

# Introducing Tillbridge Solar

Community newsletter

October 2022

## Introduction

**Tillbridge Solar Limited is developing proposals for a new solar and energy storage project which would involve the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) generating panels and on-site energy storage facilities within Lincolnshire.**

The project would also include infrastructure for connection to the National Grid at Cottam substation in Nottinghamshire.

The project, known as Tillbridge Solar, would allow for the generation, storage, export and import of electricity with an anticipated capacity greater than 50 megawatts (MW).

This newsletter has been produced to introduce you to our early-stage proposals. It includes information on who we are, and what we are looking to develop, and how you can get involved. If you have any questions, please get in touch using the contact details at the end of this newsletter.

## Who we are

**Tillbridge Solar Limited is a joint venture partnership between Tribus Clean Energy Ltd and Canadian Solar, who are both experienced developers of renewable energy projects. They are being supported by a team of technical specialists.**

Founded in 2018, Tribus Clean Energy Ltd specialises in the development of renewable energy projects, and has a UK solar PV development pipeline of over 1.5 gigawatts (GW) and a pipeline of over three gigawatt hours (GWh) of Battery and Energy Storage Systems (BESS).

Founded in 2001, Canadian Solar is a leading manufacturer of solar PV modules and provider of solar energy solutions, and has a UK solar development pipeline of over 2GW, with over 4GWh of BESS.

**Tillbridge**  
Solar

 **TRIBUS**

 **CanadianSolar**

**Our vision** for Tillbridge Solar is to deliver cleaner, greener, and lower cost energy, while also enhancing the local environment and ensuring we are a responsible developer.

## Our objectives are to:



Build a solar farm that will contribute to the UK's zero-carbon future and support Lincolnshire's transition to Net Zero.



Provide equivalent energy needs for around 200,000 households with low-cost energy, generated in the UK at a time of great uncertainty within the energy market.



Increase biodiversity and enhance existing ecology, to achieve Biodiversity Net Gain and maximise opportunities to create new habitats for wildlife.



Develop a project in a responsible and considerate way, including collaboration with other local developers.



Provide opportunities for community involvement from an early stage.



Ensure local landscape is central to the project's design.



Provide opportunities for local communities and the local economy.

## Tillbridge Solar

Tillbridge Solar would be located on land to the south, east and south-east of Gainsborough, north-west of Lincoln.

The electricity generated from the project would then connect to National Grid's Cottam substation in Nottinghamshire. Tillbridge Solar has secured a Bilateral Connection Agreement with National Grid to allow 500MW of renewable energy to be transferred in to and

out of their substation. We are now working to refine our proposals to ensure the project can generate as much energy as possible in line with this agreement.

As shown on the next page of this newsletter, we have identified initial preferred areas for development. These areas have been refined following our early-stage engagement and ongoing assessment and design work.

### What would the project involve?

At this early stage, the following areas have been identified:



#### Developable areas

These areas would be where all solar PV panels and associated infrastructure would be located. This area sits on approximately 1,000 hectares of predominantly agricultural land. An energy storage solution could also be located on site, which would provide an opportunity to store solar power which is not immediately required and then release it when it is needed.



#### Non-developable areas

These areas are being considered for mitigation and enhancement, such as tree planting and habitat creation, which would provide significant biodiversity net gain. This area amounts to an additional 400 hectares, with no permanent infrastructure planned in these areas.

