

# Annual results For the period ended 30 June 2024

James Armstrong and Neil Wood Bluefield Partners LLP



# The Company

Over a Decade of Sustainable Returns

### **Bluefield Partners LLP**

#### Introduction to the Investment Adviser

About Bluefield Partners LLP	<ul> <li>Bluefield Partners LLP is a London based investment specialist who is the investment adviser to the Bluefield Solar Income Fund</li> <li>Our teams have generated above target returns for our investors across every fund we have established</li> <li>Bluefield's approach to creating, sustaining and maximising value to our shareholders</li> </ul>	Speakers
	is a function of having expertise at every part of the investment cycle	James Neil Armstrong Wood
Bluefield Solar Income Fund Investment Mandate	<ul> <li>Pure-play renewable energy fund, focused on solar PV</li> <li>Exclusively UK focused, with at least 75% solar, with the ability to invest up to 25% in complementary renewable technologies</li> <li>Sterling income with a progressive dividend policy</li> <li>Maximise earnings through focusing on operational performance and PPA strategy</li> </ul>	James Armstrong is a founder of theNeil is a partner at Bluefield PartnersInvestment Adviser with 17 years of renewable energy experience.LLP and oversees Bluefield's UK solar income fund.James has been involved in over £1.9 billion of UK and European energy transactions and over £650 millionSince joining Bluefield in 2013, Neil has been involved in over £600 million of both short- and long-term 3rd party financing.



### **Board of directors**

Introduction to the Bluefield Solar Income Fund Board



John Scott Chair

John Scott was appointed as a nonexecutive director of the company on 12 June 2013 and as the Chair on 29 November 2022.

Mr. Scott is a former Investment banker who spent 20 years with Lazard and is currently a director of several investment trusts.



Meriel Lenfestey Non-executive director

Meriel Lenfestey brings over 20 years of board level experience to Bluefield Solar and was appointed as a nonexecutive director of the company in April 2019.

Since 2016, Ms. Lenfestey held a portfolio of nonexecutive director and advisory roles across various industries.



Michael Gibbons Senior independent non-executive director

Michael Gibbons CBE FEI was appointed as a non-executive director of the company in October 2022.

Mr. Gibbons has been in the energy industry for much of his career, taking senior positions in ICI, Powergen and Elexon, where he was Chair from 2013-22. He has held a wide range of senior appointments in the private and public sectors for 20+ years.



Elizabeth (Libby) Burne Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee

Libby Burne has over 20 years' experience working within the financial services sector and was appointed as a nonexecutive director of the company in October 2021.

Ms. Burne holds a portfolio of nonexecutive directorships in the venture capital, real estate and insurance sectors.



Christopher Waldron Non-executive Director

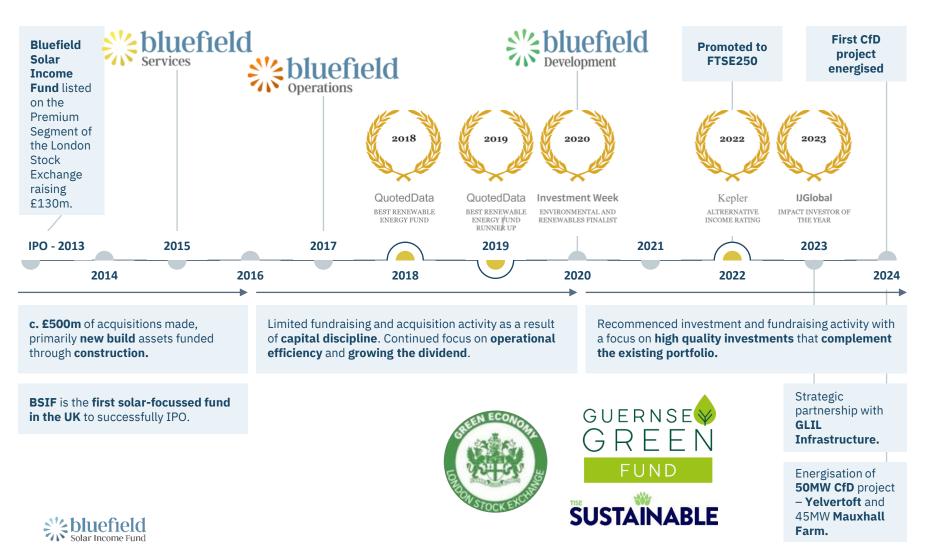
Christopher Waldron was appointed as an independent nonexecutive director of the company on 1 December 2023.

