

Welcome to the 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.

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

Arise Renewable Energy UK, who are proposing the development, will seek to generate clean electricity from the 65MWac solar farm, which will be exported to the National Grid. This amount of power is enough to supply approximately 34,444 homes each year, helping to cut carbon emissions and support the transition away from fossil fuels. The project would also result in a reduction of carbon dioxide emissions of over 11,532 tonnes of CO2 per year.¹

Clean, renewable energy is a key part of the Welsh Government's plan to reach net-zero by 2050, including a goal for all electricity to come from 100% zero-carbon sources by 2035.

As the project is for a solar farm with a generating capacity of between 10MWac and 350MWac, it will be determined under the Development of National Significance (DNS) planning system. Following completion of statutory consultation 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, when the site will be decommissioned and the land returned to its current use. This is our second round of consultation having conducted early engagement and non statutory consultation in 2025.

Site Location Plan

The site location plan below details the application site boundary. Great Harmeston Solar Farm is proposed to be located on land to the south of Johnston and 1km to the north of Steynton, Milford Haven.

Legend:

— Red Line Boundary



¹Source: Homes: 65MWac / 2700kWh (average UK home) = 34,444. CO2: 65MWac solar scheme based on a reasonable expected yield of 1,000 kWh/kWp/year and a carbon intensity of 0.124 kg CO2/kWh per the 2023 BEIS dataset = 11,532

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Proposal

Great Harmeston Solar Farm is predominantly made up of fields which are currently used for agricultural purposes. The application area covers approximately 316 acres (128 hectares), which will be used to accommodate the development as well as new biodiversity areas.

The energy converted by the solar panels will feed electricity directly into the National Grid, connecting to an existing local overhead line at the south of the site. This power will then be distributed through the local grid, helping to provide nearby homes with clean, renewable electricity. One of the main reasons that the site was chosen is because it sits close to a suitable grid connection point with the capacity to safely receive the renewable energy generated. This is an important requirement for projects of this nature and also one of the main reasons why brownfield sites often cannot accommodate solar developments.





















The solar farm has been carefully designed to be low-impact, quiet and environmentally responsible. We've chosen a location with limited visibility from nearby homes, making use of existing hedgerows

