



## WHERE IS OUSE VALLEY SOLAR FARM?

The site will be located on land at Norlington Farm, north of Norlington Lane, Ringmer.

OVESCO wants to work with you to create a solar farm that will benefit your community. That is why OVESCO is proposing to prepare and submit a planning application to Lewes District Council for a community solar farm, to be owned by and for the benefit of the community.



It is estimated that the solar farm will have a generating capacity of approximately 17MW of clean renewable electricity for distribution to the national grid. This is equivalent to the annual **electrical needs of over 4,000 family homes** across East Sussex.





## INTRODUCING OVESCO

### GETTING TO NET ZERO

The UK Government was the first national government in the world to declare a Climate Emergency in May 2019 and has set a legally binding target of Net Zero emissions by 2050 (relative to 1990 levels). At local levels, many councils including Lewes District Council, have made their own similar declarations. Renewables now account for approximately 43% of UK electricity generation proving they are a very viable alternative to fossil fuels. However, to achieve our targets and tackle Climate Change we urgently require a rapid increase in the further deployment of renewables, including solar.

### REGISTER YOUR VIEWS

We welcome feedback from members of the community on our draft proposals at this event or via our dedicated website where you can get further information and keep in contact with us. Please get in touch via email at [feedback@alpacacommunications.com](mailto:feedback@alpacacommunications.com) if you wish to register your views. We would also love to hear from you if you are interested in potentially investing in the scheme, so please do get in touch.

Please do have a look at our website at <https://ovesco.co.uk/ouse-valley-solar-farm/> to remain updated about our proposals.

## ABOUT US

OVESCO is the Sussex based community energy company with a vision for a future in which 100% of our energy needs are generated locally from renewable sources. OVESCO invests time and money to improve our current and future environment to combat climate change.

Since 2007 OVESCO has successfully developed, and now manages a range of fifteen local solar projects. Our projects are founded on local investment, keeping money circulating locally, while achieving real carbon reductions and stable, long-term financial returns. We develop clean, green energy projects and educate and advise the Sussex community (particularly Lewes District) on energy efficiency, reduction and clean technologies. As a community energy company all surplus income is used for the benefit of the community.

OVESCO's mission is to continue to reduce carbon emissions across the South-East and to enable Lewes and surrounding villages to become Carbon Neutral. This mission will be achieved through developing and managing local smart, efficient and responsible community-owned renewable energy projects.

We at OVESCO are grateful to the Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) which has made this project possible. This non-capital grant helps community organisations with the development of a renewable energy project to ensure rural areas can reduce energy costs, generate income and create investment in local communities.



OVESCO is an International Ashden Award winner for their work with community energy.

## ABOUT THE ASHDEN AWARDS

Awards are given to organisations and businesses that deliver local, sustainable energy schemes with social, economic and environmental benefits.





## THE BENEFITS OF OUSE VALLEY SOLAR FARM

The wider benefits of the development proposed, in addition to the contribution towards the security of energy supplies, are:

- The project will support the UK's urgent need to transition to a low carbon future, producing significant amounts of renewable energy.
- It will assist Lewes District Council to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with local, national and international targets, as well as their own targets of achieving carbon neutrality by 2030.
- It will contribute towards the security of energy supply in the Lewes District through the provision of local, community led renewable energy supply.
- A solar farm is a temporary development, which enables agricultural land to rest for the period of operation. The land we propose to use is not best and most versatile (BMV) land.
- In addition to energy production, a solar farm supports biodiversity by allowing small animals, birds, insects and wildflowers to flourish.
- No protected landscape, heritage or ecological designations will be affected by the solar farm.
- We anticipate that construction will be complete in approximately 4 months from commencement.
- The proposed solar farm will not require Government subsidy.
- OVESCO is committed to using local suppliers during construction and operation where possible.

### BIODIVERSITY

Hedgerows provide a species rich environment and taking the fields out of arable rotation will allow considerable biodiversity net gain over the lifetime of the solar farm. Additional hedgerow planting would be provided, and gaps filled along some of the existing boundary hedgerows to minimise visual impact and to maximise biodiversity. Bat boxes, bird boxes, bug hotels, log piles and skylark mitigation will be added within the site and along boundaries.





