

## WHO ARE WE?



Lightsource BP is a global market leader in the funding, development and long-term management of large-scale solar projects and smart energy solutions. We work closely with local businesses and communities to supply clean, dependable and competitively priced energy. We're dedicated to securing a low-carbon future, and to meeting the dual challenge of an increased demand for energy alongside a need to reduce emissions, 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 on and learn about the proposal. We will be holding an information event to provide details about our project ideas at this stage, and we welcome your feedback.

The information event will be held on:  
**Tuesday, 22nd October at:**

Cholderton Village Hall  
A338 Cholderton  
Wiltshire  
SP4 0DN

Drop in any time between 4:30pm and 7:30pm

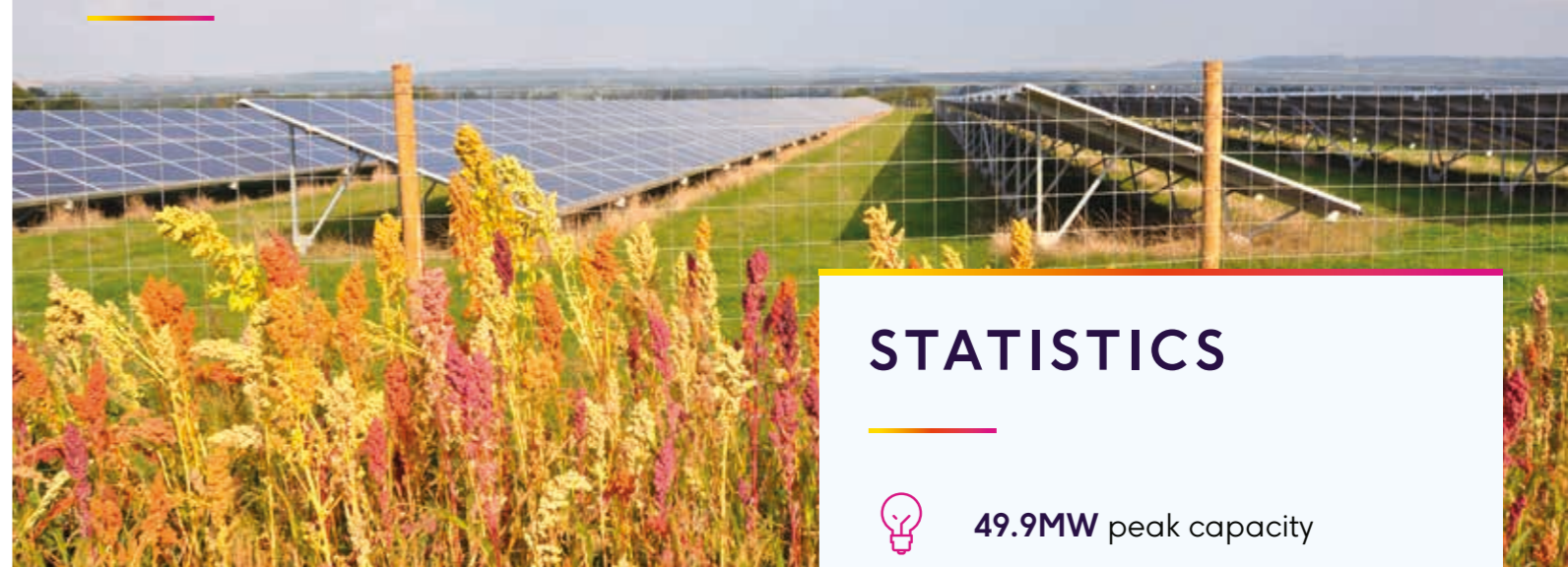


## FIND OUT MORE






If you have queries in relation to this project, please contact the project team by calling **0333 200 0755**, or emailing [info@lightsourcebp.com](mailto:info@lightsourcebp.com), quoting "Down Barn Farm".

