

# Minutes

Project	Soay Solar & Thornton Greener Grid Park Construction
Meeting	Community Liaison Group (CLG)
Date	19.00-20.15, 6 March 2025
Location	Online or at Phoenix Software, YO42 1NS
Attendees	Alison Hood (AH), Statkraft – Community Liaison Micah George (MG), Statkraft – Site Construction Manager (for Phase 2: BESS) Kevin Mckie (KM), Statkraft – Construction Programme Manager, Grid Services David Cassidy (DC), Statkraft – Development Manager (for Phase 3: Solar) Cllr Derek Carey (DC), ERYC Dave Whitwell (DW), Thornton Parish Council Mike Sutton (MS), Allerthorpe Parish Council Bronya Emmison (BE), Barmby Moor Parish Council Clare Metcalfe (CM), Phoenix MD and Waplinton resident Steve Robshaw (SR), Waplinton resident

## 1. Introductions

Introductions provided for new Statkraft attendees. Micah George is Project Manager for Thornton BESS Construction, and Kevin Mckie is Programme Manager Grid Services.

## 2. Project Overview and Construction update

### a. Phase 1 – HV Yard

MG reported that works at the HV Yard are mainly complete, with only the connection work remaining, which is scheduled for 1-3 April. This will involve a partial road closure with temporary traffic lights.

### b. Phase 2 – BESS

MG reported that all foundation works are complete, and all batteries have been delivered and installed. Upcoming works include cabling, deliveries of modular buildings and battery commissioning.

Discussion:

*Lighting:* SR noted that the lights being used are quite bright and impacting residents of Warren Farm. MG to make some adjustments and liaise with SR to get feedback on effectiveness. It was noted that once the site is operating lighting will only be required when staff are on site.

*Post meeting note: Lighting adjustments made and lighting has been turned off at night. MG has discussed with SR who confirmed the same.*

*Transformer Delivery:* KM advised the delivery is scheduled for end April/early May and is expected to be the final delivery to site. The delivery will be managed by local transportation company Colletts, who are very experienced and are familiar with local roads.

*Site visits:* SR suggested organising site visits, the team will consider this and identify the safest and most appropriate time that this could take place and revert to the CLG.

### c. Phase 3 - Solar

DC introduced himself as the Project Manager for the development phase of the Solar project, clarifying that he will not be the Project Manager for Construction.

Construction is targeted to commence in Summer subject to final investment approval, and last approximately 12 months. An EPC (Engineering, procurement and construction) contractor will be appointed, and will be responsible for producing detailed engineering designs, procurement of materials and equipment, and construction under a single contract. Negotiations with the EPC contractor are ongoing.

The bulk of civil works will take place over the first six to seven months, including setting up construction compound, access tracks, safety signage, installing vertical steel piles to hold panel frameworks, and cable installation. The construction access to site will be the same as that presently being used for construction of Phase 2: BESS.

DC confirmed that the Public Right of Way (PRoW) will remain open throughout the construction phase. Measures will be put in place to ensure safe access for the public, which would include banksmen at the interfaces of construction traffic and the PRoW. Information signage on public footpaths near the site would also be maintained, AH acknowledged the importance of input from SR and frequent users of the PRoW on the locations of signs and other initiatives to ensure people are well-informed.

#### Current Works:

DC advised that two isolated parts of the site had undergone some tree and vegetation clearance before bird nesting season to avoid ecological issues ahead of construction. Site investigation works are due to take place in March (lasting around 2 weeks) including boreholes and pull-out tests (a tool for evaluating the uplift resistance of piles), like those conducted in July-August 2023, to gather engineering data for the EPC contractor. DC acknowledged the need to inform residents about the site investigations to ensure they are aware of the activities and to clarify they do not indicate the start of construction. AH to arrange a postcard mailing to nearby residents.

#### Discussion:

*Piling Activity and Noise:* DC explained the pile driver will be dampened to limit noise and explained construction/delivery hours\*.

#### \*Clarification as follows:

- Deliveries to and from the site including loading and unloading are limited to 8am-6pm Monday to Friday, 8am-1pm Sundays, with none on Sundays or Bank Holidays unless in an emergency.
- Construction hours are restricted to 7am-7pm Monday-Saturday, with no site works outside of these hours or on Sundays or Bank Holidays unless in an emergency.

DC will share a video and more information on piling to the CLG.

*Regular CLG Meetings:* the CLG agreed on the importance of regular communication and meetings when an EPC contractor is appointed for the solar phase and during construction, suggesting every four weeks would be appropriate.

