

**ELGIN
ENERGY**

PROPOSED WHALEY SOLAR PV FARM

Lands North of Mag Lane,

Whaley,

Derbyshire,

NG20 9HY

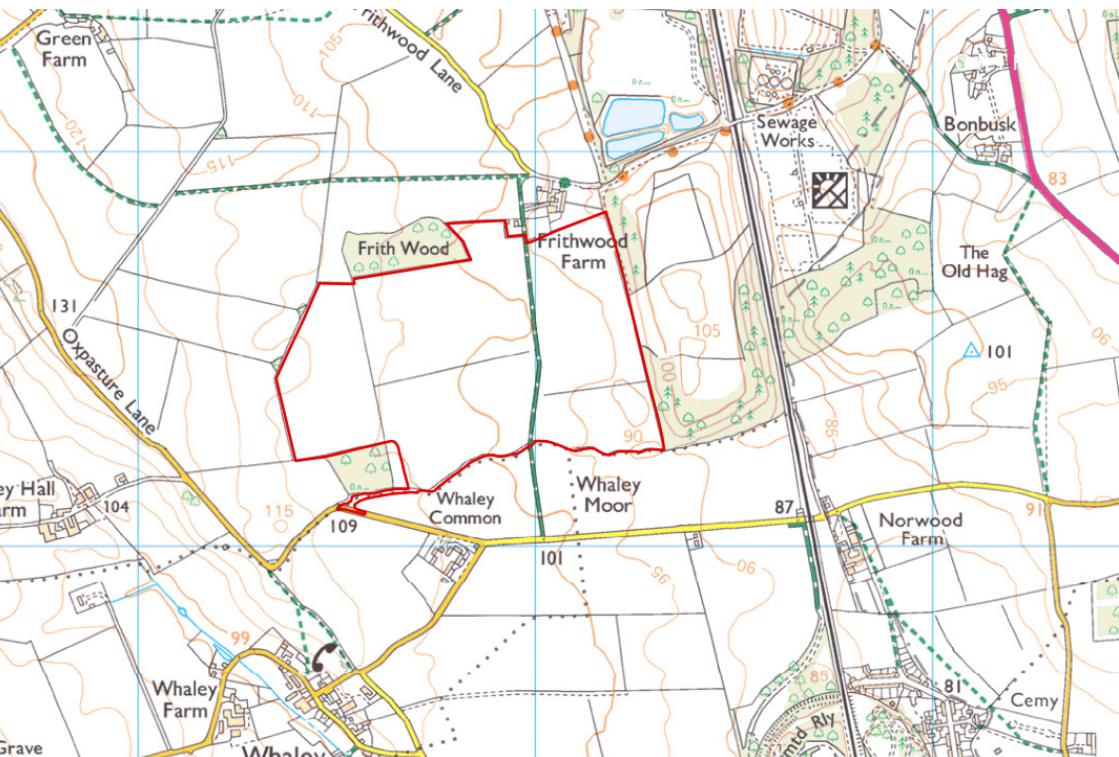
“Solar farms typically take up less than 5% of the ground they occupy, leaving huge scope for biodiversity enhancements in a protected space”

BRE National Solar Centre Biodiversity Best Practice Guidelines 2014

Introduction

Elgin Energy EsCo Ltd is seeking to develop a ground mounted Solar PV farm at Lands North of Mag Lane, Whaley, Derbyshire, NG20 9HY. We are seeking your views on this proposal ahead of submitting a planning application to Bolsover District Council. The red line on the map below indicates the site boundary.

Please visit whalesolarfarm.com to learn more. The website provides detailed plans of the proposal and further information on the project. Please note that partaking in this process does not affect your statutory rights to make representations to the Bolsover District Council in respect of the planning application when submitted.

