

Honeyhall Solar Farm



The Need for Solar

Reaching for Net Zero

The UK has made a **legally binding commitment to achieve a net zero fully decarbonised power system by 2035**. This can only be achieved with the adoption and roll-out of reliable, affordable, clean energy sources such as solar.



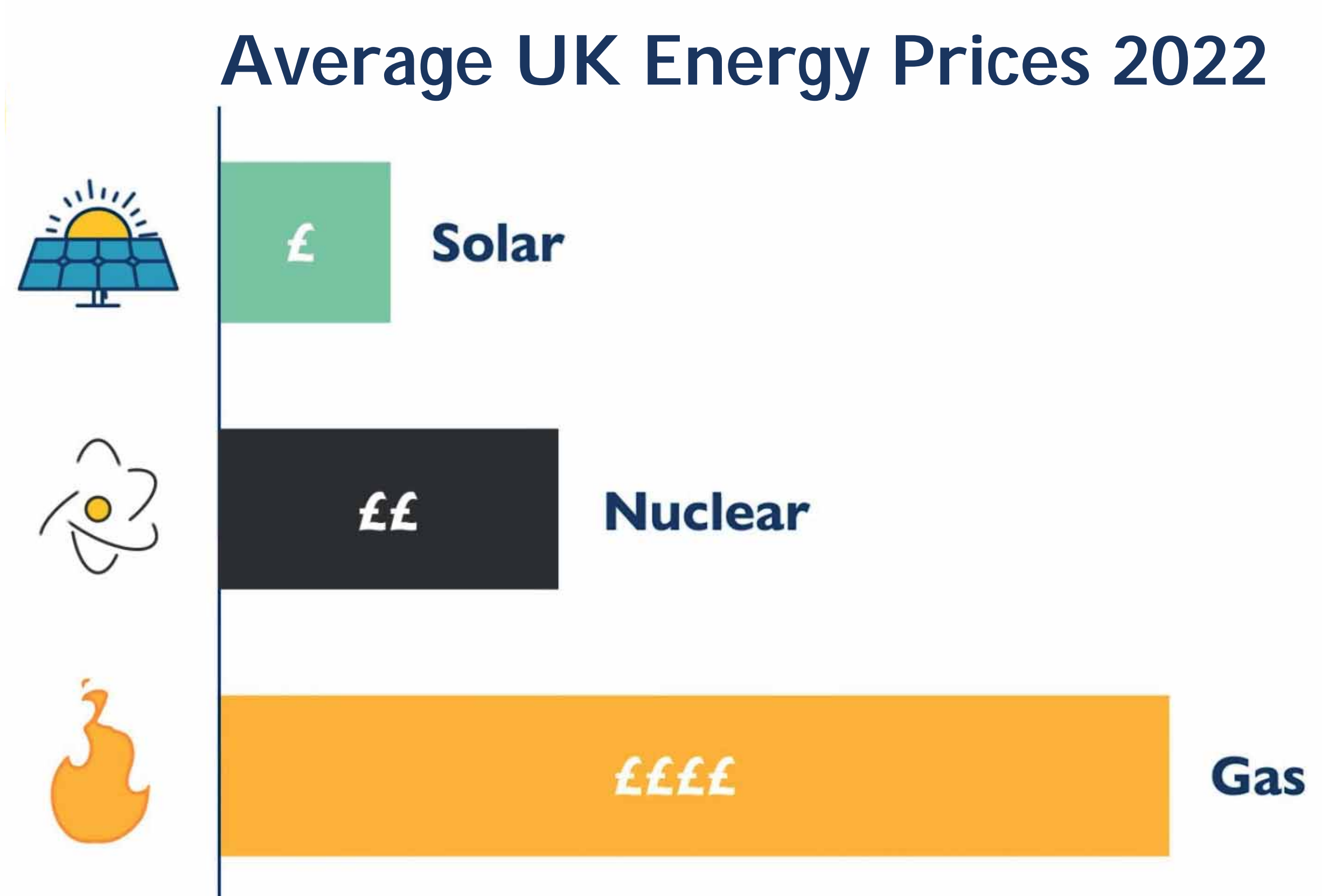
North Somerset Climate Emergency



North Somerset declared a **climate emergency in 2019** and published its Climate Change Action Plan in 2022, setting a target for the county to lead the way and **become carbon neutral by 2030**. Solar farms, such as Honeyhall Solar Farm, will make a meaningful contribution to the local, and national, climate commitments.

Tackling Energy Security and the Cost of Living Crisis

Solar energy provides **one of the cheapest forms of electricity in the UK**. This year alone solar has been over **4 x cheaper than gas** and **2 x cheaper than nuclear** in the UK. A **fivefold increase in solar capacity** is anticipated **by 2035** in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. If approved, Honeyhall Solar can help drive down bills and tackle the energy crisis.

