Welcome to the first Great Harmeston Solar Farm Public Exhibition

Great Harmeston Solar Farm is being proposed by Arise Renewable Energy UK

Arise Renewable Energy UK is a reliable developer, owner and operator of solar & onshore wind renewable electricity generation projects.

We employ British planners, engineers, grid experts, and surveyors who work closely with landowners on large-scale energy schemes. At the same time, we benefit from the international knowledge and experience of our Northern European colleagues within the wider Arise AB Group, a company listed on the NASDAQ stock exchange in Stockholm.

Founded in 2007, Arise is one of Sweden's leading independent renewable energy companies. Arise manages the entire project value chain – from exploration and permitting to financing, construction, divestment, and long-term management of renewable electricity production. Arise is headquartered in Halmstad, Sweden and has a late-stage development portfolio of over 9,000MW spread across Northern Europe.

To find out more request a call back from the team on **07493 060539** or visit **www.greatharmestonsolar.co.uk**

Application Site Location

The proposed development will export up to 65MWac into the electricity grid network generated from a solar array with an installed capacity of 93MWp(DC). The 65MWac figure is the usable power delivered to the grid following conversion from direct current to alternating current. This equates to powering around 34,444 homes a year with clean, renewable energy which will make a vital contribution to climate change targets and the country's transition away from fossil fuels.*

Clean renewable power generation is front-and-centre of the Welsh Government strategy to reach net zero by 2050, with the Government setting us a target for all electricity to come from 100% zero-carbon generation by 2035. The project would result in a reduction of carbon dioxide emissions of over 11,532 tonnes of CO_2 per year.*

As the project is for a solar farm with a generating capacity of between 10MWac and 350MWac, it will be determined under the Developments of National Significance (DNS) regime. Following completion of consultation on the project we will submit a planning application to Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW). PEDW will assess our application before Welsh Ministers determine if it is to be granted planning consent. Temporary planning permission is being sought for a period of 40 years, after which the site will be decommissioned and the land returned to its current use. We are currently conducting informal consultation to gather early feedback before commencing a further statutory consultation prior to submission in 2026.

Site Location Plan

The site location plan below details the application site boundary. Great Harmeston Solar Farm is proposed to be located on parcels of land to the south of the village of Johnston in Pembrokeshire.

Legend:

Red Line Boundary

*Source: Homes: 93MW / 2700kWh (average UK home) = 34,444. Co2: 93MW solar scheme based on a reasonable expected yield of 1,000 kWh/kWp/year and a carbon intensity of 0.124 kg CO_2/kWh per the 2023 BEIS dataset = 11,532

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Proposal

Great Harmeston Solar Farm is predominantly made up of medium and large fields which are currently used for agricultural purposes and consists of a development area which totals approximately 316 acres (128 hectares).

