

Community Information Pack

Proposed solar installation at Woodham Walter and Woodham Mortimer, Maldon





Lightsource bp is working on a proposal for a new solar farm at Lodge Farm, Old London Road, Woodham Walter, Maldon CM9 6RL and Hall Farm, Maldon Road, Woodham Mortimer, Maldon CM9 6SN. We will fund and operate the project that will connect into the local electricity network, with an output power capacity of 49.9MWac (Megawatts ac).


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


A key part of developing plans for the solar farm 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

 **52,445 MWh** (Megawatts hours) supplied per year

 Equivalent to the energy needs of **14,658** households

 **203** acres of land

 **10,142** tonnes of carbon emissions saved

 Equivalent to taking over **6,975** cars off the road

This project will contribute towards the UK's 2050 net zero targets.

Get involved!

COMMUNITY INFORMATION EVENT

27th September 2023 at:

West Maldon Community Centre
Sunbury Way
CM9 6YH

Drop in any time between 4pm and 6pm

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

Our initial thoughts

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We're still in the early stages, and our plans will evolve based on feedback from residents, stakeholders and the results of our ecological, landscape and heritage assessments. These are our current thoughts. For further details, please join us at our community info event on 27th September 2023. Drop in between 4pm and 6pm.

Continued Agricultural Use

The fields are currently used for grazing and arable farming. Our proposal includes plans to create a meadow grassland which can be lightly grazed by sheep, so the land under the solar installation will maintain an agricultural purpose.



Flood Risk

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



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 solar farm using vegetation and increasing biodiversity.

CURLING TYE GREEN






Old London Road

THRIFT WOOD

Tom Tit Lane

Maldon Road

B1010

-  Footpath
-  Bridleway
-  Other Route
-  Power line
-  Site boundary

Access (→)

Proposed construction and operational access will be provided from Tom Tit Lane and Old London Road.

Native Species

We have undertaken significant habitat surveys to help inform the layout and design of the proposed solar farm.



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.

Green Open Spaces

The solar farm has been designed to leave wide spaces around the site boundaries and between the row of panels to avoid shading the panels. This will leave the majority of the fenced solar array area as uncovered grassland.



Existing Vegetation

While developing the layout we have sought to maintain the majority of the existing vegetation onsite.

Agricultural Land Grading

We have conducted an Agricultural Land Classification Survey which has classified the majority of the fields as 3b, which is defined as not Best and Most Versatile land. Therefore, the solar farm will not adversely affect the land.

Cable Route

The cable route is planned to run through land immediately to the east for a distance of approximately 900 metres. The point of connection is Maldon Substation, located at the end of Maldon Wycke.

FAQs

Why is this project important?

Solar is a passive form of technology, generating electricity without creating any waste products or pollutants. This makes it an ideal energy source for the UK, as we work towards the 2025 targets for renewable energy and carbon emission reductions.

How will the equipment be protected?

The solar installation will be enclosed by a timber and wire agricultural fence about 2 metres in height, and CCTV cameras will monitor the boundary fence and area within the solar installation. These will be specifically positioned to make sure they do not impinge on the privacy of residents.

How are the panels kept clean?

Generally, rainfall helps to keep the panels free of dust and dirt. The panels will be thoroughly cleaned as required using specialist equipment, to make sure the installation is in the best possible condition.

Do solar farms 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.

Will the solar farm cause traffic disruption?

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

This map is a combination of Ordnance Survey map reference: TL 81445 05250 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 solar projects and smart energy solutions. 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.

To find out more about us, please visit our website: www.lightsourcebp.com/uk/

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

West Maldon Community Centre
Sunbury Way
CM9 6YH

Drop in any time between 4pm and 6pm



Find out more

If you have questions or would like further information in the meantime, then please do get in touch by calling **0333 200 0755**, or emailing info@lightsourcebp.com, quoting "Maldon".