



 at land near Poundon, Buckinghamshire

Oakfield Grove Solar and Energy Storage Project

Lightsource bp is working on a proposal for a solar and energy storage project near Poundon in Buckinghamshire. We will develop a solar and energy storage project to be connected into the local electricity network, with an output power capacity of up to 80MW (Megawatts) and storage capacity of up to 80MW.

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, flooding and more.

A key part of developing plans for the project 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 proposal from local residents and interested parties.

STATISTICS



Equivalent to the energy needs of
30,803 households



277
acres of land



17,465
tonnes of carbon emissions
saved per year



Equivalent to taking over
5,542 cars off the road

This project will contribute
towards the UK's 2050
targets for reaching net zero.

Community consultation event

Get involved!

Consultation on this project runs from 29 June to 31 July 2026. If you have questions or would like to give your feedback, please get in touch.



Thursday 16th July 2026 at:

Charndon Community Hall
Main Street, Charndon, Bicester
OX27 0BL

Drop in any time between 3pm and 8pm

at land near Poundon, Buckinghamshire

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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 join us at our community info event on Thursday 16th July 2026. Drop in between 3pm and 8pm.

Animals and Wildlife

We are undertaking a range of environmental surveys including a Phase 1 Habitat Survey to identify, assess and mitigate any potential impacts on wildlife on the site. The results of the habitat survey and any measures put in place to protect wildlife and habitats will be detailed within the ecology report and in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) we will submit with our planning application.

Views and Screening

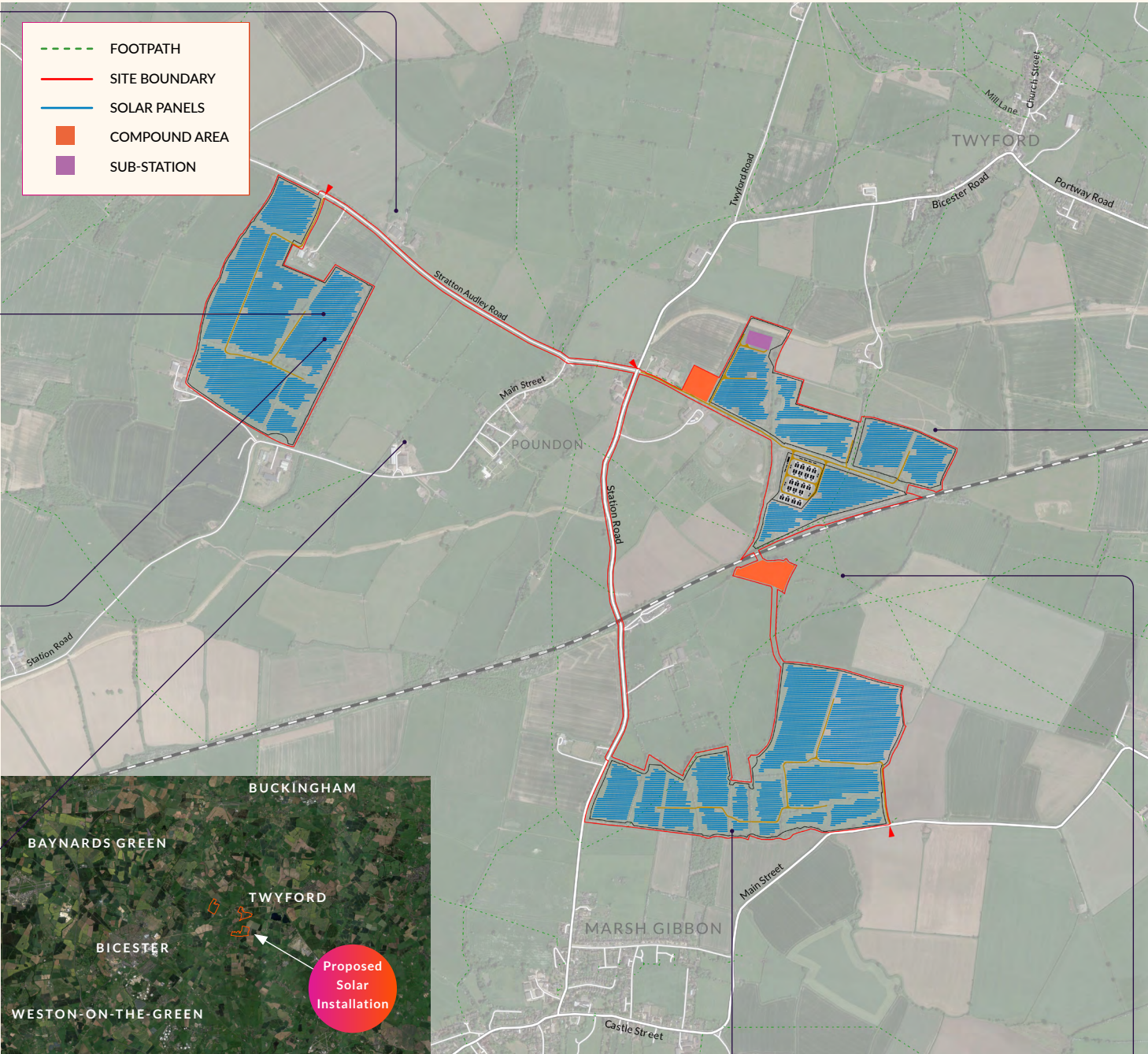
The site is well screened with existing hedgerows and trees. Supplemental planting along the site boundaries will help reduce the limited views of the project. The natural screening will also help enhance biodiversity on the site.

