

ELGIN
ENERGY

PROPOSED HOUSTON SOLAR PV FARM

Houston Road & Moss Road,

Johnstone

“Solar farms typically take up less than 5% of the ground they occupy, leaving huge scope for biodiversity enhancements in a protected space”

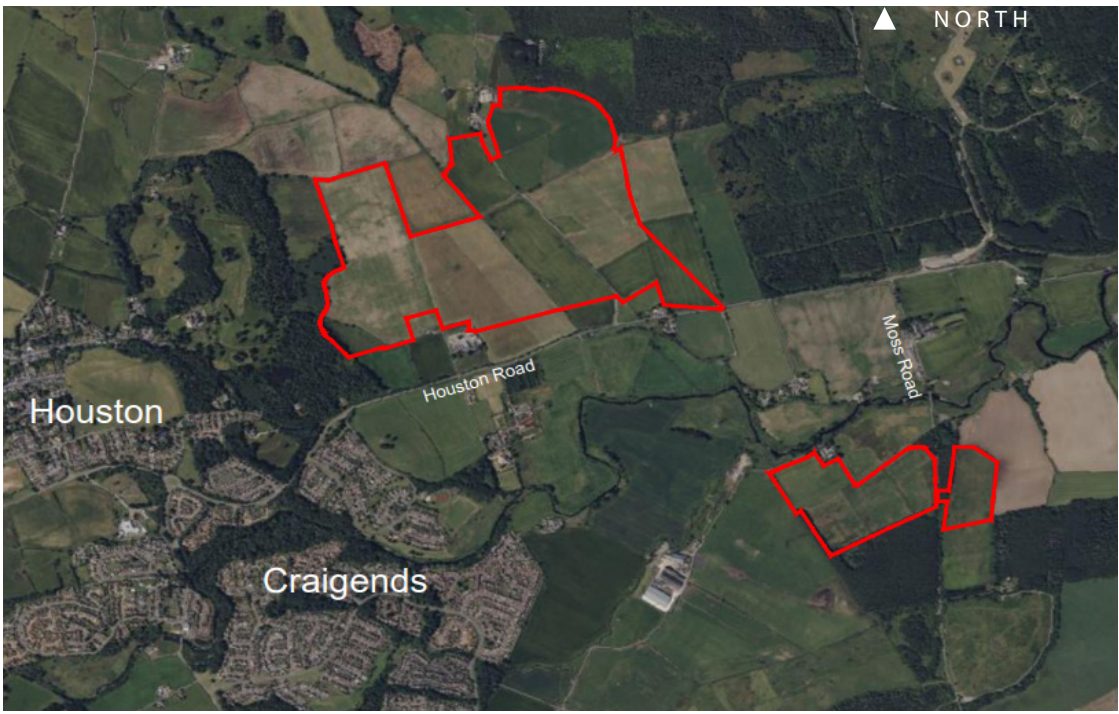
BRE National Solar Centre Biodiversity Best Practice Guidelines 2014

Introduction

Elgin Energy EsCo Ltd is seeking to develop a ground mounted Solar PV farm and Battery Energy Storage Scheme (BESS) at Land north of Houston Road and either side of Moss Road, Houston, Johnstone. We are seeking your views on this proposal ahead of submitting a planning application to the Energy Consents Unit. The red line on the map below indicates the site boundary.

Due to the lifting of Coronavirus restrictions on public assembly, we are undertaking a public consultation event. Further details will be released via letter and in the press. Elgin have also created a website to share project information and seek feedback on the project proposals.

Please visit Houstonsolarfarm.com to learn more. Please be advised that taking part in this process does not affect your statutory rights to make representations to the ECU in respect of the application for consent, when submitted