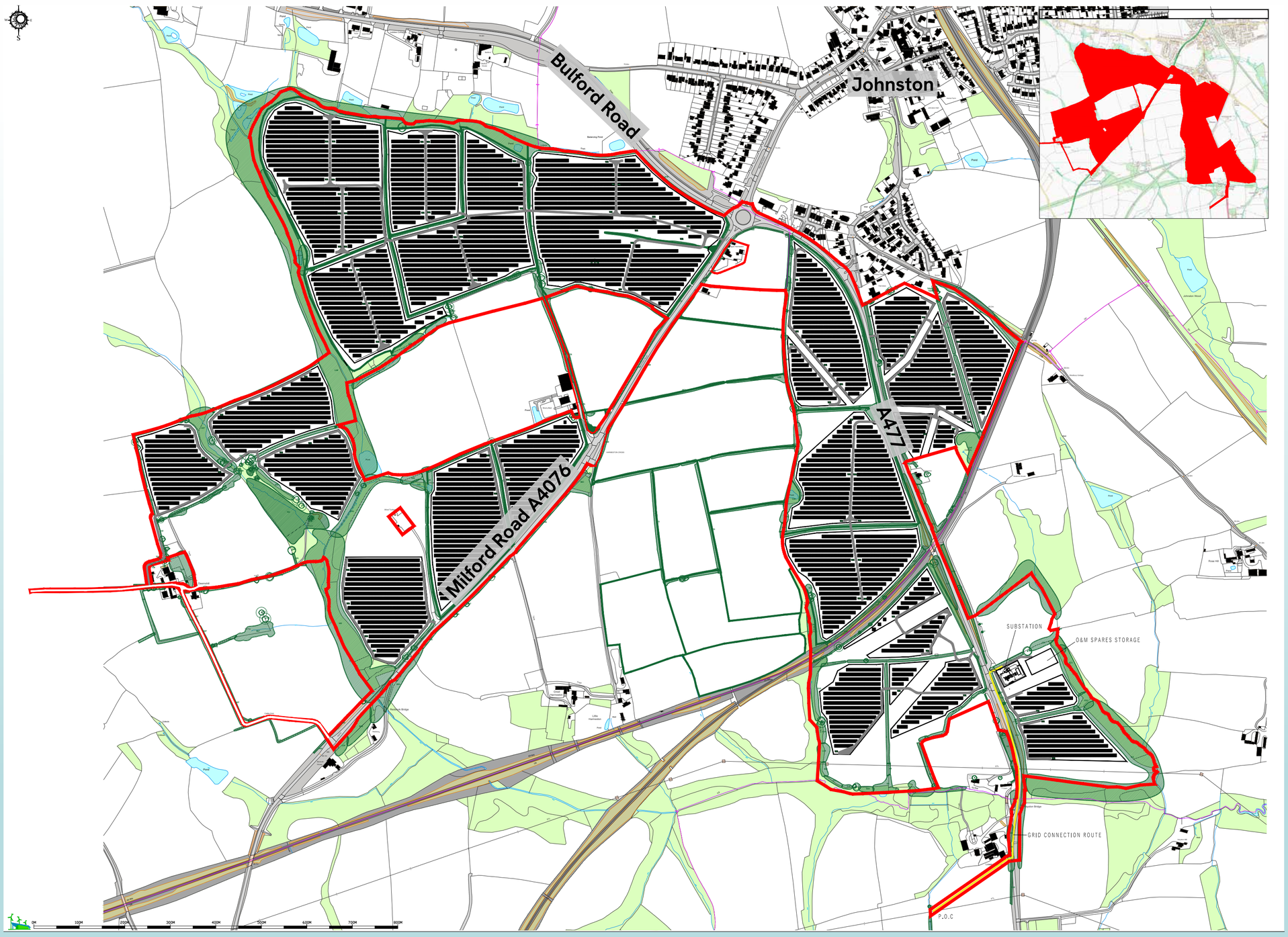
The clean energy produced by the solar panels will feed directly into the National Grid by connecting to an existing overhead line at the south of the site via the local overhead line network. Local homes will then draw power from the grid. In this way, the solar farm will help to provide local people with renewable electricity.

The solar farm is designed to be low impact, quiet, and environmentally responsible. We have intentionally chosen a site which has limited visibility from settlements within the local area and which benefits from existing screening provided by hedgerows and mature trees across much of the site. Other key siting considerations have related to the classification of the soils on site as well as the ecological baseline. We consider that the development has the potential to deliver substantial biodiversity enhancement and we are exploring continued agricultural use of the site via sheep grazing. Once the site is operational, there will be few vehicle movements (compared to a housing development, for example), and we will provide a Construction Management Plan with our planning application which will set out our strategy for vehicular movements during the construction process. The close proximity of the site to a suitable point of connection with capacity to accommodate the renewable energy generated is a key site selection criteria for this type of development and one of the reasons why using brownfield land is typically unsuitable.

Proposed Site Plan

Legend:

- Development area
- Crushed stone access road
- Solar modules
- Perimeter security fencing
- Existing trees and hedgerows



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Agricultural Land and Environment

We are working on detailed technical reports which will provide further information on the environmental conditions at the site and proposed mitigation and enhancement. These will form part of the draft planning application which will be available for comment for 6 weeks during the statutory consultation period.

Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)

The proposal will allow the farmers involved to diversify their income, strengthening the viability of their overall farming operations. DEFRA have stated that even in ambitious solar rollout scenarios, solar farms will occupy less than 1% of UK agricultural land, and that this is expected to cause minimal impact on food production and food security.*

In this case, less than 20% of the land used has been assessed to be Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land, with the survey having been ratified by the Welsh Government's land use team. We have carefully sited the panels and supporting infrastructure to minimise the use of Best and Most Versatile Agricultural land and are exploring the potential for sheep grazing to allow the agricultural use to be maintained during operation.

