



HOUSTON SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) AND ENERGY STORAGE FACILITY

Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report

NI2575
02
13 June 2023

REPORT

Document status

| Version | Purpose of document | Authored by | Reviewed by | Approved by | Review date |
|---------|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 01 | PAC Report – Internal Review | CM | PMK | N/A | 10.01.23 |
| 02 | PAC Report - Final | CM | PMK | PMK | 13.06.23 |

Approval for issue

Paul McKernan

14 June 2023

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1 INTRODUCTION

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 three parcels of land located to the east of Houston village, Johnstone, directly north and south of the B790 Houston Road:

Proposed construction and operation of an electricity generating station with installed capacity in excess of 50 megawatts (MW) but not exceeding 100MW, consisting of a solar PV farm of approximately 75MW capacity and a battery energy storage facility of approximately 25MW 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 Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit Guidance document 'Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989' – as updated July 2022, and Elgin Energy's internal methods of best practice, a programme of pre-application community engagement has been undertaken by the Applicant. This is broadly based on the consultation principles outlined in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) 2013, Planning Circular 3/2013. 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 summarises the consultation approach taken, and the feedback received during the PAC process, and outlines how this has been addressed through this comprehensive planning submission.

1.1 Application Site

The application site (Figure 1 below) is located on three parcels of land within the Renfrewshire Council Area, comprising agricultural lands measuring approximately c. 129 hectares (c. 318 acres). At its nearest point, the northernmost parcel of land (Houston North) is located approximately 0.5km northeast of Houston village. It is situated to the north of the B790 Houston Road and is bisected by Turningshaw Road. Access to Houston North will be taken from existing access lanes onto the Turningshaw Road.

The other two land parcels (Houston South) are located to the south of the B790 Houston Road, situated to the east and west of Moss Road. At their nearest point the lands are located approximately 1km east of Houston village. Access to Houston South will be taken from existing access lanes onto Moss Road and Auchans Road.

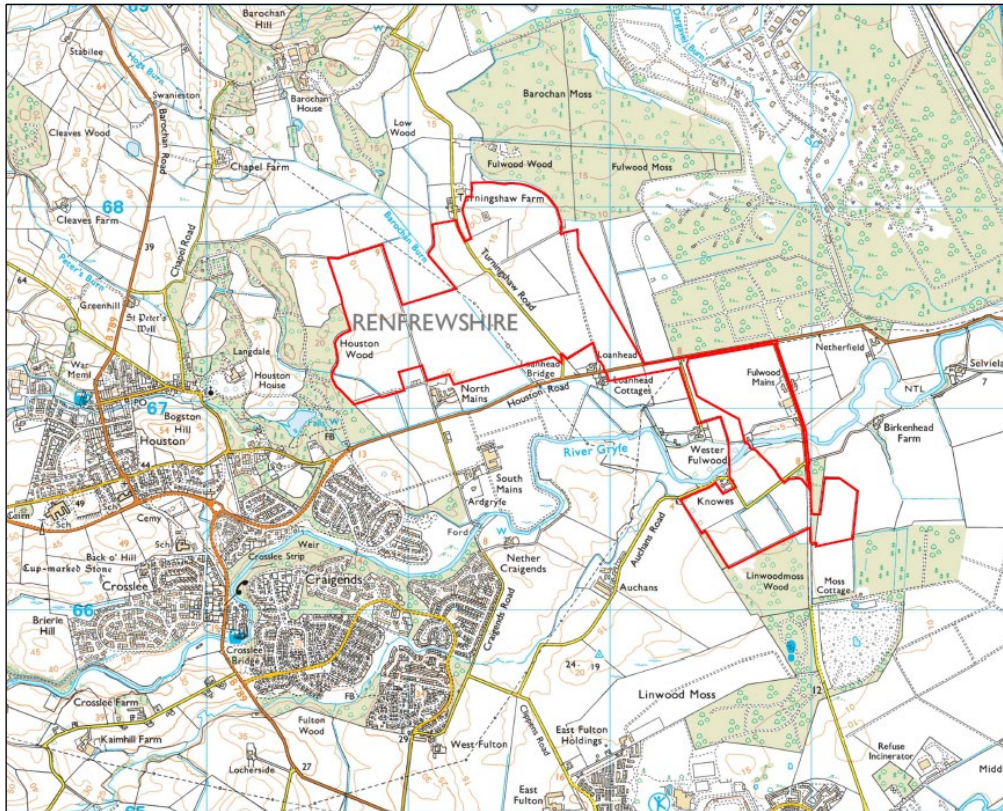


Figure 1: Application Site – Houston, Johnston

1.2 Proposed Development

The application to the ECU as set out above, seeks consent for the “*Proposed construction and operation of an electricity generating station with installed capacity in excess of 50 megawatts (MW) but not exceeding 100MW, consisting of a solar PV farm of approximately 75MW capacity and a battery energy storage facility of approximately 25MW capacity, with ancillary development*”.

The main components of the project comprise:

- Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Panels erected on steel frames in south-facing arrays;
- A primary substation, comprising electrical infrastructure and associated buildings – including control building – to enable the proposed solar facility to be controlled, monitored, metered and connected to the network. These elements will be located within a compound typically measuring c.20m x c.20m;
- It is proposed to connect the on-site primary substation at Houston South to Houston North via a small connecting substation, through an underground cable connection;
- 26 No. Inverter Substation Containers on concrete plinths, typically measuring 12.2m (l) x 2.5m (w) x 3m (h) to be located across the site;
- A number of strategically located CCTV security cameras (3m high);
- Perimeter post and wire “deer” fencing (c.2.45m high);
- Associated Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility. The battery storage facility will have a capacity of approximately 25MW and will comprise approximately 12 No. storage units typically measuring 12.2m (l) x 2.5m (w) x 3m (h) set side by side generally 3 metres apart. Each pair of storage units will be facilitated by an associated power conversion system (PCS) unit (6 in total) again typically measuring 12.2mm (l) x 2.5m (w) x 3m (h). The battery storage and PCS units will sit atop plinths/upstands typically measuring 300mm high but within a range of 100mm to 500mm. Concrete will be limited to the extent of the upstands and will not be placed across the entirety of the Battery Storage Area. The storage units and proposed substation will be placed atop a permeable surface;

- Access to Houston North is via existing field entrances on either side of both N Mains Road and Turningshaw Road; and access to Houston South is via Auchans Road and entrances on either side of Moss Road;
- Two No. temporary construction compounds, to be located (one each) at Houston North and Houston South; and
- Associated internal service tracks.

When operational the site will support a dual renewable/farming use and the overwhelming land area will remain agricultural. Sheep grazing will take place across the entire area and will not be impeded by the proposed infrastructure.

1.3 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 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 legislation and best practice;
- Explanation of the approach to the pre-application consultation;
- Details 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

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 and Planning Circular 3/2013.

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.*" 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.

The Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit Guidance document 'Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989' (July 2022) also encourages meaningful engagement at the earliest possible stage with any communities or groups who would be affected by development proposals.

It is worth noting that Table 1 contained within the Good Practice Guidance document (July 22) recommends at least two public consultation events. RPS engaged directly with the ECU on this recommendation given that the proposed strategy undertaken for this project included one public consultation event, albeit as part of a wider series of consultation initiatives. In response the ECU advised that in this instance they were content with one event as part of the community consultation process.

3 THE PAC STRATEGY

In accordance with the Good Practice Guidance, the applicant has undertaken a comprehensive PAC exercise to inform the local community about the proposed development and to obtain views from the community to assist in the development of the scheme. The Consultation Strategy (Appendix A) was developed on the basis of the following principles:

- Recognition that engaging communities is an essential part of an effective and inclusive planning system;
- The level, extent and methods of pre-application engagement should be meaningful and proportionate to the scale and the complexity of the proposed development;
- To enhance the applicant's understanding of the local communities who may be affected by the application;
- That the PAC should provide the local community with information required to enable them to understand and respond to the development proposal;
- 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.

A copy of the PAC Strategy was provided to Renfrewshire Council Planning Department. They confirmed that they were content with the scope of the pre-application consultation, and provided valuable information relating to key stakeholders, including the Council's Climate Emergency Officer, relevant community council and Councillors, local newspapers for planning adverts, similar proposals, and potential issues for discussions.

Pre-application engagement also took place with the ECU including meetings in January 2021 and October 2022 during which:

- Jan 2021 – RPS and Elgin confirmed the intention to undertake PAC, proposed activities and sought feedback; and
- Oct 2022 – RPS and Elgin provided an update on approach which now included "in-person" consultation given the relaxation of Covid pandemic restrictions, confirmed feedback received to date and again engaged in discussion with a view to receiving feedback on ongoing activities and approach.

3.1 Methods of Engagement

The Consultation Strategy was devised to introduce the project to the local community, establish key issues to be addressed, collate local and stakeholder views, and enable the creation of a comprehensive stakeholder database for future engagement.

The consultation approach incorporated the following engagement methods:

1. Holding one-to-one pre-application 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, Renfrewshire Council Planning Authority, and ECU;
3. Engagement via written correspondence with local elected representatives (including local Ward Councillors for Houston, Crosslee and Linwood, the MP and MSPs for the area), offering an opportunity for direct discourse;
4. Issuing letters to request engagement from the Local Community Councils within Renfrewshire and subsequent appearance at their committee meeting;
5. Period of 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 public consultation event and proposed project website within local newspapers;

- c. Undertaking letter drops to properties within c.750m of the proposed application site providing information on the proposal, informing of the public consultation event 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;
 - e. Public consultation event in The Carrick Centre, Houston where Elgin and RPS would be available to talk through the proposals and answer any queries; and
6. Direct engagement with local residents where requested.

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

- Pre-application meeting with Renfrewshire Council Planning Department 20th November 2020;
- Pre-application meeting with ECU January 2021;
- Pre-application meeting with Renfrewshire Council Planning Department 21st April 2021;
- Pre-application meeting with Renfrewshire Council Planning Department 11th August 2022; and
- Pre-application meeting with ECU 20th October 2022.

