

GET INVOLVED!



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

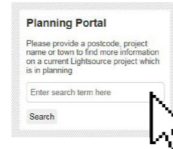


GO TO

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.

In-House Planning



TYPE
'Averill'

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.

The Planning Team
Lightsource Renewable Energy Limited
7th Floor, 33 Holborn, London, EC1N 2HT

www.lightsource-re.co.uk

Community Information Pack

PROPOSED SOLAR FARM at AVERILL FARM



Benefits

1,366 homes powered by clean, locally produced electricity

Sheep grazing 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



Lightsource Renewable Energy is working on a proposal for a solar farm at Averill Farm, near the villages of Stretton and Morton, in Derbyshire. Lightsource is a British company who already owns and operates a variety of solar farms and rooftop installations across the country, working with local communities, businesses and landowners to generate green energy locally and sustainably.

The proposed solar farm will not only produce energy - the landowner will continue to farm the fields productively, using the solar farm as grazing pasture for a flock of sheep. The wide field margins and open spaces between the rows of modules also create opportunities for biodiversity enhancements such as wild flowers and log piles. We are currently working with ecologists to draft a land management plan which will best suit the species currently present in the area.

Generating energy locally means the UK can reduce its reliance on foreign fossil fuel supplies, but it also opens opportunities for championing the local businesses and skills around each site. If you would like to see how you can get involved in the project, please get in touch with our team, or come and meet us in person at Morton Village Hall, on Wednesday 25th March.

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 UK is legally committed to meeting 15% of its 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 whilst protecting our native wildlife.

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.



Newlands Solar Farm, Devon



Hawton Solar Farm, Nottinghamshire



Parsons

Solar Independence Day at Dunsfold Park

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

Get involved!

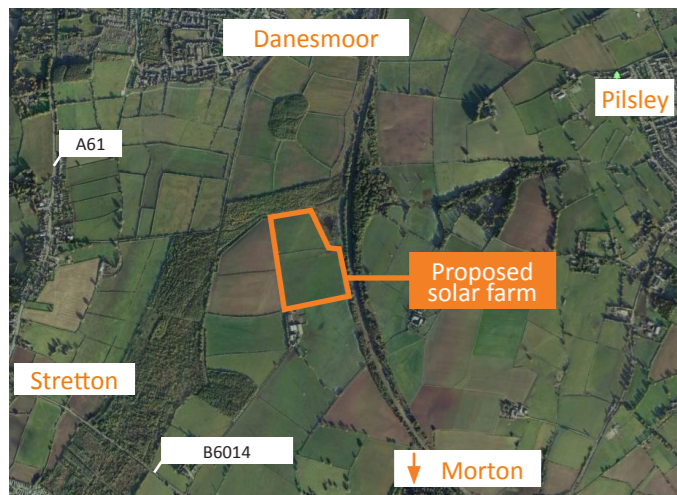
COMMUNITY INFORMATION EVENT



Wednesday 25th March 2015

Morton Village Hall,
 Main Road,
 Morton,
 DE55 6GS

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



OUR INITIAL THOUGHTS...

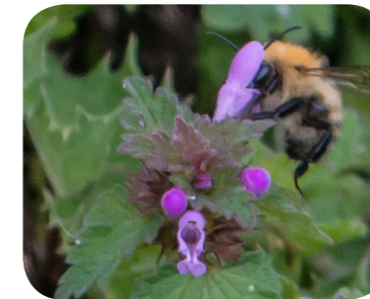
Proposed solar farm at Averill Farm, Morton, Derbyshire, DE55 6HB

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:



Sheep Grazing

The land inside the fenced solar farm area is low-grade (Grade 4) and will be grazed by sheep, allowing continued agricultural use and enabling the site to produce food as well as 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, arranging log piles and installing bird and bat boxes. The specific enhancements we propose here will be decided using the results of our ecological surveys as well as local input and ideas.

