



LAVENHAM FEN FARM CASE STUDY

The owners of Lavenham Fen Farm in Cambridgeshire are using Kingspan Energy's Roof Mounted PV System to slash bills from the farm's two potato storage buildings.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Massive rises in energy bills over recent years have made the refrigeration and storage of produce an increasingly costly part of modern farming.

The owners of Lavenham Fen Farm in Cambridgeshire, however, are proving that this need not be the case, using Kingspan Roof Mounted PV System to slash bills from the farm's two potato storage buildings.

The buildings, separately housing standard and organic potatoes, require large amounts of energy to power internal cooling systems, keeping harvested potatoes at a constant low temperature. With electricity usage metered at half-hourly rates, this previously resulted in massive energy bills for the farm owners.

To tackle these costs, the farm owners have decided to purchase Kingspan Roof Mounted PV System and Safetraxx® system.

Installed on the roofs of the storage buildings, the PV system comprises a little over one thousand five hundred, 235 Wp crystalline PV modules.



SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

Lavenham Fen Farm's PV system can produce an overall output of 352.7 kWp, making it one of the largest roof mounted PV arrays in the UK.

Robert Pickard, Estates Manager for co-owners Abbots Ripton Farming Company, comments:

"We have found it difficult to produce electricity by wind or hydroelectric power, so PV is an excellent solution. The buildings are tall and the visual impact of the panels is minimal. There is also a secondary benefit of fitting the panels to the roofs, as in the summer, they trap the solar energy which reduces the temperature on the roof sheets below the panels."

"The production of electricity during expensive peak periods is of great benefit to ourselves and to the consumer as all energy generated on-site is channelled directly into powering the potato storage facility."



PROJECT CARD

Building owner: Lavenham Fen Farm

Location: Cambridgeshire

System size: 352.7 kWp

Roof space coverage: 3,000 m²

Project type: Refurbishment

Sector: Agriculture

Completion date: March 2012

Installation time: 1 month

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Kingspan Energy Limited
Greenfield Business Park No. 2,
Holywell, Flintshire, CH8 7GJ, UK

T : +44 (0) 1352 717232
E : pvenquiry@kingspan.com
W : www.kingspanenergy.com

