

# CAVENDISH

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## Statement of Community Involvement

Beane Solar Farm, Cottered

Prepared for RES

November 2024

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# 1. Introduction.

## 1.1 Introduction.

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has been prepared by Cavendish Consulting on behalf of RES (hereafter referred to as 'the Applicant'), to accompany a full planning application for Beane Solar Farm, a proposed solar farm on land West of Cottered, Hertfordshire (hereafter referred to as 'the Site'). This report provides details of the programme of political and community engagement undertaken by the Applicant in relation to the proposed development of the Site and forms part of the application to East Hertfordshire District Council (hereafter referred to as 'the Council').
- 1.1.2 The Applicant is bringing forward a full planning application for the Site, which seeks consent for a 49.9 megawatt (MW) solar farm consisting of solar panels, associated energy storage facilities, power inverters with hardstanding, substation, on-site tracks and landscaping.
- 1.1.3 A thorough consultation strategy was developed to facilitate constructive engagement with the local community and provide local stakeholders with opportunities to view and give feedback on the proposal.
- 1.1.4 The overarching objectives of the consultation process were to:
- Raise awareness of the Site and its proposed development.
  - Understand the local identity of the area surrounding the Site.
  - Introduce the Applicant to local residents and a range of stakeholders, organisations, local politicians and members of the community.
  - Explain the objectives behind the proposal and how they would benefit the local area.
  - Facilitate a programme of engagement that offered a variety of ways for the local community to get involved in the development process, to provide feedback and learn about the emerging proposals.
  - Understand the views of the local community.
- 1.1.5 This report documents the activities, findings and outcomes of the consultation process, and details how the Applicant has responded to community feedback and incorporated local views into the proposals.

## 1.2 Executive summary.

- 1.2.1 The Applicant devised an engagement plan to consult widely and effectively with the local community, taking the form of a 'hybrid' in-person and virtual consultation held across Autumn 2023 to present the plans and understand the views and priorities of local residents and stakeholders in relation to the proposal.
- 1.2.2 An in-person public exhibition was held on **14 November 2023** in a venue local to the Site. This was supported by a virtual exhibition which was live from **14 - 28 November 2023**. This virtual exhibition

displayed the same information as was presented at the in-person exhibition to ensure equal opportunity to learn about the proposals and feedback, irrespective of how local people preferred to engage.

- 1.2.3 In order to advertise the event and consultation period as widely as possible, invitation flyers were delivered on **4 November 2023** to **366 local households and businesses**, identified due to their proximity to the site. Site neighbours received a bespoke letter inviting them to a preview of the exhibition. Key stakeholders were sent emails notifying them of the consultation launch and the in-person event.
- 1.2.4 A survey was used to gather feedback on the local community's priorities and collect their ideas on how the development could respond to local needs.
- 1.2.5 **89 individuals** attended the in-person public exhibition. Members of the project team were on hand to meet with attendees and respond to queries.
- 1.2.6 **Consultation website (Appendix D):** A digital consultation website was created and has been live since 4 November 2023. The website was central to engagement with the community. It featured a virtual exhibition, a feedback page and information on how to contact the project team. The website can be found at **beane-solarfarm.co.uk**.
- 1.2.7 **Feedback form (Appendix E):** The feedback form was simple and easy to access on the website and gave the opportunity for the community to document their thoughts directly to the project team. Paper copies of the feedback forms were available at the public exhibition and could also be requested by contacting the project team.
- 1.2.8 **Information line and email:** For those who did not want to use the website or wanted more direct contact, an information telephone number (Infoline) and email address were made available to directly contact members of the project team. This allowed for the community to provide feedback and ask questions to the project team. The consultation received **10 items of feedback** via email.
- 1.2.9 **Invite flyer (Appendix B):** An invitation was posted to a total of 366 local residential and business addresses surrounding the Site to advertise the consultation event. This contained information on the consultation, including the date, venue and various ways residents could learn more and provide their feedback, in person and virtually. An additional letter was sent to 42 addresses of the Site's closest neighbours to invite them to book one-to-one sessions with the project team prior to the public exhibition. The distribution areas can be seen in Appendix A.
- 1.2.10 In total, **32 pieces of feedback** were submitted to the consultation. Three of these were received via the online feedback form, 19 via hard copy feedback form and 10 via email.
- 1.2.11 Most respondents agreed that there is a global climate emergency and that renewable energy, including solar, can help solve the crisis. The majority of respondents stated their opposition to the proposed Beane Solar Farm. Reasons for supporting the solar farm included the need for renewable energy and the positive landscaping proposed. Reasons for objecting to the proposed solar farm included negative visual and environmental impacts and difficulties with Site access and construction traffic. More details of the findings of the consultation activity can be found in Section 4 of this report.

# 2. The Site.

## 2.1 Site context.

- 2.1.1 The Site is located within the boundaries of East Hertfordshire, in the wards of Buntingford and The Mundens.
- 2.1.2 The location of the Site is on parcels of land off the A507, west of Cottered.

## 2.2 Policy context.

- 2.2.1 The Applicant has complied with the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which states at Paragraph 39 that 'early engagement has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties.' The NPPF also highlights that 'good quality pre-application discussion enables better coordination between public and private resources and improved outcomes for the community'.
- 2.2.2 The National Planning Policy Framework states at Paragraph 152 that 'the planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate... and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.'
- 2.2.3 East Hertfordshire District Council published its Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) in 2019, which makes the following recommendation in relation to consultation surrounding developments:
- *'Pre-app consultation is not legally required for most types of development. It is however strongly encouraged that applicants involve the community in formulating their proposals as early as possible, particularly if the site is particularly sensitive or would have a significant impact on local communities. This is advised to assist in addressing any issues that may arise from the community and may help to avoid unnecessary objections during the consideration of a planning application.'*

The Applicant has adhered to the guidance provided by the Council and has delivered a comprehensive consultation which has sought to engage with a wide variety of potential stakeholders.

## 2.3 Development team.

- 2.3.1 The project team is led by RES ("the Applicant").

The Applicant is the world's largest independent renewable energy company, working across 24 countries and active in wind, solar, energy storage, green hydrogen, transmission and distribution. As an industry innovator for over 40 years, the Applicant has delivered more than 27GW of renewable energy projects across the globe and supports an operational asset portfolio exceeding 41GW worldwide for a large client base. The Applicant is the power behind a clean energy future where everyone has access to affordable zero carbon energy. They bring together global experience, passion, and the innovation of 4,500 people to transform the way energy is generated, stored and supplied.

- 2.3.2 To assist with the community consultation and communications around the project, the Applicant appointed Cavendish Consulting, a specialist communications consultancy, to form part of its project team for the Site. Cavendish has produced this report to clearly and concisely outline the engagement undertaken and the feedback received.

# 3. Engagement.

## 3.1 Consultation objectives.

3.1.1 The overarching aims and objectives of the consultation process were as follows:

- Raise awareness of the Site and its proposed development.
- Introduce the Applicant to local residents and a range of stakeholders, organisations, local politicians and members of the community.
- Explain the objectives behind the proposals and how they would benefit the local area, illustrating the updates and progression of the proposals over time.
- Facilitate a programme of engagement that offered a variety of ways for the local community to get involved in the development process, to provide feedback and learn about the emerging proposals.
- Understand the views of the local community.

3.1.2 The Applicant held a public consultation event for the Site on 14 November 2023 to share the proposals for submission and invite the public to meet the team and have questions answered. This event was supported by a consultation website which could be viewed at any time online.

3.1.3 At the time of the public consultation, the proposed development boundary included a small portion of land within the boundaries of North Hertfordshire, in the ward of Weston and Sandon. As a result, stakeholders and residents in this ward were also consulted throughout the public consultation period.

## 3.2 Consultation process.

3.2.1 Ahead of the wider consultation, local political stakeholders were sent personal invites to meet with the project team and hear firsthand information on the proposal and community engagement.

3.2.2 All stakeholders were contacted via email, with follow-up emails sent throughout the consultation process where the Applicant did not receive replies.

3.2.3 Engagement took place with key stakeholders to understand how they felt the development could begin to respond to the needs of the local community. A total of three stakeholder meetings were held.

