

Summary of Peasedown, Wellow and Shoscombe Community Energy Forum

Hosted at The Hive, 25 February 2026

Report March 2026

Delivered by partner organisations through the Community Energy Network:


Bath & North East
Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives


Bath & West
Community
Energy

 Centre for
Sustainable
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About the Community Energy Network

The Community Energy Network (CEN) is a partnership of organisations working together across Bath and North East Somerset to help residents reduce energy use, lower energy bills and explore opportunities for community-led renewable energy.

The partnership brings together Bath & North East Somerset Council, Bath & West Community Energy (BWCE), the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE), the University of Bath, and the Community Wellbeing Hub.

The Community Energy Network is funded by the National Lottery Community Fund.

CEN coordinates activity through two projects:

- Energy at Home - supporting residents to improve the energy efficiency of their homes and reduce energy costs.
- Energy in Your Community - working with communities to explore interest in community-owned renewable energy through local conversations and engagement.

About Energy in Your Community

Energy in Your Community is a project within the Community Energy Network that works with communities to explore interest in community owned renewable energy. The project focuses on listening to local views and helping communities understand and consider potential opportunities for community led energy initiatives. It begins with community conversations and does not involve identifying sites or developing proposals at the outset.

This report has been prepared by the Centre for Sustainable Energy on behalf of the Community Energy Network. It summarises what took place at the workshop held on Wednesday 25 February 2026 and reflects the views of those who attended.

For more information:

- Sign up to the Community Energy Network's e-newsletter.
- Check out www.bathnes.gov.uk/energy-your-community
- Contact us at community_energy@bathnes.gov.uk

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Contents

Introduction.....	4
Renewable energy conversations since 2022.....	6
What happened at the Forum.....	9
Discussion and comments on wind and solar.....	11
Next steps.....	16
1. Questions from attendees.....	18
2. Technical constraints by location.....	21

Community Energy Forum Summary

Introduction

A Community Energy Forum was held in Peasedown St. John on 25 February 2026. The Forum was hosted by the Centre for Sustainable Energy, an independent national charity.

This Forum was part of Energy in Your Community, an exploratory conversation about local interest in community-owned renewable energy. The project is delivered through the Community Energy Network, a partnership between Bath & North East Somerset Council, the Centre for Sustainable Energy, Bath & West Community Energy and the University of Bath. It is funded by the National Lottery Community Fund.

Peasedown, Wellow and Shoscombe were selected to take part in Energy in Your Community after a community workshop and survey in Autumn 2022 showed local interest in renewable energy projects. The Forum built on the earlier discussion.

The Forum aimed to:

- Explain how community-owned energy works and provides local benefits, and some relevant planning and grid considerations.
- Present a few initial options, suggested by residents, for possible locations for energy projects.
- Understand whether there was interest from attendees in continuing to explore options.
- Identify local priorities and concerns.

This report summarises the views of those who attended. It does not represent proposals, decisions or identified sites.

Is there a development happening?

No. This project is not about a specific development. Energy in Your Community is an exploratory conversation for communities to learn more about community-owned renewables and options for community owned wind and solar. The Forum continued a discussion about community-owned energy and the evidence for different possible locations. If the community wishes to take forward any area, there would be further opportunities for consultation. Any future development would still need to go through full feasibility, business case development and planning application.

This project does not prevent other developers from pursuing their own activities independently.

Information for landowners

This is an early-stage exploratory conversation, so no landowners have been contacted yet through this project.

In commercial renewable energy developments, a site is chosen based on technical evidence only. There are few real opportunities for communities to say what they think, and even fewer opportunities to inform which locations would even be considered for a development. Energy in Your Community works with communities first, to fully understand their views before working with landowners. Flipping the process has an added benefit of improving landowner confidence in any ensuing development.

If the results of the community energy survey in Spring 2026 show strong support for certain locations, the landowners in those areas will be reached out to by the project team in Autumn 2026.

