February 2025

Machaire Battery Energy Storage System

Pre-application Community Consultation (PACC) Report



Contents

1 Introduction

This Pre-Application Community Consultation (PACC) Report outlines how RES, hereinafter referred to as the Applicant has engaged with the local community to inform them about the proposed Machaire Battery Energy Storage System, hereinafter referred to as the Proposed Development.

It explains how and when the community was consulted before the planning application was submitted to Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, hereinafter referred to as the LPA, and how this consultation has shaped the Proposed Development.

The PACC Report summarises those activities undertaken, details how comments received from the community were considered and sets out if any consequent changes or mitigating measures have been included in the proposal.

The consultation activities described within this Report demonstrates how PACC has been undertaken in accordance with requirements in respect of same, set out in the Planning Act (NI) 2011, Regulation 5 of the Planning (Development Management) Regulation (NI) 2015 and other relevant guidance including Development Management Practice Notice 10 – Pre-Application Community Consultation.

1.1 Proposed Development

The proposal is for the installation of an energy storage system, including battery enclosures, power conversion units, transformers, substation buildings, grid connection infrastructure, vehicular access and associated works. The site is located approximately 340m south of 5 Magheraboy Road, Rasharkin.

2 The Applicant's commitment to consultation

The Applicant is the world's largest independent renewable energy company, working across 24 countries and active in wind, solar, energy storage, green hydrogen, transmission and distribution. As an industry innovator for over 40 years, RES has delivered more than 27GW of renewable energy projects across the globe and supports an operational asset portfolio exceeding 41GW worldwide for a large client base.

The Applicant is committed to finding effective and appropriate ways of engaging with all its stakeholders, including local residents and community organisations, and believes that the views of local people are an integral part of the development process.

The Applicant is also committed to developing long term relationships with the communities around its projects, proactively seeking ways in which it can support and encourage community involvement in social and environmental projects near its developments. The Applicant is the power behind a clean energy future where everyone has access to affordable zero carbon energy and brings together global experience, passion, and the innovation of 4,500 people to transform the way energy is generated, stored and supplied.

3 Statutory requirements and best practice guidance

On 1 July 2015 a statutory duty on developers to consult with the local community, in advance of submitting a planning application for major and regionally significant development proposals, was introduced.

The legislation requires developers to submit a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) a minimum of 12 weeks before submitting a formal planning application for Major applications. The PAN explains how a prospective applicant will engage with the local community and sets out a timetable for the engagement. Once a planning authority receives a PAN, they have 21 days to consider the proposal.

The Applicant submitted a PAN to the LPA on 13 September 2024. The submitted information included details of the site location, the type of consultation methods that would be undertaken, with whom and within what distance from the site.

On 2 October 2024 the Applicant received a response stating that the LPA had reviewed the PAN and considered that it contained sufficient information with regards to community consultation measures and, therefore, it was compliant with Section 27 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

4 Consultation methodology

The purpose of pre-application community consultation is to improve, where possible, the quality of the proposed planning application by considering public opinions and addressing, wherever possible, any issues raised by stakeholders. It is also intended that any interested stakeholders have access to up-to-date and accurate information regarding the Proposed Development and the opportunity to provide feedback to be considered prior to the proposed planning application being finalised and submitted.

4.1 Community and stakeholder mapping

This section details the key local stakeholders that the Applicant identified and consulted with during the pre-application community consultation process. Prior to the start of the consultation, the Applicant undertook desktop research to develop a comprehensive understanding of the key stakeholders to engage with during pre-application community consultation. This research involved identifying local stakeholders located around the site of the Proposed Development.

The stakeholder groups identified included:

- Members for Ballymoney District Electoral Area (DEA) of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
- MLAs and MP for the North Antrim constituency
- Local residential properties within 2.5km of the site
- Community groups within a minimum radius of 5km from site.

4.2 Consultation

As set out in Section 3, the formal consultation began on 13 September 2024 when the PAN was issued to the LPA. A combination of methods was used to inform the community and stakeholders about the Proposed Development and, subsequently, to ascertain their views.

In line with the legislative requirements, any public notices included a statement advising that comments made to the Applicant were not representations to the determining authority (the LPA) and that if the Applicant submitted an application there would then be an opportunity to make representations on the application to the determining authority at a later stage.

4.2.1 Letter emailed to elected representatives – 13 September 2024

The Applicant wrote to the Ballymoney DEA members and MLAs and MP for the North Antrim constituency, to advise them that the Applicant was investigating the potential for a battery energy storage development at the site location and would commence a number of consultation activities shortly - including setting up a dedicated project website and holding a public exhibition to gather people's feedback on the proposal.

The letter also invited these representatives to contact the Applicant if they wished to arrange a meeting to discuss the proposal. A copy of the letter can be found at **Appendix A**.

4.2.2 Project website – 25 September 2024

On 25 September 2024, a project website was launched at **www.machaire-energystorage.co.uk** containing information on the Proposed Development as well as contact details for the project team to facilitate direct engagement.

The project website remains live and will be updated when the planning submission is validated, to include links to all planning application documentation.

4.2.3 Letter to nearest neighbours – 8 October 2024

On 8 October 2024, the Applicant wrote to the residents of 14 properties closest to the Proposed Development. The letter advised them that the Applicant was investigating the potential for a battery energy storage development and inviting them to attend 1:1 sessions with the Applicant ahead of the public exhibition. A copy of the letter can be found at **Appendix B**.

4.2.4 Newsletter emailed to elected representatives – 10 October 2024

On 10 October 2024 the Applicant emailed a copy of the newsletter found at **Appendix C**, advertising the upcoming public exhibition event, to the Ballymoney DEA members and MLAs and MP for the North Antrim constituency.

4.2.5 Pre-exhibition advertising – 10 October 2024

The Applicant placed an advertisement which appeared in the Ballymoney Chronicle on the 10 October 2024 to help raise awareness of the upcoming public exhibition event. A copy of the advertisement can be found at **Appendix D**.

4.2.6 Community pre-exhibition newsletter mailing – 10 October 2024

On 10 October 2024 the Applicant sent a newsletter, advertising the upcoming public exhibition event, to 780 residential properties identified within 2.5km and 38 community groups within 5km of the Proposed Development. A copy of the newsletter can be found at **Appendix C**.

4.2.7 Public Exhibition – 24 October 2024

The public exhibition took place on 24 October 2024 between 4 and 8pm at Sports Hall, Rasharkin Community Centre, Duneany Road, Rasharkin, BT44 8RX.

Prior to the public exhibition, the Applicant held 1:1 meetings with 3 nearest neighbours.

Approximately 29 people attended the public exhibition, and a copy of the information boards presented at the public exhibition can be found at **Appendix E**.

Figure 1 – public exhibition at Rasharkin Community Centre

All of the information provided on the information boards at the public exhibition was also available on the project website at **www.machaire-energystorage.co.uk** from the date of the exhibition on 24 October 2024.

For people without internet access, hard copies of the public exhibition material were made available upon request. No requests for hard copies were received.

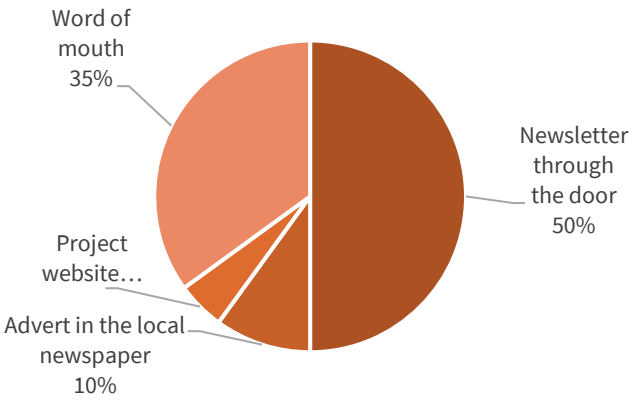
A comment form was provided at the public exhibition as well as online, to encourage feedback from people about renewable energy and battery energy storage in general and the project design specifically. The comment form was made available as a hard copy to submit at the public exhibition as well as on the project website where it could be submitted online, by email or by post. A copy of the comment form can be found at **Appendix F**.

The consultation period for feedback on the proposal ran from 24 October 2024 to 8 November 2024. A total of 20 completed comment forms were received by the Applicant. A summary of the answers received to the closed questions on the comment form is provided in section 4.2.8.

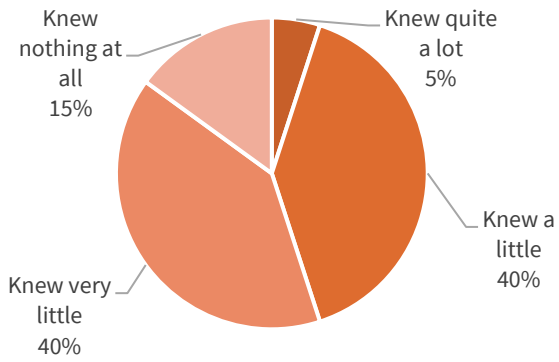
At all stages of the consultation process the Applicant set out clearly the purpose of the consultation and emphasised that comments made were not representations to the determining authority (the LPA) and that there would be the opportunity for representations to be made to the determining authority once the planning application was submitted.

4.2.8 Summary of responses to questions on submitted comment form – 20 respondents

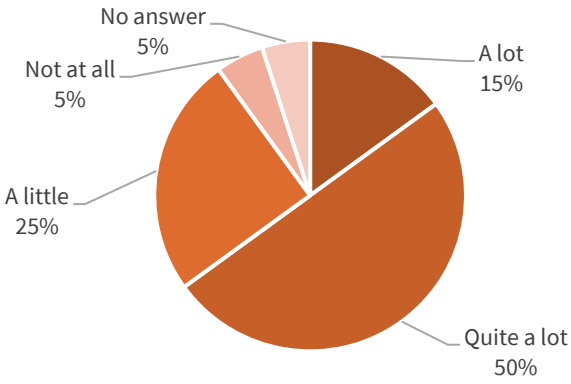
Q1.1 How did you find out about our public exhibition?



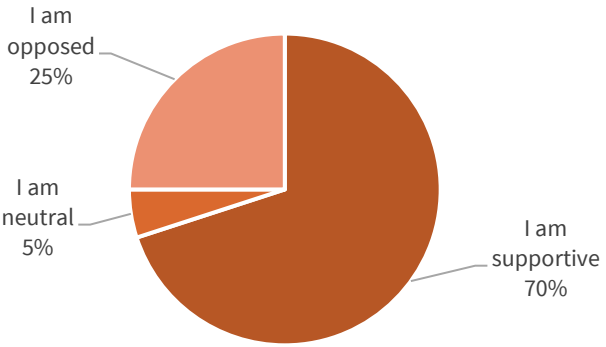
Q1.2 Before visiting the exhibition how would you describe your knowledge of the proposed Machaire Battery Energy Storage System?



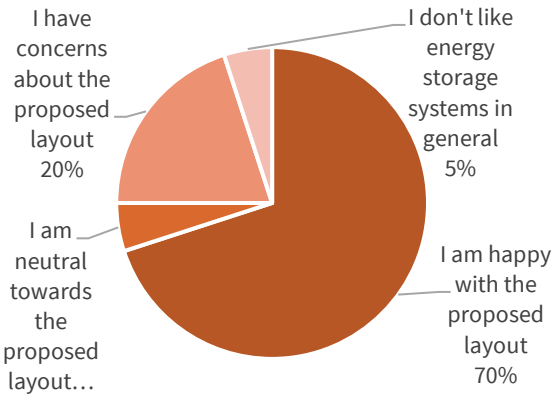
Q1.3 Having visited the exhibition, to what extent do you feel you have increased your understanding about the proposed Machaire Battery Energy Storage System?



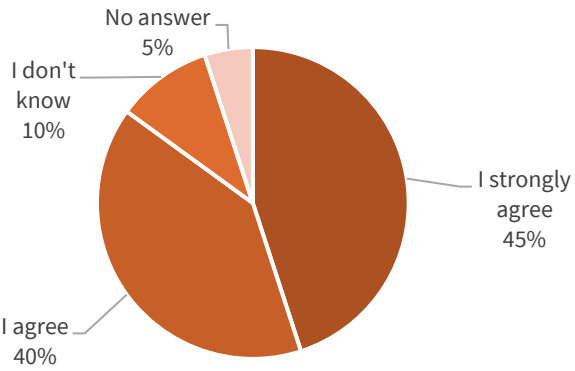
Q2.1 How do you feel in general about the Machaire Battery Energy Storage System proposal?



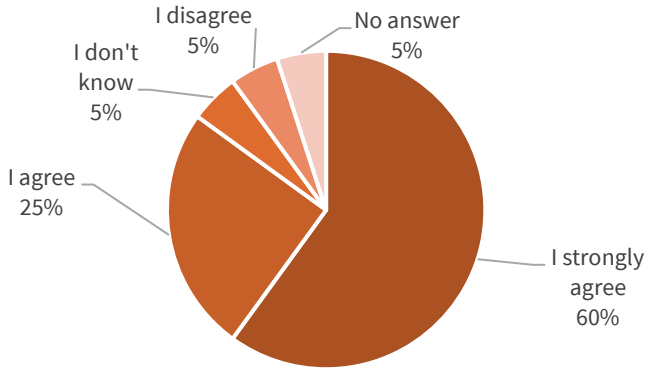
Q2.2 What do you think about the proposed preliminary design layout of the Machaire Battery Energy Storage System?



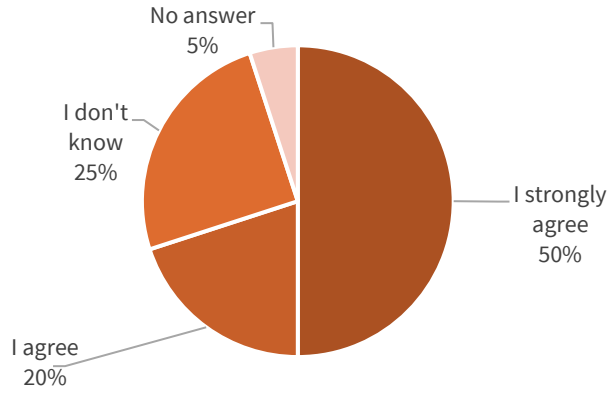
Q4.1 Do you agree that we are facing a global climate change emergency?



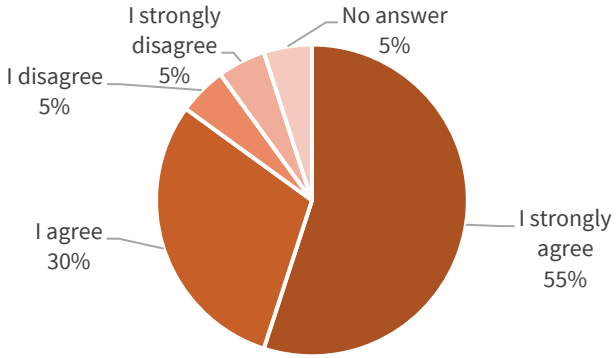
Q4.2 Do you agree that generating electricity from renewable sources, and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, can help towards tackling the issue of climate change?



Q4.3. Do you agree that generating electricity from renewable sources will provide greater energy independence and security for Northern Ireland?



Q4.4 Do you agree that we need to develop energy storage projects to create a more stable and secure electricity system, supporting the rollout of zero carbon energy?



4.2.9 Community postcard mailing – 25 November 2024

On 25 November 2024, the Applicant sent a postcard, advertising upcoming public information sessions, to 844 residential and business properties identified within 2.5km and 38 community groups within 5km of the Proposed Development. A copy of the postcard can be found at **Appendix G**. The postcard outlined how the Applicant had listened to feedback from the public exhibition regarding a second consultation event and invited people to book a session to find out more details on the updated proposal.

4.2.10 Public information Sessions – 12 December 2024

The public information sessions took place on 12 December 2024 between 12.30 and 7pm at Rasharkin Community Centre, Duneany Road, Rasharkin, BT44 8RX.

Approximately 10 people attended the public information sessions, and a copy of the information boards and pack presented at the public information sessions can be found at **Appendix H**.

Figure 2 – public information sessions at Rasharkin Community Centre

All of the information provided on the information boards and information packs at the public information sessions was also available on the project website at **www.machaire-energystorage.co.uk** from the date of the information sessions on 12 December 2024.

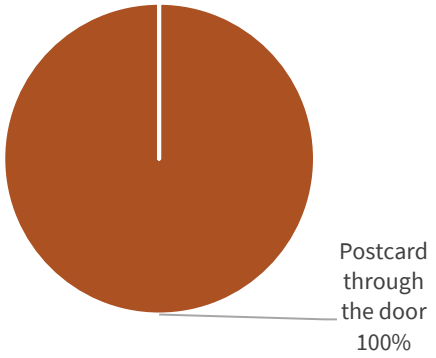
A comment form was provided at the public information sessions as well as online, to encourage feedback from people about the updated proposal. The comment form was made available as a hard copy to submit at the public information sessions as well as on the project website where it could be submitted online, by email or by post. A copy of the comment form can be found at **Appendix I**.