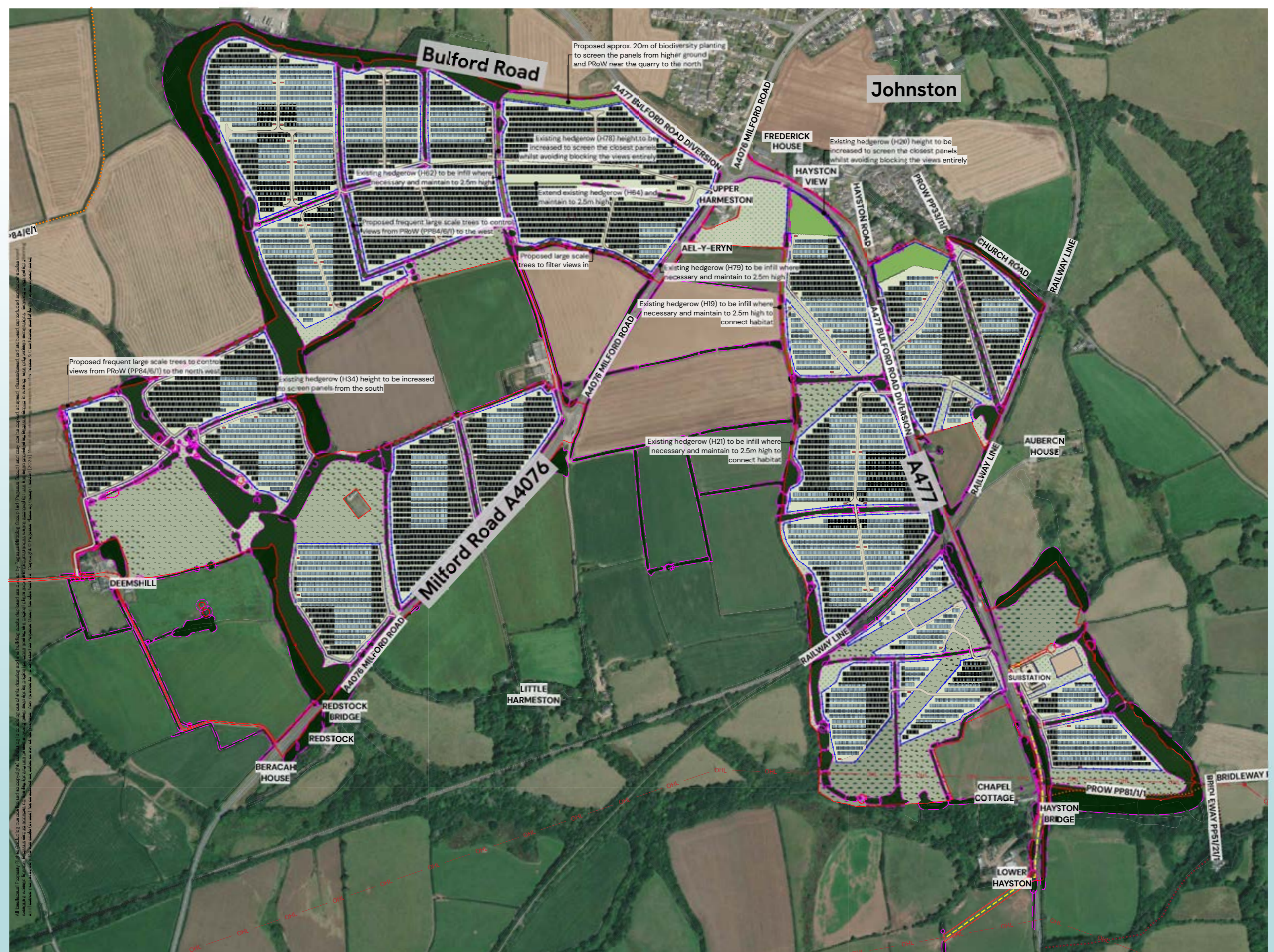
and mature trees to help screen the site, blending it into the surrounding landscape. Setbacks from field boundaries in some areas have been incorporated into the design following the first round of consultation. We believe this project can deliver meaningful benefits for local wildlife through the creation of new habitat areas and by removing the requirement for the use of agricultural pesticides and machinery runs.

Once the site is up and running, we expect only a small number of vehicle movements, far fewer than a typical housing development, for example. We will include a Construction Management Plan with our planning application, setting out how we will manage vehicle activity during the construction phase. This document can be viewed on our website alongside the wider draft planning application.

Legend:

Proposed Layout

-  Site boundary
-  Existing vegetation to be retained - Root Protection Area indicated by pink dashed line
-  Existing hedgerow to be infilled at approx. 30% infill rate
-  Existing vegetation to be removed
-  Existing overhead line
-  Grid connection route
-  Public Right of Way (PRoW)
-  Bridleway
-  Existing rush pasture to be managed as skylark mitigation area
-  Proposed native tree location
-  Proposed native biodiversity planting
-  Proposed native hedgerow planting
-  Grazing mix - ie. Emorsgate EM2 Standard General Purpose Meadow Mix, or similar
-  Tussocky grassland with wildflower - ie. Emorsgate EM10 Tussock Meadow Mix, or similar
-  Tussocky grassland with wildflower - ie. Emorsgate EM10 Tussock Meadow Mix, or similar - to be managed as potential skylark mitigation area
-  Proposed perimeter security fencing
-  Proposed solar panels
-  Proposed crushed stone access road
-  Proposed inverter / transformer
-  Proposed O&M spares and storage

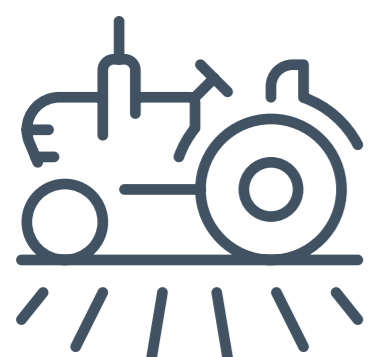


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Agricultural Land and Environment

Detailed technical reports outlining the environmental conditions, along with proposed mitigation and enhancement measures, are included within the draft planning application. The draft application is available to view on the project website throughout the statutory consultation.



Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)

This proposal will allow the farmers involved to diversify their income, strengthening the viability of their overall farming operations. The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) notes that even under ambitious solar expansion plans, solar farms are expected to cover less than 1% of the UK's agricultural land, resulting in minimal impact on food production and security.²

In the case of this project, under 20% of the land identified is classified as 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 BMV agricultural land.



Landscape and Visual Impact

The site benefits from strong existing hedgerow boundaries which limit views into the site from surrounding areas.

Setbacks from the boundary have been introduced in some locations to provide biodiversity areas between homes and panels. A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) has been undertaken to understand and help mitigate any landscape and visual impacts of the proposed development. The LVIA considers the proximity of the site to Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and impacts on the Pembrokeshire County

Landscape Character and concludes that any impacts can be mitigated. The site does not fall within any statutory landscape designations and is not within the Green Belt. A Landscape Masterplan is available to view at the public exhibitions and as part of the draft planning application which details additional planting proposed as part of the development.



Flood Risk

The site is within Flood Zone 1 which means it is at low risk of flooding. A Flood Consequences Assessment (FCA) has been prepared to ensure suitable management of surface water at the site. This can be viewed on the project website alongside the wider draft planning application.



Ecology

The site is not subject to any statutory nature conservation designations and no ecological designations directly border the site. Ecology surveys (including bat, bird, otter, water vole and badger) have been undertaken to understand the ecological baseline and conditions of the site. An Ecological Impact Assessment (EclIA) has also been developed, which sets out proposed mitigation. We are committed to achieving a net biodiversity gain for the site, and our assessments indicate that the site has strong potential to deliver significant enhancements compared to the existing baseline, partly through the provision of managed biodiversity areas within the site.

²<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-08/7826/>

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Heritage

A Heritage Assessment has been 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.



Public Rights of Way

There is only one Public Right of Way (PROW) which mostly lies adjacent to the boundary in the south-eastern part of the site. This PROW enters the site boundary for a very small section along its route. The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) describes and assesses the potential impacts from publicly accessible viewpoints in the surrounding area. It also describes measures needed to mitigate against any landscape and visual effects of the development.



Transport

A Transport Statement and Construction Traffic Management Plan has been produced as part of the draft planning application to understand the transport impacts of the proposal during construction and operation and sets out mitigation measures where 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 low-level operational noise from inverters and transformers, which will be enclosed and located well away from homes. Due to this siting, and the fact that there are roads between the site and most surrounding properties, noise impacts will be negligible. A Noise Impact Assessment has been developed and is 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.

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 it be visible from my home?

We aim to minimise visual impact via careful design. A key objective of early engagement and ongoing consultation was to discuss any concerns about visibility with the local community. This has led to integrating feedback received into the current layout design. Any layout changes suggested at this statutory stage will also be considered prior to finalising the design and submitting the final planning application.

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 the effectiveness of screening measures where needed.

What happens to the land under the panels?

We promote 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 provide ecologically friendly land use by removing mechanised processes such as ploughing benefits wildlife alongside providing renewable energy generation. This 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 and/or theft.



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
- 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 are being sought
- Jobs are created during the planning, construction and operational phases
- 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
- Community assets and buildings
- 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 the public exhibitions.

Have Your Say

We want to hear your feedback on our proposal.



Feedback form

Available at the public exhibitions 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

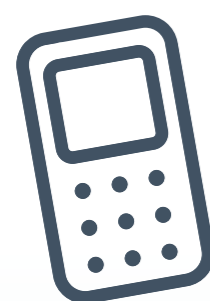


Post

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 – May 2026*

Project Launch, Pre-Application and Local Engagement and Consultation

○ Jun 2026 – Jul 2026*

Planning Application Submission

○ Jun 2027 – Jul 2027*

Planning Decision Issued

*Indicative timings.

The closing date for comment is
22 May 2026.

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