

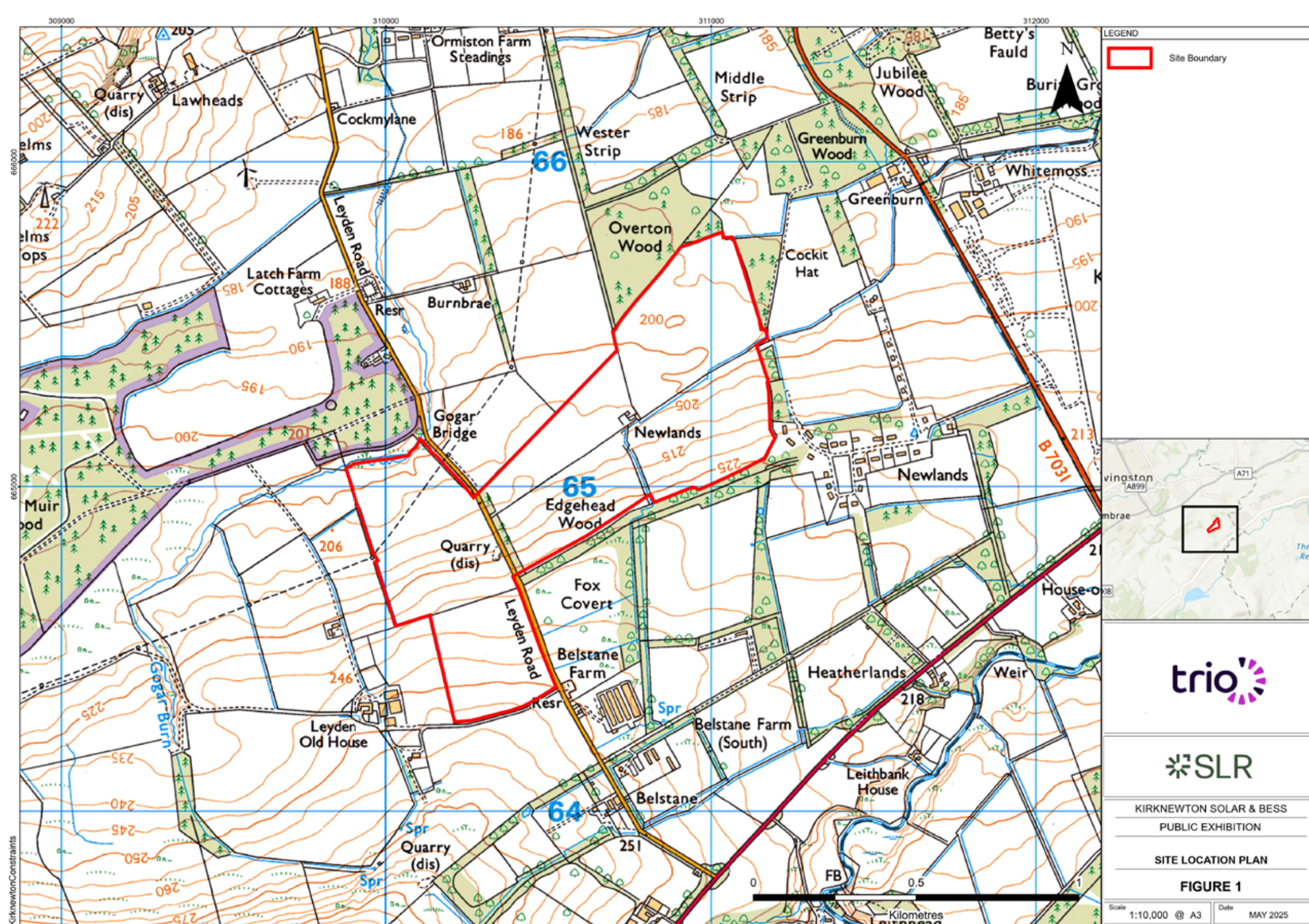
Welcome

Welcome to the second public exhibition for the proposed Kirknewton Solar Farm and Battery and Energy Storage System (BESS) development, located on land south of Kirknewton, at Leyland Road, East Calder, EH27 8DQ.

Your feedback

We have used the feedback from our first exhibition, held in June 2025, as well as other correspondence and conversations with local people, to inform and update our proposal. We have made changes to the layout, added information about the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), the community benefit scheme and more.

