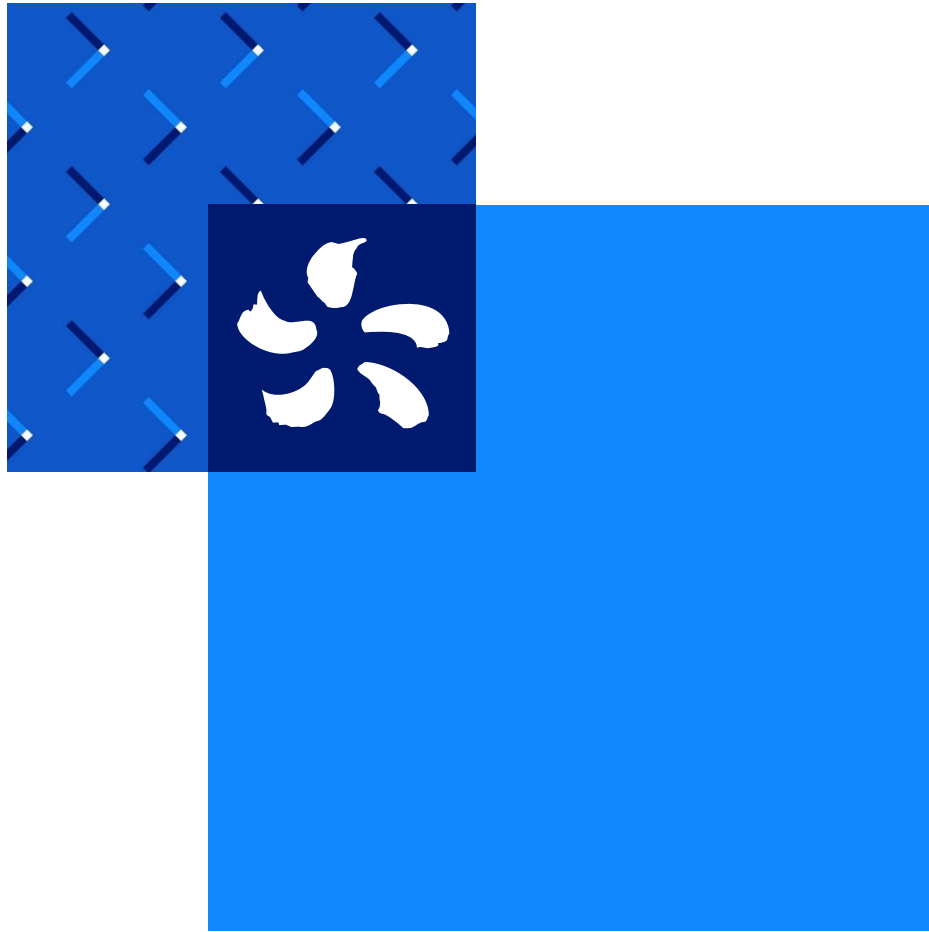


Picts Lane Solar & Battery Project

Cowfold Parish Council

September 2025





1.

Project Overview

Who are we?

