



## Tye Lane Solar Farm



# Update on Tye Lane Solar Farm

Since receiving planning permission in December 2023 we have been progressing our plans to build our 49.9MW Tye Lane Solar Farm. We bring you this update on progress as we work towards starting to construct the solar farm.

### Tye Lane Solar Farm – Key facts



- 49.9MW
- Capable of powering up to 14,500 households\*
- A saving of around 17,100 tonnes\*\* of carbon dioxide emissions each year
- Community benefit fund of £20,000 annually
- Grid connection at Bramford substation via underground cabling
- Enhanced local biodiversity
- EDF Renewables UK intend to build, own and operate the solar farm for the 35-year lifetime of the project

\* 'PV Syst Photovoltaic Software' was used by EDF Renewables to predict in the planning application that the solar farm will have a potential annual yield of approximately 67 500MWh (to 3 Significant Figures (3 S.F.)). In terms of household electricity usage this would be sufficient to offset the equivalent annual energy needs of 14 500 (to 3 S.F.) average Mid-Suffolk homes (based on average domestic consumption per household of 4 663kWh (DBEIS, 2020)). We'll update that figure once we have a final engineering design.

\*\* In order to calculate carbon offsetting in the planning application, EDF Renewables took a conservative approach by utilising the UK Government Greenhouse Gas Conversion Factors (DBEIS, 2021b) for company reporting of annual carbon emissions. On this basis the electricity produced by the Tye Lane Solar Farm will offset approximately 17 100 000kgCO<sub>2</sub>/annum or 17 100 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> per annum (to 3 S.F.). This figure is likely to change as with more renewables on the system as we move towards net zero emissions, the carbon content of energy is reducing.





# Planning conditions



In December 2023, Mid Suffolk District Council granted planning permission for EDF Renewables' 49.9MW Tye Lane Solar Farm.

We have paid close attention to feedback received through the planning process and incorporated changes to our plans, including:

- Solar panel height was reduced.
- More planting is proposed to act as screening.
- A greater set back between the panels and boundaries of properties and public footpath.
- A plan of action to enhance biodiversity on site, agreed with local people.

We are now busy preparing for pre-construction works and addressing planning conditions. Grupotec Renewables Ltd has been

appointed as the lead contractor for the construction and are in the process of awarding contracts for supporting work.

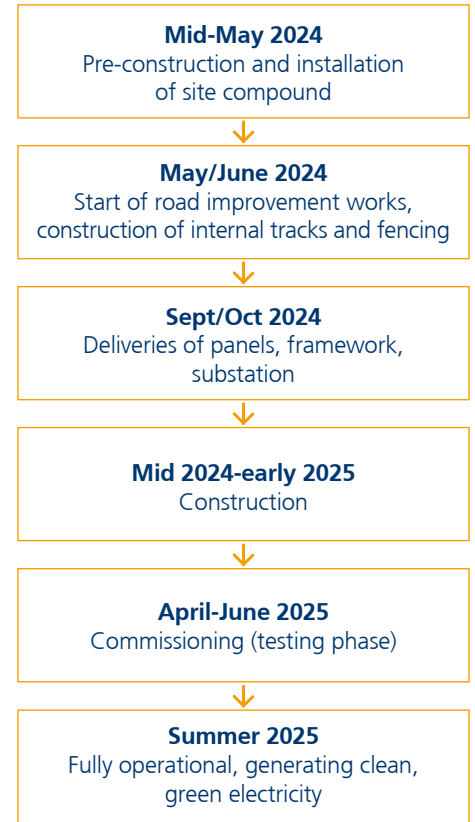
## Archaeology

Archaeological trial trenching onsite is due to be completed by the start of May 2024. Working closely with Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service, any findings will be dealt with appropriately, and with care, to help inform the local history of the area. Some exciting stories of the area have been uncovered and we look forward to sharing more details with you in the coming months.

