

Cossans Solar and BESS Development Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report

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1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

This Report constitutes a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report which describes the consultation requirements for the Cossans Solar & Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Development (the Proposed Development), the consultation activities undertaken by the Applicant, TRIO Power Ltd (a company owned by Octopus Renewable Infrastructure Trust and managed by BLC Energy Ltd), the feedback received and any subsequent amendments to the Proposed Development.

TRIO Power LTD recognises that it is very important to ensure that communities in the vicinity of any development are afforded appropriate and meaningful opportunities to comment on the proposals before they are finalised in accordance with regulations and good practice guidance.

1.2 The Proposed Development

The Cossans Solar & BESS Development would be located within the Angus and Forfar council and administrative areas, located 2.5km west of Forfar. The exact location of the site can be seen in Figure 1.1 in Volume 2a of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report.

The Proposed Development has an export capacity for solar power generation of up to 49.4MW and a build out of 65MWp, with an accompanying 35MW BESS.

The Proposed Development comprises approximately 100,000 individual solar panels sitting approximately 2.5ft off the ground, facing south and at an angle of up to 20%.

The Proposed Development would supply power directly into the grid via a connection at Lunanhead. It would be able to generate up to 62.5GWh per annum, which is equivalent to powering 23,000 homes in Angus per annum.

1.3 The Applicant

The Cossans Solar & BESS Development is being proposed by TRIO Power Ltd (a company owned by Octopus Renewable Infrastructure Trust and managed by BLC Energy Ltd).

BLC Energy is a renewable energy development company specialising in solar PV and co-located battery storage projects across the UK. Established in 2023, BLC Energy was formed to manage a target pipeline of 500MW of solar and BESS projects in development across the UK. With over 60 years collective industry experience, BLC Energy's leadership team has 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, 5 of which are in Scotland and will help the country to achieve its target of 4-6GW of solar deployed by 2030.

The Proposed Development is backed by 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.

1.4 Consultation Guidance and Legislation

The Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009 apply applications for planning permission across Scotland and set out various criteria that are to be used to differentiate planning applications by development types and to define developments as either National, Major or Local developments.

Proposals for renewable energy developments such as the Proposed Development, with a potential electrical capacity greater than 50 MW, are subject to the consenting procedures set out in Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 (the Electricity Act) and applications are made directly to the Scottish Government.

While there is no statutory obligation to consult the public under the terms of the Electricity Act application process, TRIO Power Ltd has applied the principles of the consultation process recommended for 'major' planning applications as set out in The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 and circular 3:2013 Development Management Procedures. This enables the local community and all those with an interest in the proposals a clear opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the proposals.

Attention has also been paid to community engagement, in line with the Planning Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010: Community Engagement (Scottish Government 2010). The specifics of this are as follows:

- Maximising opportunities for meaningful engagement with local people

- Transparent communications about the details of the Proposed Development
- Providing opportunities for full and meaningful feedback
- The contents of the PAC report follow The Town and Country Planning (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland)

1.5 Report Structure

The remainder of this Report comprises the following Sections:

- Section 2: Stakeholder Engagement
 - Describes the different types of stakeholder engagement undertaken for the Proposed Development.
- Section 3: Public Consultations
 - Describes the consultation process undertaken for the Public Consultations held first in October 2024 and then February 2025, and the results of the feedback received.
- Section 4: Conclusions
 - Describes how the consultation process influenced the design of the Proposed Development.
- Section 5: Appendices
 - Contains copies of the adverts, posters, press releases, mail invites and other information used for public consultation.

2 Stakeholder Engagement

Table 2.1 offers an overview of the stakeholder engagement activity conducted for the Proposed Development

Date	Consultation Activity
August 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduced Glamis and Forfar Community Councils to the Proposed Development during an in-person meeting.• Introduced elected representatives of the area to the project via email communication.• Organised 1-1 meetings with elected representatives to discuss the Proposed Development in more detail.

