

JPAG Solar Park Survey, March 2024: North Muskham Results

In the 19 parishes' March 2024 survey, 118 completed survey forms were returned from North Muskham residents (11-12% of total parish population, and 16% of the 20 – 90+ aged group). The lower counts in some data panels below occur where parts of the survey were not completed. The informational preambles used in some survey questions are included here on p.4 in the Notes.

Q1, 22, 24, 25 How involved and informed are we? Are we equipped and organised for next stage?

Were you aware of the proposals prior to receiving this survey? Are you directly impacted? Have you done any research on the Elements Green company? Attended EG events, in person or online?

	Q1 Aware prior to survey?	Q22 Directly impacted?	Q24 Done any EG research?	Q25 Attended EG events?
Yes	114	55		36
No	4	57	112	76
Total	118	112	112	112

How much do we support the Elements Green proposal to build the GNR Solar Park, and the Net Zero government policies for renewable energy that give the proposal its rationale?

Q2. Are we For, Undecided, or Against the proposal?

Q3. What are our current views on renewable energy?

Q4. What are our views on a solar farm being built in the local area?

Q5. Do we agree with UK Net Zero strategy? See note i

Q2: Build the Park?

Q3: View of Renewables?	For	Undecided	Against	Total
Strongly favour	19%	12%	20%	51%
Somewhat favour	1%	5%	23%	29%
Neutral	0%	3%	12%	14%
Somewhat oppose	0%	1%	3%	3%
Strongly oppose	0%	0%	3%	3%
Total	19%	20%	60%	100%

Q4: What are your views on a solar farm being built in the local area?

Q5 Support Net Zero?	Strongly favour	Somewhat favour	Neutral	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Total
Yes	14	16	15	11	33	89
No	1		2	7	19	29
Total	15	16	17	18	52	118

In Q26, at the end of the survey, respondents were asked whether they had changed their Q2 For/Undecided/Against response – they hadn't, the 19%, 20%, 60% proportions were the same.

Q6-9 asked respondents to rank renewable energy sources in the order that they think UK Government should pursue them.

Q6-9: Government renewable priorities?				
	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Rank 4
Nuclear	12%	10%	16%	62%
Solar Farms	10%	18%	45%	27%
Wind Farms	26%	35%	30%	9%
Off-shore Solutions	52%	37%	9%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q10-13 asked “Does this concern you?” in respect of 4 areas of possible impact [See note ii](#)

Q10-13: How concerned about the impact of the proposals on ...				
	Scenery	Wildlife	Heritage & Culture	Economic
Extremely concerned	61%	66%	65%	64%
Moderately concerned	5%	7%	7%	7%
Somewhat concerned	10%	9%	5%	5%
Slightly concerned	15%	10%	10%	14%
Not at all concerned	9%	9%	13%	10%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q14 asked “Do you agree that energy security is more important than food security?” [See note iii](#)

Q14: Do you agree that energy security is more important than food security?	
	Responses
Strongly Agree	7%
Agree	8%
Neutral	27%
Disagree	25%
Strongly Disagree	33%
Total	100%

Q15-16 asked if respondents were aware of NG+ funding scheme in the proposals, and its influence on their support, [See note iv](#)

Q15: Were you aware of the NG+ scheme before this survey?			
Q16: Is NG+ likely to make you support the proposals?			Total
	Yes	No	
More Likely	3%	10%	13%
Neutral	13%	44%	57%
Less Likely	12%	17%	30%
Total	29%	71%	100%

Q17-18 asked about brownfield sites and the generating capacity of EG proposals. Most respondents would like a brownfield site to be found instead of the solar park being built here, [See note v](#) and they do not agree that GNRSP generating capacity should justify their support. [See note vi](#)

	Q17 Find a brown field site?	Q18 Generating capacity justifies?
	Responses	Responses
Strongly Agree	46%	14%
Agree	19%	10%
Neutral	19%	20%
Disagree	10%	28%
Strongly Disagree	6%	28%
Total	100%	100%

Notes

The endnotes below, listed in the order encountered in the previous pages, replicate the pre-question informational prompts that were used in the JPAG survey questionnaire.

