Candwr Solar Farm

Welcome to our first non-statutory community consultation event on the emerging proposals for Candwr Solar Farm.

About us

TotalEnergies has been present in the UK for more than 60 years.

In that time, we've grown into one of the largest multi-energy companies in the world. We've been fully integrated across all sectors of the energy business, from exploration and production to manufacturing and marketing energy products and services.

Our **100,000 employees** across **120 countries** are committed to producing better energy that is **more affordable, reliable, cleaner, and accessible to as many people as possible**.

To achieve our ambition of being a world-class player in the energy transition, and reaching carbon neutrality by 2050, together with society, we're diversifying our energy offering to provide the renewable and decarbonised energies our customers will need in the future.

We are continuing to expand in the renewable energies market, particularly wind and solar, with the aim of becoming one of the world's top five producers of renewable electricity.

Our target is for **100 TWh of net electricity production in 2030.**

To meet the UK's increasing energy demand but with lower carbon emissions, we are making major investments in electricity generation from renewable sources.

The aim of this consultation is to share information about the proposed project and to gain feedback from the local community.

Our project team is here to assist you with any questions you may have. We also have feedback forms that you can complete here or at home.

About the project

Located on land approximately 5km north-east of Newport, 500m east of Ponthir and 1.4km north of Caerleon, Candwr Solar Farm will comprise the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a grid connected solar farm facility.

The solar farm would have the capacity to:

generate up to **46MW** of electricity

enough to power the equivalent of up to **17,265** typical family homes per year

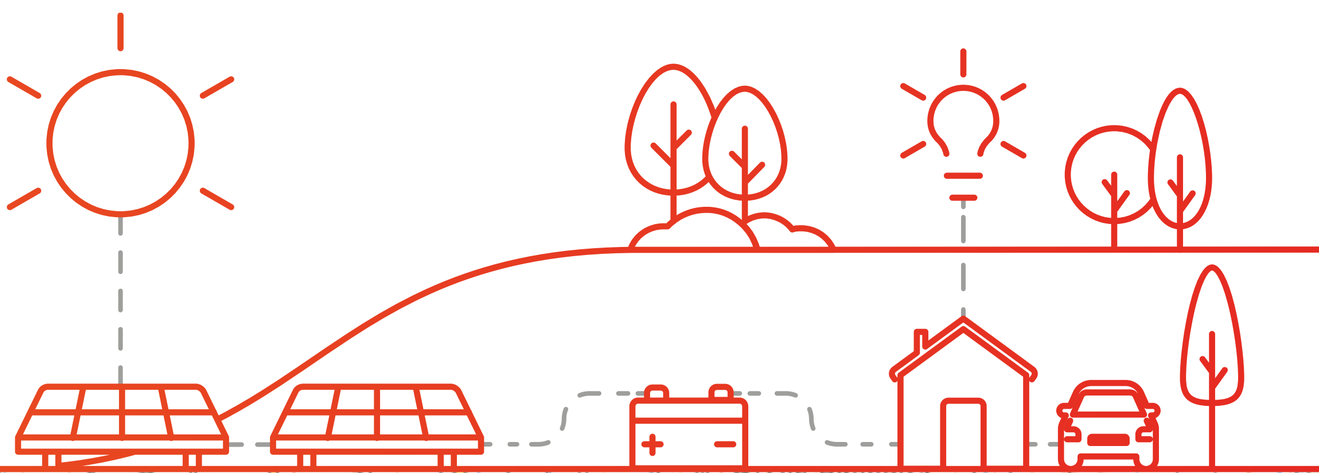
saving up to **7,495 tonnes** tonnes of CO^2e*

