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Soay Solar Farm Construction

Welcome. We are here today to share the details of the construction, answer your questions and provide an opportunity to feedback on how we will continue to engage during the construction of the project.

Statkraft

Statkraft is at the heart of the UK's energy transition. Since 2006, Statkraft has experience across wind, solar, hydro, storage, grid stability, EV charging, green hydrogen sectors and a markets business.

Statkraft is a global company in energy market operations, with more than 7,000 employees in 20 countries. The company have invested over £1.8 billion in the UK's renewable energy infrastructure and facilitated over 4.5 GW of new-build renewable energy generation through Power Purchase Agreements. Across Statkraft's UK businesses, the company employs more than 550 staff in England, Scotland and Wales.

Locally, Statkraft are constructing Thornton BESS (part of this wider project) and will be holding a consultation later this year for the proposed Mylen Leah Solar Farm.

SUNOTEC

SUNOTEC was established in 2012 and operates all around the world. The company has built more than 630 large-scale solar power plants, delivering a total capacity of over 10 gigawatts. They manage everything from site studies and purchasing materials to engineering, construction, maintenance, and upgrading existing plants.

At Soay, SUNOTEC is Statkraft's Principle Contractor of the construction of Soay Solar Farm. They will mobilise the site and deliver the build: mounting fencing, structures and solar modules, inverters, cabling, and support for testing and commissioning. They will manage daytoday site logistics and safety, including traffic and deliveries, interface fencing and signage near PROWs, working to Statkraft's programme, quality and environmental standards.

SUNOTEC operates from its offices in Leicester, UK, Munich, Germany and Sofia, Bulgaria.

Project website: www.statkraft.co.uk/soay

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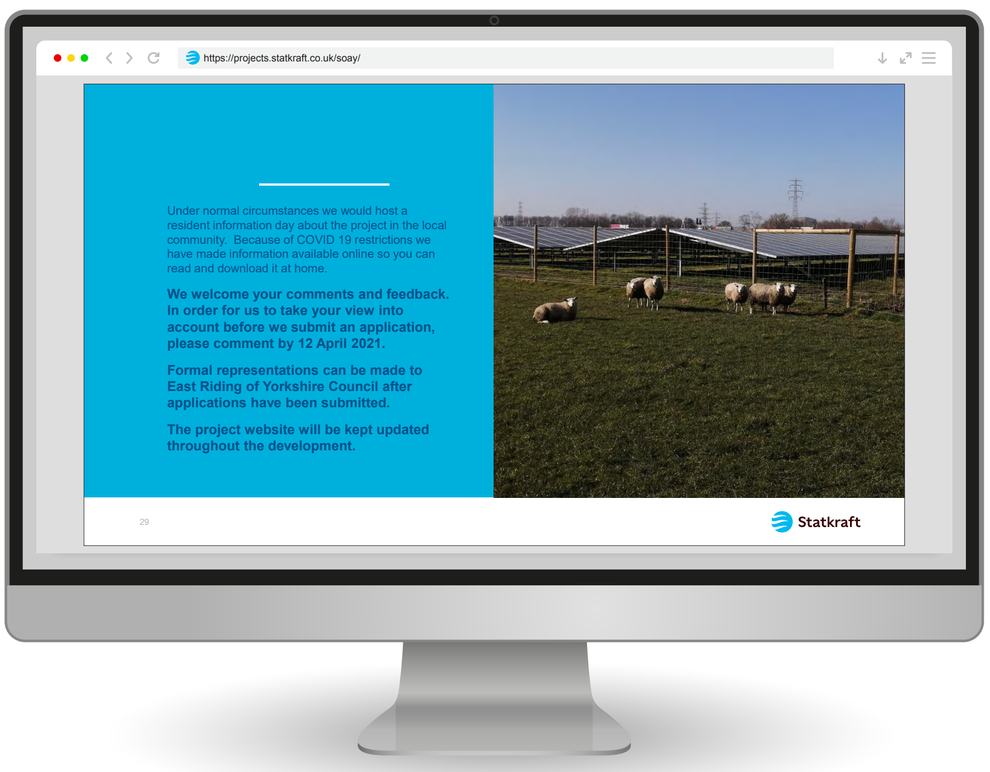
Project History

Local consultation (March - April 2021)

In spring 2021, we held a consultation on our proposals for Soay Solar Farm and Thornton Greener Grid Park. Local people viewed our proposals and told us what mattered to them, with feedback themes focusing on how the site will look and its size, the project's distance from homes, managing traffic and road safety, public rights of way (PROWs), wildlife, noise and drainage.

Alongside community feedback, parish councils and community groups also shared place specific knowledge, which we analysed along with public feedback, and fed into our final application where possible.



Planning approval (November 2022)

We received planning approval from East Riding of Yorkshire Council in November 2022. This event is being held to share information and invite feedback on how we will continue to engage with local residents and stakeholders during the construction of the project.

