

# Welcome to our drop-in session

We are pleased to welcome you to Stage 2 of our stakeholder consultation process.

Stage 1 of the consultation process consisted of two community drop-in events held in August and November 2025. The intention of these events was to gather feedback to influence the evolution of the design. A summary of this feedback is detailed in our “Your feedback” banner.

## Project timeline



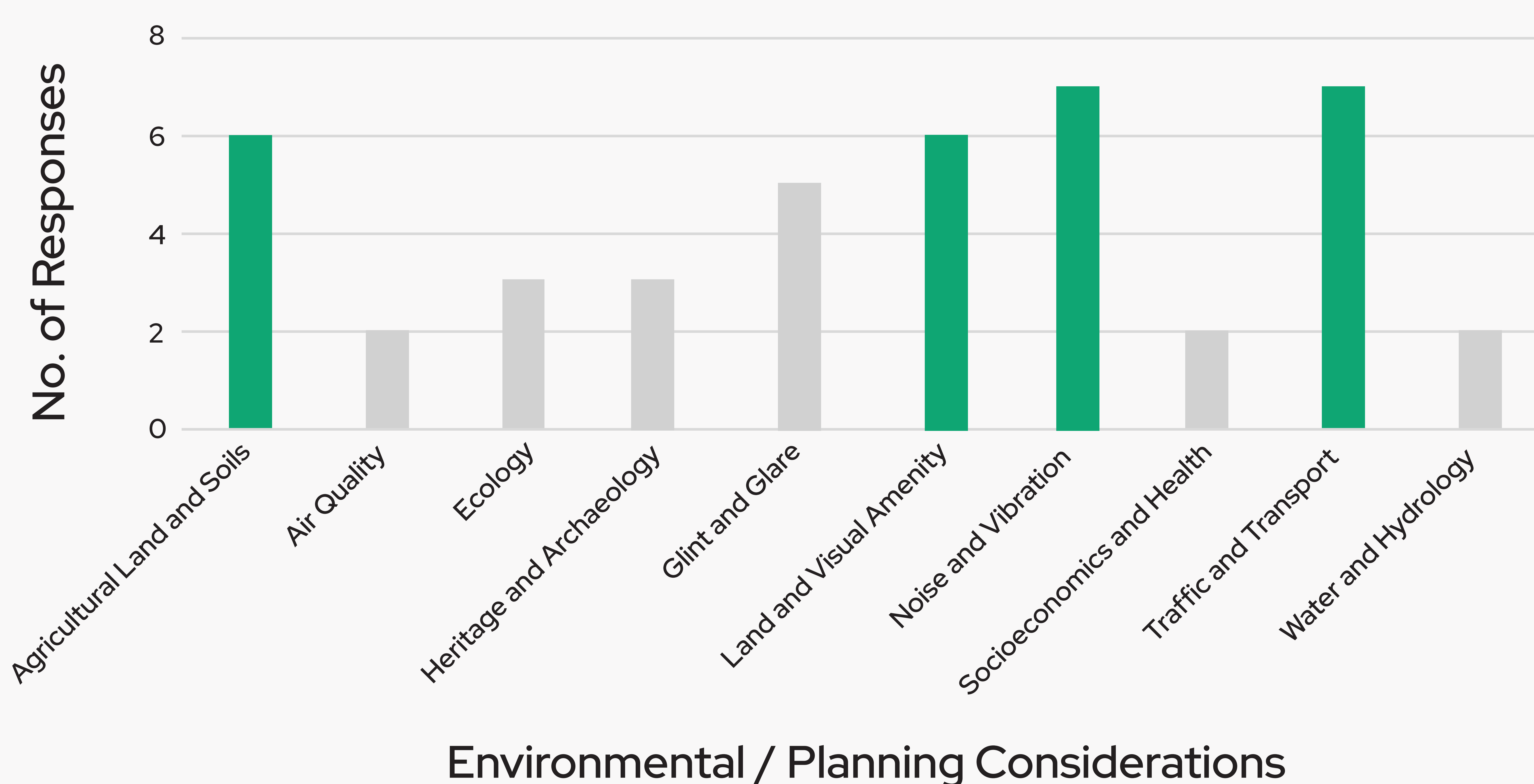
# Your feedback

We are grateful for all feedback provided during the first stage of our consultation. Analysing this feedback has allowed us to determine **what the community cares about most**, which we have summarised below:

## How supportive are you of Renewable Energy?

**70%** of the local community are supportive of Renewable Energy Projects

### What are the key environmental and planning considerations that you feel to be important in this locality?



The key considerations raised were **Landscape & Visual Amenity, Agricultural Land & Soils, Noise & Vibration and Traffic & Transport**. We have directly used this feedback to influence the proposed design as shown in our "You said, we did" banner.

