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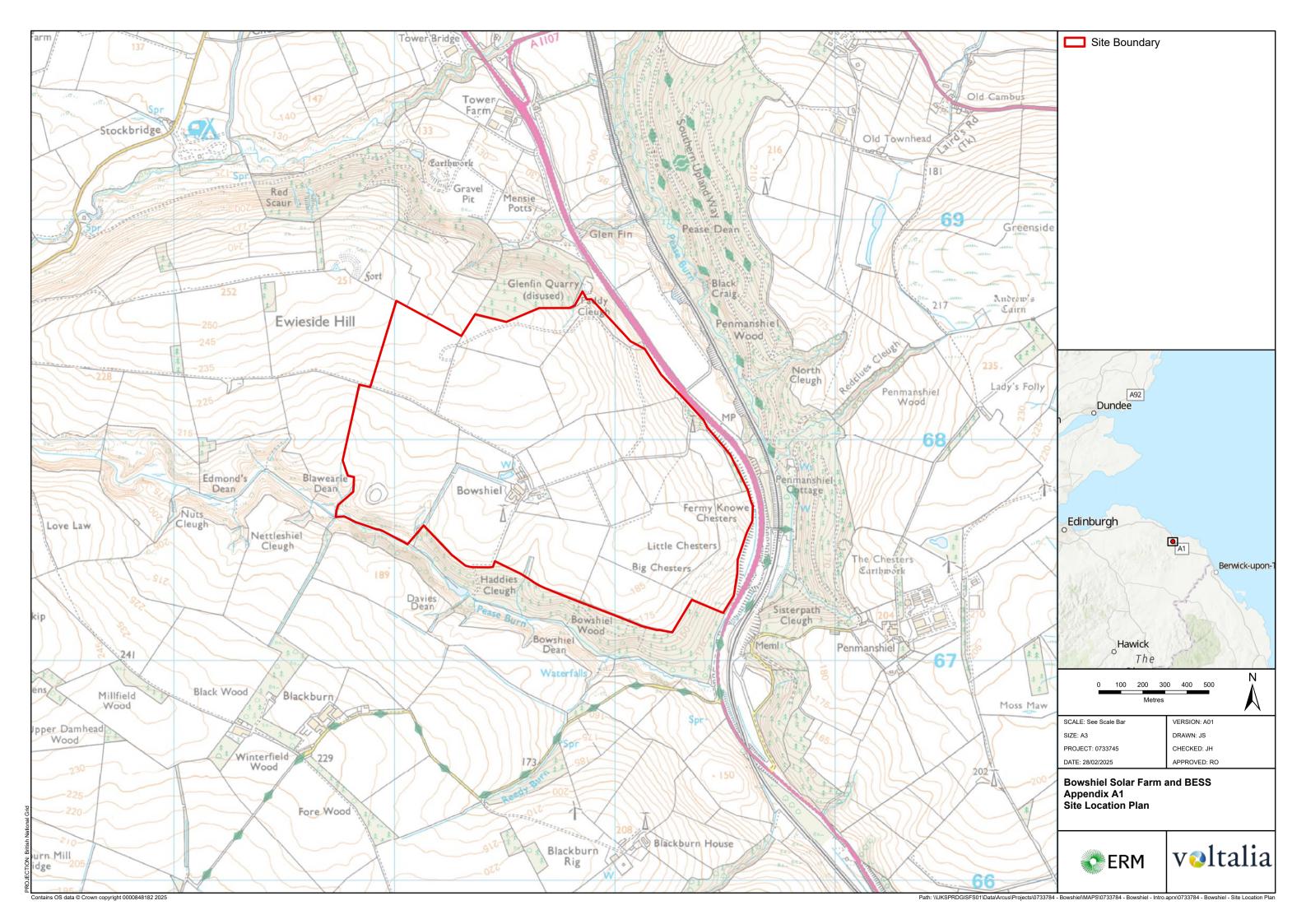
- G1 CONSULTATION POSTCARD ISSUED TO LOCAL HOUSEHOLDS AND PREMISES
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A1 - SITE LOCATION



APPENDIX B CONSULTEES

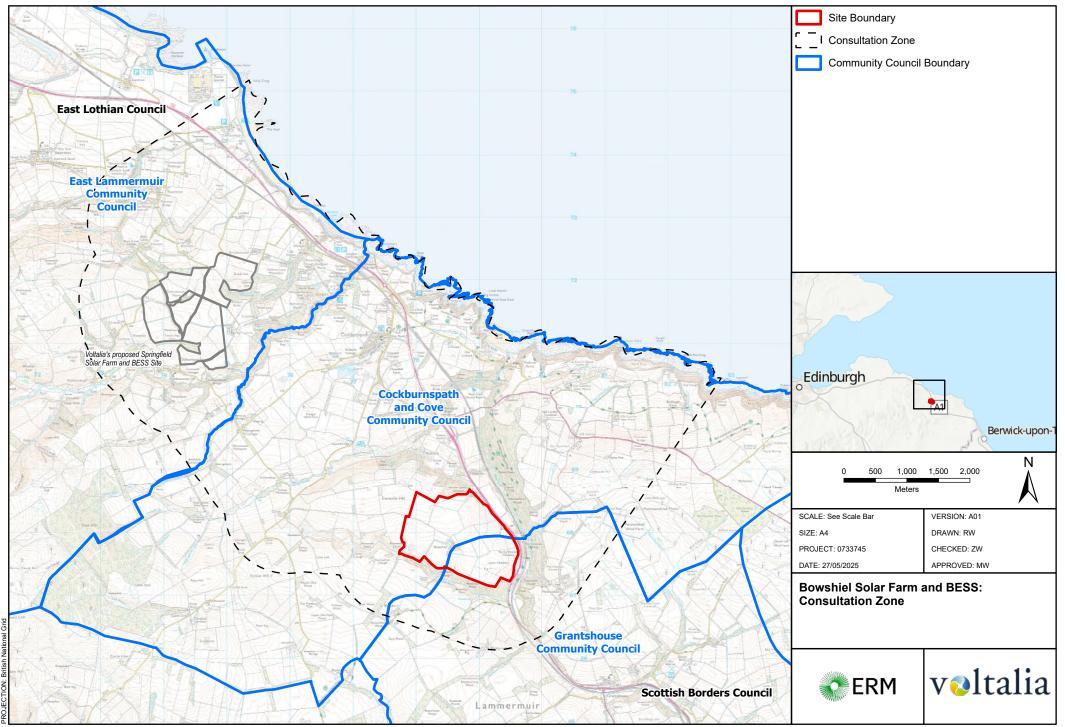
B1 - LIST OF CONSULTEES

B2 - CONSULTATION ZONE

Bowshiel Solar and BESS: Consultees

- Scottish Energy Consents Unit (ECU)
- Crown Estate Scotland (CES)
- Scottish Borders Council Planning Department
- NatureScot
- Historic Environment Scotland (HES)
- Ministry of Defence (MoD)
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
- Transport Scotland
- Scottish Water
- SP Energy Networks (SPEN)
- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
- RSPB
- Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy (July 2024)
- Scottish Forestry
- The North Sea Transition Authority
- Ofgem
- East Lothian Local Resilience Forum
- The Scottish Executive
- Renewable Energy Scotland (RES)
- Scottish Wildlife Trust

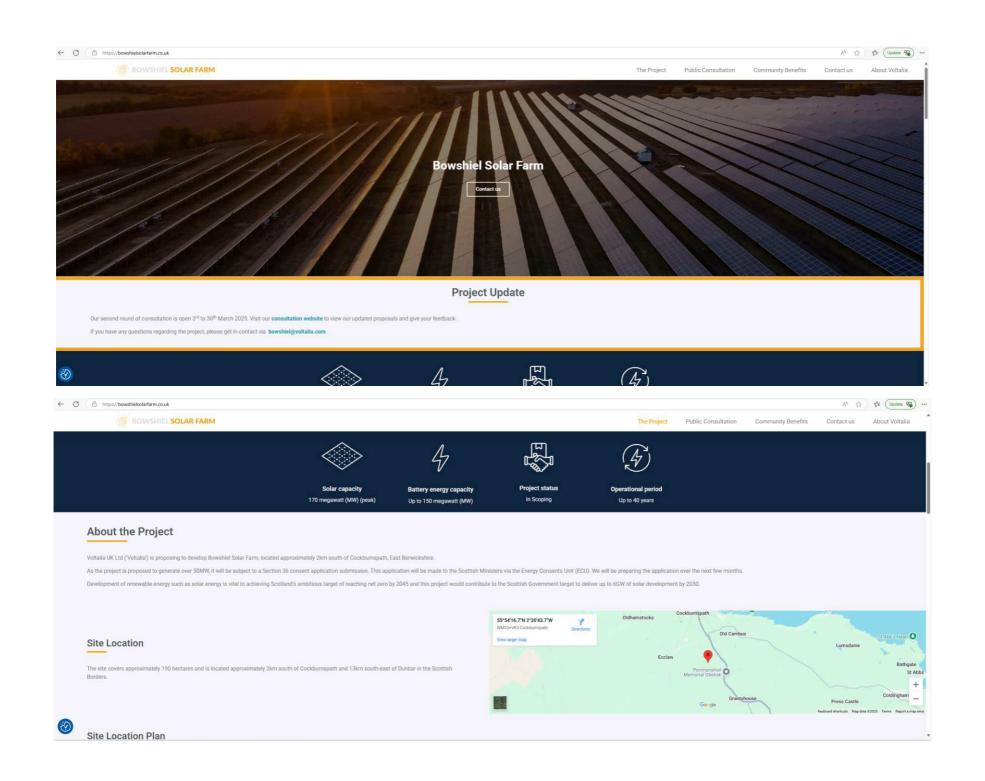
- Pease Dean Scottish Wildlife Trust
- Oldhamstocks Community Association
- East Lammermuir Community Council (ELCC)
- Cockburnspath & Cove Community Council
- Grantshouse Community Council
- Dunbar Community Council
- Dunbar Trades' Association
- Berwickshire Community Councils
- Scottish Borders Chamber of Commerce
- Scottish Borders Council Economic Development
- Berwickshire Association of Voluntary Service (BAVS)
- Friends of the Earth East Lothian
- Dunbar Community Woodland Group (DCWG)
- Berwickshire Biodiversity Forum
- Sustaining Dunbar
- Paul McLennan MSP Minister for Housing (Second consultation invitation)
- Craig Hoy MSP for South Scotland (Second consultation invitation)
- Councillor Lyn Jardine (Dunbar and East Linton) (Second consultation invitation)



APPENDIX C WEBSITE

C2 - PROJECT WEBSITE

C2 - CONSULTATION PAGE





Bowshiel Solar Farm project

Our second consultation is open between 3rd and 30th March 2025.

We are sharing our updated plans and welcome you to view them below. These plans have taken into account feedback from the local community and wider stakeholders.

All feedback and questions shared during this consultation will be carefully considered.

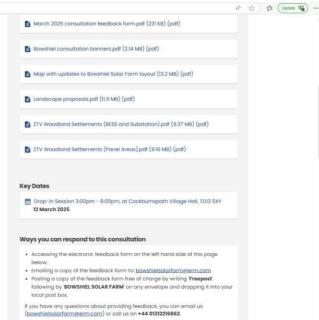
The proposed Bowshiel Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project is located approximately 2km south of Cockburnspath. It comprises a solar farm with up to 170kMyp capacity, up to 150kMy Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure. Please visit the project's website www.bowshielsolardmr.ocut to keep up to act

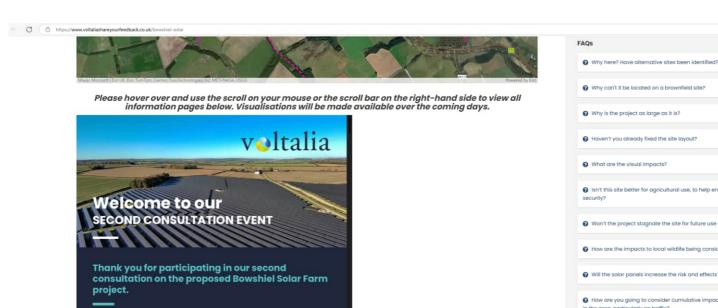
The map's key can be found by clicking on the 'open legend' button in the top right corner





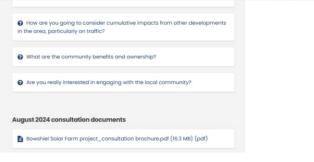












A⁶ 🖒 🛣 Update 🚱

APPENDIX D ROUND ONE: PRESS ADVERTISEMENTS

- D1 CONSULTATION POSTCARD ISSUED TO LOCAL HOUSEHOLDS AND PREMISES
- D2 COPY OF NOTIFICATION EMAIL
- D3 EAST LOTHIAN COURIER 15 AUGUST
- D4 THE BORDER TELEGRAPH 14 AUGUST
- D5 THE BERWICKSHIRE NEWS 15 AUGUST

Share your views on our proposals for the Bowshiel Solar Farm project

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Voltalia is committed to engaging early with local communities. It is important to us that those with an interest in our proposals have the opportunity to provide feedback as they take shape.

We invite you to find out more about the project and provide your feedback by participating in the consultation overleaf.

To find out more, please visit our website by scanning the QR code or via:

www.bowshielsolarfarm.co.uk

You can help shape our proposals by telling us what matters to you and your community, and how the project could benefit the community.

Voltalia is an international energy and service provider in the renewable energy market.

With a mission to improve the global environment and foster local development, all of Voltalia's projects seek to contribute towards addressing national and local electricity needs by generating an affordable and renewable source of clean energy.

We are seeking to develop Bowshiel Solar Farm, which is a hybrid solar and BESS development in the Scottish Borders.

If developed, Bowshiel Solar Farm will contribute to Scotland's goal of generating *more than 20GW* of onshore renewable energy by 2030.



240809_Bowshiel SF_A5 Invite_AW.indd 1 09/08/2024 12:55

Share your views on our proposals for the Bowshiel Solar Farm project

veltalia

Located approximately 2km south of Cockburnspath, we are proposing to develop the Bowshiel Solar Farm project, which comprises a 170MWp solar farm and up to 150MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with associated infrastructure.

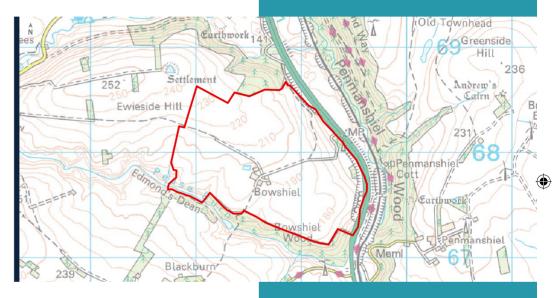
We are holding a drop-in public consultation event to inform our proposals and enable you to share your views on the project.

The event will be taking place on the following date near to you:

Tuesday 27th August 2024
Between 3:00pm and 8:00pm
At Cockburnspath Village Hall, TD13 5XY

There is no need to register for attendance; please come along during this time at your convenience to speak with a member of the project team.

If you are unable to attend the event in person, you can still share your feedback via the contact methods detailed on this invite.



Reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital map data @ Crown copyright 2024. All rights reserved. Licence number 100048606.

Please note that comments made in response to this public consultation are not representations to the planning authority.

Once a planning application has been submitted, there will be an opportunity to make representation.

We invite you to access more information about the project via our website and to provide feedback to our consultation either in person, online or by getting in contact via the below. We need your feedback by 17th September:

Email: bowshielsolarfarm@erm.com Web: www.bowshielsolarfarm.co.uk Telephone: (+44) 0131 221 6862

240809_Bowshiel SF_A5 Invite_AW.indd 2 09/08/2024 12:55

From: ERM Bowshiel Solar Farm

To: ERM Bowshiel Solar Farm

Subject: Bowshiel Solar Farm consultation

Date: 16 August 2024 11:51:15

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>

image002.png image003.png image004.png image005.png image006.png

We are writing to consult with you on the proposed application for Bowshiel Solar Farm. Voltalia is seeking to develop a Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in East Berwickshire, Scotland. The site is near Cockburnspath, approximately 14km southeast of Dunbar. The Proposed Project comprises a 170MWp solar farm and up to 150MW BESS with associated infrastructure. The Proposed Project will support the UK's net-zero targets and provide reliable and low carbon energy.

Our consultation is running from 20th August to 17th September 2024, and we are inviting you to our first public consultation event, Tuesday 27th August 2024 at Cockburnspath Village Hall, TD13 5XY, 3pm - 8pm.

Join us to see our current plans for the Proposed Project and the studies we will be undertaking. This is an opportunity to share your views and raise any questions.

Consultation materials

Visit our website (<u>www.bowshielsolarfarm.co.uk</u>) for more information and to see the consultation documents. These will be available from 20th August 2024 until the close of the consultation on 17th September 2024.

Responding to this consultation

Any consultation responses must be received no later than 17th September 2024. Responses received after this time may not be considered. There are several ways to submit responses:

- Post your response to "Freepost Bowshiel Solar Farm"
- Email your response to <u>Bowshielsolarfarm@erm.com</u>
- Complete the online feedback form at www.bowshielsolarfarm.co.uk/
- Tell us your response over the phone on (+44) 01312216862

Personal details will be held securely and used solely for purposes in connection with the pre-application consultations, application process, assessment and determination of the application and otherwise in connection with the further development of the scheme. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Alexander Hamilton

Senior Project Manager Voltalia UK

The Wheelhouse, Bonds Mill Estate, Bristol Road, Stonehouse, GL10 3RF 93 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 3ES



New hall 'critical' to the future of rural community

Plans lodged to build new village hall in Oldhamstocks

By Cameron Ritchie

A MAJOR step forward has been taken in a bid to replace a village hall.

