



Chapter 1: Introduction

Dupplin Solar EIA Report

TRIO Dupplin Solar LLP

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
MWh/p.a.	Megawatt hours per annum
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
MW	Megawatt
MWp	Megawatt peak
NGR	National Grid Reference
NPF4	National Planning Framework 4
NTS	Non-Technical Summary
ORIT	Octopus Renewable Infrastructure Trust
PV	Photovoltaic
SPEN	Scottish Power Energy Networks
UK	United Kingdom



1. Introduction

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 TRIO Dupplin Solar LLP (the 'Applicant') proposes to install and operate a solar photovoltaic (PV) array and electrical infrastructure (the 'Proposed Development') on land (the 'Site') at the Dupplin Estate, Perth and Kinross. The Site location and application boundary are shown in **Figure 1.1**.
- 1.1.2 The Proposed Development would be located within the administrative boundary of Perth and Kinross Council, approximately 2.7 km west of Perth, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) NO 04810 21645 and would be known as Dupplin Solar. The Proposed Development would have a maximum generating capacity of 97.5 MWp (and an export capacity of 75 MW).
- 1.1.3 The total area of the solar PV array amounts to up to c.126 ha. The maximum height of electrical and supporting infrastructure has been assessed as 2.9 m.
- 1.1.4 As the Proposed Development would have a generating capacity exceeding 50MW, the Applicant is submitting an application for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989, and also seeking a direction that planning permission is deemed to be granted in terms of Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.
- 1.1.5 The annual power output of the Proposed Development is estimated at 108,000 megawatt hours per annum (MWh/pa), which would provide enough electricity to power approximately 40,000 average Scottish households, or c.52% of households in Perthshire¹. The Proposed Development would contribute towards international and national targets for the generation of renewable energy and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.
- 1.1.6 The grid connection route to Burghmuir substation would be subject to a separate application under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989. The Section 37 application would be progressed by the transmission network operator (Scottish and Southern Energy Networks).

1.2 Purpose of the EIA Report

- 1.2.1 This EIA Report has been prepared in accordance with The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations').
- 1.2.2 Where a development falls within one of the descriptions in Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations and is considered likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size, or location, then an EIA Report is

¹ <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/council-area-profiles/perth-and-kinross/>



required to be submitted with the application for consent. The Proposed Development falls within Schedule 2 as:

“a generating station, the construction of which (or operation of which) will require a section 36 consent but which is not a Schedule 1 development.”

It is considered that the Proposed Development meets the criteria necessary for an EIA Report to be required.

- 1.2.3 This EIA Report presents the findings of the EIA process by describing the Proposed Development, the current conditions and future baseline conditions at the Site, and the likely impacts which may result from the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Where appropriate, mitigation is proposed, and any residual impacts are reported.

1.3 The Applicant

- 1.3.1 TRIO Dupplin Solar LLP is a company owned by Octopus Renewable Infrastructure Trust (ORIT) and managed by BLC Energy Limited.
- 1.3.2 TRIO Dupplin Solar LLP was set up by TRIO Power Limited, the Dupplin Estate land ownership, and two tenants in order to develop the Solar PV project.
- 1.3.3 BLC Energy was set up in Scotland in 2022 to develop solar and BESS projects throughout the UK. The three partners have over 60 years' experience in developing renewable energy projects and have previously secured planning consent for three solar projects in Scotland.
- 1.3.4 BLC Energy is based in Perthshire and is currently developing eleven solar and BESS projects throughout the UK, including five in Scotland. Further information on BLC Energy can be found on the company website at www.blcenergy.com.
- 1.3.5 In 2023, BLC Energy entered into a development services agreement with Octopus Energy Generation (via ORIT) on an exclusive basis. TRIO Power Limited was set up as the wider development company and is wholly owned by ORIT and managed by BLC Energy. BLC Energy are developing the Site on behalf of TRIO Power Limited and the Applicant, TRIO Dupplin Solar LLP.
- 1.3.6 ORIT is an Impact Fund with a core objective to accelerate the transition to net zero through its investments, building and operating a diversified portfolio of Renewable Energy Assets. ORIT is managed by Octopus Energy Generation.
- 1.3.7 Octopus Energy Generation are one of Europe's largest investors in renewables, operating around £4 billion of green energy generation projects across seven countries. Octopus Energy Generation operate solar and wind projects across the UK.
- 1.3.8 Further information on Octopus Energy Generation and ORIT can be found at <https://www.octopusenergygeneration.com/> and <https://www.octopusrenewablesinfrastructure.com/>.



