

Energy Sector Services



"Climate change is a global issue requiring national action. In June 2019, the UK became the first major economy in the world to pass laws to end its contribution to global warming. This requires the UK to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, compared with the previous target of an 80% reduction from 1990 levels. Our Energy Team brings together the skills and experience across the Group that are most valuable to renewable energy clients in order to provide robust planning advice on applications and appeals."

**Rhys Bradshaw BA(Hons) MSc MRTPI,
Director DLP Planning Limited**



DLP is one of the UK's leading independent planning-led practices, providing tailored multidisciplinary advice, focussing on resolving the many issues that arise from balancing development needs and impacts, optimising land use and delivering sustainable development. The practice has long-standing experience in providing independent and wide-ranging consultancy advice across the UK, making a valuable contribution to the UK's Net Zero Carbon Target, tackling climate change and addressing the national energy crisis.

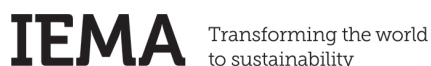
We have extensive and wide-ranging experience across all aspects of energy development and our specialist teams have significant experience in overcoming the most challenging planning issues in relation to energy projects.

DLP has been involved in a wide range of energy projects of diverse scale and has successfully addressed a range of issues, including the impacts on sensitive areas such as Green Belts, National Parks, County Wildlife Sites and valued landscapes. In the successful promotion of such schemes, DLP has adopted a proactive approach with local communities to explain the benefits of the technology and address concerns about their perceived impacts, including during construction.

Alongside our comprehensive planning offer, we have a dedicated Transport & Infrastructure team with extensive experience in the specific design requirements for energy schemes, a team well versed in the design parameters that Highway Authorities require to ensure delivery of successful planning applications. The team provides transport and highways consultancy services support in relation to site feasibility and access solutions and planning application support including the production of Transport Assessments. The team also provides Planning Appeal support and detailed design inputs to S278 Agreements.

If you would like to contact our Energy Sector team, please email: energy@dlpconsultants.co.uk or visit www.dlpconsultants.co.uk

we deliver practical energy solutions



We offer the following services for all Energy related schemes:

Comprehensive planning and development consultancy services, including:

- Site appraisals
- The implications of existing and emerging policy
- Pre-application advice
- The delivery of active energy projects through the planning system
- Consultation and public engagement
- Planning obligation (s106) negotiation
- Planning appeals and expert witness
- EIA – Screening, Scoping and Coordination

Transportation and Infrastructure Planning:

- Access Feasibility Appraisals
- Construction and Environmental Management Plans
- Construction Traffic Management Plans
- S278/S38 Highway design inputs and advice
- Public rights of way closure/diversions
- Road Safety Audits
- Flood Risk Assessments
- Drainage Strategies

Design and Architectural Services:

As an RIBA and Landscape Institute Registered Practice, DLP has experience of providing architectural, landscape and masterplanning design services. Our work covers all aspects of development design, from site assessment through to detailed construction design and supporting contractors during delivery.

- Measured and Condition Surveys.
- Feasibility and Options studies.
- Concept Design.
- Building Regulations applications.
- Visualisations.
- Construction Drawings and Specification.
- Lead Consultant & Design Team management.
- Tendering and Contractor Selection.
- Full Contract Administration.
- Principal Designer Services.

DLP has had significant success, for more than a decade, in advising clients on both renewable and low-carbon energy issues on a range of projects of diverse scale. If you would like to contact our Energy Sector team, please contact :

energy@dlpconsultants.co.uk

Case Studies –Solar Energy

Hebdon Green Solar Farm, Cheshire – Cheshire and Cheshire West Council

DLP led the preparation and submission of a full application for the construction of a solar farm with associated infrastructure, including transformers, a substation, a DNO control room as well as access and landscaping arrangements. Consent was achieved in 2024.

The scheme will deliver landscape enhancements and a substantial biodiversity net gain of +80.87% of habitat units and +11.16% in hedgerow units. DLP liaised with local stakeholders and, through collaboration with the council, early community engagement, and diligent management of environmental matters including pollution risk to controlled waters and water quality, landscape and ecological management, and consideration for local wildlife, the project team were able to satisfy concerns raised.

