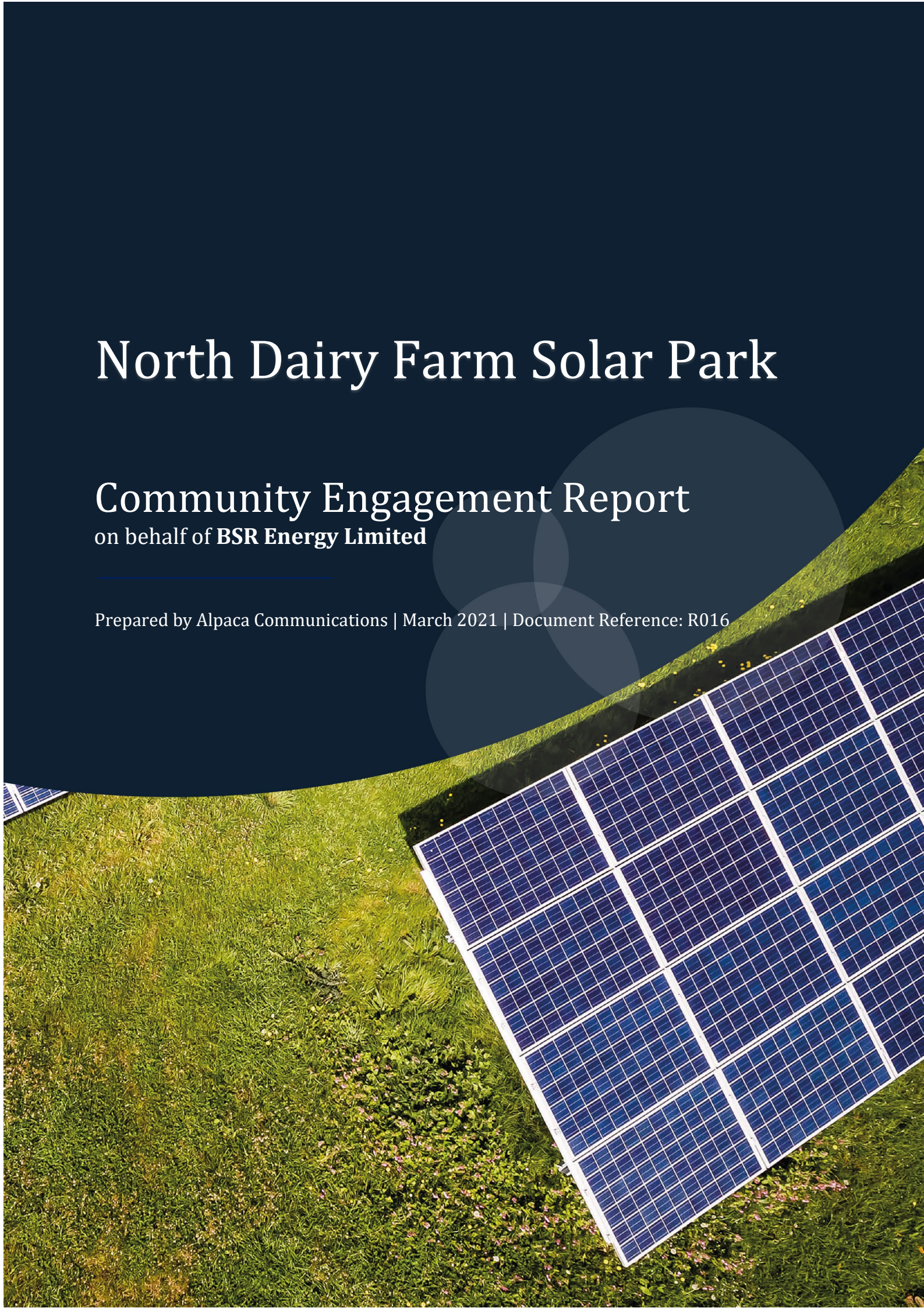
North Dairy Farm Solar Park

Community Engagement Report

on behalf of **BSR Energy Limited**

Prepared by Alpaca Communications | March 2021 | Document Reference: R016



Contents

1. Executive Summary

BSR Energy Limited ("the Applicant") conducted a programme of public consultation and stakeholder engagement with regards to its proposals for a solar park ("the Site") on land at North Dairy Farm, Pulham, Dorchester, DT2 7EA. Although we are currently living through a pandemic, the Applicant sought to listen to the community, and pro-actively seek their involvement in the development of the proposals. A number of the issues raised by residents informed amendments to the submitted scheme.

The consultation centred around a virtual public exhibition, which was held on Thursday 29th October 2020, via a zoom webinar. Prior to the virtual public exhibition, the Applicant began engagement with local Parishes culminating in a multi–Parish Council site visit on Tuesday 27 October 2020. In addition, the Applicant met with Simon Hoare MP in November 2020 to brief him on the proposals.

Approximately 503 brochures (Appendix 2) were sent by post to residents and local businesses within the Site's electoral ward and surrounding area. The brochure introduced the proposals, the Applicant, explained the approach to the consultation process during the Coronavirus crisis, invited the recipients to the public exhibition webinar, visit the consultation website and complete an enclosed feedback form. Copies of the resident brochure were also sent to local ward and parish councillors to inform them of the virtual public exhibition and formally invite them to attend.

A twenty-one-slide deck presentation (Appendix 3) was presented during the virtual public exhibition, giving information about the Applicant, the application site and the conceptual design of the project. The Applicant and its development team were panellists on the virtual public exhibition, helping to explain the design of the proposed development as well as engage in a Q&A session answering any questions attendees had. Attendees were encouraged to provide their thoughts and opinions through an online survey after the virtual public exhibition, or via the feedback form included in the brochure via post or email. Additionally, the development team provided attendees with contact details if they wished to send any follow up questions or feedback.

Overall the consultation feedback received via the submitted feedback forms and online survey were in objection of the proposal (79%). Of the 75 local residents that completed a feedback form or online survey, 13 were in favour of the proposal, 59 were in objection and 1 needed more information (two respondents did not answer the question).

Key matters raised during pre-application consultation included:

- Landscape Impact;
- Visual Impact;
- Residential Amenity Impact; and
- Flooding.

In response to a number of the issues raised during the public consultation process the design of the scheme has been amended as follows:

- Ensuring solar park infrastructure was kept fully outside the areas identified as being at risk of flooding;
- Internal access layout slightly adjusted to ensure all trees were fully protected, including root protection zones;
- Increased hedgerow and tree planting to assist screen the Proposed Development;

- Introduction of greater number of bat and bird boxes; and
- Provision of additional information to explain how construction impacts would be managed, in particular that of construction traffic, as set out in the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) (Document Ref: R010).

Introduction

BSR Energy Limited ("the Applicant") conducted a programme of public consultation and stakeholder engagement with regards to its proposals for a solar farm ("the Site") on land at North Dairy Farm, Pulham, Dorchester, DT2 7EA

The proposed solar park would have an approximate design capacity of 49.99 MW and would produce enough clean, renewable electricity to power 13,000 homes per year, a saving of 13,000 tonnes of CO2.

This document provides an overview of the consultation programme, the feedback received together with an explanation as to how that feedback led to changes to the scheme design.

2. Approach to Consultation

Alpaca Communications was appointed by the Applicant to assist with the pre-application public consultation on the Proposed Development.

Alpaca Communications is a specialist public consultation agency with broad expertise in advising on and implementing consultation programmes for both private and public-sector clients.

Alpaca Communications understands the role pre-application consultation can play in helping to influence a project before a planning application is submitted and address any concerns that local residents may have.

The Application and the development team followed recent guidance issued by the UK's Government's Chief Planner, which emphasised that planning applications that positively impact the country and local communities must continue to come forward during the pandemic.

The Applicant strongly believes that now, more than ever, it is vital that local communities are able to see and shape planning applications that may have an impact on them.

'Front-loading' public engagement in this way helps ensure the proposals are as informed as possible by the local community and other stakeholders prior to the submission of the planning application to the relevant Local Planning Authority. This approach recognises that all parties benefit from a communications programme that ensures all of those people with a potential interest in a development are fully informed of the proposals and have had the opportunity to input early on. The Applicant is supportive of and fully committed to meaningful pre-application consultation.

To help inform as many residents as possible during these unusual times, we decided to extend the traditional size of the distribution area that would usually receive a public exhibition invitation leaflet. Furthermore, instead of a leaflet we created a more extensive brochure that was sent by post to residents and local businesses, this replicated the materials local residents would expect to see at a traditional public exhibition, including site maps and a concept design. The brochure also included a feedback form which could be submitted via email or by using the enclosed prepaid envelope.

To replace a traditional face-to-face public exhibition, a virtual webinar was hosted. The brochure invited local residents to attend the webinar and Q&A session event. The consultation webinar was a two-hour event, the first thirty minutes dedicated to the project team presenting the proposals, for the remainder of the webinar local residents were encouraged to ask/submit any questions via the live chat function.

3. Scheme Overview

The Site is located within Blackmore Vale between the villages of Pulham (to the west), Mappowder (to the south) and Hazelbury Bryan (to the east). It covers an area of c. 77ha and its fields are bounded by hedgerows and streams, the latter draining into the River Lydden to the north of the Site. It is proposed that access to the Site would be provided using the existing access road to North Dairy Farm, namely Cannings Court Lane.

The scheme is known as the North Dairy Farm Solar Park. The main element of the proposal is the installation of a ground mounted solar park with a maximum installed capacity of 49.99MW – see Figure 1 below. The proposed solar farm will generate sufficient electricity annually to provide for the needs of up to 13,000 homes per year, a saving of 13,000 tonnes of CO^2.