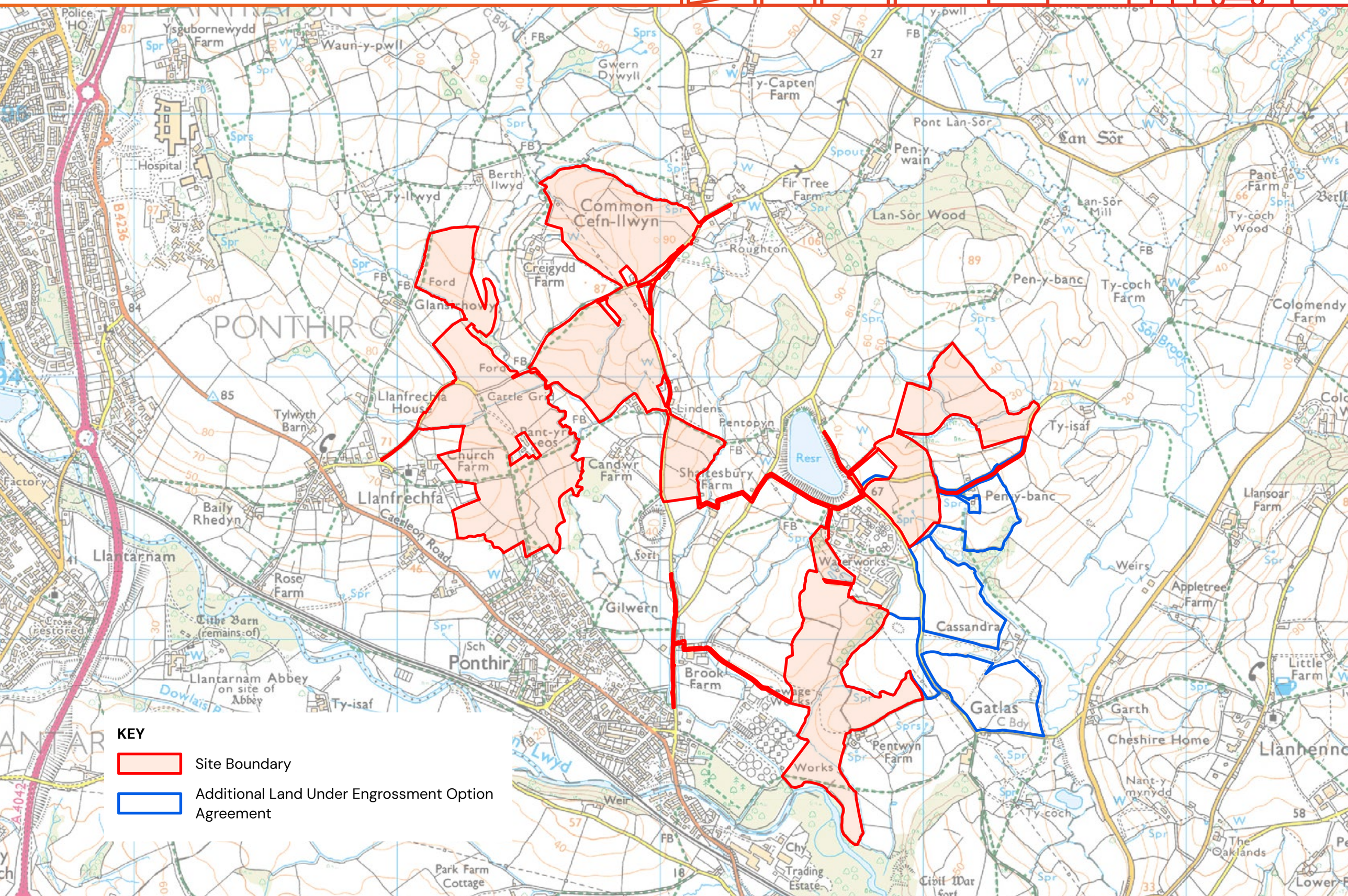
* (assuming UK CO^2 emissions factor from grid is 0.124 kg CO^2e/kWh) per year.

How does solar work?

Solar panels generate electricity using radiation from the sun – not just direct sunlight or high temperatures. Panels can produce electricity all year-round, even on cloudy days.

Solar energy is a low-carbon, cost-effective, and quick-to-deploy renewable source that removes reliance on global energy producers while protecting consumers from significant fluctuations in energy costs due to import prices.





