

WELCOME

Thank you for joining today's drop-in event to discuss RBL Solar's proposals to deliver solar PV arrays adjacent to Richborough Energy Park

Members of the project team are on hand to answer any questions you may have. We are eager to hear your thoughts and ideas and encourage you to leave your feedback once you have reviewed the information on display today.

THE TEAM



RBL Solar Limited is an experienced renewable energy developer and is part of a wider group of companies with strong land ownership within the Dover and Kent area. The team have extensive knowledge of the local area including the delivery of the Richborough Energy Park, comprising a National Grid interconnector, HV substation and various battery energy storage systems, which are located adjacent to the proposed development site on the eastern side of the River Stour.



Founded in 1994, SLR Consulting has built a team of environmental and business consultants, engineers, and scientists. They work closely with clients throughout the entire project lifecycle, offering expertise in strategy and design, compliance and operations, as well as end-of-life and remediation.

CASCADE

Cascade is a strategic consultancy specialising in stakeholder engagement and community consultation across the built environment.



The redline shows the proposed application site boundary whilst the blue line shows the previously consented solar farm



THE SITE

The proposed site measures approximately 62 hectares and comprises several smaller parcels of land which are divided by hedgerows. The land is currently unused, and vegetation growth is maintained through intermittent sheep grazing. Richborough Energy Park is to the north of the site and the Discovery Park Enterprise Zone is situated to the southeast.

The site comprises a closed landfill, which, following extensive assessment, has been found suitable to accommodate solar PV arrays. RBL Solar intends to capture the opportunity to generate renewable electricity on this underutilised site, which is unsuitable for other development, and represents a logical extension of the previously consented solar farm which connects directly to the north.

The landfill was historically operated by Kent County Council (KCC) until its closure in the 1990s. The site has been restored and is under continuing environmental monitoring. The positioning of the solar PV arrays will not interfere with the ability to maintain this environmental monitoring commitment in the future.

The River Stour runs along the eastern and southern boundaries of the site. To the east, there is a car storage area, a recycling centre, and industrial businesses. The A256 road, linking Ramsgate and Dover, is also nearby. To the west, the site is bordered by a train line, with undeveloped land beyond. There are a number of heritage assets in the vicinity of the southern most part of the site, these include a Saxon Shore Fort, Roman Fort and associated remains, and Richborough Castle.



The site today



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THE PROPOSALS

The proposals will see the installation of solar PV arrays, a substation, and a grid connection cable on a closed landfill site. When combined with the previously consented solar farm, it will generate up to 49.9 MW of renewable energy for the lifespan of the project. This development will help meet local and national net zero targets while preserving vital agricultural land by utilising a site unsuitable for farming.

RBL Solar propose to use the same connection and cable route for both the previously consented and proposed solar farms.

EIA Scoping

The proposals are based on environmental studies conducted at the site which is to understand the potential impacts on sensitive areas and the surrounding environment during the development process.

A Scoping Opinion has been requested from Dover District Council (DDC) to help RBL Solar determine the scope of investigations and methods for assessing the potential environmental impacts of the development. The findings and analysis from these investigations will be included in the Environmental Statement (ES), which will be submitted to DDC as part of the planning process.

The following topics have been agreed with the Council as standalone chapters in the ES:

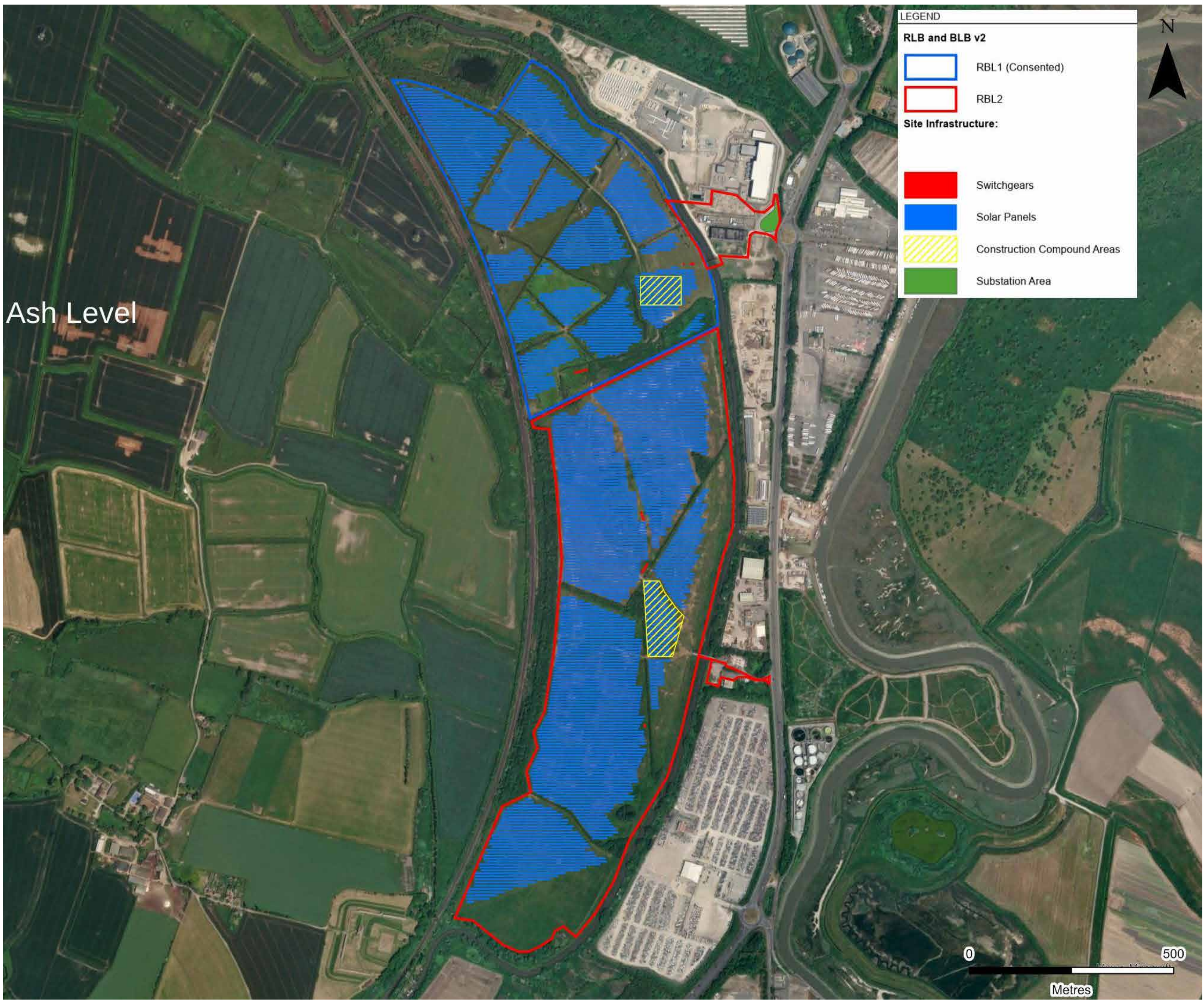
- Ecology and biodiversity
- Heritage, including built heritage and archaeology
- Glint and glare
- Landscape and visuals
- Water environment

Access and construction

Access will be via the A256 and Ramsgate Road, using a shared entrance with the adjacent household waste recycling centre run by Kent County Council. Vehicles will cross the river via the existing Mabey Bridge on to the main solar site.

The majority of vehicle movements associated with the proposed development will occur during the site preparation and construction phase, which is expected to last between 6 and 12 months.

The application will be supported by a Transport Statement and Construction Traffic Management Plan which will detail the vehicle routes to the site and seek to minimise construction impact on the nearby roads. Once operational, access to the site will decrease to occasional maintenance visits undertaken in smaller vehicles.



BENEFITS



Deliver a significant supply of clean, renewable energy, helping to reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels and lower carbon emissions.



Integrate with the previously consented solar farm, strengthening local renewable energy infrastructure and providing a reliable source of sustainable energy.



Support long-term environmental responsibility by using land unsuitable for other development while maintaining ongoing environmental monitoring commitments.



Repurpose a closed landfill site avoiding the use of vital agricultural land, ensuring important farmland is preserved.



The solar array will generate 81,000,000 kWh of renewable electricity per year, enough to supply 30,000 homes.



A community benefit fund will be set up to provide funding for local community programmes and charities. RBL Solar welcome any ideas for where the money would be well spent.



LAND ADJACENT TO
RICHBOROUGH ENERGY PARK



All images taken from elevated wooden structure
within Richborough Fort © English Heritage.