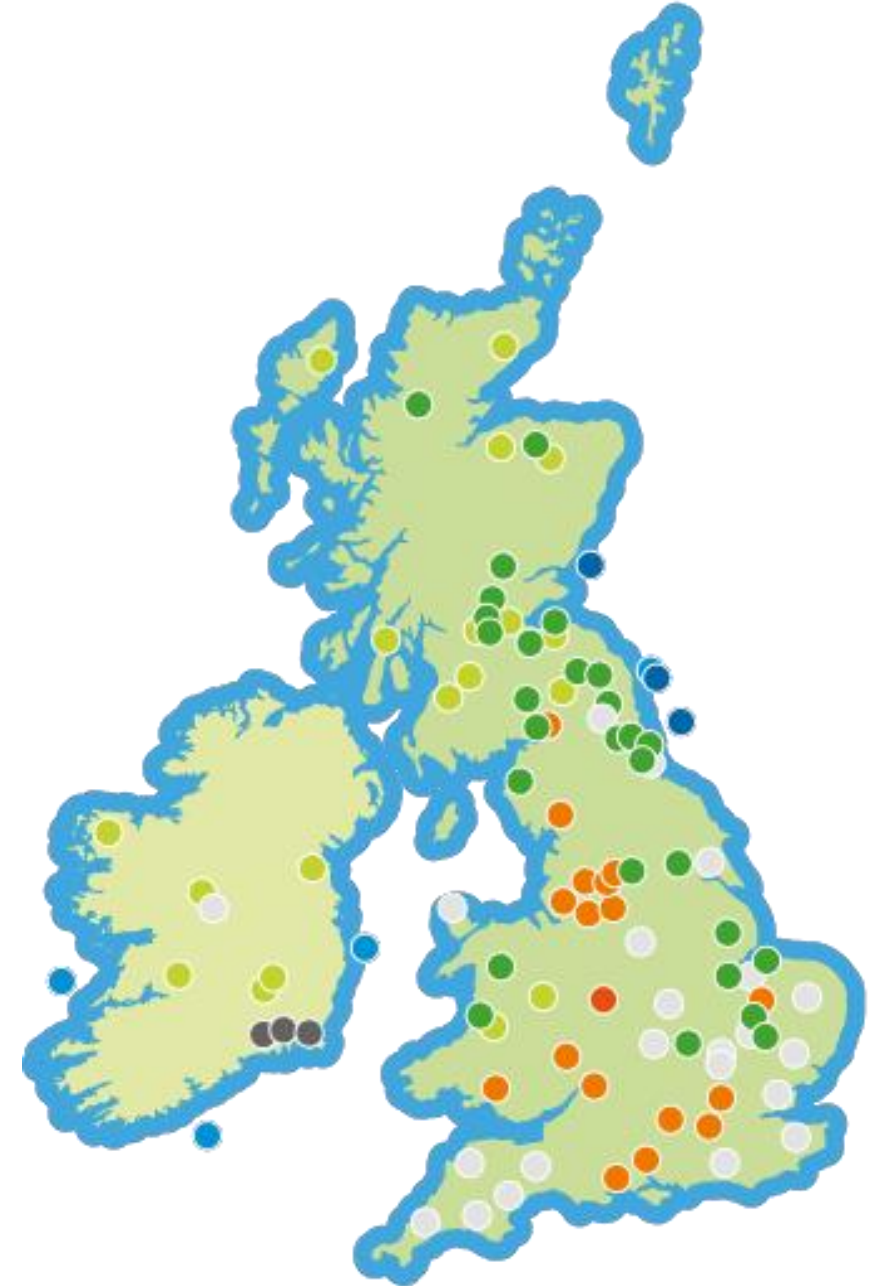
EDF power solutions UK and Ireland:

- EDF power solutions is part of the EDF Global Group, one of the world's largest low carbon electricity companies
- We have over 2GW of operational renewable assets and 14GW in development across the UK and Ireland
- Recently rebranded from EDF Renewables UK and Ireland

Meet the team:

- Kate Bevan, Project Development Manager
- Musa Choudary, Principal Project Development Manager

- Offshore - Pipeline
- Offshore - Operational, under construction or post-FID
- Onshore - Pipeline
- Onshore - Operational, under construction or post-FID
- Battery storage - Pipeline
- Battery storage - Operational, under construction or post-FID
- Solar PV - Pipeline
- Solar PV - Operational, under construction or post-FID



Why solar and why here?

Urgent national need for renewables:

- UK government has a goal of achieving 100% low carbon electricity by 2035
- Solar is the most affordable form of renewable energy in the UK
- Solar is reliable, scalable and can be deployed quickly, especially when coupled with BESS

Benefits of site at Picts Lane:

- Proximity to grid connection at Bolney substation
- High levels of solar irradiation in south England
- Site not currently heavily farmed and not high-grade agricultural land
- Topography and existing natural screening reduce visual and noise impacts
- Site is not within environmental designation or green belt, though next to the High Weald
- Landowner interest in a project





EDF is bringing forward proposals for a new solar and battery energy storage system (BESS) project on the land off Picts Lane, just outside the village of Cowfold.

We're inviting residents and stakeholders to attend a public consultation event to hear more about our proposals.

If approved, the project could deliver significant environmental and community benefits to Cowfold, and would contribute to the UK's clean energy transition by reducing reliance on fossil fuels, improving energy security, and supporting national targets to double solar generation by 2030.

