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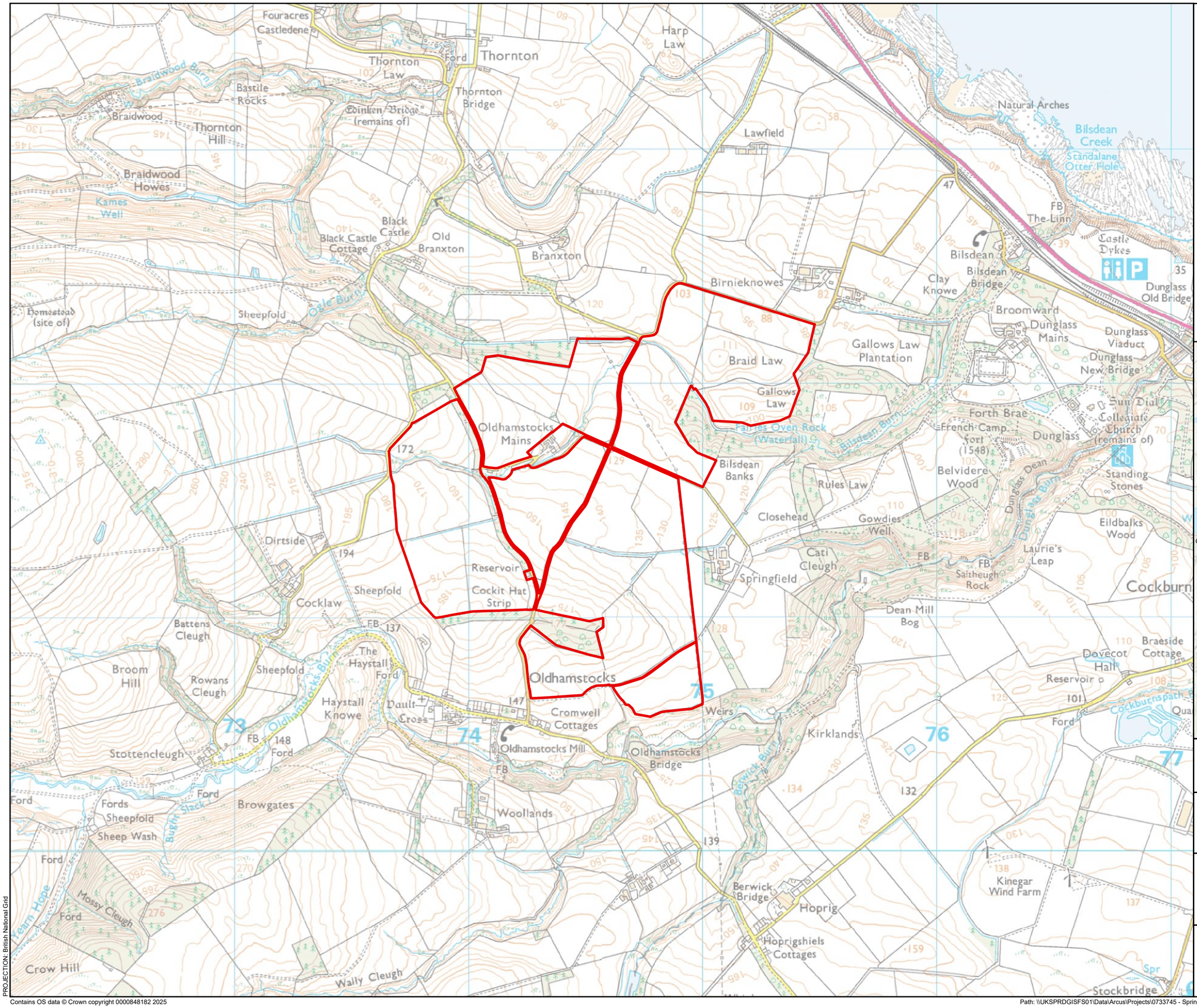
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APPENDIX A SITE LOCATION

A1 – SITE LOCATION



SCALE: See Scale Bar	VERSION: A01
SIZE: A3	DRAWN: RW
PROJECT: 0733745	CHECKED: MW
DATE: 28/02/2025	APPROVED: RO

Springfield Solar Farm and BESS
Appendix A1
Site Location Plan

PROJECTION: British National Grid

Contains OS data © Crown copyright 0000848182 2025

Path: \\UKSPRDGISFS01\Data\Arcus\Projects\0733745 - Springfield\MAPS\0733745 - Springfield - Intro.aprx\0733784 - Springfield - Site Location Plan

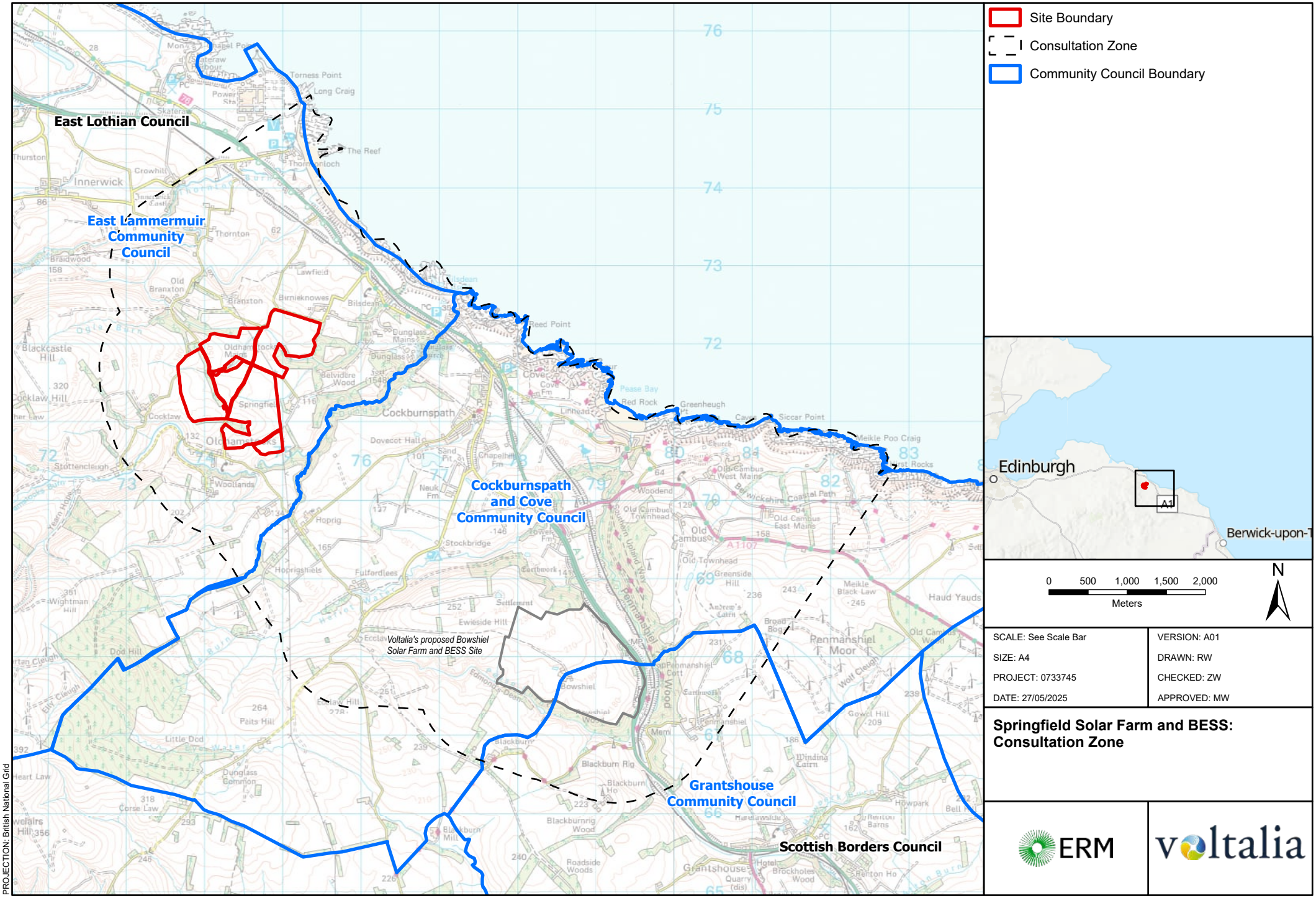
APPENDIX B CONSULTEES

B1 – LIST OF CONSULTEES

B2 – CONSULTATION ZONE

Springfield Solar and BESS: Consultees

- Scottish Energy Consents Unit (ECU)
- Crown Estate Scotland (CES)
- East Lothian Council Planning Department
- NatureScot
- Historic Environment Scotland (HES)
- Ministry of Defence (MoD)
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
- Transport Scotland
- Scottish Water
- SP Energy Networks (SPEN)
- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
- RSPB
- Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy (July 2024)
- Scottish Forestry
- The North Sea Transition Authority
- Ofgem
- East Lothian Local Resilience Forum
- The Scottish Executive
- Renewable Energy Scotland (RES)
- Scottish Wildlife Trust
- Pease Dean Scottish Wildlife Trust
- East Lothian Council (Council Leader) (Second consultation invitation)
- Oldhamstocks Community Association
- East Lammermuir Community Council (ELCC)
- Cockburnspath & Cove Community Council
- Grantshouse Community Council
- Dunbar Community Council
- Dunbar Trades' Association
- East Lothian Council Economic Development
- Springfield Archaeology
- East Lothian Archaeology & Heritage Fortnight
- East Lothian Heritage
- Friends of the Earth East Lothian
- Dunbar Community Woodland Group (DCWG)
- Berwickshire Biodiversity Forum
- Sustaining Dunbar
- Paul McLennan MSP Minister for Housing (Second consultation invitation)
- Craig Hoy MSP for South Scotland (Second consultation invitation)
- Councillor Lyn Jardine (Dunbar and East Linton) (Second consultation invitation)
- Councillor Jaquie Bell (Dunbar and East Linton) (Second consultation invitation)



SCALE: See Scale Bar | VERSION: A01
SIZE: A4 | DRAWN: RW
PROJECT: 0733745 | CHECKED: ZW
DATE: 27/05/2025 | APPROVED: MW

Springfield Solar Farm and BESS: Consultation Zone

PROJECTION: British National Grid

Esri, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, USGS, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right] 2025, Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0

Path: \\UKSPRDGISFS01\Data\Arcus\Projects\0733745 - Springfield\MAPS\0733745 - Springfield.aprx\0733745 - Springfield - Consultation Zone - A01

APPENDIX C WEBSITE

C2 – PROJECT WEBSITE

C2 – CONSULTATION PAGE

https://springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk

SPRINGFIELD SOLAR FARM

The Project | Public Consultation | Community Benefits | Contact us | About Voltalia



Springfield Solar Farm

Contact us

Project Update

Our second round of consultation is open 3rd to 30th March 2025. Visit our **consultation website** to view our updated proposals and give your feedback.

If you have any questions regarding the project, please get in contact via **springfield@voltalia.com**.

We have now introduced **AssetChat**, an AI service to help understand and communicate the Scoping Report and FAQs. Links will be provided to help navigate to relevant references within the Report and FAQs.

https://springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk

SPRINGFIELD SOLAR FARM

The Project | Public Consultation | Community Benefits | Contact us | About Voltalia

Solar capacity	Battery energy capacity	Project Status	Operational Period
165 megawatt (MW) (peak)	Up to 150 megawatt (MW)	In Scoping	Up to 40 years

About the Project

Voltalia UK Ltd ('Voltalia') is proposing to develop Springfield Solar Farm, located to the north of Oldhamstocks in East Lothian, Scotland. The project is currently in Scoping stage.

As the project is proposed to generate over 50MW, it will be subject to a Section 36 consent application submission. This application will be made to the Scottish Ministers via the Energy Consents Unit (ECU).

Development of renewable energy such as solar energy is vital to achieving Scotland's ambitious target of reaching net zero by 2045 and this project would contribute to the Scottish Government target to deliver up to 6GW of solar development by 2030.

Site Location

The land made available for assessment is 184 hectares in total, however the scale of the project is subject to refinement and changes to the layout. The site is located approximately 7.8km south-east of Dunbar and north of Oldhamstocks in East Lothian, Scotland.

The closest towns and villages to the site are Innerwick, Skateraw and Thorntonloch to the north; Bilsdean, Dunglass and Cockburnspath to the east and Ecclaw and Oldhamstocks to the south.

Springfield Solar Farm is one of several energy developments proposed in East Lammermuir. For more information on the other developments, please visit www.eastlammermuirdevelopments.co.uk



https://www.voltaliashareyourfeedback.co.uk/springfield-solar

voltalia

Home | Search | Sign in | Register



Home / Springfield Solar Farm project

Springfield Solar Farm project

Our second consultation is open between 3rd and 30th March 2025.

We are sharing our updated plans and welcome you to view them below. These plans have taken into account feedback from the local community and wider stakeholders.

All feedback and questions shared during this consultation will be carefully considered.

The proposed **Springfield Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project** is located to the north of Oldhamstocks. It includes a solar farm with up to 165MWp capacity, up to 150MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure. Please visit the project's website www.springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk to keep up to date with our progress and next steps.

The map's key can be found by clicking on the 'open legend' button in the top right corner.



Important Links

- Springfield Solar Farm Project Website

March 2025 consultation documents

- Springfield Solar Farm 2025 information booklet.pdf (12.8 MB) (pdf)
- March 2025 consultation feedback form.pdf (220 KB) (pdf)
- Springfield consultation banners.pdf (2.15 MB) (pdf)

https://www.voltaliashareyourfeedback.co.uk/springfield-solar

The map's key can be found by clicking on the 'open legend' button in the top right corner.



- March 2025 consultation feedback form.pdf (220 KB) (pdf)
- Springfield consultation banners.pdf (2.15 MB) (pdf)
- Map with updates to Springfield Solar Farm layout (31.5 MB) (pdf)
- Landscape proposals.pdf (11.7 MB) (pdf)
- ZTV Woodland Settlements (BESS and Substation).pdf (7.12 MB) (pdf)
- ZTV Woodland Settlements (Panel Areas).pdf (10 MB) (pdf)

Key Dates

Drop-in Session 3:00pm - 8:00pm, at Oldhamstocks Village Hall, Oldhamstocks, TD13 5XN
13 March 2025

Ways you can respond to this consultation

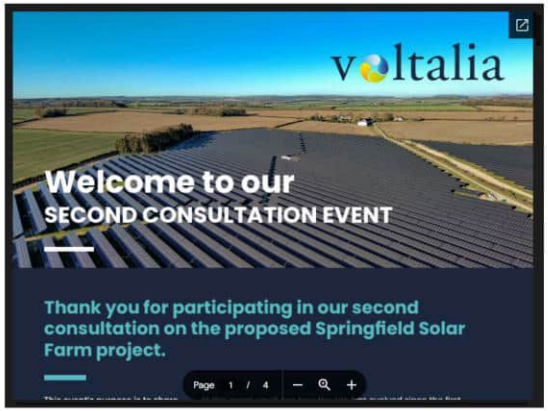
- Accessing the electronic feedback form on the left hand side of this page below.
- Emailing a copy of the feedback form to: springfieldsolarfarm@erm.com
- Posting a copy of the feedback form free of charge by writing '**Freepost**' following by '**SPRINGFIELD SOLAR FARM**' on any envelope and dropping it into your local post box.

If you have any questions about providing feedback, you can email us (springfieldsolarfarm@erm.com) or call us on **+44 01312216863**.

https://www.voltaliashareyourfeedback.co.uk/springfield-solar



Please hover over and use the scroll on your mouse or the scroll bar on the right-hand side to view the information banners below. Visualisations will be made available over the coming days.





FAQs

- Why here? Have alternative sites been identified?
- Why can't it be located on a brownfield site?
- Why is the project as large as it is?
- Haven't you already fixed the site layout?
- What are the visual impacts?
- Isn't this site better for agricultural use, to help ensure Scotland's food security?
- Won't the project stagnate the site for future use and impact soil quality?
- How are the impacts to local wildlife being considered?
- Will the solar panels increase the risk and effects of flooding?
- How are you going to consider cumulative impacts from other developments in the area, particularly on traffic?
- What are the community benefits and ownership?

https://www.voltaliashareyourfeedback.co.uk/springfield-solar





- Will the solar panels increase the risk and effects of flooding?
- How are you going to consider cumulative impacts from other developments in the area, particularly on traffic?
- What are the community benefits and ownership?
- Are you really interested in engaging with the local community?

August 2024 consultation documents

Springfield Solar Farm project_consultation brochure.pdf (17.5 MB) (pdf)

Survey

APPENDIX D ROUND ONE: PRESS ADVERTISEMENTS

D1 – CONSULTATION POSTCARD ISSUED TO LOCAL HOUSEHOLDS AND PREMISES

D2 – COPY OF NOTIFICATION EMAIL

D3 – EAST LOTHIAN COURIER 15 AUGUST

D4 – THE BORDER TELEGRAPH 14 AUGUST

D5 – THE BERWICKSHIRE NEWS 15 AUGUST

Share your views on our proposals for the Springfield Solar Farm project

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM *YOU*

Voltalia is committed to engaging early with local communities. It is important to us that those with an interest in our proposals have the opportunity to provide feedback as they take shape.

We invite you to find out more about the project and provide your feedback by participating in the consultation overleaf.

To find out more, please visit our website by scanning the QR code or via:

www.springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk

You can help shape our proposals by telling us what matters to you and your community, and how the project could benefit the community.

Voltalia is an international energy and service provider in the renewable energy market.

With a mission to improve the global environment and foster local development, all of Voltalia's projects seek to contribute towards addressing national and local electricity needs by generating an affordable and renewable source of clean energy.

We are seeking to develop Springfield Solar Farm, which is a hybrid solar and BESS development in East Lothian.

If developed, Springfield Solar Farm will contribute to Scotland's goal of generating more than ***20GW of onshore renewable energy by 2030***.



240809_Springfield SF_A5 Invite_AW.indd 1 09/08/2024 13:03

Share your views on our proposals for the Springfield Solar Farm project

voltalia

Located to the north of Oldhamstocks, we are proposing to develop the Springfield Solar Farm project, which comprises a 165MWp solar farm and up to 150MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with associated infrastructure.

We are holding a drop-in public consultation event to inform our proposals and enable you to share your views on the project.

The event will be taking place on the following date near to you:

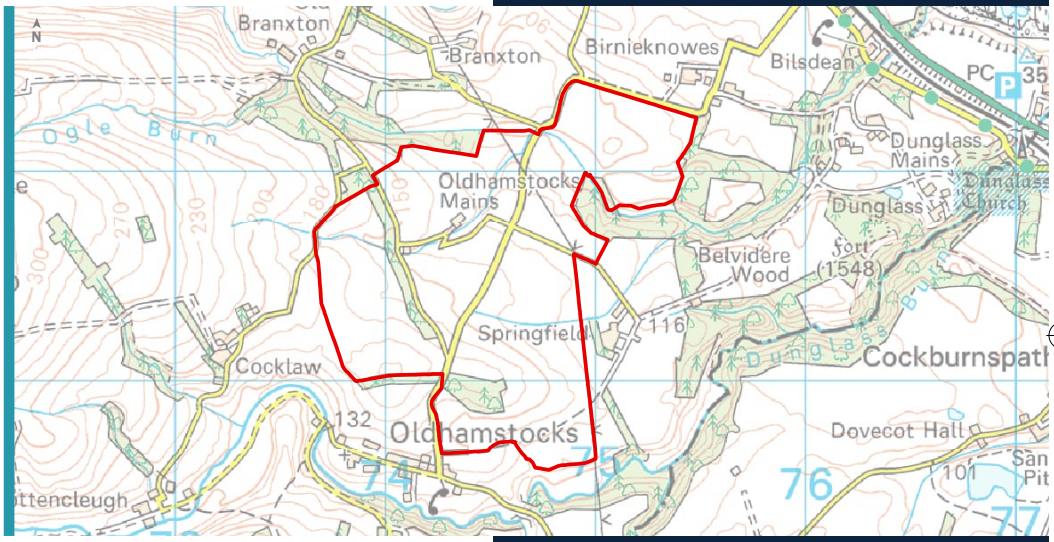
Wednesday 28th August 2024

Between 3:00pm and 8:00pm

At Oldhamstocks Village Hall, TD13 5XN

There is no need to register for attendance; please come along during this time at your convenience to speak with a member of the project team.

If you are unable to attend the event in person, you can still share your feedback via the contact methods detailed on this invite.



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Please note that comments made in response to this public consultation are not representations to the planning authority.

Once a planning application has been submitted, there will be an opportunity to make representation.

We invite you to access more information about the project via our website and to provide feedback to our consultation either in person, online or by getting in contact via the below. We need your feedback by **17th September**:

Email: springfieldsolarfarm@erm.com

Web: www.springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk

Telephone: (+44) 0131 221 6863

From:	ERM Springfield Solar Farm
To:	ERM Springfield Solar Farm
Subject:	Springfield Solar Farm consultation
Date:	13 August 2024 16:16:47
Attachments:	image001.png image002.png image003.png image004.png image005.png image006.png

---

We are writing to consult with you on the proposed application for Springfield Solar Farm. Voltalia is seeking to develop a Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in East Lothian, Scotland. The site is near Oldhamstocks, approximately 8km southeast of Dunbar.

