



Bryn Henllys Extension Statement of Community Involvement

Proposed Solar Installation

DOC REFERENCE: Bryn Henllys Extension SCI
DATE: August 2019

Lightsource BP, advancing solar



I. Executive Summary.....	2
1. Introduction	3
2. Engagement Strategy and Methods	4
2.1 Information Leaflet	4
2.2 Public Notice and Press Release	4
2.3 Briefings for MP, Councillors and Town/Community Councils.....	5
2.4 Community Information Event	5
3. Summary of Feedback.....	7
4. Community Benefit	11
5. Summary	12
Appendix A – Leaflet (English and Welsh Versions)	13
Appendix B – Public Notice	15
Appendix C – Press Release	16
Appendix D – Newspaper Articles	17

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Company Number 09494479

I. Executive Summary

Lightsource BP has undertaken a comprehensive pre-application engagement programme in order to proactively inform and engage with the local community and key stakeholders. A community Information Event took place on Thursday 1st August 2019 at Ystradowen Community Centre, 38 New Rd, Cwmllynfell, Swansea SA9 2YY.

Overall the process involved the following details:

- Over 430 households and local businesses were directly informed of the proposal via a leaflet mailout (this included all households within approximately 1km radius of the site).
- Many more were made aware through a newspaper advert in the South Wales Guardian on 17th July 2019 and South Wales Evening Post on 18th July, and an article published on Solar Power Portal on 23rd July 2019 following our press release.
- Key stakeholders including the newly elected MP, all Planning Committee Members and Group Leaders at Powys County Council, the Ward Councillor, Ystradgynlais Town Council and neighbouring Quarter Bach Town Council, Cwmllynfell Community Council and Ystalyfera Community Council have been contacted directly to ensure they are informed of the proposal.
- Approximately 18 people attended our drop in Information Event.
- Four feedback forms were completed at the Information Event, with all respondents supportive of the proposal.
- Overall feedback received from the Information Event demonstrated support for the project from the local residents and Town/Community Councillors.

1. Introduction

This Statement of Community Involvement summarises the pre-application engagement and consultation Lightsource BP has conducted through extensive political and stakeholder engagement for the proposed Bryn Henllys Extension Solar Installation.

2. Engagement Strategy and Methods

The aim of the engagement programme has been to inform and engage with the local community and stakeholders, in order to ensure local people are aware of the proposal and have the chance to find out more and express their views.

Our key objectives were to:

- Ensure the local community and key stakeholders were informed of the proposal;
- Ensure that accurate information about the proposal and solar energy generation was provided;
- Provide information in a number of formats (leaflets, information boards, videos);
- Answer queries regarding the proposal specifically, and solar technology more generally;
- Provide an opportunity for the local community and stakeholders to provide their opinions about the proposal; and
- Take on board feedback from the local community in finalising our proposal.

A range of methods have been employed to engage with key stakeholders and the local community.

2.1 Information Leaflet

Two four-page leaflets (one in English and one in Welsh) providing information on the proposal and our upcoming Information Event was mailed to over 430 local residents and businesses, being all of the addresses within approximately 1km radius of the Site, on Monday 22nd July 2019.

Copies and personal invitations to our drop-in event were also sent all Planning Committee Members and Group Leaders at Powys County Council, the Ward Councillor, Ystradgynlais Town Council, and neighbouring Quarter Bach Town Council, Cwmllynfell Community Council and Ystalyfera Community Council.

The leaflets introduced the proposal and publicised the upcoming community Information Event. The leaflets also provided details on how to contact our team for further information. A copy of the information leaflet is included in **Appendix A**.

2.2 Public Notice and Press Release

A public notice was placed in the 17th July 2019 edition of the South Wales Guardian and 18th July edition of the South Wales Evening Post inviting people to the upcoming Information Event. A copy of the public notice is provided in **Appendix B**.

We also sent out a press release in advance of the community Information Event in order to maximise awareness of the proposal and details for the drop-in Information Event. A copy of the Press Release is provided in **Appendix C**.

An article was published online at Solar Power Portal on 23rd July 2019. A copy of the article is provided in **Appendix D**.

