

MAGHERALIN SOLAR FARM

Pre-application Community Consultation (PACC) Report



Contents

1. Introduction	3
1.1 Site Location	3
2. RES' Commitment to Consultation.....	3
3. Statutory Requirements and Best Practice Guidance	4
4. Consultation Methodology	4
4.1 Pre-consultation preparation.....	4
4.2 Consultation.....	5
4.2.1 Letter to Elected Political Representatives - 6 th January 2023	5
4.2.2 Project Website - 8 th March 2023	5
4.2.3 Community Pre-Exhibition Mailing - 9 th March 2023	5
4.2.4 Pre-Exhibition Advertising - 9 th and 16 th March 2023.....	5
4.2.5 Elected Representative Pre-Exhibition Mailing - 13 th March 2023.....	6
4.2.6 Public Exhibition - 21 st March 2023	6
4.2.7 Other Correspondence - various	8
4.3 Summary of Consultation	8
5. Feedback and Applicant's Response.....	9
6. Summary.....	12

1. Introduction

This Pre-Application Community Consultation (PACC) Report outlines how RES (the Applicant) has engaged with the local community to inform them about the proposed Magheralin Solar Farm, hereinafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development'.

It explains how and when the community was consulted before the planning application was submitted to Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (hereinafter referred to as ABC Council/the Council) and how this consultation has shaped the Proposed Development.

The PACC Report summarises those activities undertaken, details how comments received from the community were considered and sets out if any consequent changes or mitigating measures have been included in the proposal.

The consultation activities described within this Report demonstrates how PACC has been undertaken in accordance with requirements in respect of same, set out in the Planning Act (NI) 2011, Regulation 5 of the Planning (Development Management) Regulation (NI) 2015 and other relevant guidance including Development Management Practice Notice 10 - Pre-Application Community Consultation.

1.1 Site Location

The landholding upon which the development is proposed measures c. 64.43 hectares / 159.23 acres.

For ease of reference and to facilitate review, the site is referred to within this Report as being made up of four land-parcels which are located south of Magheralin and southeast of Dollingstown. From north to south lands comprise:

- Parcel 1 - Lands accessing onto Springhill Road, immediately northwest of No.22 Springhill Road, Lurgan and immediately to the rear and northeast of 66, 68 and 70-90 Inn Road, Dollingstown (c. 9.3 ha);
- Parcel 2 - Lands c.300m southeast of 15 Springhill Road, Lurgan, c.240m northwest of 117 New Forge Road, Magheralin, Lurgan, and c.400m east of 64 Dromore Road, Lurgan (c.33.3ha);
- Parcel 3 - Lands c 80m northeast of 102 Dromore Road, Waringstown, and immediately adjacent to and west of 108 Dromore Road (c.9.4ha); and
- Parcel 4 - Lands c.660m southeast of 105 Dromore Road, Donaghcloney and extending south/southeast to c.80m north/northeast of 67 Drumlin Road, Craigavon and c.70m to the rear and southwest of 119 Dromore Road, Donaghcloney. (c. 11.5 ha).

Parcels 2 and 3 will be connected via underground cables which will pass through agricultural fields utilising existing agricultural lanes where available. The northernmost land-parcel (Parcel 1) will be connected via an interconnection cable across Springhill Road and intervening agricultural lands and the second interconnection route proceeds northwards from the southern-most land parcel (Parcel 4) across Drumlin Road and through intervening agricultural lands. It is proposed to traverse the River Lagan via horizontal directional drill before crossing Dromore Road to the north, and entering Parcel 3 of the site. The purpose of the interconnecting cables is to transfer energy created from inverter stations to the on-site substation which is located in the centre of the site (Parcel 3). The interconnection cable areas comprise 0.93ha.

2. RES' Commitment to Consultation

RES is the world's largest independent renewable energy company. At the forefront of the industry for over 40 years, RES has delivered more than 23GW of renewable energy projects across the globe

and supports an operational asset portfolio exceeding 12GW worldwide for a large client base. RES is active in 14 countries working across onshore and offshore wind, solar, energy storage, green hydrogen and transmission and distribution.

RES is committed to finding effective and appropriate ways of consulting with all its stakeholders, including local residents and community organisations, and believes that the views of local people are an integral part of the development process. RES wants to be good neighbours to the communities that host our renewable energy projects and will listen to and address questions or concerns that interested parties might have. A comprehensive process that engages with local people and stakeholders at an early stage allows an informed debate that helps RES identify issues of potential concern, explore solutions and design a project that will be welcomed as a positive asset by the local community.

3. Statutory Requirements and Best Practice Guidance

On 1st July 2015 a statutory duty on developers to consult with the local community, in advance of submitting a planning application for major and regionally significant development proposals, was introduced.

The legislation requires developers to submit a 'Proposal of Application Notice (PAN)' 12 weeks before submitting a formal planning application for 'Major' applications. The PAN explains how a prospective applicant will engage with the local community and sets out a timetable for the engagement. Once a planning authority receives a PAN, they have 21 days to consider the proposal.

RES submitted a PAN to ABC Council on 6th January 2023. The submitted information included details of the site location, the type of consultation methods that would be undertaken, with whom and within what distance from the site.

On 16th February 2023 RES received a response stating that the Council had considered the PAN and considered that it contained sufficient information with regards to community consultation measures and, therefore, it was compliant with Section 27 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

4. Consultation Methodology

The purpose of pre-application community consultation is to improve, where possible, the quality of the proposed planning application by considering public opinions and addressing, wherever possible, any issues raised by stakeholders. It is also intended that any interested stakeholders have access to up-to-date and accurate information regarding the proposal and the opportunity to provide feedback to be considered prior to the proposed planning application being finalised and submitted.

4.1 Pre-consultation preparation

Prior to undertaking formal public consultation RES undertook desk-based research to identify key stakeholders which are located within the vicinity of the Proposed Development. Those identified comprised:

- Elected political representatives for Lagan River and Lurgan District Electoral Areas (DEA)
- Community groups, churches and schools within a 3km radius of the proposed site
- Properties within a 200m radius of the proposed site

4.2 Consultation

As set out in Section 3, the formal consultation began on 6th January 2023 when the PAN was issued to ABC Council. Subsequent to a response confirming the appropriateness of PACC proposals, a combination of the following methods was used to inform stakeholders (listed in section 4.1) about the Proposed Development, and subsequently to ascertain their views.

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 the planning authority at a later stage.

4.2.1 Letter to Elected Political Representatives - 6th January 2023

RES wrote to all Councillors from the Lagan River and Lurgan DEAs to advise them that RES were investigating the potential for a solar farm development at the site location and would commence a number of consultation activities shortly including newsletter distribution, a dedicated project website and a public exhibition. The letter also invited these representatives to contact us if they wished to arrange a meeting to discuss the proposal. A copy of the PAN was enclosed with each letter. A copy of the letter can be found at Appendix A.

4.2.2 Project Website - 8th March 2023

A project website was launched at www.magheralin-solarfarm.co.uk containing information on the Proposed Development, information regarding the forthcoming public exhibition as well as contact details for the RES project team to facilitate direct engagement.

The project website remains live and will be updated when the planning submission is made, to include links to all planning application documentation.

4.2.3 Community Pre-Exhibition Mailing - 9th March 2023

A newsletter was posted to:

- Residential addresses within 200m of the proposed site (115 addresses)
- Community groups, schools and churches within 3km of the site (25 addresses). This list can be found at Appendix C.

The newsletter, which can be found at Appendix B, included information about the Proposed Development, how to make comments on the proposal and when these should be submitted by, a location map, details of the public exhibition and RES' contact details.

4.2.4 Pre-Exhibition Advertising - 9th and 16th March 2023

RES placed an advertisement in the Lurgan Mail advertising the upcoming exhibition, on 9th and 16th March 2023. A copy of the advertisement can be found at Appendix D.

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 the planning authority at a later stage.

4.2.5 Elected Representative Pre-Exhibition Mailing - 13th March 2023

A newsletter was emailed to all Councillors from the Lagan River and Lurgan DEAs.

The newsletter, which can be found at Appendix B, included information about the Proposed Development, how to make comments on the proposal and when these should be submitted by, a location map and details of the public exhibition and RES' contact details.

4.2.6 Public Exhibition - 21st March 2023

The public exhibition took place between 4pm and 8pm on 21st March 2023 at the Edenmore Golf & Country Club, 70 Drumnabreeze Road, Magheralin, Craigavon, Co. Down, BT67 0RH. Approximately 28 people attended the public exhibition.



All of the material provided at the public exhibitions was also published on the project website at <http://www.magheralin-solarfarm.co.uk> from 21st March 2023. A copy of the exhibition materials can be found at Appendix E.