The Proposed Project comprises a 165MWp solar farm and up to 150MW BESS with associated infrastructure. The Proposed Project will support the UK's net-zero targets and provide reliable and low carbon energy.

Our consultation is running from 20th August to 17th September 2024, and we are inviting you to our first public consultation event, Wednesday 28th August 2024 at Oldhamstocks Village Hall, TD13 5XN, 3pm - 8pm.

Join us to see our current plans for the Proposed Project and the studies we will be undertaking. This is an opportunity to share your views and raise any questions.

Consultation materials

Visit our website (www.springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk) for more information and to see the consultation documents. These will be available from 20th August 2024 until the close of the consultation on 17th September 2024.

Responding to this consultation

Any consultation responses must be received no later than 17th September 2024. Responses received after this time may not be considered. There are several ways to submit responses:

- Post your response to "Freepost Springfield Solar Farm"
- Email your response to Springfieldsolarfarm@erm.com
- Complete the online feedback form at www.springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk/
- Tell us your response over the phone on (+44) 01312216863

Personal details will be held securely and used solely for purposes in connection with the pre-application consultations, application process, assessment and determination of the application and otherwise in connection with the further development of the scheme.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Alexander Hamilton
Senior Project Manager
Voltalia UK
The Wheelhouse, Bonds Mill Estate, Bristol Road, Stonehouse, GL10 3RF
93 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 3ES

voltalia
www.voltalia.com

New hall 'critical' to the future of rural community

Plans lodged to build new village hall in Oldhamstocks

By Cameron Ritchie
critchie@eastlothiancourier.com



Plans showing how a new village hall in Oldhamstocks could look have been revealed. Image: East Lothian Council planning portal. Inset: The existing village hall. Image copyright Jennifer Petrie and licensed for reuse under Creative Commons Licence

A MAJOR step forward has been taken in a bid to replace a village hall.

Rising repair and operating costs at Oldhamstocks Village Hall led the community to explore the possibility of a new building being put in place.

The existing hall, which dates back to the early 1950s and was previously used as a ward at East Fortune Hospital, has served the community for more than half a century but is now said to be "in a poor state of repair, it requires regular maintenance and the operational costs are also becoming an increasing burden".

Oldhamstocks Community Association has now applied to East Lothian Council to demolish the existing structure and replace it with a new version which will be "relevant to the next three or four generations" of residents and visitors to the village.

According to a design statement: "The proposal presented is the result of a 10-year briefing and design process which began in earnest in 2013 with the community's increasing concerns regarding the regular and rising repair and operating costs being experienced for the maintenance of a 70-year-old, timber-framed, former MOD Army Hospital Unit building."

Drawings included with the application show that the replacement hall would be built almost on the same site as the existing version, with the play area moved alongside the building rather than in front of it.

The building would include a main hall alongside a meeting space and kitchen.

An accessible toilet, in addition to male and female toilets, would also be included in the building, which would feature attic storage.

The design statement reads: "The proposed new village hall is inevitably a larger building than the original one but it is capable of providing so much more, now and into the future, to a community that cares passionately about the spatial and environmental nature of the village and the vibrancy of the community in which they live.

"The proposal will create a focus for the conservation and sustainability of both the sense of place, the sense of community and the diversity of lifestyles that exist in Oldhamstocks through the creation of an enhanced village hall which will be relevant to the next three or four generations of residents and visitors to the village."

Chris Bruce is both a member of the village's community association and also chairs East Lammermuir Community Council, which includes the village.

Consideration was previously given to simply demolishing the existing building and instead community events being held in nearby Cockburnspath.

However, it was decided to push ahead with a replacement venue in the village.

Mr Bruce said: "It is where people get together.

"The church is just about to be sold and what would be left? Nothing, just houses.

"The hall is critical."

- Learn more about planning applications in the county by visiting our Public Notice Portal – *www.publicnoticeportal.uk/east-lothian-courier*

£70k boost for cook scheme

A SCHEME which has served up thousands of portions of soup has received a cash boost.

A two-year grant of £70,500 has been awarded to the Community Carrot in Dunbar, which operates a number of culinary projects.

The funding will ensure the continuation of popular, established initiatives including Sunny's Kitchen, a weekly community meal; Sunny Soups, a food waste project that turns surplus ingredients into soup, which is then given away free of charge; and weekly free children's cooking classes.

The schemes have been funded by the National Lottery for the past three years.

During this time, 5,345 portions have been served up at Sunny's Kitchen, 7,015 portions have been given away through Sunny Soups, nearly 700 participants have taken part in cooking classes and nearly 900 people have taken part in activities overall.

The projects benefit from the support of volunteers of all ages, from teenagers working towards Duke of Edinburgh's Award projects to retirees providing their time and skills on a regular basis.

The award will pay for two part-time roles, the community food outreach and communications lead, and a new community cook who will run the community meal, as well as support for cook club, a children's weekly cooking skills group.

Hannah Ewan, community food outreach lead, was delighted with the funding boost from the National Lottery Community Led Fund.

The Community Carrot, previously known as the Crunchy Carrot, is a community-owned greengrocers and whole foods shop based on Dunbar High Street.

Hannah said: "We're so grateful to the National Lottery for this funding, it's wonderful to have continuity assured for our community projects for another two years.

"There have been so many positive moments over the past three years, from children learning to enjoy eating a range of vegetables and discovering a love and talent for cooking, to people making new friends at our community meal and through volunteering at Sunny Soups, to feeling like we're making a difference by using up food that would otherwise have gone to waste.

"We're delighted to be able to continue this work in our community."

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www.thecontainers.co.uk

Springfield Solar Farm
PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

Voltalia is seeking to develop a Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in East Lothian, Scotland. The proposed project is near Oldhamstocks, approximately 8km southeast of Dunbar. It comprises a 165MWp solar farm and up to 150mw BESS with associated infrastructure.

We are holding our first public consultation event
Wednesday 28th August 2024, 3pm - 8pm
Oldhamstocks Village Hall, TD13 5XN

Join us to see our current plans for the project and studies we will be undertaking. This is an opportunity to share your views and raise any questions.

If you can't attend, you can participate in our consultation which is running until the 17th September. We invite you to:
- Visit our online consultation and submit your feedback
- Request printed materials
- Get in touch to speak to a member of the team

Please note that comments made in response to this public consultation are not representations to the planning authority. Once a planning application has been submitted, there will be an opportunity to make representation.

Website: www.springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk
Email: Springfieldsolarfarm@erm.com
Telephone: (+44) 01312216863
voltalia

Bowshiel Solar Farm
PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

Voltalia is seeking to develop a Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in East Berwickshire, Scotland. The proposed project is near Cockburnspath, approximately 14km southeast of Dunbar. It comprises a 170MWp solar farm and up to 150mw BESS with associated infrastructure.

We are holding our first public consultation event
Tuesday 27th August 2024, 3pm - 8pm
Cockburnspath Village Hall, TD13 5XY

Join us to see our current plans for the project and studies we will be undertaking. This is an opportunity to share your views and raise any questions.

If you can't attend, you can participate in our consultation which is running until the 17th September. We invite you to:
- Visit our online consultation and submit your feedback
- Request printed materials
- Get in touch to speak to a member of the team

Please note that comments made in response to this public consultation are not representations to the planning authority. Once a planning application has been submitted, there will be an opportunity to make representation.

Website: www.bowshielsolarfarm.co.uk
Email: Bowshielsolarfarm@erm.com
Telephone: (+44) 01312216862
voltalia

Una Cameron manages to smash previous world record set in February

More than 500 sheep sheared in nine hours

Mike Thomson
michael.thomson@newsquest.co.uk

A BORDERS sheep shearer has smashed a world record set earlier this year.

Una Cameron, of St Boswells, sheared a staggering 517 ewes across the nine-hour challenge in Cornwall to beat the target by 59.

The solo women's record had been set by Kiwi Sacha Bond in Southland, New Zealand, in February.

"I had a wonderful team behind me and they believed that I could do it," said the 51-year-old, who attended Borders College in the late 1980s. "I was focused on passing the 458 mark, but always wanted to shear 500. I can't thank everyone enough, especially Matt and Pip Smith, who hosted the event on Trefranck Farm."

She added: "I never thought I was good enough but my friends and peers from the industry have pushed me to attempt it, and with their support I knew I could do it."

Gareth Jones, head of member engagement at British Wool, said: "On behalf of British Wool we offer huge congratulations to Una on her successful record attempt. This was a display of high quality shearing and Una should be very proud of her achievements.

"We appreciate the hard work that goes on behind the scenes in holding a record and therefore offer congratulations to everyone that has helped and supported Una in successfully setting a new world shearing record."

Last month, Una revealed that she had been taking ice baths and following a food and fitness programme ahead of the record bid.

The Borderer is the only woman to qualify in the top 30 at the coveted Golden Shears in Masterton, New Zealand.

She has been a professional shearer on the circuit for almost three decades, working across the UK, Australia, New Zealand and Norway.



RECORD: Una Cameron with the final tally board. *Photo: British Wool*

Swimming hub proposed for estate unit

A SWIMMING teaching centre is on the cards at a Galashiels industrial estate.

The unit on Netherdale Industrial Estate would be converted under the plans.

The centre would be used to teach swimming to all ages.

It is proposed to have the hub open between 10am and 8pm on weekdays and 9am and 3pm during weekends.

A supporting statement with the bid states: "With existing local swimming teaching facilities currently and historically overwhelmed and with lengthy waiting lists, while it is of course for the authority to determine, we would suggest that the proposed use is a public good."

It adds: "While it is not its primary purpose, should there be a need in the local community, we would be happy to accommodate medical hydro-therapy.

"The small scale of the facility and its controlled access environment makes it ideal for this use.

"Times of this use would be outwith use times stated and could be controlled by conditions of consent or local licence."

Bowshiel Solar Farm
PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

Voltalia is seeking to develop a Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in East Berwickshire, Scotland. The site is near Cockburnspath, approximately 14km southeast of Dunbar.

The proposed project comprises a 170MWp solar farm and up to 150MW BESS with associated infrastructure.

We are holding our first public consultation event

Tuesday 27th August 2024
Cockburnspath Village Hall, TD13 5XY
3pm - 8pm

Join us to see our current plans for the project and studies we will be undertaking. This is an opportunity to share your views and raise any questions.

If you can't attend, you can participate in our consultation which is running until the 17th September. We invite you to:

- Visit our online consultation and view the materials
- Request printed materials
- Get in touch to speak to a member of the team
- Submit your feedback and questions

Please note that comments made in response to this public consultation are not representations to the planning authority. Once a planning application has been submitted, there will be an opportunity to make representation.

Website: www.bowshielsolarfarm.co.uk
Email: Bowshielsolarfarm@erm.com
Telephone: (+44) 01312216862

voltalia

Springfield Solar Farm
PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

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The proposed project comprises a 165MWp solar farm and up to 150MW BESS with associated infrastructure.

We are holding our first public consultation event

Wednesday 28th August 2024
Oldhamstocks Village Hall, TD13 5XN
3pm - 8pm

Join us to see our current plans for the project and studies we will be undertaking. This is an opportunity to share your views and raise any questions.

If you can't attend, you can participate in our consultation which is running until the 17th September. We invite you to:

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Email: Springfieldsolarfarm@erm.com
Telephone: (+44) 01312216863

voltalia

The Berwickshire News

Since 1869

Thursday, August 15, 2024

£1.80

Coldstreamer Jake 'Safe oot, Safe in!'



Picture special P10 & 11.

Father and son rescued

by Hilary Scott
Reporter
hilary.scott@nationalworld.com

A father and son were rescued from the Cheviot Hills after getting into difficulty during a camping trip.

Border Search and Rescue Unit teams were called by police to assist with two walkers south of The Schil in the Cheviots on Sunday afternoon.

The 54-year-old father and 17-year-old son set off from Morebattle on Saturday and enjoyed a "great day and a fine night's camping out on the hill".

However, as Sunday dawned warm and sunny, and as the temperature climbed, their water ran low and energy started to dip.

By mid-afternoon, going over the 605m summit of The Schil, the father became unwell, vomiting and dipping in and out of consciousness.

His son called for police and mountain rescue but also started suffering from heat exhaustion.

Two passing walkers had come across the stricken party and tried to help by sharing their own dwindling water.

The callout for BSARU arrived shortly after 2pm, and a hasty response Landrover left the team's new base in Kelso about twenty minutes later.

Two team-members were whisked up onto the border ridge on quad-bikes piloted by the farming family from Cocklawfoot and Sourhope

By the time the team arrived the son had also started to suffer the effects of the sun and his condition was deteriorating.

The rescue team, joined by neighbouring Northumberland Mountain Rescue, put up a shelter to provide shade and started rehydration.

Continued on page 3

What's On



Vera writer in Berwick

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News



Sea, sand and access

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Competition



Trip to the Seychelles

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Classified

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Tuesday 17:00

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GENERAL NOTICES

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(Easter Street, Duns) (Temporary Closing) Order 2024

The Scottish Borders Council (Easter Street, Duns) (Temporary Closing) Order 2024 has been made under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended. The Order, which has a maximum duration of 18 months, will come into force at 09:00 on 20 August 2024 and is expected to remain in effect until 19:00 on 22 August 2024 – 24 hour closure. The Order is required for Scottish Water works.

When the Order comes into effect no person shall drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle along Easter Street, Duns from the Mount northwards for 40 metres.

The alternative route for southbound traffic is via Easter Street, Tannage Brae, Teindhillgreen, Castle Street, Currie Street and Easter Street to the point of closure, for northbound traffic the reverse of the foregoing.

A map showing the restriction and alternative routes can be seen at www.tellmescotland.gov.uk.

(C117 Paxton) (Temporary Closing) Order 2024

The Scottish Borders Council (C117 Paxton) (Temporary Closing) Order 2024 has been made under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended. The Order, which has a maximum duration of 18 months, will come into force at 09:30 on 21 August 2024 and is expected to remain in effect until 23:59 on 29 August 2024 – 24 hour closure. The Order is required for Scottish Water works.

When the Order comes into effect no person shall drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle along the C117 at Paxton from Merse View to the D81/6.

The alternative route for southbound traffic is via the C117, B6460, B6461 and C117 to the point of closure, for northbound traffic the reverse of the foregoing.

A map showing the restriction and alternative routes can be seen at www.tellmescotland.gov.uk.

(A6105 West of Gordon) (Temporary 10mph Speed Restriction) Order 2024

The Scottish Borders Council (A6105 West of Gordon) (Temporary 10mph Speed Restriction) Order 2024 has been made under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended. The Order, which has a maximum duration of 18 months, will come into force on 20 August 2024 and is expected to remain in effect for a period of one day between the hours of 08:00 and 18:00. The Order is required for installation of a new BT Openreach pole.

When the Order comes into effect no person shall drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle at a speed exceeding 10mph along the A6105, west of Gordon.

A map showing the restriction can be seen at www.tellmescotland.gov.uk.

N MCKINLAY Director of Corporate Governance

Scottish Borders – *the place to live and work*

PLANNING NOTICES

Northumberland County Council

has received and is required to publicise the following planning applications for the reasons stated below:

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015. Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990. Reason: LBC Listed Building Consent - Regulation 3, **ALB** affecting the setting of a listed building - Regulation 5A, **ACA** affecting the character or appearance of a Conservation Area - Regulation 5A.

24/02517/LBC, Bamburgh First Ltd, Listed Building Consent: Repaint exterior walls on grade II listed building, Village House 11 Front Street Bamburgh NE69 7BW, LBC,

24/02523/FUL, Dhala Campbell, Demolition of sun room and extension to the rear elevation.,19 Castle Street Norham TD15 2LQ, ACA, ALB

24/02670/FUL, Marygate House Trust, External alterations associated with full refurbishment and internal rearrangement of retreat accommodation, Marygate House Marygate Holy Island Berwick-Upon-Tweed TD15 2SD, ACA,

Visit publicaccess.northumberland.gov.uk to view the full application, plans and associated documents. Representations (comments) can be made online or in writing to The Planning Department, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF **within 21 days of the date of this notice.** These must include the application reference, your name and full postal address (which will be made available on our website).

Rob Murfin - Director of Planning.

Date: 15-8-24

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GENERAL NOTICES

Bowshiel Solar Farm
PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

Voltalia is seeking to develop a Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in East Berwickshire, Scotland. The proposed project is near Cockburnspath, approximately 14km southeast of Dunbar. It comprises a 170MWp solar farm and up to 150mw BESS with associated infrastructure.

We are holding our first public consultation event
Tuesday 27th August 2024, 3pm – 8pm
Cockburnspath Village Hall, TD13 5XY

Join us to see our current plans for the project and studies we will be undertaking. This is an opportunity to share your views and raise any questions.

If you can't attend, you can participate in our consultation which is running until the 17th September. We invite you to:
- Visit our online consultation and submit your feedback
- Request printed materials
- Get in touch to speak to a member of the team

Please note that comments made in response to this public consultation are not representations to the planning authority. Once a planning application has been submitted, there will be an opportunity to make representation.

Website: www.bowshielsolarfarm.co.uk
Email: Bowshielsolarfarm@erm.com
Telephone: (+44) 01312216862
voltalia

Springfield Solar Farm
PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

Voltalia is seeking to develop a Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in East Lothian, Scotland. The proposed project is near Oldhamstocks, approximately 8km southeast of Dunbar. It comprises a 165MWp solar farm and up to 150mw BESS with associated infrastructure.

We are holding our first public consultation event
Wednesday 28th August 2024, 3pm – 8pm
Oldhamstocks Village Hall, TD13 5XN

Join us to see our current plans for the project and studies we will be undertaking. This is an opportunity to share your views and raise any questions.

If you can't attend, you can participate in our consultation which is running until the 17th September. We invite you to:
- Visit our online consultation and submit your feedback
- Request printed materials
- Get in touch to speak to a member of the team

Please note that comments made in response to this public consultation are not representations to the planning authority. Once a planning application has been submitted, there will be an opportunity to make representation.

Website: www.springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk
Email: Springfieldsolarfarm@erm.com
Telephone: (+44) 01312216863
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APPENDIX E ROUND ONE: CONSULTATION MATERIALS

E1 – FEEDBACK FORM

E2 – CONSULTATION BANNERS

E3 – PROJECT INFORMATION BOOKLET

E4 – SITE LAYOUT & KEY CONSTRAINTS

Springfield Solar Farm Project

Feedback Form

Thank you for considering our proposals. Please take a moment to provide your feedback below.

1. What is your understanding of the need for solar energy/ the project?

2. Do you support our proposals for Springfield Solar Farm Project? (Tick one)

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Neutral / Not sure yet

Please provide further detail.

3. Following the information shared, do you have a better understanding of the planning and approval process for the project? (Tick one)

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

4. What issues or topics are most important to you in relation to our proposals?

5. Do you have any ideas or suggestions for how Voltalia can help provide benefits and opportunities for the local community?

6. Do you have any further comments on our proposals for the Springfield Solar Farm Project?

7. Were the consultation materials clear and easy to understand?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Neutral

8. How would you describe your interest? (please tick one)

☐ Local resident / landowner ☐ Local business owner

☐ Visitor to the area ☐ Interest group representative (specify name)

☐ Other (please specify) _____

_____

Your information:

It is useful for us to understand who has participated in the consultation. Please fill out your postcode (no other information required if you wish to remain anonymous), and if you wish to be kept up-to-date on the project, please provide your name and email.

Name: _____

Postcode (required): _____

Email address: _____

I would be happy to be contacted by email about future consultation activities on this project:

☐ Yes ☐ No

Thank you.

We kindly request your feedback to our consultation by **September 17th.** This can be returned by:

- Email to: **Springfieldsolarfarm@erm.com.**
- Using our freepost service by writing *'Freepost'* followed by *'SPRINGFIELD SOLAR FARM'* onto an envelope and dropping it in your nearest post-box.

To view this consultation online and submit a response electronically, please visit our online consultation page accessed via our project website at **www.springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk**

Privacy Statement/ Data Protection: *Personal information will be processed and handled securely in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. By completing this feedback form, you are agreeing that we can hold and process data in relation to the current consultation exercise for the purposes of the Springfield/Bowshiel Solar and BESS project. We hold all personal data in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679 and your personal data will not be transferred outside of the European Economic Area. We will only share your personal data with members of the project team for planning evaluation and project development purposes. Your identifiable personal data will not be used for any other purposes without your prior consent. In the event when a Pre-Application Consultation Report is submitted with the planning application, your feedback will be anonymised. Voltalia's Privacy Policy can be found on our website: www.voltalia.com.*



Welcome to our
PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

Thank you for participating in our consultation on the proposed Springfield Solar Farm project

The purpose of this event is to seek your views on our preliminary proposals for the Springfield Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project.

This event provides information on the site location, layout design, infrastructure components and environmental considerations.

