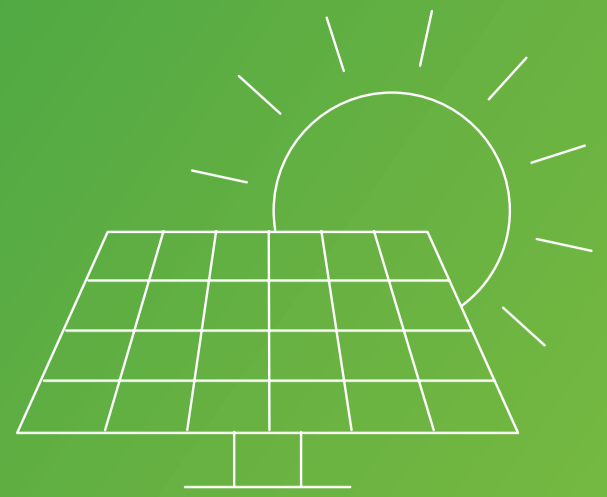


# Welcome to Treading Bank Solar Farm Consultation Event



Renewable Connections is preparing a planning application for a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) farm of up to 49.9 MW on land located off Cross Drive, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire to be known as "Treading Bank Solar Farm".

The Site comprises approximately 73 hectares of agricultural land currently used for arable farming. If Treading Bank Solar Farm is built, all the land under the solar panels will be used for biodiversity enhancement for the operational life of the solar farm.

This site has been identified following an extensive site selection process which took into account environmental designations, local electricity network access and capacity, the physical characteristics of the site, and the need for a supportive landowner. Further detail of this process will be provided in the Alternative Site Assessment report which will accompany the planning application.

The plans are still in the development stages, so our design proposals will evolve as local input is gathered and technical considerations are investigated further.

Once operational, Treading Bank Solar Farm would make a valuable contribution towards tackling the climate emergency in Cambridgeshire and the wider UK by:

**Supplying enough power for up to 13,389 homes annually.**



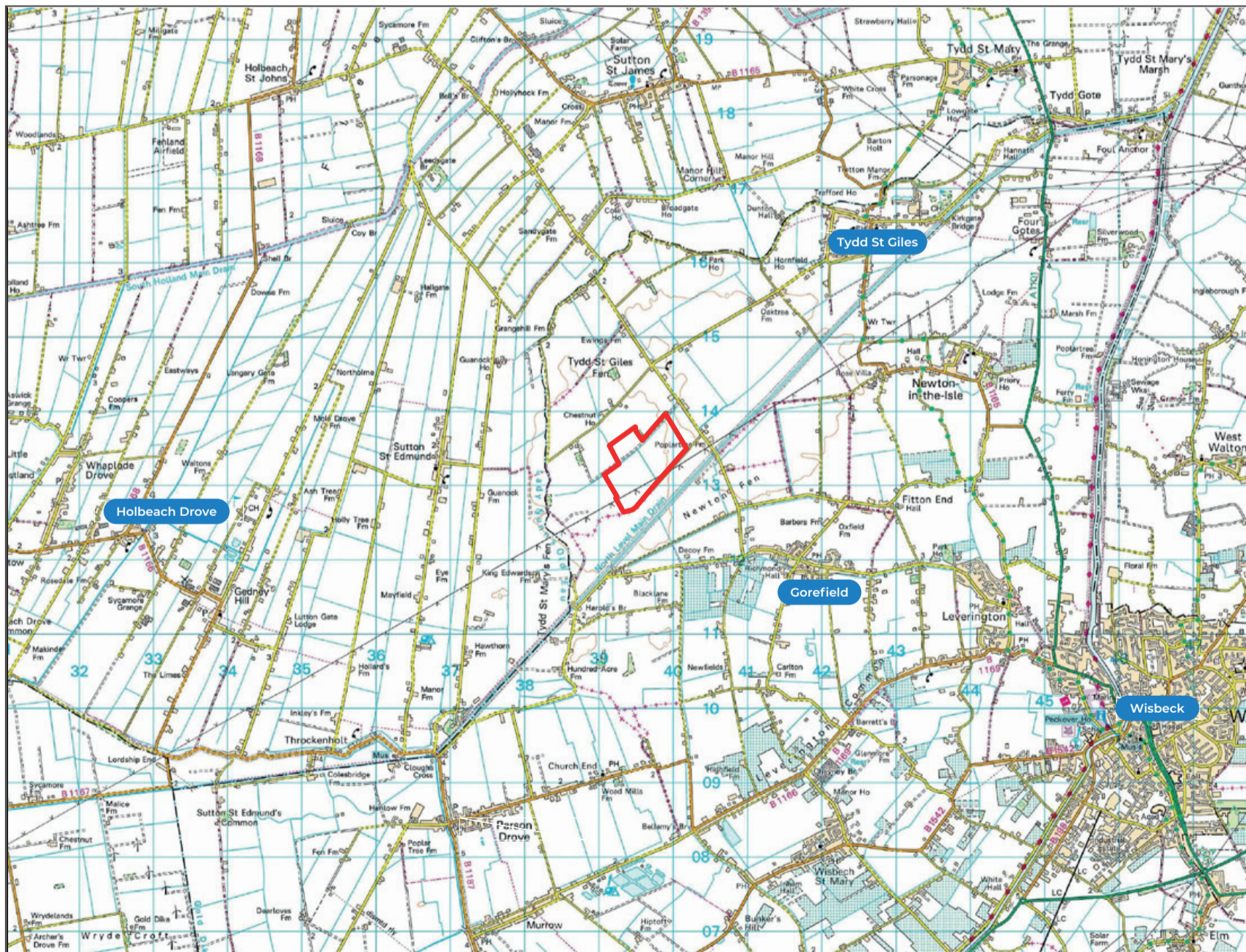
**Displacing up to 12,274 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> from equivalent fossil fuel generation every year of its operation.**

This is the equivalent of removing CO<sub>2</sub> created by the annual usage of over 9,186 cars (Department for Transport Vehicle Mileage data, September 2021) and 367,421 cars over the lifetime of the development.



Renewable Connections has also committed to maximising benefits for the local community. We will establish a Community Benefit Fund and support local good causes.

**Please speak to a team member for more information.**



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Revisions:				
Revision	Date	Revision Notes	Drawn	Checked

LEGEND:

- DEVELOPMENT BOUNDARY

Project: Treading Bank Solar

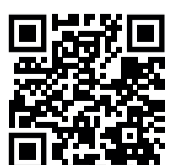
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www.renewableconnections.co.uk

Drawing Title: Treading Bank Solar Site Location Plan

Drawn: LSM	Checked: JH	First Issue: 03.05.23
Project Code: RC087		Drawing Number:
Sheet Size: A3	Scale: 1:55,000	Revision: 01



Visit [www.renewableconnections.co.uk](http://www.renewableconnections.co.uk) for further information or to leave feedback



# Environmental Assessments

## Cultural Heritage

- In terms of heritage assets, the nearest designation to the Site is a Grade II Listed Building located approximately 850 m to the south.
- A Cultural Heritage Assessment will be undertaken and submitted alongside any forthcoming planning application and the Applicant will seek to agree a suitable mitigation strategy with the Council.