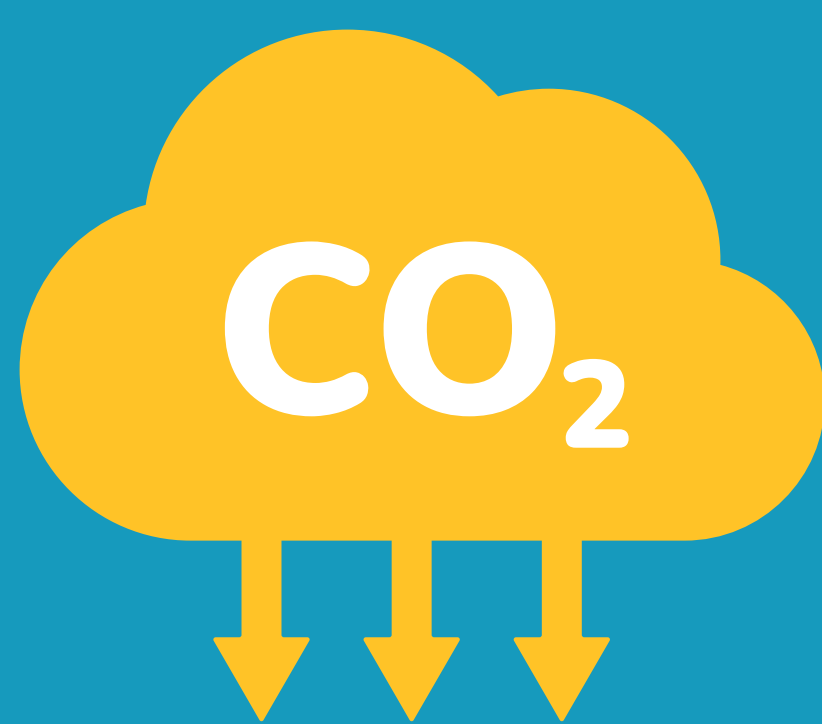


Honeyhall Solar Farm Benefits



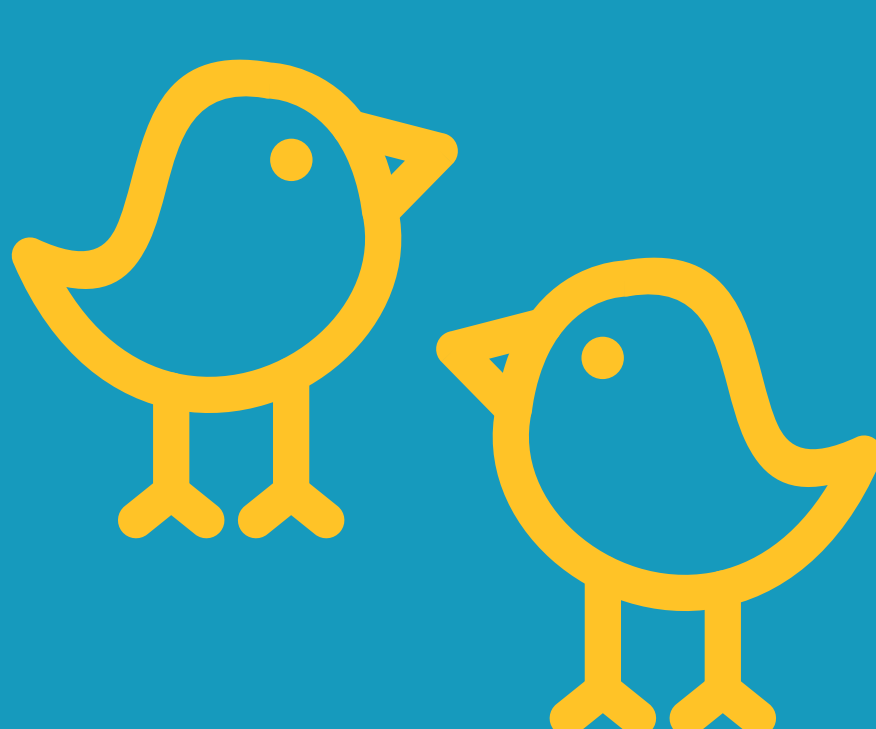
Building a brighter future

By working in partnership with local communities, JBM Solar unlocks a project's full potential. We ensure that the benefits of solar energy developments are realised in a way that positively impact the surrounding community.



The displacement of over **800,000 tonnes of CO2** from equivalent fossil fuel energy, which equates to taking **500,000 cars off Somerset's roads** (12,500 per year for 40 years).

Genuine benefits for local residents, including over **£90,000 community benefit fund**.



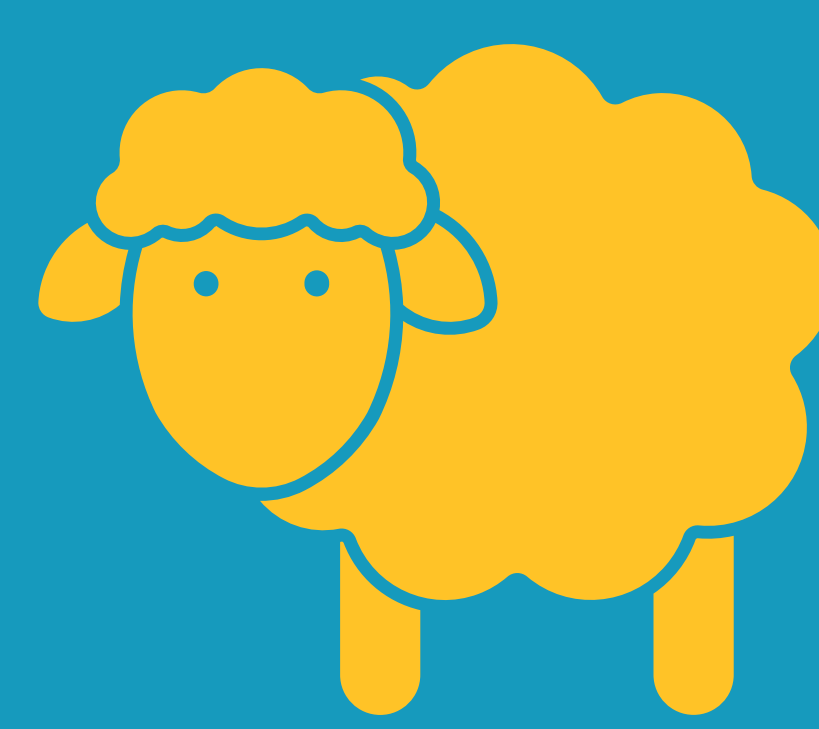
More than **50% biodiversity net gain** providing ecological benefits through new habitats, such as wildflower meadows, grassland areas, insect hotels, bird nesting boxes and beehives.

£5m generated in **business rates** over the lifetime of the project.