# Design elements



## Solar panels

- These are arranged in rows known as 'strings' connected to each other by cables to transfer electricity to the inverters.
- These will be a maximum of 3.6m at their highest point.
- We have refined the areas used for solar, removing certain areas following stakeholder feedback and technical considerations.



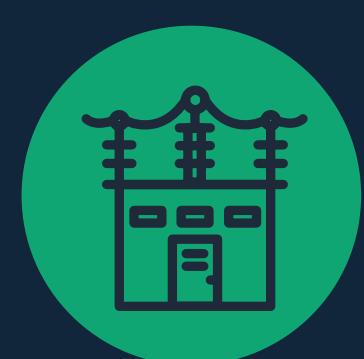
## Inverters

- Inverters are needed to convert the direct current (DC) electricity generated by the solar panels into alternating current (AC) electricity which is suitable for use by Kao Data and the National Grid.
- The dimension of an inverter station is typically 2.3m (H) X 2.8m (W) X 1.6m (D).



## Cabling

- Underground cables will connect the solar farm to Kao Data's Harlow Campus.



## Customer substation

- The substation will collect all the power from the solar farm and 'step up' the voltage to send it to Kao Data's Harlow Campus, where the energy generated will be used by the data centre, and any excess exported to the National Grid.
- This area comprises of electrical equipment such as switchgear and transformers.



## Retained agriculture

- The current land use is arable farming. We would intend to continue the agricultural use of the land through sheep grazing beneath and around the solar panels as we do on many of our solar farms across the UK.



## Mitigation, enhancement and new planting

- Areas not proposed for solar panels would be managed for mitigation or ecological and biodiversity enhancement.
- We will reinforce and extend existing tree lines and hedgerows on site.
- New trees and hedgerows are proposed to help visually screen views of the project and increase biodiversity.



## Safety and security

- The site will be secured with a 1.8m tall deer fence comprising a wire mesh and wooden posts.
- 2.8m tall security fencing will be around the customer substation area for additional safety and security.

# Community benefit

We are committed to making a positive contribution through our tailored community benefit package:

## One off community payment

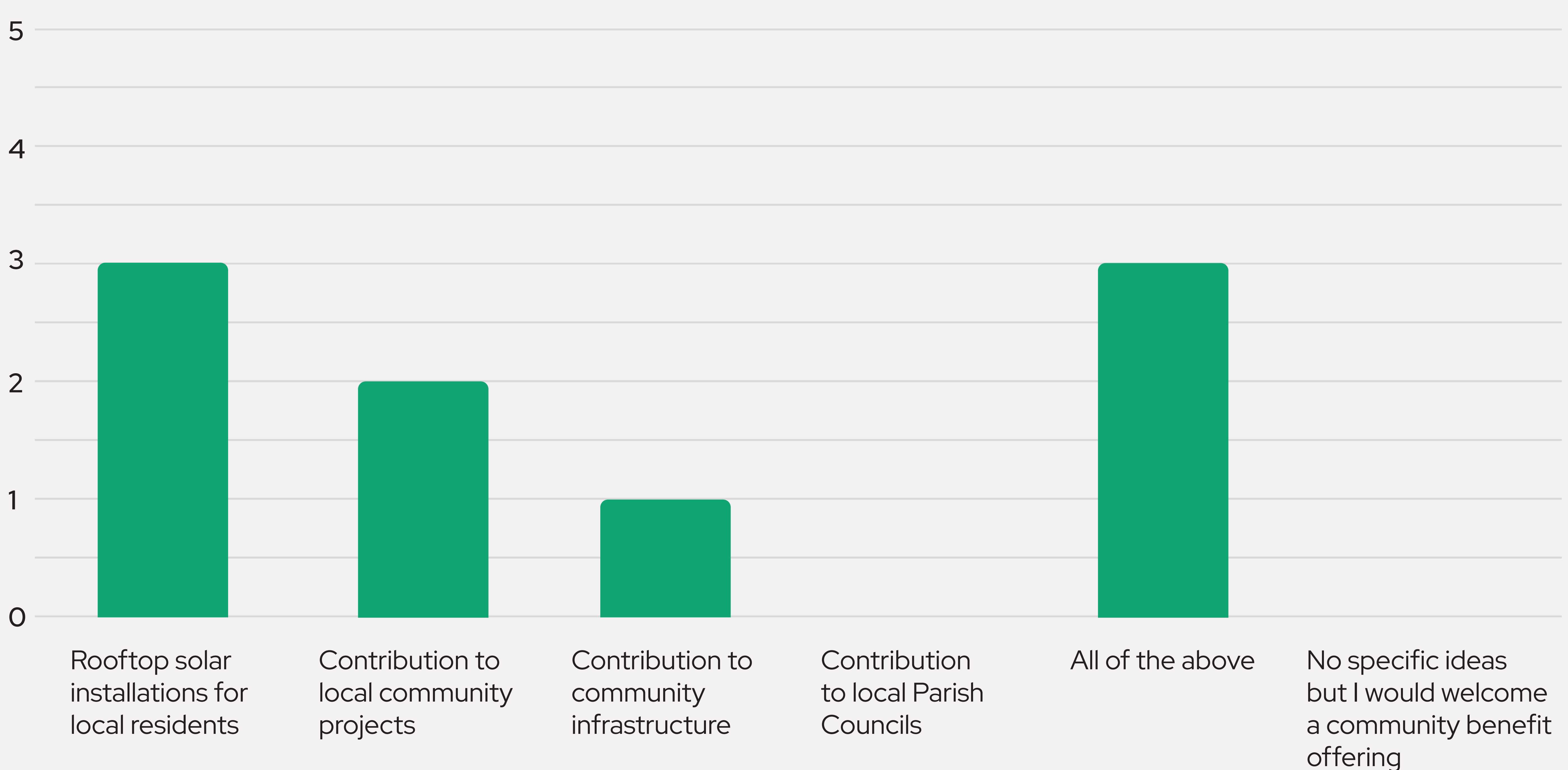
A one-off community payment of £100,000 will be split between local Parish Councils to support local initiatives and community projects.

