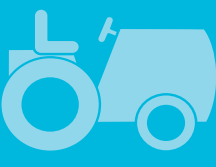


# Solar power is a clean, abundant and endless source of energy. It will play a vital role in providing the clean energy of the future.

Solar farms deliver more than just energy:



the most affordable renewable energy in the UK



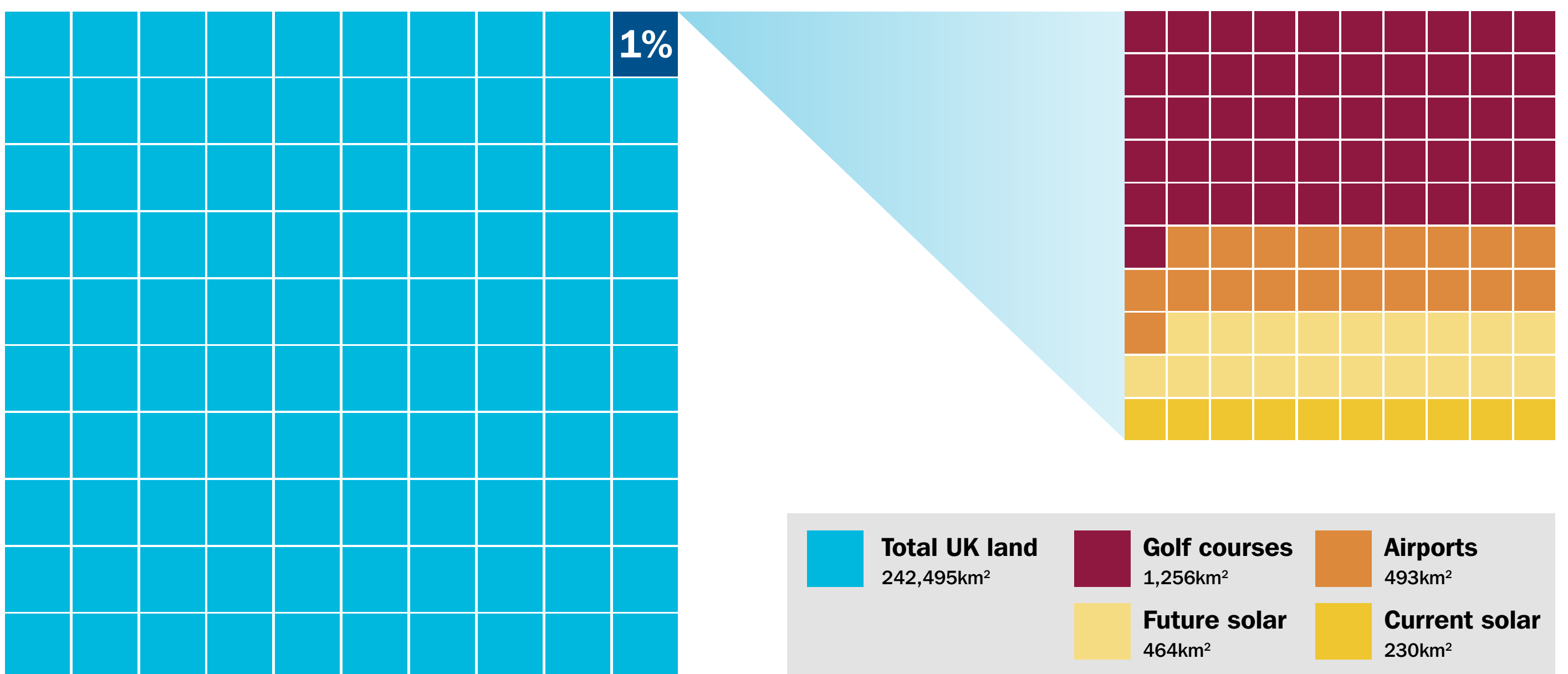
strengthen and supports the agricultural industry



