

Welcome

Thank you for attending our public exhibition for the proposed Trinlaymire Solar Farm.

This public exhibition, hosted by Ampyr Solar Europe, is to outline plans for a solar farm near Threemiletown, West Lothian. The project is in partnership with the Hopetoun Estate.

The proposed solar farm site takes in roughly 53 hectares of land and, if consented, it will supply the equivalent electricity needs of over 9,400 homes per year.

We first brought forward proposals for a solar farm at Trinlaymire in Summer 2022 and held a public exhibition event in November 2022. We then had meetings and correspondence with community representatives and local residents to discuss the plans and receive feedback.

In response to feedback, we have altered the site boundary to include more land to the north of the site to allow panels to be moved further away from properties at Canal Court.

We submitted a new Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) to West Lothian Council with the updated boundary line for the project in early July 2023.

We would like to thank the local community councils, residents and elected representatives for their time and input on the proposals to date. These exhibition events are to showcase the updated design and to receive further feedback from local residents and community representatives.



Trinlaymire Solar Farm Site Map

About the Developer

Ampyr Solar Europe is a joint venture between AGP Group, Hartree Partners and NaGa Solar.

It specialises in solar development, with a combined pipeline of over 5GW of large-scale ground-mount solar projects in the UK, Germany and the Netherlands and a team of over 70 experienced renewable development professionals



Our proposals

Our proposals would consist of over 73,300 individual solar PV panels.



Why here?

- The proposed site was selected in partnership with Hopetoun estate through an iterative process of desktop viability assessments and land availability. Once the preferred site was identified, a series of site visits, surveys and assessments were conducted to validate suitability.
- West Lothian is a good location for a solar farm with moderate levels of solar irradiation.
- PV panels require daylight, not high temperatures, so solar works well in Scotland, especially in the summer months with the long daylight hours.
- The site has good access and, critically, a good grid connection in reasonable proximity.
- The site is gently undulating farm land, which is well suited to solar development.

The solar farm

- Approximately 53 hectares of land.
- Fixed tilt solar photovoltaic system.
- The panels will be inclined at an angle of about 15° and face south.
- The front edge of the panels will be approximately 0.6m above the ground, while the back edge will have a maximum height of approximately 3m.
- There will be approximately 2.5m distance between each row of panels.
- The land between the rows and under the panels can be used for sheep grazing.
- Sub-station area with a small site maintenance facility.
- Inverters and transformers to convert power from DC to AC (Alternating Current).
- Natural screening planted
- Security fencing - fencing will be permeable to small animals and there will be no audible alarms or permanent lighting at the site.
- Close Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras. These will be kept to a minimum and located to reduce any visual impact and respect privacy.

Design Iteration

We know that the overall look of Trinlaymire Solar Farm is a key point of interest for the local community.