Continued Agricultural Use

The fields are currently used as arable farming and pasture for grazing livestock. Once the PV panels have been installed, the land under the panels can still be grazed by sheep, so the land will continue to be used for agricultural purposes.

Hedgerows and Trees

Existing hedgerows and trees will be retained wherever possible and will be supplemented with additional planting to screen the site from views and blend the site into the surroundings. We will submit a detailed planting plan as part of the planning application, which will focus on screening potential views of the site using vegetation and increasing biodiversity.



Access (➡)

Proposed construction and operational access will be the two existing access points on Stratton Audley Road, Poundon road for the northern part of the site and from Main Street in Charndon for the southern part of the site. The existing access points already service HGVs.

Green Open Spaces

The project has been designed to leave wide spaces around the site boundaries and between the row of panels to avoid shading the panels.

Community Benefits

We are committed to supporting the local communities around our solar projects, to create a positive impact on society and the environment that goes beyond generating renewable energy. As part of that commitment, we're proposing to create a community benefit fund that will benefit those living around the Oakfield Grove solar and energy storage project. Our proposal comprises funding of up to £8,000 per MW*¹, dependent on the final capacity and lifetime of the project. We are evaluating the options on how and when that funding could be distributed and welcome your views on the types of local projects or initiatives that could be funded.

Connection to the National Grid Network

The project will provide energy to the national grid network and connect to the nearby underground 132kV cable via an underground cable within the site boundary.

Agricultural Land Grading

We have conducted an Agricultural Land Classification Survey which has classified the majority of the fields as 3b or below, which is classified as non-BMV (Best Most Versatile).

Public Rights of Way

We are proposing rerouting two Public Rights of Way to maximise the distance between the rights of way and the solar farm and retain its rural views. All other Public Rights of Way through the site will be retained.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why are you proposing solar and energy storage project here?

Renewable energy and solar energy in particular are the lowest impact forms of electricity generation. As the UK moves away from dependence on fossil fuels to generate electricity, solar energy can provide a reliable local source of energy to the National Grid, which powers our homes and businesses. Energy storage helps to provide resilience to the National Grid, by storing excess energy generated when demand is low which can be released to the grid when demand is higher.

What are the timescales for the proposals?

The project is currently at the design stage. Following community consultation and completion of environmental surveys, a planning application will be submitted. If approved, construction will follow, and the site will then operate for around 40 years before being decommissioned and returned to agricultural use.

What will happen at the end of project?

The Project is designed to operate for around 40 years. At the end of its life, all equipment will be removed, and the land will be returned to the landowners. The land will be nutrient-rich due to decades of light grazing and grassland management.

How will the site be protected?

The site boundary will be enclosed by a timber and wire agricultural fence about 2 metres in height, and CCTV cameras monitoring the boundary. Cameras will be carefully positioned inward facing to ensure privacy for nearby residents. Within the site, the BESS units will be enclosed with additional security fencing for safety reasons, comprised of metal poles and mesh fencing up to a maximum of 3.5m in height.

Are energy storage projects a fire or safety risk?

Safety is a core value at Lightsource bp and all our energy storage projects are developed with the highest standards of safety in mind. The fire risk for Lithium batteries such as these are extremely low, and incidences of Lithium battery fires are rare. The battery will come equipped with the latest technology and will be integrated with advanced safety measures. Each BESS container is equipped with its own fire suppression system and monitored 24/7. The project will be developed with a bespoke Battery Safety Management Plan, created in consultation with Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service and Buckinghamshire Council.

Will the project cause traffic disruption?

Once operational, the solar farm requires few maintenance visits, typically by car or small van approximately once a month, which would not cause traffic disruption. During construction, a Construction Traffic Management plan will be in place to minimise disruption to local roads and residents.

1. This figure is based on the maximum grid export capacity in MW, as determined by the grid connection offer.

Community engagement

It's important to us that the local community are fully informed of our proposal for the site and have the opportunity to ask questions and to comment. 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



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Find out more

If you have queries in relation to this project, please contact the project team:

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WHO ARE WE?

Lightsource bp is a trusted global independent power producer (IPP) delivering end-to-end onshore renewable energy and battery storage 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.

Lightsource bp is a bp company.

