

Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Proposals (updated 5 January 2025)
listed by Borough / District

Location	Name	Developer/s	Planning status	Hectares	Megawatts	Offtake	Agricultural Land Classification	Protected Land Designation	Comments
Dacorum Borough, Pudds Cross, Bovington	Marchants Farm Solar	British Solar Renewables (BSR Energy)	Screening opinion 24/01956/SCE	56	38 MW plus 10 MW BESS	to be connected to grid	Grade 2 and Grade 3 (acc. To Natural England agricultural classification map)	Green Belt, and in the setting of the AONB	Undulating landscape currently in productive agricultural use
Dacorum Borough, Long Marston	Folly Farm Solar	Hive Energy	Planning application 4/02099/14/MFA, granted permission 11 Nov 2014	25	15 MW	to be connected to grid	Grade 4 (acc. to applicant)	n/a	Site is bisected by the Aylesbury Ring public right of way
Dacorum Borough, Caddington (and Central Bedfordshire)		Chiltern Green Energy	Planning application 23/02955/MFA, withdrawn July 2024	31.4	c. 26 MW	to be connected to grid	Grade 3 (tbd whether 3a or 3b)	Chilterns AONB; part of site is also in the Green Belt	Hydrogen and Electric vehicle charging service station and facilities, solar farm, and battery energy storage system. Site is moderately sloping land in the Chilterns AONB. One PRoW though site.
Dacorum Borough, Little Heath Lane, betw Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead	Little Heath Lane Solar Array	Energi Generation	Screening opinion 21/04395/SCE. Planning app 22/01106/MFA, refused 9 Sep 2022. Appeal dismissed 14 Nov 2023.	32	25 MW	to be connected to grid	Grade 3b (acc. to applicant)	Green Belt, and in the setting of the AONB (immediately adjacent)	Prominent hillside adjacent to Chilterns AONB, site rises from southwest to northeast and is highly visible over long distances incl from across the valley at Little Hay golf course and from The Hertfordshire Way
East Herts District, land west of Buntingford & south of A507		Hallam Land Management Ltd	Screening opinion 3/23/2349/SCREEN	8.5	TBD		Grade 2 and Grade 3 (acc. To Natural England agricultural classification map)	Rural Area Beyond Green Belt (East Herts)	Combined development of solar farm, employment space and parkland. Undulating landscape.
East Herts District, land west of A507 betw Cottered and Cromer (c. 5% of the site is in North Herts)	Beane Solar Farm	RES	Screening opinion 3/23/2478/SCREEN. Planning app 3/24/2245/FUL	80	up to 49.9 MW plus BESS	to be connected to grid	78.75% BMV (16 ha Grade 2, 47 ha Grade 3a) and 21.25% Grade 3b	Rural Area Beyond Green Belt (East Herts)	Undulating landscape. Proposed solar farm site is clearly visible from Grade II* Cromer windmill; windmill is situated 0.1 mile east and 0.2 mile south of the site. River Beane (chalk stream) runs through middle of the site. Two PRoWs through site.
East Herts District, land at Westmill landfill site, Ware		Biffa	Planning app East Herts 3/23/1734/CPO & Herts County Council PL/0357/23; permission granted 13 Mar 2024	10.5	7.3 MW	to be connected to grid	not applicable	Green Belt	Site is a former sand and gravel quarry, more recently used for landfill / waste processing. Thundridge public footpath 22 through site.
East Herts District, land north of Ware Park Farm, west of Ware	Ware Solar Farm	The Farm Energy Company	Screening opinion 3/22/2465/SCREEN, Planning app 3/24/1275/FUL	18.3	24 MW, with BESS storage of 15 MW	dedicated provision to private customer GlaxoSmithKline	20% BMV (of which 14% Grade 2 and 6% Grade 3a) and 80% Grade 3b	Green Belt	Greenfield site, agricultural land, situated in the Green Belt
East Herts District & Uttlesford District in Essex, northwest of Bishops Stortford	Wickham Hall Solar Farm	Endurance Energy	Planning apps 3/21/2601/FUL (East Herts), UTT/21/3108/FUL (Uttlesford). Uttlesford refused 19 Apr 2022. East Herts granted permission 19 Dec 2023	East Herts portion reduced from 78.26 to 59.08 ha	East Herts portion reduced to 35 MW	to be connected to grid	100% BMV: Grades 2 and 3a	Rural Area Beyond Green Belt (East Herts)	Mostly level land; several PRoWs through and adjacent to site incl The Hertfordshire Way. Planning application revised in July 2022 to remove Green Belt land from proposal.