September 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webpage for the Proposed Development went live: www.blcenergy.com/projects/cossans-solar-and-bess/ • Continued outreach for 1-1 meetings with elected representatives in detail.
October 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blog announcing the first public consultation published on the website. • Advertisement promoting the first public consultation published in Angus County Press and The Courier. • Press release issued to The Courier and Angus Country Press for the first public consultation. • Mail invitation for the first public consultation issued to residents living within a 2km radius of the project centre, covering 72 individual addresses. • Print and digital posters promoting the first public consultation sent to Forfar and Glamis Community Councils and the venue for display. These were shared in social media groups and displayed locally. • First public consultation held for Cossans Solar & BESS Development (28 October 2024). • Online event held for those unable to attend in-person consultation (29 October 2024). • Community Liaison Group set up comprising both Community Councils
November 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blog reporting on the first public consultation shared on the website. • The exhibition boards from the first public consultation shared on the website • Ongoing monitoring and responding to website enquiry form • Visited Forfar Academy to discuss project & renewable energy with pupils.
December 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Community Liaison Group
January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated website with new information on the second public consultation. • Glamis and Forfar Community Councils notified of second public consultation at in-person meeting.

February 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertisement promoting the second public consultation published in Angus County Press and The Courier. Online and in print. • Press release issued to Angus County Press and The Courier. • Mail invitation for the second public consultation issued to residents living within a 2.5km radius of the project centre, covering 72 individual addresses. • Elected representatives invited to the second public consultation for the Proposed Development. • Digital and print posters for the second public consultation sent to Glamis and Forfar Community Councils and to the event's venue for promotion. These were shared in social media groups and displayed locally. • Second public exhibition held for the Cossans Solar & BESS Development (28 February 2025).
March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online event held for those who could not attend the in-person public exhibition (3 March 2025) • Logging and responding to emails sent in through the website. • PDF of second public consultation boards added to the website. • A report of the online and in-person consultations shared on the website. • Held meeting with Glamis community council to share feedback from exhibition and update on timelines.

2.2 Community Council Consultation and Local Councillors

Trio Power LTD has kept the two Community Councils local to the Proposed Development informed on project updates.

Trio Power LTD sent emails to Forfar Community Council and Glamis Community Council, notifying both of the Proposed Development in August 2024. This was followed up by in-person meetings with both community councils in the same month.

Local councillors were contacted for 1-1 meetings to discuss the project in further detail and to invite them to the two public consultations for the Proposed Development.

The following local councillors were contacted:

Councillor Lynne Devine
Councillor Linda Clark
Councillor Ronnie Proctor
Councillor Ross Greig
Councillor Julie Bell
Councillor Ian McLaren
Councillor George Meechan
Councillor Dr Alasdair Allan
Councillor Beth Whiteside

2.3 Elected representatives and stakeholders

Trio Power LTD made contact with elected representatives and key stakeholders who may have an interest in the Proposed Development to inform them of the project and invite them to 1-1 meetings to talk through the Cossans proposal in greater detail.

The elected representatives were also invited to the two public consultations and were given the opportunity to arrive early to discuss the Development in privacy.

The following elected representatives were contacted:

Dave Doogan MP for Angus and Perthshire Glens.
Mairi Gougeon MSP; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands
Alasdair Allan MSP; Acting Minister for Climate Change
Graeme Dey MSP for Angus South

The following stakeholders were contacted:

Sandra Livingston, Community Development Officer, Angus Council
Anne Mollison, Principal Planning Officer, Angus Council
Jane Taylor, Economy Development Officer, Angus Council
Alison Elliot, Chair, Murton Trust for Education and The Environment
Scott Gordon, Head Teacher, Glamis Primary School
Caroline Warburton, Regional Leadership Director for East of Scotland, Visit Scotland

An example of these communications can be found in **Appendix 1**

2.4 In-person Public Consultations

Two in-person public consultations were held for the Proposed Development to inform and update the community about the project's progress and design.

The first public consultation was held on 28 October 2024 between 3pm-7pm at Padanaram Hall, Forfar. The event was attended by 27 people and generated 2 feedback forms.

The event showcased 10 exhibition boards that could be viewed in-person during the consultation and were then added to the website as a PDF. The boards were also available to be sent via email on request.

The boards for this exhibition included:

- Board 1: Introduction;
- Board 2: Project Overview;
- Board 3: Who we are;
- Board 4: Project Location;
- Board 5: Environmental Assessments;
- Board 6: Environmental Assessments (2);
- Board 7: Landscape and Visual;
- Board 8: Ecology and Biodiversity;
- Board 9: Community Benefit;
- Board 10: Next Steps.

The first event included printed PDFs displaying the application boundary, site layout, project constraints and the ZTV. A 3D Project model also allowed attendees to view the Proposed Development from different angles.