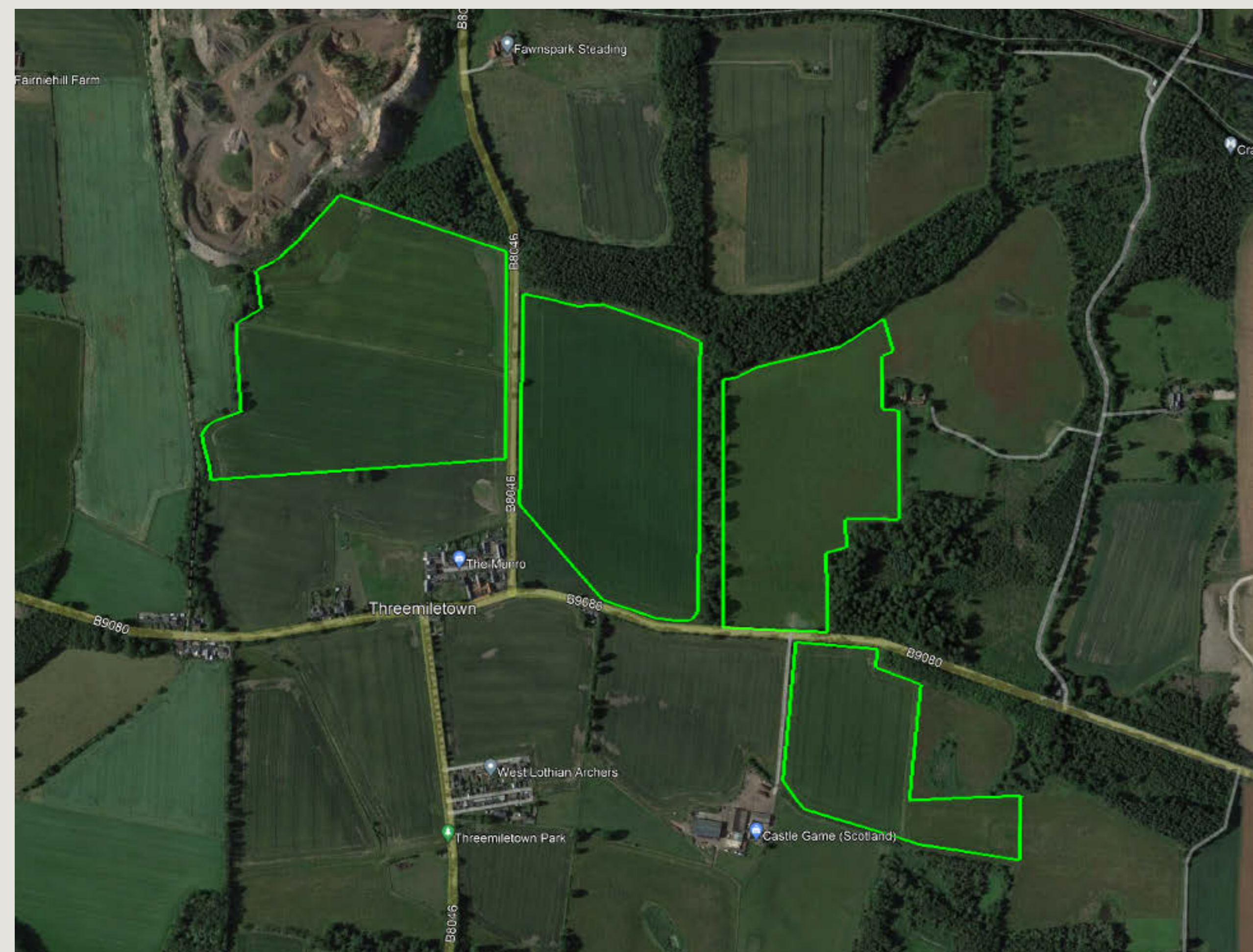
This board explains the design iteration process we have undertaken since we first started assessing the site for a potential solar farm.

