

opdeenergy



July 2022

# Uffington Solar Farm

# Purpose of our Presentation

**1** Why do we need renewable energy?

**2** Site selection

**3** The proposed development: considerations and impacts

**4** What happens after 30 years

**5** Community benefits

**6** Compatibility with local plan

**7** Q&A

# 1. Why do we need Renewable Energy

## Renewable energy in UK

- In 2020, renewable electricity generation was 43%.
- British Energy Security Strategy to produce 95% of electricity from low carbon sources by 2030.
- Current solar capacity is 14GW.
- Department of BEIS estimates that this capacity could grow up to 5 times by 2035.

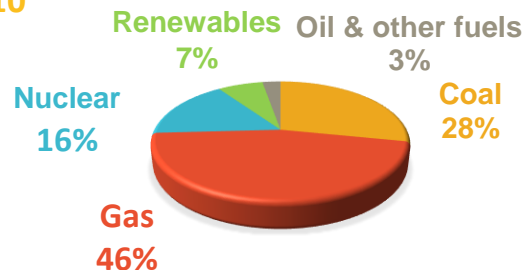
## Public Opinion - Research

The UK Energy Research Centre published a national survey of public attitudes towards energy in the UK:

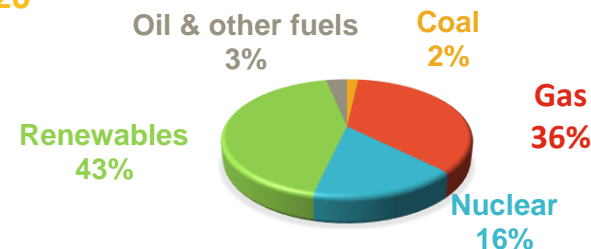
- 74% were very or fairly concerned about climate change.
- 82% were worried about the UK becoming too dependent upon energy from other countries.
- 79% wanted to see a reduction in the use of fossil fuels over the next few decades.
- 81% expressed a desire to reduce their energy use.
- 85% supported solar energy.

## Green Energy growth in UK\*

2010



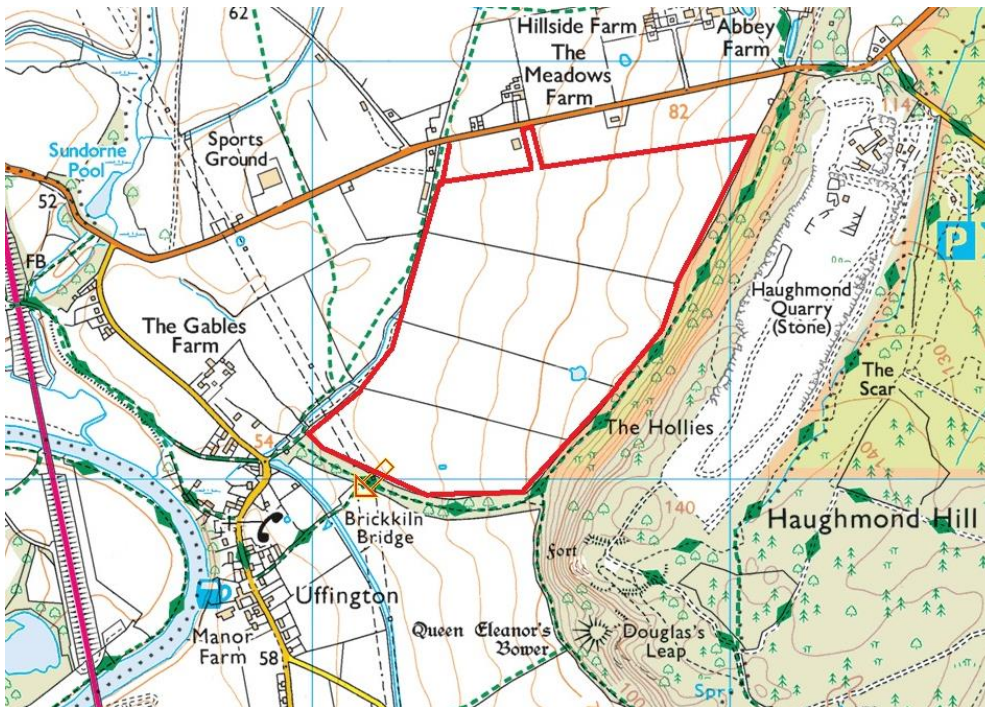
2020



\*Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy



## 2a. Site Selection - Location



The development complies with NPPF and Local Plans (Shropshire Council).

A suitable site to allocate a solar farm was found in an area with free grid capacity.

The grid capacity is up to 35MW, connected to the grid approximately 0.8 km to the west of the site.

Low and moderate quality agricultural land would be used.

Outside of flood risk restriction areas, AONB, SSSI and heritage sensitive buildings.

Low visibility from public and private areas.

## 2b. Site Selection – Site Design and Layout

- Low height of equipment proposed.
- No archaeological remains found on site.
- The development will have low visual impact on the nearby Listed Buildings.
- Ecology enhancement measures provided: as planting in hedgerow gaps, grassland in corners, and benefits to local wildlife.
- The only noise would be during operation of cooling fans in the transformer cabinets.
- No glint and glare issues encountered.
- Field is low and moderate agricultural land.
- Flood Zone 1 of the entire field.
- The Public Rights of Way would **not** be closed.