# COMMUNITY INFORMATION PACK

PROPOSED SOLAR INSTALLATION AT DOWN BARN FARM,  
CHOLDERTON ESTATE, CHOLDERTON, WILTSHIRE, SP4 0EH



## STATISTICS

-  **49.9MW** peak capacity
-  Equivalent to the energy needs of **16,936** houses
-  **231** acres of land
-  **21,319** tonnes of carbon emissions saved
-  Equivalent to taking over **4,536** cars off the road

This project will contribute towards the legally binding UK Government targets of providing 15% of its energy needs from renewable sources by 2020.

Lightsource BP is working on a proposal for a solar installation at Down Barn Farm, Cholderton Estate, Cholderton, Wiltshire, SP4 0EH. We will fund and operate a solar installation connected into the local electricity network, with an output power capacity of 49.9MW (Megawatts).

Through our initial assessments we have selected the site area shown overleaf, 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 more.

A key part of developing our plans for this solar installation is engaging with local communities, so we're holding an information event to display and explain our plans and gather feedback. Members of the Lightsource BP team will be on hand to answer any questions about the proposal from local residents and interested parties.

Get involved!

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION EVENT

Tuesday, 22nd October 2019 at:

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# OUR INITIAL THOUGHTS

## Proposed solar installation at Down Barn Farm, Cholderton Estate, Cholderton, Wiltshire, SP4 0EH

We are currently preparing a planning application; through this process our plans will evolve based on local input from the community information event and the results of various environmental assessments that we have commissioned. Our current thoughts on the proposal are presented below. For further details, please join us at our community info event on Tuesday 22nd October. Drop in between 4:30pm and 7:30pm.

### 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. This will include planting to further reduce views from the byway open to all traffic.

### Views and Screening

The site benefits from established vegetation on its boundaries in particular along the southern boundary, screening most views from the A303. There is a dense vegetation line within the site boundary which borders the byway open to all traffic, reducing the views into the proposal site.

### Agricultural Land Grading

We have conducted an Agricultural Land Classification Survey which has classified the entire site as Grade 4, which is considered lower grade agricultural land.

### Continued Agricultural Use

The fields are currently used for a mixture of arable farming, sheep grazing and cattle grazing. Our proposal includes plans to create a meadow grassland within the fenced solar array which can be grazed by sheep – we have found sheep grazing to be beneficial in managing grass heights within our operational solar farms. There is also the potential to provide for bee keeping on site.

Details of cumulative impacts will form a section in each technical chapter of the Environmental Impact Assessment, accompanying the planning application.

### Statement from Henry Edmunds (landowner):

"With the increasing burden of costs and the forthcoming reduction in rural support payments, it is essential that the estate diversifies in order to carry on with the valuable environmental work that it currently undertakes. The estate is developing a system of carbon neutral farming coupled with a unique approach to encourage biodiversity in all that it undertakes. Details of this are available on our website."

<http://www.cholderton-estate.co.uk/>

### Point of Connection

A 132kV substation will be developed on site to connect into the existing overhead line that crosses 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 the local habitats.

### Native Species

We have undertaken an Extended Phase 1 Ecology Habitat Survey to inform the layout design and construction mitigation measures. In addition, at the request of the Council, ecologists undertook specific Stone-curlew surveys, these did not record any Stone-curlew using the site.

### Green Open Spaces

The installation has been designed to leave wide spaces around the site boundaries and between the rows of panels to avoid shading the panels, which will leave the majority of the fenced solar array area as uncovered grassland.

### Access

Proposed construction and operational access will be from the existing farm access via the A303 slip road which already services HGVs.

### How are the panels kept clean?

Generally, rainfall helps to keep the panels free of dust and dirt. The panels will be thoroughly cleaned as required 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.

### How will the equipment be protected?

The solar installation will be enclosed by a timber and wire agricultural fence about 2 metres in height, and CCTV cameras will monitor the boundary fence and area within the solar installation. These will be specifically positioned to make sure they do not impinge on the privacy of residents.

