

Bloomfield Hatch Solar Farm Fact-sheet

INTRODUCTION

Following the declaration of a climate emergency in 2019, West Berkshire Council has been working hard to reduce the district's green house gas emissions. Following a number of studies, the Council is now proposing to develop a solar farm project on their land at Bloomfield Hatch Farm, centered on postcode RG7 3AD (Grid Ref SU 68653 66165).

The solar farm project will have an installed capacity of 26.6MWp, and will encompass an area of circa 76.2 acres (including woodland). Once constructed, the solar farm will have an anticipated thirty year life.

The project will be subject to an initial phase of community consultation during the month of April 2022 and early May 2022. The results of the consultation will be consolidated, and used to refine the project design before submission of a formal planning application in early June 2022.

If the project receives the necessary consents, the Council will invite tenders to undertake detailed design and construction of the project. It is anticipated that construction would commence in the latter half of 2023, or early 2024.



KEY PROJECT FACTS

The key metrics associated with the project's concept design are summarised below

- Total Site Area: c76.2 Acres
- Installed Capacity: 26.65MWp
- Number of Panels: 59,880
- Anticipated Construction: Late 2023 / Early 2024
- Anticipated Life: 30 Years
- Year 1 Energy Output: 24,761,000kWh
- 30 Year Energy Output: 681,022,000kWh... enough to power 7,828 average UK homes for 30 years.
- Year 1 Carbon Reduction: 5,274Tonnes CO₂e*
- 30 Year Carbon Reduction: 145,058 Tonnes CO₂e
- Project Owner & Operator: West Berkshire Council
- Overhead Lines: None



PROJECT BENEFITS

The Bloomfield Hatch solar farm would provide a number of benefits to the both region and the UK.

Carbon Reduction

Over the solar farm's life, it will reduce local emissions by 145,058 tonnes of CO₂e*; that's equivalent to removing 2,000 family cars from the road for 30 years**.

Security of Supply

At a time of rapidly rising energy costs and concerns over security of our national energy supplies, the UK needs to generate more of its own energy from clean green local sources. Over its anticipated life, the Bloomfield Hatch solar farm will generate enough electricity to power the equivalent of 7,828 average UK houses for 30 years***.

Ecological Mitigation

Throughout the design process, careful consideration has been given to the retention of the existing mature woodland and hedges, an important home to a variety of flora and fauna. In order to preserve these areas, a buffer of ten metres has been left between the solar farm boundary and the existing hedges and woodland.

As part of the project, a number of ecological mitigation measures and enhancements will be implemented, including wildflower seeding across the development, pond creation, additional tree and hedgerow planting, and the fixing of bird and bat boxes.

Over its 30 year life, the solar farm will reduce GHG emissions by c145,058 tonnes of CO₂e



You can access the initial community engagement via our survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/G2FYZ8P>

If you have any questions, please email enquiries@horizon-pe.com

* Based upon the predicted solar farm output and the BEIS grid carbon intensity figure of 213g CO₂e / kWh

** Based upon a family car averaging 12,000 miles p.a. and a carbon emissions factor of 125g/km

*** Based upon an average consumption of 2,900kWh p.a. for an average medium house with profile class 1