Our vision includes:

 A renewable energy site combining solar generation and battery storage	 Improvements to existing local roads and footpaths
 Minimal visual impact, using landscape buffers	 A community fund to support local projects during

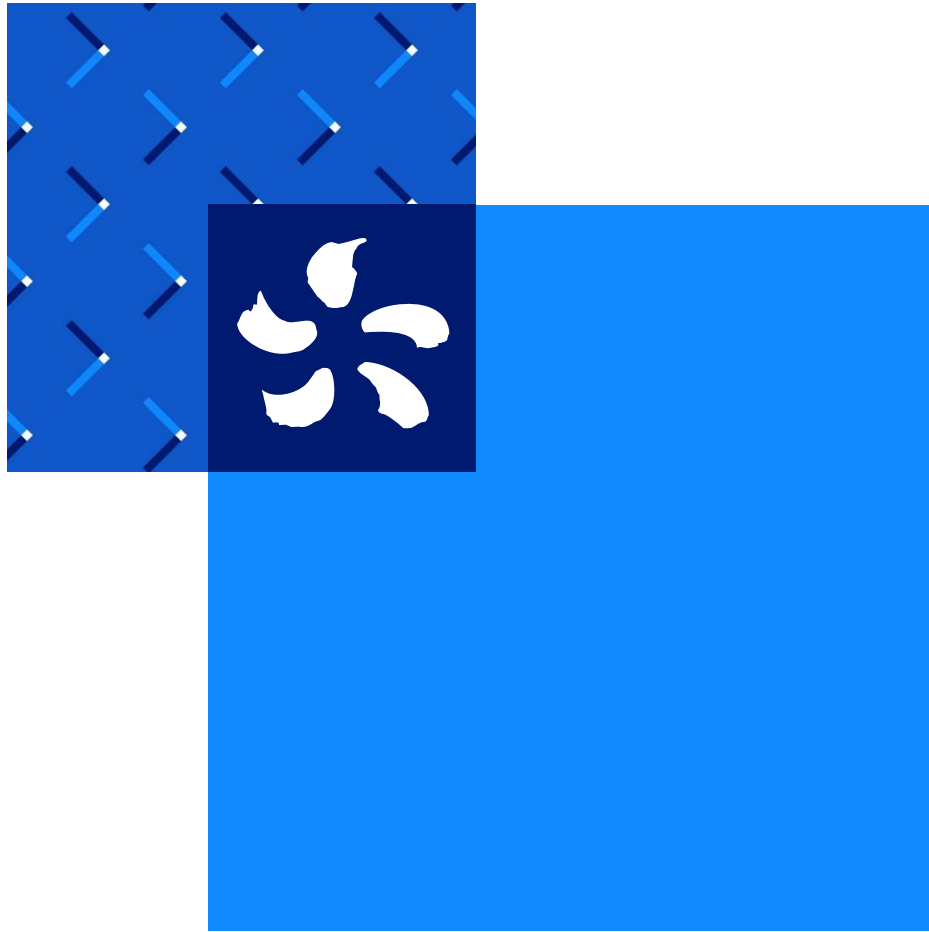
What community engagement has been completed so far?

1. Door knocking and local outreach (April 2025)
2. Community sentiment survey (May 2025)
3. Information letter (June 2025)
4. Consultation events (July 2025)
5. Tonight's meeting (September 2025)
6. Future engagement

What site work has been completed so far?

- Detailed land surveys and environmental assessments (completed September 2025)
- Agreement with National Grid for connection at Bolney substation
- Council officer discussions
- Site design iteration and layout refinement following surveys and consultation
- Discussions with Highways Authority on access route
- Discussions with local Fire and Rescue Service on site design
- Agreement in place with landowner





2.

