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Welcome

The construction of Oaklands Farm Solar Park is set to begin in late spring / early summer 2026. This drop-in event is an opportunity for the community to meet the construction team, ask questions and learn more about the development and what to expect in the coming months.

Who are BayWa r.e.

We are a leading renewable energy company dedicated to developing, constructing and operating renewable projects across the UK. As a subsidiary of the global BayWa r.e. group, we bring extensive experience in renewable energy solutions including wind, solar and battery storage.

Our project team is here to answer any questions you might have and learn more about the development and construction process.

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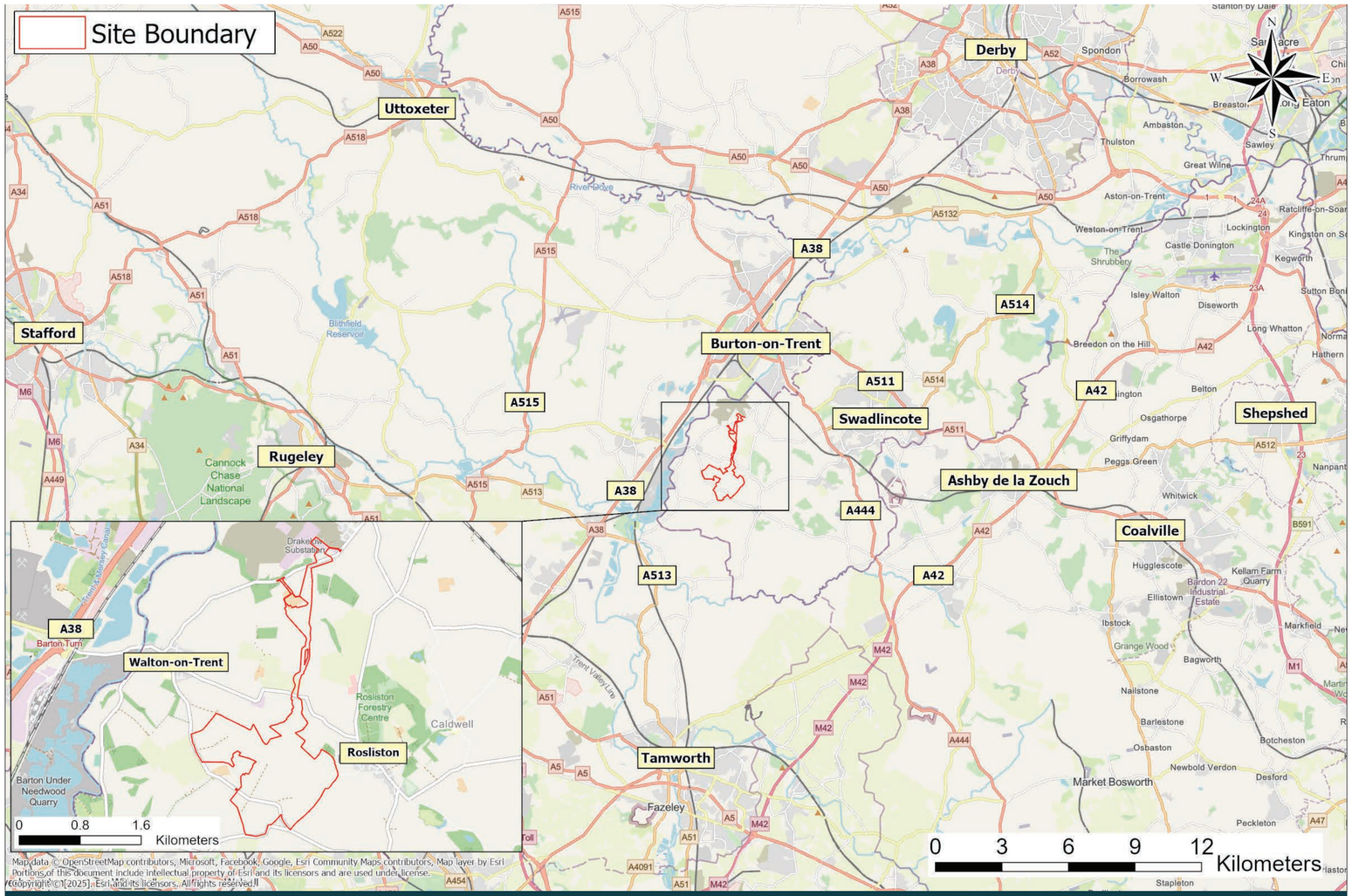
About the project

Oaklands Farm Solar Park is a large-scale renewable energy development located in South Derbyshire, between Rosliston and Walton-on-Trent.