Construction (January – October 2026): what to expect at a glance

- **Keeping you moving:** signed routes for construction traffic to minimise disruption on roads and providing advance notice of larger deliveries.
- **Keeping you informed:** regular website and email updates; on site notices; a single contact point for all questions.
- **Keeping you safe:** Crossing points at public rights of way to be clearly signposted, safe fencing and signage for where the edge of the site abuts a public area.

Key Milestones

- ***December 2023:*** Construction of High Voltage Yard
- ***July 2024 – April 2026:*** BESS construction and commissioning
- ***January 2026:*** Solar farm construction start
- ***January – June 2026:*** Civil works (roads, fencing, drainage)
- ***March - August 2026:*** Mechanical works and assembly (structures, panels, equipment)
- ***September 2026:*** Electrical works complete
- ***October 2026:*** Connection to grid
- ***November 2026:*** Project operational

Project website: www.statkraft.co.uk/soay

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You Said, We Did

How the project has considered and addressed feedback received.

Topic Area	You Said	We Did
VISUAL AND LAYOUT	Wanted to know about the site layout, its scale, and how it would look. Concerns about distance from homes and visual impact (glare, screening) particularly Warren Farm Cottages.	A field of panels to the southeast of Warren Farm Cottages was removed from our design (noted on the site map) along with a significant reduction of solar infrastructure and fencing near residential properties. We increased the buffer between solar panels and public rights of way from 6m to approximately 20m, allowing more planting and reducing visual impact. Provision of clear site layout plans and visual photomontages to show visuals from different public viewpoints, like PROWs.
NOISE	Concerns about noise during construction and operation.	We committed to best practice noise management and monitoring throughout construction and operation. More detail on how we will manage noise can be found on the board *'Construction work – what to expect'.*
TRAFFIC AND ACCESS	Questions were raised about traffic volumes, access routes, and road safety. Concerns were raised about the possibility of construction traffic accessing site via the track from Common Lane, passing close to Warren Farm Cottages.	Construction traffic will access the site via the existing site entrance on Melbourne Road to minimise disruption to residents of Warren Farm Cottages. We developed clear traffic management plans and communicated delivery routes and timings, which we cover in more detail on the board *'Construction deliveries – what to expect'.*
PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (PROW)	Wanted public rights of way kept open and safe, with concerns that the PROW through the site area be closed during construction.. Requests to ensure safe access was important.	We are committed to keeping PROWs open and safe, with an access track to be built alongside the path and crossover points to be managed by safety marshals. Views of site will be screened where possible with planting. There will be clear signage.
ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE	Questions asked about the impact on wildlife and local habitats.	We are committed to planting over 4km of new hedgerows, 500+ new trees, and over 13ha of wildflower meadows as part of a significant biodiversity net gain for the site – currently projected for more than 100% net gain.
FLOOD AND DRAINAGE	Flood risk and drainage on site were raised as concerns.	Provided detailed flood risk and drainage assessments and designed sustainable drainage features.
COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND LOCAL ECONOMY	Respondents wanted to see local benefits and opportunities for suppliers.	A dedicated community benefit fund has been active since the start of construction on Thornton GGP, with an increased fund for the first year of commercial operation for the solar farm. We encourage local suppliers to register for opportunities. www.statkraft.co.uk/soay/local-suppliers

