

Cuckmere Community Solar: Statement of Visual Impact

The Cuckmere Community Solar Farm will have **environmental benefits** (reducing carbon emissions and promoting biodiversity), **economic benefits** (including dividends retained locally) and **social benefits** (we will build a substantial community fund that will be distributed locally to tackle fuel poverty and encourage local sustainability).

People are concerned about the potential visual impact of the solar farm. This will be minimal as the site is in a concealed location away from the C39 road. The following is a summary of the analysis of visual impact provided with our planning application. Further information can be found in the Non-Technical Summary and the Environmental Statement issued with the planning application to Wealden District Council with reference WD/2015/1635/MEA.

Dr Alister Scott, Chair of Cuckmere Community Solar Company says:

“One of the benefits of the proposed site is that it has very little visual impact for the general public. The site is a field away from the C39 at Wick Street and cannot be seen from the road. The field slopes slightly north, so will be extremely difficult to see from the Downs, and whilst a bridleway does run along the southern boundary of the field, this seems seldom used”.

Statement from the Non Technical Impact Assessment:

“The Cuckmere Community Solar Farm has restricted visibility because of the existing screening around the proposed location, this will be supplemented with additional hedging wherever appropriate, and a new hedge to the north. The solar farm will be substantially screened from the bridleway which passes to the south by an existing hedge which has recently been allowed to grow to over 2m and will be maintained at a height of 2.4m. Cuckmere Solar Farm (apart from the entrance track) will have at least one field (and two hedges) between it and other public routes including Wick Street and the footpath which passes to the North West.”



----- The proposed Cuckmere Community Solar Farm is outlined in red on the drawing

----- The existing Berwick Solar farm is outlined in blue on the drawing

Summary of Views

Arlington Reservoir; the view from Arlington Reservoir, whilst generally inward looking towards the reservoir has one viewpoint where the existing Berwick Solar Farm is visible. However the vegetation surrounding the new site is such that the Cuckmere Community Solar Farm will have very restricted visibility and thus there is no cumulative effect.

South Downs National Park; the proposed field is additional to the existing Berwick Solar farm, which is itself barely visible from the Downs. In addition, the proposed field slopes slightly north, meaning that the impact will be barely perceptible.

The Bridleway; at ground level and from the bridleway on the southern boundary, the panels will be hidden behind well-established hedges other than one short section of new hedging which will be planted.

Houses to the South; viewpoints from the south (Batbrooks Cottages, Cobb Court and Mays Farm) will not be able to see the new development through a combination of landform and layers of vegetation. While from Batbrooks Farmhouse to the south east, there will be a very restricted view from one back upstairs window.

From Wick Street/footpath; Cuckmere Solar Farm (apart from the entrance track) will have at least one field (and two hedges) between it and other public routes including the C39 at Wick Street and the footpath which passes to the north west.

Cumulative Assessment Panorama - Photoview 15a



View from the Weald Way Long distance Path on the Tumulus at Firie Beacon, within an ESA, on the edge of a SSSI within the South Downs National Park. Looking northeast.

Photoview Location



Camera make & model - Canon EOS 5D
 Date & time of photograph - 19/04/2013 10:09:16
 OS grid reference - 548952, 106922
 Viewpoint height (AOD) - 200m
 Distance to site - 4.7km

Proposed solar developments

Berwick Solar Park
 Susenco
 S 0206_09-A