The project has now received government approval and is moving into the construction phase. The solar farm forms part of the UK's wider transition to a low-carbon energy system.



Once operational, the solar park will:

Generate up to 152 MW of electricity

Provide clean energy to power approximately 35,000 homes

Project background

The solar park has been developed over several years:

- **2021–2023:** Environmental surveys, technical assessments and design development, including stakeholder engagement.
- **2024:** Application submitted through the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) process.
- **2024–2025:** Independent examination by the Planning Inspectorate.
- **June 2025:** Development consent granted by the UK Government.

As a NSIP, the final decision was made at a national level by Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.

Why this site?

The site was identified as suitable due to:

- Proximity to existing electricity grid infrastructure.
- Availability of open, accessible land.
- Appropriate environmental and technical conditions.

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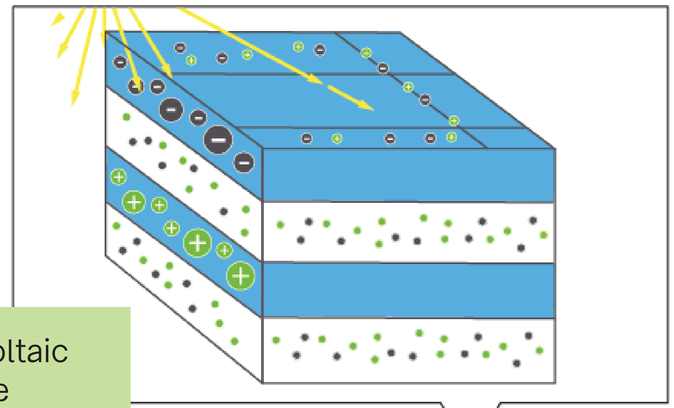
How solar farms work?

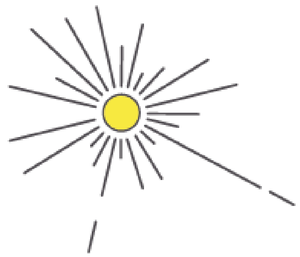
1. Photons from the sunlight hit the solar cells.
2. The silicon on the panels capture the photons and release electrons.
3. An electric field is created: we call it the photoelectric effect. As a result, the panels start to produce DC power.
4. Converted by string inverters into AC power, it is then sent to the transformer stations, where the voltage is increased. This power is sent to the site substation, where it is either increased in voltage again or injected directly into the grid.

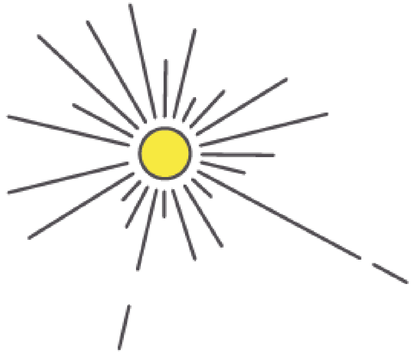
Did you know...

