



## PRESS RELEASE

11th October 2021

### Harvesting solar energy in North Lincolnshire

Lightrock Power is proposing a wildlife-friendly solar farm at Sweetbriar Farm, west of North Killingholme Airfield. It could provide enough electricity to power the equivalent of 12,000 homes, or 15,000 electric vehicles, every year.

A number of ecological and feasibility studies have been carried out and Lightrock Power, who have already had a number of positive conversations with community representatives, are now inviting local people for input on the proposal ahead of submitting a planning application later in the Autumn.

There is growing concern about climate change and reliance on the international energy supply chain, which is currently having a significant impact on energy prices. The 40MW Sweetbriar Solar Farm could prevent more than 16,800 tonnes of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere every year, helping meet national and local renewable energy targets.

There are plans to enhance biodiversity on site with measures such as installing bird and bat boxes, providing habitat for reptiles and small mammals, and improving local flora to attract bees and other pollinators. The team at Lightrock Power are delighted to be working in partnership with the RSPB, as well as being supported by the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Buglife, Plantlife, UK Wild Otter Trust, and The Barn Owl Trust. Working with these organisations really helps to optimise the ecological opportunities for wildlife.

Chris Sowerbutts, Co-Founder and Director at Lightrock said: "This is an excellent site for Solar. The area has lots of sunshine and is nice and flat so we can maximise daylight hours. We are pleased to be able to enhance local biodiversity through our ecology programme, and welcome further suggestions from the local community. Sweetbriar Solar Farm will help the UK meet its 2050 net zero targets."

Lightrock Power has now written to residents inviting them to find out more about the project and provide feedback. The early community consultation runs from 11<sup>th</sup> October to 8<sup>th</sup> November, and an online exhibition detailing the plans is available on the [Sweetbriar Solar Farm website](#). Subject to consultation and further site assessments, the company intends to submit a planning application in the late Autumn.

**Ends**

#### Notes for Editors

#### About Lightrock Power

Lightrock Power are a small and experienced team based in the UK. They develop wildlife-friendly solar farms across the country and have delivered a number of successful operational projects. They focus on schemes that can be sensitively designed into the landscape, helping meet national and local authority renewable energy targets. They want to make a difference and are passionate about doing the right thing for our planet, communities and natural habitats.



### **Sweetbriar Solar Farm**

The scheme will consist of rows of solar panels mounted on metal frames no more than 2.8 metres in height. The site, which is approximately 45 hectares, is on land at Sweetbriar Farm, North of Ulceby. Access will be from Carr Lane, via the A160 and A1077. A new grid connection will be built, giving access to the local distribution network. As well as helping meet national climate change commitments, Sweetbriar Solar Farm also supports policy aspirations in North Lincolnshire Local Development Framework.

### **About the consultation**

Lightrock Power are hosting an exhibition on their website and inviting local people to ask questions and provide feedback online, by email, telephone, or by post. The early community consultation runs from 11<sup>th</sup> October – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

- [www.sweetbriarsolarfarm.com](http://www.sweetbriarsolarfarm.com)
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All online material is available as a printed copy on request.

### **Why Solar?**

Solar is the fastest-growing energy technology in the world. Support for it is the highest it's ever been – it's a clean green energy source for our National Grid. To meet climate change commitments, deal with volatile energy prices, and make our nation more energy secure we need innovative energy solutions and smarter grid systems. Solar energy can play a big part.

Solar energy does not mean we have to take land out of production – it just means we need to use land differently. It's productive in a different way – harvesting renewable energy whilst supporting wildlife and local habitat.

Solar farms generate energy without releasing greenhouse gas emissions – a cleaner way to produce energy.

### **For further information**

Visit the press section at [www.sweetbriarsolarfarm.com](http://www.sweetbriarsolarfarm.com) for copies of press releases and images.