Mr. Waldron brings over 35 years' experience as an investment manager, specialising in fixed income, hedging strategies and alternative investment mandates.



### **BSIF timeline**

Over a decade of sustainable accomplishments



Annual Results Highlights

Over a Decade of Sustainable Returns

### **Priorities**

Creating value in a closed market

1

**Strategic Partnership:** Continuation of the strategic partnership with GLIL enabling investment momentum into a selection of ready to build and development projects

2

**Capital Allocation:** Recycling capital in a disciplined manner supporting RCF repayments and continuation of the share buyback programme

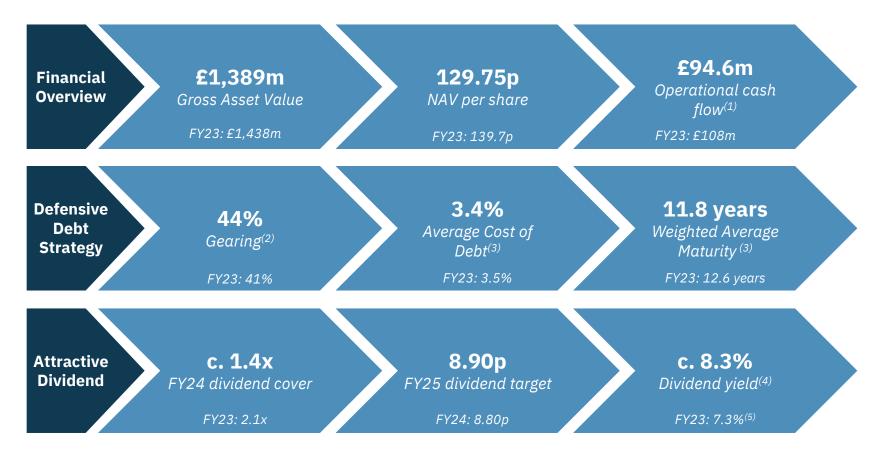
3

**Proprietary Pipeline:** Future stability secured with CfDs secured on 431MW of solar developments



# Key financial highlights

Overview of the key financial metrics for FY24





Notes: (1) Pre amortisation of debt (2) Includes Revolving Credit Facility (3) Long-term debt (4) Based on full year dividend of 8.90p and opening share price of 106.8p on 27 September 2024 (5) Based on full year dividend of 8.80p and a share price on 27/09/24 of 118.4pps (last available date before FY23 accounts publication) 7

### **Dividend track record**

Steady, growing dividend with high visibility of future cash flows

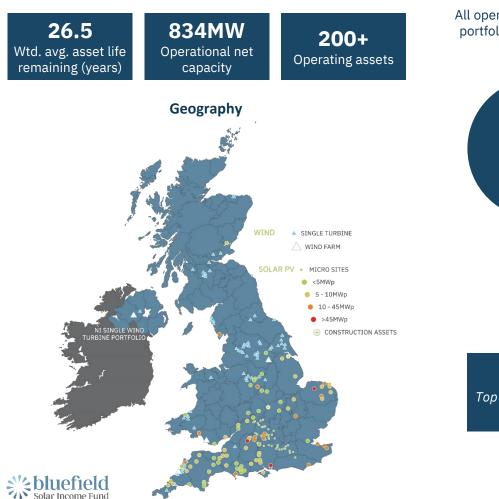




### **Portfolio overview**

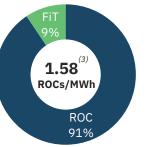
**Key highlights** 

Robust UK renewable asset portfolio with high visibility of income



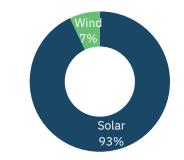
#### Subsidy split<sup>(1)</sup>

All operational assets in the portfolio receive subsidies

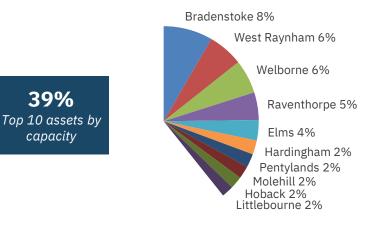


#### Technology mix<sup>(2)</sup>

Solar focus with some wind to offer complementary generation profile



#### Limited asset concentration risk



Notes: (1) Split by capacity; all operational projects have subsidy-backed revenues; (2) Split by capacity; (3) for solar portfolio only, FiT tariffs converted to equivalent ROC banding