Rising repair and operating costs at Oldhamstocks Village Hall led the community to explore the possibility of a new building being put in place.

The existing hall, which dates back to the early 1950s and was previously used as a ward at East Fortune Hospital, has served the community for more than half a century but is now said to be "in a poor state of repair, it requires regular maintenance and the operational costs are also becoming an increasing burden".
Oldhamstocks Community As-

sociation has now applied to East Lothian Council to demolish the existing structure and replace it with a new version which will be "relevant to the next three or four generations" of residents and visitors to the village.

According to a design statement: "The proposal presented is the result of a 10-year briefing and design process which began in earnest in 2013 with the comrepair and operating costs being experienced for the maintenance of a 70-year-old, timher-framed former MOD Army Hospital Unit building.

Drawings included with the apon the same site as the existing version, with the play area moved alongside the building rather than in front of it.

The building would include the community in which they live.



Plans showing how a new village hall in Oldhamstocks could look have been revealed. Image: East Lothian Council planning portal. Inset: The existing village hall. Image copyright Jennifer Petrie and licensed for reuse under Creative Commons Licence

a main hall alongside a meeting space and kitchen.

age.
The design statement reads:

"The proposed new village hall is inevitably a larger building than plication show that the replace-ment hall would be built almost providing so much more, now and providing so much more, now and into the future, to a community that cares passionately about the spatial and environmental nature of the village and the vibrancy of

'The proposal will create a focus for the conservation and sustainability of both the sense of place, the sense of community and the diversity of lifestyles that exist in Oldhamstocks through the creation of an enhanced village hall which will be relevant to the next three or four generations of resi-

dents and visitors to the village."
Chris Bruce is both a member of the village's community association and also chairs East Lammermuir Community Council, which includes the village.

Consideration was previously given to simply demolishing the

existing building and instead community events being held in nearby Cockburnspath. However, it was decided to push

ahead with a replacement venue in the village.

Mr Bruce said: "It is where people get together.

"The church is just about to be sold and what would be left? Nothing, just houses.

The hall is critical."

• Learn more about planning applications in the county by visiting our Public Notice Portal - www. $public notice portal. uk/east{-lothi}$ an-courier

£70k boost for cook scheme

A SCHEME which has served up thousands of portions of soup has received a cash

A two-year grant of £70,500 has been awarded to the Community Carrot in Dunbar, which operates a number of culinary

The funding will ensure the continuation of popular, established initiatives including Sunny's Kitchen, a weekly community meal; Sunny Soups, a food waste project that turns surplus ingredients into soup, which is then given away free of charge; and weekly free children's cooking classes. The schemes have been funded by the Na-

tional Lottery for the past three years.

During this time, 5,345 portions have been served up at Sunny's Kitchen, 7,015 portions have been given away through Sunny Soups, nearly 700 participants have taken part in cooking classes and nearly 900 people have taken part in activities overall.

The projects benefit from the support of volunteers of all ages, from teenagers working towards Duke of Edinburgh's Award projects to retirees providing their time and skills on a regular basis.

The award will pay for two part-time roles,

the community food outreach and communications lead, and a new community cook who will run the community meal, as well as support for cook club, a children's weekly cooking skills group.

Hannah Ewan, community food outreach lead, was delighted with the funding boost from the National Lottery Community Led Fund.

Community Carrot, previously known as the Crunchy Carrot, is a community-owned greengrocers and whole foods shop based on Dunbar High Street.

Hannah said: "We're so grateful to the National Lottery for this funding, it's wonderful to have continuity assured for our community projects for another two years.

"There have been so many positive mo-ments over the past three years, from children learning to enjoy eating a range of vegetables and discovering a love and talent for cooking, to people making new friends at our community meal and through volunteering at Sunny Soups, to feeling like we're making a difference by using up food that would otherwise have gone to waste.

'We're delighted to be able to continue this work in our community."

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Springfield Solar Farm PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

Voltalia is seeking to develop a Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in East Lothian, Scotland. The proposed project is near Oldhamstocks, approximately 8km southeast of Dunbar. It comprises a 165MWp solar farm and up to 150mw BESS with associated infrastructure

We are holding our first public consultation event Wednesday 28th August 2024, 3pm - 8pm Oldhamstocks Village Hall, TD13 5XN

Join us to see our current plans for the project and studies we will be undertaking. This is an opportunity to share your views and raise any questions.

If you can't attend, you can participate in our consultation which is running until the 17th September. We invite you to:

- Visit our online consultation and submit your feedback
- Request printed materials
- Get in touch to speak to a member of the team

Please note that comments made in response to this public consultation are not representations to the planning authority. Once a planning application has been submitted, there will be an opportunity to make representation.

Website: www.springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk Email: Springfieldsolarfarm@erm.com Telephone: (+44) 01312216863



Bowshiel Solar Farm PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

Voltalia is seeking to develop a Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in East Berwickshire, Scotland. The proposed project is near Cockburnspath, approximately 14km southeast of Dunbar. It comprises a 170MWp solar farm and up to 150mw BESS with associated infrastructure.

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Email: Bowshielsolarfarm@erm.com Telephone: (+44) 01312216862



Una Cameron manages to smash previous world record set in February

More than 500 sheep sheared in nine hours

Mike Thomson

michael.thomson@newsquest.co.ul

A BORDERS sheep shearer has smashed a world record set earlier this year.

Una Cameron, of St Boswells, sheared a staggering 517 ewes across the nine-hour challenge in Cornwall to beat the target by 59.

The solo women's record had been set by Kiwi Sacha Bond in Southland, New Zealand, in February.

"I had a wonderful team behind me and they believed that I could do it," said the 51-year-old, who attended Borders College in the late 1980s. "I was focused on passing the 458 mark, but always wanted to shear 500. I can't thank everyone enough, especially Matt and Pip Smith, who hosted the event on Trefranck Farm."

She added: "I never thought I was good enough but my friends and peers from the industry have pushed me to attempt it, and with their support I knew I could do it."

Gareth Jones, head of member engagement at British Wool, said: "On behalf of British Wool we offer huge congratulations to Una on her successful record attempt. This was a display of high quality shearing and Una should be very proud of her achievements.

"We appreciate the hard work that goes on behind the scenes in holding a record and therefore offer congratulations to everyone that has helped and supported Una in successfully setting a new world shearing record."

Last month, Una revealed that she had been taking ice baths and following a food and fitness programme ahead of the record bid.

The Borderer is the only woman to qualify in the top 30 at the coveted Golden Shears in Masterton, New Zealand.

She has been a professional shearer on the circuit for almost three decades, working across the UK, Australia, New Zealand and Norway.



RECORD: Una Cameron with the final tally board. Photo: British Wool

Swimming hub proposed for estate unit

A SWIMMING teaching centre is on the cards at a Galashiels industrial estate.

The unit on Netherdale Industrial Estate would be converted under the plans.

The centre would be used to teach swimming to all ages.

It is proposed to have the hub open between 10am and 8pm on weekdays and 9am and 3pm during weekends.

A supporting statement with the bid states: "With existing local swimming teaching facilities currently and historically overwhelmed and with lengthy waiting lists, while it is of course for the authority to determine, we would suggest that the proposed use is a public good."

It adds: "While it is not its primary purpose, should there be a need in the local community, we would be happy to accommodate medical hydro-therapy.

"The small scale of the facility and its controlled access environment makes it ideal for this use.

"Times of this use would be outwith use times stated and could be controlled by conditions of consent or local licence."

Bowshiel Solar Farm

PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

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- Request printed materials
- Get in touch to speak to a member of the team
- Submit your feedback and questions

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Springfield Solar Farm

PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

Voltalia is seeking to develop a Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in East Lothian, Scotland. The site is near Oldhamstocks, approximately 8km southeast of Dunbar.

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Website: www.bowshielsolarfarm.co.uk Email: Bowshielsolarfarm@erm.com Telephone: (+44) 01312216862



Website: www.springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk Email: Springfieldsolarfarm@erm.com Telephone: (+44) 01312216863



The Berwickshire News

Coldstreamer Jake 'Safe oot, Safe in!'



Father and son rescued

by Hilary Scott

hilary.scott@nationalworld.com

Thursday, August 15, 2024

A father and son were rescued from the Cheviot Hills after getting into difficulty during a camping trip

difficulty during a camping trip.

Border Search and Rescue Unit teams were called by police to assist with two walkers south of The Schil in the Cheviots on Sunday afternoon

The 54-year-old father and 17-year-oldson set offfrom Morebattle on Saturday and enjoyed a "great day and a fine night's camping out on the hill".

However, as Sunday dawned warm and sunny, and as the temperature climbed, their water ran low and energy started to dip.

Bymid-afternoon, going over the 605m summit of The Schil, the father became unwell, vomiting and dipping in and out of consciousness. His son called for police and mountain rescue but also started suffering from heat exhaustion.

Two passing walkers had come across the stricken party and tried to help by sharing their own dwindling water.

The callout for BSARU arrived shortly after 2pm, and a hasty response Landrover left the team's newbase in Kelso about twenty minutes later

Two team-members were

whisked up onto the border ridge on quad-bikes piloted by the farming family from Cocklawfoot and Sourhope

By the time the team arrived the son had also started to suffer the effects of the sun and his condition was deteriorating.

was deteriorating.
The rescue team, joined by neighbouring Northumberland Mountain Rescue, put up a shelter to provide shade and started rehydration.

Continued on page 3

What's On



Vera writer in Berwick

Page 3

News



Sea, sand and access

Page 4

Competition



Trip to the Seychelles

Page 15

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PUBLIC NOTICES

GENERAL NOTICES

Our Sco#ish Borders

www.scotborders.gov.uk

(Easter Street, Duns) (Temporary Closing) Order 2024 The Scottish Borders Council (Easter Street, Duns) (Temporary Closing) Order 2024 has been made under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended. The Order, which has a maximum duration of 18 months, will come into force at 09:00 on 20 August 2024 and is expected to remain in effect until 19:00 on 22 August 2024 – 24 hour closure. The Order is required for Scottish Water works. When the Order comes into effect no person shall drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle along Easter Street, Duns from the Mount northwards to 40 metres.

an incluss.

The alternative route for southbound traffic is via Easter Street, Tannage Brae,
Teindhillgreen, Castle Street, Currie Street and Easter Street to the point of closure,
for northbound traffic the reverse of the foregoing.

A map showing the restriction and alternative routes can be seen at tland.gov.uk.

(C117 Paxton) (Temporary Closing) Order 2024

The Scottish Borders Council (C117 Paston) (Temporary Closing) Order 2024 has been made under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended. The Order, which has a maximum duration of 18 months, will come into force at 09:30 on 21 August 2024 and is expected to remain in effect until 25:59 on 29 August 2024 and C12 are remained for Scottish Water works.

When the Order comes into effect no person shall drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle along the C117 at Paxton from Merse View to the D81/6. The alternative route for southbound traffic is via the C117, 86460, B6461 and C117 to the point of closure, for northbound traffic the reverse of the foregoing A map showing the restriction and alternative routes can be seen at www.tellmes.cotland.gov.uk.

(A6105 West of Gordon) (Temporary 10mph Speed Restriction) Order 2024

Order 2024

The Scottish Borders Council (A8105 West of Gordon) (Temporary 10mph Speed Restriction) Order 2024 has been made under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended. The Order, which has a maximum duration of 18 months, will come into force on 20 August 2024 and is expected to remain in effect for a period of one day between the hours of 08:00 and 18:00. The Order is required for installation of a new BT Operneach pole.

When the Order comes into effect no person shall drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle at a speed exceeding 10mph along the A6105, west of Gordon. A map showing the restriction can be seen at www.tellmescotland.gov.uk.

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PLANNING NOTICES

Scottish

Borders

COUNCIL

Northumberland County Council

has received and is required to publicise the ing planning applications for the rea

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015. Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990. Reason: LBC Listed agement Procedure) Building Consent - Regulation 3, ALB affecting the setting of a listed building - Regulation 5A, ACA affecting the character or appearance of a Conservation Area -Regulation 5A.

24/02517/LBC, Bamburgh First Ltd, Listed Building Consent: Repaint exterior walls on grade II listed building, Village House 11 Front Street Bamburgh NE69 7BW, LBC,

24/02523/FUL, Dhala Campbell, Demolition of sun room and extension to the rea elevation.,19 Castle Street Norham TD15 2LQ,

24/02670/FUL, Marygate House Trust, External alterations associated with full refurbishment and internal rearrangement of retreat accommodation, Marygate House Marygate Holy Island Berwick-Upon-Tweed TD15 2SD, ACA,

Visit publicaccess.northumberland.gov.uk to view the full application, plans and associated documents. Representations (comments) can be made online or in writing to The Planning Department, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF within 21 days of the date of this notice. These must include the application reference. your name and full postal address (which will ade available on our website)

Rob Murfin - Director of Planning

Date: 15-8-24

FOR ALL YOUR LATEST INFORMATION ON PLANNING PROPOSALS TRAFFIC NOTICES, GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR LICENCES, LICENCES TO SELL ALCOHOL AND PROBATE NOTICES



CLASSIFIED

HOUSE

CLEARANCES

Antique and Modern

Furniture bought

and sold

Drill Hall, Chirnside

(next to Co-op)

Wed, 1-5, Sat, 1-5,

Tel: 01890 818317

07808 919644

FIND YOUR NEW FRONT DOOF

WANTED

GENERAL NOTICES

Bowshiel Solar Farm PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

Voltalia is seeking to develop a Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in East Berwickshire, Scotland The proposed project is near Cockburnspath, approximately 14km southeast of Dunbar. It comprises a 170MWp solar farm and up to 150mw BESS with associated infrastructure.

We are holding our first public consultation event Tuesday 27th August 2024, 3pm - 8pm Cockburnspath Village Hall, TD13 5XY

Join us to see our current plans for the project and studies we will be undertaking. This is an opportunity to share your views and raise any questions

If you can't attend, you can participate in our consultation which is running until the 17th September. We invite you to:

- Visit our online consultation and submit your feedback
- · Request printed materials
- · Get in touch to speak to a member of the team

Please note that comments made in response to this public consultation are not representations to the planning authority. Once a planning application has been submitted, there will be an opportunity to make representation.

Email: Bowshielsolarfarm@erm. Telephone: (+44) 01312216862



Springfield Solar Farm PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

Voltalia is seeking to develop a Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in East Lothian, Scotland. The proposed project is near Oldhamstocks, approximately 8km southeast of Dunbar. It comprises a 165MWp solar farm and up to 150mw BESS with associated infrastructure.

We are holding our first public consultation event Wednesday 28th August 2024, 3pm - 8pm Oldhamstocks Village Hall, TD13 5XN

Join us to see our current plans for the project and studies we will be undertaking. This is an opportunity to share your views and raise any questions

If you can't attend, you can participate in our consultation which is running until the 17th September. We invite you to:

- Visit our online consultation and submit your feedback
- Request printed materials
- Get in touch to speak to a member of the team

Please note that comments made in response to this public consultation are not representations to the planning authority. Once a planning application has been submitted, there will be an opportunity to make representation.

vw.springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk gfieldsolarfarm Email: Springfieldsolarfarm@err Telephone: (+44) 01312216863



APPENDIX E ROUND ONE: CONSULTATION MATERIALS

- E1 FEEDBACK FORM
- E2 CONSULTATION BANNERS
- E3 PROJECT INFORMATION BOOKLET
- E4 SITE LAYOUT & KEY CONSTRAINTS

Bowshiel Solar Farm Project Feedback Form



Thank you for considering our proposals. Please take a moment to provide your feedback below.

l. What is your understanding of the need for solar energy/ the project?		
2. Do you support our pr	oposals for Bowshiel Solar Fa	ırm Project? (Tick one)
Yes	☐ No	Neutral / Not sure yet
Please provide further d	letail.	
	ation shared, do you have a boor the project? (Tick one)	etter understanding of the planning
Yes	☐ No	Not sure
4. What issues or topics	are most important to you in	relation to our proposals?
5. Do you have any idea opportunities for the loc		talia can help provide benefits and



6. Do you have any further comments on our proposals for the Bowshiel Solar Farm Project?			
7. Were the consultation materials o	lear and e	asy to understand?	
Yes	No	Neutral Neutral	
8. How would you describe your interest? (please tick one)			
Local resident / landowner		Local business owner	
Visitor to the area		Interest group representative (specify name)	
Other (please specify)			
	-		
Your information:			
	ed if you wi	ited in the consultation. Please fill out your sh to remain anonymous), and if you wish to be our name and email.	
Name:		_	
Postcode (required):			
Email address:			
I would be happy to be contacted by	email abo	ut future consultation activities on this project:	
Yes	☐ No		
Thank you.			
We kindly request your feedback to ou	ır consultat	ion by September 17th. This can be returned by:	

- Emailing a copy to: Bowshielsolarfarm@erm.com.
- Using our freepost service by writing 'Freepost' followed by 'BOWSHIEL SOLAR FARM' onto an envelope and dropping it in your nearest post-box.

To view this consultation online and submit a response electronically, please visit our online consultation page accessed via our project website: www.bowshielsolarfarm.co.uk

Privacy Statement/ Data Protection: Personal information will be processed and handled securely in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. By completing this feedback form, you are agreeing that we can hold and process data in relation to the current consultation exercise for the purposes of the Springfield/Bowshiel Solar and BESS project. We hold all personal data in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679 and your personal data will not be transferred outside of the European Economic Area. We will only share your personal data with members of the project team for planning evaluation and project development purposes. Your identifiable personal data will not be used for any other purposes without your prior consent. In the event when a Pre-Application Consultation Report is submitted with the planning application, your feedback will be anonymised. Voltalia's Privacy Policy can be found on our website: www.voltalia.com.





