

Community Information Leaflet
August 2024



www.newashgreensolar.co.uk



The proposal

The Evolution Power group is proposing to develop a solar and battery storage project on land near New Ash Green in Kent. New Ash Green Solar will generate renewable energy through photovoltaic (PV) panels, providing domestic low carbon energy to UK businesses, infrastructure and homes.

The project will produce low carbon, affordable, unsubsidised renewable electricity, reducing the UK's dependence on fossil fuels and its associated carbon impact.

New Ash Green Solar will have a maximum grid export capacity of 49.4MW, which is enough renewable energy to power approximately 17,200 homes, saving approximately 11,500 tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere each year.



49.4MW renewable electricity to Grid



Power for 17,200 homes



Saving 11,500 tonnes CO₂ per year

The proposed solar farm would operate for up to 40 years, after which the land will revert to its previous state. The solar farm will result in a significant biodiversity net gain, allowing wildlife and native species to flourish whilst retaining the land in agricultural use for grazing by sheep.



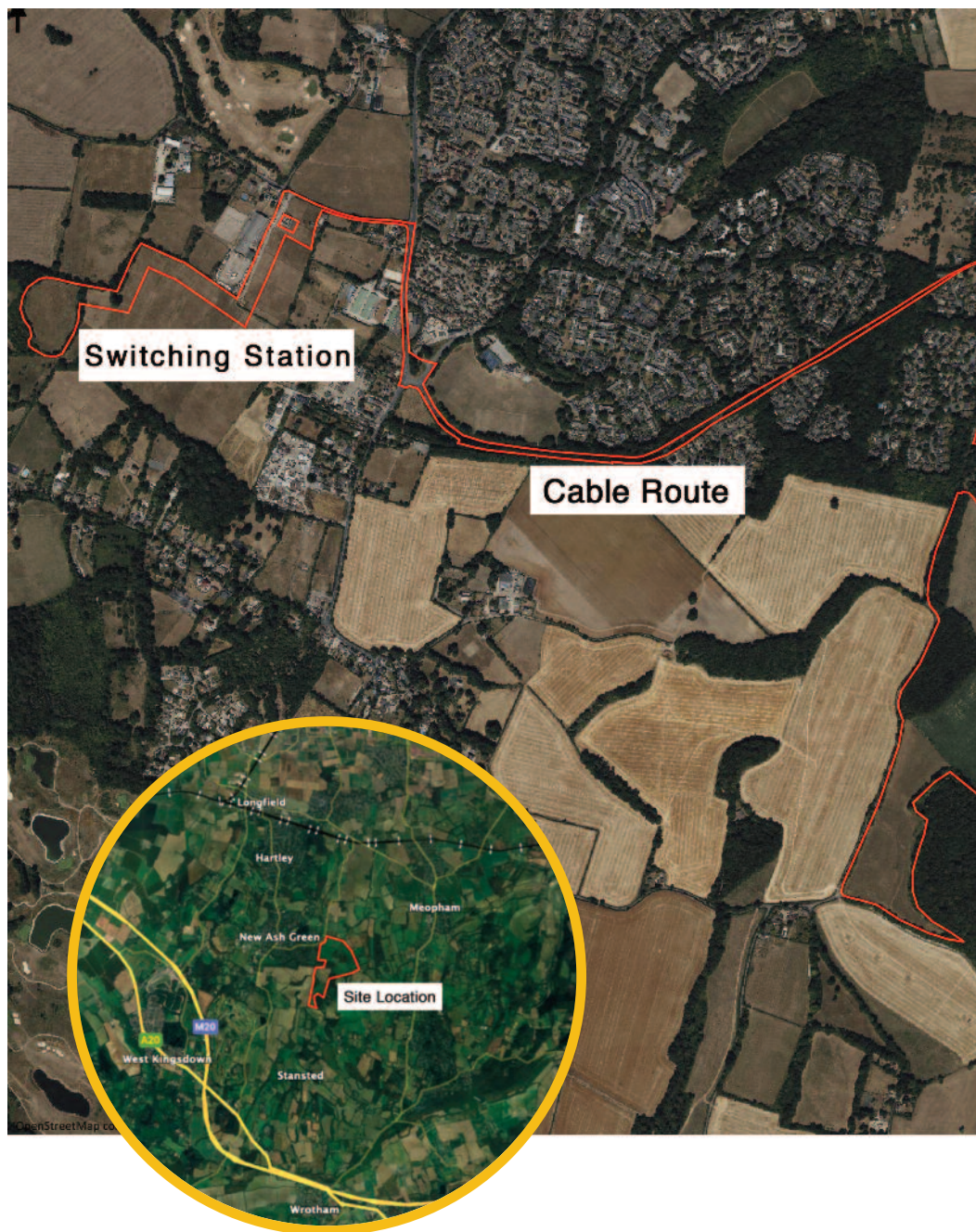


Why solar?

The UK needs to transition to a low carbon electricity generation to avoid the effects of climate change and has committed to achieving a legally binding target of net zero carbon emissions across all sectors by 2050. The Government has targeted 100% non-fossil fuel generation by 2030, which will include a tripling of clean energy generated from solar.

New Ash Green Solar will provide a significant contribution to renewable power, both on a local and national basis, to help meet the UK's legally binding emissions targets, whilst also reducing the UK's exposure to global energy markets and its reliance on importing energy.







