

ELGIN  
ENERGY

PROPOSED SOLAR PV FARM

# Woodlands Solar Farm

Woodlands Farm, Stowmarket,

Suffolk, IP14 2AH

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

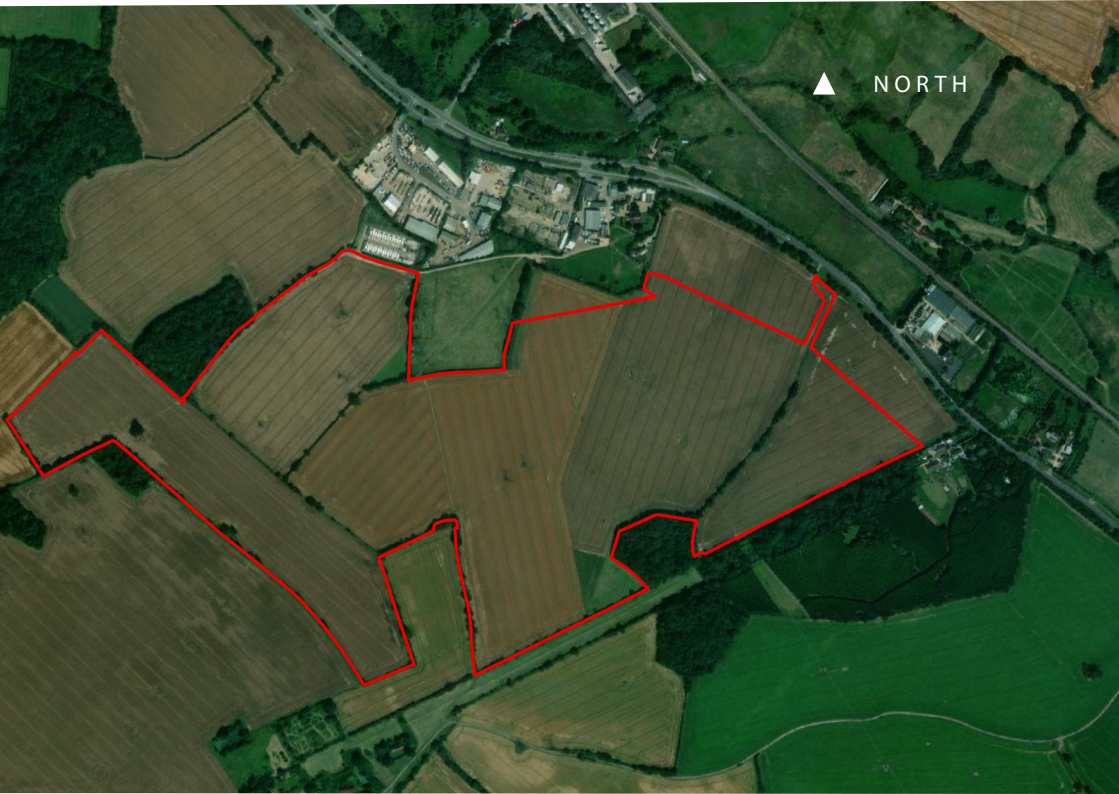
BRE National Solar Centre Biodiversity Best Practice Guidelines 2014

# Introduction

Elgin Energy EsCo Ltd is seeking to develop a ground mounted Solar PV project at Woodlands Farm, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 2AH. We are seeking your views on this proposal ahead of submitting a planning application to Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council. The red line on the map below indicates the site boundary.

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic and concerns about public gatherings our public consultation event will be held online. To facilitate public engagement we have created a website to share project information and seek feedback on the project proposals. Please visit [www.woodlandssolarfarm.com](http://www.woodlandssolarfarm.com) to learn more.

Please note that partaking in this process does not affect your statutory rights to make representations to Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council in respect of the planning application when submitted.

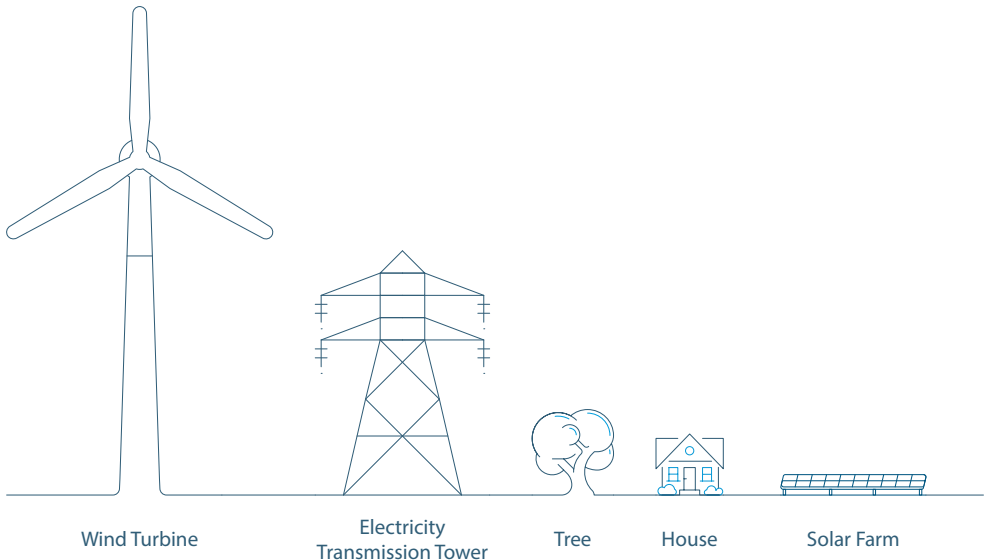


# Project overview

The proposed site is located immediately to the south of Stowmarket Business Park just off the B1113. It is approximately 2.5 kilometres south east of Stowmarket and 1.7km North West of Needham Market . Access to the site will be directly off the B1113.

The proposed project covers approximately 143 acres and will accommodate approximately 49.9 megawatts (MW) of ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panels. A project life time of 40 years is proposed.

The proposed solar farm will generate approximately 49,900,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) per annum powering 14,000 homes or 17,000 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 visit the project website.

## Pre-planning process

A number of surveys are being conducted to establish any potential affects of the proposed development on the site and surrounding lands. These surveys 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. These viewpoints and the proposed site layout can be viewed on the project website.

Existing field boundaries, trees, and hedgerows will be retained as far as possible. The provision of bird boxes, insect hotels, and wildflower meadows provides 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 - 8 metres (m). The panels are set at 0.8m above ground level and have a maximum height of up to 3.2m.
- 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](#).



Elgin Energy

3rd Floor, Audley House  
9 North Audley Street  
London, W1K 6ZD

T: +44 (0) 208 068 4240  
E: [office@elgin-energy.com](mailto:office@elgin-energy.com)  
W: [www.kirktonsolarfarm.co.uk](http://www.kirktonsolarfarm.co.uk)  
W: [www.elgin-energy.com](http://www.elgin-energy.com)



[www.elgin-energy.com](http://www.elgin-energy.com)