

# Welcome

Thank you for visiting our public exhibition about South Brooks Solar Farm ('South Brooks'), a proposed new solar farm with battery storage connecting into the National Grid.

The consultation is running between Thursday 28 May and 11:59pm on Thursday 9 July 2026.

Last September, we held the first consultation on our early plans and proposals. The feedback we received, alongside ongoing technical work and environmental assessments, has informed the updated proposals we are now presenting for consultation.

Changes include a 20% reduction in the areas proposed for above-ground development, the proposed allocation of 26% of the Site for biodiversity and new permissive paths for people to enjoy.

This exhibition includes information about the updated plans for South Brooks and the different ways you can share your views.



# The consenting process

## South Brooks is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).

This is because the amount of electricity it would generate is over 100 megawatts (MW). This means we need to apply to the UK Government for a type of planning consent called a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build, operate, maintain and decommission it.



Please scan the QR code to find out more

**PHASE ONE CONSULTATION**  
AUTUMN 2025

**DEVELOP APPROACH TO CONSULTATION**  
SPRING 2026

**PHASE TWO CONSULTATION**  
EARLY SUMMER 2026

**APPLICATION SUBMISSION**  
SPRING 2027

**ACCEPTANCE FOR EXAMINATION**  
SPRING 2027

**PRE-EXAMINATION**  
SPRING 2027

**EXAMINATION**  
SUMMER/AUTUMN 2027

**RECOMMENDATION**  
WINTER 2027

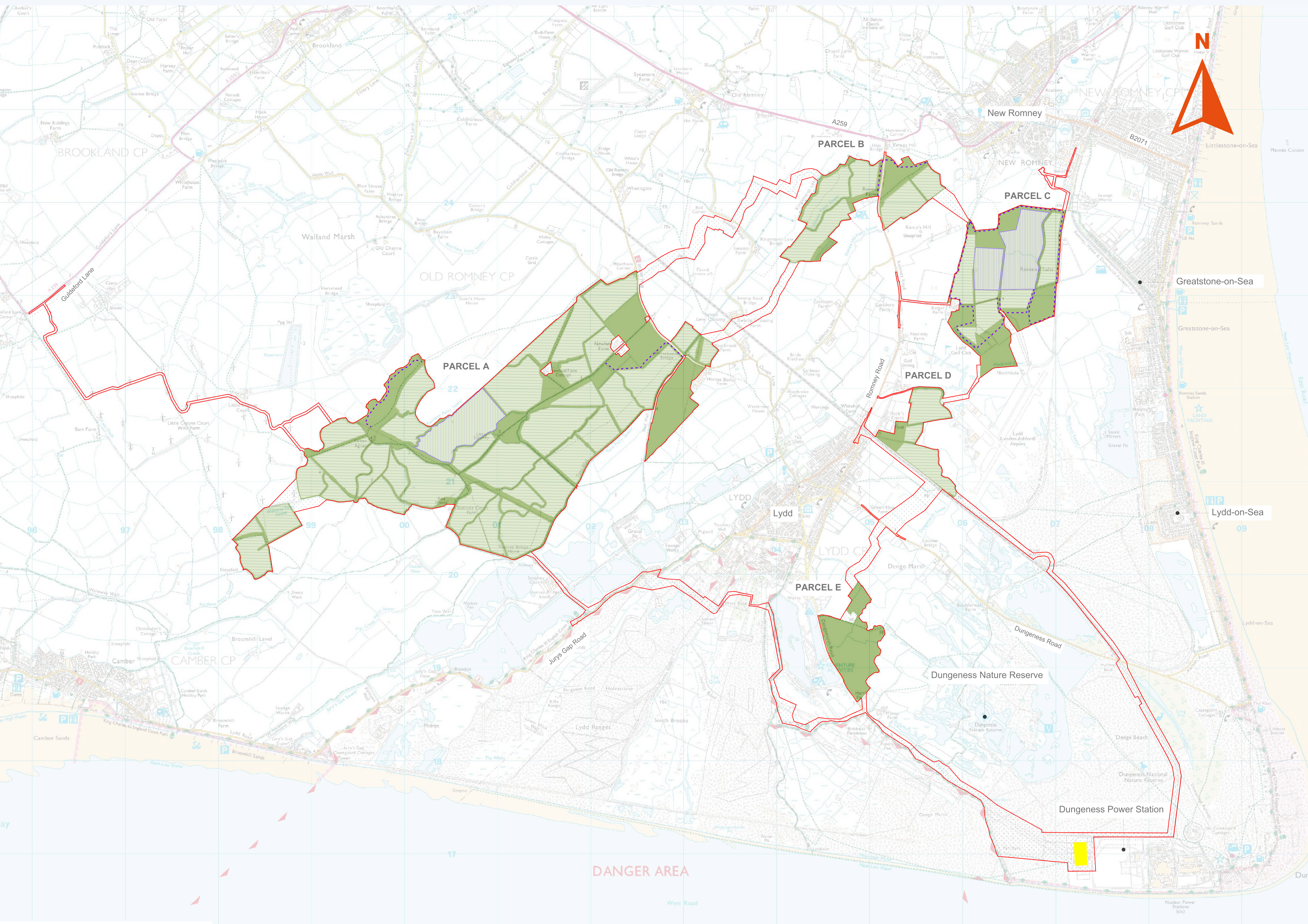
**SECRETARY OF STATE DECISION**  
EARLY 2028

