

Your feedback and questions from the first round of consultation

Using land for agriculture or renewable energy

Several people raised concerns over using prime agricultural land for energy production.

Our response

The site contains soils that are classified as Classes 4.1 and 5.1, neither of which is prime agricultural land.

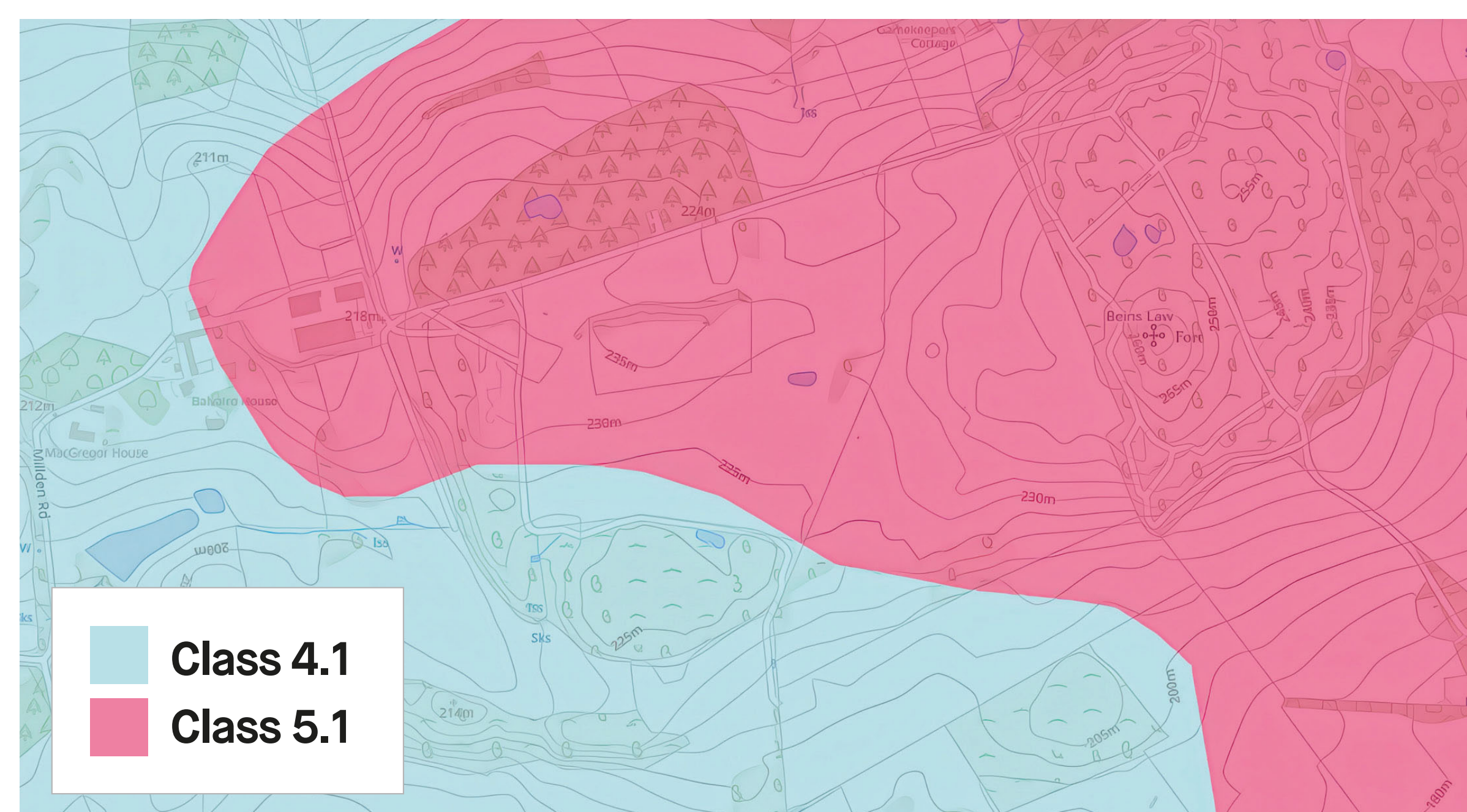
Class 4.1 Land capable of producing a narrow range of crops, primarily grassland with short arable breaks of forage crops and cereal.



Class 5.1 Land capable of use as improved grassland. Few problems with pasture establishment and maintenance and potential high yields.

If the solar farm is consented, the land will be used for grazing, which is an ongoing agricultural use. The site is predominantly used for livestock grazing currently.

Climate change poses a significant threat to food security in the UK, as it disrupts growing seasons, affects crop yields and increases the frequency of extreme weather events like floods and droughts.



Farming businesses need to diversify to remain viable. Land is already used for many non-food purposes, from tree planting and environmental schemes to pony paddocks, campsites and crops for the distilling industry. Renewable energy is another part of that mix. This project will allow the landowner to reinvest in their farming businesses.

