# WHO ARE WE?

Lightsource bp is a global leader in development and management of large-scale solar projects and smart energy solutions. We work closely with local businesses and communities to supply clean, dependable and competitively priced energy. We're dedicated to securing a low-carbon future, and to meeting the dual challenge of an increased demand for energy alongside a need to reduce emissions, in the UK and worldwide.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

It's important to us that the local community are fully informed of the proposals for the site and have the opportunity to comment and learn about the project. Due to Covid-19, we've set up a dedicated webpage for this project at www.lightsourcebp.com/uk/proposed-projects/Thorpe-Bankand-Low-Middlefield-Farm, which will be the platform for our online community engagement. Here you will be able to view all of the information that would normally be available at our physical information events.

One of the benefits of face to face meetings is being able to answer questions and therefore to maintain this our team will be available for the local community to provide feedback and ask any questions they may have either via email, video calls or telephone.

We want to ensure that our engagement is inclusive and are aware that not everyone within the community will have access to the internet. Therefore, if you would like to receive a call back from the team to discuss the project or know of someone who would, we would be pleased to arrange this at a convenient time.

# FIND OUT MORE

If you have queries in relation to this project, please contact the project team by calling **0333 200 0755**, or emailing **info@lightsourcebp.com**, quoting "Thorpe Bank" and/or "Low Middlefield Farm". You can also message us on Facebook or write to us at **Lightsource bp, C/O Instinctif Partners, 65 Gresham Street, London, EC2V 7NQ**

# FAQS

**Why is this project important?**

Solar is a passive form of technology, generating electricity without creating any waste products or pollutants. This makes it an ideal energy source for the UK, as we work towards the 2025 targets for renewable energy and carbon emission reductions.

**How will the equipment be protected?**

The solar installation will be enclosed by a timber and wire agricultural fence about 2 metres in height, and CCTV cameras will monitor the boundary fence and area within the solar installation. These will be specifically positioned to make sure they do not impinge on the privacy of residents.

**How are the panels kept clean?**

Generally, rainfall helps to keep the panels free of dust and dirt. The panels will be thoroughly cleaned as required using specialist equipment, to make sure the installation is in the best possible condition.

**Do solar installations pose a health risk?**

No - solar is a passive technology which doesn't produce any harmful by-products. All electrical equipment we use meets the Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Directive and are CE marked.

**Will the solar installation cause traffic disruption?**

Once the solar installation is in place it requires very little maintenance and approximately monthly visits in regular cars or 4x4s would cause no traffic disruption. Whilst the solar installation is being constructed, a traffic management plan will be put in place.

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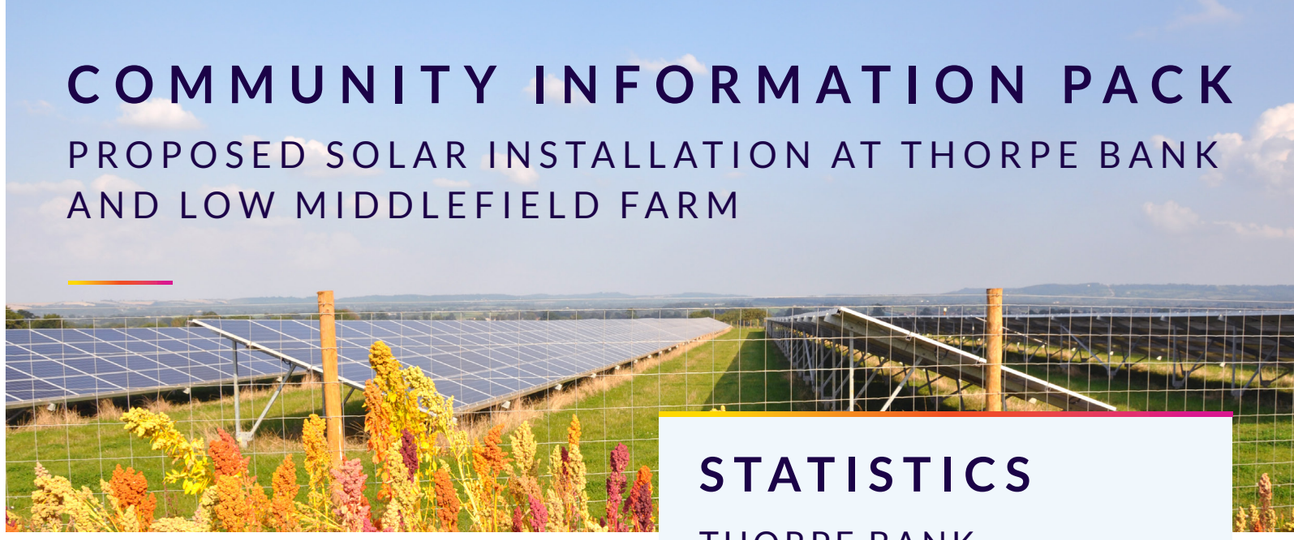
# COMMUNITY INFORMATION PACK

## PROPOSED SOLAR INSTALLATION AT THORPE BANK AND LOW MIDDLEFIELD FARM



Lightsource bp is working on a proposal for two separate solar installations at Thorpe Bank (to the west of the A177, north of Thorpe Thewles) and Low Middlefield Farm (land north of the Norton Substation) and we would welcome your feedback on our plans by Friday 4 September 2020. We will fund both solar installations and these will be connected into the local electricity network. The Thorpe Bank Solar Farm will have an output power capacity of 30MW (Megawatts) and Low Middlefield Farm a capacity of 10MW.

