

Westhide Solar Power Proposal: Grid connection information

July 2022

Please see below for some additional information with regards to the grid connection arrangements for the Westhide Solar Power Proposal.

This information is being provided with respect to specifically satisfying criterion 4 of *Policy SD2 – Renewable and low carbon energy generation* of the *Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy 2011 – 2031*, which states:

“Development proposals that seek to deliver renewable and low carbon energy will be supported where...

...

4. the proposal can be connected efficiently to existing national grid infrastructure unless it can be demonstrated that energy generation would be used on-site to meet the needs of a specific end user.”

1. Point of Connection

The applicant, Ersun (Westhide SPV) Ltd, has accepted and secured a firm grid connection offer for the proposed solar farm.

The Point of Connection (PoC) is Western Power Distribution’s BSP Hereford substation at Dormington.

This substation’s supply area is the county of Herefordshire.

2. Energy figures

The planning application at Westhide for a solar scheme of circa 34.6 megawatts (MW) would generate around 36,300MWh of electricity every year.

This equates to the amount of electricity used by 12,500 typical, medium-usage UK households – equivalent to circa 38% of the number of households in the Hereford locality. This would displace around 8,400 tonnes of CO₂ every year.

The environmental benefit figures are based on 34.6MW of installed solar PV, operating with a 12% capacity factor, a Typical Domestic Consumption Value (TDCV) for a medium-use household of 2900kWh per annum (Ofgem 2020), UK government figures on the carbon emissions for homes on the average energy fuel mix (2019) and 2011 Census figures.

3. Cable route

The initial baseline connection route for the proposal was via the local highways network.

As a result of consultation feedback, which flagged concerns from local residents about the potential impact of cabling works on local traffic management during the construction period, the applicant offered to explore ways of diverting the cable route across agricultural land.

A preferred alternative cable route has been identified and the applicant is currently in the process of securing land agreements with relevant landowners.

The route avoids the road networks of the villages of Westhide and Withington.

The applicant can confirm that the cable route will be trenched (underground), with key crossings being undertaken using the Horizontal Direction Drill (HDD) method, specifically for the A4103, the railway line and the river Frome, avoiding impacts on these features.

Relevant stakeholders for the crossings are being engaged. The applicant will undertake relevant environmental walkover surveys prior to construction.