This extensive engagement has assisted in identifying key issues to be addressed in the evolving design process.

A discussion regarding PAC formed part of each of the meetings with ECU and Renfrewshire Council Planning Department.

4 PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION PROCESS

4.1 Stage 1 – Preparation / Stakeholder Mapping

4.1.1 Identifying Who to Consult

From the outset of the project, the applicant and their consultant team has maintained a stakeholder database, which has been updated regularly, with all key stakeholders and statutory agencies. This database embraced a wide range of stakeholders/community groups based on the applicant's knowledge of the site at Houston, the surrounding area, and on experience of similar projects, and sought to include all those considered likely to have an interest in this development.

Early liaison with Renfrewshire 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 and the ECU that these were appropriate. Pre-engagement with the Council also facilitated a parallel process of engagement with technical Council bodies to provide feedback on the emerging proposals.

The stakeholder matrix included:

- Individual residents/business/properties who are situated within c.750m of the proposed development site;
- Local elected representatives including the local MP, 8 MSPs representing (1 representing Renfrewshire North and West, and 7 representing West Scotland) and 7 local councillors representing Ward 10 and Ward 11 within which the proposed development is located / adjacent to;
- 2 parish Councils within which the proposed development is located / adjacent to; and
- Renfrewshire Council Climate Emergency Officer.

Identifying potential stakeholders subsequently informed the applicant team methods of appropriate pre-application consultation.

4.2 Stage 2 – Prepare Project Information / Feedback Materials

4.2.1 Project Information, Publicity & Accessibility

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*". The team engaged with the local community and stakeholders using various methods including both digital and non-computerised methods of engagement to ensure that the project information was accessible to all sections of the community using various formats.

4.2.1.1 Public Notices

A public notice was placed in two local newspapers: The Paisley Daily Express on 7th October and 14th October 2022 and Renfrewshire Gazette on 12th October 2022 (Appendix B).

The notice provided a brief description of the development together with its location and details as to where further information concerning the proposed development could be obtained. The notice also provided details of the date and time of the public consultation event and the address link to the dedicated website and digital questionnaire, set up in that regard.

The notice explained how anyone who could not access the dedicated website could speak directly to the project team or provide feedback via provision of telephone contact numbers, postal address and email address.

In line with the legislative requirements the public notice also included a statement advising that comments made to the prospective applicant are not representations to the Consenting Authority, and if the prospective applicant submits an application there will then be an opportunity to make representations on that application to said consenting authority (ECU) at a later stage.

4.2.1.2 Information Leaflet

A project information leaflet was designed to be as informative as possible. It was written in 'plain English' to avoid being excessively technical. It included a redline plan, headline project details, an overview of the engagement process and pre-planning process, an outline of the physical elements of a solar farm, information about Elgin and contact details for the project team. It also directed recipients to the website which included more information. The leaflet was intended to provide outline information about the scheme and encourage further participation via the website and/or direct communication with the project team. The leaflet was distributed digitally to Community Councils and elected representatives. It was also made available:

- During the public consultation event;
- For digital download on the project website; and
- For distribution upon direct request.

4.2.1.3 Letter Drop

As a means of ensuring maximum participation in the public consultation process, and to guarantee all those potentially affected by the proposals, or likely to be most interested in the project, were given an opportunity to provide feedback, a letter drop was undertaken via Royal Mail first class postal service on 6th October 2022. The letter drop was carried out for all residents within an approximately 750m buffer of the scheme boundary (approximately 400 addresses).

The letter (Appendix C) provided a project description and was accompanied by a site location plan. It set out how further information could be obtained and included a link to the project website and digital feedback questionnaire. 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.

Furthermore, the letter confirmed details of the community consultation day during which team members and project specialists were available to discuss the project.

4.2.1.4 Liaison with Community Council and Elected Representatives

A request for engagement letter was issued via email to local elected representatives and relevant community councils on 7th October 2022. This initiative was timed to ensure elected representatives were aware of the project alongside members of the wider community. The email included a cover letter with link to the project website, digital version of the information leaflet and site location plan (Appendix D). The following local elected representatives were contacted:

- Gavin Newlands MP for Paisley and Renfrewshire North;
- Natalie Don MSP Renfrewshire North and West;
- Neil Bibby MSP West Scotland;
- Katy Clark MSP West Scotland;
- Russell Findlay MSP West Scotland;
- Pam Gosal MSP West Scotland;
- Jamie Greene MSP West Scotland;
- Ross Greer MSP West Scotland;
- Paul O'Kane MSP West Scotland;
- Councillor Alison Ann-Dowling (Labour and Co-operative Party);
- Councillor Robert Innes (Scottish National Party);
- Councillor David McGonigle (Scottish Conservative and Unionist);
- Councillor Audrey Doig (Scottish National Party);
- Councillor Fiona Airlie-Nicholson (Scottish National Party);

- Councillor James MacLaren (Scottish Conservative and Unionist);
- Councillor Colin Alan McCulloch (Scottish Labour Party).

The same request for engagement was also issued to the following parish councils on 7th October 2022:

- Houston Community Council;
- Linwood Community Council.

4.3 Stage 3 – Launch of Public Consultation

4.3.1 Website and Dedicated Email

A dedicated project website was developed by the applicant to facilitate meaningful pre-application consultation (Appendix E). The website link is:

www.houstonsolarfarm.com

The website launched on 6th October 2022 and remains live to the public throughout the application process. The website has been updated as the project progressed to submission stage. During the public consultation, it presented information comprising:

- A main project page providing an overview of the scheme proposals and with a link to download a digital version of the information leaflet;
- Project drawings including Site Location Plan, Site Context Plan and Site Layout showing details of the nature and scale of the development;
- Photos of typical project components;
- An online survey questionnaire which was available from 6th October to 1st November 2022 inclusive;
- FAQ section including information about potential impacts of the proposal including environmental issues being considered;
- Information on ways in which the development team could be contacted and how more information on the project could be obtained; and
- Information about the applicant.

The website address was carried on all communications throughout the pre-application community consultation period.

In addition to this, a dedicated email address was set up specifically for this consultation process: pacc@rpsgroup.com, to ensure the public could forward their completed feedback forms or submit general queries and comments in relation to the scheme proposals. This email address was advertised in the public notice and all other consultation materials.

4.3.2 Survey Feedback Form

As mentioned, survey feedback forms were prepared as a way of encouraging feedback from members of the public (Appendix F). The feedback form was available online from 6th October to 1st November 2022 and invited 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.

As well as being available on the project website during the consultation period and provided in hard copy upon request, copies were also available for completion at the public consultation event.

As stated previously, the period within which formal feedback was sought was prior to 01st November 2022. The closure period is necessary to allow review time and consideration of all relevant comments and submissions by project team members prior to finalising the proposed scheme. It is worth noting however, that Elgin has continued to engage with the public in respect of proposals after this end date and at no time has any request for engagement been refused.

4.3.3 Public Consultation Event

The public consultation event was held on Tuesday 18th October 2022 in the Carrick Centre, Houston, between the hours of 4:30pm and 8pm. Elected representatives and parish councils were invited to attend between 4:30pm and 5:30pm, and the event was open to the general public between the hours of 5:30pm and 8pm. The applicant and RPS representatives were at the event and were available to discuss the project and respond to queries (photos of the event at Appendix H). Presentation boards were also on display, with plans and details of the project, and photos showing the extent of visibility of the proposed site from selected viewpoint locations surrounding the site.

The date and timing of the public event was carefully chosen to encourage engagement by different groups of people and to ensure those (especially vulnerable groups) who did not have internet access or did not prefer digital forms of communication, were given the optimal opportunity to liaise with members of the project team.

Where requested, team members provided direct contact details to facilitate subsequent engagement with interested parties and stakeholders. All issues raised at the public consultation event were noted, and stored in a secure folder.

5 COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO PAC

5.1 Summary of Engagement

Overall, there was a positive response to the public consultation process. The majority of consultation responses were received online via the project website digital questionnaire, and there was a good response to the public consultation event, with over 36 people in attendance¹. A summary of the public consultation outcomes are included below.

5.1.1 Questionnaire and dedicated email address

As part of the consultation process, the following statistics were noted:

- 25 feedback forms were completed and submitted (10 were submitted at the public consultation event, 13 were submitted digitally through the website, and 2 submitted via post); and
- 7 emails were received which contained comments on the project proposals and/or suggestions.

5.1.2 Public Consultation Event

As per Section 4.3.3 the public consultation event was held on Tuesday 18th October 2022 in the Carrick Centre, Houston, from 4:30pm to 8pm. The event had a good response with over 36 people in attendance, comprising members of the public and members of Houston Community Council.

Comments and questions from the event are summarised below:

- Renfrewshire Council are undertaking a feasibility study for a solar farm development on a former landfill site located off Moss Road, Houston. Is there any link between that project and these proposals?
- Will the Core Paths that run through the site be retained? Will they be screened to avoid any significant visual impact & if so, what will they be screened with – trees / hedgerows?
- There are discussions about a new Country Park located to the north of this development.
- Loss of viable agricultural land.
- Concerns regarding visual impact of development in northern portion of site from public roads and paths, as the surrounding landscape is quite open.
- The proposal details that the Battery Storage has a capacity of 25MW, that's a power / generation rating; how long will they be able to hold electricity for?
- Site selection process:
 - Why was a brownfield site not selected for development?
 - Why was agricultural land selected for the proposed site?
 - How did Elgin come to select this site for their development?
- Residents who adjoin site boundary (Knowes and Rowaland) concerned that the panels would be visible and detrimental to the view/outlook from their properties and would result in an unacceptable visual impact upon them. Requested panels be removed in the area closest to their properties.
- Houston Community Council requested a presentation to members about the proposed development.
- Will the electricity generated by the solar farm be used in the local area, or will it go to a different part of the country?
- Do Elgin engage with Nature Scot & is ecology of site taken into consideration when developing proposals?