If you are a landowner of a location which has been discussed or suggested by the community workshop outlined in this report, we would love to hear from you. Please email us at: **community_energy@cse.org.uk**.

Renewable energy conversations since 2022

In 2022, Peasedown and Wellow parishes were selected by Bath & North East Somerset Council to take part in renewable energy conversations, facilitated by the Centre for Sustainable Energy.

Peasedown and Wellow hosted a workshop and community survey. The results are summarised here and can be viewed in full in the [Renewable Energy Conversations Findings report](#).

What did people say in 2022?

The public 'Future Energy Landscapes' workshop was hosted at Beacon Hall in October 2022 and attended by 9 residents, to discuss how residents felt about landscape changes due to renewable energy development, and review what might be acceptable.

Participants were asked to suggest types and scales of renewable energy which might be acceptable. The menu included wind, solar, anaerobic digestion, hydro and district heating. Participants then compared their selections to technically suitable areas based on the BANES Renewable Energy Resource Assessment Study, as well as ecological sensitivities such as the Cotswold's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Facilitators guided participants to then agree as a group on a shared list of acceptable locations.

The map below shows the agreed final discussion areas from the workshop participants.

The 2022 map can also be [viewed online](#).

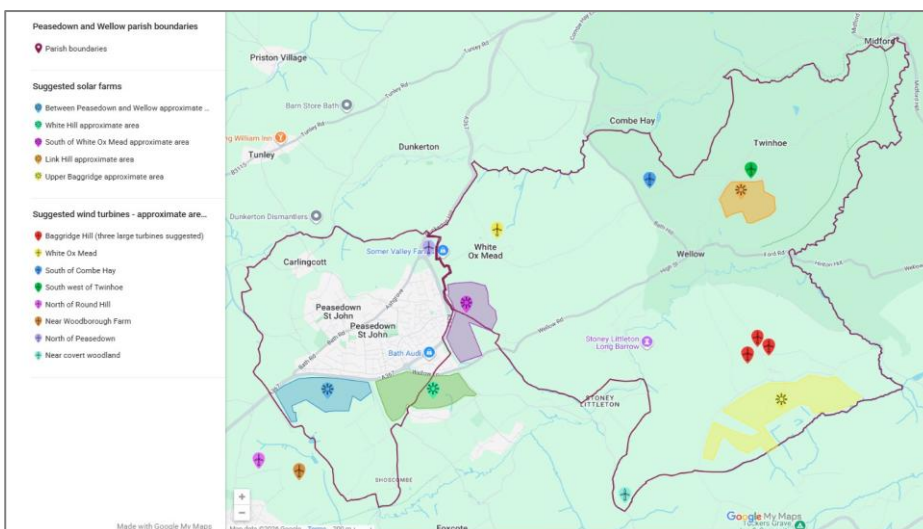


Figure 1: Map of resident-suggested locations for wind and solar at 2022 ‘Future Energy Landscapes’ workshop.

Community survey

The follow up survey in 2022 was completed by 71 people.

You can read the results in the [2022 Renewable Energy Conversations Findings report](#).

The key findings from the survey were:

- Wind turbines received a generally positive response (about 70% ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with concept of wind in the area), but there were significant concerns and dissatisfaction over their visual impact, particularly in an AONB.
- Ground-based solar farms also received a generally positive response (about 60% ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with suggested locations for solar farms). Similarly to the wind turbines, there was concern over the visual impact in an AONB. There were also comments expressing a preference for rooftop solar rather than fields potentially useful for agriculture.
- The suggested anaerobic digester received the most mixed response, with doubts raised about its environmental benefit, visual impact, potential for smell and potential impact on traffic.
- Respondents were keen to see how the community could benefit from hosting renewables and suggested technology in areas part of the AONB needs careful consideration.

Engagement since 2025

In 2025 we returned to Peasedown, Wellow and Shoscombe as funding is now available to continue our conversations, if the community agrees.

On Saturday 30 August 2025, we attended Wellow Village Fair to spread awareness about Energy in Your Community and connect with local environmental groups Future Wellow and Peasedown Environment Group.