The Site

Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water has committed to **90% carbon emission reduction by 2030 and 'Net-Zero' by 2040**.

This project would make a valuable contribution towards meeting these targets.

Around 10% of the energy generated by Candwr Solar Farm will be used directly by Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water's operations at Court Farm Treatment Works, helping to decarbonise its operations there, and across its wider operations.

The remainder will be exported to the National Grid. Reducing Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water's reliance on the National Grid gives them more control over operational costs which protects against fluctuating energy prices and helps them to manage customer bills.

Supporting national net zero and energy security policies

- The UK has ambitious climate change targets to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and to ensure that the energy supply remains secure, reliable, and affordable.
- This means increasing the UK's solar capacity five-fold by 2035, taking the total generation capacity from 14 gigawatts (GW) today to around 70GW in the future. Candwr Solar Farm will contribute towards achieving this by helping provide a reliable source of affordable energy.

Benefits

Why this location?

There are several factors that influence the location of a solar farm. This site was chosen based on:

- Future Wales: The National Plan 2024, which sets the key factors influencing site selection and design for large scale solar development in the context of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- Proximity to Court Farm Treatment Works as a point of connection to the grid.
- Obtaining voluntary land agreements.
- Consideration of planning and environmental constraints and opportunities.
- There are limited locations within Wales that can satisfy all characteristics, and therefore solar developments are proposed at locations which have a blend of the required characteristics.

Community benefits

Candwr Solar Farm will allocate money for local projects through a community benefit fund which is expected to run for the duration of the site's operational lifespan, which is 40 years.

Please get in touch if you have suggestions for the community benefit fund by emailing:

info@candwrsolarfarm.co.uk

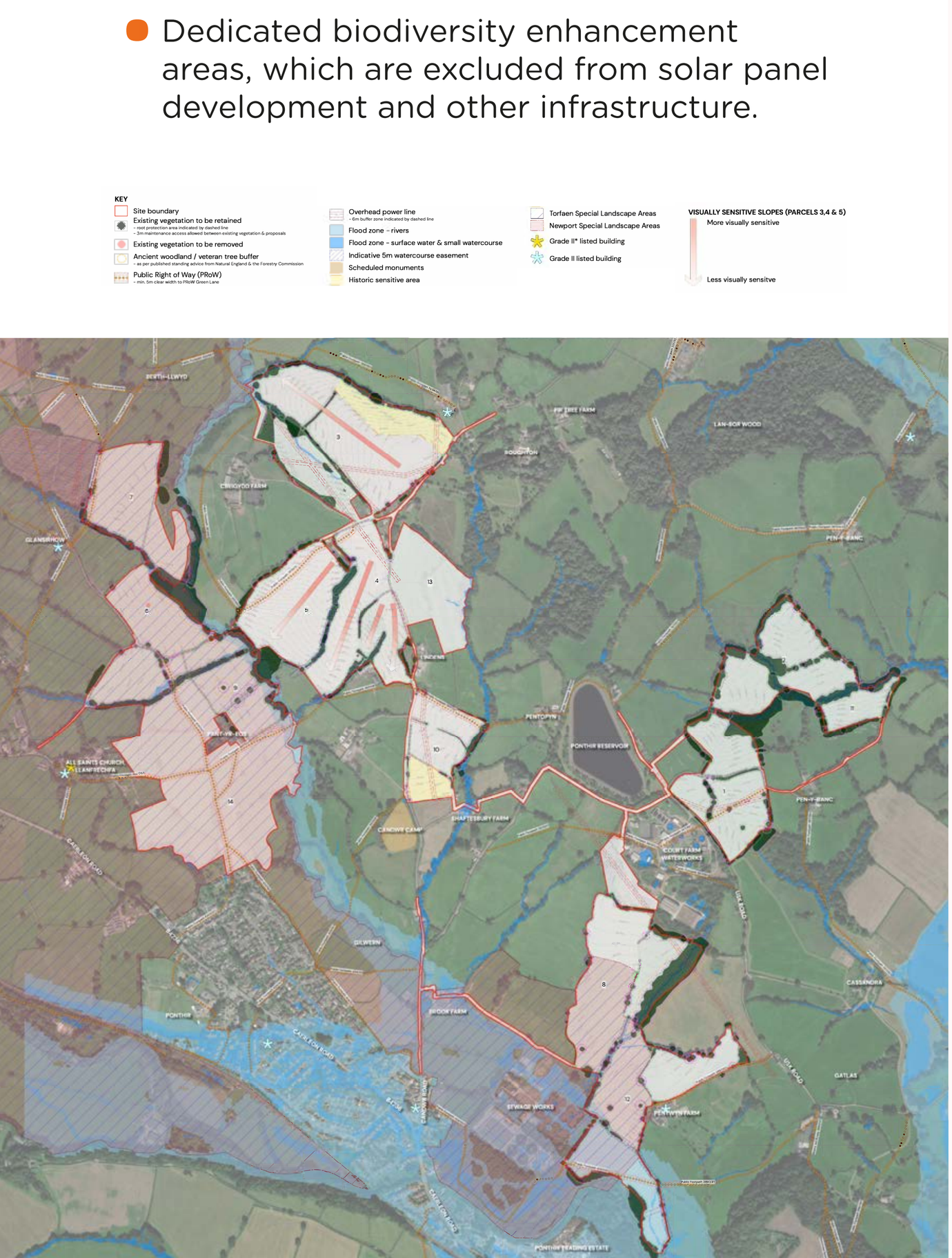
Environmental considerations

The solar farm provides the opportunity to keep the land free from intensive farming practices and chemicals, allowing species to thrive and the soil quality to improve.

Net Benefit for Biodiversity (NBB) will be achieved by new and improved hedgerow, habitats, tree planting as well as biodiversity enhancement areas.

These enhancements will include:

- New planting to support a diverse range of invertebrate species and encourage new species along the site boundary.
- Retention of existing trees and vegetation wherever possible, only minor removal anticipated for internal access tracks.
- Wildlife corridors and the installation of bat and bird nesting boxes, woodpiles and beehives along the site boundary.
- Dedicated biodiversity enhancement areas, which are excluded from solar panel development and other infrastructure.



We are in the process of conducting the following:

- **Topographical** Survey
- **Agricultural Land Classification** Survey
- **Arboricultural** Survey
- **Preliminary Flood Risk and Surface Water Drainage** Assessment
- **Extended Phase 1 Habitat** Survey
- **Great Crested Newt Species** Survey
- **Winter and Breeding Bird** Survey
- **Built Heritage and Geophysical** Survey
- **Preliminary Landscape Site Visit** and **Winter Photography**
- **Preliminary Transport** Assessment
- **Noise Impact** Assessment
- **Glint and Glare** Assessment

Construction

Our plans for Candwr Solar Farm are still at an early stage and are subject to further consultation and submission as a DNS application.

