



Chapter 9: Noise

Cossans Solar & BESS EIA Report

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AC	Angus Council
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
BPM	Best Practicable Means
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
dB	Decibel
DTM	Digital terrain mapping
LDP	Local Development Plan
NMP	Noise Monitoring Position
NPF4	National Planning Framework 4
NSR	Noise Sensitive Receptor
SLM	Sound level meters
TAN	Technical Advice Note



9. Noise

9.1 Executive Summary

- 9.1.1 This chapter considers potential noise impacts from the Proposed Development on nearby noise sensitive receptors (NSRs). Noise impacts were assessed against the criteria outlined in BS4142 and Local Authority guidance.
- 9.1.2 A baseline noise survey was conducted at four noise monitoring positions (NMPs) and determined that the baseline noise environment is generally quiet, with limited influence from anthropogenic noise sources.
- 9.1.3 Operational noise from the Proposed Development has been predicted in noise modelling software CadnaA and we have found that the worst-case operational noise level at NSRs is below the representative background daytime background and therefore noise impacts are not significant, and no additional mitigation is required.
- 9.1.4 Operational noise from the Proposed Development is less than 5 dB above the representative night-time background level and therefore noise impacts are not significant, and no additional mitigation is required.
- 9.1.5 As no additional mitigation is required, residual effects remain unchanged and are not significant.



9.2 Introduction

- 9.2.1 This chapter considers the potential effects of the Proposed Development on receptors sensitive to noise during the operational phase. Vibration associated with the Proposed Development will be negligible at sensitive receptors, given that the construction of solar and battery energy storage system (BESS) developments does not require the use of heavy plant and there are no significant sources of vibration during the operational phase, therefore assessment of vibration has been scoped out.
- 9.2.2 The scope of this assessment has comprised:
- Consultation with Angus Council (AC) Environmental Health Department to agree appropriate scope for the assessment;
 - Baseline survey to characterise existing noise levels;
 - Prediction of operational noise levels in modelling software CadnaA;
 - Evaluation of predicted noise levels during operation of the Proposed Development against the adopted criteria; and
 - Specification of appropriate mitigation (if required).
- 9.2.3 Noise emissions from the operational phase of the Proposed Development will predominantly arise from the BESS element. The Solar array will utilise inline inverters, rather than centralised large inverters; inline inverters produce very little to no noise.
- 9.2.4 This chapter is supported by the following Figures and Appendices:
- **Figure 9.1: Site Location, Noise Monitoring Positions and Noise Sensitive Receptors;**
 - **Technical Appendix 9.1: Baseline data and analysis; and**
 - **Technical Appendix 9.2: Third Octave Predicted Noise Levels.**

9.3 Legislation, Policy and Guidance

- 9.3.1 Relevant legislation and guidance documents have been reviewed and taken into account as part of this assessment. Documents of particular relevance are summarised below.
- 9.3.2 In lieu of any specific legislation, assessing the effect of operation of such a development must draw on information from a variety of sources. This assessment makes reference to a number of British Standards, official planning policy and advice notes and national guidance.
- 9.3.3 For a development of this nature, there is no specific all-encompassing legislation relating to the standards associated with noise emission/effects. Noise legislation, where it does exist, tends to be either EU-derived and focussed on specific items of noise-emitting plant or on more general nuisance, such as that addressed by the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (UK Government, 1990).



Legislation

Environmental Protection Act 1990

- 9.3.4 Section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 defines statutory nuisance with regard to noise and determines that local planning authorities have a duty to detect such nuisances in their area and, where a complaint of statutory nuisance is made to it by a person living within its area, to take such steps as are reasonably practicable to investigate the complaint.
- 9.3.5 The Act also defines the concept of “Best Practicable Means” (BPM):
- practicable’ means reasonably practicable having regard among other things to local conditions and circumstances, to the current state of technical knowledge and to the financial implications;
 - The means to be employed include the design, installation, maintenance and manner and periods of operation of plant and machinery, and the design, construction and maintenance of buildings and structures;
 - The test is to apply only so far as compatible with any duty imposed by law; and
 - The test is to apply only so far as compatible with safety and safe working conditions, and with the exigencies of any emergency or unforeseeable circumstances.
- 9.3.6 Section 80 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 provides local planning authorities with powers to serve an abatement notice requiring the abatement of a nuisance or requiring works to be executed to prevent their occurrence. It is a potential defence against failure to comply with an abatement notice where BPM were used to prevent or counteract the effects of the nuisance.

