

KIRKTON SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) AND ENERGY STORAGE FACILITY

Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report



NI2290
PAC Report
3.0
March 2021

Document status					
Version	Purpose of document	Authored by	Reviewed by	Approved by	Review date
1.0	For Review	EN	SF	AMF	05.02.2021
2.0	For Review	EN	SF	AMF	08.02.2021
3.0	For Submission	EN	AMF	PMK	16.03.2021

Approval for issue

© Copyright RPS Group Plc. All rights reserved.

The report has been prepared for the exclusive use of our client and unless otherwise agreed in writing by RPS Group Plc, any of its subsidiaries, or a related entity (collectively 'RPS'), no other party may use, make use of, or rely on the contents of this report. The report has been compiled using the resources agreed with the client and in accordance with the scope of work agreed with the client. No liability is accepted by RPS for any use of this report, other than the purpose for which it was prepared. The report does not account for any changes relating to the subject matter of the report, or any legislative or regulatory changes that have occurred since the report was produced and that may affect the report. RPS does not accept any responsibility or liability for loss whatsoever to any third party caused by, related to or arising out of any use or reliance on the report.

RPS accepts no responsibility for any documents or information supplied to RPS by others and no legal liability arising from the use by others of opinions or data contained in this report. It is expressly stated that no independent verification of any documents or information supplied by others has been made. RPS has used reasonable skill, care and diligence in compiling this report and no warranty is provided as to the report's accuracy. No part of this report may be copied or reproduced, by any means, without the prior written consent of RPS.

Prepared by:

RPS

Eimear Nelis
Planner

Elmwood House
74 Boucher Road, Belfast
Co. Antrim BT12 6RZ

T 02890 667914
E Eimear.nelis@rpsgroup.com

Prepared for:

Elgin Energy

Mr Ronan Clarke
Development Manager

3rd Floor, Audley House,
9 North Audley Street,
London, W1K 6ZD

T +44 (0) 208 068 4240
E ronan.clarke@elgin-energy.com

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Context	1
1.1.1	Application Site	2
1.1.2	Proposed Development	2
1.2	Purpose of this Report	3
2	PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION LEGISLATION AND BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE	4
2.1	Consultation Guidance and Emergency Provisions.....	4
3	THE APPROACH TO PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION.....	5
4	PRE-APPLICATION COMMUNITY CONSULTATION	6
4.1	Stakeholders - Identifying who to consult	6
4.2	Method of Engagement.....	6
4.2.1	Digital Platform - Dedicated Website	6
4.2.2	Publicity.....	7
4.2.3	Letter/Information leaflet distribution	8
4.2.4	Liaison with Community Council and Elected Representatives	8
4.2.5	Direct one-to-one emails and meetings with adjacent landowners and local residents	9
4.2.6	Feedback	9
5	COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO PAC.....	10
5.1	Summary of Engagement	10
5.1.1	Website Activity.....	10
5.1.2	Website Feedback	10
5.1.3	Issues emerging from PAC.....	10
5.1.4	Additional Feedback	10
5.1.5	Addressing issues which emerged through the PAC process.....	13
6	CONCLUSION.....	16
6.1	Meaningful Pre-Application Consultation	16

Appendices

Appendix 1 Newspaper Advertisements

Appendix 2 Request for engagement letter and Project Information Leaflet

Appendix 3 Sample Stakeholder Correspondence (Elected Reps & Buchan East Community Council)

Appendix 4 Screenshots of project website

Appendix 5 Online Survey form

Appendix 6 Completed survey responses

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Context

Elgin Energy Esco Ltd, hereby referred to as the 'Applicant' has undertaken a voluntary period of pre-application consultation (PAC) prior to submitting an application for consent to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU). This application seeks consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to construct and operate the following development on lands approximately 1.2km southeast of St.Fergus Village, Peterhead, directly east of the A90 : -

"Proposed construction and operation of an electricity generating station with installed capacity in excess of 50megawatts (MW) consisting of a solar PV farm of approximately 50MW capacity and a battery energy storage facility of approximately 20MW capacity, with ancillary development."

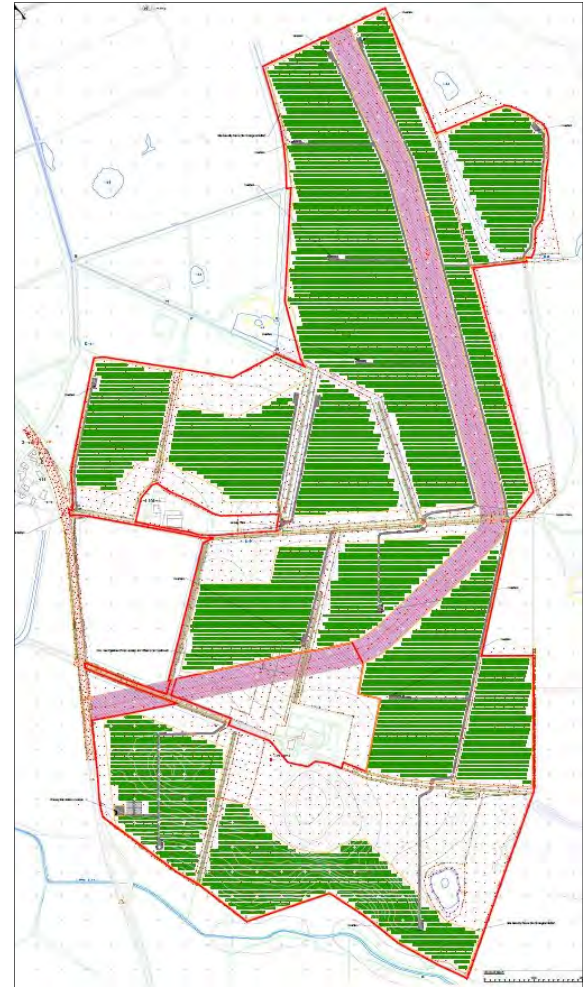
Under the terms of the Electricity Act application process, there is no mandatory obligation to consult with members of the public prior to submitting the application for consent. However, in accordance with Elgin Energy's internal methods of best practice, a programme of pre-application community engagement has been undertaken by the Applicant, which is broadly based on the consultation principles outlined in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure)(Scotland) 2013, Planning Circular 2013, and the Town and Country Planning (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020. The Applicant appreciates the benefits of effective engagement with stakeholders in the local community, in helping to guide and inform the iterative design process, identify planning and environmental issues, develop relationships, and increase levels of transparency.

This Pre-Application Consultation report (PACR) summarises the consultation approach taken over an 8 week period and the feedback received during the PAC process, and outlines how this has been addressed through this comprehensive planning submission.

1.1.1 Application Site

The application site is located approximately 1km outside the village of St Fergus, in Kirkton, Peterhead and incorporates a large swathe of agricultural lands which span an area of approximately 112.7 hectares (c. 278 acres). The proposed development within the application site/developable area will span circa 76.5 hectares / 188 acres which equates to approximately 67% of the site. The reduced area includes the significant spacing between panel arrays but excludes other areas within the red line which are free from infrastructure. Access onto the site will be taken from existing access lanes onto the A90 along the western side of the site. The application site is shown opposite at Figure 1.1 for reference purposes.

Figure 1.1 - Application site edged in red (Lands at A90, Kirkton)



1.1.2 Proposed Development

The application to the ECU as set out in Section 1.1 above, seeks consent for the *“Proposed construction and operation of an electricity generating station with installed capacity in excess of 50 megawatts (MW) consisting of a solar PV farm of approximately 50MW capacity and a battery energy storage facility of approximately 20MW capacity, with ancillary development.”*

The battery storage facility will comprise approximately 10 storage units typically measuring 12.2m (l) x 2.4(w) x 2.6m (h). It is proposed to locate the facility beside the proposed Primary Substation near to the southern site boundary.

In terms of other elements, the scheme will comprise: -

- Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Panels erected on steel or aluminium frames;
- 1 on-site Primary Substation – as referred to – typically measuring 6m (l) x 3.2 (w) x 3.4m (h);
- 50 No. Inverter Substations typically measuring 7m (l) x 2.5(w) x 3m (h) to be located across the site. These stations are connected to the panels by underground underground cabling. The stations convert the Direct Current (DC) electricity generated by the solar panels into Alternating Current (AC) electricity before being fed into the primary substation and then onward to the local electricity grid network;
- Perimeter post and wire "deer" fencing (2.45m high);
- A number of strategically located CCTV security cameras (3m high);
- Access via an existing and improved lane onto the A90 Road to the immediate west of the site;
- Landscape screening/planting; and

- Associated internal service tracks.

1.2 Purpose of this Report

This PAC report describes the approach to pre-application consultation undertaken by RPS and Elgin, explaining the methods of engagement used for consulting with the local community, how these were broadly consistent with the temporary Scottish legislation with respect to Pre-Application Consultation and reflective of best practice outlined within Scottish Government guidance, and provides a summary of the feedback received. The report provides the ECU with a comprehensive review of the pre-application consultation process as a whole and is structured as follows: -

- description of temporary legislation and best practice;
- explanation of the approach to the pre-application consultation;
- detailing the pre-application process that was undertaken; and
- stakeholder feedback to the PAC.

2 PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION LEGISLATION AND BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE

Elgin is committed to engaging with the local community and have done so in the spirit of the legislation and best practice guidance outlined below.

2.1 Consultation Guidance and Emergency Provisions

As noted previously, the pre-application consultation process undertaken by Elgin has been influenced by the requirements set out in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure)(Scotland) 2013, Planning Circular 2013, and the Town and Country Planning (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020.

More specifically, the Scottish Government Guidance document 'Planning Advice Note 3/2010: community engagement' provided guidance on a strategy to direct the consultation process with local communities. Paragraph 64 of the guidance states that *"The National Standards below have been applied to the planning system and are ideally suited for use by planning authorities for development plan preparation, by prospective applicants in pre-application consultations with communities and by people and communities in engaging on planning issues."*

The National Standards highlight that *"Effective community engagement requires the use of a variety of methods and the choice of method and the people involved will vary and it is impossible to set methods for every circumstance."* This is particularly pertinent, given the current circumstances surrounding the current COVID-19 pandemic, and careful consideration was given to ensuring the methods of engagement captured feedback from hard-to-reach groups within the vicinity of the scheme and those with little or no internet access, to ensure maximum transparency. The guidance suggested various engagement mechanisms such as;

- Disseminating information via Community Councils and other networks;
- Use of e-participation/e-planning systems – interactive plans and applications online;
- Using the media to raise awareness – newspaper adverts/articles/radio; and
- Distributing information, for example postcards, leaflets, brochures, easy read guides and mail shots to postcode area.

In respect of the requirement to hold a public event, the Scottish Government released the '*Coronavirus (COVID-19): planning guidance on pre-application consultations for public events*' guidance document, temporarily suspending the requirement that public events formed part of PAC processes. The Guidance document stipulates that: -

"The intention is to find alternative ways to enable the exchange of views that would otherwise be achieved by face to face interaction. That is, it is not considered sufficient for alternative consultation to allow only 'one way traffic', with those submitting views not seeing a response until the application itself is made with a PAC report.

This guidance advocated the use of the following alternatives to holding a public event, including:

- Information hosted in a central, free and publicly accessible web location; and
- Live and interactive web-based consultation, with online opportunities for the public to engage via a live Q&A and / or opportunities to make comment and receive feedback throughout the process.

3 THE APPROACH TO PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION

Based upon the best practice guidance, the PAC strategy was developed on the basis of the following principles: -

- Community Engagement must be meaningful and proportionate;
- It should seek to enhance the applicant's understanding of the local communities who may be affected by the application;
- Community Engagement must be timed to ensure that proposals are sufficiently developed to allow for meaningful comment but not so detailed that flexibility to amend the proposal has diminished;
- It is essential for people or interest groups to get involved in the preparation of development plans as this is where decisions on the strategy, for growth or protection, are made.

The consultation approach incorporated the following engagement methods:

1. Holding one-to-one pre-app meetings with the ECU and the Local Planning Authority;
2. Identification of Key Stakeholder(s) groups and Local Elected Representatives, informed by local knowledge, previous consultation exercises, Community Councils and local representatives, Fife Council Planning Authority, and ECU
3. Engagement via written correspondence with local elected representatives (including local Ward Councillors for Peterhead North and Rattray and the MSP for the area), offering an opportunity for direct discourse;
4. Issuing letters to request engagement from the Local Community Council within Aberdeenshire and subsequent appearance at their committee meeting;
5. Period of 8 week continuous engagement which included;
 - a. Creation of a project specific website, publicly accessible online providing information on the proposals and how additional information could be requested;
 - b. Advertisement of the proposed project website within local newspapers;
 - c. Undertaking letter drops to properties within c.1km of the proposed application site providing information on the proposal and directing to website where further information may be obtained;
 - d. Online survey facilitating feedback, providing a contact form and contact details of how members of the public could obtain further information or contact the development team for direct engagement; and
6. Direct engagement with local residents where requested.

RPS and Elgin engaged with the ECU and Aberdeenshire Council Planning Department during the following pre-app meetings:

- Pre-App Meeting with Aberdeenshire Council Planning Department 5th November 2020; and
- Pre-App Meeting with ECU 13th January 2021; and
- Pre-App Meeting (2) with ECU 11th February 2021.

Discussion on PAC formed part of each of the aforementioned meetings.

Aberdeenshire Council provided valuable information relating to key stakeholders, including the relevant community council and Councillors, local newspapers for planning adverts, adjacent proposals, and potential issues for discussions.

4 PRE-APPLICATION COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

4.1 Stakeholders - Identifying who to consult

The Applicant and their consultant team prepared a stakeholder database based on the Applicant's knowledge of the site at Kirkton, the surrounding area, and on experience of similar projects to identify a list of primary stakeholders/community groups which should be targeted as part of the consultation process. This comprised mainly of local elected representatives, local residents within 1km of the site, and Community Councils.

