Knowl Green Fact Sheet

Overview

- Proposal to develop a 49.99 MW solar park
- Will produce enough clean renewable energy to power approximately 12,501 family homes per year and save 11,072 tonnes of CO2e
- Total land required for the solar development – 130.65 acres
- 1 km cable dig to Point of Connection (PoC) at Belchamp Grid

Ecology

- Preliminary Ecological Survey (PEA) carried out and confirmed wintering bird, breeding bird and Great Crested Newt (GCN) surveys required and have been completed.
- A skylark mitigation strategy would be secured via planning condition to create skylark plots.
- The two onsite ponds would be enhanced by reducing shading, de-silting and planting aquatic plants.
- Tussocky grass in the field margins and native berry-bearing shrubs in the hedgerows to be planted to provide cover, potential nesting spots and provide food sources.
- Bird and bat boxes would be installed.

Biodiversity Net Gain

- 179.96% biodiversity net gain in habitat units
- 53.59% biodiversity net gain in hedgerow units

Flood Risk Assessment

- The site is within Flood Zone 1
- Very low risk of surface water flooding
- Pollution Prevention Measures will be outlined in the Construction Environmental Management Plan

Landscape Strategy

- Retention of all existing hedgerows and trees
- Infilling of gaps in the existing hedgerows
- Allow hedgerows to grow to a height of 3 – 4 metres to help in blocking views to the site
- Creation of three new tree-lined hedgerow along three sections of the southern boundary to block and filter views from the south

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Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)

- A detailed ALC soil survey identified that 56.2% of the land is classified as grade 2 and 3a, which is very good or good value land, or Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land and 43.8% is grade 3b, which is of a moderate quality, or non-BMV land.
- The Braintree District Local Plan states 'the majority of agricultural land in Braintree District is classified as Grade 2/3', there is a low provision of suitable sites within the immediate area which are identified as being subgrade 3b, 4 and 5. Given this, it is difficult to find sites in the area which are both credible from a grid connection angle and of a low quality in ALC terms, as such a balanced review and approach has been taken.
- The Natural England Discretionary Advice Service was requested and stated the ALC report was 'reasonably robust' but required additional information, which was completed, and the updated report submitted with the planning application. A Soil Management Plan was also required which has been completed and submitted with the planning application.

Construction Route

- Construction will last approximately 6 months
- Peak traffic movements during months 1-3
- Worst case approximately 16 two-way HGV movements during month 3 at peak
- Construction route from A131 at High Garrett onto the A1017, follow for approximately 12km before turning right onto Bridge Street. Then following the road around onto Tilbury Road before turning left onto Clare Road, continuing for approximately 4km before reaching Baker's Road where site access is located.
- Traffic management measures will be implemented such as controlling timing of deliveries, having site operatives along Clare Road and Baker's Road, using stop/go boards etc.
- Pre-construction and post-construction condition surveys of the access points will be carried out and any maintenance or repair to the highway as a direct result of HGV construction traffic will be underwritten by BSR.
- Once operational there will be low levels of traffic for maintenance purposes.

Archaeology and Heritage

- Ground impacts from piles and cable runs will amount to less than 4% of the total site area.
- Available evidence suggests archaeological remains most likely to be agricultural features of low importance but potential for survival of previously unknown remains.
- Trial trenching proposed and scope currently in discussion with the County Archaeologist.
- No designated heritage assets within site boundary.

- Only two Listed Buildings within a 1km study area considered to have potential to be affected – Cutbush Farmhouse and barn at Cutbush Farm.
- The visual connection between the site and Cutbush Farm Listed Buildings does not contribute to heritage significance of the buildings and there will be no harmful effect on the heritage significance.
- The Grade II Listed Building and Monument at Clare Castle fell outside of the 1km study area, but there are views of the site from the motte. However, the landscape limits the ability to see the site clearly. As such, it is concluded it will have no harmful effect on the heritage significance.

Recycling

- The majority of the materials used for the solar development are recycled at the end of their use. A commitment BSR is passionate about to further reduce its carbon footprint and increase the environmental benefits of its developments.
- The Solar panels are recycled by the parts being separated in the first instance. The aluminium frame and glass casing are disassembled and sent for recycling separately. 100% of the aluminium and 95% of the glass is used again.
  Then the remaining components are sent for thermal processing. This process heats the components to 500°C, which evaporates the small plastic components and easily allows for the cell modules to be physically separated. Around 80% of the cell modules are reused.
  Finally, you're left with the silicon wafers. These are etched away and smelted into reusable slabs. 85% of the silicon is repurposed for new solar panels, but 15% of it is lost in the process.
- The Frame / Mounting System can be fully recycled given that this is made of steel or aluminium.
- The Transformers can be repowered or the components containing metals can be recycled.
- The Inverters can be recycled for parts, upgraded, or repowered.

Contact Us

- Our website has more detailed information on our proposals, please visit here - www.BSRknowlgreen.co.uk

You can also contact a member of the project team using the details below. We would be happy to discuss any questions you have.

- Email: info@BSRknowlgreen.co.uk
- Freephone: 0800 058 4283