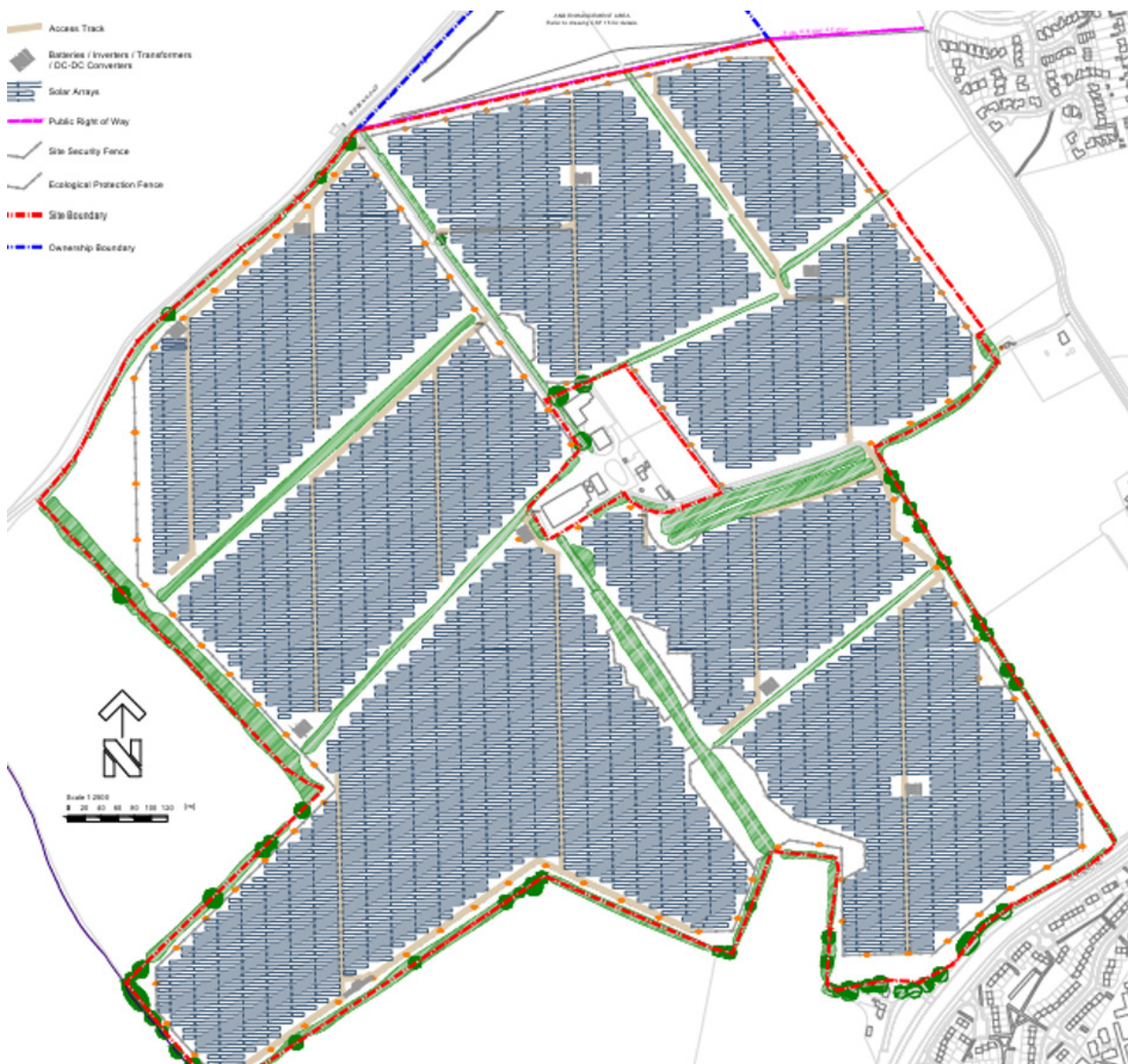


Fleet Solar Farm, Fleet Hampshire – Hart District Council

DLP provided planning consultancy services for the development of a solar farm with a 49.9MW capacity. As part of the proposals, battery storage units were included to store energy generated by the site and later distributed to the National Grid on demand.

We guided our client through the pre-application process with the Council, supplying a robust planning rationale for the development, supported by landscape and ecological evidence along with highways and civil engineering evidence provided by DLP's Transport & Infrastructure Team. DLP led on engagement with local stakeholders including the parish council and other local residents.

Planning permission was secured, and we have since assisted our client in amending the scheme to support newly developed technologies and improving the efficiency of the site.



Feldon Vale Solar Farm, Bishops Itchington – Stratford on Avon District Council

DLP successfully secured planning permission at appeal on behalf of Low Carbon for a 49.9MW solar farm and associated infrastructure.

The original application was refused by the LPA for having adverse landscape and visual impacts. Working in conjunction with landscape consultants and Counsel, we submitted an appeal with minor amendments to show additional landscaping and the removal of a small number of solar panels. The appeal was heard by way of an informal hearing, with the Inspector finding moderate initial harm to landscape character and appearance, reducing over time to a limited impact. The positive impact of substantial biodiversity net gain and the generation of renewable energy was found to outweigh the landscape impact.

DLP co-ordinated the appeal submission and gave evidence on planning matters. Following the appeal decision, we also achieved planning consent for an alternative cable route.



