CONSTRUCTION – WHAT TO EXPECT

The construction timeframe for Lightsource bp's solar farms varies based on the size of the project, construction workforce and the site-specific characteristics. During this time standard construction hours are adhered to and the site is monitored 24 hours a day by security staff. We're dedicated to following best practice, making sure our sites are of high quality, and avoiding or mitigating any potential adverse impacts.

The order in which different stages of construction happen, and how much they overlap, will vary from site to site, but the construction of a typical solar farm usually follows this pattern:

SITE PREPARATION & GROUNDWORKS

Before construction starts, the Lightsource bp Project Manager oversees the preparation and groundworks to get the site ready.

FRAMING INSTALLATION

The frames for the solar panels are pile driven into the ground to ensure minimal ground disturbance.

CABLING & TRENCHING

Trenches for the cables are dug, and the electrical wires are safely protected and buried underground.

PANEL ASSEMBLY

The panels are fitted to the frames, which are laid out in evenly spaced rows.

ELECTRICAL COMPONENT FOUNDATION PREPARATION AND INSTALLATION

Foundations are prepared for the electrical components (inverters, transformers, substation).
Pre-fabricated components are then installed, others are built on site.

SECURITY INSTALLATION

Fencing is installed around the solar farm, alongside CCTV cameras which are positioned to monitor the fence line and solar farm interior.

HIGH VOLTAGE WORKS

Highly trained electrical engineers undertake the high voltage work needed for the solar farm to produce electricity.

COMMISSIONING

The solar farm undergoes final testing and is connected to the grid.

CONSTRUCTION DECOMMISSIONING & CIVIL WORKS

Once the site is successfully commissioned, all construction equipment is removed and any necessary restoration works to the site and the road system are completed.

LANDSCAPING (ACCORDING TO PLANTING SEASON)

Depending on whether or not the season is appropriate for planting, the site and boundaries will be seeded and planted as per the bespoke planting plan. If the site is completed outside of ideal planting seasons, the planting will take place at the next opportunity.

Safety first

Creating and maintaining a long term, continuously safe and healthy environment is our top priority. Safety is a mindset and attitude we adopt and apply to everything we do. We ensure all safety measures are taken to protect our employees, customers and business partners. We are committed to safe delivery of our business to the communities and partners we work with and are continuously creating sustainable solutions that are safe by design. We adhere to the criteria set out by the International Organization for Standardization, or ISO, to make sure we're working to the highest possible standards.

Working with local businesses

The majority of work that takes place on our solar farms is performed by our trusted EPC partners, all of whom have to go through our stringent onboarding process. These specialist solar construction companies often choose to subcontract out the less specialised, non-solar-specific aspects of building a solar farm to local contractors. This includes civil works, fencing, security and landscaping.

lightsource bp