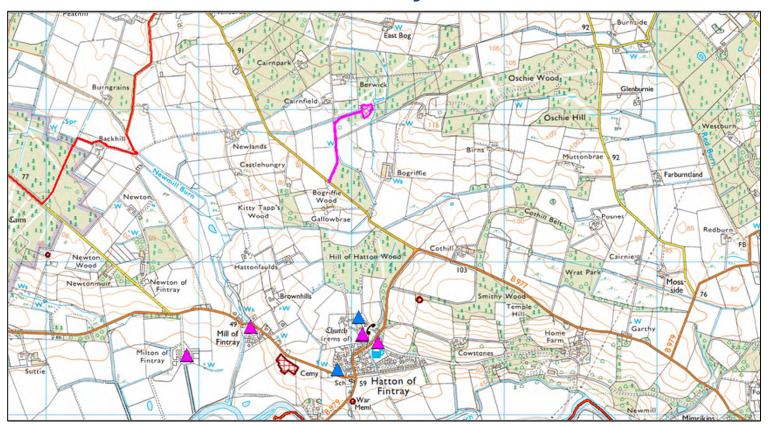
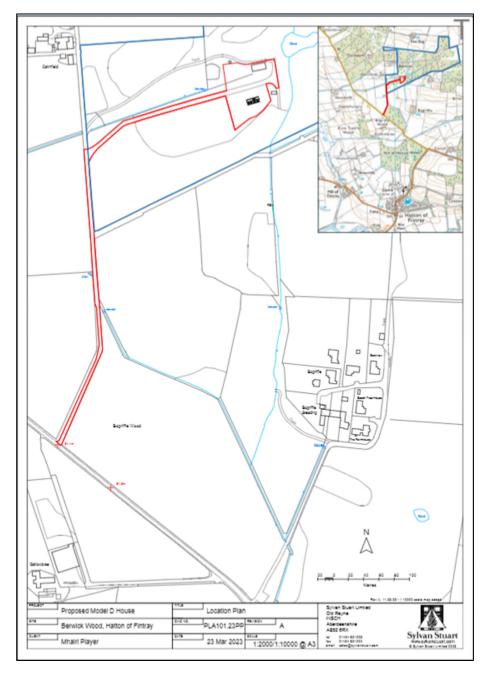
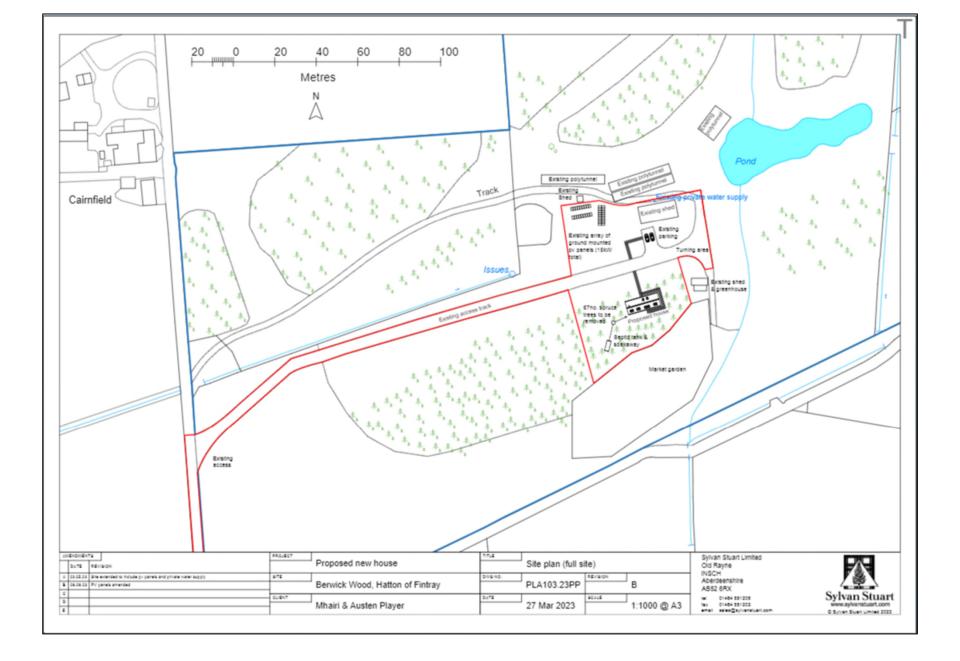