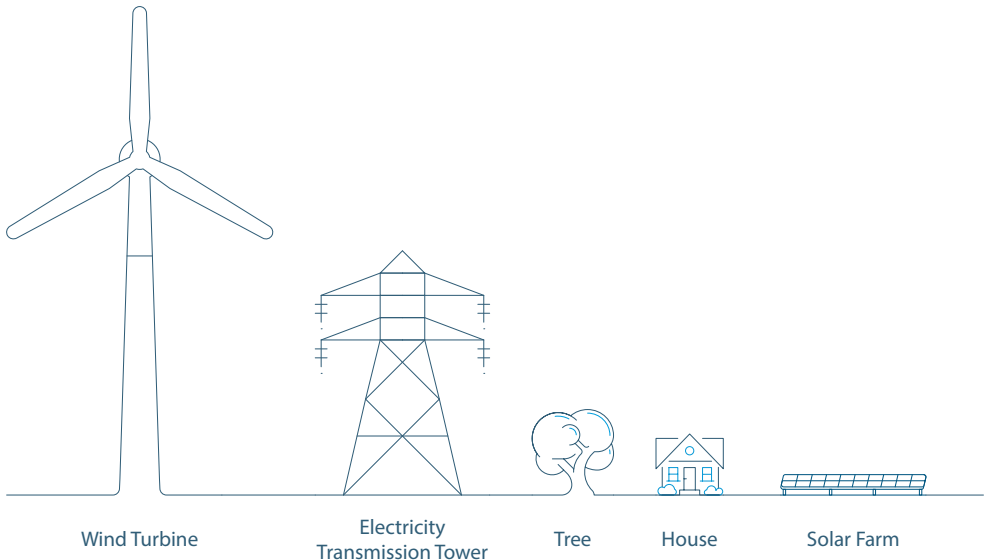


Project overview

The proposed site is located at Lands North of Mag Lane, Whaley, Derbyshire, NG20 9HY. The village of Creswell is located approx. 1.5km to the north-east of the site, whilst the town of Bolsover is approx. 4.5km to the south-west.

The proposed project covers approximately 113 acres and will accommodate approximately 25 megawatts (MW) of ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panels. A project lifetime of 40 years is proposed.

The proposed solar farm will generate approximately 25,000,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) per annum powering 7,000 homes or 8,000 electric vehicles (EVs) every year.



Local engagement

Elgin Energy EsCo Ltd is committed to the local communities in which our solar farms operate. We engage with communities on each project through a public consultation and try to identify local initiatives that we can support through a community benefit fund.

Local contractors and businesses will be engaged as far as possible during the installation phase. It is estimated that installation will take approximately 24 weeks. For the operational phase it is envisaged that local contractors and service providers will be engaged to maintain the solar farm. If you would like to obtain further information about a community benefit fund or enquire about providing services for this project, please visit the project website.

Pre-planning process

A number of assessments are being conducted to establish any potential effects of the proposed development on the site and surrounding lands. These reports include ecology, archaeology & cultural heritage, construction access & traffic and flood risk. In addition, a landscape and visual impact assessment has been undertaken to identify any impacts on nearby viewpoints. These viewpoints and the proposed site layout can be viewed on the project website. A glint & glare assessment is also carried out although glint & glare effects from PV panels are rare as they are designed to absorb, not reflect, sunlight. This is evidenced by the installation of PV panels adjacent to the runways at Gatwick airport.

Existing field boundaries, trees, and hedgerows will be retained as far as possible. The provision of bird boxes, insect hotels, and wildflower meadows provide significant opportunities for biodiversity enhancements. Once the solar farm is operational, sheep farming can take place ensuring the land remains in agricultural use.



Physical elements of the development

The following components are proposed for this development:

- Solar panels will be arranged in rows facing southwards at an inclination of typically 25 degrees. The distance between the rows will be between 2 - 6 metres. The panels are set at 0.8m above ground level and increase to 3.2m approximately.
- A mounting system comprising upright galvanised steel posts which are screwed or pushed into the ground and an aluminium support frame which is bolted together.
- Inverters measuring approximately 7m x 2.5m x 3m high. They convert the DC electricity produced by the panels into grid-compatible AC current. They will be located throughout the site.
- A primary substation.
- Underground cabling from the panels/inverters to the substation.
- Several permeable stone tracks to facilitate access to the inverters.
- Rural 'timber & post' deer fence measuring 2.4m in height will enclose the site. A gap of 10cm at ground level will allow ecology to freely enter and exit.
- 3m high pole-mounted CCTV cameras inside the site to monitor the solar farm. The solar farm requires no concrete foundations except for the substation bases. It is designed to be reversible and leave no trace when removed.




About Elgin Energy

Elgin Energy is a full service, utility scale, solar and storage developer bringing projects from origination through development. The company has a portfolio of projects in late-stage development totalling over 5GW across three key markets of UK, Australia and Ireland.

In 2021, Elgin Energy secured financing with Berenberg Green Energy Fund for the development of solar PV projects totalling 1.36GW in the UK and Ireland and also raised £25 million via Focus Capital Partners to fund its growth strategy across its core markets. In 2020, the company partnered, in separate transactions, with both Foresight Group and Metka-EGN in relation to two portfolios to deliver a total of 276MW of UK solar development projects and was successful with two Irish solar projects in Ireland's first solar auction, RESS-1 - Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS). In addition to the above, Elgin Energy delivered 21 solar projects, totalling 230MW, before the UK Government's Renewables Obligation (ROCs) scheme ended in 2017.

Elgin Energy works with long-term strategic partners to deliver projects to energisation and provides asset management services through their operational life. The company has expanded internationally over the last 12 years with a professional team of engineers, accountants and lawyers.



Elgin Energy

Dashwood House,
69 Old Broad St,
London EC2M 1QS

T: +44 (0) 208 068 4240
E: office@elgin-energy.com
W: whalesolarfarm.com
W: www.elgin-energy.com



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