# Frequently Asked Questions

**December**

Please note that the answers set out below are based on current information.

| Question | Answer |
|---|---|
| **Environmental & Land Impact** | |
| | |
| 1. What measures will be taken to minimise disruption to local wildlife and biodiversity? | We have carried out a full suite of detailed ecological assessments to understand the existing habitats and species in the area. Based on this survey information, we are designing measures including enhancement to the reens and ditches, planting wildflower meadows, creating wildlife corridors, and avoiding sensitive habitats (such as lapwing nesting sites and shrill carder bee habitat).<br><br>Fencing will be designed to allow small mammals to pass through, and bird and bat boxes may be installed to encourage biodiversity gains. The result will be that the site will deliver a significant net biodiversity improvement over its lifetime, compared to its current state/uses. |
| 2. How will the project affect agricultural land use and soil quality? | The solar farm is designed to be a temporary and reversible land use and the direct impacts on the ground would be minimal. During its operational life, the land will not be subject to intensive farming, allowing the soil to rest and recover. Grazing by sheep can continue between the panels, maintaining agricultural use alongside clean energy generation and allowing a dual income. We will use low-impact construction methods to protect soil quality and avoid compaction. Moreover, the development is sited to avoid higher grade (BMV) land within the wider vicinity such as areas of Monmouthshire. |
| 3. Do existing water pipes or drainage infrastructure run under the proposed solar panels? | A full utilities search of the site has been undertaken so that the applicant is aware of all pipe work and infrastructure across the area. The development has been planned to observe any necessary easements and stand-off distances. |

| | |
|---|---|
| | There is a sewage pipe which runs along the southern boundary of the development site. An easement over this pipe will be observed and the area around the pipe and as far as the sea wall will remain undeveloped, with the area managed as an 'ecological corridor' to improve habitat connectivity for ecology across the site area. |
| 4. What plans are in place for decommissioning the site after its operational lifespan? | The project has a proposed lifespan of 40 years. At the end of this period, all panels, structures, and associated infrastructure will be removed, and the land will be restored to its previous agricultural use.<br><br>A decommissioning plan will be developed and approved by relevant consultees and the host Local Authorities (Newport Council and Monmouthshire Council) as part of the planning process. |
| 5. Will funds be set aside to cover the decommissioning costs and how will these be estimated? | Yes. Decommissioning costs will be estimated based on industry standards and current market rates, with an allowance for inflation.<br><br>A financial security mechanism (such as a bond or fund) will be put in place to ensure that sufficient money is available to cover the costs of decommissioning when the time comes. This is a legal requirement. |
| 6. Are there plans that can be shared with the village showing the exact location of infrastructure? | Yes. Site layout plans are being prepared and will be made publicly available. These will clearly show the location of panels, access tracks, transformers, and any other infrastructure.<br><br>We are committed to being transparent and will share these plans through public exhibitions and the project website. A full public consultation process will commence in Winter 2025. |
| 7. What is the planned density of panels? | The panels will be positioned across the fields shown on the draft plans. The remaining space is left as open grassland, tracks, or biodiversity enhancement areas. The arrays only typically cover around 20%-30% of the site area and with minimal direct impact on the ground resulting from the foundations. |

| | |
|---|---|
| | The spacing of the panels spacing ensures efficient energy generation while leaving room for light, air, and continued ecological and agricultural activity (such as sheep grazing).<br><br>In total, only about 1 to 1.5% of the land itself will be taken by infrastructure (i.e. the piles for the solar panels, the footprints of the substations and access roads, etc.). |
| 8. Will the environmental management of the site be for the lifetime of the project? Or will it just be at the outset? | The environmental management commitments will cover the full operational timescale of the development.<br><br>There will be some initial works which happen at the commencement of the development, including the clearance of reens and ditches. There will also be ongoing management with specific actions planned to take place periodically depending on the activity.<br><br>All actions would be specified in the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP), and would be tied to the development through the Consent Order. The LEMP will include commitments for ongoing monitoring and contingency to ensure that the plan is appropriately implemented to ensure enhancements to protected species and a net benefit to biodiversity across the site. The LEMP would be open to amendment and revision during the site's operational life also, as we can learn from monitoring and results during operation. |
| 9. Will the project's carbon footprint be assessed across its full life cycle? | Yes. The carbon footprint will be measured in full. The assessment will form part of the wider Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). |
| | |
| **Community Engagement & Benefits** | |
| 10. How will the community be involved in decision-making throughout the project? | We want this project to be shaped with the community, not just delivered to it. We are holding public consultation events, publishing information online, and meeting with local representatives. Feedback will directly inform the final design and decisions about community benefits. |

