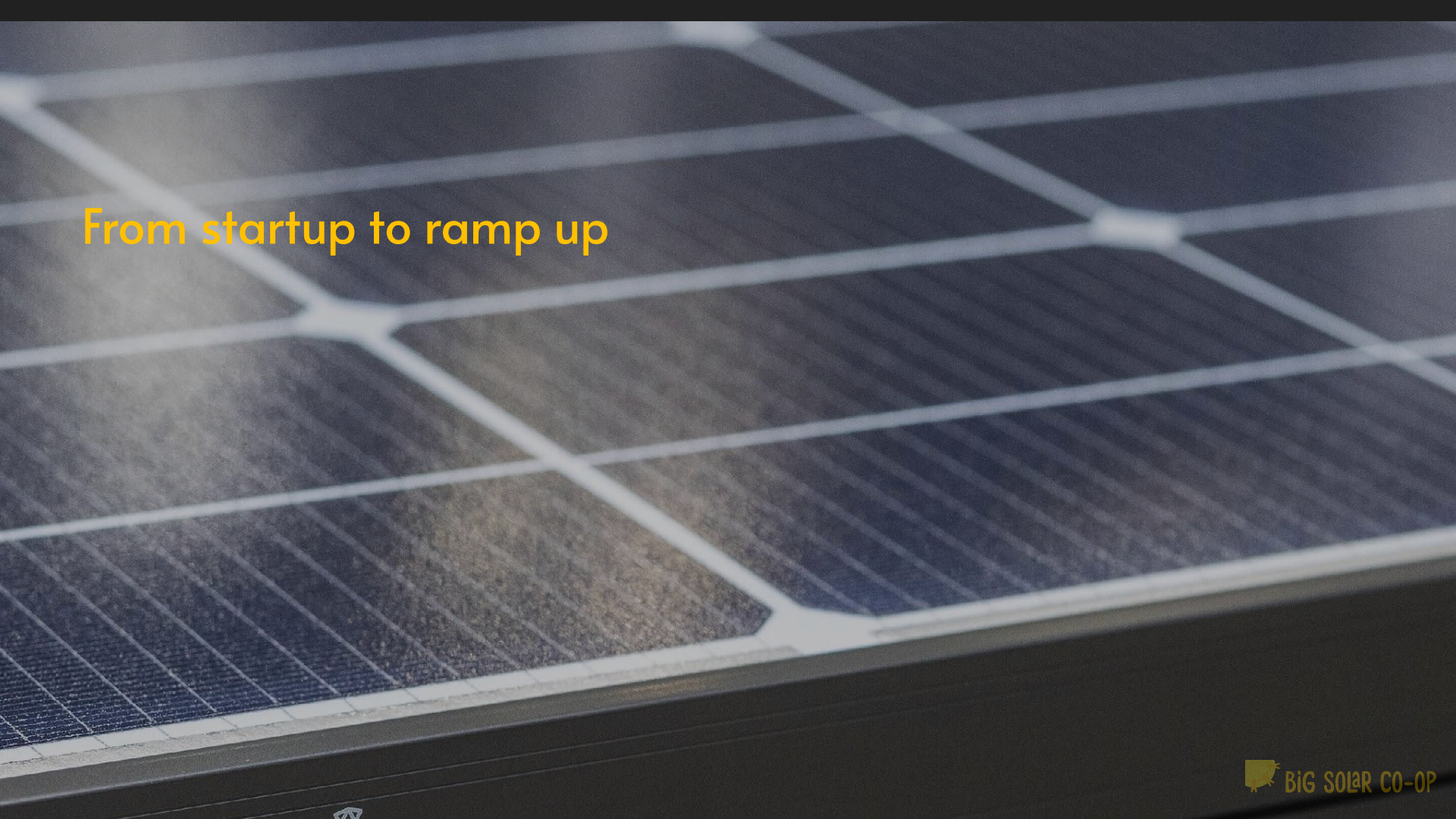


Big Solar Gathering

17 October 2025



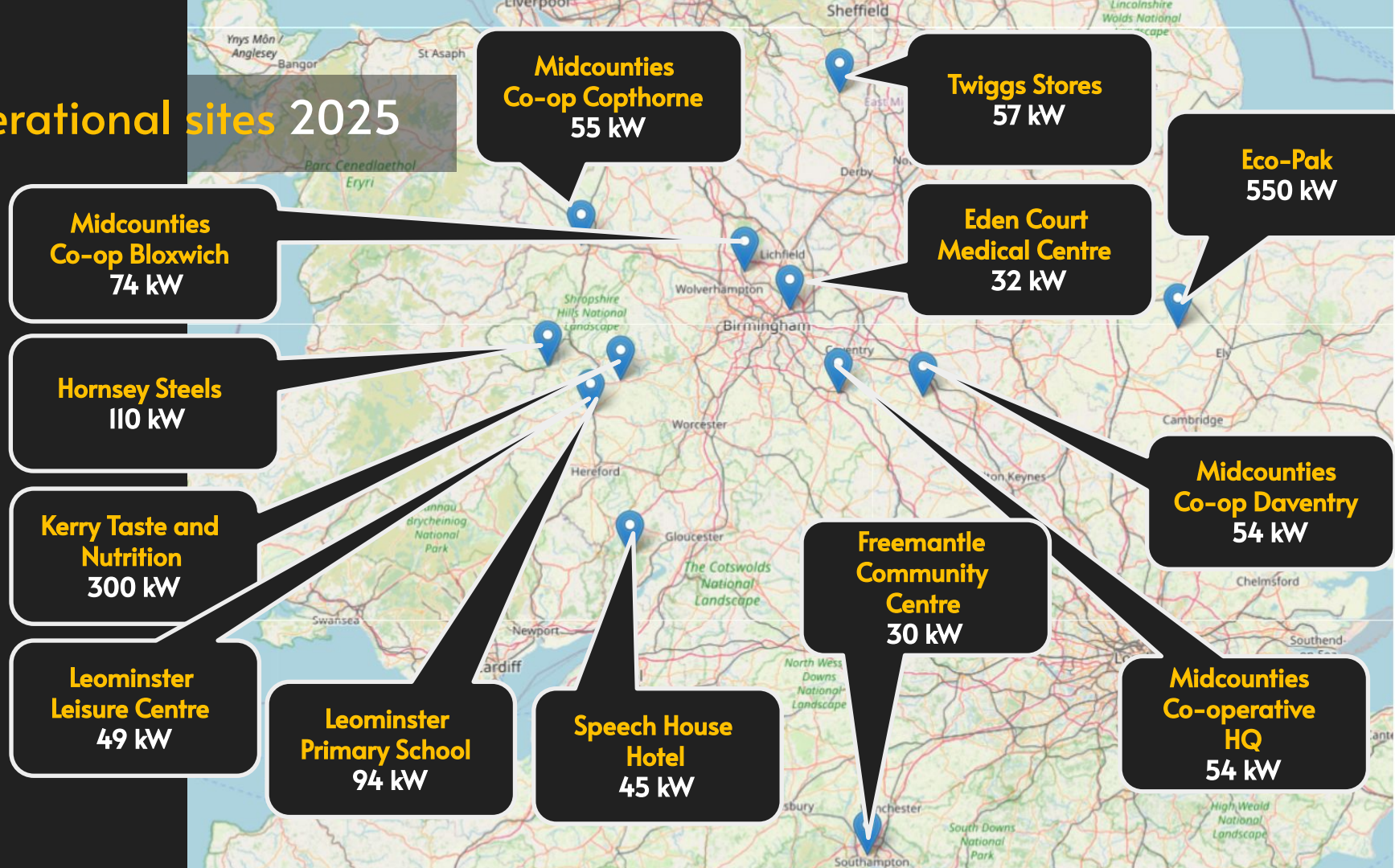
A close-up, low-angle shot of several solar panels. The panels are dark blue with a grid of thin, light-colored lines. The perspective is from below, looking up at the panels, which creates a sense of depth and scale. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the panels and the grid lines.

