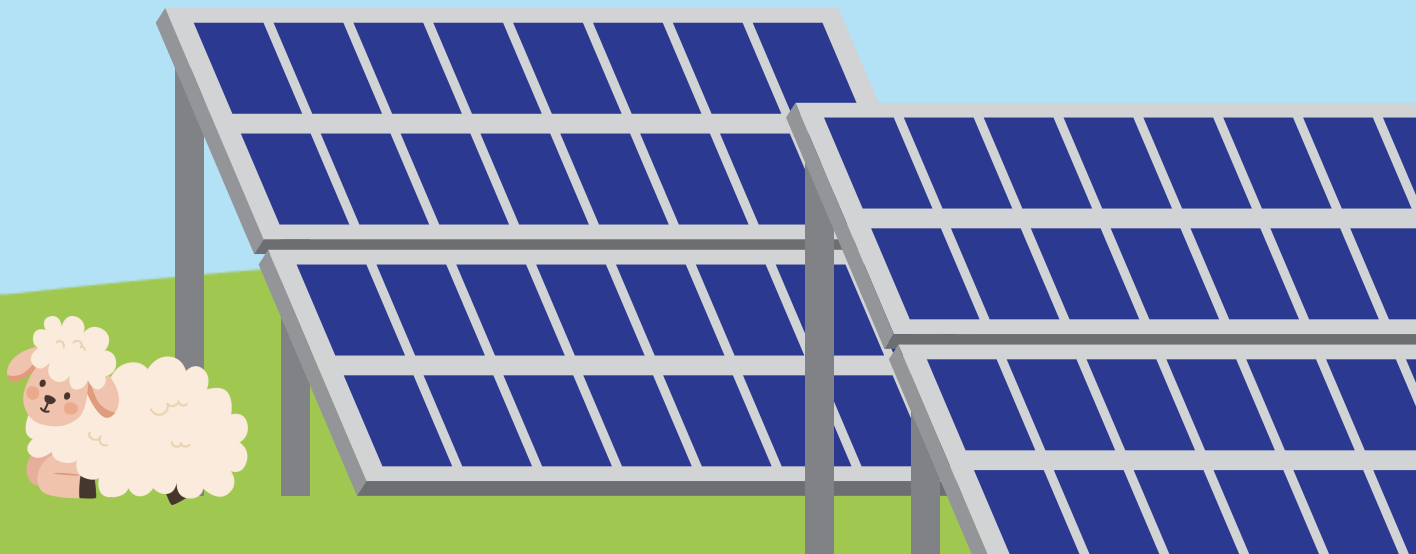




# Case Study

# Tregonning Solar Farm



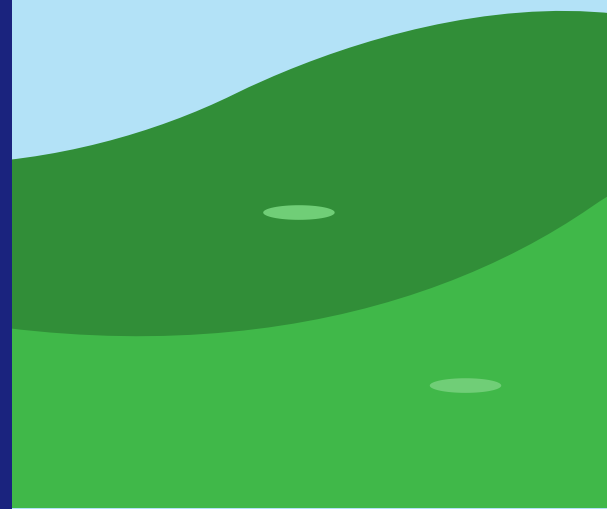
## Summary

- **Location:** Cornwall, South west England
- **Capacity:** 49.9 Megawatts
- **Type:** Solar farm with battery storage
- **Developer:** Renewable Connections Developments Ltd
- **Panel type:** Monocrystalline
- **Completion date:** 2023



Renewable Connections is one of the UK's leading solar, battery storage and hydrogen developers. The company was established by sustainable energy investment specialist, Armstrong Capital Management.