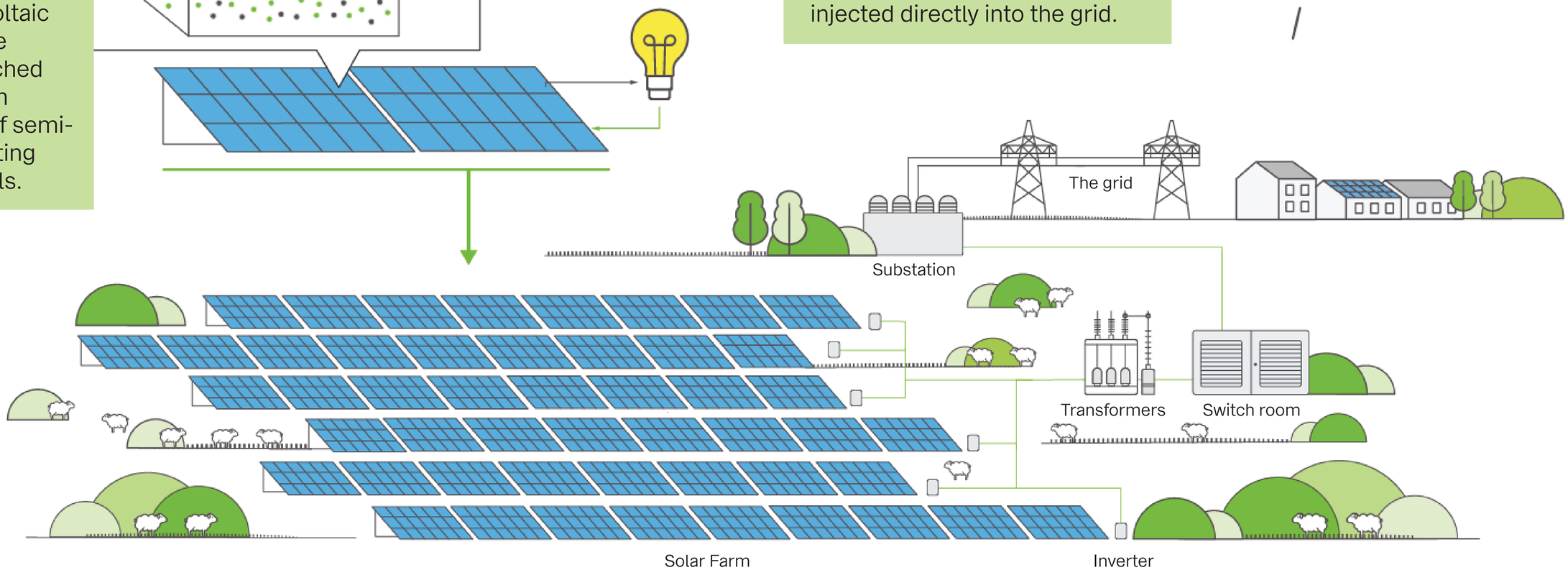
A photovoltaic panel from a ground mounted solar farm does not contain any rare earth element and over 95% can be recycled.



! Photovoltaic cells are sandwiched between layers of semi-conducting materials.







