

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.

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 event to provide details about our project ideas at this stage, and to give you a chance to speak to our team.

Our community consultation will take place on 26th October, at The Long Man, Kilfane Country Lodge, Kilfane West, Co. Kilkenny. We encourage residents to drop in anytime between 2pm - 8pm to find out more about the project and ask any questions you may have.

We want to ensure that our engagement is inclusive and are aware that not everyone within the community will be happy to attend our in-person event. 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 (0)1 685 6263, or emailing ireland@lightsourcebp.com, quoting "Castlegarden". You can also message us on Facebook or write to us at Lightsource bp, Trinity House, Charleston Road, Ranelagh, D06 C8X4.








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Community Information Pack

Proposed solar installation at Castlegarden and Cloghscregg, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny



Statistics

-  **68MW (MEC)** supplied per year
-  Equivalent to the energy needs of **19,834** households
-  **268** acres of land
-  **35,419** tonnes of carbon emissions saved
-  Equivalent to taking **21,287** cars off the roads

Lightsource bp is working on a proposal for a solar installation on a block of land at Castlegarden and Cloghscregg, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny. The proposal involves Lightsource bp funding and operating a solar installation that will connect into the overhead 110kV lines and will have an output power capacity of 68MW (MEC) – generating enough clean energy to power the equivalent of 19,834 homes.

If approved, the construction of the solar installation will commence in late 2025 and be operational in 2026.

As plans for the installations are being finalised, Lightsource bp is conducting environmental assessments and community engagement activities to make sure that the project is suitable for the local area. A key part of this engagement is a community information event, where representatives from Lightsource bp will be on hand to answer any questions about the proposal from local residents and interested parties.

Get involved!

Community information event

Wednesday, 26th October 2022 at:
The Long Man, Kilfane Country Lodge, Kilfane West, Co. Kilkenny
Drop in any time between 2pm and 8pm

We've set up a dedicated webpage for this proposed project at www.lightsourcebp.com/ie/projects/castlegarden/, with further project information and opportunities to get in touch with us to discuss the proposal.

Our community consultation will take place on 26th October, at The Long Man, Kilfane Country Lodge, Kilfane West, Co. Kilkenny. Please drop in anytime between 2pm - 8pm to catch up with one of our team and find out more about our current plans for the projects.



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Our initial thoughts

Proposed solar installation at Castlegarden and Cloghscregg, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny

Our plans are in the early stages, so our design and planting proposals will evolve as we gather local input and the results of our ecological, landscape and heritage assessments. These are our current thoughts. For further details, please visit www.lightsourcebp.com/ie/projects/castlegarden/ or join us at our community info event on Wed 26th October 2022, anytime between 2pm and 8pm.



New vegetation planting

We will submit a detailed planting plan as part of the planning application, which will focus on screening the installation from view using vegetation, and increasing the biodiversity values on the site via varied planting.



Battery

Our proposal includes battery storage, which allows electricity generated by the solar panels during the day to be stored and used at a later date.

Access to grid

The solar farm will connect into a 110kV distribution overhead powerline within the site, within an onsite 110kV substation and no new overhead lines will be required for this project.



Bunded planted

We intend to create a 1m high bund with native species hedgerow planting on top.



Green open spaces

The installation has been designed to leave wide spaces around the site boundaries and between the row of panels to avoid shading the panels, which 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, and other woodland patches within the site. It may be necessary to remove individual trees, and if so replacements will be made elsewhere to offset the impact.

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 Ireland.

Can agricultural activity continue on the site?

Solar installations are generally very compatible with agricultural activity, allowing for dual land use and providing the landowner with additional income.

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 installation. 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 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.