¹ 36 persons completed a sign-in form. Others attended during the event but preferred not to complete the sign-in form.

- What size are the solar panels & how are they arranged?
- Where will the component materials be manufactured, is it in the UK?
- How are project materials transported to site?
- If the development goes ahead, when will it become operational?
- Discussions about giving back to the community through a fund / contribution.
- Positive response from a number of visitors recognising need for renewable energy and energy security.

5.1.3 One-to-one Meetings with Stakeholders

Meetings with stakeholders were arranged upon request as confirmed below:

1. Renfrewshire Council Climate Emergency Officer – virtual meeting 14th October 2022 to discuss the project. The Council's Climate Emergency Officer was supportive of the development proposals, and queried whether the project would generate any local benefits. The Climate Emergency Officer also directed the project team to Renfrewshire Council's *Plan for Net Zero*, which details the Council's commitment to work towards net zero by 2030 for the whole of Renfrewshire. The Plan identifies maximising sustainable energy generation as a priority area for clean energy;
2. Gavin Newlands MP – virtual meeting 4th November 2022 to detail the Proposed Development and discuss any queries. Mr Newlands was supportive of the project proposals and renewable energy generation as a whole, as well as the local community benefits and biodiversity enhancements the project would produce; and
3. Houston Community Council – in-person presentation 16th November 2022. The Community Council were interested in finding out more information about community benefits.

These meetings were positive and stakeholders were supportive of the project proposals.

5.1.4 One-to-One Meetings and Further Engagement with Local Residents

Following the public consultation event, the applicant met with some of the residents of The Knowes on 16th November 2022 (three properties located adjacent to Houston South), to discuss their concerns surrounding proposed siting adjacent to their properties, mitigation options, impact upon residential amenity, outlook and enclosure. During the meeting it was suggested and agreed to remove a substantial area of panels and associated infrastructure from two fields located to the south and west of the Knowes property boundaries. The applicant also introduced further screening to alleviate the resident's concerns.

The applicant also contacted residents at Rowaland via e-mail and telephone, with the offer of an in-person meeting to discuss their concerns surrounding the project layout, landscape and visual impact and impact upon residential amenity. The residents did not wish to engage with the applicant to discuss mitigation options. However, the applicant has removed panels surrounding Loanhead Farm and those to the north on more elevated land.

5.2 Consideration of Issues raised during PAC

The response from the PAC process (questionnaire and email responses) demonstrated that 59% of respondents (19/32) were either supportive or very supportive of the project proposals, 16% of respondents (5/32) were undecided about the project proposals, and 25% of respondents (8/32) were not supportive of the Proposed Development. 88% of questionnaire respondents (22/25) wanted to be kept informed and updated on the process. All issues raised in the questionnaires and emails received were noted and stored in a secure folder.

The issues raised during the consultation period, via the questionnaire (online and hard copy), and by email are noted in Table 1. Commentary is provided in relation to each issue, noting how this was addressed by the applicant and design team in the final proposals submitted with the application.

In relation to the overall closed question regarding support for the proposed development, the following statistics were recorded:

REPORT

Total Respondents: 25
 Respondents in Favour: 17
 Respondents in Opposition: 3
 Respondents Undecided: 5

Table 1: Summary & Consideration of Issues Raised

| Issue Raised | Issue Addressed |
|---|---|
| <p>The proposed size of the solar farm will cause the landscape to be dominated by the tall steelwork structures and high fencing that is required. The openness of the countryside will be replaced by large areas of industrial construction.</p> | <p>The layout brought forward as part of the initial PAC process was indicative however advanced sufficiently to allow meaningful engagement. The intervening PAC and assessment process has resulted in significant reduction in the proposed area of infrastructure in response to emerging information and concerns raised. An overview of layout iterations is provided within the Planning Statement which accompanies this submission.</p> <p>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. This work forms part of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) which – in turn - forms part of the application for consent.</p> |
| <p>The proposed development area adjacent to Moss Road and Auchans Road will significantly impact the amenities of residents in the Knowes properties, as the properties will be surrounded by the panels and increase a sense of enclosure.</p> | <p>As discussed in Section 5.1.4 above, the Applicant has engaged with local residents regarding perceived impact upon residential amenity, and landscape and visual impacts. To alleviate concerns, Elgin removed panels and associated infrastructure from a significant area of land (c.18 acres) located to the south and west of the Knowes’ property boundaries. Existing and proposed hedgerow planting along the north-eastern boundary of the development area will be maintained at 2m height, to reduce visibility of the panels from the Knowes properties.</p> |
| <p>Concerns by Residents at Rowaland regarding impact on their views and property.</p> | <p>As set out in Section 5.1.4, the Applicant endeavoured to discuss the project including potential mitigation measures with the landowner at Rowaland however the landowner did not wish to engage. Regardless of this, the Applicant removed a significant area of panels from development proposals (18 acres) to help alleviate any landowner concerns. The proposed hedgerow planting along the southern boundary of the panels located north of Loanmead farm will be maintained at 2m height, to reduce visibility. Additionally, hedgerow planting is proposed along the southern boundary of the panels north of Houston Road and west of Turningshaw road which will also help reduce visibility.</p> |
| <p>Concerns that CCTV cameras will impact upon privacy of neighbouring residential properties.</p> | <p>Cameras are directed inwards to the site or along site boundaries. They are static and designed to not</p> |

| Issue Raised | Issue Addressed |
|---|--|
| | <p>move either intentionally or unintentionally due to adverse weather conditions or animal activity. On commissioning of a CCTV system, it is possible to 'mask out' certain areas if that area is sensitive.</p> <p>Adequate safeguards are in place to ensure that privacy is not compromised.</p> |
| <p>The proposed development does not protect the greenbelt.</p> | <p>Strategic and operational planning policy facilitates the development of renewable energy proposals within Greenbelt or other areas where they are considered appropriate in terms of location, siting and design and where appropriate consideration is given to any potential significant environmental effects through assessment.</p> <p>A review the proposal within the planning policy context is provided within the Planning Statement which forms part of the application pack. Further, the application pack also includes a series of accompanying environmental reports including a LVIA which set out the potential environmental effects of the proposal.</p> |
| <p>Loss of good, flat fertile land ideal for growing crops such as wheat and barley</p> | <p>A Land Capability for Agriculture Assessment forms part of the application for consent. This involved examination of published geological and soil information, as well as Land Capability for Agriculture Maps. The ALC survey determined that the quality of agricultural land at the site is limited to primarily Class 3.2 or lower, which is not defined as Prime land, with a very small area at the northern tip of the site that is shown as Class 3.1. The Assessment sets out that development of the site is in accordance with National and Local Policy in this regard. Further, the potential impact of the development on the land within the site will be further mitigated through continued grazing use during operation of the solar farm and appropriate restoration through decommissioning.</p> |
| <p>Visual impact of the proposed development upon the rural countryside and in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Views of the uninterrupted fields, woods and hills; • Visual impact on the path north from North Mains Farm, and the Gryffe Valley Way along Auchans Road. • Visual Impacts from roads. <p>How is the site going to be screened?</p> | <p>An assessment of landscape and visual impacts is included within the LVIA which forms part of the application submission. This Assessment includes photomontages illustrating how the development will look from key vantage points within the landscape. The LVIA also includes a planting plan demonstrating the proposed mitigation screening measures that form an inherent part of the proposals brought forward for consideration.</p> <p>Conclusions contained within the LVIA set out that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The predicted effects upon the Alluvial Plain Landscape Character Area are limited in extent by the low-lying nature of the proposed site, surrounding woodland, hedgerows and trees as well as undulating topographical changes in the surrounding landscape. The Proposed Development will be barely perceptible in the wider landscape and the additional vertical |

| Issue Raised | Issue Addressed |
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| | <p>elements will be difficult to perceive beyond locations at the immediate boundary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Proposed Development will be visible in close proximity for a short section along the Core Path from North Mains Farm. It will be a medium change to the visual context in this location and potentially a point of interest for walkers. • Due to surrounding vegetation, the Proposed Development will not be overly visible from the Core Path along Auchans Road. • An package of soft landscape interventions has been included within the overall proposals to aid the integration of the development into the surrounding landscape context and to help reduce the localised visual effects predicted to occur from local roads and properties at close proximity to the Proposed Development. The visual impact from roads surrounding the Proposed Development will be Moderate, assessed as not significant effects as visible elements of the proposal will become well screened due to the mitigation screening. |
| <p>Proposal is not suitable in a rural, countryside location.</p> | <p>Strategic and operational planning policy facilitates the development of renewable energy proposals such as that brought forward within countryside locations.</p> <p>A review of the proposal within the planning policy context is provided within the Planning Statement which forms part of the application pack.</p> <p>Further, the proposal has evolved in accordance with a series of overarching design principles including working within existing field boundaries and tree retention, avoidance of cut and fill / regrading and avoidance of those areas of greatest environmental sensitivity within the site.</p> <p>The application pack also includes a series of accompanying environmental reports including a LVIA which set out the potential environmental effects of the proposal confirming no unacceptable environmental effects.</p> |
| <p>Concerns regarding negative impacts upon local biodiversity and ecology.</p> | <p>An Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) 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, this was built into layout considerations. The EclA confirms there are no national or local nature conservation designations affected by the proposed development nor will there be any unacceptable impact on protected species. A package of in-built proposals including the additional native planting across the site 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 or slurry or ploughing, allowing a</p> |

