

Glenniston Solar Farm community engagement Q&A's

Question	Answer
<p>Flicker and glint and glare assessments</p>	<p>As part of the planning application studies our specialist consultants are undertaking a Glint and Glare Assessment alongside the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) Whilst this will focus on the potential effects of glint and glare on visual receptors from the sun, the consultants will also consider the potential for additional impact from flaring at Mossmorran.</p>
<p>Electromagnetic fields and vibration assessments</p>	<p>Electricity from solar panels and transmission to the power grid emits extremely weak electromagnetic fields. Exposure to low-level electromagnetic fields has been studied extensively, and there is no evidence that it is harmful to human health, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). In fact, the WHO notes that most scientists and doctors agree that if any health effects exist from low-level electromagnetic fields, they are likely to be very small compared to other health risks that people face in daily life (https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/radiation-electromagnetic-fields).</p> <p>Solar racking is designed to bear the load of the PV modules, as well as additional load factors including seismic, weather and wind forces. The design and installation of the racking account for these continuous forces on the site.</p>
<p>Cumulative impact of turbine, solar panels and Mossmorran plant on the local community and landscape</p>	<p>An independent landscape consultant will be undertaking a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA).</p> <p>The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) will concentrate on adverse effects to landscape and visual amenity as a result of the introduction of the proposed development. A 2 km study area will be applied for the LVIA, as it is considered that this is where significant adverse effects would likely occur. Beyond 2km, due to the low-lying nature of the proposed development components, landscape and visual effects would reduce as a result of a combination of distance, and screening from landform and vegetation.</p> <p>This 2km study area will cover existing infrastructure such as Mossmorran, wind turbines and other existing electrical infrastructure.</p> <p>Key outcomes from this work will be made available at the next public exhibition event.</p>

Engagement with local community	<p>We are committed to engaging with the community councils and near neighbours to the site and are actively doing so. We are taking on board all feedback from the first public event and local engagement. We will be holding a second public consultation event to demonstrate how the feedback has informed the proposals before any planning application is submitted which will be communicated through the appropriate channels in advance.</p>
Lack of alternatives to online survey	<p>We will provide paper copies of the survey form at the next public event and will also be pleased to send some to each community council for wider distribution. These documents can then be scanned and emailed or posted back to us.</p>
Community benefit & legal agreement of benefit	<p>Our intention would be to allocate any community benefits to the local communities and we are offering £600/MWac/yr which equates to 30 x 600 = £23,400/yr. Our intention is to work with local community groups to identify the best channels for distributing these funds and will be seeking feedback from the local community in due course.</p>
Potential for community energy projects	<p>Locogen have vast experience supporting community groups to deliver renewable energy projects and have invested in projects alongside communities, such as the Bespoke Wind Turbine project in Falkirk. We also supported Ore Valley Housing association with their wind turbine project in Cardenden which was successful in securing a Green Energy Award. We would be happy to work with the community councils to look at what opportunities there are and help to access funding such as through Local Energy Scotland.</p>
Sub-station capacity	<p>Our current understanding is there is no more generating capacity available at Glenniston grid supply point (GSP). However National Grid and the District Network Operators, Scottish Power in this case, are looking to change how they model battery storage on the grid and rather than treating this as generation as they currently do, change it to be net neutral. This could free up capacity at Glenniston GSP in the future given there are 2 x 50MW batteries in construction next to the site. This could offer capacity for the community to consider their own energy project in the future.</p>
Reinstatement and bond on completion of operations	<p>This is likely to be dealt with via planning conditions should the project be consented, and if not via the terms of the lease with the landowner. This will oblige the developer to put arrangements in place to guarantee funds are available to restore the site to its former condition after the operational period of the site is complete.</p>
Size of the development inappropriate	<p>We have designed the site to fit within the physical confines of Glenniston/Powguild Farm and feel the site has been designed to be sympathetically incorporated into the existing landscape.</p> <p>Our project has been designed specifically in terms of its scale and location to match the currently available grid export capacity at Glenniston GSP. At 39MW solar and 10.9MW battery capacity this is comparable to other emerging solar sites such as the 50MW solar and 25MW battery project recently consented on the outskirts of nearby Thornton.</p>

<p>Core paths and rights of way</p>	<p>There are no core paths within the site and therefore there will be no direct impact during any construction and operation, if the site is consented.</p> <p>A Landscape Impact Assessment will consider two core path locations following consultation with Fife Council’s Planning Officer.</p>
<p>Impact on property prices</p>	<p>Whilst under Scottish (and UK) law there is no right to a view over neighbouring land and property prices not being a material planning consideration https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/planning-and-building2/planning/planning-applications/dealing-with-your-application ,”we do recognise that the development should be sensitively designed to minimise impact on neighbouring properties. We have therefore engaged with near neighbours to assess the views from their properties and in response to feedback have accommodate changes where we can. For example, adjusting setbacks and introducing screening in the form of hedges.</p>
<p>Work should not have started before approval obtained</p>	<p>Work has not started on the construction of this project, it is still in the pre-planning phase and planning consent is still to be applied for. Any construction works in the area that are current will likely be in relation to the battery projects at the Camilla Farm and Little Raith sites. Any works we are undertaking are non-invasive walkover surveys to inform our planning assessments such as ecology, noise, landscape, drainage and hydrology and transport.</p>
<p>Use of agricultural land</p>	<p>Ground mount solar makes up just under 0.1% of land within the UK as of 2022, and this figure will likely rise to 0.3% by 2035. As a result of these low levels, the security of agricultural farmland throughout the UK is not at risk from solar.</p> <p>At this development sheep will be able to continue to graze around and beneath the panels once the site is operational. Installing a solar farm on land that has been previously cultivated also allows the ground to recuperate whilst generating income for the farming operation.</p>
<p>Opportunity to consider woodland areas around outline of solar farm – screening / support wildlife</p>	<p>We will continue to work with our ecologist, closest neighbours to the site and the Council to identify opportunities for habitat improvements and ecological enhancements to be incorporated into the project. These enhancements will form part of the overall planning application submission.</p>

Community consultation/notice of event

We note that there were comments after the last community event that not enough notice was given in advance. To clarify this we first contacted the chairperson of Auchtertool Community Council on 18th May 2022, 2 months prior to the first public event, and have had dialogue since to create early awareness of the proposed development through the community council's social media and through word of mouth.

The first consultation event for the proposed development took place on 27th July. This was advertised one week in advance in The Courier, as well as posters being put up in newsagents in Lochgelly and Cardenden and bus stops in Auchtertool. Event flyers were dropped in nearby neighbours' properties, as well as at Buffalo Farm, and Auchtertool Village Hall noticeboard. All local representatives from community council level through to the local MP were also notified a week prior to the event and asked to share details of the event through any available means, such as Facebook and Twitter in order to raise further publicity.

A second public consultation event will be held prior to the planning application submission and will be widely advertised 2 weeks prior to the event. This will be done via The Courier, social media, the community councils' Facebook page, as well as leaflet drops within the local area.