Addressing Key Concerns

Traffic and transport

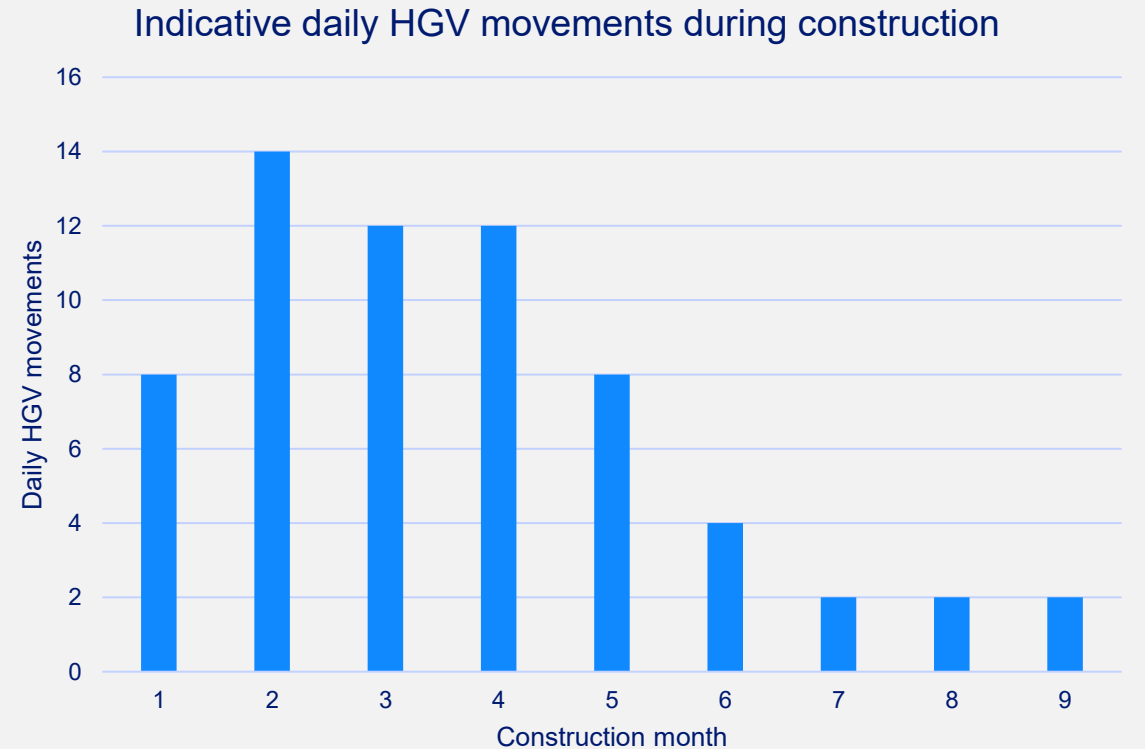


Community concerns:

- Increasing traffic volumes, including through Cowfold village
- Suitability of Picts Lane, especially given use as cut through
- Damage to character of Picts Lane from improvement works
- Combined impact on local roads with Rampion development

What we are doing:

- High traffic volumes will be temporary during construction
- Intended route will avoid traffic going through Cowfold center
- Working closely with West Sussex County Council to identify road improvements and traffic calming measures
- Any road improvements would remain in situ



Environment and land use



Community concerns:

- Potential disruption to local wildlife and biodiversity
- Proposed environmental enhancements are speculative only
- Land should remain in agricultural use

Did you know...?

Meeting the UK's net zero targets requires less than 1% of the UK's agricultural land to be used for solar

What we are doing:

- We will deliver at least 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG)
- Ecological surveys nearly complete and results will feed into ecology enhancements
- Soil health will improve through continued break from pesticide and fertilizer use
- No build areas reserved to deliver biodiversity (e.g., wildflower planting)
- 99% of solar panel components can be recycled

Landscape and noise



Community concerns:

- Scheme would be visually intrusive, “industrializing” a rural landscape
- Location of some panels and BESS infrastructure too close to properties
- Shading of residents’ gardens if EDF were to plant trees
- Noise pollution from BESS

What we are doing:

- Further removal of panels close to properties, responding to specific requests
- BESS moved towards center of site, further from residential properties
- Additional screening to minimise views, with sensitive design to ensure properties and gardens are not shaded



Safety and risk management



Community concerns:

- Fire risk associated with battery
- Access to water to put out fires
- Site access for fire services