Project website: www.statkraft.co.uk/soay

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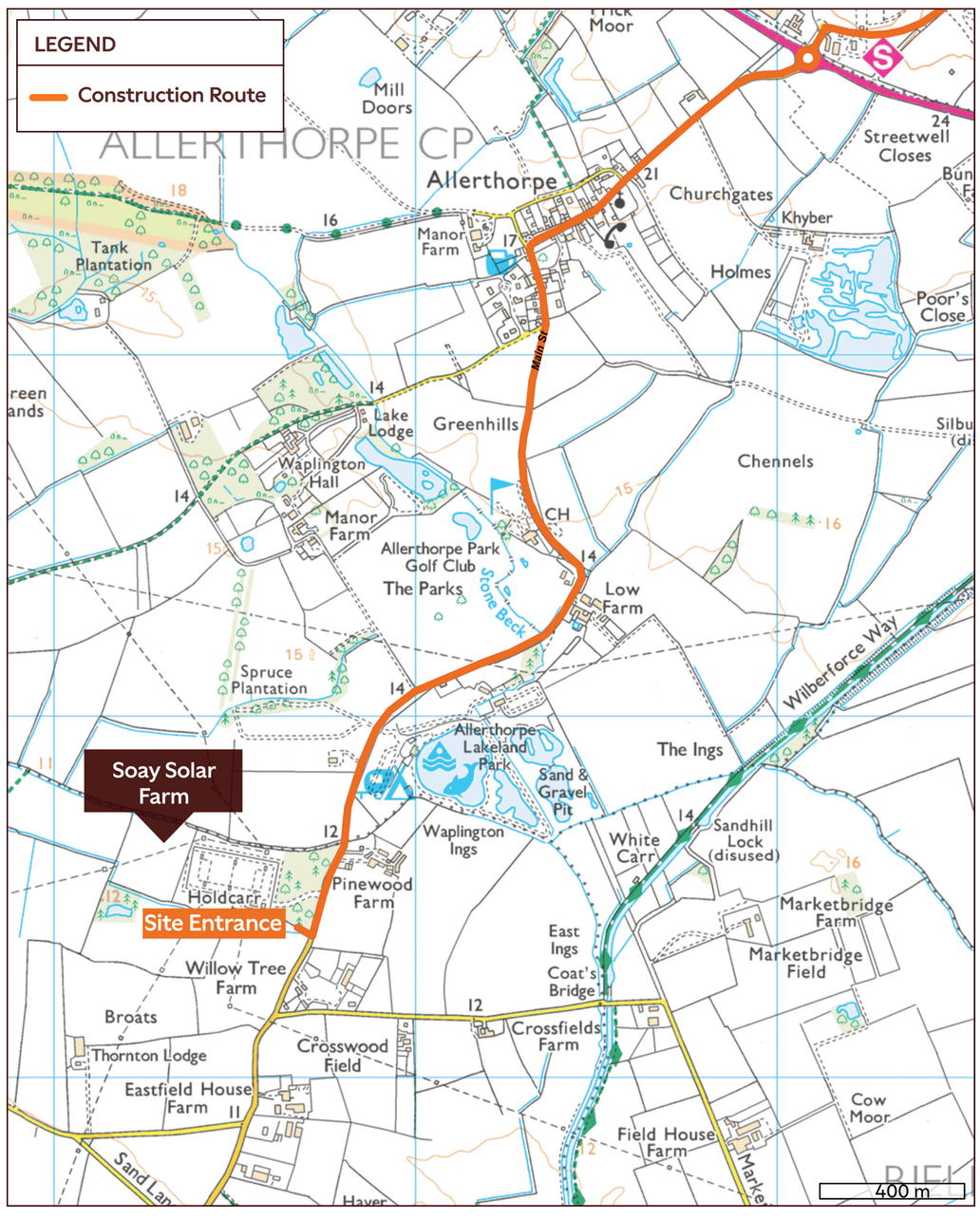
Construction deliveries – what to expect

Deliveries

- **Delivery hours:**
  Monday to Friday: 08:00–18:00 and Saturday: 08:00–13:00.
  No deliveries on Sundays or Bank Holidays
- **Approved delivery route:**
  All deliveries must arrive at arrive at site via the A1079 (York Road) → Main Street → Melbourne Road → the site entrance.
- **Access:**
  Construction traffic will access the site via the existing entrance on Melbourne Road, with an access track to be built, partially crossing footpath ALLEF02.
- **En route tracking and behaviour:**
  Deliveries to site are obliged to arrive via the approved route with visible ID numbers to ensure compliance. All drivers will be given an induction, including a briefing on speed control through villages and other sensitive locations, and be subject to spot checks.
- **At the site entrance:**
  A traffic marshal will guide traffic. Vehicles can enter and exit the site in forward gear and not reverse onto Melbourne Road.
- **Wheel cleaning:**
  Wheel cleaning facilities will wash wheels of vehicles leaving site. A road sweeper will also be provided to ensure that Melbourne Road and Waplington Lane are kept clean at the site access junctions.
- **Noise and dust:**
  Vehicles will be fitted with “white noise” reversing alarm and have covered loads to minimise dust escaping from deliveries.
- **Construction delivery peak:**
  Over 100,000 solar modules will be delivered from May through to August, which will be the peak of construction traffic and deliveries to site.



Project website: **www.statkraft.co.uk/soay**

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Construction work – what to expect

Working hours

- **General site operations:**
  Monday to Saturday, 07:00–19:00
- **Deliveries:**
  Monday to Friday: 08:00–18:00 and
  Saturday: 08:00–13:00.
  No construction or deliveries on Sundays or Bank Holidays, unless in an emergency.

Lighting – used only when and where we need it

Most work happens in daylight. In winter, we will avoid temporary lighting as far as practicable and never use lights outside core working hours.

During construction, sensor lighting will be used on site overnight for security.

Noise – planned and reduced

SUNOTEC will follow the Code of Practice for Noise & Vibration on construction sites to:

- Give advance notice of any unusually noisy activity.
- Use quieter, well maintained equipment with effective silencers, sound reduced compressors and mufflers on pneumatic tools.
- Switch off engines when not working and careful handling of materials on site to avoid unnecessary clatter.
- Locate generators and pumps away from homes / paths, with temporary acoustic screens and bunds to reduce noise further.
- Work sensitively near wildlife.

Dust and mud – suppression and control

We aim to keep dust low and air quality good for neighbours, PROW users and wildlife and ensure that roads are not muddy around the site.

- **Prevent:** only strip and excavate where needed, minimise exposed soils and recover and revegetate exposed soils promptly. We will run a clean water vehicle wash ahead of the site entrance and exit.
- **Suppress:** use water bowsers on site. Works will be paused or adjusted if conditions demand. We will use enclosed chutes and conveyors, covered loads on vehicles.
- **Contain:** only use small, stable stockpiles, kept for the shortest time and sited away from boundaries, drains, watercourses and sensitive areas. There will be no burning of materials on site.

Questions, issues or complaints

See something that isn't right?
Tell us and we'll act quickly.