November 2022



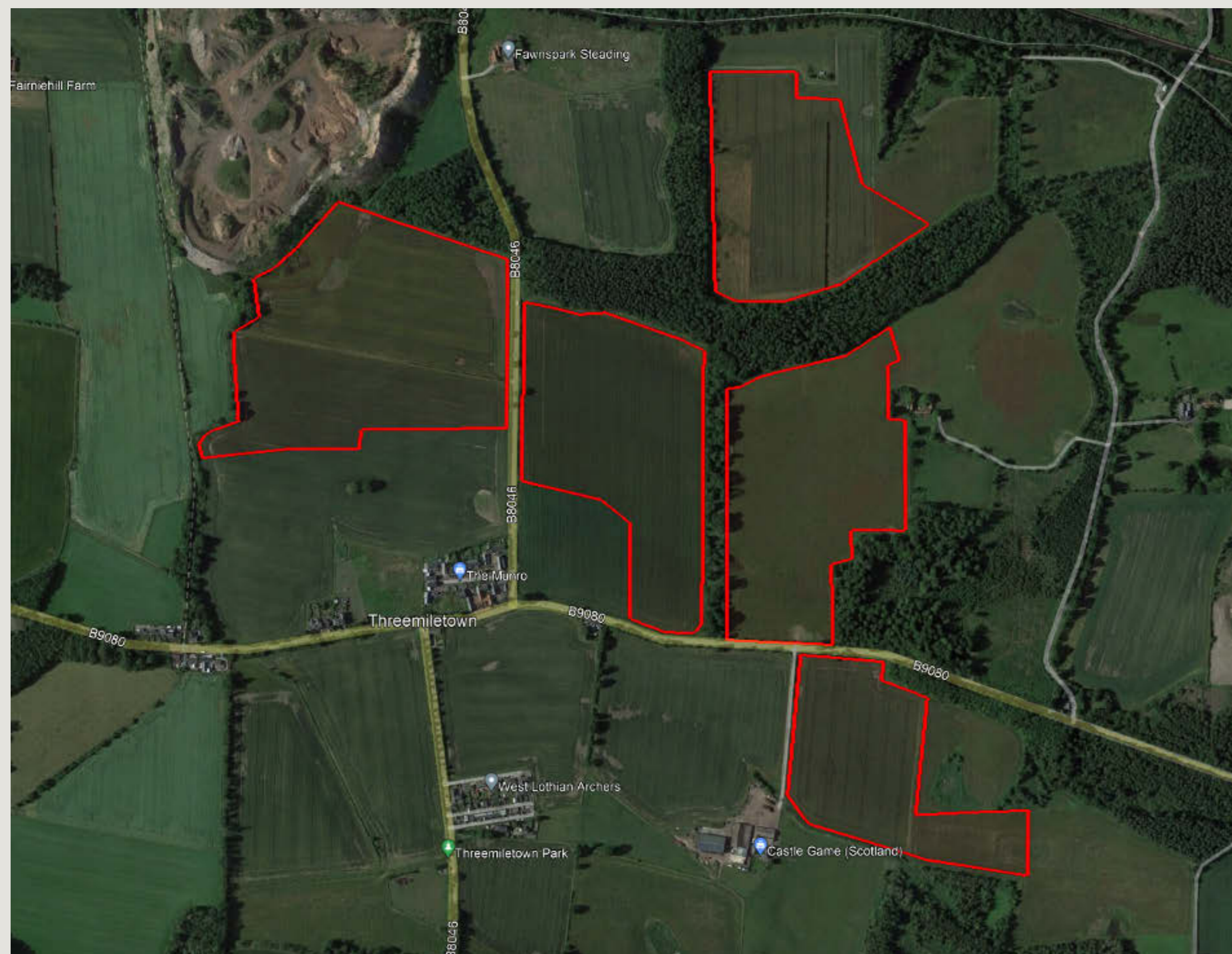
- We first brought forward proposals for a solar farm at Trinlaymire in September 2022 and held public exhibition events in November 2022. This design was presented at the November 2022 Exhibition.
- Approximate distance to Canal Court (North) - 60m
- Approximate distance to Canal Court (East) - 25m
- MWp - 44
- Acres - 118.4