2.3 Briefings for MP, Councillors and Town/Community Councils

Contact was made with the Planning Committee Members and Group Leaders at Powys County Council, Ward Councillor, Ystradgynlais Town Council, and neighbouring Quarter Bach Town Council, Cwmllynfell Community Council and Ystalyfera Community Council mid July 2019 to advise of the proposal. As the constituency was subject to a by-election, there was not a Member of Parliament to engage with or invite to the event. Lightsource BP will be sending a letter to the new Member of Parliament Jane Dodds, to inform her on the proposal.

On 17th July 2019 copies of the Information Leaflets, along with invitations to the Information Event were sent to all of the above. Follow up emails and phone calls were made to encourage attendance, therefore allowing Lightsource BP to answer questions and explain the proposal in detail. In particular, to those Councillors who were interested but could not attend the event. During the phone calls, Planning Committee Members were asked if they would welcome a separate pre-application discussion, at another date and time; however, Councillors did not express a desire to take up this offer.

In total 10 Councillors attended the event on Thursday 1st August 2019, including the Site's Ward Councillor, and seven Town Councillors who represented either Ystradgynlais Town Council or neighbouring Quarter Bach Town Council.

Lightsource BP are currently in discussions with Ystradgynlais Town Council about the prospect of holding a second community drop-in Information Event in Cwm Twrch. The MP and Councillors will also be informed of any future Information Event.

2.4 Community Information Event

In order to engage with the local community and key stakeholders, to inform them of our intended plans and gain feedback on our proposal, we organised a community drop-in Information Event. This was held at the Ystradowen Community Centre, 38 New Rd, Cwmllynfell, Swansea SA9 2YY on Thursday 1st August 2019. This location was selected based on its close proximity to the proposed site boundary.

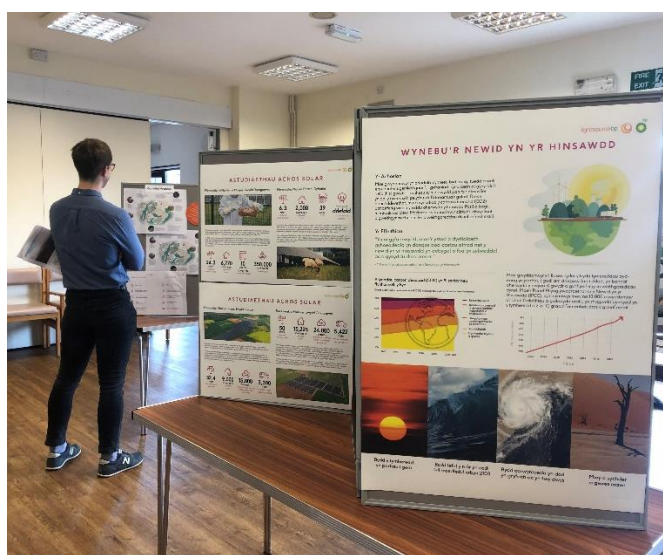
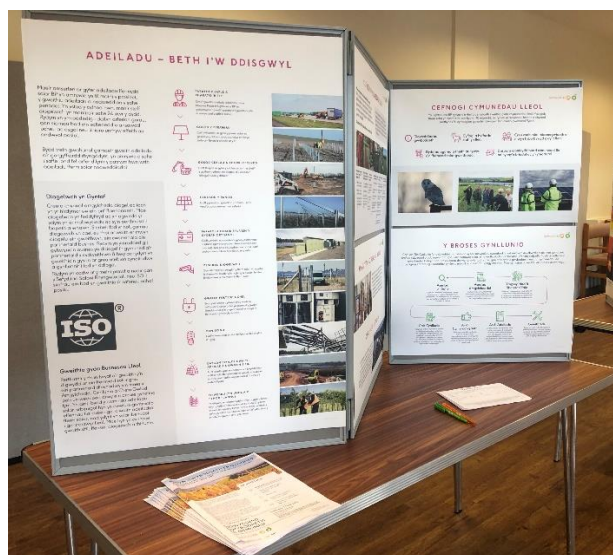
The information event was held between 3.30pm – 6pm for Councillors, Town/Community Council members and members of the Public.

At the information event the following information was available:

- Display boards (in English and Welsh) provided information about the proposal, the site and solar technology, these included an indicative layout, location maps and photomontages;
- Information covering solar PV, the biodiversity enhancements seen at existing solar installations, and agricultural co-use options;
- A TV showing a montage of videoclips on various aspects of solar PV and solar developments; and
- Feedback forms.

