

\ Environment continued



Flood risk

The majority of the site is located within Flood Zone 1, where the risk of flooding is at its lowest. On the fringes, to the south of the site, there is a minimal area of Flood Zone 3. Sustainable urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) are proposed to ensure flood risk elsewhere is not impacted.



Heritage

An assessment of heritage assets and archaeology has been undertaken. The assessment work confirms there are no listed buildings or designated heritage assets within the site, with no significant impacts found in relation to archaeology or cultural heritage due to the temporary nature of the proposals. Solar farms are located just above ground level so form a small part of wider views of the landscape from heritage assets, which would be reduced further through a sensitive landscaping scheme.



Public rights of way

A footpath (reference S9/42/1) runs through the south eastern parcel of the site in an east/west direction from the settlement of Treoes through a cluster of buildings to the east. The footpath route will be kept free of development, other than a single access track connecting to the southern development parcel.



Trees

Trees and hedgerows are located along the field boundaries, providing a valuable contribution to the character of the area and local wildlife. An assessment of the trees on the site has been undertaken, with the solar panels located within the field parcels to avoid

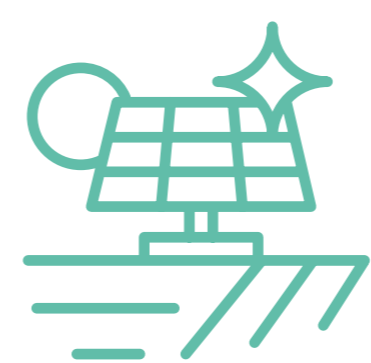
impacts on existing trees and hedgerows. No trees are proposed to be removed as part of the development and further tree planting is proposed as part of a comprehensive landscaping scheme. Minor hedgerow loss is mitigated as part of the development.



Noise

Solar farms are quiet energy generating facilities. They have very few moving parts and as such require less ongoing maintenance and generate little noise or vibration. Noise modelling and assessment works have been undertaken to ensure that the proposal is acceptable and does not result in adverse changes to baseline noise conditions.

To manage noise through construction, a Construction Traffic Method Plan will provide details of proposed access arrangements, the anticipated programme, construction vehicle numbers and type, construction worker numbers and the proposed construction hours. This will need to be agreed with the local planning authorities prior to commencement of construction.



Glint and glare

Photovoltaic (PV) solar panels are specifically designed to absorb light rather than reflect it. Light reflecting from solar panels results in a loss of energy output. PV modules are dark in colour due to their anti-reflective coatings and are manufactured with low-iron, ultra-clear glass with specialised coatings and textures to enable maximum absorption.

A Glint and Glare assessment has been prepared to accompany the planning application, which demonstrates no significant impacts on dwellings.