

Longfield Solar Farm Community update

This leaflet provides an update on our proposals for Longfield Solar Farm.

You may remember that we most recently consulted on our proposals for Longfield Solar Farm from 1 June to 13 July 2021.

That was a statutory consultation, which we carried out to meet the requirements of the Planning Act 2008.

We are very grateful to everyone who shared their views as part of the consultation. We received 231 responses overall, on topics including landscape and visual impact, the Battery Energy Storage System, the size and scale of development proposed and construction traffic.

Since then, we have continued to develop and refine our proposals having regard to feedback from the consultation and continued our environmental impacts assessments. The refinements include some minor changes to our Scheme boundary. These generally add land required for parts of our proposals which we had previously planned to bring forward under local planning mechanisms but which we have now included to the Scheme boundary so that the necessary consent or powers can be included in our Development Consent Order (DCO) application. You can find out more information about these overleaf.

This leaflet has been produced primarily to inform statutory consultees about the changes to the Scheme boundary. It is also available on our website:

[longfieldsolarfarm.co.uk](https://www.longfieldsolarfarm.co.uk)

Scheme boundary changes

We have made a number of minor changes to our Scheme boundary having regard to feedback from the most recent consultation, and in light of further work on the Scheme's design and environmental impacts. These are shown on the plan on the opposite page. They include:

Wheeler's Hill and Cranham Road:

At the statutory consultation earlier this year, we said that the Scheme would be likely to require off-site highway improvements at Cranham Road. These could involve small scale road widening to accommodate construction

traffic, within the existing highway boundary. Following the consultation and further engagement with Essex County Council, we have clarified our understanding of road widening requirements at this location. We have also agreed with Essex County Council to include this work within the Scheme boundary so that

consent for the work is obtained as part of the Development Consent Order, rather than relying on additional consents under other regimes. This approach helps minimise delays to the delivery of the Scheme, reflecting its national importance and the urgent national need for renewable energy.

Grid connection route:

At the statutory consultation we showed an area within which we proposed to locate the grid connection to allow the Longfield Solar Farm to connect into the Bulls Lodge substation. Following the consultation and further design and

environmental work, we determined that the best option for routing the grid connection cables would be south of the future quarry works and planned restoration lake. This is because it is more suitable than the other available options. In some places, the grid connection route we have

now chosen is outside of the Scheme boundary we previously consulted upon during the statutory consultation, and so that additional land is now being included within the Scheme boundary and some land is being removed.

Access to Bulls Lodge substation extension:

At the earlier statutory consultation, we explained that access to the Bulls Lodge substation extension would be

via Generals Lane and then a private road known as the Bulls Lodge Access Road. The proposal to use the Bulls Lodge Access Road has not changed, however, as it is a private road rather than adopted highway,

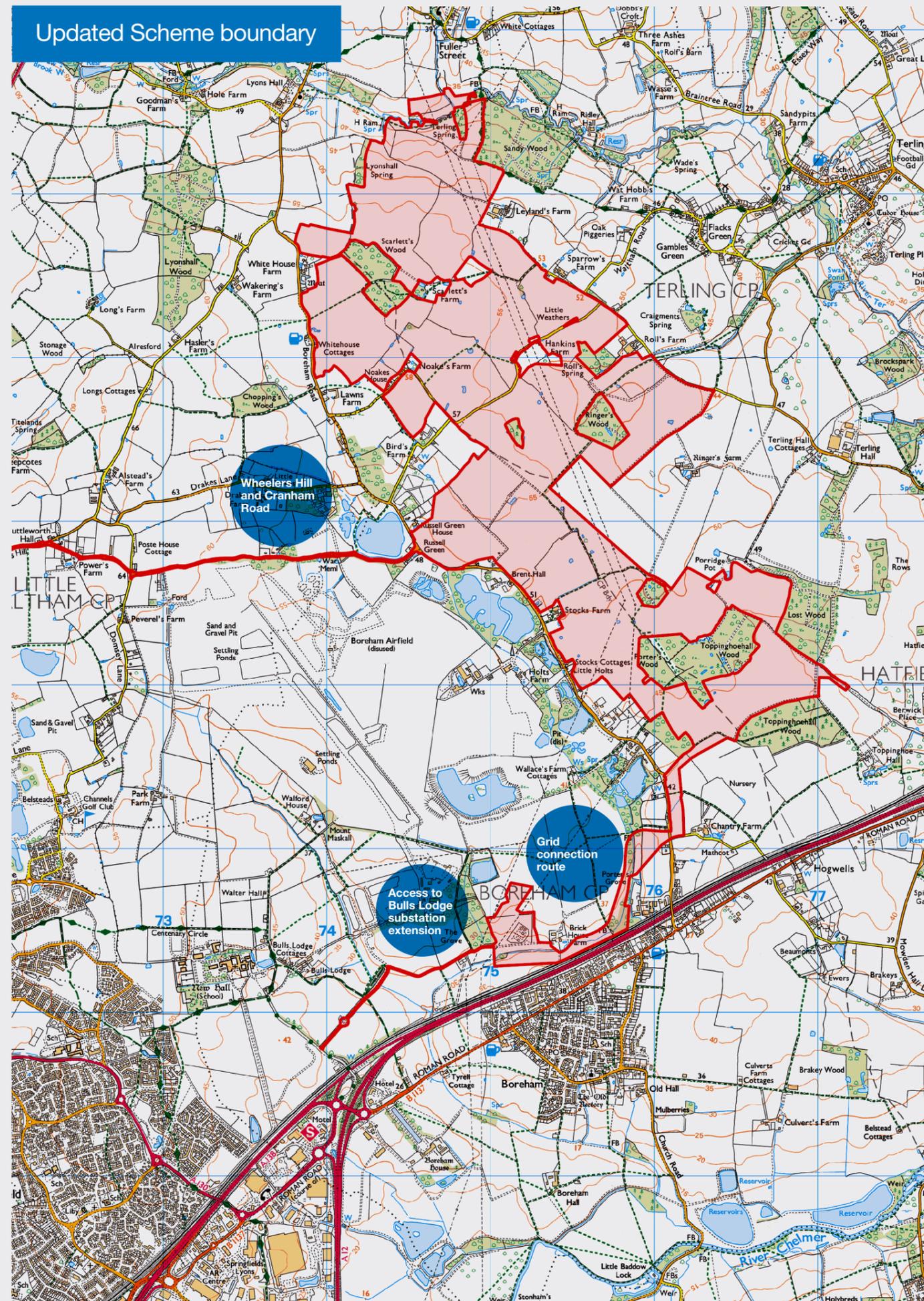
we are including it within the Scheme boundary to ensure we have the necessary rights to use the road during construction and operation of the Scheme.