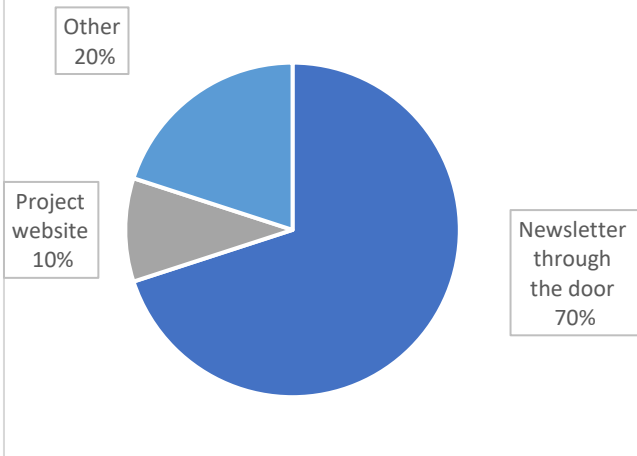
For people without internet access, hard copies of the exhibition material were available upon request. One request for hard copies was received.

A comment form was provided as part of the public exhibition and online, to encourage feedback from attendees about renewable energy in general and the project design specifically. The comment form was made available as a hard copy at the exhibition or as a downloadable version on the project website. A copy of the comment form can be found at Appendix F.

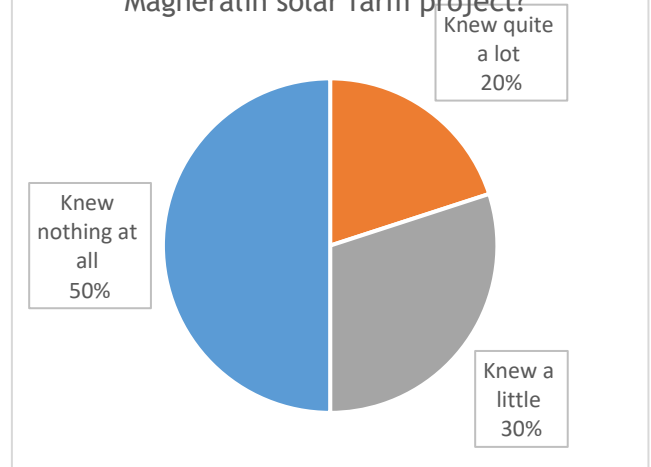
Ten completed comment forms were received by RES. Below is a summary of the answers received to the questions posed.

At all stages of the consultation process RES set out clearly the purpose of the consultation and emphasised that comments made were not representations to the determining authority (ABC Council) and that there would be the opportunity for representations to the determining authority once the planning application was submitted. This included on public adverts in accordance with Legislative requirements.

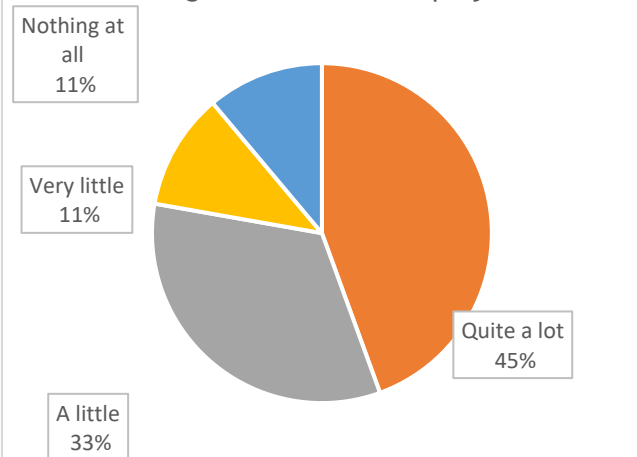
Q1.1 How did you find out about our public exhibition?



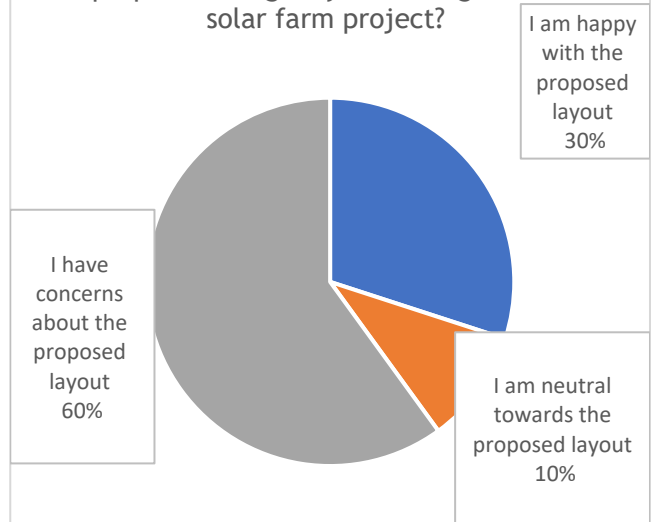
Q1.2 Before visiting the exhibition how would you describe your knowledge of the proposed Magheralin solar farm project?

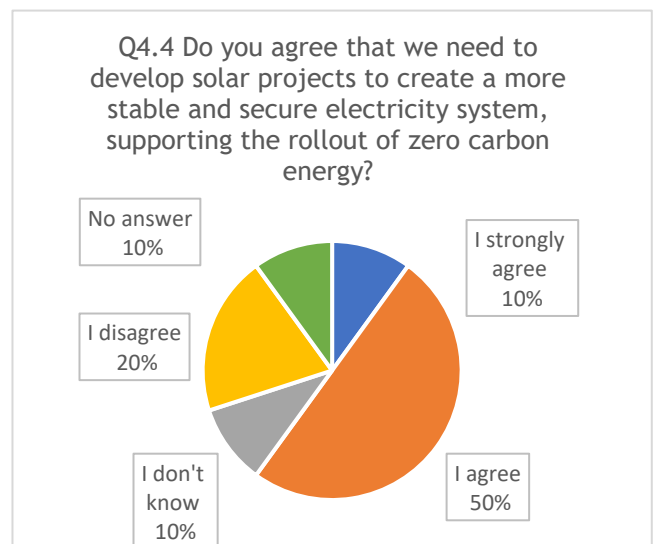
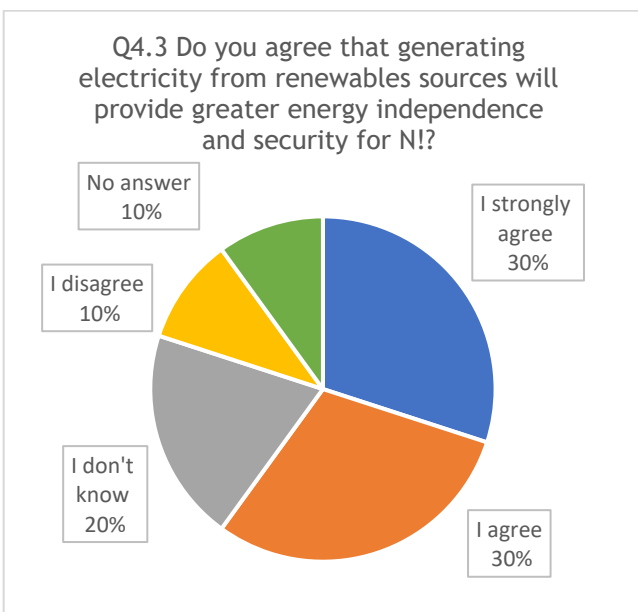
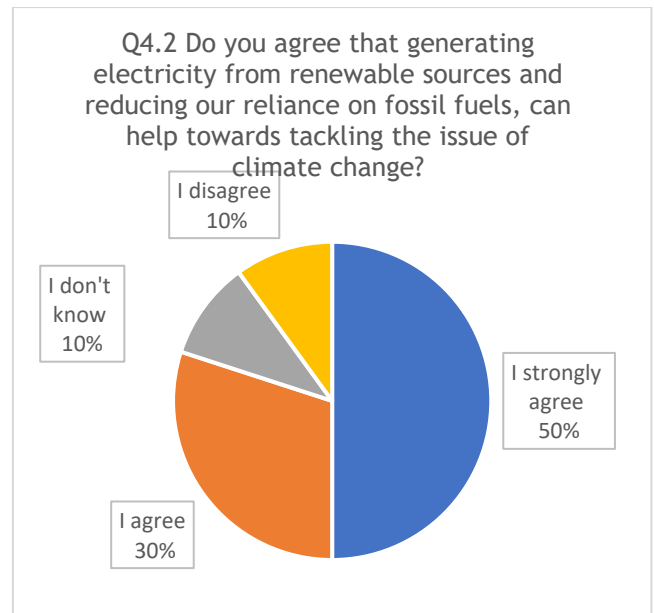
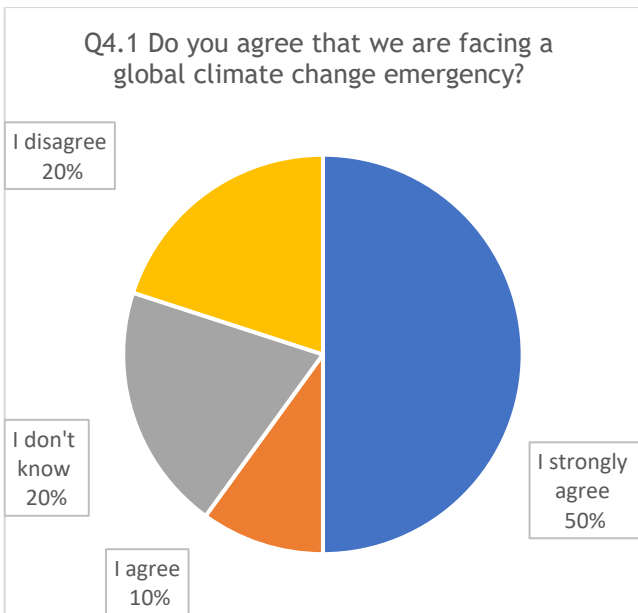


Q1.3 Having visited the exhibition, to what extent do you feel you have increased your understanding about the Magheralin solar farm project?