Early liaison with Aberdeenshire Council's Planning Department helped direct the engagement process in terms of confirming the stakeholders to be consulted. RPS also discussed proposed engagement methods and sought advice from the Council that these were appropriate during the COVID-19 pandemic. Pre-engagement with the Council also facilitated a parallel process of engagement with technical Council bodies to provide feedback on the emerging proposals.

Whilst pre-application engagement with Aberdeenshire Council commenced in November 2020, engagement with the Buchan East Community Council, elected representatives and the local communities was undertaken during December 2020 and February 2021.

The stakeholder database was to be treated as a fluid document and constantly reviewed for the duration of the engagement period to ensure that other stakeholders who emerged through the process could be added to the database.

4.2 Method of Engagement

The consultation exercise was carried out in accordance with the guidance and National Standards which states that "developers should ensure appropriate and proportionate steps are taken to engage with communities". In this context, the Consultant team advised the Applicant on the methods and level of engagement which would be appropriate to the nature and scale of the application and which would ensure the consultation would be meaningful and effective.

The Development team engaged with the local community using the following methods: -

- Dedicated project information website live since the 4th January 2021;
- Press Notice;
- Letter drop to properties within the local area;
- Online survey to facilitate feedback which ran from 4th January until 29th January;
- Liaison with locally elected representatives for the area via letter, e-mail and digital meetings if requested;
- Engagement with local residents via direct written correspondence and phone-calls; and
- Liaison with Community Council.

This ensured that the project information was accessible to all sections of the community in a number of formats.

4.2.1 Digital Platform - Dedicated Website

A dedicated project website was developed by the Applicant to facilitate meaningful pre-application consultation. The website comprised dedicated online webpages with different tabs/sections providing the same information as would have been otherwise available at a public exhibition/public event. This included project information/drawings, images of the application site and proposed plans showing details on the nature and scale of the development. The website also provided an online survey questionnaire and clear information

PAC REPORT

on ways in which the development team could be contacted and how more information on the project could be obtained, as well as an FAQ section.

The website link is: www.kirktonsolarfarm.co.uk. The website has been live to the public from 4th January 2021, allowing them to view the proposals, projected project timelines and further project information. A facility to provide feedback via the online form, and to engage with the project team directly also ran from 4th January to 29th January 2021. The website was readily accessible and was designed to be used by all stakeholder groups, using larger text and headings, with non-technical information, so that it was easily navigable and easily understood. Screenshots of the webpages are included at Appendix 4 for information. The following information was provided:

- Scheme overview, benefits of the scheme, and information on the Applicant;
- Draft Planning drawings displaying information about the application site, the proposed development and viewpoints of the scheme (all were available to download);
- Potential impacts of the proposal including environmental issues being considered;
- A Survey facilitating feedback, comments and queries;
- Copies of the information leaflet distributed to surrounding residents (refer Section 4.2.3 below) were made available and posted to any member of the public who wished to have the information in hard copy; and

In addition the website provided opportunities for direct contact with the project team through email or telephone to raise queries/concerns or to participate in a one-to-one discussion about the project.

The website was continually monitored during the period of active consultation, between 4th January and 29th January 2021. The number of views and downloads on the website was monitored to record 'attendance', made over the period between 4th-29th January 2021. The website remains live and continues to provide information to the public ahead of the planning application being submitted. The website has been updated accordingly as the project has progressed to submission stage.

4.2.2 Publicity

The pre-application consultation was advertised locally in those newspapers contained in Table 4.1 below.

Table 4.1: Newspaper publications – Kirkton Solar Farm Consultation

Name of Newspaper	Date of publication
The Buchanie	Tuesday 5 th January 2021
The Ellon Times	Thursday 7 th January 2021
The Fraserburgh Herald	Thursday 7 th January 2021

A copy of the newspaper advertisements is provided at Appendix 1 for information. As evidenced, the Notice in the newspaper advised the community about:

- The description of, and the location of, the proposed development;
- The weblink to the webpage;
- Contact details of how members of the public could contact the development team; and
- Provided details of how anyone wishing to make comments relating to the proposal could do so.

The public notice clearly directs that any comments provided during the PAC process are not representations to the planning authority and do not affect the statutory right to make formal submissions to the ECU when the application for consent is submitted. This message was consistently attached to all publicity literature and project information during PAC.

4.2.3 Letter/Information leaflet distribution

As a further means of publicity, the local community were also notified about the consultation process through a letter/information leaflet distribution to all properties within the immediate vicinity (c.1km) of the proposed application boundary. The letters/information leaflet distribution was due to be carried out on 8th January 2021. However due to level 4 COVID-19 restrictions coming into effect in certain areas of Scotland including Aberdeenshire on 5th January 2021, a door-to-door distribution was prohibited and as such the cover letter/leaflets were delivered by post on 7th January 2021.

A cover letter accompanied the information leaflet which explained the purpose and nature of the consultation process, and how further information could be obtained. The letter also offered an opportunity for those with no access to the internet, to speak to the project team and obtain hard copies of the relevant documents. The project information leaflet provided information on the application site, the proposed scheme, details of the project website and contact details for members of the development design team.

The letter/information leaflet distribution was aimed at providing an alternative means of engagement for those living in the vicinity of the scheme who may have limited internet access or preferred not to engage digitally, to ensure they were fully aware of the proposals and could seek information by contacting the development design team directly. A copy of the letter and information leaflet issued to surrounding properties is included at Appendix 2.

During the course of the letter/information leaflet distribution, a discrepancy was noted on the project information leaflet regarding the project description. This discrepancy related to the wording of the description; *“the proposed project covers approximately 260 acres and will accommodate approximately 35 megawatts (MW) of ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and a 20MW energy storage facility”*. This discrepancy was amended on the project website and on the project information leaflet and an explanation of this error was noted on the Homepage of the project website (see figure 4.1 below).

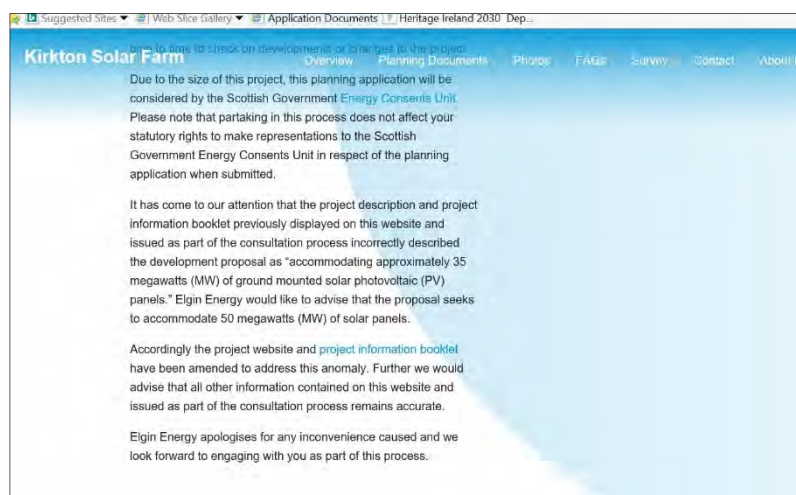


Figure 4.1: Screenshot of Website Main Page

4.2.4 Liaison with Community Council and Elected Representatives

A request for engagement letter was issued via email to local Councillors for the ward covering the application site, Peterhead North and Rattray, on 2nd December 2020. Further email correspondence was again issued in early January to confirm receipt. Further email exchanges with Councillors provided details of the project information website/information leaflet. The following Councillors were contacted: -

- Councillor Anne Allan (SNP);
- Councillor Dianne Beagrie (Conservative);
- Councillor Alan Buchan (Independent) and
- Councillor Iain Sutherland (Conservative)

PAC REPORT

Where no formal written confirmation of receipt was forthcoming, telephone contact was made and messages left with the respective Councillors where appropriate to ensure they received the issued information. Any feedback received is expanded upon in Section 5 of this report.

In addition to engaging with local Councillors, a request for engagement letter was issued to Mr Stewart Stevenson MSP in January 2021 and an email confirming receipt of the information was received on 25th January 2021.

The same request for engagement was also issued to the following local Community Council in December 2020: -

- Buchan East Community Council

An email was received from the Secretary of Buchan East Community Council in January 2021 to request attendance at the Community Council's monthly meeting on 2nd February 2021.

Examples of the initial request for engagement correspondence issued to the above stakeholders is included at Appendix 3 for information.

4.2.5 Direct one-to-one emails and meetings with adjacent landowners and local residents

In addition to the above, direct engagement was undertaken with two property owners living directly adjacent to the proposed solar farm at Kirkton North and Kirkton South. As well as providing the project information contained in the information drop described in Section 4.2.3 above, the tailored correspondence also included direct telephone numbers and e-mail addresses for the Elgin and RPS project managers and an offer of phone/video calls to take place at the resident's convenience.

In addition to the above, a number of other local residents who became aware of the project during the consultation process also raised direct queries. Engagement took place via direct e-mail correspondence or where requested phone calls and online Microsoft Teams meetings.

Further information in respect of this engagement process is provided in Section 5 below and Table 5.1.

4.2.6 Feedback

The website provided a conduit for online feedback and comments on the proposal with regard to:

- Whether the respondent supports the project in principle;
- What opinions/thoughts were on the project plans;
- Whether there is any aspect of the proposals that the respondent would wish to see changed;
- If there are any other comments or suggestions that the respondent wished to contribute; and
- Whether the PAC process has enhanced their understanding of the project.

A copy of the online survey is provided in Appendix 5. It was available on the website during the consultation period and provided in hard copy, upon request.

The engagement process referred to previously in Sections 4.2.5 and 4.2.6 also provided an avenue for direct feedback from those taking part in the consultation process.

5 COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO PAC

5.1 Summary of Engagement

5.1.1 Website Activity

Attendance on the webpage was recorded on the basis of users visiting the site. A total of 406 page visits were recorded between 4th and 29th January.

5.1.2 Website Feedback

All formal responses to the consultation process were provided through completing online survey forms, emailing a member of the development team directly or through verbal communication by contacting a member of the development team via telephone.

A total of 15 survey forms were returned over the course of the consultation. An overview of the completed survey form responses is included at Appendix 6 for reference.

In terms of additional feedback received via the website, two emails were received; one from Ednie Farms who are developing a project locally and another from a local resident seeking additional information.

5.1.3 Issues emerging from PAC

The response from the PAC process demonstrated that 53% of respondents (8/15) considered the consultation process helped them to better understand the proposals for the site at Kirkton, with all respondents stating that they wish to be kept informed and updated on the process. All information received has been processed in line with current GDPR requirements.

Regarding the overall closed question regarding support for the proposed development, the following statistics were recorded:

Total respondents:	15
Respondents in Favour:	2
Respondents in Opposition:	13
Respondents Undecided:	0

When asked what they would change about the proposals, the comments received noted the following:

- The location of the proposal on the lands;
- The siting and proximity of the panels in relation to residential properties;
- Visual impact; and
- Size of the proposal.

The main issues raised via the online webpage, over email and via telephone are summarised in the response summary at Table 5.1 overleaf.

5.1.4 Additional Feedback

As stated in Section 4.2.5, a number of local residents also availed of the opportunity to engage directly with the Client and their appointed team. A summary of this engagement is provided in Table 5.1 below.

Table 5.1 Summary of responses to consultation

Form of Response	Issue raised	Comments
One-to-one meetings		
Microsoft Teams Meeting/Presentation to Buchan East Community Council	General inquiries regarding proposals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A presentation by RPS and Elgin was made to the Community Council which explained the proposals for the site, how consultation was being carried out and timescales for the application to be submitted to the ECU. • The Community Council members raised a number of questions relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential grid connection; - Battery Lifetime; - Project lead in period; - Employment opportunities. • The Community Council as an entity did not present any settled view on the proposals at the time of the meeting. The Council did confirm that they may take a position when the project moved forward to application stage and reserved the right to do so at that time.
Via Telephone Call and E-Mail – resident at Kirkton South	Various queries regarding; proposed siting adjacent to their property, project layout, mitigation options, impact on existing lanes and impact on access to coastline, traffic movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive engagement took place with the landowners at South Kirkton regarding the project via a series of phone calls and MS Teams meetings with the Elgin and RPS Project Managers. • During the process Elgin/RPS set out the forthcoming consenting process and anticipated project timelines; • Elgin/RPS clarified issues regarding existing access to the coastline and confirmed the project would not infringe on the laneway to the southeast of the property; • Elgin clarified the extent of traffic movements associated with construction activity and confirmed that subsequent traffic during construction would be minimal; • Elgin sought to address resident’s concerns regarding visual impacts by entering into an iterative engagement process regarding the proposed project layout next to the South Kirkton property; • To alleviate landowner concerns Elgin stripped a substantial area of panels away from the property boundary in all directions but most notably to the south. • Elgin introduced further screening to alleviate the resident’s concerns and offered the resident an opportunity to engage regarding the location of same.
Via Telephone Call and E-Mail – Local resident and owner of property northwest of the site boundary	Query regarding the proximity of panels near to the residents landholding where he presently ran an existing fishing and game shooting facility. The resident also notified Elgin of a forthcoming planning application for a dwelling they intended to submit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elgin and RPS engaged extensively with the landowner to understand project concerns and to ascertain whether project clarifications could address same; • During discussions Elgin/RPS shared layout iterations with the resident in the area of the site next to their property and also offered to implement project mitigation in the form of planting to alleviate concerns; • The process resulted in an area of panels being removed to the south and east of the landowner’s property - which is at present a lake and ancillary business. This is also the potential dwelling site.