A second public consultation was held on 28 February 2025 between 3pm-7pm at Padanaram Hall, Forfar. The event was attended by 35 people and generated 4 feedback forms.

This event displayed 10 boards for attendees to view. The boards for this exhibition included:

- Board 1: Introduction;
- Board 2: Project Overview;
- Board 3: Who we are;
- Board 4: Project Location;
- Board 5: Design Iteration;
- Board 6: Environmental Impact Assessment;
- Board 7: Site Assessments;

- Board 8: Landscape and Visual;
- Board 9: Community Benefit;
- Board 10: Next Steps.

The second consultation included printed PDFs displaying the application boundary, site layout, project constraints and the ZTV. Photomontage visualisations giving a general representation of views of the Proposed Development from key viewpoints were also available. The 3D model was updated to show the revised design as well as proposed hedgerow planting for screening.

Further information on the Public Consultations is found in **Sections 3** and **4** of this Report.

2.5 Online Presentations

Online presentations were held one working day after the in-person event for those unable to attend.

The first online event was held on 29 October 2025 and was attended by 2 people. The following slides were shared as part of this presentation:

1. Introduction to BLC Energy Ltd & Octopus Renewable Infrastructure Fund
2. Why Solar?
3. Why Cossans?
4. Project Information
5. Ongoing Activities
6. Timeline
7. Community Engagement
8. Community Benefit
9. Next Steps
10. Questions & Answers

The second online event took place on 3 March 2025 and was attended by one person. The presentation covered the same structure as the previous virtual event, with updated information shared.

Both online presentations had time for questions and answers with the developers. Questions and suggestions raised in the second online event resulted in layout amendments for the battery component.

2.6 Website and Email

BLC Energy hosts a page dedicated to the Proposed Development on its website to allow people to view details about the Development and contact the project team for further information:

<https://www.blcenergy.com/projects/cossans-solar-and-bess/>

BLC Energy can also be contacted at any time about the Proposed Development via info@blcenergy.com



Image 1: Screen grab of website

3 Public Consultations

Two public consultations were held for the Proposed Development, the first on 28 October 2024 and the second on 28 February 2025. Both were held at Padanaram Hall in Forfar between 3pm-7pm.

Two online presentations were held at 6pm the following working day of each in-person consultation for individuals who could not attend.

The boards presented at each public consultation were shared on BLC Energy's website for anyone who had missed the events or wanted to revisit the information.

Feedback was invited and could be received up until 07 March 2025.

People could still contact BLC Energy via a "contact us" form on the Proposed Development's dedicated webpage.

3.1 Notification

The public consultations were heavily advertised to ensure local residents were aware of the Proposed Development and could make arrangements to attend.

A notification was made to the website on 30 September 2025 and 04 February 2025 respectively.

3.2 Newspaper Adverts

Regulation 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 requires that a notice is published in a local newspaper a minimum of seven days before the event is held.

Newspaper adverts were placed in Angus County Press and The Courier. The advertisements were printed on 10 and 17 October 2024 respectively, and again on 16 February 2024.

An example of a print advertisement can be found in **Appendix 2**.

3.3 Online Adverts

Online adverts were placed in The Courier and Angus County Press websites for the two weeks in the lead up to the consultations.

The online adverts included a link to the Cossans webpage.

3.4 Posters

Posters were distributed to Glamis and Forfar Community Councils and sent to Padanaram Hall, the venue for both public consultations. Recipients were invited to distribute the posters locally.

The poster can be seen in **Appendix 3**.

3.5 Maildrop

In advance of the Consultations, BLC Energy distributed leaflets to residents within a 2km radius of the Proposed Development. The leaflets shared key information about the events, a description of the Proposed Development and highlighted what visitors could expect from the consultation. They also included a link to the Cossans webpage for recipients to visit for more information.

A copy of the maildrop and list of addresses is provided in **Appendix 4**.

3.6 Information Available at Public Consultations

The information presented at the events included a site overview, proposed location for the development, information on the developers and partners, details of the Environmental Assessments, Visual and Landscape Assessments, survey work and information on the community benefit fund.

Photomontage visualisations and a 3D Project Model were also available for attendees to review the potential visual impact of the Development from different viewpoints.

Copies of the banners that were on display at the public consultations are contained in **Appendix 5**.

