Statement of Community Involvement

Postcombe and Lewknor Solar Farm

May 2025

CONTENTS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Postcombe and Lewknor Solar Farm Limited (the Applicant) appointed Marengo Communications, an independent specialist public consultation company, to undertake the pre-application community and stakeholder consultation for the proposed development of Postcombe and Lewknor Solar Farm; to be located on land at London Road, Lewknor, Oxfordshire, OX49 5RY. The site is within the Parish of Lewknor. The site area is c. 85.11ha.

1.2 This document provides a record of the pre-application community and political engagement carried out on the proposals for the site between January 2022 and August 2024. It demonstrates that a thorough approach has been taken to meaningful pre-application consultation with local residents, businesses and community groups, as well as ongoing engagement with councillors and officers.

1.3 Activities undertaken as part of the consultation process have included:

- A presentation of the proposals to Lewknor Parish Council, with further visits offered, both to Lewknor and Aston Rowant Parish Councils
- Production of a bespoke website for the proposals (www.postcombeandlewknorsolarfarm.co.uk)
- A public exhibition on the proposals at Lewknor Village Hall, held on 17th July 2024
- Provision of feedback forms at the exhibition and online via the project website, enabling residents and local community members to provide feedback on the proposals

1.4 To address the challenges for those members of the community who were unable or uncomfortable to attend in-person events, the Applicant provided opportunities to provide online feedback via the website, as well as a freephone project phone line and email address for consultees to utilise. All postal communication to the local area has been undertaken through Royal Mail.

1.5 Throughout the consultation process, a consistently updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) website page, freephone telephone number, and project email address were made available, with further information for residents, businesses, and stakeholders available on request. A freepost address was provided to enable the submission of feedback forms.

1.6 The feedback set out in this report is drawn from 54 individual pieces of formal feedback that have been collected through the consultation process.

1.7 The key themes raised during the public consultation were:

- Use of agricultural land
- Access
- Proximity of site to residential area
- Not wanted/needed
- Type of development
- Impact on ecology/biodiversity
- Impact on residents
- Construction related issues
- Name of the development did not reflect the location

1.8 This document demonstrates that the Applicant has actively informed the local community about the plans and involved them in their development, in accordance with South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils' joint Statement of Community Involvement (adopted December

2021) and The National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024 as updated February 2025) and gives an overview of all consultation activity undertaken prior to the current planning application submission.

2. CONSULTATION PROCESS

2.1 The objective of the consultation process was to approach local residents, neighbours, key local stakeholders, and businesses with an interest in the site, and raise awareness of the proposed development, whilst inviting feedback for consideration prior to finalising the design of the proposed development and community benefit fund ahead of submitting a planning application to South Oxfordshire District Council.

2.2 The consultation process was carried out in conjunction with pre-application meetings with South Oxfordshire District Council's planning officers. Details of the pre-application consultation can be found in the Design and Access Statement and Planning Statement, which will be submitted as part of the application.

2.3 The programme outlined in this SCI reflects the principles for consultation in the Localism Act (November 2011) and in the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (update published in February 2025). The NPPF states that early engagement has "significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties." It also indicates that good quality pre-application discussion "enables better coordination between public and private resources and improved outcomes for the community."

2.4 It also embraces fully The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) adopted in December 2021 by South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils.

2.5 The consultation process is summarised in the table below.

Date	**Action**
January 2022	Initial engagement with stakeholders including ward members and Lewknor Parish Council
February 2022	Presentation to Lewknor Parish Council
November 2022	Offer of further Presentation to Lewknor Parish Council
February 2024	Launch of the bespoke website (www.postcombeandlewknorsolarfarm.co.uk)
1st July 2024	A community invitation flyer was mailed to 475 local residents and businesses via the Royal Mail
3rd July 2024	A copy of the community invitation flyer was sent to key stakeholders via email informing them of the proposals
17th July 2024	A public consultation exhibition was held at Lewknor Village Hall
2nd August 2024	Close of the pre-submission public consultation
4th September 2024	Further letter issued to Lewknor Parish Council, offering further engagement

2.6 The methods of engagement used during the consultation process referred to in this document are set out below.

2.6.1 Public Exhibition

A public exhibition was held during the consultation process to present the proposals and capture structured feedback.

Community invitation flyers were posted to 475 addresses (residential and business) surrounding the site on the 1st of July 2024, inviting the neighbours in the surrounding area to attend the public consultation event on 17th July 2024 as an opportunity to meet with the project team and provide feedback on the proposals.

A copy of the consultation area can be seen in Appendix 1a.

A copy of the community invitation flyer can be seen in Appendix 1b.

2.6.2 Consultation Website

A project website (www.lewknorsolarfarm.co.uk) was launched on 28th February 2024. The website gave details of the project, consultation, with copies of the exhibition materials about the proposals available to download and an online feedback form available to complete, to facilitate dialogue with neighbours in the local area and wider community.

Screenshots of the consultation website can be seen in Appendix 1e.

2.6.3 Project Phoneline

Throughout the process, a Freephone telephone number (0800 689 5209) was supplied and managed by Marengo Communications, providing further information to residents, businesses, and stakeholders on request.

3. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

3.1 The team began engaging with local stakeholders in January 2022.

3.2 Engagement with stakeholders focused on ensuring that interested parties were able to provide feedback as well as ask questions or raise concerns. Stakeholders included the local ward members for South Oxfordshire District Council as well as Lewknor Parish Council.

All stakeholders were also sent invitations to the public events. Cllr Georgina Heritage, ward member for Haseley Brook (South Oxfordshire District Council) attended the exhibition, as did a number of representatives of both Lewknor and Aston Rowant Parish Councils.

3.3 Members of the project team attended a meeting of Lewknor Parish Council in February 2022, to present the initial plans, answer questions, and take feedback. Further meetings have been offered between November 2022 and the present but have not been taken up.

3.4 Lewknor Parish Council, during our engagement with them, raised the following issues and questions with us, which we have addressed in person at Parish Council meetings:

- Visual impact
- Community benefit
- Landscape impact
- Ecology and biodiversity
- The need for renewable energy
- Our site selection process
- The current land use
- Agricultural land classification
- Construction access and traffic management
- Glint and glare

4. PRE-SUBMISSION PUBLIC CONSULTATION

4.1 The pre-submission public consultation was designed to present the proposals in advance of submitting a planning application to South Oxfordshire District Council and aimed to understand local views towards the proposals. Consultation took the form of a public exhibition advertised to the local area.

4.2 **Publicity**

To ensure that residents and businesses, as well as wider community groups, knew that the consultation was taking place, the Applicant endeavoured to promote the consultation to the wider community. The publicity secured included:

- A community invitation flyer was issued to 475 addresses (Consultation area map, Appendix 1a; Community invitation flyer Appendix 1b).
- Emails and digital copies of community invitation flyers were issued to key stakeholders.
- Social media advertising encouraging local residents to take part in the pre-submission public consultation.

4.3 **Public Exhibition**

A public consultation event was held on 17th July 2024. This was an in-person public exhibition held at Lewknor Village Hall where the proposals were presented to stakeholders and members of the public to elicit their views.

Date	Event	Time	Location	Number of Attendees
Public Consultation Event				
17th July 2024	Public Consultation	4:30pm-8:30pm	Lewknor Village Hall, High Street, Lewknor, Watlington, OX49 5TL	82

The public exhibition display materials included the following information:

- Why We Need More Solar
- The Site
- Proposals
- Landscape, Ecology, and the Environment
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Community Benefits
- About Solar2
- Timeline and Next Steps

See Appendix 1d for a copy of the exhibition banners displayed at the in-person public consultation event. Hard copies of the exhibition materials were made available upon request at the exhibition.

4.4 **Consultation Website**

To expand the reach of the engagement process and make it accessible to the wider community, a consultation website was set up to encourage feedback. The content provided on the website mirrored the information provided through the in-person consultation event.

The bespoke website, www.lewknorsolarfarm.co.uk, was first launched on 28th February 2024. In response to feedback from the public, the name of the project was changed to Postcombe and

Lewknor Solar Farm, and the website URL was updated accordingly to www.postcombeandlewknorsolarfarm.co.uk.

The website contained information on the following:

- The Proposal
- Project and Community Benefits
- Timeline
- Feedback
- Project Documents
- Public Exhibition Information
- Frequently Asked Questions – FAQs
- Contact
- About Us

Screenshots of the consultation website can be seen in Appendix 1e.

4.5 Feedback

Members of the public who attended the exhibition were asked to complete a feedback form on the proposals to record their views on different aspects of the scheme.

A dedicated Freephone number (0800 689 5209) was provided so that any interested parties could ask questions and provide feedback via direct communication with the project team. This included being able to request hard copies of the proposals and materials displayed on the website; these could be sent out, alongside a paper feedback form and freepost envelope for return of the form.

5. FEEDBACK ANALYSIS AND RESPONSE

5.1 Stakeholders, residents and members of the wider community who took part in the public consultation were encouraged to complete a feedback form, to record their views on key aspects of the proposals, in order to obtain structured feedback.

5.2 The form contained one demographic question, three closed questions and two open questions to allow for individual comments and feedback (see Appendix 1d).

5.3 The feedback set out in this report is drawn from 54 sets of feedback collected during the public consultation period, through the following feedback mechanisms:

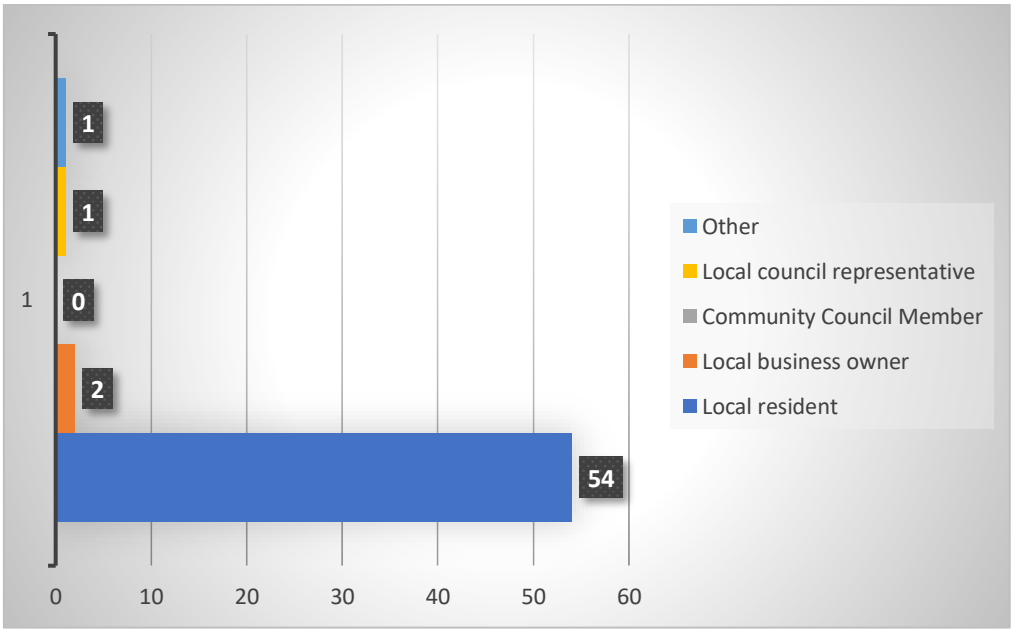
- 2 responses received through postal submission of completed feedback forms
- 52 responses received through feedback forms submitted via the project website

5.4 Quantitative Feedback

There was one demographic question and three closed questions, one of which gave respondents the opportunity to select 'Other' and specify where applicable.