Planning Policy

- 9.3.7 The Planning Statement associated with this Section 36 application sets out the planning policy framework that is relevant to the EIA. This section considers the relevant aspects of National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), Planning Advice Notes, the Angus Council Local Development Plan (LDP) and other relevant guidance. Of relevance to the assessment presented within this chapter, regard has been had to the following policies:

NPF4:

- 9.3.8 NPF4 - Policy 11:

“a) Development proposals for all forms of renewable, low-carbon and zero emissions technologies will be supported. These include:

iii. energy storage, such as battery storage and pumped storage hydro;;

...

v. solar arrays;

...



e) In addition, project design and mitigation will demonstrate how the following impacts are addressed:

i. impacts on communities and individual dwellings, including, residential amenity, visual impact, noise and shadow flicker;”

9.3.9 NPF4 – Policy 23:

“Development proposals that are likely to raise unacceptable noise issues will not be supported. The agent of change principle applies to noise sensitive development. A Noise Impact Assessment may be required where the nature of the proposal or its location suggests that significant effects are likely.”

Angus Local Development Plan 2016, Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development Supplementary Guidance, June 2017

9.3.10 Policy PV9 of the Supplementary Guidance states:

“Policy PV9: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development Proposals for renewable and low carbon energy development will be supported in principle where they meet the following criteria:

- the location, siting and appearance of apparatus, and any associated works and infrastructure have been chosen and/or designed to minimise impact on amenity, landscape and environment, while respecting operational efficiency;*

...

- there will be no unacceptable adverse impact individually or cumulatively with other existing or proposed development on:*

...

groundwater; surface water resources; or the amenity of communities or individual dwellings including visual impact, noise, shadow flicker. “

Guidance

Planning advice note PAN1/2011: Planning and noise

9.3.11 PAN1/2011 (Scottish Government, 2011), sets out a series of noise issues for planning authorities to consider when making decisions on planning applications. A Technical Advice Note (TAN) on Assessment of Noise (Scottish Government, 2011) has been published to accompany PAN 1/2011. In Appendix 1 of the TAN are codes of practice for the assessment of various sources of noise. BS4142 is identified as appropriate guidance for the evaluation of industrial and commercial noise sources.

9.3.12 The TAN recommends that the daytime period includes the hours 07:00 – 23:00 and the night-time period 23:00 – 07:00.

9.3.13 The TAN suggests that equivalent continuous noise level over a time period, $L_{Aeq,T}$, is a good general purpose index for environmental noise; this index is commonly referred to as the “ambient” noise level. It further notes that road traffic



noise is commonly evaluated using the $L_{A10,18hr}$ level, and the $L_{A90,T}$ index is used to describe the “background” noise level.

BS4142:2014+A1:2019 Methods for Rating and Assessing Industrial and Commercial Sound

- 9.3.14 BS4142:2019 describes methods for rating and assessing sound from industrial or commercial premises. The methods detailed in the standard use outdoor sound levels to assess the likely effects on people inside or outside a residential dwelling upon which sound is incident.
- 9.3.15 The standard provides methods for determining the following:
- Rating levels for sources of industrial and commercial sound;
 - Ambient, background and residual sound levels; and
 - The audibility of tones in sound: 1/3 octave method.
- 9.3.16 These may be used for assessing sound from proposed, new, modified or additional sources of sound of a commercial or industrial nature or to assess the suitability of introducing a receptor near an existing commercial or industrial site.
- 9.3.17 The standard makes use of the following terms:
- Ambient sound level, $L_a = L_{Aeq,T}$ – the equivalent continuous sound pressure level of the totally encompassing sound in a given situation at a given time, usually from multiple sources, at the assessment location over a given time interval, T.
 - Background sound level, $L_{A90,T}$ – the A-weighted sound pressure level that is exceeded by the residual sound at the assessment location for 90 percent of a given time interval, T, measured using time weighting F and quoted to the nearest whole number of decibels.
 - Specific sound level, $L_s = L_{Aeq,Tr}$ – the equivalent continuous sound pressure level produced by the specific sound source at the assessment location over a given reference time interval, T.
 - Rating level, $L_{Ar,Tr}$ – the specific sound level plus any adjustment for the characteristic features of the sound.
 - Residual sound level, $L_r = L_{Aeq,T}$ – the equivalent continuous sound pressure level at the assessment location when the specific sound source is suppressed to such a degree that it does not contribute to the ambient sound, over a given reference time interval, T.
- 9.3.18 The standard determines the degree of noise impact by comparison of the background noise level at noise sensitive receptors (NSRs) in the absence of the industrial or commercial facility (the specific source) with the ambient sound level when the specific source is operational.
- 9.3.19 Where particular characteristics such as tones, intermittency or impulsivity are present in the noise emissions of the specific source and perceptible at the receptor,