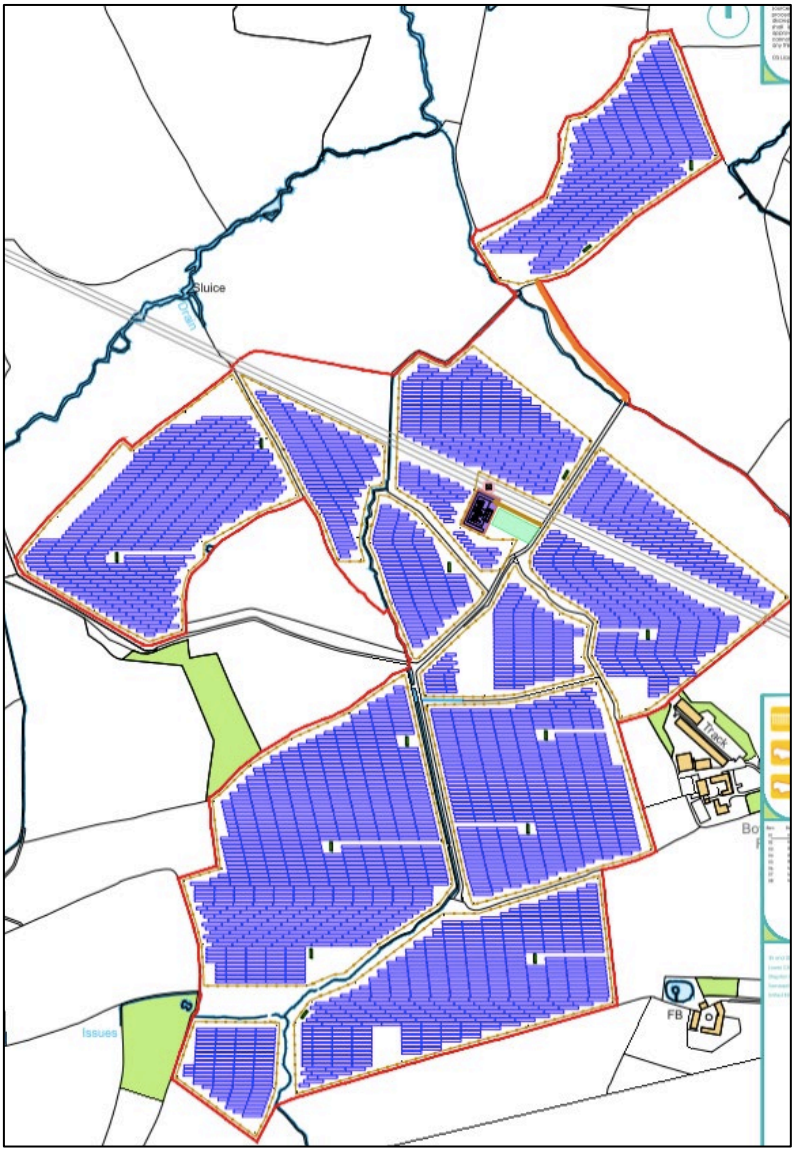


Figure 1: Site Location Plan

4. The Consultation

4.1 Consultation Aims

The aims of the consultation were as follows:

- To work with local stakeholders and residents from the outset and see how we could improve the proposals by taking onboard their suggestions.
- To raise awareness of the proposals within the local community and to gain their valuable insight based on their local knowledge.
- To gain a firm understanding of the key issues affecting the local community.
- To ensure the local community had the opportunity to give feedback on the proposals, especially during the on-going pandemic.

4.2 Consultation Overview

An eleven-page brochure (Appendix 2) for the virtual public consultation event was sent out in mid-October 2020, to approximately 503 surrounding residents and local businesses (see Appendix 4 for postal distribution area) inviting them to a virtual public exhibition on Thursday 29th October 2020. The Applicant held a virtual public exhibition, where designs of the proposed scheme were available for local residents to provide feedback on).

A website for the project (Appendix 5) was also created: http://bsrenergy.com/north-dairy-farm/ . The website provided visitors with an overview of the proposals and the opportunity to get in contact with the development team or leave feedback.

4.3 Briefing political stakeholders

Prior to the virtual public exhibition, the Applicant conducted a briefing on the proposals (via zoom) with Hazelbury Bryan Parish Council on 6 October 2020. Matters raised included the scale of the scheme, flood risks from the River Lydden and concerns regarding construction traffic. A number of members of the Parish Council stated that they were in general support for the principle of renewable energy development.

Further to this meeting, local Parishes (Pulham, Mappowder, Hazelbury Bryan and Lydlinch) were invited to attend a site visit in the company of the Applicant to discuss the proposals. The site visit occurred on Tuesday 27 October 2020 attended by all local Parish Councils, bar Mappowder who chose not to attend. Discussion on the visit focussed on viewpoints in addition to flooding and construction traffic.

The applicant also met (virtually) with Simon Hoare, MP for North Dorset on Friday 6 November 2020. The meeting covered the following issues: visual impact, flooding, development and planning red line areas, traffic assessment, screening and community benefit.

4.4 The virtual public exhibition

A virtual public exhibition was held on Thursday 29 October 2020 via a Zoom webinar, fifteen local residents attended the virtual event and three members of the development team were panellist for the session. A twenty-one-slide deck presentation was presented during the virtual public exhibition, giving information about the Applicant, the application site and the design of the project. The Applicant and its development team were panellists for virtual public exhibition, helping to explain

the design of the site as well as engage in a Q&A session answering any questions attendees had. The webinar was advertised in the local Parish newsletter and local print media (Appendix 6).

Attendees were encouraged to provide their thoughts and opinions through an online survey and via the feedback forms included in the brochure, which could either be submitted online, via a prepaid envelop or email. Additionally, the development team provided attendees with contact details if they wished to send any follow up questions or feedback.

4.5 Local resident update

In January 2021 the Applicant provided an update for all residents that had previously engaged with the consultation process. The update (Appendix 7: Local resident update) provided answers to previously asked questions, the results of the public consultation, and an update on the timing of the submission of the planning application. The resident update literature was also shared with local political stakeholders.

5. Consultation Findings

5.1 Verbal Feedback / Questions

The virtual public exhibition webinar also included a live Q&A session, this lasted for approximately one hour and thirty minutes. The most frequent issues that were raised or asked about by the webinar attendees included questions surrounding land use, flooding, viewpoints, visual impact, wildlife and biodiversity.

5.2 Feedback forms

The development team received 75 completed feedback forms online and via post. The results have been combined and are presented below.

The brochure feedback form and post webinar survey included identical questions, four multiple choice tick box questions, a comment section for question four and a space for additional comments.

Question one: Has this local resident brochure / webinar been helpful in understanding our proposal?

YES	NO	UNSURE
36	10	29

Question two: What is the most important issue to you about our proposal, where 1 is of highest importance and 9 is of least importance?

Table 1 collates the responses and ranks them in their order of concern as expressed by attendees, it reveals that landscape impact and visual impact were the two main concerns expressed by attendees.

Table 1: Issues of Importance to the Local Community

RANK	ISSUE	SCORE*
1	Landscape Impact	190
2	Visual Impact	196
3	Residential Amenity Impact	236
4	Loss of Agricultural Land	249
5	Climate Change	257
6	Increasing Biodiversity	266
7	Construction Traffic	274
8	Flooding	286
9	Noise	304

*The lower the score, the higher the issue was in terms of importance for consultees.

Question three: With regards to the proposals, you have read/heard about, are you:

IN FAVOUR	IN OBJECTION	NEUTRAL	NEED MORE INFORMATION
13	59	0	1

Question four: additional comments

69 feedback forms were received that contained detailed comments. Appendix 5 captures the summary of comments.

The comments covered key topics including:

- Flooding;
- Visual impact on countryside;
- Construction traffic and current road infrastructure (Cannings Lane);
- Disturbance to environment and wildlife; and
- Loss of agricultural land.

5.3 Summary of Feedback

Despite the current pandemic and associated restrictions, the consultation programme successfully engaged a reasonable number of residents that live in close proximity to the Proposed Development, over 36 of those that completed the feedback form felt that the brochure and/or webinar had been 'helpful'. 17% of respondents were in favour of the application.

The most frequently cited concerns were landscape and visual impact, closely followed by residential amenity impact. Other topics raised by attendees included specific questions concerning the impact of construction traffic on local roads.

5.4 How Feedback Influenced the Scheme Design

A number of the issues raised by residents informed amendments to the submitted scheme including:

- Ensuring solar park infrastructure was kept fully outside the areas identified as being at risk of flooding;
- Internal access layout slightly adjusted to ensure all trees were fully protected, including root protection zones;
- Increased hedgerow and tree planting to assist screen the Proposed Development;
- Introduction of greater number of bat and bird boxes; and
- Provision of additional information to explain how construction impacts would be managed, in particular that of construction traffic, as set out in the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) (Document Ref: R010).