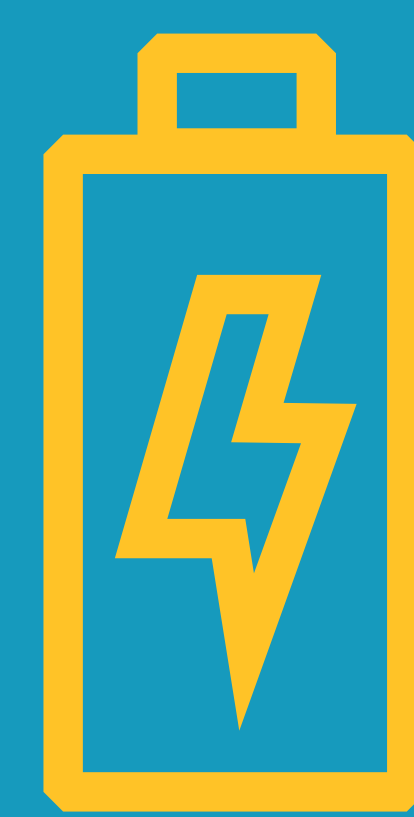
Over **50% net gain for hedgerow / trees** including over **500m of new hedgerows**, along with an orchard and new broadleaved woodland which will provide ecological benefits alongside landscape mitigation.

The ability for over **95% of the site** to be used for sheep grazing and **remain in farming use**, allowing topsoil to recover, by increasing soil organic matter and improving the soil structure.



Investment of **c.£250,000** in new green infrastructures such as enhanced rights of way, outdoor picnic areas, outdoor classroom, a community orchard and information boards.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) on site, ensuring the solar farm can be as flexible as possible in delivering energy to the grid.



Honeyhall Solar Farm Proposals

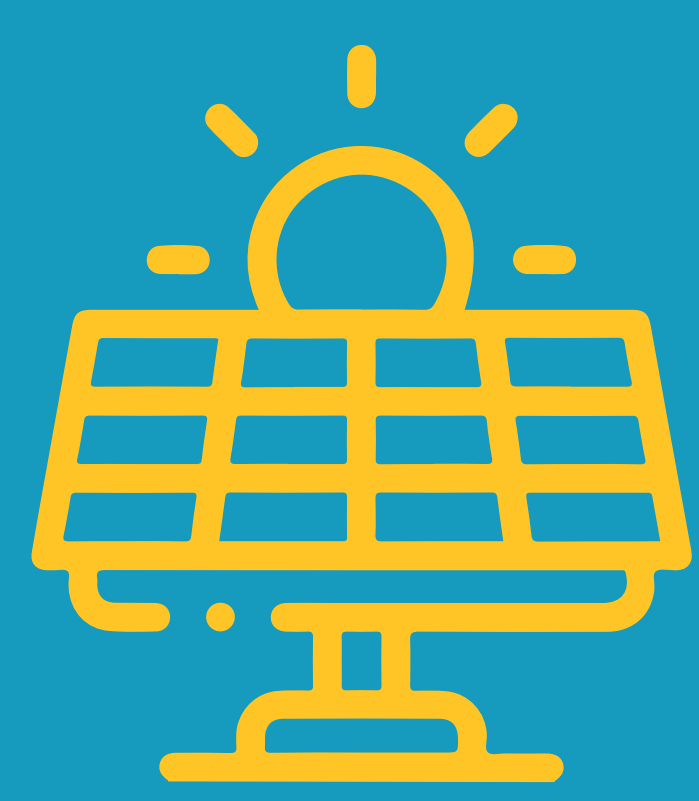


Site Location

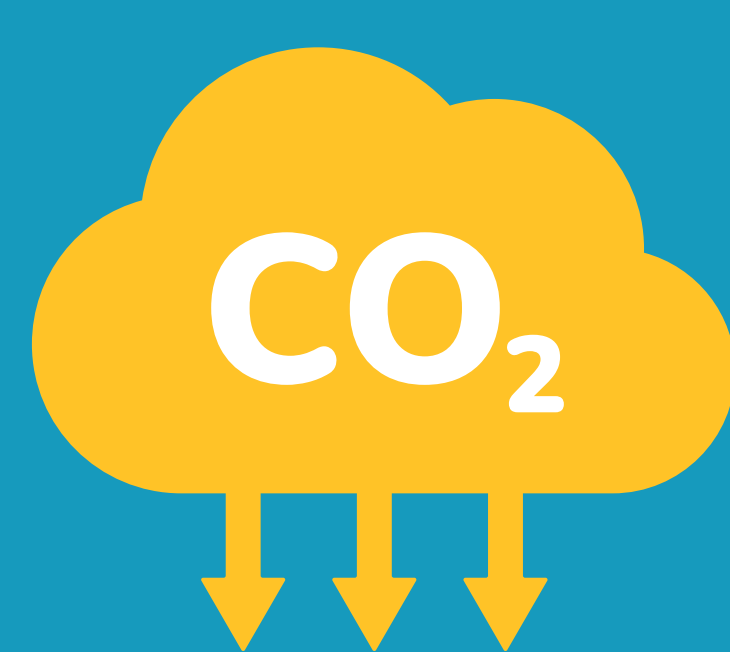


Honeyhall Solar Farm would be located east of King Road, and south of Stock Lane. The site is 1.0km south of Congresbury and 2.0km north of Churchill. The site lies within the Parishes of Congresbury and Churchill.

