



STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

BURSTEAD SOLAR FARM AND BATTERY STORAGE

LAND SOUTH AND EAST OF GREAT BURSTEAD, BILLERICAY, ESSEX

MARCH 2022



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Executive Summary

Enso Green Holdings J Limited (“The Applicant”) conducted a programme of public consultation and stakeholder engagement with regards to its proposals for a solar farm and battery storage facility with associated infrastructure (“the Proposed Development”) on land south and east of Great Burstead, Billericay, Essex (“The Site”).

The consultation centred around an in-person public exhibition, which was held on 8 November 2021 at Barleylands Farm, Barleylands Road, Billericay, Essex, CM11 2UD (**Appendix 1**). Prior to the public exhibition, the Applicant engaged with Burstead and South Green Parish Council. The Applicant met (virtually) with Burstead and South Green Parish Council on 29 October 2021 to provide an outline of the proposals and to answer any initial questions. Members of both Parish Councils were invited to the public consultation event and were provided with a copy of the consultation brochure.

A brochure (**Appendix 2**) detailing the plans and inviting residents to attend the consultation event was sent out on 27 October 2021 to approximately 1242 residential households and 102 businesses (see **Appendix 3** for postal distribution area).

At the public exhibition attendees were presented with 12 display boards (**Appendix 1**) giving information about the Applicant, the Site and the concept design. The Applicant and its development team were at the event, helping to explain the design of the site and to answer any questions attendees had. Attendees were encouraged to provide their thoughts and opinions by way of feedback forms (**Appendix 2**) available at the exhibition (or by way of the consultation brochure). Additionally, the development team provided attendees with contact details if they wished to send any follow up questions or feedback, and a project website was available for people to submit their feedback online.

Of the 44 local residents that completed a feedback form, the online survey or sent an email, 15 were in favour of the proposal, 19 objected to it and 10 were of no opinion.

Key matters raised during pre-application consultation included:

- General support and understanding of the need for renewable energy
- Potential visual impact on PRow and from nearby properties
- Site location and loss of agricultural fields/agricultural land
- Biodiversity
- Some criticism of photomontages being presented and their accuracy
- Landscaping scheme and management

1. Introduction

The Applicant conducted a programme of public consultation and stakeholder engagement with regards to the Proposed Development.

The proposed solar farm would provide renewable electricity for distribution to the National Grid Rayleigh Substation. This project would generate the equivalent electricity demand of thousands of family homes each year of the proposed 40 years of operational life, while also providing significant CO₂ savings when compared to generation of electricity by non-renewable sources. The proposals include battery storage which will allow energy to be stored on site at times when grid-demand is lower and exported at times of higher demand to ensure no energy is 'lost' and help balance the National Grid.

This document provides an overview of the consultation programme, the feedback received together with an explanation as to how that feedback led to changes to the scheme design.

2. Approach to Consultation

Enso Energy strongly believes that now, more than ever, it is vital local communities are able to see and shape planning applications that may have an impact on them. 'Front-loading' public engagement in this way helps ensure the proposals are as informed as possible by the local community and other stakeholders prior to the submission of the planning application to the relevant Local Planning Authority. This approach recognises that all parties benefit from a communications programme that ensures all people with a potential interest in a development are fully informed of the proposals and have had the opportunity to input early on. The Applicant is supportive of and fully committed to meaningful pre-application consultation.

We are currently living through a global pandemic, the likes of which the country has not experienced in living memory. The Applicant, along with the development team, agree with the recent guidance issued by the UK's Government's Chief Planner, which emphasised that planning applications that positively impact the country and local communities must continue to come forward.

To help inform as many residents as possible during these unusual times, we decided to extend the traditional size of the distribution area that would usually receive a public exhibition invitation leaflet. Furthermore, instead of a leaflet we created a more extensive brochure that was sent by post to residents and local businesses. This brochure replicated the materials local residents would expect to see at a traditional public exhibition, including site maps and concept designs. The brochure also included a feedback form which could be submitted via email or freepost, and the URL for the dedicated public consultation website.

3. Scheme Overview

The Site comprises an area of land totalling approximately 119 ha connected via an underground cable route to the point of connection at the National Grid Rayleigh Substation. The Site is currently accessed via existing access from Southend Road (A129) and Granites Chase.



Figure 1: Site Location Plan

4. The Consultation

4.1 Consultation Aims

The aims of the consultation were as follows:

- To work with local stakeholders and residents from the outset and see how we could improve the proposals by taking onboard their suggestions.
- To raise awareness of the proposals within the local community and to gain their valuable insight based on their local knowledge.
- To gain a firm understanding of the key issues affecting the local community.
- To ensure the local community had the opportunity to give feedback on the proposals, especially during the on-going pandemic.

4.2 Consultation Overview

Consultation on the proposals began in September 2021 when the development team contacted Great Burstead and South Green Parish Council offering a briefing regarding the proposals for Burstead Solar Farm.

A brochure and invite (**Appendix 2**) for the public consultation event was sent out on 27 October 2021 to approximately 1242 residential households and 102 businesses (see **Appendix 3** for postal distribution area) inviting them to an in-person public exhibition on 8 November 2021. The Applicant held a public consultation event, where a Concept Design of the proposed scheme was available for residents to provide feedback on.

