

**Longfield Solar Farm Community Liaison Group (CLG)**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Wednesday, 5 March 2025, 2pm**  
**Boreham Village Hall, Main Road, Boreham, CM3 3JD**

**Members**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Andy Higham – Principal Planning Officer	Essex County Council
Timothy Havers - Principal Planning Manager	Braintree District Council
Chris Paggi - Planning Development Manager	
Ruth Mabbutt - Senior Planning Officer/Planning Lead	Chelmsford City Council
Mark Norman	National Highways
Lee Perry T/Station Manager, Risk	Essex Fire and Rescue Service
John Webster Station Mgr Future Infrastructure Risk	
Dawn Wheland and Zoe May (DW & ZM)	East of England Ambulance Trust
Will Wilcock	National Grid
Katherine Evans	Essex Local Access Forum
Graham Reeves – Area Walking Environment Officer	Essex Ramblers Association
communications@essexalliance.org.uk	The Essex Alliance
Mark Weale - Chair	Hatfield Peverel Parish Council
Robin Dixon	Terling and Fairstead Parish Council
James Raven – City Councillor	Boreham and The Leighs
Anthony Kingham - Chair	Little Waltham Parish Council
Peter Elkington and Linda Reed	Boreham Parish Council

**In attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
James Raven – City Councillor (JR)	Boreham and The Leighs
Lee Perry - T/Station Manager, Risk (LP)	Essex Fire and Rescue Service
Peter Elkington (PE) / Linda Reed (LR)	Boreham Parish Council
Katherine Evans – Chair (KE)	Essex Local Access Forum
Dawn Whelan (DW)	East of England Ambulance Trust
Robin Dixon (RD)	Terling and Fairstead Parish Council
Clive Cosby - Construction Manager – (CC)	EDF Renewables, Longfield Solar Farm
Melissa McKerrow – External Affairs Lead (MM)	EDF Renewables, Longfield Solar Farm
Clodagh Steel - Community Liaison Officer (CS)	EDF Renewables, Longfield Solar Farm

**Apologies**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Graham Reeves – Area Walking Environment Officer	Essex Ramblers Association

## **1 Welcome**

CS welcomed the group.

## **2 Introductions and apologies**

CS provided an introduction and apologies.

## **3 Terms of Reference & Minutes of Inaugural Meeting**

Terms of Reference and minutes of the December 2024 meeting were agreed. December 2024 agenda and minutes loaded to the Longfield Solar Farm website

<https://www.longfieldsolarfarm.co.uk/downloads/>

## **4 Project Update**

CC began with an update on Wheelers Hill / Cranham Road and the management of vehicles to the Longfield Solar Farm site during construction. All site vehicles will come from the roundabout at the A131 Essex Regiment Way on to Wheelers Hill and into Cranham Road. The site entrance is opposite and to the right of the junction which you can see on this link [4077 ES Figure 2-5 Operational Layout Overview](#)

Once the vehicles are on site, they will only use the internal roads apart from two points on Noakes Lane where vehicles will ONLY cross Noakes Lane, the road will be open, traffic marshals will be in attendance and local traffic will take priority.

Utility surveys and revegetation works took place on Wheelers Hill and Cranham Road in February 2025 in readiness for the road widening (passing bay) works (dates of which to be confirmed). Planting began again in April 2025. There will be further Archaeology surveys taking place in 2025.

We are also exploring the introduction of sheep grazing within the solar panel fields. Once confirmed, we will provide a further update.

### **4.1 Questions**

#### **Q. What are the construction working hours?**

A. Construction working hours on the Solar Farm Site will run from 07:00 to 19:00 Monday to Saturday. Further details can be found on this link - <https://www.longfieldsolarfarm.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/PRJ00059-XACM-PLN-COS-PLN-000004-Outline-Construction-Environmental-Management-Plan-1.pdf>

#### **Q. Where will the construction offices be based on site?**

A. The site offices will be based in the centre of the site with some smaller satellite compound areas, all within our boundary. This can also be seen on this link [4077 ES Figure 2-5 Operational Layout Overview](#)

#### **Q. When will construction begin?**

A. Construction is due to begin early 2026. There will be enabling works that will need to be completed prior to this date. This will include preparation of the site in readiness for the first

stage of development. It could include carrying out ground clearance, building access routes and putting up safety signage.

**Q. Will you take all the land at the same time?**

**A.** The land will be taken in phases (1-5). The first two phases will be taken from the south of the site. A map will be shared when finalised.

**Q. When will we give formal notice to local authorities of commencement of works?**

**A.** When we have submitted our planning requirements and it has been discharged by the local authorities, that will include our start date.

