

OUSE VALLEY SOLAR FARM

A community energy project.
Giving power to the people of Lewes.

SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC BENEFITS

Low Carbon Energy Generation



The proposal is expected to have a generating capacity of 17MW of clean renewable energy.



This is the equivalent annual electrical needs of approximately 4,800 family homes within Lewes District.

Business Rates Contribution



All major solar PV developments are subject to local business rates. Over its lifecycle, this proposal is expected to generate millions of pounds to fund local services throughout Lewes District Council.

Community Energy



Like all the work that OVESCO undertakes, this is a community energy project, with community benefit at its heart.



Local residents have the opportunity to directly invest in the project and become shareowners. Each investor will receive an annual return on their investment over the lifetime of the project.



The solar farm will increase the wealth of the community by keeping investment returns local and by providing local employment where possible.



Any and all profits will be directly invested back into the local community.



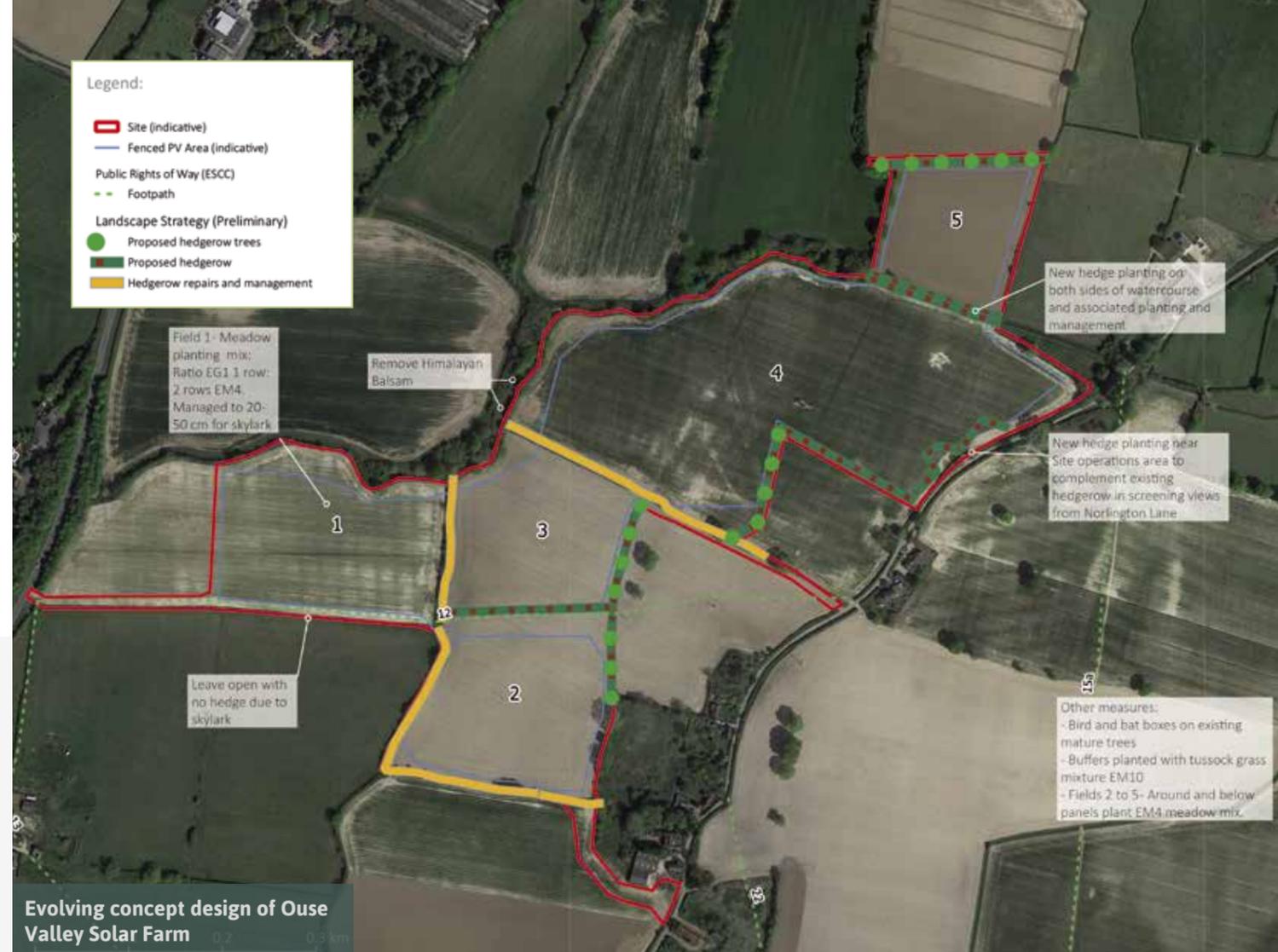
The fund will be used on future additional decarbonisation and energy efficiency projects, on education to address fuel poverty and to enhance biodiversity in the area.



Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions via ousevalleysolar@ovesco.co.uk. Alternatively, if you would like further information, feel free to visit our website at www.ousevalleysolar.co.uk.

? Don't we need the land for food production?

No we do not. According to DEFRA the Utilised Agricultural Area for the UK stands at 17.3 million hectares (71% of land in the UK). If all the solar farms the country needed to be built to achieve net zero, were built tomorrow, we'd need just 0.58% of that land. By comparison, golf courses take up 2% of all the land in England.



SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Biodiversity



The Ecological Assessment indicated a significant net gain in biodiversity of 234% for habitats and 104% for linear units (hedgerows, rivers, streams etc). These figures are well above the minimum 10% net gain expected by Lewes District Council and by the Environmental Act.



The Solar Farm provides the opportunity to keep the land pesticide and chemical free, allowing species to thrive and soil quality to improve.



Bat boxes, bird boxes, bug hotels, log piles and skylark support will be added within the site and along boundaries to further enhance biodiversity.



Ouse Valley Solar Farm will save 6,800 tonnes CO₂ each year.

Climate Emergency



The UK Government has committed to reducing economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions by at least 68 percent by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. In addition to this, the Government has 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.



Lewes District Council has laid out plans to reach carbon neutrality after declaring a climate emergency in 2019 when councillors unanimously backed a motion for the authority to declare a climate emergency and become carbon neutral by 2030.