
Sustainability Appraisal Statement – BA14 6RT Spirit Solar Ltd

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Overview of the Development

The proposal is for the installation of a 320 m² ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) array on land at Holt Farm, BA14 6RT. The installation is intended to provide on-site renewable energy generation for the property. The array will be mounted using a low-profile, ballasted system requiring no ground penetration.

Sustainability Objectives and Assessment

Objective	Assessment
Climate Change Mitigation	The development directly contributes to the reduction of carbon emissions through on-site renewable energy generation. Estimated CO ₂ savings are 7,313 kg per year.
Efficient Use of Land	The array is sited on open land with no ecological or visual designation. The use of land for renewable energy is consistent with local and national planning policy.
Environmental Protection	No ground penetration is required. The site will retain grass cover beneath the array, and 11 native trees will be planted behind the installation to enhance biodiversity.
Flood Risk	The site is not within a designated flood zone. Rainwater will drain naturally onto permeable ground. No hard surfacing or foul drainage is proposed.
Transport and Access	The development will result in minimal additional transport movements limited to construction and occasional maintenance. No new access or highways impact.
Biodiversity	A Biodiversity Gain Plan has been submitted. The tree planting will support long-term habitat creation and contribute to measurable biodiversity net gain.
Reversibility	The development is fully reversible. At the end of its operational life, all equipment can be removed with minimal impact on the land.
Local Impact	The installation is low-profile and screened from public view. It does not affect heritage assets, landscape designations, or neighbouring properties.

Conclusion

The proposed development aligns with national and local sustainability objectives. It delivers significant environmental benefits with negligible adverse impacts. The solar PV array will support the transition to low-carbon energy generation, enhance site biodiversity, and preserve land quality for future use.