May 2023



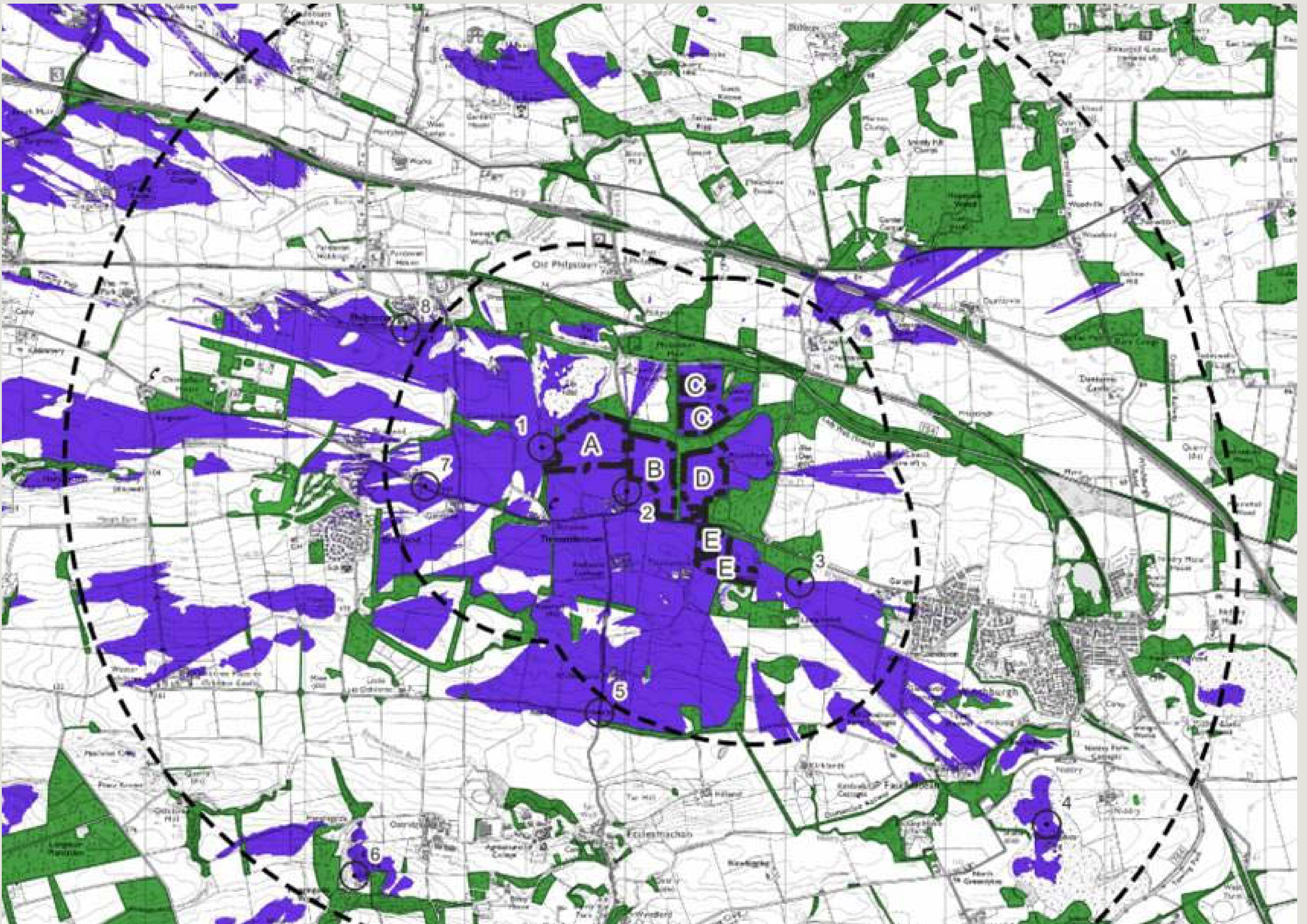
- Following feedback, we pushed the site boundary back to the north of the Canal Court residences and removed sections of panels from the area to the east of the site.
- Approximate distance to Canal Court (North) - 120m
- Approximate distance to Canal Court (East) - 55m
- MWp - 42.9
- Acres - 115.4

August 2023



- In response to ongoing feedback, we have considered further design changes and, as a result, the site boundary has been altered to include more land to the north of the site to allow panels to be moved even further away from properties.
- Approximate distance to Canal Court (North) - 185m
- Approximate distance to Canal Court (East) - 200m
- MWp - 45
- Acres - 124.4

Landscape and Visual



Visual Impact

A preliminary Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) analysis has been undertaken for the site to identify those areas where solar panels may potentially be visible within the surrounding landscape. It shows those areas where panels may be theoretically visible, coloured purple on the plan, taking account of topography (landform) along with screening that may be provided by above ground features such as larger tree belts, woodlands and buildings.

The preliminary ZTV has been based on a model that includes solar panels everywhere within the site boundary in order to test the maximum potential visibility and therefore presents a 'worst case' of potential visibility. As the site design is developed and refined, the ZTV will be updated to reflect the finalised proposals and will be used to inform the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) that will be submitted as part of the planning application.

The final proposal will include a range of landscape mitigation measures in order to help screen the proposed development and help it to integrate into the surrounding landscape. This will include the introduction of native species hedgerows and trees, reflecting the character of existing vegetation in the area and may also include new areas of woodland.

