low carbon
powering tomorrow

Hope Solar Park

Commissioned	January 2014
Site area	43 acres
Installed capacity (MW)	7.3 MW
Annual production (MWh)	6,993 MWh
Households powered per annum	2,256
CO2 emissions saved (tonnes per annum)	3,457 tonnes

Overview

Situated close to Hayle, a Cornish former industrial town currently undergoing extensive renewal, Hope is located on high, flat ground once used mainly for low-grade arable farming. The site adjoins Churchtown Farm, another PV scheme already benefiting from the bountiful solar irradiation which characterises the north Cornwall coast. All this land is owned by the same owners, who run a successful vegetable-growing business on higher-grade land nearby and for whom investment in renewables provides certainty of income regardless of seasonal factors. With no nearby areas at a significantly higher altitude, little can be seen of the site externally, while the site's receptors are amply screened by the surrounding hedgerows.

Biodiversity

Since the land is currently agricultural and can be grazed with the solar panels installed, the site has the virtue of being dual-use. Additionally the solar park benefits from the placement of several commercially farmed beehives. Most of the field boundaries are of the stone-clad Cornish hedge variety, which has an earth core, while indigenous species include hawthorn, blackthorn, sycamore, elder, honeysuckle, ash, oak, gorse, hart's tongue fern, cow parsley and common chickweed. While arable fields have now been given over to the solar array, the hedges, building, semi-improved grassland, waterbody, mixed plantation and hardstanding areas are unaffected.