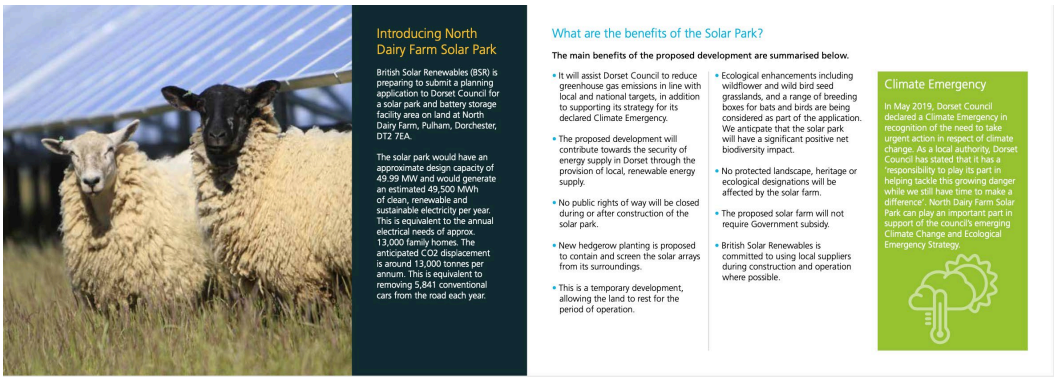
6. Conclusion

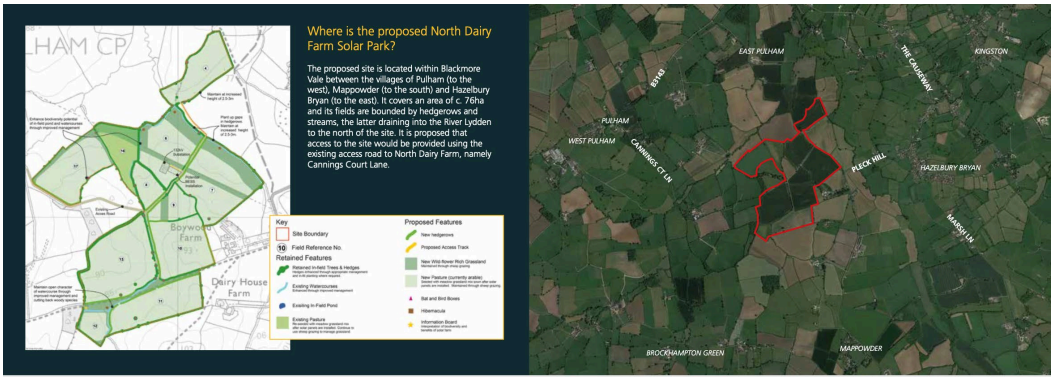
The Applicant undertook a comprehensive programme of public consultation during the pandemic, which successfully engaged local residents and their representatives. The majority of the residents that engaged with the consultation process had concerns regarding visual impact and loss of local resident amenity, whilst a significant minority of local residents support the proposals on the basis of its ability to create renewable energy and biodiversity improvements. The consultation identified and successfully engaged with local residents and key community stakeholders and the feedback received has influenced the final scheme design.

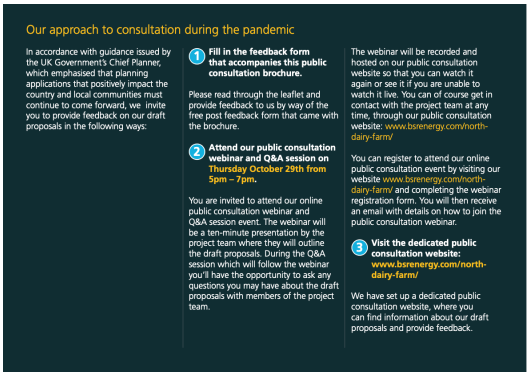
7. Appendices

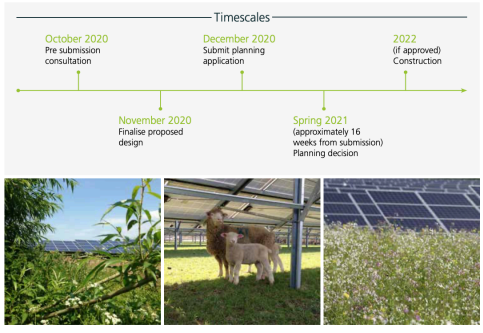
- Appendix 1: Local Resident Brochure
- Appendix 2: Local Resident Brochure Distribution Area
- Appendix 3: Virtual Public Exhibition PowerPoint Presentation
- Appendix 4: Website
- Appendix 5: Comments received re feedback form question 4
- Appendix 6: Consultation Advert
- Appendix 7: Local Resident Update

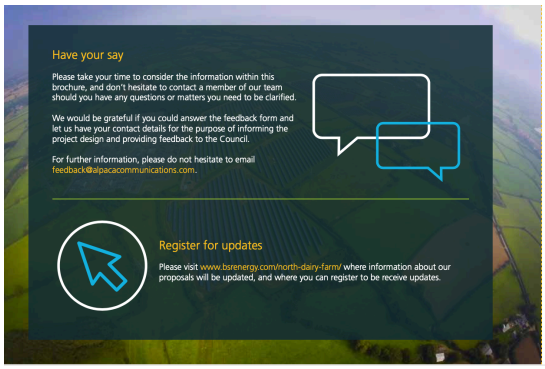
Appendix 1: Local Resident Brochure

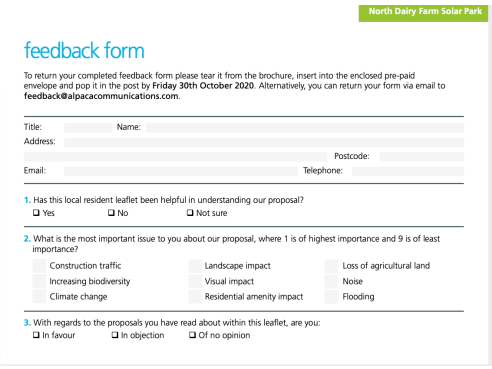










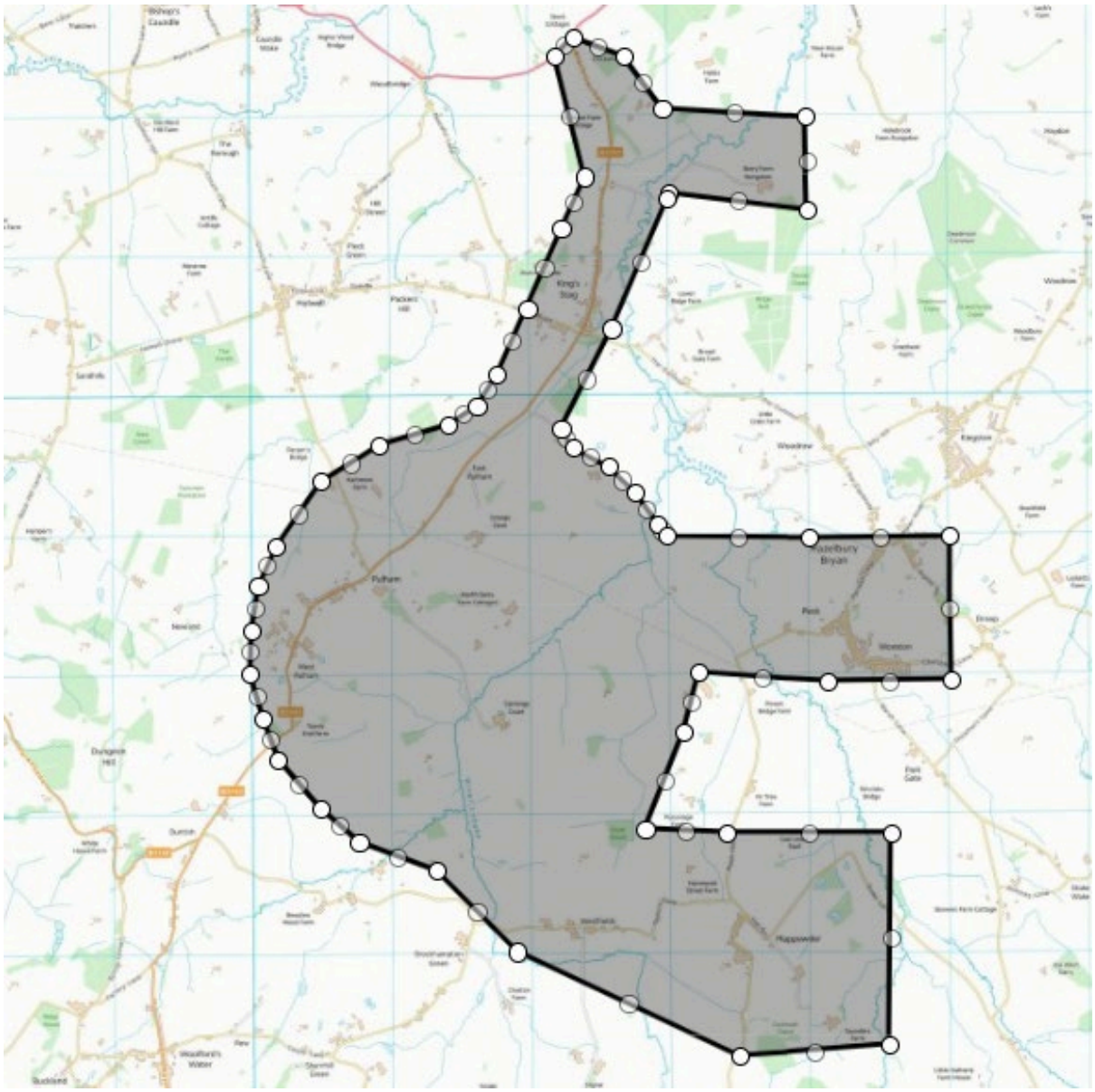


4. Your views are important to us, if you'd like us to keep in touch how would you like us to contact you?
❑ Website ❑ Email ❑ Newsletter ❑ SMS

5. Any other comments?

Thank you for taking the time to fill out our feedback form, your personal details including your name, address and contact details may be included as part of a consultation report submitted with this application to Dorset Council. If you prefer your details do not be shared, please tick here ❑.

