

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why have you chosen this location?

An extensive site selection process was undertaken to find the most appropriate, feasible location for the proposed development. Parameters such as agricultural land quality, distance from existing grid infrastructure, field patterns/topography and environmental and landscape sensitivity were all considered. A site selection report will accompany the full application to elaborate on this process and outline the deciding factors.



Are solar farms noisy?

No. Certain elements such as the inverters generate a barely perceptible hum, however this is only during the day when electricity is being produced. Furthermore these elements of the development will be located towards the centre of the site, away from sensitive receptors as to further mitigate any impact. The solar panel tracking modules generate insignificant levels of noise.

How long will construction take?

Construction is estimated to take approximately 24 weeks. The later stages of the construction focus on implementing site beautification and wildlife enhancements strategies. Construction will also follow a strict protocol to ensure no unacceptable short term impacts are incurred.



How much traffic will there be?

During construction there will be an average of 6 HGV movements per day (3 HGV arrivals plus 3 HGV departures). These movements will be conducted following a strict management protocol, and undertaken at sociable hours to avoid unacceptable impacts.

What is the lifetime of the project?

The solar farm will be operational for up to 40 years, after which it will be decommissioned, de-constructed and the site will return to its previous use.

Will the project impact wildlife?

Not at all. Thanks to the carefully designed layout and incorporation of ecological improvement areas, there will be a substantial overall biodiversity net gain at this site. All existing trees, hedgerows and ditches will be preserved and over 5 acres of wild-flower meadows and more than 1 km of new hedgerow will be planted. Further to this, 2-4 bee hives will be installed alongside log piles and bird boxes throughout the site.



Where will it be visible from?

Viewpoints from around the site can be seen on the website home page. These were taken from publicly accessible areas within a Zone of Theoretical Visibility. This zone of Theoretical Visibility doesn't incorporate foliage/screening features like trees. Due to the extensive hedges and trees around the site it is only visible from 2 of the 7 viewpoints, and this is being mitigated through planting.

Will the development make the site 'brownfield'?

The proposed solar farm will be a temporary development, so the land will return to its original status. The land will remain a greenfield site throughout the developments life, and after it is decommissioned. Furthermore the landowner will be able to continue pastoral farming in and around the panels, and further to this the soil quality is likely to improve due to a pause in intensive arable farming.



CONSULTATION INFORMATION AND CONTACT DETAILS

JBM Solar is consulting with the local community on proposals for a new solar farm and battery energy storage facility on land at Eastfields Farm, Southam.

The online public consultation will run until **18th June** and can be viewed using the link below. Comments provided by the local community will be taken into account in shaping the final planning application submission. Please provide any comments you have on the proposal via the website.

Website Link: <http://eastfields.consultationspace.com/>

You can contact the team directly via email:

Contact: Robin Johnson
Email: robin.johnson@jbm-solar.com

Tel: 07901270413
Address: FAO Eastfields Solar Project RPS, 20 Western Avenue, Milton Park, Oxfordshire, OX11 7SL

EASTFIELDS SOLAR FARM

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION



THE COMPANY

Established in 2012, the JBM Solar team has a proven track record of developing solar farms in the UK and Ireland. JBM has secured planning permission for more than 480MW of solar projects across both countries.

JBM is focused on providing clean solar energy and helping to de-carbonise the UK and Ireland's electricity generation.

Whilst there is currently no statutory requirement to engage the community on local projects such as this, JBM prides itself on understanding the views of local residents and constituents in order to improve the proposals based on local knowledge and input.



THE PROPOSAL & LOCATION

JBM Solar intends to apply for planning permission for the installation of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) farm, battery storage and associated infrastructure on approximately 150 acres of land at Eastfields Farm, Southam, CV47 2ST.



THE PROJECT

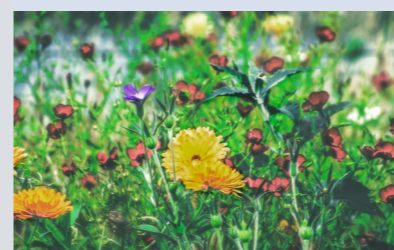
The Proposed Solar PV Farm would provide power for an equivalent of 7,500 homes per year and comprise:

- solar panels mounted on tracking modules, with co-located battery storage.
- central inverter stations.
- implementation of over 1 km of hedgerow planting and over 5 acres of wild- flower meadow.
- creation of 2-4 bee hives, to increase pollination in the area.
- perimeter security fencing (deer fencing).
- CCTV security cameras.
- internal access tracks from the site entrance and temporary construction lay-down area.



KEY BENEFITS

- Clean and renewable energy source
- Energy storage supports the integration of more renewables and supports the drive to de-carbonisation
- Positive contribution to UK and international targets for net carbon neutrality
- An opportunity for rural diversification without preventing pastoral agriculture
- An opportunity to improve the biodiversity of the site through measures such as including 5 acres of wild-flower meadows and over 1 km of hedgerow planting
- An opportunity to help achieve a biodiversity net gain in excess of 30%



Over 5 acres of Wild-flower Meadows



Bird boxes and shelters across the site



Clean and renewable energy source



Implementation of 2-4 Bee Hives

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

At the western edge of the site, a public footpath briefly enters the site boundary. This footpath will not only remain open, but be improved. Wild-flower planting will be implemented along the footpath and hedgerow planting will help to screen the view of the panels.



BATTERY STORAGE

This allows electricity that is generated by the solar panels during daylight hours to be stored and then used at a later time when needed.



The site will have a capacity of **up to 25MW**



The solar farm would generate enough electricity **for 7,500 houses** per annum and save **54,000 tonnes** of CO2 equivalent.



Creation of **50 construction jobs** with a capital investment of approx **£20m**



Plans to install **2-4 bee hives** on site along with log-piles and insect hotels



JBM intend to implement measures to help achieve a biodiversity net in **excess of 30%**

LANDSCAPING

Existing hedgerows and vegetation will be protected and enhanced; new, native species hedgerows will be planted. This will aid in screening the proposed development from nearby viewpoints as well as integrating the site into the surrounding countryside.



AGRICULTURAL LAND QUALITY

An Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) assessment has been conducted at the site and concluded that the land is classed as Grade 3b and therefore of only moderate quality.

ACCESS

Access to the site would be from the B4452 via use of an existing farm entrance and track. This entrance would be used during construction, and then very infrequently thereafter to maintain the site and its ecological enhancements. A Construction Traffic Management Plan will be produced for the application to ensure safe movement of construction traffic in relation to the entrance.



GRID CONNECTION

A cable will run to the nearby substation south of deppers bridge.

TRACKING PANELS

The solar panels will track the sun's movement across the sky. This increases the overall efficiency of the solar farm and allows for greater energy production compared to fixed panels occupying the same area.

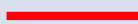
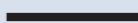

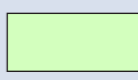





BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

The site will boast a biodiversity Net Gain above and beyond that which is considered the 'acceptable' level. A dedicated space for wild-flower meadow, new hedgerow planting, log piles and beehives will be implemented to ensure wildlife is able to thrive at the site.



KEY

-  Site
-  Site Access
-  Solar Panels
-  Improved Grassland Meadow
-  Wild-flower Meadow
-  Hedge
-  Hedge /Tree Planting