3.2.4 The stakeholders identified during the consultation process who were invited to participate in the consultation activity are listed in Table 1 below:

**Table 1: Identified Stakeholders**

Position / Organisation	Stakeholder
Leader of the Council	Councillor Ben Crystall
Deputy Leader of the Council; Executive Member for Neighbourhoods	Councillor Mione H Goldspink
Executive Member for Planning and Growth	Councillor Vicky Glover-Ward
Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability	Councillor Tim Hoskin
Ward members for Buntingford	Councillor Vicky Burt Councillor Sue Nicholls Councillor David Woolcombe
Ward member for The Mundens	Councillor Aubrey Holt
Division member for Buntingford (Hertfordshire County Council)	Councillor Jeff Jones
Division member for Hertford Rural (Hertfordshire County Council)	Councillor Ken Crofton
Ward member for Weston and Sandon (North Hertfordshire District Council); Division member for Royston West and Rural (Hertfordshire County Council)	Councillor Steve Jarvis
Cottered & Throcking Parish Council	Councillor John Wiblin, Chairman Councillor Grant Lethby, Vice Chairman Councillor Allen Chamberlain Councillor Jeff Lawton Councillor Brian Murchie Councillor Andrew Smith Sarah Kubica, Clerk
Ardeley Parish Council	Councillor Adrian Waygood, Chairman Councillor Stuart Norman, Vice Chairman Councillor James Egginton Councillor Tim Noble Councillor Simon Peace Councillor Jackie York Lorna Ewen, Clerk
Rushden & Wallington Parish Council	Councillor Kate Heath, Chair Councillor Jenny Barlow Councillor Graham Lamb Councillor Steve Pettyfer Councillor Ian Roper Mark and Michelle Hopley, Clerks
British Horse Society	Teresa Hudson

East Hertfordshire Ramblers Association	John Milton
Hertfordshire Building Preservation Trust Ltd (Custodians of Cromer Windmill)	Dorothy Smith MBE
River Beane Restoration Association	Peter White

3.2.5 Further engagement with stakeholders throughout the pre-application period is summarised in the table below:

**Table 2: Table of meetings with political and community stakeholders.**

Date	Title	Details
12 December 2023	Meeting with Cllr David Woollcombe	The project team met with Cllr Woollcombe to discuss the proposals for Beane Solar Farm.
22 February 2024	Meeting with Cllrs Vicky Burt, Vicky Glover-Ward, Aubrey Holt, Tim Hoskin, Sue Nicholls, David Woollcombe, David Lamb and Neil Button	The project team met with councillors to discuss the proposals for Beane Solar Farm and reception to the public consultation.
21 March 2024	Meeting with Cllrs Aubrey Holt, Stuart Norman, Jim Egginton and Beane Solar Farm Opposition Group	The project team met with stakeholders opposed to Beane Solar Farm to provide an update on the proposals and discuss their objections.

3.2.6 In addition to the meetings held, the project team has been in regular contact with Cllr Aubrey Holt and Cllr Jim Egginton throughout the pre-application period to discuss the proposals for Beane Solar Farm and their constituents' concerns.

3.2.7 Throughout the pre-application period, the Applicant received written feedback from Cllr Aubrey Holt, Cllr Jim Egginton and Cllr Stuart Norman, all of whom expressed opposition to the proposals.

3.2.8 The Applicant has also engaged with residents who live closest to the site beyond the public consultation itself. Between November 2023 and February 2024, the Applicant met with nine neighbouring residents to discuss the proposals and the then ongoing site surveys.

## 3.3 Invitation flyer.

3.3.1 The consultation was promoted via an A4 flyer (Appendix B) which included information about the consultation website. The flyer was posted to 366 residential addresses in the nearby area on 4 November 2023 to advertise the consultation. An additional letter was sent to 42 addresses of the Site's closest neighbours to invite them to book one-to-one sessions with the project team prior to the public exhibition. The distribution areas can be found in Appendix A.

3.3.2 The invite introduced the proposal and provided information on how to access the project website and contact the project team. The flyer included details regarding:

- Dates of the consultation period.
- Information about the proposal.
- Information on the Applicant.
- Invitation to the in-person public exhibition.
- Information on the virtual exhibition.
- Contact information.

## 3.4 Other advertising channels.

3.5.1 A half-page advertisement was put in the local newspaper *Hertfordshire Mercury*, to inform the wider community of the consultation and invite them to the public exhibition. A copy of the advertisement is included in Appendix C.

## 3.5 In-person exhibition event.

3.5.1 A drop-in public exhibition event was held at the Hertfordshire Guide Centre, Cottered SG9 9QP between 16:00 and 20:00. This site was chosen because of its proximity to the Site and its regular use by the local community.

3.5.2 One-to-one sessions were held from 14:00 to 16:00 for the Site's closest neighbours, allowing them to meet the project team and discuss the proposals prior to the exhibition being opened to the wider public. Nine individuals booked and attended one-to-one sessions with the project team.

3.5.3 **89 people attended the public exhibition.**

## 3.6 Consultation website.

3.6.1 The dedicated consultation website (Appendix D) was central to the Applicant's consultation with the community. The website featured an introduction to the proposal and the project team, detailed information on each aspect of the proposal, an online feedback form, and information on how to contact the project team. The website can be found at [beane-solarfarm.co.uk](http://beane-solarfarm.co.uk).

3.6.2 The information on the website covered the following key topics and mirrored the information presented at the in-person exhibition:

- Overview page
- Information on the Site
- Information on the Applicant's proposal
- Digital feedback form

3.6.3 This allowed users of the website to explore the proposal at their own convenience. The website also featured contact information for website users to directly contact the project team.

3.6.4 **Three responses were received via the digital feedback form provided.**

## 3.7 Feedback form.

- 3.7.1 A feedback form allowing residents to share their views on the proposal was available at the in-person consultation event and published online via the consultation website. Those without access to the internet were also able to request a paper copy of the feedback form to be sent to their home address. The feedback form can be found in Appendix E.
- 3.7.2 The form asked 12 questions covering a variety of aspects of the proposals in multiple-choice and open-ended formats. The feedback obtained in the forms is summarised in Section 4.
- 3.7.3 Both the online and print feedback form were identical in their content.

## 3.8 Pre-paid post, email address and 0800 freephone.

- 3.8.1 During the consultation, access to a freephone telephone line was offered to those who wished to find out more about the proposal or to register their comments over the phone.
- 3.8.2 The telephone number used was in operation Monday – Friday between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:30 pm. Outside of these hours, a voicemail facility was available for messages to be left.
- 3.8.3 An email address ([feedback@consultation-online.co.uk](mailto:feedback@consultation-online.co.uk)) was made available for residents to contact the project team and submit queries. Ten emails were received containing feedback. These were monitored and replied to as appropriate in coordination with the Applicant.
- 3.8.4 A pre-paid envelope was made available at the public exhibition, allowing feedback forms to be posted back free of charge.

# 4. Feedback.

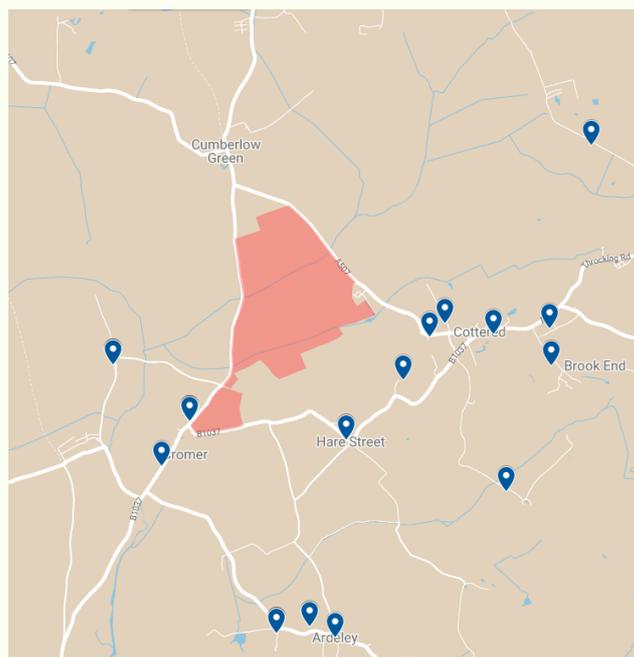
## 4.1 Overall feedback received.

- 4.1.1 A deadline of 28 November 2023 was set for feedback submissions. This feedback analysis reviews all feedback received up to this date.
- 4.1.2 During the consultation period, the Applicant received 32 feedback responses. Three of these were received via the online feedback form, 19 were received via the hard copy feedback form and 10 were received via email.

Feedback received (medium)	Number
Digital feedback form	3
Physical feedback form	19
Email	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32</b>

- 4.1.3 Interest in the consultation and feedback responses both came largely from addresses near the Site. All but four of the respondents live within the area around the Site. Of the four respondents not shown on the below map, two live in Stevenage, one in Letchworth Garden City and one in Hertford. In the map below, multiple feedback responses were received from some postcodes.

Figure 1 – Postcodes of feedback respondents



## 4.2 Feedback received via feedback form

4.2.1 The Applicant received 22 responses to the feedback form in both digital and physical formats, which is summarised below. Where totals referenced in the final right-hand column do not amount to the full total of 22 responses, it is because respondents chose not to provide responses to stated questions.

### Q1. How would you describe your interest in the project?

Local resident	Local representative	Landowner	Local business owner	Regular visitor to the area	Total
18	1	2	0	0	21
85.7%	4.8%	9.5%	0%	0%	100%

4.2.2 The vast majority (**85.7%**) of the respondents to the consultation were local residents who were interested in the proposal, whilst the remaining respondents were landowners (**9.5%**) or local representatives (**4.8%**).

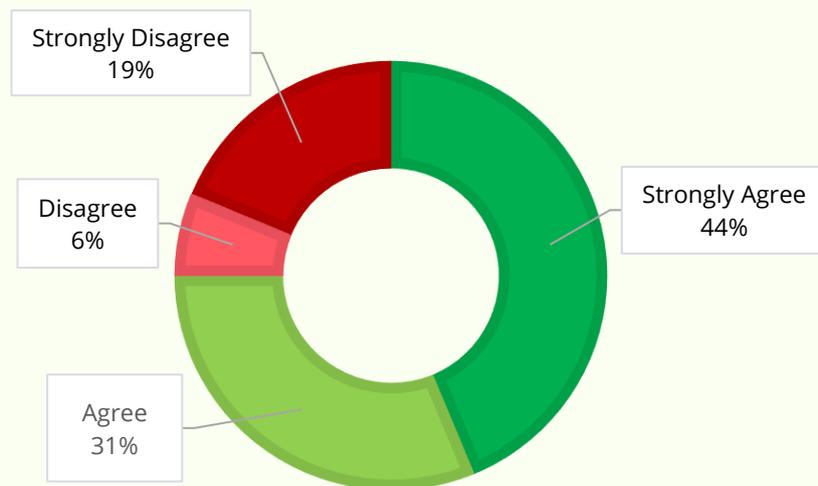
### Q2. How did you hear about the consultation?