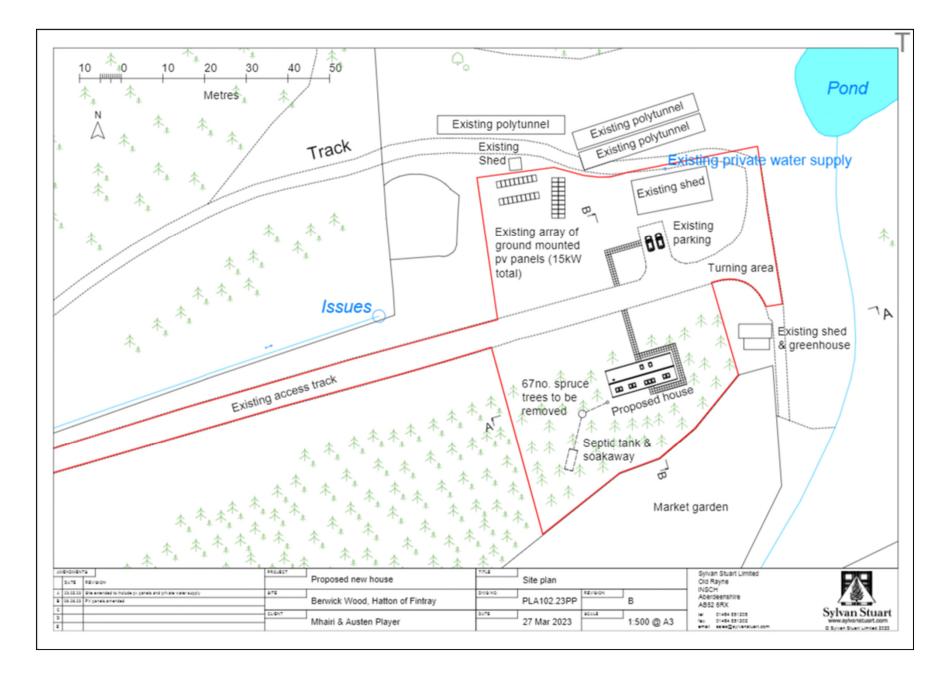
LRB 605 - APP/2023/0889

Erection of Dwellinghouse and Retrospective Ground Based Solar Panels at Site at Berwick Wood, Hatton of Fintray

