

Low Farm Solar Farm

Statement of Community Involvement on behalf of **BOOM Power Ltd**

Prepared by Alpaca Communications | September 2020 |



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Executive Summary

BOOM Power (“the Applicant”) conducted a programme of public consultation and stakeholder engagement with regards to its proposals for a solar farm (“the Proposed Development”) on land North of Flockton and to the East of Overton, Wakefield, WF4 4BB (The Site). Although we are currently living through a pandemic, the Applicant sought to listen closely to the community, and pro-actively seek their involvement in the development of the proposals. A number of the issues raised by residents informed amendments to the submitted scheme.

The consultation centred around a virtual public exhibition, which was held on Thursday 3rd June 2021, via a webinar. The Applicant briefed ward councillors via email and has been invited to present to Kirkburton Parish Council.

A 12 page brochure (Appendix 1) for the virtual public consultation event was sent out in May 2021 to approximately 1,200 surrounding residents and 30 local businesses (see Appendix 2 for postal distribution area) inviting them to the virtual public exhibition on June 3.

A thirteen-slide deck presentation (Appendix 3) was presented during the virtual public exhibition, giving information about the Applicant, the Site and the Concept Design of the project. The Applicant and its development team were panellists of the virtual public exhibition, helping to explain the design of the site as well as engage in a Q&A session answering any questions attendees had. Attendees were encouraged to provide their thoughts and opinions through an online survey after the virtual public exhibition, or via submitted the feedback form (Appendix 1) included in the brochure via post or email. Additionally, the development team provided attendees with contact details if they wished to send any follow up questions or feedback.

The consultation feedback was received via post and email and in total 12 feedback forms were received. Of the 12 local residents that completed a feedback form or submitted feedback over email, 9 were in favour of the proposal, 3 were in objection and 0 were of no opinion.

Key matters raised during pre-application consultation included:

- Green Belt
- Biodiversity
- Landscape impact
- Visual impact
- Construction traffic routing and site access points

The consultation sought community feedback on the Concept Design (Figure 2).

One of the main issues raised during the public consultation process was the creation of local jobs, in response we have added to the EPC Contract that where possible, jobs must be advertised locally.

1. Introduction

The Applicant conducted a programme of public consultation and stakeholder engagement with regards to the Proposed Development which would have an export capacity of up to 49.9MW for distribution to the national grid. This is equivalent to the annual electrical needs of approximately 22,000 family homes. The anticipated CO₂ displacement is around 38,000 tonnes per annum which is the equivalent to taking approximately 7,500 cars off the road every year. This would be an important energy contribution (benefit) at both a national and local level.

This document provides an overview of the consultation programme, the feedback received together with an explanation as to how that feedback led to changes to the scheme design.

2. Approach to Consultation

The Applicant strongly believes that now, more than ever, it is vital that local communities are able to see and shape planning applications that may have an impact on them. ‘Front-loading’ public engagement in this way helps ensure the proposals are as informed as possible by the local community and other stakeholders prior to the submission of the planning application to the relevant Local Planning Authority. This approach recognises that all parties benefit from a communications programme that ensures all of those people with a potential interest in a development are fully informed of the proposals and have had the opportunity to input early on. The Applicant is supportive of and fully committed to meaningful pre-application consultation.

We are currently living through a pandemic, the likes of which the country has not experienced in living memory. The Application and the development team agree with the recent guidance issued by the UK’s Government’s Chief Planner, which emphasised that planning applications that positively impact the country and local communities must continue to come forward.

To help inform as many residents as possible during these unusual times, we decided to extend the traditional size of the distribution area that would usually receive a public exhibition invitation leaflet. Furthermore, instead of a leaflet we created a more extensive brochure that was sent by post to residents and local businesses, this replicated the materials local residents would expect to see at a traditional public exhibition, including site maps, concept designs and viewpoint sketches. The brochure also included a feedback form which could be submitted via email or by using the enclosed prepaid envelope.

To replace a traditional face-to-face public exhibition, we hosted a virtual webinar. The brochure invited local residents to attend the webinar and Q&A session event. The webinar had a forty-minute presentation by the Applicant and development team, which was followed by an extensive Q&A session where residents were able to ask questions about the proposals. A recording of the webinar was hosted on the dedicated public consultation website.

3. Scheme Overview

The Site is at OS Grid Reference SE 241161 (X (Easting) and 424112, Y (Northing): 416153 (centre of Site). It comprises eight adjoining arable fields totalling an area of approximately 85 hectares (see Figure 1). The redline indicates the likely extent of the Proposed Development area which is contiguous with the land under the control of the Applicant.



Figure 1: Site Location Plan

4. The Consultation

4.1 Consultation Aims

The aims of the consultation were as follows:

- To work with local stakeholders and residents from the outset and see how we could improve the proposals by taking onboard their suggestions.
- To raise awareness of the proposals within the local community and to gain their valuable insight based on their local knowledge.
- To gain a firm understanding of the key issues affecting the local community.
- To ensure the local community had the opportunity to give feedback on the proposals, especially during the on-going pandemic.

4.2 Consultation Overview

In May 2021, Kirkburton Parish Council and Kirkburton Ward councillors (Cllr Bill Armer, Cllr John Taylor and Cllr Richard Smith) were provided with consultation materials and meetings with the development team were offered.

