



# COSSANS SOLAR & BESS PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Welcome to the second of two public consultations for the proposed Cossans Solar and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) development, located 2.5km west of Forfar.

This event will provide an update on the progress of the project to date and get your feedback on the proposals.



## Feedback

Please let us know your thoughts about the proposed Cossans Solar & BESS Development by completing a printed community questionnaire or scanning a QR code to complete it online.



## Visit our website

A virtual exhibition on our website replicates the information provided at this event to ensure accessibility.

[www.blcenergy.com/projects/cossans-solar-and-bess](http://www.blcenergy.com/projects/cossans-solar-and-bess)





# PROJECT OVERVIEW

Located in Angus, the proposed Cossans Solar & BESS Development has an export capacity of up to 49.9MW, with an accompanying 50MW BESS.



**Reducing annual emissions by 740,000 tCO2e**



**Able to generate up to 60GW per annum**



**Equivalent to powering 16,500 homes in Angus per annum**

- The Cossans Solar & BESS Development would comprise of approximately 100,000 individual solar panels sitting approximately 2.5ft off the ground, facing south and at an angle of up to 20%. It would also allow for a BESS with a capacity of 50MW.
- As the project totals more than 50MW, the planning decision will be made via the Energy Consents Unit at the Scottish Government. Angus Council will be a key stakeholder in this.
- The Development would supply power directly into the grid via connection at Lunanhead, with an export capacity of up to 49.9MW.

## PROJECT TIMELINE



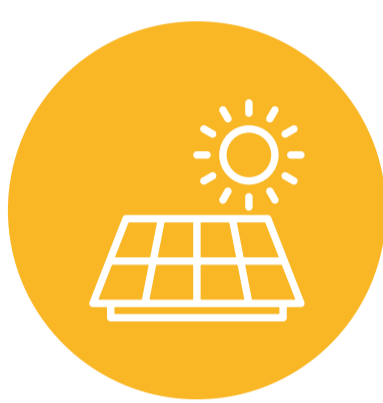


# WHO WE ARE

**BLC Energy** is a renewable energy development company specialising in solar PV and co-located battery storage projects across the UK.

Established in 2023, our team was formed to manage a target pipeline of 500MW of solar and BESS projects in development across the UK. With more than 60 years’ collective industry experience, we have been involved in some of the UK’s most successful renewable energy developments.

BLC Energy is currently developing 11 solar and battery projects across the UK of which 5 are in Scotland and will help the country achieve its target of 4-6GW of solar deployed by 2030.

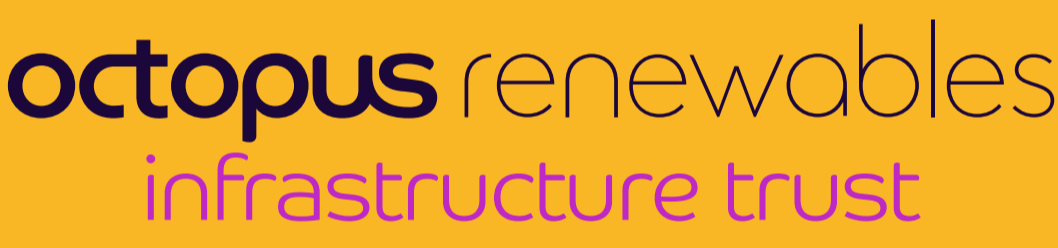


**Developing 11 solar & battery projects in the UK**



**Contributing to Scotland solar target of 4-6GW by 2030**

## OUR PARTNERS



### OCTOPUS RENEWABLE INFRASTRUCTURE TRUST (ORIT)

Cossans is developed by BLC Energy and owned by TRIO Power Limited. TRIO is backed by the Octopus Renewable Infrastructure Trust (ORIT), a fund managed by Octopus Energy Generation (OEGEN). OEGEN is one of the largest renewable energy investors in Europe, managing more than 230 large-scale green energy projects with a combined capacity of 3.25 GW.



### SLR CONSULTING

SLR Consulting are a leading consultancy providing expert environmental, energy, and engineering services, with a strong focus on renewable energy projects. Having worked extensively across the UK on a wide range of projects, SLR Consulting ensures that developments meet the highest standards in sustainability and environmental management.

With considerable experience in managing the environmental aspects of large-scale developments, SLR Consulting brings a deep understanding of both the technical and regulatory requirements involved. Their approach is to balance project objectives with environmental protection, ensuring that projects like Cossans Solar & BESS Development contribute positively to the local environment and community.





