

Community Information Pack

PROPOSED ENERGY STORAGE PROJECT AT DRUMQUIN



Lightsource bp is developing a proposal for an energy storage project at Curraghamulkin, near Drumquin. We will fund and operate a 100MW energy storage facility connected into the electricity transmission network. The facility will help renewable energy sources such as wind and solar to supply more of Northern Ireland's electricity, which will in turn help to lower bills, improve energy security, and move us closer to achieving net zero.

We've chosen this site after careful consideration, and we're now undertaking a range of environmental assessments to shape our plans. These will include assessments of effect on the landscape and visual amenity, heritage and archaeology, ecology, flooding, and more.

An important part of developing plans for the energy storage project is engaging with local communities, so we're holding an information event in your community to present our plans, answer your questions and listen to your feedback.

Statistics



100MW battery containers



9 acres of land



40 years of operational life

This project will contribute towards Northern Ireland's 2030 targets for reaching 80% renewable electricity generation.

INVITATION

**Have your say at
our community
information event**

10th April 2024 at:

**Drumquin Community Youth Centre
Drumquin
Omagh
BT78 4SD**

All feedback will be welcomed and considered by Lightsource bp.
Drop in any time between 4pm and 8pm.

For more information, please visit www.lightsourcebp.com/uk/project/drumquin/

Our initial thoughts

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We're still in the early stages, and our plans will evolve based on local input and the results of our ecological, landscape and heritage assessments.

Native Species

We have undertaken a survey to inform the layout design and construction mitigation measures, which identified no significant ecological constraints on site.



Cultural Heritage

We understand the presence of historically-significant sites elsewhere in the area, so we commissioned independent surveys to thoroughly assess the potential for archaeology at the proposed site. The initial results have shown that there is likely to be no impact on archaeology within 500m of the project, and no mitigation measures are required.

Cable Route

The underground cable connection will extend from the project site to the nearby substation, 50 metres away.

Access (➔)

The proposed construction and operational access will use the existing installation access from Dooish Road, which currently serves Cornavarrow Wind Farm.



Flood Risk

A drainage strategy is being developed to ensure that flooding is mitigated on site. We are currently working with the Rivers Agency to help evolve the drainage strategy, and we have commissioned a study of local watercourses, called 'hydraulic modelling', to ensure that we minimise flood risk.

Battery area, location of individual containers subject to design changes

Drumquin 110kV Substation



Views and Screening

The project site is mostly not visible from Dooish Road because the site is well screened by trees, and the existing, much larger substation already dominates any potential viewpoints of the project site. Any view points from the Cornavarrow Road to the east are from approximately 400m away and through existing mature trees and hedgerows.

Existing Vegetation

While developing the layout we have sought to maintain most of the existing vegetation around the perimeter of the site, retaining trees and hedgerows to preserve biodiversity and provide natural screening.



New Vegetation Planting

We will submit a detailed planting plan as part of the planning application, which will focus on screening potential views of the installation using vegetation and increasing biodiversity.



Boosting Biodiversity

A bespoke biodiversity management plan will ensure that habitats are enhanced or created to benefit local wildlife. Our landscape planting, seeding, and habitat creation plans will focus on native species. We are keen to hear from and work with local beekeepers and land management organisations to support wildlife and boost the local habitats.

FAQs

Why is this project important?

Energy storage is an important part of the plan to transition to a low-carbon electricity network. It enables better balancing of the grid and can increase the amount of renewables-generated electricity used across Northern Ireland. This decreases our reliance on traditional fuels, contributes positively to energy security, and can help to lower electricity prices. Energy storage is an important part of Northern Ireland's journey to reaching 80% renewable electricity generation by 2030.

What is an energy storage facility and how does it work?

An energy storage facility can store and release electricity generated by any power source. Working in a similar way to standard household batteries, it consists of several components including battery units, inverters, and a substation to connect into the electricity transmission network. It is possible to reduce energy costs for consumers by storing the low-cost energy generated by renewable sources during sunny or windy periods or when demand is low, and then to release it during peak demand periods, or when renewables aren't generating.

Are energy storage facilities a fire risk?

Safety is a core value at Lightsource bp and like all our projects, our energy storage sites are developed to the highest standards of safety. The risk of fire is extremely low, and incidents are extremely rare.

The facility will come equipped with the latest, advanced safety features, including fire suppression systems, and the site is designed specifically to add further defence-in-depth in the in case of a problem with one of the battery units. Because we're never complacent about safety, we will engage with Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service to develop a bespoke fire management plan so that they are prepared in the unlikely event of an emergency.

How will the equipment be protected?

The energy storage facility will be enclosed by an agricultural fence about 2.5 metres in height, and CCTV cameras will monitor the boundary fence and area within the installation. These will be positioned to make sure they do not impinge on the privacy of our neighbours.

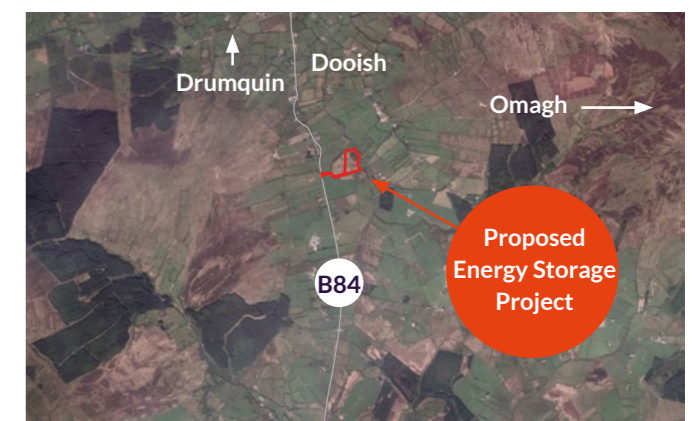
Will the energy storage project be noisy?

An energy storage facility can produce noise from sources including the cooling system, and electrical equipment. Based on the location and the distance from our neighbours, the probability of noise disturbances for the community is very low, and we are undertaking a detailed noise impact assessment to make sure. If we find the potential for any significant negative impact, we will take measures to mitigate it.

Will the energy storage project cause traffic disruption?

Once the energy storage facility is operational, it requires very little maintenance; usually monthly visits conducted by personnel in regular cars or 4x4s, which would cause no traffic disruption. While the project is being constructed, we will implement a traffic management plan to reduce any impact on our neighbours and other local road users.

This map is a combination of Ordnance Survey map reference: H 33406 69834 and aerial imagery dated 2015



Who are we?



Lightsource bp is a global market leader in the funding, development and long-term management of large-scale storage and solar projects. We work closely with local businesses and communities to supply clean, dependable, and competitively priced energy. We're dedicated to securing a low-carbon future, and to meeting the dual challenge of an increased demand for energy alongside a need to reduce emissions, in Northern Ireland and worldwide.

Community engagement

It's important to us that the community is fully informed of the plans for the site and have the opportunity to learn more, and comment about the proposals. We will be holding an event to present our project ideas at this stage, and we welcome your feedback.

The information event will be held on 10th April 2024 at:

Drumquin Community Youth Centre
Drumquin
Omagh
BT78 4SD

Drop in any time between 4pm and 8pm.



Find out more

If you have queries in relation to this project, please contact the project team by calling [028 9018 3242](tel:02890183242), or emailing drumquin@lanyongroup.com, quoting "Drumquin".