

## Prosiect Maen Hir

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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## General

### 1. What is Prosiect Maen Hir?

Prosiect Maen Hir is a proposed solar and energy storage scheme brought forward by Lightsource bp in Anglesey. The project will supply 360 megawatts (MW) of renewable electricity to the National Grid. This means it could produce enough energy to power over 140,000 homes (equivalent) and avoid over 70,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually.

Prosiect Maen Hir is located in the north of the Island and comprises approximately 1,284 hectares (ha) of land identified with potential to accommodate solar PV development and associated infrastructure including the project substation and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The site is defined as comprising three linked parcels for ease of referencing. The parcels are an area near Rhosgoch and Bodewryd (identified as 'Maen Hir North'), to the north-east and south-east of Llanerch-y-medd ('Maen Hir South A' and 'Maen Hir South B'), and around the northern and eastern periphery of Llyn Alaw ('Maen Hir Central'). The land predominantly comprises agricultural fields, with an area of brownfield land within Maen Hir North close to Rhosgoch which was formerly an oil depot.

The proposals include infrastructure for generating and storing renewable energy, supplying this energy to the National Grid, and the accesses and temporary compounds required for construction. The Project includes a 5MWp Community Solar Project, MWp is the maximum capacity (peak) of installed MW DC solar capacity. The income generated from this would be used to finance projects that directly benefit local communities and the environment, which may include supplementing existing infrastructure and creating new recreational spaces.

### 2. Why is the project called Maen Hir?

We chose the name Prosiect Maen Hir to reflect the importance of the Welsh language and culture on Anglesey. Maen Hir, or 'Meini Hirion,' refers to Anglesey's standing stones which are one of the island's most characteristic and distinctive features. Prosiect Maen Hir signifies both an acknowledgment of Anglesey's past and a commitment to shape its future in alignment with sustainable practices. It underscores the pressing need to respond urgently to achieve Net Zero emissions while working in harmony with the pre-existing local environment — a crucial step towards sustainability and environmental responsibility.

### 3. What is the project timeline?

We are currently holding Statutory Consultation, which runs for six weeks from 02 October to 15 November 2024. This consultation will enable the local community, councils and organisations to formally provide their feedback on the proposals, which will help inform the design. More information on our Statutory Consultation is available under the 'Consultation' section of this document.

We will analyse all the feedback received and comments will be considered in the development of the design. We intend to submit an application for Development Consent to the Planning Inspectorate in 2025.

### 4. What is the cable route corridor?

This route connects the 33kV and/or 132kV underground cables between the 33kV and 132kV substations, the Energy Storage, and the Project substation.

### 5. What are we proposing to do with the Former Oil Depot?

Our proposal includes using brownfield land, which was formerly an oil depot near Rosgoch. It is the preferred location for Energy Storage facilities, and the preferred location for the 5MWp Community Solar Project. In using this land, the project would create infrastructure improvements, which could help to unlock its potential for both business and recreational opportunities.

### 6. What mitigation measures are we proposing for landscape and views?

The comprehensive environmental assessment for the Project also includes a full Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. This forms part of the PEIR and will be evolved for the Environmental Statement (ES).

Our design takes into account homes, as well as other sensitive receptors within and near the site. This will include embedded mitigation, such as offsets and new planting / screening, where appropriate, to avoid or reduce any visual impacts.

Where required respective of their proximity to the project, we are also undertaking a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) which seeks to mitigate potential impacts on private views and amenity. Where practicable, we will propose bespoke measures to visually

reduce the potential impacts of the development for each of the properties that may be impacted.

The Parameters that inform the PEIR assessment sets the maximum height of PV Arrays at 3.5m, and limits other elements of the proposed infrastructure.

#### 7. What happens to the land when the solar farm is decommissioned?

As part the Development Consent Order (DCO) application we have to submit an outline plan for how we intend to manage the decommissioning of the project to ensure any potential impacts are mitigated as far as is possible. This will include details on or how we intend to restore the land back to its original use.

#### 8. Will the panels be recycled when the solar farm is removed?

We are committed to managing our solar farms with the best interests of the community and the land in mind. This includes responsible end-of-life management of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels. At present, approximately 95% of the total solar panel is recyclable material.