| | |
|---|---|
| | Ongoing engagement will continue during construction and operation.<br><br>As this is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), it requires a Development Consent Order (DCO) from UK Government.<br><br>This entails a strict and extensive requirement for formal consultation on the proposals by the developer, followed by an Examination in public run by an independent inspector appointed by the Planning Inspectorate. This means that there will be multiple points at which interested parties can provide their feedback on the plans. The next phase of consultation will take place this Winter and will be publicised widely in due course. |
| 11. Are there opportunities for local employment or investment in the development? | Yes. Where possible, we will work with local contractors and suppliers during construction and maintenance. We will share information about tendering opportunities locally.<br><br>We are holding a supplier event in mid-November. We'd encourage anyone with a skill or relevant trade to attend that and share their details with us.<br><br>We are also committed to delivering a Community Benefit Fund of £250,000 per annum |
| 12. Will there be any direct benefits for residents, such as discounted energy rates or community funding? | Direct supply of discounted electricity is not always possible because of how the UK energy grid operates.<br><br>However, we are committed to establishing a substantial community benefit fund that can support local projects chosen by residents. This ensures the whole community can share in the benefits of the scheme. This has been discussed with Redwick Community Group, and we are committed to continued engagement as we refine our thinking on this topic.<br><br>Other potential benefits are also being considered, such as EV Charging to be installed for the benefit of local |

| | |
|---|---|
| | motorists over the 40 year operational period of the development. We are also looking at the possibility of facilitating fast fibre broadband to Redwick village. |
| 13. How will any community benefit fund be managed? Can this be the local Community Group charity? | We are open to working with established, trusted local organisations to administer the community benefit fund. This could be Redwick Community Group or another body chosen by the community.<br><br>Transparency and local decision-making will be central to how the fund is managed. |
| 14, Who decides how the Community Benefit Fund is managed and distributed? How can we be clear on how it is fairly split and distributed to those most affected? | The Community Benefit Fund is proposed by the developer on a voluntary basis and it is not a planning policy requirement.<br><br>As such, the developer is ultimately responsible for deciding how the fund will be managed and is seeking to do this is the most effective and equitable way. For this reason the developer is actively seeking the views of the community so that a fair split can be agreed and so that it can be managed appropriately for the duration of the proposed development. |
| 15. Are there any formal requirements for community benefit contributions from solar projects? | There is no formal, legal requirement for the delivery of a community benefit fund for solar farms. However there are examples and guidance around best practice. The developer is looking to provide an exemplary package which is both generous and well-administered to secure long-term, meaningful benefit for the community. |
| 16. Will the developer adhere to recommendations to contribute £5,000/MW of capacity to community funds? | We are committed to ensuring the fund provides meaningful, lasting support for local priorities. However, the £5,000 per MW figure is generally accepted as an industry standard figure for onshore wind development. This is not often feasible for solar schemes due to the differences in finance, viability and funding. Indeed, the 'capacity factor' (the time spent generating at its maximum installed output) for wind in the UK is approximately 35%-40% whereas Solar is 10%-15%.<br><br>Solar Energy UK (the Solar Development Industry body) has identified a figure of £400 per MW for developments |

| | |
|---|---|
| | over 5MW in size as an appropriate/achievable figure for solar schemes in the UK. The proposal of £250,000 per annum exceeds best practice. |
| 17. It has been suggested that communal charging points may be available for residents. Is this likely? Where will the charging points be located? How many charging points will there be? How will access to the points be controlled? | This is something that we are considering as a local community benefit. However, we are also open to feedback on this as early discussion suggested this may not be of benefit locally as few have electric cars in Redwick, and could be difficult to manage or prevent those living further afield using it. We would welcome feedback on all those points raised to understand village sentiment and preferences so that we can take this into account.<br><br>We would however note that the benefit is intended to cover the full 40 year operational period during which time, it is likely that far more residents will own EVs. Further details at this stage are still pending consideration until we have a firmer view on the merits and practicalities of delivering this as a local benefit.<br><br>In general terms:<br>- It is estimated that £13.5 million will contribute to local businesses during the construction phase.<br>- It is estimated that the proposals will generate work for around 5,000 Wales-based employees and contractors including around 200 new job roles created due to expansion of local businesses. |
| 18. Can the Community Benefit fund be used to help improve the water supply to the village? There is low water pressure and fluctuations in supply – if that could be improved, it would be a local benefit. | In principle, the applicant is happy for the funds to be used in this way and this is an issue which the project team are looking to explore. The water supply to the village is managed by Welsh Water so the fund would need to align with their operations. A further update on this matter will be provided in due course. |

