



# RASPBERRY SOLAR FARM

SITE ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY

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# INTRODUCTION



# INTRODUCTION



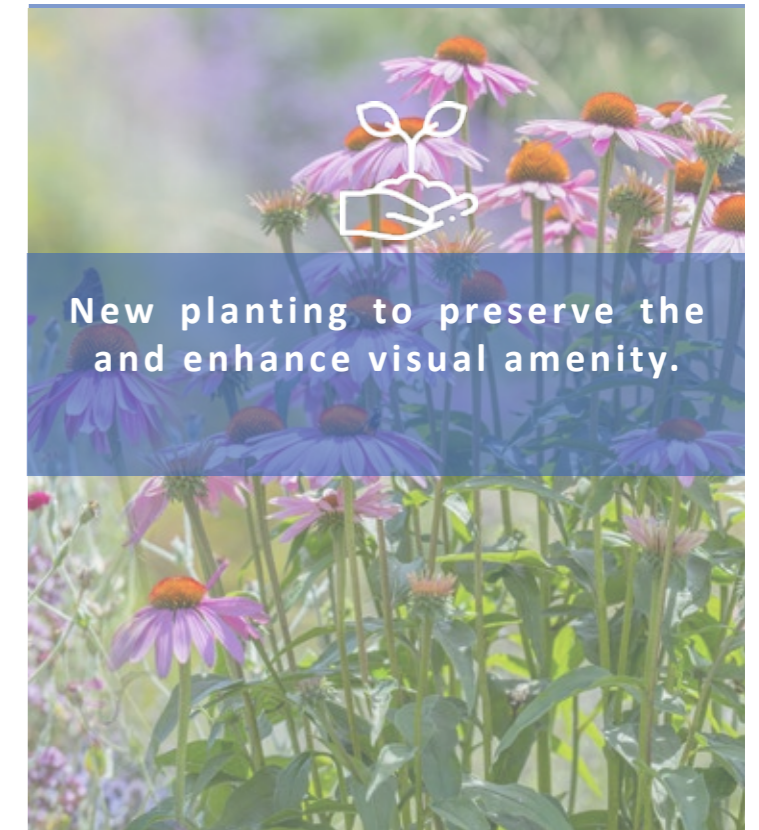
Keep and improve existing landscape features.



Reinstate landscape features previously lost through historic farming practices.



Increased biodiversity through on-site habitat improvements.



New planting to preserve the and enhance visual amenity.



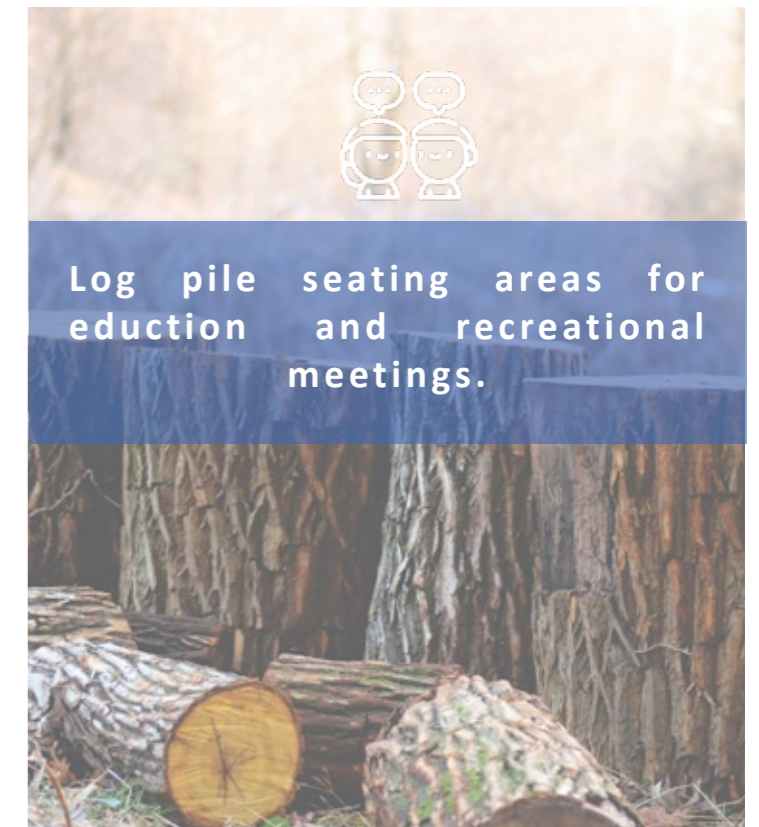
Enhance and improve existing footpaths on the site.