PV panels typically consist of glass, aluminum, copper, silver and semiconductor materials that can be successfully recovered and reused. By weight, more than 80 percent of a typical PV panel is glass and aluminum – both common and easy-to-recycle materials. Lightsource bp are currently exploring opportunities to recycle panels that are damaged or nonfunctioning during construction and operation, as well as panels that are decommissioned for Prosiect Maen Hir.

### **Working with the community**

#### 9. How will Maen Hir work with the local community?

We are committed to working with local communities. Since the inception of the project, we have engaged with key stakeholders, and local communities in an open and transparent manner to take onboard their views. The feedback received at our earlier non-statutory consultation, coupled with the ongoing environmental and technical surveys, has played a crucial role in shaping our proposal.

We want to hear your views on the Project. Community feedback is crucial in helping us shape the Project and ensure it reflects local needs and priorities. We welcome your feedback on various elements of the Project, such as the site layout, environmental considerations, and

community benefits. Your comments and suggestions will assist us in refining our Project, addressing any concerns, and maximising the benefits of the Project for the local area. We are committed to engaging with the community throughout the development process and value your input in creating a successful and sustainable Project.

#### 10. How will the project benefit the local community?

The Project could deliver a range of significant benefits to the local community, environmental, economic and community benefits. The project will:

- Enhance local biodiversity, creating new wildlife habitats, and maintaining agricultural use, such as livestock grazing and wildflower planting, enriching the local environment.
- Provide a dedicated 5MWp community solar project, the income from which provide funds for local initiatives and the environment.
- Create job opportunities during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases, boosting local employment and contributing to economic growth.
- We will collaborate with Grŵp Llandrillo Menai and Bangor University to explore educational opportunities for residents and students, promoting skills development in the renewable energy sector.

#### 11. Will the project create jobs and economic benefits?

The Project will create significant opportunities for local job creation and economic benefits. The Project is expected to generate approximately 1,320 job opportunities during construction, with a peak workforce of around 650. These jobs will range from specialist and highly skilled positions to those requiring more general skills, providing a broad spectrum of employment opportunities.

In addition to direct employment, the Project will create significant indirect and induced job opportunities through its supply chain and the local expenditure of workers. It is estimated that around 1,110 jobs will be supported in the local economy through the procurement of materials and services, as well as the spending of construction workers on accommodation, food, and other local services.

The operational phase of the project will support between 10-12 full-time jobs, including roles in electrical engineering, performance management, maintenance, and landscaping. The project will support operational employment opportunities, that consist of operation and

maintenance crews, landscaping, and occasional repair teams. The jobs supported could also support skills development for local residents, in the green and low carbon energy sector.

Economically, the Project is expected to generate substantial local economic activity. Further information is provided within the Preliminary Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Strategy (PESS) which forms part of the consultation materials.

Moreover, the Project will help farms by providing an additional income stream allowing them to maintain and possibly to expand their farming activities such as sheep grazing, and thus ensuring the continuation of agricultural activity on Anglesey.

The Project's commitment to local employment and skills development initiatives, including partnerships with local educational institutions and targeted recruitment practices, ensures that the benefits of the Project are maximised for the local community. Further information is provided in our Preliminary Employment and Skills Strategy which can be found on our website.

#### 12. Will the project improve recreation and amenity?

The Project aims to enhance recreational and amenity resources for the local community and visitors. The Project provides the opportunity to create new permissive paths and cycle routes, providing opportunities for outdoor activities and promoting healthy lifestyles.

Additionally, the Project will explore opportunities to improve existing public rights of way, making them more accessible and enjoyable for all users. This could involve the restoration of traditional landscape features, such as '*cloddiau*' (stone-faced earth banks), which will reinforce the character and culture of the area and support local biodiversity.

Through recreational and amenity improvements, the Project could create lasting benefits for the local community, enhancing quality of life and promoting the well-being of residents and visitors alike.

We encourage you to share your views during the consultation process as we gather your feedback.

#### 13. What is the 5MWp Community Solar Project?

The project team are currently considering how best to deliver the 5MW community solar farm as part of the project. The scheme would be a first-of-a-kind community solar scheme in Wales.

We have published a [Collaborate Benefits Report](#). This document outlines how we plan to deliver the 5MW Community solar farm and includes an estimated revenue of the scheme.