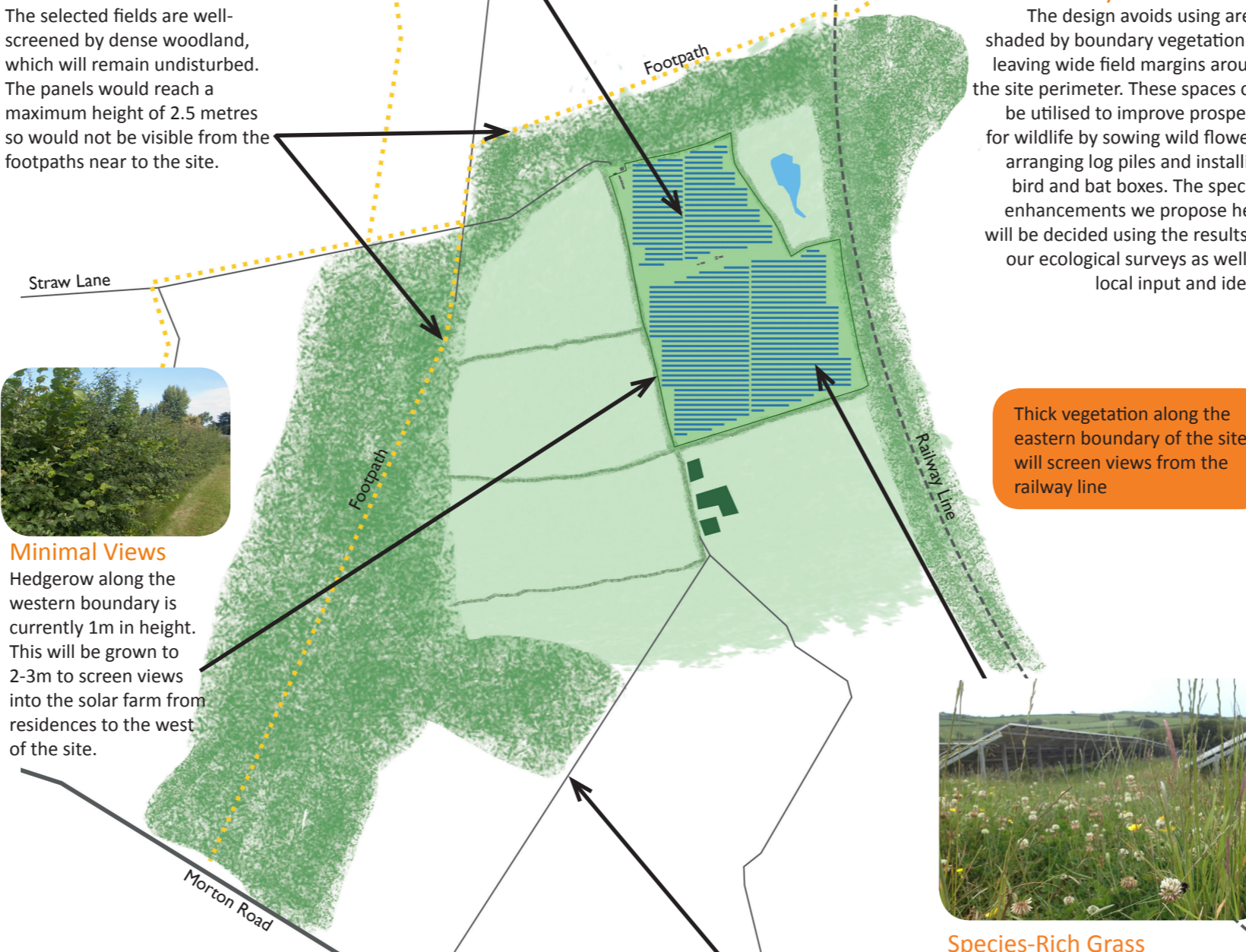
Well-screened

The selected fields are well-screened by dense woodland, which will remain undisturbed. The panels would reach a maximum height of 2.5 metres so would not be visible from the footpaths near to the site.



Minimal Views

Hedgerow along the western boundary is currently 1m in height. This will be grown to 2-3m to screen views into the solar farm from residences to the west of the site.



Thick vegetation along the eastern boundary of the site will screen views from the railway line



Species-Rich Grass

Wide spaces around the site boundaries and between the rows of panels will leave the majority of the solar farm as open grassland. Species-rich grass will be sown throughout the site, including the areas oversailed by panels.

Site Access

Access to the site during installation will be via the track to the South West, off Morton/Stretton Road.

The operation of the solar farm would be of no disturbance to farm animals, wildlife, motorists, or ramblers using the nearby footpaths. 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.

HOW MUCH ENERGY?

- 5 Megawatts Peak (MWp)
- 1,366 households powered
- 2,330 tonnes of carbon emissions saved, every year
- ...Equivalent to taking 518 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. *Find out more:*

'Lightsource Solar'

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 near Morton is low-grade (Agricultural Land Classification Grade 4) land and as being designed for the grazing of small livestock, enabling us to generate energy whilst continuing a productive 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 a danger to motorists, aircraft or trains as a result of reflection from the panels?

No - solar panels are designed to absorb light rather than reflect it so any reflection is dull and minimal. We have carried out several glint and glare assessments as part of our planning process.

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 3 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 at all 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 4,509 Megawatt Hours (MWh) of electricity over the course of a year - this is equivalent to the annual consumption of 1,366 households. Local energy take-off will consume some, if not the majority, of the energy generated.