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Construction process

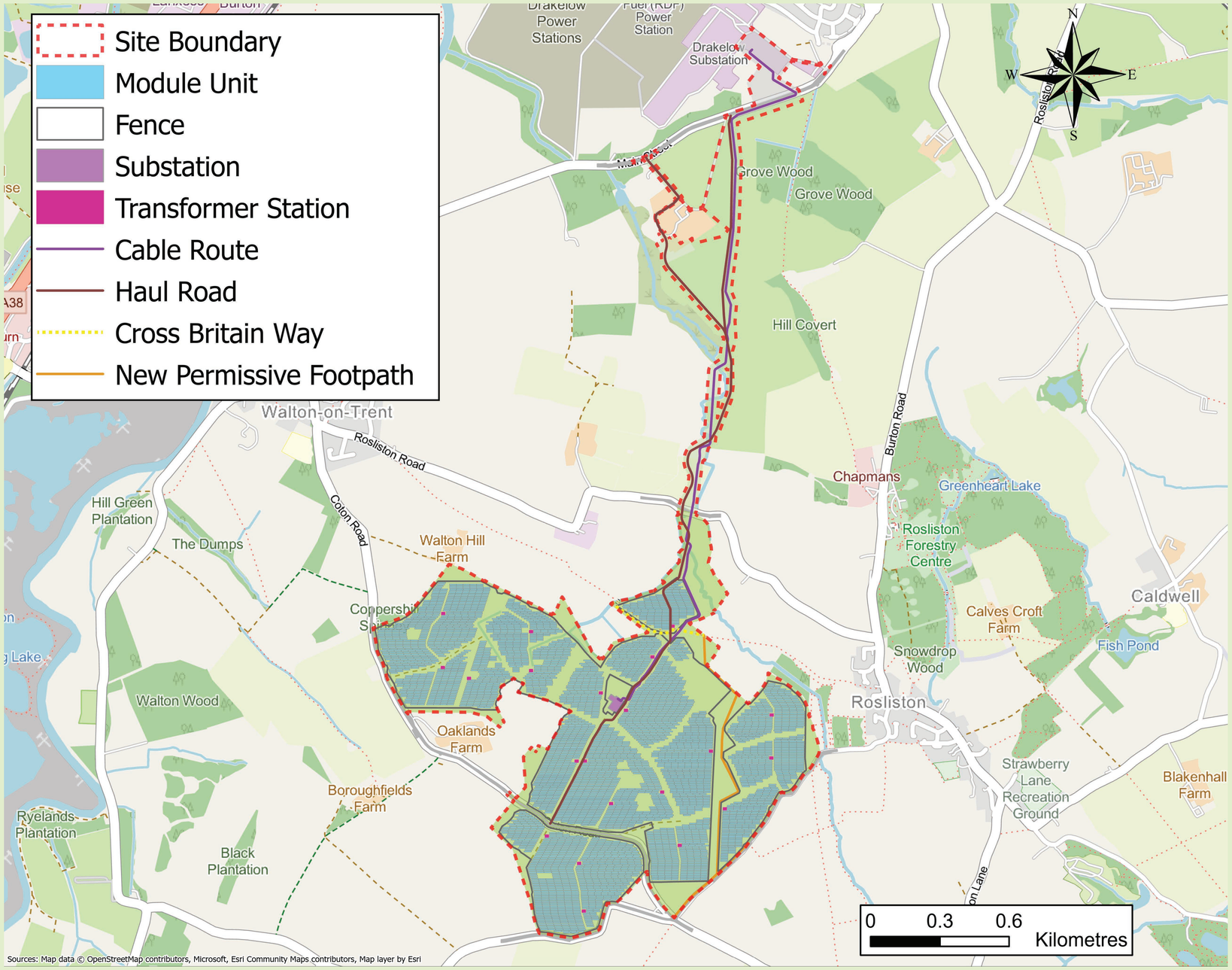
Construction is expected to **commence in May – June 2026**, beginning with the creation of a **temporary haul road**. This early phase is designed to **minimise the impact of heavy construction traffic** on surrounding local roads.

The project comprises three principal elements:

- **Solar Park** – where all solar panels and associated infrastructure would be located and an on-site private substation.
- **Temporary Haul Road** – used throughout the construction period and removed once the project is complete.
- **Grid Connection Infrastructure** – comprising an underground cable route and works at Drakelow Substation.

While construction of the haul road will begin first, there will be some overlap between the construction of Oaklands Farm Solar Park and our cable installation works at Drakelow Substation.

These works will connect the site via a new underground 132kV cable route.



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Construction process

Solar Installation

Steel piles will be driven into the ground to support the mounting framework for the solar panels. Over 230,000 solar modules will be installed across the site during construction.

Trenches will be excavated to install underground cabling, connecting the panels to inverters, step-up transformers, and the on-site substation. Where cables cross roads, directional drilling will be used to minimise disruption.

The solar park will be connected to Drakelow Substation via a new underground 132kV cable route.

Grid Connection and Commissioning

The largest deliveries will be the two high-voltage transformers required to connect the substation to the grid at the appropriate voltage. These are expected to arrive in early 2027.

The final stage, known as commissioning, is anticipated to take place between late 2027 and early 2028. Following this, the site will become fully operational and begin supplying electricity to the grid. The battery storage element of the project will also be investigated at this stage.

