

BUNKER'S HILL SOLAR FARM

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Pegasus Group, on behalf of JBM Solar, is consulting with the local community on proposals for a new solar farm and battery storage facility on land at Bunker's Hill Farm, Hook. We would like to thank those who have responded to the online consultation process to date. The frequently asked questions are outlined in this leaflet and we encourage you to get in contact with us if you have any further questions or comments.

In response to comments received, the consultation period has been extended to allow more time to provide feedback and we would ask for comments to be returned by 5pm on Friday 23rd October 2020.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is the Proposed Development of the scale that is proposed?

Due to being unsubsidised, most solar farms are now of a similar scale to the proposed development, to be financially viable. The scale also maximises the generation of renewable energy and makes use of the available capacity on the local electricity network.

Has the impact on nearby heritage assets been considered?

The planning application will include an assessment of heritage matters, which will include direct consideration of nearby Listed Buildings and archaeology.

What will happen to the Public Rights of Way?

The Public Rights of Way which pass through the site will be retained and access will always remain available. A suitable buffer has been proposed between the solar panels and the existing Public Rights of Way.

Will I be able to see it once it is built?

A comprehensive landscaping scheme is proposed to ensure appropriate screening is provided where necessary. New additional planning is proposed. We would welcome feedback on the proposed landscaping plan which can be found on the project website.

Has the impact on the River Whitewater and its valley been considered?

As part of the planning application, any impact on the proposed development on the River Whitewater and its valley will be assessed, and mitigation detailed (where necessary) in order to ensure the River Whitewater is minimised.

Will any trees or hedgerows be damaged or removed?

Some small sections of hedgerow may require removal. The areas of hedgerow removed will only be small sections and additional trees and hedgerows will be planted. Hedgerows will be reinforced across the site with additional planting in order to create further screening and biodiversity enhancements. A planting plan will be submitted as part of the planning application to show the extent of the new additional planting which is proposed.

How has flood risk and drainage been considered?

The proposals have been designed to ensure that there is no increase in flood risk. A detailed site-specific flood risk assessment and drainage strategy will be submitted as part of the planning application.

How long will it take to be built?

It will take around six months to build the solar farm and battery storage facility.

How will the site be accessed?

The proposed access will be from Reading Road (B3349) from the west of the site, for construction, operation and decommissioning purposes. Once the solar farm is operational there will be very little traffic. Maintenance visits will be limited to around 20 a year and will be undertaken by small vehicles / 4x4's. A Construction Traffic Management Plan will accompany the planning application.

Once built will the solar farm generate noise?

The only items which generate any notable noise are the inverters and batteries. The site has been designed to ensure the inverters and batteries are spread across the site and positioned away from sensitive areas. In order to make sure that these are not audible these items have been located a sufficient distance away from nearby residential properties. We are undertaking a Noise Assessment to support the planning application.

Will there be fencing around the site?

A fence will be put up around the site in order to keep it secure.



What about the wildlife which use the area?

Ecological surveys of the site have been undertaken to understand the wildlife which is present, and the proposals incorporate appropriate planting and seed mixes designed to support wildlife which will improve and enhance the local ecological environment of the site.

Whilst we would usually hold an event locally so that the local community are able to view the proposals and ask questions to members of the development team, unfortunately this is not currently possible due to Covid-19 and may not be possible for some time. As a result, a website-based forum has been established for the public consultation and can be accessed at:

www.bunkershillsolarfarm.co.uk/.

The website has been updated since first published and provides the opportunity to view the site location plan, site layout plan, photomontage visualisations, alongside a range of other information.

The consultation period has been extended to **Friday 23rd October 2020** to allow more time to provide feedback.

We look forward to receiving any further questions or comments which should be emailed to **bunkershillsolarfarm@pegasusgroup.co.uk** or alternatively these can be submitted via the comments form on the consultation website **www.bunkershillsolarfarm.co.uk/**. If you wish to speak directly with JBM Solar, please do get in touch via the email address or website and this can be arranged to discuss any specific concerns.

A Statement of Community Involvement will be prepared at the end of the consultation period which outlines the comments raised during this consultation and how the Applicant has responded to and addressed these matters in the design of the scheme. The document will be submitted as part of the planning application to Hart District Council and will be published on their website for anyone to view.

Once the planning application has been submitted to Hart District Council, you will have a further opportunity to comment on the proposed development via the Council's website.

SITE LAYOUT PLAN

KEY

- Site Boundary
- Public Right of Way
- Overhead Line
- Solar Panels
- Central Inverter
- Battery Storage
- Maintenance Track
- Security Fence
- Proposed Hedgerow
- Grass - Solar Park Long Term Grazing Mix
- Field Margin Planting - EM2 Standard General Purpose Meadow Mix
- Existing Vegetation/Trees/Woodland

