Green Farm Solar Park

Introduction

This document provides information related to a planning application for a solar farm on agricultural land to the north of the Barkestone.

This 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@green-farmsolar.com

Due to the impacts of Covid 19 it is not currently feasible to undertake face to face public engagements. Therefore, the website 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 21,500 tonnes of CO2 per annum.

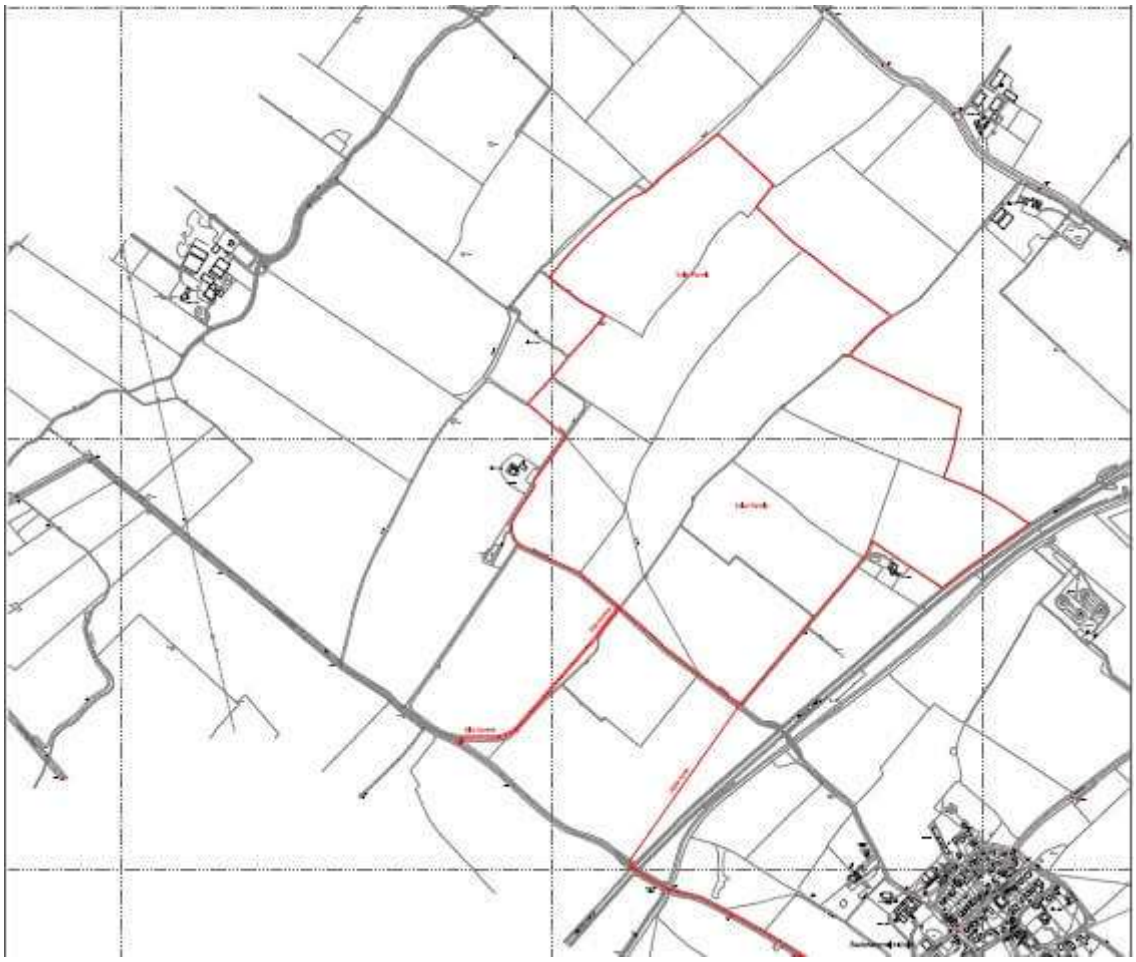
The project will allow the landowner to diversify their income which will help contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of their wider landholdings.

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

The site is located on agricultural land that 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.

The Site



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, 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.

In this case the site is located on land which is not within any nationally or locally designated landscape. It is also relatively flat agricultural land which follows best practice in terms of ensuring the proposals do not cause unacceptable visual impact.

The site is outside any nature conservation areas (including SSSI) and not within the setting of any designated heritage assets. Of critical importance, the site is in viable proximity of a grid connection to a power line with capacity to accept the additional power and distribute throughout the local area.

The site is therefore very well suited to the proposal.

Why do we need a solar farm?

To combat the effects of climate change, to meet important European targets on renewable energy deployment and secure home grown energy without reliance on volatile foreign energy markets.

We have identified this site as a potentially suitable location for a renewable energy development which can contribute positively to the UKs transition from imported fossil fuels to home grown de-carbonised green energy and help to reverse the effects of climate change and protect future generations.

Does planning policy support solar farms?

The Government strongly supports the deployment of renewable energy.

National Planning Policy (NPPF) states (154) “When determining planning applications for renewable and low carbon development, local planning authorities should not require applicants to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low carbon energy and recognise that even small-scale projects provide a valuable contribution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions.”

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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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