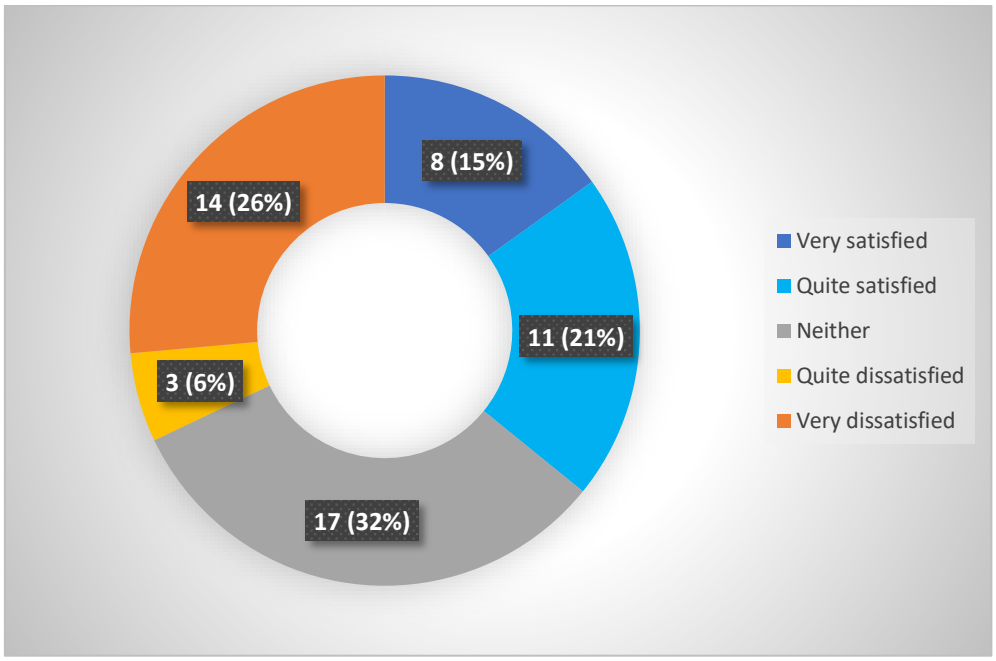
The below analysis relates to these questions.

Q1: About you.



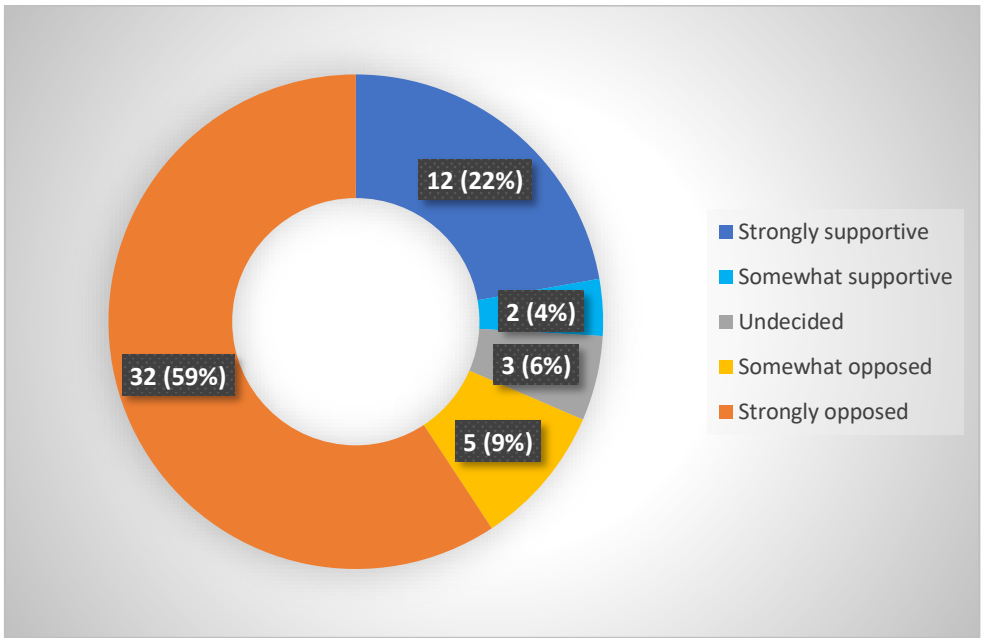
All of those who provided feedback were local residents. Of these local residents, two also own local businesses, one was a local council representative. The respondent who chose other did not indicate their connection to the local area.

Q2: How satisfied are you with the information provided about Lewknor Solar Farm?



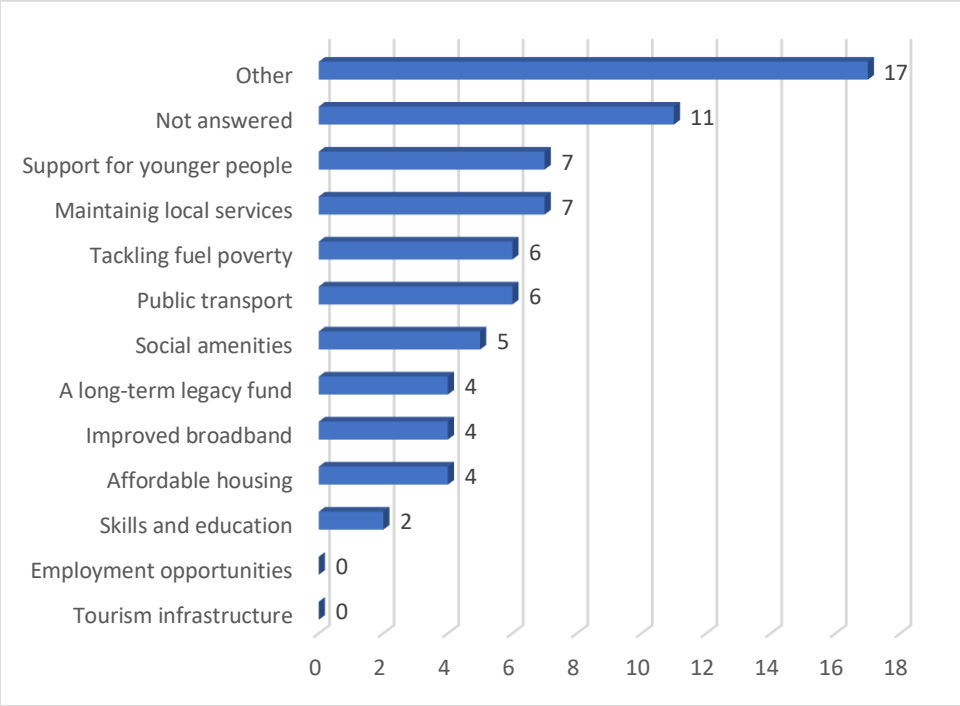
Thirty-six per cent of respondents indicated they were satisfied with the information provided about the proposals.

Q3: Which of the following best describes your view of the proposals for Lewknor Solar Farm?

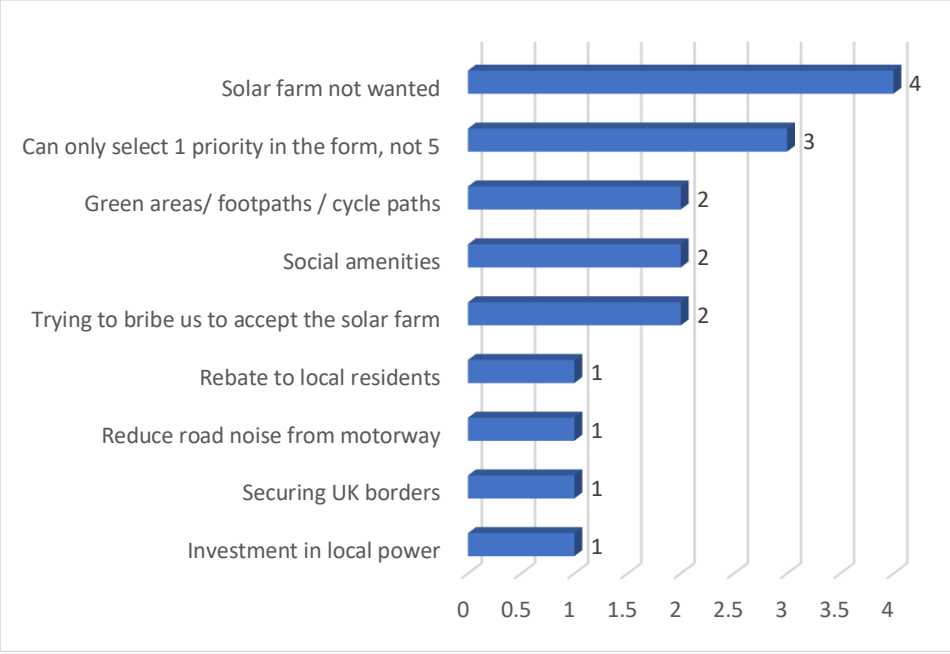


26% of respondents indicated they were somewhat or strongly supportive with 68% somewhat or strongly opposed to the proposals for Postcombe and Lewknor Solar Farm.

Q4: If proposals for Lewknor Solar Farm are approved, Solar2 is committed to providing a community benefit fund equivalent of up to £500 per megawatt of export capacity per year. We would like to hear suggestions from the local community about local priorities and projects for this fund. Please indicate your top five priorities for investment of the community benefit fund.



Q4a: Other (please specify).