Representatives from Lightsource BP (one being first language Welsh speaker) and Instinctif Partners (engaged on behalf of Lightsource BP to provide stakeholder engagement support), all with a variety of technical backgrounds were available throughout the drop-in event to provide information and answer questions, as well as take note of any concerns raised.

Approximately 18 people attended the drop-in Information Event, 10 were Councillors and 8 were members of the public (based on verbal discussions and on the addresses given on the feedback forms).



Photos from the Information Event

3. Summary of Feedback

Following the leaflet mail out and community information event we received 4 completed feedback forms. Lightsource BP representatives at the community engagement event also took note of matters and concerns raised during conversations with attendees and this feedback was collated following the Event.

All completed feedback forms expressed support for the proposal. This overall positive response was very much reflective of the majority of individual discussions and verbal feedback from the attendees at the Information Event.

The following table details the matters raised by those we have engaged with, and our responses to those matters.

Table 1: Summary of Feedback

TOPIC	COMMENTS RECEIVED ON FEEDBACK FORMS	VERBAL AND EMAIL FEEDBACK	COMMENT ON FEEDBACK
GENERAL FEEDBACK ON PROPOSAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal is a win-win for the environment • Generally positive for the proposal, where pathways are maintained • Most interested in renewable projects and a supporter of solar development • Good use of contaminated land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good to see a previous open cast mine site being used for the generation of clean, renewable, solar energy. • Overall feedback has been very positive about the proposal 	<p>Lightsource BP are pleased with the turnout from the event, in particular from the Ward Member and Town/Community Council members.</p>
PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of free passage of recognised public rights of ways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued access of public rights of way • Concerns raised on missing details of some public rights of way on the information leaflet. The legal agreement of these 	<p>The solar farm layout is designed to ensure all existing rights of ways are kept free of infrastructure, have appropriate setbacks and remain clear for free passage.</p> <p>With regards to the missing details of some of the rights of way on the information leaflet, the source relied on when issuing the Information Leaflets was Ordnance Survey. The details brought to our attention by the Ward Member have been noted and will be accounted for going forward.</p>
VIEWS INTO THE PROPOSED SITE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No concerns raised about visual impact on the feedback forms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two members of the public raised concerns in relation to the negative visual impact the proposed site would have on their property. 	<p>The Lightsource BP representative spoke with the two members of public at the Information Event to understand and work to address their concerns. A number of mitigation measures were offered by the Lightsource BP representative, which included:</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The potential removal/relocation of panels from certain fields/areas within the proposed planning red line boundary; - Additional landscaping screening to be added within the preliminary landscape plan, and; - Offsite landscape screening i.e. new planting offered to be implemented within the member of public's property landownership boundary. <p>02/08/19: The day following the Information Event, an email was sent to the member of public. The email set out that in order to confirm the requirement of the above, that a Landscape Consultant would be required to take photos from the property to fully understand the potential impact and to confirm if any of the above mitigation measures would be effective in minimising the potential impact.</p> <p>09/08/19: A response was received requesting Lightsource BP make contact later in the year, to evaluate the potential visual impact during the winter months.</p> <p>12/08/19: The Lightsource BP representative confirm this request could be met however that an assessment be carried out at stage to ensure any changes/mitigation can be included in the planning application prior to the application being submitted to Powys County Council.</p> <p>No further correspondence was received at the time of completing this document.</p>
LANDSCAPING	•	• Importance retaining trees and hedges and additional	Accompanying this application is a detailed Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Detailed Landscape Proposal and Aboricultural Impact Assessment. All trees and hedges will be

		landscaping around the site was raised	retained as part of the proposal/layout design. The Detailed Landscape Proposal includes a 5m tree belt planting along the northern boundary of the proposed site, hedgerow and hedgerow reinforcement planting along the eastern and southern boundaries of the proposed site. The site already benefits from existing woodland and hedgerows along the majority of the site boundaries.
LOCATION OF THE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION		The location of the engagement event was queried by some councillors, given that it was in neighbouring Quarter Bach Community Council area and not Ystradgynlais Community Council area.	Lightsource BP are currently in discussions with Ystradgynlais Town Council about the prospect of holding a second community drop-in Information Event in Cwm Twrch.
RENEWABLE ENERGY BENEFITS		A number of the attendees commented on the benefits of the renewable energy contribution.	The generation of renewable energy is supported at a national scale in policy and legal commitments to achieve a reduction in carbon emissions.