# PROJECT LOCATION

Forfar, DD8 1QY

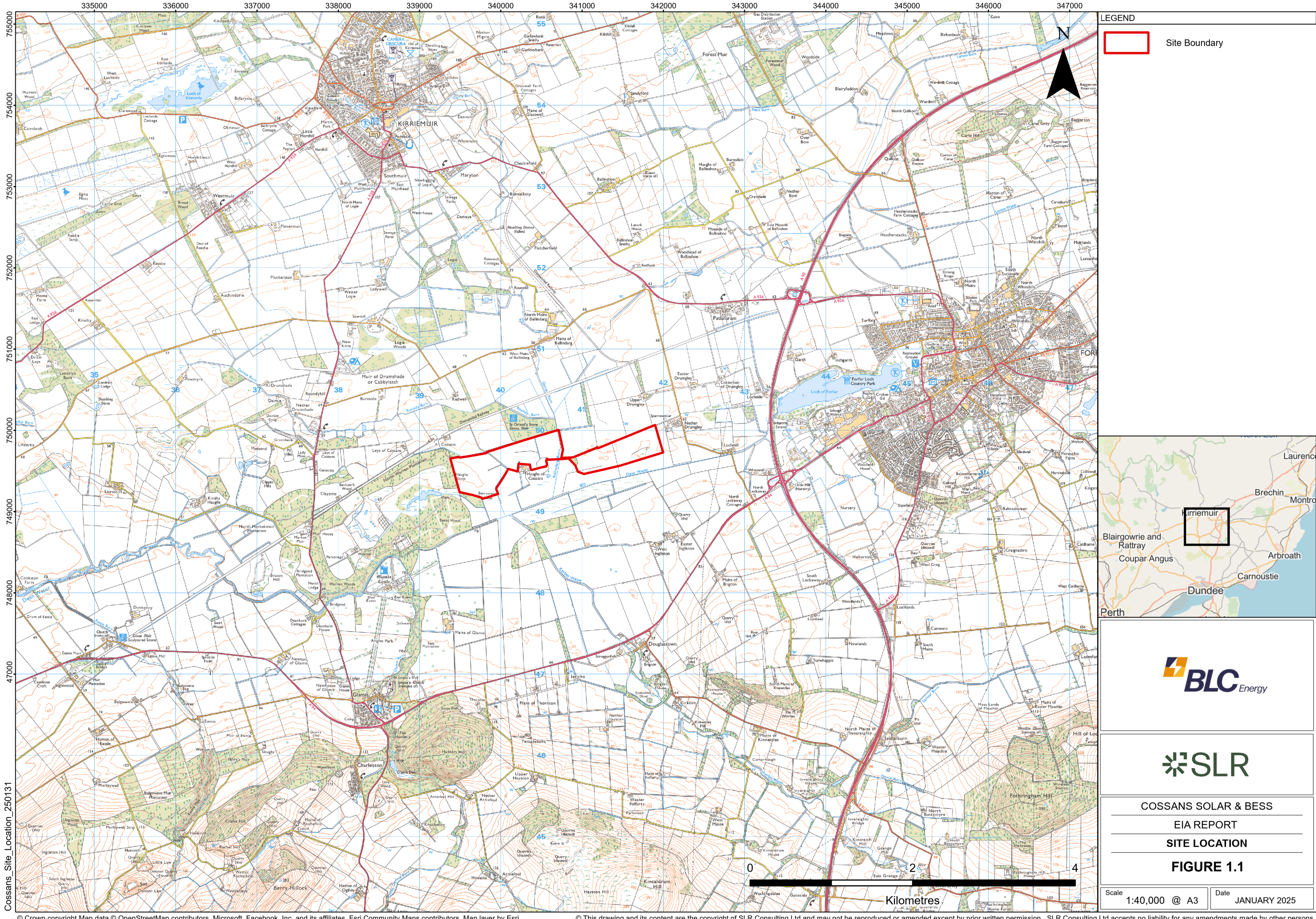


Figure 1: Project Location

**BLC Energy worked with SLR Consulting to determine an optimal location for this development, taking into account the following factors:**

- Close to existing infrastructure**  
The site is located near an existing connection to the electricity grid. This allows solar panels to deliver power efficiently without needing new power lines.
- Safe from flooding**  
The site is located away from the main areas of flood risk.
- Ideal sunlight and terrain**  
The site’s gently sloping and south-facing position makes it ideal for capturing sunlight. The solar panels will be positioned to maximise energy generation throughout the year.
- Good transport links**  
The site has easy access to nearby roads, which will help with construction and maintenance. The location of the BESS has been chosen to avoid overloading local roads.
- Minimising visual impact**  
The project will be carefully designed to blend into the natural landscape as much as possible. Existing hedgerows and trees will remain in place, and additional planting will be introduced to reduce the visual impact of the development.
- Ecology and biodiversity**  
There are no environmental designations on the site. As the site is primarily farmland, there is a great opportunity to enhance biodiversity within the site and the wider landholding.
- Agricultural land quality classification**  
The project is located on land classified as Grade 3.2 and therefore not within the prime agriculture classification.