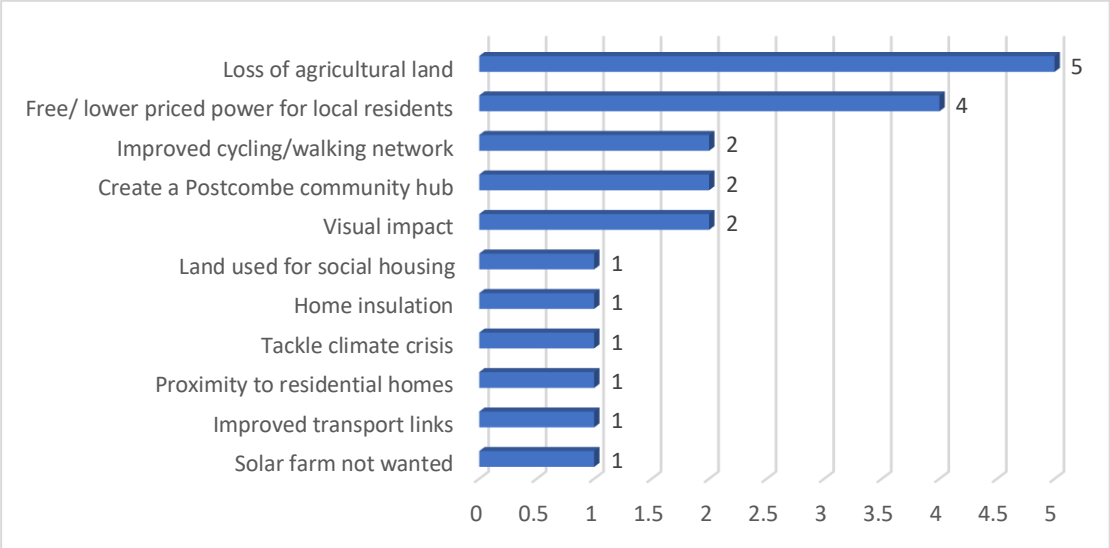


5.5 Qualitative Feedback

There were two open questions on the feedback form that encouraged individual comment. The comments provided touched on several themes. These themes have been identified and recorded within each question, with exemplified responses. Comments representative of the cross-section of views expressed under each question and each theme have been extracted from the feedback received and included.

The comments are recorded verbatim, other than spelling being corrected for clarity, and are shown in italics.

Q5: If you have other suggestions on how the community benefit fund can be used, please let us know.



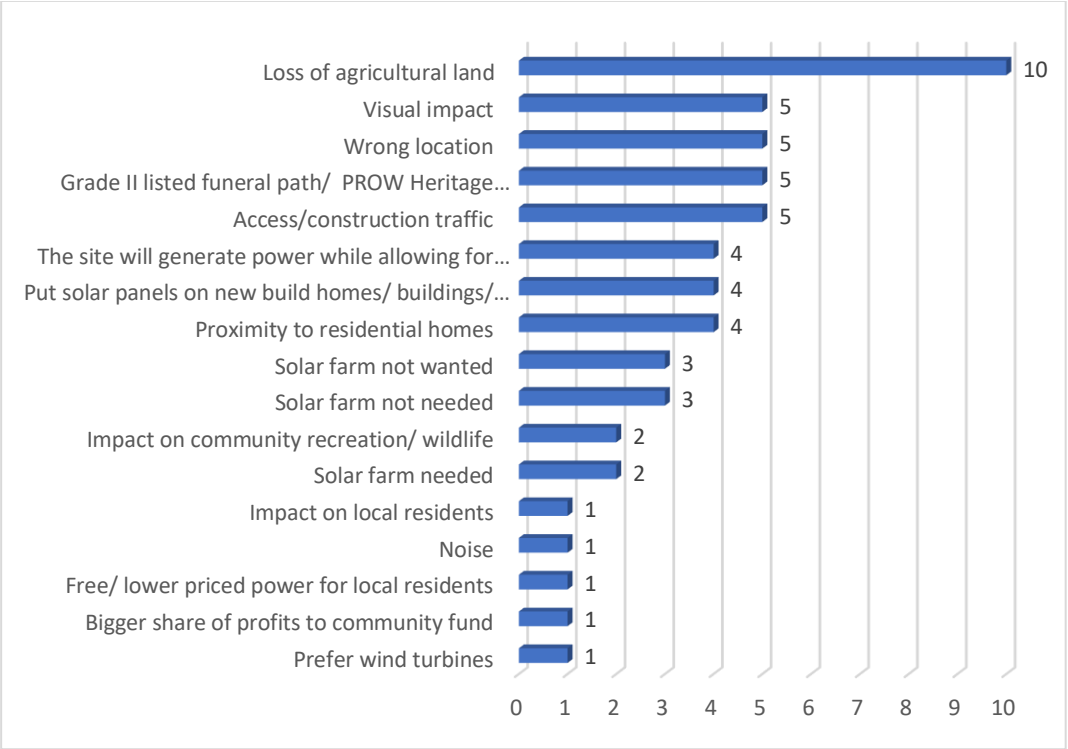
"You shouldn't be using a greenfield site to generate electricity; you have downgraded the agricultural designation from 1/2 to 3. These fields have supported good crops yields for centuries."

"Better transport to local villages, especially elderly and non-drivers."

"Support the people it affects! House prices will go down. A simple solution for this is free energy for houses within eyesight of the Solar farm from anywhere on their property."

"Postcombe and Lewknor although joined by a Parish Council are separate villages, Lewknor has amenities to include, school, park, allotments, village hall whereas Postcombe does not, I therefore would suggest the community fund would be spent in Postcombe on social venues, we have absolutely nothing here our only place to socialise is the fields where the proposed solar panels are being erected. A village hall, a park, allotments, a gathering place, anything would be the right thing to offer us as a community."

Q6: Do you have any further comments regarding Lewknor Solar Farm you would like to share?



Loss of agricultural land

"With an expanding population we will need this arable land for crops to reduce our carbon footprint and we will reduce import from abroad."

"This should be stopped from the very start, we have a shortage of agricultural land and should not be turning these fields over to non-green solar plants."

Visual impact

"In the past there have been objections to possible car-parking in Lewknor to serve the M40 bus routes because of visual impact north of the Chilterns, so why are solar panels acceptable."

"All except one of your team accepted that the visual impact from the Ridgeway was significant. This is the single most dramatic view anywhere between leaving London and reaching Birmingham and you will destroy it."

Wrong location

"Build it in brownfield areas away from wildlife and nature."

"I am in favour of your actual intent for a better green future and would support you in solar panels if this was being placed on land that was not arable or in AONB and if it also benefited the local community."

Grade II listed funeral path/ PROW Heritage Designation / AONB

"The proposed site is within an area of 'Heritage Sensitivity'! Our 'Public Right of Way' does have 'Heritage Designation'. It is a 'Grade II listed Funeral Path' which has been in use for hundreds of years."

"Our plain concern (and I strongly believe the entire village of Postcombe feels the same way) is the daily use of the Funeral Path by the village (Postcombe entrance). It is vitally important for our mental health and well-being for safe off road walks with far reaching views over beautiful countryside."

Access/construction traffic
"There should be no access for construction traffic via Salt Lane, and only from London Road A40 under a permanent speed limit reduction."

"Ensuring construction vehicles do not have access through village."

The site will generate power while allowing for biodiversity/ agricultural use
"Strongly in favour - I believe these projects are important for the following reasons: Secondary income for landowners. Increase UKs energy security. Move towards net zero targets. Generate power whilst still allowing for biodiversity/agricultural use. Utilise sites already affected by infrastructure such as M40, rather than 'pristine' sites."

"It is vital that we urgently develop renewable energy. The climate emergency is real. Cannot continue with not in my back yard. Solar panel land can still be used for animal grazing."

Put solar panels on new build homes/ buildings/ brownfield sites
"Solar energy should be taken by having solar panels on warehouses and large commercial premises."

"…we are building a huge number of houses with a considerable roof area which is NOT being used for solar panels -- and also Thame has just seen a large area of industrial buildings with considerable roof area which would be well suited to the installation of solar panels."

Proximity to residential homes
"Strongly opposed due to the top field being far too close to residents despite your info saying it is not."

"Your information states not close to local housing well according to you plans it's within 100 metres! In my book that's too close!!!"

Solar farm not wanted/ needed
"Particularly opposed to the field nearest our village being used and think this is a selfish oversight based on money and not the environment for residents. We have no other green space in the village."

"These plans are set to destroy the peace full village of Postcombe with and is set to become a great eyesore. House prices within eyesight of this solar farm will plummet."

"There are two large solar farms currently, we do not need another one ruining the countryside."

5.6 Feedback received via email

One email containing comments/feedback on the proposals was received during the period of public consultation.

Comments from email feedback covered these main aspects below:

- Grade II listed funeral path/ PROW Heritage Designation / AONB
- Proximity to residential homes

5.7 Our Response to Feedback

The applicant's responses to the main themes and issues raised through the feedback received to date are provided below.

Topic	Applicant Response
The Site	
Why have you chosen this location?	Sites must be located close to an area with a grid connection that has spare capacity, with a willing landowner. The grid across the UK is extremely constrained, therefore proximity to a secured grid connection is a leading force in site selection. The site is physically capable of accommodating the development with no policy or physical constraints.
Can you build the solar farm elsewhere?	In order to meet the nation's ambitious net zero targets, there will need to be a large expansion of solar farm developments around the country. For the grid connection that we have identified locally, we believe that this is the best site.
What is the agricultural designation of the site?	The site is largely a mix of grade 3a (45.5%) and 3b (53.2%) agricultural land.
Is the land used at the moment?	The land is presently used to grow arable crops such as wheat and oilseed rape.
Can the site still be used for animal grazing/agricultural use?	Grazing will be able to continue and it is planned that sheep will graze the land beneath the solar panels.
Why is a solar farm needed here?	In the UK we are experiencing a major cost of living crisis, of which high energy prices are a major contributing factor. Solar energy is one of the cheapest methods for generating electricity, and the quickest to build out. This site is ideal because it is in close proximity to a secured grid connection, which is a relatively rare circumstance given how constrained grid connection availability is across the UK. It allows an efficient electrical connection to the National Grid without long cables.

How will the site be screened?	The site will be screened using different tree species around the site. New hedgerows will be planted along the existing ones as well as adding wildflower mix to the different green areas.
Ecology	
How will you ensure biodiversity net gain (BNG)?	We are proposing a range of biodiversity measures to ensure that the site has a much richer ecosystem, even after construction. These measures include planting a woodland area along with different tree species around the site. New hedgerows will be planted as well as adding wildflower mix to the different green areas. For local wildlife to thrive, we will install new habitat features.
What BNG percentage are you aiming for?	Our current calculations suggest our development could achieve an increase of 171% in habitat units, well above and beyond the legal requirement of 10%.
Will any trees be lost in development?	One tree will be removed for the solar site access, and two hedgerows would be translocated further back into the Site, comprising a total of c.143m of hedgerow There will be significant planting including trees, hedges and wildflowers to enhance biodiversity, so any trees lost during construction will be more than replaced.
Traffic, access and parking	
Where is the site access?	A Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be agreed with the Council, which will set out where the site can be accessed from.
Will there be damage to local roads as a result of construction?	There may be some minor damage to local roads as a result of construction. However, any damage will be repaired after construction, which will be secured via a planning condition.
Will the site contribute to additional traffic?	During construction there will be vehicles delivering material, at the pace of roughly one per hour during the working day. This will be managed through the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) which will be secured via an appropriate condition with details agreed with the Council. Once construction has completed, there will be minimal vehicle movements during the operational phase, which will largely comprise occasional maintenance visits from contractors using a small vehicle such as a van.
Solar	
Does solar PV work well in the UK? Is it sunny enough?	Absolutely, Solar panels don't need direct sunlight to operate and produce power all year round, accounting for about 4% of national consumption. In the middle of a sunny day, they can produce over a quarter of the UK's power. Power from solar development will reduce reliance on imported energy to improve UK energy security.

