

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 benefit



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 working closely with the County Durham Community Foundation to create a fund that will benefit those living around the Burnhope Solar Farm.

County Durham Community Foundation (Charity Number 1047625) is an independent grant-making foundation, working with individuals, families and local businesses who want to put something back into the community. The Burnhope Solar Farm Community Fund will consist of an initial £100,000 endowment, to be invested and drawn on in perpetuity, and a payment of £50,000 for grant making, followed by three additional payments throughout the lifespan of the project, to a total of £450,000. The fund will benefit an area of 2km around the proposed site.

The Burnhope Solar Farm Community Fund aims to support the local community by funding projects and people in Burnhope and Maiden Law. The fund will support a range of community initiatives such as:

- Environmental and wildlife projects
- Energy efficiency or renewable projects
- Projects to support public / community amenities
- Activities which engage community and support social cohesion

Given the current cost of living crisis, it is important that the Fund also helps people who are most affected by the current fuel crisis. As such, Burnhope Solar Farm Community Fund will provide fuel tokens and/or energy costs for individuals and families to help support bill payments particularly over the winter months with individual payments of up to £100 per household. Alongside our partnership with the County Durham Community Foundation, we also remain committed to providing a contribution of £50,000 to Burnhope Parish Council.

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



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Updates to the proposed Burnhope Solar Project

Proposed solar farm at Edge Lane, Burnhope, Lanchester, Durham, DH7 0RY



As you may be aware, Lightsource bp, a global leader in the development and management of solar energy projects, is working on a proposal for a solar project at land to the east of Edge Lane, Burnhope, which would connect into the local grid network.

In April 2022 we presented our plans for the 49.9MWp solar project to the local community. We invited neighbours and other stakeholders to the Burnhope Community Centre on 27th April 2022 to provide an opportunity for interested parties to ask any questions they may have had about the proposal, and to voice their opinions. Engaging with the local community like this is a vital part of our development process, and we have taken on board the feedback we received through that event, and subsequently through Durham County Council's consultation on the planning application submitted by Lightsource bp in June 2022 and revised our plans accordingly.

- Increased set-back and ecological improvements
- Improved screening
- Improved footpaths



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Statistics

-  **49.9MWp** (installed capacity).
-  **51,716MWh** (Megawatt hours) supplied per year.
-  Equivalent to the energy needs of **13,861** UK households.
-  **92.6** hectares of land. **8.16ha** of which is biodiversity enhancements, and **15ha** is grassland. (**80%** Biodiversity Net Gain).
-  **14,341** tonnes of carbon emissions saved.
-  Up to **£500,000** community benefit fund.
-  Equivalent to taking over **7,908** cars off the road.
-  **£158,000 p/a** paid to council in business rates.
-  **235 jobs** created during construction.
-  **9 permanent jobs** created after construction.

