

# Welcome to our exhibition

## Welcome to the second public exhibition for the proposed Bonnyknox Solar Farm on land at Fallaws Farm, Arbirlot.

At today's exhibition we're pleased to present the updated layout design for the solar farm, following our initial round of engagement earlier this year.

Further to this round of engagement, the feedback received from the community, and a range of surveys and assessments, our latest design for Bonnyknox Solar Farm has been developed. At this second round of consultation, the layout is much further progressed, though there may be further changes, and we still very much welcome and value your feedback on the updated design. Your feedback has the potential to influence and improve the overall quality of the planning application from a community perspective.

**All consultation feedback submitted to RES will be reviewed by the project team over the coming weeks as we continue the design process.**



Image for illustrative purposes only

## Bonnyknox Solar Farm

[bonnyknoxsolarfarm@consultationonline.co.uk](mailto:bonnyknoxsolarfarm@consultationonline.co.uk)

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# About the project

In June 2024, we submitted a Proposal of Application Notice (PoAN) to Angus Council for a 49.9MW solar development on land at Fallaws Farm in Arbirlot, which is approximately 5km west of Arbroath. The land is currently used for arable farming.

The proposed development could produce enough energy to power around 15,000 homes<sup>1</sup>. The site was chosen because it has good solar resource, no ecological constraints, straightforward access and has a viable grid connection. If the solar farm is developed, the energy generated will be connected via a new 33kV link to the Arbroath substation.

## Design evolution

We held our first round of public consultation in June and are grateful for the feedback received from the community at our event and via our website. Following this feedback period, we have completed further surveys and assessments on the site. The findings from this work, together with feedback from the first round of consultation, has resulted in a number of design changes, which are set out as part of this second round of consultation.

RES is proud to have been innovators in the development of the global renewable energy market and we continue to seek new and pioneering ways to improve the efficiency and generation potential of our schemes.

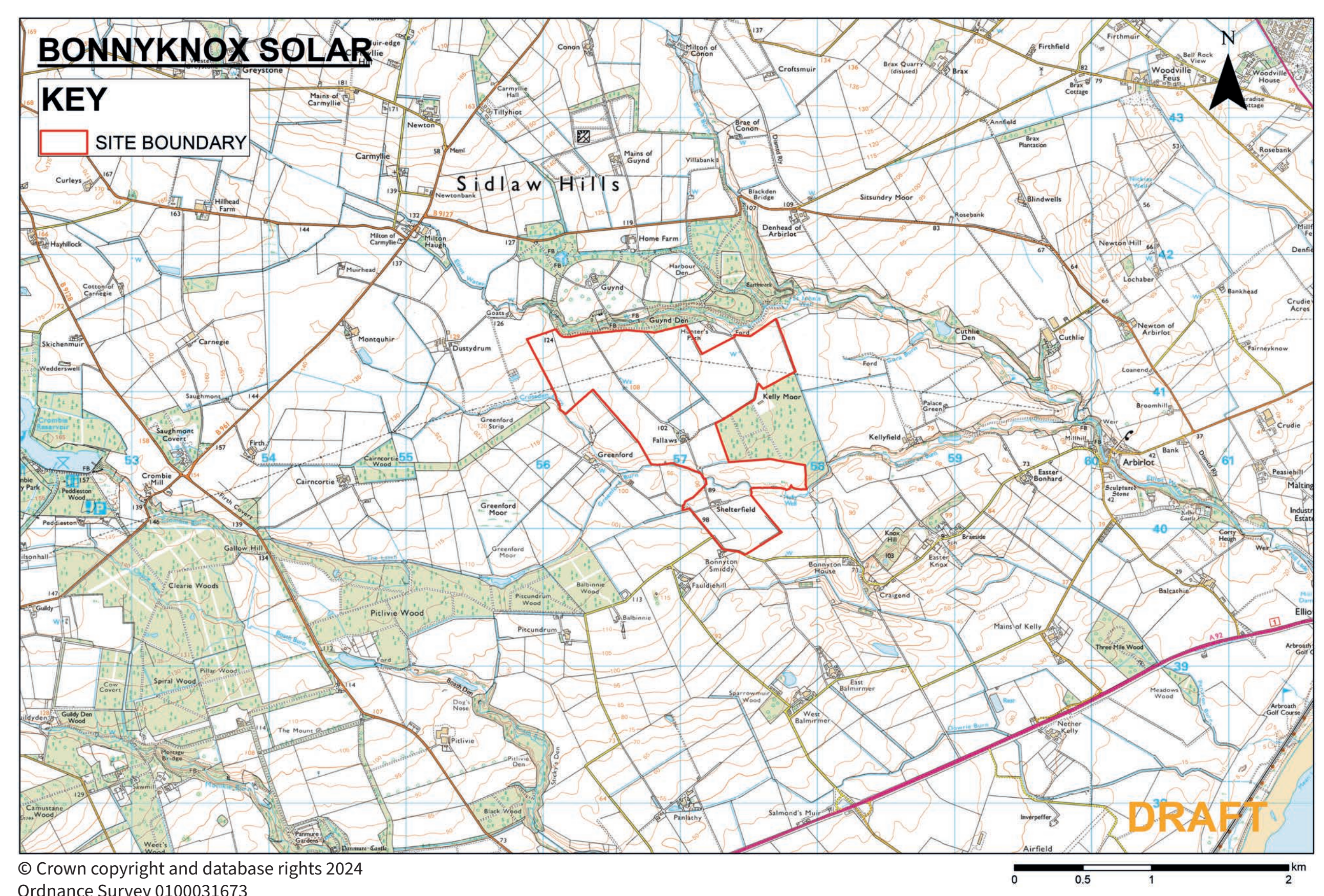
Following recent technological and commercial advancements, we propose to include battery storage units as part of the proposed