3.7 Consultation Feedback

The Scottish Government's National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) states that throughout the planning process opportunities should be made available for everyone to engage in the development planning and decisions which may affect them. Support or concern expressed should be taken into account in developing proposals.

Attendees of the public consultations held by BLC Energy were given the chance to share feedback for the Proposed Development via physical and [digital](#) feedback forms. A deadline of 07 March was given for visitors to share their feedback. A copy of the print feedback forms provided can be found in **Appendix 6**.

A total of 5 physical feedback forms were returned and 1 digital form submitted. We also received 7 emails with feedback for the Proposed Development via the project inbox from when the webpage was made live and this deadline.

Of the 12 responses received:

3 were negative

7 were neutral

2 were positive

The main issues raised were:

The visibility of the BESS

The risk of prime agricultural land being used

Electricity not destined for local use

Insufficient information on how the cables would reach Lunanhead

Date	Feedback	Developer response
22/10/2024	Please indicate whether this proposal is reliant on new electrical infrastructure to connect into	No, the project will connect into Lunanhead substation and not the new 440kV lines to be built
22/10/2024	What is the acreage and land capability for agriculture classification of this land?	87Ha - the land is Grade 3.2 and therefore not classified as Prime
28/10/2024	I remain concerned that: Agricultural land is being used, with no brownfield site considered. The literature produced entitled Factsheet Solar Farms and Agricultural Land is designed for English authorities, and therefore not relevant. The electricity is not destined for local use and therefore the solar farm should surely be located nearer its destination. There was insufficient information as to how the cables would reach Lunanhead. Any community benefit should go DIRECTLY to residents affected.	Prime Agricultural Land is not being used for this project, as displayed in the two consultation materials. Introduced initiative to see 50% of Community Benefit Fund go directly toward local residents.
28/10/2025	I feel more reassured that prime land won't be used.	The site would be built on land with AGL classification of 3.2 and therefore not Prime

08/11/2025	<p>My main concern at this time relates to the potential visual impact of the batteries. I am aware that there are other locations where they have proven to be unsightly and I would be concerned that they will be a significant visual intrusion for local people.</p> <p>Maybe some form of “camouflage” would help.</p>	<p>Location of BESS moved to reduce visual impact. BESS Containers will be painted green to limit visual impact</p>
16/12/2025	<p>Based on the information given, and further to receiving further information regarding noise, actual siting, etc, we do not have a major issue with the proposal, but obviously do have some further concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As you will see from the attached photo from my front garden, we may well see some of the panels, depending on the positioning. Even with hedging, I think they would still be visible. • We are also worried about any noise which may emanate from the BESS. • We do see quite a few ground nesting birds around the proposed panel and BESS area which is a worry if their normal habitat is disrupted. • It would be a shame to lose farmland, but I know that this area has been affected by severe flooding in the past. <p>Could you please forward the slide you had at the consultation which showed where the proposed super pylon will be in relation to the proposed solar panel/BESS site.</p>	<p>Shared a screenshot of the view as requested.</p> <p>Regarding the site for the battery plant, we have sited it far enough away from any houses to ensure no noise issues as well as goods screening, and we will also do more of this for the final design. The site once built will benefit from an Increase in biodiversity and, in turn will be a good place for ground nesting birds.</p>
11/02/2025	<p>Can you tell me what is the land classification of the land on which the solar panels will sit? As you know Scotland has a 7-class scale for</p>	<p>The project is proposed for land classified as Grade 3.2, and therefore not within the prime</p>

	agricultural land ranging from class 1 (very productive/wide range of crops) to class 7 (land of limited agricultural value).	agricultural classification.
28/02/2025	No feedback	
28/02/2025	Good presentation and honest. There are pros and cons.	
03/03/2025	No feedback at this stage.	
03/03/2025	Less negative than before I came.	
13/03/2025	I went to the SSEN public meeting in Forfar yesterday and the see that the proposed line of the pylons go straight through your site at Cossans. How will that effect your proposal.	We have consulted with SSEN and have the detailed plan for their routing across the site. We have then designed around this leaving the necessary buffers.

4 Conclusions

The topics raised throughout the consultation process have been addressed in the EIA Report for the Proposed Development.

For example, the outcomes of the public consultation in February-March 2025 were used to inform the further refinement of the location and design of the BESS; including a change to the BESS colour and moving the BESS c100m West and off the ridgeline.