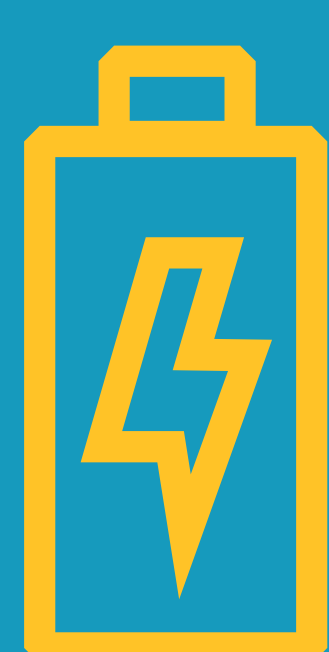
This location has been carefully chosen by our integrated team of experts. The site will benefit from an infield connection to the electricity grid, can be screened to minimise visual impact and has the potential to deliver significant positive gains for protected species.



The planned solar farm will generate over 48GWh of electricity a year. This would provide the equivalent annual energy needs of over 13,000 North Somerset homes.



CO2 savings will exceed 800,000 tonnes over the lifetime of the project which equates to taking over 500,000 cars off North Somerset's roads (12,500 per year for 40 years).



We are also planning to install batteries to store electricity which can be fed back into the local energy network to help balance the grid at times of high demand.



Honeyhall Solar Farm

Natural Capital



Tackling the Ecological Crisis through Natural Capital

Not only are we facing a climate crisis, but we are facing an **ecological emergency** too, and the two are intrinsically linked. According to the ground-breaking 2019 'State of Nature Report', **60% of British wildlife species monitored have declined** and **15% are facing extinction** for a variety of reasons including use of pesticides and habitat loss.

A Green Future

The Government's 25-year Environment Plan 'A Green Future' highlights the **importance of natural capital as a tool in decision-making**. Natural capital refers to the aspects of nature that directly or indirectly produce value for people, such as the stocks of forests, rivers, land, minerals and oceans.

Increasing Biodiversity on Solar Farms

From stocks of natural capital flow ecosystem services or benefits which may be economic, social, environmental, cultural or spiritual with qualitative or quantitative values. For example, access to open spaces and providing a healthy environment. Solar farms offer a unique opportunity to provide **significant biodiversity net gains** through habitat creation and planting of trees.

**>50%
Net
Gain**

Ecosystem services arising from well-managed solar farms



Biodiversity and wildlife habitat provision



Carbon storage and climate regulation



Flood attenuation and water cycle support



Water quality regulation



Pollination



Air quality regulation



Soil erosion mitigation and soil quality regulation



Education, leisure and community engagement



Food provision and support for sustainable agriculture

Honeyhall Solar Farm

Top FAQs



Are solar farms built with the landscape in mind?



Absolutely, we work closely with communities to ensure that our solar farms blend in and restore traditional meadows and hedgerows to the countryside. The maximum height of our solar panels is three metres, which is the equivalent of a well-maintained hedgerow.

We also provide significant landscape enhancements on every scheme, including new hedgerow and tree planting. The proposals include **over 500m of new hedgerow, a community orchard, planting new trees and wildflower meadows** which will provide ecological benefits alongside screening views of the site.



Why are most solar farms built on agricultural land?

Solar is one of the **cheapest forms of clean renewable energy**, and is vital to tackle both the climate, and cost of living crises. This **cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone**. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as unaffordable, with initial costs of installation too high for some. A full brownfield land search was undertaken during the site selection process. This search found that all available brownfield sites were already being used, for housing or industrial purposes, or not of sufficient size to develop a viable scheme.

As a result, low quality agricultural land is used, without impacting on food security. The **proposed site consists predominantly Grade 4 'poor' quality farmland** and will continue to be used for pastoral (sheep) farming.

Will there be much disturbance during construction?



We aim to access sites and manage all traffic in such a way that it will have a minimum impact on surrounding communities. **The delivery route to the proposed site will be via King Road**. The delivery route and access will be assessed by the Highways authority, to ensure it is a safe and viable option. Construction is anticipated to take 6-9 months, with an average of 6 deliveries per day.

No mitigation PROW within the site (PROW AX14/46/10), looking west within the site



Same viewpoint with mitigation at year 15



Honeyhall Solar Farm



Community Benefits

Green Infrastructure

Investment of c. £250,000 in landscape enhancements which will be linked by existing public footpaths.

All footpaths enhanced to 10m in width and planted with wildflower margins.

New picnic areas, benches and community information boards.

New interpretation boards detailing the history of the area, benefits of solar energy and wildflower meadows / pollination.

Outdoor classroom, seating area and beehives providing an educational resource.



Local Economy

Community Benefit fund of over £90,000 which could be used on rooftop solar for community buildings / schools and/or other sustainable initiatives locally, e.g. village improvement schemes or other new amenities.

Sponsorship of local schools which could include free curriculum lessons from qualified beekeepers, site visits to the beehives and wildflower garden establishment on school grounds.

The provision of jobs and sourcing of materials locally associated with the construction of the solar farm and the operational phase of development. Construction staff are also likely to use local accommodation and shops / restaurants.

Business rates contribution in excess of £5m over lifetime of the project.



Honeyhall Solar Farm

About JBM



What We Do



We are at the heart of the UK's renewables revolution, helping to realise our collective goal of net zero emissions through the deployment of solar energy.

We believe this is best achieved through positive stakeholder relationships and listening to the voices of the community.



Our Vision



Our vision is to power the UK with reliable, affordable, clean solar energy, and to add value through innovation and investment.

We're bringing the benefits of solar energy to communities and the planet – at the scale and pace that is needed to help the country meet its net zero ambitions.