In addition to distributing the consultation brochure, the Applicant offered in-person briefings to those residents that lived in close proximity to the scheme. The Applicant subsequently held several covid-secure meetings with local residents in their homes to discuss the proposals. A copy of the letter sent to the local residents can be found at **Appendix 4**.

A website for the project (**Appendix 5**) was also created, which can be accessed at the following address: <https://ensoenergy.co.uk/enso-projects/burstead-solar-farm>. The website provides visitors with an overview of the proposals, the boards from the public exhibition as well the opportunity to get in contact with the development team or leave feedback.

4.3 Briefing Great Burstead and South Green Parish Council

Prior to the public exhibition, the Applicant engaged with Great Burstead and South Green Parish Council. The Applicant met (virtually) with Burstead and South Green Parish Council on 29 October 2021 to provide an outline of the proposals and to answer any questions they had with regards to the scheme.

4.4 Briefing political stakeholders

The site ward councillors: Cllr Andrew Baggott, Cllr Kevin Blake and Cllr Richard Moore (Burstead ward) were informed of the proposed solar farm and offered a briefing. Each councillor was provided with the consultation brochure that was sent to residents and invited to the public exhibition.

4.3 The Public Exhibition

A public exhibition was held on 8 November 2021 at Function Room 3, Barleylands Farm, from 14.00-19.00hrs. Twelve display boards were presented to the public, which included information about Enso Energy, the solar farm concept layout, initial landscaping proposals, construction traffic details, photomontages and viewpoint photographs of the Site from the surrounding area.

Attendees were encouraged to provide feedback by filling in a feedback form at the event or to take one away and return by way of freepost or to submit comments via the dedicated website or via email. Feedback forms and a freepost address were also provided on the brochure sent out to local residents. Of the 1242 residential households and 102 businesses that were sent a brochure of the solar farm proposals, a total of 42 residents attended the event.

Figure 2 below shows the concept design on which feedback was sought.



Figure 2: Concept design Presented at the Public Exhibition and included in the Brochure

5. Consultation Feedback

5.1 Feedback forms and online questionnaire

The development team received 21 completed feedback forms via post/email and 23 separate pieces of emailed feedback. In total therefore, 44 pieces of feedback were received. The results are presented below.

The feedback form included two multiple choice tick box questions and a space for additional comments.

Question one: Has this local resident brochure been helpful in understanding our proposal?

YES	NO	NOT SURE/ NO ANSWER
16	2	26

Question two: With regards to the proposals you have read/heard about, are you:

IN FAVOUR	IN OBJECTION	OF NO OPINION
15	19	10

Question three: Additional comments

Each form received apart from one contained additional comments. **Appendix 6** contains those comments in full, in addition to the Applicant's response.

The themes covered the following topics:

- General support and understanding of the need for renewable energy
- Potential visual impact on PRow and from nearby properties
- Site location and loss of agricultural fields/agricultural land
- Biodiversity
- Some criticism of photomontages being presented and their accuracy
- Landscaping scheme and management

5.2 Summary of Feedback

The majority of those that completed a feedback form provided no answer when asked whether the brochure had been 'helpful'. Of those that completed this section, 16 found the brochure 'helpful' and two did not find it 'helpful'.

Of the 44 local residents that completed a feedback form 15 were in favour of the proposal, 19 objected to it and 10 were of no opinion. Those in support of the project referenced their support for renewable energy more often than any other matter in their feedback. Respondents that opposed the development cited potential visual impact of the solar farm more than any other issue.

5.3 How Feedback Influenced the Scheme Design

In response to issues raised during the public consultation process, the design of the scheme has been amended as follows:

- Increased offset of the proposed development from Burstead, particularly in the north west corner of the eastern parcel near to properties on Noak Hill Road (A176) and from St Mary Magdalene Church;
- Increased offsets to PRow within the site;
- Additional landscaping and a detailed scheme of ecological improvements responding to comments;
- Full assessment of agricultural land.

6. Conclusion

The Applicant undertook a comprehensive programme of public consultation, which successfully engaged with residents and key community and political stakeholders and the feedback received has influenced the final scheme design.

7. Appendices

- Appendix 1: Public Exhibition Boards
- Appendix 2: Local Resident Invite Brochure
- Appendix 3: Local Resident Invite Brochure Distribution Area
- Appendix 4: Local Resident Invite Letter
- Appendix 5: Website Home Page
- Appendix 6: Comments received via feedback form question 3 and Applicant's response.

Appendix 1: Public Consultation boards



Where is Burstead Solar Farm?

Enso Energy is proposing to develop a solar farm and battery storage facility on part of 200-acre Burstead Farm, north of Grange Farm, near Burstead Mill, on the corner of Bridleway 306, to the east of A1.

The site is on the parcel of land that currently contains Burstead Farm, comprising a 100-acre field and a 100-acre field of land. The site is currently used as a farm and is not currently used for any other purpose.

Key features include:

- The project would generate a significant amount of energy each year of the 20-year life of the solar farm, while also providing additional carbon abatement energy when compared to generation of electricity by other renewable sources.
- Construction also includes a combination of solar energy storage that will supply electricity to the local network, storage of excess solar energy, renewable energy, and the solar farm's storage will enable power to be stored for use in the future.