# DESIGN ITERATION

## Initial Feasibility Layout presented in October 2024

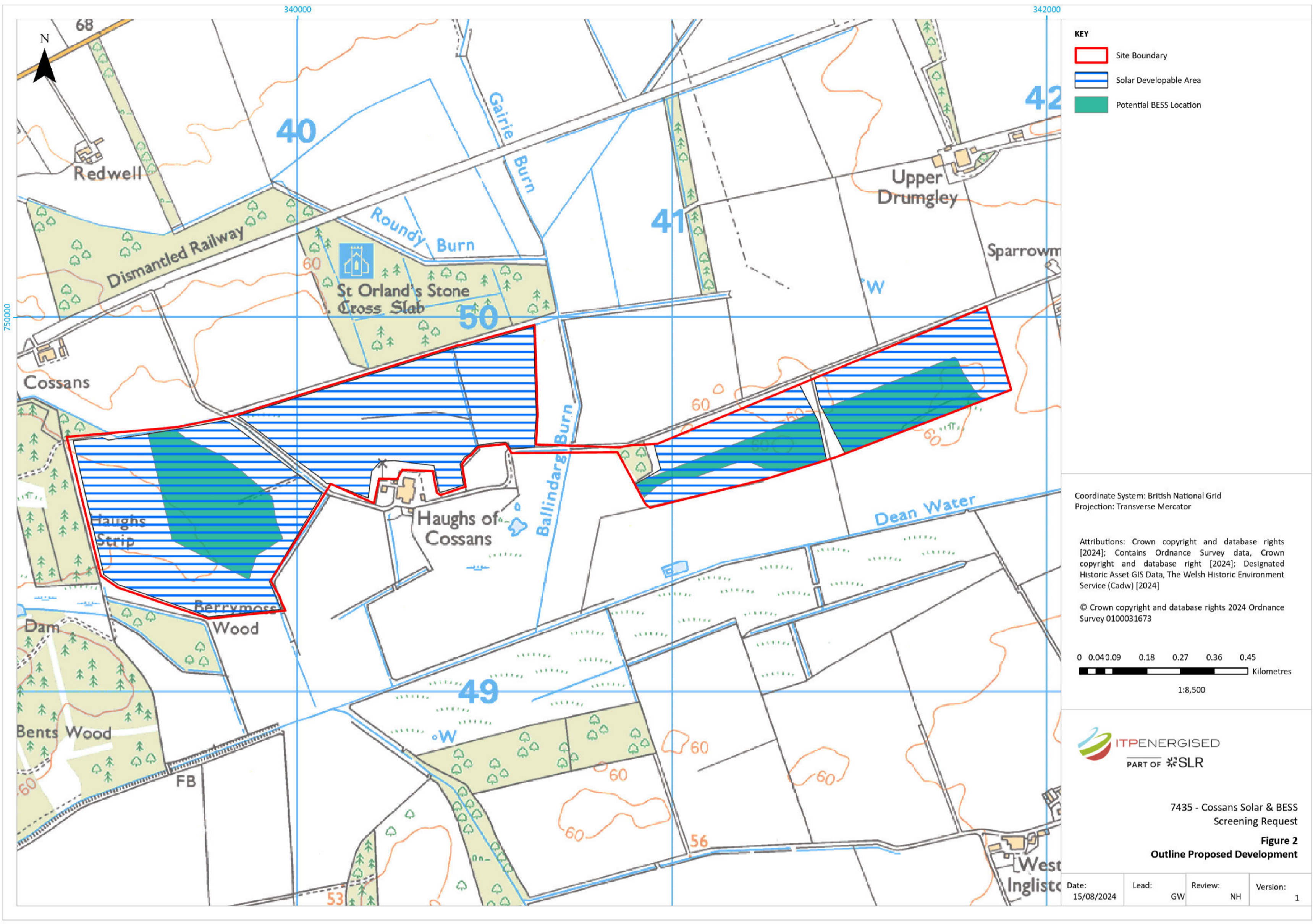


Figure 2: Initial Feasibility Layout

In the first public consultation, held in October 2024, an early outline layout was presented (Figure 2). This layout was based on maximising the solar panels on the site and identified potential areas where a BESS could be located.