Thank you for all your comments so far, and we look forward to hearing further suggestions from you today.



SITE LOCATION

We believe this is an excellent site for a solar farm because



Good irradiance



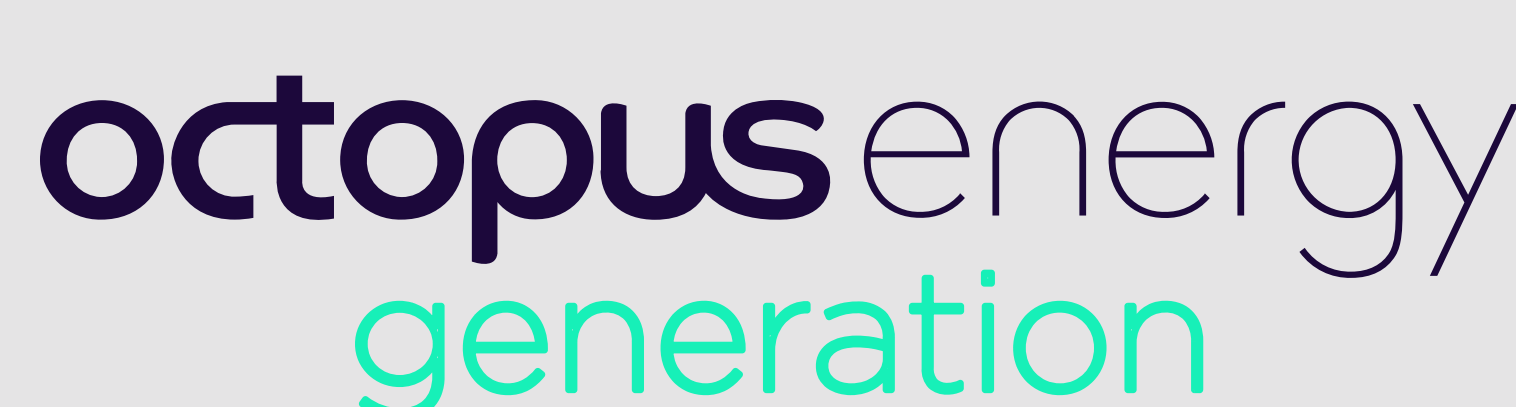
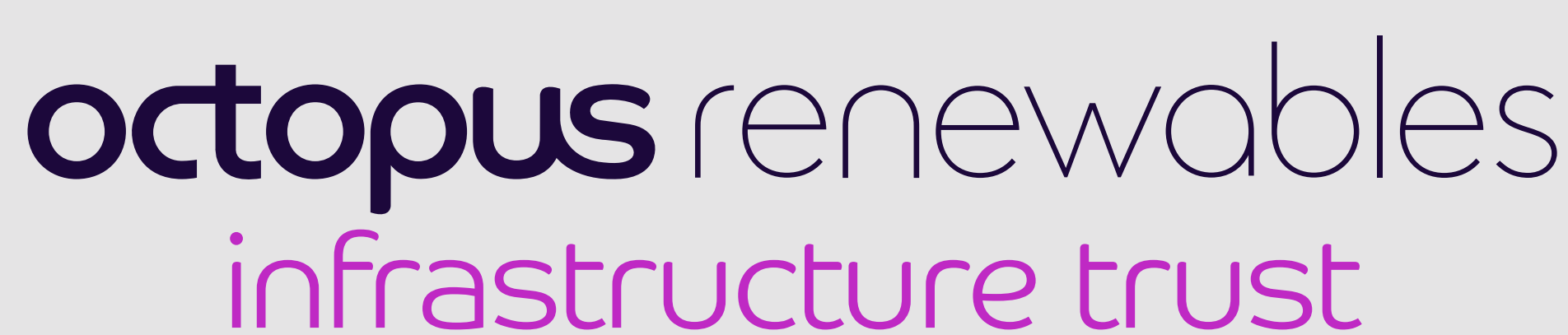
Viable National Grid connection



No obvious environmental or technical constraints

About us

Kirknewton Solar and BESS Farm is being developed by BLC Energy, a Perthshire-based renewable energy developer, on behalf of TRIO Power Limited. TRIO Power is owned and funded by the Octopus Renewable Infrastructure Trust (ORIT), a fund managed by Octopus Energy Generation (OEGEN) and part of the Octopus Energy Group. 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 3.25GW.



