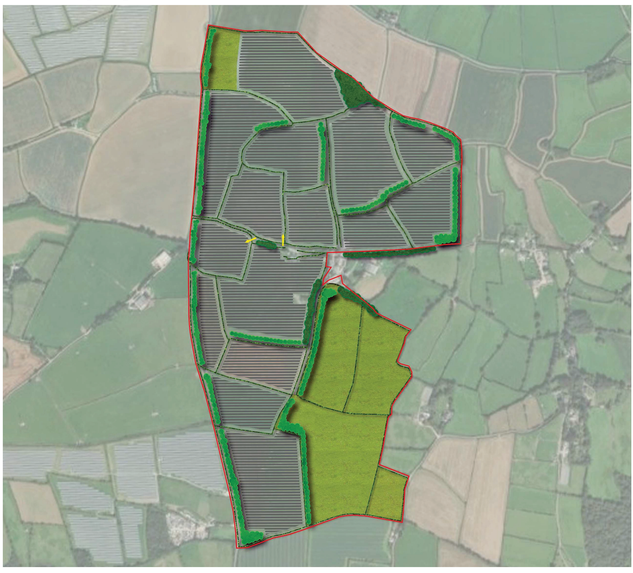
Trelion Solar Farm

EDF Renewables UK is planning to develop a 47.5 MW solar farm – Trelion – to the north of Grampound Road and west of St Stephen.

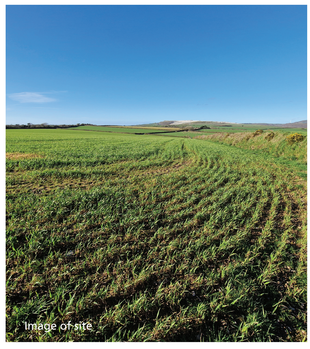
The site is approximately 80 hectares and has very good levels of suitably sunny solar irradiation. Our overall aim is to design a layout that has the least impact visually, and on the environment, whilst optimising renewable energy generation and enhancing biodiversity on site. The final site design will be refined as a result of further environmental assessments and feedback during the public consultation.

Concept plan



Legend

- Red line boundary
- Indicative area for solar panels
- Indicative area for meadow habitat
- Exisiting trees and shrubs
- Existing hedgerows
- Indicative tree and shrub vegetation, including additional planting along hedgerows
- Access into the site



Layout

The development will consist of rows of solar panels mounted on metal frames, approximately 3m above the ground. All infrastructure will be contained within the 81-hectares available for development. Panels will be tilted to between 15 and 25 degrees. There will be around 2.5m between the rows of panels.

Views and Screening

A key study being undertaken is the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment to assess the effects of change on the landscape and views, if any, so that negative landscape effects are avoided, reduced or offset.

Existing trees and hedgerows will screen many of the views towards the solar panels, and additional planting will further reduce visibility.

Access

We are proposing two access points, directly from the A3058 and from a second access point, which both run to the north of the site. A final decision on the proposed access routes to the site during operation and construction will be made following detailed consultation with Cornwall's Highways team.

Biodiversity

EDF Renewables UK will deliver a biodiversity net gain of a minimum of 10% on site. Details of how we plan to achieve this will be submitted as part of the planning application and may include planting trees, hedgerows, grass and wildflowers that provide improved habitats. We will work with stakeholders to agree the plan to improve the biodiversity value of the site.

Existing Vegetation

It is proposed to retain all trees on site and, in accordance with local policy, the proposal will ensure that canopy coverage is equal to at least 15% of the site area.

The majority of hedgerows will be retained. Where a minimal section of hedgerow needs to be removed (primarily for access), EDF Renewables UK propose to replace this as well as strengthening existing hedges.

The land is classed as Grade 3 under the Natural England Agricultural Land Classification. A detailed survey will confirm the quality of the soil. It would be possible to graze sheep on the site.

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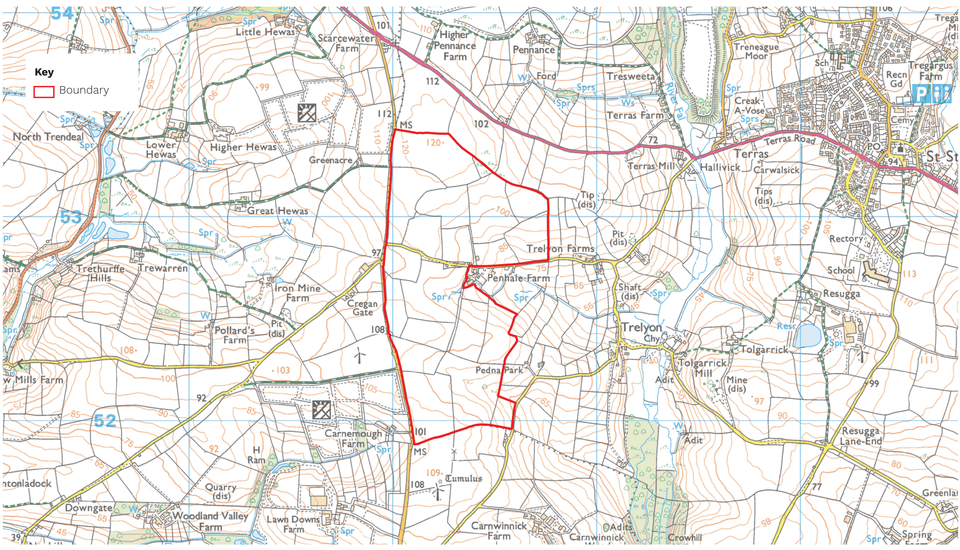
Trelion Solar Farm