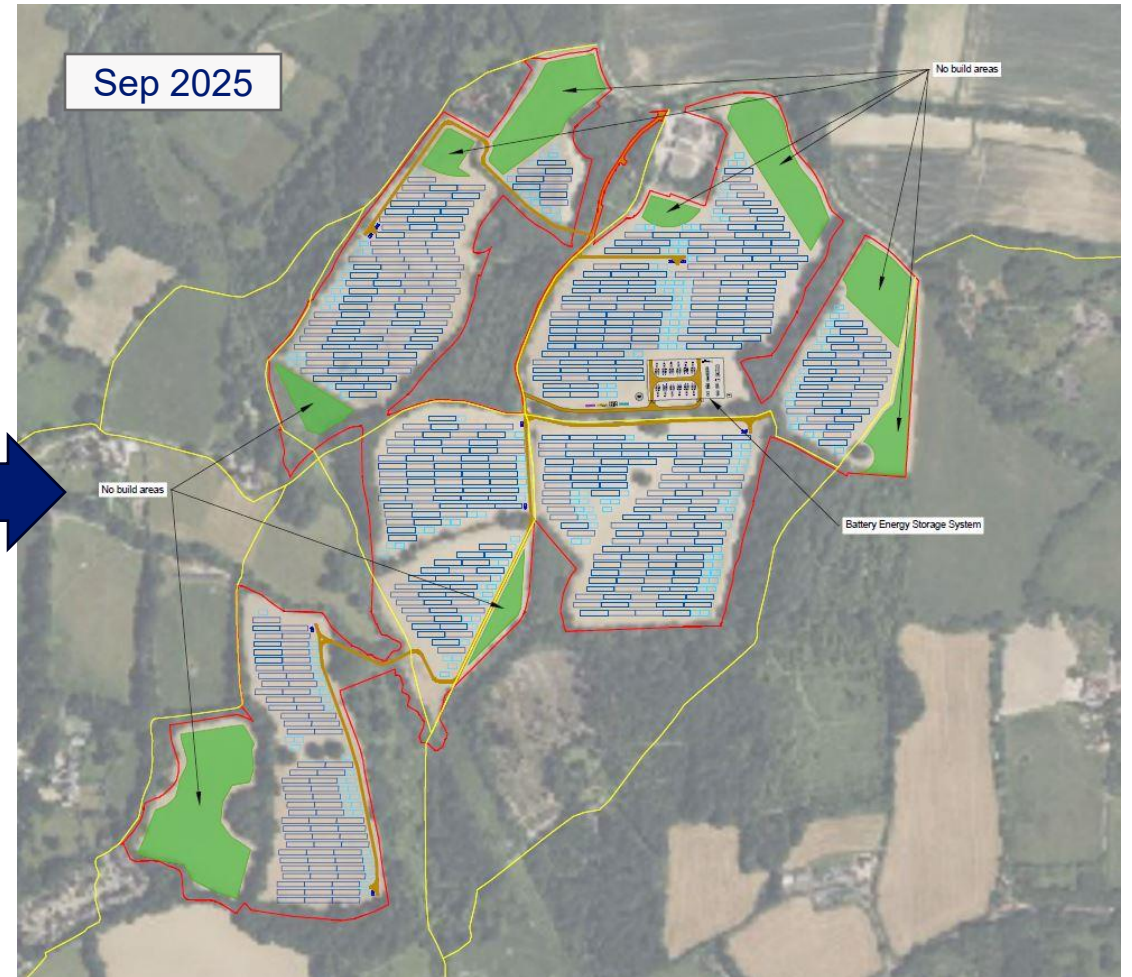
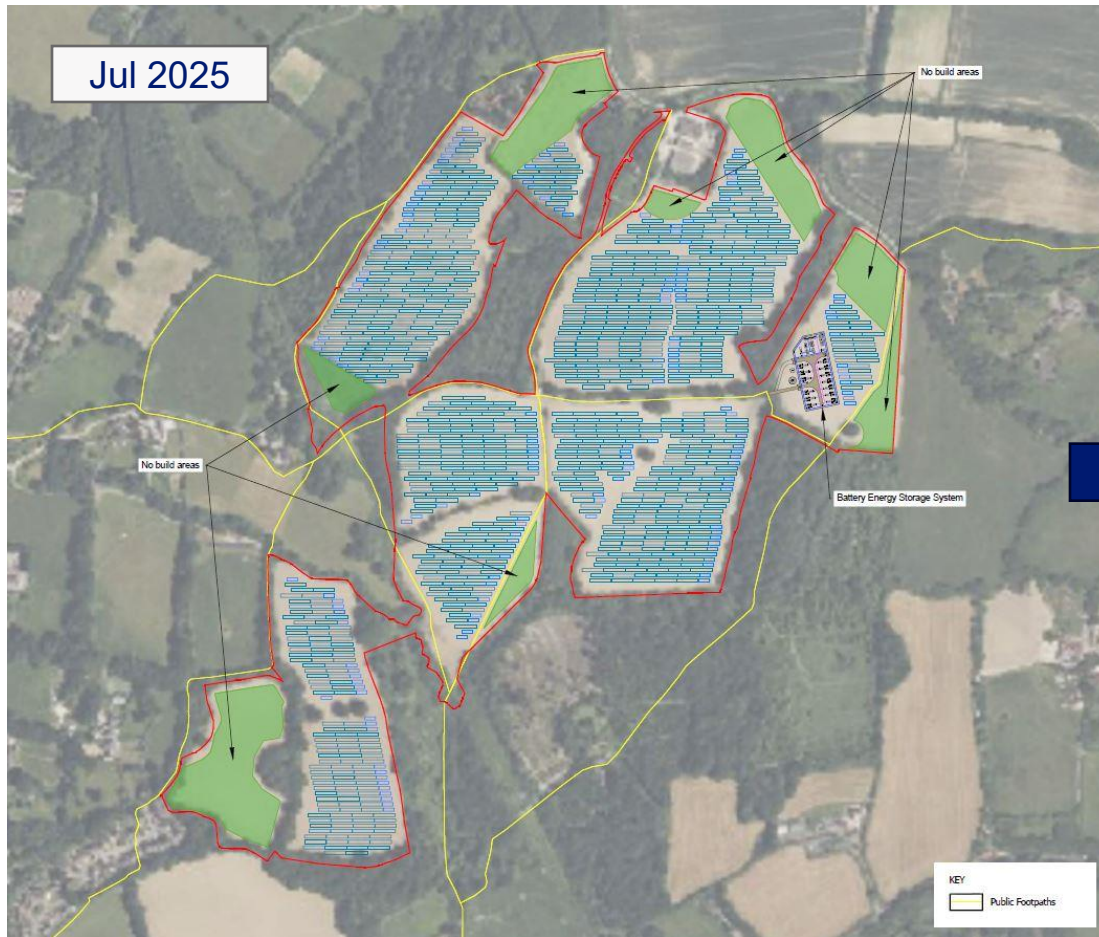
Did you know...?