Before and after images of BESS location – moved West of ridgeline.

TRIO Power Ltd has undertaken an extensive consultation process with key stakeholders and the local community. The consultation feedback received has been considered in the EIA and iterative design processes.

4.1 Publication of the EIA Report

TRIO Power Ltd has a duty to undertake statutory publication of the EIA Report in accordance with Part 5 of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 and the Electricity (Applications for Consent) Regulations 1990.

A notice will be published as follows:

- on the BLC Energy project website;
- in the Edinburgh Gazette;
- In the Angus County Press and The Courier.

Appendices

Appendix 1

From: Julianne Nixon
Sent: 30 August 2024 16:48
To: [REDACTED]@angus.gov.uk
Subject: Invitation to meet BLC Energy: Cossans Solar Project

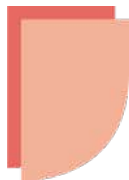
Good afternoon Jane,

I am writing to you on behalf of [BLC Energy](#), which has begun consultations on a new solar project, Cossans, which will be located across the areas of Forfar and Glamis.

Attached, you will find an invitation from the project lead, Neil Lindsay, to meet at your earliest convenience to discuss the solar development.

To arrange a meeting with Neil, please use the contact information provided in the letter.

Kind regards,
Julianne Nixon



Dear Councillor George Meechan,

I am writing to you on behalf of [BLC Energy](#) to invite you to the first public exhibition in support of the proposed Solar and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) development, Cossans.

The public exhibition will be held on **Monday 28 October at Padanaram Hall, Forfar, DD8 1PZ from 3pm to 7pm.**

You are welcome to arrive at 2:30pm to take in the information at your leisure.

This event will provide an opportunity for local residents and stakeholders to learn more about the proposed project, ask questions, and share their feedback.

The Cossans Solar and BESS development has the potential to generate enough energy to power over 16,500 Angus homes per year. As an elected representative in the region, your insights on this project would be invaluable.

Please let us know if you will be able to attend.

Thank you for considering our invitation. We hope to see you at the exhibition.

Yours sincerely,

Melissa Albarran

Appendix 2

THE COURIER & ADVERTISER
Thursday, February 6, 2025

NEWS 3



MEETING: Ian Lindsay with Grant and Keir Sword and relatives. Picture by Kenny Smith.

Man reunited with rescuer – 60 years on

BY NEIL HENDERSON

A retired Dundee teacher has been reunited with a man he saved from a Dundee speedboat crash for the first time – 60 years after the event.

Grant Sword was among four children and two adults thrown from the vessel off Broughty Ferry in July 1965.

Ian Lindsay was working as a lifeguard on the beach and leapt into action to help pull the six – including Grant, his dad Bill and brother Neil – to safety.

A report in The Courier the following day told how the dramatic incident had unfolded.

It said the people on board the boat had been “catapulted” into the water, leaving seven-year-old Grant, Neil, nine, and Bill clinging to the upturned vessel.

The two other children stayed afloat by holding on to a seat. However, the second adult, Alex Stewart – a poor swimmer – was in danger of drowning.

The report told how Ian pulled Alex back to the surface before grabbing the Sword family and guiding them to a nearby rescue boat. All six people were saved thanks to his actions.

Now, Ian has been reunited with Grant for the first time since that fateful day, along with other Sword family members.

Ian – an art student in Dundee at the time, who went on to work as a teacher at St Columba’s High School in Dundee for 32 years – says he was only doing his job.

He said: “I didn’t have time to think – I just dived straight in and swam 60 or 70 metres out to where they were. It was the first time the boat had been out and the bottom had burst and flooded the thing.”

“I got all the press coverage at the time but a girl called Kay Jackson who was on the beach also swam out to help save the passengers.”

The story had all but

faded from memory until a chance conversation between Ian’s daughter, Fiona MacGregor, and a friend led to the families meeting – though Bill has since passed away.

Ian said: “By pure chance, my daughter’s friend knew someone with the same name (Sword) and contacted them to ask them if they knew anything about it.”

“Incredibly, my daughter’s friend happened to know Keir, the brother of Grant Sword, one of the boys I’d rescued that day.”

“Keir hadn’t been born in 1965 and wouldn’t have even existed had his father not been rescued.”

“It is amazing to be put back in touch with that event and those people involved after so long.”