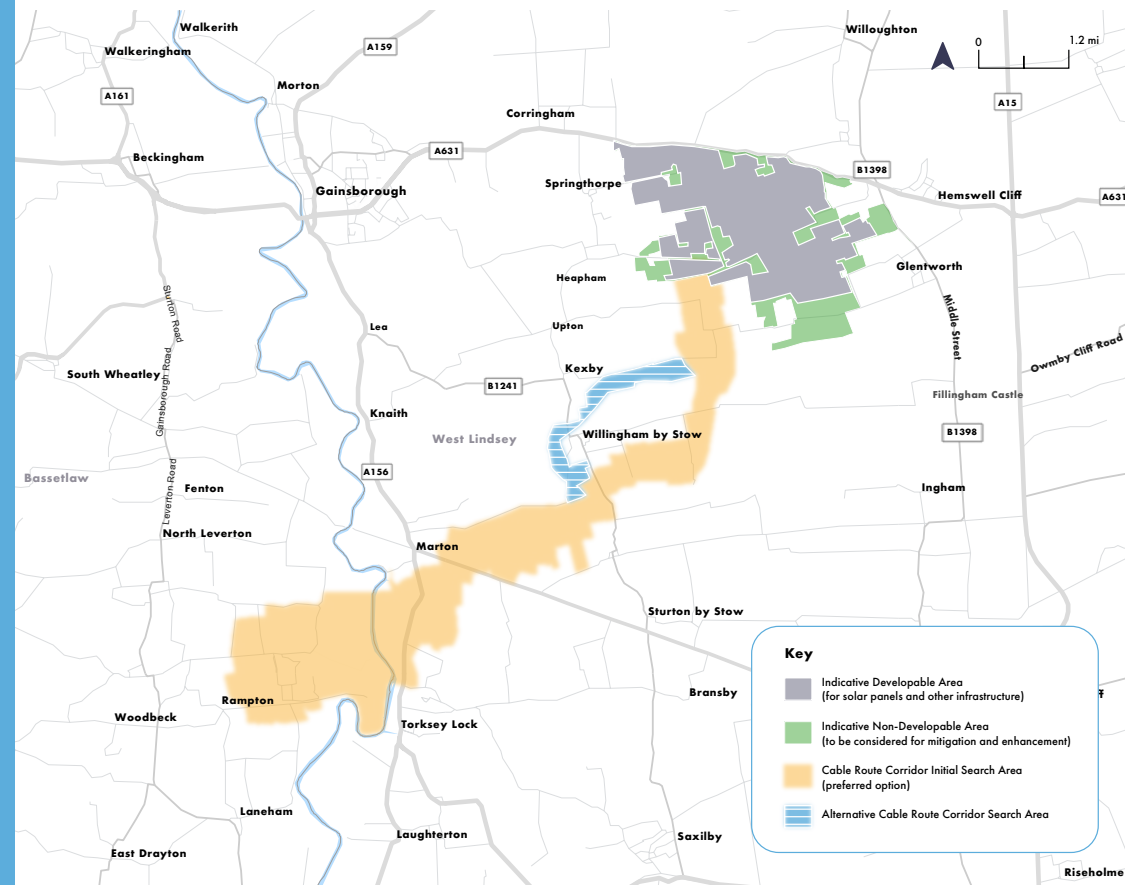


#### Cable corridor search area

Our underground cable corridor would be approximately 16km in length and would connect Tillbridge Solar to National Grid's Cottam substation. This corridor typically varies in width (between 35m in some places to over 100m in others) and will be made narrower as the project progresses.

The final trench would typically be 3.5m in width and 2m in depth. Land would be reinstated back to its previous condition once the cable is laid and we anticipate that farming activities will be able to continue.

## The Project



Indicative map for illustrative purposes.  
A larger version can be found on our website.

## The Development Process

Tillbridge Solar is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 as it is proposed to have a generating capacity exceeding 50MW. We will be applying for a Development Consent Order (DCO) through the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). The application will be determined by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Engagement with local planning authorities will continue to be integral in this process and they will be involved in further consultation activities, including a period of statutory consultation (planned for early 2023) and during the examination process following submission of our DCO application (planned for Q3 2023).



Collaboration workshops in July 2022.

## Public consultation

It is our objective to deliver renewable energy generation in a way that respects the interests of local neighbours and the wider community. As our plans are still at an early stage, your ongoing engagement and local knowledge will be important in helping us to refine our plans further.

Our engagement and collaboration activities commenced in summer 2022, following an extensive period of site selection and assessment work dating back to 2020. Our engagement has included speaking with landowners and near neighbours to the project, statutory consultees (including local planning authorities), and wider local interest and environmental groups.

## Collaboration workshops

As part of our early-stage engagement, we held a series of collaboration workshops in the area with elected representatives, such as local councillors and parish councils, along with environmental and community groups.

