Solar Park at Eashing Farm Godalming, Surrey

Site description and location

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Welcome

The purpose of this exhibition is to gain an understanding of the community's views on the emerging development proposals for a solar farm at Eashing Farm.

Proposals

The application proposes the erection of up to circa 30,000 fixed solar panels in rows, mounted on a framework system which is screwed in to the ground. It would include a small substation building about the size of a small domestic garage. The electricity generated from the site would be transferred directly to the national grid via underground cables.

The development is proposed to be temporary for 25 years after which the site would be returned to its current condition; accordingly the proposals are fully reversible.

It is intended that sheep could graze between the panels to maintain the pasture.

The proposals would include a security fence up to 2m high and significant landscaping enhancements around the perimeter of the site.

The site

The site currently consists of grade 3 agricultural land which is relatively flat and benefits from established field boundary hedges and trees which ensure that it is not a prominent site within the local landscape and is naturally inconspicuous and screened from surrounding views. The immediate landscape is characterised by agricultural farming to the east, south and west. A small number of existing residential buildings are located directly to the north of the site. Established mature trees along the northern boundary of the site provide an effective landscape buffer.

Eashing Lane runs alongside the western boundary of the site and loops around to the east of site, existing trees and mature hedgerows help to screen the site from the neighbouring rural lane. The site is completely concealed from the A3 Milford Bypass Road by a dense network of mature trees which run parallel to the road. Existing field access into the site is available from Eashing Lane and A3 to the west.

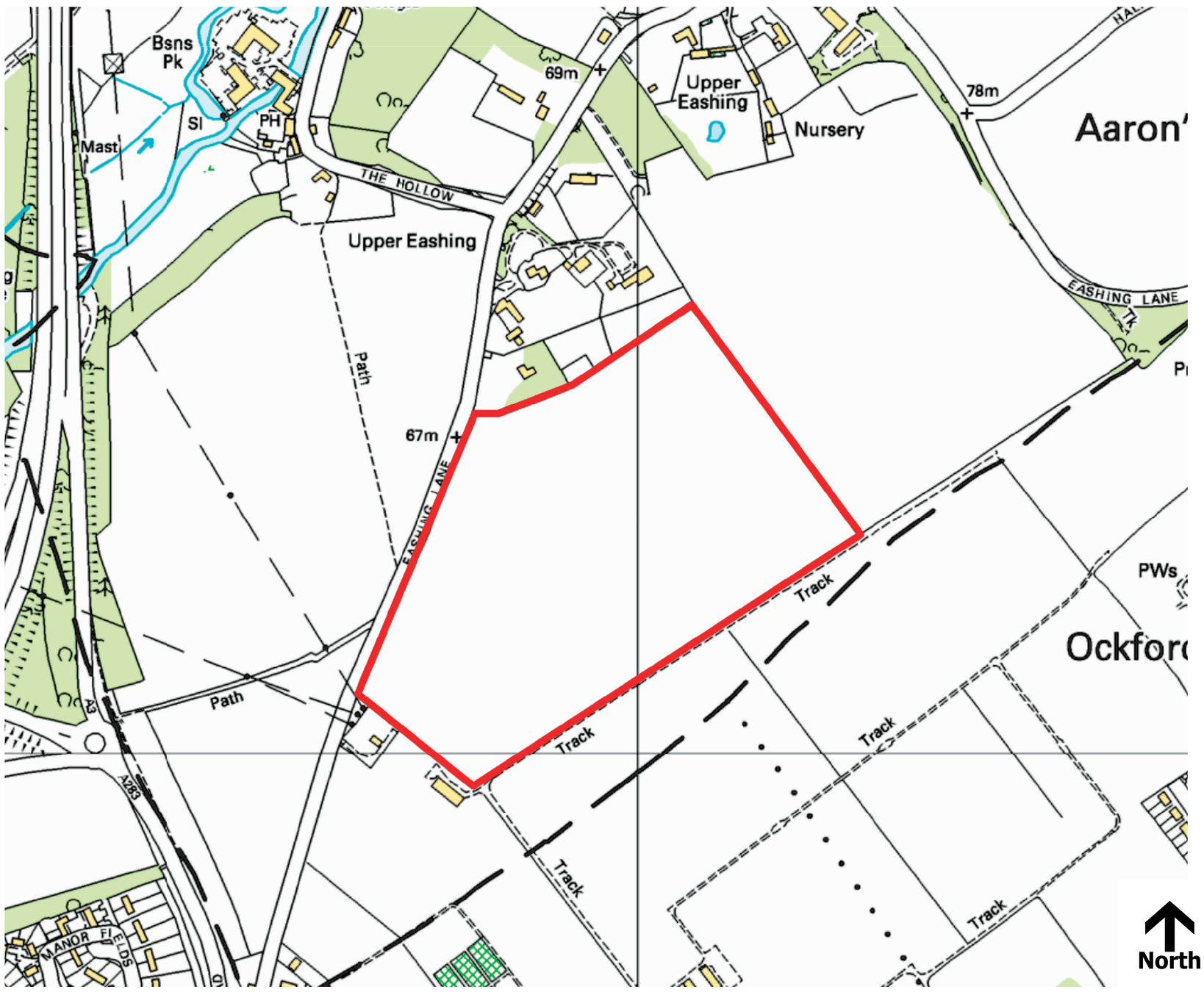
Power output and green credentials

The proposals would generate approximately 7 MW of electricity which would off set around 1,000 tonnes of Co2 per annum. That equates to enough electricity to serve the total power needs of 1,300 houses on average and up to 12,000 homes at peak performance (i.e. on a sunny day in July).

Grid connection

All of the electricity generated would be directed to the substation building in the south west corner of the site. From there, Solar Power South Ltd proposes to provide an underground cable to the local electricity grid adjacent the site. The proximity of the site to a viable grid connection is an important factor in choosing the site.

Site location



The panel technology

Solar PV technology collects and converts solar radiation directly into electricity. PV generation technology is commercially proven and large multi-megawatt generation plants have been operating since the 1990s. The technology is well-known and reliable. The largest plants are based either on fixed solar panels inclined at a latitude related angle or tracker systems that move either horizontally, vertically or both in order to maximise sunlight received. Solar Power South Ltd have opted for fixed systems as they have a limited environmental impact and can be easily installed and removed from the site.

PV panels silently convert sunlight to electrical energy. They generate direct current (DC) that is converted to alternating current (AC) and either fed into electricity grid or provided directly to an end-user.