
FIRSFIELD SOLAR FARM

PUBLIC CONSULTATION | 2021

BOOM-POWER.CO.UK

BOOM
POWER

**BUILD.
OWN.
OPERATE.
MAINTAIN.**



CONEY WESTON

BARNINGHAM

BARDWELL ROAD

INTRODUCTION.

Boom Power is proposing to develop a solar farm on approximately 96 hectares of land forming part of Euston Estate, located to the East of Firsfield, Bardwell, Suffolk, at the postcode IP31 1BB.

The project could have up to a generating capacity of 46.8 megawatts [MWp] for distribution to the national grid. This is equivalent to the annual electrical needs of approximately 13,727 family homes across West Suffolk. The anticipated CO₂e displacement is around 20,945 tonnes per year, which represents an emission saving equivalent of a reduction in 6,926 cars on the road every year. It is important to note that this project is non subsidised, therefore requires no government funding.

WHY HERE?

The site has been carefully selected as part of a detailed feasibility process. Consideration has been given to a number of things including: Residential amenity, grid capacity, solar irradiation, environmental designations, cultural heritage, ecology, biodiversity, flood risk and agricultural quality.

Detailed studies are being carried out by technical specialists to inform the final scheme design and respond to each of these points.

BENEFITS OF FIRSFIELD SOLAR FARM.

The main benefits of the development proposed are summarised below.

It will assist **West Suffolk Council's climate emergency declaration made in 2019 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions** to align with local, national and international targets.

The council's vision is to make West Suffolk **completely carbon neutral by 2030**.

The project will contribute to the UK's urgent need to transition to a **low carbon future** by producing renewable energy to enable energy security and self-sufficiency in the local area.

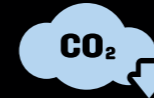
Compared to arable farming, a solar farm can provide the land with multiple uses. Solar farms can support a **biodiversity net gain** by providing an overall increase in natural habitat and ecological features which will allow flora and fauna to actively thrive (visit solarenergyuk.org/solar-energy).

This is a **temporary development** and a successful planning consent would require the land to be returned to its current condition. A solar farm has an **average life span of 35-40** years.

The anticipated construction period will be approximately **9 months**.

Local highway restrictions will be followed and HGV routing will be agreed with the Highway Authority, **avoiding minor roads and villages** where possible.

A solar farm is **minimally invasive** and allows land to **lie fallow** which delivers wildlife, soil quality and ecological benefits.



20,945

TONNES OF CO₂e PREVENTED PER YEAR*



13,727

FAMILY HOMES POWERED PER YEAR*



997,381

TREE'S OFFSET PER YEAR*



6,926

CAR REDUCTION PER YEAR*

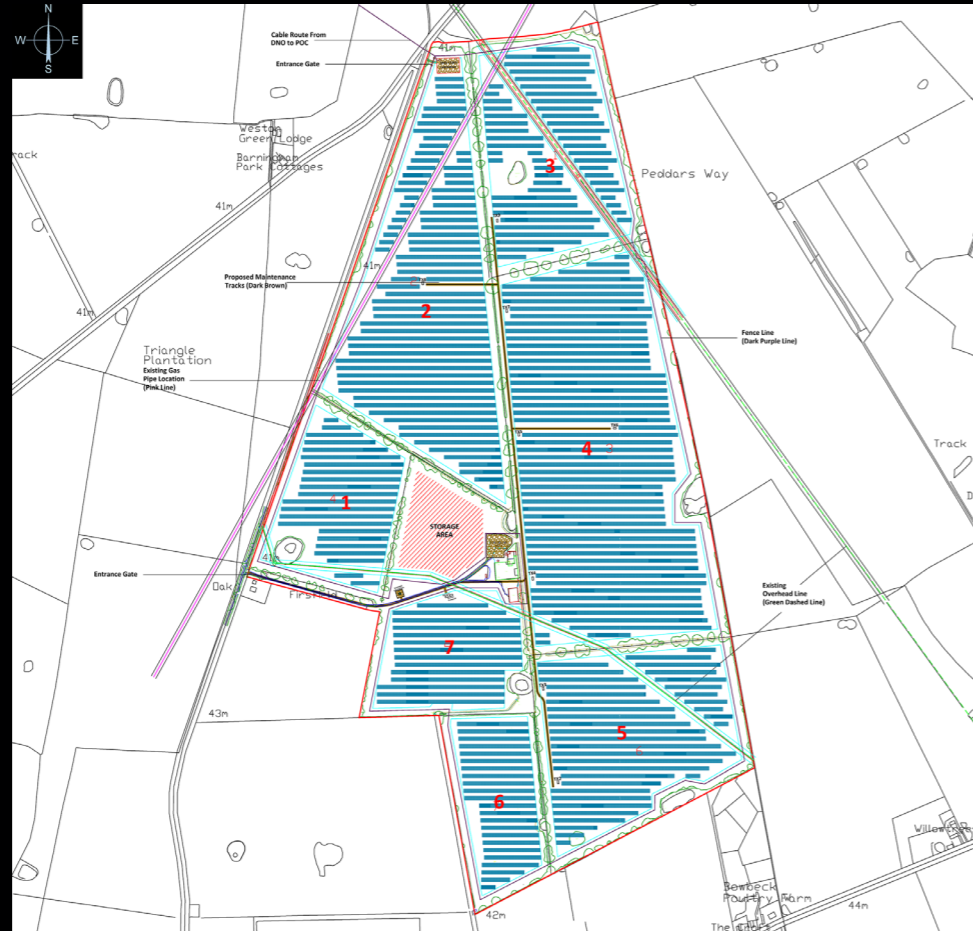


* Statistics shown are equivalent values based on the potential energy produced from the PV solar at the proposed Firsfield Solar Farm development.

