

CASE STUDY

DELIVERING PLANNING SUPPORT FOR A 49.9MW SOLAR FARM IN ANGUS

CLIENT: RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS LTD. (RES)

LOCATION: ARBROATH, ANGUS

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Planning Consultancy**
- **Environmental Assessment**
- **Renewable Energy Development**

CONTEXT

Renewable Energy Systems Ltd. appointed Arthian to prepare and coordinate the planning application for a proposed 49.9MW solar farm and associated infrastructure on a 95.45-hectare site within the administrative area of Angus Council.

The proposed development represents a significant renewable energy project, contributing towards Scotland's low-carbon energy ambitions while requiring careful consideration of landscape, ecological and environmental sensitivities.

Drawing on expertise across planning, landscape architecture, ecology,

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flood risk and drainage, and glint and glare assessment, Arthian assembled a multidisciplinary team to deliver a comprehensive package of planning and environmental services. The project was supported by specialist partners providing heritage, transport, arboricultural and agricultural land capability assessments.

The key challenges included:

- Managing the landscape and visual relationship with the nearby Guynd Garden and Designed Landscape
- Assessing and mitigating potential visual effects on surrounding receptors
- Addressing ecological constraints identified during site surveys
- Coordinating a large number of technical assessments across multiple disciplines
- Ensuring all environmental constraints were incorporated into the developing site design

THE CHALLENGE

The project's primary environmental considerations centred on landscape and ecology.
The proximity of the site to the Guynd Garden and Designed Landscape required detailed assessment of potential landscape and visual effects. Given the scale of the proposed solar development, it was essential to demonstrate that the scheme could be integrated sensitively within the surrounding landscape while minimising effects on nearby receptors.
In addition, initial ecological surveys identified evidence of protected species within and around the site. This required further targeted survey work to establish potential impacts and identify appropriate mitigation measures to support a robust planning application.

Alongside these challenges, the project required ongoing engagement with statutory consultees, utility providers and the planning authority to ensure all site constraints were fully understood and addressed.

THE SOLUTION

Working as Assistant Project Manager, Eimear Cheetham provided technical, organisational and coordination support throughout key stages of the DCO process. Responsibilities included:

- Supporting programme management across environmental, planning and engineering workstreams
- Tracking project progress and coordinating multidisciplinary deliverables
- Managing inputs from technical consultants to ensure consistency across application documentation
- Supporting the preparation and review of key DCO documents, including environmental assessment outputs and supporting technical reports
- Reviewing documentation for quality, clarity and compliance with DCO requirements
- Acting as a liaison between the client team, consultants and legal advisers
- Supporting project risk management and issue resolution
- Assisting with document management and coordination throughout the consenting process

To manage the complexity of the project, structured coordination and document control procedures were implemented, helping to maintain consistency across multiple technical disciplines and ensuring information was delivered efficiently and accurately.
This approach streamlined the development of application materials, improved the quality of submissions and supported effective responses throughout the examination process.

OUTCOME

Through a coordinated multidisciplinary approach, Arthian successfully advanced the planning application for a major renewable energy development while ensuring that landscape, ecological and environmental considerations were integrated throughout the design process.

The project demonstrates Arthian's ability to manage complex renewable energy developments, coordinate multiple technical disciplines and develop practical solutions that balance renewable energy generation with environmental stewardship.



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