- Process led by South Brooks Solar Farm
- Process led by The Planning Inspectorate

*These dates are indicative and subject to change.*

WE ARE HERE

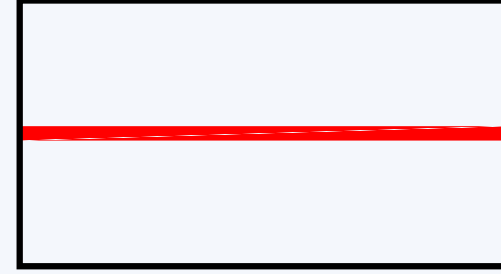
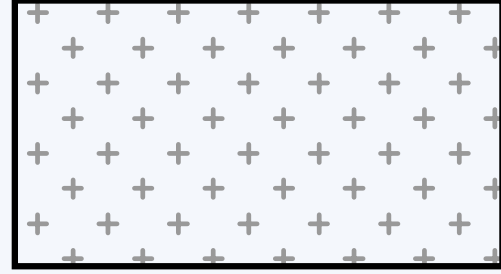
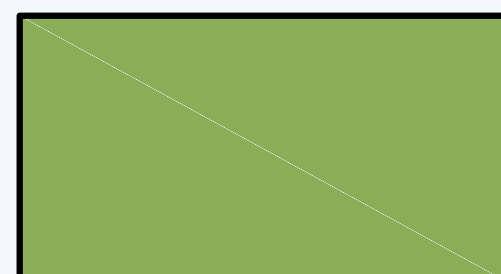
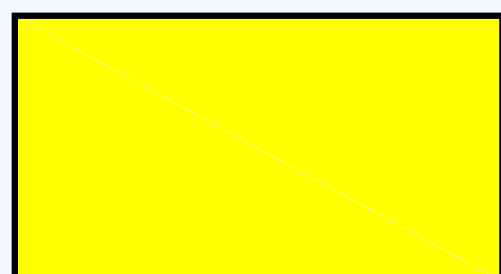
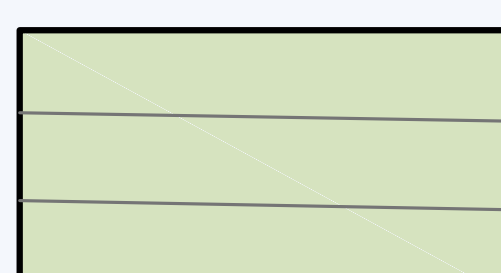
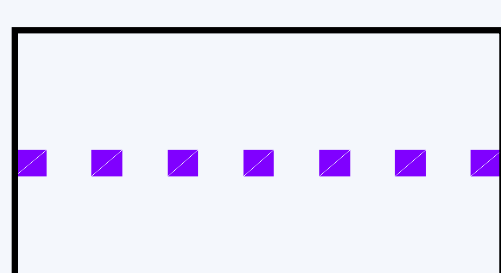
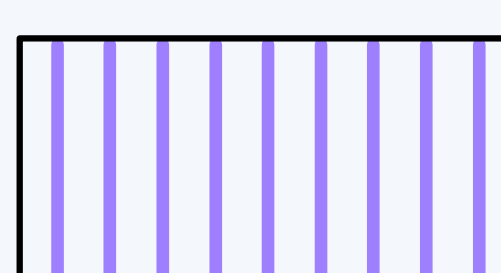
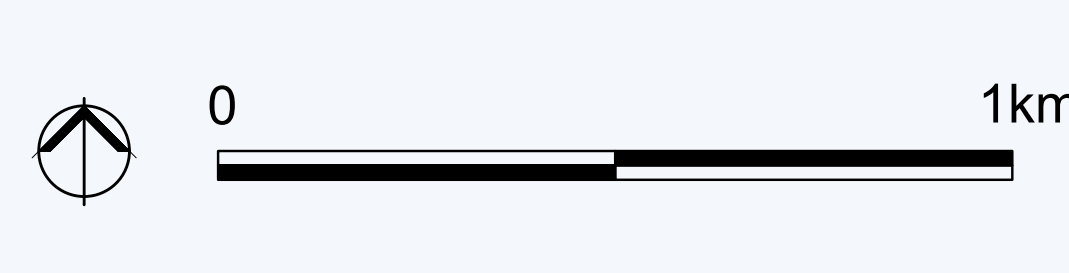
# Our proposed operational layout



**Total site boundary:  
1208 ha (2985 acres)**

**Total areas proposed for solar,  
battery storage and substation:  
655.3 ha (1619.2 acres)**

## KEY

- |  |  |   |                                |
|--|--|---|--------------------------------|
|  | Site boundary                                    |  | Potential Land for Cable Route |
|  | Proposed Mitigation and Enhancement              |  | Point of Connection            |
|  | Proposed PV Panels and Associated Infrastructure |  | Proposed Permissive Path       |
|  | Potential BESS / Substation / PV Panels          |  | 0 1km                          |

# Key components of South Brooks Solar Farm

The design of South Brooks has been significantly revised since the previous consultation, to reflect the feedback we received and the results of our early environmental work.