On Saturday 8 November 2025, we held a [Community Energy Open Day for Peasedown, Wellow & Shoscombe](#). The event invited [residents to discuss whether any of the locations considered in 2022, or community-owned renewables more generally, would be acceptable to the community](#). We spoke with 50 residents.

Following feedback, we added to the conversation:

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- Inclusion of Shoscombe parish with Peasedown and Wellow parishes, based on close distance and relational proximity between areas.
 - Inclusion of 2 additional locations for discussion on solar farms, based on community support for those areas.
 - Inclusion of BANES Local Plan proposals for new housing, as housing proposals limit the possibility of long-term renewable development in those locations.

Additionally, the 2022 survey was reopened. However, only 7 responses were received for the survey, which prohibited useful analysis of results.

On Wednesday 25 February 2026, we held a Community Energy Forum. The Forum is summarised in this report.

What happened at the Forum

The Forum on 25 February 2026 was attended by **23 residents**. The majority were from Peasedown and Wellow, with a smaller number from Shoscombe and one attendee from elsewhere in North East Somerset.

Forum format:

1. Introduction to the Energy in Your Community process and results from the 2022 survey
2. A presentation on community-owned renewable energy models
3. A question-and-answer session
4. A presentation on possible locations for wind and solar, with high-level constraints and considerations for each location
5. A group activity to review the possible locations
6. A final discussion on whether attendees wanted to explore any areas in further detail, whether the Energy in Your Community project should continue and who else should be included in the conversation.

All areas/locations discussed were:

- Generated by residents during the 2022 Future Energy Landscapes workshop or 2025 Community Energy Open Day.
- Not proposals, not industry recommendations, not in-depth feasibility tested.
- Presented for the purpose of grounding the discussion.

Voting was used only to understand which areas/locations residents wished to discuss further. It does not indicate support for development. The resident who attended from outside the 3 parishes did not vote.

Please see Appendix 1. Questions from attendees, Table 1 and Table 2 for resident comments.

Summary of opinions from participants

Exploration first

Attendees generally didn't come with a pre-determined strong consensus or enthusiasm for a specific location. Participants were generally constructive and polite in discussions. The atmosphere felt open and pragmatic.

Pragmatism towards renewable energy

Many attendees were supportive of renewable energy in principle. Discussions centred on whether renewable energy was right for the parishes or not.

Some participants focused on which renewables would have the lowest impact aesthetically. A number of participants were in support of renewables, but concerned that this was not the right area for them. Another similar number were strongly supportive of prioritising sites with maximum yield of energy for climate reasons.

Some people saw wind as less impactful due to their smaller land usage while others preferred solar farms which would be screened from view. There wasn't an outright majority supporting a particular location or technology.

The importance of heritage and landscape

Residents pointed to the Cotswolds National Landscape (formerly "Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty") around the village of Wellow, and the UNESCO Neolithic barrow site nearby as important local features, which needed sensitive consideration.

Details wanted on community ownership financing, landowners and heritage views

Attendees asked questions about how the financial model would work, whether revenue would be distributed through community ownership, and questioned the fairness of benefit to landowners. Some people thought that council-owned land would be the best option. Fairness and trust were important to the attendees.

Some participants stated that they didn't want to comment on possible sites without detailed feasibility information on sight-lines from heritage landmarks (not yet available as only top-level screening has been undertaken).

Discussion and comments on wind and solar

Participants discussed hypothetical locations using discussion maps and constraints information, as well as their own knowledge of the local area.

Participants voted at the end of the Forum on their preferred locations for further exploration and discussion with the wider community. Some locations received 0 votes and the location with most interest from participants received 9 votes. Participants could vote for 'no locations'. Three participants voted for 'no locations'.

Resident comments and votes are shown below, by location. Please see [Appendix 2. Technical constraints by location.](#)

Wind: votes and comments

The map below was used in the Forum. Locations A to H were generated by residents at the 2022 workshop and 2025 Community Energy Open Day. They are hypothetical locations only.