New information boards to improve understanding of biodiversity.



To promote clean, renewable energy in the community.



Log pile seating areas for education and recreational meetings.

# THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



# SITE PROPOSALS

## PROPOSAL

JBM Solar are proposing a **solar farm with battery storage** and associated infrastructure on land near Iwade, Kent.

The UK is committed to achieving **'net zero' carbon emissions by 2050**. Solar is now considered to be one of the most cost-effective sources of clean renewable electricity generation in the UK.

## PROJECT LONGEVITY

The development would have a lifespan of about **40 years**. After this it can be recommissioned as agricultural land.

Pastoral farming will continue on site, meaning that the **site will continue to be greenfield** before, during and after the development.

The solar panels will be linear with, wide gaps between the rows of panels (4-5m), allowing a considerable acreage of wildflower meadows and high quality grassland to occur between and below the panel area.

For efficiency and preservation the internal access tracks will follow field boundaries and utilise the existing gaps in vegetation or existing field access points.

## SOLAR PANEL STRUCTURE

By having the solar panels on trackers they are able to follow the sun, generating more power throughout the day.



FRONT VIEW OF PROPOSED SOLAR PANELS

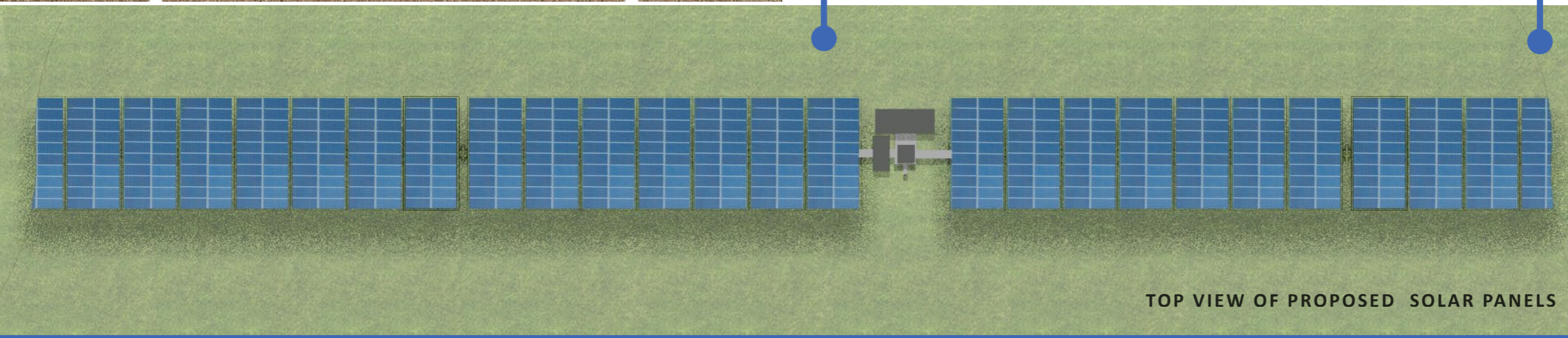


## WILDFLOWER MEADOW

Grasslands and wildflower meadow will be present in-between and below the panels.

## PASTORAL LAND

The grasslands allow for grazing to occur inbetween the panels.



TOP VIEW OF PROPOSED SOLAR PANELS

# SITE CONTEXT PLAN

## LEGEND



RIVER MEDWAY

FUNTON

LOWER HALSTOW

IWADE

KEMSLEY

HOWT GREEN

SITTINGBOURNE

# LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS





# LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS

## LANDSCAPE

As part of the proposed development, hedgerow tree and buffer planting will take place across the Site.