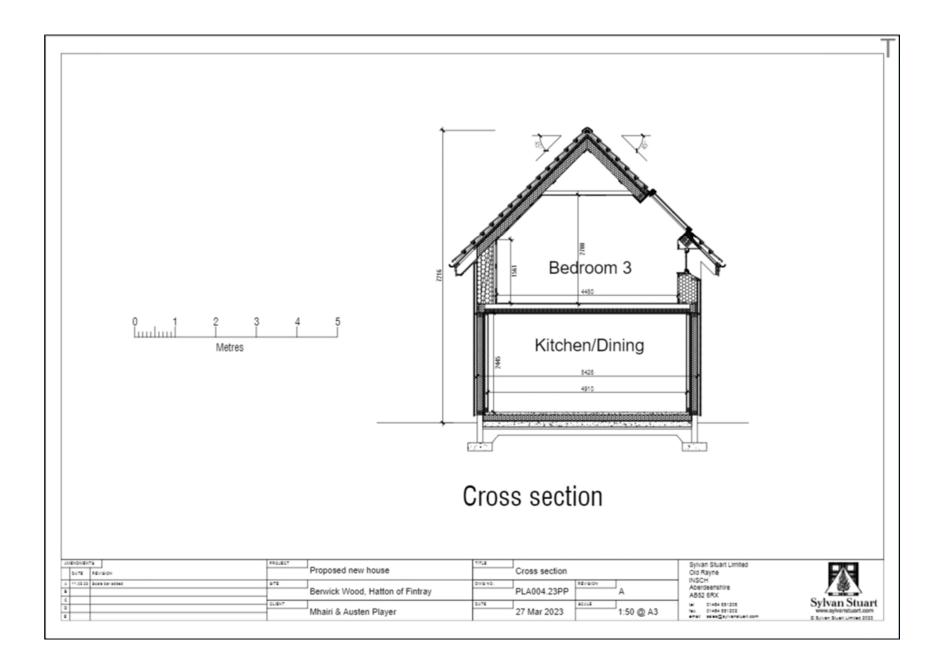


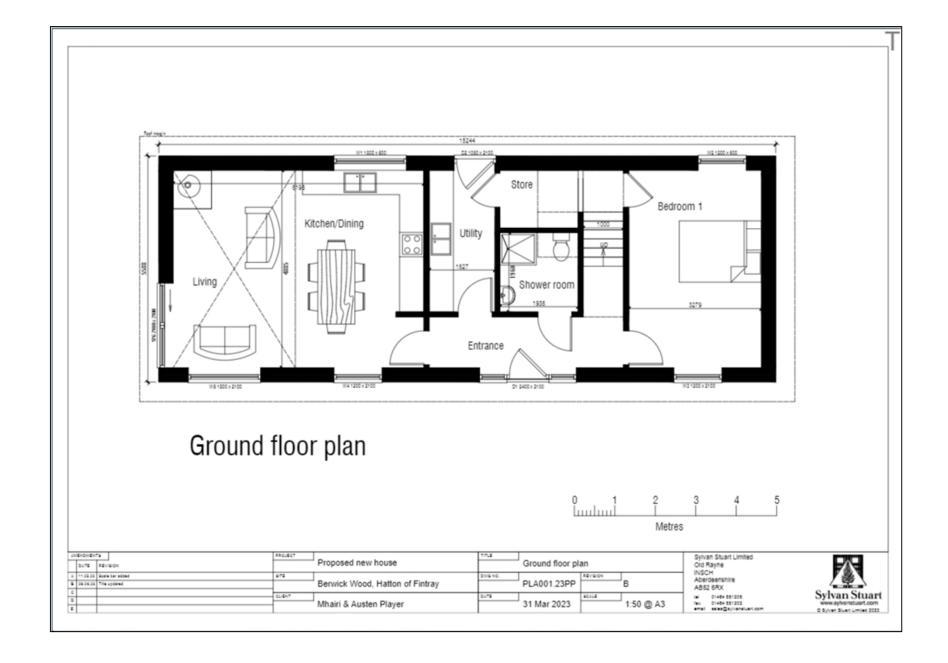


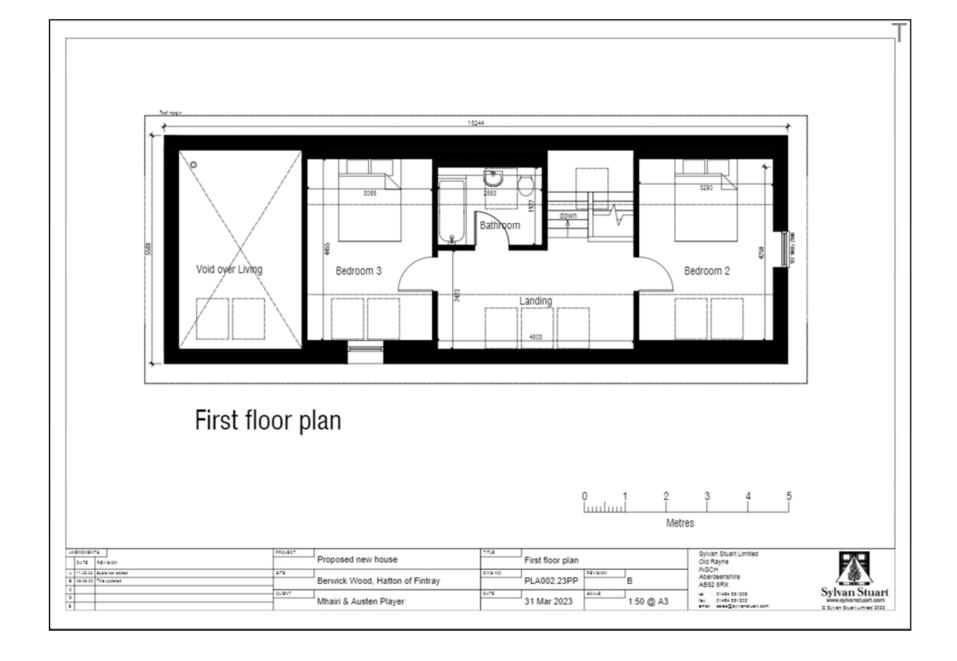


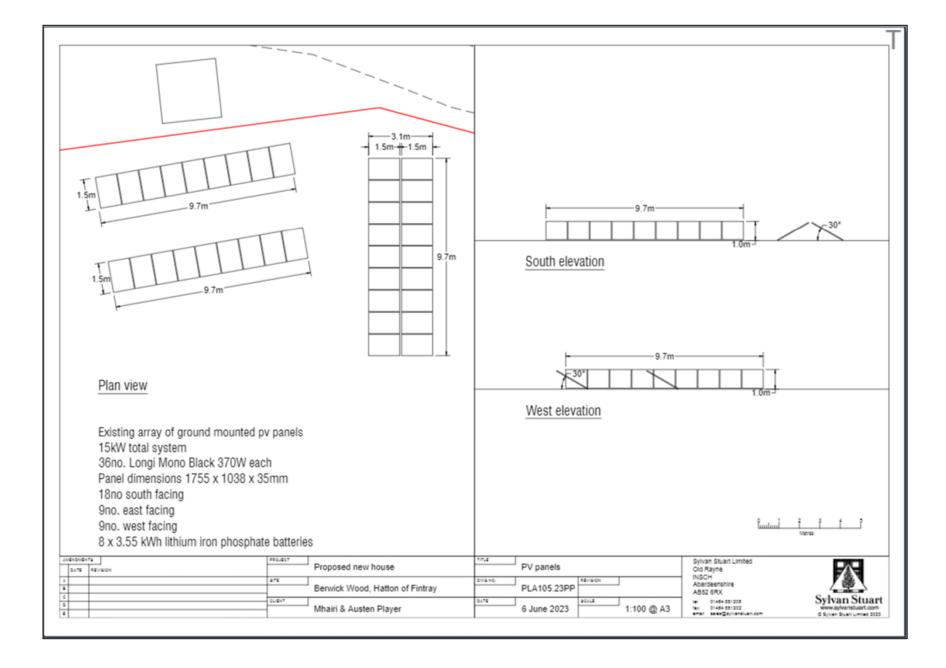


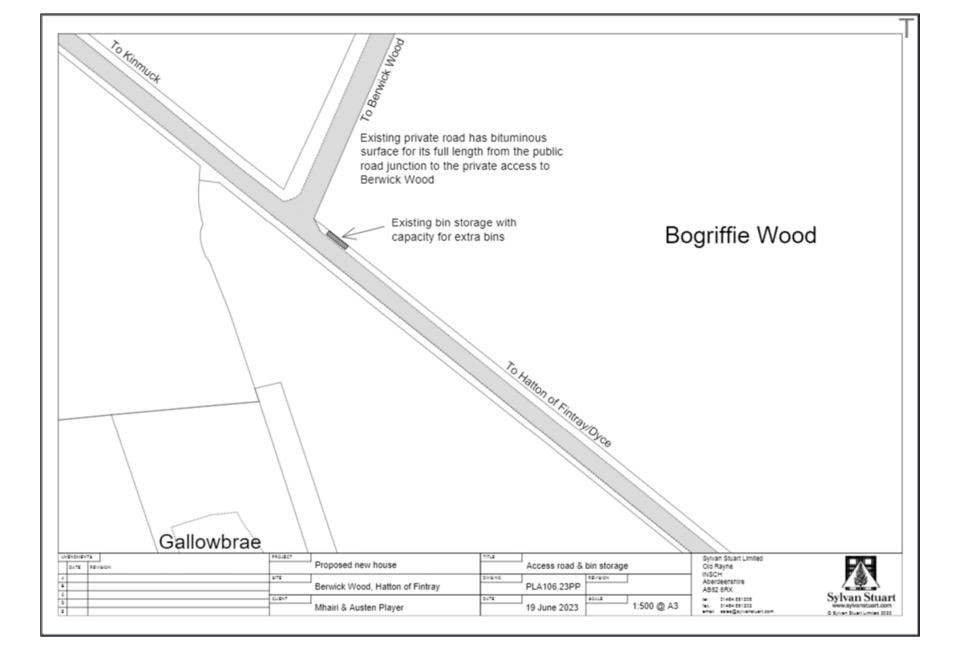


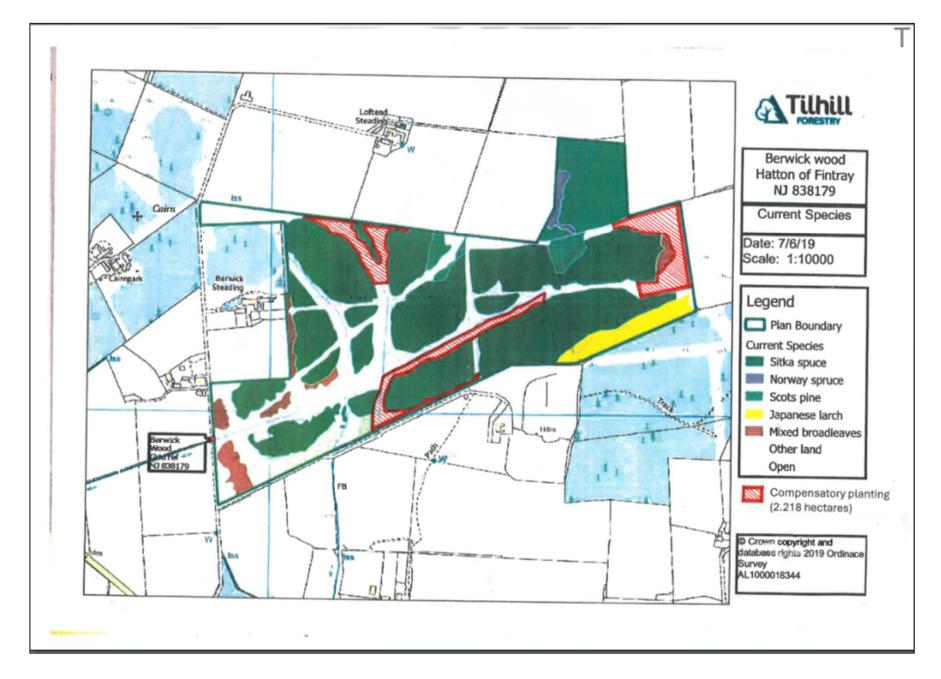












Refused drawing showing compensatory planting



Aerial View





View of access track looking west



Existing shed / greenhouse and house plot





Market garden to rear of proposed house plot







20



View of PV panels, sheds and polytunnels to north of site ²¹



View of access track and proposed house plot



View within trees proposed to be felled



Planning History

- APP/2019/1266 Formation of forestry track. Granted 21/06/2019.
- APP/2018/0050 Erection of agricultural storage building. Granted 12/02/2018.



Supporting Information

- Design Statement
- Labour Requirement Report (plus supplementary comments)
- Drainage Report
- Water Supply Report
- Berwick Woods Management Plan
- Various correspondence as per Report of Handling



Consultations

- Developer Obligations confirm contributions have been agreed.
- Contaminated Land has no adverse comments
- Environmental Health requires a condition to connect to mains water.
- Flood Risk has no objection to the proposal.
- Roads Development has no objection subject to standard conditions.