Environmental impact assessment

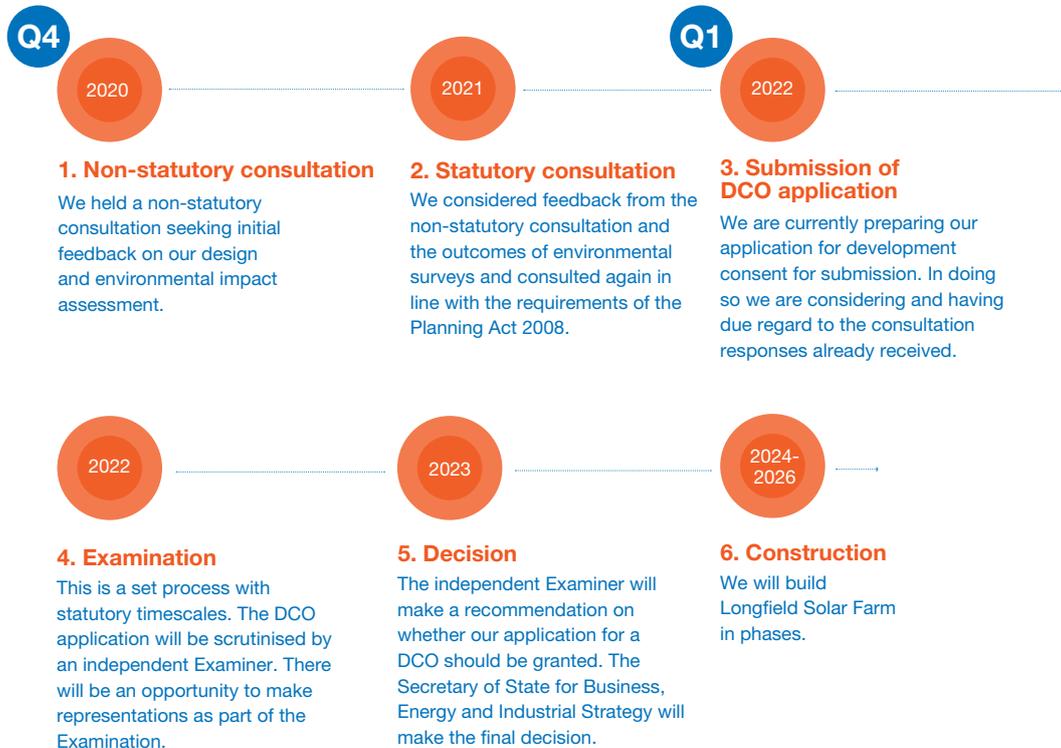
These are purely changes to the Scheme boundary in order to allow for our preferred grid connection route and to ensure we obtain the appropriate powers for access and to make highway improvements. These changes would not affect the outcomes of the environmental impact assessment we set out in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report during the statutory consultation. As a reminder, the Preliminary Environmental Information Report is available to view at www.longfieldsolarfarm.co.uk/downloads.

The preliminary assessment already accounted for the potential for highway improvements and the use of the private access road to the Bulls Lodge substation. While these do not constitute significant changes to our proposals themselves, we need to include them in the Scheme boundary to ensure we have the appropriate powers to deliver them.

Updated Scheme boundary



Indicative Project Timeline



We are currently finalising our proposals for inclusion in a Development Consent Order (DCO) application. This is the type of planning consent we need for a Scheme of this type.

We expect to submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) early next year. Once we submit the application, it will be subject to a fixed legal process to determine whether it can go ahead.

The first step will involve PINS checking whether we have met the requirements for a valid DCO application. This is called the 'Acceptance' phase.

If our application is accepted, it will then be scrutinised by an independent Examining Authority appointed by PINS as part of an Examination. There will be an opportunity to make representations as part of the Examination.

We will update the community again when we submit our DCO application.

Further information

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