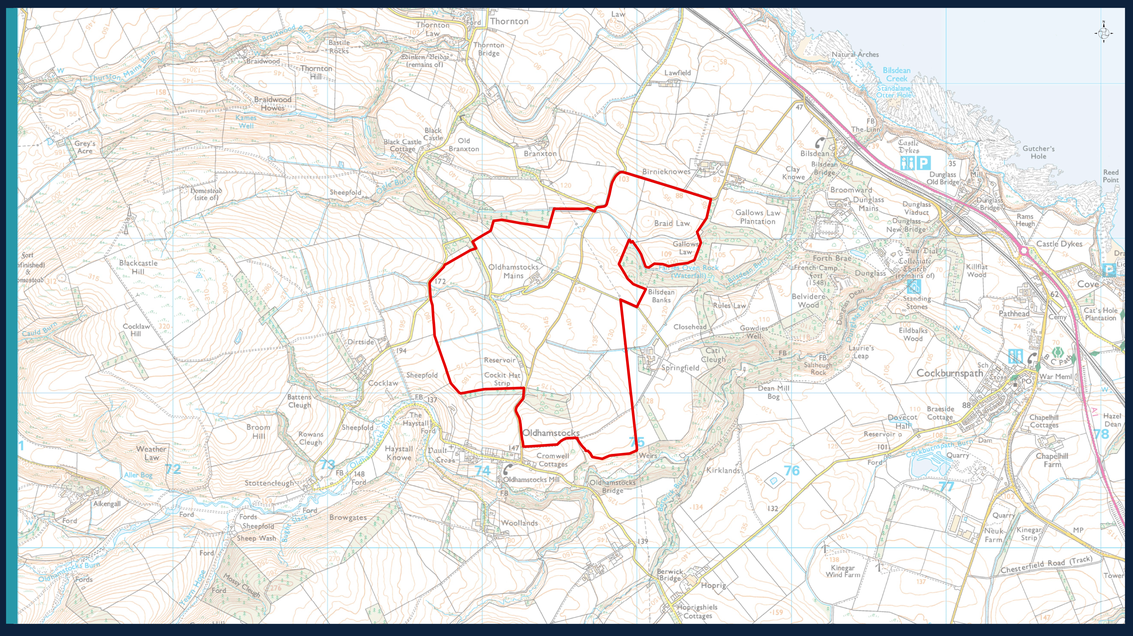
Voltalia is committed to engaging early with the local community and key stakeholders. It is important to us that those with an interest in the project have the opportunity to view and comment on the plans as they take shape.

All feedback received, along with ongoing technical assessments and consultation with statutory bodies, will be carefully considered in the design development process.

Located to the north of Oldhamstocks, East Lothian, the project has a potential solar capacity of up to 165MWp, combined with a battery storage capacity of up to 150MW.

SOLAR

BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM


Thornton
Thornton Law
Thornton Bridge
Thornton Hill
Bradwood
Bradwood Howes
Bastle Rocks
Grey's Acre
Black Castle Cottage
Old Branxton
Branxton
Birnieknowe
Sheepfold
Braid Law
Gallows Law Plantation
Oldhamstocks Mains
Blackcastle Hill
Cocklaw Hill
Dirtside
Reservoir
Cockit Hat Strip
Cocklaw
Sheepfold
Battern Cleugh
Broom Hill
Rowans Cleugh
Weather Law
Haystall Knowe
Dault Cross
Oldhamstocks
Cromwell Cottages
Oldhamstocks Bridge
Oldhamstocks Mill
Stottencleugh
Alder Bog
Alvengall
Fords
Sheepfold
Sheep Wash
Browgates
Woollands
Kirklands
Works
Springfield
Cast Cleugh
Laurie's Leap
Sailhead Rock
Dean Mill Bog
Cockburnspath
Pathhead
Dovecot Hall
Braeside Cottage
Reservoir
Quarry
Chapelhill Cottages
Chapelhill Farm
Hazel Dean
Nauk Farm
Kinegar Strip
Kinegar Wind Farm
Chesterfield Road (Track)
Berwick Bridge
Hoprig
Hogigshiels Cottages
Natural Arches
Bilsdean Creek
Bilsdean
Clay Knowe
Broomward
Dunglass Mains
Dunglass Old Bridge
Dunglass Viaduct
Dunglass New Bridge
Dunglass Bridge
Gallows Law
Forth Brae
Dunglass
Bilsdean Banks
Roles Law
Belvidere Wood
Standing Stones
Killhat Wood
Eildalhill Wood
Castle Dykes
Ram's Head
Gutcher's Hole
Reed Point
Cove
Cat's Hole Plantation
Castle Dykes
Gallows Law
Braid Law
Galloway Law
Gowlers Well
Closehead
Roles Law
Bilsdean Banks
Standing Stones
Belvidere Wood
Eildalhill Wood
Killhat Wood
Dunglass
Forth Brae
Dunglass Viaduct
Dunglass New Bridge
Dunglass Old Bridge
Bilsdean
Clay Knowe
Broomward
Dunglass Mains
Gutcher's Hole
Reed Point
Ram's Head
Castle Dykes
Cove
Cat's Hole Plantation
Pathhead
Cockburnspath
Sch
PO
War Mem
Chapelhill Cottages
Chapelhill Farm
Hazel Dean
Quarry
Dovecot Hall
Braeside Cottage
Reservoir
Dean Mill Bog
Laurie's Leap
Sailhead Rock
Springfield
Cast Cleugh
Works
Kirklands
Oldhamstocks
Oldhamstocks Bridge
Cromwell Cottages
Oldhamstocks Mill
Dault Cross
Haystall Knowe
Weather Law
Broom Hill
Rowans Cleugh
Battern Cleugh
Sheepfold
Cocklaw
Cockit Hat Strip
Reservoir
Dirtside
Cocklaw Hill
Blackcastle Hill
Sheepfold
Braid Law
Gallows Law Plantation
Birnieknowe
Branxton
Old Branxton
Black Castle Cottage
Bradwood Howes
Bradwood
Thornton Hill
Thornton Bridge
Thornton Law
Thornton
Law
Lawfield
Natural Arches
Bilsdean Creek
Castle Dykes



About Voltalia

WHAT WE DO

Founded in 2005, Voltalia is an independent Power Producer (IPP) in the renewable energy market, developing, constructing, and operating solar, wind, hydro, biomass, and storage projects.

Operating across **three continents** and in **over 20 countries**, Voltalia has **2.37GW of installed generating capacity** (including over 1GW of solar generation) and a **16.6GW pipeline of projects globally**.

With a mission to improve the global environment by fostering local development, all of Voltalia's sites will contribute towards addressing national and local electricity needs by generating an affordable and renewable source of clean energy.

KEY FIGURES

2.37 GW
installed generating capacity

16.6 GW
pipeline of projects

OUR PRESENCE



VOLTALIA IN SCOTLAND

Voltalia has a long-term commitment to renewable energy development in the UK.

With plans for solar, wind and hybrid projects in Scotland, Voltalia has the capabilities and expertise to deliver projects which will help Scotland achieve its net zero ambitions by 2045.

Projects currently being progressed by Voltalia in Scotland include:

- **Springfield Solar Farm project**, East Lothian
- **Bowshiel Solar Farm project**, East Berwickshire
- **Cruach Clenamacrie Wind Farm**, Argyll and Bute

Find out more about Voltalia at:
www.voltalia.com

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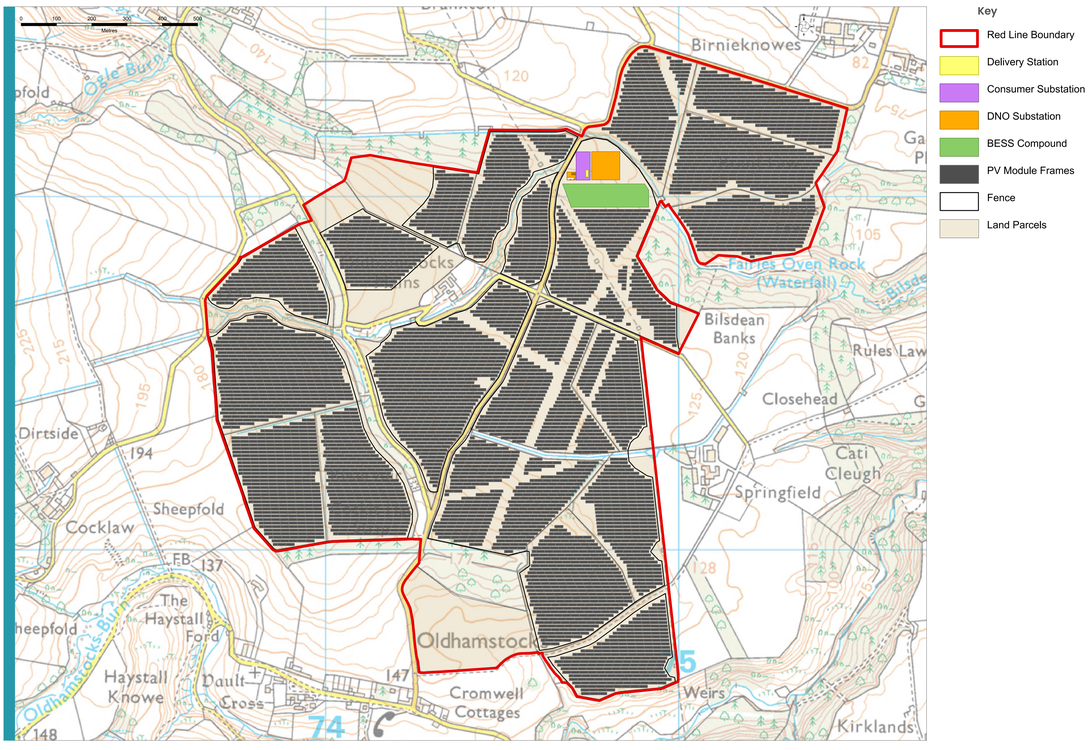
Proposed infrastructure

The **Springfield Solar Farm project** site occupies an area of approximately **148 hectares** with proposed infrastructure comprising:

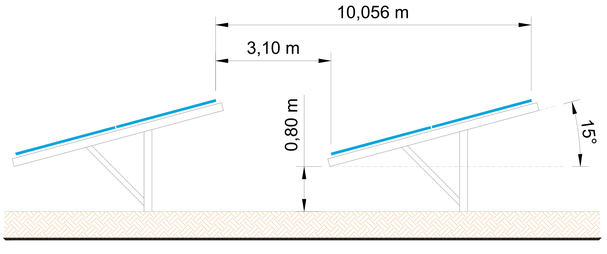
- **Solar PV modules and mounting structures** (with a potential generating capacity of 165MWp)
- **Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)** with a capacity of up to 150MW
- **On-site substation and cabling**
- **Operation and Maintenance building**

SOLAR

BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM



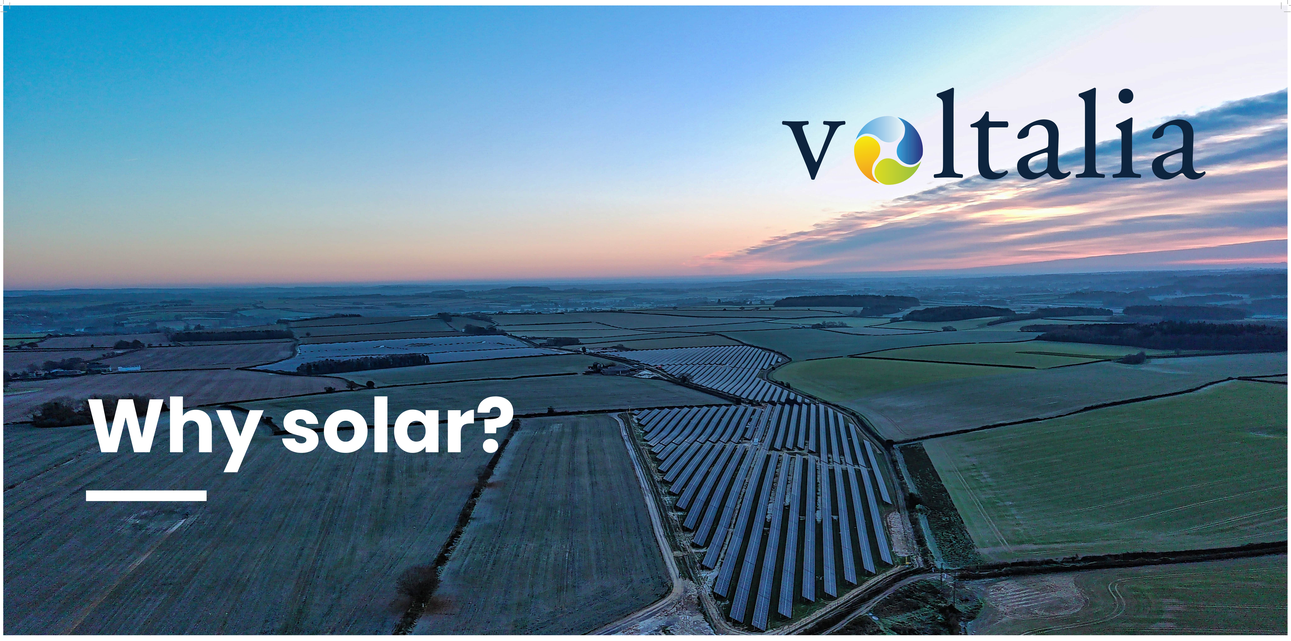
Indicative lateral view of the structure



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Why solar?

POLICY CONTEXT

The UK Government's Energy White Paper (2021) committed to decarbonise the UK's electricity system by 2035 with a **"focus on building a secure, home grown energy sector that reduces reliance on fossil fuels and exposure to volatile global wholesale energy prices."**

The Scottish Government's Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan (2023) sets out an ambition for more than 20GW of additional low-cost renewable electricity generation capacity by 2030, including increased contribution from solar energy.

The Strategy acknowledges that **"Solar is a long established, commercially viable renewable technology that has been at the forefront of decarbonisation efforts"** and sets out an aim to **"maximise the contribution solar can make to a just, inclusive, transition to net zero."** In 2023, the Scottish Government proposed a solar deployment ambition of 4-6GW by 2030.

WHY THIS LOCATION?

The Springfield Solar Farm project site has the opportunity to bring forward up to 165MWp of renewable electricity.

The location utilises a planned grid connection.

The Springfield Solar Farm project site has been selected on the basis of the following attributes:

- **Proximity to feasible grid connection**
- **Viable predicted solar energy yield**
- **Availability of sufficient land area and grade within solar development guidelines**
- **Avoidance of environmental designations of national importance**

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The consenting process

SECTION 36

Proposals to construct, extend or operate an onshore electricity generating station with a capacity of over 50 megawatts (MW) require the consent of Scottish Ministers under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989.

Onshore electricity generation, including electricity storage, from renewables that exceeds a 50MW capacity are classed as national developments. These contribute to strategic renewable electricity generation (as defined in the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)).

Voltalia intends to submit a Section 36 application for consent to be determined by Scottish Ministers and administered by the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU).

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA):

As the project falls under **Schedule 2 of the Electricity Works (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations 2017**, an EIA report is required to support the application for consent. The EIA process seeks to identify and assess the potential environmental impacts of the project.

Section 36 (S36) Consenting Process Outline:

- Pre-application consultation with Energy Consents Unit (ECU)
- EIA Screening / Scoping
- Pre-application consultation with stakeholders

We are currently in the "EIA Scoping" and "Pre-application consultation with stakeholders" stages of the project.

- Submission of S36 application to ECU
- Processing of S36 application
- Determination of S36 application by Scottish Ministers

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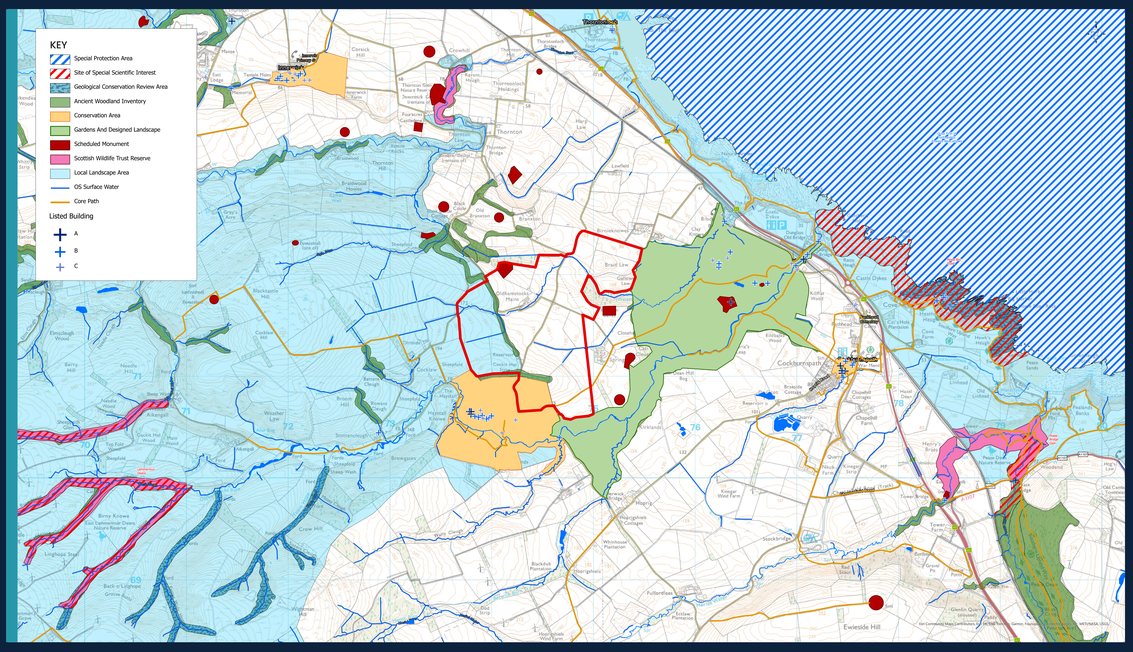
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Assessing project impacts

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS PLAN



LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

Landscape and Visual Assessment specialists (Abseline Landscape Planning) carried out an initial site walkover visit in June 2024. This has enabled identification of potential viewpoints, to be consulted upon, and once agreed will form the basis of the visual assessment.

ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

A cultural assessment walkover survey was completed in early June 2024. This included a setting assessment for heritage assets. A geophysical survey will be scheduled for later this year to identify the presence of below ground archaeological features.

ECOLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY

Breeding bird surveys have been completed. Ecological surveys commenced in May 2024 and are ongoing until September 2024. Surveys include bat, otter, water vole, badger, red squirrel and habitat/vegetation surveys.

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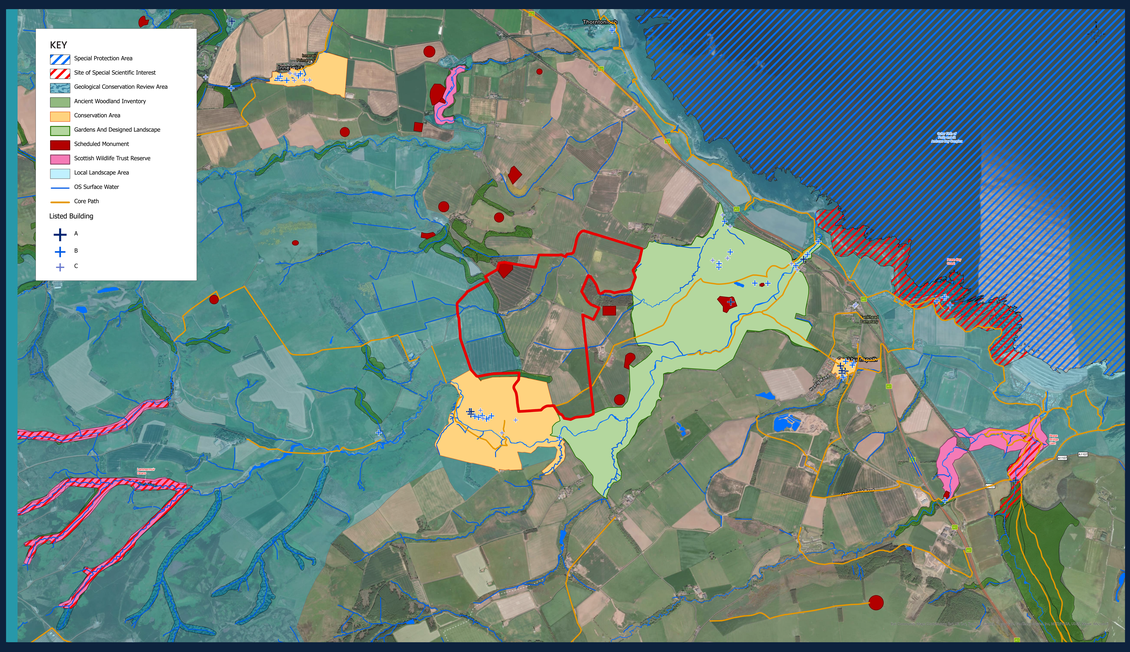
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Assessing project impacts

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS PLAN



WATER RESOURCES AND FLOOD RISK

An assessment of potential impacts upon the water environment will be carried out, including consideration of potential flood risk.

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

An assessment of impacts on geology and soils will be undertaken incorporating a contaminated land assessment for the site of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

An assessment will be carried out to determine the potential impact of construction traffic on the local road network in consultation with roads authorities. Appropriate construction traffic access routes will be identified along with any required mitigation measures.