An eight-page brochure (Appendix 2) for the virtual public consultation event was sent out in the middle of May to approximately 1,200 surrounding residents and 30 local businesses (see Appendix 3 for postal distribution area) inviting them to a virtual public exhibition on Thursday 3rd June 2021. The Applicant held the virtual public exhibition, where a Concept Design of the proposed scheme was available for local residents to provide feedback on.

A website for the project (Appendix 4) was also created which can be accessed at the following address: <https://www.boom-power.co.uk/low-farm/>. The website provides visitors with an overview of the proposals, a recording of the virtual public exhibition as well the opportunity to get in contact with the development team or leave feedback.

4.3 Briefing Kirkburton Parish Council

Members of the development team will be presenting to members of the Kirkburton Parish Council on Thursday 1st July 2021. The councillors will be shown the latest layout and design of the site, traffic management plans, and the development team will be on hand to answer any questions the councillors may have.

4.4 Briefing political stakeholders

The ward councillors for Kirkburton Ward; Cllr Bill Armer, Cllr John Taylor, Cllr Richard Smith were engaged with early on via email (in May) and meetings were offered. Although no meetings took place, the councillors were kept informed throughout the consultation process and the development shared with them the brochure that was going out to residents and of course the Parish Councillors and ward councillors were invited to attend the webinar on Thursday 3rd June 2021.

4.5 The virtual public exhibition

A virtual public exhibition was held on Thursday 3rd June 2021 via a Zoom webinar, a number of local residents attended the virtual event and two members of the development team were

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Attendees were encouraged to provide their thoughts and opinions through an online survey after the virtual public exhibition, or via submitted the feedback form included in the brochure via post or email. Additionally, the development team provided attendees with contact details if they wished to send any follow up questions or feedback.

Figure 2 below shows the Concept Design presented at the exhibition on which feedback was sought.

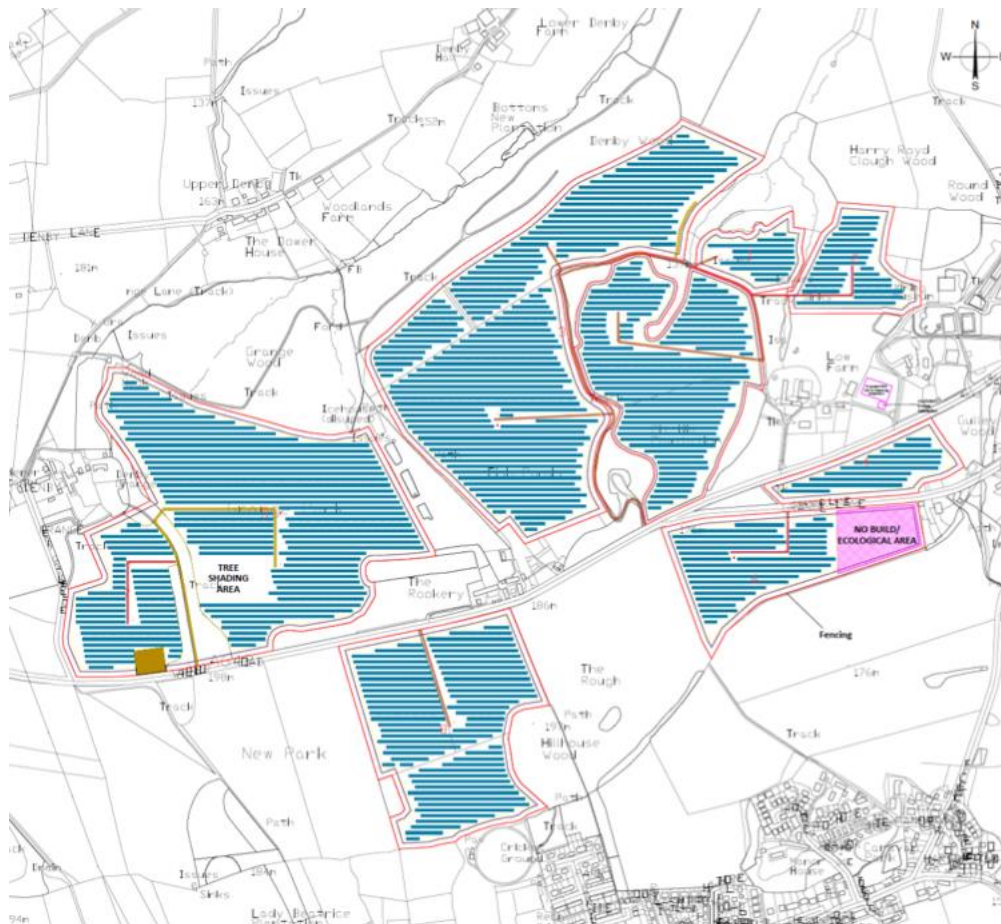


Figure 2: Concept Design Presented at the Virtual Public Exhibition and included in the Brochure

5. Consultation Feedback

5.1 Verbal Feedback / Questions

The virtual public exhibition webinar included a live Q&A session, this lasted for approximately two hours. The most frequent issues that were raised by the webinar attendees included questions regarding the green belt and the visual impact of the proposals.

Other topics raised by attendees included specific questions site access, construction traffic routing and loss of agricultural land.

6.2 Feedback forms

The development team received 12 completed feedback forms via post and email. The results are presented below.

The brochure feedback form included three multiple choice tick box questions, a comment section for question four and a space for additional comments.