From startup to ramp up

Operational sites 2024



Operational sites 2025



Midcounties Co-op



Daventry



Bloxwich



Church Stretton

Hornsey Steels



Freemantle Community Centre



Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre



Mergers

Leominster Sunrise Co-op & Leominster Solar Co-op

- Transfer of engagements
- Members now Big Solar Coop members
- We take over running the array
- Members freed up to look for more sites locally

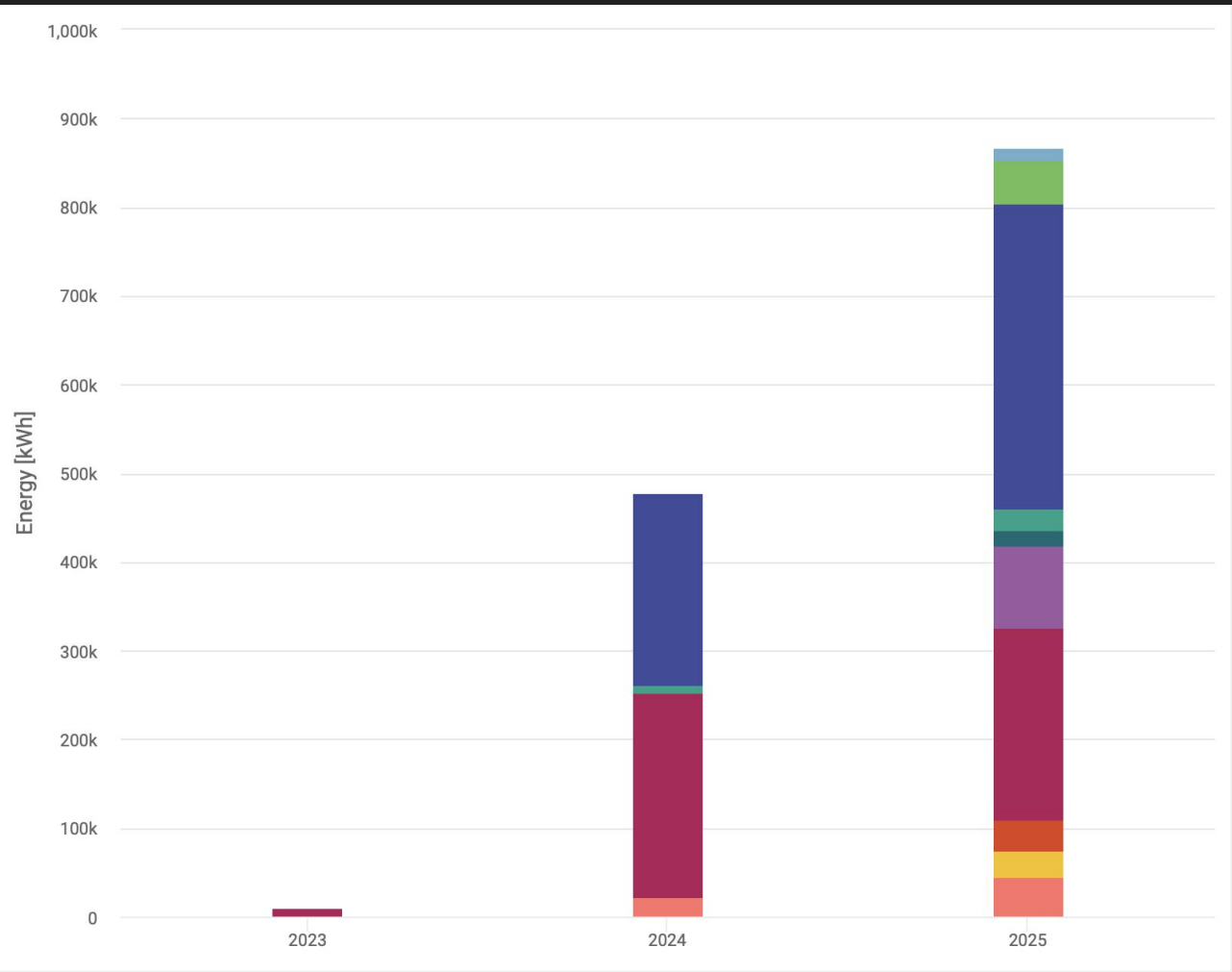
One other small solar co-op merging in
Birmingham.



