



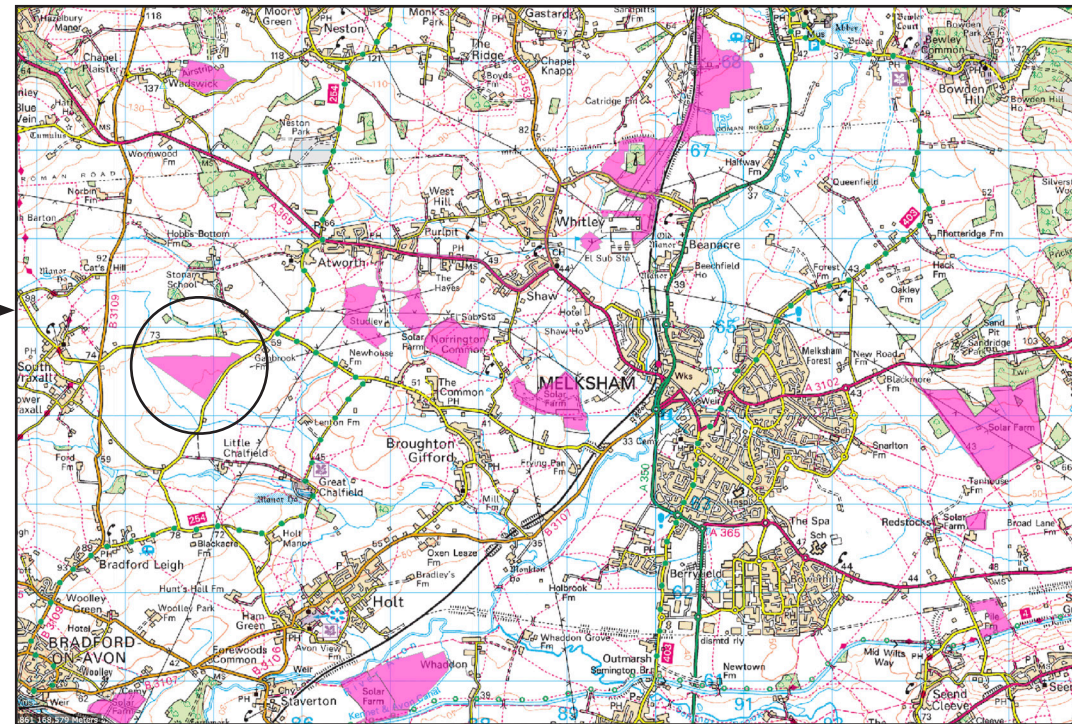
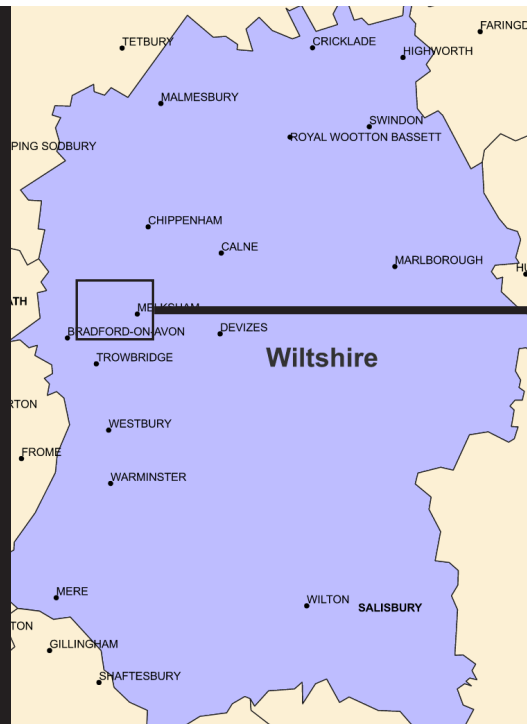
Whistle Mead solar farm at Little Chalfield could look like this

Usually depicted as low-lying, passive and nestled in wild flower meadows solar farms today are in reality industrial power stations sited in the countryside. A revised application for a large scale industrial solar farm, renamed Whistle Mead, is being proposed again at Little Chalfield. The site is currently productive agricultural land in beautiful countryside surrounded by conservation areas on which a previous application was turned down by the Planning Inspector in 2015. The revised proposal now consists of:

- **Battery storage in 18 metal shipping containers with cooling fans**
- **Control room cabin 3.2m high**
- **Customer substation**
- **DNO substation and equipment**
- **6 inverter and transformer substations 13m long**
- **Spare parts container 2.9m high**
- **Switching station 3.2m high**
- **5.7m high meteorological mast and satellite dish**
- **2.4m high mounted security cameras x 32**
- **Metal perimeter fencing and access roads**

That is in addition to the 100,000 solar photovoltaic panels 3 metres high spread over 64 acres. This is not a farm with flowers and wildlife, it is an industrial power station and needs to be carefully considered in context to its surroundings, the community and the equal need for food security.

2% of the land area of Wiltshire would be fulfilling 40% of the entire county's target for solar renewables



County-wide target → Small community burden

The Council's 2030 carbon neutral target for solar renewables is 590MW. The area around Broughton Gifford, Atworth, South Wraxal and Holt is approximately 70km² out of a total 3,485km² and equates to just 2% of Wiltshire. With the addition of Whistle Mead Solar, this tiny area would reach 237MW of solar capacity, nearly half the target for the entire county.

As of November 2022 Wiltshire had 423MW of solar installed, 240MW in construction, 164MW in planning, making a potential total of 827MW which is more solar than any other county in England and a tremendous achievement. Allowing another scheme in an area already over-populated by solar would be an unnecessary burden on both community and countryside.

The site cannot be screened from view, even with increases in height and depth of planting it would be devoid of leaves during winter allowing clear views of the entire site for 6 months of the year. This would result in a dominating and overbearing impact by the development on its surroundings.

If passed, Whistle Mead Solar would bring the number of large scale industrial solar farms within a 5km radius of the parish of Broughton Gifford to 10. There are vantage points where 2 or 3 would be seen simultaneously, others can be viewed in a matter of minutes when journeying around the area. This concentrated proliferation equates to mass industrialisation and constitutes an adverse cumulative impact.

The Inspector was clear when rejecting the previous application on the same site that industrialisation of this area within the setting of the heritage assets would cause harm to their significance. They also stated that to introduce an industrial element would harm landscape character, the magnitude of the change is high, and there would be a major adverse impact. As part of the new proposal there is the addition of battery storage which creates noise pollution. Passing walkers, cyclists and riders would experience industrial noise of twice the level considered a 'significant adverse impact' causing a negative effect of amenity for anyone visiting or living nearby.

Solar-wise

If you feel that solar renewables should be wisely sited, that heritage assets and the countryside are protected, and communities across the county contribute more equally to net zero targets, then please take a moment to register your objection to the Whistle Mead solar planning application. Set out below are some reasons for planning refusal. Comments need be made to Wiltshire Council by 1st May 2023.

Harm to the significance of heritage assets

Industrialisation within the setting of the heritage assets would cause harm to their significance.

Major adverse impact to landscape character

The introduction of an industrial element would harm landscape character, the magnitude of the change is high, and there would be a major adverse impact.

Overbearing effects

The industrial site cannot be screened from view due to the deciduous nature of natural planting and would result in a dominating impact on its surroundings.

Adverse cumulative impact

This proposal would bring the number of large scale industrial solar farms within a 5km radius of the parish of Broughton Gifford to 10 and creates an adverse cumulative impact.

Noise pollution and negative effect on amenity

The battery storage emits industrial noise of twice the level considered a 'significant adverse impact' and will negatively effect all passers by and residents.

Biodiversity net gain without industrialisation

Biodiversity initiatives are not dependent on the solar development, they can be implemented by the landowner/farmer without the negative impacts of industrialisation and habitat fragmentation.

Plans are available to view on the Wiltshire Council website:

development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/
search for the application **PL/2023/01914**
or use the QR code displayed.

There you can use the comments tab to state your views.



For more information on the points raised in this leaflet please contact:
info@chalfieldsolar.co.uk or visit the website: **chalfieldsolar.co.uk**