development to help increase the flexibility and generation opportunities for Bonnyknox Solar Farm.

Energy storage will play a key part in managing the increasingly complex supply and demand needs of the 21st century. The grid network must be finely balanced; electrical demand must match electrical generation at all times. If this balance is not achieved, it can lead to blackouts and the failure of grid circuits.

The addition of battery storage units would enable excess generation from the solar farm to be stored, then released back to the grid network during times of no or low generation from the solar panels, for example during winter.

This proposal will have an installed generating capacity of less than 50MW, and so the application will be considered and determined by the local planning authority – which in this case is Angus Council. We currently hope to submit an application around Winter 2024.



<sup>1</sup>The homes figure has been calculated by taking the predicted annual electricity generation of the site (using an average solar capacity factor of 11.2%) and dividing this by the annual average electricity figures from DESNZ showing that the annual GB average domestic household consumption is 3,239 kWh (January 2024).

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# Traffic and access

## Component and material deliveries are a key phase in the construction of any solar project.

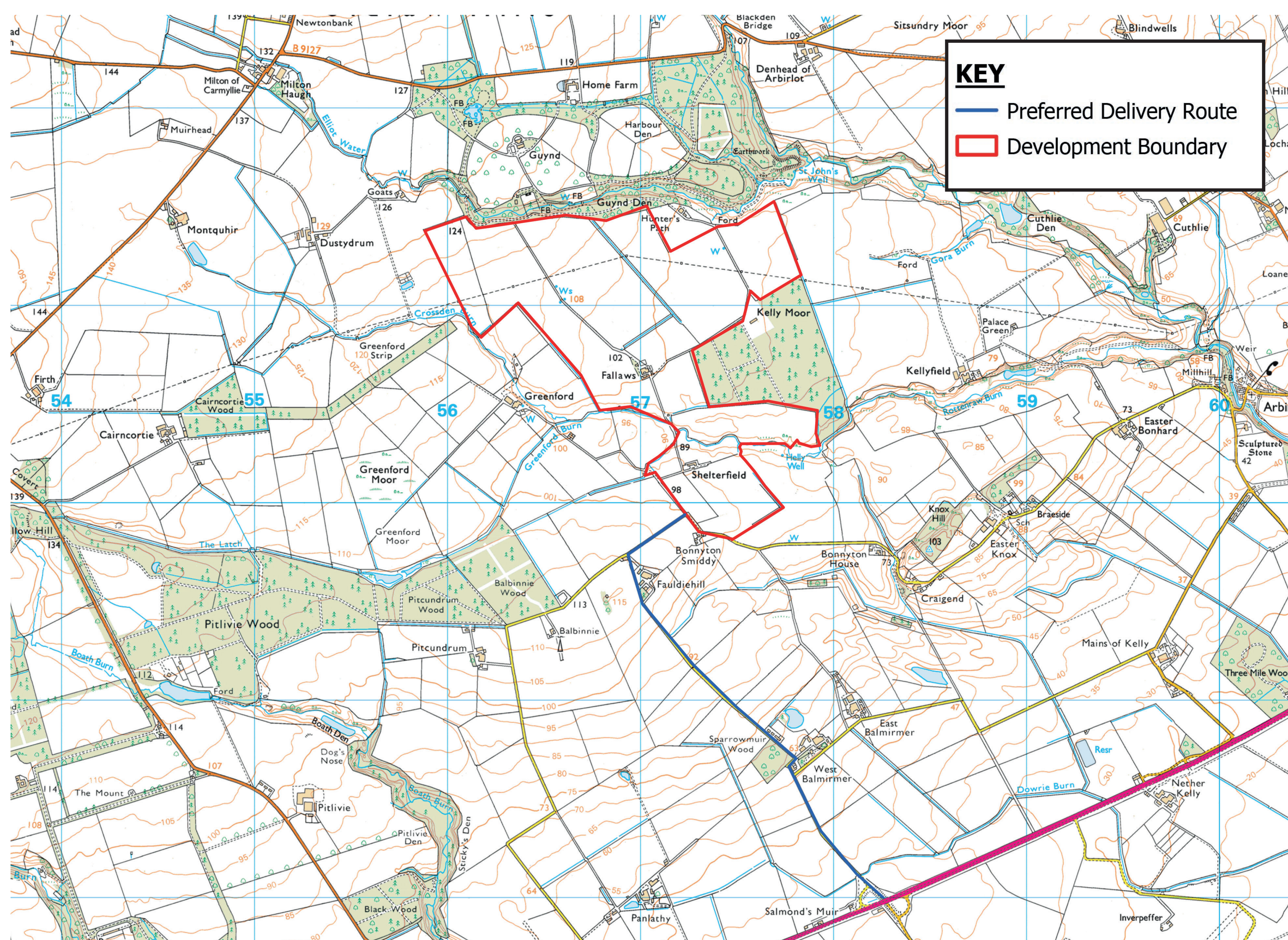
Currently our preferred construction route for the development at Fallaws Farm would be via the A92 to minimise construction traffic impact on Arbroath, Airbirlot and the nearby Primary School.

Construction traffic would access the site off the A92 at the Salmond's Muir junction leading onto Bonnyton Road to the site. The plan below shows our current preferred delivery route and access point, which could be used for the delivery of materials and access for construction and maintenance.

The proposed route is 2.6 km from the A92 to the site boundary, with good connections via slip roads and underpasses. Bonnyton Road is a wide single carriageway. We are discussing whether there is any requirement from the highways officers for additional passing places along Bonnyton Road, which could be developed within existing verge areas.

Further details will be contained within any future planning application. Where possible, traffic movements will be scheduled to avoid peak morning and evening periods. Additionally, we will appoint a dedicated Community Liaison Officer to engage with local residents throughout the construction and operational phases, should the solar farm receive consent.

We have been actively engaging with Angus Council highways officers and independent transport consultants to capture these proposals through the development of a comprehensive Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) that will be submitted with any future planning application. The CTMP will detail the framework for managing the safe movement of construction and delivery traffic, including expected traffic volumes and timing restrictions.



