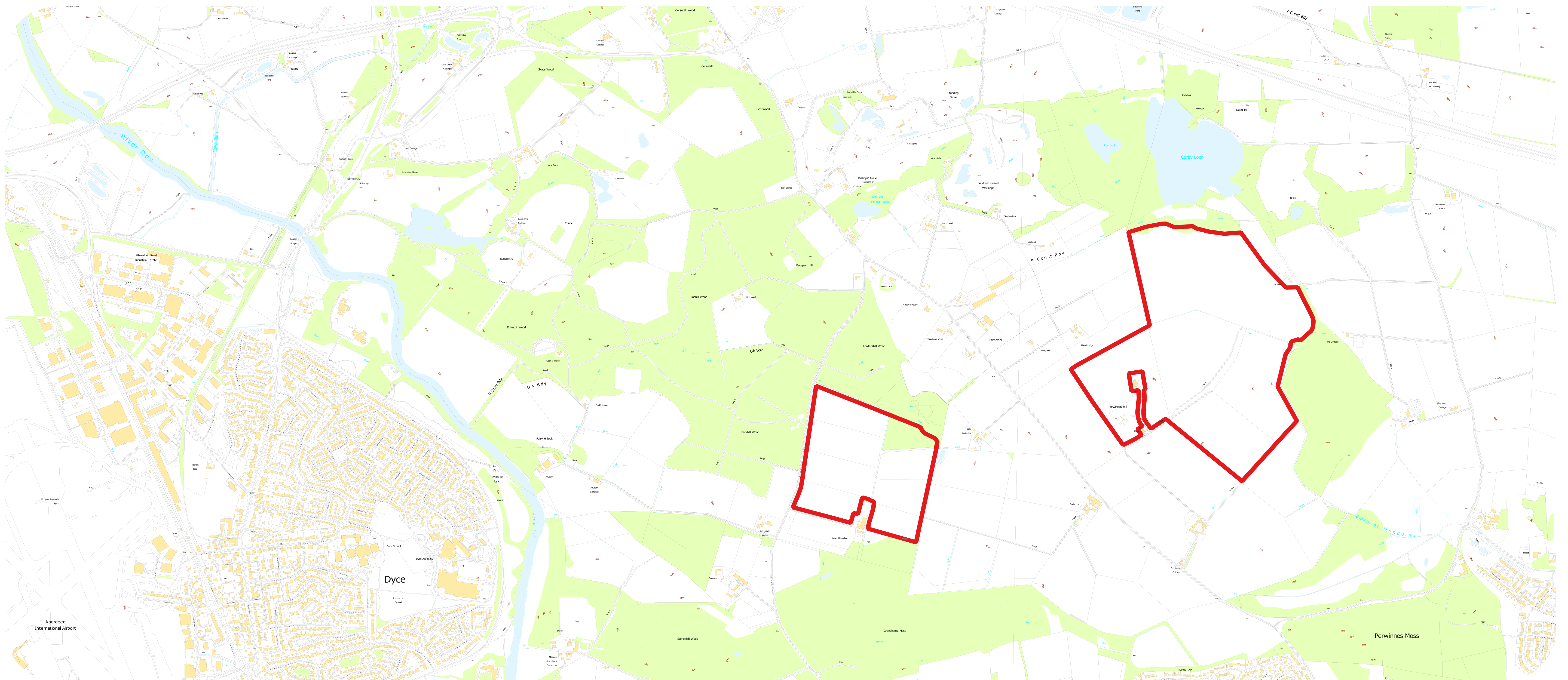


Lower Bodachra Solar and Storage

Welcome to the Lower Bodachra Solar and Storage Community Consultation Event



Site Location Plan

About Innova

Innova are proposing a 72MW (Megawatt) solar farm and 45MW energy storage at Lower Bodachra Farm and Perwinnes Farm. This proposal will connect into the local electricity grid and will have a generation capacity to power the equivalent of approximately 23,800 households which is 19.5% of all homes in Aberdeen City Council Area. It will also save approximately 14,200 tonnes in CO2 emissions per annum.

This site has been selected and designed via a detailed assessment process. An important part of this process is to engage with the local community and this event provides the opportunity to ask questions and provide additional feedback on the updated proposals.

Innova is a forward-thinking renewable energy business, employing over 120 people across two offices in London and Cheltenham. Innova's long-term mission is to create utility-scale renewable energy projects using multi-technologies that take large energy intensive users off-grid, positively improving the environment, and benefiting local businesses and communities.