Heydon Solar Farm, Heydon Estate – Broadland District Council

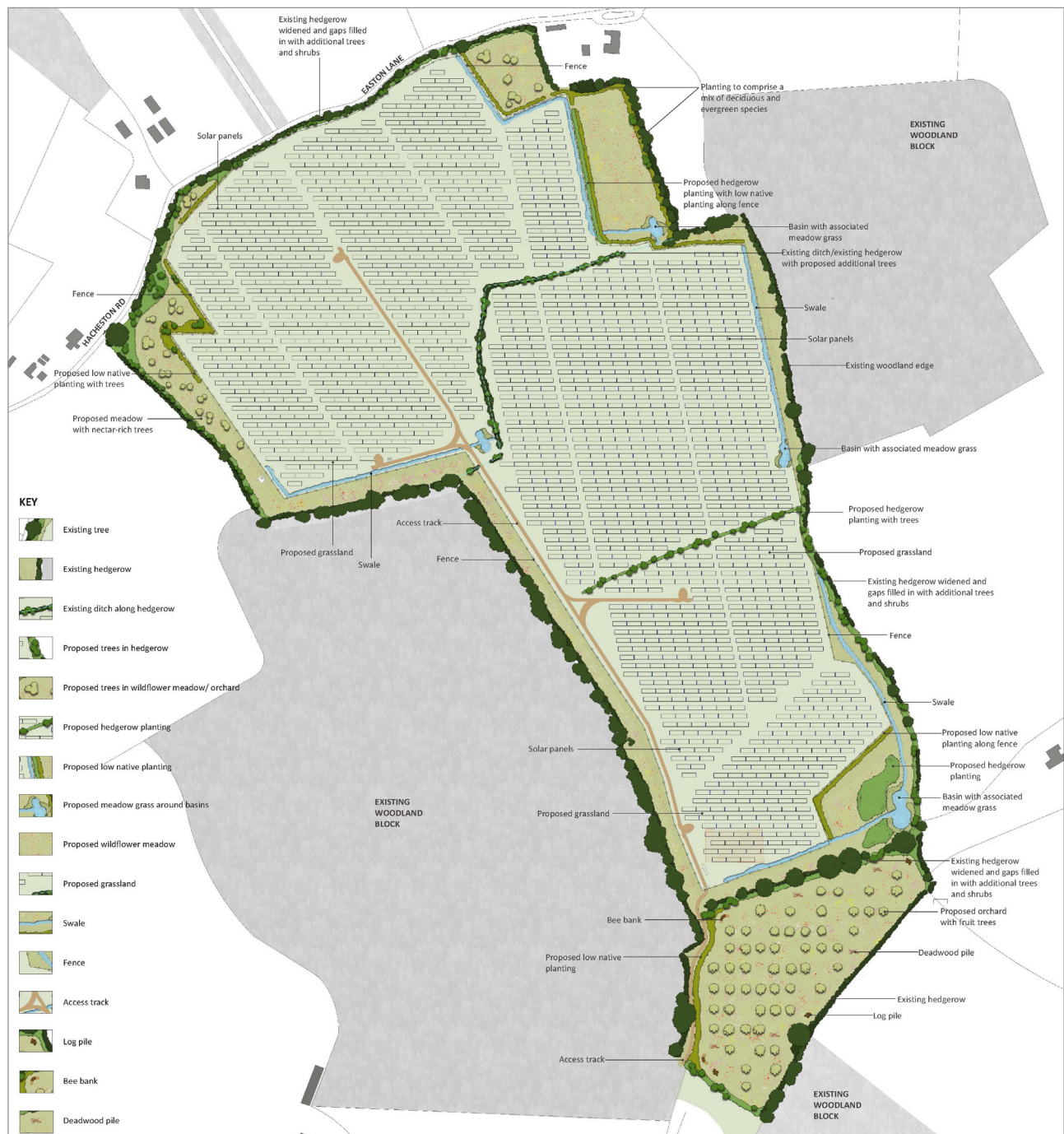
DLP led the preparation and submission of a full planning application for a 30MW solar farm following successful pre-application and EIA screening submissions. The submission was supported by extensive pre-application engagement with residents, Parish Council's and key stakeholders. The application was supported by DLP's Transport and infrastructure Team. Planning permission was secured, with DLP representing Grupotec at Planning Committee.

The scheme overcame ecological, archaeological and heritage constraints and secured significant landscape and biodiversity net gain benefits.



Glevering Estate, Wickham Market – East Suffolk District Council

Working again for Grupotec, DLP secured planning permission for a 20MW solar farm, building on positive pre-application and EIA screening submissions. We worked closely with neighbours on a 1-1 basis to accommodate scheme amendments and held well-attended exhibitions. The application was supported by DLP's Transport and Infrastructure Team on highway and drainage matters.



Case Studies – Battery Energy Systems (BESS)

Levedale Road BESS, Penkridge Staffordshire – South Staffordshire District Council

DLP were instructed to appeal a decision to refuse a proposed 49.9 MW BESS. Recommended for approval but overturned at planning committee, the scheme was refused for its perceived impact on the character and appearance of the area due to its scale and location in the open countryside. At an informal hearing, we argued that, whilst there will be a material change to the land, the visual impact would be acceptable due to the distance from roads and nearby residential properties, the existing natural screening, and the proposed strengthening through the implementation of a robust Landscape Strategy as submitted with the planning application.