| Issue Raised | Issue Addressed |
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| | more natural and traditional type of farming enterprise. It is assessed that the project will have overall net ecological benefits for wildlife. |
| Do Elgin engage with Nature Scot? | The EclA submitted as part of the application for consent was informed by a review of available background information including online databases and records from the Glasgow Museums Biological Records Centre, Clyde River Foundation and RSPB. Further field surveys also took place. Nature Scot will be a key statutory consultee as part of the consenting process. |
| Is there any community benefit fund? | A community benefit fund is under consideration by Elgin. All parties are advised that this is a separate matter to the planning process and any suggestions should be formally discussed and raised through official channels by locally elected representatives. |
| Concerns regarding construction traffic during installation phase. | A Transport Assessment forms part of the application pack. This confirms that construction and operation of the project will not result in any significant traffic impacts or significant increase on existing traffic levels on the network. Despite the extremely restricted construction time period (16 weeks) a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will further ensure the safe and unencumbered use on the highway for all users during construction. It is likely that this will be conditioned as a pre-commencement requirement for any proposed development at the site. |
| Queries in relation to how the energy generated from the solar farm will connect to the electricity grid. | The site will be connected to the Johnstone 132/33kV substation by an underground cable either along the public road and/or third party land. This connection does not form part of this application. |
| Concerns that there may be a negative impact on efforts to attract Ospreys to the BAE site. | An Ecological Impact Assessment forms part of the suite of documents supporting the planning application. The EclA was informed by a suite of desktop and on-site surveys. The EclA confirms there are no national or local nature conservation designations affected by the proposed development nor will there be any unacceptable impact on protected species. |
| Request that footpath is retained from Georgetown Road to Chapel Road. | Existing pathways within the site boundary will be retained. |
| Will the Core Paths that run through the site be retained? Will they be screened to avoid any significant visual impact & if so, what will they be screened with – trees / hedgerows? | A package of landscape screening proposals are included within the LVIA that forms part of the application for consent. Screening provides comprises a mix of landscaping measures including trees and hedgerows. |
| Renfrewshire Council are undertaking a feasibility study for a solar farm development on a former landfill site located off Moss Road, Houston. Is there any link between the Renfrewshire Council feasibility project at Moss Road and the Houston project? | There is no link between the projects. |
| The proposal details that the Battery Storage has a capacity of 25MW, that's a power / generation rating; how long will they be able to hold electricity for? | The Applicant is considering the installation of a BESS facility that will have a 25MW / 50MWh capacity. This type of battery would be able to hold electricity for 2 hours, that is, the length of time that |

| Issue Raised | Issue Addressed |
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| | a battery can be discharged at its power rating until the battery must be recharged. |
| Was there a site selection process that led to the selection of this site? | A site selection process undertaken by the Applicant has resulted in the emergence of the Houston Solar Farm proposal brought forward for consideration. This comprised a three staged filtering approach at Regional, Local and finally Micro levels. This included examination of a variety of appropriate environmental and technical considerations. The site selection process is set out within the Planning Statement that forms part of the application for consent. |
| Will the electricity generated by the solar farm be used in the local area, or will it go to a different part of the country? | The renewable electricity generated by the facility will be “spilled” directly to the electricity network serving the area. There is no way of telling exactly where this electricity will be directed to. It will contribute significantly to Scotland’s 2045 net-zero emissions targets. |
| What size are the solar panels & how are they arranged? | Panels measuring 2.4m x 1.3m are fixed on steel frames in arrays (rows) in either landscape or portrait orientation to face southwards within the site. Panels do not move to track the path of the sun. At their highest point the rear of panel arrays will sit up to 3.2m above ground level. |
| Where will the component materials be manufactured? | Localised supply sources will be utilised in so far as is reasonably practical, for example aggregates and fencing. Some project components are specialist items and accordingly it is a world-wide market. It is likely that panels will be sourced from China. |
| How are project materials transported to site? | Materials will be transported to site using standard Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV). There are no necessary over-sized loads required to facilitate the development. |
| When is it anticipated that the development will become operational? | This depends on consenting timelines. However, based on a theoretical consent date of February 2024, it is hoped that the development will be operational mid to late 2025. |

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) but not exceeding 100MW consisting of a solar PV farm of approximately 75MW capacity and an energy storage facility of approximately 25MW capacity, with ancillary development on three parcels of land located to the east of Houston village, Johnstone, directly north and south of the B790 Houston Road.

The applicant undertook appropriate engagement with stakeholders, including local elected representatives and the local community in the vicinity of the application site from October 2022 – December 2022. The applicant provided a dedicated project website which facilitated online feedback 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 applicant also held a public consultation event in The Carrick Centre, Houston where Elgin and RPS were available to talk through the proposals and answer any queries. Subsequent to this the Applicant and RPS engaged directly with residents where requested, to listen to concerns and discuss whether mitigation measures and/or project alterations/iterations could be accommodated to help alleviate concerns. The Applicant also met with and presented at a meeting of Houston Community Council upon their request.

The engagement with the community has been appropriate and commensurate with the scale of proposals. 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 1st November 2022, 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.

Appendix A – PAC Strategy

HOUSTON PROPOSED SOLAR FARM & BATTERY STORAGE FACILITY

Pre-Application Consultation Strategy

NI2575
D01
25 July 2022

REPORT

Document status

| Version | Purpose of document | Authored by | Reviewed by | Approved by | Review date |
|---------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| D01 | PAC Strategy | CJ | PMCK | PMCK | 18.07.22 |

Approval for issue

Paul Mc Kernan



25 July 2022

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Proposed Development

This Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Strategy has been developed by RPS on behalf of Elgin Energy EsCo Ltd in respect of its intention to undertake voluntary PAC) in respect of a proposed forthcoming full planning application for a Solar PV Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility (the Proposed Development) on lands at Elderslie Estate, located west of Glasgow.

Due to the generation capacity of the proposed Solar PV Farm and BESS Facility, a planning application will be made to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU). 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 however, in accordance with Elgin Energy's internal methods of best practice, a programme of pre-application community consultation is proposed. The approach proposed herein 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 (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021.

RPS have engaged previously the ECU and the Local Planning Authority (Renfrewshire Council) during late 2020 and early 2021 regarding the Proposed Development in the form of online meetings which were then followed up by a site meeting with the Council. Whilst a submission date has yet to be confirmed this is anticipated in Q4 2022. It is proposed that this PAC process will run alongside the ongoing site assessment stage and the feedback received will help to inform the final design approach.

RPS and Elgin Energy acknowledge that consultation can benefit schemes by ensuring local residents and the community understand what is proposed and why it is proposed. The timing of PAC activities is critical in that the information should be appropriately developed so as to encourage and facilitate meaningful feedback, however not so progressed that there is no potential to consider emerging information which in turn may lead to project iterations.

This strategy sets out details of what consultation the applicant proposes to undertake, when the consultation is proposed to take place, with whom and the form that it will take as well as providing details of how the community can contact the applicant and the project team and find out any further information they require in respect of the project.

1.2 Our Approach

RPS fully appreciate the need to take adequate steps not just to provide details about the project but also to properly explain how the PAC process will be undertaken to ensure that the community fully understands how they can participate in that process.

Our approach to the PAC process for this project therefore involves the following elements:

- Development of the Stakeholder Matrix – identifying and recording the contact details of the community to be consulted;
- Direct contact with local political representatives – MP, SMP, local councillors and the local community council allied to a letter and project information sheet drop to properties within the local area;
- Public advertisement of the PAC exercise providing the information required to satisfy the regulations and clear direction about how and when the community can participate in the process. The advertisement will be run 2 weeks in advance of the Public Event.
- Creation of a Project Website which will replicate the information that will be available at the public consultation event together with instructions on how to access the information, seek further clarification and to provide comments/feedback. The website will contain project information banners, video/audio presentations from project leads, downloadable documentation, GIS and gallery mapping, links to further information and 'call to action' buttons that allow all of these facilities to be seamlessly integrated and readily accessible to the community participant.
- It is proposed that the website will be available for viewing for 2 weeks in advance of the in-person Public Event. It will "go live" to coincide with the public newspaper advertisement of proposals. When live, the

system will facilitate queries, requests for further information and host an online questionnaire. It will catalogue the number and source of any queries, the response provided, and flag up any call or online query that hasn't yet been addressed. Members of the project team will also be available to call respondents directly upon request regarding queries or to discuss matters of concern.

- The proposed Public Event will take place during the hours of 3pm – 9pm to allow opportunities for those who are otherwise engaged during the normal working day to engage directly with the project team. The event will comprise project boards and relevant experts on the project team will be available to address relevant issues. It is appreciated that emerging Scottish Legislation in respect of PAC asks for 2 x Public Events. It is proposed that the approach contained herein which proposes 1 event is commensurate with the scale and nature of the Proposed Development.
- All of the material provided throughout the PAC exercise will provide contact telephone, email and an address where community members who cannot avail of the virtual consultation can obtain information off-line and engage directly with team members to address their issues as appropriate.
- Whilst the project website will be available to provide information during the entirety of the planning process, it is proposed that the period for stakeholder and community feedback on proposals will end 2 weeks after the Public Event. This will allow subsequent review and consideration of all relevant comments and submissions by project team members prior to finalising the project in advance of the planning application being submitted.

A Pre-Application Consultation Report (PAC Report) will supplement the planning pack. This will set out the nature of the PAC process undertaken and how the applicant has responded to the comments made, including whether and the extent to which the development proposals may have changed as a result of the process. It will provide appropriate evidence that the various prescribed steps have been undertaken, detailing the nature of the public advertisement, explanation and promotion of the PAC process, and the reference/project information material made available to the community. It will confirm the level of interaction and demonstrate how the community was made aware that the PAC process does not replace the application process whereby representations can still be made to the planning authority/Energy Consents Unit.