## Transport

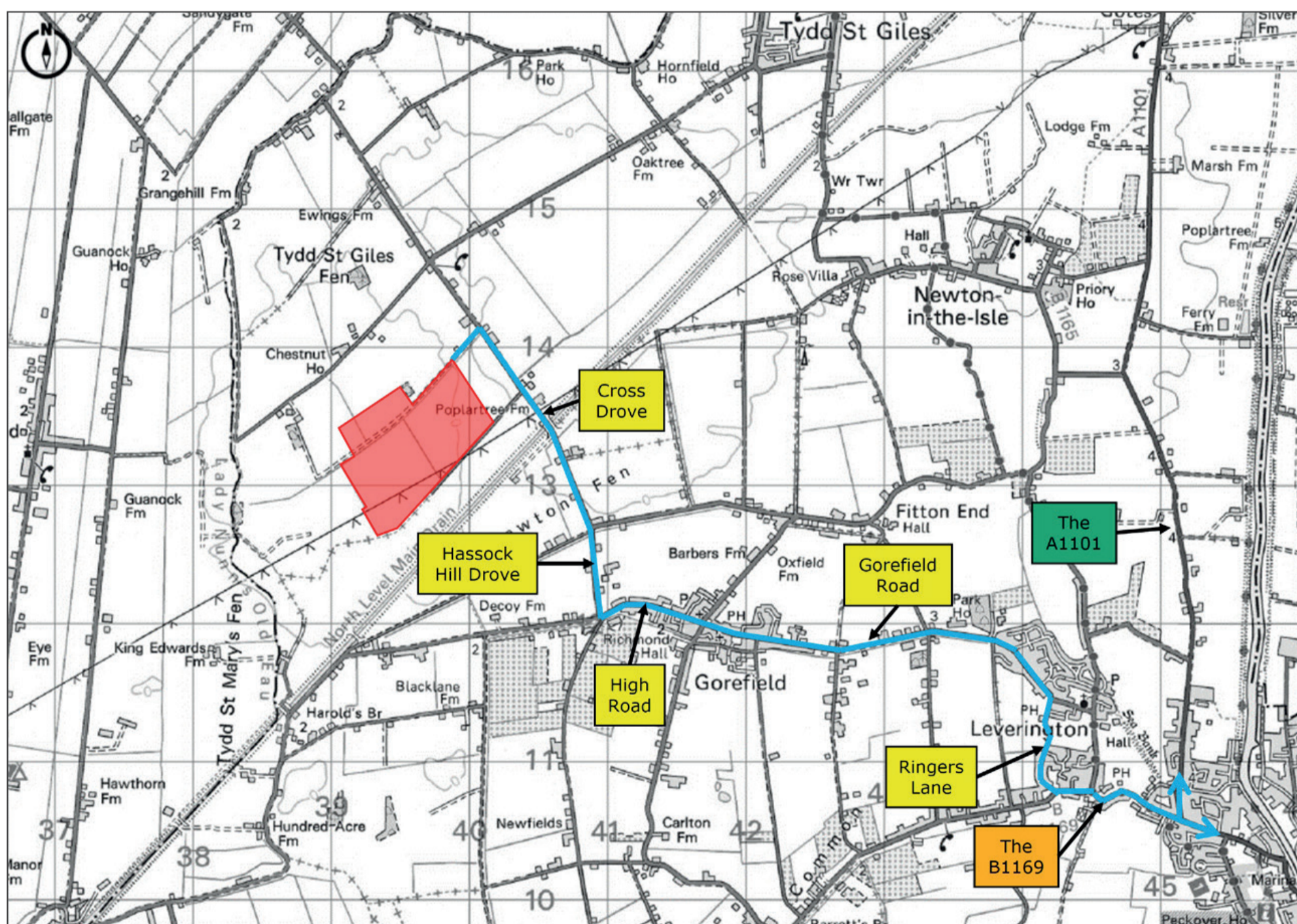
- Traffic associated with the Proposed Development would be largely limited to the temporary construction phase, during which appropriate and proportionate management measures would be implemented.
- The Forecast average daily two way traffic movements associated with the construction phase is anticipated to comprise 30 two-way light vehicle movements and 8 two-way HGV movements.
- During the operational phase, traffic is expected to be limited to periodic maintenance/inspection. It would likely comprise one van accessing the Site twice per month i.e. 4 two-way vehicle movements per month.
- The planning application would be accompanied by a Transport Statement and a Construction Traffic Management Plan to demonstrate that the scheme would not have an adverse effect on the existing highway network.