The consultation period for feedback on the proposal ran from 12 December 2024 to 6 January 2025. A total of five completed comment forms were received by the Applicant. A summary of the answers received to the closed questions on the comment form is provided in section 4.2.11.

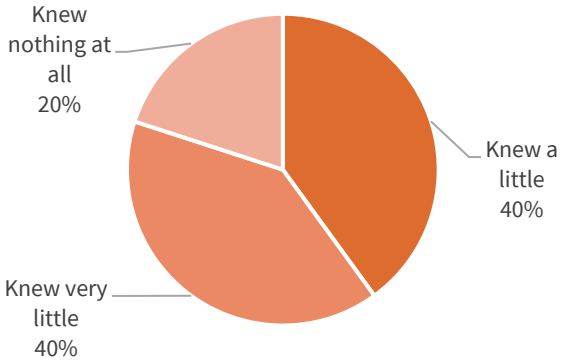
At all stages of the consultation process the Applicant set out clearly the purpose of the consultation and emphasised that comments made were not representations to the determining authority (the LPA) and that there would be the opportunity for representations to be made to the determining authority once the planning application was submitted.

4.2.11 Summary of responses to questions on submitted comment form – 5 respondents

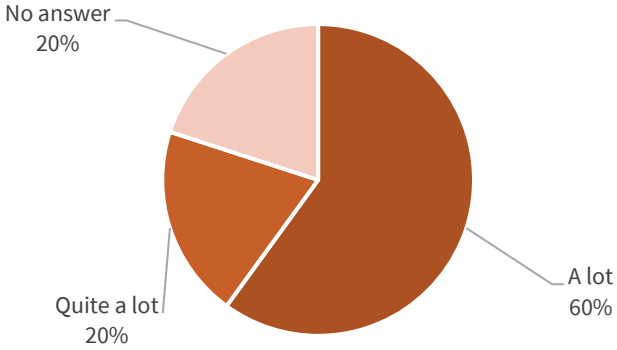
Q1.1 How did you find out about our public information sessions?



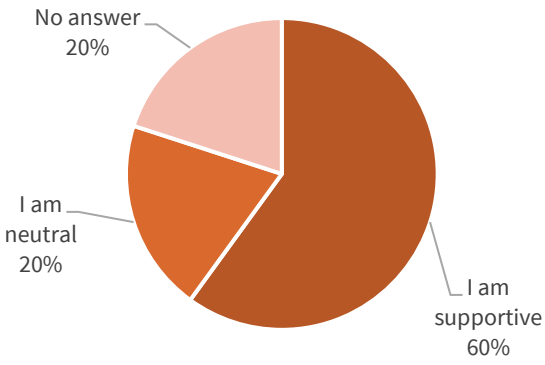
Q1.2 Before visiting the public information session, how would you describe your knowledge of the proposed Machaire Battery Energy Storage System?



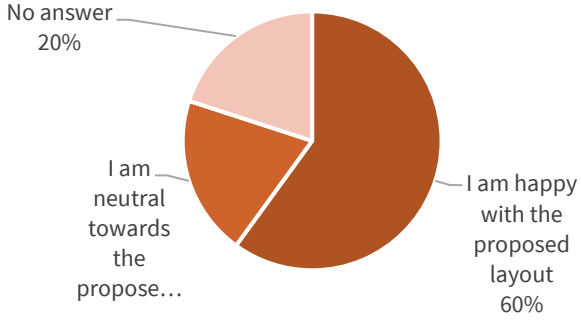
Q1.3 Having visited the public information session, to what extent do you feel you have increased your understanding of the proposed Machaire Battery Energy Storage System?



Q2.1 How do you feel in general about the Machaire Battery Energy Storage System proposal?



Q2.2 What do you think about the proposed updated layout of the Machaire Battery Energy Storage System?



4.2.12 Other consultation responses

The Applicant also responded to any queries received in relation to the Proposed Development from the local community, stakeholders and statutory consultees throughout the pre-application period.

4.3 Summary of consultation

In summary, a range of engagement and communication activities were undertaken as part of the pre-application community consultation - reaching both local stakeholders as well as audiences in the wider area. This activity included:

- Letters to elected representatives;
- Advertisement for the public exhibition in the local press;
- Newsletter informing local residents and elected representatives about the public exhibition;
- Public exhibition and follow-up public information sessions;
- Project website.

This form of pre-application community consultation is in accordance with The Planning (Development Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

All feedback received during the pre-application consultation period, through all consultation activities, has been considered by the Applicant throughout the design iteration and pre-planning stages of the Proposed Development. A summary of feedback, issues and concerns raised, together with the Applicant's response to each can be found in section 5.

5 Feedback and applicant's response

The Applicant believes in meaningful and effective consultation, to facilitate constructive dialogue with stakeholders and the community. All feedback received through the pre-application consultation activities has been considered, as part of the iterative design process.

The feedback received from during the pre-application phase of the Proposed Development, is summarised below together with the Applicant's response.

Sample of comments received	**Applicant's response to feedback**
Need for the development *"Keep it out of Rasharkin"* *"I think it is a good idea"*	The way in which we use, and generate, electricity is changing. Our electricity system is in a transitionary period to manage the increasingly complex supply and demand needs of the 21st Century, and battery energy storage systems provide an important role in this. Battery energy storage technology supports the variable generation of renewable energy technologies by playing an important balancing and grid stability role. Battery energy storage helps support the network operator by storing energy at times when generation exceeds

	demand and releasing electricity back to the grid network when demand exceeds generation. Battery energy storage is considered the fastest technology for responding to a sudden spike in demand or an abrupt loss of supply. Battery energy storage can also provide grid stability (frequency of the grid) services on a second-by-second basis as well as providing additional network capacity, particularly at times of network stress. Battery energy storage is essential to enabling and accelerating the rollout of zero carbon energy. Increasing its installed capacity will be vital to support Northern Ireland's net-zero emissions target and help to deliver a reliable, resilient, decarbonised electricity system for the future.
Traffic and access *"Would cause a lot of traffic disruption to my business"* *"Bit concerned about increased traffic during construction on roads not fit for purpose"* *"Heavy machinery impacting on access to our property"*	A **Transport Statement** accompanies the planning application. The Statement was prepared in accordance with the Transport Assessment Guidance (2006) document published by Department for Infrastructure and has also taken account of other relevant national, regional and local policies. The assessment has considered the traffic generation associated with the peak month of the 18-month construction phase and concludes that traffic will not have a significant impact upon the surrounding road network. During the construction phase of the project, the Applicant will make every effort to minimise disruption on the road network, including paying special consideration to minimising traffic during busy agricultural periods.
Landscape and visual *"Should be in a location where it isn't visible."* *"The visual impact from our house would be horrendous in comparison to what we have now"*	A **Landscape and Visual Assessment** (LVA) provides an assessment of the potential effects of the Proposed Development on the existing landscape features, landscape character and visual amenity of the site and the surrounding area and accompanies the planning application. Potential visibility of the Proposed Development is largely limited by the terrain and by existing planting. A

	detailed landscape proposal is included in the LVA with measures which include: • Existing field boundary vegetation, such as hedgerows and hedgerows trees, would be retained and protected. These boundaries will be enhanced through additional planting and improved management. • Additional landscaping proposed along the south-western corner with large trees, limiting potential visibility from the Finvoy Road. • The southern half of the eastern boundary will be supplemented with additional landscaping inclusive of both trees and hedging, to aid in screening this part of the Proposed Development.
Proximity to properties *"Proximity to property not good."*	The Proposed Development has been specifically located close to the existing Rasharkin electrical substation where the project will connect to the wider grid network via an underground connection. Battery energy storage systems need to be located as close as possible to the substation from which its grid connection is provided in order to limit electrical losses and ensure efficiency of the system. By locating the Proposed Development here, there is also minimum requirement for additional overhead and/or undergrown cables to connect the project to the grid network, therefore limiting any environmental impacts. The project compound is located a minimum of 180m from the nearest occupied residential property.
Decommissioning and Restoration *"Pollution as a result of end of battery life."*	The Applicant has proven experience in the decommissioning of battery storage projects, returning the site to its original use in a safe and efficient manner. The Proposed Development would be returned to its original use at the end of its life. Once all materials and components have been removed, the retained topsoil will be reseeded, according to the landowner's requirements. Traditionally, decommissioned materials end up in landfill, contributing to environmental degradation. The

	Applicant aimed to break this cycle, in the recent decommissioning of two projects, by prioritising reuse and recycling for each of the batteries, in addition to the transformers, cabling and components that had further useful life and concrete repurposed by crushing it into aggregate. By demonstrating the feasibility of a nearly waste free decommissioning process and meeting the goal of recycling 98% of all materials of the project, the Applicant hopes to set a precedent for sustainable practices in the industry as well providing a blueprint for future decommissioning projects, paving the way towards a more sustainable energy landscape. There are current directives to ensure battery producers are responsible for minimising harmful effects of waste batteries on the environment and they must accept batteries for recycling and disposal at the end of life. Recovered materials can be used to make new batteries from recycled batteries. This reduces manufacturing costs, the quantity of materials sent to landfill and our reliance on mining. As the battery markets grows, we are already seeing the number of techniques available for recycling increase. The decommissioning and restoration of the site is usually secured via a planning condition and through obligations within land agreements.
<u>Security</u> *"Security - I think this may be an issue in this area."*	Security fencing will be installed around all four edges of the battery energy storage compound. This fencing will be one of three types of fencing: • Closed board acoustic fencing (see drawing 05511-RES-SEC-DR-PT-002) • Palisade fencing (see drawing [05511-RES-SEC-DR-PT-001] or • Weld mesh fencing (see drawing [05511-RES-SEC-DR-PT-001. Typical lighting and CCTV column will be installed at the Proposed Development. The CCTV cameras are mounted on galvanised steel posts (or similar) measuring up to approximately 4m high and set in concrete foundations. The cameras may have pan, tilt and zoom functions. They will be located adjacent to the fencing around the

	edge of the battery energy storage compound. Lighting is provided for occasional operational and maintenance use in the hours of darkness. These lights will be directed/shielded to prevent glare and light spill onto receptors such as public highways, nearby woodland and residential properties. The operation and maintenance activities shall normally be limited to the hours of daylight to minimise use of artificial lighting and potential for light pollution. Lighting is only used for operational and maintenance activities.
Scale of the Development *"No future guarantee on further size development on this site as the land in question is outlined showing the possibility of further development on this site."* *"I am concerned that this project will expand when the new high energy cables come in from Kells to the substation"*	The Applicant is not proposing any extension to the Proposed Development. The Applicant is not considering any other developments in the local area.
Acoustics *"Industrial noise close to property."* *"Real concerns about noise levels despite mitigation measures."* *"Bit concerned about noise pollution."*	The main sources of sound from the Proposed Development would be from the cooling fans for the inverters housed within the PCS units, air conditioning for the battery enclosures and the transformers. The Proposed Development has been designed to comply with strict noise limits set by the LPA, to ensure residential properties are not affected. A detailed **Acoustic Assessment** has been carried out, in conjunction with the LPA's Environmental Health team. This assessment shows that sound levels resulting from the operation of the site will generally be low in the context of relevant assessment criteria (i.e. that are provided as part of BS4142 and in relation to WHO guideline levels).
Flood risk *"Shouldn't impact the local waterways or provide any flooding to the area."*	A **Flood Risk Statement and Drainage Assessment** has been undertaken - incorporating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) best practise principles, to ensure no significant impacts are created by the Proposed Development. This assessment accompanies the planning application.

	An infiltration strategy has been chosen as the most appropriate surface water management system. To ensure the water quantity and volume are suitably managed back to pre-development rates, attenuation and interception will be provided. Surface water flows will be collected by a series of filter drains, swales and pipes before discharging into an above ground attenuation basin.
Consultation *"Needs another date as I was unable to get to the 1st one"* *"We will not be attending the meeting on Thursday 12th December, at Rasharkin Community Centre. It is not a public consultation"* *"Please confirm why this is not a public meeting"*	The Applicant listened to feedback from the public exhibition and were pleased to host follow-up Public Information Sessions, in the local area, where they provided more details on the updated proposal. The Public Information Sessions went above and beyond the minimum requirements set out for community consultation in legislation and demonstrates the Applicant's commitment to constructive community consultation. The Public Information Sessions were a public event with invitations sent out to over 800 local residential properties and businesses. The Applicant chose this format for the public information sessions as, in their experience, each session being for 4 – 6 participants, are more effective for gathering individual questions, comments and concerns. All information provided at the public information sessions was also made available on the project website.

6 Summary

The Applicant believes that consultation and effective communication is extremely important when developing a battery energy storage project.

The Applicant has engaged proactively on the Proposed Development in order to facilitate an early and constructive consultation process and used a variety of methods to communicate and engage with the local community, stakeholders and other interested parties in order to facilitate a strong public understanding of the potential impacts and benefits of the Proposed Development.

This PACC Report sets out the consultation in respect of a full planning application for the Proposed Development. It confirms that all necessary statutory pre-application consultation has been undertaken and shows that the Applicant engaged early with the local community to encourage a constructive consultation process.

Analysis of the comment forms from the public exhibition shows that 75% of respondents supported or were neutral to the Proposed Development. Analysis of the comment forms from the public information sessions shows that 80% of respondents supported or were neutral to the Proposed Development.

Wherever possible the Applicant has considered the feedback that was received as the design was refined and finalised. This included hosting the follow-up Public Information Sessions and ensuring due consideration is paid to minimising construction traffic during busy agricultural periods, if the Proposed Development is consented.

The Applicant is committed to continuing the open dialogue it has established with the local community during pre-application community consultation and as the planning process continues, as outlined within this PACC Report.

The Proposed Development's website at **www.machaire-energystorage.co.uk** will be updated regularly to enable people to keep up to date with the latest news about the Proposed Development as it progresses. Once the planning application has been validated by the LPA, the Applicant will write to stakeholders and members of the community who have asked to be kept updated on the Proposed Development, to provide them with the planning reference number and contact details for the LPA's Planning Department, should they wish to submit a formal representation.

Appendices

Appendix A. Letter emailed to elected representatives – 13 September 2024

Appendix B. Letter to nearest neighbours – 8 October 2024

Appendix C. Pre-exhibition newsletter mailing – 10 October 2024

Appendix D. Pre-exhibition advertising – 10 October 2024

Appendix E. Public Exhibition information boards – 24 October 2024

Appendix F. Comment form – 24 October 2024

Appendix G. Community postcard mailing – 25 November 2024

Appendix H. Public Information Sessions information boards and pack – 12 December 2024

Appendix I. Comment form – 12 December 2024

Appendix A. Letter emailed to elected representatives – 13 September 2024

RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS LTD
Willowbank Business Park, Millbrook, Larne
County Antrim BT40 2SF, United Kingdom
www.res-group.com

[redacted]

13th September 2024

[redacted]

Machaire Energy Storage Proposal

I am writing to let you know that RES is exploring the potential for an energy storage project on land approximately 600m northeast of the Rasharkin substation, in the townland of Magheraboy, approximately 1km north of Rasharkin, Co. Antrim - please see enclosed plan.

RES is a British company and the world's largest independent renewable energy company and has been operating from offices in Larne since the early 1990s. At the forefront of the renewables industry for over 40 years, RES has delivered more than 27GW of renewable energy projects across the globe including the development and construction of the 50MW Gorman Energy Storage facility in Co. Meath.

Energy storage helps support National Grid by storing energy at times when generation exceeds demand and releasing electricity back to the national grid network when demand exceeds generation, thus creating a more stable and secure electricity system. Increasing the installed capacity of energy storage is essential to enabling and accelerating the rollout of zero carbon energy to support NI's net-zero emissions target.

At this early stage of the project, we have submitted a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) to Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council. We are also undertaking a number of technical and environmental surveys to ensure that any potential impact from the development is appropriately assessed and mitigated. These detailed studies are due to be completed in the coming months ahead of preparing a planning application for submission later this year. A copy of the PAN is enclosed.

RES is committed to engaging early with the local community and key stakeholders to facilitate constructive consultation. Once we have received feedback on the PAN, we will begin a number of consultation activities, including setting up a dedicated project website and holding a public exhibition in order to gather people's feedback on the proposal.

We would welcome the opportunity to arrange a video or telephone call with you, should you wish to discuss the project further or ask any questions.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Peter Henry
Development Project Manager
E: peter.henry@res-group.com M: +44 7500 661671

Appendix B. Letter to nearest neighbours – 8 October 2024

RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS LTD
Willowbank Business Park, Millbrook, Larne
County Antrim BT40 2SF, United Kingdom
www.res-group.com

[redacted]

7th October 2024

[redacted]

Machaire Battery Energy Storage System Proposal

I am writing to let you know that RES is exploring the potential for a battery energy storage project on land approximately 600m northeast of the Rasharkin substation, in the townland of Magheraboy, approximately 1km north of Rasharkin, Co. Antrim.

RES is a British company and the world's largest independent renewable energy company and has been operating from offices in Larne since the early 1990s. As an industry innovator for over 40 years, RES has delivered more than 27GW of energy projects across the globe including the development and construction of the 50MW Gorman Energy Storage facility in Co. Meath.