How does a solar PV installation work?	Photovoltaic (PV) panels are installed in rows on the land. Electrical converters take the DC power which is generated by the PV panels and convert this to AC power – the standard form of electricity for the National Grid. The power is then stepped up to the required voltage and distributed to the grid. A generation meter records the amount of electricity generated and supplied to the grid. The owner of the facility is then paid for the power generated. In return for leasing land, the landowner shares in this revenue through a rental income.
How long do PV modules last?	Solar panels are designed to have a long operational life, often ranging from 25 to 30 years. Whilst some may need replacing during the life of the development planning permission is sought for a period of 40 years.
Is solar expensive?	Solar provides one of the most cost-effective forms of electricity in the UK. This year alone solar has been over 4 x cheaper than gas and 2 x cheaper than nuclear in the UK.
Will solar panels create glint and glare issue?	Solar panels are primarily designed to absorb light for energy generation rather than reflecting it. An assessment of potential glint and glare impacts has been conducted, taking into account nearby sensitive areas or receptors. This assessment ensures that any potential issues are thoroughly considered and mitigated to prevent disruptions or safety hazards. A full report has been conducted where impact has been found to be minimal. The report states, '*due to the momentary nature of glint and glare effects on route receptors as vehicles approach or move away from the PV array and the existing hedgerows, the overall impact is deemed to be minimal to none.'* The full report will be available when the planning application is submitted via both this website and the planning application.
Is solar noisy?	The panels themselves do not produce any noise. If the panels are mounted to a tracking frame, then a small amount of noise is emitted by the tracking motors – however this is negligible and not likely to be heard. The inverters have potential to make a small amount of noise however this is also deemed negligible, and have been scoped out of the environmental assessment. However, a Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) will be submitted with the application.
Can you put in less solar panels?	We have a grid offer from National Grid of 49.9MW, which we need to be able to meet. As such, we need to provide enough solar panels to nmaximime the efficiency of that grid offer.

Community	
Will local residents benefit from free/discounted energy?	As the Applicant is not a registered provider this is not possible.
Will there be any other benefits to the local community?	A community benefit fund of £500 per megawatt will be put in place, which can be used to fund local projects however this is outside of the planning process. There will as part of the planning proposal be significant investment in the local environment, including new walking paths, hedgerows, tree planting, wildflower meadow, and habitat features for wildlife. Further, where possible, we will use local labour and materials for the project, which should represent an investment in the local economy.
What will be the visual impact on the site's neighbours?	We recognise that there will be some visual impact on local residents and are endeavouring to ensure this impact is as minimal as possible by providing hedgerow and tree planting, which where possible will screen views, and where not will break up views of the panels.
How close will the panels be to the neighbouring houses?	Whilst there is no legislation to dictate the distance required for solar panels from homes and building as this would be prohibitive for domestic installations, we try to keep the impact as minimal as possible by carefully planning the location of the panels and introducing additional hedgerow planting to further enhance biodiversity and help mitigate the impacts of the development.
How will this affect the Area of Heritage Sensitivity and Public Right of Way?	The public right of way (PRoW) will be protected and upgraded. The legal width of the PRoW is 10 feet, However the proposed total width of the gap between panels will be around 40 meters wide, which to put some context against this, is wider than the M40. There will be planting to screen both the fencing and the solar panels, with the width of the open area, which includes the PRoW and private land amounting to approximately 30m. This is available in reference 5.10c in landscape report.
How will the community benefit fund work?	This will be agreed after determination of the planning application and is not a material consideration related to the planning application. Should planning permission be granted, we will negotiate with local stakeholders on how the community benefit will be held and distributed, but our starting point will be to pay the funds directly to Lewknor Parish Council.
Who will benefit from the community benefit fund?	This will be up to the recipient of the community benefit fund, most likely Lewknor Parish Council, however, our aspiration is for it to fund local projects, especially those inclined towards environmentalism and fuel poverty.
Construction	

When do you anticipate construction starting?	Should planning permission be granted, we anticipate a number of pre-commencement conditions to be put in place, which we must fulfil prior to construction. We expect construction to begin about 6-12 months before energisation, around Spring 2027.
How long is construction expected to take?	This can vary from site to site and based on weather conditions, but a typical build time is six to twelve months.
What times of day will construction take place?	Construction will take place within existing legal limits (Mon-Fri, 8am – 6pm, and Sat 8am – 1pm) and also within any additional conditions agreed with the Council if planning permission is granted.
What is the expected/projected daily volume of construction traffic?	The average number of construction vehicles is approximately six per hour, with approximately 90 vehicle movements per day at the peak of construction.
Where will construction workers park during construction?	Parking will be shown within the site to ensure that there is no parking on the public highway.
How will construction traffic access the site?	Access for construction will use the existing access points on Salt Lane and the A40. Temporary access gates will be set back by 15 m during construction works to ensure the HGV traffic does not back onto the public road when the gate is closed.

6. CHANGES IN RESPONSE TO FEEDBACK

6.1 Updates to the proposals

Following the feedback received from the local community, we have taken into consideration the concerns raised and have made the following modifications to the proposals:

Feedback Received	Changes Made
"The proposed solar panels are too close to the existing housing."	Removed panels to provide a greater buffer from residents.
"Hedges and fences would not screen the view from first floor windows. Instead of a pleasant countryside outlook there would be an unrelieved view of Solar Panels."	Included additional landscaping to screen the fencing and solar panels.
"Postcombe is in the Parish of Lewknor but completely separate. Lewknor is actually two miles away on the South side of the motorway and would not be directly affected."	Changed the name of the project to Postcombe & Lewknor Solar Farm following extensive feedback.

7. CONCLUSION

7.1 As outlined through this document, The Applicant has carried out an extensive programme of pre-application engagement and consultation. This programme has increased awareness of the plans and offered residents and stakeholders opportunities across various mediums to comment on the proposals for development of Postcombe and Lewknor Solar Farm.

7.2 This consultation has both met and exceeded the requirements laid out as part of the NPPF, the Localism Act and South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils' Statement of Community Involvement.

7.3 The public consultation event was well publicised, advertised through the issuing of 475 flyers. Emails have been distributed to local stakeholders further publicising the consultation, with exhibition materials made available electronically, through the dedicated project website to encourage participation and enable meaningful engagement, which has been taken into account in arriving at the final design for submission.

7.4 Local residents and stakeholders have all had a chance to engage with the project team, to discuss the proposals and make comments. We have welcomed all feedback received.

7.5 This feedback has resulted in changes to the proposals throughout the pre-application consultation process.

7.6 As part of the responses received during the pre-application process, some concerns were made about some aspects of the proposals, including proximity to residential properties and visual impact. The Applicant has sought to address a number of these points in its submitted proposals and reassure the local community.

7.7 Further benefits have also been recognised throughout, particularly the inclusion of additional landscaping to further screen the site.

7.8 The Applicant remains committed to engaging with the local community and stakeholders through the application process and thereafter, subject to receiving planning permission.

Appendix 1: Pre-Submission Public Consultation

1a. Consultation Mailing Area

475 addresses (460 residential, 15 business).

1b. Community Invitation Flyer

1st July 2024

Lewknor Solar Farm

Solar2 would like to invite you to a public drop-in event on Wednesday 17th July from 4.30pm - 8.30pm at Lewknor Village Hall. We will share our plans for a solar farm which will be both sides of the M40 on land at London Road, Lewknor. During the event, you will be able to share your views and feedback on the proposal.

We are proposing a 49.9MW solar farm over an area of approximately 83 hectares, (206 acres) on agricultural land for a duration of 40 years.

We believe that this site is ideal for a solar farm development and will contribute towards South Oxfordshire Council's Climate Action Plan, our country's Net Zero ambition, reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and help stabilise and reduce energy prices in the medium term.

Lewknor Solar Farm will generate enough clean energy to power approximately 16,500 homes*, offsetting 13,000 tonnes of carbon**.

Sources:

**Based on the 2021 UK Averae Annual domestic electricity consumption (BEIS).*

***Based on DESNZ all sources of electricity emissions statistics of 269 T CO2 eq per GWh of electricity supplied in 2022.*

RECURRENT ENERGY
A subsidiary of Canadian Solar

Public Consultation Event

We are holding this event to show you our plans, answer any questions you may have, and listen to your views. Your feedback is valuable and will be used to help improve the overall proposal before a planning application is submitted to South Oxfordshire Council.

Members of the project team will be on-hand to discuss the plans and welcome your feedback.

When: Wednesday 17th July 2024

From: 4.30pm – 8.30pm

Where: Lewknor Village Hall, High Street, Lewknor, Watlington OX49 5TL

If you are unable to join us in-person, you can view the content of the exhibition via the Lewknor Solar Farm website where you can also give your feedback and support for the project.

solar2

lewknorsolarfarm.co.uk

Contact Us

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the proposals with a member of the team, please do get in touch by calling our community helpline, sending us an email, or visiting our website for more information.

Call us on 0800 689 5209 • Email: info@solar2.co.uk

Find out more on our consultation website: lewknorsolarfarm.co.uk

About Solar2

We are an independently family-owned UK renewable energy developer with offices across England, Wales and Scotland. The team has been operating in the renewable energy sector energy industry in the UK since 1996, originally as West Coast Energy (WCE).

The founders of Solar2, together with the wider team, have a strong track record in the successful development of renewable projects throughout the UK, being responsible for the delivery of in excess of 1GW of renewable energy.

It is important to us that our sites maintain an agricultural use and enhance the local environment, and that we engage and listen to the local community throughout the planning process.

We are a responsible, considerate developer. As such, we are proposing a suite of measures to improve the local environment, by providing wildflower meadow planting, upgraded animal habitats, and achieving a Biodiversity Net Gain, for the Lewknor site.

About Recurrent Energy

Recurrent Energy is one of the world's largest and most geographically diversified utility-scale solar and energy storage project development, ownership and operations platforms. With an industry-leading team of in-house energy experts, we are a wholly owned subsidiary of Canadian Solar Inc. and function as Canadian Solar's global development and power services business. Recurrent Energy has completed the development of 9 gigawatts (GWp) of operating utility-scale solar projects and 3 gigawatt hours (GWh) of energy storage projects across six continents. Recurrent Energy have more than 25 GWp of solar and 47 GWh of battery storage projects under development.