Our Projects

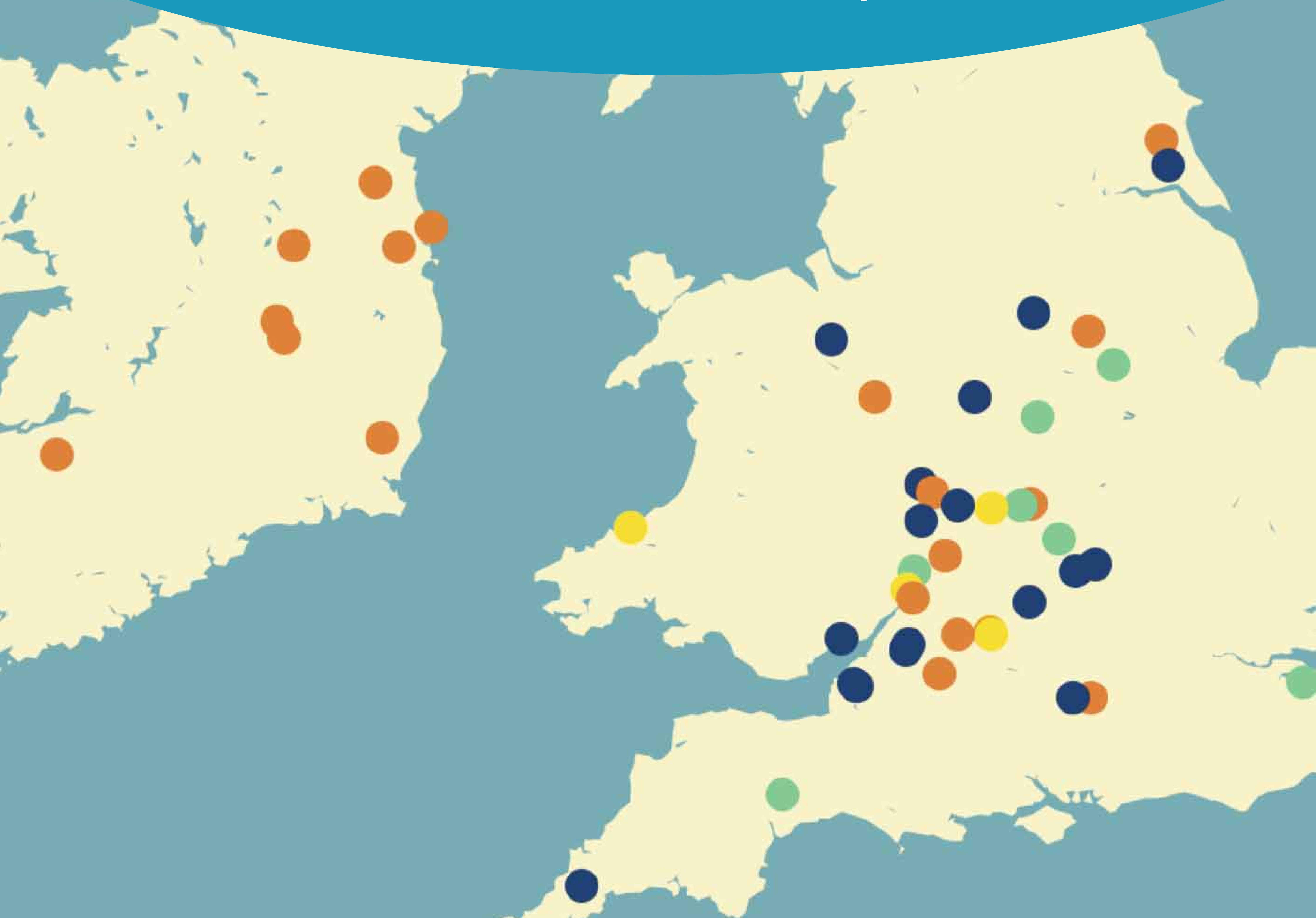


Our **98% planning application success rate** over the last decade speaks for itself. We remain committed to using the lessons we have learned in this time to continue delivering large-scale solar farms with co-located battery storage and biodiversity net gains on every project.

All our future solar schemes will achieve a **minimum of 50% biodiversity net gain**, five times the **minimum requirement of 10%**.

Since 2012, our team has secured planning permission in the UK and Ireland for **more than 1GW of solar projects**, ranging from 30 to 150 megawatts. This is the equivalent of providing energy to over 265,000 homes.

We work closely with local people to shape the future of our projects and to ensure the benefits of solar energy developments are realised in a way that **positively impacts local people**, through community benefit funds and significant investment in green infrastructure.



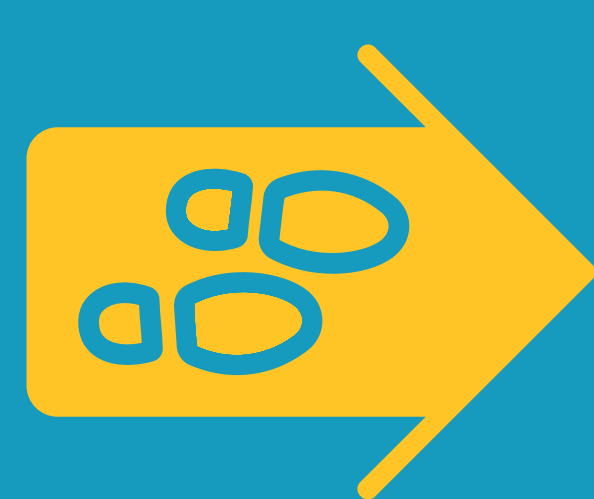
● Awaiting Construction ● Operational ○ Grid Secured ● Planning Submitted

Honeyhall Solar Farm

Next Steps



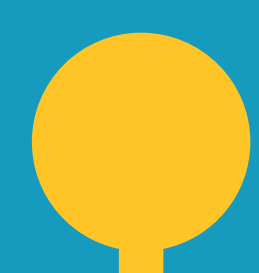
Timeline



Public Consultation

Submit Planning

Commence Construction



Jun 2023



Q1 2024



Q2 2026

Jun 2023



Jul 2023



Q2 2025



Finalise Feedback

Planning Permission

Energisation

Your Feedback



Please take some time today to provide your feedback on the proposals. You can do this by **completing the Feedback Form** provided.

Please note our pre-submission consultation period closes on the **30th June 2023**. Please ensure that any feedback is sent sufficiently in advance to arrive before this date.