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							Land	Land	
							Classification	Designation	
East Herts District & Uttlesford District in Essex, betw the Pelhams, Berden and Manuden	Pelham Spring Solar Farm	Low Carbon Energy	Planning apps 3/21/2781/FUL (East Herts), UTT/21/3356/FUL (Uttlesford). Latter refused and former (East Herts) withdrawn Jan-Feb 2022. New app refused by Planning Inspectorate 11 May 2023.	80	up to 49.9 MW	to be connected to grid	81.3% BMV: Grade 2 (42.7 Ha / 53.8%); Grade 3a (21.8 Ha / 27.5%); Grade 3b (13.1 Ha / 16.1%); non-agric (1.7 Ha / 2.2%)	Rural Area Beyond Green Belt (East Herts)	Undulating land; several PRoWs through and adjacent to site; site spans county boundary (most of site is in Uttlesford)
East Herts District, land off Ginns Road, Stocking Pelham	East End BESS	FRV Powertek Ltd.	Planning app 3/24/1953/FUL	12.6	Storage of up to 400 MW	to be connected to grid	100% BMV: Grade 3a	Rural Area Beyond Green Belt (East Herts)	Proposal is for a battery energy storage system (BESS)
East Herts District, land at Green's Farm, Stocking Pelham	Green's Farm BESS	Pelham Power Ltd	Planning app 3/21/0969/FUL and Screening Opinion 3/24/0620/SCREEN	1.42	Storage of up to 50 MW	to be connected to grid	100% BMV: Grade 2	Rural Area Beyond Green Belt (East Herts)	Proposal is for a battery energy storage system (BESS)
East Herts District, land off Crabbs Lane, Stocking Pelham (access through Uttlesford District)	Crabbs Lane BESS	Renewable Connections Development Ltd	Planning app 3/22/0806/FUL; retrospective request for screening opinion 3/23/1248/SCREEN	1.98	Storage of up to 50 MW	to be connected to grid	100% BMV: Grade 2	Rural Area Beyond Green Belt (East Herts)	Proposal is for a battery energy storage system (BESS)
Hertsmere Borough, Butterfly Lane, betw Aldenham and Elstree	Hilfield Solar Farm	Elstree Green Ltd. (Enso Energy)	Planning app 21/0050/FULEI refused 11 Nov 2021, Appeal APP/N1920/W/22/3295268 dismissed and permission refused 8 Apr 2024; second planning app 22/0948/FULEI submitted May 2022 and withdrawn May 2024	130	up to 49.9 MW	to be connected to grid	Grade 3b	Green Belt	Undulating land, with 14 PRoWs through site and The Hertfordshire Way adjacent to northwest portion; 5 heritage sites and school nearby. Planning officers recommended approval, Councillors refused permission. Circa 2000 public objections. Secretary of State dismissed appeal and refused permission April 2024.
Hertsmere Borough, southwest of Letchmore Heath, access from Hilfield Lane	Elstree BESS	Chiltern Green Energy	Planning app 23/1508/OUT; withdrawn 21 Nov 2024	12	Storage of up to 1500 MW	to be connected to grid	Grade 3b (acc. to applicant)	Green Belt	Undulating land, mostly arable cropland, with PRoW across northern portion of site. Proposal is for a battery energy storage system (BESS) comprised of 400 batteries, each in a 3 metre high storage container, plus substations, transformers, switchrooms and inverters.
North Herts District, betw Great Wymondley and Graveley, site bisected by Graveley Lane	Priory Farm Solar Array	AGR Power Ltd	Planning app 21/03380/FP Council resolved to grant permission; called-in by Secretary of State, Inquiry held Sep 2023, Planning Inspector recommended dismissal, but Secretary of State granted permission Mar 2024	88	49.995 MW at peak	to be connected to grid	100% BMV: Grade 2 (27.4 Ha / 32.2%); Grade 3a (57.6 Ha / 67.8%)	Green Belt	Undulating land; The Hertfordshire Way is adjacent to much of the northern and eastern portions of the site.
North Herts District, betw St Ippolyts and Titmore Greens, southwest of Little Wymondley	Sperberry Hill Solar (prev. named Redcoats Farm Solar)	RNA Energy	Screening opinion 21/02628/SO; Planning app 22/00709/FP refused 16 Nov 2023. New Screening opinion 24/01666/SO; new Planning app 24/02455/FP	35.5	25 MW	to be connected to grid	100% BMV: Grade 2 (53%) and Grade 3a (47%)	Green Belt	At least 3 PRoWs cross the site including The Hertfordshire Way. Revised 2024 proposal mostly the same as 2022 except for: reduction from 5 to 4 transformers, 8.5% reduction in area of solar panels, new areas of planting and changes to panel layout to reduce visual impact from some receptors.

