

Environmental considerations



Ecological enhancements

Robin Hood Solar Farm represents an opportunity to deliver significant ecological and biodiversity enhancements.

The proposals will deliver **at least 10% Biodiversity Net Gain** (BNG), in accordance with national requirements. Typically, solar farms deliver well in excess of this and we expect this to be the case for Robin Hood Solar Farm¹.

The project team are undertaking a series of assessments and surveys related to ecology, biodiversity, trees and habitat management. Qualitas Energy is committed to ensuring that impacts are minimised and that the project will deliver biodiversity and habitat improvements.

Initial ecological surveys and assessments identify that the site is remote from any national or international designations and that effects on wildlife can be avoided by suitable working practices and design measures. Solar farms typically include measures such as gaps for small mammals to pass into and out of the site, and planting species rich grassland and new hedgerows which are beneficial for insects, birds and a host of other wildlife.



Landscape and visual effects

The project team are undertaking assessments of the landscape and visual effects which may arise from

Robin Hood Solar Farm. An initial feasibility assessment has been undertaken, which sets out that solar development can be accommodated on the site subject to careful design, due to the enclosed nature of the surrounding topography and the existing mature screening surrounding the site. We will include new planting to provide more screening, helping to reduce effects further.



Public Rights of Way

There are Public Rights of Way (PRoW) which cross the site including Bridleway 10, which runs on a north to south alignment

through the approximate centre of the Site. Byway 52 and Footpath 7 both run east to west within the northernmost parts of the Site. Footpath 12 runs along the boundary of Field 15. We will protect the routes of PRoWs within the site and will minimise any interaction or crossing points through sensitive design of internal access tracks. We are also proposing to use planting to create visual screening for PRoW users.

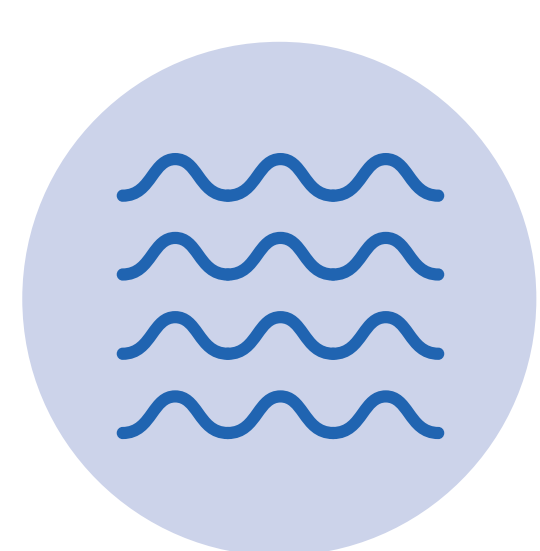


Heritage and archaeology

There are several listed buildings in the vicinity of the project including Thurstons Farmhouse, Locksmiths Farmhouse, Brook

House, Robin Hood Farmhouse and Barn, Meekings Farmhouse and Le Hurst Farmhouse and Barn. Initial assessment of these has concluded that setting effects can be suitably mitigated either through reinforcing existing hedgerows or planting new ones.

The project team are undertaking surveys and assessments related to the historic environment including a geophysical survey to identify potential archaeology on site. Initial results of the geophysical survey indicate that the site is not likely to contain significant archaeology, and that any residual archaeological and heritage effects can be managed through design, such as non-ground-penetrating methods of construction, if needed.



Flood Risk

The site of Robin Hood Solar Farm is almost wholly flood zone 1, apart from a narrow band of flood zone 2 and 3 which follows

the river running on an east-west alignment. The design ensures that no panels, fencing or ancillary equipment are within flood zones 2 or 3. The watercourse will be crossed at existing crossing points.

Solar panels are mounted on frames which are driven into the ground on thin piles, which means that the infiltration of rainwater into the ground can continue. Where more permanent bases are required (such as for the substation) extensive assessment will be undertaken, with bespoke drainage design provided to ensure that surface water will be managed appropriately.

As part of our planning application for Robin Hood Solar Farm, we will be preparing a Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy. These will demonstrate that there will be no net increase in flood risk outside the red line boundary of the Robin Hood Solar Farm site.



¹Solar Energy UK (2025). Solar Habitat 2025: Ecological trends on solar farms in the UK, accessed via: <https://solarenergyuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/SEUK-Solar-Habitat-2025-3.pdf>