



# Tydd Solar

Bringing clean energy and  
local environmental benefits





## Tydd Solar

At Pathfinder Clean Energy, we are developing initial plans for a new solar farm to the east of Guanockgate Road.

The project has the potential to play a crucial role in supplying affordable energy for homes and businesses in Lincolnshire and beyond. At a time of energy insecurity, solar projects such as this will help reduce the need for increasingly expensive gas and reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels.

It will support the transition to a clean, sustainable, low carbon future, providing enough power 22,388 homes each year. It will help to displace 16,180 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year - equivalent to removing the emissions from 13,110 family cars.

The site has been carefully selected. We considered a wide range of options across the region, but this field was chosen because it can be easily connected to the electricity grid, the site is outside the Green Belt and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and it would not affect any ancient woodland or protected species. We have a long term vision for Tydd Solar, which will not only help the Fenland District Council and South Holland who are supporting climate change initiatives,, but will also significantly enhance local wildlife, retain agricultural land use and support farmers to earn a viable livelihood.

We are determined to be a good neighbour, and are undertaking ongoing community consultation. We intend to continue talking to local people and are actively discussing ways that we can enhance benefits for local communities, in addition to delivering onsite environmental improvements.

## About Pathfinder Clean Energy

Pathfinder Clean Energy is a UK company with a successful track record of developing solar projects across the UK. We have a vision to develop solar energy projects that meet the UK's rapidly growing need for clean electricity, while working with communities to maximise positive local impacts for wildlife and for people. We are committed to that vision, and have a team including ecologists, landscape and heritage specialists who help ensure our proposals can deliver long term benefits.

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## A message from Alex Ross

Pathfinder Clean Energy was established five years ago to take action at a local level to reduce carbon emissions and support the transition away from burning imported fossil fuels in power stations, homes and cars.

The need for new renewable power is becoming increasingly urgent. Rapidly increasing costs of gas are affecting everyone's bills, and the international supply of energy is becoming more and more unpredictable. The UK must become more self-sufficient in energy, and that will require a significant number of new clean energy projects across the whole country. As a company we have focussed on solar power because we believe that producing clean energy must not be at the expense of people, wildlife and biodiversity.

Unlike other sources of clean energy, solar panels are safe, practically silent, produce no emissions, enable agricultural activity to continue, and create improved habitats for plants and animals.

The Fenland District Council and South Holland District Council has rightly declared a climate emergency and set ambitious targets to become net zero. We agree with and support the ambition.

Tydd Solar can make a significant contribution to these goals, along with planting new trees, wildflower meadows, and establishing new habitats for birds, bats and insects.

Although we believe Tydd Solar is both necessary, and appropriate, I do understand that not everyone will welcome our proposals. Change is always concerning, we appreciate that, and there will be impacts as a result of our proposed development.

However, we have worked extremely hard to identify the best possible location for a solar farm. That process included talking to a wide range of stakeholders, including wildlife and heritage groups, and local residents, to find ways to improve our proposals. We have taken onboard that feedback and have made changes to our project to eliminate negative impacts to the greatest degree possible, and to maximise the local community and environmental benefits.

We are determined to be a good neighbour and are making a long term commitment to the maintenance of this site, so that the environmental improvements we make on day one, can flourish into the future.

We also want to keep talking to our neighbours. We are continually looking for new ways to help the local community, and are open to suggestions for ways we can support local initiatives.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and please do contact us directly if you have any questions or suggestions.



**Alex Ross**  
Director of Pathfinder Clean Energy

# Generating environmental benefits alongside clean energy



Generating energy to **power 22,388 homes** every year



**Displaces 16,180 tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup>** which would be added to the atmosphere every year, equivalent to removing the emissions from 13,110 family cars



**Significant increase in overall biodiversity on the site**



**Planting 4.4 hectares of new woodland**



**No loss of agricultural land, and the site will be fully restored after solar panels are removed**



**Improving soil quality** in overworked fields



**Reducing soil erosion** through addition of grasslands



**Helping farmers to diversify their income** and ensure continued viability of the farm

# UKZ157\_10 Mitigation and Enhancements Plan

## Key

-  Log Pile
-  Existing Trees
-  Existing Hedging
-  New Native Tree Planting
-  Wildflower Meadow
-  Site Fence
-  Solar Panels
-  Existing PRoW
-  Mammal Gate

Date: 03/10/2022

Revision: V2



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**New corridors and stretches of native woodland** planted around the site to help protect long range views and create new habitat.