The Inspector found that the proposal would harm the landscape of the surrounding area, but found that significant weight should be afforded to the benefits of the proposal in respect of climate change and achieving net zero, as well as moderate weight to the Written Ministerial Statement, Biodiversity Net gain and the associated economic benefits of the scheme. The conflict with the development plan was found to be outweighed by these material considerations and the appeal was allowed. DLP co-ordinated the appeal submission and gave evidence on planning matters.

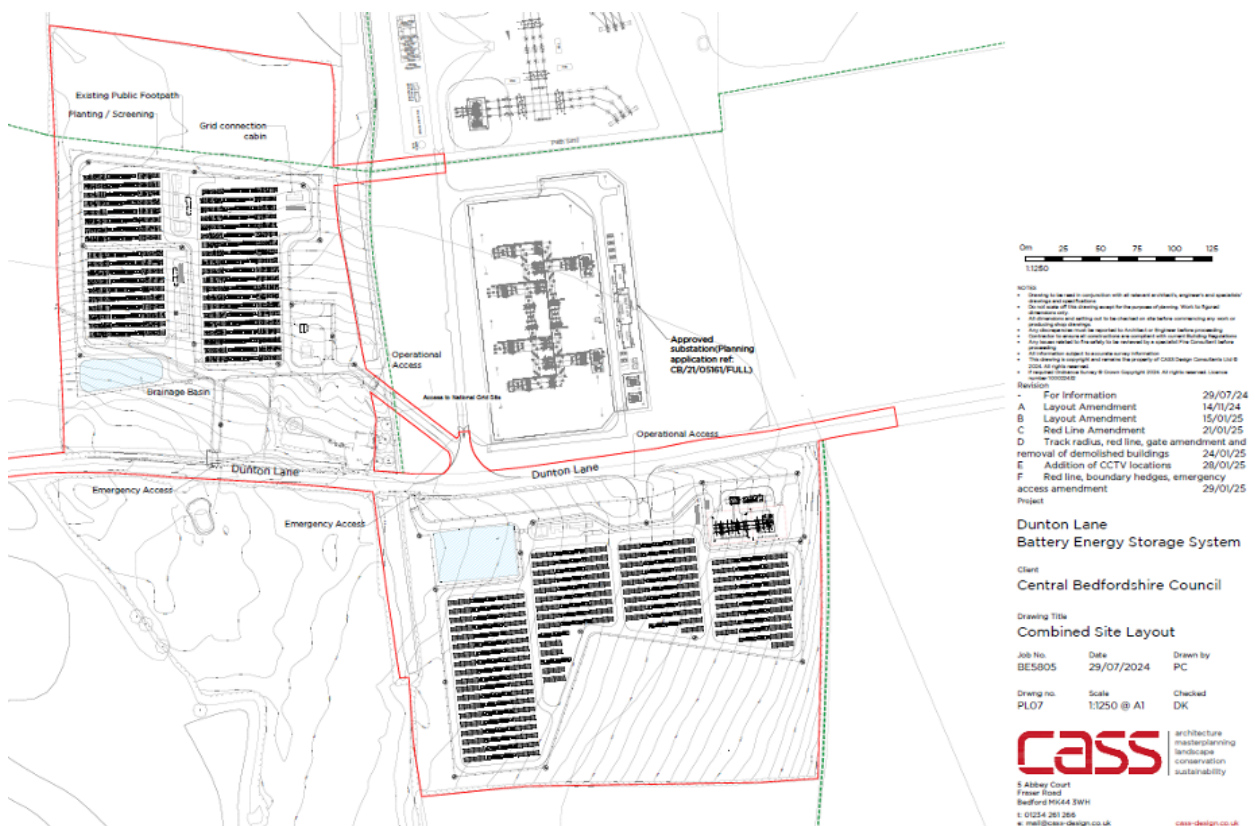


Dunton Lane BESS, Biggleswade – Central Bedfordshire Council

DLP co-ordinated the submission of a planning application for a 177MW BESS across two parcels of arable land covering an area of approximately 12.4 hectares. We provided planning, transport and drainage support, with CASS providing design input.

DLP took the scheme through the Council's pre-application advice service and supported the Council's Assets, Place and Communities Directorate in its public consultation strategy with the local community and elected councillors.

The submitted scheme benefits from direct grid connections to the national power distribution network via the new adjacent Supergrid substation constructed by UK Power Networks (UKPN) and National Grid. The proposed BESS will provide energy storage and rapid-response electrical back-up to the grid, providing a flexible system to balance energy supply and demand locally.