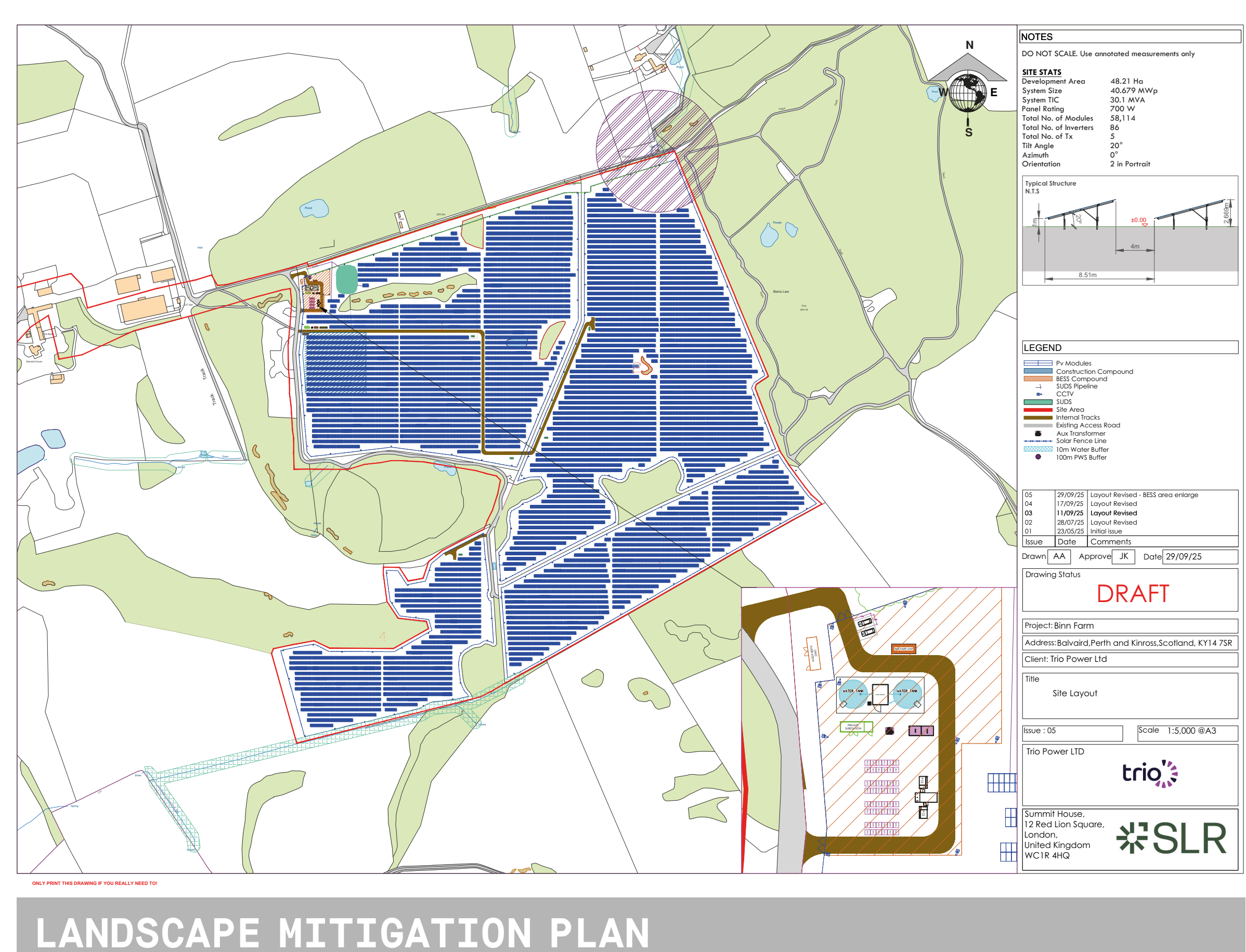
With a recent study warning that over a third of farms could go out of business within five years, projects like this provide a vital lifeline.

Trees, planting and screening

The potential for loss of mature trees and hedgerows, and the possible adverse visual impact of the solar farm and BESS, were raised as concerns at the first exhibition.

Our response

- No trees will be cut down to build and operate this scheme.
- New scrub and native woodland will be planted to increase screening of the scheme while enhancing the natural habitat for birds, mammals and insects.
- We will add additional hedgerow planting alongside the panels to minimise visual impact from the surrounding area. Please look at the computerised 3D model at this exhibition to get an idea of what this might look like.



- A habitat management plan will be developed with Perth and Kinross Council to ensure the right tree, hedge, shrub and grassland species are used to maximise habitat benefit.

If you have any comments or questions about any aspect of the project please talk to a member of the project team or visit our website.

