



Walbottle  
Greenspace

Community  
Meeting  
06.04.25

Blucher &  
District  
Social Club

# Agenda

- Meet the working group panel.
- What do we know so far ?
  - Timeline of events.
  - The detail in the proposed development.
- Environmental Impact Assessment.
  - Timeline.
  - Documents.
  - Decision.
- Public Consultation.
  - What questions did you ask and did you get answers ?
- What is next ?
  - Planning Application Submission.
  - How to view the application.
  - When, how and what to submit to submit in your application.
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
  - Live local planning applications.
- Fundraising.
  - Why do we need to fundraise and how funds will be used.
- How we aim to stay connected and make sure our voices are heard.
- Q & A's.

# Meet Walbottle Greenspace Working Group Panel

- Richie - Walbottle
- Vicky - Walbottle
- Christine - Walbottle
- Mal - Walbottle
- John - Walbottle
- Antonia - Walbottle
- Michael - Blucher
- Julie - Blucher
- Carl - Blucher
- Tracey - Blucher



- Kellie - Newburn
- Gillian - Newburn
- \*\*\*\*\* - Mill Vale
- \*\*\*\*\* - Orchid Rise
- \*\*\*\*\* - West Denton Park
- \*\*\*\*\* - West Denton Park
- \*\*\*\*\* - North Walbottle
- \*\*\*\*\* - Lemington Rise
- \*\*\*\*\* - Lemington
- \*\*\*\*\* - Throckley

# What do we know so far ?

## - Timeline of events.

- July 2023
  - Surveyors in the fields plotting all 5 fields. Possession of a map with boundaries of survey.
  - Lucion Group. Confirm Northumberland Estates / Duke of Northumberland had instructed surveys of the fields.
  - Kelling Group at Nature Reserve.
  - Water Intelligence International in fields.
  - DSF Group in the fields.
- August 2023
  - Lucion Group survey ongoing in and around Blucher bridleway.
- January 2024
  - Durham Archaeological Studies (University). Working in all 5 fields for 4 days. Confirm historical monument order due to vallum etc and he was surprised a pylon was on it. States he would submit a report to NE in 5/6 weeks and may be back when they do further work digging archaeological trenches depends on who gets instructed could be North Tyneside Archaeologists. Mentioned build up of "S" coal/metals from industry along hedge line along pathway.
  - Water course and some land erosion going on down towards dene.
  - Stated NE from previous experience does not disclose much and again mentioned how he had never consulted with farmer to date.



# What do we know so far ?

## - Timeline of events.

- February 2024
  - Soil surveys being conducted across several fields.
- April 2024
  - 2 days of tree surveys. Stated that a survey had previously been done however there had been issues with the report so it had to be done again. Said there were some interesting trees. A massive ash tree and plenty of wildlife. Advised to look at the bio-diversity net gain regs as there must be improvement to what is already here. Impact on ecological and wildlife habitat.
  - Plans drawn up with solar panels across all 5 fields. Further surveys being conducted down by the river near to the Boathouse for battery storage site.
  - Northumberland Estates displays notice of landowner deposit under Section 31(6) Highways Act 1980 and Section 15A(1) of the Commons Act 2006. Not wholly necessary at that time as previous deposits still valid. This resets the clock for another 20yrs.
- June 2024
  - North.Tech on site. Create best-in-class smart networks.
  - Northumbrian Water in field near open watercourse namely newburn.
  - Heavy cut back of hedgerows on bridleway.
- October 2024
  - Lucion Group back in village on several days taking GPA access points on Queens Road, Percy Way.

# What do we know so far ?

## - Timeline of events.

- February 2025
  - 13<sup>th</sup>, Lichfield's submit application to Newcastle City Council Planning Dept for a Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Request. Goes live on 13<sup>th</sup> on NCC planning portal. Allocated planning officer James Cowen
- March 2025
  - 4<sup>th</sup>, Newcastle City Council planning portal updated showing a decision that an Environmental Impact Assessment is not necessary
  - 17<sup>th</sup>, Northumberland Estates Blucher Solar Park Walbottle leaflet drop commences landing at various properties. Numerous resident report they did not receive the leaflet. Leaflet advertises Public Consultation on 27<sup>th</sup> March at Blucher Social club between 2pm and 8pm. Leaflet shows ariel view of proposed development, outlines a forthcoming planning application and lists 6 general benefits of such schemes not specific to the area.
  - 20<sup>th</sup>, Northumberland Estates releases media statement to Chronicle Live & Northumberland Gazette
  - Walbottle Greenspace working group panel members in response to Northumberland Estates consult with various media outlets with articles and announcements in Chronicle Live, Northumberland Gazette, BBC Newcastle radio, BBC TV breakfast news, BBC Look North, Asian Standard and Yahoo News. Walbottle Greenspace banners, placards and leaflets printed by BangOn Print, Lemington for media engagement.

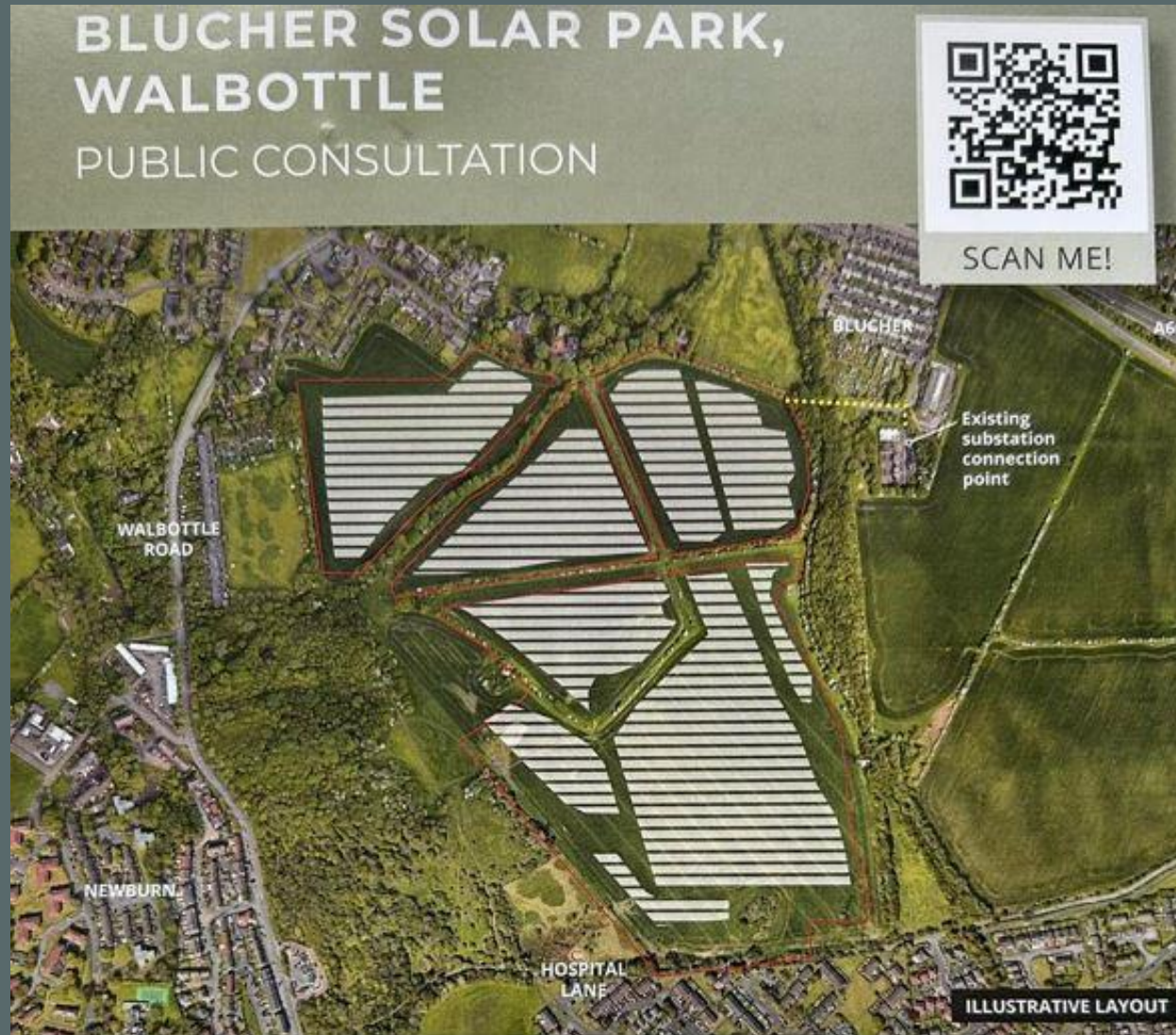
# What do we know so far ?