Email correspondence

Political Reps and MSP (Cllr Allan; Cllr Beagrie; Cllr Sutherland; Cllr Buchan and Stewart Stevenson MSP)	Email correspondence issued 02.12.2020 and further contact made January 2021 via follow up email and direct telephone calls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RPS issued an initial request for engagement email to all Councillors in December 2020; • RPS issued a further email in January 2021 confirming the initial email that was sent/RPS made direct contact via telephone; • Responses were received from Cllr Allan; Cllr Beagrie and Cllr Sutherland. Cllr Beagrie and Cllr Allan confirmed that they had received the information however they were on the Buchan Area Committee and did not wish to engage further in regards to the proposals. This was noted and no further contact was made. No response was received from Cllr Buchan; • A response was received from Stewart Stevenson MSP to confirm receipt of the request for engagement. Mr Stevenson stated that he had received the letter and queried whether the proposal was related to the Energy application at Kirkton. RPS responded to provide Mr Stevenson with further details of the application including a link to the project website and confirmed that the current proposals were entirely separate.
Resident Kirkton North (Via E-Mail Correspondence)	Further to receipt of the letter referred to in Section 4.2.5 of this Report, the owners of Kirkton North contacted RPS and Elgin to advise of their opposition to the project noting a number of specific concerns. The residents advised that they did not wish to take up the offer of a phone/video call to discuss concerns but rather preferred to have all correspondence in writing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RPS responded to advise the residents of the present project stage – ie – that at the time of correspondence assessments remained ongoing to inform emerging development proposals. RPS/Elgin noted the resident's position – ie not to engage via phone/video call – and their stated opposition to the project. It was reiterated that the offer of direct engagement and correspondence remained should they change their view regarding this. • Notwithstanding the above, the layout of the project emerged to offset any potential impacts on the residents of North Kirkton through; Exclusion of a field directly south of the property from any development proposals at project outset and implementation of substantial panel set backs to the north, northeast and west of the property.
Three Local Residents (Via E-Mail correspondence)	Three further local residents contacted the project team directly to ask for clarifications on the project and raise queries. Two of these people raised queries on foot of the Elgin presentation to the Buchan East Community Council meeting. The third query emerged as the person had become aware of the project through the general consultation process. Queries raised included: - Lack of a consultation open day or consultation with St Fergus; - Approach to seek consent via the Scottish Gov't;	Responses were issued to each of the respondent's to address their queries. Where repeat e-mails emerged these were responded to also. Elgin/RPS advised inter-alia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the project was supported by a PAC process tailored to take account of the pandemic and the circumstances surrounding it; • That given the circumstances an open day couldn't occur; • That proposals were not fixed at that time and that assessments and feedback received through the consultation process would in turn inform proposals; • That Elgin has no aspirations or plans for further projects in the area; • That Elgin or the Kirkton solar farm are not affiliated with any other projects in the Kirkton area; • That options for grid connection were not finalised at this time however that it was the intention to connect to the Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSE) network; • That our application would be supported by a robust suite of environmental assessments examining potential project impacts;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are Elgin linked with gas site operators; - Impacts to walkways and wildlife; - Impact on St.Fergus; - Need for renewables; - Grid Connection; - Links to other developers to the north; - Potential for more developments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During all correspondence Elgin/RPS advised that residents contact the project team again should any further concerns emerge or should further clarity be required.
--	---	---

Online Feedback Form (4th – 29th January)
--

Written (Online Feedback Form)	Various (Location and siting of the proposals; Visual impacts on the surrounding area; Traffic during the installation phase; effects on land use; Effects on local biodiversity and ecology)	A total of 15 feedback forms were completed, which included the following feedback: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 of 15 respondents stated they were opposed or very opposed to the scheme proposals; • 3 out of 15 respondents stated they lived within 5km of the project; • Of the fifteen responses received the following specific queries about the effects of the project: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A number of local residents raised concerns about the cumulative impact of the development alongside a number of other local developments in the wider area (citing local gas plant) and the impact the development would have in terms of visual amenity and the impact upon the coastal zone; ○ Other local residents stated that they had concerns about the size and scale of the development adjacent to their residential property and the amount of development that they would be surrounded by; ○ A number of other respondents raised concerns regarding the effect on local environment and wildlife in the area, particularly migrating birds; ○ One resident had concerns regarding the economic impact upon house values in the area; ○ Two respondents stated they did not have any concerns.
--------------------------------	---	--

5.1.5 Addressing issues which emerged through the PAC process

As set out previously within this Report, direct correspondence took place with various members of the public living within the immediate vicinity of the site, and other interested parties including Buchan East Community Council helped garner additional feedback on the scheme and highlight any issues prior to submission of the application to the ECU.

The applicant team responded to all of these queries either directly via email and telephone over the course of the consultation period or as and when emails were received after the consultation period ended. The applicant team addressed all queries raised by confirming the level of technical information that would be submitted with the application to alleviate any concerns raised regarding environmental issues such as the level of traffic associated with the development, impacts upon local wildlife and potential amenity/visual issues regarding the scheme.

PAC REPORT

The detailed design of the proposed solar farm and energy storage facility has evolved having due regard to the comments received during this consultation process and to take account of emerging survey information or that received from statutory authorities as part of the planning lead in.

A tailored package of environmental assessments were also undertaken to supplement the planning application, to set out the likely impacts of proposals and to inform on any mitigation to reduce and/or prevent negative impacts where identified.

Table 5.2 overleaf confirms key issues raised, and the applicant approach to considering and addressing same.

Table 5.2 Summary of Issues

Issues Raised	How issues have been addressed by Consultant Team
Siting of the proposed scheme on the subject lands (Principle of development)	Pre-application engagement has taken place with the local Council and ECU to discuss the application and highlight those matters to be considered as part of the application process. The applicant has commissioned a suite of environmental and supplementary reports to form part of a robust application. This includes a Planning Statement which will consider relevant National and Local planning policy and the principle for development at the site. The Planning Statement will also be informed by the conclusions of other environmental assessments to help present an insight into the rationale for the proposed siting.
Size and scale of the proposed development on the lands (Amount of development)	The layout brought forward as part of the initial PAC process was indicative however advanced sufficiently to allow meaningful comment. The intervening PAC and assessment processes has resulted in significant reductions in the proposed area of infrastructure in response to emerging information. An overview of layout iterations is provided within the Planning Statement accompanying the submission.
Potential visual impacts of the proposed solar development and impact this will have on neighbouring residential dwellings (Residential Amenity)	As per Table 5.1 above, the Applicant has engaged directly with local residents regarding perceived landscape and visual impacts which has resulted in the removal of panels and associated infrastructure from proposals. The Applicant has also appointed a landscape and visual expert to advise on emerging proposals and to undertake an assessment of the project in landscape and visual terms in accordance with prevailing guidelines. As part of this process the Applicant committed to provide a number of visualisations of the project from vantage points surrounding the site, as agreed with Aberdeenshire Local Planning Authority. This work forms part of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) which forms part of the application for consent, and sets out an assessment of the project in landscape and visual terms.
Impact upon the Coastal Zone and the landscape setting (Landscape and Visual Impact)	Please see above.
Impact upon local environment, including wildlife and migrating birds (Ecological Impact)	An Ecological Assessment forms part of the suite of documents supporting the planning application. Information emerging from the on-site surveys formed part of the design process and where required was built

PAC REPORT

	<p>in to layout considerations. A package of in-built proposals including bug hotels, wild flower seeding and others will form an integral part of proposals helping to generate ecological benefits. The presence of panels on the site – whilst continuing to facilitate agriculture – will also prevent intensive farming practices including the spreading of slurry or ploughing, allowing a more natural and traditional type of farming enterprise. It is hoped that the project will have overall net ecological benefits for wildlife.</p>
<p>Cumulative impact of gas terminal and the proposed scheme (Residential and visual amenity)</p>	<p>Assessments prepared as part of the application for consent will all consider cumulative impacts where relevant.</p>

As set out in Table 5.1 above, a number of other issues were raised directly with the Applicant and RPS during the process. All emerging issues were addressed through discussion and e-mail correspondence with those persons.

6 CONCLUSION

6.1 Meaningful Pre-Application Consultation

This report demonstrates that the applicant, Elgin Energy EsCo Ltd, has undertaken a meaningful and effective voluntary period of Pre-Application Consultation in relation to the proposed development for an electricity generating station with installed capacity in excess of 50 megawatts (MW) consisting of a solar PV farm of approximately 50MW capacity and an energy storage facility of approximately 20MW capacity, with ancillary development on lands on lands approximately 1.2km southeast of St.Fergus Village, Peterhead, directly east of the A90.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Scottish Government introduced temporary emergency legislation and guidance on how Applicant's should conduct appropriate and meaningful PAC to ensure applications and the development management process was able to continue during this period.

The Applicant undertook an extensive 10 week period of engagement with stakeholders, including local elected reps in the vicinity of the application site from December 2020 - February 2021, and the local community between 4th January and 29th January 2021. The Applicant provided a dedicated project website which was live for a period exceeding 3 weeks and which remains in place, undertook a letter-drop to local residents within the immediate vicinity of the site and contacted the local Community Council and elected representatives to engage. The engagement with the community has been appropriate, in line with the proposals, and is ongoing throughout the pre-application period. The project team has provided stakeholders with up-to-date and accurate information enabling them to actively engage and provide feedback to the applicant before any scheme is submitted to the ECU for consent.

Whilst the formal PAC period ended on 29th January 2021 Elgin Energy has remained receptive to engagement in the intervening period. Furthermore, Elgin Energy is fully committed to maintaining that engagement throughout the delivery of the project.

Appendices

Appendix 1



The Buchananie

#Therewithyou

The new name for the Buchan Observer

TRUSTED
NEWS
SINCE
1863

FOLLOW US
facebook.com/buchani news
@buchan news

TUESDAY
JANUARY 5, 2021

95P



BEM for former prison officer Jackie

See page 4



Enjoying our nature reserves

See p8&9

New project is a first for Scotland

SeaFit to ensure the health of fishermen

BY MORAG KUC
morag.kuc@jpimedia.co.uk
news@buchanobserver.com

A project dedicated to the wellbeing of fishermen, former fishermen and their families around the north-east has been launched in a first for Scotland.

Working at sea is one of the most challenging jobs in the UK so getting fit and healthy and staying that way can be difficult.

Live Life Aberdeenshire is working in partnership with the Fishermen's Mission and Seafarer's Hospital Society, supported by Seafarers UK, to deliver the SeaFit Programme.

A UK-wide initiative, its aim is to deliver sustainable improvements to the mental and physical health and wellbeing of active and retired fishermen and their families.

Live Life Aberdeenshire has employed a Healthy Lifestyle Advisor to work directly with local fishing communities in the delivery of the programme.

gramme.

Catriona Arthur will work with fishermen and their families in and around the harbours of Peterhead, Fraserburgh and Aberdeen, raising awareness of and providing advice and support on a variety of health and wellbeing matters to improve long term health.

Her role is to support mental and physical health improvements and to ensure there is availability for appropriate treatment, resources and help both at the harbour side and within the local community.

This includes mental wellbeing, physical activity, eating well and maintaining a healthy weight, support to stop smoking, dental health and advice about alcohol, drugs, and sexual health.

Catriona said: "The principle aim of the SeaFit Programme is to help fishermen and their families live healthier, more independent and more active lives.

"My role will involve connecting with and referring to

health and wellbeing services and healthcare professionals within the local community and in time providing some of this support at harbourside.

"A key part of my role is to be available within the communities themselves, to build relationships and trust and it's really important that anyone who feels they could benefit from this service feels able to contact me and speak to me in confidence."

UK SeaFit Project Delivery Manager, Carol Elliott, added: "Fishing remains the UK's most dangerous profession and life is tough for many of our fishermen at present.

"The SeaFit Programme was set up because it had been identified that fishermen find it difficult to make and keep pre-booked health appointments.

"They can't plan for time off because the weather, tides and fish locations often dictate when they need to be out at sea.

Continued on page 7



Healthy Lifestyle Advisor Catriona Arthur will work directly with local fishing communities to deliver the SeaFit programme in a first for Scotland

£100
off funeral
plans*

Fully guaranteed funeral plans from £20.52 a month†

To get £100 off your funeral plan, simply quote JP2002.

Call 0800 088 4859, go online to coop.co.uk/jp
or take this advert to your local Co-op Funeralcare.



It's what we do

*Offer valid until 31st March 2021 when JP2002 is quoted. A Co-op Member will not benefit from exclusive member prices or 1% when buying a plan using this code.
†£20.52 per month is based on a 50 year old purchasing a Simple Funeral Plan at £3,295 over 25 years (total amount repayable £6,155.65). See full terms and conditions at coop.co.uk/jp

HOLIDAYS

PERSONAL

PUBLIC NOTICES

HOLIDAYS GENERAL

PERSONAL FINANCE

PUBLIC NOTICES

The UK's Best Travel Insurance!



SAVE 20%
Quote: JP20

Call **FREE** 7 days a week
0800 033 4896
staysure.co.uk

Staysure

#Discount applies to the base premium only.

Homeowners aged 55 or over

Could you release a lump sum of money from your home?

Equity release may involve a home reversion plan or a lifetime mortgage which is secured against your property. To understand the features and risks ask for your personalised illustration. Equity release requires paying off any existing mortgage. Any money released, plus accrued interest, would be repaid upon death or moving into long-term care.

*UK's No1, based on volume of plans, source: Touchstone data Jan 2018 - Sept 2019.

REQUEST YOUR **FREE GUIDE**



Request your **FREE** guide to equity release

Freephone 0808 1450 167

Age Partnership Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, FCA registered number 425432. Company registered in England and Wales No. 5265969. Age Partnership Limited, 2200 Century Way, Thorpe Park, Leeds, LS15 8ZB. VAT registration number 162 9355 92.