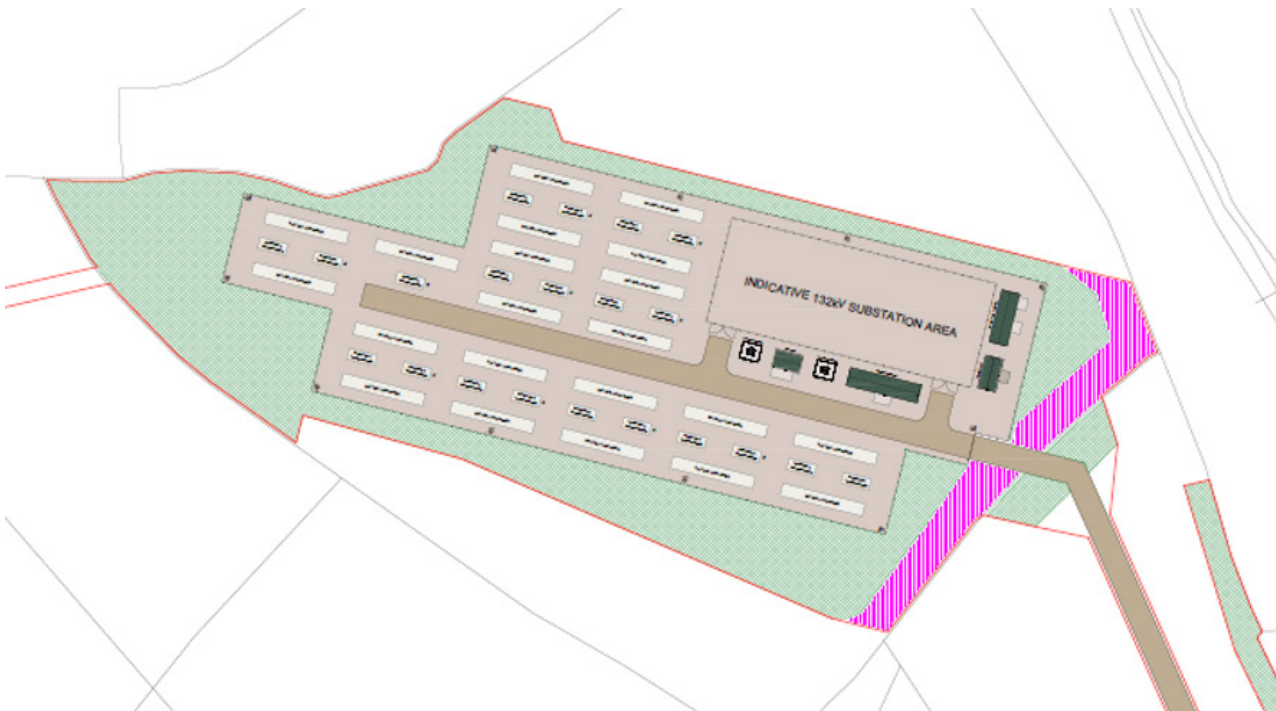
Hydes Lane BESS, Hinckley – Rugby Borough Council

DLP secured planning permission for a BESS facility and associated infrastructure. Both national and local policy changes resulted in multiple revisions to the scheme, including the installation of an emergency access track following the publication of the Fire Chief's guidance note on BESS sites. DLP's Transport & Infrastructure team negotiated with the LLFA to agree a suitable drainage strategy when existing pipelines, unknown on public records, were discovered on-site. Rugby Borough Council granted planning permission for the development July 2024.



West of Mount Stamper Road BESS, St Austell – Cornwall Council

DLP secured planning permission for the construction of a BESS facility in St Austell, Cornwall. DLP led an extensive consultant team in obtaining the permission, with the site constrained by both historical and environmental designations. DLP also led on discharging planning conditions with works now completed on site in line with the client's 49.5MW grid connection date.



Case Studies – EV Charging

Immingham Refuelling Station, Stallingborough Interchange – North East Lincolnshire Council

DLP was instructed by Aegis Energy, a leading developer of low and zero emission refuelling and recharging infrastructure, to prepare and submit a planning application for the proposed development of a light and heavy goods vehicle refuelling and recharging station.

We engaged with the Council and statutory consultees at the pre-application stage to then inform the formal planning application. Notably, the site was located within Flood Zone 3 on both the Environment Agency's Flood Maps and the Council's SFRA. A detailed Drainage and Flood Risk Assessment was submitted as part of the application as well as a Surface Water Drainage Strategy, which included recommended mitigation measures, which the Council supported.