We are currently preparing a detailed planning application for the Thorpe Bank Solar Farm and are in the process of undertaking a wide range of environmental assessments to help shape our proposals. These include landscape and visual, heritage and archaeology, ecology and ornithology and more. It is our aim to submit this application to Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council in 2020.

The Low Middlefield Solar Farm proposal is at an earlier planning assessment stage. However, as the two projects are located within the same Parish we felt it was important to provide an overview of our wider proposals to the community. At this stage a limited number of assessments have been conducted on this proposed site at Low Middlefield.

An important part of the planning process is engaging with local communities to provide more information on our proposals and gather feedback. Due to the current Covid-19 restrictions in the UK, we are seeking to ensure that our community engagement is undertaken safely. Safety is one of our core values, and in order to keep to the high standards of community engagement that we've set as a company we're replacing our community consultation event with a project webpage.

We've set up a dedicated webpage for this proposed project at www.lightsourcebp.com/uk/proposed-projects/Thorpe-Bank-and-Low-Middlefield-Farm , which will be the platform for our online community engagement.

# STATISTICS

## THORPE BANK

**30,000MWh** (Megawatts hours) supplied per year

Equivalent to the energy needs of **6,949** households

**95** acres of land

**7,073** tonnes of carbon emissions saved

Equivalent to taking over **1,572** cars off the road

## LOW MIDDLEFIELD FARM

**10,000MWh** (Megawatts hours) supplied per year

Equivalent to the energy needs of **2,316** households

**54** acres of land

**2,358** tonnes of carbon emissions saved

Equivalent to taking over **524** cars off the road

These projects will contribute towards the UK's 2025 targets for renewable energy and carbon emission reductions and the Climate Change Strategy for Stockton-on-Tees 2016-2021.

# COMMUNITY INFORMATION

The full set of information will be available at the following website for both projects www.lightsourcebp.com/uk/proposed-projects/Thorpe-Bank-and-Low-Middlefield-Farm .

We would be pleased to receive your feedback by Friday 4th September 2020 and questions by emailing **info@lightsourcebp.com** or please contact the project team on **0333 200 0755**

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# OUR INITIAL THOUGHTS

## Proposed solar installation at Thorpe Bank

We're still in the early stages, and our proposals will evolve based on local input and the results of our ecological, landscape and heritage assessments. These are our current thoughts...

### Existing Vegetation

While developing the layout we are seeking to enhance the existing structural planting at the site and remove only a small section which is required to create a safe access for construction

### Agricultural Land Grading

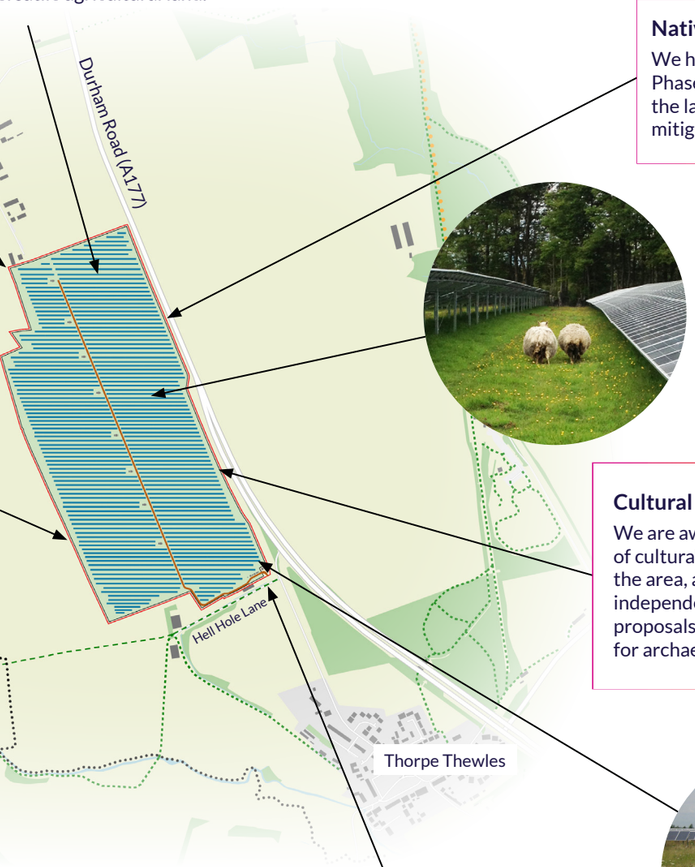
We have conducted an Agricultural Land Classification Survey which has classified the field as Grade 3b, which is not best and most versatile agricultural land.

