

Why is this project important?

Solar PV is a technology that generates electricity without creating any waste products or pollutants. With the UK government and many Local Authorities recognising a climate emergency, solar projects like this are essential to meet renewable energy targets and carbon emission reductions.

How will the equipment be protected?

The solar installation will be enclosed by a timber and wire agricultural fence about 2 metres in height. Motion sensor cameras will monitor the boundary fence and the area within the solar park. These will be positioned facing into the park, protecting the privacy of any neighbours.

How are the panels kept clean?

Generally, rainfall helps to keep the panels free of dust and dirt. Several times a year, the panels will be thoroughly cleaned using specialist equipment, to make sure the installation is in the best possible condition.

Do solar parks pose a health risk?

No – solar doesn't produce any harmful by-products. All electrical equipment we use meets the Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Directive and are CE (Health and Safety certification) marked.

Will the solar park cause traffic disruption?

During construction a traffic management plan – that will have been approved as part of the planning consent – will be followed to minimise local disruption. Once the solar park is completed it requires very little maintenance and may be visited 6-12 times a year by a works van or 4x4.

What does a solar farm consist of?

Solar panels are made of glass, silicon and copper wiring – these are inert and non-polluting materials which are readily recycled. Electrical equipment includes a private substation (about 2mHx2mDx3mW) and a number of micro-inverters. Panels are mounted on tables which are fixed to steel posts piled up to 1.5m in to the ground – no concrete foundations are required here.

What do inverters do?

100% RECYCLABLE

his display is printed on cardboard that's

100% recyclable and made from at leas

75% recycled content.

Solar panels produce Direct Current (DC) electricity at greater than 400Volts. The inverters convert this to Alternating Current (AC) electricity at 240volts and 50Hertz, now suitable to feed into the grid and supply your home.

Do solar panels glare and dazzle?

A solar panel is designed to absorb light and convert it into electricity. They are manufactured to minimise glare using a translucent coating. In fact, a field of grass can produces more glare than a PV panel!

Is a solar farm noisy?

When operating, some noise is created by fans within the inverters. Within metres of the inverter, the noise falls below the level of ambient background rural noise so it is usually inaudible to passers by outside of the solar park.

How is the land kept during the life of the solar farm?

If planning permission is granted, a Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (a 'LEMP') will be agreed with the planning authority. The LEMP will instruct how the site may be enhanced with trees, hedges, native grasses and wildflowers and other measures to encourage wildlife. A land management team will implement these measures and maintain them through the life of the solar farm. The site is also designed to allow sheep grazing and a flock may be put on the land at times of year as part of the land management plan.

Do solar farms increase the risk of flooding?

Because more than 95% of the land remains as grass-keep any risk of increased flooding is negligible. A full Flood Risk Assessment will also be included with the planning proposal.

What is the energy payback time of a solar panel?

As solar increases its contribution to global energy demand its production continues to grow in efficiency. PV systems in Northern Europe need around 2.5 years to generate the amount of energy required to make them.*

How can I share my views about the project?

You can complete our questionnaire and comment slip which we will submit with our planning application, or once we have submitted our planning application you can comment on our proposals by visiting the planning section of your Local Authority's website.

Will you provide a community benefit fund with this project?

Our project will help combat climate change, benefitting people locally and nationally. The changes we are proposing are going to achieve significant ecological benefits within and beyond the site which will reduce levels of pollution in the air and water locally.

ENABLING CLEAN GROWTH

We have not offered a community benefit fund for this project but we are happy to discuss if there are contributions we can make to local projects that help build a sustainable and resilient community.

* March 2019, Fraunhofer