the standard requires that “penalties” be added to the specific sound level to account for the increased annoyance that these can cause.

9.3.20 The following evaluation impact significance identifiers are provided in the standard, in which the difference between the specific sound level and measured background level are considered:

- The greater the difference, the greater the magnitude of impact;
- A difference of around +10 dB or more is likely to be an indication of a significant adverse impact;
- A difference of around + 5 dB is likely to be an indication of a low adverse impact;
- The lower the rating level, relative to the measured background level, the less likely that the specific sound source will have an adverse (or significant adverse) impact; and
- Where the rating level does not exceed the background sound level, this is an indication of the specific sound source having a low impact.

9.3.21 The standard also makes the following comments:

“Where the initial estimate of the impact needs to be modified due to the context, take all pertinent factors into consideration, including the following:

1. The absolute level of sound. For a given difference between the rating level and the background sound level, the magnitude of the overall impact might be greater for an acoustic environment where the residual sound level is high than for an acoustic environment where the residual sound level is low.

Where background sound levels and rating levels are low, absolute levels might be as, or more, relevant than the margin by which the rating level exceeds the background. This is especially true at night.

Where residual sound levels are very high, the residual sound might itself result in adverse impacts or significant adverse impacts, and the margin by which the rating level exceeds the background might simply be an indication of the extent to which the specific sound source is likely to make those impacts worse.

2. The character and level of the residual sound compared to the character and level of the specific sound. Consider whether it would be beneficial to compare the frequency spectrum and temporal variation of the specific sound with that of the ambient or residual sound to assess the degree to which the specific sound source is likely to be distinguishable and will represent an incongruous sound by comparison to the acoustic environment that would occur in the absence of the specific sound. Any sound parameters, sampling periods and averaging time periods used to undertake character comparisons should reflect the way in which sound of an industrial and/ or commercial nature is likely to be perceived and how people react to it.

3. The sensitivity of the receptor and whether dwellings or other premises used for residential purposes will already incorporate design measures that secure good internal and/or outdoor acoustic conditions, such as:

- *facade insulation treatment;*



- *ventilation and/or cooling that will reduce the need to have windows open so as to provide rapid or purge ventilation; and*
- *acoustic screening.”*

- 9.3.22 Whilst the latest revision of BS 4142 does not provide definition of low or very low background and rating levels the previous (1997) version considered that background levels of 30 dBA and rating levels of 35 dBA could be considered low.
- 9.3.23 Numerous studies by Moorhouse, Berry, Flindell, etc for the Health Protection Agency and for Defra (referenced within the Further Reading Section of BS 4142) and supported by the recent Association of Noise Consultants Working Group report on BS4142 application conclude that impacts at rating levels below 35 dB are unlikely.
- 9.3.24 At night, particularly, where potential sleep disturbance is the key issue, a rating level of below 35 dB results in internal levels significantly below the BS 8233 guideline values.

ISO 9613; Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors, Part 1 and Part 2

- 9.3.25 ISO 9613 1&2 describe a method for calculating the attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors in order to predict the levels of environmental noise at a distance from a variety of sources. The method predicts the equivalent continuous A-weighted sound pressure level under meteorological conditions.

9.4 Consultation

- 9.4.1 **Table 9.1** provides details of consultations undertaken with relevant regulatory bodies, together with action undertaken by the Applicant in response to consultation comments.