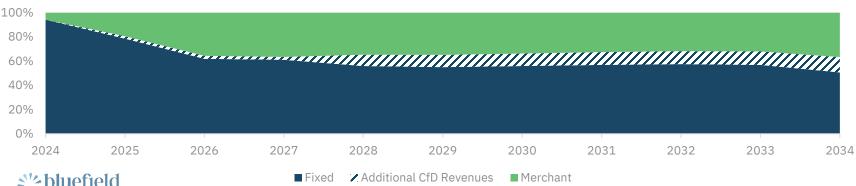
## **Portfolio revenue mix**

Highly fixed, inflation-linked revenues with limited power price risk

- Fixed revenue makes up 67% of total revenue out to 2034 on a discounted basis.
- Fixed revenues are projected to increase from the completion of construction of CfD-backed projects. The additional fixed revenues included in the chart below are from our AR4, AR5, and AR6 projects.



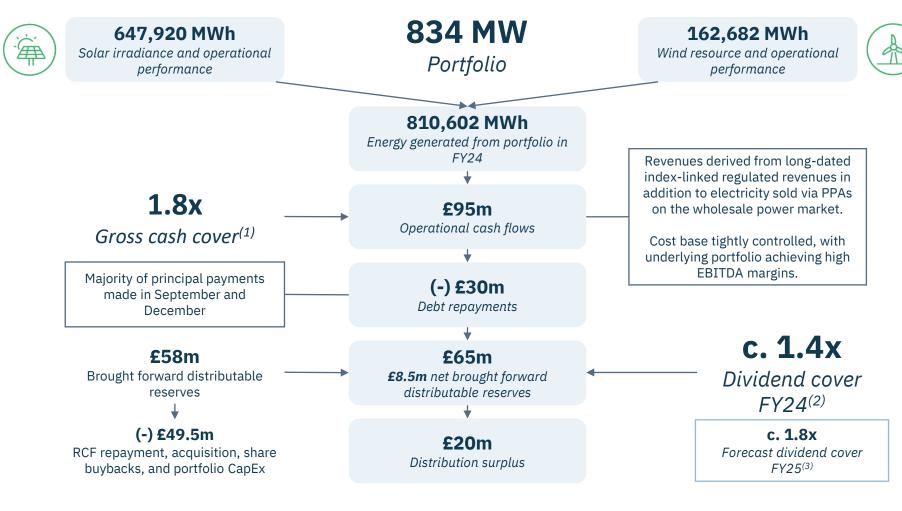
#### High Proportion of Fixed, Inflation-Linked Revenues (£m) for 10+ Years<sup>(1)</sup>



Solar Income Fund

### Simple business model

Converting irradiance and wind resource to shareholder dividends



Solar Income Fund

Notes: All figures shown for the period ending 30 June 2024 (1) Gross cash cover is in-period earnings not including debt payments (2) Dividend cover includes distributable reserves brought forward and is net of debt payments (3) Post completion of £20m share buyback programme announced in March 2024

Valuation, Capital Structure, & Active Management

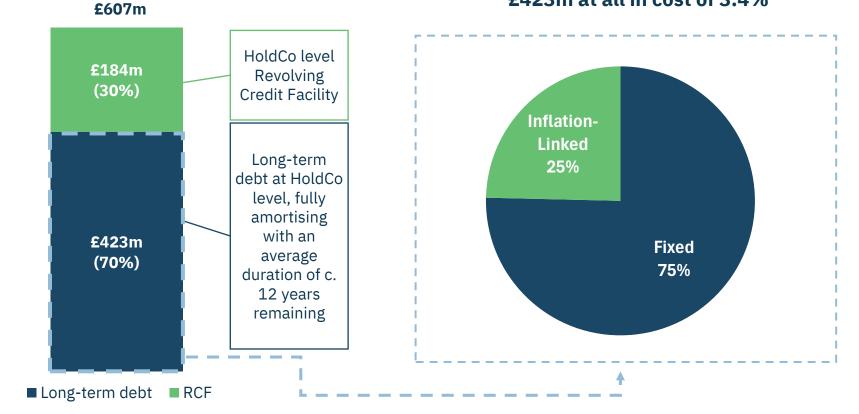
Over a Decade of Sustainable Returns

### **Capital structure**

Consistently defensive debt strategy since IPO

#### Breakdown of debt by structure

Portfolio Gearing: 30%<sup>(1)</sup> £423m at all in cost of 3.4%





Notes: (1) Portfolio gearing refers to the long-term debt as a percentage of gross asset value

