Community Input

Yeowood Solar Farm, Devon

Newlands Solar Farm, Devon

Visit our YouTube channel
'Lightsource Solar'
to watch the video!

'Solar Independence Day' at Dunsfold Park, Surrey

Thank You **to all those who came along to our Community Information Evening and left feedback with us. Your input has been vital in ensuring that our proposals integrate with the activities and aspirations of the local community. In summary -**

- ## Minimising views

  The most common question from residents concerned potential views of the solar farm. Lightsource has since conducted a detailed Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment to assess potential viewpoints and see how views of the solar farm could be minimised by amending our land management plans.

  The proposed infrastructure will reach a maximum height of 2.5 metres, so will be screened easily from outside the site boundaries by the existing and proposed vegetation.

  We are proposing a new hedgerow along the northern boundary which will improve screening from Finvoy Road and the nearby cemetery. Other hedgerows in and around the site will also be strengthened with new native planting to better screen the solar farm from view.

- ## Improving habitats

  We have refined our plans for managing the land around the solar farm in response to the results of ecological studies and the recommendations of consultant ecologists. These plans are now integral to the submitted planning application and are summarised in the centrefold of this leaflet. The full Biodiversity Management Plan and Planting Plan are available to view online as part of the planning application.

- ## Improving drainage

  The panels will be raised on a framework which rests on pile-driven legs, so the majority of the proposed solar farm will remain grassland. There will be no mass concrete surface, so the infrastructure will not affect run-off volumes or increase any risk of flooding. Drainage improvements are planned as part of the proposal on order to protect the equipment from the existing surface water in the south west corner of the site. The measures, including work to existing ditches and the installation of new land drains, will improve drainage in the area.

- ## Get Involved

  Finally, if you operate a local business or interest group in the area and are interested in getting involved in the project during or after construction, please contact our team and leave your business/ group details with us. We would love to hear from you.

What Happens Next?

A planning application has now been submitted to the Northern Area Planning Office. **Ref: D/2014/0234/F**

The application is available to view online at: www.planningni.gov.uk by searching the reference number.

Keep in touch...

If you have any further questions about the schemes, please do not hesitate to contact us.

LIGHTSOURCE RENEWABLE ENERGY LIMITED

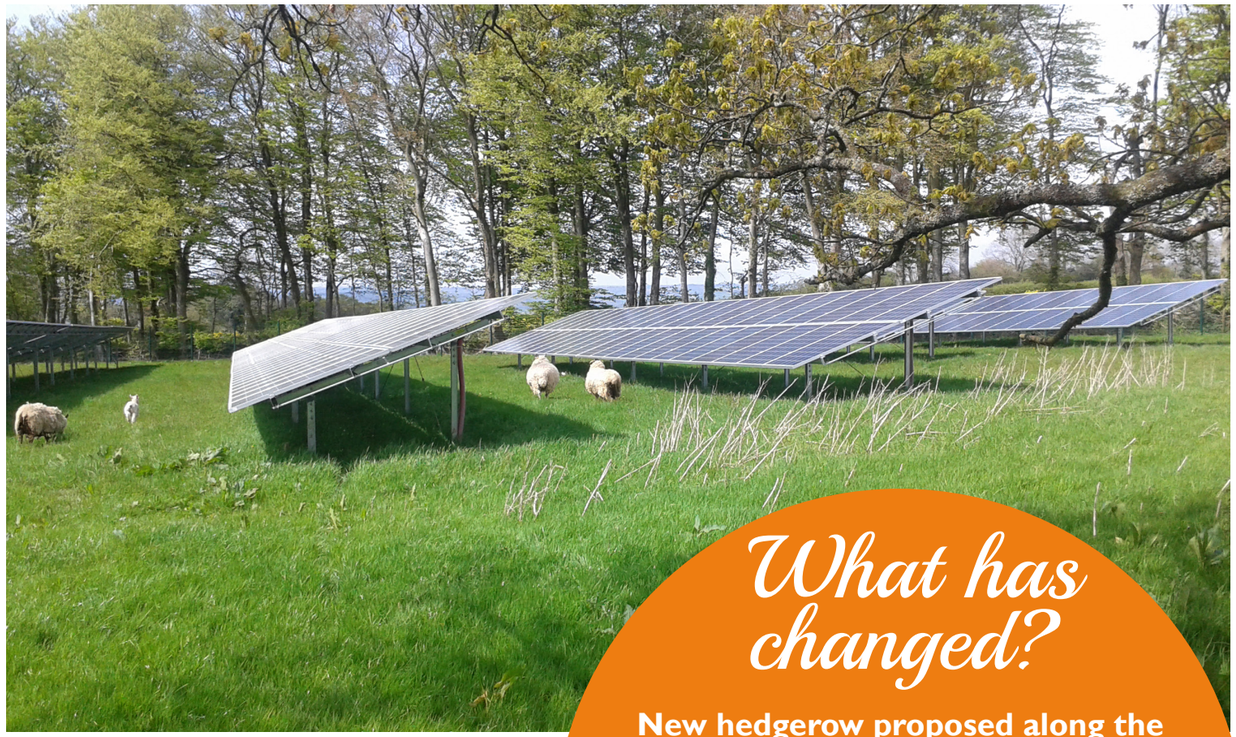
Lightsource Renewable Energy Limited
Scottish Provident Building, 7 Donegall Square West
Belfast, BT1 6JH