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North Herts District, betw Ashwell and Bygrave	Tophams Solar Farm	Pace - Pathfinder Clean Energy	Planning app 22/00741/FP; North Herts District Council granted permission 13 June 2024	54	40 MW	to be connected to grid	100% BMV: Grade 2	Rural Area Beyond Green Belt (North Herts)	Visually prominent undulating land; the Icknield Way PRoW adjacent on two sides of site; Arbury Banks iron age hill fort nearby
North Herts District, Rush Green, Langley	Rush Green Battery Storage Facility	RNA Energy Limited	Planning app 24/00314/FP	1.45 site (0.9 ha for actual BESS)	Storage of up to 50 MW?	to be connected to grid at substation off Cavendish Road, Stevenage	n/a	Previously developed land in the Green Belt (brownfield)	Permission previously granted for 10 MW BESS on same site, planning app 21/01860/FP
North Herts District, land off Newnham Road, Newnham	Radwell Bury Farm BESS	Balance Power Projects Limited	Screening opinion 24/00777/SO; planning app 24/02713/FP	4.4 site (1.1 ha for actual BESS)	Storage of up to ?? MW	to be connected to grid	100% BMV: Grade 2	Rural Area Beyond Green Belt, adjacent to Green Belt	Mostly level BMV agricultural land
North Herts District, at Wandon End and Tea Green	Wandon End Solar	Evolution Power	Planning app 22/03231/FP, refused 18 July 2024	106 (60 for main solar farm)	49.9 MW	35 MW to be connected to grid; remainder to specific Luton based commercial customers	Grade 3a (51%), Grade 3b (44%) and non agricultural (5%) acc. to applicant	Green Belt; also in area proposed for Chilterns AONB extension	13 fields, undulating land; at least 6 PRoWs through site; our own CPRE Hertfordshire self-guided walk "Breachwood Green and Countryside east of Luton" runs through the middle of the site
St Albans District, land north of Colney Heath, Smallford	n/a	Public Power Solutions (Swindon Borough Council)	PL/0228/21-Scoping Request for screening opinion submitted to Hertfordshire County Council	42	22 MW plus BESS for 22 MW	to be connected to grid	Grade 3 (tbd whether 3a or 3b)	Green Belt	Relatively level and undulating land; site is crossed by three PRoWs that are heavily used for local recreation and for connection to the Alban Way footpath and National Cycle Route which is adjacent
Wel Hat Borough, betw A6129 and River Lea / Stanborough Lake	Stanborough Solar Farm	J Reddington Ltd (JRL Group)	Planning app 6/2023/1802/MAJ, permission granted 16 Sep 2024	10	10 MW plus BESS for 1.5 MW	to be connected to grid	Grade 3b (acc. to applicant)	Green Belt	Site is adjacent to the River Lea, and to Stanborough Reedmarsh Local Nature Reserve; current use of the site is hosting car boot sales
Wel Hat Borough, Codicote Road, betw Ayot St Lawrence & Ayot St Peter	West Welwyn Solar Farm	Black Mountain Developments, Ampyr Energy	Environmental Impact Assessment screening opinion 6/2022/1415/EIA	37, plus 3 for "an ecology project"	30.43 MW	underground cable to private customer (Colt Data Centre Services' "hyperscale" data center in Welwyn Garden City)	Grade 3 (tbd whether 3a or 3b)	Green Belt	Prominent rising land, PRoW through site, another PRoW adjacent, Stoking Springs Nature Reserve adjacent; site is highly visible over long distances from several vantage points including from PRoWs across valley to the east

AONB - Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (now known as National Landscape)

BESS - Battery energy storage system

BMV - Best and Most Versatile agricultural land, defined as land in classifications 1, 2, and 3a which are the highest (best) agricultural classifications

PRoW - Public Right(s) of Way