Appendix 2: Local Resident Brochure Distribution Area



Appendix 3: Virtual Public Exhibition PowerPoint Presentation

North Dairy Farm Solar Park

Public Exhibition Webinar - 29th October 2020

Introducing British Solar Renewables

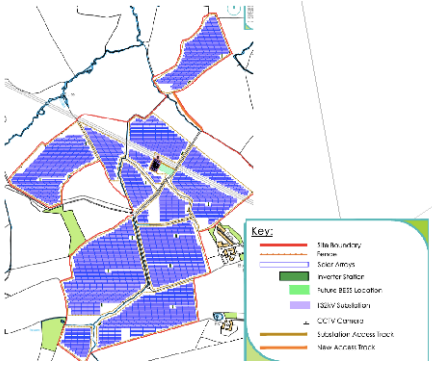
- BSR Energy is a leading renewable energy developer and provider of expert services to the renewable energy industry.
- The company was founded in 2010 from when it has grown into one of the largest integrated developers in the UK with over 530MW of ground mounted solar PV parks successfully installed to date and responsible for the operation of 390MW.
- Five sites currently in development by BSR Energy are located in South Wales, Essex, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire & Devon.

Project Updates

- A report requesting an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Opinion from Dorset Council's Planning Team was submitted on 2 September 2020.
- On 22 September 2020 the Council advised an EIA would be required to consider:
  - Landscape and visual impact; and
  - Ecology.
- The Council also advised heritage, traffic and flood risk will need to be assessed albeit not in the EIA.
- We are currently reviewing the design of the scheme, undertaking assessments and public consultation to inform the design and preparing planning application documents.
- We intend to submit a planning application and accompanying impact assessments in December 2020.

Site location

Concept Scheme Design



Land Use

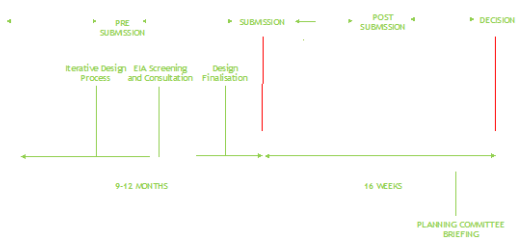
- A solar park is part of a temporary diversification strategy. It will not change change the long-term land classification.
- Areas left fallow for 'greening' can have other knock-on benefits for wider environmental quality that benefits rural amenity and the rural economy.
- A solar farm does not inhibit continued co-located agricultural use like grazing.
- The solar park would have an export capacity of up to 49.99MW for distribution to the national grid. This is equivalent to the annual electrical needs of approx. 13,000 family homes. The anticipated CO_2 displacement is around 13,000 tonnes per annum. This is equivalent to removing 5,841 conventional cars from the road each year.

Elements of a solar park

Biodiversity

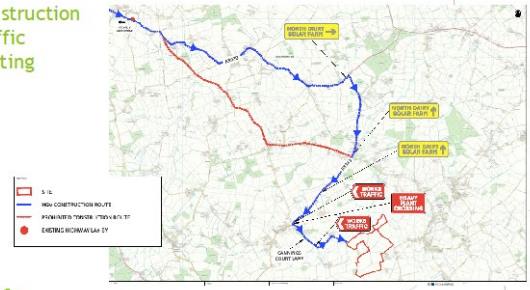
- Biodiversity opportunities include:
  - Land between and beneath the panels would be used for sheep grazing and managed to deliver biodiversity enhancements as has been done at other BSR sites.
  - This would include wildflower and wild bird seed grasslands
  - Significant extents of new hedgerows provided
  - Hedgerows being managed for wildlife, and a range of breeding boxes erected for bats and birds.
  - There will be no significant negative impact on bat activity, birds, or on suitable habitat for great crested newt.
  - A strong likelihood (based on other solar farms in southern UK), that there will be a significant positive benefit to biodiversity overall

Planning Timeline



BSR Energy

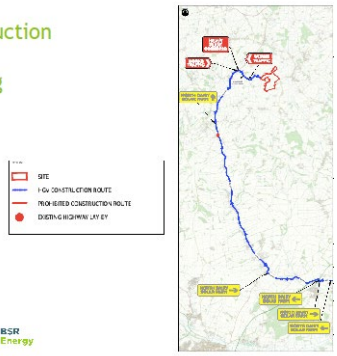
onstruction raffic outing



BSR Energy

BSR Energy

Construction Traffic Routing



BSR Energy

BSR Energy

BSR Energy

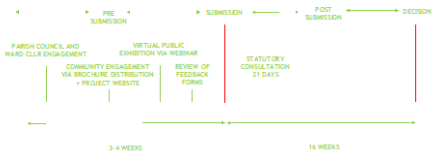
BSR Energy

Benefits

- It will assist Dorset Council to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with local and national targets, in addition to supporting its strategy for its declared Climate Emergency.
- The proposed development will contribute towards the security of energy supply in Dorset through the provision of local, renewable energy supply.
- No public rights of way will be closed during or after construction of the solar park.
- New hedgerow planting is proposed to contain and screen the solar arrays from its surroundings.
- This is a temporary development, allowing the land to rest for the period of operation.
- Ecological enhancements including wildflower and wild bird seed grasslands, and a range of breeding boxes for bats and birds are being considered as part of the application. We anticipate that the solar park will have a significant positive net biodiversity impact.
- No protected landscape, heritage or ecological designations will be affected by the solar farm.
- The proposed solar farm will not require Government subsidy.
- BSR Energy is committed to using local suppliers during construction and operation where possible.

BSR Energy

Community Engagement Timeline



BSR Energy

Initial Feedback and Questions

Questions:

- Will the solar park be lit up at night?
- how long it will take to build?
- What is the size and height of the sub-station?
- Will we see additional pylons?
- Which footpaths are enclosed by the site boundary?
- How will this development benefit local householders?
- Is the land fertile / what kind of farming is taking place at present?
- Will a solar farm of this size have an influence on our local micro-climate?
- What will the net difference be between the amount of energy used to make the panels and the carbon it offsets?
- Would this not be better placed on a brownfield site?

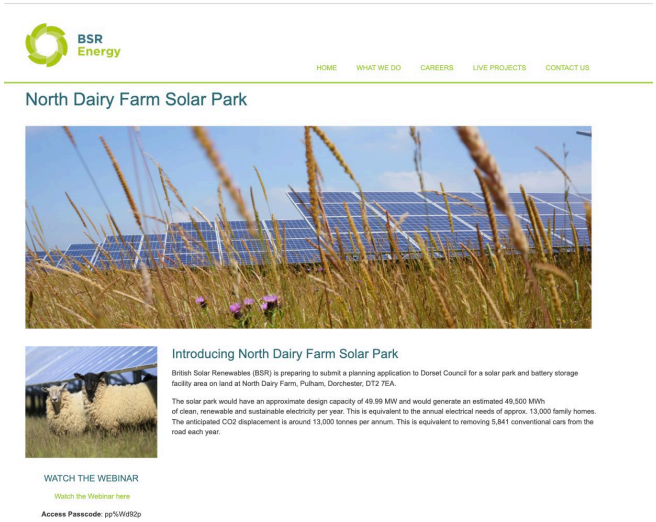
Comments:

- Concerns expressed re size of the development
- Concern expressed re flooding
- Concern re residual noise post development

BSR Energy

Thank you for your time
Any questions?

Appendix 4: Project Website


BSR Energy

HOME WHAT WE DO CAREERS LIVE PROJECTS CONTACT US

North Dairy Farm Solar Park

Introducing North Dairy Farm Solar Park

British Solar Renewables (BSR) is preparing to submit a planning application to Dorset Council for a solar park and battery storage facility area on land at North Dairy Farm, Pulham, Dorchester, DT2 7EA.

The solar park would have an approximate design capacity of 49.99 MW and would generate an estimated 49,500 MWh of clean, renewable and sustainable electricity per year. This is equivalent to the annual electrical needs of approx. 13,000 family homes. The anticipated CO2 displacement is around 13,000 tonnes per annum. This is equivalent to removing 5,841 conventional cars from the road each year.

WATCH THE WEBINAR

Watch the Webinar here

Access Passcode: pp%Wd92p


What are the benefits of the Solar Park?

The main benefits of the proposed development are summarised below.

- It will assist Dorset Council to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with local and national targets, in addition to supporting its strategy for its declared Climate Emergency.
- The proposed development will contribute towards the security of energy supply in Dorset through the provision of local, renewable energy supply.
- No public rights of way will be closed during or after construction of the solar park.
- New hedgerow planting is proposed to contain and screen the solar arrays from its surroundings.
- This is a temporary development, allowing the land to rest for the period of operation.
- Ecological enhancements including wildflower and wild bird seed grasslands, and a range of breeding boxes for bats and birds are being considered as part of the application. We anticipate that the solar park will have a significant positive net biodiversity impact.
- No protected landscape, heritage or ecological designations will be affected by the solar farm.
- The proposed solar farm will not require Government subsidy.British Solar Renewables is committed to using local suppliers during construction and operation where possible.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

In May 2019, Dorset Council declared a Climate Emergency in recognition of the need to take urgent action in respect of climate change. As a local authority, Dorset Council has stated that it has a 'responsibility to play its part in helping tackle this growing danger while we still have time to make a difference'. North Dairy Farm Solar Park can play an important part in support of the council's emerging Climate Change and Ecological Emergency Strategy.