The Renewable Connections team is very experienced in renewables, having developed over 1GW of solar projects globally. They are committed to developing high quality projects, which see benefits delivered to local residents and the natural environment, whilst supporting the Government to reach its net zero targets and increase energy independence in the UK.



## Overview

Based in Cornwall, Tregonning Solar Farm comprises the construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic (PV) farm with battery storage and associated infrastructure. Once operational, the project would generate up to 49.9 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy – enough electricity to power approximately 17,000 homes annually, making a valuable contribution towards tackling the climate emergency in Cornwall and the UK. The project is expected to offset 27,600 tonnes of CO2 each year.



## Project Summary

Andrew Brewer, landowner and award-winning farmer at F.G. Brewer & Sons Farms said:

*“Tregonning Solar Farm will make a valuable contribution towards Cornwall and the UK’s ambitious climate-change targets. The scheme is relevant, timely and will produce cost-effective energy, while enabling my family to continue to farm grazing animals and produce much-needed food. The 40-year life of the project also gives us a stable, secure and sustainable future.”*

Philip Hale, Chief Operating Officer at Renewable Connections said:

*“We are very pleased that further to the environmental and biodiversity benefits of the proposal, the land will remain in agricultural use with a grazing license existing on the site for sheep in panel areas. There will also be cereal cropping on approximately 25 hectares of the site, enabling the continued production of food, and support for ground nesting birds such as skylarks.”*

Renewable Connections is dedicated to tackling the climate emergency and delivering the decarbonisation pledge that the UK has signed up to. The site would be retained in agricultural use for the life of the proposed solar farm and returned to its existing use following the operational period. The majority of the site would be planted with a combination of grassland/meadow, which would enable seasonal sheep grazing. This would include land between and underneath panels. The project has great scope for delivering huge carbon savings and environmental enhancements and is a good example of what can be achieved on a solar and battery development.



## Outcomes/Solution

The layout of the Proposed Development evolved iteratively taking into consideration environmental designations, policy objectives, and feedback from stakeholders and public consultation. This Proposed Development has been carefully developed following community engagement and extensive discussions with Cornwall Council.

The project supports the Government to reach its net zero targets and increase energy independence in the UK. It helps Cornwall Council to meet its urgent Climate Emergency objective and fulfil obligations set out in the Climate Emergency Development Plan Document (DPD) which is currently being considered by the Secretary of State. This includes contributing to the target of Cornwall having a 100% renewable electricity supply by 2030.

## Community Benefit

The community benefit fund would be allocated to the local parish council to administer to benefit local residents. Previous Renewable Connections community benefit funds have been used to support local projects such as village hall refurbishments; installation of electrical vehicle charging points.

Community benefit has been offered to both St Ender Parish Council and St Newlyn East Parish Council:

- £25,000 to St Ender Parish Council
- £2,000/MW of installed solar photovoltaic capacity to St Newlyn East Parish Council

## Local Benefit

The implementation of a Green Infrastructure Plan will significantly enhance biodiversity and benefits to wildlife, with a net gain in biodiversity of 80.25% for habitat units and 42.34% for hedgerow units.

The land will remain in agricultural use with a grazing license existing on the site for sheep to graze in panel areas as well as cereal cropping on Site, enabling the continued production of food and to support ground nesting birds such as skylark.

Once operational, the local farmer whose land the solar farm is proposed on, is keen to work with local educational establishments and offer school pupils and students the opportunity to tour the solar farm and learn about renewables. Renewable Connections has an established programme of educational activity, regularly working with primary and secondary schools and colleges.



**Learn more about what's happening at Renewable Connections at [www.renewableconnections.co.uk](http://www.renewableconnections.co.uk)**



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