

Project overview

Private Energy Partners is proposing to build a 16.6MW solar farm, co-located with a 5MW two-hour battery energy storage system, on fields just south of the A303 near Bransbury Lane. The land identified for this solar project has been carefully chosen for its potential to deliver solar powered electricity and proximity to the local substation. We plan to incorporate battery storage to maximise the efficiency of the project and enhance energy reliability.

The project is privately funded in full by Quinbrook Infrastructure Partners, ensuring financial independence and reliability. It will form part of a fund that is focused on renewable energy, community benefit and exceedingly high levels of environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

Key project information:

- 16.6MW solar farm with a co-located 5MW two-hour battery energy storage system.
- Equivalent to the power required for 7,110 homes.
- Saving an estimated 4,319 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year, equating to as much as 172,760 over its 40-year lifespan.
- Land will be returned to its current state and use after 40 years, with very well rested and improved soil. The development will impact less than 5% of the land.

Private Energy Partners is a professional, experienced team focused on sustainability, community values, and the countryside's long-term wellbeing.

Next steps

- Following today's drop-in event, feedback and questions can be sent to Greg Ward on bransburylane@private-energypartners.com.
- We anticipate submitting the planning application once all studies are fully concluded and feedback from the community drop-in event has been considered.
- After our application has been validated by Test Valley Borough Council, you will be able to submit comments through their online portal as we progress through the planning process.



Bransbury Lane Solar Farm

Why do we need it?

The transition to a low carbon energy system is vital to avoid the catastrophic effects of climate change to the environment, wildlife and humans. The UK's climate change ambitions are amongst the highest in Europe and require us as a nation to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. More renewable energy generation is needed to meet these targets.

Bransbury Lane Solar Farm would offer an environmentally friendly, low cost and safe way of delivering clean power to the equivalent of more than 7,110 homes.

The solar farm can connect to the existing and identified grid capacity to supply the local network and customers with clean power for local consumption, helping Test Valley Borough Council on its journey to becoming carbon neutral by 2050.

Why solar?

Solar energy is one of the cheapest and greenest sources of energy available. It has a crucial role to play in the UK's energy security and in fighting climate change.

Bransbury Lane Solar Farm would be a valuable part of the energy transition, contributing to both Test Valley Borough and Hampshire County Councils' individual and, overall, national, carbon reduction targets.

The scheme is estimated to save 4,319 tonnes CO₂ per year, which over its 40-year lifespan could be as much as 172,760 tonnes of CO₂.

Project timeline



Why here?

Selecting a site for a renewable energy project involves several layers of feasibility tests. These include technical reports and surveys to evaluate a range of considerations from flood risk and land grade, to archaeology and landscape. This site is ideally suited because of its size, lower grade arable land and proximity to the substation to the west of the site.

This site has been identified for a proposed 16.6MW solar farm to help meet the UK's net zero targets. This follows an extensive site selection process which considered environmental designations, proximity to grid connections and the physical characteristics of the site.

Additionally, this area aligns with the national strategy for renewable energy, addressing the urgent need for solar capacity in locations as identified by National Grid and contributing to the UK's broader energy transition goals.

Being close to the substation is important because energy is lost on the way from the solar panels to the grid connection, so the closer the two points are together, the less output is wasted. Proximity is key for efficiency.

We plan to incorporate co-located battery storage to maximise efficiency. The intermittency of the weather naturally impacts the generation of the panels. Some days it will generate a lot more than others, and vice versa. Battery storage helps to flatten supply fluctuations and supports the balancing mechanisms for the grid. They support energy resilience.

The land is currently agricultural grade 3. After 40 years, the land will be fully restored to its original state, with improved soil health. The solar farm construction on pilings means that less than 5% of the ground will be disturbed.

The remainder of the land will still be used for agricultural purposes and to produce food. A diverse mix of grasses, flowers and legumes will be planted and grazed with sheep, so it is not fully being taken out of agricultural production.

We've made several important changes to the project design in response to local archaeological and historical sensitivities. This includes realigning the cable route further south to reduce visual impact from Barton Stacey, and adjusting site access to ensure we avoid crossing the Scheduled Monument nearby. These changes reflect our commitment to responsible development and cultural heritage preservation.