Our approach to consultation during the pandemic

In accordance with guidance issued by the UK Government's Chief Planner, which emphasised that planning applications that positively impact the country and local communities must continue to come forward, we invite you to provide feedback on our draft proposals in the following ways:

1. **Fill in the feedback form that accompanies this public consultation brochure.**

Please read through the leaflet and provide feedback to us by way of the free post feedback form that came with the brochure

2. **Attend our public consultation webinar and Q&A session on: Thursday October 29th from 5pm – 7pm.**

You are invited to attend our online public consultation webinar and Q&A session event. The webinar will be a ten-minute presentation by the project team where they will outline the draft proposals. During the Q&A session which will follow the webinar you'll have the opportunity to ask any questions you may have about the draft proposals with members of the project team.

The webinar will be recorded and hosted on our public consultation website so that you can watch it again or see it if you are unable to watch it live. You can of course get in contact with the project team at any time, through this public consultation

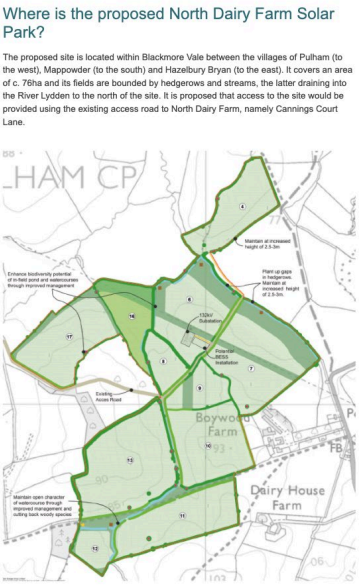
You can register to attend our online public consultation event by completing the webinar registration form. You will then receive an email with details on how to join the public consultation webinar.

You may download a print version of our brochure here

WATCH THE WEBINAR

Watch the Webinar here

Access Passcode: pp%Wd92p


Where is the proposed North Dairy Farm Solar Park?

The proposed site is located within Blackmore Vale between the villages of Pulham (to the west), Mappowder (to the south) and Hazelbury Bryan (to the east). It covers an area of c. 76ha and its fields are bounded by hedgerows and streams, the latter draining into the River Lydden to the north of the site. It is proposed that access to the site would be provided using the existing access road to North Dairy Farm, namely Cannings Court Lane.


Key

Site Boundary

10 Field Reference No.

Retained Features

Retained In-field Trees & Hedges

Existing Watercourses

Existing In-Field Pond

Existing Pasture

Proposed Features

New hedgerows

Proposed Access Track

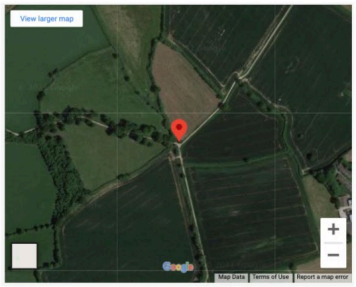
New Wild-flower Rich Grassland

New Pasture (currently arable)

Bat and Bird Boxes

Hibernacula

Information Board

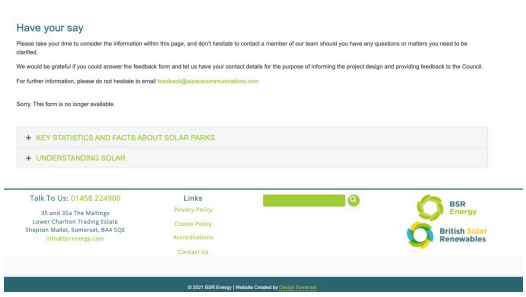


Key Figures

Location:	North Dairy Farm, Pulham, Dorchester, DT2 7EA
Technology:	Solar PV (Ground Mounted)
Size:	49.99MWp design capacity
Land Size (approx.):	c. 76Ha (188 acres)
DNO:	Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN)
Land Designation:	Agricultural, Grade 3b/4
Planning consent duration:	Application is for 35 years
Planning submission date:	Estimated Februay 2021
Planning decision date:	Estimated June 2021

MORE INFORMATION

Request for Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Opinion
North Dairy Farm Solar Park Viewpoints
Preliminary Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
Ecology Assessment
Agricultural Land Classification
Preliminary Flood Risk Assesment
Preliminary Heritage Assessment
Preliminary Noise Assessment Report
Preliminary Traffic and Access Statement
Site location plan


Have your say

Please take your time to consider the information within this page, and don't hesitate to contact a member of our team should you have any questions or matters you need to be clarified.

We would be grateful if you could answer the feedback form and let us have your contact details for the purpose of informing the project design and providing feedback to the Council.

For further information, please do not hesitate to email feedback@alpacacommunications.com.

Sorry. This form is no longer available.

+ KEY STATISTICS AND FACTS ABOUT SOLAR PARKS

+ UNDERSTANDING SOLAR

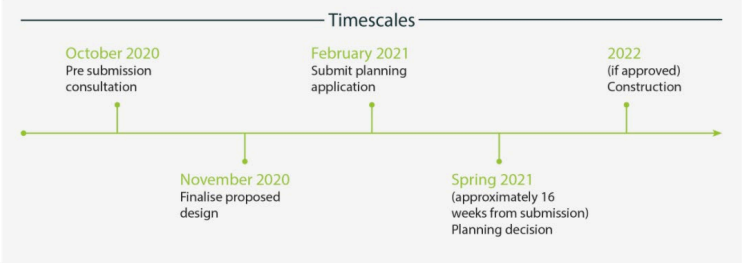
Talk To Us: 01458 224900

35 and 35a The Maltings
Lower Charlton Trading Estate
Shepton Mallet, Somerset, BA4 5QE
info@bsrenergy.com

Links

Privacy Policy
Cookie Policy
Accreditations
Contact Us

BSR Energy
British Solar Renewables



Appendix 5: Comments received re feedback form question 4

COMMENTS
Our farmland and soil is being devastated by profit focussed farming. This needs to be reversed
The environmental costs of producing solar panels in a bio friendly way, limited climate impact way are unclear
The return on investment and impact of the power generated for the community is not clear therefore the benefits don't necessarily outweigh the costs
Why is this only a temporary development?
We think that brownfield sites should be used first
I am in favour of green energy
My concerns are flooding and construction traffic through the village of Hazelbury Bryan, this area floods quickly, particularly concerned about the river bridge at Kings Stag and at the bottom of Pleck Hill
Does it need to be this large?
This is a huge project at a time when consultation is obviously difficult.
The visual effect cannot be fully screened and is going to be considerable
Please provide detail of how the proposed 132KV substation will be connected to the National Grid
If the existing overhead lines are used please provide details of necessary, work to upgrade the system
The site is very large, what portion would be covered by panels?
The leaflet speaks of temporary development, how long and what will follow?
The leaflet speaks of protected landscape...affected - but the whole vale is an area of outstanding natural beauty
What special benefits would accrue to local people?
No time limits
No discussion on construction issues
Too big
Impact on landscape
No mention of how power is distributed pylons etc
Maintenance issues
Construction timings
Pay back issues
This is a waste of agricultural land, which should be used for milk + cereal production
This is a totally unsuitable site because of the access problems
Dorset council, when we applied for permission to move from one Brown site to another brown site in Pulham we were met by innumerable objections but eventually common sense prevailed so we hope those objectors will do so again against this monstrosity of an application on a green field site of good agricultural land which if granted will be a blot on the landscape, let alone the financial impact it will have on the properties in close proximity to this eyesore of an application. We sincerely hope Dorset Council will again use common sense and refuse this application. We both strongly object.
The visual contact from Bulbarrow Hill (second highest viewpoint will be enormous and the spoil the visual impact of wonderful views. While there is a potential financial impact, but there are no proposals to let the area have a cut of the profit that the company will get. Most schemes are proposed on sites that do not create such a visual impact. This area is outstanding natural beauty and such visual impact would be lost on the landscape and viewed for many years in the future
In an are of natural beauty this Solar Park will be an unnecessary blot on the landscape
Concerned about the footpaths. I enjoy walking my dog, will this change?