Innova offer an integrated approach to renewable energy developments and operations, with a capability across the life cycle of any project. This includes planning, grid connections, project rights development, financing, construction and asset management, power purchase agreements, and long-term operations.

We look forward to discussing the proposal with you.

72MW Solar
45MW ESS



Energy capacity

14,200 tonnes



approx. carbon saved
per year

23,800



approx. home equivalent

Need for Renewable Energy Developments

There is widespread awareness of the need to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and transition to renewable energy sources.

The United Kingdom is the first major economy to pass a net zero emissions law, requiring nationwide greenhouse gas emissions to reach Net Zero by 2050, with a target to decarbonise the electricity grid by 2035. For this to be achieved an extra three gigawatts of solar energy will be required.

Scotland is aiming to generate 50% of Scotland's overall energy consumption from renewables sources by 2030. This results in Scotland requiring at least 20 Gigawatts of additional low-cost renewable electricity capacity.

Aberdeen City Climate Change Plan 2021-2025 states an interim target of corporate carbon emissions being reduced by 75% compared to the Council's 2015/16 reporting baseline. Aberdeen City Council are aiming to be Net Zero by 2045.

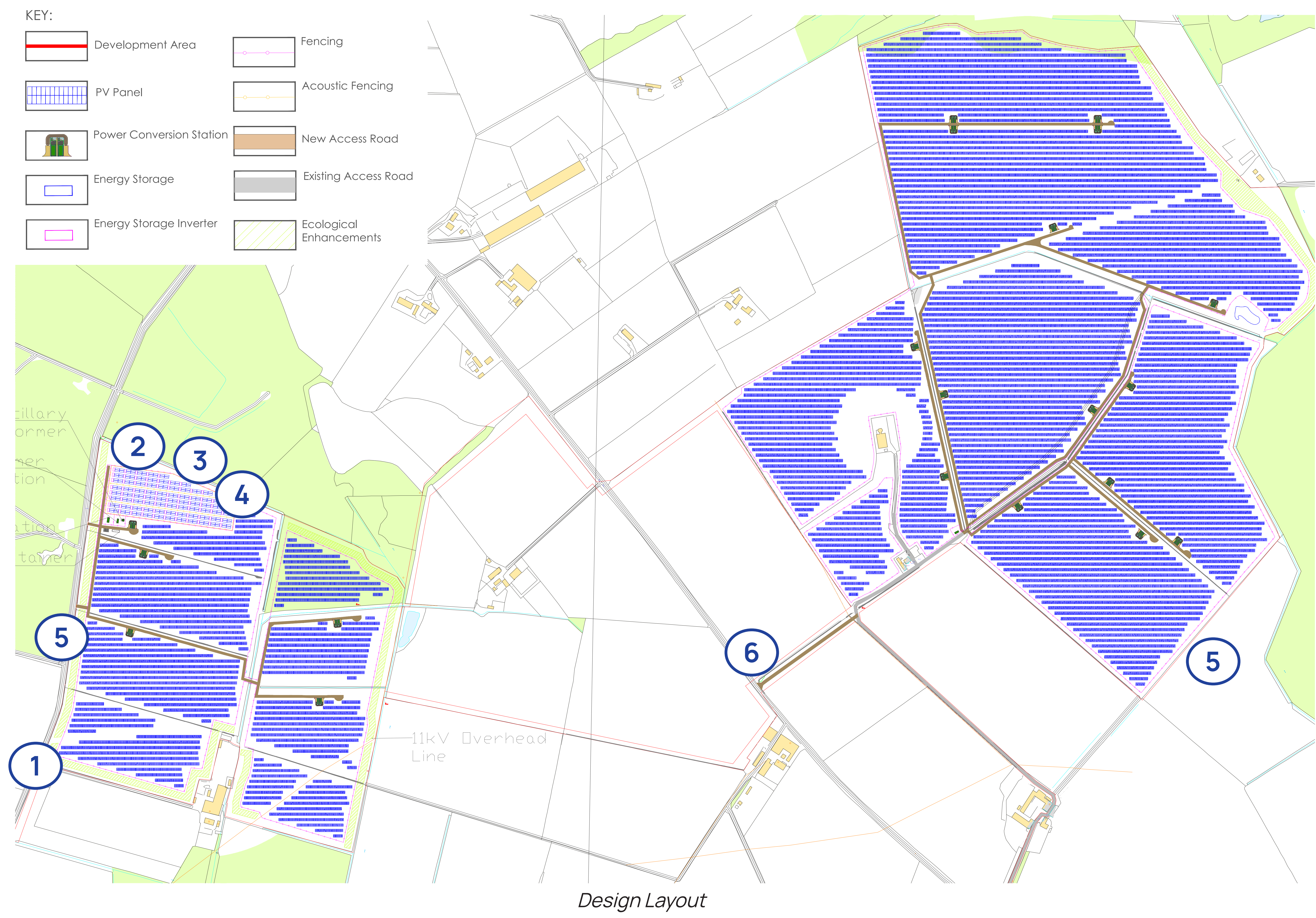
An important step in achieving Net Zero is the rapid decarbonisation of the UK electricity network, as this will enable the decarbonisation of other sectors, such as heat and transport. To achieve a low