**Landscape enhancements** proposed across the Site include:

- Implementation of species rich grassland on rising slopes
- Species rich grassland and hedgerow corridor along PRoW
- Strengthening the native hedgerow and tree planting
- Implementation of native hedgerow along Iwade road
- The retention of all existing vegetation

The proposal will deliver **over 150% biodiversity net gain** and an addition of over 60 hedgerow units. The landscape proposals can be found in detail on the landscape masterplan.

A landscape strategy has been developed for the site with the following broad aims:

- To assimilate built elements into the surrounding landscape
- To minimise adverse effects on visual amenity
- To enhance and reinforce the existing landscape framework and to improve the quality and character of the local landscape

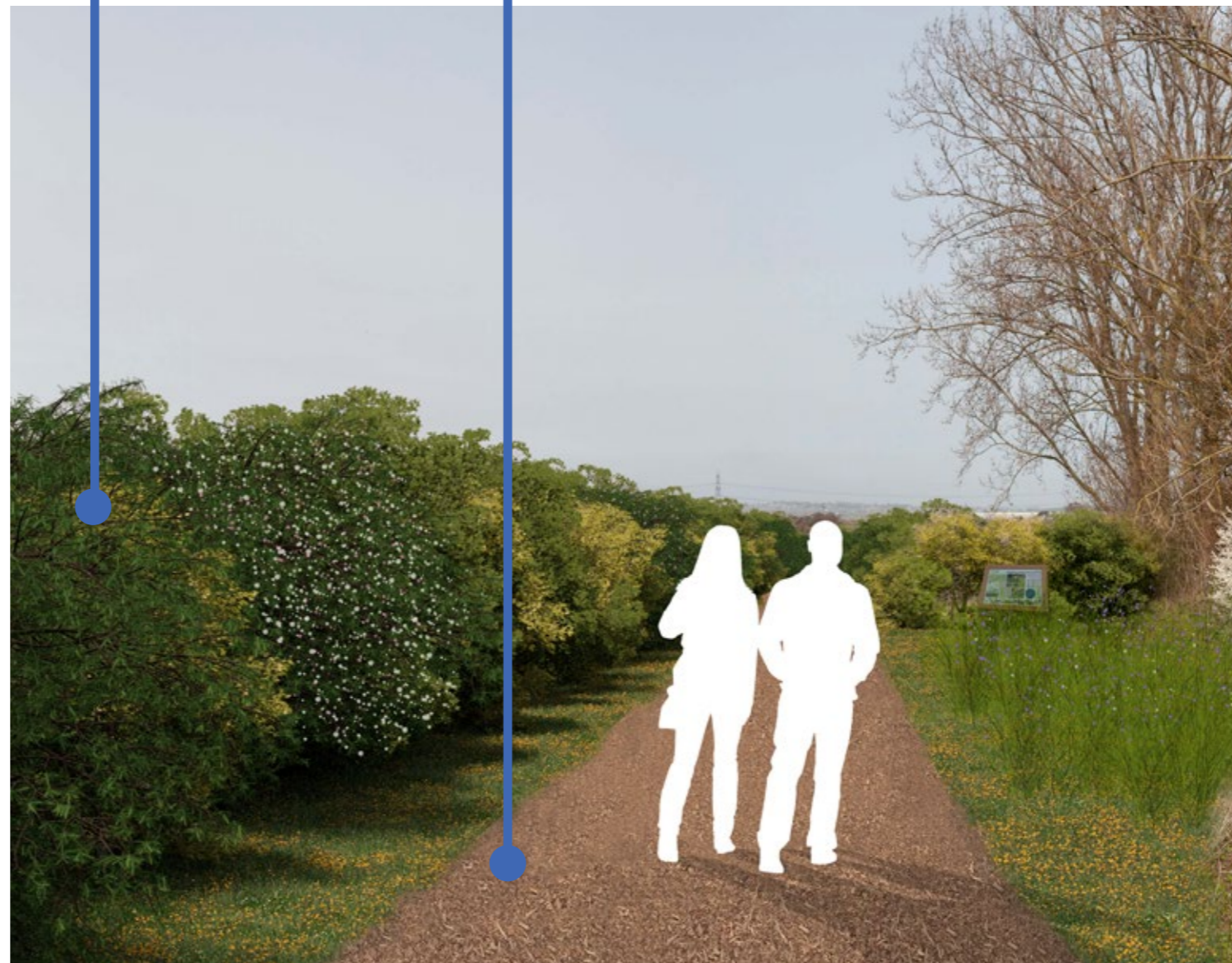
## HEDGEROWS & HEDGEROW TREES

The proposed hedgerow will follow the existing field boundaries and will help to screen views of the panels from the surrounding area. Existing **hedgerow will be retained and enhanced** through additional planting and will be maintained at a height of 3-4m.



NEW LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS PROMOTE WALKABLE AND SCREENED VIEWS AROUND THE SITE.

NEW HEDGEROWS AND LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS VISUALISED





The first image (top) shows the development within the first year of operation, with the bottom image representing the development at year 15 of operation. These visualisations show the enhancement of existing vegetative boundaries that will limit visual impacts.

# SITE MASTERPLAN



## NEW PERMISSIVE PATH

Connecting two existing pathways is the 'Raspberry Walk'. This walkway will be lined with raspberry bushes.



## NEW WILDFLOWER MEADOW



## HIGH QUALITY GRASSLAND

## NEW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

## NEW OUTDOOR CLASSROOM








Can be used by local schools and groups as a space to educate and discuss in an open environment.