Thank you for participating in our consultation on the proposed Bowshiel Solar Farm project

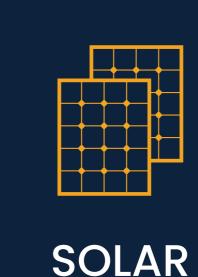
The purpose of this event is to seek your views on our preliminary proposals for the Bowshiel Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project.

This event provides information on the site location, layout design, infrastructure components and environmental considerations.

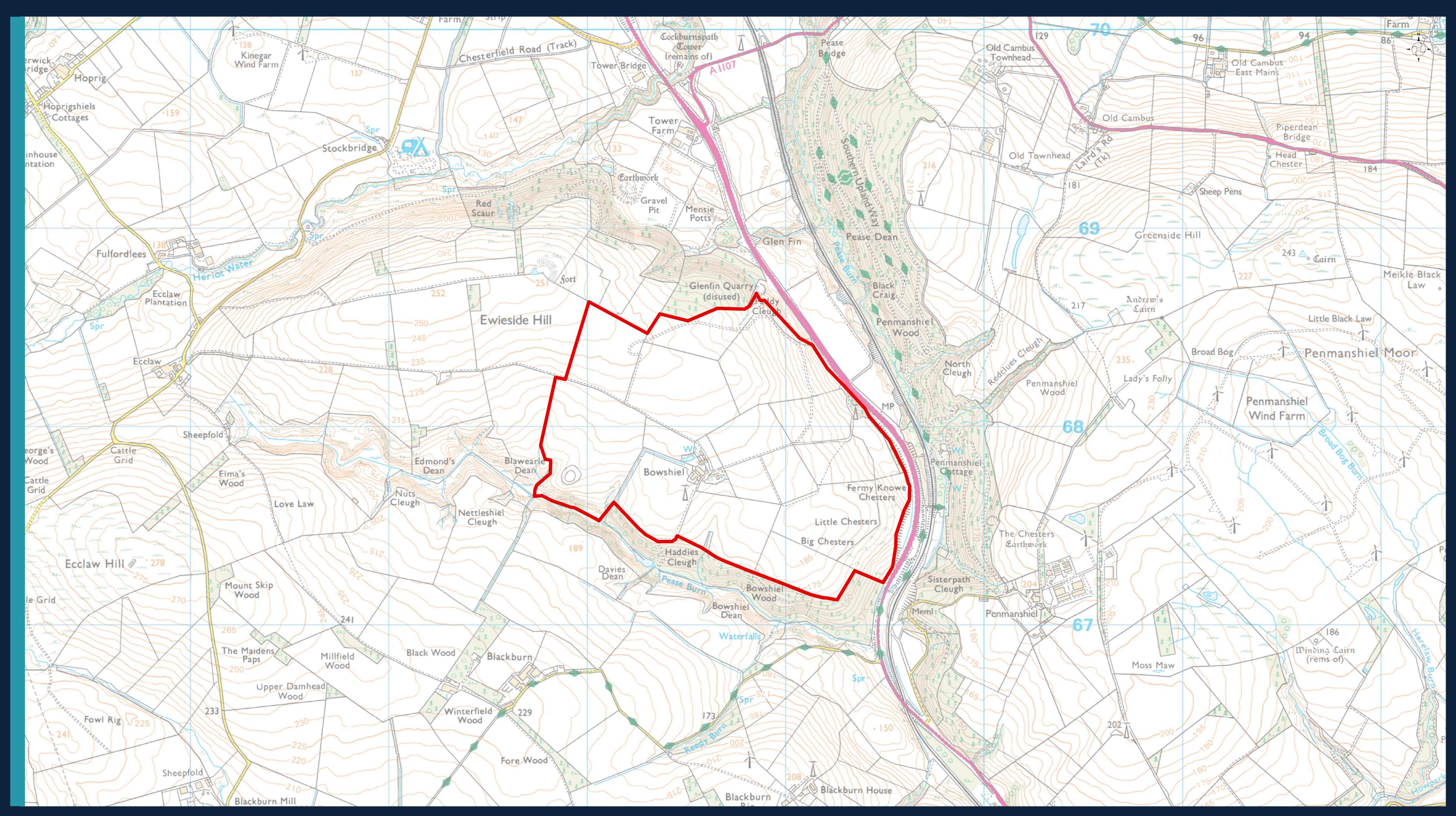
Voltalia is committed to engaging early with the local community and key stakeholders. It is important to us that those with an interest in the project have the opportunity to view and comment on the plans as they take shape.

All feedback received, along with ongoing technical assessments and consultation with statutory bodies, will be carefully considered in the design development process.

Located approximately 2km south of Cockburnspath, East Berwickshire, the project has a potential solar capacity of up to 170MWp, combined with a battery storage capacity of up to 150MW.



BATTERY ENERGY
STORAGE SYSTEM



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WHAT WE DO

Founded in 2005, Voltalia is an independent Power Producer (IPP) in the renewable energy market, developing, constructing, and operating solar, wind, hydro, biomass, and storage projects.

Operating across three continents and in over 20 countries, Voltalia has 2.37GW of installed generating capacity (including over 1GW of solar generation) and a 16.6GW pipeline of projects globally.

With a mission to improve the global environment by fostering local development, all of Voltalia's sites will contribute towards addressing national and local electricity needs by generating an affordable and renewable source of clean energy.

KEY FIGURES



2.37 GW installed generating capacity



16.6 GW pipeline of projects



VOLTALIA IN SCOTLAND

Voltalia has a long-term commitment to renewable energy development in the UK.

With plans for solar, wind and hybrid projects in Scotland, Voltalia has the capabilities and expertise to deliver projects which will help Scotland achieve its net zero ambitions by 2045.

Projects currently being progressed by Voltalia in Scotland include:

- Springfield Solar Farm project, East Lothian
- Bowshiel Solar Farm project, East Berwickshire
- Cruach Clenamacrie Wind Farm, Argyll and Bute



Find out more about Voltalia at:

www.voltalia.com

SOLAR • WIND • HYDRO • BIOMASS • STORAGE



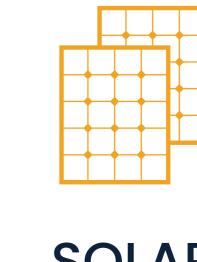


VOLTALIA UK



The Bowshiel Solar Farm project site occupies an area of approximately 190 hectares with proposed infrastructure comprising:

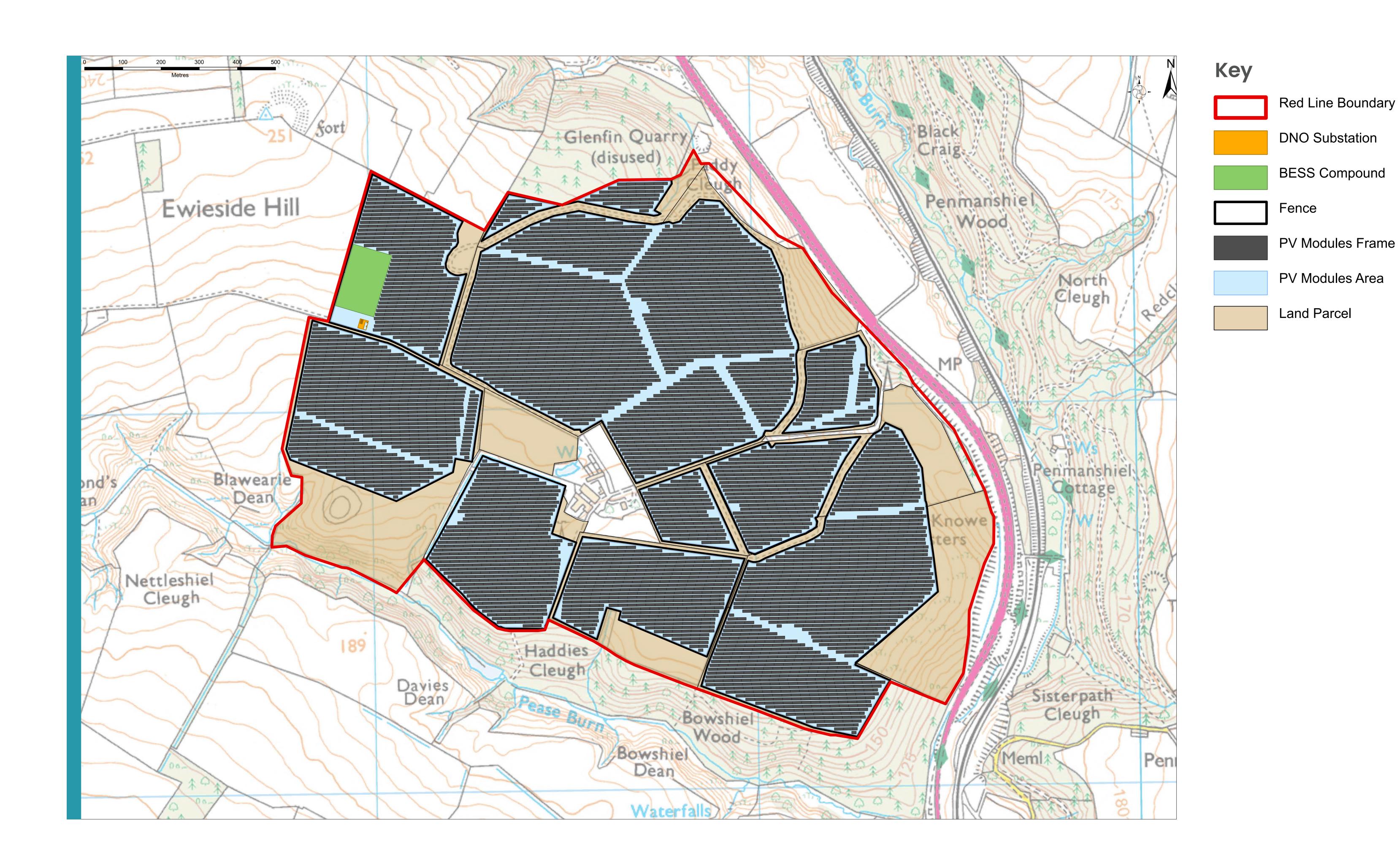
- Solar PV modules and mounting structures (with a potential generating capacity of 170MWp)
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with a capacity of up to 150MW
- On-site substation and cabling
- Operation and Maintenance building



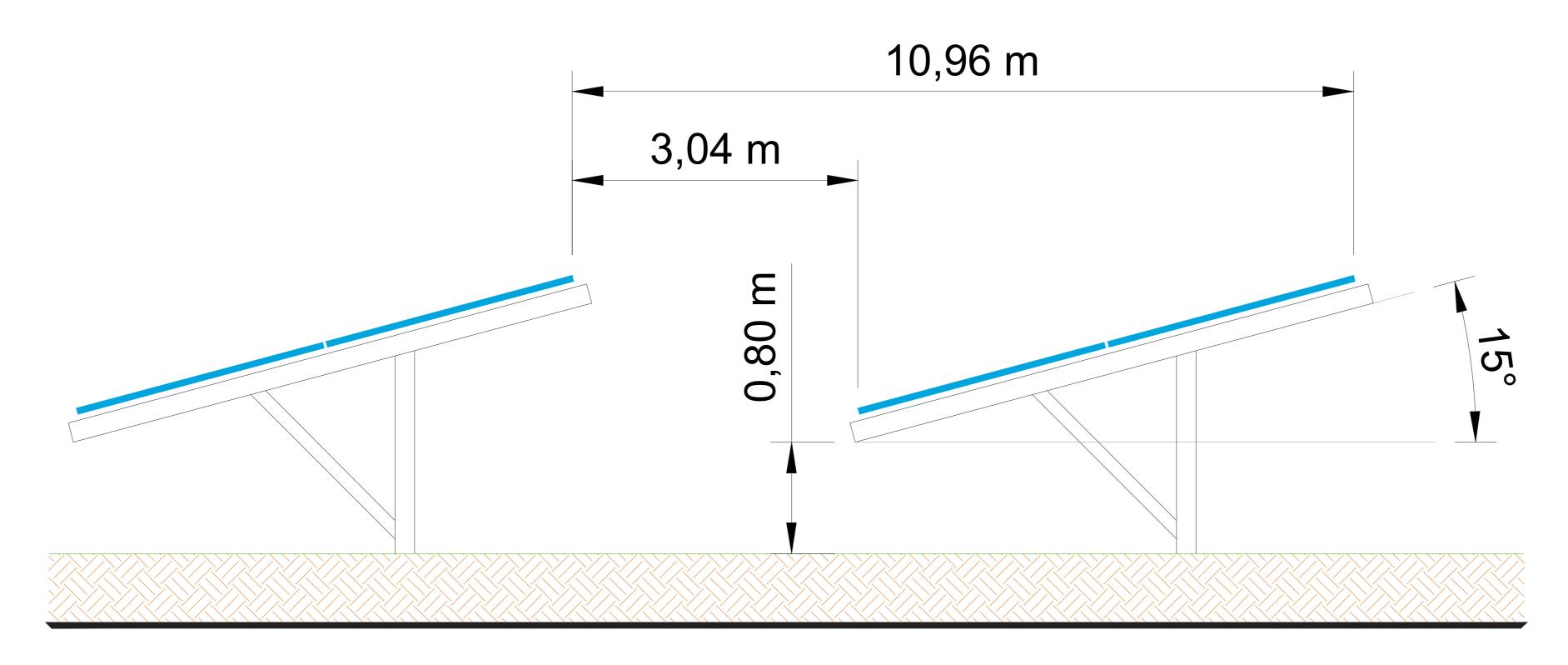
SOLAR



BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM



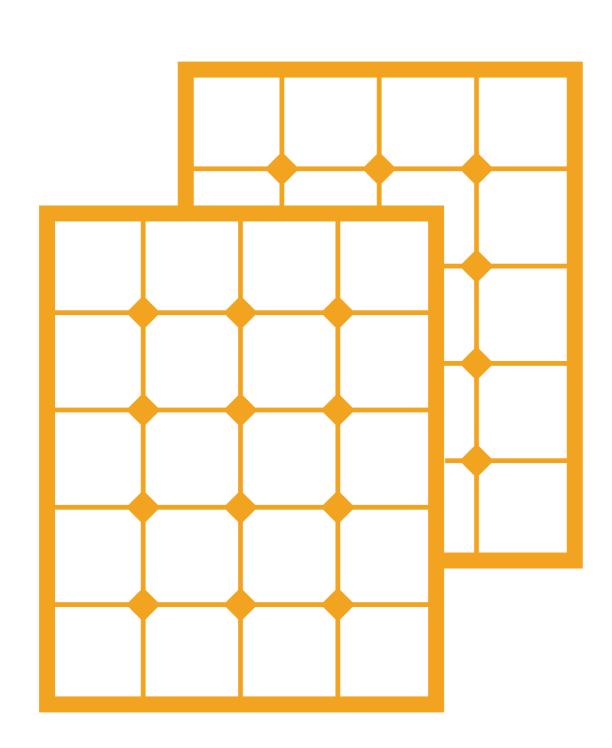
Indicative lateral view of the structure







POLICY CONTEXT



The UK Government's Energy
White Paper (2021) committed to
decarbonise the UK's electricity
system by 2035 with a "focus
on building a secure, home
grown energy sector that
reduces reliance on fossil fuels
and exposure to volatile global
wholesale energy prices."

The Scottish Government's
Draft Energy Strategy and Just
Transition Plan (2023) sets out an
ambition for more than 20GW of
additional low-cost renewable
electricity generation capacity

by 2030, including increased contribution from solar energy.

The Strategy acknowledges that "Solar is a long established, commercially viable renewable technology that has been at the forefront of decarbonisation efforts" and sets out an aim to "maximise the contribution solar can make to a just, inclusive, transition to net zero." In 2023, the Scottish Government proposed a solar deployment ambition of 4-6GW by 2030.



The Bowshiel Solar
Farm project site has
the opportunity to bring
forward up to 170MWp of
renewable electricity.

The location utilises a planned grid connection.

WHYTHIS LOCATION?

The Bowshiel Solar Farm project site has been selected on the basis of the following attributes:

Proximity to feasible grid connection

Viable predicted solar energy yield

Availability of sufficient land area and grade within solar development guidelines

Avoidance of environmental designations of national importance





SECTION 36

Proposals to construct, extend or operate an onshore electricity generating station with a capacity of over 50 megawatts (MW) require the consent of Scottish Ministers under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989.

Onshore electricity generation, including electricity storage, from renewables that exceeds a 50MW capacity are classed as national developments. These contribute to strategic renewable electricity generation (as defined in the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)).

Voltalia intends to submit a Section 36 application for consent to be determined by Scottish Ministers and administered by the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU).

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA):

As the project falls under Schedule 2 of the Electricity Works (EIA) (Scotland)
Regulations 2017, an EIA report is required to support the application for consent. The EIA process seeks to identify and assess the potential environmental impacts of the project.

Section 36 (S36) Consenting Process Outline:

Pre-application consultation with Energy Consents Unit (ECU)

EIA Screening / Scoping

Pre-application consultation with stakeholders

We are currently in the "EIA Scoping" and "Pre-application consultation with stakeholders" stages of the project.

Submission of S36 application to ECU

Processing of S36 application

Determination of S36 application by Scottish Ministers





ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS PLAN



LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

Landscape and Visual Assessment specialists (Abseline Landscape Planning) carried out an initial site walkover visit in June 2024. This has enabled identification of potential viewpoints, to be consulted upon, and once agreed will form the basis of the visual assessment.

ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

A cultural assessment walkover survey was completed in early June 2024. This included a setting assessment for heritage assets. A geophysical survey will be scheduled for later this year to identify the presence of below ground archaeological features.

ECOLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY

Breeding bird surveys
have been completed.
Ecological surveys
commenced in May 2024
and are ongoing until
September 2024. Surveys
include great crested
newt, bat, otter, water vole,
badger, red squirrel and
habitat/vegetation surveys.





ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS PLAN



WATER RESOURCES GEOLOGY AND AND FLOOD RISK

An assessment of potential impacts upon the water environment will be carried out, including consideration of potential flood risk.

SOILS

An assessment of impacts on geology and soils will be undertaken incorporating a contaminated land assessment for the site of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

TRAFFIC AND **TRANSPORT**

An assessment will be carried out to determine the potential impact of construction traffic on the local road network in consultation with roads authorities. Appropriate construction traffic access routes will be identified along with any required mitigation measures.

NOISE AND VIBRATION

An assessment of construction activities and construction traffic noise impacts will be carried out. This will involve background noise monitoring which will be undertaken to characterise the local acoustic environment at the nearest sensitive receptors.





COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Voltalia are committed to working with the community throughout the design, construction and operation of the project. We want to support the communities close to our proposed developments and make a positive change for current and future generations.

We are committed to providing local environmental, social and economic benefits through our projects and look to support local communities through:

- Community Benefit Funds
- Volunteering
- Local employment
- Educational workshops

We aim to contribute towards addressing energy needs by generating an affordable and renewable source of clean energy that contributes towards energy security and the circular economy, while helping Scotland to achieve its net zero ambitions for 2045.

We want to hear from the local community about what is important to them and what Voltalia and this project can do to work collaboratively and create positive lasting local impacts.

We invite you to share your feedback on this and any ideas or opportunities you may have.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

Voltalia is keen to give local businesses every opportunity to benefit from the construction and operation of the project.

Please share your community benefit ideas with us...



If you are a local business or service provider, please get in touch via our project website:

www.bowlshielsolarfarm.co.uk









INDICATIVE PROJECT TIMELINE

FIRST PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Summer 2024

O

•EIA surveys
•Public Consultation Event

•Design Development
•Design Development
•Design Development

SECOND PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Early 2025 Spring 2025 Summer 2025

- Public Consultation Event
- Design Development
- EIA Reporting
- Design Development
- EIA Reporting
- S36 Application Submission

Thank you for visiting our public consultation event

PLEASE SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK ON OUR PROPOSALS

We need your feedback by Tuesday 17th September 2024.

Your feedback is important to us and we would encourage you to complete a feedback form and return it to us at our event or via the contact methods listed to the right.

Feedback received during public consultation will help to inform our proposals as we progress with the project.

YOU CAN PROVIDE FEEDBACK BY:

Accessing our online consultation and submitting feedback online via

www.bowshielsolarfarm.co.uk

Emailing your feedback form to bowshielsolarfarm@erm.com

Posting your feedback form, free of charge, by writing 'Freepost BOWSHIEL SOLAR FARM' onto an envelope.









www.bowshielsolarfarm.co.uk www.voltalia.com

Why solar?

POLICY CONTEXT

The UK Government's Energy White Paper (2021) committed to decarbonise the UK's electricity system by 2035 with a "focus on building a secure, home grown energy sector that reduces reliance on fossil fuels and exposure to volatile global wholesale energy prices."

The Scottish Government's Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan (2023) sets out an ambition for more than 20GW of additional low-cost renewable electricity generation capacity by 2030, including increased contribution from solar energy.

The Strategy acknowledges that "Solar is a long established, commercially viable renewable technology that has been at the forefront of decarbonisation efforts" and sets out an aim to "maximise the contribution solar can make to a just, inclusive, transition to net zero." In 2023, the Scottish Government proposed a solar deployment ambition of 4-6GW by 2030.



WHAT WE DO

Founded in 2005, Voltalia is an independent Power Producer (IPP) in the renewable energy market, developing, constructing, and operating solar, wind, hydro, biomass, and storage projects.

Operating across three continents and in over 20 countries, Voltalia has 2.37GW of installed generating capacity (including over 1GW of solar generation) and a 16.6GW pipeline of projects globally.

With a mission to improve the global environment by fostering local development, all of Voltalia's sites will contribute towards addressing national and local electricity needs by generating an affordable and renewable source of clean energy.

CEY FIGURES OUR PRESENCE 2.37 GW installed generating capacity 16.6 GW pipeline of projects

VOLTALIA IN SCOTLAND

Voltalia has a long-term commitment to renewable energy development in the UK.

With plans for solar, wind and hybrid projects in Scotland, Voltalia has the capabilities and expertise to deliver projects which will help Scotland achieve its net zero ambitions by 2045.

Projects currently being progressed by Voltalia in Scotland include:

- Springfield Solar Farm project, East Lothian
- Bowshiel Solar Farm project, East Berwickshire
- Cruach Clenamacrie Wind Farm, Argyll and Bute

BOWSHIEL SOLAR FARM PROJECT IN SCOTLAND

We aim to contribute towards addressing energy needs by generating affordable and renewable sources of clean energy. Projects like Bowshiel Solar Farm project will contribute toward energy security and the circular economy, while helping Scotland achieve its net zero and solar deployment ambitions.

Voltalia hope that the Bowshiel Solar Farm project will be able to make an important contribution to increasing Britain's homegrown energy capacity.



Find out more about Voltalia at:

www.voltalia.com



About the Bowshiel Solar Farm project

ABOUT

The Bowshiel Solar Farm project is located approximately 2km south of the village of Cockburnspath in East Berwickshire.

It has a potential renewable energy generating capacity of 170MWp, combined with a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) capacity of up to 150MW.

Scalaring Coll Carbon College College

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We are in the early phases of developing our plans for the Bowshiel Solar Farm project.

Feedback from stakeholders will play a key role in shaping a design that delivers clean, secure, and affordable electricity while also safeguarding the surrounding environment.

WHY THIS SITE?



The Bowshiel Solar Farm project site has been selected on the basis of the following attributes:



About the Bowshiel Solar Farm project

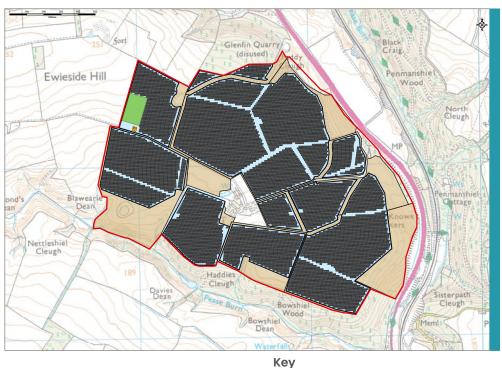
Red Line Boundary

DNO Substation

BESS Compound

Fence

PROPOSED LAYOUT

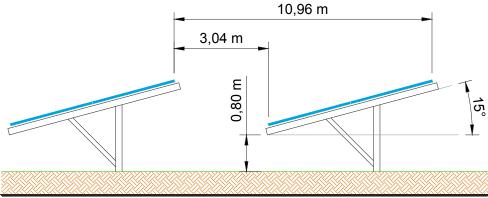


This plan shows an indicative layout for the site. It occupies an area of approximately 190 hectares with proposed infrastructure comprising:

- Solar PV modules and mounting structures with a potential generating capacity of 170MWp
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with a capacity of up to 150MW
- · On-site substation and cabling
- · Operation and Maintenance building

PV Modules Frame PV Modules Area Land Parcel

Indicative lateral view of the structure







The consenting process

SECTION 36:

Proposals to construct, extend or operate an onshore electricity generating station with a capacity of over 50 megawatts (MW) require the consent of Scottish Ministers under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989.

Onshore electricity generation, including electricity storage, from renewables that exceeds a 50MW capacity are classed as national developments. These contribute to strategic renewable electricity generation (as defined in the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)).

Voltalia intends to submit a Section 36 application for consent to be determined by Scottish Ministers and administered by the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU).

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA):

As the project falls under **Schedule 2 of the Electricity Works (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations 2017**, an EIA report is required to support the application for consent. The EIA process seeks to identify and assess the potential environmental impacts of the project.

Pre-application consultation with Energy Consents Unit (ECU) Section 36 (S36) Consenting Process Outline:

EIA Screening / Scoping

Pre-application consultation with stakeholders

We are currently in the "EIA Scoping" and "Pre-application consultation with stakeholders" stages of the project.

Submission of S36 application to ECU

Processing of S36 application

Determination of S36 application by Scottish Ministers

Indicative Project Timeline

FIRST PUBLIC CONSULTATION Summer 2024 Autumn 2024 Winter 2024 • EIA surveys • EIA surveys Design Development Public Consultation Event • EIA Reporting • EIA Scoping Design Development **SECOND PUBLIC CONSULTATION Summer 2025 Early 2025** Spring 2025 Public Consultation Event Design Development • \$36 Application Submission Design Development • EIA Reporting • EIA Reporting

Environmental Constraints Plan



Assessing project impacts

WATER RESOURCES AND FLOOD RISK

An assessment of potential impacts upon the water environment will be carried out, including consideration of potential flood risk.

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

An assessment of impacts on geology and soils will be undertaken incorporating a contaminated land assessment for the site of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

An assessment will be carried out to determine the potential impact of construction traffic on the local road network in consultation with roads authorities. Appropriate construction traffic access routes will be identified along with any required mitigation measures.

NOISE AND VIBRATION

An assessment of construction activities and construction traffic noise impacts will be carried out. This will involve background noise monitoring which will be undertaken to characterise the local acoustic environment at the nearest sensitive receptors.

ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

A cultural assessment walkover survey was completed in early June 2024. This included a setting assessment for heritage assets. A geophysical survey will be scheduled for later this year to identify the presence of below ground archaeological features.

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

Landscape and Visual Assessment specialists, Abseline, carried out an initial site walkover visit in June 2024. This has enabled identification of potential viewpoints to be consulted upon and once agreed will form the basis of the visual assessment. Consideration will be given to public rights of way and these will not be removed.

ECOLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY

Breeding bird surveys have been completed. Ecological surveys commenced in May 2024 and are ongoing until September 2024. Surveys include great crested newt, bat, otter, water vole, badger, red squirrel and habitat/vegetation surveys.

Working with the community

COMMUNITY BENEFIT

We are committed to working with the community throughout the design, construction and operation of the project. We want to support the communities close to our proposed developments and make a positive change for current and future generations.

We are committed to providing local environmental, social and economic benefits through our projects and look to support local communities through:

- · Community Benefit Funds
- Volunteering
- · Local employment
- Educational workshops

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

Voltalia is keen to give local businesses every opportunity to benefit from the construction and operation of the project.

If you are a local business or service provider, please get in touch via our project website:





HEARING FROM YOU

We aim to contribute towards addressing energy needs by generating an affordable and renewable source of clean energy. This will contribute towards energy security and the circular economy, while helping Scotland to achieve its net zero ambitions for 2045.

We want to hear from the local community about what is important to you and what Voltalia and this project can do to work collaboratively and create positive lasting local impacts.



We invite you to share your feedback on this and any ideas or opportunities you may have using the contact us details on the next page of this information brochure.

Participate in our Public Consultations

YOUR FEEDBACK WILL INFORM OUR PLANS

The Bowshiel Solar Farm project's first Public Consultation is taking place between 20th August and 17th September 2024.

We value your feedback and would encourage you to respond to our consultations. We need your feedback by **Tuesday 17th September 2024** and you can do this in the following ways:



Viewing our online consultation and submitting feedback online, accessed via

www.bowshielsolarfarm.co.uk



Emailing your feedback form to

bowshielsolarfarm@erm.com



Posting your feedback form, free of charge, by writing

'Freepost BOWSHIEL SOLAR FARM'

onto an envelope and popping it into your nearest post box

Comments received during our consultations will inform our proposals, as well as ongoing technical assessments, and consultation with statutory stakeholders and the local authority.

We will report on how your feedback has been considered at our next public consultation.

WILL THERE BE FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE WITH THE PROJECT?

We are gathering information from our detailed assessments in order to refine the proposed project.

We welcome you to visit our website where the plans can be viewed and suggestions regarding the proposal can be put forward.

WHEN WILL THE NEXT PUBLIC CONSULTATION BE?

We intend on submitting our planning application in 2025.

Prior to this, we will be undertaking further public consultation with a range of stakeholders, including the local community and holding another public consultation event in early 2025.



GET IN TOUCH

To keep updated with progress on the project and future consultations, please visit our project website:

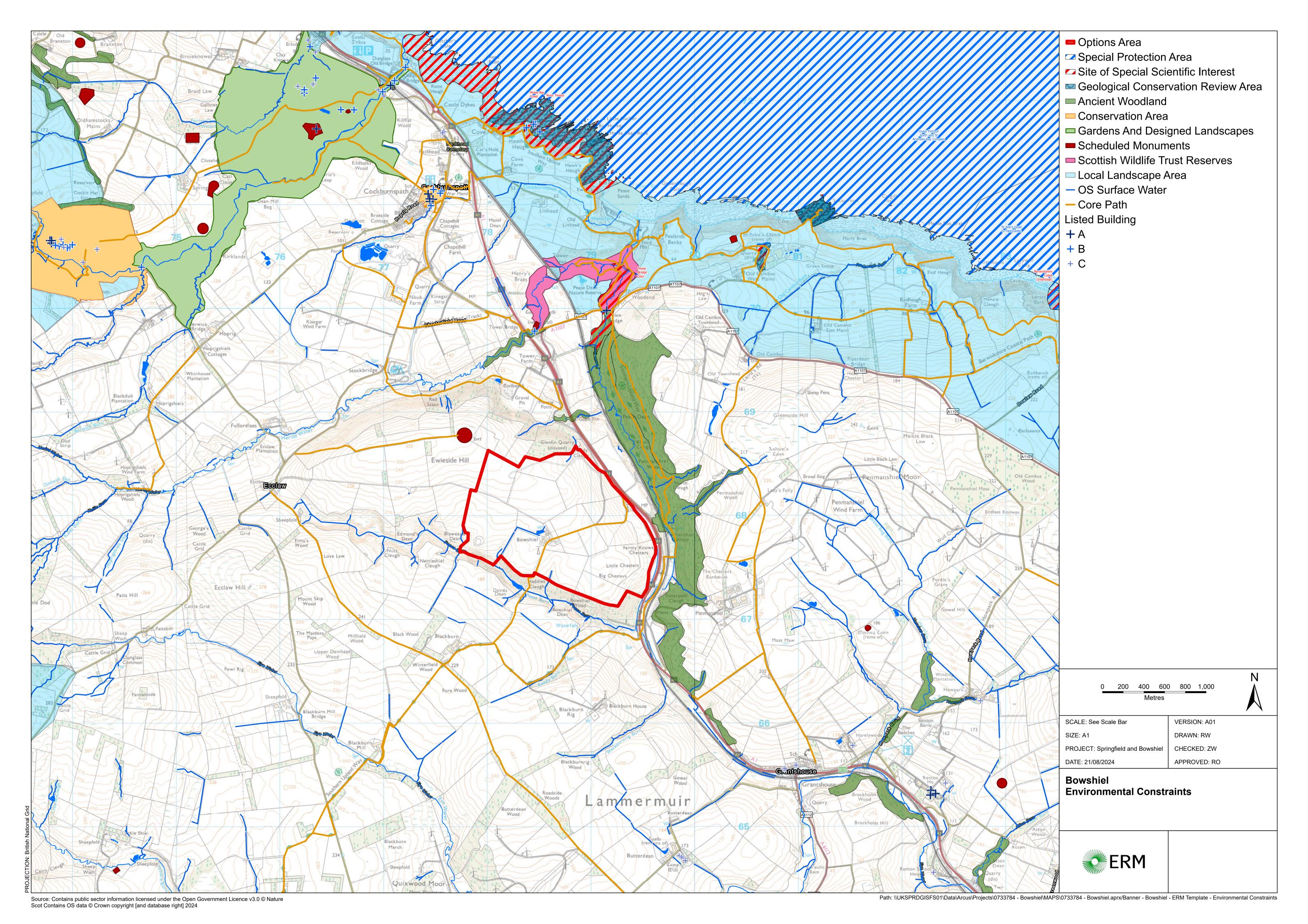
www.bowshielsolarfarm.co.uk

To get in touch with our project team, please reach out anytime to:

bowshiel@voltalia.com

SOLAR • WIND • HYDRO • BIOMASS • STORAGE





APPENDIX F COMMUNICATION CONSULTATION

FOLLOWING

F1 - FAQ's

F2 – JANUARY PROJECT UPDATE LETTER

@ Why here? Have alternative sites been identified?

Many factors need to align to bring forward sites for solar projects like Bowshiel. The availability of grid connection is important to the site selection process as well as availability of good sunlight levels, suitable topography, accessibility and avoidance of national/international cultural and natural heritage designations. At this stage, following surveys and feasibility studies, this site has provided alignment across different factors that tell us it could be viable. The ongoing Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and consultation process will confirm this for us. A description of reasonable alternatives will be included in the EIA Report.

top of the page

@ Why can't it be located on a brownfield site?

Voltalia continues to explore opportunities for viable sites and the use of brownfield sites and rural sites isn't an either/or situation. Unfortunately, brownfield sites often pose challenges of access, unfavourable ground conditions, limited space to make it viable, availability of light and more. That is not to say that Voltalia does not also explore these opportunities.

top of the page

@ Why is the project as large as it is?

