

## Grange Solar Farm - Parish Council Update March 2026

A meeting between the Parish Council Liaison Group (PCLG) and PS Renewables (PSR) was held in March. It was reported that the Archaeologists had found two more areas of interest; one which is being excluded from the solar farm and the other PSR will use concrete feet for the structures so they do not need to drill down and disturb the ground. It is expected that next week the trial trenches will be complete by the Archaeologists. PSR will submit a report to planning with the expectation that the North site will be released to them to work on at the beginning of April.

PSR are now having regular meetings with Liberty Global (LG) the new owner of the assets. The PCLG are waiting for a date for when the full group can be introduced to them. A meeting is planned for next week for the Chair of the PCLG and the Clerk to the Parish Council to go through the Community Benefit Deed with LG and finalise it.

The WhatsApp communication between PSR and the PCLG is now providing regular updates when specific activities are planned.

PSR went through several aerial photographs of the site and explained the relevant detail about the site layout. The piling has now begun in several of the areas. PSR have started to work on occasional Saturday mornings for planning purposes but indicated this work would not be noisy work.

The planting which is provided by a subcontractor has started along the eastern boundaries, and there is also infilling of existing hedges where there are gaps. These plants will be maintained and if any die they will be replaced.

PSR are still having many security issues even though they have security guards with dogs on site. Heras fencing will be put across all entrances in order to prevent unauthorised intruders pulling onto the site in vehicles out of hours.

In approximately two months time PSR will need to drill under Lion Road to put ducts in to run their cables from the North site to link up to the network and down to the substation on the South site. They will need to put a Section 50 in place to gain approval to carry out this work. PSR stated that this would not affect the traffic on Lion Road as they will be doing directional drilling which should take approximately half a day.

The work on a new compound area on the North site has begun and is currently under construction. On the North site there are some overhead electricity cables on wooden telegraph poles supplying some houses which will be rerouted underground. PSR will liaise with the residents before this happens.

Since the previous PCLG meeting there have been several concerns raised relating to footpaths.

1. On Jobs Lane there was evidence that a vehicle had been using it to drive through. It was requested that approval be sought to place an obstruction across the path which prevents vehicles but allows walkers through. This could be in the form of a tree trunk. PSR have engaged with the Public Rights of Way officer as any work on footpaths requires their approval. Further discussions will take place nearer the time it will be rectified.
2. The area at the bottom of Jobs Lane footpath near to the A143 has been really wet and carved up by vehicle tracks making it impossible for walkers. PSR were requested to smooth this out to make it more passible for walkers which they have now done since the meeting, although it is still quite wet due to the heavy rains we have had. It was pointed out that the original Jobs Lane footpath near to the bottom is under the overgrown hedge and the part that walkers have been using is part of what was the farmers field and is now within the site boundary. The hedge consists of mature trees and will not be cut back. PSR said that on completion of their works this area will be grass seeded and maintained by the ongoing Operation and Maintenance (O & M) company. Walkers will then be able to use it as they have done before.
3. The path between Lion Road and Millway Lane was also of concern in case it was damaged during construction. Part of it is currently heavily overgrown with brambles and has veered off the original

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footpath line. Once the site is fenced off, the brambles will be cut back to reveal the original path. The community will be advised of this when it happens to not cause concern. At the side of the path is an attenuation pond/ditch. PSR will liaise with the Public Rights of Way officer to gain permission to make alterations to this to make it more accessible.

There will be a permissive footpath installed that will go all the way around the site.

Since the previous meeting in January there have been numerous complaints from residents regarding the bright tower lights PSR had in place on site due to the number of security issues. PSR agreed to remove these tower lights and have already taken action to do this. There will still be some lights around the compound for security at night. Once the site is complete there will only be PIR lights on the substation which will trigger and illuminate if intruders approach.

Complaints were received about the mud on Lion Road which was made worse by the heavy rainfall we have had recently. Signs stating 'Mud on Road' are now in place. PSR say they are trying to mitigate as much of the mud as possible, and the road sweeper goes out two or three times a week.

There are scrape gaps underneath the perimeter fencing left at regular intervals of 100 meters to allow mammals to gain access in and out in accordance with planning regulations. The fence is a two meter high deer fence to try to keep the deer out, although muntjac can probably go under through the gaps whilst larger deer may jump it.

Around the site there are several earth mounds which look like small hills. This earth is from the excavation when making the tracks around the site. These are in accordance with the Land Management Plan and the Soil Management Plan. At the end of the 40 years which the contract runs for there is a requirement to return the land to its original state. The soil needs to be retained to do this. These will be grassed once the site is complete to blend in with the surroundings.

There are twelve invertors spread across the North and South site. These are 20 foot shipping containers in a dark green colour. The technical requirements for an invertor will be built inside these which will be the hubs to transfer the electricity to the substation. The planting should screen these once it has grown.

PSR will move completely off site around October 2026 if everything goes to plan. There will then only be electricians and management doing monitoring tests. The commissioning phase needs a 60% output to be able to pass which is reliant on how much sun there is. From September/October 2026 the O&M company will take responsibility for security of the site on permanent CCTV camera monitoring. These will be our main point of contact for any issues or concerns we have. If they are not resolved then it will be LG who we contact. We do not know yet who will be the O&M company. On completion of the build PSR have a two year warranty period up until 2028 to ensure everything is running as it should be. If any plants die it is their responsibility to replace them within this period.

The piece of land off Millway Lane set aside for biodiversity is to be grassed on completion with a hedge along the perimeter fence to obscure the solar panels.

The current grass seed approved by planning contains something that may be poisonous to sheep. If the farmer wishes to graze sheep under the solar panels LG will need to go back to planning to change the type of seed so that the farmer can seek a grazing licence. There is time to do this as the grass seed is one of the last things to be done.

The site has a capacity for 70MW DC and 50MW AC and will power in the region of 200,000 homes. The connection to the grid is 49.9AC. They oversize by 1.4 so that with a bigger array they have more capacity to reach the maximum on not so sunny days. At night the site will shut off when there is no sunlight and the invertors switch off. This means there is no noise through the night. In the daytime there will be a low hum from the invertors which have been checked for acceptable noise levels.