| | |
|---|---|
| 19. Can the Community Benefit fund be used to help improve broadband to the village? | As above, the applicant is happy for the funds to be used for this purpose but any expenditure would need to align with the service provider. |
| 20. Is the Community Benefit Fund index-linked? | Yes. The fund will be index linked to ensure it keeps pace with inflation. |
| **Infrastructure & Aesthetics** | |
| 21. What will the visual impact be, and how will it be mitigated? | We recognise that a solar farm is a visible development, and minimising visual impact is a key priority. This has been factored from the outset of the project's inception, with distance being left from surrounding roads and properties to ensure the project remains discreet in the landscape. Within a flat landscape this ensures visual impacts are minimised through the configuration of the project. Distance is now also observed to the Wales Coast Path where an ecological corridor is proposed along the east west axis of the site.<br><br>A detailed Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) is being carried out to understand how the project would be seen from homes, roads, and public viewpoints. Mitigation will include:<br><br>• Designing panel heights and layouts to fit with the landscape character.<br>• Using non-reflective materials on transmission componentry to reduce glare.<br>• All cables will be trenched below ground to avoid elevated infrastructure.<br><br>Due to the nature of the land and topography of this area, there are few elevated positions meaning that there will be very few locations where panels will be significantly visible. The flat topography assists in blocking panels from view for the majority of the local area, as panels will not generally rise above the height of hedgerows. |

| | |
|---|---|
| 22. How will construction affect local roads, traffic, and noise levels? | We recognise that this would be an important consideration for local residents, and we are keen to ensure that our approach to construction is as sensitive to the local area as possible. A key feature of the design is how the scheme has been planned to minimise the need for traffic movements being routed through the village, with the scheme looking to utilise internal tracks as far as possible.<br><br>As a minimum, construction will be carefully managed to reduce disruption, taking advice from the local highways authority and relevant consultees. We also welcome local community feedback on this point to ensure that we are managing the process efficiently and appropriately. There will be local knowledge that we can take into account, that technical consultees will not be aware of – a good example of this is local farmers moving cattle back and forth for milking at certain times of day. We're keen to make sure we capture this information and incorporate it into our plans. A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will set out:<br>• Agreed delivery routes to avoid narrow village lanes where possible.<br>• Restricted hours for construction traffic to avoid school runs and peak times.<br>• Temporary traffic management (signage, escorts if required) to maintain safety.<br>• Noise levels will be limited to standard working hours and monitored to ensure compliance with environmental standards. We will also publish regular updates so residents know when to expect periods of higher activity. |
| 23. What maintenance is required for the solar panels throughout the project's lifespan? | The panels would be monitored remotely. Preventative maintenance activities and land management activities would be scheduled to take place throughout the year, with work weighted towards the Spring to Autumn seasons. We would expect preventative maintenance in most months, with activity concentrated around an |

| | |
|---|---|
| | annual major inspection and maintenance campaign of perhaps three weeks' duration. In addition to the preventative maintenance activities, there would be a need for maintenance contractors to attend site to deal with unscheduled maintenance requirements, for example faults or component failures. Overall, we would expect there to be maintenance or land management presence on site in most weeks. The normal mode of transport for technical maintenance workers would be small or medium sized vans, with land management activities requiring larger, locally sourced plant and equipment. |
| 24. Where will water for cleaning the solar panels come from, and will it affect the village water supply? | Based on experience from the operational Llanwern project, it is expected that there would be an annual cleaning cycle for the FEL project panels. The cleaning contractors for the FEL project would be required to bring demineralised cleaning water to site with them (likely via bowsers) and would not use the local water supply. |
| 25. Will there be any restrictions on land access or public pathways? | Public rights of way (PROWs) crossing or adjoining the site will be respected. Where necessary for safety during construction, temporary diversions will be provided. In operation, paths will remain open and, in some cases, may be enhanced with better surfacing, planting, or signage. Two PROWs will be subject to diversion as part of the project but these diversions will follow a more logical route to ensure connectivity between other routes.<br><br>We are committed to maintaining public access and protecting community use of the countryside. We are also very much aware of the proximity of the Wales Coastal Path, and preserving the amenity and access to that is a key consideration. |
| 26. Can the developers commit to all cabling being underground? | Yes. All cabling within the site will be buried underground wherever technically and environmentally feasible. The connection to the Whitson Substation compound will also be underground unless there are exceptional engineering reasons that require otherwise. This |

