

Why has this site been chosen?



A key factor in selecting locations for solar farms is proximity to a suitable Point of Connection (POC), where there is capacity to connect to the national grid.

Using an existing nearby grid connection helps reduce the need for extensive new electrical infrastructure and associated disruption.

Alongside the POC suitability, environmental assessments have been undertaken which confirm the suitability of the site for hosting a solar farm. These include:

- An ecological walkover survey, which has found that the site is remote from any ecological designations and that wildlife can be safeguarded during the construction and operation of the site. Furthermore, the Robin Hood Solar Farm offers the ability to create an overall increase in biodiversity.
- Archaeological investigation, which has identified that the site is unlikely to contain significant archaeology, and that any residual archaeological and heritage effects can be managed through design.
- The site is relatively self-contained, with few landscape and visual receptors in its vicinity and no national landscape designations in the area. Initial assessment of the project's visibility shows that it cannot be widely seen in the landscape. With the addition of new planting to create screening, the effects on landscape and visual receptors can be further reduced.
- An agricultural land survey, showing that this site is likely to be lower quality than the surrounding areas.
- A suitable access point onto the adjacent Finchingfield Road is appropriate and a safe and suitable construction route can be achieved which will utilise a one way system.

The planning process

As the Robin Hood Solar Farm falls under the 100MW 'nationally significant infrastructure project' threshold, Braintree District Council will determine whether the proposal is granted planning consent.

Following this public consultation, we will review all of the feedback and refine our plans before submitting a formal planning application to Braintree District Council. The Council will then assess the proposals and decide whether to grant planning consent in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act (1990).

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Request has been submitted to Braintree District Council, which provides more information about the project and the likelihood of environmental effects.