

WANDON END SOLAR
Community Information Leaflet
June 2022



www.wandonendsolar.co.uk



The proposal

Evolution Power is proposing to develop a solar and energy storage project on land near Luton at Wandon End in North Hertfordshire.

Wandon End Solar will generate renewable energy through photovoltaic (PV) panels providing domestic low carbon energy to UK businesses, infrastructure and homes.

The project will have an export capacity of 49.9MW, of which up to 35MW will supply the National Grid, with the remainder available to export to large local demand users. The 35MW National Grid supply is enough renewable energy to power approximately 14,500 homes, saving around 11,500 tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere each year.

The energy storage facility will be able to supply electricity at times of peak energy demand and ensure the solar power generated provides a stable and reliable addition to the UK energy supply.



35MW renewable electricity to Grid



Power for 14,500 homes



Saving 11,500 tonnes CO₂ per year

The project will produce low carbon, affordable, unsubsidised renewable electricity, reducing the UK's dependence on fossil fuels and its associated carbon impact. The proposed solar farm would operate for up to 40 years, after which the land will revert to its previous state.

During its operation, the solar farm will provide a valuable habitat for wildlife to flourish and the site can still be used for grazing.

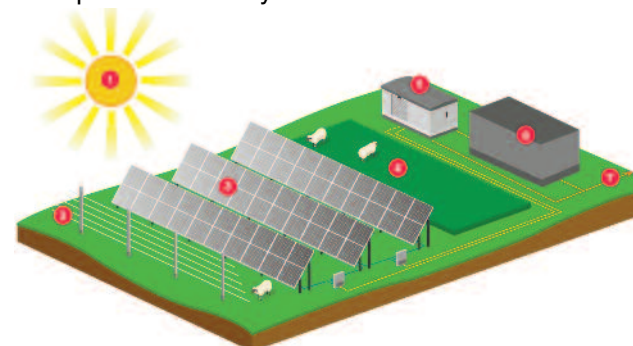


Why solar?

Evolution Power's ambition is to deliver a scheme that helps to address national and local electricity needs by generating an affordable and renewable source of clean electricity.

The UK was the first country in the world, and North Hertfordshire District Council one of the first local authorities, to declare a Climate Emergency in May 2019. The UK Government announced in October 2021 a commitment to decarbonise the electricity grid by 2035, increasing the transition away from fossil fuels and improving energy security for the UK.

A major investment in renewable energy, including solar, is required to provide the UK's power in the very near future.



Typical solar project components

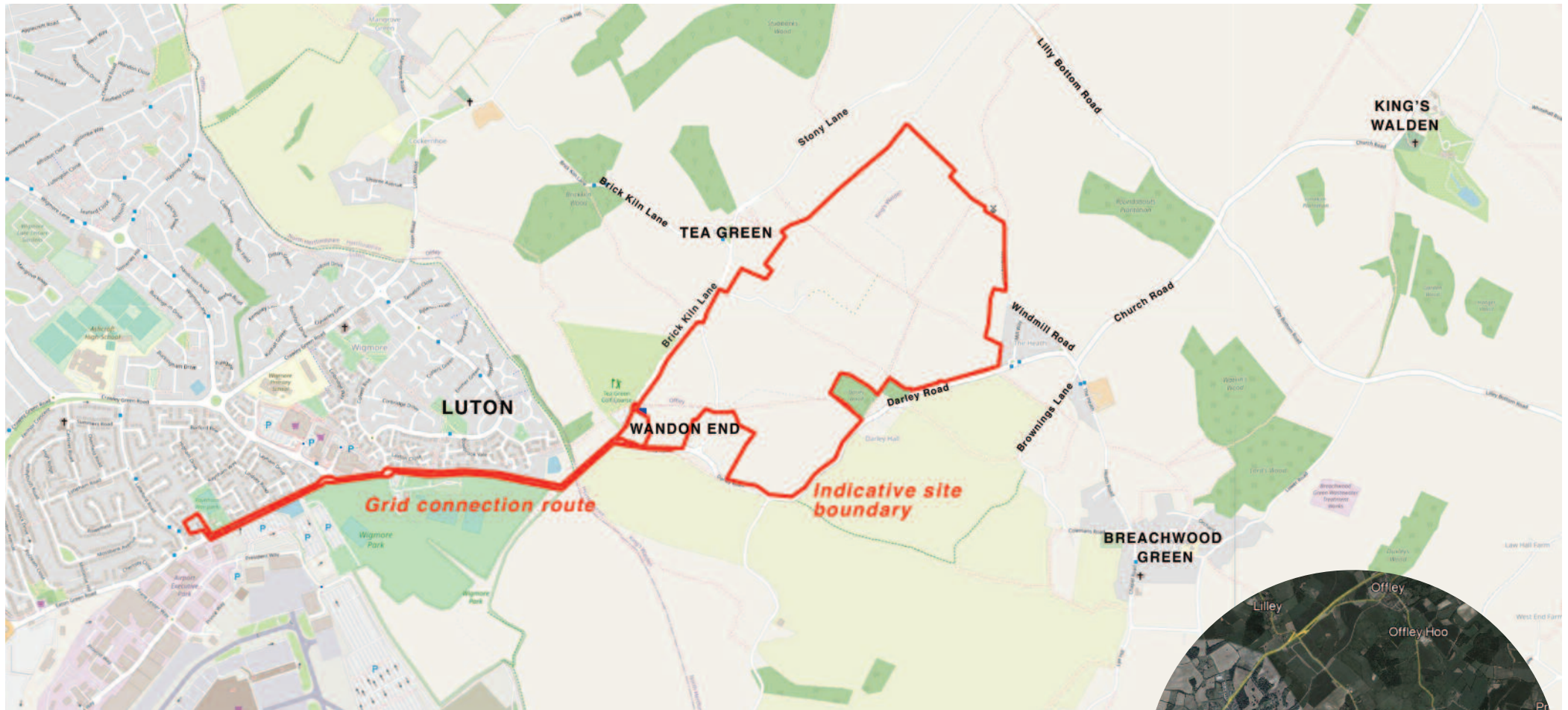
- 1 Solar energy
- 2 Fencing
- 3 Solar panels
- 4 Landscape area
- 5 Central inverter
- 6 Energy storage
- 7 Underground cable