The land made available for assessment is 190 hectares in total, however the scale of the project is subject to refinement and changes to layout. We understand this is one of the largest proposals currently in Scotland at this time and the amount of available land is key to the viability of the project.

Importantly, during peak operation, it is likely to produce up to 170MWp of electricity. This will be used to feed into the power network.

The total number of panels is unconfirmed at this time and will be informed by ongoing surveys and assessments.

top of the page

@ Haven't you already fixed the site layout?

No, what has been shared to date is not final. We are making changes to the design over the course of the project and taking on feedback from the consultations as well as feedback received through engagement with individuals and organisations. We welcome the opportunity to hear from residents at any time, and we will share an updated layout at our next public exhibition.

top of the page

What are the visual impacts?

As part of the design development process, we are exploring areas where the layout needs to be refined so that it is set back from key receptors. We know that parts of the site may be more visible at certain vantage points than others and we have begun discussions to explore opportunities for screening and other mitigation.

How far the panels are 'set back' from properties is determined on a site-by-site basis considering such factors as local landform/land cover variations, elevation, property orientation, distance and aspect.

A visual impact assessment will be carried out to determine the level of effects on sensitive receptors with the findings reported in the EIAR.

top of the page

@Isn't this site better for agricultural use, to help ensure Scotland's food security?

We need land for both agriculture and energy production. There have been independent studies in the United Kingdom that have found solar farms do not threaten food security. However, a big risk to food security is climate change which could reduce the UK's best farmland. Projects like Bowshiel can play a role in fighting climate change

The majority of the agricultural land within the site is classed as Grade 4.1. No Grade 1 or 2 land will be impacted.

top of the page

@ Won't the project stagnate the site for future use and impact soil quality?

The Proposed Development will not irreversibly disturb the ground or impact how the land can be used, should alternative uses be considered in future.

Once the solar farm is built, it could actually make the soil better over time because things like application of fertilisers, pesticides, or tilling the ground won't be taking place. Without plants to host them, crop diseases will die out, and the soil will have a chance to rest, which should make it healthier for growing crops in the future. When the solar farm is up and running, the land will be covered with a mix of wildflowers and grasses.

top of the page

O How are the impacts to local wildlife being considered?

During 2024 we carried out a range of ecological surveys to understand potential impacts on species including bats, badgers, otter, water vole and red squirrel. A breeding bird survey was also carried out in 2023. The results will inform our scheme design as well as the design of mitigation measures to ensure wildlife is protected during the construction and operation of the development.

We will seek to provide a measurable improvement in biodiversity on the site and for the benefit of the local area. Without the application of pesticides, the land will be further undisturbed, leading to more small invertebrates for bats and badgers to eat.

The layout will be preserving existing hedgerows and mature trees by keeping panel areas within field boundaries. We agree these habitats are important and they will also have a buffer from any panel areas.

We will be looking at tools and collaborations with people to monitor the presence of wildlife once operational.

A good source of further reading on this is within 'The Natural Capital Value of Solar', produced by Solar Energy UK[1].

[1] The Natural Capital Value of Solar • Solar Energy UK

@ Will the solar panels increase the risk and effects of flooding?

Research suggests that the addition of solar panels over a grassy field does not have a large effect on the volume of run-off, the peak discharge, or the time to peak discharge. Whilst the kinetic energy of water draining from the solar panel is considerably greater than that of rainfall, the presence of well-maintained grass cover and if necessary the inclusion of a buffer section, can adequately mitigate adverse hydrological impacts in the form of excess run-off or siltation of surface water through soil erosion.

An assessment of effects in relation to water resources and flood risk is to be carried out and findings will be reported in the EIAR. This will include the development of an outline surface water drainage strategy in consultation with the local authority to ascertain their requirements for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) design.

top of the page

O How are you going to consider cumulative impacts from other developments in the area, particularly on traffic?

We are aware of other energy-related development proposals coming forward in the area. The EIA will include assessment of cumulative effects arising from the Proposed Development in conjunction with other proposed or consented developments. With respect to traffic, a Transport Statement will be prepared which will assess potential cumulative effects of known committed developments and outline measures to mitigate the impact of HGV traffic on the surrounding road network during construction. These measures will form part of a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) which will be agreed with Scottish Borders Council and Transport Scotland.

top of the page

What are the community benefits and ownership?

We believe that our renewable energy schemes should also provide meaningful benefits locally. We will take guidance and learning from other projects and through engagement with organisations in Scotland. We will be able to share more about what that monetary value looks like in due course.

We recently asked the community to provide suggestions on how we could contribute to local needs and using this feedback we are exploring these opportunities. We want to share more about our plans at the next consultation and we continue to invite suggestions from stakeholders about their local projects and community priorities.

top of the page

@ Are you really interested in engaging with the local community?

We understand that the first stage of consultation provided early information about our plans, and it came as a surprise. We know that many residents are interested in our plans and we want to work through questions so that everyone has correct information as we have it available.

We are planning ways to expand the frequency of information sharing about our progress. We want to create ways to engage in a productive way, so that everyone finds the opportunity beneficial.

Voltalia encourages residents to come forward and speak with us about their concerns or specific questions.

top of the page

Dear Sir/Madam

Bowshiel Solar Farm & BESS project update

You may be aware that Voltalia is seeking to develop the Bowshiel Solar Farm & BESS Project in East Berwickshire. I am writing to provide an update on the Project and how you can continue to have your say on the proposals moving forward.

Following our first round of consultation in August 2024, all feedback has now been collated and reviewed by the project team. Details on how this has shaped the proposals will be shared as part of our second round of public consultation. This has been rescheduled to spring to allow for receipt of, and subsequent consideration of, the Scoping Opinion which we are awaiting from the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU).

We will update the local community with revised public consultation dates in due course.

Next steps

During our consultation in spring, you will see our updated plans for the project, along with indicative visualisations. We encourage residents to come forward and raise any questions or concerns with us. All feedback is welcomed and will be carefully considered during design development.

In addition to providing feedback to us prior to submission of the application for development consent, in due course you will have the opportunity to make formal representations on the application to Scottish Government directly following submission. We will share details on how this can be done.

Find out more

If you would like to find out more about the Project, please visit our website, which includes responses to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that we have gathered so far (www.bowshielsolarfarm.co.uk).

If you have any questions regarding the Project, please get in contact via bowshiel@voltalia.com.

Yours faithfully,

Alexander Hamilton

Senior Project Manager

Voltalia UK



APPENDIX G ROUND TWO: NOTICES AND PRESS

- G1 CONSULTATION POSTCARD ISSUED TO LOCAL HOUSEHOLDS AND PREMISES
- G2 COPY OF NOTIFICATION EMAIL
- G3 EAST LOTHIAN COURIER 20 FEBRUARY
- G4 THE BORDER TELEGRAPH 19 FEBRUARY
- G5 THE BERWICKSHIRE NEWS 20 FEBRUARY

Bowshiel Solar Farm project Second consultation event

WE WANT TO SHARE OUR UPDATED PLANS

We will be sharing how your feedback has informed our plans to date.

We invite you to participate in our second round of consultation, attend our event and provide your further feedback

The consultation period is open between **3rd March and 30th March.** More details are described overleaf.



To find out more, please visit our website by scanning the QR code or via:

www.bowshielsolarfarm.co.uk

You can help shape our proposals by telling us what matters to you and your community.

Voltalia is an international energy and service provider in the renewable energy market.

With a mission to improve the global environment and foster local development, all of Voltalia's projects seek to contribute towards addressing national and local electricity needs by generating an affordable and renewable source of clean energy.

We are seeking to develop Bowshiel Solar Farm, which is a hybrid solar and BESS development in the Scottish Borders.

If developed, Bowshiel Solar Farm will contribute to Scotland's goal of generating *more than 20GW* of onshore renewable energy by 2030.



Bowshiel Solar Farm project Second consultation event



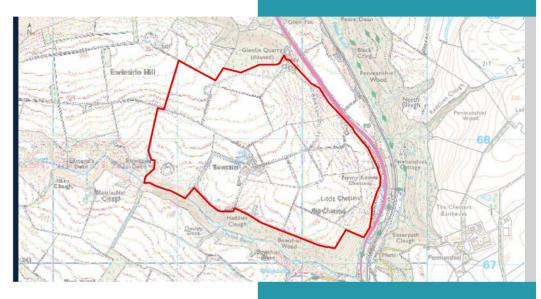
Located approximately 2km south of Cockburnspath, we are proposing to develop the Bowshiel Solar Farm project, which comprises a solar farm of up to 170MWp capacity, up to 150MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure.

Our revised plans have taken into account local community and wider consultee feedback and we would like to take this opportunity to share it with you.

The drop-in event will take place on:

Wednesday 12th March 2025
Between 3:00pm and 8:00pm
At Cockburnspath Village Hall, TD13 5XY

There is no need to register for attendance; please come along during this time at your convenience to speak with a member of the project team. If you are unable to attend the event in person, you can still share your feedback via the contact methods detailed on this invite.



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Please note that comments made in response to this public consultation are not representations to Scottish Ministers.

Once a planning application has been submitted, there will be an opportunity to make representation.

We invite you to access more information about the project via our website and to provide feedback to our consultation either in person, online or by getting in contact via the below. We need your feedback by 30th March 2025:

Email: bowshielsolarfarm@erm.com Web: www.bowshielsolarfarm.co.uk Telephone: (+44) 0131 221 6862 From: ERM Bowshiel Solar Farm

To: JHayward2@scotborders.gov.uk

Bcc: Alexander HAMILTON; Luke MAJOR

Subject: Bowshiel Solar Farm & BESS second period of public consultation

Date: 25 February 2025 17:09:00

Attachments: <u>image003.png</u>

image004.png image005.png image006.png image007.png image008.png

Dear John,

We invite you to participate in our second consultation period for our proposed Bowshiel Solar Farm project. We are using this consultation to share how feedback to date has informed our plans and we welcome further feedback.

The Bowshiel Solar Farm project

As you may be aware, Voltalia is seeking to develop a Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in East Berwickshire, Scotland. The site is near Cockburnspath, approximately 14km southeast of Dunbar. The Proposed Development comprises a solar farm of up to 170MWp and a BESS of up to 150MW BESS with associated infrastructure.

Our second consultation period is open between March 3rd and March 30th 2025. We are holding a public drop-in event on Wednesday 12th March 2025 at Cockburnspath Village Hall, TD13 5XY, 3pm - 8pm.

We would like to give you an opportunity to share your views and raise any questions ahead of the public event, by **inviting you to attend an early viewing of the materials at 2pm**. This is to allow a full hour to discuss your thoughts on the project, or our nearby Springfield Project which you will receive a separate email about. Please do let us know if this is of interest.

Accessing our consultation materials & providing feedback

If you are unable to join us at our drop in event, please visit our website below to view our consultation information online. These will be available from 3rd March 2025 until the close of the consultation on 30th March 2025.

Any consultation responses must be received no later than 30th March 2025. Responses received after this time may not be considered. There are several ways to submit responses:

- Post your response to "Freepost Bowshiel Solar Farm"
- Email your response to <u>Bowshielsolarfarm@erm.com</u>
- Complete the online feedback form at <u>www.bowshielsolarfarm.co.uk/</u>
- Tell us your response over the phone on (+44) 01312216862

Personal details will be held securely and used solely for purposes in connection with the pre-application consultations, application process, assessment and determination of the application and otherwise in connection with the further development of the scheme.

Next steps

We intend to submit the application for consent to be determined by Scottish Ministers and administered by the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in May 2025. Once submitted, you have the opportunity to provide further feedback to the ECU on the final application.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Alexander Hamilton

Senior Project Manager Voltalia UK **The Wheelhouse, Bonds Mill Estate,**

Bristol Road, Stonehouse, GL10 3RF 93 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 3ES



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Community Champion Awards return for '25

IT IS WITH great pride that we can today announce the return of the East Lothian Courier Community Champion Awards, in association with East Coast Buses.

Last year's inaugural awards ceremony, held at a sold-out Corn Exchange in Haddington, was a marvellous celebration of the people who make our communities the fantastic places that they are.

We cannot wait to welcome our local heroes to this year's ceremony to thank them for all they do - but that cannot happen unless you get nominating now!

Courier Editor Robbie Scott said: "There is always a nervousness at doing something new but we shouldn't have worried.

"For last year's awards was a truly special – and uplifting – occasion, full of emotion, and left everyone who attended bursting with pride at the achievements and selflessness of the citizens of our great county.

'We know there are so many people out there who deserve to be recognised for the work they do in our communities so please log on to our awards website now and get nominating!"

We're asking you, our readers, to tell us about the unsung heroes who you believe should be celebrated at our awards.

There are 11 categories to choose from (see right



Karl Cleghorn was named Community Champion of the Year at the inaugural awards

of page) so, don't delay, get nominating today.
Gaynor Marshall, com-

munications director for headline sponsors East Coast Buses, said: "We Coast Buses, said: "We are absolutely delighted to support the *East Lothi*an Courier's Community Champion Awards again this year – it is an event which celebrates the true spirit of community.

"As an integral part of the communities we serve in East Lothian, we value the importance of recognising those who go above and beyond to help and inspire others within their local areas.

"We're really looking forward to learning more about the nominees in our sponsored categories – Community Champion of the Year and Little Champion of the Year – which, respectively, recognise the outstanding actions of an adult and child who have selflessly contributed to

making their communities a better place.

The Heart of Gold category is sponsored by Pure-

The Haddington company's managing director, Ross Turner, said: "Without its champions, a community is only a postcode!

"We are proud to celebrate those with a Heart of Gold that make East next raft of exceptional Lothian a community that nominees." cares for and nurtures its members. That's an environment we all want to live and work in, and should strive to protect.'

Facilities Sustainable ing as a sponsor this year.

David Walker, managing director, said: "We are proud to support the Comonce again, celebrating April 3. those who go above and A pan beyond to make a real dif-

"At Sustainable Facilities due course.

Management, sustainability is at the heart of everything we do, which is why we're especially honoured to sponsor the Green Champion Award. Recognising individuals and organisations that drive positive environmental change is crucial, and we look forward to shining a light on those leading the way in sustainability within our communities

SSE Renewables – Berwick Bank Wind Farm - are the sponsors of this year's Business Award.

The company's Ciara Jamieson said: "SSE Re-newables is delighted to return as a sponsor for the 2025 East Lothian Courier Community Champion Awards. Last year's inaugural awards were a fantastic showcase for the passion, creativity and community spirit that is so abundant in East Lothian. We look forward to supporting the

If you know someone you believe should be recognised at our Community Champion Awards night in June, please get in touch.

Go to our website www. Management, of Mus-newsquestscotlandevents. selburgh, are also return-com/events/eastlothian commchamp to nominate your community champi-

But please note: the deadmunity Champion Awards line for nominations is

A panel of judges will assess the entries and finalists will be announced in



in association with EastCoastbuses

2025 marks the second year of the East Lothian Community Champion Awards! Building on the success of our inaugural event in 2024, we continue to celebrate and reward East Lothian's unsung heroes-those who go above and beyond to make a difference in their communities. With a range of categories, the awards ensure that individuals from all walks of life receive the recognition they truly deserve for their hard work, dedication, and impact.

2025 CATEGORIES:

- Business Award
- Sporting Champion of the Year
- Champion Teacher of the Year
- Community Champion of the Year
- Youth Community Champion Award
- · Heart of Gold
- Health & Care Award
- Little Champion of the Year
- Charity Champion of the Year
- · Green Champion Award
- · Arts Champion the Year

ENTRY DEADLINE: THURSDAY, APRIL 3



EastCoastbuses

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Title Partner

Sustainable

Supported by

LOCALIO

NEWSQUESTEVENTS

For more information please contact Alana Massie, Event Manager, on alana.massie@newsquest.co.uk

Bowshiel Solar Farm PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

Voltalia is seeking to develop a Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in East Berwickshire, Scotland. The proposed project is near Cockburnspath, approximately 14km southeast of Dunbar. It comprises a solar farm of up to 170MWp capacity, up to 150mw of BESS and associated infrastructure.

We are holding a second public consultation period between 3rd March and 30th March, 2025. A public drop in event will take place on Wednesday 12th March between 3pm and 8pm in Cockburnspath Village Hall, TD13 5XY.

At this event we will be sharing how feedback to date has informed our plans and we welcome further feedback.

Further to our event, you can participate in the following ways:

- Download materials from our website & post your feedback
- Visit our consultation page and submit your feedback online
- Get in touch using the contact details below

Please note that comments made in response to this public consultation are not representations to Scottish Ministers. If an application is submitted, there will be an opportunity to make representation.

Website: www.bowshielsolarfarm.co.uk Email: Bowshielsolarfarm@erm.com Telephone: (+44) 01312216862



Springfield Solar Farm **PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT**

Voltalia is seeking to develop a Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in East Lothian, Scotland. The proposed project is near Oldhamstocks, approximately 8km southeast of Dunbar. It comprises a solar farm of up to 165MWp capacity, up to 150mw BESS and associated infrastructure.

We are holding a second public consultation period between 3rd March and 30th March, 2025. A public drop in event will take place on Thursday 13th March between 3pm and 8pm in Oldhamstocks Village Hall, TD13 5XN.

At this event we will be sharing how feedback to date has informed our plans and we welcome further feedback.