The site

The proposed main site is located on approximately 95 hectares (235 acres) of land to the east of New Ash Green. The site is situated at postcode TN15 7EU, OS reference TQ 61564 64680.

The connection to the national grid is via an existing tower located on a 2-hectare (5 acres) site to the west of New Ash Green, with underground cabling connecting the two sites.



About Evolution Power

New Ash Green Solar is being promoted by the Evolution Power group, a UK based independent solar and battery storage developer with the aim of developing affordable and sustainable renewable energy projects to help the UK meet its legally binding 2050 net zero emissions target.

Evolution Power's team has extensive experience of successfully delivering large scale solar projects having developed and financed more than 50 previous solar projects, including four of the largest projects built to date.

For more information on Evolution Power visit: www.evolutionpower.co.uk

w: www.newashgreensolar.co.uk

e: info@newashgreensolar.co.uk

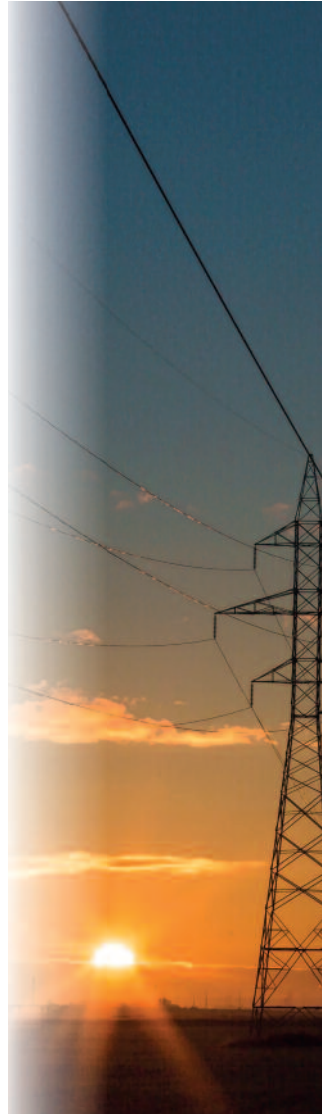
t: 08082 753027



Why this site?

The New Ash Green Solar site has been carefully selected as it provides the following:

- Access to a nearby grid connection, with the export capacity secured.
- No statutory landscape, ecological designations or cultural designations.
- Topography and significant existing hedgerows and woodland that limit visual impact outside the site area. As part of the project, additional hedges will be planted to improve biodiversity and further limit any visual impact.
- The application site will be subject to a comprehensive agricultural land classification survey and associated testing, which will be carried out by Reading Agricultural Consultants, one of the leading UK organisations in this field. The results of the land testing will be included in the submitted planning application. However, based upon the steepness of the land on the solar site alone, it has been established that a significant portion of the site is not best and most versatile agricultural land.
- Access route for construction traffic to avoid the centre of New Ash Green.
- High levels of sunlight (irradiation) given its south-east location means that the land required for the same output is less than it would be in other parts of the country (further north).





Benefits

The project will deliver the following benefits:

- generation of renewable energy to contribute to the UK's legally binding target to achieve net zero by 2050 and the ambition to decarbonise the UK electricity system by 2030;
- provide enough power for approximately 17,200 homes, saving approximately 11,500 tonnes of CO₂ per year;
- provide a domestic source of UK electricity that is not dependent on global gas prices and will reduce national power prices;
- result in a significant increase in biodiversity for the proposed site area;
- provide an inflation-linked community benefit fund for the lifetime of the project to be used locally for social and environmental projects.

Existing public access to the land via public rights of way will remain in place, no diversions or extinguishments are required. The reduction in intensive farming on the



site will encourage new flora and fauna to flourish, whilst the land will be available to be grazed by sheep and remain in agricultural use.

Biodiversity

Evolution Power is committed to protecting and enhancing the existing biodiversity of the site.

During the project lifetime the biodiversity will be significantly increased, and soil condition will be improved.

A biodiversity enhancement scheme will be prepared to ensure that the project provides a biodiversity net gain.

Existing woods and hedgerows will be protected and enhanced with some historic hedgerows reinstated.

We will seek to retain existing habitats and create new habitats to benefit local wildlife.



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Public Consultation

Evolution Power looks to work with local communities to maximise the benefits from the renewable energy projects it develops. We value community participation, and we are keen to engage with local residents as we prepare our planning application.

Evolution Power will be carrying out public consultation in September 2024 prior to the submission of the planning application which is likely to be later this year. Anyone interested in the project is invited to a public exhibition, which will be held on:

Date: Tuesday 10 September 2024, 3pm - 7pm

Venue: New Ash Green Village Association Meeting Room, The Village Hall, Centre Rd, New Ash Green, Longfield DA3 8HH

This event is intended to provide the local community with the opportunity to find out more about the proposal, with members of the New Ash Green Solar development team on hand to discuss the plans and answer any questions you may have.

Contact details

If you are unable to attend the event, information about the project and feedback forms will be available on the project website:

www.newashgreensolar.co.uk

The public consultation will run from **1 September to 27 September 2024**.

Comments provided by attendees and received via the project website will be reviewed, prior to the submission of the planning application.

If you would like any additional information about the proposal, please visit the project website or contact us by:

Email: info@newashgreensolar.co.uk

Call our Freephone information line: 08082 753027

Send us a letter: Freepost EVOLUTION POWER