## - Timeline of events.

- March 2025
  - 27<sup>th</sup> , Northumberland Estates Public Consultation between 2pm and 8pm. Representatives of Northumberland Estates, Lichfield's and Armstrong Wardell present with 10 x A1 information display boards. Walbottle Greenspace working group panel turnup unannounced and present throughout the public consultation. Northumberland Estates initially made representation that it was their consultation however when it was explained that it was a Open Public Consultation and Walbottle Greenspace working group panel were present to gather information on the development, observe transparency, integrity and support our local communities with any questions they may have. It was explained that Walbottle Greenspace would not obstruct anyone attending and would engage with community members as they were leaving the room if they approached our engagement and support tables.
- April 2025
  - 3rd, Telegraph has contacted residents for comment on Blucher Solar Park Walbottle in relation to a previous article in August 2011 when Duke of Northumberland focalised his objection and legal battle with his neighbour the Duke of Roxburghe, Scotland who was proposing to develop windfarms whilst at the same time ruining the countryside.
  - 6th, Walbottle Greenspace Community Group.
- May 2025
  - Northumberland Estates advise forthcoming Planning Application will be submitted.

# What do we know so far ?

- The detail in the proposed development.





# What do we know so far ?

## The detail in the proposed development.

- 34ha = 84 acres, equivalent to 48 St James Park football pitches, 48 Newcastle Falcon rugby pitches, 27 Newcastle Cricket Club pitches or 809 Newcastle Eagle basketball courts made up of best and most versatile agricultural land, identified through the Agricultural Land Classification system which refers to land of the highest quality. These fields are ALC 3a (GOOD) and 3b (MODERATE). BMV land is seen as particularly valuable for food production in England & Wales. ALC is the system that classifies land solely based on its suitability for agriculture and graded as excellent to very poor. The BMV land available to grow crops accounts for around 1/3 of all agricultural land in England & Wales. A recent report by Grounded Insight for the Countryside Charity concedes that it isn't possible to give a completely accurate picture of the amounts of land in each ALC grade, as there has been limited detailed surveying of Best & Most Versatile Land. Estimates are found from the 1988 ALC Guidelines
- These 34ha of Best and Most Versatile land currently used in maintaining British food supply is to be replaced by 68,000 individual glass solar panels.
- Field rear of Queens Road and Percy Way :
  - 22 Rows of Solar Panels.
  - 12 x 4m poles with 24/7 CCTV cameras & security lighting.
  - 1 x Inverter which will emit noise throughout daylight hours.
- Field between newburn watercourse and public right of way from pylons down to waterfall/orchard :
  - 18 Rows of Solar Panels.
  - 11 x 4m poles with 24/7 CCTV cameras & security lighting.
  - 1 x Inverter which will emit noise throughout daylight hours.



# What do we know so far ?

## The detail in the proposed development.

- Field to west of Blucher :
  - 20 Rows of Solar Panels.
  - 11 x 4m poles with 24/7 CCTV cameras & security lighting.
  - 1 x Inverter which will emit noise throughout daylight hours.
- 3 x Fields adjacent to Hospital Lane to public right of way from pylons down to waterfall/orchard :
  - 36 Rows of Solar Panels.
  - 28 x 4m poles with 24/7 CCTV cameras & security lighting .
  - 3 x Inverters which will emit noise throughout daylight hours.
  - Operations Compound.
  - Control & Welfare Buildings.
  - Customer Substation.
  - Auxiliary Transformer.
  - HV Filter.
  - Weather Station.
  - 2 x Ancillary Structures.
- Connection to Blucher Substation :
  - All energy from solar panels will be metered with Northumberland Estates Renewables being paid for the energy that is directed into the National Grid. No benefit will come to the local communities of Walbottle, Blucher, West Denton Park, Mill Vale etc. The Duke of Northumberland receives the benefit.





- Site Boundary**  
If shown
- Property Boundary**  
If shown
- Public Right of Way**  
Approximate route for indication - refer to title documents
- Existing track incorporated into development**  
Reinforcement or repair may be required
- New / upgraded access track**  
Unpaved access routes not shown
- Reinforced (transformer) access track**
- New hard standing**  
Land grading may be required for larger expanses
- PV Module Array**
- Inverter station**  
Integrated MV substation with transformer as indicated
- Auxiliary structure**  
See notation. E.g. GRP switchroom, storage container
- Meteorological sensors ("Weather Station")**  
Free-standing or fixed to rear of array / other structure
- V-mesh fence**
- Security gate**
- Palisade fence**
- Security camera**  
Mast-mounted or on wall
- Existing overhead public (DNO/NGESO) HV line**
- Proposed new public HV line / connection works**  
If shown. May be buried. Subject to confirmation by DNO
- Tree canopy**  
Approximate dimensions: Equivalent to surveyed area
- Existing hedge**
- Proposed screening / mitigation planting**  
Details TBC

Rev	Date	Comment	Drwn	Chkd	Apvd
E	31/01/25	Stage 2 Layout updated	AG	JC	JC
D	30/10/24	North field removed, POC added	AG/JC	JC	JC
C	23/04/24	Updated constraints & access	JC	AG	JC
B	06/03/24	Added constraints and tree shading	JC	AG	JC
A	24/01/24	Initial scoping layout (Stage 1)	JC	AG	JC