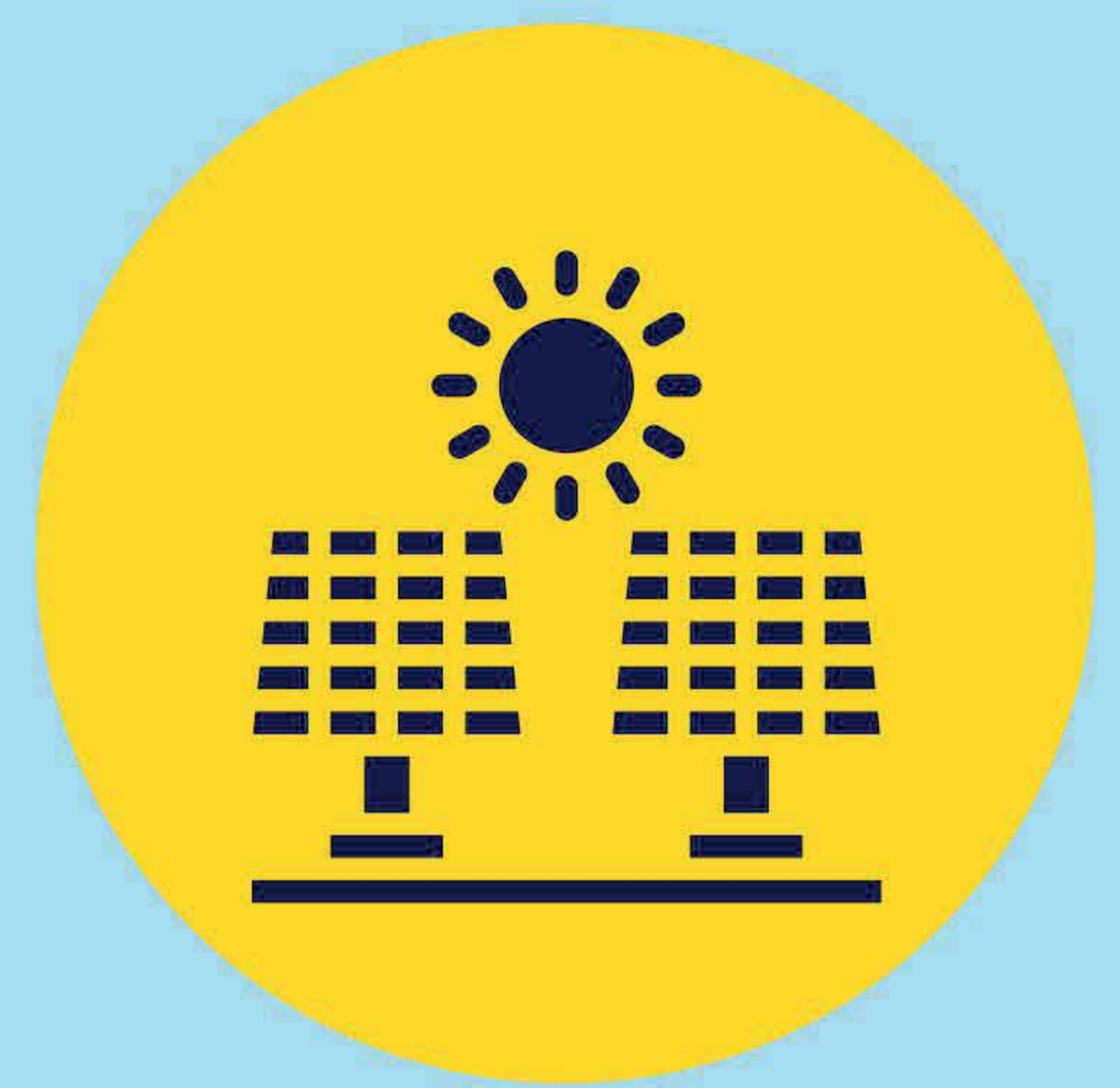


THE FACTS ON SOLAR FARMS

SOLAR COST, PERFORMANCE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RECYCLING

DOES SOLAR PV WORK WELL IN THE UK? IS IT SUNNY ENOUGH?

Absolutely. Solar works well everywhere in the UK. Solar panels don't need direct sunlight to operate and produce power all year round, accounting for about 4% of national consumption. In the middle of a sunny day, they can produce over a quarter of the UK's power.



IS SOLAR EXPENSIVE?

Not at all. Solar provides the cheapest electricity in history, far cheaper than gas or nuclear. The energy price crisis has made the case for solar even stronger. For residential and commercial-scale rooftop projects, the cost averages only £1,700 per kilowatt of capacity.



DOES MANUFACTURING SOLAR PANELS PRODUCE MORE CARBON THAN THEY SAVE IN THEIR LIFETIME?

No. Solar projects save vast amounts of carbon emissions over their lifetime. Research shows their carbon payback time is 1-4 years and that they generate a hundred times more energy than it takes to make them over a 40-year warranty period.



ARE SOLAR PANELS RECYCLABLE?

Certainly. Up to 99% of materials in a solar panel are recyclable. All of which can be extracted, separated, recycled or reused. Solar panels are built to last and can function for decades.



THE FACTS ON SOLAR FARMS

LAND USE, LANDSCAPE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

ARE SOLAR FARMS GOOD FOR NATURE?

Certainly. Solar farms provide benefits such as improving local biodiversity by supporting new and existing plant and animal life. Ecologists have found that solar farms can deliver biodiversity net gains of 20% to over 100%.



DOES LAND USED FOR SOLAR FARMS REDUCE FOOD SECURITY?

No. Solar farms provide valuable income for farmers, they can still be used for grazing, and can support UK farmers to continue food production on other parts of their land. Some developers consider growing produce under or alongside solar panels.



HOW MUCH SPACE WILL SOLAR FARMS TAKE UP?

