

Community Information Pack

PROPOSED ENERGY STORAGE PROJECT AT PENTIR



Lightsource bp is working on a proposal for an energy storage project at Pentir, Bangor, Gwynedd. We will fund and operate a 57MW/228MWh (4-hour duration) energy storage project connected into the local electricity network. The battery will facilitate the integration of renewable energy into the grid, helping to support low-cost electricity and the enhanced reliability of the electricity grid.

We've chosen this site after careful consideration, and we've undertaken a wide range of environmental assessments to help shape our plans. These include landscape and visual, heritage and archaeology, ecology and noise, flooding and more.

A key part of developing plans for the energy storage project is engaging with local communities, so we're holding an information event to display our plans and gather feedback. Members of the Lightsource bp team will be on hand to answer any questions about the proposal from local residents and interested parties.

Statistics



96 battery containers



Equivalent to the energy needs of 23,000 households¹



6.5 acres of land



40 years operational life

This project will contribute towards the Welsh Government's net zero targets.

¹Based on a mean annual electricity consumption of 3.6MWh/year (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-energy-efficiency-dataframework-need-report-summary-of-analysis-2023>)

Get involved!

COMMUNITY INFORMATION EVENT

21 May 2024 at:
Rhiwlas Village Hall, Rhiwlas, Bangor
LL57 4GA

Drop in any time between 3pm and 6pm

We've set up a dedicated webpage for this proposed project at: lightsourcebp.com/uk/projects/pentir-energy-storage-project with further project information and opportunities to get in touch with us to discuss the proposal.

Our proposals

PROPOSED ENERGY STORAGE PROJECT AT PENTIR

We are now consulting on the plans as part of the statutory Pre-Application Consultation before submitting them to Cyngor Gwynedd for determination.

Native Species

We have undertaken an Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey to inform the layout design and construction mitigation measures.



Cultural Heritage Impact

We are aware that there are sites of cultural and scientific impact in the area, and have commissioned independent surveys to make sure our proposals will fully assess the potential for archaeology within the site.



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.

Access (➔)

Proposed construction and operational access will be from a new access road constructed leading from Fodolydd Lane into the site.

Noise

We have undertaken a baseline noise assessment to support the planning application to establish the existing background noise levels at the nearest noise receptors. This assessment will enable us to provide the necessary mitigation, as well as input into the layout of the proposal.

Flood Risk

A drainage strategy is being developed to ensure that flooding is mitigated on site. We are currently working with Natural Resources Wales to help evolve the drainage strategy.

Views and Screening

There are a limited number of properties around the site and the nearest residential properties are to the north west, west and south. The site benefits from natural screening. In areas where mitigation planting is required, we will include banded planting. The natural screening will also help enhance the biodiversity on Site.



Cable Route

At present, the cable route connecting the project to National Grid's substation is still to be finalised. Planning permission will be sought separately following technical assessment and surveying. Cables are generally contained in an underground trench between the site and the connecting Substation.

Existing Vegetation

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

Agricultural Land Grading

Predictive Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Maps indicate that the site comprises Grade 3b and Grade 5 land.

Boosting Biodiversity

A bespoke Biodiversity Management Plan will ensure that the existing and new habitats are enhanced or created to benefit local wildlife. As part of this initiative, our landscape planting, seeding and habitat creation plans will focus on native species. We are keen to hear from and work with any local beekeepers and land management organisations to support wildlife and boost the local habitats.



FAQs

Why is this project important?

Battery projects are 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 the UK. This not only decreases our reliance on fossil fuels, but also contributes positively to energy security and lower electricity prices. Battery storage is a crucial part of the UK's journey to achieving Net Zero by 2050.

What is a battery and how does it work?

A battery energy storage system (BESS) is a modular facility capable of storing and releasing energy 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 local transmission network.

Using the battery, it is possible to reduce energy costs for consumers by storing the low-cost energy generated by renewable sources during sunny or windy periods, and releasing it during peak demand periods. Battery facilities can also improve the stability of the power grid by providing a reliable back up energy supply, delaying the need for costly and time-consuming upgrades.

Are energy storage projects a fire or safety risk?

The fire risk for batteries such as these are extremely low, and incidences of battery fires are rare. The battery will come equipped with the latest technology and will be integrated with advanced safety measures. This will include features such as external access rather than internal access, and individual units within each container that are sealed and monitored with their own fire suppression system. This means that if a single cell fails, a small section of the battery is electrically isolated, without compromising the fire safety of the rest of the container unit, minimising the risk of larger scale damage.

The project will be developed with a bespoke Fire Management Plan, created in concert with the relevant local authorities and the local fire brigade. Safety is a core value at Lightsource bp and all our battery projects are developed with the highest standards of safety in mind.

How will the equipment be protected?

The energy storage project will be enclosed by a weld mesh fence and gate about 2 metres in height, and CCTV cameras will monitor the boundary fence and area within the project. These will be specifically positioned to make sure they do not impinge on the privacy of residents.

Will the battery be noisy?

An energy storage project can produce noise from various sources, including the cooling system, fans, and power electronics. We are currently undertaking a detailed Noise Impact Assessment, however, based on the location of the battery and the distance from residential areas, the probability of noise disturbances for local community members is expected to be minimal. If necessary we will implement measures to mitigate any potential impact.

Will the energy storage project cause traffic disruption?

Once the energy storage project is in place it requires very little maintenance and approximately monthly visits in regular cars or 4x4s would cause no traffic disruption. Whilst the battery is being constructed, a traffic management plan will be put in place.

This map is a combination of Ordnance Survey map reference: SH 55494 67891 and aerial imagery dated [2023]



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 the UK and worldwide.

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 information event to provide details about our project ideas at this stage, and we welcome your feedback.

The information event will be held on **21 May 2024**

**Rhiwlas Village Hall, Rhiwlas, Bangor
LL57 4GA**

Drop in any time between 3pm and 6pm

View more information online at:

lightsourcebp.com/uk/projects/pentir-energy-storage-project



Feedback

You can give us your feedback online by completing a form at:
lightsourcebp.com/uk/projects/pentir-energy-storage-project

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

The deadline for comments is: **Tuesday 4th June 2024**

Get in touch

This newsletter gives a brief overview of the Pentir Energy Storage Project. For further information visit:
lightsourcebp.com/uk/projects/pentir-energy-storage-project

You can also contact the project team by:

Phone: **0333 200 0755**

Email: pentirenergystorageproject@lightsourcebp.com

Write: **Freepost GRASSHOPPER CONSULT
(no stamp or further address required)**