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



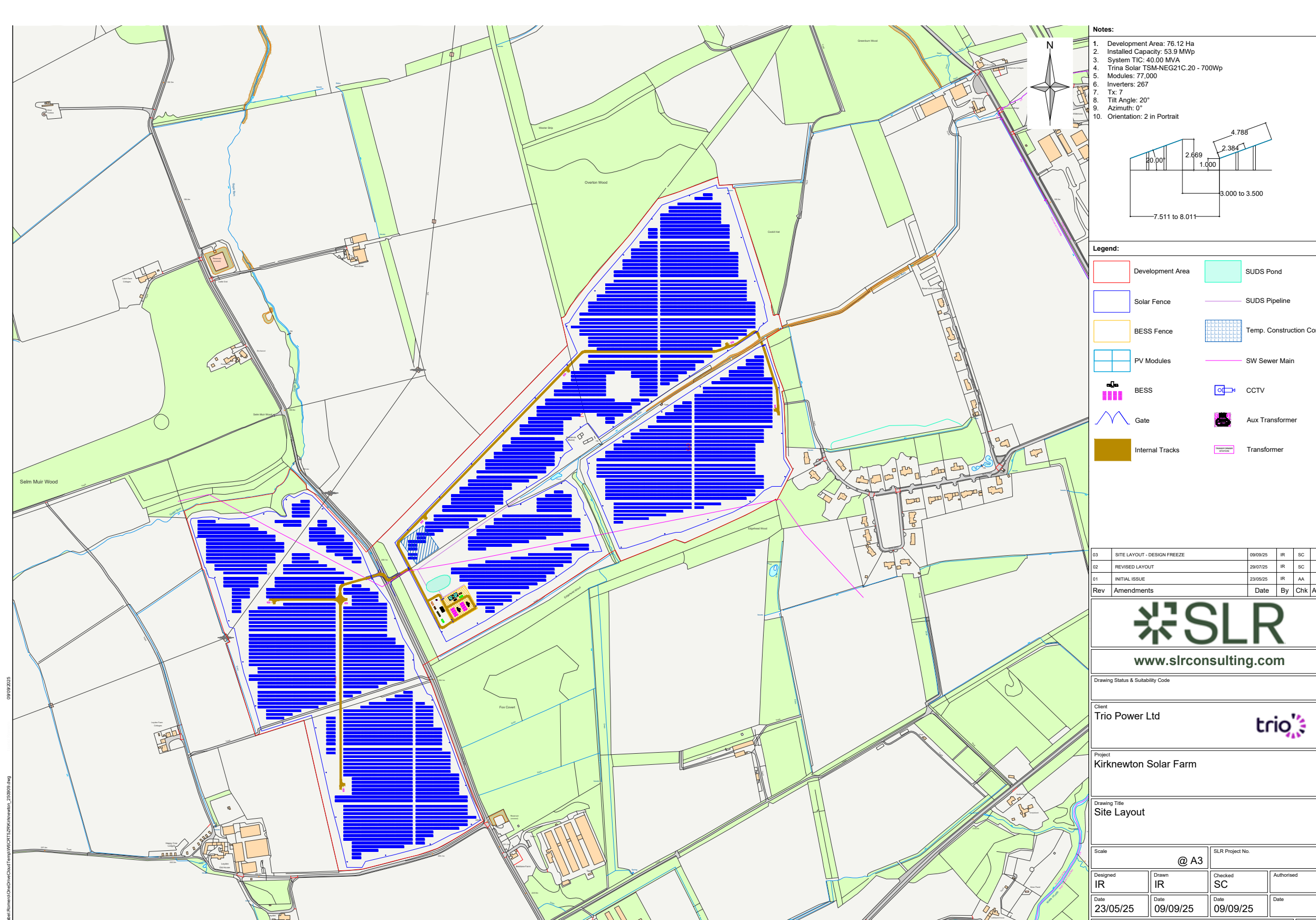
Updated layout

We have made changes to the proposed layout of Kirknewton Solar and BESS Farm based on the feedback received at the first public exhibition and the results of environmental surveys.

We have altered the layout so that the solar farm and BESS have a minimal impact on the local neighbourhood and environment, while ensuring the development remains viable.