| | |
|---|---|
| | approach reduces visual impact and protects agricultural use of the land. |
| 27. How and where with the interconnect to the National Grid be? | The connection point is at Whitson Substation which is determined by National Grid. The specific details of the location and route of the connection will be clearly shared with the community, and designed to minimise environmental and visual effects (using underground cables where possible). Further detail on this will be available at the forthcoming consultation in Winter 2025. |
| 28. How long will the site take to develop and what are the proposed rollout plan (assuming a build and go-live by phase approach)? | The build programme will depend on final design and grid connection arrangements. At present, we are considering a phased approach, where parts of the site are built before others which would reduce the intensity of construction activity at any one time. A detailed construction timetable will be published ahead of works, so residents know what to expect and when. |
| | |
| **Technical & Safety Considerations** | |
| 29. What battery storage solutions will be used, and how will safety risks be managed? | No battery storage is proposed as part of the application. |
| 30. How will the site be secured to prevent unauthorised access? | The site will be enclosed by stock-proof fencing, designed to blend into the landscape while ensuring security. CCTV may be used at key access points, monitored remotely. Access gates will be locked, with only authorised personnel permitted entry. At the same time, fencing will include measures such as small mammal gaps to allow wildlife movement. Our goal is to balance effective security with environmental sensitivity. |
| 31. What contingency plans exist for extreme weather events or system failures? | Solar farms are designed to withstand a wide range of weather conditions. Panels and structures are engineered to industry standards for wind, rain, and snow loading.<br>For resilience:<br>• Equipment will be monitored remotely 24/7 to detect faults or outages.<br>• Back-up systems and rapid-response maintenance teams will be in place. |

| | |
|---|---|
| | • Emergency procedures will be developed with local authorities and emergency services.<br>• In the event of severe weather or a system failure, the site can be shut down safely until repairs are made.<br>• All transmission infrastructure would be mounted above the modelled flood risk height |
| | |
| **Regulatory & Planning Compliance** | |
| 32. How does the project align with national and local planning policies? | The project has been designed to support both national and local planning objectives.<br><br>Nationally, it contributes to the UK Government's legally binding target to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and its ambition to increase renewable energy capacity.<br><br>Locally, it aligns with planning policies that encourage clean energy generation, biodiversity enhancement, and sustainable land use. Our application will demonstrate how the scheme complies with both national guidance (such as the National Policy Statements for Energy) and relevant local development plan policies. |
| 33. Who will decide whether the project is approved, and what is the timeline for development? | The project will ultimately be determined by the Secretary of State (SoS).<br><br>The Planning Inspectorate will appoint an Examining Authority (ExA) comprised of one or more Planning Inspectors who will review evidence, conducts hearings, site visits, and written questions before preparing a report outlining their recommendation to the SoS. The SoS will then have 3 months to determine whether to grant or refuse consent. |
| 34. The site covers several separate parcels of land. Are these combined to avoid a different planning process, and will each | The project represents a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as the generation capacity of the scheme exceeds 350MW. The scheme could not legally be authorised as separate projects as it represents a single coherent development proposal. |