Introducing Enso Energy

Getting to Net Zero

The UK Government has set a target of net zero emissions by 2050. To reach this target, we need to reduce our carbon emissions by 100% by 2050. This means we need to find ways to generate energy that does not produce carbon emissions. Renewable energy sources like solar and wind are key to achieving net zero.

About Us

Enso Energy is a leading solar and battery storage developer in the UK. We are committed to providing clean, renewable energy to our customers and to supporting the transition to a net zero future.

Register your views

We welcome feedback on our proposals for the solar farm and battery storage facility. Your views will help us to improve our proposals and ensure that we are meeting the needs of the community.



The benefits of Burstead Solar Farm

The main benefits of the development proposed, in addition to the generation of renewable electricity, are:

- Allowing Burstead Parish Council to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to reduce its carbon footprint.
- Making an important contribution to the local economy by providing jobs during the construction phase.
- Contributing to the UK's renewable energy capacity.
- Providing a 40-year asset which the community can benefit from while the solar farm is operational and maintained in accordance with a 20-year maintenance plan.

Biodiversity

- Specific measures will be put in place to protect and enhance biodiversity on the site.
- A biodiversity net gain will be achieved over the life of the project.
- A biodiversity management plan will be developed and implemented.
- A biodiversity action plan will be developed and implemented.
- A biodiversity action plan will be developed and implemented.

Community benefits

We believe that the solar farm will provide a number of benefits to the community. These include:

- Providing a source of clean, renewable energy.
- Creating jobs during the construction phase.
- Contributing to the local economy.
- Providing a 40-year asset which the community can benefit from.



Evolving concept design

The design of the solar farm is evolving. We are currently working on the layout of the solar panels and the battery storage facility. We will be consulting with the community on these proposals in the next few weeks.

Key features include:

- Solar panels
- Battery storage
- Access roads
- Fencing
- Landscaping
- Electrical infrastructure
- Water management

Construction and access

Access to the site will be provided via a new access road from the A1. This road will be used for the construction of the solar farm and battery storage facility. The road will be completed in the next few weeks.

Key features include:

- New access road
- Construction site
- Access to the A1

Photomontage Viewpoint 1
BRIDLEWAY 306_34



Existing view



Year 1 view



Year 10 view



Photomontage Viewpoint 2
SOUTHWIND ROAD AND SITE ACCESS



Existing view



Year 1 view



Year 10 view



Photomontage Viewpoint 3
PROV 306_A2 NORTH OF GRANGE FARM



Existing view



Year 1 view



Year 10 view



Burstead Solar Farm
Statement of Community Involvement

Existing viewpoints



Existing viewpoints



Existing viewpoints



Appendix 2: Local Resident Invite Brochure



The site

The site is located on land west of Southend Road (A129) and north west of Granites Chase, Great Burstead, Billerica comprising approximately 91 hectares of land. While there are no statutory landscape, heritage or ecological designations on site, as part of our site surveys and further assessments we will be considering these matters carefully in developing our proposals alongside the feedback received.

Access to the site will be using existing accesses from Southend Road (A129) and Granites Chase.

Evolving concept design of Burstead Solar Farm

The benefits

- It will assist Basildon Borough Council to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with local, national and international targets and the declared Climate Emergency.
- The project will support the UK's urgent need to transition to a low carbon future, producing significant amounts of renewable energy.
- This is a temporary development and at the end of the solar farm's life (40 years) all equipment can be easily dismantled, removed from site and largely recycled. A solar farm allows agricultural land to rest for the period of operation and the land use is reversed back to agriculture at the end of the project life.
- A scheme of landscape and ecological improvements will be prepared, ensuring the project provides a biodiversity net gain.
- A solar farm gives land the opportunity for multiple uses. In addition to renewable energy production, solar farms can continue to be grazed by sheep and support biodiversity with wildflowers sown around the site.

We anticipate that construction will be complete in approximately 7 months.

The proposed solar farm will not require Government subsidy.



Getting to Net Zero

The UK Government was the first national government in the world to declare a Climate Emergency in May 2019 and has set a legally binding target of Net Zero emissions by 2050 (relative to 1990 levels). At local levels many Councils have made their own similar declarations.

Renewables now account for approximately 43% of UK electricity generation proving they are a very viable alternative to fossil fuels. However, to achieve our targets and tackle Climate Change we urgently require a rapid increase in the further deployment of renewables, including solar.

Basildon Council has set an ambitious target to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050.

Battery storage

We need to make the best use of all available technologies and resources to achieve Net Zero by 2050. As the share of renewable energy generation increases, the ability to store and balance energy supply and demand will be essential to achieve a zero carbon economy. According to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) around 30 GW of short duration storage and flexible demand may be needed by 2050.

Due to technological advances in battery technology, renewable energy can now meet peaks in energy demand throughout the day. Deploying co-located battery storage provides an important role in decarbonising our energy system by storing renewable energy and discharging it.



Have your say

Enso Energy believes that it is vital that local communities are able to understand planning applications that may have an impact on them.

We therefore invite you to provide feedback on our draft proposals in the following ways:

- 1 Attend our public consultation event on Monday 8 November from 2pm – 7pm**

You are invited to attend our public consultation event at which you can see our plans, learn more about our proposal and talk to the project team.