PREVIOUS SITE LAYOUT

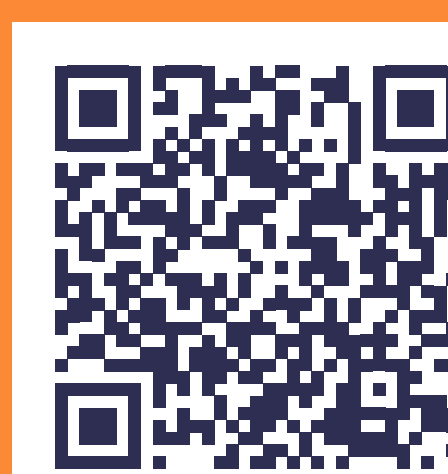


NEW SITE LAYOUT

We have...

- Moved the BESS further north, slightly downhill, to create a 50m buffer from the watercourse on the site's southern edge
- Increased the buffer between the solar panels and the houses at Newlands to allow space for additional planting to reduce views of the project from those houses.
- Included new hedgerows and tree planting to reduce views from the north and west.
- Included an easement of 10m along the water main that crosses the site to comply with Scottish Water guidance.
- Adjusted the fence line in the eastern land parcel to ensure that walking access around the field perimeters remains open.

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



Your feedback and questions from the first round of consultation

Using land for agriculture or renewable energy

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

Our response

The land capability for agriculture rating for this site is 3.2 and 4.2: it is not prime agricultural land.

Class 3.2 - Land capable of average production, though high yields of barley, oats and grass can be obtained. Grass leys are common.