*Resident Drop-In Session:* It was agreed that this would provide an opportunity for residents to meet with the appointed EPC contractor before construction, to share and discuss the detail of construction timetable and arrangements.

### 3. Communications Update

AH updated with statistics on engagement with the project website, and the continuation of ads in Parish News. It was agreed that there was a need to clarify that the current two-week site investigation works were not the commencement of solar construction. This would be communicated via a postcard to near neighbours, in the next Parish News and CM would share on the Allerthorpe facebook group.

### 4. Next meeting

It was discussed that hosting future meetings on a Wednesday would provide opportunity for more people to attend, and reduce reliance on CM for hosting in person, particularly over the summer months.

The next two meeting dates agreed:

30 April, 6.30pm-7.30pm

25 June, 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Action Summary	Person
Adjust site lighting and liaise with SR to get feedback on effectiveness	MG ( <i>complete</i> )
Identify a suitable time for site visit and report back to CLG members	MG
Share a video and more information on piling to the CLG	DC
Notify local residents of site investigations work and a commitment to host a drop-in event before construction of the solar phase, through a postcard to closest homes and the Parish News	AH ( <i>complete</i> )
Arrange a Drop-In session for residents to meet the EPC contractor before construction of Phase 3: Solar commences	AH
Share information about borehole work/site investigations to facebook pages	CM ( <i>complete</i> )
Send calendar invites for next two meeting dates	AH



# Soay Community Liaison Group

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6 MARCH 2025



# Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Project Overview and Construction Update
  - Phase 2 – BESS
  - Phase 3 – Solar
3. Communications Update
4. Other Items for Discussion
5. Next Meeting



# Project Overview

Phase	Contractor	Start Date	Completion	Status
1. HV Yard	Siemens	Oct 2023	March 2025	99% complete*
2. BESS	Civil Works - H&MV BESS - Fluence	April 2024	End 2025*	60% complete*
3. Solar	TBC – target Spring 2025**	Summer 2025 (date TBC)**	Summer 2026**	0% complete

\* indicative

\*\* subject to Final Investment Decision

# Project Update – Phase 1

## HV Yard Construction

- Siemens works completed
- Siemens vacating the site

## Upcoming work:

- New date for LV Supply connection following delay due to storms is provisionally 1 – 3 April
- This will involve traffic lights – no full closure proposed this time



Inside the Completed HV Yard

# Project Update – Phase 2

## Battery Units

### Field 1 (South field)

- All foundations complete
- All batteries installed

### Upcoming work:

- Cabling works
- Modular building deliveries
- Battery commissioning

### Field 2 (North field)

- All foundations complete
- Ducting and cable installation ongoing
- All batteries installed.

### Upcoming works

- Electrical works
- Battery commissioning



Field 1 (South Field) 09/01/25



Field 2 (North Field) 03/02/25

# Site Images



**Battery Cube Delivery 30/01/2025**



**Team working on the Twin Skid Foundations 16/01/2025**



**Battery Cube Delivery 30/01/2025**



**Team working on Battery Cube Foundation 16/01/2025**

# Construction Traffic Overview

With ground works mostly completed and batteries installed, construction traffic from Phase 2 is tapering down.

One final “abnormal load” delivery is expected, details will be shared with this group by email when route and timings are confirmed.

	Mar 25	Apr 25	May 25
Daily Total Phase 1&2			
HGV Total per day	15	10	10
LGV Total per day	8	6	5
Total traffic per day	23	16	15



# Project Update

## Soay Solar

- Targeted to commence in Summer 2025 subject to final investment decision
- Approximately 12 months construction duration

## Biodiversity Enhancement & Landscaping:

- Planting to commence in first available planting season i.e. 2025 – 2026/7 (trees and hedgerows between October-February, and seed sown in late-summer)
- Yorkshire based nurseries have been approached and have quoted, including those provided by the CLG. Wherever possible local seed suppliers and nurseries will be preferred, and this is a requirement set to EPC contractor



Businesses can register interest or recommend a supplier at [www.statkraft.co.uk/soay](http://www.statkraft.co.uk/soay)

# Soay Solar Farm and Greener Grid Park

## Biodiversity and Landscape Enhancements

Solar farms can help improve the biodiversity of local land, create new homes habitat, and encourage wildlife. We are planning to enhance biodiversity within the site boundary by around 134%\* when compared with the current land use.

\*Figures above based on planning submission.



