

From: Martin Worsley [Redacted s.40]

Sent: 24 August 2021 17:28

To: Rugg, Ian (E&M - Landscapes, Nature & Forestry) [Redacted s.40]; Williams, Arwel (E&M - Landscapes, Nature & Forestry) [Redacted s.40]; Reed, Eleanor [Redacted s.40]

Cc: Richard Sowden [Redacted s.40]; Ruth Metcalfe [Redacted s.40]

Subject: Solar / soil / Agri Land Workshop - draft agenda, delegates

Hi folks,

Please see attached our draft agenda and delegates list for the workshop on Thursday 2nd of September. Rob Askew has confirmed attendance. We're trying our best to nail down solar representatives.

It would good to hear tomorrow what WG make of the proposals for WP 2b.

Regards,

Martin

Martin Worsley BSc MSc MISoiSci

Soil Scientist

[ADAS](#) – *providing ideas, specialist knowledge and solutions to secure our food and enhance the environment.*

[Redacted s.40]



**The impact of solar photovoltaic (PV) sites on soil and agricultural land quality - Soil Policy
Evidence Programme SPEP 2021-22**

Workshop: Teams call at 13.00-15.00 on Thursday 2nd September

Attending / invited

Role	Organisation	Name	Specialism	Email
Chair	ADAS	Richard Sowden	Solar	[Redacted s.40]
Organiser	ADAS	Martin Worsley	Soils	[Redacted s.40]
Welsh Gov	WG	Ian Rugg Arwel Williams	Soils Soils	[Redacted s.40]
Natural England	NE	Gill Shaw Julie Holloway Eleanor Reed	Soils Soils Soils	[Redacted s.40]
DEFRA	DEFRA	Harriet Cooper Rachel Boulderstone	Soils Soils	[Redacted s.40]
ADAS Soils	ADAS	Ruth Metcalfe	Soils	[Redacted s.40]
External Soils	Askew Land & Soil	Rob Askew	Soils	[Redacted s.40]
Solar Specialist	BEIS	Edward Mason	Solar	[Redacted s.40]
Solar Investment	Next Energy Capital	Sulwen Vaughan	Solar	[Redacted s.40]
Solar Developer	Eden Renewables	Harry Lopes	Solar	[Redacted s.40]
Solar Ecologist	Clarkson & Woods	Belinda Howell Hannah Montag	Ecology	[Redacted s.40]
Solar Research	Lancaster University	Fabio Carvalho	Ecology	[Redacted s.40]

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Purpose of workshop - Richard Sowden, ADAS
3. Context of research project - Arwel Williams, Welsh Gov
4. Initial research findings - Ruth Metcalfe, ADAS
5. Solar developers' input - Sulwen Vaughan, Next Energy Capital / Harry Lopes, Eden Renewables
6. BEIS input – Edward Mason, BEIS
7. Ongoing research - Fabio Carvalho, Lancaster University
8. Roundtable discussion of key questions:
 - a. What benefits do solar PV developments offer to agricultural soils and land?
 - b. How do soils interact with the wider ecological benefits of solar PV developments?
 - c. What risks do solar PV developments pose to agricultural soils and land? And what is an acceptable level risk to tolerate?
 - d. What mechanisms or barriers are there to reducing risks during the installation, operation and decommissioning?
 - e. What conditions should be met for at a successfully restored site? Does this differ for higher quality agricultural land compared to poorer quality agricultural land?

- f. How realistic is the claim that solar PV developments on greenfield sites are a 'reversible' loss of agricultural land? Is solar being used as a precursor to permanent development down the line? Or successive solar developments?
- g. How long should planning permission be granted for? Technology changes so how many sites will be operational in 40 years time? Risk of derelict sites

9. Wrap up