Project: Blucher

Site: Land off Queens Rd, Newburn NE15 8HZ

Client: Northumberland Estates

## Site Plan General Arrangement

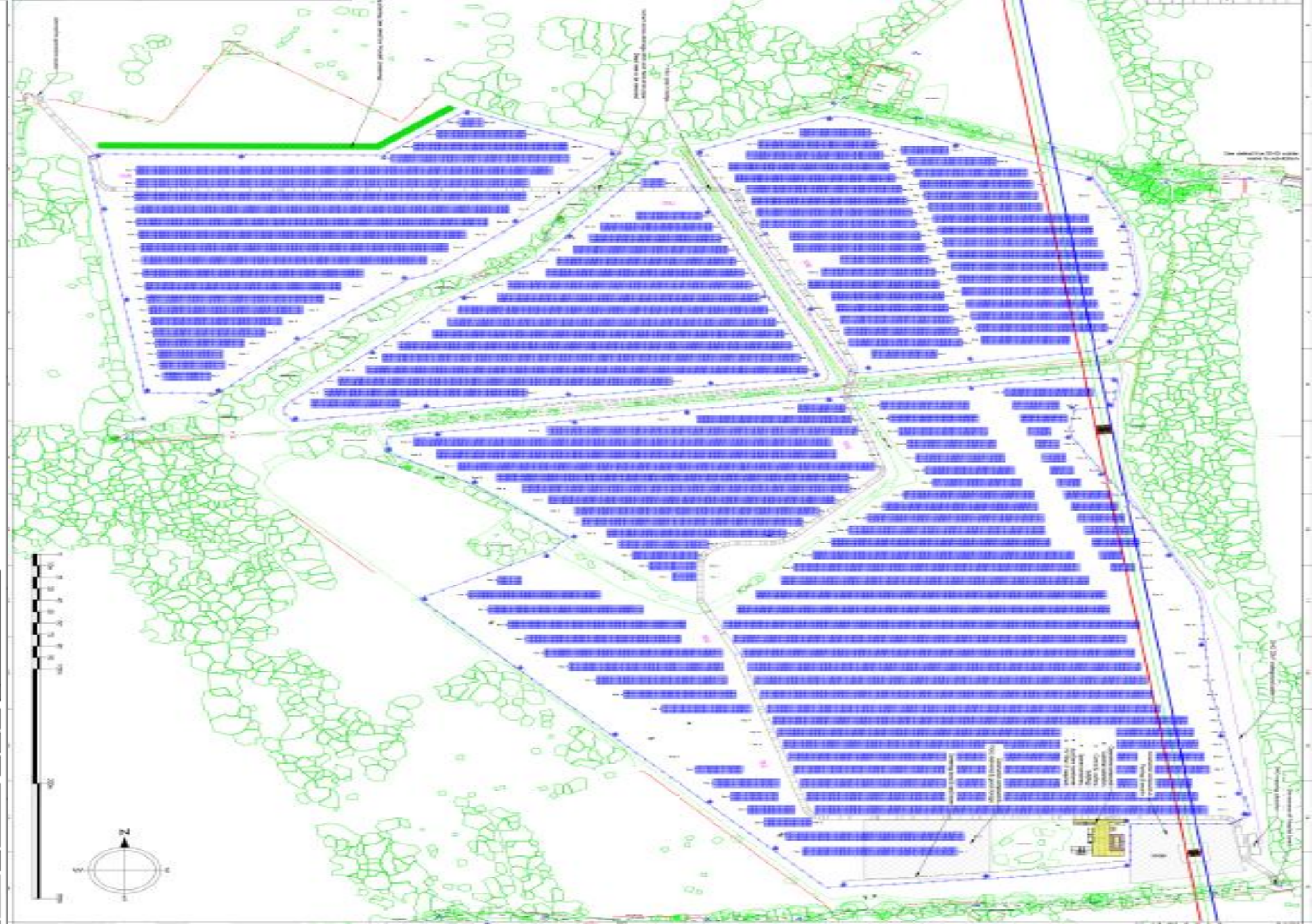
Drawing Status: PRELIMINARY

Sheet: 1 of 1

Scale: 1:1250

Drawing No. 1431-112

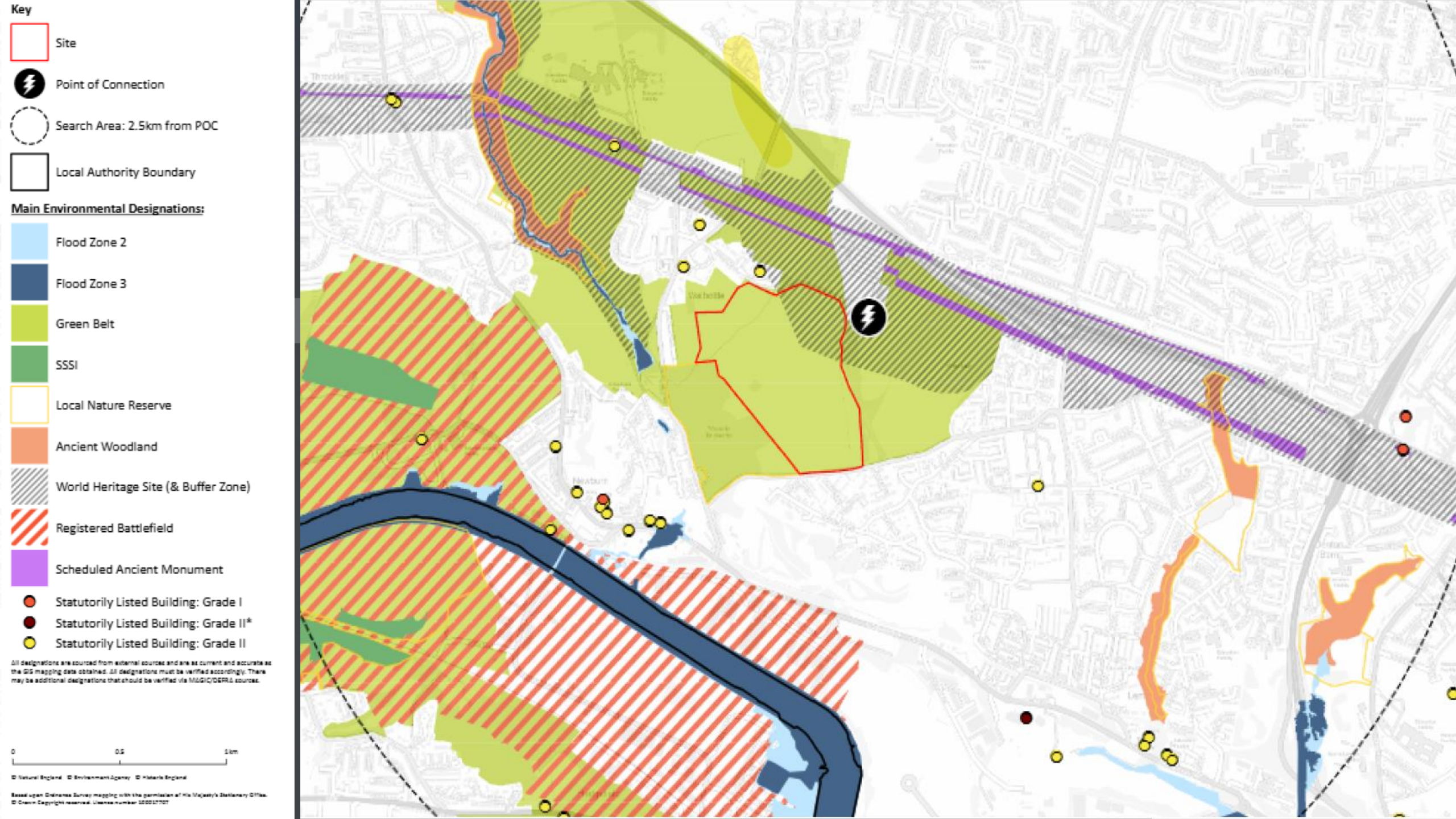
Issue E















# Environmental Impact Assessment

## Timeline


- 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025 - Lichfield's submit application to Newcastle City Council Planning Dept for a Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Request. Goes live on 13<sup>th</sup> on NCC planning portal. Allocated planning officer James Cowen


 Application Details


<b>Application Reference Number:</b>	2025/0205/01/SCR	<b>Received Date:</b>	13-02-2025
<b>Application Type:</b>	Request for screening opinion	<b>Valid Date:</b>	13-02-2025
<b>Proposal:</b>	Screening Opinion in respect of proposed solar farm and associated infrastructure,	<b>Expiry Date:</b>	06-03-2025
<b>Applicant:</b>	(none) (Northumberland Estates )	<b>Extension Of Time Due Date:</b>	No
<b>Agent:</b>	(none) Gayle Black (Lichfields )	<b>Planning Performance Agreement:</b>	No
<b>Location:</b>	Land To The East Of Walbottle Road And North Of Hospital Lane, Walbottle, , Newcastle Upon Tyne ,	<b>Planning Performance Agreement Due Date:</b>	
<b>Ward:</b>	Callerton And Throckley	<b>Proposed Committee Date:</b>	
<b>Parish / Community:</b>	Not Within A Parish Boundary	<b>Actual Committee Date:</b>	
<b>Officer:</b>	James Cowen	<b>Decision Issued Date:</b>	
<b>Decision Level:</b>	Delegated decision	<b>Decision:</b>	
<b>Application Status:</b>	Pending Consideration	<b>Appeal Reference:</b>	
		<b>Appeal Status:</b>	
		<b>Appeal External Decision:</b>	
		<b>Appeal External Decision Date:</b>	

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 Location



 Make a Representation

Stance

☐ Support  
☐ General Comment  
☐ Object

Comments - Please put all text into the comment box, using the file attachment only for imagery relevant to the comment

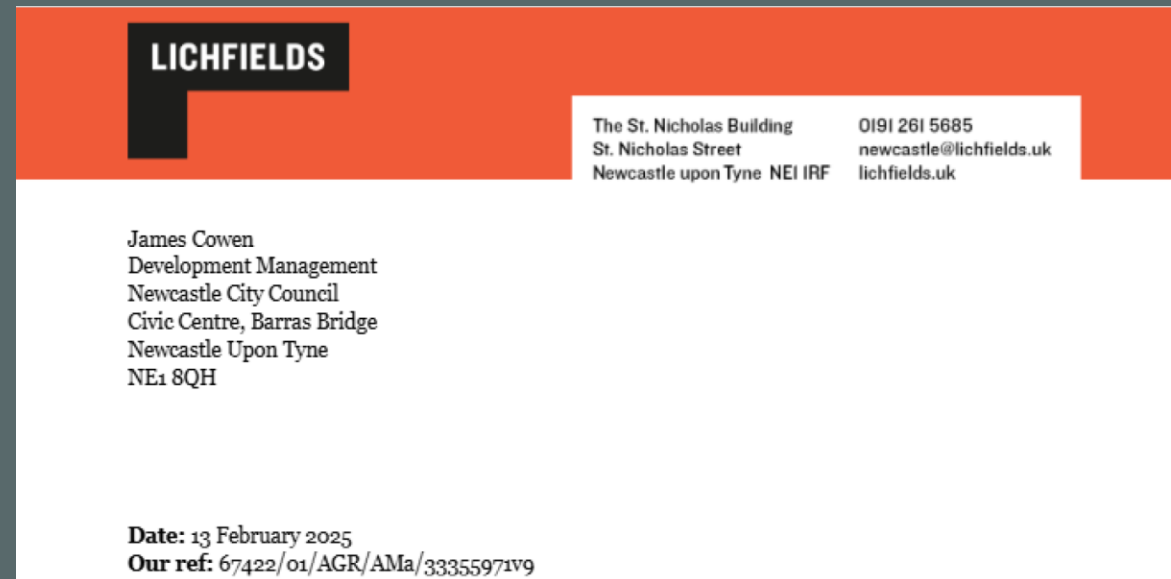
Your comments...