Photosheets

Viewpoints have been agreed for the application and on the ZTV are numbers 1 - 8, which are the following viewpoints:

1. Core Path WL12
2. B8046 at Canal Court
3. Track to Lampinsdub
4. Greendykes Bing
5. B8046 south of Waterstone
6. Binny Craig
7. B9080 near Bridgend
8. Union Canal Towpath at Philpstoun

Environment

We are mindful of the existing environmental context of the site. We are doing this by undertaking a number of surveys to make sure we understand the potential impacts the solar development may have.

Environment

Surveys are being carried out to assess Trinlaymire Solar Farm's likely effects on the environment, landscape, heritage and local community. We are also looking at ways to enhance local ecology and biodiversity through the project.

The project would bring environmental benefits, including new habitat areas. The land underneath the panels will be laid to permanent grassland and left undisturbed, with the potential for sheep grazing on rotation, at a suitable stocking density, therefore allowing the land to rest, leading to improved biodiversity on site. Our proposal includes creating new wildflower meadows, attractive to native wild bees and other pollinators.

We would plant new hedgerows as well as new shrub and tree areas. Further planting to close gaps and connect existing hedgerows would create extensive wildlife corridors in addition to new habitats that will benefit a range of species, including invertebrates, birds, small mammals and foraging bats.

The project will be able to produce clean, renewable energy equivalent to approximately 12% of all residential annual demand in West Lothian*.

*76,000 households in West Lothian (<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/34925/Key-Facts>) x 4,001.2 kWh (average household consumption in Scotland 2020)



Agriculture

The current agricultural activity on the land is rotated between arable and temporary grassland. We know that food security is important. The next big challenge to our food supply is expected to be caused by climate change, so addressing this, including by using solar energy, will improve our food security.

During the solar farm's life span, the ground beneath the solar panels will be planted with a species-rich grassland mix. The area under the panels can also safely be used for grazing small livestock such as sheep, since the panels will be 0.6m above the ground. This will help to continue agricultural use of the land after the site is built.

Ecology and Biodiversity

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) has been undertaken for the initial development site, comprising an ecological desk study and extended habitat survey to identify habitats present within and around the site as well as the potential for protected or otherwise notable species to be present. The PEA is in the process of being extended to account for the additional land that has now been added to the proposals.

Ornithological surveys have also been undertaken. Any sensitive features and habitats or ornithological constraints that have been identified, as well as potential biodiversity enhancement measures, will be incorporated into the design of the solar farm and committed mitigation for the planning application..

The species mix identified include crested dog's-tail, meadow fox-tail, Yorkshire-fog and cock's-foot grasses, with red clover, occasional soft-rush (particularly along the field edges to east and west) and broad-leaved dock, creeping thistle bush vetch and creeping buttercup present in the sward.

Mining Report

A Preliminary Coal Mining Risk Assessment (CMRA) has been undertaken to identify potential risks associated with historic mining and potential mitigation for the proposed development. The majority of the site has very low risk associated with underground mining.

However, solar panels will be appropriately sited to take account of potential mining instability in areas where shallow workings have been identified. Found infrastructure (e.g. the substation) will be sited where possible in areas with no identified risk associated with underground mining in coal or oil-shale seams.

Flood Risk

A detailed Flood Risk and Drainage Assessment will be undertaken in accordance with relevant national and local guidance. The hydrological features within and in proximity to the site will be fully taken into account to ensure there is no increase in flooding on or near the development.

Glint and Glare

An assessment of potential glint and glare impacts on local receptors has been undertaken and the report is in the process of being prepared as part of the EIA Report.



Heritage

There are no recorded archaeological monuments located on the site. There are two Gardens and Designed Landscapes (House of Binns and Hopetoun House) within 2km of the proposed development site. There are three Scheduled Monuments and several Listed Buildings (the closest a category C Listed Building likely to be screened by intervening woodland) within 2km of the site. The new land moves the proposed development closer to the Union Canal, which is a Scheduled Monument, but the impact is assessed as being low due to the mature screening between the proposed site and the canal.

Potential impacts on the settings of these will be considered in the environmental assessment.