Preferred construction route based on current proposals

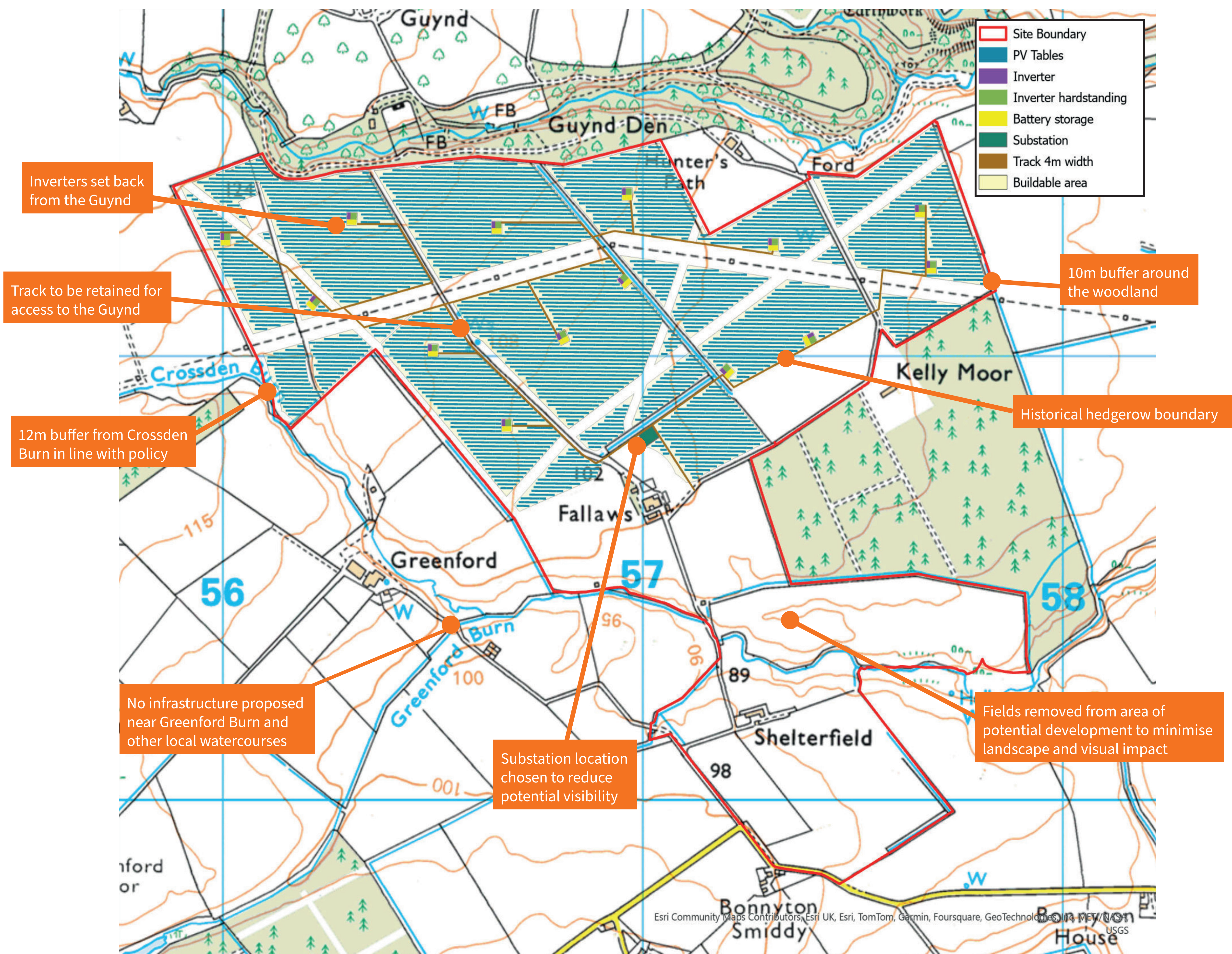
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# Updated design layout and infrastructure

The map below illustrates the updated design of the solar farm, shaped by a series of technical assessments and community feedback.