File Attachment (Maximum 8MB)

# Environmental Impact Assessment

## Timeline

- 23rd February 2025 – Local Community start becoming aware of Lichfield's application to Newcastle City Council Planning Dept for a Screening Request on the requirement of a Environmental Impact Assessment.
- 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – Walbottle Greenspace working group panel, send email to NCC Planning Officer James Cowen, requesting further details on the screening request due to the very limited information on the planning portal ref 2025/0205/01/SCR as it was difficult to know in respect of which area of land the screening request was for.
- 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – Email received from James Cowen apologising for not uploading the 20page Lichfield document to the planning portal and council currently reviewing the proposal in relation to the EIA regulations and will issue a response in due course.



# Environmental Impact Assessment

## Timeline

- 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – Walbottle Greenspace email James Cowen to highlight the following:
  - disappointment that Lichfield's 20pg EIA screen request document was not uploaded to the portal until 26<sup>th</sup> February given the time of receipt and going live on the planning portal, 13<sup>th</sup> February.
  - No site notices have been displayed around the site informing the public of the EIA screening request in line with pre planning regulations.
  - Due to demographics of the local communities, it is extremely important that the EIA screening request be made known to the local communities in traditional methods as there is a large number of elderly residents in the local villages who may not have direct access to computers and online communications.
  - Walbottle Greenspace therefore request in the interest of transparency that the expiry date to be reset in order for the site notices to be displayed.
  - Make representations that the extent of the development in close proximity to a conservation area , national heritage and residential area necessitates that an Environment Impact Assessments is required to be submitted alongside the forthcoming planning application.
- 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – Newcastle City Council planning officer's decision letter addressed to Lichfield's is uploaded to the Planning Department Portal. The decision made by James Cowen that a EIA is not required for this development. The date of the decision letter is noted as being 18<sup>th</sup> February:

Lichfields  
The St Nicolas Building  
St Nicolas Street  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 1RF

**Phone:** 07814072039  
**Email:** james.cowen@newcastle.gov.uk  
**www.newcastle.gov.uk**

18 February 2025



# Environmental Impact Assessment

## Timeline

- 6th March 2025 – Newcastle City Council Planning Portal shows the decision issued date as 06.03.25.
- 11th March 2025 – Walbottle Greenspace working group panel, send email to NCC Planning Officer James Cowen of further disappointment at the decision made with regard to the EIA but also that it appears from the date on the decision letter that this was made on 18<sup>th</sup> February some 5 days after receipt of the screening request and 2 full working days due to the weekend. Copy of the decision-making policy matrix. That the site notice were never displayed prior to the decision made. Request for a copy of the Site Location Plan (drawing ref: NT16460/012-Rev-B) at Annex 1. Community polls clearly show that the public disagree with the decision made.
- 11th March 2025 – James Cowen responds to Walbottle Greenspace that although he has made the decision that an EIA is not required this does not mean that the potential impact of such a scheme will not be thoroughly considered as part of determining any future planning application. Ultimately a decision on any future application would be made by the Council's Planning Committee. That the 18<sup>th</sup> February date would have been when he started writing the response, but it was issued on the 5<sup>th</sup> March and apologies once again as this should have been changed before the response was issued.
- 14th March 2025 to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 email correspondence between Walbottle Greenspace working group panel and NCC Planning Officer James requesting to be signposted to Newcastle City Council pre planning applications policy and procedures.

# Environmental Impact Assessment

## Documents and Decision.

**Reference:** 2025/0205/01/SCR

Thank you for your correspondence received on 13 February 2025 requesting a Screening Opinion of the local planning authority under the provisions of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ("the 2017 Regulations").

The City Council is of the opinion that the proposal would be Schedule 2 development within the meaning of the 2017 Regulations. The proposed development would be 'Industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water' as defined by Column 1, category 3a of the table in Schedule 2 to the 2017 Regulations as the development would be greater than 0.5ha. At 34ha the development would be well in excess of this threshold.

When screening Schedule 2 development, the City Council is required to establish whether the proposed development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of its nature, size, or location, having consideration to the three broad categories of selection criteria set out in Schedule 3 to the 2017 Regulations, namely:

- Characteristics of development
- Location of development
- Characteristics of the potential impact

# Environmental Impact Assessment

## Documents and Decision.

The City Council's consideration of the proposed development against the selection criteria is set out in the attached Screening Checklist and summarised below.

### **Characteristics of the Development**

At 34ha the development would be a major scheme and result in the development of an area of open countryside within the Green Belt, albeit on an extended temporary basis of 40 years. The characteristics of the site's design would be fenced in parcels of land to accommodate 68,000 solar PV panels on frames at a height of circa 3m.

In terms of the use of natural resources, it is recognised that the scheme would be to produce renewable energy, and so beyond the embodied resources in the panels and other infrastructure, it would not use significant amounts energy or water.

There would likely be some loss of biodiversity to enable site access, but there are also opportunities for biodiversity net-gain on or near site. The scheme would result in the loss of Best and Most Versatile ('BMV') land, in the form of Grade 3a land ('Good Quality'). It is recognised that the loss of the land would not be permanent, although it would be taken out of productive use for significant period. However, it is not clear if there would be a reduction in quality of the soil for agricultural purposes if it is not farmed and indeed if it is used for habitat creation over the lifetime of the scheme. This would need to be evidenced in a planning application, but it is not considered that the impact would be significant enough to require this aspect of the scheme to be covered in an EIA.

# Environmental Impact Assessment

## Documents and Decision.

It is not considered that the production of waste or pollution would be significant. Noise and dust would be likely be generated during the construction phase, but measures could be put in to reduce this through management procedures agreed as part of a planning application.

In terms of cumulative impact, whilst delivery of the scheme will likely overlap during the construction phase with developments within a reasonable distance of the site (set out in your letter), the nature of the traffic generation in terms of volume and distribution, does not give rise to concerns of significant cumulative impact. The location of major schemes are also likely to be detached from the proposed development in landscape and visual impact terms because of topography and existing tree cover.

It is considered that the characteristics of the development do not constitute the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment.

### **Location of Development types and characteristics of the potential impact**

The proposed development site is within open countryside and the Tyne and Wear Green Belt. However, it is recognised that the site not located within a 'sensitive area' as defined in Regulation 2(1) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Planning Practice Guidance. The site does have some screening from natural and built features in the landscape, but given its position on the slope of the Tyne Valley, it will be visible from a wide area and across administrative boundaries. There is potential for some harm to the landscape. A planning application would need include a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, which it is indicated will be provided.



# Environmental Impact Assessment

## Documents and Decision.

In terms of biodiversity, there are no statutory designations within the proposed site, but it is within an SSSI Impact Risk Zone due to its proximity to Hallow Hills SSSI (located approximately 1.1km to the west) and Ryton Willows SSSI (located approximately 1.7km south west). However, given the nature and degree of separation from the SSSI, it does give rise immediate to concerns for significant adverse impact. Locally, Walbottle Brickworks LNR is located to the south west. It is unclear if there will be need for tree removal for construction access, but this is likely to be minimal, and any impact on local hydrology would need to ensure the LNR is not adversely affected. There would also need to be landscape removal for access into the site itself and potentially for cabling to the grid connection point. Any impacts would need to be mitigated, but it is not considered that these are likely to be significant.

Listed buildings are within close proximity of the site, and it is immediately to the south of a scheduled ancient monument, Hadrian's Wall, and partly within the World Heritage Site Buffer Zone. Historic England have reviewed the screening request and have advised likely to be no more than a minor impact on those aspects of the historic environment which lie within Historic England's statutory remit (scheduled ancient monuments and the world heritage site). The impact on archaeology and the impact on the setting of the WHS will need to be fully investigated. Archaeological trial trenching should be carried out in order to confirm the presence

# Environmental Impact Assessment

## Documents and Decision.

or otherwise of archaeological remains. If archaeological remains are present then further work may be required to determine their significance, and to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost, in order to understand the nature and significance of any archaeological remains present. Given the nature of the development, it is reasonable to assess at this point that any impact will not be of sufficient significance to require an EIA, subject to the work set out above.

It is not considered that the location of the development is such that there would be sufficiently significant environmental impacts as a result of the proposed redevelopment of the site, and the impact of the location of the development can be assessed as part of the planning application process. It is also concluded that proposed development would be unlikely to result in any sufficiently significant impacts in terms of the use of natural resources, production of waste, pollution, noise and disturbance, contamination and any substances that could be harmful to people or the environment.

### **Conclusion**

Overall, in the opinion of the City Council and having taken into account the selection criteria in Schedule 3 to the 2017 Regulations, the proposed development would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment. **The City Council is therefore of the opinion that the proposed development is not EIA development within the meaning of the 2017 Regulations and does not require the submission of an Environmental Statement.**

# Environmental Impact Assessment

## Documents and Decision.

You should note that the City Council's opinion on the likelihood of the proposed development having significant environmental effects is reached only for the purposes of this Screening Opinion.

