

Plas Power Solar & Energy Storage Project

PLAS POWER ESTATE, RUTHIN ROAD,
WREXHAM LL11 3BS

Statutory consultation launch update

FEBRUARY 2024

Lightsource bp is developing proposals for a solar and energy storage project on the Plas Power Estate.

The 136 hectare site is located immediately east of Coedpoeth and 2.5km west of Wrexham. The nearest settlements are Coedpoeth, New Broughton, Wrexham, Rhostyllen, and Talwrn. The site comprises several agricultural fields, bound by a mixture of mature woodland, trees, hedgerows, fencing, agricultural tracks, and roads.

The need for solar energy

The Plas Power Solar & Energy Storage Project will provide a source of homegrown, renewable energy, helping to reduce carbon emissions, strengthen energy security by reducing reliance on imported fossil fuel energy sources, and because solar power is one of the cheapest ways to generate electricity, it'll help lower bills too.

Working with the community

Lightsource bp makes sure that its projects are designed and developed to support and sustain rural businesses, and protect and enhance the local environment. We are dedicated to supporting communities that are host to our projects, and we work closely with them to maximise the benefits and minimise any impacts.

We are grateful to the communities close to the site for the feedback and input provided as the plans have developed. We are now entering into the statutory pre-application consultation phase where we will seek feedback on our final proposals before submitting the planning application to Planning Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW).

As part of the Project, we will provide a fund of £1,000 per MW capacity which will be distributed between Coedpoeth and Esclusham community councils and a further £400,000+ will be invested in local projects and initiatives for community benefit.

We are interested in hearing opinions about which projects and initiatives the community would like us to support.

Statistics



57 MWac
(Megawatts alternating current) solar



57 MWac
energy storage



22,700
homes powered per year
(equivalent)



136
hectares of land



15,800
tonnes of carbon
emissions saved



10,800
combustion engine cars
taken off the road per
year (equivalent)



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



Drop-in events

**Wednesday 13 March,
12pm to 4pm**

**Thursday 14 March,
9.30am to 1pm**

**Thursday 14 March,
2:30pm to 6:30pm**

Updated Proposals

Plas Power Solar Project Site Map

We initially consulted on the proposals in 2021 with additional consultation in 2023. We are grateful that the community took the time to engage with us and provide feedback on our proposals at both our previous consultations.

As a result of this feedback, our ongoing wider engagement with community members and the findings from environmental surveys and assessments, we have amended the proposals.

We are now carrying out the statutory consultation on the finalised proposals and draft planning application prior to submission to PEDW. Further information about the proposals and their evolution is available on our website:

lightsourcebp.com/uk/project/plas-pink

Boosting Biodiversity

The climate crisis is one of the biggest threats to biodiversity. Solar projects not only help reduce carbon emissions, but well-considered, designed and managed solar projects can also increase the diversity of plant species, encourage pollinators, as well as provide new and enhanced habitats for wildlife.

This site has been designed to minimise disruption to wildlife such as otters, newts, and birds. Existing habitats on site will be enhanced and new habitats will be created, including a parcel of land exclusively for habitat creation next to Coedpoeth, including wildflower meadows and tussocky grasslands, ponds, and invertebrate banks. The landscape planting, seeding and habitat creation plans will focus on native species and result in a significant biodiversity net-gain across the site.



Views

Mature hedgerows and woodlands already border much of the site providing excellent screening. Following the earlier consultations, we changed our proposals to remove a field, set back the solar panels and introduce new planting and landscaping to reduce the impact on visual amenity for properties near the site.

Cable Route

The project will connect to the electricity transmission network via an underground cable to the Legacy Substation.

Energy Storage

Energy storage is a vital part of transitioning to a low-carbon electricity network, allowing us to balance the grid and increase the amount of locally-generated renewable energy used across Wales and the UK. This not only decreases our reliance on fossil fuels, but also contributes positively to energy security and lower electricity prices.

Agricultural Land

Significant changes were made to the proposals following 2021 consultation feedback. The best and most versatile agricultural land has now been removed from the site, while many of the fields are currently used for grazing, and can continue to be used for sheep grazing alongside the panels.

Amenity

The existing public rights of way will be retained, but re-aligned, and a landscaped area will be accessible and information boards installed to raise awareness of the site, its history, and biodiversity.

Trees & Hedgerows

The layout has been designed to retain most of the trees and hedgerows. New trees and hedgerows will be planted to further screen the site boundary and enhance habitats to support and increase biodiversity.

Meet Lightsource bp

Lightsource bp is a global leader in the development and management of solar and energy storage projects.

For over a decade we've been actively working to change the way our world is powered, with sustainable and responsible solar power.

We invest in local communities where we operate including, setting up community benefit funds, contributing to local tax revenue, creating construction jobs, and empowering students through education.

Developing a solar and energy storage project can be a multi-year process, and engaging the community is a key part of this for us.

Get involved!

Drop-in events

Wednesday 13 March, 12pm to 4pm

Plas Pentwyn Community Centre, Castle Road, Coedpoeth, LL11 3NU

Thursday 14 March, 9.30am to 1pm

Plas Pentwyn Community Centre, Castle Road, Coedpoeth, LL11 3NU

Thursday 14 March, 2:30pm to 6:30pm

Rhostyllen Parish Hall, Vicarage Hill, Rhostyllen, LL14 4AR

Feedback

You can give us your feedback online by completing a form at:

lightsourcebp.com/uk/project/plas-power

If you would like a printed copy, please get in touch using the contact details below.

The deadline for comments is:
Tuesday 9 April 2024

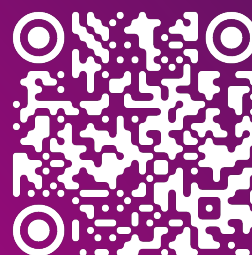


Get in touch!

This newsletter gives a brief overview of the Plas Power Solar Project.

For further information, visit:

lightsourcebp.com/uk/project/plas-power



You can also contact the project team by:

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