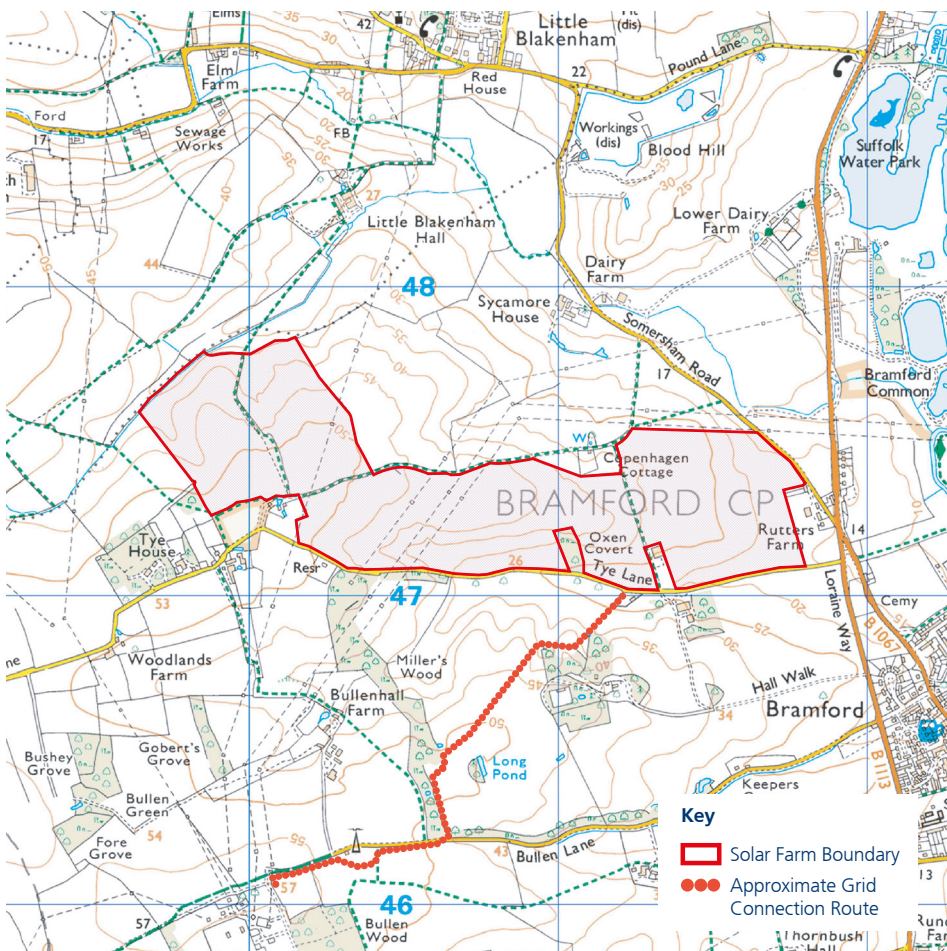
## Drainage

We are drafting a drainage strategy which will need to be approved by Mid Suffolk District Council.

## Timeline



Tye Lane Solar Farm site location and approximate grid connection route.



Amongst growing concern about climate change and energy security, Tye Lane Solar Farm will play an important role in generating renewable energy, contributing to net zero targets.

Solar is a key building block in the UK's future energy mix and the UK Government is aiming for a five-fold increase in solar power by 2035. Ground-mount solar is one of the cheapest forms of electricity generation. *UK Government: Powering up Britain (2023).*