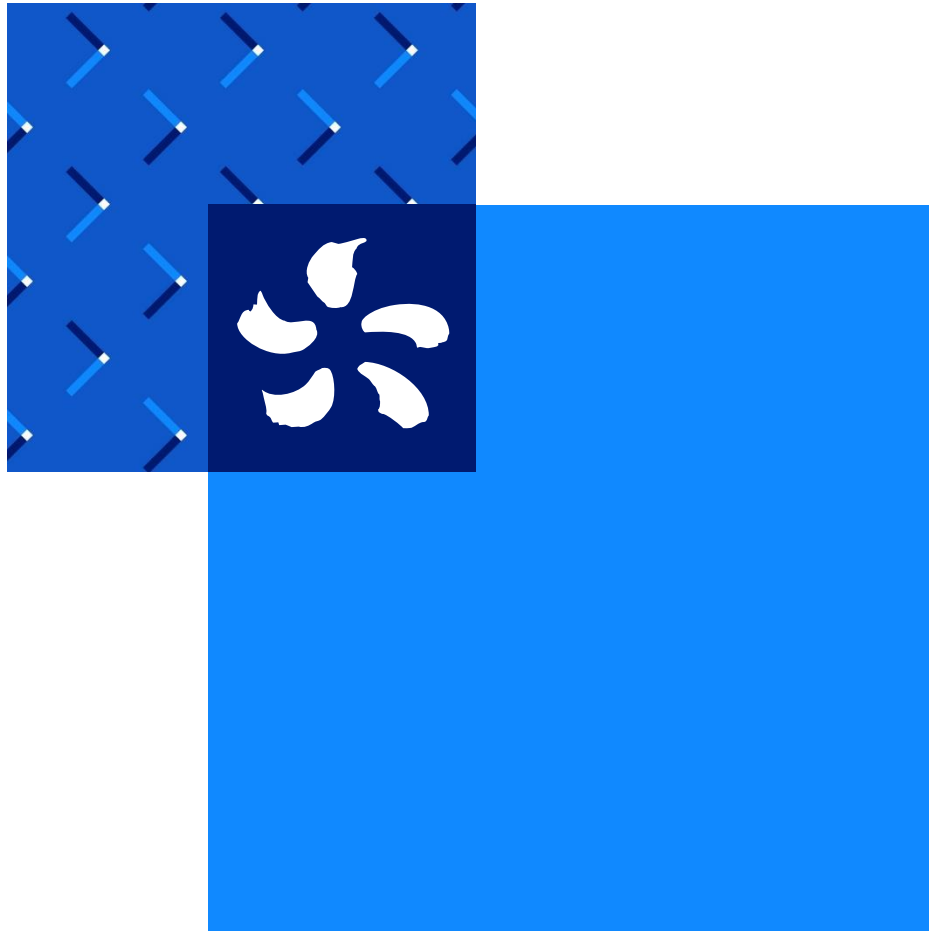
The fire incident rate for lithium-ion battery storage systems is estimated at less than 0.01% across all deployed systems globally