carbon energy network the UK Government has a target of 50GW of offshore wind by 2030 and the UK energy minister wants to increase solar generation from 14GW to 50GW and onshore wind from 15GW to 30GW, all by 2030.

Energy storage is a key component to meeting these targets and limiting any intermittency of renewable energy generation (based on changes in weather and time of day). In order to ensure electricity customers have electricity on demand, demand and supply of electricity must always be equal. Energy storage allows the maximum amount of renewable energy to be consumed whilst providing convenience to bill payers, allowing renewable energy to be consumed when it is needed. By increasing the amount of renewable energy utilised it can also help keep energy costs low. Therefore, the provision of energy storage on Lower Bodachra Solar and Storage will provide further resilience to the wider renewable electricity service.

Solar farms and energy storage like the proposed Lower Bodachra Solar and Storage will play a key role in reaching these committed targets and addressing the Climate Emergency and energy security in the UK.

The Updated Proposal



We are proposing a solar and energy storage facility at Lower Bodachra Farm and Perwinnes Farm, located to the East of Dyce.

We have received pre-application advice from Aberdeen City Council and held several meetings with Aberdeen City Council as the site develops. We have also held discussions with the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Units.

Following feedback from the local community at the first consultation and Aberdeen City Council, the following changes have been made to the layout:

- 1 Tree belts have been added to various areas of the site to limit views of the site and increase the project's on site habitats and biodiversity.
- 2 We have engaged with a local manufacturing business to provide the energy storage units for this development. This new technology uses non-toxic materials that is made from easily sourced commonly available materials, and is 99% recyclable.

- 3 The energy storage is now a minimum of 20m from the existing woodland.
- 4 A Noise Assessment has been completed and the site has incorporated acoustic fencing surrounding and bisecting the energy storage. The assessment confirms the site does not exceed the background noise as per the LPA's requirements.
- 5 The fence line has been offset to allow space for people to be able to walk around the edge of the sites.
- 6 A new construction access added to limit the number of properties the construction vehicles will drive past.

The proposal would be constructed over a period of approximately four months. The solar and energy storage facility would then be operational for a period of 40 years, needing only occasional maintenance. At the end of this period the development would be decommissioned, and the land restored to its original condition.

Proposed Equipment



Solar arrays

The solar array is proposed to consist of ground-mounted solar photovoltaic panels covering approximately 86 hectares with a generating capacity of up to 72MW from solar array. This will offset the annual energy needs of approximately 23,800 homes in Aberdeen City Council's authority area and save around 14,200 tonnes of CO₂.



Energy storage units

The energy storage is proposed to consist of containerised modular energy system and contains a heating, ventilation, and air-cooling unit, a fire suppression system, and a transformer. The energy storage will be able to store 45MW of electricity.



Frames, Panels and Inverters

The solar panels will be installed in frames that are approximately three metres tall and fixed to the ground via ground screws. The solar panels generate Direct Current (DC) electricity, which is converted to electricity with Alternating Current (AC) for export into the local grid by inverters. Inverter units will be mounted on the rear of the solar panels at intervals.