Further to our event, you can participate in the following ways:

- Download materials from our website & post your feedback
- Visit our consultation page and submit your feedback online Get in touch using the contact details below
- Please note that comments made in response to this public

consultation are not representations to Scottish Ministers. If an application is submitted, there will be an opportunity to make

Website: www.springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk Email: Springfieldsolarfarm@erm.com Telephone: (+44) 01312216863





Local businesses and groups to be recognised for their contributions

Awards event to celebrate organisations in Galashiels

Alex Chisholm

Alex.Chisholm@newsquest.co.uk

THE Galashiels Heartland Awards are set to return next month.

The event will once again celebrate the businesses and organisations that make Galashiels a great place to live, work and visit.

Since its launch in 2023, the awards have grown, with thousands of public votes cast each year.

Previously funded by the Build a Better Gala project, the 2025 event is made possible by Emily McGowan of McGowan Marketing.

Having managed the awards for the past two years, Ms McGowan and her team secured sponsorship from local businesses and organisations to ensure the event's continuation.

Gary Souden, owner of Fonehouse Galashiels, has joined as the main event sponsor.

He said: "As one of the newer businesses in Galashiels, we're absolutely delighted to support this prestigious event that celebrates the town's talent and community spirit.

"It's an honour to be involved, and we look forward to seeing the voting unfold, meeting fellow businesses, and celebrating with all the finalists at the awards."

This year, the awards introduce four new categories to recognise the diversity of achievements across Galashiels.

These are Business of the Year, New Business of the Year, Health & Fitness, and Sports Club.

The full list of award categories includes Retail & Shopping, Food & Drink, Beauty, Hair & Care, Service & Repair, Community & Charity Organisation, and Leisure & Entertainment.

Each category is sponsored by a Borders business or organisation.

Gala Rugby Club and The Trophy Guy are also involved as event partners.

Voting is now open, and members of the public can have their say at the Galashiels Heartland website.

Ms McGowan highlighted the im-



SUPPORT: The Galashiels Heartland Awards' main sponsor this year is Gary Souden, owner of Fonehouse Galashiels. *Image: Fonehouse Galashiels*

portance of community support. She said: "The Galashiels Heart-

land Awards are a true celebration of the businesses and people who make Galashiels special.

"The response from the community has been incredible, and with the introduction of new categories, even more of our town's achievements will be recognised.

"But we couldn't do it alone – the event is only going ahead with the support of sponsors and partners and for this we are very grateful." Tickets for the event will be

Tickets for the event will be available for booking soon.

New booze outlet plan set to be considered

A DRAM is set to be raised this week over plans for a new booze outlet in Selkirk.

Members of Scottish Borders Council's Licensing Board will this week consider an application from Selkirk Distillers Limited to sell alcohol at a small shop located at the town's 26 Market Place.

The premises forms part of the old Selkirk Court

Room building.

The shop will be used as an outlet to sell produce distilled at the Selkirk Distillery.

The proposal is to sell alcohol on an off-sale basis only, 10am to 10pm Monday to Sunday.

No representations or objections regarding the application have been received from Police Scotland or the council's licensing standards enforcement officer, members of the committee will be informed on Thursday (February 20).

Bowshiel Solar Farm

PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

Voltalia is seeking to develop a Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in East Berwickshire, Scotland. The proposed project is near Cockburnspath, approximately 14km southeast of Dunbar. It comprises a solar farm of up to 170MWp capacity, up to 150MW of BESS and associated infrastructure.

We are holding a second public consultation period between 3rd March and 30th March, 2025.

A public drop in event will take place on Wednesday 12th March between 3pm and 8pm in Cockburnspath Village

At this event we will be sharing how feedback to date has informed our plans and we welcome further feedback.

Further to our event, you can participate in the following ways:

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 Visit our gappy that is a page and substitution for all page and substitutions.
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Springfield Solar Farm

PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

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We are holding our second public consultation period between 3rd March and 30th March, 2025.

A public drop in event will take place on Thursday 13th March between 3pm and 8pm in Oldhamstocks Village Hall, TD13 5XN.

At this event we will be sharing how feedback to date has informed our plans and we welcome further feedback.

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Website: www.springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk Email: Springfieldsolarfarm@erm.com Telephone: (+44) 01312216863



The Berwickshire News



The campaign group hope to raise awareness and encourage enrolments.

Thursday, February 20, 2025

Campaign to save nursery

by Hilary Scott

hilary.scott@nationalworld.com

Parents campaigning to save a Berwickshire nursery that is under threat of closure say it is one of many being considered by Scottish Borders Council.

Concerned families said they learned of the news "by accident" at an online meeting on January 30, with elected local councillors and an SBC Education representatives.

During this meeting they were advised that the nursery is unlikely to remain open for the start of the next school year due to the anticipated numbers.

At that point, five children were enrolled with the nursery for an August 2025 start, and parents and carers were told anything below six children will likely be closed, with anything below eight under review due to the cost per child impact on the council.

Director of Education Lesley Munro said that the news regarding nursery provision had been delivered "prematurely and inappropriately".

Speaking to the Berwickshire News, parent Paul Fulton said: "Scottish Borders Council have not given us, or anyone else, any notification of the internal review, and if we hadn't got wind of the news and arranged the original meeting, then we would only have been consulted as a community after a decision had been made.

"We have been told that a decision will be made in March. Should the nursery close, or become 'in-active', which is the local authority's new terminology, we believe it may never reopen – like the fate of Westruther, Sprouston and Fountainball

Story is continued on page 3.

News



Patients relocated

Page 3

Animals



A home for Honey

Page 6

Environment



Anger at litter louts

Page /

Socie

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PLANNING NOTICES

Bowshiel Solar Farm PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

Voltalia is seeking to develop a Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in East Berwickshire, Scotland. The proposed project is near Cockburnspath, approximately 14km southeast of Dunbar. It comprises a solar farm of up to 170MWp capacity, up to 150MW of BESS and associated infrastructure

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At this event we will be sharing how feedback to date has informed our plans and we welcome further feedback.

Further to our event, you can participate in the following ways:

- Download materials from our website & post your feedback
 Visit our consultation page and submit your feedback online
- · Get in touch using the contact details below

Please note that comments made in response to this public consultation are not representations to Scottish Ministers. If an application is submitted, there will be an opportunity to make

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Northumberland County Council intends

to make an Order to prohibit the use by vehicular traffic on that section of the C4 Shoresdean Junction to Thornton Park Junction from its junction with Shoreswood Loan heading northwards for a distance of 371 metres

The Order is to be effective from the 12th March 2025 until the 17th March 2025. It is expected that the road will only be closed from the 12th March 2025 until the 13th March 2025 between the hours of 08:30 and 15:00

during this period; however, the order will remain in place until 17th March

An alternative route will be available for use whilst the TTRO is in force being via the A698, C8, B6354, U13, C4 and vice-versa. Should the need arise changes may be made to the alternative routes, where possible these changes will be signposted accordingly.

Enquiries should be made to Northumberland County Council's Contact

Centre 0345 600 6400 or at https://one.network (enter the road number and road name). – Ref:141807896.

The closure has been requested by Dutton Traffic Management to carry out overhead pole repairs. In order to minimise future disruption, other contractors may be undertaking works throughout the duration of this

Email: Bowshielsolarfarm@erm.com Telephone: (+44) 01312216862

TRAFFIC NOTICES

in the County of Northumberland.



Springfield Solar Farm PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

Voltalia is seeking to develop a Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in East Lothian, Scotland. The proposed project is near Oldhamstocks, approximately 8km southeast of Dunbar. It comprises a solar farm of up to 165MWp capacity, up to 150MW of BESS and associated infrastructure.

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Email: Springfieldsolarfarm@erm.com Telephone: (+44) 01312216863



TRAFFIC NOTICES

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14(1) ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14(1) **C4 SHORESDEAN JUNCTION** C23 COUNTY BOUNDARY TO EAST LEARMOUTH BRANXTON TO THORNTON PARK JUNCTION THORNTON (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2025 (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Northumberland County Council have made an Order to prohibit the use by vehicular traffic on that section of the C23 County Boundary to East Learmouth Branxton from outside the gable end of number 1 Stanley Court heading in a north easterly direction for a length of 122 metres in the County of Northumberland.

The Order is to be effective from the 25th February 2025 until the 13th

It is expected that the road will only be closed from the 25th February 2025 until the 26th February 2025 and that it will be closed at all times during this period; however, the order will remain in place until 13th March

An alternative route will be available for use whilst the TTRO is in force being C23, C22, A697 and vice-versa and should the need arise changes may be made to the alternative routes, where possible these changes will be signposted accordingly.

Enquiries should be made to Northumberland County Council's Contact Centre 0345 600 6400 or at https://one.network (enter the road numbe and road name). – Ref:141291788.

The closure has been requested by Northumbrian Water to carry out internal chamber work on weir wall. In order to minimise future disruption, other contractors may be undertaking works throughout the duration of

Dated this 20th day of February 2025

GENERAL NOTICES



publicnoticeportal.uk

LEGAL SERVICES



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Pense

HOLIDAYS GENERAL

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APPENDIX H ROUND TWO: CONSULTATION MATERIALS

- H1 CONSULTATION BOOKLET
- H2 SITE LAYOUT WITH CHANGES FOLLOWING THE FIRST CONSULTATION
- H3 CONSULTATION BANNERS
- H4 ZTV MAP OF WOODLAND & SETTLEMENTS BESS AND SUBSTATION
- H5 ZTV MAP OF WOODLAND & SETTLEMENTS PANEL AREAS
- H6 FEEDBACK FORM

Bowshiel Solar Farm and BESS project

SECOND CONSULTATION PERIOD 2025







Voltalia UK proposes to develop the Bowshiel Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project near the village of Cockburnspath in East Berwickshire, Scotland.

Last year, we undertook a first community consultation period, at a time when our proposals were in their early stages. This consultation ran for four weeks from 20 August to 17 September 2024. We received 8 responses to our consultation, and 46 people attended our drop-in event.

The feedback to this consultation, combined with further assessments and engagement with other stakeholders has allowed us to refine the proposed project further. Responses to some of the most re-occurring questions were also prepared and can be found on the project website here:

www.voltaliashareyourfeedback.co.uk/bowshiel-solar

We appreciate everyone who took the time to participate, attend our event, and share their feedback. Our team has considered all feedback and where possible has used it to refine our proposals for Bowshiel Solar Farm project. Further engagement with stakeholders and feedback received to our Scoping Report is also continuing to inform our work and we'd like to share more about this with you.





Where we are now

We are now undertaking a second period of community consultation between 3rd March and 30th March 2025. During this time, we are sharing our updated plans and welcome your further feedback.

The information we are sharing with you as part of this consultation, including this document, seeks to demonstrate how your feedback has been considered and provides you with further information about our developing plans.

In this document, you'll find:



A summary of the key themes emerging from feedback to date, and how these are being considered by the project team;



An explanation of the next steps for the project, including our ongoing environmental assessments; and



An update on how the proposed project area has changed following our first round of community consultation, including a revised site layout on page 9;



Our contact details for any questions you may have.

Voltalia's commitment

We are committed to being a good neighbour and our proposed project seeks to respond to stakeholder feedback and wherever possible, minimise the impact on the landscape, wildlife, the local community and all who enjoy this beautiful rural area.

We know that there are further conversations to be had, and we want to continue engagement with key stakeholders including community councils, community groups and nearby residents and businesses.

What you told us

The table below provides a summary of the feedback received during a first round of public consultation (including verbal feedback from the consultation event and written feedback) and how the project has considered it to date. This also takes account of feedback and advice received from consultees in response to the Scoping Report, where it has commonality with the themes raised.

What we heard from your feedback

Flood Risk and water drainage

Respondents expressed concerns around an increase of surface water occurring on the A1 Road (south of the Bowshiel Solar Farm project site) during large spells of rain.

Some asked questions how the project will manage water run-off and divert water away from the A1.

How we have taken this into consideration

Typically, solar farms do not increase surface water runoff because the amount of hardstanding surfaces is limited by the raised nature of the panels. However, we have heard concerns from residents that water running off the solar panels during operation could increase the risk of and worsen localised flooding.

The design of solar panels includes intermittent gaps along their faces, allowing rainwater to spread across the panel rather than flowing off the lower edge, which prevents water from accumulating at the base. The hardstanding surfaces linked to the onsite Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility will be equipped with a surface water drainage system that follows Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) principles. This system will be designed to prevent an increase in surface water runoff, in line with local and national drainage policies and guidelines.

In response to feedback from statutory stakeholders regarding our Scoping Report, we are currently finalising a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA).

What we heard from your feedback

How we have taken this into consideration

Visual Impacts and heritage setting

Respondents commented on how Bowshiel Wood has a lower topography than where the panels will be.

Some also raised concerns around glint and glare and the impact on drivers travelling north along the A1. A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) is being undertaken, which will soon be shared within our application submission to Scottish Ministers. This will consider impacts of the proposals on the local landscape and the views of local communities and visitors to the area. The LVIA will include visualisations from a number of viewpoints to illustrate what the proposals will look like, and the final selection of viewpoint locations has been informed by stakeholder feedback.

To minimise potential impacts on the setting of a Scheduled Monument, the BESS and substation compounds have been relocated to the south east of field 13. Areas of solar panels have been removed from fields 12 and 14 to the north and west. This is to provide continuity of views between an Unscheduled Monument in field 14 and the Scheduled Monument to the north east.

We are conducting a glint and glare assessment to evaluate the potential visual impacts of the solar panels on various receptors, including buildings, road users, flight paths, and others. This assessment will identify any necessary mitigation measures to ensure regulatory compliance and address community concerns related to safety and aesthetics.

Traffic and Construction

Respondents gave insight into the state of the existing A1 trunk road and current traffic issues. They raised concern around the further impacts that could be caused by construction traffic.

We are preparing a Transport Statement to be included in our EIAR that will be submitted to Scottish Ministers and we are engaging with Transport Scotland following feedback to our Scoping Report.

We have agreed to participate in local group 'Lorries in our Lanes' to collaborate with other developers and minimise the impacts of traffic and transport on local communities during the construction of the project.

Access to the site will be from an unnamed road connecting to the A1.

Once the Project becomes operational, we anticipate minimal vehicle movements to and from the site, primarily limited to those conducting maintenance and replacement activities.

What we heard from your feedback

Land use considerations and cumulative impacts

Respondents raised concerns over the impact of the proposed project on agricultural land and on the landscape. At the consultation event discussion was had around the need for agricultural land, to ensure food security, and concern was raised around the resultant loss of this land due to the project.

Respondents raised concern about the number of development pressures in the general locality, which were primarily energy-related development. This was discussed as being overwhelming for some members of the community and therefore as having an impact on their health and well-being.

Some shared concerns over the operational lifespan of the technology and the impacts which may arise from maintenance requirements during the operation of the solar farm.

There was also some scepticism over the solar yield of the Bowshiel Solar Farm and the general viability of solar energy generation in eastern Scotland.

How we have taken this into consideration

After surveys and feasibility studies, this site shows strong potential for solar viability. The ongoing Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and consultation will confirm this and will be included in the EIA report.

The solar panels are designed for long-term use, with a lifespan of 40 years. Regular maintenance, including periodic inspections, cleaning, and repairs, will be carried out to ensure optimal performance. We are committed to minimising any disruption to the local community and environment during these maintenance activities and will adhere to best practices. Additionally, we will provide further information during the operational phase to address any ongoing concerns.

We acknowledge that numerous energy projects are being proposed in the Scottish Borders area. A cumulative assessment is currently being conducted and will be included in the EIAR. This will cover projects within at least a 5km radius, or further if significant traffic routes pass near the site.

The cumulative assessment will take into account several existing or proposed projects, such as Quixwood Moor Wind Farm, Springfield Solar Farm and Hosprigshields Wind Farm.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration		
Local ecology and biodiversity			
Respondents had concerns for impacts to flora, believing that grass will not grow beneath arrays	We recognise that the site is in a rural area and home to various wildlife and flora. Since our initial public design, we have undertaken a wide range of surveys across the site. Some areas of solar panels have been removed from fields 12 and 14. These areas as well as an area of field 5, have the potential for enhancement, such as wildflower planting. In total there are 29 hectares without PV modules where there are these enhancement opportunities.		
	The findings of surveys and ongoing assessments have been used to inform the development design. It shows grass can and does grow beneath solar arrays. The design of the solar farm allows for adequate sunlight and space for vegetation to thrive. We will ensure the area beneath the panels remains suitable for grass growth and supports biodiversity.		
	We are committed to managing the land in a way that encourages healthy vegetation and minimises environmental impact.		
Operational Noise (Solar panels and BESS)			
Respondents raised concerns over noise during the operation of the solar farm due to their experience with wind farm development.	Monitoring has been undertaken at Noise Sensitive Receptors which is being used to inform the Noise Assessment and will be submitted within the EIAR.		

What we heard from your feedback

How we have taken this into consideration

Safety

There were concerns amongst residents regarding the risk of fire from battery storage, which they perceived to be a widely established concern with BESS projects.

Fire safety has been carefully considered. The project will adhere to an Outline Health and Safety Plan, which will include a Battery and Fire Safety Management Plan, in line with the latest BESS safety codes and standards. This plan will be developed prior to construction, incorporating the relevant standards and requirements at the time. During its development, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and fire and rescue services will be consulted.

Each container will be isolated and equipped with an automatic fire control system. We will also work closely with the local fire service to ensure they are in agreement with our approach.

