

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-rich meadows and grasslands which are amongst the most threatened habitats on the island of Ireland