In accordance with Regulation 28 of the 2017 Regulations, a copy of this Screening Opinion will be made available for public inspection on the planning register.

If you have any queries about this matter, please contact the case officer. Contact details are given at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

**James Cowen**  
**Senior Planning and Project Officer**  
**On behalf of Newcastle City Council**

# Environmental Impact Assessment

## Documents and Decision.

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Yours sincerely,

**James Cowen**  
**Senior Planning and Project Officer**  
**On behalf of Newcastle City Council**



# Public Consultation.



- What questions did you ask the representatives at the Public Consultation ?
- Did you get answers or any answer ?
- Did you leave the Public Consultation satisfied or unsatisfied ?
- Do you now support or object to the proposed development ?

# What Is Next ?

## Planning Application Submission.

- Northumberland Estates have published in media articles, on their website, on their leaflet and at the Public Consultation that the forthcoming planning application will be submitted to Newcastle City Council in May 2025.

PLEASE KEEP LOOKING ON THE NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL PLANNING PORTAL  
JUST IN CASE NORTHUMBERLAND ESTATES SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATION EARLY WHICH WOULD REDUCE  
THE TIME WE HAVE TO REVIEW AND PREPARE OBJECTIONS

- Planning Portal:

[https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/planning-building-and-development/  
search-view-and-comment-planning-applications](https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/planning-building-and-development/search-view-and-comment-planning-applications)

**Search for, view,  
and comment on  
planning  
applications**

Public Access allows you to look at  
details of applications, make  
comments, and view the reasons  
for decisions.

[Search Planning Applications](#)

# What Is Next ?

## Planning Application Submission.

**Public Access allows you to look at details of applications, make comments, and view the reasons for decisions.**

[Search Planning Applications](#)

Use key words i.e  
Solar Park or Battery  
Storage or Ref number

[View Weekly Received List](#)

[View Weekly Decisions List](#)

[Search Planning Applications using Map](#)

Use circle or rectangle and  
Radius (100m / 500m etc)  
to see all applications in  
that area.

[Current Major Applications](#)

[Appeals Register](#)

# What Is Next ?

## Planning Application Submission.


Planning Home


Planning Applications


Search

Search Map

Weekly Lists

 Appointments

 Terms and conditions

 Privacy Policy

To search Planning Appeals please see under the Registers option in the menu

Please Use The Below Form To Search For Planning Applications

### Application Details

<b>Application Reference Number</b>	<input type="text" value="Application Reference Number"/>	<b>Application Type</b>	<input type="text" value=""/>
<b>Proposal</b>	<input type="text" value="Proposal"/>	<b>Decision Type</b>	<input type="text" value=""/>
<b>Applicant</b>	<input type="text" value="Name"/>	<b>Company Name</b>	<input type="text" value="Company Name"/>
<b>Agent</b>	<input type="text" value="Name"/>	<b>Company Name</b>	<input type="text" value="Company Name"/>
<b>PS Development Code</b>	<input type="text" value=""/>		

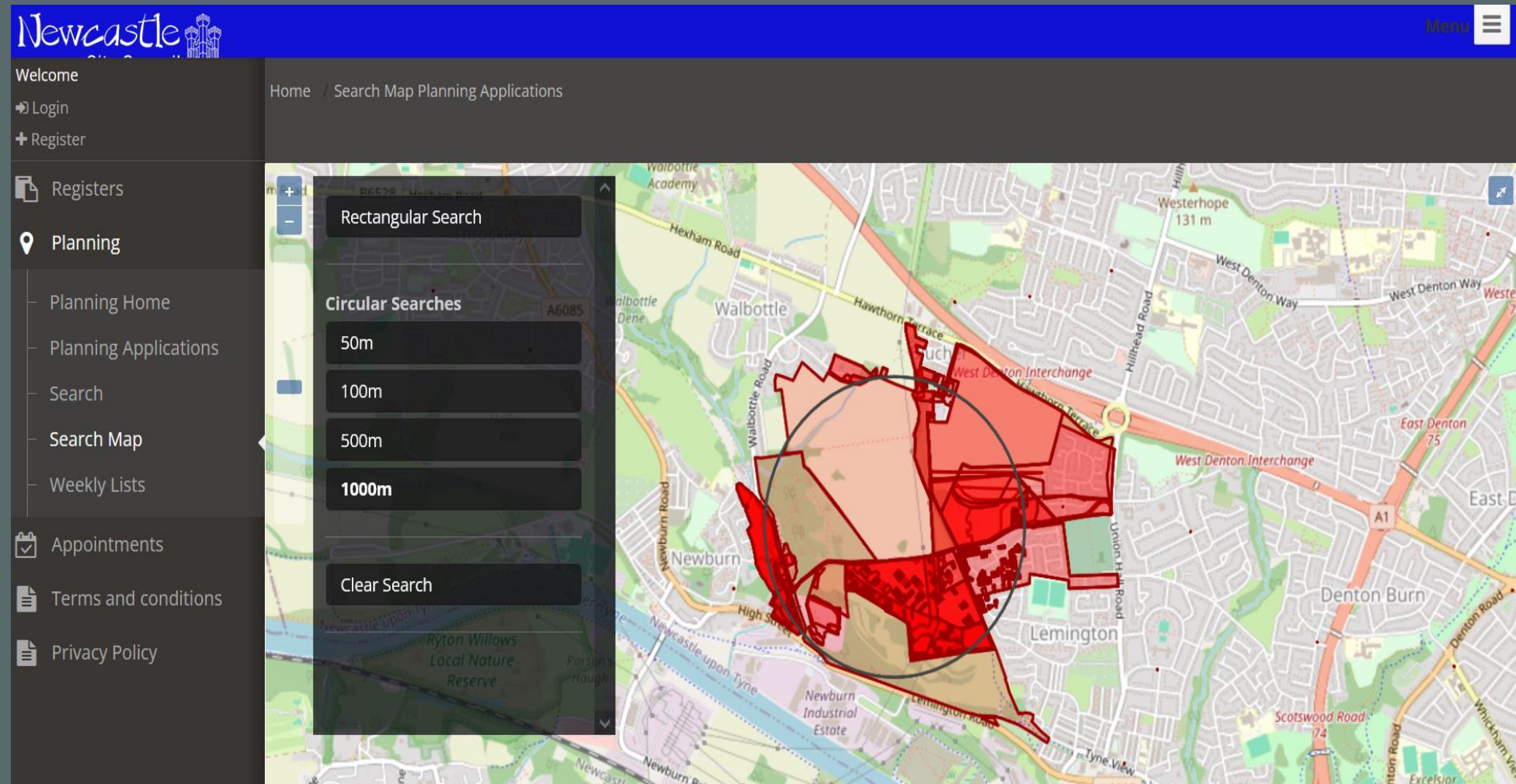
### Location Details

<b>Address</b>	<input type="text" value="Address"/>		
<b>Postcode</b>	<input type="text" value="Postcode"/>	<b>Street Description</b>	<input type="text" value="Street Description"/>
<b>Grid Reference X</b>	<input type="text" value="Grid Reference X"/>	<b>Grid Reference Y</b>	<input type="text" value="Grid Reference Y"/>
<b>Site Address Description</b>	<input type="text" value="Site Address Description"/>	<b>Ward</b>	<input type="text" value=""/>
<b>Community</b>	<input type="text" value=""/>		