Communications and engagement

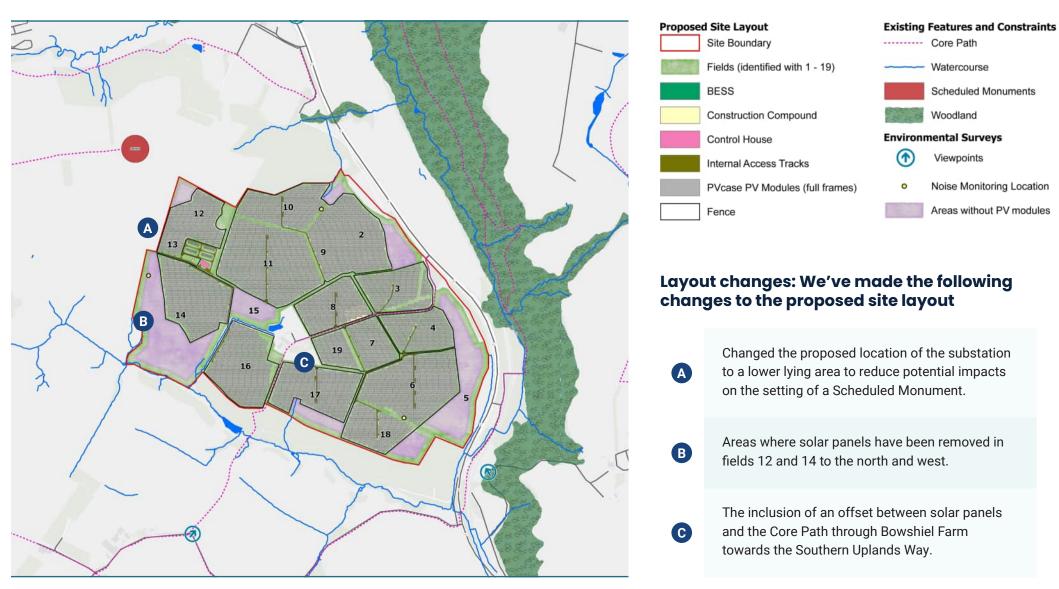
Respondents provided insight into their previous experiences of engaging with developers. Feedback on this was mixed, with some bad experiences involving wind farm developers shared.

We have welcomed feedback on how we can collaborate to share information, engage on progress, and create positive impacts or community benefits.

We have ensured visualisations of the project are included in this second round of consultation following feedback on what consultees would like to see. Details on what has been changed has also been provided.

Once our application is submitted, everyone will have the opportunity to submit their views to Scottish Ministers.

Proposed layout of Bowshiel Solar Farm and BESS project



Please note this layout may have further refinements.

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Next steps for the Bowshiel Solar Farm and BESS project

Alongside receipt of feedback, the specialists involved in our project have also been undertaking further environmental surveys across the site area. The results are helping the project team to understand how best to develop the proposals for the Bowshiel Solar Farm project in consideration of its surroundings.

We also consulted a wide range of stakeholders on our Environmental Scoping Report, further informing our assessments and surveys. We are expecting to publish a summary of these results within an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a description of our updated proposals as an application to ECU Scottish Government.

Community benefits

Voltalia are committed to finding ways to provide benefits to the local community near our proposed Bowshiel Solar Farm project over its lifetime. We will continue to refine how to deliver these benefits from your feedback and further engagement at the right time.

Of those that provided feedback about community benefits, suggestions included contribution toward local projects such as local childrens play park. Feedback also suggested that there were existing local funds that the project could contribute readily into. This was supplemented with request that decisions about investment in the future are informed directly by the community.

We are committed to doing so and working with the community to shape how we deliver true benefits. We have welcomed all suggestions to date (including those below) and continue to welcome your suggestions.

Your suggestions included...



"Providing opportunities for local employment, including to young people"



"Funding local projects that the whole community would benefit from"



"Providing battery storage in the village (Cockburnspath and Cove)"



"Linking with/ joining the new Cockburnspath and Cove fund"



"Providing financial benefits to decrease energy bills"



"Hosting tours of the solar farm seasonally/several per annum"



"Providing funding for local children regarding playpark provisions"

Talk to us

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet, which summarises the feedback we've received and changes made to our plans as a result.

We are committed to keeping the community updated on progress.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch at any time if you would like to talk with the team and raise any questions using the contact details below.

Scan the QR code below to fill out our feedback form for the Bowsheil Solar Farm project.



- bowshielsolarfarm.co.uk







If you are a local business or service provider, please get in touch via our project website: www.bowshielsolarfarm.co.uk



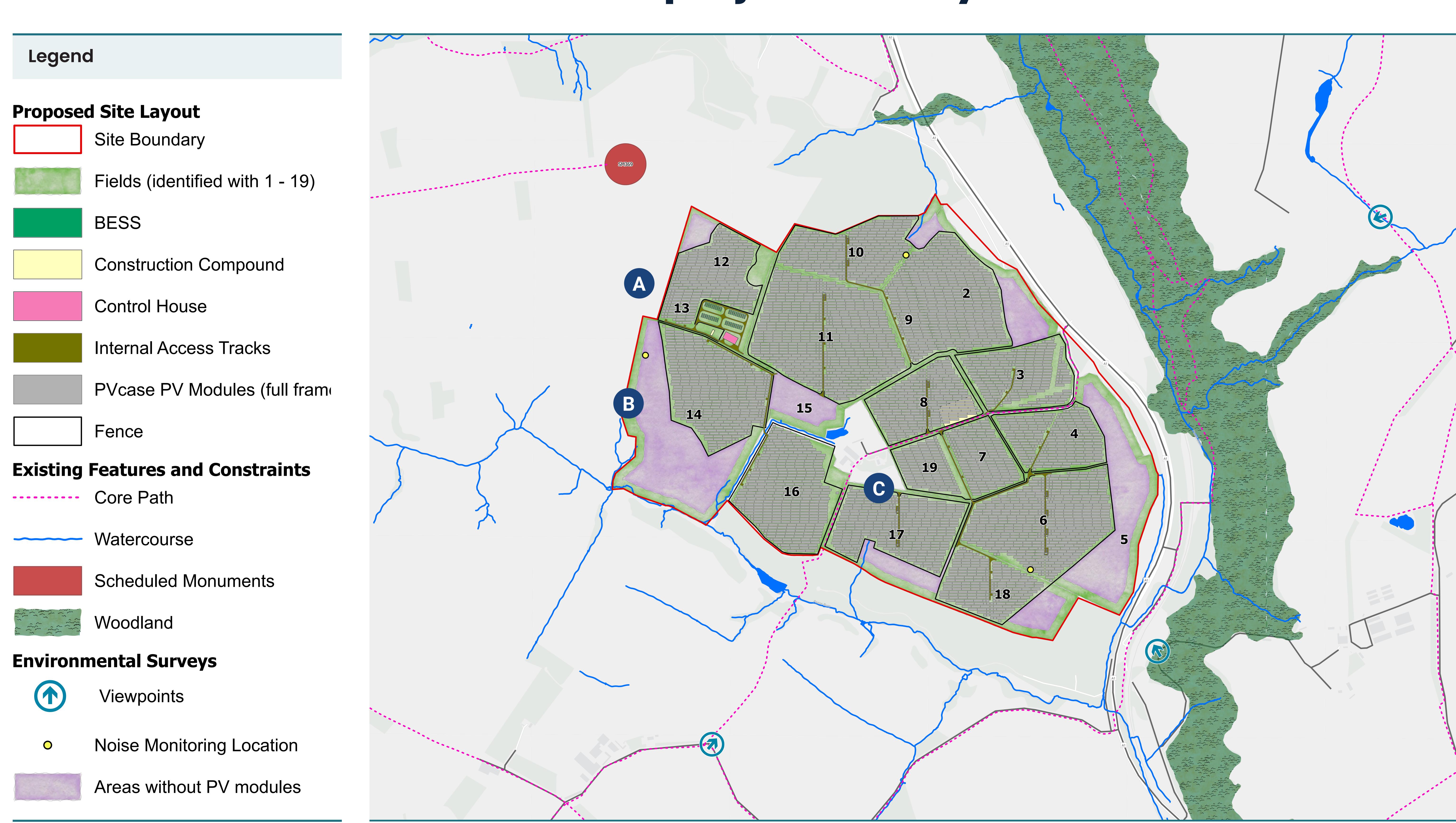


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Bowshiel Solar Farm and BESS project site layout



Layout changes - We've made the following changes to the site layout:

- Changed the proposed location of the substation to a lower lying area to reduce potential impacts on the setting of a Scheduled Monument.
- Areas of solar panels have been removed from fields 12 and 14 to the north and west.
- The inclusion of an offset between solar panels and the Public Right of Way through Bowshiel Farm towards the Southern Uplands Way.

Please note this layout may have further refinements.

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Thank you for participating in our second consultation on the proposed Springfield Solar Farm project.

This event's purpose is to share our updated project plans, including an explanation of how your feedback has been taken into account.

At this event, you'll see how the site has evolved since the first consultation. We also want to provide you with the opportunity to have your questions answered.

Please view our revised site layout and speak to a member of the team to hear more and ask any questions.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

We will continue to engage with the local community and key stakeholders as the project moves forward. We are keen to continue refining our plans and working with you.

Once operational, the project will seek to annually contribute around £400 for every megawatt (MW) of export capacity. Assuming an export capacity of up to 165MW, this could mean a fund with an annual value of £66,000 or £2,640,000 over the proposed 40-year operating life.

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

We'd like your further feedback by **Sunday 30th March 2025**. This will help us to understand your priorities and hear how you would like to receive information from us moving forward. It's important to us and we would encourage you to complete a feedback form and return it at today's event, or via the methods listed to the below.

You can provide feedback by:

- Visiting our website and submitting feedback online at: www.springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk
- Emailing your feedback form to: springfieldsolarfarm@erm.com
- Posting your feedback form, free of charge, by writing 'Freepost SPRINGFIELD SOLAR FARM' onto an envelope.

Your comments will help improve the quality of our submission and inform how we work with the community to deliver local benefits.



If you are a local business or service provider, please get in touch via our project website:

www.springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk

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Thank you for participating in our second consultation on the proposed Bowshiel Solar Farm project.

This event's purpose is to share our updated project plans, including an explanation of how your feedback has been taken into account.

At this event, you'll see how the site has evolved since the first consultation. We also want to provide you with the opportunity to have your questions answered.

Please view our revised site layout and speak to a member of the team to hear more and ask any questions.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

We will continue to engage with the local community and key stakeholders as the project moves forward. We are keen to continue refining our plans and working with you.

Once operational, the project will seek to annually contribute around £400 for every megawatt (MW) of export capacity. Assuming an export capacity of up to 170MW, this could mean a fund with an annual value of £68,000 or £2,720,000 over the proposed 40-year operating life.

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

We'd like your further feedback by **Sunday 30th March 2025.** This will help us to understand your priorities and hear how you would like to receive information from us moving forward. It's important to us and we would encourage you to complete a feedback form and return it at today's event, or via the methods listed to the below.

You can provide feedback by:

Visiting our website and submitting feedback online at: www.bowshielsolarfarm.co.uk

Emailing your feedback form to: bowshielsolarfarm@erm.com

Posting your feedback form, free of charge, by writing 'Freepost BOWSHIEL SOLAR FARM' onto an envelope.

Your comments will help improve the quality of our submission and inform how we work with the community to deliver local benefits.



If you are a local business or service provider, please get in touch via our project website:

www.bowshielsolarfarm.co.uk

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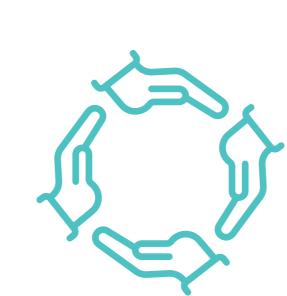
OUR PROPOSAL FOR SPRINGFIELD SOLAR FARM

Following changes made to the site layout as well as ongoing studies, the site continues to show strong potential for solar viability. This could become one of Scotland's largest solar projects, and its scale is crucial for success.

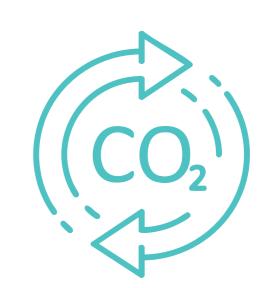
Benefits include:



Delivering the equivalent electricity of powering over 36,634 Scottish households' electricity requirements according to the Scottish Government conversion calculator).



Offer a community benefit package for local projects that will be shaped by local people.



Offset approximately 51,113 tonnes of CO2 per year.



Contribute to meeting Scotland's ambitious 'net zero by 2045' targets.



Enhance the quality of existing habitats to increase the potential for supporting wildlife.



Designed to allow sheep grazing under panels in order to continue farming practices.

DESIGN CHANGES

The space available and proximity to a feasible grid connection are important to bringing forward these benefits.

As we near completion of the baseline surveys and technical assessments, we have taken steps towards finalising the project layout, although it remains open to change as we try to refine our plans wherever possible.



We have prepared a booklet to explain the changes made for you to take away from this event. Since we shared our early plans in the Summer last year, the following changes have been made:

of the area previously identified for solar panels has been removed to reduce visual and heritage setting impacts

hectares with the potential for enhancement such as wildflower meadows

New and enhanced

hedgerows and pathways between solar panels are included to maintain habitat connectivity

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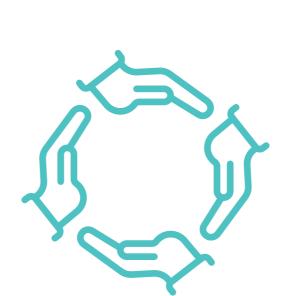
OUR PROPOSAL FOR BOWSHIEL SOLAR FARM

Following changes made to the site layout as well as ongoing studies, the site continues to show strong potential for solar viability. This could become one of Scotland's largest solar projects, and its scale is crucial for success.

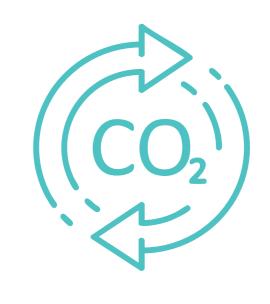
Benefits include:



Delivering the equivalent electricity of powering over 37,744 Scottish households' electricity requirements according to the Scottish Government conversion calculator).



Offer a community benefit package for local projects that will be shaped by local people.



Offset approximately 52,662 tonnes of CO2 per year.



Contribute to meeting Scotland's ambitious 'net zero by 2045' targets.



Enhance the quality of existing habitats to increase the potential for supporting wildlife.



Designed to allow sheep grazing under panels in order to continue farming practices.

DESIGN CHANGES

The space available and proximity to a feasible grid connection are important to bringing forward these benefits.

As we near completion of the baseline surveys and technical assessments, we have taken steps towards finalising the project layout, although it remains open to change as we try to refine our plans wherever possible.



We have prepared a booklet to explain the changes made for you to take away from this event. Since we shared our early plans in the Summer last year, the following changes have been made:

hectares have had solar panels removed in order to reduce visual and heritage setting impacts

hectares with the potential for enhancement such as wildflower meadows

New and enhanced

hedgerows and pathways between solar panels are included to maintain habitat connectivity

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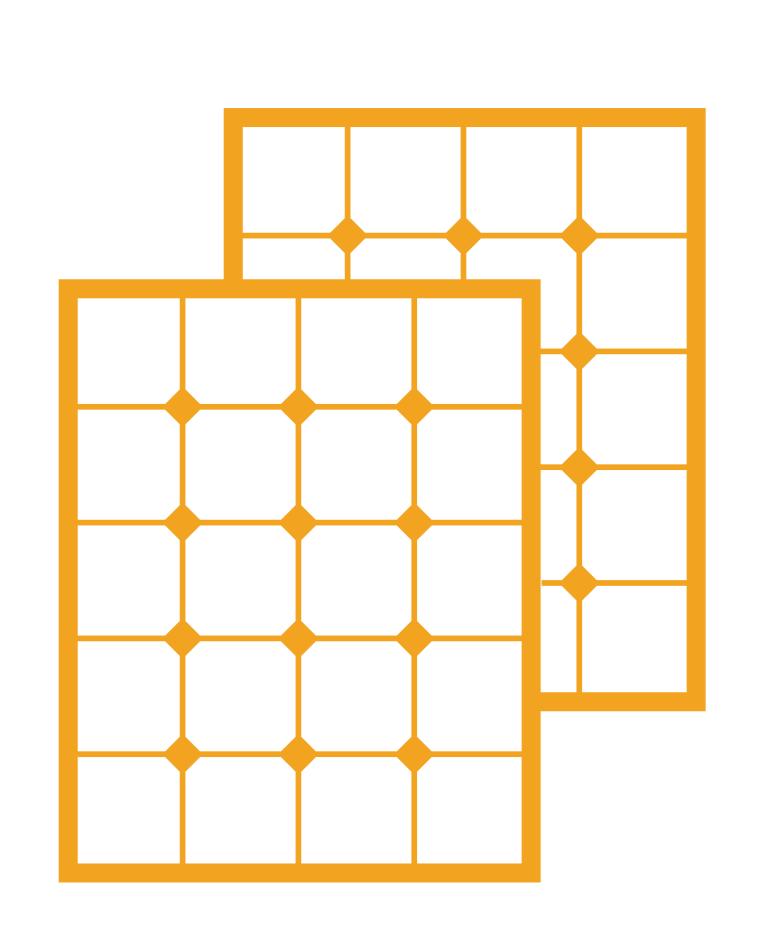