Q2.1 What do you think about the proposed design layout of Magheralin solar farm project?





4.2.7 Other Correspondence - various

In addition to the activities outlined above, RES responded to any queries received in relation to the Proposed Development from the local community, stakeholders and statutory consultees throughout the pre-application period.

4.3 Summary of Consultation

In summary, a range of engagement and communication activity was undertaken as part of the pre-application community consultation - reaching both nearest neighbours to the site as well as audiences in the wider area. This activity included:

- Letters to Local Political Representatives;
- Advertisements for the public exhibition in the local press;

- A newsletter informing local residents and local community groups about the public exhibition;
- A public exhibition; and
- Project website.

This form of pre-application community consultation is in accordance with The Planning (Development Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

All feedback received during the pre-application community consultation, through all consultation activities, has been considered by RES throughout the design iteration and pre-planning stages of the Proposed Development. A summary of feedback, issues and concerns raised, together with the Applicant's response to each can be found in section 5.

5. Feedback and Applicant's Response

The majority of the feedback received during the pre-application consultation period was from comment forms received following the public exhibition. Feedback has also been received in the form of separate correspondence by email. A summary of issues and feedback raised, together with RES' response to each issue, can be found in Table 1.

Table 1

Issue/Concern Raised	RES Response to Issue/Concern
<p><u>Property Value</u></p> <p><i>“Devaluation of homes due to a sea of solar on their doorstep”</i></p> <p><i>“RES are devaluing properties by thousands and thousands pounds.”</i></p> <p><i>“The solar farm will surround all the farmland/housing/future building sites I own, therefore devaluing all for myself and future generations of my family”</i></p> <p><i>“Property prices may be negatively impacted by this industrial scale development so damaging the financial interests of local residents”</i></p>	<p>Queries are often raised in relation to the potential of solar farms to impact upon the value of house prices as there can be a perception that there must be a negative effect on house prices.</p> <p>Property value can be affected by a range of factors. There is no firm evidence on whether UK solar farms do or do not affect house prices, this is further evidenced from various studies on the same topic having starkly different results.</p> <p>We are aware of residents close to other renewable energy projects, who enjoy having renewable energy projects close by and believe that they add value to their community.</p> <p>In the period since the public exhibition and feedback was received, the layout has evolved considerably from that which was consulted upon. Approximately 40 acres have been removed as a direct response to concerns raised including proximity to nearby properties.</p>
<p><u>Impact on Health</u></p> <p><i>“Solar power plants produce electromagnetic radiation that can affect the health of nearby residents. This development endangers the health of all local people.”</i></p>	<p>Wherever electricity flows, both electric and magnetic fields (EMF) exist close to the lines that carry electricity, and close to electrical appliances. The levels of EMF emitted by solar panels are low and are easily shielded (i.e. blocked) by common materials, such as plastic, metal, or soil and, as such, are not considered harmful to human health. The EMFs from solar panels are lower than those emitted by common household appliances such as televisions and microwave ovens. The electricity produced by a solar farm is at the low-energy end of</p>

	<p>the electromagnetic spectrum and The World Health Organisation (WHO)¹ has concluded that current evidence does not confirm the existence of any health consequences from exposure to low level electromagnetic fields</p>
<p><u>Biodiversity</u></p> <p><i>“This development constitutes a danger to local wildlife”</i></p> <p><i>“More info is needed on how this will specifically affect hedging/farming in the surrounding fields”</i></p> <p><i>“Along the Lagan, adjacent to the Dromore Road B2, the river had had its mature trees removed by ill-advised river management and damage. There should be strong consideration to planting a riparian fringe of alder, willow, etc. This would encourage the greatest biodiversity and flood control.”</i></p> <p><i>“The local community group are involved in increasing the native flora and fauna. This would increase our area.”</i></p> <p><i>“This should help wildlife that live on the ground”</i></p>	<p>An Ecological Assessment (EclA) has been undertaken for the Pproposed Development, to assess the potential impacts on the ecological baseline as a result of the development.</p> <p>The EclA was informed by an Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey to identify the existing on-site habitats and their suitability to support protected species. The EclA was further informed by targeted surveys for bats, badgers and birds.</p> <p>An inherent design principle of the project is that development is undertaken within existing site constraints including field boundaries and vegetation. Accordingly, these habitats remain untouched. Indeed the development is supported by a comprehensive package of landscaping measures which will supplement the existing planting on site. Where ecological constraints were identified the layout of the development evolved to mitigate through avoidance - essentially ensuring any potential habitats of note remained in-situ and appropriately buffered.</p> <p>Accordingly the EclA concluded there will be no significant effect for biodiversity at a site level, with a significant positive effect for biodiversity at a site level due to the net gain in species rich hedgerow habitat.</p> <p>The EclA forms part of the planning pack submitted for consideration by ABC Council.</p>
<p><u>Pollution</u></p> <p><i>“The development is very close to the River Lagan. What is the likelihood of pollution coming from the adjacent wind [sic] farm?”</i></p>	<p>No solar infrastructure will be located within 10m of the River Lagan and a comprehensive flood risk assessment & surface water drainage strategy has been prepared to accompany the planning application.</p> <p>A Construction Environmental Management Plan has also been prepared to accompany the application and includes a construction method statement which identifies any works with potential to impact upon water quality, pollution prevention and mitigation measures and waste management measures.</p>

¹ <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/radiation-electromagnetic-fields#:~:text=Based%20on%20a%20recent%20in.exist%20and%20need%20further%20research.>

<p><u>Access</u></p> <p><i>“Will the lane in front of my house be needed for access to the site, either during construction or for any purpose when work is completed? If it is are there any plans to alter or adapt the lane to make it suitable to be used as an access point and if so what sort of traffic should we expect once completed?”</i></p> <p><i>“Suggest you explore access via Dromore Road to A1 junction, this would avoid traffic congestion in Moira”</i></p>	<p>A Transport Statement (TS) forms part of the planning application pack which is submitted to ABC Council for consideration. The TS examines the baseline traffic conditions on the surrounding road network and then applies the traffic movements during construction and operation of the site to assess the associated impacts.</p> <p>It is confirmed that the site will be accessed via 3 separate access points which - from north to south - open onto Springhill Road, Dromore Road and Drumlin Road.</p> <p>The TS confirms that the most onerous period for traffic is during the construction phase which will last 40 weeks. During operation, the development will generate very low traffic levels - no more than 1 vehicle trip per week for maintenance.</p> <p>Vehicle movements during construction will be balanced uniformly across the project’s construction period, with peaks at week 10 (associated with stone delivery) and week 20 (delivery of the PV panels). During weeks 10 and 20 there is expected to be 9 daily HGV deliveries to the site. During the other weeks deliveries will balance at 6 per day. In addition there will be 10 vehicle movements associated with staff to the site.</p> <p>When these movements are applied to the existing traffic figures on the highway network surrounding the site - established by traffic surveys - the increase in flows is considered negligible increase and will not result in any increase in peak hour trips.</p> <p>Additionally the impact of construction traffic will be further mitigated by a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) which will be agreed with the planning authority prior to development commencing on site - as is standard practice. Among the control measures that may be included are commitments regarding hours of operation and ensuring traffic movements will be limited to avoid morning and evening peak times. There will also be regular liaison and engagement during construction involving the Site Manager, Contractor, local residents and site neighbours and other stakeholders throughout the construction and operational phases. This ensures that all parties are appropriately informed and that issues are identified and that any necessary corrective action prioritised.</p> <p>Overall the TS concludes that the Proposed Development will not result in a significant impact on the existing highway network.</p>
<p><u>Noise</u></p> <p><i>“Does the solar farm generate any</i></p>	<p>Solar panels themselves do not generate noise. The main noise source associated with a solar farm will be within the inverter stations where small fans</p>

<p><i>background noise during the day or night?"</i></p>	<p>operate during daylight hours only. Experience illustrates that these normally do not pose any unacceptable noise disturbance.</p> <p>Regardless, the planning application pack submitted for consideration by ABC Council includes a Noise Assessment which considers the impact on surrounding sensitive receptors (dwellings in this case) during both daytime and night-time hours. The Noise Assessment was informed by baseline noise monitoring at locations across the site, chosen to be representative of the existing noise environment experienced by surrounding sensitive receptors.</p> <p>The Noise Assessment concludes that the Proposed Development will not result in any adverse noise impacts during either daytime or night-time hours.</p>
--	---

6. Summary

RES believes that consultation and effective communication is extremely important when developing a solar energy project.