| | |
|---|---|
| area be assessed on its own merits? | All elements of the scheme will be assessed (transport, visual impacts, ecology etc.) through the environmental impact assessment, covering the whole site. However, there is no need to determine whether separate areas of the scheme would be policy compliant on their own as the development as a whole must comply. |
| 35. Does this project have to take into account all the other proposed projects in the area? (Rushwall, Craig y Perthi, etc?) | Yes. The EIA will include an assessment of cumulative impacts, taking into account projects which are existing and / or approved planning permission, and those which are reasonably foreseeable to come forward at this stage. |
| 36. If Regional Pricing were to be instated – would that represent a benefit for the local area? | It is not possible to accurately assess what changes it would have made to electricity prices in the area local to the FEL project had the UK government decided to progress with the regional pricing model. Regional pricing proposal was dropped earlier this year following a two year consultation period. |
| 37. What permits and approvals are required, and at what stage is the project currently? | For a project of this scale, a **Development Consent Order (DCO)** under the Planning Act 2008 is required, rather than a standard planning permission.<br><br>As part of this process, environmental permits may also be needed (e.g. for drainage, water discharge, or protected species licences) and these can be authorised through the Consent Order legislation. The project is currently in the **pre-application consultation stage**, meaning we are gathering feedback from local residents, authorities, and statutory consultees before submitting a formal application to the Planning Inspectorate. Further details about the process will be shared at the consultation process due to take place this winter. |
| 38. How will compliance with environmental regulations be ensured? | To summarise, compliance with environmental regulations will be ensured through:<br><br>• A full **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**, submitted with the DCO application, which considers potential effects on landscape, wildlife, water, noise, traffic, and heritage. |

| | |
|---|---|
| | • Ongoing oversight from statutory bodies such as Natural Resources Wales (NRW), and the local planning authority (Newport City Council).<br>• Strict environmental management plans during construction, setting out how contractors must control dust, noise, water run-off, and waste.<br>• Monitoring throughout construction and operation, with reporting mechanisms to ensure standards are maintained.<br>• All commitments would be secured through requirements under the DCO, allowing the LPA to control and enforce all proposed measures. |
| 39. When will the traffic management plan be ready? | A draft **Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP)** will be prepared as part of the DCO application and refined before construction begins.<br><br>This plan will be informed by transport surveys, road safety assessments, and feedback from the local community and highways authority. The final version will be approved before any construction traffic is allowed on site.<br><br>Draft information will be available to review at the consultation due to take place in Winter 2025, and a draft CTMP will be submitted alongside the other application documents for consideration by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) – there is opportunity to review and comment on this during the Examination process. |
| 40. Which routes would the construction vehicles take and how long would construction take? | Construction vehicles will use designated routes agreed with the local highways authority, designed to avoid unsuitable narrow lanes and to minimise impacts on residential areas. At present it is proposed that approximately four points of access would be used,<br><br>Construction of this project would be phased over a total period of approximately 3 years but with the majority of vehicle movements happening in condensed periods at |

| | |
|---|---|
| | the start of the construction process, during which time, materials would be delivered to the site.<br><br>Work will be carefully phased to limit disruption, with clear communication to residents about traffic levels and expected activity at each stage. |
| 41. Will local bridges and roads be checked for safety before use? | Yes. Local bridges and roads will be assessed. This will involve a tracking assessment to ensure that the road network is capable of accommodating all vehicles required for the development.<br><br>Bridges and structural capacity will also be assessed bot on the proposed access route and within the site itself. The local highway authority are being consulted to confirm suitability.<br><br>Lastly, a pre-commencement condition survey of the access routes would also be undertaken so that any damage caused by the construction process could be identified and rectified to ensure that there is no lasting damage caused by the project. |
| 42. Will roads be *improved?* Roads currently are in a poor state – a local benefit would be an improvement to the road network, rather than just repairing to current condition. | In addition to the above commitments for reinstating any damage, a betterment would be sought wherever possible.<br><br>As explained above, funds from the Community Benefit Fund could be directed towards targeted upgrades pending agreement with the asset owner. |
| 43. Will any piling, noise and vibrations from construction (piling) be monitored carefully? Noise and vibrations travel a long way in this area. Will any damage caused on local property be paid for/insured? | Yes. All noise and vibration effects will be assessed through the EIA and if appropriate, necessary mitigation would be applied to prevent significant impacts. This might include the timing of certain activities or the use of particular construction activities to minimise impacts.<br><br>Any damage to local property is highly unlikely noting the proposed development area. However if damage were to |