Energy storage helps support National Grid by storing energy at times when generation exceeds demand and releasing electricity back to the national grid network when demand exceeds generation, thus creating a more stable and secure electricity system. Increasing the installed capacity of energy storage is essential to enabling and accelerating the rollout of zero carbon energy to support NI's net-zero emissions target.

RES is committed to engaging early with the local community and key stakeholders to facilitate constructive consultation. We will be holding a public exhibition on 24th October 2024 at Rasharkin Community Centre to enable people to find out more about the proposal and provide us with their views.

In addition to the public exhibition, we are offering '1:1' sessions to the people who live closest to the site. These 1:1 sessions will be an opportunity for you to speak directly to our project team about the plans for Machaire Battery Energy Storage System, and for the team to answer any questions you may have. These sessions will be held between 1.00pm – 3.00pm on 24th October, before the wider public exhibition opens at 4:00pm.

To book your slot please get in touch using the contact details below to let me know which time between 1.00pm and 3.00pm suits you. If you are unable to attend a 1:1 session, you are of course very welcome to attend the wider public exhibition between 4.00pm and 8.00pm. A newsletter with more information on the public exhibition will be distributed shortly.

I look forward to hearing from you. In the meantime, please do get in touch if you have any other immediate questions about the plans for the site, or for the public consultation itself.

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]

Peter Henry
Development Project Manager
Peter.Henry@res-group.com
M 07500 661671

Appendix C. Pre-exhibition newsletter mailing – 10 October 2024

Machaire Energy Storage System

October 2024

RES is exploring the potential for an energy storage system on land approximately 600m northeast of the Rasharkin substation, in the townland of Magheraboy, approximately 1km north of Rasharkin, Co. Antrim.

Initial surveys have informed a preliminary layout and design, and RES is now at the stage of consulting with the local community to get feedback on our early-stage proposal. The feedback will be taken into account, along with the results of site surveys and assessments, as we refine the design.

Technical and environmental surveys are ongoing to ensure any potential impact on the environment, landscape, heritage and local residents is appropriately assessed and mitigated.

Public Exhibition

We are keen to engage with the local community and as part of our pre-application consultation we are holding a public exhibition in the local area to enable people to find out more about the proposal and provide us with their views.

Our team will be on hand to answer any questions and comment forms will be available to gather feedback.

Thursday 24th October 2024
4pm to 8pm
Sports Hall, Rasharkin Community Centre
Duneany Road, Rasharkin, BT44 8RX

All information provided at the public exhibition will also be available at www.machaire-energystorage.co.uk from 24th October 2024.

The public exhibition initiates a consultation period being run by RES to gather comments on the proposal. To participate, please provide feedback on the preliminary design by **Friday 8th November 2024**.

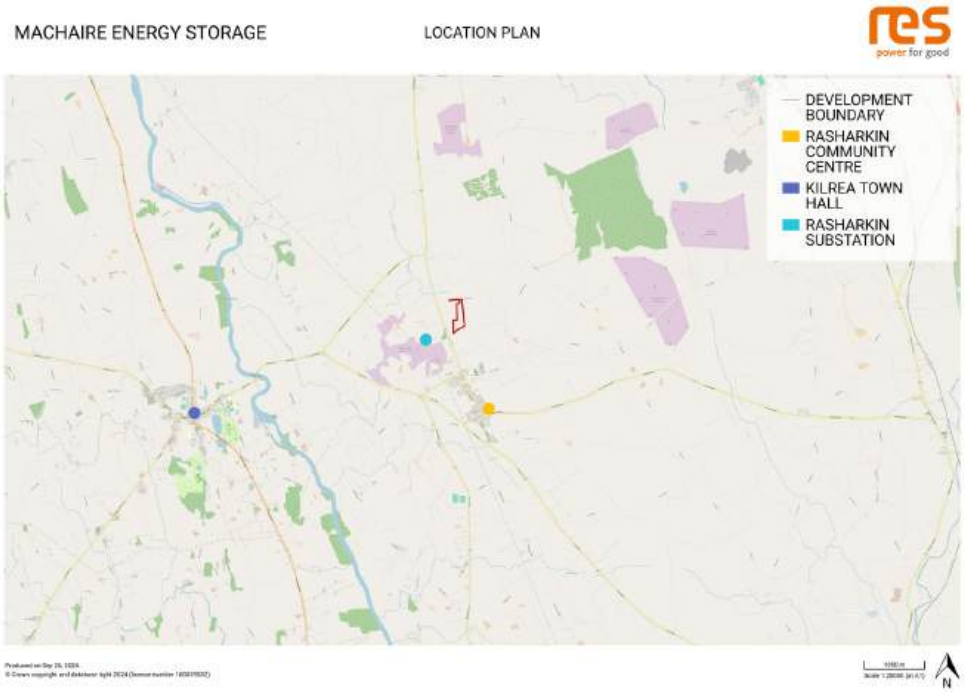
Comments will still be accepted after this date but may not be considered in relation to the design development. Comments forms will be available to complete and submit during the public exhibition. Forms will also be available on the website above from the day of the public exhibition and can submitted online or downloaded and submitted via email to **Carey.Green@res-group.com**. Hard copies can be sent by post to RES, Willowbank Business Park, Millbrook, Larne, Co. Antrim, BT40 2SF.

Please note that comments submitted to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.

Machaire Energy Storage System at a Glance

The Machaire Energy Storage System would comprise a number of battery storage enclosures and associated infrastructure to provide up to 100MW of storage capacity. Machaire would support the grid network by storing energy at times when generation exceeds demand and releasing electricity back to the national grid network when demand exceeds generation. Electricity is not physically generated on site.

The Machaire project will be specifically designed to include planting of native trees, hedgerows and wildflower grass areas. These will not only reduce potential visibility of the scheme but also help to enhance biodiversity by providing wildlife corridors and vital resources for mammals, birds, and insect species.



A larger version of the location plan can be found at www.machaire-energystorage.co.uk/about-the-project/

About RES

RES is the world's largest independent renewable energy company, working across 24 countries and active in wind, solar, energy storage, green hydrogen, transmission and distribution. As an industry innovator for over 40 years, RES has delivered more than 27GW of renewable energy projects across the globe and supports an operational asset portfolio exceeding 41GW worldwide for a large client base.

RES is the power behind a clean energy future where everyone has access to affordable zero carbon energy. We bring together global experience, passion, and the innovation of 4,500 people to transform the way energy is generated, stored and supplied.

RES has been working in the battery energy storage market for a decade and design safe storage projects using proven Lithium iron phosphate technology. RES has developed over 830MW of energy storage projects across the UK and Ireland and currently manage over 600MW of operational storage projects with 24/7/365 monitoring provided from our control centre in Glasgow.

Peter Henry
Development Project Manager
Peter.Henry@res-group.com
07500 661 671
RES, Willowbank Business Park, Millbrook, Larne, Co. Antrim, BT40 2SF

For more information on the proposal please visit our project website at www.machaire-energystorage.co.uk or contact us by using the details above.

If you require information in Braille, large text or audio, please let us know.

Appendix D. Pre-exhibition advertising – 10 October 2024

Causeway to be one of three 'general hospitals'

24/7 ED will remain a core service, but 'not every hospital can provide every service', according to Department of Health report

by Peter **Winter**
peter.winter@thechronicle.uk.com

A BLUEPRINT for the reorganisation of Northern Ireland's hospital network, published last week by the Department of Health, has designated the Causeway as a "general hospital" alongside Newry's Daisy Hill and Enniskillen's South West Acute Hospital.

Entitled 'Hospitals – Creating a Network for Better Outcome', the document insists reconfiguration is required amid prolonged staffing challenges.

But while the roles of some hospitals will have to change, the authors insist "every square inch of of current acute hospital capacity will be needed."

The reports says NI can reasonably sustain only five of the biggest type of hospitals – which it designates 'Area Hospitals.'

These are: Belfast's three 'campuses' viewed as a single unit, Altnagelvin, Craigavon, Ulster and Antrim.

They will provide a "full range" of services, the document states, and are potentially the functional spine of the entire network.

"They are distinct from General and Local Hospitals in that they provide a broader range of specialties and services, have a larger inpatient bed base and more specialised clinical teams.

"In particular, these Area Hospitals will maintain a 24/7 emergency department, a 24/7 emergency surgery and anaesthetic rota and theatre and be supported by a critical care unit.

One of the problems facing NI's smaller acute hospitals - or as the document designates them 'general hospitals' - is that they are competing for resources with big five.

It's one reason why they are most vulnerable to unplanned change in service, as Causeway users have frequently found out.

Their geographical locations and the challenge of maintaining safety-critical medical rotas and wider clinical teams are the biggest issues, the report states

"They cannot just be small Area Hospitals; the resources do not exist to perpetuate this. But that does not mean they are not critical to developing a successful hospital network.

"These hospitals have a key role in ensuring our system can respond to the challenges of an ageing population, delivering a range of acute and rehabilitation services, with the advantage that they are closer to an otherwise more isolated community."

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

The document goes on to insist that one core service that must be maintained is 24/7 emergency departments.

"What is important is that the emergency departments in these hospitals need to be sustainable on a 24/7 basis, as the Area Hospitals could not cope with their significant workload.

And a sustainable ED requires certain additional services including radiology (including CT scanner), laboratory services and anaesthetic cover.

"It will therefore be critically important to maintain these core services at the General Hospitals," the report states.

In addition to an ED general hospitals are to provide "a significant volume of the General Hospital services needed by a local population.

The report suggests cardiology, diabetes and respiratory services, as well as Care of the Elderly inpatient beds.

It then goes on to cover what may be perhaps general hospitals' most crucial role, in terms of province-wide health service reform.

"To justify the anaesthetic cover and maximise the use of existing theatre capacity (much of which is of a high standard) sufficient elective surgery should be planned and delivered on these sites

"This is already helped by the designation of SWAH and Daisy Hill Hospitals as elective overnight stay centres, along with the Mater Hospital within the Belfast campus.

"In reality, the same profile applies to Causeway Hospital, which could be similarly designated."

Launching he document last Tuesday Health Minister Mike Nesbitt said hospitals must no longer be viewed as stand-alone units.

"We need to see each of our hospitals as part of something bigger and wider – fitting into a network in which each plays a key part. This is essential if we are to deliver better outcomes for patients and staff.

Health Minister Mike Nesbitt.

The Causeway - one of three 'general hospitals in Northern Ireland.

"Reconfiguration of some services is required. The roles of some hospitals will have to change - to keep pace with modern medicine and deliver better patient outcomes.

"While every hospital cannot provide every service, each hospital will still play a vital role, not just in their local communities but as a valued part of a planned regional system.

"This document can help assure communities that reconfiguration of services is not about cutting costs or closing hospitals. It's about managing change in a controlled way and demonstrating the benefits. It's about showing how each hospital can fit into the network and best serve patients.

"Change is happening. We see that with the increasing shift towards centres of excellence such as standalone elective care hubs.

"This is reform in action but there is much more to do. A collaborative approach can better sustain our network to the benefit of patients and staff.

Fine for no insurance

A BALLYMONEY man was fined £600 and had eight penalty points added to his licence at Ballymena Magistrate's Court last week.

Sean Francis Mooney (27), with an address at Donaghbrook Avenue, was charged with using a motor vehicle without insurance and having no driving licence on June 4, this year, at Colin Road, Ballymena.

Soroptimists hear from Cancer ResarchUK's Lisa

BALLYMONEY & District Soroptimists met in The Hub Ballymoney on Thursday 3 October when their guest speaker was Lisa Bailey who is the Relationship Manager for Cancer Research UK.

Lisa started the evening by introducing her mother Mrs. Mabel Campbell, who was a victim of breast cancer in the past and who is enjoying good health today, free of cancer.

Members listened as Lisa explained that CRUK exist to beat cancer. This charity is the world's leading cancer charity dedicating their work to saving and improving lives. Their vision is for a better future. Their research involves all types of cancer (a total of 200).

They have 4 objectives:

PREVENT DETECT TREAT DISCOVER

At the end of her presentation Lisa invited members to take part in a question and answer session. Refreshments were provided by Elizabeth Atcheson and Pat Wright. There was a short business meeting before the evening closed.

Appendix E. Public Exhibition information boards – 24 October 2024

Welcome to our public consultation

Thank you for taking the time to attend this public exhibition.

We are seeking your views on the preliminary design for a battery energy storage proposal that we are exploring on land close to Rasharkin substation, in the townland of Magheraboy, approximately 1km north of Rasharkin, Co. Antrim.

We consider pre-application consultation a crucial part of the energy storage development process and we aim to engage early with the local community and key stakeholders in order to facilitate constructive consultation. This helps to identify issues and concerns, as well as benefits and opportunities, which we will consider when developing and refining the design and delivery of the proposal.

A range of information is shared, including details of the site location, design layout, proposed infrastructure, likely delivery route and environmental considerations.

The public exhibition forms part of our pre - application consultation and is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- learn more about the proposal
- discuss any questions or views with our project team
- provide written feedback to RES on the proposal.

Please take time to read the information provided and talk to our project team about any questions that you may have. All consultation feedback submitted to RES will be reviewed by the project team over the coming weeks as we continue the design process.

Image for illustrative purposes only

Machaire Energy Storage Proposal

machaire-energystorage.co.uk

res
power for good

The need for battery energy storage

Our energy system is in a transitionary period to enable it to manage the increasingly complex supply and demand needs of the 21st Century.

Ageing infrastructure is being replaced and greater flexibility introduced into our networks through technology such as battery energy storage.

Battery energy storage is crucial in enabling the rollout of zero carbon energy and supporting Northern Ireland's net-zero emissions target.

Renewable energy technologies, however, can generate electricity intermittently depending on weather conditions, which can cause imbalances in the electricity network.

Battery energy storage works by storing energy at times when generation exceeds demand and then releases electricity back to the electricity network when demand exceeds generation.

Battery energy storage is considered the fastest technology for responding to a sudden spike in demand or an abrupt loss of supply.

Battery energy storage can also provide grid stability (frequency of the grid) services on a second-by-second basis as well as providing additional network capacity, particularly at times of network stress.

Image for illustrative purposes only

Machaire Energy Storage Proposal

machaire-energystorage.co.uk

res
power for good

Project Overview

The proposed Machaire Energy Storage site is located on land close to Rasharkin substation, approximately 1km north of Rasharkin, Co. Antrim.

The site is not expected to exceed 6 hectares including the site tracks, landscaping and surface water management measures.

The site has been chosen due to its proximity to Rasharkin substation and as it lies outside of any international, national or local environmental designations.

If consented, the project would connect directly into the Rasharkin substation.

The Machaire proposal will be capable of providing up to 100MW of storage capacity. That's the equivalent of fully charging around 4,000 electric vehicles.

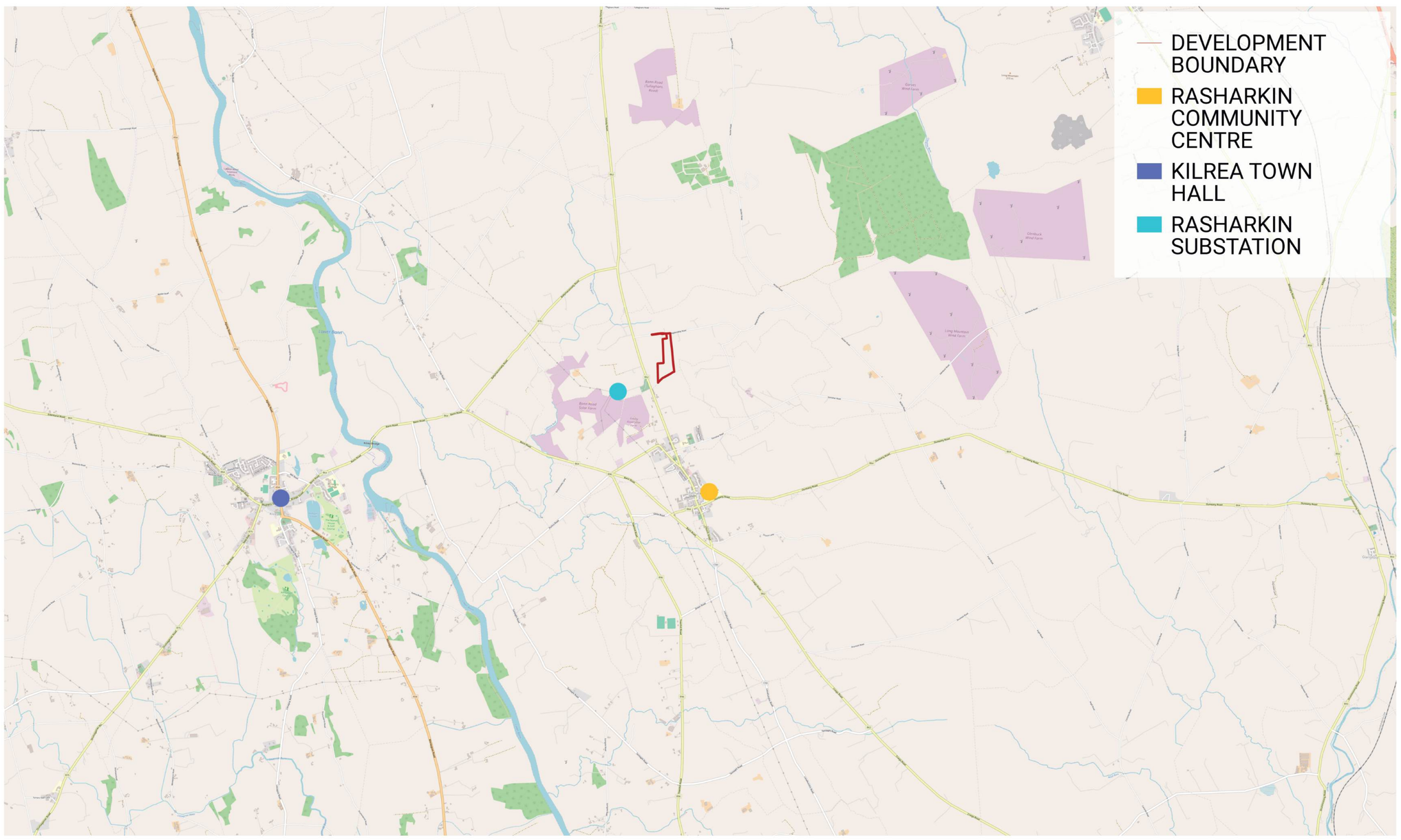
The planning application will be submitted to Causeway Coast and Glen Borough Council, and we currently expect to submit the application around Winter 2024.

