

# Solar farms

## An introduction

A landowner's guide to  
ground mounted solar





# Make **the most** of your land

Leases for solar farms bring high financial returns and stability for the landowner whilst allowing farms to continue with other activities, without disturbance.

Solar is the quickest and lowest impact route to creating new green electricity capacity. When partnered with energy storage (batteries) it presents a revolutionary opportunity for the UK electricity network to be even greener and more adaptable to our, and the next generation's, energy needs.

As your reliable long-term partner, Statkraft typically develops, builds and jointly operates its solar farms, remaining your consistent contact throughout the life of the scheme.





## A great business opportunity

### Great returns

- Leases for solar farms and energy storage deliver high financial returns that can exceed farming profits.
- Payment options are flexible and bespoke.
- Statkraft will cover your legal fees.
- Solar is a popular diversification choice where land is spare, set aside or has low productivity.

### Secure, long term revenue

- Annual rental payment (index linked), for up to 40 years of operation, with minimum lease terms included.
- Site maintenance contracts available.
- Revenues from solar are no longer dependant on ever-changing government subsidies.
- The sun shines every day, unlimited and predictable; the technology that harnesses this energy is reliable and proven.

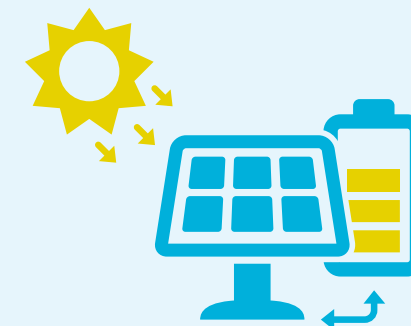
### Low intrusion business diversification

- Work with Statkraft design teams to create mutually agreeable designs.
- Short construction schedules minimise onsite disruption to you or your tenants.
- The quiet and robust solar technology requires little ongoing maintenance.
- The site can continue to be used for small livestock grazing, low laying crops or biodiversity enhancements.
- Continue your focus on your daily business or explore other ventures.

## A great environmental opportunity

### Local energy supply

- Solar is helping to secure the UK's green energy future by reducing our reliance on imported fossil fuels.
- In a year, solar on a 100-acre site typically produces enough clean electricity to power over 10,000 homes.
- Including batteries in a project allows the midday peak of electricity generation to be stored onsite and released when the demand for electricity is highest.



### Improve the environment

- Using solar power reduces our carbon emissions. Due to carbon, the Earth is nearing a damage threshold that we cannot reverse so we must act to limit this impact.
- Climate chaos and habitat destruction is the biggest threat to wildlife. By temporarily taking land out of agricultural production or reducing the farming activity on it, solar farms offer considerable opportunities to promote plant, insect and soil microorganism diversity.
- Statkraft looks to actively improve the environment around our solar farms by planting wildflower meadows, building and improving hedgerows, improving bird and bat nesting and other habitats.

### Low impact, low maintenance

- New renewable energy projects can be a local concern during the planning phase. However, solar farms are low to the ground and can be designed to maximise existing screening. We can introduce new screening to minimise visual intrusion.
- Solar emits no gases or particulates and very little noise and can quickly be accepted as part of the landscape.
- Work together with our development team to design the optimal project, and once the scheme reaches the end of its operational life it can easily be removed, with the ground returned to farming, or your next venture.





# Understanding the process

Short term

1

**Contact Statkraft**

By phone, email or via the website to find out more and discuss the suitability of your land.

2

**Face to face meeting**

To discuss the land agreements without commitment, and how Statkraft might develop on your land.

When you're ready to move forward, we ask you to grant Statkraft time-limited exclusivity whilst we continue negotiations.

3

**Engineer site visit**

We'll bring a small team of engineers to the site to identify all opportunities and constraints - to allow preliminary design production.

We'll share ideas with you as we create the project's early designs.

4

**Lease negotiations**

With our respective solicitors, we'll negotiate the terms of the Option to Lease and the Lease itself.

Statkraft will cover your reasonable legal fees for the negotiations.