DESIGN.

The proposed development will use bi-facial solar modules. Bi-facial modules absorb sunlight from both sides as opposed to just one. Therefore, they can convert the light that is reflected behind the panel to increase the total energy production.

The battery storage system will consume any excess power generated from the PV solar array to supply the electricity network when peak energy demand requires it most. This addition helps make the renewable energy output of the solar farm a secure and reliable part of the UK energy supply.



Above: Evolving concept design for Firsfield Solar Farm (not to scale).

CLIMATE CHANGE & ECOLOGY.

According to the UN, climate change is the 'defining crisis of our time and it is happening even more quickly than we feared'. We have to create more renewable energy.

The UK Government has committed to reducing economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions by at least 68 percent by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. In addition to this, the Government has made a legal commitment to cut carbon emissions to net zero by 2050. This will require a rapid and expanded deployment of low carbon power, including solar.

We recognise the importance of environmental protection and betterment as part of our commitment to operating sustainably and responsibly. We procure independent qualified ecologist advice to measure the biodiversity value of each project, and to design enhancements to deliver a net biodiversity gain. At our solar farms, this generally results in improvements to natural habitats for a range of invertebrates, small mammals, reptiles and birds.

Arable land is generally intensively farmed which can have an adverse impact on soil quality over time. The transition to grassland, introduction of areas of meadow around the external fencing and sheep grazing allows the soil quality to improve. This also provides suitable habitat and food sources for wildlife throughout the food chain. Significant benefits are also gained through the eradication of fertilizer and pesticide use, advancing the quality of both land and waterways.





ABOUT US.

Boom Power has experience combining world class technology with industry leading expertise to deliver international solar infrastructure projects. Our ambition is underpinned by the formation of long-standing partnerships with one primary objective - to work in balance with nature to harvest our energy sustainably, shaping the world for future generations.

726

MEGAWATTS CONSTRUCTED

450,000

AVG HOMES POWERED PER YEAR

856

MEGAWATTS DEVELOPED

950,000

TONNES OF CO₂ PREVENTED PER YEAR

OUR MISSION.

- ✓ Contribute towards a sustainable economy through the production of renewable energy
- ✓ Aid in the repair of our planet through our environmentally friendly and biodiverse approach
- ✓ Adopt the latest technologies to ensure we deliver pioneering projects
- ✓ Retain the ecological footprint of land post-development
- ✓ Build partnerships with like-minded people to jointly accelerate the reduction of our carbon footprint

Left: Grove Park Solar Farm which forms part of Boom Power's construction legacy. Please note that this project does not fall under Boom Power's ownership.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION APPROACH.

Boom Power agree with the guidance issued by the UK Government's Chief Planner, which emphasised that planning applications that positively impact the country and local communities must continue to come forward.

In addition, Boom Power believes that it is vital that local communities are able to see and shape planning applications that may have an impact. We therefore invite you to provide feedback on our draft proposals in the following ways:

- 1 Attend our public consultation event on Tuesday 19th October 2021 from 2pm - 7pm.**

You are invited to attend our public consultation event at which you can see our plans, learn more about our proposal and talk to the project team.

We're holding our public consultation event at **The Elizabethan Tithe Barn, Up Street, Bardwell, Suffolk, IP31 1AA.**
- 2 Fill in the feedback form that accompanies this public consultation brochure.**

Please read through the information and provide feedback to us by way of the free post feedback form attached to the end of this brochure.
- 3 Visit the dedicated public consultation website: boom-power.co.uk/firsfield**

Here you can find all information about our draft proposal which will be updated on a regular basis.

HAVE YOUR SAY.

This brochure forms part of our pre-submission consultation efforts in which we are asking for your opinion on this proposed solar farm. Further consultation on the final scheme will be undertaken by the Local Planning Authority when the final application is registered with them.

Please take your time to consider the information within this brochure and should you have further questions or matters you may want to clarify, please do not hesitate to contact a member of our team.

We would be grateful if you could complete the feedback form which will be used for the purpose of providing feedback to the project design team.

BOOM-POWER.CO.UK

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FEEDBACK@ALPACACOMMUNICATIONS.COM

Andrew Blenkiron, Euston Estate Manager, is fully supportive of the proposal, you can contact him directly as follows:

andrewblenkiron@euston-estate.co.uk

+44 (0)1842 766366 Ext 6

Should you require this document in large print, audio or braille then please contact the Boom Power team on the details provided.

FIRSFIELD | FEEDBACK FORM.

To return your completed feedback form please tear from the brochure and post to us by **Tuesday 2nd November 2021.**

Alternatively, you can return your form via our independent email **feedback@alpacacommunications.com**

Title: Name:
Address: Postcode:
Email: Telephone:

1 Has this local resident brochure been helpful in understanding our proposal? Yes No Not sure

2 With regard to the proposals you have read about within this brochure, are you:

In favour In objection Of no opinion

3 Please use this space to provide any comments or feedback on the proposed solar farm shown in this brochure.

Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback. Your answers may be included as part of a consultation report submitted with our planning application to Local Planning Authority. It is important to note that we respect your privacy and all personal details including your name, address and contact details will remain anonymous.

Freepost

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