Buildings

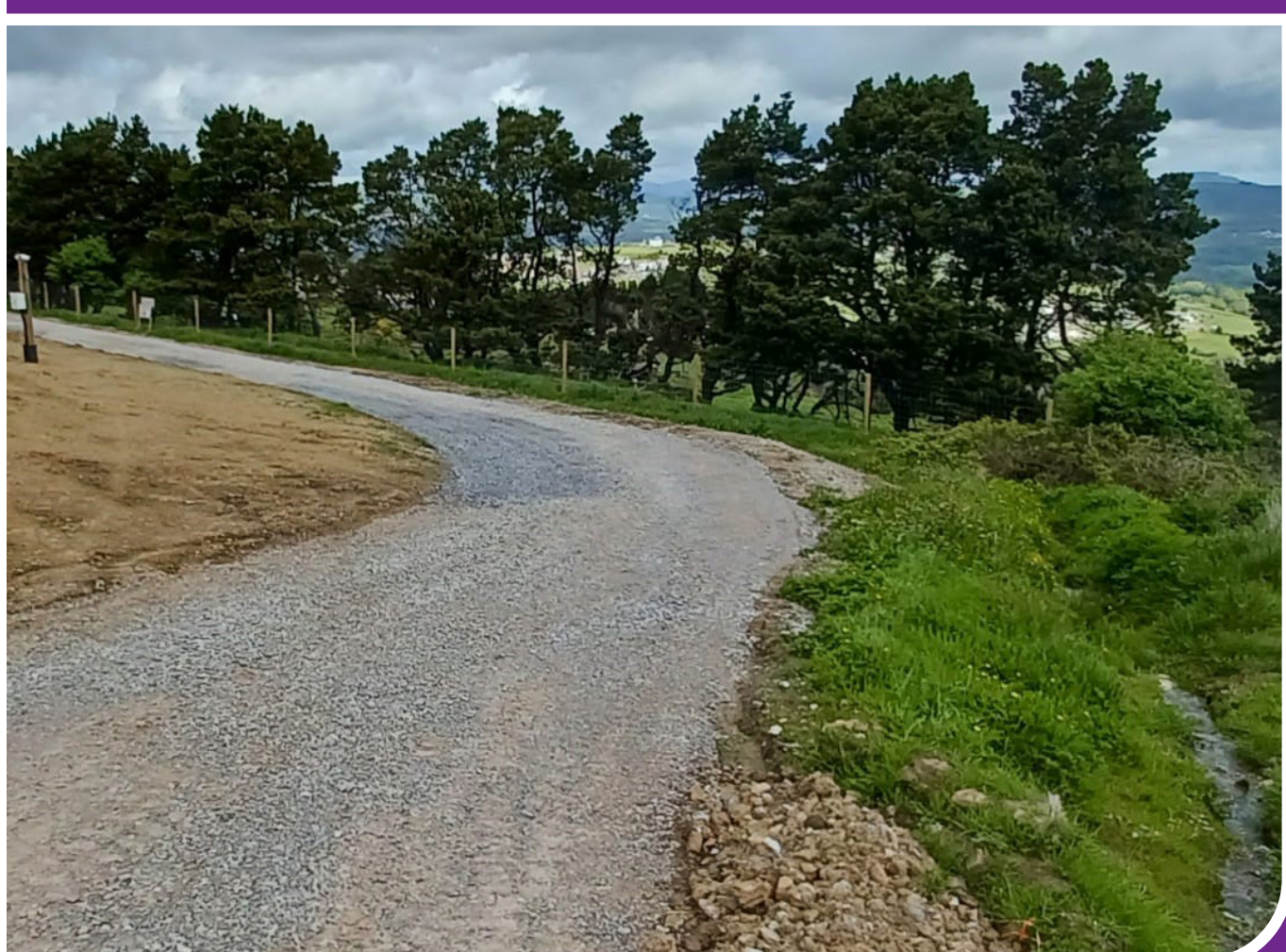
Transformer units will be required to step the voltage up to a suitable export level. These will be located within the solar farm, close to the internal access tracks.



A customer substation building is required to export the energy from the transformers in a single cable to a substation operated by the District Network Operator (DNO).

The DNO substation building will be located adjacent to the customer substation and energy storage. This substation is required to meter the production of energy and export it directly to the local grid.

All electrical cabling to the substation will be underground and the substation buildings will seek to have a green finish to coordinate with the surroundings.