## POWERED BY YOU

We work with local communities to deliver renewable energy projects in East Sussex. Ouse Valley Solar Farm will be owned by members of the local community.

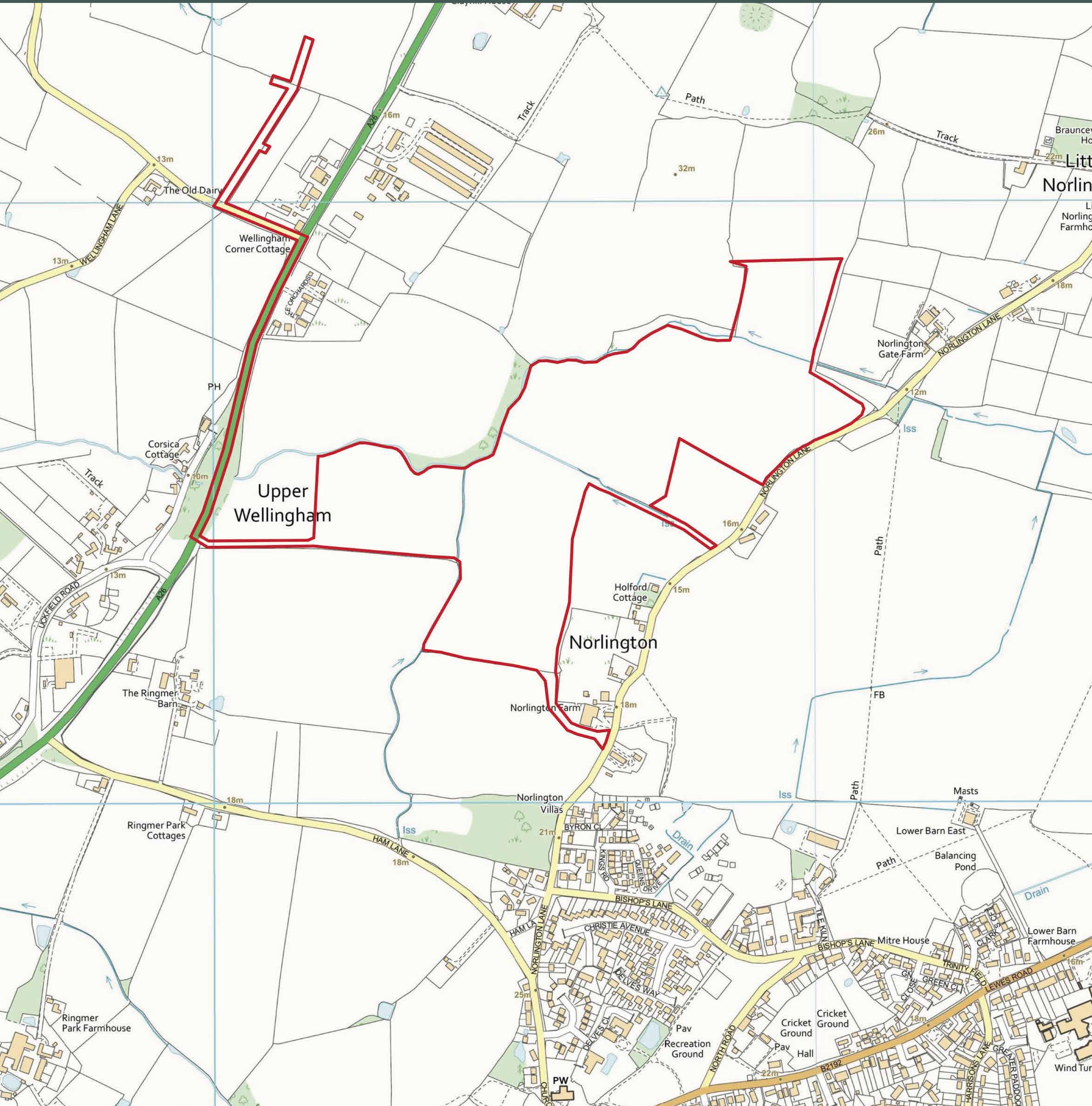
Everyone will have the opportunity to become investors and become an owner of the solar farm. Once we have received planning permission and are ready to start the preparations for construction, the local community will have the opportunity to invest in the project. Everyone who invests will receive a maximum annual return on their investment with their capital returned over the life time of the project.

