

# Welcome

## Thank you for coming along to our drop-in session about Lentons Lane Solar Farm.

Lentons Lane Solar Farm is a proposed new solar farm in Coventry capable of producing up to 25MW of clean, sustainable energy. That's the enough to fully recharge an electric bus over 66,000 times a year\*.

Consultation on our early plans is running between Thursday 3 July - Monday 8 September 2025. We would welcome any feedback you would like to share with us.

This exhibition includes information about our early plans for Lentons Lane Solar Farm, the planning process and information about our consultation. Please take your time to read all the material on display and ask any questions you have to the project team.

\*Based on 376kWh required for one full charge.

# Introduction

**You may remember our previous application for a solar farm at this site, which we previously shared and consulted on in 2023.**

We've listened carefully to the feedback received and used it – alongside our environmental assessments and technical studies – to help shape these plans.

**Key changes include:**



**Increased distance** between the solar farm and homes on Lentons Lane.



**New site access points** to help reduce disruption during construction.



**Smaller footprint**, with a reduction in the overall area proposed for solar panels.



**Moved the proposed location** of the control cabin away from Lentons Lane and ensured it is screened by existing trees and agricultural buildings.

We're now keen to hear your views on these revised plans.

**As before, Lentons Lane Solar Farm would be adjacent to the M6 between Aldermans Green Road and Hinckley Road. We believe this a good location for a solar farm because:**

- The site is suitably sunny.
- There are no special historic, ecological or landscape designations in or around the site.
- Our ecology surveys have not indicated any concerns.
- It is located alongside the M6 and close to where we need to connect into the grid, which is a key requirement for solar farms.
- There would be minimal impact on the local footpath network.
- The land across the site is currently used for sheep grazing with the potential for this use to continue during operation.

# Why are solar farms like this one needed?

**The UK is currently changing the way it meets its energy needs, by phasing out older forms of power generation and replacing these with new, renewable sources of energy.**

Solar energy has an important role to play in this transition. It is reliable and is the most affordable source of renewable energy in the UK. Solar farms can also be built quickly compared to other technologies.

Plans for Lentons Lane Solar Farm are part of E.ON's pioneering 15-year partnership with Coventry City Council, which helps to make sure that local communities benefit from this national move to lower cost, lower carbon energy.

With the potential to produce enough clean, sustainable energy to power around 7,000 homes each year\*, Lentons Lane would make an important contribution to our local, and national carbon reduction goals.

\*Based on medium to high domestic electricity consumption (per Ofgem Average gas and electricity usage data).



**e-on**

Strategic Energy Partner



Coventry City Council

# Strategic Energy Partnership

## How is the Strategic Energy Partnership benefitting Coventry communities?

E.ON has called Coventry its home for 30 years and is proud to have formed a ground-breaking 15-year Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP) with Coventry City Council in 2023. Working together, both organisations are transforming the city's approach to carbon reduction, creating jobs and attracting private investment.

Alongside our plans for Lentons Lane Solar Farm, we are already delivering:

- Solar panels for 100 local schools.
- Energy efficient upgrades for low-income and fuel-poor households.
- New ways to build energy resilience and protect vital services such as care homes and hospitals from unanticipated disruptions to the energy supply.
- Upgrades to buildings like libraries, sports centres and family hubs, including air source heat pumps, solar PV, insulation and double glazing.
- Using drone thermal imaging to analyse homes to identify heat loss.

We are also helping Coventry City Council to decarbonise its operations by providing EV charging, e-bikes, and most recently a programme of upgrades to public buildings.



# How do solar farms work?

## Solar farms use solar panels to generate electricity from the sun.

At Lentons Lane, the solar panels would be mounted on the ground in rows and would be up to 2.6 metres in height. We have prepared a draft layout which shows where these panels could go, and we would like your feedback on this.

### What else would be on the site?

A solar farm also needs other pieces of equipment to help them work, including:

- **Inverters:** which converts the Direct Current (DC) electricity collected by the panels to Alternating Current (AC) electricity which is suitable for transmission.
- **Transformers:** which control the voltage of the electricity.
- **Control cabin:** which ensures that operations can run smoothly.

There would also be mesh fencing (up to 2m high) around the panel areas and inward facing CCTV for security. There would be no permanent lighting within the site.

We would connect into the National Grid using underground cabling via a battery within the existing electrical substation on Aldermans Green Road.

# Understanding the local environment



**Before we submit an application, we will carry out surveys and assessments so that we can understand how it might affect the surrounding environment.**

This includes a number of environmental topics – such as landscape and visual impact, flooding, noise and vibration, transport and glint and glare. Where appropriate, we will propose mitigation.

We also want to improve local habitats and welcome your suggestions about the types of things we could do, based on your local knowledge of the area.

All of the results of our assessments will be publicly available as part of the planning applications we will make to Coventry City Council and Rugby Borough Council. Everyone will have the opportunity to comment on the planning application when it is submitted, and all these comments will be considered by the Local Planning Authority.

