## Who are we?

Lightsource bp is a global leader in the development and management of solar energy projects. We work closely with local businesses and communities to supply clean, dependable and competitively priced energy, and we're dedicated to securing a low-carbon future, in the UK and worldwide.

## Community engagement

It's important to us that the local community are fully informed of the plans for the site, and have the opportunity to comment and learn about the proposal. We will be holding an event to provide details about our project ideas at this stage, and to give you a chance to speak to our team.

Our community consultation will take place on Wednesday 27th April 2022, at Burnhope Community Centre: Langley Ave, Burnhope, Durham DH7 0AG. We encourage residents to drop in anytime between 4:30pm - 6pm to find out more about the project and ask any questions you may have.

We want to ensure that our engagement is inclusive and are aware that not everyone within the community will be happy to attend our in-person event. 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 "Burnhope solar farm". You can also message us on Facebook or write to us at Lightsource bp, 7th Floor, 33 Holborn, London, E1CN 2HU.

lightsource bp

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# Community Information Pack

Proposed solar farm at Edge Lane, Burnhope, Lanchester, Durham, DH7 0RY

Lightsource bp is working on a proposal for a solar farm at Edge Lane, Burnhope. We will fund the development of a solar farm to be connected into the local electricity network, with an output power capacity of 49.9MWp (Megawatts).

We've chosen this site after careful consideration, and we're now undertaking a wide range of environmental assessments to help shape our plans. These include landscape and visual, heritage and archaeology, ecology and ornithology, flooding, transport and construction assessments.

We will be hosting an in-person community consultation in Burnhope Community Centre on Wednesday 27th April 2022, please drop in anytime between 4:30pm - 6pm to catch up with one of our team and find out more about our current plans for the project.

## Statistics

**51,716MWh** (Megawatts hours) supplied per year

Equivalent to the energy needs of **13,861** UK households

**215** acres of land

**14,341** tonnes of carbon emissions saved

Equivalent to taking over **7,908** cars off the road

Business rates paid to council **£158,000 p/a**

This project will contribute towards the UK's 2035 targets for renewable energy and carbon emission reductions.

## Get involved!

## Community Information Event

We've set up a dedicated webpage for this proposed project at www.lightsourcebp.com/uk/proposed-projects/Burnhope, with further project information and opportunities to get in touch with us to discuss the proposal.

Our community consultation will take place on Wednesday 27th April 2022, at Burnhope Community Centre: Langley Ave, Burnhope, Durham DH7 0AG, please drop in anytime between 4:30pm - 6pm to catch up with one of our team and find out more about our current plans for the projects.

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# Our initial thoughts

## Proposed solar farm at Edge Lane, Burnhope, Lanchester, Durham, DH7 0RY

We're still in the early stages, and our plans will evolve based on local input and the results of our ecological, landscape and heritage assessments. These are our current thoughts, for further details, please visit www.lightsourcebp.com/uk/proposed-projects/Burnhope or pop in to our community consultation event at Burnhope Community Centre: Langley Ave, Burnhope, Durham DH7 0AG on Wednesday 27th April 2022, anytime between 4:30pm - 6pm.

### 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, maximising electricity generation. This will leave the majority of the fenced solar array area as uncovered grassland.

### 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.

### Native Species

We have undertaken a Preliminary Ecological Assessment to inform the layout design and construction mitigation measures. The assessments included wintering bird surveys, breeding bird surveys, Great Crested Newt and Water Vole Surveys.

### Existing Vegetation

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




### Agricultural Land Grading

We have conducted an Agricultural Land Classification Survey which has classified the majority of the fields as 3b and 4, which is a lower grading of agricultural land, with limited output.

### Access

Proposed construction and operational access will be from the existing access from Edge Lane which already services HGVs.

### Cultural Heritage Impact

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



### Continued Agricultural Use

These fields are currently used for arable and pastoral. Our proposal includes plans to create a meadow grassland within the solar farm which can be grazed by sheep, so the land will maintain an agricultural purpose.

- Footpath
- Bridleway
- Civil Parish

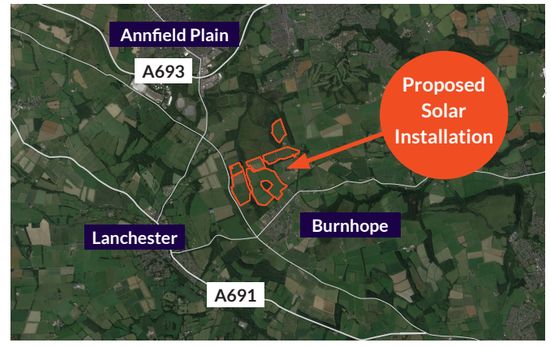
### Views and Screening

Vegetation screening will be increased along Edge Lane and along the south of the site to help reduce the limited views of the project. The natural screening will also help enhance biodiversity on the site.

### 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 local habitats.

This map is a combination of Ordnance Survey map reference: NZ 17812 48947 and aerial imagery dated [2022]

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# FAQs

**Why is this project important?**
Solar is a passive form of technology, generating electricity without creating any waste products, noise or pollutants. This makes it an ideal energy source for the UK, as we work towards the 2035 targets for renewable energy and carbon emission reductions.

**How will the equipment be protected?**
The solar farm will be enclosed by a deer fence about two metres in height, and CCTV cameras will monitor the boundary fence and area within the solar farm. 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. Several times a year, the panels will be thoroughly cleaned 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 farm cause traffic disruption?**
Once the solar farm 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 farm is being constructed, a traffic management plan will be put in place.