Income generated by the community solar farm will be used to finance projects and initiatives that directly benefit the local communities and the environment in proximity to the Project.

It is intended that the fund is available to be invested in local projects and initiatives including, for example:

- Projects to improve public amenities, e.g. sports and recreation facilities, community halls,
- Environmental and wildlife projects, including improving green infrastructure,
- Activities to engage the local community in arts, sports, and cultural activities,
- Activities to support children and young people,
- Decarbonisation and sustainability projects, and
- Job and skills training

We are proposing that the 5MW community solar scheme would be managed by Menter Môn, with the IoACC providing a governance role. We are working with Isle of Anglesey County Council and Mentor Môn to ensure the fund will be accessible, and benefits will be realised across the operational lifetime of the Project.

#### 14. How will we work with local farmers?

Lightsource bp work alongside farmers to support the continuation of agricultural activity on their land, should they choose to do so. If a landowner does not wish to farm their land, there may be options to make the land available for a tenant farmer.

Moreover, the Project will help farmers by providing an additional income stream allowing them to maintain and possibly to expand their farming activities such as sheep grazing.

## **Environmental**

#### 15. What is the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)?

This sets out the initial findings of the environmental surveys and identifies those measures we are proposing to reduce, enhance and improve the effects our proposed development may have on the environment. We have also produced a shorter non-technical summary (NTS) which summarises the PEIR. The PEIR is available in the Documents section of our website.

Please [click here](#) to view the NTS.

## 16. How will the project benefit ecology and biodiversity?

We are undertaking ecology, biodiversity, and wildlife assessments as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment to gain a better understanding of the local environment and potential impacts our proposals for Prosiect Maen Hir may have.

Measures will be incorporated into the design of the Project to mitigate impacts and effects on protected and/or notable species.

In addition, our proposal includes opportunities to enhance local biodiversity. More information on this is in Chapter 7 of the PEIR.

## Consultation

### 17. What is our Statutory Consultation?

One of the key parts of the DCO pre-application process is providing local communities, community councils, landowners, occupiers, statutory consultees, and other interested parties with the opportunity to understand and influence the Project. This forms part of the statutory consultation, which will run for just over six weeks from **02 October to 15 November 2024**.

As part of the statutory consultation, we are holding eight in-person information events and two online community webinars to give you the opportunity to speak directly with members of the Project team, in both Welsh and English, and ask any questions you may have.

Details of the information events and webinars can be found below:

Date	Opening Time	Location	Venue
Weds 09 October 2024	13.30-19.30	Llangefni	Llangefni Town Hall, Bulkeley Square Llangefni LL77 7LR
Fri 11 October 2024	13.30-19.30	Talwrn	Talwrn Village Hall Talwrn LL77 7SU
Thurs 17 October 2024	13.30-19.30	Llanddeusant	Llanddeusant Village Hall, Llanddeusant, Holyhead, LL65 4AA



Fri 18 October 2024	13.30-19.30	Amlwch	Amlwch War Memorial Hall 18 Market Street, Amlwch, LL68 9ET
Sat 19 October 2024	10.00-14.00	Cemaes	David Hughes Village Hall, High Street, Cemaes LL67 0HL
Tues 22 October 2024	18.00-19.00	Online (Welsh)	Zoom – <a href="#">click here</a> to register to attend
Sat 26 October 2024	10.00-14.00	Llannerch-y-medd	The Centre, Llannerch-y-medd Community School, Llannerch-y-medd, LL71 8DP
Mon 28 October 2024	13.30-19.30	Llanfechell	Llanfechell School Community Centre, Mountain Road, Llanfechell, LL68 0SA
Tues 29 October 2024	13.30-19.30	Rhosybol	Rhosybol School Community Centre, Rhosybol, Amlwch, LL68 9PP
Weds 30 October 2024	18.00-19.00	Online (English)	Zoom – <a href="#">click here</a> to register to attend

#### 18. How do you provide feedback?

We welcome your feedback on our Project. You can submit your comments in the following ways:

- Submitting an online feedback form through the Project webpage: [linked here](#)
- Completing a paper copy feedback form, which can be submitted at an in-person information event or returned via the Project freepost address

