



RWE

Solar Farm Case Studies

Sustainably Focused Solar Farms



Thanks to our extensive experience of developing solar projects across the UK, we have developed a close, collaborative relationship with landowners that we work alongside to realise our projects.

In doing so, we remain committed to ensuring the best possible economic and agricultural benefits can be achieved for those landowners who host our projects, while also playing an important role in protecting the environment, securing UK energy supply, and helping delivery Net Zero.

We aim to design our solar farms, and manage them to enhance biodiversity. Here are some of our considerations for achieving biodiversity net gains:



Landscapes

We design solar farms with features like wildlife corridors, buffer zones, and undisturbed areas to support native species.



Grasslands and meadows

We opt for a mix of native plant species in and around the solar panels. This can provide habitat and food sources for local wildlife.



Habitats

Building new habitats, such as bird and bat boxes, is crucial for biodiversity net gain, providing safe spaces for wildlife to nest. Enhancing biodiversity, vital for ecosystem balance and resilience.



Grazing and agriculture

Grazing sheep help control vegetation, reducing maintenance costs, while promoting biodiversity and creating a sustainable, eco-friendly coexistence.



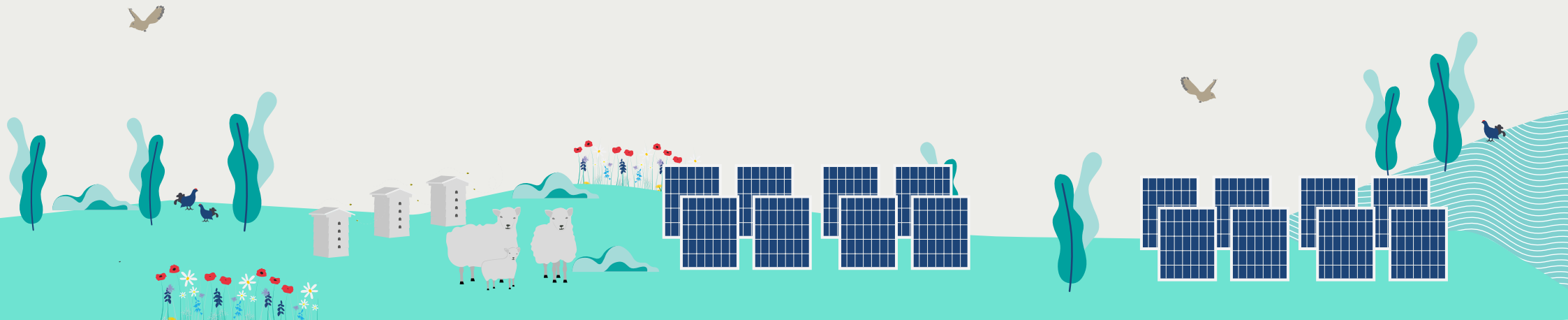
Fencing and access management

Fences designed to allow wildlife movement, incorporating features like underpasses or wildlife gates.