Leaflet in the post	Local newspaper	Social media	Other	Total
17	0	1	3	21
81%	0%	4.8%	14.2%	100%

4.2.3 Most respondents heard about the consultation through leaflets in the post (**81%**). **4.8%** of respondents heard about the consultation via social media and **14.2%** heard through other channels. Those that selected other specified that they heard about the consultation through the Parish Council, from a neighbour or by walking by the public exhibition venue.

### Q3. Do you agree that we are facing a global climate change emergency?

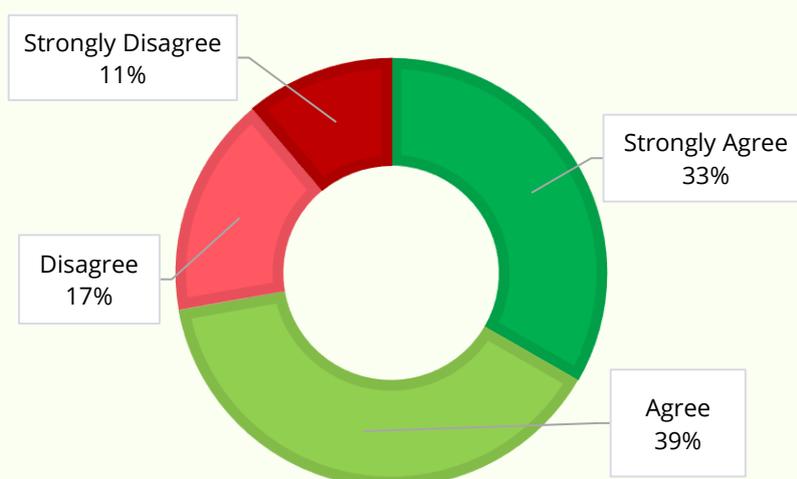
Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't Know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
7	5	0	1	3	16
43.8%	31.2%	0%	6.2%	18.8%	100%



4.2.4 **75%** of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that we are facing a global climate change emergency. **25%** of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with the existence of a global climate change emergency.

**Q4. Do you agree that generating electricity from renewable sources, and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, can help towards tackling the issue of climate change?**

Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't Know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
6	7	0	3	2	18
33.3%	38.9%	0%	16.7%	11.1%	100%



4.2.5 **72.2%** of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that increasing renewable energy generation and reducing fossil fuel dependency can help tackle the climate crisis. **27.8%** of respondents disagreed or

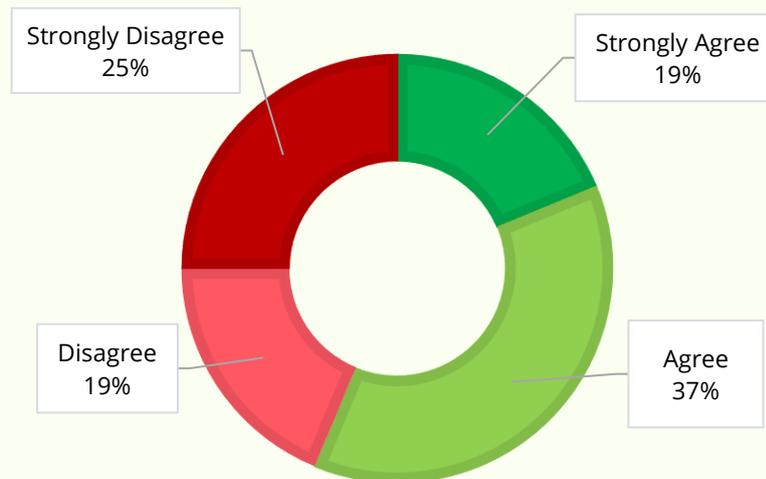
strongly disagreed that the climate crisis can be tackled by generating electricity from renewable energy sources and reducing the use of fossil fuels.

4.2.6 Some respondents provided comments below their answer to the question. A representative sample of comments made is provided below.

- *"The climate changes and always has done. CO2 is dangerously low in historical terms @ 400ppm."*
- *"Not convinced. Stopping the destruction of rain forest would solve a lot of the problem."*
- *"Agree but solar farms are not the answer."*
- *"Would be better off trying to stop forest fires around the world. This would offset the use of fossil fuels."*

**Q5. Do you agree that we need to develop solar farms to support greater energy independence and security for the UK?**

Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't Know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
3	6	0	3	4	16
18.75%	37.5%	0%	18.75%	25%	100%



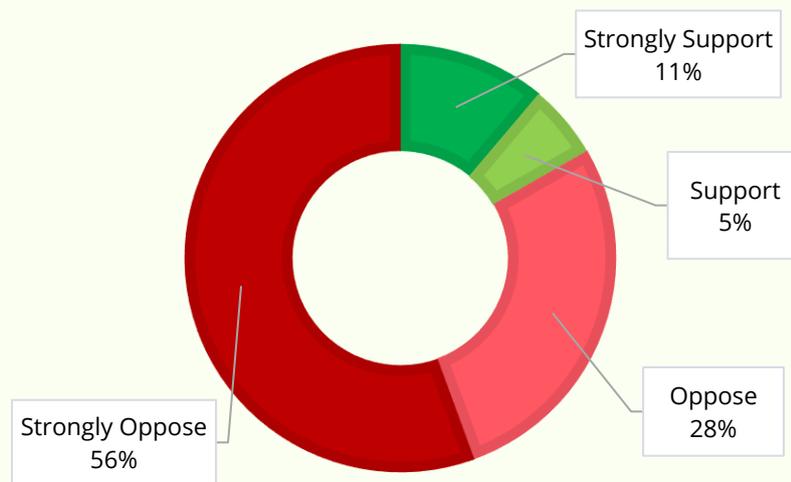
4.2.7 **56.25%** of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the UK should develop solar farms to increase the UK's energy independence and security while **43.75%** of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed.

4.2.8 Some respondents provided comments below their answer to the question. A representative sample of comments made is provided below.

- *"No. These are not an efficient way of generating the electricity we need."*
- *"But only if they are located on sites and land that is no good for anything else."*
- *"Yes but not in sight of any houses or that could be heard from any residence."*

**Q6. Based on the information we have presented as part of our early consultation, how supportive are you of our emerging renewable energy project, which would generate clean, affordable energy and help the UK to reach its Net Zero targets?**

Strongly Support	Support	Neutral	Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Don't Know	Total
2	1	0	5	10	0	18
11.1 %	5.6%	0%	27.8%	55.5%	0%	100%



4.2.9 **83.3%** of respondents oppose or strongly oppose the proposed Beane Solar Farm while **16.7%** of respondents support or strongly support it.

**Q7. Do you have any comments on the proposals for landscaping and ecology on this site?**

Themes raised in answers	Frequency
Landscaping will not mitigate the negative visual impact of the solar farm.	11
The solar farm will have a negative environmental impact.	6
The solar farm should be built out of view of any houses.	2
Other	6

4.2.10 Other comments made included the following:

- "Don't know what the proposals are".
- "Negative noise and traffic impacts."
- "Not enough landscaping proposed."
- "Proposals are unrepresentative of reality."

## Q8. Do you have any comments on the proposed route for construction traffic?

Themes raised in answers	Frequency
There are no suitable routes to access the site.	7
The A507 is the only suitable route to access the site.	5
Do not create any additional traffic.	3
Do not use the B1037.	2
Other	2

4.2.11 Other comments included the following:

- *"Create a green corridor."*
- *"The solar farm will ruin farmland."*

## Q9. The layout of the site is being designed to minimise any visual or noise impacts on local residents. Do you have any feedback on the proposed layout of the site?

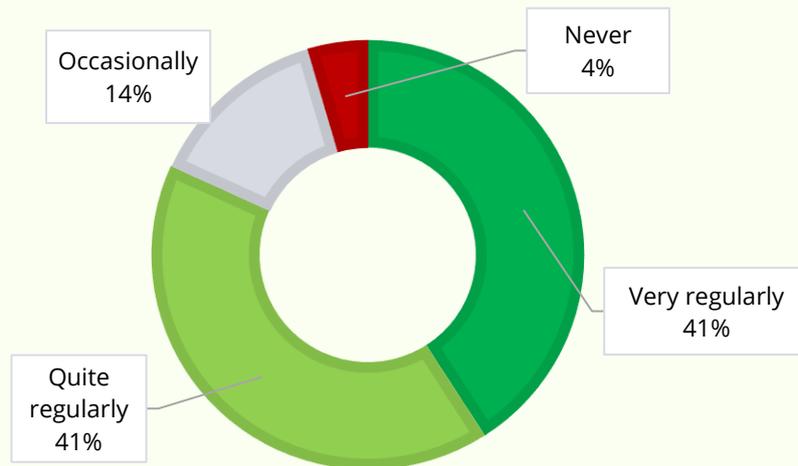
Themes raised in answers	Frequency
The solar farm will have negative visual impacts.	13
The solar farm will have negative noise impacts.	6
The two southern fields are too close to houses and should not be used.	2
Do not build the solar farm.	2
Other	2

4.2.12 Other comments made included the following:

- *"The solar farm will have negative environmental impacts."*
- *"Plant a full hedge around the site."*

## Q10a. Do you use either of the two local Public Rights of Way (PRoW) that cross the site of the proposed solar farm?

Very regularly	Quite regularly	Occasionally	Never	Don't Know	Total
9	9	3	1	0	22
40.9%	40.9%	13.7%	4.5%	0%	100%



4.2.13 **81.8%** of respondents very regularly or quite regularly use either of the two PRoW that cross the site of the proposed solar farm. **14.7%** of respondents occasionally use either of the two PRoW. The sole respondent who stated that they never use either of the two PRoW is also the sole respondent who lives far from the site.