The proposed area industrialises an extensive area of good arable land. The proposed area is immense, affecting the countryside which supports a high range of wildlife flora and fauna
Local roads are already heavily used by farm equipment
The are no benefits to the local community
what is meant by temporary development?
Many footpaths cross these fields - how is it possible to say these will not be affectd when the installation is so dense
These panels would be fixed by concrete plinths, which would not allow sufficient drainage
This area is a military flight path, aircraft could be affected by light refraction dangers on military exercises
This huge installation would set a precedent encouraging other landowners to pursue this opportunity which would completely destroy our countryside
Property values in the village could be adversely affected by the negative impact of the installation on our beautiful area
We would like to register our disappointment regarding the quality of the literature provided by the Company. The maps provided are deceptive and the drawing is not to scale and impossible to read.
Site safety, will this mean some kind of large security fencing
How will the panels be cleaned?
I am in favour of both solar farms and wind farms. We need to rid ourselves of the need for fossil fuels asap
Although an area of natural beauty, this part of the Blackmore Vale is not as important as from a natural history wildlife viewpoint, as there are specified SSI's along the Vale
It does provide a wildlife corridor which I hope you can continue to provide by planting wild hedges & room for deer to pass through
The birdlife is not great here (compared with other areas nearby that are already protected), as the land has been 'improved' and wild flower meadows do not exist. If grazing and planting of appropriate animals (sheep preferably) and wildflower areas does happen as promised, I am very much in favour as we need renewable energy and should avoid nimbyism
I welcome this plan and would object if it was permanent. We need more of these schemes. Global warming is very real and we must react now.
The viability in terms of generation cost per KWH is now well proven. Solar when scaled up is a successful energy alternative. The land is not presently in the best condition, or with changing food requirements, that easily adapted. It seems to me that the scheme will be a very significant uplift to the landowner's portfolio. The impact on the local population should be neutral except for the visual impact. However I notice that there is a possibility of installing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). This makes sense in terms of base load management and, I feel is an opportunity for the developer, the council the government and residents to benefit from the possibility of installing domestic scale BESS (powerwalls) to properties adjacent to these solar parks the park already has a 132 KV grid tie, via an onsite substation. Surely local supply could be arranged via various means to allow locally generated solar power without the need to instal relatively expensive domestic panels. This could also be developed in anticipation of more electric transport and the additional advantages of vehicle to grid systems.
Provided the landscaping is actually carried out, the meadow is planted, and the solar panels are maintained and always fully functioning then you have my full support
Fully in favour of renewable energy
Your application has been sprung on local people with little time for them to react
The operation seems excessively large
Will there be unsightly pylons?
The proposed access via Canings Ct Lane is unsuitable both during and after construction, being single track with huge verges and no passing places. It is used by horse riders, dog walkers and pedestrians (often with prams) in accessing the footpath & bridleway network.
Lorries would have to negotiate an already dangerous junction, passing residences, within inches in some cases and with no pavements for the many pedestrians who already use the route.
The brochure and website, state that preferred sites should be 'free of large trees and shrubs or anything that might create large periods of shade' yet yet state that screening by hedges will create minimal visibility.

Hazelbury is at a higher level than the proposed site meaning that the site will be highly visible from the village. A brownfield site would be preferable.
While being in favour of solar and wind energy to combat climate change this site is totally unsuitable as it is good farm land
The runoff in wet weather could cause the river Lydden to flood more than it does now, flooding properties and roads in Kings Stay. It would affect the visual amenity of the surrounding hills which are a tourist site
The proposed development of a solar park comprising 186 acres of prime agricultural land in the heart of the Blackmore vale is huge over development and inaproppriate in this area
Cannings Court Lane is totally unsuitable as access to this site
This is a gigantic industrial scale potential blight on this beautiful neighbourhood. And for what? Making money for a farmer who ought to be producing food
The views to the west from the western and northern parts of the village will be blighted by a vast area of ugly solar panels.
This village was once voted the most sought-after village in England, well it won't be if this project goes ahead
Will the footpaths be protected?
Flooding as a result of this scheme is inevitable, but no doubt you will have an army of risk lawyers ready to fend off any future claims against you
The proposed development is too large for this area
It was unclear from the maps as to the roads and buildings proximity to the solar panels
The proposed higher hedges wont helpd Hazel Bury Bryan residents whose views will be blighted as they will be looking down on the large area
Bad site for solar, this is an area of natural beauty. See Hazelbury Bryan neighbourhood plan
All recent planning applications that have involved adversely affecting the beautiful countryside have been rejected. Hopefully this one will be too.
This will become yet another blot on our threatened landscape. I note with cynical amusement that it is carefully managed to be just outside the designated AONB, but it will be perfectly visible from Bulbarrow. So much for the AONB. This can only detract from the local landscape - an ugly scar as anyone can see - these panels are ugly enough on the roofs of neighbours houses
It will be in open countryside not in keeping with the local surroundings
visually unacceptable, a scar on the landscape
Negative impact on wildlife
should be constructed on a brownfield site or panels constructed on new build houses
Properties nearby will be affected by the negative visual impact
Site proposal is far too big for the area
Green power should not be on green field sites.
Green energy should preserve our countryside + the eco system. Soil erosion unsightly fencing, cameras, threat to wildlife are not green.
It will create significant traffic + noise during construction with no benefit to the local community
My wife and I are generally in favour of solar farms, provided they are located in the right place. They are much more preferable than wind farms. I am concerned about the site itself. The river Lydden is prone to flooding and the land, on which it is proposed to site the panels is already prone to flooding. If development of the site means that more rain 'run off' will occur, the flooding of the river will only get worse, which may adversely, which may adversely affect those with houses downstream of the site.
Carrington Ct Lane is entirely unsuitable for access to the site during the development stage. Appx 7.6 of The Preliminary Traffic Appraisal (page 1 of 5) para 2.2.1 states "Cannings Court Lane is on average some 3m in width and provided with a single formal as well as a number of informal passing places along its length'. This statement is disingenuous. The so called formal passing place is only 5m wide and does not allow the passing of 2 large vehicles. The informal passing places in the main are people's driveways. Most families in the village us CC lane as a safe place to exercise their dogs and to walk with their children. It might be cheap and convenient to use CCL but it is vital that a new access road is built to access the site from the east, should the application be approved.

We live on and operate a dairy farm approximately one mile downstream from the proposed site. Our only access is via a council road over the river Lydden that is prone to serious flooding. Historically we knew that our access would become impassable about 8 hours after the onset of heavy rain. Over the years this has reduced to about 6 hours. We feel that this is, at least partly, due to increasingly rapid drainage from developments upstream from us. Any further speeding up of the rate that the river rises will make our business difficult to operate. We rely on a milk tanker collection every day and much as the haulage company try to help us they do require several hours' notice to change collection time. I have watched the video of your Zoom meeting and I am not convinced by your assurances concerning flooding. Could you please clarify what will happen to the run-off from the panels. I appreciate that no more rain will fall on the site than before, but if this is concentrated into small areas there is no chance that the impermeable clay soil of the site will absorb this and to my mind rapid run-off into the Lydden is inevitable. What, if anything is planned to mitigate this?
Rural north Dorset is reliant on its natural beauty for the local economy. How will it help the hundreds of local businesses reliant on tourists if they gaze, not on beautiful natural landscapes, but acres of solar panelling. Many visitors stay in holiday lets, walk the paths, cycle, stop at cafes and pubs which being so rural, rely on these tourists. The size is a huge concern, approx. 140 football pitches. The rural scene of crops, greenery, seasonal changes in nature etc are why visitors come here and why we live here. To replace this by a sea of glass is totally inappropriate. Who benefits and where? It will also affect the mental wellbeing of hundreds of local inhabitants if, instead of the solace of natural landscape, they're confronted not with a beautiful natural landscape of fields marked by centuries-old hedging, but by solar panels. Since Covid restrictions have been in place since the initial scant public engagement, the consultation process has been very limited.
While being in favour of solar parks, I do think that the access road being proposed is unsuitable for HGV traffic. I did listen to the webinar and think that alternative access points need to be considered.
Totally inappropriate location in the Blackmore Vale
1.clarify the location of the 13,000 homes to benefit from the scheme are located and how serviced? 2. You state 'Local' renewable energy supply - is this just Dorset or neighbouring settlements. 3. You state that the proposal will be a 'temporary development' - how long and what happens to the land after the solar period? 4. Who owns the land following planning consent? 5. what 'agricultural' use of the land will continue while the solar park is insitu ? 6. Area of land proposed for the solar park 76ha - does this include the battery storage, access roads, landscaping etc. ?
The development of renewable energy sources is desirable but the proposal raises the following concerns: - insufficient evidence that it benefits biodiversity, as the actions being considered to enhance biodiversity are modest and no evidence is provided that independent conservation organisations with local knowledge (e.g. Dorset Wildlife Trust) have been consulted; - the scale of the proposal will inevitably have an impact on the local landscape, which is very close to the AONB. More evidence and better engagement with the local community on these issues is required. If this is not provided, the local community is likely to be opposed to this proposal at the planning stage.
Having read the brochure and backing material, I am very concerned by the highly detrimental landscape impact of the proposed development. It would turn approximately 9% of Mappowder Parish into a brownfield industrial site. The many footpaths in the vicinity would have views not of one of the most beautiful rural areas in southern England but of fields ringed with security fences and CCTV camera poles. Further afield there are many wonderful views of the area that would be blighted - White Hill footpath N52/6 is just one example. I am not against appropriately scaled solar parks in areas of no landscape value (next to main roads or adjacent to industrial parks) but this development would turn Hardy's Vale of the Little Dairies into the Vale of the Very Large Solar Park. The Blackmore Vale would no longer feature amongst the finest walks in the country as it did recently in the Times. It is imperative the council conduct and Environmental Impact Assessment.
Dear reader, Please find here some of the many points I would like to raise.