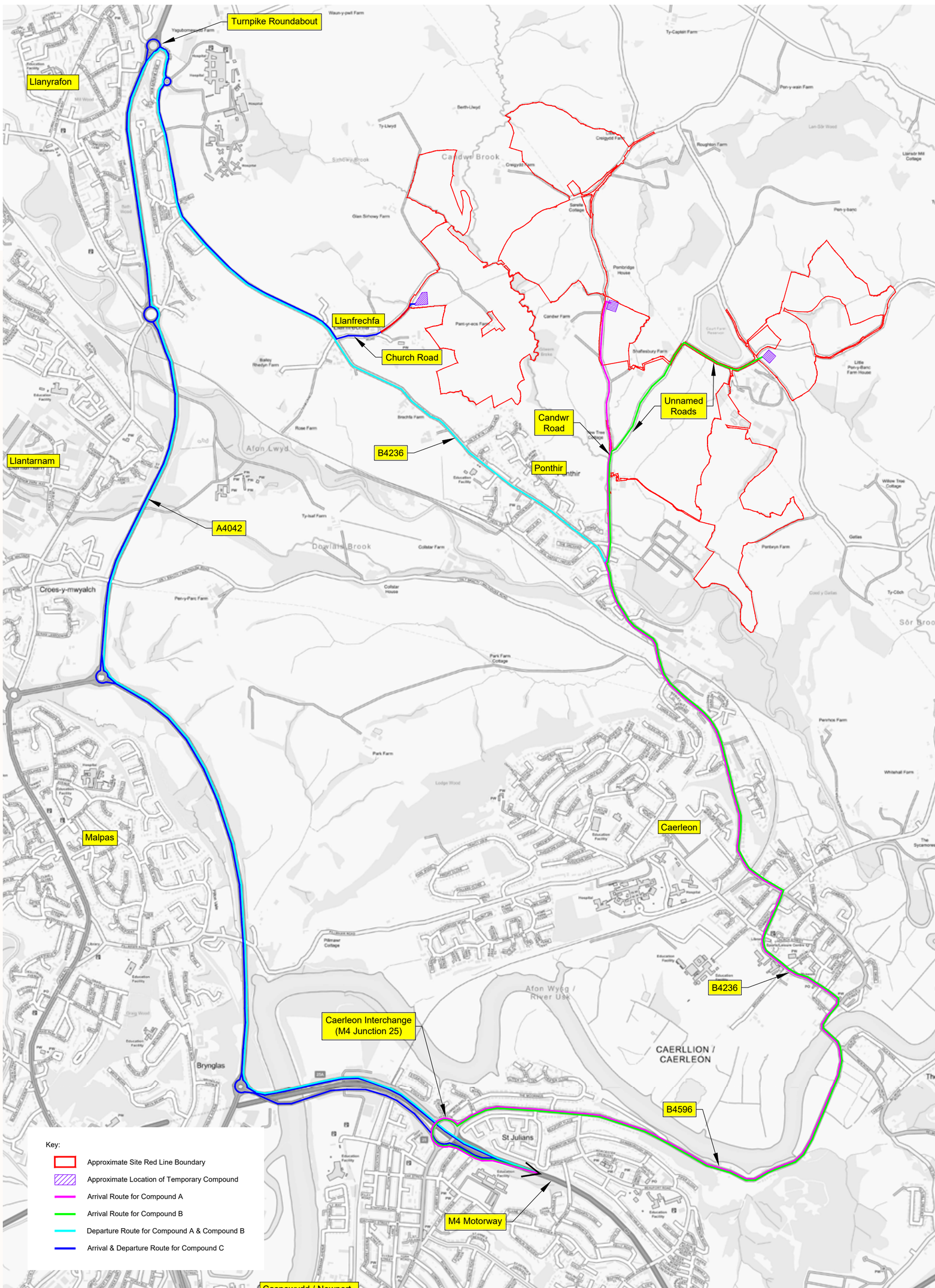
Should approval be granted, we anticipate that it would take 12 to 24 months to build the development, with the site potentially being fully operational and generating electricity from 2027/2028.

A comprehensive Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) and Construction Traffic Method Statement (CTMS) would be submitted as part of the application and implemented to ensure construction activities would be appropriately controlled to an acceptable level.

This would include confirmation of the exact mitigation measures we are using for the development of the project.

Once operational, the only vehicle movements to/from the site would be from the occasional maintenance vehicles, which would visit the site approximately once a month.

The plan to the right shows our proposed construction route.