Very little. Even under 2050 Net Zero targets, Solar farms would occupy 0.5% of the UK's land - much less than what is currently used by golf courses.

0.5 %

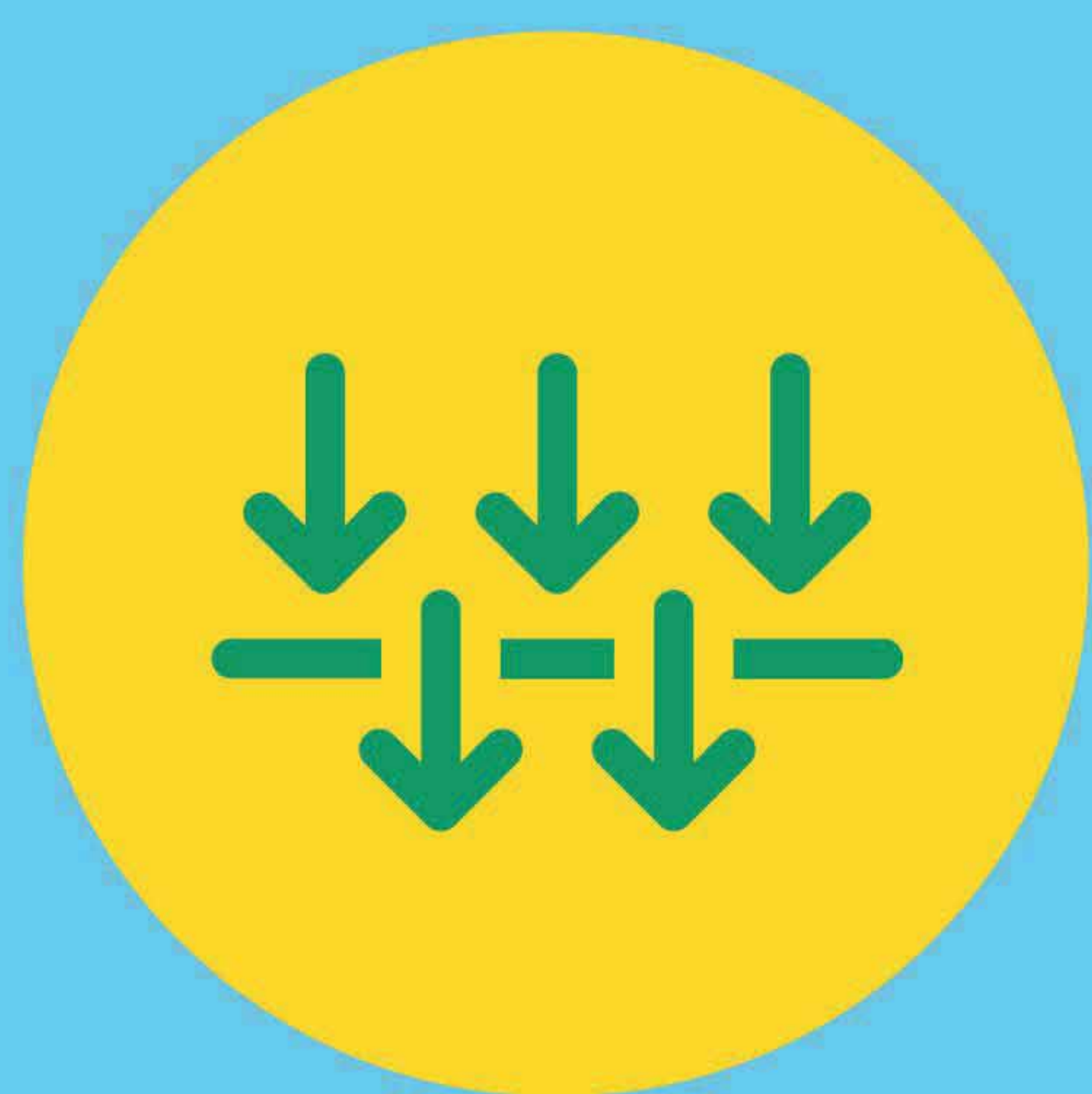
ARE SOLAR FARMS BUILT WITH THE LANDSCAPE IN MIND?

Absolutely. Developers work closely with communities to ensure that solar farms blend in and restore traditional meadows and hedgerows to the countryside.



DO SOLAR PANELS CREATE GLINT AND GLARE?

Barely any. Glint and glare are not a problem. Solar panels are designed to absorb light. The more light a panel absorbs, the more power it will generate.