Question one: Has this local resident brochure / webinar been helpful in understanding our proposal?

YES	NO	UNSURE
10	1	1

The results of question one reflects the effectiveness of the local resident brochure and webinar, demonstrating how attendees felt engaged.

Question two: What is the most important issue to you about our proposal, where 1 is of highest importance and 9 is of least importance?

Table 1 collates the responses and ranks them in their order of concern as expressed by attendees, it reveals that the Green Belt and landscape Impact were the two main concerns expressed by attendees.

Table 1: Issues of Importance to the Local Community

RANK	ISSUE	SCORE*
1	Green Belt	25
2	Landscape impact	26
3	Visual Impact	31
4	Climate Change	33
5	Loss of Agricultural land	36
6	Impact on footpaths	38
7	Increase in biodiversity	42
8	Residential amenities	45
9	Construction traffic	54

*The lower the score, the higher the issue was in terms of importance for consultees.

Question three: With regards to the proposals, you have read/heard about, are you:

IN FAVOUR	IN OBJECTION	OF NO OPINION	UNSURE
3	9		

Question Four: We would welcome your feedback on all aspects of the emerging design shown in the brochure, including whether:

Consultees were able to write in a comments box their response to these questions. The answers we received to question 4 are provided in Appendix 6. The Applicant response to these comments can be found in section 6.5 'How feedback has shaped the scheme design'.

Comments

12 feedback forms were received that contained detailed comments. Appendix 7 contains those comments in full (in addition to comments received via email), in addition to the Applicant's response.

The comments covered key topics including:

- Green belt
- Landscape impact
- Climate change and
- Loss of agricultural land.

6.4 Summary of Feedback

The consultation programme successfully engaged residents that live in close proximity to the proposed development site, the vast majority (10 out of 12) that completed a feedback form felt that the brochure and/or webinar had been 'helpful'.

The most frequently cited issues were the Green Belt and Landscape Impact. Of the minority of respondents that supported the scheme, most referenced the need to take action to respond to the climate crisis. Other topics raised by attendees included specific questions concerning site access and the impact of construction traffic.

6.5 How Feedback Influenced the Scheme Design

- One of the main issues raised during the public consultation process was the creation of local jobs, in response we have added to the EPC Contract that where possible, jobs must be advertised locally.
- The location of the education board on public footpaths passing alongside the development is open to suggestion from the local community – either through the LPAs consultation process or through the Parish Council
- The access point for parcel 6 has been changed following feedback at the webinar. It now avoids the residential properties on Grange Lane and uses an existing field access point.
- An area of woodland planting along the southern edge of Parcel 2 is included following residents' concerns about views from the south and following advice from Landscape Visual.
- Amendments to the kerbline at the access to Parcel 1 require some relocation of traditional dry stone wall. South West Archaeology considered this during their site visit and confirmed that the boundary wall in this location would benefit from some rebuilding and repair. These walls are part of the agricultural heritage of the area and are appreciable from the highway

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and footpaths and as such reasonably be counted as a heritage improvements arising from the scheme.

- Landscaping plan responds to public comments about key views and the need to enhance the natural environment.
- The benefits of the development to the local area clear will be made more clear in the Planning Statement following feedback that this hasn't yet been clearly communicated.
- The Planning Statement responds specifically to concern raised by one local resident about the impact of the development upon the hunting ground of nesting buzzards and reference to an research paper is provided.

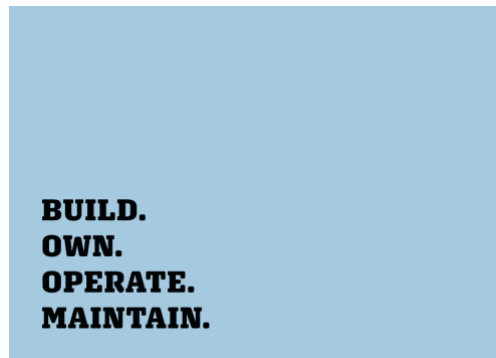
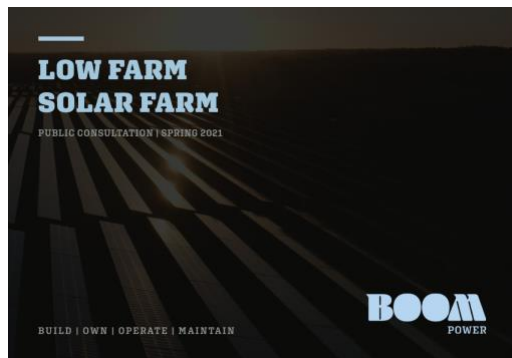
7. Conclusion

The consultation identified and successfully engaged with local residents and key community, political and business stakeholders and the feedback received has influenced the final scheme design.

8. Appendices

- Appendix 1: Local Resident Brochure
- Appendix 2: Local Residents' Brochure Distribution Area
- Appendix 3: Virtual Public Exhibition PowerPoint Presentation
- Appendix 4: Project webpage
- Appendix 5: Comments received from the feedback form, question 4.
- Appendix 6: General Comments received from the feedback form

Appendix 1: Local Resident Brochure



INTRODUCTION.

Boom Power is proposing to develop a solar farm on approximately 210 acres of land, located to the North of Flockton and to the East of Overton at the postcode WF4 4BB.

