



Robin Hood Solar Farm

Toppesfield Parish Council
Introductory Meeting

Qualitas
energy

Agenda

- Team Introductions and About Qualitas Energy
- Project overview
- Why has this site been chosen?
- Environmental Considerations
- Construction Access Route
- Key Benefits
- Community Benefit Fund
- Next steps
- Feedback details
- Q&A



Qualitas Energy

- [Qualitas Energy](#)'s business in the United Kingdom specialises in the acquisition, financing, project development, construction, and operation of renewable energy projects, with a mission to drive the transition towards decarbonisation.
- A team of c. 30 employees operating across three strategic locations in the United Kingdom: London, Bristol, and Edinburgh.
- Qualitas Energy owns Acorn Bioenergy. Acorn Bioenergy has achieved planning consent for five biomethane plants in the last few years, two of which are built and others which are progressing towards construction. One Acorn project at Haverhill called Spring Grove, was refused in June 2025.
- We are committed to building a relationship with the community near the Robin Hood site.

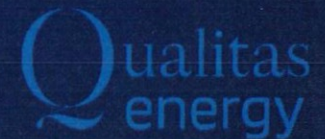


Project overview

Qualitas Energy is developing proposals for Robin Hood Solar Farm, a c.60MW (AC) fixed panel solar farm on a site near Robin Hood End, northwest of Braintree in Essex.

- A solar farm producing up to c.60MW (AC) of renewable electricity (enough to power the equivalent of 16,200 homes)
- Onsite grid connection into an existing pylon
- Landscape and environmental enhancements
- A package of other community benefits through a designated Community Benefit Fund

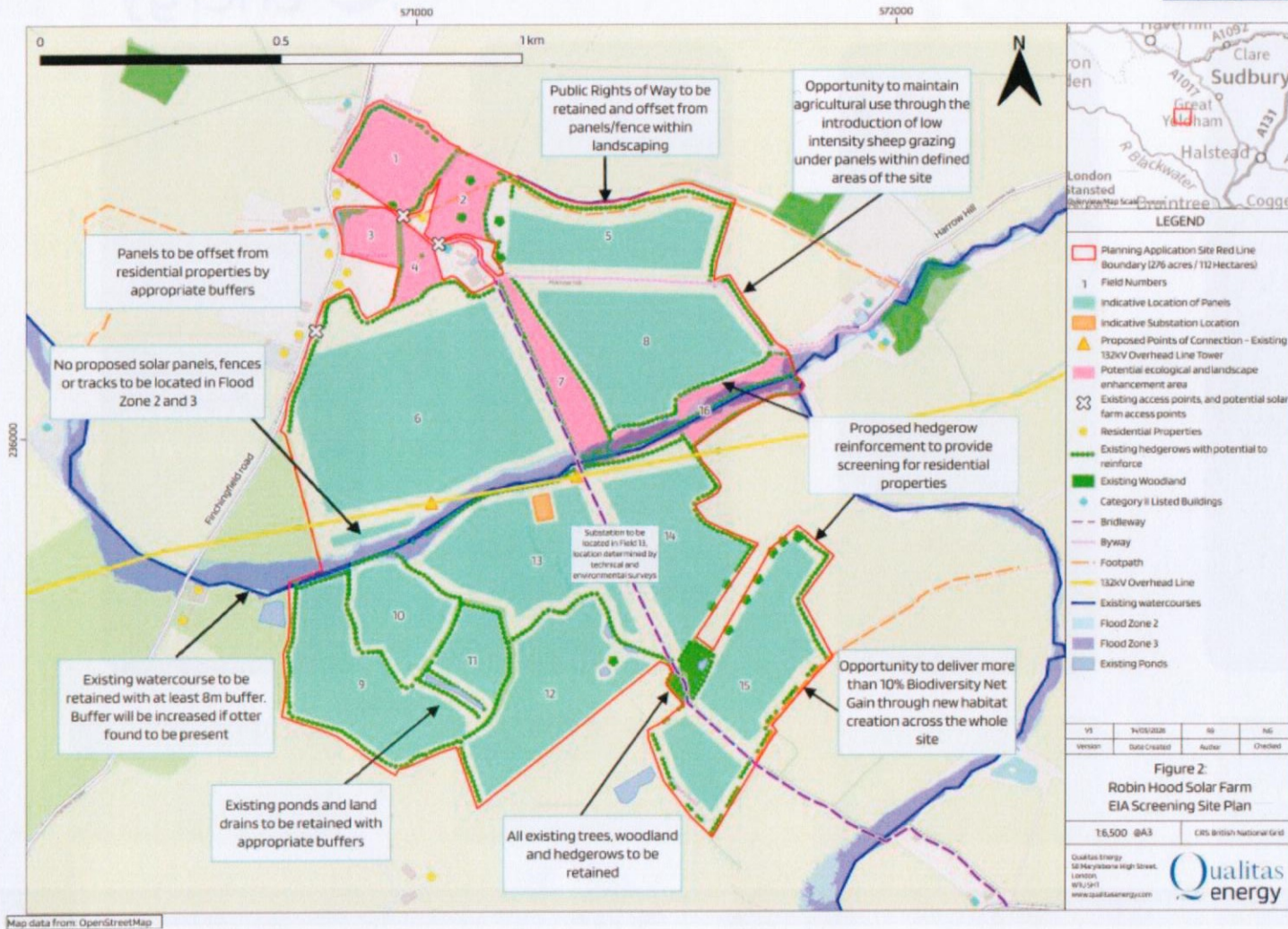
The point of connection to the national electricity network will be on-site, connecting to an existing 132kV overhead line which already passes across the land.



