

WHY THIS LOCATION?

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

● HIGH IRRADIANCE

Devon benefits from some of the highest levels of sunshine (solar irradiance) in the UK. This means that installing a solar farm here helps to maximise its productivity – for example an identical solar farm located in Manchester would generate 20% less renewable electricity.

● A VIABLE GRID CONNECTION

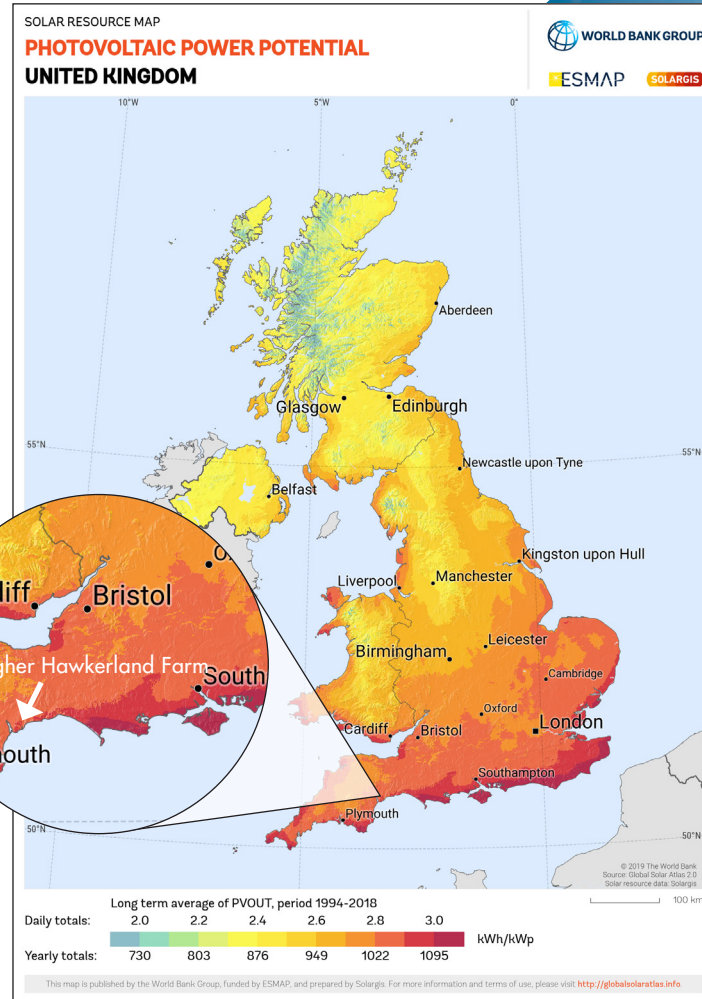
One of the most important considerations when siting new electricity generators is being able to make a technically viable and cost-effective grid connection. These opportunities are few and far between, especially in the South-West, as our grid network requires urgent improvement to equip us for a low carbon future.

● 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 Higher Hawkerland farm offers the most appropriate location for a solar farm of land available locally. The following pages explain further about the site's suitability.

● ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS

Solar farms, even during construction, have very limited impacts on the local environment and ecology. And during their operational life, a well-designed and well managed solar farm can significantly improve the opportunity for wildlife when compared to conventional farm management. The ecological enhancements and re-wilding that can be delivered through our proposal will not only bring benefit to wildlife within the site but can create positive effects for the neighbouring nature reserves such as the South Devon Heaths by providing additional forage plants in the grassland and hedgerows and replicating habitat favoured



by species found on the Heathland. More detail about these benefits is included on our Nature and Water pages.



WHY DO WE NEED MORE SOLAR FARMS?

The short answer is we have to urgently 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.

PROJECTS SUCH AS WE ARE PROPOSING AT HIGHER HAWKERLAND FARM ARE CRITICAL TO DELIVER A LOW-CARBON FUTURE FOR DEVON AND THE UK AND HELP AVOID THE WORST EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

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

In November 2021 The COP 26 conference in Glasgow strived to reach agreements to limit heating to 1.5°C. but fell short. This demonstrates how critical it is for climate change solutions to get delivered at every level.



Our projects support the transition to a low-carbon future for both Devon 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.