Following the Statutory Requirements and Best Practice Guidance, RES has undertaken a consultation within the minimum 12-week consultation period. This PACC Report details the consultation activities undertaken and summarises, in section 5, the feedback received and our response.

RES has engaged proactively on the proposal in order to facilitate an early and constructive consultation process and used a variety of methods to communicate and engage with the local community, stakeholders and other interested parties in order to facilitate a strong public understanding of the potential impacts and benefits of the Development.

The feedback from the public exhibition showed that 40% of respondents were happy or neutral to the design layout of the solar farm. 6 respondents had concerns about the layout mainly related to any impact on property value.

80% of respondents said they strongly agreed or agreed that generating electricity from renewable sources and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, can help towards tackling the issue of climate change with 60% of respondents both strongly agreed or agreed that generating electricity from renewable sources will provide greater energy independence and security for NI and that developing solar projects would create a more stable and secure electricity system.

As an experienced solar farm developer, we have listened to the feedback from the local community and considered this in relation to the design of the Proposed Development.

RES is committed to being a good neighbour and will build on the pre-planning consultation. The company has an ‘open door’ policy which means that anyone can contact the company about the Proposed Development at any stage and RES will respond in a timely manner. The Development Project Manager’s and Community Relations Team’s contact details have been made available for this purpose via exchange of information at briefings, the project newsletter and the project website.

The project website will be updated regularly to enable people to keep up to date with the latest news about the Development as it progresses.

Once the planning application has been validated by ABC Council, RES will write out to political representatives, community organisations and members of the public who have requested to be kept informed, to provide them with the planning reference number and the address of ABC Council's Planning Department, should they wish to submit a formal representation.

Appendices

- A. Letter to elected representatives
- B. Newsletter
- C. List of community groups, etc. within 3km which received the public exhibition mailing
- D. Public exhibition newspaper adverts
- E. Exhibition material
- F. Comment form

Appendix A



RES UK & Ireland Limited

Willowbank Business Park, Willowbank Road, Millbrook, Larne
County Antrim, Northern Ireland BT40 2SF, United Kingdom

T +44 (0)28 2844 0580 F +44 (0)1923 299 299
E info@res-group.com www.res-group.com

[REDACTED]

6th January 2023

[REDACTED]

RE: Magheralin Solar Farm Proposal

I am writing to let you know that RES is exploring the potential for a solar farm south west of Magheralin, in Co. Down, with the hope of submitting a planning application in later Spring/early summer 2023.

RES, a British company, is the world's largest independent renewable energy business active in onshore and offshore wind, solar, energy storage and transmission and distribution. At the forefront of the industry for 40 years, RES has delivered more than 23GW of renewable energy projects across the globe. RES has been building renewable energy projects across the island of Ireland since the early 1990s and from our office in Larne, Co. Antrim we have a team of over 20 working across a range of disciplines.

Northern Ireland's Climate Bill sets a target of 80% of electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2030. Large-scale solar projects as well as contributing to the Climate Bill target, enable more energy to be generated domestically improving security of supply, and are the cheapest form of new electricity generation, alongside onshore wind. This makes developments like Magheralin Solar Farm not just good for the environment but also for the consumer.

Solar farms have significant potential to enhance biodiversity, hosting a range of habitats including wildflower meadows, hedgerows, nectar-rich areas for pollinators, and woodland. A typical solar farm uses around just 5% of the total site area with the rest of the land remaining undisturbed, creating significant opportunities to provide a range of ecological benefits.

Detailed technical and environmental assessments will be carried out to ensure any potential impact upon the environment, landscape, heritage and local residents is appropriately assessed. The findings from the surveys and assessments will be written up in a number of detailed documents which will accompany any planning application. We are liaising with Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, on the proposal, and have recently submitted a Pre-Application Notification (PAN).

RES believes in meaningful and effective consultation, and we aim to engage early with the local community and key stakeholders in order to facilitate constructive dialogue. In March we will distribute a newsletter to all properties in the nearby area, along with other stakeholders, ahead of a public exhibition to be held in mid March. Feedback from the community will be taken into account, along with the results of site surveys and assessments, as we refine the design of the proposed solar farm. We will also shortly be launching a project website which will be updated regularly.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the proposed scheme in more detail with you and would be happy to arrange a meeting at a convenient time.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries.

Yours sincerely



Rachel Buchanan

Development Project Manager

E Rachel.buchanan@res-group.com

T +44 7557878214

Appendix B

Magheralin Solar Farm

March 2023



RES is exploring the potential for a solar farm on land approximately 1km southwest of Magheralin, Co. Down. Environmental and technical surveys are ongoing to ensure that the site is suitable for a solar farm development and to inform a preliminary layout and design.

We are now at the stage of consulting with the local community to get feedback on our early stage proposal. The feedback will be taken into account, along with the results of site surveys and assessments, as we refine the design.

Public Exhibition



We are keen to engage with the local community and as part of our pre-application consultation we are holding a public exhibition in the local area to share more information about the proposal and to enable you to provide us with your feedback. RES staff will be available to answer any questions or queries, and comment forms will be available to gather feedback.

Tuesday 21st March 2023 - 4pm to 8pm

Edenmore Golf & Country Club,
70 Drumnabreeze Road, Magheralin,
Craigavon, Co. Down, BT67 0RH

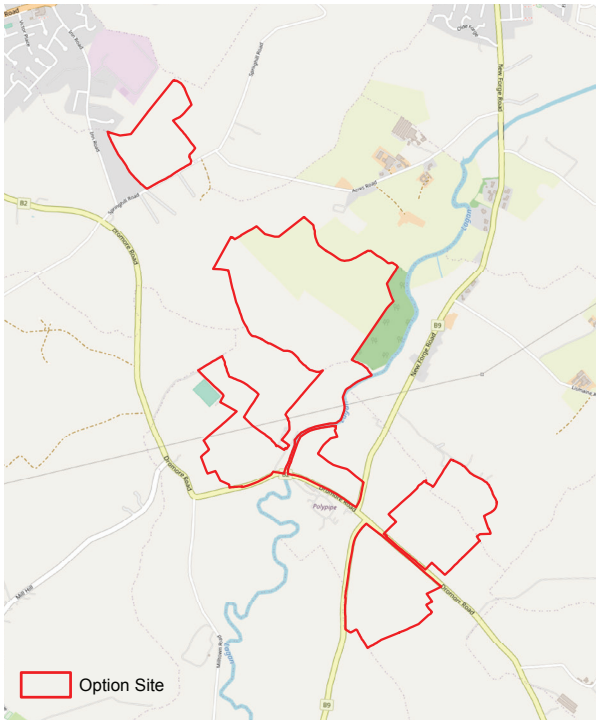
All information provided at the public exhibition will also be available at www.magheralin-solarfarm.co.uk from 21st March 2023. Hard copies of materials will be available by calling RES on 07557 878214.

The public exhibition initiates a consultation period being run by RES to gather comments on the proposal. The closing date for comments is **7th April 2023 at 5pm**. Comments will still be accepted after this date but may not be considered in relation to the design development.

Comments on the proposal should be provided in writing by either filling out a comment form at the exhibition, or by writing to RES, Willowbank Business Park, Millbrook, Larne, County Antrim, BT40 2SF. Comment forms will also be available on the website above from the day of the exhibition and can be submitted via email or post.

Please note that comments submitted to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.

Magheralin Solar Farm at a glance



The proposed Magheralin Solar Farm is located on land approximately 1km southwest of Magheralin, Co. Down.

It is anticipated that the solar farm would be capable of generating up to 29.9MW of clean, low cost renewable electricity.

The site has been chosen as it has good solar irradiation levels, lies outside of any statutory environmental, archaeological and landscape designations and due to its proximity to a viable grid connection.

During a period of rising energy bills, concerns about energy security and the ever-present threat of climate change, there has never been a greater need for projects like Magheralin.

Magheralin Solar Farm would be capable of providing clean, low-cost renewable electricity for around 13,600* homes, making a positive contribution to Northern Ireland's Climate Bill which has a target to meet at least 80% of electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2030.

About RES

RES, a British company, is the world's largest independent renewable energy company with operations across Europe, the Americas and Asia-Pacific. At the forefront of renewable energy development for over 40 years, RES has developed and/or built more than 23GW of renewable energy capacity worldwide.

