



COSSANS SOLAR & BESS PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Welcome to the first of two public exhibitions for the proposed Cossans Solar & Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Development, located 2.5km west of Forfar.

These events are designed to keep you updated and get your feedback on our 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.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025

S36 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.

JANUARY/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 planning decision.

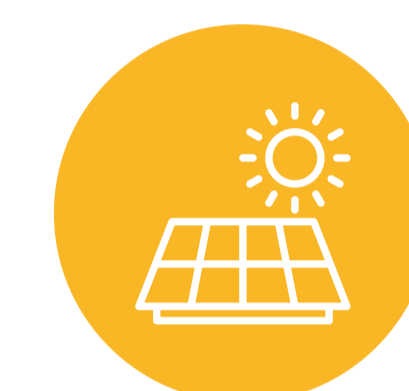


WHO WE ARE

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

OUR PARTNERS



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 (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.



ITPENERGISED

ITPEnergised is a leading consultancy providing expert environmental, energy, and engineering services, with a strong focus on renewable energy projects. They have worked extensively across the UK on a wide range of projects, ensuring that developments meet the highest standards in sustainability and environmental management.

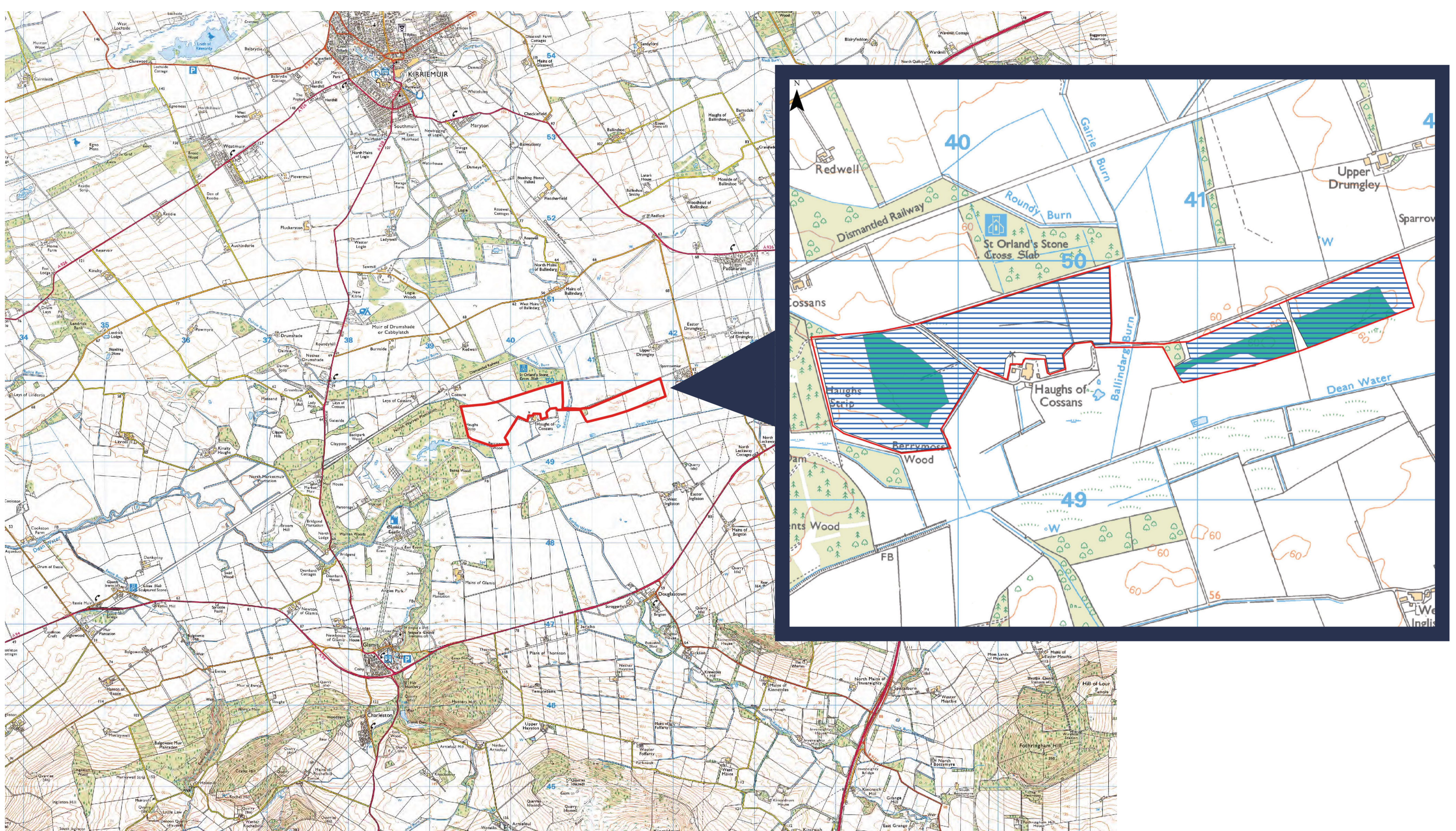
With considerable experience in managing the environmental aspects of large-scale developments, ITPENERGISED brings a deep understanding of both the technical and regulatory requirements involved. Their approach is to balance project objectives with environmental protection, ensuring that developments like Cossans Solar & BESS Development contribute positively to the local environment and community.