Long-Term Planning

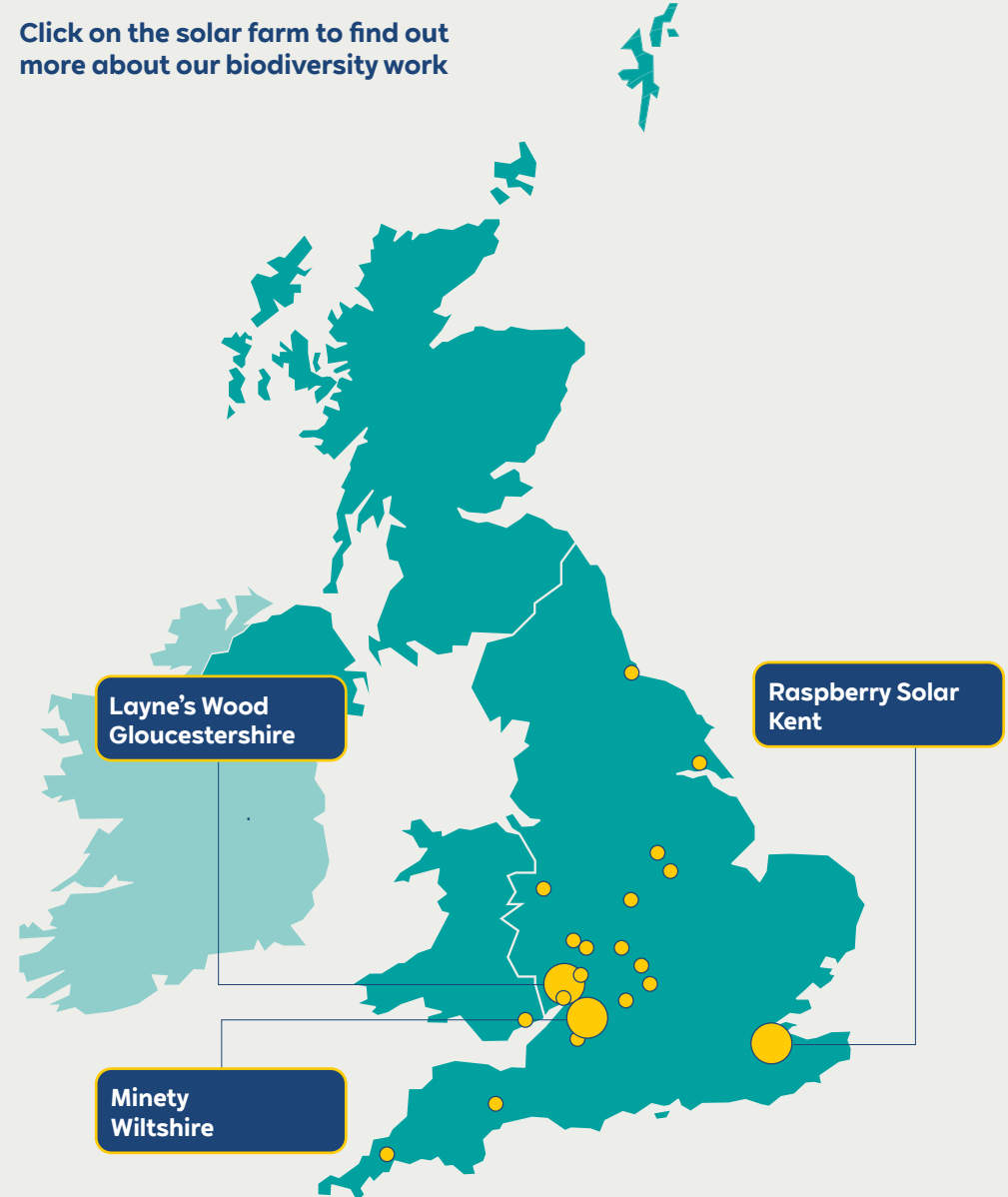
Developing and monitoring long-term biodiversity management plans that extend beyond the initial construction phase, ensuring ongoing commitment to biodiversity conservation.



Our UK Solar Farms



Click on the solar farm to find out more about our biodiversity work



Raspberry Solar Farm

Net biodiversity gains

154%
Habitats

134%
Hedgerows



Situated to the west of Iwade, this farm has the capacity to produce sufficient renewable energy to fulfill the energy needs of more than 23,670 homes. Our planned environmental improvements include:



40 acres of wildflower meadows

New species-rich grassland, newt-friendly tussocky grassland around old drainage/attenuation ponds linked to the quarry, extensive wildflower meadows across the site and re-wilding.



Habitats

Management to ensure long-term botanical value, including the creation of native shrill carder bee habitat.



7km hedgerow and tree planting

Specific green corridors and new hedgerow and tree planting, promoting nesting and foraging for wildlife.



30+ bird nesting boxes

Bird nesting boxes and skylark enhancement areas.



Over 50 acres of enhanced wintering bird habitat

to support local populations of curlews, lapwings and golden plovers.