RES has been building renewable energy projects across the island of Ireland since the early 1990s and from our office in Larne, Co. Antrim, we have a team of over 20 people working across a range of disciplines.

RES is developing a number of projects, ranging from 12MW to 120MW, across the UK & Ireland using the latest solar technology. We also provide full scope asset management and operations and maintenance services across a wide portfolio, and in 2021 were voted the fastest growing solar O&M provider in the UK, by a report published by Wood Mackenzie.



Rachel Buchanan

Development Project Manager

✉ rachel.buchanan@res-group.com

☎ 07557 878 214



Carey Green

Community Relations Manager

✉ carey.green@res-group.com

☎ 01872 226 931

RES, Willowbank Business Park, Millbrook, Larne, County Antrim, BT40 2SF

Visit our website at www.magheralin-solarfarm.co.uk

If you require information in Braille, large text or audio, please let us know.

* The homes figure has been calculated by taking the predicted average annual electricity generation of the site and dividing this by the annual average electricity figures from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) showing that the annual UK average domestic household consumption is 3,748 kWh (Dec 2021).



Appendix C

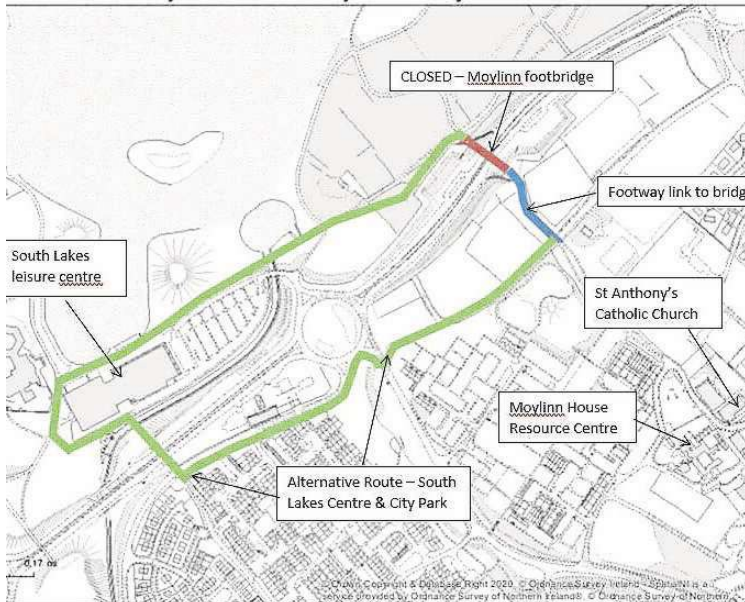
Name	Address 1			Zip
Lough Road Gospel Hall		34 Lough Road	Dromore	BT25 1JE
Mechanics Institute Club		69 Market Street	Lurgan	Craigavon BT66 6AA
Kings Park Primary School		24A Avenue Road	Lurgan	Craigavon BT66 7BB
The Jethro Centre		6 Flush Place	Lurgan	Craigavon BT66 7DT
Robins Nest Childrens Nursery		56 Banbridge Road	Lurgan	Craigavon BT66 7HG
Lurgan Free Presbyterian Church		92 Banbridge Road	Lurgan	Craigavon BT66 7HQ
Donaghcloney Primary School		Baird Avenue	Donaghcloney	Craigavon BT66 7LP
St Patricks Church		51 Main Street	Donaghcloney	Craigavon BT66 7LR
The Royal British Legion		1 Drumlin Road	Donaghcloney	Craigavon BT66 7NJ
Donaghcloney Methodist Church		2 Drumlin Road	Donaghcloney	Craigavon BT66 7NJ
Waringstown Primary School		1 Banbridge Road	Waringstown	Craigavon BT66 7QA
Waringstown Church Hall		47 Main Street	Waringstown	Craigavon BT66 7QH
Waringstown Orange Hall		47C Main Street	Waringstown	Craigavon BT66 7QH
Friends Meeting House	Johnstons Row	High Street	Lurgan	Craigavon BT66 8AN
First Lurgan Presbyterian Church Hall		30 Watsons Lane	Lurgan	Craigavon BT66 8BD
Queen Street Methodist Church		Queen Street	Lurgan	Craigavon BT66 8BQ
Tourist Information Centre	Lurgan Town Hall	2 - 4 Union Street	Lurgan	Craigavon BT66 8DY
The Royal British Legion		Union Street	Lurgan	Craigavon BT66 8DY
Magheralin Parish Church Hall		3 New Forge Road	Magheralin	Craigavon BT67 0OJ
St. Patricks & St. Ronans Church		150 Lurgan Road	Magheralin	Craigavon BT67 0QR
St. Patricks Primary School		12 Ballymacbredan Road	Magheralin	Craigavon BT67 0QU
St. Michaels G A A Club		12A Ballymacbredan Road	Magheralin	Craigavon BT67 0QU
Maralin Village Primary School		2 Steps Road	Magheralin	Craigavon BT67 0OZ
Windsor Club		46 Windsor Avenue	Lurgan	Craigavon BT67 9BG
Masonic Hall		5 Windsor Avenue	Lurgan	Craigavon BT67 9BG

Appendix D

Thursday, March 9, 2023 northernirelandworld.com

NEWS

Moylinn Alternative cycle/footway link



Map showing the alternative route to be signposted in both directions for the assistance of cycle/footway users

New bridge 'imperative'

Adam Morton

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council is to tell the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) a Craigavon footbridge due to be removed later this month must be replaced.

At the council's February 27 meeting, councillors were provided with DfI correspondence advising Moylinn East footbridge was "beyond economic repair" and explaining plans to remove the footbridge from March 16-20, with "an alternative wheeling/walking/cycle link" to be provided to facilitate users pending a permanent solution.

Sinn Féin's Councillor Liam Mackle said the council had to make it clear it wanted the bridge replaced as soon as possible. "I know we have made representations in person to the department," he said, "but it would be a good idea to formally respond to this correspondence and let DfI know it is imperative the bridge is replaced as soon as possible."

This proposal was seconded by Alliance's Councillor Peter Lavery, who acknowledged concern among Craigavon residents at the thought of losing



Councillor Liam Mackle.

the bridge, adding "It is only right to get a footbridge back in place as speedily as possible."

SDLP Councillor Ciaran Toman agreed, but noted the letter spoke of a February 16 online presentation to be given to the council regarding the bridge's removal; he asked if the meeting had taken place, and interim strategic director of neighbourhood services, Jonathan Hayes, said it had been delivered to local councillors. "When officers became aware of this matter," he added, "a meeting with local councillors was held to brief members in relation to the circumstances around the bridge in question. I am happy to take members' comments on board and, in relation to the actual

timescales associated with the removal of the bridge, we can get further clarification from the department and then feed that back to all members."

Alderman Kenneth Twyble said his major concern was about children going to school and crossing the road and their "not having to do the big round journey" put forward as an alternative route. "It is important the bridge is replaced and not just removed," he said.

Sinn Féin councillor Catherine Nelson said sending a message from Council expressing the united view that the bridge needs replaced is "the right thing to do for young people, dog walkers and those who use the South Lake Leisure Centre".

Before you take it...



! Know your medicines and keep an up-to-date list

✓ Check that you are using your medicines in the right way

? Ask your healthcare professional if you're not sure

For more information about the My Medicines List scan the QR code



HSC Health and Social Care



scan me

<https://online.hscni.net/know-check-ask>

MAGHERALIN SOLAR FARM Public Exhibition



RES is exploring the potential for a solar farm on land approximately 1km southwest of Magheralin, Co. Down.

We are keen to engage with the local community and as part of our pre-application consultation, we are holding a public exhibition in the local area to enable people to find out more about the proposal and provide us with their views. RES staff will be available to answer any questions or queries, and comment forms will be available to gather feedback.

Tuesday 21st March, 4pm to 8pm

Edenmore Golf & Country Club
70 Drumnabreeze Road, Magheralin,
Craigavon, Co. Down, BT67 0RH

All information provided at the public exhibition will also be available at www.magheralin-solarfarm.co.uk from 21st March 2023. Hard copies of materials will be available by calling RES on 07557 878214.

The public exhibition initiates a consultation period being run by RES to gather comments on the proposal. The closing date for comments is **7th April 2023 at 5pm**. Comments will still be accepted after this date but may not be considered in relation to the design development.

Comments on the proposal should be provided in writing by either filling out a comment form at the public exhibition, or by writing to RES, Willowbank Business Park, Millbrook, Larne, County Antrim, BT40 2SF. Comment forms will also be available on the website above from the day of the exhibition and can be submitted via the website stated above.

Please note that comments submitted to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.

For more information please visit our website at www.magheralin-solarfarm.co.uk

NEWS

Man's texts were 'vile' says judge

by Craigavon Court Reporter

Texts sent by a Lurgan man suggesting he might 'get away with murder' have been described as 'grossly offensive' by a district judge.