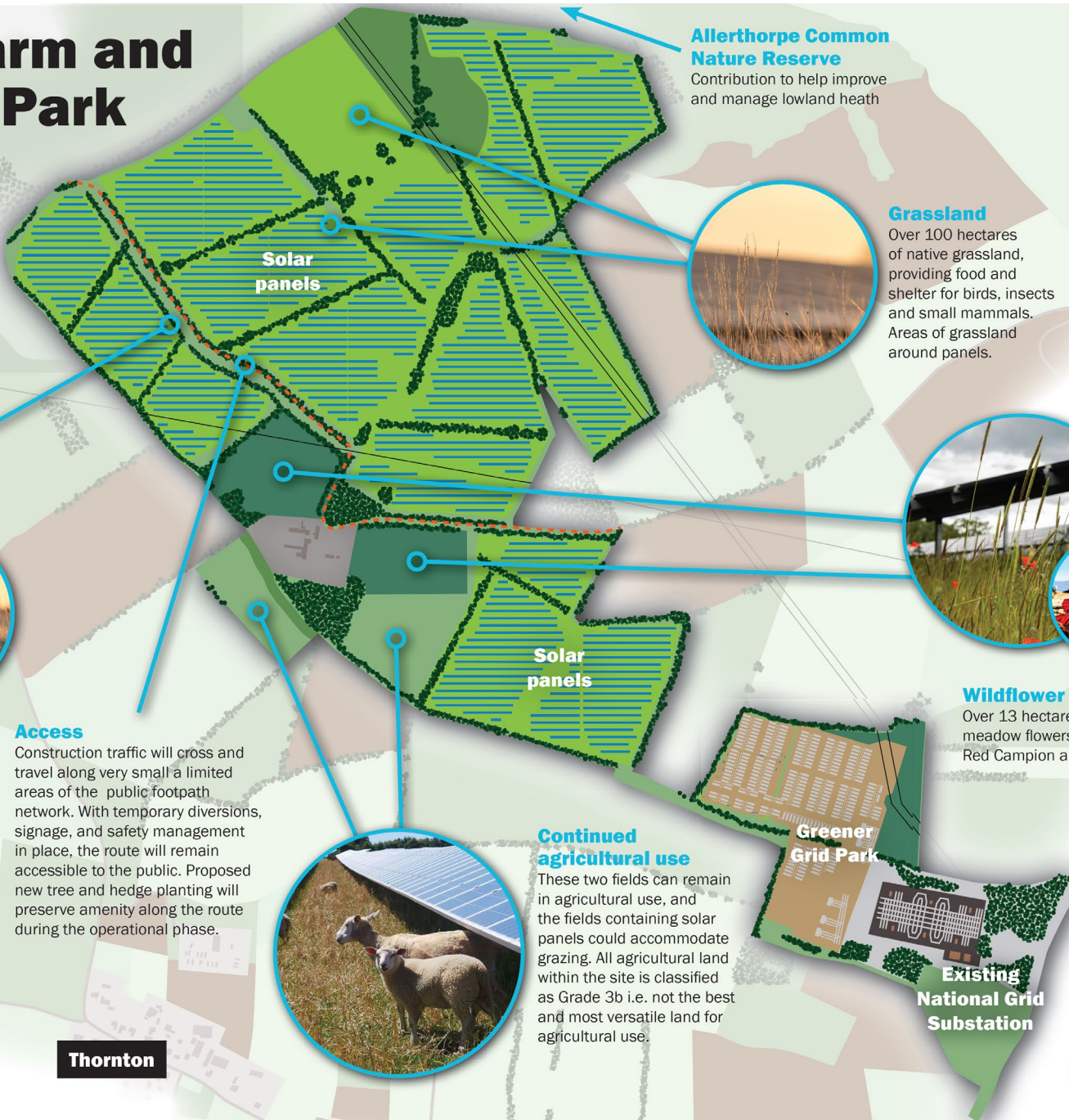
### Screening

Over 4km native species hedgerows and the planting of over 500 native hedgerow trees will help provide additional screening and increase biodiversity.

### Supporting Local Nature Reserve

Contribution to help improve lowland heath and to help manage the Allerthorpe Common Nature Reserve to the north of the site.

We have partnered with the Bumblebee Conservation Trust to create and enhance bee habitats at Soay Solar Farm & Greener Grid Park.



Solar panels

Solar panels

### Allerthorpe Common Nature Reserve

Contribution to help improve and manage lowland heath

### Grassland

Over 100 hectares of native grassland, providing food and shelter for birds, insects and small mammals. Areas of grassland around panels.