### **Valuation factors**

No changes to key factors underpinning the valuation

Discount Rate -

_			
15-year	gilt yields for	r a UK portf	olio majorly
June 2024	December 2023	June 2023	December 2022
8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	7.25%
4.44%	3.92%	4.53%	3.98%
3.56%	4.08%	3.47%	3.27%
	15-year ; of the low 2024 8.00% 4.44%	15-year gilt yields for of the lowest risk renewJuneDecember 2024202420238.00%8.00%4.44%3.92%	2024         2023         June 2023           8.00%         8.00%         8.00%           4.44%         3.92%         4.53%

Inflation

#### Selected Disposal Activity -

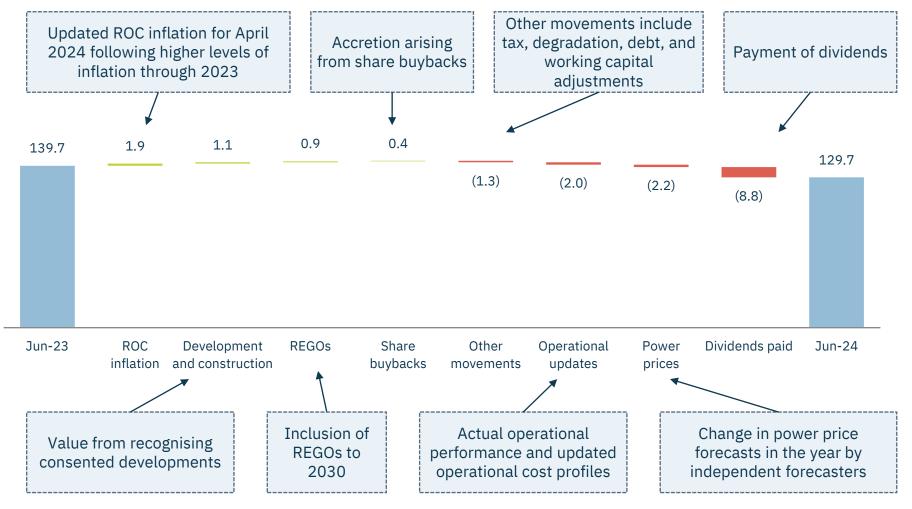
• Post period end, the disposal of a stake in a subsidised portfolio of operational UK solar plants completed, in line with the latest NAV

	Stake	Capacity	Consideration
1.3/1.4 ROC Portfolio <sup>(2)</sup>	50%	112MW	£70 million



## NAV bridge: 12-month period

Positive impact of inflation offset by dividend payments



Portfolio Operational Performance

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### **Active management**

Proactive and innovative approach to enhance shareholder value



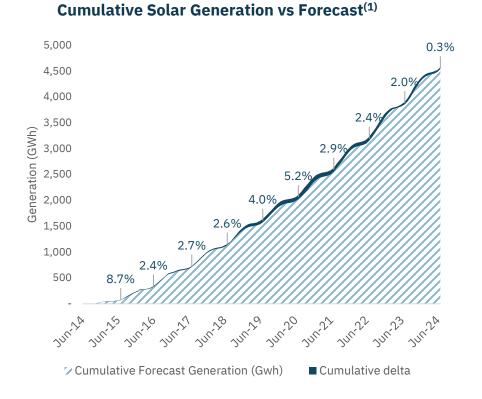
Specialist teams established over the past decade to deliver an aligned, dedicated and diversely skilled workforce to an increasingly complex business



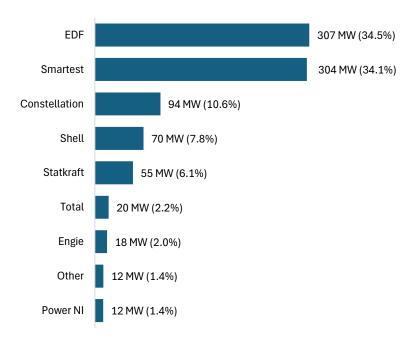
## **Operational performance**

### Strong track record and commitment to revenue growth

- Leading in-house technical expertise has supported strong operational performance
- Diversification of solar and wind power off-take providers reduces counterparty risk
- Rolling capital investment and repowering programmes in place to optimise long-term portfolio performance



#### PPA Counterparty Breakdown (Solar and Wind)<sup>(2)</sup>



### Solar Income Fund

PPA Strategy & Future Developments

Over a Decade of Sustainable Returns

### **PPA strategy**

#### Power sales optimisation underpinning strong earnings

- Power sales strategy of securing short-term PPAs smooths out the volatility in electricity markets
- Competitive tender processes run regularly for fixed and floating price contracts, with flexibility to secure contracts for varying durations, typically 12-36 months, to maximise value