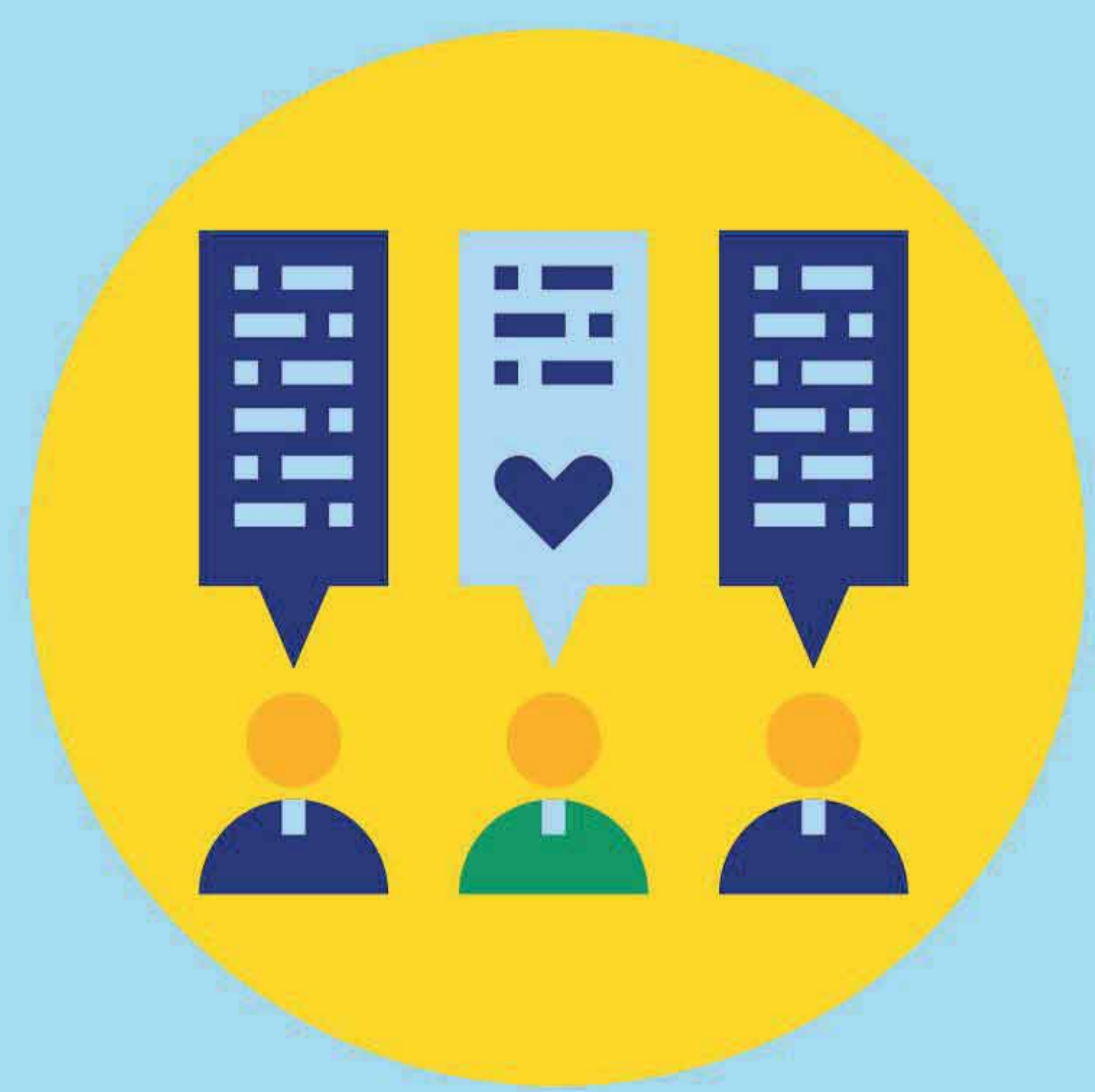


THE FACTS ON SOLAR FARMS

LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND THE PUBLIC

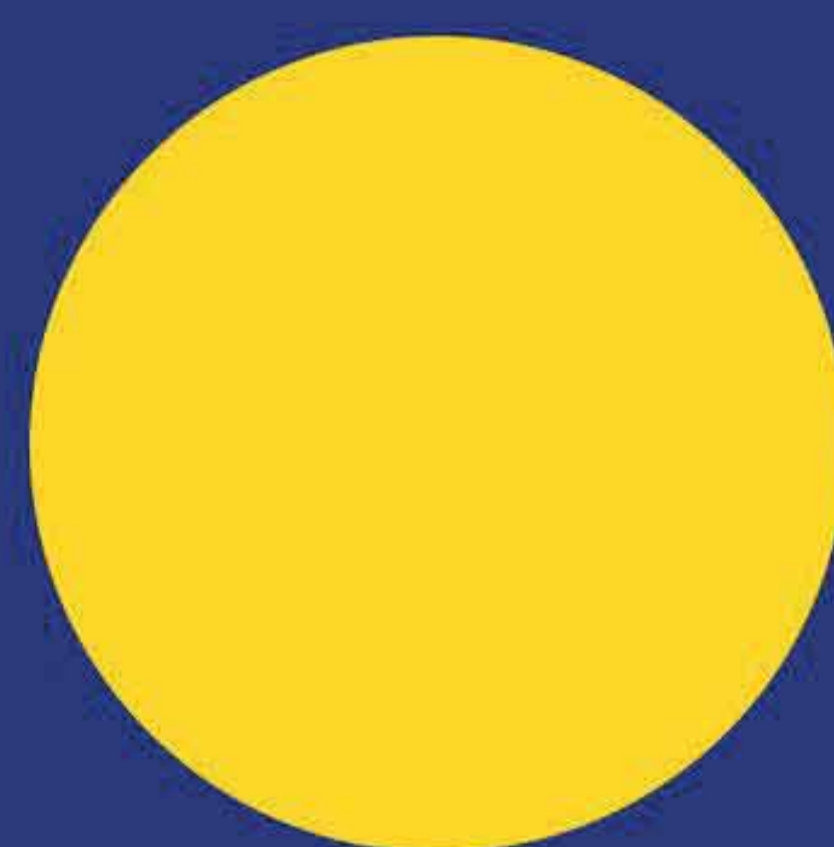
DO SOLAR PROJECT DEVELOPERS ENGAGE WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY?

Of course. Developers work hard to engage with the community, from the presentation and discussion of project plans to ensuring opportunities to provide detailed feedback on proposals. Operators regularly partner with local wildlife groups and welcome school visits.



IS SOLAR POPULAR?

Definitely. According to Government surveys, solar is the most popular energy source. Data in 2021 showed that 90% of the public supported it. When asked about a solar farm being built in their local area, 81% of respondents in 2022 said they weren't opposed. Only 3% significantly opposed, while 8% felt that a solar farm wouldn't be feasible locally.



Solar PV energy systems are affordable, reliable, low-impact, and popular. In 2021 they supplied more than 4% of the UK's entire electricity demand, and this could treble by 2030. The many benefits of solar technology mean it can and must support the UK's transition to a NetZero economy.