T: 0333 200 0755
E: info@lightsource-re.co.uk
www.lightsource-re.co.uk

Project Update, December 2014

PROPOSED SOLAR FARM at FINVOY ROAD

Application Reference: D/2014/0234/F



What has changed?

New hedgerow proposed along the northern boundary to improve visual screening from Finvoy Road

Existing hedgerows enhanced with infill planting to strengthen wildlife corridors

Bird and bat boxes proposed in the surrounding trees to encourage nesting and roosting

As you may be aware, Lightsource Renewable Energy is working on a proposal for a 5.88 Megawatts Peak (MWp) solar farm at 289 Finvoy Road, Rasharkin, Ballymoney, BT44 8SD. Lightsource already operates a variety of solar farms, working with local communities and landowners to generate green energy locally and sustainably.

We have now finalised our proposal for a 39 acre site, and a formal planning application has been submitted to the Northern Area Planning Office. The application has now been validated and is available to view in full on the Planning Office website by searching the following reference number: D/2014/0234/F

This update aims to give a helpful overview of how our plans have been refined in response to local feedback, as well as an insight into the Biodiversity Management Plan and Planting Plan submitted with our application. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our Planning Team directly.

Solar farms provide a great opportunity to enhance biodiversity

LIGHTSOURCE RENEWABLE ENERGY LIMITED

Lightsource Renewable Energy Limited
Scottish Provident Building, 7 Donegall Square West
Belfast, BT1 6JH

T: 0333 200 0755
E: info@lightsource-re.co.uk
www.lightsource-re.co.uk

THE REVISED PROPOSAL:

Proposed solar farm at: 289 Finvoy Road, Rasharkin, BT44 8SD (Ref: D/2014/0234/F)

Lightsource has worked closely with ecologists on a Biodiversity Management Plan, which has now been submitted as part of the planning application. The plan will ensure that the land is managed responsibly throughout the life of the solar farm; enhancing botanical biodiversity, improving prospects for wildlife and minimising disturbance, and allowing a continuation of agricultural practices on-site:

Grassland
The entire solar farm area will be sown with a meadow mix grass seed, including the areas oversailed by panels.

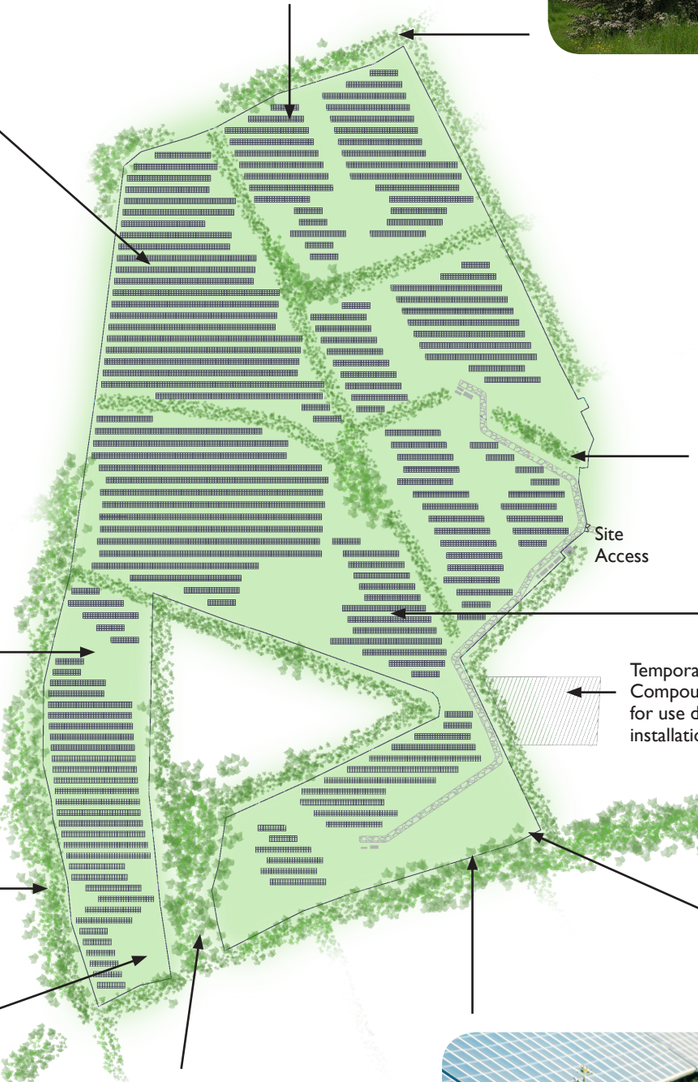
Low Height
The proposed panels reach a maximum height of 2.5 metres, so would be easily screened beyond existing and proposed hedgerows.