At a lunch between the families, Ian was presented with an album of photos showing the many Sword family members who may not have existed without his heroic rescue that day.

Ian gave Grant his bronze cross lifesaver’s medal that had allowed him to be a lifeguard.

Ian added: “I had occasionally wondered what had become of those six people in the water that day.”

“Now we are firm friends connected by an incident all those years ago.”

Chance to snap up cut-price deal on tickets for new music festival

Fans are being given the chance to buy discounted prices for a new Dundee music festival.

Discovery Festival takes place on July 25, featuring Ocean Colour Scene, The Fratellis, White Lies and Cammy Barnes.

It is one of two events being held at Slessor Gardens that weekend – with artists like The Human League and ABC performing at 80s Calling! the following day.

Tickets for Discovery Festival go on sale tomorrow through Eventim and Ticketmaster. However, fans can already snap up cut-price tickets via the deals website itison.

Tickets on the site cost £49.50 – giving punters a near-25% discount with general admission tickets costing £64 when a booking fee is included.

Itison is also offering weekend tickets, allowing entry to both Discovery Festival and 80s Calling!




Fans at Bastille’s concert at Slessor Gardens in 2023.

Discounted weekend tickets are priced at £89, with full-price tickets covering both events costing £115.

It has not been confirmed how many of the cheaper tickets are on offer but the number sold via itison may be limited.

According to the website, hundreds have already been snapped up.

Both events are being organised by LHG Events, which has been behind several other major concerts at Slessor Gardens over the years.



INVITATION

Solar & BESS development, Cossans


BLC Energy is hosting a second public exhibition on the Cossans Solar and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) farm on:

Friday 28 February 2025, 3-7pm
Padanaram Hall
Forfar
DD8 1PZ

www.blcenergy.com/projects/cossans-solar-and-bess

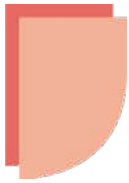
For those unable to attend, an online presentation will take place on:
3rd March | 6pm
 You can find details on how to join the online event on the website.

The proposed development will be located 2.5km to the west of Forfar, Angus and will comprise up to 50MW Solar PV and up to 50MW BESS.





How the story was reported in The Courier at the time.



Appendix 3

INVITATION

Solar & BESS development, Cossans

BLC Energy is hosting the first public exhibition on Cossans Solar and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) farm on:

Monday 28 October, 3-7pm
Padanaram Hall
Forfar
DD8 1PZ

The proposed development will be located 2.5km to the west of Forfar, Angus and will comprise of 50MW Solar PV and 50MW BESS.

www.blcenergy.com/projects/cossans-solar-and-bess

For those unable to attend, an online presentation will take place on:
29th October 2024 | 6pm

You can find details on how to join this online presentation on our website.

Cossans Poster.indd 1

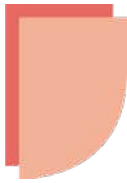
03/10/2024 18:59

Appendix 4



Upper Drumgley Farmhouse	Forfar	DD8 1PW
Cotterton Lodge	Forfar	DD8 1PW
Craigowl Drumgley	Forfar	DD8 1PW
Easter Drumgley Farmhouse	Forfar	DD8 1PW
Upper Drumgley Cottage East	Forfar	DD8 1PW
Upper Drumgley Cottage West	Forfar	DD8 1PW
1 Easter Drumgley Cottage	Forfar	DD8 1PW
2 Easter Drumgley Cottage	Forfar	DD8 1PW
Nether Drumgley House	Forfar	DD8 1QZ
Lochmill Farmhouse	Forfar	DD8 1QZ
Sparrow Muir Cottage	Forfar	DD8 1QZ
Berne House	Forfar	DD8 1QZ
Balclutha	Forfar	DD8 1QZ
Viewfield	Forfar	DD8 1QZ
1 The Steading	Forfar	DD8 1QZ
Fassfern	Forfar	DD8 1QZ
Burnside House	Forfar	DD8 1QA
1 The Courtyard	Forfar	DD8 1QA
2 The Courtyard	Forfar	DD8 1QA
3 The Courtyard	Forfar	DD8 1QA
Thistle Cottage	Forfar	DD8 1QA
Ballindarg Farmhouse	Forfar	DD8 1QA
Cairn O'Mhor	Forfar	DD8 1QA
Gardeners Cottage	Forfar	DD8 1QA
Granary Cottage	Forfar	DD8 1QA
West Mains Of Ballindarg	Forfar	DD8 1QA
1 Ballindarg Farm Cottage	Forfar	DD8 1QA
2 Ballindarg Farm Cottage	Forfar	DD8 1QA
North Mains Of Ballindarg	Forfar	DD8 1QA
The Gairie	Forfar	DD8 1QA
Blindwell Cottage	Forfar	DD8 1QD
Burnside House	Forfar	DD8 1QD
Burnside Cottage	Forfar	DD8 1QD
Cameskie Cottage	Forfar	DD8 1QD
Glendale	Forfar	DD8 1QD
Lilac Cottage	Forfar	DD8 1QD
Lismore Cottage	Forfar	DD8 1QD
Newhouse	Forfar	DD8 1QD
Rose Cottage	Forfar	DD8 1QD
Primrose Cottage	Forfar	DD8 1QD