KEY VIEWS



View from the public right of way
running along the eastern site of
the site



Proposed view without planting



Proposed view with year
15 planting



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KEY VIEWS



View from the public right of way running along the eastern site of the site



Proposed view without planting



Proposed view with year 5 planting



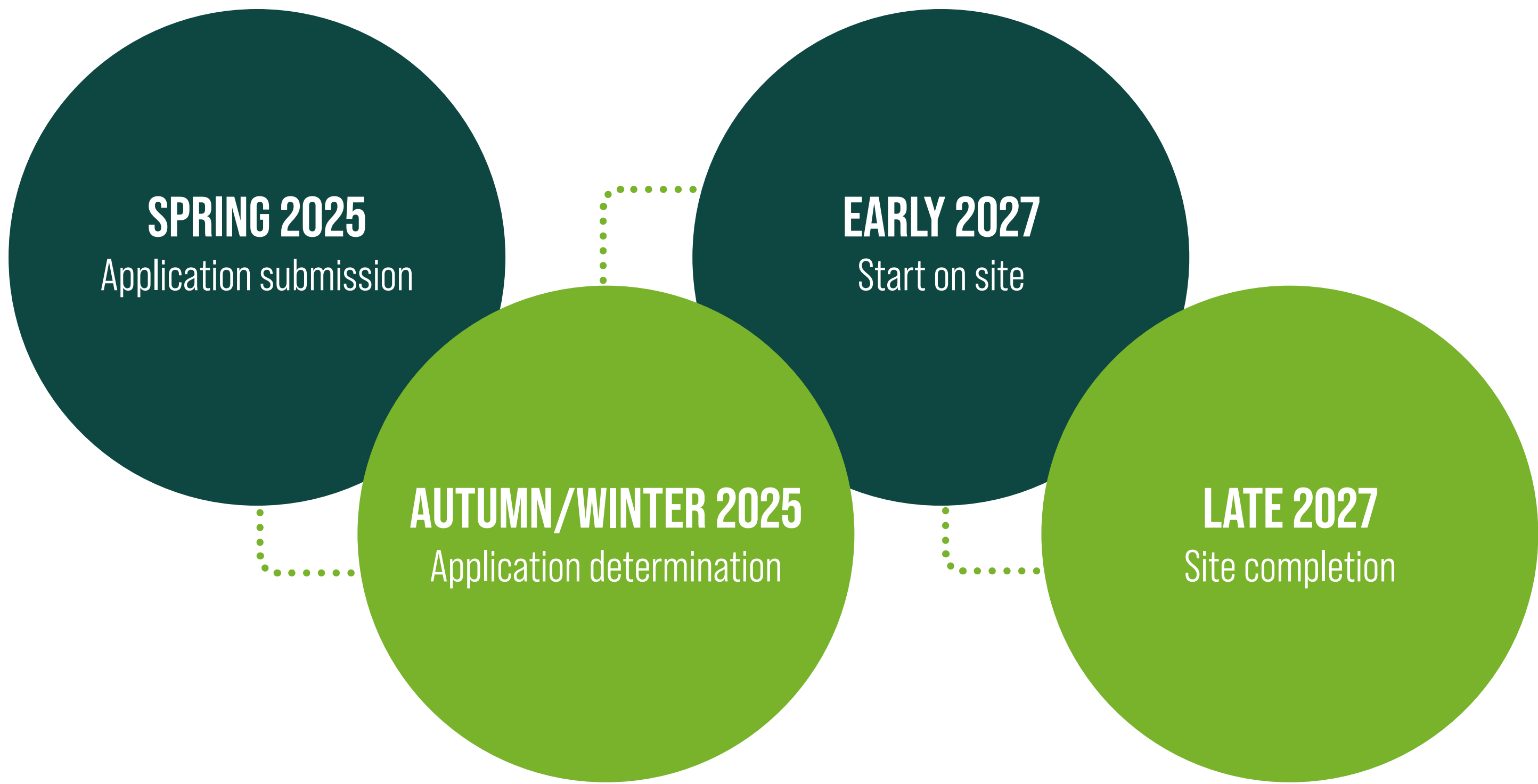
NEXT STEPS

Thank you for attending today's drop-in event. We would now like you to share your views. Please scan the QR code with your smartphone to submit your feedback. If you would prefer a paper copy, please ask a member of the project team.

The public consultation will be open until Thursday 27th March. After this we will consider all feedback received ahead of submitting a planning application to DCC in the spring.



TIMELINE



Scan the QR code to
share your views



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