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Sheepwash Solar Energy Farm



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Project summary

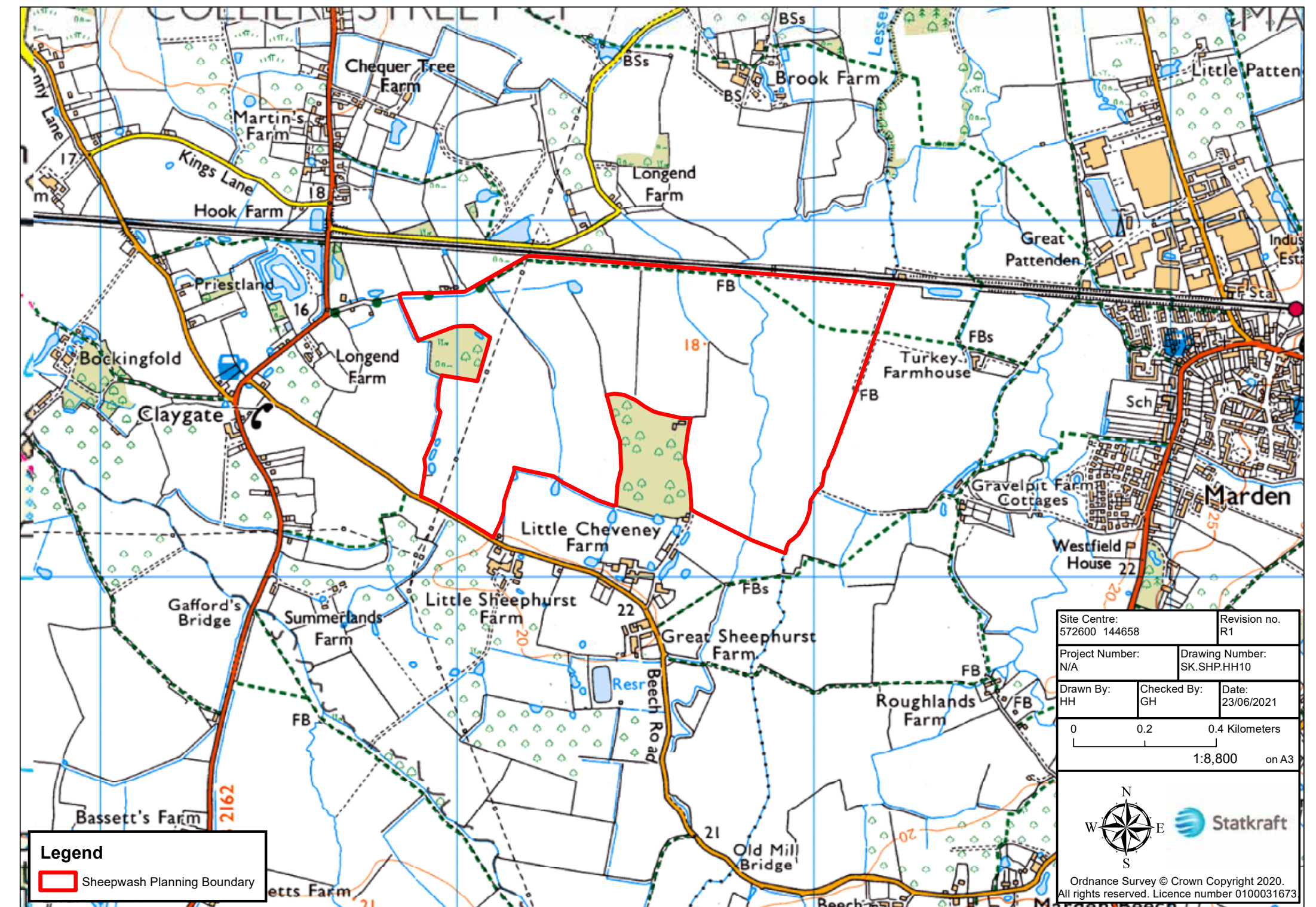
Where is the proposed Sheepwash Solar Energy Farm?

Sheepwash solar energy farm would be located on land at Little Cheveney Farm between Claygate and Marden. Sheephurst Lane is to the south and the railway line to the north with Marden to the east and Claygate to the west.

Why here?

Finding a suitable location for a solar energy project is a careful balancing act. This site has been selected because:

- It's lower quality farming land;
- the solar energy farm is able to connect to the electricity network without the need for significant new or upgraded electricity infrastructure;
- It also supports farm diversification enabling the strengthening of the existing farming business.