Public & Legal Notice COVID-19 UPDATE FROM JPI MEDIA:

If you require a Public & Legal notice, our team is still on hand to assist you with this. Our business hours and deadlines will remain the same. For any enquiries in the first place please email publicnotices@jpimedia.co.uk with your requirements,

- ◆ Including your full name,
- ◆ Full business address including post code,
- ◆ A contact telephone number
- ◆ Full wording for the notice you require
- ◆ Newspaper title and date required.

For further advice please call the team on

0207 023 7931
jpimedia

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL C10B - TEMPORARY CLOSURE

"The Aberdeenshire Council (C10B) (Temporary Closure to Vehicular Traffic) Order, 2021" has been made under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984.

The order will operate from 11.01.21 for 14 days and will prohibit any person from driving on the C10B - B9093 to A952 road from the U9B junction to the A952 junction. Access will be provided for emergency and vehicles requiring access to properties but may be subject to delay until the road is cleared of construction plant to allow safe passage through the works.

The temporary restriction is necessary in the interests of public safety owing to verge repair and drainage installation works. An alternative route for traffic is available via the C10B westward to the B9093, the B9093 eastwards to the A952, the A952 northwards to the C10B and vice versa.

Any queries should be directed Rebecca Scott on 01467 534843.

Head of Legal and Governance, Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen, AB16 5GB

PUBLIC NOTICE

ONLINE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROPOSED SOLAR PV FARM AND ENERGY STORAGE FACILITY, WITH ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE

ON LANDS IN KIRKTON, ABERDEENSHIRE, AB42 3PD

Elgin Energy is conducting a public consultation in relation to the above proposals. Due to Government restrictions on public assembly during the ongoing pandemic, a public event cannot be held. As an alternative, a dedicated project website has been created to share information and facilitate feedback:

www.kirktonsolarfarm.co.uk

Please take this opportunity to share your views on the proposals before Friday 29th January 2021.

If you require further information, please contact us on:

E: office@elgin-energy.com
T: 0208 068 4240

Please note that partaking in this process does not affect your statutory rights to make representations to the Consenting Authority (Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit) in respect of the planning application when submitted.

HOMES



LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME?

VIEW PROPERTY FOR SALE IN YOUR LOCAL AREA

DISCOVER HOMES

Travel insurance with more packed in!

SAVE 20%
Quote: 20JP

Call us **FREE** 7 days a week
0800 033 4161
avanti.co.uk

avanti
Travel Insurance

#Discount applies to base premium only.

HOUSE BUYER BUREAU

SELL YOUR HOUSE FAST FOR CASH



For your **FREE** cash offer, visit housebuyerbureau.co.uk/cash

Call free **0800 880 3232**



PERSONAL

PERSONAL FINANCE

Are You 55 Yrs+ Home Owner?
RELEASE TAX-FREE CASH TIED UP IN YOUR HOME



- ☀ Fund a longer, active retirement
- 🏠 Pay nothing while you live in the home
- ♥ Support family with funds to buy a first home
- ★ Boost your finances with no re-payments



CALL NOW Book a **FREE** Consultation **0800 009 6813**

Britannia Mobility & Bathing Aid Ltd: Registration No 10571354



FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO DRIVE

CAR REVIEWS, INDUSTRY NEWS, PLUS WE TALK TECHNICAL

EVERY WEEK IN PAPER AND ONLINE

ARE YOU SEEKING TO RECRUIT IN YOUR LOCAL AREA?

The SmartList will search and find the best candidates to fill your vacancy

Call one of our experienced team now on **0207 855 7577** and start the search for your perfect applicants



EVERY WEEK IN PAPER AND ONLINE

94% OF PEOPLE PREFER TO BUY FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES.



Don't miss out, you can advertise in your local newspaper and website at a cost effective rate.

Call your friendly Classified team today to hear about our multimedia advertising solutions.

Tel: **0131 370 0846**

#Therewithyou

The ELLON TIMES

& INVERURIE HERALD



*Overcoming challenges
to keep business booming*

Page 3



*Sign up for Paws
across Scotland
challenge*

Page 7

Update given on upgrade

Ellon Park and Ride moves forward

● It's hoped that early 2021 will see a marked improvement in the facilities

● A number of projects have had to be put on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic

Full story: Page 5



Safety first

Advice to keeping safe on Bennachie over the winter season. Find out more on page 7

Unlock the cash from your home



The UK's largest equity release advisor*, Age Partnership, has produced a free guide to equity release to help explain everything you need to know about releasing cash from your home – and it's FREE. Equity release may involve a home reversion plan or a lifetime mortgage which is secured against your property. Request your personalised illustration to understand the features and risks. Equity release requires paying off any existing mortgage. Any money released, plus accrued interest, is to be repaid upon death or moving into long-term care.

Age Partnership
The UK's No.1 Equity Release Advisor

Call to request your free Equity Release Guide

0808 1450 167

or visit equity.agepartnership.co.uk/jp

Age Partnership Limited, 2200 Century Way, Thorpe Park, Leeds LS15 8ZB. Company registered in England and Wales No 05265969. VAT registration number 162 9355 92. Age Partnership Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. FCA registered number 426432. *Age Partnership's No.1 Advisor claim is based on volume of plans, Touchstone data 2018 - Q2 2020.

CLASSIFIED

WANTED

WANTED CARAVANS AND CAMPER VANS!
 We buy any make, model or condition.
CASH PAID ON THE SPOT.
 Let us take the stress out of selling your caravan/ camper van.
 We are open for business - Observing Government Guidelines
Call today on 07775 834 318
 www.capitalcaravans.com



PERSONAL

PERSONAL FINANCE

Are You 55 Yrs+ Home Owner? 

RELEASE TAX-FREE CASH TIED UP IN YOUR HOME

- ☀ Fund a longer, active retirement
- 🏠 Pay nothing while you live in the home
- ♥ Support family with funds to buy a first home
- ★ Boost your finances with no re-payments

CALL NOW **0800 009 6813**
 Book a FREE Consultation
 Britannia Mobility & Bathing Aid Ltd: Registration No 10571354




THE BUYING HABITS OF YOUR CUSTOMERS HAVE CHANGED... HAS YOUR ADVERTISING

.....
 Make sure your voice is heard in the marketplace.
 At jpimedia we carry multimedia solutions to suit any business of any size.

Call today on 0131 370 0846
 and our friendly Classified team will be happy to help.

PUBLIC NOTICES

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL
 "Aberdeenshire's Registration Week for Primary 1 admission is Monday 11th January to Friday 15th January 2021."
 All children who reach their fifth birthday by 28th February 2022 are invited to register for Primary 1 for admission in August 2021. Parents/Carers of those children due to commence attendance at school in August 2021 should now register their children for the appropriate local primary school.
 To register for a primary school place, for a school within your catchment area, please complete the online application which can be found at: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/applyForSchoolPlace>. It is usual practice for children to attend their local catchment primary school, however, you have the right to apply to place your child in a school other than your local school. Please complete an out of zone placing request. (You should still register your child in a school in the area you live in until you know the outcome of your application) Out of Zone Request form can be found at: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/admissions/out-of-zone-school/>
 With COVID 19 restrictions in place please email the school a copy of the below or alternatively bring these with you when your child starts school:
 • the child's birth certificate as this is required as evidence of their date of birth and;
 • evidence of the parent/carer's home address (for example a recent utility bill or recent bank statement).
 All schools in Aberdeenshire have the same start date, in the middle of August each year. You will be informed of this year's start date at the time of registration at school.
 Aberdeenshire Education & Children's Services makes no provision to admit any children who are five after the end of February, unless that child has previously been registered and has commenced full-time attendance (excluding induction) in a state supported or Forces school and is transferring into Aberdeenshire. In this case, the local authority can exercise discretion. Registration for a nursery or playgroup does not count for the purposes of this exception.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

Public & Legal Notice COVID-19 UPDATE FROM JPI MEDIA:

If you require a Public & Legal notice, our team is still on hand to assist you with this. Our business hours and deadlines will remain the same. For any enquiries in the first place please email publicnotices@jpimedia.co.uk with your requirements,

- ◆ Including your full name,
- ◆ Full business address including post code,
- ◆ A contact telephone number
- ◆ Full wording for the notice you require
- ◆ Newspaper title and date required.

For further advice please call the team on **0207 023 7931**


PUBLIC NOTICE
ONLINE PUBLIC CONSULTATION
PROPOSED SOLAR PV FARM AND ENERGY STORAGE FACILITY, WITH ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON LANDS IN KIRKTON, ABERDEENSHIRE, AB42 3PD

Elgin Energy is conducting a public consultation in relation to the above proposals. Due to Government restrictions on public assembly during the ongoing pandemic, a public event cannot be held. As an alternative, a dedicated project website has been created to share information and facilitate feedback:

www.kirktonsolarfarm.co.uk

Please take this opportunity to share your views on the proposals before Friday 29th January 2021.

If you require further information, please contact us on:
 E: office@elgin-energy.com
 T: 0208 068 4240

Please note that partaking in this process does not affect your statutory rights to make representations to the Consenting Authority (Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit) in respect of the planning application when submitted.

DON'T JUST DREAM BIG. MAKE IT BIG.

Your new Hong Kong office?



www.jobstoday.co.uk **Jobstoday**

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013, Regulation 20(1) or PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997, Regulation 60(2)(a) or 65(2)(a)

The applications listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be viewed electronically using the Planning Register at <https://upa.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online-applications/>.
 Comments may be made quoting the reference number and stating clearly the grounds for making comment. Comments can be submitted using the Planning Register when viewing the application. Alternatively, comments can be addressed to Aberdeenshire Council, Planning and Environment Service, Viewmount, Arduthie Road, Stonehaven, AB39 2DQ (or emailed to planningonline@aberdeenshire.gov.uk). Please note that any comment made will be published on the Planning Register.
 Please note that even if you have made comments to the applicant prior to this application being submitted, or to the Council regarding a similar application that has been made on this site before, you will still need to make your comments to the Council on the current application.

Comments must be received by 28 January 2021

Office dealing with applications listed below: Viewmount, Arduthie Road, Stonehaven, AB39 2DQ

Address: Netherton, Whitehouse, Alford, AB33 8DL **Proposal:** Installation of Biomass Boiler and Erection of Wood Chip Storage Shed (Retrospective) – APP/2020/2544

Address: The Greens, Near Tillypronie Lodge, Migvie, Tarland, AB34 4XQ **Proposal:** Retention of Dwellinghouse without Compliance with Condition 2 (Occupancy) of Planning Permission Reference 01/94/1142 – APP/2020/2553

Address: 8 Castle Street, Johnshaven, DD10 0ER **Proposal:** Installation of Replacement Windows – APP/2020/2496

Address: Land at Schoolhill, Portlethen **Proposal:** Residential Development Including Neighbourhood Shops and Business Park Without Compliance with Condition 1 (Time) of Planning Permission Reference APP/2014/1747 – APP/2020/2452

Address: Armadale, Balmoral Terrace, Aboyne, AB34 5HL **Proposal:** Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse Including Repositioning of Oil Tank and External Boiler and Erection of Decking, Gate and Fence and Alterations to Boundary Wall – APP/2020/2546

Address: Drumlassie Steading, Tornaveen, Torphins, AB31 4NX **Proposal:** Conversion of Steading to Form Dwellinghouse – APP/2020/2532

Address: Site to the South of Mill Cottage, Banchory Devenick **Proposal:** Formation of Access Road, Cycle Paths and Footpaths, Upgrade (Widening) of Causey Mounth Road and Access Junction with Leggart Terrace and Associated Landscaping – APP/2020/2492

Address: Stoneydale Quarry, Laurencekirk, AB30 1UP **Proposal:** Extension to Quarry Boundary (Retrospective) – APP/2020/2477

Address: Office dealing with applications listed below: Gordon House, Blackhall Road, Inverurie, AB51 3WA

Address: Site at Causeway Fold, Meikle Wartle, Inverurie **Proposal:** Erection of Dwellinghouse and Garage – APP/2020/2494

Address: Unit 2A, Garioch Centre, Constitution Street, Inverurie, AB51 4UY **Proposal:** Change of Use of Shop (Class 1) to Restaurant (Class 3) and Hot Food Takeaway and Installation of Flue – APP/2020/2508

Address: Land to North of Elrick House, Newmachar, AB21 7PY **Proposal:** Removal of Conditions 6 (Access Plan) and 12 (Connection to Public Waste Water System) of Planning Permission APP/2015/3844 (Erection of 8 Dwellinghouses (Enabling Development)) – APP/2020/2476

Address: Southside Carnieston, Insh, AB52 6XH **Proposal:** Erection of Agricultural Storage Shed – APP/2020/2518

Address: Former Inveramsay Railway Station, Inveramsay, Pitcaple, Inverurie, AB51 5DQ **Proposal:** Erection of Dwellinghouse and Garage and Change of Use of Railway Waiting Room to Domestic Garage – APP/2020/2517

Office dealing with applications listed below: 45 Bridge Street, Ellon, AB41 9AA

Address: Ardgill, Newburgh, AB41 6BA **Proposal:** Erection of Dwellinghouse (Change of House Type to Planning Permission Reference APP/2014/2915 – Plot 1) – APP/2020/2414

Address: Site at Old Smithy Cottage, Collieston **Proposal:** Erection of Dwellinghouse – APP/2020/2513

Address: Land to the North of 1 Wester Hatton Cottages, Balmedie, AB23 8YY **Proposal:** Erection of 2 Dwellinghouses and Formation of 1.2m high Bund with 1.8m high Fencing – APP/2020/2488

Address: Land at 3 Cairnleith Crofts, Ythanbank, Ellon, AB41 7UB **Proposal:** Conditions 1 (Layout, Siting, Design, Appearance, Materials, Access, Landscaping, Levels, Cross Sections and Drainage) of Planning Permission Reference APP/2017/2905 for Erection of Dwellinghouse – APP/2020/2482

Address: Site at Derelict Steading, Shethin Smiddy, Tarves, AB41 7LX **Proposal:** Conversion of Steading to form 2 Dwellinghouses and Erection of 1 Dwellinghouse and Associated Works – APP/2020/2490

Address: Nosheen Tandoori, 10 Bridge Street, Ellon, AB41 9AA **Proposal:** Alterations to Building Entrance – APP/2020/2495

94% OF PEOPLE PREFER TO BUY FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES.



