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 online Q&A event to provide details about our project ideas at this stage, and to give you a chance to speak to our team.

Our online Q&A session will take place on 4th November 2020, at 7.30pm, please join the meeting at that time via the project webpage, or by visiting https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/efjbuqpc.

We want to ensure that our engagement is inclusive and are aware that not everyone within the community will have access to the internet. 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 "Sheraton Hall". You can also message us on Facebook or write to us at Lightsource bp, 7th Floor, 33 Holborn, London, EC1N 2HU.

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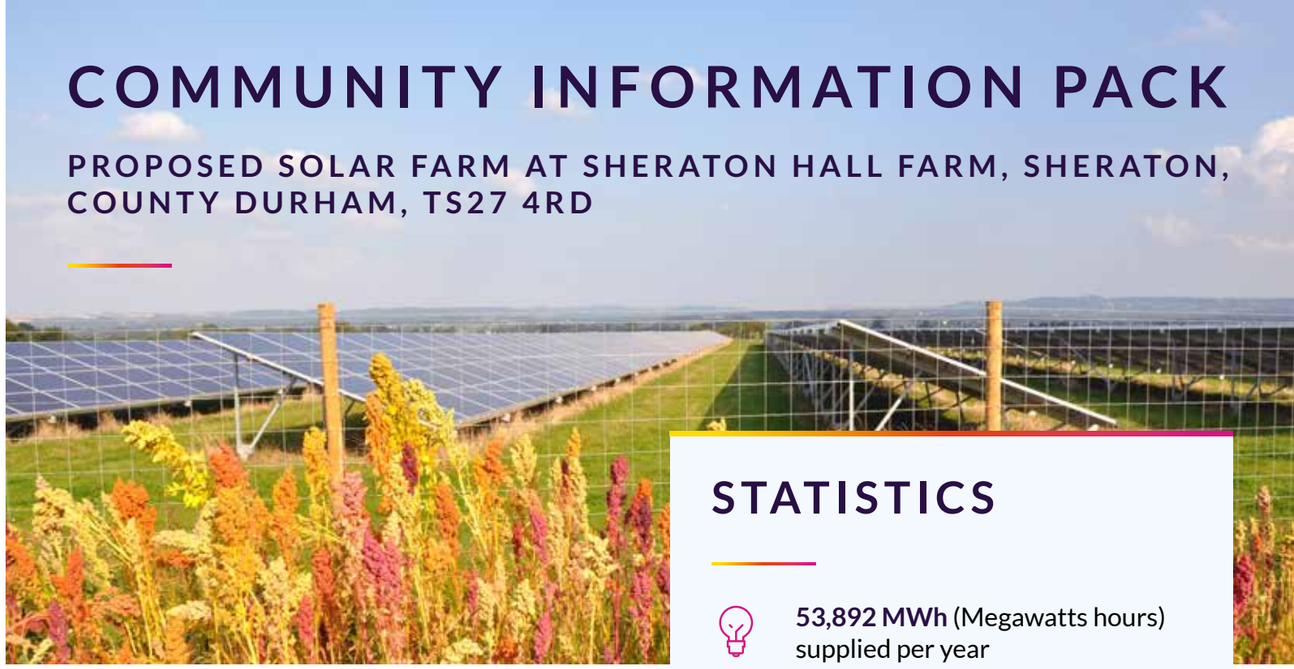
t 0333 200 0755
e info@lightsourcebp.com
www.lightsourcebp.com

COMMUNITY INFORMATION PACK

PROPOSED SOLAR FARM AT SHERATON HALL FARM, SHERATON, COUNTY DURHAM, TS27 4RD



Lightsource bp is working on a proposal for a solar farm at Sheraton Hall Farm, Sheraton, County Durham, TS27 4RD. We will fund the development of a solar farm to be connected into the local electricity network, with an output power capacity of 49.9MW (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, flood risk and more.

An important part of the planning process is engaging with local communities to provide more information on our proposals and gather feedback. Due to the current Covid-19 restrictions in the UK, we are seeking to ensure that our community engagement is undertaken safely. Safety is one of our core values, and in order to keep to the high standards of community engagement that we've set as a company we're replacing our community consultation event with an online Q&A session, on 4th November 2020.

STATISTICS

53,892 MWh (Megawatts hours) supplied per year

Equivalent to the energy needs of **16,330** households

203 acres of land

20,558 tonnes of carbon emissions saved

Equivalent to taking over **4,374** cars off the road

This project will contribute towards the UK's 2025 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/sheraton-hall, with further project information and opportunities to get in touch with us to discuss the proposal.

Our online Q&A session will take place on 4th November 2020, at 7.30pm, please join the meeting at that time via the project webpage above, or by visiting https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/efjbuqpc.

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OUR INITIAL THOUGHTS

Proposed solar farm at Sheraton Hall Farm, Sheraton, County Durham, TS27 4RD

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/sheraton-hall or join our online Q&A session on 4th November 2020, at 7.30pm.

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 the panels. This will leave the majority of the fenced solar array area as uncovered grassland.

Continued Agricultural Use
These fields are currently used for arable farming. Our proposal includes plans to create a meadow grassland which can be lightly grazed by sheep, so the land under the solar installation can maintain an agricultural purpose.

Views and Screening
There will be some views of the proposed solar farm from the footpath through the site, and from the B1280 for a short duration for passing cars. These will be planted with additional native vegetation to provide enhanced screening.

Construction traffic will not access the site from here.

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.

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 native vegetation and increasing biodiversity. Particular attention will be made to securing early screening of views from the B1280.

Agricultural Land Grading
We have conducted an Agricultural Land Classification Survey which has classified all the fields as Grade 3b which is not best and most versatile agricultural land.

- Footpath
- Bridleway
- Civil Parish (CP)
- Unitary Authority (UA)
- Traffic-free cycle route
- Power line
- Site boundary

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

Access (►)
Proposed construction and operational access will be from the existing farm access gates. We will ensure that construction traffic does not access directly off the A19 and into Sheraton village but from the B1280.

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.

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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 we work towards the 2025 targets for renewable energy and carbon emission reductions.

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. 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 farms 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 43433 34462 and aerial imagery dated [2019]