

Why this Site

The Paris Agreement, signed in 2015, remains the cornerstone of international efforts to tackle the climate change and achieve renewable energy and climate action goals. The UK government is committed 95% of electricity generation from low-carbon technologies by 2030, including a significant increase in solar power capacity.

The proposed solar PV and BESS development will contribute to these national climate goals by generating enough renewable energy to power approximately 5,000 homes annually. This aligns with Durham County Councils declaration of a climate emergency and its 2019 commitment to meet the IPCC targets by 2030.

County Durham's Vision for 2045 Statement states:

'There have been many successful privately funded solar farms in County Durham. With continued support from local planning and residents alike, this should continue on suitable land and where there is the possibility of connecting to the grid.'

This site has been selected for several key reasons:

- It is free from ecological, heritage or landscape designations. The site is not located within a 'sensitive area' defined under planning regulations.
- There are biodiversity enhancement opportunities. The development includes plans for tree planting, hedgerows, and wildflower meadows, providing a significant Biodiversity Net Gain for the local area.
- The development sits next to an existing solar farm and other forms of infrastructure and is therefore not within an undisturbed landscape.
- The development is in close proximity to a viable grid connection.