### Key

Public Right of Way

Existing overhead powerlines

Allerthorpe

### Wildflower & Native grass

Over 13 hectares of native grass and meadow flowers, including Wild Teasel, Red Campion and Yorkshire Fog.

### Continued agricultural use

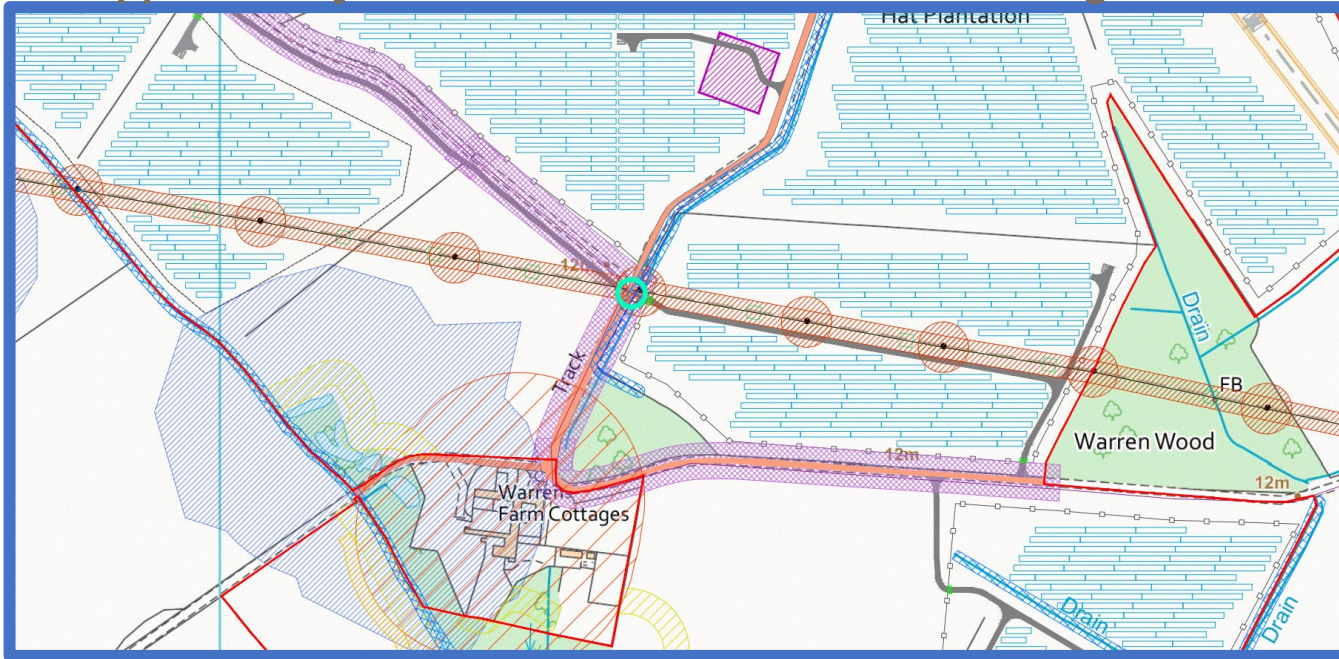
These two fields can remain in agricultural use, and the fields containing solar panels could accommodate grazing. All agricultural land within the site is classified as Grade 3b i.e. not the best and most versatile land for agricultural use.

Greener Grid Park

Existing National Grid Substation

Thornton

## Approved layout in context of Warren Farm Cottages



# Communications Update

Activity Summary since last meeting:

- Ad in Parish News, Feb-Mar 2025
- Website activity consistent over past quarter

Month	Page Views	Unique visitors
Nov 2024	324	181
Dec 2024	233	151
Jan 2025	252	119

- Next postcard to closest homes will be before Easter, to include
  - clarity on construction schedule
  - community fund applications

## PARISH NEWS

February – March 2025



### Soay Solar Farm and Thornton Greener Grid Park

#### Project Manager Update:

The team are back on site after their well-deserved break over the Christmas period, and works continue to progress on schedule despite some challenges presented by the weather.

The end of February will see all the battery units installed on site, ready for testing before commissioning in summer.

As the site transitions from ground works to installation and electrical works, the number of people working on site and amount of traffic on local roads will continue to reduce.



Ashcourt Group have been providing civil construction services and Fenstone have been supplying stone for the project.



Battery units being installed on site



#### Contact us:

Scan to visit [www.statkraft.co.uk/soay](http://www.statkraft.co.uk/soay)

Call: 0800 772 0668

Email: [ukprojects@statkraft.com](mailto:ukprojects@statkraft.com)

Thank You