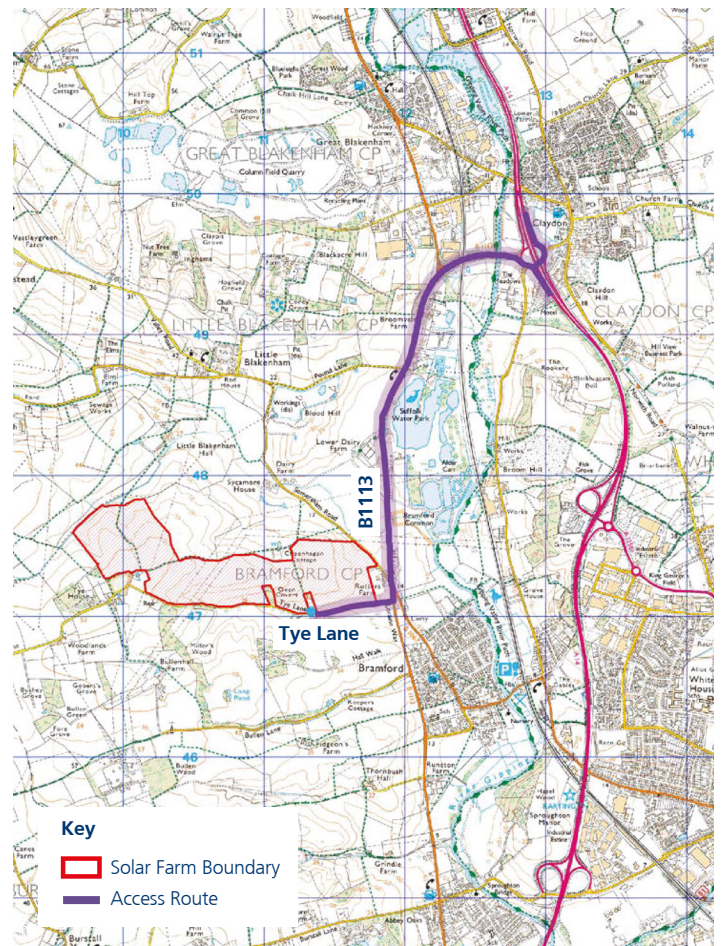
Tye Lane Solar Farm site during pre-construction phase, April 2024.

## Construction Traffic Management Plan

During construction of the solar farm, traffic to the site will be regulated by a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP). The CTMP is a key planning condition which has been submitted to Mid Suffolk District Council for approval. The plan proposes that construction traffic and deliveries will travel south down the B1113 and access the site from Tye Lane. This document also controls the arrival of vehicles at site.

Work has been completed clearing vegetation in advance of the bird breeding season to prepare for road improvement works to Tye Lane to accommodate deliveries, including construction of three passing bays and slight widening of the site entrance.

The CTMP will include work start and finish times, which EDF Renewables contractors must adhere to.



Proposed site access route.





## Biodiversity



Integral to the development of the solar farm are EDF Renewables' plans to improve biodiversity on the site, including planting a tree belt, new hedges and wildflower meadow planting.

As a result of EDF Renewables meeting local representatives, the species mix for planting has been agreed, doubling the number of trees within the hedgerows and increasing the species mix to include locally present species.

Gaps below the fencing and access points at key points along the fencing will provide access for badgers and mammals and bat and bird boxes will be installed across the site. Continuing surveys are ongoing to monitor for new badger setts onsite.

Additional areas providing habitat for skylarks within the arable fields of the wider landholding will be maintained throughout the life of the project.

A series of interpretation boards will be erected at locations discussed with the community and EDF Renewables will be seeking input on what content should be included in the boards.

## Community Benefit Fund for local initiatives

EDF Renewables UK will establish a community benefit fund of £20,000 paid annually for the 35-year lifetime of the project, to support local social, environmental and community initiatives. The fund will become live once the solar farm is operational. The fund is index linked.

An independent, third party will be appointed as the fund administrator through a tender process. The cost of administering the fund will be paid by EDF Renewables and will be in addition to the annual fund. A panel comprising local representatives will be convened to make award decisions.

→ **Case study:** At Bicker Fen Wind Farm in Lincolnshire, £18,000 is invested in the community fund each year. Improvements made to the local area include an information lectern about the village's history, a bird hide and wildlife project, and a replacement fence for the village hall.

## Community Liaison Group established to exchange information

The inaugural meeting of the Tye Lane Solar Farm Community Liaison Group (CLG) will take place towards the end of April. The CLG will operate as a forum for the exchange of information and maintenance of channels of communication between representatives of EDF Renewables UK, and the local community via elected representatives and representatives of local business and agricultural communities, as well as the third sector. The minutes of the meetings will be published on the Tye Lane website.

## Keeping in touch

We will be updating our project website regularly [www.edf-re.uk/our-sites/Tye-Lane](http://www.edf-re.uk/our-sites/Tye-Lane)

For enquiries the team can be contacted on [tye.lane@edf-re.uk](mailto:tye.lane@edf-re.uk)



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