## Updated Proposed Application Layout

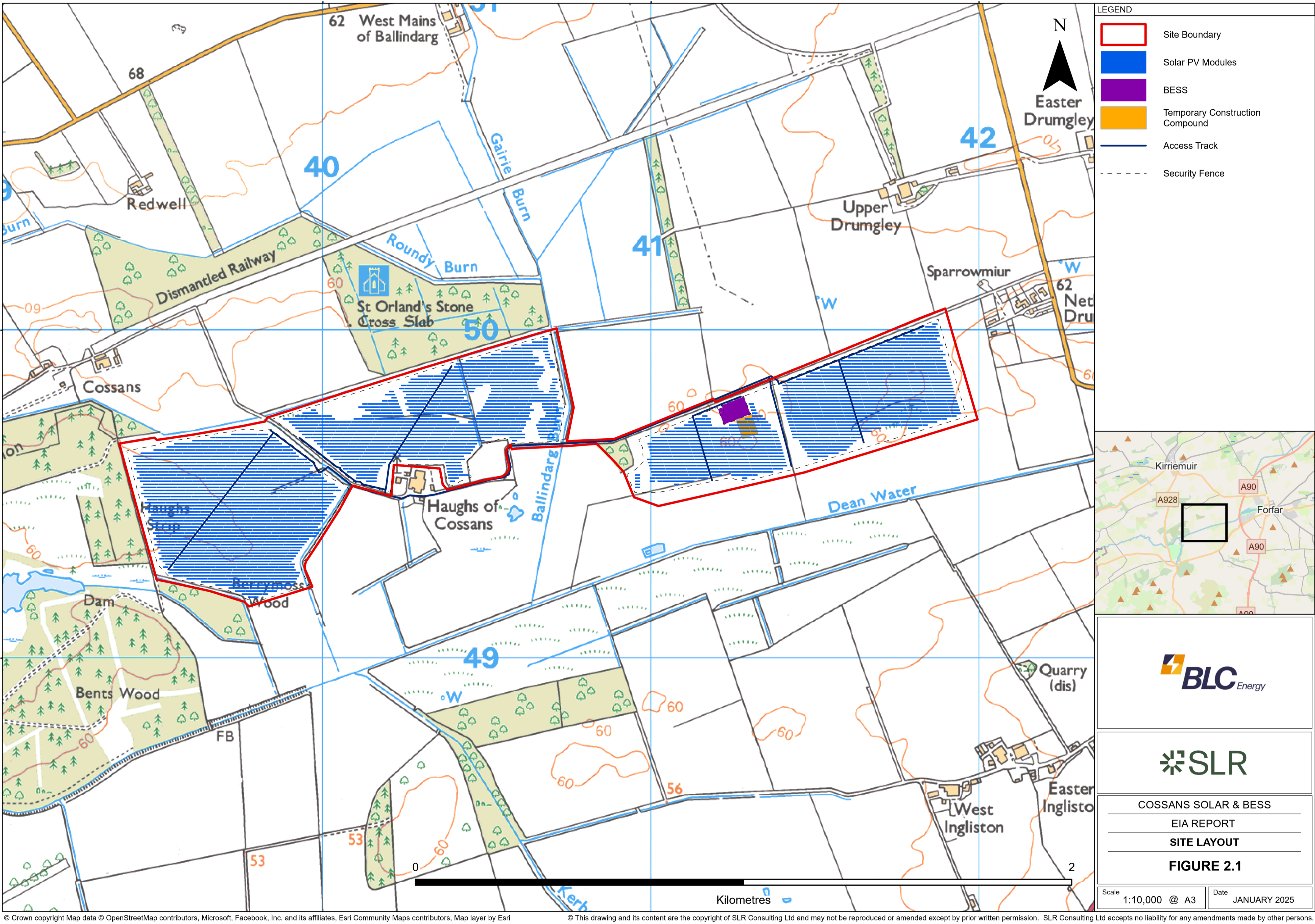


Figure 3: Proposed Application Layout

Since October 2024, environmental surveys have been completed and the results considered through an iterative design process. The site boundary was also increased to compensate for a portion of land that was lost due to flooding issues along the northern border.

