

Press release - immediate use

### **Visit a wind and solar farm online - Westmill launches a virtual tour**

Westmill windfarm and solar park is near Watchfield, in between Swindon and Oxford. It is the only place in southern England where people can see both these renewable power sources at work. Over the last decade over 12000 people have visited the site.

In the Covid-19 lockdown tours and visits have been put on hold. But now anyone can take the guided tour online.

The 12 minute tour is open to anyone – with just one click:

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=19c3B1O2NDc4ioJ05ftD\\_0ZiY8WYwx5E6](https://drive.google.com/open?id=19c3B1O2NDc4ioJ05ftD_0ZiY8WYwx5E6)

The online tour takes visitors around both the five big wind turbines and the 21,000 solar panels. It explains the history and how the site came to be as well as how it all works.

The tour has been produced by the Westmill Sustainable Energy Trust, a charity that is funded by income from the two community-owned cooperatives that run the wind and solar power production.

Mike Blanch, chair of the Trust said: “We are always pleased to welcome people to the site and it is sad that all our visits are off this summer. We hope that people who would like to know more about these clean and green power stations will join us on our virtual guided tour.”

Two photos are below. For further information contact:

Emma? Mike? Chris?

#### **Note to editors:**

Westmill wind farm has five turbines, and generates up to a rated power of 6.5 MW. It produces electricity equivalent to that used by over 2,600 homes, saves 5,200 tonnes of CO2 emissions a year, and generates around £1 million income each year. The first electricity was generated in February 2008. Westmill Wind Farm is owned by a co-operative with over 2000 members.

Westmill solar farm (5MW) is one of the largest community-owned solar farms in the UK with 21,620 panels in 32 rows. Annual energy production is about 4.8 GWh, enough to power over 1,100 homes. There are 3.6 hectares of panels in a site of 12 hectares. The 7m wide corridors are seeded with wild flowers as a nature reserve with a healthy population of hares. The Solar Farm saves 2,300 tonnes of CO2 emissions a year.

Westmill Sustainable Energy Trust (WeSET) is a charity founded in 2009 following the construction of the wind turbines at Westmill Farm. For more information see [www.weset.org](http://www.weset.org).

The opening screen from the virtual tour



The wind and solar farm