PROJECT LOCATION

Forfar, DD8 1QY



BLC Energy worked with ITP Energised to determine an optimal location for this development, taking into account the following factors:

- **Close to Existing Infrastructure**

The site is conveniently located near an existing connection to the electricity grid. This allows the solar panels to deliver power efficiently without needing new power lines.

- **Safe from Flooding**

The development is located away from the main areas at risk of flooding. The BESS will be placed on higher ground to ensure it remains safe from potential flood risks.

- **Ideal Sunlight and Terrain**

The site's gentle slope and south-facing position make 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 during construction and maintenance. The location for the BESS

has been chosen to avoid overloading local roads and bridges.

- **Minimising Visual Impact**

The project will be designed to blend into the surrounding landscape as much as possible. Existing hedgerows and trees will remain, and additional planting will be introduced to reduce the visual impact of the solar panels and infrastructure.

- **Ecology and Biodiversity**

There are no environmental designations on site. As the site is mostly farmland there is a great opportunity to enhance biodiversity within the site and wider landholding.

- **Agricultural Land Quality Classification**

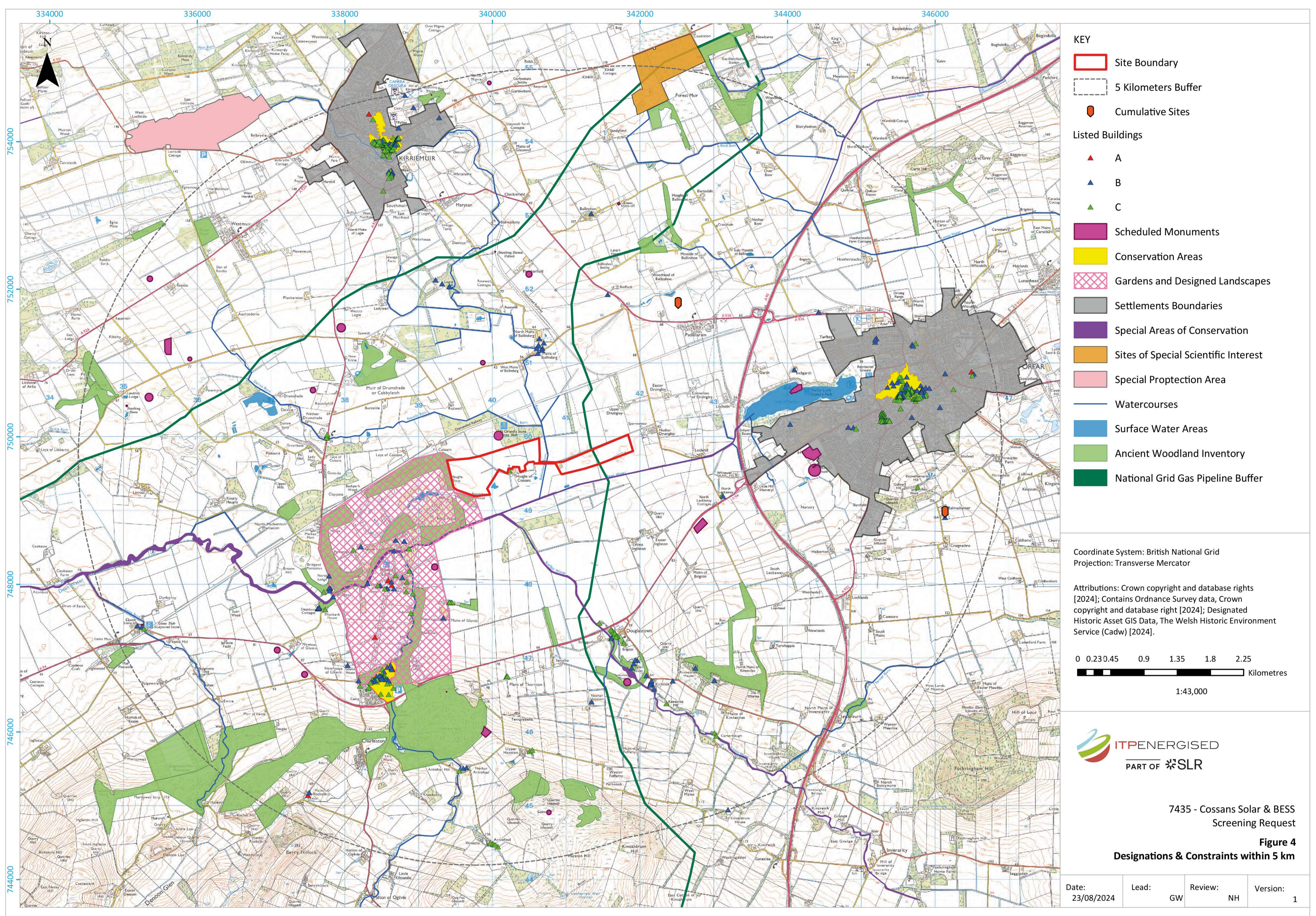
The project will be located on land classified as Grade 3.2 and therefore not within the Prime agriculture classification.

LOCATION OF BESS

The exact location of the BESS is still to be determined and will be an iterative process as environmental surveys and assessments are undertaken.



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS



The planning application for the Cossans Solar & BESS development will include a series of detailed environmental studies to evaluate the potential impacts of the development on the local area.

These assessments are designed to ensure that the project is planned in a way that is both environmentally responsible and in line with local and national guidelines. All of the environmental assessment work is still ongoing but many of the site surveys and visits have already been undertaken.