NOISE AND VIBRATION

An assessment of construction activities and construction traffic noise impacts will be carried out. This will involve background noise monitoring which will be undertaken to characterise the local acoustic environment at the nearest sensitive receptors.



Working with the community

COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Voltalia are committed to working with the community throughout the design, construction and operation of the project. We want to support the communities close to our proposed developments and make a positive change for current and future generations.

We are committed to providing local environmental, social and economic benefits through our projects and look to support local communities through:

- Community Benefit Funds
- Volunteering
- Local employment
- Educational workshops

We aim to contribute towards addressing energy needs by generating an affordable and renewable source of clean energy that contributes towards energy security and the circular economy, while helping Scotland to achieve its net zero ambitions for 2045.

We want to hear from the local community about what is important to them and what Voltalia and this project can do to work collaboratively and create positive lasting local impacts.

We invite you to share your feedback on this and any ideas or opportunities you may have.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

Voltalia is keen to give local businesses every opportunity to benefit from the construction and operation of the project.

Please share your community benefit ideas with us...

If you are a local business or service provider, please get in touch via our project website:

www.springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk

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Next steps

INDICATIVE PROJECT TIMELINE

FIRST PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Summer 2024

- EIA surveys
- EIA Scoping Request
- Public Consultation Event

Autumn 2024

- EIA surveys
- EIA Scoping Opinion
- Design Development

Winter 2024

- Design Development
- EIA Reporting

SECOND PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Early 2025

- Public Consultation Event
- Design Development
- EIA Reporting

Spring 2025

- EIA Reporting
- S36 Application Submission

Thank you for visiting our public consultation event

PLEASE SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK ON OUR PROPOSALS

We need your feedback by Tuesday 17th September 2024.

Your feedback is important to us and we would encourage you to complete a feedback form and return it to us at our event or via the contact methods listed to the right.

Feedback received during public consultation will help to inform our proposals as we progress with the project.

YOU CAN PROVIDE FEEDBACK BY:

Accessing our online consultation and submitting feedback online via **www.springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk**

Emailing your feedback form to **springfieldsolarfarm@erm.com**

Posting your feedback form, free of charge, by writing '**Freepost SPRINGFIELD SOLAR FARM**' onto an envelope.

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www.voltalia.com

VOLTALIA UK



Springfield Solar Farm project

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Why solar?

POLICY CONTEXT

The UK Government's Energy White Paper (2021) committed to decarbonise the UK's electricity system by 2035 with a **"focus on building a secure, home grown energy sector that reduces reliance on fossil fuels and exposure to volatile global wholesale energy prices."**

The Scottish Government's Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan (2023) sets out an ambition for more than 20GW of additional low-cost renewable electricity generation capacity by 2030, including increased contribution from solar energy.

The Strategy acknowledges that **"Solar is a long established, commercially viable renewable technology that has been at the forefront of decarbonisation efforts"** and sets out an aim to **"maximise the contribution solar can make to a just, inclusive, transition to net zero."** In 2023, the Scottish Government proposed a solar deployment ambition of 4-6GW by 2030.



WHAT WE DO

Founded in 2005, Voltalia is an independent Power Producer (IPP) in the renewable energy market, developing, constructing, and operating solar, wind, hydro, biomass, and storage projects.

Operating across **three continents** and in **over 20 countries**, Voltalia has **2.37GW of installed generating** capacity (including over 1GW of solar generation) and a **16.6GW pipeline of projects globally**.

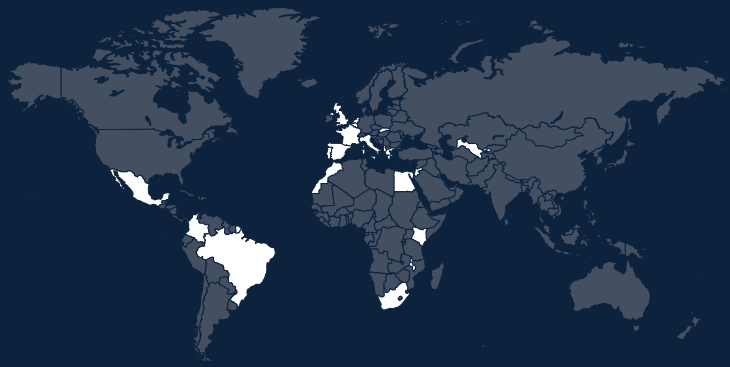
With a mission to improve the global environment by fostering local development, all of Voltalia's sites will contribute towards addressing national and local electricity needs by generating an affordable and renewable source of clean energy.

KEY FIGURES

2.37 GW
installed generating capacity

16.6 GW
pipeline of projects

OUR PRESENCE



VOLTALIA IN SCOTLAND

Voltalia has a long-term commitment to renewable energy development in the UK.

With plans for solar, wind and hybrid projects in Scotland, Voltalia has the capabilities and expertise to deliver projects which will help Scotland achieve its net zero ambitions by 2045.

Projects currently being progressed by Voltalia in Scotland include:

- **Springfield Solar Farm project**, East Lothian
- **Bowshiel Solar Farm project**, East Berwickshire
- **Cruach Clenamacrie Wind Farm**, Argyll and Bute

SPRINGFIELD SOLAR FARM PROJECT IN SCOTLAND

We aim to contribute towards addressing energy needs by generating affordable and renewable sources of clean energy. Projects like Springfield Solar Farm project will contribute toward energy security and the circular economy, while helping Scotland achieve its net zero and solar deployment ambitions.

Voltalia hope that the Springfield Solar Farm project will be able to make an important contribution to increasing Britain's homegrown energy capacity.

Find out more about Voltalia at:
www.voltalia.com



About the Springfield Solar Farm project

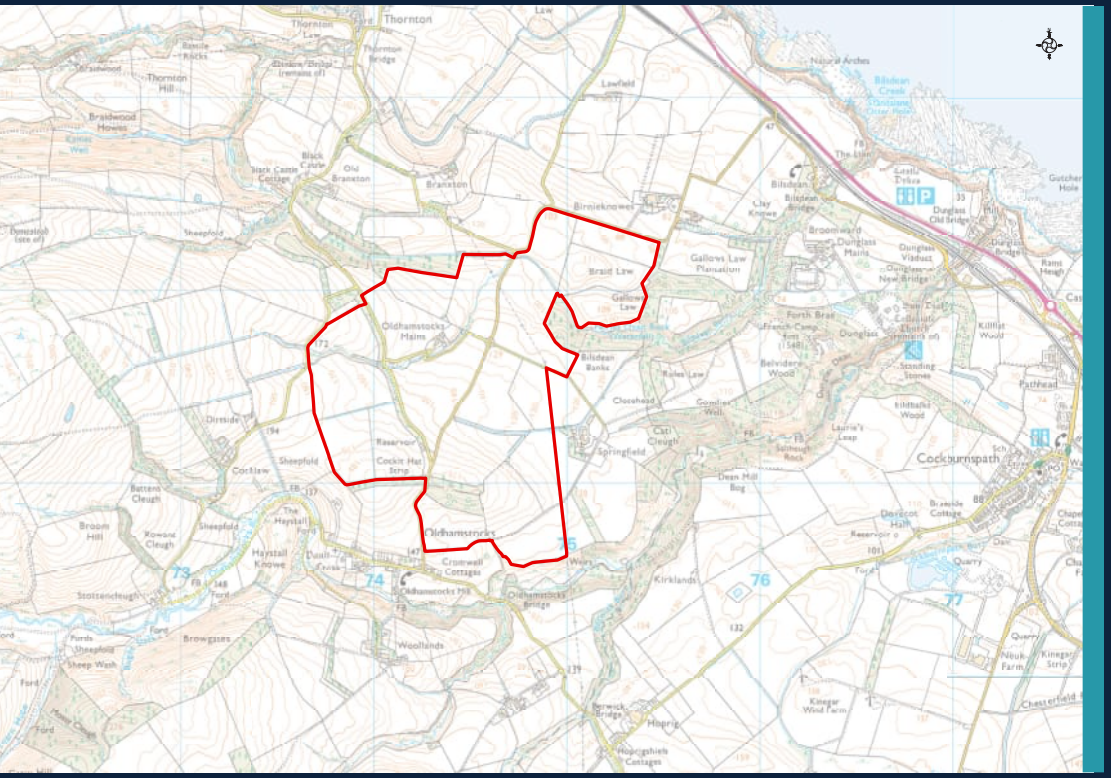
ABOUT

The Springfield Solar Farm project is located to the north of Oldhamstocks in East Lothian.

It has a potential renewable energy generating capacity of 165MWp, combined with a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) capacity of up to 150MW.

We are in the early phases of developing our plans for the Springfield Solar Farm project.

Feedback from stakeholders will play a key role in shaping a design that delivers clean, secure, and affordable electricity while also safeguarding the surrounding environment.



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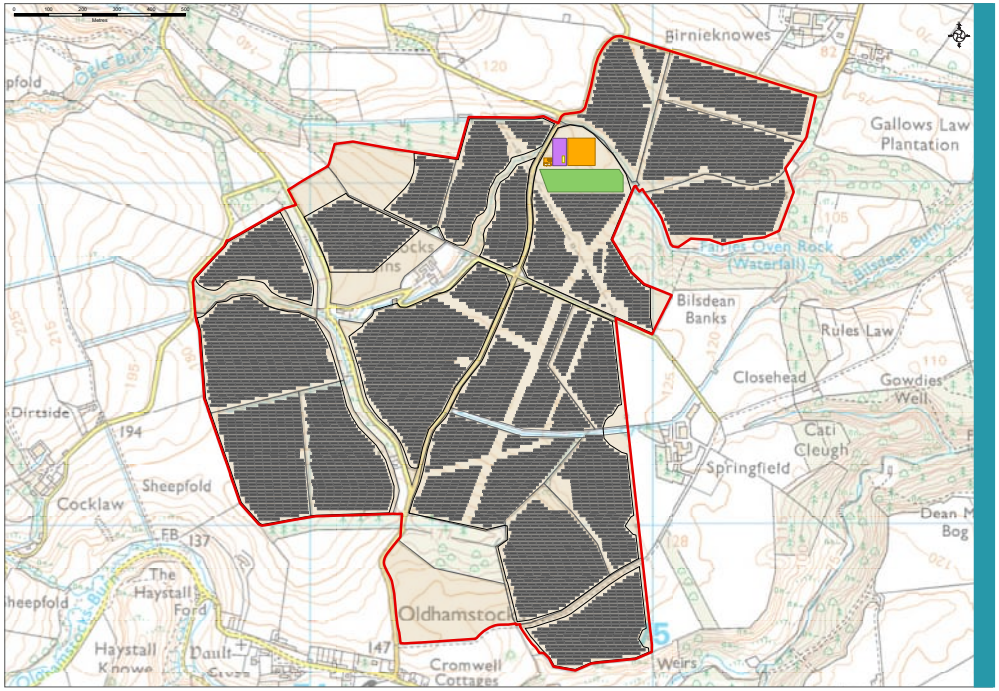
WHY THIS SITE?

The Springfield Solar Farm project site has been selected on the basis of the following attributes:

- **Proximity to feasible grid connection**
- **Viable predicted solar energy yield**
- **Availability of sufficient land area and grade within solar development guidelines**
- **Avoidance of environmental designations of national importance**

About the Springfield Solar Farm project

PROPOSED LAYOUT



Key

- Red Line Boundary
- Delivery Station
- Consumer Substation
- DNO Substation
- BESS Compound
- PV Module Frames
- Fence
- Land Parcels

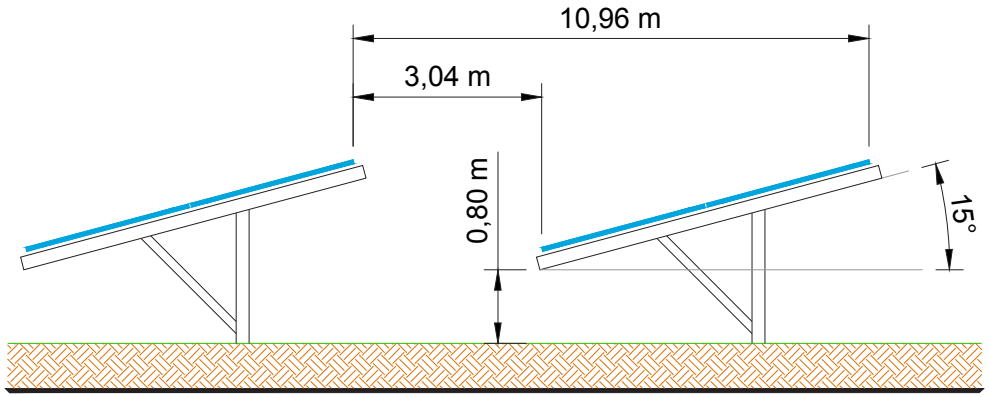
SOLAR

BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

This plan shows an indicative layout for the site. It occupies an area of approximately 148 hectares with proposed infrastructure comprising:

- Solar PV modules and mounting structures with a potential generating capacity of 165MWp
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with a capacity of up to 150MW
- On-site substation and cabling
- Operation and Maintenance building

Indicative lateral view of the structure



The consenting process

SECTION 36:

Proposals to construct, extend or operate an onshore electricity generating station with a capacity of over 50 megawatts (MW) require the consent of Scottish Ministers under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989.

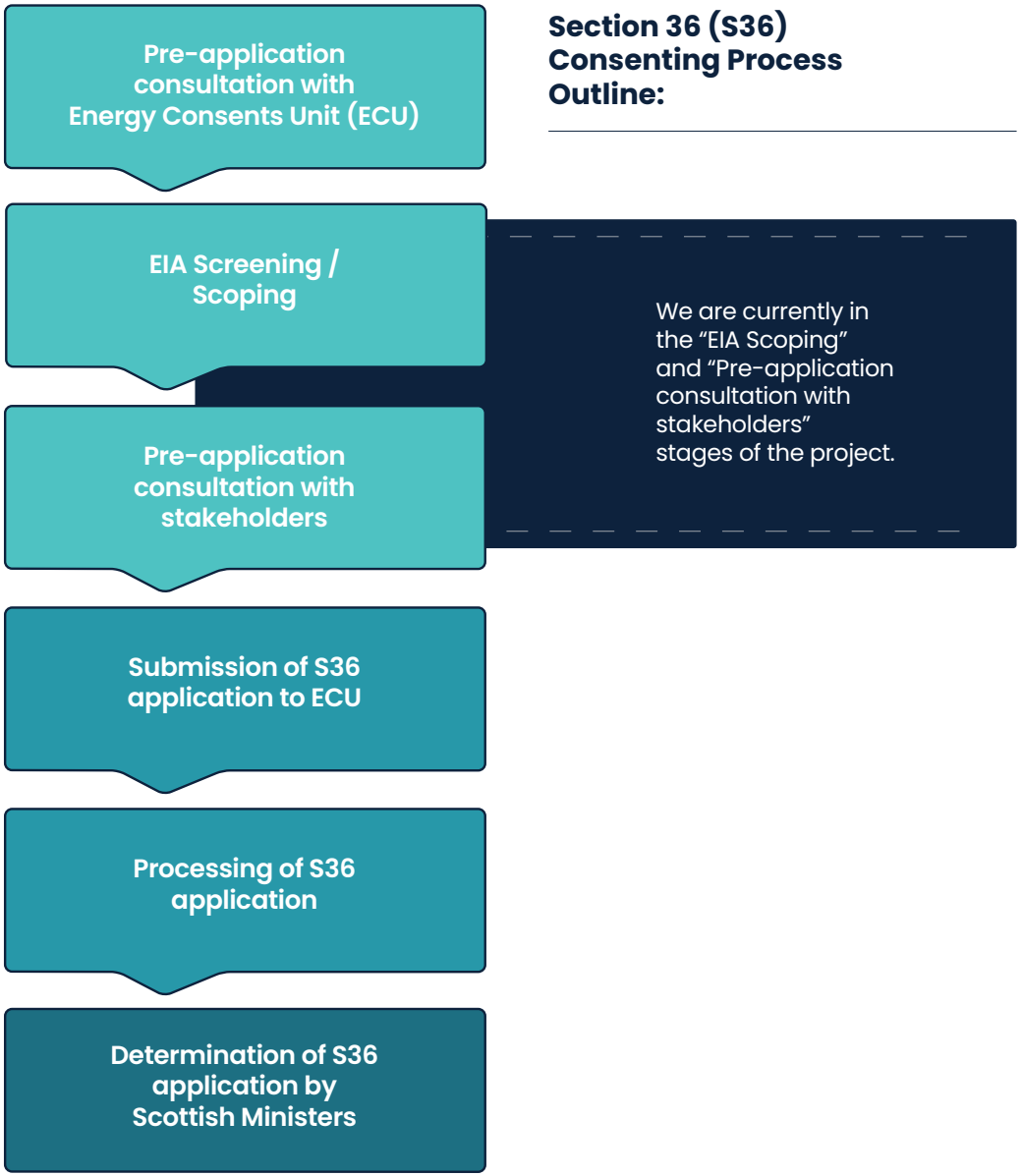
Onshore electricity generation, including electricity storage, from renewables that exceeds a 50MW capacity are classed as national developments. These contribute to strategic renewable electricity generation (as defined in the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)).

Voltalia intends to submit a Section 36 application for consent to be determined by Scottish Ministers and administered by the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU).

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA):

As the project falls under **Schedule 2 of the Electricity Works (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations 2017**, an EIA report is required to support the application for consent. The EIA process seeks to identify and assess the potential environmental impacts of the project.

Section 36 (S36) Consenting Process Outline:



Indicative Project Timeline

FIRST PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Summer 2024

- EIA surveys
- EIA Scoping Request
- Public Consultation Event

Autumn 2024

- EIA surveys
- EIA Scoping Opinion
- Design Development

Winter 2024

- Design Development
- EIA Reporting

SECOND PUBLIC CONSULTATION

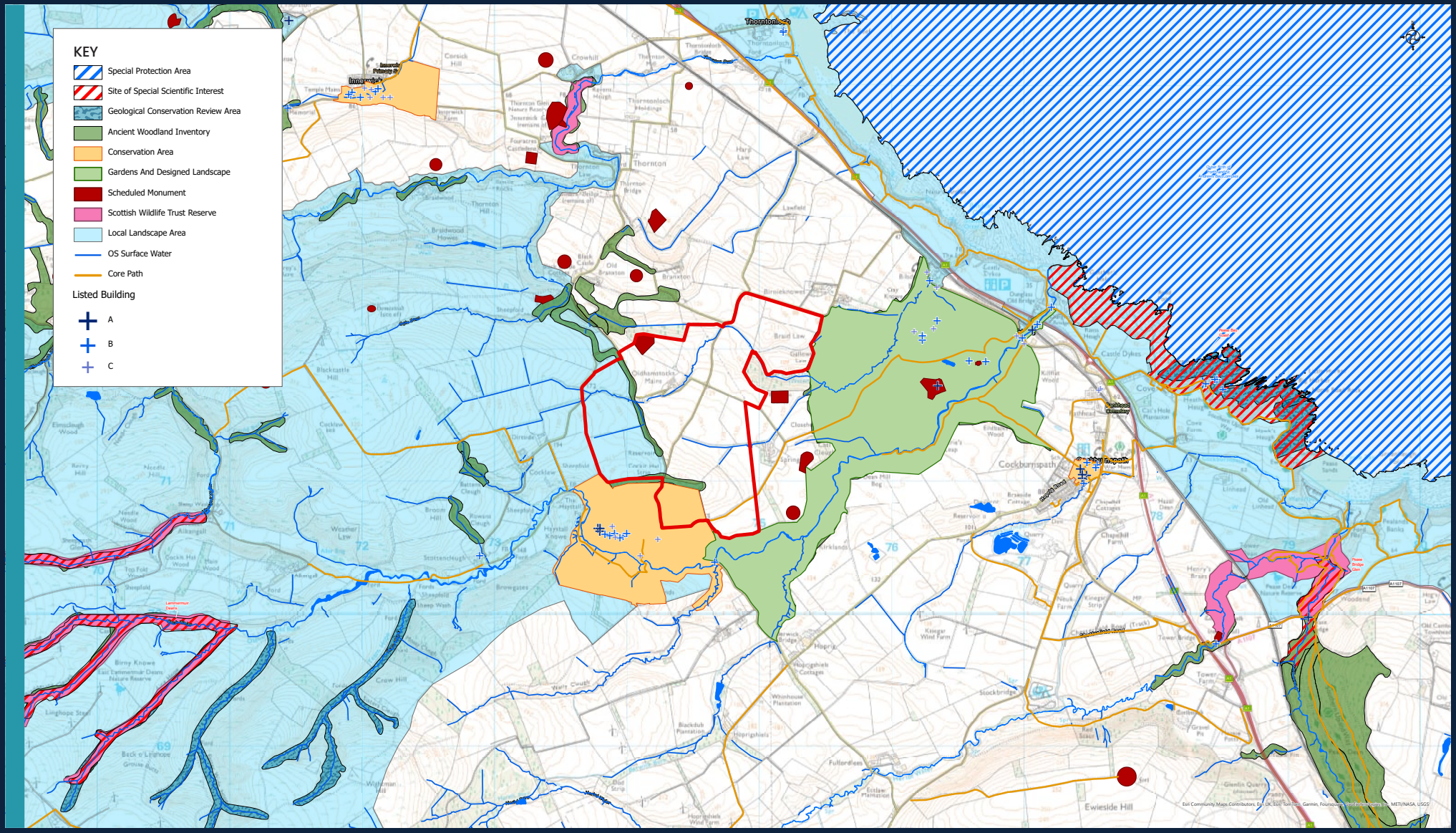
Early 2025

- Public Consultation Event
- Design Development
- EIA Reporting

Spring 2025

- EIA Reporting
- S36 Application Submission

Environmental Constraints Plan



Assessing project impacts

WATER RESOURCES AND FLOOD RISK

An assessment of potential impacts upon the water environment will be carried out, including consideration of potential flood risk.