**Q10b. If you use the PRoW which cross the site, do you use them to link to other footpaths in the area?**

Yes	No	Other	Total
12	3	5	20
60%	15%	25%	100%

4.2.14 Other comments made included the following:

- *"The solar farm will have negative traffic impacts."*
- *"Cottered 028 may soon be upgraded to a bridleway."*
- *"Move the footpath to be near the stream."*
- *"The solar farm will have negative visual impacts."*
- *"Footpaths are frequently used by horses."*

**Q10c. If you have any ideas or suggestions of ways in which the local PRoW network can be improved, please let us know in the box below.**

Themes raised in answers	Frequency
Leave the PRoW network as is.	4
Create a restricted byway around the perimeter of the site.	2
Remove some plants (particularly Stinging Nettles)	2
Other	6

4.2.15 Other comments made included the following:

- *"Will stop using footpaths if the solar farm is built."*
- *"Create a footpath from Lodge Farm to Stocking Hill."*
- *"Create a footpath from Cromer to Cumberlow Green."*
- *"Create additional PRowS."*
- *"Provide more details about the design of solar panels."*

**Q11. We are proposing to create additional benefit from the scheme through a community benefit package. RES will work with the local community to gain feedback on their priorities and deliver projects that will help to secure long-term economic, social and environmental benefits. This approach will help to deliver a tailored package of benefits that are aligned with the local communities' priorities.**

**If you have any suggestions for local benefits the solar farm may be able to support, please let us know in the box below.**

Themes raised in answers	Frequency
Do not build the solar farm.	5
Other	8

4.2.16 Other comments made included the following:

- *"Create better transport links."*
- *"Too little notice given to comment."*
- *"There is no such thing as "the local community's priorities"."*
- *"Extend the Cottered Village Hall."*
- *"Contribute to the Cottered Village Appreciation Society."*
- *"Provide free electricity to nearby residents."*
- *"Contribute to the local pony club."*
- *"Give 50% of revenue to the community."*

**Q12. Do you have any further comments on any elements of the plans you have viewed today?**

Themes raised in answers	Frequency
Do not build the solar farm.	8
The solar farm will have negative environmental impacts.	4
Other	5

4.2.17 Other comments made included the following:

- *"Raise solar infrastructure off the ground to protect topsoil."*
- *"Provide details on electricity output and revenue."*
- *"Use the A507 for construction traffic."*
- *"Protect the River Beane."*
- *"There is no consideration of effect on rural areas."*

## 4.3 Feedback received via email.

4.3.1 The section below illustrates the feedback received via email. The Applicant created an email address which people could submit their feedback or questions to (feedback@consultation-online.co.uk).

4.3.2 During the course of the consultation, the Applicant received 10 emails comprising feedback.

Themes raised in emails	Frequency
The solar farm will have a negative environmental impact.	7
The solar farm will have a negative visual impact.	7
The sun does not shine all the time.	3
Chinese solar panels are unethical.	2
Other	2

4.3.3 Other comments made included the following:

- *“The solar farm will create a prison with state control measures.”*
- *“Climate change is a scam and solar farms are a crime against humanity.”*

# 5. Response to comments.

## 5.1 Response to comments.

5.1.1 The table below summarises the key themes arising from feedback during the consultation and the respective response from the Applicant.

Key Theme Raised	Applicant's Response
<p>The solar farm will have a negative visual impact on the landscape.</p>	<p>The design principles of the proposed development are to work with the existing landscape and to retain existing landscape features including existing vegetation.</p> <p>A <b>Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)</b> will accompany the planning application. This document includes an assessment of landscape and visual impacts, informed appropriately by photomontages of the proposed development. The LVIA proposes a package of landscape mitigation measures including new hedgerows and woodland, as well as the augmentation of existing hedgerows and landscaping.</p>
<p>The solar farm in the Southwestern and Southern fields will be too close to people's homes.</p>	<p>The Applicant has significantly reduced the amount of solar infrastructure placed on the Southwestern and Southern fields. The Southwestern field has been entirely removed from the development boundary. This parcel of land will only be used for skylark mitigation and will have no solar infrastructure.</p> <p>Solar infrastructure has been set back on the Southern field from the residential development. New woodland planting, as shown in the <b>Landscape Masterplan</b>, in the Southern field closer to the residential development will enhance screening and minimise impact on the visual amenity to nearby residents.</p>
<p>The solar farm will cause negative noise impact on nearby residents.</p>	<p>Solar panels themselves do not generate any noise. The main source of noise would be from the inverter stations and energy storage facility. Small fans will operate in the inverters, during daylight hours only, which will generate some noise. To offset the potential for noise impacts, the Site has been designed on an iterative basis to minimise the potential for noise by keeping noise-creating project components separated from noise sensitive receptors.</p>

	<p>For example, the inverters will be placed a minimum of 200m away from any residential properties to limit the potential for noise disturbance. A <b>Noise Impact Assessment</b> accompanies the planning application and provides further details.</p>
<p>Construction traffic will be very disruptive, as there are no suitable roads to access the Site.</p>	<p>Primary construction traffic will enter the site via the A507 via an upgraded and marginally relocated existing access point. During construction, project components will be offloaded and stored into a temporary construction compound within the site boundary. From here they will be transferred throughout the site via tractor and trailer. The Southern-most field will be accessed via a temporary construction access on Cromer Heath to allow materials to be transferred from the northern site portion.</p> <p>During the proposed 18-month construction period, experience has shown that the delivery of materials is likely to peak at c.15 HGVs per day, which is not significant in comparison to existing traffic movements on the surrounding road network. A <b>Transport Statement</b> and <b>Construction Traffic Management Plan</b> forms part of the suite of documents that comprises the planning application pack.</p>
<p>The solar farm will negatively affect the Public Rights of Way within the site.</p>	<p>Unimpeded and uninterrupted access will continue to be provided to the existing PRow throughout the Site's construction and operational periods.</p>

# 6. Conclusion.

## 6.1 Concluding statement.

- 6.1.1 The Applicant has sought to engage extensively with residents and local stakeholders to seek feedback on the proposal.
- 6.1.2 During this consultation, online engagement has been complemented by more traditional methods of engagement with the community, such as the in-person public exhibition. The Applicant remains committed to continuing to communicate and work with the local community and local stakeholders during the determination period of the planning application and beyond.
- 6.1.3 Throughout the pre-application consultation period, several opportunities were provided for local residents, businesses and stakeholders to inform the proposals, ask questions, provide feedback, voice concerns and have discussions with the project team. Multiple platforms of engagement, both digital and in-person, have been explored to aid accessibility and maximise engagement.
- 6.1.4 Opportunities to provide feedback and engage with the project team were available online, by phone, by post and by email, as well as at the in-person public exhibition.
- 6.1.5 The Applicant will continue to engage with the local authority, local stakeholders and surrounding community post-submission.

## 6.2 Ongoing engagement.

- 6.2.1 The consultation email address, phone information line, freepost address and website for the project will remain active throughout the determination process.
- 6.2.2 Any feedback received following the closure of the consultation period is not included as feedback in this document; however, the Applicant will respond to inbound questions and continue to monitor feedback.
- 6.2.3 The Applicant will update residents that have provided feedback with updates and information on the proposals and planning application.
- 6.2.4 The project website is updated regularly including when the planning submission is made, to include links to all planning application documentation and information on how people can comment on the application.

# 7. Appendices.

## Appendix A - Distribution Areas



*Distribution area for newsletter (white boundary) with the proposed Site boundary at the time of the public consultation shown (red boundary)*



*Distribution area for targeted letter (white boundary), with the proposed Site boundary at the time of the public consultation shown (red boundary)*

## Appendix B - Invitation Flyer



# Beane Solar Farm Cottered, East Hertfordshire



## Unlocking enough renewable energy to power approximately 13,500 homes<sup>1</sup>

### RES is exploring the potential for a solar farm on land west of Cottered Village, Hertfordshire.

Initial environmental and technical surveys have been undertaken in recent months to ensure the site is suitable for solar farm development and to inform a preliminary layout and design.

RES is now at the stage of consulting with the local community to get feedback on our early stage proposal. The feedback will be considered, along with the results of site surveys and assessments, as we refine the design.

### Have your say

To ensure as many people can participate as possible, we are undertaking a hybrid public consultation for our proposal.

We will be hosting a public consultation event from **4-8pm on Tuesday 14 November 2023** at **Girlington Hertfordshire County Centre, Cottered, SG9 9QP**. Staff will be on hand to answer any questions and comment forms will be available to fill out.

All information provided at the public exhibition will also be available on our project website at [www.beane-solarfarm.co.uk](http://www.beane-solarfarm.co.uk) from **14 November**, where you can also provide us with your feedback.