0800 772 0668

UKProjects@statkraft.com

Project website: www.statkraft.co.uk/soay

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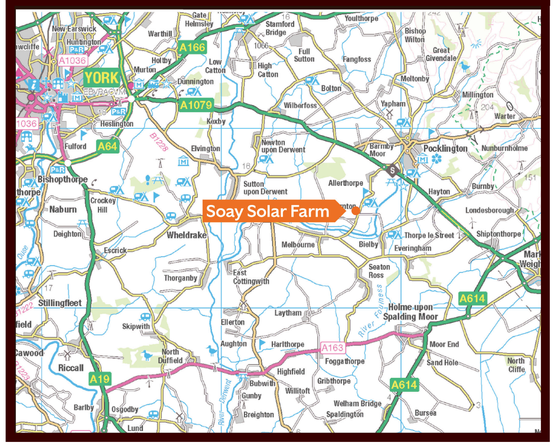
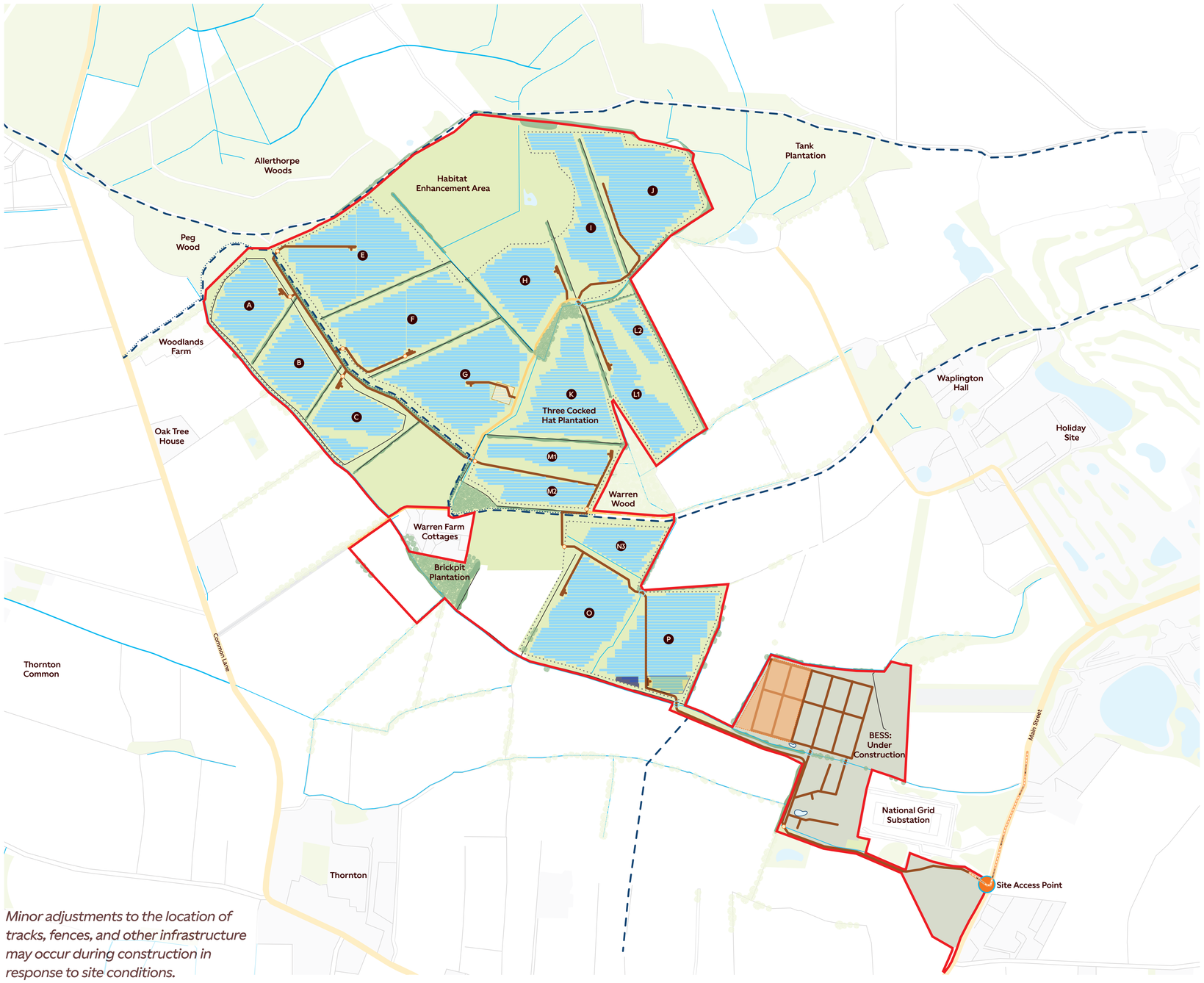
Soay Site Layout

LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- Site Access Point
- BESS: Under Construction
- Solar Panels
- Fence
- Gates
- Existing Drainage Ditch
- Public Right of Way
- PROW Fence
- Existing Onsite Access Track
- Proposed Track
- Construction Route
- Temporary Construction Compound site to be covered by panels once operational
- Compound Area
- Temporary Compound Area
- Solar Panels Removed from Project Design in Response to Feedback
- SuDS Pond
- Existing Trees/ Hedgerows To Be Retained
- Watercourse Crossings

SITE LOCATION MAP





Minor adjustments to the location of tracks, fences, and other infrastructure may occur during construction in response to site conditions.