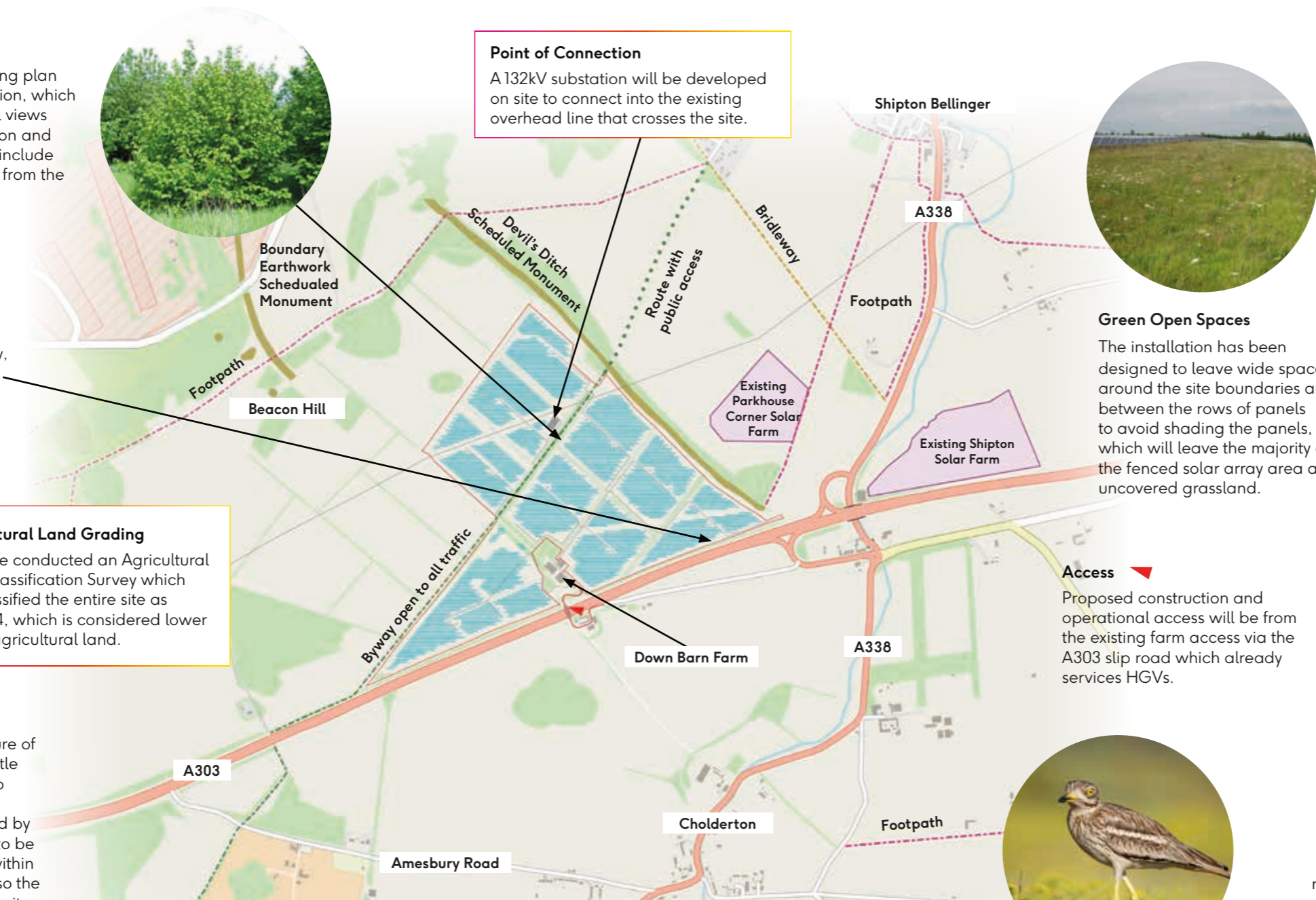
### Why is this project important?

Solar is a passive form of technology, generating electricity without creating any waste products or pollutants. This makes it an ideal energy source for the UK, as the 2020 targets for renewable energy and carbon emission reductions approach.

## FAQS

### Cultural Heritage Impact

There are Scheduled Monuments and non-Scheduled Monuments located near the site and its proposed boundaries. We have already begun engagement with Historic England to ensure the design includes appropriate mitigation measures (including setbacks) to avoid impacting on archaeology and heritage values.



This map is a combination of Ordnance Survey map reference: SU 22028 43435 and aerial imagery dated [2019]