The planning process

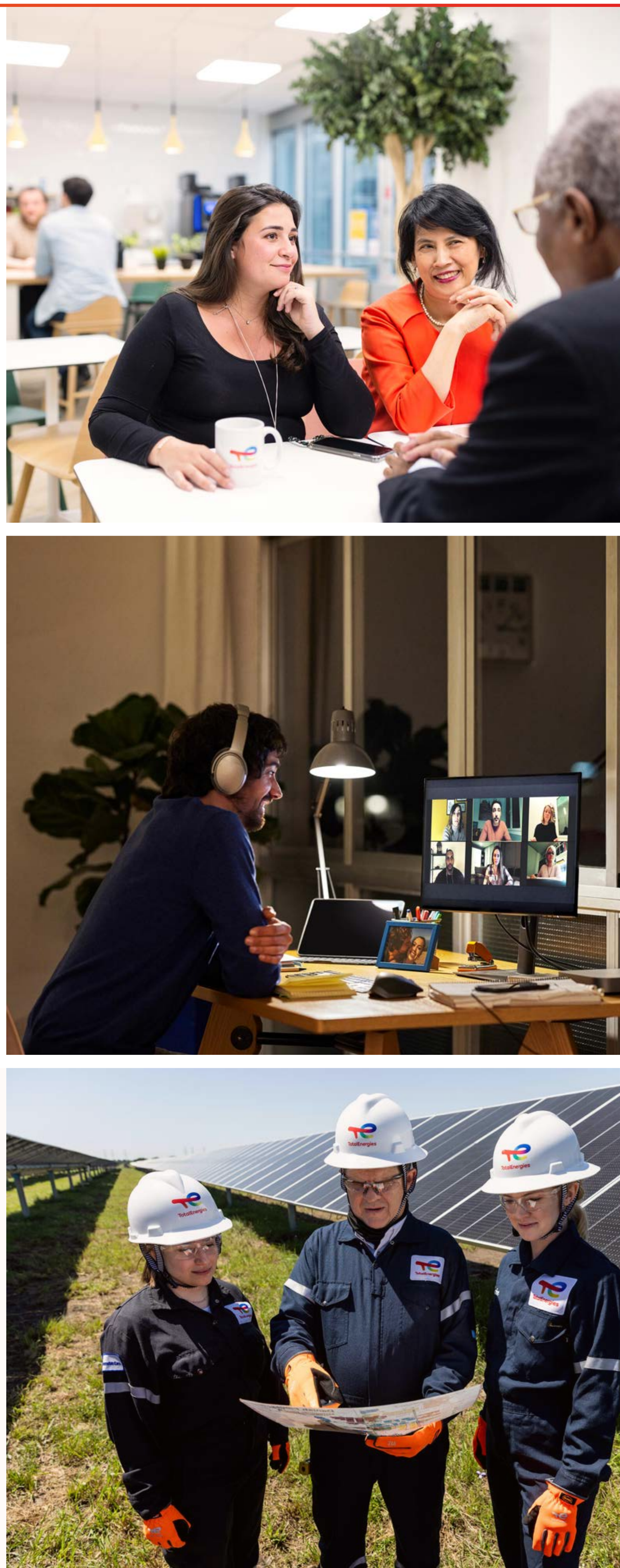
The DNS process ensures local residents have more say on the project, as there is a minimum requirement at the pre-application stage for publicising the proposed project and consultation, which is a **minimum of six weeks**.

After holding public consultations and refining the proposals, anyone intending to construct a DNS must submit an application to the Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW).

Following a recommendation being made by PEDW on whether an application should be approved, the Welsh Ministers will have the final say and issue a letter containing their decision.

Further details on this process may be found on the DNS website:

www.gov.wales/developments-national-significance-dns-guidance



Feedback and next steps

Thank you for visiting our first non-statutory consultation event. Your feedback is important to help inform the emerging proposals for the proposed Candwr Solar Farm.

Next Steps

Following this non-statutory consultation, we will review and consider all comments to help us inform the final proposal ahead of the statutory consultation later in 2025 and submission of the DNS application.

Please submit your comments by **Friday 25 July.**

You can view our plans online, if you would like to receive email updates about the project at key milestones, please register on the website: candwrsolarfarm.co.uk

Feedback Form:
Complete our feedback form either online or by taking one of our paper copies.

Email:
info@candwrsolarfarm.co.uk

Phone:
01633 631890

Write to us:
Freepost GRASSHOPPER CONSULT
(no stamp or further address required)

These contact details will put you in touch with Grasshopper Communications who are managing the consultation on behalf of TotalEnergies.