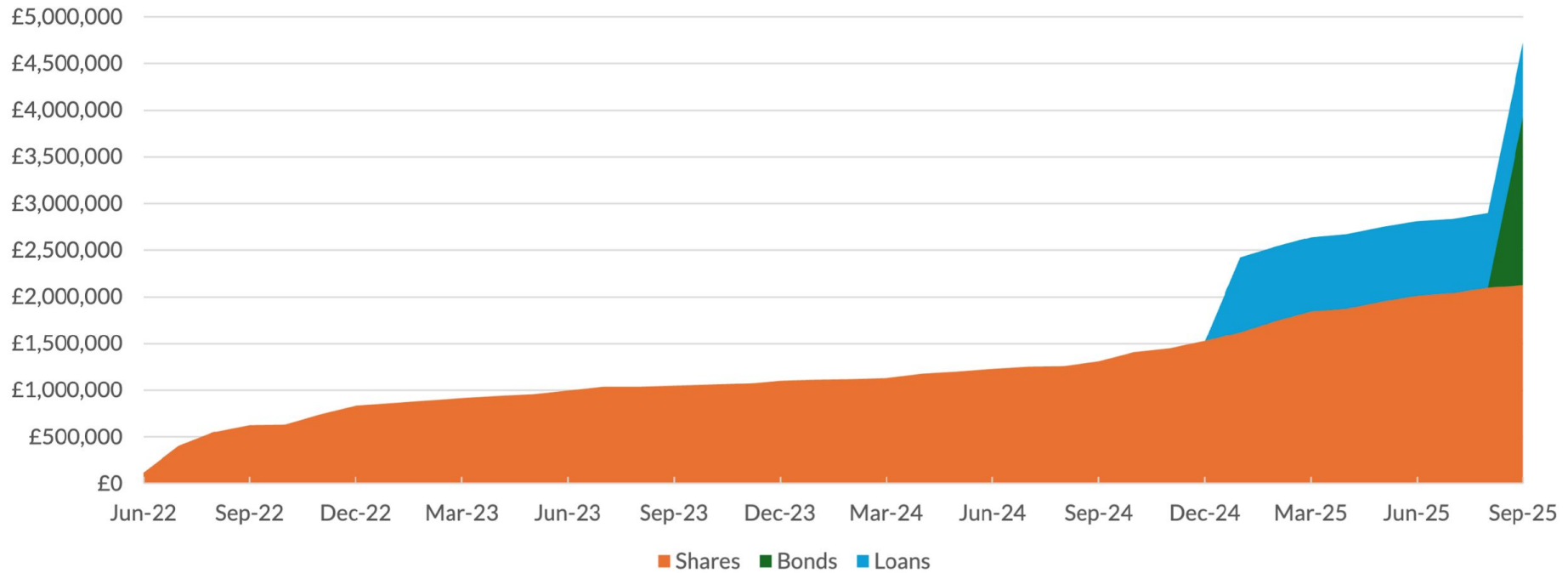
Sites for 2025/26

- Community and commercial sites.
- Aim to build 1-2 per month
- Rooftop sites from 30 kW to >1 MW
- Leisure centre, School, Golf club, Care home, Food packer, Visitor centre, Charity





Big Solar Co-op capital available





Grant funding



£55,000 to assess rooftop and ground-mount solar at agricultural college

£28,000 to research, implement, document second-life solar panels at Whiteborough

