Manor Solar Farm

A proposed new solar farm up to 30MW near Denchworth, South Oxfordshire

Renewable Connections is investigating the potential for a solar farm up to 30MW on land in Denchworth, South Oxfordshire. Once operational, the project will supply enough power for up to 7,461 homes annually, and will make a valuable contribution towards tackling the climate emergency in Oxfordshire. Vale of White Horse District Council, who declared their own climate emergency in February 2019, has acknowledged that urgent action is required to limit the environmental impacts caused by climate change.

Manor Solar Farm will help to support the delivery of urgent national and local climate objectives to generate more renewable energy to support the move away from fossil fuels.

As we prepare a planning application for submission to Vale of White Horse District Council, Renewable Connections is undertaking public consultation to inform local communities of our proposed plans and to invite any feedback.

More information on the project, our plans and how you can consult with us is provided on our website at: **www.manorsolarfarm.co.uk**

Have your say

We are inviting members of the community to provide any comments you have on the proposal either via the project website, or by email or post using the details provided. Comments provided by the local community will be taken into account in shaping the final planning application submission. The consultation period runs from the 8th of November and closes on the 8th of December 2022.

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Proposed timeline

Site selection
Summer 2021

Preliminary surveys
Spring 2022

Pre-application
Summer 2022

Community Consultation
Autumn 2022

Submission
Winter 2022

Determination
Mid 2023

Construction
2024+

Quick facts

Over 12,980 tonnes of CO_2 saved annually**

Potential 262,800 MWh supplied each year

Equivalent annual energy needs of **7,461** homes*

*Calculated based on 440 tonnes of CO2 saved per GWh electricity supplied (DUKES 2021, Chapter 5: Electricity).

**Calculated based on an annual average domestic household power consumption of 3,954kWh (DUKES 2021, Energy Consumption in the UK – March 2022 Update).

The proposed site

The proposed Manor Solar Farm comprises approximately 60 hectares of land and is located in Denchworth, South Oxfordshire.

The site comprises agricultural fields and is primarily used for arable. If the proposed solar farm development goes ahead the landowner intends to introduce sheep grazing amongst the solar arrays and would therefore retain an agricultural use whilst contributing invaluably toward improving energy generation and energy security in England.

The Proposed Development would include a package of landscape, ecological, and biodiversity benefits that could include the installation of barn owl boxes, bird nesting boxes, bee hives, log piles, restoration of traditional field boundaries, and other hibernacula such as small buried rubble piles suitable for reptile species, amphibians and insect life.

Any existing hedgerows would be bolstered with additional hedgerow and tree planting, where required, in addition to potential new mitigation planting around the boundaries of the Site, in order to provide natural screening where appropriate. Land between and beneath the panels can be used for biodiversity enhancements and grazing for sheep.

Why here?

In June 2019 the Government raised the UK's ambition on tackling climate change by legislating for a net-zero greenhouse gas emissions target for the whole economy by 2050. Decarbonising the energy sector is integral to achieving this goal and requires major investment in proven technologies, such as solar, which is supported by planning policy at local and national level.

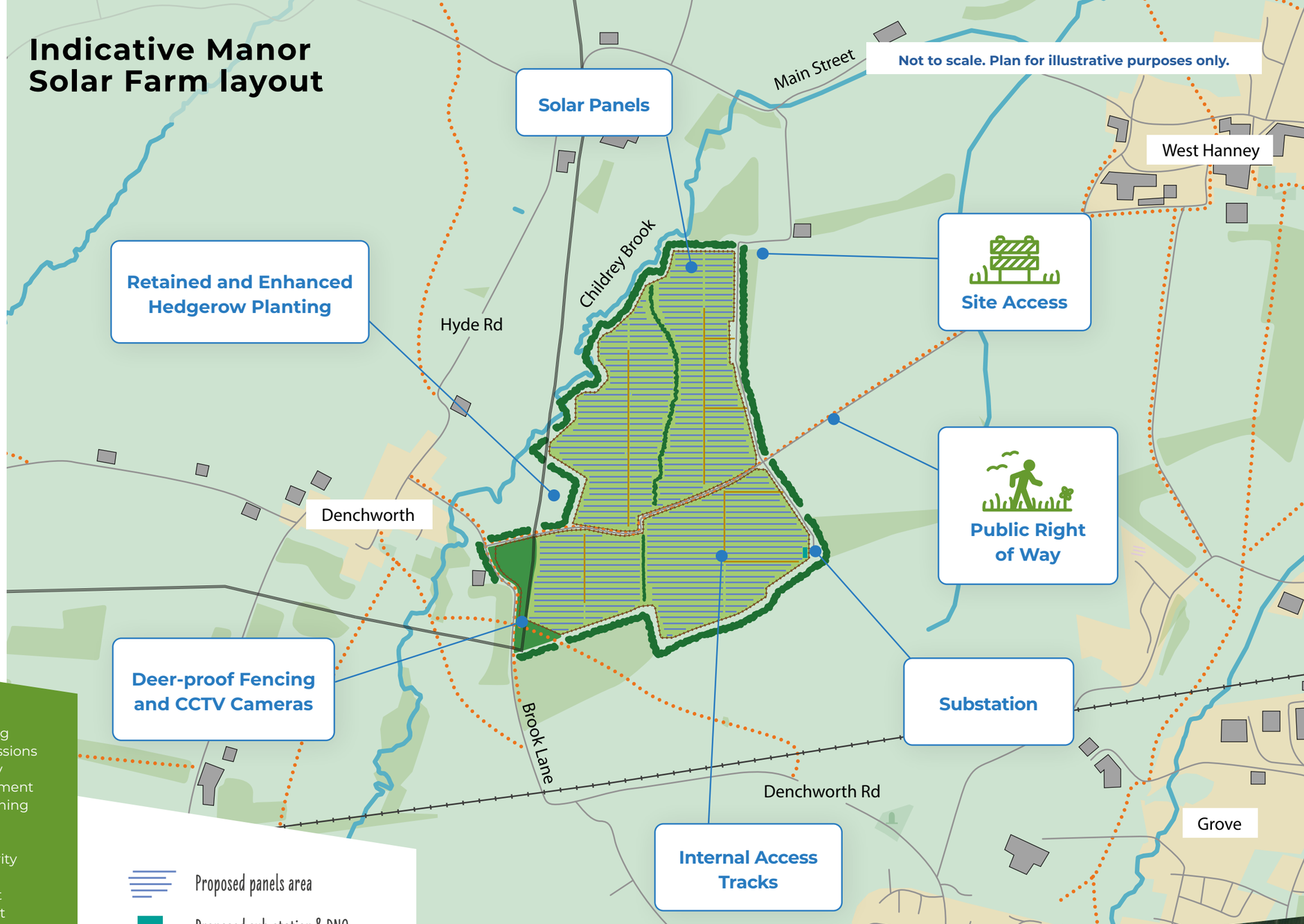
More recently, the Government released the British Energy Security Strategy (2022) which sets out "how Great Britain will accelerate homegrown power for greater energy independence." The report states that there is currently 14GW of solar capacity in the UK split between large scale projects to smaller scale rooftop solar and that the Government expect a five-fold increase in deployment within just 13 years, by 2035. This demonstrates the urgent need for projects such as Manor Solar Farm.

