

Wilmington Solar Park



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| Commissioned | March 2013 |
| Site area | 30 acres |
| Installed capacity (MW) | 7.0MW |
| Annual production (MWh) | 6,757MWh |
| Households powered per annum | 2,180 |
| CO2 emissions saved (tonnes per annum) | 3,123 tonnes |

Overview

Located on the Isle of Wight, the solar park has been described by the landowner as a “landmark project” for the island. Wilmington’s success within the relatively short time since commissioning demonstrates that a larger solar project can, with care, be integrated sympathetically into an otherwise unchanged local environment. The landowner praised the development’s stakeholders, who “demonstrated skill and dedication in the worst weather conditions for decades, ensuring the park was built and connected on time”.

Biodiversity

The area’s main geographical feature is the tidal estuary of the River Yar, naturally characterised by an abundance of flora and fauna and with superb native habitats for birds and insects. As part of a 25-year programme of land management, which will allow year-on-year monitoring of birds, butterflies and grassland, the owner has created new habitats by way of British wild grasses and flowers well-suited to local conditions. With field margins retained to grow long and tussocky, a tree screen of native oak, willow, hazel and blackthorn has been planted along the south-eastern and western boundaries – both of which initiatives will see further multiplication of habitats. The solar park also benefits from ongoing farming best practices with sheep grazing the site and beehives tended by a local beekeeper.