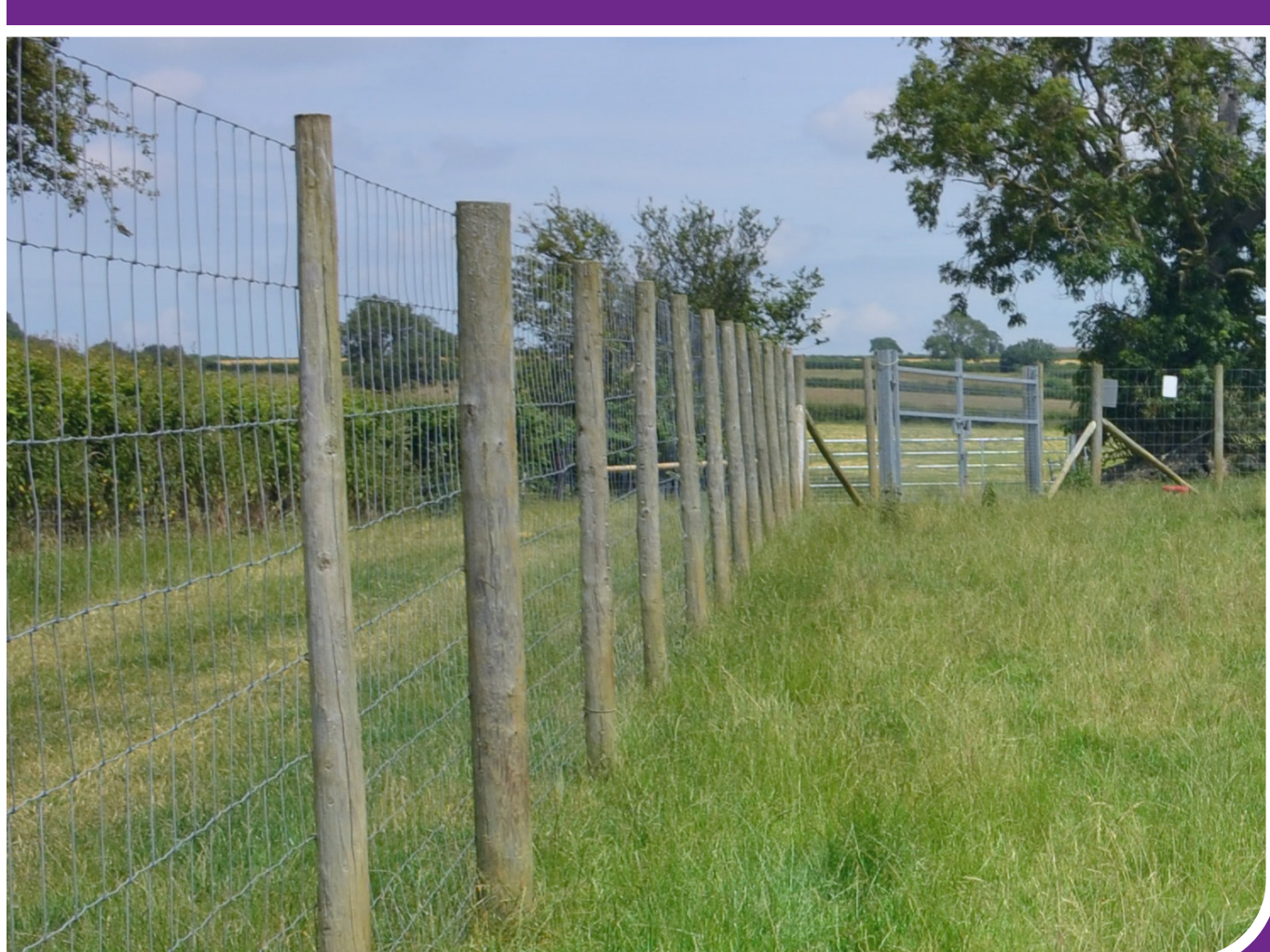


Access tracks

It is proposed that access to the site will be from the B977. The application will be supported by a Construction Traffic Management Plan, which will ensure suitable accesses are provided and that mitigation measures are implemented to reduce the effect of construction traffic on the local highway network.