# 3. The proposed development: considerations and impacts

## How will the solar farm work?

### Generation electricity

- Continuously operating solar cells convert sunlight into electricity, which is fed directly into the National Grid. This site will connect to the grid to underground cable 0,8km to the west of the site.

### Long-term Vision

- Enable a dual use of the proposed fields as sheep grazing will be permitted during the green renewable energy generation.

### Fertility improvement

- Grade of the agricultural land enhanced over the course of the installation.

## What are the impacts?

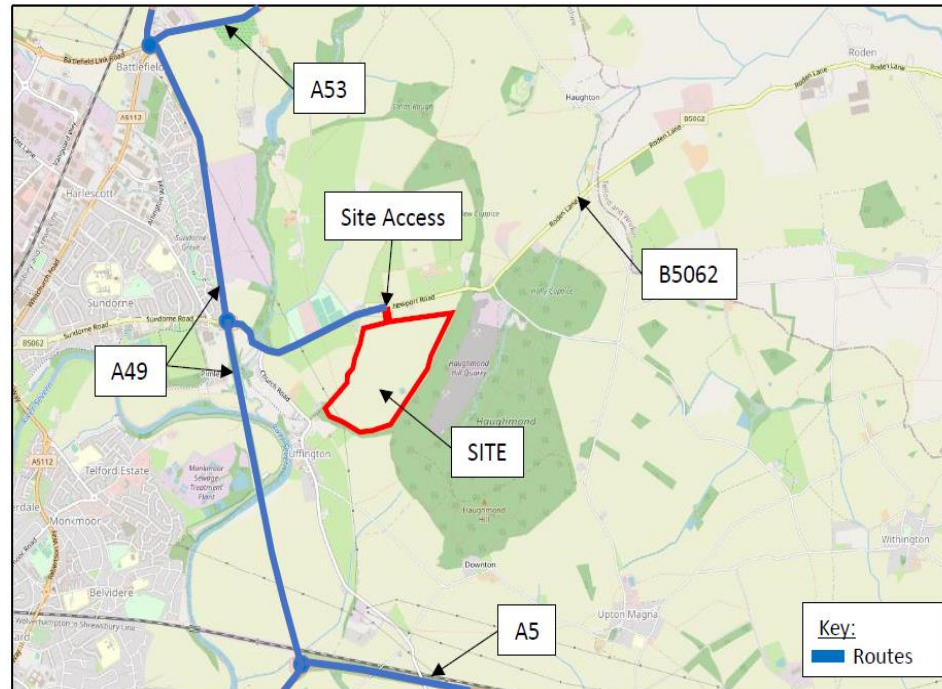
- 1 Less than 39 weeks of construction
- 2 Assimilate rapidly into the countryside
- 3 Support agricultural enhancements
- 4 Beneficial to the land and wildlife
- 5 No glint and glare impacts
- 6 Low maintenance, a van every 4 weeks approximately
- 7 The proposed development is reversible





### 3. The proposed development: considerations and impacts

#### What will the construction entail?



- The construction of the site is anticipated to take only around 39 weeks (9 months).
- During construction, it is estimated an average 6 daily two-way HGV delivers, and 20 two-way staff (cars, vans...).
- Access to the site is planned by transport experts – a potential route is available, via A49 and B5062 according to the Transport Statement.

## 4. What happens after 30 years?

2023

2053

- The scheme will be completely removed, and the land returned to its actual state.
- There are no long term detrimental impacts to the land-quality in fact improves.
- The land does not become 'brownfield'.
- A bond set in place with the landowner in the Lease, to ensure by the end of the Lease the land is cleared.
- LPA normally set a Condition for Decommissioning Statement.
- Recycling of solar components is a growing business.



## 5. Community benefits

---

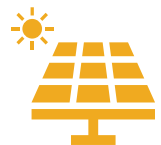
- Local communities hosting major renewable energy developments should be recognized for their contribution to meeting UKs need for securing cleaner energy generation and where the communities host such developments should directly benefit.
- It is however noted that this is not a material consideration in the determination of the Planning Application.
- Discussions to be held with Local Parish Councils who understands well the needs of the area.
- Invitation to local groups for funding of environmental projects.
- Suggestions received through Public Consultation: panels for sports pavilion rooftop, church roof repairs, enhance of public buildings...
- During July 2022, approx. 500 leaflets were distributed to all residents, informing of our project and inviting to reply completing a questionnaire.



## 6. Compatibility with local plan

---

- The scheme allows Shropshire Council to play its part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with Shropshire Council approved Climate Change Strategy Framework in December 2019.
- Shropshire Council will be closer to its target to gas neutral by 2030. This development would be an important push according to the Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy.
- Uffington Solar Farm would provide potential CO<sub>2</sub> district savings around 210,000 tons per estimated 30 years of operation.
- This solar farm would generate annually electricity to power 12,000 houses.
- For more info, please visit [www.uffingtonsolarfarm.co.uk](http://www.uffingtonsolarfarm.co.uk)



Q&A

energizing **the future**