1.3 Pre-Application Strategy

| Part A: Preparation / Stakeholder Mapping | | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|---|
| Item Description | Target Dates | Owner | Completion Date | Notes |
| Engagement with Council regarding PAC strategy to incorporate any Council requirements into engagement plan and stakeholder database. | W/c 05.09.2022 | RPS | W/e 16.09.2022 | Agreed PAC Strategy to be forwarded and discussed with Council representatives. |
| <p>Define the 'Community' and Establish a Stakeholder Database:-</p> <p>Carry out a stakeholder mapping exercise and establish a Stakeholder Matrix. This will focus on all groups / individuals with an interest within the vicinity of the site. The database will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual residents within the local area; • Local MP; • Local MSP • Renfrewshire Councillors; • Landowners / businesses / land users within a defined buffer around the site (c.500m - 1km to be confirmed); • Government Departments; • Public bodies; • Umbrella organisations – chambers of commerce, farming unions/organisations, other business groups; • Houston Community Council; • Local community groups; • Local environmental & other voluntary groups. <p>Establish contact details for all stakeholders through Pointer Data & existing stakeholder information.</p> | W/c 05.09.2022 | RPS / Elgin | Ongoing | <p>The stakeholder matrix will comprise a fluid document which can be further developed during the project.</p> <p>The database will continue to be expanded on foot of emerging information throughout the Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) process.</p> |
| Part B: Preparation of Project Information & Feedback Materials | | | | |
| Item Description | Target Dates | Owner | Completion Date | Notes |
| Preparation of Information Materials:- | W/c 05.09.2022 | RPS / Elgin | W/e 16.09.2022 | Prepare information for engagement with |

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| Providing information on the background to the project; Project location; Description of potential impacts; Outline of planning process; Purpose of Community Consultation; How the Community can obtain more information; Contact details for applicant team. | | | | stakeholders and Virtual Public Event. The materials will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Website; • Digital Exhibition information for virtual event; • Letter drop materials; • Digital Materials for circulation to elected representatives, Houston Community Councils and other stakeholders; • Feedback forms/questionnaires to be available on project website and in hard copy; • Press advert of information for local Newspapers; • Contact details for Elgin Energy and RPS project members. |
| Develop a system for recording and referencing feedback. | W/c 05.09.2022 | Elgin | W/e 16.09.2022 | System is in place prior to commencement of contact as per Part C below. |

Part C: Establish Contacts

| Item Description | Target Dates | Owner | Completion Date | Notes |
|--|-------------------|-------|-------------------|--|
| Contact identified stakeholders to provide introduction to project and process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MP – e-mail and letter drop as appropriate to agree meetings if required; | W/c 19.09.2022 | RPS | W/e 23.09.2022 | This phase will be timed to allow agreement with the Council on proposed activities and scheduling of same. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Council – e-mail and letter drop; | W/c 19.09.2022 | RPS | W/e 23.09.2022 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Residents – through letter drop; | W/c 19.09.2022 | RPS | W/e 23.09.2022 | Letter drop provided to local residents will include overview of project, details of public event and questionnaire, a stamped addressed envelope to facilitate feedback and further contact details of Client representatives to facilitate direct engagement (phone / e-mail). |

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| Further stakeholders identified through stakeholder mapping - through phone-call, letter drop, face to face engagement and e-mail. | W/c 19.09.2022 | RPS | W/e 23.09.2022 | |
|--|-------------------|-----|-------------------|--|

Part D: Launch of Public Consultation

| Item Description | Target Dates | Owner | Completion Date | Notes |
|--|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|--|
| <p>Launch of Public Events:-</p> <p>Newspaper Advertisement:-</p> <p>Publish a notice of the consultation process and consultation event in relevant local newspaper(s). This notice will appear at least 7 days prior to the commencement of consultation events & will contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a description of, and location of, the proposed development; • details as to where further information about the development may be obtained; • statement explaining how, and by when, persons wishing to make comments to the prospective applicant relating to the proposal may do so; • the date, time and location of the public event; • statement explaining that participation in PAC process does not affect statutory rights to make submissions to the planning authority. | W/c 19.09.2022 | RPS | W/e 23.09.2022 | |
| <p>Project Website:-</p> <p>Proposals to be displayed (live) on host website encouraging submission of queries/feedback online with additional option of hard copy submissions.</p> | W/c 19.09.2022 | RPS / Elgin | W/e 23.09.2022 | Website will “go live” to coincide with Newspaper Advertising and remain ongoing during the planning process to provide information. The facility to provide feedback via the website will close 3 weeks after the Virtual Public Event. |
| <p>Public Exhibition Event:-</p> <p>In-person Public Event on 1 designated day between hours of 4pm and 8pm;</p> | W/c 26.09.2022 | Elgin | W/e 30.09.2022 | Display & supporting information to illustrate the project to date – background information current design/illustrative plans/diagrams. |

Part E: Collation of Consultation Feedback and Preparation of Consultation Report

REPORT

| Item Description | Target Dates | Owner | Completion Date | Notes |
|---|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|--|
| Follow up one on one engagement with those residents who expressed any interest in such a further meeting with the applicant. | W/c 03.10.2022 | RPS / Elgin | W/e 21.10.2022 | This will be a further opportunity for any residents to engage with the Applicant and their representatives on-site to express and clarify matters of concern or confusion, and to gain a better understanding of the project. |
| Continuing engagement with community groups and stakeholders identified at the outset or emerging throughout the consultation process. | W/c 26.09.2022 | RPS / Elgin | W/e 21.10.2022 | Whilst the period for comments will end at this time to allow appropriate consideration and preparation of the Statement of Community Involvement, the overarching approach is that the Applicant remains open to proactive and meaningful engagement throughout the planning process. |
| Ongoing design updates based on feedback received during consultation process. | W/c 26.09.2022 | RPS | 28.10.2022 | Depending on the nature of issues emerging during the consultation process and the consequent consideration required - including design amendments where relevant - the timeframes outlined in this part of the strategy may be extended. |
| <p>Prepare Draft Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what consultation was undertaken, when and with whom; • dates, venues and numbers attended for all consultation events and meetings; • details of how Public Event was made as accessible as possible to all members of the community; • evidence of the consultation, e.g. dates and copies of advertisements, reference to material made available at events, minutes of meetings, samples of letters / leaflets if applicable; • the comments/feedback from the community; | W/c 31.11.2022 | RPS | TBC | The PAC Report will be prepared and submitted as part of the proposed suite of documents accompanying the application for consent. |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether and how these comments have been taken into account in the development proposals; • details of any amendments to the proposal as a result of the consultation to be provided to the project design team; and details of any existing liaison arrangements, agreements with the local community or monitoring that is proposed during the construction and operational phases. | | | | |
| <p>Submission of Application for Consent to include PAC Report</p> | <p>TBC –Estimate December 22</p> | <p>RPS</p> | <p>TBC – Estimate December 2022</p> | |

Appendix B – Newspaper Notice

OTHER

Renfrewshire Council

Children's Services

Registration of Infant Beginners in Primary Schools

Session 2023/2024

Children who reach 5 years of age between 1 March 2023 and 29 February 2024 inclusive should be registered for education in their catchment school as follows:-

You must register your child in only one school, either the denominational or non-denominational school for your area. If you need information on schools for your area please telephone 0300 300 0170 or visit our website www.renfrewshire.gov.uk and search "find it on the map".

Registration will be live online from 1st - 4th November through the above website. For those unable to register online we request that you telephone your local catchment school to make an appointment to attend in person during these dates.

Parents/carers must provide satisfactory documentary evidence of the age of their child and that their family reside within the catchment area of the school. This evidence includes:

- 1 Child's full Birth Certificate
- 2 Most recent Council Tax Notice or if not currently resident in the property either a concluded missive or a signed and witnessed tenancy agreement/lease.
- 3 Child Benefit Statement.
In the event that a Child Benefit Statement is not available, a Driving Licence or a Bank Statement/utility bill showing transactions over the most recent 3 months and the applicant's address may be accepted. Or If appropriate to current circumstances – Court Order/Looked After Child/Foster Carer document(s).
- 4 Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate (if applicable)

The list above is not exhaustive and the Council retains the right to ask for further information when proof of residency is not satisfied. **Original documents must be produced upon request.**

If you want your child to go to a different school you require to register at your catchment school and thereafter make a placing request. The online Placing Request Form is available to complete on our website above and search "Change schools" or by telephoning 0300 300 0170 or your catchment school.



Steven Quinn,
Director of Children's Services

www.renfrewshire.gov.uk

PLANNING

RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 THE STOPPING-UP OF ROADS AND FOOTPATHS RENFREWSHIRE FOR A SECTION OF MAPLE DRIVE, JOHNSTONE, RENFREWSHIRE – ORDER 2022

RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL hereby gives notice that it has confirmed an Order as an unopposed Order under Section 207 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, authorising the stopping-up of a section of road (including footway) to accommodate a residential development, approved under the provisions of planning approval 22/0113/PP, at land to the South East of the junction with Elm Drive and Maple Drive, Johnstone.

A copy of the confirmed Order and the relevant plan specifying the length of the footpath affected may be inspected at the Customer Service Centre, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley by any person free of charge, during normal office hours.

Alasdair Morrison, Head of Planning and Housing Services, Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1UJ 12 October 2022

www.renfrewshire.gov.uk



PLANNING



Houston Solar Farm & Battery Storage Facility Project

Notice of Pre-Application Consultation

Dates: 7th October 2022 – 1st November 2022

PROPOSAL: c.75 megawatt (MW) solar PV farm and c.25 MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), with associated infrastructure including photovoltaic panels, mounting frames, inverters, transformers, substations, fencing, pole-mounted security cameras and associated site access.

LOCATION: The proposed development is to be located on three parcels of land within Elderslie Estate, Houston. At its nearest point, the northernmost parcel of land is located approximately 0.5km northeast of Houston village. It is situated to the north of the B790 Houston Road and is bisected by Turningshaw Road. The other two land parcels are located to the south of the B790 Houston Road, situated to the east and west of Moss Road. At their nearest point the lands are located approximately 1km east of Houston village.

Elgin Energy intend submitting an application to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU), in respect of the above proposal.

