contain noise within the fence line.
- No glint and glare issues are anticipated.
- The land is grade 2, 3a and 3b, low to good agricultural classification.
- The application is located within the lowest risk Flood Zone 1.
- The Public Rights of Way would **not** be closed/diverted.

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3. The proposed development: considerations and impacts

How will the solar farm work?

Generation electricity

- Continuously operating solar panels convert light into electricity, which is fed directly into the National Grid. The solar farm would be connected to a power pylon within the site.

Long-term Vision

- Enable a dual use of the proposed fields for agricultural purposes (sheep grazing) during the lifespan of the solar farm.

Fertility improvement

- Grade of the agricultural land (classified as 2, 3a and 3b) enhanced over the course of the installation.

Positive impacts

1. Generation of clean renewable energy
2. Assimilate rapidly into the countryside
3. Support biodiversity enhancements
4. Less than 44 weeks of construction
5. The proposed development is reversible (after 35 year period).

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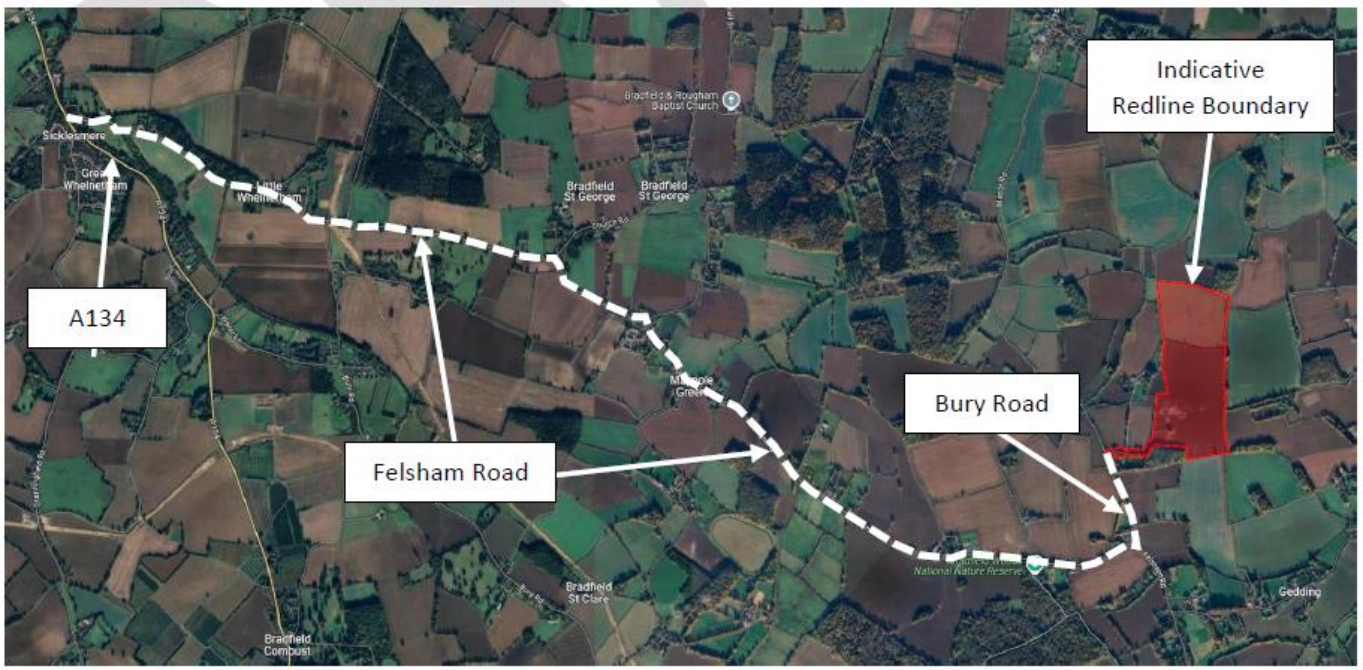
3. The proposed development: construction considerations



- The construction of the site is anticipated to take only around 44 weeks (11 months), depending on weather conditions.
- Bury Road is approximately 5.2m to 6m wide; there have been no PIAs (Personal Injury Accidents) recorded on the section of Bury Road in the latest 5-year period and the ATC survey undertaken shows that typically 12-13% of the total daily vehicle trips along Bury Road are already made by HGV's.
- Felsham Road is approximately 7.7km route between the site access and the A134, travelling along Bury Road.
- As shown from the PIA data (from 2019 – 2023), there has been just 1 PIA recorded on the recommended construction route and thus it has been concluded that there are no existing highway safety concerns on the full route between the site and the A134 at Sicklesmere.

4. What happens after 35 years?

- The scheme will be completely removed, and the land returned to its actual state.
- There are no long term detrimental impacts to the land – quality is likely to improve through active management.
- The land does not become ‘brownfield’ and will be reinstated to its former agricultural use.
- A bond will be set in place with the landowner in the Lease, to ensure that the land is cleared by the end of the lease. In the event of planning permission being granted, decommissioning is controlled by the LPA.
- The earliest energization date provided by UKPN is November 2031, so commissioning wouldn´t start until 2030
- Recycling of solar components is a growing business and should be more prevalent in the future.

5. Community benefits

- Opdenergy believes local communities hosting major renewable energy developments should be recognized for their contribution to meeting UKs need for securing cleaner energy generation and where the communities host such developments should directly benefit.
- It is however noted that this is not a material consideration in the determination of the Planning Application.
- Discussions to be held with Local Parish Councils who understand well the needs of the area, after planning permission is granted if this is achieved.
- Invitation to local groups for funding of environmental projects.
- Suggestions received through other Public Consultation Consultation on other schemes include: panels for sports pavilion rooftop, church roof repairs, enhance of public buildings.
- During Abril 2025, 257 leaflets were distributed to all residents in 2,0 km, informing of our project and inviting residents to attend to this public exhibition and to give us any feedback.
- For any further information, please visit www.valleysolarfarm.co.uk