Pipelines

Consultation with pipeline and utilities infrastructure operators has been undertaken to provide clear information on the locations and routes of buried hazard pipelines and any stand-off requirements or other measures such as construction phase consultation and risk management.

Consultation and research indicated there are no major pipelines considerations onsite. A Polyethylene (PE) medium pressure mains was identified on the southwestern edge of the site boundary, for which general safe digging/working practices will be put in place during construction.

Construction and Economics

Traffic

An assessment of construction traffic impacts on the local road network will be undertaken, in consultation with the local Authority. Suitable construction traffic route(s) and management measures will be outlined.

The construction process for a solar farm of this nature would generally take between four to six months. As the proposed site is split across five fields, multiple access routes will be required for construction and ongoing operational access. We are currently considering the preferred route for construction traffic, but the primary ingress route under consideration is via the B8046 from the M9.

The peak of construction activity occurs in Month 1 of the construction programme, with a total of approximately 80 construction movements (40 inbound and 40 outbound trips per day).

Traffic movements would be governed by a Construction Traffic Management Plan, which would be put in place before construction starts. This will agree specific points, such as delivery times, restrictions, and routes to ensure that construction traffic does not have a detrimental impact to the local road network. For example, it could stipulate deliveries could only take place between 10am and 4pm to avoid peak hours.

Once operational, a solar farm generates very little traffic, with only monthly maintenance visits.

Economic Impact

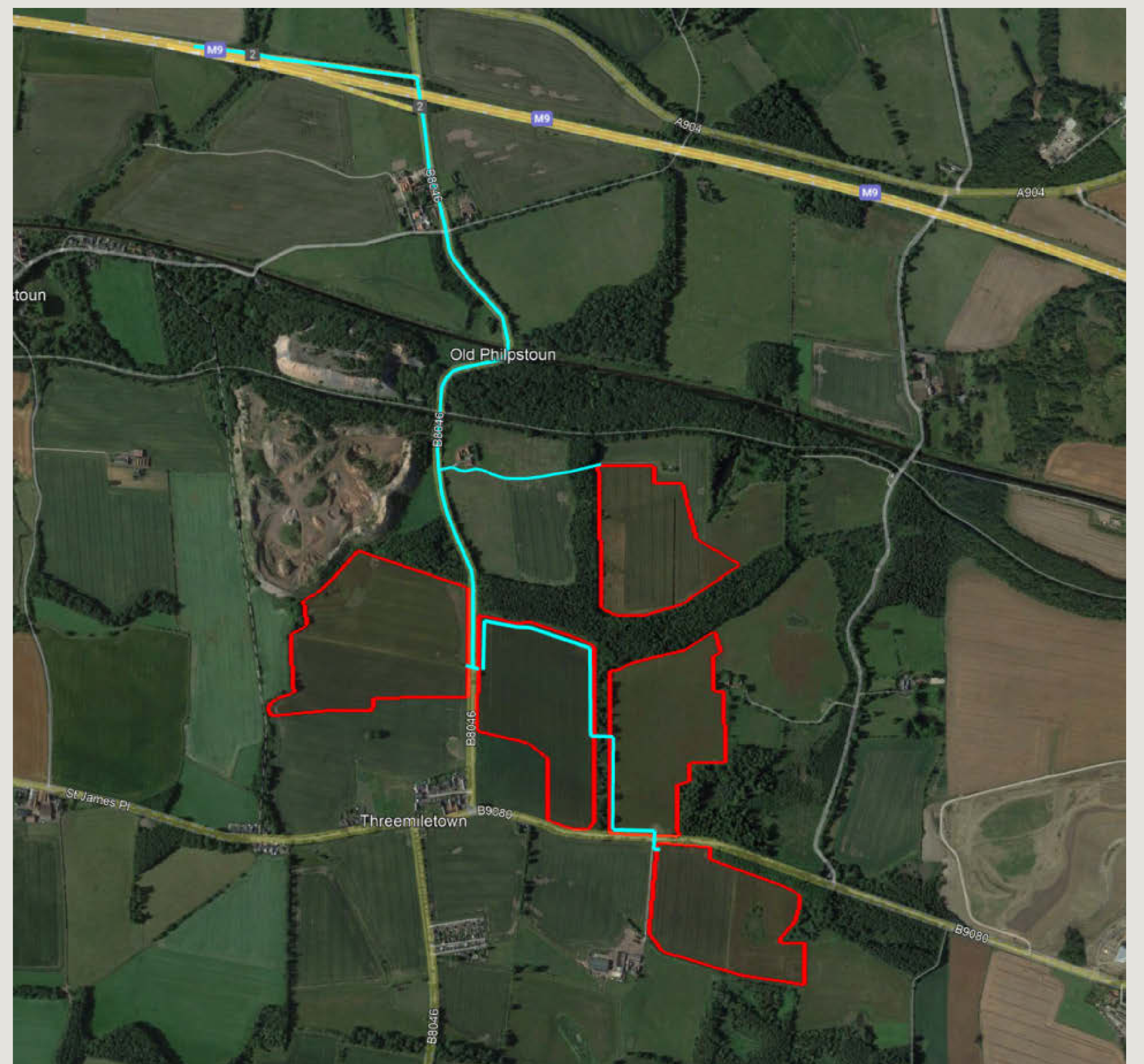
We are committed to working with the local supply chain and local businesses to deliver the project.