The project is expected to produce a reliable income stream from which interest can be paid to local investors and into a community benefit fund. All surplus income must be dispersed for the benefit of the community.

**In total we anticipate  
the scheme will  
generate over £1m  
for the community  
during its lifecycle.**



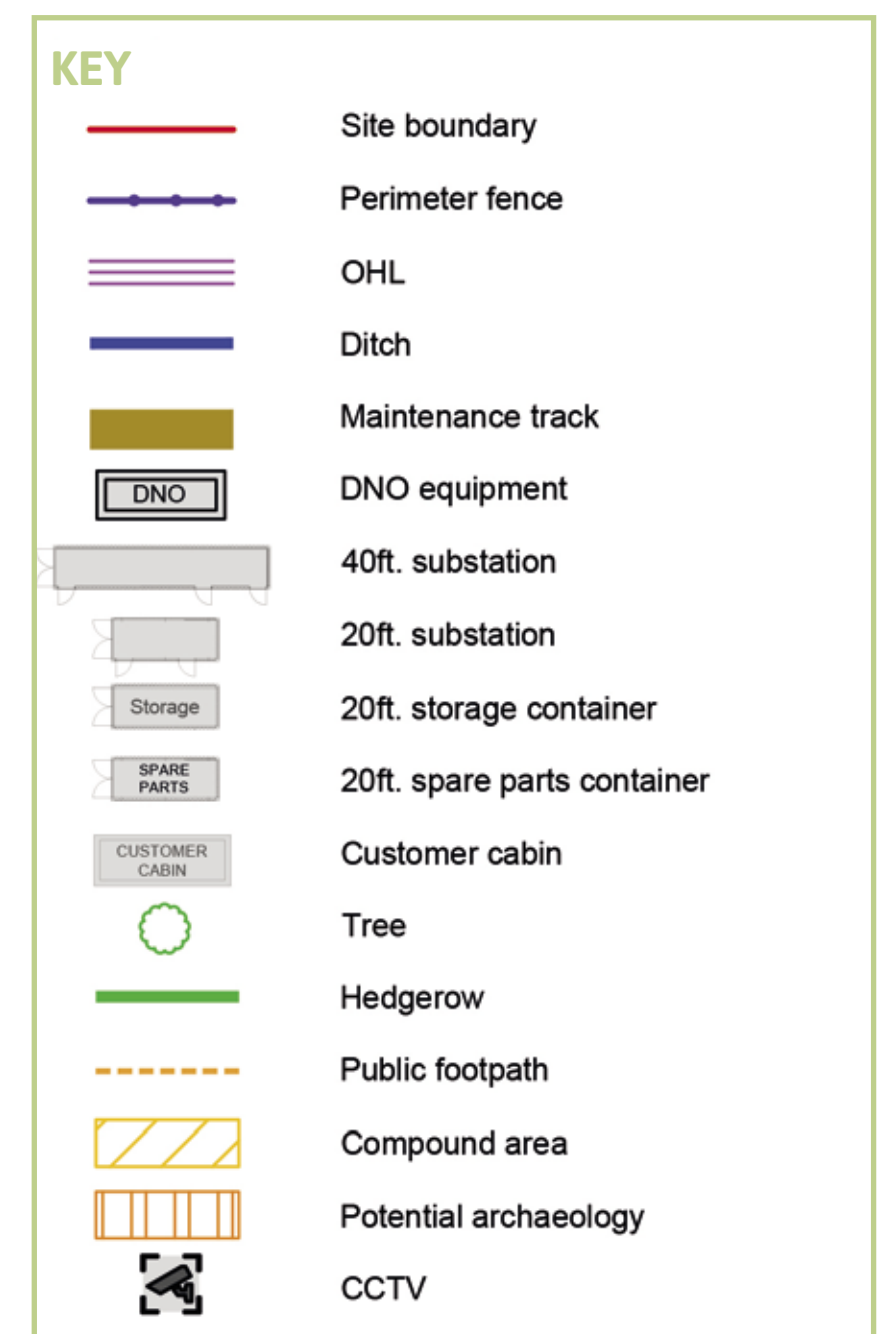




SITE LOCATION PLAN



# SITE LAYOUT AND CONCEPT LANDSCAPE PLAN





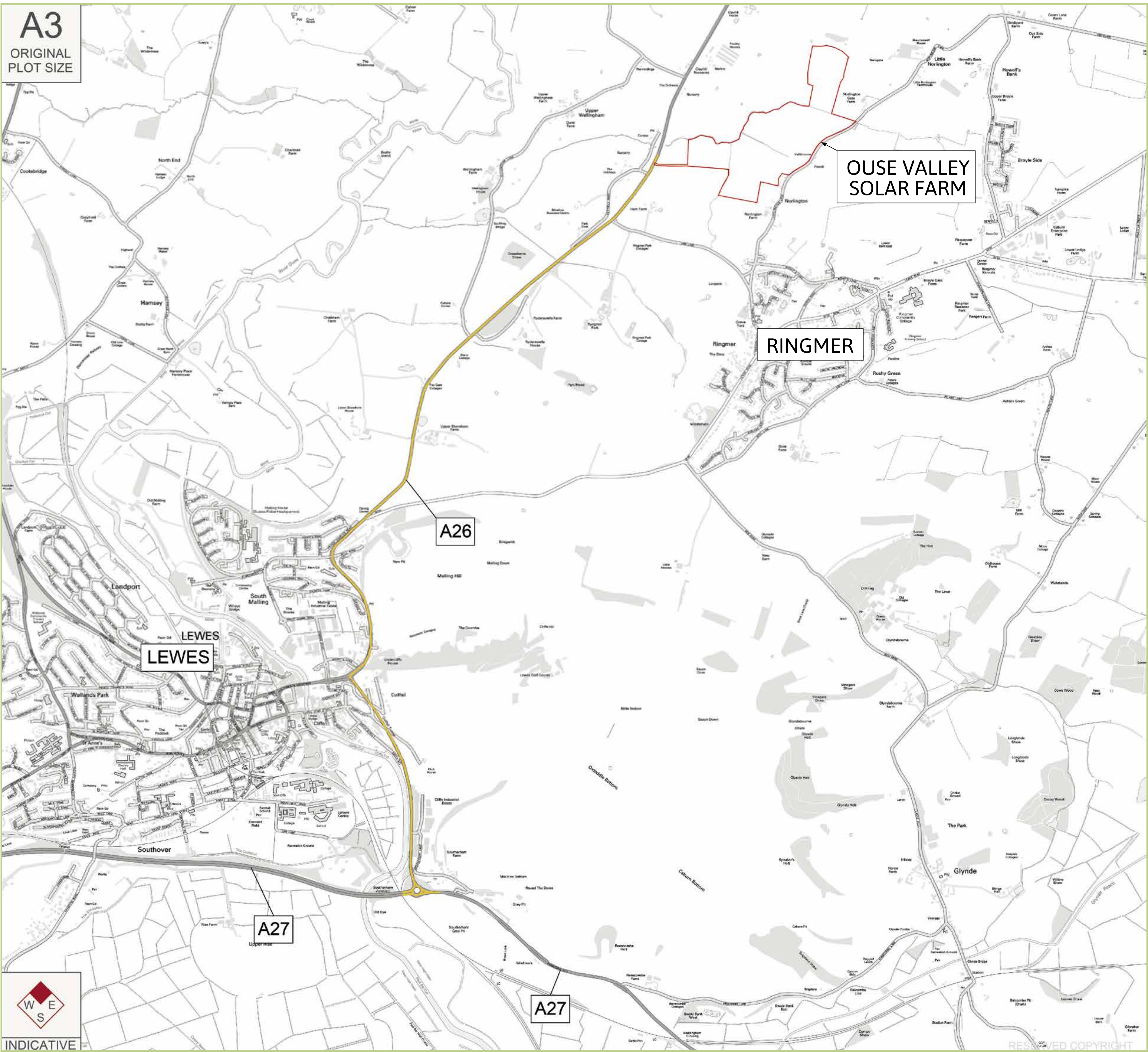
# CONSTRUCTION AND ACCESS

The main construction access for HGVs to the site will be using existing access from the A26 as shown by this plan.