### What if I don't have access to the Internet?

RES is keen to ensure that as many members of the local community as possible can engage with our proposal. If you do not have access to the Internet, please contact us via our freephone information line **0800 298 7040** to request a hard copy of the exhibition material or with any questions.

The closing date for feedback is **Tuesday 28 November**. Comments will still be accepted after this date but may not be taken into consideration in relation to the design development.

<sup>1</sup> The homes equivalent figure has been calculated by taking the predicted annual electricity generation of the site (based on RES assessments Beane has a predicted capacity factor of 11.2% and dividing this by the annual average electricity figures from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) showing that the annual UK average domestic household consumption is 3,509 kWh (December 2022).

### Find out more



[www.beane-solarfarm.co.uk](http://www.beane-solarfarm.co.uk)



[feedback@consultation-online.co.uk](mailto:feedback@consultation-online.co.uk)



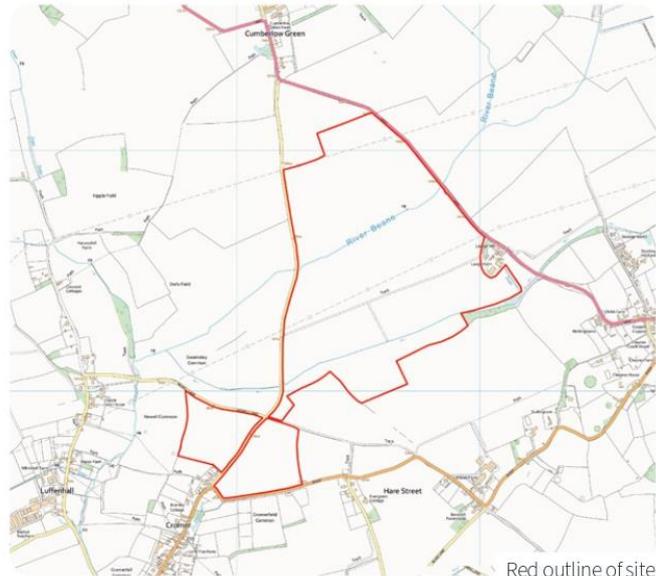
0800 298 7040

## Beane Solar Farm at a glance

The proposed Beane Solar Farm is located on land west of Cottered Village, in Hertfordshire. It is anticipated that the solar farm would be capable of generating up to 49.9 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy, enough to power 13,500 homes.

The site has been chosen as it has good solar irradiation levels, lies outside of any statutory environmental designations, and due to its proximity to a viable grid connection. The site will have a dual use, as land will still be utilised for agriculture in the form of livestock grazing.

Solar projects like Beane Solar Farm contribute to net zero carbon emission targets, enable more energy to be generated domestically improving security of supply, and are the cheapest form of new electricity generation, alongside onshore and offshore wind. This makes developments like Beane Solar Farm not just good for the environment but also for the consumer.



Red outline of site

## About RES

**RES, a British company, is the world's largest independent renewable energy company with operations across Europe, the Americas and Asia-Pacific. At the forefront of renewable energy development for over 40 years, RES has developed and/or built more than 23 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy capacity worldwide.**

RES is currently developing a number of projects, ranging from 12MW to 120MW, across the UK & Ireland using the latest solar technology.

RES employs more than 2,500 people and is active in 14 countries working across onshore and offshore wind, solar, energy storage, green hydrogen, transmission and distribution.

### ACTIVITIES



DEVELOP



CONSTRUCT



SUPPORT



DIGITAL

### TECHNOLOGIES



WIND



SOLAR



STORAGE



TRANSMISSION  
& DISTRIBUTION



GREEN HYDROGEN

## Find out more



[www.beane-solarfarm.co.uk](http://www.beane-solarfarm.co.uk)



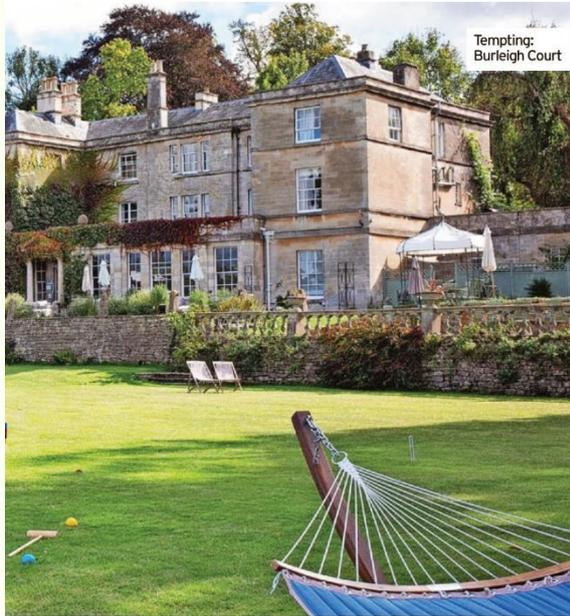
[feedback@consultation-online.co.uk](mailto:feedback@consultation-online.co.uk)



0800 298 7040

# Appendix C – Newspaper Advertisement

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023 **MERCURY** 23



Tempting: Burleigh Court



Stunning views: Castle Hotel



Good base: The Three Daggers

bedrooms and the south-facing dining terrace. Superior pub grub is served in bar areas and the dining room from a varied and daily-changing menu, while Sunday roasts, including a vegetarian version, are just £16.95.  
**How:** B&B doubles from £130, singles from £110, a la carte £36, thecastlehotelbishopscastle.co.uk

**THE DIAL HOUSE**  
 Reepham, Norfolk

From a Parisian garret to an Italian palazzo, rooms at this exuberantly quirky hotel are a celebration of the Georgian Grand Tour. Natural History has owl-adorned wallpaper, a cabinet of coastal curiosities, and doors to a private decked terrace. The Print Room's walls, yellow as Norwich's famous mustard, are hung with prints and engravings. The hotel, a former brewery, was recently acquired by bakery chain Bread Source, yet no change is planned for the accommodation.



The Dial House

A cafe is scheduled following restaurant refurbishment, and you can still get your hair bobbed by Shailley or Tanya at the onsite Country Salon – a snip at around £33.  
**How:** B&B doubles from £130, thedialhouse.org.uk

**THE THREE DAGGERS**  
 Edington, Wiltshire

With a microbrewery, farm shop, wellness barn, hot tub and sauna, this rural inn in a historic village under the north slope of Salisbury Plain is a good base for a visit to Stonehenge and Avebury stone circle or a drive to Longleat. The 18th-century former Paulet Arms, rescued from closure in 2009, has three immaculate letting rooms with a nice traditional feel, and excellent group accommodation in self-catering properties.

This is a proper local with above-average modern British, locally sourced farm-to-fork fare, where dishes such as duck breast with plums and red wine jus sit alongside the likes of haddock and chips and plant-based options.

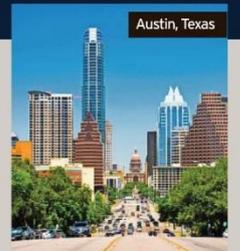
On summer days you can eat wood-fired pizzas in the sunshine.  
**How:** Double/twin from £95, a la carte £37, threedaggers.co.uk

To learn more about these and other hotels for all purses and purposes, visit [goodhotelguide.com](http://goodhotelguide.com)

Travel

ESCAPE PLANS

- Cyprus from £399pp: Depart from Manchester on December 2 for seven-nights, self catering, at the three-star Paphos SeaView Apartments in Paphos. [jet2holidays.com](http://jet2holidays.com)
- No-fly Canaries cruise from £2,983pp: Save £300pp on a 14-night all-inclusive round trip on Saga's Spirit of Adventure. Sails from Portsmouth on January 20, calling at Madeira, La Palma, Tenerife, Gran Canaria, Lanzarote and El Ferrol. [saga.co.uk/cruises](http://saga.co.uk/cruises)
- Texas from £539pp: A five-night room-only stay at four-star The Driskill in The Unbound Collection by Hyatt hotel, in music-loving state capital Austin. Travel from Heathrow on selected dates in November and December. [britishairways.com/austin](http://britishairways.com/austin)



Austin, Texas

Beane Solar Farm  
 Cottered, East Hertfordshire



RES is bringing forward proposals for Beane Solar Farm on land west of Cottered Village, in Hertfordshire. It is anticipated that the solar farm would be capable of generating up to 49.9MW of renewable energy, enough to power 13,500 homes.

As a member of the local community, we are pleased to invite you to take part in our consultation to have your say on our proposals.

Please join us at our public exhibition from **4-8pm on Tuesday 14 November 2023** at **Girlguiding Hertfordshire County Centre, Cottered, SG9 9QP**. Staff will be on hand to answer any questions and comment forms will be available to fill out.

All information provided at the public exhibition will also be available on our project website [www.beane-solarfarm.co.uk](http://www.beane-solarfarm.co.uk) from **14 November**, where you can also provide us with your feedback. The closing date for feedback is **Friday 28 November**.

Please note that comments submitted to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (East Hertfordshire District Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.



## Appendix D - Website

### Beane Solar Farm



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[ABOUT THE PROJECT](#) [PUBLIC CONSULTATION](#) [FAQ](#) [CONTACT US](#) [ABOUT RES](#)



### Beane Solar Farm

RES is exploring the potential for a solar farm on land west of Cottered, Hertfordshire. The solar farm would include energy storage to help increase the flexibility and generation opportunities of the site.