Hawthorn

Dog Rose

New Hedgerow Planting
A new hedgerow is proposed along the northern boundary to provide better screening from Finvoy Road and the nearby cemetery. Other hedgerows throughout the site will also be strengthened with native in-fill planting, including Hawthorn, Blackthorn and Dog Rose, to enhance wildlife corridors and habitats across the site.

Sheep Grazing
The project has been developed in collaboration with the landowner, who will graze sheep on the grasslands once the solar farm is in place. This will give the land a dual purpose and continue the agricultural use of the land.



Bat Boxes
9 bat boxes are proposed, mounted on suitable mature trees or poles around the site boundary to encourage roosting.

More Efficient Design
A change in panel layout within the site boundary has meant we were able to increase the capacity of the solar farm from 5.42 to 5.88 MWp without using more land. The acreage of the solar farm has not changed.

Bird Boxes
8 bird boxes, suitable for a variety of species, are proposed in the surrounding trees to encourage nesting.

Improved Drainage
New land drains and improvements to the existing ditches are planned to reduce surface water in the south western corner of the site. These measures will protect the solar farm equipment and will improve drainage in the area.

Existing Trees and Hedgerows Retained
All existing hedgerows and trees in and around the site will be retained and managed as part of the on-going land management of the site. Mature trees will also be protected whilst the solar farm is being installed.

Mammal gates
'Mammal gates' in the fencing will allow small mammals to move freely across the site undisturbed.

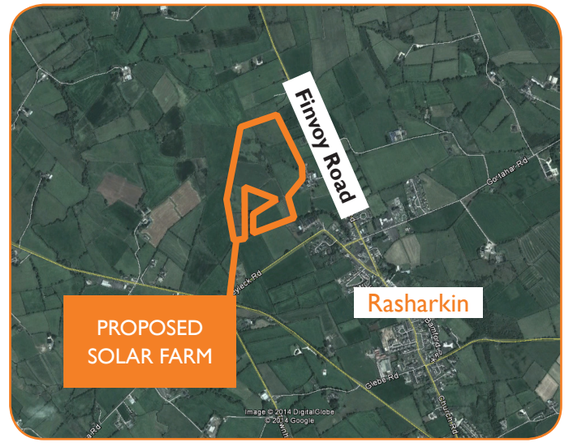
Agricultural fencing
A timber and wire agricultural fence of about 2 metres in height will be used, appropriate to the rural setting. The fence will sit inside the surrounding vegetation, within the current field pattern.

LIGHTSOURCE RENEWABLE ENERGY LIMITED

HOW MUCH ENERGY?

- 5.88 Megawatts Peak (MWp)
- 1,484 households powered
- 2,532,287 kg of carbon emissions saved, every year
- ...Equivalent to taking 563 large family cars off the road

To find out how we make our calculations, please take a look at our planning portal at: www.lightsource-re.co.uk



Case study: NEWLANDS SOLAR FARM

The Lightsource solar farm at Newlands Farm, Devon, was installed on agricultural land used for sheep grazing. With the solar farm in place, sheep continue to graze the entire solar farm area, allowing the land to produce both food and energy. As well as continuing the land's traditionally agricultural use, sheep grazing also reduces the need for grass cutting on site. The hedgerows around the solar farm at Newlands Farm have been planted with Holly, Beech and Hawthorn to provide year-round screening, as well as food sources and nesting opportunities for local birds. *Find out more:*

YouTube 'Lightsource Solar'