

WHY THIS LOCATION?

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

● FORMER LANDFILL

It makes sense to locate solar farms on brownfield land rather than farmland however the majority of brownfield, including landfill, is prioritised for 'higher-value development' such as house building. The restored Purton landfill is unsuitable for most types of development but it is suitable for hosting a solar farm. While there is some technical complexity to installing solar on landfill and additional attention to be given to environmental safeguards, we think generating clean energy on restored landfill that is otherwise redundant is an efficient and practical solution.

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

● BIG ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS

The entire site we are proposing served as a landfill since

the 1970's and it finished receiving waste in 2003. Subsequently it has been restored by capping the site with a clay cap, sub-soil and top-soil to a total depth of 2 metres.

The level of nutrients within the soil is low which offers good potential to build the biodiversity within the site. Already today there are ground-nesting birds such as sky larks and lapwing using the site.

We aim to enhance the potential for wildlife within the site. By fencing the perimeter and the footpaths we can create a safer sanctuary for wildlife, and through the introduction of wildflowers and hibernacula, we can provide food and habitat for a wider variety of native species.

● EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE

The waste and recycling centre adjacent to the site are served by a well-designed access road and within the proposed solar site there are also good access tracks. We will use these existing access to deliver the materials to construct the solar farm. This avoids the need to create new access which in turn reduces the amount of materials we need to bring to site and the number of delivery vehicles. We anticipate that we will require an average of 9 HGV deliveries per day through the construction of the solar farm – in comparison to the existing vehicle movements that serve the recycling activities, the solar farm deliveries will create a minimal and temporary increase.



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 do 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. Wiltshire County Council has also declared a climate emergency and recently announced their goal to become carbon neutral by 2030.

Our projects support the transition to a low-carbon future for both Wiltshire and the UK. Importantly, solar farms are quick to deploy, are low impact and low cost:

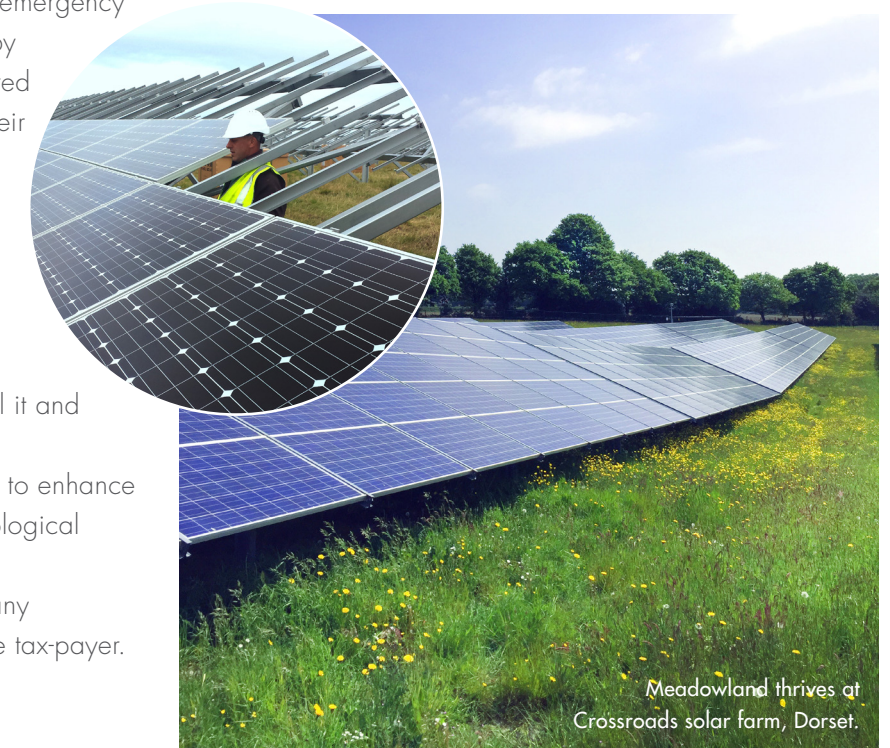
- It takes under 2 years to plan a project, install it and start generating renewable energy
- All the land within the solar farm can be used to enhance and benefit wildlife – helping to address the ecological emergency
- Solar farms are economically viable without any government subsidy, so there is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



As experienced in Tewkesbury, extreme flooding is increasingly likely as our climate changes.

PROJECTS SUCH AS WE ARE PROPOSING AT PURTON LANDFILL ARE CRITICAL TO DELIVER A LOW-CARBON FUTURE FOR WILTSHIRE 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.