Having undertaken initial site feasibility work we are now preparing for more detailed environmental and technical site survey work which will be carried out over the coming months to help inform the design.

MACHAIRE ENERGY STORAGE

LOCATION PLAN

res power for good



Produced on Sep 26, 2024.
© Crown copyright and database right 2024 (licence number 100059532)

1000 m
Scale 1:20000 (at A1)

N

We are still consulting on the development boundary and as such, it is subject to change.

Machaire Energy Storage Proposal

machaire-energystorage.co.uk

res power for good

Infrastructure and layout

The plan below shows the preliminary layout for the Machaire Energy Storage project.

We are still consulting on the layout and as such, it is subject to change

The proposed system is a containerised scheme, involving proven Lithium iron phosphate (LFP) battery technology which RES has deployed at multiple projects around the world.

The site would comprise of approximately 112 battery containers. The typical dimensions of the battery containers are 6.1 metres long by 2.4m wide by 2.9 metres high.

The tallest infrastructure is expected to be the DNO substation which would have a maximum height of around 7 metres.

The infrastructure would include:

- Battery enclosures
- Power Conversion Systems and Transformers
- DNO Substation & grid infrastructure
- BESS Substation
- Auxiliary Transformer
- Grid Compliance Equipment
- Grid Connection Infrastructure
- Security System
- Landscaping
- Drainage Scheme

Machaire Energy Storage Proposal

machaire-energystorage.co.uk

power for good

Traffic and access

Component and material deliveries are a key phase in the construction of any battery energy storage project.

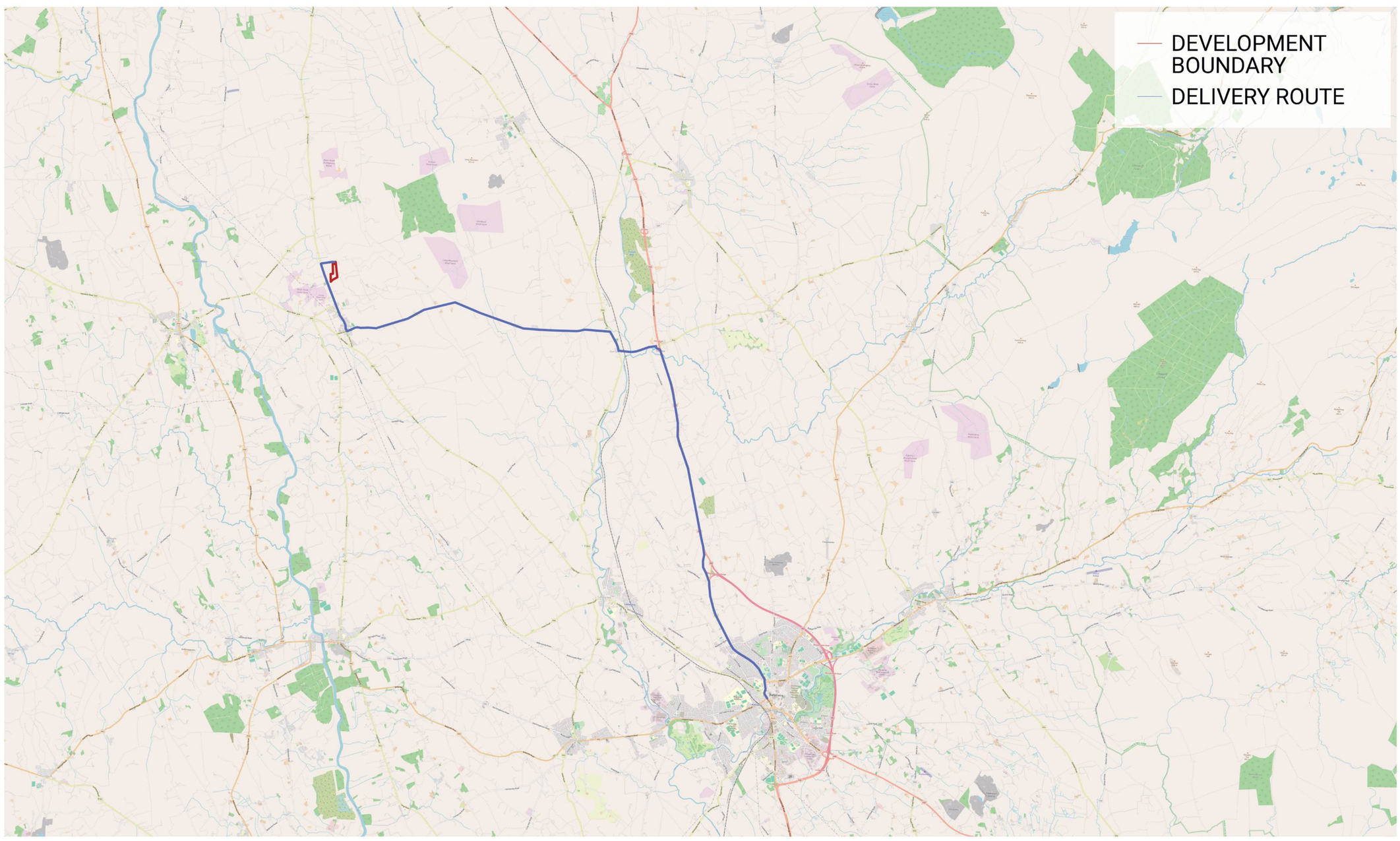
Safety is the key consideration and we will be undertaking a detailed analysis of the delivery route, as well as careful assessment of the site access points. The preferred access points and delivery route are shown on the map below.

Throughout the construction phase there will be a combination of HGVs (for the component and material deliveries) and cars/vans (for construction staff), on site. Typically, there is peak HGV movements during the first weeks of construction whilst car/van movements are expected to be constant throughout.

A Transport Statement will accompany the planning application, which outlines the overall framework for managing the safe movement of construction and delivery traffic. The Transport Statement will also itemise the estimated number of deliveries over an approximate 15-month construction period, the indicative spread of these vehicle movements over that time and expected timing restrictions.

MACHAIRE ENERGY STORAGE

DELIVERY ROUTE



Produced on Oct 3, 2024.

2 km
Scale 1:50000 (at A1)

N

Machaire Energy Storage Proposal

machaire-energystorage.co.uk

power for good

Environmental considerations

RES will design the battery energy storage system so that it will fit sensitively in the surrounding landscape.

A number of surveys and assessments will be carried out to ensure any potential impact upon the environment, landscape, heritage and local residents is appropriately assessed and mitigated. Potential cumulative impacts, with other developments in the area, will also be assessed.

The assessments to be carried out will include:

Ecology

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal will present the main findings of a desk study and walkover survey, categorising baseline habitats and conditions and their nature conservation value and predicting any potential ecological impacts from the project.

Acoustics

Noise is an important consideration, and the battery energy storage system will be designed to comply with strict noise limits set by the determining authority should the project be granted consent. The scope of the acoustic assessment includes determining the baseline background sound levels and predicting sound levels from the project in order to assess the level of potential impact, in accordance with relevant planning guidance.

Flood risk & surface water management

Detailed design and flood modelling is being undertaken to minimise increased flood risk anywhere on or off site. A Flood Risk and Drainage Impact Assessment will accompany the planning application which will also set out any proposed surface water drainage solution.

Landscape

A Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) considers the site and its surrounding context in both landscape and visual terms, to assess the potential effects of the proposed battery energy storage system upon landscape features, landscape character and visual amenity.

Heritage & Archaeology

This assessment sets out the cultural heritage baseline of the site as well as assessing the site's archaeological potential. It will assess the potential effects of the project on the cultural heritage resource, within the context of relevant legislation and planning policy, and determine, should any predicted adverse effects be identified, how these effects can be mitigated.

Image for illustrative purposes only

Machaire Energy Storage Proposal

machaire-energystorage.co.uk

power for good

Landscaping and biodiversity enhancement

The Machaire project is being specifically designed to include comprehensive landscaping measures to reduce potential visibility of the scheme.

A landscaping plan will form part of the planning application and will set out new planting measures which would provide visual screening of the project.

We aim to retain all existing hedgerow and woodland, where possible, and could include new hedgerow, shrub and woodland planting. Planting may be atop soil bunds to provide additional height.

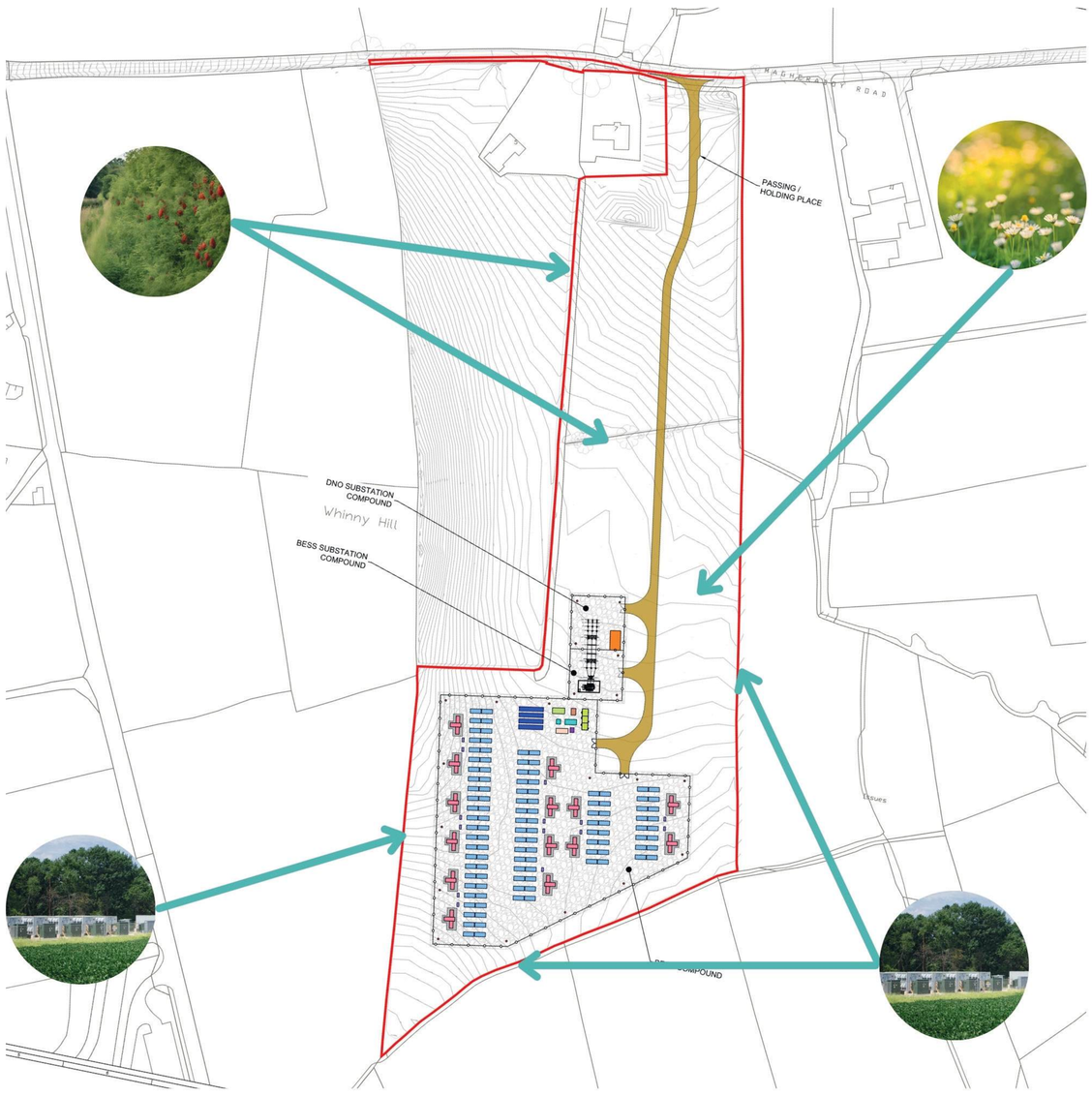
The landscaping plan will also provide information on the timings and aftercare regime for all planting.

Whilst there is currently no statutory targets for biodiversity protection, restoration or enhancement in Northern Ireland, for the Machaire proposal our goal is to deliver a biodiversity net gain as part of the development.

The creation of new hedgerow and woodland can provide wildlife corridors and vital resources for a range of wildlife.

Areas around the compound are typically sown with a wildflower meadow mix which can provide nectar-rich areas for pollinators. Riparian woodland planted around any surface water and drainage systems could deliver further biodiversity enhancements, providing good habitat for invertebrates that ultimately provide food for aquatic life.

Where appropriate we would also introduce measures such as bird, bat and reptile housing.



New native planting will provide visual screening from the energy storage project as well as providing wildlife corridors and vital resources for mammals, birds and invertebrates

Existing hedgerow and planting to be retained where possible and enhanced through infill planting and hedgerow management

Areas around the compound are typically sown with species-ricjh meadows and grasslands which are amongst the most threatened habitats on the island of ireland

Machaire Energy Storage Proposal

machaire-energystorage.co.uk

res
power for good

Our approach to safety

At RES, safety is of the utmost importance.

Our ambition is to continue to lead the market in delivering best-in-class health and safety performance, as we simultaneously look to the future in developing a zero-harm culture.

Health and safety is woven into every aspect of RES' battery energy storage systems. The Machaire project will be developed to address and mitigate against the risk of fire ignition and propagation, in a number of ways.

Monitoring and Remote Access

Unlike electric cars and scooters, for example, RES-managed battery energy storage systems are constantly monitored from our 24/7/365 control centre. Some controls can also be safely operated remotely from our control centre, such as the shutting down of an individual battery rack or the entire battery energy storage system, if required.

Battery Selection

The proposed battery technology for the development is anticipated to be lithium iron phosphate (LFP). LFP has better stability against thermal runaway at higher temperatures compared to some other battery chemistries. All batteries must be tested and certified to an industry standard (UL9540A), demonstrating resistance to thermal runaway, and which ensures there is no likelihood of explosion, with any fire contained within the affected battery rack.

Equipment Spacing

The site will be developed to include adequate spacing between the battery storage enclosures (BSE) to mitigate against the risk of fire spread in the unlikely event of a fire within one BSE.

