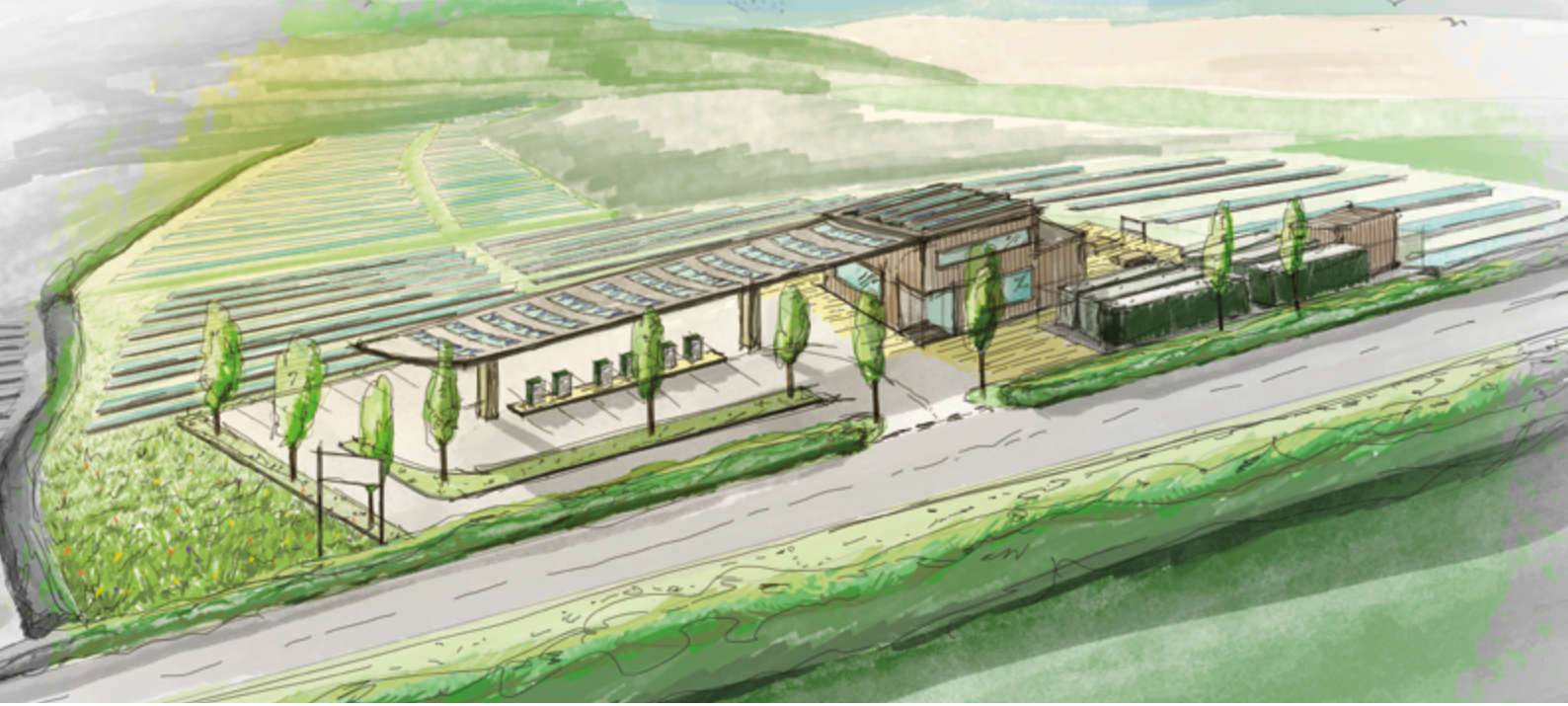


Have your say on

Plans for the Blandford Hill Eco Hub



Indicative sketch of the proposed Blandford Hill Eco Hub.

Naturalis, a joint venture between renewable energy companies REG Power Management and Falck Renewables, is working on proposals for an 'eco hub', featuring rapid electric vehicle (EV) charging, a solar farm and battery storage. The hub would be situated on land just south of the A354, near Winterborne Whitechurch, bringing superfast charging using green power to the heart of Dorset. Naturalis is seeking the local community's views on their proposals. This leaflet aims to provide you with information on the current plans and ways to get in touch with the project team.