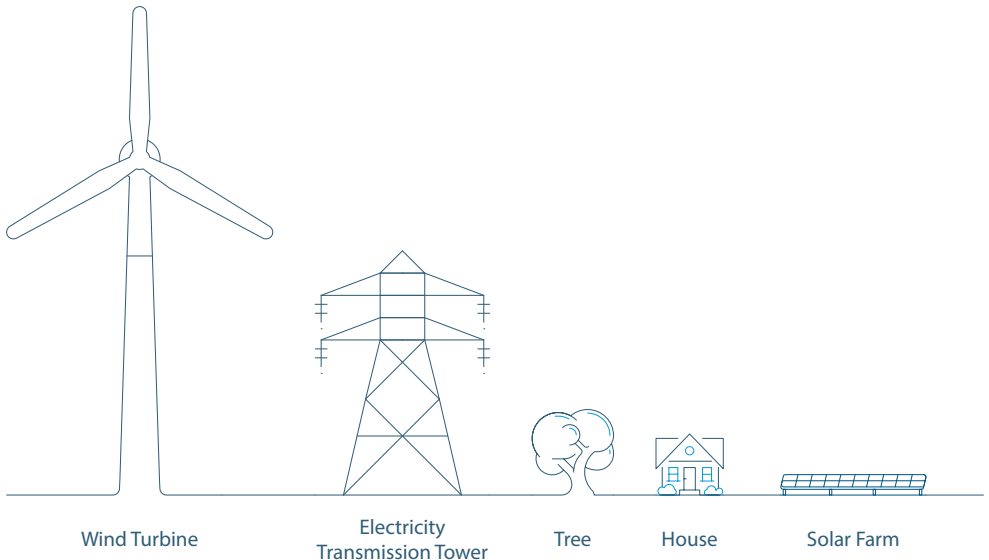


Project overview

The proposed site is on lands to the north of Houston Road and either side of Moss Road. It is approximately 15 kilometres west of Glasgow.

The proposed project covers approximately 111 hectares and will accommodate approximately 75 megawatts (MW) of ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and approximately 25MW of Storage capacity. A project lifetime of 40 years is proposed.

The proposed solar farm will generate approximately 75,000,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) per annum powering 18,100 homes every year.



Local engagement

Elgin Energy EsCo Ltd is committed to the local communities in which our solar farms operate. We engage with communities on each project through a public consultation and try to identify local initiatives that we can support through a community benefit fund.

Local contractors and businesses will be engaged as far as possible during the installation phase. It is estimated that installation will take approximately 16 weeks. For the operational phase it is envisaged that local contractors and service providers will be engaged to maintain the solar farm. If you would like to obtain further information about a community benefit fund or enquire about providing services for this project, please visit the project website.

Pre-planning process

A number of assessments are being conducted to establish any potential effects of the proposed development on the site and surrounding lands. These reports include ecology, archaeology & cultural heritage, construction access & traffic and flood risk. In addition, a landscape and visual impact assessment is being undertaken to identify any impacts on nearby viewpoints. The proposed site layout can be viewed on the project website. A glint & glare assessment will also be carried out although glint & glare effects from PV panels are rare as they are designed to absorb, not reflect, sunlight. This is evidenced by the installation of PV panels adjacent to the runways at Gatwick airport.

Existing field boundaries, trees, and hedgerows will be retained as far as possible. The provision of bird boxes, insect hotels, and wildflower meadows provide significant opportunities for biodiversity enhancements. Once the solar farm is operational, sheep farming can take place ensuring the land remains in agricultural use.

Physical elements of the development

The following components are proposed for this development:

- Solar panels will be arranged in rows facing southwards at an inclination of typically 25 degrees. The distance between the rows will be between 2 - 8 metres m. The panels are set at 0.8m above ground level and increase to 3.2m approximately.

- A mounting system comprising upright galvanised steel posts which are screwed or pushed into the ground and an aluminium support frame which is bolted together.

- BESS units typically 12.2m long x 2.4m wide and 3.4m high.

- Inverters measure typically between 7 m to 10 m long x 2.2 m to 3 m wide x 2.2 m to 3 m high with a concrete base. They convert the DC electricity produced by the panels into grid-compatible AC current. They will be located throughout the site.

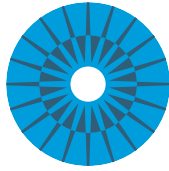
- A primary substation.

- Underground cabling from the panels/inverters to the substation.

- Several permeable stone tracks to facilitate access to the inverters.

- Rural 'timber & post' deer fence measuring 2.4m in height will enclose the site. A gap of 10cm at ground level will allow ecology to freely enter and exit.

- 3m high pole-mounted CCTV cameras inside the site to monitor the solar farm. The solar farm requires no concrete foundations except for the substation bases. It is designed to be reversible and leave no trace when removed.



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About Elgin Energy

The Applicant, Elgin Energy Esco Ltd 'Elgin Energy' is a leading international and independent solar development Company set up in 2009. Elgin Energy has extensive experience in delivering projects from initial landowner engagement to project completion having initially begun development in the UK in 2011, followed by Ireland in 2015 and Australia in 2018.

As of 2021, Elgin Energy has successfully delivered 230MW of solar energy across 21 projects in the UK, providing the equivalent of 75,000 homes with clean energy on an annual basis. This includes Scotland's largest solar farm at Errol Estate. The company has successfully obtained consent for 1,200MW across 63 projects including Scotland's first Energy Consent Unit (ECU) application at Milltown Airfield. A further 5GW solar + 3GW storage projects are at late stages of development across the UK, Ireland and Australia.

Elgin Energy is committed to creating a sustainable future and is working towards this goal with our projects.

To learn more about Elgin Energy and the work we do, please visit our [website](#).



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