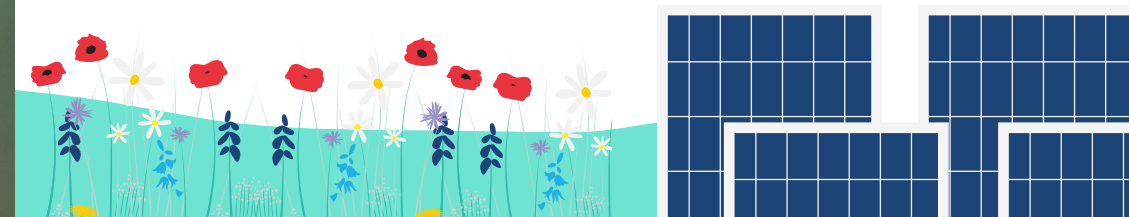
Animal access

Badger and small mammal friendly access gates built into the deer fence.



Grazing

Low intensity pastoral grazing to be used to manage grassland meadows in a natural and sustainable way.



Minety Solar Farm



Net biodiversity gains

64%
Habitats

15%
Hedgerows



Minety solar farm would generate enough renewable power to generate the equivalent annual energy needs of around 15,000 homes, thus contributing towards the security of energy supply for Wiltshire. Our planned environmental improvements include:



Grasslands

New species-rich grassland, wildflower meadow and re-wilding area.



Habitats

Active habitat management to ensure long-term botanical value.



Hedgerow and tree planting

Specific green corridors and new hedgerow and tree planting, promoting nesting and foraging for wildlife.



Bat and bird nesting boxes

Bat and barn owl boxes on trees for roosting.



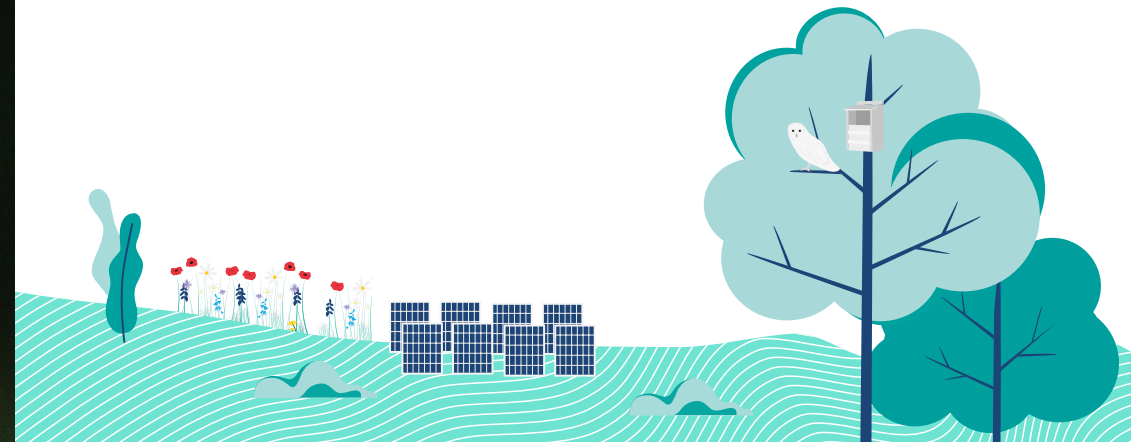
Animal access

Badger and small mammal friendly access gates built into the deer fence.



Grazing

Low intensity pastoral grazing to be used to manage grassland meadows in a natural and sustainable way.



Layne's Wood Solar Farm

Net biodiversity gains

89.7%
Habitats

30.3%
Hedgerows

17%
River Habitat



Layne's Wood Solar Farm would be located in the Forest of Dean capable of meeting the equivalent electricity needs of 21,700 homes. Our planned environmental improvements include:



Over 80 acres of wildflower meadows

Including a 4.7 acre daffodil meadow, providing a significant habitat to local species and pollinators.



1.8 acres of new wet woodland planting

to improve the site's water attenuation and acting as a natural flood defence.



Animal shelters

Beehives, reptile hibernacula and insect hotels to be strategically positioned across the site to encourage local species.



Over 2.4km of new hedgerow and tree planting

Including 70 new mature trees to improve interconnectivity of habitats for species such as Dormice.

