

Why this site

International and national policy has changed significantly since 2015, when the Conference of Parties (CoP) led to a new international climate agreement, the Paris Agreement, being agreed in order to tackle climate change and achieve Net- Zero.

The Government has set a binding target of achieving Net Zero by 2050, with an aim to source 95% of our energy from low carbon technologies by 2030.

North Yorkshire Council declared a Climate Emergency on 5th July 2022 and 'pledged to play a full part in tackling climate change'.

The proposed development would go some way to addressing this issue as, once operational, the solar PV panels would produce enough energy to power approximately 6,100 homes. Additionally, the BESS would be charged while renewable sources are generating, and discharged when demand is high e.g., in the evening, when solar is not generating, therefore assisting in balancing the grid.

Other location-specific factors which make this site suitable include:

- The proposed solar farm would be located on Grade 4 agricultural land, which is classified as lower-quality farmland. The existing grazing use would continue alongside the solar panels, ensuring that agricultural activity can still take place.
- The project provides significant opportunities for environmental enhancement, including hedgerow improvements, tree planting, and wildflower areas. These measures would promote biodiversity and contribute to a substantial Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).
- The connection point to the local electricity grid is conveniently located less than one kilometre south of the site, ensuring efficient integration into the energy network.
- The natural relief of the land would remain unchanged throughout the lifetime of the proposed development. The land would be restored to its sole agricultural status following the completion of the temporary planning permission for the solar farm.

