

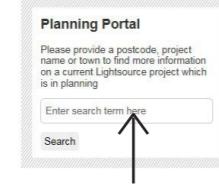
GET INVOLVED!



You can send us your feedback, comments or support via our online Planning Portal:



GO TO
www.lightsource-re.co.uk



TYPE
'Hillside'

We are still gathering information from our detailed wildlife and landscape assessments in order to refine our designs. So it will be several weeks before we submit a formal planning application. Before we do, we would welcome any feedback or suggestions you may have.

We are also keen to champion the local economy - involving as many local contractors and businesses as we can during the solar farm's construction and the ongoing responsible management of the land. If you would like to be involved in the project, please get in touch, or come and introduce yourself at our information event.

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www.lightsource-re.co.uk

You can also contact us by phone or email. If you would prefer to write to us the traditional way, please get in touch and we will happily send you a pre-paid envelope.



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

WHY SOLAR?

Stabilising energy bills long term

Once the equipment is installed, the sun's energy is free – this makes solar power a vital long term player in protecting us from the volatile costs of raw materials, such as coal and gas. Generating energy locally also means the UK can take more control over its electricity supply and costs, without relying on foreign supplies.

Championing the local economy

Renting a small portion of land to Lightsource for the generation of renewable energy can provide rural businesses with a predictable, steady income stream which can support the rest of the farming business. We also try to incorporate as many local contractors and service providers into our plans as possible. If you'd like to work with us, please get in touch.

Meeting our targets

The Northern Ireland Executives' target is to meet 40% of our energy demand from renewable sources by 2020. Solar power is one of the most passive technologies to implement in order to help meet these targets and fight climate change.

Boosting biodiversity

The UK's wildlife is declining in species and number, largely due to intensive crop farming. Solar farms provide pockets of diversified land which allow wildlife habitats to flourish undisturbed and biodiversity levels to increase.

A local educational resource

Solar farms offer a safe opportunity to get up close to the technology whilst it is generating. We often host tours for local school groups on our operational sites, guided by a Lightsource expert. Having a tangible example of renewable energy generation in the community can be a great supplement to learning about electricity, local ecosystems and climate change.

Solar farms do not harm the ground they sit on

Solar farms produce no harmful waste products and the steel, pile driven foundations can simply be pulled out of the ground with no lasting damage. At the end of the working life of a solar farm all infrastructure is removed easily and the land fully restored to the way it was. Not many other 'power stations' can say that.

Community Information Pack

PROPOSED SOLAR FARM at HILLSIDE, 7A LOUGH RD



Benefits

1,700 homes powered by clean, locally produced electricity

Designed to accommodate grazing of small livestock throughout solar farm

Biodiversity enhancements to enrich wildlife habitats around the boundaries

Opportunities for local residents, students and wildlife groups to get involved in our plans



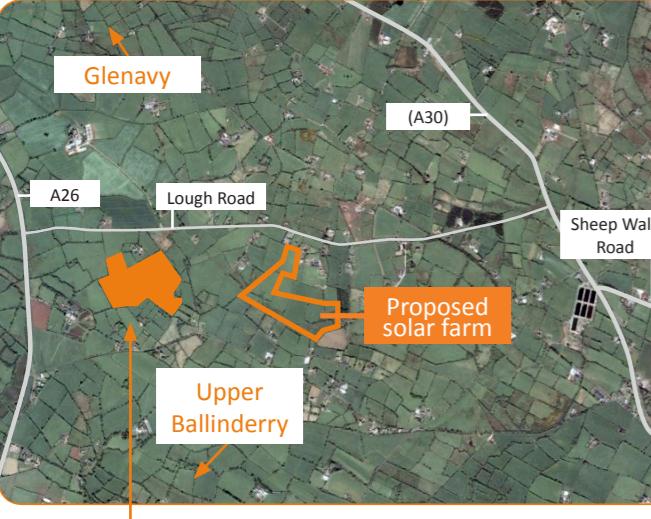
Solar farms provide great opportunities for biodiversity enhancement

Get involved! COMMUNITY INFORMATION EVENING

Tuesday 26th May 2015

Ballinderry Inn
Moira Road
Lisburn
County Antrim
BT28 2HQ

Drop in any time between 5:30 - 8:00 pm



Nearby Solar Site

West of the proposed solar farm is an approved solar site at 15 Lough Road, which is yet to be installed. These two solar farms are not seen together in the same view and are not visible from Lough Road.

HOW MUCH ENERGY?

6.9 Megawatts Peak (MWp)

1,700 households powered

2,900 tonnes of carbon emissions saved, every year

...Equivalent to taking **600** 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.

OUR INITIAL THOUGHTS...

Proposed solar farm on land at Hillside, 7a Lough Road, Ballinderry Upper, BT28 2PQ

Our plans are in early stages, so our design and planting proposals will evolve as we gather local input and the results of our ecological, topographical and landscape assessments. These are our current thoughts:



Species-Rich Grass

Species-rich grass will be sown throughout the site, including the areas oversailed by panels.



