

# Future Energy Llanwern - Statutory Consultation Webinar

January 2026



# Welcome to the Public Consultation

Future Energy Llanwern (FEL) is a proposed solar farm located on land south-east of the Llanwern Steelworks between Goldcliff and Magor. If consented, FEL would be capable of generating approximately 375 megawatts (MW) of clean electricity, enough to power approximately 108,000 homes.

You can provide feedback in the following ways:



Online: complete the feedback form at  
[futureenergylanwern.participatr.io](https://futureenergylanwern.participatr.io)



By email: send your comments to  
[enquiries@futureenergylanwern.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@futureenergylanwern.co.uk)



In person: view consultation materials  
and collect a feedback form at our  
deposit locations



By post: return your completed feedback  
form to **FREEPOST FEL SOLAR FARM**  
(no stamp required)



All feedback must be received by **Sunday 15 February 2026 at 11:59pm** to be  
considered as part of the Development Consent Order application.

A dual-use site combining renewable  
energy generation and sheep pasture



# The consenting process for Future Energy Llanwern

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Future Energy Llanwern is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). This means it needs permission from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, through a Statutory Instrument called a Development Consent Order (DCO).

- **Statutory consultation:** From 10 December 2025 to 15 February 2026, communities and stakeholders can review the plans and share feedback.
- **Application submission:** The DCO application will be submitted in Autumn/Winter 2026.
- **Examination and decision:** After submission, the application will be examined. The final decision will be made by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.



## Statutory consultation

- Formal public consultation led by the developer
- Includes events, feedback channels and bilingual materials
- Key opportunity for stakeholders to shape the proposal



## Application submission

- Developer submits the DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate
- Marks the transition from consultation to formal review



## Acceptance

- Planning Inspectorate checks the application for completeness and legal compliance
- Confirms whether the application can proceed to examination



## Pre-examination

- Interested parties register and prepare representations
- Preliminary meetings may occur to set the scope and timetable



## Examination

- Structured, time-limited process led by the Examining Authority
- Stakeholders present views, evidence and responses



## Decision

- Secretary of State reviews the Examining Authority's report
- Final decision issued, with potential conditions attached



## Post-decision

- Implementation begins, including discharge of requirements
- Monitoring and legacy planning may involve stakeholders

# What is Future Energy Llanwern?

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Future Energy Llanwern is a proposed solar farm with an installed capacity of approximately 375 MW, enough to supply around 108,000 homes. The solar farm will be located on land south of the Llanwern Steelworks and has been carefully planned to minimise visual and environmental impacts while contributing to Wales' and the UK's renewable energy targets.

The scheme has been informed by extensive technical, environmental, and community engagement to ensure it provides maximum benefit while protecting the surrounding landscape and habitats.

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## Inherent design mitigation

- **Setbacks from highways:** The site boundary has been positioned away from nearby roads leading in and out of the village, reducing visibility for residents and travellers.
- **Buffers to sensitive habitats:** Dedicated separation zones have been maintained around reen and ditch habitats, protecting ecological features and softening views of the development.

## Environmental planning and benefits

The project has been **carefully planned to minimise environmental impacts** and to deliver key benefits to the local environment. This will be achieved through sensitive design and proposed land management measures that will be in place for the duration of the development.



# Future Energy Llanwern

**Draft Proposals**

# About the Developer

NextEnergy Solar Fund (NESF) holds one of the UK's largest utility solar portfolios, together providing c.1GW of home grown green solar capacity across over 100 UK based projects. It is the funder sitting behind the Development Consent Order (DCO) application that will consent Future Energy Llanwern.

NESF is managed by NextEnergy Capital, a specialist UK-based solar manager that has played a central role in developing, constructing and owning solar energy projects across the globe since 2007.

NextEnergy Capital continues to manage the ownership/operation of the existing Llanwern solar farm.

With direct experience managing development, construction and ongoing operations on the Gwent Levels stretching back to 2017, NextEnergy Capital understands the importance of careful stewardship, environmental sensitivity and community engagement when delivering renewable energy infrastructure.

NESF are committed to maintaining transparent communication with local communities and stakeholders throughout the development process and onwards through its operation. Our goal is to ensure the project delivers lasting benefits for the area while minimising impacts on the landscape, wildlife and local people.



# The need for the project

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**Powering 108,000 homes:** 375MW project to supply clean energy for 8% of Welsh households.



**Creating Jobs:** FEL is expected to support around 5,000 Wales-based workers and contribute £13.5 million during construction.



**Restoring Nature and enhancing Biodiversity:** FEL seeks to improve the ecological status of key features of the SSSI



**Fighting fuel poverty:** Boosting domestic energy to cut reliance on volatile markets and protect vulnerable families.



**Supporting Local Farmers:** The scheme enables continued livestock grazing, improves soil and water quality, and provides a stable income for local farmers for 40 years.