A well-designed solar farm can support many of the same goals as the Green Belt - providing wildlife habitats, access to footpaths and supporting some types of farming, like sheep grazing.

Our proposed site is within the Coventry Green Belt. As a temporary development, this land would be safeguarded from permanent development and remain designated as Green Belt throughout the lifetime of the solar farm. Once the solar farm reaches the end of its 30 year lifespan, it would be removed and the land returned.

Our planning application will demonstrate special circumstances for the temporary use of Green Belt land for the project.

# Our approach to design

**We know that how the solar farm looks from homes and viewpoints in the local area is an important consideration for the community.**

Our updated plans have moved solar away from Lentons Lane, increasing the distance between homes and the panel areas. We'd be interested to hear local feedback on how we could manage this area, for example, planting wildflower meadow mix. We are also proposing a new planting belt closest to the solar panels in this area to further screen views from Lentons Lane.

To reduce visibility, the control cabin has been relocated to the centre of the site, screened from Lentons Lane by existing trees and agricultural buildings.

Part of the Public Right of Way through the site would be rerouted to ensure it can continue to be enjoyed and link into other walking routes, like it does now. We would also look to formalise the path, improving it to make it suitable to be used in wet weather.

## Indicative layout of Lentons Lane Solar Farm



# Helping nature thrive

**As well as protecting existing habitats, our proposals for Lentons Lane include measures to boost biodiversity.**

We are carrying out surveys on the site to understand the types of wildlife that already live and use the area. This includes bats, birds and reptiles. This helps to make sure we can protect the areas these animals use and create new habitats.

Measures we are considering include:

- **Wildflower Meadow** - Sowing a colourful wildflower meadow between and beneath the panels as well as in open areas to support bees, butterflies, and other pollinators.
- **Biodiversity Trail** - Developing an on-site nature trail with signs to help schools, families, and visitors learn about local wildlife.
- **Grazing Sheep** - Allowing sheep to graze between the solar panels to help manage vegetation in a natural, eco-friendly way, combining energy production with traditional farming.

All of these measures will contribute to our aim to deliver a biodiversity net gain which significantly exceeds the minimum 10% requirement.

## What is biodiversity net gain?

Biodiversity net gain is used to describe the process of increasing the overall biodiversity of a given area. It is calculated using the difference between pre-development and post-development habitat data.



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# Community benefit

**We want to ensure that the local community can directly benefit from Lentons Lane Solar Farm.**

At this early stage, we have identified some initial ideas for how the solar farm could bring extra value to the local community. We now want to understand what is important to you to develop these in more detail.

**Our initial ideas include:**

Supporting community buildings and homes with solar panels and energy-saving upgrades

Enhancing local green spaces like Sowe Common

Apprenticeships for local young people and adults

Pop-up educational classroom within the solar farm

Energy advice sessions for local residents

We want our plans for community benefit to be led by local voices. Please make sure you share any thoughts you have with the team here today and as part of your written feedback to this consultation.

# Construction and operation

## Construction

Should our proposals receive planning permission, we would aim to start work in the last half of 2026, with the construction period taking up to one year to complete. We would agree a Construction Traffic Management Plan with local councils before work could begin on site. This would set out how we would manage construction activities and traffic to reduce disruption for local residents.

Since we last consulted, we have moved the proposed access into the main site away from properties on Lentons Lane as shown below. Vehicles would then arrive into a temporary construction compound.

## Operation

Once built, solar farms are quiet neighbours, posing no risks to the surrounding community and requiring little upkeep once they are up and running.

As well as supporting Coventry's Climate Change Strategy, the Council would benefit from a reliable source of revenue from Lentons Lane Solar Farm which it could use to fund local services.

Lentons Lane Solar Farm would be operational for 30 years. This lifespan would be secured as a condition of our planning consent. After this time, the solar farm would be decommissioned and the land returned back to the landowner, remaining in the green belt.





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# Next steps

## Thank you for taking the time to attend this drop-in session about our proposals for Lentons Lane Solar Farm.

Feedback from this consultation will help shape the planning applications that we will submit to Coventry City Council and Rugby Borough Council later this year.

### You can find out more by:



Visiting our project website  
**[www.lentonslanesolarfarm.co.uk](http://www.lentonslanesolarfarm.co.uk)**  
to view these banners again, sign up to our public webinar and complete the online questionnaire.



Contacting us on our freephone number  
**0800 038 3486** or by emailing us at  
**[info@lentonslanesolarfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@lentonslanesolarfarm.co.uk)**

Scan to share your feedback online.



### You can respond to our consultation by:



Filling in our consultation questionnaire and posting it to: **FAO Lentons Lane Solar Farm, Freepost SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL**



Filling in our online questionnaire on our project website:  
**[www.lentonslanesolarfarm.co.uk](http://www.lentonslanesolarfarm.co.uk)**



Emailing us your response to  
**[info@lentonslanesolarfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@lentonslanesolarfarm.co.uk)**

\*SEC Newgate UK is a company which is facilitating the public consultation on behalf of E.ON and Coventry City Council