4. Community Benefit

It is Lightsource BP's position that local communities hosting major renewable energy developments should be recognised for their contribution to meeting our country's need for secure, 'home-grown', cleaner forms of energy and that the communities in which we operate should directly benefit from hosting the Development. Lightsource BP are currently in discussions with Ystradgynlais Town Council about the distribution of a community benefit fund.

5. Summary

The community engagement process has allowed Lightsource BP to inform the local community of our proposal at Bryn Henllys Extension, and to gain feedback, thus enabling due consideration to be given to matters of importance to the local community.

We have responded to the feedback received in a number of ways including responding directly to queries in meetings with Town/Community Councillors and at the Information Event and addressing issues raised through the Design and Access Statement and accompanying technical assessments.

Lightsource BP are currently in discussions with Ystradgynlais Town Council about the prospect of holding a second community drop-in Information Event in Cwm Twrch.

Overall, the feedback from the community from the pre-application engagement programme has been largely positive.

Appendix A – Leaflet (English and Welsh Versions)

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 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:

Thursday, 1st August 2019, at:

Ystradowen Community Centre
38 New Rd, Cwmlynnell,
Swansea, SA9 2YF

Drop in any time between 3.30pm and 6.00pm



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 "Bryn Henllys Extension".



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

COMMUNITY INFORMATION PACK

PROPOSED BRYN HENLLYS EXTENSION SOLAR FARM NEAR CWM-TWRCH UCHAF, SWANSEA



STATISTICS

8,840 MWh (Megawatts hours) supplied per year

Equivalent to the energy needs of **2,679 households**

65 acres of land

3,372 tonnes of carbon emissions saved

Equivalent to taking over **717 cars** off the road

Lightsource BP is working on a proposal for a solar farm near Cwm-twrch Uchaf, Swansea. We will fund and operate the proposed solar farm, which will connect into the local electricity network, and have an output power capacity of 9.9MW (Megawatts).

This proposal is an extension of a consented 20MW development on land at Bryn Henllys Open Cast Mine, which was approved by the planning committee in June 2018, but has not yet been built. We're now working with the land owner to bring both sites to completion, and we're undertaking a wide range of environmental assessments to help shape our plans. These include landscape and visual, heritage and archaeology, ecology and ornithology, hydrology and more.

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

Get involved!

COMMUNITY INFORMATION EVENT

Thursday, 1st August 2019, at:

Ystradowen Community Centre
38 New Rd, Cwmlynnell,
Swansea, SA9 2YF

Drop in any time between 3.30pm and 6.00pm. If you are unable to attend and wish to discuss the project further, please contact us on 0333 200 0755.



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

OUR INITIAL THOUGHTS

Proposed Bryn Henllys Extension solar farm near Cwm-twrch Uchaf, Swansea

We're still developing this proposal, 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 join us at our community info event on Thursday 1st August. Drop in between 3.30pm and 6.00pm.



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 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 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 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 installation cause traffic disruption?
Once the solar installation 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 installation is being constructed, a traffic management plan will be put in place.

PWY YDYM NI?



Mae Lightsource BP yn arwneidda byd-eang yn y farchnad o ran arannu, datblygu a rheoli asedion ynni clyfar a phrosiectau solar mawr yn y tymor hir. Rydym yn gweithio'n agos gyda chymunedau a busnesau lleol i ddarparu ynni glân, dibynadwy am bwrth cyswllt. Rydym wedi ymmyngu i seicwra dyfodol carbon isel, ac i fadonl'r her ddwbl o gynyddu ynni golau am ynni a'r angen i leihau allyriadau yn DU a ledled y byd.



YMGYSYLLTU Â'R GYMUNED

Mae'n bwysig i ni fod y gymuned leol yn cael gwybod am y cynlluniau ar gyfer y safle ac yn cael cyfle i wneud sylwadau a dygus am y cynnydd. Byddwn yn cynnal digwyddiadau gwybodaeth i gyflwyno manylion am y syniadau sydd genym ar gyfer y prosiect ar hyn o bryd, a byddwn yn falch iawn o gael eich adrodd.

