

# Solar Power Expansion in the UK: From 16.9GW to 47GW by 2030

The UK's total solar capacity reached 16.9 GW by the end of June 2024, according to [data from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero \(DESNZ\)](#). This represents an 8.5% increase (1.3 GW) compared to the previous year.

The total capacity is distributed across over 1.5 million domestic and commercial solar installations. In 2023, 196,782 new solar projects were added, marking the second-highest annual total for new installations, following the 208,586 installations in 2011.

The UK government set an ambitious goal of achieving 45GW-47GW solar generation capacity by 2030, which means the UK needs to triple its solar capacity over the next decade.

In July, the Planning Inspectorate announced that the energy secretary Ed Milliband had granted development consent for three major solar projects: the 500MW [Sunnica Energy Farm](#) on the Suffolk-Cambridgeshire border, the 350MW [Mallard Pass Solar Project](#) in Lincolnshire, and the 500MW [Gate Burton Energy Park](#), also in Lincolnshire. These approvals follow the completion of the planning process, including statutory public consultations.

Based on a recent news item on the [Solar Power Portal](#) and research by KCSA, we have compiled a roundup of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) projects currently in pre-application, pre-examination, and examination phases.\*

To find out more out the NSIP planning process, click [here](#)

## Pre-Application Projects

Developers in the pre-application stage assess community and environmental impacts through consultations and scoping reports. Here are the key projects expected to progress in 2025:

### [Dean Moor Solar Farm](#), West Cumbria

- Capacity: 150MW solar PV, 100MW BESS
- Developer: Firma Vogt Solar (joint venture)
- Timeline: DCO application expected February 2025.

### [East Park Development](#), Beds

- Capacity: 400MW solar PV, 100MW battery energy storage system (BESS)
- Developer: Brockwell Solar and Storage
- Timeline: DCO application expected January-March 2025; construction may begin in 2027.

### **Beacon Fen Energy Park, Lincs**

- Capacity: 400MW solar PV, 600MW BESS
- Developer: Low Carbon
- Timeline: DCO application expected March 2025.

### **Frodsham Solar, Cheshire**

- Capacity: 130MW solar PV with BESS
- Developer: Cubio Sustainable Investments
- Timeline: DCO application expected Spring 2025

### **Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park, Notts**

- Capacity: 800MW solar PV
- Developer: Elements Green
- Timeline: DCO application expected August 2025

### **One Earth Solar Farm, Notts**

- Capacity: 740MW export/import connection agreed with National Grid
- Developer: Ørsted and PS Renewables
- Timeline: DCO application expected Summer 2025

### **Fosse Green Energy Solar Project, Lincs**

- Capacity: >50MW with BESS
- Developer: Windel Energy
- Timeline: DCO application expected Autumn 2025

### **Rosefield Solar Farm (EDF and PS Renewables), Bucks**

- Capacity: 500MW grid connection secured with BESS
- Developer: EDF and PS Renewables
- Timeline: DCO application expected late 2025

### **Mylen Leah Solar Farm, East Riding of Yorkshire**

- Capacity: 500MW solar PV
- Developer: Statkraft
- Timeline: DCO application expected end 2025

### **Whitestone Energy Park, Yorkshire**

- Capacity: 750MW with BESS
- Developer: Green Nation
- Timeline: DCO application expected Spring 2026

### **White Elm Solar Farm, Suffolk**

- Capacity: >50MW with BESS
- Developer: ELMYA
- Timeline: DCO application expected July to September 2026

### **Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park, Lincs**

- Capacity: 250MW solar PV with BESS
- Developer: Ridge Clean Energy Limited
- Timeline: No date given for DCO application

### **South Kent Energy Park, Kent**

- Capacity: 500MW solar PV
- Developer: Low Carbon
- Timeline: Community engagement to end 17 January 2025. No date given for DCO application)

### **Island Green Power Projects**

- [Green Hill Solar Farm](#), Northants: 500MW solar PV with BESS (DCO application expected April 2025).
- [East Pye Solar Project](#), South Norfolk: 500MW solar PV, 500MW BESS (DCO application expected late 2025).
- [Lime Down Solar Project](#), North Wilts: 500MW export, 250MW import, 1,000MWh BESS (DCO application expected Autumn 2025).
- [The Drovers Solar Farm](#), Norfolk: 500MW and BESS (DCO application expected Winter 2025)
- [Light Valley Solar Plant](#), North Yorks: 500MW solar PV with BESS (DCO application expected January 2026)

### **RWE projects**

- [Peartree Hill Solar Farm](#), East Riding of Yorkshire: 320MW solar PV. (DCO application expected January 2025)
- [Steeple Renewables](#), Notts: 400MW solar PV, 200MW BESS (DCO expected Q2 2025)
- [Tween Bridge Solar](#), Doncaster/North Lincs: 600MW solar PV with storage (DCO expected Q4 2025)
- [High Grove Solar](#), Norfolk: 720MW solar PV (DCO expected Q4 2025)
- [Lostrigg Solar](#) Farm, Cumbria: 100MW solar PV (DCO expected Autumn 2025)

### **Downing Renewable Development projects**

- [Kingsway Solar](#), South Cambs: 500MW solar PV with storage (DCO application expected Autumn 2025).