The event will be held at **Parades Room 3, Bartleylands Farm, Bartleylands Road, Bitterley, Essex, CM11 3UD**

- 2 Fill in the feedback form that accompanies this public consultation brochure.**

Please read through the brochure and provide feedback to us by way of the free post feedback form.

- 3 Visit the dedicated public consultation website: <https://ensoenergy.co.uk/enso-projects/burstead-solar-farm>**

We have set up a dedicated public consultation website, where you can find further information about our draft proposals and provide feedback.



About us

We are one of the UK's leading developers of renewable energy projects.

Our ambition is to use the latest solar technology to make a positive impact on our country and the communities we work with. We are now advocates for renewable low carbon, safe, secure and sustainable energy that can be generated, stored and utilised locally.

Our approach to rapidly-deploy renewable energy is setting the country's pace towards a more secure, sustainable energy supply and accelerating progress to net zero.



Remain informed
Please visit <https://ensoenergy.co.uk/enso-projects/burstead-solar-farm> where information about our projects will be updated.

020 7499 2842
consultation@ensoenergy.co.uk
www.ensoenergy.co.uk

Should you require this document in large print, audio or braille then please contact us at the details provided.



Burstead Solar Farm

This brochure forms part of our pre-planning application process. We are asking for your opinion on a proposed solar farm and battery storage facility at Burstead Solar Farm.

Please take your time to consider the information within this brochure, and don't hesitate to contact a member of our team should you have any queries.

We would be grateful if you could answer the feedback form and let us have your contact details for the purpose of informing the project design and our planning application. Feedback received will be included within a Statement of Community Involvement which will accompany the application.

For further information, please do not hesitate to email consultation@ensoenergy.co.uk

Feedback form

To return your completed feedback form please insert it from the brochure and pop it in the post by **18 November 2022**. Alternatively, you can return your form via email to consultation@ensoenergy.co.uk

Title:	Name:	Postcode:
Address:	Telephone:	
Email:		

- Has this local resident (or you) been helpful in understanding our proposal? Yes No Not sure
- With regards to the proposals you have read about within this brochure, are you: In favour In objection Of no opinion
- Please use this space to provide any comments on the proposal. We would welcome your feedback on all aspects of the emerging design shown in the brochures.

Please provide your contact details if you wish us to get in contact. Any information provided will only be used for the purpose of the planning application to the Local Planning Authority and will not be disclosed with any third party. Your contact details will not be listed on the planning application documentation.

Appendix 3: Local Resident Invite Brochure Distribution Area



A brochure and invite (Appendix 2) for the public consultation event was sent out on 27 October 2021 to approximately 1242 residential households and 102 businesses.

Appendix 4: Local Resident Invite Letter



[insert address]

Dear [insert name]

RE: ENSO ENERGY – PROPOSED SOLAR FARM AND BATTERY STORAGE FACILITY ON LAND WEST OF SOUTHEND ROAD (A129) AND NORTH WEST OF GRANITES CHASE, GREAT BURSTEAD, BILLERICAY.

I am writing to you on behalf of Enso Energy to inform you about our proposals for a solar farm and battery storage facility on land West of Southend Road (A129) and North West of Granites Chase. You may recently have received a brochure with information about the proposals inviting you to attend a public exhibition on 8 November at Function Room 3, Barleylands Farm. Further to this I wanted to reach out to you personally to see if you would like to meet **in a Covid secure manner or arrange a call with you to answer any specific questions you may have about our proposals for a Solar Farm in your area.**

The project forms a major part of our ambitions to contribute meaningfully to the security of energy supply in Basildon Borough Council. To help make the renewable energy output of the solar farm a secure and reliable part of the UK energy supply a battery storage system will be used, this will also help supply electricity to the local electricity network at times of peak energy demand.

The main features of our proposal are as follows:

- We plan to develop a solar farm and battery storage facility that provides renewable electricity for distribution to the National Grid.
- This is a temporary development. The site will be returned to greenfield agricultural use at the end of the project life.
- The solar farm and battery storage facility would generate a significant amount of energy each year of the proposed 40-year operational life.

Please do not hesitate to email me on tom.ohare@ensoenergy.co.uk to facilitate a Covid secure meeting or call me on 07384 812 818 should you wish to discuss anything mentioned in this letter further. Alternatively, we have a dedicated website where you can find out more. Once again, please do have a look at <https://ensoenergy.co.uk/enso-projects/burstead-solar-farm/> to learn more about our proposal.

Yours Sincerely,

Tom O'Hare
Project Manager | Burstead Solar Farm

A local resident invite letter was sent out on 28 October 2021 to 28 residential properties offering an in person meeting.

Appendix 5: Website Home Page

enso energy | About us | Contact us | Privacy policy | Terms and conditions | Careers | Support

Home > Burstead Solar Farm

Burstead Solar Farm

This is a summary of the development plan for the Burstead Solar Farm, located on the east of Burstead Road, UK, and north-west of Chesham Chase Farm, Bedford, UK.

It is our intention to develop a solar farm on a 100-acre site on the east of Burstead Road, UK, and north-west of Chesham Chase Farm, Bedford, UK.

The proposed solar farm would provide renewable electricity for distribution to the Bedfordshire Grid. This project would generate significant amounts of energy each year of its proposed 25-year operational life, which also provides significant environmental savings when compared to traditional electricity production methods. The proposed solar farm would generate 100 MW of solar energy to be used as either direct or indirect demand in homes and supported in homes connected to ensure no energy is lost and to help meet the National Grid.