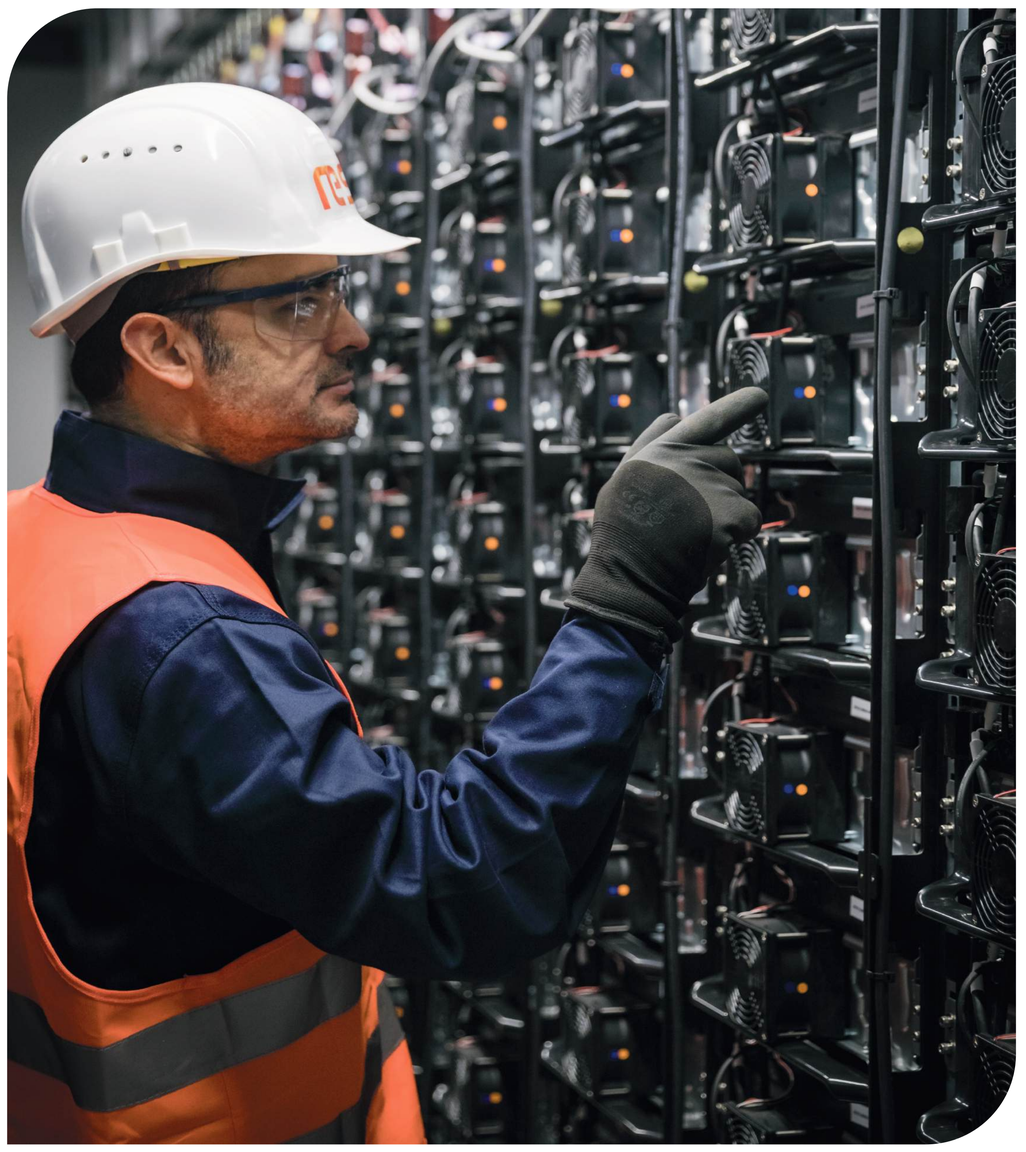
Protection Systems

Each BSE will have a dedicated fire protection system, comprising flammable gas detection and venting, fire detection and alarm, and an automatic fire suppression system.

Access to Battery Enclosure and for Emergency Services

All battery enclosures will be accessed via external doors only. The fenced compound will have a wide access route through 2 access points that allows a circular corridor around the battery containers, allowing the fire service to access the site in the unlikely event of an incident. In addition, two site access points will be proposed to the battery energy storage compound.

A Fire Risk Statement will accompany any planning application.



Machaire Energy Storage Proposal

machaire-energystorage.co.uk

power for good

Have your say

We believe in meaningful and effective consultation.

The aims of our consultation process are to:

- Engage early with the local community to facilitate a constructive consultation process to help identify and understand concerns.
- Assist the local community in understanding the benefits and potential impacts of the proposed energy storage system.
- Add value and improve the quality of our proposal through meaningful and productive consultation.

Before we submit a planning application, we will create a Pre-Application Community Consultation Report (PACC) that documents the community engagement process and any steps we have taken to adapt our proposal.

At this stage we are inviting the local community to submit comments directly to RES. If an application is submitted there will be the opportunity to submit representations to the determining Planning Authority at that time.

We are keen to understand your views on the proposal and the information available at this exhibition.

Please take a few minutes to fill out a feedback form with your comments.

Machaire Energy Storage Proposal

machaire-energystorage.co.uk

res
power for good

The world's largest independent renewable energy company

RES is the world's largest independent renewable energy company, working across 24 countries and active in wind, solar, energy storage, green hydrogen, transmission and distribution. As an industry innovator for over 40 years, RES has delivered more than 27GW of renewable energy projects across the globe and supports an operational asset portfolio exceeding 41GW worldwide for a large client base.

RES is the power behind a clean energy future where everyone has access to affordable zero carbon energy. We bring together global experience, passion, and the innovation of 4,500 people to transform the way energy is generated, stored and supplied.

Find out more at res-group.com

RES in Ireland

RES is a privately-owned company with a proud history across the island of Ireland.

From our Larne office we have been developing, constructing and operating energy projects since the early 1990s. This includes the development and construction of the Gorman Energy Storage System in Co. Meath and the Avonbeg and Gorey Energy Storage Systems in Co. Wexford.

RES has been working in the battery energy storage market for a decade and design safe storage projects using proven Lithium iron phosphate technology. Across the UK and Ireland, RES has developed over 830MW of battery energy storage projects, and we currently manage over 600MW of operational storage projects with 24/7/365 monitoring provided from our control centre in Glasgow.

Machaire Energy Storage Proposal

machaire-energystorage.co.uk

power for good

Appendix F. Comment form – 24 October 2024

Machaire Energy Storage System Proposal
Comment Form

RES believes in meaningful and productive consultation, and we aim to engage early with the local community and key stakeholders to facilitate constructive consultation. This helps to identify issues and concerns, as well as benefits and opportunities, which we can then consider when developing the design of the proposal.
`

Feedback from the local community is important at this stage of our pre-application consultation when it can have a direct influence on the final design of the project, and we would be grateful if you could take the time to fill out this comment form with your feedback.

Please provide feedback by **Friday 8th November 2024**. Comments will still be accepted after this date but may not be considered in relation to the design development.

Please note that comments submitted to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.

1 Machaire Energy Storage System Public Exhibition

1.1 How did you find out about our public exhibition?

- ☐ Newsletter through the door
- ☐ Advert in local newspaper
- ☐ Project website – www.machaire-energystorage.co.uk
- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ Other (please specify)

1.2 Before visiting the exhibition how would you describe your knowledge of the proposed Machaire Energy Storage System?

- ☐ Knew a lot
- ☐ Knew quite a lot
- ☐ Knew a little
- ☐ Knew very little
- ☐ Knew nothing at all

Machaire Energy Storage System Proposal
Comment Form

1.3 Having visited the exhibition, to what extent do you feel you have increased your understanding of the proposed Machaire Energy Storage System?

- ☐ A lot
- ☐ Quite a lot
- ☐ A little
- ☐ Very little
- ☐ Not at all

1.4 Do you have any suggestions for ways in which we could have improved our exhibition?

Machaire Energy Storage System Proposal
Comment Form

2 Machaire Energy Storage System Proposal

Your views on the Machaire Energy Storage System proposal – particularly the preliminary layout of the project where people's comments can have a direct influence – will be considered in relation to the design development of the project.

2.1 How do you feel in general about the Machaire Energy Storage System proposal?

☐ I am supportive

☐ I am neutral

☐ I am opposed

Further comments:

2.2 What do you think about the proposed preliminary layout of the Machaire Energy Storage System?

☐ I am happy with the proposed layout

☐ I am neutral towards the proposed layout

☐ I have concerns about the proposed layout (please provide further details below)

☐ I don't like energy storage systems in general

Further comments:

2.3 Please provide us with any further suggestions or comments regarding the proposed Machaire Energy Storage System.

3 Local Benefits

3.1 RES believe our projects should deliver meaningful local benefit.

Machaire Energy Storage System Proposal
Comment Form

We welcome feedback and ideas for local benefits and priority projects that you would like to see supported or delivered in your community from the Machaire Energy Storage System, should it receive consent. Some examples from communities that we've worked with include:

- improvements to village halls,
- sports team sponsorship,
- funding for schools and local community groups
- community defibrillators
- improvements to local footpaths and/or signage.

If you have any suggestions for such benefits the project may be able to support, please let us know in the box below.

4 Climate Change, Energy Security and Renewables

The below section is optional and designed to help us understand people's thoughts on how renewables can help to tackle climate change and improve energy security.

4.1 Do you agree or disagree that we are facing a global climate change emergency?

- ☐ I strongly agree
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ I disagree
- ☐ I strongly disagree

Further comments:

4.2 Do you agree or disagree that generating electricity from renewable sources, and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, can help towards tackling the issue of climate change?

- ☐ I strongly agree
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ I disagree
- ☐ I strongly disagree

Further comments:

4.3 Do you agree or disagree that generating electricity from renewable sources will provide greater energy independence and security for Northern Ireland?

- ☐ I strongly agree
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ I disagree
- ☐ I strongly disagree

Further comments:

4.4 Do you agree or disagree that we need to develop energy storage projects to create a more stable and secure electricity system, supporting the rollout of zero carbon energy?

☐ I strongly agree

☐ I agree

☐ I don't know

☐ I disagree

☐ I strongly disagree

Further comments:

5 Your details

Please provide your name and contact details below in order to authenticate this comments form. Providing this information gives context to your feedback, facilitates a better understanding of community views and priorities, and enables us to respond to any questions raised. However, if you are not comfortable providing us with your full contact details, please include your postcode as a minimum.

Your contact details will be treated by RES with the strictest of confidence, in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018. We may at times share your contact details, in confidence, with third parties who we employ to help process your comments or update you on the project and by providing your details below you consent to this. You may write to RES at any time to ask that your contact details be removed from our records and from any third parties we work with.

Name	
Email	
Address	
Postcode*	

If you would like to be kept up to date with the project, please tick this box ☐

When you have completed the comment form, please hand it in at the welcome desk. Comment forms are also available to complete and submit online at www.machaire-energystorage.co.uk. Forms may also be sent by post to: RES, Willow Bank Business Park, Willlowbank Road, Millbrook, Larne, Co. Antrim, BT40 2SF.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this comment form, your feedback is important to us.

Appendix G. Community postcard mailing – 25 November 2024

Machaire Energy Storage System Proposal

Invitation to Public Information Sessions

www.machaire-energystorage.co.uk

POWER FOR GOOD

Since our public exhibition in October 2024, where we presented our preliminary plans for an energy storage project on land close to Rasharkin substation, approximately 1km north of Rasharkin, Co. Antrim, we have been refining the design in response to feedback received and ongoing surveys and assessments.

We have listened to feedback from the public exhibition and are pleased to invite you to a Public Information Session where we will provide more details on the updated proposal. Our team will be able to talk visitors through the plans and answer any questions during the following sessions:

- 12.45pm to 1.30pm
- 1.45pm to 2.30pm
- 2.45pm to 3.30pm
- 3.45pm to 4.30pm
- 4.45pm to 5.30pm
- 5.45pm to 6.30pm
- 6.45pm to 7.30pm

Thursday 12th December 2024

Rasharkin Community Centre, Rasharkin, BT44 8RX

Spaces are limited so we are asking visitors to book their preferred session in advance via our online booking form at www.machaire-energystorage.co.uk or by calling 07500 661 671.

All information provided during at the Public Information Sessions will also be available at www.machaire-energystorage.co.uk from 12th December 2024.

We welcome feedback on the updated proposal and comment forms will be available to complete and submit during the Public Information Sessions. Comment forms will also be available on the above website from the date of the Public Information Sessions.

Peter Henry
Development Project Manager

peter.henry@res-group.com

RES, Willowbank Business Park,
Millbrook, Larne, County Antrim
BT40 2SF

Please note that comments submitted to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.

Appendix H. Public Information Sessions information boards and pack – 12 December 2024

Machaire
Energy Storage Proposal

POWER
FOR
GOOD

www.res-
group.com

Public Information Sessions

Thank you for taking the time to attend this public information session.

Since our public exhibitions in October 2024, where we presented our preliminary plans for an energy storage project on land close to Rasharkin substation, approximately 1km north of Rasharkin, Co. Antrim, we have been refining the design in response to feedback received and ongoing surveys and assessments.

We have listened to feedback from the public exhibition and are pleased to host this Public Information Session today to provide more details on the updated proposal.

We welcome feedback on the updated proposal and at the end of the session, we invite you to take a few minutes to fill out a feedback form with your comments.

The need for energy storage

The way in which we use, and generate, electricity is changing. Our electricity system is in a transitionary period to manage the increasingly complex supply and demand needs of the 21st Century, and battery energy storage systems (BESS) provide an important role in this.

BESS technology supports the variable generation of renewable energy technologies by playing an important balancing and grid stability role. BESS helps support National Grid by storing energy at times when generation exceeds demand and releasing electricity back to the national grid network when demand exceeds generation. BESS is considered the fastest technology for responding to a sudden spike in demand or an abrupt loss of supply. BESS can also provide grid stability (frequency of the grid) services on a second-by-second basis as well as providing additional network capacity, particularly at times of network stress.

BESS is essential to enabling and accelerating the rollout of zero carbon energy. Increasing its installed capacity will be vital to support NI's net-zero emissions target and help to deliver a reliable, resilient, decarbonised electricity system for the future.

BESS has a key role in cost-effectively decarbonising the power sector by 2030. They help to balance the electricity system at a lower cost by maximising the output of variable generation as well as minimising both network upgrades and the need for new infrastructure. Short-duration flexibility offered by technologies such as BESS, could reduce energy system costs by up to £10bn per year by 2050[1] through minimising the need for new peaking generation, such as expensive gas, and network assets.

1 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/60f57aade90e0764cd98a0a3/smart-systems-appendix-i-electricity-system-flexibility-modelling.pdf

Infrastructure and layout

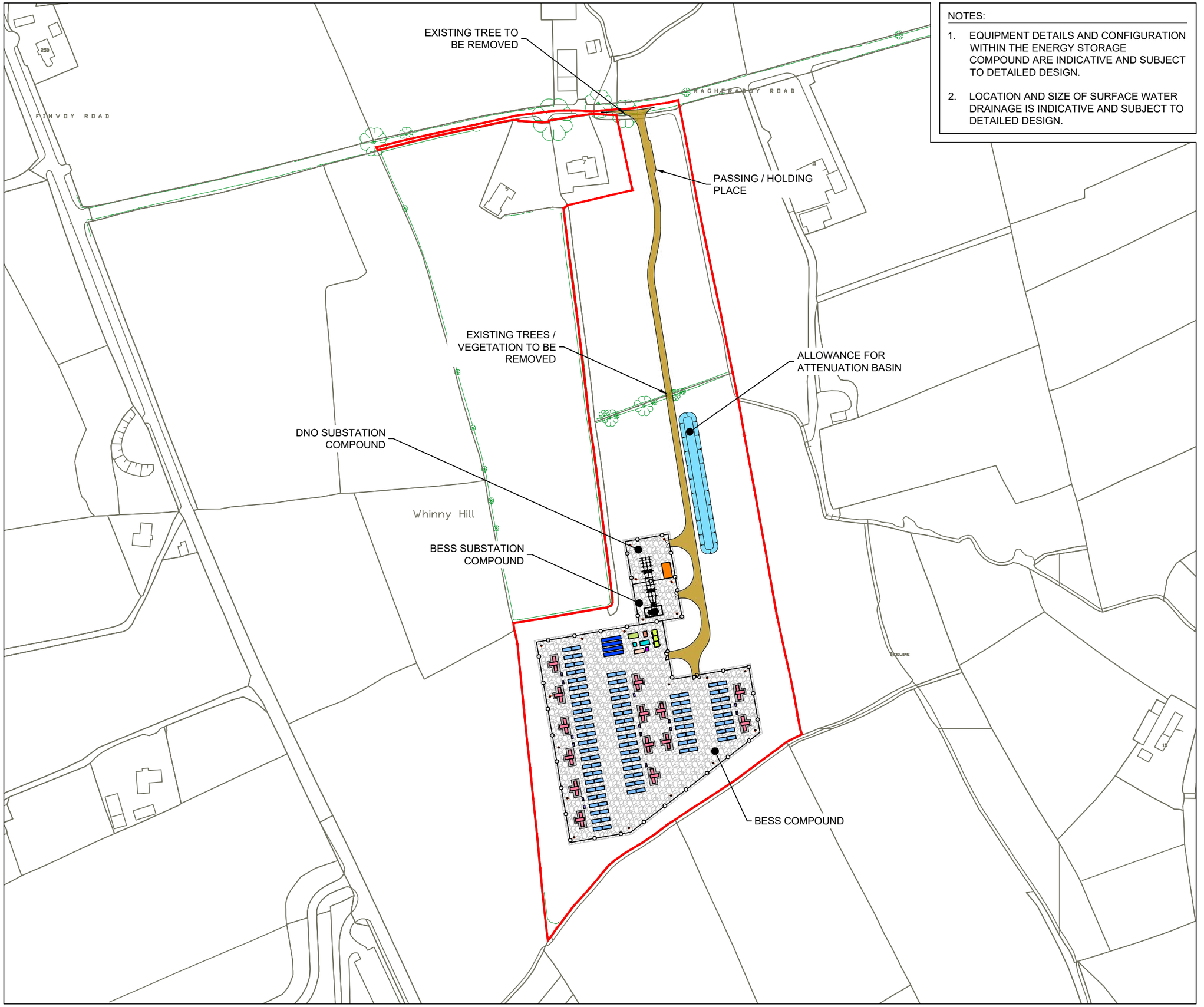
The proposed system is a containerised scheme, involving proven Lithium iron phosphate battery technology which RES has deployed at multiple projects around the world.