Security

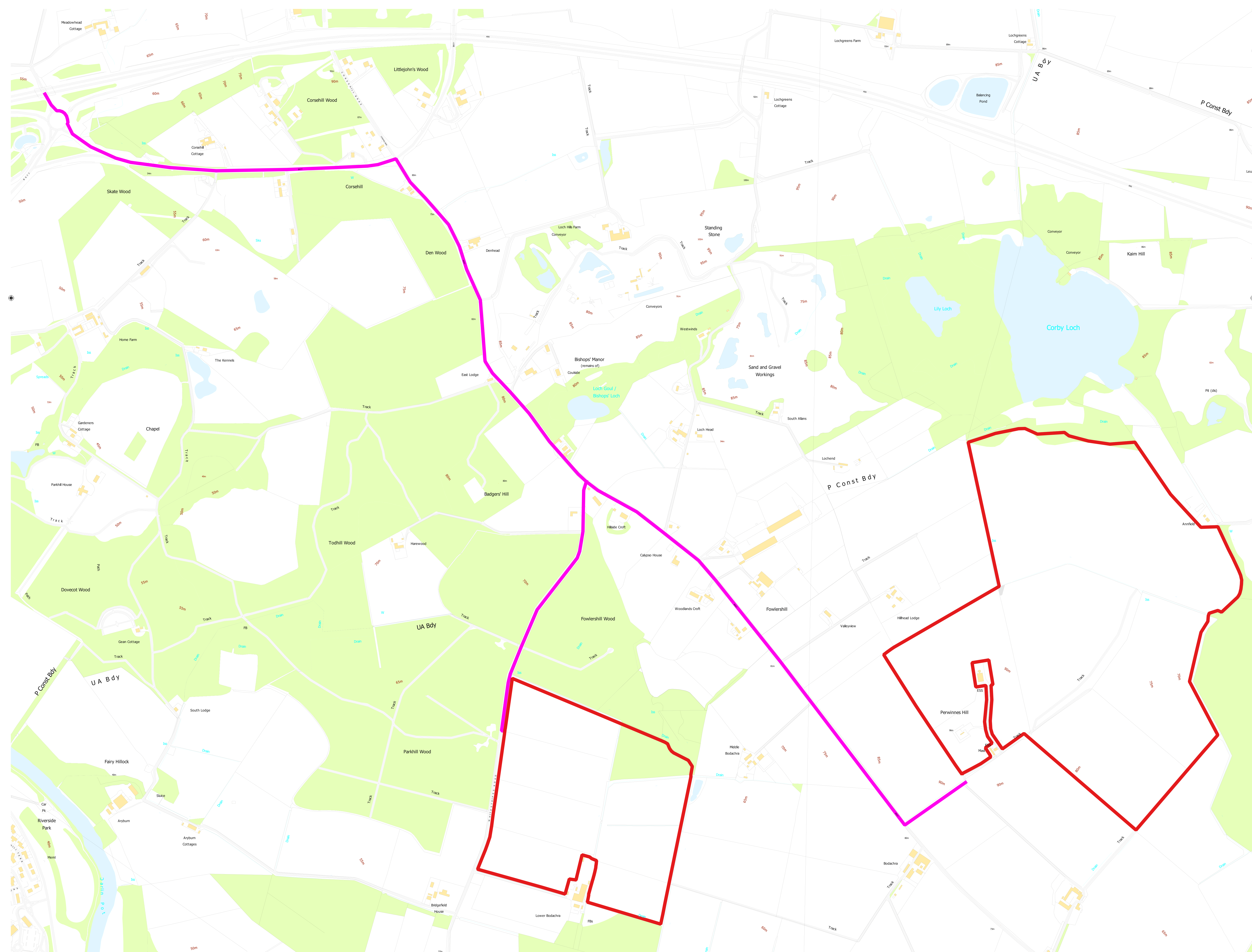
A deer-style fence will be installed around the perimeter of the development at a height of approximately two metres, consisting of wooden posts supporting traditional wire stock fencing. Suitable mammal gates will be included within the fence line where required, following conclusion of the ecology surveys. There will be inward facing infra-red CCTV along the fence. Balustrade fencing will surround the substations and energy storage areas.



Transport

The below figure illustrates the construction traffic route as suggested by our Transport consultants. The planning application will be supported by Construction Traffic Management Plan and Transport Statement which advises on the impact of traffic generated by this development on the local road network and suitable measures to limit the impact. This includes; wheel cleaning facilities, road signage, turning facilities and banksmen, and a wear and tear agreement for the local highways.

Once operational, the site will only require routine maintenance visits equating to 1-2 visits a month by a van or 4x4 vehicle.