1c. Exhibition Banners

Lewknor Solar Farm

Why We Need More Solar

South Oxfordshire Climate Emergency

South Oxfordshire Council has declared both a climate and an ecological emergency, describing both as the "greatest challenges we face". To address this, the Council has adopted a Climate Action Plan, which sets out how South Oxfordshire Council aims to be carbon neautral by 2025, and a carbon neutral district by 2030.

Renewable energy projects, such as our proposals for Lewknor Solar Farm, will make a significant contribution towards these goals.

Energy Security and Cost of Living

Renewable energy is proven to be one of the most cost-effective methods of producing reliable, non-carbon emitting power, whilst reducing the UK's reliance on foreign imported electricity and helping protect our energy security.

According to the International Energy Agency, solar energy now provides the "cheapest… electricity in history". According to intelligence company Rystad, developing new solar energy projects would be ten times cheaper than new gas-fired power stations in the long term. This means that new solar farms like Lewknor can help drive down the cost of generating electricity and tackle the ongoing energy crisis.

Delivering Net Zero

The UK Government has made a legally binding commitment to achieve Net Zero – this means having a power grid with no carbon emissions and moving away from fossil fuels. This can only be achieved with a significant increase in reliable renewable energy, including solar.

In addition, the UK government has also set an ambitious target to increase solar capacity nearly fivefold to 70 gigawatts (GW) by 2035 as part of its broader plans to transition to cleaner, more affordable, and secure energy sources. This commitment is a crucial step toward achieving net zero emissions and ensuring energy independence.

[1] According to the International Energy Agency's World Energy Outlook 2020.
[2] "New solar capacity 10 times cheaper than gas, says Rystad", PV Magazine.

View this information via the QR code below:

solar2

lewknorsolarfarm.co.uk

Lewknor Solar Farm

The Site

The proposed location for Lewknor Solar Farm is adjacent to the M40 and between the A40 and M40. The site is located on farmland, with a mix of 3a and 3b graded land, which is classified as good to moderate land on a narrow range of arable, less demanding crops.

This is an ideal site for a new solar farm because:

- It is close to a distribution grid connection with available capacity. This is relatively rare and allows us to connect easily and quickly. Options for the grid connection route are being investigated, which includes, where possible avoiding digging up roads and causing unnecessary disruption.
- The site is well-screened with opportunities to provide further landscape and biodiversity enhancements and is a suitable distance from nearby homes. This means the development will have a minimised impact on local residents and the wider surrounding areas.
- The site is not within any areas designated for landscape, ecology or heritage sensitivity, including Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), Local Nature Reserve (LNR) or Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI).
- The site is well-located for construction and maintenance access.
- There is sufficient land to accommodate the development alongside significant biodiversity enhancements.

View this information via the QR code below:

solar2

lewknorsolarfarm.co.uk

Lewknor Solar Farm

Proposals

The proposal is for a 49.9MW solar farm. Our conservative calculations show that Lewknor Solar farm will generate enough clean energy to power 16,500 homes[3], offsetting 13,000 tonnes of carbon annually[4].

The site is approximately 83 hectares (206 acres), although the full area within the red line which denotes the development boundary will not all be used for solar panels. There will be areas set aside for ecological and biodiversity enhancement measures.

In addition to generating electricity, we propose a suite of features to help the local community and environment and provide somewhere for people to enjoy nature.

- We will protect and enhance the Public Right of Way across the site, making it easier and more convenient to use as a walking route.

- The solar panels themselves will be enclosed within a deer fence for safety and security purposes.
- Sheep will be allowed to graze beneath the panels if this is what the landowner/farmer chooses.
- We are exploring the provision of beehives for producing local honey.
- Wildflower meadow planting will be proposed to attract birds and insects and enhance the biodiversity of the wider area.

After 40 years, the solar farm would be decommissioned, meaning the panels would be removed and recycled. This will leave the site as it was, but with 40 years' worth of biodiversity enhancements and significant soil improvement by virtue of not being intensively farmed throughout the operational phase of the development.

[3] Based on the 2021 UK Average Annual domestic electricity consumption (BEIS).
[4] Based on DESNZ all sources of electricity emissions statistics of 269 T CO2 eq per GWh of electricity supplied in 2022.

View this information via the QR code below:

solar2

lewknorsolarfarm.co.uk

Lewknor Solar Farm

Landscape, Ecology, and the Environment

Biodiversity

Through the introduction of The Environment Act (2021) all major developments are required to deliver a biodiversity net gain of at least 10%, but we aim to achieve a significantly greater gain. Giving the land a break from intensive farming will help with improvements of the quality of the soil. Extensive hedgerow and wildflower planting will also provide significant improvements in local wildlife habitat.

Drainage and Flood Risk

The site is located in Flood Zone 1, which represents the lowest level of risk. Our proposals will offer an improvement on the existing drainage using a SuDS (Sustainable Drainage System) design and our planning application will be supported by a Flood Risk Assessment.

Archaeology

A Desktop Assessment and a Geophysical Survey have been undertaken to identify areas of potential archaeological assets within the site boundary. A full Heritage Impact Assessment will be submitted in support of the planning application.

Construction

We will agree a Construction and Environmental Management Plan with the Council as part of the planning process, which will dictate how and when construction will take place to help keep disruption to a minimum. Once the solar farm is operational, there will be minimal traffic generated, in the form of maintenance visits, travelling in a car or van.

View this information via the QR code below:

solar2

lewknorsolarfarm.co.uk

Lewknor Solar Farm

FAQs?

What are the benefits of solar energy?

Solar energy is the most cost-effective way to generate electricity. Solar farms generate energy from a secure source and will help drive down the cost of electricity, which will be reflected in people's energy bills in the future. They are also crucial to delivering on the Government's response to the climate emergency.

Why have you selected this site?

We have a careful site selection process. We consider the following:

- A local grid connection in close proximity to the site to maximise efficiency
- A willing landowner
- Suitable irradiance levels
- A safe and secure access
- Distance from residential properties
- Distance from landscape, heritage or ecological designations
- Opportunities for biodiversity and ecological enhancement

Will I benefit from this development?

The intention is to invest in improving the local environment and upgrade the footpaths using local materials and labour where possible, helping the local economy. A community benefit payment of £500/MW, to be spent on local community projects will be made available.

Why are most solar farms built on agricultural land?

Rooftop solar installations have their place for helping reduce carbon emission, but many roofs are not suitable and rooftop solar alone will not deliver the expansion of renewable energy needed to deliver energy security, drive down bills and address climate change. To achieve the Government's commitment to delivering 70GW of energy from solar, we will need BOTH rooftop solar installations and standalone utility scale solar farms. There is also significant policy support for farm diversification.

Will there be disturbance from construction?

Traffic will be managed to ensure there is as minimal impact and disruption to local residents as possible. We will agree a plan with the Council to ensure this is managed properly. Construction is anticipated to take around 6 to 12 months.

If you have questions which are not answered here, please ask a member of the team, who will be able to answer it for you. Alternatively, the answer may be on our website, which you can visit using the QR code:

solar2

lewknorsolarfarm.co.uk

Lewknor Solar Farm

Community Benefits

We want the community to benefit from Lewknor Solar Farm. The development will provide tangible benefits for local people to use, will enhance the landscape for local wildlife, and will generate funds to be spent on local projects.

- A community benefit payment of £500/MW will be paid, which can be spent on projects important to local residents.
- Considerable investment in landscape enhancements, including planting, and new hedgerows.
- Improvements to local footpaths, making it easier, more convenient, and more enjoyable to use.
- Using local materials and labour where possible. Construction staff are also likely to use local accommodation and shops, providing a boost to the local economy.

View this information via the QR code below:

solar2

lewknorsolarfarm.co.uk

Lewknor Solar Farm

About

solar2

We are an independently family-owned UK renewable energy developer with offices across England, Wales and Scotland. The team has been operating in the renewable energy sector since 1996, originally as West Coast Energy (WCE).

The founders of Solar2, together with the wider team, have a strong track record in the successful development of renewable projects throughout the UK, being responsible for the delivery of in excess of 1GW of renewable energy.

It is important to us that our sites maintain an agricultural use and enhance the local environment, and that we engage and listen to the local community throughout the planning process.

We are a responsible, considerate developer. As such, we are proposing a suite of measures to improve the local environment, by providing wildflower meadow planting, upgraded animal habitats, and achieving a Biodiversity Net Gain, for the Lewknor site.

RECURRENT ENERGY

A subsidiary of Canadian Solar

Recurrent Energy is one of the world's largest and most geographically diversified utility-scale solar and energy storage project development, ownership and operations platforms. With an industry-leading team of in-house energy experts, we are a wholly owned subsidiary of Canadian Solar Inc. and function as Canadian Solar's global development and power services business. Recurrent Energy has completed the development of 10 gigawatts (GWp) of operating utility-scale solar projects and 3.3 gigawatt hours (GWh) of energy storage projects across six continents. Recurrent Energy have more than 26 GWp of solar and 56 GWh of battery storage projects under development.

View this information via the QR code below:

solar2

lewknorsolarfarm.co.uk

Lewknor Solar Farm

Timeline and Next Steps

- **Public Consultation July 2024**
- **Analyse Feedback Summer 2024**
- **Submit Planning Application Winter 2024**
- **Planning Permission Approx Autumn 2025**
- **Begin Construction Spring 2027**
- **Solar Farm Operational Autumn 2028**

Feedback QR code:

Please take some time today to provide your feedback on the proposal. You can do this via the QR code, the tablet or by completing the Feedback Form provided.