## PRESERVED HEDGEROW

## NEW TREE PLANTING



-  Existing vegetation retained and enhanced
-  Proposed hedgerow
-  Proposed hedgerow with trees
-  Proposed species rich grassland
-  Grazing grassland underneath the solar panels
-  Public Right of Way
-  Permissive Footpath- Raspberry Walk

1. Existing hedgerow and trees along the boundary.
2. Proposed wide green corridors with species rich grassland and hedgerows along the Public Right of Way.
3. Proposed panels offset from sections of the northern boundary that are adjacent to Raspberry Hill Lane, to minimise visual impacts for users of the lane.
4. Proposed panels offset from the properties along School Lane and plant mitigation planting along the boundaries around them to minimise visual impacts of residents of the properties.
5. Proposed panels offset from the sections of the central part of the site that are adjacent to School Lane to minimise visual impacts for users of the lane.
6. No proposed solar panels within the north-western corner of the site, to minimise visual impacts to receptors to the north.
7. Proposed tree planting along the eastern and southern boundary close to the lane to increase visual screening from properties.
8. Gaps within the existing network of hedgerows to be restored and enhanced with hedgerow and tree planting.
9. Proposed hedgerows to be retained at a height of 3-4m to limit views of the proposed development.
10. Proposed areas of species-rich grassland to increase biodiversity for birds, invertebrates and insects.
11. Proposed grazing meadow mix within the fence line and underneath the solar panels.

# ECOLOGY PROPOSALS



# ECOLOGY PROPOSALS

## ECOLOGY

The proposal will **retain all higher value habitats** on site and deliver significant net gains in biodiversity through additional habitat creation.

## BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

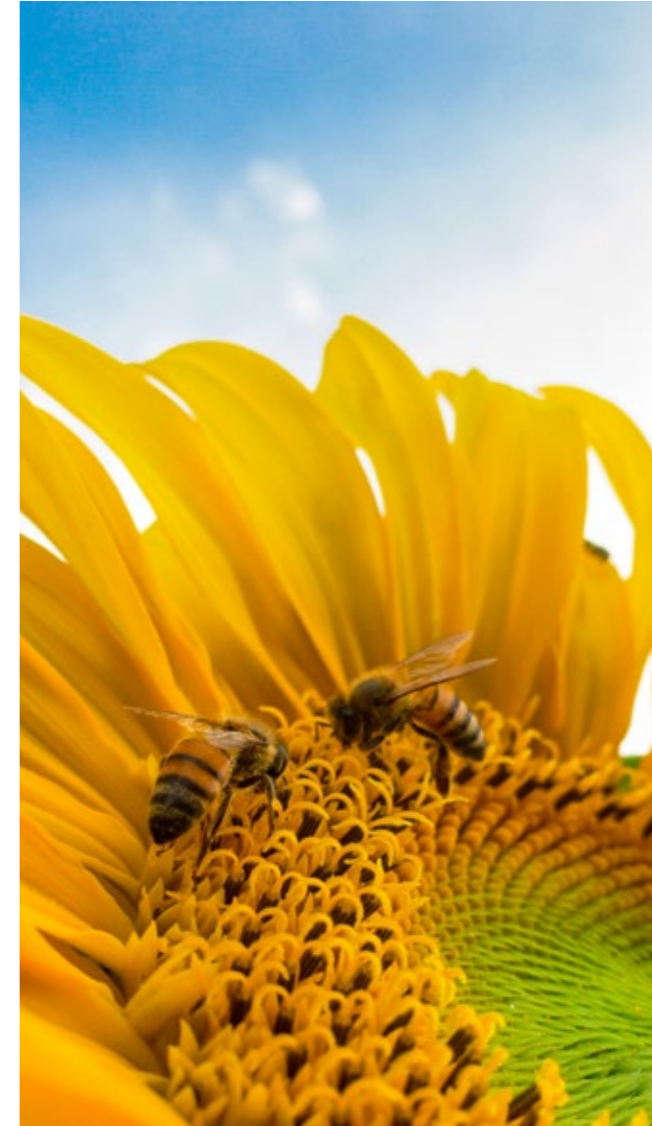
The current development design is expected to result in a habitat unit change which represents **over 150% net gain** and an addition of 69.76 hedgerow units, which represents over 120% net gain.

## MEADOWLAND

The creation of species rich grassland throughout the site will deliver significant benefits to local wildlife, resulting in a rich network of spaces.

The species-rich grassland will restore nutrients to the soil below, allowing it to be reused for future agricultural purposes.

*The proposal  
will deliver over  
150% net gains  
in biodiversity.*





NEW BIRD HABITAT CREATION

NEW BIRD/BAT BOXES



Raspberry

PROPOSED INSECT/  
REPTILE HOTEL



PROPOSED BEE HIVES



GREAT CRESTED NEWT  
HABITAT



# ACCESS & RECREATION

A wooden boardwalk path made of parallel planks winds through a field of tall, golden-brown grass. The path leads towards a line of trees in the background, which are slightly out of focus. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day, and the overall scene is peaceful and natural.

# ACCESS & RECREATION

There are six Public Rights of Way (PRoW) running through the site connecting into the wider network.

All PRoW on the site will be **retained and enhanced** for public access. Each route will be widened to 15m with hedgerows tall enough to aid with screening.

PRoW avenues will be resurfaced to ensure that user tread impact is kept to a minimal during proposal operation.

Information boards and way marker signs will be erected along each route encouraging exploration.



LEGEND

- PRoW
- Grassland and hedgerow buffer
- New permissive path



## RASPBERRY WALK

A new permissive path that connects the existing PRoWs through an exploratory walkway lined with raspberry bushes.

## ENHANCED PATHWAYS

The existing PRoWs will be protected, enhanced and widened to up to 10m for ease of access.





The first image (top) shows the development within the first year of operation, with the bottom image representing the development at year 15 of operation.

**EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT**



# EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT

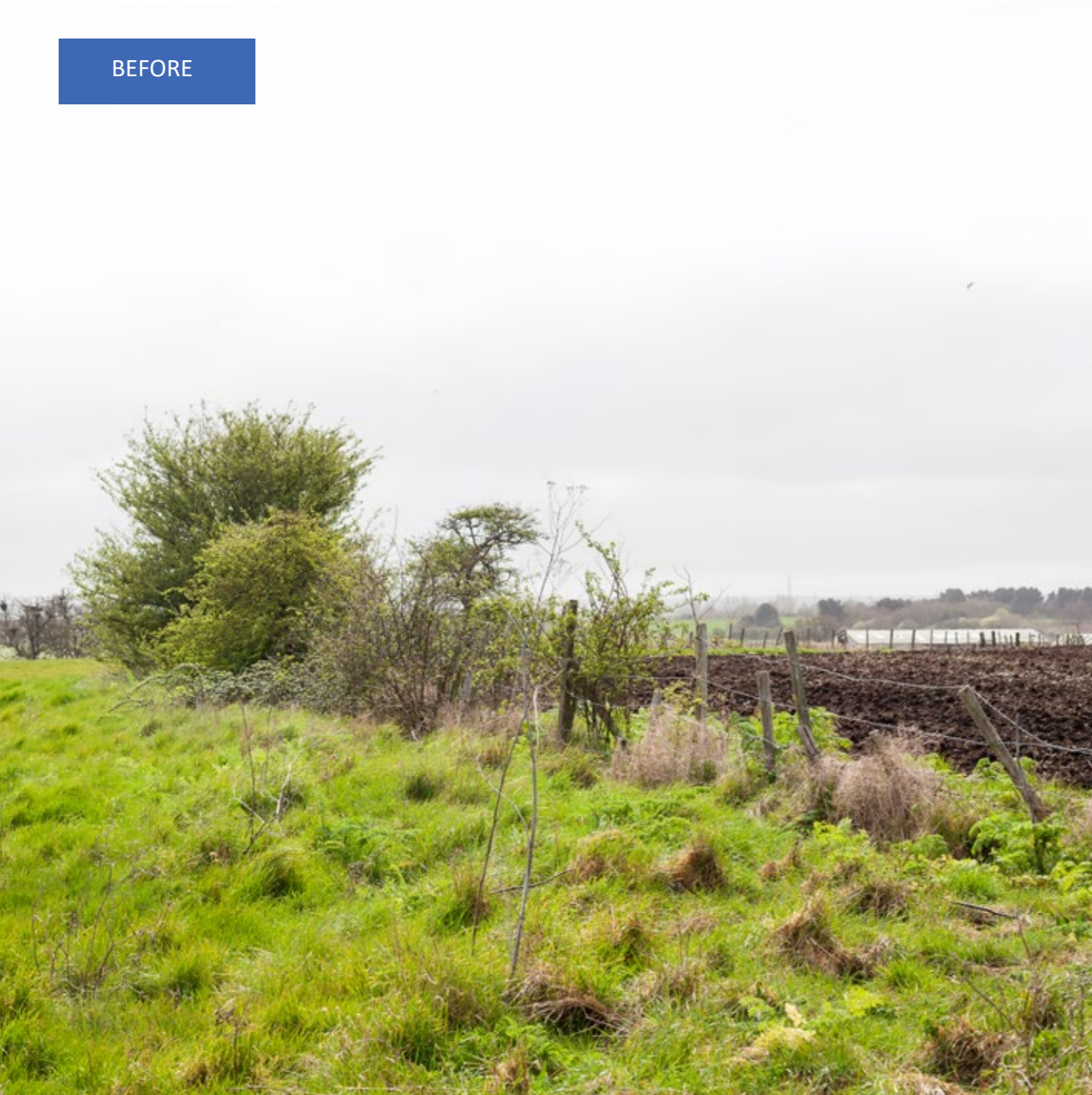
The Raspberry Solar Farm will provide an important resource for local schools and provide **educational opportunities** for young people to learn more about **biodiversity and renewable energy**.

Interpretation boards along PRoWs will provide insight into the importance of renewable and the wider climate contribution that this energy production provides.