The site would comprise of approximately 112 battery containers . The typical dimensions for battery containers is approximately 6.1 metres long by 2.9 metres high.

The tallest infrastructure is expected to be DNO substation which would have a maximum height of around 7 metres.

The infrastructure would include:

- Battery enclosures
- Power Conversion Systems and Transformers
- DNO Substation & grid infrastructure
- BESS Substation
- Auxiliary Transformer
- Grid Compliance Equipment
- Grid Connection Infrastructure
- Security System
- Landscaping
- Drainage Scheme



NOTES:

1. EQUIPMENT DETAILS AND CONFIGURATION WITHIN THE ENERGY STORAGE COMPOUND ARE INDICATIVE AND SUBJECT TO DETAILED DESIGN.
2. LOCATION AND SIZE OF SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE IS INDICATIVE AND SUBJECT TO DETAILED DESIGN.

KEY:

- DEVELOPMENT BOUNDARY (OUTSIDE OF LINE DENOTES BOUNDARY)
- PALISADE WELDMESH OR ACOUSTIC FENCE
- BATTERY STORAGE ENCLOSURE (BSE)
- 2 No. POWER CONVERSION SYSTEMS (PCS) WITH TWIN MV SKID AND APRON SLAB
- DNO SUBSTATION BUILDING
- DNO SUBSTATION BUILDING
- BESS SUBSTATION BUILDING
- AUXILIARY TRANSFORMER
- LV SWITCHGEAR ROOM
- AGGREGATION PANEL WITH LV PILLAR
- PRE-INSERTION RESISTOR
- CAPACITOR BANK
- HARMONIC FILTER AND RESISTOR
- SPARES CONTAINER
- LIGHTING / CCTV COLUMN
- ACCESS TRACK
- SURFACE FINISH TYPICALLY COMPRISING STONE OR ASPHALT
- EXISTING TREES AND VEGETATION

ISSUE	DRAWN	CHKD	APPD	DATE	REVISION NOTES
0	BM				FIRST ISSUE

PURPOSE: PRELIMINARY	COORDINATES: TM65 IRISH GRID
SCALE: 1:2,500 @A3	DATUM: N/A
LAYOUT DRAWING: N/A	T-LAYOUT NO: N/A

PROJECT TITLE:
MACHAIRE ENERGY STORAGE

DRAWING TITLE:
INFASTRUCTURE LAYOUT PUBLIC EXHIBITION

DRAFT 09.12.24

RES DRAWING NUMBER	REV
05511-RES-LAY-DR-PE-002	0

BEAUFORT COURT,
EGG FARM LANE,
KINGS LANGLEY,
HERTS WD4 8LR. UK
TEL +44 (0) 1923 299200
WWW.RES-GROUP.COM

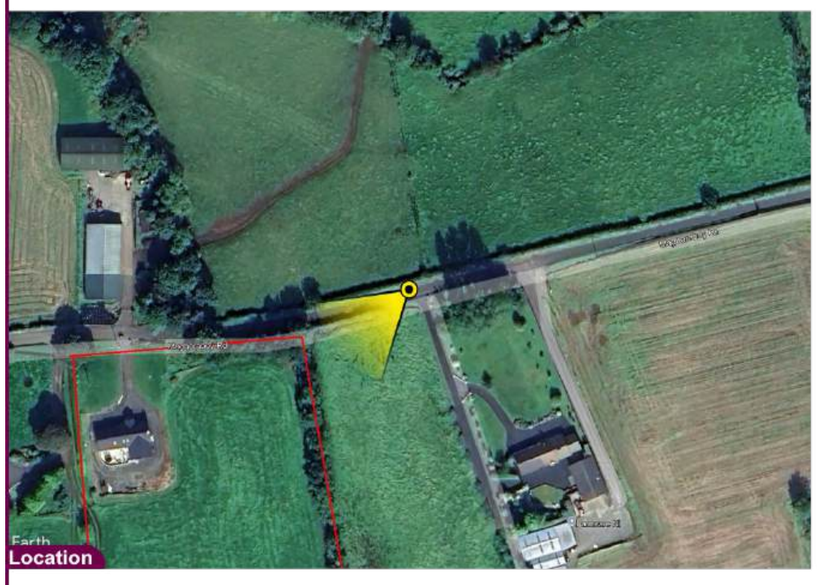
Landscape and Visual

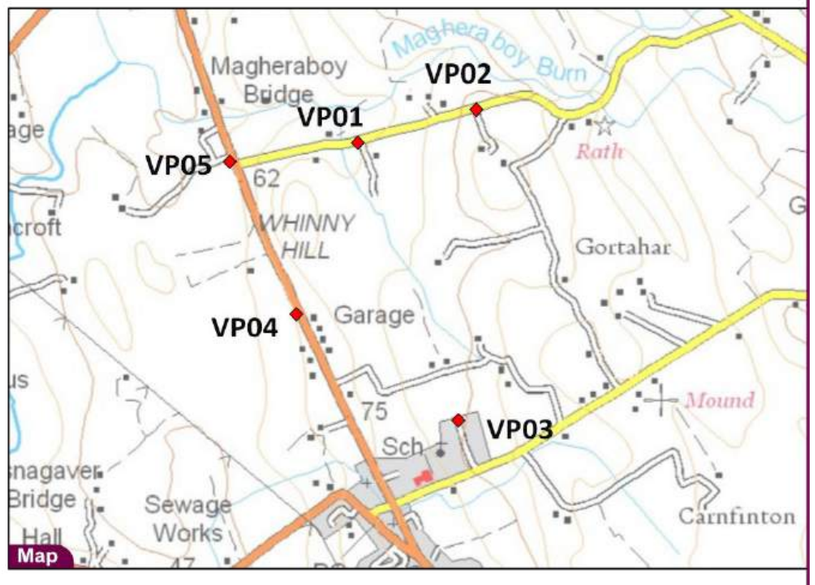
A Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) has been undertaken to understand any potential impact from the Machaire project in landscape and visual terms.

Five viewpoints have been included in the LVA to provide a representative view of the proposal. Three photomontages are available to view here today and all five will form part of the planning application.

Potential visibility of the project is largely limited by the terrain and by existing and new proposed planting.

Existing View





Camera	Nikon D600	Easting	296981
Date	15.11.24 12:20	Northing	414845
View height	1.65 m AGL	Direction	235°
Field of View	65°	Distance	80 m

Title:

VP01 Magheraboy Road
Existing View

Details			
Projection:	Irish Grid	Drawn by:	PM
Data Source:	RPS 2024	Checked:	MP
Status:	Issued	Job Ref:	NI 02890
		Date:	Nov 2024

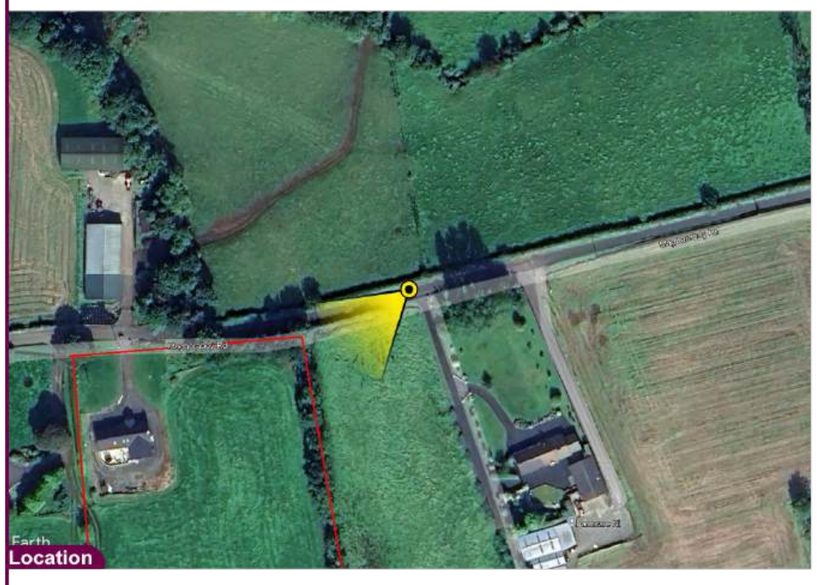
Project:

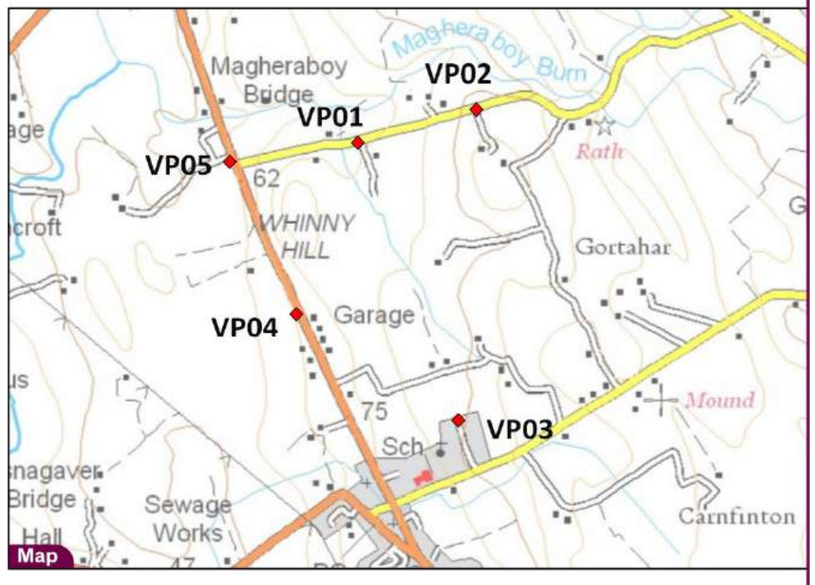
Machaire BESS

Client:

Making Complex Easy
A TETRA TECH COMPANY
Elmwood House, 74 Boucher Road
BELFAST , BT12 6RZ | 028 9066 7914

Photomontage View





Camera	Nikon D600	Easting	296981
Date	15.11.24 12:20	Northing	414845
View height	1.65 m AGL	Direction	235°
Field of View	65°	Distance	80 m

Title:

VP01 Magheraboy Road
Existing View

Details			
Projection:	Irish Grid	Drawn by:	PM
Data Source:	RPS 2024	Checked:	MP
Status:	Issued	Job Ref:	NI 02890
		Date:	Nov 2024

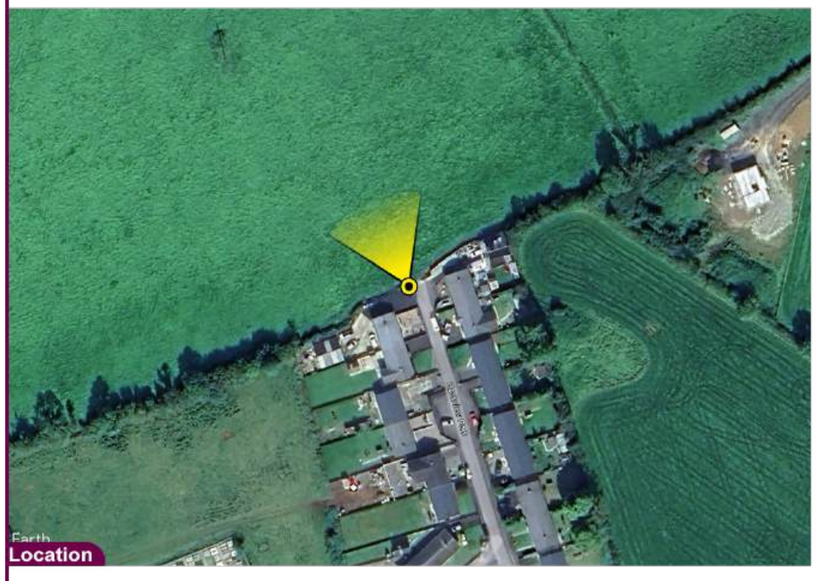
Project:

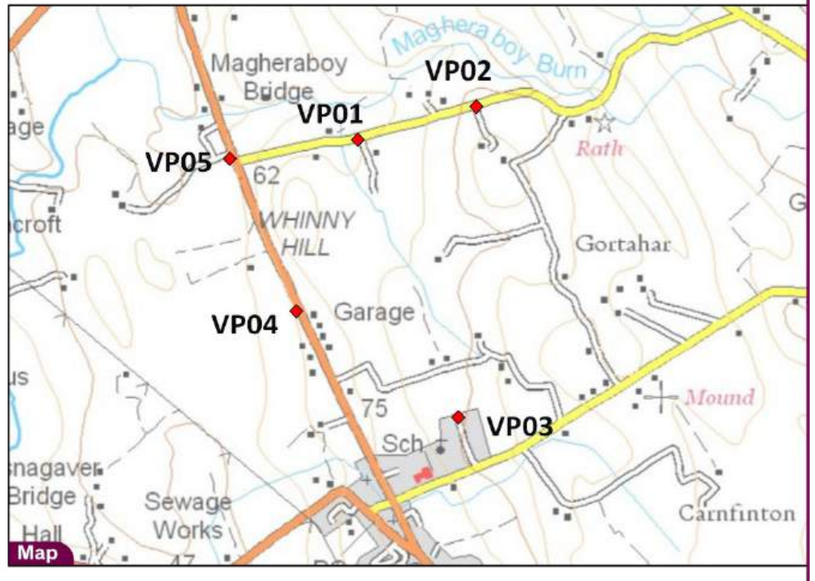
Machaire BESS

Client:

Making Complex Easy
A TETRA TECH COMPANY
Elmwood House, 74 Boucher Road
BELFAST , BT12 6RZ | 028 9066 7914

Existing View





Camera	Nikon D600	Easting	296760
Date	15.11.24 13:50	Northing	414196
View height	1.65 m AGL	Direction	330°
Field of View	65°	Distance	680 m

Title:

VP03 Rockview Park
Existing View

Details			
Projection:	Irish Grid	Drawn by:	PM
Data Source:	RPS 2024	Checked:	MP
Status:	Issued	Job Ref:	NI 02890
		Date:	Nov 2024

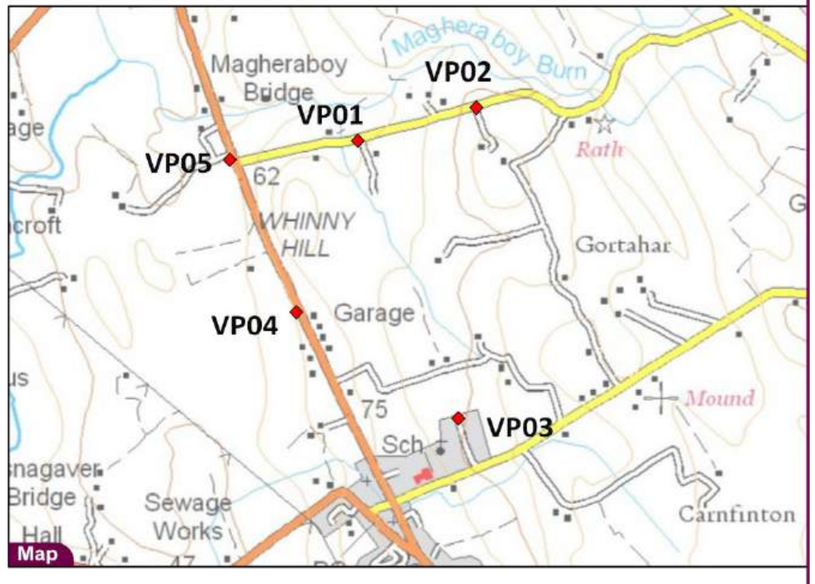
Project:

Machaire BESS

Client:

Making Complex Easy
A TETRA TECH COMPANY
Elmwood House, 74 Boucher Road
BELFAST , BT12 6RZ | 028 9066 7914

Photomontage View



Camera	Nikon D600	Easting	296760	Title:		Details		Drawn by:	PM
Date	15.11.24 13:50	Northing	414196	**VP03 Rockview Park** Existing View		Projection:	Irish Grid	Checked:	MP
View height	1.65 m AGL	Direction	330°			Data Source:	RPS 2024	Job Ref:	NI 02890
Field of View	65°	Distance	680 m			Status:	Issued	Date:	Nov 2024