£30,000 for our new

Community Solar

Foundation course

Staff

Noël Lambert
Content & Community Lead



Jon Hallé
CEO



Jo Nicholson
Project Lead



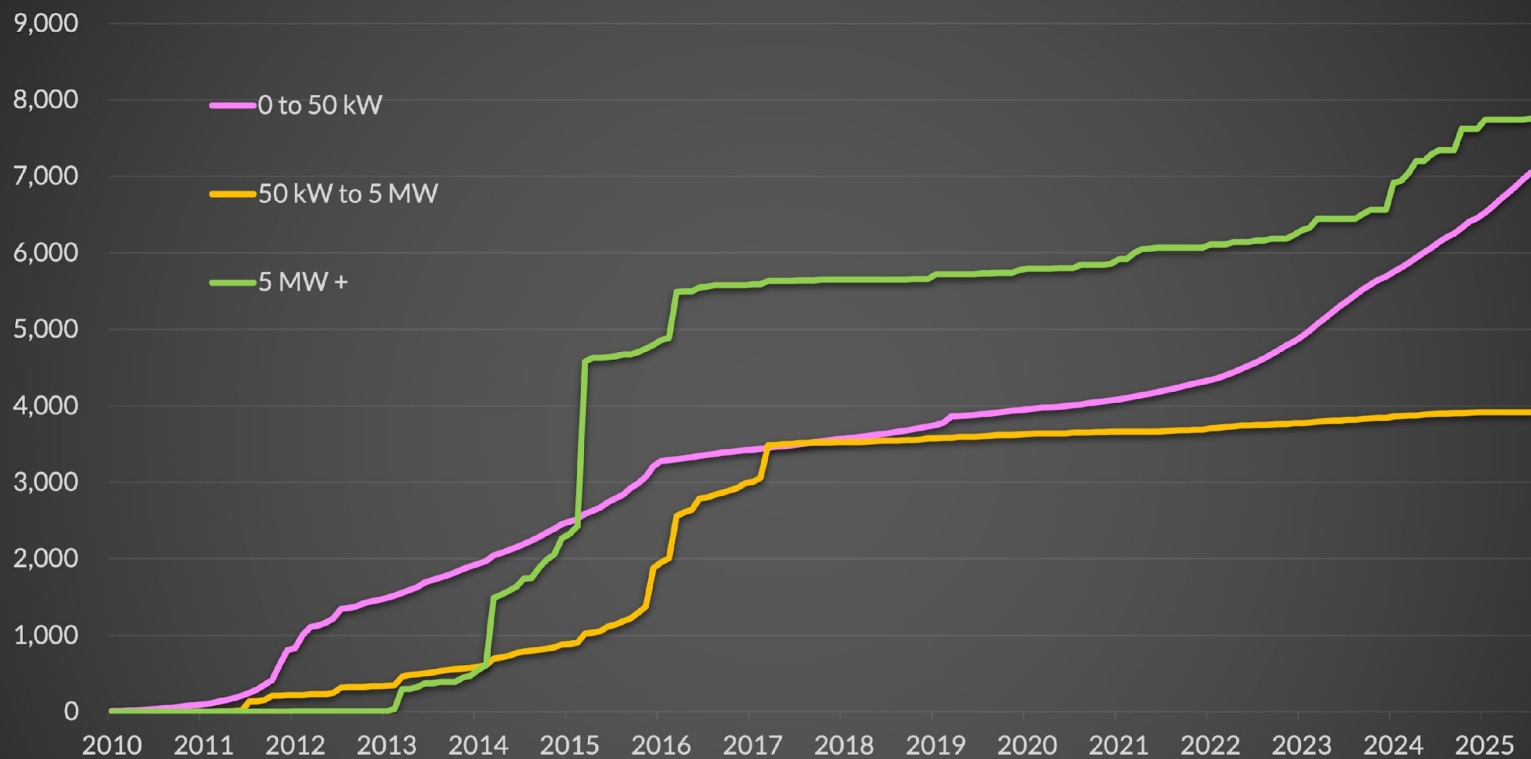
Chris Rigby
Technical Lead



Dean Hill
Client Lead



MWp of solar deployed in UK



Data source: DESNZ

SOLAR

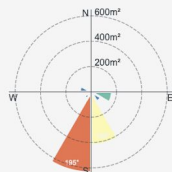
about

explore

DEAN'S YARD



LiDAR date: 2012
Map date: 2017



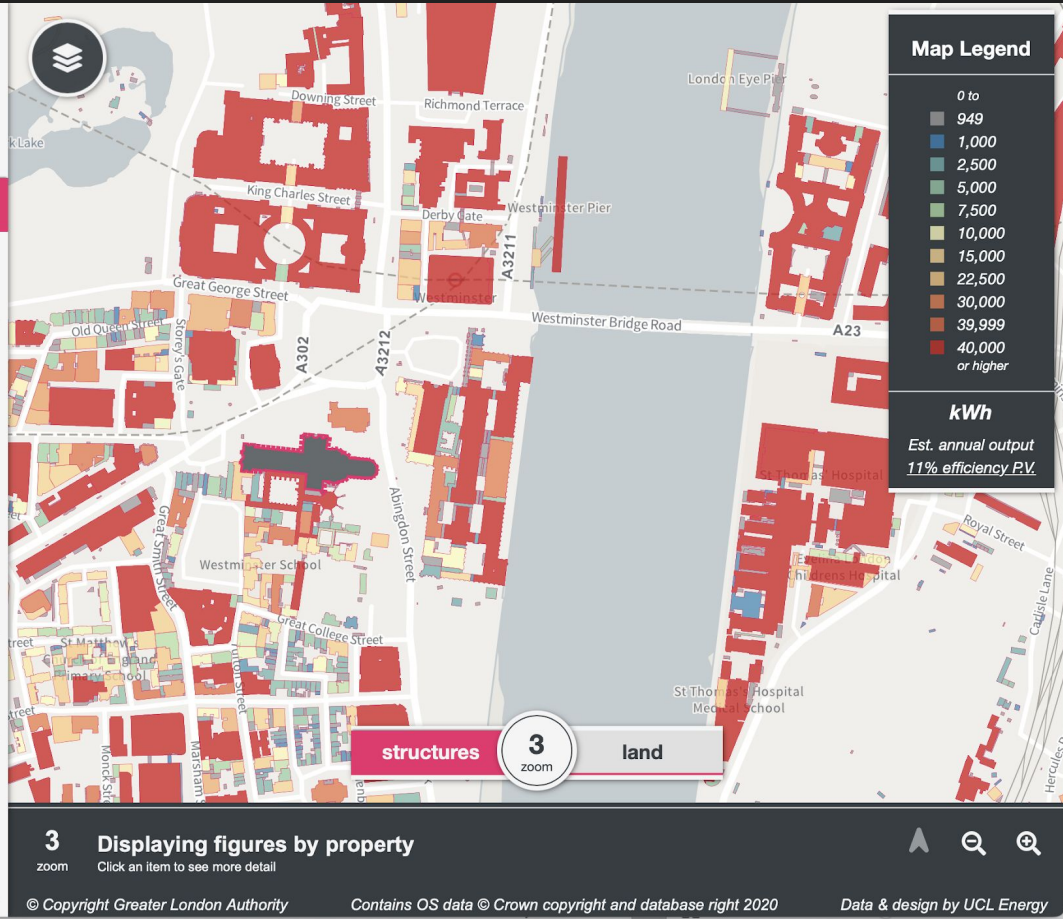
Potential by surface orientation
Viable area from 3D model in m²

159,821 kWh
Est. annual output

182 kWp
Est. installed potential

876 kWh m²
Avg. potential per m²

Hover over an item for additional information





Map Layers

Filters

About

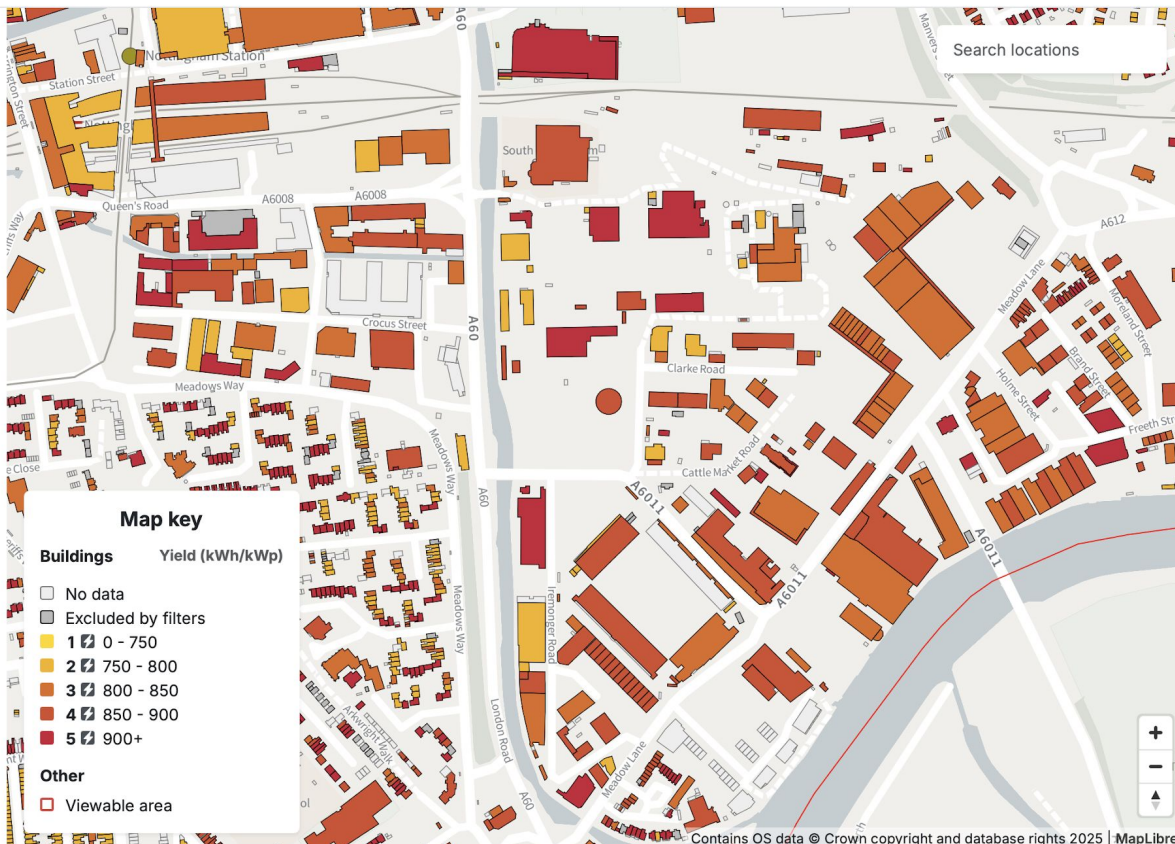
Licensing and attributions

Solar Wizard was developed by [CSE](#) with funding from [SBRJ](#).

By using this tool you are agreeing to comply with our [terms and conditions](#).