Solar is one of the cleanest, lowest cost forms of energy generation available. Manor Solar Farm would make a meaningful contribution to the UK's energy needs by delivering green energy to over 7,461 homes annually. Over the lifetime of the project, it would save an estimated 519,000 tonnes of CO_2 from being emitted*. This is around the same reduction in carbon emissions as taking up to 9,714 petrol and diesel cars off UK roads.***

This site has been identified following extensive site selection process across the region, which took into account environmental designations, local electricity network access and capacity, the physical characteristics of the site, and the need for a supportive landowner.

Indicative Manor Solar Farm layout

Not to scale. Plan for illustrative purposes only.



- Proposed panels area
- Proposed sub-station & DNO
- Existing Public Rights of Way
- Access tracks
- Retained and enhanced vegetation
- Protective fencing
- Proposed wildflower seeding
- Proposed grazing meadow
- Great Western Railway

***Calculated based on the average car travelling 10,944km/ year and emitting 122.1g CO2/km (DfT, National Travel Survey 2021; and Table VEH0150 2015).

Have your say

Please provide any comments you have on the proposal either via the project website, or by email or post using the details provided. Comments provided by the local community will be taken into account in shaping the final planning application submission.

Public consultation event

Thursday 24th November 2022

3pm to 7pm

Takes place at *Denchworth Village Hall, Barn Close, Denchworth, Oxon, OX12 0EZ*
If you are a shielding or unable to attend the consultation event please feel free to contact us directly and we can arrange a one to one briefing.

FAQ

Why solar?
Solar is one of the cleanest, lowest cost forms of energy generation available. Manor Solar Farm will make a meaningful contribution to Oxfordshire's energy needs.

Does solar pose a health risk?
No - solar doesn't produce any harmful by-products.

Are solar farms noisy?
No – there is no appreciable noise from solar farms beyond the site boundary in most cases.

Will there be any permanent impact?
Solar farms are temporary and the land will be fully reinstated to farmland once the equipment is removed at the end of the project life.

Will there be any impacts on local roads?
For a period of approximately 6 months during construction, there will be deliveries of equipment to site. Renewable Connections will put in place measures to manage impacts of construction traffic and these measures will be included in a Construction Traffic Management Plan that will submitted with the planning application. There will be infrequent maintenance visits to the site during operation.

What are the benefits to the local community?

Renewable Connections is committed to maximising benefits for the local community. The project will support local businesses, provide enhanced business rates, and provide wildlife benefits across the site. Renewable Connections will also establish a Community Benefit Fund to support local causes and is inviting feedback from local charities and groups.

What is an EIA Screening Opinion and how does this impact the project?

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Opinion application is required to be submitted ahead of certain planning applications in order for the Council to assess whether or not an Environmental Statement (ES) is required to be submitted for consideration as part of the justification for a proposed development. An EIA Screening Opinion has been submitted to the Vale of White Horse Council to determine if an ES is required for this application. Renewable Connections will provide a robust package of surveys and reports with the final submission to cover all environmental and ecological issues relating to development of the site.

About us

Renewable Connections was established in early 2020 to deliver solar energy projects across the UK. The Renewable Connections team is one of the most experienced renewable energy teams in the UK having developed over 1GW of solar projects globally since 2010.

Our team is committed to developing high quality projects which see benefits delivered locally and we are committed to listening to local people in advance of any planning submission. Renewable Connections is working in partnership with European Energy, one of the largest renewable energy investors in Europe.

Contact us

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