Project: **Machaire BESS**

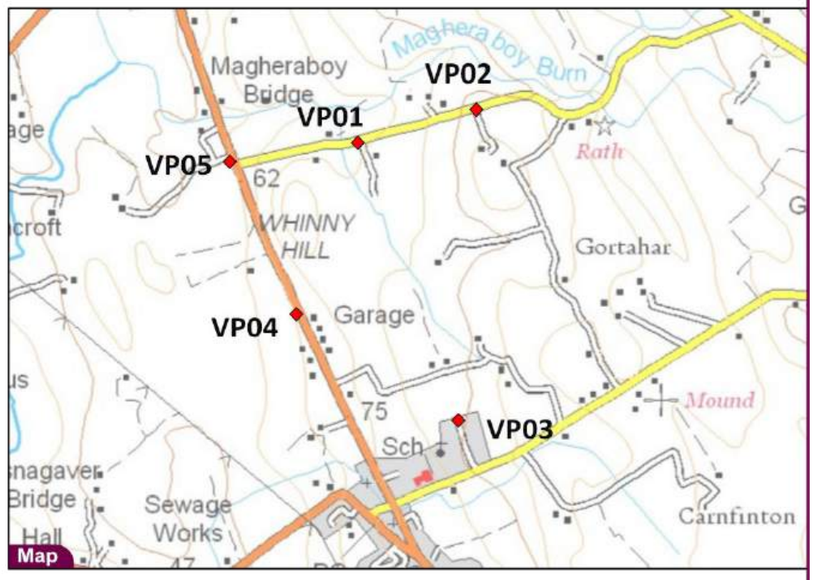
Client: res

rps Making Complex Easy
A TETRA TECH COMPANY
Elmwood House, 74 Boucher Road
BELFAST , BT12 6RZ | 028 9066 7914

Existing View

Location

Tripod



Map

Camera	Nikon D600	Easting	297408
Date	15.11.24 14:05	Northing	414964
View height	1.65 m AGL	Direction	15°
Field of View	65°	Distance	270 m

Title:

VP04 Finvoy Road at cemetery
Existing View

Details			
Projection:	Irish Grid	Drawn by:	PM
Data Source:	RPS 2024	Checked:	MP
Status:	Issued	Job Ref:	NI 02890
		Date:	Nov 2024

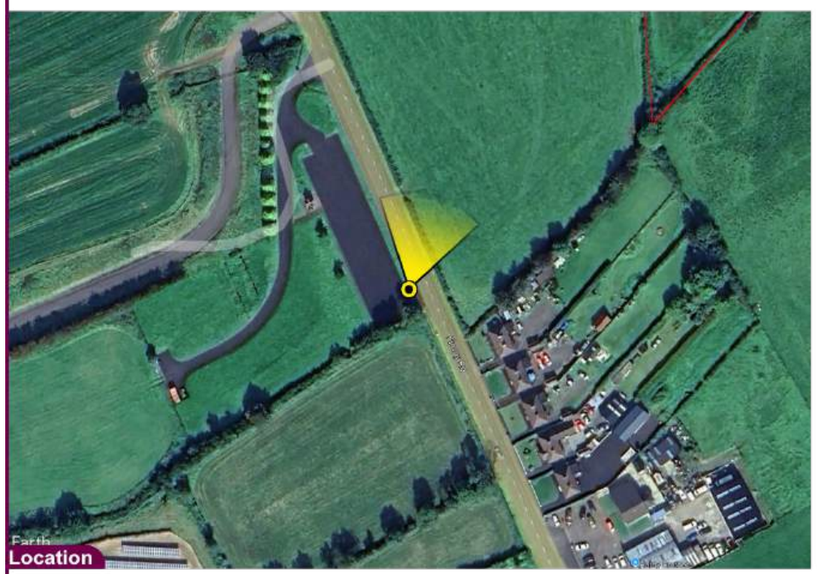
Project:

Machaire BESS

Client:

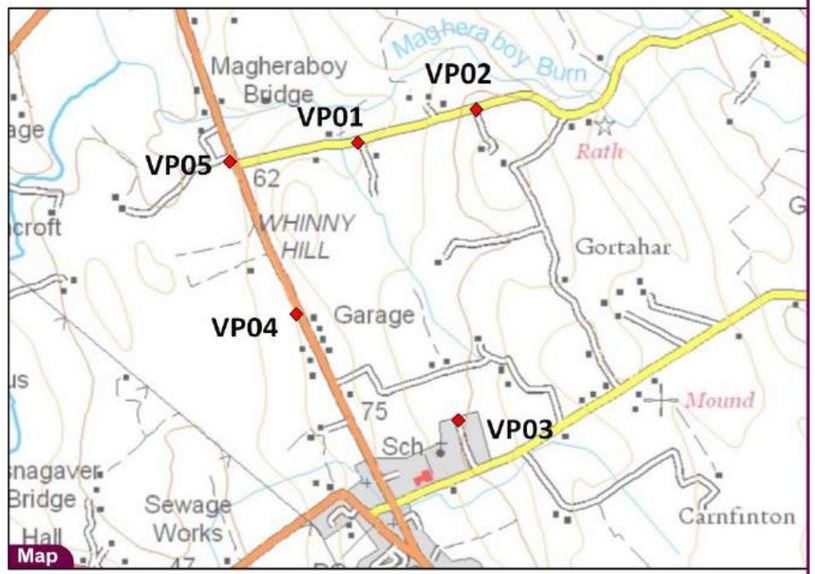
Making Complex Easy
A TETRA TECH COMPANY
Elmwood House, 74 Boucher Road
BELFAST , BT12 6RZ | 028 9066 7914

Photomontage View



Location

Tripod



Map

Camera	Nikon D600	Easting	297408
Date	15.11.24 14:05	Northing	414964
View height	1.65 m AGL	Direction	15°
Field of View	65°	Distance	270 m

Title:

VP04 Finvoy Road at cemetery
Existing View

Details			
Projection:	Irish Grid	Drawn by:	PM
Data Source:	RPS 2024	Checked:	MP
Status:	Issued	Job Ref:	NI 02890
		Date:	Nov 2024

Project:

Machaire BESS

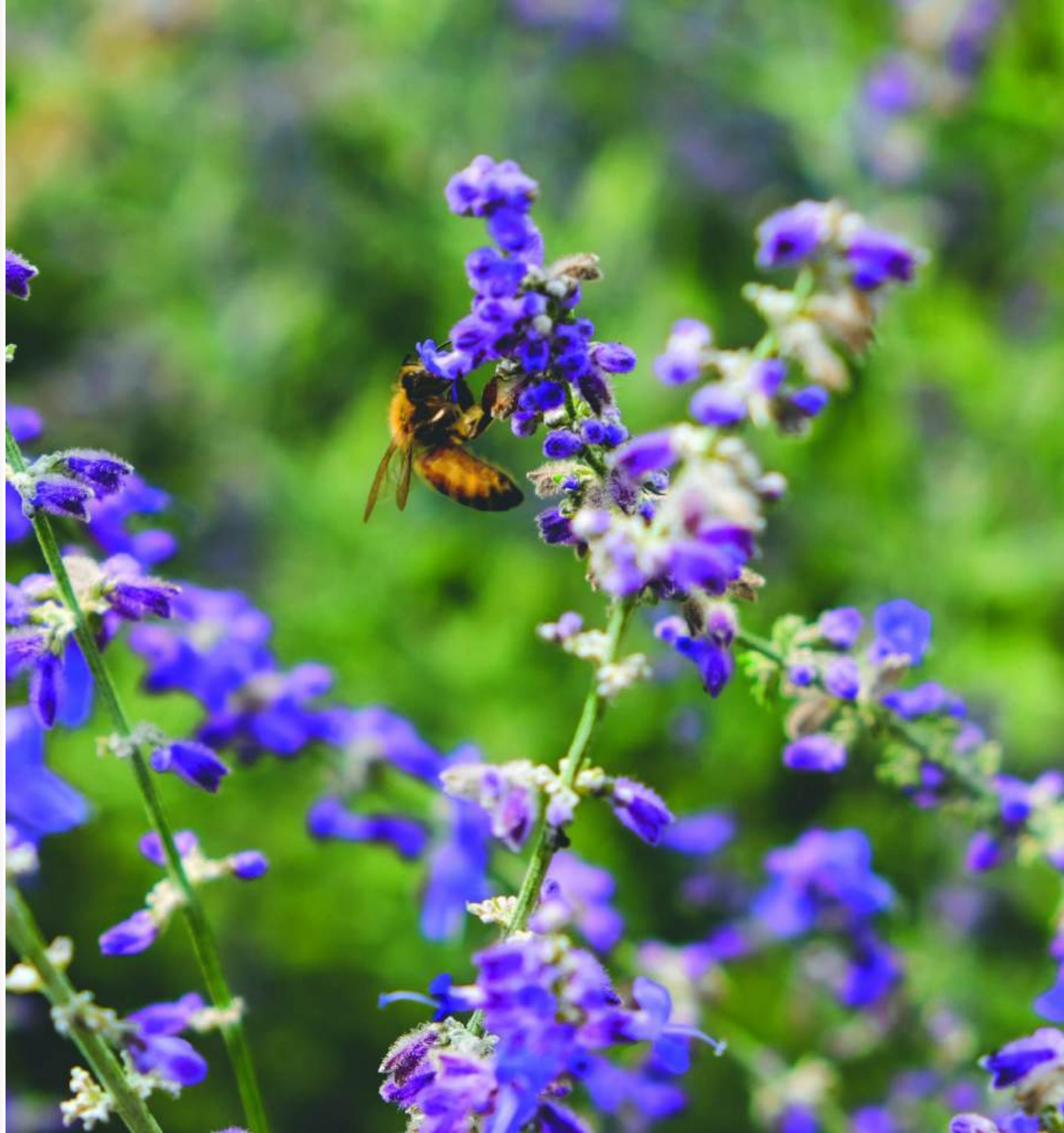
Client:

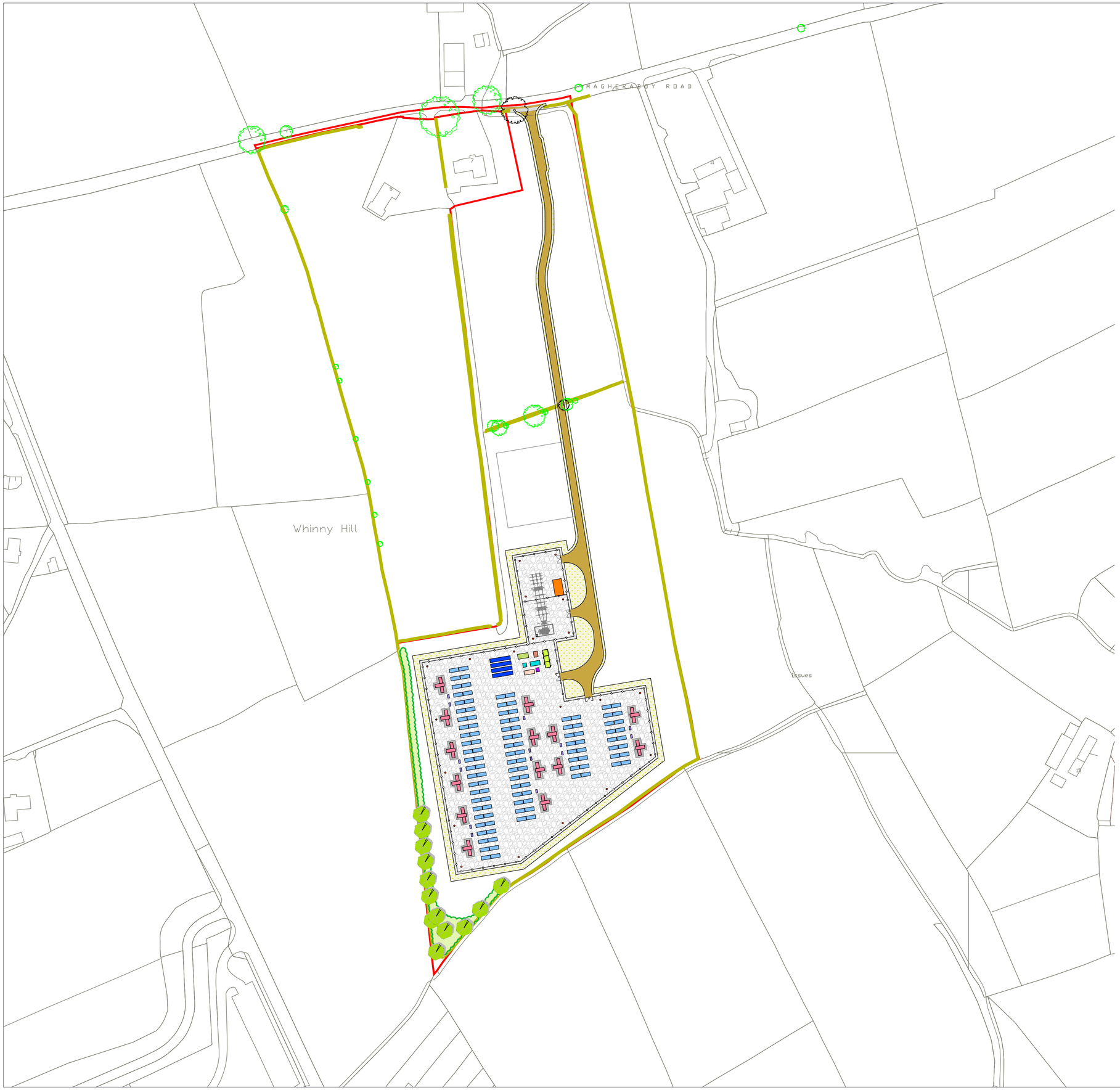
Making Complex Easy
A TETRA TECH COMPANY
Elmwood House, 74 Boucher Road
BELFAST , BT12 6RZ | 028 9066 7914

Landscaping and biodiversity enhancement

The next plan shows a draft Landscape Plan with proposed measures to reduce potential visibility of the scheme.

Whilst there is currently no statutory targets for biodiversity protection, restoration or enhancement in Northern Ireland, for the Machaire proposal our goal is to deliver a biodiversity net gain as part of the development.





NOTES

1. Verifying Dimensions.
   The contractor shall verify dimensions against such other drawings or site conditions as pertain to this part of the work.

2. Existing Services.
   Any information concerning the location of existing services indicated on this drawing is intended for general guidance only. It shall be the responsibility of the contractor to determine and verify the exact horizontal and vertical alignment of all cables, pipes, etc. (both underground and overhead) before work commences.

Legend

- Existing trees to be removed to facilitate access and development
- Existing sections of hedgerow to be removed to facilitate access and development
- Existing Trees to be retained and protected in accordance with BS 5837:2012
- Existing areas of Vegetation to be retained
- Proposed standard tree planting
- Proposed Screen Woodland planting
- Proposed Seeding Areas

rev	amendments	check	date

RPS A TETRA TECH COMPANY
Elmwood House
74 Boucher Road
Belfast
BT12 6RZ
T +44 (0) 28 90 667914
F +44 (0) 28 90 668286
W www.rpsgroup.com/ireland
E ireland@rpsgroup.com

Client

Project
Machaire Energy Storage

Title
Landscape Mitigation Plan

Project Number	Sheet Size	Drawing Scale
02940	A1	1:1250

Drawing Number
02940.5.01

Drawn By	Status	Revision
SA	DRAFT	-

Checked By	Approved By	Date
-	-	30/11/2024

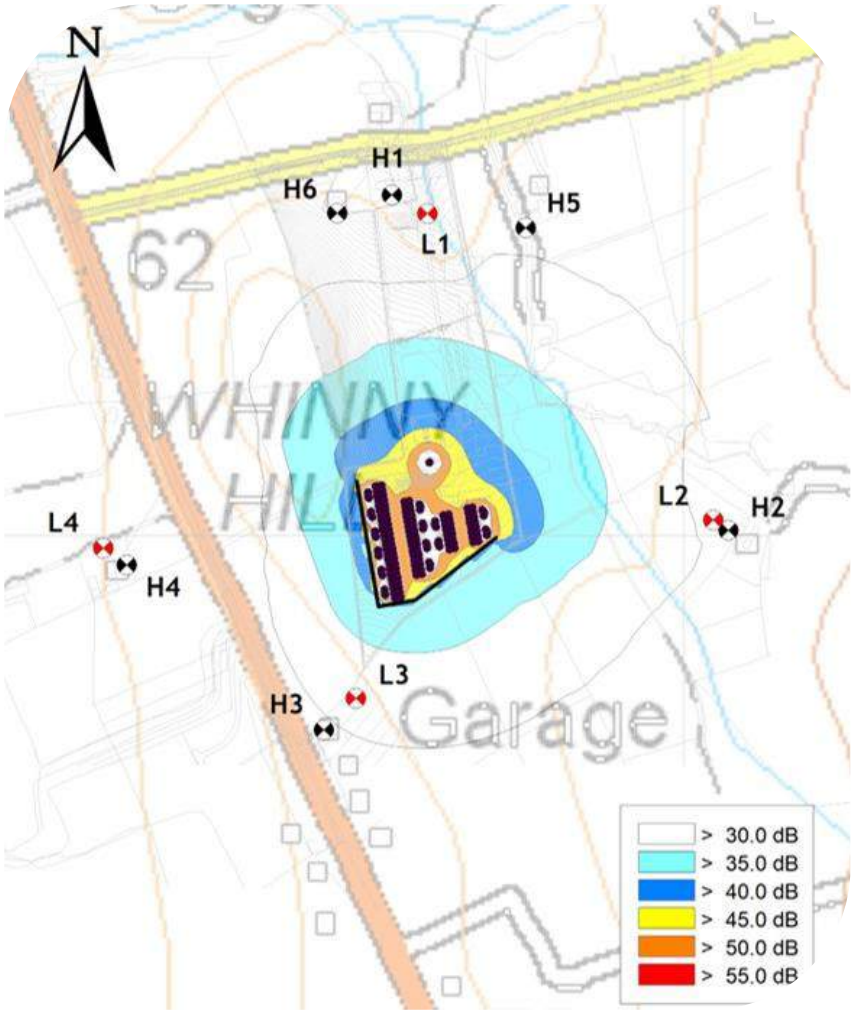
Acoustics

Background noise surveys have been undertaken at four locations around the proposed site, to determine the baseline background sound levels.