Dyma fanfynion am y digwyddiad gwybodaeth:

Dydd Iau, 1 Awst 2019

Canolfan Gymuned Ystradowen
38 Heol Newydd, Cwmlynnell,
Abertawe SA9 2YF

Gwleth draw unhrwy bryd rhwng 3.30pm a 6.00pm



RHAGOR O WYBODAETH

Os oes genych chi unrhyw ymholiadau am y prosiect hwn, cysylltwch â thim y prosiect drwy ffonio 0333 200 0755, neu anfonwch neges e-bost at info@lightsourcebp.com, gan ddyfynnu 'Estyniad Bryn Henllys'.



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

PECYN GWYBODAETH I'R GYMUNED

FFERM SOLAR ARFAETHEDIG ESTYNIAD BRYN HENLLYS GER CWM-TWRCH UCHAF, ABERTAW



STATISTICS

8,840 MWh (Megawat awr) yn cael eu cyflenwi bob blwyddyn

Mae hyn yn gwerth ag anghenion ynni 2,679 o gartrefi

65 ew o dir

Arbed 3,372 o dunell o allyriadau carbon

Mae hyn yn gwerth â rhoi'r gorau i ddefnyddio 717 o geir

Mae Lightsource BP yn gweithio ar gynydd ar gyfer fferm solar ger Cwm-twrch Uchaf, Abertawe. Byddwn yn arannu ac yn gweithredu'r fferm solar arfaethedig a fydd yn cyflwyno 8.840 MWh (Megawat awr) o ynni golau (flegawd).

Mae'r cynnydd hwn yn estyniad i ddatblygiad 20MW a ganiatwyd ar dir ym Mwynglawdd Bryn Henllys. Cymedrodd y pwylgor cynllunio'r cas hwn ym mis Mehefin 2018, ond nid yw wedi cael ei ddatblygu eto. Rydym bellach yn gweithio gyda pherchnog y tir er mwyn cwblhau'r gwaith ar y ddau safle. Rydym yn cynnal nifer o sesiadau amgylcheddol amgylt i helpu i lunio ein cynlluniau. Mae'r rhain yn cynnwys asesu'r tîwedd a'r nodweddion gwledol, asesu'r ddiadaeth a'r arddaeleg, asesu ecoleg ac addwng, hydroleg a mwy.

Rhannu bwyg a datblygu cynlluniau ar gyfer y fferm solar newydd yw ymgysylltu â chymunedau lleol. Felly, rydym yn cynnal digwyddiadau gwybodaeth er mwyn dangos ein cynlluniau a chysgu adrodd. Bydd oelodau o dîm Lightsource BP wrth law i cael unrhyw gwestiynau am y cynnydd newydd gan ddiogelion lleol a phawb sydd â diddordeb.

Cymryd rhan!

DIGWYDDIAD GWYBODAETH I'R GYMUNED

Dydd Iau, 1 Awst 2019

Canolfan Gymuned Ystradowen
38 Heol Newydd, Cwmlynnell,
Abertawe SA9 2YF

Gwleth draw unhrwy dro rhwng 3.30pm a 6.00pm Os nad ydych chi'n gallu dod i'r digwyddiad hwn, ac os ydych chi'n dymuno trafod y prosiect, cysylltwch â ni ar 0333 200 0755.



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

EIN SAFBWYNTIAU CYCHWYNNOL

Fferm solar arfaethedig Estyniad Bryn Henllys ger Cwm-twrch Uchaf, Abertawe

Rydym yn dal i ddatblygu'r cynnydd hwn, a bydd ein cynlluniau'n datblygu yn seiliedig ar fewnblwn lleol a chanlyniadau ein hasasiadau o'r ecoleg, o'r tîwedd ac o'r ddiadaeth. Dyma ein safbwyntiau ar hyn o bryd. I gael rhagor o wybodaeth, ymwunwch â ni yn ein digwyddiad gwybodaeth i'r gymuned ar dydd Iau, 1 Awst. Gwleth draw rhwng 3.30pm a 6.00pm.