Burnside Of Ballindarg Farm Cottage	Forfar	DD8 1QD
Redwell Farmhouse	Forfar	DD8 1QB
Redwell Farm	Forfar	DD8 1QB
Leys Of Cossans Farm	Forfar	DD8 1QX
Meiklecossans Farm	Forfar	DD8 1QX
New Cottage**	Forfar	DD8 1QX
The Shambles	Forfar	DD8 1QX
Slioch	Forfar	DD8 1QX
Dun**	Forfar	DD8 1QX
3 East Ingliston Cottages	Forfar	DD8 1TJ
Grieves Cottage	Forfar	DD8 1TJ
Tractormans Cottage,	Forfar	DD8 1TJ
1 The Cottages	Forfar	DD8 1TJ
The Lea	Forfar	DD8 1TJ
2 Mid Ingliston Farm Cottages	Forfar	DD8 1TJ
5 East Ingliston Cottages	Forfar	DD8 1TJ
East Ingliston Cottages 4	Forfar	DD8 1TJ
1 West Ingliston Cottages	Forfar	DD8 1TJ
2 West Ingliston Cottages	Forfar	DD8 1TJ
3 West Ingliston Cottages	Forfar	DD8 1TJ
1 Mid Ingliston Farm Cottages	Forfar	DD8 1TJ
The Bothy,	Forfar	DD8 1TJ
Farmhouse 2	Forfar	DD8 1TJ
2 The Cottages,	Forfar	DD8 1TJ
Farmhouse 1	Forfar	DD8 1TJ
1A East Ingliston Cottages	Forfar	DD8 1TJ
1B East Ingliston Cottages	Forfar	DD8 1TJ
West Ingliston Farm	Forfar	DD8 1TJ
The Cottage	Forfar	DD8 1TJ
East Ingliston Farmhouse	Forfar	DD8 1TJ
Jasmine Cottage	Forfar	DD8 1TJ
Haugh of Cossans House	Forfar	DD8 1QY



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

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

JULY 2024

Pre-application submitted to the Scottish Government.

OCTOBER 2024

First public exhibition to present project details to the community.

MARCH/APRIL 2025

Section 36 Application submitted to the Scottish Government (Section 36 is an application for large electricity projects).

AUGUST 2024

Initial community meetings held to introduce the proposed project and gather feedback. EIA Screening request submitted to the Energy Consents Unit.

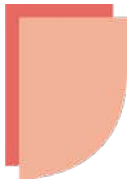
FEBRUARY 2025

Second public exhibition to present updated proposed plans – informed by feedback gathered at the first exhibition – and gather further community feedback.

MID-2025

Ongoing community engagement and consultation as the proposed project progresses towards a planning decision.

Appendix 5



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



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 (OctGen). 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

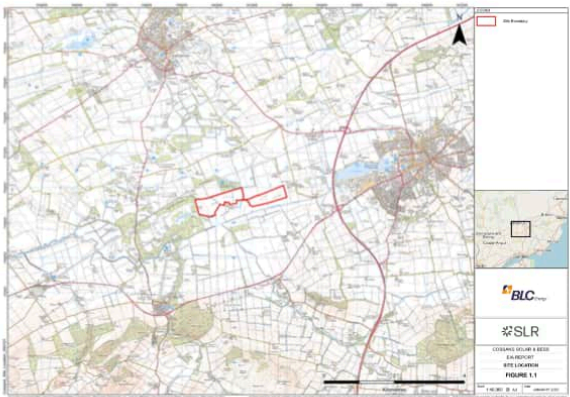
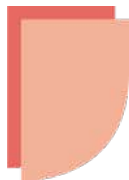