Comments are listed in detail below. Comments included:

- Concerns about the visibility of wind turbines
- The significance of the Cotswolds National Landscape and heritage settings nearby
- Concern for impact on wildlife
- Roads access to possible sites
- Whether a development would set a planning precedent

The locations with the most support from participants for further exploration and discussion were:

- A – North of Peasedown
- D – Twinhoe
- E – Baggeridge Hill
- G – Near Woodborough Farm

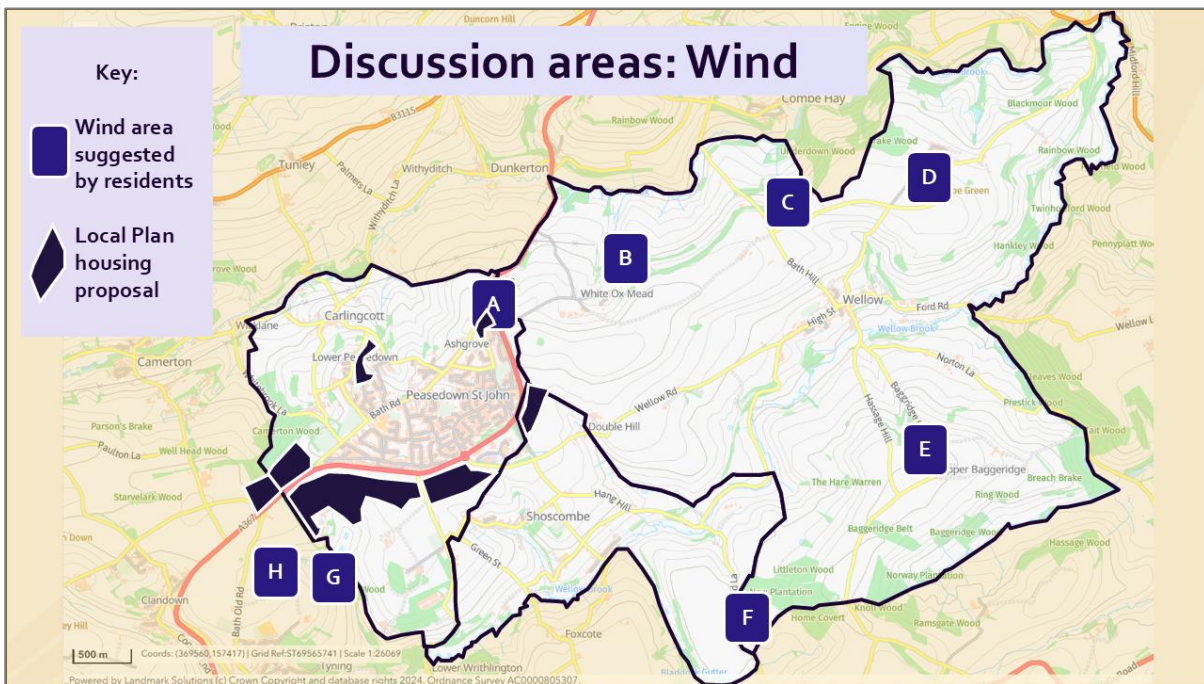


Figure 2: Areas identified by residents in 2022 for discussion (wind). These are hypothetical and for conversation only. Map includes 2025 Local Plan consultation proposals for participant information only.

Table 1: Resident votes and comments on wind map areas

Map Area	Area	Table discussion comments	Votes*
A	North of Peasedown	Is this within an area planned for new housing? Parish-owned land “taller the better” – positive. Close to houses – downside. Airstrip between A and B may block planning permission.	5
B	White Ox Mead	Airstrip between A and B may block planning permission. Outside edge of AONB – concern about precedent for AONB developments. Small roads, access issues during construction phase?	1
C	South of Combe Hay	In AONB – concern about precedent for AONB developments. Maybe visible from Wellow World Heritage Setting area.	2