1.4 Renewable Energy and Planning Policy

- 1.4.1 A separate Planning Statement has been provided which contains a detailed appraisal of the Proposed Development against the relevant statutory Development Plan policies, national planning and energy policy and other material considerations. The statutory Development Plan is made up of National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) and the adopted Perth and Kinross Local Development Plan (LDP2, 2019).
- 1.4.2 In recent years, United Kingdom and Scottish Government policies have focused increasingly on concerns about climate change. Each tier of Government has developed targets, policies and actions to deal with the climate crisis and generate more renewable energy and electricity.
- 1.4.3 The UK Government retains responsibility for the overall direction of energy policy, although some elements are devolved to the Scottish Government. The UK Government has published a series of policy documents setting out how targets can be achieved. Solar PV is an important technology to achieve these various goals.
- 1.4.4 The Scottish Government has published a number of policy documents and has set its own targets. The most relevant policy, legislative documents and more recent policy statements published by the Scottish Government include:
- The Scottish Energy Strategy (December 2017);
 - The Scottish Government's declaration of a Climate Emergency (April 2019);
 - The Scottish Climate Change Plan Update (2020);
 - The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 and the legally binding net zero target for 2045;
 - The Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan (January 2023); and
 - The Scottish Government's annual 'Programme for Government' (May 2025).
- 1.4.5 The Proposed Development is for the generation of electricity from renewable energy sources and comes as a direct response to national planning and energy policy objectives.
- 1.4.6 The Proposed Development would make a significant contribution to the attainment of emissions reduction, renewable energy and electricity targets at both the Scottish and UK levels. Detailed reference to the renewable energy policy framework is provided in the Planning Statement.

1.5 EIA Project Team and Competency

- 1.5.1 EIA coordination has been led by SLR with input from specialist technical and planning consultants.
- 1.5.2 SLR is one of the UK's fastest growing multi-disciplinary environmental consultancies. Within the energy sector, SLR provides a wide range of planning,



environmental and technical services relating to the design and development of solar, battery and other renewable energy projects. The company specialises in all aspects of facility development, from initial concept design, through planning and permitting to the detailed design, construction management and decommissioning stages.

1.5.3 SLR is a registered Environmental Impact Assessor, Member of the Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP) and holder of the ISEP EIA Quality Mark. The company has significant experience in the preparation of planning applications and undertaking EIA for a wide variety of projects, including renewable energy, minerals, waste and infrastructure developments.

1.5.4 Further information on SLR Consulting Limited can be found on its website at www.slrconsulting.com.

1.5.5 For this project, SLR is responsible for the following technical disciplines:

- EIA;
- solar design;
- glint and glare;
- ecology and ornithology;
- cultural heritage and archaeology;
- hydrology, geology and hydrogeology;
- land capability for agriculture; and
- transport and access.

1.5.6 SLR is supported by the following specialist consultancies:

- TGP – landscape and visual amenity; and
- David Bell Planning – planning consultancy.

1.5.7 SLR’s environmental specialists, with support from specialist consultants as required, have the skills, competency, expertise and qualifications to undertake EIA for the Proposed Development. **Table 1-1** demonstrates the relevant competency for each technical discipline covered in this EIA Report and accompanying appendices

Table 1-1: EIA Team Competency

Discipline	Personnel	Qualifications	Years of Experience
EIA Management and Coordination; EIA Report	SLR: Gavin Spowage	BSc (Hons) MSc PISEP;	20 years
	Emma Quinn	BSc (Hons) MSc AISEP;	7 years
	Jack Henderson	BSc (Hons).	2 years
Planning	David Bell Planning: David Bell	BSc (Hons) Dip UD MCIHT MRTPI;	34 years
	Deirdre Thom	BA (Hons) MSc MRTPI	14 years



Discipline	Personnel	Qualifications	Years of Experience
Solar Design	SLR: Isabel Romero	MEng MSc AMEI.	6 years
Geospatial and Data Solutions	SLR: Philip Winstanley	BSc, MSc.	4 years
Landscape and Visual	TGP: Gary Stodart	Diploma in Horticulture. MLA - Postgraduate Masters in Landscape Design. CMLI - Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute	30 years
Ecology and Ornithology	SLR: Alison Hood Daniel Piec Callum Taylor Molly Turner Rowan Smith Euan McRae	BSc (Hons), MSc, MCIEEM MSc Biology; MSc, BSc (Hons); MSc, BSc (Hons), MCIEEM; MSc BSc (Hons), MCIEEM. BSc (Hons), CIEEM.	12 years 20 years 6 years 5 years 6 years 4 years
Cultural Heritage and Archaeology	SLR: Elise Christensen Elliot Carter Harleigh Broughton	(MA (Hons), FSA Scot, ACIfA) MLitt, ACIfA MA (Hons)	4 years 7 years 1 year
Hydrology, Geology and Hydrogeology	SLR: Gordon Robb Katy Rainford Alexa Hay Katrina Riches	BSc (Hons), MSc, MBA, C.WEM, FCIWEM; BSc (Hons), FGS, MCIWEM; MSc, MCIWEM; BSc (Hons), MSc	30+ years 7+ years 4+ years 7+ years
Land Capability for Agriculture	SLR: Duncan Rose Silvia Arpano	Sc (Hons), MSc, FACTS, M.I. Soil; PhD	15 years 2 years
Site Access and Transport – Technical Report	SLR: Iain Lamb	BEng (Hons)	25+ years