Table 9.1: Consultation Relevant to Noise and Vibration

Consultee	Key Consultee Comments	Application Action
Angus Council Environmental Health Department (AC EH) (10 th & 13 th December 2024)	“With regards to internal levels at noise sensitive locations we ask for these to be assessed against NR20 at night (2300-0700) and NR30 daytime with windows open allowing for a reduction of 12.5dB(A) from free-field levels.”	Noise Rating (NR) internal noise levels are assessed within Section 9.7 of this report.
	AC has accepted the proposed approach within this assessment of, where measured background noise levels are low, to adopt 35 dB L _{A,T,r} criterion	BS 4142 rating levels are assessed within Section 9.7 of this report.



Consultee	Key Consultee Comments	Application Action
	AC has accepted the proposed approach within this assessment, including scoping out detailed prediction and evaluation of construction noise and scoping out vibration	Vibration and construction noise has been scoped out of this assessment

9.5 Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria

Study Area

- 9.5.1 The Study Area considered in this assessment encompasses the land within the Proposed Development boundary and the nearest residential noise sensitive receptors (NSRs) which may be impacted upon by noise emissions from the site.
- 9.5.2 Noise levels due to the Proposed Development at more distant NSRs will be lesser than at the closest NSRs, therefore compliance with criteria at the closest NSRs will incorporate compliance at those more distant.

Receptors Requiring Assessment

- 9.5.3 The nearest residential noise sensitive receptors (NSRs) to the Proposed Development have been identified and are described in **Table 9.2** and are shown in **Figure 9.1**.

Table 9.2: NSRs considered in this assessment

NSR ID	Description	X	Y
NSR1	Haughs of Cossans	340327	749566
NSR2	Properties at East Drumgley	342029	749991
NSR3	Properties at Cossans	339380	749892

Desk Study

Prediction of Operational Noise Levels

- 9.5.4 Noise levels due to the Proposed Development have been predicted at identified representative NSRs within noise modelling software CadnaA, using the propagation method set out in ISO9613. The model assumes soft ground conditions, with absorption set to G=1.0. The model considers screening provided by local topography in the form of 50 m resolution digital terrain mapping (DTM) data. A typical air temperature of 10°C and relative humidity of 70% have been assumed within the model.
- 9.5.5 Although the exact equipment specification and technology provider is unknown at this time, the Applicant has confirmed that the CATL EnerC+ battery unit and PE



GEN3 Inverter are appropriate for use as indicative items of plant for this assessment.

- Inverters, 12 no. – Power Electronics HEMK/PCSK GEN3 INVERTER, Sound Optimised, total modelled Sound Power Level 83.6 dB(A) per unit
- Batteries, 48 no. – CATL Ener C+, total modelled Sound Power Level 80.3 dB(A) per unit
- Transformers, 6 no. – total modelled Sound Power Level 79.7 dB(A) per unit

9.5.6 The batteries and inverters have been modelled as 3D objects, with their noise emissions coming from area sources and vertical area sources which represent the tops and sides of the units. Transformers have been modelled as point sources.

9.5.7 For the source data of the transformers, spectral data for a transformer has been applied, obtained during noise monitoring of an operational BESS site. Noise test reports for the batteries and inverters have been supplied by the manufacturer, and verification modelling undertaken in which the test scenario for each item of equipment has been recreated in CadnaA.

9.5.8 In the verification modelling, receivers have been placed at the same locations as the reported microphone positions. The reported 1/3 octave-band sound power levels of the equipment have been entered as source data, and where necessary the sound power levels of the individual area sources/vertical area sources have been adjusted equally in each frequency band so that the predicted sound pressure levels at the receivers match as closely as possible to the reported sound pressure levels during the tests.

9.5.9 NSRs have been modelled as a receiver at a height of 4 m above local ground level, placed on the closest approach to the Proposed Development.

9.5.10 The sound power levels for the BESS equipment are shown in **Table 9.3** as octave-band data. The octave band spectra have been normalised within the model to the A-weighted sound power level, following the verification exercise.

