



Boxted Solar Farm proposal

Project update – September 2026

A planning application for the 20MW Botted Solar Farm, was submitted to Babergh District Council (planning ref: DC/23/05127), in November 2023. The proposal could generate enough clean electricity to power approximately 8,900 homes each year, while also delivering habitat creation and other local benefits.

Since submitting the planning application, RES' project team have been carefully considering feedback from consultees and local residents. As a result, a planning addendum will shortly be submitted to the Council, providing updated assessments and demonstrating additional mitigation for potential impacts relating to cultural heritage, ecology and landscape.

The addendum reflects an ongoing commitment to ensuring that the project fits as sensitively as possible within its surroundings. The updated information will build upon the extensive surveys and design work already undertaken and will show how the proposal has evolved in response to feedback and environmental considerations.

Alongside the generation of locally produced renewable electricity, RES is exploring a range of community benefits, aligned with feedback from our pre-application consultation, that could be delivered should the solar farm receive planning consent.

Potential benefits include a local electricity discount scheme providing eligible households an annual discount on their electricity bill; a new permissive footpath, providing additional opportunities for walking and enjoyment of the local countryside and a picnic area, creating a new community space where residents and visitors can spend time outdoors. The project could also bring wider economic benefits through construction activity, the use of local businesses and services, and the generation of business rates that help support local public services.



A key message in Wilder Ecology's¹ report into the impacts of solar farms on biodiversity, is that appropriately managed solar farms can become nature-positive developments that contribute to both climate goals and biodiversity recovery. For Botted Solar Farm biodiversity enhancements are proposed across the site, including new habitats designed to support wildlife and pollinators. The proposals have the potential to deliver substantial biodiversity net gain and importantly, these measures are not being proposed in isolation.

¹ SWT Trading Ltd: Wilder Ecology are the ecological consultancy of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Their report can be viewed at https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/sites/default/files/2025-10/Impact_of_ground_mounted_solar_on_biodiversity_Literature_Review.pdf

A commitment to the environment is already evident across the wider Boxted Hall Estate, where projects have included woodland creation and enhancement, wetland and pond restoration, wildlife meadows and the restoration of the River Glem floodplain. The biodiversity programme associated with the solar farm would build on these achievements, delivering new habitats, enhanced hedgerows, wildflower-rich grasslands and dedicated areas for wildlife. Rather than a standalone project, the solar farm would form part of a wider vision to support both nature recovery and a sustainable future for the Estate.



Woodland creation at Boxted Estate

The proposed solar farm would also play an important role in helping to secure the future of Boxted Hall Estate. Farming has always adapted to changing circumstances, and today's farmers face growing pressures from unpredictable weather, rising costs and changing markets. Responsible diversification can provide the financial stability needed to maintain rural businesses so they can continue investing in the land, the local economy and the environment.

If you'd like to discuss community benefits, or anything else relating to the project, please don't hesitate to contact us using the contact details on the project website: www.boxted-solarfarm.co.uk. The website will also be kept updated with details on the planning addendum.

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