





## Location and Site Selection

The four key issues to consider at the outset for land based solar relate to the suitability of the site, the existing land use, the surrounding landscape and the proximity to connection to the national grid.

Ideally suited for marginal land or brownfield sites, as opposed to the Best and Most Versatile Land (BMLV) which is generally protected, the land needs to be close to a grid connection - ideally no more than 2km from a substation with spare capacity.

Ideally land should not be within Green Belt or an environmental designation (i.e. SPAs, SACs, RAMSAR and World Heritage Sites, SSSIs, NNRs, National Parks, AONBs etc).

However, where applicable schemes should be supported unless it can be demonstrated that the objectives of designation of the area will be compromised by the development.

Any solar development must be able to show environmental, social and economic benefits.

In planning a scheme, consider the need for access tracks (ideally keep to a minimum in order to avoid unnecessary disturbance to land and ensure it is capable of being returned back to its former condition), buildings (for housing the electrical inverter to convert direct current (DC) into an alternating current (AC) to be supplied to the National Grid) and security fencing.

## Acorus Services

Acorus consultants can advise on all planning aspects relating to various types of low carbon projects such as PV, wind and anaerobic digestion. Regardless of the scale of the project, we can assist in sourcing land for clients to rent or purchase, and once terms are agreed then liaise with the local planning authority and facilitate your planning application. Please contact us to discuss your proposals further.



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Other green technologies are similarly supported and are subjects of separate Acorus fact sheets.



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