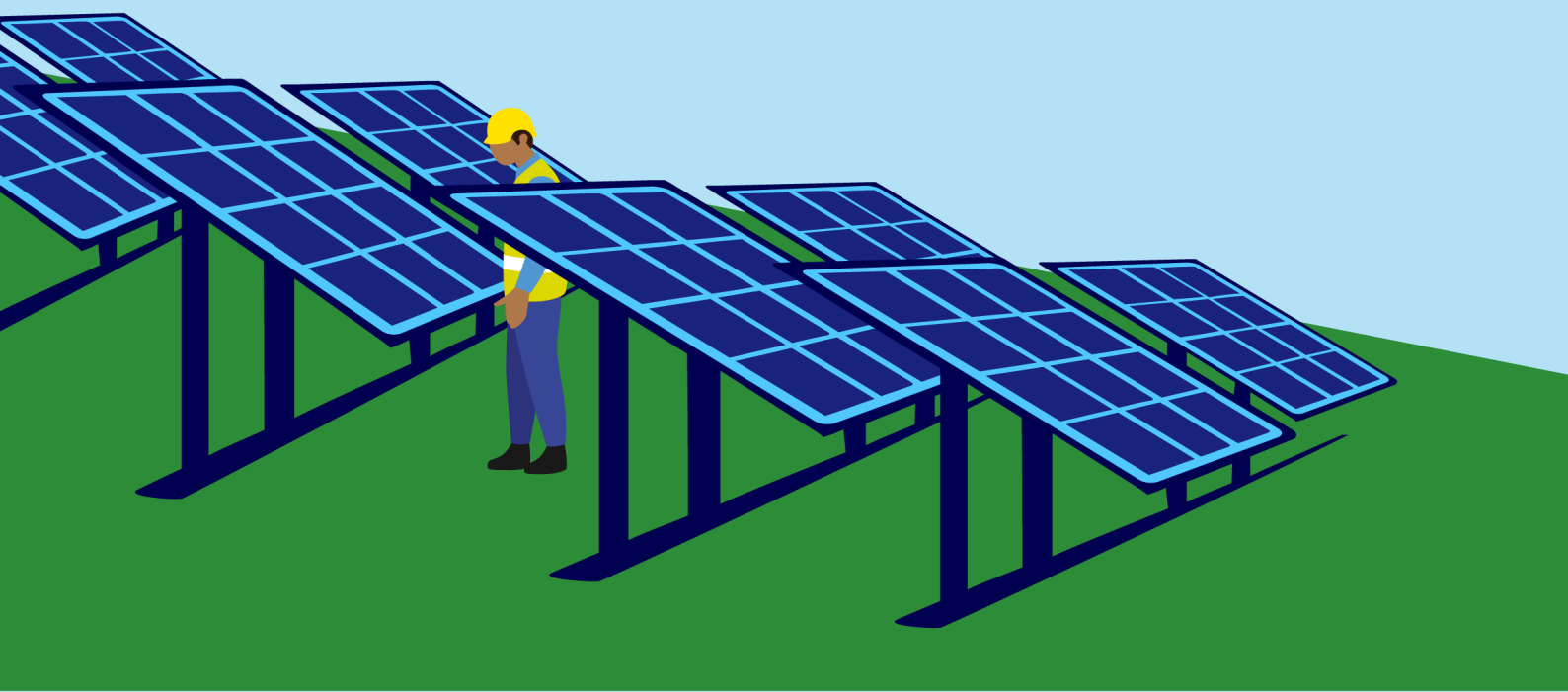




Case Study

Berryhill Solar Farm



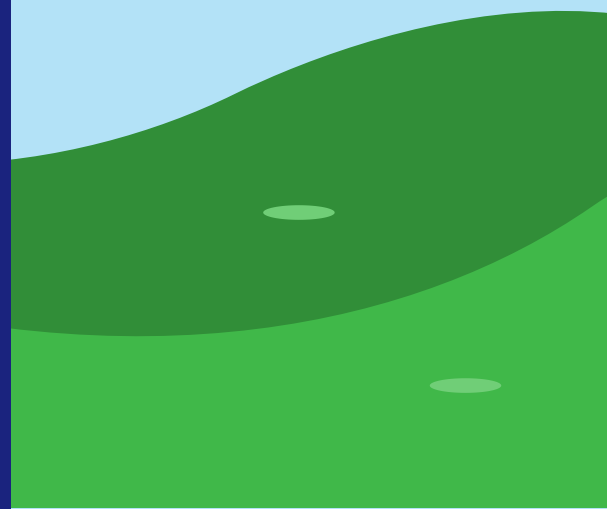
Summary

- **Location:** Scotland, Fowlis, Invergowrie
- **Capacity:** 49.9 Megawatts
- **Type:** Solar farm
- **Developer:** Solar2
- **Owner:** Solar 2 Ltd
- **Panel type:** Not yet confirmed
- **Completion date:** Appeal September 2022, Construction in 2026

solar2

Solar2 is a specialist energy developer and was founded in 2019 by Gerry and Paula Jewson, former owners of West Coast Energy. The founders of Solar2 together with the Solar2 team have a substantial track record in the successful development of renewable projects throughout the UK, being responsible for the delivery of in excess of 1GW of renewable energy

Solar2 has built up a significant development pipeline of Solar projects throughout the UK amounting to c 1200MW.