Since the preliminary design was presented at the June exhibition, several significant modifications to the design have been made. Key design changes include:

- Removal of solar infrastructure from fields to the south of the site to minimise potential visibility;
- A 10-metre buffer will be installed between the solar panels and woodland to the north and east;
- A 12-metre buffer between solar infrastructure and Crossden Burn,
- in compliance with relevant flood prevention guidelines;
- To ensure accessibility and minimise disruption, the existing track through the site will be preserved for access to the Guynd. Inverters will be strategically placed away from the Guynd, and from this access track to it, to protect amenity value.

These updates reflect a commitment to balancing the operational efficiency of the solar farm with environmental protection and community feedback.

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# Environmental considerations

**RES has been working to ensure the design of solar farm proposals fits sensitively into the surrounding landscape.**

A number of surveys and assessments have been carried out to ensure any potential impact upon the environment, landscape, heritage and local residents is appropriately assessed and mitigated. Potential cumulative impacts, with other developments in the area, has also been assessed. The assessments that have been carried out include:

**Ecology**

**Landscape**

**Heritage & Archaeology**

**Glint and Glare**

**National Land Capability for Agriculture**

**Flood risk & surface water management**

The results of these surveys, along with feedback from the local community and stakeholders, have helped shape the design of the solar farm proposal.



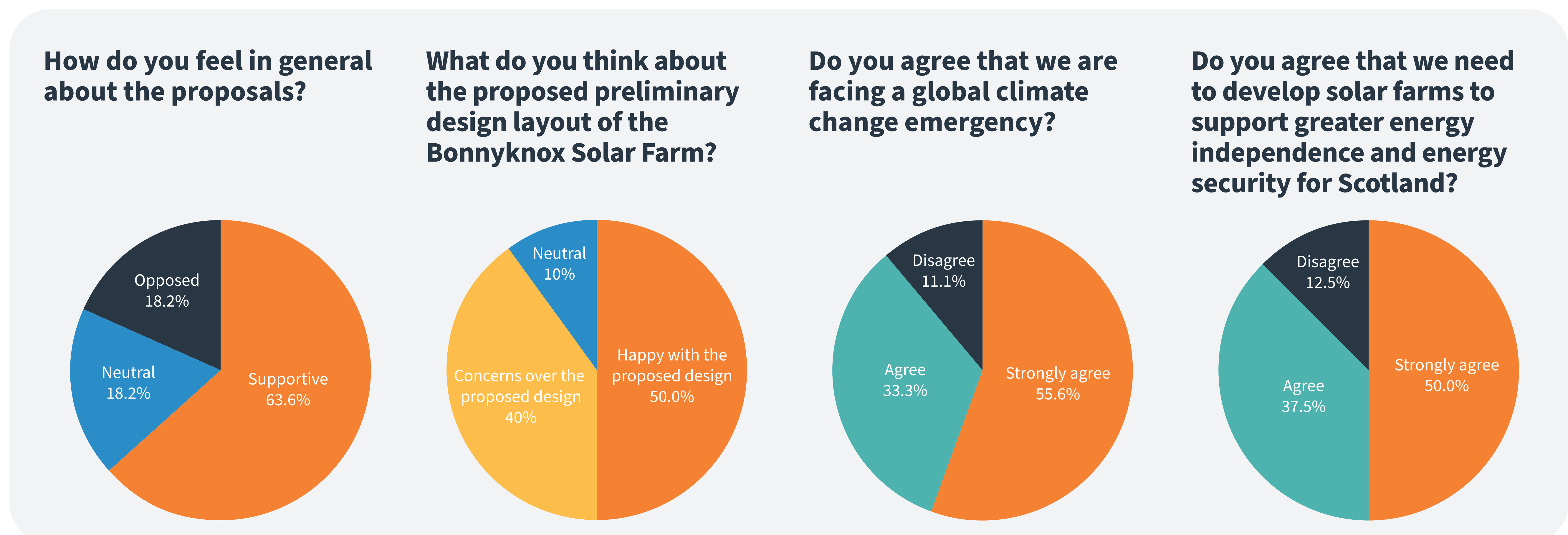
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# Feedback to date

We received a range of feedback during our first round of consultation and are grateful to those who took the time to share their views with us. The below shows some of quantitative data about the proposals.