improves local biodiversity

## How much land in the UK is used for solar farms?

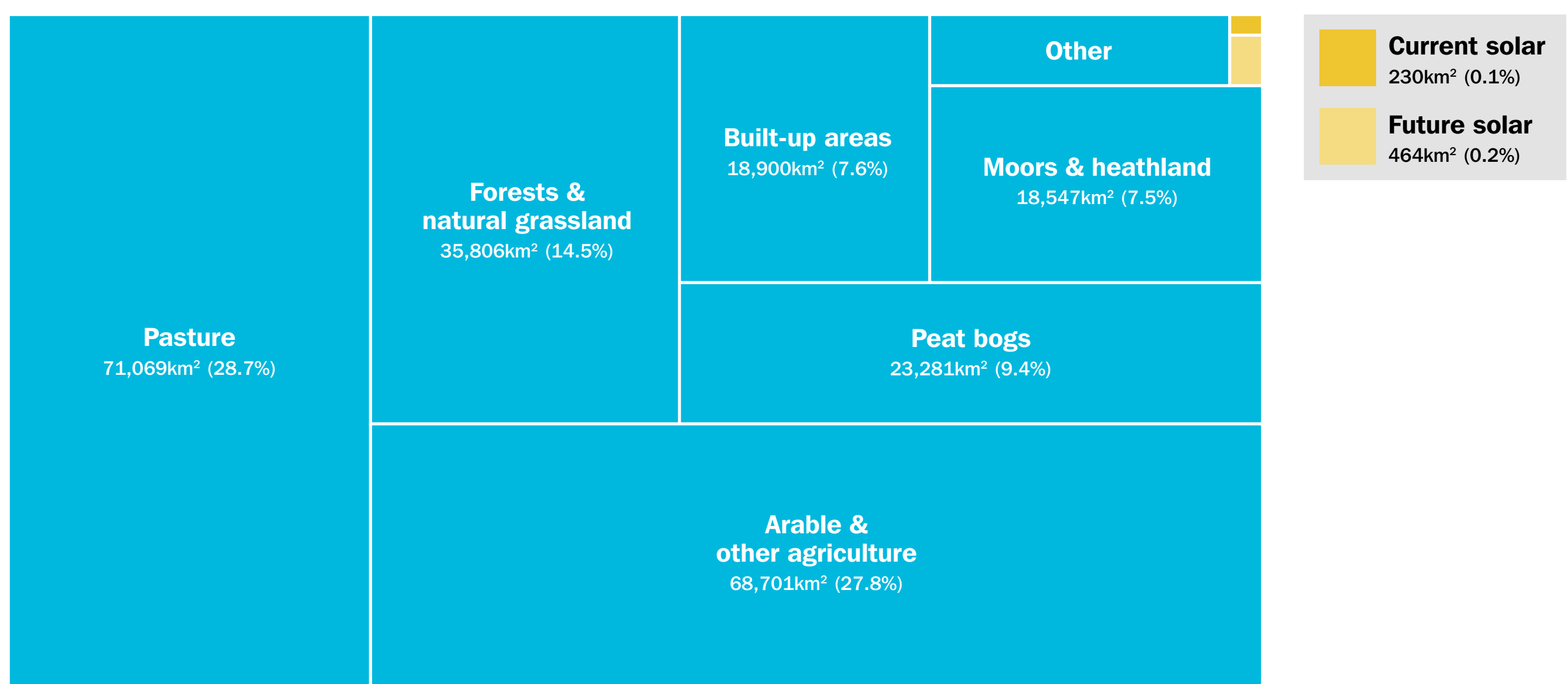
Current and future solar power land use compared to other uses



Proportions of total UK land (blue) taken up by golf courses (red), airports (orange), ground-mounted solar panels in 2022 (dark yellow) and estimated additional land taken up by ground-mounted solar panels in the future under UK Government plans (light yellow). The right-hand square represents 1% of the left-hand square. Source: Carbon Brief analysis using Corine Land Cover data and estimates from Solar Energy UK, using Solar Media data. Chart by Tom Prater for Carbon Brief.

Ground-mounted solar power is built on several types of land. However, even if all future ground-mounted solar was built on farmland, the impact on UK food production as a result of the change in land use would be small.

Solar power currently covers less than 0.1% of UK land. Even if UK Government plans to build more solar go ahead, coverage will be less than 0.3%.



Breakdown of different land uses in the UK (blue) by area, with the figure representing the total UK land area. The dark yellow square indicates the area covered by ground-mounted solar panels in 2022 and the yellow square indicates the additional estimated area taken up by ground-mounted solar panels in the future under UK Government plans. Source: Carbon Brief analysis using Corine Land Cover data and estimates from Solar Energy UK, using Solar Media data. Chart by Tom Prater for Carbon Brief.



# Enhancing Biodiversity

Biodiversity is our strongest natural defence against climate change.



**Solar farms offer shelter to wildlife through increased hedgerows and other planting.**

Hedgerow loss is a major concern for countryside management around the country. New solar projects aim where possible to preserve, restore or deliver hedgerow growth.



**Studies have indicated that solar farms tend to be home to many species of plants and insects.**

All proposed solar developments in England must demonstrate a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) of at least 10%.



**Solar farms provide the opportunity to establish wildflower meadows and grasslands.**

The areas between panels and between the edge of the site can be used to create new habitats for pollinators, butterflies, and ground nesting birds.



**Care is taken during the development and construction process to identify and preserve existing habitats.**

This includes being sensitive to protected landscapes and enhancing the ecological value of the land.



**Solar farms give agricultural land an important period of rest to increase soil health,** for example by removing pesticide use on the land during the solar farm's operation.



As members of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, we work closely to ensure our habitat management practices provide opportunities for enhancement, creation and restoration of bumblebee habitats.