



# Solar power and Biodiversity: Maximising the benefits

## A free seminar on how solar developments can deliver positive impacts on local ecosystems

Friday June 16th • 1.00pm – 4.30pm

Westmill Solar / Wind Park, Westmill Farm, Watchfield, Swindon, SN6 8TH

**This unique event will show how solar power projects can have positive impacts on local biodiversity through good design, planning, and management. It will look at current best practice and at new possibilities for delivering 'ecosystems services'. The seminar takes place at the Westmill Solar and Wind Park near Swindon.**

The seminar will include the launch of work by the Lancaster University 'Solar Park Impacts on Ecosystem Services' (SPIES) project. All attendees will receive a free toolkit relating to this work. Other speakers include:

- Raju Thakrar, Solar Trade Association
- Guy Parker, Wychwood Biodiversity – a leading expert in solar and biodiversity
- Solar developers talking about their projects and the lessons learnt.

The seminar will be valuable to:

- **Solar power developers and operators**, to show how developing on-site biodiversity can add value to solar developments
- **Farmers**, to show how solar power is both a source of income and a way to help improve environmental performance
- **Local planners and councillors**, who will hear about the best current practice and how they can help make this happen
- **Anyone carrying out environmental assessments or management** of solar farms
- **Anyone interested** in how solar power can help create rich ecosystems in our countryside.



The seminar is organised by Westmill Sustainable Energy Trust (WeSET), a charitable organisation funded by money from the community-owned Westmill Wind Farm built in 2008 and the Solar Park built next to it in 2011.

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**Seminar tickets are free but limited – book here:**  
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*Registration from 12.30pm. Participants are invited to join a short walking tour of the solar and wind farms at Westmill at 12.45pm.*

*Free parking will be available on site.*