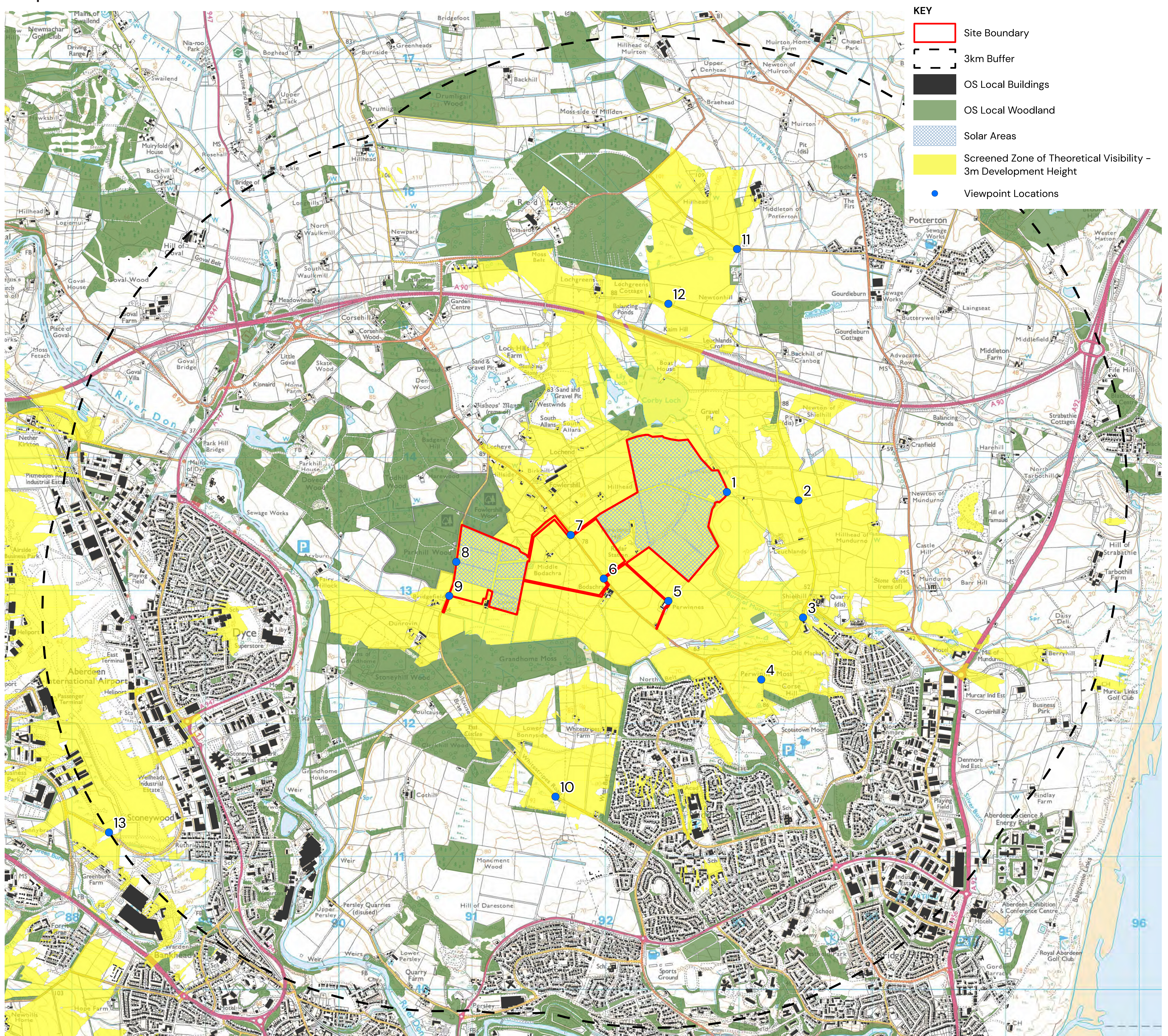
Construction Traffic Route

Landscape and Visual

A full Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment will accompany the full planning application.

We prepared a preliminary landscape appraisal to inform the initial layout of the proposed development. Measures from this work has resulted in the proposed layout being reduced and retaining landscape features present on the site. Working closely with our landscape consultant and Aberdeen City Council, we have included a tree belt to various boundaries of the development to limit the visual impact of the site.

A selection of viewpoints have been taken as per the points marked on the illustration below. Photomontages have been produced for viewpoints 1, 3, 7, and 8 to give a visual representation of how the project will look once construction has been completed and then 10-15 years in to its operation.



Viewpoint Locations

Viewpoints



Viewpoint 1 - Current



Viewpoint 1 - After a year



Viewpoint 1 - After 10 years

Viewpoints



Viewpoint 3 - Current



Viewpoint 3 - After a year



Viewpoint 3 - After 10 years

Viewpoints



Viewpoint 7 - Current



Viewpoint 7 - After a year



Viewpoint 7 - After 10 years

Viewpoints



Viewpoint 8 - Current



Viewpoint 8 - After a year



Viewpoint 8 - After 10 years

Surveys to Date



Ecology

The site is not located within any ecological designations, however, we have undertaken a number of site specific ecological surveys and the details of these will form part of the planning application. A Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment is also underway to ensure the sites biodiversity increases a minimum of 10%.

