

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:

Wednesday, 4th December 2019:

**Hesleden Working Mens Club,
Front St, Hesleden,
Hartlepool
TS27 4PH**

Drop in any time between 3:30pm and 7:00pm



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 "Hulam Farm".








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COMMUNITY INFORMATION PACK

**PROPOSED SOLAR INSTALLATION AT HULAM FARM,
CASTLE EDEN, DURHAM, TS27 4SA**



STATISTICS

-  **49.9 MW** peak capacity
 -  Equivalent to the energy needs of **13,397** houses
 -  **16,865** tonnes of carbon emissions saved
 -  Equivalent to taking over **3,588** cars off the road
 -  **205** acres of land
- 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 Hulam Farm, Castle Eden, Durham, TS27 4SA. 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

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OUR INITIAL THOUGHTS

Proposed solar farm at Hulam Farm, Castle Eden, Durham, TS27 4SA

Our plans are in the early stages, so our design and planting and biodiversity enhancement proposals will evolve as we gather local input and the results of our ecological, landscape and heritage assessments. These are our current thoughts. For further details, please join us at our community info event on Wednesday 4th December. Drop in between 3:30pm and 7:00pm.

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.

Agricultural Land Grading

We have conducted an Agricultural Land Classification Survey which has classified the site as Grade 3b, which is not Best and Most Versatile Land.

Access

Proposed construction and operational access will be the existing farm access from Bellows Burn Lane which already services HGVs. This will include a left hand only turn from the A19 for construction traffic.

Views and Screening

The site is well screened by established vegetation, particularly to the north and west. Some longer distance views may be possible towards the site, however the site will form only a small part of the view. We will provide additional landscape planting to provide screening from the public rights of way to the north and south of the site.

Cultural Heritage Impact

We are aware that there are sites of cultural and scientific impact in the area, and have commissioned independent surveys to make sure our proposals will fully assess the potential for archaeology within 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. This will leave the majority of the fenced solar array area as uncovered grassland.

Existing Vegetation

We will ensure the layout does maintain the existing vegetation. With much of the site screened by the Ancient Woodland to the north we will provide a minimum 15m offset to ensure protection of this important woodland.

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.

FAQS

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.

How will the equipment be protected?

The solar farm 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 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. 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.

This map is a combination of Ordnance Survey map reference: NZ 43927 36653 and aerial imagery dated [2019]