[Read More](#)

The Site and Proposal

The site is located on the east of Burstead Road (A106) and north-west of Chesham Chase Farm, Bedfordshire. The site is a 100-acre site, which is currently used as a field. The site is located on the east of Burstead Road (A106) and north-west of Chesham Chase Farm, Bedfordshire. The site is a 100-acre site, which is currently used as a field. The site is located on the east of Burstead Road (A106) and north-west of Chesham Chase Farm, Bedfordshire. The site is a 100-acre site, which is currently used as a field.

The Benefits

The solar farm will provide a significant amount of renewable energy to the Bedfordshire Grid. The solar farm will provide a significant amount of renewable energy to the Bedfordshire Grid. The solar farm will provide a significant amount of renewable energy to the Bedfordshire Grid. The solar farm will provide a significant amount of renewable energy to the Bedfordshire Grid.

Community Benefits

The solar farm will provide a significant amount of renewable energy to the Bedfordshire Grid. The solar farm will provide a significant amount of renewable energy to the Bedfordshire Grid. The solar farm will provide a significant amount of renewable energy to the Bedfordshire Grid. The solar farm will provide a significant amount of renewable energy to the Bedfordshire Grid.

Register your views

Please use the form to register your views on the Burstead Solar Farm. Please fill in as much detail as you can.

Name (required)

Email (required)

Telephone (optional)

What is your interest in the Burstead Solar Farm? (required)
 local resident
 local business
 representative of a local group or organisation

Message (optional)

Please enable changes that you agree to

I agree

cero

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Appendix 6: Comments received via feedback form question 3 and Applicant's response

COMMENTS RECEIVED	APPLICANT'S RESPONSE
<p>Need more information on this. I oppose this being literally in my back garden. What is the impact on environment and health as I believe they can emit radiation and create "dirty" electricity? Not something I want to live near and what about the boundaries for dog walking? As this is green belt and public footpath runs through it.</p>	<p>This is a carefully chosen and refined site based on land available to the Applicant for the development of a solar farm within a viable connection distance to the National Grid Rayleigh substation. Comprehensive assessments have been made on potential visual impacts of the Proposed Development within the accompanying Landscape and Visual Appraisal.</p> <p>The application has been assessed against the purposes of the Green Belt. It is considered acceptable in this case. There are no emissions from the solar farm and the renewable energy generated is 'clean'.</p> <p>Public Rights of Way will remain open and unaffected during and after construction.</p>
<p>Great idea we need more green energy.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>I support this project</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Can you clarify whether large scale solar panel farms, or any ancillary equipment, generate noise (humming for example) and up to what height do the panels protrude?</p>	<p>A noise assessment has been prepared and accompanies the planning application. This noise assessment concludes the development is acceptable and will not give rise to harmful noise impacts.</p> <p>The maximum height of the panels is 3 metres.</p>
<p>Thank you for the information on the Solar Farm to be built at the rear of my property. I have no objection to this development. Can you please advise if your energy storage is with Tesla Energy?</p>	<p>The battery storage facility is not manufactured by Tesla.</p>
<p>As a Basildon resident (Laindon), with concern for the environment, environmentally friendly solar farms in these locations should be good for the local community.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>In support - I think this is a good idea!</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>This is an amazing idea!</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>I am in favour of the above.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>I think the plan to "industrialise" such a vast stretch of green belt land east of Billericay is a terrible idea. The scale of the project is too big and there must be an impact on the</p>	<p>The application has been assessed against the purposes of the Green Belt. It is considered acceptable in this case. Additionally, the application is accompanied by an Agricultural Land</p>

<p>lifestyle of the many birds and wild animals who live in that area. Also, the two parcels of land adjacent to Church St. and Mill Lane that are not to be developed will be cut off from other farm land and there will I'm sure, be an attempt to build on them. I am sure there are many brownfield sites that could be used without spoiling what little countryside we still have around Billericay.</p>	<p>Classification Report, Ecological Assessment Report and a Biodiversity Management Plan which ensures that wildlife is protected, and habitats enhanced as part of the proposed development.</p>
<p>This would be a very unwelcome development. Many people have chosen to live here because of its rural location and views over open countryside. This proposal would destroy what is most valuable to our community. Keep out!</p>	<p>Comprehensive assessments have been made on potential visual impacts of the proposed development within the accompanying Landscape and Visual Appraisal.</p>
<p>I strongly oppose the proposed plans for this solar farm and having chatted to a number of my neighbours are in absolute agreement with me.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Most of the PRoW that are easily accessible to me will be affected by these proposals, although they will still exist there will no longer be views of the countryside. Access to open spaces has been shown to be vital for wellbeing and mental health. In favour of non-polluting energy generation but this is the wrong location. Exhibition has existing views from local viewpoints. They don't really give an indication of how the landscape will be affected, so rather misleading.</p>	<p>Public Rights of Way will remain open and unaffected during and after construction. A landscaping scheme accompanies the application.</p> <p>Comprehensive assessments have been made on potential visual impacts of the Proposed Development within the accompanying Landscape and Visual Appraisal. Photomontages were shown at the exhibition. These photomontages were produced by a team of landscape and visual impact professionals, which provided attendees with an opportunity to see for themselves what the potential visual impact might be at years 1 and 10 and inform the discussions held at the event.</p>
<p>Use bullet points highlighting benefits over existing use of land: Greater biodiversity of "?" No pesticide use. Under panels - grazing of sheep? Access to land via opening for foxes and badgers. What co2 reduction expected in creating this site? Exact site usage - confirm no housing, post expiry linked to any persons connected to Enso - director etc.</p>	<p>If approved the project would be grazed by sheep and will keep the land pesticide and chemical free.</p> <p>The application is accompanied by an Ecological Assessment Report and a Biodiversity Management Plan which ensures that wildlife is protected and habitats enhanced as part of the proposed development.</p> <p>This project would generate significant amounts of renewable energy each year of the proposed 40 years of operational life, while also providing significant annual carbon dioxide saving when compared to generation of electricity by non-renewable sources. The CO₂ saving are estimated at 10,402 tonnes annually.</p>

