



SOLAR FARMS AND BIODIVERSITY

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Ecology services for
planning applications

Biodiversity Net Gain



Post Construction
Monitoring

Research

Solar Farms and Biodiversity



What Can Be Achieved?



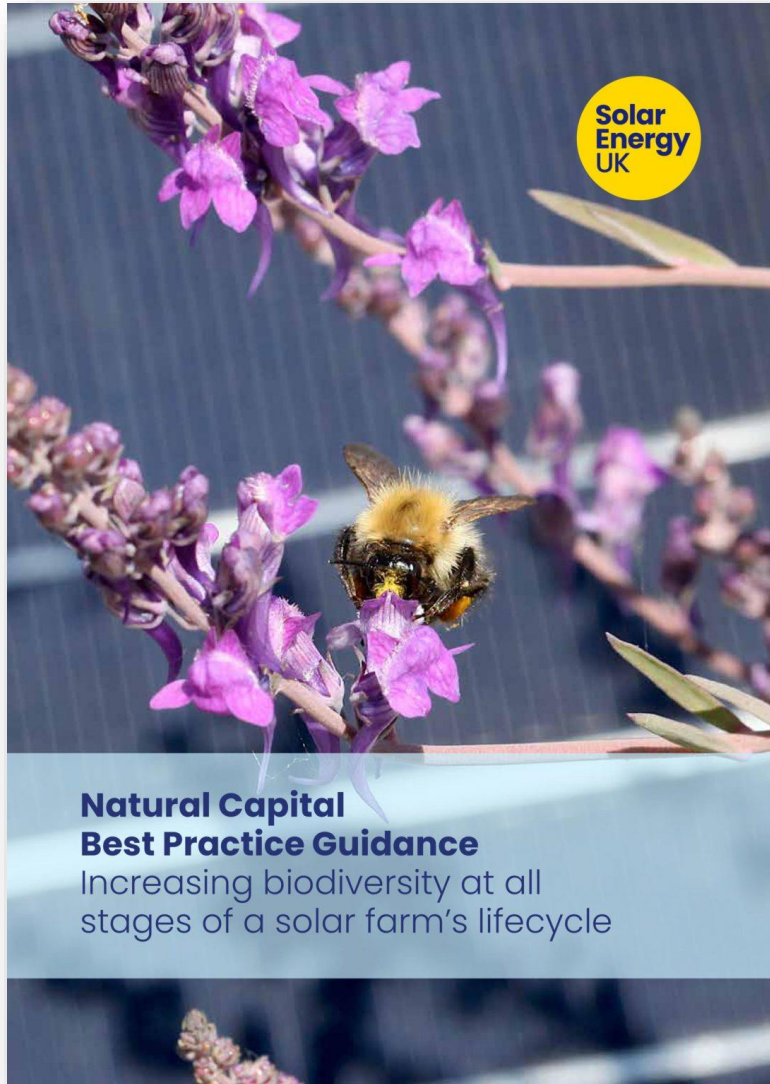
Considerations



Challenges

- Agriculture vs Biodiversity
- Operational Problems
- Landowner expectations
- Ensuring the Management Plan is implemented
- No monitoring or variable approaches to monitoring