Table 9.3: Sound Power Levels

Item	Octave Band Sound Power Level (centre frequency in Hz), dB								Normalised Sound Power Level, dB(A)
	63	125	250	500	1k	2k	4k	8k	
CATL EnerC+	75.3	78.6	79.7	77.8	76.5	71.7	67.2	67	80.3
PE Gen3 Inverter	80.5	91.5	78.5	71	70.1	68.7	69.3	68.4	83.6
Transformer	31.3	44.3	31.8	34.3	28.6	21	12.9	1.3	79.7

9.5.11 The actual model of battery and inverter plant installed will depend on the outcome of a tendering process. This assessment therefore considers representative candidate plant, noting that the installed plant may be different. Battery and inverter technology is currently developing at a rapid pace and noise is often a primary



constraint in the UK market. Technology providers are therefore delivering units with increasingly improved noise performance. It is therefore reasonable to assume that by the time the Proposed Development is ready to build, following planning consent and becoming operational, quieter plant than the candidate considered in this assessment will be available.

Rating Levels

- 9.5.12 BS4142 requires consideration of potential character corrections that may be applied to noise from the BESS. When determining whether any character corrections should apply to the Specific Level for deriving the Rating Level, in accordance with BS4142, this assessment notes the following:
- The 1/3 octave spectral data at each receptor has been tested for potential tonal components in accordance with the third octave method referenced in BS4142 and found to be non-tonal (refer to **Technical Appendix 9.2**);
 - Operation of the BESS will not result in impulsive characteristics;
 - The operational profile of the BESS was considered; the site will produce noise only whilst the batteries are charging or discharging and will be effectively silent at other times. Charging and discharging occurs for periods of >1 hour at a time, i.e. reasonably prolonged, and greater than the BS4142 reference periods for daytime and night-time.
 - It is therefore considered that noise from the site will not have intermittent characteristics; and,
 - On the basis of the above, no corrections have been applied and the Rating Level is therefore equal to the predicted Specific Level.

Baseline Noise Survey

- 9.5.13 SLR Consulting (then ITP Energised, part of SLR) undertook a baseline survey between Thursday 31st October 2024 and Wednesday 6th November 2024, encompassing a weekday and weekend period. Monitoring was undertaken in accordance with BS4142 and BS 7445, using Rion NL-52 Class I integrating sound level meters (SLM). Conditions were cold, calm and dry at the time of the survey, with the surrounding road network also dry. The SLMs were within their laboratory calibration period, and a calibration check was performed before and after each measurement, with no drift in calibration noted.
- 9.5.14 Monitoring was undertaken at four noise monitoring positions (NMPs) to characterise the noise environments at the NSRs.
- NMP1, at the eastern boundary of the site, closest point to East Drumgley, representative of NSR1;
 - NMP2, at the northwestern boundary of the site, closest point to receptors at Cossans, representative of NSR2 and NSR3;
 - NMP3, spot measurement adjacent to Haughs of Cossans; and
 - NMP4, spot measurement adjacent to East Drumgley.



- 9.5.15 Unattended long-term measurements were undertaken for a period of approximately six days at NMP1 and NMP2 and attended measurements of 30 minutes were undertaken at NMP3 and NMP4.
- 9.5.16 Weather observations were used to filter data collected during periods of inclement weather over the monitoring period. Details are contained within **Technical Appendix 9.1**.
- 9.5.17 The long term NMPs were located at the closest points of the site to the NSRs in East Drumgley and Cossans and were positioned to provide security for the monitoring equipment. Observations by the surveyor, and spot measurements closer to the receptors, confirmed that the NMPs were suitably representative of the noise environment at the NSRs.
- 9.5.18 The monitoring positions are shown in **Figure 9.1**.
- 9.5.19 **Table 9.4** presents the results of the baseline survey.