| | |
|---|---|
| | occur then the contractor would be responsible and insured to cover such an eventuality. |
| | |
| **Long-Term Sustainability** | |
| 44. What commitments are being made to ensure the project's long-term viability? | The solar farm is being designed with a 40 year operational lifespan. Long-term viability is supported by:<br>• Robust engineering standards – panels, inverters, and infrastructure are sourced from proven suppliers with warranties.<br>• Maintenance contracts – regular inspections and upkeep to ensure consistent performance.<br>• Financial security – decommissioning bonds and reserve funds ensure obligations can always be met at the end of life.<br>• Community partnership – establishing strong local relationships to ensure the project continues to deliver benefits throughout its life. |
| 45. How will the developer monitor and report on environmental and operational performance? | We will monitor and report on the performance of the site in several ways. Further details will be confirmed in due course.<br>• **Environmental monitoring**: Ongoing surveys of biodiversity, habitats, and drainage will track whether mitigation and enhancement measures are effective.<br>• **Operational monitoring**: The solar farm will be monitored 24/7 for output, safety, and equipment condition.<br>• **Reporting**: Annual reports will summarise environmental performance, energy generation, and community benefit fund activity. These reports will be shared with the local authority and made publicly available to residents.<br>• **Compliance audits**: Independent audits may be undertaken to ensure compliance with environmental and planning conditions. |
| 46. Are there plans for future expansion, and | There are no plans for further expansion. The application relates only to the land and capacity set out in the |

| | |
|---|---|
| how would that affect the community? | consultation materials/discussed to date. There is no desire to seek an expansion, and in fact, it's likely that the site will reduce in scale if anything as further survey results feed into the design process. Ultimately the size of the site is controlled by the planning permission and by the agreed connection to the grid. |
| | |
| **Financial & Economic Considerations** | |
| 47. What is the estimated financial impact on local property values? | There is no consistent evidence that solar farms reduce property values. Factors such as visual screening, distance from the site, and quality of landscaping all play a role in how the project is experienced from local houses. We are committed to minimising visual and environmental impacts through careful design and mitigation, helping to protect the character of the area.<br><br>By way of an example, the existing Llanwern Solar Farm has not impacted property values in Goldcliff. Another example would be the relatively recent wind turbines which have been built nearby to Redwick. |
| 48. Will there be any compensation or incentives for affected residents? | While compensation for individual households is not a standard part of renewable energy projects, we are establishing a **community benefit fund** so that the whole community can share in the positive impacts. This fund will support local projects chosen by residents — such as energy efficiency schemes, village facilities, or environmental improvements. In addition, we are exploring whether direct benefits (e.g. EV charging points, energy advice programmes) can be offered to residents closest to the site. |
| 49. How will the project contribute to local economic development? | The project will deliver local economic benefits in several ways:<br>• **Jobs and contracts** during construction and operation, with opportunities for local suppliers, contractors, and service providers. |

| | |
|---|---|
| | • **Ongoing land use** – farmers can continue sheep grazing alongside the solar panels, providing an additional source of income.<br>• **Community benefit fund** – creating long-term investment into local priorities.<br>• **Clean energy generation** – supporting Wales's climate and energy targets, making the region more attractive for sustainable businesses and investment. |
| | |
| **Grid & Energy Distribution** | |
| 50. How will the generated electricity be distributed, and will the local grid infrastructure be upgraded? | The project will connect to National Grid's transmission network and no additional works are required on the grid itself to facilitate the connection. |
| 51. What percentage of the energy will be used locally versus exported? | Electricity generated by the solar farm will be fed directly into the National Grid. This means the energy cannot be directed only to local households, but instead becomes part of the wider electricity system. However, the **physical proximity of the connection point means that a portion of the electricity is likely to be consumed locally** before flowing further through the grid. While it isn't possible to guarantee an exact percentage used locally, the project will contribute to a cleaner, more resilient energy supply for the whole region. |
| 52. How will grid connection and capacity constraints be managed? | The project has secured unconstrained capacity on the National Transmission network. The project holds three separate grid connection agreements which all connect at the Whitson Substation. |
| 53. Will the proposals affect power supply or cause power cuts in Redwick? (Both during construction, and once operational?) | No. The project will connect to the National Transmission network and its connection to the grid is likely to be undertaken during a period of planned outage. Once operational, the project will simply supply electricity to the Welsh grid. |

