

Byers Gill Solar

Consulation Feedback Questionnaire

5 May – 16 June 2023



Our proposals

In 2022, the UK Government published their Energy Security Strategy, announcing that they intend to accelerate and increase solar power capacity by up to fivefold from 14GW to 70GW by 2035. If achieved, this will mean the UK will have a 100% renewable energy grid by 2035.

Byers Gill Solar consists of a solar farm capable of generating enough energy to power over 70,000 homes, representing a significant step towards local and national goals of reaching net zero, establishing energy security and reducing our impact on the climate.

The solar farm would be spread across neighbouring sites between Darlington, Stockton-on-Tees and Durham in north-

east England and would include solar panels and the supporting infrastructure needed for power generation, as well as safety and security measures.

Other key features of the scheme are mitigation and enhancement measures for the natural environment. These measures would ensure any negative impact on existing habitats and biodiversity is limited, with improvements provided to help nature thrive on the site. New habitats and landscaping would also be created, leading to an overall increase in biodiversity and ecological networks across the site. As well as contributing to the UK's net zero goals, Byers Gill Solar would also contribute to creating a better natural environment in the local area.



Providing your feedback

You can respond to this consultation by:

- **Completing a feedback questionnaire online, available at:** www.byersgillsolarfarm.co.uk
- **Downloading, printing and completing a feedback questionnaire, and return it to:** Freepost Byers Gill Solar (no stamp is required).
- **Writing to the project team at:** Freepost Byers Gill Solar (no stamp is required)
- **Emailing us at:** enquiries@byersgillsolar.com

A consultation booklet has also been produced which provides a summary of our proposals and has been written to help you provide your feedback to this consultation. The booklet, and further information such as detailed maps and plans and our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) can be found on our consultation website, here:

www.byersgillsolarfarm.co.uk



The consultation runs between 5 May and 16 June 2023. Please submit your response to us by 23:59 16 June 2023.

The project in principle:

1. Do you support the use of solar farms as part of the mix of renewable electricity generation required to meet the UK Government's commitment to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050?

Strongly support	Support	Neutral	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide any comments explaining your response to question 1:

2. Do you support the Byers Gill Solar Farm project?

Yes, wholly support	Yes, but I have some concerns	Neutral	No, but I support the development of solar farms generally	No, not at all	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide any comments explaining your response to question 2:

Site layout and design

Byers Gill Solar would be made up of six panel areas (A – F), located between Darlington and Stockton-on-Tees. It would generate 180MW alternating current of electricity and would be connected to the national grid via an on-site substation and an existing substation in Norton.

For more information on each Panel Area, please see pages 13-18 of our consultation booklet.

3. Do you have any comments on the overall site layout?

4. Do you have any specific comments about Panel Areas A-F? Please specify which panel area(s) you are commenting on.

Underground cables would be used to connect the Panel Areas up to the on-site infrastructure and to the national grid. The exact location of some of the cable routes is still to be determined, and potential cable routes can be seen on pages 24-25 of the consultation booklet.

5. Do you have any comments on the potential cable routes shown for Byers Gill Solar? Please describe any specific areas of the site if relevant.

Byers Gill Solar would include the supporting infrastructure necessary for the operation of a solar farm. This includes an on-site substation, battery storage, access roads, and security measures such as fencing and CCTV.

6. Do you have any comments on the supporting infrastructure required for Byers Gill Solar Farm?

Landscape and environmental design

Our proposals for Byers Gill Solar include our suggested approach to minimise our impact on the environment and the local community, and to help enhance the rich biodiversity within the local environment. On pages 6-23 of the consultation booklet, we have explained our approach to mitigating impacts of the Byers Gill Solar farm on the environment and the local community.

7. Do you have any comments on our landscape and environmental design? Please make your comments in relation to each of the topics below where applicable.

a. Landscape and visual (please refer to pages 6-7 of the consultation booklet for more information)

b. Biodiversity (please refer to page 20 of the consultation booklet for more information)

c. Public rights of way (please refer to page 22 of the consultation booklet for more information)

d. Heritage assets (please refer to page 21 of the consultation booklet for more information)

e. Construction impacts (please refer to page 23 of the consultation booklet for more information)

f. Other

Community benefits

Alongside the solar technology, Byers Gill Solar would also provide local community assets, such as an improved public right of way network, an orchard and a new picnic area. Please see page 5 of the consultation booklet for further information on our proposed community benefits.