**Q. There has been lots of tree felling up at Toppinghoe Hall Woods, who is responsible?**

**A.** Longfield Solar Farm is not responsible for these works.

**Q. Do we have any further information concerning the Archaeological finds?**

**A.** Following the archaeological discovery, we have been granted a special licence to exhume the remains. All archaeological finds, including the human remains, are currently stored with the contractor. Once all the work is complete on the project as a whole, they will be archived at a local museum. This will be either Braintree Museum or Chelmsford Museum

**Q. What are the plans for abnormal load movements/communication to local stakeholders?**

**A.** Surveys/swept paths have been carried out concerning abnormal load movements. Communication will be sent out prior to abnormal loads coming into site, they will also be shown on [Causeway one.network](https://www.causewayone.network)

**Q. Where is the water source if there is a fire?**

**A.** There will be tankers of water around the Battery Energy Storage System area with volumes agreed based on the size of the battery. An emergency response plan will be developed in consultation with the relevant local authority emergency planning officer, emergency services including the local fire service, as well as the Environment Agency in relation to responding to flood warnings and events. The plan will detail the procedures for responding to incidents and emergencies on site, and any reporting.

**Q. What will be the daily frequency of HGV traffic to Longfield Solar Farm?**

**A.** Volume of HGV/LGV movements to site in one day is still to be finalised. We are looking to implement a shuttlebus service to transfer staff to site from Chelmer Park and Ride and a Car Share Scheme which will be implemented to match potential sharers and help staff identify any colleagues who could potentially be collected along their route to/from site.

**Q. Why was the cable route moved to the south of the site?**

**A.** The decision to extend Bulls Lodge Substation by National Grid was a factor in the change of the cable route and talks with Heidelberg Materials Aggregates Bulls Lodge Quarry concerning the cable route affecting their mineral extraction area.

**Q. At the peak of construction, how many people will there be on site? And what will happen if there is an accident requiring an ambulance?**

**A.** It is estimated that up to 600 workers will be required at the peak of construction, but it is expected that on any one day the peak would be 533, comprising 500 on the Solar Farm Site, and 33 associated with the Bulls Lodge Substation Extension. In the event that an ambulance is required onsite at any point, a member of staff will call 999 and first aiders from site will hand over to the ambulance service. Site construction design management and health and safety will be adhered to, and an emergency response plan will be place.

**Q. Will the whole boundary of the site be fenced?**

**A.** Each individual solar panel field will be fenced with deer fencing. There will be palisade fencing around the battery storage and substation.

**Q. How are you protecting the wildlife and trees/land?**

**A.** We are carrying out detailed tree and planting surveys, we have checked the ponds and hedgerows, looked for badger sets, a lot of work was done prior to the archaeological digs, ecologists walked and checked the whole site. This is an ongoing process, and the screening/planting/biodiversity net gain is being looked at in detail.

**Q. Will there be light pollution, especially in the winter when we lose daylight at 4pm?**

**A.** Tower lights will be erected in the winter so works can continue safely but will be turned off at the end of the working day.

**Q. Will there be CCTV?**

**A.** Yes, all CCTV will only be directed into site/individual fields. They will be fixed cameras, using motion detection and can determine between an animal or person.

**Q. When will the screening of the solar panel fields start?**

**A.** We have already started, and you will see further planting in April and September 2025. More planting will be done at the end of construction, so it is not damaged or in the way of works. There will be ongoing management throughout the project.

**Q. How will we dispose of rubbish?**

**A.** On site there will be segregated skips, recycling, general waste, metal skips – everything will be recycled as much as possible.

**Q. Will the emergency services have access to the site for risk assessments?**

**A.** Yes, we are in talks with the Essex Fire and Rescue Service to plan for regular site visits and assessments. The Battery Safety Management Plan will include a mechanism for continued consultation and data sharing around emergency response.

**Q. Are their containment lagoons?**

**A.** There is a lagoon in the southeast of the site specifically related to the battery and substation.

**Q. Where will the topsoil go that is being removed and can it be put back?**

**A.** The soil will be removed and stored on site, from the Substation and BESS areas but not from the solar panel fields. A Soil Resource Management Plan is in place to ensure the protection and conservation of the soil on site.

**Q. Will the landowner keep farming until we take the field/land?**

**A.** Yes. The project will be in five phases with the first two phases of land taken early 2026.

**Q. Will there be a Community Benefit Fund and what area will it cover?**

**A.** Yes there is a fund which will be available once we commence construction. There is a draft of the details here - [EN010118-001019-Longfield-Solar-Farm-s106-agreement-Draft-for-Deadline-5-12441-1.pdf](#)

**Actions**

CS to contact and confirm with DW - Emergency Planning and Hand-over Plans in the event of an accident on site.

**Date and venue of next meeting**

The group agreed meetings would take place every quarter and would be held either daytime, evenings, face to face or virtual, this would be decided by the group at the end of each meeting.

Next meeting 2pm-3pm, Wednesday 11th June 2025 – Online drop-in