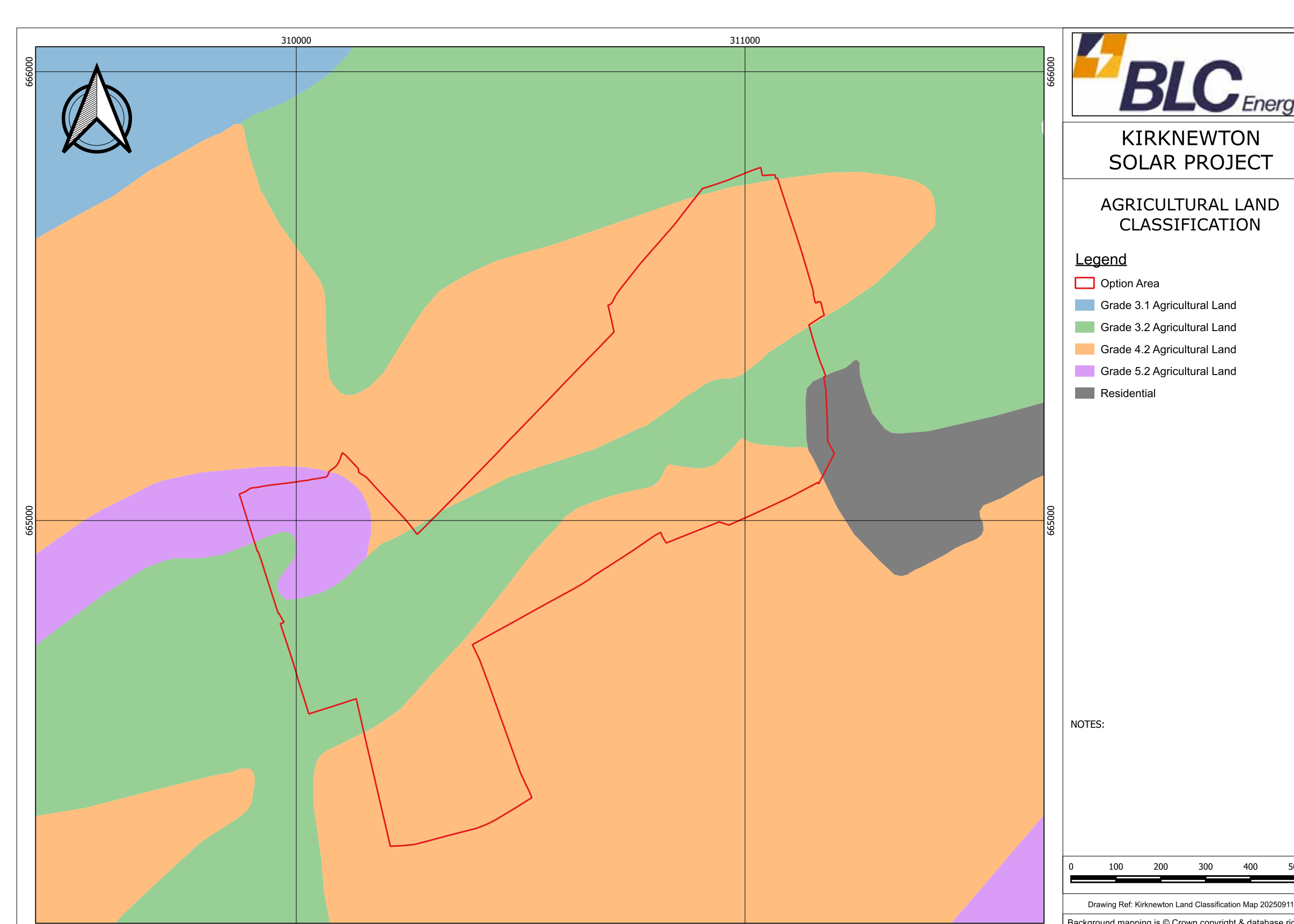


Class 4.2 - Land capable of producing a narrow range of crops, primarily on grassland with short arable breaks of forage crops.

This aligns with Scottish Government NPF4 guidance, which states that renewable energy projects should not be restricted due to agricultural land use classification.

If the solar farm is consented, the land will be used for sheep grazing, which is an ongoing agricultural use. Both farms currently have flocks of sheep.

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



LAND CLASSIFICATION

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

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

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



Your feedback and questions from the first round of consultation

Recreational access

People expressed concern that they might not be able to enjoy walking on this land once the solar farm is built.

Our response

All the common walking routes around the site will remain open. The solar farm will require some fencing, but it will be limited to around the solar panels and BESS. Grass strips of land will be left between the fence and field margins, which people can walk on.

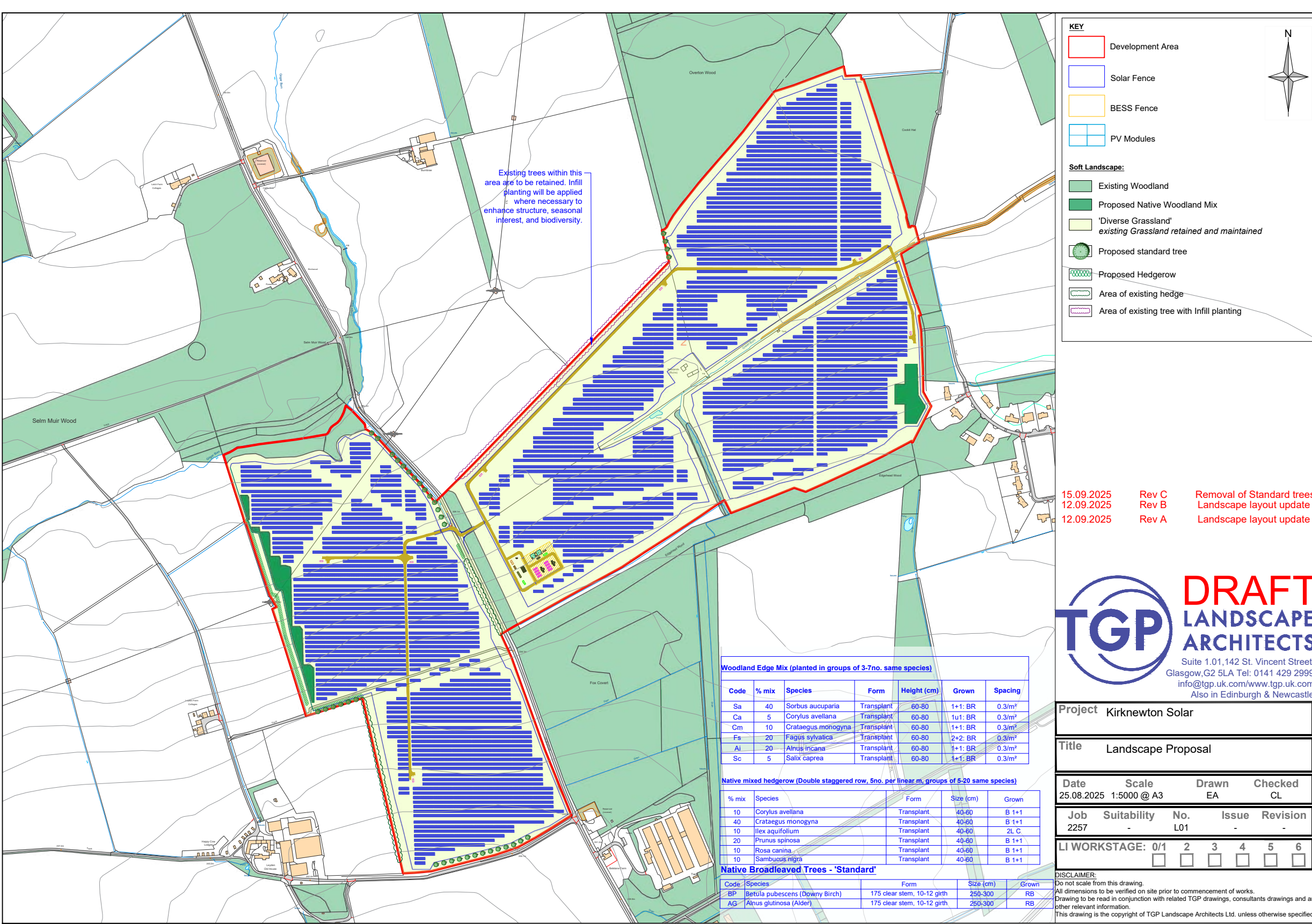
We changed the site design to address these concerns - as you can see from the updated layout, we adjusted the fence lines in the eastern part of the site so that walking access around the field remained.