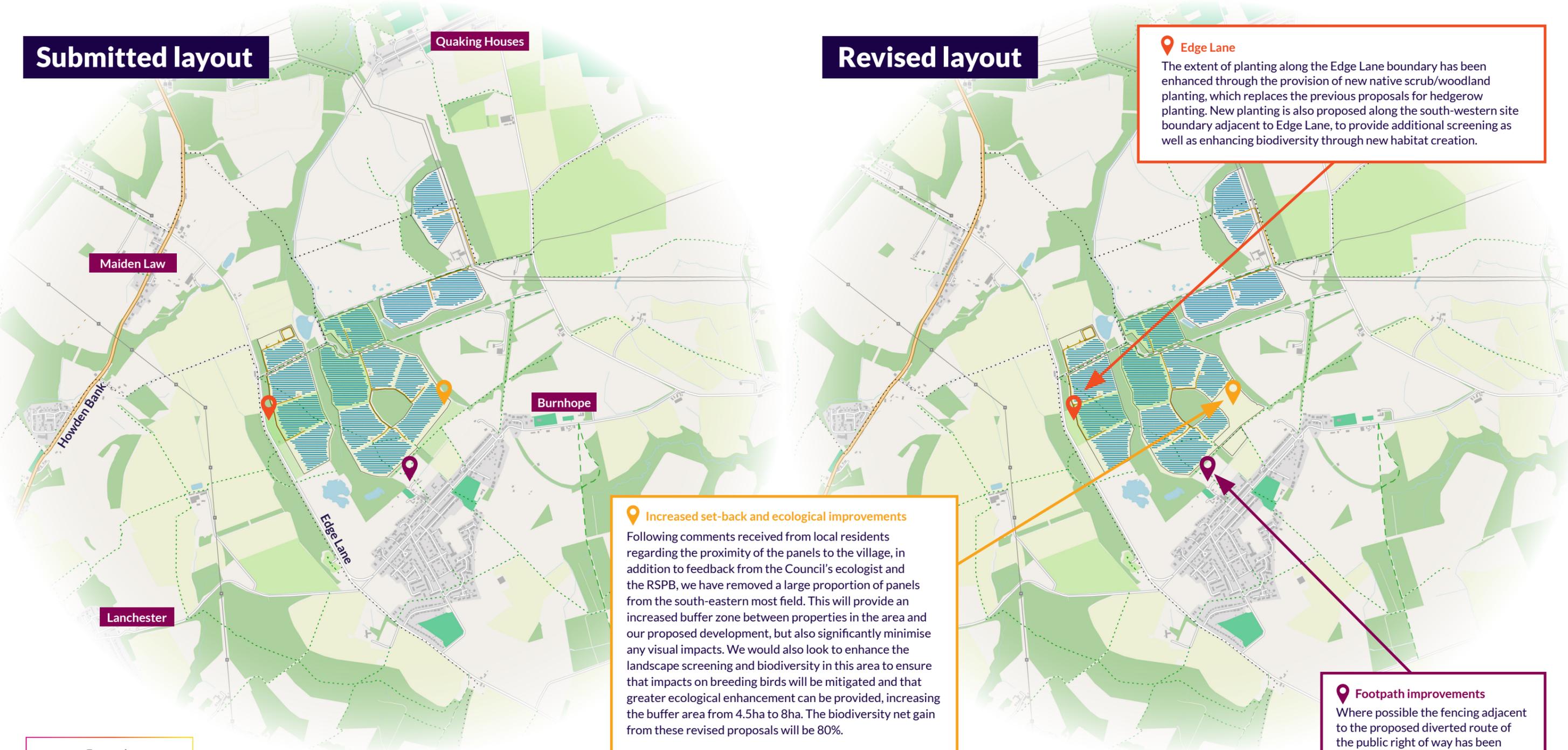
Our updated plans

Based on the feedback we received from the local community and consultees, we have revised our plans to provide a greater set-back from the nearest residential properties, recognising the value of the views and residential amenity. This also creates the opportunity to improve our mitigation proposals for potential impacts on breeding birds in the area, and provide better biodiversity enhancements. In addition we have made further changes to improve the rights of way through the site, and landscaping to minimise visual impacts – in particular from Edge Lane.

This is our updated proposal, which is being submitted to Durham County Council and can be found on our website www.lightsourcebp.com/uk/proposed-projects/Burnhope.

Submitted layout

Revised layout



- Footpath
- - - Bridleway
- Civil Parish

Edge Lane
 The extent of planting along the Edge Lane boundary has been enhanced through the provision of new native scrub/woodland planting, which replaces the previous proposals for hedgerow planting. New planting is also proposed along the south-western site boundary adjacent to Edge Lane, to provide additional screening as well as enhancing biodiversity through new habitat creation.

Increased set-back and ecological improvements
 Following comments received from local residents regarding the proximity of the panels to the village, in addition to feedback from the Council's ecologist and the RSPB, we have removed a large proportion of panels from the south-eastern most field. This will provide an increased buffer zone between properties in the area and our proposed development, but also significantly minimise any visual impacts. We would also look to enhance the landscape screening and biodiversity in this area to ensure that impacts on breeding birds will be mitigated and that greater ecological enhancement can be provided, increasing the buffer area from 4.5ha to 8ha. The biodiversity net gain from these revised proposals will be 80%.

The proposed fence line has also been altered to reflect the amended location of the panels. The proposed tree and woodland planting have also been relocated so that it follows the line of the revised fence line. To assist in further bolstering the proposed landscaping proposals, new hedgerow planting is proposed along the southern boundary of the field.

Footpath improvements
 Where possible the fencing adjacent to the proposed diverted route of the public right of way has been altered to provide a greater distance between the path and the proposed development, thus reducing the sense of enclosure. New planting along part of the route is also proposed.