



Why here?

Low Carbon has carefully identified this site as part of a detailed feasibility process to deliver a large-scale clean energy scheme. Many factors are considered by our specialists when evaluating appropriate sites for development. These include considering the available grid locally as well as various planning and environmental constraints. **This site is close to an available connection point to the local electricity network at Aberthaw and has good access for construction and ongoing maintenance.**

Will the impacts to agricultural land be taken into consideration?

Yes. Understanding the nature and quality of the land (Agricultural Land Classification – ALC) within the site has been an important assessment for us to undertake as we developed the scheme design. This helps us ensure that lower grade land is prioritised for use, and that ‘Best and Most Versatile’ (BMV) agricultural land is avoided.

Initial assessment has shown that this site does not contain high quality agricultural land (it has been assessed to be Grade 3b). We intend to continue to use the land for grazing as part of the management of the grassland within the site, and the construction and decommissioning of the infrastructure will have little impact on the land quality due to the nature of the proposals and construction methods utilised.

Will the site increase flood risk in the area?

Solar panels are mounted on frames which are driven into the ground on spikes. Very little concrete is used on solar farms, generally limited to the bases for the transformers and the substation and switchgear building. Extensive assessment has been undertaken, with mitigation provided to ensure that there is no net increase in flood risk. **This site is not expected to result in any impact to existing drainage, however surface water run-off has been assessed and appropriate mitigation considered to ensure that there is no change in water drainage from the site.**

Will the solar panels be visible from my house?

Visibility of the site from surrounding areas has been a key design consideration. The height of the panels will be relatively low lying meaning much of the site won't be visible from local residential areas in Rhoose, however we know that there are some properties closer to the site at Fonmon and Nurston which we have considered very carefully. **Provision of additional screening planting and enhancing the hedgerows throughout the site will also improve screening from local roads and properties.**

Will panels cover the whole area?

No. There will be lots of green space all over the site. There will be gaps of at least 2.5m between each row of solar panels which will remain grass, and grass will grow underneath each row of panels.

Existing hedgerows and trees will be maintained, with buffers to allow for landscaping and there will also generally be 5 metres of open field space between security fencing and solar panels throughout the whole site and a similar distance between the site fence line and existing boundaries (as a minimum). There will also be new areas of wild meadow planting, new trees and hedgerows will be planted, and there will be farm-style tracks between the fields of panels.