Please attend our online consultation event

With restrictions on public gatherings still in place, we will be holding a digital consultation. This online event will provide the opportunity to meet our team, learn about our proposals, ask questions and comment on the plans. Please join our consultation event and share your views with us. The consultation will be held via **Zoom** on **Thursday 4 March 2021, 5.30 - 7.00pm**. Please visit our project website www.blandfordhillecohub.co.uk where you can click a link to join the online session. We look forward to seeing you. A recording of the consultation event will be posted on the website if you cannot attend on the day.

**Online
consultation event**

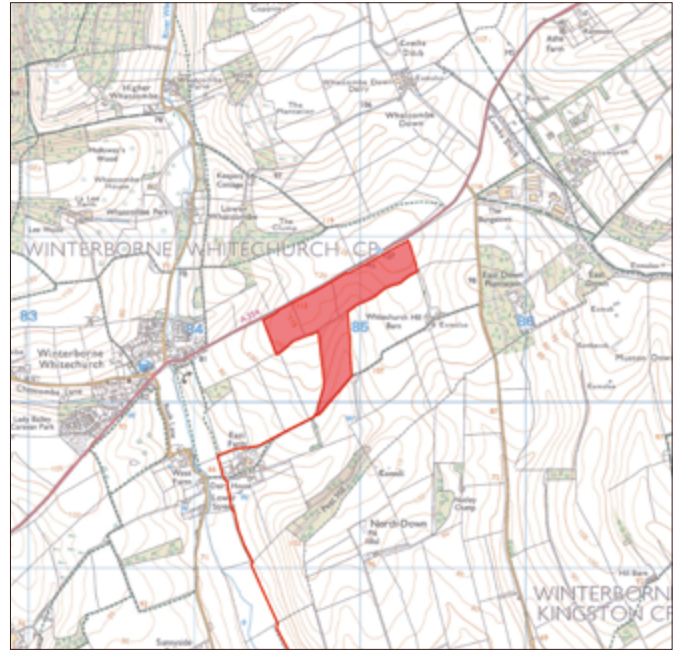
Thursday 4 March 2021

5.30 - 7.00pm

About the site

The Blandford Hill Eco Hub would be located immediately to the south of Blandford Hill (the A354), around ¼ mile north east of Winterborne Whitechurch. The site is currently in agricultural use and comprises four fields that are well contained with mature and established boundary vegetation, which will be retained. The project team is working on draft landscaping plans which propose further enhancement of the existing hedges and their habitats, helping to screen the hub from views. Solar panels are relatively low to the ground, with the highest point about 3 metres above the ground, so the visibility of the panels will be limited.

The location of the site is excellent for an EV charging hub as it adjoins the A354 - part of England's Primary Route Network - and would allow for a direct, dedicated and safe access. The site is outside of any landscape or ecological designations.



Proposed site location



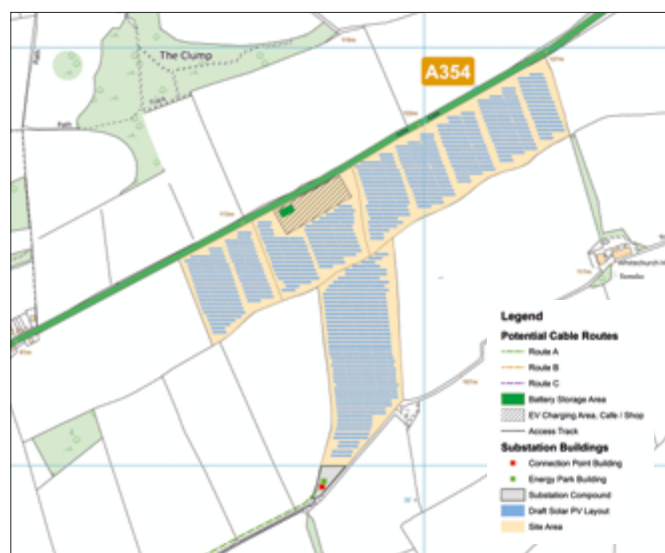
About Electric Vehicles and charging infrastructure

The EV sector is critical to achieving the UK Government's commitment to net zero emissions in road transport by 2050. This is highlighted by the Government's ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel cars after 2030 and in its National Infrastructure Strategy which includes a number of commitments to the roll-out of EV charging infrastructure. A major, recent study¹ found that putting in place sufficient charging infrastructure will be key to meeting future demand and help to encourage the uptake of EVs over time. Apart from range anxiety, access to reliable, working chargepoints and how easy chargepoints are to use can also be barriers and slow EV take-up. Therefore, building consumer trust and understanding of the sector will be crucial to its success. In order to meet future demand, EV charging infrastructure will need to grow significantly. For a substantial proportion of potential EV users, off-street charging will not be possible (around 40-50% of homes across the UK do not have access to off-street parking).