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

An assessment of impacts on geology and soils will be undertaken incorporating a contaminated land assessment for the site of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

An assessment will be carried out to determine the potential impact of construction traffic on the local road network in consultation with roads authorities. Appropriate construction traffic access routes will be identified along with any required mitigation measures.

NOISE AND VIBRATION

An assessment of construction activities and construction traffic noise impacts will be carried out. This will involve background noise monitoring which will be undertaken to characterise the local acoustic environment at the nearest sensitive receptors.

ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

A cultural assessment walkover survey was completed in early June 2024. This included a setting assessment for heritage assets. A geophysical survey will be scheduled for later this year to identify the presence of below ground archaeological features.

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

Landscape and Visual Assessment specialists (Abseline Landscape Planning) carried out an initial site walkover visit in June 2024. This has enabled identification of potential viewpoints to be consulted upon and once agreed will form the basis of the visual assessment. Consideration will be given to public rights of way and these will not be removed.

ECOLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY

Breeding bird surveys have been completed. Ecological surveys commenced in May 2024 and are ongoing until September 2024. Surveys include great crested newt, bat, otter, water vole, badger, red squirrel and habitat/vegetation surveys.

Working with the community

COMMUNITY BENEFIT

We are committed to working with the community throughout the design, construction and operation of the project. We want to support the communities close to our proposed developments and make a positive change for current and future generations.

We are committed to providing local environmental, social and economic benefits through our projects and look to support local communities through:

- Community Benefit Funds
- Volunteering
- Local employment
- Educational workshops

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

Voltalia is keen to give local businesses every opportunity to benefit from the construction and operation of the project.

If you are a local business or service provider, please get in touch via our project website:

www.springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk



HEARING FROM YOU

We aim to contribute towards addressing energy needs by generating an affordable and renewable source of clean energy. This will contribute towards energy security and the circular economy, while helping Scotland to achieve its net zero ambitions for 2045.

We want to hear from the local community about what is important to you and what Voltalia and this project can do to work collaboratively and create positive lasting local impacts.



We invite you to share your feedback on this and any ideas or opportunities you may have using the contact us details on the next page of this information brochure.

Participate in our Public Consultations

YOUR FEEDBACK WILL INFORM OUR PLANS

The Springfield Solar Farm project's first Public Consultation is taking place between 20th August and 17th September 2024.

We value your feedback and would encourage you to respond to our consultations. We need your feedback by **Tuesday 17th September 2024.** You can provide feedback in the following ways:



Viewing our online consultation and submitting feedback online, accessed via
www.springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk



Emailing your feedback form to
springfieldsolarfarm@erm.com



Posting your feedback form, free of charge, by writing
'Freepost SPRINGFIELD SOLAR FARM'
onto an envelope and popping it into your nearest post box

Comments received during our consultations will inform our proposals, as well as ongoing technical assessments, and consultation with statutory stakeholders and the local authority.

We will report on how your feedback has been considered at our next public consultation.

WILL THERE BE FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE WITH THE PROJECT?

We are gathering information from our detailed assessments in order to refine the proposed project.

We welcome you to visit our website where the plans can be viewed and suggestions regarding the proposal can be put forward.

WHEN WILL THE NEXT PUBLIC CONSULTATION BE?

We intend on submitting our planning application in 2025.

Prior to this, we will be undertaking further public consultation with a range of stakeholders, including the local community and holding another public consultation event in early 2025.



GET IN TOUCH

To keep updated with progress on the project and future consultations, please visit our project website:

www.springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk

To get in touch with our project team, please reach out anytime to:

springfield@voltalia.com

SOLAR • WIND • HYDRO • BIOMASS • STORAGE

www.voltalia.com

VOLTALIA UK

- Options Area
- Special Protection Area
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Geological Conservation Review Area
- Ancient Woodland
- Conservation Area
- Gardens And Designed Landscapes
- Scheduled Monuments
- Scottish Wildlife Trust Reserves
- Local Landscape Area
- OS Surface Water
- Core Path

Listed Building

- A
- B
- C

0 200 400 600 800 1,000

Metres

N

SCALE: See Scale Bar	VERSION: A01
SIZE: A1	DRAWN: RW
PROJECT: Springfield and Bowshiel	CHECKED: ZW
DATE: 21/08/2024	APPROVED: RO

Springfield
Environmental Constraints

ERM

PROJECTION: British National Grid

Source: Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0 © Nature Scot Contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right] 2024

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APPENDIX F COMMUNICATION FOLLOWING CONSULTATION

F1 – FAQ’s

F2 – JANUARY PROJECT UPDATE LETTER

Why here? Have alternative sites been identified?

Many factors need to align to bring forward sites for solar projects like Springfield. The availability of grid connection is important to the site selection process as well as availability of good sunlight levels, suitable topography, accessibility and avoidance of national/international cultural and natural heritage designations. At this stage, following surveys and feasibility studies, this site has provided alignment across different factors that tell us it could be viable. The ongoing Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and consultation process will confirm this for us. A description of reasonable alternatives will be included in the EIA Report.

top of the page

Why can't it be located on a brownfield site?

Voltalia continues to explore opportunities for viable sites and the use of brownfield sites and rural sites isn't an either/or situation. Unfortunately, brownfield sites often pose challenges of access, unfavourable ground conditions, limited space to make it viable, availability of light and more. That is not to say that Voltalia does not also explore these opportunities.

top of the page

Why is the project as large as it is?

The land made available for assessment is 184 hectares in total, however the scale of the project is subject to refinement and changes to layout. We understand this is one of the largest proposals in Scotland at this time and the amount of available land is key to the viability of the project.

Importantly, during peak operation, it is likely to produce up to 165MWp of electricity. This will be used to feed into the power network.

The total number of panels is unconfirmed at this time and will be informed by ongoing surveys and assessments.

top of the page

Haven't you already fixed the site layout?

No, what has been shared to date is not final. We are making changes to the design over the course of the project and taking on feedback from the consultations as well as feedback received through engagement with individuals and organisations. We welcome the opportunity to hear from residents at any time, and we will share an updated layout at our next public exhibition.

top of the page

What are the visual impacts?

As part of the design development process, we are exploring areas where the layout needs to be refined so that it is set back from residences and local roads. We know that parts of the site may be more visible for some properties than others and we have begun discussions with residents on their concerns to explore opportunities for screening and other mitigation.

How far the panels are 'set back' from properties is determined on a site-by-site basis considering such factors as local landform/land cover variations, elevation, property orientation, distance and aspect.

A visual impact assessment will be carried out to determine the level of effects on sensitive receptors with the findings reported in the EIAR.

Isn't this site better for agricultural use, to help ensure Scotland's food security?

We need land for both agriculture and energy production. There have been independent studies in the United Kingdom that have found solar farms do not threaten food security. However, a big risk to food security is climate change which could reduce the UK's best farmland. Projects like Springfield can play a role in fighting climate change

The majority of the agricultural land within the site is classed as grade 3.2 with a small proportion of the land, in the west of the site, graded 3.1. No Grade 1 or 2 land will be impacted.

top of the page

Won't the project stagnate the site for future use and impact soil quality?

The Springfield solar installation will not irreversibly disturb the ground or impact how the land can be used, should alternative uses be considered in future.

Once the solar farm is built, it could actually make the soil better over time because things like application of fertilisers, pesticides, or tilling the ground won't be taking place. Without plants to host them, crop diseases will die out, and the soil will have a chance to rest, which should make it healthier for growing crops in the future. When the solar farm is up and running, the land will be covered with a mix of wildflowers and grasses.

top of the page

How are the impacts to local wildlife being considered?

During 2024 we carried out a range of ecological surveys to understand potential impacts on species including bats, badgers, otter, water vole and red squirrel. A breeding bird survey was carried out in 2023. The results will inform our scheme design as well as the design of mitigation measures to ensure wildlife is protected during the construction and operation of the development.

We will seek to provide a measurable improvement in biodiversity on the site and for the benefit of the local area. Without the application of pesticides, the land will be further undisturbed, leading to more small invertebrates for bats and badgers to eat.

The layout will be preserving existing hedgerows and mature trees by keeping panel areas within field boundaries. We agree these habitats are important and they will also have a buffer from any panel areas.

We will be looking at tools and collaborations with people to monitor the presence of wildlife once operational.

A good source of further reading on this is within 'The Natural Capital Value of Solar', produced by Solar Energy UK[1].

[1] The Natural Capital Value of Solar • Solar Energy UK

top of the page

Will the solar panels increase the risk and effects of flooding?

Research suggests that the addition of solar panels over a grassy field does not have a large effect on the volume of run-off, the peak discharge, or the time to peak discharge. Whilst the kinetic energy of water draining from the solar panel is considerably greater than that of rainfall, the presence of well-maintained grass cover and if necessary the inclusion of a buffer section, can adequately mitigate adverse hydrological impacts in the form of excess run-off or siltation of surface water through soil erosion.

An assessment of effects in relation to water resources and flood risk is to be carried out and findings will be reported in the EIAR. This will include the development of an outline surface water drainage strategy in consultation with the local authority to ascertain their requirements for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) design.

top of the page

How are you going to consider cumulative impacts from other developments in the area, particularly on traffic?

We are aware that there are a number of energy-related development proposals coming forward in the area. The EIA will include assessment of cumulative effects arising from the Proposed Development in conjunction with other proposed or consented developments. With respect to traffic, a Transport Statement will be prepared which will assess potential cumulative effects of known committed developments and outline measures to mitigate the impact of HGV traffic on the surrounding road network during construction. These measures will form part of a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) which will be agreed with East Lothian Council and Transport Scotland.

top of the page

What are the community benefits and ownership?

We believe that our renewable energy schemes should also provide meaningful benefits locally. We will take guidance and learning from other projects and through engagement with organisations in Scotland. We will be able to share more about what that monetary value looks like in due course.

We recently asked the community to provide suggestions on how we could contribute to local needs and using this feedback we are exploring these opportunities. We want to share more about our plans at the next consultation and we continue to invite suggestions from stakeholders about their local projects and community priorities.

top of the page

Are you really interested in engaging with the local community?

We understand that a first stage of consultation provided early information about our plans, and it came as a surprise. We know that many residents feel strongly about our plans and we want to work through questions so that everyone has correct information as we have it available.

We are planning ways to expand the frequency of information sharing about our progress. We want to create ways to engage in a productive way, so that everyone finds the opportunity beneficial.

Voltalia encourages residents to come forward and speak with us about their concerns or specific questions.

top of the page

Dear Sir/Madam

Springfield Solar Farm & BESS project update

You may be aware that Voltalia is seeking to develop the Springfield Solar Farm & BESS Project in East Lothian. I am writing to provide an update on the Project and how you can continue to have your say on the proposals moving forward.

Following our first round of consultation in August 2024, all feedback has now been collated and reviewed by the project team. Details on how this has shaped the proposals will be shared as part of our second round of public consultation. This has been rescheduled to spring to allow for receipt of, and subsequent consideration of, the Scoping Opinion which we are awaiting from the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU).

We will update the local community with revised public consultation dates in due course.

Next steps

Our technical specialists will be carrying out further surveys to inform the scheme design including noise monitoring and visual assessments.

During our consultation in spring, you will see our updated plans for the project, along with indicative visualisations. We encourage residents to come forward and raise any questions or concerns with us. All feedback is welcomed and will be carefully considered during design development.

In addition to providing feedback to us prior to submission of the application for development consent, in due course you will have the opportunity to make formal representations on the application to Scottish Government directly following submission. We will share details on how this can be done.

Find out more

If you would like to find out more about the Project, please visit our website, which includes responses to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that we have gathered so far (www.springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk).

If you have any questions regarding the Project, please get in contact via springfield@voltalia.com.

Yours faithfully,

Alexander Hamilton

Senior Project Manager

Voltalia UK

Voltalia UK Ltd
Bond's Mill Estate, Stonehouse, England GL10 3RF , United Kingdom
T. +44 (0) 2039 941093 · www.voltalia.com

Solar O&M Best Practices Mark 2019 solarmaintenancemark.com

APPENDIX G ROUND TWO: NOTICES AND PRESS

G1 – CONSULTATION POSTCARD ISSUED TO LOCAL HOUSEHOLDS AND PREMISES

G2 – COPY OF NOTIFICATION EMAIL

G3 – EAST LOTHIAN COURIER 20 FEBRUARY

G4 – THE BORDER TELEGRAPH 19 FEBRUARY

G5 – THE BERWICKSHIRE NEWS 20 FEBRUARY

Springfield Solar Farm project
Second consultation event

WE WANT TO SHARE OUR UPDATED PLANS

We will be sharing how your feedback has informed our plans to date.

We invite you to participate in our second round of consultation, attend our event and provide your further feedback.

The consultation period is open between **3rd March and 30th March.** More details are described overleaf.

To find out more, please visit our website by scanning the QR code or via:

www.springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk

You can help shape our proposals by telling us what matters to you and your community.

Voltalia is an international energy and service provider in the renewable energy market.

With a mission to improve the global environment and foster local development, all of Voltalia's projects seek to contribute towards addressing national and local electricity needs by generating an affordable and renewable source of clean energy.

We are seeking to develop Springfield Solar Farm, which is a hybrid solar and BESS development in East Lothian.

If developed, Springfield Solar Farm will contribute to Scotland's goal of generating more than ***20GW of onshore renewable energy by 2030***.



Springfield Solar Farm project
Second consultation event

voltalia

Located to the north of Oldhamstocks, we are proposing to develop the Springfield Solar Farm project, which comprises a solar farm of up to 165MWp capacity, up to 150MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure.

Our revised plans have taken into account local community and wider consultee feedback and we would like to take this opportunity to share it with you.

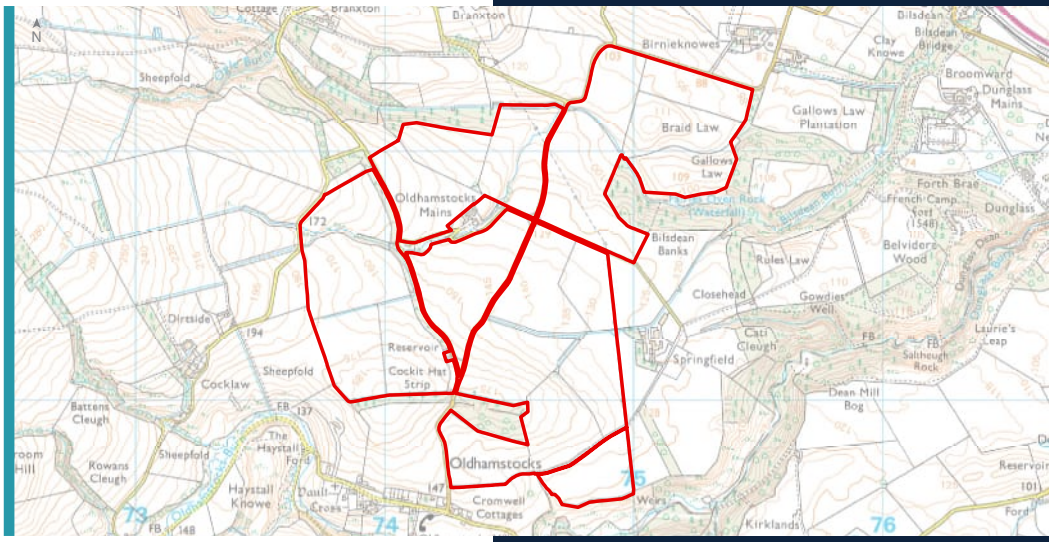
The drop-in event will take place on:

Thursday 13th March 2025

Between 3:00pm and 8:00pm

At Oldhamstocks Village Hall, TD13 5XN

There is no need to register for attendance; please come along during this time at your convenience to speak with a member of the project team. If you are unable to attend the event in person, you can still share your feedback via the contact methods detailed on this invite.



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Please note that comments made in response to this public consultation are not representations to Scottish Ministers.

Once a planning application has been submitted, there will be an opportunity to make representation.

We invite you to access more information about the project via our website and to provide feedback to our consultation either in person, online or by getting in contact via the below. We need your feedback by **30th March 2025**:

Email: springfieldsolarfarm@erm.com

Web: www.springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk

Telephone: (+44) 0131 221 6863

From:	ERM Springfield Solar Farm
To:	jacquie.bell50@googlemail.com
Bcc:	Alexander HAMILTON; Luke MAJOR
Subject:	Springfield Solar Farm & BESS second period of public consultation
Date:	26 February 2025 10:34:00
Attachments:	image003.png image004.png image005.png image006.png image007.png image008.png

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Dear Jacquie Bell,

We invite you to participate in our second consultation period for our proposed Springfield Solar Farm project. We are using this consultation to share how feedback to date has informed our plans and we welcome further feedback.

The Springfield Solar Farm project

As you may be aware, Voltalia is seeking to develop a Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in East Lothian, Scotland. The site is near Oldhamstocks, approximately 8km southeast of Dunbar and comprises a solar farm of up to 165MWp and a BESS of up to 150MW with associated infrastructure.

Our second consultation period is open between March 3rd and March 30th 2025. We are holding a public drop-in event on Thursday 13th March 2025 at Oldhamstocks Village Hall, TD13 5XN, 3pm - 8pm.

We would like to give you an opportunity to share your views and raise any questions ahead of the public event, by **inviting you to attend an early viewing of the materials at 2pm**. This is to allow a full hour to discuss your thoughts on the project, or our nearby Bowshiel Project. Please do let us know if this is of interest.

Accessing our consultation materials & providing feedback

If you are unable to join us at our drop in event, please visit our website below to view our consultation information online. These will be available from 3rd March 2025 until the close of the consultation on 30th March 2025.

Any consultation responses must be received no later than 30th March 2025. Responses received after this time may not be considered. There are several ways to submit responses:

- Post your response to “Freepost Springfield Solar Farm”
- Email your response to Springfieldsolarfarm@erm.com
- Complete the online feedback form at www.springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk/
- Tell us your response over the phone on (+44) 01312216863

Personal details will be held securely and used solely for purposes in connection with the pre-application consultations, application process, assessment and determination of the application and otherwise in connection with the further development of the scheme.

Next steps

We intend to submit the application for consent to be determined by Scottish Ministers and administered by the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in May 2025. Once submitted, you have the opportunity to provide further feedback to the ECU on the final application.
We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Alexander Hamilton
Senior Project Manager
Voltalia UK
The Wheelhouse, Bonds Mill Estate, Bristol Road, Stonehouse, GL10 3RF
93 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 3ES

voltalia

www.voltalia.com

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Community Champion Awards return for '25

IT IS WITH great pride that we can today announce the return of the *East Lothian Courier Community Champion Awards*, in association with East Coast Buses.

Last year's inaugural awards ceremony, held at a sold-out Corn Exchange in Haddington, was a marvellous celebration of the people who make our communities the fantastic places that they are.

We cannot wait to welcome our local heroes to this year's ceremony to thank them for all they do – but that cannot happen unless you get nominating now!

Courier Editor Robbie Scott said: "There is always a nervousness at doing something new but we shouldn't have worried.

"For last year's awards was a truly special – and uplifting – occasion, full of emotion, and left everyone who attended bursting with pride at the achievements and selflessness of the citizens of our great county.

"We know there are so many people out there who deserve to be recognised for the work they do in our communities – so please log on to our awards website now and get nominating!"

We're asking you, our readers, to tell us about the unsung heroes who you believe should be celebrated at our awards.

There are 11 categories to choose from (see right of page) so, don't delay, get nominating today.



Karl Cleghorn was named *Community Champion of the Year* at the inaugural awards

Gaynor Marshall, communications director for headline sponsors East Coast Buses, said: "We are absolutely delighted to support the *East Lothian Courier's Community Champion Awards* again this year – it is an event which celebrates the true spirit of community.

"As an integral part of the communities we serve in East Lothian, we value the importance of recognising those who go above and beyond to help and inspire others within their local areas.

"We're really looking forward to learning more about the nominees in our sponsored categories – *Community Champion of the Year* and *Little Champion of the Year* – which, respectively, recognise the outstanding actions of an adult and child who have selflessly contributed to making their communities a better place."

The *Heart of Gold* category is sponsored by PureMalt.

The Haddington company's managing director, Ross Turner, said: "Without its champions, a community is only a postcode!

"We are proud to celebrate those with a *Heart of Gold* that make East Lothian a community that cares for and nurtures its members. That's an environment we all want to live and work in, and should strive to protect."

Sustainable Facilities Management, of Musselburgh, are also returning as a sponsor this year.

