

REVISED MAP BELOW

Further to our mail drop a letter has been delivered by Royal Mail from **West Oxfordshire Energy Park**. Low Carbon has indicated that it intends to begin its public information and engagement activity from 21 September. We want our communities to be ready to engage with that information as it emerges, rather than only beginning to organise afterwards. The Parish Council has not taken a view either for or against the project. We need your opinions to go forward.

What is being proposed?

Low Carbon has indicated that the project will be a **Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP)**. This means it would follow the national Development Consent Order (DCO) process rather than being determined as an ordinary local planning application. It is important to understand that this is potentially much more than simply fields of solar panels. Low Carbon has specifically described the proposal as involving **solar and energy storage**, and a project of this nature would also require associated infrastructure.

How large could it be?

Approximately **960 hectares - around 2,370 acres - of land may currently be subject to option arrangements associated with the project**. This does **not** mean that all of this land will ultimately be developed. Low Carbon has not yet published its proposed development boundary. Our current understanding is that the wider area under consideration extends approximately from the **A361 in the west, Langley Lane to the south, towards Little Clanfield in the east and Filkins/Broughton Poggs to the north**.

What will we be looking at?

Among the matters that will need careful examination are landscape and views, agricultural land and farming, food production and food security, heritage and Conservation Areas, wildlife and biodiversity, roads and construction traffic, noise, energy storage and associated infrastructure, neighbouring properties and the wider character of our villages and countryside. There may also be benefits from renewable energy generation and potentially community benefits proposed by the developer. Those need to be properly understood too.

Why here. Why this land. Why now?

There may be publicly identifiable reasons why this part of West Oxfordshire could be attractive for an energy project, but that is different from understanding **Low Carbon's actual site-selection process and rationale**.

Why was this particular area selected, what criteria were used, what alternatives were considered and why predominantly agricultural land was chosen rather than other potential alternatives

Working together

Representatives of **Langford, Broadwell & Kencot, Grafton, Filkins & Broughton Poggs, Alvescot, Kelmscott and Little Faringdon** have now met to share information and discuss how our communities can work together.

This has resulted in the beginnings of a **cross-parish working group**. Working together should allow us to pool information and expertise, coordinate questions, avoid unnecessary duplication, scrutinise the proposals effectively and give our communities a stronger and better-informed voice.

We need your views and your expertise

We are therefore asking residents to **start sending your thoughts and questions to your own Parish Council now**.

You do not need to have decided whether you are “for” or “against” the project. At this early stage we particularly want to know:

- What concerns you?
- What, if anything, do you support?
- What questions should we be asking Low Carbon?
- What potential effects should receive the greatest scrutiny?
- Are there particular places, views, routes, habitats, heritage assets or other local features that you believe we particularly need to understand or protect?
- Do you believe the project should be resisted, significantly changed, mitigated or supported, and why?
- What should your Parish Council prioritise as it develops its response?

This might include experience in **planning, NSIPs, planning or environmental law, landscape, ecology, agriculture, energy infrastructure, engineering, highways, communications, government or public affairs**, or previous experience of major infrastructure proposals.

The revised map below shows the potential area coloured. Sites that effect our villages the most are beyond the A361 – and either side of the back road to Langford school and behind Manor Farm. This map is also on the website and facebook page. We have approached Low Carbon to ask them to attend a meeting in Filkins and the Parish Council are working on data collection to oppose the plan.