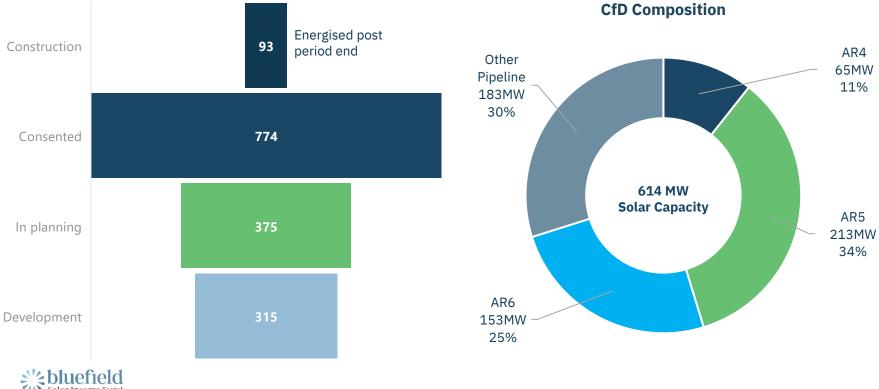
#### Fixed PPAs at Attractive Levels vs Forecast Power Prices<sup>(1)</sup>

Notes: (1) Power price forecasts based on Jun-24 valuation in real 2024 terms (2) Fixed revenue includes subsidy income

### **Development and construction strategy**

313MW of planning permissions secured during the period

- The current value of the construction projects and consented projects in the BSIF valuation is £99.2m.
- The development pipeline offers both capital recycling opportunities (through disposals of projects) and future investment opportunities (with subsidised and unsubsidised revenue streams).
- The composition of the development pipeline consists of 63% solar projects and 37% battery projects.



#### Development pipeline (MW). Total = 1,557 MW

#### Solar Construction and Consented Projects CfD Composition

Data correct as at 31 January 2024; consented projects are pre-construction; development projects are pre-planning submission

# ESG, Public Policy, & Power Markets

Over a Decade of Sustainable Returns

## **ESG highlights**

Key activities & progress in FY 23-24

### **Climate change mitigation**

- Avoided over 167,800 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions (2023: 173,000 tonnes).
- Equivalent of **300,000 UK homes** powered with renewable energy (2023: 288,000 homes).
- Undertook a second physical climate scenario analysis for the Company's wind portfolio.
- Developed near-term net zero targets covering the Company's Project scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.

### **Looking Forward:**

Look to embed the results of the climate modelling to inform strategic decisionmaking and deliver a roadmap to support the Company in achieving its decarbonisation commitments.

### Generating energy responsibly

- **Partnership with Lancaster University** focused on end-of-life decision-making for renewable assets.
- Completed a review of human rights due diligence (HRDD) processes.
- Published the Company's second SFDR
   Principal Adverse Impact (PAI) statement in June.

### **Looking Forward:**

Continue to develop HRDD and wider due diligence mechanisms to help identify, mitigate, and prevent social and environmental impacts across the Company's operations and, where possible, supply chain.

### **Positive local impact**

- Continued partnership with Earth Energy Education to deliver an additional 29 educational workshops to 501 pupils from schools local to the Company's assets (between Sept 23 – July 24)
- West Raynham Solar Farm became the first site in the UK to receive inaugural Wild Power<sup>®</sup> gold certification.
- Developed a Nature Strategy aligned to the TNFD framework.

### Looking Forward:

Finalise nature-related KPIs, which will be used to monitor and communicate the Company's future nature activities.



Notes: Project Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions refers to the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions that sit within the Company's Scope 3 Category 15 Investments. TNFD stands for the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures which is a framework that provides a structured approach for businesses and financial institutions to assess, manage, and disclose nature-related risks and opportunities.

