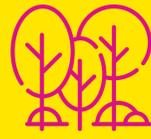


# SOLAR & BIODIVERSITY

Our solar installations are designed to promote local biodiversity. We're committed to working with experts and communities to ensure our projects have a net biodiversity benefit.



## 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 landscape experts, with feedback from community engagement being fed into the design. We prefer to use natural screening such as planting hedgerows, shrubs and trees native to the local area 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, or boundary vegetation, can be seeded with a bespoke mix, such as wildflowers, grassland meadow or other suitable mix 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 or livestock grazing.

## Pollinators & Honey

One of our key goals when coming up with habitat plans is to support pollinators – specifically insects – to boost production in local crops and provide additional benefits to nearby farmers. 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 hives of honeybees 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 from some of our schemes and how they benefit the local ecosystem.



1. Mammal Gates – to allow for continued access of small mammals where appropriate



2. Raised Solar Panels – provide protection and shelter



3. Bird and Bat boxes – additional housing for protection and breeding



4. Reptile Refugia – safe havens for lizards and other reptiles



5. Insect Hotels - to encourage and support populations of invertebrates