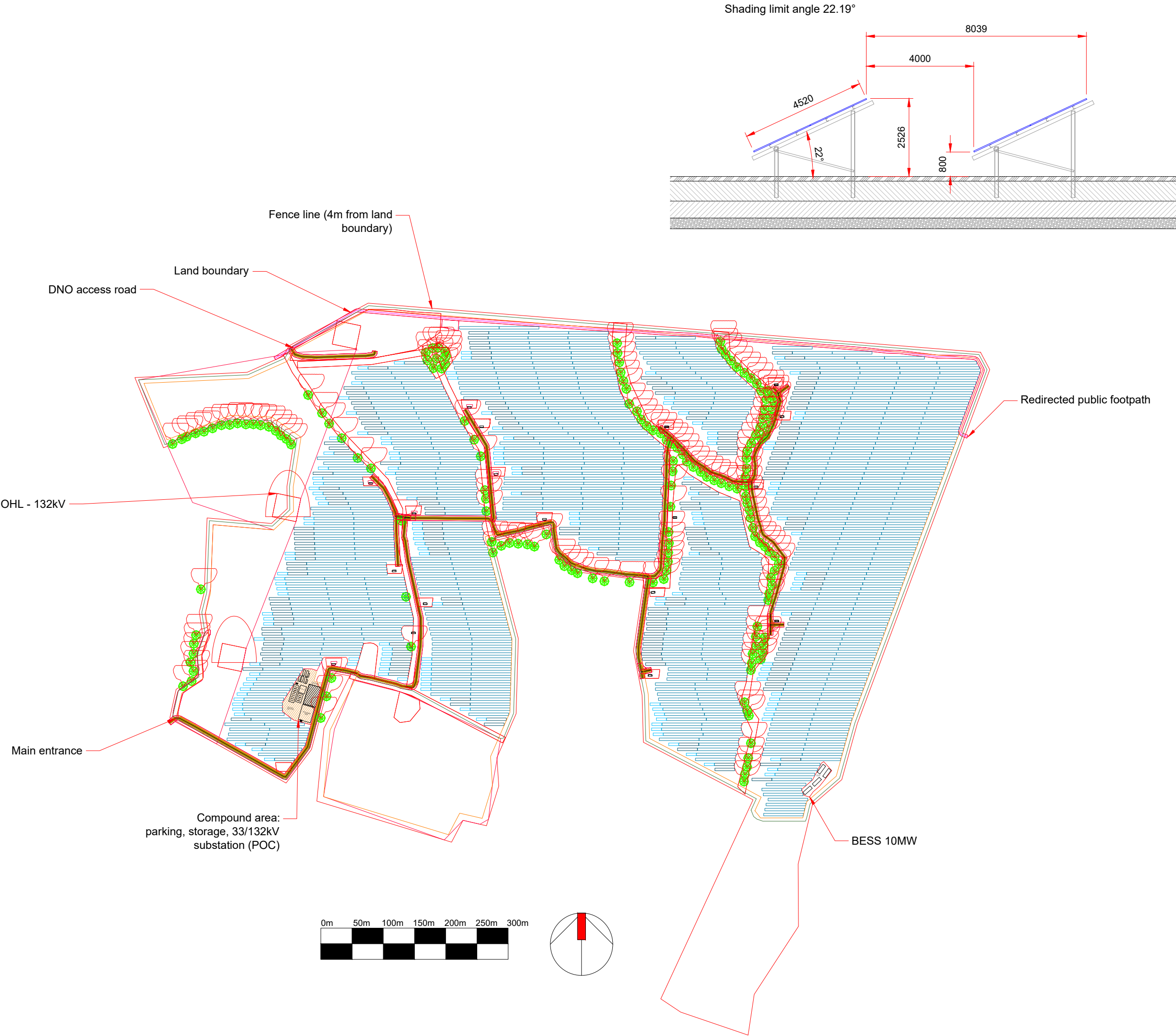
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Our proposal

What is being proposed on the land?

This plan shows where the solar arrays and battery energy storage will be located as well as the essential electrical infrastructure.