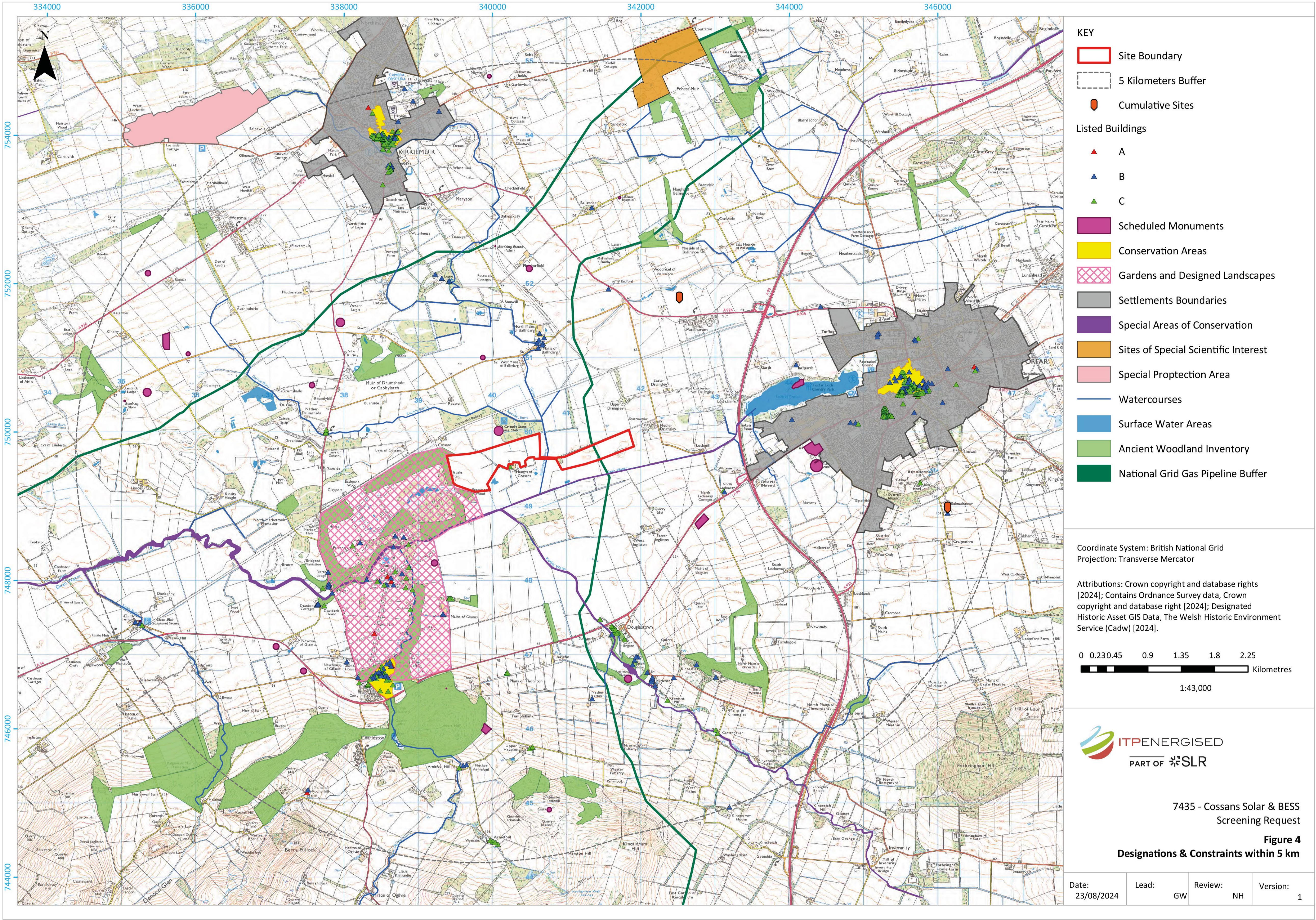
The resulting Proposed Application Layout (Figure 3) has been taken forward to assessment as part of the EIA process. The following environmental constraints have been considered and incorporated into the design as “embedded mitigation”:

- Buffers around Ancient Woodland Inventory, hedgerows, bat roosts and otter holts with no infrastructure within the buffer areas
- No infrastructure within the flood risk area in the north of the site
- Solar panels will be 1.2m above ground to protect them against flooding
- Buffer placed on the gas pipeline running underneath the site and proposed new 400kV power line running over the site with no solar panels within the buffer area
- Buffers Incorporated to protect protected species
- Buffer around St Orland's Stone, a Scheduled Monument located approximately 170m north of the site
- Incorporation of drainage features into the design to improve surface water drainage
- Space created for tree planting and hedgerows to provide additional visual screening and ecological enhancement





# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT



**BLC Energy engaged SLR Consulting to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which will be submitted as part of the Section 36 Application.**

The EIA includes the following:

- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
- Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment
- Ecology and Ornithology Impact Assessment
- Flood Risk and Drainage Assessment
- Noise Impact Assessment
- Transport and Access Assessment
- Glint and Glare Impact Assessment

**In order to gather baseline data to inform these assessments, the following surveys were completed:**



**Ecology and Ornithology surveys**  
**April 2024 - October 2024**



**Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage site survey**  
**September 2024**



**Landscape and Visual site visit**  
**September 2024 - October 2024**



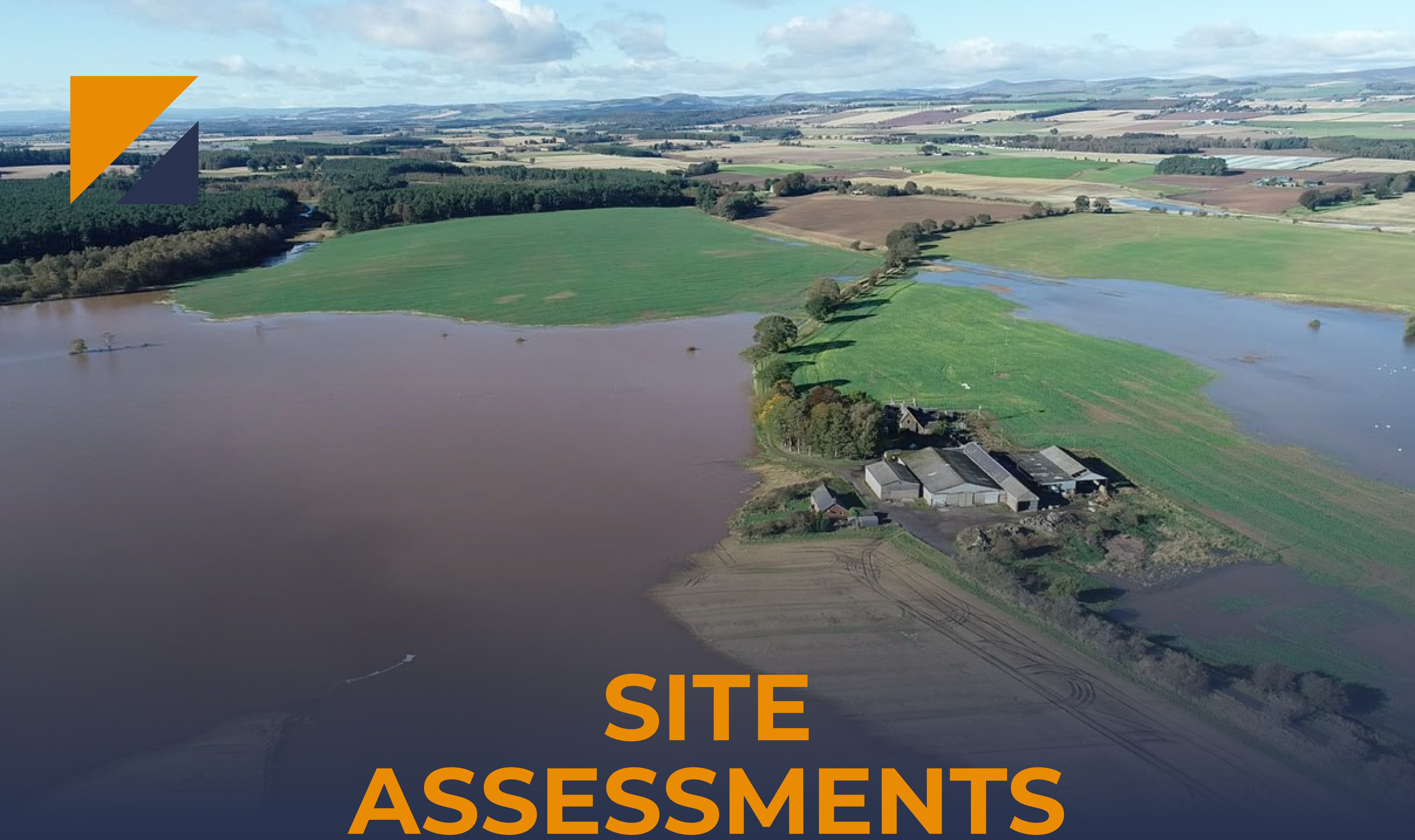
**Transport, Traffic and Access visit**  
**September 2024**



**Archaeology and Cultural Heritage site visit**  
**October 2024**



**Noise baseline monitoring**  
**October 2024**



# SITE ASSESSMENTS

**Potential impacts have been assessed. The following provides a summary of what each assessment includes.**

## FLOOD RISK

A flood risk assessment was carried out to confirm which parts of the site are at greatest risk of flooding and to ensure that the development does not increase the risk of flooding in the local area. The site has been selected because it is not located in a high-risk flood area, albeit there are high-risk areas in the vicinity. Measures have been designed to manage water drainage effectively, ensuring that the solar panels and the BESS remain protected from potential flooding.