5

**Under Option**

Planning and grid application works will start after exclusivity is given. The planning application can be submitted once the Option is agreed.

You'll receive payments whilst under the Option, as well as regular updates on the project's progress.

Long term

**The site  
1 - 2 months**

- The right site takes some thought. We look for land which is:
- Over 30 hectares / 75 acres (split across fields or split between neighbours)
  - Near a grid connection – Statkraft liaises with the grid companies to identify suitable locations
  - Outside an environmental or cultural designation and has low visual impact on neighbours
  - Ideally low/moderate productivity
  - Accessible from the road
  - Broadly level ground or with a south facing slope.

**Design & planning  
7 - 11 months**

- Our design process factors in:
- Your comments
  - Onsite surveys
  - Online public information. Examples of project websites can be found here: [www.statkraft.co.uk/projects](http://www.statkraft.co.uk/projects)
  - Community & stakeholder feedback
  - Specialist consultants will survey your land and consider issues like visual impact, flora & fauna, flooding, ground conditions, archaeology etc
  - We will prepare a planning application designed to suit the location and which builds in additional environmental enhancements
  - Statkraft will be the face of the project and carry out all public engagement activities, answering external questions.

**Pre-construction  
3 - 5 months**

Following consent, we carry out any remaining surveys, discharge planning conditions and finalise the project designs.

We prepare commercial matters of the project in readiness for signing the construction contracts and keep the local community informed of our construction plans.

**Construction  
6 - 10 months**

Statkraft will manage the construction of the site and the connection to the grid.

You will have contact with the construction manager throughout the process to ensure that you are kept updated and disruption is minimised.

Once all the ground works are completed there will be a period of commissioning where we confirm the circuitry is performing as it should be before the site becomes fully operational.

**Up to 40 years  
of operation**

Statkraft typically provides full operation and maintenance, and asset management services.

It includes 365 days remote performance monitoring; regular reactive and preventative maintenance, regular reporting and landowner liaison.

We will manage the site to ensure it stays clean and tidy, maintain any ecological enhancements and ensure that all enduring planning conditions are complied with.

**Decommissioning**

When the solar has reached the end of its operational life, the site will be cleared and the land can be returned to farming, or another business venture.



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“ Southhill solar farm represents a significantly improved return from the land for the landowner, compared with farming (it is grade 3b) and is a fantastic diversification opportunity.”

Tim Crisp, Southill Community Energy

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# About Statkraft

Statkraft has been making clean energy possible for over a century. Today, we are Europe’s largest renewable energy producer. We envisage a world that runs entirely on renewable energy. We believe that renewable energy can power every industry, every business, every community, every home.

The UK is committed to an energy target of net zero by 2050, though currently we produce less than 4% of our electricity from solar.

Statkraft has made a significant investment in the UK including the acquisition of leading developer: Solarcentury. As a result of our combined experience we’ve developed over 700 MWp of solar projects in the UK alone.

Our 20 British utility-scale solar farms are located from East Anglia to Cornwall and are generating green power for councils, commercial farms, other landowners and communities. They’re providing enough electricity to power the equivalent of 210,000 homes each year (equivalent to all the homes in Liverpool).

Worldwide, Statkraft has deployed a significant 1.7 GWp and has a total projected pipeline of 10 GWp. Our projects include building some of the largest solar farms in Netherlands, UK and Panama, and the world’s first solar bridge: Blackfriars Solar Bridge in central London. We have extensive battery storage experience across all business sectors from small residential systems to large commercial and industrial projects, and more complex microgrid solutions combining energy storage, solar and diesel generators to supply stable and secure energy.

Our experienced team has worked on all stages of solar projects: development, construction, asset management, and operation & maintenance. This gives us an excellent understanding of what makes a great project and a smooth process.



700

MWp of solar projects in the UK alone.



210,000

homes powered with green electricity each year



26

British utility-scale solar farms



## Find out more



**Visit us:**

[www.statkraft.co.uk](http://www.statkraft.co.uk)



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