South Brooks would be made up of the following key parts:



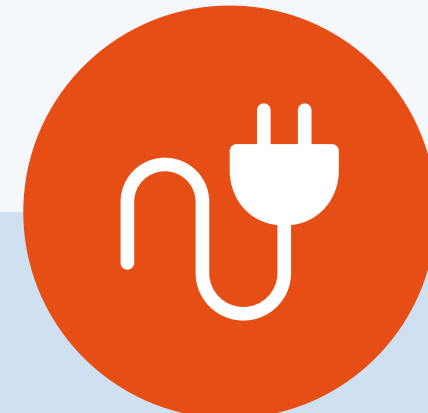
## SOLAR PANELS

- These would be up to 4.5 metres (m) in height in areas of flood risk, and in other areas up to 3.5m, spaced at a minimum of 2.5m apart.
- The size of the areas proposed for solar panels has reduced since the Phase One Consultation.



## AREAS FOR LANDSCAPING AND ECOLOGY

- Around 26% of the Site would be used for mitigation, compensation and enhancement land (except for potential underground cabling) to connect the different areas of South Brooks together).
- Up to 9.3km of footpaths are proposed to provide improve connectivity of the existing footpath network.



## INTERCONNECTING CABLES

- Underground cables would connect different parcels of South Brooks together and to the Project substation(s).



## NEW PLANTING

- Where appropriate, new scrub, vegetation and gapping up of hedgerows are proposed to help screen parts of South Brooks and increase biodiversity across the site.



## COLLECTOR COMPOUNDS

- These would be up to 7.1m high, with satellite compounds located within the parcels and a main collector compound adjacent to the Project substation(s).



## SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Most of South Brooks would have mesh fencing with wooden posts up to 2.5m high around fields with solar panels.
- There would be secure perimeter fencing up to 3.4m high around the battery storage and the Project substation(s).
- Fixed view (into the site) CCTV using infrared (not visible in the dark) mounted on wooden posts up to 5m high.



## BATTERY STORAGE AND PROJECT SUBSTATION(S)

- Two areas are being considered for locating the battery storage and Project substation(s).
- Battery storage would be up to 4.5m in height with some associated plant being up to 6m.
- Parts of the Project Substation(s) would be up to 15m, with control buildings (including office, welfare and storage facilities) up to 7.1m high.



## GRID CONNECTION CORRIDOR

- Higher voltage underground cabling would connect between the Project substation(s) and the National Grid.
- Four potential routes are presented for feedback noting the sensitive shingle around the Dungeness Substation.

# Assessing environmental effects

Understanding how South Brooks could affect the environment is an important part of the development process. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will assess the potential effects, both positive and negative, that South Brooks could have on the environment over its lifetime.

Early assessment work (presented in the Preliminary Environmental Information 'PEI') has already helped shape the proposals for South Brooks.

Where appropriate, we have proposed mitigation measures that could avoid, mitigate or compensate for any likely significant negative effects that have been identified. These will continue to be developed as the design evolves and becomes more fixed.

The results of the EIA will be presented in an Environmental Statement and submitted as part of our DCO application. To support these assessments, we are continuing to carry out surveys on-site (including archaeological trial trenching, further ecology surveys and ground investigations) as well as doing further modelling and assessments.

Outline management plans are an important part of a DCO application. Management plans set out actions to avoid, mitigate and manage potentially negative environmental impacts during the whole project lifetime.

While usually submitted as part of the DCO application, we have produced early versions of the following outline management plans as part of this consultation:

- **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan**
- **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan**
- **Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Management Plan**
- **Outline Landscape Environmental Management Plan**

**The PEI and outline management plans are available to view and download on the Project website and read at the public exhibitions.**

## What is a 'significant effect'?

When an effect is identified, we need to understand how much of an impact it would have on the surrounding environment.

This is done by assessing its 'significance', which looks at both the scale of change or impact caused by an effect and the sensitivity of the thing subject to change or affected by the impact. The way this is assessed is slightly different for each topic (see PEI, Volume 2).



# South Brooks A

Since Phase One Consultation, solar panels have been removed from this parcel, which is low-lying, open and sparsely populated, with views of wind turbines and pylon infrastructure.