## CULTURAL HERITAGE

The project archaeologist assessed potential impacts on all relevant historical and cultural landmarks near the site. This included reviewing nearby landmarks, archaeological sites, and historic buildings such as Glamis Castle and St Orland's Stone. The development will ensure that local heritage is preserved, and any important discoveries will be carefully recorded. The project has been designed to minimise any negative impacts on culturally valuable assets



## TRANSPORT

A transport and access study was undertaken to examine the impact of construction and operational traffic on local roads. This assessment ensured that local roads can accommodate construction vehicles and that the project will not create significant traffic issues for the community. It is considered that the construction phase of the Proposed Development will not give rise to a significant number of daily additional vehicle trips, approximately nine vehicle trips per day on average. As such, the impact of traffic levels on the road network surrounding is likely to be negligible.

## NOISE

A noise assessment was undertaken to evaluate the potential noise levels during both the construction and operation of the project. This included assessing the noise from construction machinery as well as the operational noise from the solar panel infrastructure and the BESS. Measures will be implemented to ensure that any noise impact on nearby residents is kept to a minimum.

## GLINT AND GLARE

An assessment was conducted with the aim of minimising reflections from the solar panels at nearby homes, roads, and airspace. If needed, adjustments will be made to the panel positioning to reduce any unwanted reflections. Properties within 1km of the proposed solar panels were subjected to a glint and glare assessment.

## ECOLOGY

A full Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) was undertaken and potential ecological features that may be affected by the Proposed Development have been considered in the design work.

In advance of the EcIA being undertaken, the following surveys were completed:

- Habitat surveys to identify the types of plants and natural features present on the site
- Protected species surveys to check for the presence of key species, such as badgers, otters, beavers, bats, water voles and birds
- Breeding bird surveys to identify bird species using the site for breeding
- Great Crested Newt (GCN) Habitat Assessment with the initial habitat assessment and eDNA testing confirming the likely absence of GCN

A Biodiversity Enhancement and Management Plan (BEMP) has been developed to outline measures that will improve local biodiversity.



# LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL



A landscape and visual impact assessment was conducted to evaluate how the development will affect the surrounding area. The assessment considered how the Proposed Development will look from different viewpoints, including nearby homes, roads, and public paths.

## VISIBILITY

Careful consideration was given to the location of the panels and battery storage system to minimise visibility from sensitive areas, such as Glamis Castle and nearby residential properties. The goal was to ensure that the development fits in with the local landscape and respects the visual character of the surrounding environment.

## LANDSCAPE

The project has been designed to blend into the natural landscape as much as possible. Existing trees and hedgerows will be retained, and additional planting introduced to screen the development from view, reduce its visual impact and provide long-term ecological enhancements. The study ensured the project does not have a significant negative effect on the character of the area, with new landscaping designed to align with and further enrich the landscape character surrounding the site.

Members of the landscape team visited the Cossans site in September 2024 and January 2025 to familiarise themselves with the local landscape, conduct survey work and take photographs from several viewpoints, which informed the landscape assessment for the project.