Planning Preparation Process



Concept Design



Initial Activity Phase

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Why has this site been chosen?



Three key considerations.

Connection:

- The site benefits from an overhead line with spare capacity – making best use of existing infrastructure and helping to reduce consumers electricity costs.

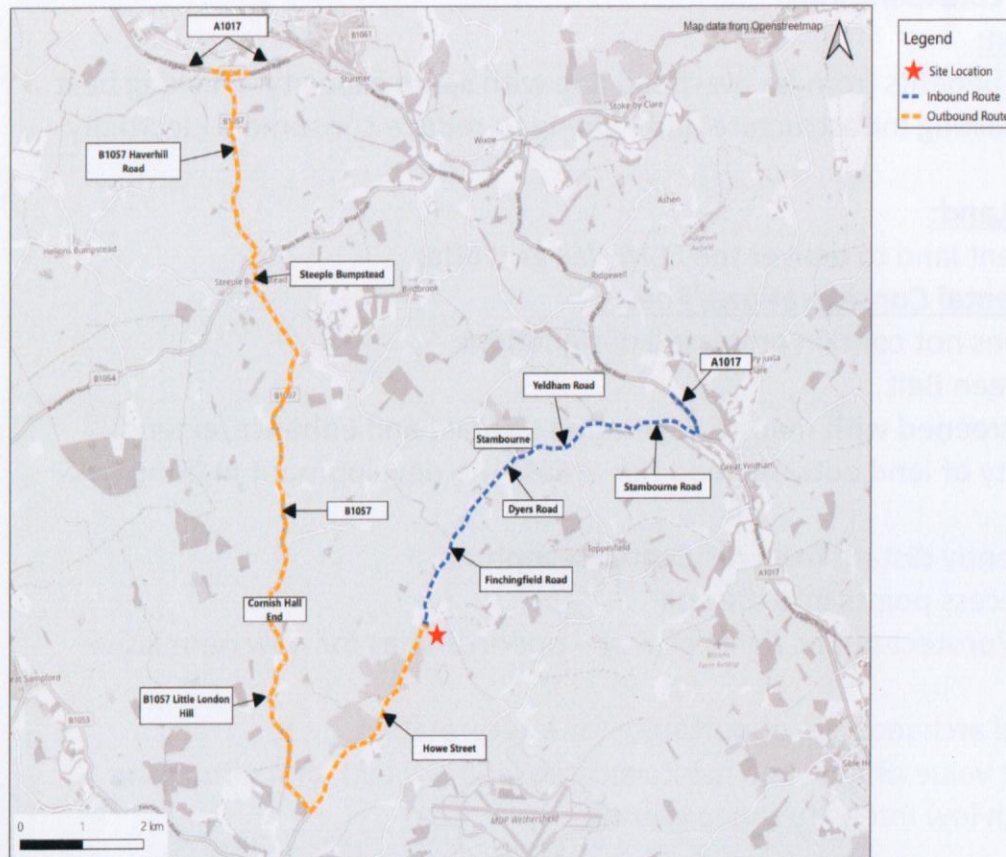
Available Land:

- Sufficient land to deliver the 60MWac grid offer

Environmental Considerations/Policy:

- Site does not contain protected designations
- Not Green Belt
- Well screened with mature vegetation – retain and enhance/extend
- Majority of land outside flood risk areas – no development in flood risk areas
- Sufficiently distant from residential receptors
- Safe access points into the site
- Retain/protect public rights of way – opportunities for new permissive routes
- Limited archaeology- opportunity for interpretation
- Lowest value of best and most versatile land – retain agricultural use through low intensity sheep grazing

Construction Access Route



- Proposing to route the construction traffic on a one-way arrival and departure system whereby 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.
- During construction, the development will, on average require 10 HGV deliveries a day. At peak times this may increase to 15 deliveries per day. Typically however there will be much fewer HGVs per day, for long periods.
- During the operational period of Robin Hood Solar Farm, approximately 3-4 light goods vehicles are expected per month.
- To minimise disruption, as part of our planning application we will prepare and submit an outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) to manage environmental impacts and control construction traffic.

Key Benefits

Energy security and lower bills – Transitioning to solar generation (and other renewable sources) gives much greater certainty for the long-term future of energy supply to the UK, and helps reduce energy prices in our day to day lives.

Meeting growing electricity need – The solar farm would generate enough clean, renewable energy to power the equivalent of 16,200 homes.

Supporting the local economy – We are committed to employing local suppliers and contractors throughout construction and long-term operation, ensuring that investment stays within the community and directly benefits local businesses.

Tackling climate change – The Robin Hood Solar Farm project will contribute towards the UK's transition to a low carbon economy and will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with local, national, and international targets, including the legally binding commitment to reach Net Zero by 2050.

Delivering wildlife benefits – there will be a biodiversity net gain with the land being managed for nature for 40 years

Community Benefit Fund

- Qualitas Energy is committed to being a force for good for all our neighbours and host communities. We are keen to ensure that local residents and other stakeholders have an opportunity to help shape the proposals.
- We seek to build relationships locally around the site to understand how best we can also deliver benefits to nearby communities, as well as supporting the green energy transition.
- We intend to establish a community benefit fund worth approximately £500 per installed megawatt of capacity per year, index linked. At 60 MW capacity, the fund would provide £30,000 per year. With an operational life of 40 years, the community benefit fund from the Robin Hood Solar Farm would total approximately £1.2 million over the project lifetime.
- Seeks to provide financial support for activities and projects within the local area following the construction and energisation of the project.
- This sits outside the planning process and does not influence the planning outcome.

Next steps

- EIA Scoping process – submission of scoping request to the local planning authority
- Public event to explain design to date
- Opportunity to provide feedback

detailed dates and locations for the in person meeting are to be confirmed

Feedback

We are seeking feedback on our proposals for the Robin Hood Solar Farm. Please submit feedback or get in touch with any questions by using any of the methods below:

- **Email:** consultation@thirty47.co.uk
- **Feedback form:** available on the project website: www.robinhood-solar.co.uk
- **Freepost:** 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)



Q&A

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