Initial environmental and technical surveys have been undertaken to ensure the site is suitable for solar farm development, and to inform a preliminary layout and design.

RES will shortly be consulting with the local community to get feedback on our early stage proposals. The feedback will be taken into consideration, along with the results of site surveys and assessments, as we refine the design.

For more information, please click [here](#).

# Appendix E - Feedback Form



## Beane Solar Farm

### Feedback Form



Thank you for taking the time to view our proposals for Beane Solar Farm, Cottered. Please let us know your thoughts by filling out this feedback form. Please return your completed feedback form no later than **28 November 2023**.

For more information, please contact us via:

Freephone: **0800 298 7040**

Email: **feedback@consultation-online.co.uk**

### Privacy Statement

By filling in this form you are agreeing that Cavendish Consulting (“Cavendish”) can hold and process your personal data in relation to this public consultation exercise.

Cavendish will only share your personal data with the project team for planning evaluation purposes. Your identifiable, personal data will not be used for any other purposes without your consent. Cavendish and the project team will use your data to:

- Send you updates about the project (where you provide us with your contact details).
- Develop a Statement of Community Involvement (or similar document) about this public consultation that will be submitted to the planning authority or similar body; this will be a publicly available document. Your comments will be anonymous, and we will only identify you in these reports with your express permission.

If you provide us with your contact details, we might also contact you to ask more about the comments you’ve made.

Cavendish acts on behalf of RES to run public consultation activities.

### Your Details\*

Title (Miss/Mrs/Ms/Mr/Other):

First Name or Initial:

Surname:

Postcode:

### Your Contact Details\*

We will use these details to contact you and update you on the proposals. You don't have to fill in this section if you'd rather we didn't contact you.

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

I confirm I'm over 13 years old and agree to the privacy statement

**\*PLEASE COMPLETE ALL SECTIONS IN BLOCK CAPITALS**

#### Data Protection

We hold all personal data in accordance with the retained EU law version of the General Data Protection Regulation ((EU) 2016/679) (the "UK GDPR"), as it forms part of the law of England and Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland by virtue of section 3 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, the Data Protection Act 2018, the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003 as amended, and any successor legislation. Your personal data will not be transferred outside of the EU. You can see our full Privacy Statement, Data Protection Policy, Data Retention Policy and find out how to make a Subject Access Request at the following website address [cavendishconsulting.com/dp](http://cavendishconsulting.com/dp) or by contacting us on 01962 893 893 / [dataprotection@cavendishconsulting.com](mailto:dataprotection@cavendishconsulting.com).

**Q1. How would you describe your interest in the project?**

Local resident  Local representative  Landowner  Local business owner   
Regular visitor to the area

---

**Q2. How did you hear about the consultation?**

Leaflet in the post  Local newspaper  Social Media  Other

---

**Q3. Do you agree that we are facing a global climate change emergency?**

Strongly agree  Agree  Don't know  Disagree  Strongly disagree

---

**Q4. Do you agree that generating electricity from renewable sources, and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, can help towards tackling the issue of climate change?**

Strongly agree  Agree  Don't know  Disagree  Strongly disagree

Comments

**Q5. Do you agree that we need to develop solar farms to support greater energy independence and security for the UK?**

Strongly agree  Agree  Don't know  Disagree  Strongly disagree

Comments

**Q6. Based on the information we have presented as part of our early consultation, how supportive are you of our emerging renewable energy project, which would generate clean, affordable energy and help the UK to reach its Net Zero targets?**

Strongly support  Support  Neutral  Oppose  Strongly oppose  Don't know

**Q7. Do you have any comments on the proposals for landscaping and ecology on the site?**

Comments

**Q8. Do you have any comments on the proposed route for construction traffic?**

Comments

**Q9. The layout of the site is being designed to minimise any visual or noise impacts on local residents. Do you have any feedback on the proposed layout of the site?**

Comments

**Q10. Do you use either of the two local Public Rights of Way (PRoW) that cross the site of the proposed solar farm?**

Very regularly  Quite regularly  Occasionally  Never  Don't know

If you use the PRoWs which cross the site, do you use them to link to other footpaths in the area?

Comments

If you have any ideas or suggestions of ways in which the local PRow network can be improved, please let us know in the box below.

Comments

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**Q11. We are proposing to create additional benefit from the scheme through a community benefit package. RES will work with the local community to gain feedback on their priorities and deliver projects that will help to secure long-term economic, social and environmental benefits. This approach will help to deliver a tailored package of benefits that are aligned with the local communities' priorities.**

If you have any suggestions for local benefits the solar farm may be able to support, please let us know in the box below.

Comments

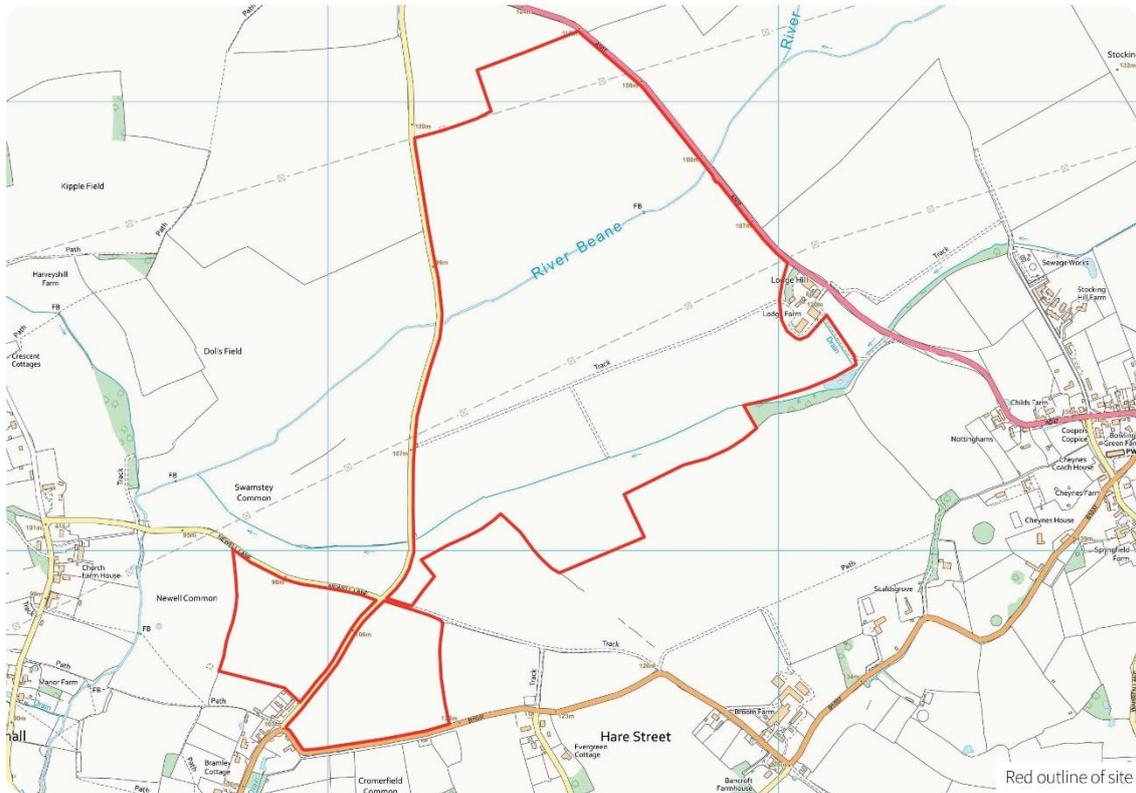
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**Q12. Do you have any further comments on any elements of the plans you have viewed today?**

Comments

## Appendix F - Exhibition Boards

### Welcome



Thank you for attending our public exhibition.

Renewable Energy Systems (RES) is bringing forward proposals for Beane Solar Farm on land west of Cottered, East Hertfordshire. The solar farm will be capable of generating up to 49.9 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy, enough to power approximately 13,500 homes<sup>1</sup>.

We are keen to hear the thoughts of the local community on our preliminary design which has been informed by initial surveys and assessments. Once you have had a chance to review our exhibition, we encourage you to provide us with your feedback on our proposals. You can complete a copy of our feedback form at this event, or take away with a freepost envelope. You can also complete the form online at [www.beane-solarfarm.co.uk](http://www.beane-solarfarm.co.uk).



If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us using the details provided.

@ [www.beane-solarfarm.co.uk](http://www.beane-solarfarm.co.uk)

✉ [feedback@consultation-online.co.uk](mailto:feedback@consultation-online.co.uk)

☎ 0800 298 7040

1. The homes equivalent figure has been calculated by taking the predicted annual electricity generation of the site (based on RES assessments Beane has a predicted capacity factor of 11.2% and dividing this by the annual average electricity figures from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) showing that the annual UK average domestic household consumption is 3,509 kWh (December 2022)

## Our journey to net zero

### Why solar?

There is now widespread recognition that the UK, and the rest of the world, is in a climate emergency. To help address climate change, the UK has committed to reaching net zero by 2050, requiring us to quadruple our low-carbon electricity generation.

Solar energy enables more electricity to be generated domestically without reliance on imports and is not subject to sudden price fluctuations or the uncertainty of global markets. It can therefore play an important role in improving the security and diversification of the UK's energy supply.

Government forecasting places solar as the cheapest source of new electricity generation for the coming years. This means investment in solar projects like Beane Solar Farm is not just good for the environment but also for consumers.

