ELGIN ENERGY

PROPOSED SOLAR PV FARM

Moat Solar Farm

Newent, Gloucestershire

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

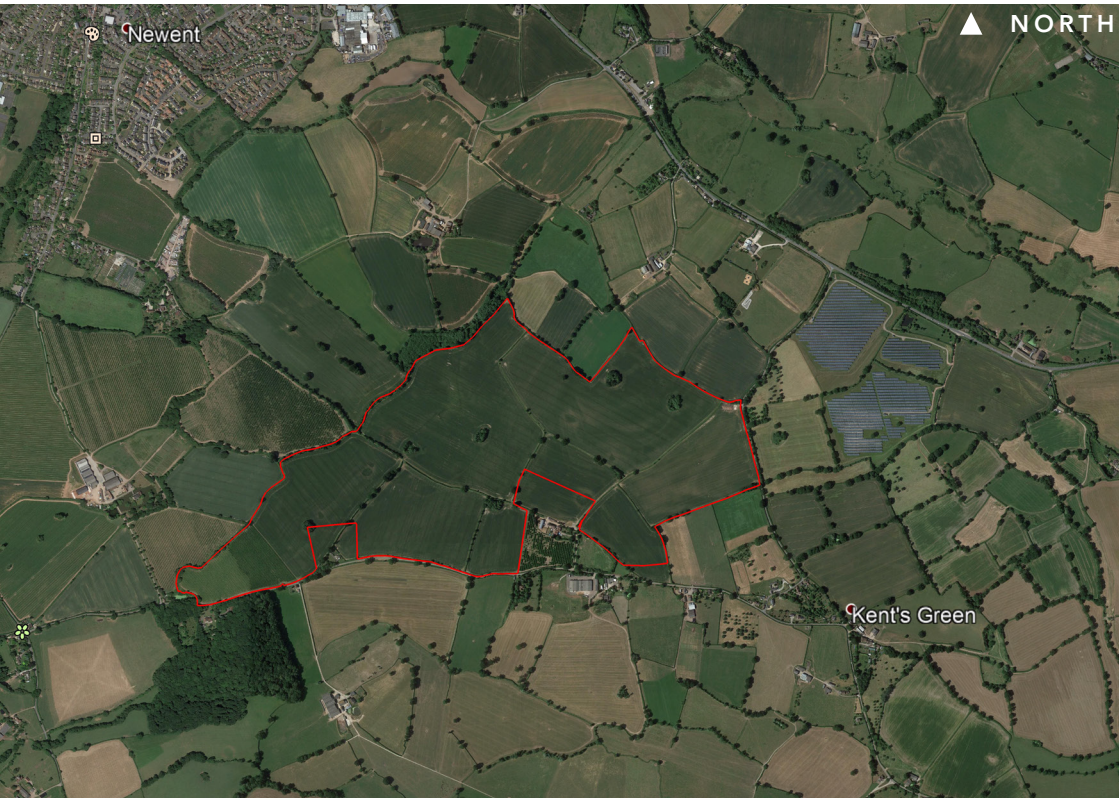
BRE National Solar Centre Biodiversity Best Practice Guidelines 2014

Introduction

Elgin Energy EsCo Ltd is seeking to develop a ground mounted Solar Photovoltaic (PV) farm on lands at Moat Farm, Newent, Gloucestershire GL18 1JG. We are seeking your views on this proposal ahead of submitting a planning application to Forest of Dean District Council. The red line on the map below indicates the site boundary.

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, we are unable to hold a public consultation event. As an alternative, we have created a website to share project information. Please visit www.moatsolarfarm.co.uk to learn more.

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

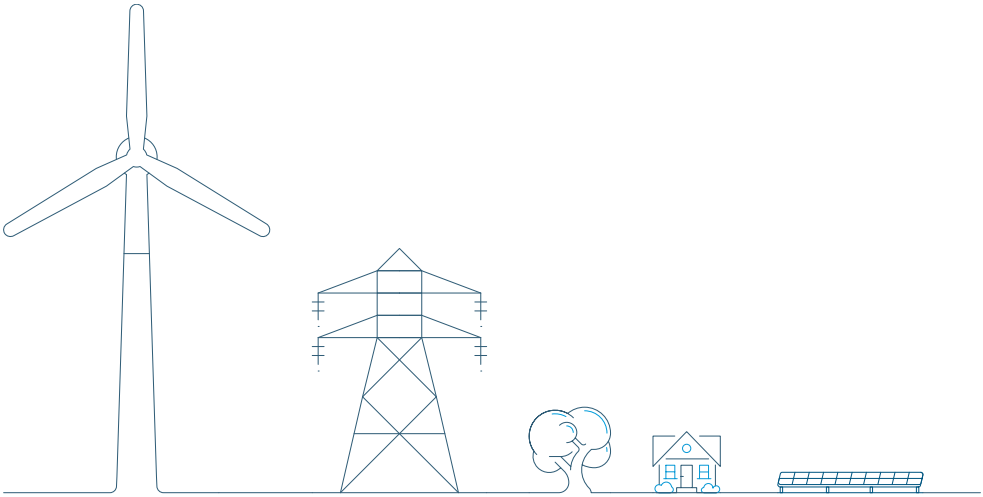


Project overview

The proposed site is on lands at Moat Farm, Newent, Gloucestershire GL18 1JG. The site is approximately 1km south-west of Newent. Access to the site will be from an unnamed road off the B4215 that runs to the east of the site and connects to Kent's Green Road.