## Key design measures in South Brooks A:

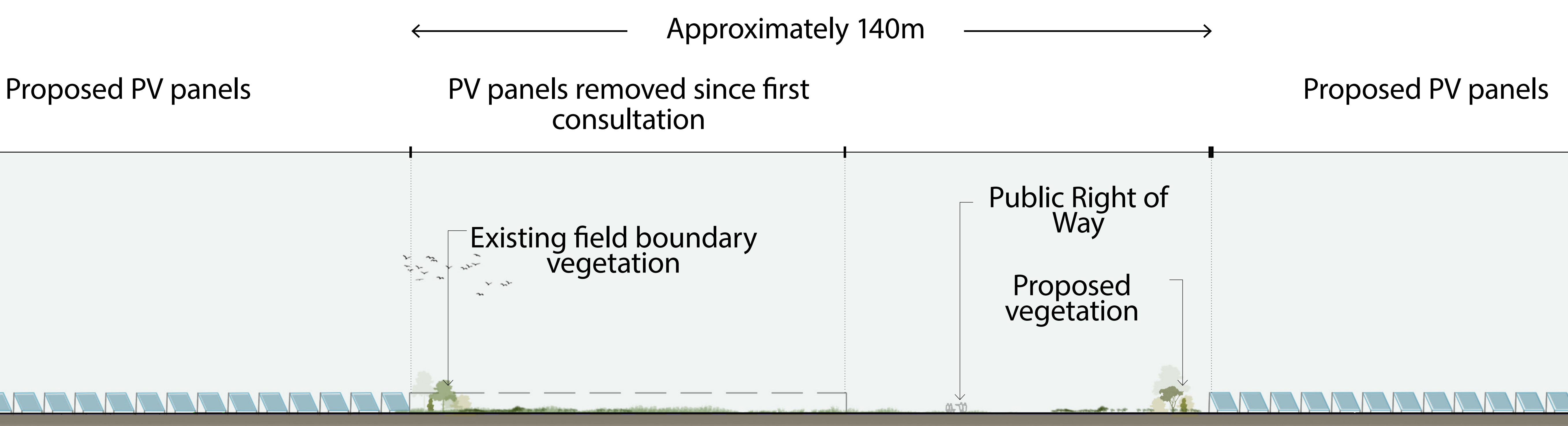
- Removal of proposed solar from areas that have been identified as sensitive for ecology and heritage, as well as reducing visual effects on residential properties and from Public Rights of Way (PRoWs).
- Retention of the historic pattern of fields and ditch network by siting above-ground development within existing field boundaries.
- Siting of a project substation, main collector compound and battery storage is being considered to the central west part of the parcel.
- Offsets to maintain openness, including at least 15m from existing PRoWs and 10m from watercourses.
- Limited new planting to respect the open landscape character, using shelterbelts of native thorn and willow to filter and soften views where appropriate.

- Exclusion of areas designated as SSSI from being used for above ground development.
- Proposals to improve connectivity of the footpath network include a c. 1.05km link between a PRoW (HL25) on Nod Wall to the bridleway south of Newland Farm (HM117) and a new 1.06km footpath to the north of the parcel, providing an alternate route.

## Ongoing work required:

- Continue to develop mitigation measures to avoid, reduce, mitigate or offset potentially significant visual effects in this area from residential properties, footpaths and a heritage asset.

Section showing proposed offset from Public Right of Way in South Brooks A



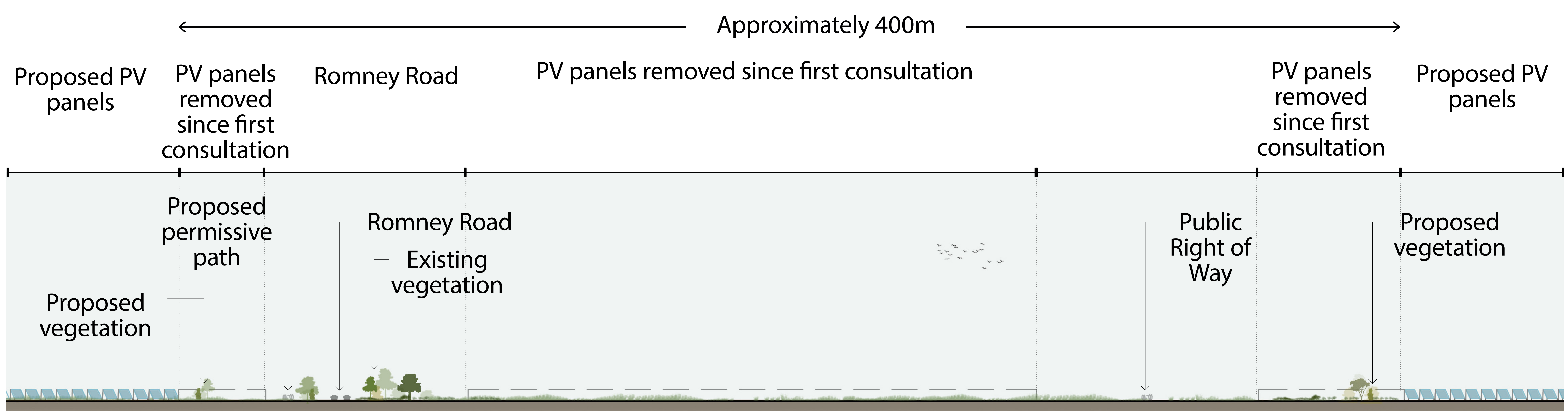
# South Brooks B & C

We are proposing significantly fewer solar panels in these areas compared to our early proposals.