David Walker, managing director, said: "We are proud to support the *Community Champion Awards* once again, celebrating those who go above and beyond to make a real difference.

"At Sustainable Facilities Management, sustainability is at the heart of everything we do, which is why we're especially honoured to sponsor the *Green Champion Award*. Recognising individuals and organisations that drive positive environmental change is crucial, and we look forward to shining a light on those leading the way in sustainability within our communities."

SSE Renewables – Berwick Bank Wind Farm – are the sponsors of this year's *Business Award*.

The company's Ciara Jamieson said: "SSE Renewables is delighted to return as a sponsor for the 2025 *East Lothian Courier Community Champion Awards*. Last year's inaugural awards were a fantastic showcase for the passion, creativity and community spirit that is so abundant in East Lothian. We look forward to supporting the next raft of exceptional nominees."

If you know someone you believe should be recognised at our Community Champion Awards night in June, please get in touch.

Go to our website *www.newsquestscotlandevents.com/events/eastlothiancommchamp* to nominate your community champions.

But please note: the deadline for nominations is April 3.

A panel of judges will assess the entries and finalists will be announced in due course.

East Lothian COURIER
COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARDS 2025
in association with EastCoastbuses

2025 marks the second year of the East Lothian Community Champion Awards! Building on the success of our inaugural event in 2024, we continue to celebrate and reward East Lothian's unsung heroes—those who go above and beyond to make a difference in their communities. With a range of categories, the awards ensure that individuals from all walks of life receive the recognition they truly deserve for their hard work, dedication, and impact.

2025 CATEGORIES:

- Business Award
- Sporting Champion of the Year
- Champion Teacher of the Year
- Community Champion of the Year
- Youth Community Champion Award
- Heart of Gold
- Health & Care Award
- Little Champion of the Year
- Charity Champion of the Year
- Green Champion Award
- Arts Champion the Year

ENTER NOW!

ENTRY DEADLINE: THURSDAY, APRIL 3

Title Partner EastCoastbuses
Sponsored by PureMalt, sse Renewables, Sustainable Facilities Management
Supported by LOCALiQ, NEWSQUESTEVENTS SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND

For more information please contact Alana Massie, Event Manager, on alana.massie@newsquest.co.uk

Bowshiel Solar Farm
PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

Voltalia is seeking to develop a Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in East Berwickshire, Scotland. The proposed project is near Cockburnspath, approximately 14km southeast of Dunbar. It comprises a solar farm of up to 170MWp capacity, up to 150mw of BESS and associated infrastructure.

We are holding a second public consultation period between 3rd March and 30th March, 2025. A public drop in event will take place on Wednesday 12th March between 3pm and 8pm in Cockburnspath Village Hall, TD13 5XY.

At this event we will be sharing how feedback to date has informed our plans and we welcome further feedback.

Further to our event, you can participate in the following ways:
- Download materials from our website & post your feedback
- Visit our consultation page and submit your feedback online
- Get in touch using the contact details below

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Email: Bowshielsolarfarm@erm.com
Telephone: (+44) 01312216862
voltalia

Springfield Solar Farm
PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

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Turnip purée, creamy mash, peppercorn sauce
FISH CAKE
Garlic aioli, rocket, lemon

MAINS
BREADED HADDOCK GOUJONS
Triple cooked chips, pea purée, tartare sauce, lemon
PIE OF THE DAY
Mash potato, seasonal veg, puff pastry
SQUASH RISOTTO
Rocket, herb oil, parmesan

DESSERT
STICKY TOFFEE PUDDING
Vanilla ice cream & caramel sauce
DESSERT OF THE DAY
Ask your server for details

Please note that these are sample menus, and dishes may change depending on the availability of seasonal ingredients.
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20 Dirleton Avenue, North berwick, EH39 4BQ
Tel: 01620 892802

Local businesses and groups to be recognised for their contributions

Awards event to celebrate organisations in Galashiels

Alex Chisholm
Alex.Chisholm@newsquest.co.uk

THE Galashiels Heartland Awards are set to return next month.

The event will once again celebrate the businesses and organisations that make Galashiels a great place to live, work and visit.

Since its launch in 2023, the awards have grown, with thousands of public votes cast each year.

Previously funded by the Build a Better Gala project, the 2025 event is made possible by Emily McGowan of McGowan Marketing.

Having managed the awards for the past two years, Ms McGowan and her team secured sponsorship from local businesses and organisations to ensure the event's continuation.

Gary Souden, owner of Fonehouse Galashiels, has joined as the main event sponsor.

He said: "As one of the newer businesses in Galashiels, we're absolutely delighted to support this prestigious event that celebrates the town's talent and community spirit.

"It's an honour to be involved, and we look forward to seeing the voting unfold, meeting fellow businesses, and celebrating with all the finalists at the awards."

This year, the awards introduce four new categories to recognise the diversity of achievements across Galashiels.

These are Business of the Year, New Business of the Year, Health & Fitness, and Sports Club.

The full list of award categories includes Retail & Shopping, Food & Drink, Beauty, Hair & Care, Service & Repair, Community & Charity Organisation, and Leisure & Entertainment.

Each category is sponsored by a Borders business or organisation.

Gala Rugby Club and The Trophy Guy are also involved as event partners.

Voting is now open, and members of the public can have their say at the Galashiels Heartland website.

Ms McGowan highlighted the importance of community support.



SUPPORT: The Galashiels Heartland Awards' main sponsor this year is Gary Souden, owner of Fonehouse Galashiels. *Image: Fonehouse Galashiels*

She said: "The Galashiels Heartland Awards are a true celebration of the businesses and people who make Galashiels special.

"The response from the community has been incredible, and with the introduction of new categories, even more of our town's achievements will be recognised.

"But we couldn't do it alone – the event is only going ahead with the support of sponsors and partners and for this we are very grateful."

Tickets for the event will be available for booking soon.

New booze outlet plan set to be considered

A DRAM is set to be raised this week over plans for a new booze outlet in Selkirk.

Members of Scottish Borders Council's Licensing Board will this week consider an application from Selkirk Distillers Limited to sell alcohol at a small shop located at the town's 26 Market Place.

The premises forms part of the old Selkirk Court Room building.

The shop will be used as an outlet to sell produce distilled at the Selkirk Distillery.

The proposal is to sell alcohol on an off-sale basis only, 10am to 10pm Monday to Sunday.

No representations or objections regarding the application have been received from Police Scotland or the council's licensing standards enforcement officer, members of the committee will be informed on Thursday (February 20).

Bowshiel Solar Farm
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The Berwickshire News

Since 1869

Thursday, February 20, 2025

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The campaign group hope to raise awareness and encourage enrolments.

Campaign to save nursery

by Hilary Scott
Reporter
hilary.scott@nationalworld.com

Parents campaigning to save a Berwickshire nursery that is under threat of closure say it is one of many being considered by Scottish Borders Council.

Concerned families said they learned of the news "by accident" at an online meeting on January 30, with elected local councillors and an SBC Education representatives.

During this meeting they were advised that the nursery is unlikely to remain open for the start of the next school year due to the anticipated numbers.

At that point, five children were enrolled with the nursery for an August 2025 start, and parents and carers were told anything below six children will likely be closed, with anything below eight under review due to the cost per child impact on the council.

Director of Education Lesley Munro said that the news regarding nursery provision had been delivered "prematurely and inappropriately".

Speaking to the Berwickshire News, parent Paul Fulton said: "Scottish Borders Council have not given us, or anyone else, any notification of the internal review, and if we hadn't got wind of the news and arranged the original meeting, then we would only have been consulted as a community after a decision had been made.

"We have been told that a decision will be made in March. Should the nursery close, or become 'inactive', which is the local authority's new terminology, we believe it may never reopen – like the fate of Westruther, Sprouston and Fountainhall.

Story is continued on page 3.

News



Patients relocated

Page 3

Animals



A home for Honey

Page 6

Environment



Anger at litter louts

Page 7

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PLANNING NOTICES

Bowshiel Solar Farm
PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

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GENERAL NOTICES

Public Notice Portal
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You can keep up to date on all the latest information on Planning Proposals, Traffic Notices, Goods Vehicle Operator Licences, Premises Licensing, Licences to Sell Alcohol and Probate Notices in your local area.

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TRAFFIC NOTICES

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14(1)
C4 SHORESDEAN JUNCTION
TO THORNTON PARK JUNCTION THORNTON
(TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Northumberland County Council intends to make an Order to prohibit the use by vehicular traffic on that section of the C4 Shoresdean Junction to Thornton Park Junction from its junction with Shoreswood Loan heading northwards for a distance of 371 metres in the County of Northumberland.

The Order is to be effective from the 12th March 2025 until the 17th March 2025. It is expected that the road will only be closed from the 12th March 2025 until the 13th March 2025 between the hours of 08:30 and 15:00 during this period; however, the order will remain in place until 17th March 2025.

An alternative route will be available for use whilst the TTRO is in force being via the A698, C8, B6354, U13, C4 and vice-versa. Should the need arise changes may be made to the alternative routes, where possible these changes will be signposted accordingly.

Enquiries should be made to Northumberland County Council's Contact Centre 0345 600 6400 or at https://one.network (enter the road number and road name). – Ref:141807896.

The closure has been requested by Dutton Traffic Management to carry out overhead pole repairs. In order to minimise future disruption, other contractors may be undertaking works throughout the duration of this Order.

DATED this 20th day of February 2025.

TRAFFIC NOTICES

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14(1)
C23 COUNTY BOUNDARY TO EAST LEARMOUTH BRANXTON
(TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Northumberland County Council have made an Order to prohibit the use by vehicular traffic on that section of the C23 County Boundary to East Learmouth Branxton from outside the gable end of number 1 Stanley Court heading in a north easterly direction for a length of 122 metres in the County of Northumberland.

The Order is to be effective from the 25th February 2025 until the 13th March 2025.

It is expected that the road will only be closed from the 25th February 2025 until the 26th February 2025 and that it will be closed at all times during this period; however, the order will remain in place until 13th March 2025.

An alternative route will be available for use whilst the TTRO is in force being C23, C22, A697 and vice-versa and should the need arise changes may be made to the alternative routes, where possible these changes will be signposted accordingly.

Enquiries should be made to Northumberland County Council's Contact Centre 0345 600 6400 or at https://one.network (enter the road number and road name). – Ref:141291788.

The closure has been requested by Northumbrian Water to carry out internal chamber work on weir wall. In order to minimise future disruption, other contractors may be undertaking works throughout the duration of this Order.

Dated this 20th day of February 2025.

LEGAL SERVICES



HOLIDAYS GENERAL



HOME SERVICES





APPENDIX H ROUND TWO: CONSULTATION MATERIALS

H1 – CONSULTATION BOOKLET

H2 – SITE LAYOUT WITH CHANGES FOLLOWING THE FIRST CONSULTATION

H3 – CONSULTATION BANNERS

H4 – ZTV MAP OF WOODLAND & SETTLEMENTS - BESS AND SUBSTATION

H5 – ZTV MAP OF WOODLAND & SETTLEMENTS - PANEL AREAS

H6 – FEEDBACK FORM

Springfield Solar Farm and BESS project

SECOND CONSULTATION PERIOD 2025



Voltalia's South Farm, Dorset. Operational, 2024.

voltalia

www.voltalia.com

VOLTALIA UK

Voltalia UK proposes to develop the Springfield Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project near Oldhamstocks in East Lothian, Scotland.

Last year, we undertook our first community consultation period, at a time when our proposals were in their early stages. This consultation ran for four weeks from 20 August to 17 September 2024. We received 100 responses to our consultation, and 102 people attended our drop-in event.

> The feedback to this consultation, combined with further assessments and engagement with other stakeholders has allowed us to refine the proposed project further. Responses to some of the most re-occurring questions were also prepared and can be found on the project website here: www.voltaliashareyourfeedback.co.uk/springfield-solar
>
> We appreciate everyone who took the time to participate, attend our event, and share their feedback. Our team has considered all feedback and, where possible, has used it to refine our proposals for the Springfield Solar Farm project. Further engagement with stakeholders and feedback received on our Scoping Report are also continuing to inform our work, and we'd like to share more about this with you.





Where we are now

We are now undertaking a second period of community consultation between 3rd March and 30th March 2025. During this time, we are sharing our updated plans and welcome your further feedback.

The information we are sharing with you as part of this consultation, including this document, seeks to demonstrate how your feedback has been considered and provides you with further information about our developing plans.

In this document, you'll find:

- A summary of the key themes emerging from feedback to date, and how these are being considered by the project team;
- An explanation of the next steps for the project, including our ongoing environmental assessments; and
- An update on how the proposed project area has changed following our first round of community consultation, including a revised site layout on pages 13 and 14;
- Our contact details for any questions you may have.

Voltalia's commitment

We are committed to being a good neighbour and the Proposed Development seeks to respond to stakeholder feedback and wherever possible, minimise the impact on the landscape, wildlife, the local community and all who enjoy this beautiful rural area.

We know that there are further conversations to be had, and we want to continue engagement with key stakeholders including community councils, community groups and nearby residents and businesses.

What you told us

The table below provides a summary of the feedback received during the first round of public consultation and how the project has considered it to date. This also takes account of feedback and advice received from consultees in response to the Scoping Report, where it is common and relevant to the themes raised.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Site selection and alternatives	
Respondents raised challenge for the choice of location, based on the rural nature of the area, the type of land use and the cumulative consideration of impacts with other existing and new energy projects nearby. We received many comments regarding the land's agricultural use, especially in the context of the current geopolitical situation and food security. Some respondents challenged solar as the wrong technology for the site and expressed a preference for other forms of renewable energy. Others suggested they had an understanding of the need for solar but qualified their understanding with comments relating to scale and choice of location, including *"I understand that it's required but I don't agree with where it's being installed"* and *"Solar is needed but not on this scale in one place"*. Alternative sites suggested by respondents included urban areas such as brownfield or industrial sites.	Some of the key reasons for choosing the Springfield Solar Farm site were shared in our FAQ's on the website. The National Grid is well-developed in the area and has the capacity for new energy generation facilities. This is a key reason for choosing our co-located BESS and solar technology. We understand the scale of our proposal shared last year was surprising and we recognise that these plans are located on agricultural land of different grades, which is currently used for crops and grazing. We have carefully considered how to refine our plans in a way that balances the national need for energy production, the inclusion of opportunities for biodiversity enhancement, and the ability to return the land in the future for alternative uses. Whilst our application will seek consent for operation of the solar farm over a 40 year lifespan, it will also include consideration for decommission and restoration as it will be returned to its current state after its operational lifetime. The site and choice of technology have been designed to allow for future sheep grazing activities. Should consent be granted, we will have the opportunity to explore sheep grazing activities in the fields beneath the panels. As responsible operators of solar energy projects elsewhere, we are confident that our plans can lead to a successful and safe operation of the site. As part of our application, we will include an assessment of how alternative sites have been considered.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Landscape and visual impact	
Respondents commented on the project impacting the rural landscape and views from the local village and this causing long-term affects to the amenity of the area. Feedback referred to the overall quality, experience, and nature of open spaces and views. Building on this, some responses were provided from residents near to the site who suggested that the scale of the project and proximity would directly impact their views and cause 'landscape domination'. In addition, respondents expressed concerns relating to the removal of hedgerows (linking to biodiversity) and the impact on local landscape designation and conservation areas, impacting the ability for local people and visitors to enjoy the rural area.	We are aware from feedback and our knowledge of the site that landscape and visual impacts are a key topic of concern. A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) is being undertaken, which will soon be shared within our application submission to Scottish Ministers. This will consider impacts of the proposals on the local landscape and the views of local communities and visitors to the area. The LVIA will include visualisations from a number of viewpoints to illustrate what the proposals will look like, and the final selection of viewpoint locations has been informed by stakeholder feedback. We have engaged with residents nearest to the site and have subsequently refined areas of solar panels in some areas near residential properties. Existing trees and hedges, as well as new proposed hedgerows will help to reduce the visual change for users at ground level. However, due to the topography, we are aware that the project will be visible and a change to the existing landscape from some viewpoints. We have sought to reduce visual impacts in a number of places including the removal of solar from fields 10, 11, 19 and 18 as well as parts of 13 and 14. To show you what the project will look like from key locations, we have prepared some early visualisations, which we are making available at our consultation events. The location of these are labelled on our site layout map.
Communications and engagement	
There was a belief that the consultation was a tick box exercise and that there was disregard for the views of the local community. Respondents suggested that they felt a decision has already been made and the local community would have no say in the process.	We hope the information shared in this consultation demonstrates where feedback received during the consultation has informed changes in our plans. We understand our role in bringing forward this development will also be to support the community managing change in the Just Transition and working with other energy developers to do this together. We have sought to remind all stakeholders that consultation on our plans is being taken at a time when our layout and assessment are at an informative stage. Once our application has been submitted, everyone has the opportunity to provide representation to Scottish Ministers. We are open to feedback on ways to work together to share information and engage on progress and bring forward positive impacts or community benefits.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Site layout and technology	
Respondents expressed concerns about the size of the project and the scale of solar panel coverage, as well as the operational requirements and impacts from the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). Relating to this, questions were raised about the size and safety of operating a BESS unit. Concerns were also raised regarding the proximity of the site to residential properties including properties in Oldhamstocks and Birnieknows. In relation to this, the height of the perimeter fencing was questioned as well as the installation of CCTV and lighting.	Our plans for the site will result in up to 165MWp of clean electricity to the national grid, enough to power the equivalent of approximately 36,634 homes. The battery storage is important in storing excess energy during peak periods. Both solar and BESS are safe and proven technologies and will generate a consistent and reliable power supply, even when the sun isn't shining. We have decided to use fixed south-facing solar panels. These panels are generally lower in height than Tracker Systems and have a smaller Ground Cover Ratio than East/West designs. Since our last consultation we have reduced the area of solar across the project by approximately 26% and set back the area of solar from the village of Oldhamstocks. Of the 184 hectares identified within the project site boundary, 56.37 hectares are now identified for solar. An updated project layout is included later in this document, describing refinements made to the site layout. We have also shared some images of fencing from one of our other projects which we hope will provide you with a better idea of what this will look like.
Public rights of way, recreational spaces and public access	
Respondents raised concerns about the potential impact on user experiences of paths within and near to the project site. This included concerns about access to and use of the Core Path, as well as general impacts on the local community and visitors to the area being able to continue accessing open green spaces. Respondents cited that this could have knock-on effects to people's health and well-being.	We heard clearly that access to open space was very important to residents and those visiting the area, as well as access rights under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2023. We have refined our plans to ensure access to the Core Path is maintained and we have included further buffer areas and areas of natural enhancement to improve the setting for users of the Core Path. We have prepared a photomontage to illustrate the view towards the site from the Core path which can be found in our consultation materials. Following consultation response to our Scoping Opinion and engagement with East Lothian Council access team, we will also be developing a Recreation and Access Management Plan to outline ongoing access rights to the land proposed for the project which will be made available upon future consent. The existing Core Path will remain open during the site's operation and we will look to maintain access throughout construction where it is safe to do so. Where any closures are required, they will be kept as short as possible, and measures to protect users will be included in the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), which will be developed if consent is received and will be consulted with the Local Highway Authority.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Cultural heritage and archaeology	
Respondents raised concern for proximity of the projects to listed buildings and scheduled monuments. Concern was raised on potential impact on hidden or unknown archaeology within or near to the project site. Respondents shared insights around the importance of cultural heritage of the local area, including rural farming communities and practices, and cited Oldhamstocks village as the last village in the 'Garden of Scotland' and concern for impacts on the nearby site of Scotland's oldest house. Responses cited specific concern for impacts on the heritage setting of the Village of Oldhamstocks and the Oldhamstocks conservation area.	We recognise that the area has a rich history, and there are a number of important heritage assets near the project site. Following consultation and as requested by Historic Environment Scotland (HES), areas of solar have been removed to reduce effects on the setting of scheduled monuments. This includes the following changes as shown in the project layout map on pages 13 and 14: • All solar and associated infrastructure has been removed from both fields 18 and 19, providing more than the requested 100 m exclusion zone to monument 'Oldhamstocks Mains, enclosure 300m NNW of (SM5891). • An area of solar within field 5 has also been removed to reduce effects on the nearby Scheduled Monument. We acknowledge that field 12 within the project boundary is located within the locally designated Oldhamstocks conservation area. This field is not proposed for solar panels and intends to be used for enhancement of existing natural habitat. Similarly, and adjacent to this, fields 10 and 11 will no longer have solar panels and are proposed for similar enhancements. Solar panels have also been set back in fields 13 and 14. We have undertaken a full programme of geophysical surveys within the site boundary to allow the assessment of any potential unknown subsurface archaeology. These surveys are due to be completed in late March. Following feedback from consultees, including HES and ELC, further archaeological works for offset impacts have been suggested. Where the project has the potential to impact known and currently unknown below ground remains, further site investigation and mitigation will be undertaken, including to ground truth the results of the survey work undertaken to date and assess the potential for additional below ground archaeological remains. The project has reached out to key stakeholders including HES to request further details about local heritage assets and local heritage groups.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Socio-economics, land use and tourism	
Respondents provided feedback on the area's local farming heritage and shared concerns relating to the loss of agricultural employment and the removal of valuable agricultural land from arable and livestock use. This was reinforced by concerns relating to the reduction in food production and its effects on food security. Concerns were shared around the number of new energy developments in the area, including impacts on property prices. Feedback also cited concern for the effects on local businesses and on visitor experiences, affecting tourism. Respondents perceived a lack of consideration for impacts on the health, including mental health in relation to the project. This included anticipated effects from construction activities and potential impacts on quality and way of life, connected to cultural significance and sense of place.	Following feedback received and taking on board consultation received to the scoping report, an assessment of project impacts on socio-economics, land use and tourism will be included in the EIAR. This will assess the effects of the project quantitatively and qualitatively using professional expertise to consider negative and positive effects around the following key themes that were heard from your feedback: • Jobs and supply chain. • Pressure on community services e.g from local workforce. • Impact of changing land use on food production. • Cultural significance of place. • Impact on the experience for users of the Core Path and impacts on access to open space. • Impact on tourism. The assessment will also consider impacts on local population health and wellbeing, including stress and concern caused by the project and cumulatively from other projects as well as from potential impacts on access and use of open spaces. The assessment will be based on the experience of comparable developments and will draw assessment from both quantitative and qualitative information.