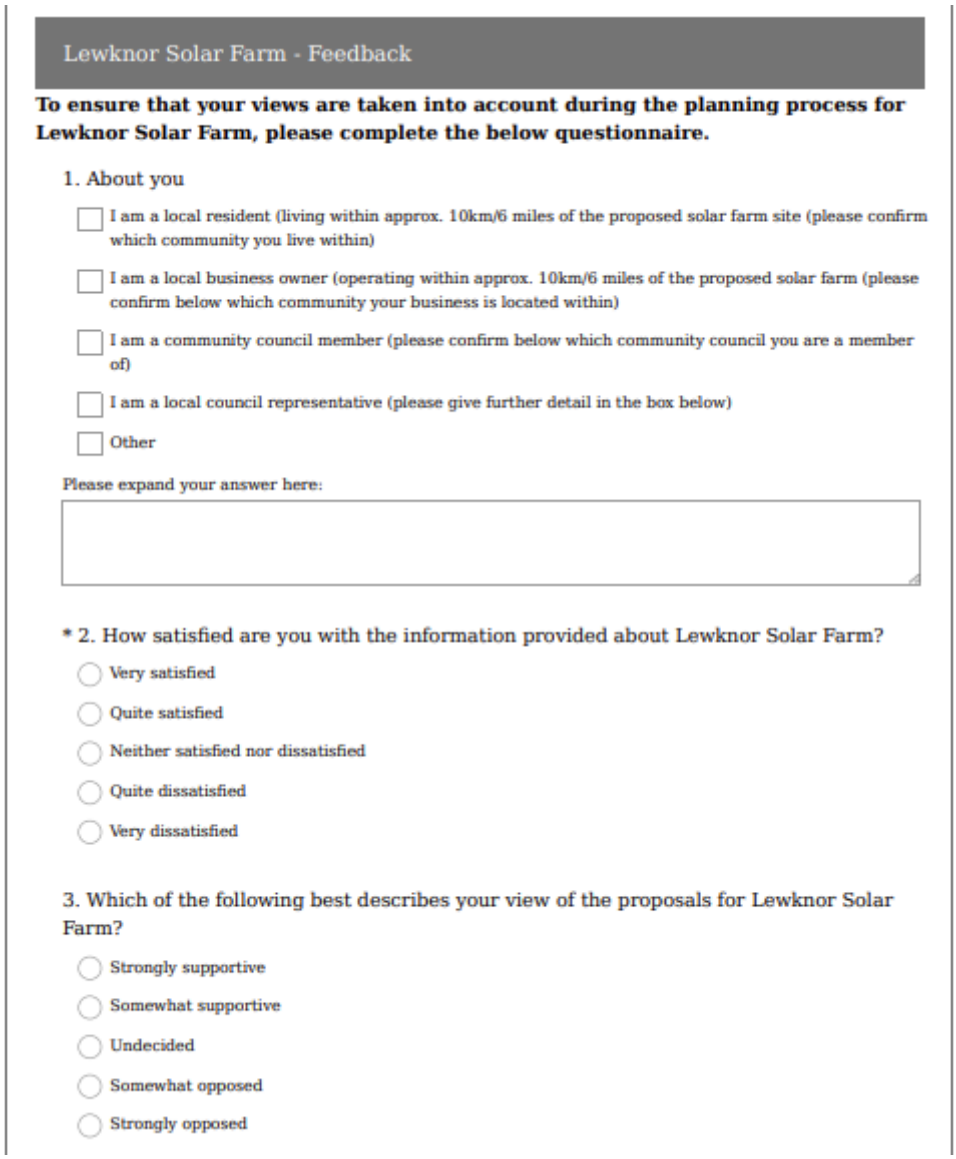
Please note our pre-submission consultation period closes on Friday 2nd August 2024. Please ensure that any feedback is sent in advance of this date to be included.

View this information via the QR code below:

solar2

lewknorsolarfarm.co.uk

1d. Feedback Form



Lewknor Solar Farm - Feedback

To ensure that your views are taken into account during the planning process for Lewknor Solar Farm, please complete the below questionnaire.

1. About you

- [ ] I am a local resident (living within approx. 10km/6 miles of the proposed solar farm site (please confirm which community you live within)
- [ ] I am a local business owner (operating within approx. 10km/6 miles of the proposed solar farm (please confirm below which community your business is located within)
- [ ] I am a community council member (please confirm below which community council you are a member of)
- [ ] I am a local council representative (please give further detail in the box below)
- [ ] Other

Please expand your answer here:

* 2. How satisfied are you with the information provided about Lewknor Solar Farm?

- ◯ Very satisfied
- ◯ Quite satisfied
- ◯ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- ◯ Quite dissatisfied
- ◯ Very dissatisfied

3. Which of the following best describes your view of the proposals for Lewknor Solar Farm?

- ◯ Strongly supportive
- ◯ Somewhat supportive
- ◯ Undecided
- ◯ Somewhat opposed
- ◯ Strongly opposed

4. If proposals for Lewknor Solar Farm are approved, Solar2 is committed to providing a community benefit fund equivalent of up to £500 per megawatt of export capacity per year. We would like to hear suggestions from the local community about local priorities and projects for this fund. Please indicate your top five priorities for investment of the community benefit fund.

- ◯ Public Transport
- ◯ Skills & Education
- ◯ Tourism Infrastructure
- ◯ Social Amenities
- ◯ Affordable Housing
- ◯ Employment Opportunities
- ◯ Maintaining Local Services
- ◯ Tackling Fuel Poverty
- ◯ Improved Broadband
- ◯ Support for younger people
- ◯ A long-term legacy fund
- ◯ Other (please specify)

5. If you have other suggestions on how the community benefit fund can be used, please let us know in the box below.

6. Do you any further comments regarding Lewknor Solar Farm you would like to share?

7. If you would like to be kept up to date on the progress of Lewknor Solar Farm, please provide your name and email address below.

We collect your email address for the sole purpose of providing you with further information about Lewknor Solar Farm.

1e. Website

Solar2 has developed proposals for a solar farm on Land at London Road, Lewknor, Oxfordshire OX49 5RY. The site area is c. 79.3ha.

The project will generate clean, renewable energy through photovoltaic (PV) solar panels.

The project will be temporary whilst also providing an enhanced biodiversity benefit to local wildlife during the life of the project.

For further information regarding the Lewknor Solar Farm, visit the proposal page.

solar2

Privacy & Cookies Policy
Lewknor Solar Farm Ltd Linden House, Mold Business Park, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 1XP
E: info@solar2.co.uk
Company Number: 13624494 © 2024 Solar 2 Ltd

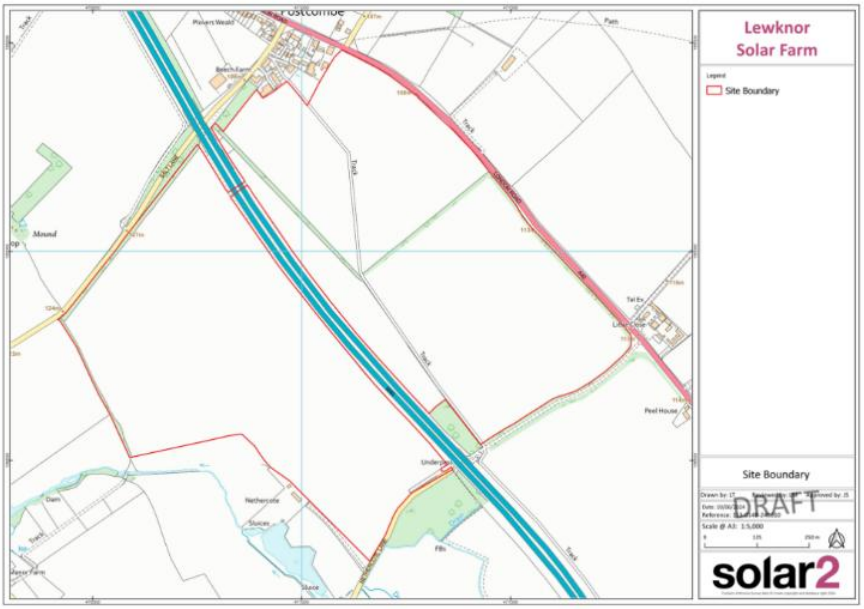
SITE DESIGN & BUILD BY VIEW CREATIVE AGENCY

solar2

Menu

The Proposal

Postcombe & Lewknor Solar Farm will comprise solar panels mounted on racks and arranged in rows running along a North/South axis. The top of the panels will be approximately 3.1 m off the ground. Following the path of the sun throughout the day the panels will slowly rotate, facing east in the morning and west in the evening.



- Supply power directly into the grid, with an export capacity of up to 49.9Mw (megawatts).
- Potential to generate enough electricity to meet the demands of approximately 16,500 homes. *
- Offer a community benefit package that will be shaped by local people.
- Offset 13,000 tonnes of carbon per year. **
- Contribute to meeting the UK Government's 'net zero by 2050' target.

Lewknor Solar Farm Ltd Linden House, Mold Business Park, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 1XP
E: info@solar2.co.uk
Company Number: 13624494

solar2

Menu

Project & Community Benefits

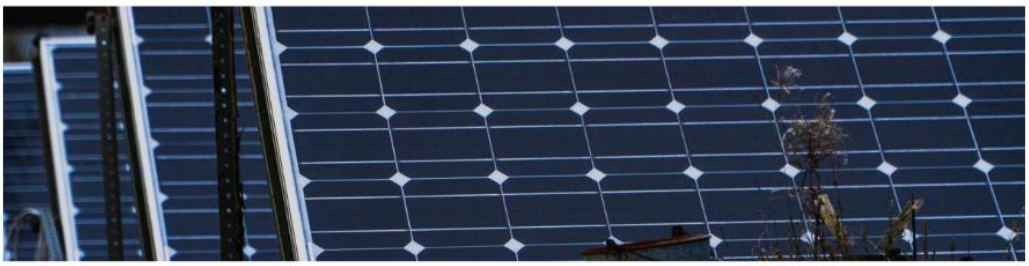
- Solar energy will reduce the UK's reliance on fossil fuels, providing clean renewable energy and contribute to the 2045 net zero targets.
- Enhance biodiversity and wildlife habitat benefits will be built into the scheme.
- Business rates contribution will be paid to the local authority through the life of the project.
- Community fund to support local projects paid each year through the life of the solar farm.
- Local jobs during construction available for tender – local companies will be encouraged to apply.
- The potential of local jobs once the solar farm is operational.

solar2

Lewknor Solar Farm Ltd Linden House, Mold Business Park, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 1XP
E: info@solar2.co.uk
Company Number: 13624494

solar2

Menu



Timeline

Timeline and Next Steps

Public Consultation July 2024

Analyse Feedback Summer 2024

Submit Planning Application Winter 2024

Planning Permission Approx Autumn 2025

Begin Construction Spring 2027

Solar Farm Operational Autumn 2028

Lewknor Solar Farm Ltd Linden House, Mold Business Park, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 1XP
E: info@solar2.co.uk
Company Number: 13624494

2 Feedback

Many thanks for all those that took the time to complete the questionnaire.

Your feedback is valuable and will help improve the plans before a planning application is submitted to South Oxfordshire Council.

Please see below a summary of the responses.

Postcombe & Lewknor Solar Farm Community Feedback

- 54 Respondents
- All respondents are local residents, living within approx. 10km/6 miles of the proposed solar farm site.
- A third of respondents are either strongly or somewhat supportive of the proposed solar farm.
- Questions have been raised regarding the Funeral Path, no right of access is being removed and the path will be upgraded.
- During the exhibition and via the questionnaire the name of the project was highlighted, therefore we've changed it from Lewknor Solar Farm, to Postcombe & Lewknor Solar Farm.
- Two thirds of respondents are either strongly or somewhat opposed to the proposed solar farm.
- Many of the queries raised have been addressed on the FAQs page.

solar2

Lewknor Solar Farm Ltd Linden House, Mold Business Park, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 1XP
E: info@solar2.co.uk
Company Number: 13624494

solar2

Menu

Project Documents

Planning reports and other relevant documents will be uploaded here when available.
This below downloadable briefing sets out the facts about solar and how it works, addressing some misconceptions about solar projects in the UK.

