



RWE

Butterfly Solar Farm

Consultation feedback form

February
2025

Our proposals

Butterfly Solar Farm would be located to the south of Wrexham, adjacent to the A483, and between Johnstown to the west and Bangor on Dee in the East.

The proposed solar farm will generate enough clean, affordable renewable electricity to meet the equivalent needs of over 33,500 Welsh homes, and save over 2.2 million tonnes of CO₂. The proposals would also deliver a 50%+ biodiversity net gain through the creation of over 30 acres of new wildflower meadow, and 10km of new native tree/hedge planting.

Providing your feedback

Please use this feedback form to respond to our consultation. Complete as many sections of this feedback form as you would like and send it back to us using any of the methods listed below:



In-person

by handing it to a member of the project team or placing it in the feedback form box at a consultation event.



By post

Butterfly Consultation,
RWE,
14 Bird Street,
W1U 1BU,
London



Email

scan a copy of your completed form and email it to us at
info@butterflysolarfarm.co.uk

The deadline for submitting feedback to this consultation is **3rd March 2025**.



About You:

Name Shaun Jones - Locum Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer
Organisation (if applicable) Marchwiel Community Council
Address The Granary, Trevor, LLANGOLLEN
Postcode LL20 7UN
Email address clerk@marchwiel.org.uk
Phone number 07871 634941

1. Please help us understand a little bit about you?

- ☐ Local resident ☒ Local representative ☐ Landowner ☐ Work locally
☐ Regularly visit the area ☐ Other (please specify)

The Need for the Project:

2. What are your general views on solar farms and renewable energy?

If the location of a solar farm is appropriate eg. brown field/industrial/away from residential/visual blight avoided then we agree the principal of solar energy as part of the net zero journey.

3. What is your overall opinion on the Butterfly Solar Farm development?

Choose from 1-5

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 - Strongly Support | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 - Support | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 - Neutral | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 - Object | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 - Strongly Object | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

3a. What are the reasons for the answer above?

Marchwiel Community Council members representing their community gives the following reasons:-

- change of use/industrialisation of a rural area - traditional and rural/agricultural use to industrial.
- removal of quality agricultural land.
- extensive visual blight in a rural setting.
- insufficient mitigation - directly affected residential and visitor/tourism based business e.g. Plassey Holiday Park.
- construction project - road access extremely poor and noise with homes and schools affected.

Benefits:

4. We are proposing an area of the solar farm for community use. How would you like to see this space utilised?

Here we find the proposal inadequate and not well thought through. It is our understanding that access from a footpath is the only access to the designated area. This really limits the use to only the able bodied who can walk significant distance. Having no provision for the cycle or car user is preventing a large percentage of the community from visiting. Should this be the case we imagine the proposed area will fall into neglect very quickly.

We would imagine a green space where visitors can interact with nature - like a sensory garden. Provision for visitors who bring a picnic and/or a public BBQ to host a sausage sizzle - waste bin provision including food waste. Shady area, ball and recreational games area, children's adventure play zone and seating throughout.

5. We are dedicating a community benefit fund of c. £1,500,000 to support local sustainability initiatives. What types of projects would you like to see supported?

It is our understanding that the amount stated is over the 40 year lifespan of the solar farm. £37,500.00 would be the annual figure. We are unsure how this community benefit fund is to be administered. As a grant giving body, like the nearby landfill site at Pen-y-Bont, community organisations within a limited radius of the solar farm would be eligible to apply for grants. Local community councils were able to fund the installation of new play equipment using the land-fill grants for example. Chirk Town Council received a grant of £80,000.00. With the proposed annual amount the offer of grants may have to be limited to a three year cycle if significant financial support is thought better than annual grants in the £500 to £5,000 range. Project types - Marchwiel Marsh - Nature Reserve, Youth Projects, Community Events and biodiversity projects - tree planting.

Communications:

6. How satisfied are you with the level of communication from RWE?

Choose from 1-5

1 - Very Satisfied

☐

2 - Satisfied

☐

3 - Neutral

☐

4 - Unsatisfied

☐

5 - Very Unsatisfied

☒

7. Do you have any suggestions on how we could improve our engagement with the community?

- poor reach to affected residents
- misleading information
- bias away from negative aspects of the project - e.g. battery storage
- implication of benefit having green energy overstated.

Final Thoughts:

8. Do you have any additional comments or feedback about the solar farm development?

- Why is the proposed solar farm so big ? Shotwick Solar Park located in Flintshire is currently the biggest in the UK at 72.2 megawatts peak and Butterfly is 38% higher output.
- More detailed information on the security fencing - use more trees/hedges to mitigate - screen
- Traffic management plan during construction phase, take account of current users of the lanes - horses, runners, pedestrians, agricultural and car users. The lanes are not wide enough for the HGV deliveries . Likely affect on air quality in the vicinity of residential and school buildings - install monitors for NO and particulate matter down to PM2.5.
- Provide evidence of Agricultural Land Classification on a field by field basis that shows the grade is 3b or below.
- Continuation sheet attached.

- A Planning Decision notice issued in 2023 refusing development located close to the Central Array gives reason for refusal as the site lies in an unsustainable location outside of any defined settlement limit and within the open countryside and the development would have a detrimental urbanising impact upon the rural character of the site and its immediate surroundings. The proposal therefore conflicts with policies SP2, H7 and DM1 of Wrexham Local Development Plan. We believe the same applies here. Also the same notice states, The proposed would result in the loss of improved grassland, a Welsh Priority Habitat as defined by Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act.
- This project will likely impact Wat's Dyke - It crosses rolling farmland grazed with sheep and cattle, grand parkland of big estates like Erddig and Wynnstay, and numerous picturesque villages and hamlets such as Llanymynech with its lime-working heritage, canal-side Maesbury Marsh, Caergwrle with its Welsh castle and packhorse bridge, riverside Erbistock, and Ruabon with its brick and tile making links. It also passes through the historic towns of Oswestry, Wrexham and Holywell.
- Natural Resources Wales has published a series of National Landscape Character Areas and no.14 covers the area known as Maelor, <https://nrwcmstv13-a3hwekacajb3frbw.a02.azurefd.net/682572/nlca14-maelor-description.pdf?rmode=pad&v=1d35c8e67ad5300> Parts of this older landscape are being lost with changes in modern farming practices, but the area, particularly the western half, is still a remarkable survival, and is peaceful and tranquil.



What we do

We are at the heart of Wales' renewables revolution, delivering considered, community supported projects that not only help to tackle the climate crisis, but also deliver tangible benefits for local communities. To date we've contributed over £38m to community funds.

We develop, construct, own and operate all of our projects, meaning we're in it for the long haul and will be with you every step of the way.

Contact us

If you have any further questions regarding the proposals, please do get in touch in one of the following ways:



07493060539 (Katie)
07901270413 (Robin)



Butterfly Consultation,
RWE,
14 Bird Street,
W1U 1BU,
London



info@butterflysolarfarm.co.uk



Who are RWE?

We are Wales' largest energy generator with offices in Port of Mostyn, Dolgarrog and Baglan. We employ over 350 people, with over 100 apprentices on our training schemes, and a strong focus on local employment creation.

We seek to deliver considered, community supported projects that not only help to tackle the climate crisis, but also deliver tangible benefits for local communities