Don't miss out, you can advertise in your local newspaper and website at a cost effective rate.

Call your friendly Classified team today to hear about our multimedia advertising solutions.
Tel: 0131 370 0846

The Fraserburgh Herald

#Therewithyou

TRUSTED NEWS SINCE 1884



A rare career choice for local girl Sophie

See page 3



Hotel makes Christmas special

See page 5

New project is a first for Scotland

SeaFit to ensure the health of fishermen

BY MORAG KUC
morag.kuc@jpimedia.co.uk
news@buchanobserver.com

A project dedicated to the well-being of fishermen, former fishermen and their families around the north-east has been launched in a first for Scotland.

Working at sea is one of the most challenging jobs in the UK so getting fit and healthy and staying that way can be difficult.

Live Life Aberdeenshire is working in partnership with the Fishermen's Mission and Seafarer's Hospital Society, supported by Seafarers UK, to deliver the SeaFit Programme.

A UK-wide initiative, its aim is to deliver sustainable improvements to the mental and physical health and well-being of active and retired fishermen and their families.

Live Life Aberdeenshire has employed a Healthy Lifestyle Adviser to work directly with local fishing communities in the delivery of the pro-

gramme.

Catriona Arthur will work with fishermen and their families in and around the harbours of Peterhead, Fraserburgh and Aberdeen, raising awareness of and providing advice and support on a variety of health and well-being matters to improve long term health.

Her role is to support mental and physical health improvements and to ensure there is availability for appropriate treatment, resources and help both at the harbour-side and within the local community.

This includes mental well-being, physical activity, eating well and maintaining a healthy weight, support to stop smoking, dental health and advice about alcohol, drugs, and sexual health.

Catriona said: "The principle aim of the SeaFit Programme is to help fishermen and their families live healthier, more independent and more active lives.

"My role will involve connecting with and referring to

health and well-being services and healthcare professionals within the local community and in time providing some of this support at harbourside.

"A key part of my role is to be available within the communities themselves, to build relationships and trust and it's really important that anyone who feels they could benefit from this service feels able to contact me and speak to me in confidence."

UK SeaFit Project Delivery Manager, Carol Elliott, added: "Fishing remains the UK's most dangerous profession and life is tough for many of our fishermen at present.

"The SeaFit Programme was set up because it had been identified that fishermen find it difficult to make and keep pre-booked health appointments.

"They can't plan for time off because the weather, tides and fish locations often dictate when they need to be out at sea.

Continued on page 7



Healthy Lifestyle Adviser Catriona Arthur will work directly with local fishing communities to deliver the SeaFit programme in a first for Scotland

HOMES



LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME?

VIEW PROPERTY FOR SALE IN YOUR LOCAL AREA

DISCOVER HOMES - EVERY WEEK IN PAPER AND ONLINE

PERSONAL

PERSONAL FINANCE

Are You 55 Yrs+ Home Owner?



**RELEASE TAX-FREE CASH
TIED UP IN YOUR HOME**

Fund a longer, active retirement

Pay nothing while you live in the home

Support family with funds to buy a first home

Boost your finances with no re-payments



CALL NOW
Book a **FREE** Consultation **0800 009 6813**

Britannia Mobility & Bathing Aid Ltd: Registration No 10571354

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
ONLINE PUBLIC CONSULTATION
PROPOSED SOLAR PV FARM AND ENERGY
STORAGE FACILITY, WITH ASSOCIATED
INFRASTRUCTURE
ON**

LANDS IN KIRKTON, ABERDEENSHIRE, AB42 3PD

Elgin Energy is conducting a public consultation in relation to the above proposals. Due to Government restrictions on public assembly during the ongoing pandemic, a public event cannot be held. As an alternative, a dedicated project website has been created to share information and facilitate feedback:

www.kirktonsolarfarm.co.uk

Please take this opportunity to share your views on the proposals before Friday 29th January 2021.

If you require further information, please contact us on:

E: office@elgin-energy.com
T: 0208 068 4240

Please note that partaking in this process does not affect your statutory rights to make representations to the Consenting Authority (Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit) in respect of the planning application when submitted.

Homeowners aged 55 or over

Could you release a lump sum of money from your home?

Equity release may involve a home reversion plan or a lifetime mortgage which is secured against your property. To understand the features and risks ask for your personalised illustration. Equity release requires paying off any existing mortgage. Any money released, plus accrued interest, would be repaid upon death or moving into long-term care.

REQUEST YOUR FREE GUIDE

*UK's No1, based on volume of plans, source: Touchstone data Jan 2018 - Sept 2019.



Request your **FREE** guide to equity release

Freephone 0808 1450 167

Age Partnership Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. FCA registered number 425432. Company registered in England and Wales No. 5265969. Age Partnership Limited, 2200 Century Way, Thorpe Park, Leeds, LS15 8ZB. VAT registration number 162 9355 92.

Dreaming of the Perfect House - Then check out our Property Columns



**ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT
PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND)
REGULATIONS 2013, Regulation 20(1) or
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND
CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND)
ACT 1997, Regulation 60(2)(a) or 65(2)(a)**

The applications listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be viewed electronically using the Planning Register at <https://upa.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

Comments may be made quoting the reference number and stating clearly the grounds for making comment. Comments can be submitted using the Planning Register when viewing the application. Alternatively, comments can be addressed to Aberdeenshire Council, Planning and Environment Service, Viewmount, Arduthie Road, Stonehaven, AB39 2DQ (or emailed to planningonline@aberdeenshire.gov.uk). Please note that any comment made will be published on the Planning Register.

Please note that even if you have made comments to the applicant prior to this application being submitted, or to the Council regarding a similar application that has been made on this site before, you will still need to make your comments to the Council on the current application.

Comments must be received by 28 January 2021

Address: Plot 2 to Rear of 4 Spillarsford Cottages, Lonmay, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire
Proposal: Condition 1 ((a) Siting, Design, Layout, External Appearance, bin uplift area, Driveway, Vehicle Parking and Turning area; (b) Means of Access including Visibility Splays and Layby; (c) Existing and Proposed Landscaping Scheme including hard landscaping, walls, fences and gates; (d) Levels Survey and Cross Sections; (e) Foul and Surface Water Disposal) of Planning Permission in Principle APP/2020/0360 for Erection of Dwellinghouse - APP/2020/2354

Address: 57 Pittulie, Sandhaven, Aberdeenshire, AB43 7EU
Proposal: Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse - APP/2020/2327

**ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL
FRASERBURGH -
TEMPORARY TRAFFIC
MANAGEMENT**

"The Aberdeenshire Council (Marconi Road, Fraserburgh) (Temporary Traffic Management) Order, 2021" has been made under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984.

The order will operate from 11.01.21 for 2 weeks and will prohibit any person/vehicle from driving/waiting on Marconi Road, Fraserburgh from George Street to Westshore Gardens.

Access will be provided for emergency and vehicles requiring access to properties but may be subject to delay until the road is cleared of construction plant to allow safe passage through the works.

The temporary restriction is necessary in the interests of public safety owing to surface dressing preparatory works. An alternative route for traffic is available via Marconi Terrace, Watermill Road, College Bounds, George Street and vice versa.

Any queries should be directed to Kevin Dingwall on 01467 534659.

Head of Legal and Governance, Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen, AB16 5GB

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

**Public & Legal Notice
COVID-19 UPDATE
FROM JPI MEDIA:**

If you require a Public & Legal notice, our team is still on hand to assist you with this. Our business hours and deadlines will remain the same. For any enquiries in the first place please email publicnotices@jpimedia.co.uk with your requirements,

- ◆ Including your full name,
- ◆ Full business address including post code,
- ◆ A contact telephone number
- ◆ Full wording for the notice you require
- ◆ Newspaper title and date required.

For further advice please call the team on

0207 023 7931
jpimedia

**ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL
FRASERBURGH -
TEMPORARY TRAFFIC
MANAGEMENT**

"TheAberdeenshire Council (Mid Street, Fraserburgh) (Temporary Traffic Management) Order, 2021" has been made under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984.

The order will operate from 12.01.21 for 15 days and will prohibit any person from driving on Mid Street, Fraserburgh from Cross Street to Broad Street. The one-way traffic system currently in place will be revoked during the course of this order.

Access will be provided for emergency and vehicles requiring access to properties but may be subject to delay until the road is cleared of construction plant to allow safe passage through the works.

The temporary restriction is necessary in the interests of public safety owing to gas connection works. An alternative route for traffic is available via Cross Street, High Street and Broad Street.

Any queries should be directed to Sarah Cooper on 01467 533164.

Head of Legal and Governance, Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen, AB16 5GB



No big business started out big. It's all about finding the people you need to take you higher.

Jobstoday

www.jobstoday.co.uk

£100
off funeral
plans*

Fully
guaranteed
funeral plans
from **£20.52**
a month†

To get **£100** off your funeral plan, simply quote JP2002.

Call **0800 088 4859**, go online to coop.co.uk/jp or take this advert to your local Co-op Funeralcare.



It's what we do



*Offer valid until 31st March 2021 when JP2002 is quoted. A Co-op Member will not benefit from exclusive member prices or 1% when buying a plan using this code. †£20.52 per month is based on a 50 year old purchasing a Simple Funeral Plan at £3,295 over 25 years (total amount repayable £6,155.65). See full terms and conditions at coop.co.uk/jp

Appendix 2

Our ref: Kirkton Solar PV Farm

Elmwood House
74 Boucher Road, Belfast
Co. Antrim BT12 6RZ
T +44 2890 667 914

Date: 8th January 2021

Dear Owner/Occupier,

Online Public Consultation for a proposed Solar PV farm and energy storage facility, with associated infrastructure on lands at Kirkton, Aberdeenshire, AB42 3PD.

On behalf of Elgin Energy (the applicant), RPS (planning/environmental consultants) invite you to take part in an online consultation in respect of the above development. We are preparing a planning application to submit to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU), seeking consent for a c.50 megawatt (MW) solar PV farm and energy storage facility (c.20MW) located in Kirkton, Aberdeenshire, AB42 3PD.

Further project details, including site location, are provided in the information leaflet enclosed with this letter.

Due to Government restrictions on public assembly during the ongoing pandemic, we are unable to hold a public event, as part of this consultation process. Accordingly, a dedicated project website has been created to share information on the proposed development and facilitate feedback on the proposals until 29th January 2021. The project website can be accessed at:

www.kirktonsolarfarm.co.uk

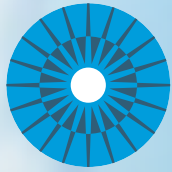
If you cannot access the project website, you can contact the project development team at Elgin Energy to obtain project information or provide feedback. Relevant contact details are provided in the enclosed information leaflet.

The proposal seeks to contribute to local, regional, and national clean energy targets in a resourceful manner and has the capacity to generate enough renewable energy to power approximately 10,500 homes. This process represents an opportunity for the community and stakeholders to actively engage, comment and shape the evolution of this project, and we would welcome your feedback.

Please be advised that taking part in this process does not affect your statutory rights to make representations to the ECU in respect of the application for consent, when submitted.

Yours sincerely,
for RPS Ireland Limited (NI)

Paul Mc Kernan
Technical Director | Planning & Environment
Paul.mckernan@rpsgroup.com



ELGIN
ENERGY

PROPOSED SOLAR PV FARM

Kirkton Solar Farm

Aberdeenshire, AB42 3PD

"Solar farms typically take up less than 5% of the ground they occupy, leaving huge scope for biodiversity enhancements in a protected space"

BRE National Solar Centre Biodiversity Best Practice Guidelines 2014

Introduction

Elgin Energy EsCo Ltd is seeking to develop a ground mounted Solar PV farm and energy storage facility on lands at Kirkton, Aberdeenshire, AB42 3PD. We are seeking your views on this proposal ahead of submitting a planning application to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU). The red line on the map below indicates the site boundary.

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic and current restrictions on public assembly, we are following Scottish Government Guidelines and are therefore unable to hold a public consultation event. As an alternative, we have created a website to share project information and seek feedback on the project proposals. Please visit www.kirktonsolarfarm.co.uk to learn more.

Please note that partaking in this process does not affect your statutory rights to make representations to the ECU in respect of the planning application when submitted.

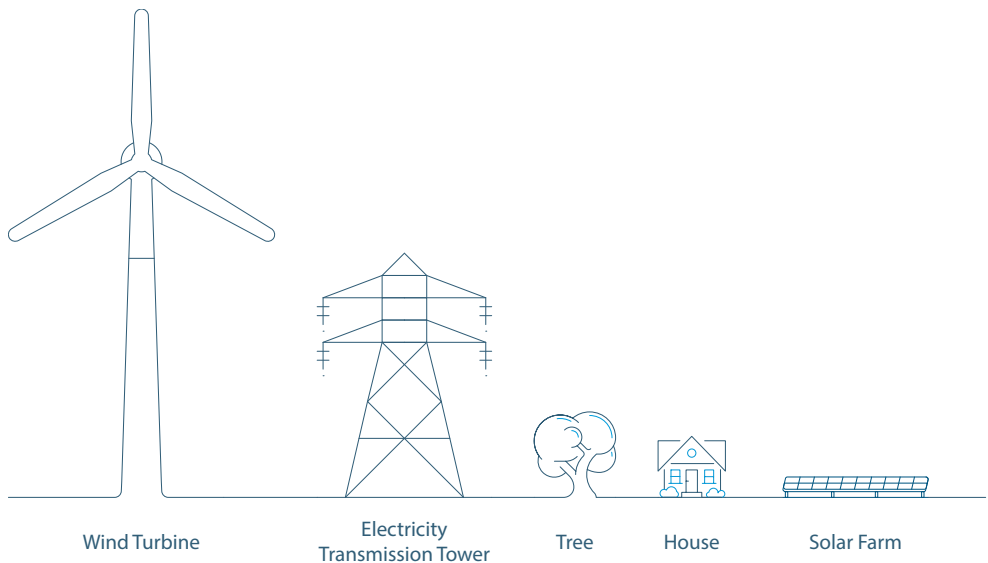


Project overview

The proposed site is in Kirkton, Aberdeenshire, AB42 3PD. It is approximately 1.2 kilometres south east of St Fergus village and due east of the A90, Peterhead. Access to the site will be from the A90.