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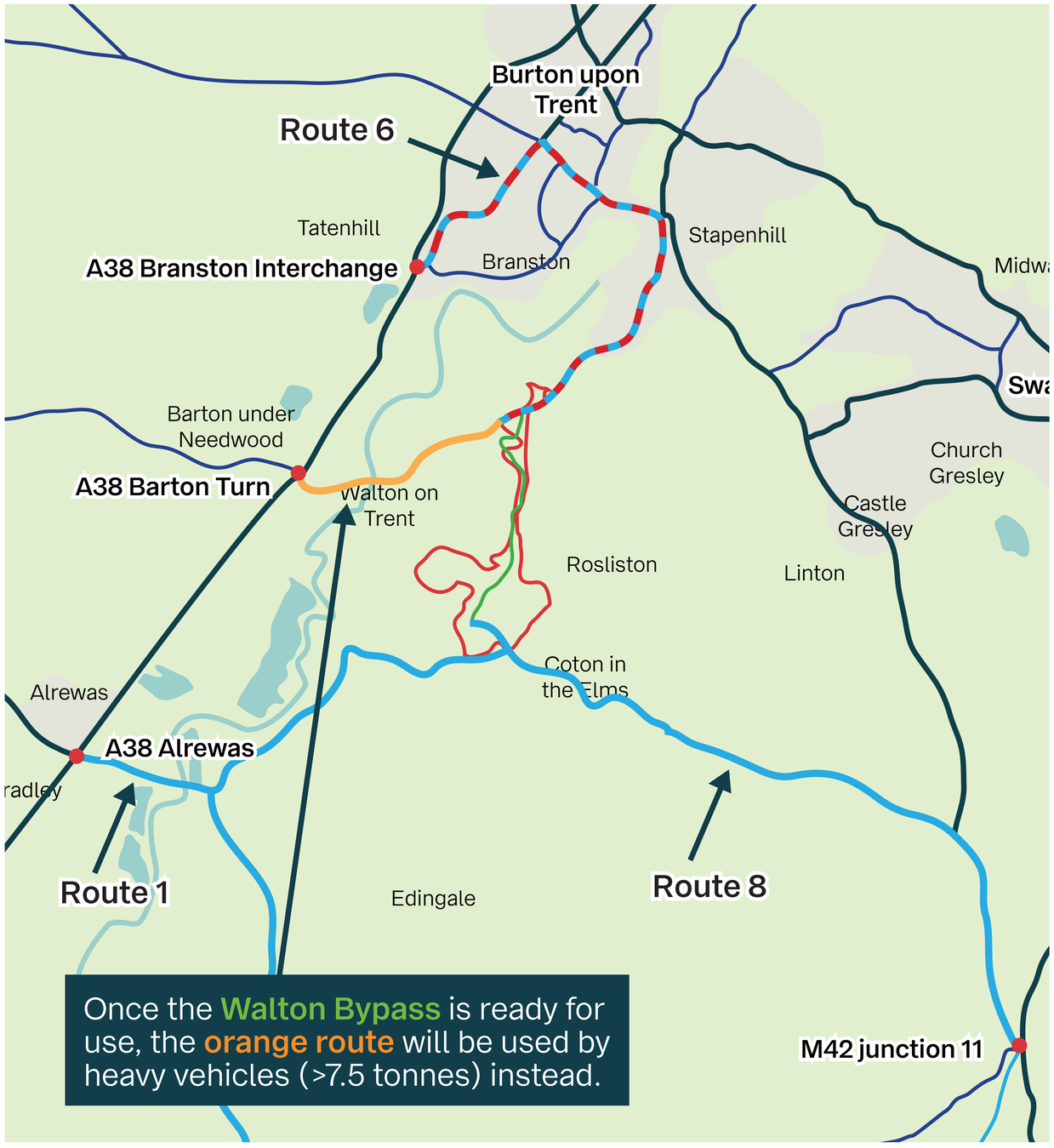
Construction Traffic



Note: Abnormal Indivisible Load to use Route 8

What to Expect During Construction

We understand that traffic during construction can be a concern for local residents. Our approach has been designed to keep people safe, minimise disruption, and reduce traffic on local roads wherever possible.