8. Do you have any suggestions on how we can provide community benefits through Byers Gill Solar?

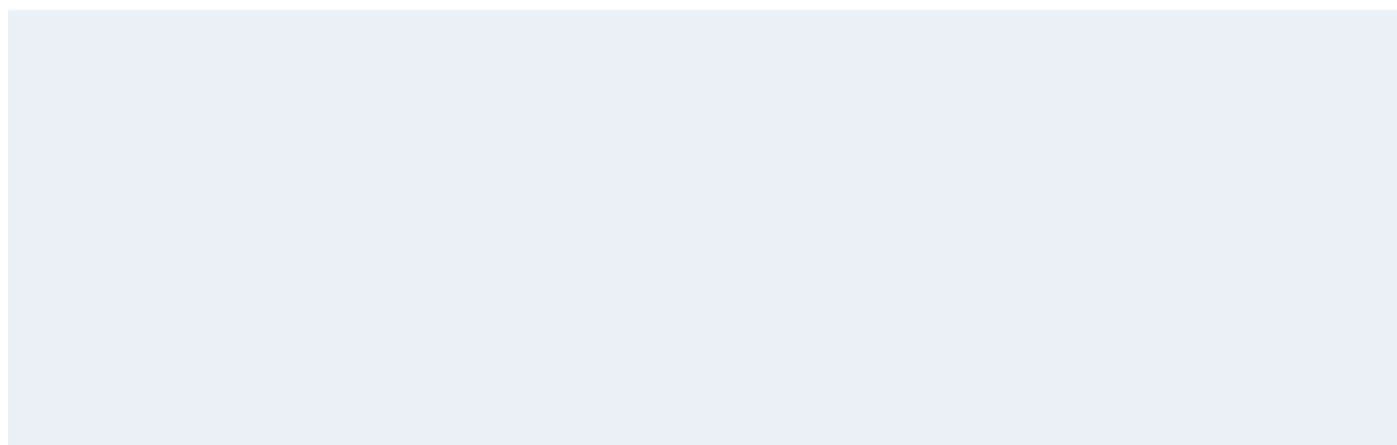
Operation and decommissioning

9. Do you have any comments on the operation or decommissioning of Byers Gill Solar?

Preliminary environmental information report (PEIR)

The PEIR includes information about our plans for Byers Gill Solar and identifies its potential environmental effects, based on a preliminary assessment. More information about this can be found on pages 10-11 of the consultation booklet.

10. Do you have any comments on the methodology and/or preliminary assessments in the PEIR? Where possible, please specify the environmental topic area(s) you are commenting on.



Any other comments

11. Do you have any other comments you wish to make about Byers Gill Solar?



About you

We want to make sure we are reaching a wide range of voices so we can make our proposals for Byers Gill Solar the best they can be, so the next section allows us to capture information about who is responding to this consultation. The postcode section is mandatory as it enables us to make sure we are getting responses from people local to the proposed site.

12. In what capacity are you responding to this consultation on Byers Gill Solar?

- Local resident
- Landowner who has been notified of their land interest being affected by the scheme
- Local business owner / work locally
- Visitor to the area
- Elected representative (e.g. Parish Council, Local Authority or MP) (please specify in the text box below)
- Statutory organisation (please specify in the text box below)
- Local interest group (please specify in the text box below)
- Other (please specify in the text box below)

Name

Organisation (if applicable)

Address

Postcode*

Email address

Phone number

* Mandatory

Data privacy notice

Your details are being collected by BECG, on behalf of JBM Solar solely in regard to the above proposals. Your feedback will be used anonymously and used to develop a Consultation Report (or similar document) about this public consultation that will be submitted to the planning authority or similar body; this will be a publicly available document. To opt out from receiving updates, either do not supply your contact information, or email us at enquiries@byersgillsolar.com. To find out more about how we will handle your information please read our Privacy Notice: <https://byersgillsolarfarm.co.uk/>.

A hard copy is available upon request.