## BIODIVERSITY & LAND USE

The solar park can continue to be used for food production for the lifetime of the solar park. Sheep can graze the wide spaces between and underneath the panels in Autumn and Winter with the land rested in Spring and Summer so wild flowers can bloom, creating a biodiversity haven. The planning permission and the agreement made with the landowners both require the land to be returned to agricultural use at the end of the 40 year life of the park.

Today, There are just over a thousand solar farms in the UK which collectively take up a mere 0.06% of land area, considerably less land space than either airports or mines.

Solar farms are temporary, light-impact structures usually affecting less than 5% of the ground area with fixings and civil works. (STA)



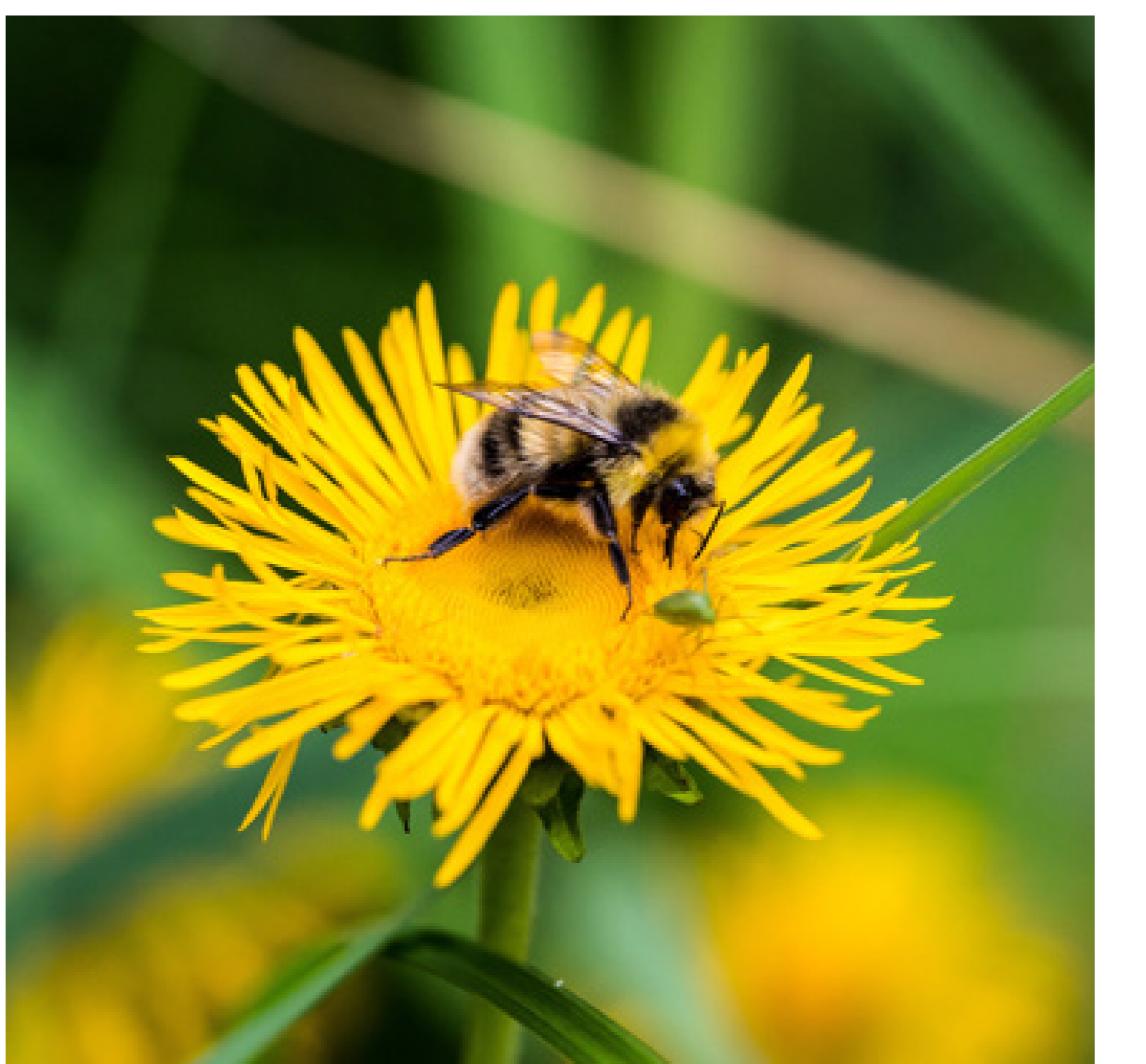


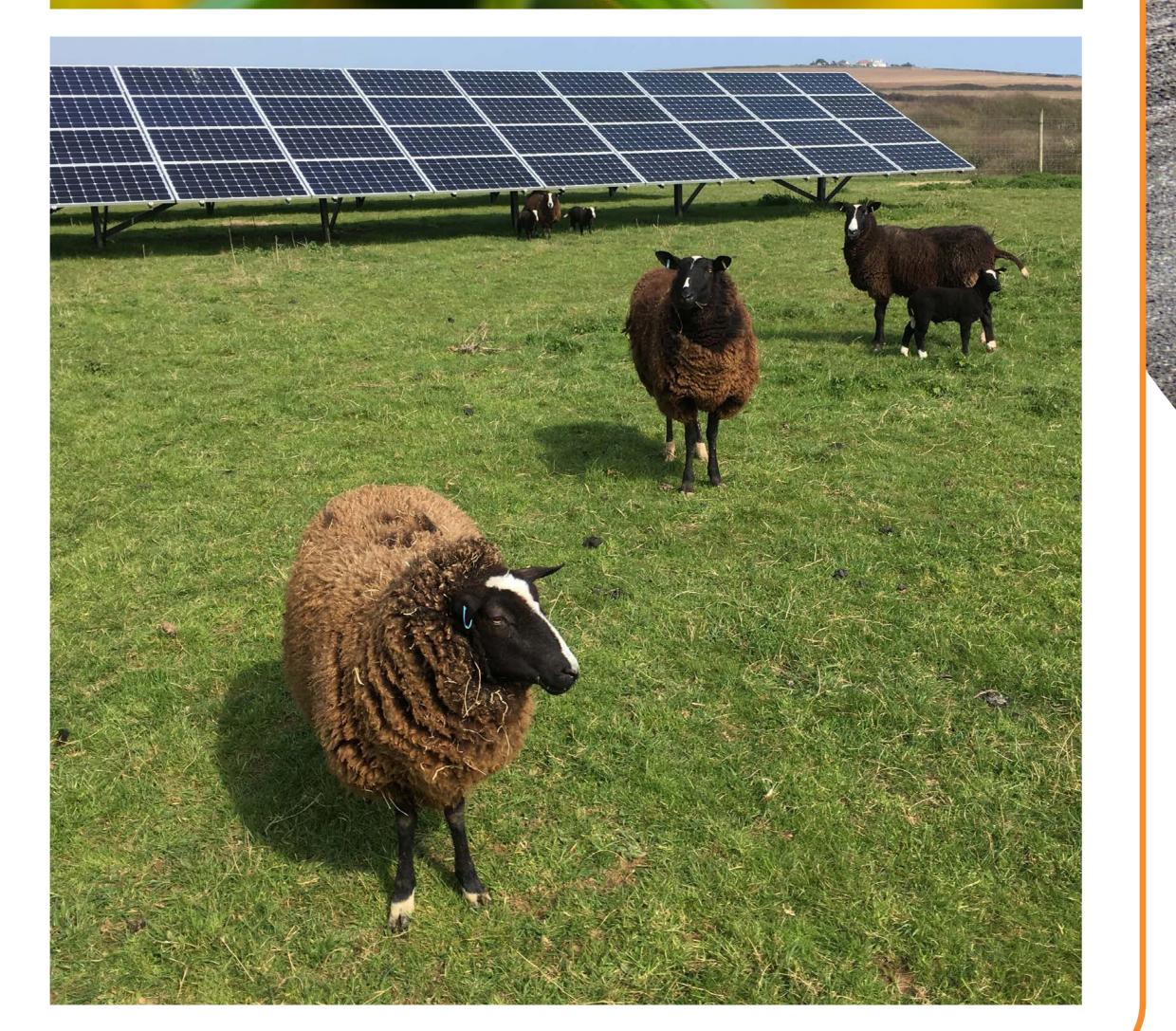


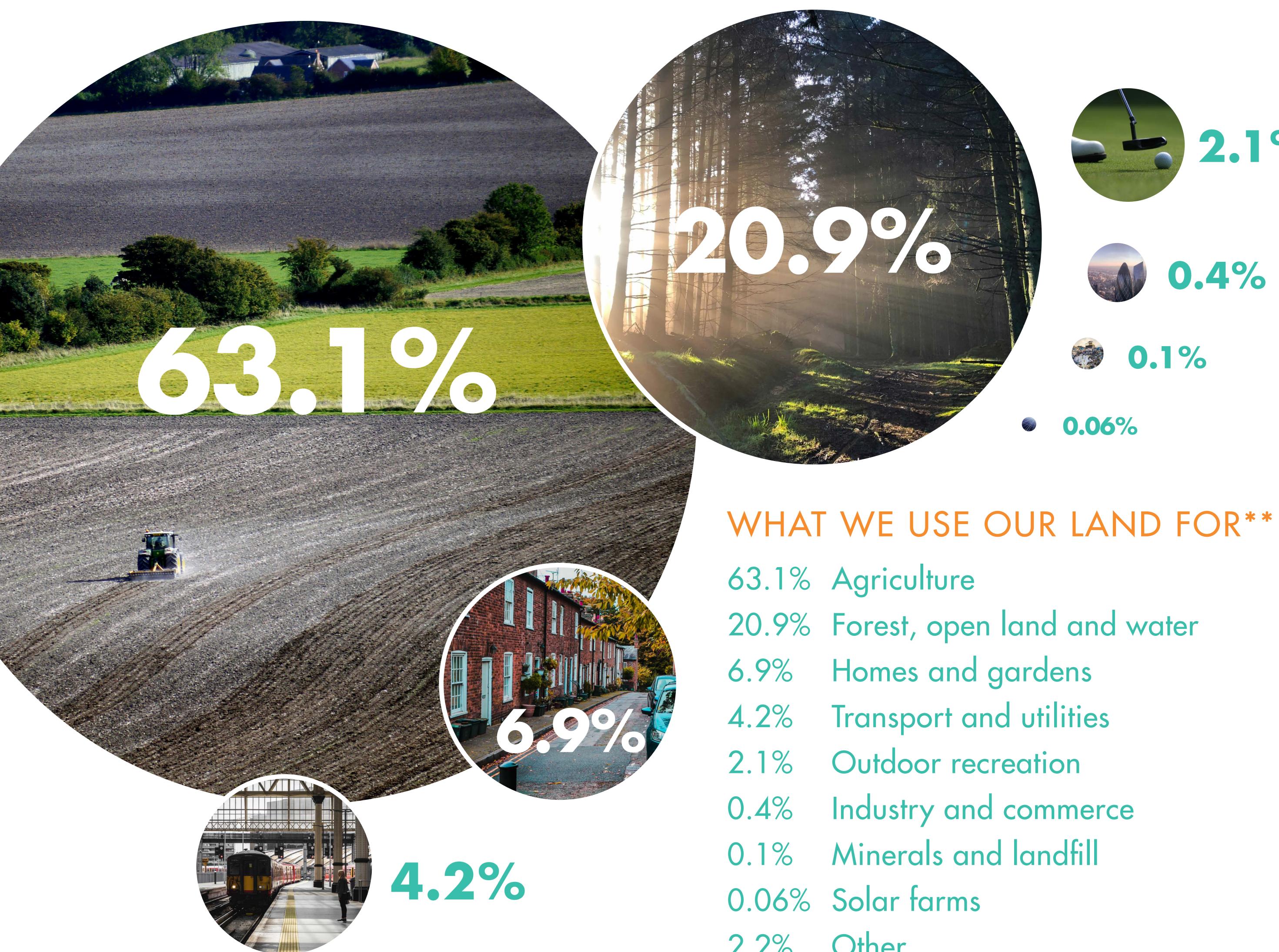
## SOLAR PARKS ENHANCING WILDLIFE

A 2019 report\* proves that well-designed and well-managed solar farms deliver broad benefits for British biodiversity and sustainable agriculture. Solar farms are providing a haven for rare species including moths, foraging bats, yellowhammers and grey-legged partridges when developers cultivate tree-rich hedgerows and some sites are recorded as hosting six times more pollinators than control sites. Other benefits include:

- Increased fruit crop pollination for orchards close to wildflower meadows
- Significantly higher plant and invertebrate diversity on sites with open drainage
- Positive impacts on wetland bird breeding when artificial wetland features are introduced







\*\* statistics sourced from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2017 - Land Use Data www.solar-trade.org.uk/sta-showcases-solar-park-boost-for-nature

\* "The Natural Capital Value of Solar" by the Solar Trade Association, endorsed by the Natural Capital Coalition, the Centre for Alternative Technology, and Ashden

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