I find the leaflet of BSR Energy very misleading and not at all complete (for one thing the two pictures about the sheep are ridiculous and the map seems to be taken from the moon). As far as my knowledge goes the trial of sheep around solar panels is in an early stage and the understanding of its impact as yet very limited. And to continue with the ecological side: the leaflet talks about 'wild flowers and wild bird-seed and a range of breeding boxes for bats and birds' are 'considered as part of the application'. Now what I have read is that solar cells are killing bats and birds and insects as they think the panels are water and die when they come down on the panels when in need of a drink. We are also not told in the leaflet: 1. What kind of panels BSR has in mind to use: PV or SCP perovskites, 2. How high the panels will be mounted. 3. Water use and also the contrary: the chance of flooding since all those panels have to be concreted into the soil. (We suffer already from a lot of floods at Povert Bridge.) 4. Where the panels will be made (not in China, I hope). 5. Infrastructure (how big will that substation be and how high and how will it be connected to a non-substation); underground I hope. 6. How long will it take to build and how many lorries will disturb our relatively peaceful environment (Peaceful Lane is not far from Cannings Court lane). 7. Why BSR thinks it will 'enhance' the biodiversity: there is no scientific support for this at the moment. 8. in what state after 30 years they will leave the farm and where will they dump all the materials. 9. what will the net difference be between the amount of energy used to mine the materials, make the panels, install the plant with the transport of hundreds of lorrie-loads and keep it going. 10. that cadmium telluride might leak out of the cells. 12. If a solar farm of this size will have an influence or our local micro climate? 11 What kind of farming currently is going on: livestock, vegetable crops or mixed. Is the land fertile and would it be a waste not to farm it properly. (the solar farm if I understand it rightly will take up almost 9 per cent of the land within the boundaries of Mappowder.) I know the farm is called North Dairy Farm, but that could be an old name and the use of the land changed in the meantime as has happened in the Vale very much recently. Last but not least: why was this leaflet sent out so late; one is barely given the time to inform oneself and to think about the proposal properly.
Why has this particular area of outstanding natural beauty been chosen when the village already has a solar park? Also, why such a large acreage?
I consider this proposed development of a solar farm comprising approximately 188 acres to be an extreme overdevelopment of prime farmland in the heart of the Blackmore Vale, which will impact negatively on local residents, visitors to the area and on the surrounding countryside.
I'm in favour of solar development, because it's a renewable source of energy, but this proposal is on a huge scale (among the biggest of all your solar parks, I see from the BSR website). This makes it very obvious as a landscape feature, and takes a lot of agricultural land out of use. I'm not convinced that the matter of streams and other water courses has been safely thought out.
This is Agricultural Land in a pleasant rural area. Are there no brownfield sites?
There has been very little information supplied about the scheme and little time to react ahead of the consultation meeting. I would suggest much more information needs to be shared specifically about what the equipment will look like in situ, including a mock-up which is easily produced showing the installation from the various vantage points affected. It is hard for residents to imagine the scale of this proposal and the impact on the landscape without that. Based on the limited detail shared to date, I believe the scheme is proposed to be in an entirely inappropriate setting. This is a rural and unspoilt area in the historic Blackmore Vale on the edge of the Dorset AONB. The impact on the landscape and amenity value will be very negative.

What funds and allowances are provided for demolition and restoration of this "temporary" installation including foundations; when will removal occur. The 132kv substation is ~1Km South of a switching substation: what new HV overhead cabling will be used. How many construction delivery lorries over what period and maximum dimensions and weights. What maintenance traffic will be required to inspect and service especially the BESS and what arrangements for disposal of pollutants. What size of cranes will be used and for how long. Site size is excessive with no evidence of use of land contours to minimise visual impact. Is Chinese sourcing of panels and electronics avoided? Brochure is deceitful: shading will discourage plant growth under panels and simultaneous use for sheep. There seems to be no benefit to local community with only uncompensated downsides.
You haven't made it clear where the panels will be sighted nor the ground coverage. The maps in the web site don't convey much useful info. Specifically I am very concerned about the installation spoiling a part of the locality which is famous for its beauty. I.e Blackmore Vale. Why not site the panels on a brown field site? Please also show how you intend to blend the site in to the surroundings and also talk about noise and light pollution both during the day and night. I'd also like to know how this will benefit the local population not just a sweeping declaration of the benefit to the environment .. important tho this is.
I have no comments at this time, as this is a pre-application process. I would rather give detailed comments, against fuller application details, once this has been made available.
We are all aware of climate change and the increase of rainfall locally. Your plans to mitigate for ever increasing rainfall put people and property at risk. What fund will be put aside for any such Eventuality, has such a fund been considered, has the risk and dangers locally been genuinely considered.? Such an intrusive site will not assist local diversity but may in fact cause a decline in species.
We all want clean, renewable energy but we should be seeking sites that no-one will miss, not large areas of beautiful rural landscape such as this. It appears the site will be well screened from the low areas to the North, West and East where there are few residents. But the highest population locally is Hazelbury Bryan which overlooks the whole site from the top of a hill to the East. There are many downsides to living in our rural village; little employment, few amenities and minimal public services. We accept these sacrifices for the joy of living in an unspoilt landscape which you propose to cover with ugly panels with no benefit to us. Also, the vale around the River Lydden has a very fragile drainage system which frequently floods and occasionally makes the roads impassable at Kings Stag Bridge and Povert Bridge. This leaves hundreds of homes and several businesses cut off from the West. There is significant local concern that the proposed solar park could disrupt drainage.
While I agree with the sentiment of a solar farm, positioning of such a facility should take into account the visual impact, not just from the location but for example the higher viewpoints of the Blackmore Vale (such as the ridge line road above Cerne Abbas). The area is currently an unspoilt patchwork of fields with continuous ancient hedgerows providing safe corridors for wildlife (including dormice and hedgehogs). Any disruption to this historical land use will negatively affect the local ecology and reduce species habitats.
I would strongly oppose this. The Blackmoor Vale is an area of outstanding natural beauty and a haven for wildlife. The landscape until recently has remained unchanged for many centuries. We have already seen the loss of a lot of greenfield sites to fulfil housing needs. To lose a large expanse of agricultural land would fundamentally alter the nature of the surrounding area. A brownfield site would be a much better option.
No mention has been made with reference to the stewardship of this 30 year project. No mention with regard to flooding on some of the land to be used and the surrounding roads and homes. No mention regarding benefits to the community. What will be put in place to support wildlife and how will this be managed.
Environmental and flooding issues are not clearly identified and explained. The project is on an industrial scale for this beautiful and unspoilt area. Wildlife concerns are not fully explored. There appears to be zero community benefits. What guarantees are there over claims of work to be done on hedging wildlife assists etc. What happens at the end of 30 years? Who is responsible?
This is an appalling application for a sea of PV panels stretching as far as the eye can see into one of the finest rural views in Dorset. the village of Hazelbury Bryan will be dominated by the sight of this forever. The application is a pure grab for cash and has little to do with anything ' Green' given that PV produces electricity at precisely the point of lowest demand and is therefore both wasteful and inconsistent. The application is beyond all reasonable scale for the Blackmore Vale and will not provide any local benefit other than to the developer and landowner taking government subsidies to generate profit whilst any

power is passed to the grid and is not directed locally - main beneficiaries will be city dwellers far from these parts whilst Dorset takes all the environmental destruction, loss of wildlife habitat and agricultural productivity that rests with the land currently. This application shows a patent disregard for local people and the environment.
Whilst I am very concerned about looking after our planet I also see great necessity to hold onto our beautiful landscapes and agricultural lands for the Benefit if it's of humans and wildlife alike. I will be observing very closely how you intend to look after these aspects at the meeting. We live at the top of silly Hill and have a view across the Blackmore Vale which incorporates North Dairy Farm. We have been told that the Solar Farm will be lit up at night if this is the case I have to beg the question Why ???? It will complete destroy the night sky's as well as, disturbing wild life having lights on all the time. I am completely against the solar farm being lit up at night this can not and must not happen !!!!!
The placing of the solar panels will cause extra run off from rain fall as the land underneath the panels will stay largely dry . The strips of land in between the panels will not be able to absorb the excess water , therefore this water will form rivulets that will naturally run into the River Lydden . There are already flood issues at Kingstag & Povert Bridge , along Stoke Lane a number of times emergency services have had to be called to rescue people from on top Of their cars due to deep flooding. The excess water caused by the panels will only exacerbate these floods & cause major inconvenience to the residents of Mappowder of whom I am one . All of the other lanes leading into the village experience flooding too. Will BSR Energy be carrying out a flood liability survey ?
I have numbered the above with one big concern in mind. Should there be extra flooding due to rain water landing on 123 acres of hard surfaced panels causing the rain to rapidly cascade off and overwhelm the rivers and bridges rather than be soaked up by the current farm land before making it's way as it does now into the ditches and rivers. I think we would all like assurance that this possible effect is studied and that the company will be held responsible for any measures that need to be built to prevent this effect. I would also like assurance that there will be no residual noise post construction from the panel setup.
This development could not be in a worse location being in the valley of the Blackmore Vale meaning that it will have a disastrous impact visually on this area of outstanding beauty. Although I support the development of green energy developments like this, they need to be positioned in brown field sites preferably alongside industrial areas or major roads when the visual Impact and spoiling of agricultural land would be minimised.
You should offer some benefit to households in the surrounding villages. My preference would be to gift them Tesla Power Walls or other battery. Would this assist your power management? You could offer smart meters and cheaper electricity when your generation can be matched with our consumption. Octopus Energy operate such a scheme in partnership with energy local at several sites around the country based on specific renewable generators.
You have not provided information on any glare associated with you farm (a likely glare arc from the sun throughout the day would be useful) nor is there any indication on how long it will take to build. All of your literature highlights the benefits, are there no adverse implications? What is the size and height of the sub-station, how is the electricity off boarded and will we see additional pylons? Will there be any lights during the evening, will these be only during construction or are they permanent? In short, all in all, your information is this a bit thin and only supports your very rosy view and only undermines your credibility-come on, I thought you would be better than that.
From the diagram I remain unsure if the perimeter nearest me is planned to be a fence or a hedge or both. If a hedge, I'd like to know the details. I have not seen the promised brochure.
Development is far too large for the area. In juxtaposition with the landscape. In my opinion these 'farms' need to be next to a motorway or on a brownfield site not in the middle of unspoilt countryside.