Map Area	Area	Table discussion comments	Votes*
		Visible from houses in Combe Hay. Nearby South Stoke plateau housing development rejected due to impact on long range views. Hard to get planning permission, very visible area. Skylark migration area. Combe Hay manor owner – supporter?	
D	Iwinhoe	In AONB - concern about precedent for AONB developments. Highly visible from Wellow World Heritage Setting area – depends on exact field? Some positive. Skylark migration area. Is this area owned by Dyson Estate? Impact on horse racing stables.	4
E	Baggridge Hill	Good wind resource, sparsely populated area – positive. Highly visible from Wellow? Visible from neolithic barrow – negative.	3
F	Near Covert Woodland	Preferred by some due to area being sparsely populated. Visible from Wellow. Visible from neolithic Barrow?	1
G	Near Woodborough Farm	If grid is being upgraded for housing near Radstock, could capacity include wind development here? Positive.	3
H	North of Round Hill	If grid is being upgraded for housing near Radstock, could capacity include wind development here? Positive.	1

*22 attendees were given up to three votes to indicate their preferred wind and solar areas. One attendee voted for 'no location', two attendees voted 'no location' plus another specific area. 21 attendees' votes are shown in this table.

Solar: votes and comments

The map below was used in the Forum. Locations A to G were generated by residents at the 2022 workshop and 2025 Community Energy Open Day.

Comments reflected considerations around visibility, land use, wildlife, screening potential and proximity to housing.

The locations with the most support from participants for further exploration and discussion were:

- B – By Colliery Lane
- G – Upper Baggeridge

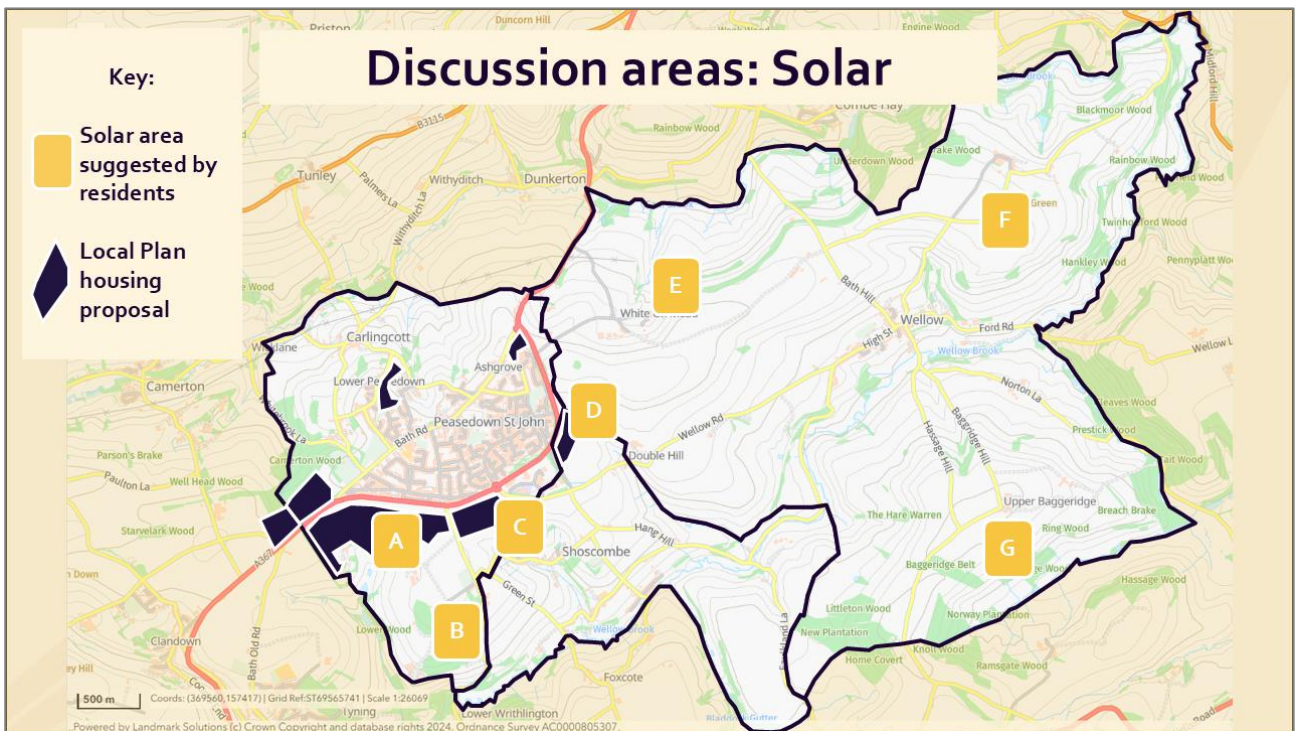


Figure 3: Areas identified by residents in 2022 for discussion (solar). These are hypothetical and for conversation only. Map includes areas proposed for housing development in the 2025 Local Plan consultations.

Table 2: Resident votes and comments on solar map areas

Map Area	Area	Table discussion comments	Votes*
A	South of Peasedown	Earmarked for local housing developments – rule out? Supported by some tables.	3
B	By Colliery Lane	Disused mine area, flat field. Private landfill site? Could have grazing alongside solar? Supported by some tables – positive. Conservation area for wildlife and rare flora – downside.	9
C	White Hill	Earmarked for local housing developments – rule out	0
D	South of White Ox Mead	Supported by some tables.	1
E	White Ox Mead	Not very visible, which is positive. Near AONB - concern about precedent for AONB developments.	0
F	Iwinhoe	Visible from Wellow World Heritage Setting, depending on field. In AONB - concern about precedent for AONB developments.	0
G	Upper Baggridge	Sparsely populated – some preference on tables.	5

*22 attendees were given up to three votes to indicate their preferred wind and solar areas. One attendee voted for 'no location', two attendees voted 'no location' plus another specific area. 21 attendees' votes are shown in this table.

Next steps

Next steps will be decided with Community Energy Network partners based on feedback from the survey and wider community engagement. If there is sufficient community interest, an event in Autumn 2026 will be held to explore preferred locations in more detail.

Community energy survey

A survey is open until 15 July 2026 to gather wider community feedback on the themes discussed at the Forum. Survey link can be found online at www.bathnes.gov.uk/pws-energy-survey

We'll combine survey feedback with comments gathered through the workshops, events and community conversations.

Survey comments will help Community Energy Network partners decide whether shortlisted locations should be explored further, through technical assessment and future community discussion.

This survey is an opportunity for the whole community to respond to the conversation so far, and to shape what we do next. We're especially keen to hear from people who didn't come to previous workshops, so we can include representative views in the ongoing conversation.

What happens if residents do not support any further exploration?

If the results indicate there is not sufficient community support to explore particular locations or renewable energy ideas further, those proposals would not be taken forward for technical assessment. The survey findings will be reviewed and shared with the community.

What happens if residents do support further exploration of one or more area?

If there is sufficient community interest, one or more areas may be explored further through:

- Technical feasibility work
- Environmental, landscape and heritage review

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- Consideration of grid connection and planning constraints
 - Further community discussion and engagement

Appendices

1. Questions from attendees

Asked by attendees, responses by the Centre for Sustainable Energy, Bath & West Community Energy and Empowered.

Question	Answer
If engagement is low, how will you get more responses and make sure it is representative?	We will continue to use surveys and encourage wider participation by working with local community groups (and please spread the word from these workshops).
How will you establish a consensus?	We'll assess whether there's sufficient interest to continue exploring ideas. If there is significant disapproval, the process won't continue.
Have landowners been spoken to?	No - this is a later stage of the Energy in Your Community process. We are focusing on community interest for locations first.
Does being an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty stop solar or wind development?	No, but planning requirements are more stringent and landscape sensitivity is a key consideration.
Why is the surplus not invested into future projects?	<p>It can be! A community energy organisation is generally required to use surplus for community benefit – either future renewable energy developments or community support schemes like local grants. Any projects it invests its surplus in would need to pass the community benefit test.</p> <p>For example, Bath & West Community Energy is a Community Benefit Society regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Interest to their investors is capped and surplus profits must go instead</p>