**Driving Wales' Clean Energy Future:** Future Energy Llanwern aligns with national goals to meet 100% renewable electricity by 2035.



Further information about the project can be found at  
[www.futureenergylanwern.co.uk](http://www.futureenergylanwern.co.uk), or by scanning this QR Code.



# Our commitment to the environment

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Environmental stewardship is a core principle of Future Energy Llanwern. The project has been designed to generate clean electricity while protecting and enhancing the natural environment.

FEL seeks to restore the SSSI Features to a 'favourable' condition and will create wildlife friendly corridors to support pollinators and biodiversity. The solar arrays are arranged to minimise visual intrusion, while native planting and the active management of watercourses across the site will provide additional ecological benefits.

The project is designed to allow continued sheep grazing at a lower density, supporting local agriculture and maintaining the traditional use of the landscape. By combining clean energy production with habitat restoration and farming, Future Energy Llanwern aims to demonstrate how renewable energy can coexist with nature and the local community.



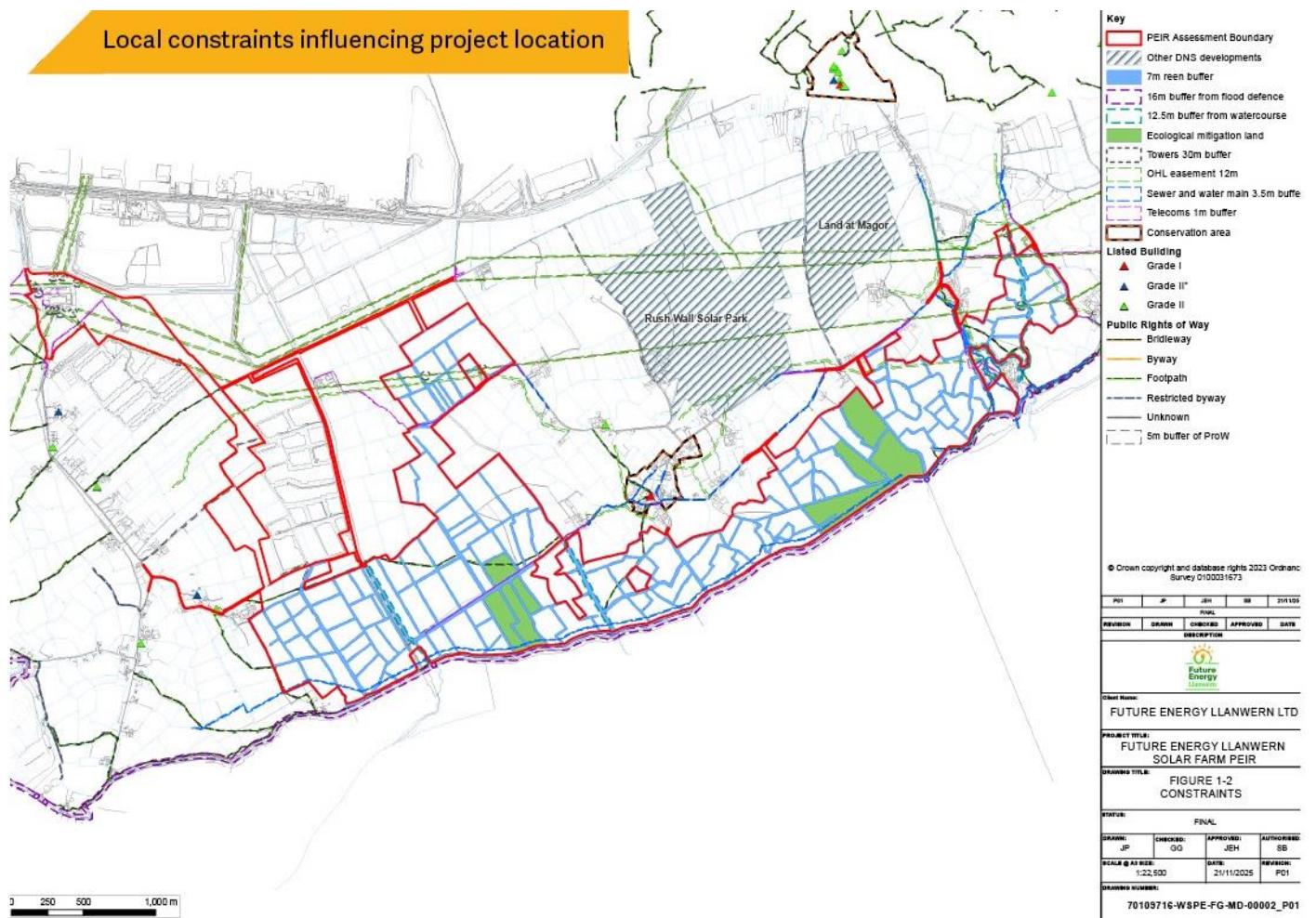
The project is designed to allow continued sheep grazing, supporting local agriculture and **maintaining the landscape's traditional use.**

# Why solar, and why here?

Solar energy is a key part of the UK's strategy to reduce carbon emissions, meet net zero targets by 2050, and secure a reliable domestic energy supply to meet our own energy demands. Future Energy Llanwern (FEL) will generate clean electricity to support these goals and contribute to Wales' target of generating 100% of electricity from renewables by 2035.