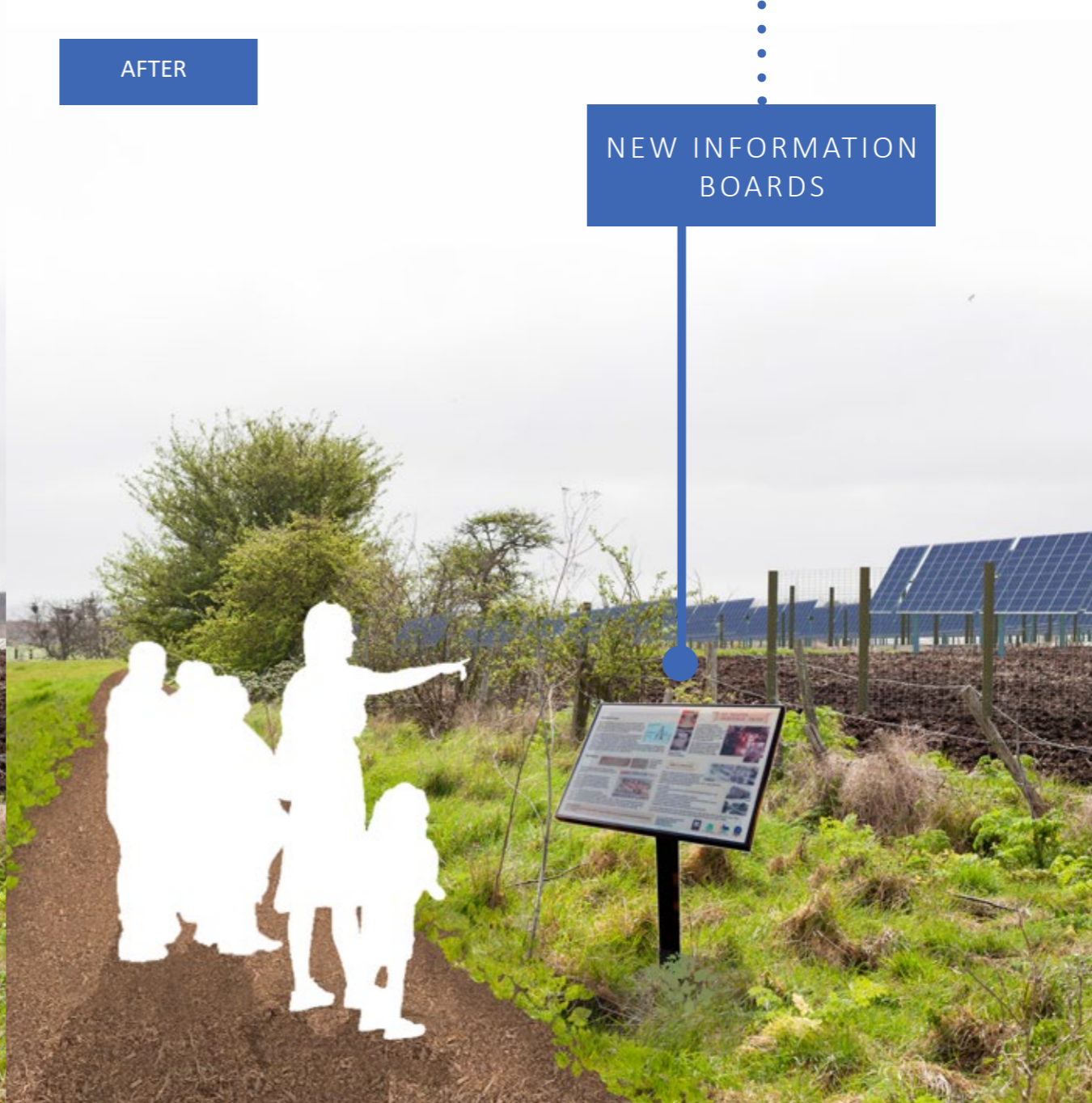
An outdoor educational space will be established to the north-west of the site boundary. This space acts as a flexible meeting space for groups from the local schools or other interested groups. The proposed area will be set within areas of windflower meadow, establishing an **attractive and engaging environment**.



BEFORE



AFTER



NEW INFORMATION  
BOARDS

# SUMMARY



# SUMMARY



Increased biodiversity through onsite habitat improvements.



New planting to preserve the and enhance visual amenity.



Enhance and improve existing footpaths on the site.



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