

Bypass Solar Farm

Introduction

This form provides information related to a planning application for a solar farm on land to the south of the A1 bypass near Foston.

The website will act as a point of information and contact throughout the application process. Updates on the progress of the application will be published on this page and relevant documentation will also be made available.

Interested parties are invited to engage throughout the process and comments can be submitted to the applicant via **planning@bypassfarmsolar.com**

Due to the impacts of Covid 19 it is not currently feasible to undertake face to face public engagements. Therefore, we will provide a platform for public consultation, providing information for all interested parties to consider.

Questions and feedback can be provided via the above contact details and the website will remain operational throughout the planning process.



The Proposal

The proposed solar farm seeks to provide green energy for over 15,000 homes and save over 21,000 tonnes of CO2 per annum.

It will enable a group of local landowners to diversify their agricultural enterprise and help secure their livelihood during uncertain times for farming communities.

The project would use the remaining capacity available on the 132kV overhead line between Grantham North and Staythorpe.

There is no additional capacity available in this area of the electricity network.

The site is located on agricultural land abutting the southern edge of the A1 Foston Bypass. The land is of low agricultural value and the scheme would provide an enhancement to the biodiversity of the area.

Under the proposals the site could be grazed in order to maintain some agricultural use of the land. The plans have been carefully prepared, taking account of important ecological features and the visual impact of the scheme.



Why this site?

The process of selecting a site for solar farm development is based upon a detailed desktop analysis to identify sites in proximity to available grid capacity and a suitable grid connection point.

When focusing in on an area we potential sites are then selected based on the lowest impact on landscape and other visual receptors, the quality of the agricultural land, potential impacts on heritage assets, and impacts on local ecology.

For this particular project, the applicant was able to access to land directly beneath the overhead line at the site, but this was discounted in order to avoid direct views from Westborough and Foston.

A large block of land to the west of Foston was also discounted as it would have been directly overlooked by many properties in the village, and was also of a higher agricultural quality.

The land to the south of the A1 Bypass was selected to ensure that the project does not impact on the character of the countryside directly around the villages of Westborough and Foston, and because the landowners involved informed us early on that this was their lowest quality farming land, which a detailed ALC survey has since confirmed a grading of 3B.



Key Interesting Facts

Solar Farms

Generate electricity locally and feed into the local electricity grid using a free source of energy (the sun) to generate electricity on bright cloudy days as well as in direct sunlight.

For every 5MW installed, a solar farm will power over 1,500 homes annually (based on an average annual consumption of 3,300 kWh of electricity for a house) and save 2,150 tonnes of CO2. Approximately 25 acres of land is required for every 5 megawatts (MW) of installation.

They represent time-limited, reversible land use and provide an increased, diversified and stable source of income for landowners.

They may have dual purpose usage with sheep or other animals grazing between rows, and can help to support biodiversity by allowing small animals access to otherwise fenced-off land, with bird and insect fodder plants and wildflowers sown around the modules.

If 10,000MW of solar was installed on the ground, it would only use 0.1% of UK agricultural land area, whilst being able to generate enough electricity for over 3 million homes.

There are no moving parts, and maintenance is minimal compared to other technologies.

There is no by-product or waste generated, except during manufacturing or dismantling.

They have lower visual and environmental impacts than other forms of power generation.

Renewables give consumers the choice of buying green electricity and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

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