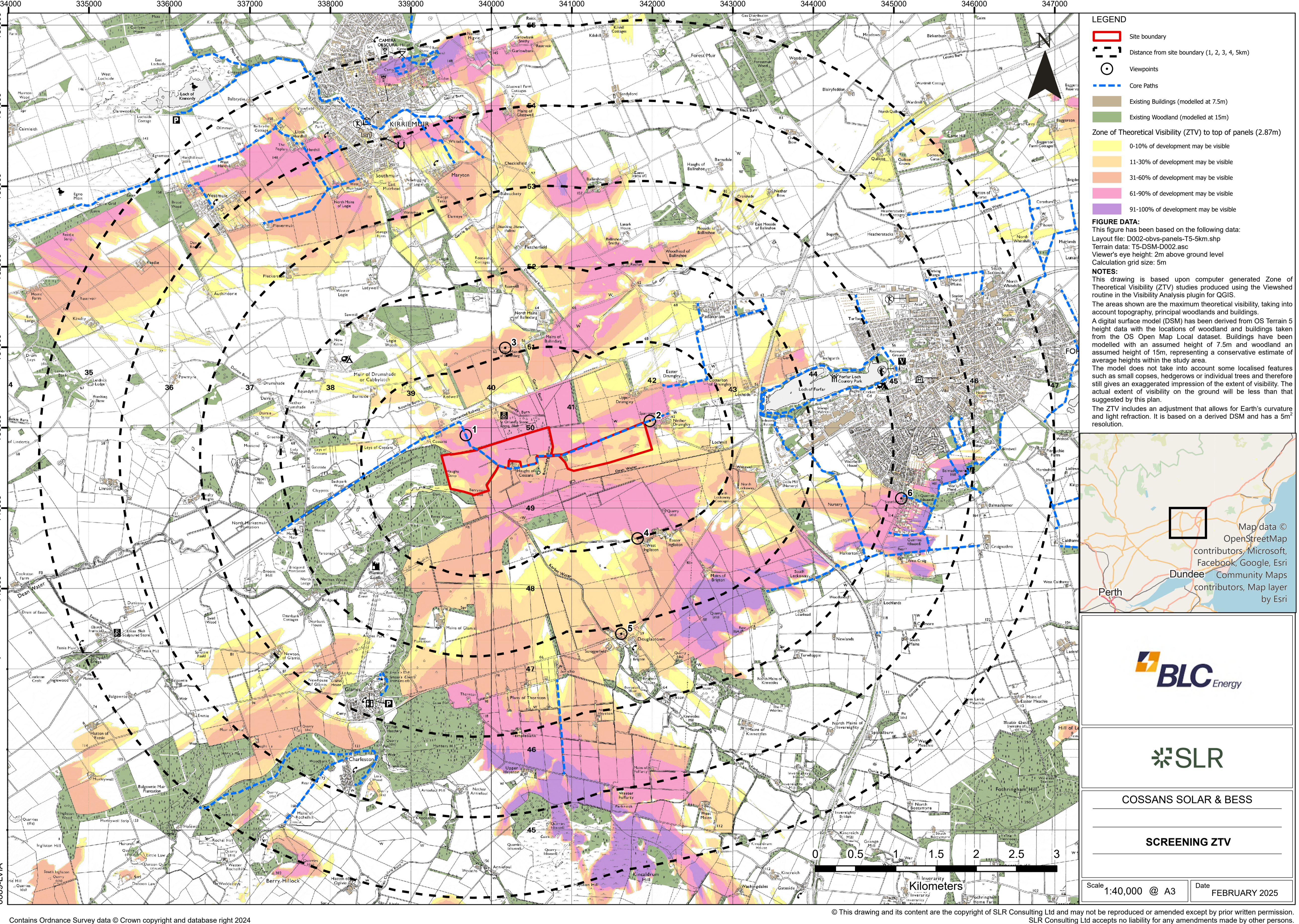


Figure 4: The Theoretical Zone of Visibility (ZTV) for the Proposed Development

The above mapping (Figure 4) highlights where there are likely to be views of the solar panels and BESS, and the extent of the proposed development that is likely to be visible. The mapping takes into account visual screening of the proposed development from existing buildings, large areas of woodland and shelterbelt trees. The mapping also accounts for any new landscaping, which would provide additional screening of views to the solar panels and BESS.



# COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Cossans Solar & BESS Development has committed to an annual Community Benefit Fund of £500 for every megawatt (MW) of export capacity on site, equating to £25,000 per annum for the 40-year project life.

BLC Energy, in partnership with Octopus Renewable Infrastructure Trust (ORIT), is proposing a new initiative which would see 50% of the Community Benefit Fund go directly to households within 2km of the project centre. This could be used to help offset:

- The cost-of-living crisis
- Loss of winter fuel payments
- Higher energy bills

The other 50%, equating to £12,500 per annum, would go towards community projects and infrastructure, decided upon by the local community. Examples of this could include:

- Subsidised rural bus routes
- Grants to help apprenticeships in local businesses
- Support for environmental projects

## THE COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP

We have been working with a Community Liaison Group made up of representatives from Forfar and Glamis Community Council, to identify where best to allocate the Community Benefit Fund and to address any concerns raised by local residents.



# NEXT STEPS

Thank you for attending the second and final public consultation on the Cossans Solar and BESS development.

**Please share your feedback in one of the forms provided, or via our website. Your comments will be gratefully received and will help to inform the final project submission and allocation of the Community Benefit Fund.**



## Visit our website

The project website will be updated with online versions of the information presented today

**[www.blcenergy.com/projects/cossans-solar-and-bess](http://www.blcenergy.com/projects/cossans-solar-and-bess)**



## Feedback

Please take the time to complete the feedback form