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Construction

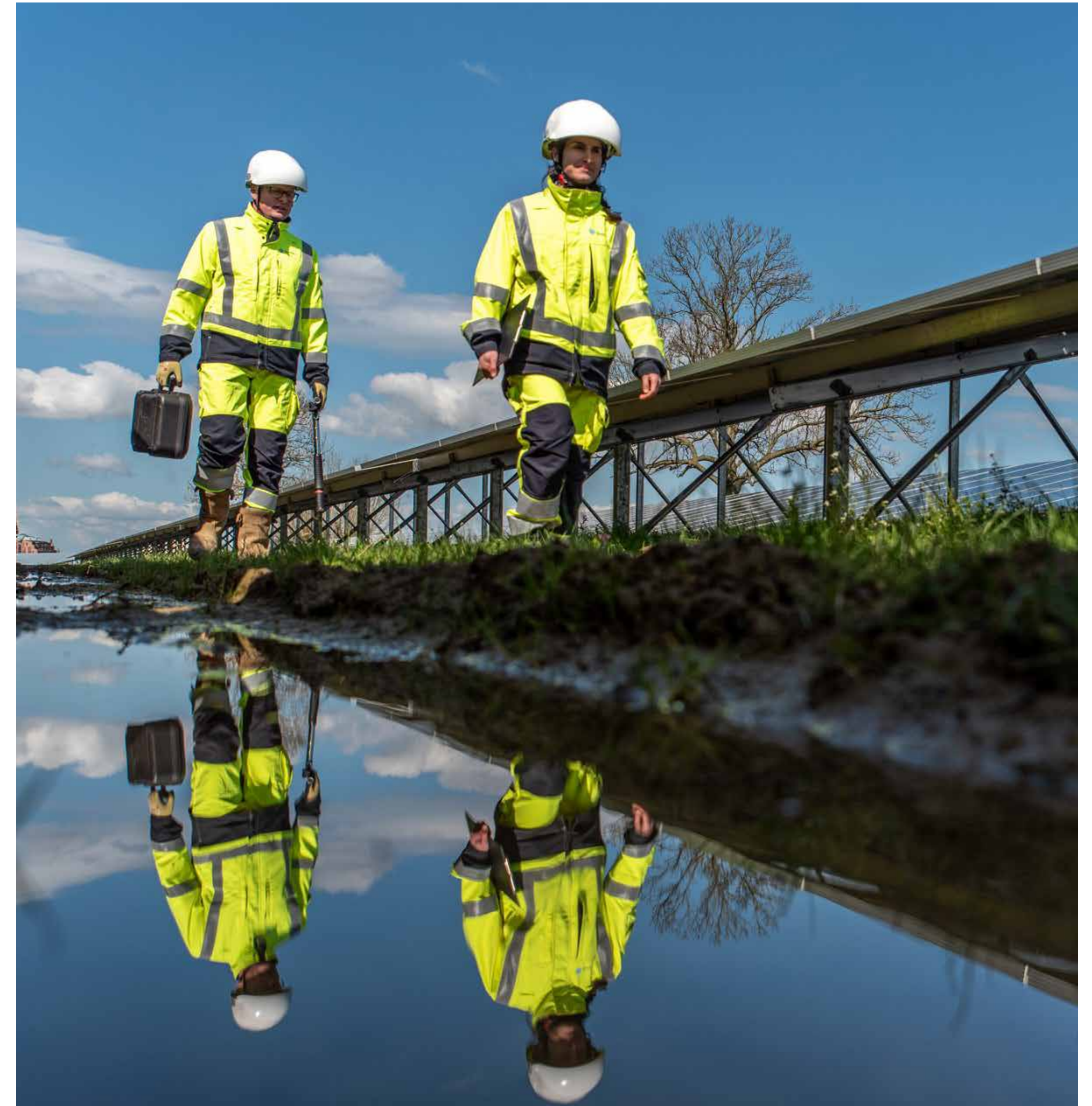


Construction

It's expected that if approved, construction of the solar energy farm would start in late spring or early summer 2022. Construction is likely to take up to 6 months.

Construction of the solar energy farm will generate additional traffic in the local area, in particular lorries delivering the solar panels and electrical infrastructure.

Statkraft is committed to working with both Kent County Council and Maidstone Borough Council to minimise the impact on local communities of construction traffic. We are therefore currently looking at a number of options to achieve this which will be set out in a Construction Traffic Management Plan. This could include delivering all the equipment to an intermediary storage location nearby and then transporting it to site on smaller vehicles.



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Environmental considerations

Habitat and biodiversity

We are considering creating a habitat conservation area in the western part of the site. This is the best location for measures to improve habitat and biodiversity.

A permissive footpath could also be created here which would run along the western edge of the site and the ancient woodland. This would enable the linking up of nearby local public footpaths.

A footpath that runs through part of the site to the east will also be relocated with the same exit and entry points.



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Community and
wider benefits



What are the benefits of the Sheepwash solar energy farm?

Sheepwash solar energy farm will:

- Assist Maidstone Borough Council in reducing carbon emissions in line with national and local targets, in addition to supporting its Climate Emergency Strategy.
- Enhance habitat and biodiversity including wildflower and wild bird seed grasslands. A range of breeding boxes for bats and birds will be part of the application as we aim to deliver significant positive net biodiversity impact.
- Retain all trees and hedgerows and planting of new trees and hedgerows.
- Ensure no protected landscape, heritage or ecological designation will be affected by the solar energy farm.
- Allow sheep grazing to take place on the site.
- Allow the land to rest for the duration of the solar operation.

Key figures

Location	Little Cheveney Farm, TN12 9PB
Technology	Ground mounted solar photovoltaics and battery energy storage
Size	49.99MW of solar and 10MW of battery energy storage
Site area	78 hectares
Developed area	24.2 hectares
Current agricultural soil classification	Grade 3
Proposed duration of the solar energy farm	35 years
Estimated planning submission date	September 2021

Contact us



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