| | |
|---|---|
| 54. Does this project have an agreed grid connection agreement? Can it export the electricity once built or will it be waiting to connect for several years? | Yes. The project has agreed connection offers for connection to the grid to export electricity.<br><br>The construction of the project would be timed to start the export of electricity without delay so it will not sit dormant within the landscape. The project is eligible to connect to the grid from 2028 and will be able to export once the first phase has been constructed and energised. |
| 55. There are already restrictions on households in Redwick seeking to install rooftop solar panels. Will this project make it more difficult for that to happen? | No. The project will connect to the national transmission network and therefore the supply of power to and from local residents would be undisturbed as this is provided through the local distribution network which operates separately. |
| 56. How much additional capacity is there on the Grid network for further solar or energy projects in this area? Can the Whitson substation take any more after this project? Is this project just one of several more that will completely surround Redwick? | There is no further spare capacity available at the Whitson Substation for solar, so this will be the final solar scheme unless National Grid spend a great deal of money to put in additional transformers. This is not planned for and the cost could not be justified by a solar scheme.<br><br>The opportunity that exists here is created by the spare capacity in the 33kV transformers originally installed for the Llanwern Steelworks no long being fully utilised.<br><br>Separate to the Whitson Substation, there are two 132kV circuits that cross the Levels and if the Rush Wall solar project proceeds then that will take all the capacity of one remaining circuit. The other is already fully utilised supporting the solar farm at Whitson. So there could not be any more solar schemes using the local NGED network.<br><br>If the FEL scheme is approved then any further applications would also need to assess cumulative impacts with the project. |
| | |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Community Ownership & Participation** | |
| 57. Is there an option for community investment or shared ownership? | It is possible to buy shares in the fund that will own the project (Next Energy Solar Fund / www.nextenergysolarfund.com). However, the most significant way in which the community would benefit is through a Community Benefit Fund ensuring a significant, reliable income without any liabilities. |
| 58. Can local businesses or cooperatives participate in the project? | Yes. A Supply Chain Event is scheduled for 19 November 2025 at the Coldra Court Hotel. There will be further, ongoing opportunities to discuss and find out more about the supply chain opportunities associated with the project. |
| 59. Will there be educational programs or initiatives to involve residents? | Yes. Local schools invited to the operational Llanwern scheme and would be invited to FEL upon energisation. NEC are conscious of their role as asset owners in the area and are committed to ongoing community engagement throughout the project. |
| | |
| **Transparency & Ongoing Communication** | |
| 60. Who is developing the project, and where are they located? Who owns Future Energy Llanwern Ltd? | The project is developed by a company called Future Energy Llanwern Limited – which in turn is funded by Next Energy Solar Fund. Once planning is achieved, Nextenergy Solar Fund would fund the construction of the project – and once complete, would own and operate the project. The group are committed to ensuring that the community are fully engaged and that the landowners and community have a stake in the benefits of the scheme. |
| 61. How will updates and progress reports be shared with the community? | We will keep residents informed throughout the life of the project via:<br>• **Regular newsletters** (digital and printed) with key updates.<br>• A **dedicated project website** containing planning documents, progress reports, and FAQs.<br>• **Public meetings or drop-in sessions** at key project milestones. |

| | |
|---|---|
| | Further information about our upcoming consultation will be made available shortly. |
| 62. What mechanisms will be in place for residents to raise concerns or provide feedback? | We are committed to a **clear and accessible feedback process**. Residents will be able to:<br>• Contact us via a **dedicated email and phone line**.<br>• Submit comments through the **project website**.<br>• Speak directly with project representatives at drop-in sessions or community events.<br>All feedback will be logged, acknowledged, and responded to within a reasonable timeframe. |
| 63. Will there be a dedicated liaison or community engagement officer? | Yes. Active during construction phase and thereafter, a dedicated point of contact during the operational phase. |
| | |
| **Legal & Insurance Considerations** | |
| 64. What liability protections exist for nearby residents in case of accidents or environmental damage? | A condition survey of all construction routes is to be completed prior to construction and any damage would be put right by the contractor without delay. All contractors will have liability insurance and the development itself would be insured to protect against damage or accidents. |
| 65. How will disputes or grievances be handled? | A liaison officer would be appointed in the first instance and would act as the first port of call. The Local Planning Authority would also enforce any planning requirements as appropriate. |
| 66. What insurance policies are in place to cover unforeseen risks? | Comprehensive insurance cover will be maintained throughout construction and operation, including:<br>• **Public liability insurance** – to cover injury or property damage affecting third parties.<br>• **Environmental liability insurance** – to cover costs related to accidental pollution or environmental harm.<br>• **Contractors' and operators' insurance** – ensuring responsibility is carried by those directly undertaking the work. |

| | |
|---|---|
| | • **Business continuity insurance** – to support recovery and minimise disruption in the event of extreme weather or system failures. |