 <p>Ecology and Ornithology surveys April 2024 - October 2024</p>	 <p>Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage site survey September 2024</p>
 <p>Landscape and Visual site visit September 2024 - October 2024</p>	 <p>Transport, Traffic and Access visit September 2024</p>
 <p>Archaeology and Cultural Heritage site visit October 2024</p>	 <p>Noise baseline monitoring October 2024</p>



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

FLOOD RISK

A flood risk assessment will be carried out to determine whether the site is at risk of flooding and to ensure 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. Measures will be put in place to manage water drainage effectively, ensuring that the solar panels and the BESS remain protected from potential flooding.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

The project archaeologist will be assessing potential impacts on any historical or cultural landmarks near the site. This includes reviewing nearby landmarks, archaeological sites, and historic buildings such as Glamis 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 will be designed to minimise any negative effects on these culturally valuable areas.

TRANSPORT

A transport and access study is underway to examine the impact of construction and operation traffic on local roads. This assessment ensures that local roads can accommodate construction vehicles and that the project will not create 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, only around 9 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 is underway to evaluate the potential noise levels during both the construction and operation of the project. This includes assessing the noise from construction machinery as well as the operational noise from the solar panels and the BESS, including cooling systems and transformers. Measures will be implemented to ensure that any noise impact on nearby residents is kept to a minimum..

GLINT AND GLARE

Solar panels can sometimes reflect sunlight, causing glint or glare. An assessment is being conducted with the aim of minimising reflections from the solar panels at nearby homes, roads, or aircraft. If needed, adjustments will be made to the panel positioning to reduce any unwanted reflections. Properties within 1km of the proposed solar panels will be subject to a glint and glare assessment.



LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL



View from Forfar - Dundee road

- A landscape and visual impact assessment is being conducted to evaluate how the development will affect the surrounding area. This assessment considers how the solar panels and the BESS will look from different viewpoints, including nearby homes, roads, and public paths.
- The design of the project aims to blend into the natural landscape as much as possible. Existing trees and hedgerows will be retained, and additional planting will be introduced to screen the development from view and reduce its visual impact. The study will also look at the wider landscape to ensure the project does not have a significant negative effect on the character of the area.
- Careful consideration is being given to the location of the panels and BESS to minimise visibility from sensitive areas, such as Glamis Castle and nearby walking routes. The goal is to ensure that the development fits in with the local landscape and respects the visual character of the surrounding environment.
- Members of the landscape team visited the Cossans site in September 2024 to familiarise themselves with the local landscape and to take photographs from several key viewpoints, which will form an important part of the landscape assessment for the project.



View from A94 south of West Ingliston



ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY

A full Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) will be carried out. This will identify any potential ecological features that could be affected by the proposed development. All mitigation and/or enhancement measures identified will be included in the scheme design.

The following surveys have been carried out in advance of the EcIA:

- **Habitat Surveys:** These surveys assess the types of plants and natural features present on the site and its surroundings. They help identify any important areas that need to be protected or enhanced.
- **Wildlife Surveys:** Surveys have been conducted to check for the presence of key species, such as badgers, otters, beavers, bats, water voles and birds. These surveys ensure that the development does not harm local wildlife and their habitats.
- **Water and Wetland Surveys:** Assessments have been made of nearby streams, ponds, and other wet areas to understand their ecological value and the species they support. These areas will be carefully managed to avoid any negative impacts from the project.
- **Breeding Bird Surveys:** These surveys focused on identifying bird species using the site for breeding.
- **Great Crested Newt (GCN) Habitat Assessment:** An initial habitat suitability assessment and eDNA testing were completed in spring 2024. The assessment confirmed the likely absence of great crested newts.

The results of these surveys will help shape the final design of the development, ensuring that the project is both environmentally friendly and supports local biodiversity.

MITIGATION AND ENHANCEMENT MEASURES:

Based on the findings from these surveys, mitigation strategies will be put in place to protect key ecological features. For example:

- **Buffer zones** will be established around important habitats, such as watercourses, to protect otter and water vole populations.
- Where necessary, **new trees will be planted** to support bat foraging and to enhance habitat connectivity across the site.
- A **Biodiversity Enhancement and Management Plan (BEMP)** will be developed to outline measures that will improve local biodiversity, such as creating wildflower meadows and maintaining habitat corridors for wildlife movement.



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.

This offer of a community fund is not part of the planning application and is not a material consideration in the decision-making process.

We are dedicated to collaborating closely with the communities near our proposed Solar and BESS developments. Our goal is to ensure that community benefits are effectively used to tackle local challenges and are managed and distributed according to the community's wants and needs as much as possible.

The local community, and its representatives, will decide how these funds are allocated. We welcome ideas on projects/ initiatives that would help support local families.

Ideas from other similar projects have included:

- **Subsidised rural bus routes**
- **Grants to help apprenticeships with local companies**
- **Help with power bills for struggling families and pensioners**

Please include your ideas on the feedback forms.

THE COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP

We invited the Forfar and Glamis community councils to appoint representatives for a Community Liaison Group. Comprising six members, this group will serve as a vital connection between BLC Energy and the community during the planning phase of this proposed development.

Through this collaboration, we will identify priorities for the management and distribution of the Community Benefit Fund and work together to address any concerns or issues raised by local residents.



NEXT STEPS

Today's event is part of a series of public consultations intended to provide information to the community and gather feedback about the draft proposals for the Cossans Solar & BESS Development.

Your comments will be gratefully received and will help improve the quality of our final project design, including proposed hedgerow planting and biodiversity enhancement, and inform related proposals for a Community Benefit Fund.

We plan to continue our consultation with a second local exhibition early next year, before submitting our application. The second exhibition will show information on the final project design and the results of studies that went into this.

This will also be the time when the local community and stakeholders can provide feedback on this process and their thoughts on the final project prior to submission.



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