The proposed project covers approximately 260 acres and will accommodate approximately 35 megawatts (MW) of ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and a 20MW energy storage facility. A project lifetime of 40 years is proposed.

The proposed solar farm will generate approximately 37,000,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) per annum powering 10,500 homes or 14,000 electric vehicles (EVs) every year.



Local engagement

Elgin Energy EsCo Ltd is committed to the local communities in which we operate. We engage with communities on each project through a public consultation and try to identify local initiatives that we can support through a community benefit fund.

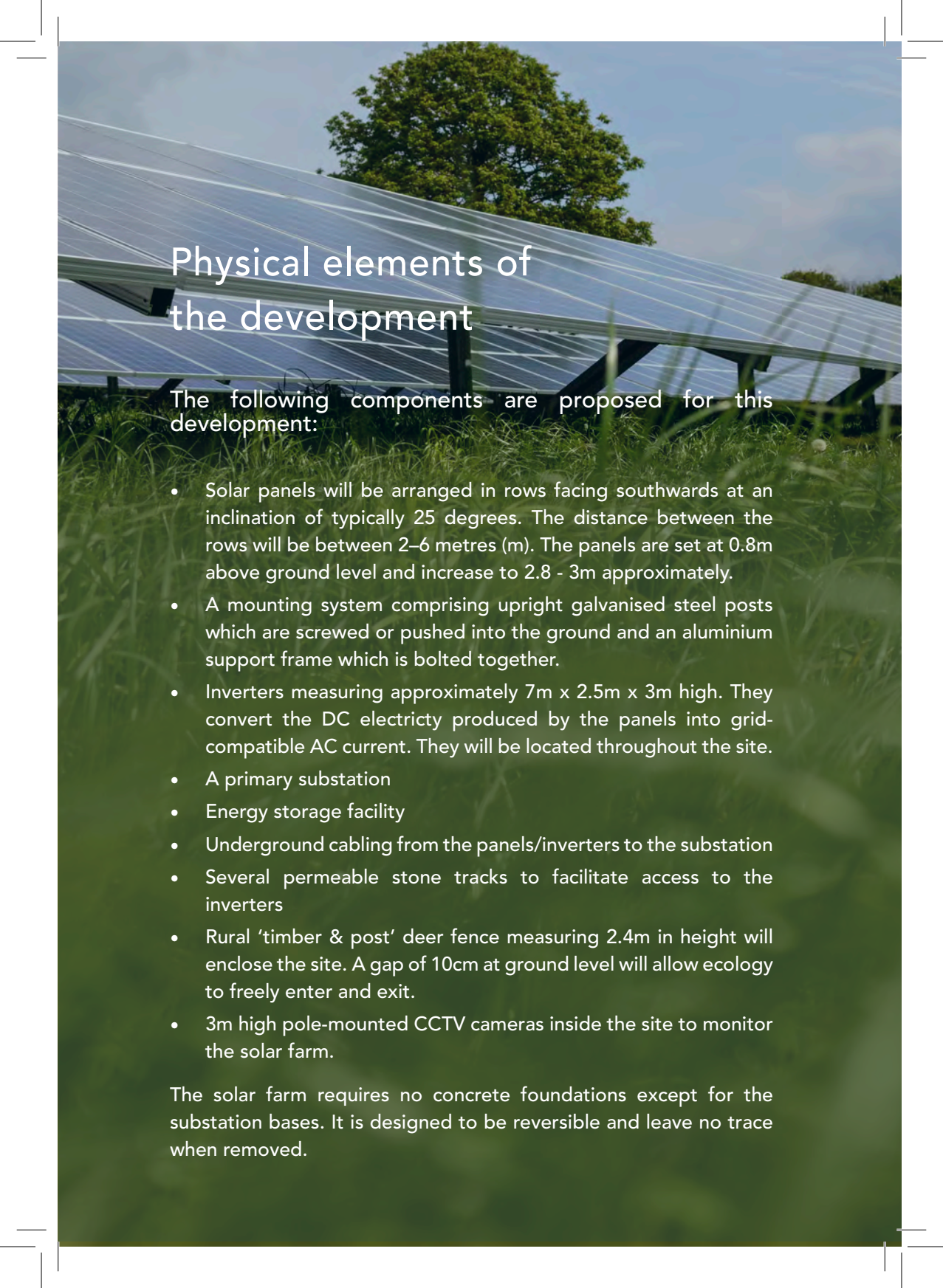
Local contractors and businesses will be engaged as far as possible during the installation phase. It is estimated that installation will take approximately 16 weeks. For the operational phase it is envisaged that local contractors and service providers will be engaged to maintain the solar farm.

If you would like to obtain further information about a community benefit fund or enquire about providing services for this project, please visit the project website.

Pre-planning process

A number of assessments are being conducted to establish any potential affects of the proposed development on the site and surrounding lands. These reports include ecology, archaeology & cultural heritage, construction access & traffic and flood risk. In addition, a landscape and visual impact assessment has been undertaken to identify any impacts on nearby viewpoints. These viewpoints and the proposed site layout can be viewed on the project website. A glint & glare assessment is also carried out although glint & glare effects from PV panels are rare as they are designed to absorb, not reflect, sunlight. This is evidenced by the installation of PV panels adjacent to the runways at Gatwick airport.

Existing field boundaries, trees, and hedgerows will be retained as far as possible. The provision of bird boxes, insect hotels, and wildflower meadows provide significant opportunities for biodiversity enhancements. Once the solar farm is operational, sheep farming can take place ensuring the land remains in agricultural use.



Physical elements of the development

The following components are proposed for this development:

- Solar panels will be arranged in rows facing southwards at an inclination of typically 25 degrees. The distance between the rows will be between 2–6 metres (m). The panels are set at 0.8m above ground level and increase to 2.8 - 3m approximately.
- A mounting system comprising upright galvanised steel posts which are screwed or pushed into the ground and an aluminium support frame which is bolted together.
- Inverters measuring approximately 7m x 2.5m x 3m high. They convert the DC electricity produced by the panels into grid-compatible AC current. They will be located throughout the site.
- A primary substation
- Energy storage facility
- Underground cabling from the panels/inverters to the substation
- Several permeable stone tracks to facilitate access to the inverters
- Rural 'timber & post' deer fence measuring 2.4m in height will enclose the site. A gap of 10cm at ground level will allow ecology to freely enter and exit.
- 3m high pole-mounted CCTV cameras inside the site to monitor the solar farm.

The solar farm requires no concrete foundations except for the substation bases. It is designed to be reversible and leave no trace when removed.



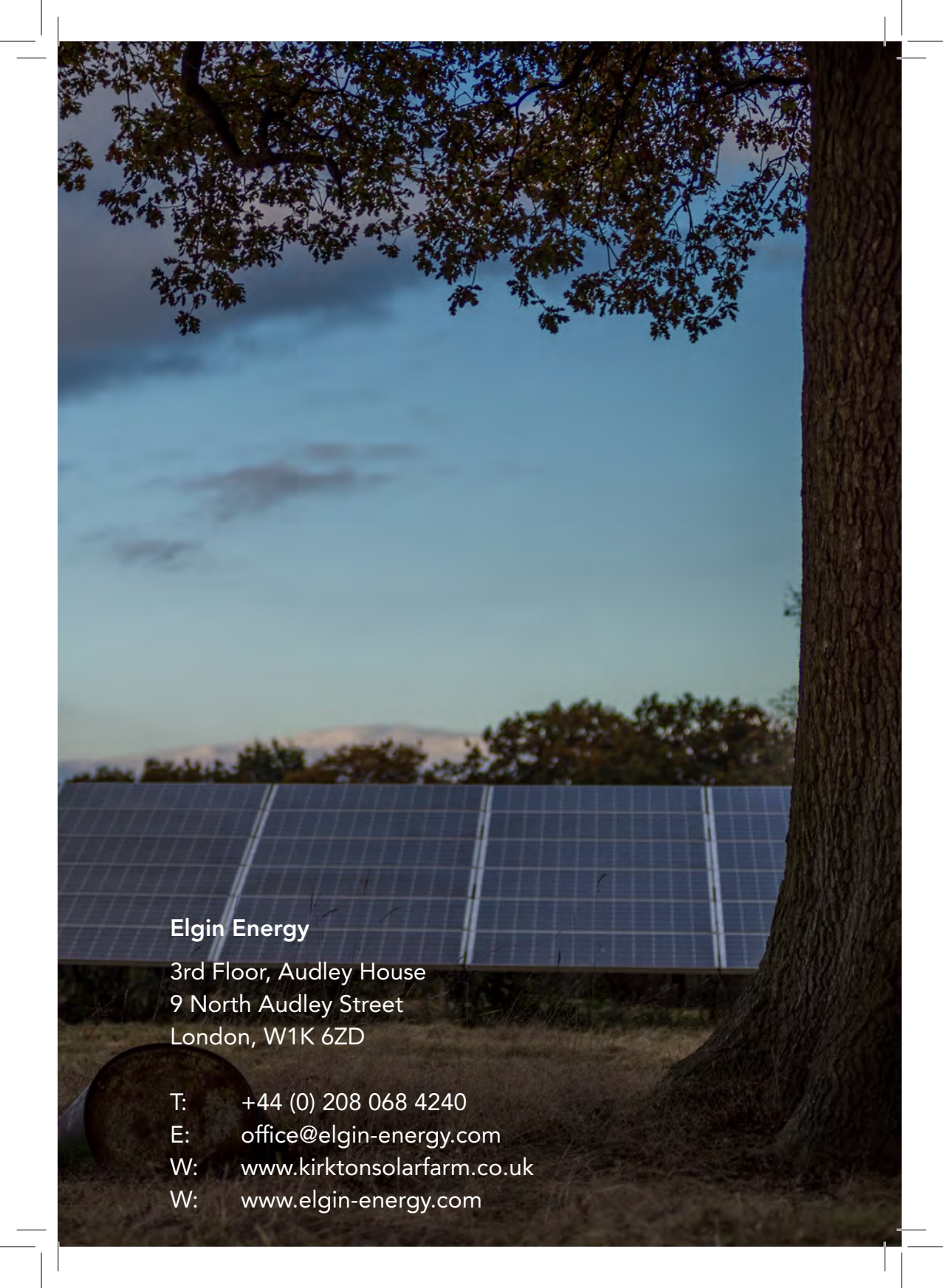
About Elgin Energy

Elgin Energy is a leading solar development platform with operations in the UK, Ireland, and Australia. To date, we have delivered 21 projects / 230 megawatts (MW) including the largest operational solar farms in Scotland (13MW) and Northern Ireland (46MW).

The company's initial development began in the UK in 2011, followed by Ireland in 2015 and Australian offices were opened in 2018.

Elgin Energy is committed to creating a sustainable future and is working towards this goal with our projects.

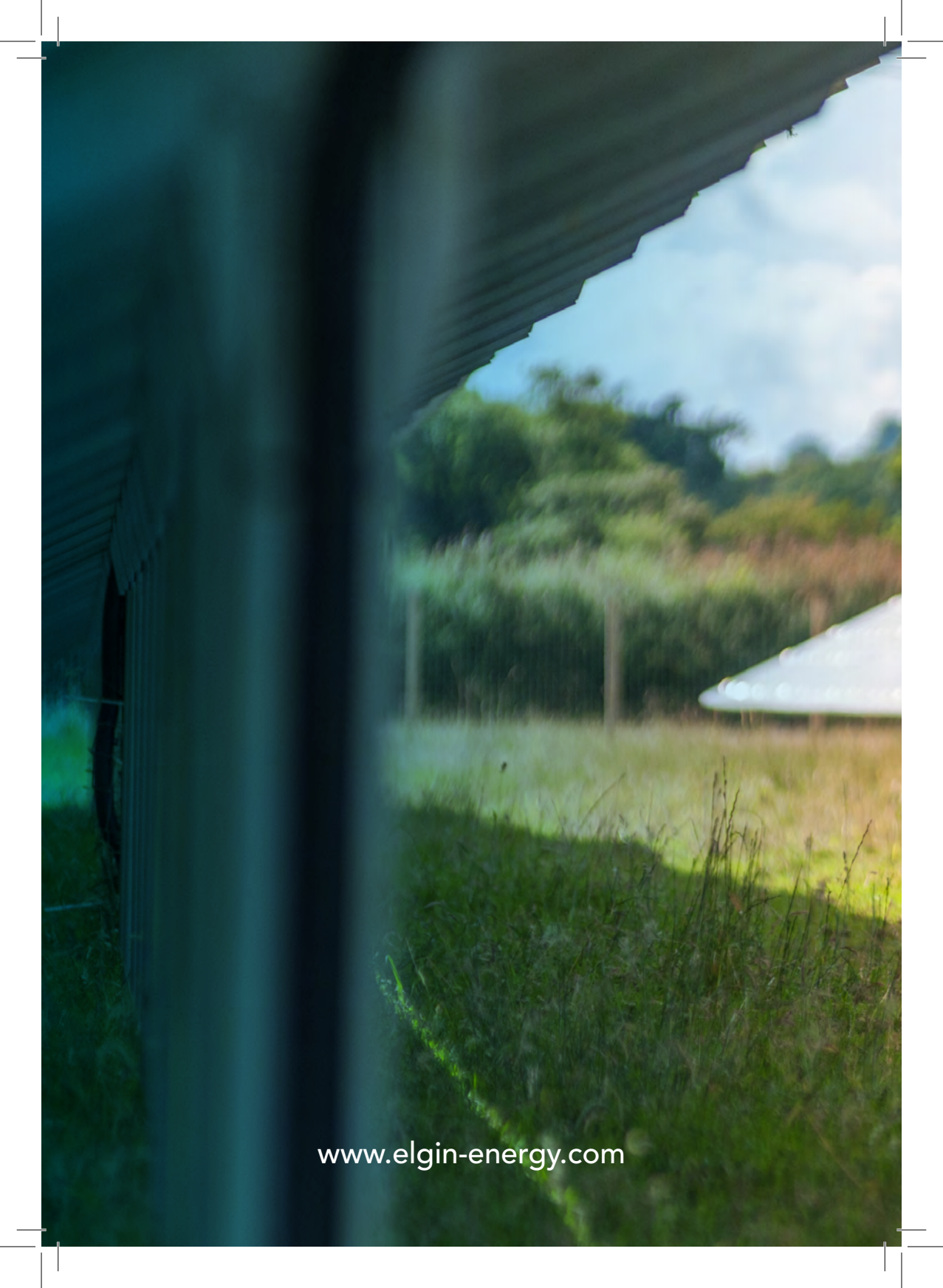
To learn more about Elgin Energy and the work we do, please visit our website.



