

WHY THIS LOCATION?

There are a number of important factors why we are proposing a solar farm at this location:

● HIGH IRRADIANCE

South Dorset benefits from some of the highest levels of sunshine (solar irradiance) in the UK. This means that installing a solar farm here helps to maximise its productivity – for example an identical solar farm located in Manchester would generate 24% less renewable electricity.

● GRID CONNECTION 'NEXT DOOR'



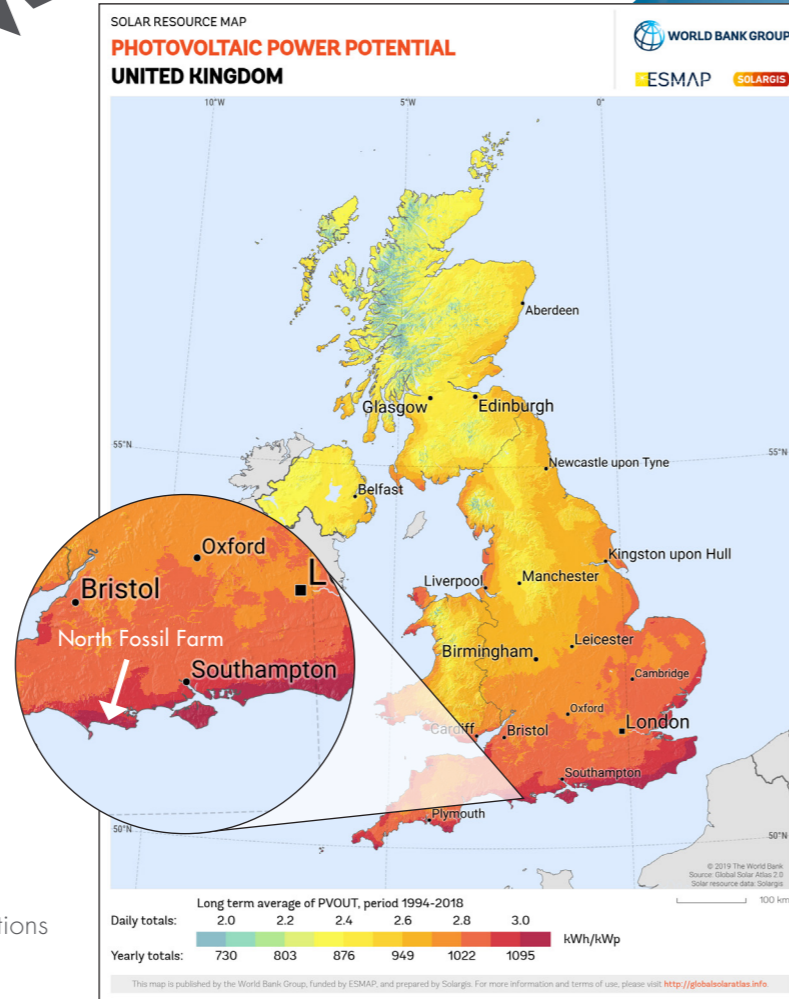
One of the most important considerations when siting new electricity generators is being able to make a cost-effective grid connection. These opportunities are

few and far between as grid connections often require prohibitively expensive network upgrades.

As the Winfrith Atomic Energy Establishment is decommissioned, it creates 'space' at the nearby Winfrith Heath substation to 'plug in' new electricity generation. This presents a rare opportunity to make an economically viable grid connection to the electricity grid. We hope our project will continue the legacy of cutting-edge, clean energy production in the Purbecks.

● FEW CONSTRAINTS

As we plan our projects, we aim to identify sites that have minimal impact on factors such as local amenity, heritage, agriculture, landscape, transport etc. Introducing any change creates impacts however through our assessments, we think that North Fossil farm offers the most appropriate location for a solar farm of land available locally. The following boards/slides explain further about the site's suitability.



● BIG ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS

North Fossil farm is very close to the internationally significant Tadnoll and Winfrith Heath nature reserves. As the site has been subject to intensive agriculture for many years, the ecological value within the site is low and the chemical inputs that modern farming uses run off into the local water-table which has a detrimental effect on wildlife beyond the site, including the nature reserves.

The ecological recovery and enhancements that can be delivered through our proposal will not only bring benefit to wildlife within the site but also to the neighbouring nature reserves, even reducing environmental pressure on the river catchments flowing to Poole Harbour. Find more detail about these benefits on our Nature and Water pages.



WHY DO WE NEED MORE SOLAR FARMS?

The short answer is we have to address man-made climate change. Switching our energy system to renewables, including solar power, is one of the quickest most effective ways to this.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND GREEN RECOVERY

In October 2018 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C, finding that limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society. With clear benefits to people and natural ecosystems, the report found that limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C could go hand in hand with ensuring a more sustainable and equitable society. While previous estimates focused on estimating the damage if average temperatures were to rise by 2°C, this report shows that many of the adverse impacts of climate change will come at the 1.5°C mark.

In 2019 the UK government declared a climate emergency and has committed to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. Dorset Council has declared a climate and ecological emergency and recently announced their goal to become carbon neutral by 2040.

Our projects support the transition to a low-carbon future for both Dorset and the UK. Importantly, solar farms are quick to deploy, are low impact and low cost:

- It takes under 2 years to plan a project, install it and start generating renewable energy
- All the land within the solar farm can be used to enhance and benefit wildlife – helping to address the ecological emergency
- Solar farms are economically viable without any government subsidy, so there is no burden on the tax-payer.



PROJECTS SUCH AS WE ARE PROPOSING AT NORTH FOSSIL FARM ARE CRITICAL TO DELIVER A LOW-CARBON FUTURE FOR DORSET AND THE UK AND HELP AVOID THE WORST EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

The COVID pandemic remains a major challenge – but it presents us with an opportunity: we can choose a green recovery and build back better, to help combat climate change.