### Who is RES

RES is the world's largest independent renewable company with operations across Europe, the Americas and Asia-Pacific. At the forefront of renewable energy development for over 40 years, RES has developed and built more than 23 gigawatt (GW) of renewable energy capacity worldwide.

RES is currently developing a number of projects across the UK & Ireland using the latest solar technology.

RES employs more than 2,500 people and is active in 14 countries working across onshore and offshore wind, solar, energy storage, green hydrogen, transmission and distribution.

#### ACTIVITIES



DEVELOP



CONSTRUCT



SUPPORT



DIGITAL

#### TECHNOLOGIES



WIND



SOLAR



STORAGE



TRANSMISSION  
& DISTRIBUTION



GREEN HYDROGEN



Beane Solar Farm

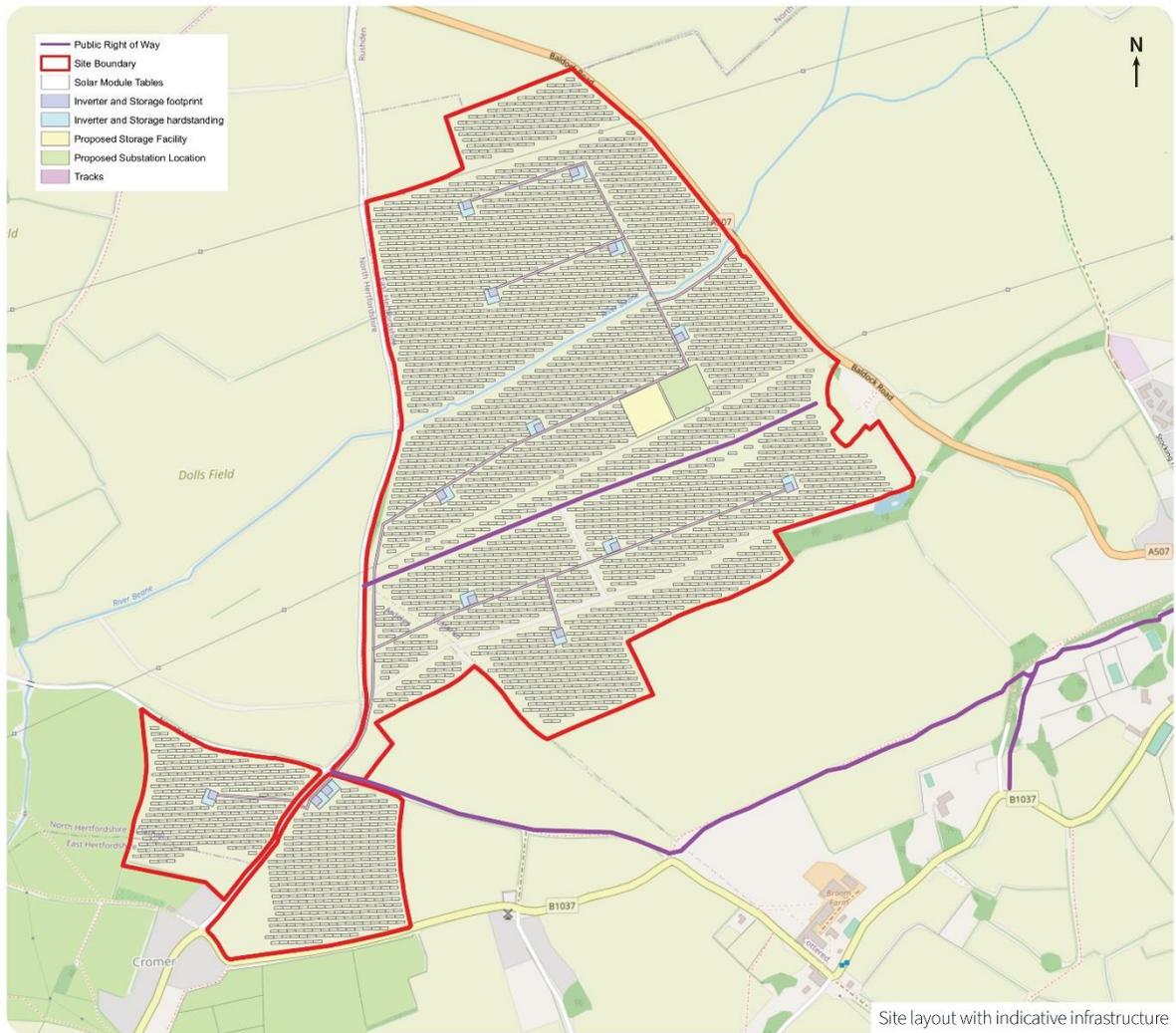
[www.beane-solarfarm.co.uk](http://www.beane-solarfarm.co.uk)

**res**  
power for good

## Our proposals

The plan below shows the preliminary layout for Beane Solar Farm which will be capable of producing up to 49.9MW of clean, renewable electricity. The preliminary layout is based on initial findings from environmental and technical surveys which are ongoing.

The final site layout will be informed by the results of site surveys and assessments and feedback from stakeholders and the local community.



In addition to solar panels, site infrastructure is expected to include the following:

- A network of on-site tracks
- A substation with security fencing
- Inverters on hardstanding
- Energy storage facilities
- Deer fencing around the perimeter of the solar farm

## Landscape and ecology

Solar farms typically use around just 5% of the total area for solar infrastructure, with the rest of the land available for agricultural purposes and opportunities to provide a range of ecological benefits. Beane Solar Farm has significant potential to enhance biodiversity by hosting a range of habitats including wildflower meadows, hedgerows and nectar-rich areas for pollinators.

The plan below shows a preliminary Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) which illustrates our immediate and long-term commitments for the site.

The solar farm is specifically designed to be dual purpose, enabling continued agricultural use, in the form of sheep grazing, and renewable generation.

New and infill native planting will provide screening from the solar farm as well as wildlife corridors and vital resources for mammals, birds, and insect species.

Educational boards in the area to provide information on the local area and biodiversity.

Solar infrastructure will be set back from the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and planting will be proposed along sections to ensure openness is not compromised and to reduce potential visibility.

Wildflower meadows will provide habitat for pollinators such as butterflies, bees and hoverflies.

Reptile hibernaculum, hedgehog houses, bee banks, bird boxes and invertebrate hotels will provide further biodiversity enhancement.

Site layout highlighting ecological features

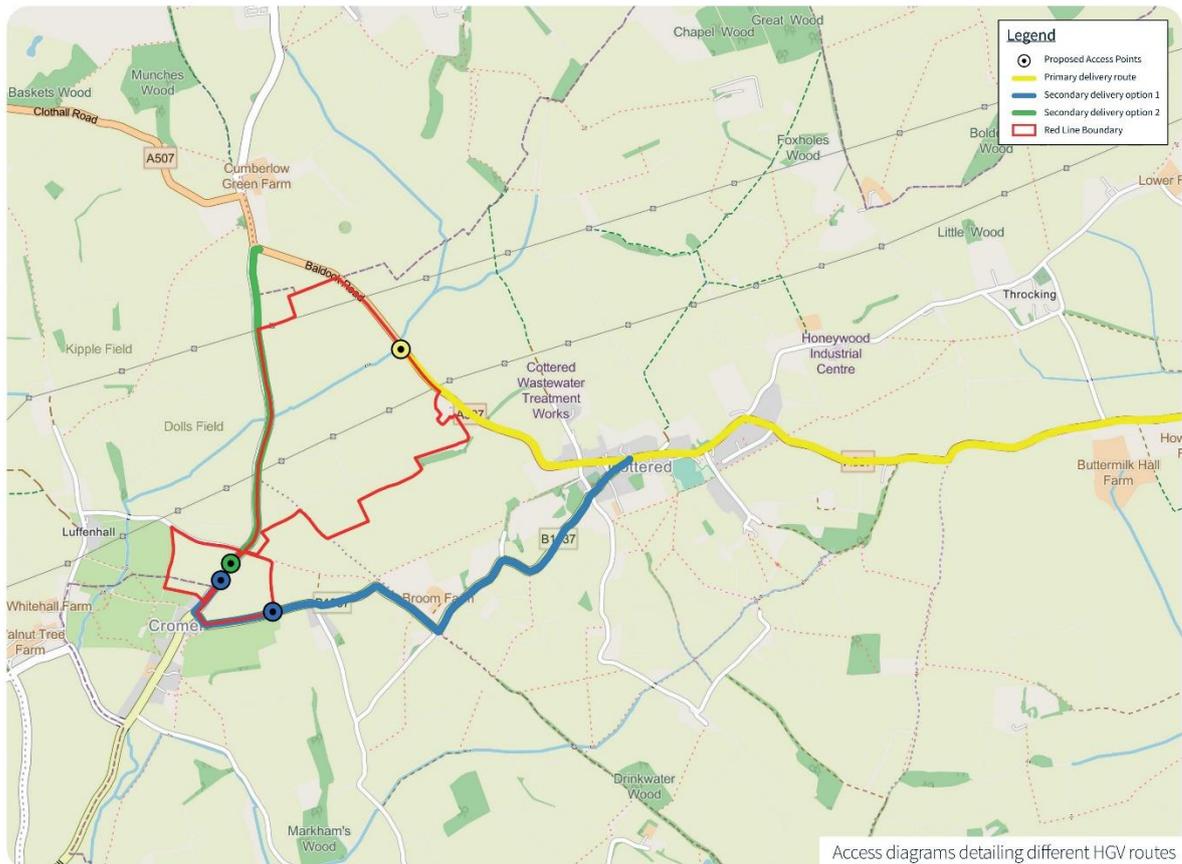
As the design progresses, the LEMP will be developed further with site-specific details on measures to enhance existing habitats, protect species and provide landscaping specifications for new vegetation in accordance with the relevant standard.