David Patrick O'Hare from Stevenson Park was accused of persistently sending text messages to a woman, causing needless anxiety on December 27 last year.

The 45-year-old appeared before Craigavon Magistrate's Court on Friday (March 10) and defended himself.

A prosecutor told the court that while the injured party had not turned up to court there was other evidence.

District Judge Bernie Kelly read the messages the defendant was accused of sending and asked if he admitted sending them. He said he did.

Mrs Kelly said: "Do you think some of those are appropriate?"

The defendant said: "Not really".

Mrs Kelly said: "Absolutely not. I am not even going to call some of them out they are that bad. This is to the same

woman who gave birth to your children".

The prosecutor told the court the defendant also made a 999 call to police, asking to be arrested, as he was going to damage his girlfriend's vehicle.

The defendant interrupted a discussion between the judge and the prosecutor.

The district judge said: "I know this is difficult and I know Ms Smyth and I are both females, but if you could allow us to finish our conversation before you interrupt us. I know that is difficult."

Mrs Kelly continued discussing the charges with the prosecutor and read out some of the text messages including one text which said: "I phoned the police and asked them to arrest me. No sign of them. I could probably get away with murder."

She described the messages as "vile" and "abhorrent".

She asked if he pleaded guilty to one charge of persistent, improper use of electronic communications network for the purposes of causing inconvenience, annoyance or needless anxiety; the other charges would be dismissed

O'Hare said he would

plead guilty to sending the messages but not to cause 'anxiety' to which Mrs Kelly said: "Well they would; trust me. I have read them.

I am not the person that got them and if I recoiled inside reading some of those I have suffered inconvenience, annoyance or anxiety reading a text message that has been sent to a female and, in this case, not any female but the female who carried and gave birth to your children.

"Those are vile. If you are not prepared to plead guilty I can convict you on the basis of the messages."

O'Hare pleaded guilty; he said there had been a lot of stress over the past year due to family and financial issues.

The district judge reminded him many others, huge numbers of people, were also going through serious financial problems.

Mrs Kelly said: "To say you can get away with murder in a text, and I appreciate you didn't say it was your former partner's murder, but it is chilling in the current climate.

"I find this so grossly offensive it's unreal." The district judge imposed a fine of £500 plus the Offender Levy of £15.

Stole £10k worth of coats

A heroin addict with an address in Craigavon has been jailed for eight months after stealing more than £10,000 worth of designer coats from a luxury retailer in Belfast.

Gerard Beirne, a 35-year-old from Dublin, raided Flannels at Victoria Square in the city centre.

Belfast Magistrates' Court heard on Thursday (March 9) that staff at the store discovered four coats were missing on December 10 last year.

The stolen goods had a total value of £10,375.

Beirne, with an address at Drumellan Walk in Craigavon, was identified and arrested after security



Laganside Courts, Belfast. Picture: Google

cameras were examined. "He refused to disclose where the stolen items were," a prosecution lawyer said.

A quantity of heroin for personal use was discovered on him when detained.

Beirne pleaded guilty to charges of theft and possess-

ing Class A drugs.

Defence barrister John O'Connor told the court his client was currently in prison for a separate offence but planned to return to Dublin when released.

"Unfortunately he was in the grip of an addiction to heroin, but has dried out since he's been in custody," counsel said.

Mr O'Connor added that one coat was recovered, but unfit to be put back on sale in the store.

Imposing an eight-month sentence, District Judge Anne Marshall said: "The custody threshold is clearly passed; these were very, very high-value coats."

GET HOPPING INTO A GETACTIVEABC EASTER

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- EASTER MULTI-SPORTS CAMPS | EASTER TUBING & FOOTGOLF AT CRAIGAVON GOLF & SKI | EASTER EGG TRAIL, DUCK RACE & HIRES PROMOTION AT SOUTH LAKE WATERSPORTS | EASTER ROLLER DISCO, BANBRIDGE LEISURE CENTRE | EASTER CLIMBING WALL SESSIONS, GILFORD | EASTER BUNNY VISIT, BOUNCY INFLATABLES & EGG HUNT, DROMORE | LORD MAYOR'S EASTER EGG TRAIL & FUN DAY, TANNAGHMORE | NEW SPRING ARRIVALS AT TANNAGHMORE FARM | OXFORD ISLAND EASTER TRAIL, ARTS & CRAFTS

For more information getactiveabc.com

MAGHERALIN SOLAR FARM Public Exhibition



RES is exploring the potential for a solar farm on land approximately 1km southwest of Magheralin, Co. Down.

We are keen to engage with the local community and as part of our pre-application consultation, we are holding a public exhibition in the local area to enable people to find out more about the proposal and provide us with their views. RES staff will be available to answer any questions or queries, and comment forms will be available to gather feedback.

Tuesday 21st March, 4pm to 8pm

Edenmore Golf & Country Club
70 Drumnabreeze Road, Magheralin,
Craigavon, Co. Down, BT67 0RH

All information provided at the public exhibition will also be available at www.magheralin-solarfarm.co.uk from 21st March 2023. Hard copies of materials will be available by calling RES on 07557 878214.

The public exhibition initiates a consultation period being run by RES to gather comments on the proposal. The closing date for comments is **7th April 2023 at 5pm**. Comments will still be accepted after this date but may not be considered in relation to the design development.

Comments on the proposal should be provided in writing by either filling out a comment form at the public exhibition, or by writing to RES, Willowbank Business Park, Millbrook, Larne, County Antrim, BT40 2SF. Comment forms will also be available on the website above from the day of the exhibition and can be submitted via the website stated above.

Please note that comments submitted to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.

For more information please visit our website at www.magheralin-solarfarm.co.uk

Appendix E

WHY SOLAR?

- » Renewable energy at lowest cost to the consumer¹
- » Tackling climate change by supporting the UK's target of net zero by 2050
- » Specifically designed to be dual purpose, combining continued agricultural use and renewable generation
- » Quick to deploy
- » Modern, efficient technology allowing more electricity generation in less space
- » Diversification of agricultural business
- » Significant biodiversity enhancement opportunities by supporting new and existing plant and animal habitats
- » High level of public support²



¹ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/911817/electricity-generation-cost-report-2020.pdf

² https://solarenergyuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Copper-Consultancy_Solar-Energy-UK_Public-attitudes-to-solar_January-2022.pdf

We believe in meaningful and effective consultation

The aims of our consultation process are to:

Engage early with the local community to facilitate a constructive consultation process to help identify and understand concerns.

Assist the local community in understanding the benefits and potential impacts of the proposed solar farm.

Add value and improve the quality of our proposal through meaningful and productive consultation.

Before we submit a planning application, we will create a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), that documents the community engagement process and any steps we have taken to adapt our proposal.

At this stage we are inviting the local community to submit comments directly to RES. If an application is submitted there will be the opportunity to submit representations to the determining Planning Authority at that time.

We are keen to understand your views on the proposal and the information available at this exhibition. Please take a few minutes to fill out a feedback form with your comments.



RES design their solar farms so that they will fit sensitively in the surrounding landscape

As part of the planning process, RES carries out a number of detailed technical and environmental surveys to ensure any potential impact upon the environment, landscape, heritage and local residents is appropriately assessed and mitigated. These assessments include:

- » Landscape and Visual
- » Ecology
- » Cultural Heritage and Archaeology
- » Traffic and Transport
- » Agricultural Land Classification
- » Noise
- » Glint and Glare

The results of these surveys, along with feedback from the local community and stakeholders, are taken into account as the design of the solar farm is refined and finalised.