Overview

The Applicant, Berryhill Solar Farm Ltd is a company owned by Solar2, set up to facilitate the delivery of the proposed development.

Solar2 is a UK owned and based specialist renewable energy developer, founded in 2019 by Paula and Gerry Jewson, former owners of West Coast Energy. The Solar2 team have a substantial track record in the successful development of renewable projects throughout the UK and are responsible for the delivery of in excess of 1GW of renewable energy.



With offices in Edinburgh, Perth, Cromarty, Mold and Wells, Solar2 has extensive in-house specialist knowledge to guide a project through the development process, from initial site identification to securing planning consent with a significant development pipeline of Solar projects throughout the UK, including a number of sites in Scotland. Berryhill Solar Farm, situated just outside the village of Fowlis, 4KM from Dundee, will comprise of the installation of a solar photovoltaic array (PV) and associated infrastructure with an export capacity of not more than 45MW. The project, when commissioned, will generate enough electricity to meet the needs of around 1 in 5 of Angus's homes being serviced with renewable Scottish electricity.

The site will encompass two spurs from Blacklaw Hill (located to the west) and occupy two south facing slopes. The land is a mix of agricultural fields (primarily arable, with some grazing lands). Forestry blocks are in the immediate surrounding area.

Despite a collaborative community engagement programme and the comprehensive Report of Handling prepared by the Local Authority planning officers, recommending approval, the scheme was refused planning consent in February 2021. However, after appealing the decision, consent was granted in September 2022.

Additionally, Berryhill Solar Farm is the sole large-scale solar initiative in Scotland to receive CfD funding in Round 5, securing a competitive strike price of £47.00 per megawatt-hour (MWh).

Project Summary

The Berryhill Solar Farm development will be located on a large expanse of south facing fields, currently in agricultural use, and within relatively close proximity of a suitable grid connection.

The site consists of solar panels, individually mounted on racks and arranged in rows, with central inverters. The south facing panels will be approximately 3 metres off the ground at the highest point and at a tilt angle of up to 25°. It is proposed that the panelled area will be improved with a grassland seed mix and will be grazed by sheep.

The site was originally due to connect to the grid in 2024. Following a number of DNO changes the connection date is now secured in 2026, with the connection point at Charleston Grid Sub-Station at 33kV point. Berryhill Solar Farm will supply directly into the grid, with an export capacity of up to 45MW.

Outcomes

The Berryhill Solar Farm proposal required agile and innovative thinking. With a small number of very vocal and active objectors which equated to just 4% of the population of the surrounding areas, all aspects of the project needed very careful consideration.

The original planning application, despite being recommended for approval by planning officers, was rejected. The full planning meeting can be viewed via the following [link](#). The main objectors had been given ample opportunity to engage with Solar2, which included the offer to accompany them to visit a commissioned solar farm to fully understand and alleviate fears, although a number of people did take up the invitation not everyone, with a number of the strongly opposed refusing

The project, on appeal to the Scottish Government Planning and Environmental Appeals Division, was successful, and consent was granted in September 2022.

Berryhill Solar Farm will have a significant positive impact for the Scottish Government's net zero and just transition ambitions as one of the largest solar farms in Scotland. Helping reduce the reliance on fossil fuels, bringing employment to the local area not only during the construction but also for the lifetime of the project, Berryhill Solar Farm will also in the medium-term, help towards reducing electricity bills for the Scottish nation.

The Berryhill Solar Farm Community Fund of £500 for every megawatt (MW) of exported capacity will be created by reviewing public engagement feedback and in collaboration with Muirhead, Birkhill and Liff Community Councils. It is conservatively estimated that there will be a fund of around £900,000 over the lifetime of the project that will directly benefit the local community.

The strike price of round 5 of CfD funding was considered too low by offshore wind industry and seen as a failure by the industry as a whole. However, Solar2 created a strong bid that proved successful, securing a competitive strike price of £47.00 per megawatt-hour (MWh), which will ensure Berryhill Solar Farm will deliver a return on investment for the owners within 10 years. This makes it a commercially viable proposition for the industry and a flagship project demonstrating that, with a steady nerve, funding can be an attractive proposition without creating a 'race to the bottom' scenario.

Local Benefit

- Local employment with a remit to tender within a set radius of site, wherever possible.
- Ongoing employment for the maintenance of Berryhill Solar Farm.
- The project included many features that enhance the quality of existing habitats, increasing the lands potential to support wildlife.
- The project would contribute to meeting Scotland's ambitious 'Net Zero by 2045' targets and provide significant Carbon Dioxide reduction.
- The project would allow sheep grazing under the panels, continuing farming practices.
- The project would generate renewable electricity into the distribution network equivalent to the needs of up to one fifth of the households in Angus.

Community Benefit

Once operational, Berryhill Solar Farm will generate an annual community benefit fund worth £500 for every megawatt (MW) of export capacity on the site, this could generate a fund in the region of £25,000 per annum, circa £1 million over a 40 year operational life. The community benefit fund will be agreed with the Muirhead, Birkhill & Liff Community Council.



Learn more about what's happening at Solar2 at solar2.co.uk



Published in the United Kingdom by Solar Solar Energy UK
6 Langley St, London WC2H 9JA, The Conduit
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