**Deer fence with mesh sizes and height designed to exclude larger species and prevent entrapment.**

**Mammal gates** installed strategically along the fenceline adjacent to existing ditches, site corners and access gates

**Wide corridor for PRoWs**

**New corridors and stretches of native woodland** planted around the site to help protect long range views and create new habitat.

Equipment positioned 15m away from all existing trees.

**New wood piles as refugia for reptiles and amphibians**, positioned close to water sources.

**Mammal gates** installed strategically along the fenceline adjacent to existing ditches, site corners and access gates

**Native wildflower meadow around and underneath solar panels can be maintained** by managed sheep grazing.

**Site set back from ditch** leaving field margins with high botanical and invertebrate interest.

0

500

1,000 m

## What would Tydd Solar look like?



Viewpoint 4A - Existing



Viewpoint 4A - Year 10

We have worked hard to select a site where the views of the solar farm can be effectively screened by tree planting.

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### Tydd Solar

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## What would Tydd Solar look like?



Viewpoint 6 - Existing



Viewpoint 6 - Year 10

We have worked hard to select a site where the views of the solar farm can be effectively screened by tree planting.

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# Frequently asked questions

From our local consultation and engagement a number of questions have been raised. We have tried to answer them here:



## Are solar projects necessary?

Yes, to meet local and national net zero targets we need to move away from imported fossil fuels which are increasingly expensive and unpredictable, as well as being damaging for both the environment and human health.

Solar balances wind power, helping to provide a consistent supply of energy when the wind doesn't blow. Solar energy can be delivered far quicker than other forms of renewables, such as offshore wind, helping to achieve Fenland and South Holland District councils target of becoming net zero by, and meeting growing demand for electricity to power things like electric cars.



## Couldn't we just develop rooftop solar or brownfield sites?

No, to meet the transition away from fossil fuels we need both. We need projects like Tydd Solar, as rooftop and brownfield solar schemes alone will not produce enough energy. Relying solely on small scale solar schemes would have a significant impact on energy bills.



## Can't you use another form of energy generation?

Other forms of energy generation are available, but all of these would cause more environmental damage locally, and on a permanent basis. Solar projects are temporary, and deliver substantial local environmental biodiversity improvements with lots of new habitats created including wildflower meadows, hedgerows, bird, bat and insect nests.



## Is Tydd Solar the right site?

Yes, this is a really well suited site for solar. We looked at a wide range of options across the local region, and this was the best option our specialist team could identify. It is close to a connection to the electricity grid and sits outside of the greenbelt and areas of outstanding natural beauty.

Crucially any environmental impacts can be managed on the site, without impacting on any protected species or ancient woodlands. In fact the site offers us an opportunity to significantly increase biodiversity, planting large numbers of new trees and meadows, while allowing ongoing agricultural use of the land.



### **Will you listen to local people?**

Yes. We have launched a dedicated consultation website and working with local Parish Councils. Where it is possible to improve our plans or address local concerns we are committed to do so.



### **Will the solar farm be a large scale industrial complex?**

No, we are doing everything we can to ensure the solar farm is sympathetic to the local environment. This includes careful mature planting and habitat creation, sympathetic low impact fencing and creation of new open space to create wildlife habitats and for community use.

The solar panels will be under three meters tall and will not include tall lighting columns. The solar farm will also connect to the electricity grid via underground cables, meaning overhead cables will not be required. Once operational, there will be little to no traffic visiting the site.



### **Will the solar farm have a lasting negative impact on local farmland?**

No, the project has a lifespan of 40 years, after which the land will be returned to full farming use. During operation, the field will remain available for animal grazing and still be in agricultural use.

Our plans would also significantly increase biodiversity, providing a local environmental benefit whilst also generating renewable energy.



### **Will the solar farm have a serious impact on local heritage?**

No, we have conducted a thorough archaeological survey of the site and have worked extensively with heritage stakeholders to reduce any impacts on local historical sites.



### **Will you disappear once the farm is built?**

We intend to be a good neighbor. We will hold a long term interest in Tydd Solar over its 40 year lifespan. As such, we are actively building relationships with the local community and stakeholders. We intend to continue talking to local people and are actively discussing ways that we can enhance benefits for local communities, as well as the environment, over the lifetime of the project.

## Contact Us

If you have any questions or would like to discuss our application, please contact us on:

Phone: **0800 377 7348**

Email: **[Tyddsolar@pathfinderce.co.uk](mailto:Tyddsolar@pathfinderce.co.uk)**