The project could have up to a generating capacity of 49.9 megawatts for distribution to the national grid. This is equivalent to the annual electrical needs of approximately 15,200 family homes across West Yorkshire. The anticipated CO₂ displacement is around 23,300 tonnes per year, which represents an emission saving equivalent of a reduction in 1500 cars on the road every year. It is important to note that this project is non-subsidised, therefore requires no government funding.

WHY HERE?

The site has been carefully selected as part of a detailed feasibility process. Consideration has been given to a number of things including: Grid capacity, solar irradiation, environmental designations, cultural heritage, ecology, biodiversity, flood risk and agricultural quality. Detailed studies are being carried out by technical specialists to inform the final scheme design and respond to each of these points.

 indicates designated ecological habitat areas

BENEFITS OF LOW FARM SOLAR FARM.

The main benefits of the development proposed are summarised below.

It will assist Kirkstall Council's climate emergency declaration made in 2019 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to align with local, national and international targets.

The Council's vision is to make Kirkstall completely carbon neutral by 2038.

The project will contribute to the UK's urgent need to transition to a low carbon future by producing renewable energy to enable energy security and self-sufficiency in the local area.

Compared to arable farming, a solar farm can provide the land with multiple uses. Solar farms can support a biodiversity net gain by providing an overall increase in natural habitat and ecological features which will allow flora and fauna to actively thrive (visit solarsenergyuk.org/solar-energy).

This is a temporary development and a successful planning consent would require the land to be returned to its current condition. A solar farm has an average life span of 35-40 years.

The anticipated construction period will be approximately 6 months. Local highway restrictions will be agreed with the Highway Authority, avoiding minor roads and villages where possible.

No existing Public Rights of Way will be blocked or diverted to accommodate the development.

A solar farm is minimally invasive and allows land to lie fallow which delivers wildlife, soil quality and ecological benefits.



DESIGN.

The proposed development will use bi-facial solar modules. Bi-facial modules absorb sunlight from both sides as opposed to just one. Therefore, they can convert the light that is reflected behind the panel to increase the total energy production.



Right: Envisaged concept design of the Low Farm Solar Farm (not to scale)

NET ZERO BY 2050.

According to the UK, climate change is the 'defining crisis of our time and it is happening even more quickly than we heard'. We have to create more renewable energy.

The UK Government has committed to reducing economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions by at least 68 per cent by 2050, compared to 1990 levels.

In addition to this, the Government had made a legal commitment to cut carbon emissions to net zero by 2050. This will require a rapid and expanded deployment of low carbon power, including solar.

BIODIVERSITY.

Boom Power recognises the importance of environmental protection and is committed to operating sustainably and responsibly. We seek and implement external qualified ecologist advice to allow natural habitats for a range of invertebrates, small mammals, reptiles and birds to truly flourish. Wild flower meadows around the external fencing, low intensity sheep grazing, bird boxes and log piles are just a few examples of installations that aid towards a biodiversity net gain.

The greatest biodiversity benefits will be gained where fertilizer and pesticide use are minimised or eliminated totally. This will enable flora and invertebrate diversity to actively thrive.



Low Farm Solar Farm

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ABOUT US.

Boom Power has experience combining world class technology with industry leading expertise to deliver international solar infrastructure projects. Our ambition is underpinned by the formation of long-standing partnerships with one primary objective - to work in balance with nature to harvest our energy sustainably, shaping the world for future generations.

726

MEGAWATTS CONSTRUCTED

450,000

AVE BONES POWERED PER YEAR

856

MEGAWATTS DEVELOPED

950,000

TONNES OF CO₂ PREVENTED PER YEAR

OUR MISSION.

- ✓ Contribute towards a sustainable economy through the production of renewable energy
- ✓ Aid in the repair of our planet through our environmentally friendly and biodiverse approach
- ✓ Adopt the latest technologies to ensure we deliver pioneering projects
- ✓ Retain the ecological footprint of land post-development
- ✓ Build partnerships with like-minded people to jointly accelerate the reduction of our carbon footprint

Left: Boom Power Solar Farm which forms part of Boom Power's sustainable energy. Please note that this project does not fall under Boom Power's ownership.

OUR APPROACH DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS.

Boom Power agrees with the guidance issued by the UK Government's Chief Planner, which emphasised that planning applications that positively impact the country and local communities must continue to come forward.

In addition, Boom Power believes that it is vital that local communities are able to see and shape planning applications that may have an impact. We therefore invite you to provide feedback on our draft proposals in the following ways:

- 1 Fill in the feedback form that accompanies this public consultation brochure. This brochure contains the same information that would have been displayed at a typical public consultation event.
- 2 Attend our public consultation webinar and Q&A session on Thursday 24th June 2021 at 7pm. This webinar will start with a ten minute presentation by the project team where they will outline the draft proposal. Following this will be the Q&A session where you'll have the opportunity to ask any questions you may have about the draft proposal to the project team members. Please note that the webinar will be recorded and hosted on our public consultation website in case you are unable to tune in live. To register your attendance please visit the public consultation website (below link).
- 3 Visit the dedicated public consultation website boom-power.co.uk/low-farm. Here you can find all information about our draft proposal which will be updated on a regular basis.

HAVE YOUR SAY.

This brochure forms part of our pre-submission consultation efforts in which we are asking for your opinion on this proposed solar farm. Further consultation on the final scheme will be undertaken by the Local Planning Authority when the final application is registered with them.

Please take your time to consider the information within this brochure and should you have further questions or matters you want to clarify, please do not hesitate to contact a member of our team.