Table 9.4: Measured sound levels

NMP	Period	L _{Aeq,T} dB	L _{Amax,T} dB	L _{A10,T} dB	L _{A90,T} dB
Daytime					
NMP1	1st November 07:00 - 12:00	43.3	69.0	42.1	35.5
	3rd November 07:00 - 23:00	38.2	69.0	35.9	29.3
	4th November 07:00 - 23:00	41.5	76.5	40.1	35.3
	5th November 07:00 - 23:00	39.5	84.9	36.4	30.2
	6th November 07:00 - 12:20	41.5	74.2	40.9	35.3
NMP2	1st November 07:00 - 12:00	37.4	64.1	37.6	31.7
	3rd November 07:00 - 23:00	34.4	61.6	33.6	28.6
	4th November 07:00 - 23:00	35.0	67.2	32.9	27.8
	5th November 07:00 - 23:00	37.4	75.3	32.8	27.0
	6th November 07:00 - 14:20	36.1	68.3	37.0	32.5
NMP3	6 th November 12:53 – 13:28	35.6	60.3	37.4	32.2
NMP4	6 th November 13:38 – 14:13	52.3	74.5	43.2	32.3
Night					
NMP1	1st November 00:00 - 07:00	43.0	69.9	42.4	33.8
	3rd November 00:00 - 07:00	29.4	56.9	29.1	24.0
	3rd/4th November 23:00 - 07:00	32.5	53.4	30.1	23.7
	4th/5th November 23:00 - 07:00	33.0	51.5	33.3	26.6
	5th/6th November 23:00 - 07:00	44.0	85.8	28.5	22.2
NMP2	1st November 00:00 - 07:00	33.8	63.9	32.8	29.3
	3rd November 00:00 - 07:00	27.2	60.4	26.7	23.3
	3rd/4th November 23:00 - 07:00	26.1	52.4	25.1	21.0



NMP	Period	$L_{Aeq,T}$ dB	$L_{Amax,T}$ dB	$L_{A10,T}$ dB	$L_{A90,T}$ dB
	4th/5th November 23:00 - 07:00	25.2	51.5	25.5	21.7
	5th/6th November 23:00 - 07:00	28.9	66.8	26.4	21.5

9.5.20 Statistical analysis examining the cumulative distribution of the measured background sound levels, L_{A90} , has been undertaken in order to derive a representative background sound level (refer to **Technical Appendix 9.1**) at each NSR.

Table 9.5: Representative background sound level

NMP/NSR	Daytime, $L_{A90,T}$, dB	Nighttime, $L_{A90,T}$, dB
NMP1 / NSR2	30	23
NMP2 / NSR1 & NSR3	28	20

Assessment of Likely Significance

9.5.21 Noise impacts have been determined with reference to BS4142 and to AC guidance. The specific noise level resulting from the operation of the Proposed Development has been predicted at identified representative NSRs. In accordance with the requirements of BS4142, the derived levels have been rounded to the nearest integer.

9.5.22 The guidance contained within Technical Advice Note to PAN 1/2011 has been used to adopt an appropriate set of significance criteria. The receptor sensitivity criteria considered in this assessment are presented in **Table 9.6**.

Table 9.6: NSR Sensitivity

Receptor Sensitivity	Description	Examples
High	Receptors where people or operations are particularly susceptible to noise.	Residential, quiet outdoor recreational areas, schools and hospitals.
Medium	Receptors moderately sensitive to noise, where it may cause some distraction or disturbance.	Offices and restaurants.
Low	Receptors where distraction or disturbance from noise is minimal.	Buildings not occupied, factories and working environments with existing levels of noise.

9.5.23 This assessment considers all identified NSRs to be of high sensitivity, given that they are residential dwellings.

9.5.24 The significance of operational noise from the Proposed Development has been determined based on the guidance contained within BS4142, i.e. by consideration



of the difference between the rating level and the prevailing background sound levels, with respect to context and the resulting sound levels in absolute terms.

- 9.5.25 The impact magnitudes associated with operational noise from the Proposed Development are presented in **Table 9.7**.

Table 9.7: Noise Impact Magnitude

Difference, d, Between Rating Level ($L_{Ar,Tr}$) and Background Sound Level (L_{A90})	BS4142 Guidance	Adopted Impact Magnitude
$d > +10$	Indication of significant adverse impact	High
$d > +5, \leq 10$	Indication of adverse impact	Medium
$d \leq +5, > 0$	Indication of no adverse Impact	Low
$d \leq 0$	Indication of low impact	Negligible
Where the rating level ($L_{Ar,Tr}$) is below 35dB the impact magnitude is classified as 'Low' or lesser, regardless of the relationship to the background noise level.		
Where predicted internal levels at NSRs are below NR20 at night (2300-0700) and NR30 daytime with windows open allowing for a reduction of 12.5dB(A) from free-field levels, impact magnitude is classified as low.		

- 9.5.26 The effect significance for operational noise has been determined by consideration of both the receptor sensitivity and the impact magnitude according to the matrix detailed in **Table 9.8**.

