

24 July 2026

REF: Robin Hood Solar Farm – Public Exhibition Event

Dear Resident,

I am writing to provide an introduction/update on our draft and early stage proposals for Robin Hood Solar Farm, a proposed 60MW (AC) fixed panel solar farm on a site near Robinhood End, northwest of Braintree in Essex.

During our consultation activities, which included a near-neighbours meeting on 8 July, we have been asked to come back to the local area and provide an update on our emerging solar farm design.

As such, we will be holding a drop-in information event for the local community to come and speak to the project team, see the updated scheme design and construction traffic management proposals, and ask questions. The details of the event are provided below:

Date: Wednesday 5th August 2026

Time: 3.00pm – 7.00pm

Location: Stambourne Village Hall, Church Road, Stambourne CO9 4NP

If you are receiving information from us on this proposal for the first time, that is because we have been asked by the local community to extend engagement from a 2km area around the site to include properties located along our suggested construction traffic route. There remains plenty of time to contact us, find out more information and provide feedback.

More information can be found on this on our website regarding construction traffic but, in summary, we are currently suggesting a one-way arrival and departure circular system whereby HGV arrivals would be from the north-east from the A1017 via Stambourne with departures to the west to the A1017 at Haverhill via Howe Street, Cornish Hall End and Steeple Bumpstead.

The number of HGV movements during construction will be no more than 15 HGVs per day at peak periods, and for considerable periods of the 15-18 month construction period it will be considerably less than this. The agricultural traffic movements associated with the existing farming operations will be removed from the network. An operational solar farm generates just a few LGVs a month for its ongoing maintenance. The impacts of this traffic are being assessed as part of our forthcoming planning application due to be submitted in Autumn 2026, and will be subject to detailed construction traffic management measures. All of this information will be provided within the planning application.

In the meantime, we are also making a request to Braintree District Council to agree the extent and format of environmental information needed for our forthcoming planning application submission. This request is called an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Request, and it will include an updated (but not final) site layout design. The updated site layout design will also be available to view at the information event. The EIA Scoping Request is a standard part of the planning process, whereby an applicant requests the Local Planning Authority to provide its views on the way the environmental assessment will be presented. The remainder of the process up to planning application submission and beyond is set out on the attached process and programme diagram.

In order to enable us to consider any further comments or feedback we would encourage this to be submitted to us in writing by no later than 21 August using the contact details below:

Email: write to the project team at consultation@thirty47.co.uk

Freepost: write to us at FREEPOST TC CONSULTATION (no further address or stamp required)

Freephone: you can call the project freephone voicemail line on 0800 699 0081 and leave a message (a member of the project team will call you back between Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm excluding public holidays)

We will collate all feedback received and present it in our Statement of Community Involvement report which will accompany the planning application submission. Our project website: www.robinhood-solar.co.uk contains project related information including an extensive list of Frequently Asked Questions which I hope you will find to be a helpful resource.

I hope you are able to attend the information event and look forward to meeting with you.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart Langer

Planning Associate

Qualitas Energy

Spring 2026

Phase 1 - Site Survey Data Collection

We collect the following information including topographical, ecological (habitats and species), noise, public rights of way, landscape and visual, flood risk, glint and glare, access, heritage, agricultural, arboricultural data.

At this stage we don't consult externally, as we don't yet have anything to present for comment. Once we have built an understanding of the local constraints and site specifics, we seek broader input

May - July 2026

Phase 2(a) - Pre-application Consultation
Phase 2(b) - Environmental Data Engagement

We introduce the Project to the local community, share information and seek input into the very early initial site design.

We also engage with Braintree District Council (BDC) on how environmental impact assessment information is to be provided alongside the future planning application i.e. within a single Environmental Statement or in separate environmental reports or a combination of both approaches. This is called the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening process and our EIA Screening Request is presented on the Council's planning website alongside the Council's decision (its EIA Screening Opinion).

At this stage we undertake initial introductory outreach, including sending letters and newsletters, as well as holding online and in-person events, to inform the local community and seek initial feedback.

Early July 2026

Phase 3 - Scheme Design

We use initial consultation feedback and site survey work outputs to prepare an updated site layout design which responds as sensitively as possible to the local area.

We will prepare and submit an 'EIA Scoping Request' to inform the survey work and assessment. This is a request to Braintree District Council (BDC) to understand the scope of the Environmental Statement and which assessments are required as part of the planning application.

At this stage the EIA Scoping Request is made publicly available following its submission to Braintree District Council (BDC), together with the updated site layout design. We will attend a locally held drop in event to answer any questions from the local community.

Late July/Early August 2026

Phase 4 - EIA Scoping

Summer/Autumn 2027

Phase 8 - Application Determination

The Council consider all the feedback, the final scheme design and determine the application most likely at Planning Committee which is a public meeting. Any refusal of the application we can appeal, if appropriate, to the Planning Inspectorate which operates on behalf of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

We will inform the local community of the outcome and explain what the next steps will be.

Autumn/Winter 2026 Onwards

Phase 7 - Application Processing and Determination

BDC will consult with the local community on the application as well as key stakeholders such as the Environment Agency, Historic England, Natural England, etc. It will then assess the planning application, taking account of the comments received from the public and stakeholders.

Residents have an opportunity to share their feedback directly with BDC.

Qualitas Energy will engage with BDC and stakeholders to understand whether design revisions or additional information are required, and will provide these if necessary.

There may be further changes that arise from this activity. We will update and engage with the community if any changes to the plans occur.

Autumn 2026

Phase 6 - Application Preparation and Submission

The planning application submission documents are prepared based on the final site layout design including plans, Environmental Statement, other technical reports and the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The SCI captures all pre-application consultation feedback and how it changed influenced the submission.

This is submitted to BDC. Once it is accepted as being validly made, and the documents are publicly available on the Council's website, we will notify the local community.

August - September 2026

Phase 5 - Impact Assessment and Design Refinement

We assess the environmental impacts of the updated site layout design, review outcomes and make minor design refinements to ensure all necessary mitigation (e.g. landscape planting) and enhancements (such as for wildlife) is provided.

We may continue to consult certain consultees or local individuals on very specific points if required. This phase produces the final site layout design.