The predicted sound levels from the project have been assessed against this baseline and the plan to the right shows the expected noise footprint of the development.

A four-metre acoustic fence has been included in the design and assessment.

Overall, based on the modelling assumptions and assessment results, the level of sound emitted by the proposal can be considered negligible-to-minor according to criteria derived with reference to BS4142, low in the context of WHO guideline values and well below the NANR45 internal low frequency noise criteria.



Traffic and Access

The delivery route, as shown on the next plan, will utilise a similar route as used for the Rasharkin Substation via predominately main roads.

The delivery traffic will follow the A26 before turning off onto Station Road, following the B93 towards the Duneany Road to Rasharkin. From there it will turn onto Main Street continuing onto the Finvoy Road before turning onto the Magheraboy Road for 400m to the site entrance.

The site will be accessed directly off the Magheraboy Road, using the private lane and access the battery energy storage compound via two access options.

During the construction phase of the project, RES will make every effort to minimise disruption on the road network, including paying special consideration to minimising traffic during busy agricultural periods.

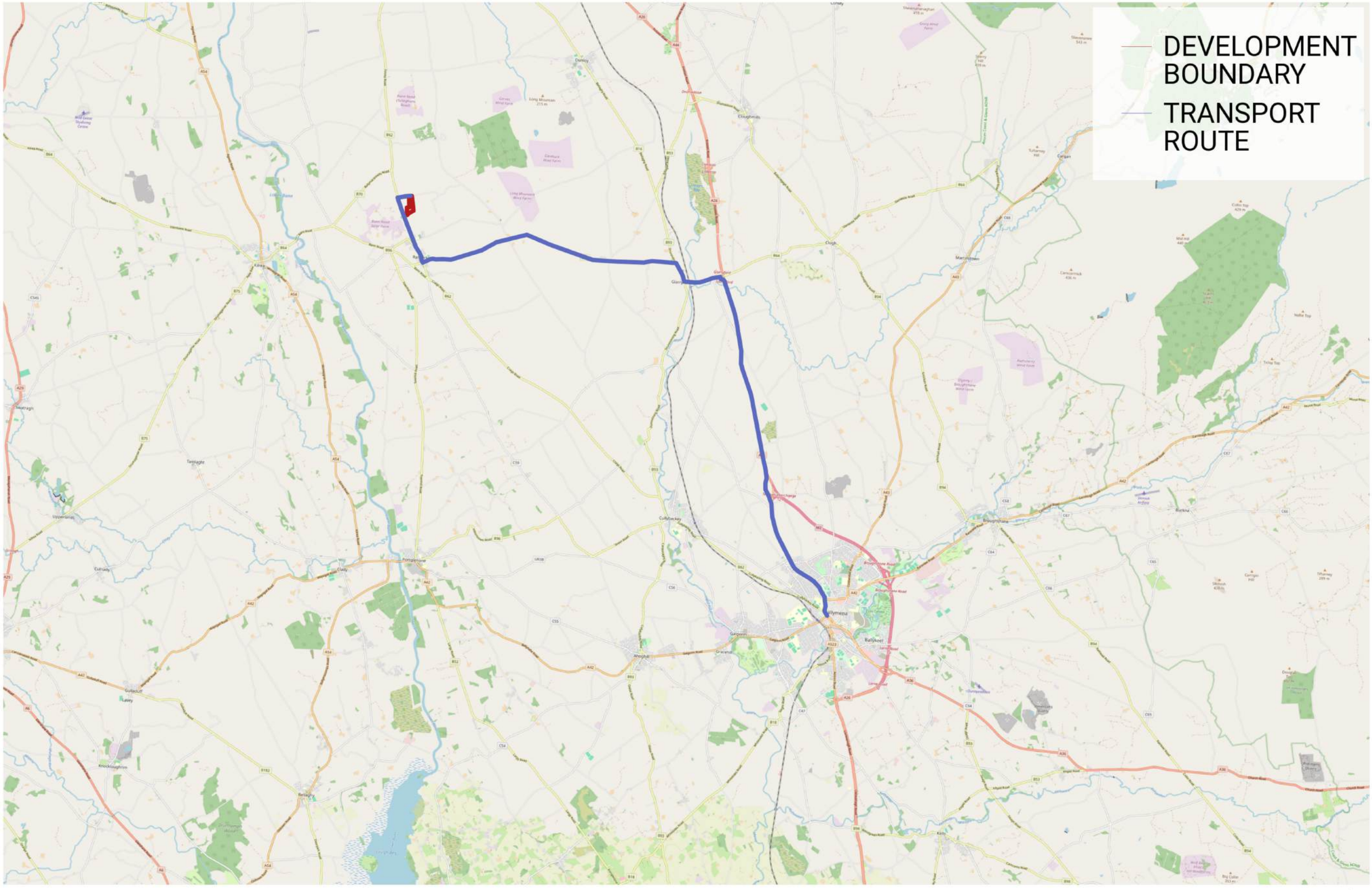
Detailed analysis of the delivery route and access point is ongoing including a full assessment of the road speeds on the Magheraboy Road and Finvoy Road.

A Transport Statement will accompany the planning application setting out an overall framework for the safe movement of construction traffic, as well as the estimated number of vehicle movements during the estimated 15-month construction period.

An Outline Construction Environmental Plan (OCEMP) will also accompany the planning application. The OCEMP will provide an overview of any potential environmental impacts of the development, during its construction phase, and describe the management and mitigation measures that will be implemented to minimise those impacts and to protect the environment and sensitive receptors both on-site and off-site.

MACHAIRE ENERGY STORAGE

DELIVERY ROUTE



2 km
Scale 1:100000 (at A3)

N

Other environmental considerations

Ecology

An Ecological Impact Appraisal has been completed and has concluded that the Machaire development will have no adverse impact on the site's ecology.

Identified assets are a tree with potential for a bat roost and a watercourse. Both assets are outside the development area and the project design incorporates appropriate mitigation measures.

Flood risk and surface water management

Detailed design and flood modelling is still being undertaken, however, based on current results, we expect surface water flows to be collected by a series of filter drains before discharging into an above ground attenuation basin, as shown on the draft infrastructure plan.

A Flood Risk and Drainage Impact Assessment will accompany the planning application

Cultural Heritage

An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Assessment has been undertaken of the site and a surrounding 500m radius. Nine cultural heritage sites are recorded, however, given the distance it has been determined that there is no predicted impact on these sites from the Machaire project. If the project is consented, we expect to undertake a programme of geophysical survey followed by targeted test trenching within areas subject to ground reduction, prior to any construction works taking place.

Our approach to safety

At RES, safety is of the utmost importance.

Our ambition is to continue to lead the market in delivering best-in-class health and safety performance, as we simultaneously look to the future in developing a zero-harm culture.

Health and safety is woven into every aspect of RES' battery energy storage systems. The Bishops Dal project will be developed to address and mitigate against the risk of fire ignition and propagation, in a number of ways.

- Monitoring and Remote Access

  Unlike electric cars and scooters, for example, RES-managed battery energy storage systems are constantly monitored from our 24/7/365 control centre in Glasgow. Some controls can also be safely operated remotely from our control centre, such as the shutting down of an individual battery rack or the entire battery energy storage system, if required.

- Battery Selection

  The proposed battery technology for the development is anticipated to be lithium iron phosphate (LFP). LFP has better stability against thermal runaway at higher temperatures compared to some other battery chemistries. All batteries must be tested and certified to an industry standard (UL9540A), demonstrating resistance to thermal runaway, and which ensures there is no likelihood of explosion, with any fire contained within the affected battery rack.

- Equipment Spacing

  The site will be developed to include adequate spacing between the battery storage enclosures (BSE) to mitigate against the risk of fire spread in the event of a fire within one BSE.

- Protection Systems

  Each BSE will have a dedicated fire protection system, comprising flammable gas detection and venting, fire detection and alarm, and an automatic fire suppression system.

- Access to Battery Enclosure and for Emergency Services

  All battery enclosures will be accessed via external doors only. The fenced compound will have a wide access route through 2 access points that allows a circular corridor around the battery containers, allowing the fire service to access the site in the unlikely event of an incident. In addition, two site access points will be proposed to the battery energy storage compound.

An Indicative Fire Management Plan accompany any planning application. If the project is consented, we will work with the fire service and other relevant bodies to produce a Full Fire Management Plan which will include an Emergency Response Plan.

Decommissioning

RES has proven experience in the decommissioning of battery storage projects, returning the site to its original use in a safe and efficient manner.

The Machaire site would be returned to its original use at the end of its life. Once all materials and components have been removed, the retained topsoil will be reseeded, according to the landowner's requirements.

Traditionally, decommissioned materials end up in landfill, contributing to environmental degradation. We aimed to break this cycle, in the recent decommissioning of two projects, by prioritising reuse and recycling for each of the batteries, in addition to the transformers, cabling and components that had further useful life and concrete repurposed by crushing it into aggregate.

By demonstrating the feasibility of a nearly waste free decommissioning process and meeting our goal of recycling 98% of all materials of the project, we hope to set a precedent for sustainable practices in the industry as well providing a blueprint for future decommissioning projects, paving the way towards a more sustainable energy landscape.

There are current directives to ensure battery producers are responsible for minimising harmful effects of waste batteries on the environment and they must accept batteries for recycling and disposal at the end of life. Recovered materials can be used to make new batteries from recycled batteries. This reduces manufacturing costs, the quantity of materials sent to landfill and our reliance on mining. As the battery markets grows, we are already seeing the number of techniques available for recycling increase.

The decommissioning and restoration of the site is usually secured via a planning condition and through obligations within land agreements.

A Power for Good

RES seeks to be a power for good in communities that neighbour our projects by working openly and constructively to ensure tangible local benefits.

Some of the most direct and meaningful benefits that can be delivered from a project like Machaire are jobs and employment for local businesses and contractors, in addition to the use of local services and amenities, all of which can generate a significant amount of inward investment within the area.

RES is committed to ensuring that, wherever reasonably practical, local contractors are used in all aspects of the project development. In order to maximise the opportunities from the Machaire proposal we are looking to build our knowledge of the local skills and capabilities within the area.

RES also believes that our energy schemes should also provide meaningful benefits locally and we are inviting input from the local communities on their priority aims and projects in their area which the Machaire project may be able to support. Examples could include supporting community assets, apprenticeships, fuel poverty schemes, etc.

We look forward to continuing to work with the community as our proposal is developed.

Next steps

Final surveys and assessments are being finalised and will be fed into the project design, along with any feedback from our Public Information Sessions.

We currently expect to submit the planning application early in the new year.

The planning application, once validated by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council will be publicly available on the NI planning portal at

planningregister.planningsystemni.gov.uk/simple-search

The application will also be available to view and/or download from our project website at

machaire-energystorage.co.uk

A statutory consultation period will be advertised and held by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council to enable the public, as well as statutory consultees, to submit their comments on the proposal. These comments will then be assessed against the proposal and a determination made in due course.

If you would like to be notified when the planning application has been made, please tick the box at the end of the comment form.

The need for battery energy storage

Our energy system is in a transitionary period to enable it to manage the increasingly complex supply and demand needs of the 21st Century.

Ageing infrastructure is being replaced and greater flexibility introduced into our networks through technology such as battery energy storage.

Battery energy storage is crucial in enabling the rollout of zero carbon energy and supporting Northern Ireland's net-zero emissions target.

Renewable energy technologies, however, can generate electricity intermittently depending on weather conditions, which can cause imbalances in the electricity network.

Battery energy storage works by storing energy at times when generation exceeds demand and then releases electricity back to the electricity network when demand exceeds generation.

Battery energy storage is considered the fastest technology for responding to a sudden spike in demand or an abrupt loss of supply.

Battery energy storage can also provide grid stability (frequency of the grid) services on a second-by-second basis as well as providing additional network capacity, particularly at times of network stress.

Image for illustrative purposes only

Machaire Energy Storage Proposal

machaire-energystorage.co.uk

res
power for good

The world's largest independent renewable energy company

RES is the world's largest independent renewable energy company, working across 24 countries and active in wind, solar, energy storage, green hydrogen, transmission and distribution. As an industry innovator for over 40 years, RES has delivered more than 27GW of renewable energy projects across the globe and supports an operational asset portfolio exceeding 41GW worldwide for a large client base.

RES is the power behind a clean energy future where everyone has access to affordable zero carbon energy. We bring together global experience, passion, and the innovation of 4,500 people to transform the way energy is generated, stored and supplied.

Find out more at res-group.com

RES in Ireland

RES is a privately-owned company with a proud history across the island of Ireland.

From our Larne office we have been developing, constructing and operating energy projects since the early 1990s. This includes the development and construction of the Gorman Energy Storage System in Co. Meath and the Avonbeg and Gorey Energy Storage Systems in Co. Wexford.

RES has been working in the battery energy storage market for a decade and design safe storage projects using proven Lithium iron phosphate technology. Across the UK and Ireland, RES has developed over 830MW of battery energy storage projects, and we currently manage over 600MW of operational storage projects with 24/7/365 monitoring provided from our control centre in Glasgow.

Machaire Energy Storage Proposal

machaire-energystorage.co.uk

power for good

Appendix I. Comment form – 12 December 2024

Machaire Energy Storage System Proposal
Comment Form

Since our public exhibitions in October 2024, where we presented our preliminary plans for an energy storage project on land close to Rasharkin substation, approximately 1km north of Rasharkin, Co. Antrim, we have been refining the design in response to feedback received and ongoing surveys and assessments.

We have listened to feedback from the public exhibition and thank you for attending one of our Public Information Sessions where we have provided more details on the updated proposal.

We welcome feedback on the updated proposal and invite you to take a few minutes to fill out this feedback form with your comments.

Please note that comments submitted to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.

1 Machaire Energy Storage System Public Information Sessions

1.1 How did you find out about our public information sessions?

- ☐ Postcard through the door
- ☐ Project website – www.machaire-energystorage.co.uk
- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ Other (please specify)

1.2 Before visiting the public information session, how would you describe your knowledge of the proposed Machaire Energy Storage System?

- ☐ Knew a lot
- ☐ Knew quite a lot
- ☐ Knew a little
- ☐ Knew very little
- ☐ Knew nothing at all

1.3 Having visited the public information session, to what extent do you feel you have increased your understanding of the proposed Machaire Energy Storage System?

- ☐ A lot
- ☐ Quite a lot
- ☐ A little
- ☐ Very little
- ☐ Not at all

1.4 Do you have any suggestions for ways in which we could have improved our public information sessions?

Machaire Energy Storage System Proposal
Comment Form

2 Machaire Energy Storage System Proposal

2.1 How do you feel in general about the Machaire Energy Storage System proposal?

☐ I am supportive

☐ I am neutral

☐ I am opposed

Further comments:

2.2 What do you think about the proposed updated layout of the Machaire Energy Storage System?

☐ I am happy with the proposed layout

☐ I am neutral towards the proposed layout

☐ I have concerns about the proposed layout (please provide further details below)

☐ I don't like energy storage systems in general

Further comments:

2.3 Please provide us with any further suggestions or comments regarding the proposed Machaire Energy Storage System.

3 Local Benefits

Machaire Energy Storage System Proposal
Comment Form

3.1 RES believe our projects should deliver meaningful local benefit.

We welcome feedback and ideas for local benefits and priority projects that you would like to see supported or delivered in your community from the Machaire Energy Storage System, should it receive consent. Some examples from communities that we've worked with include improvements to village halls, sports team sponsorship, funding for schools and local community groups, community defibrillators and improvements to local footpaths and/or signage.

If you have any suggestions for such benefits the project may be able to support, please let us know in the box below.

4 Your details

Please provide your name and contact details below in order to authenticate this comments form. Providing this information gives context to your feedback, facilitates a better understanding of community views and priorities, and enables us to respond to any questions raised. However, if you are not comfortable providing us with your full contact details, please include your postcode as a minimum.

Your contact details will be treated by RES with the strictest of confidence, in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018. We may at times share your contact details, in confidence, with third parties who we employ to help process your comments or update you on the project and by providing your details below you consent to this. You may write to RES at any time to ask that your contact details be removed from our records and from any third parties we work with.

Name	
Email	
Address	
Postcode*	

If you would like to be kept up to date with the project, please tick this box ☐

When you have completed the comment form, please hand it in at the welcome desk. Comment forms are also available to complete and submit online at www.machaire-energystorage.co.uk. Forms may also be sent by post to: RES, Willow Bank Business Park, Willlowbank Road, Millbrook, Larne, Co. Antrim, BT40 2SF.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this comment form, your feedback is important to us.