Elgin Energy

3rd Floor, Audley House
9 North Audley Street
London, W1K 6ZD

T: +44 (0) 208 068 4240
E: office@elgin-energy.com
W: www.kirktonsolarfarm.co.uk
W: www.elgin-energy.com

A photograph taken from a shaded area, looking out from under a corrugated metal roof. The foreground is dominated by the dark, textured surface of the roof. In the background, a field of tall, green grasses stretches towards a line of trees under a bright, slightly cloudy sky. A portion of a white solar panel is visible on the right side of the frame.

www.elgin-energy.com

Appendix 3

Eimear Nelis

From: Eimear Nelis
Sent: 07 January 2021 14:18
To: [REDACTED]@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Subject: RE: NI2290 - Proposed Solar PV at Kirkton on behalf of Elgin Energy - Engagement with Peterhead North and Rattray Members

Good Afternoon Mr Buchan,

I am contacting you to find out if you have received my email and letter regarding the above proposals?

I also recently contacted your colleague and fellow Councillor Ms Allan and I advised that our client would be willing to take a call to answer any queries or questions that you or your fellow Peterhead North and Rattray Councillors might have. Councillor Allan advised me that due to her role on the Buchan Area Committee that she did not wish to discuss the project but that she had received our email and letter.

I trust that should you require any further clarification that you will be in touch.

Kind Regards,
Eimear

Eimear Nelis MRTPI
Planner - Planning and Environment
RPS | Consulting UK & Ireland
D 07731497515
E eimear.nelis@rpsgroup.com

From: Eimear Nelis
Sent: 02 December 2020 18:56
To: [REDACTED]@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Subject: NI2290 - Proposed Solar PV at Kirkton on behalf of Elgin Energy - Engagement with Peterhead North and Rattray Members

Dear Councillor Buchan,

Initial Engagement on a proposed Solar PV Farm project, St Fergus

RPS is preparing proposals for a new solar PV farm on lands south-east of St Fergus village and to the east of the A90, on behalf of Elgin Energy.

Initial discussions with the Planning Department in Aberdeenshire highlighted the Elected Members in Peterhead North and Rattray as key stakeholders, and we would welcome engagement with members to outline our proposals, seek initial feedback, and summarise our plans for further consultation with the wider community. We have also extended a similar invite to Buchan East Community Council.

Please find attached letter providing details of the project and how you can make contact with RPS to arrange a meeting.

Kind regards,
Eimear

Eimear Nelis MRTPI
Planner - Planning and Environment
RPS | Consulting UK & Ireland
Elmwood House
74 Boucher Road, Belfast
Co. Antrim BT12 6RZ, United Kingdom
T 028 9694 9787

Eimear Nelis

From: Eimear Nelis
Sent: 02 December 2020 18:55
To: [REDACTED]@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Subject: NI2290 - Proposed Solar PV at Kirkton on behalf of Elgin Energy - Engagement with Peterhead North and Rattray Members
Attachments: NI2290 RPS Letter to Ms Allan 02.12.2020.pdf

Dear Councillor Allan,

Initial Engagement on a proposed Solar PV Farm project, St Fergus

RPS is preparing proposals for a new solar PV farm on lands south-east of St Fergus village and to the east of the A90, on behalf of Elgin Energy.

Initial discussions with the Planning Department in Aberdeenshire highlighted the Elected Members in Peterhead North and Rattray as key stakeholders, and we would welcome engagement with members to outline our proposals, seek initial feedback, and summarise our plans for further consultation with the wider community. We have also extended a similar invite to Buchan East Community Council.

Please find attached letter providing details of the project and how you can make contact with RPS to arrange a meeting.

Kind regards,
Eimear

Eimear Nelis MRTPI

Planner - Planning and Environment
RPS | Consulting UK & Ireland
Elmwood House
74 Boucher Road, Belfast
Co. Antrim BT12 6RZ, United Kingdom
T 028 9694 9787
D 07731497515
E eimear.nelis@rpsgroup.com



rpsgroup.com

[LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)

Emerging from COVID-19

Taking the next step? Business will not be the same and we're here to help clients every step of the way. [Find out how](#)

Eimear Nelis

From: Eimear Nelis
Sent: 07 January 2021 14:46
To: Cllr Dianne Beagrie
Subject: RE: NI2290 - Proposed Solar PV at Kirkton on behalf of Elgin Energy - Engagement with Peterhead North and Rattray Members

Thank you for confirming.

Kind Regards,
Eimear

Eimear Nelis MRTPI

Planner - Planning and Environment
RPS | Consulting UK & Ireland
D 07731497515
E eimear.nelis@rpsgroup.com

From: Cllr Dianne Beagrie [mailto:_____@aberdeenshire.gov.uk]
Sent: 07 January 2021 14:36
To: Eimear Nelis <eimear.nelis@rpsgroup.com>
Subject: RE: NI2290 - Proposed Solar PV at Kirkton on behalf of Elgin Energy - Engagement with Peterhead North and Rattray Members

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of RPS.


Good Afternoon

As a member of the area committee I follow the same governance as Cllr Allan.

Dianne

Cllr Dianne Beagrie

Peterhead North & Rattray


Vice-Chair Buchan Area Committee
Member Education and Childrens Services
Sub Member Communities Committee
Member Nesfdp
Member Peterhead Development Partnership

From: Eimear Nelis <eimear.nelis@rpsgroup.com>
Sent: 07 January 2021 14:06
To: Cllr Dianne Beagrie [mailto:_____@aberdeenshire.gov.uk]

Subject: RE: NI2290 - Proposed Solar PV at Kirkton on behalf of Elgin Energy - Engagement with Peterhead North and Rattray Members

Good Afternoon Ms Beagrie,

Thank you for confirming you received my email regarding the above-mentioned proposal. I recently contacted your colleague and fellow Councillor Ms Allan and I advised that our client would be willing to take a call to answer any queries or questions that you or your fellow Peterhead North and Rattray Councillors might have. Councillor Allan advised me that due to her role on the Buchan Area Committee that she did not wish to discuss the project but that she had received our email and letter.

I trust that should you require any clarification you will be in contact.

Kind Regards,
Eimear

Eimear Nelis MRTPI

Planner - Planning and Environment
RPS | Consulting UK & Ireland
D 07731497515
E eimear.nelis@rpsgroup.com

From: Cllr Dianne Beagrie [<mailto:██████████@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>]

Sent: 11 December 2020 16:07

To: Eimear Nelis <eimear.nelis@rpsgroup.com>

Subject: RE: NI2290 - Proposed Solar PV at Kirkton on behalf of Elgin Energy - Engagement with Peterhead North and Rattray Members

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of RPS.

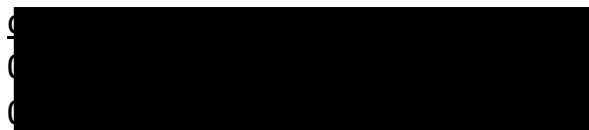
Good Afternoon

I have received your email.

Regards Dianne

Cllr Dianne Beagrie

Peterhead North & Rattray



Vice-Chair Buchan Area Committee
Member Education and Childrens Services
Sub Member Communities Committee
Member Nesfdp
Member Peterhead Development Partnership

From: Eimear Nelis <eimear.nelis@rpsgroup.com>

Sent: 02 December 2020 18:56

To: Cllr Dianne Beagrie <cldr.d.beagrie@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>

Subject: NI2290 - Proposed Solar PV at Kirkton on behalf of Elgin Energy - Engagement with Peterhead North and Rattray Members

Dear Councillor Beagrie,

Initial Engagement on a proposed Solar PV Farm project, St Fergus

RPS is preparing proposals for a new solar PV farm on lands south-east of St Fergus village and to the east of the A90, on behalf of Elgin Energy.

Initial discussions with the Planning Department in Aberdeenshire highlighted the Elected Members in Peterhead North and Rattray as key stakeholders, and we would welcome engagement with members to outline our proposals, seek initial feedback, and summarise our plans for further consultation with the wider community. We have also extended a similar invite to Buchan East Community Council.

Please find attached letter providing details of the project and how you can make contact with RPS to arrange a meeting.

Kind regards,
Eimear

Eimear Nelis MRTPI

Planner - Planning and Environment
RPS | Consulting UK & Ireland
Elmwood House
74 Boucher Road, Belfast
Co. Antrim BT12 6RZ, United Kingdom
T 028 9694 9787
D 07731497515
E eimear.nelis@rpsgroup.com



rpsgroup.com

[LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)

Emerging from COVID-19

Taking the next step? Business will not be the same and we're here to help clients every step of the way. [Find out how](#)

This e-mail message and any attached file is the property of the sender and is sent in confidence to the addressee only.

Internet communications are not secure and RPS is not responsible for their abuse by third parties, any alteration or corruption in transmission or for any loss or damage caused by a virus or by any other means.

RPS Group Plc, company number: 208 7786 (England). Registered office: 20 Western Avenue Milton Park Abingdon Oxfordshire OX14 4SH.

RPS Group Plc web link: <http://www.rpsgroup.com>

This e-mail may contain privileged information intended solely for the use of the individual to whom it is addressed. If you have received this e-mail in error, please accept our apologies and notify the sender, deleting the e-mail afterwards. Any views or opinions presented are solely those of the e-mail's author and do not necessarily represent those of Aberdeenshire Council.

Dh'fhaodadh fiosrachadh sochair, a tha a-mhàin airson an neach gu bheil am post-dealain air a chur, a bhith an seo. Ma tha thu air am post-dealain fhaighinn mar mhearachd, gabh ar leisgeul agus cuir fios chun an neach a chuir am post-dealain agus dubh às am post-dealain an dèidh sin. 'S e beachdan an neach a chuir am post-dealain a tha ann an gin sam bith a thèid a chur an cèill agus chan eil e a' ciallachadh gu bheil iad a'

riochdachadh beachdan Chomhairle Shiorrachd Obar Dheathain.

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk

This e-mail message and any attached file is the property of the sender and is sent in confidence to the addressee only.

Internet communications are not secure and RPS is not responsible for their abuse by third parties, any alteration or corruption in transmission or for any loss or damage caused by a virus or by any other means.

RPS Group Plc, company number: 208 7786 (England). Registered office: 20 Western Avenue Milton Park Abingdon Oxfordshire OX14 4SH.

RPS Group Plc web link: <http://www.rpsgroup.com>

Eimear Nelis

From: Eimear Nelis
Sent: 07 January 2021 14:36
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: NI2290 - Proposed Solar PV at Kirkton on behalf of Elgin Energy - Engagement with Community Council

Dear Alison,

I am contacting you further to my email below to find out if you have received the below email and letter that was attached?

If the Community Council has any queries and/or would like any clarification on the proposals please feel free to contact me.

Kind Regards,
Eimear

Eimear Nelis MRTPI
Planner - Planning and Environment
RPS | Consulting UK & Ireland
D 07731497515
E eimear.nelis@rpsgroup.com

From: Eimear Nelis
Sent: 02 December 2020 18:08
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: NI2290 - Proposed Solar PV at Kirkton on behalf of Elgin Energy - Engagement with Community Council

Dear Alison,

Initial Engagement on a proposed Solar PV Farm project, St Fergus

RPS is preparing proposals for a new solar PV farm on lands south-east of St Fergus village and to the east of the A90, on behalf of Elgin Energy.

Initial discussions with the Planning Department in Aberdeenshire highlighted the Buchan East Community Council as a key stakeholder, and we would welcome engagement with the Community Council and its members to outline our proposals, seek initial feedback, and summarise our plans for further consultation with the wider community. We have also extended a similar invite to the Elected Members in Peterhead and North Rattray.

I would be grateful if you could circulate the attached letter to the Community Council members in the first instance and revert back to me should you wish to discuss.

Kind regards,
Eimear

Eimear Nelis MRTPI
Planner - Planning and Environment
RPS | Consulting UK & Ireland
Elmwood House
74 Boucher Road, Belfast
Co. Antrim BT12 6RZ, United Kingdom
T 028 9694 9787
D 07731497515
E eimear.nelis@rpsgroup.com



rpsgroup.com

[LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)

Emerging from COVID-19

Taking the next step? Business will not be the same and we're here to help clients every step of the way. [Find out how](#)

Eimear Nelis

From: Eimear Nelis
Sent: 02 December 2020 18:56
To: [REDACTED]@rdeenshire.gov.uk
Subject: NI2290 - Proposed Solar PV at Kirkton on behalf of Elgin Energy - Engagement with Peterhead North and Rattray Members
Attachments: NI2290 RPS Letter to Mr Sutherland 02.12.2020.pdf

Dear Councillor Sutherland,

Initial Engagement on a proposed Solar PV Farm project, St Fergus

RPS is preparing proposals for a new solar PV farm on lands south-east of St Fergus village and to the east of the A90, on behalf of Elgin Energy.