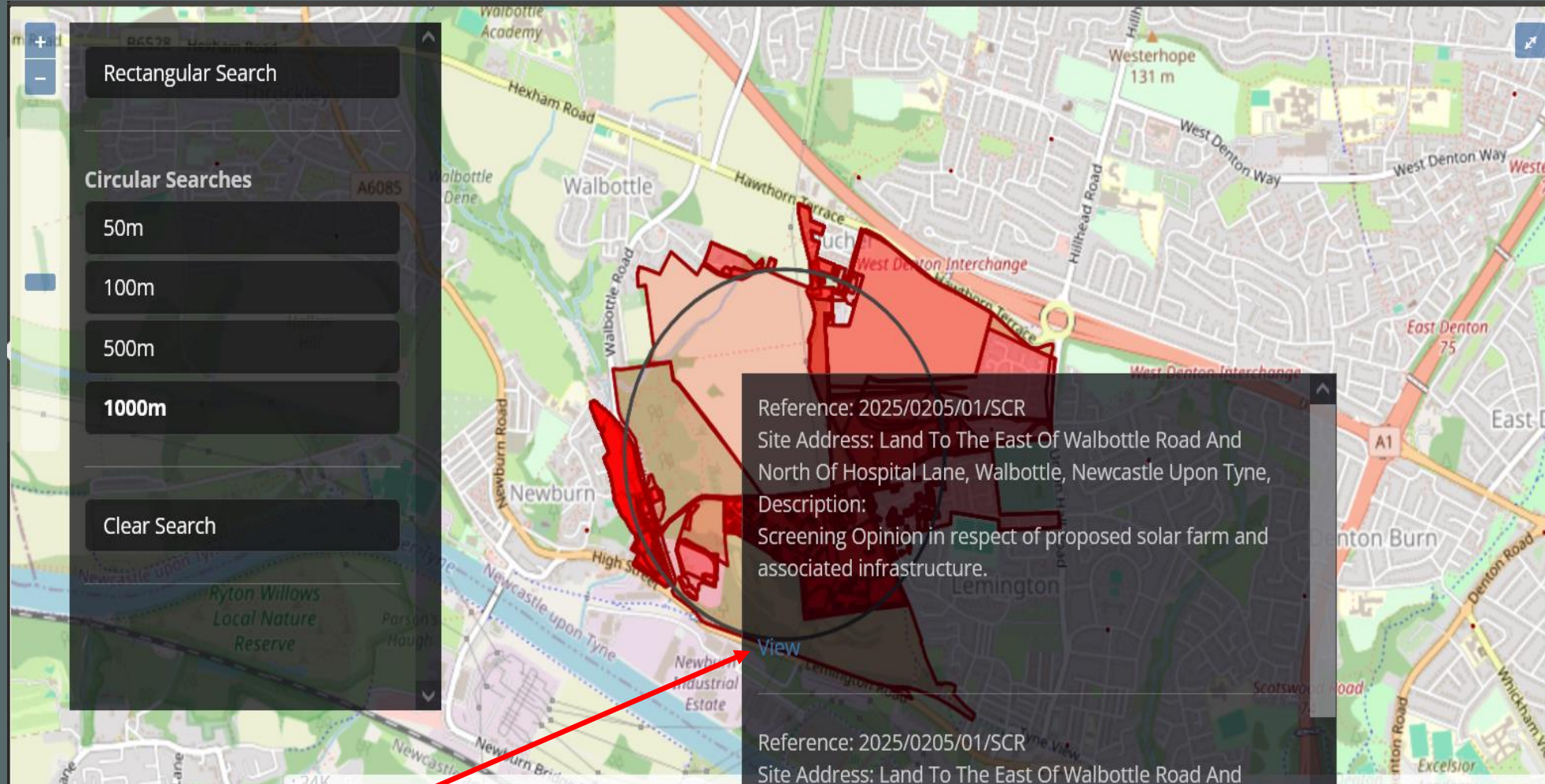
# What Is Next ?

## Planning Application Submission.



# What Is Next ?

## Planning Application Submission.




Click on view



# What Is Next ?

## Planning Application Submission / How To View.



Welcome

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 Application Details

<b>Application Reference Number:</b>	2024/0447/01/DET	<b>Received Date:</b>	19-03-2024
<b>Application Type:</b>	Detailed Application	<b>Valid Date:</b>	27-01-2025
<b>Proposal:</b>	Erection of Battery Energy Storage facility with associated plant and equipment and supporting works including installation of retaining walls, boundary treatment, drainage and landscaping and relocation of substation following demolition of existing buildings on site, as supplemented by plans and information received 07.02.2025 and 10.02.2025.	<b>Expiry Date:</b>	28-04-2025
		<b>Extension Of Time:</b>	No
		<b>Extension Of Time Due Date:</b>	
		<b>Planning Performance Agreement:</b>	No
		<b>Planning Performance Agreement Due Date:</b>	
		<b>Proposed Committee Date:</b>	
		<b>Actual Committee Date:</b>	
		<b>Decision Issued Date:</b>	
		<b>Decision:</b>	
		<b>Appeal Reference:</b>	
		<b>Appeal Status:</b>	
		<b>Appeal External Decision:</b>	
		<b>Appeal External Decision Date:</b>	
<b>Applicant:</b>	(none) (Fig Power)		
<b>Agent:</b>	Mr Sam Thistlethwaite (IC Planning)		
<b>Location:</b>	North East Concrete Ltd High Street, Newburn, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE15 8LN		
<b>Ward:</b>	Callerton And Throckley		
<b>Parish / Community:</b>	Not Within A Parish Boundary		
<b>Officer:</b>	David Grimshaw		
<b>Decision Level:</b>	Delegated decision		
<b>Application Status:</b>	Pending Consideration		

Online objections to be submitted before this date


# What Is Next ?

## Planning Application Submission / How To View.

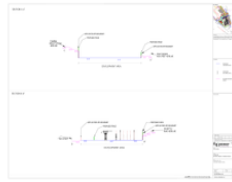





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 Documents

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Plans	Proposed-Site-Sections_Substation-C-D		10-02-2025	 Download
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Newcastle City Council  
Civic Centre  
Barras Bridge  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 8QH  
T: 0191 2787878  
[https://  
www.newcastle.gov.uk](https://www.newcastle.gov.uk)

	National Grid	17-02-2025 12:42:50	<a href="#">Download</a>
	Objection - Cllr Fairlie	10-02-2025 12:48:33	<a href="#">Download</a>
	Objection	07-02-2025 14:31:02	<a href="#">Download</a>
	NCC - Economic Development	07-02-2025 07:57:15	<a href="#">Download</a>
	NCC - Ecology	07-02-2025 07:28:43	<a href="#">Download</a>
	The Coal Authority	07-02-2025 07:20:18	<a href="#">Download</a>
	National Gas Transmission	03-02-2025 14:05:42	<a href="#">Download</a>


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This portal works in conjunction with Newcastle City Council in Great Britain to provide access to online services.

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- [View Licence Register](#)
- Submitting and tracking building regulation applications.
- Building regulation searches.

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# What Is Next ?

## Planning Application Submission / How To View.

[www.walbottlegreenspace.org](http://www.walbottlegreenspace.org)

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### About Walbottle Greenspace



There are plans to change the landscape from what we currently have to an industrial sized solar energy power plant that will change our open space from tranquility to fields of glass, 2.2m fences, 60+ CCTV cameras on 4m poles, security lights, noise producing power invertors etc.

We are a community group of residents from surrounding pit villages along with other interested parties such as local businesses, visitors to the area, wildlife lovers, pro British farming etc with the aim to try and protect what generations have been fortunate to experience and our children of the future so desperately need retained.

Walbottle Greenspace is beautiful, natural space surrounded by Walbottle Village, Blucher, Orchid Rise, West Denton Park and Mill Vale all of which



# What Is Next ?

Planning Application Submission / How To View.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1441278483418506>



The image shows a Facebook post from the 'Walbottle Greenspace' group. The post features a large landscape photograph of a green field with a village in the background. Overlaid on the image is the text 'TOGETHER WE SAY NO TO WALBOTTLE & BLUCHER SOLAR POWER PLANT' in bold, yellow and white capital letters. Below this text, it says 'Show your support' and displays two QR codes. The Facebook interface at the bottom shows the group name 'Walbottle Greenspace', the website 'walbottlegreenspace.org/', and that it is a private group with 604 members. There are buttons for '+ Invite', 'Share', and 'Joined', along with a row of member profile pictures.

**TOGETHER WE SAY**  
**NO**  
**TO WALBOTTLE & BLUCHER SOLAR POWER PLANT**

Show your support

**Walbottle Greenspace**  
**walbottlegreenspace.org/**

Private group · 604 members

+ Invite Share Joined

# What Is Next ?

## Planning Application Submission.

### **How can I comment on an application?**

We welcome your comments on all planning applications. Any comments you wish to make must be in writing otherwise they cannot be considered.

[You can make comments online here.](#) To do so you will first need to register your details on the website. This is simple and should take no longer than a couple of minutes.

You can also make comments in writing to Development Management, Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8QH. Please quote the application reference which is given on the letter, site notice or press advertisement.

# What Is Next ?

## Planning Application Submission.

Anonymous comments will not be taken into account, so please state your name, address and postcode. Your comments cannot be kept confidential. Any comments you make will be available to view on our website. Signatures, email addresses and telephone numbers will be removed. Your postal address however will not be removed because this is information which may be relevant to the comments you have made. You can view our [Privacy Policy here](#).

The Council can only take into account issues which are relevant to Planning, and can only refuse applications where there are sound planning reasons to do so. Local opposition or support for a proposal is not in itself a ground for refusing or granting planning permission. Further guidance about relevant issues is provided below.



# What Is Next ?

## Planning Application Submission.

The Council gives local residents 21 days to comment on an application in writing. Comments about the application must be received by the deadline stated in the letter, site notice or press advertisement. Once the deadline has passed, we can make a decision on the application. We take all comments received before an application is decided into account. If you don't meet the deadline it could mean your comments can't be considered because a decision has already been made.