EDF Renewables UK is planning to develop a 47.5 MW solar farm – Trelion – to the north of Grampound Road and west of St Stephen.

- The site is approximately 80 hectares and has very good levels of solar irradiation
- Solar panels will be laid out in rows on metal frames
- The grid connection to Indian Queens substation, circa 9km north, will run underground and will not be visible
- Existing trees and hedgerows will screen the solar panels
- Additional planting will enhance biodiversity on site

Following site feasibility surveys and some early discussions locally, we are now consulting the wider community and are inviting you to share your feedback on our plans ahead of submitting a planning application to Cornwall Council. **The consultation runs from Wednesday, 31st January to Friday, 23rd February.**

Please chat with a member of the project team today. We are on hand to answer any of your questions and you can respond to the consultation by filling in a form.

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Climate Change, Policy & Planning

The planning system supports the case for renewable energy projects and there is an acceptance that we need to prepare for a low carbon future. To do that, we must reduce our consumption of fossil fuels and increase renewable and low carbon energy generation.

If approved Trelion Solar Farm would generate up to 47.5 MW, which is enough electricity to:

Supply the average annual needs of approximately 9,500 households*

*Based on the average domestic electricity consumption per home (temperature corrected) per the Energy Consumption in the UK (published July 2019, Table C9 of ECUK: Consumption data tables).

Save approximately 21,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions each year*

*Based on BEIS's 'all fossil fuels' emissions statistic of 450 tonnes of carbon dioxide pre GWh of electricity supplied in the Digest of UK Energy Statistics *published July 2019, p96).

In its Carbon Neutral Cornwall Action Plan, Cornwall Council has a target to become carbon neutral by 2030. The UK Government has its own target of reaching net zero by 2050 and explains that a four-fold increase in electricity generation could be required to meet this decarbonisation target.

The planning application for Trelion Solar Farm will be determined by Cornwall Council who will conduct their own consultation locally.

Solar is a key building block in the UK's future energy mix and the UK Government is aiming for a five-fold increase in solar power by 2035. Ground-mount solar is one of the cheapest forms of electricity generation.

UK Government: Powering up Britain (2023)

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Environmental Considerations

When developing a solar farm, environmental assessments are undertaken to inform the planning application. The Council tells us what information needs to be included in our application. The final site design will be refined as a result of the assessments and feedback during this public consultation.

In the case of Trelion:

- Existing and proposed vegetation will screen the solar panels
- **Biodiversity** on site will be enhanced by measures such as new wildflower meadows and tree and hedgerow planting
- There are no **historic** or **ecological** designations within the site
- According to UK wide datasets, the land at the site is classed as **Grade 3**, under the Natural England Agricultural Land Classification. A detailed survey will confirm the quality of the soil
- **Seasonal grazing** to control vegetation growth will be possible with adequate room underneath and around the panels for sheep to graze
- There are no **Public Rights of Way** (PRoW) on site and no diversions will be necessary

Our overall aim is to design a layout that has the least impact both visually and, on the environment, whilst optimising renewable energy generation and enhancing biodiversity on site.

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Community and wider benefits

EDF Renewables UK is an experienced and considerate developer and is committed to working with the community to deliver as many benefits as possible.

The project will bring with it a community fund of £19,000 paid annually for the 40-year lifetime of the project. The fund can be used to support requests that are charitable, not for profit, educational, philanthropic or benevolent in purpose, such as:

- Education and Training
- Biodiversity and habitat conservation
- Contribute to vibrant, healthy, successful and sustainable communities.
- Promote community spirit and encourage community activity
- Improve outdoor spaces
- History and Heritage

EDF Renewables UK will also improve the biodiversity on site by ensuring a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain through measures such as planting hedgerows.

The quality of the soil is improved over the life of a typical solar farm as it rests the land from intensive agricultural practices.

Solar energy is a renewable resource, and solar generation doesn't emit harmful gases.

Once the installation has reached the end of its lifespan, the panels are easily removed and the land can be returned to its original state, with little impact.

Most elements of a solar panel are now recyclable, and recycling methods are improving all the time.

Solar energy is popular with the public. In Summer 2023, a government survey found that support for solar stood at 88%*.

* DESNZ Public Attitudes Tracker (UK), Summer 2023

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