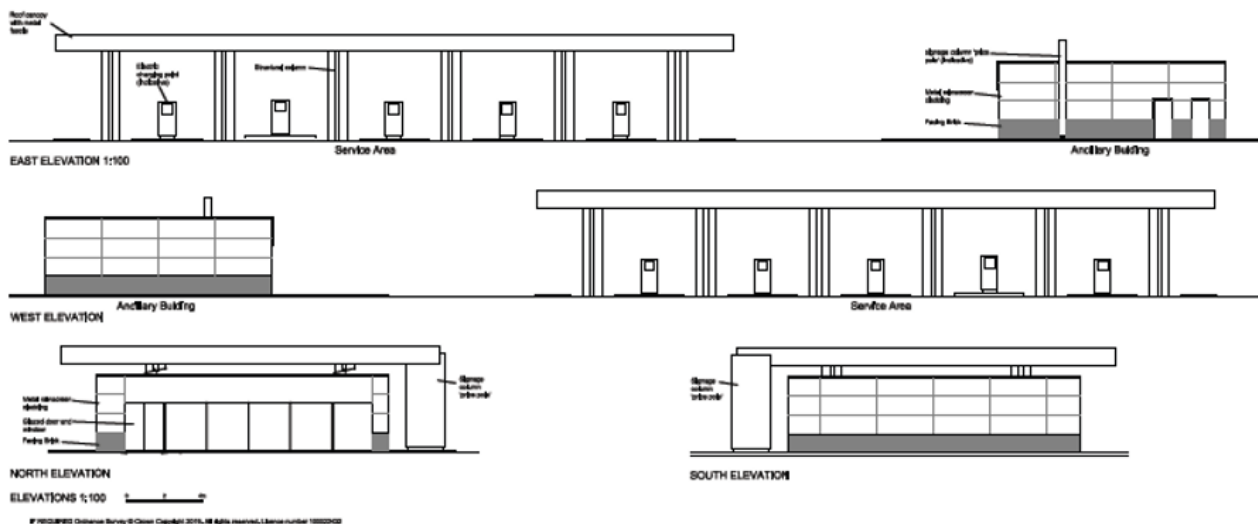
The development was designed around functionality; however considerable thought was given to the material design of the buildings to ensure that the scheme contributes positively to its environment. Inclusion of soft landscaping around the perimeter of the development also aided the overall appearance of the external façade.



Abbotts Wood EV Charging Station, Peterborough – Peterborough City Council

DLP successfully achieved planning permission for the redevelopment of Abbotts Wood Service Station on the A1 at Peterborough as a dedicated EV charging station. The scheme allows for the provision of 20 electric car charging points and an associated service building linked to consent obtained for a solar farm connected by private wire.

DLP appraised the site, organised the preparation and submission of a pre-application enquiry and, on receipt of a positive response, prepared and submitted a detailed planning application. Key issues included the need to improve the existing access and egress to the A1, ensuring that road users are aware that the charging station is for the use of electric cars only, as well as demonstrating the need for the facility, and that it is a sustainable and viable scheme. The proposal attracted widespread support from diverse groups, including the Peterborough Civic Society and EV user groups.



DLP is frequently engaged in providing strategy advice in relation to the provision of EV charging as part of residential and commercial developments or as freestanding service stations. Specification and installation of EV charging ‘pumps’ can be considered to have an impact on the character and appearance of an area and may be considered to affect the setting of listed buildings or adversely impact on the openness of green belt or metropolitan open land. With careful design and siting, such potential issues can often be overcome.

We have wide experience of providing evidence to support the provision of EV facilities, working with developers and LPAs, in order to find the best solutions to meet the Council’s policy requirements and the developer’s own environmental objectives, whilst still achieving the delivery of appropriate EV facilities.

Case Studies – Transport & Infrastructure

Moorside Farm, Lancaster – Lancaster City Council

DLP provided key inputs in relation to both highways and drainage infrastructure. Access constraints associated with the construction of the development were significant and included a number of highways design options to accommodate the deliveries of the inverters, solar arrays and transformers. This included widening of existing narrow country lanes, new access roads across third party land, which included negotiation with landowners, and use of an existing accommodation bridge across the M6. This option included extensive negotiation with National Highways in relation to the structural integrity of the bridge, which included the requirement for a structural survey and Open Space Assessment. Further to the positive work undertaken by DLP in negotiating a hybrid construction access routing strategy, planning consent was granted in 2022.

DLP is currently supporting OPD in discharging planning conditions at Moorside Farm and progressing a planning application for a 2km cable route from the site to the Lancaster substation. DLP is also currently supporting OPD Energy on a number of other Battery Energy Storage System sites and Solar Farm sites in both England and Scotland.



Ford Oaks Solar Farm, Devon – East Devon District Council

DLP provided support to Low Carbon Alliance in relation to a planning application, submitted to East Devon District Council in 2022, for the construction and operation of a ground-mounted solar farm comprising solar arrays, equipment housing and substation

As part of the application DLP produced a Transport Statement and Construction Management Plan and also gave evidence at the subsequent Public Inquiry. Key issues successfully debated at the Inquiry related to highway safety and the suitability of the construction access route. DLP provided robust evidence to demonstrate that the construction would not result in an unacceptable impact on highway safety and that the construction route itself would not result in a residual severe impact on the surrounding highway network and adequate mitigation during construction can be provided.

More recently, DLP has provided support to Infinis Energy, who have taken on the development of the Solar Farm, in relation to the discharge of conditions and providing a detailed Construction Traffic Management Plan following modifications to the site area.