Our workshops allowed us to introduce our early-stage proposals. This engagement has helped shape the project and allowed members of the community and other stakeholders to discuss key aspects of our plans in more detail.

**A full summary of our collaboration workshops, including the key issues and information discussed, can be found as a report on our website.**

This report also provides a summary of comments received during the workshops and how we are continuing to refine the project in response to these.

The map on the next page shows our high-level indicative masterplan for the project development site, which highlights some areas of the project we have developed in response to engagement during our workshops. It will continue to evolve as we refine our proposals.

## Working with other developers

We are aware there are a number of other proposed solar developments in the area and understand the uncertainty around some of the impacts these projects could cumulatively have on local communities. We have been and will continue to work constructively with these other developers to ensure:



People are easily able to engage with each of our consultation processes and have opportunities to get involved.



All environmental effects are fully assessed, including any cumulative impacts.



A common-sense approach to construction is taken in order to minimise disruption, including sharing infrastructure and construction timelines, where feasible.

## Indicative masterplan



We have removed a non-developable area of land to the west of Springthorpe, in response to your comments.

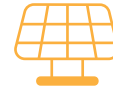


All ancient woodland and heritage assets, including Harpswell Wood, would be avoided as part of the project design.



Cumulative impact (of multiple solar projects) was identified as a key issue. We are working to identify areas where we can collaborate and coordinate.

Indicative developable areas = approximately 1,000 hectares



Our developable area has been setback further to the east of Springthorpe, in response to your concerns.



We are committed to taking primary traffic access from the A631 and will look to avoid narrow country lanes, where possible.



Middle Street was identified as an area of high landscape and visual value. Our non-developable area has been setback further to the west.



Impact on agricultural land and food security was identified as a key issue. Our ongoing studies will determine the classification of agricultural land and we are looking to avoid locating the project on best and most versatile land, where feasible.

Indicative non-developable areas = approximately 400 hectares



Archaeology was identified as a key issue in the Lincolnshire region. We will be working with relevant technical officers at the local planning authority to understand appropriate assessment methods and if necessary appropriate mitigation.

Initial cable corridor search = area approximately 16km long



## Next steps

We would like to thank everyone who took part in our early-stage engagement, which has helped us build relationships with landowners, near neighbours and key local representatives. This engagement will be important as we continue to refine our plans.

We are planning to hold our statutory consultation at the start of next year, which will provide an opportunity for you to attend face-to-face consultation events<sup>1</sup> and meet the project team.

At this point, we will be presenting our preliminary environmental information and further details about the project. We will also publish a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), which will set out our proposed consultation methods.

If you have any questions about the project, or would like to meet with us before we hold our statutory consultation, please get in touch using the details on the back page of this newsletter.



## More Information – Scoping Report

We have also submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate. This presents our current proposals in more detail and describes how we will be assessing the environmental effects of the proposed development.

This is available from the Planning Inspectorate's website, or can be requested from us, using the details on the back cover. In due course the Secretary of State will publish a Scoping Opinion which will be used to take forward our EIA.

<sup>1</sup> Subject to any public health restrictions being in place.

## Indicative Project Timeline



- 2022 - Q3-Q4**  
Informal engagement and collaboration, and ongoing environmental assessment work.
- 2022 - Q3**  
EIA Scoping Request submitted to PINS.
- 2023 - Q1**  
Publication of our SoCC and ongoing development of our EIA.
- 2023 - Q1**  
Statutory consultation and initial environmental findings presented.
- 2023 - Q2-Q3**  
Ongoing design refinement and environmental assessment work.
- 2023 - Q3**  
Submission of DCO application to PINS for public examination.
- 2023 - 2024**  
DCO examination and decision.
- 2025**  
Anticipated start of construction.

# Contact us

If you have any questions about Tillbridge Solar, please don't hesitate to contact the project team using the details below.



[www.tillbridgesolar.com](http://www.tillbridgesolar.com)



[info@tillbridgesolar.com](mailto:info@tillbridgesolar.com)



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(please note that no stamp is required)

You can also sign-up for updates and contact us using our comment form on our website.

If you would like this document in large print, audio or braille formats, please contact us using the details above.

All graphics and maps in this document are for illustrative purposes.