# What Is Next ?

## Objection Considerations.

- In no particular order :
  - Visual Impact unique vista
  - Impact to the environment and wildlife, lake effect etc.
  - Impact on Farming and food supply of British produce and reared meat.
  - No regional or national management of change of use of agricultural and greenbelt land due to local authorities using different systems which don't communicate with one another for assessment.
  - Impact on the character of our village(s)
  - Impact on National Heritage
  - Impact on conservation
  - Impact on archaeological sites
  - Impact on property prices and location appeal.
  - Impact on visitors and tourism
  - Impact on physical & mental health
  - Impact on nocturnal wildlife due to lights and cctv
  - Impact due to increase in Organised Crime and offenders travelling into the area.
  - Risk of contamination to soil and watercourse
  - Risk of flooding further downhill due to enclosing watercourse in underground culvert throughout field.

# What Is Next ?

## Objection Considerations.

- Risk of storm damage, risk of serious injury and damage to local property
- Impact on childrens daily life, walking to school away from roads in what will be institutional corridors, outdoor play and education due to loss of natural open space
- Impact on family pets, dog walkers, horse riders, birds of prey owners.
- Increase in carbon footprint due to local people using cars etc to take children to school or walk dogs in other rural areas.
- Human Rights Article 8 - Protected right to private life, family life, respect for your home and the right to not be entered without permission.
- Negative impact on the night sky.
- Impact on roads
- Duke has already been at the centre of substantial disturbance, loss of money and negativity in this community 13yrs ago when the culvert collapsed on his land and flooded the neighboured which is believed to have been attributed to neglect / poor / lack of maintenance of the culvert.
- In the event of malicious damage, environmental damage, natural wear and tear there will be an increased risk of exposure of toxic contamination to the land, water course, wildlife, and local communities.
- Increase in weeds and rodents due to solar panel structures acting as a shelter for nesting and from predators.
- Impact on the Councils Conservation and Character Statements that have been followed over the years. What was the point ?



# Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

FIG Energy - NCC Planning Application : 2024/0447/01/DET

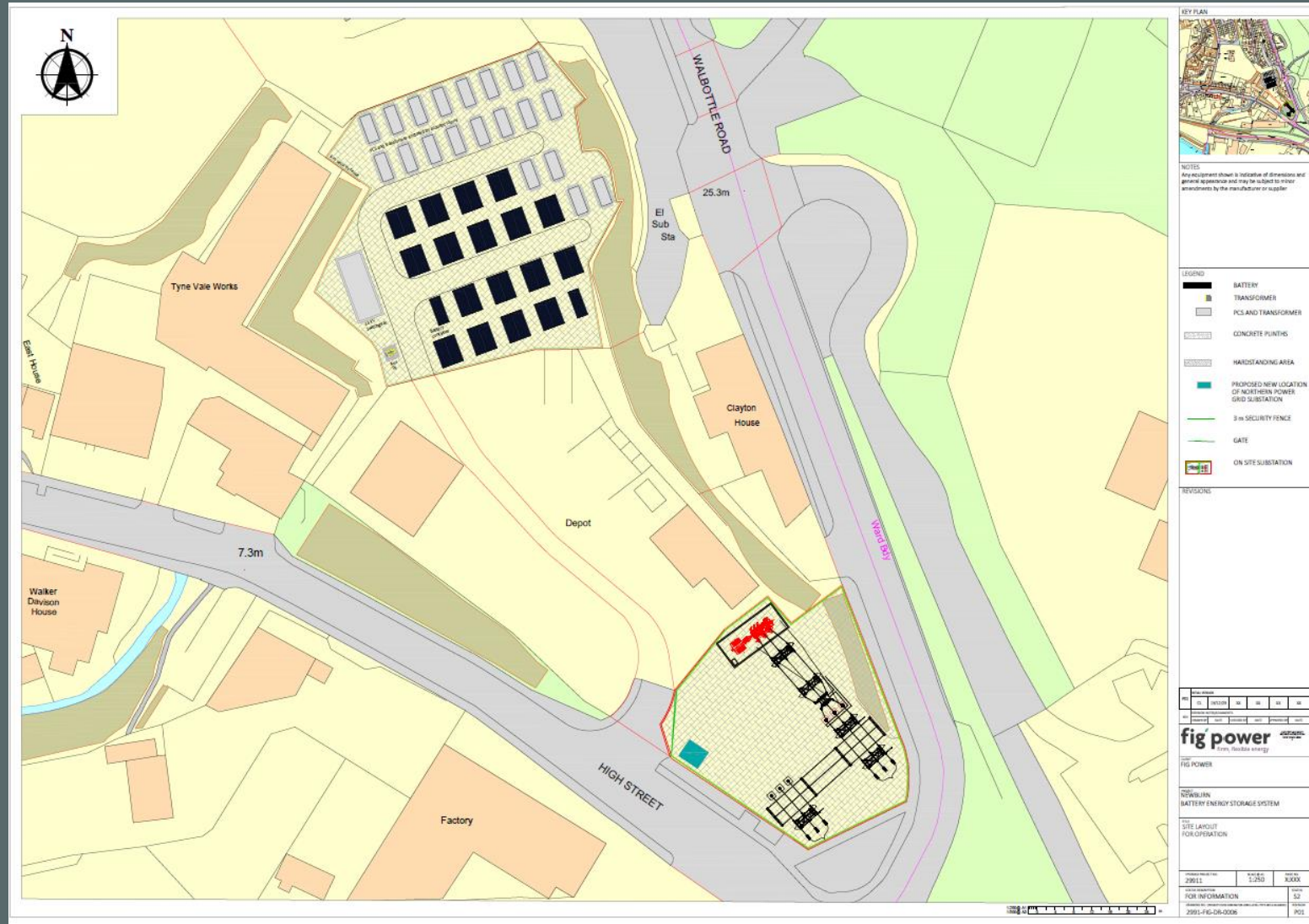
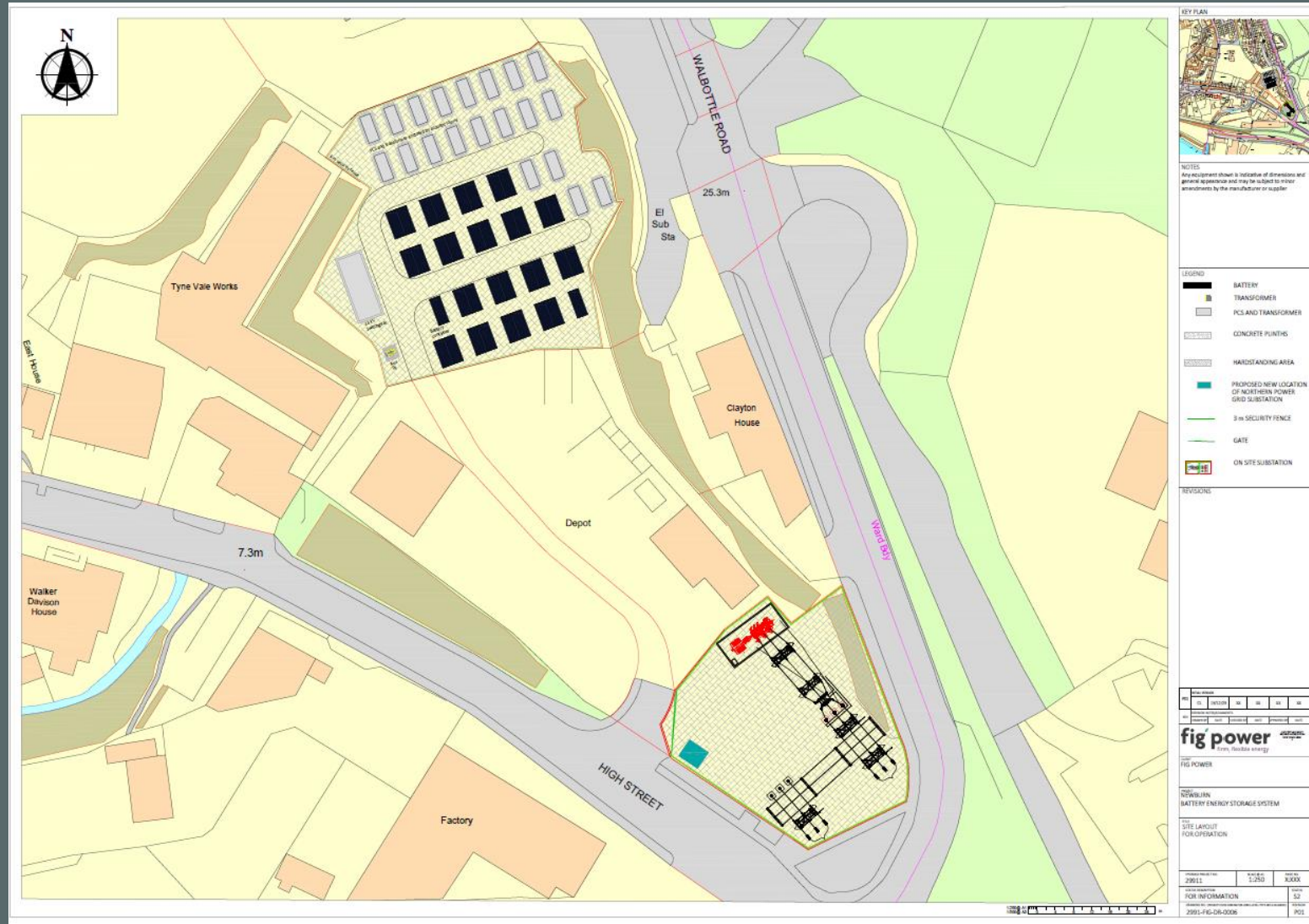


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# Fundraising – Can You Help ?

