

Dupplin Solar Development

Technical Note: Economic & Socio-Economic Impact Assessment

Policy 11: National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) "Maximising Net Economic Impact"

Introduction

This technical note assesses the economic and socio-economic benefits of the proposed Dupplin Solar development, in line with NPF4 Policy 11 requirements. The assessment uses robust proxies derived from national research, specifically the Solar Energy UK 2025 Economic Impact Report to estimate impacts at the relevant spatial levels.

The aim is to provide the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) with clear, evidence-based information on the development's contribution to Gross Value Added (GVA) and employment during construction and operation, thereby demonstrating compliance with NPF4's requirement to maximise net economic impact.

Study Approach and Key Proxies

The analysis applies average economic impact intensities per MW of installed capacity, as derived from the UK wide 2025 solar impact report.

Key Proxies from National Research

- Construction GVA per MW: £42,200 (based on £739m GVA from 17.5 GW of new utility-scale solar and BESS construction in 2024).
- Construction FTE Jobs per MW: 0.40 FTE jobs per MW (based on 6,980 FTE jobs from 17.5 GW of new construction).
- Annual Operational GVA per MW: £14,600 (based on £255m GVA from 17.5 GW of operational capacity).
- Annual Operational FTE Jobs per MW: 0.15 FTE jobs per MW (based on 2,670 FTE jobs from 17.5 GW of operational capacity).
- Spatial Allocation: Based on the national report's regional economic modelling and standard input-output leakage assumptions for utility scale energy projects in Scotland, a three-tier allocation is applied:
 - Local Area (Dunning/Tibbermore and immediate surrounds, including Perth): 35% of Scottish total
 - Perth and Kinross (Regional/Local Authority): Additional 35% (cumulative 70%)
 - Scotland: Additional 30% (cumulative 100%)

All monetary figures are in 2024 prices. Operational impacts are calculated over a 40-year project lifespan and discounted at a 3.5% rate to produce a Net Present Value (NPV).

Development Overview

- Technology: Solar PV
- Maximum Generating Capacity: 97.5 MW (export capacity 75 MW)
- Location: Near Tibbermore, west of Perth, Perth and Kinross
- Construction Period: 8 to 12 months
- Operational Lifetime: 40 years

Construction Phase Impacts (8 to 12 months)

GVA Estimates

- Local Area GVA: £1.44 million
- Perth and Kinross GVA: £2.88 million
- Scotland GVA: £4.12 million

FTE Employment Estimates

- Local Area FTE: 14 jobs
- Perth and Kinross FTE: 27 jobs
- Scotland FTE: 39 jobs

Operational Phase Impacts (40-year lifetime)

Annual GVA

- Local Area Annual GVA: £0.50 million
- Perth and Kinross Annual GVA: £1.00 million
- Scotland Annual GVA: £1.42 million

Cumulative GVA (NPV over 40 years)

- Local Area NPV: £12.0 million
- Perth and Kinross NPV: £24.1 million
- Scotland NPV: £32.8 million
- These figures do not include rent paid to landowner, which also is an income to the local area.

Annual FTE Employment

- Local Area Annual FTE: 5 jobs
- Perth and Kinross Annual FTE: 10 jobs
- Scotland Annual FTE: 15 jobs

ECU Data Requirements

The Company estimates that the proposed Development, over the anticipated eight to twelve month construction period could generate GVA (Gross value added) worth £1.44 million in the local area (Dunning/Tibbermore/Perth), £2.88 million in Perth and Kinross and £4.12 million for Scotland. In addition, the proposed Development seeks to support up to 14 FTE jobs in the local area, 27 FTE jobs in Perth and Kinross and 39 FTE jobs across Scotland as a whole.

Over the operational period, it was estimated that the proposed Development could generate GVA worth a cumulative total of £12.0 million in the local area, £24.1 million in Perth and Kinross and £32.8 million for Scotland. It is expected the proposed Development could also provide 5 FTE jobs in the Local Area, 10 FTE jobs in Perth and Kinross and 15 FTE jobs across Scotland on an annual basis.

Policy 11 (NPF4) Alignment

The Dupplin Solar proposal maximises net economic impact by:

- Generating significant GVA and employment at all spatial levels, with particular concentration in the local Dunning/Tibbermore area and wider Perth and Kinross region.
- Providing supply chain opportunities for local businesses (civil works, electrical, security, land management, O&M).
- Contributing to Scotland's renewable energy targets and supporting a just transition to net zero.
- Aligning with the economic objectives of Perth and Kinross Council (Perth and Kinross Economic Wellbeing Strategy 2020 – 2028), the Tay Cities Region Deal, and the National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET).

Sources:

- Economic Impact of Solar and Battery Storage, Report for Solar Energy UK.
- UK Input-Output Tables and Annual Business Survey.
- Standard HM Treasury Green Book spatial allocation proxies.

Statement from TRIO Dupplin Solar LLP –

In addition to the wider socio-economic impact listed above, BLC Energy, as a Scottish-based development company, together with its funding partners Octopus Renewable Infrastructure Trust (ORIT) (an investment fund in the Octopus Energy Group) are deploying funds in Scotland in project development and company overheads. To date, ORIT has committed to invest £4.7m in BLC Energy and its projects, of which £4.1m has been spent on Scottish projects. A further funding commitment announcement is due in the next few months.

Both ORIT and BLC Energy have ambitious plans to grow the company into a leading UK solar development platform based in Scotland. We currently have 5 members of staff based in Scotland and are growing the team.