We would be grateful if you could complete the feedback form which will be used for the purpose of providing feedback to the project design team.

BOOM-POWER.CO.UK

+44 (0)20 7499 2842

FEEDBACK@ALPACACOMMUNICATIONS.COM

Should you require this document in large print, audio or braille then please contact us at the details provided.

LOW FARM | FEEDBACK FORM.

To return your completed feedback form please tear from the brochure and post to us by Friday 11th June 2021 at the following postal address: **Prepact ALPACA COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED**. Alternatively, you can return your form via our independent email: **feedback@alpacacommunications.com**

Title: _____ Name: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____
Email: _____ Telephone: _____

- 1 Has this local resident brochure been helpful in understanding our proposal?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

- 2 What is the most important issue to you about our proposal, where 1 is of highest importance and 9 is of the least important.
- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ☐ Construction traffic | ☐ Landscape impact | ☐ Greenbelt impact |
| ☐ Increasing biodiversity | ☐ Visual impact | ☐ Loss of agricultural land |
| ☐ Climate change | ☐ Residential amenity impact | ☐ Public Right of Way impact |

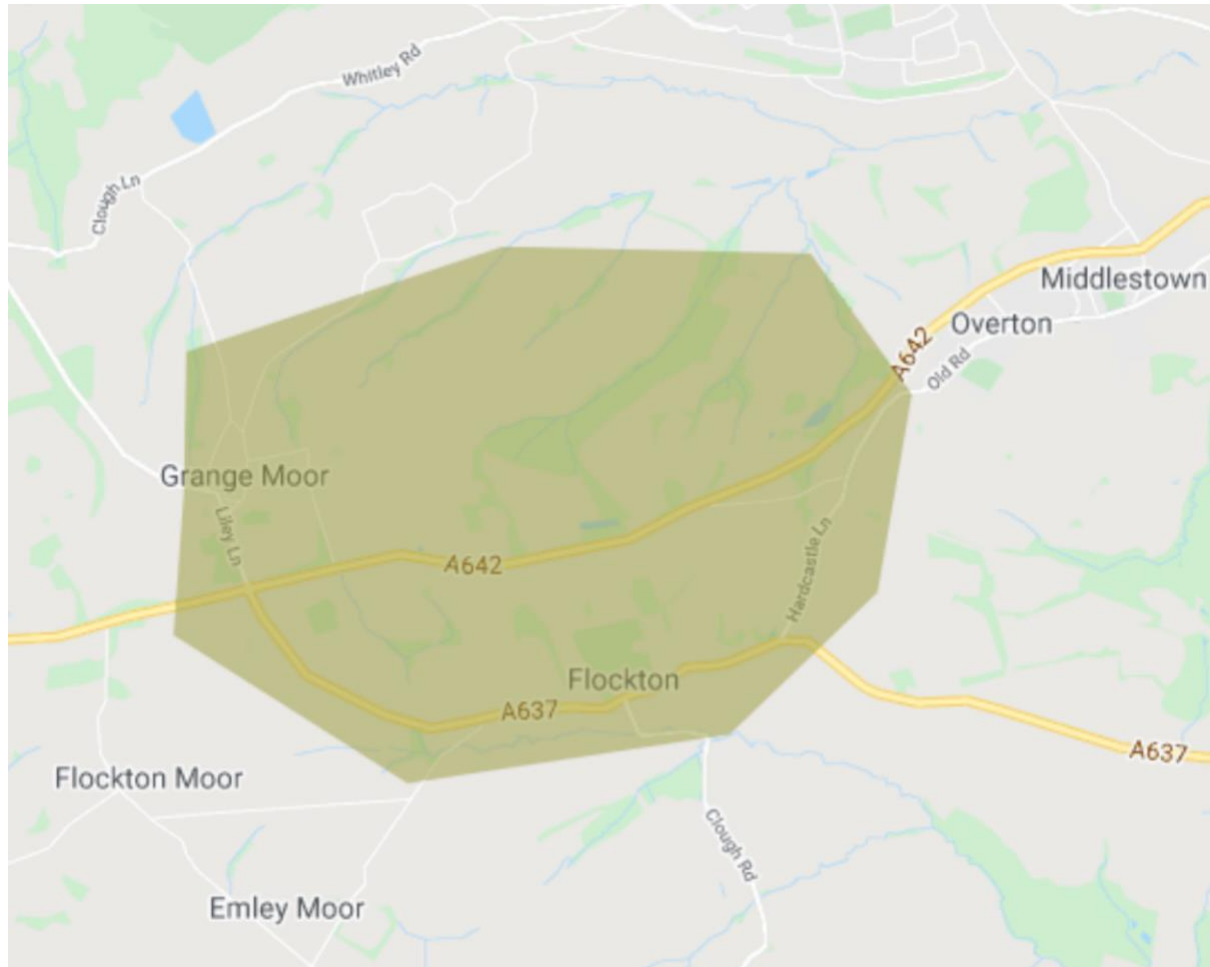
- 3 With regard to the proposals you have read about within this brochure, are you:
☐ In favour ☐ In objection ☐ Of no opinion

- 4 We would welcome your feedback on all aspects of the emerging design shown in the brochure, such as:
- Is a no build ecological area something you would like included within the design?
 - Is the opportunity for education boards to inform Public Right of Way users about solar energy and biodiversity benefits important?

