

## **Broughton Community Energy March 2026 Update**

Dear neighbours,

We'd like to give you a quick update on the electricity generation project.

### **The Steering Group has made an important decision to remove the wind turbine from the proposal.**

As we explained at the village meeting on 2 December and in our proposal document, the inclusion of a wind turbine offers the advantage of year-round generation, but it also carries significant planning risks. These risks arise from the proximity of MoD radars, the weather research radar at Chilbolton Observatory, and the protected Barbastelle bats at Mottisfont.

Following further engagement with the operators of the radar systems, the Steering Group has concluded that the risk of making a significant investment in preparing the full planning application, given the high probability of rejection, is too great. Consequently, the decision has been made to remove the wind turbine from our proposal. The intention is to move forward with an expanded solar PV array and storage batteries.

This decision has consequences for the proposed site.

The site to the north-east of the parish was selected as the only feasible location for a wind turbine, given its elevation, distance from residential buildings, and being outside the line of sight from the Met Office weather radar on Dean Hill. However, it was a considerable distance from the electricity substation in Houghton, with high grid connection costs. These costs were acceptable with year-round generation but aren't feasible for a solar PV-only solution.

Our modelling shows that a solar PV solution remains financially viable, including the low-cost community electricity tariff, but only if we can secure a site closer to Houghton to significantly reduce connection costs. We are now exploring potential sites.

This will delay the next stage of the project, but as always, we will keep you informed of progress.

Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Broughton Community Energy

---

### **Get involved**

This is your project, and we want it to reflect the priorities of the whole village. If you'd like to contribute ideas or learn more, please get in touch.

Email us: [info@broughtoncommunityenergy.org](mailto:info@broughtoncommunityenergy.org)

Join our WhatsApp group that already has over 100 members and continues to grow:  
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/CjfCzCFLF2HD3FZrpfF9zA>

Website: [www.broughtoncommunityenergy.org](http://www.broughtoncommunityenergy.org)