Figure 1: Project Location

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

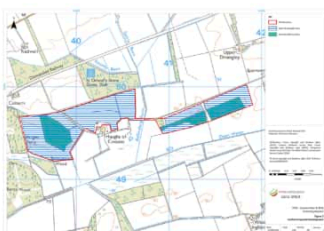


Figure 2: Initial Feasibility Layout

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

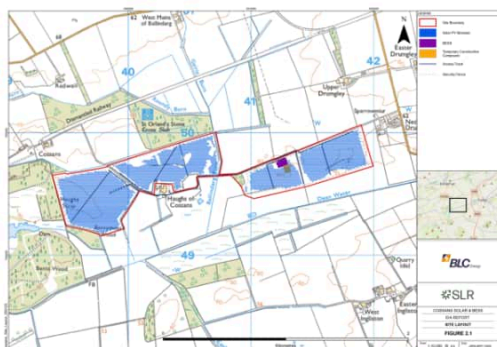


Figure 3: Proposed Application Layout

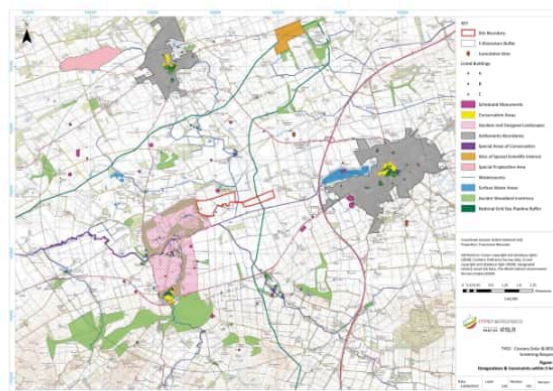
Since October 2024, environmental surveys have been completed and the results considered through an iterative design process. The site boundary was also increased to compensate for a portion of land that was lost due to flooding issues along the northern border.

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 other 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



Landscape and Visual site visit
September 2024 - October 2024



Archaeology and Cultural Heritage site visit
October 2024



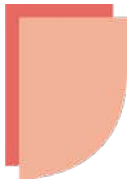
Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage site survey
September 2024

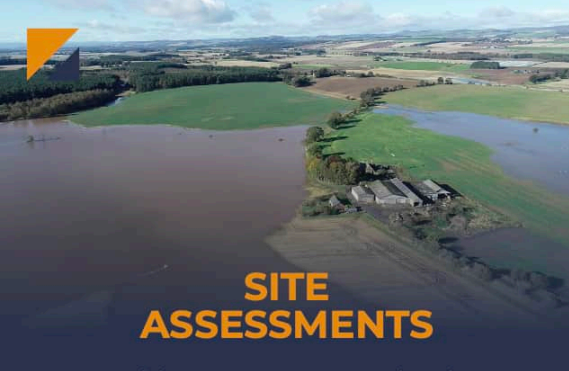


Transport, Traffic and Access visit
September 2024



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 Clamis 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 (EclA) 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 EclA 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 Clamis 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

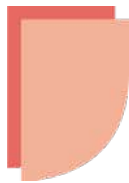





Feedback

Please take the time to complete the feedback form





Appendix 6



COSSANS SOLAR | COMMUNITY CONSULTATION | FEEDBACK

Did this exhibition provide sufficient information on the development? (Y/N):		
How informed do you feel about the following aspects of the development: 1 = Very informed 2 = Well informed 3 = Somewhat informed 4 = Minimally informed 5 = Not informed at all	Development specifications	
	Community Benefit Fund	
	Environmental considerations	
	Development timeline	
Do you have any feedback on the proposed development?		
Do you understand the changes that have been made to the proposal since the first public exhibition? (Y/N): If no, please share why:		
Do you have any suggestions for the Community Benefit Fund?		
Would you like to be kept up to date with this project (Y/N):		
Email address:		
Name:		

You can email your responses to: info@blcenergy.com
Or fill out the form online: <https://forms.gle/fEkBFVvatBU1R3um8>
Responses will only be accepted for consideration until 07 March 2025.