Initial discussions with the Planning Department in Aberdeenshire highlighted the Elected Members in Peterhead North and Rattray as key stakeholders, and we would welcome engagement with members to outline our proposals, seek initial feedback, and summarise our plans for further consultation with the wider community. We have also extended a similar invite to Buchan East Community Council.

Please find attached letter providing details of the project and how you can make contact with RPS to arrange a meeting.

Kind regards,
Eimear

Eimear Nelis MRTPI

Planner - Planning and Environment
RPS | Consulting UK & Ireland
Elmwood House
74 Boucher Road, Belfast
Co. Antrim BT12 6RZ, United Kingdom
T 028 9694 9787
D 07731497515
E eimear.nelis@rpsgroup.com



rpsgroup.com

[LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)

Emerging from COVID-19

Taking the next step? Business will not be the same and we're here to help clients every step of the way. [Find out how](#)

Appendix 4



Public Consultation

This website has been created as part of the public consultation process for the proposed Kirkton Solar Farm and energy storage facility. Due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic and current restrictions on public assembly, we are following Scottish Government Guidelines and are therefore unable to hold a public consultation event.

Initial consultation has been undertaken by Elgin Energy through engagement with Aberdeenshire Council and residents living close to the proposed development. With this website, we are providing information to the wider community and seeking feedback to inform the project design. It is important to note that the project is evolving through detailed design and stakeholder consultation therefore we suggest you revisit the website from time to time to check on developments or changes to the project.

Due to the size of this project, this planning application will be considered by the Scottish Government [Energy Consents Unit](#). Please note that partaking in this process does not affect your



Kirkton Solar Farm



Accordingly the project website and [project information booklet](#) have been amended to address this anomaly. Further we would advise that all other information contained on this website and issued as part of the consultation process remains accurate.

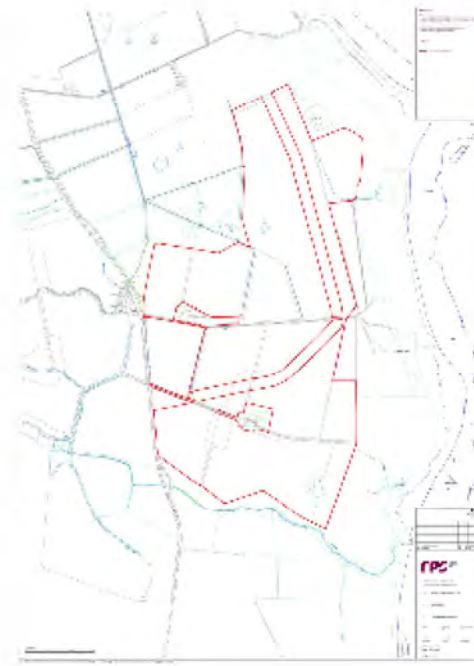
Elgin Energy apologises for any inconvenience caused and we look forward to engaging with you as part of this process.



 AB42 3PD	Kirkton, Aberdeenshire
 50MW	Approximate Project Size
 260 acres	Site Area
 Aberdeenshire	Local Council
 Energy Consents Unit	Consenting Authority

Planning Documents

Planning documents will be uploaded as the project progresses.



Site Boundary

[DOWNLOAD](#)

Site Layout Plan

[DOWNLOAD](#)





Frequently Asked Questions

[Public Consultation Process](#) →

[Key Project Details](#) →

[Solar PV](#) →

Public Consultation Process ✕

Why is there no public event as part of the consultation for this proposed development?

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic and current restrictions on public assembly, we are following Scottish Government Guidelines and are therefore unable to hold a public consultation event. As an alternative, we have created this website to share project information and seek feedback on the project proposals.

How long will this consultation take place for?

This public consultation will run until Friday 29th January 2021. After that time, all feedback received will be reviewed and the planning application will be finalised.

- **Overview**; [Planning Documents](#) [Photos](#) [FAQs](#) [Survey](#) [Contact](#) [About Elgin Energy](#)
- Facilitates sheep grazing to continue;
- The construction phase will result in job creation and increased expenditure in local shops, restaurants/cafes/hotels;
- The maintenance of the site will generate further opportunities for employment.

Key components in the proposed development →

Ecology & Biodiversity →

Health and Safety →

Key components in the proposed development

What equipment will be used on site?

The following components are proposed for this solar farm:

- Solar PV modules and a fixed-tilt mounting system
- Inverters
- Transformers
- Energy Storage Facility
- Underground cabling from the panels/inverters to the substation
- Several permeable stone tracks to facilitate access to the inverters
- Substation
- Rural 'timber & post' deer fence measuring typically 2.4m in height will enclose the site
- 3m high pole-mounted CCTV cameras inside the site to monitor the solar farm.

Appendix 5

Appendix 6

Date Submitted	Respondent	I am engaging in this consultation because:	Please rate your feelings towards the proposed Kirkiton Solar Farm:	Are you concerned about the effects of climate change?	Do you support the use of solar energy to combat climate change?	Do you support the principle of developing new solar energy projects?	In your opinion, what are the main benefits of the proposed Kirkiton Solar Farm?	No benefits of the project - their reasons	Please select any concerns you have in relation to the proposed Kirkiton Solar Farm:	Concerns about effects of project	Main impact / issue of solar farms	Is there anything you would change about the proposal? If so, please outline below:	Please provide suggestions for local community benefit fund initiatives.	If you are seeking further project information, please outline your queries below and our team will get in touch with you.	Do you feel this online consultation process has helped you to understand the project proposal?	Please let us know how you heard about the proposals for Kirkiton Solar Farm.	How did you hear about project - other	Would you like to be kept informed of the proposals for Kirkiton Solar Farm?	
								With respect, I regard this line of leading questioning condescending. I do not need to be led past the benefits of solar.	Landscape and visual impact, Traffic during the installation phase. Effects on local biodiversity and ecology.	St Fergus village already has an industrial use on its doorstep. The only open view to see we have from the village is to look in the opposite direction from the gas plant and you are proposing to run that with a farm of metal frames and solar panels.	Solar energy power plants can pose hazards to air quality. Such threats include the release of soil-carried pathogens and results in an increase in air particulate matter which has the effect of contaminating water reservoirs.	Move it to a location that does not already have a gas plant in its doorstep.			yes	Local Community Group	yes		
22/01/2021	Respondent 1	I live within 5km of project	Very opposed	yes	undecided	undecided			Landscape and visual impact, Traffic during the installation phase. Effects on local biodiversity and ecology.					no	Word of mouth		yes		
20/01/2021	Respondent 2	I live within 5km of project	Very opposed	yes	no	undecided	It will produce a clean and safe supply of energy. The project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change.		Landscape and visual impact, Traffic during the installation phase. Effects on local biodiversity and ecology.	I am not against green energy. But after reviewing the plans and seeing your willingness and obvious want to engage a property - I would not want to support a company who would do this. Regardless of the benefits, the sacrifice of one does not in my opinion justify this project. It is upsetting to see that	Slare, health issues, access, total change of the coastal landscape.	Remove the fact that this will surround a residential home. Extremely discouraging that morally you would do this, questions your stance as an ethical company, if you wish to be within a community for 40 years, it is clear that your integrity is already in question. There would be nothing stopping		Keep your funds and cut the amount of panels around a residential home. Or will it be that others will be benefit from their upset.		yes	Word of mouth	yes	
20/01/2021	Respondent 3	I live within 5km of project	Opposed	yes	yes	yes		I think it would possibly be a big eyesore on our beautiful countryside.	Landscape and visual impact, Traffic during the installation phase. Effects on local biodiversity and ecology.	I don't know if it will have an economic impact on house values in the local area.	As above. They take up monstrous amounts of good land to accommodate the solar panels and associated equipment.		Is this a bargaining tool to get local people on your side to avoid any negative planning comments.		no	Local Community Group	yes		
20/01/2021	Respondent 4	I live within 5km of project	Very opposed	undecided	undecided	undecided	The project will require little maintenance and		Landscape and visual impact, Traffic during the installation phase. Effects on local biodiversity and ecology.	No concerns.					yes			yes	
19/01/2021	Respondent 5	I live further than 5km of project	Very supportive	yes	yes	yes		do not believe it will provide local employment opportunities. I do not believe it will have relatively low visual impact after viewing the photo gallery.	Landscape and visual impact, Traffic during the installation phase. Effects on local biodiversity and ecology.	The proposed area is huge. It completely surrounds 2 dwelling houses. Vehicular access off the main road to the proposed site will either have to be new access made which will impact the area or will be	consider the main impact it affects the natural landscape and the small communities that live in close proximity.	suggest to move it inland away from an area of natural beauty that is enjoyed by many. Also to not impact on people's property to the extent that this proposal does.		no	Local Community Group	yes			
19/01/2021	Respondent 6	I live within 5km of project	Very opposed	undecided	undecided	undecided	The project will deliver a local community benefit fund. It will produce a clean and safe supply of energy.	Local Community benefits.	Landscape and visual impact, Traffic during the installation phase. Effects on local biodiversity and ecology.	Very concerned that this could seriously affect the local environment and wildlife. Also this is an area frequently visited by migrating birds.	Environment, natural beauty, wildlife.	Move this away from the beach area and inland.	Floodlit astro turf football pitch at Kinloch Road Community park. Yearly fund for community activities.		yes	Social Media	yes		
19/01/2021	Respondent 7	I live within 5km of project	Very opposed	undecided	undecided	undecided	This will cause another eyesore in our area. Once again we are the industrial estates of the North East. Gs spoil another area for a change.		Landscape and visual impact, Effects on local biodiversity and ecology.	See above.	These will destroy our coastal area again.	The sheer size is staggering. How on earth can this be passed.			yes	Social Media	yes		
19/01/2021	Respondent 8	I travel to the area more	Very opposed	yes	no	undecided			No concerns.	No	Possibly those living in direct sight of the solar farms will be negatively affected (views, property prices decreasing etc) but I believe this negative is minor, compared to the environmental crisis we are all facing in the coming decades, if moves towards renewable and clean energy are not made.	No	Teaching not only children but adults about climate change, workshops, information nights etc. And getting children involved in the solar farm (trips etc.) Community activities, such as possibly helping fund a gala, or		kmssi95@gmail.com - email	yes	Social Media	Unsure	yes
19/01/2021	Respondent 9	I live within 5km of project	Very supportive	yes	yes	yes	As the owners of the property South Kirkiton Farm which the proposal completely surrounds we are in disbelief that you think this is an ethical proposal to surround someone's residential property in such a way.		Landscape and visual impact, Traffic during the installation phase. Effects on local biodiversity and ecology.	This proposal will affect our family wellbeing due to our freedom to roam in these areas being removed and the beautiful views we have from our property will be lost. Also the diverse wildlife in the area will be negatively impacted.	As above. Also the beautiful untouched coastal area which this solar farm is proposed to be turned into an industrial site.	We feel the sheer size of the proposal is extreme, but overall we feel it is the wrong area to locate such a farm.		yes	Other	We were contacted directly via post by Elyon energy.	yes		
07/01/2021	Respondent 11	I live within 5km of project	Very opposed	undecided	no	no	The negative impacts far outweigh any benefits.		Effects on land use, Effects on local biodiversity and ecology.	Yes, the coastal zone is a special landscape area. This development would have a	They require a massive footprint for little energy. Much better turboalternators	Yes, if you must have this type of development then it should be away from the	Not interested in this!		no	Word of mouth		yes	
07/01/2021	Respondent 12	I live within 5km of project	Very opposed	yes	yes	undecided	It will NOT provide local employment. Having 230 acres of 10ft high solar panels will have devastating visual impact to		Landscape and visual impact, Effects on local biodiversity and ecology.	The visual impact on a protected area of land will be horrendous	Visual impact on residents. Distraction of drivers on A90	Put them around the landowners own house	Your money isn't wanted for your development		no	Word of mouth	Resident	yes	
44203	Respondent 13	I live within 5km of project	Very opposed	yes	yes	yes	Absolute disgrace to even consider this firstly on the Scottish coastal path, secondly surrounding homes and within close proximity to a village!		Landscape and visual impact, Effects on local biodiversity and ecology.	It will make a huge impact on the coastal path both visually and for the animals. Those parks are full of nature, birds, deer and protected areas of land will be lost. Also the diverse wildlife in the area will be negatively impacted.	The look, proximity to houses and village. Impacting everything from the look to the animals being impacted along with lowering house prices to surrounding properties	wouldn't have it near any residential areas at all		no	Word of mouth		yes		
44224	Respondent 14	I live within 5km of project	Very opposed	undecided	undecided	undecided	object to this project and understand that I can elaborate my reasons for objecting when the application		Landscape and visual impact, Effects on local biodiversity and ecology.	I have lots of concerns regarding this project and will be airing my concerns to the Scottish Government			Please do not try and buy our village as whatever amounts are placed in a community		no	Other	by other concerned residents	yes	
44234	Respondent 15	I live within 5km of project	Very opposed	undecided	undecided	undecided	It will ruin the Scottish coastal landscape for all of the residents and visitors to the area. The future generation will be angry at what our generation are doing to the Scottish landscape especially when there is already a huge		Landscape and visual impact, Effects on local biodiversity and ecology. Effects on land use, Traffic during the installation phase.	all of the above		yes, scrap it!	no, we will not be bought!		no	Word of mouth	a local resident	yes	