1.6 Scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment

- 1.6.1 A constraints and feasibility mapping exercise was undertaken by TRIO Dupplin Solar LLP in 2025 to determine the availability of developable land within Perth and Kinross Council for renewable projects such as solar and battery energy storage.
- 1.6.2 Dupplin Estate, specifically the expanse immediately north of the A9 near Tibbermore, was identified as the only extent of land which remained unconstrained in environmental and planning terms – within a 7 km radius of the grid connection point at Burghmuir, Perth. Further consideration of constraints work is detailed in **Chapter 2: Site Description and Design Iterations**.
- 1.6.3 The Applicant acquired the Site in May 2025, and subsequently progressed baseline environmental surveys. Requests for Pre-Application Advice from Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) and the Scottish Government’s Energy Consents Unit (ECU) were submitted in June 2025 by SLR Consulting Limited - as agents on behalf of TRIO Dupplin Solar LLP (refer to **Appendixes A and B**).
- 1.6.4 Following a pre-application site walkover with Alan Atkins, the allocated PKC Planning Officer, on 30 June 2025, detailed Pre-Application Advice was provided by PKC by email on 18 July 2025 (refer to **Appendix C**). This was followed up by a clarification note from SLR on the Project Description (**Appendix D**).
- 1.6.5 In response to the Pre-Application Request, the ECU attended an on-line pre-application meeting with SLR and the Applicant on 28 June 2025. The ECU provided high-level Pre-Application Advice pertaining to the scale and nature of the Proposed Development, contributed to discussion on neighbouring development, anticipated EIA scope in light of neighbouring designations (e.g. Appropriate Assessment as part of Habitats Regulations Appraisal), and Section 36 procedures and requirements for submission.
- 1.6.6 In order to ensure a robust Section 36 application within acceptable timescales, no EIA Screening process has been undertaken. Instead, the Applicant has voluntarily ‘screened-in’ the project and has undertaken an EIA.
- 1.6.7 The scope of the EIA, rather than being confirmed through a formal Scoping process, has been established by the consideration of the technical topics most likely to give rise to ‘significant adverse effects’. From baseline studies and advice from Perth and Kinross Council’s pre-application consultation response, the topics for which it is considered significant effects may arise and are therefore ‘scoped-in’ to the EIA are Landscape and Visual Impact; Ecology and Ornithology; Cultural Heritage and Archaeology; Hydrology, Geology and Hydrogeology. These topics are assessed within **Chapters 5, 6, 7 and 8** respectively. For all other technical topics, where it is considered that significant effects are unlikely, technical assessments have been undertaken to demonstrate this. Technical reports are provided as appendices to the EIA Report (**Volume 4**).



1.6.8 EIA methodology and assessment procedures are detailed in **Chapter 4: Approach to EIA.**

1.7 Structure of the EIA Report

1.7.1 The EIA Report is presented in four volumes as follows:

- Volume 1: Non-Technical Summary (NTS);
 - The NTS provides a non-technical overview of the EIA Report and is intended for review by the general public. It includes a description of the Proposed Development and a summary of the predicted environmental effects.
- Volume 2: Written Statement (EIA Report);

The EIA Report (this document) is structured as follows:

- Chapter 1: Introduction;
- Chapter 2: Site Description and Design Iterations;
- Chapter 3: Proposed Development;
- Chapter 4: Approach to EIA;
- Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual;
- Chapter 6: Ecology and Ornithology;
- Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology;
- Chapter 8: Hydrology, Geology, and Hydrogeology; and
- Chapter 9: Schedule of Mitigation.
- Volume 3a: EIA Report Figures
- Volume 3b: Landscape Visualisations; and
- Volume 4: EIA Report Appendices.

1.7.2 A suite of additional supporting documents has been prepared to accompany the Section 36 application. Included in this, a Planning Statement sets out an assessment of the Proposed Development in the context of national planning, energy policy, local development plan, and emerging planning policies. It also considers the potential benefits and harm which may arise and concludes as to the overall acceptability of the Proposed Development in relation to the planning context, with a specific focus on agricultural land.

1.7.3 In addition to the Planning Statement, a Pre-Application Consultation Report (compiled by McDaid PR) has been submitted to support the application. These additional documents do not form part of the EIA Report.

1.8 Viewing the EIA Report

1.8.1 The Applicant has advised Methven Community Council of the EIA Report being made available. Hard copies of the EIA Report can be viewed at the following locations during opening hours:



- AK Bell Library, Perth; and
- Strathearn Community Library, Crieff.

The EIA Report is available for download from the project website at:

<https://www.blcenergy.com/projects/dupplin/>

1.8.2 Paper copies of the NTS are available free of charge upon request from:

SLR Consulting Limited,
The Tun,
4 Jackson's Entry,
Edinburgh,
EH8 8PJ.



References

- National Records of Scotland (NRS) : Council Area Profile for Perth and Kinross.
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