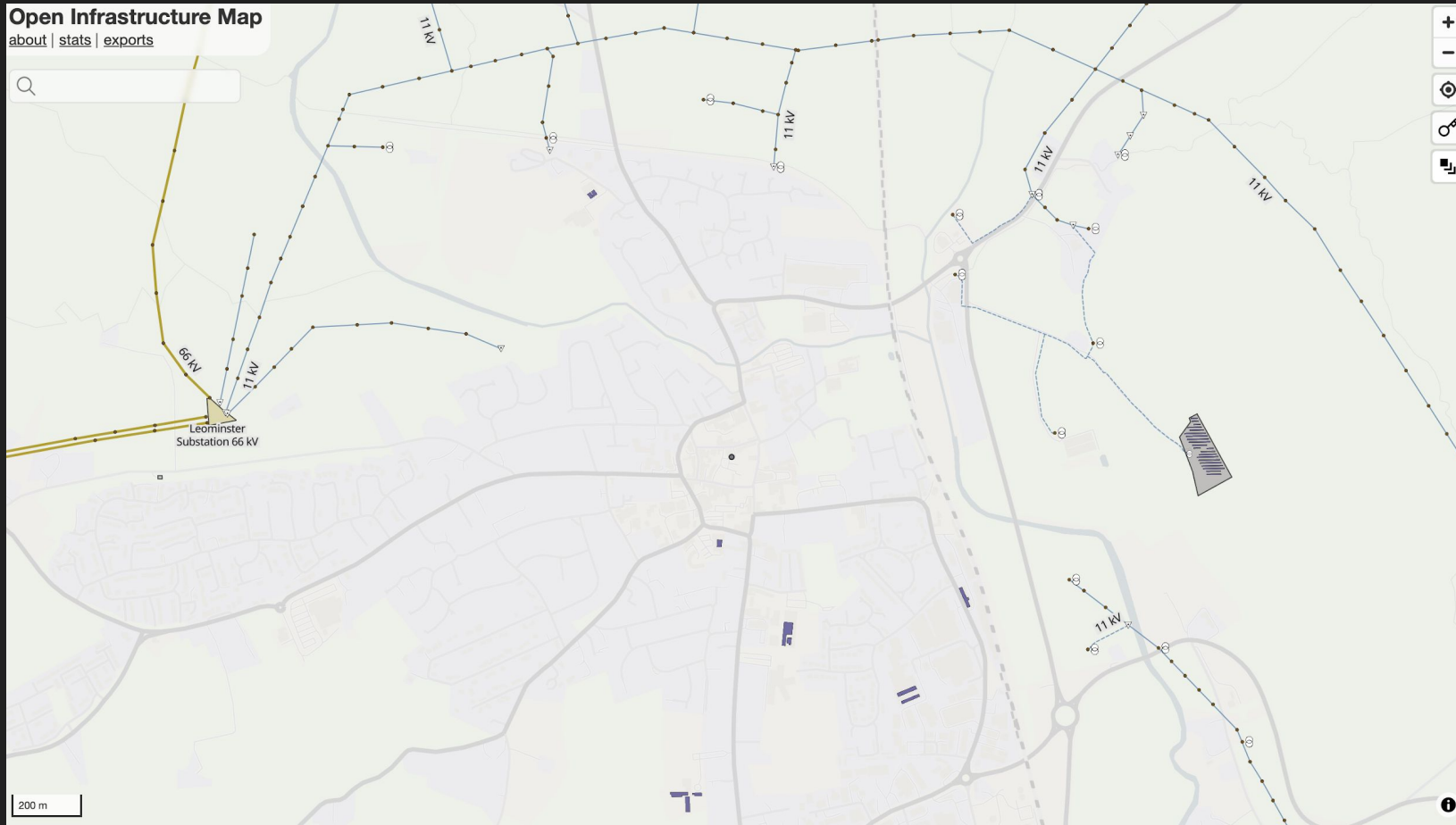
Solar Wizard PV suitability data was created using:

- Software and data from [PVGIS](#): PVGIS © European Communities, 2001-2025
- Data licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0. ([English LiDAR](#); [Scottish LiDAR](#); [Welsh LiDAR](#))
- Ordnance Survey data: © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 OS AC0000846502
GA number: AC0000822898



Open Infrastructure Map

[about](#) | [stats](#) | [exports](#)



Ethical solar

“many of the major Chinese producers of raw materials, solar-grade polysilicon, ingots and wafers ... are operating facilities in the Uyghur Region that have employed forced labour transfers of the indigenous people of the region”

IN BROAD DAYLIGHT

Uyghur Forced Labour and
Global Solar Supply Chains



LAURA T. MURPHY & NYROLA ELIMÄ

Sheffield Hallam University
Helena Kennedy
Centre for International Justice



6 years later

- Major manufacturers still cannot provide audited supply chains
- There is no significant EU manufacturer, and none that can provide clean supply
- US, Australia, Japan, EU and others have import ban in place. None planned for the UK

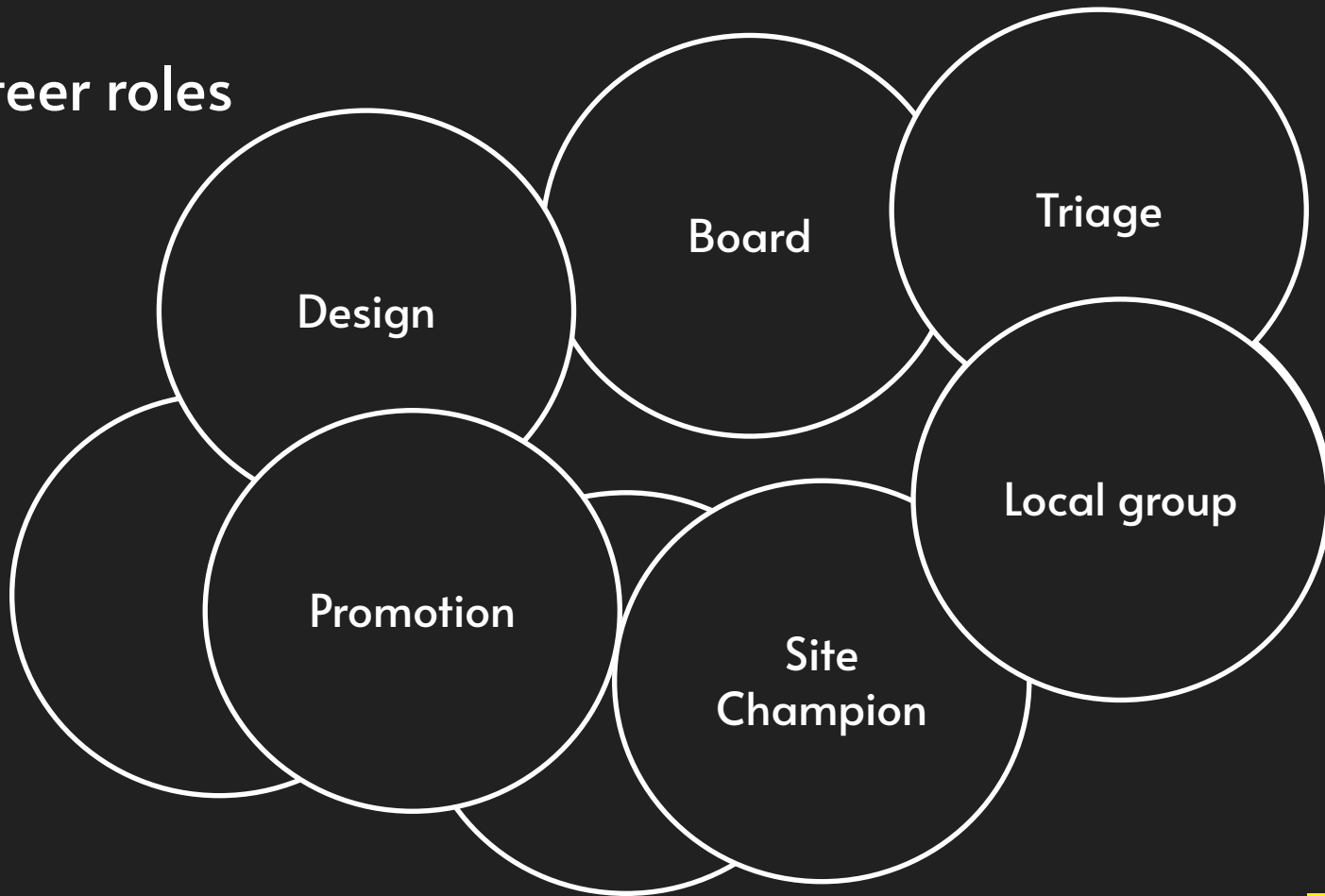
But...

