

WHY THIS LOCATION?

There are a number of important factors why we are proposing a solar farm at this location:

● GRID CONNECTION ON-SITE

One of the most important considerations when siting new electricity generators is being able to make a cost-effective grid connection. These opportunities are few and far between as grid connections often require prohibitively expensive electricity network upgrades.

With the coal-fired power station at Rugeley decommissioned, it creates space in the electricity network to 'plug in' new electricity generation. This presents a rare opportunity to make an economically viable grid connection to the electricity grid. We hope our project will demonstrate the evolution on energy generation in Staffordshire as we transition to essential clean energy generation in the 21st century.

● FEW CONSTRAINTS

As we plan our projects, we aim to identify sites that have minimal impact on factors such as local amenity, heritage, agriculture, landscape, transport etc. Introducing any change creates impacts however through our assessments, we think that our proposed site offers the most appropriate location for a solar farm of land available locally. The



Existing pylons on site offer an efficient connection.

following pages explain further about the site's suitability.

● BIG ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS

As the site has been subject to intensive agriculture for many years, the ecological value within the site is low and the chemical inputs that modern farming uses run off into the local water-table which has a detrimental effect on wildlife within the site and beyond.

Large areas within the site have also been used as commercial landfill. Completion of the landfill works included importing significant quantities of power station ash waste to level the land before being finished with soils.

The ecological recovery and enhancements that can be delivered through our proposal will enable the soils to regenerate following many years of disruption and bring benefit to wildlife within the site and, even reducing environmental pressure on the River Trent. Find more detail about these benefits on our *Nature and Water* pages.



An aerial photograph looking east showing the Rugeley power station with the proposed site behind.



WHY DO WE NEED MORE SOLAR FARMS?

The short answer is we have to address man-made climate change. Switching our energy system to renewables, including solar power, is one of the quickest most effective ways to this.

● CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND GREEN RECOVERY

In October 2018 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C, finding that limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society. With clear benefits to people and natural ecosystems, the report found that limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C could go hand in hand with ensuring a more sustainable and equitable society. While previous estimates focused on estimating the damage if average temperatures were to rise by 2°C, this report shows that many of the adverse impacts of climate change will come at the 1.5°C mark.

In 2019 the UK government declared a climate emergency and has committed to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. Staffordshire County Council has also declared a climate emergency and recently announced their goal to become carbon neutral by 2040.

Our projects support the transition to a low-carbon future for both Staffordshire and the UK.

Importantly, solar farms are quick to deploy, are low impact and low cost:

- It takes under 2 years to plan a project, install it and start generating renewable energy
- All the land within the solar farm can be used to enhance and benefit wildlife – helping to address the ecological emergency
- Solar farms are economically viable without any government subsidy, so there is no burden on the tax-payer.

Extreme flooding in Burton upon Trent, February 2020. Flooding events such as these are growing more regular.



PROJECTS SUCH AS WE ARE PROPOSING AT CAWARDEN SOLAR FARM ARE CRITICAL TO DELIVER A LOW-CARBON FUTURE FOR STAFFORDSHIRE AND THE UK AND AVOID THE WORST EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

The COVID pandemic remains a major challenge but it also presents us with an opportunity: we can choose a green recovery and build back better, to help combat climate change.



Meadowland thrives at Crossroads solar farm, Dorset.