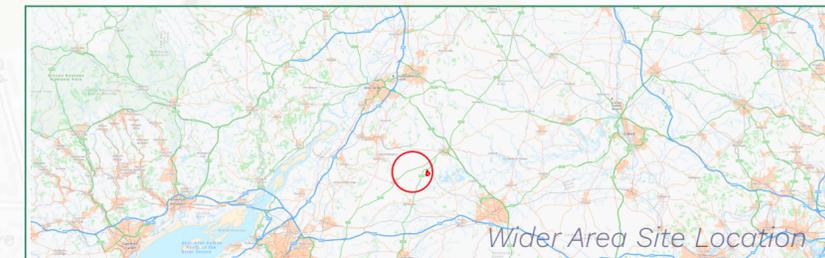


PROPOSED KEMBLE SOLAR FARM

The proposed solar farm layout below is currently in initial design stages and considers physical and ecological constraints such as existing tree lines, drainage ditches and access tracks. It is proposed this layout will evolve through the consultation process to provide a considered layout which is appropriate to the existing setting.



Solar panels



Solar panels vegetation



Fencing



Sheep grazing



Crudewell / Kemble Wood

Site Access: all transport will be from the A429, via an existing agricultural track. Construction time will be approximately 3 months, with an average of less than 2 HGV deliveries per hour (assuming an 8-hour construction working day). During operation, there will be minimal transport to the site for infrequent inspection and maintenance.

Kemble Wood: a buffer of 15m from all trees has been incorporated into the design to protect this Key Wildlife Site and ancient woodland. The site access proposes to use 'no dig' construction methods to ensure all trees and their roots are protected.

Landscape / Visual Impact: The site benefits from limited visibility. In addition to existing hedges and trees on all sides of the site, we will plant over 1 ¼ km of new hedgerow, 3 ¾ km of hedgerow enhancement and new hedgerow tree planting, new native, large-specimen trees, over 1 ¼ hectares of enhanced woodland, and c.4,000 square meters of new woodland, further mitigating the potential for any adverse impact on people's views.

Public Rights of Way: Bridleway CRUD4 and Kemble Footpath 8 to be accommodated at a minimum width of 4m. Hedgerow and tree planting will screen views and add amenity value.

Operational Noise: Equipment including inverters and transformers produces minimal noise, during the daytime only. The main site transformer will be located away from residential properties. A Noise Assessment will inform the selection of equipment, and will accompany the application to ensure no adverse noise impacts.

Surface Water Management: We recognise that flooding is a major concern in Kemble Wick and as such are seeking to improve the surface water flooding in the area. The new woodland planting we are including will mainly be at the southern boundary, where this will slow down flows and hold more water back in the fields during high rainfall events, before it can then reach the local roads. In addition, we are including embankment bunds / swales further up within the fields, as well as c.4,000 square meters of new native species tussock grass mix, to further slow and hold back surface water flows. This will create betterment to localised flood risk.

Ecology / biodiversity: We are including measures to achieve 'biodiversity net gain', including the new and enhanced hedgerows, new specimen tree and woodland planting and woodland enhancement, native species tussock grass mix, and seeding the entire development area beneath and between the solar panels with native species grass and meadow mix, to be potentially used for sheep grazing, with native species grass and wildflower meadow mix at field boundaries. That will be approximately 60 hectares of native species grassland. The mix of short, grazed native species grassland and taller wildflower meadow will attract birds, invertebrates in general, hoverflies, butterflies, moths and bees, supporting also small mammals and possibly reptiles.