If consented, we will hold 'Meet the Developer' events for local businesses to learn about the opportunities connected to the project, including for construction, maintenance, civil engineering, fencing and landscaping. The solar farm will also pay council business rates to West Lothian Council.

Community Benefit

We are committed to a community benefit for our projects, such as supporting apprenticeship schemes, biodiversity on site, school visits, and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with the community.

We want to be a long term partner with the local community and, if the project is consented, we will create a Community Benefit Fund that will provide an annual fund to the local area when the project is in operation. To date, ideas for community benefit schemes include funding support for the proposed Threemiletown to Ecclesmachan footpath and a community energy scheme to provide low cost, low carbon electricity to local households.



Indicative Construction Transport Route

Local and National Policy

West Lothian Council, the Scottish Government and the UK Government have all declared a Climate Emergency.

In response to the Climate Emergency, the Scottish Government has committed to reducing the country's emissions by 75% by 2030 and to a legally binding target of net-zero by 2045.

West Lothian Council is committed to taking action to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change for some time and signed the Climate Change Declaration in 2007 and declared a Climate Emergency in September 2019.

As part of the Council's response to the Climate Emergency, West Lothian Council aims to achieve a net-zero position by 2045 at the latest and has interim targets of a 61% reduction by 2028, 65% reduction by 2030 and 86% reduction by 2040.

This project can play a part in helping West Lothian Council and the Scottish Government meet their 2030 and 2045 targets.

Decommissioning

The solar farm will be designed with an operational life of 35 - 45 years.

At the end of the solar farm's lifespan all hardware can be easily removed, and the land returned to its previous use. The condition of the land must be the same, if not better than it was before the project started.

Thank you for attending today

This consultation is the local community's opportunity to further shape our proposals before we submit a planning application later this year.

Have Your Say

We are keen to hear your views on our latest proposals. If you have any comments or questions please talk to any of the project team here today or, if you prefer, please complete and return one of the feedback forms.

