

Lackford Estate Solar Park



Commissioned	March 2014
Site area	82 acres
Installed capacity (MW)	20.9MW
Annual production (MWh)	20,169MWh
Households powered per annum	6,506
CO2 emissions saved (tonnes per annum)	9,322 tonnes

Overview

Lackford Estate Solar Park lies within 3,000 acres of low-lying arable farmland 1.3 km SW of the Suffolk village of Lackford. Bounded by mixed woodland, closely-planted cypress trees and a farm track, Lackford's low-lying topography ensures the site is shielded from public roads and non-estate land, with the site's regular geometry and easy access considered highly favourable for solar park development. Achieving 1.6 ROC accreditation required fast, high-quality delivery, and poor weather made site construction difficult. However, excellent project management and the collaboration of stakeholders, suppliers and partners realised a trouble-free outcome; despite record rainfall and tight timelines, the site was commissioned just one year after initial discussions.

Biodiversity

To mitigate impact on reptiles and ground-nesting birds, construction took place from November to March, with fencing to protect trees and gaps created for small animals' transit. Located beside a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), the site is permanently managed to support stone curlews. A wild bird seed habitat has been sown along the southern boundary with a balance of three small seed-bearing crops, and with existing arable land use now replaced by pasture, the sowing of native meadow grass will further enhance the site's biodiversity. The solar park also benefits from the placement of several commercially farmed beehives.