



Langthwaite Floating PV

Using knowledge from a similar project, Equans installed a floating solar array covering an area the size of 27 tennis courts

The £1.1million project at Langthwaite Reservoir in Lancaster was developed as a means for United Utilities to power the neighbouring water treatment works, which supplies 152,000 people with clean water.

By utilising the expertise of the same team that developed a previous floating solar PV at Godley Water Treatment Works, combined with a thorough analysis of the lessons learned from that project, the Langthwaite scheme was started from a solid base of knowledge.

The main evolution comes in the shape of a new float system to provide the foundations of the array – which covers an area of 7,200 square metres and features 3,520 solar panels – a more stable base and a stronger steel mounting system.

The system was designed by an in-house team with support provided by local suppliers in its construction. The float is anchored using a bungee system which means that regardless of the reservoir's water level, the solar farm can rise or fall by nine metres with no impact on it. Another key lesson learned focused around access to the array, with permanent access on the float meaning panels are easy to service and maintain in the long-term. This also ensures full CDM compliance. All of Equans' expertise meant the project was delivered in just 12 weeks, allowing the 1MW system to provide power with minimal delay.