The site south of the Llanwern Steelworks was carefully selected for its proximity to the Whitson Substation, and was configured so as to avoid main throughfares into local villages. The process of site selection has considered technical, environmental, and social factors, ensuring that the project is sensitively designed and utilises existing electricity infrastructure.

By choosing this location, FEL supports a reliable, low carbon energy supply for the region while enhancing biodiversity, supporting local economy and providing community benefits.



# Overview of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) sets out our early findings on likely environmental effects. These effects relate to construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of the proposed new solar farm.

We have published the PEIR which is now subject to public consultation until 15th February 2026. Following the current consultation, we will be developing the PEIR into the Environmental Statement that will support the DCO application. To read a copy of our PEIR, please visit our website: [www.futureenergyllanwern.co.uk/](http://www.futureenergyllanwern.co.uk/)

A **Non-Technical Summary (NTS)** is also available online, outlining the key findings in accessible language.



## Topics assessed in the PEIR



- Cultural heritage and archaeology
- Noise and vibration
- Socio-economics, tourism and recreation
- Transport and access
- Landscape and visual amenity
- Glint and Glare



- Greenhouse Gas Assessment
- Ecology
- Ornithology
- Water Environment
- Ground Conditions
- Cumulative Assessments
- Other Environmental Topics

# Our commitment to working with the community

The project will deliver a **£10 million Community Benefit Fund** that will provide an estimated **£250,000 annually** over the 40-year lifetime of the project. This fund will be locally led, with money available to support local priorities.

These could include:



Education and skills development



Biodiversity and nature recovery



Local well-being and community initiatives



Energy efficiency and climate resilience

We are working to ensure these benefits deliver meaningful impact.

## We need your feedback

Your feedback helps shape the project and ensures it reflects community needs.

You can provide feedback by:



Completing a feedback form at one of our consultation events



Visiting our project website and submitting comments online



Writing to us directly using the contact details provided.



# Upcoming events

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This statutory consultation is your opportunity to help shape our proposals before we submit a formal application. We're committed to ensuring that local communities, landowners, stakeholders and technical consultees can understand the details of what's being proposed, share feedback and ideas, and influence key aspects of the project through meaningful input.

The following consultation events will take place:

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In person: **Redwick Village Hall** drop in event Church Row, Caldicot NP26 3DE | Tuesday 13 January 2026 | 4pm-8pm

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In person: **Magor and Undy Community Hub** Main Rd, Caldicot NP26 3GD | Friday 16 January 2026 | 4pm-8pm

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In person: **Magor and Undy Community Hub** Main Rd, Caldicot NP26 3GD | Saturday 17 January 2026 | 9am-2pm

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Online: **Statutory Consultation Webinar #2** | Wednesday 28 January 2026 | 3pm-4pm



To register for a webinar please visit our website: [www.futureenergyllanwern.co.uk](http://www.futureenergyllanwern.co.uk)

# Next Steps

## Your role in the consultation

This statutory consultation is your opportunity to help shape our proposals before we submit a formal application. We're committed to ensuring that local communities, landowners, stakeholders, and technical consultees can understand the details of what's being proposed, share feedback and ideas, and influence key aspects of the project through meaningful input.

Feedback from this consultation will be used by Future Energy Llanwern to influence and shape the final designs of the solar farm and will accompany the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO).

You can provide feedback in the following ways:



Online: complete the feedback form at  
[futureenergyllanwern.participatr.io](https://futureenergyllanwern.participatr.io)



In person: view consultation materials and collect  
a feedback form at our deposit locations



By email: send your comments to  
[enquiries@futureenergyllanwern.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@futureenergyllanwern.co.uk)



By post: return your completed feedback form to  
**FREEPOST FEL SOLAR FARM** (no stamp required)

## Contact us

If you would like to talk to us about the project, you can contact our Community Relations Team using the following contact information:

**Email:** [enquiries@futureenergyllanwern.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@futureenergyllanwern.co.uk)

**Call:** 0800 783 5601 (9:00am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday)

**Write:** to the project team at **FREEPOST FEL SOLAR FARM** (no stamp required)

Consultation materials can be made available in alternative formats, such as large print, audio, or Welsh language, upon request. Please contact our Community Relations Team if you require materials in an alternative format.

All feedback must be received by **11:59 on Sunday February 15th 2026**, to be considered as part of the DCO application.

# Q&A