

PROPOSED HANWELL SOLAR PV FARM

Land at The Hanwell Estate,

Hanwell,

Banbury,

OX17 1HG

"Solar farms typically take up less than 5% of the ground they occupy, leaving huge scope for biodiversity enhancements in a protected space"

BRE National Solar Centre Biodiversity Best Practice Guidelines 2014

Introduction

Elgin Energy EsCo Ltd is seeking to develop a ground mounted Solar PV farm on lands of The Hanwell Estate, Hanwell, Banbury, OX17 1HG. We are seeking your views on this proposal ahead of submitting a planning application to the Cherwell District Council. The red line on the map below indicates the site boundary of the proposed development.

Elgin is holding a public consultation event for the project in 2023. Further details will be published in local newspapers and circulated by letter. Elgin has also created a website to share project information and seek feedback on the project proposals.

Please visit Hanwellsolarfarm.com to learn more.

Please note that partaking in this process does not affect your statutory rights to make representations in respect of the planning application when submitted.

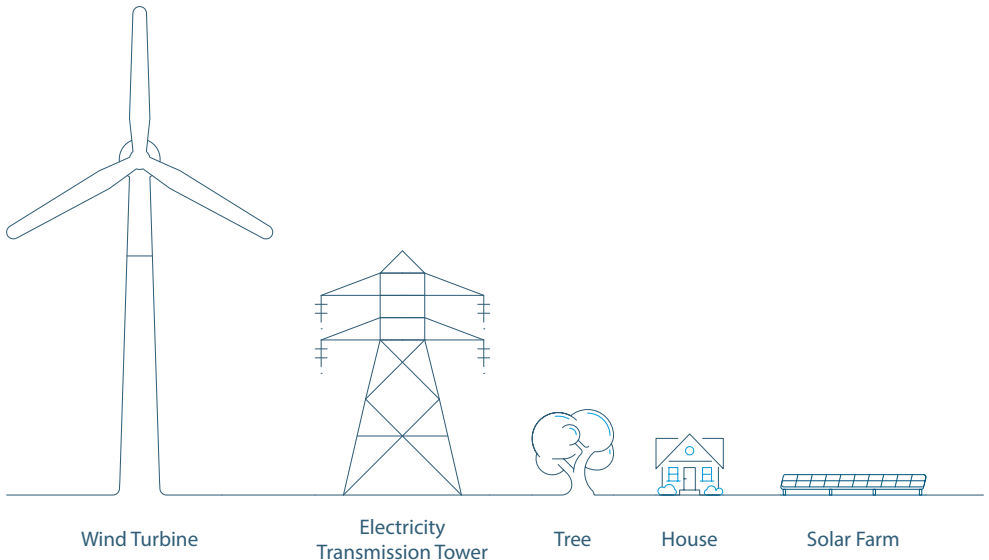


Project overview

The proposed development is located to the north of the village of Hanwell and approximately 4km north of Banbury and in a rural area with several small surrounding settlements including Horley 1.5km west, Shotteswell 1.5km north and Great Bourton 2.5km east. The site will be accessed for construction from Warwick Road/B4100. Access through the site will follow existing routes around the fields with internal tracks kept to a minimum.

The proposed development covers approximately 199 acres and comprises approximately 40 megawatts (MW) of ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panels. A project lifetime of 45 years is proposed.

The Solar Park would have enough low carbon electricity to power approximately 15,657 homes in and around Banbury every year.



Local engagement

Elgin Energy EsCo Ltd is committed to the local communities in which our solar farms operate. We engage with communities on each project through a public consultation and try to identify local initiatives that we can support through a community benefit fund.

Local contractors and businesses will be engaged as far as possible during the installation phase. It is estimated that installation will take approximately approximately 12-16 weeks. For the operational phase it is envisaged that local contractors and service providers will be engaged to maintain the solar farm. If you would like to obtain further information about a community benefit fund or enquire about providing services for this project, please visit the project website.

Pre-planning process

A number of assessments are being undertaken to establish any potential impacts from the proposed development on the site and surrounding lands. These reports include ongoing ecology survey work. In addition archaeology & cultural heritage, construction access & traffic, flood risk together with a landscape and visual impact assessment which will identify any impacts on nearby viewpoints. The current draft concept design site layout can be viewed on the project website, this will be refined as the assessments and consultation process progress. A glint & glare assessment is also underway, however glint & glare effects from PV panels are rare as they are designed to absorb, not reflect, sunlight. This is evidenced by the installation of PV panels adjacent to the runways at Gatwick airport.

Existing field boundaries, trees, and hedgerows will be retained and enhanced as far as possible. The provision of bird boxes, insect hotels, and wintering wildflower birdseed mix strips provide significant opportunities for biodiversity enhancements. Once the solar farm is operational, sheep farming can take place ensuring the land remains in agricultural use.

Physical elements of the development

The following components are proposed for this development:

- Solar panels will be arranged in rows facing southwards at an inclination of typically 25 degrees. The distance between the rows will be between 2 - 8 metres. The panels are set at 0.8m above ground level and increase to 3.2m approximately.

- A mounting system comprising upright galvanised steel posts which are screwed or pushed into the ground and an aluminium support frame which is bolted together.

- Inverters measure typically between 7 m to 10 m long x 2.2 m to 3 m wide x 2.2 m to 3 m high with a concrete base. They convert the DC electricity produced by the panels into grid-compatible AC current. They will be located throughout the site.

- A primary substation.

- Underground cabling from the panels/inverters to the substation.

- Several permeable stone tracks to facilitate access to the inverters.

- Rural 'timber & post' deer fence measuring 2.4m in height will enclose the site. A gap of 10cm at ground level will allow ecology to freely enter and exit.

- 3m high pole-mounted CCTV cameras inside the site to monitor the solar farm. The solar farm requires no concrete foundations except for the substation bases. It is designed to be reversible and leave no trace when removed.




About Elgin Energy

The Applicant, Elgin Energy Esco Ltd 'Elgin Energy' is a leading international and independent solar development Company set up in 2009. Elgin Energy has extensive experience in delivering projects from initial landowner engagement to project completion having initially begun development in the UK in 2011, followed by Ireland in 2015 and Australia in 2018.

As of 2021, Elgin Energy has successfully delivered 230MW of solar energy across 21 projects in the UK, providing the equivalent of 75,000 homes with clean energy on an annual basis. This includes Scotland's largest solar farm at Errol Estate. The company has successfully obtained consent for 1,600MW across 68 projects including Scotland's first Energy Consent Unit (ECU) application at Milltown Airfield. A further 5GW solar + 3GW storage projects are at late stages of development across the UK, Ireland and Australia.

Elgin Energy is committed to creating a sustainable future and is working towards this goal with our projects.

To learn more about Elgin Energy and the work we do, please visit our website.



Elgin Energy

Dashwood House,
69 Old Broad St,
London EC2M 1QS

T: +44 (0) 208 068 4240
E: office@elgin-energy.com
W: Hanwellsolarfarm.com
W: www.elgin-energy.com



www.elgin-energy.com