What we are doing:

- Ongoing discussions with local fire service on site design and training
- Li-ion BESS units use well-established technology and undergo rigorous safety testing
- Site-specific battery and fire management plan to be produced and made publicly available
- BESS is designed to stop fire spread:
 - 24/7 remote monitoring of temperature, voltage, and current
 - Inbuilt thermal fuses and pressure valves prevent overheating
 - Individual cells isolated and shut down to stop spread
 - On-site water supply and aerosol fire suppression systems
 - Minimum distances integrated into design to stop spread

Latest layout has new BESS location and additional no-build area





3.

Community Enhancements

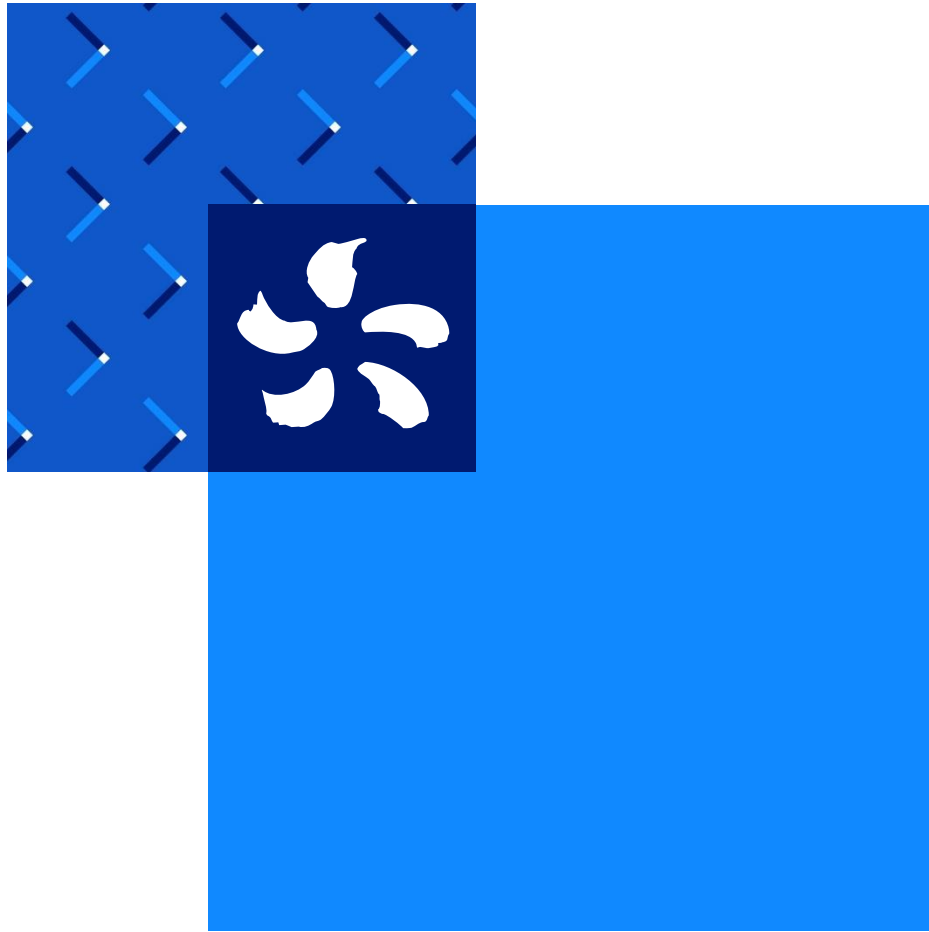
Community enhancements

- A dedicated fund will be established to support local projects throughout the site's operational life.
- We are proposing £20,000 per year (index linked) throughout the duration of the project.
- **We welcome ideas from Cowfold residents and other community groups.**

We are also looking at ways to implement specific enhancements that were requested at consultation:

- Wildflower meadows and native planting
- Bird feeders and bug hotels
- Seating and dog walking areas
- Information boards about local wildlife and/or renewables
- Improved and more joined-up footpath network





4.

Next Steps

Indicative project timeline





**Any
questions?**

Contacts

Project Inbox

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Team:

Kate Bevan

Musa Choudhary