In addition to these responses, some people also asked questions about the impacts of the proposals when giving their feedback. We have responded to these main themes of feedback below.

Feedback theme	RES response
<b>Visual impact:</b> Some feedback expressed concern that the solar farm will impact views for nearby properties.	RES is carefully assessing potential visual impacts and explore measures to reduce potential visibility.
<b>Construction traffic:</b> Some residents felt that the local road network is not adequately equipped to handle the heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) required for the construction of the solar farm, and raised concerns about traffic congestion and road safety.	Currently our proposed construction route for the development at Fallaws Farm in Arbirlot would be via the A92 to minimise construction traffic impact on Arbroath. Construction traffic would access the site off the A92 at the Salmond's Muir junction leading onto Bonnyton Road to the site. A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will support any future planning application and we are currently engaging with Angus Council highways officers on this.
<b>Nearby properties being devalued:</b> We received questions about whether neighbouring properties of the development will decrease in value due to their close proximity to the solar farm.	Queries are often raised in relation to the potential of solar farms to impact upon the value of house prices as there can be a perception that there must be a negative effect on house prices. Property value is subjective and can be affected by a range of factors. There is currently no firm evidence on whether solar farms do or do not affect house prices.
<b>Loss of agricultural land:</b> Some feedback during the first round expressed concern that the development of the solar farm will result in the loss of valuable agricultural land, which could have long-term implications for local farming activities and food production.	Bonnyknox Solar Farm is proposed on Grade 2 and 3 land, which is not the highest grade of agricultural land. If consented, the land will be used for sheep grazing once the solar farm is constructed, thus allowing continued agricultural use. Climate change poses the greatest threat to food security in the UK, as it disrupts growing seasons, affects crop yields, and increases the frequency of extreme weather events like floods and droughts. Rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns also exacerbate pests and diseases, further straining the agricultural sector and endangering the stability of the country's food supply.

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# About RES

RES is the world's largest independent renewable energy company, working across 24 countries and active in wind, solar, energy storage, green hydrogen, transmission and distribution. As an industry innovator for over 40 years, RES has delivered more than 27GW of renewable energy projects across the globe and plans to bring more than 22GW of new capacity online in the next five years.

As a service provider, RES also has the skills and experience in asset management and operations and maintenance to support a portfolio exceeding 41GW worldwide for a large client base.

Drawing on our decades of experience in the renewable energy and construction industries, RES has the expertise to develop, construct and operate projects of outstanding quality which contribute to a low carbon future by providing

a secure supply of sustainable, low cost, clean green energy. RES is committed to finding effective and appropriate ways of engaging with all its stakeholders, including local residents and businesses, and believes that the views of local people are an integral part of the development process. RES is also committed to developing long term relationships with the communities around its projects, proactively seeking ways in which it can support and encourage community involvement in social and environmental projects near its developments.

RES is the power behind a clean energy future where everyone has access to affordable zero carbon energy. We bring together global experience, passion, and the innovation of 4,500 people to transform the way energy is generated, stored and supplied.