A dedicated project website has been created to share information and to facilitate online feedback and comments via a digital questionnaire. The project website can be accessed at:

www.houstonsolarfarm.com

In addition to the preceding initiative a **community consultation open day** will be held on **Tuesday 18th October 2022 at The Carrick Centre (1A Main Street, Houston, PA6 7EL) between 5.30pm – 8pm**, during which team members and project specialists will be available to discuss the project. Outside of the above, should you wish to speak directly to the team please make a request using the contact details below:

Email: pacc@rpsgroup.com

Tel: 028 9694 9957 or 020 7939 8007

Postal Address: FAO Catriona Morgan, RPS, Elmwood House, 74 Boucher Road, Belfast, BT12 6RZ

All comments or feedback should be received before **1st November 2022** after which the online feedback facility will close.

Please note - Any submissions made as part of the community consultation stage are not representations to the Consenting Authority (Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit) and do not in any way affect your statutory right to make representations to the Consenting Authority, with regard to any application which may be submitted in due course

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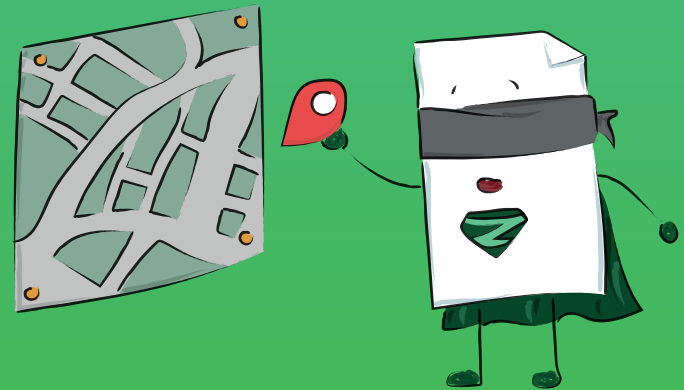
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Public Notices

Planning



Houston Solar Farm & Battery Storage Facility Project
Notice of Pre-Application Consultation
Dates: 7th October 2022 - 1st November 2022

PROPOSAL: c.75 megawatt (MW) solar PV farm and c.25 MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), with associated infrastructure including photovoltaic panels, mounting frames, inverters, transformers, substations, fencing, pole-mounted security cameras and associated site access.
LOCATION: The proposed development is to be located on three parcels of land within Elderslie Estate, Houston. At its nearest point, the northernmost parcel of land is located approximately 0.5km northeast of Houston village. It is situated to the north of the B790 Houston Road and is bisected by Turningshaw Road. The other two land parcels are located to the south of the B790 Houston Road, situated to the east and west of Moss Road. At their nearest point the lands are located approximately 1km east of Houston village.

Elgin Energy intend submitting an application to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU), in respect of the above proposal.

A dedicated project website has been created to share information and to facilitate online feedback and comments via a digital questionnaire. The project website can be accessed at: www.houstonsolarfarm.com

In addition to the preceding initiative a **community consultation open day** will be held on **Tuesday 18th October 2022 at The Carrick Centre** (1A Main Street, Houston, PA6 7EL) **between 5:30pm - 8pm**, during which team members and project specialists will be available to discuss the project. Outside of the above, should you wish to speak directly to the team please make a request using the contact details below:

Email: pacc@rpsgroup.com
Tel: **028 9694 9957** or **020 7939 8007**
Postal Address: FAO Catriona Morgan, RPS, Elmwood House, 74 Boucher Road, Belfast, BT12 6RZ

All comments or feedback should be received before **1st November 2022** after which the online feedback facility will close.

Please note - Any submissions made as part of the community consultation stage are not representations to the Consenting Authority (Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit) and do not in any way affect your statutory right to make representations to the Consenting Authority, with regard to any application which may be submitted in due course

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1959
PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF LAND AT GAS GOVERNOR AT MARKET PLACE, KILMACOLM.

Notice is hereby given in terms of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1959 S.27 (2A) (as amended) that the Inverclyde Council proposes to dispose of land at Market Place, Kilmacolm to Scottish Gas Networks PLC in order to install as new gas governor with a servitude right of access to the land.

A copy of the plan showing the land the Council proposes to dispose of may be downloaded from www.inverclyde.gov.uk/kilmacolmmarketplace or requested by telephone on 01475 712 102 or by email to property@inverclyde.gov.uk.

Any person may object to the proposal either by email to property@inverclyde.gov.uk or in writing to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Inverclyde Council, Municipal Buildings, Clyde Square, GREENOCK, PA15 1LX. Any objections or representations received, together with the details of the party or parties making such representations or comments, will appear in a publically available report to the Council's Environment and Regeneration Committee.

Objections should be made by no later than **5pm on 16 November 2022** and should state the grounds on which they are made.

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Statutory

Renfrewshire Council

THE HOUSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1987 AND THE ACQUISITION OF LAND (AUTHORISATION PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1947 (PAISLEY WEST END NUMBER 1) COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2022

Notice is hereby given that the above The Renfrewshire Council in exercise of the powers conferred on them by the above-mentioned Acts on the Thirteenth of September Two Thousand and Twenty-Two made the above-mentioned The Renfrewshire Council (Paisley West End Number 1) Compulsory Purchase Order 2022 which affects the land described in the Schedule hereto, for the purpose of the provision of housing accommodation and facilitating the demolition of the properties and redevelopment to provide affordable housing including social rented provision.

The Order is about to be submitted to the Scottish Ministers for confirmation and comes into operation only if confirmed. If the Order is confirmed, a conveyance registered in implement of the Order may vary or extinguish rights to enforce real burdens and servitudes affecting the land.

A copy of the Order and map referred to therein have been deposited and may be seen without payment of fee at The Renfrewshire Council, Customer Service Centre, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN, between the hours of 8.45am to 4.45pm Monday to Thursday and 8.45am to 3.55pm on Fridays until Friday the Twenty-First of October Two Thousand and Twenty-Two.

Any objections to the Order must be made in writing stating the title of the Order and the ground of objection and addressed to the Scottish Government, More Homes Division, Bothwell House, Hamilton Business Park, Caird Park, Hamilton, ML3 0QA or electronically to CompulsoryPO@gov.scot by Friday the Twenty-First of October Two Thousand and Twenty-Two.

Dated: the Thirteenth of September Two Thousand and Twenty-Two

Mary Crearie Director of Communities and Housing

This is the schedule referred to in the foregoing notice in respect of the Renfrewshire Council (Paisley West End Number 1) Compulsory Purchase Order 2022.

SCHEDULE - Land comprised in the order

| Plot | Description |
|------|---|
| 1 | All land registered under Title Number REN 18104 in the Land Register of Scotland being the flatted dwellinghouse known as and forming 1/2, 1 Underwood Lane, Paisley, PA1 2SL and all rights of property therein described. |
| 2 | All land registered under Title Number REN 20876 in the Land Register of Scotland being the flatted dwellinghouse known as and forming 1/3, 1 Underwood Lane, Paisley, PA1 2SL and all rights of property therein described. |
| 3 | All land registered under Title Number REN 22823 in the Land Register of Scotland being the flatted dwellinghouse known as and forming 3/1, 1 Underwood Lane, Paisley, PA1 2SL and all rights of property therein described. |
| 4 | All land registered under Title Number REN 17458 in the Land Register of Scotland being the flatted dwellinghouse known as and forming 3/3, 1 Underwood Lane, Paisley, PA1 2SL and all rights of property therein described. |
| 5 | All land registered under Title Number REN 14229 in the Land Register of Scotland being the ground floor shop premises and basement or cellar at 1 Underwood Lane, Paisley, PA1 2SL and the ground floor shop premises at 1 Underwood Lane, Paisley, PA1 2SL all forming part of the tenement 1 Underwood Lane and 22 Well Street Paisley and all rights of property therein described. |
| 6 | All land registered under Title Number REN 39600 in the Land Register of Scotland being the ground floor shop premises at 22 Well Street, Paisley forming part of the tenement 22 Well Street Paisley, PA1 2PF and 1 Underwood Lane, Paisley, PA1 2SL and all rights of property therein described. |

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Appendix C – Letter Drop

Our ref: NI2575 - Houston Solar Farm & BESS

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

Date: 6 October 2022

Dear Owner/Occupier,

Pre-Application Consultation for a proposed Solar PV Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility, with associated infrastructure on lands within Elderslie Estate, Houston.

On behalf of Elgin Energy (the applicant), RPS (planning/environmental consultants) cordially invite you to take part in a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) 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.75MW solar PV farm and c.25MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), with associated infrastructure including photovoltaic panels, mounting frames, inverters, transformers, substations, fencing, pole-mounted security cameras and associated site accesses.

The proposed development is to be located on three parcels of land within Elderslie Estate. At its nearest point, the northernmost parcel of land is located approximately 0.5km northeast of Houston village. It is situated to the north of the B790 Houston Road and is bisected by Turningshaw Road. The other two land parcels are located to the south of the B790 Houston Road, situated to the east and west of Moss Road. At their nearest point the lands are located approximately 1km east of Houston village.

A Plan showing details of site location, is enclosed with this letter.

A dedicated project website has been created to share information and to facilitate online feedback and comments via a digital questionnaire. The website will go live on 6th October 2022 and the online feedback facility contained therein will be available until 1st November 2022. The project website can be accessed at:

www.houstonsolarfarm.com

In addition to the preceding initiatives a community consultation open day will be held on Tuesday 18th October 2022 at The Carrick Centre (1A Main Street, Houston, PA6 7EL) between 5:30pm – 8pm, during which team members and project specialists will be available to discuss the project.

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 18,000 homes every year. 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. Outside of the above processes, should you wish to speak directly to the team please make a request using the contact details below:

Email: pacc@rpsgroup.com

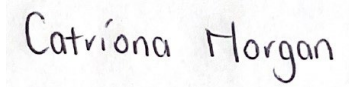
Tel: 028 9694 9957 or 020 7939 8007

Postal Address: FAO Catriona Morgan, RPS, Elmwood House, 74 Boucher Road, Belfast, BT12 6RZ

Please be advised that taking part in this process does not affect your statutory rights to make representations to the Energy Consents Unit in respect of the application when submitted.