- Natural Environment accepts the loss of trees, provided a condition secures the compensatory planting proposed and biodiversity enhancement through landscaping.
- Health & Safety Executive do not advise against granting permission.
- National Gas Transmission note an asset in the vicinity that the applicant would have to liaise with them on.
- Scottish Water advises that there are no sewers in the vicinity.





Reason for Refusal

The planning authority considers that the application is for a development which is not in accordance with the policies contained within National Planning Framework 4 nor the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023. The proposed development does not meet the policy requirements to justify an essential need for an on site presence for a worker associated with an existing rural enterprise. There are no other criteria within the exemptions stated in policy that apply to the site in question. The proposed development therefore does not comply with NPF4 Policy 17 Rural homes and ALDP23 Policy R2 Development Proposals Elsewhere in the Countryside.



Applicant's Supporting Statement

- Land comprises approx. 30ha, including 1ha in horticultural use,
 10ha rough grazing, 16ha woodland, access, pond etc.
- Labour Report from Dec. 2022, market garden has been doubled in size since.
- Applicant is seeking to intensify their business by carrying more than 6 pigs, including adding breeding sows.
- Animal husbandry requires an onsite presence due to access issues in winter months caused by extreme weather events.
- There is no suitable accommodation locally.
- Applicant has a temporary accommodation arrangement, living onsite will build resilience and reduce travel to work.
- The planning report contains errors.
- Future development plans at the site should not be disregarded.
- New information Waterways Assessment & Restructuring Operations Plan submitted.





Applicant's Supporting Statement







Labour Requirement Report Extract

Activity	Total \$LRs
Outdoor Market Garden Area	1,421
3 Caterpillar Tunnels + 1 Poly Tunnel	145
Orchard Area	25
Pigs	131
Sub-Total	1,722
add allowance for forestry work	200
add allowance for admin (market garden)	172
Total Labour Requirements	2,094
1 x Full-time Equivalent	1,900
Total FTE	1.1

Note: it is proposed to intensify and build on these figures





Key Planning Considerations

- The principle of a dwellinghouse based on the justification outlined – market garden, animal husbandry and potential intensification.
- The applicant is of the view the proposal complies with NPF4 and ALDP policies for rural housing and tackling the climate crises.
- No design or technical issues, and no concerns about the solar panel element of the proposal.
- Are there any other material considerations?