Tree planting and screening

The loss of mature trees and hedgerows, and the visual impact of the solar farm and BESS, were raised as concerns.

Our response

- No trees will be cut down to build and operate this scheme
- New hedgerows and native woodland will be planted to increase screening of the scheme while enhancing the natural habitat for birds, mammals and insects.
- We will add additional hedgerow planting alongside the panels to minimise visual impact from Kirknewton and other settlements. Please look at the computerised 3D model at this exhibition to get an idea of what this might look like.
- A habitat management plan will be developed with West Lothian Council to ensure the right tree species are used to maximise habitat benefit.



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



Your feedback and questions from the first round of consultation

Transport, vehicular access and construction

We were asked how construction might affect local people, how the site would be accessed and the number of vehicles that would be using it. Additionally, we were asked whether we could access the site via the A70 instead of Leyden Road.

Our response

- All vehicular transport will access the site from the south via the A70 and onto Leyden Road.
- This follows feedback suggesting that access from the north via Kirknewton would not be suitable due to the narrow bridge gap and blind bends.
- A Transport Statement will support the application for the proposed development. This will provide the details of deliveries and any traffic management measures required.

Sourcing the panels, equipment and infrastructure

We were asked where the of the solar farm components would be manufactured.

Our response

The vast majority of the world's solar panels are manufactured in China.

Both BLC Energy and Octopus have signed up to the Solar Energy UK Supply Chain Statement. This includes a commitment to minimise and reduce the impact of extracting raw materials, to conserve water and to lower carbon emissions across the value chain, and to ensure the industry is free of any human rights abuses, including forced labour, anywhere in the global supply chain, for any component.

Octopus is also a member of the Solar Stewardship Initiative, which means it will only source panels from tier one manufacturers that are independently assessed.

Find out more

www.solarenergyuk.org

www.solarstewardshipinitiative.org



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





INDICATIVE IMAGE



Battery Energy and Storage System (BESS)

Why does the site include a BESS?

Battery storage, or battery energy storage systems (BESS), are devices that enable energy from renewables, like solar and wind, to be stored and then released when the power is needed most

The BESS part of our proposal comprises

- Approximately 96 battery cells and inverters are housed within six containers. The containers will have a maximum height of 2.6m.
- The containers will be placed on a raised platform, with 0.5m between each container.
- The BESS will be secured by 2.4m tall fencing.
- One water tank, approximately 2.2m high.

We moved the BESS in response to advice from hydrologists due to proximity to a Scottish Water asset – please see the **updated layout board**.

- It is over 500m from residential properties.
- It is close to the site access, with two dedicated entry points, should there be a need for emergency access.

Safety

A few people asked about the safety of the BESS part of our proposal after the first exhibition.