Our ref: NI2575 - Houston Solar Farm & BESS

Yours sincerely,
for RPS

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catriona Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed contact information.

Catriona Morgan
Planner - Planning & Environment
catriona.morgan@rpsgroup.com
02896949957

Appendix D – Stakeholder Consultation Communication

Our ref: NI2575 - Houston Solar Farm & BESS

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

Date: 7 October 2022

Via Email to the Office of Mr Gavin Newlands (MP – Paisley and Renfrewshire North)

Dear Mr Newlands,

Pre-Application Consultation for a proposed Solar PV Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility, with associated infrastructure on lands within Elderslie Estate, Houston.

On behalf of Elgin Energy (the applicant), RPS (planning/environmental consultants) cordially invite you to take part in a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) 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.75MW solar PV farm and c.25MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), with associated infrastructure including photovoltaic panels, mounting frames, inverters, transformers, substations, fencing, pole-mounted security cameras and associated site accesses.

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Our ref: NI2575 - Houston Solar Farm & BESS

Email: pacc@rpsgroup.com

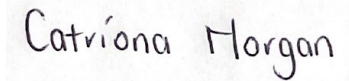
Tel: 028 9694 9957 or 020 7939 8007

Postal Address: FAO Catriona Morgan, RPS, Elmwood House, 74 Boucher Road, Belfast, BT12 6RZ

Notwithstanding the preceding PAC activities, we would welcome an opportunity to liaise directly with you or your Council colleagues to address any questions or queries you may have. Should you wish to arrange a call or online digital meeting (MS Teams / Zoom) with Client and RPS representatives please contact me using the details contained within this letter.

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 18,000 homes every year. 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.

Yours sincerely,
for RPS

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catriona Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Catriona Morgan

Planner - Planning & Environment

catriona.morgan@rpsgroup.com

02896949957

Our ref: NI2575 - Houston Solar Farm & BESS

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

Date: 7 October 2022

Via Email to the Office of Mr Neil Bibby (West Scotland)

Dear Mr Bibby,

Pre-Application Consultation for a proposed Solar PV Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility, with associated infrastructure on lands within Elderslie Estate, Houston.

On behalf of Elgin Energy (the applicant), RPS (planning/environmental consultants) cordially invite you to take part in a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) 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.75MW solar PV farm and c.25MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), with associated infrastructure including photovoltaic panels, mounting frames, inverters, transformers, substations, fencing, pole-mounted security cameras and associated site accesses.

The proposed development is to be located on three parcels of land within Elderslie Estate, Houston. At its nearest point, the northernmost parcel of land is located approximately 0.5km northeast of Houston village. It is situated to the north of the B790 Houston Road and is bisected by Turningshaw Road. The other two land parcels are located to the south of the B790 Houston Road, situated to the east and west of Moss Road. At their nearest point the lands are located approximately 1km east of Houston village.

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

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Our ref: NI2575 - Houston Solar Farm & BESS

Email: pacc@rpsgroup.com

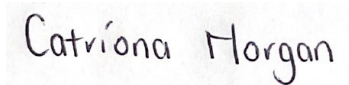
Tel: 028 9694 9957 or 020 7939 8007

Postal Address: FAO Catriona Morgan, RPS, Elmwood House, 74 Boucher Road, Belfast, BT12 6RZ

Notwithstanding the preceding PAC activities, we would welcome an opportunity to liaise directly with you or your Council colleagues to address any questions or queries you may have. Should you wish to arrange a call or online digital meeting (MS Teams / Zoom) with Client and RPS representatives please contact me using the details contained within this letter.

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 18,000 homes every year. 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.

Yours sincerely,
for RPS

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catriona Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

Catriona Morgan

Planner - Planning & Environment

catriona.morgan@rpsgroup.com

02896949957

Our ref: NI2575 - Houston Solar Farm & BESS

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

Date: 7 October 2022

Via Email to Councillor Alison Ann-Dowling

Dear Councillor Ann-Dowling,

Pre-Application Consultation for a proposed Solar PV Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility, with associated infrastructure on lands within Elderslie Estate, Houston.

On behalf of Elgin Energy (the applicant), RPS (planning/environmental consultants) cordially invite you to take part in a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) 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.75MW solar PV farm and c.25MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), with associated infrastructure including photovoltaic panels, mounting frames, inverters, transformers, substations, fencing, pole-mounted security cameras and associated site accesses.

The proposed development is to be located on three parcels of land within Elderslie Estate. At its nearest point, the northernmost parcel of land is located approximately 0.5km northeast of Houston village. It is situated to the north of the B790 Houston Road and is bisected by Turningshaw Road. The other two land parcels are located to the south of the B790 Houston Road, situated to the east and west of Moss Road. At their nearest point the lands are located approximately 1km east of Houston village.

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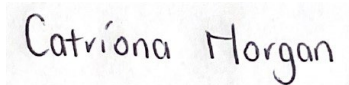
Tel: 028 9694 9957 or 020 7939 8007

Postal Address: FAO Catriona Morgan, RPS, Elmwood House, 74 Boucher Road, Belfast, BT12 6RZ

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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 18,000 homes every year. 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.

Yours sincerely,
for RPS



Catriona Morgan

Planner - Planning & Environment

catriona.morgan@rpsgroup.com

02896949957

Our ref: NI2575 - Houston Solar Farm & BESS

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

Date: 7 October 2022

Via Email to Houston Community Council - Secretary

Dear Mr Wright,

Pre-Application Consultation for a proposed Solar PV Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility, with associated infrastructure on lands accessing onto and bisected by B790 Houston Road, Houston.

On behalf of Elgin Energy (the applicant), RPS (planning/environmental consultants) cordially invite you to take part in a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) 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.75MW solar PV farm and c.25MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), with associated infrastructure including photovoltaic panels, mounting frames, inverters, transformers, substations, fencing, pole-mounted security cameras and associated site accesses.

The proposed development is to be located on three parcels of land within Elderslie Estate, Houston. At its nearest point, the northernmost parcel of land is located approximately 0.5km northeast of Houston village. It is situated to the north of the B790 Houston Road and is bisected by Turningshaw Road. The other two land parcels are located to the south of the B790 Houston Road, situated to the east and west of Moss Road. At their nearest point the lands are located approximately 1km east of Houston village.

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

A dedicated project website has been created to share information and to facilitate online feedback and comments via a digital questionnaire. The website will go live on 6th October 2022 and the online feedback facility contained therein will be available until 1st November 2022. The project website can be accessed at:

www.houstonsolarfarm.com

In addition to the preceding initiatives a community consultation open day will be held on Tuesday 18th October 2022 at The Carrick Centre (1A Main Street, Houston, PA6 7EL) between 4:30pm – 8pm, during which team members and project specialists will be available to discuss the project. Elected representatives and parish / town councils are welcome to attend between 4:30pm – 5:30pm, and the event will be open to the general public from 5:30pm – 8pm. A letter drop of information to residents surrounding the site is presently taking place whilst the project and PAC activities are also being advertised in the local press w.c 3rd October 2022. Correspondence advises that should any person wish to speak to team members directly outside of the above advised processes, then a request can be made using the contact details below:

Our ref: NI2575 - Houston Solar Farm & BESS

Email: pacc@rpsgroup.com

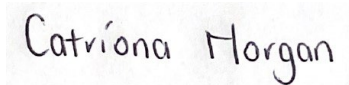
Tel: 028 9694 9957 or 020 7939 8007

Postal Address: FAO Catriona Morgan, RPS, Elmwood House, 74 Boucher Road, Belfast, BT12 6RZ

Notwithstanding the preceding PAC activities, we would welcome an opportunity to liaise directly with you or your Council colleagues to address any questions or queries you may have. Should you wish to arrange a call or online digital meeting (MS Teams / Zoom) with Client and RPS representatives please contact me using the details contained within this letter.

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 18,000 homes every year. 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.

Yours sincerely,
for RPS

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catriona Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

Catriona Morgan

Planner - Planning & Environment

catriona.morgan@rpsgroup.com

02896949957

Appendix E – Website

Project Overview

The proposed Houston Solar Farm will produce clean renewable energy contributing to local and national energy targets with additional benefits to include:

- Biodiversity net gain for the area over the lifetime of the project;
- Dual use of land with clean energy production and sheep farming;

Key Project Details



Location:

Lands within the Houston Estate, Houston, Johnstone

Site area: c. 274 hectares / 111 acres

Grazing:

Sheep will graze the site once operational

Project size: Approx. 75 MW of solar capacity

Construction duration: ~ 10 weeks

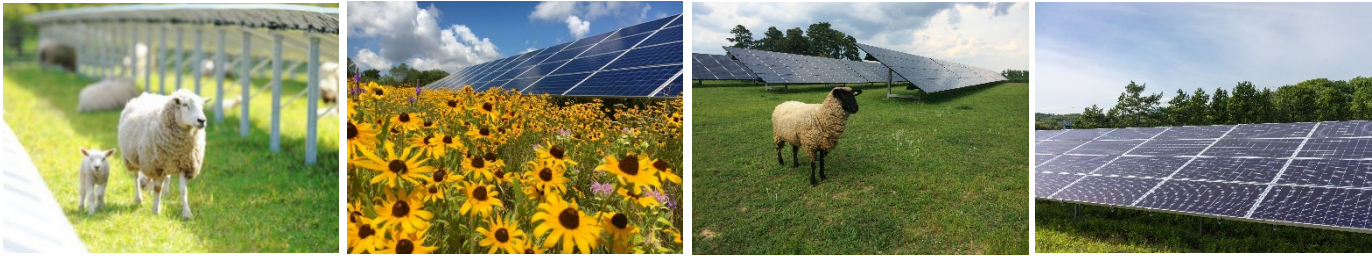
Project Booklet

To learn more about the proposed solar PV farm at Houston Solar Farm, please download the project information booklet.