# **Public Policy**

Supporting the journey to net zero

#### **Engagement with New Labour Government**

- Hosted Minister Michael Shanks at Manor Farm Eggington – a BSIF-owned site alongside key investment partner, GLIL Infrastructure – in September 2024
- Look forward to future collaborative initiatives with Government to support the Clean Power mission by 2030

# Contracts for Difference (CfD) low-carbon support scheme

- Welcome the increased budget in latest allocation round 6
- Actively involved in policy discussions on AR7 and future rounds

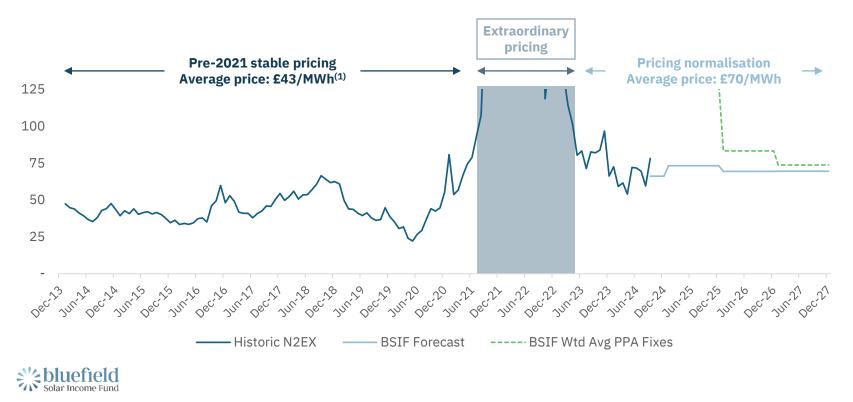




### **Market Normalisation**

Power prices in the UK are normalising following an anomalous period of inflated pricing

- UK power prices have begun to normalise to prices in excess of those seen before the period of extraordinary pricing in the early 2020s
- The levels of pricing forecast are higher than the prices seen over the majority of the Fund's life
- BSIF has successfully fixed power at a premium to 2024 pricing and to the BSIF power forecast
- The blended power forecast out to December 2027 is 62% higher on average than the average price prior to 2021.



# **Concluding Remarks**

Over a Decade of Sustainable Returns

# **Priorities for FY25**

Ensuring the continued fortitude of the fund

### Reduce the RCF

Following the post period end completion of a part-disposal, the RCF balance has been reduced by £50.5m to £134m. Our intention is to continue to reduce the RCF balance through FY25.

#### Strategic maximisation of the pipeline

The Fund has identified over 300MW of development capacity for disposal in the year to maximise the realisation of value in order to strategically finance pipeline constructions.

#### Continuation of the strategic partnership

BSIF and GLIL intend to commit capital together to construct approximately 10% of the Fund's development pipeline. An initially identified portfolio of c. 17MW of CfD AR4 development assets is expected to be grid connected within the next twelve months.



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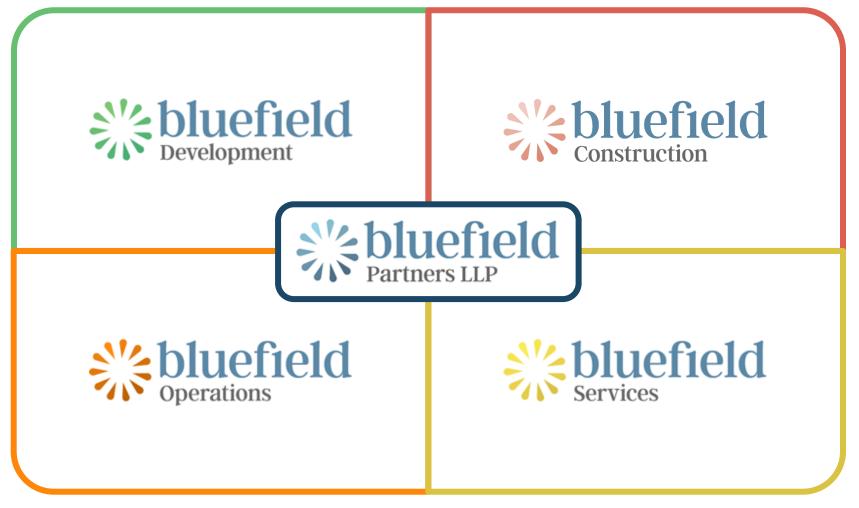
# Appendix

A Decade of Sustainable Returns



# **Bluefield Group**

Differentiated, end-to-end platform





### **Case study**

Materials Passport: Lancaster University Research Project

As the first generation of solar and wind farms near the end of their economic lifetimes, responsible decommissioning is emerging as a key sustainability issue. The Company has partnered with Lancaster University to launch a research programme focused on the end-of-life decision-making for renewable assets.

The first stage of the programme is a project focused upon the development of a materials passport for a new build solar farm. The aim of the project is to map the constituent equipment and components needed to build a solar farm to enable insight into opportunities to enhance the recyclability, recycled content, and recovery of materials.