	The Proposed Development is not for housing and planning permission sought for a temporary period. The Site will be returned to agricultural use after the life cycle of the project.
Why not on houses/ bungalows rather than using green spaces.	Whilst the Applicant believes that new domestic and all new commercial rooftops in the UK should have solar panels, it would still not be enough. It would not provide the land area the UK needs for solar to meet its carbon targets by 2050.
In support of scheme however unsure how it's going to initially funded. What cost, if any, to local rate payers during construction and start-up. Will probably have some follow up technical queries following the presentation on the 8th.	The scheme is funded by private investment. The proposed development is subsidy free.
I object to this proposal especially in its current form. I would wish to see the boundary at viewpoint 4 (at Noak Hill Road) moved back to be in line with the section of land at the lower section of Noak Hill Road, as seen in the proposed development map.	Noted. The development has been further offset from the northwest corner of the western parcel in response to comments.
There is nothing there for me. I will not get any cheaper electricity. Our Prime Minister should put these solar panels on all of our rooftops, not on farmland.	The scheme is proposed to connect to the electricity grid and not individual properties. An agricultural land classification assessment accompanies the application.
No one wants it on their doorstep but understand they have to go somewhere. Not many people know of meeting.	Noted.
Completely against a solar farm being built in a green belt area especially as it produces very little energy and is taking up valuable arable land. It will be a blight on the landscape. We also know very little about the side effects from these solar farms and the effect of people's health that live nearby.	The application has been assessed against the purposes of the Green Belt. It is considered acceptable in this case. Comprehensive assessments have been made on potential visual impacts of the Proposed Development within the accompanying Landscape and Visual Appraisal. Health and Safety details will be provided prior to the construction phase.
Invite to public consultation arrived day after the public consultation (not just me but neighbours too). Lack of clear information - insufficient details on proposal, lack of opportunity to discuss face to face - who is Enso?	The local resident invite brochure was sent on 27 October 2021, 12 days prior to the event. Details of Enso are on the project website.
Hi - my husband and I are local residents (we live in Copperfield, Billericay) and received your brochure through our door.	Noted.

<p>Unfortunately, we were unable to attend the consultation event on 8th, but we wanted to let you know that we think your proposal is a good one and we are supportive. If you wanted to ask anything specific, we are happy to help.</p>	
<p>1) Would want entire site fully screened: not sure if this is planned. 2) Solar best on roofs, leaving land for agriculture. Could be put on all houses where practical. 3) It is possible to walk from Great Burstead Church to Barleylands A129 Southend Road. Will this remain possible during construction and after construction? It looks like an internal access track. 4) Please ensure non-reflective services, especially North so not to blind residents and damage property as per Walkie Talkie building in London. 5) 7 months construction is a long time.</p>	<p>Comprehensive assessments have been made on potential visual impacts of the proposed development within the accompanying Landscape and Visual Appraisal. Public Rights of Way will remain open and unaffected during and after construction. Where internal access track cross PRow these will be managed during construction.</p> <p>A glint and glare assessment has been undertaken, which forms a part of the planning application and considers any potential impact. Generally it is not geometrically possible for properties to the north of the scheme to be affected by glint and glare.</p>
<p>I am writing to appeal against your proposal for the Burstead Solar Farm. I have been to your consultation evening on 8th November 2021 and despite speaking to your staff, am still of the same opinion this is a bad idea.</p> <p>The farmland should remain as that, land for farming. This is also a public right of way which will never be the same once fenced off.</p> <p>The outlook, whatever shrubs and bushes you plant, will never be the same and I genuinely do not believe you have given thought to the local wildlife within the area also. These fields are a hub for varieties of birds and small mammals which will not survive once the area is fenced off.</p> <p>As a resident of Burstead I actually back onto the field adjacent to your proposed location. Your plan will certainly impact on my way of life and the whole reason my wife and I purchase our home 14 years ago.</p> <p>Your proposal also, most worryingly for me, opens up the annexing of the field directly behind me which I believe will be a precursor to a planning application for housing at a later date.</p> <p>I see no benefit to a solar farm in the proposed location and, along with residents</p>	<p>Comprehensive assessments have been made on potential visual impacts of the Proposed Development within the accompanying Landscape and Visual Appraisal including an assessment of PRowS. Ecology and biodiversity will be improved as part of the scheme.</p> <p>This is a temporary development and will be returned to agricultural use after the life cycle of the project. It will not be 'pre-cursor' to a planning application for housing at a later date and will not lead to pressures for applications for housing adjacent to the scheme.</p>