### New Vegetation Planting

We will submit a detailed planting plan as part of the planning application, which will focus on screening potential views of the installation using vegetation and increasing biodiversity.

### Boosting Biodiversity

A bespoke Biodiversity Management Plan will ensure that the existing and new habitats are enhanced or created to benefit local wildlife. As part of this initiative, our landscape planting, seeding and habitat creation plans will focus on native species. We are keen to hear from and work with any local beekeepers and land management organisations to support wildlife and boost the local habitats.




### Landscape

The field parcels have been carefully selected as outside the fields themselves they are not readily visible from within the adjoining landscape or settlements.

### Native Species

We have undertaken an Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey to inform the layout design and construction mitigation measures.

### Continued Agricultural Use

These fields are currently used for arable farming. Our proposal includes plans to create a meadow grassland which can be lightly grazed by sheep, so the land under the solar installation can maintain an agricultural purpose.



### Cultural Heritage Impact

We are aware that there are sites of cultural and scientific impact in the area, and have commissioned independent surveys to make sure our proposals will fully assess the potential for archaeology within the site.

### Access

Proposed construction and operational access will be from Hell Hole Lane, to the immediate south of the site. Vehicles are expected to travel into the site directly from Durham Road to ensure minimal impact on the bridleway users and will not enter Thorpe Thewles.

### Green Open Spaces

The installation has been designed to leave wide spaces around the site boundaries and between the row of panels to avoid shading the panels. This will leave the majority of the fenced solar array area as uncovered grassland.

### Flood Risk

The site is entirely within Flood Zone 1. Due to the size of the proposed development, a Flood Risk Assessment and relevant mitigation, where necessary, will form part of each planning application.

## Proposed solar installation at Low Middlefield Farm

**Key**

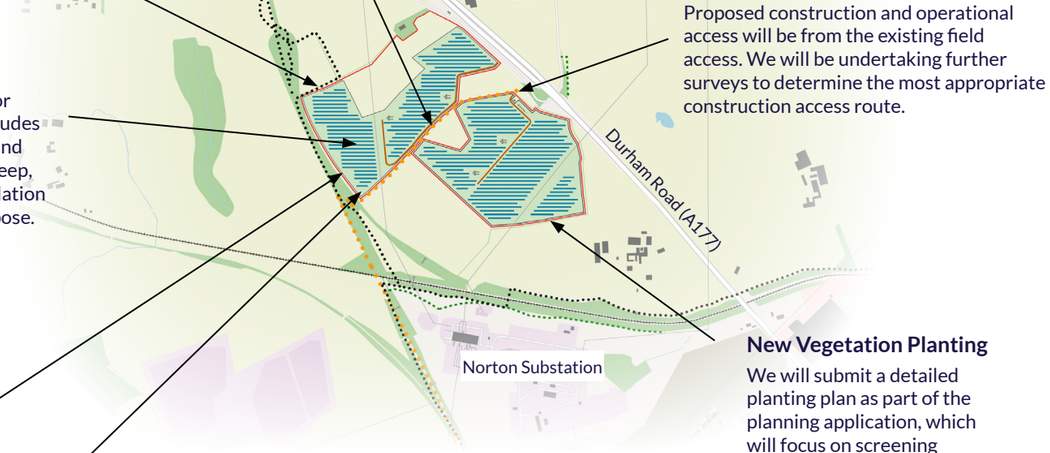
- Footpath
- Other route
- Bridleway
- Cycle route

### Existing Vegetation

While developing the layout we have sought to maintain the existing vegetation onsite.

### Access

Proposed construction and operational access will be from the existing field access. We will be undertaking further surveys to determine the most appropriate construction access route.

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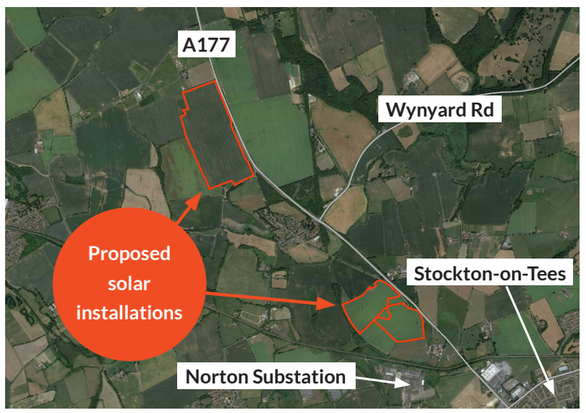


This map is a combination of Ordnance Survey map reference: NZ 40180 23565 and aerial imagery dated 2018

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