Material passports are gaining traction across the construction industry. The Company is pleased to have applied this concept to a UK solar project and looks forward to leveraging the data to better consider circular economy principles in future construction projects.





Notes: A materials passport is a digital or physical document that provides detailed information about the materials used in a product or physical infrastructure, focusing on their properties, origin, and potential for reuse or recycling.

### **Case study**

Engaging the next generation

In partnership with Earth Energy Education, the Company delivered its second sustainability-focused education programme between Sep 2023 – July 2024:

- 29 educational workshops were delivered to local schools, including 13 in-school workshops and 16 solar site visits, engaging 501 children.
- 10 Bluefield employees volunteered as part of the site visits, engaging pupils on topics such as green careers, biodiversity and climate change.

"The science coordinator at Lliswerry High told me how grateful he was to be able to offer this opportunity to his pupils. He explained that due to the school's location and catchment the countryside environment was new to most pupils, making the experience even more important."

Tanya Bartholomew, Education Consultant, Earth Energy Education





## **Case study**

West Raynham

In May 2024, West Raynham Solar Farm was awarded inaugural gold certification from Wild Power®, an independent certifier providing tools and processes to help developers and operators measure, manage, monitor and report on their biodiversity efforts.

As a result of management practices and site-based improvements implemented between 2022-2024, West Raynham Solar Farm became the first site in the UK to receive Wild Power<sup>®</sup> gold certification.

"We are delighted to have issued the UK's first Wild Power® certification to Bluefield's West Raynham Solar Farm. We commend Bluefield for their work to enhance the biodiversity measures at the site and congratulate them for achieving Wild Power's gold standard at West Raynham. This marks a milestone in Wild Power's journey, and we hope that Bluefield's achievement will encourage others to follow suit, contributing to our mission to make it easy and viable for nature to thrive at renewable energy sites." Joe Arafa, Director Wild Power®



Notes: Wild Power® is a scorecard-based standard in biodiversity for renewable energy sites, helping developers and operators bring nature back to the land they own and manage. Their mission is to make it easy and viable for nature to thrive alongside renewable energy. Wild Power® certification is issued to qualifying sites to evidence a commitment to biodiversity in renewable energy land use.



## **Construction projects**

93MW of solar PV progressed through construction to operations

- Partnered with two contractors with deep experience in the UK solar market (Bouygues Energies & Services and EQUANS) for the delivery of the projects
- The Bluefield Group progressed the site to ready-to-build status, oversaw construction, and performed a full ESG assessment of procurement and supply chain processes, providing services across the full lifecycle
- Close collaboration with ecologists and archaeologists ensured that the solar farms have been constructed in a considerate manner
- Both sites were energised post-period end and will add c. 11% to the Fund's generating capacity





### **Phased partnership with GLIL**

Phase I [Complete]: Acquisition of 247MWp operational portfolio

**Phase II [Complete]:** Sale of 50% stake in c. 112MWp of BSIF's operational assets in line with carrying value

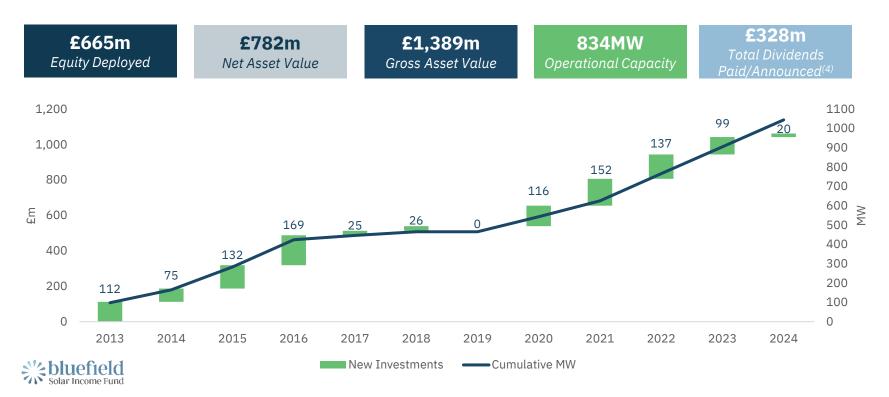
**Phase III: [In progress]** Co-investment in a subset of BSIF's development pipeline



## **Capital allocation strategy**

Disciplined approach to the deployment of capital

- The Company has focussed on making high quality investments with attractive returns that complement the existing portfolio, deploying over £1bn since IPO.
- This has allowed the company to develop a material and accretive proprietary primary pipeline whilst continuously evaluating opportunities to acquire operational portfolios.
- The operational cashflows from these investments has led to a dividend surplus, and the ability to reinvest cashflows into our proprietary pipeline.



