

Wickham Hall Solar Farm

Update

From Joel Fayers

For and on behalf of Endurance Energy

Proposed development of up to 35MW solar farm at Wickham Hall Estate (3/21/2601/FUL)

To recap, our proposals are landscape led, seeking to deliver the following benefits:

- Generating 35MW of renewable electricity Producing enough low-cost renewable energy to power over 10,000 homes,
- The site is just over a kilometre from the grid connection point in Bishop's Stortford. Grid connections for the export of power from solar installations are increasingly
- Over 82% increase in biodiversity The solar farm will create extensive new grassland, wildflower, woodland and hedgerow habitats
- The planting of 10,000 new trees Through the creation of a new woodland on the north-western edge and extensive planting throughout the site
- New footpaths and defined circular walks The proposals will deliver public access and enjoyment of the countryside for all, including the provision of additional permissive pathways and the installation of information boards around the site to encourage outdoor learning.

What's happened since we last met?

- The application to Uttlesford District Council was refused at committee last month.
- The application with East Herts District Council remains live.
- The East Herts Case Officer expressed concerns about the impact of the proposals on the Green Belt.
- Endurance Energy Community Fund has been recently launched. This fund will allow eligible schemes in parishes where Endurance Energy projects are located to benefit from funding for green initiatives in the local community.
- Eligible schemes will include the provision of solar panels for community buildings as well as the provision of EV charging infrastructure for community use.

Next Steps:

- Whilst we are awaiting a date for committee, the project team are keen to meet with you to provide a full update on the revised proposals and answer any questions or arrange a meeting to discuss the proposals in more detail. If this is of interest, please contact Joel Fayers on 07891 378848 or joelfayers@mpc.email.
- In the meantime, if you would like further information on the proposals, please visit www.wickhamhallsolarfarm.co.uk which includes an updated video providing an overview of the scheme and its landscape setting.