¹ Competitions and Markets Authority "Electric vehicle charging market study" 2 December 2020

Key features of the proposals

- The eco hub would feature a c. 15MWp solar farm which would generate approximately 15.8m kWh (units) per year² - roughly equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of 4,000³ homes or equivalent to a journey of 47 million miles in a typical EV⁴
- A c. 3MW battery storage system would provide power for the EV charging hub, planned to have around 6 ultra-rapid chargers and 6 rapid chargers, so that 12 EVs can be charged at the same time, irrespective of the make and model
- Cable connections from the solar farm and battery storage units to the charging points would ensure that the chargers use electricity from the solar farm - even at night
- Any excess electricity generated by the solar farm would be fed into the local electricity network, via underground cabling to the nearby Winterborne Kingston substation
- The rapid chargers would typically charge EVs in around 15 to 30 minutes so the plans also feature a building with public conveniences, a seating area and a small café, where patrons can have a refreshment and relax whilst charging their EV
- The existing layby south of the A354 would be used to create a dedicated safe access to the eco hub
- Car parking spaces would be provided to replace those in the current layby while landscaping, outdoor seating and information panels are planned
- The hub would fill a gap in the provision of rapid EV charging infrastructure in the region, which research shows is important to allow people to make the switch to electric driving
- By supporting the uptake of EVs in Dorset, the project would help reduce local air pollution - "the biggest environmental threat to health in the UK" according to Public Health England⁵
- The project would help address the Climate Emergency that was declared by Dorset Council in May 2019 by increasing the generation of electricity from renewable, low-carbon sources - in this case a solar farm - and thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions



Proposed site layout

2 This assumes a capacity factor of 12% for the site, noting Dorset has a relatively high solar resource for the UK. The UK average for solar photovoltaic project capacity factors is 11.2% (Source: 2020 Digest of UK Energy Statistics, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy)

3 Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, "Energy Consumption in the UK" Table C9, 22 October 2020, average, temperature-corrected domestic consumption in 2019 @ 3,772 kWh, ie 15.8m kWh divided by 3,772 kWh = 4,189 homes

4 The Nissan Leaf is the best-selling EV in the UK to date (Source: DfT Vehicle Licensing Statistics. Analysis Next Green Car, October 2020). The Nissan Leaf's power consumption (Wh/km): combined 180 - 206 (206 Wh/km assumed in calculation) (Source: February 2021, page 19 www-europe.nissan-cdn.net/content/dam/Nissan/gb/brochures/Vehicles/Nissan_Leaf_UK.pdf). 15.8 million kWh = 15.8 billion Wh. 15.8 billion / 206 = 76.7 million km. 76.7 million km = 47.7 million miles

5 Public Health England "Public Health England publishes air pollution evidence review", 11 March 2019

naturalis

Naturalis is the name of a joint venture company between two established renewable energy businesses: REG Power Management and Falck Renewables. REG and Falck Renewables are working together through Naturalis to develop, build and operate this project. Falck Renewables are expected to be the long-term owners and operators of the Blandford Hill Eco Hub.

Get in touch

Freephone number **0800 25 45 185**
Email **blandfordhillecohub@pegasusgroup.co.uk**
Project Website **www.blandfordhillecohub.co.uk**
Freepost **Freepost Middlemarch Consultation**
(No further address details or stamps required)



Feedback

We welcome your comments and views regarding the eco hub proposals, which can help us shape the proposals before any planning application is submitted to Dorset Council.

Please use the form below to let us know your thoughts and ask any questions. Please return this page using the Freepost address provided; no stamps or further address details are required. Please cut off the form, fill it in, pop it in an envelope to Freepost Middlemarch Consultation and send it back to us.

Name

Address

Phone

Email

What do you think about our plans for the Blandford Hill Eco Hub?

Would the availability of rapid EV charging infrastructure in your area have an impact on whether or not you would like to drive electric? If so, what impact would it have?

Your age: Under 18 18-35 36-55 56-70 Over 70 Prefer not to say

Are you a: Local resident Councillor Community group representative
 Business representative Prefer not to say

Would you like to receive updates about this project? Yes No

DATA PROTECTION: Data will be collected and held securely by Cratus Communications Ltd on behalf of Naturalis in accordance with the latest GDPR standards. Anonymised comments will be provided to Dorset Council as part of a future planning application.