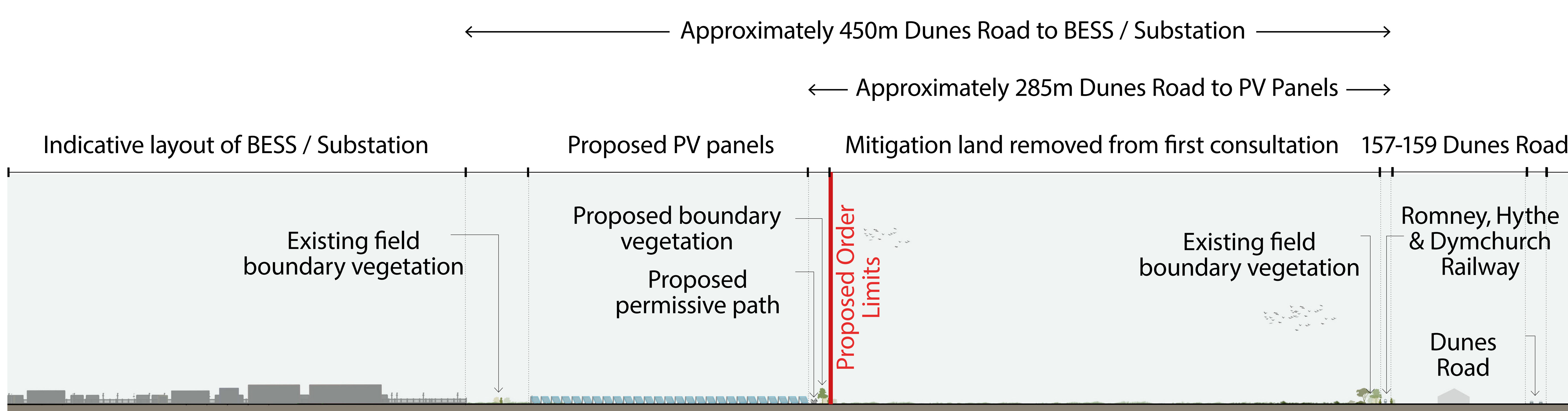
### Key design measures in South Brooks B and C:

- All land between the disused railway line and Dunes Road in South Brooks C has been removed from the project.
- Protecting ecologically sensitive areas and open views from Romney Road, PRowS and Kingmarsh Lane by removing areas for solar.
- Engaging with Lydd Airport to ensure the design meets its operational requirements.
- Removal of areas of proposed solar where potential archaeological assets have been identified relating to medieval and post-medieval salt working.
- Siting of a project substation, main collector compound and battery storage is being considered to the north of Parcel C.
- Proposing a circular 6.3km permissive route around South Brooks C, incorporating the popular disused railway line and provide east-west connections between Greatstone and the existing PRow (HL2) towards Lydd Golf Club.
- Proposing a permissive footpath from Romney Meadows Campsite to Kingsmarsh Lane (395m), extending further east (495m) to connect to the existing network near to New Romney and create a circular route.

Section showing offset from Romney Road in South Brooks B



Section showing offset from Dunes Road and the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway



# South Brooks D & E

## Key design measures in South Brooks D and E:

- Half of South Brooks D (south of the railway line) has been removed from the Site boundary, providing a greater offset between proposed solar and Lydd.
- Removal of all proposed above ground infrastructure in South Brooks E, which would be used to provide habitat for birds in proximity to RSPB reserve.
- Underground cabling may also be buried underneath Parcel E as part of the grid connection corridor to Dungeness Substation.

## Indicative illustration of new habitat creation in South Brooks E



# Approach to landscape and ecology

**Around 26% of the site would be used for mitigation, compensation and enhancement land. This includes the entirety of South Brooks E (43ha) which would be environmentally managed to provide habitats and resources for bird species.**

South Brooks has also been designed to reduce the loss of existing landscape features, including the retention of existing hedgerows, copses, ditches and field margins except where small breaks are needed for fencing, cabling or tracks.

Management measures for landscaping and ecology will be secured through an outline Landscape Ecological Management Plan submitted as part of the DCO application.

