

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 in advance of our formal draft submission to the Planning Inspectorate. 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 21 October 2021. The session will be run in Welsh language at 7pm, and then in English language at 8pm. Please join either meeting at that time via the project webpage at www.lightsourcebp.com/uk/proposed-projects/plas-power-solar-project/

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 "Plas Power". You can also message us on Facebook or write to us at Lightsource bp, 7th Floor, 33 Holborn, London, E1CN 2HU.

Community Information Pack

PROPOSED SOLAR FARM AT PLAS POWER ESTATE, RUTHIN ROAD, WREXHAM LL11 3BS



Statistics

 **82,911 MWh** (Megawatts hours) supplied per year

 Equivalent to the energy needs of **22,222 UK households**

 **348 acres** of land

 **22,991 tonnes** of carbon emissions saved

 Equivalent to taking over **12,678 cars** off the road

 Equivalent to powering **53,128 Electric Vehicles** per year

This project will contribute towards the Welsh Government 2030 targets for renewable energy and carbon emission reductions.

Lightsource bp is working on a proposal for a solar farm at Plas Power Estate. We will fund the development of the project and connect it to the local electricity network, providing an output capacity of 80MWp (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 ongoing COVID-19 situation 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 21 October 2021.

Get involved!

Community Information Event

We've set up a dedicated webpage for this proposed project at www.lightsourcebp.com/uk/proposed-projects/plas-power-solar-project/, 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 21 October 2021. The session will be run in Welsh language at 7pm, and then in English language at 8pm. Please join either meeting at that time via the project webpage above.

Our initial thoughts

Proposed solar farm at Plas Power Estate, Ruthin Road, Wrexham LL11 3BS

We're currently preparing our plans for this project which will evolve based on local input and the results of our ecological, landscape and heritage assessments. These are our current thoughts and form the basis of this initial non statutory information pack. For further details, please visit www.lightsourcebp.com/uk/proposed-projects/plas-power-solar-project/ or join online Q&A session on 21 October 2021 at 7pm for Welsh Language and 8pm for English Language.

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.

Native Species

We have undertaken an Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey to inform the layout design and construction mitigation measures. This has included Otter surveys of the Clywedog River and tributary, Great Crested Newt surveys of ponds, Breeding Bird surveys and Wintering bird surveys.

Access

The main construction and operational access will be from the existing access from the A525 with some smaller parcels accessed from established field access in the south.

Cultural Heritage Impact

We are aware that there are sites of cultural and heritage sensitivity within the area, and have commissioned independent surveys to make sure our proposals will fully assess the potential for heritage impacts within the site. Offa's Dyke passes within the estate, but to the west of the solar project area, and area of our project which has already been refined following engagement with CADW.

-  Footpath
-  Site boundary
-  Below ground cable

Views and Screening

The site has been selected as it benefits from established screening around the perimeter which provides good visual containment, limiting the visibility from sensitive receptors such as residential properties.

Cable Route

The project will connect into the Legacy Substation to the south west of the site, which requires a below ground cable of approximately 1.5km in length.

Green Open Spaces

The installation has been designed to leave spaces around the site boundaries and between the rows of panels to avoid shading, maximising electricity generation. This will leave the majority of the fenced solar array area as uncovered grassland.

Existing Vegetation

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

Agricultural Land Grading

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

Continued Agricultural Use

These fields are currently used for pastoral agriculture. 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 a dual agricultural and energy use.

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, noise 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 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: SJ 30344 50709 and aerial imagery dated [2018]