- 5 Any other comments?

Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback. Your answers may be included as part of a consultation report submitted with our planning application to Local Planning Authority. It is important to note that we respect your privacy and all personal details including your name, address and contact details will remain anonymous.

Appendix 2: Local Resident Brochure Distribution Area Distribution Area



A twelve-page brochure (Appendix 1) for the webinar was sent out in May 2021 to approximately 1,200 surrounding residents and 30 local businesses.

Appendix 3: Virtual Public Exhibition PowerPoint Presentation

LOW FARM SOLAR FARM.
PUBLIC CONSULTATION WEBINAR | THURSDAY 3rd JUNE 2021

BOOM POWER

BUILD | OWN | OPERATE | MAINTAIN

INTRODUCTION.

Thank you for joining us this evening. By way of introduction, the presentation team this evening includes Peter Elms (Alpine Communications), Kate Cartwell (Planning Principal Consultant for Andresh 100) and Rob Smith (Senior Project Developer at Boom Power). Please note the following:

- The Q&A session will follow this presentation – we will do our very best to answer as many questions as we can during this time.
- When invited to ask your question you will be prompted to unmute your microphone.
- The webinar is being recorded and will be uploaded to our project webpage (boom-power.co.uk/low-farm). Please turn your video camera off if you are not willing to appear within the video.
- You'll have a better view of the presentation if you minimise the speakers box.

LOW FARM SOLAR FARM PROPOSAL
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ABOUT.

Boom Power combine world class technology with industry leading expertise to deliver international solar infrastructure projects. Our ambition is underpinned by the formation of long-standing partnerships with one primary objective – to work in balance with nature to harvest our energy sustainably, shaping our world for future generations.

726 MEGAWATTS CONSTRUCTED
450,000 AVG HOMES POWERED PER YEAR
856 MEGAWATTS DEVELOPED
950,000 TONNES OF CO₂ PREVENTED PER YEAR

OUR MISSION.

- Contribute towards a sustainable economy through the production of renewable energy
- Aid in the repair of our planet through our environmentally friendly and business approach
- Adopt the latest technologies to ensure we deliver pioneering projects
- Retain the ecological benefits of land post development
- Build partnerships with localised business, communities and individuals people to jointly accelerate the reduction of our carbon footprint

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LOCATION.

NORTH OF FLOCKTON | WEST YORKSHIRE | 210 ACRES | [WYA 000](#)



LOW FARM SOLAR FARM PROPOSAL
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BENEFITS OF LOW FARM SOLAR FARM.

- It will assist Rixhams Council's climate emergency declaration made in 2019 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to align with local, national and international targets.
- The Council's vision is to make Rixhams completely carbon neutral by 2038.
- The project will contribute to the UK's urgent need to transition to a low carbon future by producing renewable energy to enable energy security and self-sufficiency in the local area.
- Compared to arable farming, a solar farm can provide the land with multiple uses. Solar farms can support a biodiversity net gain by providing an overall increase in natural habitat and ecological features which will allow flora and fauna to actively thrive.
- No existing Public Rights of Way will be blocked or diverted to accommodate the development.
- This is a temporary development and a successful planning consent would require the land to be returned to its current condition.
- A solar farm has an average life span of 30 – 40 years.
- The anticipated construction period will be approx. 6 months.
- Local highway restrictions will be followed and HGV routing will be agreed with the Highway Authority, avoiding major roads and villages where possible.
- A solar farm is minimally invasive and allows land to be fallow which delivers wildlife, soil quality and ecological benefits.

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VISUAL ELEMENTS OF A SOLAR FARM.



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WHY HERE?

- The project could have up to a generating capacity of 48.8 megawatts for distribution to the national grid. This is equivalent to the annual electrical needs of approx. 16,000 family homes across West Yorkshire.
- Climate emergency declaration in the UK: climate change is the defining crisis of our time and life threatening events more quickly than we heard. We have to create more renewable energy!
- Development brought to the attention of the Council in 2020. This will require a rapid and expedient development of the solar power, including solar.
- Good connection. Capacity and proximity to the site reduces transmission losses and avoids impact of off-site construction impact.
- Infrastructure for construction. Good connectivity and accessibility.
- Planning considerations. Conservation areas, areas of natural beauty, ecological and environmental protection designations have all been taken into account.
- Land availability and quality. The proposed development is on an area of 210 acres of agricultural land. Detailed surveys are under way to ascertain the agricultural land classification grading.

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POWER IN NUMBERS.

23,300 TONNES OF CO₂ PREVENTED PER YEAR
15,200 FAMILY HOMES POWERED PER YEAR
1,109,000 TREES OFFSET PER YEAR
7,500 GAS REDUCTION PER YEAR

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BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN.

Solar farms present an excellent opportunity to enhance the value of natural biodiversity and to create additional habitats. These can include:

- Site boundaries: installing hedgerows and trees with native species.
- Overland: This helps prevent soil erosion which will support habitats for a range of invertebrates, small mammals, reptiles and birds. Alternatively, grassland can be developed as pasture with low intensity sheep grazing.
- Artificial structures: Purpose built log piles, bat and bird boxes for nesting, roosting and hibernation are incorporated.

Once built, the habitat enhancements are checked regularly, as follows:

- Planting: This is assessed in spring and autumn to ensure plants have taken and remain healthy, along with the entire site checked for injurious weeds.
- Roosting and nesting boxes: These are checked and checked for structural integrity outside of the breeding season.