- PEA & Preliminary Bat Roost
- Great crested newt survey & eDNA
- Common breeding bird survey
- Pink Footed Geese Survey
- Terrestrial Protected Species

Glint and Glare

An initial Glint and Glare review has been undertaken and some areas of the site were removed. A final Glint and Glare assessment will be undertaken once the design has been frozen.

Hydrology

An initial Flood Risk Assessment has been undertaken to determine if any part of the site is liable for flooding. There is a small area that indicates a low risk of flooding in a 1 in 200 year event plus climate change. Electrical equipment will not be placed in this area. A full Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy will be submitted with the application.

Heritage and Archaeology

A heritage assessment and archaeological desk based assessment have been undertaken. There are no designated heritages assets in the site and only one in the wider landscape; Dubford standing stone. The site will not interfere with the appreciation of the monument's place in the landscape. It is considered that there is low potential for hitherto unrecorded archaeology to be present.

Land Capability for Agriculture

A Land Capability for Agriculture (LCA) assessment has been completed. The entire site comprises of non-prime land with majority of it being LCA Class 3.2 with patches of Class 4.1 and 5.3.

Arboriculture Survey

An arboriculture survey has been completed and the site design has been altered to ensure no root protection zones are entered.

Enhancements and Benefits

Our Community Promise

We believe it is important that local communities share in the benefit our project brings. For all our solar projects we offer a community benefit fund which can be used to support local projects and priorities and we work with our host communities to agree the best way to provide and administer that fund.

Every year Lower Bodachra Solar and Storage will contribute £250 per MW of solar plus a further £100 per MW charitable donation for the whole 40 year lifetime. The energy storage

element of the proposed development will contribute an additional £50 per MW (installed) to the local community, plus £20 per MW charitable donation.

This project would contribute £13,500 to the local community benefit and £5,400 to the charity fund each year.

The project is expected to pay £590,000 per year in business rates to Aberdeen City Council.

OUR COMMUNITY PROMISE

From early in the process of developing all our sites, we like to reach out to the community which will host the development and set out the local benefits this can bring. This includes setting up a Community Benefit Fund and a Charitable Fund, which would be funded by the project with an annual sum, based on the installed MW capacity of the site, paid into each fund for the entire lifespan of the project.

£13,500
To Community Benefit Fund



£5,400
To Charitable Fund

The above figures are based on the contributions which will be made every year based on MWp installed

Boosting Biodiversity

A bespoke Biodiversity Management Strategy is being prepared that ensures existing and new habitats are enhanced or created to benefit local wildlife.

Lower Bodachra Solar and Storage’s landscape planting, seeding and habitat creation plans will focus on native species. These initiatives will contribute to securing long term biodiversity net gain across the site.

Green Spaces

The solar farm has been designed to leave green spaces around the site boundaries and between the rows of panels to avoid shading and maximise electricity generation. This will leave the majority of the fences solar array as uncovered grassland suitable for sheep grazing.

Next Steps



Pre-application and community consultation ✓



Environmental surveys ✓



Second Public Consultation - Current

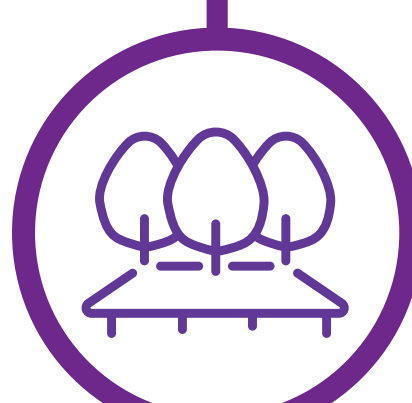
This is our second consultation event outlining the changes we have made following feedback from the first public consultation, Aberdeen City Council, and from our surveys.



Planning application submission - Spring 2024

The planning application is expected to be submitted to The Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in Spring of 2024.

As part of the planning process, the ECU will invite comments from the public, Aberdeen City Council, and from a range of statutory consultees. The application documents will be available to view on the ECU's website.



Construction and operation

The construction period is expected to take approximately 4 months and planting will be implemented in the first planting season following the construction activities.

Contact us

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