

**ELGIN  
ENERGY**

PROPOSED SOLAR PV FARM

Manor Farm,

Mill Road,

Whitfield,

Brackley,

Northamptonshire,

NN13 5TQ.

"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 PV farm at Manor Farm, Mill Road, Whitfield, Brackley, Northamptonshire NN13 5TQ. We are seeking your views on this proposal ahead of submitting a planning application to West Northamptonshire Council. The red line on the map below indicates the site boundary. A dedicated project website has been created to share information and to facilitate online feedback and comments via a digital version of the enclosed questionnaire.

In addition to the preceding initiatives, a community consultation open day will be held between 3pm-7pm, Wednesday the 24th of May 2023 at Turweston Village Hall, Main St, Turweston, Brackley NN13 5JU, during which team members and project specialists will be available to discuss the project.

Please visit [manorsolarproject.co.uk](http://manorsolarproject.co.uk) to learn more. Please note that partaking in this process does not affect your statutory rights to make representations to West Northamptonshire Council in respect of the planning application when submitted.



# Project overview

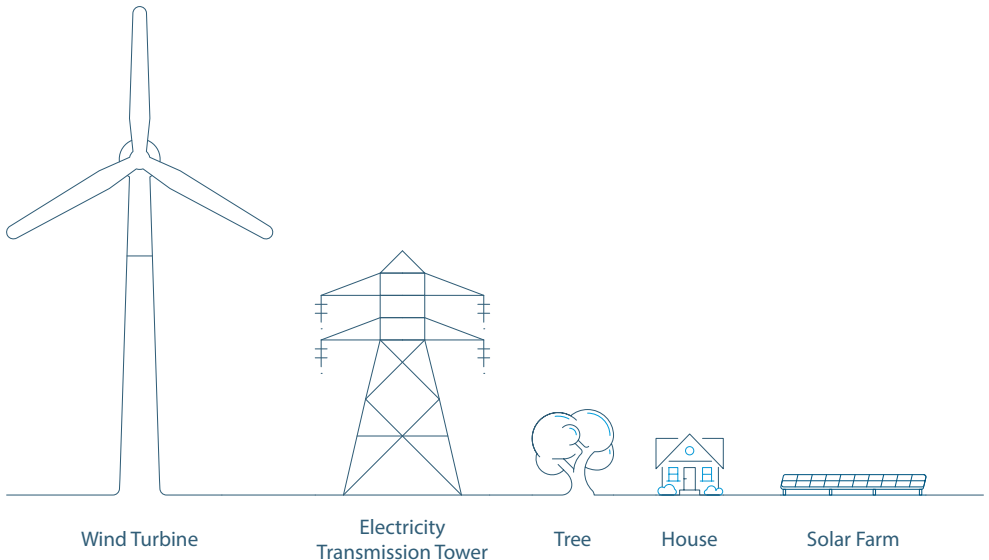
The proposed site is at Manor Farm, Mill Road, Whitfield, Brackley, Northamptonshire NN13 5TQ. It is approximately 700metres (m) east of the town of Brackley. Access to the site will be via Mill Road on the east side of the land holding.

The proposed project covers approximately 99 acres and will accommodate approximately 30 megawatts MWac of solar standalone. A project lifetime of 40 years is proposed.

## Public Consultation Process

Engaging with our host communities will be vital to the success of this carbon-saving facility. We would like to hear your views on the proposal and how it might benefit not only the wider environment, but its immediate surroundings.

We would like to invite you to complete the survey provided on this website. This will help us understand your views on renewable energy and will give you a chance to suggest how the development can best be made to work for the good of the community.



# 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 give us any proposal about a community benefit fund or enquire about providing services for this project, please answer to our survey on the project website or at the in person consultation.

## Pre-planning process

A number of assessments are being conducted to establish any potential affects of the proposed development on the site and surrounding land. 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 identify any impacts on nearby viewpoints. A glint & glare assessment will 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. The provision of bird boxes, insect hotels, and wildflower meadows will 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 the development

The following components are proposed for this development:

- Solar panels will be arranged in rows facing southwards at an inclination of typically 25 degrees. The distance between the rows will be between 2 - 6m. The panels are set at 0.8m above ground level and increase to 2.4 - 3.3m approximately.
- 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 electricity produced by the panels into grid-compatible AC current. They will be located throughout the site.
- A primary 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.

# 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: <https://www.elgin-energy.com/>

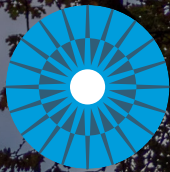
## How long will this consultation take place for?

This consultation will run for six weeks. Following this, we will review all comments and make any amendments deemed necessary before the application is formally submitted. Once the application has been submitted, there will be a further opportunity to comment on the scheme. Who do I contact for more information?

## Who do I contact for more information?

You can get in touch with our project development team to request further information. Contact details can be found [manorsolarproject.co.uk](http://manorsolarproject.co.uk).





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