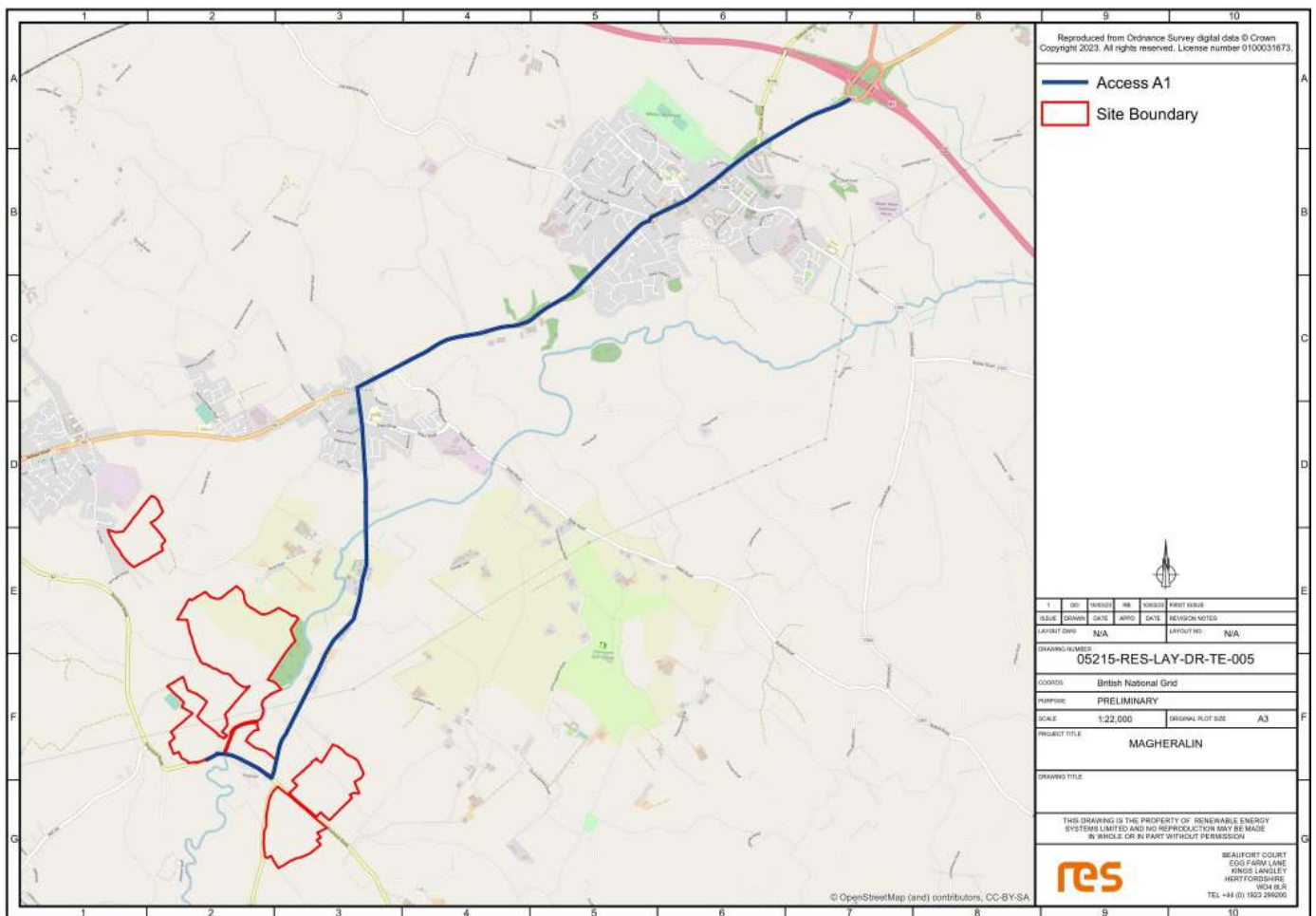
The assessments will accompany any planning application that is made.



Potential Access Route

Access is an important consideration when selecting a potential solar farm site.

The preliminary plan below shows the potential access route currently under consideration which could be used for the delivery of materials and access for construction and maintenance.



A transport survey is ongoing and we will consult with Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Roads, the emergency services, the local community and other relevant bodies to produce a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) to support any future planning application. The CTMP outlines the overall framework for managing the safe movement of construction and delivery traffic as well as itemising the expected number of traffic movements and timing restrictions.

The traffic movements will be limited to avoid morning and evening peak times, where possible. There will also be a dedicated Community Liaison Officer to engage with local residents throughout the construction and operational phases, if the solar farm is consented.

How a Solar Panel Works



Solar PV panels are typically made from silicon, which is a great semi-conductor, installed in a metal panel frame with a glass casing.

The sun gives off light, even on cloudy days, and when these light particles, or photons, hit the thin layer of silicon on the top of a solar panel, they knock electrons off the silicon atoms which creates a direct current (DC) of electricity. This is captured by the wiring in the solar panels.

This DC electricity is then converted to alternating current (AC) by an inverter which

is then funnelled into the grid network. AC is the type of electrical current used when you plug appliances into normal wall sockets.

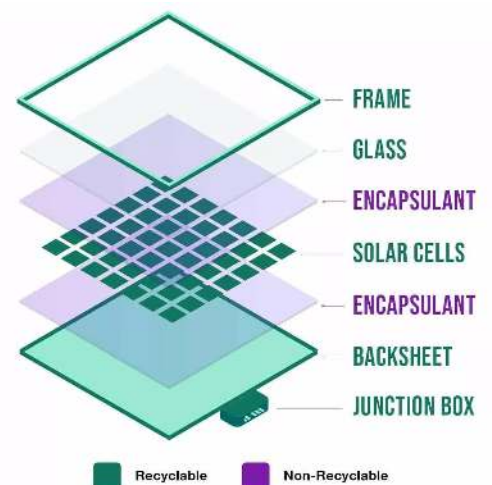
Bifacial modules have two sides of solar cells, enabling additional energy generation from the diffuse light reflected off the grass, on the rear-side of the panels.

Recycling

In most cases solar panels are recyclable and there are well established industrial processes to do this. There are organisations around the UK and Europe specialising in solar recycling, such as PV Cycle and the European Recycling Platform.

They are working with solar developers to minimise electrical waste and recycle old panels in line with the Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations¹.

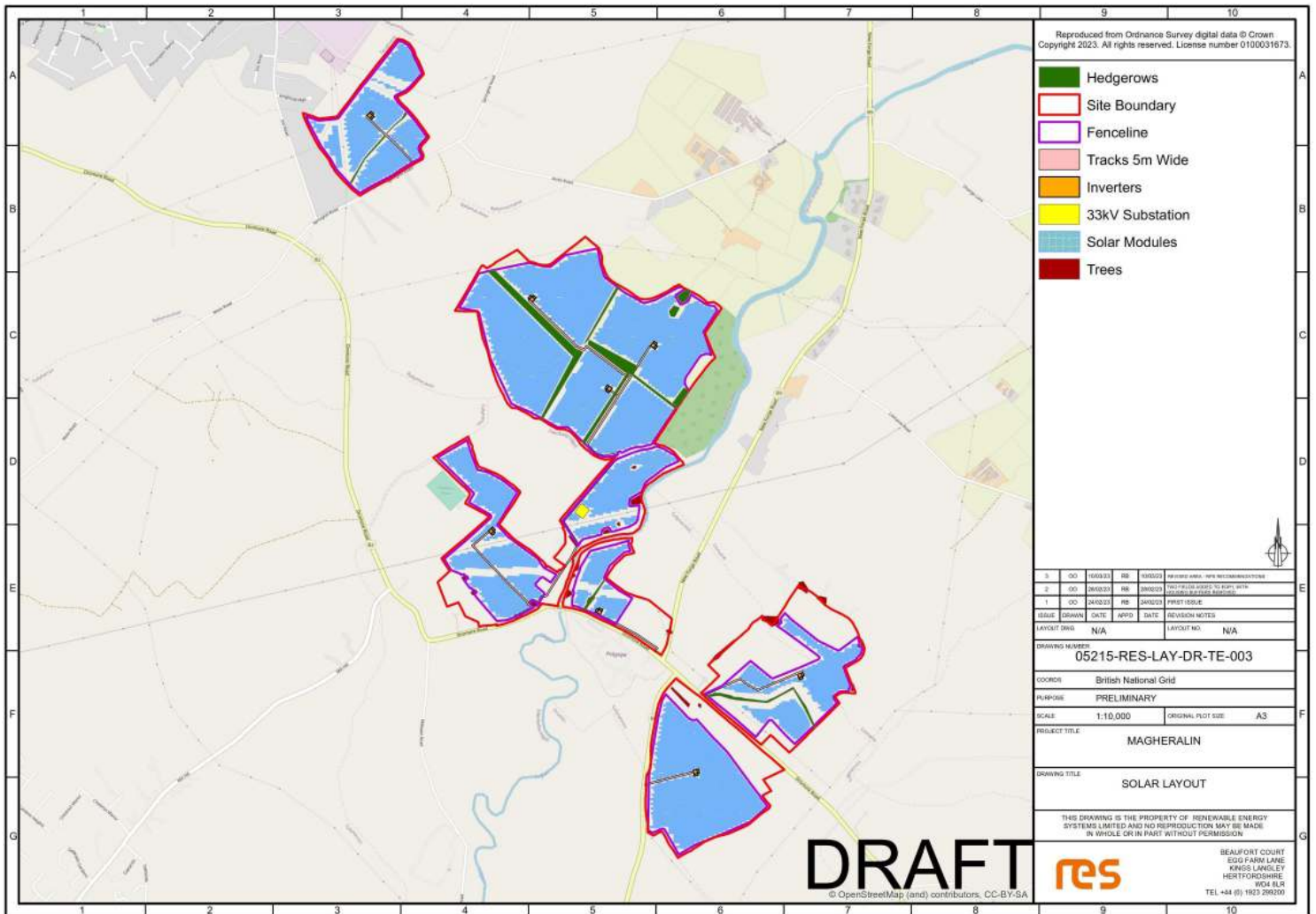
¹ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/waste-and-recycling/waste-electrical-and-electronic-equipment-weee_en



Source: ecowatch.com/solar-panel-recycling

Design Layout and Infrastructure

The plan below shows the preliminary layout for Magheralin Solar Farm which will be capable of producing up to 29.9MW of clean, renewable electricity. The preliminary layout is based on initial findings from environmental and technical surveys which are ongoing. We are currently consulting on this layout and as such, it is subject to change.