## Measures to boost biodiversity include:



Transition of arable land to support nearby designations



Creation of new hedgerows



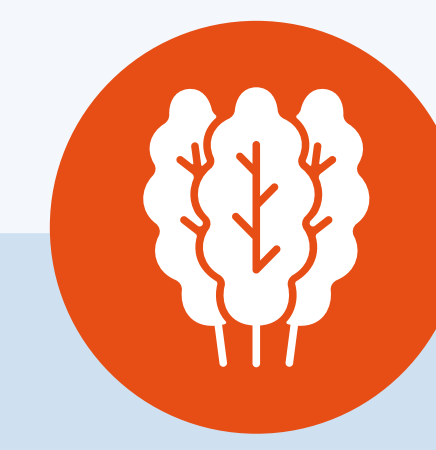
Creation of scrapes and pools for important invertebrate populations and great crested newts



Planting of new scrub



Improved management of watercourses within the Site



Selecting salt-tolerant species of local provenance to reduce failure within the establishment period.



# Connecting to the grid

**We have a grid connection agreement which would allow us to make use of about half of the free capacity at Dungeness Substation, and import and export up to 500MW of electricity into the network.**

**There are two types of underground cabling that are required:**

- To connect the different parcels of solar (South Brooks A-D) together, lower-voltage (up to 132kV) cabling would be used to connect these together and into the Project Substation(s).
- To get the electricity generated by South Brooks to the Dungeness Substation, we have identified four potential sections of underground cabling (up to 400kv) which would form a grid connection corridor. Where these routes cross shingle, locations where shingle has previously been disturbed, e.g. along existing roads and rail tracks, have been prioritised.

The final routing will depend on technical feasibility, stakeholder feedback and the location of the Project substation(s).

**Installation Methods**

Both the interconnecting cables and the grid connection cables are anticipated to be buried to a depth of 1.5m (below-ground level), though there will be variations in this depth to account for things like the ground conditions, roads, existing buried utilities or watercourses. We are considering trenchless or trenched methods of installation.

Once the cables have been buried underground, the land above would be able to be used as normal for agricultural use or managed for landscaping and wildlife habitats. Where cables need to cross the shingle and other sensitive areas, we are discussing the proposed approach to installation with environmental consultees like Natural England and the RSPB.



# Employment, skills and supply chain

Building and operating South Brooks would require a wide range of skills and expertise, including site surveying, ground preparation, constructing associated infrastructure, electrical engineering, solar panel installation, landscaping, security and ecology.

Where possible, we want to work to ensure skills are developed and retained within the community. We will engage with local authorities, the wider supply chain, businesses and education providers to create opportunities for local jobs and skills.

There would be approximately 24 permanent jobs created during the operational phase of South Brooks, in addition to seasonal employment for cleaning and vegetation management.

## Supporting local projects

All our onshore wind and solar sites in the UK have a dedicated community fund to spend on projects and causes important to the local community. This may include small-scale one-off investments (e.g. for school gardening projects or new uniforms for local sports clubs), delivering wildlife projects, or larger renovation and build projects (e.g. village hall improvements).

A South Brooks community fund would be put in place at the start of operation and last throughout the lifetime of the project. We are proposing to provide £400 per megawatt per year of operation. Based on our grid connection agreement, this could be up to £200,000 each year.



We have published an early version of the Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan as part of this consultation which sets out how we would promote the delivery of economic benefits to people and businesses across Kent and East Sussex.

## TYPES OF DIRECT JOBS



### During construction:



Construction workers



Vehicle operators



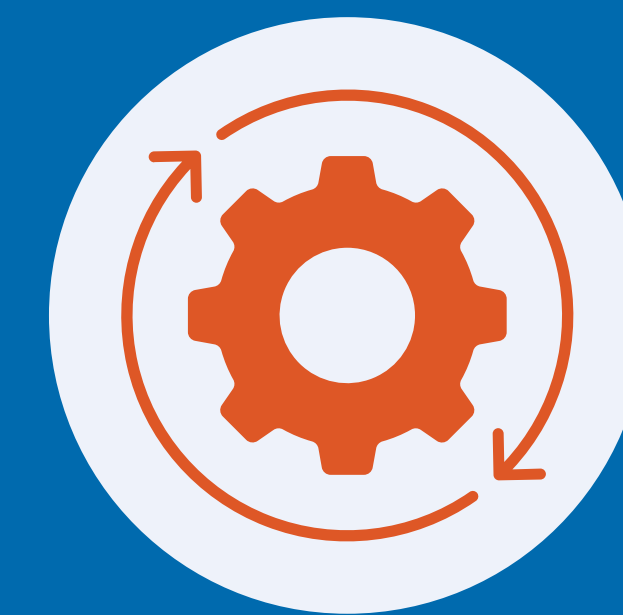
Civil engineers



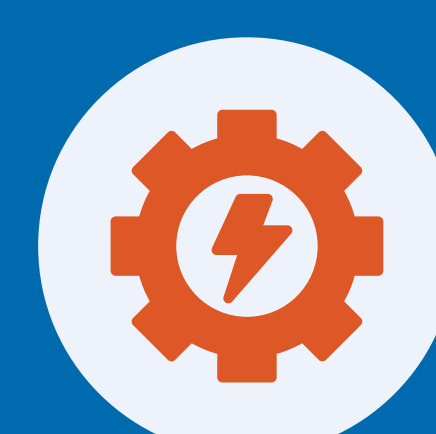
Electricians



Tradespeople



### During operation:



Electrical engineers



Site managers



Security team



Maintenance workers



Landscapers

# Building South Brooks

**Should South Brooks be granted consent, construction would begin in 2028 at the earliest, and is expected to take up to 48 months.**

**The following temporary works would be needed during this period:**

**Highways works and access tracks:** points of access would be required into each parcel to the proposed construction compounds and for vehicles to move within the site. Some tracks would remain in operation for maintenance access.