Question	Answer
	to community support schemes or renewable projects.
How is the scheme funded?	<p>In general, community energy can be funded by loans, grants and community investors. A community energy scheme must prove it will make enough profit from selling electricity to cover the loans and interest to investors.</p> <p>A community energy organisation would usually use loans or grant funding to cover the essential preparation work to make a planning application. Community investment money isn't used for this work as the returns aren't guaranteed yet.</p> <p>Once planning is successful, Bath and West Community Energy's funding model raises local shares for community investors, promotes locally, caps interest at around 5%, and returns the surplus to the community through benefit schemes.</p> <p>Funding for a community energy scheme in this area will be covered in more detail in future workshops, as there isn't a site with consensus right now.</p>
Solar vs wind – how much energy do they produce, is one better than the other?	Wind turbines produce more energy for the land they use, compared to solar farms. However, wind is area dependent (e.g., some places aren't windy).
Do grid connections matter?	Yes, the area will only be suitable if it can connect to the grid. Grid feasibility will be part of the in-depth feasibility review.
Will wind or solar be noisy?	Both create noise, but sound levels are tested and assessed as part of in-depth feasibility (e.g., proximity to residents).

Question	Answer
How long from possibility to reality?	Roughly 3 to 5 years. There are legal, financial, planning, and fundraising steps involved.

2. Technical constraints by location

	Site	Technology	Agricultural Land Classification	RADAR	Slope (Degrees)	Wind Speed (m/s @ 100m)	Listed Buildings	Scheduled Monuments	Historic Landfill	National Landscapes	Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Green belt	Conservation Areas	Priority Habitats	Ancient Woodland	Residential / Non-residential	Local Plan Housing proposal
A	Between Peasedown & Wellow	Solar	3 & 4	N/A		N/A			10m							100m	Overlaps
B	Disused Coal Mine	Solar	3	N/A		N/A										40m	
C	White Hill	Solar	3	N/A		N/A						Inside				150m	Overlaps
D	South of White Ox Mead	Solar	3	N/A		N/A						Inside				200m	Overlaps
E	White Ox Mead	Solar	3	N/A		N/A						Inside		10m - Good quality semi improved grassland			
F	Twinhoe Solar	Solar	3	N/A		N/A	80m			Inside		Inside		20m - Deciduous woodland			
G	Upper Baggridge	Solar	3 & 4	N/A	Max 14.7	N/A	50m					Inside		30m - Lowland calcareous grassland, Trad orchard & Deciduous woodland		100m	
A	North of Peasedown	Turbine	3	120m	Max 9.7	7.9						Inside				110m	Overlaps
B	White Ox Mead	Turbine	3	160m		7.6						Inside		10m - Good quality semi improved grassland		250m	

	Site	Technology	Agricultural Land Classification	RADAR	Slope (Degrees)	Wind Speed (m/s @ 100m)	Listed Buildings	Scheduled Monuments	Historic Landfill	National Landscapes	Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Green belt	Conservation Areas	Priority Habitats	Ancient Woodland	Residential / Non-residential	Local Plan Housing proposal
C	South of Combe Hay	Turbine	3 & 4	120m		8				Inside		Inside		30m - Deciduous woodland	30m		
D	Twinhoe Turbine	Turbine	3	120m		8.2				Inside		Inside			198m	250m	
E	Baggridge Hill	Turbine	3	100m	Max 11	8.1						Inside		Lowland calcareous grassland		200m	
F	Near Covert Woodland	Turbine	3	160m		7.4						Inside					
G	Near Woodborough Farm	Turbine	3	120m	Max 8.3	7.6										400m	
H	North of Round Hill	Turbine	3	100m		7.8										300m	

Figure 4: High-level constraints review conducted by Empowered Projects renewable energy consultancy to inform discussion of potential wind and solar locations.