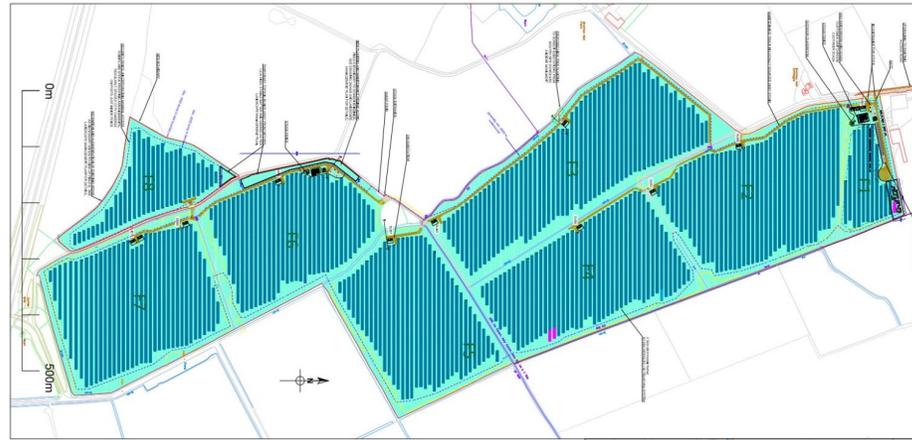


Bretton Hall Solar Farm

RCEF Stage:



Key Facts	
Technology	Solar PV
Generating capacity [AC]	30MWp
Battery storage	5MW
Grid export capacity	30MVA

Key Figures	
Project size: Tech type	30MWp solar PV
Energy Generation	c.28MW pa
Private finance leveraged	£ 50,000
CO2 savings	6000+ tonnes
RCEF grant	£ 97,284.75

The Story

Bretton Hall Solar Farm is being developed by Ynni Newydd Cyfyngedig [New Energy Ltd], a community benefit society based in Wales, in association with Chester Community Energy Ltd. The development site covers 50ha and straddles the English/Welsh border between Flintshire and Cheshire, close to the city of Chester. The scale of ambition is much larger than anything attempted by the community energy sector in Wales before. If successfully developed, this may be the largest community-owned solar farm in the UK., and the need to accommodate the differing anglo-welsh political, statutory and community interest aspects gives a further unique dimension to the project.

Challenges & Risks

The development faces several significant challenges – the key physical site constraint is a flood risk, and the scheme has been designed to ensure the viability of the electrical plant in all but the severest of flood events. A grid connection offer is secured, but it is constrained at the National Grid level. As yet, the specific impacts are yet to be determined. The site sits within an area designated as Green Belt / Green Barrier and, as an applicant, the society has sought to make a strong case for the community benefit aspects in terms of local ownership, benefit funds and building local energy resilience, along with increased biodiversity net gain to overcome the presumption against development.

Lessons Learned

Attempting this development across two national statutory regimes has proved to be more complex, costly and time-consuming than initially anticipated. Reliance on public funding has meant delays with the implementation of additional cost items due to the need to apply to secure funds retrospectively. In hindsight, establishing a large contingency/reserve account to meet unforeseen costs would have helped to maintain good progress and thus reduce time costs.

Further Notes

LEP area:

Link for further info:
www.brettonhallsolar.co.uk