

# Welcome to Wilburton

A 5MW solar farm



The solar farm at Wilburton was built in 2011 and since then the site has seen a dramatic increase in wildlife population. This includes wild hare, butterflies, dragonflies, numerous bird species, repopulated badger setts and most importantly, an insurgence of the Grey Partridge which is currently a Red List species due to a dramatic decline in recent years.

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.

## Benefits



**1,400** households powered by clean, locally produced energy



Biodiversity enhancements to enrich the wildlife habitats



40 solar panels installed on the local Wilburton Primary School

# Additional benefits of solar

The Wilburton solar project provides benefits beyond just generating renewable electricity, from enhancing biodiversity to land for farming and more:

### Green open space

Wide field margins and gaps between the rows of panels mean that the majority of the solar farm's grasslands remain completely open and uncovered.



### Bird and bat boxes

Bird and bat boxes are installed in the surrounding trees to encourage nesting and roosting.



### Screening

Existing vegetation in and around the site has been reinforced to help visually screen the solar farm and enrich foraging habitats for local birds and wildlife.



### English Partridge

The English Partridge has become extremely rare in the UK. Before the solar farm was installed, the local gamekeeper observed between three and five breeding pairs on the farm, and there are now regularly over 20 breeding pairs on the same land – an exciting and substantial increase. The solar farm not only has the ideal habitat with plenty of shelter and insects for the birds to eat, it's also fenced off, protecting the birds from people and dogs, while the panels provide shelter from the weather and birds of prey.



### Log piles

Log piles in the field margins encourage insects communities and provide shelter and hunting grounds for small mammals, reptiles and amphibians.



### Agricultural fence

The site is protected by a timber and wire agricultural fence of about 2 metres in height, appropriate to the rural setting. The fence is positioned within the existing field pattern and sits within the surrounding hedgerows and trees.



### Panel height

The panels reach a maximum height of 2.5 metres so can be screened easily behind dense hedgerows.



### Wild flowers

Areas of wild flowers are sown in the wide field margins between the fence and the hedgerows to enhance habitats for birds, bees and other invertebrates.

### Cable route

All new cabling was buried underground so there were no new overhead lines.



### Brown Hare

According to the Hare Preservation Trust, the population of the Brown Hare in the UK has declined by more than 80% over the last 100 years, and in some areas may even be locally extinct. But at Wilburton Solar Farm, the Brown Hare is thriving. Before the installation of the solar farm, the local gamekeeper had only observed three or four Brown Hares on site, but since the solar farm has been established, he has regularly seen more than 50.



### Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly

Banks of wildflowers behind each row of panels harbour an abundance of insect activity, including several species of butterfly. The Small Tortoiseshell is one of the most widely recognised butterflies in Britain. Sadly though, it is experiencing a worrying decline. One theory is that it is being targeted by the parasitic fly, known as Sturmia Bella, which is increasingly migrating from the continent due to the effects of global warming. Wilburton Solar Farm provides valuable habitats for these surviving British icons, whilst helping to address the issue of climate change first hand.



# How much energy?

5MWp installed capacity

1,400 households powered

2,680 tonnes of carbon emissions saved per year

Equivalent to taking 596 cars off the road

# 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 2035 targets for renewable energy and carbon emission reductions.

### How is the equipment protected?

The solar farm is enclosed by a deer fence about two metres in height, and CCTV cameras monitor the boundary fence and area within the solar farm. These are specifically positioned to make sure they do not impinge on the privacy of residents.

### 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.

### Does 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.



# About Lightsource bp

Lightsource bp is a global solar leader and 50:50 JV partner with bp, working with utilities, businesses, local communities and governments to help meet the rising demand for affordable, reliable and sustainable energy.

As a leading developer, financier and operator of utility-scale solar, we have been building and growing meaningful partnerships across the energy transition for over a decade. Our gigawatt-approach to solar provides many benefits to our partners worldwide by leveraging economies of scale, ethical and sustainable procurement, and continuous improvement on quality and efficiency.

We are growing at pace and scale, going beyond business as usual, to act as an enabler of the energy transition and meet this rising demand for sustainable energy with the urgency it deserves.

## Committed to sustainability

Climate change, decarbonising energy and biodiversity loss are among the complex and interwoven global issues that we face today. At Lightsource bp, we are taking action to respond to the urgent call towards addressing these issues. Our sustainability framework promotes the growth and accessibility of solar power across the world. It demonstrates our commitment towards being a global force for good through our business activities and partnerships.

Our core contribution to global sustainability is in decarbonising the world's energy landscape through responsibly developed solar projects. Our goal is to develop 25GW of solar projects by 2025, and to do so safely and sustainably.

### Social responsibility

for our people, partners and communities



People



Environment

### Environmental stewardship

going beyond business as usual

- Enhance ecosystems and biodiversity
- Take science-based climate action
- Improve circularity

Solar power  
for our world



Energy