<p>of Burstead, would ensure this is fought to the highest possible levels.</p> <p>In the nicest way, take this proposal and find somewhere else for it.</p>	
<p>This land should continue to grow crops and produce. The residents who will be greatly affected by this proposal have paid in excess for their properties for the lovely views. There are areas of scrubland lying within the borough looking awful these could be of more use for your unsightly proposal. As for the wildflowers they would not hide them.</p> <p>Who would look after and maintain these wild flowers over such a long period of time.</p> <p>The only people benefiting from this project are the Philpots owners of Barleylands.</p>	<p>The Applicant has carefully considered the location of the proposed Solar Farm and the matter of agricultural land within the application. Any effects positive/negative on property value is not a material planning consideration.</p> <p>Comprehensive assessments have been made on potential visual impacts of the Proposed Development within the accompanying Landscape and Visual Appraisal.</p>
<p>I would like to see a bit more biodiversity, but that would have to be outside your boundary. Other than that, I am in favour of your proposal.</p>	<p>The Ecological Appraisal Report and accompanying details confirms that significant Biodiversity Net Gain will be delivered on this site through the implementation of the landscaping scheme.</p>
<p>My main concern is that the farm at Great Burstead where I live is proposed to back on very closely to properties and the local cemetery. I hope you can make sure that the fences that are installed to provide a perimeter are a considerable distance from the individual houses and cemetery. I trust all the footpaths will be kept and the countryside is looked after.</p>	<p>The Applicant has carefully considered the location of the proposed Solar Farm. PRoW will remain open and available. The proposed development, including the deer fencing, are offset from the property boundary.</p>
<p>The proposal is to the detriment of the countryside. How will this benefit the local population, those who have to live with the disruption and future ugly views. What additional traffic can we expect during post construction. The project brings nothing to the local community, just profit for the company & farmer. Surely there are other areas well away from local houses - this also reduces arable land.</p>	<p>Comprehensive assessments have been made on visual impacts of the Proposed Development within the accompanying Landscape and Visual Appraisal, Construction Traffic Management Plan and Agricultural Land Classification report.</p>
<p>Please could you advise how safe the public right of ways will be as these are used by many dog walkers in the local area.</p>	<p>Public Rights of Way will remain safe and available to be used both during and after construction.</p>
<p>I object to your plans for a solar farm in Great Burstead, Billericay. The following factors make the site unsuitable:</p>	<p>The Site has been carefully considered and is suitable for the proposed development. The application has been assessed against the</p>

<p>It's on the Green Belt</p> <p>It's very near housing</p> <p>It overlooks a Grade II-listed 14th-century church and cemetery in a Conservation Area</p> <p>It's criss-crossed by footpaths, which are enjoyed by many people</p> <p>It's a haven for many types of wildlife</p> <p>It's agricultural land used for growing crops</p> <p>It's an area where there is a flood risk</p> <p>The access road (Southend Road) is a busy road and one of the main routes into Billericay</p> <p>I know the site very well as my house backs onto it and I walk the footpaths almost every day. The current plan for the solar farm puts it very near to homes and the 14th-century church. The view from my house is far-reaching and I can see more than 10 miles away, so wherever you put the panels, I will see them; even with screening I will see them as the land undulates. It's an open plot and it's on the Green Belt, so it's completely the wrong site for this kind of development.</p> <p>I attended Enso Energy's public consultation on 8 November and spoke to Mr O'Hare to raise my concerns. When I asked him why Enso Energy chose this site, he said the only criteria was that it is near the Rayleigh substation, and the landowner agreed to the proposals. I mentioned all the features of the site that make it unsuitable for a solar farm and I was told that none of these were important. I believe that Enso Energy did ask the council for a screening opinion to determine whether an environmental impact assessment was required as part of a planning application, but the response was that this is a non-EIA development, so no assessment was needed, but this cannot be right.</p>	<p>purposes of the Green Belt. It is considered acceptable in this case. Additionally, the application is accompanied by a Setting Impact Assessment which considers nearby heritage assets, a flood risk assessment, agricultural land classification report and a Construction Traffic Management Plan. These reports assess the matters raised.</p> <p>The Applicant has carefully considered the location of the proposed Solar Farm with a number of criteria used in assessing the site suitability.</p> <p>We have submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Request, to which the Council have responded, determining that this is a non-EIA development.</p>
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The land is arable land, and has been used for many years to grow a variety of crops including wheat, barley and rapeseed. Mr O'Hare told me that the land was low-grade, low-quality agricultural land. I wonder what crops are considered quality produce if these are not? We should be preserving farmland for growing crops so we don't need to import our food, which increases the UK's carbon footprint.

When I asked Mr O'Hare why brownfield sites are not considered for solar farms instead, he told me that they were needed for housing. But this just isn't true. It seems lazy planning to site an ugly solar farm on the Green Belt and not consider the many brownfield sites and previously developed, non-agricultural land that could be better used in the long-term.

Enso Energy says the site would be 'temporary' but it would be operational for 40 years and Mr O'Hare could not guarantee that this wouldn't be extended in the future, so potentially the use of this land could be changed permanently and the Green Belt lost forever.