Everything Under the Sun The Facts about Solar

solar2

Privacy & Cookies Policy
Lewknor Solar Farm Ltd Linden House, Mold Business Park, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 1XP
E: info@solar2.co.uk
Company Number: 13624494

SITE DESIGN & BUILD BY VIEW CREATIVE AGENCY

solar2

Menu

Public Exhibition Information

When: **Wednesday 17th July 2024**

From: **4.30pm - 8.30pm**

Where: **Lewknor Village Hall**
High Street
Lewknor
Watlington
OX49 5LT

solar2

Menu

Frequently Asked Questions - FAQ's

Why have you changed the name of the project to Postcombe & Lewknor Solar Farm?
After extensive feedback at the public exhibition regarding the original title of the project as Lewknor Solar Farm, we felt it was important to update the name to reflect the strong feelings expressed by attendees. As such the name has been changed to Postcombe & Lewknor Solar Farm.

Why have you picked this site for a solar farm?
All projects are assessed to understand the viability based on the available grid capacity in the area coupled with the availability of a contiguous areas of land within a commercially viable radius of any identified grid supply points.

- It is close to a distribution grid connection with available capacity. This is relatively rare and allows us to connect easily and quickly. Options for the grid connection route are being investigated, which includes, where possible avoiding digging up roads and causing unnecessary disruption.
- The site is well-screened with opportunities to provide further landscape and biodiversity enhancements and is a suitable distance from nearby homes. This means the development will have a minimised impact on local residents and the wider surrounding areas.
- The site is not within any areas designated for landscape, ecology or heritage including Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), Local Nature Reserve (LNR) or Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SCNI), and so will not impact heritage assets, protected habitats or species associated with these sites.
- The site is well-located for construction and maintenance access.
- There is sufficient land to accommodate the development alongside significant biodiversity enhancements.

What are the benefits of solar energy?
Solar energy is the most cost-effective way to generate electricity and does not emit carbon. Solar farms generate energy from a secure source and will help drive down the cost of electricity, which will be reflected in people's energy bills in the future. They are also crucial to delivering on the Government's response to the climate emergency.

Why are you calling it a solar farm and not solar factory?
As Solar Farm is standard terminology in the UK and industry and publicly recognised, we have stuck with convention for ease of understanding.

Will I benefit from this development?
Yes! The intention is to invest in improving the local environment and upgrade the footpaths using local materials and labour where possible, helping the local economy. A community benefit payment of £500/MW, to be spent on local projects.

Will the community benefit fund be linked to inflation?
No, the £500/MW is above market value and therefore will remain set for the lifespan of the project.

Why are most solar farms built on agricultural land?
Rooftop solar installations have their place for helping reduce carbon emission, but many roofs are not suitable and rooftop solar alone will not deliver the expansion of renewable energy needed to deliver energy security, drive down bills and address climate change. To achieve the Government's commitment to delivering 70GW of energy from solar we will need BOTH rooftop solar installations and standalone solar farms. There is also significant policy support for farm diversification. Solar farms help local farmers by giving them a guaranteed source of income, whilst resting and letting the soil recover.

FactSheet: Solar Farms and Agricultural Land 2024 | Final (solarenergy.uk.org)

Why aren't large commercial premise roofs used for solar panels?
Many large commercial operations have or are planning to erect solar panels on their roofs. Whilst this will make a significant advancement to the UK's quest to reach Net Zero, the energy produced will be used by the commercial operation's own consumption needs and little or no energy will go to the grid for domestic use.

At Solar2 we fully support commercial deployment of solar energy but for the UK to have energy security and reach Net Zero, there must be significant investment in renewable energy for domestic use. By creating large scale solar farms, the UK will be able reduce reliance on fossil fuels, gain energy security and reduce electricity bills in the medium term.

Won't the addition of domestic roof top solar panels produce enough solar power for the UK?

Whilst domestic roof top solar panels will significantly help towards reducing reliance on fossil fuels and towards the UK's Net Zero ambition, it is not the single answer. Many roofs are not appropriate for solar panels due to location, build and the position to the sun.

As with industrial solar roof installations, domestic roof solar panel energy is predominantly used by the household's consumption with a minimal amount going to the national grid. In addition, with the rise of domestic battery storage, electric vehicles and heat pumps, UK residents with solar panels are exporting less energy.

The addition of large-scale solar farms will ensure that energy consumption will be delivered via renewable technology, reducing energy bills in the medium term and significantly reducing carbon emissions.

Are the panels too close to local houses?
You may have seen the site map; this 'red line area' is the land for the development rather than the specific location of the solar panels. Much of the area around the fringes of the site will be set aside for biodiversity enhancements such as new hedgerows or wildflower planting. This will create natural buffers of a suitable distance from residential homes. Please refer to the proposed plan to understand the solar panel layout.

Whilst there is no legislation to dictate the distance required for solar panels from homes and building as this would be prohibitive for domestic installations, we try to keep the impact as minimal as possible by carefully planning the location of the panels and introducing additional hedgerow planting to further enhance biodiversity and help mitigate the impacts of the development.

Will there be a lot of concrete used in the build of the solar farm?
Solar farms do not require concrete in the main due to the panels being pile driven into the ground rather than set in concrete. Whilst there will be a requirement for concrete for the base of the substation, this is kept to a minimum.

How high are the solar panels at the highest position?
The solar panels will be on mounts that piled into the ground, at their highest position they will measure 3.1 meters.

Do the motors for the solar panels draw electricity from the grid?
Yes, the motors to maximise the position of the solar panels for optimal efficiency will draw electricity from the grid. However, this is at a very low voltage and the electricity produced will significantly outweigh the amount used.

Will the solar farm affect the landscape?
There will be a change in the landscape, we absolutely acknowledge this. However, we do our best to plan the panel locations and additional planting to mitigate the impact on the local landscape as much as possible.

Will there be disturbance from construction?
We will manage traffic and disruption to ensure that there is minimal impact on local residents. We will agree a plan with the Council to ensure this is managed properly. Construction is anticipated to take around 6 months.

Will construction vehicles access the site via the village roads?
The access route has been carefully considered to minimise disruption on the local road network. The construction period will last approximately 6 months and in this time, there will be an increase in vehicles accessing the site for construction purposes. Once constructed, the impact on the road network will return to normal.

Couldn't you put a wind farm on neighbouring hillsides instead?
Our expertise is in finding and developing sites suitable for solar energy. We do have a sister company, Wind2, that develops onshore wind proposals.

We're not looking to develop a wind farm near Lewknor, and we don't believe the surrounding landscape would be suitable. There is also a lack of adequate wind resource in the area to make a windfarm commercially viable.

If approved, how much will the developer receive in government funded subsidies?
While subsidies have historically been available for renewable energy projects, these stopped in 2014. As such, there are currently no subsidies available for projects of this nature.

Who is your financial backer?
Solar2 is the developer of this site and has partnered with Recurrent Energy on seven of its projects.

Recurrent Energy is one of the world's largest and most geographically diversified utility scale solar and energy storage project development, ownership and operations platforms. Recurrent Energy are a subsidiary of Canadian Solar who in their third-quarter results, posted in 2022, showed revenue of USD 1.95 billion and saw them ship 6000MW worth of panels. Recurrent Energy has also recently secured a $500 million preferred equity investment commitment, convertible into common equity, from BlackRock through a fund managed by its Climate Infrastructure business ("BlackRock"). The $500 million investment will represent 20% of the outstanding fully diluted shares of Recurrent Energy on an as-converted basis. The investment will provide Recurrent Energy with additional capital to grow its high value project development pipeline while executing its strategy to transition from a pure developer to a developer plus long-term owner and operator in select markets including the UK.

Will the public right of way accessed from Salt Lane be affected?
No, the public right of way (PRoW) will be protected and upgraded. The legal width of the PRoW is 10 feet, the total width of the PRoW will be over 40 meters wide, which to put some context against this, is wider than the M40.

There will be planting to screen both the fencing and the solar panels, with the width of the open area, which includes the PRoW and private land amounting to approximately 30m which is illustrated in the file below.

Postcombe Lewknor Solar Farm P Ro W Section

We use the field off of Salt Lane for recreational activities, how will you ensure we can still do this?
Whilst we understand from feedback given at the public exhibition that the field accessed via Salt Lane is well used for recreational activities, we can confirm that the legal width of the PRoW is 10 feet (3m). The land outside of the PRoW is not for public access. This will not change if the solar farm gains planning approval. If the scheme becomes operational, the public rights to use the footpath will remain.

Why was the Public Right of Way (PRoW) from Salt Lane marked as a track on the site plan at the public exhibition?
We use Ordnance Survey, the government's mapping service to ensure our information regarding sites is accurate. The PRoW has been marked by Ordnance Survey as a track, however we are entirely aware of its status and will not only be maintaining it, but also enhancing it.

Does the Public Right of Way (PRoW) have Grade II listed status due to the historic Funeral Path?
The PRoW is not Grade II listed, nor a Designated Heritage Site, however, it is recognised by South Oxfordshire District Council as a Non Designated Heritage Asset. As a PRoW, it will not be affected by the solar farm and once construction is completed with be enhanced. Please see information above regarding how the PRoW will be enhanced.

Who is responsible for decommissioning the solar farm and removing the panels at the end of its lifespan?
A full decommissioning plan will be agreed with South Oxfordshire District Council and the landowners. This will be part of the planning conditions linked to the project.

An experienced third-party surveyor will value the cost of having the site reinstated and this amount will be lodged with the council as a bond.

This figure can only be accessed by the council for decommissioning and will be re-evaluated every five years to ensure the value is sufficient.

Will this development reduce the value of our property?
There is no evidence in the UK that any solar farm has devalued a property.

Research elsewhere seems to point to renewable energy projects having little impact on property values, with other factors being considered more likely to affect the prices.

How will the site be secured? If there are cameras, how will these be used?
Whilst the proposals are still being developed, it is most likely that a number of motion activated security cameras will be used to secure the solar assets, facing directly towards those elements and not be intended to capture the outside of the site.

Are the solar panels recyclable?
In most cases, up to 99% of a solar panel is recyclable. There are well established processes for this in the UK. For example, companies such as PV Cycle UK have dedicated infrastructure and work closely with producers to ensure compliance with legislation.

You can find out more about panel recycling and the materials used in Everything Under the Sun: The Facts about Solar.

Do the solar panels produce any noise?
The panels themselves do not produce any noise. If the panels are mounted to a tracking frame, then a small amount of noise is emitted by the tracking motors – however this is negligible and not likely to be heard.

