

# Westmill Farm

## Westmill Wind & Solar Co-operatives

One of the farms main environmental and social initiatives has been the setting up of the pioneering and award winning community owned wind and solar farms.

Work began to investigate the potential for a wind farm in 1992 and after many roller coaster years of sweat and tears, the turbines were eventually commissioned in 2008. Westmill wind farm was the first wind farm in SE England the first wind farm in the UK to be initiated and realised by local people. It was set up as a co-operative so that local people could own and benefit from the project and has over 2000 members.

<https://www.westmillwind.coop/>

Westmill solar co-operative was formed in 2012 and was the first community group in the UK to develop and own a solar farm, and which for many years, was the largest co-operatively owned solar farm in the world.

<http://westmillsolar.coop/>

Every year the two Co-operatives support a wide range of local initiatives, the one based at Westmill is the charity WeSET which organises visits to the site (over 10,000 people have visited so far!) and other educational initiatives and also provides practical support for local groups and organisations wishing to reduce their carbon footprint.

Images for weset

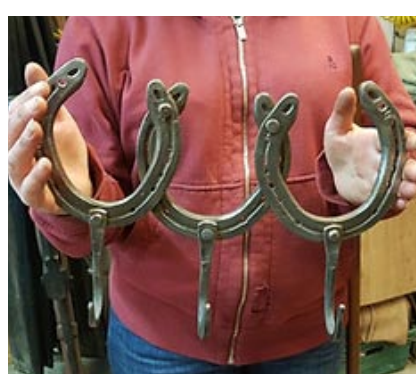
<https://www.weset.org/>



## Root & Branch – Westmill

Root & Branch is a charity set up at Westmill in 2001 to provide support for mental health service users through horticulture, craft work and a safe space. It is based on the farm in some of the traditional farm buildings and land.

<https://www.rootandbranch.info/home>



## Westmill Woodland Burial Ground

Is a natural Burial ground established on the farm in 2004 and is run as a social enterprise. It covers approximately 3 acres and over the years it has won several awards. The 6 acre site had been previously growing willow biomass for the nearby coal fired power station but the power station didn't want the biomass (and is now decommissioned) and the usage of the that land changed.

<https://www.woodlandburialwestmill.co.uk/home>