It is anticipated that the average number of deliveries to be made by HGVs during the construction period would be approximately 4 per day.

Once operational there would be limited vehicle visits each month comprising a transit style van or car, accessing the site from Norlington Lane.

A Construction Traffic Management Plan will be prepared to accompany the application and assess the routes.



Key  
Approximate Site Boundary  
Construction Vehicle Route





## CLIMATE EMERGENCY

**We are living in a world defining era. Climate change is increasingly becoming more prominent, and we are seeing the effect of this in our daily lives. Extreme weather and natural disasters such as floods, droughts and famine are becoming increasingly regular due to rising global temperatures. It is widely regarded that we as humans are to blame for this.**

A big cause of this is our unrelenting use of fossil fuels, such as coal, oil and gas to power our daily lives. Using these resources causes the release of greenhouse gases (largely carbon dioxide) into the atmosphere. Once released these gases trap the sun's energy and heat, which causes a global temperature rise.

Climate change and temperature rises are only going to get worse unless we do something drastic about it. The introduction of renewable energy into the UK's energy mix can play a significant role in our attempts to turn the tide in our fight to stop climate change. Harnessing solar energy is a significant part of this. It is renewable, efficient and effective and most importantly – it will help reduce the potentially drastic impacts of climate change that will impact our daily lives. There is no planet B. We must act now.