Rhol hwb i flociarnwylaeth
Gan fod ffermydd solar yn osodiadau goddefol, mae'n gylfe gwyb i gynnwys mesurau gwella cynefinoedd yn y cynnydd. Bydd Cynllun Rheoli Bioamrywiaeth parpasol yn cael ei ddatblygu i arwain y gwaith o wella'r cynefinoedd a chreu cynefinoedd newydd i gefnogi bywyd gwylt lleol. Fel rhan o'r fenter hon, bydd ein cynlluniau i blannu, hadu a chreu cynefinoedd yn canolbwyntio ar ryngweithiau cynefinoedd a bydd yn cael eu darparu cynefinoedd sy'n addasu i amrywiaeth a ryngweithiau, gan gynnwys anffiblad, mamaliaid bychan ac anffellaid di-asgwrn-oeff.



Gwella bioamrywiaeth
Rydym yn awyddus i glywed gan unrhyw sefydliadau rheoli tir a gweinyddwr lleol er mwyn cefnogi bywyd gwylt a rhol hwb i'r cynefinoedd sydd gertlaw y gosodiad arfaethedig, ac rydym yn awyddus i weithio gyda niw helyd.

Mannau agored gwyrdd
Mae cynllun y gosodiad wedi darparu ar gyfer manau agored eang o amgylch ffiniau'r safle a rhwyg y rhes o banelli er mwyn osgoi taffu cysgod ary panelli. Bydd hyn yn golygu y bydd y rhan fwyaf o ardaly'r arde panelli solar o fewn y ffin yn llwytellr heb ei orchuddio.

Myneidda
Ceir myneidda i weithwyr adeiladu a gweithredu o liffordd, sef Heol Palleg, sydd i'r ddydd yn y safle. Dyma'r llyneidda sydd wedi'i chymedroddio ar gyfer y safle cyfagos fferm solar Bryn Henllys - cas sydd wedi'i ganiatu.



CWESTIYNAU CYFFREDIN

Pam mae'r prosiect hwn yn bwysig?
Mae ynni solar yn fath o dechnoleg oddefol, sy'n cynhyrchu trydan heb greu unrhyw wastraff na llygryddion. Mae hyn yn golygu bod ynni solar yn ffinhonnell ynni dddefnyddio i'r DU wrth i dargedu 2020 ar gyfer ynni adnewyddadwy a leihau allyriadau carbon ddod gam yn nes.

Sut bydd yr offer yn cael ei ddiogelu?
Bydd fferm bren a gweithu tua 2 fect o uchder yn amgylchynu'r fferm solar, a bydd camerâu Teledu Cyfing Cyffing yn monitro'r fferm deryn o'r ardal o fewn y fferm solar. Bydd y rhain yn cael eu gosod mewn mannau penodol i seicwra nad ydym yn amharu ar bellfawrdd trigolion.

Sut bydd y panelli'n cael eu cadw'n lân?
Yn gyffredinol, mae glaw yn helpu i gadw llwch a baw oddi ary panelli. Bydd y panelli'n cael eu glanhau'n dwyadawl sawl gwaith yn ystod y flwyddyn, gan ddefnyddio cylpar arbennig, i seicwra bod y gosodiad yn y gyflwr gorau posibl.

A all ffermydd solar fod yn beryglus i lechyd?
Na - mae ynni solar yn dechnoleg oddefol ac nid yw'n cynhyrchu unrhyw sgil-gynhyrchion niweidiol. Mae'r holl offer bydan rydym yn ei ddefnyddio'n bodlon i'r Gyflwynydd Cychweddoldeb Electromagnetig (EMC) ac yn cynnwys nod CE.

A fydd y fferm solar yn amharu ar drafft?
Ychydig iawn o waith cynnal a chadw fydd angen ei wneud ary fferm solar ar ôl i ddi gael ei gosod. Byddai ceir rheoliad neu geir 4x4 yn ymweiddio'r safle bob mis yn fras, ond ni fyddai hyn yn amharu ar drafft. Bydd cynllun rheoli traffig yn cael ei roi ar waith tra bydd y fferm solar yn cael ei hodeddlu.

Community Info Event

**PROPOSED BRYN HENLLYS EXTENSION:
SOLAR FARM NEAR CWM-TWRCH UCHAF,
SWANSEA**

THURSDAY 1ST AUGUST 2019

**Ystradowen
Community Centre**
38 New Rd,
Cwmillynfell,
Swansea SA9 2YY

Drop in any time between:
3.30pm - 6.00pm



✓ Get involved...

Our plans are in early stages, so our design and planting proposals will evolve as we gather local input and assessment results.