Flood Risk

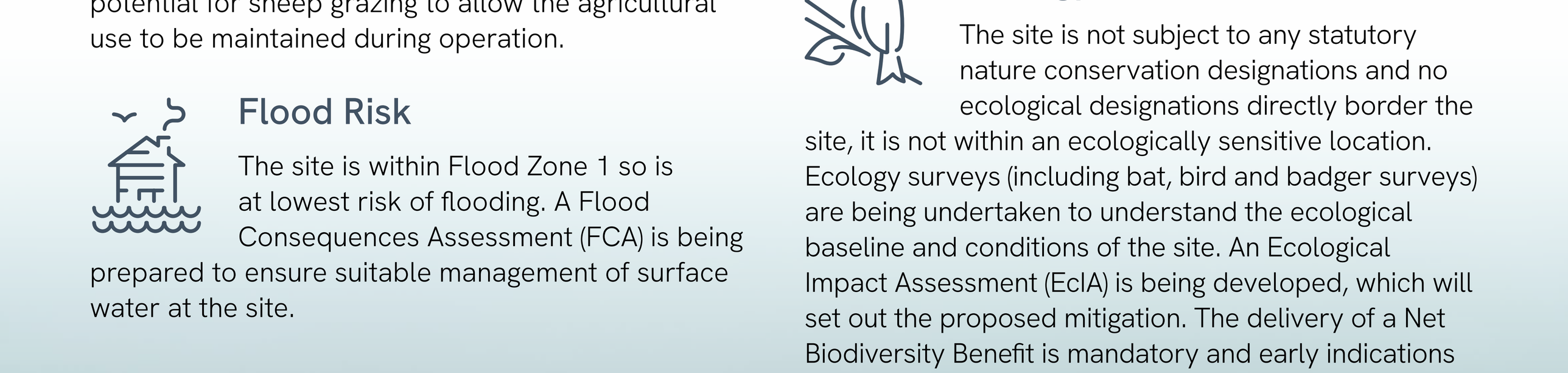
The site is within Flood Zone 1 so is at lowest risk of flooding. A Flood Consequences Assessment (FCA) is being prepared to ensure suitable management of surface water at the site.

Landscape and Visual Impact

The site benefits from strong existing hedgerow boundaries which limit views into the site from surrounding areas. A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) is being undertaken to understand and help mitigate any landscape and visual impacts of the proposed development. The LVIA will consider the proximity of the site to Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and impacts on the Pembrokeshire County Landscape Character although early indications are that there will be minimal impact. The site does not fall within any statutory landscape designations and is not within the Green Belt. A Landscape Masterplan will be submitted as part of the application which will detail additional planting proposed as part of the development.

Ecology

The site is not subject to any statutory nature conservation designations and no ecological designations directly border the site, it is not within an ecologically sensitive location. Ecology surveys (including bat, bird and badger surveys) are being undertaken to understand the ecological baseline and conditions of the site. An Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) is being developed, which will set out the proposed mitigation. The delivery of a Net Biodiversity Benefit is mandatory and early indications are that the site offers potential to deliver substantial enhancement relative to the baseline.



*https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-08/7826/

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Heritage

A Heritage Assessment is being undertaken to understand the heritage impacts of the proposed development and how these can be mitigated. The site is not located within any statutory and / or non-statutory designated sites for cultural heritage or archaeology nor is it within or adjacent to a Conservation Area. There is, however, a Scheduled Monument of a prehistoric burnt mound abutting the northern boundary of the site, and the site is in proximity of some listed buildings and a Registered Park / Garden. These will form part of the assessment.

Public Rights of Way

There is only one Public Right of Way which lies adjacent to the red line boundary in the southern-eastern parcel of the site and comes inside the site boundary for a very small section along its route. The LVIA will describe and assess the potential impacts from publicly accessible viewpoints in the surrounding area. It will also describe any measures needed to mitigate against any landscape and visual effects of the development, which may include, for example, ensuring appropriate buffers from receptors and/or additional planting.