- We're working with Community Energy England to influence policy
- There is enough 'clean' material to supply UK + EU if the will is there
 - ~60 GW current capacity in US, Germany, Malaysia
 - +~60 GW coming on line in US, India, Oman
- We can buy from REC (SE Asia) or Meyer Burger old stock

Volunteer Members



Volunteer roles



Michael Campbell



Site triage, Solar
design, Site finding

BIG SOLAR CO-OP FORUM

TOP CATEGORIES

	Topics	Replies
Sites	-	39
General	2	33
Volunteers	4	18
Events & Comms	-	16
Support	-	3

TOP BADGES

Member
Granted invitations, group messaging, more likes

Solar superstar
This Volunteer member has contributed time and effort on a site that now has operational solar!

New User of the Month
Outstanding contributions in their first month

Been there, got the tshirt
This Volunteer member has represented the Big Solar Co-op at at least one in person event.

Thank You
Has 20 liked posts and gave 10 likes

Appreciated
Received 1 like on 20 posts

Rex Chiu



Site triage, solar
Design

36
designs



Community Solar Foundation Course

- Unit 1: Introduction to Community Energy
- Unit 2: Solar Energy – Solar Technology
- Unit 3: Solar Energy – The Energy Market
- Unit 4: The Community Solar Business Model
- Unit 5: Stages of a Community Solar project
- Unit 6: Ongoing operations of solar projects
- Unit 7: Putting theory into practice



Net zero under threat

Net zero by 2050 is impossible.

I don't say that with pleasure. I want a better future and a better environment for our children. But we have to get real.

Anyone who has done any serious analysis knows it cannot be achieved without a significant drop in our living standards or worse, by bankrupting us.

Responsible leaders don't indulge in fictions which are going to make families poorer. Or mortgage their children's future.

Without the rest of the world doing the same, we are making our country less safe, less secure and less resilient.

Let me give you three truths at the heart of net zero.



Reform UK: Our Contract with You

NET ZERO

Net Zero is Crippling our Economy

Net Zero is pushing up bills, damaging British industries like steel, and making us less secure. We can protect our environment with more tree planting, more recycling and less single use plastics. New technology will help, but we must not impoverish ourselves in pursuit of unaffordable, unachievable global CO2 targets.

CRITICAL REFORMS NEEDED IN THE FIRST 100 DAYS:

Scrap Net Zero and Related Subsidies

Ditching Net Zero could save the public sector over £30 billion per year for the next 25 years.

Scrap Annual £10 Billion of Renewable Energy Subsidies

Achieve this through equivalent taxes on them. Renewables are not cheaper. Our bills have increased dramatically in line with the huge increase in renewables capacity over the last 15 years.

Cheap, Secure Energy for Britain

Start fast-track licences of North Sea gas and oil. Grant shale gas licences on test sites for 2 years. Enable major production when safety is proven, with local compensation schemes.

Thereafter:

Cleaner Energy from New Technology

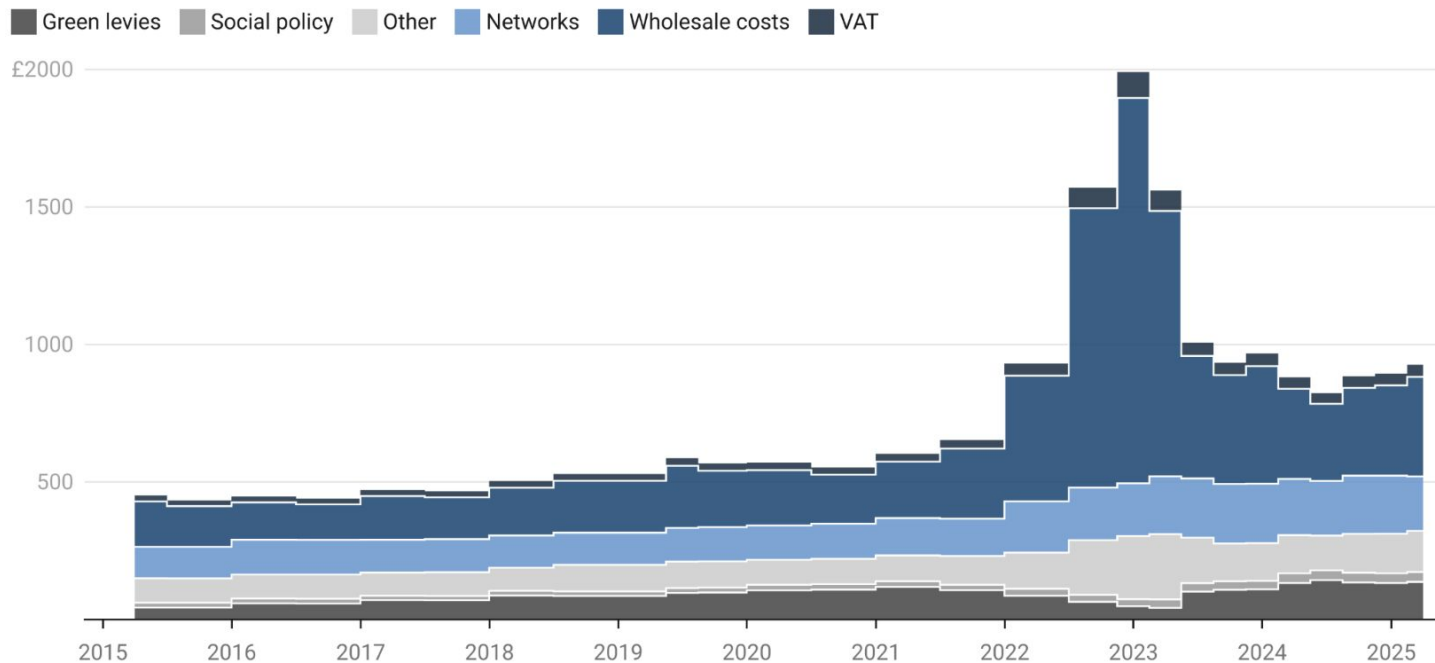
Fast-track clean nuclear energy with new Small Modular Reactors, built in Britain. Increase and incentivise ethical UK lithium mining for electric batteries, combined cycle gas turbines, clean synthetic fuel, tidal power and explore clean coal mining.

"Reform UK will scrap Net Zero to cut bills and restore growth."