Traffic Routes & Access

The map shows how construction vehicles will reach the site. It also highlights the new private access road connecting directly to Walton Road, which will help reduce lorries on local streets.

Before the Walton Bypass opens, the temporary **red**/**blue** will be used by heavy vehicles. After the bypass opens the preferred **orange** route will be used to reduce traffic on local roads.

Reducing Impact on Local Roads

- **Approved routes only** – All construction vehicles will follow agreed routes
- **New access road** – A direct connection to Walton Road, shown on the map, helps reduce traffic through residential streets
- **Planned deliveries** – Vehicle movements will be scheduled to minimise disruption
- **Traffic coordination** – We are working with Derbyshire and Staffordshire County Councils and will be holding regular meetings via a Traffic Management Group to monitor activity.

Site boundary

Road Network
A Road
Motorway
B Road

Construction Routes
Heavy Vehicle Route
Temporary Construction Haul Road
Light Vehicle Route

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During Construction

Construction deliveries will vary throughout the programme, with higher levels of vehicle movement limited to specific phases.

Peak delivery activity is expected between November 2026 and June 2027 when the solar panels are being delivered. Outside of these months, traffic levels will be lower.

Delivery Timeline

You may notice some increased vehicle activity during these peak periods. We are taking steps to manage traffic and minimise disruption wherever possible.

While some temporary inconvenience may occur, we appreciate your understanding and will continue to keep the community informed throughout construction.

Month	Vehicle Activity Level
June 2026 – October 2026	Low
November 2026 – June 2027	Higher / Peak
July 2027 – April 2028	Low

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Indicative construction timeline

2026 | 2027 | 2028

J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M

Site preparation works

Start of haul road construction

Start of cable route construction

Start of grid works

Solar installation

End of construction/energisation

Snagging and post construction landscaping

Solar farm under construction

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Working with the community – Community Benefit Fund

As part of our commitment to the local area, Oaklands Farm Solar Park will provide **£55,000 per year (indexed linked)** for the lifetime of the project through a Community Benefit Fund.

We want this funding to make a real difference locally, so it is important that it reflects what matters most to the community.

Have your say

We would like your views on:

- How the fund should be managed
- What it should support locally, including any specific groups and initiatives

Please put your ideas in the suggestions box or speak to a member of the team.

Help shape the fund?

We want to hear your thoughts on the community benefit fund:

- Which priorities should the fund consider?
- What would make the biggest difference in the community?
- What local projects or initiatives do you think the fund should support?

Communities we have worked with have used funding for:

Business development and local economic growth

Skill training and employability

Enhancing the natural environment

Supporting the transition to net zero

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Benefits of solar farms

The solar park will deliver a range of benefits for the local community, environment, and economy.

Community benefit fund

Once operational, the project will provide around £55,000 per year indexed linked to support local projects and initiatives in the area.

Economic benefits

The project will also provide local economic opportunities, including:

- Opportunities for local contractors and suppliers – to join our supplier database, contact: **info.oaklands-solarfarm@baywa-re.co.uk**
- Contributions to local business rates over the project's lifetime, which will go directly to South Derbyshire District Council to support public services.

Environmental benefits

As well as producing, clean renewable energy the project will support and enhance the local environment by:

- **Providing clean electricity for the grid** – reduces reliance on fossil fuels and helps tackle climate change.
- **Enhancing biodiversity** – new planting and habitat management provide homes for birds, bees, and other wildlife.
- **Improved environmental benefits** – careful land management keeps soil fertile and protects local water sources.
- **Continued agricultural use** – the land can still be used for sheep grazing alongside the solar panels.

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Thank you for attending

Keeping in touch

We will keep you informed throughout construction through regular website updates and newsletters at key stages.

We will also continue to share updates with the parish council.

www.baywa-re.co.uk/oaklands

Scan the QR code to visit our website

Contact during construction

We are committed to working with the community to minimise any inconvenience during construction.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact us via the project email:

info.oaklands-solarfarm@baywa-re.co.uk