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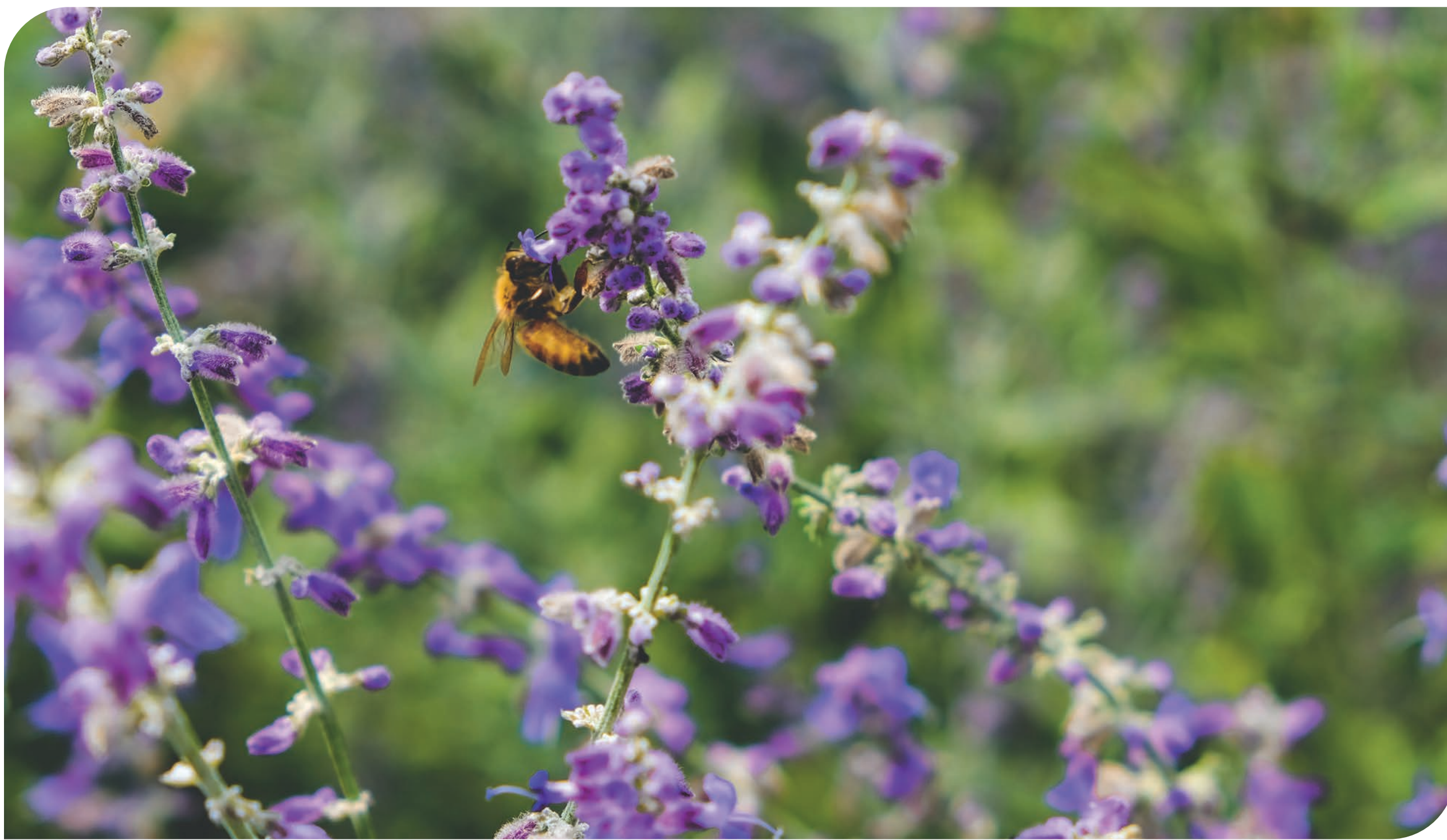


# Next steps

## Thank you for taking the time to find out more about our proposals for Bonnyknox Solar Farm.

Please do make sure you share your views on these proposals with us. You can do this in one of three ways:

- By completing a feedback form at our event
- By scanning the QR code below, or visiting our website, to submit a feedback form online
- By getting in touch with our team using the details below to request a hard copy feedback form



We are gathering feedback on these initial proposals until **Friday 11th October 2024**.

The feedback will be reviewed and considered as the application is prepared for submission for consideration and determination to Angus Council.

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## Timeline:

JUNE 2024	• Submit Proposal of Application Notice to Angus Council
JUNE 2024	• Begin first round of public consultation on early proposals with a public exhibition
JULY 2024	• End of feedback period for the first round of public consultation
JULY - AUGUST 2024	• Review feedback, and carry out further surveys and assessments to update the design
SEPTEMBER 2024	• Begin second round of public consultation on updated proposals
WINTER 2024	• Prepare the application for submission to Angus Council
SUMMER 2025	• Target planning decision date by Angus Council

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