Project website: www.statkraft.co.uk/soay

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Soay Site Layout and Biodiversity Plan

LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- Site Access Point
- BESS: Under Construction
- Solar Panels
- Fence
- Gates
- Existing Drainage Ditch
- Public Right of Way
- PROW Fence
- Existing Onsite Access Track
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BIODIVERSITY

- Proposed Tussock Grassland
- Proposed Native Species Woodland Mix
- Proposed Native Species Grass and Wildflower Meadow Mix
- Proposed Mixed Native Scrub Planting within Tucksock Grassland Mix
- Proposed Native Species Grass and Meadow Mix Suitable for Sheep Grazing if required (located around and under solar panels)
- Proposed Native Species Shrub Planting
- Proposed Native Species Hedgerow
- Proposed Native Species Tree

Minor adjustments to the location of tracks, fences, and other infrastructure may occur during construction in response to site conditions.

Project website: www.statkraft.co.uk/soay

Soay Solar Farm and Thornton Greener Grid Park Construction Timeline

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Please note: this timeline is subject to change due to technical and engineering constraints and other factors, such as poor weather conditions. If there is a significant change, we will provide an update on our project website and via email to residents who have signed up for project updates.

	Jan - Feb 2026	Mar - Aug 2026	Jul - Oct 2026	Mid – Late Oct 2026	Nov 2026 onwards	Late autumn 2026 – Late winter 2027
Stage	SITE SETUP AND ENABLING WORKS	MAIN CONSTRUCTION PHASE	COMMISSIONING AND TESTING	ENERGISATION	POST CONSTRUCTION	PLANTING
Activities	Site access and setup Building the access road and compound Installing fencing and internal roads	Laying drainage and cables Installing CCTV and security systems Assembling solar panel mounting structures – 'ramming' Installing solar panels (modules) and electrical equipment	Testing all systems and safety checks Connecting to the electricity grid Final inspections and certification	The solar farm is switched on and starts supplying clean electricity to the grid	Site tidy-up and removal of temporary works Ongoing monitoring and maintenance by Statkraft	Planting of trees, shrubs and hedgerows
What you may notice	We will do our best to keep roads clean and increase the number of road sweeping machines in particularly bad weather. Wheel washing facilities will clean vehicles wheels prior to leaving site to minimise mud on local roads.	Ramming can be noisy, creating a sound similar to the cranking of a metal cog. For those living locally, this noise will be heard from mid-March to July. Ramming will take place from 08:00 – 17:00, Monday to Friday. This will be the peak of construction traffic, from March through to August as the structures that hold panels and the solar panels themselves begin arriving on site. However, there will be no abnormal loads, meaning no road closures or escorted deliveries.	There will be fewer workers on site and reduced traffic on local roads as solar panel deliveries will be complete.	Activity on site will be minimal.	A small amount of activity on site will see a small increase in workers and traffic on local roads, initially. There will then be no noticeable impact on local roads once the site is operational.	Deliveries of plants to site and workers near the edge of our site boundary planting seeds and shrubs.

Project website: www.statkraft.co.uk/soay

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Public Rights of Way (PROWs) & Access

Using paths during construction

- The Allerthorpe Common and Waplington (W7) path will be open as normal, including the section that runs along our access track. This will run alongside our access track, with safe cross over points controlled by traffic marshals where the access track and footpath intersect. This will ensure that walkers can still safely access this track during construction, as committed to following feedback at the consultation.
- There will be clear and visible signs with simple “you are here” map panels at key points along the path, in addition to instructions for dog walkers to follow in keeping dogs on leads during the construction period.
- We do not expect to need to divert or close this footpath during construction.

Mitigations near paths

- **Setbacks and screening:** panels are offset from the fence line where the footpath runs through the site, with new native hedgerow and tree planting to filter views as planting matures around Year 10 of operation. Existing hedges north of the path will be retained and gaps will be filled.
- **Interface fencing:** no barbed wire on the PROW side, with clear safety signage at works interface. Lighting will be minimised and directed away from paths from site.
- **Wildflower margins:** seeded strips either side of the route in select sections to improve habitat and the walking environment.

Example of the fencing that will be used at the edge of our site (with mammal gates), from Statkraft’s Monaraha Solar Farm in Ireland.

Wildflower margins

Native hedgerow - Common Hawthorn

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Environmental and planting

Trees and hedgerows

Fencing and ground protection follow national guidance for tree protection on building sites. We set a protected root zone around trees and hedges to be kept throughout construction and operation. This “no work” area is fenced before construction starts and stays in place during construction so there is no digging, storage or vehicle access inside it.

Trees scheduled for removal have been surveyed and have shown no bat roost potential.