Table 9.8: Effect Significance Matrix

Impact Magnitude	Receptor Sensitivity		
	High	Medium	Low
High	Major	Moderate	Minor
Medium	Moderate	Minor	Negligible
Low	Minor	Negligible	Negligible
Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

- 9.5.27 Effects with a significance of moderate and major are considered **significant**. Effects with a significance of negligible and minor are considered **not significant**.

Requirements for Mitigation

- 9.5.28 Mitigation will be specified where significant adverse effects are identified.



Assessment of Residual Effect Significance

- 9.5.29 Where mitigation is proposed, residual effect significance has also been determined with reference to the adopted noise criteria following specification of appropriate mitigation.

Assessment of Cumulative Effects

- 9.5.30 No schemes with the potential for cumulative noise effects have been identified within 5 km of the Proposed Development.

Limitations to Assessment

- 9.5.31 The assessment of operational noise impacts associated with the Proposed Development has been undertaken adopting representative source noise levels for batteries, inverters and transformers. The actual plant installed will be subject to the outcome of the tendering process, however, the equipment chosen will be selected to ensure compliance with the adopted noise criteria outlined in this assessment.

9.6 Scope of the Assessment

Receptors Requiring Assessment

- 9.6.1 The nearest residential noise sensitive receptors (NSRs) to the Proposed Development have been identified and are described in **Table 9.9** and are shown in **Figure 9.1**.

Table 9.9: NSRs considered in this assessment

NSR ID	Description	X	Y
NSR1	Haughs of Cossans	340327	749566
NSR2	Properties at East Drumgley	342029	749991
NSR3	Properties at Cossans	339380	749892

Impacts Scoped Out of Assessment

- 9.6.2 With reference to the consultation with AC Environmental Health outlined in **Section 9.4**, it is considered that construction noise impacts may be minimised by appropriate controls on working hours, specification of appropriate plant and methods and implementation of best practices and have therefore scoped out the prediction and evaluation of construction noise.
- 9.6.3 No significant sources of vibration are expected, and this has therefore been scoped out of further consideration during the construction and operational phases.

Environmental Measures Embedded into the Development Proposals

- 9.6.4 The Applicant is committed to meeting appropriate noise limits, during the construction and decommissioning phase and the operational phase.



- 9.6.5 Appropriate noise limits for construction noise have been derived from measured baseline data, in accordance with methods provided in BS5228 as follows:
- Daytime (07:00 – 19:00) and Saturdays (07:00 – 13:00) – 65 dB $L_{Aeq,T}$;
 - Evenings and weekends (19.00–23.00 weekdays, 13.00–23.00 Saturdays and 07.00 – 23.00 Sundays) – 55 dB $L_{Aeq,T}$; and
 - Night-time (23:00 – 07:00) – 45 dB $L_{Aeq,T}$.
- 9.6.6 The limits detailed above will inform the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). Construction and environmental management plans are introduced in **Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description** with an outline CEMP provided in **Technical Appendix 3.1: Outline CEMP**.
- 9.6.7 Inverters for the solar array will be in-line inverters, rather than large, centralised inverters. In-line inverters produce little to no noise emissions.

9.7 Assessment of Potential Effects

Construction Effects

- 9.7.1 As noted above, noise impacts during the construction phase will be limited by the implementation of a CEMP. Compliance with the noise limits will result in construction phase noise effects being **not significant**.

Operational Effects

- 9.7.2 The predicted operational noise levels are provided and evaluated against BS4142 criteria in **Table 10.8**.

Table 9.10: Evaluation of Operational Noise Levels

NSR ID	Predicted Specific Noise Level, dB L _{Aeq,T}	Character correction, rationale	Derived rating level, dB _{L_{Ar,Tr}}	Limiting rating noise level, dB _{L_{Ar,Tr}} , (background +5 dB)	Comparison with criterion, (predicted level minus limiting level), dB(A)
Daytime period (1hr)					
NSR1	23	0, no tonality, intermittency or impulsivity	23	33	-10
NSR2	23		23	35	-12
NSR3	15		15	33	-18
Night-time period (15 mins)					
NSR1	23	0, no tonality, intermittency or impulsivity	23	25	-2
NSR2	23		23	28	-5
NSR3	15		15	25	-10

- 9.7.3 Predicted rating levels are substantially below the BS 4142 criteria of background +5 dB at all receptors and the initial assessment of impacts, with reference to **Table 9.7**, indicates a low impact.