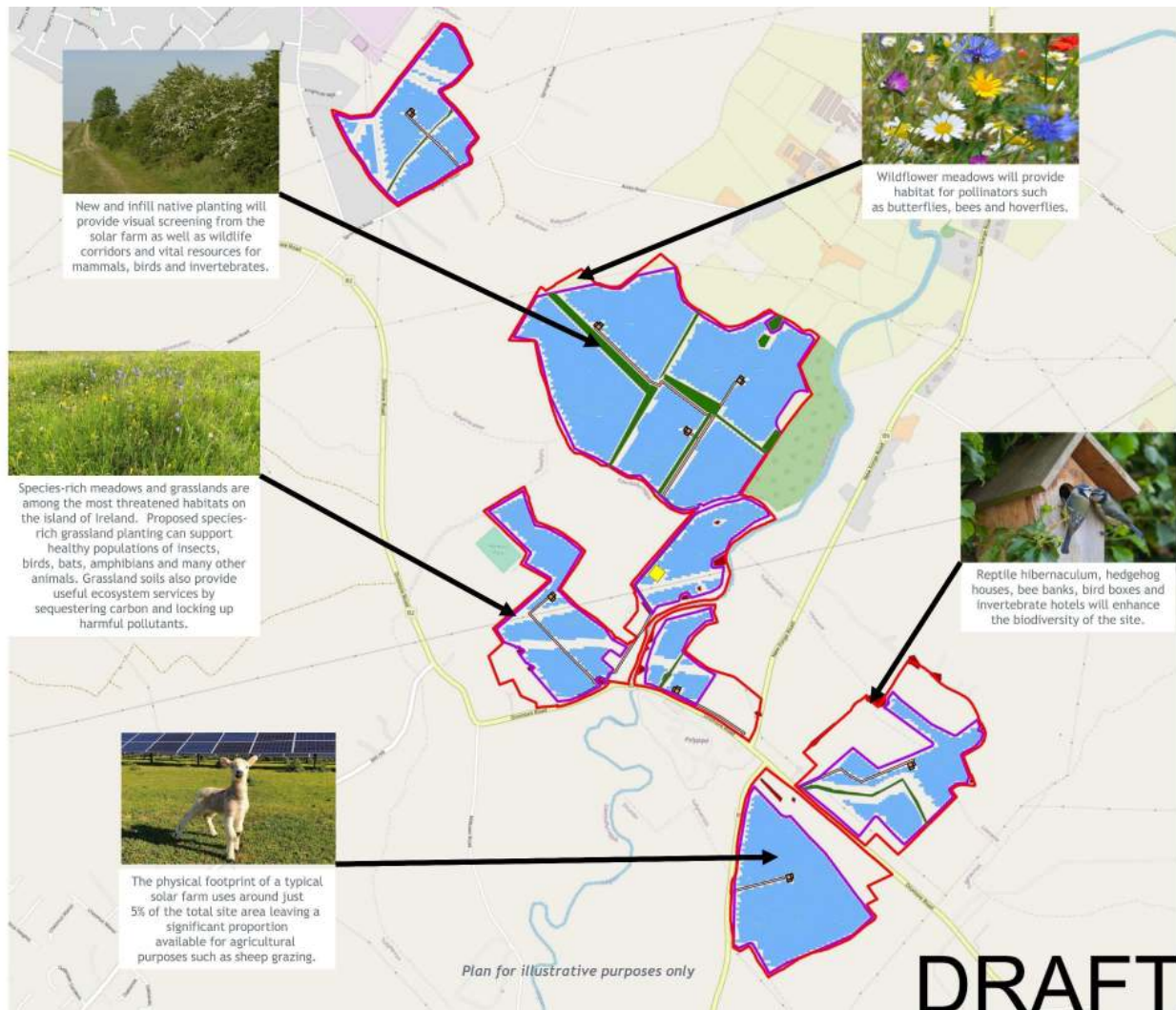
In addition to the solar panels, the site infrastructure is expected to include:

- A network of on-site access tracks
- A substation/transformer with security fencing
- Inverters on hardstandings
- Temporary construction compounds
- Deer fencing around the perimeter of the solar farm

Landscape and Ecology

The plan below shows a preliminary Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP).

The preliminary LEMP illustrates our immediate and long-term commitment to deliver landscape planting as well as the protection and enhancement of biodiversity around the site.



As the design progresses, the LEMP will be developed further with site-specific details on measures to enhance existing habitats, protect species and provide landscaping specifications for new vegetation in accordance with relevant standards.

In addition, the LEMP will provide information on the timings and aftercare regime for all planting for the lifetime of the proposed Magheralin Solar Farm, if it is consented.

Appendix F

RES believes in meaningful and productive consultation, and we aim to engage early with the local community and key stakeholders in order to facilitate constructive consultation. This helps to identify issues and concerns, as well as benefits and opportunities, which we can then consider when developing the design of the proposal.

At the Public Exhibition we have presented preliminary design drawings. Feedback from the local community on the preliminary design is an important part of our pre-application consultation and we would be grateful if you could take the time to fill out this comments form with your feedback. The closing date for comments on the preliminary design is 7th April 2023. Comments will still be accepted after this date but may not be considered in relation to the design development.

Please note that comments submitted to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.

1 Magheralin Solar Farm Public Exhibition

1.1 How did you find out about our public exhibitions?

- Newsletter through the door
- Advert in local newspaper
- Project website - www.magheralin-solarfarm.co.uk
- Word of mouth
- Other (please specify)

1.2 Before visiting the exhibition how would you describe your knowledge of the proposed Magheralin Solar Farm?

- Knew a lot
- Knew quite a lot
- Knew a little
- Knew very little
- Knew nothing at all

1.3 Having visited the exhibition, to what extent do you feel you have increased your understanding about the proposed Magheralin Solar Farm?

- A lot
- Quite a lot
- A little
- Very little
- Nothing at all

1.4 Do you have any suggestions for ways in which we could have improved our exhibition?

2 Magheralin Solar Farm Proposal

Your views on the Magheralin Solar Farm proposal - specifically the preliminary layout of the project where people's comments can have a direct influence - will be considered in relation to the design development of the project.

2.1 What do you think about the proposed preliminary design layout of Magheralin Solar Farm?

- I am happy with the proposed layout
- I am neutral towards the proposed layout
- I have concerns about the proposed layout
- I don't like solar farms in general

Further comments:

2.2 Please provide us with any further suggestions or comments regarding the proposed Magheralin Solar Farm

3 Local Benefits

- 3.1 We firmly believe that solar schemes should provide meaningful benefits locally and we will work with the local community to gain feedback on their priorities and deliver projects that will help to secure long-term economic, social and environmental benefits. This approach will help to deliver a tailored package of benefits that are aligned with the local communities' priorities.

If you have any suggestions for such benefits the solar farm may be able to support, please let us know in the box below.

4 Climate Change, Energy Security and Renewables

The below section is optional and designed to help us understand people's thoughts on how renewables can help to tackle climate change and improve energy security.

- 4.1 Do you agree that we are facing a global climate change emergency?

- I strongly agree
- I agree
- I don't know
- I disagree
- I strongly disagree

Further comments:

4.2 Do you agree that generating electricity from renewable sources, and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, can help towards tackling the issue of climate change?

- I strongly agree
- I agree
- I don't know
- I disagree
- I strongly disagree

Further comments:

4.3 Do you agree that we need to develop solar farms to support greater energy independence and security for Northern Ireland?

- I strongly agree
- I agree
- I don't know
- I disagree
- I strongly disagree

Further comments:

4.4 Do you agree that we need to develop solar farms to cut energy bills?

- I strongly agree
- I agree
- I don't know
- I disagree
- I strongly disagree

Further comments:



Magheralin Solar Farm Proposal

Comments Form

5 Your details

Please provide your name and contact details below.

Your contact details will be treated by RES with the strictest of confidence, in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018. We may at times share your contact details, in confidence, with third parties who we employ to help process your comments or update you on the project and by providing your details below you consent to this. You may write to RES at any time to ask that your contact details be removed from our records and from any third parties we work with.

Name	
Email	
Address	

If you would like to be kept up to date with the project, please tick this box

When you have completed the comments form, please send by email to carey.green@res-group.com or by post to: Magheralin Solar Farm Project Team, RES, Willowbank Business Park, Millbrook, Larne, County Antrim, BT40 2SF.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this comments form, your feedback is important to us.