Managing water and silt

We are taking care to manage rainwater on the solar farm site in a way that protects the local environment during construction and once the project is operational. Steps to reduce flood risk and keep nearby streams clean during construction can include shallow scrapes, natural channels and silt fencing to manage water flow.

Invasive plants

If a non-native invasive plant species is found or suspected near the work area, work will be halted and the Ecological Clerk of Works contacted. A 7m buffer around the species will be implanted and ground or vegetation disturbance within this area will not take place unless approved by the ECoW.
We will inspect for Himalayan balsam each year and remove in line with government guidance.

Planting: when, what, and how

When

Landscaping works will be implemented at the first planting season upon completion of the works - currently scheduled for October 2026 - March 2027. Plants that fail to establish during the first five years will be replaced on an annual basis.

What

Around 35,000 plants and trees will be planted on 5.5 hectares of tussock grassland and 107 acres of species rich grassland will also be sown.

Planting includes using native hedgerow, woodland, scrub, meadow and tussock grassland mixes that support wildlife and connect habitats, including species such as oak, field maple, birch, hawthorn, hazel, and a variety of wildflowers.

Where

The full planting map can be seen on the site map board.


Common Hawthorn


English Oak


Field Maple


Blackthorn

Project website: www.statkraft.co.uk/soay

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Protecting species on site

Our approach

We are building Soay in a way that protects nearby nature and provides over 100% biodiversity net gain for the site. We will minimise the environmental impact of the construction phase while ensuring compliance with legislation and best practices. A suitably qualified Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be appointed to supervise and inspect works as necessary. Over the long term we will create new habitats and improve the ones that already exist on our site.

Protecting sites and habitats

- **We keep careful stand offs around Allerthorpe Common SSSI and other wildlife areas.**
- **Trees and woodlands are fenced and treated as no work zones in line with national guidance on best practice for tree protection on building sites.**
- **A site wide drainage plan uses swales, filter drains and settlement or attenuation ponds. This slows and cleans runoff and keeps discharge close to greenfield rates.**

Wildlife measures

Great crested newts

No development, other than vegetation clearance and habitat enhancement, is proposed within a 100m buffer from the pond within the site boundary. Vegetation clearance will be cleared no lower than 200mm to avoid disturbance of the ground and supervised by a qualified ecologist / Ecological Clerk of Works.

Water voles

Surveys found no evidence of use by water vole. Any works affecting a watercourse or within 5m of the bank top will be overseen by a qualified ecologist / Ecological Clerk of Works.

Bats

No trees with bat roost potential are proposed to be removed. All tree felling where required will be done under the supervision of a qualified ecologist or Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW).

Bird and bat boxes

Birds

We plan vegetation clearance outside of breeding bird season, from March to end of August. If vegetation clearance within this period is unavoidable, the area will first be checked by a qualified ecologist or ECoW. Toolbox talks will be provided by the ECoW. 39 bird boxes will be installed around the site following construction, including for barn owl and kestrel.

Long term enhancements

As part of our approved plans we will deliver a significant biodiversity net gain for the site through the following measures:

- Habitat Enhancement Area (HEA):
  Around 13 hectares at the site's northern boundary will feature grass, scrub, and trees to boost habitat connectivity between the existing pond and Allerthorpe Common SSSI directly north of the site. The HEA will support species such as GCN, reptiles, mammals, woodlark, and other birds.
- New native hedgerow, woodland and shrub:
  Approx. 4km of mixed native species hedgerow; over 1ha of woodland; and 0.6ha of new mixed shrub planting will create habitat buffers and provide foraging and sheltering opportunities for a range of species including mammals, bats, birds, great crested newt, reptiles, and invertebrates including bumblebees.
- Tussock grassland:
  Around 5.5 hectares of tussock grassland providing foraging, commuting, and sheltering opportunities for GCN, reptiles, birds, mammals and invertebrates.
  The seed mix will also contain a range of wildflowers to attract a variety of insects including bumblebees to further encourage foraging mammals.
- Species-rich grassland:
  107 hectares will be sown beneath the solar panels and beyond the fence line, and managed for the benefit of wildlife, providing a source of food and shelter for mammals including bats, birds, and invertebrates.
- Bat and bird boxes:
  Bat boxes will be installed on trees to support more species. Bird nest boxes will be placed in strategic areas for conservation priority birds, enhancing breeding opportunities. All boxes, except barn owl boxes, will be tree-mounted and made of durable woodcrete or similar materials.

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Construction communications and feedback

Keeping you updated

We will keep you informed from now until the project is energised and operational. If you use local footpaths near the site, you will see safety notices and contact details.

The project website will be kept updated with construction news, and if you have if you have signed up for updates, we will periodically send short email notes with progress and what is coming next.

We do not expect any road closures during the construction of the solar farm.

Community Liaison Group

The CLG has helped us share information and gather local feedback during construction of Thornton BESS. The CLG will keep meeting to review progress, discuss local issues and agree actions. Minutes and outcomes are posted on the project website.