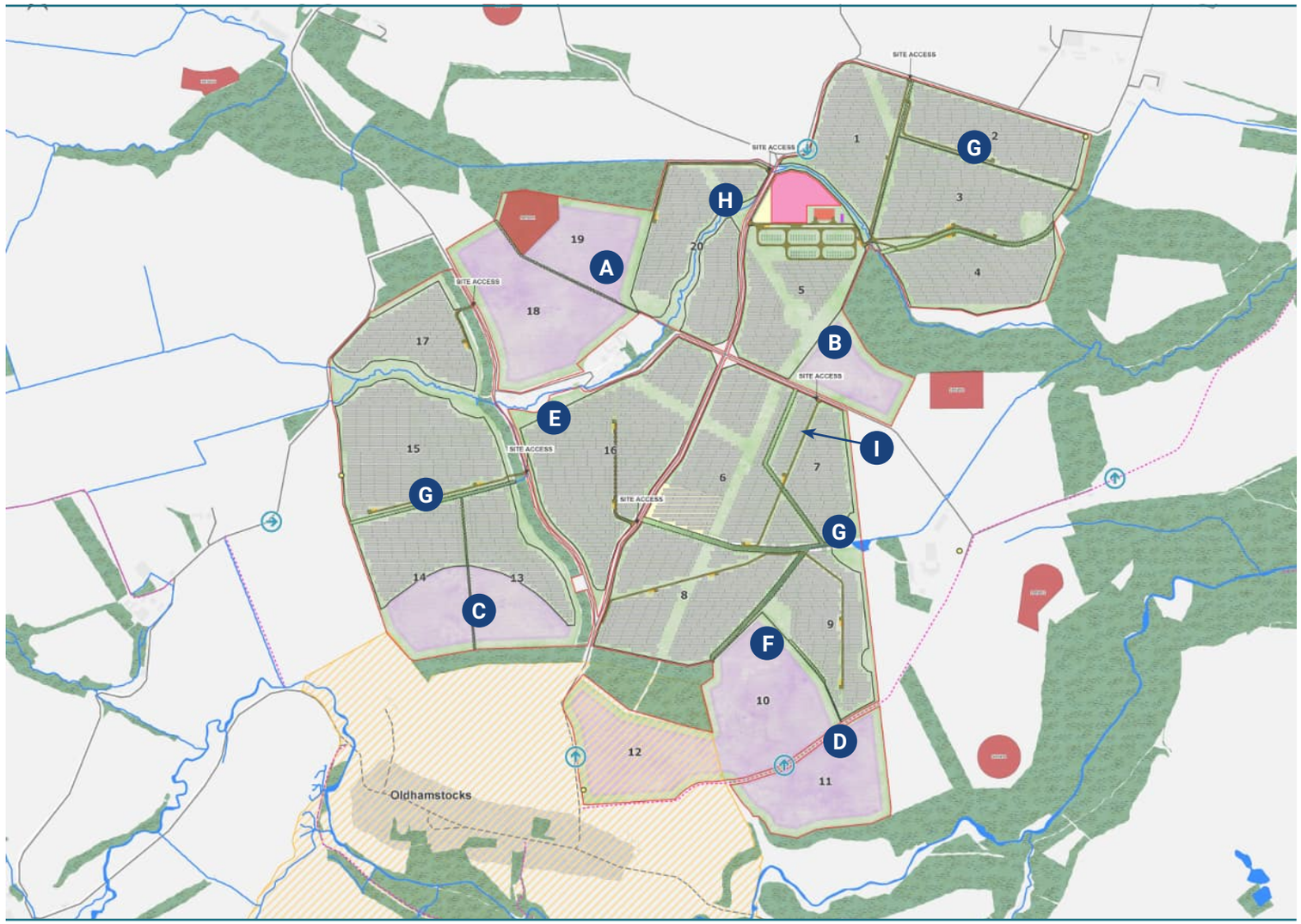
What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Local ecology, biodiversity and ornithology	
Given the site's rural setting, respondents had concerns for impacts to wildlife and flora including ground-nesting birds and migratory birds. Respondents also cited the presence of species including deer, rabbits, hares and rare species such as bat species. There was a perceived lack of consideration for impacts on natural habitats including hedgerows and dry stone walls as well as perceived impact to wildlife corridors. Respondents felt there was limited information available on the assessment of impacts to biodiversity and a lack of available information relating to proposed ecological mitigation. Respondents raised questions about what biodiversity mitigation measures will be put in place and what wider environmental mitigations are planned.	We recognise that the site is in a rural area and home to various wildlife and flora and located within areas of different habitat types. This includes an assemblage of widespread bird species, various bat species, including common and soprano pipistrelles and noctule, hares and badgers. Since our initial public design, we have undertaken a wide range of surveys across the site, including bird surveys and those on protected species, such as bats and badger. Surveys and feedback have helped us understand the existing presence of birds and other wildlife to assess the project's potential effects. We are committed to increasing biodiversity across the site during the project's life. The findings of surveys and ongoing assessments have been used to inform the development design to avoid and/or mitigate impacts to protected species, and to identify areas for enhancement and mitigation measures such as mammal gates in fencing to allow for continued use of the Site for mammals such as badger and brown hare. In total there is approximately 37 hectares across fields 10, 11, 12, 18 and 19 where no PV modules are located. These areas have the potential for enhancements such as wildflower meadows. While the assessment has not yet been concluded, these areas could provide opportunity for enhancement such as planting new vegetation and creating natural habitats. Studies, including one published recently by the RSPB and the University of Cambridge, have shown that well managed solar farms support more birds and biodiversity than intensive arable farmland by providing a greater range and quality of habitats. It is acknowledged that hedgerows provide habitat for a variety of protected species including breeding birds and bats. The landscaping proposed and shown in the map will seek to improve the structure and diversity of the existing hedgerows within and adjacent to the Site.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Cumulative impacts	
Respondents raised concerns about the cumulative impact of multiple developments proposed in the local area. Consultation feedback cited a perceived lack of co-ordination between energy developers and a perceived lack of consideration for cumulative impacts from multiple energy projects in the local area (both during operation and decommissioning). There was also a perception that the community is being weighed down by these concurrent projects, impacting the well-being of the community.	We recognise that there are many energy projects proposed in the East Lothian area, including a number within the East Lammermuir Community Council area. A cumulative assessment is being undertaken and will be included in the EIAR. This will include consideration of projects within at least a 5km radius, or beyond this whereby significant traffic routes pass the vicinity of the site. The cumulative assessment will consider a number of the existing or proposed projects shared by East Lammermuir Community Council (ELCC) in the response to scoping such as Eastern Green Link 1, Branxton Substation, other BESS projects and windfarms like the Repower of Crystal Rig 1 Windfarm. We are committed to sharing project information as part of our involvement in the East Lammermuir Energy Developers group, including sharing our programmes of construction. We are also engaged in working groups set up to discuss potential overlapping activities such as the working group on construction traffic, which we know is a big concern for communities.
Noise and Air pollution	
Respondents shared concerns relating to operational noise impacts from the Solar and BESS technology. Feedback included concern for noise produced by the construction, particularly related to traffic in what is considered a rural and extremely quiet area. Concerns were raised around air pollution caused by dust and other construction activities including increased traffic. Respondents cited concern for this causing effects on human health.	The project has consulted with local residents and wider stakeholders including East Lothian Council's Environmental Health Service around the identification of Noise Sensitive Receptors as well as the location of noise monitoring locations. Monitoring has been undertaken at these locations which is being used to inform the Noise Assessment and will be submitted within the EIAR. We will be producing a CEMP, which will detail good practices during construction to avoid negative impacts.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Traffic and construction	
Respondents gave insight into the quality of local roads near the site. It was heard that these are already struggling with agricultural traffic alone and therefore concern was raised around the generation of construction traffic (e.g. HGVs), and potential issues regarding road safety on minor roads and on the A1. Additionally, concern was raised specifically about the cumulative effect of construction traffic from the project and from other nearby energy projects.	Following feedback from stakeholders on the Scoping opinion, we are engaging further with East Lothian Council and will prepare a Traffic Statement for inclusion in the EIAR. We are preparing a Transport Statement to be included in our EIAR that will be submitted to Scottish Ministers and we are engaging with Transport Scotland following feedback to our Scoping Report. We have agreed to participate in local group 'Lorries in our Lanes' to collaborate with other developers and minimise the impacts of traffic and transport on local communities during the construction of the project. The main route for construction traffic will be via the A1, accessing the site on Dunglass Road. Once the Project becomes operational, we anticipate minimal vehicle movements to and from the site, primarily limited to those conducting maintenance and replacement activities.
Hazards, safety and fire risk	
Respondents cited concern for fire risk, particularly from the BESS and the solar panels, during operation. Concerns felt that there were limited fire safety measures in place and that a fire service station is not closeby. This raised concern for the potential impact of a fire surrounding the village, with "limited means to escape". Some responses included concerns for toxicity of materials and use of chemicals in solar panels. Other concerns relating to health and well-being included health impacts from perceived electromagnetic accumulation and health hazards from chemicals and leaching into soils and water. Consultees also raised concerns around the danger of glint and glare for drivers and commented on the lack of available information relating to the landscape and screening mitigation.	Fire safety has been given thorough consideration. The project will be subject to an Outline Health and Safety Plan including Battery and Fire Safety Management plan, reflecting the latest BESS safety codes and standards. This will be prepared ahead of construction with the standards and requirements correct at the time of production. In development of this plan the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and fire and rescue services will be consulted. Each container will be isolated and contain an automatic fire control system. We will engage with the local fire service to ensure they agree with our approach. The equipment used for the substation, cable routes, battery storage locations will all comply with Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) standards. We are undertaking an assessment of the proposed solar farm infrastructure and BESS infrastructure to determine the potential electric and magnetic fields at two residential dwellings with reference to public exposure levels. This will include assessment of the project's infrastructure and potential hazards against associated guidelines including Public Health England guidance and National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) guidelines. Consultees also raised concerns around the danger of glint and glare for drivers and commented on the lack of available information relating to the landscape and screening mitigation.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Flood risk and ground water contamination	
Respondents raised concern around changes to the water catchment area as well as the contamination of ground water due to chemical spills and flood risk. There was also some concern around the release of toxic chemicals into ground water if the panels were to become damaged, and the impacts on human health.	Typically, solar farms do not increase the volume of surface water runoff as they are limited in hardstanding surfaces due to the raised nature of panels, however we heard clearly that residents are concerned that water running off the solar panels during operation would increase risk and exacerbate localised flooding. Intermittent gaps are embedded into the face of solar panels, which allows any rainwater to disperse across the face of the panel rather than along the lower edge, preventing a concentration of surface water along the base of panels. Hardstanding surfaces associated with the onsite BESS facility will be drained by a surface water drainage system which incorporates Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) principles, and will be designed to not increase surface water runoff in accordance with local and national drainage policy and guidance. Feedback from statutory stakeholders to our Scoping Report recommended the inclusion of a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) which we are currently finalising. We recognise that the local community can share their experiences and knowledge to help inform our assessments and we are engaging East Lammermuir Community Councill (ELCC) and East Lothian Council to help us do that, and aim to incorporate consultations with both councils into the scope of the FRA. Following feedback to our Scoping Report, our Hydrology Assessment has included a private and public water supply assessment. Since information about private water supplies is not centrally held, we have extended surveys to local properties, and please request that any local residents who have received this share information with us to support our assessment.

Proposed layout of Springfield Solar Farm and BESS project



Proposed Site Layout
- Site Boundary
- Fields (identified with 1 - 20)
- Substation
- BESS
- Construction Compound
- O&M Building
- PV Modules
- Transformers
- Hedgerows
- Internal Access Tracks
- Fence
- HV Equipment

Existing Features and Constraints
- Core Path
- Watercourse
- Scheduled Monuments
- Gardens And Designed Landscapes
- Conservation Area
- Woodland

Environmental Surveys and Indicative Mitigation and Enhancements
- Viewpoint
- Noise Monitoring Location
- Areas without PV modules

Please note this layout may have further refinements. The DNO substation is not included in our proposed S36 application and will be subject to a later, separate planning application.

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Layout changes: We've made the following changes to the proposed site layout

A Removal of solar panels from two fields (Fields 18 and 19) from the north west of the proposed site area to mitigate heritage setting impacts on the Scheduled Monument and in response to concerns about impact on open views from properties at Oldhamstock Mains.

B Removal of solar panel areas from field 5 to mitigate heritage setting impact on Scheduled Monument.

C Removal of solar panels areas from fields 13 and 14 to reduce the proximity of solar from residential properties in Oldhamstocks and the Oldhamstocks conservation area in response to concerns about impact on open views and setting for the village. Solar is now further set back from the edge of the village.

D Removal of solar panels from fields 10 and 11, to reduce the presence of solar infrastructure close to the Core Path north of Oldhamstocks and create an opportunity for a visual buffer between users of open space and the solar panel areas.

E Setting back panels in fields 16 and 20 to reduce proximity to residential properties.

F Land without solar panels that has been identified for potential enhancement such as wildflower meadows.

G Enhancement to existing hedgerows and provision of new hedgerows across the site.

H Buffer areas between 10m and 30m incorporated around watercourses following engagement with statutory stakeholders. This includes an area through field 20.

I Pathways through the site between solar areas should be provided to support the maintenance of ecological corridors and habitat network connectivity.

Next steps for the Springfield Solar Farm and BESS project

Alongside receipt of feedback, the specialists involved in our project have also been undertaking further environmental surveys across the site area. The results are helping the project team to understand how best to develop the proposals for the Springfield Solar Farm project in consideration of its surroundings.

We also consulted a wide range of stakeholders on our Environmental Scoping Report, further informing our assessments and surveys. We are expecting to publish a summary of these results within an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a description of our updated proposals as an application to ECU Scottish Government.

Community benefits

Voltalia are committed to finding ways to provide benefits to the local community near our proposed Springfield Solar Farm project over its lifetime. We will continue to refine how to deliver these benefits from your feedback and further engagement at the right time.

Of those that provided feedback about community benefits, many included suggestion around improvement to wildlife habitats and biodiversity. Feedback also suggested that community benefit funds had already been established in the local area and alternative means of delivering community benefits would be welcomed. This was supplemented with request that decisions about investment in the future are informed directly by the community.

We are committed to doing so and working with the community to shape how we deliver true benefits. We have welcomed all suggestions to date (including those below) and continue to welcome your suggestions.

Your suggestions included...



"Free electricity or reduction in energy bills"



"Financial compensation to residents and/or payments for local property insulation"



"Improvements to local public transport"



"Investment into local projects including those aimed at health and wellbeing"



"Contribution to the East Lothian community benefits fund"



"Free electric vehicle charging for local residents"

Talk to us

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet, which summarises the feedback we've received and changes made to our plans as a result.

We are committed to keeping the community updated on progress.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch at any time if you would like to talk with the team and raise any questions using the contact details below.

Scan the QR code below to fill out our feedback form for the Springfield Solar Farm project.

springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk

springfield@voltalia.com



Voltalia's Higher Stockbridge Solar Farm. In construction in the UK, 2025.

If you are a local business or service provider, please get in touch via our project website:
www.springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk

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Springfield Solar Farm and BESS project site layout

Legend

Proposed Site Layout

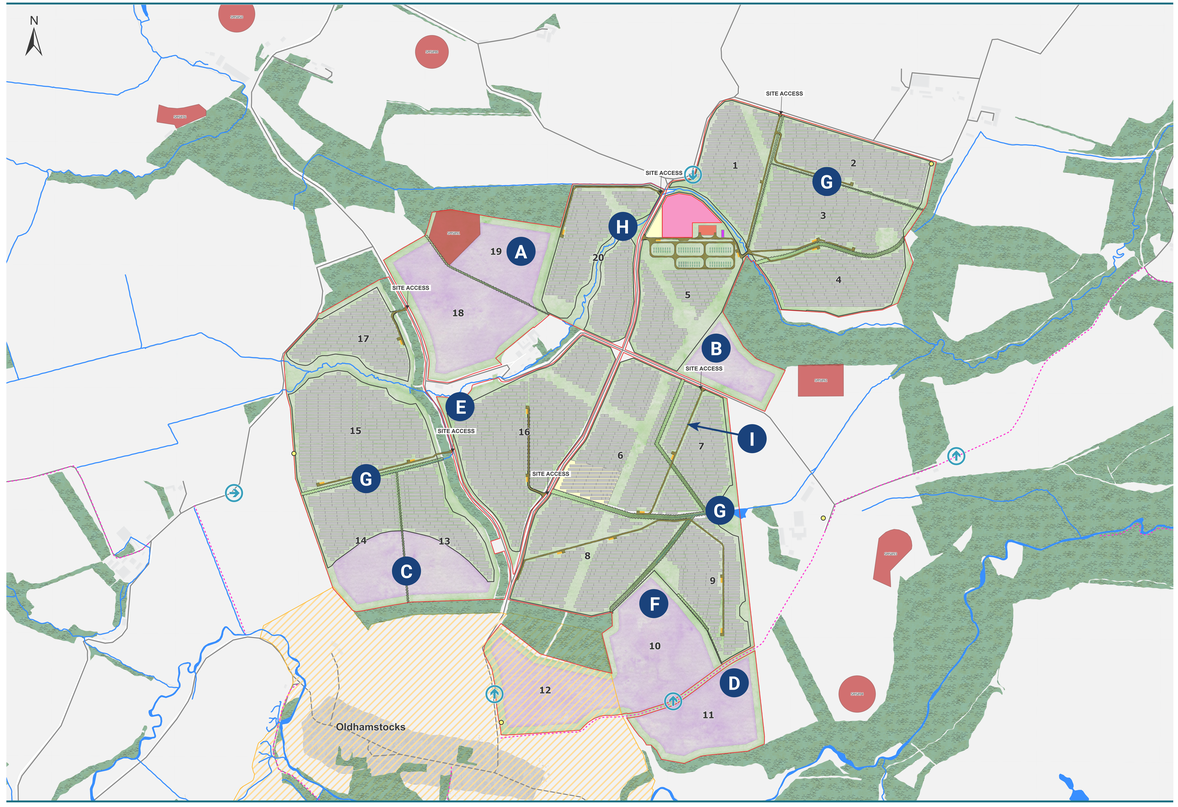
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E Setting back panels in fields 16 and 20 to reduce proximity to residential properties.

F Land without solar panels that has been identified for potential enhancement such as wildflower meadows.

G Enhancement to existing hedgerows and provision of new hedgerows across the site.

H Buffer areas between 10m and 30m incorporated around watercourses following engagement with statutory stakeholders. This includes an area through field 20.

I Pathways through the site between solar areas should be provided to support the maintenance of ecological corridors and habitat network connectivity.

Please note this layout may have further refinements. The DNO substation is not included in our proposed S36 application and will be subject to a later, separate planning application.

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Welcome to our SECOND CONSULTATION EVENT

Thank you for participating in our second consultation on the proposed Springfield Solar Farm project.

This event's purpose is to share our updated project plans, including an explanation of how your feedback has been **taken into account.**

At this event, you'll see how the site has evolved since the first consultation. We also want to provide you with the opportunity to have your questions answered.

Please view our revised site layout and speak to a member of the team to hear more and ask any questions.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

We will continue to engage with the local community and key stakeholders as the project moves forward. We are keen to continue refining our plans and working with you.

Once operational, the project will seek to annually contribute around £400 for every megawatt (MW) of export capacity. Assuming an export capacity of up to 165MW, this could mean a fund with an annual value of £66,000 or £2,640,000 over the proposed 40-year operating life.

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

We'd like your further feedback by **Sunday 30th March 2025.** This will help us to understand your priorities and hear how you would like to receive information from us moving forward. It's important to us and we would encourage you to complete a feedback form and return it at today's event, or via the methods listed to the below.

You can provide feedback by:

- Visiting our website and submitting feedback online at: **www.springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk**
- Emailing your feedback form to: **springfieldsolarfarm@erm.com**
- Posting your feedback form, free of charge, by writing '**Freepost SPRINGFIELD SOLAR FARM**' onto an envelope.