The location can be found using the what3words' interactive map: [///snail.faster.perfectly](#)







Private Energy Partners

Private Energy Partners is a dedicated renewable energy developer with an experienced, professional team passionate about sustainability, community, and preserving the countryside. We deliver thoughtful, responsible energy solutions to support local and national needs, working towards the energy transition. Together with our backers, Quinbrook Infrastructure Partners, we're creating a cleaner, greener future while caring deeply about the people and places we serve.

We're bringing clean energy to life.

Trusted, experienced, and here to listen

Our team combines industry expertise with a deep commitment to community partnership. We understand that energy projects don't just live on paper; they live in real places, near real people. That's why we take a careful, consultative approach to every site we develop. By involving local voices early and often, we aim to deliver energy projects that not only contribute to the UK's net-zero future but also feel right for the communities they serve.

At Private Energy Partners, we place community engagement and clear, open communication at the heart of every project. From the earliest stages, we actively listen, consult, and collaborate with local residents. We work with stakeholders to ensure our energy developments reflect community needs, build trust, and deliver long-term benefits for people and the places they call home.

Bransbury Lane Solar Farm



Our work is guided by five core values

1

Integrity: we're honest, open, and committed to doing things the right way.

2

Care for communities: we listen, collaborate, and design projects that create lasting local benefits.

3

Respect for the countryside: we value rural character and aim to fit our developments sensitively into the landscape.

4

Sustainability in action: our projects reduce emissions and support the UK's net-zero goals.

5

Collaboration: we build strong partnerships across every stage of development.

**We don't just install infrastructure.
We build trusted relationships and enduring value.**



Environment and biodiversity net gain

The energy assets would cover 85 acres of the 150-acre site, with 27 acres devoted to biodiversity enhancement measures. This means extending the safe habitats for local bats, birds, badgers, deer and insects. This will include the internationally rare hazel dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*).

Land which is not utilised for the energy installation will continue to be used for agriculture; the operational land will be grazed by sheep. This will provide continued foraging resource suitable for large bat species such as noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*) that prey upon large species of beetle and other dung fauna in grazing land.

The development of the site provides the opportunity to diversity habitats away from monocultures of arable cropping. This will increase the invertebrate assemblages present within the local area to provide increased foraging for bird and bat species. The UK Birds of Conservation Concern Red List species yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*) is a farmland species in decline and will be supported by this increased foraging area. Similarly, priority species such as brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*) will benefit from the increased presence of moth species that feed on grassland in their larval stages. The creation of habitats will aid in bridging greenspace between the woodland habitats to the north and the riparian habitats to the south.



The site has shown a variety of species present within its boundaries, including hare (*Lepus europaeus*) and badgers (*Meles meles*) which will be allowed to access the site through gates within fencing. Reptile species including slow worm have also been confirmed within the site. Bats that are confirmed to be using the site include widespread broad foraging species like common and soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and *P. pygmaeus*) as well as more specialised foraging brown long-eared bats. The bat activity surveys are ongoing throughout 2025, so additional species are likely to be recorded.

There is a known hazel dormouse population within the hedgerows present on site. The development proposal is seeking to include the creation of diverse native scrub and native hedgerows to increase the foraging abundance and range of this internationally important species. The inclusion of an improved invertebrate assemblage on site alongside a diversity of native fruiting species will promote year-round foraging and shelter for this species.

The creation of the grassland habitats on site will allow the development of a diverse sward height with areas for foraging, refuge and hibernation for reptile species. This will provide high quality habitat for the population of slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*) present on site and facilitate the establishment of sustainable breeding population.



Private Energy Partners is drawing up an extensive planting plan to ensure the right mix of native species are used, enabling areas to be as biodiverse as possible. Areas set aside for biodiversity are not mown and experience minimal human interference. Once built, the solar farm would receive a maintenance visit every couple of weeks but is also subject to very minimal human traffic.

Various ecological enhancements would be included as part of this scheme, including the production of reptile hibernacula for hibernating reptiles, and the addition of numerous bat boxes on site, to provide refuge for bat species in the local area.

Please see the plans for more information about where the biodiversity enhancement zones of the site will be.