The proposed development covers 192 acres and will accommodate approximately 40 megawatts (MW) of ground mounted Solar PV panels. A project lifetime of 40 years is proposed.

The proposed solar farm will generate approximately 43,000,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) per annum powering 12,000 homes or 16,000 electric vehicles (EVs) every year.



Local engagement

Elgin Energy EsCo Ltd is committed to the local communities in which we 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 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 get in touch with our team.

Pre-planning process

A number of assessments are being conducted to establish any potential affects of the proposed development on the site and surrounding lands. These reports include ecology, archaeology & cultural heritage, construction access & traffic and flood risk. In addition, a landscape and visual impact assessment has been undertaken to establish the impact on nearby viewpoints. A glint & glare assessment will also be carried out although 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 as far as possible and the existing orchard will remain in place. The provision of bird boxes, insect hotels, and wildflower meadows 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 a solar farm

The following components are proposed for this solar farm:

- Solar panels arranged in rows of 24–48 panels facing southwards at an inclination of typically 25 degrees. The distance between the rows will typically be 2–6 metres. The panel height will typically be 2.8m–3m at the highest point and 0.8m at the lowest.
- 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 measuring approximately 7m x 2.5m x 3m high. They convert the DC electricty produced by the panels into grid-compatible AC current. They will be located throughout the site.
- A 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.

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About Elgin Energy

Elgin Energy is a leading solar development platform with operations in the UK, Ireland, and Australia. To date, we have delivered 21 projects / 230 megawatts (MW) including the largest operational solar farms in Scotland (13MW) and Northern Ireland (46MW).

The company's initial development began in the UK in 2011, followed by Ireland in 2015 and Australian offices were opened in 2018.

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

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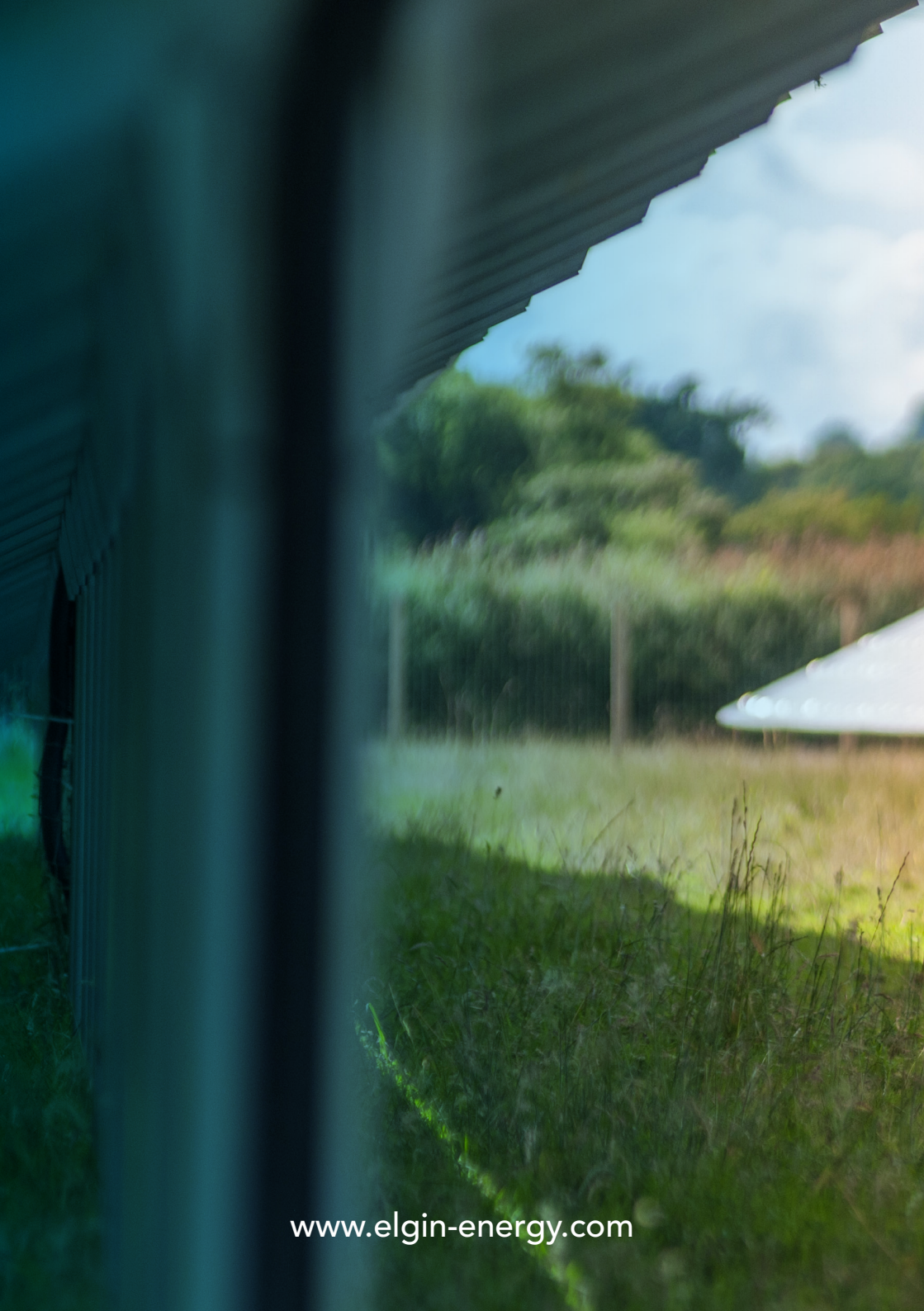

www.elgin-energy.com