**Construction compounds:** Up to three main compounds (158m x 158m) and six satellite compounds (35m x 35m) including areas for unloading materials and staff parking, storage areas, welfare facilities and offices, would be located across the site. Entrances to compounds would be located within fields and managed by staff controlling deliveries to reduce traffic backing up onto roads.

## Moving materials

To protect the amenity of the surrounding area, our main access routes avoid Heavy Good Vehicles (HGVs) passing through nearby local villages and towns including Lydd, New Romney, Camber, Littlestone and Greatstone.

Once unloaded, materials would be transported within the site where practicable using existing agricultural tracks or temporary tracks to keep off the road network.

## Moving construction materials

The level of construction activity on site would vary. At the very peak, there would be up to 600 staff on site each day.

Staff would arrive and park at the main construction compounds, moving between different areas of the site using internal routes. Working hours would likely be between 7am to 7pm Monday to Friday and typically 7am to noon on Saturday (no working on Sundays or bank holidays).

Sustainable transport would be encouraged, such as van sharing and using buses, to reduce the number of vehicles traveling to site each day.

*i*

Where we have identified potentially significant temporary effects during the construction phase, we will outline measures to avoid, reduce or compensate for these effects, along with measures to reduce dust, noise and disturbance, in our Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP). A draft of this plan has been published for consultation.



# Reducing disruption on local roads

We have developed an early version of the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) for your feedback during this consultation.

## Key measures include:



Heavy goods vehicles would avoid travelling through local villages and towns like Lydd, Camber, Littlestone, Greatstone and New Romney.



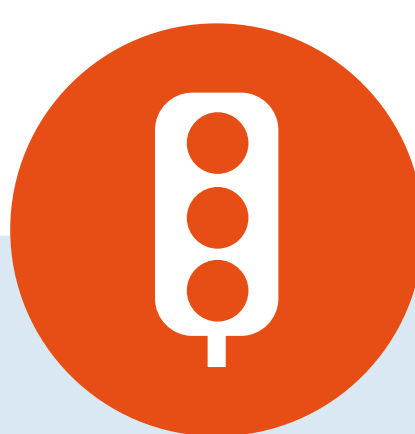
Installation of 'white noise' reversing warning devices to reduce noise on Site.



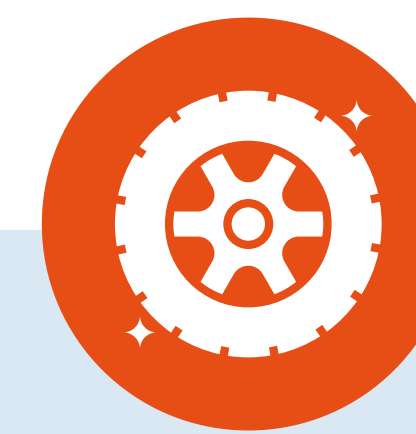
GPS trackers would allow monitoring of HGV movements.



Identification numbers on HGVs and vans.



Establishment of a Traffic Management Group.



Installation of wheel cleaning facilities.



Liaison with local businesses and attractions.



A 30 miles per hour (mph) speed limit.

