

Aura Power would like to inform you of a solar farm proposal in your area to the south of Newton. Here we provide a brief overview of the project and invite you to attend our public consultation event to learn more about the scheme and listen to your feedback.

### WHY DO WE NEED SOLAR FARMS?

Solar farms are not only a crucial part in **bolstering the UK's energy dependence** but they are the cheapest form of renewable generation, **saving households thousands of pounds**.

The UK has a legally binding target to reach **Net Zero emissions** by 2050 and a 100% renewable energy grid by 2035. The Government has identified that a **five-fold increase in solar deployment** is required to reach this target.

Through careful design and mitigation, solar farms can have very little impact on their surroundings and **offer a number of economic benefits locally as well as enhancing local biodiversity**.

### WHY HERE?

The increase required in solar power cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield sites alone. As a result, ground mounted solar is also needed. This site has been carefully selected due to:

- **Well separated from residential areas** with potential to plant a significant amount of **trees and hedgerows**
- **No environmental or landscape designations** on site
- **Opportunity to connect into the electricity grid**

Indicative site area shown below in red



A detailed layout will be presented at the consultation events

### OUR PROPOSAL SO FAR

- As well as solar panels and associating infrastructure, the proposal will include **new planting such as species rich wildflowers, improved grasses, native trees and hedgerows**
- Significant **gains in biodiversity** and **improvements to habitats**
- **Avoids using the most productive agricultural land**
- Environmental studies underway including; visual impact, heritage, ecology, highways, noise and hydrology
- Continued agricultural use and food production with **sheep grazing**
- Community feedback will help shape the design before we submit a planning application.

### BENEFITS



**£20k a year community fund**



New habitats created providing **net gains in biodiversity**



Contributes to local & national carbon reduction targets



c. **12,000 tonnes of carbon saved** annually



Equivalent power of c. **20,000 electric cars** annually



Equivalent of powering over **16,000 homes**

# MORETON BROOK SOLAR FARM PROPOSAL

## COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Hearing the views of the public is very important to us and we value your feedback. To gain as much feedback as we can, we are offering an online event as well as in person public exhibition. Both events provide a platform to learn about the proposal and ask questions to our project team. Details of both can be found below:

### **Online event: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm**

To register to attend the online event please visit:

**[www.aurapower.com/uk-projects/moreton-brook](http://www.aurapower.com/uk-projects/moreton-brook)**

The webinar will also be recorded and available to view on our website after.

### **In person exhibition:**

#### **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 4pm - 7pm – Admaston Village Hall**

School Lane, Admaston, Rugeley, WS15 3PE

No need to register, just turn up

If neither event is convenient for you and you would like to speak to us in person, please contact us using the contact details below.



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