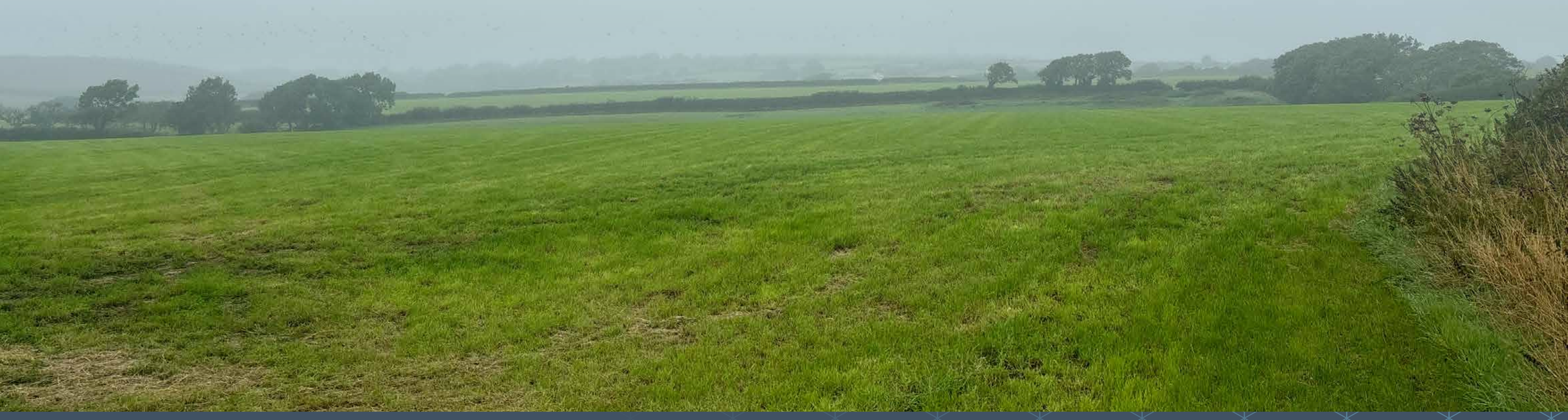
Transport

A Transport Statement and Construction Traffic Management Plan will be produced as part of the draft planning application to understand the transport impacts of the proposal during construction and operation and set out mitigation measures if necessary. Once operational, the development will generate very little traffic or vehicle movement, with only access for maintenance being required.

Noise

Solar farms only generate operational noise from inverters and transformers, which will be enclosed and located well away from homes. If required, mitigation will be integrated into the design, to minimise noise impacts to acceptable levels. A Noise Impact Assessment is being progressed and will be provided as part of the draft planning application.

To manage noise through construction and to minimise potential environmental and amenity effects, best practice construction methods will be adopted and agreed prior to commencement of construction.



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Frequently Asked Questions General

Why build a solar farm in this location?

The site has been chosen based on several factors:

- Very close proximity to a grid connection
- Predominantly lower grade farmland
- Good solar exposure
- Minimal environment impact and a well screened site
- Every effort has been made to select a location with least impact and most benefit

Will the solar farm affect my property value?

Impact on neighbouring properties is typically minimal due to the low profile and quiet operation of solar farms and effectiveness of screening measures where needed.

Will it be visible from my home?

We aim to minimise visual impact via careful design. A key objective of early engagement is to discuss any concerns about visibility with the local community with a view to, where possible, integrating feedback received into the evolving layout design.

What happens to the land under the panels?

We promote combined land use, including grazing by sheep, wildflower and native grass planting, as well as other measures which will ensure a net benefit for biodiversity is delivered as part of the development proposal. The ability to maintain agricultural use whilst simultaneously delivering benefits for wildlife alongside renewable energy generation is why solar farm development plays such a key role in tackling both the nature and climate emergencies.

Will the site be secure?

Yes. The site will be securely fenced and monitored with discreet CCTV to prevent vandalism or theft.

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Frequently Asked Questions Project Benefits

What are the benefits of this project?

A Community Benefit Fund aimed at supporting local initiatives

Significant additional annual public funds will be generated via business rates associated with the development type

The landowner receives secure rental income which assists with the long term viability of the agricultural operation

Local businesses will benefit during the construction and decommissioning phases and opportunities to engage local suppliers will be sought where possible

Jobs are created during planning, construction and operation

Local wildlife via the delivery of biodiversity enhancement measures at the site

The project helps Wales meet renewable energy targets and reduces reliance on fossil fuels

How will this benefit our community?

We aim to create a Community Benefit Fund, with the potential to support:

Local schools

Environmental groups

Village halls

Community events

Green infrastructure

We're keen to hear your views and are open to suggestions on how the Community Benefit Fund could best serve the local area. Please speak to a member of the project team or provide views on a feedback form which is available online or at a public exhibition.

To find out more request a call back from the team on **07493 060539** or visit **www.greatharmestonsolar.co.uk**

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Have Your Say

We want to hear your feedback on our proposal.

Feedback form

Available today and online at
www.greatharmestonsolar.co.uk
We will also post hard copies
upon request

Email

Written feedback can be sent to
katie@powiscommunications.co.uk

Post

Send feedback via post to
FREEPOST PC CONSULTATION
(no stamp required)

Phone

Register your views or request a
call back from the team by calling
07493 060539

Online

Complete the online form at
www.greatharmestonsolar.co.uk

Project Timeline

Construction dates are to be provided following grant of planning permission.

Jan 2024 – Aug 2025*

Initial Site Surveys

Aug 2025 – Jan 2026*

Project Launch, Pre-Application and Local Engagement and Consultation

Feb 2026 – Mar 2026*

Planning Application Submission

Nov 2026 – Dec 2026*

Planning Decision Issued

*Indicative timings.

The closing date for comment is
30 October 2025.

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