Solutions

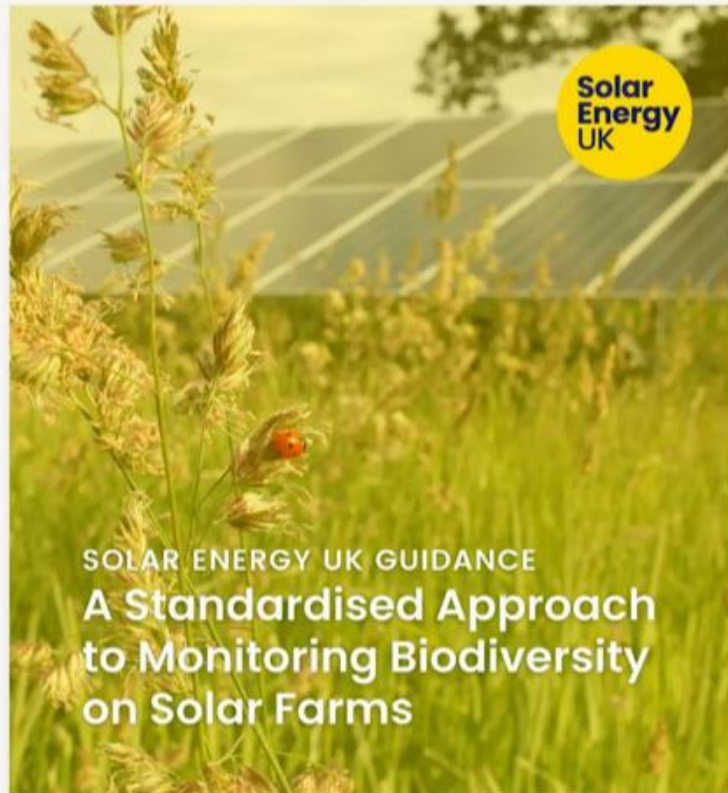


<https://solarenergyuk.org/resource/natural-capital-best-practice-guidance/>

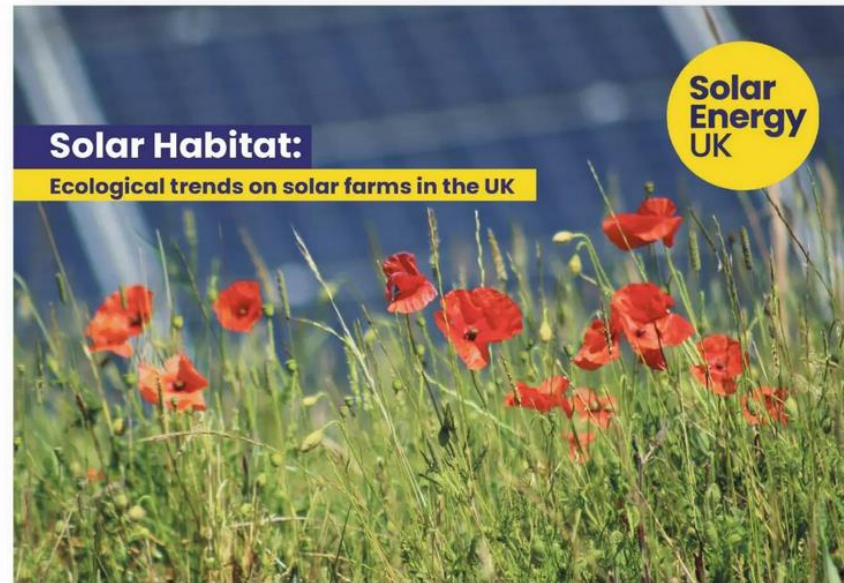
Supplementary Documents

1. Sample Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)
2. Sample Decommissioning Plan
3. Biodiversity and Land Management Process Diagram
4. Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
- 5. Landscaping and Biodiversity Cost Schedule**

Solutions



In collaboration with:



<https://solarenergyuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Ecological-Monitoring-Guidance-2022.pdf>

<https://solarenergyuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Solar-Habitat-Report-2023.pdf>

<https://solarenergyuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/SEUK-2024-Solar-Habitat-Report.pdf>



Post Construction Monitoring



Biodiversity Net Gain

Summary Figures

Net project biodiversity units
(including all on-site & off-site habitat retention/creation)

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| <i>Habitat units</i> | 197.39 |
| <i>Hedgerow units</i> | 30.79 |
| <i>River units</i> | 1.19 |

Total project biodiversity % change
(including all On-site & Off-site Habitat Creation + Retained Habitats)

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| <i>Habitat units</i> | 135.70% |
| <i>Hedgerow units</i> | 54.56% |
| <i>River units</i> | 18.78% |

Biodiversity Net Gain



Impact Assessments



Photo: RSPB



Photo: Freshwater Habitats Trust

- Ground Nesting Birds
- Bats
- Aquatic Invertebrates



Harry Fox
MCIEEM
Clarkson and Woods



Blithe Spirit:
Are Skylarks Being
Overlooked in
Impact Assessment?

https://www.clarksonwoods.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/PDF/HF%20from%20InPractice17_Sep2022-9.pdf

Conclusions

- Solar farms can offer many benefits for biodiversity
- Local conditions will affect this
- Management Plans and Monitoring is key!
- Mechanisms required for implementation
- More robust evidence base
- BNG
- LPA approaches to impacts