

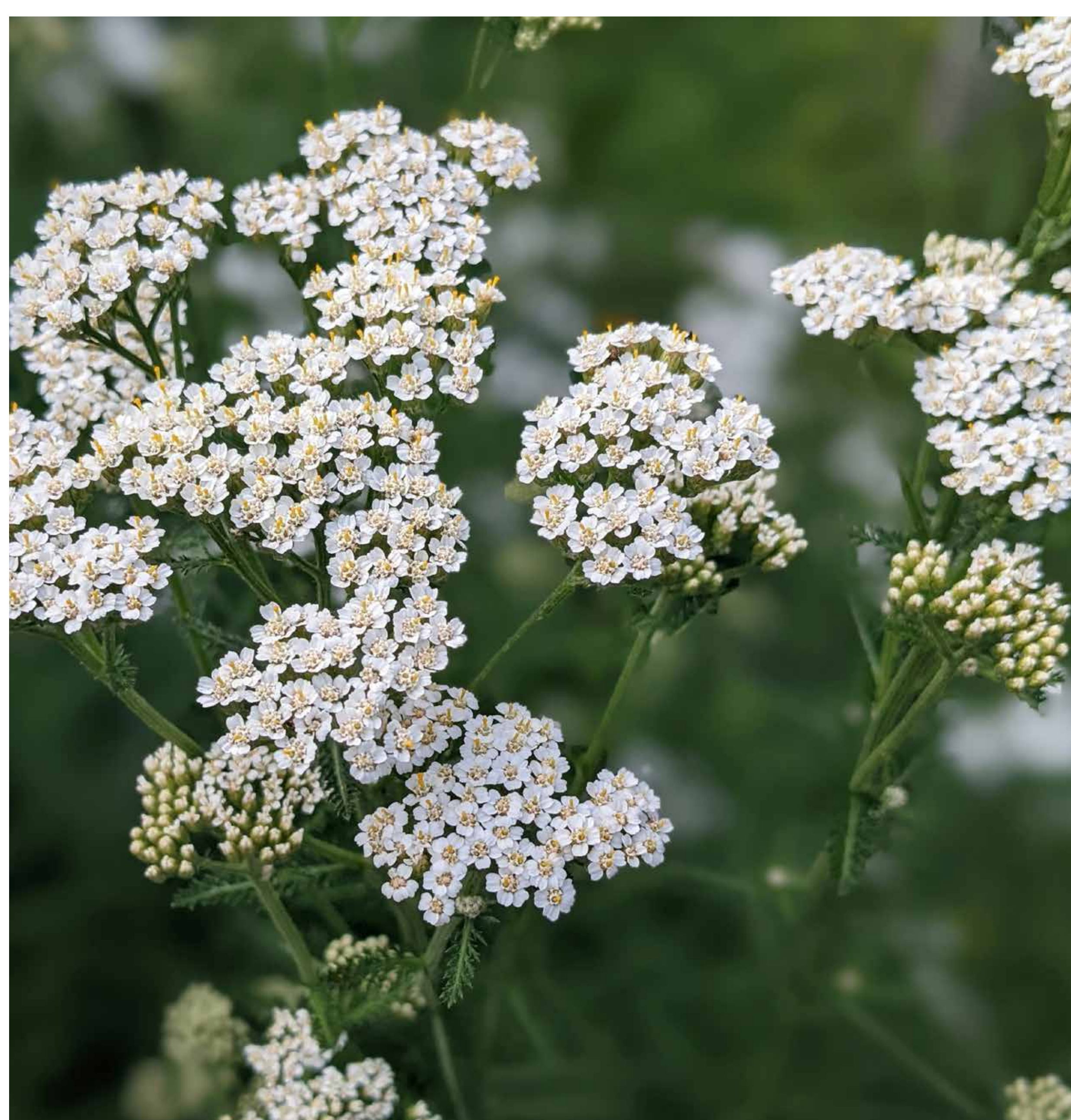
Biodiversity net gain

West Springfield Solar Farm and BESS will conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity following national and local guidance.

Bats

We aim to be bat-friendly. To support bats around the site we will:

- follow the most recent NatureScot guidance about bats and solar farms;
- create commuting corridors, stand-off distances from woodland and supplement vegetation and hedging to support connectivity with woodland stands; and
- undertake static bat detector surveys in spring/ summer to determine how bats use the site. We'll submit the results for this after our application, which will allow time for consideration and implementation before construction.



Fish

We've undertaken fish habitat surveys on the Rankeilour Burn up to the River Eden. These are focused on protected fish species. The results of these will be included in our final application.



Birds

To benefit breeding birds and species like barn owls, we will:

- seed a wildflower and grass mix within the site that is appropriate to the local area;
- create a strip between the solar panels and fencing, ideally around four metres wide, and leave it mostly unmanaged. This will create different heights of grasses, which is good for hunting;
- fill hedgerow gaps with appropriate native species; and
- keep existing log piles to provide shelter for reptiles and amphibians.

If you have any comments or questions about any aspect of the project please talk to a member of the project team or visit our website.

