

# Community Update, October 2015...

## PROPOSED SOLAR FARM at MIDDLE BALBEGGIE

Application Reference: 15/02687/FULL

View the full application online by searching the reference number on the Fife Council website: <http://planning.fife.gov.uk/online>

Based on a largely positive response, we have progressed our proposal for Middle Balbeggie Farm as presented at our Community Information Evening and a formal planning application has now been submitted to Fife Council. The following update aims to give you an overview of the scheme and the biodiversity enhancements proposed as part of our application -



### Sheep Grazing

The solar farm has been designed to accommodate sheep grazing of sheep. This will continue the land's agricultural use, enabling the farm to produce food as well as locally generated energy.



### Grasslands

Grass will be sown throughout the site, including the areas oversailed by panels. It will be managed to develop both structural and species diversity over time.



Hawthorn

### Hedgerows Managed and Improved

The existing hedgerows around the site boundary will be retained and managed long-term as part of the project. Gaps or poor sections will be in-filled with native species including Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Dog Rose and Holly



### Field Margins

The ungrazed field margins between the perimeter fence and surrounding trees and hedgerows will be sown with nectar-rich wild flowers. This will create a valuable habitat for birds, bees and other invertebrates.



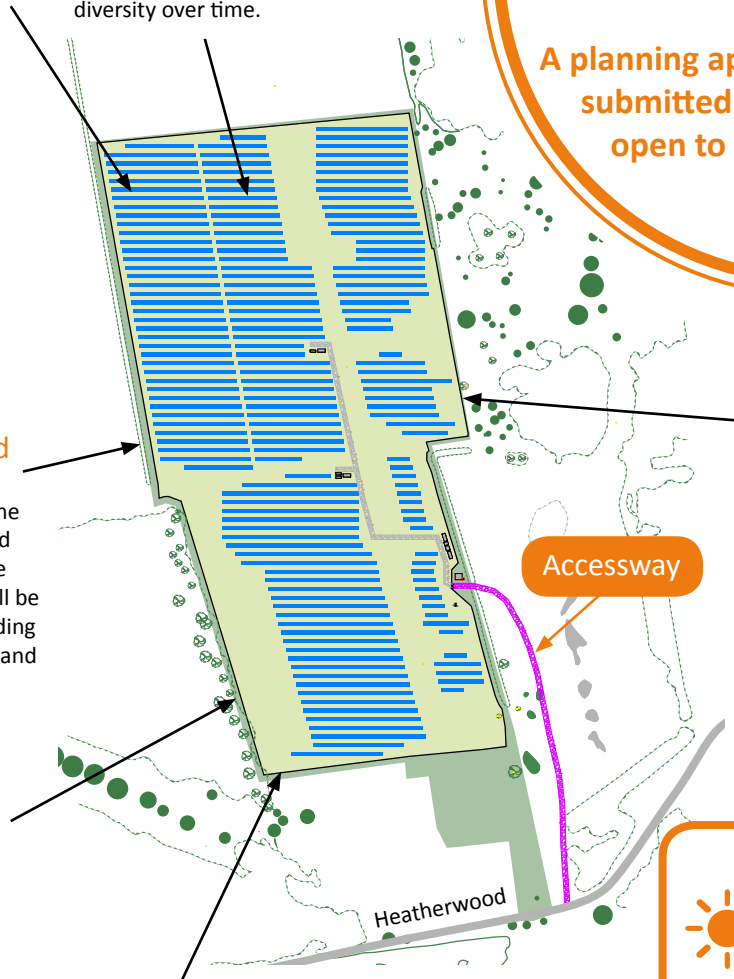
### Mammal Gates

Gates will be installed at 50m intervals along the fencing. The gates will be 25cm high, to allow badgers and small mammals to move freely across the site.

## What's Changed?

Our Biodiversity Management Plan has been refined with the guidance of independent ecologists

A planning application has now been submitted to Fife Council and is open to public consultation



### Rural Fencing

A timber and wire agricultural fence of about 2 metres in height is proposed, appropriate to the rural setting. The fence will sit within the surrounding hedgerows and trees.



Generation capacity:  
**5 MWp**



Capable of powering  
**1,300** households



**2,493** tonnes  
of carbon emissions  
saved, every year