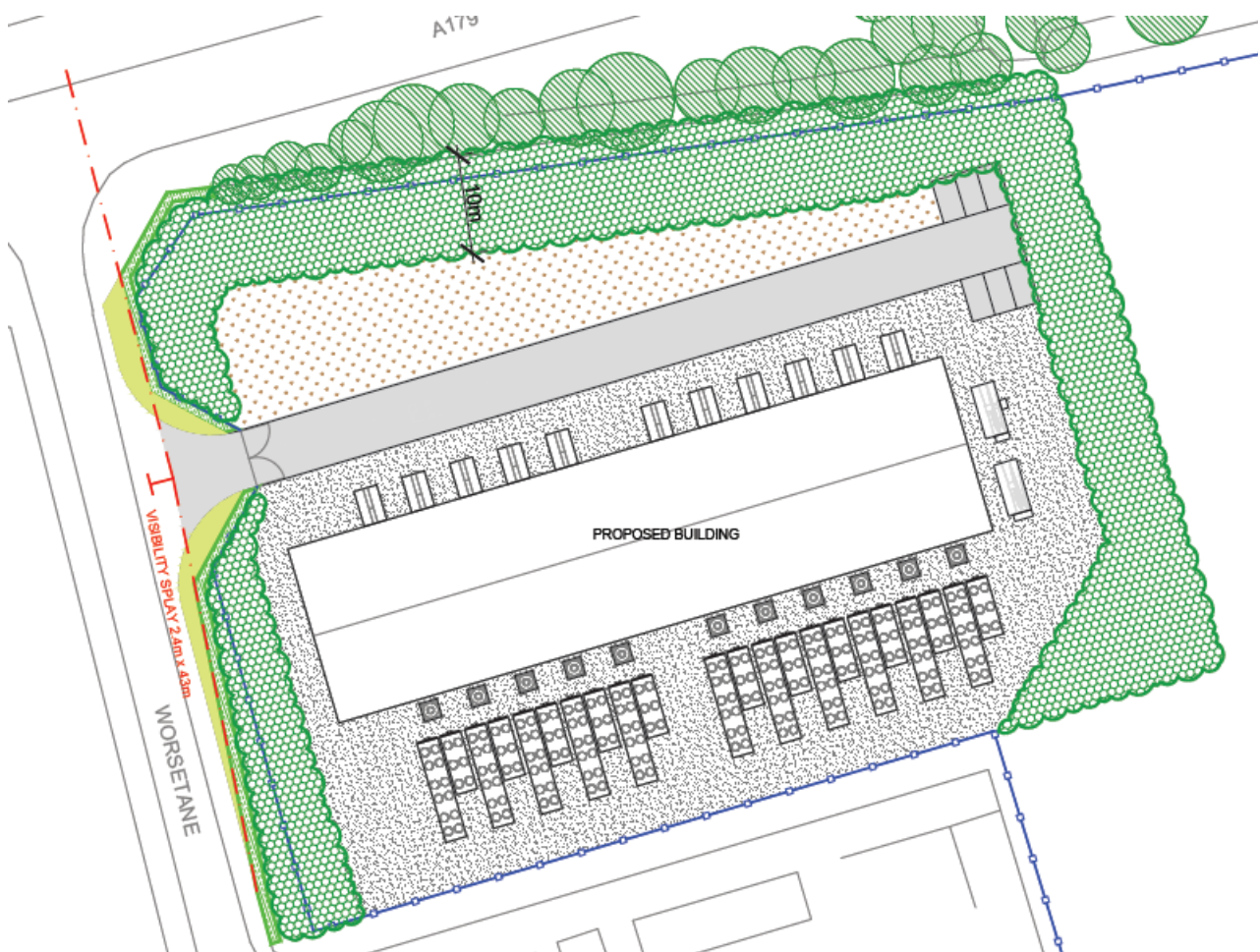


Case Studies – Peaking Gas

Worset Lane, Hartlepool – Hartlepool Borough Council

The scheme at Worset Lane occupied a small part of an agricultural field located to the south-west of Hart village, but adjacent to an existing, enclosed electrical substation compound.

The Local Planning Authority initially considered the development to be inappropriate in the open countryside to the detriment of the character of the rural area, as the proposed site was outside the limits of the settlement boundary. There were also objections from two Parish Councils. Following the submission of amended plans to address issues raised by the Environment Agency and concerns about noise, and the preparation of a wide-ranging Landscape Visual Impact Assessment, which then informed landscaping proposals, DLP secured the planning permission.