- [Meridian Solar](#), Lincs: 750MW solar PV with BESS facility (DCO application expected Q3 2025)

## **Pre-Examination Projects**

In the pre-examination phase, the planning inspectorate reviews DCO applications and appoints an Examining Authority. Public registration to give feedback is crucial during this stage.

### **[Botley West Solar Development, Oxfordshire](#)**

- Capacity: 840MW solar PV
- Developer: Photovolt Development Partners (PVDP)
- Timeline: Entered pre-examination in December 2024; examination expected to start in March 2025.

### **[Byer's Gill Solar Farm, County Durham](#)**

- Capacity: 180MW solar PV
- Developer: RWE
- Timeline: Examination phase expected to begin early 2025.

### **[Springwell Solar Farm, Lincs](#)**

- Capacity: 800MW
- Developer: EDF Renewables & Luminous Energy
- Timeline: Examination expected by April 2025. Plans for a temporary solar farm have been [refused](#).

### **[Stonestreet Green Solar Farm, Kent](#)**

- Capacity: 165MW generation, 99.9MW export
- Developer: Evolution Power
- Status: Accepted for examination in July 2024
- Timeline: Recommendation to the energy secretary expected by the end of January 2025 if the six-month time limit is met.

### **[Fenwick Solar Farm, Yorkshire](#)**

- Capacity: 237.5MW co-located solar-plus-storage
- Developer: Boom Power
- Timeline: Second consultation closed on 31 May 2024; registration for input open until 24 January 2025.

## Examination Phase and Beyond

During this phase, applications are scrutinized before a recommendation is made to the secretary of state.

### [Tillbridge Solar](#) Limited, Lincs

- Capacity: 500MW
- Developer: Joint venture by Tribus Clean Energy and Recurrent Energy
- Timeline: Recommendation expected by January 2025 with decision by the energy secretary by Q3 2025. [Public hearings](#) will take place in January 2025.

### [Oaklands Solar Farm](#), South Derbyshire

- Capacity: 138MW
- Developer: BayWa r.e.
- Timeline: Recommendation report to the secretary of state by March 2025.

### [East Yorkshire Solar Farm](#), Yorkshire

- Capacity: 400MW
- Developer: Boom Power
- Status: Examination period closed
- Timeline: Examination period concluded at the end of November 2024; recommendation phase expected to complete by 21 February 2025. The energy secretary's decision is anticipated by May 2025.

### [Helios Renewable Energy Project](#), North Yorks

- Capacity: 250MW solar PV, 190MW generation
- Developer: Enso Energy
- Timeline: Examination to close by June 2025.

## DCO Decisions

### [Heckington Fen Solar Plant](#), Lancs

- Capacity: 500MW solar PV
- Developer: Ecotricity
- Timeline: [Planning decision delayed to 2025](#); updated information due January 2025.

### [West Burton Solar Project](#), Lincs

- Capacity: 500MW solar PV
- Developer: Island Green Power
- Timeline: Deadline for the Secretary of State to make their decision on the application is 24 January 2025

## Decision

### Cleve Hill Solar Park, Kent

- Capacity: 373MW solar PV with option for BESS
- Developer: Cleve Hill Solar Park Ltd
- Decision: May 2020. [Approved](#)
- Construction began in early 2023 and is expected to be completed by Autumn 2025.

### Cottam Solar Project, Lincs/Notts

- Capacity: 600MW solar PV
- Developer: Island Green Power
- Decision: September 2024. [Approved](#)

### Gate Burton Energy Park, Lincs

- Capacity: 500MW solar PV with BESS
- Developer: Low Carbon
- Decision: On 12th July 2024, Low Carbon received the DCO planning consent. This and Cottam Solar Project are in close proximity with the intention to share the grid connection

### Little Crow Solar Park, Lincs

- Capacity: 150MW solar PV
- Developer: INRG
- Decision: April 2022 DCO planning consent with non-material changes.
- Construction of the Little Crow Solar Park in the UK is expected to begin in 2025, with commercial operation starting in 2027

### Longfield Solar Farm, Essex

- Capacity: 400MW solar PV with BESS
- Developer: EDF Renewables
- Decision: 26 June 2022 DCO planning consent
- Landscaping works have now commenced to plant new trees and hedgerows at locations around the Longfield site.
- It will also kick-start a programme of research to look at the positive impacts large-scale solar farms can have on biodiversity and wildlife in the UK. The research will tie into Longfield's plans and commitments to deliver substantial biodiversity enhancements through habitat restoration and management.

### **Mallard Pass Solar Project, Lincs**

- Capacity: 350MW solar PV
- Developer: Windel Energy and Recurrent Energy
- Decision: 12 July 2024 DCO planning consent with post-decision [correction order](#)

### **Sunnica Energy Farm, Suffolk/Cambs**

- Capacity: 500MW solar PV with BESS
- Developer: Tribus Energy and PS Renewables
- Decision: 12 July 2024 DCO planning consent with post-decision [correction order](#)

\*Information has been checked against the relevant websites but some details and timelines may be subject to change. Data correct as of January 2025.