Interestingly, the company's presentation boards showing pictures of the site were carefully edited as they did not show how close the fields are to houses, the footpaths and the church and cemetery. Again, I know the area well, so this seemed intended to deliberately mislead.

Mr O'Hare explained to me that the company's process is simply to send out letters to all landowners in the area to see if there is any interest. If there is, plans are drawn up. Knowing that there will be objections from residents, the company's next step seems to be to simply adjust the plan slightly by moving some panels away from the homes in the hope that this will make the design more acceptable and get it passed. As I said before, the plans can never be acceptable as the panels will be very visible from homes and footpaths wherever you put them on this site. I don't feel Enso Energy was actually listening to residents at

<p>the consultation – it was just following a business model, so everything it said was geared towards supporting that model, regardless of whether the site is appropriate.</p> <p>Renewable energy is a good idea, but in this case, it's the right idea but in the wrong location. Solar farms do have their merits, but this needs to be weighed against the harm to the landscape. Reputable solar energy companies have a responsibility to choose sites with care, away from housing and footpaths – not just because there's a financial incentive and the landowner said yes. We already have a solar farm in nearby Outwood Common; building another solar farm in Billericay would destroy the natural beauty and historic character of the area, which has already seen significant housing development over the decade.</p> <p>I believe building on the Green Belt is wrong and I want to protect this site for the enjoyment of local people and future generations.</p>	
<p>I've seen these solar panel fields and they are a blight on the landscape. Developing a solution surrounded by both houses and green belt is not ideal. Plus, they reflect considerable sunlight and are not good for what local wildlife we have left following all the building work planned across the area. The impact on the environment is not outweighed by the production of green energy.</p>	<p>Comprehensive assessments have been made on visual impacts of the Proposed Development within the accompanying Landscape and Visual Appraisal, Glint and Glare Assessment and Ecological Assessment Report. The application has been assessed against the purposes of the Green Belt. It is considered acceptable in this case.</p>
<p>I have no objections to the idea of the solar farm per se, except for one. My main concern is what will happen to the parcel of land that runs along the back of properties along Church Road, from about no. 37 to no. 7, as this would appear to be getting out off from the main fields that are being developed for the wind farm. This access for farming use would no longer exist. This would then be ripe for more housing developments, something which this area does not need, and I would have grave misgivings about the whole project if that were to be the case.</p>	<p>Land outside of the proposed solar farms site continue to be used in agricultural purposes. Any application for housing in the locality</p>
<p>We are very happy about this proposal because it is totally in line with current concerns regarding climate change and</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

<p>improving our eco-system. We are pleased too, that there will be wildflower planting around the site which will encourage wildlife and that after forty years the site will be restored to arable land.</p>	
<p>I object to the agricultural land being used for this purpose. Recent events show me need to be more self-sufficient in food production and should not be losing any farming land. Put these solar systems elsewhere although it might be more expensive.</p>	<p>The application is accompanied by an Agricultural Land Classification report. The site would continue in an agricultural use for sheep grazing. At the end of the 40 year period, the equipment would be removed, and the land returned to its previous agricultural use.</p>
<p>Whilst we support an increase in solar power we think this development is too large and will result in the loss of amenity for local residents. Walking and access to countryside is vital to physical and mental health. This development would mean that local areas are flanked by solar panels rather than green space and views.</p>	<p>Public Rights of Way will remain open both during and after construction.</p> <p>Comprehensive assessments have been made on potential visual impacts of the Proposed Development within the accompanying Landscape and Visual Appraisal.</p>
<p>This is green belt land, providing a green space on the outskirts of Billericay. This development is a means of destroying this green land & once gone will never return to arable land. Access to the site is narrow, winding roads. Accessing will severely damage them and disrupt normal traffic.</p>	<p>The application has been assessed against the purposes of the Green Belt. It is considered acceptable in this case.</p> <p>At the end of the 40 year period, the equipment would be removed, and the land returned to its previous agricultural use. The land will remain agricultural.</p> <p>A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared and is submitted with the application, this details the anticipated traffic levels and mitigation measures. The CTMP is provided to reduce the effect of the construction phase on the highway network.</p>
<p>I am totally against this proposal. Why can't it be somewhere that does not affect existing properties? Totally against this proposal, I will be contacting my local MP.</p>	<p>The Applicant has carefully considered the location of the Solar Farm and taken into consideration any potential impact on local residents.</p> <p>Comprehensive assessments have been made on potential visual impacts of the Proposed Development within the accompanying Landscape and Visual Appraisal.</p>
<p>I am concerned that this valuable crop-growing area is being lost for the foreseeable future. The areas not being taken up will be sold off for housing, destroying the beautiful views we currently have. The amount of</p>	<p>At the end of the 40 year period, the equipment would be removed, and the land returned to its previous agricultural use.</p>

Burstead Solar Farm

Statement of Community Involvement

energy will be relatively low for the area of land taken up.	
Just a great & worthwhile initiative. Good luck with it!	Noted
I am in favour of this proposal as long as the land does go back to farmland in 40 years and extensions are not applied for.	At the end of the 40 year period, the proposed development would be removed, and the land returned to its previous agricultural use.
Protection of the environment, flora & fauna, vitally important, so need to keep to plans.	Noted.