Appendix 6: Consultation Advert

North Dairy Farm Solar Park

BSR Energy

BSR Energy is preparing to submit a planning application to Dorset Council for a solar park and battery storage facility area on land at North Dairy Farm, Pulham, Dorchester, DT2 7EA.

The solar park would have an approximate design capacity of 49.99 MW and would generate an estimated 49,500 MWh of clean, renewable and sustainable electricity per year. This is equivalent to the annual electrical needs of approx. 13,000 family homes.

Our proposals also include plans to enable the future construction of a battery storage system that will supply electricity to the local electricity network at times of peak energy demand.

You are invited to attend our virtual public consultation webinar and Q&A event at which you can view our plans, learn more about our proposals and talk to the project team.

We're holding our virtual public consultation webinar and Q&A event on:

Thursday 29th October 2020 5pm-7pm

You can register to attend our event by visiting our website www.bsrenergy.com/north-dairy-farm/ and completing the registration form.

Appendix 7: Local Resident Update

North Dairy Farm
Solar Park

BSR Energy

Dear resident,

On behalf of BSR Energy I would like to thank you for your involvement in our recent programme of consultation with regards to our proposed Solar Park at North Dairy Farm.

I wanted to get back in touch, to let you know that we are currently exploring a number of design options, and the potential use of alternative PV technology as part of our proposal. This means that we will now be submitting a planning application later than we had planned, we now anticipate submitting a planning application in early 2021.

Furthermore, I wanted to provide you with (1) an overview of the information you have provided us with (the results of the consultation to date) and (2) more information on a number of issues that were raised frequently during the consultation period.

Once again, thank you for your involvement in the consultation process to date.

Colin Ramsay
Head of Development at BSR Energy

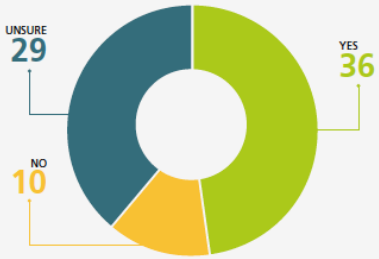
1 THE RESULTS OF THE CONSULTATION

Feedback forms

The development team received 38 completed feedback forms via post and 37 online. The results have been combined and are presented below.

The brochure feedback form and post webinar survey included identical questions, four multiple choice tick box questions, a comment section for question four and a space for additional comments.

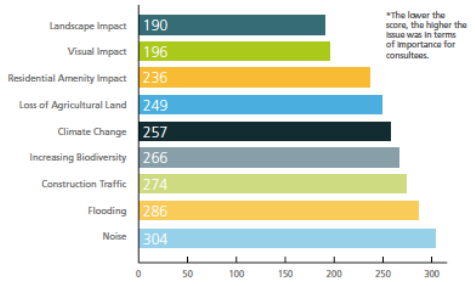
QUESTION ONE: Has this local resident brochure/webinar been helpful in understanding our proposal?



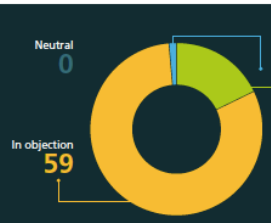
BSR Energy

QUESTION TWO: What is the most important issue to you about our proposal, where 1 is of highest importance and 9 is of least importance?

The table below collates the responses and ranks them in their order of concern as expressed by attendees, it reveals that landscape impact and visual impact were the two main concerns expressed by attendees.



QUESTION THREE: With regards to the proposals you have read/ heard about, are you:



2 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

During the consultation process a number of respondents asked for further information on specific issues, often the same question was raised by more than one respondent. The following are a number of the questions that were raised during the consultation, and our answers to them.

1. Why is this only a temporary development?

It is typical that Solar Parks are temporary structures. This is so that planning conditions on any planning permission can be used by the Council to ensure that it is removed when no longer in use and the land is restored to what it was before. Any temporary planning permission makes it no more likely in planning law that the site will be developed for housing or other non-renewable uses in the future.

2. Does it need to be this large?

The truth is that today, in order for a Solar Park to be commercially viable in a subsidy free environment, it needs to be large scale in order to repay the significant cost of connection to the grid.

3. The site is very large, what portion would be covered by panels?

The proposed red line area for the development includes areas of land that will not be covered by panels. The areas not proposed to be covered by panels are being left untouched as they are impacted by flood zones or are areas assigned for biodiversity improvements. The approximate area covered by panels is 61Ha. Following the consultation and review of the concerns received from the local community regarding the size of the solar park, we have re-looked at the layout and we are confident that we can reduce the size of the area covered by panels by at least 5%. The development red line area will be maintained with the additional land areas being made available for biodiversity improvements.

4. Will it be noisy?

Solar farms are not typically noisy developments. A full noise impact assessment will be undertaken and submitted with the planning application and it is not expected to find any significant noise impacts. There will of course be some noise during the construction process, but after that, very little. The preliminary noise report that formed part of our previously submitted EIA screening assessment can be found here.

5. Is this a waste of valuable agricultural land?

Our studies have found that the quality of agricultural land at the site is limited mainly by soil wetness to Subgrade 3b and Grade 4. For more information, please read the Agricultural Land Classification report that formed part of our previously submitted EIA screening assessment.

6. I enjoy using the footpaths across the site, what will happen to them?

No public rights of way will be closed during or after construction of the solar park. Opportunities are being taken to enhance the amenity value of footpaths through wildflower planting, hedgerows and interpretation boards explaining the benefits of solar power including to the local wildlife.

7. How will the panels be cleaned?

Typically, panels are given an annual clean by a rotary brush cleaner mounted on the back of a tractor. In addition, if the performance of some panels are noted as low then a team may be sent to the park to spot clean the relevant panels to remove any dirt (typically bird droppings) from the panels.

8. Will there be pylons?

The Solar Park does not require the use of additional pylons. The existing pylon will be replaced by a pylon of similar appearance but of increased structural strength to accommodate the connection from the solar park.

9. Why are you proposing to access the site via Cannings Court Lane?

Traffic arriving and departing from the site from the potential access option via Pleck Hill.

The review found that neither a northern approach route (A303) nor a southern approach (A35) would be deemed more suitable than via Cannings Court Lane due to a number of reasons including:

- Existing weight restrictions for road bridges;
- Pleck Hill is a through-route for traffic as is the rest of the potential route;
- Due to Pleck Hill constraints (unsuitable for wide vehicles) a 7km diversion further south through a network of narrow rural lanes is required;
- Requires HGV / plant to navigate narrow rural roads;
- Requires direct access via the village of Hazelbury Bryan or Mappowder; and
- Limited existing lay-by to offer a staging location for HGVs arriving to the site.

The review concluded that the access via Cannings Court Lane is the most suitable to serve the development site due to:

- Offers a direct A & B road route to the development site from Strategic Road Network;
- Large / wide HGVs can suitably access Cannings Court Lane from the B3143;
- Swept path analysis for a max. road legal vehicle along Cannings Court Lane can be accommodated;
- Whilst Cannings Court Lane is narrow, a suitable temporary traffic management system would be implemented to deal with arrivals and departures of HGVs such as vehicle staging, radio-arrivals, banksmen, signage, liaison with local residents;
- Arrivals and departures would be agreed to be outside typical road network peak periods; and
- No identified road structures, which could prohibit HGV movement due to weight or height restrictions.

10. Won't the Solar Park make flooding even worse?

We do not believe that the Solar Park will make flooding worse. We have conducted a preliminary flood risk report that formed part of our previously submitted EIA screening assessment, which you can read in full here. The report states that:

"the majority of the site has a very low surface water flood risk with some areas of low to high surface water flood risk associated with watercourses and isolated ponding. However, the solar panels would be elevated on framework significantly above ground level and, therefore, would not impede any surface water flow paths or displace any ponding of surface water"

11. You're going to ruin the views from the western and northern parts of the village, won't you?

The proposals will be subject to a detailed landscape and visual impact assessment, a preliminary study that formed part our previously submitted EIA screening assessment can be found here. With careful design and mitigation planting we believe such impacts can be minimised to acceptable levels whilst allowing for the delivery of the renewable energy benefits. We are living in a time of Climate Emergency and reducing carbon emission through the use of renewable energy in appropriately sited locations is strongly supported by both national and local planning policy.

We've undertaken an extensive review of potential viewpoints, a number of these viewpoints were created upon request by the Parish Council and from attendees on the consultation webinar. You can find the images associated with these viewpoints here.

12. Why not go on a brownfield site?

We understand why many people would prefer for Solar Parks to be developed on brownfield sites, however brownfield is extremely expensive owing to its development value for residential or commercial projects. Solar Parks are simply priced out of contention. There are very limited opportunities for large scale solar on brownfield sites.

13. Will local properties be able to use the renewable energy produced?

Unfortunately, this is not possible in the UK at the moment.

14. What type of panels are you proposing to use?

The design is based on Monocrystalline Solar PV modules

15. How long will it take to build?

We anticipate a construction period of approximately 6 months.

16. How many lorries will be required during construction?

During the first four weeks of pre-construction some 80 two-way HGV movements would occur, which equates to 12-13 two-way HGV movements per day. Following pre-construction, the main construction phase is anticipated to last four months. HGV movements would be typically be in the region of 8-10 two-way movements per day. The Preliminary Traffic and Access Statement, which was submitted with as part of our EIA screening assessment, can be viewed here.

17. Won't a solar farm of this size make an impact on our local climate?

To the very best of our knowledge, there is no evidence to suggest it will.

Please note a recording of the consultation webinar can be found here.