For illustrative purposes only - not to scale

About Evolution Power

Wandon End Solar is being promoted by Evolution Power, a UK based independent solar 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.

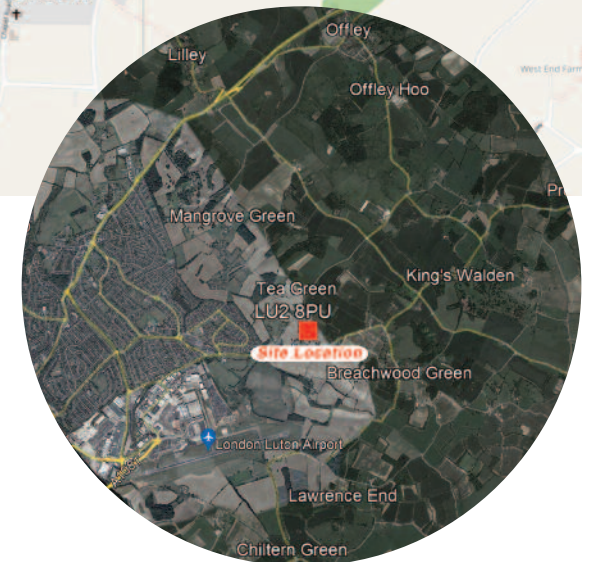
Evolution Power's team has extensive experience of successfully delivering large scale solar projects having developed and financed more than 50 previous solar projects, including four of the largest projects built to date. For more information on Evolution Power visit www.evolutionpower.co.uk



The site

The proposed site is approximately 85 hectares (approximately 210 acres), located three miles to the east of Luton, situated at postcode LU2 8PU, OS Reference TL139227

It is close to local demand users, the Vauxhall Luton Factory, the proposed regeneration of Griffin House and Luton Airport, and also adjacent to the proposed 2,100 residential housing development (East of Luton), each of which provide potential offtake options for the renewable energy generated.





Why this site?

The Wandon End Solar site has been carefully selected as it provides the following:

- Access to a nearby grid connection at Luton Airport Primary that has available capacity and has been secured.
- Close to large local energy users, such as major local employers and the east of Luton housing development, which provides the opportunity to supply renewable power direct to local demand users.
- No statutory landscape or ecological designations.
- Topography and existing hedgerows that limit visual impact from most nearby villages. As part of the project, additional hedges will be planted to improve biodiversity and further limit any visual impact.
- Access to the site during construction will be from the south-west and therefore will not impact on local villages.
- 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 provide the following benefits:

- generate up to 49.9MW local, subsidy-free renewable electricity, saving 11,500 tonnes of CO₂ per year
- provide a domestic source of UK power that is not dependent on global gas prices which should help reduce national power prices
- provide an inflation-linked community benefit fund for the lifetime of the project to be used locally for social and environmental projects, including reducing the cost of electricity for the most impacted local households by offering zero cost rooftop solar
- provide the opportunity to supply renewable energy directly to local demand users
- result in a significant increase in biodiversity for the proposed site area and the creation of a community park area that will be accessible to the public
- provide a buffer to encroaching residential development, safeguarding the integrity and identity of the local area.

Public access to the land will remain. The reduction in intensive farming on the site will encourage new flora and fauna to flourish, whilst the land can be grazed by sheep and therefore remain in agricultural use.

Biodiversity

During the project lifetime the biodiversity will be significantly increased and the soil condition will be improved. A biodiversity enhancement scheme will be prepared to ensure that the project provides a biodiversity net gain.



Existing hedgerows will be protected and enhanced with historic hedgerows reinstated. We will seek to retain existing habitats and create new habitats to benefit local wildlife, including installing bird and bat boxes on the site.





Public Consultation

Evolution Power's ambition is to work with local communities to maximise the benefits from the renewable energy projects developed. We value community participation and we are very keen to hear the views of local residents as we prepare our planning application.

Evolution Power will be carrying out public consultation in June prior to the submission of the planning application which is likely to be in early summer. Anyone interested in the project is invited to a public exhibition, which will be held on:

Date: Tuesday 14 June 2022, 3pm - 7pm

Venue: Cockernhoe Memorial Hall, 17 Mangrove Road, LU2 8QD

This informal drop-in event is intended to provide the local community with the opportunity to find out more about the proposal before a planning application is submitted. Members of the Wandon End Solar development team will be 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.wandonendsolar.co.uk

The public consultation will run until **30 June 2022**.

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@wandonendsolar.co.uk

Call our Freephone information line: 08082 753027

Send us a letter: Freepost EVOLUTION POWER