- Sending an email to: [maenhir@lightsourcebp.com](mailto:maenhir@lightsourcebp.com)
- Providing comments in writing and posting them free-of-charge, to FREEPOST MAEN HIR PROJECT

Feedback to the consultation must be submitted in writing or online by **23.59 Friday 15 November 2024. Feedback received after this date, may not be considered.**

19. What are we asking for feedback on?

During the statutory consultation, we welcome and will consider feedback on all aspects of the Project. We invite comments on the following:

- The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), which details the results of our preliminary environmental assessments and associated mitigation and enhancement measures.
- Proposed longer-term operational features, such as how the Project might look to, and be experienced by, nearby neighbours.
- Proposed shorter-term temporary features, such as construction plans.
- Potential community benefits associated with the Project, such as the opportunity for a 5MWp Community Solar Project.

20. Where can I find paper copies of consultation materials?

In addition to our website and at our information events, you can access copies of the consultation materials at the following locations:

Venue & address	Opening times	Telephone / Email
<b>Anglesey Business Centre</b> Isle of Anglesey County Council Bryn Cefni Business Park Llangefni Anglesey LL77 7XA	09.30 – 16.30 Monday to Friday	T: (01248) 750 057 E: <a href="mailto:pmo@ynysmon.llyw.cymru">pmo@ynysmon.llyw.cymru</a>

<b>Amlwch Library</b> Lôn Parys Amlwch Anglesey LL68 9EA	Tues 09.30-12.30 14.00-17.00 Wed 09.30-12.30 Closed Thu Closed 14.00-19.00 Fri 09.30-12.30 Closed Sat 09.30-12.30 Closed	T: (01407) 830145 E: <a href="mailto:kbxlh@anglesey.gov.wales">kbxlh@anglesey.gov.wales</a>
<b>Benllech Library</b> Bangor Road Benllech Tyn y Gongl LL74 8TF	Mon Closed 14.00-17.00 Tues Closed 13.00-17.00 Wed 10.00-13.00 14.00-17.00 Fri Closed 14.00-18.00 Sat 10.00-13.00 Closed	T: (01248) 852348 E: <a href="mailto:dcxlh@anglesey.gov.wales">dcxlh@anglesey.gov.wales</a>
<b>Holyhead Library</b> Market Hall Stanley Street Holyhead LL65 1HH	Mon 09.30-18.00 Tues 09.30-18.00 Wed 09.30-13.00 Thu 09.30-18.00 Fri 09.30-18.00 Sat 09.30-12.30	T: (01407) 762917 E: <a href="mailto:kpxlh@ynysmon.llyw.cymru">kpxlh@ynysmon.llyw.cymru</a>
<b>Llangefni Library</b> Lôn y Felin Llangefni Anglesey LL777RT	Mon 09.00-19.00 Tues 09.00-17.00 Wed 09.00-13.00 Thu 09.00-18.00 Fri 09.00-19.00 Sat 09.30-12.30	T: (01248) 752095

## 21. What happens next?

We will review our detailed proposals in light of the feedback received from this second consultation, along with the outcomes of ongoing assessments, to finalise and submit our application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate.

As the applicant, we have a duty to demonstrate how we have taken your views into account in developing our final proposals for Prosiect Maen Hir. The application we submit to the Planning Inspectorate will include a Consultation Report summarising all the issues raised in feedback to consultation along with an explanation of how we have taken views into account to develop our final proposals.

This Report, along with all the other application documents will be published on the Planning Inspectorates website should our application be accepted for examination.

## 22. How do I stay informed?

To stay informed about Prosiect Maen Hir, you can sign up here to receive project updates directly to your inbox: [www.lightsourcebp.com/uk/projects/maen-hir-solar-battery/](http://www.lightsourcebp.com/uk/projects/maen-hir-solar-battery/)  
(<http://www.lightsourcebp.com/uk/projects/maen-hir-solar-battery/>)

Accessibility is important to us. Please contact us via any of the communications lines set out below should you require or prefer alternative forms of communication.

- Email: [maenhir@lightsourcebp.com](mailto:maenhir@lightsourcebp.com)
- Call our freephone information lines: Welsh: 08081 756663 / English: 08081 756375
- Write to: FREEPOST MAEN HIR PROJECT (no stamp required)