- i** In the UK government publication Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (October 2021), it is stated, "By 2035 the UK will be powered entirely by clean electricity, subject to security of supply." and that "Removing dirty fossil fuels will require the transformation of every sector of the global economy." In order to achieve the objectives set out in this paper the UK will need to invest in green energy sources. Do you agree with these statements?
- ii Scenery** If the GNR Solar Park application is successful, views over the landscape could change with the introduction of solar panels, batteries and fencing. Where screening could mitigate the visual impact of the scheme, the developer estimates this could take approximately 15 years to fully establish itself. For reference, the area of land affected by the proposed development is 7,100 acres, and equates to 3,550 football pitches, or 11.09 square miles. Does this concern you?
- Wildlife** The scheme could remove wildlife corridors and could disturb nesting/feeding habitats. The impact on flora and fauna, including rare and protected species could also be significant. Does this concern you?
- Heritage assets and culture** Some of the areas affected by the proposal have been designated as conservation Areas. Given that this proposal will be considered by the Planning Inspectorate, and not Newark & Sherwood District Council, how concerned are you that the heritage and conservation status of these areas could be affected?
- Economic Impact** There could be a significant impact on the local economy with the proposal possibly affecting agricultural businesses, house prices and tourism. Does this concern you?
- iii** At a recent community consultation event, Elements Green stated: "in their view, energy security was valued higher than food security," Do you agree with this view?
- iv NG+ Community Funding** NG+ is a community support scheme linked to the proposed Great North Road Solar Park. The NG+ website states: "Our mission is to deliver a brighter future through our annual one-million-pound fund. With this fund, NG+ will support and deliver projects to benefit the local community with a focus on the environment, education, food security, wellbeing, and energy efficiency." More information can be found here: <https://ngplus.uk/> Were you aware of this initiative before this survey? Does the NG+ scheme make you less or more likely to support the GNR proposal?
- v** The government solar strategy states a preference for ground-mounted solar, to be developed on brownfield sites: See: <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2023-0168/CDP-2023-0168.pdf> (page 5). Given this information, should this proposal be reconsidered and an alternative brownfield location be sought/identified?
- vi** With a potential generation capacity of around 800 megawatts of solar energy, the scheme has the potential to provide enough clean, affordable energy to meet the power needs of approximately 400,000 homes, while avoiding more than 250,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions every year. There are approximately 360,000 home in Nottinghamshire. Given this information, should this project be supported?
- vii Decommissioning** At this stage of the planning process there does not appear to be any provision of funds for site closure/renewal after the 40 year operational life (or for any other event that might reduce its life-span). The decommissioning of the site, if successful, is the responsibility of the solar park owner at the end of the 40 year period. Does the lack of any future plans for decommission concern you?
- Crime** Recent police data identifies a 48% rise in solar related theft between 2021 and 2022. Source: Energy Global Whilst being mindful that this article discusses thefts directly from solar farms, do you think that the introduction of a solar farm within the area could increase local and rural crime rates?
- Flooding** Is there an increased risk of flash flooding? In 2014 an inspector appointed by the Secretary of State rejected an appeal for a Solar Farm in Tolland in Taunton. The full decision document is available here: [Tolland Solar Farm Appeal Decision](#) In the report, the inspector noted that the solar panels could increase the likelihood of flooding due to the concentrated rainfall run off from the solar panels. The inspector goes on to state, that there is no evidence within the plans that would negate the risk of flooding from the solar farm. Given this information, do you feel that the proposed solar park could lead to increased likelihood of flood events?
- viii** What is most important to you? Throughout the survey we have asked a number of questions relating to the following areas: Renewable Energy Landscape - Scenery, Wildlife, Agricultural Land, Heritage/Culture Economic - House prices, Tourism, Output from Agricultural Land Government and Strategy - use of Brownfield sites, Decommissioning, Power Generation Public