Will the addition of the solar panels affect local flooding?
The installation of solar panels typically has a minimal impact on local flooding. Solar panels are designed to be mounted on structures and elevated above the ground, which allows water to flow freely underneath them. Additionally, solar panels themselves are not known to cause water accumulation or disruption to natural drainage patterns.

A detailed Hydrology or Flood Risk Assessment has been undertaken which includes a desk study review with recommended mitigation measures.

Are the solar panels cleaned using chemicals?
Manufacturers typically advise against using harmful chemicals or detergents to clean solar panels. De-ionized water is a common and environmentally friendly choice for cleaning solar panels because it helps prevent damage and minimises the introduction of chemicals into the environment. This approach aligns with best practices for solar panel maintenance and environmental sustainability.

Do the solar panels produce any glint and glare?
Solar panels are primarily designed to absorb light for energy generation rather than reflecting it. An assessment of potential glint and glare impacts has been conducted, taking into account nearby sensitive areas or receptors. This assessment ensures that any potential issues are thoroughly considered and mitigated to prevent disruptions or safety hazards.

A full report has been conducted where impact has been found to be minimal. The report stats, *'due to the momentary nature of glint and glare effects on route receptors as vehicles approach or move away from the PV array and the existing hedgerows, the overall impact is deemed to be minimal to none.'*

The full report will be available when the planning application is submitted via both this website and the planning portal.

Will glint and glare from the solar panels affect drivers on the M40?
As per above, solar panels are primarily designed to absorb light for energy generation rather than reflecting it. An in-depth report has been commissioned which has confirmed our initial predictions that there will be minimal, if any glint and glare on sensitive receptors – including the motorway, and that the current and additional planting will further reduce impacts.

A full report has been conducted where impact has been found to be minimal. The report stats, *'due to the momentary nature of glint and glare effects on route receptors as vehicles approach or move away from the PV array and the existing hedgerows, the overall impact is deemed to be minimal to none.'*

The full report will be available when the planning application is submitted via both this website and the planning portal.

Will the solar panels rotate causing additional glint and glare?
The panels rotate around a north south axis to track the suns movement through the day, the speed at which the panels move is not noticeable. With regards to glint and glare, as above, solar panels are designed to absorb light rather than reflect it, therefore glint and glare is minimal.

A full report has been conducted where impact has been found to be minimal. The report stats, *'due to the momentary nature of glint and glare effects on route receptors as vehicles approach or move away from the PV array and the existing hedgerows, the overall impact is deemed to be minimal to none.'*

The full report will be available when the planning application is submitted via both this website and the planning portal.

Where will the solar panels be manufactured?
Solar panels are manufactured in various countries around the world, including several European countries, China, the United States and India.

The choice of manufacturing location often depends on factors like cost-efficiency, access to materials, and market demand.

What happens if a solar panel gets broken? Does the whole row have to be replaced?
If a solar panel gets broken, it does not necessarily mean that the entire row needs to be replaced. Solar panels are typically connected in an array, and they function independently. If one panel in a row is damaged or malfunctions, it can be replaced individually without affecting the performance of the other panels.

Is the efficiency of the panels consistent over time, or will these need to be replaced over the lifetime of the Solar Farm?
The efficiency of solar panels typically degrades slowly over time, but they do not need to be replaced over the lifetime of an solar farm. Solar panels are designed to have a long operational life, often ranging from 25 to 30 years.

In some cases, if the efficiency degradation becomes significant or if there are specific warranty conditions, individual panels may be replaced as needed to ensure optimal energy production.

To maintain the performance of the solar farm, regular maintenance and monitoring will be conducted.

I can't/couldn't attend the public exhibition, where can I view the information?
We understand that life is busy and its not always possible to attend a public exhibition, therefore we have uploaded all the exhibition banners to the website so that you can view them **here**.

What is the deadline for feedback on the plans for Postcombe & Lewknor Solar Farm?
In order for your feedback to be considered, we politely request that it be submitted no later than the 2nd of August 2024 via the following **link**.

How do I register my support for Postcombe & Lewknor Solar Farm?
You can register your support for Postcombe & Lewknor Solar farm via the South Oxfordshire District Council. As we haven't finalised the plans yet, the application has not yet been submitted. We will update the information and add the planning application number to the proposal website page which can be found on the Projects Documents page via the main menu above, and also, we will add it here.

How do I register my objection for Postcombe & Lewknor Solar Farm?
You can register your objection for Postcombe & Lewknor Solar farm via the South Oxfordshire District Council. As we haven't finalised the plans yet, the application has not yet been submitted. We will update the information and add the planning application number to the proposal website page which can be found on the Projects Documents page via the main menu above, and also, we will add it here.

Will there be badger gates in the fencing?
Badger gates have not been confirmed but are a consideration and an update will be added when available.

Deer currently roam across the land proposed for the solar farm, how will they be affected?
Deer fencing will be erected to ensure their safety and that of the solar panels and equipment.

Will the deer fencing have razor wire?
No, the deer fence will not include razor wire. The fencing will be the same as standard agricultural wire fencing, but taller.

Are you and your suppliers GDPR compliant?
Yes. At the exhibition, Marengo Communications, our public engagement consultants, prominently display statements detailing what information we are collecting, on whose behalf, and for what purpose.

Their privacy policy was available for anyone to scrutinise at in person event and can also be viewed at www.marengocomms.com/privacy. Marengo Communications' data protection policies and procedures have been independently assessed and accredited as compliant by third-party experts in the field, so you can be assured that your data is collected, stored, and processed in a sensitive, secure, and legally compliant manner, and that the data you give us as part of our consultation will only be used for the purposes of informing that consultation.

In addition, the privacy policy for Solar2 can be viewed via the following links on the Postcombe & Lewknor Solar Farm Privacy Policy webpage and the Solar2 Privacy Policy webpage.

With regards to the industry recognised questionnaire hosting platform, Surveymonkey, their privacy policy can be viewed via the following link.

solar2

Lewknor Solar Farm Ltd Linden House, Mold Business Park, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 1XP
E: info@solar2.co.uk
Company Number: 13824494

solar2

Menu

Lewknor Solar Farm Ltd
Linden House,
Mold Business Park,
Mold,
Flintshire,
CH7 1XP

E: info@solar2.co.uk

Contact

If you have any questions please feel free to get in touch with us.

YOUR NAME

YOUR EMAIL

TELEPHONE

MESSAGE

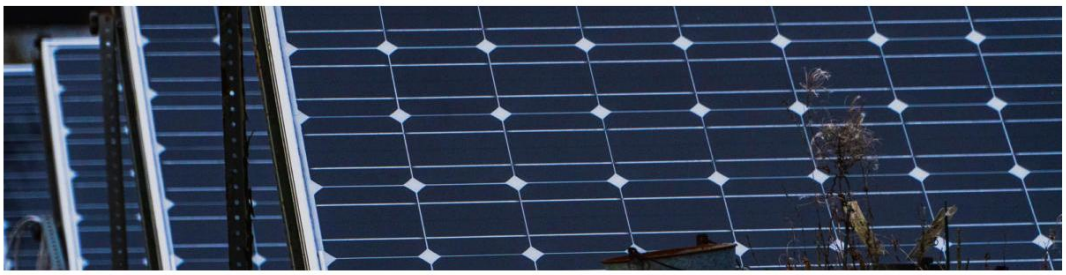
SEND

solar2

Lewknor Solar Farm Ltd Linden House, Mold Business Park, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 1XP
E: info@solar2.co.uk

solar2

Menu



About Us

Lewknor Solar Farm is being jointly developed by Solar2 and Recurrent Energy whilst utilising a professional project team to provide specific support and expertise throughout the consenting stages of the project.

Solar2

Solar2 is a specialist energy developer and was founded in 2019 by Gerry and Paula Jewson, former owners of West Coast Energy. The founders of Solar2 together with the Solar2 team have a substantial track record in the successful development of renewable projects throughout the UK, being responsible for the delivery of in excess of 1GW of renewable energy.

Recurrent Energy

Recurrent Energy is one of the world's largest and most geographically diversified utility-scale solar and energy storage project development, ownership and operations platforms. With an industry-leading team of in-house energy experts, we are a wholly-owned subsidiary of Canadian Solar Inc. and function as Canadian Solar's global development and power services business. Recurrent Energy has completed the development of 9 gigawatts (GWp) of operating utility-scale solar projects and 3 gigawatt hours (GWh) of energy storage projects across six continents. Recurrent Energy have more than 25 GWp of solar and 47 GWh of battery storage projects under development.

Recurrent Energy has a strong track record having developed and built dozens of projects in the United Kingdom including Christchurch Solar Farm (Dorset), Bobbing Solar Farm (Kent) and Ballygarvey Solar Farm (Co. Antrim).

For more information on Recurrent Energy, visit Recurrent Energy or LinkedIn."

Over the past 21 years, Recurrent Energy has successfully delivered over 49 GW of premium quality solar photovoltaic modules to customers in 150 countries.

*Based on the 2021 UK Average Annual domestic electricity consumption (BEIS)

**Based on DESNZ all sources of electricity emissions statistics of 269 T CO2 eq per GWh of electricity supplied in 2022.

Lewknor Solar Farm Ltd Linden House, Mold Business Park, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 1XP
E: info@solar2.co.uk
Company Number: 13624494

solar2

Menu

Public Exhibition Material

Click on the links below to view the public exhibition material:-

Why we need more solar
The Site
Proposals
Landscape, ecology and the environment
Frequently asked questions (FAQs)
Community Benefits
About Solar2 & Recurrent Energy
Timeline and next steps
Viewpoint 4 - Footpath 277610 within field adjacent to A40
Viewpoint 6 - Beacon Hill, Aston Rowant NNR
Viewpoint 10 - Footpath 2772710
Viewpoint 12 - Weston Road
Figure 1a - Standard Screen Zone of Theoretical Visibility with Screening Effect of Woodland and Settlement
Figure 1b - Zone of Theoretical Visibility with Screening Effect of Woodland and Settlement including Screening from Proposed Mitigation
Figure 2a - Zone of Theoretical Visibility with Detailed Screening Effect of Woodland and Settlement
Figure 2b - Zone of Theoretical Visibility with Detailed Screening Effect of Woodland and Settlement including Screening from Proposed Mitigation
Cable trench cross section
CCTV pole
Customer station
DNO Substation Compound - GCS0019-2 - Indicative 132kV Single Circuit Tee-Off Connection
Fence and gates
Inverter station
Meteo station
Panel Elevation tracker
Road cross section
Spare container

solar2

Privacy & Cookies Policy
Lewknor Solar Farm Ltd Linden House, Mold Business Park, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 1XP
E: info@solar2.co.uk
Company Number: 13624494

SITE DESIGN & BUILD BY VIEW CREATIVE AGENCY