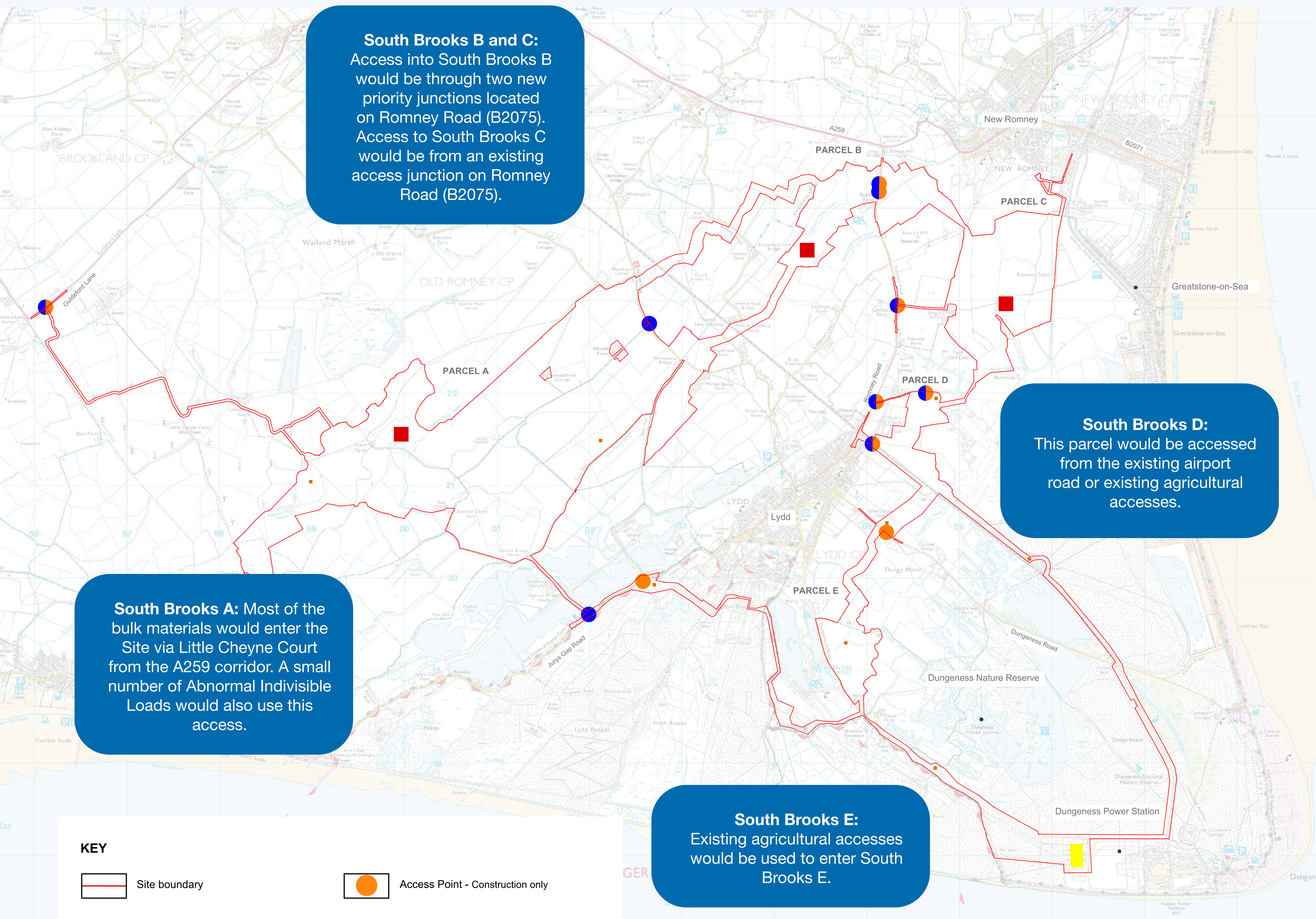


Creation of a diary of local community events to avoid HGV traffic flows on those days.



Entering a Wear and Tear Agreement with local highway authorities to cover the cost of abnormal damage on the road network, verges and structures.

# Map showing the location of temporary construction compounds and potential access points into the Site during construction and operation.



**South Brooks B and C:** Access into South Brooks B would be through two new priority junctions located on Romney Road (B2075). Access to South Brooks C would be from an existing access junction on Romney Road (B2075).

**South Brooks D:** This parcel would be accessed from the existing airport road or existing agricultural accesses.

**South Brooks A:** Most of the bulk materials would enter the Site via Little Cheyne Court from the A259 corridor. A small number of Abnormal Indivisible Loads would also use this access.

**South Brooks E:** Existing agricultural accesses would be used to enter South Brooks E.

**KEY**

Site boundary	Access Point - Construction only
Indicative Location of Primary Construction Compound Footprint	Access Point - Operation only
Indicative Location of Secondary Construction Compound Footprint	Access Point - Construction and Operation

0 1km

# Share your views

## How to respond

You can share your views on our proposals for South Brooks Solar Farm by:

- Complete a questionnaire online at: [www.southbrookssolarfarm.co.uk](http://www.southbrookssolarfarm.co.uk)
- Email a completed questionnaire to: [info@southbrookssolarfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@southbrookssolarfarm.co.uk)
- Post a questionnaire (no stamp required) to:

**South Brooks Solar Farm  
FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK  
LOCAL**

- Submit your comments by email to: [info@southbrookssolarfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@southbrookssolarfarm.co.uk) or in writing to the above Freepost address.

All responses must be received by **11:59pm on Thursday, 9 July 2026**.

## Next steps

We will consider all the feedback that we receive which, along with our ongoing assessments, will help us to refine our design ahead of submitting the DCO application. We expect to do this early 2027.

Our DCO application will include a Consultation Report setting out the feedback we have received to consultation.

## Get in touch

To speak to a member of the team about the proposals, or request printed copies of the consultation materials, contact:

- 📞 0800 038 3486 (9am-5pm Monday to Friday)
- 🌐 [southbrookssolarfarm.co.uk](http://southbrookssolarfarm.co.uk)
- ✉️ [info@southbrookssolarfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@southbrookssolarfarm.co.uk)

