

Solar & Biodiversity

Our solar installations are designed to promote local biodiversity. We're committed to designing projects with biodiversity net-gain plans. That means we can deliver on the dual objectives of low-carbon energy whilst providing a place for local flora and fauna to thrive.



Lightsource bp team with Chris Sperring and landowner for owl box placing on site, in Dorset.

Key Goals



1. Improve local biodiversity & support pollinators



3. Enhance local habitats



2. Prioritise native species



4. Avoid or mitigate construction impacts



Landscape planting

Our landscape plans are prepared by landscaping experts, with feedback from local residents being fed into the design. Our approach to development favours natural screening such as planting new hedgerows, shrubs and trees to filter or screen views. This provides additional support to local flora and fauna.



Seeding

All of our solar farms are designed with wide boundary margins to prevent shading. The area between the solar farm fence and the site boundary can be seeded with a bespoke seed mix, such as wildflowers, grassland meadow or other suitable mixes designed to feed and support the local wildlife. Within the solar array a balance is sought between providing greater biodiversity and allowing for maintenance requirements and livestock grazing.

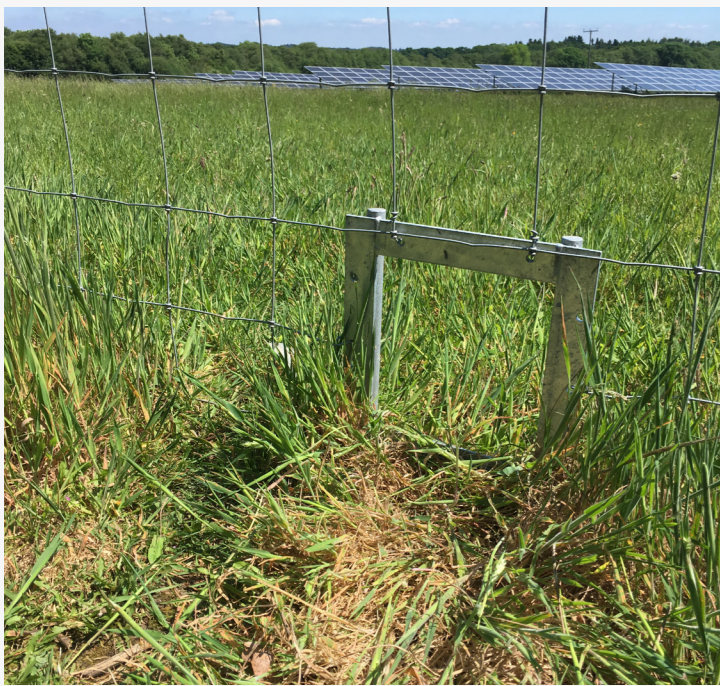


Pollinators & honey

Our habitat plans allow us to create a suitable environment to support local pollinators. This has the benefit of boosting local biodiversity and providing pollination of local crops. We do this by choosing appropriate wildflowers, meadow and grass seed mixes for our sites, designed with expert input to feed and encourage populations of insects. In the UK, alongside these planting and biodiversity enhancement plans, we've partnered with local beekeepers, and the Bee Farmer's Association, to put honeybee hives on our solar farms. Global bee populations are in decline, and we're keen to support beekeepers and local populations in reversing this. We even make our own solar honey!

Habitats for wildlife

Once installed, our projects create peaceful and safe environments for native wildlife to flourish. Here are some examples of our approach to solar that benefits the local ecosystem.



Mammal gates

To allow for continued access of small mammals where appropriate



Raised solar panels

To provide protection and shelter



Bird and bat boxes

Additional housing for protection and breeding



Reptile refugia

Safe havens for lizards and other reptiles



Insect hotels

To encourage and support populations of invertebrates