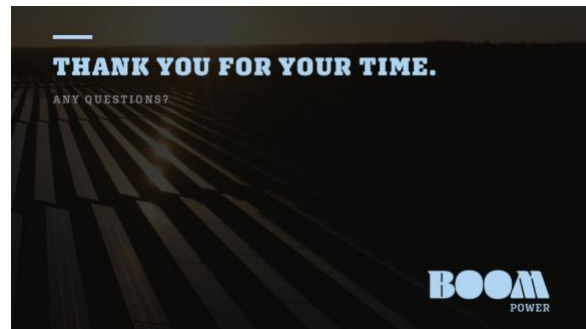
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PUBLIC CONSULTATION TIMELINE & NEXT STEPS.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.



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Statement of Community Involvement

Appendix 4: Project webpage

LOW FARM SOLAR FARM.

WEST YORKSHIRE.

Proposed Projects - Low Farm Solar Farm

Boon Power is presenting its proposal for a solar farm on the land located to the North of Fleckton and to the East of Overton at the postcode WY4 4BL. The proposed development is on an area of approximately 210 acres of agricultural land with a generating capacity of 49.9 megawatts for distribution to the national grid. The site has been carefully selected as part of a detailed feasibility process. Consideration has been given to a number of things including: grid capacity, solar irradiation, environmental designations, cultural heritage, ecology, biodiversity, flood risk and agricultural quality. Detailed studies are being carried out by technical specialists to inform the final scheme design and respond to each of these points.

PROJECT SELECTION
 DETAILED FEASIBILITY PROCESS
 PLANNING APPLICATION SUBMISSION
 PLANNING APPLICATION DECISION
 DISCHARGE OF PLANNING CONDITIONS
 CONSTRUCTION
 OPERATION

FEATURES & BENEFITS.

23,300
TONNES OF CO2 PREVENTED PER YEAR*
 15,200
FAMILY HOMES POWERED PER YEAR*
 1,109,000
TREES OFFSET PER YEAR*
 7,500
CAR REDUCTIONS PER YEAR*

It will assist Kirklees Council's climate emergency declaration made in 2019 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to align with local, national and international targets.

The Council's vision is to make Kirklees completely carbon neutral by 2038.

The project will contribute to the UK's urgent need to transition to a low carbon future by producing renewable energy to enable energy security and self-sufficiency in the local area.

A solar farm is minimally invasive and allows land to lie fallow which delivers wildlife, soil quality and ecological benefits.

Compared to arable farming, a solar farm can provide the land with multiple uses. Solar farms can support a biodiversity net gain by providing an overall increase in natural habitat and ecological features which will allow flora and fauna to actively thrive.

This is a temporary development and a successful planning consent would require the land to be returned to its current condition.

A solar farm has an average life span of 35-40 years.

No existing Public Rights of Way will be blocked or diverted to accommodate the development.

The proposed development will use bi-facial solar modules. Bi-facial modules absorb the sunlight from both sides as opposed to just one. Therefore, they can convert the light that is reflected behind the panel to increase the total energy production.

The anticipated construction period will be approx. 6 months.

Local highway restrictions will be followed and HGV routing will be agreed with the Highway Authority, avoiding minor roads and villages where possible.

[DOWNLOAD INFORMATION LEAFLET](#)

EVOLVING CONCEPT DESIGN.

NET ZERO BY 2050.

According to the UN, climate change is the 'defining crisis of our time and it is happening even more quickly than we feared. We have to create more renewable energy.

The UK Government has committed to reducing economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions by at least 68 per cent by 2050, compared to 1990 levels.

In addition to this, the Government had made a legal commitment to cut carbon emissions to net zero by 2050. This will require a rapid and expanded deployment of low carbon power, including solar.

BIODIVERSITY.

Boon Power recognises the importance of environmental protection and is committed to operating sustainably and responsibly. We seek and implement external qualified ecologist advice to allow natural habitats for a range of invertebrates, small mammals, reptiles and birds to truly flourish. Wild flower meadows around the external fencing, low intensity sheep grazing, bird boxes and log piles are just a few examples of installations that aid towards a biodiversity net gain.

The greatest biodiversity benefits will be gained where fertilisers and pesticides use are minimised or eliminated totally. This will enable flora and invertebrate diversity to actively thrive.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION.

Boon Power agrees with the provisions issued by the UK Government's Climate Change Act, which emphasised that planning applications that positively impact the economy and local communities must continue to come forward.

Due to the unprecedented times we find ourselves in, we were unable to hold a face to face public consultation event. We did however host a public consultation webinar and Q&A session on Thursday 3rd June 2021 at 7pm where the project team outlined the development proposal. The webinar is available to watch below. Thank you to those of you who joined the webinar.

CONTACT US.

* Field required.

Name*
 Email address*
 Phone number (optional)
 Postcode*

What is your connection to Low Farm?*

☐ Local resident
☐ Local business
☐ Representative of a local group or organisation

Message*

We're committed to remaining open and engaged with the community during this process. If you have any questions relating to Low Farm Solar Farm please use the contact form to contact a member of our team.

Please provide your contact details if you wish to get a response. Any information provided may be used for the purpose of our planning application to the Local Planning Authority and will not be disclosed with any third parties. We respect your privacy and all personal details including your name, postcode and contact details will remain anonymous.