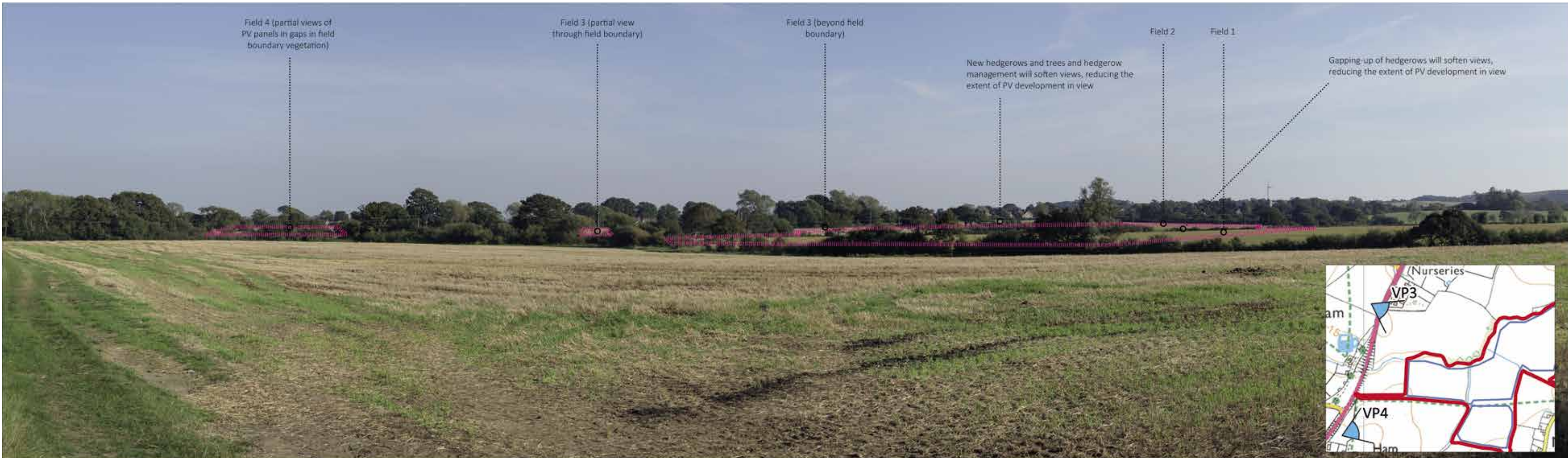
VIEWPOINTS



**Viewpoint 1:** Norlington Lane at the north-eastern field gate



**Viewpoint 2:** Norlington Lane at eastern end of Footpath 12



**Viewpoint 3:** A26 next to The Orchards



VIEWPOINTS



**Viewpoint 4:** Footpath 13 to the south-west of the Site



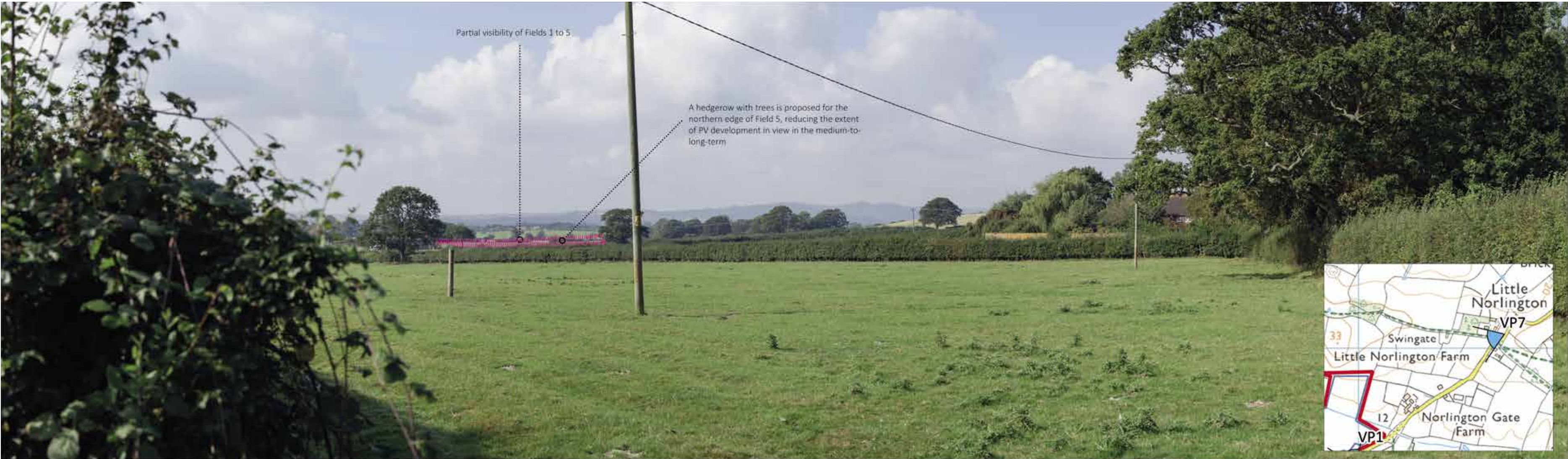
**Viewpoint 5:** Footpath 13 at Ham Lane