Tell us what you think

You can:

- Fill out a feedback form today and post it in the feedback box
- **Scan the QR code** to provide feedback via our website form

How to reach us

www.statkraft.co.uk/soay

0800 772 0668

UKProjects@statkraft.com

You can subscribe to project updates on the website by using the Get in touch tab, or by giving your details to a team member today.

Project website: www.statkraft.co.uk/soay

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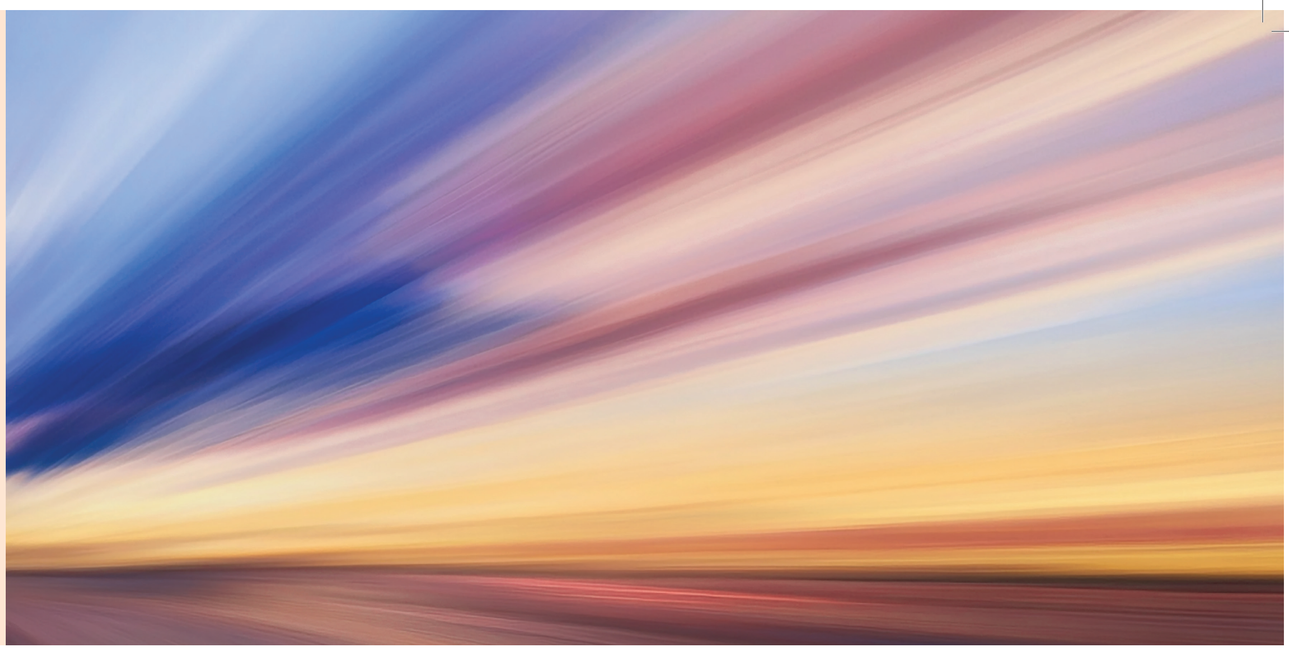

Project benefits

Statkraft are committed to delivering benefits for the local community as part of the Soay Solar Farm and Greener Grid Park. From a dedicated Community Benefit Fund and local supplier opportunities to new planting and wildlife habitats, Soay has been shaped by local feedback and built to support our neighbours for the long term.

Community Benefit Fund details

Our community benefit funds are administered by a third-party organisation, Grantscape, with final decisions on application to the fund being decided upon by a local panel of representatives.

- Who it's for: projects in **Allerthorpe, Thornton, Melbourne, Barmby Moor and Bielby.**
- How much: A fund of £20,000 is available each year for the duration of the project, **with a one off uplift to £65,000 in 2027** (expected to be the solar farm's first year of commercial operation). Thereafter, the fund will return to £20,000 annually for the operational life of the project.
- Grants: £500 – £10,000
- Preference given to: community and environmental projects that cut carbon and help reach net zero.
- How to apply: through the Soay Solar & Greener Grid Park Community Fund page on GrantScape, with an annual round of applications each year (extra rounds if funds remain).

Local suppliers

Construction brings inward investment and creates opportunities for local firms across goods, services and site support. Our supplier database has been live since before construction started on Thornton GGP, with local and regional businesses and suppliers applying to work with us in delivering construction.

Scan the QR code to register your local business

Working with local and environmental organisations

Bumblebee Conservation Trust

Statkraft are proud to be partnered with the Bumblebee Conservation Trust to create and enhance bee habitats at Soay Solar Farm and Greener Grid Park.

In the last 100 years bumblebee populations have crashed, with two species becoming extinct in the UK. The land selected for a solar project has typically been dominated by intensive agriculture, stripping the soils of nutrients and the environment of wildlife diversity, yet they have the potential to provide an ideal environment for bee habitats because they can support a range of attractive microhabitats. The variety of dry and wet and shaded and sunny areas, if properly planted and managed, can encourage a wide variety of fauna.