## Access and construction

### Potential access routes

We have reviewed the potential access routes to determine how to access the site most efficiently with minimal disruption to neighbours. To access the main site, we aim to create a new road opening onto the A507. We are still considering different options to access the southwestern field.

The preliminary plan below shows our potential delivery routes and access points which could be used during construction and operation.



We are currently engaging with Hertfordshire County Council's Highway Officer to determine the best access delivery to the site, but all comments and feedback from the public would be appreciated.

### Construction programme

We hope to submit a planning application to East Hertfordshire District Council in early 2024.

During the construction period, we anticipate that site traffic will peak around months three and four. The traffic movements will be limited to avoid morning and evening peak times, where possible.

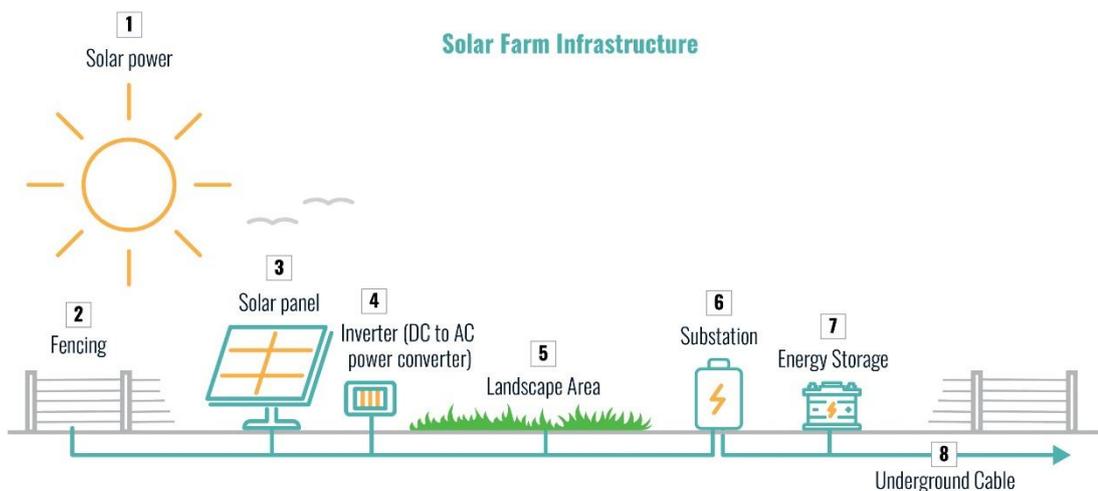
## How solar works

Solar PV panels are typically made from silicon, which is a great semi-conductor, installed in a metal panel frame with a glass casing.

The sun gives off light, even on cloudy days, and when these light particles, or photons, hit the thin layer of silicon on the top of a solar panel, they knock electrons off the silicon atoms which creates a direct current (DC) of electricity. This is captured by the wiring in the solar panels.

This DC electricity is then converted to alternating current (AC) by an inverter which is then funnelled into the grid network. AC is the type of electrical current used when you plug appliances into normal wall sockets.

Bifacial modules have two sides of solar cells, enabling additional energy generation from the diffuse light reflected off the grass, on the rear-side of the panels.



## Recycling

In most cases solar panels are recyclable and there are well established industrial processes to do this. There are organisations around the UK and Europe specialising in solar recycling, such as PV Cycle and the European Recycling Platform. They are working with solar developers to minimise electrical waste and recycle old panels in line with the Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations<sup>2</sup>.

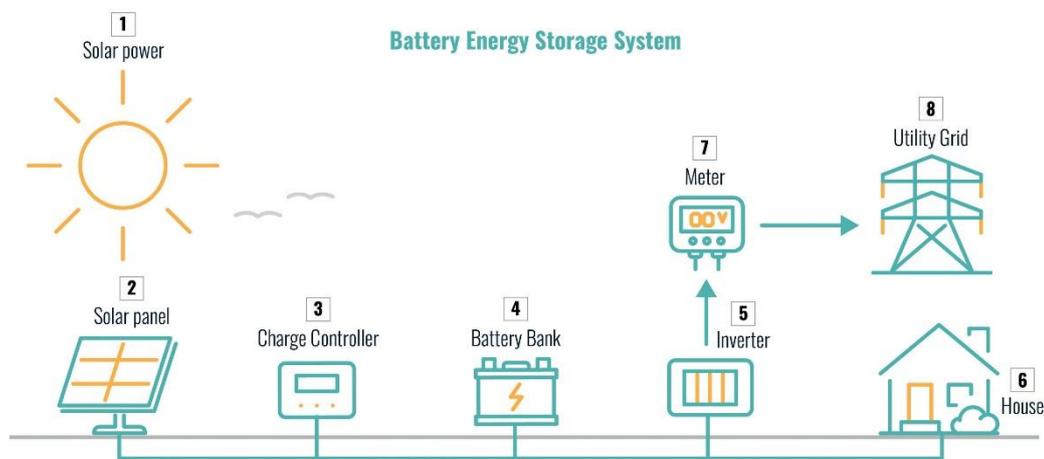


2. [https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/waste-and-recycling/waste-electrical-and-electronic-equipment-weee\\_en](https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/waste-and-recycling/waste-electrical-and-electronic-equipment-weee_en)

## What does a solar farm look like with battery storage?

As the plans are still at an early stage, the exact layout of panels and infrastructure across the site is still being developed. However, the following elements are anticipated to be included in the project:

- Solar PV modules and the associated mounting structures
- On-site supporting equipment including inverters, transformers, and switchgears
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
- Wildflower planting
- Underground cabling within the areas of the solar PV modules and connecting solar PV module areas to the on-site substation
- Supporting infrastructure including access tracks, security measures, gates, lighting
- Improvements to hedgerows throughout the site



## Environmental considerations

RES design their solar farms so that they will fit sensitively in the surrounding landscape

As part of the planning process, RES carries out a number of detailed technical and environmental surveys to ensure any potential impact upon the environment, landscape, heritage and local residents is appropriately assessed and mitigated.

These assessments include:

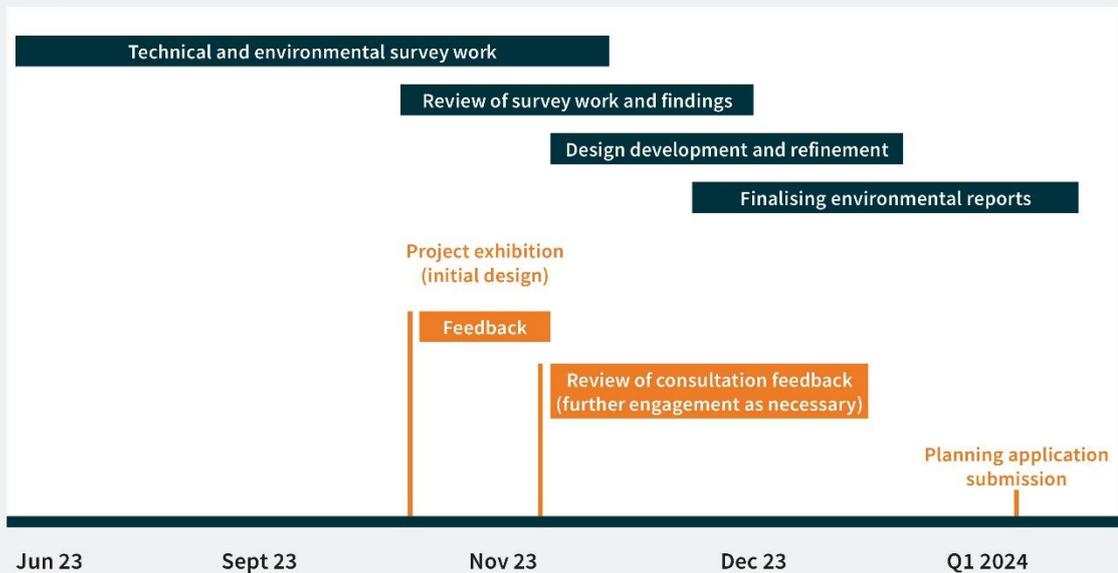
- Landscape and visual
- Ecology and ornithology
- Cultural heritage and archaeology
- Traffic and transport
- Agricultural land classification
- Noise
- Glint and glare
- Flood risk and drainage

The results of these surveys, along with feedback from the local community and stakeholders, will be taken into account as the design of the Beane Solar Farm is refined and finalised.



## Next steps

### Project submission timeline



## Have your say

Before we submit a planning application, we will create a Statement of Community Involvement, that documents the community engagement process and any steps we have taken to adapt our proposal.

At this stage we are inviting the local community to submit feedback directly to RES. If an application is submitted, there will be the opportunity to submit representations to East Hertfordshire District Council at that time. We are keen to understand your views on the proposal and the information available at this exhibition.

You can complete a copy of our feedback form at this event, or take away with a freepost envelope. You can also complete the form online at [www.beane-solarfarm.co.uk](http://www.beane-solarfarm.co.uk).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us using the details provided.

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-  **[www.beane-solarfarm.co.uk](http://www.beane-solarfarm.co.uk)**