[↓ DOWNLOAD](#)



Appendix F – Feedback Form



PROPOSED SOLAR PV FARM AT HOUSTON

QUESTIONNAIRE

Elgin Energy are currently preparing a planning application for our proposed Solar PV Farm at Lands north of Houston Road and either side of Moss Road, Houston, Johnstone.

Your views are important to us as they will help shape the development proposal. We would be grateful if you could spare a few minutes to complete this short questionnaire and provide us with any comments you have.

1. Are you concerned about the effects of climate change?

Yes No Undecided

2. Do you support the use of solar energy to help combat climate change?

Yes No Undecided

3. How do you feel about our proposed plans for the Houston Solar PV Farm?

Very supportive Supportive Undecided Opposed Very opposed

4. What do you think would be the main benefit of the Houston Solar PV Farm? (Please tick one option)

It would produce a clean and safe supply of energy It would assist in meeting renewable energy targets

It would raise awareness of solar energy

Low maintenance and creates very little noise

Relatively low visual impact

Other:

If you do not think there would be any benefit, please state why:

.....

.....

.....

5. Do you have any concerns about how our proposed plans for Houston Solar PV Farm will affect you or the existing environment?

.....

.....

.....

6. What do you consider to be the main issues or impacts of solar farms?

Visual

Transport

Construction

Ecology

No impact

Other:

7. Please use this space for any further comments, suggestions or questions you may have:

.....
.....
.....

8. **Name:**

Address:.....
.....

Postcode:

Email:

9. **Do you wish to be kept informed of our proposals for Houston Solar PV Farm?**

Yes *No*

Thank you for your feedback.

Please hand this completed questionnaire in or alternatively send to:

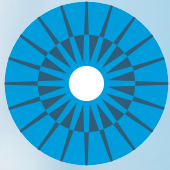
Elgin Energy EsCo Ltd, Dashwood House, 69 Old Broad St, London EC2M 1QS

Email: office@elgin-energy.com

NB: ANY COMMENTS MADE TO THE APPLICANT DURING THIS EXHIBITION DO NOT AFFECT YOUR STATUTORY RIGHTS TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE PLANNING AUTHORITY ON THE PLANNING APPLICATION ITSELF.

Your personal data will not be used for any purpose other than to keep you updated on Elgin Energy's plans for a Solar PV Farm at Houston and will not be provided to any third party.

Appendix G – Information Leaflet



ELGIN
ENERGY

PROPOSED HOUSTON SOLAR PV FARM

Houston Road & Moss Road,

Johnstone

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

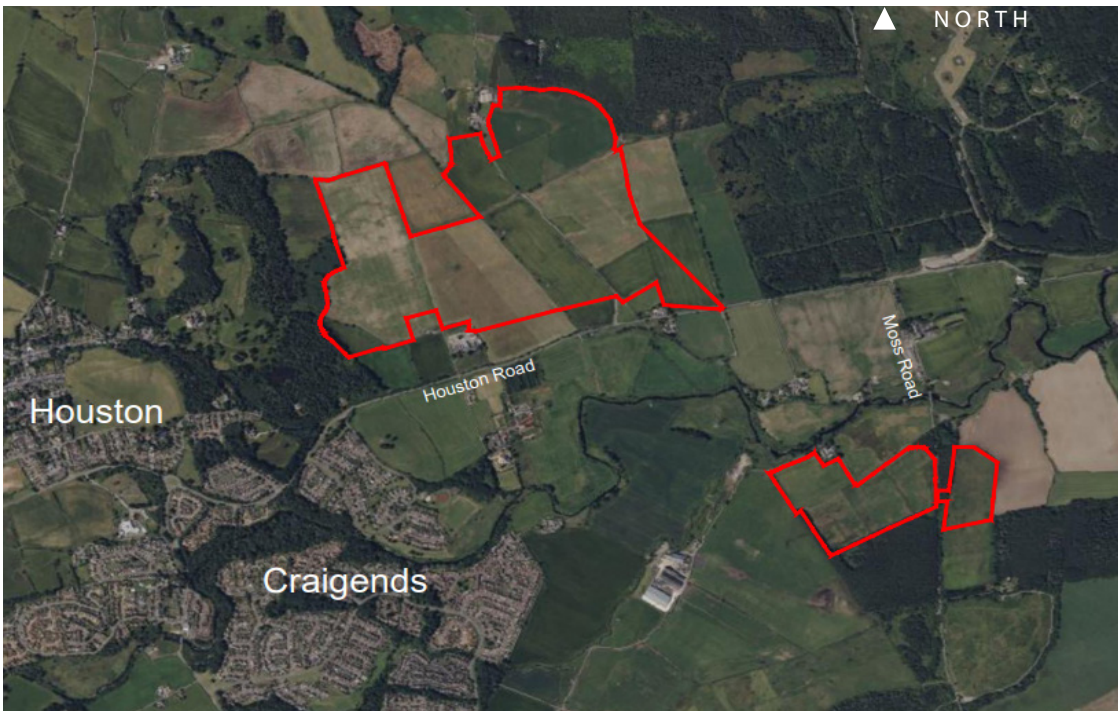
BRE National Solar Centre Biodiversity Best Practice Guidelines 2014

Introduction

Elgin Energy EsCo Ltd is seeking to develop a ground mounted Solar PV farm and Battery Energy Storage Scheme (BESS) on Lands north of Houston Road and either side of Moss Road, Houston, Johnstone. 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 lifting of Coronavirus restrictions on public assembly, we are undertaking a public consultation event. Further details will be released via letter and in the press. Elgin have also created a website to share project information and seek feedback on the project proposals. Please visit www.houstonsolarfarm.com to learn more.

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.

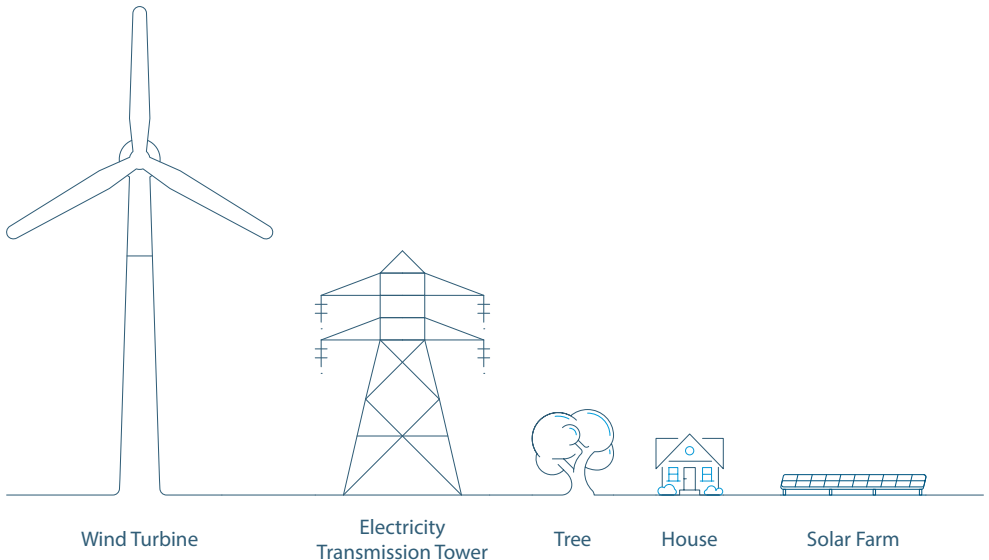


Project overview

The proposed site is on lands to the north of Houston Road and either side of Moss Road. It is approximately 15 kilometres west of Glasgow.

The proposed project covers approximately 111 hectares and will accommodate approximately 75 megawatts (MW) of ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and approximately 25MW of Storage capacity. A project lifetime of 40 years is proposed.

The proposed solar farm will generate approximately 75,000,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) per annum powering 18,100 homes every year.



Local engagement

Elgin Energy EsCo Ltd is committed to the local communities in which our solar farms 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 require a bout providing services for this project, please visit the project website.

Pre-planning process

A number of assessments are being conducted to establish any potential effects 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 is being undertaken to identify any impacts on nearby viewpoints. The proposed site layout can be viewed on the project website. A glint & glare assessment will also be 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 - 8 metres m. The panels are set at 0.8m above ground level and increase to 3.2m 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.

- BESS units typically 12.2m long x 2.4m wide and 3.4m high.

- Inverters measure typically between 7 m to 10 m long x 2.2 m to 3 m wide x 2.2 m to 3 m high with a concrete base. They convert the DC electricity produced by the panels into grid-compatible AC current. They will be located throughout the site.

- A primary substation.

- 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

The Applicant, Elgin Energy Esco Ltd 'Elgin Energy' is a leading international and independent solar development Company set up in 2009. Elgin Energy has extensive experience in delivering projects from initial landowner engagement to project completion having initially begun development in the UK in 2011, followed by Ireland in 2015 and Australia in 2018.

As of 2021, Elgin Energy has successfully delivered 230MW of solar energy across 21 projects in the UK, providing the equivalent of 75,000 homes with clean energy on an annual basis. This includes Scotland's largest solar farm at Errol Estate. The company has successfully obtained consent for 1,200MW across 63 projects including Scotland's first Energy Consent Unit (ECU) application at Milltown Airfield. A further 5GW solar + 3GW storage projects are at late stages of development across the UK, Ireland and Australia.

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

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69 Old Broad St,
London EC2M 1QS

T: +44 (0) 208 068 4240

E: office@elgin-energy.com

W: <https://houstonsolarfarm.flywheelsites.com/>

W: www.elgin-energy.com



www.elgin-energy.com

Appendix H – PAC Event Photographs