## Domestic solar installations

Three free local domestic solar installations, per year, for forty years will be provided to residents and businesses during the operational life of the solar farm.

During Stage 1 of our community consultation, we gathered feedback on what and how the local community would like this benefit to be provided.

What type of community benefit would be meaningful to you and the community?



# You said, **we did**

Following your feedback during Stage 1 of our community consultation, we have implemented your feedback in the following ways:



## **There are concerns over the volume of construction traffic accessing the site"**

We have undertaken a Construction Traffic Management Plan and Transport Statement which demonstrated that the development poses no significant impacts on the existing roadways in the area. Construction traffic will attend site outside of busy periods (such as rush hour) to minimise any disruption. We have also outlined a designated route for site vehicles to minimise the traffic on the local road network.



## **There are concerns that the landscape will be impacted by this proposed development, will there be visual screening on site to protect visual amenity?"**

We endeavour to minimise the visual impact of the project as this was a key consideration of the local community. In order to minimise the visual impact, we have incorporated significant property buffers and exclusion zones to offset the site from neighbouring properties by over 100m. We will also provide additional screening measures as shown on our landscape masterplan. This shows proposed planting of hedgerows, vegetation and trees whilst removing significant areas of solar that were in close proximity to residential homes to mitigate the potential land and visual impact.



## **There are concerns that the development will use agricultural land?"**

This Site was selected following a site selection exercise. Following this, an Agricultural Land Classification Survey was prioritised and undertaken which confirmed the Site contains only Grade 3 land. This was the lowest grade available in the site selection area, with all other land under consideration being Grade 2. In addition to this, while the land will no longer be used for crop farming during the lifetime of the project, the agricultural use of the land can continue through sheep grazing for the duration of the planning permission.



## **How much noise will the site produce?"**

Noise was a key consideration to the local community during our first community event. In response, through design, we have situated all noise generating equipment away from potential noise receptors and homes to ensure that noise levels are below the existing background noise level. A Noise Impact Assessment has also been completed which concluded that the site would not create an adverse impact locally.

## Next steps

The feedback you provide will directly influence the final proposals that we submit to Epping Forest District Council and Harlow Council as part of the planning application.

Following the second stage of our consultation, we will collate all feedback and finalise the design of the scheme before submitting a formal planning application in March 2026.

## Project timeline



## Your feedback

The Green Data Solar Farm team welcome all feedback you have on the detailed proposals. You can provide this through our feedback form or through email submission.

Please note our pre-submission consultation period closes on 6th March 2026. Please ensure that any feedback is sent in advance of the period closing.



Call us on:  
**020 7416 7780**



Find out more on our project website:  
**[downing-renewables.co.uk/drd-projects](http://downing-renewables.co.uk/drd-projects)**



The team want to hear from you Email:  
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