We would welcome any feedback or suggestions you may have.

www.lightsourcebp.com

Information leaflets are on their way to the nearby residents.
If you don't receive an information leaflet and would like to find out more, please get in touch:

0333 200 0755
Info@lightsourcebp.com



Appendix C – Press Release

Lightsource BP to hold community consultation event for Bryn Henllys Extension solar farm proposal

Lightsource BP, a leading developer and operator of solar farms in the UK, will be outlining their proposal to fund, develop and build a 9.9MW solar farm on 65 acres of land near Cwm-twrch Uchaf, Swansea at a community information event on Thursday 1st August. Lightsource BP is inviting residents from the surrounding area to attend the community information event, where further information will be made available on the proposal.

The community information event will be held in Ystradowen Community Centre, and residents are invited to drop in at any time between 3.30pm – 6.00pm. The Lightsource BP team will be on hand to discuss the planning proposal and gather feedback from the local community.

This proposal is an extension of a consented 20MW solar farm on land at Bryn Henllys Open Cast Mine site, which was approved by the planning committee in June 2018. The applicant for the consented site was Juwi Renewable Energy Ltd, who did not move forward with building the project, and we're now working with the land owner to bring both sites to completion. The proposed solar farm extension will provide enough additional clean renewable energy power to 2,679 homes, saving 3,372 tonnes of carbon emissions every year, the equivalent of taking 717 large family cars off the roads.

The site is currently grazed by livestock, and the proposed layout for the Bryn Henllys Extension Solar Farm has been designed to provide for continued grazing beneath and between the rows of panels. Wide grassy avenues will be left between the rows of solar panels, to reduce shading and optimise the amount of sunlight each row of panels receives. This will leave around 70% of the solar farm as open grassland, ideal for grazing livestock, while the panels provide shade, shelter and protection.

As well as generating clean energy and maintaining agricultural use, Lightsource BP is proposing enhancement measures that will make sure the project delivers a net biodiversity gain. A bespoke Biodiversity Management Plan will be developed as part of the planning application to enhance habitat for local wildlife. We will plant new trees and hedgerows, and sow a botanically diverse grassland seed mix, all of which provide favourable habitat conditions for a range of species, including amphibians, small mammals and invertebrates.

The proposed fields have been chosen because they are well-screened by local topography and dense vegetation which would limit any surrounding views of the solar farm.

Conor McGuigan, Director of Business Development for Europe, Lightsource BP said:


"Solar energy is not only clean and renewable, but it also generates locally-produced electricity. This makes solar an important part of meeting the global rise in energy demand efficiently and more sustainably."

"We want to ensure that local communities in and around the proposed location have all the information they need about this project. We're holding this information event to speak to elected representatives, local businesses and residents of the local community, and to gather feedback. This event is also a great way for the community to ask any questions they may have about the project or solar energy in general."

Residents can obtain further information on the project, at any time, by getting in touch with the Lightsource BP team via info@lightsourcebp.com quoting 'Bryn Henllys Extension'.

-ends-

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Large-Scale Solar

Published: 23 Jul 2019, 11:32

By: Alice Grady Junior reporter, Solar Power Portal




Image: Lightsource BP

Lightsource BP unveils plans for 9.9MW solar farm

Lightsource BP is proposing to develop a 9.9MW solar farm in Swansea, building on plans for a 20MW project at the same site.

The proposal is an extension of the 20MW farm, which has already received planning permission and is located on land at Bryn Henllys Open Cast Mine. The site was originally to be developed by Juwi Renewable Energy but has since been picked up by Lightsource BP.

The proposed layout has been designed to allow for continued grazing of livestock beneath the rows of panels. Wide grassy avenues will be left between the rows to reduce shading and optimise sunlight each row receives. Around 70% of the solar farm will be left as open grassland.

A bespoke Biodiversity Management Plan will be developed as part of the planning application, including plans to plant new trees and hedgerows and sow botanically diverse grassland seeds.

A community information event is to be held on 1 August to discuss the planning proposal and gather feedback from the local community.

Conor McGulgan, director of business development for Europe at Lightsource BP, said: "Solar energy is not only clean and renewable, but it also generates locally-produced electricity. This makes solar an important part of meeting the global rise in energy demand efficiently and more sustainably.


"We want to ensure that local communities in and around the proposed location have all the information they need about this project," he added.

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