Notes: (1) Investment value on left-hand Y axis includes leverage; (2) Excludes post period-end transactions; (3) Includes construction projects; (4) £13.4m (2.20 pence per share) announced Jan-24

### **Capital structure**

### Overview of debt

- The below shows a detailed breakdown of BSIF's external debt
- A high proportion of debt has a fixed interest rate meaning the relatively low cost of debt is "locked in"
- No imminent maturity dates for external debt and all external debt<sup>(1)</sup> is amortising, limiting refinancing risk
- Several debt tranches held at HoldCo level above the underlying assets, resulting in less stringent lender requirements for PPAs, allowing BSIF to take advantage of a more flexible PPA strategy and access more competitive pricing

Lender	Category	Principal Outstanding (£m)	Maturity	% Interest Fixed <sup>(2)</sup>	All-in Interest Rate
Syndicate	Fund-level RCF	184	May-25	0%	SONIA + 1.9%
Bayern LB	Project-level	6	Sep-29	100%	5.50%
Syndicate	Project-level	66	Dec-33	100%	3.50%
Aviva	Project-level	82	Sep-34	100%	2.88%
Aviva	Project-level	65	Sep-34	100%	3.70%
Macquarie	Project-level	7	Mar-35	100%	4.60%
Macquarie	Project-level	20	Mar-35	100%	4.70%
Gravis	Project-level	36	Jun-35	100%	6.48%
NatWest	Project-level	121	Dec-39	85%	2.70%
M&G	Project-level	17	Sep-37	100%	3.28%
M&G	Project-level	3	Sep-37	100%	4.28%
Total/Wtd Avg		607		67%	4.46%
Total/Wtd Avg ex	cl. RCF	423		96%	3.44%

Notes: (1) Except fund-level RCF (2) Fixed percentage represents floating-rate interest (3) inflation-linked tranche

### **NAV sensitivities**

Based on portfolio as at 30 June 2024

#### Movement in NAV (£m) based on changes in key assumptions





### **Investment performance**

BSIF total return has outperformed UK equities and RPI

Since 1 Jan 2014 (first full year after IPO), BSIF's total return has significantly outperformed broader UK equities and RPI inflation



------ FTSE 100 Total Return ------ Bloomberg Sterling Corporate TR Value Unhedged GBP Index (LC61TRGU)



**BSIF Total Return** 

bluefield

FTSE 250 Total Return

Notes: Total return shown between 1 Jan 2014 and 31 December 2023.

# **Fund statistics**

### Key fund policies

Fund structure	Guernsey-domiciled closed-end investment company
Listing	<ul> <li>London Stock Exchange Premium Segment (LSE: BSIF)</li> <li>FTSE-250 index member</li> </ul>
Launch date	• July 2013
Return target	• Quarterly dividends with a target aggregate dividend of not less than 8.90 pence per ordinary share for the year to 30 June 2025
Investment policy	<ul> <li>Geographically focused on the United Kingdom</li> <li>Investment Restrictions (by % of Gross Asset Value at the time of investment): <ul> <li>25%: non-solar renewable energy assets (including non-subsidised assets) and energy storage assets</li> <li>10%: non-UK assets within portfolios containing a mix of UK and non-UK assets</li> <li>5%: UK solar development opportunities that are pre-construction and may be without planning approvals or grid availability.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Investment Restrictions (by % of Net Asset Value at the time of investment): <ul> <li>25%: no single asset</li> </ul> </li> <li>The portfolio shall at no time consist of fewer than ten individual assets.</li> <li>The full investment policy may be found on the Company's website: https://bluefieldsif.com/investors/investment-policy/</li> </ul>
Leverage	<ul> <li>Non-recourse finance may be used at the SPV level to provide leverage for specific assets or portfolios provided that total non-recourse financing within the portfolio does not exceed 50%.</li> <li>At holding company level, the Company may make use of both short-term debt finance and long-term structural debt that does not exceed 50% of the Gross Asset Value when taken together with SPV debt.</li> </ul>
Management fee	<ul> <li>0.80% per annum of the NAV up to and including £750m; 0.75% per annum of the NAV above £750m and up to and including £1.0bn; and 0.65% of the NAV above £1.0bn</li> </ul>
Governance	Fully independent board of five non-executive directors