That's why we are working closely with the experts at the Bumblebee Conservation Trust to develop habitat management practices at our solar farms which enhance, create and restore bumblebee habitats. The Bumblebee Conservation Trust provides feedback on habitat, plant species and ground preparation techniques which enable bumblebees to thrive.

Bumblebee Conservation Trust

Local suppliers register: **www.statkraft.co.uk/soay/local-suppliers**

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Thornton Greener Grid Park: Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

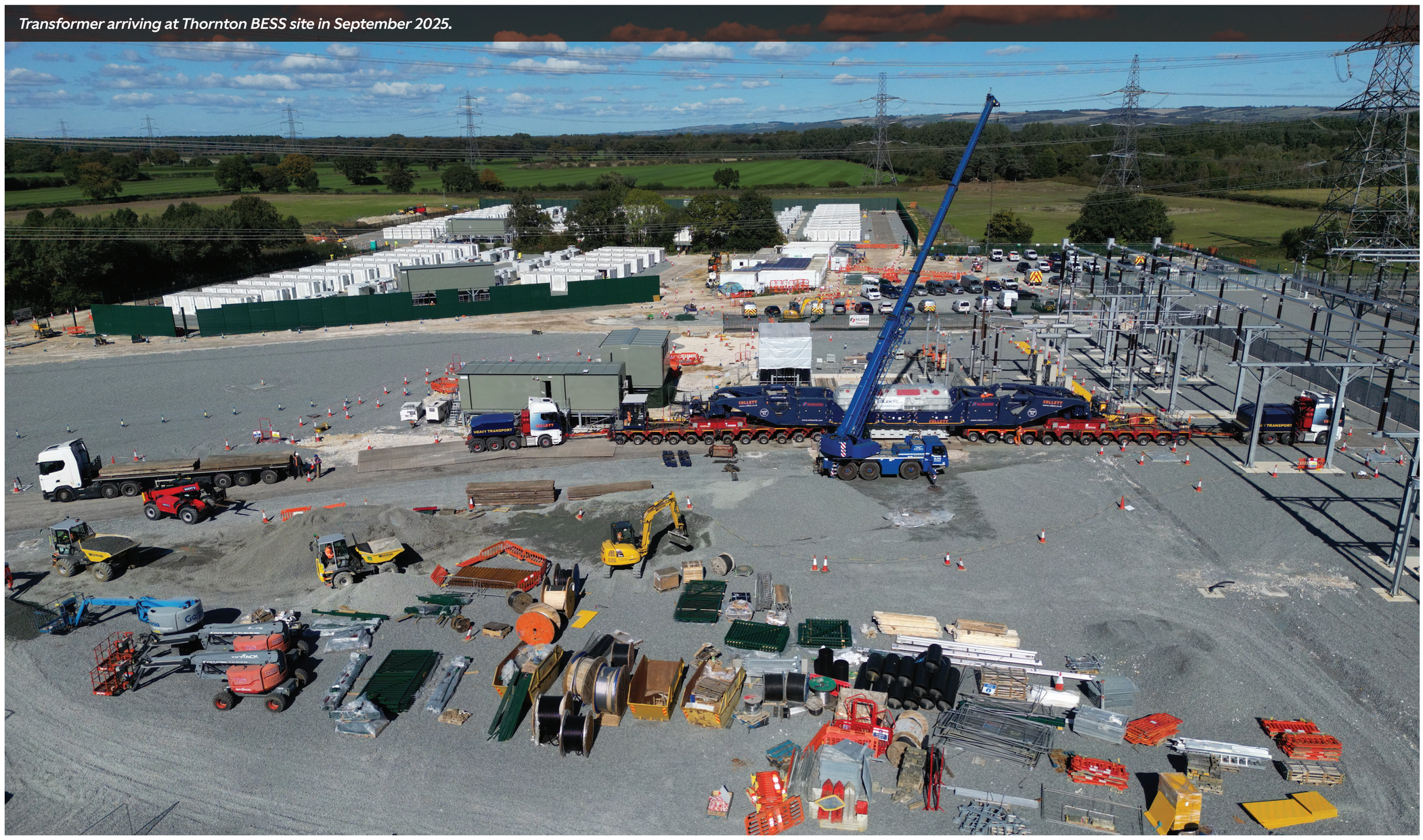
What is the Thornton BESS?

Thornton Greener Grid Park (GGP) is a part of the wider project that the construction of Soay Solar Farm will complete. Thornton GGP includes a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) – a set of large, on-site batteries that store electricity and help balance the local and national grid.

Transformer for Thornton BESS being delivered through Allerthorpe in September 2025

What role does Thornton BESS play in the national energy mix?

- **Grid Stability:**
  BESS helps keep the electricity grid stable through peaks and troughs of supply and demand, helping us integrate more renewable energy into the grid.
- **Energy security:**
  It stores and releases energy when most needed.
- **Supports reduction in the use of fossil fuels:**
  By making better use of renewable energy, Thornton BESS helps reduce reliance on fossil fuels and supports the UK's targets to reduce carbon emissions.



Transformer arriving at Thornton BESS site in September 2025.