

Yardley Road Solar Farm

Landscape, Ecology, and the Environment



Biodiversity

Since the introduction of the Environment Act (2021) all developments must deliver a minimum 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), but we aim to achieve over 20% BNG. Allowing the land to rest from intensive farming will help the soil recover, and extensive hedgerow and wildflower meadow planting will improve habitats for local wildlife.

In considering the site suitability we have carried out a wide variety of technical assessments, including ecological and habitat assessments. The findings have identified skylarks so we have adjusted our design to ensure their nesting areas remain free of solar panels. Suitable mitigation and enhancement to their foraging environment will be included in the final design layout.

Drainage and Flood Risk

The site is located in Flood Zone 1, which represents the lowest level of risk. Our proposals will offer an improvement on the existing drainage situation.

Archaeology

We have instructed archaeological consultants to carry out a site walkover, geophysical survey and we have agreed with the council to carry out trial trenching on the site, where a series of trenches will be dug to establish if there are potential areas or artefacts of archaeological value on the site. If anything of significance is found this would be mitigated to the satisfaction of the County Archaeologist.

Noise & Construction

- **Noise:** Some daytime noise will be generated by electrical components, this will be considered in a full Noise Impact Assessment, which considers all sensitive noise receptors, and will be submitted with the planning application.
- **Construction:** A Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be agreed upon with the Council to minimise disruption.
- **Traffic:** Once operational, maintenance visits will be minimal, occurring once or twice a month.



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