Our response

BESS safety is ensured via regulations, site-specific features and best practice.

The units include early warning fire detection and suppression, thermal management and best-in-class design, installation and maintenance. The units should not emit any gases.

We will conduct regular, preventative maintenance of the individual units to

ensure the system performs well and the risk of any failures is minimised.

Our design will follow the most up-to-date guidance and requirements from the National Fire Chiefs Council.

A Battery Safety Management Plan will be submitted as part of our planning application.

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



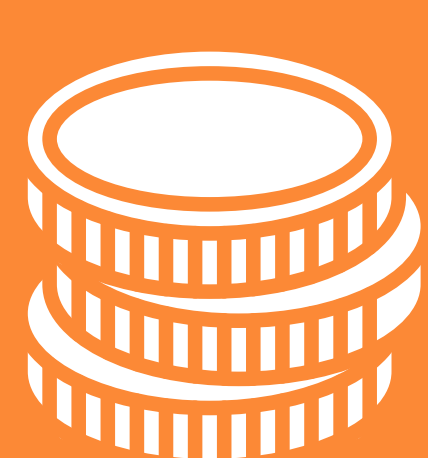
Community benefit fund

Kirknewton Solar & BESS Farm will generate an annual community benefit fund worth £500 for every megawatt (MW) of export capacity for its 40-year project life.

We have met with the community council and the Kirknewton Community Development Trust to discuss some possible uses for the community benefit fund, and we received suggestions from local people.



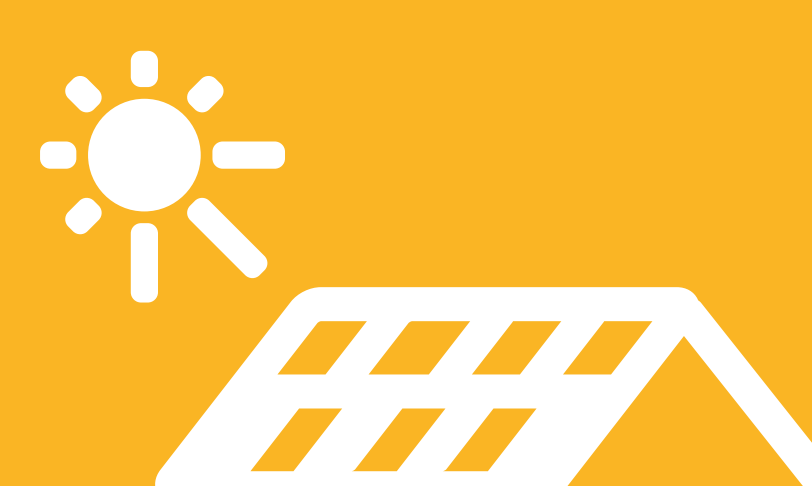
Your suggestions



Use it to bring down energy prices



Ensure benefits go to the houses closest to the development



Make local housing stock more energy efficient



Use the money to help bring a doctor's surgery to the area



Create local amenities for teenagers and other age groups: a basketball court or a cafe

Our response

If the application is approved, we will work with the community council and local development trust to develop the fund and incorporate your suggestions.

We are happy to hear more thoughts and further suggestions for how the money could be invested locally - please tell us your priorities.

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



Next steps

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

An online presentation will be held on **Monday 29 September 2025 at 6:30pm**. If you would like to attend, please contact **info@blcenergy.com** or submit a request via the website using the QR code.

Please share your feedback in one of the forms provided or via our website by **Tuesday 7 October 2025**. Your comments will be gratefully received and will help to inform the final project submission and allocation of the Community Benefit Fund.

Timeline

We plan to submit the planning application to West Lothian Council towards the end of October 2025. We will continue to engage with the community council and other interested parties.

We currently have a grid connection date for 2030 and are working with the grid operators to advance this. Any new connection date will likely be known in early 2026, after which we can confirm our construction timetable.

We'd like your feedback

Please take the time to complete the feedback form and submit this to BLC Energy Ltd no later than **Tuesday 7 October 2025**.

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



Please note that comments made to BLC Energy at this time are not representations to the planning authority, West Lothian Council. Formal representations can be made to West Lothian Council once a planning application has been submitted.

Thank you for coming today.



Further information about the project can be found on the website **www.blcenergy.com**



If you have any questions or would like to provide feedback, please email us at **info@blcenergy.com**

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