+44 (0)20 7490 2842
feedback@alpacomcommunications.com

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[RETURN TO PROPOSED PROJECTS](#)

Appendix 5: Comments received re feedback form question 4

COMMENTS RECEIVED
Flockton has just had hundreds of new houses built in village?
Where is the bypass
House values - who will compensate us if those are affected?
A huge eyesore over a vast landscape with panels 10ft high.
Access roads would spoil fields.
Biodiversity won't happen under the panels with sheep grazing
I am concerned about the use of green belt. I think the visual impact will be detrimental to the area.
And our road the A673 is already horrendous. If this proposal included a by-pass for Flockton I might not be as annoyed.
Visual from road- would it be better on remote road.
Public right of way needs to be clear
Weather dependant, not good here
No more houses or New Builds
Traffic is terrible in this village
All about making money
Rows and rows of panels and no sun
I would with for a 'no build ecological area' to be included in the design
Prior to starting the build it would be wise to carry our ecological survey of the area to be adopted particularly ground-nesting birds and the deer population.
if areas are fenced off will provision be made for the movement of wildlife?
Yes a no build area should be included in the design
Keeping the public informed in all ways is important for keeping them on your side
The scheme is too large

Appendix 6: Comments received re feedback form question 4 and Applicant's response

COMMENTS RECEIVED	APPLICANT'S RESPONSE
Stop building solar panels in and around Flockton.	As part of a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment a cumulative assessment has been undertaken considering existing and/or other committed development.
The noise from the compound area is not mentioned.	A Noise Impact Assessment accompanies the planning application having undertaken detailed modelling based on background noise monitoring undertaken on site.
Not enough information in brochure	Residents were provided with contact information to get further information from members of the project team.
What impact on the environment when these solar panels are removed is not mentioned	The proposed solar farm will make a considerable net reduction in carbon emissions.
Impact on house prices	House price impact is not a material planning concern.
Impact on theft of panels.	The application contains CCTV and security fencing provision.
It's not that sunny in WF4 4BB!	The Applicant anticipates being able to export up to 49.9MW to the National Grid at any one time.
A by-pass is needed more than this	N/A
It is impossible to fill in details overleaf- not enough space	Residents were provided with contact information to email or write to members of the project team.
feedback form too glossy	N/A
Electromagnetic waves unhealthy to body and near houses (me)	There is no significant evidence of Solar Farms providing health risks.
Would be better in remote area	The Applicant has carefully considered potential visual impact. A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Glint and Glare Study and CTMP have been undertaken.
This will look terrible in my area of Flockton	The Applicant has carefully considered potential visual impact. A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Glint and Glare Study and CTMP have been undertaken.
what is the benefit to my area?	There is a considerable local benefit with regard to biodiversity and the provision of renewable energy.
For me living here I think it's a nightmare and I can't welcome this here	N/A
keep away from the short boundary of the cricket field! allow access for the cricketers to retrieve the ball	The Applicant has carefully considered the relationship between the site and the cricket field.

Low Farm Solar Farm

Statement of Community Involvement

This solar farm benefits society without obstructing the view	N/A
I have reviewed your public consultation document and would like to be kept informed as the proposed Low Farm development progresses. In particular, I am interested to understand details of the grid connection, details of how the land will be managed to improve biodiversity and what opportunities there are likely to be for local businesses through the construction and operation phases; and what your proposals are to engage with the business communities to maximise these opportunities.	Significant biodiversity improvements are a key benefit of the proposed Solar Farm. The land will be managed by the Applicant. The Applicant will seek to use local suppliers where viable.
I think that this is a wonderful idea, and give it my 100% backing - we need to be as fuel efficient and carbon neutral as we possibly can be in these days of climate warming and other weather phenomena.	N/A

Low Farm Solar Farm

Statement of Community Involvement

Although I will be unable to attend the public consultation on June 3rd , I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of my position on this proposed 'solar farm'. As one of the unfortunate residents who would find themselves surrounded on all sides by this hideous development , I have grave concerns about your claims that this site was 'carefully selected'. Your glossy brochure makes this colossal development sound so innocent ,yet you make no mention of the known detrimental effects of electromagnetic radiation. Electromagnetic frequency studies have repeatedly shown gene mutations and DNA fragmentation which can cause cell mutation and cancer. Have Boom-Power 'carefully selected' these surrounded residents for some sick experiment ? I would like to think not. Turning the accessible countryside into an industrial landscape is not the solution to any renewable energy target that Kirkless Council may have. The Kirklees Way cuts right through this so called farm and this development will do nothing to enhance the credentials of this well used and well loved rural stretch of the path. At least two pairs of nesting buzzards are resident within the boundaries of this development their hunting ground would no longer exist ...how thoughtful of you .We also have resident bats whose natural habitat would be compromised to say the least ...again ,how thoughtful of you !!!. Recent times have highlighted like never before the importance of accessible green open spaces for people's well being and mental health . To reduce this easily accessible space would be unforgivable .In conclusion I oppose the proposed Low Farm Solar Monstrosity and I will endeavour to make my voice heard as loud as possible.	There is no significant evidence of Solar Farms providing health risks. The Applicant has carefully considered potential visual impact. A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Glint and Glare Study and CTMP have been undertaken.
This area is greenbelt	The Applicant has considered this issue, and believes there are exceptional circumstances, namely the Climate Emergency.
Propose that you move your plans to another area of England	N/A

