



18 February 2025

Lightrock Power's proposals for Westfield Energy Conservation Park at Munches Farm, Cumberlow Green

I am writing to you to introduce myself as Lightrock Power's Community Stakeholder Manager and further to correspondence with Chris regarding an in-person meeting on 5 February. We are grateful for your keen interest in a discussion and apologies that diaries could not allow an evening meeting on that occasion.

I am therefore pleased to let you know about our upcoming community consultation, where you can still feedback to us and meet members of the Lightrock Power team. It might be that our in-person event or webinar will work with your availability to enable that meeting with Chris or another Lightrock team member to go ahead. Alternatively, if you would like to speak sooner, please do let us know whether you are able to make Chris' proposal for a telephone or video call. We would really appreciate the opportunity to listen to your feedback and answer your questions.

Project overview

Lightrock Power is bringing forward proposals for Westfield Energy Conservation Park, which would be located on land at Munches Farm, Cumberlow Green. The project would feature a wildlife-friendly Solar Farm, a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), and biodiversity enhancement areas.

Unlike a traditional solar farm, our proposal includes co-located BESS and has been designed to produce renewable energy while actively enhancing the site's ecology.

The BESS would be able import electricity when generators, such as the co-located solar panels, are producing more electricity than is being used. The stored power would then be sent back to the grid when it is needed most. This helps avoid issues caused when transporting the excess energy across country or having to rely on fossil fuels. BESS is critical to help us keep the lights on across Great Britain. Without it, any excess power generated by clean renewables at times of low demand could be wasted.

We proactively plan our projects in collaboration with RSPB and Buglife. It means our plans incorporate a range of ecological features that will support and restore wildlife habitats, ensuring the best possible outcome for local biodiversity. These will typically include enhancements such as native wildflower and hay meadows, new hedgerows with native flowering shrubs and trees, and specially designed corridors to allow deer movement across the landscape. As well as promoting biodiversity connectivity, these measures will help soften the view from nearby roads and residences.

By delivering significant carbon savings, storing the electricity generated by solar for times when it is needed most and enhancing local biodiversity, Westfield Energy Conservation Park will play a vital role in decarbonising the UK electricity grid while also supporting nature recovery in line with both local and national environmental targets.

Engaging with North Hertfordshire District Council

We will consult the local community before submitting a planning application.

Applying for planning comes with many rules and regulations under the law. So we have now engaged in early consultation with North Hertfordshire District Council, as the decision makers for this project, for their advice regarding what environmental rules our proposal will need to follow in advance.

We have also asked North Hertfordshire District Council to let us know what environmental surveys they require us to undertake. It is important to us to have this information so that we can ensure that we carry out the correct set of environmental surveys and to make sure our project is sustainable. We are currently waiting for their reply. Although we need their formal confirmation on this, we would like to reassure you that a very comprehensive set of environmental surveys, many of which have been carried out or are underway, will be included in the full planning application.

Our discussions with North Hertfordshire District Council will continue and sit alongside our wider community consultation, so that we can take on board your feedback at the same time.

Next Steps

We expect to submit a planning application to North Hertfordshire District Council in late spring.

Before that, we will also carry out a community consultation intended to give you and your community the opportunity to find out more about our proposals and tell us what you think. **This consultation will run for 31 days, from 25 February to 28 March 2025.**

We will consider all the comments we receive over the course of this consultation to help us refine the plans we set out in our final planning application. The ambition being to shape a strong set of proposals that are sensitive to and respect the concerns of local communities. We would also welcome suggestions for projects or initiatives which we could support or deliver that would benefit those communities closest to the project.

Raising awareness and telling people about Westfield Energy Conservation Park

Ahead of consultation launching, we are writing to elected officials, parish councils, near neighbours, and relevant organisations representing local communities which may be interested in the project to introduce our proposals.

A project website: www.westfieldenergyconservationpark.com is now live and will be updated to provide information about the proposals we are consulting on and how you can take part from 25 February 2025 when the consultation opens. It will also include an online feedback form which people can use to submit their views and comments to us.

Interested parties can register their details with us via the website if they would like to be updated directly as new information about **Westfield Energy Conservation Park** becomes available.

Before the consultation launch, we will send you a postcard to remind you.

As part of the consultation, we will be holding an in-person event and an online webinar. More details about these events will be shared closer to the time.

To get in touch with the Community Relations team:

T: 0808 168 7888

E: info@westfieldenergyconservationpark.com

FREEPOST Westfield Energy Conservation Park

www.westfieldenergyconservationpark.com



You are invited to attend either of these events to meet the project team, find out more about our proposals and provide feedback.

In the meantime, if you should need any assistance, or would like to discuss anything further please do contact the project community relations team by calling **0808 168 7888** (9am-5pm; Mon-Fri), or sending an email to info@westfieldenergyconservationpark.com. Anyone wishing to do so can also write to us at **FREEPOST Westfield Energy Conservation Park**

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Wojciechowski
Community Stakeholder Manager
Lightrock Power

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