

# Old Hall Solar Farm

A proposed new 22.5MW solar farm near Old Hall Farm, Six Hills Lane, Ragdale, Leicestershire

Renewable Connections is investigating the potential for a 22.5 MW solar energy farm at Old Hall Farm, Ragdale. Once operational, the project would supply enough power for up to 6,250 homes annually, and make a valuable contribution towards tackling the climate emergency that is reflected both by the national Government's as well as Leicestershire City Council and Melton Borough Council, who declared their own climate emergency in 2019 acknowledging that urgent action is required to limit the environmental impacts produced by the climate crisis.

As we prepare a planning application to submit to Melton Borough Council, Renewable Connections is undertaking a public consultation process to inform local communities of our proposed plans and invite any feedback.

More information on the project, our plans and how you can consult with us is provided on our website at [oldhallfarmsolar.co.uk](http://oldhallfarmsolar.co.uk)

## Have your say

Community insight helps shape great development. 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.

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**A - Old Hall Solar Farm,  
141-145 Curtain Road,  
London, EC2A 3BX**



## Proposed timeline

**Site selection**  
*Early 2021*

**Preliminary surveys**  
*Autumn 2021*

**Pre-application**  
*Early 2022*

**Public Event**  
*Mon 25 Apr - 3pm  
Village Hall*

**Submission**  
*Summer 2022*

**Determination**  
*Early 2023*

**Construction**  
*Mid 2023*

## Quick facts



**Over 10,000 tonnes** of CO<sub>2</sub> saved annually



**22,495 MWh** supplied each year



Equivalent annual energy needs of **6,250** homes



**Enhanced** land for native wildlife

# The proposed site

The proposed location of Old Hall Solar Farm is on 46 hectares in size at Land at Old Hall Farm, Ragdale, Leicestershire.

The proposed solar farm plans make use of and strengthen existing boundary hedging, connecting with the woodland blocks which surround the Site in order to reduce landscape and visual impact. Visual screening is proposed on either side of the footpath to maintain an open, rural feel for users.

The site's design will minimise views through specific placement of panels (away from Ragdale village), as well as use of hedgerow planting and trees for visual screening throughout the site. The natural environment has also been carefully considered, with habitat enhancements offering food and shelter to wildlife and measures to increase biodiversity being included in the proposal.

Our plans are still in the development stages, so our design proposals will evolve as we gather local input and the results of our environmental assessments.

## Why here?

Following the Government's declaration of an "Environment and Climate Emergency" in May 2019, the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) advised that to meet 'Net Zero' targets, the UK will require substantial amounts of new, low carbon power sources to be built before 2050, up to four times that of today's levels.

Leicestershire City Council and Melton Borough Council declared their own climate emergency in 2019 acknowledging that urgent action is required to limit the environmental impacts produced by the climate crisis. A climate emergency strategy has been produced by Leicester City Council setting out initial proposals to become carbon neutral by 2030.

Solar is one of the cleanest, lowest cost forms of energy available. Old Hall Solar Farm would make a meaningful contribution to Leicestershire's energy needs by delivering green energy to up to 6,250 homes annually. Over the lifetime of the project, it would save an estimated 400,000 tonnes of CO2 from being emitted. This is around the same reduction in carbon emissions as taking over 6,500 cars off UK roads each year.

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



# 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.

If you are a shielding or unable to attend the consultation event please feel free to contact us directly and we can arrange a virtual briefing.

## Public consultation event

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April - 3pm-7pm

Takes place at *Hoby & District Village Hall, Main Street, Hoby, LE14 3DT. Almost next door to the village pub, The Blue Bell.*

## FAQ's

### Why solar?

Solar is one of the cleanest, lowest cost forms of energy available. Old Hall Solar Farm will make a meaningful contribution to Leicestershire'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 and there are no public rights of way across or near to this proposed site.

### 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 be 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 Ragdale & Hoby 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 as part of the justification for a proposed development.

An EIA Screening Opinion was submitted to Melton Borough Council in early April. It is hoped a response will be received prior to the public consultation so residents can be updated.

### 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

[oldhallfarmsolar@renewableconnections.co.uk](mailto:oldhallfarmsolar@renewableconnections.co.uk)

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Energy predicted to be generated by the proposal is derived using industry standard PVsyst software, which uses inputs such as solar irradiation, ambient temperature, and wind velocity to estimate the potential MWh that can be generated from solar panels at specific geographical co-ordinates. All inputs are taken from reliable sources and are regularly cross-checked for accuracy. The calculations are based on an installed capacity of up to 22.5MW. The estimated MWh generated, and hence the derived homes equivalent or emissions savings figures, may change as further data are gathered.