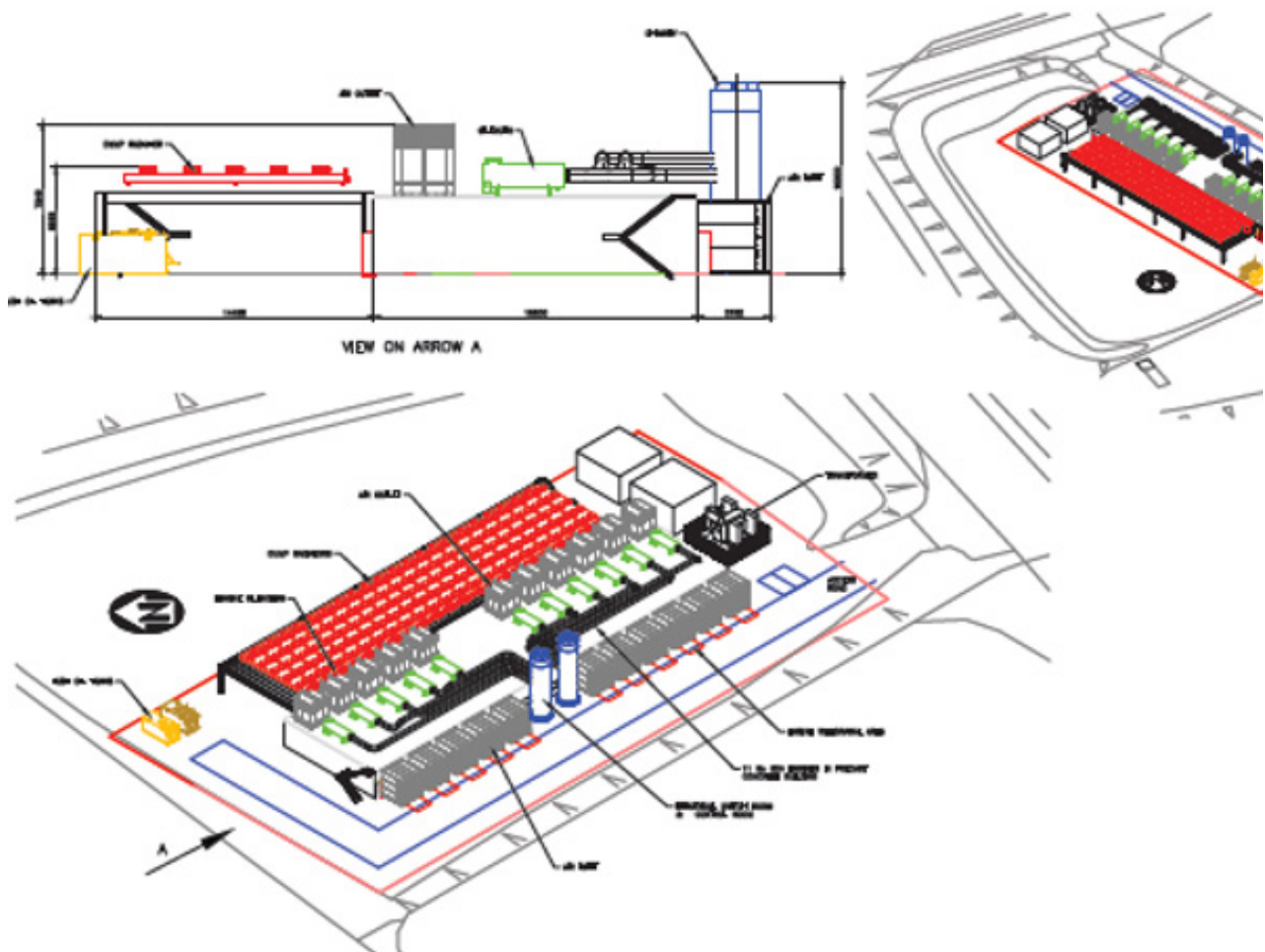


Grange Lane, Templeborough Rotherham – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

DLP secured planning permission for a 49.5MW gas-powered electricity generator set on a site of 0.48ha to the south of Templeborough, near Rotherham. The site was ideally suited for the use given the proximity to a suitable gas supply and a high voltage power connection.

The application site was located within an Industrial and Business Use Area in the adopted Unitary Development Plan at the time the application was determined. The planning history of the site demonstrated that it was previously developed land associated with on-going and established commercial operations, including warehousing, flues, tanks and compressors. It had also been used for the parking of vehicles.

The preference for the use of previously developed land, and an industrial setting, was recognised, along with the potential to mitigate the visual impact of the development.



Recent Clients

Anglo Renewables

Endurance Estates

Low Carbon

Grupotec

Shell

Clearstone Energy

AEGIS Energy

Zenobe

Foresight Group

Verdant Energy

IB Vogt

INFINIS Energy

OPD Energy

Balance Power

Bluefield Energy

Central Bedfordshire Council

Infraland



For more information please email the Public Sector Team:

energy@dlpconsultants.co.uk or visit www.dlpconsultants.co.uk



"The Energy team within DLP has gained significant experience in the planning aspects and design of energy related projects and is committed to offering excellent advice and services to our clients. Our focus team would be delighted to speak to existing and new clients across the UK"

**David Baber BSc (Hons) MSc CMILT,
Director DLP Transport & Infrastructure**





**Planning Research & Analysis
Transport & Infrastructure
Architecture & Masterplanning
Energy & Sustainability Services**

Bedford

bedford@dlpconsultants.co.uk

Bristol

bristol@dlpconsultants.co.uk

Liverpool

liverpool@dlpconsultants.co.uk

London

london@dlpconsultants.co.uk

Nottingham

nottingham@dlpconsultants.co.uk

Rugby

rugby.enquiries@dlpconsultants.co.uk

Sheffield

sheffield@dlpconsultants.co.uk



If you would like to contact our Later Living Team, please email:
energy@dlpconsultants.co.uk or visit www.dlpconsultants.co.uk

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