## Ecology

- The Site is not designated for its biodiversity value; rather, the Site predominantly comprises of intensively farmed agricultural land. The Proposed Development presents considerable opportunity for landscape and biodiversity mitigation and enhancement.
- Pre-application feedback from Fenland District Council indicates that particular ecology issues are not expected given the Site's field location. Any subsequent planning application will be supported by a Phase 1 Habitat Survey and species surveys (if any are required), along with a management and mitigation strategy (as necessary).
- The application would also be supported by a Landscape and Biodiversity Strategy which will secure a number of ecological enhancement measures to ensure a significant biodiversity net gain at the Site as a result of the Proposed Development.
- Boundary planting of native hedgerows at the Site is proposed to increase connectivity and corridors for local wildlife where none presently exist. In addition, the Proposed Development would reinforce existing Site boundaries with further landscaping.
- For the avoidance of doubt, there are no proposals to remove trees or hedgerows except to allow for access, where necessary, or where they are in poor condition with no detrimental impact to ecology as result of their removal.

## Flood Risk

- The entirety of the Site is located within Flood Zone 3, the area at highest risk of flooding.
- Any planning application will be accompanied by a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy, in consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority (Cambridgeshire County Council) and the Environment Agency and will identify any flood hazards affecting the Site and the mitigation measures required to ensure the Essential Infrastructure is designed and constructed to remain operational and safe in times of flood without increasing flood risk elsewhere.
- The FRA will include a surface water management strategy to demonstrate surface water runoff is appropriately managed and quantify the minimal hydrological effect of solar farm developments. The inclusion of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in the form of shallow swales provides an opportunity for betterment in flood risk terms.



# Environmental Assessments

## Landscape and Visual Impact

- The Site is not subject to any nationally or internationally important landscape designations.
- The Proposed Development would be designed to respect the character of the landscape and use the strong field pattern to integrate the scheme as far as practicable. Any planning application would also include a full Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA).
- The Site is generally screened from settlements via scattered vegetation across the flat landscape. Any development in this location will ensure that visibility remains constrained and that benefits to landscape character are delivered. It is noted that there is a line of large pylons running along the south eastern boundary, three of which are located within the Site itself.

## Environmentally sensitive areas

- The Site does not lie within or adjacent to any environmentally sensitive areas; for example, national or international designations.
- Once operational, the solar farm would be relatively inert and would be managed to avoid any adverse environmental impacts. Measures would be taken during construction to minimise impacts on any identified adjacent and nearby environmental assets.

## Agricultural Land

- An Agricultural Land Classification survey has been undertaken on Site which shows a mix of Grade 2 (40%), Sub-Grade 3a (58%) and Grade 3b (2%). It is noted that the surrounding areas predominantly comprises Grades 1 and 2 agricultural land.
- The majority of the Site would be planted with a combination of grassland/meadow, which would enable grazing (sheep). This would include land between and underneath panels thereby allowing a form of agricultural use to continue. This scenario would allow agriculture and renewable energy generation to be facilitated simultaneously.
- At the end of the Proposed Development's lifespan (Circa 40 years), the panels and other infrastructure would be removed, and the land restored to its original condition. It follows that there would be no permanent loss of agricultural land as a result of the Proposed Development.

## Air Emissions

- The development would not result in any emissions to air during its operation other than those from vehicles associated with periodic maintenance/inspection visits to the Site.
- Emissions associated with the construction phase would relate to construction vehicles and it is considered these would not be of a level to cause harm to the environment or residential amenity and would be somewhat offset by a reduction in emissions related to the current farming of the land.
- It is considered that emissions would be offset several times over by the significant benefits of generating renewable energy at the Site.