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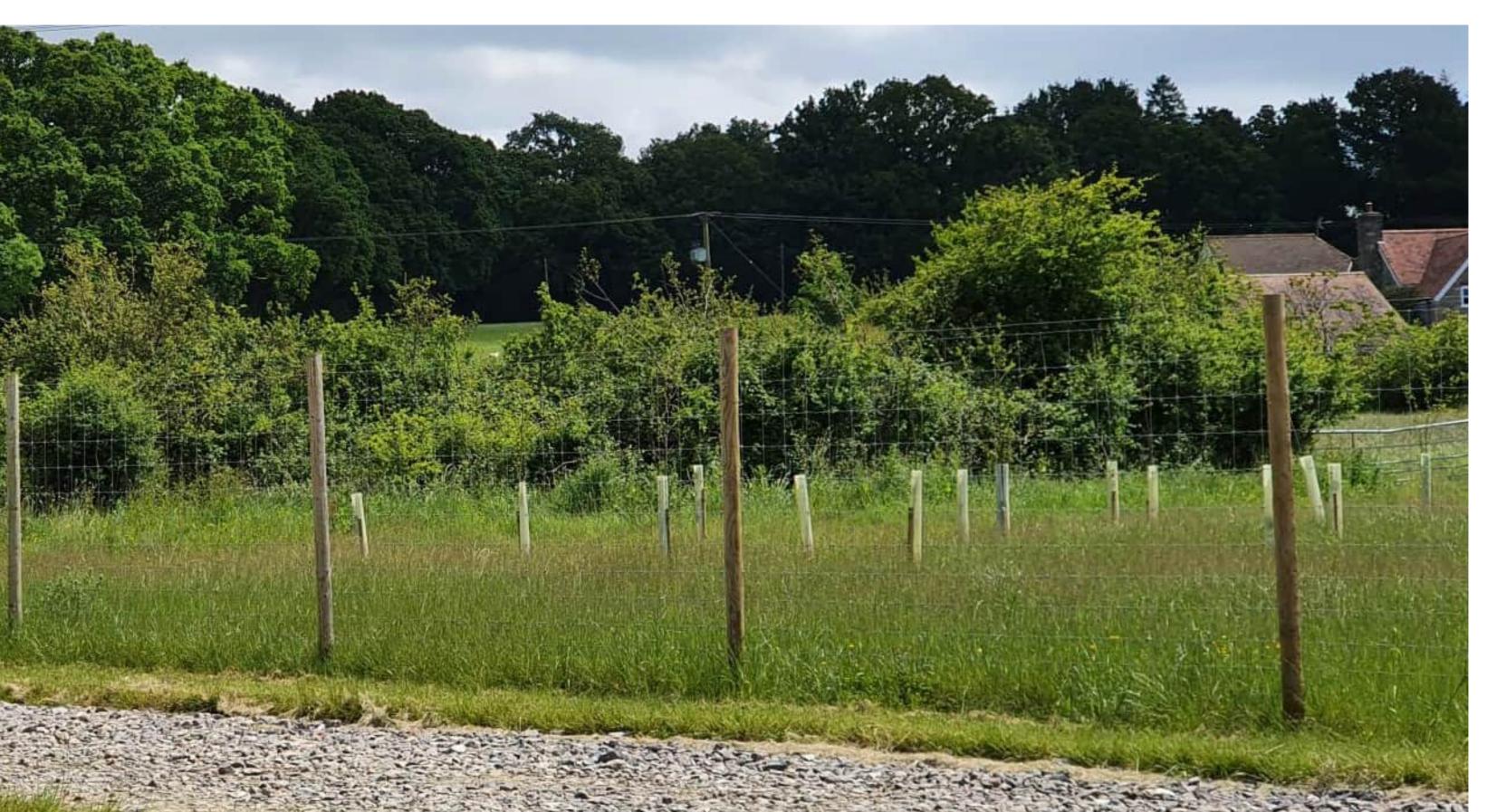
We heard the community are concerned about the size of the solar panels, the site's fencing, security and CCTV. We wanted to share some information to illustrate what the site will look like.

Deer fencing (wooden posts and mesh fencing) will be used around the solar panels, offering effective wildlife protection while blending with the rural landscape. We will also integrate mitigation measures such as mammal gates in fencing to allow for continued use of the site for mammals such as badger and brown hare.

The project site will have secure fencing and CCTV to protect both the site and the surrounding community.

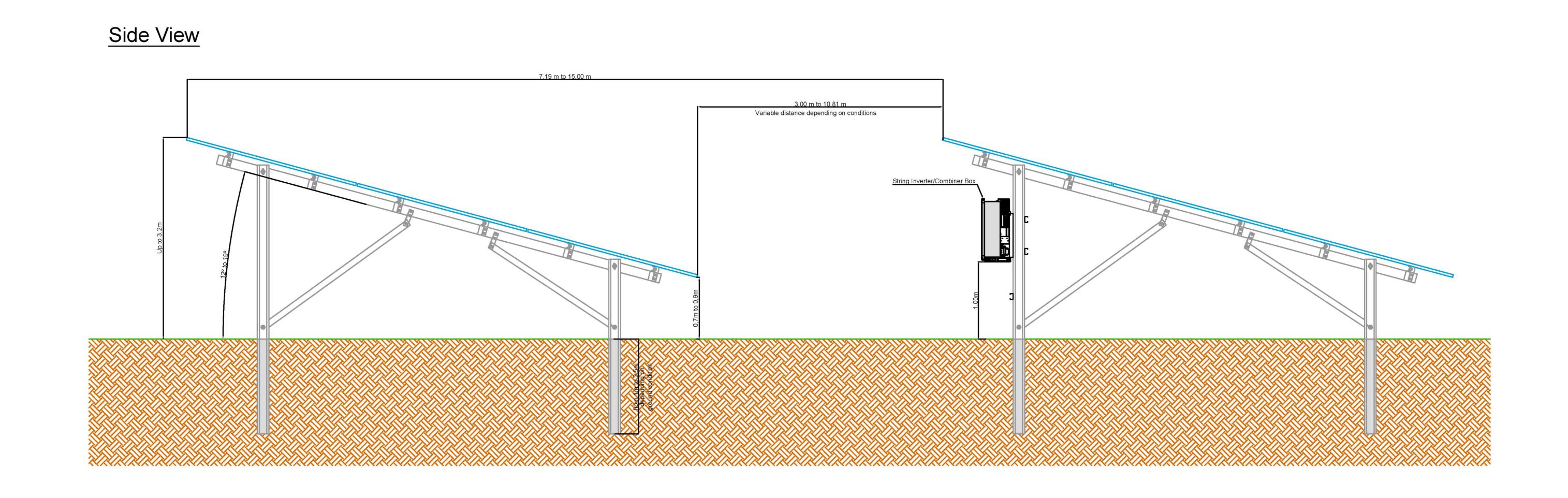
The additional surveillance is primarily to protect and monitor the assets and to ensure any potential issues are swiftly detected and addressed.





These are photographs taken of another site we have under construction in the UK called Higher Stockbridge Solar Farm. Fencing, mitigation planting and solar panels would look similar to these.

The solar panels will look like the photographs above. We have decided to use fixed south-facing solar panels. These are generally lower in height than other systems. As shown below, these will be up to 3.2m tall, with clearance of between 0.7m and 0.9m to permit future grazing.



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SECTION 36

Proposals to construct, extend or operate an onshore electricity generating station with a capacity of over 50 megawatts (MW) require the consent of Scottish Ministers under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA):

As the project falls under Schedule 2 of the Electricity Works (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, an EIA report (EIAR) is required to support the application for consent.

NEXT STEPS

Voltalia intends to submit a Section 36 application, for consent to be determined by Scottish Ministers and administered by the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU). This is anticipated to be submitted in Spring 2025.

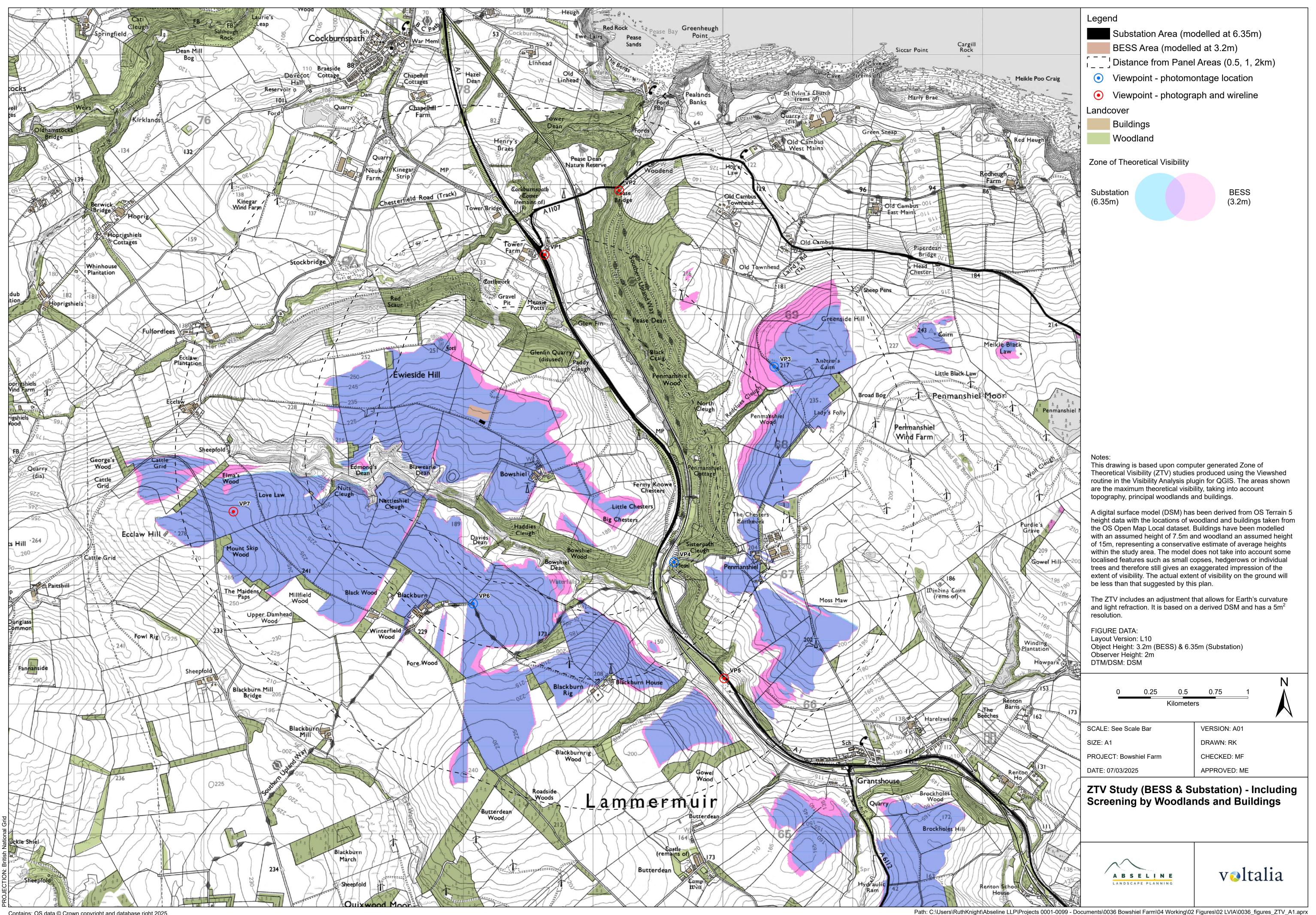
This consultation does not remove the right or the potential need to comment on the final application once it is made to ECU and the Scottish Ministers.

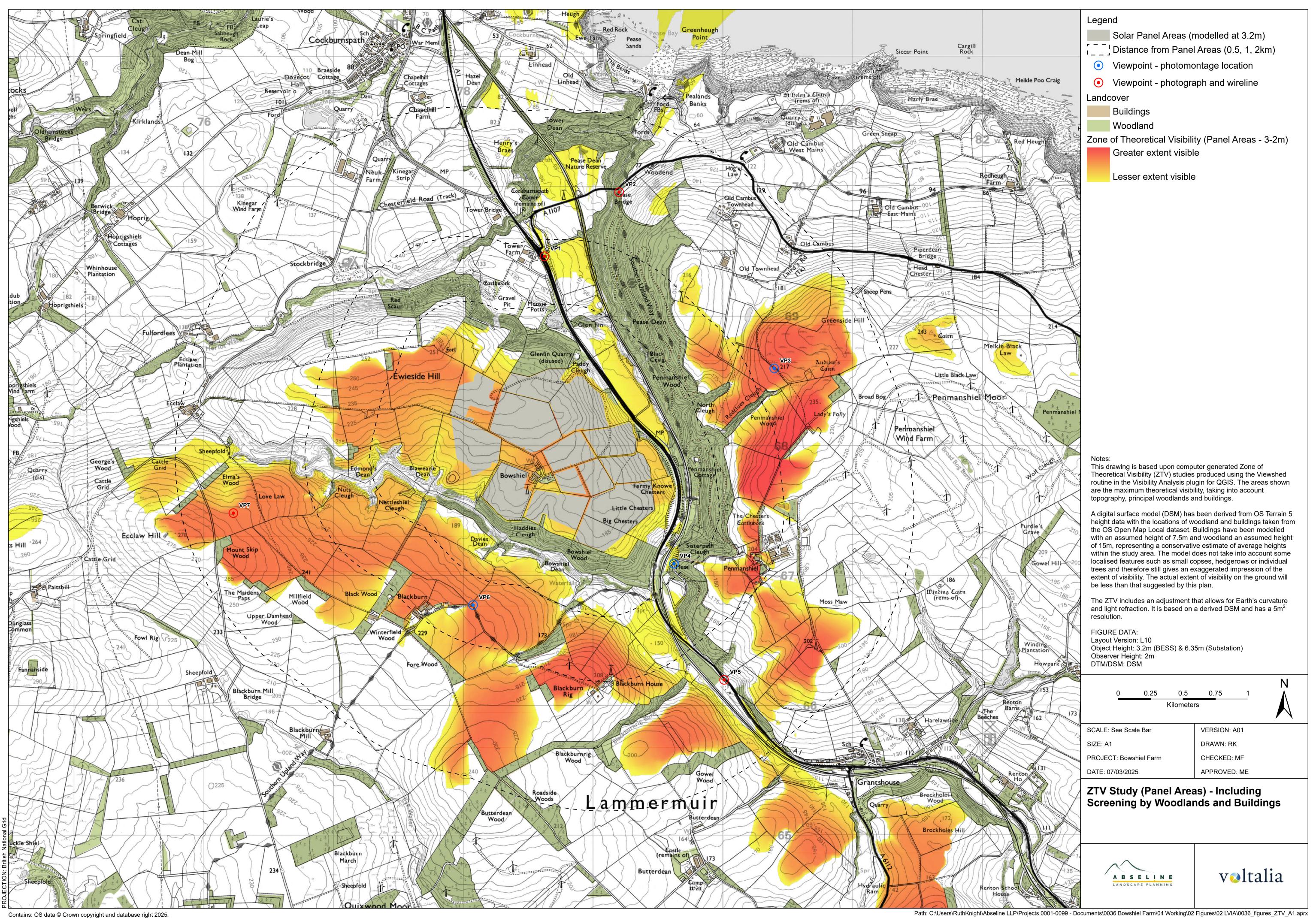
Section 36 (S36) Consenting Process and Project Timeline:

01	Pre-application consultation with Energy Consents Unit (ECU)			
02	EIA Screening / Scoping			
03	Pre-application consultation with stakeholders			
	We are currently finalising our surveys and assessments; and preparing the EIAR			
04	Preparation of the EIAR			
05	Submission of S36 application to ECU			
06	Review by consultees			
07	Requirement for further information			
08	Assessment of application and decision by ECU			
09	Construction, community liaison and monitoring			

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Bowshiel Solar Farm Project 2025 Feedback Form



Thank you for taking the time to view our updated proposals and provide your feedback. Please rate the extent to which you agree of disagree with the following statements.

		•			
I. Tł	ne Bowshiel Solar Fo	ırm project pl	ans have evolv	ed since the first	consultation.
	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2. T	he communities fee	edback has be	en used to info	rm the project so	far.
	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	he changes made to an improvement.	o the Bowshie	l Solar Farm pro	oject following th	e first consultation
ui C	diffiliprovement.				
	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
4. T	he consultation ma	-		-	
	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
БТ	he consultation evr	olained the pr	ocass for raising	a feedback with	Scottish Ministers via
	ECU during the plar			g leeaback with	scottisii Miiilisters via
	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree



6. Do you have any suggestions on how the community?	project can work with and contribute to the local
7. Do you have further feedback on our pro	posals for the Bowshiel Solar Farm project?
Your information:	
	cipated in the consultation. Please fill out your ou wish to remain anonymous), and if you wish to be de your name and email.
Name:	
Postcode:	
Email address:	
I would be happy to be contacted by email of	about future consultation activities on this project:
Yes	lo
Tha	nk you.
We kindly request your feedback to our consi	ultation by March 30th. This can be returned by:
Enaciling a convitor Powehicle claufaure C	

- Emailing a copy to: Bowshielsolarfarm@erm.com.
- Using our freepost service by writing 'Freepost' followed by 'BOWSHIEL SOLAR FARM' onto an envelope and dropping it in your nearest post-box.

To view this consultation online and submit a response electronically, please visit our online consultation page accessed via our project website: www.bowshielsolarfarm.co.uk

Privacy Statement/ Data Protection: Personal information will be processed and handled securely in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. By completing this feedback form, you are agreeing that we can hold and process data in relation to the current consultation exercise for the purposes of the Bowshiel Solar Farm and BESS project. We hold all personal data in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679 and your personal data will not be transferred outside of the European Economic Area. We will only share your personal data with members of the project team for planning evaluation and project development purposes. Your identifiable personal data will not be used for any other purposes without your prior consent. In the event when a Pre-Application Consultation Report is submitted with the planning application, your feedback will be anonymised. Voltalia's Privacy Policy can be found on our website: www.voltalia.com.