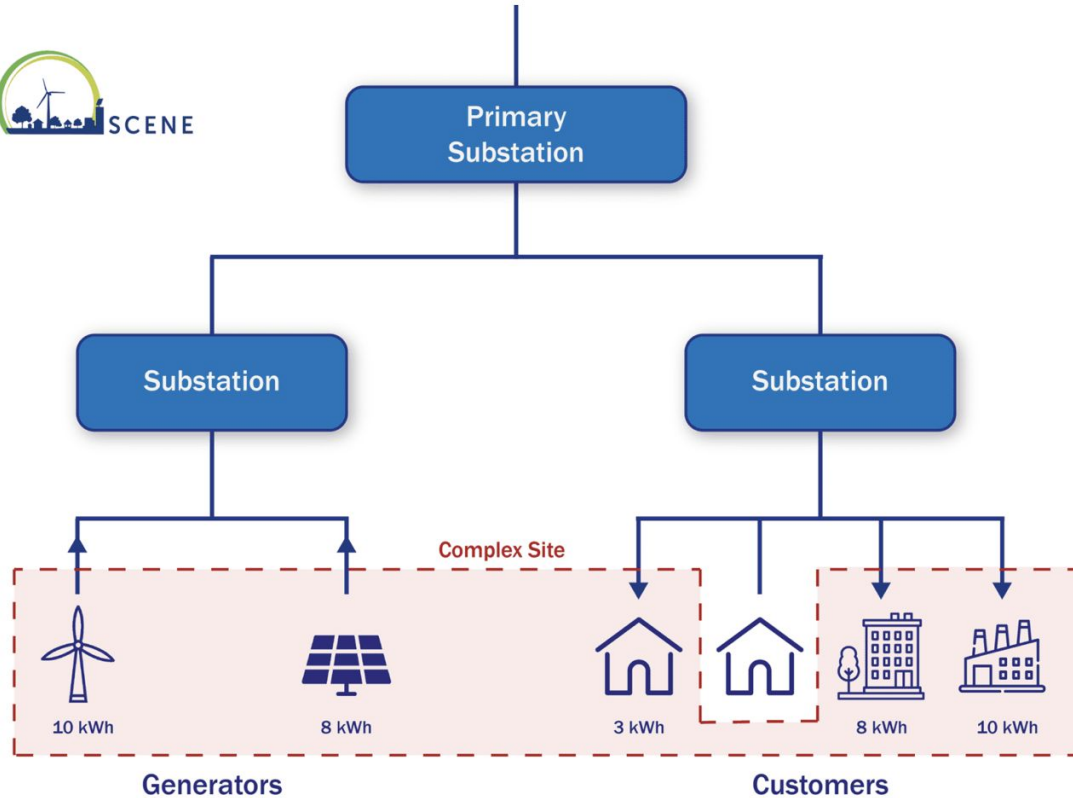
BIG SOLAR CO-OP

Why bills are increasing



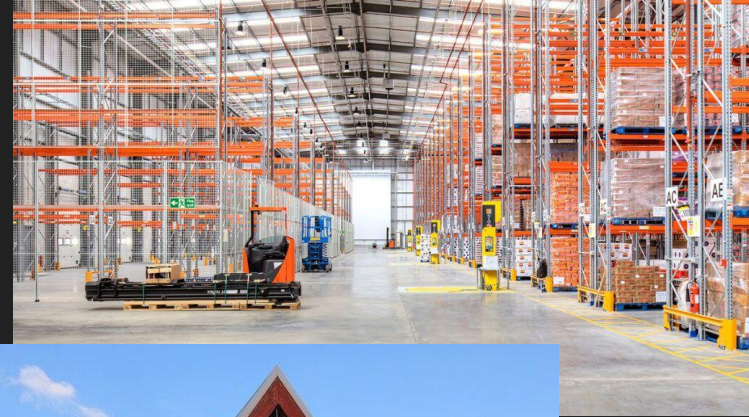
Source: Carbon Brief analysis of Ofgem data

CarbonBrief
CLEAR ON CLIMATE



New possibilities

- Decouple usage and generation?
- Create local tariffs?
- Direct benefit from net zero



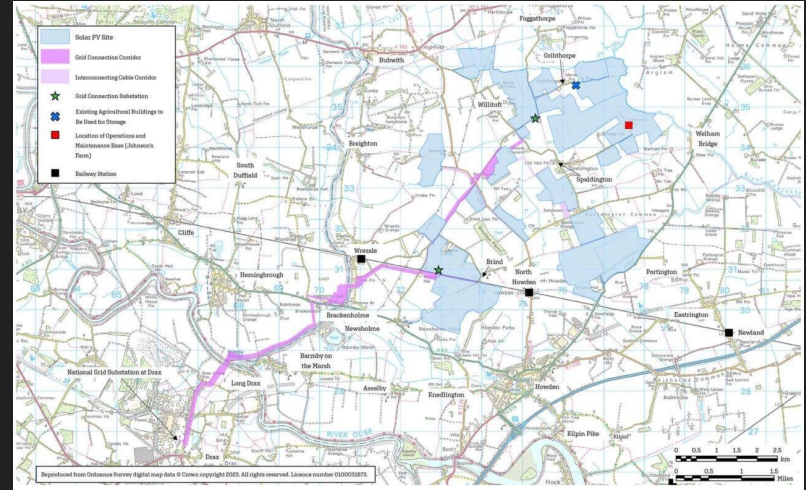
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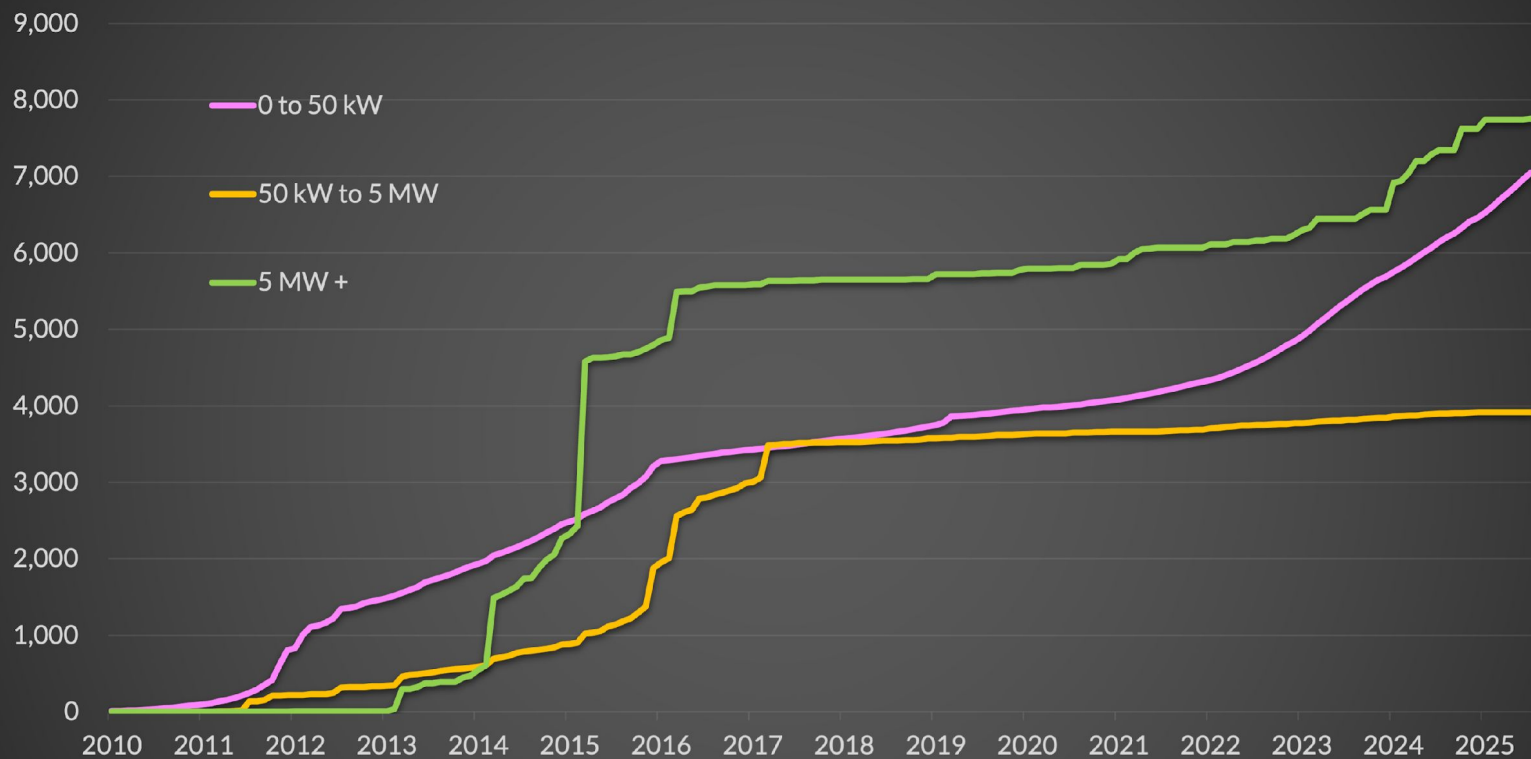