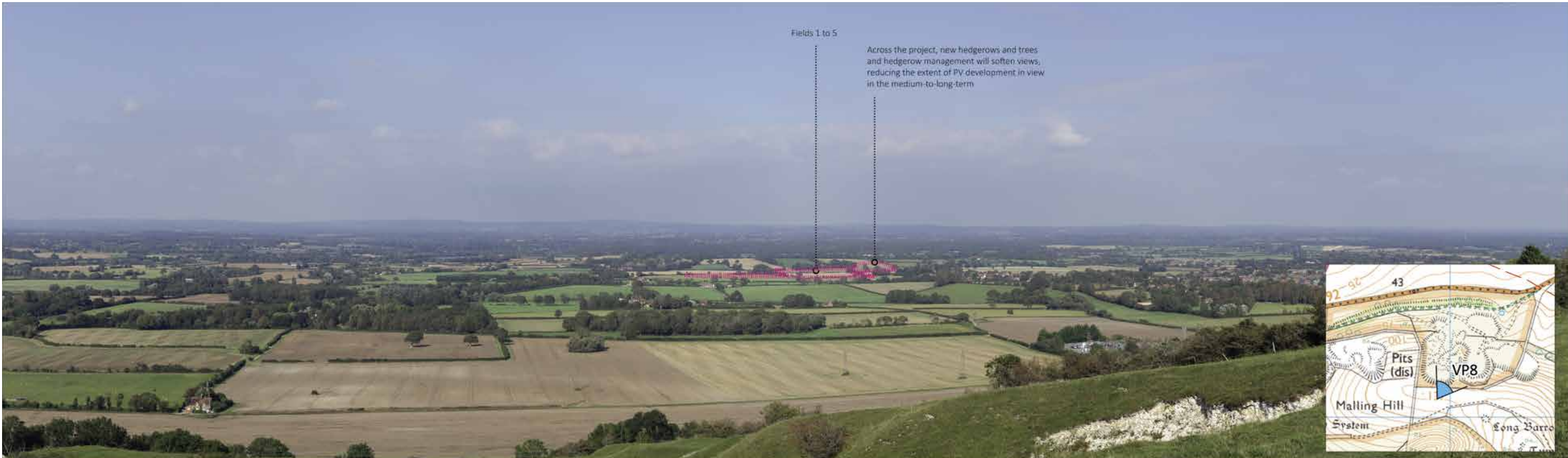
**Viewpoint 6:** Footpath 14 south-west of the churchyard



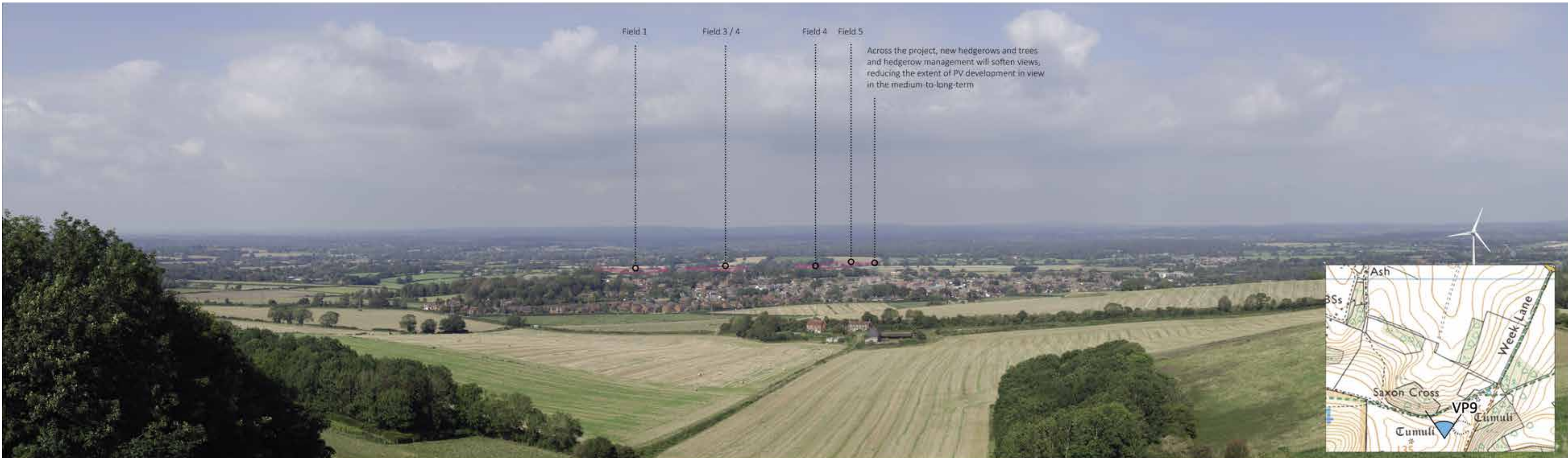
VIEWPOINTS



Viewpoint 8: Norlington Lane at Footpath 10



Viewpoint 9: Malling Down Nature Reserve, SDNP



Viewpoint 10: Saxon Cross, SDNP