

Appeal Reference: APP/H1515/W/15/3134301

“Land at Havering Grove Farm”



Species-rich grass

Species-rich grass is proposed throughout the site, including the areas oversailed by panels. Wide spaces around the site boundaries and between the rows of panels will leave the majority of the solar farm as open grassland.



Improved hedgerows

Existing hedgerows will be strengthened with native species, including hawthorn and dog rose. 55 metres of in-fill planting is proposed along the northern boundary to thicken the hedgerow between the site and the railway line.

New tree planting

Clusters of oak trees, interspersed with native shrubs, will be planted in the site corners to provide new habitats and increase the natural screening between the site and Bushwood Farm and a nearby footpath.

Existing wetland area protected



Mammal gates

‘Mammal gates’ in the fencing will allow wild mammals to move freely across the site undisturbed.

Sole agricultural use



Managing the soil

The area around the pond and large areas of land around the site boundaries will not be sown with seed mixes during the initial 3 years. Instead, the existing vegetation will be allowed to grow and will be cut on a regular basis to deplete the excess nitrate content of the soil.

Bird & bat boxes

15 bird boxes and 15 bat boxes are proposed to encourage nesting and roosting.



Rural Fencing

A timber and wire agricultural fence is proposed, appropriate to the rural setting. The fence will sit inside the surrounding vegetation with wide ungrazed field margins on the outside.

After 3 years, the areas around the site boundary will be seeded with an Emorsgate Hedgerow Mixture, and the pond edges seeded with Pond Edge Mix.

Livestock grazing

Once the solar farm is in place and the grass established, the fenced solar farm area will be used as grazing pasture for small livestock.