What's wrong with ground-mount solar?

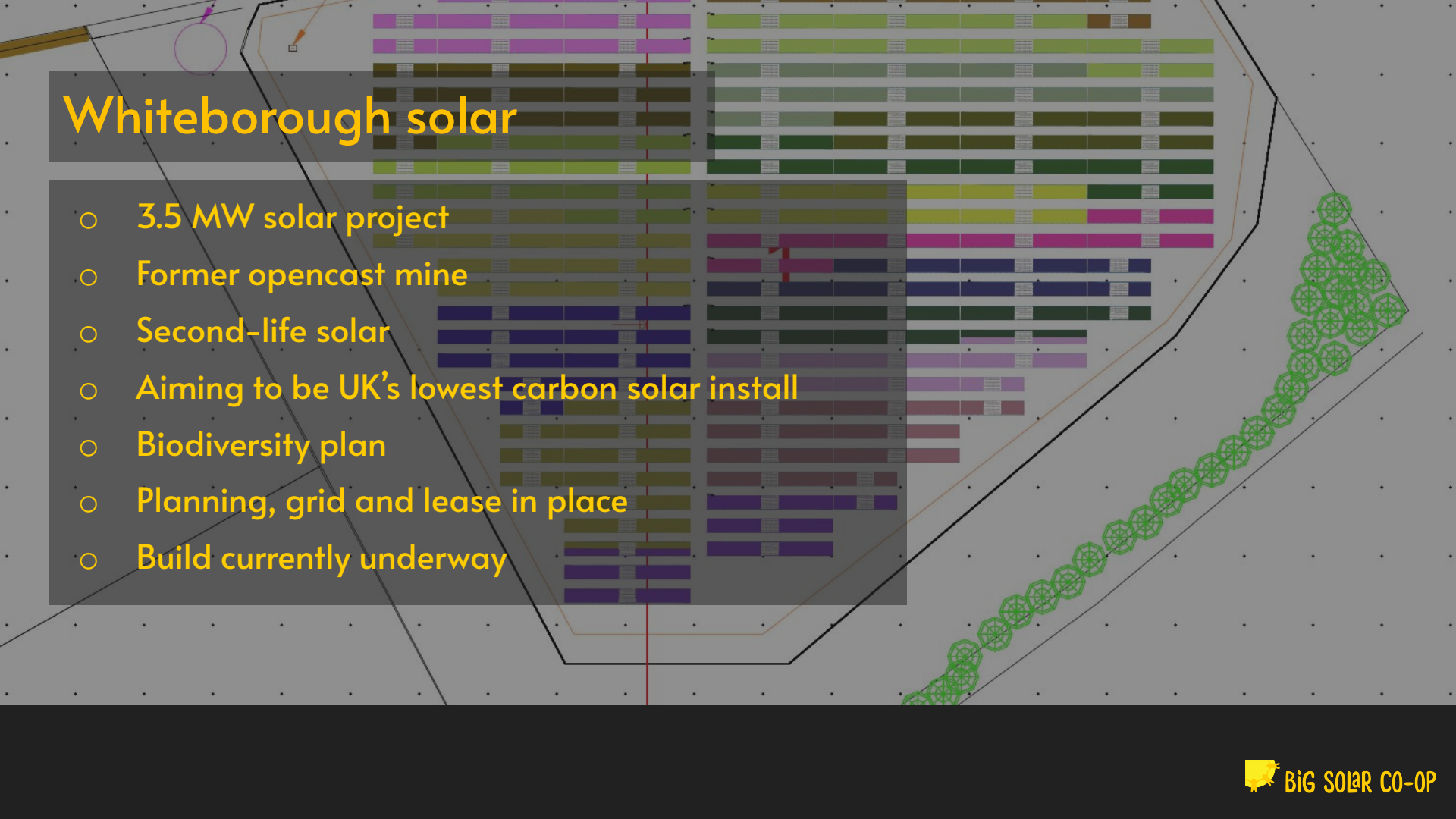
- Concerns about landscape and scale
- Loss of farmland
- Best use of grid?
- May still be worth it...



MWp of solar deployed in UK



Data source: DESNZ

An aerial map of the Whiteborough solar project site. The map shows a large rectangular area divided into a grid of smaller rectangular plots, each containing a small icon representing a solar panel. The plots are color-coded in various shades of green, purple, and brown. A winding road or path runs along the right side of the site. In the bottom right corner, there is a cluster of green circular icons, possibly representing trees or landscaping. The background is a light gray with a grid of small black dots.

Whiteborough solar

- 3.5 MW solar project
- Former opencast mine
- Second-life solar
- Aiming to be UK's lowest carbon solar install
- Biodiversity plan
- Planning, grid and lease in place
- Build currently underway

Whiteborough solar