## Why do we need to fundraise and how funds will be used :

- To campaign and be heard near and far as the Duke of Northumberland and Northumberland Estates will use their wealth, experience and connections to achieve what they aim to do !
  - To purchase banners for public display around our community villages.
  - To purchase placards for community campaign events.
  - To purchase campaign and information leaflets for community distribution.
  - To purchase general office stationery such as envelopes, paper, stamps etc to be able to support members in the community who may not have online access and would benefit from help submitting their objection/representations by post.

**2012**

**TOGETHER WE SAY**

**NO**

**TO WALBOTTLE & BLUCHER SOLAR POWER PLANT**

**2025**

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# Inspiration

## If The Duke Of Northumberland Can Say No, TOGETHER we say NO to Walbottle & Blucher Solar Power Plant

Ralph Percy, the 12th Duke of Northumberland, has emerged as the unlikely people's hero in the fight against wind farms spreading across Britain.

Despite a series of lucrative and tempting offers worth tens of millions of pounds, he refuses to allow turbines to be built on any of his 100,000 acres. The Duke also gives support, including financial backing, to local campaigns against wind farms.

"I have turned down all requests to develop wind farms on the estate and I will continue to add my voice to those fighting local wind farms on the Northumberland and Borders landscape," he said in an email to *The Sunday Telegraph*. He has declined to give interviews on the subject but in a letter passed on to this newspaper, he outlined his reasons for his vehement opposition.

He wrote: "I have come to the personal conclusion that wind farms divide communities, ruin landscapes, affect tourism, make a minimal contribution to our energy needs and a negligible contribution towards reducing CO2 emissions.

"The landowner and developer are enriched while the consumer is impoverished by higher energy costs. Turbines are ugly, noisy and completely out of place in our beautiful, historic landscape."

# Inspiration

## If The Duke Of Northumberland Can Say No, TOGETHER we say NO to Walbottle & Blucher Solar Power Plant

Worth £315 million according to the latest rich list, the Duke of Northumberland has an expensive estate to run, including Alnwick Castle, which provided the backdrop for Hogwarts in the Harry Potter films. The Duke also owns other historic assets including Syon House in London and the Albury estate in Surrey.

His stance on wind farms is in stark contrast to his northern neighbour, the Duke of Roxburghe, who runs an adjacent estate across the border in Scotland, and who stands to make tens of millions of pounds from a 48 turbine Fallago Rig development in the Lammermuir Hills.

The site will be operational by 2013, having been dragged through numerous planning and legal battle by local campaigners backed by the Duke of Northumberland.

"He is the good egg in the basket" said Angela Kelly, chairman of the Country Guardian, a national network of anti-wind farm campaigns, "I wrote to thank him for remaining a custodian of the country."

In his reply to Mrs Kelly, the Duke wrote: "I am afraid we are all seduced by easy money, often to save crumbling assets, but ruining a countryside of which we are supposed to be custodians is a step too far, particularly for something as ineffective at providing power and as useless at reducing CO2 emissions as wind farms. Keep fighting."



# Inspiration

## If The Duke Of Northumberland Can Say No, TOGETHER we say NO to Walbottle & Blucher Solar Power Plant

While the Duke of Northumberland may have lost the battle for Fallago Rig, he continues to thwart future developments in Northumberland.

It is suggested an ill-wind now blows through the ancestral homes of the Dukes of Northumberland and Roxburghe. One report suggests the two dukes have suffered a “spectacular falling out” while another claims they remain friends.

A spokesman for the Duke of Roxburghe refused to say how much the duke would make from the deal – and that it was impossible to calculate because it was dependent on the performance of the 48 turbines over the next 25 years.

According to experts, the turbines should provide an income for its owners North British Windpower (NBW) of about £875 million over its lifetime.

NBW has its own aristocratic pedigree. The former Tory party chairman Michael Ancram, now the Marquis of Lothian and chief of the Scottish Kerr Clan, is a shareholder as is Stella Tennant, the model and granddaughter of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire.

The duke’s spokesman said the wind farm will provide electricity for 90,000 homes and save 300,000 tons of carbon emissions, helping Scotland to meet its renewable energy targets and make the country “less dependent on imports”.

# Inspiration

## If The Duke Of Northumberland Can Say No, TOGETHER we say NO to Walbottle & Blucher Solar Power Plant

The spokesman said the wind farm was ideally located, in a windy spot about five miles from the nearest village.

It would provide a number of jobs while the Roxburghe estates and NBW had agreed to pay £240,000 a year to a local environmental and educational fund.

# Labour council rejects green belt solar farm in blow to Miliband

Boom Power plans to appeal against local authority decision despite 440 objection letters

## Labour council rejects green belt solar farm in blow to Miliband

Boom Power plans to appeal against local authority decision despite 440 objection letters



**Pui-Guan Man**  
Property  
Correspondent

### Related Topics

Ed Miliband, Net Zero, Solar power, Clean energy

07 January 2025 1:42pm  
GMT



134

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A Labour-led council has knocked back plans for a solar farm on green belt land, tarnishing Ed Miliband's ambitions to speed up a net zero upgrade across Britain.

The development at Uswell House Farm near the village of Springwell was unanimously rejected by Sunderland City Council on the basis that it would harm the green belt and the agricultural land it is located on, despite advice from planning officers to grant consent.

Sunderland's planners had acknowledged that the proposal was an "inappropriate development within the green belt", but said it should proceed as it would "contribute to meeting national net zero targets", even if the harm "would be high both spatially and visually".

Spanning nearly 151 acres, the solar farm would power more than 11,000 homes per year with almost 60,000 solar panels.

Developers had claimed that the project would reduce the nation's carbon dioxide emissions by 12,500 tonnes every year.

Boom Power, the solar energy business behind the proposals, intends to appeal against the council's decision.

Mark Hogan, the founder of Boom Power, said: "We were very disappointed, as the project was recommended for approval and we worked tirelessly to meet the concerns of the planning officers, such that they were happy to recommend for approval.

"The planning process needs a full shake-up. Words and directives from Westminster are clearly being ignored by committees across the country, costing time, money and a shrinking ability to meet the targets of net zero and climate change.

"We shall await the formal decision notification, and once received plan the formal path to appeal, but rest assured we shall be appealing the matter."

---

Solar panels planned by 2035  
Distribution network

Boom Power had planned to run the site for 40 years before it would be decommissioned and returned to its present state.

More than 440 letters of objection were sent to the council ahead of its vote, compared with 32 in support. Those resisting the plans feared the development would disturb wildlife such as lapwings and skylarks, which are ground-nesting birds. Boom Power has suggested offsetting that impact by using a site it owns next to the development to house those species.

Objectors also cited a lack of certainty over whether the site would be restored to its existing state after the 40-year time frame.

The council's refusal comes after the Energy Secretary vowed to "take on the blockers" opposing the Government's clean energy proposals, claiming in September that defeating the Nimbys on its net zero drive was a matter of "national security".



The Energy Secretary, who is planning to fit up to more than 100m solar panels across Britain by 2035 under his strategy to hit net zero targets, according to data.

Under Mr Miliband's strategy, solar panels will span an estimated 500 sq miles. Assuming the average solar panel measures 2sq metres, this would mean as many as 100m are needed.

Mr Miliband wants to turbocharge the nation's use of solar voltaics – where solar energy is used to generate low carbon electricity – from 15 gigawatts (GW) today to around 70GW in a decade's time. The aim is to decarbonise the UK's power supplies, reduce reliance on gas and eventually cut prices.

His plans are opposed by Reform, which seeks to make Labour's ambitions for solar farms, onshore wind turbines and pylons across the countryside its top campaigning issue.

Sunderland City Council is led by Labour and Co-operative Party councillor Michael Mordey, who was elected to the role in May last year.

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