Timeline

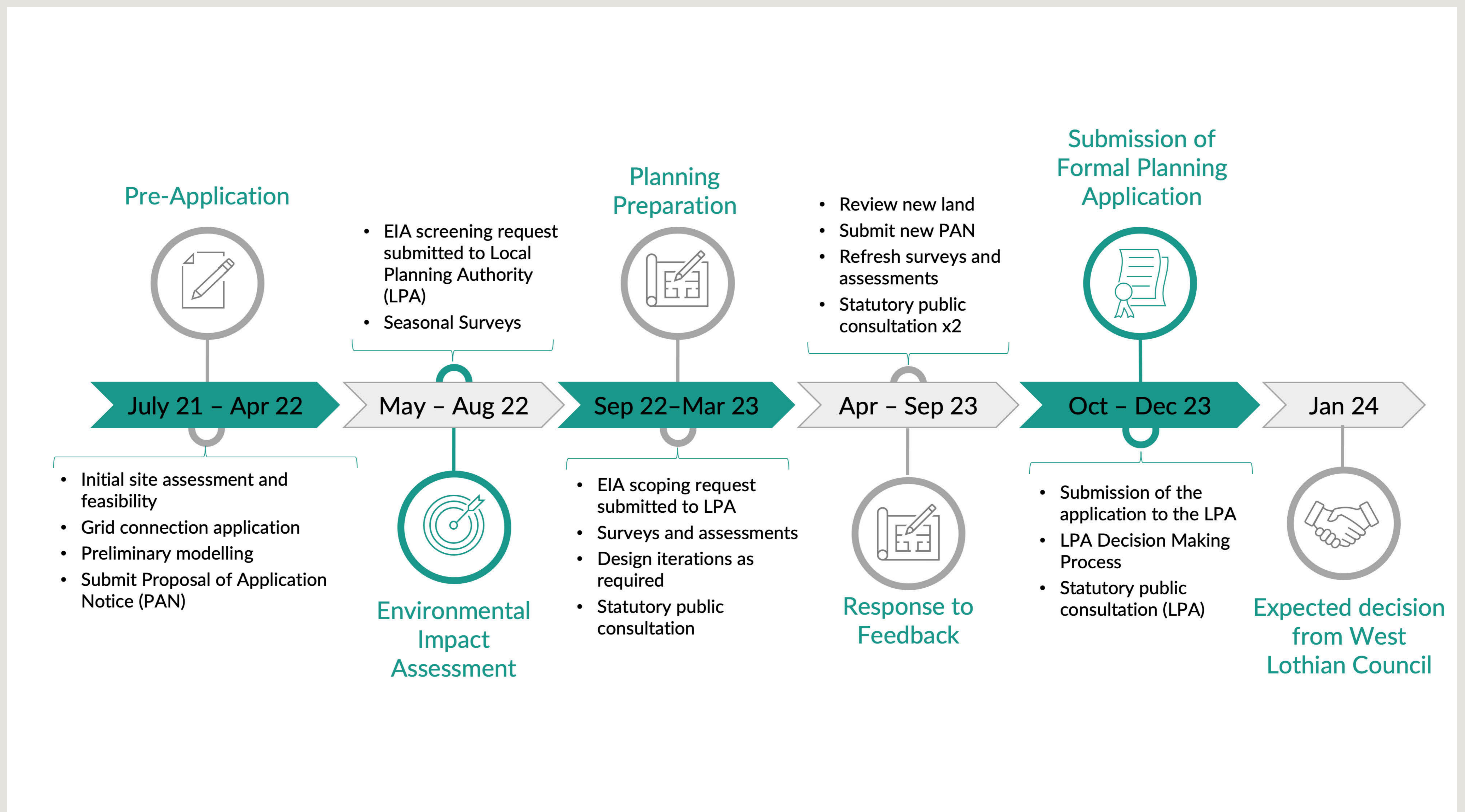
The projected timeline for Trinlaymire solar development can be seen below, which gives a summary of the pre-planning and planning process.

What Happens Next?

Feedback from today's public exhibition will be incorporated into the planning application that we will eventually submit to West Lothian Council. We hope to submit an application later in 2023.

West Lothian Council will then undertake its own consultation with statutory and non-statutory consultees. Local residents will be able to make representations to the Council on the application at this time. West Lothian Council will then make a decision on whether the solar farm can go ahead.

If consent for the project is granted, we would hope to start construction in Summer 2024. We expect construction to take six months and then the solar farm would be operational.



This consultation is your opportunity to ask us questions and share your feedback. We will consider all feedback received and use it to inform our proposals. We would also like to hear suggestions on how we can deliver community benefits through the scheme.

You can share your views on the project in one of the following ways.

- **Online:** using the project website to leave feedback - visit www.trinlaymiresolar.co.uk
- **Email:** using the scheme email address, contact@ampyrsolareurope.com
- **Post:** Trinlaymire Net Zero Ltd, Ampyr Solar Europe, 25 Eccleston Place, Victoria, London SW1W 9NF
- **At this event:** by filling in a hard copy form and submitting it to a member of the project team