- 9.7.4 Predicted rating levels are also substantially below 35 dB and, with reference to **Table 9.7**, this also indicates a low impact.
- 9.7.5 Predicted operational noise levels are considered in the context of a NR20 target maximum noise level for bedrooms during the night time period, considered to be a level approaching inaudibility, in **Table 9.11**.
- 9.7.6 Predictions are undertaken for receptor NSR1 only as the highest predicted octave band façade levels are at this receptor.
- 9.7.7 Façade corrections of +2 dB have been included within the predicted facade levels and an open window has been assumed (conservatively a 12.5 dB reduction in each octave band).

Table 9.11: Evaluation of predicted internal noise levels, NSR1

	Octave Band Level, dB						
	63 Hz	125 Hz	250 Hz	500 Hz	1000 Hz	2000 Hz	4000 Hz
Predicted Façade Level	37.3	31.9	20.1	20.3	22.1	15	-2.3
Open Window reduction (conservative)	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5
Predicted Internal Level	24.8	19.4	7.6	7.8	9.6	2.5	-14.8
NR 20 curve	51.0	39.0	31.0	24.0	20.0	17.0	14.0
Margin of Compliance	-26.2	-19.6	-23.4	-16.2	-10.4	-14.5	-28.8

- 9.7.8 The predicted level due to operation of the facility within bedrooms of NSR1 meets the target NR level at each octave band by a substantial margin.
- 9.7.9 As demonstrated in **Table 9.11**, the operation of the Proposed Development meets the fixed criteria for a night-time indoor noise limit of NR20. This assessment therefore considers that noise from the operation of the Proposed Development will have low impact.
- 9.7.10 This assessment therefore considers that noise impacts will be **not significant**.

Decommissioning Effects

- 9.7.11 As noted above, noise impacts during the decommissioning phase will be limited by the implementation of a CEMP. Compliance with the noise limits will result in decommissioning phase noise effects being **not significant**.

9.8 Mitigation

- 9.8.1 The assessment has demonstrated that the Proposed Development will meet the derived criteria, therefore no additional mitigation is proposed.



9.9 Assessment of Residual Effects

Construction

- 9.9.1 No requirement for specific additional mitigation has been determined for the construction phase, therefore no additional mitigation is proposed, and residual effects remain unchanged and are **not significant**.

Operation

- 9.9.2 No specific additional mitigation has been determined to be required for the operational phase; therefore no additional mitigation is proposed and residual effects remain unchanged and are **not significant**.

9.10 Assessment of Cumulative Effects

- 9.10.1 No potentially cumulative developments have been identified within the study area and therefore no cumulative effects are anticipated.

9.11 Summary

- 9.11.1 Information on noise and vibration within the noise and vibration study area was collected through desktop review, site surveys and consultation.
- 9.11.2 **Table 9.12** presents a summary of the potential impacts, mitigation measures and the conclusion of likely significant effects in EIA terms in respect to noise and vibration. Overall, it is concluded that there will be no likely significant residual effects arising from the Proposed Development during the construction, operational and maintenance or decommissioning phases.
- 9.11.3 Mitigation during construction will be secured within the CEMP. Mitigation measures for operational noise are not considered necessary.



Table 9.12: Summary Table

Description of Effect	Significance of Potential Effect		Mitigation Measures	Significance of Residual Effect	
	Significance	Beneficial / Adverse		Significance	Beneficial / Adverse
During Construction & Decommissioning					
Noise and Vibration at Sensitive Receptors	Minor	Adverse	Implementation of CEMP.	Negligible	Adverse
During Operation					
Noise at Sensitive Receptors	Negligible	Adverse	None	Negligible	Adverse
Cumulative Effects					
None					



9.12 References

- Angus Council. 2017. *Angus Local Development Plan, Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development Supplementary Guidance*. Angus Council.
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- ISO. 1993. "ISO 9613 Acoustics - Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors, Part 1: Calculation of the absorption of sound by the atmosphere, Part 2: General method of calculation."
- Scottish Government. 2024. *National Planning Framework 4*. Scottish Government.
- Scottish Government. 2011. *Planning Advice Note 1, PAN1/2011*. Scottish Government.

