

Proposal for a vast solar farm, Trinity Hall, north of Stanbridge Road, Tilsworth

European Energy, a Danish company that develops, owns and operates wind and solar farms all over the world, has identified a site to the north of Tilsworth village for the installation of a vast solar farm. Construction is planned for 2021, taking around 4 months.

The proposals involve European Energy funding, developing, constructing and operating a photovoltaic (PV) power plant on 26 hectares (65 acres) on land north of Stanbridge Road, Tilsworth. The installation will have a peak power output of 18 megawatts (MW) sufficient to produce clean, renewable energy to power the equivalent of 5,500 local homes, year-round.

The proposals will consist of the following key elements:

- **Approximately 40,000 solar PV panels mounted on metal frames aligned north to south, which will rotate slowly on a horizontal axis throughout the day to track the sun's trajectory;**
- **Up to six inverter / transformer buildings distributed throughout the solar panel array field;**
- **A single-storey Distribution Network Operator (DNO) substation and associated control building that will form the solar farm's interface with the local electricity grid network;**
- **Up to three storage and battery containers with associated inverters and HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) units;**
- **Temporary construction compound incorporating a laydown area for delivery, a welfare facility for workers and site office;**
- **2m high security fence with CCTV cameras**
- **Complementary ancillary works including drainage swales, habitat enhancement and landscape planting.**

A public consultation phase is underway, but because of the current government guidance restricting mass gatherings and travel, the company is not proposing to hold a public exhibition and instead is reaching out to local stakeholders and residents by electronic and postal means instead. The CBC planning application number is CB/20/01795/SCN, which includes the Screening Opinion (environmental impact), for anyone who wishes to explore this in more detail.

Detailed information on the proposal can be found at: www.europeanenergy.com/uk/trinity

The company welcomes comments and correspondence should be directed to the email address: trinity@europeanenergy.com

Stanbridge Parish Council has requested that Robinson & Hall, the consultants acting for European Energy, undertake a full community engagement process including all households in Stanbridge, Tilsworth and Hockliffe. They have suggested a virtual meeting where residents can participate or a socially distanced meeting on the playing field or indoors at the Stanbridge and Tilsworth Community Hall.

Key issues are:

What benefits can local residents and parish councils expect to receive from the proposal?
What will be the extent of the disruption from heavy goods vehicles during the construction of the solar farm?

What routes* will the HGVs use to gain access to the site?

Will the power generated be available as cheaper energy for local homes and businesses?

* The company has suggested that the trucks come off the A505 southern bypass rather than the A5 but will still need to come through the villages.

Figure 1: Centre of site of proposed solar farm

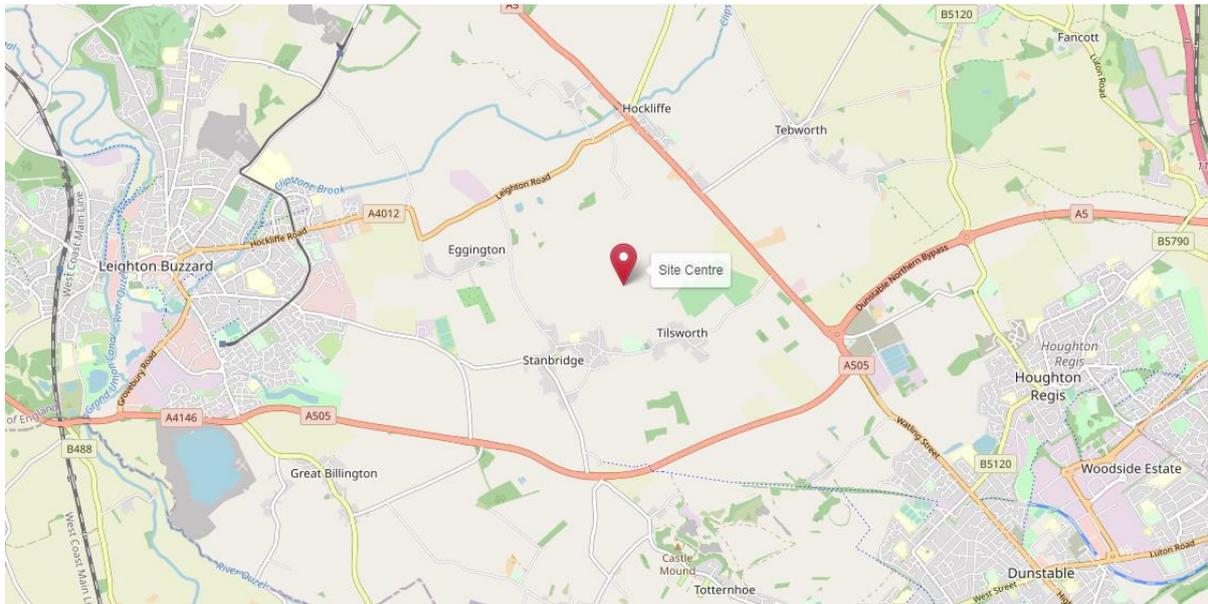


Figure 2: Area of proposed solar farm and proposed access from Tilsworth



Figure 3: Proposed configuration of the solar farm