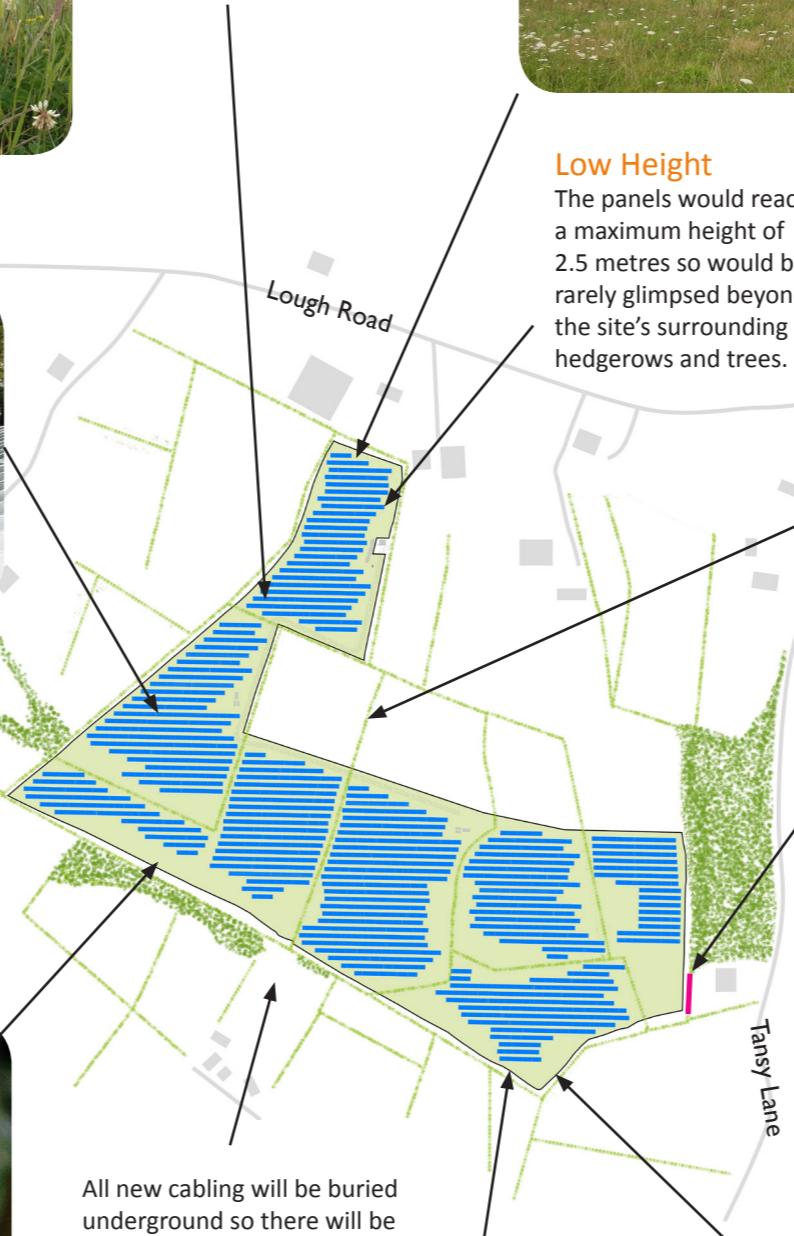
Green Open Space

Wide spaces around the site boundaries and between the rows of panels will leave the majority of the solar farm's grasslands completely open and uncovered.



Livestock Grazing

The solar farm is being designed to accommodate the grazing of small livestock, such as chickens or sheep. This will continue the land's agricultural use, enabling the farm to produce food as well as locally generated energy.



Biodiversity Enhancement

The design avoids using areas shaded by boundary vegetation by leaving wide field margins around the site perimeter. These spaces can be utilised to improve prospects for wildlife by sowing wild flowers or installing hibernacula. The specific enhancements we propose here will be decided using the results of our ecological surveys as well as local input and ideas. If you would like to help shape our plans, please get in touch.



Mammal Gates

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



Low Height

The panels would reach a maximum height of 2.5 metres so would be rarely glimpsed beyond the site's surrounding hedgerows and trees.



Vegetation Retained

The existing trees and hedgerows in and around the site will be retained and managed as part of the project.



New Planting

At present, there are glimpsed views through the existing vegetation from a property on the south east corner. We plan to strengthen the tree line along this boundary (marked in pink) with native planting to reduce these views.



All new cabling will be buried underground so there will be no new overhead lines.

Rural 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.

The operation of the solar farm would be of no disturbance to farm animals, wildlife, walkers or motorists. There will be no flood lighting, the solar panels will not move, and as they are designed specifically to absorb daylight, an anti-reflective surface ensures any reflection of light is dull and minimal.

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I get involved?

We welcome as much feedback as possible on our initial designs. If you have a question, would like to help shape our proposal, or belong to a local wildlife group, school or youth group and would like to see how you could get involved, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch with our planning team via our online Planning Portal:

www.lightsource-re.co.uk

(Full instructions overleaf)

Why harvest energy instead of food?

It isn't a choice - solar farms can do both. The solar farm at Hillside (7a Lough Road) is being designed to accommodate the grazing of small livestock, enabling us to generate energy whilst continuing the land's agricultural use.

Are solar farms irreversible development?

No - solar farms are a temporary use of land and do not necessarily lead to further development. At the end of our lease period (usually about 25-30 years) the framework will be removed without harming the land.

Is there an increased risk of flooding around solar farm sites?

No - no mass concrete surface is required and the majority of the solar farm remains open grassland, so the infrastructure on a solar farm does not affect run-off volumes. The panels are raised on a framework which rests on pile-driven legs, so less than 5% of the ground surface is actually disturbed.

Will the solar farm cause traffic disruption?

Whilst the solar farm is being installed, a traffic management plan will be in place to avoid disruption, including organising off-peak daytime deliveries. It would take about 2 months to install the solar farm, averaging about 6 deliveries per day. Once the solar farm is in place it requires very little maintenance and the occasional visits in regular cars or 4x4s would cause no traffic disruption at all.

Are solar farms noisy?

No - you would not expect to hear any noise beyond the site boundary.

Where will the electricity go?

The solar farm will connect to the Local Distribution Network. At its current design, the solar farm would be expected to generate 5,768 Megawatt Hours (MWh) of electricity over the course of a year - this is equivalent to the annual consumption of 1,700 households. Local energy take-off will consume some, if not the majority, of the energy generated.