Your comments will help improve the quality of our submission and inform how we work with the community to deliver local benefits.

If you are a local business or service provider, please get in touch via our project website:

www.springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk

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Welcome to our
SECOND CONSULTATION EVENT

Thank you for participating in our second consultation on the proposed Bowshiel Solar Farm project.

This event's purpose is to share our updated project plans, including an explanation of how your feedback has been **taken into account.**

At this event, you'll see how the site has evolved since the first consultation. We also want to provide you with the opportunity to have your questions answered.

Please view our revised site layout and speak to a member of the team to hear more and ask any questions.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

We will continue to engage with the local community and key stakeholders as the project moves forward. We are keen to continue refining our plans and working with you.

Once operational, the project will seek to annually contribute around £400 for every megawatt (MW) of export capacity. Assuming an export capacity of up to 170MW, this could mean a fund with an annual value of £68,000 or £2,720,000 over the proposed 40-year operating life.

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

We'd like your further feedback by **Sunday 30th March 2025.** This will help us to understand your priorities and hear how you would like to receive information from us moving forward. It's important to us and we would encourage you to complete a feedback form and return it at today's event, or via the methods listed to the below.

You can provide feedback by:

Visiting our website and submitting feedback online at:
www.bowshielsolarfarm.co.uk

Emailing your feedback form to:
bowshielsolarfarm@erm.com

Posting your feedback form, free of charge, by writing '**Freepost BOWSHIEL SOLAR FARM**' onto an envelope.

Your comments will help improve the quality of our submission and inform how we work with the community to deliver local benefits.

If you are a local business or service provider, please get in touch via our project website:

www.bowshielsolarfarm.co.uk

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Updates to our proposal

OUR PROPOSAL FOR SPRINGFIELD SOLAR FARM

Following changes made to the site layout as well as ongoing studies, the site continues to show **strong potential for solar viability.** This could become one of Scotland's largest solar projects, and its scale is crucial for success.

Benefits include:

Delivering the equivalent electricity of powering **over 36,634 Scottish households' electricity requirements** (according to the Scottish Government conversion calculator).

Offer a **community benefit package** for local projects that will be shaped by local people.

Offset approximately **51,113 tonnes** of CO2 per year.

Contribute to meeting Scotland's ambitious **'net zero by 2045'** targets.

Enhance the **quality of existing habitats** to increase the potential for supporting wildlife.

Designed to **allow sheep grazing under panels** in order to continue farming practices.

DESIGN CHANGES

The space available and proximity to a feasible grid connection are important to bringing forward these benefits.

As we near completion of the baseline surveys and technical assessments, we have taken steps towards finalising the project layout, although it remains open to change as we try to refine our plans wherever possible.

We have prepared a booklet to explain the changes made for you to take away from this event.

Since we shared our early plans in the Summer last year, the following changes have been made:

26% of the area previously identified for solar panels has been removed to reduce visual and heritage setting impacts

37 hectares with the potential for enhancement such as wildflower meadows

New and enhanced hedgerows and pathways between solar panels are included to maintain habitat connectivity

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Updates to our proposal

OUR PROPOSAL FOR BOWSHIEL SOLAR FARM

Following changes made to the site layout as well as ongoing studies, the site continues to show **strong potential for solar viability.** This could become one of Scotland's largest solar projects, and its scale is crucial for success.

Benefits include:

Delivering the equivalent electricity of powering **over 37,744 Scottish households' electricity requirements** (according to the Scottish Government conversion calculator).

Offer a **community benefit package** for local projects that will be shaped by local people.

Offset approximately **52,662 tonnes** of CO2 per year.

Contribute to meeting Scotland's ambitious **'net zero by 2045'** targets.

Enhance the **quality of existing habitats** to increase the potential for supporting wildlife.

Designed to **allow sheep grazing under panels** in order to continue farming practices.

DESIGN CHANGES

The space available and proximity to a feasible grid connection are important to bringing forward these benefits.

As we near completion of the baseline surveys and technical assessments, we have taken steps towards finalising the project layout, although it remains open to change as we try to refine our plans wherever possible.

We have prepared a booklet to explain the changes made for you to take away from this event.

Since we shared our early plans in the Summer last year, the following changes have been made:

3.5 hectares have had solar panels removed in order to reduce visual and heritage setting impacts

29 hectares with the potential for enhancement such as wildflower meadows

New and enhanced hedgerows and pathways between solar panels are included to maintain habitat connectivity

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The site infrastructure

We heard the community are concerned about the size of the solar panels, the site's fencing, security and CCTV. We wanted to share some information to illustrate what the site will look like.

Deer fencing (wooden posts and mesh fencing) will be used around the solar panels, offering effective wildlife protection while blending with the rural landscape. We will also integrate mitigation measures such as mammal gates in fencing to allow for continued use of the site for mammals such as badger and brown hare.

The project site will have secure fencing and CCTV to protect both the site and the surrounding community.

The additional surveillance is primarily to protect and monitor the assets and to ensure any potential issues are swiftly detected and addressed.

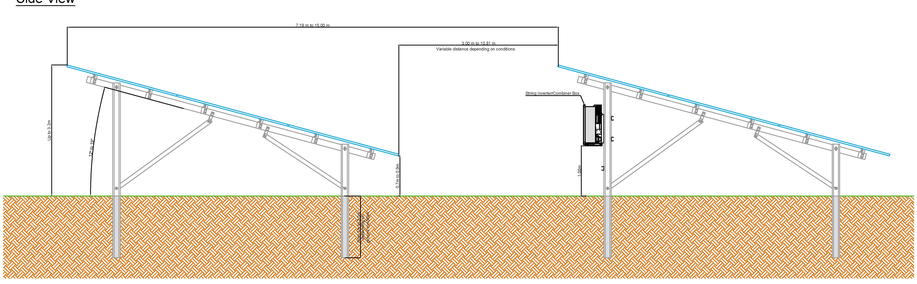




These are photographs taken of another site we have under construction in the UK called Higher Stockbridge Solar Farm. Fencing, mitigation planting and solar panels would look similar to these.

The solar panels will look like the photographs above. We have decided to use fixed south-facing solar panels. These are generally lower in height than other systems. As shown below, these will be up to 3.2m tall, with clearance of between 0.7m and 0.9m to permit future grazing.

Side View


1.19 m to 15.00 m
3.200 to 10.01 m
Variable distance depending on conditions
Wiring Inverter/Combiner Box
0.90 m
0.70 m
0.70 m
1.20 m
1.20 m
1.20



The consenting process and next steps

SECTION 36

Proposals to construct, extend or operate an onshore electricity generating station with a capacity of over 50 megawatts (MW) require the consent of Scottish Ministers under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA):

As the project falls under **Schedule 2 of the Electricity Works (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations 2017**, an EIA report (EIAR) is required to support the application for consent.

NEXT STEPS

Voltalia intends to submit a Section 36 application, for consent to be determined by Scottish Ministers and administered by the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU). This is anticipated to be submitted in Spring 2025.

This consultation does not remove the right or the potential need to comment on the final application once it is made to ECU and the Scottish Ministers.

Section 36 (S36) Consenting Process and Project Timeline:

01 **Pre-application consultation with Energy Consents Unit (ECU)**

02 **EIA Screening / Scoping**

03 **Pre-application consultation with stakeholders**

We are currently finalising our surveys and assessments; and preparing the EIAR

04 **Preparation of the EIAR**

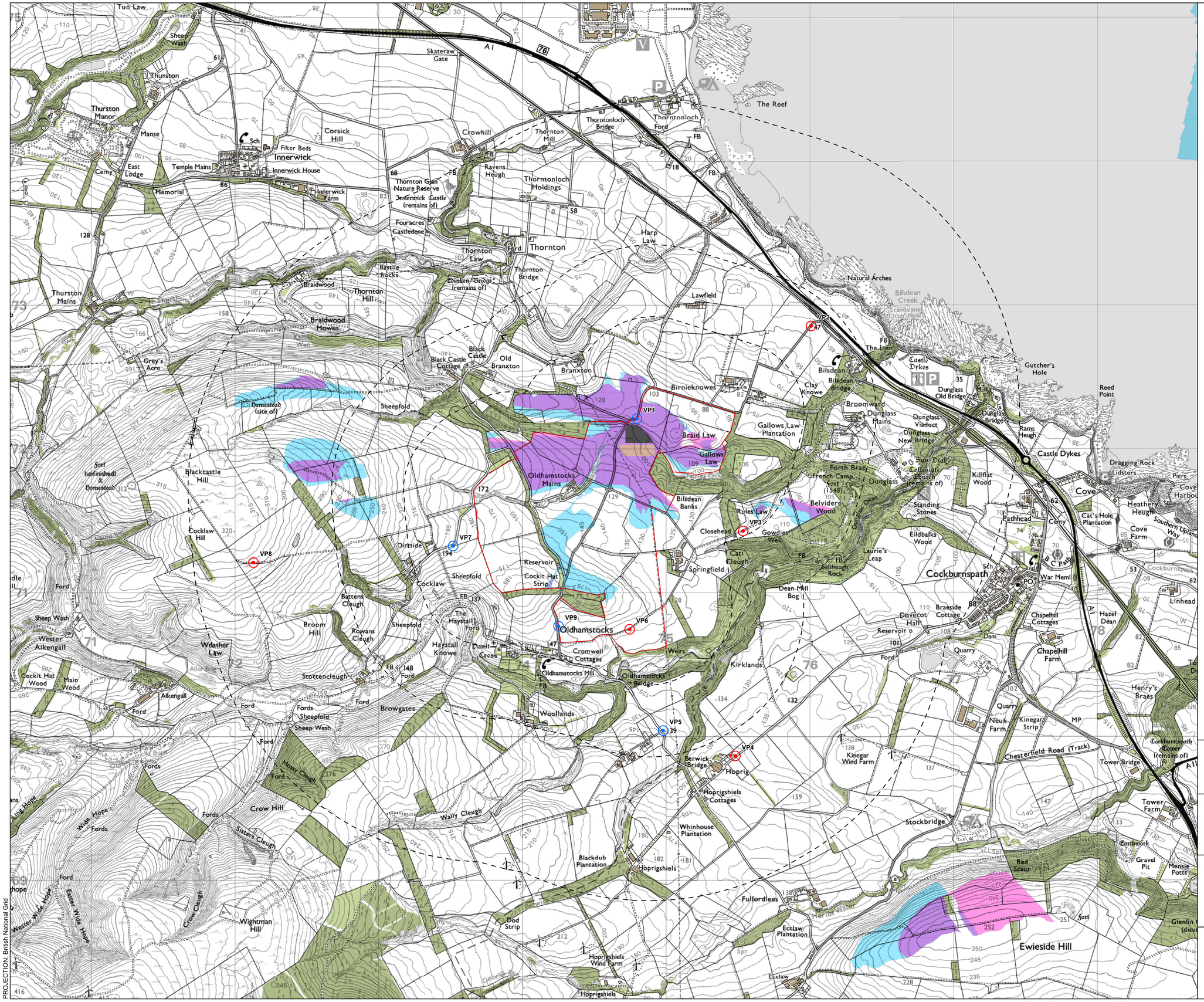
05 **Submission of S36 application to ECU**

06 **Review by consultees**

07 **Requirement for further information**

08 **Assessment of application and decision by ECU**

09 **Construction, community liaison and monitoring**



Legend

- Site Boundary
- Substation Area (modelled at 6.35m)
- BESS Area (modelled at 3.2m)
- Distance from development areas (0.5, 1, 2km)
- Viewpoint - photomontage location
- Viewpoint - photograph and wireline

Landcover

- Buildings
- Woodland

Zone of Theoretical Visibility

Notes:
This drawing is based upon computer generated Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) studies produced using the Viewshed routine in the Visibility Analysis plugin for QGIS. The areas shown are the maximum theoretical visibility, taking into account topography, principal woodlands and buildings.

A digital surface model (DSM) has been derived from OS Terrain 5 height data with the locations of woodland and buildings taken from the OS Open Map Local dataset. Buildings have been modelled with an assumed height of 7.5m and woodland an assumed height of 15m, representing a conservative estimate of average heights within the study area. The model does not take into account some localised features such as small copses, hedgerows or individual trees and therefore still gives an exaggerated impression of the extent of visibility. The actual extent of visibility on the ground will be less than that suggested by this plan.

The ZTV includes an adjustment that allows for Earth's curvature and light refraction. It is based on a derived DSM and has a 5m^2 resolution.

FIGURE DATA:
Layout Version: L10
Object Height: 3.2m (BESS) & 6.35m (Substation)
Observer Height: 2m
DTM/DSM: DSM

0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1
Kilometers

N

SCALE: See Scale Bar	VERSION: A01
SIZE: A1	DRAWN: RK
PROJECT: Springfield Farm	CHECKED: MF
DATE: 07/03/2025	APPROVED: ME

ZTV Study (BESS & Substation) - Including Screening by Woodlands and Buildings

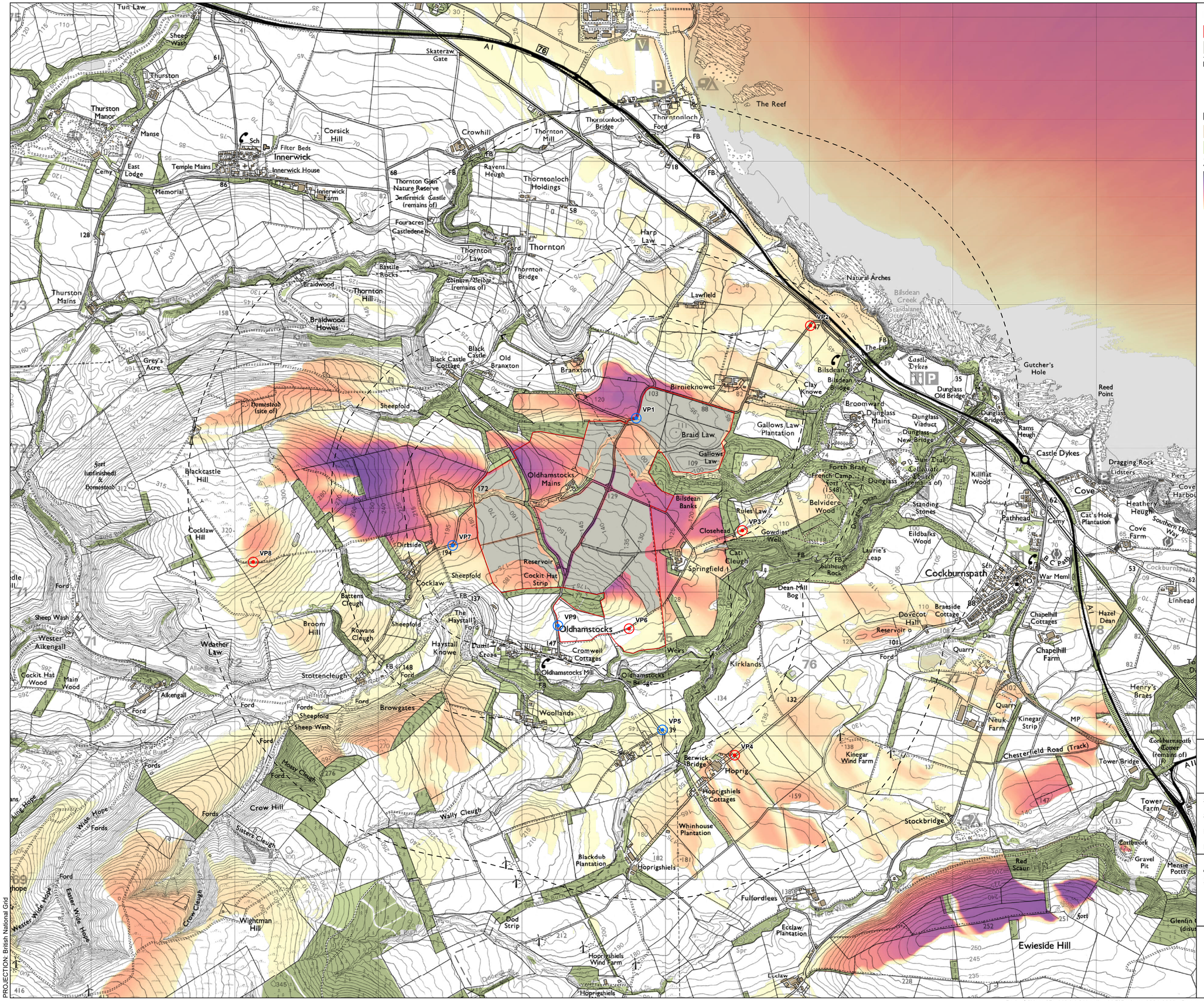
ABSELINE LANDSCAPE PLANNING

voltalia

PROJECTION: British National Grid

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Contains data from Esri, Ordnance Survey, NASA, NGA, USGS | Esri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, Foursquare, METI/NASA, USGS | Earthstar Geographics

Path: C:\Users\RuthKnight\Abseline LLP\Projects 0001-0099 - Documents\0035 Springfield Farm\04 Working\02 Figures\02 LVIA\0035_Figures_ZTV_A1.aprx



Legend

- Site Boundary
- Solar Panel Areas (modelled at 3.2m)
- Distance from development areas (0.5, 1, 2km)
- Viewpoint - photomontage location
- Viewpoint - photograph and wireline

Landcover

- Buildings
- Woodland

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (Panel Areas - 3.2m)

- Greater extent visible
- Lesser extent visible

Notes:
This drawing is based upon computer generated Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) studies produced using the Viewshed routine in the Visibility Analysis plugin for QGIS. The areas shown are the maximum theoretical visibility, taking into account topography, principal woodlands and buildings.

A digital surface model (DSM) has been derived from OS Terrain 5 height data with the locations of woodland and buildings taken from the OS Open Map Local dataset. Buildings have been modelled with an assumed height of 7.5m and woodland an assumed height of 15m, representing a conservative estimate of average heights within the study area. The model does not take into account some localised features such as small copses, hedgerows or individual trees and therefore still gives an exaggerated impression of the extent of visibility. The actual extent of visibility on the ground will be less than that suggested by this plan.

The ZTV includes an adjustment that allows for Earth's curvature and light refraction. It is based on a derived DSM and has a 5m^2 resolution.

FIGURE DATA:
Layout Version: L10
Object Height: 3.2m (BESS) & 6.35m (Substation)
Observer Height: 2m
DTM/DSM: DSM

0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1
Kilometers

N

SCALE: See Scale Bar	VERSION: A01
SIZE: A1	DRAWN: RK
PROJECT: Springfield Farm	CHECKED: MF
DATE: 07/03/2025	APPROVED: ME

ZTV Study (Panel Areas) - Including Screening by Woodlands and Buildings

ABSELINE LANDSCAPE PLANNING

voltalia

PROJECTION: British National Grid

Contains: OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2025.
Contains data from Esri, Ordnance Survey, NASA, NGA, USGS | Esri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, Foursquare, METI/NASA, USGS | Earthstar Geographics

Path: C:\Users\RuthKnight\Abseline LLP\Projects 0001-0099 - Documents\0035 Springfield Farm\04 Working\02 Figures\02 LVIA\0035_Figures_ZTV_A1.aprx

Springfield Solar Farm Project 2025

Feedback Form

Thank you for considering our proposals and providing your feedback. Please rate the extent to which you agree of disagree with the following statements.

1. The Springfield Solar Farm project plans have evolved since the first consultation.

☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree

2. The communities feedback has been used to inform the project so far.

☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree

3. The changes made to the Springfield Solar Farm project following the first consultation are an improvement.

☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree

4. The consultation materials presented are clear and easy to understand.

☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree

5. The consultation explained the process for raising feedback with Scottish Ministers via the ECU during the planning process.

☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree

6. Do you have any suggestions on how the project can work with and contribute to the local community?

7. Do you have further feedback on our proposals for the Springfield Solar Farm project?

Your information:

It is useful for us to understand who has participated in the consultation. Please fill out your postcode (no other information required if you wish to remain anonymous), and if you wish to be kept up-to-date on the project, please provide your name and email.

Name: _____

Postcode: _____

Email address: _____

I would be happy to be contacted by email about future consultation activities on this project:

☐ Yes ☐ No

Thank you.

We kindly request your feedback to our consultation by **March 30th.** This can be returned by:

- Emailing a copy to: Springfieldsolarfarm@erm.com.
- Using our freepost service by writing *'Freepost'* followed by *'SPRINGFIELD SOLAR FARM'* onto an envelope and dropping it in your nearest post-box.

To view this consultation online and submit a response electronically, please visit our online consultation page accessed via our project website: www.springfieldsolarfarm.co.uk

Privacy Statement/ Data Protection: *Personal information will be processed and handled securely in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. By completing this feedback form, you are agreeing that we can hold and process data in relation to the current consultation exercise for the purposes of the Springfield Solar Farm and BESS project. We hold all personal data in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679 and your personal data will not be transferred outside of the European Economic Area. We will only share your personal data with members of the project team for planning evaluation and project development purposes. Your identifiable personal data will not be used for any other purposes without your prior consent. In the event when a Pre-Application Consultation Report is submitted with the planning application, your feedback will be anonymised. Voltalia's Privacy Policy can be found on our website: www.voltalia.com.*